



The JOURNAL



The Rainbow Girls

Fort Smith in the Time of Segregation



*A History of
The Lincoln Echo*



*The Adventurous
Benjamin Bonneville*



*The Christmas Holiday
Basketball Tournament*



MISSION: The mission of the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc., founded in 1977, is to publish *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society* and through the Journal and other activities to locate, identify, and collect historical data; to publish source materials and historical articles, all pertaining to the city of Fort Smith and the immediate surrounding area. Preservation of Fort Smith history is our primary mission, and to this end, we always welcome the loan of Fort Smith historical material and will return it promptly.

MEMBERSHIP & ORDERS: Journal back issues are available. Cost for the current issue is \$7.50 plus a \$2 mailing charge per copy. Cost for past issues is \$4 plus the \$2 mailing charge. A composite index for Volumes I through IX is available for \$10 plus a \$4 mailing charge. Cost for the complete set of Journals, Volumes 1 through 37, is \$225. Volumes I and II will be reproduced copies, as these issues are no longer available in original form.

Membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society includes a subscription to *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, which is published semi-annually. Correspondence concerning current or back issues of *The Journal*, membership dues and all business matters should be sent to:

Fort Smith Historical Society
Attention: Nancy Ciulla, Treasurer
P.O. Box 3676
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676

QUESTIONS pertaining to the Fort Smith Historical Society or *The Journal* should be addressed via e-mail to:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Jeanne Black | mblack3086@aol.com |
| Carole Barger | carlann34@cox.net |
| Joe Wasson | joe@efortsmith.com |

VISIT OUR WEBSITE! www.fortsmithhistory.org.

Our website is updated regularly and contains information on the Organization, Membership, Back Issues: How to order, Tables of Contents of Back Issues, Contacts & Links, Archives and a Gallery of Historical Images: Views of Old Fort Smith

See the Google group, Fort Smith History Forum, for a bulletin board of current research questions. Readers may post their own research questions or topics in hopes of furthering their own research.

Webmaster: Al Whitson
webmaster@fortsmithhistory.org

MANUSCRIPTS: Submissions of all types of Fort Smith, Arkansas, related materials including previously unpublished family Bibles, diaries, journals, old maps, church minutes or histories, cemetery information, family histories, and other documents are welcome. Manuscripts, including quotations and footnotes, must be double-spaced, using *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press). Footnotes should be numbered consecutively in the text, assembled at the end of the article, along with a list of any additional sources. The author's name, address, phone number and e-mail address should appear only on the title page. Manuscripts may be submitted on CD disks, using word-processing programs supported by Windows. Photographs should be duplicates or submitted in digital format, documents should be photocopies, as they cannot be returned. Manuscripts are subject to editing for style and space requirements. All articles and images accepted will become property of the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc., unless return is specifically requested. Submit to:

Managing Editors
The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society
P.O. Box 3676
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676

AMELIA WHITAKER MARTIN

Journal Editor & Co-Founder 1977-2004

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Billy D. Higgins, Editor
 Carole Barger
 Wincie Hendricks
 Steven Kite
 George McGill
 Loren McLane
 Clara Jane Rubarth
 Bob Willoughby

DESIGNING:

Cathy Peterson

INDEXING & PROOFING:

Shelley Blanton

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chuck Girard, President
 Calline Ellis, Corresponding Secretary
 Sherry Toliver, Recording Secretary
 Wincie Hendricks, Membership Chairman
 Nancy Ciulla, Treasurer
 Mary Jeanne Black, Inquiry Coordinator
 and Researcher
 Jerry Akins
 Carole Barger
 Jimmy Ciulla
 Jane Ann Hartmeier
 Jerry Hendricks
 Billy Higgins
 Steven Kite
 George McGill
 Loren McLane
 Clara Jane Rubarth
 Joanne Swafford
 Joe Wasson
 Rena Westbrook
 Al Whitson
 Bob Willoughby

Membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society includes subscription to *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, which is published semi-annually. Membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

For membership, send dues with your name and mailing address to:

The Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 3676
 Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913-3676

Types of Membership

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Annual..... | \$ 30.00 |
| Senior Citizens (62 or older)..... | 15.00 |
| Annual Sustaining..... | 50.00 |
| Joint Membership with Fort Smith Museum of History | 100.00 |
| Annual Business Sponsor | 200.00 |
| Life (Individual) | 350.00 |
| Journal Back Issues | each copy 4.00 |
| (For mail orders, add \$2.00 mailing charge per copy.) | |
| Composite Index For Volumes I thru IX | 10.00 |
| (For mail orders, add \$4.00 mailing charge per copy.) | |

We welcome the loan of Fort Smith historical materials and will return promptly.

The Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Gifts and legacies are tax deductible.



The JOURNAL

VOL. 38 NO. 2

CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 2014

| | |
|--|----|
| News & Opportunities | 2 |
| Fort Smith and the Great War: Part I | 4 |
| by Jerry Akins | |
| Neale "Bobo" Henderson: From Andrews Field to Kansas City Monarchs | 13 |
| edited by Billy Higgins | |
| The Rainbow Girls: Fort Smith in the Time of Segregation..... | 19 |
| introduction by Nichelle Brown Christian | |
| History of <i>The Lincoln Echo</i> | 32 |
| by Richard Lee Eby | |
| The Adventurous Benjamin Bonneville..... | 39 |
| by Matt Myers | |
| The Christmas Holiday Basketball Tournament: 1951-1974 | 44 |
| by Jim Wyatt | |
| Who Knew? | 52 |
| by Mary Jeanne Black | |
| 1914 Newspapers..... | 55 |
| by Crystal Jenkins | |
| Books: <i>A Chair in Time</i> by Lee Holland | 57 |
| Reviewed by Peggy Higgins | |
| Index | 58 |

COVER: Main photo—The Rainbow Girls, photo courtesy of Nichelle Brown Christian.
 Lower left photo—The Lincoln Echo sign in Brunswick Place in downtown Fort Smith.
 Lower middle photo—Benjamin Bonneville.
 Lower right photo—Basketball action during a Christmas Holiday Basketball tournament.
 PRINTING: Midwest Type and Printing, Fort Smith, Arkansas

© Copyright 2014 ISSN 0736 4261
 By the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.
 c/o Fort Smith Public Library
 3201 Rogers Avenue
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 3676
 Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913-3676

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Change of address cards are free at your post office. If you move, please fill one out and send it to: P.O. Box 3676 • Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913-3676

No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form, except for brief excerpts for review purposes, without the consent of the editors of *The Journal*.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fort Smith Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2014
Community Room, Main Branch
Fort Smith Public Library
6 p.m.

2014 Mid-America Conference on History

Fort Smith Holiday Inn Civic Center
September 18-20, 2014.
Hosted by Department of History, UAFS
Co-sponsored by the Fort Smith Historical Society
Registration form included in this issue



Memorial Bench Dedicated

The Fort Smith Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in partnership with the Fort Smith Historical Society dedicated a memorial bench in honor of Dr. Harry Pelot McDonald at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on July 25, 2014.

At the ribbon cutting were, left to right, Talicia Richardson, Carole Barger, Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Maria McDonald-McNamar, State Representative George McGill, Mayor Sandy Sanders, and Euba Harris-Winton

Marshals Coin Designs

The U. S. Marshals coin designs were unveiled in a ceremony at the Fort Smith National Historic Site on July



23, 2014. Coins will be available after January 2015 in \$0.50, \$1.00, and \$5.00 denominations. The design for the \$1 silver coin features the name of the city on the wanted poster.

Drennen-Scott House

Van Buren, Arkansas
Crawford County Chronicles
George Sabo will present an archaeology program on Sunday, September 7
Sunday, October 5
Civil War in Crawford County
Programs at 1:30 and 3:00.
Reservations are free but required:
tom.wing@uafs.edu or 479-262-2750

Clayton House Programs

Sunday, September 28, 2014, 2:00 p.m.: "Clayton Conversations: History of St. Scholastica Monastery and the Benedictine Pioneers." Presentation will be provided by sisters of the St. Scholastica Monastery. Introductory music program with refreshments begins at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 26, 2014, 2:00 p.m.: "Clayton Conversations: The 1970s Saving and Restoration of the Clayton House." John Mott, architect and preservation consultant who led the restoration, will share the details of this award-winning project. Mott is now with John Milner Associates Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia. Introductory music program with refreshments begins at 1:30 p.m.

The Clayton House's Belle Grove Historic District Walking Tour, developed in 2013, continues to be enjoyed by all who participate. A West route of North Fifth and Sixth streets and an East Route of Seventh and Eighth streets are offered. Tour guides provide details of the original homeowners. Guests are provided a booklet picturing each home and including architectural descriptions.

Upcoming tours are at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, September 21, October 5, October 19, November 2 and November 16. Cost is \$5.

The Clayton House's "October Shadows Paranormal Lamplight Tour" will be offered at 7:30 and 9:00 p.m. Fridays October 17 and 24. Cost is \$10.

For more information, call 783-3000 or email claytonhouse@claytonhouse.org. The Clayton House website is www.claytonhouse.org.

Arkansas Historical Association

74rd Annual Conference
Theme: "To Bind up the Nation's Wounds"
West Memphis, Arkansas
April 9-11, 2015

Fort Smith Museum of History

Thursday, Sept. 11
Opening of the Niloak Pottery collection exhibit. The exhibit will run through March, 2015.

Ark-Homa Chapter

A joint chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society and the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, meets the third Thursday of the month.

Tim Mulvihill, Station Archaeologist conducts the meetings which are scheduled for 7:00 pm in Room 211 of the Math-Science building on the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith campus. Public is invited to attend the interesting sessions.

More information available at the website: www.arkansasarcheology.org and Facebook: Arkansas Archeological Survey—UA Fort Smith Station.

Hardwood Tree Museum

History of Saws Program
and Cross Cut Saw Exhibit
Early photographs of the making of the Ozark National Forest
Film of hand crafting of an Osage Orange bow by master carpenter Duane Heidelberg
Janet Huckabee Nature Center
10:30 a.m., Saturday, November 8, 2014

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check one: ☐ New member
☐ Renewal
☐ Gift

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Please check the appropriate box:

- ☐ Annual..... \$30
☐ Senior Citizen (62 and older) \$15
☐ Annual Sustaining..... \$50
☐ Joint Membership with
Fort Smith Museum of History \$100
☐ Annual Business Sponsor \$200
☐ Life Membership—Individual \$350

A nonprofit organization under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code 71954. Gifts and legacies are tax deductible.

Mail your check to:
Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 3676
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913

For information, call:
479/784-9427
479/646-9140
479-484-5502

Fort Smith And The Great War

PART I: June-December 1914

By Jerry Akins

One hundred years ago, there existed a situation not unlike the one existing in 2014 in Ukraine. A faraway land, Austria-Hungary, had annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina, an area claimed by Serbia.¹ In Sarajevo, capital of the contested area, lived Gavrilo Princip and some friends who were determined to do something about the annexation, or at least express themselves violently. On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the crown of Austria-Hungary, while being driven through the streets of Sarajevo was shot and killed by the nineteen-year-old Princip.² The assassination precipitated events that led to World War I.

In Fort Smith, Arkansas, the death of an archduke at the hands of a revolutionary made hardly a ripple. Neither the July 2, 1914, nor the July 9 editions of *The Fort Smith Herald and Elevator* mentioned anything about it. After all, Sarajevo was 5,590 miles away, and European royalty had been getting knocked off, either by friend or foe, even before Cromwell got his head lopped off. The assassination was first reported in a local paper on July 23, 1914, when *The Herald and Elevator* ran an article titled, "Austria-Hungary a Land of Strange Contrasts." Although the invasion of France by Germany on August 1, 1914, and the entry of Great Britain the next day was only a week away, no one was thinking about a world war in Fort Smith.

Anyway, the city had its own conflict going on over prohibition. There was no violence involved, but the fervor was only slightly less than in Sarajevo. The Anti-Saloon League, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the women's suffrage movement (Suffragettes) joined together in battling the "Saloon League." The prohibition movement had been around even longer than the Anti-Saloon League, which was founded in 1899.³ In the November 27, 1913, issue of *The Fort Smith Herald and Elevator*, under the headline, "Women and Nation Wide Pro-

hibition Go Hand in Hand," appeared a summation, "Equal suffrage is no longer a state question, neither is prohibition—both must be recognized as paramount national propositions."

In 1913, the legislature passed the Going Law of 1913, which required petitions in support of a new saloon to be signed by a majority of the white voters in the affected area. The law made it "unlawful for any court, town or city council to issue a liquor license except when the same is asked for by a petition signed by a majority of the adult white inhabitants living within the incorporated limits of the town where the license is to be used."⁴

In March of the same year, Fort Smith established a mayor-commission form of government.⁵ The commission soon began to talk of amending Ordinance 1080, which dealt with the licensing of saloons. The amendment only dealt with the method of payment by the vendor for the license. Ordinance 1080 was finally amended on December 8, 1913.⁶ But the worst was yet to come.

The January 8, 1914, edition of *The Herald and Elevator* announced, "County Judge Ezra Hester has named Monday, January 12, as the date on which the hearing will begin on the petitions for saloons in Fort Smith and the remonstrance against them. In some quarters it is believed that several months will be required to determine the questions involved in the Going law, which made the state dry on January 1, 1914."

The Going Law did not make the state "dry." It created local option by petition. In late 1913, a petition had been circulated for signatures of those favoring the keeping of saloons and alcohol suppliers in Fort Smith. To say the opposition to the petition had been vigorous is an understatement. The December 11, 1913, issue of *The Herald and Elevator* carried, "The Masonic Liquor Edict" from the Grand Master stating that any Mason who signed and did not remove his name from the saloon petition would be guilty of "a Masonic offense." In the same issue was an article titled, "Women plead for a dry U.S.," reported that 3,000 women had demonstrated in the halls of the U.S. Congress and that, "47,000,000 of our population live in

H. C. COX, Wholesale Liquor Dealer Monett, Mo.

**Fort Smith
is Now Dry**

Express Prepaid on Gallon Lots

| CORN WHISKIES. | 4 Pull | 8 Pull | 12 Pull | 24 Pull | 48 Pull | 96 Pull |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cox's Yellow Corn | 12.00 | 14.00 | 16.00 | 18.00 | 20.00 | 22.00 |
| Cox's Mountain White Corn | 12.15 | 14.15 | 16.15 | 18.15 | 20.15 | 22.15 |
| Cox's Mountain Yellow Corn | 12.25 | 14.25 | 16.25 | 18.25 | 20.25 | 22.25 |
| Knoblock White Corn, 100 Proof | 12.30 | 14.30 | 16.30 | 18.30 | 20.30 | 22.30 |
| Knoblock Yellow Corn, 100 Proof | 12.40 | 14.40 | 16.40 | 18.40 | 20.40 | 22.40 |
| Tennessee Corn, 100 Proof | 12.50 | 14.50 | 16.50 | 18.50 | 20.50 | 22.50 |

| RYE AND BOURBON WHISKIES. | 4 Pull | 8 Pull | 12 Pull | 24 Pull | 48 Pull | 96 Pull |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Spring Valley, Bourbon | 2.10 | 4.20 | 6.30 | 8.40 | 10.50 | 12.60 |
| Cox's Standard, Bourbon | 2.20 | 4.40 | 6.60 | 8.80 | 11.00 | 13.20 |
| Cox's Straight, Bourbon | 2.30 | 4.60 | 6.90 | 9.20 | 11.50 | 13.80 |
| Five Old Rye | 2.40 | 4.80 | 7.20 | 9.60 | 12.00 | 14.40 |
| Kentucky Bourbon, 100 proof | 2.50 | 5.00 | 7.50 | 10.00 | 12.50 | 15.00 |
| Kentucky Rye, 100 proof | 2.60 | 5.20 | 7.80 | 10.40 | 13.00 | 15.60 |
| Long Hots, Bourbon | 2.70 | 5.40 | 8.10 | 10.80 | 13.50 | 16.20 |
| Kentucky Rye, Bourbon | 2.80 | 5.60 | 8.40 | 11.20 | 14.00 | 16.80 |
| Cox's Select Rye | 2.90 | 5.80 | 8.70 | 11.60 | 14.50 | 17.40 |
| 31 1/2 Double Stamp, Bourbon | 3.00 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 15.00 | 18.00 |
| Cox's "A" Rye | 3.10 | 6.20 | 9.30 | 12.40 | 15.50 | 18.60 |
| Cox's Malt Rye | 3.20 | 6.40 | 9.60 | 12.80 | 16.00 | 19.20 |
| Duffy's Malt Whiskey, 5 bottles | 3.30 | 6.60 | 9.90 | 13.20 | 16.50 | 19.80 |
| Virginia Rye | 3.40 | 6.80 | 10.20 | 13.60 | 17.00 | 20.40 |
| Winner Bourbon | 3.50 | 7.00 | 10.50 | 14.00 | 17.50 | 21.00 |
| Winner Rye | 3.60 | 7.20 | 10.80 | 14.40 | 18.00 | 21.60 |
| Just B. Prater | 3.70 | 7.40 | 11.10 | 14.80 | 18.50 | 22.20 |
| Madville Rye, eight years old | 3.80 | 7.60 | 11.40 | 15.20 | 19.00 | 22.80 |
| Bonnie Rye | 3.90 | 7.80 | 11.70 | 15.60 | 19.50 | 23.40 |
| 22 Special | 4.00 | 8.00 | 12.00 | 16.00 | 20.00 | 24.00 |
| 1 W. Harper | 4.10 | 8.20 | 12.30 | 16.40 | 20.50 | 24.60 |
| Chapelle Whiskey | 4.20 | 8.40 | 12.60 | 16.80 | 21.00 | 25.20 |
| Old Crow, Bourbon, eight years old | 4.30 | 8.60 | 12.90 | 17.20 | 21.50 | 25.80 |
| Yellowstone Whiskey | 4.40 | 8.80 | 13.20 | 17.60 | 22.00 | 26.40 |
| Paul Jones | 4.50 | 9.00 | 13.50 | 18.00 | 22.50 | 27.00 |
| Newport | 4.60 | 9.20 | 13.80 | 18.40 | 23.00 | 27.60 |
| Old Crow Yellow Label | 4.70 | 9.40 | 14.10 | 18.80 | 23.50 | 28.20 |
| Old Forester | 4.80 | 9.60 | 14.40 | 19.20 | 24.00 | 28.80 |
| Charles Club | 4.90 | 9.80 | 14.70 | 19.60 | 24.50 | 29.40 |
| Four Roses | 5.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 | 20.00 | 25.00 | 30.00 |
| Black and White, Scotch | 5.10 | 10.20 | 15.30 | 20.40 | 25.50 | 30.60 |
| Rine William, Scotch | 5.20 | 10.40 | 15.60 | 20.80 | 26.00 | 31.20 |

| BOTTLED IN BOND WHISKIES | 4 Pull | 8 Pull | 12 Pull | 24 Pull | 48 Pull | 96 Pull |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Westmore | 4.00 | 8.00 | 12.00 | 16.00 | 20.00 | 24.00 |
| Cox's Special | 4.25 | 8.50 | 12.75 | 16.50 | 20.75 | 24.50 |
| Early Times | 4.50 | 9.00 | 13.50 | 17.00 | 21.00 | 25.00 |
| Old Crilledale | 4.75 | 9.50 | 14.25 | 17.50 | 21.50 | 25.50 |
| Old Brook | 5.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 | 18.00 | 22.00 | 26.00 |
| Jas. E. Peiper | 5.25 | 10.50 | 15.75 | 18.50 | 22.50 | 26.50 |
| Old Brook | 5.50 | 11.00 | 16.50 | 19.00 | 23.00 | 27.00 |
| Joe B. Prater | 5.75 | 11.50 | 17.25 | 19.50 | 23.50 | 27.50 |
| Blue Ribbon | 6.00 | 12.00 | 18.00 | 20.00 | 24.00 | 28.00 |
| Rare Brook | 6.25 | 12.50 | 18.75 | 20.50 | 24.50 | 28.50 |
| Green River | 6.50 | 13.00 | 19.50 | 21.00 | 25.00 | 29.00 |
| Quaker Rye | 6.75 | 13.50 | 20.25 | 21.50 | 25.50 | 29.50 |
| Old Crow | 7.00 | 14.00 | 21.00 | 22.00 | 26.00 | 30.00 |
| Old Taylor | 7.25 | 14.50 | 21.75 | 22.50 | 26.50 | 30.50 |
| Bond & Lillard | 7.50 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 23.00 | 27.00 | 31.00 |
| Finch's Golden Wedding | 7.75 | 15.50 | 23.25 | 23.50 | 27.50 | 31.50 |

**Three fast trains
every 24 hours.**

Express Prepaid on Gallon Lots

| ALCOHOL | 4 Pull | 8 Pull | 12 Pull | 24 Pull | 48 Pull | 96 Pull |
|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Alcohol, High Proof | 12.00 | 14.00 | 16.00 | 18.00 | 20.00 | 22.00 |
| Alcohol, 100 Proof | 12.10 | 14.10 | 16.10 | 18.10 | 20.10 | 22.10 |

| GINS AND BRANDIES | 4 Pull | 8 Pull | 12 Pull | 24 Pull | 48 Pull | 96 Pull |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Apple Brandy, French | 2.00 | 4.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 10.00 | 12.00 |
| Apple Brandy, Benton Co. | 2.10 | 4.20 | 6.30 | 8.40 | 10.50 | 12.60 |
| Peach Brandy, Clinton | 2.20 | 4.40 | 6.60 | 8.80 | 11.00 | 13.20 |
| Peach Brandy, California | 2.30 | 4.60 | 6.90 | 9.20 | 11.50 | 13.80 |
| Blackberry Imperial | 2.40 | 4.80 | 7.20 | 9.60 | 12.00 | 14.40 |
| Blackberry, Old North State | 2.50 | 5.00 | 7.50 | 10.00 | 12.50 | 15.00 |
| Rubens Brandy | 2.60 | 5.20 | 7.80 | 10.40 | 13.00 | 15.60 |
| Orange Brandy | 2.70 | 5.40 | 8.10 | 10.80 | 13.50 | 16.20 |
| Ginger Brandy | 2.80 | 5.60 | 8.40 | 11.20 | 14.00 | 16.80 |
| Cognac Brandy, California | 2.90 | 5.80 | 8.70 | 11.60 | 14.50 | 17.40 |
| Cognac Brandy, Hennessy | 3.00 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 15.00 | 18.00 |
| Apricot Brandy | 3.10 | 6.20 | 9.30 | 12.40 | 15.50 | 18.60 |
| Apricot Brandy, California | 3.20 | 6.40 | 9.60 | 12.80 | 16.00 | 19.20 |
| Old Tom Gin | 3.30 | 6.60 | 9.90 | 13.20 | 16.50 | 19.80 |
| Crown Gin | 3.40 | 6.80 | 10.20 | 13.60 | 17.00 | 20.40 |
| Holland Gin | 3.50 | 7.00 | 10.50 | 14.00 | 17.50 | 21.00 |
| Gordon Dry Gin | 3.60 | 7.20 | 10.80 | 14.40 | 18.00 | 21.60 |

| WINES AND CORDIALS | 4 Pull | 8 Pull | 12 Pull | 24 Pull | 48 Pull | 96 Pull |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Peach and Honey, Crystallized | 3.00 | 6.00 | 9.00 | 12.00 | 15.00 | 18.00 |
| Rock and Rye, Crystallized | 3.10 | 6.20 | 9.30 | 12.40 | 15.50 | 18.60 |
| Rock and Rye, Crystallized | 3.20 | 6.40 | 9.60 | 12.80 | 16.00 | 19.20 |
| Rock and Rye, Pure | 3.30 | 6.60 | 9.90 | 13.20 | 16.50 | 19.80 |
| Whisky Cordial | 3.40 | 6.80 | 10.20 | 13.60 | 17.00 | 20.40 |
| RUM, Domestic | 3.50 | 7.00 | 10.50 | 14.00 | 17.50 | 21.00 |
| RUM, Jamaica | 3.60 | 7.20 | 10.80 | 14.40 | 18.00 | 21.60 |
| Sherry Wine, California | 3.70 | 7.40 | 11.10 | 14.80 | 18.50 | 22.20 |
| Sherry Wine, Imported | 3.80 | 7.60 | 11.40 | 15.20 | 19.00 | 22.80 |
| Port Wine, California | 3.90 | 7.80 | 11.70 | 15.60 | 19.50 | 23.40 |
| Port Wine, Imported | 4.00 | 8.00 | 12.00 | 16.00 | 20.00 | 24.00 |
| Turkey Wine | 4.10 | 8.20 | 12.30 | 16.40 | 20.50 | 24.60 |
| Beet Grape Wine | 4.20 | 8.40 | 12.60 | 16.80 | 21.00 | 25.20 |
| Virginia Date Wine | 4.30 | 8.60 | 12.90 | 17.20 | 21.50 | 25.80 |
| Peppermint Wine | 4.40 | 8.80 | 13.20 | 17.60 | 22.00 | 26.40 |
| Cox's Champagne | 4.50 | 9.00 | 13.50 | 18.00 | 22.50 | 27.00 |
| Mum's Champagne | 4.60 | 9.20 | 13.80 | 18.40 | 23.00 | 27.60 |

Beer Price List

| Beer | 4 Pull | 8 Pull | 12 Pull | 24 Pull | 48 Pull | 96 Pull |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Budweiser—Case 36 Pints | 4.00 | 8.00 | 12.00 | 16.00 | 20.00 | 24.00 |
| Budweiser—Case 24 Quarts | 4.25 | 8.50 | 12.75 | 16.50 | 20.75 | 24.50 |
| Budweiser—Case, 10 Dozen Pints | 4.50 | 9.00 | 13.50 | 17.00 | 21.00 | 25.00 |
| Budweiser—Case, 6 Dozen Quarts | 4.75 | 9.50 | 14.25 | 17.50 | 21.50 | 25.50 |
| 7-4 Barrel Pilsner, 8 Gallons | 5.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 | 18.00 | 22.00 | 26.00 |
| 1-2 Barrel Pilsner, 16 Gallons | 5.25 | 10.50 | 15.75 | 18.50 | 22.50 | 26.50 |
| 1-4 Barrel Pilsner, 8 Gallons | 5.50 | 11.00 | 16.50 | 19.00 | 23.00 | 27.00 |
| 1-2 Barrel Pilsner, 16 Gallons | 5.75 | 11.50 | 17.25 | 19.50 | 23.50 | 27.50 |

**WE DO NOT PAY EXPRESS ON BEER
BUT PAY ON EMPTIES RETURNED**

Pabst Beer

F. O. B. Monett

Blue Ribbon

Case 3 Dozen Pints, 3.90
Case 2 Dozen Quarts, 4.50
Case, 10 Doz. Pts., 11.50
Case, 6 Doz. Qts., 11.00

Black Bottle

Case 3 Dozen Pints, 3.90
Case 3 Dozen Quarts, 4.25
Case 10 Doz. Pts., 11.00
Case 6 Doz. Qts., 10.50

Rebate

Case 3 Dozen Pints, 1.25
Case 2 Dozen Quarts, 1.50
Case 10 Dozen Pints, 2.50
Case 6 Dozen Quarts, 2.50

**H. C. COX
Monett, Mo.**

territory from which liquor selling has been abolished.”⁷ On December 18, 1914, a form was published from the “Committee” for a signer of the saloon petition to have his name removed. Beside the form was a notice refuting the Saloon Committee’s assertion that taxes would have to be raised 60 percent to 100 percent if saloons were to go out-of-business.⁸ On January 22, 1914, under the headline, “Let Us Have Peace—But With Honor,” the paper announced, “County Judge Ezra Hester has issued liquor licenses for the year 1914, after investigating the petition and reaching the conclusion that it was legal.”⁹

But it still was not over. On July 9, 1914, before any announcement of Franz Ferdinand’s assassination (Fort Smithians had more pressing business), Circuit Judge Daniel Hon’s decision was announced on a local saloon petition. It stated that petitioners had not complied with the law and rendered a decision against them. PANIC! Judge Hon gave the dealers until August 1, 1914, to dispose of their inventories, at which time his decision would become effective.¹⁰

The July 23, 1914, edition of the paper acknowledged Franz’s assassination, but only in reference to a two-column article attributed to The National Geographic Society noting what a strange place Austria-Hungary was.¹¹ By July 28, 1914, when Austria declared war on Serbia, buy-

ers and sellers of alcohol in Fort Smith were concerned only with August 1, the beginning of prohibition. The *Herald and Elevator* did take time on July 30, 1914, to note in a three-sentence, two-column-by-two-inch article that, “Austria has declared war on Serbia (sic) and begun an attack. In consequence, all Europe is on the verge of a mighty conflict that may develop into the most awful carnage in the world’s history. And then again, it may not be any more serious than the Mexican situation, which was used by sensational newspapers for big ‘scare’ heads every morning for months.”

On Tuesday, August 4, 1914, Germany crossed the Belgian border and set in motion the Schlieffen Plan that had been laid out years before for the invasion of France through Belgium.¹² On Thursday, August 6, 1914, *The Herald and Elevator* devoted two columns in the middle of page one to revealing “the passing on King Alcohol and John Barleycorn” and again a two-by-two article titled, “Germany’s War Spirit Has Inflamed Civilized World.” The “King Alcohol and John Barleycorn” article filled the center of the page and was surrounded by other booze-related articles. “Germany’s War Spirit” was confined to a lower right part of the page, although it did make the front page. But, the “Booze Brigade” article describes the scene in Fort Smith and portrays the attitude, at least *The Herald*

editor's attitude, toward the business of booze.

BOOZE BRIGADE'S CHARGE ON FT. SMITH JULY 31, 1914

Friday, July 31, 1914 will always be a memorable day in Fort Smith—the day when Circuit Judge Daniel Hon's order of July 4th signaled the passing of King Alcohol and John Barleycorn.

With only a few hours remaining of the life of the liquor business, Fort Smith was a mecca to which scores of "bootleggers" from Oklahoma and Arkansas turned to make their final visit and "stock up" for the drought period that the law and the people had ordered.

They came in wagons, afoot, and horse and mule and by rail and electric line. Most of them carried battered grips and suitcases and a number purchased them after arriving in the city.

Such a motley crew of men and women indicated the character of the army of "bootleggers" that for lo, these many years, have defied the city, county and state laws and given Fort Smith and eastern Oklahoma such an unenviable reputation.

Occasionally a well-known citizen would slip into a liquor house and purchase a bottle for use "as medicine" when necessary during the protracted dry season that was upon Fort Smith, and now and then a merchant from a neighboring town would supply himself with a quart or two.

Illustrative of the army of invading buyers, Tennyson will, on this extraordinary occasion, accept the apology of *The Herald* for paraphrasing his famous poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," as:

"THE CHARGE OF THE BOOZE BRIGADE"¹³

What followed was a parody of the complete Tennyson poem with the six hundred charging "into the Valley of Booze."

Booze and women's suffrage would be in the forefront of events for years to come, but by the end of July the media was beginning to take the events in Europe more seriously, or at least with more curiosity. On July 23, 1914, *The Herald* ran another article from *National Geographic*, titled, "Austria-Hungary is a Land of Strange Contrasts." It states that, "In spite of its important position geographically and politically, but few people realize exactly what they mean when they speak of Austria-Hungary."¹⁴ That may not have changed much today, it's still hard to know the players without a program. But *The Herald* tried to provide programs with the July 23 *National Geographic* political, geographic and religion descriptions, and on August 27 with a column titled, "Primer of the War's Geography."

Meanwhile, the city government was concerned with neither war nor prohibition nor suffrage. On Saturday, August 1, 1914, the city commissioners were concerned with the expenses of operating the city and took what appeared to be some extreme measures to deal with it, abolishing several city offices and consolidating others.¹⁵ That was Fort Smith city government 1914 style: fast, efficient, ruthless.

On September 17, 1914, *The Herald* noted, "In the fight against licensing saloons, the 'Wets' scored a victory in Fort Smith, and made gains in Greenwood." Local option had passed in the September 14, 1914, election.¹⁶

The September 17 *Herald* headlined, "Anxious Week without Results in European War." The last sentence of the article read, "Advice indicates that a decisive battle is now raging along a front of over 100 miles, and English forces are said to be steadily encompassing the invading army." Little did they know that that was wishful thinking, and that this would be the story for four more years. But at least they now took the war seriously.

Meanwhile, back at the polling place, the suffragettes were still knocking on the door. Almost every edition of the Fort Smith newspaper had at least one article concerning women's suffrage. On September 3, 1914, *The Herald* published an article from *Collier's*:

Woman Suffrage as a City Booster

As a press agent, woman suffrage is unequalled *Collier's* says:

Woman suffrage is the biggest press agent there is, said the real estate man from the West. **** It puts towns on the map. **** Whenever a woman's convention is held in a town, nowadays, the world learns to know about the town as it never did before. And more than one town in California has reported its population just doubled since the women were enfranchised. How it came? Simply because the suffrage press bureaus over the country got busy. Real estate agents have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to advertise the climate, scenic, and commercial values of Seattle, but when the women by their votes recalled the mayor of that city, the name of Seattle rang all the way round the earth, and gave it more publicity than any amount of paid advertising could have done. If you want to put your unheard of hamlet on the map, just you negotiate with the suffragists. They will fix you all right.

The New York Sun in commenting on the widespread activities of the suffragists, indulges in this wise: "One of the worst things that can be said about the suffragists is that of late they win too easily. Is it a determined minority grabbing a

precious right out of the lazy majority that doesn't care a rap?"¹⁷

Being a "booster" of Fort Smith was one thing *The Herald* had done since John Wheeler started the newspaper in 1847, and faithfully did in 1914.¹⁸ *The Herald* spent lots of time praising the attributes of Fort Smith and admonishing those they saw as its detractors with headlines such as, "Scat you Fort Smith Calamity Howlers," or "No *The Herald* Never Wearies of Doing it" (boosting the finest city in the state). But they gave little space to the overthrow of President Huerta in Mexico or the troubles in Europe.

The Southwest American, while also supportive of Fort Smith, gave large front page headlines to foreign and national affairs. Their interest in Fort Smith's business-related interests came in a little different form. On July 5, 1914, they said, "The People Want to Know Why Action is Not Taken for Building Free Bridge." A commission had been appointed in March 1913 to administer building of a free bridge between Fort Smith and Oklahoma.¹⁹ On July 17, 1914, the headline was, "Coke Hill Will Be Cleaned Up Says Wilson," "Justice Williams declares that Coke Hill has been a moral blot upon the city long enough and that it is his intention to start 'cleaning up' at once."²⁰ Coke Hill would continue to make its appearance in the news.

Surprisingly, although the Wright brothers had flown only ten years earlier, *The Southwest American* now owned a "hydroaeroplane," or flying boat, that would accompany Lieutenant Porte as far as Newfoundland on his attempt to fly across the ocean. *Southwest American* reporter Phil D. Rader was to act as navigator, photographer and reporter on this hydroplane.²¹ By the end of July 1915, the front page of the paper would be full of news of the conflicts in Europe, and soon "aeroplanes" would battle ground forces and each other.

Meanwhile, back at City Hall, the Board of Commissioners had issues regularly with the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company. "Vice Mayor Kuper read a lengthy letter from the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company relative to the notice served upon them to repair and put in good condition and repair the paving between their tracks and both sides of same on Eleventh Street from Garrison to N. L Street . . ." Fort Smith Light and Traction Company seemed to be a regular item in the meetings of the city commissioners. The last item in the meeting minutes of that day was, "The matter of the mayor getting dog bit was mentioned, and in view of the matter comm. (sic) Bruce moved that he be granted two more weeks off if he desired. Motion carried."²²

With all of the war news from both Europe and Mexico filling the front pages, prohibition, and women's suffrage occupying minds, there was scant mention of the greatest

engineering feat of the time. On August 15, 1914, the Panama Canal was officially opened. On August 16, on page five, *The Southwest American* devoted about three inches of print under the headline, "Panama Canal Open to World's Commerce."²³ Nearly a month later, on page four, *The Herald* ran a longer article from *The National Geographic* Society describing the tonnage that could be moved, the mileage, and time saved, and the commercial effect on nations of the world.²⁴ But the canal was not foremost in the minds of Fort Smithians.

The papers were full of war stories, and there were stories to tell with a many-front war, but they weren't too busy with war to ignore sports. On August 14, 1914, the Fort Smith-Van Buren Twins shut out the McAlester Convicts 4-0.²⁵

On September 1, 1914, the last carrier pigeon, a bird whose flocks once numbered in the billions, died in the Cincinnati Zoo.²⁶ At the same time the Boston Store was running newspaper ads featuring women in hats with eighteen inch feathers and words like, "Saucy Tilt, Saucy Feather, That's The Salamander Hat." Their millinery shop advertised, "300 New Trimmed Hats, only one hat of a kind."²⁷

By October 1914, Fort Smith was preparing for the Arkansas-Oklahoma Fair with associated horse shows, horse racing, auto racing, and "Best Babies at Better Babies Fair Exhibit." The Better Babies contest would be different from usual baby contests, "for at the Better Babies contest physicians examine the babies for physical and mental development . . ."²⁸

The state legislature was busy creating a legacy that would be passed down to be dealt with in later years. On August 2, *The Southwest American* announced that an act had been passed to create the office of lieutenant governor. "This amendment is a creation fearfully and wonderfully made." It would create "an office without an officer," for it would become effective on September 1, 1915, but there was no provision for an election for lieutenant governor until the 1916 election.²⁹ Now, in 2014, there is discussion of eliminating that office. One candidate in a 2014 Republican primary election campaign speech said he wanted to be "the next and last lieutenant governor of Arkansas."

As usual, some profited from war and the farmers of Arkansas were some of its citizens to be directly affected at the beginning of the Great War. The 1914 wheat crop was reported to be the greatest ever raised, and wheat prices had risen in two months from sixty cents a bushel to one dollar a bushel. The price of oats increased thirty percent in the same period.³⁰ But as early as August, the U.S. Department of Justice had instructed local U.S. district attorneys to begin investigations into the rise in food prices. The U.S. district attorney at Topeka, Kansas, reported, "The unusual circumstances of wheat going down on the

market and the price of flour going up . . . ”³¹ Maybe two months and a Department of Justice investigation made the difference.

By October, there were other price worries, not just in Fort Smith or in Arkansas, but internationally. Cotton prices had fallen in the southern United States to the point that farmers couldn't sell their crops. That situation was due in part, at least, to disagreements between cotton spinners at Manchester, England, and the Liverpool cotton dealers. Great Britain had consumed about half of the U.S. 1913 cotton exports.³² Festus Wade, a St. Louis banker, had proposed that banks raise \$150,000,000 to “retire” 5,000,000 cotton bales in warehouses. First National Bank of Van Buren was the first in this area to offer a contribution in the amount of \$10,000.³³ Meanwhile, Arkansas farmers were reporting that they would switch from cotton to wheat. It's easier to raise wheat than cotton, and if they didn't sell their wheat, they could turn it into money by feeding hogs. After all, you can't eat a bale of cotton.³⁴

In other Van Buren news, another Crawford County agricultural product went to the war. A representative of a Kansas City livestock company had purchased fifteen head of mules, part of a shipment to Canada, that country having contracted to provide stock to be used in the present war.³⁵

The October 18, 1914, edition of *The Southwest American* announced that the last day of the Interstate Fair enjoyed fair weather and a large crowd. The fair had been plagued with rain and canceled horse races, sometimes running two races a day on good days.

Bank robbers were not deterred by weather, wars, or markets. At least once a week the papers announced a robbery in either Arkansas or Oklahoma. On October 14, at the Bank of Pontotoc, Oklahoma, a robber was fired on and wounded in his escape. On October 15, a Kensett, Arkansas, bank was held up by a robber on a rented horse. October 19, at the Bank of Byars, Oklahoma, a robber escaped on an unsaddled horse, but was captured after pursuit by Mayor B. Cabney in an automobile. This was the sixteenth robbery in twelve days in that part of the state. On October 23, a *Southwest American* headline stated, “Lone Yeggman Robs Midland Bank of \$150.” Vandervoort, Arkansas, October 23—“The Merchants Bank of Vandervoort was held up and robbed by three bandits this afternoon at 2:30.” They escaped on horses, firing as they went. On Thursday, October 15, *The Southwest American*, on the front page, in bold headlines announced, “City National Bank to Open its Doors Today.” City National Bank was not robbed, at least not that month.

The significant business news in October 1914 was an announcement by E. R. Call of the Nyberg Automobile

Company of Anderson, Indiana, before a joint meeting of the Business Men's Club, Ad Club and Noon Civic Club. The Nyberg Automobile Company proposed to build an automobile factory in Fort Smith on lots in a part of the Sunnyside Addition. The conditions for securing the factory were that 200 lots be sold at \$250 each. The lots were to be taken over by Fort Smith property owners and businessmen.

The Sunnyside Addition is south of present-day Valley Road and east of Hendricks. Today that seems like a strange place to put an auto factory, especially when railroad service was one of their considerations for choosing Fort Smith, but it was to be “made accessible to the railroads by a branch from the suburban.”

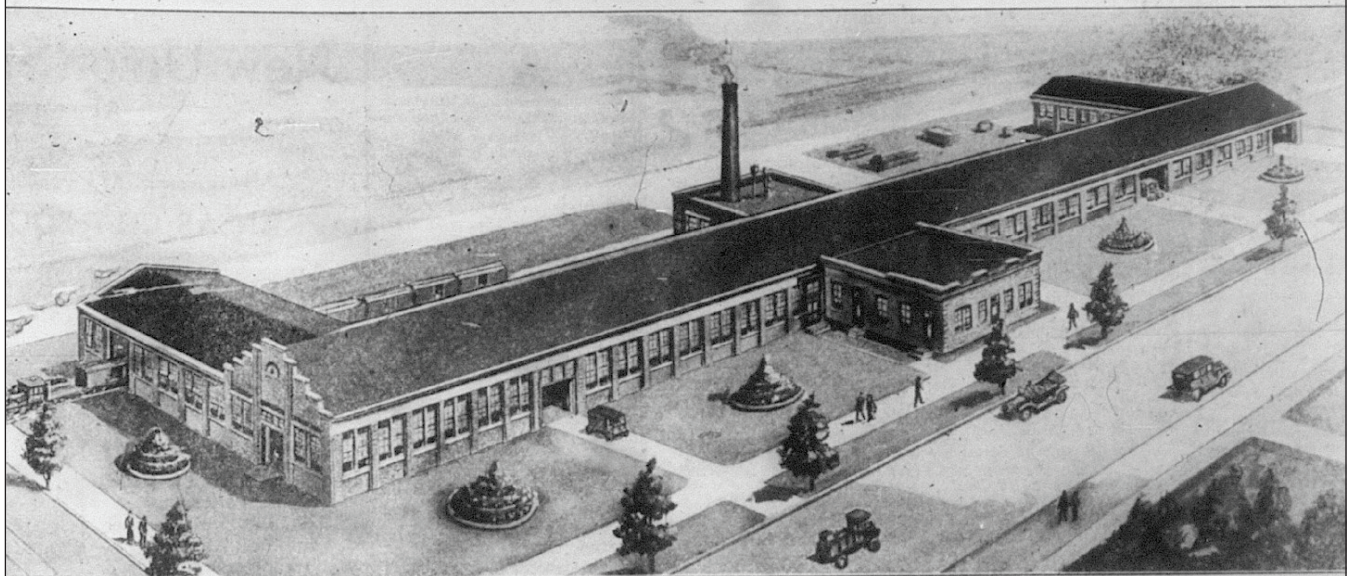
A committee was immediately formed from the three civic clubs at the meeting to plan a campaign for the sale of those lots. “With the cooperation of the businessmen and property owners, those promoting the factory feel sure that it is a matter of but a few months until Fort Smithians will be riding in a car manufactured in their own town.”

The Nyberg Company built, besides light trucks and delivery wagons, a fifty-horsepower, runabout car holding five to seven passenger which sold for \$1,700. The same styles were available for \$1,000 in a forty-horsepower, 126-inch wheelbase car. Both styles were “fully equipped,” whatever that meant at the time.³⁶

The first meeting and announcement was on Monday, October 19, 1914. By Friday, October 23, “the financial institutions of the city—seven of them—united in a movement the purpose of which is to indicate solidarity and unity of purpose in city building movements.” Each of the promotion campaign committee was supplied a copy of a statement signed by the bankers stating their belief in the project. “Those in charge of the promotion are confident that the entire 200 lots will be contracted for within the next ten days. Individual contracts to buy become void except as fulfillment of contract.”³⁷

The original enthusiasm may have been short-lived, for a week later, on October 31, *The Southwest American* published an article that seemed to be more to bolster hope, than to state facts. “The campaign for the new automobile factory for Fort Smith has been going on unremittingly, new committees constantly appearing on the field to take up the work where those committees who are forced to retire have left off.” They go on to say that the project, like a snowball, is gaining momentum from its own weight, “The first week lots moved rapidly, and then the sale ceased and slowly revived.” It had been barely over a week since the first committees started their campaign.

The Herald, a weekly paper, had one and two paragraph articles immediately after the announcement of the



PROPOSED AUTOMOBILE FACTORY FOR FORT SMITH

endeavor, and in the two weeks following. In scanning the newspapers for the rest of 1914, no more mention of the automobile factory was seen. If the campaign committees advertised in the newspaper, then it was obscure. The minutes of the Fort Smith Board of Commissioners from September 2, 1914, until the end of the year show no mention of an automobile factory, or any major construction.

On the same day that the financial institutions had announced their support of the proposed auto factory, another event of historic importance took place. The Old Commissary Association held a reception to bring attention to their work in putting the property in shape for use as a historical building. The purpose of the event was to arouse greater pride in the people of Fort Smith in this historic building and give attention to the association's needs in preserving a notable historic site that connects future Fort Smith to the past. The event was intended to raise funds for the association. "Most of the visitors contributed and a neat sum was raised."³⁸

In November, with Thanksgiving still more than two weeks away, the governor of Arkansas issued a proclamation regarding Christmas dinner:

**Executive Chamber
STATE OF ARKANSAS
Little Rock Ark., Nov. 12, 1914**

A proclamation by the Governor of Arkansas to all citizens of the state.

Whereas, the great state of Arkansas is now

initiating a movement to feed herself and to encourage the production of all the necessary food for man and beast, and

Whereas, the crisis resulting from a demoralized cotton market makes it imperative that we as citizens of this state make every effort to grow the things we should eat, which will result in a great diversification of crops and foodstuffs instead of devoting all of our energy to the cotton industry, and

Whereas, Arkansas now produces a great variety of meats, fruits, vegetables and other food products and, the greater production of these diversified foodstuffs should be encouraged to the end that this state may feed herself first, and then have something to sell of her surplus.

Therefore, I do recommend and request that everyone living within the borders of our State prepare a suitable menu of Arkansas food products to be served as our Christmas dinner, December 25, 1914, and that nothing but Arkansas grown food shall be served on that happy occasion.

It is further recommended that the People of Arkansas, the Women's Clubs, and other organizations, the farmers and individuals cooperate in this movement and that Christmas Day be set aside to celebrate, "Grown in Arkansas" food products.

By order of the Governor of Arkansas

That proclamation was followed by an endorsement by H. S. Mobley, president of the Farmer's Union of the State of Arkansas.

(Seal) Geo. W. Hays, Governor

In November 1914, along with all of the headlines concerning Europe, it appeared that war might be coming to Sebastian County, Arkansas. November 4, 1914, headline page one, *Southwest American*:

**FOUR TROOPS FEDERAL CAVALRY
EQUIPPED WITH MACHINE GUNS
ORDERED TO HARTFORD VALLEY**

Washington, Nov. 3—Secretary [of War] Garrison today ordered four companies of the Fifth United States Cavalry from Fort Sheridan, Ill. to Fort Smith, Ark. to maintain order in the Hartford Valley coal strike district.

Secretary Garrison explained the order as follows:

"We have reached the conclusion that it is impracticable to enforce the laws of the United States court by any other means.

"The troops will not undertake to serve any

process; they will confine themselves to making it possible for civil officers to perform their functions. This is a matter that concerns the federal court alone; the state of Arkansas has nothing to do with it."

This federal troop movement concerned a coal mine strike in south Sebastian County that had gone on for months and had claimed several lives on both sides. Judge Youmans of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas and Deputy U.S. Marshal Tom Black had been unable to enforce federal law to stop the bloodshed. Following that statement from Washington, the Ad Club started a movement to re-establish an army post at Fort Smith. They pointed out that Fort Smith is a central point for this entire region, "in addition to possessing an ideal climate for the troops."³⁹ Whoever wrote that line never walked his post in a military manner in July and August at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Henry Starr, one of the old-time outlaws of the Indian Territory during Judge Parker days, continued to make headlines in 1914. Starr once talked inmate Cherokee Bill into surrendering his gun with which he had shot guard Larry Keating. Starr was at the time under a charge of murder, for which he was convicted. He was pardoned in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt only to be later rearrested in Colorado and confined to Cañon City Peni-

ARKANSAS MINE TROUBLE PICTURES



CAVALRYMEN OF THE FIFTH U. S. CAVALRY TRYING OUT A MACHINE GUN AT PRAIRIE CREEK, ARK.

tentiary from which he was paroled in 1914. Starr apparently returned to his old territory, his old ways, and his old friends who were suspected of new bank robberies and holdups.⁴⁰

Not much mention was made of Thanksgiving in Fort Smith papers other than the Salvation Army planned to have a dinner for the poor of the city. It was to be held at noon, November 26 at 413 Garrison on two tables sixty-four feet long that could provide room for 150 at one sitting. A table would be reserved in a corner for messengers and newsboys.⁴¹

Christmas was observed differently. The November 29, 1914, issue of *The Southwest American* announced on page three that:

All Fort Smith is to have a Christmas tree. Everybody is to be in it and share in the fun and entertainment; and every boy and girl in the city; whether they wear store clothes or just left overs are to have a chance at the goodies which are to be placed on the biggest and grandest Christmas tree the Arkansas trip of Santa Claus ever came across. The tree is to be planted in the plaza, the traction company has volunteered to light it with myriads of lights, and it will be some sight.

In addition to the tree, there will be at its side a great platform from which hundreds of Fort Smith have agreed, each to contribute their own particular talent in creating one of the most grand Christmas festivals and entertainment spectacles which was ever undertaken in this part of Saint Nic's dominions.

But the holidays did not preclude tribulations with the city and city government. The city had, in 1905, granted as near an exclusive contract as state law allowed to the Fort Smith Light and Traction Company to supply electrical power for the city. That contract, with the exception of street lighting, would run until 1955. Now, there were three agencies thinking of installing their own electrical sources. The businessmen on the south side of Garrison Avenue planned a generation station behind the Kress store to power everything between Sixth and Ninth Streets. The school system was considering a power plant for the high school. The municipality had been gathering estimates for street lighting. There had been complaints about the rates and the Light and Traction Company had presented the city a proposition for negotiations to lower rates for service. That proposition had never gone on record, but had been returned to the Light and Traction Company with the citizens never having been advised of it.⁴² Perhaps that is one of the reasons that, on Thursday, December 3, 1914, a committee from the Noon Civics Club met with the mayor and city commissioners to discuss an investigation into past and present city government.⁴³

In early December 1913, the Best-Clymer Sorghum Manufacturing Company, who claimed to be the largest sorghum mill in the country, announced it would erect in Fort Smith a \$30,000 plant to "manufacture fruit and vegetable products of all classes and to have the plant ready for operation on next year's crops."⁴⁴ By the end of the month, "The Fort Smith Wagon Company will resume operations on a large scale soon 'tis said." The Fort Smith Wagon Company was controlled by the John Deere Company of Moline, Illinois. The rumor was that John Deere had contracted for a large order of wagons for the French government.⁴⁵

As the year of 1914 came to its end, the war escalated in Europe, now involving nearly a dozen countries, among them Japan.

In Mexico, Carranza had ousted President Huerta, Villa and Zapata had ousted Carranza, and the civil war there started all over.

A report from Washington, D.C., on December 10 stated, "Rapid progress was made in the senate today on the immigration bill. Many amendments proposed by the senate committee to the measure as it passed the house were agreed to. One to extend proposed exclusion of persons convicted or charged with crimes involving moral turpitude to persons 'legally charged' with such offenses was defeated."⁴⁶

Prohibition was still alive as an issue. On December 1, *The Southwest American* headlined an article: "4000 Name Petition in County Court Initiates Fort Smith Saloon Fight." Four thousand people had signed a petition in favor of issuing saloon licenses in Fort Smith in 1915, which was submitted in the county court. That set off an equal response from the Anti-Saloon League. This was not just a local issue, and *The Herald* was prophetic in an article on December 3 that stated, "Woman Suffrage and Prohibition Go Hand-In-Hand. It is no longer a matter of what politicians or newspapers may say against woman suffrage or prohibition—they are destined by will of the people to become national laws."

All those things that just won't change come what may went on into 1915, which will be the subject of Part II of Fort Smith and "The Great War." Look for it in the April 2015 issue of *The Journal*.



Jerry Akins is a perennial contributor to The Journal and is the author of Hangin' Times in Fort Smith (Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2012).

ENDNOTES

- 1 Joachim Remak, *The First World War, Causes, Conduct, Consequences* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1971), 5
- 2 Remak, 25
- 3 *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, article, Brent E. Riffel,

www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net

- 4 http://honors.uca.edu/wiki/index.php/Arkansas_Liquor_Law_of_1913
- 5 *Fort Smith Herald and Elevator*, March 6, 1913, p1, col. 5,6
- 6 Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of the Board of Commissioners [Fort Smith], Dec. 8, 1913
- 7 *Herald*, December 11, 1914, p5, col. 5,6; p1, col. 3
- 8 *Herald*, 18, 1914, p5 col. 1-6
- 9 *Herald*, January 22, 1914, p1, col. 6
- 10 *Herald*, July 9, 1914, p1, col. 6, September 3, 1914 p1, col. 3,4,5,6
- 11 *Herald*, July 23, 1914, p4, col. 5,6
- 12 Tuesday, 4 August 1914, by: Ribbons, Ian, p 11
- 13 *Herald*, August 6, 1914, p1, col. 3, 4, 5
- 14 *Herald*, July 23, 1914, p4, col. 5,6
- 15 Minutes of Special Meeting of Fort Smith Board of Commissioners, August 1, 1914
- 16 *Herald*, September 27, 1914, p1, col. 5, 6
- 17 *Herald*, September 3, 1914, p4, col.3, 4
- 18 *Fort Smith Herald*, January 24, 1849, p1 col. 1 Ho! For California, exhorting gold seekers to use the southern route from Fort Smith rather than from Independence, Mo.
- 19 *Southwest American*, July 5, 1914, p1, col. 3, p2, col. 3
- 20 *Southwest American*, July 17, 1914, p2, col.1
- 21 *Southwest American*, July 12, 1914
- 22 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, August 19, 1914
- 23 *Southwest American*, August 16, 1914, p5, col 1
- 24 *Herald*, Sept 10, 1914, p4, col 5,6
- 25 *Southwest American*, August 15, 1914, p8,col.1,2
- 26 *The Southwest Times Record*, June 19, 2004, p6D, col.6
- 27 *Southwest American*, October 1, 1914, p3, col.1
- 28 *Southwest American*, October 1, 1914, p3, col. 4
- 29 *Southwest American*, October 2, 1914, p6, col 2
- 30 *Herald*, October 1, 1914, p4, col. 3,4
- 31 *Southwest American*, August 18, 1914, p5 col. 3,4,5
- 32 AP Dispatch, London, SW American, October 22, 1914, p2, col. 5
- 33 *Southwest American*, October 21, 1914, p5, col. 2
- 34 *Southwest American*, October 24, 1914, p6, col. 5
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 *Southwest American*, October 20, 1914, p10, col. 1
- 37 *Southwest American*, October 24, 1914, p5, col. 1
- 38 *Southwest American*, October 24, 1914 p6, col. 1
- 39 *Southwest American*, November 11, 1914 p5, col. 5
- 40 *Southwest American*, November 19, 1914 p8, col. 1
- 41 *Southwest American*, November 26, 1915 p6, col. 5
- 42 *Southwest American*, December 6, 1914, p6, col.1
- 43 *Southwest American*, December 4, 1914, p8, col. 2
- 44 *Southwest American*, December 4, 1914, p1, col. 1
- 45 *Southwest American*, December 26, 1914 p1, col.1
- 46 *Southwest American*, December 11, 1914, P1, col.1

Letters From Readers

Inquiries will be published in the *Journal* as space allows and should include the following:

- ❖ Your full name and address.
- ❖ Full name of ancestor about whom you desire information.
- ❖ Definite time period (birth, marriage or death date, or date appearing in a certain record at a definite time period.)
- ❖ State the relationships (names of parents, names of children, names of brothers and sisters, or in-laws).

Material should be submitted using word-processing programs supported by Windows. Do not abbreviate any words; put all surnames in capital letters; capitalize only the first letter of given names and places; write dates as follows (day, month, year: example 25 January 1978.)

Suggestions for Submission of Articles

We welcome the submission of articles, previously unpublished, covering significant historical events and persons in the Fort Smith and surrounding area. Manuscripts, including quotations and footnotes, must be double-spaced, using *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press). Footnotes should be numbered consecutively in the text, assembled at the end of the article, along with a list of any additional sources. The author's name, address, phone number and email address should appear only on the title page. Manuscripts may be submitted on CD disks, using word-processing programs supported by Windows. Photographs should be submitted in digital format.

All correspondence and manuscripts should be submitted to:

Managing Editors

The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society

P.O. Box 3676

Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676

Neale ‘Bobo’ Henderson

From Andrews Field To Kansas City Monarchs

Neale “Bobo” Henderson was born June 24, 1930, at home, 501 South B Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas, which was near Andrews Field, to Rose Lee Henderson and his father, Neal Henderson. By the time Neale was five years old, he was spending most of his time hanging around Andrews Field, which was the home of the Fort Smith Giants from 1936-1940. That constant presence was despite the occasional efforts of par excellent groundskeeper, Frank Flippin, to chase him away. The Flippins lived in the left field corner of Andrews, the back door to their house opening inside the wooden outfield fence, the front door facing South B Street, house number 612, a block away from the Henderson’s. Frank’s wife, Bessie, in fact gave Neale his nickname. One day, Rose Lee holding Neale in her arms, pulled back the cloth to let neighbor Bessie view the baby for the first time at which moment Bessie gasped and exclaimed in shock, “Why he looks like Bobo the Clown!” The nickname stuck.

Growing up in that part of town, young Neale adopted baseball as his favorite pastime and his favorite sport because the field and all of its minor league player mystic was so handy and because he was naturally so good at it. He was especially drawn to it because in 1937, the Kansas City Monarchs and the Homestead Grays (Pittsburgh) came to Andrews Field, set up their portable lights, and played a night game in town. The team let Bobo be a batboy for the game, a memory he never forgot, and he met Cool Papa Bell and Josh Gibson. In the 1938 and 1939 seasons, the Giants played in the Western Association, a class C minor league with teams from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and this one in Arkansas. Though only class C, it was a fast league full of young promising players and experienced managers who groomed these guys for moving eventually to one of the sixteen Major League teams.



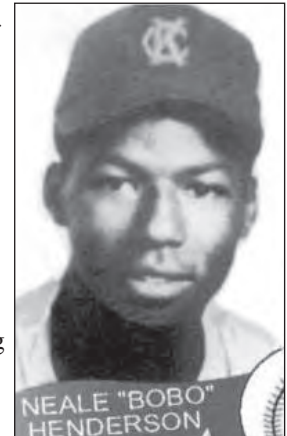
NEALE “BOBO” HENDERSON *talks from the mound where he told the kids that it made him mad when people don’t remove their caps to show respect for the American flag. (Photograph courtesy of Bill Swank)*

This, of course, was in the days of segregation so the Major League teams and their farm teams had only white players. Many of the Giants were from Dixie. Despite, or perhaps because of that background, these guys grew fond of Bobo. Baseball players love nicknames and give the most popular or standouts a handle. So here this young guy who looked up to them and was always around, already had a dilly of one. Still more catchy was the fact that the Fort Smith

Giants manager, a salty old veteran, was Herschell Bobo. The Fort Smith Giants let little Bobo shag flies during practice and gave him a baseball every now and then to take home. When he was eleven, he became the team’s batboy. He loved the job, but did not allow himself to become a mascot. When players wanted to rub his head for luck, Bobo drew back, “No, Sir,” he would say.¹

Bobo and his friends, the McGills, would take to the Andrews diamond on summer afternoons when the field was deserted and play their one-eyed cat or work up ballgames. On one of these days, Bobo invented the head first slide. He did so because he hated the strawberries he would get with the regular slide, not having any sliding pads to put on under his jeans. When told that most announcers today discourage that for youth baseball, saying that it injured fingers and hands, Bobo said they just didn’t know how to do it right. He never got hurt that way, he said.

Bobo remembered that he had a good childhood and had many adventures with his younger brother, Ocie Eugene, in the area where he lived just west of Wheeler Avenue and close to the Okla Homer Smith furniture factory. Sometimes they walked the railroad tracks past Coke Hill and wound up downtown. Garrison Avenue bustled with pedestrians, with businesses, cafes, department stores, pharmacies (called drug stores in those days), clothing stores, a few tattoo parlors, three movie theaters, dance halls, and a bowling alley. Bobo got a job setting pins at the bowling alley, which was upstairs above the Plaza Theater. In those days, before automatic pin machines, it was done by hand. Sometimes the bowlers rolled before the pin boy had gotten completely out





ANDREWS FIELD, looking out from the grandstand
(Photo courtesy of Steve Wilhelm)

of the way. It could be a dangerous job. Bobo thought a few of them did the quick roll out of meanness and wanted to hit him. But he was quicker than they were and always got out of the way in time. S. H. Kress, one of two large five and dime stores on Garrison, had a lunch counter, and of course the toy section which, made it a must for nine- or ten-year-old boys. Kresses had, like the Sebastian County courthouse itself, a water cooler with a sign above saying "White," and ten feet away another water cooler with a sign that read "Colored."

Bobo knew the difference, everyone did. But one day, he decided to see what the water in the other fountain tasted like. He wanted to see if there was a difference, so he sampled it. But the Kresses manager saw him and gave him a couple of hard swats, saying he was going to tell his mother about this, too, which the manager did. So, Bobo got swats from his mother, his father, who was a minister, and, it seemed to him, from a lot of other people, too. He tells the story with a smile, though.

At the start of his professional baseball career, Bobo's position was at shortstop. Shortstops, often the best athlete on the team, have to throw fast, hard, straight, and from every angle and sometimes off balance. When an interviewer asked him if it was true that he had a strong throw, Bobo only smiled and said, "Whew!" And where did he get this good arm? He said, "Throwing all day long at Andrews Field."

In the days before the 1954 Brown decision and the process of desegregation that it mandated, at all deliberate speed, Fort Smith had an African-American school system, crowned by Lincoln High School, which had been built when Republican Isaac C. Parker was the president of the school board. The elementary school and the junior high school were nearby on Eighth and Ninth Streets, at the heart of the largest concentration of African-American homes and businesses in the city. But other African-American residential neighborhoods existed in Fort Smith, the one along B Street and another further out on Sixth Street. For example, Bass Reeves' home had been on North Twelfth Street as it meets North O Street before he moved in his latter career stage to Muskogee, Oklahoma, to become a city policeman.

The Hendersons had relatives in these parts of town and the extended family was close-knit, bound by kinship, by the church, and by love for one another. Thus, it was not without pain that Neal and Rose Lee Henderson decided in 1941, because of a wartime job search, to move to California. Bobo was eleven-and-a-half years old. They settled in San Diego County and remained there through Bobo's and Ocie's high school years.

Bobo continued his love for baseball and played for his high school nine, but now outside the segregated South, he found opportunities in other sports as well, track and foot-



KANSAS CITY MONARCHS BASEBALL CLUB BUS, *photograph courtesy of Craig Stanley, Atlanta, Georgia.*

ball, for instance. In 1948, Bobo Henderson quarterbacked his San Diego High football team and in so doing became California's first black quarterback. He had a commemorative ring awarded to him based on the documentation of that fact by San Diego historian Bill Swank. San Diego High School had a high performance baseball team under Coach Mike Morrell and a gritty senior second baseman, John Green. When Green went into a hitting slump, Morrell substituted sophomore Neale Henderson. Green never got back in the lineup over Henderson. Green told Swank later that Morrell was well known to play the best player, didn't matter if he was white, black, or Chicano and Bobo was "better than me," Green said.

Before Neale Henderson, San Diego High School had sent two of its former players to professional baseball, Walter McCoy and Johnny Ritchey. In 1948, Ritchey became the starting San Diego Padre catcher and the first African-American player in the Triple A Pacific Coast League.

After graduation from high school, Henderson followed suit and signed a contract to play with the Kansas City Monarchs, the winningest team in the old Negro Major Leagues. When asked if he was happy that had happened, his face lit up "Now," he said, "I made some money."

He actually landed in Abilene, Kansas, with the "Ikes," a Kansas City farm team.² With the Ikes, Bobo gained his second nickname, "The California Comet." The bullpen guys who give out these handles picked up on Bobo's blazing speed. The speed along with his defensive play and his batting average elevated him to the Monarchs in the 1949 season.

The Monarchs were managed by John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, himself inducted posthumously in 2007 into Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame. The Monarchs had owned the contract of one Jackie Robinson, like Hender-

son, a shortstop and a transplanted Californian, until Branch Rickey signed Robinson to a Brooklyn Dodgers contract in 1946 (without paying anything to the Monarchs). The legendary Satchel Paige pitched for the Monarchs until drafted into the majors in 1948. Yet, Buck O'Neil said that the best team he ever coached was the 1949 team which included Elston Howard, future All Star catcher for the New York Yankees.

With the Monarchs, Henderson moved to the outfield in 1950, because the team had another pretty good shortstop, a guy named Ernie Banks. With a strong lineup that included player-manager O'Neil, the Monarchs, and their second team, the Kansas City Stars, played their home games in and went on the road to the Negro American League cities and teams such as the Birmingham Black Barons, the Indianapolis Clowns, the Chicago American Giants, the Houston Eagles, and the Detroit Stars. In 1950, the Clowns won the league title, a distinction that may have helped them sign teenage phenom Henry Aaron the next year, but the Monarchs in their rich history had won more games and more Negro World Series than any other team.

Kansas City, facing the challenges of payrolls and increasing competition from white baseball, entered what one historian called the "barnstorming era," that is the team traveled into small towns to play games. The Monarch organization used portable lights for night games, even transporting them via trucks to away games such as that one at Andrews Field.³ It is no accident that the Negro Leagues Museum is in Kansas City which was the home of the Monarchs and of Buck O'Neil.

Asked if he ever made the trip back to Fort Smith while he played, Bobo said, "No, I did not because I was so busy with baseball." But he did keep up with his relatives, families like the Hinkles and the Whitfields. Neale's dad, spelled Neal, is buried in Fort Smith, and Bobo has visited



BOBO'S FATHER, NEAL HENDERSON, is buried in Washington Cemetery, north Fort Smith. (Photograph by Billy Higgins)



PADRES GREAT DAVE WINFIELD, *Charlie Pride (singer and former Negro League pitcher), with Neale Henderson in 2008 when all the MLB teams symbolically drafted a former Negro League player. The Los Angeles Angels selected Neale. (Photograph courtesy of Bill Swank)*

the gravesite, and in fact, it was an original idea with him to affix the permanent picture of the deceased onto the tombstone.

Jackie Robinson's success in integrating the National League and Larry Doby's doing the same for the American League effectively ended the parallel universe in which the Negro Major Leagues had flourished. In the 1950-1960 decade, no fewer than 150 ballplayers who would have stocked the teams of the Negro American League, including the K.C. Monarchs, were signed to MLB contracts. Many of these were not just great players, but were of Hall of Fame stuff such as inductees Robinson, Satchel Paige, Larry Doby, Willie Mays, Henry Aaron, Monte Irvin, and Ernie Banks.

The best of these who he played with or against, according to Bobo, was Monte Irvin, a choice hard to beat. Irvin helped power the New York Giants into the 1951 World Series with his twenty-four home runs and .312 batting average.

One of Bobo's favorite memories involved Earl Woods, the father of Tiger Woods, who starred in baseball at Kansas State, breaking the Big Seven Conference color line. Woods played professional baseball afterwards and in a close game in which Woods was the opposing catcher,

Bobo stole home, arguably the most electrifying play in baseball. Bobo remembered the cussing out over that act of larceny that he got from the highly competitive Woods who thought it showed him up. Bobo just pointed at the scoreboard, bounced back to the dugout, and is still smiling about it.

The Negro League would continue on through 1954, but the handwriting was on the wall with the integration of baseball. The invasion of South Korea by North Korea in June 1950 caused the Korean War and American involvement, and for Bobo, a draft not into the Major Leagues but into another organization trumped his career with the Monarchs. Neale Henderson at the age of twenty-three entered the U.S. Army.

While stationed at Camp Roberts and then Fort Lewis, Washington, Henderson played baseball in the service but never again donned a professional baseball uniform. That is not until 2005, when the San Diego Padres put on a ceremony recognizing Johnny Ritchey with a sculpture at Petco Park and honoring Neale Henderson and other African-American players of the Negro Major Leagues and then again in 2008 when Major League Baseball in a symbolic gesture held a "draft" of Negro League veterans. Neale Bobo Henderson was



NEALE "BOBO" HENDERSON in 2014 at his home in San Diego and his wall of his baseball mementos. (Photograph by Billy Higgins)



JAKE SCHAEFFER, from left, Neale and Neale's grandson, Arol, in skybox when the Angels honored Neale with an honorary MLB contract in 2008. Photo courtesy of Bill Swank.

drafted by the Los Angeles Angels.

With an outgoing nature and charisma, Bobo has become one of the favorite old time players in Southern California, where he still lives with his daughter. His wife, Annie, died a few years back. He is so much a favorite that when AFLAC started a commercial series, the company agent contacted Henderson as a spokesman. Henderson performed that service and displayed

some acting ability. Apparently his charisma came across the airwaves, too, he was contacted to do some TV commercials. He did have one embarrassing, but amusing incident as a spokesman that he shares: after explaining in front of a camera how AFLAC benefitted the community in its behind-the-scenes activities, Bobo misspoke, referring to the company as EXLAX.

Invited to a big youth baseball tournament in Carlsbad, California, an affluent city in San Diego County, Henderson arrived, was treated with VIP courtesies, and threw out the first pitch. In the packed stands, many were wearing throw-back jerseys of the Kansas City Monarchs. At a microphone placed behind the plate for the ceremony, Bobo stood and addressed the crowd. His first words were, "I'm so happy to be here, but I just saw something that makes me mad." Bill Swank standing on the field, too, heard this and thought to himself, "Oh, boy, what is Bobo going to say this time?" What Bobo said, was that he noticed some players on the field did not take off their caps for the national anthem. "That makes me mad," Bobo said. "That is not giving respect to the country and to the men who died defending it." Swank said that Henderson was in effect lecturing these well-to-do white kids about their duty to honor their country. Swank, who is also a historian of the Negro Leagues, told

an interviewer that those African-American players he has met from that time knew the game, knew how good they were, and knew they had responsibilities to community and to boys and girls who looked up to them. "They were and are very good men, and good with kids," Swank said, "and if they had bitterness because of segregation in their day they don't show it, preferring to consider themselves blessed. Indeed, starting with his days of youth in the Andrews Field neighborhood, and looking back on an amazing career that reached out from Fort Smith to Southern California to the Kansas City Monarchs, Neale "Bobo" Henderson today speaks mostly about his blessings.

The editor thanks Connie Manning, Danny Augustus, Bill Swank, Carole Barger, and, of course, Neale "Bobo"

Henderson, for their contributions to this article.

Endnotes

- ¹ The 1939 Fort Smith Giants had two players who settled in the city after their career in professional baseball, Ray Baker and Harry Feldman. The batboys were Bill Norvell and Billy Flippin.
- ² The team name came because Abilene, Kansas, was the birthplace of Dwight David Eisenhower, the thirty-fourth president of the United States. His presidential library is in Abilene.
- ³ Janet Bruce, *The Kansas City Monarchs: Champions of Black Baseball* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1985), 69-71. Portable lights mounted on extendable poles were carried on seven trucks and a bus hauled the generator to power them.

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH



Can you help identify this photo from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Pebley Center archives? If you can, please let us know at (479) 788-7213.



THE RAINBOW GIRLS in 1943 were, left to right: Easter Walker, Willie Hoffman, Verna Johnson, Paralee Wilson, Berta Jean Cook McCloud, Louella Edwards, Emma Murphy, who served as the club's mentor, Ruby Young Thomas, Katherine Thomas Brown, who served as president, Elletrice McGill, and Beatrice Caldwell Malone. Ms. Isabelle Bass was not present for the photograph.

(Photo courtesy of Nichelle Brown Christian)

The Rainbow Girls

Fort Smith In The Time Of Segregation

Introduction

While sitting with my grandmother Katherine in the den of her home, in 2003, we looked through a huge cardboard box of old photographs, and I came across a photograph of a beautiful group of women that included her and my aunt Ruby. They were all wearing lovely evening gowns, some daintily holding scarves in their hands. I asked her, "What was the significance of this photograph?" That is when she told me about the Rainbow Girls and their efforts to raise money to purchase needed items (toiletries, linens, light bulbs, etc.) for patients at the Twin City Colored Hospital that was located at 1717 Midland Boulevard. She told me that one of the Rainbow Girls' biggest accomplishments was the purchase of a neon sign for the colored hospital.

My grandmother remarked that it was so dark at night on Midland and that the sign helped many people that lived outside of Fort Smith locate the small hospital. I told her that I was surprised that she had never mentioned the

Rainbow Girls to me as I was growing up and, more so, that she kept this photograph buried in a box. I knew life was very, very difficult for her and so many other African Americans living, working, raising families during such an inequitable, shameful time in our country's history. Two possible reasons as to why she kept the photograph put away and the story kept silently hidden in her heart may have been due to her burying some of the painful memories of that time and the fact that she did not view the deeds of the Rainbow Girls as extraordinary, but that of a group of women doing what needed to be done to help others.

In spite of all the burdens, restrictions, and divisions that were thrust upon those who were referred to as "colored people" at that time, The Rainbow Girls did not sit idly by waiting for things to get better. These remarkable women had vision—they knew they could help make things better in spite of the circumstances and their place in society. They collectively used their resources and ingenuity to benefit the patrons and staff at the Twin City Col-



ISABELLA BASS

ored Hospital. Beneath the beautiful faces and elegance depicted in this photograph were intelligent, determined, strong-willed, industrious and proactive women whose deeds were accomplished in humility and blossomed into an undeniable legacy in the fabric of Fort Smith, Arkansas's rich history. The Rainbow Girls will never be forgotten.



Nichelle Brown Christian works in the Fort Smith Public School system.

Pebbley Center, Oral History Program: Isabella Bass and Katherine Brown

**interviewed at Ms. Brown's home
in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on January 13, 2010.**

Billy Higgins: By way of introduction, would you state your name, please?

Katherine Brown: Katherine Brown.

BH: And your year of birth?

KB: 1915.

BH: And where was that, Ms. Brown?



KATHERINE BROWN

KB: March 14, down in Huntington, Arkansas.

BH: Oh, and you mentioned how long you've been at this particular address, in this house?

KB: In this one house, this is my second home. About fifty years.

BH: Well, and I know you're going to be speaking about the Rainbow Girls.

KB: Yes.

BH: And do you mind explaining what that organization was?

KB: It was an organization that we set up to help the [Twin City] hospital which didn't have very much funding. We set up this organization to help supply sheets, towels, and different necessities that a patient would need, whatever. And we saw that there was . . . this is a twin state, that's why it's called Twin City. ¹

BH: Hum.

KB: And when some people came over from Oklahoma and they had a patient that was real sick. And they didn't know where the hospital was. It was there on [1717] Midland Boulevard. I think you have the number.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And there, well they brought to our attention, they said well we need a sign on the hospital so when people come in the city trying to find it they won't have any trouble finding it. And so, we decided we would put a ne-

on sign up so it would be lighted up. So when the people, the ambulances would come in they wouldn't have any problem finding it. And that was really the biggest project that we did until the hospitals were integrated.

BH: Do you remember what year that was that the sign went up?

KB: I think that was around about 1943.

BH: And the Rainbow girls, how did you get your name the Rainbow Girls?

KB: My sister Ruby she has passed away now—she's on this picture of the Rainbow Girls. We said, "Well, we should have a name." And so she said, "Well, this affair that we had after we purchased the [janitorial service] looked so pretty, and it reminded me of a rainbow, all the different colors, your long dresses." And so she said, "What about the Rainbow Girls?" And we all agreed. Ruby was a class ahead of me. However I didn't finish there.

BH: You didn't finish at Lincoln?

KB: No, I couldn't because I lived out of [town], I'm from Huntington, and my father was the father of nine children and with all of them finishing school, we couldn't afford it, and I had to go back home. And later I came here and took the adult education at Peabody. I just received a GED.

BH: You did attend some classes at Lincoln High School?

KB: Oh, yes. Yes, yeah we, we be real close together. And I remember Isabelle [Ms. Isabelle Bass] sitting over here.

Isabella Taylor Bass: Okay.

KB: I remember Isabella when she was a girl there. She was quite active. She and her husband, Edgar. He played football.

ITB: Yeah. I played basketball.

KB: I didn't do that. I worked more in home ec.

BH: What Mrs. Bass? Would you introduce yourself to this, this interview process; your name and where you were born and what year if you wish?

ITB: Yes. I am Isabelle Taylor Bass. And I was born in North Little Rock, Arkansas. I was the first born in my family, and I was born April 30, 1914. And I stayed since my mother, well I was the first one born in the family. She wanted to go back home to Little Rock.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: So and then I stayed down there, I think, I guess. Seems like to me Mama said six weeks.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: And then I came back to Jefftown, Oklahoma. Have you ever heard of that?

BH: No. I don't know where that is.

ITB: That's between Roland, Oklahoma, and well there's some railroad track that went west over town.

BH: And do you remember coming over here to Lin-

coln High School?

ITB: Oh, yes. I came to Lincoln High School. I lived in at 4612 High Street in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Lincoln, of course, was over on Ninth and N Street. We had to walk from High Street down to Midland Boulevard to get on the bus, and we'd get on the bus with our nickel in the front then we had to walk to the back.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: And if there were no seats we had to stand up. So we decided that, that wasn't doin', just wasn't going to work. So we would take our nickels and we'd buy us some whining balls. Have you ever heard of whining ball candy?²

BH: No. What is that?

ITB: That's the best [sour] apples. And I'd [buy a] big candy that we would eat all the way from N Street down to High Street. Then, there were stops on streets out there. It was stop ten, stop nine. Stop eight. And then I, I'd love to work in the garden. My grandmother's name was Isabel. So I'd go out and work in the garden with her, and we would raise tomatoes, squash, blueberries.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: Have you eaten blueberries?

BH: Yes.

ITB: We had to pick blueberries. We had to pick blueberries every other day. And then out beside the well, my dad would go—he had a T-model Ford—and he, my dad, would go and get sand. We'd put that sand in there and we'd have to work that celery.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: Then after the celery crop was over, there were strawberries and whatnot. That's when it keeps you busy. Picking the grass out of the strawberries.

BH: Was that all for home or did you sell some of that?

ITB: That was at home. My mother canned and . . . my grandmother down the lane from us had a cellar and in the winter time, like it was cold last week, we would have our sweet potatoes, white potatoes, onions, greens, you name it. She had everything in there, plus a big ham.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: And when she would cut off of that ham, put it on, it would draw all of our attention, we all wanted to stay and eat with Grandma.

KB: (Laughs)

BH: What kind of work was there?

ITB: What?

BH: What kind of work was there if you wanted to work? Did you have a job at that time?

ITB: Oh, no. They didn't give us a job.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: We didn't have any job. The jobs we had were at home. My mother taught us how to cook, how to clean,

and do all the things around the house. But then when we went to school, you know, the girls would be getting . . . they would go, they had jobs.

BH: What?

ITB: We didn't have, we didn't have any jobs. Well some of, a few of the families had jobs but they would have to walk to work. Then when they would get off from washing supper dishes [at the cafes] they had to walk back home. My dad thought that we didn't need to be on the street that time of night, so we had no job.

BH: What do you remember about the classrooms at Lincoln?

ITB: At Lincoln?

BH: Yes. Were there . . . how many students would be in a classroom? How were the classrooms there? Did you have a lot of fun? Were there a lot of people in there?

ITB: Oh, yes. We had, we had nice classrooms, but we didn't have anything. We didn't have typing, and what was that other one, Kay?

KB: Commercial. We didn't have commercial courses.

ITB: No, we didn't have them.

KB: They started that when I was president of the PTA.

ITB: They'd tell us we [lived] plum out of the city and almost out in the country. I think that was . . . that was their expression. And they used to tell us.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: But then they'd always come out because we had grape . . . my dad had a grape harbor just about the size of this room. And it would grow up, and you'd see the clusters of grapes all around.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: We'd take our teachers [grapes]. They were always nice to us because we were taking them some fruit from the farm.

BH: Was Mr. Trent the principle at any time when you were there?

ITB: No, that was before my time.

KB: Williams.

BH: Williams?

ITB: Charles L. Williams³ was our, was my first principle. At Howard school it was Mary J. Lowes but . . .

ITB: Mr. Trent. Well, that was much before.

BH: Did some of your classmates come in from other towns? Van Buren or Clarksville?

ITB: Oh, yes. Huntington. They walked. They would come from Van Buren, Huntington.

BH: Did any come from as far away as Fayetteville that you can remember?

ITB: No. They didn't walk that far. Too many curves.

BH: (Laughs) We had heard that there were stu-

dents who came from Alma all the way here.

ITB: Yeah. They did. They walked from Alma.

BH: And you said your brother played football there?

ITB: No. My husband.

BH: Your . . .

ITB: And it was three girls. Isabelle, Hazel, and Bes-sie.

BH: Ah.

ITB: There was just three girls in my family, no boys. But my husband was John Edward Bass. And he played football. He went to Shorter College in Little Rock, North Little Rock.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: And what happened, I don't know. I can't remember what happened to them.

BH: Did you go to any of the football games to watch him play?

ITB: Oh, yes. I was, I was in the glee club, I would have to yell for [the team].

KB: They were the Pirates.

BH: They were the Pirates.

KB: The Lincoln Pirates.

ITB: Well.

BH: I can actually remember seeing them play over in Grizzly Stadium.

ITB: We played Fayetteville. They have taken our stadium. It's the cemetery now. What, what's the name of it, Kay? What was the name of the . . .

KB: Oh. Andrews Field.

ITB: Andrews Field.

KB: That's on Southside. That's where they played. Like they play at the stadiums now, well they played Andrews Field. That's where all the baseball players and football games were held at that time.

BH: Oh.

ITB: Yeah, that's the only place we had.

KB: And finally they, I think, they did get, when my son, was in high school at Lincoln . . . they played in the Northside [then Fort Smith High] stadium.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: But there weren't no mixed. They was just the black Pirates. Lincoln Pirates.

BH: Uh huh. Can you remember some of the teams that would come and play them there? Would they . . .

KB: Little Rock.

ITB: Muskogee.

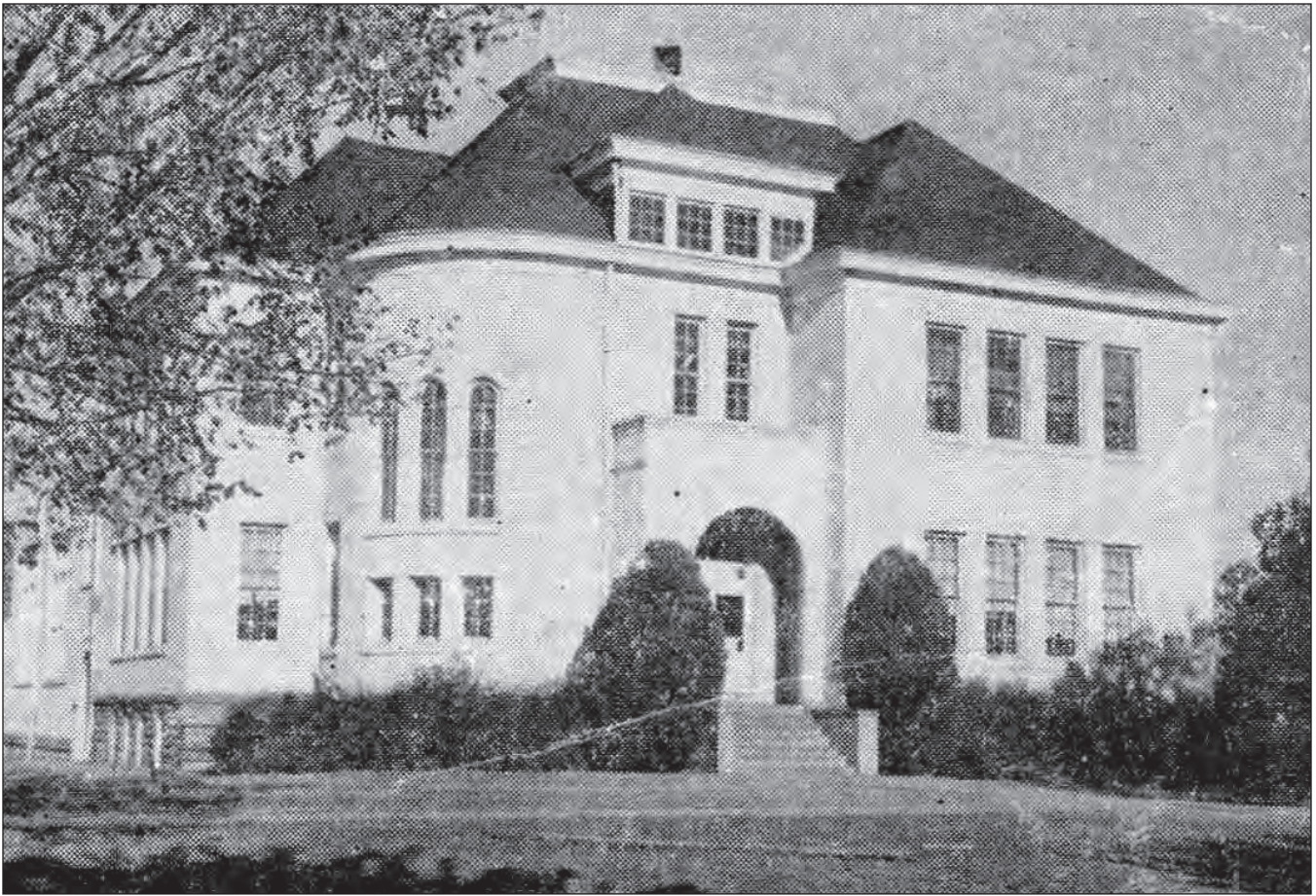
KB: Morrilton. Tulsa, I think, did.

ITB: Oklahoma was the one that was always wanting to play us, wasn't it?

KB: Yes.

BH: And that would have been in the 1940s?

KB: 1930s.



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL, 815 NORTH N STREET

BH: 1930s.

ITB: I graduated in May 1934.

KB: '33 wasn't it?

ITB: Uh huh. 1933.

BH: So how many were in your graduating class? How many graduated with you?

ITB: There were thirty-two of us. And Eleanor Kirk was buried. That was last year, I think. Eleanor, that was our last classmate [who lived] here in Fort Smith. [name mentioned softly]

KB: Who?

ITB: Delta Whitmore.

BH: So thirty-two in your class. Did you keep up with those, with your classmates? Did you keep up with them five or ten years after that? You knew where they were?

ITB: Oh yes. We had . . .

KB: They kept up the Lincoln reunion.

BH: Ah.

KB: Some of them did. But they are all gone now.

ITB: I have, I have several pictures. I think every year we would have a get-together of our class. The first year that we had it, it was raining, stormed. It just really

rained so we couldn't have it at Lincoln School, and we had it at Ninth Street Baptist Church.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: I have that picture of us. And they'd always want to come to my house because we had all those vegetables and stuff that we raised. And, and some of the boys would handle my grandmother's roosters.

BH: Did, did any of those thirty-two go on to college?

ITB: Oh yes. Yes, they did.

KB: Rosetta Smith.

ITB: Rosetta taught school after she graduated.⁴

BH: Do you remember where she might have gone to college?

KB: She went to, she went to Philander Smith.

ITB: Yes. Philander Smith.

BH: Back to the, the football playing. Did, did anybody you know at, who played for the Pirates go on to play football in college? Do you remember any who did that?

ITB: Any person?

KB: They didn't have the opportunity. When they started going to the University of Arkansas, my son went

there, and they wouldn't let him play. His major was in electric engineering, but he went there thinking that he could play with the team. Because he always . . . and he went to University of Arkansas for two years. And after he couldn't play, he went to a college where he could, and that was in Jefferson City, Missouri, and that's where he finished.

BH: Hum.

KB: Of course, that was a black school.

KB: But now it's not. But it still exists.

BH: But that was in the days before the Civil Rights and . . .

KB: Yes. 'Til things were integrated.

BH: Can you remember the first time you decided to get involved in, in Civil Rights or . . .

KB: Oh, yes. Because of my children. I had two boys and they went to Lincoln School. Mr. Green was the principal of the school there. And I saw what was needed. And they didn't have band instruments.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Nor did they have the uniforms for the band and even the football uniforms. They didn't have them. They had used ones that came from Northside [Fort Smith High School].⁵ They would send those over then have them cleaned and give to our boys to use. And we got tired of that. They didn't even have the same school colors that we had.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Our school colors were royal blue and white.

ITB: Uh huh.

KB: We bought new uniforms; we had cake raffles and had different kind of activities to raise money. Now, the band uniforms were just beautiful. The business people like Rudd Ross, the Boston Store, and the different banks here. Each one of those businesses, white business downtown would purchase a uniform. And they purchased enough that all the boys in our band had new band uniforms. My son, my youngest son, he played with the band.

BH: So your younger son was at Lincoln in the, that was in the 1950s? Or was that earlier than that?

KB: Oh earlier, that'd been the 1940s.

BH: '40s. Uh huh.

KB: And those uniforms was just beautiful. But that's the only way we had [of obtaining them] because the school said they couldn't afford them. So Mr. Rudd Ross, he had Ross Motor Company down there on Texas [Corner] and Towson. Rudd Ross, [Jr.] his son is here now.

BH: And, and in those days of segregation, when facilities were supposed to be equal . . .

ITB: Uh-uh.

BH: They were not quite?

KB: They weren't though.

ITB: Not equal at all.

KB: High schools all black, Lincoln School.

BK: And when they were integrated, they went to Northside, and Mrs. Corine Rogers, her children were the first ones who went there. She could give more of a story about that.

KB: Of course they went there without, without any trouble like in Little Rock. . . but in Fort Smith without any problem or any trouble. It was quite peaceful.

BH: Was there ever a NAACP chapter in Fort Smith?

KB: Yes.

ITB: Uhum.

BH: Was it active? Did people join it?

KB: Yes, very. I belonged to it.

BH: Oh. Good.

KB: But the colored teachers here could not belong to that organization.

BH: Because?

ITB: They couldn't. . .

KB: And Mr. Green was the principal of Lincoln School, and he made it clear to them that they could not participate with the NAACP if they held jobs teaching.

BH: Because it would rile up . . .

KB: Right.

BH: . . . white people. So they could have a high school in the community, and they could teach, but they couldn't join an org . . .

KB: NAACP.

BH: An organization.

KB: And we had one, my, the home ec teacher, she, she was still there at that time. She was my home ec teacher too, Mrs. Minnie Cox.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: Cox.

KB: She worked with them. But she had to do it . . . under the cover so they would not know. 'Cause if they had, she'd of been fired from her job.

BH: She would have lost her job and her income.

KB: She has a son here now.

BH: Were there other ways like that, that the white community would make it clear that they wanted to keep the two communities separate? What other ways . . .

KB: Oh yes.

ITB: Why, sure. We'd go and wash dishes, cook, and clean up, and they would eat the food, but then if the bus had empty seats, we still had to stand up.

KB: Oh, we had to go in the back. The jobs that I went on, I had to go to the back. That was my profession, cooking.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: You go to the back door, you couldn't go to the front.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Of course, they were very nice to me, and I was one of the first ones that they let start coming through the front. And they would put emphasis on how the different hands looked . . . at even where I worked, at the corner malt shop . . . a lady worked with me [who] went to Lincoln School, too. Her name was Fanny Garden. And one man sat there, and it hurt me so bad. He'd said, "I want Katherine to fix my sandwich." Said, "I don't want them black hands on my sandwich." And that just tore me to pieces.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: But I couldn't say anything. I had to have a job.

BH: How, how did you handle that yourself? How did you handle yourself like that?

KB: Mr. Porta. Albert Porta. He said, "Katie, I see you understand when they say things like that."

BH: Uh huh.

KB: I wouldn't say anything at all. I'd just go ahead. But still!

BH: So that...

KB: I had to keep it within.

BH: And in Fort Smith then there was a certain edge, there was a certain meanness that occurred too about whites and blacks. You just gave a good example how. That's a pretty mean thing that the man said. Were there others? Were there ever other meannesses that . . . because there was two communities? Did anyone, in, in the African-American community, did people protest too much sometimes?

KB: Ah, these people here took it very good, our leaders.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And we knew what was happening. And when we'd be in different organizations like, uh, the PTA, Mr. Ramsey was the . . . over the school board at that time.

ITB: Superintendent.

KB: Superintendent of all the schools. And when Mr. Ramsey told us that we could use those instruments that came from Northside and have them fixed up and use them, I was president of the PTA, and I spoke out. I said, "No!" I said, "We will not fix the old instruments and use them." And I said, "If we can't have new instruments, we don't want any. We'll buy some; we'll try to buy some ourselves and we would do without the instruments until we can buy them, purchase them."

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And the next time I went to the PTA, Mr. Green said, "Miss Brown come here." And I went back there in his office. He said you see what a little stink can

do. He said, "Look back there." And every one of those instruments was replaced with shiny, gold instruments and had the cases for them to go in and red velvet.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And I said, "Thank God!" Mr. Rice was the music director. What was Mr. Rice's first name? He was from Van Buren.

ITB: Willy, Willy Rice.

KB: I don't know what they did with those old instruments. Some of them were broken. The different parts had to be fixed. I said, "No, no, no." But I took a big chance then saying that.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: That was being sassy.

BH: But in the way you did it, they gave in sort of?

KB: Uh huh. And our books now, where our textbooks come from; we used the old textbooks that they had from Northside. Don't you remember, Isabel?

ITB: Yes.

BH: Have you ever gone back and read some of those old textbooks? They gave the Confederate viewpoint.

KB: I think I have one or two of those books here now. They furnish free books, yes. But we used the old books. But I'm going to tell you something. There was more in those old books than there was in a lot of those new textbooks, the fundamental principle.

BH: Yes. Yes, but the point of view . . .

KB: They go back to where you see the cotton being ginned, all that's important.

BH: It is important.

KB: But these young people don't know anything about that.

BH: I agree with that part but some of the...

KB: And this modern, and they brought in this modern math. What did that do? That wasn't anything. When I went to get my diploma from the, what you call it? The, the GED.

BH: GED.

KB: GED. Look here. They talked that I didn't know what it was. The girl up there putting it all on the board. And you know how I'd find the answer? I'd go back and use this old math that I was taught to do.

BH: (Laughs)

KB: And put the answers. It worked. But I, I couldn't do the method that they were doing.

BH: Let me ask you about, to go back to Twin City, and you had been telling me about the Rainbow Girls, just as Mrs. Bass arrived. The hospital was for African Americans only?

KB: Oh, yes.

BH: No whites went in there?

KB: Why would they want to go there when they have everything there in these white hospitals?

BH: What was the medical staff? Were there any white doctors? Or white nurses?

KB: Oh, yes. Dr. Tommy Foltz.

ITB: Dr. Hobbs worked there?

KB: You remember the Hawkins that had the air conditioner?

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Well he has a brother who was a doctor, Dr. Hawkins. Because my boys went there to get circumcised, and he was their doctor.

BH: Uh huh. And, and that happened in Twin City Hospital?

KB: Yes. They had all white doctors at that time.

ITB: That was all we could have.

KB: Ah, that was all [who were] here at that time. And we didn't have a colored doctor here when Dr. Collier left until Dr. McDonald came. And then Delmar Edwards.

BH: Delmar Edwards was an MD, a doctor?

KB: He, yes, uh huh, but he left here. It wasn't enough work for him and Dr. McDonald, too. And he left here, I think it was Alabama that he went, and he was a surgeon when he passed just last year. Delmar Edwards.

ITB: They wouldn't let him perform surgery.

KB: No, not here.

BH: Did he graduate from Meharry? ⁶

KB: I think so. What school did he go to, Calvin?

Calvin Christian: I don't remember.

KB: And there was, there was a white man here put him through school. And in fact, he wrote a book. And it was that if he would go ahead and finish school and come back to Arkansas to Fort Smith to practice. But while he was still in school, Dr. McDonald came here, and the NAACP brought Dr. McDonald here.

BH: And can you remember what year that was Mrs. Brown?

KB: That was in the '40s, early '40s.

BH: In the '40s? That's when Dr. McDonald got here?

ITB: Uh huh.

BH: Well now, did Twin City have a surgery room? I guess it did.

ITB: They had a surgery room.

KB: Yes. Now, when I went to the hospital, I couldn't go to the white hospitals, and at that time, Twin City was a nursing home. I had to go to Van Buren. Van Buren took the colored patients before Sparks and St. Edward's did here.

BH: So when Twin City went out, there was still segregation?

KB: Oh, yes.

ITB: Uh huh, indeed so.

BH: When did Twin City go out?

KB: Uh, I'm not sure. But it was turned into an old folks' home. Because old people couldn't go to the white nursing homes. And there was a limitation on how many it could take and . . . my husband's mother was there. And there'd be three and four in a room, and they had to wash their clothes in the bathtub. Now you know what kind of washing that was. ⁷

BH: I went into that rest home myself to visit.

KB: Oh. Did you?

BH: I've been in there.

KB: Well, good.

BH: And one of the persons we were visiting was named [Arthur] Shifty Davis.

KB: Sure. He used to box.

ITB: Uh huh.

KB: He did have a son, and he married Maxine Head.

ITB: Uh huh. His name was Leroy.

BH: So Leroy Davis then is buried in the Washington Cemetery? Would that be right?

ITB: No. He was buried in Los Angeles.

KB: Shifty Davis was teaching the boys how to box. You remember that?

BH: Oh, yes.

KB: Naw, you wouldn't.

ITB: (Laughs)

BH: I'm one he taught.

KB: Really? Well, my husband, Leroy Brown, worked with Shifty Davis. That's L. C.'s daddy, Shifty.

BH: By the '50s, Shifty had gone to work at the Fort Smith Boys Club and taught Golden Glove boxing down there, you know.

KB: You don't look younger . . . you don't look old enough to remember all of that.

BH: (Laughs)

KB: Now when Shifty first started, you know where he started? It used to be an old arcade. They had it upstairs downtown here. That's where Shifty first started out. And then he went down to the . . . Shifty was good.

BH: Very good.

KB: He taught my husband how to box. Leroy Brown. They call him Hambone.

BH: Uh huh. How long has he been gone, your husband?

KB: 1966.

BH: Well, we have a picture of Shifty Davis when he was a trainer for the, for the white high school, too.

ITB: Did he train them?

BH: He was a trainer for the basketball team, I think.

KB: He was good?

BH: Uh huh.

KB: With no education.

BH: He was a very good man.

KB: I know it. I remember Shifty.

BH: (Laughs) Now, Shifty was one of those guys who could, he had a way of getting along with the whites back in those days.

KB: He better do it. (Laughs) That's smart.

BH: And there is ah, there are books written on that about both whites and blacks having a dual consciousness, you know? We had, we had two ways of doing things. We treated each other one way and then we treated the other race. . .

KB: Absolutely.

BH: The other way sometimes. It didn't apply to everybody but it applied to a lot of people.

KB: It applied it mostly to everybody. That worked.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: If you wanted a job, and a lot of men had to go against their own color to please the people that they were working for.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Against their own people and knew that they were right sometimes.

ITB: Uh huh.

BH: Well you know ladies, books have been written and, and that's been explored by a lot of people in other cities, but not much has been done about Fort Smith and the African-American community here. And I think some will be done, and I think you're probably starting some of that work to see what really went on in the African-American community here. For instance . . . what was the size of the community? How many African Americans were in Fort Smith back there when Lincoln High School was going on?

KB: About 6,000, wasn't it?

ITB: I believe.

KB: Wasn't as many black people in this community like Little Rock and other places.

BH: Did the community seem to you unified? Did all of you stand together at times?

KB: We didn't have that type of program.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Um . . . we just had to do the best we could. You had to, because if you wanted a job, to work, you had to do that.

BH: So people handled it sort of individually here in this town? You did what you needed to do?

KB: But now in Little Rock, there was a different case . . .

BH: Very.

KB: A different thing altogether.

BH: It was a different feeling.

KB: All the people here, I feel like the blacks and the whites weren't mean people. But down in the southern

part of Arkansas, I think it was entirely different . . . to what, what it was here.

BH: I've wondered, too, when I grew up like I was mentioning to you, it didn't seem that, I mean, I was white, and it didn't seem as though black people were really angry at me. I mean, that was when I was a teenager and everything. It was, I didn't know if people were angry at me or not. I didn't feel that. If I'd been in Little Rock I might have felt more of that anger, I think, because of segregation. And I've wondered why Fort Smith was a little different.

KB: I don't feel ever that the black people here felt that way about any of the whites.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: I think the black people here as a whole just love white people. And really wanted the white people to love them.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And I know when I worked for the white people, I did the best I could and I loved them.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And all my heart went out to them.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And I feel like they were that way by me, and I feel like they still are.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Because they're my friends now. And the reason why I know they my friends because they have proved it. They prove it every day.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Now the last job I worked on, I worked for Miss Kay Cravens. You know her, don't you? She works with Westark. And Dr. McClanahan.

KB: They saw that I had a nice Christmas. And I think some good white people are here, and they weren't mean people.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: But it was just something at that day and time you had to go along with the flow.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Now they couldn't have done like what, like this if they had pulled out, it'd been hard for them, too.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: That was something come [out of] slavery.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And you going to understand all the white people out there, the way they were and then you're going to stand off and to yourself. You don't do that.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: You can't hardly afford it.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: 'Cause after all, you want to be loved by your people, too.

BH: Uh huh. Uh huh.

KB: I cleaned for some nice white people in Fort Smith.

BH: Uh huh. Ah...

ITB: We have a lot of nice white people.

KB: Yes. Yes. Like the Tommy Foltz's and all of them. They was real people.

ITB: I received a congratulatory [message] from Tommy Foltz.

BH: On Garrison Avenue when all the stores were down there like Boston Store and Hunts and so on, did, did you feel welcome in those, in those stores? When you'd go shopping?

KB: They didn't treat us any different.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: At the Boston Store, Kresses, and, and the grocery shop and the drug store down there, they would take you. They didn't just have you stand back like most people. And if you're first come, first served.

ITB: Not at Kresses.⁸

KB: At Kresses?

ITB: Not at Kresses.

KB: Really?

ITB: Unh. You, you couldn't even buy an ice cream cone.

KB: Oh, no. We couldn't eat at the bar.

ITB: You couldn't drink the water.

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: Couldn't even if it was hot [weather] and we had already walked but...

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: We were not allowed to drink water so then they'd put up...

KB: Oh, no. They had black and white [water] fountains.

ITB: They'd put up colored.

KB: (Laughs) Black. It's the black. Whites was here, and the blacks would be over there.

ITB: Uh huh.

KB: Even in the, the grocery stores down here, I forget whatchamacallit, they would do that. But the way I always felt about it when I'd go in the store, I never let colored be on my mind...

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Went around...

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Color's only skin deep.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And I went along and, and a lot of times they was, I noticed the people they kind of snickered you know me being black, (laughs) they kind of snickered, I'd just throw my head up and go right on. My daddy taught me that.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: I didn't pay it any attention. I ignored a lot of that stuff.

BH: Uh huh. And...

KB: But you couldn't eat in the restaurants.

BH: Could not?

KB: Oh nooo. Mc...that happened when Dr. McDonald was here.⁹

BH: Hum.

KB: Dr. McDonald went to one place, he and his wife dressed up. He and Margaret sat down to eat, and they told him, "No." And he said, "Why do you want to treat us like that?" Said, "We are human." And, they thought maybe the man coming was going to come in like they'd been working on a sewage or something like that... going to come in. They went in dressed up, and it [the restaurant] was close to the St. Edward's hospital.

BH: Hum.

KB: And they said, "No, you can't eat here. You have to go through the back."

BH: Those are, those are stories that, that really set the tone for the segregated days. Those were some really hurtful times. I know that and I appreciate y'all sharing those stories that will make a difference to...

KB: Pardon?

BH: That will make a difference to people out at our college who are trying to learn about that era, that period, you know.

KB: Well, white children don't know all of that. Because I worked for [a white family] and... I had to go to the back.

BH: Huh.

KB: I worked in their kitchen. I went over to the front to sweep the steps off or something like that, but I stayed in the back, and I knew where my place was. But when you know and you are taught the way that you come in, you adjust to it.

BH: Uh huh. Uh huh.

KB: And I just adjusted to it, and I'm adjusting to what's going on now. And when I was at Lincoln School, we had a basement [where] I took civics. And when it rained, the water would get down in that basement. It was when you, I don't know if you took it down where Mrs. Ferguson taught?

ITB: Uh huh.

KB: You member Mrs. Ferguson, don't you?

ITB: Yes.

KB: And they'd have to put boards on that first step, and water would run in, and we'd set our feet up on a board like that. Sure, right at old Lincoln. They shouldn't have torn that place down so the children could see what we went through. And sometimes the water would

come so far in that basement we couldn't have class.

BH: Were either of you ever in Elm Grove housing?¹⁰

KB: Yes. I visited there.

BH: That, that would flood at times, too, wouldn't it?

KB: Yeah. It flooded down there, 'cause I remember we let them use our boat to go and get the people with their furniture out.

ITB: Yes.

KB: Now that was a white . . . that was a colored project.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Didn't any whites live there that I knew of.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: They might of been mixed but, but they had a white project. Where was the white project? I never knew anything about it.

ITB: Was it on North Sixth Street?

BH: Heartsell Ragon Courts.

ITB: Creekmore. We didn't go to Creekmore, did we?

KB: No. We couldn't go to Creekmore Park. We had a park down here.

ITB: (Laughs)

KB: And my kids wanted to go swimming. Nooo, they couldn't get in that pool.

ITB: Uh huh.

BH: Were there some neighborhoods or some people who did mix whites and blacks in your memory here?

KB: If they did, they better not know nothing about it.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Because I know many of them mixed and have these half white children. If they'd known it, they'd run the woman out of town.

ITB: Uh huh.

KB: It wasn't to be known, and that's why a lot of colored people now can't tell their roots. Like my mother, my father was raised in Virginia. We went down there, we couldn't, unh uh. That was a no-no. And my daddy never did go into that or discuss that with us.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: His dad was white. He knew it. His mother was colored. Though they'd better not know that over there. (Laughs) They'd of run my grandmother out of town. Now I don't know. I don't know how all that came about. I do not know. But my daddy was ashamed of it.

BH: But ah, churches were ah...

KB: They were the same thing.

BH: Same thing. You mentioned ah, the United Methodist Church. The First Methodist Church?

KB: Yep. I worked there. I didn't belong there. I

worked there.

BH: I see.

KB: They never asked me one time, and I just loved those people there.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Oh, they treated me nice. But I didn't want to belong there. I, at that time I was going to, down at Quinn Chapel church, African American, and I was proud of my church.

BH: Uh huh. Uh huh.

KB: I didn't need, I didn't go there to go to church, I went there to work and enjoyed it.

ITB: Well, you could get a job before I could.

KB: Huh?

ITB: You could get a job before I could.

KB: Why?

ITB: Because of your color.

KB: I don't know. Well, I had never felt that way. Never did feel it that way.

BH: I'm going to change the subject just a little bit, because you said you were born in 1915?

KB: Yes, I was. March 14, 1915, and Daddy...

BH: Ah...

KB: And my daddy was a coal miner.

BH: Down in Huntington?

KB: Yes. Creole Coal Mine.

BH: Was he a member of the union?

KB: Oh, yes. Yes, I was born into a union family.

BH: So...

KB: Yes sir.

BH: That union was white and black workers, wasn't it?

KB: Yes. But, now Papa couldn't work in the room the way they did. They had a team, two men to a room. Now Papa, however, his complexion was white, but they had to have him a colored man.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And that he was a skilled miner, and he didn't have to have it, but he was the one who set off room for dynamite, you know? In order to get the coal to come down.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Well, Papa never paid any attention.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Because he wanted to be with his people.

BH: Last night there was down at the museum, there was an anniversary of Bass Reeves. He was a lawman here back in Judge Parker days. He was . . .

BH: Bass Reeves.

ITB: Yeah. They have a book out on him now.

BH: They have a book. The author of the book was there. It was Mr. Art Burton. I wondered if either of you ever knew him [Bass Reeves]? Bass Reeves had eleven

children, and he lived over on Twelfth Street for a while. I was wondering if either of you ever met any of Bass Reeve's children?

ITB: If we did, I didn't know it.

KB: I knew some Reeves at the church, but I don't know if they are connected with him or not. What about Judge Parker?

BH: Well . . .

KB: He was a hanging judge.

BH: He was, and he had an African-American bailiff, and several of his deputies that he sent out for outlaws, they were African American. But the most famous of them was this Bass Reeves, and they are putting a big statue of him downtown.

KB: Oh, yeah.

BH: On a horse. You think that would be a good idea to put a big statue of Bass Reeves down on Garrison Avenue? African-American lawman, it's going to be fifteen feet tall.

ITB: I don't see what it would hurt. We don't have any more, what is it Faubus? We don't have any Faubus' in Fort Smith.¹¹

BH: (Laughs)

KB: Uh huh.

BH: Well, George McGill was there last night, and he was talking about it, too. I noticed that one of the Rainbow Girls was named McGill.

KB: Oh, sure. His aunt, Beatrice.

ITB: Uh huh.

BH: Well how long did you Rainbow Girls stay together?

KB: We stayed together up until everybody kind of left. You know? Time out.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: And finally, I think, before the hospital was closed, I think, there was some government aid giving these necessities that we bought for the patients.



KATHERINE BROWN, left, and Isabelle Bass shared a conversation with University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Chancellor Paul Beran before a January 19, 2010, American Democracy Project ceremony on the UAFS campus honoring their service to the community. Ms. Brown passed away on June 7, 2010.

(Photo by Kat Wilson)

BH: Uh huh.

KB: I think that they took that over and started buying them. And after that, there was a need in all of us to keep on working. Now there were more McGill's than ours.

BH: Unh.

KB: But they were older people. Ours was the younger McGill.

BH: And one other thing about the hospital, were there African-American nurses?

KB: Yes. Mrs. Adams and there was Miss Huddleston. Now it first started with Mrs. [Mary P.] Jones. Nurse Jones.¹²

BH: Uh huh.

KB: Now, Nurse Stevenson never did work in the hospital, but she was the first black, wait now, she went to school, went to school, different schools . . . She was the Sebastian County nurse. That was Nurse Stevenson. She was what would you call it when you can give shots and everything . . . she gave shots and she was as good as a nurse. But she did it under the supervision of the trained nurses.¹³

BH: Uh huh.

KB: We had our first trained nurse at the Twin City Hospital. At that time it was down on North Fifth Street, and one time the hospital was on Ninth Street.

BH: So Twin City didn't just start on Midland Boulevard, it moved to . . .

KB: No. It moved from Fifth Street to Ninth Street. Down in Mrs. Stratford's house? A big two-story house.

ITB: Yes. Uh huh.

KB: And then it moved from there. The WPA built Twin City.

BH: They built it for a hospital?

KB: Yes.

ITB: W. A. Rowell donated the land.¹⁴

KB: And the hospital was built by the WPA for us.

BH: Did that hospital when you were the Rainbow Girls, did it have an administrator? Somebody who was in

charge of it, you know? Like . . .

ITB: (sigh)

BH: Like a manager of it? And was the city helping finance it in any way?

KB: The finances? I don't know about that now. I can't say. Do you, Isabelle?

ITB: Unh uh. I don't think, I don't think the city was sponsoring it. Because that's why we had to close it down, because we didn't have money to . . .

BH: Uh huh.

ITB: Everything started going up.

KB: Ms. Emma Daniels did a lot of work like that.¹⁵ Just the overseer.

ITB: Well you know they'd take . . .

KB: I don't know who was taking care of that. I really don't know who.

ITB: Don took children down to Rowell's to remove their tonsils.¹⁶

KB: Oh, yes. When they moved that wing to Mallelieu Church, that place.

BH: Uh huh.

KB: The children didn't have any place to get they tonsils removed, and you'd have to furnish a blanket. They wouldn't take quilts, a blanket. And Nurse Stevenson was over that. She was the Sebastian County nurse.

ITB: And then they'd have to go home.

KB: She worked from the health center.

BH: So they took the tonsils out down at Mallelieu?

KB: Uh huh.

KB: It wasn't at a church, it was Mallelieu Center.¹⁷

—End of Interview—

ENDNOTES

¹ During the years 1891-1954, segregated facilities were mandated by state law applied to such facilities included hospitals as well as courthouse restrooms, public water fountains, public schools, public transportation, public hotels and restaurants, and public recreational establishments. The color line system, which had been rigidly enforced by custom as well as law, began to unravel with the Brown v. Topeka Supreme Court decision in 1954. Jim Crow laws and practices did not end overnight, however. Arkansas' anti-miscegenation law was not erased from the books until 1968.

² Whining balls where an old timey sour fruit candy so named because they were so sour they made a child "whine."

³ Charles L. Williams, Jr. was married to Mamie E. Williams and they resided at 720 North Tenth Street.

⁴ Ms. Rosetta Smith taught at Howard School in the 1950s.

⁵ In the segregated school systems of the South, there were separate schools for whites and African Americans, but

only one school board. In Fort Smith as in the great majority of other cities, all the school board members were white, but made the budget decisions for both schools, Lincoln High and Fort Smith High.

⁶ Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee, founded in 1876, graduated most of the African-American MD's and health care professionals in the South during the segregation era. Howard University in Washington, D. C. also had and has a medical school

⁷ Twin City remained a hospital with a surgery room and in patient care until 1964.

⁸ S.H. Kress Company operated "five and dime" stores from 1896 through 1981 throughout the U. S. The popular store in Fort Smith was located at 810-812 Garrison Avenue and called "Kresses" by most people.

⁹ Harry P. McDonald, M.D. had an office on North Twenty-ninth Street and made house calls for some forty years in Fort Smith. He was president of the NAACP chapter for many years. On July 25, 2014, a memorial bench was dedicated to Dr. McDonald in its setting at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Fort Smith. See Angela Raj-Walton's bio of Dr. McDonald at <http://myancestorsname.blogspot.com/2012/04/remembering-dr-harry-p-mcdonald-1923.html>.

¹⁰ Elm Grove Housing was a federal government project that built 100 housing units on about nineteen acres of land north of North O Street between Greenwood Avenue and Twelfth Street. The project open to African Americans and managed after 1953 by Alfonso Trent often flooded and was eventually torn down. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park now occupies the property.

¹¹ Orval Faubus, governor of Arkansas, 1955-1967, blocked the integration of Little Rock Central High School in September, 1957. Fort Smith schools were integrated in 1965 after a court case, the details of which can be inspected at this link: 345 F.2d 117.

¹² Ella Jones was the city's first African-American nurse. Amelia Martin, Physicians and Medicine, Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, 1817-1976 (Fort Smith: Sebastian County Medical Society, 1977), p. 164.

¹³ Martin, p. 163

¹⁴ Martin, p. 164-65.

¹⁵ In 1964, Ms. Emma Daniels who was listed in the 1957 and 1959 City Directories as manager of the Twin City General Hospital became the first administrator of Twin City Nursing Home.

¹⁶ W. A. Rowell offered his mortuary parlor for surgery early in the century. Rowell Funeral Home was located at 611 No. Ninth Street. William Rowell's wife Willa taught at Howard School.

¹⁷ Surgery was performed in the basement of the Mallelieu Church.

History of *The Lincoln Echo*



THE LINCOLN ECHO is now headquartered in the Brunswick Place office building in downtown Fort Smith.

Founders Wanted Paper To Connect Lincoln High Alumni

By Richard Lee Eby

In the beginning there were two. They were childhood friends, teenaged companions, Lincoln High school-mates, and finally after more than thirty years apart, reunited in their hometown of Fort Smith, Arkansas. In 1992, Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster moved back to Fort Smith and reconnected as friends and community leaders. Both women had lived in large cities that had strong African American newspapers. Both of them missed the connection to local news focused on African American people, culture, and social issues. They wanted an African American newspaper in Fort Smith, and since no one else was doing it, they felt called to do it themselves.

They discussed the fact that both of them missed reading their local African American newspapers. Sherry had read *The Call* in Kansas City, which she says “was a mainstay in black homes,”¹ and Barbara had been reading the *Los Angeles Sentinel*. Inspired by their conversations, they began to consider the idea of creating their own newspaper for the African American community of Fort Smith, all

Lincoln High alumni wherever they may be, and any others who may be interested in the news they would provide. While there was an African-American newspaper called *The Fort Smith Echo* profiled in the cover story by Gail Logan in the first *Lincoln Echo*, Sherry says that the name of the new publication was mainly inspired by the historic connection of the Fort Smith black community to Lincoln High School.² It is based on the idea that the past echoes into the present in many aspects of life. The prospective publishers wanted to create a newspaper to help connect the alumni of Lincoln High School as well as the greater community. They hoped to provide and inspire ongoing connections to inform and improve the lives of their readers. In her first editorial in that first edition of June 1993, Ms. Toliver wrote, “Through this paper, we hope to inform our senior citizens, motivate our friends and neighbors, inspire our young adults, and educate our children.”³

The co-founders’ idea began to solidify in January 1993, when they called a meeting of community leaders in the basement of the Ninth Street Baptist church to get support for the project of launching and sustaining a monthly newspaper.⁴ According to Barbara,⁵ there were seventy-

five people invited, eleven attended, and five ended up actually helping to any extent. She writes in a later email, "It was an exciting and very scaring time when we decided to print this newspaper. Hoping the community leaders would be just as excited as we were, turned out to be only a few to help with this venture."⁶

One who helped immensely was George McGill. He provided business and management advice and support early on, counseling the co-founders not to expect much help from others. His advice and assistance provided much needed support as the paper and self-educated publishers progressed through the years. Sherry tells a story from the first year about George providing shelter from the storm, literally. During the first year the publishers used the computer lab at Westark Community College to lay out the paper in digital format for the printer. One month, at the last minute of course, Sherry and Barbara arrived at the college in the rain to find the doors locked. Apparently it was a holiday closure they had not heard about. Frantic to get out of the rain and get the paper ready for publication, they recalled that George had a computer. They called George and, of course, he told them they could use his computer. Sherry said it was in a bedroom fixed up like a small home office.⁷ Later, the McGill Center provided office space for *The Lincoln Echo* for several years until the new owners moved the offices to Brunswick Place in September 2002.⁸ The association with *The Lincoln Echo* has been good for George McGill as he has worked over the years to serve his community. The newspaper has enhanced his position and communication possibilities by providing a channel for his messages as well as a general prestige as a benefactor to the publication. His association with *The Echo* may have even been a factor in getting elected to the position he holds as state representative for District 78 of the state of Arkansas. George continues to contribute to the survival of the newspaper, and especially to the survival of an archive of the earliest issues. He loaned the only known book of issues from the first year of publication, from June 1993 to May 1994, for scanning to create the digital archive of all locatable issues of *The Lincoln Echo*.

Another individual who provided invaluable resources to the publishers was Harold Joe Wilson Jr. Neither Sherry nor Barbara had any training or educational background in newspaper publishing. In January 1993, they shared their idea with Harold. Sherry wrote, "Harold had computer skills and experience with lay-out."⁹ The publishers say that he was indispensable to the success of *The Echo*. A plan was devised and in the month of March a goal was set to publish the first issue by June. The free computer lab at Westark Community College was used often.¹⁰ "We read every how-to book the Fort Smith Public Library had," Sherry says. "After much research, many late nights, and



FOUNDERS OF THE LINCOLN ECHO, Barbara Webster, left, and Sherry Toliver, right, appear with Harold Joe Wilson Jr., director operations, in this early photograph of the staff.

lots of prayer, we published Volume I, issue I in June 1993."¹¹ In addition to saving their bacon in the layout department, Harold also contributed by selling advertising space, which helped ensure the survival of the newspaper and was instrumental in the success of the newspaper.¹²

The first issue brought the founders up against the financial requirements of publishing a print newspaper. The *Press Argus Courier* charged \$300 to print the run of 500 copies of the first twelve page issue. This cost was a small surprise to the founders as they planned the venture, but they quickly recovered by sponsoring a raffle and publishing a cookbook to sell and raise the money. The publishing of a cookbook prompted some in the community to question the seriousness and value of the forthcoming newspaper, as the co-founders were asked if they were going to just publish a bunch of recipes. The doubt of others simply strengthened the determination of the publishers. Both are women of faith, and their faith had a lot to do with the survival and success of *The Lincoln Echo*. They had not, as many publishers do, started with the idea of making money. They did it because they believed the community needed an African American newspaper. They had faith that they were doing what they should be doing. The raffle and cookbook raised enough to pay for the printing and more.

In May 1993 the duo delivered the print master for Volume One, Issue One of June 1993 to the *Press Argus Courier* printers in Van Buren, Arkansas, for the duplication of 500 copies. On June 1, 1993, Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster distributed copies of the first issue of the twelve-page *Lincoln Echo* newspaper to help inform and connect the African American community in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and beyond. Their commitment to serious journalism was evident from the beginning, with Gail Freemon Logan's "History of Black Newspapers in Fort Smith" as the cover story of the first issue, and a guest editorial on the Black Press from the *Los Angeles Sentinel* on page two. As Sherry wrote in that first editorial "This paper is the voice of the African American community . . . news and views relevant to us as people of color . . . your chance to be heard."¹³ It also gave Sherry's mother a chance to be heard, in more ways than one. Sherry had decided to print one of her mother's poems in the first issue of *The Echo* to give voice to her mother's poetry. Unfortunately, in the rush and confusion of producing the paper, Sherry got the title wrong and left out three lines of the poem. When her mother saw the mistakes, she said to Sherry, "Well, if you can't do any better than that, you might as well just quit now."¹⁴ Sherry had to apologize profusely to her mother and then print a notice of the mistake and the correct rendition of the poem in the second issue. The experience did not discourage her, rather it inspired her to do better and make sure *The Lincoln Echo* survived.

The second issue grew to sixteen pages, and by October 1993, the fifth issue was twenty pages. The March 1994 issue consisted of twenty-four pages. Since then the issues have fluctuated between twelve and twenty-four pages. Much of the increase in size then was due to increased advertising space as Barbara Webster and Harold Wilson Jr. brought in more and more advertisers. The additional advertising revenue allowed for the upgrade to a broadsheet-sized paper.¹⁵ Both the larger size and added thickness increased the weight of the newspaper, literally and figuratively as the standard newspaper size demanded the same visual space as the mainstream *Southwest Times Record* newspaper.

Monthly subscriptions soon climbed into the hundreds. Hundreds more issues hit the streets and were bought by people seeking the news *The Echo* provided. As the two women saw *The Echo* double in thickness, the growing circulation, the increasing advertising revenue, and as they observed the positive effects of the newspaper in the community, they were further inspired and faithful that they were doing the right thing, for themselves, for their families, and for the community.

Their children and grandchildren saw them working hard to serve their community, seeing their mother and grandmother's strength, determination, and dedication to

community. The children and grandchildren learned about entrepreneurship by observing and participating in a virtuous business. The children also gained in self-esteem, self-confidence, and community connection by helping to distribute the publication. Sherry tells of how she would fill the trunk of her car with newspapers then drive around town with her grandchildren, having them approach people on the street, in the parks, and elsewhere to sell the people *The Echo*. The people they approached might have been friends, acquaintances, or complete strangers, and this experience would surely build self-confidence in those children. Sherry's grandchildren also helped make deliveries to distribution racks, many of which, she says, were in black-owned barber and beauty shops.¹⁶

Barbara's son, Eugene Webster, helped fulfill the mail order subscriptions. Barbara said that he helped affix labels, sort the addresses by zip code, and take hundreds of newspapers to the post office. Barbara's daughter, Tiffany Webster, also participated in the success of the paper. In the second issue she began writing a regular column in the paper that was aimed at teenage readers. She wrote in an April 2014 letter, "As I reflect upon my time as Teen Editor for *The Lincoln Echo* newspaper during its infancy, I realized—Writing is a dream that can translate into an attainable and fulfilling career! This is a realization that I re-discovered nearly twenty years later, giving me the confidence to follow my dream once more."¹⁷ In speaking of the influence of her mother and co-founder Sherry Toliver, Tiffany wrote, "They are wonderful examples of what mentors should be and how powerful mentors can be. They not only broke the glass ceiling, but they smashed it and infected others with the will to do the same. I am but one of many."¹⁸

Besides personal rewards, producing *The Lincoln Echo* also brought many professional opportunities to the founders. Although both Barbara and Sherry said there were plenty of tears and frustrations, during the second year of publication, the women began to get calls from businesses and community leaders for speaking engagements. Soon their community work blossomed beyond *The Echo* as they began receiving appointments to commissions, advisory boards, task forces and more. Barbara believes that she encountered many opportunities in her career as a result of her service to the community through *The Lincoln Echo*. She writes that:

The Lincoln Echo newspaper was for me an introduction into many areas of the city. I met a lot of people securing ads, articles, pictures, etc. I was selected on boards and received invitations to community events by way of a press pass. I received awards and certificates of appreciation and services from the city and various organiza-

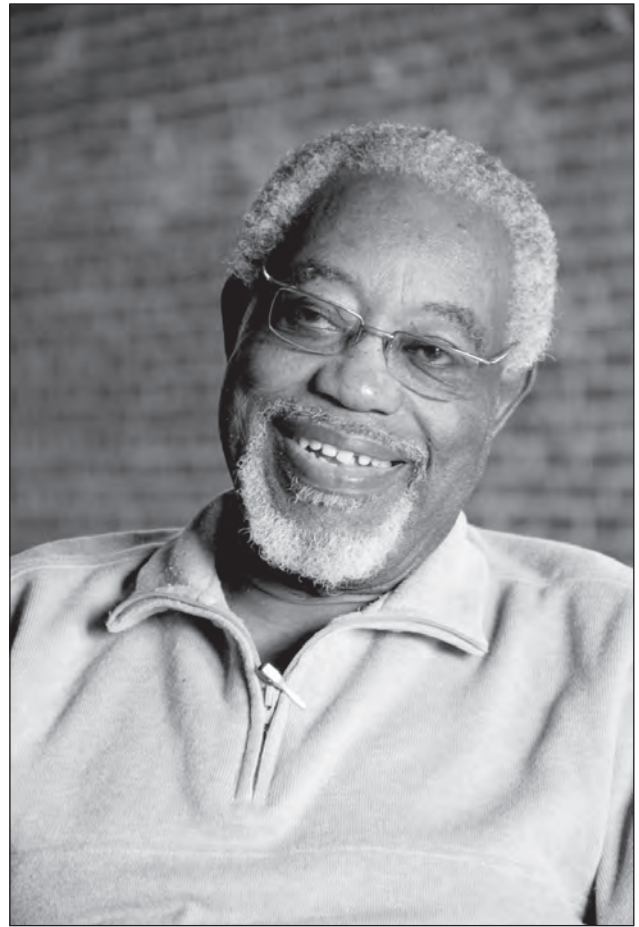
tions. I also was selected to serve on the Arkansas Black History Advisory Board by the then Governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee.¹⁹

Barbara has been a commissioner with the Fort Smith Housing Authority since 1996 and is a program manager for the 100 Scholars program of Austin, Texas. She has received the Delta Sigma Theta Humanitarian Award, The Frontier Achievement Award, Mayor Ray Baker's Certification of Appreciation, and The Martin Luther King Certificate of Recognition.²⁰

Sherry says that her work with *The Lincoln Echo* advanced her career in other areas as well. She was a member of the Leadership Fort Smith class of 1993, and in 1997 she was one of five people appointed to the state Minority Business Advisory Council by Gov. Mike Huckabee.²¹ By that time she was a member of the Fort Smith Housing Assistance board and a member of the Sebastian County Juvenile Crime Task Force. Sherry has received numerous awards of recognition for her service to the community of Fort Smith and the state of Arkansas. Some of the honors and recognition she has received include: The Fort Smith Spirit of the Frontier Award in 1995, the Mt. Magazine Girl Scout Council Woman of Distinction in 1996, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award in 1997, the Mayor Ray Baker Perfect Harmony Award in 2010, and the Fort Smith Round Table Community Service Award in 2011.

The two women had plenty of help from friends, family, and associates. Sherry and Barbara expressed much gratitude to the reporters and their articles, which included: "Greetings from the Gold Coast" by Helen Marie Morris; "Grizzlies Facts" by Pauline Novak; "Health Talk" by Regina Shoate, R.N.; "Tidbits from Isabella" by Isabella Roberts Vanlue; "In My Opinion" by Kimberly Coleman; "Food for Thought" by L. Hardin & L. Gordon; "Teen Scene" by Tiffany Webster; "The Ray Willis Report from Las Vegas, NV" by Ray Willis, and "Living in the World" by Rev. Douglas Dodson. Other contributors were: Gail Logan Dean, Beatrice Knight, Tonya Jones, Shakira Bushnel, Tommy Brooks, Craig Poole, Wade Poole, and David White, Jr., photographer. These are the key writers who helped to keep *The Echo* alive and thriving for the first eight years. Both of the founders noted that local advertisers were instrumental in the survival of the newspaper, specifically naming Charles Logan of First National Bank, Fred Kirkwood of AOG, and attorney Davis Duty who bought advertisement space each month from the beginning.

After focusing on *The Lincoln Echo* for eight years, other projects, opportunities, and life changes were calling Sherry and Barbara in new directions. They were both ready for the change when new owners purchased the pa-



NAPOLEON BLACK, owner of *The Lincoln Echo*.

per and took over in 2001, with the energy and resources to continue publishing *The Echo* into the new millennium.

The cover story of the April 2001 issue of *The Lincoln Echo* announces "*Lincoln Echo Changes Hands*," and assures readers that "the new owners, Charles Chiles, Charles West, Cecil M. Green, and Napoleon Black are intent upon upholding the tradition set by *The Echo's* creators, while enhancing various aspects of the paper."²² The four men had all retired from successful careers and brought their considerable experience to the endeavor.²³

The article about the transition of ownership of *The Lincoln Echo* leaves no doubt that the new owners would be working in harmony with the philosophy and editorial intent of the founders. In that article, Napoleon Black gracefully characterized *The Lincoln Echo* as a child going through different stages of life. He wrote that the paper was conceived like a child by Sherry Toliver, then, "With the help of Barbara Webster, it was brought through the embryonic stage and, after a difficult gestation period, *The Lincoln Echo* was brought into the world." Napoleon went on to write:

Through the infant and toddler stages Sherry,

Barbara, and Harold Wilson, Jr., coddled, nurtured, molded and survived many sleepless nights, raising this child. Through the pre-school and elementary years they continued, watching their creation grow and mature into what *The Lincoln Echo* is today...They've brought the paper to pre-puberty. Now it's our task to forge ahead into the puberty, pre-teen, and teen years.²⁴

Napoleon's 2001 article foretold of changes "toward modernizing the paper's overall look," which included lightening the masthead background from black to white and changing the title font from Old English to a combination of Times New Roman for "*Lincoln*" and a script font for "*Echo*."²⁵ The slogan under the title was changed from "Leadership + Unity = Progress" to "Fort Smith's Community Newspaper," and justified to the left instead of centered like the previous slogan. The year 2006 saw other changes to the "look" of the newspaper. A variety of changes intended to draw attention and interest were implemented, with the title font type and size alternating between all capital letters in block print, to upper and lower case block print, to upper and lower case in cursive style script. The slogan was changed to "Arkansas's Fastest Growing Newspaper," and in April 2006, a line drawing of Lincoln High was added to the top left corner of the front page as an eye-catching logo. In August 2006, the "Arkansas's Fastest Growing Newspaper" slogan was dropped, and the space remained blank until June 2007 when a new slogan reading, "We Report the News, You Interpret It" was added. To date, this line still invites readers to form their own opinions about the issues reported in *The Echo*.

Sherry notes that her editorial philosophy was mostly community oriented while she thinks that Napoleon's approach is a bit more politically focused.²⁶ Napoleon has stated that he believes all community is political.²⁷ He says, "Our initial idea was to change the focus of the paper from family to news and information."²⁸ Despite the different approaches, the mutual community focus made for a smooth transition of ownership for *The Lincoln Echo*, with all parties concerned with doing best for their community. A change to the more political was made when Napoleon asked politicians and other public servants to contribute to the public discussion going on in *The Echo*. Governor Mike Beebe, Senator John Boozman, Senator Mark Pryor, and Fort Smith Public School Superintendent Benny L. Gooden soon had columns in *The Echo*, and readers began to benefit from the monthly access to official information that could affect their lives.

Napoleon Black became sole owner of *The Lincoln Echo* in August 2008 when his partners moved on to other

pursuits. He said, "I bought their stock" as it became evident that he was the only owner with the time and interest to continue *The Echo*.²⁹ Fortunately, Napoleon has had help from his family. His sister, Allene Stafford, took over as office manager in 2001 and has helped guide the publication ever since. Napoleon's brother, Allen Black, Jr., edited the newspaper until his death in 2013. Other help has come from the writers of the columns and articles, both before and after 2008. Early on, Jeanine Deas wrote the column "Parentally Speaking," and Gail A. Frazier wrote "Tell it Like it Is." Articles like "Where Do We Stand?" by Andre Good, and "Yes, You Can Make a Difference" by Emory Curtis encouraged critical thinking and positive action. Some of the continuing columns from under the previous ownership were "Greetings from the Gold Coast" by Helen Marie Morris, "Living in the World" by Rev. Douglas Dodson, and "Health Talk," by Regina L. Gibson, R.N. Many insightful articles were written by Pauline Novak. Allen Black, Jr. manned the Editor's Corner while Napoleon contributed "Poe's Thoughts," a feature he still writes. His sister, Allene Stafford, writes the monthly column "Around the Neighborhood," and DeNay Burns contributes "My View," and Shirl Page writes "Since U Asked." Governor Beebe, Senator Pryor, Senator Boozman, and Superintendent Gooden still have their columns, and Andre Good asks "Where Do We Stand?"

Illustrating the political focus during his time as publisher of *The Lincoln Echo*, Napoleon writes, "The most satisfying time so far has been my trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Senator Pryor to attend the Congressional Black caucus event in 2006. I made many contacts which I still have today."³⁰ In discussing the future of his newspaper, Napoleon writes, "We plan to digitize and give our readers a chance to interact with columnists. We also plan to have more columns about entertainment." Napoleon notes that, "Before I hang up my computer I hope to extend the reach of *The Echo* to all fifty states. We already have regular readers in twenty-eight states, England and Dubai."³¹

That could take years, so Mr. Black may be piloting *The Echo* a good while longer. That does not mean that plans for his retirement are not in the works. In a telephone conversation with a researcher, Napoleon stated that he is involved in talks with two young female TV producers, discussing plans to turn over *The Echo* to them when he is ready to leave. He said that they are young, enthusiastic about publishing *The Lincoln Echo*, and very tech savvy, with plans for mobile apps and other interactive features for *The Lincoln Echo* website. So as Napoleon's child analogy applies, he has brought *The Echo* up through pre-teen to teenage, and is in talks with two women in their twenties with the purpose of taking the newspaper into

adulthood with full featured digital online applications and interactions. “I think we are still evolving,” he wrote, and ironically, that process would bring *The Lincoln Echo* full circle, back around to two women executing their vision of community service through facilitating communication.³²

The Lincoln Echo represents an important piece of Arkansas history, and of African-American history and culture. It is the only surviving African-American newspaper established in Fort Smith and Van Buren over the past 120 years, most of the twelve or so that started up having lasted only about two years.³³ The creators and sustainers of *The Lincoln Echo* must be congratulated for over twenty-one years of production and public and community support would ensure the publication’s future survival.³⁴

During the research on the history of the newspaper, it came to light that a single archived collection of all issues of *The Lincoln Echo* did not exist. Since 1993, there have been more than 252 issues published and distributed. However, there is no existing complete set of the physical printed issues, or a complete digital database, nor a complete searchable online database of all the issues. This lack of an organized archive of the newspaper prompted the expansion of this author’s project to include locating print copies of issues and then digitizing the collection into a searchable online database.

At least one copy has been found of each of the some 240 print issues. Most are now housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison, Wisconsin. While a bound copy of the first year’s issues was located, the second year’s issues are mostly still missing. The WHS Microfilm Lab will soon be digitizing the existing collection, which has recently been microfilmed. A second archive of print copies was collected by this researcher from a variety of sources and donated to the Pebley Center in the Boreham Library on the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith campus. That collection currently consists of about 140 issues. These physical issues are available at the Pebley Center for examination and use by research-



A COPY OF *The Lincoln Echo* collection available for researchers in the Pebley Center, Boreham Library, UAFS, as assembled and provided by author Rick Eby.

ers and the public. The online archival collection of more than 240 issues of *The Lincoln Echo* will be available through the websites of libraries and other educational facilities. A pending grant proposal would fund the digiti-

zation process thus adding another chapter to the history of *The Lincoln Echo* as the digitized online collection becomes available.

This unique African-American newspaper collection helps to ensure that the history and historic content of *The Lincoln Echo* is not lost and helps to preserve *The Lincoln Echo* in the public memory. As expressed by Gail Freemon Logan in the lead article of the first issue of *The Lincoln Echo*, “History, if not recorded or documented is not history, it is merely legend.”³⁵ *The Lincoln Echo* has recorded, and continues to record, much history as it documents publicly shared experiences of African Americans and others in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The Lincoln Echo appears to be the only surviving African-American newspaper in Arkansas and, as of May 2014, has never missed a monthly issue in more than 252 months of publication.³⁶ The print edition has a circulation of about 3,000. Considering that each issue of a monthly like *The Echo* is read by about five people indications are that about 15,000 people read *The Lincoln Echo* each month.³⁷ There is also a website displaying the current issue of the newspaper along with additional content, including a searchable archive of recent issues.³⁸

According to the Arkansas Freedmen website there have been at least thirteen African-American newspapers in Fort Smith and Van Buren since 1888, including *The Lincoln Echo*.³⁹ They may be missing one here, as Gail Freemon Logan wrote about the *Fort Smith Echo* in her aforementioned article.⁴⁰ These publications came and went over the years, and the folks at african-nativeamerican.com have noted that:

Until the 1940's there was always a black publication of some kind that became part of the voice of the [Fort Smith] community. Silence would fall upon the community until the mid-1990s, when

The Lincoln Echo emerged again, thanks to founders Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster.⁴¹

This is, of course, an incomplete history of *The Lincoln Echo*. The experiences of the founders, the various owners, and dozens of other people involved, along with twenty-one years of news and editorials provide enough history for an entire book. The glimpse provided here is just a beginning toward discovering and understanding the history of *The Lincoln Echo*.



Rick Eby is currently master's degree candidate at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and will graduate in the fall of 2014.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Sherry Toliver email to the researcher with one-page attachment "History of *The Lincoln Echo*," March 27, 2014.
- ² The African-American high school in Fort Smith, Arkansas, that was shut down in 1966 by integration laws that sent African-American students to the previously all-white high schools.
- ³ Sherry Toliver, first editorial in *The Lincoln Echo*, Volume One, Issue One, June 1993, 2.
- ⁴ Informal lunch interview by the researcher with Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster Meadows at the Village Inn, Fort Smith, Arkansas April 1, 2014.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Barbara Webster in April 22, 2014 email to the researcher.
- ⁷ Informal lunch interview by the researcher with Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster Meadows, April 1, 2014.
- ⁸ Notice published on the front page of the September 2002 issue of *The Lincoln Echo*.
- ⁹ Sherry Toliver email to the researcher with the attachment "History of *The Lincoln Echo*," March 27, 2014.
- ¹⁰ Now the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS).
- ¹¹ Sherry Toliver email to the researcher with the attachment "History of *The Lincoln Echo*," March 27, 2014.
- ¹² Informal lunch interview by the researcher with Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster Meadows, April 1, 2014.
- ¹³ Sherry Toliver, Volume One, Issue One of *The Lincoln Echo*, June 1993, 2.
- ¹⁴ Informal lunch interview by the researcher with Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster Meadows, April 1, 2014.
- ¹⁵ Numerical data comes from actual page counts and measurements of early issues by the researcher.
- ¹⁶ Informal lunch interview by the researcher with Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster Meadows, April 1, 2014.
- ¹⁷ Letter from Tiffany Webster in response to a request by the researcher. Attached to an email sent to Barbara Webster Meadows in April 2014 and forwarded to the researcher by Mrs. Meadows on April 22, 2014.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Barbara Webster Meadows in an email to the researcher on April 24, 2014.
- ²⁰ Barbara Webster in June 9, 2014, email to the researcher.
- ²¹ *Southwest Times Record*, January 1, 1998, front page.
- ²² Napoleon Black, "Lincoln Echo Changes Hands," *Lincoln Echo*, April 2001, 3.
- ²³ Charles Chiles was on the Oakland city board of directors. Charles West was a retired labor supervisor and owns multiple apartment buildings. Cecil Greene is a retired administrator and photographer. Napoleon Black is a retired sales manager for AT&T and current publisher of *The Lincoln Echo*. This information was supplied by Mr. Black in a June 4 email to the researcher.
- ²⁴ Napoleon Black, "Lincoln Echo Changes Hands," *Lincoln Echo*, April 2001, 3.
- ²⁵ Black, 3.
- ²⁶ Informal lunch interview by the researcher with Sherry Toliver and Barbara Webster Meadows, April 1, 2014.
- ²⁷ Telephone conversation between the researcher and Napoleon Black on May 4, 2014.
- ²⁸ Napoleon Black in an email to the researcher on June 4, 2014.
- ²⁹ Napoleon Black in an email to the researcher on May 5, 2014.
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² Napoleon Black in an email to the researcher on June 4, 2014.
- ³³ Found at <http://www.african-nativeamerican.com/newspapers.html>. Accessed March 12, 2014.
- ³⁴ Subscriptions to the physical paper are only \$25 per year and are a good way to help support *The Lincoln Echo* staff as well as get important news about the Fort Smith community. Get subscription information by email at linconews1@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (479) 783-6830.
- ³⁵ Gail Freemon Logan, "History of Black Newspapers in Fort Smith," *Lincoln Echo*, June 1993, 3.
- ³⁶ From the KUAF public radio station website. "Ahead on this edition of Weekend Ozarks, we look at the history of *The Lincoln Echo*, the last in a long line of African American newspapers in Arkansas." <http://www.kuaf.org/node/9194>. Accessed April 25, 2014.
- ³⁷ Readers per copy data from Ways of Measuring Readership at <http://www.audencedialogue.net/meas-print.html>. Accessed April 25, 2014.
- ³⁸ The website for the newspaper is thelincolnecho.com.
- ³⁹ Found at <http://www.african-nativeamerican.com/newspapers.html>. Accessed March 12, 2014.
- ⁴⁰ Logan, 3.
- ⁴¹ Found at <http://www.african-nativeamerican.com/newspapers.html>. Accessed March 12, 2014.

The Adventurous Benjamin Bonneville

French Native Traveled Much, Met Many Historic Figures

By Matt Myers

Benjamin Bonneville is a name not widely known, but from his childhood, when it was necessary for his family to flee from France following the horrific Reign of Terror, until his later years, Bonneville lived an adventurous life that would be envied by most. This direct but jovial Frenchman was never satisfied with being in one place for long, and as a result, he saw nearly every part of the United States. Bonneville interacted with many of America's most well-known and influential characters. He spent time with some of the most well-known authors of the day and was a personal travel companion of one of the great heroes of the American Revolution. His adventurous spirit took him to the far reaches of the United States and back home, only to discover that he had been mistakenly declared dead.

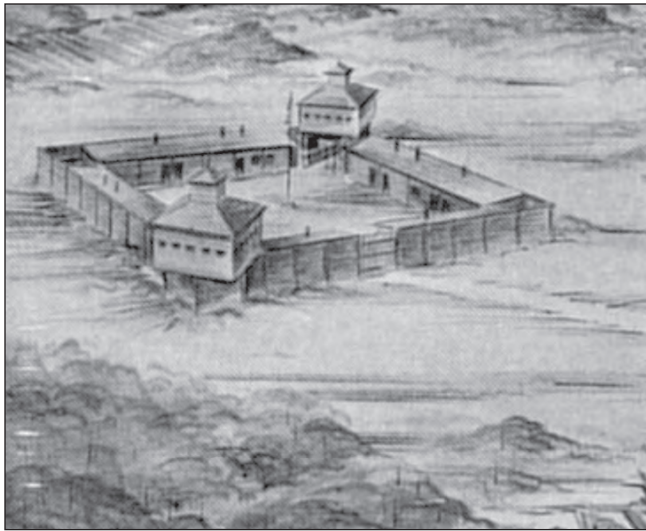
Benjamin Louis Eulalie de Bonneville was born in France on April 11, 1796. To understand his family's decision to relocate to America, a brief introduction to the Bonneville family must be established. Benjamin's father, Nicolas, was a well-known publisher in France. He translated and published many works, including Rights of Man by his close friend Thomas Paine, as well as a book of German short stories and poetry for the queen of France, Marie Antoinette.¹ Paine is most famous for his essay Common Sense, which played an influential role in the beginning of the American Revolution. Nicolas de Bonneville had ties to the Girondin political party. Bonneville became friends with other important members of this party including a hero of the American Revolution, the Marquis de La Fayette, often referred to as Lafayette. Many Girondists fell to the guillotine during the Reign of Terror, which lasted from 1793 to 1794. Luckily, Nicolas, Lafayette, and others escaped execution, but Bonneville was placed under heavy surveillance for many years. A few years before the Reign of Terror began, Nicolas Bonneville married Marguerite Eulalie Brazier. The couple had four children: Louis, Thomas, Benjamin, and Marie. Two of their children, Louis and Marie, died in infancy.²

Thomas Paine moved to France between the fall of



A PHOTOGRAPH OF BONNEVILLE in his later years. No photographs or sketches are known to exist of Bonneville before this.

1796 and spring of 1797, only a few months after the birth of Benjamin. Paine lived with Nicolas and Marguerite for six years. Paine could sense the tension in France toward Nicolas, who was under constant scrutiny due to his radical political ideas. While living with them, Paine offered to take them to America and provide a good start for them there. Thomas Paine returned to America in 1802 and Marguerite, Thomas, and Benjamin followed later. Nicolas was unable to gain permission to travel with them and so



A SKETCH OF THE FIRST FORT SMITH



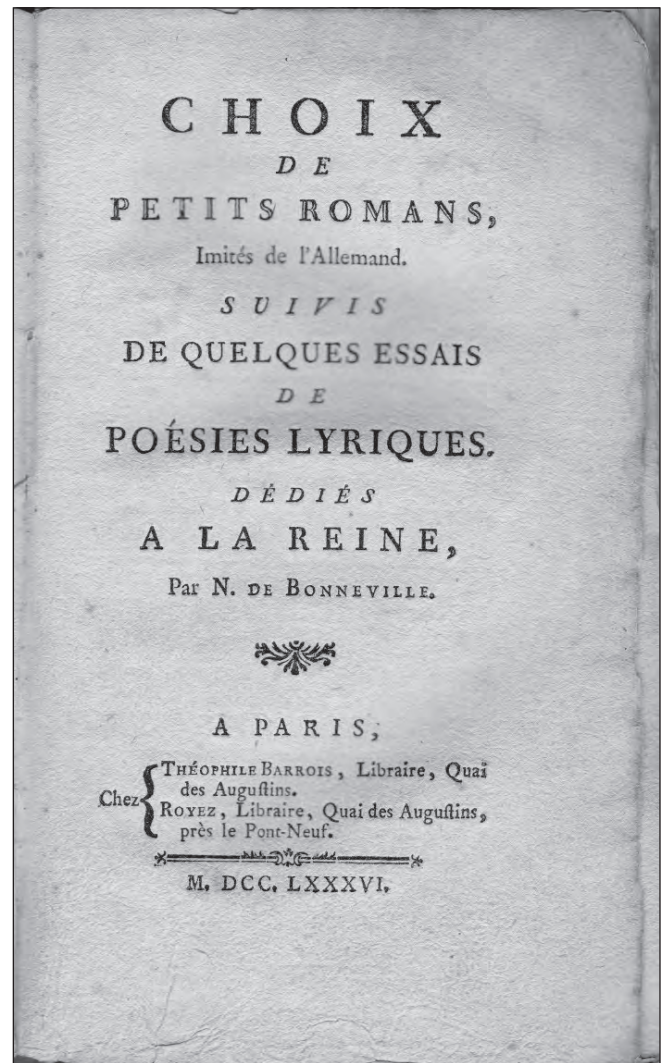
A PAINTING OF A TYPICAL SCENE AT the first Fort Smith. Painted by Samuel Seymour while traveling with Major Stephen H. Long expedition.

was forced to stay behind for several years.³

The Bonneville family docked in Norfolk, Virginia, and from there made their way to Bordentown, New Jersey, where they stayed in a home given to Thomas Paine for his service in the American Revolution. They lived here until 1804, then followed Paine to New York. While in New York, Benjamin became friends with William E. Woodruff, who established the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1819 Arkansas Territory.

Thomas Paine died on June 8, 1809, and was buried at his farm in New Rochelle, New York. He left the farm to the Bonneville family, half to Marguerite, Thomas, and Benjamin and half to Nicolas, in his will. Nicolas and Marguerite sold most of the farm later and used the money to return to France. Soon, it was time for the Bonneville children to decide what they would do with their lives.⁴

Benjamin and Thomas Bonneville both chose military careers. Thomas, being older than Benjamin, enlisted in



A BOOK OF GERMAN SHORT STORIES and poetry translated and published in 1786 for Marie Antoinette by Benjamin Bonneville's father, Nicolas. Courtesy of the Pebley Center

the United States Navy in 1812, five months before the United States declared war on Great Britain. Benjamin chose the army as his path and was appointed to West Point on April 14, 1813, three days after his seventeenth birthday. Benjamin excelled at West Point and graduated on December 11, 1815, as brevet second lieutenant.⁵

After graduation, Bonneville was assigned to different forts along the East Coast and promoted from brevet second lieutenant to second lieutenant. This promotion brought the authority and pay increase to his title received at West Point. By 1821, Benjamin Bonneville was reassigned again, this time to the Seventh Infantry. Bonneville's regiment was assigned to the recently established Fort Smith in Arkansas Territory. Bonneville travelled by horseback and boat from New Orleans to Fort Smith, possibly stopping at Little Rock to visit his friend William E. Woodruff, prospering and important in the territory as editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*.⁶

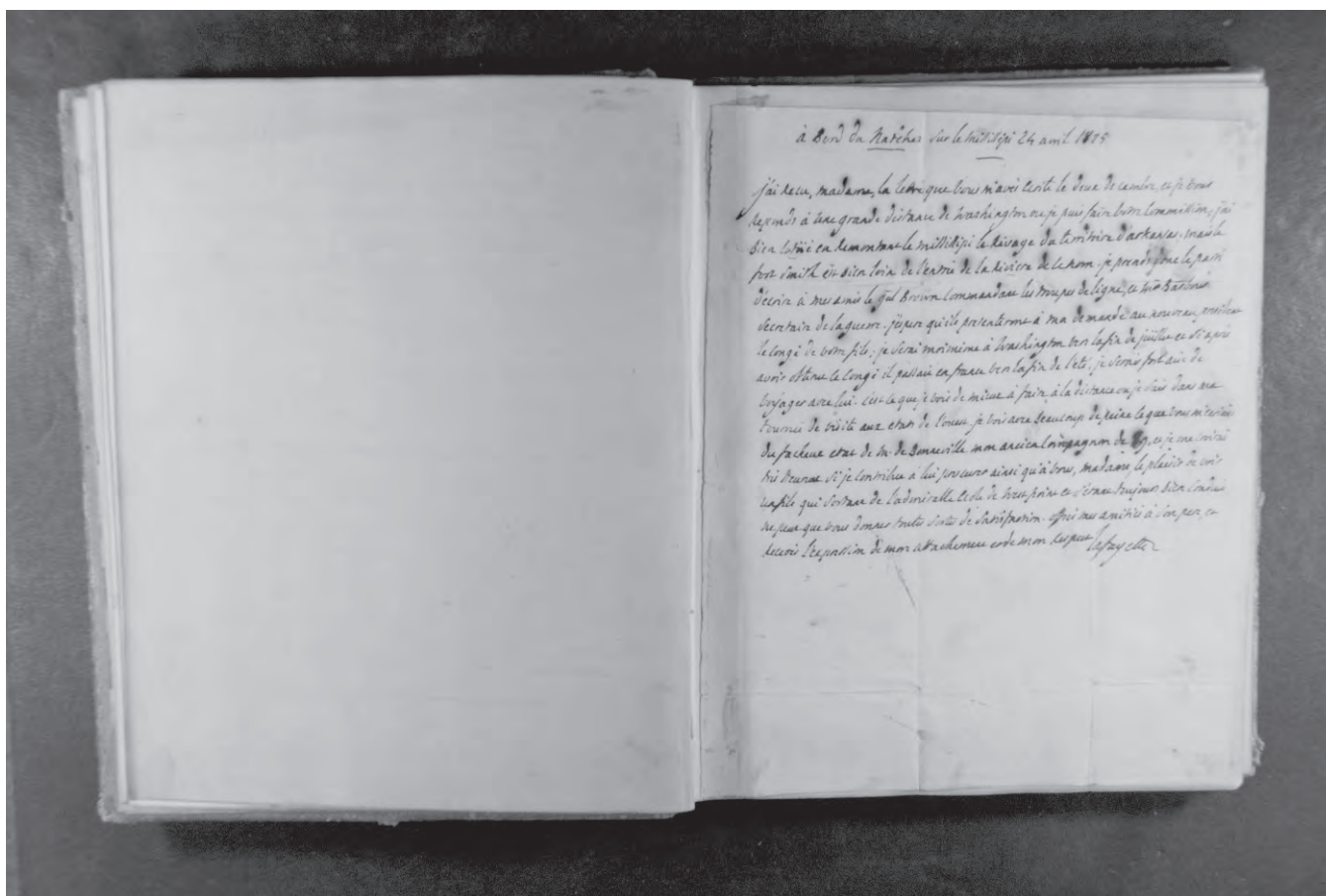


BONNEVILLE'S MAP OF THE TERRITORY *west of the Rocky Mountains. From The Adventures of Captain Bonneville.*

Once he arrived at Fort Smith, Bonneville was ordered to improve the fortification. His main task was to supervise the expansion of the farm used to feed the troops. "His careful management of the crops and livestock produced a bountiful and varied table for the troops; in his laconic style, he reported that rations had been 'issued

regularly with no complaints as to their quality.”⁷

In 1824, orders were received to abandon Fort Smith and establish a new post that became Fort Gibson. Bonneville was given command of fourteen men and ordered to guard military material that could not immediately be carried to the new fort. Once the supplies had been moved,



A LETTER BY MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE regarding Benjamin Bonneville. (Photo courtesy of the Fort Smith Museum of History)

Bonneville joined his regiment at Fort Gibson.⁸

In 1824 and 1825, Lafayette returned to the United States for a tour of the country. Lafayette had become a hero of the American Revolution, having served with distinction and élan as one of George Washington's most trusted officers. Lafayette's tour was a triumph and he was welcomed with open arms at every stop. While travelling on the Mississippi River, he wrote Marguerite Bonneville regarding his intention to bring Benjamin back to France with him for a time. His letter states, "I write to my good friends, the good [General Jacob J.] Brown, commander of the troops of the line, and Mr. Barlow, secretary of war. I hope they will present to the new president your son's request for leave of absence, and I will ask them to do so."⁹ Bonneville's furlough request was granted shortly after receipt of Lafayette's letter, and he left Fort Gibson in July 1825.¹⁰ That same year, in October, Bonneville was promoted to the rank of captain.

Captain Bonneville returned to the United States in September 1826 and promptly made his way back to Fort Gibson.¹¹ It was during his time back at Fort Gibson that Bonneville met and entertained Sam Houston, the future first president of the Republic of Texas. Houston discussed with Bonneville his plans for an expedition to the West.

These discussions, as well as other stories of exploration, interested Benjamin Bonneville enough that he decided to plan his own westward expedition.¹²

Bonneville requested a furlough in a letter to Major General Alexander Macomb dated May 21, 1831. In his letter, Captain Bonneville wrote, "I ask for no outfit, no presents for the Indians, no command, want no protection save passports from Our (sic) and the Mexican authorities at this place, and leave of absence for that purpose."¹³ He noted that his experience living among the Native American groups of the Arkansas Territory for several years would be an advantage to him when dealing with groups further west. At the time of writing, Bonneville was already travelling to New York in order to obtain funds from private donors.¹⁴ One of his donors was Alfred Seton, a man he had met as a teenager in New York. Alfred Seton had amassed a small fortune working with John Jacob Astor, America's first multi-millionaire, in his fur trading business.¹⁵ Astor played a key role at one particular moment in Bonneville's life after his return from his expedition.

Bonneville's leave of absence was approved on July 29, 1831. Macomb granted him a two-year furlough. He received orders to "report, in addition to the matters enumer-

ated, on the number of warriors among the tribes, their disposition toward each other, their method of fighting, and subsisting themselves.”¹⁶ Although his furlough was granted in July 1831, Bonneville spent the rest of that year preparing for the expedition and waiting out the winter in St. Louis. The expedition party was finally ready to set out for the West in the spring of 1832.¹⁷

On May 1, 1832, the Bonneville expedition set out from Fort Osage, Missouri. The party included “one-hundred-ten men, some of whom were experienced hunters and trappers who had had previous contact with Indians, and with twenty ox and mule wagons loaded with provisions, ammunition, and trinkets to trade to the Indians.”¹⁸ Captain Bonneville’s expedition was not the first to cross the Rocky Mountains, but it was the first to do so with wagons. During the journey many memorable scenes took place, most of which Bonneville recorded in his expedition notes. Those notes became very important to Bonneville once he returned to the East.

The expedition was hard work. Bonneville established a small post near the Green River in present-day Wyoming that served as a headquarters for his fur trade operation. The post remained a rendezvous point until the end of the excursion.¹⁹ Bonneville stayed busy gathering information to return to Washington. “He discovered the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains, composed an extensive report of the geology of the Rockies, an accurate account of the Indians of that country, and mapped the region of the Great Salt Lake.” Captain Bonneville discovered the vast pluvial lake in the north of what would become the state of Utah, which was later named after him, Lake Bonneville.²⁰

No one had heard from Bonneville until his return to the East. Instead of returning when he was expected, Captain Bonneville was two years late. He is known to have only written one letter regarding his progress on his expedition, but it is not known whether the letter made it to Washington. Many officers believed Bonneville had deserted or died during the trip. Others did not seem to care what the reason was but wanted him dropped from the army rolls regardless.

Action was taken on May 31, 1834, when at the recommendation of General Macomb, President Andrew Jackson dropped Bonneville’s name from the rolls. Bonneville did not learn of this until his return.²¹

Fifteen months later, on August 22, 1834, Captain Bonneville arrived at Independence, Missouri. There, he was shocked to learn that he was no longer a member of the United States Army. He promptly set off for Washington, arriving around a month later so that he could begin, “making an effort to obtain restoration to his former rank in the army.”²²

Bonneville had enjoyed the freedom of the West. The

vast opportunities it presented for discovery and enterprise took hold of him and would not let go. When he finally broke its grasp, he was over two years late and was no longer considered an officer in the United States Army. Was the expedition all for nothing? What would he do with his notes and findings recorded in his journals? Bonneville knew that his journals would be the key to regaining and boosting his reputation, one way or another.

Part II of this series on Bonneville will appear in the next issue of *The Journal*.



Matthew Myers is summa cum laude graduate of UAFS and a frequent contributor to *The Journal*.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Nicolas De Bonneville, *Choix de Petits Romans, Imités de L'Allemand. Suivis de Quelques Essais de Poésies Lyriques* (Paris: 1786), Pebley Center, Boreham Library, UAFS.
- ² Edith Haroldson Lovell, *Benjamin Bonneville: Soldier of the American Frontier* (Utah: Horizon Publishers, 1992), 12.
- ³ J. S. Daily, “Notes on General Bonneville,” Pebley Center, Boreham Library, UAFS. 130.
- ⁴ Lovell, 14-18.
- ⁵ Daily, 130.
- ⁶ Lovell, 23-33.
- ⁷ Edwin C. Bearss and Arrell M. Gibson, *Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969), 58.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, 95.
- ⁹ Julia Etter Yadon, Sue Ross Cross, and Randall Ross Viguet, *Reflections of Fort Smith* (Fort Smith: Fort Smith Historical Press, 1976). The Secretary of War was James Barbour. In this letter, Lafayette might have confused his name with that of Joel Barlow who had been a diplomat to France.
- ¹⁰ *City Gazette* (Charleston, S.C.), July 16, 1825.
- ¹¹ Lovell, 41.
- ¹² Daily, 131-32.
- ¹³ Bonneville, Benjamin L. E. Benjamin L. E. Bonneville to Alexander Macomb, May 21, 1931.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁵ Daily, 132.
- ¹⁶ Grant Foreman, *Pioneer Days in the Earlier Southwest* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994), 247.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 247.
- ¹⁸ Daily, 132.
- ¹⁹ Lovell, 57-58.
- ²⁰ Daily, 133.
- ²¹ Foreman, 248.
- ²² *Evening Post* (New York, NY). October 14, 1835.



(LEFT) Tournament director and Fort Smith Junior College basketball coach Jim Charles looks at the remaining teams (indicated by a lighted bulb in the tree) in the 1958 tournament standing in the hallway of the Wheeler Boys Club. **(RIGHT)** This rebound action in the Big Gym is being watched by Bill Wilson, sitting in the center of the bench and Earl Furlow on Wilson's left. The game obviously was on ice for their team for these former Grizzlies who were starters for the College of the Ozarks.
(All photos courtesy of the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club)

The Christmas Holiday Basketball Tournament

Annual Event Drew Competitors, Spectators From Around Region

By Jim Wyatt

The Fort Smith Boys Club—now the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club—started a Christmas Holiday Basketball Tournament in 1951. The tournament was for “independent” teams made up of men most of whom were in the area workforce or home from college or stationed at Fort Chaffee. There would be a small entry fee for teams and admission for fans would be charged. Concession stands would provide hot dogs and cold drinks. Clarence Higgins, director of the Boys Club, saw the event as fun for the community but also a way to raise money. Fort

Smith Junior College coach Jim Charles co-hosted the tournament, with the agreement that half of the revenues above expenses would go into his athletic fund for his basketball program that was in the process of being up-graded at the underfinanced junior college. Shelby Breedlove succeeded Jim Charles as coach of the FSJC Lions in 1960 and also assumed the duties of tournament director then.

The Boys Club gym in the south end of the rock building at 215 Wheeler Avenue had been completed as a WPA project in 1941. It had a superb 90' maple wood floor, one of the best in the area at a time when most high schools were playing in much smaller arenas many with a stage at one end.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

1951-1974

Played at the Fort Smith Boys Club, 215 Wheeler Avenue, and co-hosted by the Fort Smith Junior College Lions.

1951

Previously held at Camp Chaffee

Champion: Acee Milkers

Runner-Up: Dodson Avenue

Players: Norman Price (UA), Ardell Blythe, Junior Clark

Outstanding players: Marvel Rhyne, Roxie Rankin (UA), Bob Kramer, Gene Bell (Dodson); Gentry Douglas (South Fort Smith); Joe Dickerson, John Hooper (Ozark); R. C. Parsons (Fort Smith BC); Bob Denniston (808 Tap Room); Wayne Elliot (Charleston); Freddy Babb, Joe Reed (Wise Radio); Lawrence "Squeaky" Smith (Arkansas Box)

1952

Champion: Universal Beddings

Runner-Up: Acee Milkers

Players: Bob Fletcher, Danny Ruff, Max Fletcher, C. A. Railey, Butch Phillips, Bill Stanley, Bill Puckett, Freddie Sullivan, coach John Maldon

Outstanding players: Bill Stanley, Bill Puckett (Universal); Charlie Roffine, Gentry Douglas (Acee); E. C. O'Neal (Wise Radio); Joe Hunt, (808 Tap Room); Huey Aynesworth (FSJC); Joe Thomas (Century Builders); Ed Stickawitz (Chaffee Medics)

1953

Champion: Wise Radio

Runner-Up: Muldrow Independents

Players: Donovan Horn, E. C. O'Neal, Don Sevier, Willard Smith, Paul Martin, Charley Presley, A (all members of the Arkansas Tech AIC championship team).

Outstanding players: Paul Ingle, John



UNIVERSAL BEDDING, 1952 Champions (secondnd annual). First row, left to right, Bobby Fletcher, Danny Ruff, Max Fletcher, C. A. Railey. Back row, left to right, Butch Phillips, Bill Stanley, Bill Puckett, Freddie Sullivan, John Maldon, coach.

Coker, Bob Blaylock (Muldrow); Charles Hall (Greenwood); Fred Graham, Wayne Green (Lavaca); Bob Roberts, Huey Aynesworth (Acee); Joe Thomas (Wilburton) Danny Roebuck, Billy Pryor, Gene Higgins (Fort Smith)

1954

(21 teams entered)

Champion: Acee Milkers

Runner-Up: Midwest Hardware

Players: J. C. Maze (47 points in championship game), John Luttrell, Jim "Ox" Loomis, (all of Camp Chaffee), Jim Roffine, Bob Roberts, Gene Higgins

Tournament standouts: Floyd Sagely, Joe Thomas (Dodson), Bill Wilson, Wayne Lay-

man, J. C. Matlock, Bob Blaylock (FSJC); Bob Adams, Joe Dickerson (Mulberry); Paul Ingle (Sallisaw); Don Perry (Poteau)

1955

Fifth annual, record 22 teams entered.

Both gyms used

Champion: Dodson Avenue Pharmacists

Runner-Up: Wise Radio

Players: Bill Sarver, MVP, scored 50 points in championship game; Bill Wilson, Pete Collier, Dick Gross

Tournament standouts: E. C. O'Neal, Roger Bates, John DeRitter (Wise); Paul Ingle (Pruitt Produce); Wayne Layman (Midwest); Jimmy Atwell and Floyd Sagely (FSBC); Claudie Eubanks (Lavaca)

These were the days before televised college or NBA games and before the phenomena known as March Madness had dawned on the basketball consciousness. As such, the Holiday Tournament flourished and had its own phenomenal burst on the sports scene of this city.

At first, there was the one gym and the brackets were limited to sixteen teams and games played in the period after Christmas, four to five days with a championship

game played on New Year's Eve that attracted crowds that filled to overflowing the bleacher seats at 215 Wheeler (an arena also used for Golden Gloves boxing tournaments).

The Boys Club's membership and facilities were expanding in these years and a second gymnasium, called the "Little Gym" was built on the north end of the rock building. By the Christmas tournament's fourth year, the two gyms created not only more room for teams, which came

1956

Champion: Fort Smith Junior College Lions

Runner-Up: Dodson Avenue Pharmacy

Players: Howard Patterson, Ed Graham, Lewis Bennett, John Wyatt, Jim McGee, Forrest Khilling, Billy Higgins, Len Bauman, Charles Angeletti, Charles Bennett, David Ross, coached by Jim Charles

All-Tournament team: Arnold Short, Tom Tagartz (Dodson Avenue); Ed Graham, Lewis Bennett (FSJC); J. C. Matlock, Willis Powell (Wise Radio); Ed Dozier (Fairway Stores of Fayetteville); Jim Atwell (FSBC); Jim Ray (Lavaca Lockers); J. W. Shurley (Rose Lawn Cutters of Sallisaw)

1957

Champion: Charleston Lockers

Runner-Up: Fort Smith Police

Players: Bob Huckaby, Duane Mettler, Jim Ray, Hunter, Wright, Henson

All-Tournament team: Duane Mettler, MVP, Bob Huckaby (Charleston); Arnold Short, Jim Atwell, Bill Seaberg (FSBC); Ed Graham (FSJC); Claude Eubanks, Phil Sanders (Midwest); J. C. Matlock, Jim Henry (Fort Smith Police)

1958

Champion: Charleston Lockers

Runner-Up: Fort Smith Junior College Lions

Player: Bob Huckaby

All-Tournament team: Bob Huckaby MVP, J. P. Lovelady, Howard Patterson (Charleston); Bill Wilson, Pete Collier (Sportsmen); Ronnie Bateman (Peerson Bros); Jim Atwell, Jim Plumedahl (Boys Club); Joe Gelzine, Sarge Green (FSJC); J. W. Dub Shirley, Paul Ingles (Dodson Pharmacy); Charels Daniels (Hartman)

1959

Champion: Fort Smith Boys Club

Runner-Up: Baldor Electrics

Players: Jack Cleavenger, Bryan Riggs,



FORT SMITH BOYS CLUB, 1959 Champions (ninth annual). First row, left to right, Jack Cleavenger, Bryan Riggs, Harold Owens, Melvin Bell, James King, Bill Terwilliger, Pat Martin. Back row, Coach Squeaky Smith, Don Griffith, Jim Atwell, Darrell Peters, Dewayne Ward, Coach Clyde "Sparky" Watts. King, a former Grizzly who played college basketball at Tulsa University, played ten years in the NBA (1963-1973) and was selected for the 1968 NBA All Star game which is the answer to the mystery photo question in the last issue.



FORT SMITH JUNIOR COLLEGE LIONS, 1960 Champions (tenth annual). Left to Right, Pat Martin, Kenneth Bailey, Jim Jay, Mike Linimon, Coach Shelby Breedlove, Jerry McBride, Paul Whisenhunt, Boyd Daily.

Harold Owens, Melvin Bell, James King, Bill Terwilliger, Pat Martin, Don Griffith, Jim Atwell, Darrell Peters, Dewayne Ward, coached by Squeaky Smith and Clyde Watts

All-Tournament team: Jim King, Jim Atwell, Bryan Riggs (FSBC); Willis "Skinny" Powell, MVP, Jack Parker, Paul Walters (Baldor); Howard Patterson

(Charleston); Enos Semore (Keota Lions); Leon Griffin (Valley Motors)

1960

Thirty-team field, a new record number of entries

Champion: Fort Smith Junior College Lions

Runner-Up: Rogers Recreation of Fayetteville

from as far as Fayetteville, Rogers, West Fork, Russellville, and Talihina, Oklahoma, but for more excitement among the fans who could file down the hall from one gym to the other to catch continuous action. In the first and second rounds it was not unusual for the first games to begin at 6:00 pm and the last game at 10:00 or even later. Looking back, the make-up of the teams is interesting to

think about.

Fort Smith had independent basketball in those days, and businesses like Dodson Avenue Pharmacy, Holsum Bakery, Wise Radio, and Dixie Cup fielded good basketball teams bolstered by some employees who had had college or AAU experience. For the tournament, these teams might recruit a college player or two home for the holi-

Players: Pat Martin, Kenneth Bailey, Jim Jay, Mike Linimon, Jerry McBride, Paul Wisenhunt, Boyd Dailey, coached by Shelby Breedlove

All-Tournament team: Ken Bailey, Jim Jay (FSJC); John Lubben, Doyle Baker (Rogers); Dennis Brown, Burl Plunkett (Talihina Impalas); Lewis Bennett, Jim Wyatt (Hackett); Enos Semore (Muskogee Roughers); Dale McIntosh (FSBC); Lloyd Jones (Fairway of Fayetteville)

1961

Champion: Valley Motors of Talihina

Runner-Up: Fort Smith Junior College Lions

Players: Roy Gammon, Burl Plunkett, Lester Harrington, Neal Tally, Leon Griffin, Don Hyde, Hall

All-Tournament team: Danny Greenfield, Larry Weir, (Wheeler BC); Roy Gammon, Plunkett, Hall (Valley Motors); Pat Martin, John Jay, Swaim (FSJC); Reynolds, Howard Patterson (Hackett); Mike Perkins (Swink); Kelly (Rogers Rec); Walters (Dodson Avenue); Delano Cotton (Fayetteville ex-Bulldogs)

1962

Champion: Nu Star Café of Alma

Runner-Up: Fort Smith Junior College

Players: Kenny Saylor, Tournament MVP, (30 points in championship game), John Parrish, Doug McKinney, John Needham, Larry LeFevers

Tournament standouts: David Beneux (FSJC); Johnny Wisenant, Paul Walters, Dale Brown (Dodson Ave); Jerry Carlton (Lone Star); Jarrell Williams, Jim Harwood (Midwest Roadrunners); Jimmy Vervack, Dale McIntosh, Johnny Yocum, Gary Elkins (FSBC); Lyndon Morris (Blue Lions)

1963

Tournament Director, Shelby Breedlove;



VALLEY MOTORS of Talihina, Oklahoma, 1961 Champions, (eleventh annual). Shelby Breedlove, wearing the necktie, had just presented the trophy in the Big Gym of the Wheeler Boys Club.

Finals played at Wheeler Boys Club

Champion: Vian Lumber Company

Runner-Up: Greiner Motors

Players: Paul Walters, Tournament MVP

Tournament standouts: Phillip Young, Dickie James, James Reynolds (Greiner); Talmadge Talkington, David Finch (FSJC); Bob Rice, Bob Traw (Vian); Pat Martin (Hustlers); Bill Terwilliger (FSBC); Benny Pritchard (Alma Drifters); David Robinson (Nu Star Café)

1964

Champion: Gans Aggies

Runner-Up: Stillwell Independents

Players: Bob Edwards (29 in championship game); Earl Coke; Bob Rice, Max Shuck, Claude Cody

All-Tournament team: Tom Needham (Scranton); Pat Martin (Jeffrey BC); James Bridges (JC Whites); Bill Boley (Pottsville); Doug McKinney, David Beneux (Wheeler BC); Mike Perkins (Minyard's Trotters); Bob Rice, Bob Traw (Gans); Ron Cox (Stillwell)

1965

Tournaments now played at Wheeler Boys Club and FSJC Field House

Champion: Pottsville All Stars

Runner-Up: Van Buren

Players: Self, Boley, Robinson

Outstanding players: Frank Vines, Dennis Padilla, Charlie Robertson, Quincy Coleman (Van Buren); Jim Gibson (Magazine); Johnny Mason (Shooting Stars)

1966

Crowd for the championship game reported at 1,000 in the West-Ark Fieldhouse

Champion: Westark Junior College

Runner-Up: Cedarville

Players: Danny Lloyd, Guy Bariola, Jerry Stamps, Greg Davis, Marvin Dandy, Jimmy Dunn, Bob Hamilton, Lawrence Bly, coached by Shelby Breedlove

Danny Greenfield, Jim Jay, Pat Martin, Rogers, Scotty Noland, Jerry Crabtree

All-Tournament team: Ken Richey MVP

days or very good and experienced players from Camp Chaffee. Thus, a parade of the most noted players in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma, came through top notch ballplayers such as Jim King, Jim Atwell, Bill Terwilliger, Melvyn Bell, Arnold Short, Ed Graham, Pete

Collier, J. P. Lovelady, Kenny Saylor, and Joe Thomas as well as many others shown on the accompanying chart who participated over the years. For example, the 1953 champions, Wise Radio, had four players from Arkansas Tech's national NAIA contender, Donovan Horn, Don



TOURNAMENT ACTION in the Big Gym of the Wheeler Boys Club.

(Perryville); Pat Martin, Jim Jay (Cedarville); Ray Paladion, Charles Taylor (Perryville); Bill Moreland (Dillard Tile); Bud Combs, Johnny Perryman (WJC Blues); Talmadge Talkington,

Sparky Grover (Phillips 66 All Stars)

1967

Trophy awarded by Westark Junior College, acting president Shelby Breedlove
Champion: Dillard Tilemen

Runner-Up: Westark Junior College Lions

Players: James Bridges, Jerry Stamps, Eddie Coleman, Phil Hoffman, Bill Moreland, Guy Bariola

Sevier, Willard Smith, and E. C. O'Neal who was an NAIA All-American. He was a graduate of County Line High School and the four years he played for Sam Hindsman at Tech, they lost only one conference game.

Many of the top players in the tournament were guys stationed at Camp Chaffee (Fort Chaffee after 1956), such as center J. C. Maze who played for the 1954 champions, Acee Milk. Maze had 47 points in the championship game. Probably the most popular player from Chaffee who consistently played in the Holiday Tournament was Arnold Short. He had been an All-American at Oklahoma City University and a star player of the Phillips 66 Oilers be-

fore being drafted and sent to Chaffee. He had range on his jump and shot accurately from twenty-five to thirty feet out (there was no three point line in those days). Bill Seaberg was another outstanding Chaffee player in the tournament; he was an All-American from Iowa University.

In 1955, there were twenty-two teams entered. The Dodson Avenue Pharmacists won the tournament with players recruited by the sponsor and coach, R. C. Sigmon who owned the pharmacy and who loved basketball and having a team in the Holiday Tournament that could compete for the championship, and that is year after year. In

All-Tournament team: Bridges, Eddie Coleman, Phil Hoffman (Dillard); David Hoyle, Johnny Perryman (Westark Lions); Ray Paladino, Jim Magness (Little Rock); Charles Robinson (Van Buren); Roy Green (Alma); Dale McIntosh (Midwest)

Other tournament standouts: Frankie Vines, Terry Stewart, Wayne King, Greg Davis, David Carter, Bob Hamilton

1968

Champion: Westark Junior College Lions

Runner-Up: Shooting Stars

Players: Fred Davis, Phillip Wilcoxin, Donnie Matlock, Dana Baker, Ricky Huggins

All-Tournament team: Noah Johnson MVP, Travis McCain (Bowlin Drug); John Link, Quincy Coleman, Talmadge Talkington, Johnny Mason (Shooting Stars); Fred Davis, Donnie Matlock, Ricky Huggins (Lions); Ronnie Graham (Charleston); James Robinson (Greenwood); Jim Jay (Jay Tire)

1969

Champion: Duffield

Runner-Up: Coleman Construction

Players: Kenny Saylor, Bob Bartlett, Steve Pfeifer, Bill Martin, Gary Bartlett, Warren Thompson, Bill Ritchie

All-Tournament team: Kenny Saylor MVP, Bob Bartlett, Steve Pfeifer (Duffield); Thomas Johnson, Eddie Coleman (Coleman Const.); Noah Johnson,



ARNOLD SHORT scores for the Boys Club team in 1958. Short was near legendary in basketball circles in town. Serving in the U.S. Army at Fort Chaffee, Short was an All-American at Oklahoma City University and a star with the AAU Phillips Oilers.

1955 he had Bill Sarver from Camp Chaffee who scored fifty points in the finals, Bill Wilson, an outstanding player at FSJC and then at College of the Ozarks, Dick Goss, and Pete Collier who had had a great Van Buren High School career under Coach Clair Bates and then started for the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricane.

The 1956 championship game was as historic as it was thrilling. An article in the *Southwest Times Record* posed the question: "Can the Fort Smith Junior Lions overcome a big height advantage held by Dodson Avenue Pharmacy?" That team included 6'-7 Earl Furlow (later professional baseball pitcher), 6'-5 Joe Thomas (later a referee in the Southwest Conference), 6'-4 Tom Tagantz, 6'-2 Floyd Sagely (1953 All Southwest Conference), and the 6'-4

Arnold Short. The tallest players for the FSJC Lions were John Wyatt and David Ross, pushing 6 foot 3 inches. But Wyatt was amazingly strong and had great jumping ability, physical assets that allowed him to play effectively in his collegiate career as a post man against much taller opponents. In the finals, Lions perimeter players Howard Patterson, Ed Graham, Lewis Bennett, Jim McGee, Charles Angeletti, and Forrest Khilling were outstanding, took good shots and played tough defense resulting in a Lions victory. Lions had trailed at halftime, but controlled the second half and wound up with an 87-65 victory. The game showed how far Coach Charles had brought basketball at FSJC.

The Charleston Lockers, a team put together by the

Jerry Crabtree (Bowlin Drug); Joe Hickey (Coal Hill); Jim Bridges (Dillard Tile); Tom Butler (Adams Drug); Dan Roberts (Westark Freshmen)

1970

Champion: Midwest Hardware

Runner-Up: Wilson Auto of Fort Gibson

Players: Bill Kincannon, Mickey Johnson, Doug McKinney, Clark Cooper, Doug Neely

Outstanding players: Jerry Walker MVP, Wilbert Robinson, Jim Bridges (Wilson Auto); Gary Means, Donnie Matlock (Greenbriar); John Gross (Carters); Bodie Finkey, Nick Avlos, Cleve Branson (AAA Lumber)

1971

Champion: Goff Plumbing

Runner-Up: Citgo

Players: Charlie Taylor, Rick Tannenburger, Harold Allen

All-Tournament team: Taylor, Tannenburger, Allen (Goff); Larry Tate MVP, Paul Brown, (Williamson Catering); Steve Pheifer, Kenny Saylor (Jones Supply); Paul Summerhill (AAA Lumber); Jim Jay, James Bridges, Nate Wright (Citgo)

1972

Champion: Dillard Tile

Runner-Up: Goff Plumbing

Players: Jo Jo Cummings, Rick Reichert, Larry Tate, Jerry Crabtree, Johnny Watkins



JUMP BALL IN THE WHEELER BOYS CLUB GYM. *The rocks were reused by the National Cemetery when the building was demolished in the 1980s.*

business owner Jake Patterson, won the tournament in back-to-back years, 1957 and 1958. With players Jim Ray, Ron Green, Howard Patterson, and Bob Huckaby, a 6'-7" left-handed post man serving at Fort Chaffee. In 1958, opponents had to face Huckaby and J. P. Lovelady, an All-American at Arkansas Tech who had an opportunity to sign with the Boston Celtics but was killed in an automobile accident in 1961.

The 1959 Fort Smith Boys Club team probably had more local players than any team that had won the tournament. Jim Atwell and Jim King led the team and along with ASTC starters Bill Twilliger and Bryan Riggs, the Boys Club claimed its first and only championship. King was home from the University of Tulsa after playing for

Gayle Kaundart at Fort Smith High School. After his career with the Golden Hurricane, King made the Los Angeles Lakers, playing ten years in the NBA and was selected for the 1968 All-Star game. He is in the TU Hall of Fame. Atwell grew up at the Boys Club, played for the Grizzlies, and the Henderson Reddies. His coaching career included a state championship at Sparkman High School and Big Eight conference crowns in his long tenure as coach of the Wildcats of El Dorado High School. Atwell will be inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame this November.

The tournament expanded in 1965 to include games in the new gymnasium and field house at the Jeffrey Boys Club on Kinkead and Forty-Ninth Street, shared at the



TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR JIM CHARLES presents the 1959 Christmas Holiday Tournament championship trophy to Fort Smith Boys Club captain, Jim Atwell. Atwell, a former Grizzly, was then the basketball coach at Sparkman High School where two years later he would lead them to the state champions in their classification.

All-Tournament team: Paul Brown, Jerry Crabtree, Jo Jo Cummings (Dillard); Charlie Taylor, Rick Tannenberger, Harold Allen (Goff); Alan Brooke (Clarksville); Jack Weathers (Coal Hill); Danny Lloyd (Bowlin Drub); Fred Davis (Gunners)

1973

Champion: Glidewell Construction

Runner-Up: ABC Carpet

Players: John "Skee" Mason, Gary Means, Randy Fears, Johnny Glidewell, Doug Neely, Mike Mason

Outstanding players: Donnie Matlock, Tom Carson, Mike Lawless, Loyd Trotter, Jim Hamilton (ABC Carpet); Joe Hoing (Clarksville Walmart); Jim Files (Edwards); Wayne King (Servomation); Danny Wil-

fong, Larry Coombes (AAA Lumber)

1974

Champion: Glidewell Construction

Runner-Up: Dillard Tile

Outstanding players: Gary Means (Glidewell); Paul Summerhill (Dillard); Ken Bengé (Spiro); Wyatt Kaundart (Williams Barbeque); David Beneux, Noah Johnson (Bowlin Drug)

time with Fort Smith Junior College. The tournament continued on for twenty-four years, until 1974. The era ended, maybe because of television and the rise of college and NBA basketball attendance and coverage.

The newspaper coverage by the *Southwest Times Record* over the years was impressive, attended by sports editors who reported every game and included photographs with the story. Most of the games were well played, the players keeping their emotions in check. They played by the motto, you give a hard foul, you take a hard foul. Most never worried about the officiating, although in a 1957 wild and wooly game, fifty-nine fouls were called and four players ejected. The finals that year was officiated by a

three man crew, Marvel Rhyne, Tom Fullerton, and Jim Charles.

The Christmas Holiday Basketball Tournament champions chart reveals the names of players, including local coaches and many local athletes who participated in the legendary tournament, and accompanying pictures show championship teams and action that took place.



Jim Wyatt is a former basketball player, coach, and athletic director of UAfS.

WHO KNEW?

The Fort Smith Historical Society received the following email from a student. The student's name has been protected in this exchange. Joe Wasson did the oral interview and deserves all of the credit for preserving such a great piece of Fort Smith History.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 7th grade student in Somerville, Massachusetts. I am doing a school project on the desegregation of the Saint Scholastica Academy in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1952. I am interested in trying to find a copy of the DVD of the interviews of the Saint Scholastica nuns that was mentioned in an *Arkansas Times* article dated 9/4/08, "An Earlier, and Quieter, Integration," written by Jennifer Barnett Reed. Please let me know if this is something that you may be able to help me in finding. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration .

Sincerely,
AD

To AD from MJB,

Below is the article from the *Arkansas Times*, September 4, 2008, about Sisters Consuella Bauer and Norbert Hoelting.

"An Earlier, and Quieter, Integration: The Nuns of St. Scholastica Academy in Fort Smith Recall Admitting Black Students in 1952."

By Jennifer Barnett Reed

They were told to keep it quiet, and they did.

Two years before the Supreme Court made integration the law of the land and five years before Central High exploded across the national news—in fact, before any other school in the state, as far as they know—the nuns of Fort Smith's St. Scholastica monastery invited a couple of girls who'd recently graduated from an all-black Catholic grammar school to enroll in their previously all-white girls high school.

At the time, the nuns honored the request of the bishop when he gave them permission to admit the black students, and didn't speak publicly about it. Now, though, the Fort Smith Historical Society is making sure future generations will be able to hear the story of St. Scholastica from the

women who were there. Society members are interviewing the surviving nuns from that era—now mostly in their 80s and 90s—and preserving the interviews on DVD.

The project grew out of a similar effort to videotape interviews with local World War II veterans, said Joe Wasson, a historical society member who's interviewed several of the nuns.

St. Scholastica's new director of communications, Marianne Meyerriecks, "got the bright idea that if World War II vets were valuable, perhaps 100-year-old nuns would also be valuable," Wasson said. "Of course we were delighted."

Even after all these years, Wasson said, the sisters were at first hesitant to talk on the record about their experiences.

"There was not everybody jumping up and down going 'Yay, some strange guy's going to come out here with a camera,'" he said. "They've lived a very quiet life out of the public eye. But they are warming up now that they see nobody has died from the experience."

The integration of St. Scholastica didn't happen on someone else's orders: The sisters simply decided, after a long process of studying and talking about social justice issues, that it was the right thing to do. Several of them had taught at St. John, the Fort Smith Catholic grammar school that served black students, and had seen first-hand the despair those students felt when they realized they couldn't continue their educations at a Catholic school because of their race.

(Catholic schools in Little Rock didn't start integrating until the mid-1960s, after all-black St. Bartholomew's High School closed.)

The nuns discussed it at length among themselves, and with St. Scholastica's white students and their parents. If there was much resistance within that community, the nuns from that time who are still living don't remember it.

Finally, in the summer of 1952, the bishop gave the nuns permission to admit black students. Two girls—Helen Weavers, a freshman, and Shirley Williams, a sophomore—enrolled that fall. Williams was elected class treasurer, and went on to become a doctor.

"Everybody said we were going to lose students," said Sister Norbert Hoelting, 94, who was a teacher at St. Scholastica then and still lives in the monastery. "We didn't lose a student, not one." (Our efforts to locate the women who integrated the school have been unsuccessful.)

Among the six nuns Wasson has interviewed so far is Sister Consuella Bauer, an elf-sized 92-year-old he describes as “my favorite human being on Earth.” Meeting her today, bent and dependent on a walker, it’s hard to imagine Sister Consuella doing something as audacious as informing the bishop, a decade after St. Scholastica began teaching black girls, that she would no longer abide by his dictate—born out of concerns about interracial dating—that the girls not be allowed to attend the school’s prom, even though they helped decorate the gym beforehand.

Tiny as she is, though, it’s also hard to imagine anyone saying no to her.

Her memories of those days can be a little cloudy, but when she talks about them her voice is precise and her words are unflinching.

“I thought it must be very hard for the black students to be good enough to be part of the work but not civilized enough to be part of the entertainment,” Sister Consuella said of the prom issue. Then the principal of St. Scholastica, she wrote the bishop a letter telling him her plans—and mailed it late enough that he wouldn’t have time to intervene. She never heard back from him about it, and from then on, the school’s dances were desegregated too.

There were other worries, too: How to break down the social taboos that kept the white girls from inviting the black students to socialize at their homes (eventually, girls on the social activities committee made the bold move). How white parents would react about a black boarding student (there was only one, Sister Consuella said, and nothing happened). There was the time the ticket agent at the “white” counter at the Fort Smith train station refused to sell Sister Consuella—who in those days wore a full ankle-length habit and head covering—a ticket for a black student, telling her she’d have to buy it at the “black” counter. (“That tore me up,” she said. “I was embarrassed and ashamed that we’d treat our young people that way.”) And the time when Sister Consuella and other members of a Catholic interracial council were overtly ignored when they sat down together at a local restaurant. (When they finally got up to leave, Sister Consuella said with a giggle, they made as awful a racket as they could scraping their chair legs on the floor.)

Other than the occasional comment from a city bus driver when he’d let the girls off at the school, though, there was never any fallout from simply opening St. Scholastica’s doors to black students, Sister Norbert said.

“I guess you always kept hoping the other shoe wouldn’t drop,” she said. “We went through the first two coming in, and nothing happened.”

After the first two, there were others: Carmelita Giliard, Areletha Miller, Sandra Edwards, more whose names the sisters can’t recall now without looking them

up.

And the students of St. Scholastica continued to be active in racial justice issues. In 1968, the year the school was to close for good, students joined in a protest with students from Fort Smith’s other Catholic high school, the co-ed (and by then integrated) St. Anne’s, against the bishop’s official prohibition of interracial dating.

Part of a letter Sister Consuella wrote the bishop in support of the students is preserved in an official history of St. Scholastica:

“I feel in conscience bound to tell you how I really and truly feel about this,” she wrote. “I think the time has come, in fact is long past already, when the matter of who dates whom can no longer be legislated. I think those who protest have a just grievance.”

AD,

I am going to send this on to other members of Fort Smith Historical Society too. They have agreed to help with look ups when the FSHS gets queries. One of the persons on the list is Joe Wasson who actually made the DVD (The one Jennifer Barnett Reed refers to) of Sisters Consuella and Norbert when he interviewed them.

MJB

Inquiry Coordinator and Researcher

AD,

I attended high school at St. Scholastica Academy. Sr. Consuella Bauer was the principal when I went there. Sr. Consuella also taught my Latin II class. Since her interview with Joe Wasson, I am sorry to say that Sr. Consuella Bauer died on January 3, 2011, age 94. She has gone to her reward but we have lost an amazing and very open minded teacher.

Sr. Norbert also passed away; she died March 6, 2009, at the age of 95. Sr. Norbert was also a wonderful person. She was the principal of St. Scholastica sometime before Sr. Consuella. I have always heard what an amazing teacher Sr. Norbert was but I was never in one of her classes, my loss.

I love that you are going to write about St. Scholastica. It was truly a progressive school. There was a peace there. It was run by those who truly cared. Integration came into St. Scholastica by invitation. There was no edict. It seemed the most natural thing in the world for the nuns to invite all to come in and be taught. Sr. Consuella would often say, “Our girls always come through.” The nuns probably knew in the back of their minds the St. Scho girls and their

families in 1952 would think just as they did and welcome desegregation. St. Scholastica was also a boarding school I am not sure what year the boarding program was desegregated, only that the students and their families came through again. I do not believe the Scho girls have any need of a medal. I do believe that those belong to their teachers.

By the time I went to St. Scholastica it was in the fall term of the 1965-66 school year. Since the integration began in the fall 1952 school year, it had been 13 years that the school was integrated. We lived in a topsy-turvy world during this time in history, we prayed to learn tolerance and peace. The St. Scho. girls made posters and on an assigned day we walked the loop in front of our school holding up our signs, we walked peacefully while praying for resolution.

MJB

Dear Ms. MJB,

Thank you so much for your timely response. If in any way possible, I would love to get a copy of the interview DVD. I could purchase this if necessary. I would also love to be able to find a way to interview witnesses to the desegregation of Saint Scholastica (either students or teachers). It is too bad that I am too late to speak with either Sister Consuella or Sister Norbert. It would really help my project to be able to speak with other eyewitnesses. I am so grateful for any assistance you can provide. This project is very important to me.

Sincerely,

AD

AD,

We would be more than happy to send you a copy of each interview. Joe Wasson will make them for you. There is one DVD with Sr. Consuella's interview and one for Sr. Norbert's.

We will have to ask you for your mailing address. Perhaps you might want to have it sent to your school. Attention: Your teacher's name and perhaps a note on the package saying A D's Project. We do not sell mailing lists. If you tell your teacher to expect it he/she can be looking out for it.

I know that this project is important to you! It is obvious you are a very talented and motivated student. I will be looking for someone who attended St. Scho in 1952 so that you can conduct your interview.

MJB

AD,

This would be a good place to start looking for a witness of the first integration of St Scholastica:

St. Scholastica Monastery

PO Box 3489

Fort Smith, AR 72913

(479) 783-4147

Regards,

MJB

MJB,

Yes, I have received it. I am so happy. The videos will provide key information to my project and help me a lot. I thank you again for your help passing these videos on to me. If you are able to find any other resources will lead me to interviews and other information please email me.

Sincerely,

AD

AD,

I do have a friend who did go to St Scholastica during the first years of integration. AL said that her parents asked her if she had any objection to St. Scholastica integrating. She looked at them and said, why no. They told her that they didn't either. She said that was the last she heard about it.

MJB

Well, those in St. Scholastica in 1952 all they had to do is ask. Hmmm, who knew?



"Who Knew" is a regular feature of The Journal contributed by inquiry coordinator, Mary Jeanne Black.

The Oral Histories project interviews can be seen in the Fort Smith Historical Societies Griffin Theater, located in the Fort Smith Museum of History, 320 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72913 (479) 783-7841 Museum hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., open Tuesday through Saturday, Closed Sunday and Monday. (Open Sunday 1-5 p.m. during summer months, June-August).

1914 NEWSPAPERS

SOUTHWEST TIMES RECORD

July-December 1914

By Crystal Jenkins

Abstracted from microfilm
at the Fort Smith Public Library

Editor's note: Most spelling, punctuation and grammar appear as printed in *The Southwest Times Record*.

July 8, 1914

No More Yellowbacks

What man or woman cannot remember a time when the most beautiful object in art or nature was the back of a \$20 gold certificate? To the citizen of humble income that soft yellow glimmer always brings a thrill, and even the prosperous business man seldom outlives its fascination. As for the hue of a \$50 or \$100 bill, it is a ray of sunshine from financial paradise.

And now that golden glow is to vanish from our currency. No more El Dorados visible through the paying-teller's window. No more rolls and wads of yellowbacks to rejoice the thrifty citizen or tempt the unwary in the hands of confidence men. The notes issued by the treasury department to the twelve regional banks are under the system are to be all greenbacks and of the same design. Twenties and fifties will have no more distinction than humble fives and tens; the only difference will be in the figures. The prospective change is intended for the convenience of tellers. Uniformity is expected to simplify the pleasant process of counting money. The common citizen, however, finds more pleasure in that task when there are few yellowbacks interspersed.

July 16, 1914

Pearly Starr Appeals

In city court Wednesday morning Pearl Starr was again a defendant upon a charge of maintaining a disorderly house. She was fined \$25 and took an appeal to circuit court. She had been fined Tuesday on an immorality

charge and fined a similar amount, which case she also appealed.

July 30, 1914

Wagon Wrecks Automobile

Last evening about 11:30 an accident occurred upon North Eleventh street at the intersection of D street, when a farm wagon hitched to a team of mules collided with an automobile driven by W. L. Russ. The car was being driven along Eleventh street going north, traveling at a very moderate speed, when run down by the wagon which was coming up D street. According to Mr. Russ the driver of the wagon had to cross the street before he could have struck the car.

The automobile was nearly past the crossing when the collision occurred, the pole of the wagon catching the car just above the back fender and going into the machine striking Mrs. Russ, who was upon the back seat, upon the hands. Although rather severely bruised, the injury was of the minor nature. The damage done the car was said to be considerable, the force of the wagon doing quite a bit of checked. Mr. Russ who had been out motoring with his family was on his way home when the accident occurred.

August 1, 1914

Boys Grow Better Corn Than Daddies

After returning from the University of Arkansas Farm School at Greenwood, P.C. Barnett, district agent, W.J. Jernigan, state agent and H.K. Sanders, county agent in government farm demonstration work drove from this city to Barling on an inspection trip yesterday, examining the farms in demonstration under Mr. Sanders. They inspected ten farms and report that they found the crops from 50 to 100 per cent better than those on adjoining farms under the old style of cultivation. They found corn already matured and found cotton doing exceptionally well. On the trip they took comparative photographs of boys' club corn with adjoining fields as cultivated by the boys' fathers. Mr. Barnett was in Scranton Thursday night and is attending the Farm school in that city.

August 14, 1914

Spanish War Vets in Camp

Last evening at the corner of North Tenth and B streets the Philippine Veterans of the Spanish American war of

this city held a big get-together fest. Over fifty members of the veterans gathered around a big camp fire and many were the yarns that went back and forward across the flames during the course of the evening. The “boys of Uncle Sam” were all in the spirit of the evening and as tale after tale was told of the war, they gathered more closely round the fire, dreaming of the days in the tropics preceding the fall of Manila.

True military flavor was lent by the decorations which were a close imitation of a regulation camp, while the refreshments consisted the provender of the march, including beans, black coffee, hard tack and other delicacies of the camp including canteen. After the meeting broke up the veterans sang “Auld Lang Syne” returning to their homes declaring that they had had a “bully” time, renewing old acquaintances and associations.

September 24, 1914

Valuable War Souvenirs

George Crowley has received a genuine Austrian military coat from one of his cousins in the old country. The letter received with the coat stated that it was found on a dead Austrian soldier.

The coat is made of very heavy material and will be of service to Mr. Crowley when real cold weather sets in this winter, it being too heavy for the ordinary cool weather we have in this section.

September 25, 1914

Has War Relic

Workmen doing some excavating near the high school yesterday dug up an old shell about three inches in diameter and seven inches long. In 1864 an old fort stood on the present site of the high school, and at one time six confederate soldiers were executed, George Sengel, now secretary of Business Men’s Club witnessed the execution. Mr. Sengel has the shell on exhibition at his office.

September 27, 1914

Fort Smith’s First Telegraphone

The first telegraphone ever seen in this section of the country has been installed in the office of the new Mackey telegraph office on South Sixth street. This machine, according to Manager R. E. Reese, is connected with the telegraph wire and is a form of telephone, it will be used a great deal by cotton men. The first subscriber to this novel affair is a bank at Sallisaw which wishes to keep in connection with the markets here.

October 13, 1914

A Dangerous Weapon

There is one of the Fort Smith street car conductors who has special reason for a kick against the ridiculous hat pins affected by the ladies. He had eight-five passengers in his car coming from the circus grounds. As he made his way through the car one of those hat pins in the hat of a young woman was thrust into his cheek, a hair’s breadth beneath his eye. The pin cut a gash across his cheek bone. The wearer didn’t even make excuses about it, either.

November 7, 1914

Si Senior

Owing to conditions brought about by the war, that will tend to make this country depend largely on trade in the South American countries, it is expected that a course in Spanish will be placed in the local high school. For some time this matter has been under the advisement of the head of the language department and now throughout the country, this course is being adopted. Although nothing definitely is stated as yet it is stated by the school authorities that the matter is being given serious consideration.

November 21, 1914

Old Time Home Burns

One of Fort Smith’s old landmarks was severely damaged Friday afternoon when fire partially destroyed the residence of Mrs. Minnie Shultz at 216 North Tenth street. The building a two story frame affair, has been standing there for many years, and was originally the home of Captain Kuper, whose son, Henry Kuper, Jr., is one of the city commissioners. The households good were nearly all ruined by the fire and water, but the effects of Quartermaster J. P. Hansen of Company D, second regiment, Arkansas national guards, were all safely removed from the building. The fire started from a gas stove in the front room.

November 28, 1914

Rain Dissipates Smoke

The light rain of Friday morning effectually dissipated the blanket of smoke which had hidden the sun from this city for four days. There was only eighteen hundredths of one inch of water fell less than a fifth of an inch—but it brought relief from fire danger which had existed as a result of the long drought. Including the Friday rain there

has but forty-two hundredths of one inch of rain fallen in November this year. The normal November rainfall is nearly four inches. Many people on Friday called the local weather bureau with the question: When the smoke disappeared with the rain, where did the smoke go?" Forecaster Guthrie states that with the coming of heavier barometric pressure the lighter portion of the smoke probably went far into the upper air, but that the greater portion of the smoke came to the earth as the nuclei of raindrops. He states that it has been demonstrated that if there were no dust in the air, there would be no rain. What was seen as smoke was really particles of carbon and ashes. Each rain drop forms by gathering about a particle of dust as dew gathers about blades of grass, leaves, etc.

December 1, 1914

Municipal Christmas Tree

Sunday afternoon the committees in charge of the Christmas community three, met for a further discussion of the plans for the big Christmas event to be held upon Garrison avenue plaza on the eve of the day. All Committees were present and the matter was discussed in detail. It is expected that close to 500 people will take part in the evening's entertainment. Prof. Schneider has consented to take charge of the musical program and over 300 voices will be represented in the chorus. Tableaux and Christmas entertainments will form the remainder of the evening's program, and the hour is expected to be a big and ever-to-be-remembered one for the "kiddies" of the city, who would have no Christmas tree or no Santa Claus, if the community workers had not taken up the matter in genuine Christmas spirit.

December 2, 1914

"War Tax" Delays Wedding

When S. W. Seratt and Miss Lou Seabolt of Verona, Okla., applied to County Clerk Oliver of Crawford County for a marriage license today, they were delayed for some minutes while a messenger was sent to Fort Smith to secure some of the government "war tax" stamps, which the law says must be affixed to each license. This was the first license issued in Crawford County that cost \$3.10. The regular fee is \$2.50 and the law requires a fifty cent stamp affixed to the bond and a ten cent one to the certificate.



Newspapers From 100 Years Ago is a regular feature of The Journal contributed by Crystal Jenkins



Lee Holland, *A Chair in Time: A Playdate with History*. Mustang, Oklahoma: Tate Publishing, 2013. Pp. 177. Foreword, eighteen chapters, afterword. \$12.99.

Lee Holland is an author who lives in Van Buren, Arkansas, and who has granddaughters that when they were very young climbed into his lap while he sat in his favorite chair. Then, the granddad role took over and Holland began to tell them stories in the time-honored way and, in the time-honored way, the little girls, Sarah and Hannah, would beg for more. What was a departure from a lot of other experiences like this, was Holland's inspiration to write a novel about the stories. This resulted in his first novel, titled *Welcome to My Chair* (2011) in which "Grumpy," the story teller, takes the children on a time machine journey

A Chair in Time is the second in the series and offers enjoyable reading for adults and for children. The stories are well written with questions asked and answered. Some of the questions are not history exactly, but technical and even moral, such as should we time travel to the past and if we do, how do we get back? What would our learning do to affect the present? Pretty weighty questions for sure, but they are handled in a delightful way. Grumpy is just a mask, anyway, so the stories are light hearted and certainly directed to children and give them new and great adventure stories to whet imaginations. Besides with a simple Honk, Honk, Honk, and a press on the computer space key, the girls okay a transport to another place.

The books provide word pictures instead of the usual cartoon figures and/or picture heavy books for this age. Instead, the child, and the reader, are actually engaged with a novel, and that is, generally speaking, a good introduction to the fine art of becoming a reader.

A Chair in Time takes Sarah and Hannah to some historically famous people, like Hernando De Soto and events like the sinking of the *Titanic*. Holland does not overlook the importance of local history. Panther Head Rock, Phillips Landing, the Albert Pike duel, and the founding of Fort Smith by Bradford's Company of the Rifle Regiment are time travel visited by the children. The descriptions are accurate and provide good history for young readers, most important, it would seem, as the 200-year anniversary of some of those events are coming up soon.

Reviewed by Peggy Higgins. Ms. Higgins has young grandchildren and a large collection of children's books.

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 —

Aaron, Henry, 16
 Abilene, Kansas, 15
 Ad Club, 8, 10
The Adventures of Captain Bonneville, 41
 AFLAC, 17
 African-American, 15, 19, 25, 27, 29, 32, 37
 Akins, Jerry, 4, 11
 Alexandria, Virginia, 2
 American Democracy Project, 30
Arkansas Gazette, 40
 American Revolution, 39, 40, 42
 Anderson, Indiana, 8
 Andrews Field, 13, 14*, 15, 18, 22
 Anti-Saloon League, 4, 11
 Antoinette, Queen Marie, 39, 40
 Arkansas Archeological Society, 3
 Arkansas Freedmen website, 37
 Arkansas Historical Association, 3
 Arkansas National Guard, 56
 Arkansas-Oklahoma Fair, 7
 Arkansas Territory, 42
Arkansas Times, 52
 Astor, John Jacob, 42
 Atlanta, Georgia, 15
 Atwell, Jim, 48
 Augustus, Danny, 18
 Austin, Texas, 35

— B —

Bank of Byars, 8
 Bank of Pontotoc, 8
 Bank of Vandervoort, 8
 Banks, Ernie, 15, 16

Barger, Carole, 2, 18
 Barnett, P. C., 55
 Bass, Isabella, 19*, 20*, 21, 30*
 Bass, John Edward, 22
 Bauer, Sister Consuella, 52, 53, 54
 Beebe, Gov. Mike, 36
 Bell, Melvyn, 48
 Belle Grove Historic District Walking Tour, 2
 Ben Geren Regional Park, 60
 Beran, Dr. Paul B., 30
 Best-Clymer Sorghum Company, 11
 Big Seven Conference, 16
 Birmingham Black Barons, 15
 Black, Allen, 36
 Black, Dep. U.S. Marshal Tom, 10
 Black History Advisory Board, 35
 Black, Mary Jeanne, 4, 54
 Black, Napoleon, 35*, 36
 Board of Commissioners, 7
 Bobo the Clown, 13
 Bonneville, Benjamin Louis Eulalie de, 39*-43
 Bonneville, Louis, 39
 Bonneville, Marguerite Eulalie Brazier, 39, 40, 42
 Bonneville, Marie, 39
 Bonneville, Nicolas de, 39, 40
 Bonneville, Thomas, 39, 40
 Bootleggers, 6
 Boozeman, Sen. John, 36
 Bordentown, New Jersey, 40
 Boreham Library, 37
 Boston Store, 7, 24, 28
 Branch, Rickey, 15

Breedlove, Shelby, 46*
 Brooklyn Dodgers, 15
 Brooks, Tommy, 35
 Brown, Gen. Jacob J., 42
 Brown, Katherine Thomas, 19*, 20*, 25, 30*
 Brown, Leroy (Hambone), 26
 Brown v. Topeka Supreme Court, 31
 Bruce, 7
 Brunswick Place, 32
 Burns, DeNay, 36
 Burton, Art, 29
 Bushnel, Shakira, 35
 Business Men's Club, 8, 56
 Butler Center Books, 11

— C —

Cabney, Mayor B., 8
The Call, 32
 Call, E. R., 8
 Camp Roberts, 16
 Cañon City Penitentiary, 10
 Carlsbad, California, 17
 carrier pigeon, 7
A Chair in Time: A Playdate with History, 57
 Charles, Jim, 44*, 46
 Cherokee Bill, 10
 Chicago American Giants, 15
 Christian, Calvin, 26
 Christian, Nichelle Brown, 19*, 20*
 City National Bank, 8
 Civil Rights, 24
 Clayton House, 3
 Coke Hill, 7, 13
 Coleman, Kimberly, 35
 Collier, Dr., 26
 Collier, Pete, 48
 Commercial College, 22
Common Sense, 39
 Company D, 56

Cool Papa Bell, 13
 cotton, 8, 9, 25, 55, 56
 Cox, Minnie, 24
 Cravens, Miss Kay, 27
 Crawford County Chronicles, 2
 Creekmore Park, 29
 Creole Coal Mine, 29
 Cross Cut Saw Exhibit, 3
 Crowley, George, 56

— D —

Daniels, Emma, 31
 Davis, Arthur (Shifty), 26, 27
 Davis, L.C., 26
 Davis, Leroy, 26
 Dean, Gail Logan, 35
 Deas, Jeanine, 36
 Delta Sigma Theta Humanitarian Award, 35
 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 2
 Department of Justice, 8
 DeSoto, Hernando, 57
 Detroit Stars, 15
 Dixie Cup, 46
 Doby, Larry, 16
 Dodson Avenue Pharmacy, 46
 Dodson, Rev. Douglas, 35, 36
 Drennen-Scott House, 2
 Duty, Davis, 35

— E —

Eby, Richard Lee, 32, 37*
 Edwards, Delmar, 26
 Edwards, Louella, 19*
 Edwards, Sandra, 53
The Elevator, 4, 5,
 Elm Grove housing, 29
 Emory, Curtis, 36

— F —

Farmers Union of the State of Arkansas, 10
 Faubus, (Orval), 30
 Ferdinand, Archduke Franz, 4, 5
 Ferguson, Mrs., 28
 Fifth United States Cavalry, 10*
 First National Bank of Van Buren, 8
 Flippin, Bessie, 13
 Flippin, Frank, 13
 Foltz, Dr. Tommy, 26, 27
 Fort Lewis, Washington, 16
 Fort Sheridan, Illinois, 10
 Fort Smith, Arkansas, 4, 10, 13, 20, 21, 32, 34, 37, 52
 Fort Smith Board of Commissioners, 9
 Fort Smith Boys Club, 26
The Fort Smith Echo, 32
 Fort Smith Giants, 13, 18
The Fort Smith Herald, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
 Fort Smith Historical Society, 2, 50, 52, 53
 Fort Smith Holiday Inn Civic Center, 2
 Fort Smith Housing Assistance board, 35
 Fort Smith Housing Authority, 35
 Fort Smith Light and Traction Company, 7, 11
 Fort Smith Museum of History, 3, 42, 54
 Fort Smith National Historic Site, 2
 Fort Osage, Missouri, 43
 Fort Smith Public Library, 33, 55
 Fort Smith Public School System, 20
 Fort Smith Round Table Community Service Award, 35
 Fort Smith Spirit of the Frontier Award, 35
 Fort Smith Wagon Company, 11
 Fort Smith-Van Buren Twins, 7
 Fort Smithians, 5, 7
 Frazier, Gail A., 36
 Frontier Achievement Award, 35
 Furlow, Earl, 44*

— G —

Garden, Fanny, 25
 Garrison Avenue, 27

Garrison, Sec. of War, 10
 GED, 25
 Gibson, Josh, 13
 Gibson, Regina, 36
 Gilliard, Carmelita, 53
 Going Law of 1913, 4
 Golden Glove boxing, 26
 Good, Andre, 36
 Goodin, Benny L., 36
 Gordon, L., 35
 Graham, Ed, 48
 The Great War, 4, 7, 11
 Green, Cecil M., 35
 Green, Mr., 24, 25
 Green, John, 15
 Griffin Theater, 54
 Grizzly Stadium, 22
 Guthrie, Forecaster, 57

— H —

Hangin' Times in Fort Smith, 11
 Hannah, 57
 Hanson, Qtr. J. P., 56
 Hardin, L., 35
 Hardwood Tree Museum, 3
 Harris-Winton, Euba, 2
 Hartford Valley, 10
 Heartsell Ragon Courts, 29
 Hawkins, Dr., 26
 Hays, Gov. George W., 10
 Head, Maxine, 26
 Henderson, Annie, 17
 Henderson, Neal, 13, 14, 15
 Henderson, Neale "Bobo," 13*-16*, 17*- 18
 "The California Comet," 15
 Henderson, Ocie Eugene, 13, 14
 Henderson, Rose Lee, 13, 14
 Heidelberg, Duane, 3
 Hester, Judge Ezra, 4, 5
 Higgins, Billy, 15, 17, 20
 Higgins, Peggy, 57
 Hinkles, 15
 History of Saws Program, 3
 Hoelting, Sister Norbert, 52, 53, 54
 Hoffman, Willie, 19*
 Holland, Lee, 57
 Homestead Grays, 13
 Hon, Circuit Judge Daniel, 5, 6
 Houston Eagles, 15
 Howard, Elston, 15
 Huckabee, Gov. Mike, 35
 Huerta, President, 7

— I —

Independence, Missouri, 43

Indianapolis Clowns, 15
 integration, 52-54
 Irvin, Monte, 16

— J —

Jackson, President Andrew, 43
 Janet Huckabee Nature Center, 3
 Jefferson City, Missouri, 24
 Jeffrey Boys Club, 48
 Jeftown, Oklahoma, 21
 Jenkins, Crystal, 55, 57
 John Barleycorn, 5, 6
 John Deere Company, 11
 John Milner Associates Inc., 2
 Johnson, Verna, 19*
 Jones, Mary P., 30
 Jones, Tonya, 35

— K —

Kansas City Livestock Company, 8
 Kansas City Monarchs, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18
 Kansas City Stars, 15
 Keating, Larry, 10
 Keaton-Martin, Yvonne, 2
 Kensett, Arkansas, 8
 King Alcohol, 5, 6
 King, Jim, 47
 Kirk, Eleanor, 23
 Kirkwood, Fred, 35
 Knight, Beatrice, 35
 Kress, S. H., 13
 Kress Store, 11, 14, 28
 Kuper, Captain, 56
 Kuper, Henry Jr., 56

— L —

La Fayette, Marquis de, 39, 42
 Lake Bonneville, 43
Lincoln Echo, 32-37*, 38
 Lincoln High School, 14, 21, 23*, 27, 32
 Lincoln Pirates, 22
 Logan, Charles, 35
 Logan, Gail Freeman, 34, 37
 Long, Major Stephen H., 40
 Los Angeles Angels, 16
Los Angeles Sentinel, 32, 34
 Lovelady, J. P., 48
 Lowes, Mary J., 22

— M —

Mackey telegraph office, 56
 Macomb, Gen. Alexander, 43
 Madison, Wisconsin, 37

Major League Baseball, 16
 Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame, 15
 Malleliu Center, 31
 Malone, Beatrice Caldwell, 19*, 30
 Manchester, England, 8
 Manning, Connie, 18
 Martin Luther King Certificate of Recognition, 35
 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award, 35
 Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 2, 31
 Maycomb, Gen. Alexander, 42+
 Mayor Ray Baker's Certification of Appreciation, 35
 Mayor Ray Baker Perfect Harmony Award, 35
 Mays, Willie, 16
 McAlester Convicts, 7
 McClanahan, Dr., 27
 McCloud, Berta Jean Cook, 19*
 McCoy, Walter, 15
 McDonald, Dr. Harry Pelot, 2, 26, 28
 McDonald-McNamar, Maria, 2
 McGill Center, 33
 McGill, Elletrice, 19*
 McGill, State Rep. George, 2, 30, 33
 McGills, 13
 Meharry Medical School, 26
 Meyerriecks, Maryanne, 52
 Mid-America Conference on History, 2
 Miller, Areletha, 53
 Minority Business Advisory Council, 35
 Mobley, H. S., 10
 Moline, Illinois, 11
 Morrell, Coach Mike, 15
 Morris, Helen Marie, 35, 36
 Mott, John, 2
 Mt. Magazine Girl Scout Council Woman of Distinction, 35
 Mulvihill, Tim, 3
 Murphy, Emma, 19*
 Muskogee, Oklahoma, 14
 Mustang, Oklahoma, 57
 Myers, Matt, 39, 43

— N —

NAACP, 24, 26

National Geographic Society, 5
 Negro American League, 15, 16
 Negro Leagues Museum, 15
 Negro Major Leagues, 15, 16
 Negro World Series, 15
 New Rochelle, New York, 40
The New York Sun, 6
 New York Giants, 16
 New York Yankees, 15
 Niloak Pottery, 3
 Ninth Street Baptist Church, 32
 Noon Civic Club, 8, 11
 Norfolk, Virginia, 40
 North Little Rock, Arkansas, 21
 Northside High School (Fort Smith), 24
 Novak, Pauline, 35
 Nyberg Automobile Company, 8

— O —

Okla Homer Smith Furniture Factory, 13
 Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 3
 Old Commissary Association, 9
 Oliver, County Clerk, 57
 O'Neal, E. C., 48
 O'Neil, John Jordan "Buck", 15
 Ordinance 1080, 4
 Ozark National Forest, 3

— P —

Page, Shirl, 36
 Paige, Satchel, 15, 16
 Paine, Thomas, 39
 Panther Head Rock, 57
 Parker, Judge Isaac C., 14
 Peabody School, 21
 Pebley Center, 18, 37, 40
 Pebley Center Oral History Program, 20
 Petco Park, 16
 Philander Smith, 23
 Philippine Veterans of the Spanish American War, 55
 Phillips Landing, 57
 Plaza Theater, 13
 Poole, Craig, 35
 Poole, Wade, 35
 Porta, Alberta, 25
 Porte, Lieutenant, 7

Press Argus Courier, 33, 34
 Pride, Charlie, 16*
 Princip, Gavril, 4
 Pryor, Sen. Mark, 36
 PTA, 25

— Q —

Quinn Chapel, 29

— R —

Rader, Phil D., 7
 The Rainbow Girls, 19*-21, 25, 30
 Ramsey, J. W., 25
 Reed, Jennifer Barnett, 52, 53
 Reeves, Bass, 14, 29, 30
 Reign of Terror, 39
 Rice, Willie, 25
 Richardson, Talicia, 2
Rights of Man, 39
 Ritchey, Johnny, 15, 16
 Robinson, Jackie, 15, 16
 Rodgers, Mrs. Corrine, 24
 Roland, Oklahoma, 21
 Roosevelt, President Theodore, 10
 Ross Motor Company, 24
 Ross, Rudd, 24
 Ross, Rudd Jr., 24
 Rowell, W. A., 30, 31
 Russ, Mrs., 55
 Russ, W. L., 55

— S —

Saint Scholastica Academy, 52-54
 Salvation Army, 11
 Sanders, H. K., 55
 Sanders, Mayor Edward "Sandy," 2
 Sabo, George, 2
 Saloon Committee, 5
 San Diego High School, 15
 San Diego Padres, 16
 Sarah, 57
 Saylors, Kenny, 48
 Schaeffer, Jake, 17*
 Schlieffen Plan, 5
 Schneider, Prof. 57
 Seabolt, Miss Lou, 57
 Sebastian County, Arkansas, 10
 Sebastian County Juvenile Crime Task Force, 35
 segregation, 13, 19, 24, 26, 30
 Sengel, George, 56
 Seratt, S. W., 57
 Seton, Alfred, 42

Seventh Infantry, 40
 Seymour, Samuel, 40
 Shoate, Regina, 35
 Short, Arnold, 48
 Shorter College, 22
 Shultz, Mrs. Minnie, 56
 Somerville, Massachusetts, 52
The Southwest American, 7, 8, 10, 11
The Southwest Times Record, 34, 49, 51, 55
 Sparks Regional Medical Center, 26
 St. Anne's Academy, 11, 53
 St. Bartholomew High School, 52
 St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, 26
 St. John, 52
 St. Scholastica Monastery, 2, 52
 Stafford, Allene, 36
 Stanley, Craig, 15
 Starr, Henry, 10
 Starr, Pearl, 55
 Stevenson, Nurse, 30, 31
 Stratford, Mrs., 30
 Suffragettes, 4, 6
 Swank, Bill, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18

— T —

telegraph, 56
 Tennyson, (Alfred), 6
 Terwilliger, Bill, 48
 Thomas, Joe, 48
 Thomas, Ruby Young, 19*, 20
Titanic, 57
 Toliver, Sherry, 32, 33*, 34, 35, 38
 Topeka, Kansas, 7
 Trent, O. E., 22
 Triple A Pacific Coast League, 15
 Twin City Colored Hospital, 19

— U —

United Methodist Church, 29
 United States Army, 43
 United States Navy, 40
 University of Arkansas Farm School, 55
 University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, 23, 24
 University of Arkansas-Fort Smith (UAFS), 3, 18, 37
 Department of History

and Social Sciences, 2
 U.S. Department of Justice, 7
 U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas, 10

— V —

Van Buren, Arkansas, 2, 34, 57
 Vandervoort, Arkansas, 8
 Vanlue, Isabella Roberts, 35
 Verona, Oklahoma, 57

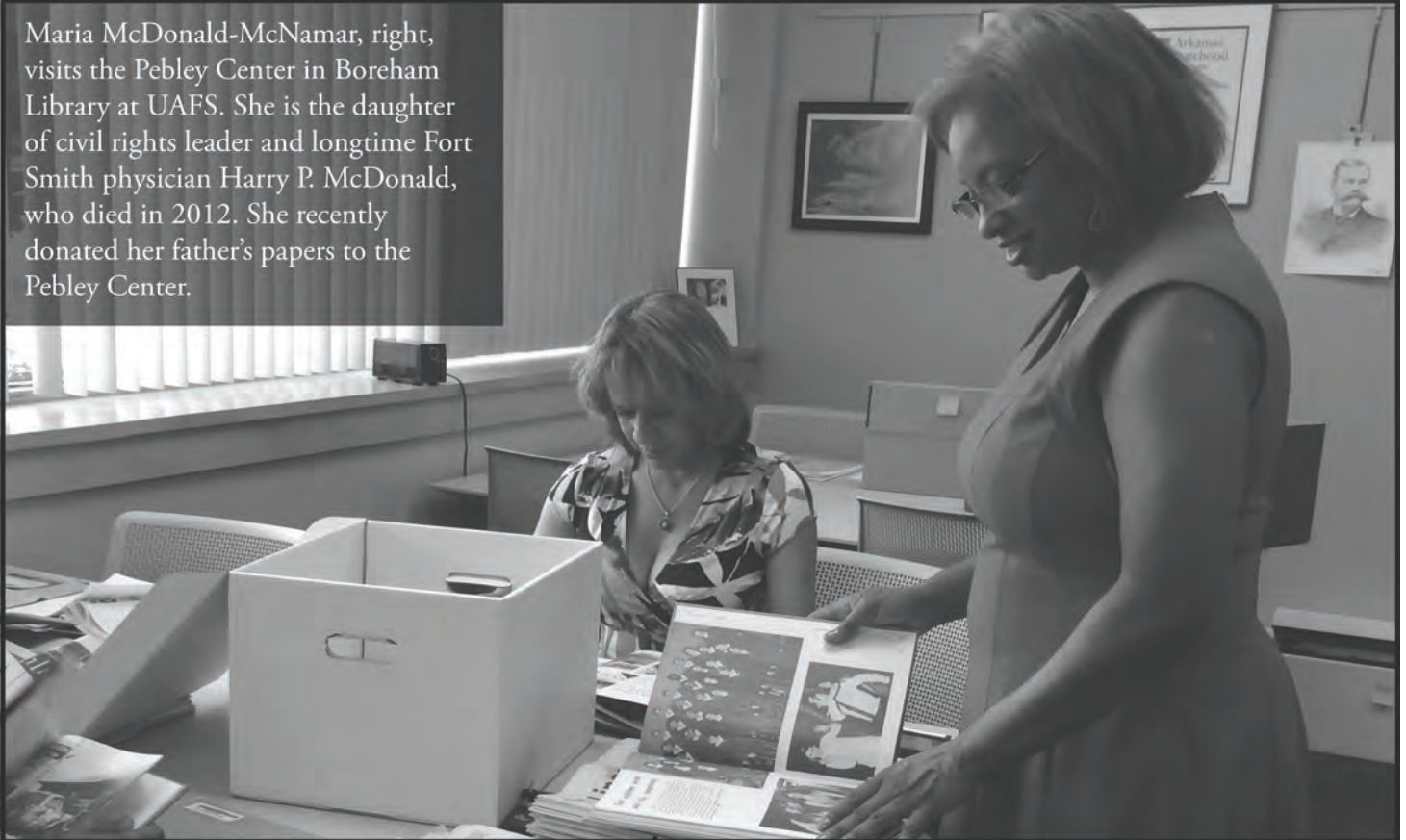
— W —

Wade, Festus, 8
 Walker, Easter, 19*
 Washington Cemetery, 15, 26
 Washington, George, 42
 Wasson, Joe, 52, 53, 54
 Weavers, Helen, 52
 Webster, Barbara, 32, 33*, 34, 35, 36, 37
 Webster, Eugene, 34
 Webster, Tiffany, 34, 35
Welcome to My Chair, 57
 West, Charles, 35
 West Memphis, Arkansas, 3
 West Point, 40
 Westark Community College, 27, 33
 Wheeler Boys Club, 46
 whining balls, 21, 31
 Whitfields, 15
 Whitmore, Delta, 23
 Williams, Charles L., 22
 Williams, Justice, 7
 Williams, Shirley, 52
 Willis, Ray, 35
 Wilson, Bill, 44*
 Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), 37
 Wise Radio, 46
 Wilson, Harold Joe Jr., 33*, 34, 36
 Wilson, Kat, 30
 Wilson, Paralee, 19*
 Winfield, Dave, 16*
 Women's Christian Temperance Union, 4
 Woodruff, William E., 40
 Woods, Earl, 16
 World War I, 4
 WPA, 30
 Wyatt, Jim, 46

— Y —

Youmans, Judge, 10

Maria McDonald-McNamar, right, visits the Pebley Center in Boreham Library at UAFS. She is the daughter of civil rights leader and longtime Fort Smith physician Harry P. McDonald, who died in 2012. She recently donated her father's papers to the Pebley Center.



College of Humanities and Social Sciences

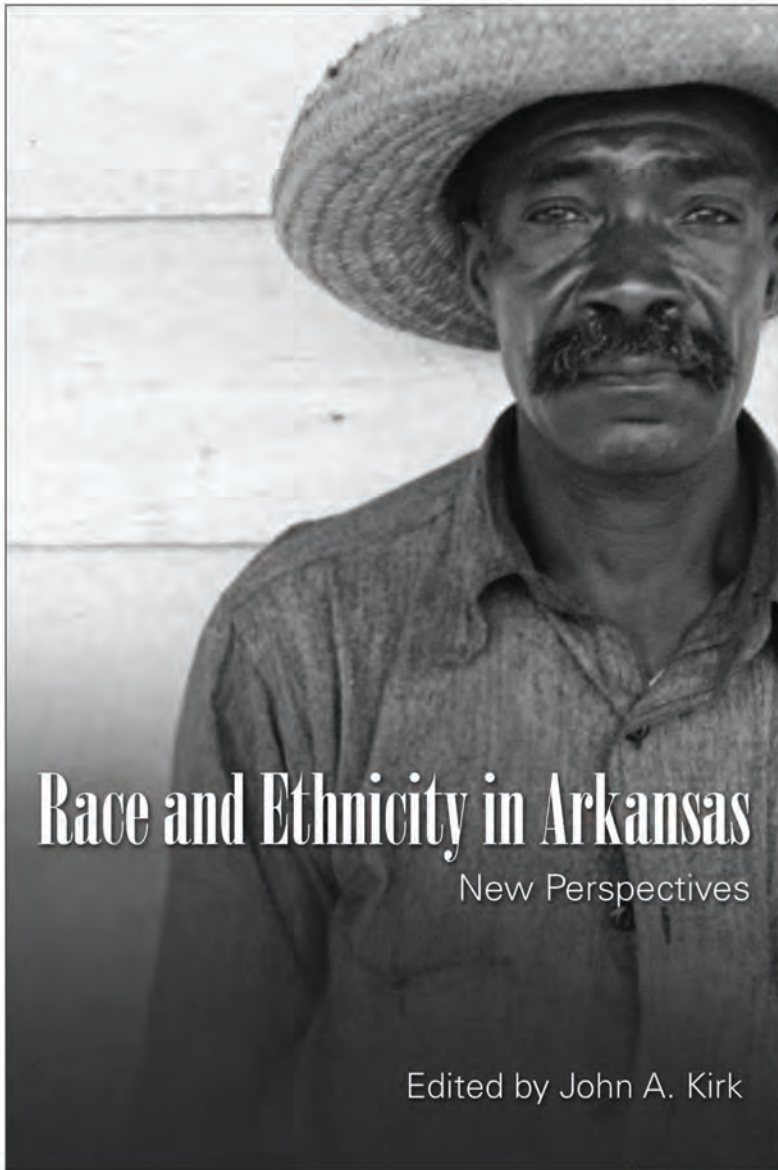
Bachelor of Arts

History
Music
Psychology
Studio Art
Theatre

Bachelor of Science

Criminal Justice
Graphic Design
History with Social Studies Teacher Licensure 7-12

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS PRESS



Race and Ethnicity in Arkansas

New Perspectives

Edited by John A. Kirk

"This insightful collection explores fully the struggle that shaped Arkansas. The lucid and persuasive essays not only expand the social portrait of the state but reveal decisively how its history is intertwined with national and global developments. The volume also encourages historians beyond Arkansas to take fresh looks at old assumptions."

—Ben Johnson, author of *Arkansas in Modern America: 1930-1999*

These essays span the period from slavery to the civil rights era and cover a broad range of topics including the frontier experience of slavery; the African American experience of emancipation and after; African American migration patterns; the rise of sundown towns; white violence and its continuing legacy; women's activism and home demonstration agents; African American religious figures; the Mexican American Bracero program; Latina/o and Asian American refugee experiences; and contemporary views of Latina/o immigration in Arkansas. Informing debates about race and ethnicity in Arkansas, the South, and the nation, the book provides both a primer to the history of race and ethnicity in Arkansas and a prospective map for better understanding racial and ethnic relations in the United States.

Available in December
\$24.95 paper

Includes an entire essay exploring Fort Chaffee's role in the 1975 influx of Vietnamese people to the city, the genesis for a still-growing ethnic mixture defining the city's future today.

To order, visit www.uapress.com or call 800-621-2736.
Would you like to receive our catalog? Email mak001@uark.edu.
facebook.com/uarkpress • twitter.com/uarkpress

