




A black and white portrait of a middle-aged man with light-colored, wavy hair. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is resting his chin on his right hand, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The portrait is set within a rounded rectangular frame.

A black and white portrait of an older man with short, light-colored hair, wearing glasses and a light-colored shirt. He is smiling broadly, showing his teeth. The photo is framed with a thick black border.

Vol. 45, No. 1, April 2021



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:

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Membership in the Fort Smith Historical Society includes a subscription to the *Journal* of the FSHS, which is published semi-annually. Send your membership dues and other business matters to:

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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.

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Content tabs: Organizations, Membership,
Back Issues, Tables of Contents,
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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.

Neither the Fort Smith Historical Society nor the editorial staff assumes
any responsibility for statements, whether fact or opinion, made by contributors.

AMELIA WHITAKER MARTIN

Journal Editor & Co-Founder, 1977-2004

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The JOURNAL

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Main Photo: Elm Grove District (Courtesy of Pebley Center Archives)
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 Lower Right: Napoleon Black (courtesy photo)

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News & Opportunities

Fort Smith Historical Society Election Meeting

**Monday, April 19, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

This important membership meeting will be held via Zoom for the annual election of Board of Directors and Officers

Arkansas Historical Association 80th Annual Conference

June 3-5, 2021, Little Rock, Arkansas

Theme: "Collective Memory in the Natural State: Commemoration, Preservation, & Reconciliation"

AHA Memberships are \$20 individual per year and \$30 for family. The membership includes mailout of four issues annually of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* and all events of the annual meeting.

You may register for the conference using this link: <http://arkansashistoricalassociation.org>

AHA will be guided by CDC and state department of health guidelines and will transition the conference to an all-virtual format if conditions warrant.

Clayton House 514 North Sixth Street 479-783-3000

For information about our events, check our website—claytonhouse.org, emailing us at claytonhouse@claytonhouse.org or see 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:

We are open daily, except for Sunday and Monday.
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. Treat yourself.

Drennen-Scott Historical Site Visitor Center

**221 North Third Street, Van Buren, Arkansas
479-262-2750**

drennen-scott@uafs.edu

"Crawford County Chronicles" programs are scheduled for first Sunday each month.

For reservations and 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.

Fort Smith Regional Art Museum (RAM) 1601 Rogers Avenue – Fort Smith 479.784.2787 info@fsram.org

Open to the public and current exhibits include:

❖ "Arkansas Impressions" — by photographer Dena Creamer. Now through May 23, 2021.

Photographer Dena Michelle Creamer was born in Missouri and has spent much of her life enjoying nature, camping, and hiking in the Ozarks. Many years a proud Arkansan, she seriously took up photography in 2012, studying on her own and with Arkansas' legendary nature photographer and teacher, Tim Ernst.

❖ **Lectures, Workshops, Education Programs, and Events** throughout the year. Contact RAM for full schedule of activities, exhibits, and children-centered art classes.

RIVER VALLEY FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS

FORT SMITH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Submit Your Film via FilmFreeway

FILM SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 1 - JUNE 6
WWW.FORTSMITHFILM.COM

"Through Their Eyes" will explore diverse experiences and the way they coalesce on the big screen as cultural, historical, and identifying markers to who we are as artists, and as individuals.

AUGUST 13-14, 2021 IN FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS



FORT SMITH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Categories Include: Narrative Feature, People of Color, Indigenous Peoples, Animation, Music Video, Student Film, Short Film, and Documentary

River Valley Film Society

The non-profit organization established in 2020 will present the River Valley's first film festival.

Board of Directors are President Brandon Goldsmith, Ph.D. (*The Western District*, UAFA adjunct), Interim Vice President, John McIntosh (646, "The Unexpected"), Treasurer, Jennifer Burchett (Fort Smith 2020 Yearbook / Front Porch Project), Secretary, John Lovett (*Times Record*), Mayor George McGill, Stacey Jones (UAFA Season of Entertainment), Jennifer Loren (Cherokee Nation Film Office), Jeffery Smith (TriStar Global Entertainment), and Rita Howard Watkins, Sebastian County Deputy Public Defender).

**The International Film Festival
 is scheduled for August 13-14
 at the Bakery District,
 70 South Seventh Street
 in downtown Fort Smith**

Opening night features include the documentary "Fort Smith Excellence" a Sol Studio film produced by Grant Thomas.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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IN A JULY 7, 2014, CEREMONY, a commemorative bench with an inscription, “In memory of Dr. H. P. McDonald, Physician, Civil Rights Activist, and Community Leader” was dedicated in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Fort Smith. Attending the ceremony and shown in foreground of this photograph from left to right were McDonald’s daughter Maria McDonald McNamar of Richland, Washington, Mayor Sandy Sanders, activist Euba Harris-Winton, State Representative (now Mayor of Fort Smith) George McGill, editor of the *Journal of Fort Smith Historical Society* Carole Barger, and Fort Smith School Board Director Talicia Richardson. Profiles of Dr. McDonald and Ms. Harris-Winton are in this issue’s *Historic People of Fort Smith*. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on the northside of Fort Smith occupies land formerly known as Elm Grove housing, which is the subject of an article beginning on page 24 of this issue.

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
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Fort Smith's Historic People

To salute the bicentennial of our fair city, the *Journal* added this new series. Five previous issues and one future issue will carry 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 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 VI include World War II, the post-war years, and the baby boomer generation. With a growing youth population in Fort Smith, citizen leaders in business, education, civic work, and youth services gave encouragement and skills to the people of the city creating an attractive place in which to live and raise families.

From the 1940 U.S. Census count of **36,584** residents, the city's population jumped 31% to **47,942** by 1950 and to **52,991** in 1960 even as the state's population was declining in those decades.

Part VI: 1940-1965

1. Father James Foley, OSB, always did for others. He would come into our neighborhood market (Hammersley's on Grand Avenue, between North Eighteenth and Nineteenth Streets). Gertrude would reach up, pull down a brown bag from the overhead rack, snap it open, hand it to Father James, all the while not even pausing from her original conversation, just like he never came in. He would continue through the small store filling the sack, and when it was brimming over, he headed to the door, turned his head sideways as he walked out and said, "Thank you, they really need this." Off he went. Next time he would go to another retailer to help people who had ran into tough times. He would notice people struggling and he would go to them. In the cold of winter, Father James rarely had a coat on. During an extremely bad winter, Father James walked into our store, no coat on. My uncle, who had a business downtown, saw him, took him to a men's store and bought him a new coat. He told Father James, "This is your coat and not for you to give away." In these ways, this priest enriched Fort Smith as he followed the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

2. Lucille Speakman was a joy as a teacher and person. With her enthusiasm and description of the area an event took place, and often enlivened with her adventures on the ground in that historical place, she put us right there. She was a legendary instructor in history at Fort Smith Junior College and Westark Community College. She left her students wanting more, one writing years later that "Ms. Speakman was a very good example of those who made a big difference in their community. She cared. She taught us why knowing what went before us is so important." For her way of bringing students into a deep interest in the world history that she taught, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith named its Excellence in Teaching annual award in her honor. A former student, Randy Ewers ('58) established the Lucille Speakman Legacy Endowment in "Perpetuating a legacy of excellent teaching and devotion to student success." After her retirement from the college, Speakman continued her travels abroad and served on Westark College's Board of Trustees. —See *University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, the First 85 Years, 1928-2012*, 41.



LUCILLE SPEAKMAN

3. R. A. Young, Jr., a Fort Smith practicing attorney whose father and uncle owned and operated the R. A. Young Machinery and Equipment Company, purchased Arkansas Motor Freight Lines in 1951 from its founders, one of his clients. AMF operated between St. Louis and Kansas City on the north to El Dorado and Shreveport on the south. Five

years later, Young added Best Motor Lines, which had routes from Houston and Dallas, Texas, to major cities in Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana. In 1966, Young founded Arkansas Best Corporation, which added units, routes, and employees and became one of the largest trucking firms in the United States. The legacy of Young's vision and mission is today's ArcBest Corporation. With its main offices in Fort Smith and its subsidiaries, ArcBest has become an economic mainstay of the city with company revenues of over \$3 billion in 2020.—From records of Robert A. Young Properties and archives of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

4. Carnell Gardner, at six-feet-eight inches and 265 lbs., Gardner's nickname of "Tiny" came naturally to his teammates on the 1927-1930 Arkansas Razorback football team. He married his college sweetheart, Rachel, and the couple settled in Fort Smith, where Tiny Gardner, a businessman, devoted much of his time to work with civic organizations and educational institutes. He was chairman of the Fort Smith Golden Gloves Boxing Organization (1946-1951). Honoring his leadership, philanthropy, board service, and fund-raising to such groups, Westark Community College named a lecture hall and classroom building after him, as did the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club when its fourth and newest branch opened, the Goldtrap-Gardner unit. He was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 1993.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

5. Euba Mae Harris-Winton was born in Cotton Plant, Arkansas, on June 26, 1923, the daughter of Rev. Daniel Haven Edward Harris and Martha T. Hill Harris. Her father was pastor at Mallalieu Methodist Church in Fort Smith from 1900-1907. Strong leadership ran in Harris-Winton's family, as her father was a district superintendent and served on the Board of Trustees of Philander Smith College. Harris-Winton was executive director of Mallalieu Community Center from 1970-1997 and was instrumental in helping refugees from Cuba and Vietnam adjust to living in the United States. Harris-Winton encouraged people from low-income families to further their education and go on to college degrees. A civic and social activist, she helped find jobs for people through the Western Arkansas Employment Development Agency. In all areas and with people in all walks of life, she communicated, advised, counseled, and acted as a resource person, on a mission to see full civil rights and fairness in opportunity come about in the city.—See Bennie Mae Ware Gunn, *The Lincoln Echo*, May 2001, Vol. 8, Issue 12. Caleb Hennington, United Methodists of Arkansas web page, dated February 14, 2020.

6. Jim Alexander graduated with an electrical engineering degree from Princeton University and went on to the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. After World War II, he worked at Eastman Kodak, then came home to Fort Smith where he joined Merchants National Bank, rising to become its CEO. His business interests expanded and so did his community involvement. His list of service to organizations in the city is long and impressive: president of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce, of the Exchange Club, the Fort Smith Public Library board, director of Sparks Regional Medical Center, trustee of Evans Foundation, Rosalie Tilles Children's Home, Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club, Speer Foundation, Old Fort Museum, Mount Magazine Girl Scout Foundation, UAFS Foundation, Girls Inc. Foundation, and Sparks Foundation. He was "one of the most prominent business leaders our community has ever had." He was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club first Hall of Fame class in 1991.—See the "Beat" Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club *Newsletter* 35, 1 (Winter 2021): 1.

7. Okla Homer Smith settled in Fort Smith and with hard work and perseverance established a furniture company that specialized in baby beds later marketed by Sears. Smith located across from Andrews Field south of Garrison Avenue, perhaps indicative of his individualistic personality since most of the twenty-seven different factories in the industry were north of Garrison. The location worked well for him. Many of his employees walked from neighborhoods in that area just to the west of Wheeler Avenue. Smith had a large and loyal work force and, though gruff and terse in speech, he encouraged and helped his fellow manufacturers in the city and non-profit organizations over hard times when they needed it. He was a patron of the Fort Smith Boys Club on Wheeler where more than a few of his employees' children attended. Atop his facility was a large sign that read "Where Oklahoma Meets Fort Smith." A longtime board member of the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club, Okla Homer Smith was inducted into its first Hall of Fame class.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

8. Harry P. McDonald, M.D. South Carolina-born Harry McDonald graduated with an M.D. from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, and practiced medicine in Fort Smith from 1949 until he retired in 1990. His

service to the city and to the medical community was so well-respected and given always with his “characteristic smile.” Dr. McDonald donated much time to the local NAACP, working behind the scenes to end segregation in the city, and out front, too, serving as its president in the Civil Rights era, from 1960-1970. He was quiet and effective. In the words of a fellow M.D., Dr. McDonald was “an agent of change and a force for good. He was on a mission.” —See Taylor Prewitt, “‘He Knew Who He Was:’ Reflections on the Life and Mission of Harry P. McDonald,” the *Journal* 41, 2 (September 2017): 30-37.

9. Clarence Higgins. Born in Sulphur Rock, Arkansas, Hig moved to Fort Smith in 1945 to become the executive director of the state-of-the-art Boys Club at 215 Wheeler Avenue. With a heated indoor swimming pool, a maple wood basketball court of college dimensions with bleacher seating for 300 people, boxing workout room, game room, wood-working shop, and library, the Club became the center for youth and young adults within the city. Hunts Park, the 8th Street Boys Club, Jeffrey and Evans units, and a second gymnasium at the Wheeler branch were all opened in his twenty-eight-year tenure. Hig developed and oversaw youth programs, sports leagues, Golden Glove boxing tournaments, AAU swim meets, American Legion teams, the Babe Ruth Leagues of Arkansas, and semi-pro tournaments. He helped establish the Fort Smith Church League, which named its first field in his honor. Sixteen of his former assistants went on to head Boys Clubs (now Boys & Girls Clubs) in Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. He received the Exchange Club’s Golden Deed Award and was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame and into the Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame.—See Fort Smith Boys & Club Hall of Fame website and Golden Deeds page of the Noon Exchange Club website.

10. C. Grady Secrest, born in 1903, formed a printing company in 1932. Ten years later, in one of his many contributions to the city as a civic leader, Grady Secrest suggested to the Noon Exchange Club that it institute an award each year to a worthy individual instrumental in the growth, well-being, and progressiveness of the city to become known as the Golden Deeds Award. Since 1942, the Exchange Club has made this its high point of activities and there have been seventy-eight individuals so awarded including Grady in 1987. Secrest served as general manager and business manager of Fort Smith’s professional baseball teams beginning in 1946 with the Giants, a farm team of the New York Giants playing in the Class C Western Association. The Cleveland Indians took the franchise through 1952 and the independent Fort Smith-Van Buren Twins competed in 1953. Secrest served on several non-profit Board of Directors including that of the First Methodist Church and the Westark Council of Boy Scouts of America.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

11. Maurice Katzer was born in Fort Smith to parents Sander and Rose Katzer. Precociously bright, Maurice earned his civil engineering degree from University of Arkansas and returned home to join Fort Smith Structural Steel on Wheeler Avenue, quickly rising to become the steel fabrication company’s vice-president. Maurice offered his services as a team sponsor and volunteer coach to the Fort Smith Boys Club, bringing into being the Katzer Bears of the Midget League and over the next twenty-five years, became a coaching-sponsor legend. Today, those who knew him speak of the patience and graciousness that characterized Maurice both with his players and their competitors. He carried pockets full of bubble gum and freely dispensed it among all who asked. He was a chess player, a ham radio operator, and a top-notch photographer who taught those skills to others. Many of his photographs of teams and action hung on the hallway of the Wheeler Boys Club. Maurice influenced a generation of Fort Smithians. The premier American Legion tournament in the city bears his name. His younger sister, Dorothy Katzer Rappaport, a college instructor and civic activist, was selected to the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame because of her outstanding work as a board member and United Way fund raiser.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

12. H. Milton and Imogene Kropp. Milton, born in 1904, moved to Fort Smith, attracted by the growing furniture industry. He became a principle in the Fort Smith Folding Bed and Chair Co., one of twenty-seven local furniture companies employing over 7,000 people in this 1940-1965 period. Milton was a 33rd degree Mason and a graduate of Harvard University. In Fort Smith, Milton met and married Imogene Dunbar, born in 1907. Imogene was secretary of the Fort Smith Table Co. and a well-known civic and school activist. Among her passions was the Fort Smith Little Theatre where she served on the Board of Directors and oversaw wardrobe assets. She sang in the faculty chorus at the Benedictine Conservatory of Music. She is most remembered, perhaps, as a fervent supporter of high



FORT SMITH FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, 1963. *Milton Kropp is at right on first row.*
(Photo courtesy of Fort Smith Historical Society)

than any other minister in this century.”—See “Dr. Fred G. Roebuck,” by Jack Moseley, *Times Record* editor in Find-A-Grave, memorials and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society, and archives of the Pebley Center.

14. Roland Stanford “Bud” Boreham, Jr. was born in Los Angeles in 1924. He came to Fort Smith associated with Baldor Electric Company and then guided that company into leadership in the electric motor industry in the United States becoming the board chairman. He died in Fort Smith in 2006 having created an immensely successful national corporation with headquarters in Fort Smith. His support and philanthropy with colleges and civic organizations, such as the First Presbyterian Church, the United Way, Sparks Health System, the Salvation Army and UAFS, which named its library after Mr. Boreham, created opportunities for many people in the city and region. In 2002, Rollie Boreham was inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

15. Ruth Armstrong, the daughter of Henry Clay Armstrong, Sr. and Dr. Minnie Sanders Armstrong, the first female medical doctor in the city, taught science at Fort Smith’s Darby Junior High School for forty years. Her students learned much about biology, the environment, and the importance of their participation in organizations that sought



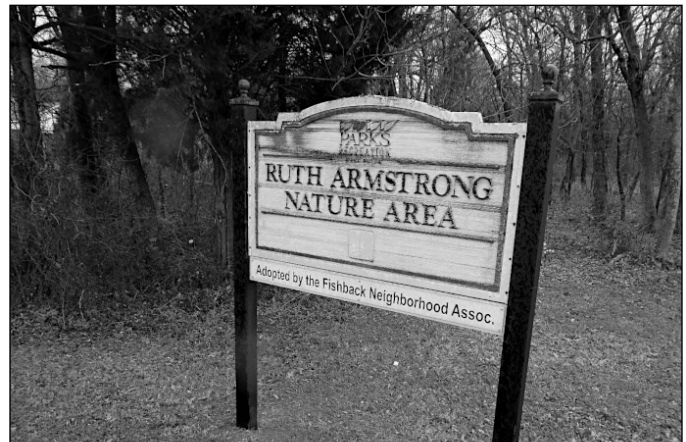
**RUTH
ARMSTRONG**

protection of the region’s ecology such as the Audubon Society. Her mission in making Fort Smith a Bird Sanctuary is still paying dividends with the stretch of undeveloped woodland that bears her name located across Old Greenwood Road from Creekmore Park.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

16. J. Fred Patton, born in Dyer, Arkansas, as a young man taught government, economics, served as dean of students, and sponsored the debate team at Fort Smith High School. He received his M.A. from the University of Arkansas in 1936 and did additional graduate work at Peabody College and the University of Michigan. As a businessman, he influenced Arkansas’ transportation legislation and sought every opportunity to increase Fort Smith’s interstate connections. Patton, using knowledge from his teaching Sunday school at First Methodist for sixty years,

school basketball teams, the Westark Lions, and the Arkansas Razorbacks, attending many, many games. She preferred to sit on the first row the better to encourage her team’s players.—From archives and personal accounts of the Hardwood Tree Museum and the Pebley Center.

13. Fred G. Roebuck served as chief minister of the First Methodist Church in Fort Smith for twenty-one years. In appreciation of his long and faithful and productive service, the congregation voted to name Roebuck Chapel in his honor. After his retirement, Dr. Roebuck continued to preach when invited to the pulpit of many churches, including Catholic and Hebrew. It was reported in the *Times Record* that “he had baptized, married, and buried more people in Sebastian County



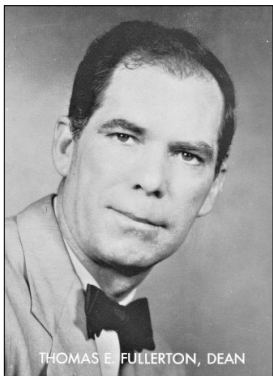
THE RUTH ARMSTRONG NATURE AREA is located across Old Greenwood Road from Creekmore Park.

(Photo courtesy of Fort Smith Historical Society)

organized and led hundreds of people on tours to the Holy Land. He authored *History of Fort Smith, 1817-1992*, which went to seven printings and is used as a primary and secondary source for students regarding the city's unfolding. He received the Golden Deeds award, was recognized by the History Department at University of Arkansas Fayetteville for his immense contributions to his field, and the Arkansas/Oklahoma Bridge was renamed the J. Fred Patton Bridge in his honor.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

17. Isabella Bass, Katherine Brown, and the Rainbow Girls served Fort Smith well in the first decades of the twentieth-century by raising money and supporting other improvements for the Twin City Colored Hospital, 1717 Midland Boulevard. Things we take for granted now such as lights and a neon sign out front identifying this African-American hospital for those who came after dark and for those from outside the town who were seeking medical attention in those days of Jim Crow segregation laws. This society of activist women saw that the hospital had adequate linens, toiletries, bandages, and other hospital necessities. For interviews with Ms. Bass and Ms. Brown about the organization and other perspectives of the city's pre-Civil Rights era.—See Nichelle Brown Christian, "The Rainbow Girls: Fort Smith in the Time of Segregation," the *Journal* 38, 2 (September 2014): 19-31.

18. Tom Fullerton was a beloved instructor and dean at Fort Smith Junior College in its privately funded (and lean) years. Fullerton is remembered by former



TOM FULLERTON

students as being concerned, compassionate, and considerate of their higher education and the inevitable obstacles to achieving success in college. "You'd see him moving quietly about the campus, conversing with students and teachers." His commitment to policies and plans working for the good of students, fellow faculty and administrators, and the junior

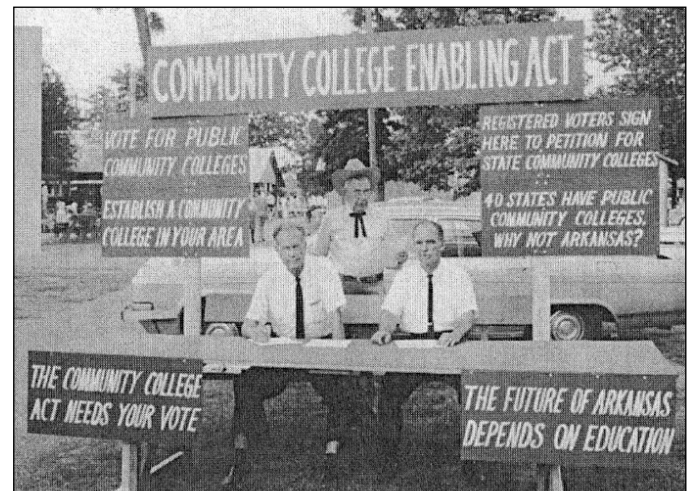
college paid off in noted success of FSJC and later WCC in its transfer programs with four-year universities in state and nationally. The ranking of the junior college in this city encouraged donations by local citizens to finance buildings such as Melanie Holt Speer and Ed Louise Ballman, and Rollie Boreham, leading to larger student enrollment, state funding, and eventual development as a university. Today, the Chancellor's office, Human Resources, and Marketing departments are housed in the Fullerton Building on campus. See *University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, the First 85 Years, 1928-2012*, 59.

19. Anna and Reba Kasten, sisters, lived at 1723 Grand Avenue and attended Fort Smith Junior College after graduating from Fort Smith High School. Their close-knit Jewish family got by without owning a car as father, Louis, sold and serviced life insurance to factory workers at 25 cents per month premiums walking to their workplace to



KATHERINE BROWN, LEFT, AND ISABELLA BASS with UAFS Chancellor Paul Beran in 2010 at an American Democracy Project ceremony honoring their service to community.

(Photo courtesy of Pebley Center, UAFS)



COLLEGE PRESIDENT E. T. VINES (LEFT) AND TOM FULLERTON seek support for the state funding act on behalf of Fort Smith Junior College at the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair. The Act passed.

(Photo courtesy of the Pebley Center, UAFS)

collect on payday. Sarah, the mom, went on foot or by city bus down Grand Avenue to grocery shop and, as Reba said, sewed them into the middle class as she made their dresses. Theatric Reba directed and played in productions in school. She pursued those dreams to New York City, where she still lives and works at Columbia University. Anna graduated from FSJC, was accepted into the University of Oklahoma where she received her Ph.D. She was named Distinguished Historian in Residence at American University in Washington, D. C., and was a presidential appointee to the John F. Kennedy Records Review Board from 1992 to 1994, the last official congressional investigation into the assassination of John F. Kennedy.—See their interviews and life stories in the *Journal* 40, 2 (September 2016): 32-46.

20. Lawrence “Buzz” Woods was born in Fort Smith and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1960. He joined the U.S. Naval Reserve and worked at James River (Dixie Cup) Corporation for years. He taught water safety at the Elm Grove Park to hundreds of children. He worked at the 8th Street Boys Club, at the Wheeler Club, and at the Stephens Unit when it opened in 1981. He spent countless hours for sixty years helping youth in Fort Smith. His mentoring and coaching utilized to a high degree his humor, his devotion to family, and his mission to help others. He was active in the Lincoln Alumni Association, the Sebastian County NAACP, the Juneteenth Commission and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Advisory Commission. His difference-making presence resulted in his being honored with the Sertoma Club’s Service to Mankind Award, the NFL Champion of Youth Award, and he was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 1998.—See Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club *Newsletter*, Winter 2015.



JERRY JENNINGS, ALMER LEE, HOUSTON NUTT, AND LAWRENCE “BUZZ” WOODS

(Photo courtesy of the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Clubs)

21. Chloe Lamon, born in Fort Smith in 1927, spent a lifetime serving others through her work at the juvenile probation office, as director of the Fort Smith Girls Club and implementing the WIC program in the River Valley through her work with the Health Department. After retirement, Chloe enjoyed volunteering at Miss Laura’s Visitors Center. She was a talented artist whose paintings hang throughout Fort Smith.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

22. Neale “Bobo” Henderson was born in 1930 into a home near Andrews Field. Attracted by the game and a favorite of the pro ballplayers, the youngster became the Fort Smith Giants team mascot. During World War II, Henderson’s father, a minister, relocated the family to California to work in war industries. There, Henderson went to high school and was known for his blazing speed. Henderson launched a career in baseball that took him through the Negro League minors all the way to the top. He joined the Kansas City Monarchs for the 1949 season as a rookie. He played shortstop and outfield for the legendary manager Buck O’Neil and as a teammate with Ernie Banks. After his playing days were over, Henderson settled in San Diego, and in 2008, the Los Angeles Angels selected Bobo Henderson as their representative of Negro League veterans. He got an Angel contract, an Angel uniform, and visited youth baseball leagues in Southern California spreading his goodwill with his unmatched smile and his beliefs in baseball and optimism. His father returned to Fort Smith after the war and is buried in Washington Cemetery on the north side of town.—See “Neale ‘Bobo’ Henderson, the *Journal* 38, 2 (September 2014): 13-18.

23. Harold Raymond “Hal” Smith graduated from Fort Smith High School and attended Fort Smith Junior College until he signed a baseball contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. He had a long minor league career and got his Major League break in 1956. Hal was the starting catcher for five seasons until a heart murmur ended his playing days. He became a manager, coach, and scout for the next thirty years. His highlights with the Cardinals include being selected for two All Star games, catching Bob Gibson’s first major league win, and playing in the game against the Cubs when Stan Musial got his 3,000th hit. In a game with the Dodgers in Los Angeles and Sandy Koufax pitching, Hal hit a decisive grand slam home run. Blessed with a sense of self-effacing humor, Hal said of that moment, “Well,

you could tell he didn't have his best stuff—he had loaded the bases.” Cardinal broadcaster, Harry Carey, excited over Hal's game-winning home run in Philadelphia, quipped, “They're dancing in the streets of Barling” and nicknamed him the Barling Darling.—See Billy D. Higgins, *The Barling Darling, Hal Smith in American Baseball*.

24. Don Reynolds resided in Fort Smith on and off from 1940 when he purchased the Fort Smith *Times Record* and the *Southwest American*, publishing the papers for over fifty years. During that time, he established the Donrey Media Group, headquartered in Fort Smith, which operated fifty-four newspapers and outdoor advertising companies in many cities. He started the first local television station—KFSA—in the city. In 1986, Forbes reported that Donrey Media Group exceeded \$1 billion value. Much of that wealth after his death, which occurred aboard a yacht bound for Barcelona, went to the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation for grants to non-profit organizations.—See “Don Reynolds: The Man Behind a Media Empire,” *Oklahoma Business*, 15, 7, pp. 11-17 and archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society and the Pebley Center.

Fort Smith Warriors of the “Greatest Generation”

1. Orville Bittle born in Fort Smith in 1921 served in the European Theatre, where he remarkably survived seven major campaigns from Africa to Sicily to Germany and three invasions, including Operation Overlord and the second wave of the Normandy Invasion on D-Day. He was awarded two Purple Hearts with the Oak Leaf Cluster, the Normandy Provence Liberation Invasion Medal, the Bronze Star Medal of Merit, a World War II Victory Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, a citation for the Belgian Forager and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Silver Star, Bronze Star and Bronze Arrowhead. Bittle was one of the organizers of the Fort Smith Church League Baseball Program for local youth. He volunteered many hours to help in the construction of fields and dugouts and their maintenance, as well as in the preparation of the organizational structure for the league. Bittle served as a deacon in Baptist churches for forty-one years.—See “A World War II Veteran's Story: Orville Bittle,” the *Journal* 31, 1 (April 2007): 30-34.

2. Kenneth Wilson Boley as a youth helped build Devil's Den State Park while a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps. When Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, Boley was in the U.S. Navy and began a diary, a gold mine for historians and fascinating reading for anyone who sees it. Serving on the USS *Lexington*, he experienced combat in the Battle of Coral Sea, a carrier engagement in which the opposing ships never saw each other. Japanese planes released their deadly weapons against his ship, hitting the *Lexington* with four torpedoes and two bombs, heavily damaging her. At 5 p.m., the Captain gave the order to abandon ship. Boley was in the water and as dark of night approached, luckily so did the USS *New Orleans*, which rescued him. Boley lived to fight again, a part of the Greatest Generation. He ended his service with fourteen major awards, including two campaign battle stars. Boley died in Fort Smith in 2009 at the age of eighty-eight, leaving a gallant legacy as a loving husband, proud father of two, patriot, combat hero, a mechanical engineer for Hawkins Co., a deacon in the First Baptist Church, a prize-winning fisherman, and a great friend to many in Fort Smith.—Contributed by Tom Waller.

3. General William O. Darby, born and raised in Fort Smith, was the principle organizer, trainer, and combatant with the U.S. Army's first Ranger Battalion. He is given credit by the U.S. Army for founding the Rangers. A junior high school, a street, a house with artifacts, a major exhibit in the Museum of History, and a statute on Garrison Avenue mark the connections of this city with Darby.—For details on his early life and supreme military accomplishments, see Coy Wineland, “William O. Darby, The Ranger Who Led the Way,” the *Journal* 44, 2 (September 2020): 19-29.

4. Major Pierce McKennon attended Fort Smith High School and Fort Smith Junior College before joining the Army Air Corps, flying P-47 Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs in the Battle of Britain where he shot down or destroyed twenty *Luftwaffe* fighters. In the war, he flew 204 combat sorties, earned the Distinguished Flying Cross (with four clusters), the Air Medal (with 16 clusters), the Purple Heart, and the French Croix de Guerre.—See James J. Hudson, “Major Pierce McKennon: Arkansas' ‘Boogie Woogie’ Playing Air Ace,” the *Journal* 44, 1 (April 2020): 28-42.

5. Maurice “Footsie” Britt was born in Lonoke County. Britt moved to Fort Smith after World War II to join his wife, Nancy’s family furniture business. He later served the state as lieutenant governor when Winthrop Rockefeller became the first Republican governor in Arkansas since 1868. A star athlete at the University of Arkansas, Britt signed afterward to play professional football with the Detroit Lions, which he did until drafted in 1941 into the U.S. Army. Seeing combat in the European theater and involved in many battles, Britt lost his right arm when a grenade landed near him on February 12, 1944. For his military gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in the Mignano, Italy, battle, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Other awards for his service included the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart from the United States, as well as the Military Cross of the British Empire and the *Al Valor Military* Merit from the Italians. Britt received his Medal of Honor on the UA football field during the 1944 commencement ceremony.—See Tom Dillard, *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

6. James Tate Charles, born in 1924, the son of Irma and Hiram Charles, who worked at Frisco Railroad depot, Jimmy Charles attended Hendrix College where he was a star football player. In 1943, he joined the U.S. Navy and, stationed in the Pacific Theater, he and his ship survived a Kamikaze attack. After the War ended, Charles attended the University of Iowa, gaining a M.A. in Education. Returning to Fort Smith, he headed a new program that paired returning G.I.’s enrolled at Fort Smith Junior College with elementary schools to coach their ball teams. In 1953, he played professional baseball with the Fort Smith Twins in the Western Association where he led the team and league in hitting with a .321 batting average. In 1955, Fort Smith Junior College appointed Charles head basketball coach. He recruited outstanding players from surrounding area high schools, scheduled games in the high school gyms, drew crowds, and led in the development of the Bi-State Conference. These activities help increase the enrollment in the private junior college. Charles was start-up director of the McAlester, Oklahoma, Boys Club, and then revitalized the Scottsdale, Arizona, Boys Club. In his later years, he returned to his hometown to become the city’s Parks and Recreation director. He has been inducted into the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith’s Athletic Hall of Fame and the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame.—See *University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, the First 85 Years, 1928-2012*, 34, 112-13, and the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame web page.

7. Victor Stewart was a World War II veteran serving in Italy and Africa. After the war, and for the next thirty-five years, Stewart touched many lives as a teacher and school administrator. He taught at Mount Ida, Mansfield, Darby Junior High, and Fort Smith High School. He was the first principal at Fort Smith Southside High School and remained in that position for nineteen years. He attended the Gleaners Sunday school class and First United Methodist Church in Fort Smith for forty-four years. He was a member of the Noon Exchange Club and Fort Smith Retired Teachers. Stewart was awarded the first life membership given by the Southside P. T. A. and the library at Southside was renamed the Victor E. Stewart Library.—From archives and personal accounts of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

8. Bob Worley, born in Poteau, Oklahoma, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and after training was stationed in India, a part of the CBI Theater in World War II. At the end of the war, Bob and his wife, Mary, moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he studied law. He came back to Fort Smith in the employ of the Kansas City Southern Railroad. His work with the railroads took him into a deep involvement in transportation law, in which he became a nationally honored practitioner before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Worley is credited by the Fort Smith Furniture Manufacturers Association for the equalization of railroad and river barge rates by the ICC for shipment of furniture, which allowed Fort Smith to compete with northern and eastern manufacturers, which enabled the industry here to flourish nationally. Worley was inducted into the Arkansas River Valley Historical Society Hall of Fame in 2011 and is a founder of the Hardwood Tree Museum Association.—See “Fort Smith and McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System,” the *Journal* 41, 1 (April 2017): 37- 41.

9. The many unsung heroes of Fort Smith who were a part of the Greatest Generation and left their mark on this community and the world.

❖ *In the Shadow of Suribachi*, a novel set around the famous Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945 that left this



THE GRIFFIN THEATER AT THE MUSEUM OF FORT SMITH HISTORY

(Photo courtesy of the Fort Smith Historical Society)

country with perhaps its most iconic World War II photograph. Written by Fort Smith native Joyce Faulkner, the novel has as its protagonist Bill Zimmer, a character based on her father, Billy Lee Plummer, USMC, who participated in the battle. The book is dedicated to him and “all the other ghosts of Iwo Jima.”

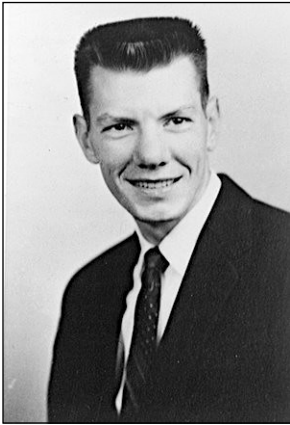
❖ The Museum of Fort Smith History’s **Griffin Theater** shows clips from more than 200 video interviews with veterans, providing fascinating participant stories of World War II for public viewing and to draw on for research.

Three Jimmys and a John whose talents enriched the city’s cultural history

❖ **Jimmy Lott**, with his wonderful cauliflower ears, promoted professional wrestling in Fort Smith over four decades scheduling stars of the sport through Leroy McGurk’s Tri-State Regional organization. Matches were held in the National Guard Armory on North A Street and then moved to a Sports Arena on Towson Avenue. Weekly cards featured highly touted wrestlers like Danny Hodge and attracted the iconic Gorgeous George to display his farcical act before large and vocal crowds. Lott and his wife, Stella, were superb spokespersons and sponsors of the sport and their show went much appreciated by folks in this city.

❖ **Jimmy Little** operated a seafood restaurant at 2824 Midland Boulevard that featured a live lobster tank near the front entrance, cozy booths, and tables in a lowered light dining room. It was a favorite meeting place for that special night out or when citizens were simply in the mood for fresh shrimp and oysters delivered by air from New Orleans

and elegantly served. The restaurant changed hands in the late 1960s, becoming Tommy's Seafood Restaurant. Under both names, countless Fort Smith citizens enjoyed special dining for five decades in memorable style.



JIMMY ATWELL

❖ **Jimmy Atwell** grew up across the street from Andrews Field. His dad worked in a nearby furniture factory, his mom in the cafeteria of the junior high school. Jimmy became a regular at the Wheeler Boys Club finding part-time employment there, sweeping the gym floor, running the concession stand, and eventually as a lifeguard in the indoor pool. In summers, he competed in AAU swim and diving meets. He mastered the competition trampoline, new to Fort Smith then, and entertained civic groups with his sky-high bounces and multiple somersaults. A starter on the Grizzly basketball team, his grade point and athleticism resulted in a full scholarship to Henderson State University where he was a letterman in two sports. After graduating college, he became a high school basketball coach leading Sparkman to the 1962 boys state championship and El Dorado to the title in 1976 when he was named the Arkansas Basketball High School Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Henderson State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2018.—See Henderson State Athletics

webpage and personal accounts in the Fort Smith Historical Society archives.

❖ **John F. Kennedy**, who visited Fort Smith in October 1961, toured with Mayor Bob Brooksher in an open convertible, and received the deed to land that became the Fort Smith National Historic Site.



PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN FORT SMITH IN OCTOBER 1961.

(Photo courtesy of the Pebley Center, UAfS)

A Flagpole at Hunt's Park

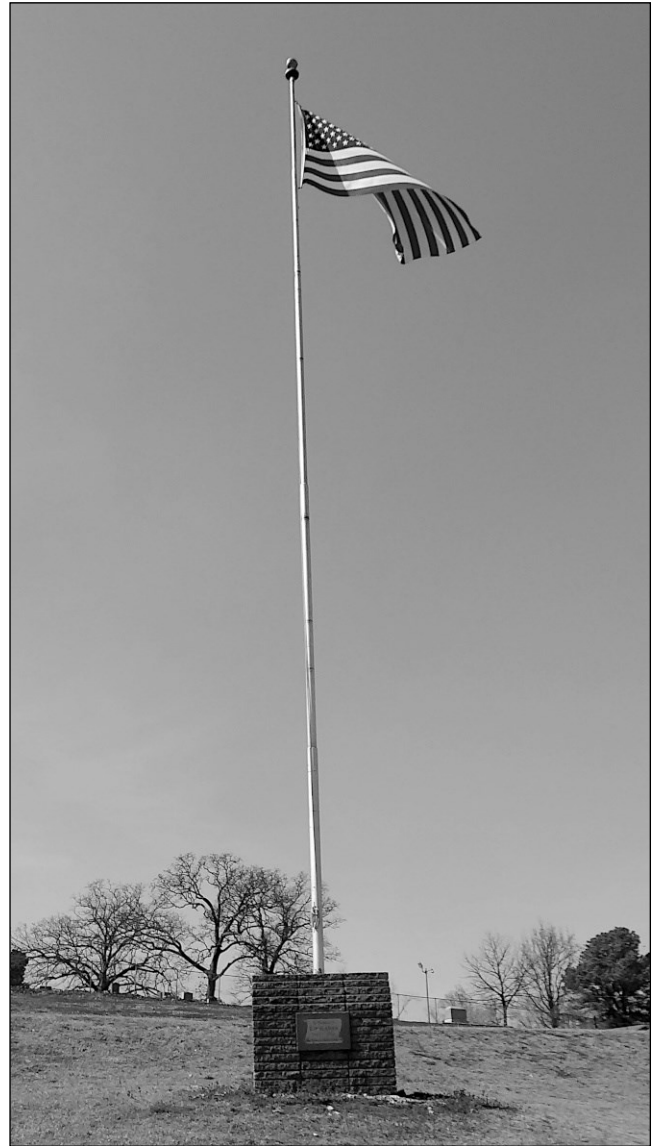
The Essence of a Ghost

By Phil Karber

To be sure, Fort Smith's Wheeler Avenue Boys Club was a home away from home. The regulars who passed beneath the blasted-in-concrete front door greeting, *Enter Ye Men of Tomorrow*, ranged from shoeless, sole-flapping Coke Hill, squatter camp kids to country club dandies with new Keds for every season. Class constructs, thanks in large part to the venerable, pipe-smoking director Clarence Higgins, were left at the door. He created an energy that had a strong regression to the middle, my kind, more or less.

My parents and Clarence Higgins, known as Hig to adults, his wife "Ope," and their son, Billy, who was already a teenager when we arrived in Fort Smith, became family friends. The fringe benefits of such a friendship were invaluable for kids, young boys especially. The parents got on well, and John, Stan, Greg and I were awestruck at the doors that opened for us. Mr. Higgins not only managed the Boys Club, he also oversaw Hunt's Park, an American Legion on up to semi-pro baseball field less than four blocks from Pendell Lane. When he had paperwork to do on Sunday and the Boys Club was closed, he'd pick us up in his Chevrolet station wagon and let us loose in both gyms, the Olympic size swimming pool, and the boxing room. If lucky, an old African-American sparring partner of Jack Dempsey's, Arthur Davis, better known as Shifty in New Jersey boxing circles, would show us a few of his old moves. He lived in the boiler room beneath the big gym bleachers.

We played baseball at the church league fields at the bottom end of our street, Pendell Lane. At Hunt's Park, we had worked our way into standing jobs before and after our church league games, slinging cones, cokes and hot dogs, shagging balls, posting the scoreboard, mowing, raking, chalking and cleaning trash. As the oldest, John always got the concession gig, tracking the inventory, handling the cash box. As ball shaggers, we were paid 25 cents a game. On weekend nights, we got a



FLAGPOLE AT HUNT'S PARK *baseball field in Fort Smith.*

(Photo courtesy of the author)

bump to 35 cents. Fringes included a round or two a day of free hot dogs, snow cones, ice cold Nehi grape sodas, the dropped coins found beneath the bleachers while cleaning up the trash, what we wanted of the broken bats and partial packages of loose-leaf Red Man chewing tobacco left in the dugouts. The pay per game and the fringes were unnecessary, though. There was no other place on earth I'd rather have been. It was a racket, a back-gate key to a Field of Dreams.

Most foul balls that didn't climb up home plate's

sloped-screen backstop went high and straight back and crashed on the tin top of the bleachers like a cannon shot. I'd pick it up when it rolled off the backside and return it to the ump. Retrieving out-of-play baseballs, that's what ball shaggers do. But some, like me on occasion, did it with brio.

One July evening during the district American Legion Tournament, I was working the hill behind home plate when a foul ball came down on top of four or five "scouts" who were sitting in a half-circle of lawn chairs. At the last second, as the scouts scrambled, I dove into the middle of those chairs and caught the ball on a measured roll with my homemade first baseman's glove. As I held it high in the air for all to see, Lester Johnson of the Los Angeles Dodgers ripped a "team calling card" from his wallet, reached my way and said, "Take this kid, and call me in a few years."

In the summer of '59 (not quite eight years old), I worked behind the plate managing the stock of foul balls to be returned to the umpire at his command. Between innings I would sprint 100 yards down the first base fence line and hook a right turn to the 30-foot-high black scoreboard, which was an excellent radiator of Arkansas's July heat. I'd hit the ladder in a full sprint (people watched), scurry up to the platform and search through a card-like shuffle for the correct black tin plates numbered in white, ranging from goose eggs to ten. During the heat of the day, the trick was to keep the likely numbers, the zeros and ones, covered from the sun on this giant, manually operated scoreboard.

After yet another of those sweltering afternoons, as the sky darkened on July 31, 1959, Ray Seaman, who was the centerfielder for Midwest Hardware, stepped up to the plate with two outs and no men on. The infield was humming with the usual fast chatter: "last batter," "easy out," "let him have it." Behind home plate, I squared up in a folding metal chair, a few feet to the left of the backstop fence. Down the third base line, in front of the cinder-block field house, positioned like a panel of judges, were my dad, John Karber, Clarence Higgins, Geno Lennon, Clyde Watts, and Jerry Kerwin. Known as the "coach's corner," it was an inner-sanctum of fast friends and baseball buffs, evoking a '50s-era respectability in which pipes were smoked, and white shirts and fedoras were standard dress.

Above me in the bleachers, next to the radio announcer, I could hear old Cephus Peters, who was

born with cerebral palsy, yak-yaking in his slurring speech. "Coach, you got to hold the bat steady," he would say, while shaking his cane at Greenwood Coach Jeep Sadler. Cephus and Coach Sadler were at Hunt's Park when the gates opened.

Leaning on the fence over my left shoulder was Larry "Vinegar Ben" Wright and his ballpark buddy Gerald "Doody" Prince, whose mother was known by all as the waitress in the pink uniform and hairnet who grilled hot dogs at Coney Island on Garrison Avenue. As was his custom, Vinegar Ben had his transistor radio in his shirt pocket, plugged into one ear listening to the St. Louis Cardinals game. Everyone thought Vinegar Ben was crazy with that ear bud corked in all the time, walking around by himself talking out loud. Doody could have cared less, particularly about his buddy's love for the Cardinals. He was a diehard Giants fan, given that they had once had a farm team in Fort Smith.

On this steamy Friday evening, Vinegar Ben, Doody and I shared the same line of sight as a high fast ball came out of nowhere and bam. It made a dull thud sound on Ray Seaman's head, the left temple area, unprotected by the plastic skull cap he was wearing. Ray's legs buckled, and he crumbled to the ground, out cold. In the same instance, Vinegar Ben and Doody screamed, almost in unison, "get a doctor, get a doctor."

Meantime, Coach Herman Whitson and Umpire Bill Norvel hovered over Ray for no more than a minute. The crowd was hushed, time crawled. Vinegar Ben pulled out his ear bud and stood funeral silent. Doody turned off his transistor, which he always kept pressed to his ear with a game on, muffling out reality. Even Cephus quieted down. And, then Ray Seaman came to, eyes hooded, slowly raising his head, saying, "I'm all right, I'm all right."

Coach Whitson helped him to his feet. Ray gathered himself a minute before walking to first base on his own. He received a standing ovation. "Let's go, Ray, shake it off," Doody shouted. After a quick out, Billy Howell, a teammate threw Ray his glove, and Ray walked slowly to his place in centerfield. He played two more innings, but as he took the field in the bottom of the sixth, he complained of feeling sick. Once in position, before play began, Ray's legs folded forward, and he hit the ground face down. His mother watched it all, bereft, screaming over and over, "Ray, my baby, Ray, my baby...."



PLAQUE AND FLAGPOLE BASE AT HUNT'S PARK IN FORT SMITH *was erected in memory of Ray Seaman, a teenager who died in 1959 after being hit by a pitch during a baseball game.*

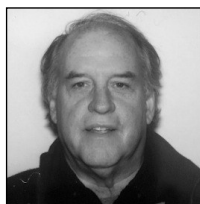
(Photo courtesy of the author)

Teammates helped him back to his feet, and Ray's dad rushed him to the hospital. Dr. J. P. Shermer, a volunteer general practitioner who had conducted many summer camp physicals for the Boys Club, met the Seamans at the Sparks Hospital emergency room. Ray's sixteen-year-old brain bled out on the operating table. We got the news the next afternoon.

I'd seen corpses of old people in coffins on display in living room wakes where my grandparents lived in the piney woods of Arkansas, but never fully registered the whimsical way death could repose just anybody at any age at any time. Now, I did, in a more vivid way, at not quite eight years old. It gave me a sick feeling, the thought of dying someday.

A year later, plastic helmets with earflaps became

common gear in the major leagues, replacing the skull caps. At the same time, a flagpole honoring Ray, dedicated by his Midwest Hardware teammates, went up at Hunt's Park. In seasons to come, whenever I covered the hill shagging balls, I perched at the ready waiting on a fly ball next to the flagpole, feeling the ghostly spirit of the departed on hallowed ground. Sixteen-year-old Ray Seaman was nowhere and yet everywhere.



Phil Karber has traveled to seven continents and written four books on his adventures. He is a two-time Lowell Thomas medalist.

J. Harold Smith

The Impact of One Pastor on Fort Smith

By George O'Neel

In December 1950, a new pastor, Reverend J. Harold Smith, arrived with his family to serve the First Baptist Church in Fort Smith. For the next ten years, Smith made a remarkable impact on his church in terms of growth and accessibility and upon many individuals, young and old. He influenced the moral and spiritual climate of the area in the pulpit and through the church's television ministry. Smith's message touched service men who were training at Fort Chaffee, many of whom were destined to fight in Korea.

J. Harold Smith's coming to Fort Smith began in the early fall of 1950. J. Harold was serving as pastor of the Woodland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mr. Roy Gean, Sr., chairman of the deacons at First Baptist, contacted Rev. Smith with an invitation to preach a trial sermon. At first, J. Harold was not interested, but eventually changed his mind and agreed to come and hold a revival meeting with the stipulation that it would be at his own expense. He would accept no love offering. He said in this way, he would know if it was God's will for him to become pastor of the First Baptist Church.

During an October revival, J. Harold preached what came to be his signature sermon, "God's Three Deadlines," a compelling and powerful topic. At the conclusion of each service, he extended an invitation to those who wanted to receive Christ as the Savior to come forward for prayer. Four hundred people responded during that week. Fort Smith seemed like a perfect fit for J. Harold Smith. He accepted the position offered to him as pastor.

After he and his family's relocation here, J. Harold's first Sunday service was on December 19, 1950. J. Harold's son Don remembered that the parsonage was not quite finished, so the family stayed in the Goldman Hotel for three weeks, which was quite an experience for a five-year-old boy. When the house was completed, the Smiths moved into their new home on Waldron Road.¹



J. HAROLD SMITH WITH HIS FAMILY, Myrtice, Don, and Martha

(Photo courtesy of the author)

So, who was this pastor who made such a significant impression on the citizens and culture of western Arkansas? A native of South Carolina, J. Harold had initially decided to become a medical doctor and so went to Furman University to pursue that dream. But a sister's probing question brought him face to face with his relationship with God, and he gave his life to Jesus Christ as his Savior that day and committed his life to preaching the gospel of Christ.

How can anyone adequately describe a person described by others as, "a great and mighty man," "a humble man," and "one of the Southern Baptist Convention's greatest evangelists?" However, several of his personal characteristics draw one's attention. His

mind: brilliant, but by no means egotistical. His appearance: strikingly handsome and impeccably dressed, always in a suit and tie. His character: sterling quality, unimpeachable integrity. His personality: larger-than-life, magnetic for many but could repel others. His convictions: unwaveringly Bible-centered. His sense of humor: very good! He enjoyed playing practical jokes. His energy level: seemingly boundless.

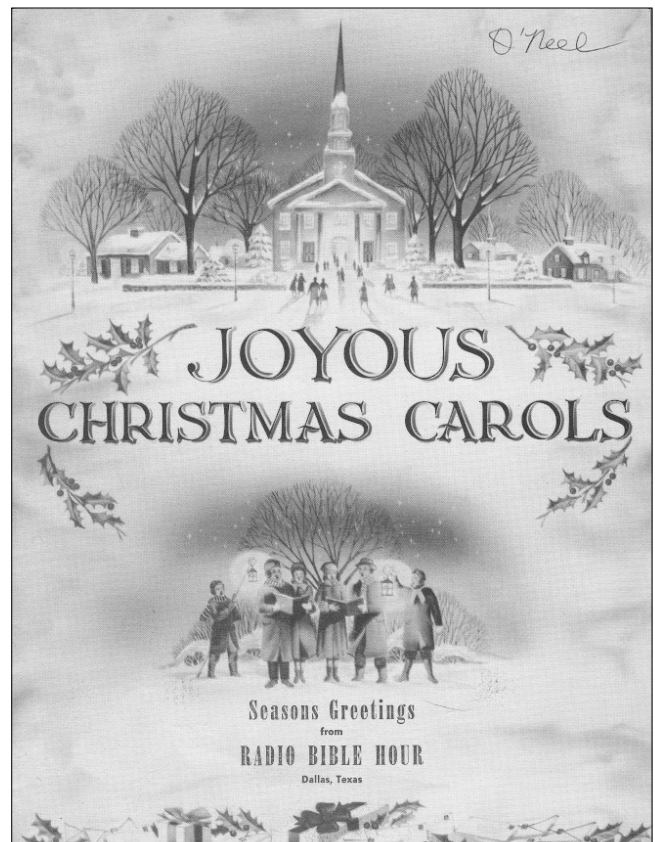
The dedication to his calling of Rev. Smith was demonstrated constantly by his preaching regular services at the church, three or four times a week and maintaining a radio ministry, the Radio Bible Hour, which Rev. Smith had moved from Chattanooga with his office staff of six to eight people. The Radio Bible Hour featured Rev. Smith preaching on air seven days a week on XERF radio. Smith edited a monthly newsletter, *Your Good Neighbor* with a circulation of some 100,000 subscribers. There was, of course, the necessity of raising of money for the operation of the media ministry none of which came from the budget of the church. With all of that, he never seemed to run out of energy!

His preaching? No question he had a dynamic preaching style. It was bold. He preached the Bible, warning people of a hell to come if they rejected Christ and a heaven to gain if they received and embraced Him as their Lord and Savior.

Unashamedly, he declared that there were not many ways to heaven—only one. That was by the shed blood of Jesus on the cross and His bodily resurrection from the dead three days later. And whoever turned from their sin and openly confessed Christ as Savior and Lord would be forgiven of sin and receive eternal life. He preached against sin and not just in general. It was by naming sin and not just for the unbeliever but for committed believers as well. His style of delivery carried with it a Scriptural authority, which was part and parcel of his message. He displayed no fear of offending or of currying favor with anyone. His message to listeners concerned pleasing God. He worried not about offending people. (Some of his sermons can still be accessed online.)

The influence of this pastor and the church spread through the telecommunications media. Television and radio broadcasts originated live from the church auditorium.

The radio broadcasts were on KWHN (1320 AM)



A BROCHURE FROM THE RADIO BIBLE HOUR

(Image courtesy of the author)

and began in January 1948. The telecasts followed a few years later as the first television company in Fort Smith, KFSA-TV, Channel 22 (later changed to KFSM, Channel 5) went on the air in the third week of July 1953, and the very next week the church had a live broadcast from their studio. Just a few weeks later the station used a new mobile unit to facilitate a broadcast live from the church auditorium. The telecast was the first service in the state of Arkansas to be broadcast live from the church. Live broadcasts of the First Baptist services on Sunday continues today, albeit now a week delayed.

It would be impossible to even imagine the impact in the lives of individuals that these broadcasts have made over the years. To most people in the viewing area, J. Harold Smith was a household word.²

The motto Pastor Smith coined for the church was, “The church where everybody is somebody.” That phrase was printed in the weekly bulletin during the early years of his tenure. And it was not just a slogan for Pastor Smith. He often repeated it from the pulpit. He exemplified it especially by the way he listened to



SANCTUARY OF FORT SMITH FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH with Rev. J. Harold Smith speaking, circa 1957.

(Photo courtesy of the author)

people who wanted to talk to him. In a personal conversation with him, that person got his undivided attention, no interruptions or glancing around. That individual most often felt important to this pastor.

Being a part of a church service was highly enjoyable for most everyone. The Ministers of Music, Bob Post and later David Williams, produced wonderfully inspiring, heart-moving choral music as well as leading congregational music! The excellent organist for many years was Mrs. Virginia Miller. Usually two pianists accompanied the choir and congregational singing. Then Rev. Smith brought a strong sermon and called for people to make a public commitment of their lives to Jesus Christ as their Savior. When individuals came forward indicating a personal decision, men and women of the church prayed with them.

Sometimes the services would continue until 1:00 in the afternoon. But few seemed to mind. The church attendance continued to grow, enough so to add a second morning service.

For several years, the church led Arkansas Baptists

in the number of baptisms. Most people in the congregation called him, "J. Harold" or "Brother Harold" as he was affectionately spoken of, and he was indeed an effective pastor but ever an evangelist at heart. He reached out to people encouraging them to trust in Jesus Christ who would forgive their sins and give them eternal life. He reached many from his preaching in the pulpit but others person-to-person.

One notable example is a world champion rodeo steer wrestler and well-known rodeo clown Ken Boen, who had a ranch in the city. A member of the church and neighbor of Ken asked Rev. Smith to visit him. When the pastor went to Boen's ranch, he was met by a bunch of barking dogs. When Boen heard the ruckus, he called the dogs off and put them in their pen. Rev. Smith told the famous cowboy that he wanted to talk with him about his relationship with God. He asked Ken if he could pray for him.

In his own words, Rev. Smith unfolds the story.

He (Ken) grinned, and said, 'Sure, I'll let you pray for me; but we've got to get on our knees.' Well, I was

wearing my very best new suit, but Ken had on an old pair of blue jeans, and he dropped down on his knees still smirking. I looked at all that mud and tried to recall a verse about the value of prayer offered while standing, but finally I got down on my knees. I could feel that old muddy, oozy, filthy, soil coming up through the trousers of my new white suit. Ken said he opened his eyes and saw me on my knees in that mud, and God used that to break his heart! He was gloriously saved and is now one the greatest soul-winners of our day.³

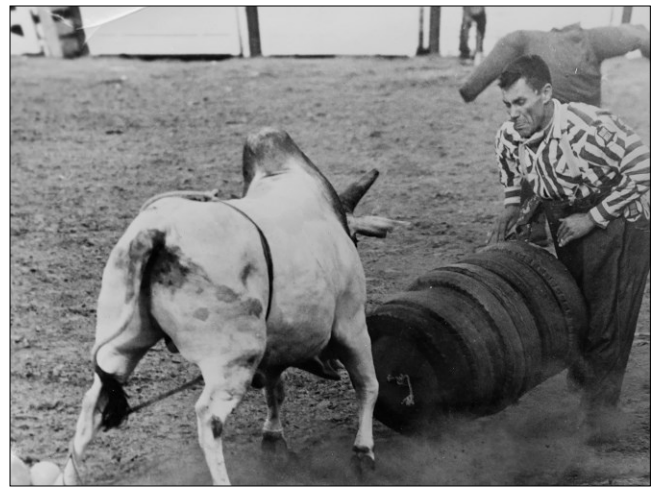
Ken continued to be a strong witness for Christ, even doing some lay preaching. One of his sermons was titled, "Proud Rider on a Horse." Ken Boen established a Christian Cowboy Camp at his ranch for youth. It was an opportunity for boys and girls to learn to ride a horse, rope, enjoy a hot dog lunch and meet a famous cowboy. As he bid these young people farewell after the camp, Boen rewarded them with a Gospel message.

Because of his persona as a cowboy and a man's man, Boen had an opportunity to become a "Marlboro Man" to advertise cigarettes. Because he believed that smoking was not good for a person, Boen turned down this lucrative offer.

Boen trained his horses in what he called "The Old Gray Mare Act" performed in rodeos across the country, including in Madison Square Garden. He had opportunities to go into movies and to perform with the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus among others, but declined for various reasons, one being that his horse would suffer undue hardship by where he would be quartered or have to travel from place to place on the train. He did not want his animal to endure those conditions.

As with Ken Boen, J. Harold Smith made a strong impact on Fort Smith morally as well as spiritually. From time to time, he would personally confront management of establishments he deemed dens of inequity as well as places of prostitution. These businesses especially in downtown Fort Smith flourished as they competed for soldier's dollars when they came to the city on Saturday nights.

In addition, J. Harold worked with others in the church on a gambling problem rampant at the Arkansas-Oklahoma fairgrounds. In his own words, he unfolded



RODEO CLOWN PAR EXCELLENCE KEN BOEN
saved bullriders from injury while making audiences laugh with his Old Gray Mare comedy routine.

(Photo courtesy of Dr. Linda Boen)

how the impact was made. "One Saturday night as the fair was opening for the next ten days, a little boy come up to me and said, 'Preacher, the man down there in that booth took all my money.'"

Rev. Smith located the booth which was a ball-pitching game. He said to the burly guy running it, "Give this boy his \$2.50 back."

"The man answered, 'We know who you are. We were warned about you before we came to this city. You are J. Harold Smith.'"

J. Harold's story continued:

[I said to him], "Since we had this nice introduction, you need to give this boy his money back." The man said, "Never!" then he cursed me and in no uncertain terms told me what he was going to do to me.

It had been raining all day, and before I thought much about it, I said, "If you'll come out from behind that counter, I'll bury you so deep in this mud, it'd take a bulldozer to dig you out!"

Fortunately, he did not come out. So, some of us took the little boy to the sheriff's office where he told his story. The sheriff roared off and arrested the booth attendant and confiscated his gambling equipment. As he was being led away, the gambler said to me over his shoulder, "Before you came to this city we had everything fixed."

I said, "You did? Who is it fixed with...the governor



DEACONS OF FORT SMITH FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CIRCA 1957.

(Photo courtesy of the author)

of our state? The mayor of our city? Our chief of police or the sheriff of our county? Or is it fixed with Judge Pitts?"

Sunday morning when I stood up in the pulpit on television and radio, I said, "This gambler told me that he had everything 'fixed,' so in the morning when he comes before Judge Pitts, we'll see."

Of course, Judge Pitts heard my statement, called me, and said, "Preacher you just be in the courtroom in the morning, and I'll show you whether I've been fixed or not."

The next morning, he called this case first. He fined the gambler two hundred dollars and ordered all of his equipment burned on the courthouse lawn! This closed down the whole gambling row...sixty-three shops of it at the fairgrounds...and to the amazement of some of the citizens, it was the first year that the Arkansas-Oklahoma Fair had ever cleared any money.

These actions raised the ire of some people in the area who made threats against J. Harold, including bottles being thrown through their windows at night. During the wee hours someone put a Detour sign up at their driveway directing the traffic off Waldron Road on to their lawn. Obviously, there were many citizens who appreciated his influence but there was a group who did not like what he was doing by shutting down some business which preyed on the innocent and

unsuspecting. But J. Harold's response was, "No matter how annoying or even how frightening the situation, it was worth it all."⁴

It seems evident that J. Harold held Scripture and its timeless moral truths in higher esteem than the opinions of those who disagreed them or refused to live by them. This public stand came with unpleasant consequences, but he was more than willing to pay that price, which reveals why it was impactful.

Men of the church, called "The Brotherhood," were highly impacted by their pastor and were trained to share the gospel person-to-person. They held Lay Revivals in smaller churches and several peached at various times. At least four or five of them became pastors of churches.

The Brotherhood initiated a Soldiers' Service on Saturday nights for service men who had passes to come to Fort Smith from Fort Chaffee. Of course, businesses of all sorts were open including many bars, porn shops and houses of prostitution. The Brotherhood men parked their cars at the corner of Tenth Street and Garrison Avenue near John Lassen's Pawn Shop. They invited soldiers passing by to go to a service at the church designed for them. When two or three of the soldiers accepted the invitation, they were brought a short distance to the church. The service included hymn singing, occasionally Christian testimony, usually by a retired military man, and a brief gospel message



PORTRAIT OF J. HAROLD SMITH

(Photo courtesy of the author)

brought by Associate Pastor Bob Post or Pastor Smith, followed by an altar call to receive Christ. Many of the soldiers responded and were prayed with by the Brotherhood men. Following the service, the soldiers were invited to the dining area where they could enjoy some home-made desserts made by ladies in the church.

Likely, many a mother's prayers were answered for their sons as they responded to the call of God on their lives. These services continued for the years Fort Chaffee actively trained and readied draftees for the regular army.

Through this lay ministry, it is estimated that 8,000 soldiers found peace with God before their deployment to Korea.

In addition to the Saturday night Soldiers Service, the Brotherhood had "nearly fifty lay revivals, an active jail ministry, mission ministry, and home and hospital ministry."⁵

Young people were highly influenced by the passionate preaching of their pastor. Smaller churches in the area held revivals led by the youth of the church.

Many of them preached their first sermon, led the revival music or shared publicly their Christian testimony. It is estimated that over twenty of the young men felt called to go into the ministry. Some of the young ladies became pastor's wives and others, both men and women, became strong spiritual leaders in their communities. Most were quick to say that Brother Harold had a strong impact on the direction of their lives. One young person who later became a TWA pilot, reflected on the influence that his pastor had on him by saying, "He taught me to love Jesus."

The tenure of his pastorate at First Baptist spanned almost ten years, concluding with the Sunday morning service on July 13, 1959. According to his son, Don Smith, "Fort Smith was the happiest period in my Dad's life. It felt like home to him."

Reflecting on J. Harold's life and ministry in Fort Smith, it seems that his greatest personal joy and satisfaction was seeing people place their faith in Jesus Christ and experience the profound difference He made in their lives. Simply put, J. Harold Smith loved God and he loved people.

FOOTNOTE: J. Harold Smith returned to Fort Smith to pastor the Kelly Heights Baptist Church in September 1964. Later, it changed its name to Windsor Park Baptist Church.



George O'Neel, a native of Fort Smith, was educated in the public schools. He was an active participant in the youth group at First Baptist Church during J. Harold Smith's tenure as pastor.

Following seminary, he served in the pastorate of churches in Fort Smith, Little Rock, and Bella Vista, retiring in 2003. Returning to Fort Smith after retirement with his wife, Arlene, George has served as an interim pastor, corporate chaplain and Bible teacher in the area.

End Notes

¹ Interview with Donald Smith by author.

² Interview with Carl Riggins by author.

³ J. Harold Smith, *The Time of My Life, The Autobiography of J. Harold Smith*, (Knoxville, Tennessee, 1981), p. 67-68.

⁴ Ibid., 68-71.

⁵ Tom Gray, *A Brief History of First Baptist Church, 1857-2018* (Unpublished, 2007), p. 9.

‘Not in My Backyard’

NIMBYism and Housing Policies in Fort Smith, Arkansas”

By Vince Scott

Fort Smith, Arkansas, a city of 87,000 people, is a diverse but segregated community. A color line has remained as firm as bedrock for well more than fifty years. As the racial narrative of Fort Smith unfolds, answers to the patterns of housing segregation although elusive, emerge. In the modern context, the “spirit” of integration existed in schools and workplaces, but not in the residential areas of community. The line is clear but denied.

Arkansas is archetypical in the southern civil rights struggle. Although there is much to say about the state’s rich history of desegregation in the public sector, not so much in private sectors mainly in housing equality. Little Rock and Fort Smith exhibit a pattern of racial housing policies that have created a city within a city phenomenon. “Anyone who drives across town in either city can see this with their own eyes, and anyone who takes the time and trouble to do so can examine the demographic data to confirm it.”¹

The ebb and flow of geographically segregated housing patterns [in Arkansas] have been consciously created by public policy, with private sector collusion, since the 1950s.²

Since the civil rights era, Arkansans have been doing business as usual. Working and raising families, buying homes, sending kids to college, and saving for retirement. A quiet reality, however, whispers beneath the modern cultural and institutional integration in the American South where rhetoric seems to support racial equality, just as long as it’s happening somewhere else. Hiding behind the liberated cultural sensibility a Jim Crow separate-but-equal mindset remains, a sublimity that often goes unnoticed. Well meaning, church-going white folks would shed genuine tears at the thought of ethnic and racial minorities or the poor being subjugated by their own actions, or in actions as the case may be.

But as recently as 2016, one white resident of a neighboring Fort Smith suburban township was concerned if giving a black Star Wars action figure to a white child would be deemed an offensive birthday gift.³

If asked point blank, most white suburbanites would take serious offense at the proposition that they might be a part of the problem of segregation. Ironically, however, many in this same group of folks would fight tooth and nail to keep subsidized housing from being built near their neighborhood. As they espouse concerns about the safety of their families, the crime rate, and property values, the color line is maintained under the careful eyes of the local Neighborhood Watch. “Not in my backyard!” is their mantra. Surely there is somewhere else for them to go, isn’t there? N.I.M.B.Y is the acronym for “Not in my backyard.” This type of thinking in practice is *NIMBYism*.

NIMBYism. Ideology exists behind a veil of embedded cultural philosophies about race, privilege, and the home. Contemporary racism and classism are not overt at all, but are intricately woven together in a fabric of policy and presumption. The issue of inequality is so subtle (especially within the white mind) that a great majority of this research, the hours of interviews, and combing through case files, has been dedicated to understanding how people think about race. A better understanding of institutional racism could help clarify the history of Fort Smith’s polarized demography.

Communities chained to race and class driven systems are often not even being aware of it, least of all the white folks. And in many cases, the non-whites are often just as guilty. According to Bobbie Woodard-Andrews, a prominent local African American activist, after emancipation many blacks in the community continued to be kept “slaves in their own minds.”⁴ This type of thinking is backed by generations of fear being taught in black households and reinforced by the browbeating black communities have historically

received. Woodard-Jones goes on to say, “Our people are reluctant to be *firsts* in anything.”⁵ No one in the black community wants to be the first to go to college, first to buy a house or the first to vote. Although Fort Smith exhibits a geographical color line, the real root of this phenomenon exists within the psyche of the community, both white and black alike. When it comes to racial housing policy, Fort Smith is like much of the of New South in America.⁶ At this point, it will help to clarify racial housing practices by taking a wide-angle look at America’s racial housing history, before returning the focus back to the Arkansas River Valley.

Racial inequality is a meaty topic that spans the tablecloth of American history corner to corner. After sifting through contemporary sources, spin, and propaganda, it turns out that the history of housing segregation is often painted in shades of gray, even when discussing a subject that is quite literally black and white. A multitude of documented cases related to “White Flight” seem to go silent in American history textbooks.⁷

The modern housing structure is the grandchild of New Deal policies in post-World War II America.⁸ An application of critical race theory to the issue of housing inequality will help to clarify how the American landscape was shaped racially.⁹ Some interesting developments occurred during the Great Depression that illustrate how racial temperament in America is not linear, meaning that over time there have been stop-gap actions that appeared to level the playing field temporarily. Noted American South historian, Yale scholar, and native of Arkansas C. Vann Woodward described the ebb and flow of race relations throughout history stating, “Tension between the races eased somewhat during the thirties while both white and colored people grappled with the problems of the Great Depression.” As the Depression ended and New Deal liberalism swept the country, it would seem that the desperation of the hour had ushered in a “[...] new and hopeful era of interracial relations.” Woodward illustrated how emergent progressive civil rights factions put pressure on the status quo of segregation. There was an almost aggressive nature to the racial reforms pushing south of the Mason Dixon Line at this time. These neo-abolitionists operated with an organization and intensity that frightened people in the South.¹⁰

The use of the word “frightened” is noteworthy. As

anxiety escalated in the wake of the Great Depression, racial tensions seemed to heat up. Sociologist Howard W. Odum said, “the South and the Negro in the early 1940’s faced their greatest crisis since the days of reconstruction, and...many of the same symbols of conflict and tragedy that were manifest in the 1840’s were evident again a hundred years later.”¹¹ In the 1930s, the U.S. government created the Federal Housing Administration, an organization providing loans to average Americans for home purchase at low interest rates. This was, in effect, the birth of the modern housing market as we know it today.¹² This is also the birthplace of *NIMBYism* as blacks could now afford to become new homeowners, which threatened whites.

As soldiers returned home from the war, the federal government began to, in effect, create “whiteness.”¹³ What this essentially means is that racial housing policy was baked right into the apple pie of the American Dream, all the way down to white picket fences. This preferential treatment of white suburban settlers became what would be known as “redlining.” Redlining is a term for the neighborhood rating system that rewarded banks and realtors for loaning to and developing in communities that were all white and suburban.¹⁴ These neighborhoods were given a “green” rating, which meant that they were a good investment. Areas that were heavily populated by minorities were given a “red” rating. The closer one lived to the red line, the less their property was worth.

Meanwhile, after World War II, black citizens in the nation’s larger cities were funneled into urban housing projects called vertical ghettos, which in turn led to large concentrations of poor, black people in the inner cities.¹⁵ The concept of urbanizing minorities, and more specifically blacks, was practiced frequently during this period. Much like the cities of industry, a booming wartime economy brought industry south of the Mason-Dixon line in the form of production sites and training facilities for the U.S. war effort. Once such facility was Camp Chaffee, which broke ground in Fort Smith on September 20, 1941.¹⁶ With the building of Chaffee, came an influx of soldiers and their families who needed a place to live. This stirred the local economy and inspired the Fort Smith Housing Authority to take advantage of block grant funds via the Federal Housing Act of 1937. While Camp Chaffee was being built, rather than attempting to urbanize the African-American

community like their contemporaries in the North, the Fort Smith Housing Authority tried to push black residents out of town completely.¹⁷ The ensuing struggle was well documented by the NAACP and proved to be a flashpoint for a racially divided landscape in Fort Smith that persisted.

Parts of Fort Smith now considered slums or areas of urban blight have historically been occupied for the most part by the African-American community. In the early 1940s about a square mile in area, took center stage in a racial standoff between black property owners and white city administrators who were seeking to develop the properties. On August 24, 1940, the Housing Authority branch of the Fort Smith Planning Commission quietly drafted a resolution behind closed doors aimed at forcing black residents to vacate their properties. The resolution had deemed the area a “slum clearance project,” which would satisfy already loose stipulations of the block grant while simultaneously giving them the authority to level the property.¹⁸

Nearly one hundred African Americans resided in the target area. The city’s development plans initially included two subsidized housing additions. The first, Arkansas Project No. 3-1, was already funded and approved for construction. This housing project, designated by the federal government for military workers and their families, had been dubbed a “white” project locally and was to be built in an area that had been occupied almost solely by these African-American families for more than one hundred years.¹⁹ Its counterpart, Arkansas Project No. 3-2, was to be designated a “Negro” addition, but had not moved beyond the Authority’s preliminary vote. In other words, it was nothing more than lip service at that point. It appeared that the city of Fort Smith was engineering an administrative filibuster of sorts. By “requesting an additional allocation of \$200,000 for forty-five more units for [the Negro project] Ark-3-2,” the local Housing Authority was making a good show of it while actually doing little more than burying the project under red tape.²⁰ If the Fort Smith Housing Authority were to have its way, the bulk of the African-American community would not only be displaced, they would be homeless. The motivation for the white administration’s strong-arm tactics was presumed to be due to the developmental upside this location presented. The contested area was increasing in value due to its

proximity to U.S highways and the downtown business district of Fort Smith.²¹ The residents of the area however, would not lay down without a fight.

On May 22, 1941, one black resident, Ms. Hazel Rutledge, wrote a letter to the NAACP that changed the course of Fort Smith Civil Rights history. Rutledge’s letter reached the desk of Thurgood Marshall, legal counselor for the NAACP.²² For more than a year, multiple correspondence between Fort Smith residents and Civil Rights leaders in Washington culminated in a legal battle that reached a stalemate in the appeals process and would eventually be dropped from the docket.²³ African-American citizens were able to keep their homes, and although no public backlash came about from it, there would be reprisal nonetheless. As the legal battle dissipated, the development of Arkansas Project 3-1 (the white addition) was eventually moved from site A to site E. True to form, on May 5, 1942, the Fort Smith Housing Authority abruptly “abandoned USHA Aided Project No. Ark-3-2 [dubbed the Negro project] due to the war and the inability to obtain the necessary materials.” Later that same month, however, Ark-Project 3-1 (the white addition) opened bidding for construction on the aforementioned new location at site E.²⁴ Sour grapes indeed. The new location would eventually become Heartsill Ragon Courts and would be maintained as an exclusively white subsidized housing addition for more than twenty years.²⁵ This is how the landscape of the community evolve racially, one administrative shift at a time.

Although no crosses were set aflame in the city square, this Jim Crow-mindset administration had only begun to roll up its sleeves. Now that the location issue of Ragon Courts (Ark-3-1) was decided, it would not be until 1945 that the resolution for Ark-3-2 would be reactivated, and not until 1949 that a site would be approved for construction.²⁶ If overt racism was the norm in the 1940s, then *NIMBYism* (the offspring of segregation) would be like a baby boomer. Administrators, having been stymied in the direct approach to segregation, developed tactics that would more subtly accomplish their goals by using economics, education, and procrastination as a recipe for racial policy making. Over the next fifty years, consciously or not, *NIMBYism* strategies in housing geography perpetuated a color line in this town.

With the 1950s decade well underway, Ark 3-2

project, Elm Grove Housing, was labeled a “colored edition” and maintained as such from its first residents moving in by April 30, 1952, until its demolition in 1981 (See figure 1).²⁷

Ironically, Elm Grove homes were built on the land that the Housing Authority had so furiously fought for a decade earlier as a slum clearance project. Things did not go smoothly for Elm Grove Homes in the years to come.

The Housing Authority soon discovered that it had built 150 homes in the middle of a floodplain. It is alarming that a housing project of this size would be constructed over a two-year period without anyone taking notice of flooding issues on the job site. Soon after completion, the addition had problems with flooding, and it flooded frequently. “It was built in a hole” as resident Euba Winton remembers it. “The ground in the neighborhood was so bad, that the playground was always too wet to trod on.”²⁸ Elm Grove residents were not the only ones who noticed problems with the project. One source who has asked to remain anonymous consented to her opinions being used in this article. She will be referred to henceforth as “Jane Doe.” Jane moved to Fort Smith in 1955, three years after Elm Grove opened. She wrote:

What was most illuminating was finding out how new the project was when I was growing up. We traveled from Marshall Drive in Sunnymede to downtown [Fort Smith] and to church down North O Street, so Elm Grove was a significant memory for me. It seemed ancient and decrepit then, and it was finished only a year before I was born.²⁹

When Ragon Courts (the new white addition) was completed at the junction of North Sixth Street and Midland Boulevard (Site E), the surrounding neighborhood known as Midland Heights flourished alongside it for nearly three decades. Thus, the green area of white housing developments wrapped around the African-American housing on North O Street like a beltway.³⁰ There were white neighborhoods and schools to the south of Elm Grove. To the west was downtown Fort Smith, which was predominately white except for the Ninth Street African-American business section, and Ragon Homes (also white) to the north. It is difficult to get a mental picture of this phenomenon, but suffice to

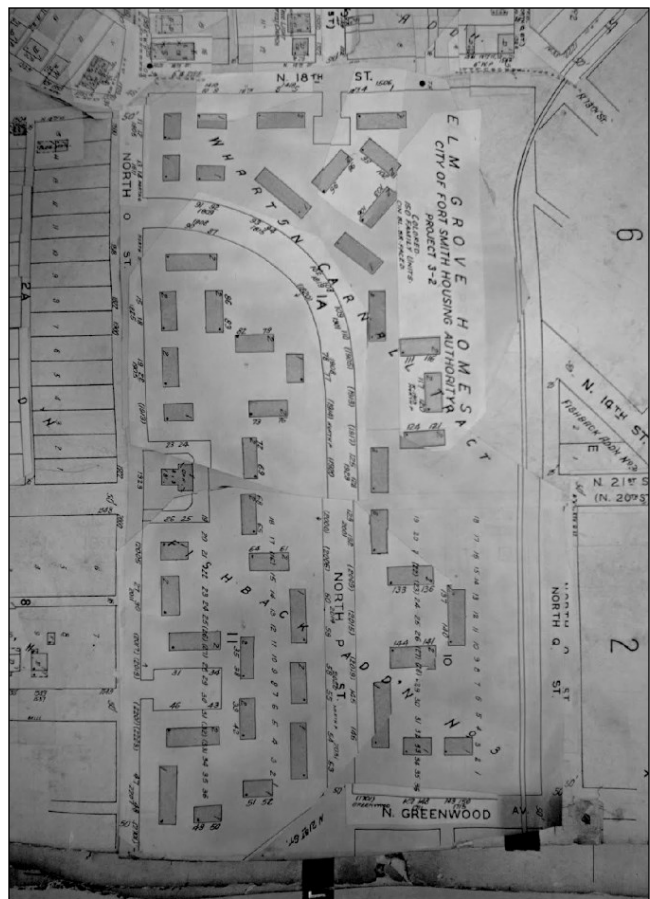


FIGURE 1 — ELM GROVE DISTRICT. *Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Map of Fort Smith, Updated 1956.*

(Photo courtesy of Pebley Center Archives)

say, wherever minority housing existed in Fort Smith, white developers would mobilize like water separating from oil (See figure 2). It seemed that the Housing Authority, having failed to push black citizens further north, sought to isolate them within the Elm Grove pocket, and they were successful for a reason. The ideal of *NIMBYism* has always been to accomplish separation without anyone making too big a fuss about it, which is still done with regularity.

In the summer of 1953 as Elm Grove flooding problems continued, the administration sought to implement small ground levees and other quick-fix strategies to curtail the frequent flooding of the site; however, it appears that they were unsuccessful.³¹ During the 1950s and '60s, the fates of Elm Grove and Ragon Courts became entwined in a tangle of Civil Rights legislation and carefully applied red tape. The will was bent on controlling where people were allowed to live, and it would do so through the clever

manipulations of a few people.

As the local Housing Authority sluggishly complied with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the wording of non-discriminatory language was applied to the approved resolutions so as to allow relative freedom where potential tenants could choose to live.³² There would be no preferential treatment as to where people could live based on race by the administration, but that did not prohibit the individuals from choosing where they would rent subject to availability. As water damage quickly eroded the living conditions at Elm Grove, minorities trickled into Ragon Courts over the course of the next two decades. Meanwhile, the more affluent white residents living in the Midland Heights area steadily migrated southeast. Thus, over time, Ragon Courts slowly became the place for a few poor whites and minorities.³³

The flooding problem would not appear in the Housing Authority minutes again until the mid-1970s.³⁴ Over the course of that decade, several resolutions were passed regarding the fate of Elm Grove, but strangely none of them was implemented. These resolutions ranged from adding a recreational area on the site, to calling for a partial demolition with minimal restorations.³⁵ All resolutions for Ragon Courts and Elm Grove were preceded by a modernization mandate assigned in the federal grant provisions. The Federal Public Housing Authority had approved additional grant monies for both projects to the tune of more than one million dollars; however, it is here that almost all fiscal transparency by the local administration disappears from the records.³⁶

In 1974, the HUD Area Office had contacted the executive director of the Fort Smith Housing Authority regarding the transfer of more than a million dollars of renovation grant monies from its designation for Elm Grove over to Ragon Courts. This was supposedly due to “the lack of flood control.”³⁷ However, based on the records kept by the city, little had been done to alleviate the flooding. In other words, if it was not documented in the books, it probably did not happen. While one could only speculate at the motive, it would appear that in order to keep funds pouring into the coffers of the local authority without benefitting Elm Grove, some creative manipulation of resources would have needed to take place.

Jane Doe also commented on this discrepancy in the

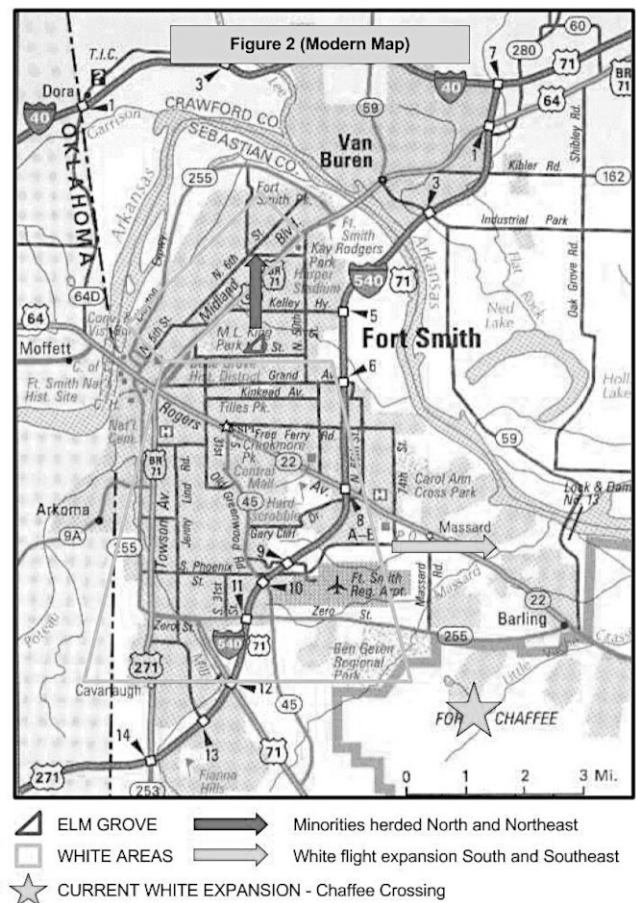


FIGURE 2

records stating, “It’s very difficult to look at these materials and not form negative opinions about what was going on. [When the local authority] reallocated funds from Elm Grove to Ragon Courts; that one troubles me—but much of what they did is troubling when viewed in the rearview mirror.”³⁸

Troubling indeed. Not surprisingly, the shady machinations of the local authority and the city government would continue all the way to the project’s demolition.

On June 15, 1979, Resolution 603 was passed stating, “[the] Commissioners have decided not to invest in any rehabilitation of this [Elm Grove] project site and furthermore recommend demolition of all structures located there as soon as possible.”³⁹

Once again, this was due to the “threat of constant flooding.”⁴⁰ On August 17, 1981, the Fort Smith Housing Authority passed Resolution 642, deeding the Elm Grove property over to the city of Fort Smith for “public use.”⁴¹ This is a strange move, considering that

the housing authority had presumably paid “someone” from the grant money for the property in order to build Elm Grove in the first place. What happened next is even more bizarre. On October 15, 1982, the land parcel of Arkansas Project 3-2 (Elm Grove Homes) was “conveyed over to a Mr. Leonard and [Mrs.] Vi Bogoslavsky.”⁴² This action was given no preamble, no explanation, or any further mention in subsequent minutes, and judging by the ambiguous lack of financial language, no legal exchange could have possibly taken place. The previous statement is speculation on the part of the author, but where there are billowing clouds of smoke, there is usually a fire. It should be noted here that Mr. Bogoslavsky was recalled from the Fort Smith Board of Directors At-Large-Position-5 in a special election in March of that same year.⁴³ The trail dead ends here in a “shell game” style grab for land, and unfortunately, there is no apparent record of the exact date of an Elm Grove demolition after its “conveyance” to Bogoslavsky. There is one more interesting and bizarre development almost fourteen years later.

On July 18, 1995, the city of Fort Smith Board of Directors passed Resolution R-110-95, approving the purchase of multiple lots from Leonard Bogoslavsky (and certain members of his family) in the amount of \$72,945.⁴⁴ It should be noted that these lots were identified by their original land or parcel titles in accordance with the abstract information possessed by the city.⁴⁵ One of these original lots, known as Fishback No. 3, was owned by Bogoslavsky and which none other than Elm Grove (See figure 1).⁴⁶ It is astounding to realize how land that had belonged to African Americans since before emancipation could be successfully manipulated and taken from them in this way.⁴⁷

To summarize: Fort Smith’s modern housing history began as an effort to force blacks out of town completely. This was disguised as a “slum clearance project.” When that did not work, the local authority created a second project, masquerading as a benevolence toward black residents, which they subsequently ran into the ground through neglect and mismanagement. By the late 1970s, through the abuse of federal block grants, the project housing had become unlivable. The authority then “conveyed” ownership of the land to an individual without reference to a sale price or other potential buyers. This same individual eventually sold the

property back to the city of Fort Smith years later. The Elm Grove saga, although extremely gripping, is an example of *NIMBYism* de facto segregation in Fort Smith housing history. What happened in the city high schools is connected to the housing segregation and would directly affect where people live to this very day.

During the Elm Grove years, the struggle for integration in schools that began with the 1954 *Brown v. Topeka, Kansas, Board of Education* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court and its underlying argument that segregation was not and could not guarantee equality in U.S. citizens, was happening across the nation. Although integration and housing are two different subjects, they are symbiotic and absolutely tied to the racial demographics of Fort Smith.

What happened in city high schools reflected the racial fault line in Fort Smith. “Not in my back yard” became “Not in your school district anymore.” Nascent *NIMBYism* proved so elusive and adaptable that a whole book could, and probably should, be written about it; however, the focus here will be on the redistricting of schools. The unfolding high school drama will bring the housing landscape full circle into its present-day configuration.

Arkansas had already achieved national attention with the Little Rock Nine incident on September 9, 1957.⁴⁸ Fort Smith, like most of Arkansas, had adopted some variant of Little Rock’s “Blossom Plan,” which called for a gradual, grade-by-grade integration of the schools culminating at the high school level.⁴⁹ By allowing just a few younger African-American students admitted to white schools each year, Fort Smith joined efforts throughout the South to stall integration long enough for new white high schools to be built.⁵⁰ True to form, Fort Smith administrators would once again seem to sidestep the inevitable.

Southside High School was a *NIMBYism* answer to desegregation. Built in the predominantly white residential area on the city’s southeast side, the school carried “Rebels” as the school’s athletic team nickname, chose *Dixie* as the fight song, celebrated the Confederate battle flag as a symbol, and made “Johnny Reb” the mascot.⁵¹ Johnny Reb was to Fort Smith schools as the veneration of Robert E. Lee was to a defeated Confederacy: a reminder of the “Lost Cause.”

During the Southside High construction, one brave parent by the name of Corrine Rogers filed a lawsuit on

behalf of her two daughters who had been denied lawful admission to Fort Smith High, which would soon be renamed Northside.⁵² Fort Smith High was the “white” high school bordering the north side of Rogers Avenue (See figure 3). Its African-American counterpart, Lincoln High School, had been holding classes for black students on northwestern edge of town since 1891.⁵³ Rogers’ suit eventually reached the U.S Supreme Court. On December 6, 1965, the Fort Smith School Board was directed to desegregate its high schools immediately.⁵⁴ Since pupil assignments had already been drawn based on geographical attendance zones, the Fort Smith School Board moved quickly. Immediately following the integration mandate, the all-black Lincoln High School was quickly drained of its student body as they were transferred to the newly re-named Fort Smith Northside High School.⁵⁵ On June 3, 1966, Lincoln High School reached the end of its seventy-five-year history, closing its doors for good.⁵⁶ After this, the racial demography of this city would be forever changed. Fort Smith’s Southside High School and its alumni would prove to be a force for keeping the city’s racial borders. Sixty years after desegregation became law, Southside is still mostly white, while the Northside student body is over seventy-three percent minorities.⁵⁷

Since the millennium, there have been attempts by the modern administration to bring a more diverse population south of Rogers Avenue. Historically, these efforts have been fiercely resisted by white middle-class residents in areas that are zoned for multi-purpose use.⁵⁸ In 2001, one such effort was the proposed Mill Creek Apartments, approved to be built on the corner of South Twenty-Eighth Street and Interstate 540. This complex was to be a state-of-the-art, multi-family unit with full amenities, that would provide low-income families with housing located at the center of the city’s growing economy. Mill Creek would allow families ready access to employment opportunities previously not readily accessible to them, which would in turn bolster the city’s middle-class economy.⁵⁹ The demographic data and financial studies conducted by the developers supported these claims, and they were forthright about informing people already living in the area. However, after developers hosted a town-hall meeting to discuss moving forward with the project, the residents of an older nearby suburb stated they were vehemently against it.⁶⁰

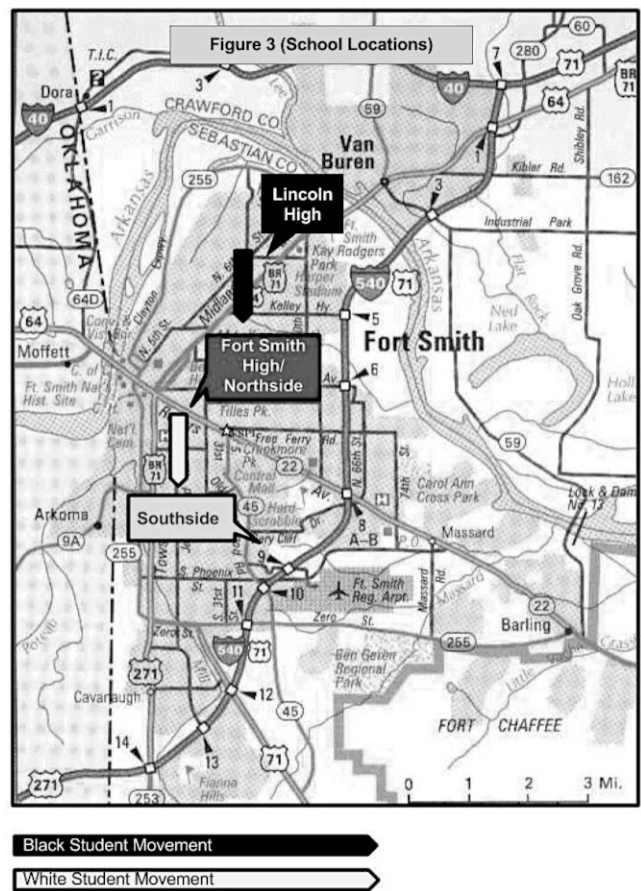


FIGURE 3

In a spirited letter-writing campaign, those neighboring residents lobbied to keep the apartments out by making speculative claims based on their own assumptions that subsidized property would “increase crime rates” and “lower property values.”⁶¹ Many of the letters asked, “Can’t they build it somewhere else?” Maybe in someone else’s backyard perhaps? Without any factual basis for these claims, the residents were successful in thwarting the Mill Creek development, thereby forcing the community development team to look elsewhere to build. Six years later in 2007, the city would eventually develop on the very same land where the “undesirables” were already living. The new “North Pointe” project would be built on the land where Ragon Courts once stood, in the poorest part of town, and further from any viable employment. North Pointe remains to this day, a clean, well-run, subsidized housing development. To continue to qualify for subsidies, managers must ensure that residents keep the property manicured and maintained to a high level. North Pointe sticks out like a sore thumb amid the

“zombie homes” and run-down neighborhoods along North Sixth Street.⁶² It is one thing to understand the problem of housing inequality, it is quite another to look toward a solution.

Most of the responsibility for the divided landscapes in America is not due to serial racism. In fact, *NIMBYism* is not textbook bigotry. Much of what administrators are allowed to do developmentally is tied up in a system that rewards developers for building in areas of urban blight. This is akin to applying a band aid to a gaping, mortal wound. It is for the most part cosmetic, which does little to affect the real problems of racial and economic inequality in American cities. A pretty house or apartment complex built within an area devoid of the infrastructure to support it remains forever dependent, or worse, degenerates over time as the attention of city managers is drawn elsewhere. This is not a “hand-up” toward a better life, but a system of perpetual “hand-outs.” By offering incentives in the form of tax credits and the like, the Arkansas Development Finance Authority encourages cities to pour state and federal resources into areas that may qualify for funding, but this does nothing to promote the upward mobility of the beneficiaries. This is especially true if its development is relegated to economically unstable or inhospitable areas.⁶³

As commerce and business continue to push south and east, Fort Smith will eventually reach a developmental plateau in that direction. Before you know it, there will be an ardent push to develop the northwest area of the city once again. Much like the “slum clearance” effort prior to Elm Grove, there will be a new, aggressive push for the gentrification of north Fort Smith, just like back in 1942. By choosing to ignore housing inequality beyond a surface treatment, the poor and minority populations will be “helped” once again by a well-meaning city government that has done nothing to equip these people with the skills and aptitudes needed to flourish in a changing economic landscape.⁶⁴

White society needs to own up to that it is “raced.”⁶⁵ For generations white privilege has inherited a legacy of silence and numbness to the pain of others. White America is far more apt to identify people of color by their race than to identify itself as “white.”⁶⁶ This is the delusion created by refusing to look directly at systemic racism on an individual level. We as a society must

seek to make privilege visible, and interrupt racism by having our own assumptions challenged, and our personal comfort disrupted. To quote Bobbie Woodard-Andrews, “blacks [and other minorities] are taught to accept the status-quo of a society built upon racial dogma as ‘being just the way it is.’”⁶⁷ Peg McIntosh describes this same sentiment saying, “I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group.”⁶⁸

The color line cycle must be broken in our cities. To remedy long-term harm caused by *NIMBYism*, people must be willing to first take down the fences in their minds. When this is accomplished, all may share in the American Dream.



Vince Scott is an aspiring writer “who has worked on a lot of things that were almost incredibly successful.”

End Notes

¹ Jon Kirk, “The Roots of Little Rock’s Segregated Neighborhoods,” *Arkansas Times*, July 10, 2014, accessed February 19, 2016. Dr. Kirk is the presiding History Department Chair at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

² Ibid.

³ Anonymous acquaintance conversation with the author, August 2016.

⁴ Bobbie Woodard-Andrews, interview by author, Fort Smith, September 1, 2016.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Henry Woodfin Grady, *The New South: And Other Addresses* (New York, NY: Maynard Merrill, & Co., 1904), 23.

⁷ Arnold R. Hirsch, “Blockbusting,” *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Accessed May 2, 2016. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/147.html>.

Full definition of “white flight,” according to Merriam Webster: the departure of whites from places (as urban neighborhoods or schools) increasingly or predominantly populated by minorities.

⁸ *The Great Depression and World War II, 1929-1945, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal (1933-1945)* in the Library of Congress Digital Collections,

accessed May 2, 2016. http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/dep_wwii/newdeal/.

⁹ "Critical Race Theory in Higher Education." *ASHE Higher Education Report*, 41, No. 3 (April 2015): 16-33. Academic Search Premier, EBSCO host accessed May 4, 2016.

¹⁰ C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (New York: Oxford University, 1966), 118-119; Christina D. Romer, Richard H. Pells, "The Great Depression," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, November 16, 2006, accessed September 24, 2016, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Great-Depression>.

¹¹ Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*.

¹² *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, Episode 3, "The House We Live In," directed by Llewellyn M. Smith (California Newsreel, 2003), DVD.

Carol Pounder, narrating for *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, outlines how: ... [that] this is essentially the same financing scheme that allows most Americans to own their homes today. The FHA underwriters warned that the presence of even one or two non-white families could undermine real estate values in the new suburbs. These government guidelines were widely adopted by private industry. Race had long played a role in local real estate practices. Starting in the 1930s, government officials institutionalized a national appraisal system, where race was as much a factor in real estate assessment as the condition of the property. Using this scheme, [...] between 1934 and 1962, the federal government underwrote 120 billion dollars in new housing. Less than 2% went to non-whites.

¹³ Ibid. John A. Powell full quote: "Now it's sort of hard to believe that the federal government nationalized and introduced redlining. In a funny way, it wasn't just giving something to whites, it was constructing 'whiteness.' Whiteness meant, as in the past being a citizen and being a Christian; it now meant living in the suburbs.

¹⁴ Ibid. Sociologist Melvin Oliver explains the redlining concept, "Those communities that were all white, suburban and far away from minority areas received the highest rating. And that was the color green. Those communities that were all minority or in the process of changing, they got the lowest rating and the color red. They were redlined. [and] as a consequence ... [America] suburbanized ... racially."

¹⁵ Ibid. "Blacks weren't completely left out of the housing market. The housing market that they were exposed to was largely public housing. And public housing, first of all, was built almost exclusively with a few exceptions in the central city. And after World War II, [American Cities] started building

larger and larger public housing projects, which were called 'vertical ghettos.' All of a sudden you're concentrating large numbers of poor people of color in one place."

¹⁶ Fort Chaffee," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, last modified June 29, 2016, accessed November 27, 2016.

¹⁷ The United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 412, 75th Congress, 1st sess. (September 1, 1937), 888.

¹⁸ City Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy*, by Chairman J.R Woods and Mayor J.K. Jordan (August 24, 1940), 2-3, "the City of Fort Smith [would] endeavor to secure a contract with the United States Housing Authority for Federal annual contributions to assist in administration of a low-rent housing project [that] will eliminate by demolition, condemnation [...] unsafe or insanitary dwelling units within its jurisdictional limits. [And in a sub-section stated that this could also be accomplished] by inducing private owners voluntarily to demolish or effectively close such dwelling units." It should be noted here that the funding that was applied for was not for slum-clearance by design, but due to the broad and sweeping powers allowed in the execution of these block grants, the FSHA was able to bend the function towards that end.

¹⁹ Library of Congress. Papers of the NAACP, *Campaign against Residential Segregation, January 1, 1941-December 31, 1942*, Group II, Series A (General Office File, 1940-1955), 3.

²⁰ City Commission of Fort Smith, *Secretary-Treasury Reports Copy* (5/23-29/41).

"We regret that we were not able to accomplish more during the month, but due to the lack of approval on our white site, progress has been retarded." -Francis Buck Secretary Treasurer (Insinuating that the frustrations produced by residents and the NAACP, has slowed the progress on the still theoretical ARK-3-2 negro housing site.)

²¹ Ibid. *Memorandum re. Fort Smith, Ark. Housing Situation*, from Frank D. Reeves (8/28/41), 18.

²² Thurgood Marshall, *America's Story*, ed. Meet Amazing Americans, from America's Library, The Library of Congress, accessed November 26, 2016. http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/marshallthrgd/aa_marshallthrgd_subj.html

²³ Papers of the NAACP, Group II, Series A (General Office File, 1940-1955), 158 29. City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (April 7, 1942), 2-3.

²⁴ Site A—The negro neighborhood sought for development of Arkansas-3-2 in the area between North Twelfth Street on

the west, North Eighteenth on the East, North M and Fourteenth streets on the south, and North P on the north. Site E (Ragon Courts relocation area) -Lying South and East of North Sixth Street, South of Midland Boulevard.

²⁵ Ibid. (May 4, 1965), 2-3.

²⁶ Ibid. (December 14, 1945, September 20, 1949).

²⁷ City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (February 11, 1942, September 19, 1952). City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (September 20, 1949).

²⁸ Euba Winton interview by author, Fort Smith, March 17, 2016.

In the area now known as Midland Heights addition there exists a Methodist Church founded in the 1870s, which is surrounded by and now dilapidated minority heavy neighborhood. When I asked Ms. Winton why she thought that was the case, and what she thought happened, as in the cause, she stated: "From about 1942 until around 1970 it remained a nice neighborhood. When project housing was built (Ragon Homes) [black] people were moved from Elm Grove to there."

²⁹ Anonymous City Administrative Employee, email collaboration with author, FortSmith, November 30, 2016. Elm Grove's physical address was 2100 North O Street, and en route to Jane Doe's family church.

³⁰ *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, Episode 3, "The House We Live In." See Redlining note on line 18.

³¹ City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (June 19, 1953).

"The executive director advised the board that some decision should be made on what steps should be taken to correct the flood situation at Elm Grove homes. The recommendation of the PHA engineer wear red at the last meeting. After a thorough discussion of the situation, [...] recommendations were made by the commissioners of the local Authority."

³² City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (February 19, 1965) Resolution 353 Subsection (a.) All applicants will be permitted to request occupancy in the projects heretofore made available for white or negro occupancy regardless of race, color, creed or national origin, and due consideration will be given to such requests, and as far as possible applicants will be placed in available units for which they are eligible under the eligibility rules of the local Authority. In considering such requests, the local Authority will not compel a white applicant against his wishes to occupy a unit in a project which is occupied predominantly by the negro tenants, or compelling negro tenants to occupy a

unit in a project which is occupied predominantly by white tenants. In assigning applicants to public low rent housing units, the local authority will continue to exercise its administrative and managerial functions under the US housing act of 1937, as amended, and under the rules and regulations promulgated under the said act by the public housing Administration.

³³ Author's Note, Personal memoir from life as Fort Smith native, (1995-1996 Approximately)

In the mid-1990s, I was friends with a young family that was living on the father's disability check as residents of Ragon Courts. I visited the area on multiple occasions and can attest to the run-down nature of the project at this time. My friend Tony (father of family) who was poor and white, testified on several occasions that it was a community of criminals, welfare cases and gangs of mixed race, with many being minorities.

³⁴ City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (October 18, 1974).

"The executive director stated that the HUD Area Office had contacted him as to the transfer of the modernization funds allocated to project Ark - 3 - 2 in the amount of 1,041,500 (which modernization program was subsequently spend it due to the lack of flood control) to project Ark - 3 - 1 for modernization. After a full discussion, commissioner Ellis G. Yoes made a motion that these funds be transferred and allocated a project Arkansas - 3 - 1, which motion was seconded by commissioner Arch L. Glenn and carried by unanimous vote."

³⁵ City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (April 21, 1972, March 30, 1973).

³⁶ City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (October 18, 1974).

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Anonymous City Administrative Employee, email collaboration with author, Fort Smith, November 30, 2016.

³⁹ City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (June 15, 1979).

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ City Commission of Fort Smith, *Special Meeting Minutes Copy* (August 17, 1981).

⁴² City Commission of Fort Smith, *Regular Meeting Minutes Copy* (October 15, 1982).

⁴³ State of Arkansas, County of Sebastian, *Official Ballot Special Election, Recall of Director at-large Position 5*. Fort Smith, March 24, 1981.

⁴⁴ Board of Directors. *Resolution Authorizing Acquisitions of*

Real Property Interests for Park Improvements by, Ray Baker, Document no. R-110-95. Fort Smith, July 18, 1995.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Papers of the NAACP, Group II, Series A (General Office File, 1940-1955).

⁴⁸ "Little Rock Nine," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, National Park Service, Central High School National Historic Site, last modified September 9, 2010, accessed December 11, 2016.

⁴⁹ "Desegregation of Central High School" *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*. National Park Service, Central High School National Historic Site, last modified September 9, 2010, accessed December 13, 2016.

⁵⁰ John A. Kirk, "Not Quite Black and White; School Desegregation in Arkansas, 1954-1966," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 70, No.3 (Autumn 2011): 244, accessed November 23, 2016.

⁵¹ Author Note: As an alumni of Southside High School, I can personally attest to the usage of a bearded Confederate soldier known as Johnny Reb was the School mascot from its inception until voted out in late 2015.

⁵² *Rogers v. Paul*, 232 F. Supp. 833 (W.D. Ark 1964).

⁵³ In *Lincoln High School: A Significant Past—A Solid Present—A Sacred Future*, ed. Sherry Toliver, Barbara Webster-Meadows and Evelyn E. Tonia Holleman (Fort Smith: Lincoln High School Alumni Association, 2016), 30.

⁵⁴ *Rogers v. Paul*, 382 U.S 198 (1965).

⁵⁵ John A. Kirk, "Not Quite Black and White; School Desegregation in Arkansas, 246.

⁵⁶ In *Lincoln High School: A Significant Past—A Solid Present—A Sacred Future*, 28.

⁵⁷ "High School Rankings" U.S News, accessed December 13,

2016.

⁵⁸ Anonymous email to Matt Jennings- [Fort Smith] Director of Community Development, July 30, 2001.

⁵⁹ Mill Creek Proposal, *Community Development File*, per Matt Jennings (2016) City Offices, Fort Smith, AR. (2001).

⁶⁰ Matt Jennings, Director of Fort Smith Community Development, interview by author, Fort Smith, March 4, 2016. Community Development administers two HUD block grants to Fort Smith.

⁶¹ Anonymous email to Matt Jennings- [Fort Smith] Director of Community Development, July 28, 2001.

⁶² "Zombie Title Definition" Investopedia, accessed December 13, 2016. <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/z/zombie-titles.asp>.

⁶³ Matt Jennings, interview by author. More info on AFDA: <http://adfa.arkansas.gov/>.

⁶⁴ Author's note: Gentrification is a process of renovation and revival of deteriorated urban neighborhoods by means of influx of more affluent residents, which results in increased property values and the displacing of lower-income families and small businesses.

⁶⁵ "Becoming Trustworthy White Allies," *Reflections*, a magazine of theological and ethical inquiry from Yale Divinity School, accessed December 13, 2016, <http://reflections.yale.edu/article/future-race/becoming-trustworthy-white-allies>.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Bobbie Woodard-Andrews, interview by author, Fort Smith, September 1, 2016.

⁶⁸ Melanie S. Morrison, "Cultivating an Antiracist White Identity" Response-United Methodist Women in Mission, February 2016, 41.

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‘My Recollections of Race Relations’

Fort Smith in the 1940s and 1950s

By Dana Jones Bagshaw

Background

As a child, I came into contact with only three African-American people. I knew them by first names only: Sam, Pearl, and Bill. Sam, a wrinkled little man, drove down our back alley with his mule and cart once a month or so—and waxed and polished the hardwood floors in our five-room house. A mule and cart were not the usual means of transportation even in the 1940s. My brother and I loved to run out and feed grass to his mule. Wearing a nylon stocking, he rolled into a cap over the top of his bald head, Sam rang the back doorbell for my mother to let him in and got straight to work. On his hands and knees, he spread the wonderful smelling wax on the floors, turning them from gray to a golden hue. That done, he plugged in his electric polisher and turned the swirls of wax into a glorious shine. My brother and I enjoyed slipping and sliding on the floor in our socks afterward. After my mom gave him a dollar bill, we escorted him back out to his mule.

Pearl came every other week to deliver and pick up ironing, also using the back door. She was a tiny person, but her skin was smooth rather than wrinkled. “Morning, ma’am. Came to get your ironing, ma’am.” “You can use the front door, Pearl. You don’t have to come around back.” “No, ma’am. It’s best to use the door in the back.” I loved the rhythm and timbre of her voice. And the fact that she was so serious.

Bill came to the front door because he was our mailman. He was a tall, light-skinned man with a trim moustache. Even I could see that he was exceptionally handsome. On hot days, my mother would watch the clock for his punctual arrival and have a tall glass of lemonade with ice cubes ready for him. He would grin with lovely creases on each side of his mouth. Then he’d gulp it down and throw his head back to swallow the cubes whole. You could see them gliding down his muscular neck.

The black people in Fort Smith lived on the northwest side across a color line divide. My brother and I were never allowed to use that dreadful N-word. We were taught to say “Negro.” Other than Bill, Sam, and Pearl, I rarely saw black people. Occasionally in the back of a

city bus, but never to and from school. In town, I only saw them at the upper end of Garrison Avenue with its army surplus stores and Greyhound bus station and the shoeshine shop. I don’t remember ever seeing a black person in the Garrison Avenue elite department stores, but they did go in J.C. Penney and Kresses, which had segregated water fountains.

I loved Penney’s because I found it so lively and noisy. When you paid for an item, they put your money in a little brass cage that shot along wires up to the office on a balcony with windows, where they made your change and sent it back with your receipt. The shoe department sat under the balcony. Before the first day of school each year, my mom would take us to buy shoes at Penney’s because they offered shoes in narrower widths that fit our skinny feet. After trying on a pair of shoes, we stood on a little platform and stuck our feet inside an X-ray machine. We could see all the bones in our feet and tell whether they were being cramped or not.

One year when we went there to buy our school shoes, a black woman with two children about our age patiently waited their turn. The shoe salesman ignored them and came right to us. “They were here first,” my mom said, and nodded toward the other family. He hesitated, then reluctantly turned to them while we sat down and waited. I watched their every move, fascinated, since I rarely got to observe black people.

Granddaddy

During this time, the grandparent who most influenced me—and the one I most adored—was my paternal grandfather, Ralph B. Jones. Like my dad, he had the dark eyes and high cheekbones that came from Cherokee blood in his lineage and made him strikingly handsome. To me, the lovely tone of Granddaddy’s skin made his bald head beautiful. What’s more, I knew him to be an important man.

In the 1940s, he served as Arkansas Commissioner of Education and was listed in America’s Who’s Who for his work to improve the education of black people in the state, championing the policy of “separate but equal” education.

He advocated ending segregation by integrating the first grades at local schools each year. On the Internet, I recently found a reference to a paper he wrote comparing the salary of white teachers to underpaid black teachers.

Called to Washington to testify in Congress on the state's "Negro" education, I heard my granddaddy once say that he had a poor opinion of Eleanor Roosevelt until he found himself seated next to her at a dinner party in Washington.

"I thought she should keep her mouth shut and stay out of politics. But that night she charmed the socks off of me. Black and white photography never did her justice. She had these incredible, violet-colored eyes that gazed at you with such intellect, understanding, and warmth. After that, I always listened to what she had to say."

I remember climbing up the steps of the state Capitol building with Granddaddy where he took us to his office, then to the governor's office—letting us sit in the huge, leather chair that the governor occasionally graced. Granddaddy was my knight in shining armor. He would appear at various points in my ordinary life—and whisk me away to a new adventure.

When I started the first grade at Peabody Elementary School in Fort Smith, where my Granddaddy had once been principal, my teacher knew him and made me her pet.

By this time, Granddaddy had retired and opened a school supply store in Little Rock, cashing in on his school contacts across the state. His store contained a big warehouse. When we came to visit him at work, he gave us clamp-on roller skates to cruise around, keys dangling from our necks on strings.

Whenever Granddaddy came to town, he made sales calls at my school. Once through the window of my classroom door, I caught a glimpse of his familiar figure limping down the hallway. Granddaddy had one leg shorter than the other. According to my mother, as a little boy he was told he needed to have a shoe with a platform heel on it. He refused to wear it. Instead, every night and morning, he would lock his foot between the rails at the bottom of his brass bed and pull on his leg to stretch it.

"Granddaddy!" I shouted out in class. My teacher just smiled and nodded. I raced out the door and chased him down the hall until I caught up with him and hugged him around his legs. "Hey, there, kitten—you don't have to tackle me." Then I proudly walked with him to the school office, where he made his sales call. When he finished, he

turned to me. "I've traded in the old 'Woodie' for a new car. Want to go for a ride?"

While classes were still in session, I strutted out with him to the front of the school. There, dazzling in the sun, stood a coach fit for a king—a brand new Dodge, royal purple on the bottom and ivory white on the top. He let me sit on his lap and steer as we drove to my house. I had enough sense not to tell my mother. Steering his car became our secret ritual whenever he came to town. When I got too old to sit in his lap, I sat next to him and leaned over to grasp the wheel.

Granddaddy's last venture was selling some kind of reading "machine." Just graduated from high school, I had always been slow reader and was worried about keeping up with my reading assignments in college. Granddaddy brought the machine with him on another of his surprise visits. Somehow, he attached the machine to me and it recorded my eye movements as I read. It also detected that I "verbalized" in my throat, the evidence appearing on a little strip of film recording.

"Ah, you see, you've got to learn to break the sound barrier if you want to speed read." Apparently, the machine could train me to do that. But I hated it. I liked the sound of words, thank you very much. As an aspiring young author, I thought words should be handled with care.

My mother disliked Granddaddy's drop-in visits, or anyone else's for that matter. Once when Mrs. Ramsey, the widow of the town's school superintendent, one of Granddaddy's old cronies, came calling on a Sunday afternoon as was the custom those days, my mother spotted her parking her car in front of our house. "Oh no. I'm a mess and so is the house." She told us to crouch down and keep quiet. I felt terrible hiding from this lonely woman while the sound of the doorbell rang painfully in my ears.

Although frustrated with her father-in-law's unannounced visits, mother would melt the minute she saw him. She affectionately called him "guv," a southern title of respect. She seemed to hold him up as a model for the family. "Always Leave a Place Better Than You Found It" was her motto. She became increasingly involved in volunteer work, championing one cause or another. Never mind that the house was a mess, or that we only talked about our activities and never our feelings (or even knew how to talk about our feelings). We were important people doing important things.

In the 1950s, inspired in part by my grandfather's legacy, but more likely to get attention, I became a

crusader too. In 1959, while the National Guard enforced integration at Central High School in Little Rock, I attended an all-white high school in Fort Smith, while the blacks attended Lincoln High School on the other side of town.

To fulfill my self-appointed role in “making a difference,” I got involved in what we then called “Race Relations” and started a local chapter of the United Christian Youth Movement (UCYM), an inter-denomination and inter-racial organization for young people.

With the support of my church pastor, I went to some African-American churches in the city and spoke, inviting their young people to attend the UCYM meeting. There, for the first time, I heard the rich, harmonic, heartfelt gospel songs that made the hymns of my church sound stiff and staged. At the end of the service, I stood up and made my announcement.

One lady came up to me afterward in tears. “You are the first white person who’s ever stepped inside our church. God bless you.” She hugged me with a warmth that overwhelmed me, a warmth I’d never felt before. I was definitely in love with black people.

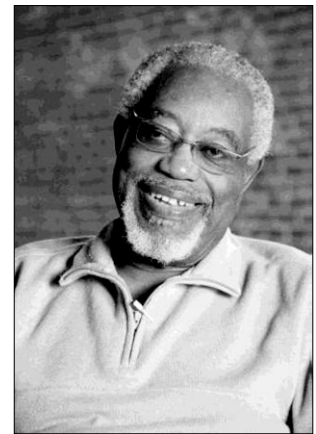
But my pastor was afraid to have the meeting at our church, so we had our first meeting at my house. With my mother’s nervous blessing, a handful of young people from Lincoln High came through not the back, but our front door. Even Granddaddy looked surprised when he popped in on one of his visits to find our living room full of young black people. As he went around the room shaking hands with each person, I felt very proud.

To promote our cause, I think it was Napoleon Black’s idea that we appear on our local KFSA station, which he and I did. It instigated quite a stir at my high school. One my classmates came up to me. “I can’t believe you were on television with Napoleon Black. He’s only the best fullback in the whole state of Arkansas. A bunch of us go to the Lincoln High games just to watch him play.” That surprised me. In our school, boys were either jocks or good students and leaders. I knew Napoleon was bright and a natural leader. He told me he was president of his student body, but never mentioned he played football. One girl had the nerve to come up to me at my school and say what everyone else most likely was thinking and saying behind my back. “Didn’t I see you on T.V. with that [N-word] football player?” “I don’t call them that.” “Excuse,

me. Nee-groes, then.” “I think they have a right to the same education that we get.” “And would you want to marry one?” “I think people should have the right to marry whom they please.” She stared at me, turned on her heels, and never spoke to me again.

At my denomination’s state youth convention that spring in Little Rock, I tried another tack. I became friends with a girl from Little Rock Central High who was the state youth president. Her mother was Jewish but had converted to Christianity. She confided to me that she was working up the courage to befriend young blacks who had been integrated into her school. Together we succeeded in getting the young delegates at the convention to vote their approval of an invitation to young people from our sister black churches to attend next year’s convention. After the vote was taken, I was safely installed on a seat in the ladies’ restroom when I overheard one of the girls at the washbasin crying, with a friend consoling her. “I voted for it, but how can I tell my parents?” I stayed seated on the toilet, afraid of the embarrassment we might both have if I came out, until I heard her leave.

Napoleon graduated that year, and the following year, so did I. The integrated UCYM we called for never happened in Fort Smith. I went away to a small church college in Oklahoma (Phillips University) and eventually got sucked into the big white world of privilege. Now, seventy years later, I am returning virtually to my hometown on unfinished business. I want to learn all I can about what happened after I left, and especially to make contact with Lincoln High alumni from years 1959-1962.



NAPOLEON BLACK



Dana Jones Bagshaw lives in Santa Cruz, California, and is author of novels Mama Grace and Running from Grace, and playwright of Cell Talk and Hilda, Daughter of Woden, set in medieval England. Her 2020 production, Yellow Ribbons, is available on YouTube.

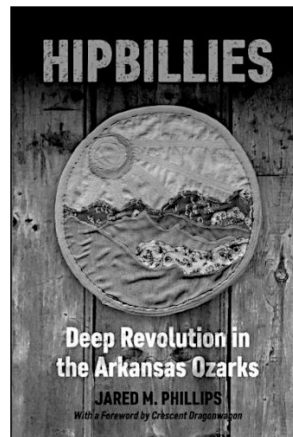
Book Reviews

Hipbillies: Deep Revolution in the Arkansas Ozarks.
By Jared Phillips. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2019. Pp. 216. Foreword, bibliography, index. Paper 27.95.)

Hipbillies begins with an introduction by Crescent Dragonwagon, a back-to-the-lander, cookbook author, restaurateur, and founder of the Dairy Hollow House Writers' Colony in Eureka Springs. At age seventeen, Dragonwagon kissed goodbye a celebrity, "velvet-party-dress upbringing" in New York City for a commune in the Missouri Ozarks. "The world was falling apart, trembling on the brink of ecocide!" she wrote. "Who cared if your caricature hung on the wall of Sardi's?"

Some came to skinny dip and smoke pot, giving full embrace to the holy trinity of the 1960s: sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. The majority, however, were part of a deeper utopian revolution, the back-to-the-land movement. "Hipbillies," a portmanteau word blending hippies and hillbillies, describes these folks who were mostly college-educated and arrived in the Ozarks from urban settings, fugitives of the 1960s' ferment of anti-war and civil rights protests. Jared Phillips, author of *Hipbillies*, informs us that they brought to the Ozarks an "ethos of eco-consciousness, whole foods, and self-reliance."

The back-to-the-land movement coincided with a thirty-year trend of small Ozark farms giving up row crops of cotton and corn in favor of beef cattle and chicken houses. During the same period the number of small farms decreased 55 percent, from 37,691 to 16,751. It was "the largest outmigration in Ozark history," Phillips explains. Small farmers relocated to



cities across Arkansas and the Midwest, seeking stable jobs in factories and other trades. Backwoods land in the Ozarks was not only available, it was dirt cheap. Several groups seized the moment. Straight away, developers of retirement communities like Cherokee Village and Horseshoe Bend transformed the hardscrabble hills, selling the easy, affordable life on golf courses, bass fishing lakes, and trout streams to Chicago plumbers and working-class retirees. Middle and upper-middle class retirement communities followed, building bigger homes and better golf courses. As a result, the service industry boomed. Coupled with the early growth of companies like Walmart and Tyson Foods, economic output in the Ozarks expanded by 46 percent between 1970 and 1980. Meantime, white supremacist groups such as the Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord, and the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, established "national headquarters" in the region.

Yet it was the hipbillies, the back-to-the-landers, who came with their goats to assimilate, to understand, and to bring their neo-homesteader ideas of a "hillbilly Neverland" to the Ozarks. Almost to a person they lacked knowledge, skills and horse sense for a self-reliant life on a small Ozark farm with meager topsoil, few good access roads and no electrical service. Balancing the ledger was their resolve and resourcefulness to learn and succeed at living off the grid with land and humans striking a chord of harmony.

Phillips tells us that a short list of the hipbillies' patron saints included Henry David Thoreau (*Walden*), Scott and Helen Nearing (*Living the Good Life*), Aldo Leopold (*A Sand County Almanac*), Rachel Carson (*Silent Spring*), Gary Snyder (*Turtle Island*), Wendell Berry (*Nathan Coulter*), and E.F. Shumacher (*Small is Beautiful*).

Over time, local guerilla presses sprang up, such as the *Ozark Access Catalog* (OAC) started by Edd Jeffords of Eureka Springs. OAC's content was modeled on the more broadly distributed publications, *Mother Earth News* and Stewart Brand's *Whole Earth Catalog*.

Through the presses, information and ideas were reported on and exchanged about a range of topics: organic gardening, vegetarian cooking, composting, livestock, renewable energy, tools of the trade, chicken coops, pig creeps, hay barns, canneries, seed banks, food coops, fertilizers, farmers markets, home birth, midwifery, home schooling, the creation of rural education systems, community development grant writing, organizing against the use of dioxins by the U.S. Forest Service and a whole lot more. It was not uncommon for a hipbilly farm to juxtapose nineteenth century technology with the twenty-first, plowing with mules while harnessing energy in homemade photovoltaic modules.

"If you are going to come, come gently," wrote Crescent Dragonwagon, admonishing her fellow immigrants to respect the folklore and folkways, even when they did not square with higher educated, counterculture temperaments. Many heeded her warning, but the deeper revolution mindset was not always easy to tamp down. For example, Newton County farmers did not cotton to the nationalization of the Buffalo River and the environmental safeguards that came with it. The campaign to outlaw the use of dioxins (Agent Orange) by the U.S. Forest Service and small farmers was met with fierce resistance. Government grants directed at rural poverty were equally frowned upon as Big Brother overreach.

In an effort to "bridge the cultural gap" between locals and newcomers, Edd Jeffords organized the Ozark Mountain Folk Fair held outside of Eureka Springs on Memorial Day weekend of 1973, featuring Earl Scruggs, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and John Lee Hooker. The influx of tens of thousands "morally lax, longhairs," however, drew the rancor of the local establishment, including banker John Fuller Cross and Gerald L.K. Smith, builder of the Christ of the Ozarks, founder of the Eureka Springs Passion Play, out of the closet anti-Semite. In the *Eureka Springs Times-Echo*, one editorial headline colored the event as a "MARIJUANA RODEO AND A COW PASTURE BROTHEL!!!" (Given that I was there on that rain-soaked weekend, the more appropriate descriptor would be LOVEFEST and not BROTHEL. Otherwise, the headline was spot on.)

Over the years, I have known back-to-the-landers, from Friley Creek and Winslow to Pettigrew and Boxley Valley. Among those friends and acquaintances there

are world class potters, parents, banjo pickers, organic farmers, artists, authors, educators, stone masons, mule handlers, carpenters, journalists, and community leaders. With the third generation coming up, the ethos that Phillips describes is fully functional. Those aging hipbillies and many of their home-birthed offspring with their seed banks, solar arrays, and eco-consciousness are gifts that keep on blessing the knobs and hollers of the Arkansas Ozarks.

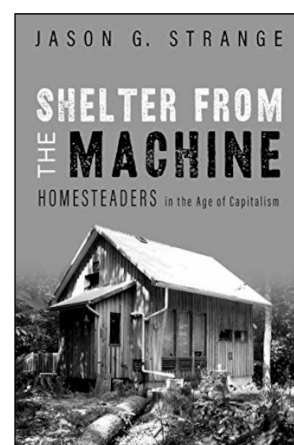
—Reviewed by Phil Karber, Fayetteville, Arkansas

***Shelter from the Machine: Homesteaders in the Age of Capitalism.* By Jason G. Strange. (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2020. Pp. 304. Illustrations, Index. \$22.95 paper.)**

Shelter from the Machine: Homesteaders in the Age of Capitalism by Jason Strange is a rich exploration of the back-to-the-land movement of which I was a part. As someone who moved to a valley along the Mulberry River in the late 1970s, I know the denizens of this book.

Although the author grew up in rural Kentucky (where he now chairs the Department of Peace and Social Justice at Berea College) and in northern California, there are many similarities with my interactions with my neighbors in the Ozarks. The personalities populating the book enrich and enliven the stories that demonstrate the various ways people have chosen to defend themselves from the onslaught of consumer capitalism.

The book begins with a look at how land values are created and an explanation of where people with little capital often end up on the land. Mountainous areas with little commercial value are affordable for newcomers as well as a refuge for those who did not leave. By using the term "homesteaders," the author is going back in time to clarify that this move toward simpler living or subsistence farming is nothing new. In opting for a less lucrative lifestyle, one lesson learned is about both the



power of the individual and the necessity for communal action. These two characteristics create a basis for democracy in microcosm he believes. He bemoans how few opportunities we have to actually practice democracy.

The author's timely assessment of several issues our nation faces is integral to his journey to discover how to educate citizens in a democracy during this aggressive age of capitalism. As an educator, at the heart of his book is his concern about the level of literacy he sees in his students. In them lies the future, and they appear woefully lacking in the skills required to succeed. He notes that if the hours spent watching TV equated with knowledge, then his students would be some of the most knowledgeable ever. What he finds instead is that few read to comprehend, as demonstrated by a trip to shop for groceries where label reading proves to be a revelation.

There is a healthy dose of compassion in this writer's approach as well as a keen critical eye to the damage capitalism does as noted in the stories he chronicles. Because of intimacy we gain about the author's life as an educator and about the lives of those he interviews, this book never falls into an academic abyss of dead language and ungrounded theories. It is lively reading, full of empathy, well-researched and with enough facts to satisfy this reader of its truths.

—Louise Halsey, *Little Mulberry Valley, Arkansas*

***A Family Practice: The Russell Doctors and the Evolving Business of Medicine, 1799-1989.* By William D. Lindsey, William L. Russell, and Mary L. Ryan. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2020. Pp. 264. Illustrations, Index. \$21.95.)**

While this wide-ranging book will appeal to medical professionals on the four generations of one family and their contributions to medicine, readers of history in Fort Smith and Northwest Arkansas will delight in one particular section of this volume. The second doctor of the line of Russell medical practitioners, W. J. P. Russell, who received solid medical and surgical training from both his father and in schools in Philadelphia, once lived as a traveling surgeon at Evansville and Boonesboro (later known as Cane Hill)

in Washington County. His surgical practice as a “traveling surgeon” ranged all over this corner of the state and well into the Indian Territory in post-Civil War Arkansas.

Dr. W.J.P. Russell, M.D., was a noted “Oculist, Aurist and Surgeon,” announced in flyers and in era newspapers ads. “Treats with success the following Diseases and Deformities” announced the advertisement uncovered in this book. These conditions, the advertisements said, were specialties such as “inflation of the eyes, Granular lids, stopping of tear passage (Watery-Eyes), Ptosis (drooping of the upper eye-lid), ectropim, entropium, and pterygium (all were deformities of the lids).” The advertisement went on to proclaim cures for Strabismus (Cross-eyes, cured in a few seconds); cataracts (a form of blindness), Talipes (club-foot), harelip, torticollis (wry neck), tumors (Wens), enlarged tonsils, deafness, chronic discharges from the ear.” Under the heading artificial eyes came this vivid description: “Inserting (a glass eye) without pain, possessing all the movement and appearance of the natural eye.” There was no charge for an examination.

Dr. Russell's method was to rent a room at a well-known boarding house in the area, often stating he would be there but for a few days, hoping area patients would drop by for his surgical prowess and knowledge. While there were few real clinics on the Arkansas frontier, Dr. Russell counted on local physicians to refer patients to his “traveling practice.”

The book gives readers a real reason such verbose medical practitioners were on high demand as traveling medical shows, in which surgeons quickly cured crossed eyes, cleft lips and palates, or clubbed feet were welcome theater in small towns in the nineteenth century,” the authors wrote. Sadly, financial conditions, and Dr. Russell's drive to have a constant source of income for his large family, eventually lured him away from Northwest Arkansas.

This well-researched book gleaned much of its content from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library and Archives. While Dr. W.J.P. Russell and his traveling surgery practice seems shocking for us



today, his family's lineage of top shelf physicians and the subsequent generations of his family in modern medicine is indeed worthy of a read.

—Maylon T. Rice, Fayetteville, Arkansas

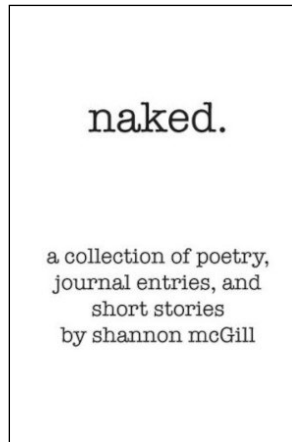
***Naked: A Collection of Poetry, Journal Entries, and Short Stories.* By Shannon McGill.**

***Unrequited Life.* By Shannon McGill.**

What Shannon McGill does in both of her collections is grab us by the shoulders, shake us into submission, then sit us down at the kitchen table as she tells us some hard truths. We are with her in the kitchen, the bathtub, the front porch, the delivery room.

We are with her, and she is our dearest friend, sharing her most intimate feelings in *Naked* and her urgent thoughts in *Unrequited Life*. The language is informal and often full of one-liners that bring us pause—make us feel what she feels while putting pen to page. Nevertheless, this journey is wrought with so much love. Love that haunts and love that hurts. Love that only a mother can know, and love that women have for one another. Love for justice, and love for the idea of love. But we are only privy to this abundance because McGill's writing shares so much loss.

Never is this more heartbreaking than in the short entry "Death and Shenanigans," where we meet Tyler and Teddy in utero and learn along with Mrs. Hensley that her child will be stillborn. This piece is teeming with familial love, and if you haven't yet fallen in love with McGill's children (who she often uses as her muses), you will. Your heart will ache for Tyler as he



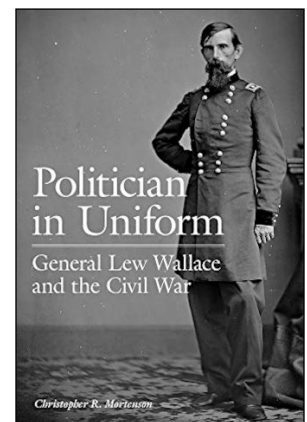
moves and shakes and works so hard to revive his twin.

McGill does so much more than rip our heart out, she implores us to stop and take a look at our own relationships. How do we love? In *Naked* and *Unrequited Love*, we are reminded of the importance of self-love sometimes gently, like in "Protected" and often more forcefully as in "I Love You, Shannon" and "Mirror, Mirror." But speaking of forceful, *Unrequited Life* is such a force. Published in the middle of the pandemic, McGill's collection reflects the sense of urgency we all felt in the summer of 2020. There is clearly something McGill needed to say, and rightly so. Her message is so urgent, that she stops mid-book to give us "Stop and Say Her Name." While formatted like a poem, McGill creates lists of websites, email addresses, and phone numbers of Louisville officials. McGill does not even try to mask this as art, claiming, "nothing poetic or clever about it, just letting you know that we haven't gotten justice for Breonna Taylor's murder." But even here, her words are important. Murder. Whenever you read this book, you will be reminded of the state of our world. Nestled between "These Nudes A'int For You" and "CoSleep," "Stop and Say Her Name" is placed to remind us of how remarkable our unremarkable routines are. We can shower and sleep. Breonna Taylor cannot.

—Reviewed by Sara Putman, Bookish, Fort Smith

***Politician in Uniform: General Lew Wallace and the Civil War.* By Christopher R. Mortenson.**
(Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2020.
Pp.298. Illustrations, maps, index. \$34.95 hardback,
\$21.95 paperback.)

Many followers of Civil War generals, even Union generals, may have trouble placing Lew Wallace's importance in battles during the Civil War. Most mid-nineteenth century literature lovers, however, have little difficulty in recognizing the overlooked Union general, as author of *Ben Hur: A*



Tale of the Christ. This American classic was indeed an 1880s best seller that endures today.

Christopher Mortenson, associate professor of history at Ouachita Baptist University, who earned his Ph.D., at Texas A&M, piloted his maiden voyage in writing about this obscure Civil War officer into winning the coveted 2020 Wiley-Silver Award for the Best First Book in Civil War History.

Low Wallace's fiery temper and relentless personal drive to climb the political ladder in pre-war days, only madly drove him with a wild and reckless abandon to excel during the actual war. Wallace was trying to prove a "political general" was indeed superior to any "military college trained officer." Wallace, a volunteer appointed to general, insisted that he was battle-worthy to the entrenched military commander. Sadly, and often, high-ranking Union leaders simply denied him a front-row command seat.

The book pays exacting details to the many battles, skirmishes and military tactics used by Wallace and others of the day. Mortenson provides both the "highs" and "lows" of Wallace's wide-range of caustic emotions and fickle personality toward others in military command. A temperamental officer, Wallace was as much a "political contributor" to shaping the war as he was a "standing-in-reserve military" commander.

This complex mix of being both a "politician and military officer" did not always serve Wallace well.

An Indiana native, Wallace struggled after the war's end to find himself. There was a failed 1870 run for a U.S. Senate seat that tested his abilities as an attorney, and he wrote his first novel, *The Fair God*, based upon Hernan Cortes's conquest of Mexico.

After again returning to the law, Wallace was summoned back in military service, helping settle several states' federal election disputes in the 1876 presidential election of Republican Rutherford B. Hayes. His loyalty to the party was awarded, as Hayes appointed Wallace governor of New Mexico territory, and while there he wrote his best seller. The book's national success propelled President James Garfield to appoint him as the ambassador to Turkey.

With a military record less than he so desired, Wallace continued a personal grudge against any West Point trained military commanders in speeches and in print for the rest of his days.

Mortenson's book, while expert on military protocols, gives readers a grand view of a complex and demanding civilian, who so desired to have led a battle charge that failing to do so overwhelmed his notable achievements in life.

— Maylon T. Rice, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Memorial and Commemorative Gifts Important to the Historical Society

When making a gift to honor someone important to you, please remember the Fort Smith Historical Society. gifts may be made in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a birthday, graduation, anniversary or other event. If you particularly enjoyed a feature in the *Journal*, show your appreciation for a subject you found interesting by making a contribution in honor of the writer.

Memorial gifts are a beautiful and lasting way to honor those who are dear to us. All memorials and commemorative gifts are acknowledged with a letter both to the donor and the family of the person honored.

A contribution to the Fort Smith Historical Society supports the publication of the *Journal*, which is placed in libraries and schools, and becomes an important part of the historical record of the area.

Gifts are tax deductible and may be made in any amount. Send your contributions to:

Fort Smith Historical Society
ATTN: Treasurer
PO Box 3676
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913-3676

Please send only checks or money orders. Indicate whether you need a written receipt. The Fort Smith Historical Society cannot accept credit card payments.

Who Knew?

Who Knew...a doll found in an antique store years ago would come to life? Well, it happened. OK, it seemed to have happened.

Just as in all of our lives, there are people who teach us and give us the tools to learn more about a subject. I happened to be blessed with wonderful history teachers, starting with my grandparents. They answered my many questions about relatives and friends. We explored history in grade school, high school and college. I was curious about citizens who marched to their own drummer. They made life joyful.

If you know a “character” from Fort Smith or surrounding areas (more politically correct, “persons of interest”), please share them with us. You can send us a message through our Facebook page, our web page (www.fortsmithhistory.org), by email at mblack3086@aol.com, or even by sending “snail mail” to Fort Smith Historical Society, PO Box 3676, Fort Smith, AR 72913.

If you do not want to tell us about them and just have questions about them, we can be reached by the same methods. We will be able to tell you where to look or help you look for your answers. *No review on a person still living, please.*

Learning much of this area’s history continued with trips to antique stores in the area, some of my favorite haunts in Fort Smith were Amos & Agnes Spicer’s Shop, 448 North Thirty-Ninth Street; Wanda Wasson’s Antiques, Joe Wasson’s mother, just to name a few. We really liked a little shop on North Thirty-Seventh Street. I went into this particular shop one day, and there it was, a cloth doll I just needed to have. She was a character and just the kind I collected. The owner told me her name was Mayme Faulkner. She had round glasses, long legs, red pigtailed hair, a drab green dress. Around her neck she wore a string with a little cloth bag. I had no idea what was in the stained bag; I was told by the owner it was an “asphidity” bag. Later I was told it was



**MAYME FAULKNER
DOLL.**

(Photo courtesy
of the author)



worn to prevent flu during the 1919 pandemic. (This method of warding off illness had been around a long time before the 1919 pandemic. Doing little help but seemed to comfort to the wearer. The odor from the camphor and herb mixture would have automatically put social distancing in place.)

Years had passed since I bought my doll. We had become good customers and friends with the shop owner. She was getting older and her memory eventually became fuzzy. One day when my husband went by the shop, our friend was stressed, frantically looking for her Mayme Faulkner doll. My husband drove home, took the doll out of the cabinet and delivered it to the North Thirty-Seventh Street shop. I just didn’t happen to be home at the time of the incident. This is the type of thing that tends to slip a partner’s mind. My husband, not a man to brag, waited until I noticed Mayme’s absence. With a shy stance and the corners of his mouth in a slight smile, my Gary dared apologize for his generosity.

Eventually I did find my Mayme Faulkner doll again. She appeared at an estate sale. This time, all decked out in a pink dress. Still pigtailed, wearing the large, round black glasses but much worse for the wear. All of her accessories were there. The real Mayme Faulkner signed her dolls. The first doll I had was clearly signed. The doll I have now looks as if it had been washed, there is a very faint area that looks as if there was a signature. I do not know if Mayme actually made each doll. She certainly designed it. An account said the real Mayme Faulkner sang, "I am a lonely little petunia in an onion patch." She was talented—could sing and dance, was a comedian, and had to be double jointed, my Mother said. She would kick one of her long legs sideways and lift it up as high as her head.

January 6, 1907-July 13, 1998

1907—The real Mayme Irene Faulkner was born in Sallisaw, Sequoyah, OK, on January 6, 1907 to Charles and Lena Faulkner. They are living Ward 5; Sallisaw, Sequoyah, Oklahoma, three years later for the Census.

1910 Census—Charles and Lena Faulkner, Joe, b. 1901; Olga, b. 1903; Mayme, b. 1907; and David, b. 1909.

1920 Census—Charles Faulkner had died, Mayme and brother David Faulkner are living in the household with their stepfather, Avil Bird, and mother, Lena Bird, 219 South Twelfth, Fort Smith, AR.

1930 Census—Mayme is living with her mother Lena 1102 North Forty-Seventh Street and is the switchboard operator at the Boston Store. Page 5 of Southwest American, published in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on Wednesday, August 23.

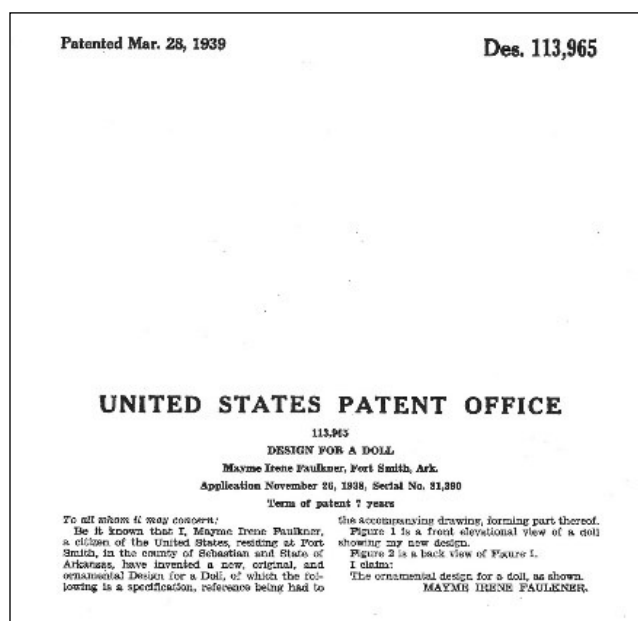
1933. Kessler and Faulkner Girl Winners in Popularity Vote. Hilton Kessler, Fort Smith musician who specializes on the piano-accordion, and Miss Mayme Faulkner, comedian, were voted the most popular persons in the cast of "Oalettes of," a local talent production staged last Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Joie theatre. *Southwest American*, Fort Smith, AR, pg. 5 August 23, 1933.

March 28, 1939—Patent for M I Faulkner Doll, Filed November 26, 1938, Patent No. USD113965S.

Data provided by IFI CLAIMS Patent Services

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE 113,965

DESIGN FOR A DOLL; Mayme Irene Faulkner, Fort Smith, Ark.; Application November 26, 1938;



MAYME FAULKNER DOLL DESIGN AND PATENT

(Images courtesy of the author)

Serial No. 81,390; Term of patent seven years.

"To all whom it may concern: Be it known that I, Mayme Irene Faulkner, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fort Smith, in the county of Sebastian and State of Arkansas, have invented a new, original, and ornamental Design for a Doll, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part thereof. Figure 1 is a front

elevational view of a doll showing my new design.
Figure 2 is a back view of Figure 1.

I claim: The ornamental design for a doll, as shown.”
MAYME IRENE FAULKNER.

1940 Fort Smith City Directory- Faulkner, Mammie (Mayme); 1102 North Forty-Seventh; switchboard operator.

The Jewish Welfare Board, War Correspondence, 117-1954 for Mayme Faulkner ,Series 04: Corp Areas (1941-1949) 8th Corps Area 1942 Minutes, Reports, General/Mayme worked for the Boston Store. At as switchboard operator, then Boston Store office cashier; followed by First National Bank as a clerk. The Jewish Welfare Board, War Correspondence sponsored shows that were put on for the troupes. Mayme Faulkner and friends participated in these shows.

1951—Faulkner, Mayme part of the entertainment with a humorous song and dance; Convention of the Credit Women’s Breakfast Club; Hazel Kelley, State President; also named Queen of the State Credit Women’s Club. *Northwest Arkansas Times*, pg. 2 August 29, 1951.

1953—Faulkner, Mayme; cashier for the Boston Store, 3213 North J, Fort Smith, Sebastian, AR. Fort Smith City Dir.

1957—Fort Smith City Directory. Faulkner, Mayme, clerk, First National Bank, residence, 3219 No. I, Fort Smith, Ark.

1957—Widow Lena Bird, mother of Mayme, marries; Illinois, So. Carolina; US;

1960—Fort Smith City Directory- Clerk: First National Bank, 602 Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Mayme’s mother, “Lenna” or “Lena.” Her husbands: Charles Faulkner; Avil Bird; Cleve G. Moore.

Arkansas “Kinfolk” Have Great Party With Bob Burns at Dallas: Mayme Faulkner was one of Bob Burn’s “Kinfolk,” which also included his Fort Smith friends. Mayme was included as a friend.

Mayme Faulkner Malone married to Theodore (Ted) Roosevelt Malone.

Ted’s Father—Henry Malone; Mother—Rose Griffin. Ted was born October10, 1910;Hartford, Sebastian, AR and died February 5, 1990; Fort Smith, Sebastian, AR.

A lifetime of volunteerism and doing for others. This kind of citizenship made Fort Smith and surrounding area work so well.

Mayme Irene Faulkner Malone
1907, Oklahoma and July 13, 1998 Died.



Mary Jeanne Black, Journal Inquiry Coordinator, writes the regular column Who Knew? Materials and stories in her article are highlights from research requests and email exchanges between the historically curious and the Historical Society that seeks to answer the questions posed.

Letters from Readers of the *Journal*

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, children, 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

1921 Newspapers

The first half of 1921 found the citizens of Fort Smith outraged by a hit-and-run accident that permanently changed the life of one young boy. But it was politics that really heated up the town, as proposals for a new form of government divided the city. A record snow fall cooled things down and brought out the playfulness in us all. We watched our city grow and prosper with new and expanding businesses. Technology brought about changes in every aspect of our community, even in the way our daily bread was produced and delivered. Old standards were slipping away. But, baseball was still king, and now baseball had a brand new home in Fort Smith. But it was cowboys and rodeo that dominated that new home first. A new and exciting organization, the Boy Scouts of America, won the hearts of the community and brought praise from the president of the United States. Private hospitals planned expansions and modernization, while the county hospital found itself at the center of more than one controversy, even as an old and battered city jail made way for a new partnership with that county. Yes, life was changing in 1921, but still somehow the pace was slow enough to remember our fallen heroes of the past, even if one had to travel halfway across the country to do it.

Sunday, January 2, 1921

RICHARD DABNEY STRUCK BY AUTO DRIVER ESCAPES

While Richard Dabney, 13-year-old boy, lies unconscious at Sparks Memorial hospital with one leg cut completely off and the other badly mangled and with but a slight chance for his life, a white man whose identity is uncertain, is a fugitive as the result of another tragical automobile accident which occurred at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the 2300 block on North Fourteenth street.

A large car, driven by a man dressed in a light suit of clothes and accompanied by two negroes, traveling at a murderous rate of speed out North Fourteenth street, struck the unsuspecting youth to the ground before he had a chance to escape from the path of the speeding vehicle.

Turned from its course by the accident, the auto crashed into a telephone pole and was almost demolished. The driver, unhurt, without hesitation jumped from the wreck, shouted to his negro companions that he was going to telephone for the ambulance, and disappeared.

Hesitating in his flight long enough to ask the employees at the car barn to telephone for an ambulance, the man was last seen running across a vacant field going towards Sixth street. The two negroes, giving their names as Fred Jones and James York, claimed that the white man was a total stranger to them and that they had accepted a "lift" on their way to work. The black men made no attempt to escape and were placed under arrest when the officers arrived. Jones received a broken wrist and a bad cut over the eye in the automobile crash. York was not injured.

The police searched unsuccessfully for several hours for the man but had apparently given up the hunt last night. Although arriving on the scene only a few minutes after the accident and possessing a thorough description of the man together with the automobile tools, letters and other valuable clues, the officers were mystified and were no closer as to the true identity of the man late last night than they were a few minutes after the accident.

The automobile was a large Columbia Six touring car, green body, and disc wheels. It bore a 1920 Missouri automobile license tag numbered 198-408.

Tools and other materials found in the wrecked auto proved that the man was a stencil artist. Investigation showed that the man had been in Fort Smith some time and had stenciled initials on automobiles for numerous motorists here. However, none of the men for whom he

had worked could give his name or any other information about him.

A letter addressed to Frank Johnson, care of Hotel Thomas, Kansas City, Mo., was found in the car. A pair of overalls and other things found in the car threw no light on the identity of the driver.

The fugitive was described by the negroes as being between 25 and 30 years of age, six feet tall, weighing about 150 pounds, dark complexion, clean shaven, dressed in a light grey suit and wearing a black hat. He was limping when he jumped from the car but it was not known whether this impediment resulted from the accident or not.

The victim of the accident is the son of Will Dabney, garage owner, and his divorced wife, Mrs. Gibson. He lives with his mother, 2704 North Fourteenth street. The boy, assisted by a playmate, was endeavoring to capture a chicken that had escaped from its coop and did not hear or see the oncoming automobile until too late to escape. An ambulance conveyed the boy to Sparks Memorial hospital and his left leg, which had been almost cut off by the car, was amputated. The other leg was so badly crushed that it may be necessary to amputate it also. Attending physicians were unable to say last night whether or not the boy will recover. Whether or not he sustained internal injuries cannot be decided, until the youth recovers from the anesthetic.

According to the story told by Jones, the negroes were on their way to work and were between R and C streets on Fourteenth street, when the car stopped near them and the driver offered them a lift. Jones said he had been working on the negro church which is being built on Ninth street and that York is employed at the Fort Smith compress. He did not explain why he was walking north on Fourteenth street directly away from his place of employment at that hour of the day. Jones said that they rode only three or four blocks in the car before the accident. York, he said was hanging on the running board.

The negro was frank in stating that they were "burning the wind" and were travelling 25 miles an hour or maybe faster. Other witnesses who noticed the car said that the auto was going at such a speed that it was wobbling. Being a heavy car they estimated the speed as 40 miles or 50 miles an hour.

After knocking the boy to the ground the car struck the telephone pole with sufficient force to break it into

three pieces. It dragged the pole several feet.

The police were somewhat dubious believing the story told by the negroes since it is rather unusual for a white man to invite negroes to ride with him.

Friday, January 7, 1921

FINAL DISCUSSION OF CITY MANAGER BILL HEARD TODAY

A bill to change Fort Smith's commission form of government to that of a directorate and a city manager will be read and discussed at an open meeting to be held at 4 o'clock this afternoon at the Business Men's club in the Goldman hotel. All interested citizens are asked to attend, in order that any objections may be heard before the proposed measure is finally decided upon.

A subcommittee of five, under the chairmanship of Judge Joseph M. Hall, was appointed at a meeting held last week and directed to draw up the bill that will be under discussion this afternoon. The meeting had been called by the general committee appointed by all civic organizations of the city to discuss ways and means of improving the local government.

It was the sense of the last meeting that sixteen or more city directors should be specified, in order "to discourage professional politicians from entering the body and prevent the formation of cliques." Discussion called attention to the fact that a provision to require confirmation by the directors of all appointments would be in the city manager's hands, and a suggestion that the executive be made and held fully responsible was received with favor. Another suggestion was that a separate bill should be drafted to create a municipal court, to insure that change in the event that the people failed to ratify adoption of the city manager plan. A municipal court would relieve the mayor of presiding over that body and do away with the Justice courts.

PLAZA GARAGE TO OPEN HERE SOON

The Plaza Motor company located on the Plaza at 11th and A street will enter the Fort Smith automobile industry in a few days with two lines of well known automobiles; Franklin and Oakland.

A co-partnership was formed Wednesday with D. M. McGraw general manager and sales manager, Martin

Green manager of repair and parts department and Mrs. Martin Green secretary-treasurer.

Mr. McGraw has made his home in Fort Smith for the past three years and has been a resident of Arkansas for more than thirty years in charge of the Arkansas properties of the Western Coal and Mining company. He formerly made his headquarters in the mining district at Altus. He severed his connection with the Western on November 10th.

Martin Green is known as one of the best automobile mechanics in Fort Smith and has been connected with several of the largest local automobile concerns.

The Plaza company will operate day and night service and in addition to carrying parts for Franklin and Oakland cars, will carry a line of accessories and will have car storage accommodations.

ANOTHER MAN SH OT ON "DEAD MAN'S ROW"—WATCHMAN SHOT BY TWO HIGHWAYMEN

Dressed in a garb of white, accompanied by a negro, a white man held up and attempted to rob Henry Davis, night watchman at the Fort Smith Folding Bed and Table company plant, about 6:30 o'clock last night, shooting the victim with a large caliber revolver, the ball passing through Davis' left knee.

The hold-up occurred on F street, between North Second and Third streets, and only a short distance from the scene of the hold-up of Robert Couch, two weeks ago in which Couch was shot and killed. Two men were present when Couch was shot, and two participated in the hold-up of Davis last night, a white man and a negro in both instances.

Davis was on his way to the plant last night where he is night watchman and had almost reached the alley between the block bordering on Second and Third, when he observed the two men approaching him from his left. When they had approached to within a few feet of him the negro hailed him, but Davis did not understand what he said and continued on his way.

As soon as the pair got near enough, the negro struck him a glancing blow on the side of the head, which caused him to fall to the ground. By the time he was again on his feet, the black highwayman fired at him, the ball entering his leg just above the left knee, and penetrating the leg, passing out on the other side slightly below the knee. The shot caused him to fall and

about the time he struck the ground the second time, the highwayman fired again but the aim was wild and the bullet missed its mark striking the pavement at the wounded man's side. Then the men ran, the white man going west on F street and the negro north across the vacant lots disappearing in the alley.

People attracted to the scene of the hold-up called the Putman ambulance and Davis was removed to the Sparks Memorial hospital where his wound was treated. The surgeon found no broken or shattered bones as a result of the shot and the wound is not thought to be dangerous. Seen at the hospital last night after his wound was dressed, Mr. Davis said that his two assailants were unmasked and that they were close enough to him to be easily recognized as a white man and a negro. The white man, he said, was dressed in white clothes. Of this, he said, he could not be mistaken. The man was wearing a white coat and white pantaloons or a white apron. He further said the white man never said a word and made no effort to assist in the hold-up, but that he was one of the party and was evidently the negro's boss.

He was walking along and not expecting to be held up, he said, and when the negro called to him he was not sure that he was being spoken to, and walked on. This action on his part, he believed, caused the negro to strike him.

Davis is firm in a belief that he was not the person intended to be robbed, and when the mistake was known, the men ran. Of course, this is simply the belief of the injured man, nothing being said by the robbers bearing out such a supposition. But Davis says that their actions led him to believe a mistake had been made by them.

A negro and a white man bearing the description of the assailants given by the victim of the shooting were traced to Van Buren last night. It was reported that they were seen to get off the street car on Main street in Van Buren.

Saturday, January 8, 1921

88 FACTORIES GOODS WORTH 25 MILLION

Fort Smith exclusive of its retail dealers, brokers and commercial travelers representing outside houses, but stationed or operating from here, did a \$73,000,000

business last year. Commodities brought in and shipped out included more than 30,000 carloads.

This recapitulation of 1920 is taken from figures compiled by the city, the Business Men's club and the Fort Smith traffic bureau at the request of government engineers, to include in data of the business and resources of cities and towns along the Arkansas river. The data is for the government archives and to be available to the rivers and harbors committees of congress, with a view to the possible improvement of the stream for navigation.

Eighty-eight manufacturing establishments with a total capital stock and investment of \$8,095,500, the figures disclose, turned out products last year valued at \$24,960,000. Fifty local wholesale firms with \$6,991,000 invested, did a business last year of \$39,937,000. Though there was an unprecedented break in the cotton market in 1920, more than \$8,000,000 worth of business was transacted on the staple here.

In addition to this showing, attention is called to the fact that brokerage houses and representatives in Fort Smith of factories and distributors in other sections of the country piled up a business of many millions of dollars during the year. This is quite an important headquarters for traveling salesmen, their number being estimated at 500.

Figures for retail business are not available, but as automobile dealers are included in this class, the enormity of the total may be imagined.



Deposits of \$11,316,260.63 are shown for the city's four banks, with capital and surplus of \$1,706,861, these figures being revised to conform to the sworn statements published last week.

Eighty-eight concerns classified as manufactories last year employed 4,903 persons. Grouped, their year's business totals were as follows. Sixteen metal products plants, \$1,807,000 invested produced commodities worth \$6,739,000 and employed 933 persons; six textile and leather concerns, \$407,000 invested with \$1,405,000 output and 319 employees; five brick and stone plants, \$23,500 invested, with \$611,000 output and 181 employees; 27 food and feed concerns, \$1,836,000 invested with \$4,523,000 output and 808 employees; 4 glass factories, \$925,000 invested with \$3,350,000 output and 1,063 employees; 11 furniture factories, 1,060,000 invested and \$3,447,000 output and 750 employees; 14 woodworking plants, \$1,175,000 invested, with \$3,395,000 output and 674 employees; five miscellaneous factories, \$650,000 invested, with \$1,490,000 and 173 employees.

No compilation was made of the year's business of the city's various public utilities, but their investment is estimated at \$4,000,000 and the value of their year's output in 1920 set at about \$1,500,000. Latest figures on Fort Smith's gas supply give (available for sale) 40,000,000 cubic feet a day, about half of which is consumed. Maximum electrical output here is 6,400 kilowatts, with a "peak" load of only 5,000 kw's.

MOTOR COMPANY IS INCORPORATED WITH CAPITAL OF \$50,000

Articles of incorporation of the De Jarnette Motor company were filed with the county clerk yesterday. The stockholders names are J. J. DeJarnett, Ona E. DeJarnett and Rutherford J. Ross. The capital stock of the corporation is \$50,000 and is the incorporation of the partnership of the same name.

Wednesday, January 12, 1921

TWO WOMEN JAILED IN QUARANTINE RAID ESCAPE HOSPITAL

More than a week ago Madge Hamilton came to Fort Smith and surrendered herself to the federal authorities.

She claimed at her preliminary hearing, on a charge of violating the interstate quarantine law, that she was en route to Hot Springs for treatment but that she had been informed at Van Buren that nothing could be done for her there. For this reason she said she had decided to give herself into custody.

Now she is at large, having made her escape from the county hospital in a rather spectacular manner. Early Tuesday morning Opal Baxter and the Hamilton girl lowered themselves from a window in an upper story of the hospital and to date federal authorities have found no trace of them. Both girls were transferred to the county jail a few days ago with a number of other women charged with the same offense.

A railroad man at Van Buren told officials yesterday that two girls answering in general the description of the escaped girls boarded an Iron Mountain train at an early hour yesterday morning. This is the only clue as to the whereabouts of the girls.

Officers of the United States department of justice are puzzled over the action of the Hamilton girl. The fact that she voluntarily surrendered does not fit in well with her escape. The other girls at the hospital have declared they do not want to leave the institution where they are receiving medical care.

Thursday, January 13, 1921

BOY, NOT KNOWING HIS LEG OFF, LONGS TO PLAY FOOTBALL

"Gee! I hope I can get out of this hospital and get all my school work up, so when I go to high school next year I can go out for football."

These were the words of Richard Dabney, aged 13 years, who was run over by an automobile last Saturday afternoon on North Fourteenth street. As a result of the accident his leg has been amputated and for fear that the shock might impair his recovery, he has not been told of the operation.

Richard was a student at Junior high school and according to his teachers; he was one of the most popular boys in school. Every morning his teachers are besieged with questions. "How is Richard today?" and "When will Richard be in school again?" are the most frequent queries. His teachers have visited him when

allowed to do so and during a conversation with one of them the little crippled lad expressed a desire for a football career.

The driver of the car has not been found as yet. According to hospital reports, young Dabney has passed the danger point, and unless excited his recovery is assured.

Friday, January 14, 1921

AW, BOYS WILL BE BOYS, PROF, AND IT SNOWS SO SELDOM

Even the older boys in the south take pleasure in snowballing though snow falls so seldom. At any rate 25 high school boys here feel that way about the matter.

At noon yesterday several of the boys were "whooping it up" on the campus. A passerby was lucky if he was not a target for at least 50 snow balls. The sport went on uninterrupted until the 1 o'clock fifth period bell signaled, and even then the "regiment" disorganized with no reluctance.

When the fifth period classes were signaled many of the male population of the school found themselves with orders to report to the general office, reason unknown.

Principal Morrison awaited the guilty lads with stern face, as each of them passed in the open door of the private office with the most innocent air he could muster.

After investigation it was disclosed that professor Morrison had watched the whole proceeding from the office window. As a result you may visit the high school any afternoon after hours and see about 25 young men in the various study halls studying industriously, or you might take a peep at some of the report cards and the number of demerits thereon will possibly exceed the usual number.

KIDDIES SPORT AND FROLIC IN WINTER'S FIRST SNOW COVER

It was "days of real sport" for Fort Smith kiddies yesterday. The first real snow of the winter season was the signal for every normal youngster, boys and girls alike, to sally forth for a snow ball fight, to build snow forts, snow huts and to make that great friend of all children, the funny snow man.

Heavy traffic on the downtown streets cut up the

snow and by night it was almost gone but in the residential districts was melted just enough to make it usable for artistic endeavors of small sculptors.

Last night on every hand, when one was traveling through the residence districts, could be soon products of childish skill. In practically every house yard, wherein dwells young Americans, could be seen a snow man, fashioned in a score of fantastic shapes in accordance to the fancies of the minds which conceived them. It was snow man time in the city yesterday.

STREET CARS PLAY OFF AND ON PRANKS IN DRIFTS OF SNOW

Park Hill and South Fort Smith street cars experienced considerable difficulty yesterday in negotiating the stretch of temporary track on Towson Ave. At various hours of the day cars jumped the track at the switch where the south end of the temporary track joins onto the main track. At 8 o'clock last night a southbound Park Hill car became stalled and it was necessary for all passengers on incoming and outgoing cars to transfer. No damage was done.

One motorman said that a Park Hill car had left the rails at the junction five times during the day. It was his car which was stalled at 7 p.m. This time only the rear trucks were off and he succeeded in pulling the car back onto the track. At 8 p.m. the same car caused a tie up of that portion of the car system when the front trucks jumped the rails.

Saturday, January 15, 1921

ONE GIRL INDICTED FOR VICE IS FREED

Rose Abbott, who was indicted by the federal grand jury Thursday on a charge of violating the interstate quarantine act, was freed in Judge Youman's court yesterday. She entered a plea of not guilty and a dismissal was ordered.

She was arrested during the drive against the spread of social disease and was indicted with fourteen other girls and women on the same charge. She was the first of the women indicted under the quarantine act to be brought to court.

Tuesday, January 18, 1921

SHERIFF HARPER ARRESTS FUGITIVE MOTORIST WHO RAN OVER DABNEY YOUTH

Following fast and strenuous detective work on the part of Sheriff Blake Harper, Frank Johnston was arrested in the Van Buren station of the Iron Mountain railroad at midnight charged with reckless driving in connection with running over Richard Dabney, 13-year-old son of Will Dabney in the 2300 block on North Fourteenth street, Jan. 8.

The arrest was perfected by Sheriff Harper, and Deputy Sheriff A. J. Berry, Special Officer Ben Walker had previously furnished much of the information upon which Harper worked up the case.

Johnston was arrested after a confession had been obtained Sunday morning from Fred Jones, the negro who was in the automobile with Johnston at the time the car ran over the Dabney boy.

Sheriff Harper and deputies worked with the negro for hours before he broke down and confessed that Johnston was the driver of the car and the man officers had been seeking here.

Frank Johnston, under the name of George Hamm, was arrested in Van Buren Saturday on a charge of having whiskey in his room. Under the assumed name he paid a fine and was liberated. Yesterday, learning that the sheriff was hot on his trail, he borrowed money from friends and purchased a ticket to St. Louis. He was awaiting the arrival of the train when the officers arrested him last night.

Johnston has been identified by the negro Jones, and the two other men positively as the man who drove the speeding car that ran over the boy. Tags in his possession at the time of his arrest prove conclusively that he was the owner of the car said Sheriff Harper.

The fact that Johnston had a cork leg assisted the officers in tracing him. It will be recalled that at the time the driver jumped from the shattered automobile after it had run over the boy and crashed into a telephone pole, he was said to limp as he ran. He lost his right leg while working for a railroad at Texarkana some time ago.

Sheriff Harper was in Greenwood when accounts of the crime were first published. When the case was apparently dropped here, he communicated with the Columbia Automobile company, Detroit and learned who purchased the car. He trailed the ownership,

learning that it eventually had been stolen in Kansas City, Dec 23.

Tags taken from a Ford car were substituted for the tags on the Columbia car at the time it was stolen, but the Columbia tags were found in the possession of Johnston when he was arrested in Van Buren last night.

Johnston is a resident of Fort Smith. Officers claim that he has been arrested several times and has an unsavory repute. He is the son of a prominent man, who for years was a merchant in Midland Heights, near where the Dabney boy was injured.

Wednesday, January 19, 1921

\$500 FINE AND 3 MONTHS IN JAIL IMPOSED AGAINST MAN FOR CRIPPLING BOY

A fine of \$500 and imprisonment in the county jail for three months were given Frank Johnston, charged in Justice Fishback's court with "assault with intent to do great bodily injury," yesterday afternoon.

'BOSS' REFUSES TO PIT TWINS AGAINST GIRL BASEBALL NINE

"The Bloomer Girls'" No, it's not the latest musical comedy or vaudeville hit, neither is it burlesque. It's a baseball club—and the girls play "sure nuff" baseball, too. The manager of the club, surprising as it may seem, is a man, at least, there is no preceding "Mrs." On the signature of the manager of the club, in a letter received by "Boss" Schmidt inquiring as to the possibility of securing a game in Fort Smith.

But the Letter contains many of the odd persuasive methods of women. They remind "Boss" that "in recognition of the fact that the 'Famous Western Bloomer Girls' will be in your territory, you should be more than glad to bring us to your city, as we will be a sure crowd getter."

But the manager forgot to state whether the Bloomer girls are to play a team composed of men or the 'better half,' so naturally, "Boss" is in a quandary.

"Boss" remarked that if the girls would consent to play a male team that it would be comparatively easy to procure three or four teams for the contest. But he also said that he was afraid there would be a few unnecessary put outs' on the part of the men.

He will not consider the offer.

DRIVER'S QUICK WIT SAVES YOUTH WHEN AUTO HITS A BIKE

Presence of mind shown by Falconer, a salesman of the DeJarnette Motor Co., possibly saved Harry Robinson Jr., age 8 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Robinson, 1424 North Eleventh street, when a car driven by Falconer struck the bicycle which young Robinson was riding.

The accident occurred in the 900 block in North Eleventh street as the lad was proceeding from the DuVal school to his home at lunch time.

It is said a large delivery truck was parked near the curb, and that the truck prevented the boy from seeing the car and Falconer from seeing the boy, until a collision was unavoidable. In an attempt to avert the crash, Falconer jerked the steering wheel and applied the emergency brake, but just a few seconds too late. The boy's wheel was demolished and he was thrown beneath the front wheels of the car, and would have been seriously injured, if not killed, if the automobile had moved forward two feet more.

As it was the boy was thrown against the pavement with such force that he was bruised and there were many gashes about his left cheek. The driver of the car picked the boy up, put him in the automobile and conveyed him to his home where a physician was called.

After carefully examining young Robinson, the physician declared the bruises and cuts did not necessarily mean that the lad was seriously hurt. It is said no internal injuries resulted.

LEGION'S REQUEST FOR FORT ROOTS IS PUT BEFORE SENATE

Special to *Southwest American*

WASHINGTON. Jan 18.—At the request of Leigh Kelley of Fort Smith Arkansas, commander of the American Legion, Governor Brough and others, Senator Robinson today introduced a bill in the senate authorizing the secretary of war to turn over Fort Logan H. Roots at Little Rock to the U. S. public health service for use as a hospital for disabled soldiers and other service men.

The bill would appropriate sufficient funds to make the necessary changes and to operate the institution.

Thursday, January 20, 1921

**DARING ATTEMPT TO BREAK JAIL
MADE BY FRANK JOHNSTON AND
POSTOFFICE BURGLAR**

Confined in the county jail under sentence for reckless driving, and facing probable conviction on additional charges; Frank Johnston, the motorist who ran over and badly crippled Richard Dabney, 13-year-old boy, and escaped arrest for a fortnight, was caught last night in an attempt to escape punishment meted out to him for his crime by breaking out of his cell.

NEGROES ARE FINED

That the prosecuting attorney's office intends to ignore common law marriages and prosecute all persons so holding themselves out to the public as husband and wife, was indicated yesterday when two different couples, all negroes, were arraigned in Justice Yaden's court charged with maintaining the relation without having been formally married. John Hensley and Dela Wheeler were found guilty and each fined \$20. The alleged abode of the offenders was given as Coke Hill.

**TWINS WILL BEGIN SPRING TRAINING
MARCH 25; NEW TEAM**

About March 25, the new 1921 Twins will begin to show up for training. Yesterday "Boss" Schmidt had received letters from many of the new men secured, and all of them said that they would be "on time."

Only two veterans will be back. Parker will be with the first sack next season, and will then probably be sold to the big leagues. "Buck" Kostechi, last year's catcher, according to "Boss," will be with the locals as a utility man, although he may be released to become an official umpire because of his ability in that respect.

"Boss" also heard from Mique Finn of the Omaha team, who will train here next season. Finn stated that the Omaha pitching and catching staff would be in Fort Smith about March 14 for preliminary training and would be followed by the rest of the squad about the 20th.

The exhibition games between the Omaha team and the Twins will be April 1, 2, and 3. They will be the first of the season.

Friday, January 21, 1921

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PURCHASE
CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH AND WILL
CONVERT INTO CLUBHOUSE**

Initial steps of the Knights of Columbus to erect a permanent home, with plans to make it the finest fraternal clubhouse in the state, were inaugurated Wednesday night with the purchase of the Central Methodist church property at North Thirteenth and B streets.

The deal which has been under negotiation for several days was completed at a meeting of officers and leaders of the organization Wednesday night when it was unanimously decided to purchase the property and start as soon as possible on the construction of the building.

No definite plans or estimate of the cost have been made, this being turned over to a competent architect to submit plans at an early date. Just what part of the present church building will be used in the new clubhouse is also left to the discretion of the architect.

The Knights of Columbus do not assume the ownership of the church until Feb 15, as the regular church services of the First Methodist church, south, are now being held in the building. However, the church congregation will move to its new home in the early weeks of February and transformation of the edifice into a modern clubhouse will begin immediately.

Spacious auditorium, swimming pool, library, meeting room, billiard parlor and recreation hall will be included in the new modern home of the fraternal order. Hardwood floors will be laid throughout.

Tennis courts and other playgrounds will be provided in the property surrounding the building.

Tuesday, January 25, 1921

**'HOBO HOLLOW,' MECCA OF WEARY SONS
OF OPEN ROAD, IS RAIDED SUNDAY;
INHABITANTS 'BEAT IT'**

Twelve "Weary Willies" are homeless as the result of a cleanup drive on "Hobo Hollow" made Sunday by officers. "Hobo Hollow" is a spot made notorious by the congregating of those species of man who have cast their lot against work of any kind. It is located at the foot of the bluffs near Van Buren and is close to the railroad yards.

Many unsavory stories are afloat concerning the strange inhabitants of "Hobo Hollow" and these stories are no more unsavory than the men who frequent the place. In times past it has been necessary for officers to invade "Hobo Hollow" for the purpose of ridding the community of the undesirables. Officers believe that many crimes committed in Fort Smith, Van Buren and other cities could be traced to "Hobo Hollow" residents.

The officers found crude huts made of stone piled one upon another, which formed shelter places for the tramps. These were destroyed. The beds of straw and rags were burned.

One man, age 78 years, begged the officers to not destroy his little hut. He cried piteously and told the officers that he was a harmless old man with no place to go for shelter. The officers kindly told him that he could not be permitted to stay because two younger men were staying with him. The old man said that he had written his son for money but that none had been received.

The old fellow had a quantity of sweet potatoes and onions which constituted his diet. For cooking utensils he had tin cans and pails. Some of the improvised utensils were very cleverly constructed.

One of the hoboes had \$38 in his possession, although he had told the officers that he was both friendless and penniless.

Numerous petty crimes have been committed by the inhabitants of "Hobo Hollow." Recently, a party of boys were passing there and were held up by a burly, roughly clad man. The boys were relieved of about 50 cents and were told to "beat it."

Saturday, January 29, 1921

AYRES DISPOSES OF HIS INTERESTS TO PARTNER, R. T. HUNT

R. T. Hunt, of the Hunt-Ayres dry goods firm, has purchased the interest of Charles Ayres and will assume active management of the store in addition to the Hunt Hardware store Monday.

Mr. Hunt said Saturday that no changes in the business would be effected within the next few weeks. Mr. Ayres will leave soon for California, to make an indefinite stay on business.

His plans for the future are incomplete, and it is not

known whether he will decide or not to locate in the west permanently.

WAGON FACTORY IS CLOSED DOWN FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD

Operations of the factory of the Fort Smith Wagon company ceased yesterday and the plant will be closed indefinitely, according to announcement made last night W. H. Johnston, president of the company.

Lack of orders to warrant the continued operation of the plant was given as the reason for their shut down.

The factory has been operating at less than half capacity for the past two months. One hundred men were thrown out of work by the shutdown. When running full force the plant employs approximately 300 men.

"The factory will be re-opened as soon as possible," said Mr. Johnston last night. He, however, was unable to make any statement regarding the resuming of operations at an early date.

Sunday, January 30, 1921

HOLT CLINIC ANNOUNCES BIG BUILDING PROGRAM TO START SOON; STAFF NAMED

With \$100,000 to be expended in the near future for the establishment of Holt Clinic, which has already been incorporated, added to other hospital facilities here, Fort Smith may readily be termed the "medical center of the Southwest."

The entire capacity of St. John's hospital will be used solely for patients of physicians in the Holt Clinic. Construction for temporary executive and consultant offices is already under way, and in the spring 50 rooms will be added to the hospital, bringing the total number of rooms to 100.

After the annex has been completed, the entire first floor of the hospital will be utilized for consulting apartments.

PROMPT ACTION BY FIREMEN PREVENTS BIG TOWSON BLAZE

A fire in the old saloon building of Til Shaw at 422 Towson avenue early Friday morning was controlled by the firemen with slight loss to the floor in the Keller

second hand-store, which now occupies part of the building. The fire originated from a gas stove, left burning in the store overnight by Keller.

Friday, February 4, 1921

MEDICINE SHOWMAN CALLED INTO COURT

Leon Streets, medicine peddler and Punch and Judy show man, was ordered yesterday to appear in police court this morning. Streets came here several days ago and established his street show at Ninth and Garrison avenue. He maintains that he is a veteran of the Spanish-American war and that he possesses a state permit to conduct the sale of patent medicines.

Streets and his companion were brought before Dr. A. McKelvey, city physician, early in the week after two reputable physicians complained of his remarks. Dr. McKelvey ordered him to modify his statements and not quote himself or any other physician of the city as having endorsed his medicine.

The medicine showman told Dr. McKelvey that he had a state permit issued by a county judge and that with this permit he may sell medicine anywhere in the state. It developed that his permit is one pertaining to a county only, according to the Chief of Police Ross.

Sunday, February 6, 1921

NEW INFIRMARY WILL BE GERM AND FIREPROOF AND WITH CORNERLESS ROOMS

Construction of a modern 4-story brick, fireproof, germ proof hospital to be known as the New St. Edwards Infirmary will begin St. Patrick's Day, March 17, according to official announcement made yesterday.

Plans, which have been under consideration for several months, have been completed, blueprints approved, material ordered and all is in readiness to begin work on what will be the largest and best equipped hospital in the state, at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

The new building will be located on the Catholic grounds in front and east of the present hospital building. It will be 130 feet by 70 feet, facing Little Rock Avenue.

The present hospital building, which in itself is one of the most modern hospitals in the state and is practically a new building will be remodeled and converted into a nurse's home.

Sunday, February 20, 1921

BORDER CITY COFFEE COMPANY ORGANIZED

A duly incorporated company has been organized to take charge of the Wide-Awake Coffee company. The company consists of the men who purchased the business from the present owner. They are Messrs Fellingner, Mullen, Pryor, and Miller. The new company will be named Border City Coffee company.

Mr. Fellingner, who has been selected as manager, has been well-known in Fort Smith since coming here to take charge of the Wide-Awake Coffee company. Those men in the company who do not already live here have planned for permanent residences in Fort Smith.

TOTAL SNOW FALL IS 18.2 INCHES HERE

Eighteen and two-tenths inches of snow, the greatest depth ever recorded in the annals of the city, covered Fort Smith when the thirty-hour fall, which began at 7 o'clock Friday morning, ceased Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock, according to the computation of the local weather bureau.

Wednesday, February 23, 1921

HEATED ARGUMENTS LEAD TO NEAR ROW OVER CITY MANAGER

Hostilities between the anti-city manager and the city manager forces were opened yesterday afternoon. The field of combat was chosen ideally at Tenth street and Garrison avenue. The opposing forces met at 4 o'clock. Heated arguments preceded the combat. While the argument assumed a serious aspect, forces gathered number over 50 or 100 men armed with intense political wrath.

The first chosen leader of the pro-managers, attempting to avert open fighting, prolonged the argument, much to the disgust of his followers. He was

forced to resign as leader. Another was chosen. With a quiet dignity he approached the leader of the anti-managerites. Both were prepared for immediate battle as fresh recruits were constantly arriving for both sides.

But, when actual fighting appeared unavoidable, both leaders had apparently decided to leave the other to start the matter. Finally, the anti-manager advocate lunged at the pro-manager adherent, who prevented him from inflicting serious injury by clinching.

At this juncture flanks of both armies were attacked by police officers. An armistice was agreed to immediately by both forces and each returned to its respective camp.

No arrests were made.

STARR IS DEAD; TO BURY BANDIT AT DEWEY, OKLA.

HARRISON, Ark., Feb 22—Henry Starr, Oklahoma bandit, died today as the result of a wound inflicted Friday by W. J. Myers, former president of the People's bank of Harrison, when Starr, with three companions, attempted to rob that institution.

STUBBORN FIRE IN SHINE PARLOR IS FINALLY MASTERED

Volumes of smoke pouring from the Boston store windows about 7:30 o'clock last night resulted in a general fire alarm and created considerable excitement on Garrison avenue.

The smoke puzzled the firemen for several minutes before the fire could be discovered. A thorough search

of the Boston store basement, where the smoke was thickest, failed to reveal any flames. The smoke continued to thicken until the entire building was filled.

The fire was finally discovered in the rear of the Paris hat and shoeshining parlor adjoining the Boston store. A stove heating the metal drier had become overheated and set fire to the floor. A cement wall between the floor and the basement prevented the spread of the flames and caused the fire to smolder there.

The fire was quickly extinguished with chemicals.

The Boston store stock probably suffered several hundred dollars smoke damage, it was said last night.

WOMAN BRAVELY FIRES ON PEEPER

When a man's face appeared in the window of the A. C. Peck home in Brockman addition, Mrs. Peck, who had just retired, quietly slipped from the room, procured a revolver, returned and shot at the man, who immediately disappeared unharmed, although the bullet lodged in the window facing within a few inches of the place where its intended victim had been.

Night Police Captain Robertson and Motor Policeman Bailey answered the alarm turned in by members of the Peck family, and after two hours of sleuthing through melting snow, entered a house within a few blocks of the shooting and arrested a man giving his name as Frank Malson, a glass blower.

Mrs. Peck, in reference to the affair, said, "I saw him just as I was about to fall asleep. I rolled quietly off the bed to the floor and keeping the bed between him and me, crawled to the door leading from the bedroom and, opening the door, slowly got my pistol from the adjoining room and fired. I saw him run when he heard the shot and immediately called the police."

Captain Robertson trailed the man and found that he had been prowling around several other houses in the neighborhood. The snow in places was badly trampled and it was hard for the officers to keep the trail.

"We lost the trail several times, said Captain Robertson, "and nearly gave the job up as hopeless, when we thought it was impossible to discover individual footprints. The man rounded several dwellings, walked several blocks in one direction, then in another, finally crossing a pasture where footprints other than his had not been made for some time. We went to the door of the house where the footprints led and knocked. A man in bare feet answered the knock. I

**Vote Against
City Manager Plan
TODAY**

Don't Fail—Go to the polls—Cast an American citizen's vote, as is your right. Vote against the City Manager Plan so that you can have the right to continue to vote for your own executives. YOUR vote may be the deciding one to keep our city under democratic government. Meet the issue squarely today.

Vote against the City Manager Plan.

—POLITICAL ADV.

asked him where his shoes were and told him we were going to take a walk.”

The man procured a pair of glass blowers’ shoes, returned and, according to the officers, went with them readily. Persons who had seen a man prowling however, failed to identify him. He was allowed to return to his home. Tracks were followed again by the officers and they led to the same house. This time a younger man came to the door. He was asked to find the shoes of the man who had just returned. Shoes, wet and fitting exactly in the tracks in the snow were produced from the kitchen.

Malson was questioned once more and admitted the shoes were his. It was said by the officers. He was arrested and according to Captain Robertson, confessed being near the house but declared he had gone there in quest of a person who had lived there a short time ago.

He was arrested on a charge of trespassing and in default of bond, was committed to jail.

Friday, February 25, 1921

I. ISAACSON, ONE OF LEADING MERCHANTS HERE, DEAD AT 68

Funeral arrangements for I. Isaacson, aged 68 years, prominent Fort Smith merchant, who died following an operation at Mayo’s institute in Rochester, Minnesota, have not been announced, pending the arrival of the body this afternoon.

The serious condition of Mr. Isaacson was made known to his relatives by a telegram early yesterday morning.

The cause of his turn for the worse was a severe hemorrhage during Wednesday night. Shortly after the arrival of the message stating his condition, another telegram came telling of his death.

Sol C. Cohn, son-in-law of Mr. Isaacson, went to Kansas City last night to meet the train conveying the body which was accompanied by Mrs. Isaacson and Paul Isaacson, who have been in Rochester during Mr. Isaacson’s illness.

Mr. Isaacson was a native of Prussia but came to the United States when a young man. He first located at Cache, Okla., later coming to Fort Smith to engage in business.

He is survived by his wife and two children, Paul

Isaacson and Mrs. Sol C. Cohn. Many relatives in Prussia also survive.

Mr. Isaacson was a Mason and was a charter member of the Independent Order of B’nai B’rith here and had been prominent in the affairs of the Home Mutual Building and Loan association of which he was president. Many expressions of regret were heard here yesterday morning following receipt of news of his death.

Tuesday, March 1, 1921

ONE MAN IS KILLED, THREE INJURED IN A BOILER EXPLOSION

Destroying the roof of the engine room of the machine shops of the Central division, Missouri Pacific in Van Buren and hurling pieces of the boiler for more than 200 feet from the roundhouse, a stationary boiler exploded about 5:30 o’clock Monday morning, resulting in the instant death of George Pennywitt, aged 28 years, negro, and the probably fatal injuring of two other negroes, Homer Wakefield and W. H. Fuller.

Charles Toran, negro, was badly scalded but was dismissed late Monday evening from St. John’s hospital in Fort Smith, where all were taken for treatment. Reports from the hospital last night indicated that Wakefield and Fuller could not recover.

The boiler was 14 feet long and 4 feet in diameter and was used to supply steam for the machine shops. The cause of the explosion is believed to be the result of Engineer Pennywitt pouring cold water in the boiler too rapidly, when the water already in the boiler was very low.

The explosion came without warning, and according to railroad officials it is a miracle that all the engine room employees were not instantly killed.

Pennywitt was born and reared in Van Buren and was one of the most trustworthy of his race in the city. For many years he was employed in the W. C. Bostick drug store.

The damage to the machine shops has been officially estimated at \$700. Work on repairing the building will be immediately started.

Thursday, March 3, 1921

**COUNTY HOSPITAL ROMANCE CAUSES
A STIR IN COURT; COUPLE NOT YET WED**

When a marriage license was issued to John W. Smith yesterday to wed Mrs. Lov Adkins, things began to happen, and as the day wore on the atmosphere in and about Judge Yadon's office became tense.

The groom-to-be is 36 years of age and is partly paralyzed, his right side arm and leg being affected. The prospective bride is 30 years of age and deaf and dumb. Both have been inmates of the county hospital and Mrs. Adkins was still an inmate of the place yesterday. However, it was said she was not under quarantine, having been discharged.

At the time Smith applied for license, Luther Hopkins, county clerk, personally waited upon him and knowing the parties, inquired if Mrs. Adkins had been discharged from quarantine at the county hospital. Smith told him she had, but to make sure, Mr. Hopkins called Dr. McKelvey by phone and learned that such was true. He then issued the license.

Having secured the license, Smith called at the office of Justice Yadon, handed the paper to him and asked him to perform the ceremony. Smith told the justice he would go out and get his bride, and left.

After the departure of Smith, Justice Yadon's telephone began to ring and the justice was kept pretty busy the rest of the day answering phone calls from people over the city, protesting against the ceremony.

Late yesterday evening, Superintendent J. C. Bryant, of the county hospital, accompanied by other indignant citizens called at the justice's office to ask him to refuse to solemnize the marriage when the parties presented themselves. At the same time, Sam Wood, prosecuting attorney, was walking past the justice's office, and was called in.

"As an officer of the law, I have no discretion in the matter." Justice Yadon told the visitors. "When a couple appears before me with license properly issued by the county clerk, and the man and woman appear to be of proper and lawful age, it is my duty to perform the ceremony. If there is any reason why these people should not marry, you folks should get busy.

"While it was not my duty to do so, I asked Smith if he thought he was physically able to support the woman he was going to marry, and he said he was. I then asked

him to step out there in the floor and show me how badly he was crippled, and he did, he moved about pretty briskly too. After showing me that he could get about, he said he could work on a farm and make the woman a better living than she could make for herself. I then told him he seemed to be all right unless there was something wrong with his head, and he said there was not.

"Now, then, I still have the license, I called Mr. Hopkins and he said it was issued in a regular manner and asked if he was going to recall it. He said he was not. If the couple appears before me, I shall marry them."

Superintendent Bryant said, he would prevent the marriage if possible and that he would detain the woman until she was formally discharged by Judge Norris or Dr. McKelvey. He characterized the affair as an outrage. A member of the Salvation Army force, who was with him, voiced the same sentiment.

County Clerk Hopkins said last night that he had acted will within his duty as clerk. He called attention to the fact that his duties in issuing marriage license is ministerial and not judicial, that he has no discretion in the matter. The clerk said he personally knew of the parties and that they are both of age. Under the circumstances, Mr. Hopkins said, it was his duty to issue the license.

Friday, March 4, 1921

**COUNTY HOSPITAL ROMANCE IS ENDED,
LICENSE RETURNED**

The marriage license secured by John W. Smith Wednesday to wed Mrs. Lov Adkins was returned to the county clerk yesterday by Justice Yadon in the presence of Smith.

Smith is partially paralyzed and Mrs. Adkins is deaf and dumb, and men and women all over the city protested against the marriage of the couple so vigorously that Superintendent Bryant of the county hospital refused to permit Mrs. Adkins to leave that institution until formally discharged by law.

Both Smith and Mrs. Adkins have been inmates of the county institutions, the woman on three different occasions, it is said, and only recently discharged from

quarantine. She has been married and is the mother of a child adopted in a Fort Smith family.

Smith had deposited his license to marry the woman with Justice Yadon Wednesday and went after the bride-to-be. Being unable to lead her away from the hospital, he sought legal advice and it was said yesterday that he was told to learn whether or not Mrs. Adkins had secured a divorce from her husband. This advice, it was said, led to his asking Justice Yadon to return the license to the clerk.

J. C. Bryant, superintendent of the county hospital, said yesterday that as a matter of fact, Mrs. Adkins did not know that Smith had secured a license for him to marry. He didn't say that she would not consent to the marriage, but that she did not know that it was to take place until after Smith had visited the county clerk's office Wednesday.

SCOUTS HOLD COURT OF HONOR TONIGHT; PRESIDENT HARDING SENDS MESSAGE OF GREETINGS

The first Boy Scout initiation and court of honor will take place tonight at the First Christian church at 7:30 o'clock, according to an announcement made yesterday by W. I. Mayfield, scout master.

Commissions from Washington for 1921 were received yesterday by Mr. Mayfield and by the Rev. Paul Preston, scout commissioner. Greetings from Warren G. Harding, who becomes president today, also were received yesterday by the newly organized Fort Smith Scout body. The president's greeting follows.

I am with the Scout movement heart and soul, it is an organization teaching the spirit of service and honor which we must always have in our citizenship. It is a school of our democracy, because in it, standing is won by taking the equal opportunity given all individuals to show their own merit, capacity, and work. I wish every boy in our America could have the advantage and the honor of being in the Boy Scout organization and of learning therein that cooperation, justice, the custom of fair play, and the gentleness of good manner, make for peace and growth, as distinguished from the results of disorganization and selfishness and cowardice, which lead to contentions and conflict.

A message of congratulations will be sent this morning to President Harding from the Fort Smith Boy

Scouts, Mr. Mayfield said.

The organization of the Fort Smith Scouts is now completed, and the charter has been received. Mr. Mayfield expressed himself as being highly pleased with the selection of men both from Fort Smith and Van Buren. The department of administration is as follows.

President, C. H. Baltzell, first vice-president, Walter Hinton, finance committee, G. E. Berson, Scott Robertson, Robert Meck: organization of troops, M. E. Goss, G. P. Frazier, P. W. Furry, Charles Coffey, A. I. Preacher, J. W. Emerson, Perry Boatright of Van Buren; camp committee, J. E. McGehee, J. E. Reynolds, Dean Ford, Mr. Utterback, Dr. McCormack, John Izard, Leon Williams; educational publicity, Mr. Phillips, Parke Walker, Charles Miller, Ray Gill, Sam Wood, W. A. Bostick.

The following are members of the department of training. Second vice president Cecil Southard, leadership and training, Dr. Will Brocksher, Rev. W. M. Lockhart, W. J. Henry, Seah Holt, Carl Shibley of Van Buren, Scout instructors, C. M. Tuggle, Ralph Brown, Leon Guthrie, Paul Sheridan, Wendel Robertson, Hugh Branson, Olin Pitts, J. T. Turner, E. M. Voight, Vincent Miles, J. B. Dodge, Dr. Rose, K. G. May, W. B. Barton, John R. Williams, S. J. Wolfermann, Tom Frank Williams, Ken Metcalf, H. H. Smith, Rob McCann, H. P. Davis, Hoyt Bruce, J. H. Sied, Eugene Bly, T. G. Kelley, Elmer C. Brown, Winston Winters, C. A. Will, Dr. C. E. Laws, H. B. Fink, Ray Leininger.

Fred Angwin is third vice-president and head of the department of awards. The members of the court of honor are John M. Andrews counselor, T. G. Kelley, Parke Walker, L. G. Fleming, J. A. Sipe.

Wednesday, March 9, 1921

MANY WOMEN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FIRST RIGHT TO CAST BALLOT IN CITY ELECTIONS; NO DISORDERS

Fort Smith yesterday refused to adopt the city manager form of government in a special election in which the largest vote ever polled here in a municipal contest was cast.

According to the official returns made to City Clerk Blocker by election judges last night the vote was: For

1561; against 1805. The outcome of the election was in doubt until the last precinct was heard from for the final result was close.

Sunday, March 13, 1921

**THEATER CROWD IS STAMPEDED
WHEN A WOMAN CRIES 'FIRE!'**

About a hundred persons participated in a stampede at the Victory theater last night when an unknown woman near the front of the audience jumped up from her seat and cried "Fire," following the ringing of a large telephone call bell in the Coffey Auto garage across the street from the theater on North Seventh street. No one was injured.

The bell in the garage is in the front part of the building and is extra large for the purpose of calling employees who may be in the rear when the telephone rings. The bell rang several times, the woman shrieked



"Fire!" and the audience was on its way to the exits. Theater attaches soon quieted the frantic patrons, but many of them were so unnerved, they did not return to the play-house.

**TRACTION COMPANY GIVES
PARK SITE TO LOCAL SCOUTS**

At an executive meeting of the light and traction company officials, the plot of ground formerly known as the electric park was given over without restriction to the local Boy Scout organization and, according to W. I. Mayfield, scout executive here, the grounds will hereafter be known as the Boy Scout Park.

He added, however, that the park will not be used for the extensive summer camp, but the camp will be made several miles from any town.

The park will be used for weekend hikes, and general outings.

The grounds are some of the most attractive in this vicinity, and for several years have not been put to use. But their nearness to street car lines makes them ideal for outing purposes.

Saturday, March 19, 1921

**THREE BLACKS BROUGHT
HERE TO FOIL MOB**

After evading members of the Little Rock mob all day yesterday, Deputy Sheriffs Jones and Evans and two special guards arrived in Fort Smith last night and placed three negroes, charged with criminal assault upon two white women in Little Rock and identified Thursday, in the Sebastian county jail.

Thursday night in Little Rock a mob of approximately 2,000 men and youths had endeavored to lynch the negroes and they were spirited away from the state penitentiary while soldiers from Camp Pike were dispersing the mob.

Shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday Sheriff Young of Little Rock telephoned Sheriff Blake Harper and asked that he be allowed to send the negroes here for safe keeping.

Deputies Jones and Evans left Little Rock at 1:50 o'clock yesterday with the negroes after keeping them in the suburbs where they were kept during the morning to

outwit a mob should other efforts be made to lynch them.

Telegrams were sent from Little Rock yesterday to various cities in the state asking if the negroes had been taken there. The officers accompanying the prisoners to Fort Smith learned that their actions were being watched and information as to their mission was being sent ahead of them.

Secrecy surrounded the arrival of the negroes here. Sheriff Harper and Constable Bob Williamson met the train bearing them and they were hurried to the jail. Sheriff Harper declined to give out any information whatever regarding the prisoners and the officers accompanying them and Deputies Evans and Jones both said they were here from Atlanta Ga. on special business. They would not say why their prisoners had been brought here, nor would they tell the identity of the prisoners.

Other officers here scouted the possibility of mob violence in Fort Smith last night when apprised of the arrival of the men charged with assaulting the Little Rock women.

Sunday, March 20, 1921

LITTLE ROCK JURY FAILS TO INDICT 3 NEGROES HELD HERE

The Pulaski county grand jury recessed until Monday without returning indictments against the three negroes held in jail at Fort Smith, two of whom are charged with the assault upon a young white girl here last Saturday night. Absence of witnesses was assigned as the cause. Barnhart, the third negro held at Fort Smith will prove an alibi, it is said, having been arrested in a crap game at Stuttgart on the night he is alleged to have insulted a white woman here.

\$10,000 PRICE PAID FOR TWINS, RETAIN SCHMIDT

The Twins have been sold. A deal which has been under way for several weeks, was closed yesterday in which Schmidt and Harper sold the club to E. F. Brittain, Charles D. Coffey and W. L. Bullock of this city. It is understood that the purchase price was \$10,000 and the new owners have incorporated for \$15,000.

The trio who are now owners of the team, are well known in the city. Mr. Brittain is chief dispatcher for the

Frisco, Mr. Bullock is an oil man operating in Arkansas and Oklahoma, and Mr. Coffey is an insurance man.

Boss Schmidt has been retained as manager of the club and says he is going to give the fans a team that they will be proud of and whom they will all root for.


Tuesday, March 22, 1921

TO COMPLETE PLANS FOR RODEO AT MEETING TONIGHT

Plans for the Round-up and Rodeo—the “big show” Victor Ellig post of the American legion hopes to put on in Fort Smith in June—will be discussed at a meeting of the legionnaires at 7:30 o'clock tonight in the basement of the Merchants National bank building.

Shadrach and Halliburton, delegated to visit and investigate the round up at Fort Worth, Texas, will make their enthusiastic report at this evening's meeting.

Y i p-e-e-e-e
Let 'er Buck



At
Andrew's Field
2:30 P. M.

They're Off Today
Rain or Shine
to three days of
Thrilling Cowboy Sports
We'll All Be There! General Admission \$1.00
CHILDREN 50c

Committees will be appointed to carry on a drive for funds needed to put on the rodeo and final plans will be made.

Members of the local post have determined to build a permanent clubhouse that will be a fitting monument in Fort Smith to its part in the world war, and the rodeo will be one of the means to that end. Incidentally, it will attract visitors from scores of towns surrounding the city, as some of the best riders in the world and the wildest horses and steers will take part in the show. In addition to champion bronco busters from all over the west, there will be competitions for handsome prizes in which Arkansas and Oklahoma champions will take part.

Wednesday, March 23, 1921

BOURLAND AND MILLER WIN EASILY; FISHBACK HAS BIG LEAD FOR NEW COURT JOB

By a majority of 767 votes, Fort Smith yesterday nominated Fagan Bourland, long a prominent citizen and leading figure in the political, civic, financial and industrial life of the city, for mayor over J. H. Wright. Nomination is tantamount to election for no other candidate will enter the April 5 general city election against Mr. Bourland.

Thursday, March 24, 1921

BEFORE COURT FOR EMPLOYING MINOR

Charged with employing Ralph Allen, under sixteen years old, Tom Caldarera, owner of concession rights in the Princess theater was brought before Justice Fishback yesterday afternoon. The complaint was filed by George Moss, assistant labor commissioner. The case was continued.

The father of the boy was in court and said that his son was only fourteen years of age and that his wife had called at the theatre and notified the person she found in charge that she did not give her consent for the boy to be employed. The boy continued to work, he claimed, and the complaint was then made to Mrs. Woodward and Mr. Moss.

Immediately upon the filing of the complaint in court,

the boy was discharged and, with the consent of his parents, left the city and could not be found yesterday. The continuance was granted for the purpose of securing the presence of the lad as a witness.

Friday, March 25, 1921

OVER 550 PERSONS AT HOUSE WARMING OF AMRITA GROTTO

Over 550 persons, Masons and members of their families, attended the opening and house-warming in the new club house of the Amrita Grotto, Masonic social organization, in the Brown building last night.

The elegantly furnished suite was filled to capacity and an excellent program was carried out.

The stage, the most impressive feature of the suite, is situated in a large central room, accessible from all other apartments. It has been furnished with expensive drops and a purple silk front drop.

Folding chairs converted the large room into an auditorium.

The Amrita Grotto orchestra opened the program with several selections. Monarch Gene Bly followed with a general talk on the social benefits of Masonry. Willie Matney, "The Boy Soprano?" sang an Irish song and was compelled to give an encore.

William (unreadable) delivered a humorous address and with his peculiar wit proved a favorite for the night, despite his efforts to prove that he was no speaker. Carl Wortz followed with a quaint and entertaining solo, "Some Little Imp."

Rev. Paul G. Preston talked for five minutes on "Prophets." He said that the original meaning was spring, or bubbling over, and compared the Amrita Grotto organization to the spring as far as pep and enthusiasm were concerned.

A solo by Miss Ray Williams followed. Miss Williams played her own accompaniment. Mrs. R. A. Crump Jr. displayed remarkable talent in a series of humorous readings and responded to encore.

Immediately after the program refreshments were served and Miss Beckman's Dancing Academy, adjacent to the Grotto rooms, opened to those who wished to dance.

Sunday, March 27, 1921

**FORT SMITH'S NEW \$125,000 JOIE THEATER
OPENS SEPT. 1 WITH HIGH-CLASS VAUDEVILLE**

Fort Smith's newest theater, the Joie being erected on Ninth street, between Garrison and Rogers avenues at a cost of \$125,000, will open September 1st, with Majestic Vaudeville and the best and biggest pictures it is possible to buy.

Tuesday, March 29, 1921

**ESLINGER, ASLEEP FOR NEARLY
3 YEARS AT COUNTY'S HOSPITAL STIRS,
YAWNS AND SLEEPS AGAIN**

Jim Eslinger woke up at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning.

Two years and eight months ago he went to sleep at the county hospital, and since that time he had not stirred of his own will, sleeping as peacefully and calmly as a baby with the smile that comes with "dreams of the angels" upon his face.

Rubbing his eyes and stretching, just as a normal person would awaken from a good night's rest, Eslinger awakened from a sleep of almost three years, at 8:30 o'clock, gazed wildly about the room, faintly recognized the attending nurse, who stared almost breathlessly at the unexpected apparition, and then relaxed once more into the lethargy which has bound him to the land of the

living by one slender link.

Enslinger went to the county hospital seven years ago from Bonanza, suffering from pellagra. Relatives and physicians had despaired of his recovery. For months he struggled with the disease and complications arising from the malady are believed to have been the cause of his sinking into a sleep four years later, which has been unbroken until yesterday morning for three long years.

According to the story of J. C. Bryant, superintendent at the hospital, Mrs. Edna Merchant, nurse at the hospital, was making her daily rounds in her work, and just as she entered the room of the patient, he arose, rubbed his eyes and looked about the room. Mrs. Merchant called Mrs. Reddick, also an employ of the hospital and a moment after Mrs. Reddick's arrival, Eslinger sank back into a stupor.

According to Mr. Bryant, Eslinger is apparently normal, as far as breathing and color are concerned. During the three years of his sickness he has been given nourishment through a tube.

That all organs of his body are properly functioning is evidenced by the fact that he has apparently lost no weight during that time.

Eslinger is 54 years old and about eight years ago was engaged in farming near Bonanza,

Eslinger's case has proved one of the most baffling problems medical science has ever dealt with. He is not afflicted with the "sleeping sickness," of the sort which raged in the east. His sleep is as restful, apparently, as that of an infant, and apparently, he enjoys it as much. Many physicians have visited him and made a study of his case but have failed to diagnose it.

He slumbered peacefully through the time the world was rent by war.

Prohibition has not affected him in any way—although he was not a "drinking man."

Profiteers have meant nothing in his life. High rents, cost climbs in food and clothing do not worry him.

Occasionally his eyelids flutter—that had been his only voluntary movement until he awakened yesterday morning, when he yawned, stretched, just as Rip Van Winkle might have done, and then unlike Rip, he went back to sleep.

Whether or not his long slumber is nearing an end is not known, for physicians were not called to see him.

Fort Smith's New \$125,000 Vaudeville Theater



The Joie Theatre Company, organized recently and incorporated for \$125,000, is erecting the largest theater in the southwest in Fort Smith.

Wednesday, April 13, 1921

**OLD CITY JAIL IS ABANDONED;
IT'S SWAN SONG**

Abandoned after 35 years of service in justices' cause, holding the dangerous elements of humanity against their will and punishing without mercy the law violator, the old city jail was last night deserted but for a lone man remaining to answer a telephone call now and then at the old jailer's desk.

Twice its walls withstood the crazy anger of mob violence and once it yielded. Many notorious criminals, among them pioneers of crime in the southwest, have been confined within its walls. The old jail however has been a home for a night for the friendless and broken spirited "Weary Willies'" and many have returned time and again to shelter beneath the roof.

No longer will the voices of criminals ring through the corridors and never again will a sobbing mother be led from its walls as her erring child is locked within.

The loud voices of men and women, who have at one time or another committed crime, but still possessed the human desire for companionship, will not again mingle through the bars.

The old jail will not be used as a haven for the intoxicated, whose remarks have moved the jailers to laughter, and still others whose condition was pitiable to the extreme, that had to be thrown within a cell to sleep off the effects of alcohol. No more will the dope fiend sit at the bars of his cell and moans aloud, both day and night, craving the stuff that gave him vitality and cursing the men who were endeavoring to appease his craving by means of the "absent cure."

The women who fell below social standards can no more be forced to remain in a tiny cell and knit—and regret her condition in life, blaming officers of the law, and perhaps the old jail, which was only an accessory to the law's decree.

The order to abandon the old building was issued yesterday afternoon by Mayor Bourland, and the two remaining prisoners in the old jail were released, their terms near expiration. The jail register was moved to the county jail nearby. The telephone line will be moved today, together with the desk, jail info and other furnishings and the heavy iron door will clang shut, probably for the last time, except for inspection.

The city of Fort Smith will stand part of the expenses

of the upkeep of the county jail and it will be less than the upkeep of the old city jail, according to Mayor Bourland.

Friday, April 15, 1921

TRIANGULAR LOT IS READY FOR PARKING

City Engineer Walter Evans yesterday announced that the triangular lot at North Twenty second and G streets has been graded and is ready to be made into a park.

The lot was given to the city by Bishop Fitzgerald some time ago, with the express purpose of converting it into a park. Persons wishing to aid in building the park will notify Engineer Evans.

Saturday, April 16, 1921

TRIANGULAR SERVICE STATION IS OPENED

Newest among Fort Smith's automobile service stations is the Triangle Service station at the corner of Grand avenue, North Ninth and B streets, which will be opened to the public today.

Drive Up and Fill Up.

Announcing The

Today! Opening Today!

of the

TRIANGLE SERVICE STATION

Corner Grand Avenue, North Ninth and B Streets

We take great pride in assembling the variety of what we consider the finest, most complete and convenient. Gasoline, Oil, Water and Free Air filling station in the City. Located at the heart of the city adjacent to the business district and the main thoroughfare leading into the residential district, you will find this up-to-date filling station everything you desire. The best oils and gasoline will be furnished to you. Free air, prompt repairs, efficient service, and service men who will take an interest in your needs, are features that should appeal to you.

Drive your car around to THE TRIANGLE FILLING STATION.

Buy a Coupon Book and Save 5%

CONSTRUCTED BY

A. S. JOHNSON

CONTRACTOR

We will be pleased to figure on your next business house or residence

We Furnished the BRICK Used in this Building Fort Smith Brick Company Manufacturers and Distributors FINE BRICK COMMON BRICK MANHOLE BRICK and BOLLARD BUILDING TILE Visit Our Display Room 418 Broadway, National Bank Building

We Did the Plumbing It is a great idea to have your plumbing done right. We are a full service plumbing company. We will be pleased to figure on your next business house or residence. Standard Plumbing Co. 118 North 10th.

OUR SERVICE "QUALITY AND SERVICE" WE RUN IT WITH THE BEST OF THE JOB. ARE YOU HESITANT? IF SO, VISIT US LATE IN THE WEEK.

Painting Materials Furnished by Hughes Bros. Paint Company 525-55 Eighth Avenue Phone 3228

We Last-Others Value "Reliance" JERRY JEN. LEO GARDNER

Drive Up and Fill Up.

A. S. Johnson Contractor

Wednesday, April 20, 1921

**STADIUM PARK NOW COMPLETE
IN EVERY DETAIL; PAINT STAND**

Painters yesterday afternoon were finishing the job of making the pillars and front woodwork of the big stands a pleasing shade of dark green, the color of grass.

The grandstand is complete, even to the wire netting, and the finishing touches to the roof and even the press box on top, will be added this morning.

When you walk into the park this afternoon you'll go by a different entrance—under the stands on Fourth street, where box offices, turnstiles, refreshment booths and other accessories are located. Restrooms also are provided.

The infield and outfield have been worked until they are in, as perfect trim as they can be, until the grass is sodded there for next season.

The bare weather beaten fence surrounding Stadium park has been brightened up with many signs and much paint. The lonely "Join the Navy" sign has given way too many others, artistic in design and bright in coloring. Even the scoreboard has been repainted and is bright and snappy looking.

Sunday, April 24, 1921

**ORPHAN KIDDIES TO SEE SHOW
AS PAPER'S GUESTS**

Children of the Rosalie Tilles Orphanage will be the guests of the Southwest American at the Palace theater Monday afternoon to see Charlie Chaplin in the greatest picture of his career, "The Kid." John B. Williams offered his large tally-ho to take them to and from the theater.


Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock the tally-ho, drawn by a team of beautiful horses, will arrive in front of the

BASE BALL

The Formal Opening of the Western Association
TODAY — APRIL 20th
"TWINS" vs. SPRINGFIELD

STADIUM—GAME CALLED 4 P. M.
Admission: 50c, Bleachers; 75c, Grandstand; \$1.10, Boxes.
Tickets Now on Sale at the Smoke Shop and Brown's Cafe
Let's Win the First Game Attendance Cup—
everybody boos!

Arrangements have been made with owner of lot West of Ball Park to park cars, and
he will charge 10c for parking and watching cars.



Rosalie Tilles Orphanage. After all the little guests have their places in the vehicle, they will go for a short ride then down to the Palace theater. There, they will meet a representative of the Southwest American, and go in to watch the famous comedian perform his funny tricks for more than an hour. After the show they will again be met by the tally-ho and taken home.

Tuesday, April 26, 1921

SCOUT EXECUTIVE TO LOOK OVER TRAIL

W. I. Mayfield, executive of the Boy Scouts, will leave about the middle part of May to go over the trail the Boy Scouts will follow on their hike to Hot Springs. He will cover practically every foot of ground along the trail and choose locations for the camps. Mr. Mayfield will also bring back samples of water to be tested for its purity.

He said that the Boy Scouts must start depositing their money for the expense of the trip and not to rely on getting the money from their parents, as they will enjoy it more if the expense money is earned by their own work. Mr. Mayfield also lays stress on the fact that all of them must have their teeth examined and fixed before they can go. All registered Boy Scouts must also stand a physical examination at headquarters a few days before they start on the trip.

George H. Powell, executive of the Boy Scouts of Texarkana attended one of the meetings last week at the Goldman hotel and said that Fort Smith put on one of the liveliest Boy Scout meetings he ever attended.

Wednesday, April 27, 1921

**TO ELECT TEACHERS FRIDAY;
PLANS NEW ROCKY RIDGE HOUSE**

The school board will hold its regular meeting for the election of teachers Friday night at the office of C. J. Tidwell, superintendent. Plans will be discussed for the next year.

One of the subjects will be the building of a new Rocky Ridge school house if a suitable location can be found. It will be built of stucco and will have four rooms

similar to the South Fort Smith school.

Tuesday, May 10, 1921

GERMAN CANNON TO BE SENT CITY FOR COURTHOUSE LAWN

Fort Smith is to have a cannon captured by the American forces during the world war from the German army. Following the introduction of a bill to that effect by Congressman Wingo, some time ago, the bill was referred to the committee on military affairs, which authorized sending the cannon here.

It will be placed on the courthouse grounds at Rogers avenue and Sixth street. The bill provides that the gun be equipped with a carriage "and a suitable number of shells." It is expected that the cannon will arrive soon.

Tuesday, May 17, 1921

SHIPLEY BROTHERS OPEN NEW BAKERY

Fort Smith will take another stride toward a greater manufacturing center today when the Shipley's open their new bakery on the corner of Sixth and Garland



What is a loaf with
out GOOD Bread?

What Food is Better for
Children than GOOD
Bread?

THE HOME OF HOLSUM BREAD

THIS SCIENTIFIC BAKERY
One of the Greatest of 20th Century Achievements
IS NOW IN OPERATION

AND HOLSUM Breads the product of this new bakery, will
be at your grocer's TODAY.

The coming of HOLSUM Bread to Fort Smith means a great deal
to every citizen. For properly made bread, scientific, yet so, con-
tains every element of nourishment.

Bread, as baked by the new Shipley Baking Company, is as much
a product of 20th Century achievement as the airplane or the auto-

mobile. Nothing is left to chance or luck in the every day perfection
and complete sanitation of this bread. The ingredients are brought
only on the approval of our purchasing experts, when laboratory
analysis has proved them to be quality and nourishment.

The flour, the mills, the shortening, the yeast, are blended with
automatic dispatch and ingenuity that will be impossible to visu-
alize. It is equipped throughout with the most scientific equipment.
Our white aproned attendants supervise and watch.

a miracle has been performed. And as it has—a miracle that con-
tributes to the health and strength of Fort Smith.

To get HOLSUM is just a matter of asking for it. Your grocer
has it for you to supply you.

OPENED FOR INSPECTION TODAY. YOU ARE INVITED. FROM 3:00 P. M. TO 10:30 P. M.

We hope to have the privilege of showing you how our bread is
made. If you come, we promise you an hour of interest and profit.
After you have followed the bread through the different stages,
and see the golden loaves leave our oven. From the white-flour-faced
loaves, baked to just the right degree, you will have a feeling that

DON'T SAY "BREAD"—SAY "HOLSUM"

HOLSUM
SHIPLEY BAKING COMPANY

avenue. The company has adopted the fastest and most efficient apparatus to be had and have coined a new word for their chief product. The items baked by them will be known as "Holsum."

This concern will not only manufacture for local consumption but will ship to all towns in this section of the country.

At the opening this afternoon at 3 o'clock, the firm will have music and refreshments and will give each visitor a souvenir of their products.

Saturday, May 21, 1921

ANDREWS FIELD FORMALLY DEDICATED TO ATHLETICS, IS ACCEPTED BY SCHOOLS

Before a crowd of approximately 2,500 people, the stadium park and athletic field was formally dedicated and Christened 'Andrews field' yesterday afternoon.

The field is named in honor of John M. Andrews, president of the public schools Athletic Field Association, who conceived the idea of building the massive concrete and steel structure, and the parade and ceremonies at the field yesterday were a tribute as much to him as to the great work he has accomplished by his untiring efforts. These efforts culminated yesterday when Mr.

Andrews, blushing and perspiring, arose from his seat in a front box and received the plaudits of the crowd. Ray Gill, serving as master of ceremonies, in his opening talk suggested the name of Andrews field. Mayor Bourland, in



PLAY BALL

BOOST FT. SMITH

Three Strikes and Bases Full

BUY TICKETS NOW

Don't "Fan Out" Friday

TURN OUT AND R-O-O-T

Be Sure to Turn Out

FRIDAY IS THE BIG DAY

Fort Smith will show her appreciation of the new baseball Park by attending all exhibitions and making a joyful sacrifice of time.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW ATHLETIC FIELD

What is to be there? Nothing for our own Twins, excepting a real ball game and the pleasure of doing a good turn for our city.

FT. SMITH 'TWIN'S' VS. HENRYETTA 'HENRYS'

The "Twins" are one winning. The "Henrys" had the losses. The game Friday should be a "Belle Hays" and one worth going miles to see.

Clear Off the Debt

Show your appreciation of the Western Association's finest Ball Park and Fort Smith's most complete Athletic Field by being on hand for this benefit game. Help clear off the indebtedness this brings over this Park.

accepting the field on behalf of the city, in turn, formally handed it over to Dr. St. Cloud Cooper, president of the school board, and insisted upon the name of Andrews field and declared that he christened the stadium that.

Tuesday, May 31, 1921

**AGED MAN COMES FROM CALIFORNIA
TO DECORATE GRAVE**

J. H. Stansbury of Selma, Calif., arrived in Fort Smith yesterday morning to attend the annual Memorial services of the G.A.R. held at the National cemetery.

For the past three years Mr. Stansbury, who is 80 years old, has come to Fort Smith to attend these services and decorate the grave of his brother, Sam Stansbury, who was killed in action 15 miles south of this city in September 1863. Mr. Stansbury is accompanied by his son.



This Beautiful Athletic Field
Is a Credit to Fort Smith

While the above picture does not do credit to this beautiful athletic field, it will give you some idea of its size and beauty. Parks throughout the country that have been erected at costs far exceeding that of this park are said to be far inferior to it in size and convenience. You can feel justly proud of this magnificent athletic field.

This Field Will Be Dedicated Friday, May 20
with a real honest to goodness
Benefit Ball Game
Between Our Own "Twins" and the Henryetta "Henrys"

You can come to this big benefit game with the assurance of having a wonderful time—of enjoying yourself to the limit and with the added pleasure that the knowledge of doing a good turn for your home city naturally brings. The Twins have been strengthened and the solid backing of the citizens of Fort Smith and Van Buren will give them the necessary punch and pep to reach the pennant.

This Game Will Clear Off the Debt
If You Will Do Your Share

Every citizen of Fort Smith and Van Buren is interested in this great baseball plant. Everyone of us wants to see it clear of debt and everyone of us will be more than willing to do his share. Tickets are to be had from the Noon Civics Club, the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Citizens Club. Get your tickets now. Be on hand for the big doings.

Boost Fort Smith, Buy Tickets Now

Friday, June 3, 1921

**NEW NAME IS URGED
FOR BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB AT JULY MEET**

Plans for changing the name of the Business Men's club to the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce at the annual meeting of the club early in July, were said yesterday to be well underway, although sentiment among many of the members had not been sounded, it was said. At the meeting in July, new officers and directors will be elected and it is expected that numerous changes, including, possibly, the name of the organization, will be made.

Thursday, June 9, 1921

**SCOUTS' SWIMMING POOL
TO BE OPENED FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

The Boy Scout swimming pool on North Tenth street which was offered them by Leon Williams, will open Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. There will be three swimming sessions daily after Friday. The session will be from 9 o'clock to 12 o'clock in the morning, from 2 o'clock to 6 o'clock in the afternoon and from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock in the evening. The mornings will be devoted to teaching the boys to swim and the afternoons and evenings for those that know how to swim. There will be certain rules of the pool for sanitary condition that must not be violated, said W. I. Mayfield, scout executive.

All the Boy Scouts who come to the pool for a swim must have their registration cards, and bring a bathing suit, a towel and a cake of soap, as there will be no suits or towels furnished. A fee of 10 cents will be charged all the boys for the purpose of paying for the water and to keep up the pool.

There will be no camp at the Boy Scout park this weekend on account of the American Legion rodeo, Mr. Mayfield said. But next week the boys will spend most of the time at the park, he said.

The Boy scouts had a practice drill yesterday afternoon, so that they would be in good shape for the rodeo parade.

Friday, June 10, 1921

**34 KIDDIES VISIT DAY NURSERY WHILE
MOTHER IS AT RODEO**

There were 34 children taken care of at the day nursery yesterday. The nursery was offered to the Women's auxiliary of the American legion during the rodeo, so that visitors and people of Fort Smith could leave their children there in order that they would be able to attend the events of the round-up.

This was an unusual number, and it is expected that a still greater number will be left there today. The nursery is free and all that wish to leave their children in its care are more than welcome to do so, it was said.

**MAMMOTH PARADE OPENS
LEGION RODEO, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
SEE WORLD'S MOST DARING RIDING**

A rainbow appeared to a crowd of about 2300 people who braved the rain and threatening skies to witness the opening of the American Legion's cowboy round-up at Andrews field yesterday. The rainbow that made its appearance yesterday was different from the one that is usually observed in the skies. This rainbow was formed of Cowboys and Cowgirls as they circled in front of the grandstand, attired in their brilliant clothes of many colors, passing in review before the spectators.

The program for the round-up began yesterday morning, shortly after 10:30 o'clock, the time scheduled, with a gigantic and gorgeous parade of floats, decorated cars, veterans of the world war, firemen, Boy scouts and many automobiles that joined the procession.

The parade headed by Miss Rene Halley of Ridgeway, Colo., and Marion Mundre of Fort Smith as buglers, began its line of march at the corner of Sixth street and Rogers avenue, and continued to Ninth street and then to Garrison avenue. The avenue was profusely and elegantly decorated in flags and bunting.

Following the buglers came the mounted police under the direction of Chief Mike Gordon, then Wendall Robertson, commander of the American legion post of this city and Fog Horn Clancy, one of the Rodeo promoters. Gold Star Mother's followed the commander and then the Sleepy Hollow band. Members of the legion were next in order, following the car of Mayor Fagan Bourland. The city firemen came

next, preceding the Boy scouts who were followed by a delegation of Lions bearing the club standard.

Then came the distinguished personages of the day, the cowboys and cowgirls gallantly arrayed in their large hats and flashing garments, all in readiness for the big event in the afternoon. One figure in the parade made a decided "hit" with the crowd that thronged the avenue. This was Baby Strickland, who sat in the saddle and managed her mount as a seasoned "Puncher" would. The mother of the baby rode on one side of her and the father on the other.

Directly following the rodeo riders were the floats and decorated cars. First came the Boston store's float upon which were a cowboy, a cowgirl and an Indian, representing the west. This float was awarded the second prize. First prize was given to the float of the Fair store. Many other business houses of Fort Smith were represented in the parade. Six white cars represented Glick's cleaning establishment.

The parade, after moving from the Goldman hotel to the end of the avenue, moved back up the avenue to ninth and disbanded on Rogers avenue.

The prize for the best decorated cars was awarded to C. P. Zenor Sr. and Mr. White of McKinney, Texas.



**Coffee That Is
Something to
Rave About**

Our coffee is bought
direct from importer,

consequently it is retailed at wholesale prices.

Wide Awake Coffee, best blend 40c per lb.
"H" Blend, 35c per lb. 3 lbs. for \$1.00.
Peaberry Coffee, very best grade 30c per lb.
Good Santoss 25c per lb.
Rio Coffee 20c per lb.

Any of the delicious coffees mentioned above—delivered
to your door.

Buy your roasted coffee from us and save money—

QUALITY, NOTHING BUT QUALITY

Wide Awake Coffee Co.

R. T. REYNOLDS, Mgr.

No. 8 North 8th St. Phone 3262

Alvin Tillis, planned the parade that will go down in Fort Smith history as one of the best that has ever been staged in this city.

Saturday, June 11, 1921

**HENRY SCHLEUTER, PIONEER FARMER
OF COUNTY, DEAD HERE**

Henry W. Schleuter, for more than fifty years a resident of Fort Smith and Sebastian county, died Friday in a local hospital following a brief illness.

Mr. Schleuter was born 74 years ago in Westphalen, Germany, and came to America with his parents when a very young boy. He was one of the most progressive truck farmers in the county and was the first man in the state to demonstrate that two crops of Irish potatoes

could successfully be grown in one season.

His farm is located on the Texas road three miles from Fort Smith and is reputed to be one of the most valuable holdings in the county for truck gardening.

His wife, Mrs. Catherine Schleuter, a son, Fred and two sisters, Mrs. Fred Reising and Mrs. Kate Austerman, all of Fort Smith, survive.

Funeral services will be conducted this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home on Texas road. Rev. A. D. Mensing, pastor of the Lutheran church, officiating. Interment will be made at Oak cemetery.



Al Whitson selects material for this department by going through century ago Fort Smith newspapers on microfilm at the Public Library. He is a historian of note and dedication for Fort Smith.

Visit Our Website — www.fortsmithhistory.org

Find links to these sites and more to aid your research!

Arkansas Stories—Site dedicated to the stories, studies and songs from Arkansas' past and future.

Arkansas Freedmen of the Frontier—The African-American experience in northwest Arkansas is chronicled here.

Arkansas Historical Association—This association promotes the preservation, writing, publishing, teaching, and understanding of Arkansas history through the publication of *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* as well as other activities.

Arkansas History Commission & State Archives—The commission is one of the oldest existing state agencies in the Natural State and Arkansas' official state archives.

Black Men who Rode for Parker—A site dedicated to the African-American deputy marshals who enforced the law in the federal court district of western Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Center for Local History and Memory—This center at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith grew out of student-faculty efforts in 1997 to collect oral history interviews to

document the first 70 years of the college.

Arkansas Civil War Sites—The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission website with info on Arkansas' participating in the 150th anniversary of our nation's struggle with itself.

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture—The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History project is proud to present these entries.

Fort Smith Trolley Museum—For more than twenty years, the museum has worked to educate people about transportation history, restore and maintain antique trolley cars, and even give riders a trip back in time in those streetcars.

Fort Smith Museum of History—This museum acquires, preserves, exhibits and interprets objects of historical significance relevant to the founding and growth of Fort Smith and the region.

Fort Smith Air Museum—Located at the Fort Smith Regional Airport, the museum is a treasure trove of facts and artifacts that tell the story of Fort Smith's aviation history.

Historic Fort Smith—Contains general info about Fort Smith history, heritage

tourism in the city, and links to other sites.

Oak Cemetery—A recognized National Historic Landmark with over 152 years of history is home to the burial sites of outlaws hanged by the order of Judge Isaac C. Parker, marshals, deputy marshals, and Arkansas governor, 15 Fort Smith mayors, and the city's founder, John Rogers.

Old State House Museum of Arkansas History—Set in the oldest surviving state Capitol west of the Mississippi, it houses a museum of state history with a special emphasis on women's history, political history and special programming for kids.

Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies—The center proudly presents what it hopes will one day be the premier online resource for historical information related to Arkansas.

South Sebastian County Historical Society—Located in Greenwood, Arkansas, this is an excellent resource on the history and landmarks of the area.

Wikipedia Entry for Fort Smith—This online, user-created encyclopedia has a descriptive entry about the largest city in Western Arkansas.

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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.
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