

The JOURNAL



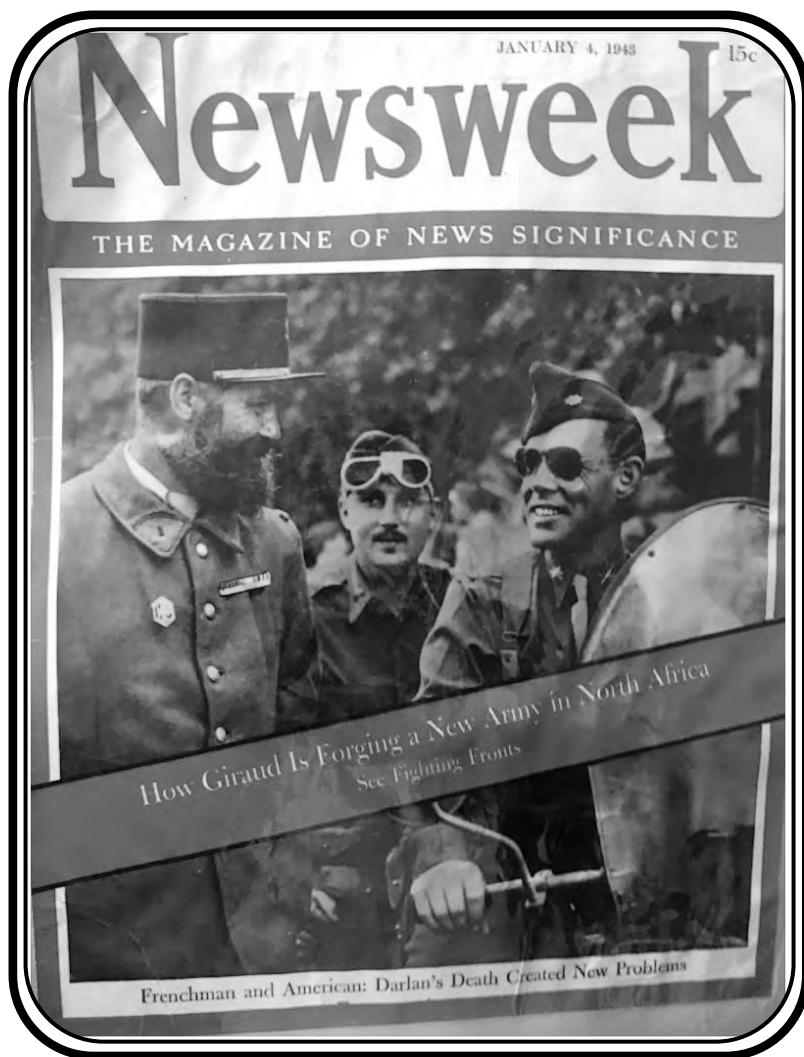
*Along Arkansas'
Historical Highway 10*



*From Cuba to Fort
Chaffee: The
'Marielitos' in Arkansas*



*Photo Album
of Fort Smith Junior
High, 1950-1954*



The Life of William O. Darby

The Ranger Who Led the Way



MISSION: The mission of the Fort Smith Historical Society Inc., founded in 1977, is to publish the *Journal* of the FSHS and through the *Journal* and other activities to locate, identify, and collect historical materials; to publish primary source material and historical articles that pertain to the city of Fort Smith and the vicinity. Preservation of Fort Smith history is our primary mission, and we always welcome the loan of historical material, including photographs, letters, diaries, and memoirs, and will return them promptly.

MEMBERSHIP & ORDERS: *Journal* issues are available. Cost for current and past issues is \$7.50 plus a \$2.50 mailing charge per copy. Send orders to:

Editors
P.O. Box 3676
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676

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QUESTIONS pertaining to the Fort Smith Historical Society or the *Journal* may be addressed by email to:

Mary Jeanne Black, inquiry coordinator and researcher, mblack3086@aol.com.

Mary Jeanne edits the *Journal* department titled "Who Knew?" Contact her with your research and/or genealogical questions or topics.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE! www.fortsmithhistory.org

Our website is updated by webmaster:

Al Whitson webmaster@fortsmithhistory.org

Content tabs: Organizations, Membership,
Back Issues, Tables of Contents,
Contacts & Links, Archives and Gallery.

SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS FOR POSSIBLE PUBLICATION IN THE JOURNAL

A submitted article is peer-reviewed by members of the *Journal's* editorial board and approved before publication. The due dates for manuscript submissions are February 15 for the April issue and July 15 for the September issue. The story should be relevant to the city of Fort Smith and/or this area and significant to the history of the border region. Manuscripts must be based on historical documentation with notes, bibliography, or a list of sources. We recommend authors search through the literature on their subject. We encourage photographs, charts, or maps to accompany the article. These visual aids must be released by the owner, who is to be properly accredited, and appropriately captioned.

Specifics

1. Manuscripts of 3,000-7,000 words may be submitted to the Editorial Board of the *Journal* electronically using the email address of billy.higgins@uafs.edu, editor, or stoliv44@gmail.com, Sherry Toliver, President of the Society, or mblack3086@aol.com, Mary Jeanne Black, Inquiry Coordinator.
2. Title page should include article title and author name.
3. Manuscripts should be double-spaced in Times Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins. Pages should be numbered, preferably with author name in the top right corner.
4. Notes and bibliography should be cited according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* (Turabian). Book, journal, and newspaper titles should be italicized.
5. Photographs and maps should be submitted with manuscript in digital format of at least 300 dpi resolution and must be captioned with 1-5 sentences. Photographs and maps must be credited as to source.
6. An author photograph and short bio should be submitted at the end of the manuscript along with mailing address, phone number, and email address.

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AMELIA WHITAKER MARTIN
Journal Editor & Co-Founder, 1977-2004

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The JOURNAL

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COVER PHOTOS:

Main Photo: William O. Darby on the cover of Newsweek in 1943 (Courtesy of Emory Dockery, Darby House)

Top left: A view from Arkansas Highway 10. (Courtesy of Kaitlynn Davis)

Middle left: A protestor during the detention of Cuban refugees at Fort Chaffee in 1980-81. (Courtesy of Fort Smith Museum)

Lower left: Fort Smith Junior High Cubs track and field team, 1953. (Courtesy of George O'Neel)

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News & Opportunities

Fort Smith Historical Society

Quarterly meetings will resume after the pandemic.

First Monday of the Month
6:00 p.m.

Fort Smith Public Library,
Community Room, Main Branch

Clayton House

**514 North Sixth Street
479-783-3000**

Reservations may be made by calling or emailing.

Programs are free to members of the Fort Smith Heritage Foundation and for non-members, a \$10 donation toward the preservation and programs of the Clayton House.

We have suspended the "Clayton Conversations" for the rest of this year.

For more information about our events, check our website — claytonhouse.org, email us at claytonhouse@claytonhouse.org, visit our Facebook page, or give us a call at 783-3000.

Fort Smith Museum of History

**320 Rogers Avenue
479-783-7841**

Upcoming events at the Museum: For program times, descriptions, reservations, and current exhibits, please use the museum website:

<http://www.fortsmithmuseum.org/newsletters>

Yarnell's Ice Cream, made in Arkansas since 1932, is featured in the museum's old-fashioned soda fountain. Come in and treat yourself.

Drennen-Scott Historical Site

Visitor Center

221 North Third Street

Van Buren, Arkansas

479-262-2750 / drennen-scott@uafs.edu

For more information contact Tom Wing, Director of the Drennen-Scott Historical Site on Facebook: Drennen-Scott Historic Site, or email at drennen-scott@uafs.edu.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Mind Stretchers

Ruth Skinner Building

across from St. John's Episcopal Church

214 North Sixth Street.

Email: vphelan@stjohnfs.org

479-782-9912

Admission is free, and snacks in keeping with the lecture theme are served.

6:30 p.m.

❖ September 15, 2020: Lisa Childs, Reinventing America: Reconstruction 1863-1877

❖ October 20, 2020: Kathy McGregor, "On the Row": The Prison Story Project.

Fort Smith Regional Art Museum (RAM)

1601 Rogers Avenue – Fort Smith

479.784.2787

info@fsram.org

Current Exhibits

❖ Dr. W.E. Knight Porcelain Gallery in memory of Dr. Henry Udouj

❖ Sept. 4-Dec. 27, 2020. Exhibition: *Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs by Jerry Dantzic*

Lectures, workshops, educational programs, and events throughout the year.

Contact RAM for full schedule of activities, exhibits, and children-centered art classes.

Goingsnake Documentary Update

From Author and Playwright

Brandon Chase Goldsmith

We filmed a re-enactment of the Goingsnake Tragedy and procured a few expert interviews when production was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working with producer Amber Lindley and co-director Josh Baxter, we were able to shoot a re-enactment of the 1874 Congressional hearings, the backbone of the Western District documentary, at Farm Studios July 17-19. The set was designed and built by Pablo Guerra-Monje and Stephen Copeland from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, with the help of several generous donations from local businesses, volunteers, and student interns. Our re-creation of an 1874 Congressional hearing room in the U.S. Capitol was reassembled and the set was dressed in Farm Studios' 10,000-square-foot production facility.

Following "Safe Sets" strict guidelines, our crew was certified to shoot under COVID conditions. We were able to bring to life the Congressional hearings where the House of Representatives discovered all the various scams and crimes carried out in Arkansas' Western District Court, which resulted in one of biggest federal fraud scandals in American history. Fort Smith was home to the most corrupt court in the country, which defrauded the federal government out of \$403,266.49 (approximately \$8 million in 2020) and the U.S. Marshal Logan H. Roots who was only supposed to make \$6,000 a year made \$54,650.49 (more than \$1 million in 2020 dollars) in a mere fourteen months and twenty days (1871-72).

Our goal is to finish principle photography by the end of summer and have the editing completed this winter. Having to move the production into a studio and shooting under COVID conditions have added considerable cost to our budget.

The Fort Smith Historical Society is our fiscal sponsor, so all donations are 100 percent tax deductible. If you are interested in contributing to The Western District Documentary, we accept checks, made payable to:

FSHS Western District
P.O. Box 2264
Fort Smith AR, 72901

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Fort Smith's Historic People

To salute the bicentennial of our fair city, the *Journal* added this series of bio-identifiers of people who through their presence here as resident or visitor or chronicler have interacted with the environs and left impressions on the historical record. In this way the Society seeks to widen confirmed knowledge regarding Fort Smith and the vicinity through documentation of these people—and sometimes machines—from both primary and secondary sources. The lists are chronological and cover generational spans, roughly every twenty-five to thirty years. Overlaps are unavoidable.

The years within Part V include the Roaring Twenties prosperity years, the Stock Market crash, beginning of the Great Depression, election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the New Deal, and the gathering war clouds around the U.S. In Fort Smith, those years were characterized by enterprising citizens who had education, arts, and building as primary concerns for themselves, their neighbors, and people of the city and region. And two U.S. Navy admirals!

From the 1920 U.S. Census count of 28,870 residents, the city's population rose to 31,429 by 1930 and during the Depression years rose again to 36,584.

Part V — 1915 – 1940

1. Charles M. Cooke, Admiral, U.S. Navy. Born in Fort Smith, 1886, attended Fort Smith schools and the University of Arkansas, appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy, he played baseball and got the lifelong nickname “Savvy” at Annapolis, maybe because he ranked second in his 1910 graduating class. He had many adventures on battleships and the early submarines. He had amazing experiences in World War II. In command of the U.S.S. *Pennsylvania* at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, attending Teheran and Casablanca summit meetings as U.S. Navy's Chief Planning Officer, at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, aboard the U.S.S. *Missouri* on surrender day, September 15, 1945, and at the Potsdam Conference in 1945. Admiral Cooke died in 1970 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. See Jim Spears, “Fort Smith's Admirals,” *Journal* 33, 1 (April 2009): 32-37.



**ADMIRAL EDWARD
W. EBERLE**

2. Edward Walter Eberle. Admiral, U.S. Navy. Born in Denton, Texas, in 1864. The next year his father moved the family to Fort Smith to go into business in a log store at Sixth and Garrison. When he was seventeen, Eberle gained an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. In the 1898 Spanish-American War, Lt.j.g. Eberle served aboard the U.S.S. *Oregon* in the Battle of Santiago Bay where he distinguished himself as a fire control officer. President Woodrow Wilson made him superintendent of the Naval Academy in 1915. In 1921, he became commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet. Eberle died in 1929 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. During World War II, a destroyer and a troop transport bore his name. See Jim Spears, “Fort Smith's Admirals,” *Journal* 33, 1 (April 2009): 32-37.

3. Bob Kuykendall. Founding director of the Fort Smith Boys Club (Now the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club). The Club opened its doors in 1928 on the second floor of the Welfare Office facility, which was once a U.S. Army barracks, Parker's Courthouse and Jail, and is now the National Historic Site's home. The Club offered sports and recreation and crafts to the city's school age boys who could get a Club card

for a five cent annual fee (or work it out). Baseball games were played on a field once the antebellum fort's parade ground. Mr. Kuykendall worked tirelessly to offer opportunities to disadvantaged youth, many from the Coke Hill settlement just below the Club, but also from across the town. He brought the Club into the national Boys Clubs of America organization and himself coached the American Legion baseball team. Building a strong organization and creating much goodwill in the community, Kuykendall played a role in the WPA's decision to build a state-of-the-art



BOB KUYKENDALL with youths from the
Fort Smith Boys Club

facility at 215 Wheeler that became home to the Club in 1941. Kuykendall received the Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award and was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 1992. He is buried in Oak Cemetery. See *Insight 2000*, 137; Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club archives.

4. Edward O. Trent. Born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1859, Trent graduated from Ohio State University and accepted a position of principal of Howard High School giving out the first diplomas in 1892. For thirty-three years he served as principal of Howard and then Lincoln High Schools. Dedicated to African American education in the era of segregated schools, Trent helped organize a state association for African American teachers. He was a member of Mosaic Templars based in

Little Rock. Trent and his wife, Hattie, opened their home on Ninth Street to board high school students who attended Lincoln but lived too far away to commute daily to school. Used to these needs, he acquired rental houses and developed a truck farm to help feed people and there he built a swimming pool which doubled as a baptismal site. In his long tenure, many graduates succeeded in college, in education, and in business. His son, Alphonso Trent, became a well-known musician in this region. See Sherry Toliver and Barbara Meadows, *Lincoln High School Fort Smith, Arkansas: A Significant Past, Solid Present, and a Sacred Future* (2016).

5. J.W. Cook. Educator. Became dean of Fort Smith Junior College in 1928 when it opened as a part of the Fort Smith public schools. Using classroom space in the new Fort Smith High School building and then in rooms beneath the stadium grandstands, Cook administered the junior college for twenty-four years. In 1950, Cook led a drive seeking funds for the college to become privately financed and separate from the public schools. In 1952, finding a site at the east end of Grand Avenue, Cook led the move for faculty and students into their new home and was named president of Fort Smith Junior College, a position that he held for the next six years until he retired assured of the permanency of the college that became University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. See *University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, the First 85 Years, 1928-2012* and Sondra LaMar, "Westark had humble beginnings in 1928," *Insight 2000*, 121.

6. Luella Krehbiel. Born in Kansas and educated at Pittsburg State College, Ms. Krehbiel settled in Fort Smith and took occupation as a teacher in the city's public schools. At the opening of Fort Smith Junior College in 1928, Ms. Krehbiel signed on to teach English to the city's first class of college students. She stayed with the college through its growth until her retirement in 1972. The college named a major academic award for faculty in her honor because of outstanding and memorable work with hundreds of students in her care over those years. Nominees for the award must present evidence of a thorough knowledge of subject matter, a dedication to student learning, and a devotion to high standards of instruction, qualities embodied by Luella Krehbiel. See *University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, The First 85 Years, 1928-2012*, 33.

7. Grover Cleveland Hardin. Born in Okolona, Arkansas, Hardin settled in Fort Smith in 1884 and opened a law practice. Elected president of the Fort Smith School Board, he followed the ideas being advanced nationally by William Rainey Harper,



LUELLA KREHBIEL,
educator extraordinaire

president of the University of Chicago, who encouraged the establishment of two-year colleges to increase the national education level. Hardin believed this area would benefit from such an opportunity and convinced fellow board members it was in the best interest of the community to extend two years of college in the new high school under construction. The board approved funding for it, and thus in 1928, Fort Smith Junior College, now University of Arkansas-Fort Smith came into being. See *University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, the first 85 Years, 1928-2012*, 8.

8. Katherine Alexander. Born in Fort Smith and musically trained in Baltimore, Katherine and her mother, Sophronia, a Cherokee, moved to New York. She landed a role in a Broadway play that demanded a young actress who could play the violin. After summers performing with a Rhode Island stock company, Katherine worked on and off Broadway, gaining lead and supporting roles in a variety of plays. Her niece, Gordon Kelly, of Fort Smith said she never had a bad review, “not a single one. The critics all just loved her.” In the mid-1930s she secured a lucrative contract with MGM studios that often cast her as a comedienne. She appeared in hit movies opposite Charles Laughton, Bette Davis, Paul Muni, and Frederick March. After retiring from her notable acting career, Katherine Alexander Brady returned to Fort Smith, settling into a family home on Rogers Avenue and staying busy with activities at St. John Episcopal Church and with a gardening hobby. See Ben Boulden, “Actress came back after long career,” *Insight 2000*, 141.

9. H. M. Keck . A principle in the Colonial Hospital on Dodson Avenue in Fort Smith when it opened in 1928, Dr. Keck with the help of Drs. B. A. Harkins and Marius Irvan Barger operated the facility on a prepaid contract basis until it closed in 1952. Working class families, many of them miners, paid \$2-a-month dues, later raised to \$3, which entitled them to full benefits of medical care at the hospital, which by 1938 had achieved 100 beds. The regular medical establishment opposed this system, which was similar to medical insurance available today and perhaps therefore was ahead of its time. See Amelia Martin, *Insight 2000*, 121.

10. Kathryn Price Bailey. A refined Fort Smithian who “wore wispy chiffon dresses and said things like “Isn’t that cunning?” and “What a dear little thing.” Kathryn married William Worth Bailey, blind since birth and the son of a physician, and the two of them, with an abiding love for each other and for music, established the city’s first symphony orchestra in 1923, Kathryn serving as its conductor, and William as its concertmaster. The orchestra performed until its cessation in 1933 following the death of William, the final concert dedicated to him. Kathryn continued her influence in the state’s musical circles through chairing the orchestral division of the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs and holding office in the Arkansas State Music Teachers Association. See Nancy Steel, “Symphony created in 1923,” *Insight 2000*, 143. (the quotation used came from Marian Wintory and the modern Fort Smith Symphony is under the direction of John Jeter).

11. Major and Mrs. O. T. Johnson. Supervised the Salvation Army office and its operations as the Great Depression put many Americans into homelessness and striving even for food. With help from the Roosevelt administration and the state government, city commissioners came up with funds totaling \$115,000 to feed, clothe, and house the destitute. With this aid, the Salvation Army set up a kitchen staffed by volunteers and depending mostly on beans and cabbage, and a dining room to feed one meal a day to city residents in need. The Salvation Army set up quarters for transients, offering a bed, breakfast and supper. See Amelia Martin, *Insight 2000*, 118.

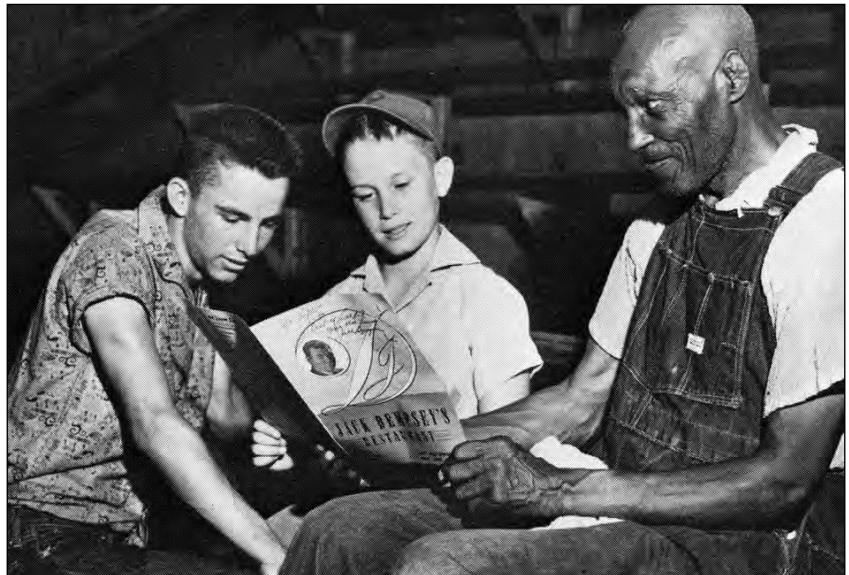
12. John England. Manager of the palatial Goldman Hotel at the east end of Garrison Avenue sought an opportunity to bring radio broadcasting to his hotel and in 1930 found the answer by purchasing ownership of KFPW and installing a transmitter on the first floor of the hotel. On July 27, 1930, the first live radio broadcast originated from that facility. The purpose then of the station was public service, not profits, stated England, and the call signal stood for Kind Friends, Please Write. The format largely consisted of live music from the main dining room of the hotel. Bill Slates did the play-by-play recreation of St. Louis Cardinals baseball games using line scores from the telegraph. KFPW is still broadcasting, although the Goldman no longer stands. See the Goldman Hotel exhibit in the Fort Smith Museum of History and Samantha Young, “KFPW made a name for itself in 1930,” *Insight 2000*, 136.

13. Thomas Leland Hunt. Owner of Hunt’s Dry Goods, a full range department store. Hunt’s, alongside the Boston Store and the Arcade, as well as numerous service businesses and smaller retail shops, made Garrison Avenue a

shopper's mecca for four decades. Hunt, whose civil activities included serving on the Fort Smith Junior College Board of Directors, donated \$10,000 to the purchase of a sidehill property below the Oak Cemetery for the building of a Boys Club baseball field. The field was lighted in 1948 and served many purposes, including hosting top-flight semi-pro and amateur baseball, St. Anne's football, Boys & Girls Club midget football, soccer, and fast-pitch softball. It is currently the home field of the Sportsmen and Forsgren American Legions teams, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Northside H.S. Grizzlies baseball. In 2019-2020, it underwent a \$2.3 million renovation that has brought it once again to be the premier athletic field in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. See Nancy Edwards, "Shoppers kept Hunts in Mind," *Insight* 2000, 123.

14. Hazel Glenn Presson. Born in Fort Smith, Presson began Fort Smith Junior College in 1930 and, influenced by Luella Krehbiel, made education her career. She taught school, wrote books, and founded the Presson-Oglesby Preserve, which allows visitors to experience native "Cherokee prairies that originally covered tens of thousands of acres within the Arkansas River Valley of west central Arkansas." The preserve occupies some 155 acres near Charleston, and over 220 species of plants have been identified, including swamp mallow, scurf pea and prairie blazing star. Presson taught at Fort Smith High School and Fort Smith Junior College. She wrote a textbook for teaching journalism and a novel titled, *The River is a Wicked Witch*. Her interviews are held in the Pebley Center of UAFS. See *University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, the First 85 Years, 1928-2012*, 11.

15. Arthur "Shifty" Davis. A professional prizefighter in the 1920s who fought in the heavyweight division. Nicknamed "Shifty" because of his ability to move around the ring, and like Jack Johnson and Muhammad Ali, was difficult to land a punch on. Shifty made a living in the boxing gyms and arenas in and around New York City, landing a steady job as a sparring partner with Jack Dempsey, who was world heavyweight champion from 1919-1926. After his career in the ring, Shifty returned to Fort Smith, and with his knowledge of workout regiments, was employed as a trainer for Grizzly athletic squads and Fort Smith Junior College Lions athletes. With the opening of the state-of-the-art



ARTHUR "SHIFTY" DAVIS shows Jim Townly and Barry Kincannon his signed menu from Jack Demsey's New York restaurant.

Boys Club building at 215 Wheeler, Shifty was employed as maintenance man, janitor, and live-in night watchman. There he played a big role in developing a top-rated boxing team that competed in all weights at state and regional Golden Gloves and AAU Tournaments. Shifty trained novice and open boxers and worked the corners during their bouts. He influenced many young men with his knowledge, his generosity of time, and his genuine goodwill and good humor. He was a fine example of the art and sportsmanship of amateur boxing. He was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 2015. Courtesy, Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club archives.

16. John Heskitt Wright. Born in Ohio, Wright moved to Fort Smith as a young man to head the local Arkansas Central Railroad. One of his first achievements was to extend a railroad line to the small Benedictine abbey at Subiaco, which created the railroad town of Subiaco. Wright left the railroad business for politics and in 1917 ran for mayor of Fort Smith against the perennial candidate Fagan Bourland. The two local papers, the *Times Record* and the *Southwest American*, chose different candidates which built interest and probably circulation. The scandal cooked up by the *Times Record* was that Wright had not paid his poll tax. Wright was elected mayor in 1917 and soon began to take the side of labor over business interests when they confronted each other. In September 1917, the telephone



ALPHONSO TRENT IN BRICK by students as part of the Fort Smith Unexpected Art program. The mural is located at North B and North Second streets in downtown Fort Smith.

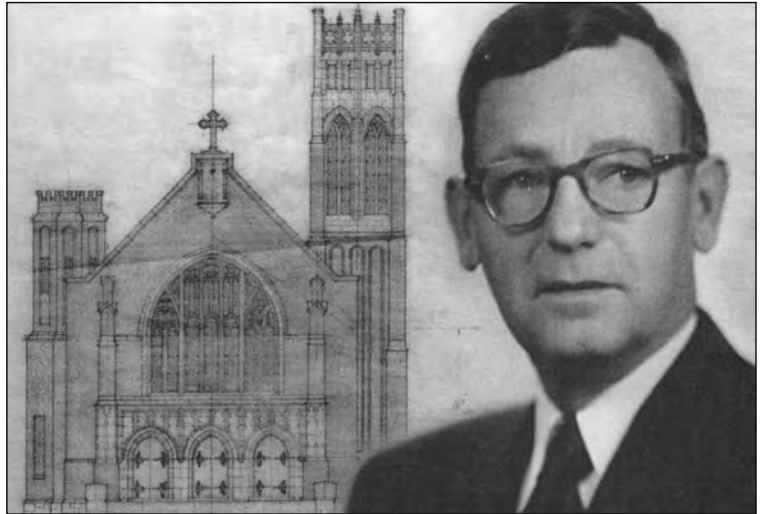
operators at Southwest Bell Telephone Company went on strike. Unions supported the female strikers and so did Mayor Wright. The telephone strike “was similar to the war just ending: it was long and drawn-out, and little ground was gained by either side.” This proved to be a sticking point and in October 1917, Wright was removed from office by a grand jury indictment and trial for malfeasance of office. He is the only mayor of Fort Smith without a picture in the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce office. See William Ryan Hargis, “John Heskitt Wright, Mayor of Fort Smith, 1917,” the *Journal*, 34, 2 (September 2010): 31-38.

17. Alphonso Trent. Born in Fort Smith in 1902, son of E.O. and Hattie Trent. The youngster grew up amid an atmosphere of appreciation for education and the arts. He took up the piano at an early age and played as a youngster in local bands. At age twenty-one, his band performed at the Basin Park Hotel in Eureka Springs. In 1924, the band now called the Alphonso Trent Orchestra set up at various clubs around Dallas and then landed a two-week contract to play in the ballroom of the stately Adolphus Hotel. That turned into an eighteen-month-long engagement that led to their dance music being broadcast over a powerful radio station, which made the Trent Orchestra a household name over a large area of the Southwest. Later came a national tour, four albums, and the Great Depression. Through good times and then some years of struggle, the Trent Orchestra stayed in business for parts of four decades, an unusually long period for bands to stick together. Alphonso Trent returned to his hometown after World War II to manage the new Elm Grove housing project and as Ms. Euba Harris-Winton remembered, “When people wanted something done, they either went to their ministers or they went to Phonnie.” He could get it done! Today on North B and Second Street an Unexpected Art project completed by Fort Smith students portrays this marvelous citizen of Fort Smith. See Steven Kite, “Alphonso Trent: Influential Music Man and Local Legend,” the *Journal*, 35, 2 (September 2011): 21-28.

18. Charles H. Harding. Founder of Harding Glass Company in 1917. Located at Midland Boulevard and Kelley Highway, at its height it employed more than 1,000 workers. Harding directed the plant in its early days through World War I shortages of materials, manpower, and other restrictions. The company survived a major fire in 1920 and a major push to full mechanization. In the 1930s the battle in industry for unionization was in full swing. Harding himself had worked in the glass-making industry and had awareness of worker needs. Harding helped transform Fort Smith into “the most labor conscious city in the state.” The Depression took its toll on Harding profits,

and the death of Charles H. Harding in 1935 caused the sale of the company to outside interests. See Leslie Przybylek, "Fire and Sand," *Journal*, 28, 1 (April 2004): 4-12.

19. Elmer Chester Nelson. Called to Fort Smith as a partner in a budding architect firm in 1919, this World War I veteran literally changed the face of the city he adopted as home. He left an impressive body of work in other parts of the state as well, including the Val-Walker building (old men's gymnasium) and the 4-H Women's Dormitory on the University of Arkansas campus. He designed the Johnson County Courthouse. The Sebastian County Courthouse, Howard School, Grand Avenue Baptist Church, and Goddard Methodist Church are among his contributions to the architectural beauty of the city. During the Depression, Nelson's wife, Minnie, operated a kindergarten in their home,



E. CHESTER NELSON, ARCHITECT

504 Lecta. See Brenda Andrews, "E. Chester Nelson, Designer of Landmarks," the *Journal*, 33, 1 (April 2009): 6-18.

20. Charles S. Holt. Dr. Holt interned in St. Louis and came to Fort Smith to practice in 1908 in an office in the First National Bank building, became involved with the St. John's hospital, served on the city's Board of Health, and in 1921 opened Holt Clinic, located at Garrison and Towson Avenues, Texas Corner. Faced with opposition from the AMA because the clinic offered membership to Union laborers with free clinical care, Holt had to drop this affordable health care system as too far ahead of its time. Still looking for more medical expertise in the city, Holt advertised in the *AMA Journal* for a general surgeon, the ad answered by Ohioan Fred H. Krock, a graduate of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. In 1933, the clinic was renamed, Holt-Krock and became a fixture in the medical history of this region. Dr. Charles Holt served on the Fort Smith School Board and in 1923, was elected president of the Arkansas state school board. See Taylor Prewitt, "Founding Fathers: St. Cloud Cooper, Charles Holt, Fred Krock, and their innovative clinics," the *Journal*, 42, 1 (April 2018): 5-12.

21. R. Earl Farnsworth. Principal of Fort Smith High School from 1949-1973. The "Skipper," as he was known, displayed grit, discipline, and enthusiasm for his students, his school, and his teachers. Starting at Fort Smith Junior High School as a printing instructor, he became dean of boys and then principal. Farnsworth had aesthetic hobbies such as growing roses and painting Easter eggs that went with his robust side, which included being leader of Boy Scouts Troop 12. Those expeditions sometimes gave him opportunities to advance his shutterbug interests. He headed the choir at his Presbyterian church and his colleagues at school and church thought him to always be interested in the young people and their progress in school and extracurricular activities. Farnsworth, a man of wonderful energy, put his stamp on public school education in Fort Smith. See Rosemary Farnsworth Erickson, "A Biography of Earl Farnsworth," the *Journal*, 34, 02 (September 2010): 23-31.

22. Alfred Graham Williams Jr. World War I pilot who afterward flew a Command-Aire Airplane built in Little Rock. Later flying a Stinson Jr. cabin plane, pilot A.G. Williams Jr. frequently took his wife, Sue, and son, A.G. III, on long air trips with him. He based his plane at the Fort Smith Airport in 1929. See Julia Etter Yadon, Sue Ross Cross, and Randall Ross Viguet, *Reflections of Fort Smith* (Fort Smith Historical Press, n.d.), 89; *Southwest Times Record*, Sept 29, 1929, p. 15.

23. Harry Shipley. In 1921, Harry Shipley and his brother, Garvin, from Chester, Arkansas, set up a bakery at 73 South Sixth Street. Some of the bread loaves coming out of the aromatic ovens were delivered unwrapped and unsliced by horse and buggy to customers around town. Trucks soon took over that end of the business. The trade name of Holsum was given to the main product. Over the next twenty years, the business expanded to locations in Fayetteville, Muskogee, Oklahoma, and McAlester, Oklahoma. Fort Smith remained the largest bakery. The company

-sponsored men's independent basketball team, the Holsum Bakers, made up primarily of its employees, competed successfully in AAU and holiday tournaments, making the name familiar to many who followed the sport. The company was sold in 1996. Closed for a few years, the plant is now in a rebirth as The Bakery, a coffeehouse with pastry. See Odie B. Faulk and Bill Mac Jones, *Fort Smith: An Illustrated History* and Samantha Young, "Shipley aroma first rose in 1921," *Insight 2000*, 133.

24. Henry Clay Armstrong Jr. Born in Fort Smith in 1896 to Dr. Minnie Sanders Armstrong and Henry Clay Sr. His mother was the first woman doctor to practice medicine in this city and one of the first female jurists in the United States. World War I broke out while Henry Jr. was supporting his three siblings, partly by farming and throwing papers. He joined the Navy and was sent to Naval Aviation School. He flew the Curtiss fighter planes and after the war returned and resumed his businesses. In 1928, the American Legion Post, with Henry Jr. as its commander, sponsored a baseball team at the newly formed Fort Smith Boys Club. The same year he led the Post into providing a World War I memorial for Tilles Park. Called the "Spirit of America Doughboy," it now graces the Post location on Midland Boulevard. In 1940, Henry Armstrong was sworn in as United States Marshal of the Western District of Arkansas and continued his leadership role in Fort Smith with planning and development of Creekmore Park and Lake Fort Smith. See Jerry Glidewell, "Henry Armstrong," the *Journal*, 39, 2 (September 2015): 4.

25. Chester H. "Doc" Miller. Graduate of the University of Missouri, where he had played in dance bands including sessions in Bella Vista where he met Fort Smithians who bragged on their city. In 1930, he had a chance to move to Fort Smith, employed here by a school bus manufacturer. Soon he was playing with a group on a KFPW music broadcast. This became an orchestra under his leadership in the era of "Big Bands." Doc met many local musicians, and the orchestra played in many local venues. One of their most famous performances was a reception and dance held for visiting first lady Eleanor Roosevelt on April 12, 1940, at the Goldman Hotel. The Doc Miller orchestra played for two decades beyond that booking. Miller himself developed a photography business and some of his negatives are part of the collections of the Fort Smith Museum of History. See "Doc Miller's Orchestras," the *Journal*, 8, 1 (April 1984): 14.

26. John R. Thompson. Born in Amity, Arkansas, 6-foot-4 Thompson had a sterling competitive career at Hendrix College, holding state track records in six events, including the high jump, and was an U.S. Olympic team finalist in the decathlon event. He and his wife, Marionette, moved to Fort Smith in 1928 when he was named FSHS basketball and track coach. After Ben I. Mayo resigned to become a school administrator, Thompson coached the football team as well. In the classroom, Mr. Thompson taught physics for twenty-seven years and convinced three generations of students that "protons do not move!" In summers, Coach Thompson directed the Kiwanis Camp at Lake Fort Smith. In 1969, Fort Smith Northside Grizzly Stadium was renamed Mayo-Thompson Stadium. Coach Thompson was named to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1974. See Phil Karber, "Goodbye to our river: an odyssey into the piney woods," 12, and Amelia Martin, "Fort Smith Depression Era," the *Journal* 15, 2 (September 1991): 8.

27. Stanley Edward Evans. Ohio born, Moved to Fort Smith in 1928 and immediately launched a business—and a career—in heavy construction by putting in Little Rock's first long distance water line, which was thirty-five miles in length. He would later continue this kind of large-scale and specialized contracting in Fort Smith and in Tulsa, using tools and techniques he designed. In 1940, he was selected as a primary contractor in the construction of Camp Chaffee, an enormous task completed under budget within seventy-nine percent of the time allotted. The Corps of Engineers awarded him the job of building a dam on Petit Jean River that created Blue Mountain Lake. His philanthropy, especially to youth organizations in Fort Smith, earned him the Exchange Club's Golden Deeds Award. Evans Boys & Girls Club is named in honor of his wife, Elizabeth. See, the *S.E. Evans Story* by the Employees of S. E. Evans (1962), Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club archives.

Here, But Briefly

Hattie Caraway and Huey P. Long. The governor appointed Hattie Caraway to finish out senate term of her husband, Thaddeus, after his death. In the upcoming election, Caraway surprised politicians by announcing her candidacy for the seat. No one expected her to win, but she did, becoming the first woman to be elected to the U.S.

Speaking Announcements		
Senator Hattie D. Caraway		
and		
Huey P. Long		
U. S. Senator (former Governor) of Louisiana		
MONDAY, AUGUST 1st, 1932		
MAGNOLIA	9:00 A. M.	Court House
EL DORADO	11:00 A. M.	Court House
CAMDEN	2:30 P. M.	Court House
FORDYCE	4:30 P. M.	Political Park
PINE BLUFF	8:00 P. M.	Mo. Pacific Park
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2nd, 1932		
STRUTT GART	9:00 A. M.	East of Court House
BRINKLEY	11:00 A. M.	City Park
FORREST CITY	1:30 P. M.	Court House
WYNNE	3:00 P. M.	Railroad Park
HARRISONBURG	5:00 P. M.	Court House
JONESBORO	8:00 P. M.	Court House
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 1932		
WALNUT RIDGE	9:00 A. M.	Band Stand
NEWPORT	11:30 A. M.	Rommel Park
BATESVILLE	2:30 P. M.	Fair Grounds
SEARCY	4:30 P. M.	Court House
LITTLE ROCK	9:00 P. M.	Band Shell
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1932		
RUSSELLVILLE	11:00 A. M.	Court House
BOONEVILLE	3:00 P. M.	Court House
FT. SMITH	8:00 P. M.	Andrews' Field
FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th, 1932		
MENA	11:00 A. M.	City Park
MT. IDA	3:00 P. M.	Court House
HOT SPRINGS	9:00 P. M.	Whittington Park
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6th, 1932		
MALVERN	9:00 A. M.	Court House
ARKADELPHIA	11:00 A. M.	Next to Library
FRESCOTT	2:00 P. M.	Court House
HOPE	4:00 P. M.	Municipal Auditorium
TEXARKANA	8:00 P. M.	Court House Lawn

Senate. Part of her success can be attributed to the campaign help given her by Louisiana Senator Huey P. Long. Immensely popular in his home state, his mystique carried over into Arkansas. He and Hattie had a whirlwind tour that took them together all over the state. They appeared at Andrews Field in Fort Smith on August 4, 1932. Hattie Caraway would win again in 1938, serving thirteen years as the senator from Arkansas. Jeanne Wayne, Tom DeBlack, Morris Arnold, and George Sabo, *Arkansas, a Narrative History* (2019), 310.

Eleanor Roosevelt. The first lady visited Fort Smith in May 1940, a presidential election year, staying at the Goldman Hotel. She spoke to Fort Smith Junior College students at the High School auditorium. Her husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term that November. Meeting at the Goldman, a young girl told Ms. Roosevelt that she would rather shake her hand even though she had two large warts on it because she did not like to do that “curtsy thing.” Ms. Roosevelt responded by saying, “Don’t worry darling. Those warts will disappear completely.” *University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, the first 85 Years, 1928-2012*, 8. Mary Jule Ross Crouse, *Insight 2000*, p. 122.

Lee Hayes and Claude Williams. Williams, a Paris, Arkansas, Presbyterian minister, became a Labor Union advocate while assisting striking workers. He preached a version of the Social Gospel and

attracted the younger Lee Hayes with his egalitarian messages and willingness to go to battle for miners and sharecroppers. Williams moved to Fort Smith to establish The New Era school and Hayes assisted him in organizing a “hunger strike” in the city. Williams was jailed for three weeks following the uproar caused by these leftist activities. Williams later headed Commonwealth College in Mena, with Hayes on his staff as a music teacher. Hayes with Pete Seeger formed the Weavers, a musical quartet, and the two of them wrote the classic protest song, “If I Had a Hammer.” See Doris Willens, *Lonesome Traveler, the Life of Lee Hayes* (1988), 31-33.

Suggestions for Submission of Articles

We welcome the submission of articles, previously unpublished, covering significant historical events and persons in Fort Smith and the 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 additional sources.

The author’s name, address, and 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
 PO Box 3676
 Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676



STATUE AT THE COAL MINERS MUSEUM
IN GREENWOOD, ARKANSAS

Along Historical Highway 10



Arkansas Route Both Original and Growing

by Kaitlynn Davis

Winding up the hills and down the valleys of Arkansas are a traveler's dream. Along with the outdoor adventures that await here in the Natural State, driving the curvy roads takes visitors to sights unseen in any other state. One important road to travel is the historical Highway 10. The 1926 original has made an important impact on the economy of Arkansas. With rising development and growing population, Highway 10 takes travelers through the busiest and most rural portions of the state, all while carrying important hidden treasures the state has to offer.

The journey on Highway 10 begins in Sebastian County. Along the road are towns named Hackett and Greenwood. Hackett has the population of 827 (2017), and Greenwood, 9,405 (2017).¹ Highway 10 is the main road that runs through both towns. Although it may be a main transportation way for the towns, Sebastian County

Sheriff Hobe Runion and Chief Deputy Kevin Nickson, say the only thing Highway 10 does for the sheriffs is provide a faster response time when traveling east to west across the county.² They said it played a critical role when searching for the double homicide suspect in 2019 who was eventually found in Booneville, Arkansas.³ In the early 2000s, Sebastian County Sheriffs made many arrests along Highway 10, due to distribution of illicit drugs. "Distributors would travel Highway 10 in order to try to fly under the radar," says Sheriff Runion.⁴ Rounding the Greenwood town square, a large clock tower stands. This clock was designed in 1976 as a recognition of the United States' 200th birthday. This symbol stands as a reminder of the past and is at the core of most town events. On the town square stands the Old Jail Museum. Built in 1892, this building is one of the oldest in the area and has a spot on the National Registry of Historical Places and Buildings. The jail saw many inmates arrested for minor crimes but had its fair share of murderers, too. If visitors look carefully at the floor and walls, messages inmates carved



ENTRANCE TO THE ARKANSAS STATE TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM IN BOONEVILLE

can be seen.⁵ Just past the clock tower on the right is the Coal Miners Memorial. This was dedicated to the town of Greenwood in October 2000. It consists of a six-foot tall statue of a miner, an authentic coal car, and granite walls holding thousands of names of Sebastian County miners.⁶ When traveling east from Greenwood, a visitor can look out the window to see ample trees and mountains. Along the road, Mount Magazine is straight ahead and Sugarloaf Mountain is to the right.

Next along the highway are the towns of Booneville and Magazine. Together these towns make up a total population of 4,674 (2018) along the approximated fourteen-mile span nestled in South Logan County.⁷ Highway 10 can also be called Main Street when driving through these towns. Almost all the resources for the two flow along Highway 10. Booneville's gas supply comes strictly from Fort Smith, so the semi-trucks must travel the winding road, Highway 10, which is the reasoning behind the higher gasoline prices, or so they say.⁸ Booneville has a long history as it is one of the oldest towns in western Arkansas. Settled in 1828, William Cauthron built a log cabin and

When the sanatorium was built, it was considered a city inside a city, as there were dormitories, a chapel, a water treatment plant, and a fire department, all within this medium-sized tract of land.¹⁰ ... Many parts are still blocked off, as many presume, they are haunted.

opened a store near the Petit Jean River. While no one is sure how Booneville got its name, there are a few theories. During the Civil War, a group called the Booneville Rifles headed to Benton County to join the Confederate Army. There were some who joined the Union. After Reconstruction, Booneville became a

thriving city with a blacksmith shop, a cotton gin, a drugstore, and several others. For seventy-five years beginning in 1898, Booneville's economy relied heavily on the railroad station that was placed there. It was the designated area for crew changes.⁹ Reminders of the old train depot can still be found in Booneville behind the post office. Booneville is also home to the Arkansas State Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Built in 1909, the buildings are still standing and being used as part of Booneville Human Development Center. When the sanatorium was built, it was considered a city inside a city, as there were dormitories, a chapel, a water treatment plant, and a fire department, all within this medium-sized tract of land.¹⁰ The sanatorium is registered as a historical site, and travelers can walk through the on-site museum and take a tour of a few buildings. Many parts are still blocked off, as many presume, they are haunted. Most notably, a train carrying President Theodore Roosevelt made its only stop in Booneville. Here, he got out and made a short speech before continuing his journey for his third term. Settled on the outskirts of Booneville is Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center. This research farm sits on 2,214 acres and is a part of the Agriculture Research Service section of the United States Department of Agriculture. Here, many researchers look to find way to preserve natural resources while enhancing technologies to support small farms.¹¹ Booneville had been booming since the railroad came to town; unfortunately, devastation happened on Easter 2008. The largest employer in the town caught on fire and was a total loss. The meat packaging plant, owned by Cargill Incorporated, left 800 people without a job. The population of the town fell rapidly as many were uprooted in search of a new job. The fate of town was questioned at this point but Booneville has made a comeback.¹² Along Highway 10 one turn at any point will lead a traveler to a lake or even the well-known Mount Magazine, which is the highest point in Arkansas, at 2,753 feet above sea level. The winding curves between Magazine and Waveland offer a wonderful view of Mount Magazine. A traveler can even see the newly built lodges from the road.

Continuing along Highway 10, Yell County and the towns of Waveland, Havana, Belleville, Danville, and Ola are next. Out the car window along this stretch of Highway 10 are chicken houses and open land. Entering



VIEW FROM MOUNT MAGAZINE *overlooking Blue Mountain Lake supplied by April Davis*



PERSONAL PHOTO OF AUTHOR *inside a cave at Petit Jean State Park near Morrilton, Arkansas*

Waveland, a right turn will take you to Blue Mountain Lake dam, completed in 1947, by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. This lake is among others are supplied by the Petit Jean River.¹³ Belleville was once the largest city in Yell County, but be careful not to blink, because today, the town has only 424 citizens (2018).¹⁴ Before Belleville came into existence, the Monrovia settlement was used as a temporary prison by federal troops in the Civil War. Later in 1872, William Ferguson settled Belleville and opened a sawmill and store.¹⁵ Railroads were built through Yell County but missed Belleville by about a mile. Famous outlaw Belle



GORGEOUS VIEW FROM ARKANSAS HIGHWAY 10 *looking upon mountains west of Adona, Arkansas.*

(Photo supplied by Perry County Sheriff Scott Montgomery)

Starr is said to have frequented this area. This small town is full of history.

Belleville and Havana schools were consolidated in 1985 into Western Yell County School district. Johnny Sain brought recognition to this part of Highway 10 as a Major League Baseball pitcher and being a part of the famous baseball rhyme, “Spahn and Sain and pray for rain,” oft repeated by Boston Braves fans about their pitching rotation during the 1948 pennant chase, referring to Johnny Sain and Warren Spahn. Sain won twenty-four games that year, propelling the Braves into the National League championship. In the World Series opener, Sain pitched a complete game winning 1-0 over Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians. Later traded to the New York Yankees, he appeared in three other Series. After his playing days, Sain became a respected pitching coach for several clubs. He is buried in the town where he was born, Havana, Arkansas.

Danville is known for its ethnic diversity. Of Danville’s 2,256 citizens, 47 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino, 44.3 percent white alone, and 3.59 percent as Asian alone. Of Danville’s citizens, 481 were born outside of the United States.¹⁶ Danville itself only

employs about 809 workers, and most citizens travel to nearby Dardanelle to work at the Tyson Chicken Plant. Many semi-trucks run through this route also. Along Highway 10 between Waveland and Danville, chicken houses line most of the road, bringing in perhaps substantial earnings to the area. Originally known as Petit Jean, Ola is the third-largest city in Yell County. During the Civil War, Ola had its share of bushwhackers and violence. The railroad that missed Belleville by one mile, ended up going through Ola, which brought economic opportunities to the city. The Ola Electric Power Plant and the Ola Bottle Works are just a few companies that brought profit to the town.¹⁷ Petit Jean Mountain is only a few miles from both Danville and Ola. This mountain would become the first state park and the origins of the Arkansas State Parks organization. Highway 10 allows access to this beauty and brings in many visitors and revenue. From lodging, fishing, and hiking, there is so much to do at Petit Jean State Park.¹⁸

Entering Perry County, named after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, a key figure in the War of 1812, travelers would come across the towns of Adona, Perry,



LAKE MAUMELLE *with a view of Pinnacle Mountain in the background.*

and Perryville.¹⁹ Perry County Sheriff Scott Montgomery says Highway 10 is an important route for the logging and poultry industries. He said, “Highway 10 brings lots of revenue into Perry County. Travelers stop to get gas and snacks on the scenic route to Little Rock. Unfortunately, with more travelers comes more accidents, especially when the logging trucks get in such a big hurry.” Sheriff Montgomery enjoys traveling Highway 10 because of the beautiful scenery that includes grazing cows along the countryside.²⁰ Adona, Arkansas, is jokingly named the “first city in Arkansas,” that is alphabetically, and by zip code (72001).²¹ While the city was once a train stop due to its lumber industry, it never boomed. Today the city has 204 occupants (2018).²² Perry survived quite similarly to Adona, beginning as a railroad stop then supported by the lumber industry. At one point, Perry contained four hotels, several shops, a sawmill, saloons and many other profiting establishments. Now the town has about 269 occupants and has been on a steady decline since the Great Depression, during which many lumber jobs were lost.²³

Perryville is nestled less than an hour away from four major cities in Arkansas: Little Rock, Conway, Russellville, and Hot Springs. Perryville has had at least five courthouses on record, all being destroyed for various reasons. In the 1900s with the railroad station being built in Perry, Perryville lost many occupants such as lawyers and businessmen because they complained about having to travel over Perry Mountain

to obtain business.²⁴ Heifer International, a nonprofit organization that strives to end world hungry and poverty, owns about 1,200 acres just south of Perryville.²⁵ The Heifer Ranch and its proximity to lakes and forests make Perryville a top stay in Arkansas.

Last along the journey of Highway 10 is Pulaski County. Highway 10 ends in the state capital of Arkansas, Little Rock. Little Rock is packed full of historical sites and places to see, bringing in a plethora of revenue to the city and state. If Highway 10 is followed to its completion, it becomes Cantrell Road in Little Rock, which is one of the busiest in the city. Along the route are multiple shopping places, Pinnacle Mountain, Lake Maumelle, and the Old State House Museum.

Pinnacle Mountain State Park is 2,069 acres. While it was always a popular attraction, sightseers increased with the development of the railway in the 1890s. After the approval of the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission, in 1972, a new park was in the making. In the fall of the same year, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development granted \$658,578 to the State Parks Division because they realized it needed to be preserved before urbanization or industrialization took over.²⁶ Lake Maumelle is the water supply for Central Arkansas and Little Rock. The lake can be easily accessed via Highway 10. Lake Maumelle is 8,900 acres with a seventy-mile shoreline. While no swimming is allowed, because of the lake’s

importance, kayaking and fishing are allowed.²⁷ The Old State House Museum was the location of the original state capitol and was developed in 1833.²⁸ Travelers who look out the window to the left can see the Arkansas River.

Near the ending of Highway 10 is the Arkansas River Trail. Here, visitors can take a walk alongside the Arkansas River and study the wildlife that roams. Highway 10 runs almost parallel with the Arkansas River throughout the highway's geography. Development and population have continued to grow around Highway 10. Cantrell Road or Highway 10 was once just a two-lane road used for scenic travels. Now, Cantrell Road contains five-lanes. As the town grows and all the expanding cities along Chenal Parkway become full, Cantrell Road is the new place for businesses to develop.²⁹ As businesses develop, population increases, but so does revenue.

Multiple places along Highway 10 should be avoided during certain times. According to the Arkansas Department of Transportation, there is not but a sliver of the road that either does not have plans for development or is already in the making. One hotspot of discussion is in Greenwood. During the pickup and drop-off times for school, it can be very difficult to get through the town in a timely manner. In the Second Connecting Arkansas Program, there is a \$25 million plan for a Greenwood bypass, which would allow travelers to bypass this school traffic to get to Fort Smith faster.

There is a selected area of Highway 10 near and inside Little Rock that has plans for development through the same program. This would allow for updates such as pavement and bridges. In a presentation, Arkansas Department of Transportation Director Scott E. Bennett quoted Governor Asa Hutchinson, saying, "An efficient transportation system is critical for Arkansas' economy and the quality of life of the state's residents."³⁰

Updating the road will help with both commerce and ease of access. By making the road a smoother ride, more people will travel Highway 10, bringing more business to towns along the route.

Although in some parts of the state Highway 10 is just another road, for cities and people along the route, it is a main source of income. Someday, Highway 10 may be completely lined with houses and developments, but for now it is a road that connects the rural farming cities

to the state capital. The highway is a beautiful road that has aided in growing populations and developing industries in towns along its route and has sights to see and places to visit, many of them with historical significance.



Kaitlynn Davis is an expectant mother and education major at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. She enjoys being outdoors and wants never to stop learning.

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William Orlando Darby

The Ranger Who Led the Way

By Coy Wineland

William Orlando Darby lived an eventful, full life for thirty-four years. From humble beginnings, he became famous in the United States Army by helping found the first special forces branch of the United States Army. What qualities and events led him to help create what became known as Darby's Rangers? Darby's childhood, his life before his service in the United States military, and his early career, including his time at West Point, will shed light on his legacy.¹

Childhood

William Orlando Darby was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on February 8, 1911, to Percy and Nell Darby. He had a sister named Doris and another sister, who died during his childhood. His mother worked dutifully as a homemaker for most of her life, hosting tea parties or get-togethers at the family home.² Percy Darby founded a successful print shop business with Eugene R. Bly. Percy's true passion, however, was music; he formed Darby's Concert Band with twenty other skilled musicians. They performed their first open air concert on the evening of June 25, 1914.³ Percy said, "Our plan is to give concerts and thus interest our people in maintaining a band that will be available on all public occasions, and at the same time give Fort Smith a high name as the home of one of the best bands in the West."

For twenty-eight years the band performed for theater groups and musical programs.⁴

Percy's professional music interest grew so much that he sold his share of the print business to his partner, Eugene R. Bly. However, he continued to give saxophone and clarinet lessons in the print shop that he co-founded but no longer owned.⁵

As the son of this musician, William lived what seemed to be a normal childhood. Anecdotes handed down throughout the years paint the young Darby as



THE JANUARY 4, 1943, COVER OF NEWSWEEK magazine features Fort Smith native and founder of Darby's Rangers Gen. William Orlando Darby.

(Courtesy of Emory Dockery, Darby House)

having an adventurer's heart. Known for roaming on private properties around Fort Smith, he found trouble the way kids normally do—by stumbling upon it. One childhood account alludes to the man he would become. Darby led his childhood friends on adventures in such exciting places as through town sewer tunnels. Even when his friends wanted to turn back, Darby pressed on farther than they felt comfortable, showing early signs of the fearlessness that characterized his military career.⁶

William inherited Percy's passion for music and theater. Evidence of this can be found in a picture of the Darby Concert Band on June 1, 1925. For a DeMolay Day celebration, he performed on Garrison Avenue, where a statue of Darby is on display today at Cisterna Park. In the photo, William can be seen holding a clarinet among other band members. He performed in several plays at local theaters before his graduation from Fort Smith Senior High School. During his tenure at

WILLIAM O. DARBY,
*in the front row wearing
 a striped tie, holds a
 clarinet in a photo of
 members of the Darby
 Concert Band, taken on
 Garrison June 1, 1925,
 during a DeMolay Day
 celebration.*

(Photo courtesy of Fort Smith
 Museum of History)



West Point, he took parts in several plays.⁷

In 1929, there were two West Point appointment slots available for the whole state of Arkansas. Darby set his sights on obtaining one of them. His aunt, Pearl Blanche, worked as a secretary for Democrat Otis Wingo, who represented the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas. Wingo was responsible for selecting nominees from Arkansas. Disappointingly, Darby was selected second alternate. This meant the two actual nominees would have to fall short, as well as the first alternate, for Darby to have a chance at his dream. Although it was a long-shot, fate, destiny, or divine intervention seemed to be on his side as all three fell short, in one way or another, allowing the door to creak open just enough for William Darby to make his way through.⁸

West Point

Darby began his military career at the esteemed West Point Academy⁹ in the fall of 1929, graduating June 13, 1933, with a bachelor of science degree.¹⁰ He served as a company cadet leader during his four years there.¹¹ On June 10, 1932, he was promoted from cadet to captain, which put him in charge of multiple cadet companies.¹²

However, Darby did not excel as a student—nor did he show excellence in the realm of physicality or athleticism, although these qualities would be vital in Ranger selections later. Graduating in the exact middle

of his class, there might have been an expectation that Darby's military career would mirror his mediocre performance at West Point.¹³ However, the young man's focus on leadership demonstrated qualities more useful to the Army than grades, athletic feats, or graduating in the middle of his class ever could. Three essays composed by Cadet Darby during his years at West Point remain. Each focused on an important historical person: Moses of the tribes of Israel¹⁴; Solomon, the wisest king of the Israelites¹⁵; and Marcus Brutus, a Roman politician who famously planned and executed the assassination of Julius Caesar.¹⁶ Little research has provided insight into who Darby was, as represented in the three essays that follow, until now.

Darby gave a fair critique of Moses' leadership for the Israelites. He asked himself the question, "Did Moses possess the qualities necessary of a leader?" In his own words, "I was led to believe so for a while but after a careful study of his life, I found that Moses was not, in the true sense of the word." Darby believed that a leader had to possess the skill of speech. He believed that for others to follow him and trust in his ideas, a man "must be able to convey his ideas clearly." He thought a leader should have a people pleasing quality—a magnetic personality. And he wrote, "Moses lacked personality." Darby believed God saw these flaws in Moses and sent his brother, Aaron, to speak with confidence and personality for him.

Above all, Darby's most cherished quality as represented in this paper was confidence in himself and a belief in God. He asked, "How can he expect others to have confidence in him, if he does not have confidence in himself?" Although he was critical of Moses, he felt that with a belief in God, all shortcomings can be overcome when the time calls for it.¹⁷

Darby's insight into King Solomon and his wisdom shed light on the psyche of Darby himself. He respected Solomon's action, when he ascended to the throne after King David's death and removed any threats to his seat on the throne by destroying "all his enemies." He respected Solomon for preparing defenses to protect his people from invasion. And he admired Solomon's artistic and political sense, qualities to which Darby related the artistic influences in his own life—playing in bands with his father and performing in plays. However, he had a critical outlook on some of Solomon's actions. For example, "He (Solomon) very unwisely destroyed the old foundary (sic) lines of the tribes and divided his country into twelve parts." Delving even deeper, Darby criticized the heavy taxes Solomon laid onto his people and scorned him for delving into a "dissolute life" in his old age, soiling the name of Solomon. However, he acknowledged that Solomon was human, and humans are prone to error, but good deeds and accomplishments can outweigh the negative in our lives. This essay gives insight into how the young Darby viewed failure in his own life. Failure can be negative, but only if it holds you back.¹⁸

Darby's third essay investigated the life of Marcus Brutus. He heralded Marcus Brutus as "one of the most outstanding men of Roman history." However, as with Solomon, he acknowledged Marcus had faults. He held Marcus in high regard, though, writing, "Brutus was one of the great orators of his time, and for personality, patriotism, and faith in mankind, he was without equal." These remained important qualities for Darby throughout his life. He praised Marcus Brutus for having one of the things Moses lacked—personality. The Brutus' personality stood out to the conspirators against Julius Caesar, who believed with Marcus Brutus on their side, their plan could not fail. "Friendship meant much to him but country meant far more." This idea would become evident in Darby's own life during his time with the Rangers. He was awed by Marcus Brutus' ability to speak and sway a crowd in his favor, by his ability to appeal to the reason of the multitude. Marcus Brutus'



NATALIE SHAW,

Mrs. William O. Darby

(Courtesy of Emory Dockery, Darby House)

best quality, in Darby's eyes, sat in his almost unending faith in mankind. Even more, the young man admired that even with his "back to the wall," his wife dead, his army defeated, and no hope remaining, Marcus Brutus still clings to his faith in humanity and his common man. Later, Darby displayed these same qualities—both the good and bad—when selecting, training, and leading his men. This paper delves into this in more depth in the proceeding paragraphs, giving insight to the man Darby was in the words of his own men.

Early Military Career and a Wife

After graduation in June 1933, William O. Darby was commissioned into the United States Army as a second lieutenant.¹⁹ He trained in several military camps. His first posting was at Fort Bliss, Texas. He joined the First Battalion, Eighty-Second Field Artillery of the First Cavalry—the one remaining horse-drawn artillery unit in the United States Army.

In Texas, Darby met his future wife, Natalie Shaw, a local celebrity in El Paso. Her family was renown in the area; she had enough clout to make headlines for just being an honoree at a local luncheon or for her visits to Fort Bliss. She was well-known in the community and had much importance for a woman of her time.

With Darby's drive and determination, their eventual intertwining seemed fated from the start. The news of their engagement and eventual marriage hit the pages of El Paso newspapers and captivated the locals, even making front page headlines.²⁰

Darby received orders shortly after their engagement. He spent the summer of 1934 in command of an army camp in Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Natalie Shaw visited him, attending and hosting cocktail parties and functions with the higher-ups at the Cloudcroft base.²¹ Emory Dockery (Darby House in Fort Smith) theorized that Natalie's magnetism at these parties supported the trajectory of Darby's early military career. Of the several higher-ups in attendance, one attendee of great importance was General George Patton. General Patton knew Darby from having family in Darby's hometown of Fort Smith, Arkansas. They remained in contact throughout World War II. If these parties did not have a direct impact on Darby's military career, they kept Darby in the forefront of those with influence when promotional opportunities arose.

William O. Darby and Natalie Shaw married nearly a year later on June 22, 1935, at St. Clementine's Episcopal church in El Paso, Texas. Family from both sides arrived in the days leading up to the wedding.²² The newlyweds departed for Cloudcroft, New Mexico, the Wednesday following their marriage.²³ Not much is known about the feelings of Natalie Shaw's family, but the Darby family openly expressed disapproval of the union. Emory Dockery, who spoke to the family over the years, said Darby's mother refused to call Natalie by her name, always referring to her as "that woman."²⁴

Darby remained a detachment commander in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, until September 1937 when he relocated on assignment to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. While there, he received additional training in artillery.²⁵ There is no record of his military career from June 1938 to September 1940.

Darby then was assigned to the 80th Field Artillery at Fort Lewis, Washington. Although, military records claim his promotion happened September 9, 1940, he was actually promoted to captain October 1, 1940. He served with the 80th Field Artillery at Camp Jackson, South Carolina; at Fort Benning, Georgia; at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana; and at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. He received amphibious training during 1940 as well.

Soon afterward, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

Captain Darby found himself assigned as aide-de-camp to Major General Russel P. Hartle. An argument can be made that the connections Darby made during his time in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, amid his wife's parties, led to this promotion and assignment. A safe,

but honored, position on the brink of one of the deadliest wars known to mankind. Fate always seemed to play a role in his life. The two ahead of him failed so he could gain acceptance into West Point. His orders to report to Hawaii were cancelled before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which gave him the opportunity to be Gen. Hartle's aide. "There was a working force in William Darby's life that allowed him to be the right man at the right place at the right time."

Appointment and Training

William Orlando Darby's appointment as aide had interesting twists and turns. A key figure responsible for what happened next was Col. Lucian King Truscott. He had been sent to England with other U.S. officers to be part of Lord Louis Mountbatten, chief of Combat Operations and the British Commandos' staff. As a result of this assignment Truscott became very interested in British Commandos. He knew there is no substitute for battle experience, especially when compared to new troops, and he saw the advantage of having British Commandos dispersed throughout American forces during a multi-pronged assault on Germany in Europe. He discussed this idea with Lord Mountbatten on April 15, 1942, and they reached an agreement.

Immediately, Col. Truscott began work on two proposals. The first suggested that several American officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates be selected to train with the British Commandos. The goal was to develop a framework for future American special force units. Lord Mountbatten proposed on April 15, 1942, that eight American officers from the United States Navy, Army, and Marines work directly with his headquarters. He provided Col. Truscott with a template of how British Commando units were organized as an example for future American special force units, "General George Marshall selected Truscott to head the American effort." After receiving this commission from Gen. Marshall, Truscott received instructions from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to keep the organization of the units to a minimum and specifically to find a different name than "commando," "for the glamor of that name will always remain—and properly so—British."

Truscott, after arriving in Great Britain, recognized there was an abundance of American troops in Northern Ireland, enough to make the new units 400 to 500 men

strong. He recommended they organize the units as soon as possible. He drafted a letter to Maj. Gen. James E. Chaney, who was the commanding general of American troops on the British Isles. Although Chaney did not fancy Truscott's plans, he drafted a letter to Gen. Hartle, who would provide the men necessary to set in motion the beginning stages of organization.

Hartle decided "a top-notch officer was needed to command the fledgling unit."²⁶ And, he had such a man of character as his aide at the time, Capt. William Orlando Darby. On a Sunday morning in 1942, Hartle, his chief-of-staff Col. Edmond Leavey, and his aide Capt. Darby drove to a church in Belfast. Hartle addressed Leavey and said, "We can't get very far with this new job unless we have somebody good to put in charge of it—any ideas?" Leavey, well aware Capt. Darby hated his role as an aide to Gen. Hartle, responded, "Why don't you give the job to Bill?"

After seeing the pleading expression on Darby's face, Hartle grinned and replied, "Bill, what do you say to that?" Of course, Darby leapt at the opportunity.

Emory Dockery said that after the conversation, Darby turned to the driver, who took them to the church in Belfast and told him "to keep his damn mouth shut, I want that job."²⁷

When he saw what he wanted to accomplish, Darby would stop at nothing to achieve it. As Robert W. Black stated, "William O. Darby set the standard and the example" for the Rangers of World War II. He became known as "El Darbo" to his men. His charismatic personality and flair for leadership set the tone for the Rangers in World War II.

Before selections or training took place, Darby gained promotion to major on June 1, 1942. On June 8, 1942, Gen. Hartle placed him in charge of the new Ranger organization. Another source states their activation took place on June 19, 1942.

Major William O. Darby and his officers went through a meticulous selection process to fill this new organization with fighters, although Darby kept the reasons for his decisions to himself. He selected officers for the new battalion with the aid of Col. Hayford, a staff officer from V Corps Headquarters, which is the fifth grouping of regular corps for the United States Army corps also known as the "Victory Corps." Darby's first selection for officers for the new battalion went to a blonde-haired man, Capt. Herman W.

Dammer. The reasons for his selection remained a secret even to Dammer himself.

After selecting his officers, Major Darby sent them in teams of two to interview men throughout units based in Northern Ireland. James Altieri, author of *The Spearheaders*, shed light on what it was like for privates being recruited. The soldiers filed in to be read a letter from their sergeant outlining the necessary requirements to join the new battalion. The letter stated the qualities the unit sought, "a high type of soldier with excellent character who is not averse to seeing dangerous action. All volunteers must be athletically inclined, have good wind and stamina, be good swimmers and mentally adapted for making quick decisions in the face of unforeseen circumstances,"²⁸ an ironic set of requirements from Major Darby, who finished in the middle of his class in athleticism, stamina, and swimming. In-depth interviews revealing a man's attitude and desires became a major factor in the Rangers selection process. Darby looked for a particular type of man and would not settle for what he considered "second-rate" for this new battalion. The men came from a multitude of backgrounds with differences in socioeconomic standing, ethnicities, and geographic location. They ranged from salesmen, musicians, police officers, boxers, to singers. Each man heralded as multifaceted backgrounds and interests as their founder, Major Darby.

Altieri summed up the thoughts and feelings of the men who volunteered for the interviews, "As he (the sergeant) spoke I felt my heart pounding! This was it." The United States military personnel in Northern Ireland felt a calling for action and a debt of service they needed to pay to their country. We do not know if all these men shared Altieri's, Darby's, and Truscott's admiration of the Commandos; but one can surmise that these men who wanted to join a unit modeled after the Commandos had respect for them. When asked about his call to join, Sergeant Smith from Philadelphia stated how most felt: "But I feel it is my duty to volunteer. I don't wish to appear overly patriotic, but I feel the sooner we meet the enemy the quicker we'll defeat him." A rousing comment that uplifted the spirits of those who were present to hear it. Those who could align to Sgt. Smith's statement personally could align with that of Sgt. Burns. He spoke about how the rest of the men felt about this opportunity, "Sir, I really

couldn't give you any specific reasons except to say, I like a challenge."²⁹ It became clear of the type of individual Darby sought: driven, confident, and with a sense of duty.

More than 1,500 men of the United States Army in Northern Ireland volunteered for this new battalion. By the end of the grueling selection process at Sunnylands Camp in Carrickfurgus, Ireland, Maj. Darby and his officers had narrowed the candidates down to 600 handpicked men. The first group hailed mostly from the 34th Army Division and arrived at Fort William in Northern Ireland. Over eighty percent of the selected men hailed from the 34th Division. The only question that remained, with the leader, officers, and men in place, was what to call this specialized unit.

There is much debate on how the name "Rangers" became the final choice. In United States history, the Rangers predate even the Revolutionary War. Rangers fought in each of King Philip's Wars, and Rogers' Rangers played a storied role in the French and Indian War. Ranger units fought during the Revolutionary War. A historically famous group was led by Francis "The Swamp Fox" Marion. Rangers had notable involvement in the War of 1812 and The Civil War.

Lord Mountbatten said he suggested the name, some have theorized it was an ode to American Military History—but most credit Col. Truscott with selecting the name. "It was therefore fitting that the organization that was destined to be the first of the American Ground Forces to battle the Germans on the European continent should be called the Rangers in compliment to those in American history who exemplified the high standards of courage, initiative, determination and ruggedness, fighting ability and achievement."³⁰ Many have claimed to suggest the name in passing, or directly, to Col. Truscott, so there is not much merit to the gossip. But there is definitive proof Truscott had the last say on name finally selected, "Rangers."

After the rigorous selection process, the 600 hand-picked Rangers began rigorous training at Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, on May 27, 1942. Thoughts of quitting frequently ran through the minds of the men who had volunteered for this new, elite unit. "Each day I thought would surely be the last for me—I felt I couldn't take it."³¹ The grueling nature of the gauntlet existed to find the best men available. "I would look at the faces of the men around me who were suffering as much as I was,

and I would admire them and feel proud to be one of them." Maj. Darby developed camaraderie with his men. By the end of the third week, the Rangers had six companies with two platoons each.

"June the nineteenth was a big day for our outfit." On June 19, 1942, the 1st Ranger Battalion was officially activated. They would become known as "Darby's Rangers." Major Darby had the respect of his men from the start. They appreciated that he had left his "excellent position" as a general's aide to lead the "roughest, toughest collection of individualists in the entire army."³² Most of the men had a hard time visualizing him as a pencil pusher. This assignment required "the qualities of a rugged, brilliant and determined leader, a man who would have to set the pace for those he would lead, a pace that would often tax the farthest limits that mind, flesh and blood could endure."

In the eyes of his men, Major Darby exemplified what they wanted in a leader. "He was outstanding in appearance, possessed of a most attractive personality, and he was keen, intelligent, and filled with enthusiasm." He had a magnetic quality that drew people to him and "thus the Darby story was basically the story of every Ranger." The major had a keen knack for making quick decisions. He could size up a situation and come to a conclusion quickly. "He was direct, forceful and sometimes explosive." Most of his men remembered when and where they had been cut down by Darby's words. Respect and discipline go hand in hand with the military lifestyle. "Our officers had the respect and confidence of their men...Major Darby set the pace for his officers."

If Darby did not have the unyielding faith of his men at the beginning, he had it by the end of their training with the British Commandos in Achnacarry, Scotland.³³

"It was raining lightly when our trip train pulled into the railroad station at Fort William, Scotland."³⁴ The 1st Ranger Battalion arrived July 2, 1942. Commando instructors took charge of each company. They taught the men assaulting positions while under fire, cliff climbing, swimming with full equipment, speed marches, beach landings, fieldcraft, and unarmed combat. Along with exercises using weapons and bayonets; scouting and patrolling; map reading; and first aid; the trainees practiced night raids. As one instructor said, "I will make men out of you—or kill you in the attempt." Safety played a secondary role.

Darby constantly reminded his men of the “glorious adventure” they had begun. Ranger officers had the same training requirements as enlisted men, including Major Darby himself. He and Capt. Dammer alternated training with different companies. This allowed Darby to build rapport with each man in each company. This action instilled a lead-by-example theme that started at the top. During training, companies competed. This practice yielded fantastic results. Some Commando records were broken by these new Ranger groups. “The First Ranger Battalion was striving hard to outdo all previous Commando records. Each company in turn was trying to exceed the other within the battalion, and each platoon within the company was seeking top honors.”

After the initial month, Commandos normally paired off and relocated for further training.³⁵ After the Achnacarry training, most of the First Ranger Battalion relocated to the western coast of Scotland. Companies paired off to practice amphibious landing. “It was this training that many would credit with saving their lives.”³⁶ With training and preparation completed, Darby and his men awaited deployment. The time had come to see if Darby stood up to truly being the man for the job.

The 1st Ranger Battalion’s first taste of action came on August 19, 1942, on the shores of Dieppe, France. Fifty of the 500 newly minted Rangers accompanied British Commandos and Canadian Infantry to observe mission methods for future operational purposes. Six thousand officers and men participated. Unfortunately, poor planning resulted in the death of one Ranger and the capture of two others—both firsts for America in World War II.³⁷ Maj. Darby realized his men needed more training, more planning, more intelligence, and more reconnaissance to be effective in future missions. Even so, the Rangers had forged a bond in blood with the Commandos and received recognition from the U.S. military and the American people. The Rangers, and Major Darby, would be more effective and receive more than enough recognition as World War II wore on.

After extensive training in amphibious assault and attacking beachhead fortifications, the Rangers set sail for the coast of North Africa on October 13, 1942. Their next taste of battle, Operation Torch, commenced on November 9, 1942. The Ranger 1st Battalion was part of the 100,000-plus men involved in the operation, which included Maj. Gen. George Patton and the 1st Infantry known as Big Red One.³⁸

NOTE ENDORSING WILLIAM O. DARBY signed by Gen. George Patton.

(Courtesy of Emory Dockery, Darby House)



RANGER CAMPAIGNS

(Author photo at Darby House)

With Maj. Darby leading them, the Rangers played an essential part in the Allied forces seizing French North Africa. Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who stood as Operation Torch’s overall commander, realized Darby’s potential after the performance of his men in Operation Torch. Eisenhower offered Darby an opportunity for promotion to brigadier general, but he respectfully declined. He could not stand the idea of leaving the men he had trained and served.

Instead, Darby used the opportunity to lobby Gen. George Patton for more men. These additional troops



(LEFT) *The Darby House*
(ABOVE) *A plaque at the Darby House*

(Author photos)

would be activated, trained, and deployed in North Africa as the Third and Fourth Ranger Battalions. The First, Third, and Fourth Ranger Battalions became known as the “Ranger Force” and wore scroll shoulder sleeve insignia, which has been adopted by Ranger battalions today. The Ranger Force stayed on the front lines providing irreplaceable contributions to Allied success in North Africa.

Six Ranger battalions participated in World War II in the European and Pacific theaters. Maj. Darby and the Ranger Force had the largest impact in North Africa. The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions participated in D-Day landings at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. It happened, during D-Day, on the beaches that the Rangers earned their motto, “Rangers lead the way!”

The 6th Ranger Battalion operated primarily in the Philippines, where they liberated more than 500 prisoners from an infamous Japanese prison camp during one raid in January 1945.

Maj. Darby received numerous promotions during his active service with Darby’s Rangers. Always protesting to not be ready for it, he turned down many. He could not bear to leave his Rangers.

Lt. Gen. Patton awarded Maj. Darby the Distinguished Service Cross for his and the Rangers’ effort during Operation Husky in Africa. Over the next months, Darby received two Distinguished Service Crosses, a Silver Star, a Purple Heart, a Combat Infantry Badge, and a British Distinguished Service Order.

The Ranger 1st Battalion participated in a two-pronged attack on January 30, 1944. Of the 767 men who participated in the raid, only six returned. The rest were killed or captured. The recently promoted Col. Darby blamed himself for the loss of his men; he remained devastated as the remaining survivors disbanded. By his own count, Darby calculated that only eighty-seven of the original 500 who volunteered and trained at Achnacarry, Scotland, survived World War II.

About two months later, Col. Darby finally accepted promotion and returned stateside to the Operations Division of the War Department Staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

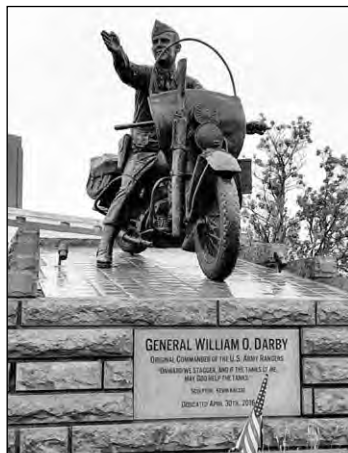
Feeling trapped with office work like before as a general’s aide, he frequently petitioned for overseas duty. His wish would be granted while on an inspection tour with Gen. Hap Arnold. Brig. Gen. Robinson E. Duff, assistant division commander of the Tenth Mounted Division, was wounded by the enemy and Darby was selected to replace him.

On April 30, 1945, Col. Darby was planning for the next day’s assault when a German artillery shell struck the command tent. The German forces in Italy surrendered two days later. Col. William O. Darby received a posthumous promotion to brigadier general on May 15, 1945.

William O. Darby’s magnetic charisma led the people of Cisterna, Italy, to idolize him, the man who liberated their town. Despite Cisterna being the location of a

major Ranger blunder, the town has remained part of his legacy.

Darby's own men and Cisterna's town officials suggested in 1984 that Cisterna and Darby's hometown, Fort Smith, Arkansas, be dubbed as twin, sister cities. Fort Smith repaid the favor on April 30, 2016, by erecting a statue of Brig. Gen. William O.



**WILLIAM O. DARBY
STATUE at Cisterna Park in
downtown Fort Smith.**

Darby on a motorcycle, as he was known to ride in Italy, in the newly named Cisterna Park. Cisterna exhumed Darby's body, on March 11, 1949, for it to be returned to its final resting place at the Fort Smith National Cemetery.

Darby did not wait for opportunities to come his way, but instead, he prepared himself so he would be able to take advantage of them when they arose. He lived an interesting, but typical, life while growing up in his hometown of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He fought his way into West Point through a narrow opportunity and earned his bachelor of science degree. He served his time just before World War II, and had a next step in his career, which possibly was aided by his wife, Natalie Shaw. He undertook the creation and construction of the first special forces unit for the United States Army, leading by example whether it was in training or on the battlefield. His men had an undying respect and trust for their commander, earning it through actions such as is described in one of his Distinguished Service Cross medals, "Always conspicuously at the head of his troops, he personally led assaults against the enemy line in the face of heavy machine gun and artillery fire."

From humble beginnings, Darby made it to West Point, where he developed the leadership skills he demonstrated throughout his military career. His time in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, and the connections made through wife Natalie Shaw's social status set the stage for the impact Darby would make with the United States Army Rangers.

One quote can summarize the intangibles behind the question of why Brig. Gen. Darby was selected: "There

was a force working in William Darby's life that allowed him to be the right man at the right place at the right time. Fortune gave Darby opportunity; from it he would carve his niche in history." And for the U.S. Army Rangers, Cisterna, Italy, and Fort Smith, Arkansas, Brigadier General William O. Darby did just that.



Coy Wineland has two bachelor's degrees in History and Marketing from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. He is a first-time author who has extensively researched the life of William O. Darby. Coy is happily married and resides in Springdale, Arkansas.

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APPENDIX

- A picture of a statue of William Darby located in Cisterna Park in Fort Smith, Arkansas. (Photo: *Times Record*)
- A Young William Darby with a stripped tie and holding a clarinet with his father's band in downtown Fort Smith on June 1, 1925. (Photo: Fort Smith Museum of History)
- A picture of William Orlando Darby's wife, Natalie Shaw. (Photo: Emory Dockery, Fort Smith Darby House)
- Handwritten note from General Patton to William O. Darby. (Photo: Emory Dockery, Darby House)
- All the Ranger campaign, invasion, battle, and raid contributions

during World War II (Photo: Coy Wineland)

William O. Darby on the cover of Newsweek, this photo inspired the statue of Darby in Cisterna Park (Photo: Emory Dockery, Darby House)

The Darby House in Fort Smith, Arkansas. One of the childhood homes of William O. Darby. (Photo: Coy Wineland)

A plaque in front of the Darby House's flagpole commemorating William O. Darby. (Photo: Coy Wineland)

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From Cuba to Fort Chaffee



MARSHALS AND POLICE BARRICADE *Fourth Street at the barracks at Fort Chaffee.*

(Photo courtesy of *Southwest Times Record*)

The Impact of Refugee Laws, Life in Detainment, and the Lingering Perception of “Marielitos” in Arkansas

By Caroline Speir

Prologue

In 1980-1981, the length of time the Cuban “Marielitos” lived as detainees at Fort Chaffee, I was an eleven- to twelve-year-old girl living in Roland, Oklahoma. On a Girl Scout outing a few years prior, I had spent a night or two at Fort Chaffee, part of the requirements of earning a badge, although I no longer remember what exactly that badge was. What I do remember is how I had never experienced a place quite like Fort Chaffee. The enormous wooden buildings with creaky floors, expansive rooms of beds, and bathrooms in odd places—all straight from another era

that I was learning about. I remember going to see a movie at the theater there, and maybe we went bowling. Our troop kept busy all weekend with various activities, but never left the base. The experience was otherworldly for child of eight or nine years, a bit magical, oh-so-close to home but very far away.

To this day, I do not think I ever equated myself as sharing the same space as Cuban Mariels. My memories of the Marielitos are that of a young child just beginning to comprehend the world larger than one’s own backyard. I lived two days in their future detainment area but my days there were a safe, protected,

mysterious and enchanting moment in time, very unlike their experience.

Two people come to mind when I pull up my early understanding of the happenings at Fort Chaffee. Predominately, it is my grandmother. She was abreast of current events, always, weather included. Phone calls became—at least what seemed—a daily occurrence. My mother was the plant nurse at Gerber, so was a working single parent at the time when most of my friends had a parent at home after school. We did not, and I would later learn we were called “latchkey” kids. Probably my grandmother felt the need for the daily updates because she knew we kids home alone until suppertime. The daily calls worked more like a press briefing, full of descriptions, news, and opinions. It was not long before that eleven-year-old girl understood the people at Fort Chaffee were dangerous, scary, and not to be trusted. At what I now know would have been days of “uprisings,” escapes, outbreak, or “The Riot,” my well-meaning grandmother would call us in a panic. Her concern palpable, she labelled the men “those criminals” and expressed to us their escape route from Fort Chaffee. She was convinced they were intent on marching west through Fort Smith, into Oklahoma across Highway 64 West, to our very home in Roland, where most likely, we would be robbed or worse, killed. It is a perception that stayed with me as fact for numerous years.

On a smaller scale, but equally memorable, was a woman who worked with my mother at Gerber. She came to stay with us for a week while my mother was out of town. She moonlighted at Fort Chaffee as a cafeteria worker. Her name was Lil’ Evie. Contrary to her nickname, Lil’ Evie stood six-foot-five-plus and weighed in at 250 pounds (I am guessing; I was a child). She was the strongest, most solid female I had encountered. She loomed large but had a kind heart. I knew by that time that Fort Chaffee was dangerous territory, and I worried that she worked at Chaffee. That concept did not last long. I quickly decided that if anyone was equipped to handle such a hazardous environment, it was Lil’ Evie. Her stature was intimidating, her demeanor, more like a teddy bear. My child mind was convinced all she had to do to deter any conflict was to simply stand her ground and eye a body down. The Cubans did not stand a chance.

Maybe she was with us that week because there were Cubans at Fort Chaffee—our own personal bodyguard.

All I do know is the perception of Cuban people as criminals stuck. It has probably only been the last fifteen years that I have given much thought to the fact that there was more to the story than I knew or remembered. Parts of that story follow.

Cubans at Fort Chaffee

On May 9, 1980, the first planeload of Cuban refugees landed on the tarmac at the Fort Smith Municipal Airport, bound for Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, and further governmental processing. “The Marielitos,” named after their port of departure, the Port of Mariel in Cuba, initially arrived in Florida after an incident on April 1, 1980, at the Peruvian Embassy in Cuba provoked almost 11,000 working-class Cuban citizens to seek refuge from a Communist Cuba government. Fidel Castro, to control the perception of himself and his government, announced all Cubans who wanted to leave the country had permission to do so with the stipulation that a family member provide transport out of the country. Castro depicted those fleeing Cuba as “gusanos” or “worms” and “antisocial elements.” He released prisoners from prisons and the mentally disturbed from insane asylums and lumped the thousands of fleeing refugees into one category as traitors, social parasites, social deviants, criminals, and delinquents. The Marielitos arrived in America less welcomed than earlier waves of Cuban refugees. The refugee classification systems used to process Marielitos, their lingering perception as criminals, and the confusion regarding the final word of authority at Fort Chaffee, shaped their daily lives and experiences during their detainment at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.¹

To understand the plight of the Marielitos, one must understand the conditions and laws that shaped the influx of earlier waves of Cuban Refugees. The Marielitos of 1980 were not the first wave of Cuban refugees to immigrate to America seeking political asylum. They were, however, the first group viewed as so unwanted. Three proceeding waves of Cuban refugees, referred to as, “Golden Exiles,” “Operation Pedro Pan,” and the “Freedom Flotilla,” had entered the United States seeking refuge in 1959-1962, and again from 1965-1974. A United Nations convention in 1951 defined a refugee as a “person who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence: has a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of his or her

race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion; and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or return there, for fear of persecution.”²

“Golden Exiles” were upper-to-middle class light-skinned Cubans who had supported and profited from Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. Under Batista, the elite benefitted from the exploitation and excesses of capitalism with private business deals and political ties to America. Natasha Geiling, in a July 2007 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine*, references the following statistics: “By the late 1950s, U.S. financial interests owned 90% of Cuban mines, 80% of its public utilities, 50% of its railways, 40% of its sugar production and 25% of its bank deposits—some \$1 billion in total.”

Louis Perez in *On Becoming Cuban* states an opposite view on workers’ lives in Cuba: “Daily life had developed into a relentless degradation, with the complicity of political leaders and public officials who operated at the behest of American interests.” In stark contrast to the perception of the abundance attained by the upper-levels of Cuban society, Senator John F. Kennedy, in remarks at a Democratic Dinner in Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 6, 1960, said in “1953 Cuba’s working class under Batista’s rule had an income of \$6 a week, with 15% to 20% of the labor force chronically unemployed, and where only a third of the homes had running water.”³

When Castro assumed power from ousted Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959, ending years of Batista’s heavy-handed elitist rule of Cuba, the “Golden Exiles” were cordially welcomed to America as a community of citizens and families seeking refuge and escaping the coming Communist rule. “Golden Exiles” arrived under humanitarian conditions, perceived as educated professionals with families, with economic diversity at their disposal, and pre-determined ties to the United States. Their arrival in the United States was not considered a permanent move by the “Golden Exiles,” but rather a temporary action before they returned to their home country.⁴

As Fidel Castro’s power structure took hold, Batista’s established rule came tumbling down. Castro seized lucrative private businesses and land, nationalized industry, took control of the media and monies, and eradicated almost all political opposition. Communism infiltrated daily Cuban life, and from 1959 until 1973,



CUBAN REFUGEES ARE SEEN AT FORT CHAFFEE IN EARLY 1980S.

(Photo courtesy of Fort Chaffee Museum)

the Cuban elite continued to leave Cuba for America as their livelihood was destroyed. All told, 200,000 “Golden Exiles” left Cuba for the U.S. by 1962 and continued to exit Cuba until 1973, when Castro halted the exodus to stifle the loss of so many professionals.

A further domino effect of the Communist regime was fear for children’s futures and education. As Castro closed private universities and religious schools, parents, afraid of the Marxist indoctrination of their children in state-run schools and the recruitment of their children into para-military groups, gave up their children to what a podcast from the Library of Congress refers to as the “largest recorded unaccompanied children exodus in the western hemisphere.” From 1961-1962 during “Operation Pedro Pan,” 14,000 children, absent their parents, flew to Miami to be placed with extended family, in foster homes, or in orphanages. Like the “Golden Exiles” before them, they arrived in the U.S. protected under refugee status and assisted by the process of visas, the Cuban Refugee Program, charitable organizations such as the Catholic Welfare Bureau, and the care of the American people.⁵

Laws assisting asylum seekers continued to improve. On October 3, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson spoke at Liberty Island and paraphrased the Immigration Bill, reading, “This bill says simply from this day forth those wishing to immigrate to America shall be admitted on the basis of their skills and their close relationship to those already here.” In 1966, the Cuban Adjustment Act allowed Cuban natives or citizens living in the United States who met certain eligibility requirements to apply to become lawful permanent residents. The 1967 United

Nations protocol removed geographical boundaries and extended time limits of the 1951 convention while continuing the principle of non-refoulment, “which prohibits the returning of a refugee to a territory where his or her life or freedom is threatened.” The resulting “Freedom Flights” in 1965 saw working-class Cubans, across race and class lines, jump at the opportunity to escape Castro’s Communist regime. Erin Langford described in an April 2017 article of the *Journal* titled, “The Marielitos at Fort Chaffee in 1980: Misunderstood and Misrepresented,” that jointly, the U.S. and Cuban governments organized daily flights to Miami. She wrote that from the winter of 1965 through the spring of 1971, nearly a quarter of a million Cuban refugees were delivered safely into America.⁶

The loss of so many citizens affected the Cuban economy. To revitalize economic output, Castro attempted the *zafra de los diez millones* or the “ten-million-ton sugar harvest”—a failed effort to break sugarcane production records in Cuba. The failed attempt resulted in Russia subsidizing Cuba’s economy. Jose Manuel Garcia in *Voices from Mariel: Oral Histories of the 1980 Cuban Boatlift*, wrote, “The Cuban people continued to suffer food shortages through most of the 1970s with substantial rationing of even the most basic everyday necessities such as milk, rice, and beans.” Into the 1970s, Castro’s propaganda machine used the general economic failure in Cuba as an invitation to the “Golden Exiles” as part of a ploy to re-establish better relations with the United States. The exiles had been portrayed to fellow Cubans as traitors, and an invitation for them to return to Cuba was met with discontent by Cubans. Castro knew the “Goldens” had prospered in the U.S.—a fact not publicized by the Cuban government—but a return by Cuban exiles would pump money into the Cuban economy. Castro was prompted, in part, by the release of the film, *55 Hermanos*, in December 1977. This documentary highlighted the return to Cuba of fifty-five children with pro-Castro ideas, but whose families had defected from Cuba and escaped the revolution, resettling in Miami. This film inspired Castro, and in 1979, he allowed more than 100,000 Cubans to return to their homeland and reunite with their families without fear of repercussion.⁷

Carlos Morales, a subject in the DVD, *Voices from Mariel: Oral Histories of the Cuban Boatlift*, told his memories of the returning exiles. “They also brought

with them a lot of gifts. They went from being the so-called traitors to becoming the givers, Cuban Santas of sorts.” Although families were grateful for the opportunity to see one another again, the picture painted by Castro about the exiles was not the reality. It split the Cuban people within Cuba. “How,” asked Luis de la Paz, “was it possible that these so-called exiled Cubans, who until recently had been the enemy and so-called traitors, could now go to the hotels and visit the tourist attractions? These sites were not available to my family, everyday Cubans.” In fact, those who suffered during the revolution began to look for ways out of Cuba at any cost. Rebellion began. Cubans fled Cuba on makeshift rafts, stowed away in wheel wells of airplanes, and entered embassies, sometimes pole-vaulting over fences for entry, all in hopes of crossing ninety miles of turbulent sea. The turning point that led to the eventual departure of the Marielitos took place April 1, 1980.

On April 1, 1980, Hector Sayustiz crashed through the gates of the Peruvian Embassy, intent on seeking political asylum. This act inspired almost 11,000 Cubans to cram themselves within the interior walls of the Peruvian embassy hoping for freedom from Castro’s Communist rule. Cuban propaganda blamed Sayustiz and his compatriots for the death of a Cuban guard at the gate. In reality, the Cuban guards, attempting to stop the gatecrashers, exchanged gunfire, and it was friendly fire that unfortunately took the Cuban guard’s life. Inside the embassy, Castro planted government agents to create chaos and stir up trouble, and shortchanged food boxes. Cuban television and newspapers reported the infighting. Such images allowed Castro to portray these refugees as “escoria” or scum. However, Castro was unprepared for the determination of the Cuban people to change their circumstances. These “children of communism itself,” who Castro imagined to be satisfied citizens, had had enough of Castro and his regime. Sayustiz’s act set in motion a mass exodus of 125,000 Cubans through the Port of Mariel in a massive, chaotic flotilla to an unprepared United States.

Many leaving Cuba were those who had crowded into the Peruvian Embassy seeking asylum. They were classified as “young adults, students, workers, and families, some with very small children and even infants.” Nearly seventy-one percent of these refugees were blue-collar, working-class Cubans, with blacks or mulattos making up another twenty percent of this

population. These statistics are in sharp contrast to the white, educated, upper class “Golden Exiles,” the children of “Operation Pedro Pan,” and even the skilled workers of the “Freedom Flotilla.” These Cubans were a mix of class, race, and varying economic means. When Castro opened prisons and insane asylums, the lot of fleeing Cubans were branded by Castro and, consequently, in the press, as criminals. In her article, *Cuba’s Refugees: Manifold Migrations*, Silvia Pedraza stated:

According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, of the 124,789 Mariel refugees around 19%, or 23,970, admitted they had been in jail in Cuba. Of those who had been in prison, 5,486 were political prisoners, while 70 percent of those who had been in prison had been jailed for minor crimes or for acts, such as vagrancy or participation in the extensive black market that were crimes in Cuba but not in the United States. The Cuban Ley de la Peligrosidad (Law of Dangerous Behavior) made some **forms of dissent “anti-social” behavior, controlled by prison terms**, such as participating in the black market (buying or selling clothes and food); dodging military service or desertion; refusing to work for the state, particularly in the cane fields; and trying to escape Cuba illegally. Of those who had been in jail, the immigration service considered only 7 percent to be serious criminals—less than 2 percent of all the Marielitos.⁸

On April 21, 1980, twenty-one days after the bombshell at the Peruvian Embassy, the first boats from Cuba reached Florida shores. The U.S. Coast Guard, mostly unaware of what was coming, proceeded with the standard system for processing refugees. However, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials, anticipating the possibility of the early volume of Cuban refugees headed toward Florida, picked up the pace of processing. Most had fled Cuba without visas. Fleeing refugees and prisoners arrived together in Florida, packed onto boats with no distinction between the two. In *Florida and the Mariel Boatlift of 1980: The First 20 Days*, the authors described INS officials asking each refugee as they filled out immigration papers, “Have you ever been arrested in Cuba for any crime?” The exchange between the INS officer and the refugee would take about a minute and the answer would determine the refugee’s future in America, regardless if they had been

arrested in Cuba for crimes as petty as reading banned books or writing dissident poetry.⁹

As diligently as the state agencies, charitable organizations, and the people of the state of Florida worked, the sheer volume of Cubans arriving in Miami proved too much for them. By May 4, 1980, more than 1,000 boats and some 13,000 Cuban immigrants were already in the U.S. Such was the influx of arrivals that by May 6, 1980, the Carter Administration declared the Mariel boatlift an emergency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began coordinating the federal effort in response to the crisis. In July, the Cuban-Haitian Task Force was formally established to manage the processing and resettlement of Cuban arrivals.¹⁰

In 1980, Congress passed an amended Refugee Act. Congress’ goal was to create a new definition of refugees based on the former definition created at the UN Convention and Protocol on the Status of Refugees in 1951. The Cuban Refugee Program in 1961 and the Indochinese Migration and Refugee Assistance Act in 1975 were programs designed to assist people fleeing Communist countries, searching for asylum on America’s shores. Congress’ overhaul of the Refugee Act of 1980 changed the criteria for incoming refugees just weeks before the Mariel Cubans began arriving. The result being these new migrants were not automatically considered refugees even though they were escaping a Communist country. Very early arrivals to Florida were processed under the traditional Cuban Refugee Program—around 2,000 refugees were immediately placed with families. However, within a few weeks, that program ceased registering new migrants and FEMA began work to open processing sites and “holding centers” to deal with the influx of Cuban arrivals.¹¹

The earlier Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 allowed Cubans to become permanent residents if they had been present in the United States for at least two years. One of the hiccups of this new refugee law was the stipulation that refugee status was not necessarily permanent and it would not apply to criminals “who acted against the United Nation’s mission of peace.” At the onset of the Mariel boatlift, President Jimmy Carter initially promised the U.S. would “provide an open heart and open arms to refugees seeking freedom from Communist domination and from economic deprivation.” Carter’s later change in tone indicated the



CUBAN REFUGEES known as *Marielitos* are seen at Fort Chaffee circa 1980-81.

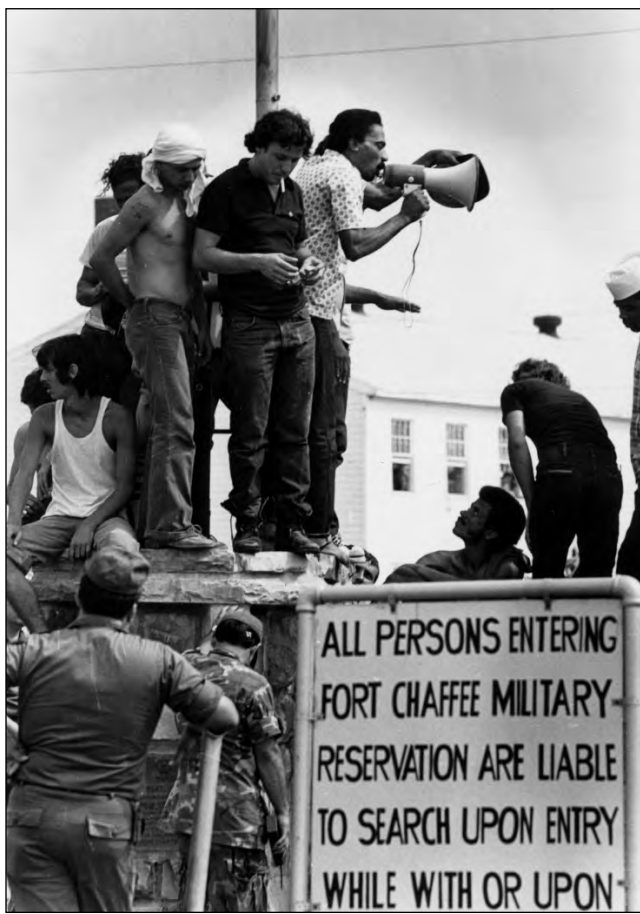
(Photo courtesy of Fort Chaffee Museum)

U.S. would welcome those with close relatives in the U.S., but, “We will not permit our country to be used as a dumping ground for criminals who represent a danger to our society.” Furthermore, the United States government circumnavigated the United Nations protocols and identified the group of Marielitos as immigrants, political prisoners, emigres, parolees, and entrants, denying them full refugee status based on the criminal mix, the only group fleeing a Communist country to be denied full refugee status.

The massive number of Cubans needing processing, changes in laws, and new and different labeling compounded the process of paperwork and processing procedures. In Miami, the Orange Bowl became a principal holding center after processing at Opa Locka Airport. Another site, a former Army missile site on Krome Avenue became a detention center guarded by INS guards. This site was an overflow holding center for Mariel Cubans who had been processed but not yet reunited with family who would act as their sponsor. From this point, if Mariel Cubans waited for more than

seventy-two hours without an available sponsorship opportunity, law enforcement began the process of screenings and interviews in preparation for relocation to one of the four detention centers in the United States, former military bases, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, Fort Elgin in Florida, Fort Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania, and Fort McCoy in Wisconsin.

Built just before World War II, Fort Chaffee was a huge armored training post for the U.S. Army. German prisoners of war and more recently, in 1975, facilities on the post housed Vietnamese refugees. Like the initial images Castro painted of the Marielitos, their arrival at Chaffee came with the perception of criminal connotation. In addition, like the statistics that reflected the reality of the people who comprised the Marielitos, numbers did not match perception. In *The Marielitos at Fort Chaffee in 1980: Misunderstood and Misrepresented*, author Erin Langford documented statistics that support the above statement. Out of 25,000 Cubans who entered Fort Chaffee between May 1980 and February 1981, 392 refugees were classified as “anti



(LEFT AND ABOVE) Images from when Cuban refugees were detained at Fort Chaffee in 1980-1981.

(Photos courtesy of Fort Chaffee Museum)

-social,” 600 identified as mental patients, and around 1,306 with “questionable backgrounds.” This could include sexual orientation or religious practices. That left approximately 22,702 people who were part of family units, or single males whose greatest crime was the lack of sponsorship opportunity leading to resettlement. However, national press reports depicting Marielitos in a poor light along with questions on race, sexual orientation, mental issues, class, and the economic impact of sheltering the Cubans, preceded their arrival at Fort Chaffee.¹²

The arrival of the Marielitos was a surprise to the people of Fort Smith and the military authority at Fort Chaffee. Only a handful of days before their arrival did the city of Fort Smith learn Fort Chaffee would house thousands of Cubans awaiting sponsorships. Within two weeks, 19,000 Cubans would enter Fort Chaffee from Florida for processing and detainment.

On May 9, 1980, the initial group of men numbered 128, the majority of them, single men. They disembarked shouting, “Viva America,” and “Viva Carter” carrying Red Cross-issued plastic bags

containing shaving equipment. One man asked for a trumpet to play the *Star Spangled Banner*, a song he had practiced since he was a child. Judge Jim Spears described a one-man welcoming committee on the tarmac awaiting the arrival of the Marielitos to Fort Smith. “A man wearing a white robe and a pointed hat ran at them screaming, “Don’t let the Cubans in! Stop the Cubans! Carter’s letting in all these Cubans and foreigners!” Mack McCarty, a former Marine claiming to have served as part of the South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command, was relieved of his robes and arrested by an Arkansas state trooper and a local Fort Smith police officer. Alexander Maxwell Stephens in, *I Hope They Don’t Come to Plains: Race and the Detention of the Mariel Cubans*, added to the description of Spears account: “The Klansman, ‘Mac’ McCarty, ran towards the runway and screamed a warning to officials not to let them in because they were ‘hoodlums’ who were going to get on ‘welfare’ and ‘get a free ride for everything.’”¹³

Five days later, on May 14, 1980, Spears described a planned protest and march by the KKK near the main gate at Fort Chaffee. KKK representative Candy Howard remarked, “We’ll conduct ourselves like white people. They are all Communist or pro-Communist. These Cubans, if they were truly anti-Communist, they wouldn’t have asked for clothes and cars and homes and jobs when they got here; they would have asked for guns to fight Castro!”

Other, mixed reviews from the public greeted the

influx of Cubans. Spears' book offers numerous quotes from local citizens and government officials documenting their thoughts on the impact the Cubans presence would surely bring. Spears quotes local papers who reported local opinions on the subject.

Dale Rogers of Fort Smith is quoted as saying, "But there aren't enough jobs." Ray Chessmore of Poteau, Oklahoma, stated, "It's going to be hard on the local labor force I'm afraid...I expect the Cubans to be like many of the Vietnamese who have stayed in the area and are good workers." A farmer, also from Poteau, asserted, "I'm definitely not in favor of them coming. America should send all of them (immigrants) back but the Americans, the Indians, and the Negroes. They'll just get here and the government'll tax us people more to give them houses..." Earl Howard, a local businessman and manager looked forward to the uptick in the economy. Howard declared, "This is just a shot in the arm for Fort Smith. I know it will help my business and put a lot of unemployed people to work." A young woman may have summed up most thoughts, stating, "The government is going to send them here whatever I think."¹⁴

Arkansas' congressional representatives were no less vocal or explicit. Senator David Pryor remarked, "The Vietnamese had financial resources the Cubans don't have, and some are known criminals." Senator Dale Bumpers said he did not want "Fort Chaffee to become another Ellis Island." Arkansas State Representative Carolyn Pollan was quoted in the *Arkansas Gazette* in August 1980, saying, "I am sure there are some good people, but for the most part, they are not the type of people we'd like to have as neighbors."¹⁵

No less impactful or polarizing than the words printed on paper were the protests outside the gates of Fort Chaffee. Vocalizing their opinions were Sheryl Phelps and Bettye Hughes with signs that stated, "Go Home Cubans, We've Got Enough Foreigners Over Here Now" and "God Keep America Free." Sharing his opinion during the demonstrations was nineteen-year-old Terry Hughes, and unemployed young man with strong words, "just about everywhere you go there's a Vietnamese working now." A photograph from the Museum of Chaffee History Collection shows a woman in the middle of a protest holding a sign that reads, "Why Bring them over if they can't Be FREE."¹⁶

Perhaps these signs indicated the opinions were more

than just the issue of criminality but included issues about race, nationality, and communism.

The economy was as big a worry as the overall perception was of the Cubans as "a bunch of criminals." Stephens' *I Hope They Don't Come to Plains* reports of major layoffs at Fort Smith factories during the Cuban crisis and quotes Lenor Grandon, a twenty-six-year-old mother who was out of work. Her response to the Cubans housed at Fort Chaffee was compassionate, however, she did not refrain from picketing outside the gate with a sign that read, "What are they going to do now—relocate us Americans?" The *New York Times* quoted her in May 1980 as saying, "I feel for them. But there's children here who need food, and men and women needing jobs, and Arkansas doesn't have them."¹⁷

As divisive protests waged away outside the gates of Fort Chaffee, inside a military operation was preparing for thousands of incoming detainees.

Welcome to the Resettlement Center at Fort Chaffee. Our objective is to orient and integrate you into the American way of life and help you find a new home. The task will not be easy but with God's help and a little patience on your part you will have a new life full of opportunities.¹⁸

As breezy as the Fort Chaffee objective sounds, the reality was a scramble of preparations. Authorities received notification of Fort Chaffee's role as a detainment center approximately twenty-four to forty-eight hours before the first planeload of "Marielitos" arrived. First Psychological Operations Battalion (PSYOP BN) was dispatched to Fort Chaffee on May 7, 1980, with a mission to "support OPERATION RESETTLEMENT by: informing, orienting, and exercising crowd control over the Cuban refugees." PSYOP BN implied missions were to "support in and out processing through the use of printing, loudspeaker, and language capabilities; train detachment in PSYOP skills, i.e. the art of persuasion and influencing people; improve language skills and area knowledge of Cuba; collect information of a PSYOP nature."¹⁹

Communication was vital, but language barriers were common. The sheer volume of arrivals presented a problem. The refugees were "confused, frightened, and uninformed." The After-Action of the 1st PSYOP BN



ONE OF THE BREAKOUTS that occurred when Cuban refugees were being detained at Fort Chaffee in the early 1980s.
(Photo courtesy of Fort Chaffee Museum)

states, “They had no idea where they had been brought or what to expect.” An impressive accomplishment by the military at Fort Chaffee was the publication, within days, of a Spanish newspaper, *La Vida Nueva*, an FM radio station, KNJB, and an audio-visual section. *La Vida Nueva* addressed important issues like the difference in acceptable sanitation in the U.S. versus Cuba. A leaflet circulated aimed at re-education focused on the proper procedures for disposing toilet paper and personal hygiene products. Cubans did not throw waste paper into the toilet at home as it might cause back-up plumbing issues. Custom in the United States dictates the disposal of toilet tissue as flushable. Whether because of litter, (an example is not explained), or other obvious issues, the leaflet included an illustration of a man and woman disposing of waste paper and waste products through directive drawing, translated in English and Spanish. KNJG emitted a low-power frequency that serviced the Fort Chaffee military compound and called refugees to their screening interviews. The AV section aimed for three distinct missions, loudspeaker operations, movie projections, and recording. These functions became vital to daily operations. 1st PSYOP BN After-Action report states, “Loudspeaker broadcasts compromised 90% of total missions conducted. Vehicular mounted loudspeakers proved especially effective for crowd control and would prove their worth almost daily.”²⁰

Native Spanish speaking volunteers and soldiers were recruited to assist with one-on-one dialogue. Records Specialist Sanchez, with the 545th Personal Service Complement, was assigned interpretative duty translating to Cubans as they departed the buses transporting them. He was a native of Puerto Rico who arrived in America in 1976, speaking no English. Sanchez gave instructions as to how to get an ID or other vital information. As described in Spears’ book, his recollection is one of empathy.

I have a feeling of warmness toward other Latin American countries. I’m here to cheer them up a little. A lot of them are going through a lot of trouble once they get out of here. I tell them, “I know what you’ve been through.” It is like when I came to America. I like to do it. It makes me feel good, doing something to help them out.²¹

No doubt, Specialist Sanchez’s interactions with the Cubans were helpful to them as they maneuvered their new surroundings. Translations by native speakers interceded at important moments.

The military tried to attain a level of normalcy for Cuban detainees. Law enforcement and military troops saw to the safety and implementation of policy. Daily needs were handled by international, national, state, and local relief agencies. The U. S. Catholic Conference, the World Relief Organization, the International Refugee

Committee, the Southern Baptist Convention, World Church Services, local Red Cross offices, and churches involved through the local Catholic Relief Organization were a few of the agencies involved. They brought in volunteer civilians and citizens who organized and taught English classes, and recruited local citizens as paid employees to dispense medical supplies, hygiene products, food, and other necessary items of daily life. Recreational activities included volleyball, soccer, flag football, and, most popular, baseball. Soldiers formed baseball leagues and played games with the Cubans. Boxing was a favored sport among the detainees, popular enough the U.S. government provided a scale to classify competitors by weight and brought in a portable canvas ring for competitions. Films like *The Great Santini* were shown at the base theater. KNJB broadcast salsa music or other favorite genres of Cuban music. Importantly, an ordained priest offered Catholic Mass daily. Days were filled with activities, structure, information, socializing, and distractions, but for some, the days were not filled with leaving Fort Chaffee quickly enough.

“Sometimes their patience runs a little short. They are anxious to be reunited with their families.” As the days wore on, the length of processing time and the uncertainty of sponsorship eroded confidence and affected tempers. To be certain, and despite the fact of the care offered the Marielitos, Fort Chaffee was a military compound wrapped in chain link fence topped with razor wire. It was not a resort and questions regarding the ranking authority at Fort Chaffee only added to the confusion for the military, refugees, and relief workers.

In the spring of 1980, Sue Robinson, working through her local church at the direction of the Catholic Relief Organization, reported to Fort Chaffee as a paid relief worker. In an interview with Robinson, she said her understanding was that the Arkansas State Police were in charge at Fort Chaffee, only to find out upon arrival at the base that the National Guard had been called in. She was sworn in for duty by the military, thinking she was working for her church relief organization only to find she was working for the Red Cross. She was hired to log and dispense the necessary medical supplies, hygiene products, and food, but found that a lack of defined authority led to confusion among the workers, resulting in a less than coordinated effort

to meet refugee needs.²²

Rank and file authority at Fort Chaffee had its own set of problems. Spears’ notes that as of late May, security at the military base “consisted of only four deputy marshals and five officers of the U.S. Park Police who had been sworn in as deputy U.S. marshals.” Military police retained the authority to escort but not arrest civilians. At this point, only the U.S. Marshals Service had the authority to make arrests. Soon, the Arkansas State Police, Sebastian County Sheriff Department, the local Fort Smith Police Department, local SWAT teams, National Guard, and the U. S. Army, would all be part of a larger contingent required to keep peace at Fort Chaffee. However, the number of law enforcement agencies involved muddled the jurisdictional waters.

Escapes, disturbances, and incidents of Cubans wandering off base—even for benign reasons—made the local population nervous. Incoming phone calls reported concern over sightings of refugees walking down the road toward a store for cigarettes, or described, “five Cubans in a hotel,” which turned out to be a family from Florida hoping to pick up a relative in detainment. An escalation in crime did occur. One example, break-ins at two Sebastian County homes resulted in arrests. Citizens were agitated, and curious. A newspaper report by *Southwest Times Record* reporter Mike Crowden describes, “a small group of good-natured sight-seers watched quietly while six escaped refugees carrying wildflowers walked through an open field, laughing while the U. S. Marshals chased the seemingly playful Cubans back into the restricted area of the post.” This light-heartedness is in stark contrast to the numerous media reports and other verbal statements calling Cubans “undesirables” and on occasion, calling for their heads.²³

Clashes happened outside the gates with local residents. Once, as Cubans walked the road, locals blocked their path and appeared on horseback to stand their ground, some armed. Police found a local volunteer, a native Bolivian, Eduardo Gamarra, a recent graduate of the University of Arkansas who had come to Fort Chaffee to work for the Red Cross. Gamarra intervened and explained to the Cubans in Spanish, “to sit down so they could talk” and further warned them that if they did not, the locals might open fire on them. The Cubans heeded his advice and returned to base.



PHOTOS FROM WHEN CUBAN REFUGEES, known as Marielitos, were detained at Fort Chaffee in 1980-81.

(Photos courtesy of Fort Chaffee Museum)

Locals wanted the final word and followed the Cubans back, pushing some of them over the fence back into the designated refugee area.

Concern about the public reaction to the Cubans roaming outside the base and concern about refugees adhering to the general rule of law within their allowed spaces inside the post generated a letter from the Fort Chaffee Commander on May 21, 1980.

...some members of your community have been arrested outside of the limits which were established for you. You MUST stay within the roped off area except when escorted to other processing points. This must be made clear to every Cuban arrival. Because of the misconduct of some of your number in leaving this area, you are losing the good will and welcome of the local population. Those who violate the roped-off limits are subject to prosecution in a court of law and your processing and departure from Fort Chaffee will be delayed. For your safety and so that you



may become citizens of the United States soon, do not leave the roped off area.²⁴

For the Marielitos, it is “The Riot” of June 1, 1980, that represents a culmination of their struggles awaiting processing. For some local residents, it was a reminder that a foreign people and their culture, perceived as wholly dangerous, was in their midst. In the roughly thirty days the refugees had been at Fort Chaffee, their frustration at slow processing, uncertainty, and lack of sponsorships, had created mounting tensions within the population of the Marielitos and they were beginning to

express their frustrations outwardly.

A processing session for refugees waiting with families had been moving slow. The *Southwest Times Record* reported the incident of violence that shut down that processing session and foreshadowed Sunday's riot. "The first hint of violence appeared at Fort Chaffee on Saturday about 10 a.m., when an undetermined number of refugees stormed the Immigration and Naturalization Service building, throwing rocks and glass, injuring federal officers."²⁵

"Battle on Highway 22," "Powderkeg ignored," "Riot victim: It was like a war out there," "Chaffee Burned"—all headlines describing "The Riot" at Fort Chaffee. It was reported the day started as a "quiet sit-in" by a group of Cubans near the front gate, an activity that had become "commonplace during the last week." That sit-in was broken up. Tensions and frustrations came to a head by 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoon June 1, when around 1,000 Cuban refugees marched down the streets of Fort Chaffee, shouting "Libertad" and an all-out melee ensued. The reports of this day talk about the MPs watching the march, having no authority to arrest, and Arkansas state troopers, who were stationed outside the gates, intervening in an attempt to control, using their nightsticks. Cubans threw rocks and tried to leave the base. Warning shots were fired, and police chased the refugees back. From there, Cubans set fire to guard shacks, mess halls, and barracks buildings, damaging or destroying what they could. Debris littered roads, sawhorse barricades were scattered about, and rocks had shattered windows and windshields. It took four hours to put out fires, control the fights, and regain control of the base. All law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Army were involved.²⁶

Fort Smith Fire Department and the Fort Smith Police Department SWAT team were called in help. Law enforcement departments commended the actions of "The Cubans—the good ones," even as they were dealing with the confusion regarding who was calling the shots. Jim Smith of the U.S. Marshal Service is quoted as saying, "A bunch of the good ones tied on white armbands and came to our aid. They helped us kick ass." The FSFD shared the same appreciation for the Cubans. "When I pulled up, they just pulled everything off the truck. The Chaffee fire truck was out there and they were all over it. It was just covered in people. It looked like a carnival ride. The Cubans were trying to put the fires out." Later, these same Cubans

patrolled their own people, keeping order among the barracks after the riot was contained.²⁷

Governor Bill Clinton came under fire for the lack of control at Fort Chaffee. He was under the assumption soldiers had been authorized to use force and detain refugees, if necessary. Brigadier General James "Bulldog" Drummond did not receive those orders.

Governor Clinton is quoted, "Apparently a mob psychology developed, military security at the fort was obviously inadequate." He commended local, county, and state police who assisted at Fort Chaffee that day, saying, "They were the security. That's all there was for the people of this area."

Processing continued through February 1981. The "Marielitos"—or "detainees" as they came to be called at Fort Chaffee—were eventually processed to waiting family members, sponsors, released, or for a few, resettled elsewhere. Many of those held at Fort Chaffee as criminals, and there were some, were relocated to federal prisons. Those men had been separated from the general population at large. Fort Chaffee itself determined varying levels of security detainment, when necessary. "Level two" held "returned refugees" or "fence jumpers," under constant guard of the U. S. Marshals, National Park Guards, and federal police. In the fall of 1980, 162 people were under "Level two" security. Additional security included a holding area and for the most at-risk Marielitos, a solitary confinement cell waited.²⁸

President Carter referred to the Mariel boatlift as a humanitarian crisis. The 1st PSYOP BD After-Action report used the words, "tremendous humanitarian effort." This historical event is a multi-cultural occurrence, multi-faceted and multi-layered. Scholarship contends the criminal factor so often linked to the Marielitos is also one of racial tensions, as many were young, single, darker-skinned, "black or mulatto" men—but that is another scholarly discussion, as are many of the issues and events discussed in this article. Perhaps the population of Fort Smith at large relied on the perceptions of Marielitos portrayed in the media as a means to an end when drawing conclusions about who they were and why they were here. Perhaps the fear, confusion, and lack of familiarity with different cultures spurred both the local population and the Cuban refugees to act in accordance of their own preservation. The first-hand reports and experience of both cultures

**PAINTING BY
MARIELITO ARTIST**
*and former Fort Chaffee
detainee Lazaro Humberto
Pena Iglesias depicting
Cuban dictator Fidel Castro
looming over Cubans trying
to escape.*

(Image courtesy of Fort Chaffee
Museum)



are filtered through extraordinary events.

For many locals, lingering perceptions stayed true, even decades later. Jerry Howell, a recent high school graduate in 1980 shared his memories in a recent interview.

I got my job at Chaffee right before getting out of school for the summer of 1980. I don't remember the date, but it was the day the Cubans tried to storm the main gate. I had heard they were hiring for all kinds of positions. I went to work in a GI mess/hall serving breakfast. One of the guys my age that I worked with had come through the camp a few years earlier, when his family arrived here from Vietnam in 1975. I worked there for most of the summer. We (those of us working there) for the most part, thought it looked like Castro had just opened up prisons and nut houses. This was not helped by the fact that when some of them began to be released, one guy tried to rob First National Bank downtown.²⁹

Forty years later, an excerpt from an interview conducted with Linda Laney Little, a native of Little Rock, is included here. Little was a fresh-out-of-college graduate with a teaching degree specializing in English and Spanish with a focus on literacy when she first learned of the Cubans at Fort Smith. Unlike others, she spent several years of her secondary education and then her undergrad interacting among earlier waves of Cuban refugees, teaching them English while they helped her learn Spanish. Her memory of these Cubans brought up

people who were educated, intelligent, and welcoming. Ms. Little said she had spent time in their homes and them, in hers. Her experience with Cuban people was quite different from her perception of Cuban Marielitos. Asked her thoughts about the Cubans at Fort Chaffee, she remarked, "I don't know if they were, but I remember the newspapers saying they were criminals. I didn't know anyone like that. My experience with Cubans did not sound like what I read about in the papers. All the papers said was that it seemed like everyone that was sent to Chaffee was a criminal."³⁰

On display at the Museum of Chaffee History is a painting by a Lazaro Humberto Pena Iglesias. He was a Marielito, a Cuban detainee, and a man who escaped a Communist country. He created his piece of political artwork, expressing his opinion of the Fidel Castro regime while at Fort Chaffee in 1980. In Cuba, the Communist government had forced Iglesias to create pro-Castro propaganda artwork with which he strongly disagreed. In the United States, Iglesias was finally free to express his artistic talent. The painting depicts Fidel Castro as a vampire-like figure, looming large over Cubans in small boats, fleeing for their lives across ninety miles of sea. Hanging from his hands are the people who did not succeed. Dripping from their bodies is the blood of their people.³¹

President Jimmy Carter's mother, Lillian Carter, made a statement at a high school assembly in Jackson, Mississippi, when asked about the "recent arrivals from Cuba." Perhaps she was thinking of her hometown, or

others, but her honesty and candor was telling. Carter's reply, "I'll tell you the truth, I hope they don't come to Plains."

Epilogue

My personal perceptions of forty years ago are long gone. What I learned as a child no longer holds water in its entirety, and there is more than one lane to this story. The research I have conducted and article I have written are but a very small piece of the Marielitos' time here. For the thousands of Cubans processed through Fort Chaffee, their stories continued on, though no doubt the experience here shaped many of the rest of their coming days and possibly it's a story handed down to the next generation. I wonder what that story is. The stories of this time are alive, locally. And, likely, like those of the Marielitos, depending on one's angle and depth of involvement, the stories vary one from another and personal beliefs and experience dictate the perception of this momentous international, national, state, local event, and moment in time.

The angles of this subject are endless. What about the Cuban women at Chaffee? What was their role? Where and who were they? What about the families? Most of the statistics, stories, and information document the men. Who were the gay men—what was their experience? What about race? Who were the local people who sponsored the Cubans? What about local law enforcement and the military, what are their memories of such a chaotic and immediate concern all these decades later? What about the local populations—what do their memories tell? The documentations, photographs, and newspaper accounts of the event are thought provoking and moving. The memories, stories, and remaining legacy leave room for more recounting.



Caroline Speir is a native of Fort Smith, Arkansas, a lifelong resident of the area, and currently lives in Roland, Oklahoma. A lifetime of crossing the borders of Oklahoma and Arkansas and back again means Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, is as dear to her as Fort Smith is.

However, football loyalties lie with the Razorbacks (Whoo Pig). A graduate of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, Speir holds a BA in History and is the Executive Director of the Fort Smith

Museum of History. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Fort Smith Historical Society. She is proud to be part of a historical community who shares its passion for history with the community at large.

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DARBY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL building at Grand Avenue and Fourteenth Street in Fort Smith.

The Cubs

A Photo Album of Fort Smith Junior High, 1950-54



FORT SMITH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CUB CHEERLEADERS, 1952-53. Seated, L to R: Sponsors Mrs. Mary Ellen Jeffries and Mrs. Faye Ferguson. Standing behind them: Billie Jeanne Hegmann. First row, L to R: Sallie Meek, Connie Jones, Linda Kay Westmoreland, Susie Pryor, Patsy Middleton. Second row, L to R: Ann Ellefson, Verna Lou Lloyd, Patsy Price, Ann Bennett.

These are the years of the Korean War (1950-1953). These are the years just before the Brown v. Topeka Board of Education decision (1954) by the U.S. Supreme Court, Earl Warren Chief Justice, that integrated schools in Arkansas and in other separate school states.

In these years, the city had three junior high schools known as Fort Smith, Howard, and St. Anne's.

Fort Smith Junior High School was renamed in honor of World War II U.S. Army officer William O. Darby, who is credited with founding the U.S. Army Rangers and who attended Fort Smith public schools.

The renaming came as Ramsey Junior High opened in 1955, bringing into being the Ramsey Rams and the Darby Rangers.

Fort Smith Junior High located at North Fourteenth Street and Grand Avenue had typical academic offerings with algebra available in the ninth grade. English teachers taught grammar, composition,



CUB FOOTBALL TEAM 1952 with coaches Clyde Horton and Bobbie Lane. Many of these young guys went to college, ten on football scholarships, with three lettering at the University of Arkansas, one at Baylor, four at Arkansas Tech, one at the University of the Ozarks, and one at University of the South. Player numbers are on the program below.

spelling, and literature. Ruth Armstrong had ninth-grade science. She, an early environmentalist, created nature lovers out of students in her classes and was the force behind the city's designation as a Bird Sanctuary.

FSJHS's building had monumental architecture, a large auditorium, an indoor swimming pool, and a perennial P.E. teacher by the name of Buck Wells, who established a "Stay at Home" summer camp at the school.

There was a school newspaper, and the junior high school sported football, basketball, and track teams for the boys. Girl sports were in the future. The teams' mascot name was the Cubs.

Elections were held for student body officers. There was a homecoming with captain and queen and her court. Football games and track meets were at Grizzly Stadium (now Mayo-Thompson). The school had its own gymnasium for the basketball team.

FSJHS had athletic schedules that included schools in central Arkansas and in eastern Oklahoma, but not the other junior highs in town. FSJHS sent its teams to a state track meet and a state basketball tournament. In the years covered by this photo album, reporting of FSJHS athletic teams were big news in the two local dailies, the morning *Southwest American* and the afternoon *Fort Smith Times Record*, both owned by Don Reynolds.

Team photographs, captions, and clippings give a

CUBS

VS.

LITTLE ROCK WEST SIDE

BEARCATS

OCTOBER 23 7.45 PM

CUBS

COLORS Black and Gold

NO.	NAME
25	Parnley
26	King
27	Bates
28	North
29	Lee
30	Alberty
33	Little
34	Granlich
35	Reed
36	McCormick
37	Hill
39	Burton
41	Ingle
42	Spreng
43	Blevins
45	Walker
46	Freeman
50	Higgins
51	Jeffries
52	Leeks
54	Denton
56	Paddock
58	Harris
59	Rainwater
60	Hatfield
61	Shaver
62	Ewert
63	O'Neel
64	Harwood
65	Hiner
72	Wissner

Coaches: Clyde Horton
Bob Lane

Officials: Kay Eakin, Babe Cialone, D. F. Jones

BEARCATS

COLORS Lt. Gold and Black

NO.	NAME	
37	Westmoreland	LE
35	Pledge	LT
32	Brown	LG
30	Willigan	C
31	Rosen	RG
34	Francisco	RT
33	Day	RE
25	Martin	QB
26	Butler	FB
27	Smith	LHB
28	Herritt	RHB
10	Wosari	
11	Tucker	
12	King	
13	Crist	
14	Marshall	
15	Morgan	
16	Langley	
17	Barnhouse	
18	Smith (Ronnie)	
19	Forbes (Bob)	
20	Fulford	
21	Seth	
22	Harmon	
23	Wilcox	
24	Forbes (Bill)	
25	Martin	
26	Butler	
27	Smith (Charles)	
28	Herritt	
29	Noore	

Coaches: Coy Adams, Robert Palmer

glimpse of school activities of students coming of age in the city only five-to-seven years after the end of World War II.

Photos of the Cubs from this era continue through page 49.



CUB FOOTBALL CAPTAIN GEORGE O'NEEL crowns Homecoming Maid Sallie Meek as the Cub band plays and Johnny King (26) and Larry Reed (53) look on. Friday, October 24, 1952.



1953 ARKANSAS JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS
Front row: Richard Hatfield, Phil Griffin, Jarrell Williams. Second row: Elliot Miner, Lewis McFarland, Jimmy Harwood, Jerry Jefferies, Ben Paddock, Johnny Price, George Rye, Coach Clyde Horton. Third row: Darrell Williams, Bobby Groves, Bobby Pixley, Jimmy Paul Thorworth, Larry Spreng, Roger Lee. Fourth row: Roger "Red" Groves, Tommy Bates, David Plunkett, Jerry Limberg, David Horne, George Gordon, unknown



(LEFT) Cub Track and Field Team, Spring 1953
First row: George O'Neel, Bill Meligonis, Ed Jeter, Jerry Jefferies, Tommy Bates, Ronald Ray
Second row: Harold Owens, Bubby Hickey, Joe Paul Alberty, Tommy Bach, Roger Lee
Third row: Elliot Miner, Roger Groves, David Meek, Benny Blevins, George Gordon
Fourth row: Dick Haynes, Jim Harwood, Don Rainwater, David Plunkett, Johnny Price

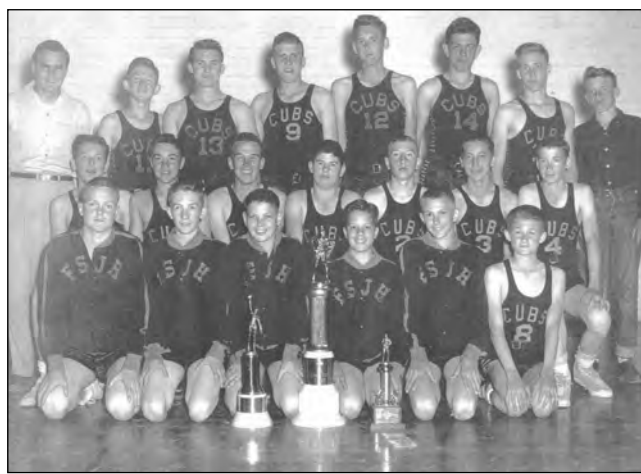
(RIGHT) Cub Track and Field team, Spring 1952

First row: Dorman Lundsford, Bill Needham, Tommy Cutting, Jim Hatfield, Don DeCamp, Foster Gay, Eddie Green
Second row, Leon Goff, _____, Wendell Nance, Roger Knox, Donnie Marts, Bob Moore, _____
Third row, George O'Neel, Gary Wisener, Johnny Little, Bill Barksdale, Eddie Walker, Charles Moss





THE CUB, a junior high school newspaper edited, staffed, reported by students and typeset in the print shop of the school by students under the guidance of Mr. Eliseo Sanchez, the teacher.



1954 FSJH CUBS. *First row: Jim Thorworth, mgr. Paul Jordan, Joe Powers, Jimmy Sengel, Jerry Parker, Art Allen, Dennis Smiley. Second row: David Bates, mgr. Bobby Groves, Jerry Jefferies, Ben Paddock, Jimmy Harwood, Elliot Miner, Jarrell Williams, Tommy Boyer. Third row: Coach Bobby Lane, Roger Lee, Johnny Price, Johnny Clay, David Plunkett, Darrell Williams, George Gordon, Jerry Garrett.*

1951 CUB BASKETBALL TEAM. *First row: Ralph Burton, George Griffith, Billy Don Gramlich, Charlie Hubbard, McKenzie, Billy Bob Ragland. Second row: Neil Collier, Jackie Gunter, Ronnie Bateman, Rocky Welton, _____, Johnny King, Harold Owens. Third row: Coach Bennie Winborn, Johnny Price, Bill Vines, Jimmy Gattis, Earl Furlow, Richard Schombers, Tommy Cutting, Ronnie Brumley.*



Book Reviews

***The Brownsville, Texas, Incident of 1906: The True and Tragic Story of a Black Battalion's Wrongful Disgrace and Ultimate Redemption*, by Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) William Baker. 504 pages. Fort Smith: Red Engine Press, 2020**

“Colonel Baker skillfully interweaves two distinct stories. First he offers an imaginative reconstruction of a shameful and widely reported 1906 incident: the events that led President Theodore Roosevelt to discharge without honor 167 African-American soldiers for allegedly participating in—or refusing to identify the participants in—a shooting rampage in Brownsville, Texas. (Doris Kearns Goodwin’s *The Bully Pulpit* calls Roosevelt’s action ‘a permanent scar on his legacy.’) Second, he gives a first-person account of his own ultimately successful efforts—sixty-six years later—to exonerate those same soldiers. Racism, sectional tensions, political machinations, careerism, and sheer human malevolence all rear their ugly heads in Colonel Baker’s fascinating narrative.”

—Professor Baird Tipson,
Adjunct Professor, Gettysburg

***Cherokee Bill: Black Cowboy—Indian Outlaw*, by Art T. Burton. 188 pages. Eakin Press (Jan. 3, 2020)**

Cherokee Bill: Black Cowboy—Indian Outlaw is a note-worthy book about a colorful but little-known

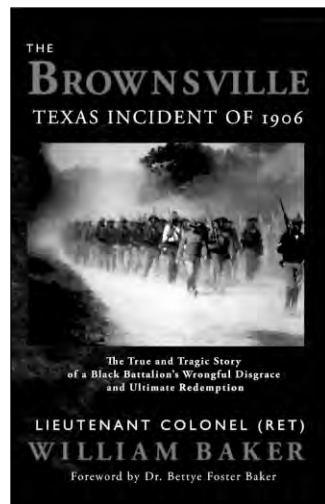


figure in the history of the Old West. Historian Art T. Burton has filled a gap in America’s knowledge of its history by telling this man’s compelling story.

Who was “Cherokee Bill?” He was born in 1876 as Crawford Goldsby, in what was then the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. Cherokee Bill was an African-

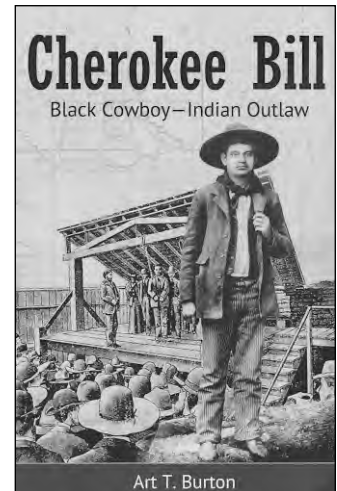
American and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. His father was an escaped slave who joined the Union army and later served in the West as a cavalryman. His mother, a laundress working for the army, was herself of mixed black, white and Native American heritage. Of himself, when asked of his heritage, Cherokee Bill said he was, “one-half white, one half-Indian, and one-half Negro.”

The adult life of Crawford started out innocently enough. He worked for a time as a cowboy. This was to change in 1894 when Bill was beaten severely by a man who was attacking Bill’s younger brother, Clarence. Bill retaliated by ambushing the man the next day and shooting him.

Thinking the man was dead (he was not), Bill fled and hooked up with a gang of outlaws, beginning a spree of train robberies, bank hold ups, and murder that would last until his capture and execution at the federal prison in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1896.

Burton describes Cherokee Bill’s career in a matter of fact, “you are there” style, which relies heavily on contemporary interviews of his family, his outlaw partners, and the lawmen who chased him and brought him to justice. Burton’s treatment of Bill is sympathetic without glorifying him.

Bill comes across as a good kid who made many bad



decisions, for which he paid dearly.

By contemporary accounts, Cherokee Bill's career was a spree that blazed a trail of mayhem across the Indian Territory; other better-known outlaws were "small potatoes" in the view of one Old West historian. As the book takes pains to emphasize, Cherokee Bill was far from a bandit of regional interest. Bill's brief career was national news while he was alive; even the *New York Times* followed his exploits.

So why is Cherokee Bill not well known today? After all, Billy the Kid and other outlaws have been the subject of many books and Hollywood movies. Was it because Cherokee Bill was black? Was it because he died on the gallows and not in a hail of gunfire, like John Dillinger did?

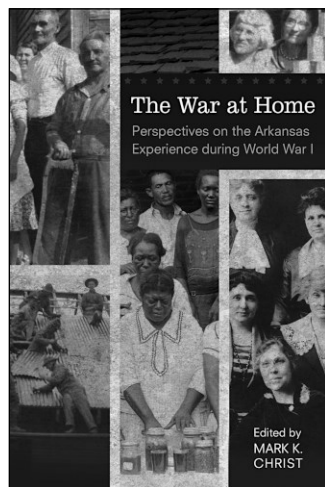
Burton hints at these explanations, but in the end leaves it to the reader to decide. What Burton has done is to write an intriguing biography of an American figure who has been forgotten. This book should be of interest to the Old West historian as well as the casual reader.

— Reviewed by Eric Baker

***The War at Home: Perspectives on the Arkansas Experience during World War I*, edited by Mark K. Christ, 268 pages, notes, bibliography and full index, Published by University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, \$18.71 paperback.**

Nine of the state's leading historians, plus a power-packed forward from the veteran editor/historian Mark K. Christ, blend their combined talents and research skills in the latest collective from the University of Arkansas Press simply called: *The War At Home*, an insightful look at our state during World War I.

The nine-chapter volume, each featuring a particular historian's take on the social, economic, military and even some racial/social conflict areas of our state immediately following



the "War to End All Wars," as World War I was once billed, is a page turner.

Some new writers to Arkansas's history, Carl G. Drexler, Roger Pauley, Raymond D. Screws, and Shawn Fisher, join a veteran ensemble of Jeannie M. Whayne, Thomas A. DeBlack and Elizabeth Griffin Hill with authoritative voices also coming from Brian K. Mitchell, Cherisse Jones-Branch and a forward compiled by Christ, setting this collection as free-flowing and very interconnected.

Readers of the *Journal* will appreciate the references to Fort Smith and the Northwest Arkansas is found in the pages of this book. Especially there are references connections with the Spanish Flu epidemic in late 1918-1919, as wonderfully detailed in a recent *Journal* article by Dr. Taylor Prewitt, that tells of the death toll on area physicians trying to stem the tide of this terrible pandemic of the era.

DeBlack in this book, details the 1981 epidemic and its legacy, very well for readers.

Also bear in mind, Fort Smith business interests were in leading up to 1981, out dueled by the Little Rock area for Camp Pike (later renamed Camp Joseph T. Robinson) for this war, but would be more successful when Camp Chaffee came along a decades later for World War II.

The Women's Suffrage Movement and World War I are aptly dissected by Whayne in the book, aided by at least two Fort Smith women of note: Freda Hogan, a Sebastian County newspaper editor, and Mame Stewart Josenberger, a business leader and national club woman in the National Association of Colored Women, of the day.

Fisher cites Fort Smith in the first chapter, "Arkansas and the Great War," by citing that Black citizens in Arkansas were very generous with their limited dollars to support the war. He noted that "a spirit of self-determination slowly emerged during the war years," and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter in Fort Smith was inaugurated in 1919.

Readers will hopefully sort through Mitchell's grisly take on "Solider and Veterans at the Elaine Race Massacre" in the book.

Another vexing examination is Pauly's approach of "Paris to Pearl in Print: Arkansas's Experience of the March from the Armistice to the Second World War

through the Newspaper Media,” an interesting examination of letters and interviews in area newspapers.

The book highlights the nearly 72,000 Arkansans who were involved in the conflict and yet casts a bigger net to see how those left back at home adapted to the changes during and after the war. This is a significant look back by nine very good historians.

—Reviewed by Maylon T. Rice

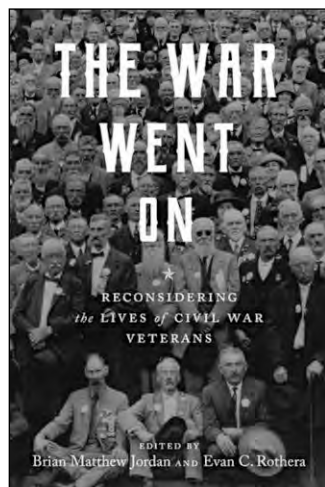
***The War Went On: Reconsidering the Lives of Civil War Veterans.* Edited by Brian Matthew Jordan and Evan C. Rothera, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2020. Pp. 337 including notes, bibliography, index, \$55 hardcover).**

Editors Brian Matthew Jordan and Evan C. Rothera organized and edited this worthy anthology with articles by fifteen exceptional scholars including themselves. LSU Press must be commended for publishing this beautifully bound and essential to Civil War studies book.

The American Civil War (officially known as the War of the Rebellion) resulted in shelves of books devoted to leaders and battles between 1861 and 1865. Yet, two fundamental questions lingered about the Civil War: “When did it end?” and “Who won?”

In this book, an array of scholars through meticulous research in and thought given to primary sources on many Union Army and a few Confederate veterans of the war and their personal battles as they sought to make their way within post-war realities offer the reader answers to both questions.

For some veterans, the thrill of battle and the camaraderie of arms in their military service was too much to give up so they continued their march under different flags. Dr. Rothera of UA-Fort Smith traced honorably discharged Union soldiers on their path to



Mexico where they joined the Benito Juarez government -in-exile to again side with a democratic republic, this one seized by France who then installed Maximillian as puppet Emperor of Mexico. Former Union officers and soldiers who volunteered for this mission considered the usurpation in Mexico as part and parcel of the North versus South struggle in the U.S. Ex-Confederates such as Gen. Jo Shelby must have felt the same association as they filtered across the Rio Grande in uniformed companies to fight for Maximillian’s cause.

Articles in the book address various conditions veterans faced. For example, the authors present accounts of soldiers who had been captured and experienced the nightmares of Civil War prisons and of soldiers who had lost a limb or a jaw and of veterans uneasy with a return to civilian life in home towns moving West and adjusting through building settler communities, even communes. Under consideration here are combatants caught up in the brutal unconventional warfare style prevalent in border states such as Arkansas and Missouri who could not honorably surrender and so continued fighting as outlaws (Frank James).

A few talented veterans turned to playwriting and literary pursuits the better to explain the war. Lots of Union soldiers recognized African-American contributions to the victory and wanted better results for them. The big majority of Union soldiers believed in Abraham Lincoln and so demonstrated that by voting for him in the 1864 presidential election over Democratic candidate former Army of the Potomac Commander George B. McClellan.

That election was not the only political arena known to Union veterans who all over the country organized into GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) halls where they sought to influence local and national politics, contributing to four decades of Republican ascendancy.

Pension claims and the Southern Claims Commission records provide documentation for Adam Dombey’s compelling study of Samuel Yokley, a slave-owner in Davidson County, North Carolina, who thought he and his family entitled to a pension because of wartime loyalty to the Union and resistance, sometimes with arms, to Confederate authority. Indeed, son Andrew Yokley enlisted in federal service and was killed in Arkansas by Confederate guerillas.

Within the book’s articles are clear demonstrations of memory swings among veterans and their

descendants that occurred and the reasons for those swings even before the nineteenth-century was over. Today, for example, “the Yokley family apparently has no memory of how their ancestors fought against the Confederacy.” (p. 299).

The twentieth century with its incessant pro-Southern, anti-Radical, anti-black interpretations of Reconstruction, the peer pressure felt by Union Army veterans to switch their attention to the future, and the desire of powerful businessmen and politicians to foster a “healing” between North and South brought about a national reconciliation commemorated in battlefield reunions in which lines of old Blue and Gray adversaries shook hands and saluted the American flag. The stories presented show that even though some Northern veterans were not easily removed from the rage they felt for the enemy when these battles ensued, their

recollections were awlirl. In the South, by contrast, the war and CSA veterans were made righteous and memory was pointedly stylized: – “Lest we forget.”

Reconstruction and its amendments to the Constitution gave African Americans freedom, citizenship, and the vote—but for the most part left four million people landless, moneyless, and in thrall to large Southern landowners, conditions that if not slavery were close enough for white exploiters.

From these deeply considered subjects in *The War Went On*, an idea threads its way through and seems most appropriate to twenty-first century conversations about racial issues. That is, the ways in which soldiers who fought the war struggled with closing it for themselves and how the victory was to be remembered—or not.

—Reviewed by Billy D. Higgins

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Who Knew?

By Mary Jeanne Black

Who Knew? That a gentleman from Sallisaw, Oklahoma, **Henry Hightower Martin** received a humanitarian award in the form of the **1974 Will Rogers Award**, "In sincere appreciation of years of devoted service (to the) Will Rogers Memorial Fund." He was presented his award during an August 1975 dinner. The Will Rogers Foundation of Motion Picture Pioneers, now known as the Pioneers Assistance Fund, was set up to establish a self-perpetuating fund to assist pioneers of the motion picture industry who find themselves in need. The assistance to consist if direct financial aid, medical care and temporary business subsistence during period of unemployment to eligible applicants." To show a few other recipients—Cecille B. DeMille, Jack, Harry & Albert Warner, Adolph ZuKor, Bob Hope, Jack Valenti, Kathleen Kennedy, Tom Cruise to name a few. "A



**HENRY
HIGHTOWER
MARTIN**



STATUE OF WILL ROGERS (left) and Henry Hightower Martin's Will Rogers Award (right)



History of Helping Our Own, Wherever They Are. Anywhere." We will also meet a sweet family who moved away but had children who forever remembered living here with fond memories.

Henry Hightower Martin "HI"

Birth 22 March 1912 Mississippi. Death 12 May 1998
Burial Sallisaw City Cemetery, Sallisaw, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA

Spouse—Margaret Lucille Osburn Martin 1911-2003.
Marriage License October 31, 1930

Daughter deceased: Patricia Ann "Pat"

Raised by grandparents, Mother's death-1912

1920 Beggs, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, Dwelling 293

Windham, W.L., head, own, mortgaged home, male, white, 55, married, read, writes, speaks English, born Ala, Parents Alabama, works at gasoline plant, in field.

Windham, Elizabeth wife, F, w, 48, M reads, writes, speaks English, born Miss., parents born Miss., work-none.

Windham, David, son, m, w, 18, s, reads, writes, speaks English, Miss, F-Ala, M- Miss, gasoline plant, truck driver.

Martin, Hightower, grandson, m, w, 8, s, school, reads, writes, English, born Miss parents born Miss.

1930 Living in Okmulgee, OK 18 Grandfather Head of Household, Grandmother there, his mother there, 38 widowed, He was 18, Bookkeeper at a lumber yard.

WW2 Draft Card—Serial Number 3142, Order 549, Henry Hightower Martin, 2609 W 40th RFD 2,

Universal Film Exchange, Back of WW2 Draft Card, Ruddy Complexion, Blue Eyes, Brown Hair

Mary Ann Ward and
John Prosser Haskin, Sr. Family

**1900 Census District 0030, Missouri,
Chariton, Brunswick, District 0030**

Haskins, John A., head, w, m, Apr. 1837, 63,



1918 - This one is with my grandfather outside the entry to his barber shop on Garrison Ave. down below the bank. He's with my Aunt Elizabeth Haskin with the big bow and my Aunt Billie Haskin in the carriage. The boy would be the children's first cousin, James Renfro Carter, a frequent visitor. PH

married 34 yrs., Born and parents born in Kentucky, farmer, reads, writes, speaks English, owns, mortgage, a farm.

Haskins, Josephine, wfe, Jan. 1850 50 M, 34 9 children, 8 living, Born and parents born in Kentucky, reads, writes, speaks, English.

Haskins, James M., son, Mar, 1870 30 S, MO, Ken, Ken, rds., writes, speaks, Eng., farm labor,

Haskins, Clayton, son, Mar, 1877, 23, S, MO, Ken, Ken, rds., writes, speaks, Eng., farm 8

Haskins, John P., son, Jun. 1883, 16, S, MO, Ken, Ken, rds., writes, speaks, Eng., at school, 4

Haskins, Jessie G., son, Jan. 1886, 14, S, MO, Ken, Ken, rds., writes, speaks., Eng. at school, 4

Haskins, Sadie W., daughter, Apr. 1888, 12, S, MO, Ken, Ken rds., writes, speaks, Eng. school, 6

Haskins, William F., Son, Jul. 1891, 8, S, MO, Ken, Ken, rds., writes, speaks., Eng., at school, 6



1918 — My grandparents frequently took their first four children camping. I love how they pitched a tent using their automobile. The birth of the twins ended their camping outings. PH



1918 — My grandparents, John Prosser and Mary Ann (Ward) along with their first four children: Elizabeth, Mary Louise, Billie and Charles (army uniform). James Renfro Carter in the sailor uniform. Outside the Fort Smith train depot. PH

1911 Fort Smith, Arkansas City Directory page 246

Haskin, John P., barber AJ Morgan, b, 801 North C Street.

1925 Fort Smith, Arkansas City Directory page 246

Haskin, John P (Mary), salesman residence 614 So 16th

World War 1 Draft Registration Card Serial Number 3308 Order Number A1062

John Prosser Haskin, 1630 So "P" Fort Smith,

Sebastian, Arkansas age 35, June 25, 1883, White, native Born, Occupation Barber, Employer's name- Prop., Business: 613 ½ Garrison Avenue.,

Nearest Relative, Mary Ann Haskin, 1630 So "P", Fort Smith, Sebastian, Arkansas. Signed John Prosser Haskin-C3-2-24

Back of Registrar's Report Description of Registrant- Height-Short; Build-Stout; Color of Eyes-Brown; Color of Hair-Black; No distinguished scars or marks. Signature of registrar, H. C. Lane

Local Registration Card.

1920 Census Arkansas, Sebastian, Ward 3, Dist. 0159 -1630 South P Street,

Haskin, John P., Head, owns home Male. Married, white, 36 M, can read & write, Born Missouri, Parents Kentucky, Barber, owns shop, employment.

Haskin, Mary A., Wife F, W, 35, M, Can read & write, Born Missouri, Parents- Father Born Missouri, Mother Born Illinois.

Haskin, Charles, Son, M, W, 9, Sing. School- yes, reads, writes, Arkansas, Parents Missouri

Haskin, Louise, Daughter F, W, 7, S, Sing. School- yes, reads, writes, Arkansas, Parents Missouri

Haskin, Elizabeth, Daughter, F, W, 4, S, Sing. School- yes, reads, writes, Arkansas, Parents Missouri
Haskin, William, Daughter, F, W, 2, S, Arkansas, Parents Missouri. (Willie)

They came to Fort Smith to raise their family. Their family grew and Fort Smith became the talk of the country. Although they eventually moved away, Fort Smith was forever in a little girl's heart. Pat came back much later just to see her town again; Together with a sibling they preserved these photos of their family here. More about this family in a future *FSHS Journal*.

Amazing what you remember and find when you stay in during the Covid-19 virus. Stay safe. You still can stay busy at home. Thank you, PH for staying busy.



Mary Jeanne Black, Journal Inquiry Coordinator writes the regular department, Who Knew? Material in her article are highlights from research requests and emailed exchanges to the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Letters from *Journal* Readers

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

- ❖ Your full name and address
- ❖ Full name of the ancestor about whom you desire information.
- ❖ Definite time period (birth, marriage or death date and 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).

Send to: Managing editors

The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society
PO Box 3676
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3676

1920 Newspapers

By Al Whitson

The latter half of 1920 witnessed a promising return of the Fort Smith “Twins” baseball team along with the rise of its manager and co-owner, Charley “Boss” Schmidt, as the boys racked up victory after victory, while patiently awaiting the completion of their new stadium—which would come to be known as Andrews Field. The promise of making Fort Smith a movie Mecca brought great excitement as citizens raced to be part of the first Fort-Smith-made movie, starring the people and sites of the city. Swimming was on everyone’s mind, and Mayor Arch Monro continued his push to turn the bathing beach on the Arkansas River into a world-class resort, within sight of the new Garrison Avenue Bridge. The Bridge was finally getting back under construction, due to a brand new contract with a Missouri-based company. But the riverfront itself, and all of downtown, were getting some unwanted attention regarding its sanitary needs, its aesthetic appearance and the poverty hidden there. A drought and a prominent fire led city officials to begin a long-overdue push for an upgrade to the city’s water supply and vice was once again under the microscope.

Thursday, July 1, 1920

ORDER IS PLACED FOR ART WINDOWS FOR NEW CHURCH

The committee in charge of selecting the art glass to be used in the construction of the First Methodist church here placed their order Wednesday with one of the largest dealers in the country. According to Rev. J.T. McClure, pastor of the church, the samples of the glass recently received are very fine, and are considered the most beautiful art glasses on the market. Approximately 1,000 square feet of the glass will be necessary, according to Rev. McClure.

Friday, July 2, 1920

MONDAY WILL BE BIG EVENT FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The twins will play two games Monday on the local grounds against the Springfield Merchants, and it promises to be a great day, especially in view of the fact that Monday will be a holiday for everybody to join the celebration of the Fourth of July.

The twins and the merchants will come from Springfield on a special sleeper, arriving here about 9:30 o’clock, and will don uniforms on the train and go from the depot direct to the park, losing no time whatever. The special service from Springfield will cost the club a neat bit of coin, but Managers Blake Harper and Boss Schmidt did not want to take chances on disappointing the crowds, and decided to make the arrangements.

WIDOW OF STARR’S FIRST VICTIM DIES DAY KILLING SHOWN

MUSKOGEE, Okla., July 1—Mrs. Bridget Wilson, widow of Deputy United States Marshall Floyd Wilson, said to be the first man killed by Henry Starr, when he began his career as a bandit, died at the hospital here today. Mrs. Wilson was 58 years old and had been an invalid for four years.

A peculiar coincidence is that on the day of Mrs. Wilson’s death, Henry Starr was in Muskogee showing a moving picture in which he depicted his killing of Floyd Wilson.

Back in 1893, Wilson had arrested young Starr on a charge of horse stealing. He handcuffed and shackled him, placed him in a buckboard and took him to Fort Smith. Starr resented the rough treatment and told Wilson he would kill him at the first opportunity. Starr made bond and was released. A month later, while the officer was hunting another man, Starr met him in the road and shot him from his horse. This was the

beginning of the outlaw career of Henry Starr.

Sunday, July 4, 1920

**AGED NUN, PIONEER IN EDUCATION
WORK IN SOUTH, IS DEAD**

Sister Mary Vincentia, aged 78 years, died at the Convent of Mercy Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, following an illness of several weeks.

Sister Mary Vincentia was born in Kells, Ireland. She was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Finnegan. She was one of the three nuns who came South with Bishop Byrne in 1859 for educational purposes.

Funeral services will be held from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rev. Father Patrick F. Horan celebrating Requiem mass, Catholic cemetery.

**WELFARE CENTER
TO OPEN HERE THURSDAY**

The formal opening of the Fort Smith Welfare center will be held on Thursday from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. with quarters on Third Street and Rogers avenue. The building will be open throughout the day for inspection. A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted, either linens, towels, sheets, pillow cases, table linen, etc., or money.

The Red Cross (the local chapter) at a mass meeting held Friday morning contributed an additional \$250 for the maintenance of the Welfare center. This makes the total amount contributed by this organization \$750.

Wednesday, July 7, 1920

**AIRDOME WILL OPEN THIS WEEK;
DARBY'S ORCHESTRA TO PLAY**

The Airdome, the newest amusement venture in Fort Smith, will open Thursday and Saturday night, the finishing touches now being made on the handsome brick structure erected by Hoyt Kirkpatrick, proprietor of the Princess and the Joie theatres. The building of an airdome, or outdoor theatre, was conceived by Mr. Kirkpatrick early in the year, and he soon had plans laid for its construction.

It is a handsome brick structure on South Ninth

street, just off of Garrison avenue. It is 75x135 feet, having a large lobby in the center of the entrance, with offices on each side. One of these offices will be used as a cold drink stand, the other as an office for the proprietor. The floor slopes downward toward the stage and the seating capacity will be 1,600, this being one of the largest airdomes in the state.

STEEL FABRICATING PLANT OPENED HERE

A Fort Smith concern is now engaged in the work of fabricating steel and has had wonderful success so far. L. Freenberg and company of 810 Wheeler avenue, several months ago embarked in a small way in the fabricating business, and the success achieved and the promise of future business, has encouraged it to such an extent that orders have been placed for new and additional machinery to be put in a large plant in Fort Smith.

Mr. Freenberg, president of the company said Tuesday his company had furnished the steel for the new Airdome theatre and the Kennedy and Johnson buildings and had filled orders for Poteau and Tulsa, Okla. Material for nine bridges has been furnished by the company and Tuesday another bridge was sold said Mr. Freenberg.

Saturday, July 10, 1920

**POLICE IGNORANT OF MUSEUM BURGLARY
BUT RELICS STOLEN**

Although police made an inspection of the old federal jail and commissary Thursday night, after finding a door of the building open, they did not learn until Friday that the place had been burglarized and swords and guns of historic value kept in the museum there as relics, stolen. Cases were broken into, swords, guns of antique design, old dueling pistols and other relics were taken.

Wednesday, July 14, 1920

**BARBER HELD UNDER BOND CHARGED
WITH WRONG USE OF MAIL**

William Barber, of Clarksville, was arraigned before Commissioner Dunblazier Tuesday and pleaded not guilty to sending prohibited letters through the mails to a

Hartman girl. In default of \$1,000 bond, he was remanded to jail for a preliminary trial today at 1:30 o'clock.

The government has information that Barber is a married man and is under charge of becoming unduly interested in the other woman. The letters held by the government and which, it is charged, he mailed to the Hartman woman, fairly reek with moonstruck sentiment; not to speak of certain passages taboo in polite society and barred from the mails. The defendant before the commissioner strenuously denied having written the letters but inasmuch as they show they had been mailed from jail, where he was held, the government claims a secure case. In this charge violation is a felony with possible penitentiary term to follow.

Sunday, July 18, 1920

TINY, BLUE-EYED BOY, LYING IN SQUALOR AMID FLIES, GRIMLY BEARS ANGUISH OF BROKEN LEG

Only three! Such a pathetic blue-eyed chubby baby living there so patiently with a swarm of flies spotting his night-dress and settling on his little bare legs and toes—or rather on one leg, for the other is encased in boards and swathed in bandages, a heavy weight hung from the foot, for Ray Clifton Miller—such is the baby's name—fell Thursday, just a plain ordinary fall on the hard ground, his leg doubling up under him, and because he has not had the right kind of nourishment, the bone snapped above the knee.

That was Tuesday and the visiting nurse who was called has made two or three trips each day to try to keep Ray Clifton comfortable. For, although Ray Clifton is one of six children, his mother, a widow, would not consent to his being taken to a hospital.

And the home! No more squalid surroundings could be imagined. Situated on the city dump, on the Arkansas river at the foot of O street, a miserable two-roomed shack, flat-roofed, an old discarded office to a barn, made of weather-worn sheeting, one window only in the kitchen, minus the glass, and boarded up almost to the top, the door in the other room its only means of receiving air and light, that's the "home." But one opening for air and sunshine but many for the rain, for the downpour of Friday, the roof leaked like a sieve and Ray Clifton's bed was right in the

leakiest spot. His mother pulled him out of the worst of it, but in a room 12x14 feet, with two other beds in it, the floor space is limited.

Mrs. Miller and her six children came to Fort Smith in April, from Oklahoma, and she has worked every day diligently, sorting papers, bottles and iron at the city dump to make a living for her little brood. Her clear brown eyes, which look you squarely in the eye, are evidence enough that she is the victim of circumstances. The two tiny rooms, kept fairly clean, boast little in the way of furnishings. In the kitchen a much worn 4-holed cook stove, set up on a frame work of wood—legs missing—a few well worn cooking utensil, a bare table and a chair or two complete the furnishings. In Ray Clifton's room, which is living room and bedroom combined, for Mrs. Miller and her six children—5 boys and 1 girl who range in age from 16 to 3—there are two beds, with bumpy mattresses, an iron cot on which little Ray Clifton lies as uncomplainingly as if he hadn't been compelled to stay flat on his back ever since the accident, no pillow, nothing to relieve the deadly monotony of the long hours. A bench and a box for a catch-all are the sum-total of the furnishings there.

Since Tuesday, Mrs. Miller has had to devote her time to Ray Clifton—her sunny-haired baby—and with nothing coming in, Want, Grim Want, is stalking closer and closer. But Ray Clifton smiles at the visiting nurse and watches the other children who gather shyly about, and stoically bears the weary hours and the heavy weight on the tiny foot to insure that that leg will not to be shorter than its fellow.

A two-room house in some more desirable neighborhood would be a God-send for Ray Clifton and his mother and his brothers and his sister. A real sure-enough house with



a few windows and a roof that doesn't leak. Windows where the cool breezes may blow, through these beastly hot days and nights, and not just openings through which only the vile odors of the dump and millions of flies seem to penetrate. Windows with screens over them, for as soon as Ray Clifton's mother or his sister stops fanning them off, he is so inviting and such a week little chap they simply cover him. Nearly everyone knows how one, even one, lonely fly, can tickle one's bare foot. Just imagine forty-eleven walking over bare legs and toes at one time!

And all the poor baby can do with his little broken leg is to wiggle the toes. And flies don't care much for a wiggle like that.

THREE BATHING POOLS FURNISH CITY DWELLERS WITH 'SWIMMING HOLE' BUT RIVER BEACH FAVORED AS NEW RESORT

Every town of whatever size in the country has within access some kind of bathing resort. It may be a small stream close by, or, if that is not possible an actual artificial pool is usually provided.

At the present time there are three swimming pools in Fort Smith. In either of these pools, for a few nickels, one is permitted to take a plunge. Regulations require that the water be changed twice weekly, and that sanitary precautions be taken to prevent the waters becoming polluted.

These three pools are patronized fairly well, especially on Sundays, when hundreds of persons are to be seen splashing about. The names of the pools, and their locations follows:

- ❖ Union Sanitary pool, 217 South Tenth street.
- ❖ Hurley's pool, R street, near the pumping station.
- ❖ Whitaker's pool, near the car barns on Van Buren road.

Neither of the pools exceeds dimensions of 40 by 100 feet, and the depth varies from a few feet at the entrance to ten to twelve feet at the outermost point.

Many Fort Smith people motor to Lilly ford and Bush Meir ford, on Frog Bayou, both ideal places for swimming and bathing.

The beach, about three hundred yards out from the foot of Garrison avenue, is the most ideal location for a bathing place for a great number of persons. The only difficulty is in reaching it. At present, there is a board walk across the body of water intervening between the

avenue and the main stream of the river. But this bridge is only temporary, and will permit of the accommodation of a small number of persons at a time.

Mayor Monro's idea of the beach as a bathing resort is to construct spiral steps from the new bridge when it is completed to the bed of the river near the beach. This will afford a perfectly safe and easy means of reaching the beach.

Friday, July 23, 1920

PERCH FANS STILL UNMOLESTED; TREES AND FENCE SUFFER

Though Mayor Arch Monro announced for publication Saturday evening that the climbing of trees in the old city park by fans desiring to witness the baseball games here would no longer be tolerated, yesterday evening, Chief of Police Phillip Ross declared the mayor had given him no instructions as to the enforcement of the ordinance against the destruction of city property, which the mayor said he would apply in such cases.

Chief Ross also denied that any large number of youths have been using the trees as grandstands during the last few days and asserted that the "half a dozen doing so have not been harming the trees."

Representatives of the *Southwest American* yesterday counted more than fifty fans in the trees of the old city park and noted that the foliage has been stripped for a considerable distance above the ground. It is charged also by officials of Stadium Park that these non-paying spectators are sagging the baseball park fence out of line, with a chance that it will go down with them some fine afternoon.

Saturday, July 24, 1920

CITY WILL ISSUE \$200,000 BONDS TO IMPROVE WATERWORKS SYSTEM

Bonds in the sum of approximately \$200,000 will be issued by the city commission early in August for the purpose of virtually doubling the capacity of the municipal water system and providing auxiliary

pumping equipment.

Announcement to this effect was made yesterday shortly after noon by Commissioner Bayley, who is mayor pro tem during the absence of Mayor Monro. He declared the present water condition to be one of the gravest crises in the history of Fort Smith.

Only Herculean efforts prevented a water famine, for luckily the storage supply has been sufficient to tide the city over during the time necessary to repair the break in the main between the pumping plant and the settling or filtering basin. Fire doubtless would have wrought havoc, for water supplying the plugs would have been exhausted in ten minutes flow.

Mr. Bayley epitomized the needs of the water department, to supply which he said the bonds were necessary, as follows:

- ❖ An additional 24-inch main from the pumping plant to the filtering basin.
- ❖ Auxiliary pumps equal in capacity to the present equipment.
- ❖ Additional boilers and other machinery to care for the new pumps.

Not since municipal ownership of the water system about eight years ago have any material additions been made to the equipment.

When the city condemned and purchased the water system from the Massachusetts water company eight years ago, S. J. Rosemond, the superintendent, was preparing to install additional pumps and boilers and lay another main. The ones now in use, with the exception of one pump installed by the city more than seven years ago, have been used about 30 years, said Bayley. The present equipment may be adequate to care for the city's needs for five years, basing this conclusion upon its growth within recent years said Bayley. But, he added, there is no auxiliary equipment to be used in an emergency.

RAPID PROGRESS IS BEING MADE NOW ON NEW CHURCH EDIFICE

Spectacular progress has been made of the new First Methodist church at Fifteenth and B streets during the past week. The front gable has been completed and progress made on the rear gable. The buttresses to the tier of twenty three steps across the entire front of 74 feet have been completed, and much of the wood work inside has been finished. The factory has notified the

church that the mill work costing about \$10,000 is about ready to be shipped. The art glass will be installed by the time the plastering is completed. One car of green tiling has been received, and the work of putting on the roof will be rushed as soon as the masons have finished the brick and terra cotta work this week.

Tuesday, July 27, 1920

DODSON BOUGHT BY ST. LOUIS CARDS TO REPORT NEXT FALL

A deal was completed Monday night whereby Frank Dodson, star twirler of the Twin pitching staff, becomes the property of the St. Louis Cardinals. The Fort Smith baseball club received a cash consideration in addition to two players.

One of the players is Miller, the pitcher who recently came to the Twins from St. Louis. The other player will be a youngster who will report next spring. Dodson will remain with the Twins for the remainder of the Western Association season and will report to the Cardinals at its close.

The sale of Dodson does not come as a surprise as for sometime it has only been a question as to which team would get him. Dodson is the first of the local stars to be sold, but announcement of other deals is expected to follow as the local management has received tempting offers for other players.

Wednesday, July 28, 1920

2 GIRLS TAKEN IN VICE RAID IN VAN BUREN

Two young girls, one 14 and the other 15 years of age, were taken from the Star rooming house, Main street near the interurban terminal in Van Buren when Chief of Police Hugh Miller raided the place Sunday.

C. R. Martin, a 17-year-old-youth of Fort Smith, was charged with pandering and carnal abuse and held by Justice of the Peace J. B. Payne to answer to the grand jury, at a hearing yesterday afternoon.

Pink Thornton, whose home is in Sallisaw part of the time and in Van Buren the rest of the time, and who is

the proprietor of the establishment, was too ill to appear in court. He will be given an examining trial as soon as he is able.

He is charged with conducting a place of immorality contrary to the state laws and Prosecuting Attorney Wofford filed a complaint against him.

Bill Turner, a clerk or janitor in the place, is held as a witness. He is also charged with pandering, but was released on his own recognizance.

Martin had not given bond and was confined in the Van Buren jail last evening, said Judge Payne.

For weeks efforts have been afoot to close the Star rooming house, which has had a bad reputation. Chief Miller's raid Sunday was a surprise and the inmates of the place were said to have been horrified to learn that they would be molested.

Minnie West, 14-year-old Van Buren girl is held under \$500 bond to answer to the grand jury on a charge of enticing.

Agnes Goodman, the 15-year-old girl, was charged in police court with violation of the vice law. No state charge was filed against her.

MUELLER ALSO SOLD TO ST. LOUIS CARDS

Center fielder Mueller, star gardener of the Twins and one of the best outfielders in the Western association, has been sold back to the St. Louis National League club, from which he was purchased by the Twins early in the season.

While no price has been announced, it was understood when Mueller came to the Twins that if he was purchased back by the Cardinals the local club would receive \$1,000 for him. It is supposed this was the consideration.

Mueller ranks third among the Western association batters, although within the last few days, he has been in a batting slump. He is a finished ball player, one of the fleetest men in the league on the base lines, and his "wing" is feared by every Western association player.

The deal for Mueller was closed by Charles Barrett, scout for the Cardinals, at the same time he purchased Pitcher Dodson Monday night as announced in the *Southwest American* yesterday. Incidentally, Dodson leads the Western association pitchers having won 17 and lost four games.

Mueller will report to St. Louis with Dodson at the end of the season here.

ORPHANS WILLIAMS' GUESTS ON TALLYHO RIDE AND AT GAME

The children of the Rosalie Tilles Orphans' home were given a treat Tuesday by John B. Williams. The children were taken for a tallyho ride and then to the ball game. It was a happy bunch of youngsters who rooted earnestly for the Twins to win and there was not a more disappointed fan in the crowd than some of the children when the game was lost.

This was only one of the many afternoons which the children of the Orphans' home have spent as the guests of Mr. Williams.

Thursday, July 29, 1920

BRIDGE BUILDERS IN CITY TO BEGIN WORK; MACHINERY IS ON WAY

Within the next ten days things will be humming on construction of the big concrete bridge across the Arkansas river at the foot of Garrison avenue. M. L. Wagner, superintendent, and C. A. Prokes, engineer of the Missouri Valley Construction company arrived in this city Wednesday from company headquarters at Leavenworth, and after a conference at the Sebastian bridge district offices, began the gathering of

All Stores Close at
3 P. M.
Tomorrow
(Thursday)

In order that the "Boss" and all the
Employees may
ATTEND THE BENEFIT

Baseball Game!
TWINS vs
Poteau-Heavener

It's "ROOFING DAY", and the entire proceeds go
towards putting a roof on the Stadium Grandstand

It's Going to be One Great
Big Happy Crowd
Admission is only
\$1.00
Fort Smith Ad Club

information preparatory to organizing the construction forces, material and equipment.

Superintendent Wagner stated that at the company shops in Leavenworth they began loading the machinery Wednesday and it will arrive in the city as soon as transportation contingencies will permit. Meantime much local material, lumber, etc., will be assembled and that together with the machinery and equipment on the bridge site will be assembled, invoiced and placed in readiness for use.

It is expected the labor forces will be organized by the time the machinery arrives on a scale for advancing all classes of the construction work simultaneously. He also stated that the construction yards, shops, etc., will be located on this side of the river as under the old contract.

Sunday, August 1, 1920

VICE CHARGES AGAINST MEN; GIRL IS HELD

From joy-riding and the jollification that goes with it, to a cell in city jail and its accompanying gloom, was but a step for Della Knight, pretty 15-year-old girl, and Verda Hagan, a woman with a police record so long that she had become almost a habitual of the jail.

They and E. E. McDonald, a traveling salesman, were arrested Saturday by the police after a mad night, during which McDonald and another man, whom the police are seeking, but whom they do not know, allege they were robbed of \$105 Friday night.

McDonald was arrested on a complaint charging him with carnal abuse. The girl and the woman are charged with theft of \$75 from McDonald and \$30 from the other man in the case. McDonald was released on \$1,500 bond, and in default of bail in this sum, the girl and woman were held.

A taxicab driver is said to have "tipped" the police of the robbery of McDonald and the other man. The girl and woman deny their guilt.

Verda Hagan was released from jail on \$500 bond Friday. She had been arrested some time previously on a charge of grand larceny and had been in jail for several months. She also has spent other periods in jail. She has a husband who is said to be in the Oklahoma penitentiary.

Tuesday, August 3, 1920

389 KIDDIES FED AND BATHED AT DAY NURSERY IN 19 DAYS; SNAPS PHOTOS FOR MAGAZINE

Nineteen days open; three hundred and eighty-nine noon-day lunches served, three hundred and eighty-nine baths given, three hundred and eighty-nine afternoon lunches, such is the record of the Day Nursery in the Welfare Center, North Third street and Rogers avenue, since its opening in early July. Whew! Think of those baths in this hot weather!

Monday's attendance was thirty-four, an increase of thirteen over the attendance of the Monday previous and the largest number of "kiddies" who have yet enjoyed the delights of this great philanthropy.

The mid-day luncheon is a momentous occasion. Many of these children have never known the privilege of sitting down to a real table. Their meals at home are more or less hit and miss affairs. At the Day Nursery it is one of the important functions of the day. Grace is said before each meal, when small heads, light and dark alike, are bowed, small hands are folded, and the busy tongues are stilled for the moment. It is no mean task to fill thirty-four hungry little mouths. Yesterday's luncheon required seven quarts of milk, eleven loaves of bread, one peck of potatoes, three dozen eggs, and four cans of prunes. Such bountiful meals are not everyday occurrences in the houses of most of these small fry, and they eat with a keen relish and have an almost limitless capacity.

The mid-afternoon lunch, after the bath, consists of crackers and jelly, and a sweet wafer of some sort. As a very special treat John B. Williams sent two gallons of ice cream down for the children's luncheon Saturday and such a feast they had. Eight quarts meant more



than two heaping dishes for each kiddy.

Mr. Williams, who has done so much to improve the appearance of the yard, has installed a number of swings on the Nursery grounds, which will add immensely to the pleasure of the children, as the sand-piles were formerly their only form of diversion.

Three photographs were taken of the children at the Day Nursery yesterday by the Red Cross; One of the children at play in the sand pile, one in the yard and a third in the big Nursery. These will be sent by the local Red Cross chapter to the *Red Cross* magazine and will carry the news of Fort Smith's philanthropy throughout the country.

Friday, August 6, 1920

WILL MAKE MOVIES OF FORT SMITHIANS; TO PUT STUDIO HERE

Fort Smith may yet be a "movie" center. It is quite in the realms of possibility that a moving picture studio will be established here at once. The climate is ideal, on account of the high percentage of sunshine, averaging 70 per cent, the scenery can scarcely be excelled, for example the view from Van Buren bluff alone, has few equals in the country, there are Indians for western pictures and cowboys and cowgirls obtainable from nearby Oklahoma to give the right atmosphere.

E. N. Tompkins of the Fox News who has had years of experience in the moving picture business, is in Fort Smith and has concluded arrangements with Hoyt Kirkpatrick to put on a local picture within the next three weeks. The proceeds will go toward a local charity.

All persons taking part in the picture, which will be filmed in Fort Smith, will be residents here. On the success of the picture depends the permanent location of a moving picture studio here.

Saturday, August 7, 1920

GLASS FACTORY BURNS AS LIQUID HEAT EXPANDS VAT; TO REBUILD PLANT AT ONCE

Fire which broke out about 7:20 o'clock Friday

morning completely destroyed the new plant of Harding Glass company, 2425 Midland boulevard. Although figures are incomplete, the loss was estimated at \$175,000, and was partly covered by \$110,000 insurance.

The fire was caused by an expansion of the bottom of a large tank containing 700 tons of melted glass. Super heat necessary to melt the large quantity of glass caused the rods supporting the bottom of the tank to expand and finally the entire bottom gave way and the hot glass ran like water over the entire plant and the course of its flow could not be controlled.

Charles H. Harding, president of the company, announced Friday that the rebuilding of the destroyed plant would start as soon as the fire loss could be adjusted by the insurance company. He hopes to have the factory rebuilt and ready for opening by January 15, of next year. Mr. Harding said that although the fire disarranged the company's plans, he was not going to shed tears, but was already laying plans for the future.

The glass was being melted preparatory to the opening of the plant at midnight next Tuesday. While the fire was still burning a crew of men started to work on plant No. 1, making necessary repairs that this factory might open in place of the new plant that was destroyed. An effort will be made to start operations September 1, provided the labor organizations which control the Glass industry will allow.

The plant employed 325 men, most of whom were already on hand for the opening. Preparations are being made to transfer them to glass works in other localities until the Harding plant No. 1 is ready for operations.

George Reynolds, factory manager, said he was under the melting tank at about 7:30 o'clock and that

**The Secret of Jolly
Breakfasts**



If breakfasts at your house are gloomy affairs, —if the family come down sleepy-eyed tired looking and listless, serve "Toasted" not "Roasted" brands of coffee. Any of the following brands are "Toasted" not "Roasted"

**GOLD PLUME
RED FOX
BONNETTE**

PAUL JONES

Try a pound of any of these popular brands. Your grocery has them or can get it for you:

**TOASTED BY
Fort Smith Coffee Co.**

there was not the slightest indication of a leak. He then left the factory and went into the office building to order some supplies by telephone. Not more than five minutes later a man came running to him, exclaiming that the tank was leaking.

Mr. Reynolds stepped into fire station No. 6, adjoining the plant, and gave the alarm. In three minutes a hose was laid and water was being thrown onto the fire. However, the pressure was very weak, and the water had no effect on the hot glass. The flames quickly spread to all parts of the No. 2 plant, and although a general fire alarm was turned in, it was impossible to check the progress of the fire.

Officials of the glass plant said in their opinion, no fire department in the world could have controlled the flames and the heat of 700 tons of molten glass. Many feet of fire hose was destroyed by the glass. The fire did not reach plant No 1, or the office building.

Sunday, August 8, 1920

PLANS COMPLETE TO FILM FORT SMITH; PICTURE TO TRAVEL

Plans are rapidly materializing for the local moving picture which is to be presented at an early date at the Joie and Airdome theatres under the auspices of the Elks for the benefit of the local chapter of the Y.W.C.A.

At a meeting Saturday morning at the Elks club, attended by Mrs. J. Seabholt, representing the Y.W.C.A., Hoyt Kirkpatrick of the Joie theatre, E. N. Tompkins of the Fox News Service, Joe O'Melia and Ralph Montague of the Elks' club, details were gone over.

The picture will be filmed by Mr. Tompkins, who has had years of experience in moving picture work. He operated the camera for the first moving picture which featured Mary Pickford.

The scenario selected will be a comedy. Only local people will take part in the picture, and they will be chosen for their "camera faces"—features which screen well. Some of the scenes will be laid in the Elks' club. A number of Fort Smith's most eligible bachelors will be snapped. The finished picture will be shown at the Airdome for three days, and then will be sent to the education division of the Russel Sage foundation for

distribution over twenty-four states, giving Fort Smith unlimited advertising.

Wednesday, August 11, 1920

WHY NOT CLEAN UP AND MAKE DECENT CITY'S RIVER FRONT?

"The humanitarian and uplift organizations in Fort Smith which drive through the lower station of society to find out how the other half lives and how better their condition and more especially to lift the average of citizenship, should take a turn along the banks of the Poteau and Arkansas rivers in the vicinity of Fort Smith," remarked Revenue Officer Tisdale yesterday. He had been making an exhaustive search for possible illicit whiskey plants as a result of which the capture of the Campbell still was one result.

According to his story and that of the officers with him, he found the Campbell family to consist of the father, mother and eight or more children from five years of age up. The oldest daughter was married and with her husband living in a wagon under a tree near the house. The house was one of those "tin can roofed, dry goods box shacks." The oldest son is said to be employed at a local manufactory and furnishes the sole source of living for the family. The mother said her husband had left them three months ago and contributes nothing to their support. The old man claimed they had "run him off."

The officer said the children gave evidence of being bright mentally but exhibiting certain evidence of short rations and less clothes.

Thursday, August 12, 1920

MANY PEOPLE HAVE SQUINT-EYE; FEMALE MEMBERS OF CAST FOR FORT SMITH PICTURE CHOSEN

At a meeting Wednesday morning in the music room of the Elks' club, members of the cast for the principal female characters were chosen.

The picture itself, which is full of local color, has for its plot the adoption of twins by the Elks, and as the

story unfolds, a series of complications form a rapidly moving comedy that is intensely interesting and will be especially appreciated by the Fort Smith public as the characters are taken by prominent people, accustomed to the social limelight, with the masculine characters taken by men prominent in civic affairs—especially the bachelors whose rendezvous is the Elks' club. Among these will be Rob Dickens, Alen Kennedy, Stuart Miller and Joe O'Melia.

Aline Belt, a favorite with all Fort Smith audiences, who has appeared on many benefit programs, will take the part of the "vamp." Mrs. Walter L. Hinton will appear as a suffragette. Although all the feminine parts have not been selected, others taking part will include Miss Annis Mowen, Mrs. Frank Langford, Mrs. Brian Cutting, Mrs. William K. Ward, Mrs. Carl Wortz Jr., Mrs. Z. A. Woods, Jr., Mrs. Collier Wenderoth, Mrs. W. L. Bocker, Mrs. Clifford German, Mrs. J. B. Parks, Mrs. Walt Klusmeier, Mrs. Roy Ballard, Mrs. Birnie Harper, Mrs. J. Seab Holt, Mrs. Jack Bernard Dodge, Miss Nancy Cravens, Miss Dorothy ?, Miss Margaret Cravens, Miss Mary Singleton, Miss Hazel ?, Miss Katherine Smythe, Miss Bess Packard, Miss Louise Golden, Miss Mary Neal, Miss Mildred Harper, Misses Lily and Mary Parker, Miss Julia Irwin, Miss Ruth Morton, Miss Julian Berson, Miss Mary Youmans, Mrs. Juanita Adams, Misses Helen and Virginia Norris, Miss Ray Williams, Miss Margaret Boles, Miss Florence Marks. The Misses Marguerite Forbes, Estelle Buckingham, Dorothy Williams, Evelyn Weinstein, Marien Black and Imogene Dunbar will appear as a group of aesthetic dancing girls.

A number of the scenes will be shot at the Elks' club, exterior and interiors. Bide-a-Wee camp, the Y.W.C.A rest camp at Mount Vista, will be featured with girls in bathing suits, "hiking" costumes and sport clothes, as well as a group of dancing girls. Views of Garrison avenue in the business section, the glass plants and other points of interest will be shown and an automobile filled with members of the cast makes a trip from the Elks' club to Mount Vista.

Friday, August 13, 1920

WATER IMPROVEMENTS TO COST \$200,492

It will cost Fort Smith \$200,492 to make the necessary repairs and add new parts to the water plant

according the report filed with the clerk by W. Kiersted, chief engineer of the waterworks district.

Kiersted names five remedies in his report which he says are necessary for providing water for the people of Fort Smith. The remedies named by Mr. Kiersted are:

1. To extend filter plant so as to increase the capacity three and a half million gallons daily.
2. Extend the new pumping station 40 feet to the north and install two 300-horsepower tube boilers.
3. Erect a new smoke stack to take care of the new boilers and engines
4. Install new high pressure engine and scrap useless Worthington pump and increase pumping capacity to 8,000,000 gallons a day
5. Make new steam fittings.

Tuesday, August 17, 1920

FILTH CONDITIONS HERE GROWING WORSE

No apparent effort has been made to "clean up Fort Smith," since attention was called July 25, to all but intolerable insanitary conditions within a stone's throw of Garrison.

City officials charged with the protection of the city's health at that time admitted the existence of insanitary conditions and promised to "get busy."

Since then complaints have been as numerous as ever. Boiled down they are as follows:

- ❖ That the principal thoroughfares, notably Garrison and Rogers avenues, are littered with trash from end to end.
- ❖ That the downtown alleys are congested in some places with boxes and crates, constituting a serious fire menace and that they are insanitary.
- ❖ That alleys in the residence and business districts are filled with uncovered trash cans and that the trash cans are filled with decaying and rotting



foodstuffs. It is charged specifically that in some places garbage is removed not oftener than once in eight days.

Flies abound wherever there is decayed garbage, in consequence of these conditions, it is pointed out, the parts of town that all transients and most residents see oftenest, look bad and smell bad. Complaint is made that stores are swept toward Garrison avenue, the sweeping lodging in the gutters—and the gutters give confirmation to this statement. It is also complained that some stores presenting good front to the world let the rear flounder and in the case of those on Garrison avenue, this is made apparent to everyone driving or walking along Rogers avenue.

At least one bit of vacant ground that is overgrown with weeds is conspicuously visible from Garrison avenue. The mosquitoes that breed in such places are not complained of on the avenue; but this is not the case in the residence districts, where many miniature “jungles” are luxuriating for the conveyance of noxious and disease-spreading insects.

Flies breed in trash that is exposed in the alley “cans” all over town. Many of these receptacles are merely boxes into which trash of all sorts, with spoiled foodstuffs, is dumped for the long wait until the garbage wagon gets around.

Rats and mice and roaches are complained of also as a result of exposed trash, and it is suggested that it is the duty of the city to see that trash cans are supplied with covers, particularly as the garbage wagons do not make their calls at frequent intervals.

It is also suggested that it is the duty of the city to clean its streets and alleys and enforce regulations to keep them clean and free from fire hazards.

And that if the owners of property rank with weeds will not cut them down, that the city do so at the property owners expense.

YOUTH DROWNS SWIMMING IN POTEAU RIVER

Claude Brown, popular Fort Smith youth and the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Brown, 405 South Sixteenth street, was drowned in the Poteau river about 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon while swimming. His cousin Lovett Cowort and six other young men were with him. They were swimming at Slate Rock, a popular swimming hole near the city pumping station.

Thursday, August 19, 1920

BAND WILL PLAY AT TWINS-BLUES GAME MANY FANS COMING

Negotiations were completed here Wednesday for a 15-piece band of this city, which will furnish music for the Poteau-Heavener baseball contingent, which plans to come here August 26, over 600 strong for the Twins-Blues benefit game at Athletic Stadium.

Over 400 admission tickets have already been sold, including round trip railway tickets at Poteau, and it is understood that over two hundred tickets have been disposed of in Heavener. The Twin Cities special train over the Kansas City Southern railway will leave Poteau at 1 p.m., arriving at Fort Smith Union station at 2:30 p.m. Immediately on arrival, the visiting fans will be met by the local band and will parade up and down Garrison avenue.

The parade will form at Sixth street and returning will go out Sixth to the Stadium. Mayors of Heavener and Poteau and civic officials will walk just behind the band and the ball club will follow the fans bringing up the rear, carrying appropriate advertising slogans and noise makers.

A special section in the grandstand has been reserved for the Blue supporters and the band. A large banner will be stretched across the front of the stand in this section. Every business firm in Poteau and Heavener has agreed to close at noon to allow every fan in both cities to attend the game.

ELKS ADOPT TWINS WILL BE SHOWN AT AIRDOME AUG. 25-27

The local motion picture, “The Elks Adopt Twins,” which has been filmed under the direction of E. N. Tompkins, sponsored by the Elks for the benefit of the Y.W.C.A, is entirely completed and the films have been developed.

The negatives have shown up even better than Mr. Tompkins anticipated and the picture should prove to be a great success.

Arrangements are being completed to show it at the Airdome, August 25, 26, and 27 in connection with Clara-Kimball Young in an unusually clever-feature picture.

Friday, August 20, 1920

POLICE MYSTIFIED ABOUT JOY RIDERS

The automobile belonging to Prosecuting Attorney Earl L. Hardin, which was stolen some time Wednesday night, was found abandoned in the Belle Point school yard, Thursday morning. The car was badly damaged and from indications, attempts had been made by the joy riders to drive the car into the door of the schoolhouse, for the entrance was also damaged.

The car was taken from Rogers avenue near the Airdome where it was parked. According to evidence, it was used for a wild joy ride. Residents near Belle Point school said they heard screams and laughter late in the night but thought it emanated from Dodson avenue.

Tire tracks showed that a race track was made of the school yard. The car contained over seven gallons of gasoline when recovered, while according to its owner, there was very little gasoline in it Wednesday night. The police have as yet discovered no trace of the occupants of the car.

Saturday, August 21, 1920

'HORROR ALLEY' BRUSHED A BIT; YET INSANITARY

A trip through "horror alley," between Garrison and Rogers avenues from Ninth street to Towson avenue yesterday, revealed some changes over the day before, especially in the neighborhood of the Western Hide and Fur company.

The vacant plot of ground in the rear of the Fort Smith Candy Kitchen, which was covered with weeds as high as a man's head Thursday, had been cleared up and was as clean as a marble yard. The yard in the rear of the pool hall had been swept, but the toilet was still in an insanitary condition and gave off an offensive odor.

The Western Hide and Fur company had put crushed rock in a low seepy place by the side of the loading platform in the rear. Other places also showed the use of a broom and lime had been used in many places. However, the entrance of the alley just off of Ninth street was still in a deplorable condition. Trash and

watermelon rinds were strewn along each side and if the city garbage wagons had visited the place since Thursday there was no evidence of the visit.

Two large containers were found between the rear of the Kennedy building and the Main hotel, filled with trash, papers and garbage, and these were covered with flies instead of a metal or wood cover.

Another eyesore was found in a stairway to a basement on North Fifth street just off of Garrison avenue. The steps are covered with tobacco spit and papers. Garrison was covered with trash yesterday. Other downtown streets show no evidence of having been swept.

Sunday, August 22, 1920

U.S. COMMISSIONER FLAYS SILK SHIRTED POOL HALL LOUNGERS AND TAKES RAP AT LAX POLICE

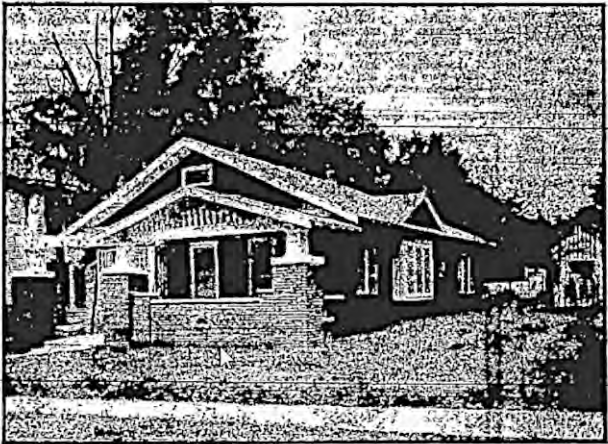
United States Commissioner T. H. Dunblazier is not in favor of the pool halls.

Economy, Low Cost-of Upkeep, Attractiveness and
Substantial Value in This Home Built of
Fort Smith Brick Company's.

HI-QUA BRICK

318 Merchants Nat. Bank Bldg. Phone 853

A READY BUILT HOME



Carefully Built at Less Than Contract Price
212 MAY AVENUE—Lot 68x140 Feet
Finished and Ready For Sale Now
ATTRACTIVE TERMS

Lyman Real Estate Company
15 North 6th St. Phone 56 Fort Smith, Ark

This was made known yesterday when the commissioner announced from the bench that he would be in favor of closing the pool halls. The statement came as a result of the hearing in the Henry Campbell case. Campbell is being held on a charge of running an illicit distillery and his case came up yesterday. He said he had not been working but that he had a position in Muskogee.

"I haven't much patience with these fellows that wear silk shirts and do nothing. If you have a position in Muskogee you should be there at work and if you don't get to work, I will have to let you go to jail." Dunblazier told him.

The police also came in for a scolding by the commissioner.

"There are a lot of fellows hanging around these pool halls that should be in jail. The police are very lax, it seems, in the performance of their duties or they would keep these idle fellows away from these places."

"I think the pool hall is just about as great a breeder of vice, as they are conducted today, as the saloon was. Of course, I know many men go there for a few minutes of recreation and that is alright, but these fellows who are always hanging around there and do nothing should either be placed in jail or run out of town. There is plenty of work and they don't hang around for anything good."

Commissioner Dunblazier decided to give Campbell another chance and continued his case until Saturday under a \$500 bond in order to allow him to get a position and start to work.

"Now you have got to go to work. I can't hardly afford a \$3 shirt and here you are wearing a \$15 silk shirt and you say you don't work. The same thing will apply to another man who comes here in a like manner. A silk shirt won't get them anywhere in this court." He declared.

Friday, August 27, 1920

MORE THAN \$3,500 RAISED FOR STADIUM ROOF IN TWINS-BLUES GAME

Over \$3,500 was added to the fund for roofing the concrete grandstand at the Stadium by means of the

benefit game played yesterday between the Twins and the Poteau-Heavener Blues. This announcement was made last night by John Andrews, who is chairman of the committee that has had charge of the construction of the magnificent athletic stadium.

NEGRO DROWNED AT NEW BRIDGE AS HIS BOAT IS CAPSIZED

Albert Willis, a negro residing on the Oklahoma side of the river, met death by drowning yesterday about 4:30 o'clock. The accident occurred on the other side of the sand bar near the new bridge.

Willis was working in a boat at the time, endeavoring to push away a part of a dredge near the new bridge, when the boat capsized by being tilted by his weight and the force of the current, it was said.

W. K. White, fisherman, the only witness, seems not to have been looking in the direction of Willis at the time and said he observed only the turning of the boat and a man's arm was thrown above the water. He said he did not know the race of the drowned man, but he believed him to be a negro. He believed him to have been working near the dredge, but was uncertain as to his duties there.

A few persons unsuccessfully endeavored to bring up the body by means of pike poles later yesterday, but no organized attempt to rescue the body had been made. Willis is reported to have been a fairly prosperous farmer and an occasional river man, and worker on the bridge.

He is survived by his widow and three children and is understood to have been about thirty years old.

Sunday, August 29, 1920

NEW PLANT OF WATSON AND AVEN HERE IS ONE OF LARGEST AND MOST MODERN

Fort Smith is the home of the largest ice cream factory in the state and one of the largest in the southwest.

The new factory is owned by Watson and Aven and is located on Eighth and "B" streets.

It has just been completed at a cost of more than \$70,000 and is finished with modern equipment throughout.

Friday, September 10, 1920

LICENSE REFUSED GROOM OF 65 AND 15-YEAR OLD GIRL

There will be an old man and woman and a 14 year old girl come to your office in a few minutes. The old man wants to marry the little girl, but she doesn't want to marry him. The old man and woman, who is her grandmother, have framed up on her and are forcing her to marry the old man. It was a woman that called the county clerk's office yesterday morning and that is the story she told to Deputy County Clerk Mrs. Pettigrew.

About fifteen minutes later, the trio appeared and the old man, Ben Wilson, 65 years old farmer and fisherman, asked for a marriage license. And then—well, things happened.

County Clerk Luther Hopkins called the little girl into his private office and questioned her. She told him that she did not want to marry the old man. She said she was 15 years old, but looked to be younger. She has no parents. She was wearing a long skirt that made her appear older at the time than she really was.

Damning and invoking the condemnation of God upon the officials and the little girl, the grandmother and the aged man left the courthouse.

"Well, we'll have to take the street car back," the old woman said as she and the old man started away.

Heartbroken and shameful, the girl followed and as she passed the door, she was heard to say between sobs, "I do hate to get out where anyone can see me with this long dress on." She later was taken to juvenile officers.

Saturday, September 11, 1920

DRASTIC ACTION PROMISED TO RID CITY OF FILTH AND INSANITATION FOLLOWING INSPECTION BY BAYLEY

Definite promise was made yesterday by T. A. Bayley, commissioner in charge of the sanitary department of the city that Fort Smith will be cleaned up within the next week.

The pledge was given after a *Southwest American* reporter induced Commissioner Bayley to make an

inspection trip through the alleys and streets of the downtown district.

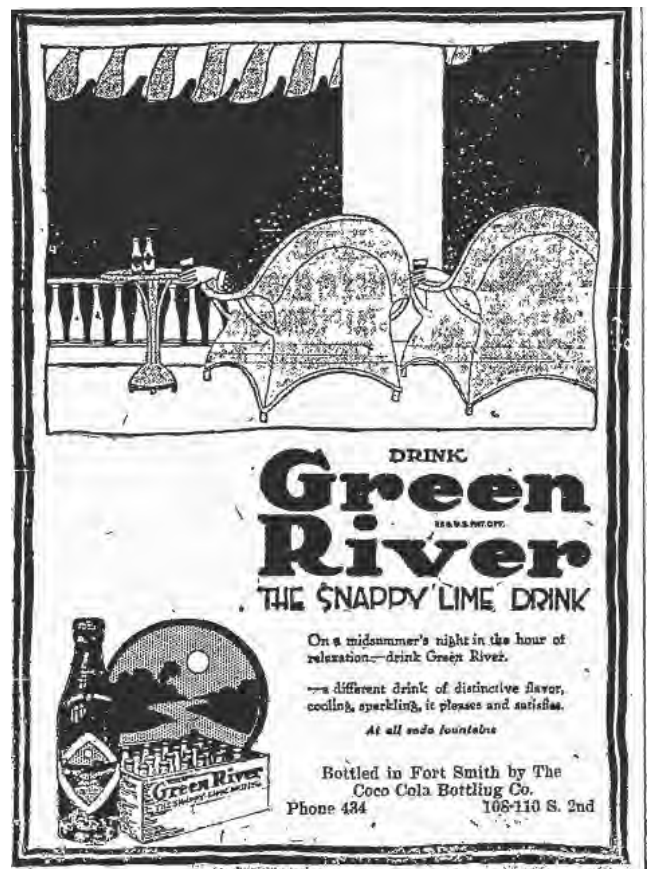
For an hour, the sanitary commissioner was occupied in looking at alleys that resembled hog wallows and throughout the tour Mr. Bayley continually expressed his amazement at the conditions that exist and so astonished was he at times that he immediately went to property owners telling them they had to clean up or they would be prosecuted.

The inspection tour covered about 30 blocks including Garrison avenue where some of the filthiest places were found. In front of the Southern Millinery store beneath a grating covering a ventilator leading to the basement of the building was found a place of filthy cigar stubs, cakes of stale tobacco juice and other spit that could be smelled for a radius of 10 feet. This is facing on Garrison avenue.

Several other similar places were found but not quite as bad condition, but dirty and filthy.

"I'll have Fentress see to that." Mr. Bayley said repeatedly.

The inspection tour started at the beginning of the alley at South Fifth street between Garrison and Rogers avenues. Mr. Bayley's attention was called to the



conditions surrounding a negro hotel at the opening of the alley.

Draymen have been hitching their horses on South Fifth street near Garrison avenue and the gutters are filled with droppings that is a breeding place for flies.

Mr. Bayley said that the matter of prohibiting draymen's horses from standing so near Garrison avenue is already under consideration and that action will be taken in a few days.

WAR ON VICE HERE LIKELY SOON; WILL PUT WOMEN ON FARM

Women found in disreputable houses in Fort Smith and convicted in police court will be sent to the state farm for women, according to announcement yesterday by Mayor Monro.

The last legislature enacted a law establishing the farm for females over the age of 18 years and hereafter, when they are convicted in police court, I am going to send them to the farm to serve their sentence, Mayor Monro said.

The mayor has sent for blanks to be used in committing women to the institution, and as soon these arrive, the new policy will be adopted.

Wednesday, September 15, 1920

PROWLER EPIDEMIC BREAKS OUT; ONLY 1 BURGLARY HERE

While the police were resting easily on their beats and at headquarters early yesterday morning, a series of house robberies, and attempted house robberies, were being committed in the east section of Fort Smith.

Attempts were made to rob at least a dozen houses, although but one house was actually entered and a small quantity of goods was taken, according to information obtained by a *Southwest American* reporter.

The robbers were first heard of on South Twenty-First street. They were heard prowling about one house and when the door was opened, they ran.

At the J. D. Benson home on North Eighteenth street, they cut the screen on the back porch and took a rain coat and some old clothes. At the E. W. Moseley home on North Eighteenth street the screen on the windows were cut, but the prowlers were unable to get in the

window. At the Dozier home on North Twelfth street, a dog was tied to the fence by the robbers before they attempted to enter the house by cutting a screen.

In one home in this neighborhood, the screens on all the windows were cut but the windows were locked and the thieves could not enter. On North Nineteenth street the robbers used a flash light and when people went to the windows they were blinded so they could not recognize the men doing the work. The prowlers were frightened away, however.

Thursday, September 16, 1920

POLICE CHIEF ROSS ATTACKS REPORTER THEN SURRENDERS

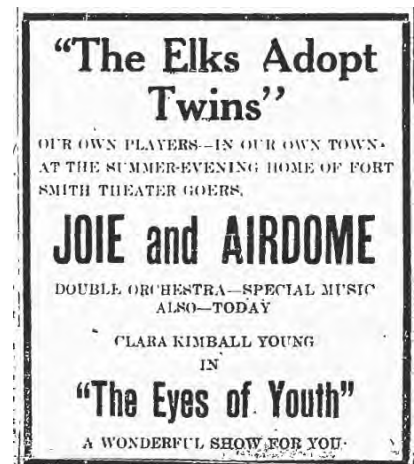
Chief of Police Phillip Ross, sworn to uphold the law and prevent breach of the peace, yesterday afternoon assaulted R. D. Bradshaw, reporter to the *Southwest American*.

Chief Ross became incensed at the news relative to the prevalence of crime here which had appeared in the *Southwest American* Wednesday. When Bradshaw, in the course of his day's work in covering the city hall and courthouse, visited police headquarters, he questioned the head of the police department relative to reports reaching this paper about prowlers and petit burglaries.

Ross denied the truth of the reports, declaring he believed them "damned lies" and continued to curse. He cautioned Bradshaw that his (Ross) name must never appear in the paper again.

Bradshaw told him that when occasion warranted, and when there was news pertaining to him, his name would be

published. The chief of Police then attacked the reporter striking him once in the mouth with his fist. Bradshaw's hat was knocked off and without giving him an opportunity to recover it, the



police official ordered him from the office telling him to stay out. However, Bradshaw recovered his hat and reported the affair to the *Southwest American*.

When Justice of the Peace Fishback was requested last night to issue a warrant for the chief of police, he replied that Ross had already surrendered himself, telling the justice that the charge was disturbing the peace by fighting.

In passing, it might be remarked that the *Southwest American* has not been harsh with the police. In fact, the paper has been lenient in its attitude.

Not only is it the duty of every good citizen, but it is more the duty of a newspaper to endeavor to expose crime and warn the public when burglaries and robberies are being committed in the city—whether the chief of police likes it or not.

Friday, September 17, 1920

POLICE CHIEF ROSS IS FINED \$10 FOR UNPROVOKED ASSAULT UPON SOUTHWEST AMERICAN REPORTER

Chief of Police Phillip Ross was fined \$10 and costs following a hearing before Justice of the Peace Fishback yesterday afternoon on charges of assault and battery against R. D. Bradshaw, a reporter for the *Southwest American*.

In imposing the fine, Justice Fishback told Ross that the actual assault would, under ordinary circumstances, draw a \$5 fine, "For," said the court, "it was just a little scrap. But you are a police officer and are supposed to prevent exactly what you have done. Therefore, I shall fine you \$10 and costs."

Ross left the courtroom, without paying the fine.



Sunday, September 26, 1920

NEW COOPER CLINIC AND ENLARGED HOSPITAL MAKE FORT SMITH MEDICAL, SURGICAL CENTER

Formal announcement was made yesterday that Cooper Clinic, with a staff of from 10 to 12 physicians, all specialists in different branches of medicine and surgery, would open and begin operation October.

Temporarily, the clinic will be located on the sixth floor of the First National Bank building, although within a few months a handsome two-story building will be erected opposite St. Edwards infirmary, Thirteenth and A streets, on property recently purchased. The building will cost \$40,000 and will be complete in every detail for the purposes for which it is to be used.

In connection with this announcement, it was also announced that plans are taking definite shape for the erection of the new St. Edwards infirmary, a hospital with 139 bed capacity, and the construction of the Sparks Memorial hospital annex, with 30 beds and administrative offices.

The two announcements mean that Fort Smith soon is to be the chief medical and surgical center of the southwest, with facilities rivaling those of much larger cities.

Friday,
October 8, 1920

SCHMIDT OPENS TODAY

"I tried to give the people of Fort Smith the best baseball team that I could possibly secure and now I am trying to apply the same principle to my business and give them the best billiard hall in the southwest." Sad Charley "Boss" Schmidt last night in



Charley "Boss" Schmidt
ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF HIS NEW
**Billiard and Recreation
Parlor at**
819 1/2 Garrison Ave.

Equipment and furnishings are the most up-to-date in the Southwest.
You are cordially invited to come in, and visit us at any time.

**How Old Are You? No Matter!
Play Billiards!**

No matter how many years you have tarried on earth, you are still young if you like to PLAY. And PLAYING helps to keep that young feeling, and southful outlook in men who are of mature years. Many of the GREAT men of the world—authors, senators, lawyers, prime ministers—find in BILLIARDS a most joyous relaxation and recreation. Make "Boss" Schmidt's your "club." Make this "a regular meeting place for yourself and friends. You will find just the right atmosphere here to make your evenings enjoyable.

Charley "Boss" Schmidt
819 1/2 Garrison Avenue

discussing his new billiard and recreation hall that will be formally opened at 819½ Garrison Avenue today.

A four piece orchestra has been secured to play during the afternoon and evening and the hall will be thrown open for inspection and visitors today. Equipment and furnishings give the place a luxurious look and gives promise of living up to Schmidt's claim of being the most modern, up-to-date, billiard hall in this section of the country.

Tuesday, October 19, 1920

WORK STARTS SOON ON BIG NEW BAKERY

T. W. Edmondson, W. G. Shipley and B. H. Shipley, have purchased two lots south of the Arkansas laundry and by November 1, expect to begin work on what is expected to be the largest and most up-to-date bakery in the southwest.

The building will cover the two lots and have approximately 11,000 feet of floor space.

The new bakery will be an automatic plant and turn out 25,000 loaves of bread daily. It will be a strictly wholesale plant. The old Edmondson plant will be continued as a retail bakery. Nothing but the best and most approved machinery will be installed, and when fully equipped, the plant is expected to cost \$50,000.

Thursday, October 21, 1920

PIONEER CITIZEN OF FORT SMITH IS DEAD

Captain Conrad Mehlburger, founder and president of the Mehlburger Iron company, and a resident of Fort Smith for 83 years, died at 1:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his home, 221 Lecta avenue.

Captain Mehlburger was born in Germany in 1851, and at an early age, went to sea, where he worked his way up to captain and was a well known and respected navigator sailing out of German ports. He came to America in 1887 and settled in Fort Smith. Twenty-five years ago, he founded the Mehlburger Iron company and has devoted most of his time to that enterprise.

The deceased man was companionable by nature, genial and courteous and numbers his friends by his acquaintances.

His only relatives in this country who survive him are his wife and three sons, Erwin, Kurt and Max. Funeral services will be held from the residence at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Interment will be made at Oak cemetery.

Are You a Man?

Do you feel old?
Do you want to be strong and healthy?
Would you like to feel the old pep surge through your veins again?

Join the Fort Smith Athletic Club
819½ Garrison Avenue

Athletic lessons every Tuesday and Thursday night at 7:30 o'clock.



YOUNG MACZIEL

This is a Fort Smith boy, 17 years old. He does not smoke, chew or drink. He is healthy, strong and in perfect physical condition. For fathers and sons who want to be clean, strong men:

DO NOT DISIPATE
SLEEP AND EAT REGULAR
TAKE ATHLETIC TRAINING

Fort Smith Athletic Club
819½ Garrison Avenue

Friday, October 29, 1920

FIRST WOMAN HERE TO VOTE MAILS IN A BALLOT FOR COX

Miss Florence McLean yesterday cast Fort Smith's first woman vote for president—for Governor James M. Cox of Ohio. She is from St. Louis and is a method worker sent out under the authority of the New York headquarters of the Young Women's Christian association, here to organize finance committees for the Fort Smith "Y.W."

"I got my mail order ballot," she said, "and couldn't wait a minute to get it into the mail. Postmaster Peacher helped me make it official and my vote is cast for Cox and the league."

Miss McLean, an ardent supporter of the league of nations, looks for the women "to save the country."

Friday, November 5, 1920

GYM AND ATHLETIC CLUB OPENS TODAY

Charley Schmidt's athletic club and gymnasium will be opened Friday evening with a smoker and boxing program, according to announcement made yesterday. All boxing fans and men interested in gymnasium work are invited to attend.

The club is on the third floor of the building at 819 Garrison avenue above Schmidt's billiard parlor. The entire floor is fitted with a full and complete equipment of gymnasium apparatus.

Several boxing and gym-nasium classes will be started and the club rooms will be open for members and visitors at all times. A program has been arranged for the opening Friday and gives promise of being a very entertaining and interesting one.

— Charles Boss Schmidt

Saturday, November 13, 1920

ARRESTS PROMISED IN DRIVE HERE ON VENEREAL DISEASE

That there is a gang of women of the underworld coming from Oklahoma into Fort Smith each day and

staying here until 12 o'clock at night and then returning to Oklahoma, transmitting all kinds of venereal diseases between the two states, was a charge made here yesterday by Dr. O. C. Wenger, federal health officer. Immediately after Dr. Wenger arrived in Fort Smith things began to happen, and when he left for Little Rock last night two women had been arrested and a score of names of other women had been handed to the police for arrest.

A survey was made in Fort Smith and other cities in Arkansas some time ago of the moral conditions. This survey was conducted by the federal government under the secret service department. It was found that many persons are violating the federal quarantine law relative to travelling from one state to another when infected with a communicable disease.

According to the federal law, such persons are subject to imprisonment of not more than one year and a fine of not more than \$500

An instance of how venereal diseases are being spread in Fort Smith was given yesterday by Dr. Wenger.

A young girl of a supposedly good family had become infected and it was found recently that in a very short time she had infected 16 men with this disease. This girl will be placed under arrest in a few days, Dr. Wenger said.

Sunday, November 28, 1920

CHICAGO MAN COMES TO TAKE CHARGE OF MOVIE STUDIO HERE

The long delayed opening of the moving picture studio of the Southern Film company at Thirty-sixth street and Grand avenue, will be an event of the coming week.

Harry E. Doshon from the French American Film company of Chicago arrived in Fort Smith yesterday to take charge of



the studio work here. Other actors and actresses to take leading parts in comedies and Western pictures which will be filmed here are due to arrive within a few days.

Classes for dramatic acting both for stage and pictures will be organized the latter part of the week and the moving picture company expects to train actors and actresses here who will be some of the movie stars of tomorrow.

Friday, December 3, 1920

FINEST AMBULANCE MADE IS RECEIVED HERE BY PUTMAN

With every possible convenience, and made on the most modern plan embracing first class equipment, another ambulance purchased by J. G. Putman has arrived in Fort Smith.

Specifications of the new ambulance include a maroon and gray body, disc nickel plate wheels, very powerful eight-cylinder motor, being the same type used by the government for airplanes during the war and Westinghouse air shock absorbing springs. The last specification is the one that is possibly the most important during an emergency call. It is possible to rush a patient at an excessive rate of speed with practically no jar. In fact, when necessary a speed of 90 miles an hour can easily be obtained from the car.

Friday, December 17, 1920

CLAYTON FUNERAL WILL TAKE PLACE AT TEN O'CLOCK

The body of Judge William Henry Harrison Clayton, arrived in this city last night over the Kansas City Southern railroad from the family home in McAlester, accompanied by members of the family. The body was escorted to the home of George Tilles, 1123 North Thirteenth street, from where the funeral will be conducted this morning at ten o'clock.

The funeral will be under the auspices of the various Masonic bodies, A. M. Forby of Belle Point lodge having been delegated to represent the state grand master who is unable to be present. The Rev. Dr. Paul

Preston, pastor of the First Christian church, will deliver the funeral address. Judge F. A. Youmans adjourned federal court last night for the day as did also Chancellor Bourland in tribute to the deceased jurist and attorney. Following is a list of pall bearers, the burial taking place in the National cemetery:

Honorary pall bearers: Judge Joseph M. Hill, Judge F. A. Youmans, Judge George A. Grace, Judge J. V. Bourland, Dr. W. T. Cate, Dr. R.I. Bond and Messrs, W. R. Martin, George Tilles, Harry Kelley, Allan Kennedy, I. Isaascon, W.L. Euper, George Sengel, James Grier, Perry Freeman, A.A. McDonald, W. J. Johnston and Sam Williams.

Active pall bearers: Harry P. Daily, Harry Warner, Ira D. Oglesby, Fadjo Cravens, Douglass Rogers and Frank W. Youmans.

Thursday, December 16, 1920

MAN IS FORCED TO MOVE OFF PROPERTY OWNED BY NEGRESS

J. H. Campbell was fined ten dollars in Justice

"Instant Ambulance Service"



Just Arrived:--

This New \$7,000 Cunningham Ambulance

We have just added this new and most completely equipped ambulance to our already modern and up-to-date equipment—which means, that we will be able to offer the most efficient ambulance service in the city.

This new ambulance is one of the finest made, embodying many new features not introduced before in this city—such as Westinghouse air springs, Electric heater, pneumatic mattress, Baskette for use of children—and others of equal importance.

"When Time is Life—Putman's Service is Indispensable"

J. G. PUTMAN

415 NORTH B ST. PHONES 366-197

Fishback's court yesterday afternoon on the complaint of "Auntie" Brown, a negress, charging him with trespassing upon her premises in Red Row.

Campbell admitted to the court that he made no claim to the ownership of a small strip of ground upon which he was living in a tent, but made an effort to show the land belonged to the Missouri Pacific railroad company. He explained that he had formerly lived on the city side of the railroad tracks, but had been warned by city officials to move.

When he moved onto real estate claimed by "Auntie," she notified him to move again and when he waited to do so she caused him to be arrested for trespassing.

The negro woman showed to the court's satisfaction that she has been occupying the disputed tract as a home for the past twenty-three years and had successfully defended her title to it in chancery court two years ago.

Campbell gave notice of appeal to the circuit court, but when he learned that Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Vaughan intended to file additional information against him each day he permitted his shack to remain on the negro's premises, he promptly agreed to move as soon as he reached home.

SOUTH SIDERS PETITION FOR INCORPORATION

A petition asking that South Fort Smith be incorporated as a town and accorded the privileges of an incorporated town under the laws of the state was presented to County Judge Cleveland Holland yesterday morning by a committee of citizens residing in town.

Judge Holland announced that he had set a public hearing for the case January 19 and that final decision would be taken on the petition at that time.

The petition bears the names of 78 citizens of South Fort Smith and names of G.L. Peretto and James McNally to represent the petitioners in any hearing or legal proceedings necessary to secure the incorporation of the town.

The boundary of the proposed incorporated town as requested by the petition would be as follows: Beginning at Greenwood district line at old smelter road, north to Mill Creek road, then east to Greenwood road, then south with the Greenwood road to the district line, and then west to the place of beginning.

Thursday, December 30, 1920

OFFICERS SERVE NOTICE ON SCHMIDT BOXING BOUT MUST NOT BE HELD HERE TONIGHT

Claiming to be acting under the instructions of Prosecuting Attorney J. Sam Wood, Constable Virgil Tumblin and Chief of Police Phillip Ross yesterday notified Charles Schmidt, head of the Fort Smith Athletic club, that five prize fights scheduled to take place tonight were in violation of the state law and would not be permitted.

Schmidt had previously secured a permit from the city clerk's office to promote the prize fights and the permit was shown to the officers.

Declaring that a permit could not be issued which would allow a person to break the law, Constable Tumblin said last night that in the event an effort was made to carry the boxing program through, everyone connected with it would be arrested and prosecuted.

Friday, December 31, 1920

SCHMIDT DECLARES POLITICS CAUSE OF STOPPING HIS BOUT

In a statement last night, Charles ("Boss") Schmidt, promoter of the prize fights scheduled to take place at the Fort Smith Athletic club rooms, which the law stopped, claimed that a desire for political revenge prompted the authorities to put the ban on the proposed boxing program.



SCHMIDT

"I do not hold any personal grudges against anyone, but I feel that the show was prevented because I openly supported Blake Harper in his race for the sheriff's office," said the fight promoter.



Al Whitson edits and writes the acclaimed 100-year-old newspaper stories department for the Journal. Whitson is active in researching, administering, and presenting Fort

Smith's history.

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 * — A portrait of the person(s) named is on the 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
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The College of Communication, Languages, Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) offers a comprehensive education in the arts, humanities, and behavioral and social sciences. The college provides instruction and activities that expand the intellectual capacity and professional disposition of students from diverse cultural backgrounds as they work to become well-rounded individuals and effective citizens.

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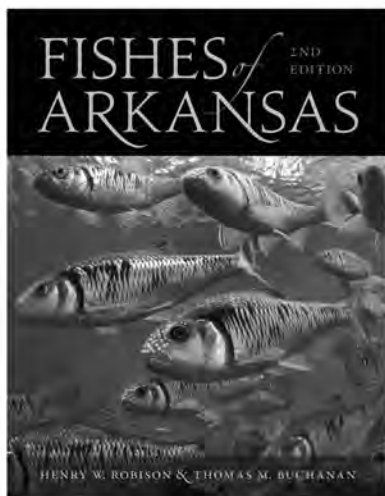
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English with Teacher Licensure 7-12
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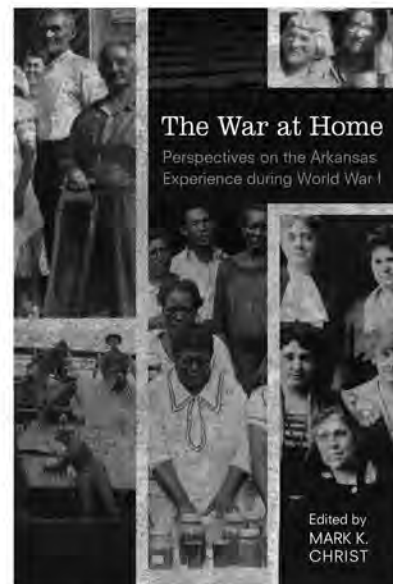
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The second edition of *Fishes of Arkansas*, in development for more than a decade, is an extensive revision and expansion of the first edition, including reclassifications, taxonomic changes, and descriptions of more than thirty new species.



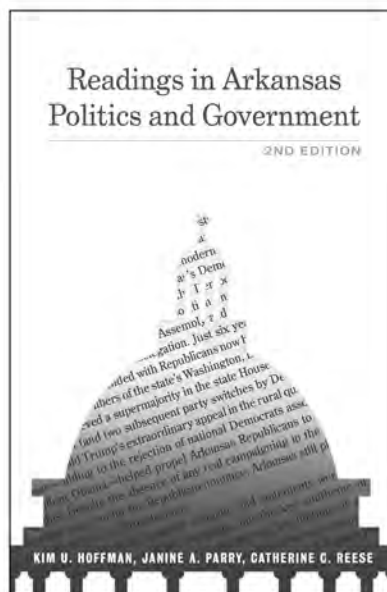
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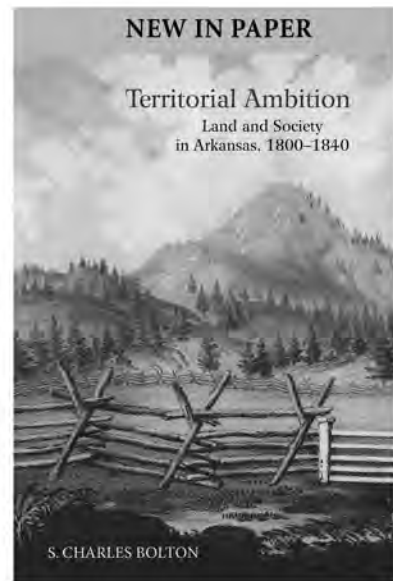
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