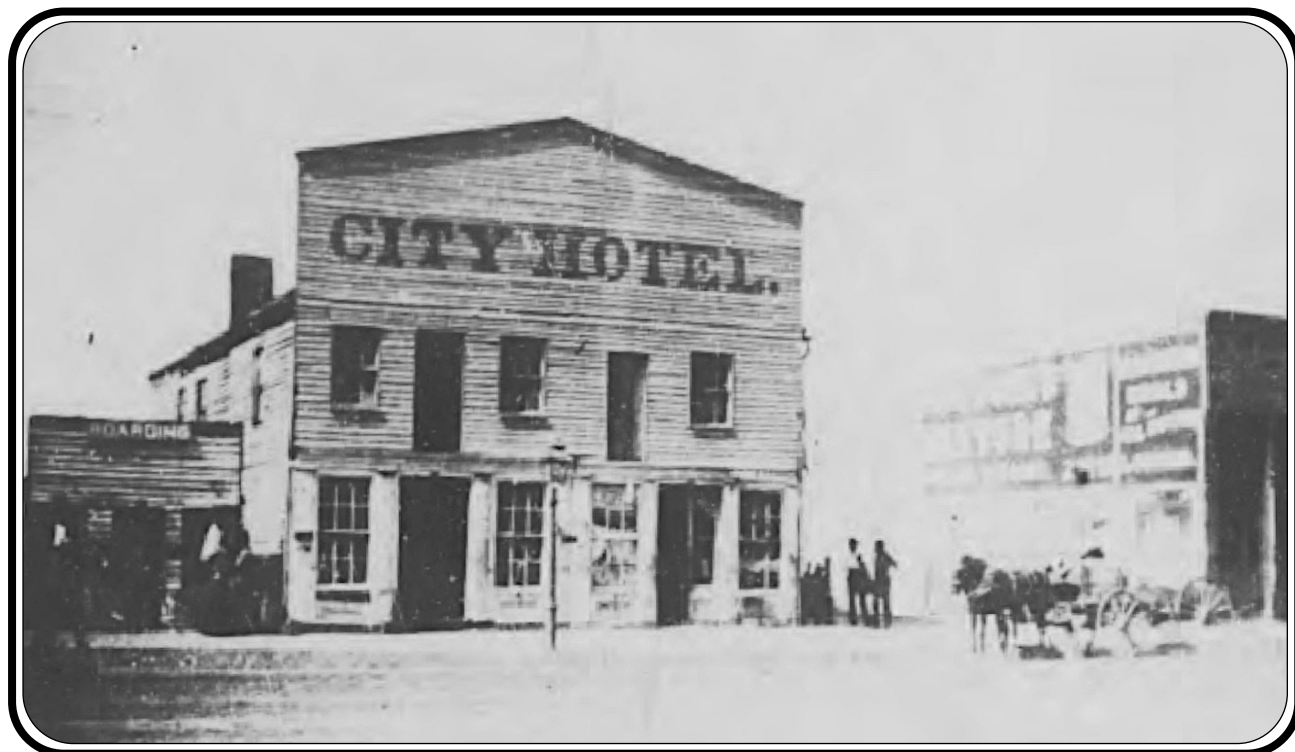


The JOURNAL



On the Trail to Fort Smith

City's Connection to Butterfield Overland Co.



*Julia and Maud: History
and Historical Fiction*



Chasing Bent Trees



*Living on Bonneville
Land: The Sunnymede
Addition*



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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.fortsmithhistory.org

Our website is updated by webmaster:

Al Whitson webmaster@fortsmithhistory.org

Content tabs: Organizations, Membership,

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

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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Annual\$30.00
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The JOURNAL

VOL. 45 NO. 2

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MAIN PHOTO City Hotel (Courtesy Roberts Library/Butler Center)
 LOWER LEFT Fagan and Julia Bourland (Courtesy of Pebley Center Archives)
 LOWER CENTER: Bent tree at Alma Lake (Courtesy of Mark Wilson)
 LOWER RIGHT: Aerial photo over Victory Circle (Courtesy of Matt Caldwell)

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News & Opportunities

Fort Smith Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

**Monday, September 20, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

Fort Smith Public Library,
Community Room, Main Branch

Arkansas Historical Association

Annual conference was held June 3-5, 2021 (virtual). An author and article from the *Journal* received the Walter Brown Award for

Best Community History

Caroline Speir, "From Cuba to Fort Chaffee: The 'Marielitos' in Arkansas," the *Journal*, Fort Smith Historical Society 44, 2 (September 2020): 30-45.

AHA Individual Memberships are \$20 per year and include four issues of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, the newsletter, and all events of the:

**81st Annual Meeting
April 21-23, 2022
Magnolia, Arkansas**

**Clayton House
514 No. Sixth Street
479-783-3000**

claytonhouse@claytonhouse.org.

❖ Clayton Conversations will resume in 2022.
❖ For more information about the Gaslight Gala fundraiser scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2021, and our other events, check our website, claytonhouse.org, or our Facebook page or give us a call!

Friends of the Fort

More information at Facebook page or by emailing friendsofthefort@gmail.com

Fort Smith Museum of History

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

Upcoming events at the Museum

For program times, descriptions, reservations, and current exhibits, please use the museum website: <http://www.fortsmithmuseum.org/newsletters>

❖ September 16, 6:00 PM Galen Hunter, A talk about his art display "Close to Home," in the Boyd Gallery (through October 2). He will focus on his drawing/sketch methods and highlight his training and his inspiration.

❖ October 16, 1:00 PM: Judge Parker's Birthday and "Children's Court"

❖ October date and time TBA," Murder & Mayhem."

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

Drennen-Scott Historical Site

**Visitor Center
221 North Third Street
Van Buren, Arkansas
479-262-2750
drennen-scott@uafs.edu**

Drennen Scott House is closed through the fall for restoration and maintenance work with reopening planned for Spring 2022.

Willhalf House restoration work scheduled to be finished and a Grand Opening is being planned for Spring 2022.

Leonard Willhaf was a German immigrant, ran a bakery on Main Street in Van Buren, and was a veteran of the Mexican War of 1846-48. His home, built in 1851 was donated to UAFS and grants were acquired to restore and interpret the home as a museum.

For more information contact Tom Wing, director of the Drennen-Scott Historical Site by email at drennen-scott@uafs.edu.

Facebook: Drennen-Scott Historic Site

John Talkington Chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans

Anyone with Union Army ancestors from the Civil War period or who have an interest in joining, can contact Tom Wing at 479-262-2750 or VanBurenSUV@gmail.com

The local chapter is named for John Talkington, an ancestor of Angela Walton Raji, who was a slave of Isaac Talkington in Crawford County. John Talkington fled in 1863, headed to Fort Scott, Kansas, and joined the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry which engaged Confederate forces at the 1864 Battle of Jenkins Ferry in lower Arkansas (referenced and re-enacted scenes shown in the Academy Award Winning movie, Lincoln). Talkington was wounded in the combat. He later died in Fort Smith, and is buried in Fairview Cemetery, Van Buren

Fort Smith Regional Art Museum

1601 Rogers Avenue-Fort Smith
479.784.2787

info@fsram.org

On view September 24, 2021-January 30, 2022

David Malcolm Rose: The Lost Highway

This exhibit will contain miniature scale models of Lost Highway businesses, paintings of businesses long forgotten along the Lost Highway, and a retrospective of the artist, David Malcolm Rose.

<https://fsram.org/>

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

Fort Smith Historical Members

Do you know how much you are loved and appreciated? Your support and assistance make possible the preservation of Fort Smith history for future generations. Without your on-going support, the Fort Smith Historical Society and *The Journal* could not exist.

Reprinted from the 10th year of the *Journal*, 1987. We feel same about our dear members in this, our 45th year.

MEMBERSHIP

CHECK ONE: ☐ New Member
☐ Renewal
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Please check the appropriate box:

- ☐ Annual.....\$30
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In Memoriam

Jerry Hendricks

Jerry Patrick Hendricks graduated from Fort Smith (Northside) High School and attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Jerry served in the U.S. Army and went to work as a young man with Weldon Williams and Lick in Fort Smith where he rose to become vice president of sales.

Along the way, Jerry developed a huge interest in history. Maybe it was his love of people and curiosity about events, qualities honed by his education, his faith, and his business career, perhaps.

Jerry and his beloved wife, Wincie, joined the Fort Smith Historical Society and for three decades faithfully attended meetings often holding principal offices in the Society.

Wincie edited the 100-years-ago newspaper articles section and was the membership chairperson. Jerry headed committees such as nominating and outreach to public schools.

Jerry and Wincie traveled together abroad to Italy and especially to Ireland in search of family history, accompanied on one trip by their daughters, Angie and Julie, and their son, Andy, who said, "We visited mostly cemeteries, museums, and pubs."

Jerry and Wincie were avid game hunters and belonged to the Cherokee Rock Hunting Club near Fort Smith. Their partnership was certainly in evidence with



the Society, and they seemed to be on hand for demanding jobs connected to journal publishing and mail-out. Jerry once asked at a meeting if anyone knew about Richard Kerens? Since few had, Jerry took up the challenge and enlarged our regional scholarship with an excellent piece on a post-Civil War Union Army transplant to Fort Smith (with Wincie's big help, he said). Jerry volunteered for many projects with the Society.

One memorable service was his relocation of irreplaceable previous issues, which were stored in *Southwest Times Record* basement. A water leak threatened the stacks with ruin.

Jerry and other members took them to safety in new quarters belonging to the Fort Smith School District at Chaffee Crossing, no easy task. In the twenty-first century, that does not seem so crucial because the *Journal* is digitized as well as printed. For an example, to read his article, "Richard C. Kerens, 'A Giant in Transportation'" the *Journal*, 37, 1 (April 2013): 33-41, all one has to do, courtesy of Jerry and Wincie, the Society, and the Boreham Library of the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, is use this link: https://uafslibrary.com/fshsj/37-01_Complete_Issue.pdf

Jerry was truly the Society's Man for All Seasons. We will surely miss his camaraderie, his laughter, his volunteerism, his ideas, and his wholehearted support of the Fort Smith Historical Society and its *Journal*.

Thank you, Jerry.



Fort Smith's Historical People

To salute the bicentennial of our fair city, the *Journal* added this new series. Now, six issues later, we are to Part VII which includes 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 VII include the growth of Fort Smith as part of the New South meaning Whirlpool Corporation joined Dixie Cup as an industry that employed thousands of people, coming of Interstate 40, and the McClellan-Kerr River Navigation System. With manufacturing and transportation thriving, Fort Smith was in a growth cycle. Fort Smith citizens sought and created opportunities in education as Fort Smith Junior College developed into Westark College, opportunities opened in recreation and sports for the youth and young adults, some entered the political arenas, others the arts and sciences, the business world, the pulpit, and health care.

The 1970 U.S. Census count of **62,802** residents was an 18.5% jump over the decade. By 1990, **72,798** citizens resided in the city, and at the turn of the century, over **80,000** Fort Smithians looked forward to a bright future afforded by the base created by such historic people as appear in the seven parts of this series.

Part VII — 1965-1999

1. Amelia Belle Whitaker Martin, was born in Harrison, Arkansas. She married Arthur Martin, M.D., and the couple lived and worked in Fort Smith. Here in 1977, she co-founded with Carolyn Pollan the non-profit Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc. and its *Journal*, which has been published twice a year since by unpaid volunteers. She edited the *Journal* for twenty-seven years, during which time it built a reputation as one of the best county and local history publications in the state. During her tenure, the *Journal* won fourteen awards in furthering the Society's mission to "collect, identify, preserve, and publish the written and oral history of the Fort Smith area." Martin's enthusiasm for history and her leadership developed a large Society membership that valiantly carried out that purpose.

An author as well as an editor, Martin wrote articles for the *Journal* and a basic reference book for Fort Smith, *Physicians and Medicine: Crawford and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas 1817-1976*. The book was a Bicentennial Project and was published by the Sebastian County Medical Society Auxiliary. In honor of her incomparable service to the *Journal*, to the Society, and to this community, every issue since her death in 2004 has included at the top of the masthead a memorial recognition: "Amelia Whitaker Martin, *Journal* Editor & Co-Founder 1977-2004. See Carol Barger, "In Memoriam," the *Journal* 28, 1 (April 2004): 2-3.

2. Shelby Breedlove, born in Booneville, Breedlove attended Fort Smith Junior College in 1949 and returned in 1960 as the school's head basketball coach. His teams were highly competitive and successful in the newly formed Bi-State Conference reaching the National Junior College Tournament in 1962. In 1968, Breedlove, at the time earning his

News and Opportunities

FORT SMITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Amelia Martin and Paul Lavoie accepted awards from the Arkansas Historical Association at the AHA annual meeting in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, on April 28. Lavoie received an award for the best family history published in Arkansas in 1994. The article, *Growing Up Italian: A History of the Lavoie/Calderera Family in Fort Smith, Arkansas*, was published in the April, 1994 issue of *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*. The Society received the award for the second best county or local history publication published in Arkansas in 1994.

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New FAX number for Fort Smith Historical Society is (501) 782-0649.

REMINDER - 1996 DUES ARE DUE

FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
 The Fort Smith National Historic Site will be the site for a history conference to be held on September 15-16, 1995, in commemoration of the 130th anniversary of the Fort Smith Council. The goal of the Council was to reestablish formal relations between the tribes and the United States government.
 Topics of the conference will address a variety of topics, including: the involvement of Indians in the Civil War, refugees from Indian Territory during the Civil War, factionalism within the tribes over the war, the abolishment of slavery among the tribes, the situation of the freedmen, the surrender of lands to resettle tribes from Kansas and elsewhere, and the issue of a consolidated government for Indian Territory. For more information,



Amelia Martin and Paul Lavoie with awards won at the Arkansas Historical Association meeting in Eureka Springs on April 28.

contact Fort Smith National Historic Site, P.O. Box 1406, Fort Smith, AR 72902; or call (501) 783-3961, FAX (501) 783-5307.

Daily programs offered at the Site are: an orientation film, *Fort Smith, Peacekeeper of Indian Territory*; museum exhibits; Commissary Building; self-guided tours; ranger guided programs and living history programs.



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM
 On March 21, 1995, at the Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism, at Eureka Springs, the Trolley Museum was awarded a Henry Award called the Bootstrap Award. This award is presented annually to an individual, organization, or community that has achieved significant success "on a shoestring," having limited means to work with, either in resources or finances.
 The award was received by Art and Bradley Martin from Miss Arkansas, Beth Ann Rankin, on behalf of the hundreds of people who have played a part in making the dream of an operating trolley come to life. The car is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
 Location of the Fort Smith Trolley Museum is 100 South 4th Street; mailing address is 2121 Wolfe Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72901-6243; telephone (501) 783-1237, (501) 783-0145 or (501) 783-0205; FAX (501) 782-0649.

REPRINTED PAGE FROM THE *JOURNAL* 19, 2
(SEPTEMBER 1995): 36.



SHELBY BREEDLOVE,
president of Westark
Community College,
1968 – 1974

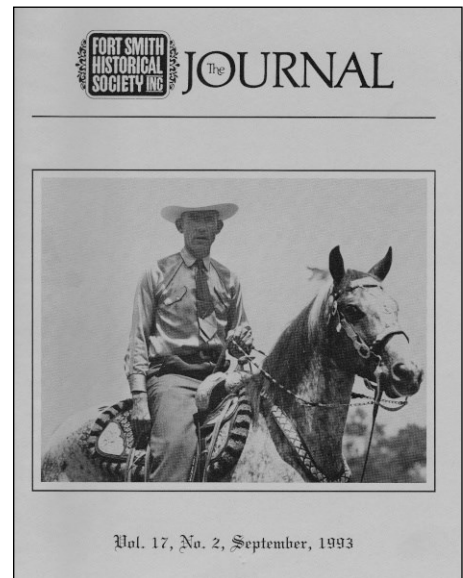
Ph.D. at Florida State University, was named president of FSJC. In that position, Dr. Breedlove worked effectively with the Arkansas General Assembly and with other two-year colleges in the state to secure public funding for that branch of higher education. With this act, FSJC became Westark Community College, and eventually the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. The Breedlove Building on the UAFS campus which houses an auditorium and music and theater departments is named in his honor. See *University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, The First 85 Years, 1928-2012*.

3. R. Kay Rodgers, born in Cane Hill, Arkansas, moved to Fort Smith in the 1920's with his wife, Bessie, having coal interests in Jenny Lind. An alert entrepreneur, he engaged successfully in many businesses, including ownership of the Twin City Bus Lines and the Fort Smith Stockyards. He and his attorney G. C. Hardin started the Rodeo and Livestock Show in 1936 first at Andrews

Field and, after acquiring the former Electric Park at the north end of Midland Blvd., moving there, now the home of the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair each September and the Old Fort Days Rodeo in June. In 1974, the city named the rodeo arena in his honor, Kay Rodgers Park. He continued his business and civic service throughout his life and in the 1960's the Chamber of Commerce placed him in charge of buying out for a fair price the property rights of thirty residents in the Coke Hill community on the river, land subsequently turned over to National Park Service for establishing the Fort Smith National Historic Site. Mayor H. R. "Happy" Hestand sent him to acquire property on Clear Creek north of Lake Fort Smith from twenty-seven families so that the city water supply could expand with the building of Shepherd Springs dam. R. Kay Rodgers served on a number of business and youth organization boards. He received the Exchange Club's Golden Deeds Award and an Honorary Doctor of Business Degree from the College of the Ozarks. See "R.K. Rodgers, 1895-1982," the *Journal* 17, 2 (September 1993).

4. Herman Udouj, born in 1917, the son of a Yugoslavia immigrant. In Fort Smith, Herman Udouj influenced business and community development. He founded Riverside Furniture Corp., Fianna Hills Country Club, and Sundridge Farm. Riverside eventually employed 1200 people in six plants with sales of \$42 million. He served on the Board of Directors of the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club, St. Edward Mercy Medical Foundation, and Hardscrabble Country Club and on the Board of Trustees of Westark Community College and the University of the Ozarks and he was a director of the Arkansas Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. The Herman Udouj wildlife trail at the Nature Center at Chaffee Crossing offers a pleasant walk with trees marked for identification and short programs via QR Coded recordings. He was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 2013.

5. Richard Bruce Griffin was born December 28, 1934, in Kansas City, Missouri, adopted by Harry Paul and Lucille Griffin at about a year old. The Griffin family moved to Fort Smith in 1936. After service in the Navy in World War II, Harry opened Century Builders Supply. Richard started work there at the age of thirteen. A lifelong work ethic was instilled in him by his father. He graduated from Fort Smith High in 1952 and the University of Arkansas in 1956, marrying Jaunice McCormack and starting a family. He worked in his father's lumberyard and



R. KAY RODGERS featured on the
front of the September 1993 edition of the
Journal.

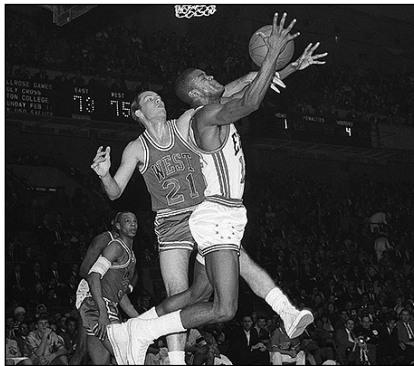


HERMAN UDOUJ MEMORIAL TRAIL at the Nature
Center at Chaffee Crossing

tried building a house to sell in 1958. In 1964, while working for the late John McConnell, a Fort Smith building contractor and developer, McConnell called Richard into his office and “friendly fired” him, encouraging Richard to start his own business. McConnell handed over two small jobs to get him started and Griffin Construction was born. In 1983, Griffin began to concentrate on nursing home construction which continues to this day in several states. Richard has shown his love for Fort Smith by serving as chairman of the Fort Smith Housing Authority, the Central Business Improvement District, and the Fort Smith Museum of History, contributing to the Fort Smith Trolley Museum, and serving on the board of the Fort Smith Historical Society. He helped found the Community Rescue Mission and has been a major donor to the U.S. Marshal’s Museum, among many other philanthropic gifts. When Richard Griffin was approaching the age when most people think of retirement, he instead launched into the complicated business of saving landmark properties in downtown Fort Smith. He restored Adelaide Hall and transformed a vacant lot into Garrison Point at 5th and Garrison. He preserved and restored an 1879 rock building at 401 Garrison and accomplished a complex remodeling of 403-411 Garrison, creating retail space on the ground floor and the Breezeway Apartments on the upper level. He has preserved and modernized other properties on and near downtown and given them life for years to come.



JIM KING, left, front, in Auto Glass uniform part of a Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club All Star team.



WARRIOR AND WEST ALL STAR JIM KING blocks Hal Greer’s shot in 1968 NBA All-Star game.

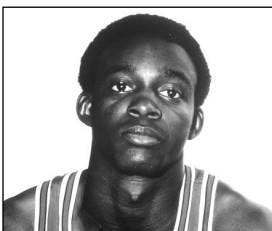
6. Jim King, born near Branch, Arkansas, King’s dad moved to Fort Smith to work as a Coca-Cola routeman. Jim King played basketball for the Northside Grizzlies when the team won two state basketball championships. As a Tulsa Hurricane, King was named to All Conference teams twice and once made the honorable mention All-American list. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers where he played alongside Jerry West. Going to the NBA finals in 1967

with the San Francisco Warriors, he teamed with Rick Barry to score eighty-three points between them in Game Three, a record until 2018. King returned to Tulsa University in 1975 as head basketball coach. He was inducted into the Tulsa Athletic Hall of Fame and the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 2008.

7. Anne Woods Patterson, born in Fort Smith to John and Carole Woods, Anne attended Ramsey Junior High School and later graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. In 1973, she launched a career in the U.S. Foreign Service and married David Patterson, a Fort Smith native and graduate of M.I.T. Anne would rise to Ambassador, being appointed by three presidents, Clinton, Bush, and Obama, to some of the U.S.’s more sensitive diplomatic posts, Colombia, Pakistan, and Egypt. She served the country and the foreign service with distinction, winding up her long and illustrious career with the State Department in 2013. After retirement, she taught at Yale University as Kissinger Senior Fellow at Yale’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs. She won many recognitions throughout her career. Anne and David, also a distinguished Foreign Service officer, have two sons.



U.S. AMBASSADOR ANNE WOODS PATTERSON



ALMER LEE, RAZORBACK

8. Almer Lee, born in Fort Smith in 1950, Lee starred on the 1968 Grizzly basketball team that won the Arkansas State Championship with he being named tournament MVP. Signed by the University of Arkansas after attending Phillips Junior College for one season and averaging twenty-five points a game, he led the Razorbacks in scoring and became the first African American to win a letter in basketball. A second team All-SWC selection, Lee’s presence on the court was always competitive and full of stunning moves performed with grace that inspired youngsters of that generation. Lee played two seasons in Holland and was named to the All-European Team. He was inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 2016 and the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 2006.

9. Ron Brewer. Born in Fort Smith, Ron Brewer grew up with sports and at Northside High School in 1974 his Grizzly basketball team went 30-0 winning the state championship. Recruited by Eddie Sutton, Brewer was one of the Triplets who lead the Razorbacks to the 1978 Final Four and a third-place finish when he hit a last second 20-footer over a 6-foot-7-inch Notre Dame player called by his coach Digger Phelps our “best defender.” Brewer played eight seasons in the NBA after being a first-round selection by the Portland Trailblazers. His son, Ron Brewer, Jr., also played for the Razorbacks and was a starting player on NBA teams. In 2018, Ron Brewer, Sr. was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame (2018). He was inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1994.

See this video for the thrilling finish of the Final Four basketball game mentioned above <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exdeRnNEIbQ>

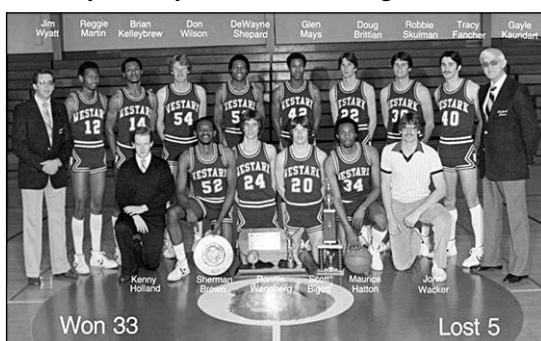
10. Carolyn Pollan moved to Fort Smith in the early 1960’s after marrying George Pollan. Carolyn became interested in politics and ran in this district for the state senate. Elected in 1975, Pollan joined two other women holding seats in the Arkansas Assembly. Serving twelve terms, Pollan developed legislative and oversight leadership in key areas of child-care and welfare and was responsible for 250 pieces of legislation in her twenty-four years in the legislature. In Fort Smith at her office on North Eighth Street, she opened the



(LEFT) REP. CAROLYN POLLAN. (Right) Pollan’s Patent Museum was located in her legislative office at 400 North Eighth Street.

Patent Museum. In 1977, Pollan co-founded the Fort Smith Historical Society, which began publishing the *Journal* with she and Amelia Martin as co-editors. She served on the Board of Trustees of John Brown University in Siloam Springs for twenty-five years. She earned a Ph.D. in education from Walden University in Minneapolis and was selected by *Arkansas Business* magazine as in the 100 Top Women in Arkansas and among the Ten Outstanding Legislators in the United States by the National Assembly of Government.

11. William Gerald “Jerry” Kerwin, Jr., born in Fort Smith, graduated from Fort Smith High School in 1941 and thereon joined the U.S. Navy, where he was commissioned and sent to the Pacific Theater of World War II. In the post-war years, he finished his business degree at the University of Arkansas and returned to Fort Smith to join his father in the luggage and sporting goods business at 707 Garrison Avenue, a store that with its creaking wooden floors, aroma of leather gloves, leather balls, and suitcases, racks of player signature Louisville Slugger baseball bats, and shelves filled with team baseball caps, became a favorite with people young and old, from Fort Smith and a wide surrounding area. For forty-one years, Kerwin’s sponsored an American Legion team quite successful in state and regional tournaments and coached by Kerwin associate, Lawrence Squeaky Smith. Jerry was a sponsor, coach, and official at sports that included swimming, boxing, baseball, youth football, basketball, softball, soccer, tennis, golf and bridge, and an avid participant in the latter two. All from a gentleman who was devoted to the care of his elderly mother, was a reader of novels and histories, and an actor in Little Theater plays. He was a steadfast member of the Optimist Club and a board member of the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club for sixty years. Jerry Kerwin served his country, family, friends, civic organizations, and community well. He was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls



1981 WESTARK COLLEGE National Champion Basketball Team

Club Hall of Fame (1993). See, Jeremy Nguyen, “Big K in Front: Kerwins American Legion Baseball” the *Journal*, 36, 01 (April 2012), 16 – 20. https://uafslibrary.com/fshsj/36-01_Complete_Issue.pdf

12. Gayle Kaundart, born in Alma, graduated from College of the Ozarks, was a high school basketball coach at Green Forest, Conway, and Fort Smith Northside. At the latter, he coached Jim King, Tommy Boyer, John McIntyre, Bobby Wofford, Jim Sengel, Ron Brewer, and other gifted players which helped him win five state basketball titles in the nineteen years that he coached there. Kaundart moved to Westark Community College (now UAFS) where his first team went 32-4. In twenty years as Lions head coach

he won twenty or more games per season, eight Bi-State Conference titles, eight regional championships and in 1981, the National Junior College Basketball Championship. He was inducted into the AHSCA Hall of Fame in 1996, the University of Ozarks Hall of Honor in 1990, and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1984. Kaundart Field House at Northside and the Gayle Kaundart Arena at UAFS are named for him. He is especially honored in the memories of his many former basketball players who were devoted to his integrity and coaching skills.

13. Pebley Mother and Sisters. Olive, Kathleen, and Rosa Belle came to Fort Smith for employment after World War II. Olive worked as a telegraph operator in Kansas and then transferred to Fort Smith. Her daughters came here to live and found employment, Kathleen as an office worker at Fort Chaffee, and Rosa Belle with the Department of Agriculture. Though Olive, the mother, had no formal education past the eighth grade, both daughters had college education. In Fort Smith, Rosa Bella became a member of the G. C. Hardin Society, a forerunner of the UAFS Foundation. The sisters set up an estate plan to further educational resources especially for the arts and history. The gifts from the estate would be managed by Chancery Judge Franklin Wilder. The bequeathment of the Pebley sisters established the Pebley Center for oral history and archival collections under the supervision of then UAFS Boreham Library Director, Wilma Cunningham. The Pebley and its growing collections have made a difference for researchers in Fort Smith and Arkansas history with readily accessed primary source materials that date back to the city's founding. It is located in the Boreham Library on campus and is under the guidance of archivist Shelley Blanton.



THE PEBLEY SISTERS AND THEIR MOM. *Their generous family gift funded establishment of the historical research center in Boreham Library that bears their name.*

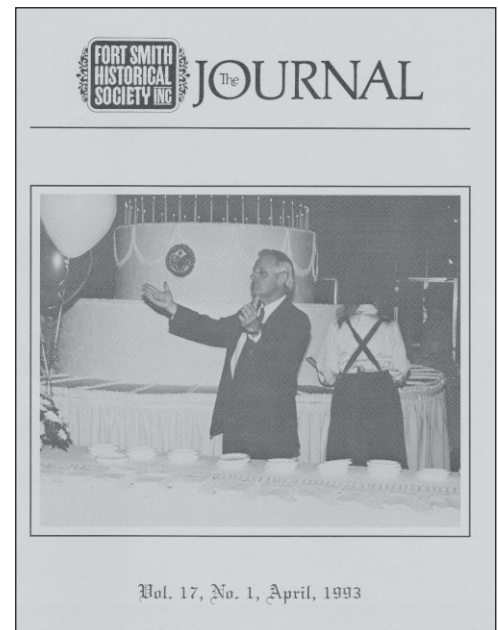


CROWDER FIELD AT UAFS

14. Bill Crowder, was born in Perryville, Arkansas. His father was sheriff of the county. In high school, Bill came under the guidance of agriculture teacher John Bell and took an interest in teaching. Bill graduated from College of the Ozarks in 1956 with honors and took coaching/teaching positions at Ozark High School and then at Springdale High School. He accepted the basketball/baseball head coach position at Westark Community College in 1965. A few years later, he relinquished the basketball part of his job to concentrate on building a competitive baseball program at the college and over the next twenty-six years his fundamentally sound teams won over 1,000 games. Coach Crowder was proudest of his players who graduated and most went on to

four-year colleges to continue in their sport and then advanced to their subsequent professional careers in and out of baseball. He is a long-time member of Sertoma Club, chairing their fund-raising golf tournaments. He was named to the University of the Ozarks Hall of Fame in 1994 and received the National Baseball Coaches Award. His book, *Success is more than Winning*, published in 1992 recounts the many challenges and adventures of he and his players on the diamond and in the classroom. In a 1995 ceremony, President Joel R. Stubblefield dedicated the college's newly constructed baseball field in his honor. See *University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, the First 85 Years, 1928-2012*.

15. Ray Baker, born in Fort Smith, attended Fort Smith Junior College and then on to the University of Arkansas earning a master's degree in education. Assigned to Southside High School in 1963, its first



RAY BAKER on the cover of the April 1993 edition of the Journal.



THE RAY BAKER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER on Albert Pike in Fort Smith.

year of operation, he remained there teaching history and chairing the department for forty-four years. In 1981, he won election to the city council and in 1990 became mayor of Fort Smith, a position that he held for twenty years during which time he thrived on interacting with his constituents and visitors to the city. He established the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast and the Mayor's Honors to the Visual and Performing Arts Awards. His students thought of him as an influential shaper of their lives. Citizens remember the rose petals and his slogan, "Life is Worth Living in Fort Smith!" The Senior Activity Center on Albert Pike Street in north Fort Smith is named for Ray Baker. See the *Journal* 35, 01 (April 2011): 2.

16. Jerry Jennings, born in Fort Smith, attended Lincoln High and finished at Fort Smith Northside High. His senior year 1968 he teamed with Almer Lee to lead the Grizzlies past Fort Smith Southside at Barton Coliseum in Little Rock in the state high school basketball championship game. Jennings was a scholarship basketball player at the University of Arkansas and invited to join the football team by Coach Frank Broyles. Jennings earned playing time and was in the first integrated Razorback football team post-season game, the 1971 Liberty Bowl. After college, Jennings returned to Fort Smith where he taught and coached at Darby Junior High School for thirty-seven years. Weldon, Williams, and Lick



REV. JERRY JENNINGS and wife Terry Roberts-Jennings



MOUNT MORIAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Fort Smith

sponsored Jennings to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. He used that experience to teach swimmer education in Fort Smith for 20 years. Upon retirement from Darby, Jennings, ordained as a deacon, answered a call to pastor Mount Cavalry Missionary Baptist Church of Poteau, Oklahoma, where he remained for eight years. He is presently pastor at Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church. An activist for civil and educational rights for minorities, Jennings has presided over the local chapter of the NAACP. In 2019, Jerry Jennings was installed in the Northside High School Hall of Honor. He has received Fort Smith's "Perfect Harmony" Award and was given the key to the city by Mayor Jack Freeze.



MENTOR, LEFT, AND WAGONER, center, with youth in the Lean on Me program.

17. James Wagoner grew up in Fort Smith, attended Trusty Elementary and the Boys Club at 215 Wheeler Avenue where he found employment in the locker room and at Lion's Club Park concession stand. He volunteered as a youth sports coach while still in high school. Joining the U.S. Marine Corps, he served in Vietnam, stationed in outposts in the valleys southeast of Da Nang in 1967-68. Coming back to Fort Smith he started an insurance agency in 1969 and resumed his coaching of youth in all sports at the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club, which he did for ten years. His firm has sponsored youth teams for forty-five years. With this background and

interest, he was elected state commissioner of Arkansas for Babe Ruth Baseball and then elected Regional Commissioner supervising nine states and was asked to join the Babe Ruth National Board of Directors. In 2006, Wagoner became chairman of the Babe Ruth Baseball National Board and still serves in that capacity. Wagoner officiated high school football games for thirty-nine years and belonged to the Port City Optimist for thirty years, where he became the club's number one tree flocker at their annual fund-raising Christmas tree sales lot. He has been inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame (1998) and the Arkansas Activities Association Hall of Fame (2011).

18. Corrine Rogers, born in Fort Smith, bravely agreed to file a suit in 1963 (nine years after the *Brown v. Topeka* ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court) on behalf of the NAACP asking for the Fort Smith School Board to integrate the city's two racially segregated public high schools (Southside was under construction at the time). With children to be educated, she had good reason to be active. As Ms. Rogers described it, "A friend of mine and a fellow Episcopalian, Miss Ed Louise Ballman, who at that time was a member of the [school] board, sent me a list of subjects offered at Northside and a list offered at Lincoln" —sixty-four in the former, thirty-four in the latter, far from being separate but equal. Corrine Rogers, to file the suit had to take two of her children, Ruby and Janice, to try to enroll. They were turned down. The suit was filed. Her husband lost his job in a local industry. The family persevered. The Supreme Court ruled in 1966 in favor of the suit, and Patricia Ann Rogers along with Mary Davis were the first two African Americans to graduate from Northside High School. Corrine Rogers and her family did the right thing for the community. By 1968, Lincoln and Northside were integrated. The transcript of Ms. Corrine Rogers's oral history interview is available from the Fort Smith Historical Society, Inc. as part of a project titled, "Historical and Personal Perspectives: Reflections from the African-American Community in Fort Smith, Arkansas, during the last hundred years, June 1, 2001." See also Vince Scott, "'Not in My Backyard': NIMBYism and Housing Policies in Fort Smith, Arkansas," the *Journal* 45, 1 (Spring 2021): 23-33.



CORRINE ROGERS

19. Ed Louise Ballman, born in Fort Smith to Edward Ballman, one of the city's furniture industry pioneers, Ed Louise grew up in the Ballman three-story house on North Sixteenth and D Streets and graduated from Wellesley College. Returning home, Miss Ballman became a great benefactor to education and advancement of opportunities for all in the city. One of the founders of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, she donated much of her time and money to finance public institutions including Ballman Elementary School, a state-of-the-art public school which featured, in the 1950's, a gymnasium and the Ballman-Speer Building on the campus of then Fort Smith Junior College. That building helped the Junior College through some lean enrollment and funding years and still is in service today for the university. A quotation from the history of UAFS reads: "Despite serious and continuing financial problems, the college grew during its private era, relying on tuition, fees, and philanthropy for its operating budget. Meetings of the college board of trustees often concluded with members contributing hundred dollars each to meet payrolls or to make insurance payments. Area leaders such as T. L. Hunt, Ed Louise Ballman, and Melanie Speer helped sustain the institution." As well as financial support, Miss Ballman focused on building and ground issues for the campus and enlisted the Fort Smith Garden Club for landscaping projects which she believed led to a healthy, attractive setting for the college students. She supported the Fort Smith Boys Club and the Old Fort Museum. She had studied at the New York Conservatory for Music and performed with the Fort Smith Symphony as a violinist. See *University of Arkansas Fort Smith: the First 85 Years, 1928 – 2012*, 38-40 and the *Journal* 15, 1 (April 1991): 3-16.

20. Melanie Holt Speer was from Galveston, Texas, and came to Fort Smith as wife of Ralph Speer, Jr. who owned and operated Speer Hardware in a building that is now home to the Fort Smith Museum of History after the family bequeathed it for that purpose. Ms. Holt Speer supported many local improvement projects through her membership in and leadership of civic and women's clubs, particularly being an avid proponent of higher education in Fort Smith. Ms. Speer joined other citizens in forming the Bonneville House Association which acquired the home of Susan Neis Bonneville on North Seventh Street and reconditioned it into a reception and event center. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. To increase its beauty and appeal, Ms. Speer



**MELANIE
HOLT SPEER**

ordered drapes from France for the windows. When appointed to the Fort Smith Junior College Board of Trustees, she and Ed Louise Ballman became proponents of expanding the college buildings and fine arts program. Her generosity and philanthropy made a difference in the growth of the college as a crossroads time in its history. Ms. Speer's parents, Charles and Katherine Holt, were the namesake of the Holt Building, originally opened as the new library in 1987 and later would transition to hold the English department into the University days. See *University of Arkansas Fort Smith: the First 85 Years, 1928 – 2012*, 38-40 and the *Journal* 15, 1 (April 1991): 3-16.

21. Robert Archibald Young III. Born in Fort Smith, he rose in the family corporation to become chairman of the ArcBest Corp. Board of Directors and CEO from 1988 until his retirement in 2006. He was praised for his long association with the company through his father and family with especially deep knowledge of the industry, ArcBest employees, and customers that the company serves over a period of sixty-five years. ArcBest put into place a plan to serve every American community with a 25,000 or higher population through ten regional hubs. Under Young, as this plan was carried out, the company employed 11,420 people and earned on the average of \$2.2 billion in yearly revenues. He has received state, regional, and national leadership awards. He is on the Board of Trustees at Lyon College and a trustee of SMU. He is involved with Boy Scouts of America and the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club which inducted him into their Hall of Fame in 2008. He is chairman of the board of the U.S. Marshals Museum, investing his time and expertise in what he believes is an educational and economic springboard for the city and the region.

22. Nancy Orr was a tireless worker for organizations that benefited health, education, and youth. She was the first woman elected to the Sparks Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees heading a major fund-raising effort. The Nancy Orr Family Center at Sparks was dedicated to her in 1990. Her commitment to the Fort Smith Girls Club (now Girls, Inc.) spanned sixty-two years. She served on the Westark Community College Board of Trustees. In later life, she owned and operated the Circle R Ranch near Dora. She received the Arkansas Hospital Association Distinguished Service Award and the Nancy Orr Girls, Inc. unit on Old Greenwood Road is named in her honor.



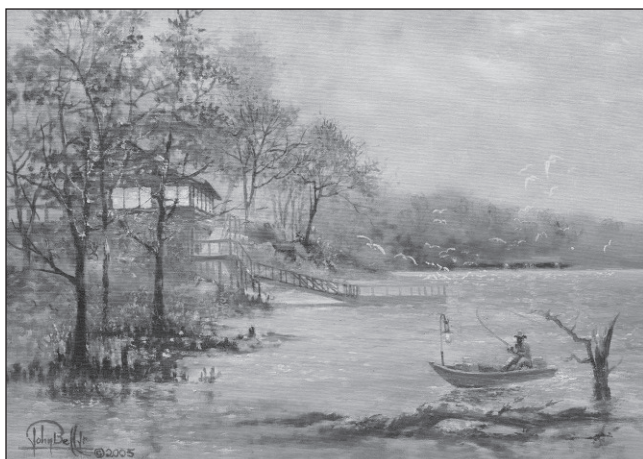
GIRLS INC., named for Nancy Orr, on Old Greenwood Road.



DR. TAYLOR AND MARY PREWITT
at the Arkansas Historical Association
annual meeting with author award for the
article in the *Journal of the FSHS*.

23. Taylor Prewitt, born in Arkansas and raised in McGehee, graduated from the Washington University School of Medicine with an M.D. and in post-graduate work specialize in cardiology, and became a senior fellow with the Cardiothoracic Institute, Brompton Hospital, London, England, in 1974. Dr. Prewitt served as staff cardiologist from 1969-2003 at Cooper Clinic in Fort Smith. He served as Chief of Internal Medicine, St. Edward Mercy Medical Center in the 1970's and chaired the St. Edward Mercy Medical Center in 2002-04. His community activities include president of the Fort Smith Rotary Club, president of the Board of Directors of Methodist Village Senior Living in Fort Smith, chair of the Board of Trustees of the First United Methodist Church in Fort Smith, and president of the Noon Civics Club, 2014-15. He is the author of several medical science articles and after retirement from active practice began a career in historical writings, including publications in the *Journal of Arkansas Medical Society* and seven articles in the *Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*. He has published four books and has a current manuscript on western Arkansas medicine being readied for publication. He has won the Abernathy Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine (1998) and the Volunteer Achievement Award of the Sebastian County Division of the American Heart Association. To read his work that won a best article award from the Arkansas Historical Association, use this link: https://uafslibrary.com/fshsj/41-02_Complete_Issue.pdf.

24. John Bell, Jr. was born in Fort Smith with a birth condition leading to cerebral palsy and a lifetime in a wheelchair. Limited in his use



JOHN BELL, JR., *CABIN AT GREENLEAF STATE LAKE*. The painting is in the John Bell Collection of the Regional Art Museum (RAM), which gave permission for use of the image.

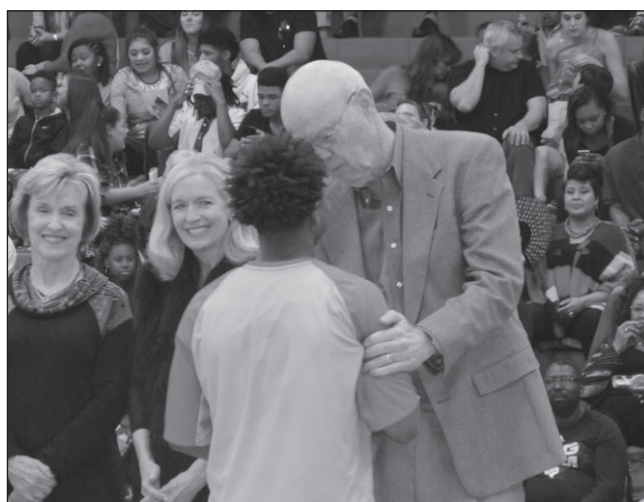
Rose and the Arkansas Razorbacks and was All-SWC in 1962 and 1963. He held the NCAA free throw percentage title in '62 and '63 with more than 91% made and averaged 21.9 points per game. In 1962 game at Baylor University, Boyer hit his forty-fourth straight free throw over a stretch of games breaking the existing college record of forty-three straight made free throws. After college, Boyer joined the Eastman-Kodak company and worked with them in Amarillo until he retired after twenty-six years to start his own business in the document imaging field. A consummate entrepreneur, his company prospered. Boyer retired to Fayetteville and now serves on the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees. He is in the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame (Class of 2000), the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame (1996) and the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame (2013).

26. Benton Asbury “Ben” Geren born in Braden I.T. in 1894, served with the A.E. F. in Europe during World War I as his wife, Myra, was in an army of war-workers in Washington, D. C. After the Armistice, Geren returned home and was employed as a superintendent for the Arkansas Highway Department. He was elected as County Sheriff 1941 serving until 1946 and a few years later, elected as County Judge, a position that he held for eighteen years. As Fort Chaffee downsized, large tracts of land reverted to county control in his administration and of it 800 acres were devoted to parks, Geren always being a major supporter of youth organizations and recreation. Named in his honor, Ben Geren Park has a twenty-seven hole public golf course with prairie restoration features on the perimeter. The park features soccer fields, softball fields, tennis courts, a frisbee golf course, a miniature golf fun area, biking and hiking trails, children’s playground, sand volleyball court, and picnicking areas. Parrot Island water park is immensely popular. Judge Geren added immeasurably to public recreation facilities in Sebastian County and left a lasting legacy to the people he served in his tenure, 1953-71. He died in 1974 and is buried at Rose Lawn Park Cemetery.

27. Ross Pendergraft was born in Sebastian County and went to work in Fort Smith with the *Southwest American* and *Times Record* newspapers. He rose to become CEO of Donrey Media Group and was president of Scores, Inc. a Nevada real estate and investment firm. Pendergraft was a World War II veteran. Pendergraft served as vice-chairman and on the executive board of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, which according to the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* “donated millions of dollars to Arkansas institutions” including the University of Arkansas

of upper extremities, he was not handicapped in his imagination, creativity, work habits, and artistic skill. He endowed this city with a rich heritage of oil and watercolor paintings many of historic eras and people. Although he did not associate his physical condition with his art and life’s work, he recognized public apathy for handicapped people. He became an activist in the cause and with his local organization “Spokes and Folks” celebrated President George H. W. Bush’s signing of, in 1991, the Americans with Disability Act. A large collection of his work was a gift from the Bell family to the Regional Art Museum of Fort Smith. See, “In Memoriam, John Bell, Jr.” by William Kropp III in the *Journal*, 38, 1 (April 2014): 4.

25. Tom Boyer was raised in Fort Smith and started on back-to-back Grizzly state basketball championship teams, 1957-58 and 1958-59. A first team High School All American, he was offered a scholarship to the University of Kentucky. Boyer turned it down to play for Coach Glenn



WITH A FORMER PLAYER VAN LEE’S WIFE, Judy, and daughter, Julianne, looking on, Tom Boyer speaks with young Northside Grizzly player at a reunion in 2016.

– Fort Smith. The campus Bell Tower, the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center and the Pendergraft Health Sciences Center came about through funding that involved Ross Pendergraft, both with his personal gifts and through gifts from the Foundation. Pendergraft was a chairman of the Fort Smith United Way and served as a board member on business and civic organizations. He was a 32nd Degree Mason, a Shriner, and was inducted into the Arkansas Tech University Hall of Distinction.

28. Don Flanders grew up accompanying his dad a traveling salesman for wood products companies. Serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Don Flanders's unit landed on beaches and occupied coastal towns in Japan as the surrender proceeded in 1945. A job offer from Garrison Furniture Co. drew Flanders to Fort Smith after the war. A few years later in 1954, Don and his wife, Phala, founded Flanders Manufacturing Co. which became one of the largest case goods companies in the Southwest. In 1969, Flanders founded Flanders Industries to make wicker outdoor and casual furniture. At the request of Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller, the Flanders company made a dining room hutch for each Republican governor in the United States who would attend a conference in Little Rock, including the governor of California, Ronald W. Reagan. That hutch appeared on the cover of a national magazine which was featuring Reagan. Flanders worked well with fellow furniture manufacturers in Fort Smith showing cooperation, friendship, sometimes answering questions and sometimes supplying interim financing. Flanders responded to Westark College President Joel R. Stubblefield's request to help raise funds to invigorate the college's business program. So tirelessly and generously conducted was his work on the task, that the drive came in over expectations and a new facility could be constructed. In 1993, the Flanders Business Center upgrade was completed. Flanders was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award and as Industry Fellow by the American Furniture Hall of Fame. An Eagle Scout himself, he was a dedicated volunteer to Boy Scouts of America on local, regional, and national levels. See *University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. the First 85 Years, 1928-2012*.

29. Cole Goodman, born in Fort Smith, followed in his father, R.C. Coleman's footsteps as a medical doctor and as Fort Smith Northside's team physician. Cole's brother Robin is also an M.D. and a youth soccer coach. Cole joined St. Edward Medical Center in 1978 and served as chief of surgery in 1985 and 1990. As chief executive officer of Mercy Clinic-Fort Smith since 2010, Goodman's goal was to re-establish Fort Smith's medical facilities and recruit widely for specialists and nurses. He succeeded as Mercy Clinics expanded to forty-seven locations under his leadership and today serve some 450,000 people in thirteen counties. Goodman strived to give back to the community in which he was raised and sponsored youth teams over a long span of years and for twenty-five years performed surgeries without charge on medical missions. He was inducted into the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame in 2012. He has worked closely with the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education and was honored by the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce with its 2016 Healthcare Award.

30. Bert Garrett "B.G." Hendrix, Jr. Born in Jenny Lind and graduated from Winslow High School. He attended Tulsa University on a basketball scholarship. A World War II veteran, he was in combat serving aboard a USCG destroyer escort when his ship was hit by a torpedo. He was a member of the American Legion Post 31 for seventy years. A 32nd degree Mason and a member of the First Methodist Church in Fort Smith, he represented his district in the Arkansas House of Representatives for thirty-four years including steering legislation as Speaker of the House from 1989 to 1991. In the late 1960's, Hendrix assisted Westark Junior College in acquiring its first computer, as he assisted the city in attracting industries such as the Hiram Walker plant. He planned and pushed the legislative act that allowed establishment of the University Center at Westark, which enabled local students to get a four-year bachelor's degree without leaving Fort Smith. The B. G. Hendrix State Office Building on Garrison Avenue is named for him. See the *University of Arkansas-Fort Smith News*, March 18, 2010, at this link: <http://uafs.edu/News/news?storyid=2699>.

31. Fred W. Smith was born in the Peno Bottoms across the river and attended Fort Smith Junior College. He went to work as a classified ad salesman for the *Southwest Times Record*. Years later, Smith was moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to head a Donrey Media Group newspaper. Smith was part of Donrey management as it made spectacular



A 1969 PHOTO showing B. G. Hendrix, Ray Sparks, College President Shelby Breedlove and the first computer on the campus at Fort Smith Junior College.

growth with the purchase of California newspapers. Upon his retirement in 1990, Donald Reynolds named Smith as president, chief operating officer, and chief executive officer of Donrey, one of the largest private media groups in the U.S. Fred Smith made perhaps his biggest impact on history chairing the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, which awarded more than \$1.85 billion to institutions, universities, and non-profit organization in the U.S. At a 1991 luncheon on the Westark College campus, Smith agreed to award \$1 million to implement the college's master plan. The result was the campus green, the bell tower, and the reflecting pool. Smith's many notable influences are exemplified in the naming of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, Mount Vernon, Virginia, the Fred W. Smith Conference Center at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science, and the Fred W. Smith Football Center at University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. These and the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center on the UAFS campus are among his many notable legacies.

32. John Jeter was selected as conductor of the Fort Smith Symphony in 1997. His advanced education in music came at the Jordan College of Fine Arts, Butler University. As a distinguished graduate, he conducted university orchestras in Indiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, becoming an assistant conductor for the Indianapolis Symphony. With enthusiastic support from musicians, board members, and the public, Jeter has led the Fort Smith Symphony to national recognition as a top-flight small-city symphonic organization. Into his twenty-sixth year, Jeter has recruited talented professional musicians from the city, the universities, this state, Oklahoma, and other venues, whose performances attract full houses and marvelously attentive audiences. Jeter and the Symphony that he leads have been honored by the Helen M. Thompson Award from the League of American Orchestras for outstanding artistic leadership (2002) and the Arkansas Governor's Arts Award Individual Artist Award in 2012, Jeter the first conductor to be so honored.

Arkansas Governors Relate to Fort Smith

Asa Hutchinson lived in Fort Smith for twenty-one years practicing law with more than 100 jury trials under his belt. Appointed by President Ronald W. Reagan as U.S. Attorney for the Fort Smith-based Western District of Arkansas, he was thirty-two and the youngest U.S. Attorney. Working out of the Judge Isaac Parker Federal Building, he was responsible for prosecuting cases involving violation of federal law. His most known action was winning conviction in 1984-85 of the "Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord (CSA)" founded by James Ellison, a militant white supremacist org. While in Fort Smith, Asa participated in community organizations and became volunteer coach for the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club.

Bill Clinton was convinced by a delegation from Westark College to support the legislation that allowed a University Center housed on its campus that afforded local students an opportunity to gain a four-year degree from a participating state university that would offer upper-level courses leading to the degree. Clinton saw the bill as beneficial and cost-effective and with his urging the bill passed both houses. Clinton said that if in the next election Sebastian County (where most registered voters were Republican) voted for him, he would happily dance down the streets of Fort Smith. So, he carried the county for the first time in the next election (1990). He lived up to the promise.



DON BAILEY, BILL CLINTON, AND HENRY RINNE (saxophone players all) in December 1991 just before they played the music to which Clinton and Hillary danced on Garrison Avenue.

The historically significant people outlined above provided leadership and examples are: Fort Smith School District, Westark College/UAFS, Fort Smith Public Library, Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club, Hunts Park, Girls, Inc., Creekmore Park, Tilles Park, Ben Geren Park Regional Art Museum, Fort Smith Little Theater, Fort Smith Symphony, Clayton House, Trolley Museum, Bonneville House, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith Museum of History, Fort Smith Historical Society, Downtown Fort Smith.



AERIAL VIEW OF VICTORY CIRCLE.

(Photograph by Matt Caldwell)

Living on Bonneville's Land

The History of the Sunnymede Housing Addition

By Sue Robison

When Benjamin Bonneville died in 1878, he left his young widow, Susan, deeds for tracts of land in and around Fort Smith, Arkansas. His will, published in the local newspaper, defined her property holdings as being both inside, and outside, the city limits, along with buildings occupied by renters on Garrison Avenue. The largest mass of land owned by the young widow was a swatch located inside today's existing landmarks from a line somewhere between Grand Avenue and North O Street running east to the Arkansas River, from approximately where North Greenwood Avenue sits, traveling north to a boundary near Mussett Road, and from Mussett turning again east to the Arkansas River. This immense property was sold off in parcels by Susan Bonneville and her heirs, supporting them for generations after the general's death.

Shortly before her own death, Susan Bonneville sold

a parcel of land containing the homesite she shared with her husband to local property developer, Harry E. Kelley. Kelly, who moved to Arkansas from Kansas, was a respected resident of Fort Smith, and he set out to expand the city's limits beyond the then accepted boundary of Catholic (Grand) Avenue.

In the 1930's, the Bonneville tract from the Mussett boundary to what is known now as Kelley Highway was divided and sold for housing developments. Divided into two parcels known simply as Bonneville 1 and Bonneville 2, the lots sold, and Fort Smith expanded along what is now Midland Boulevard toward the Arkansas River. The final parcel of undeveloped land extended south of modern-day Kelley Highway to the boundary of Bonneville's holdings near the present location of Grand Avenue.

One of Mr. Kelley's projects with his purchase was to establish East Gate Park near the Arkansas River and adjacent to the park, several acres were set aside for a cemetery to be called Woodlawn.

At the western end of his remaining Bonneville

property south of Kelley Avenue, Kelley built Rolling Knolls Country Club on North "O" Street and opened it for public use in 1931 converting General Bonneville's homesite into a club house. The golf course became one of the premier links of western Arkansas.

According to "A Personal Reminiscence by Dusty Helbling," who lived on the grounds of Rolling Knolls Country Club while his father served as golf pro, find the land between the eastern boundary of the country club's property and East Gate Park remained at that time "rolling pasture lands." The description fit the land until the end of World War Two.

America was vibrant with hope and energy at the end of the war. Troops were coming home, marrying the girls they left behind, and looking to set up homes and begin families. They needed jobs to support their new lives, and they needed homes that fit within their budgets to help them live the American dream.

By this time, Harry E. Kelley had died, leaving his son, Leigh, to manage the family's great land holdings. Leigh was quick to partner with local developers to provide simple, well-constructed homes built in the latest style at reasonable prices to eager first-time homebuyers. Leigh turned his attention to the property bordering the Rolling Knolls Country Club, carved out a few acres, and developed a housing addition called Sunnymede.

The first homes in the Sunnymede addition were sold in 1945. Many of the buyers were returning veterans of World War II. Young men and wives were happy to return to the normalcy and challenges of civilian life. All over the country, including Fort Smith and Sunnymede the federal government helped with the financing for veteran homes with the G.I. Bill. To celebrate America's victory in the war, the division honored the heroes of the conflict in the naming of his streets. Coming off North O Street, there were two entrances to Sunnymede, which connect in a semi-circular roadway called "Victory Circle, which holds Victory Park at its center. Still maintained by the city of Fort Smith, Victory Park is recognized as one of the city's oldest Neighborhood Parks, although it is currently little more than a small space of land containing a few trees, flowers, a historical marker, and a bench.

From the center of the curve, a street named for Roosevelt (President Franklin) runs north, dividing the streets that make the Sunnymede Addition, which is bound on its west by (British Prime Minister Winston) Churchill and its east by North Albert Pike. Running east and west off Roosevelt Street are (Gen. Douglas) McArthur Drive, (Gen. Adna) Chaffee Drive, and (Gen.

William H. H.) Morris Drive, completing the four road grouping known as Sunnymede. Later, the military theme continued when the addition of Sunnysdale, was constructed west of Sunnymede.

Sunnymede was created to be a family-centered addition. Built to be an average of 1,000 square feet, the homes featured larger lawns than those customarily found in Fort Smith at the time, and the semi-circular layout of the roads discouraged speeding and made a safe space for children. Some of the homes featured attic fans to fend off hot Arkansas summers, and all offered gas floor furnaces and gas stove connections in every bedroom. and the home's single bathroom to warm the family in winter.

One of the most forward advancements offered to residents of the Sunnymede addition were split-level homes. These designs would become the classic look of the 1950's and are often used in movies and televisions to illustrate the innocence of American home life during that period of our history. The split-level homes of the Sunnymede addition were simple structures featuring two bedrooms and a single bath on the second level, along with a small laundry room at the rear of a single car garage.

The single level homes were primarily on the south side of Sunnymede's streets. Some were three-bedroom, single-bath structures, and almost all these homes featured small side or back porches. A few were built with front porches to one side of the home and small back porches on the opposite side. The majority of those porches, especially the ones in the front of the homes, were quickly incorporated into pantries, laundry rooms, or even small bedrooms.

As was customary in the late 1940's when Sunnymede was built, many of the houses were covered with siding containing asbestos. In the 1990's, there was a concentrated effort in the neighborhood by homeowners to cover the old siding. Since asbestos could not safely be removed, covering it in aluminum siding, brick veneers and other exteriors was the best way to keep the old siding stationary and safe for families living in the homes. Only a handful of homes existing today continue to display their original exterior.

Neighborhoods are about more than the houses on their streets, and Sunnymede had much to offer its residents. Sunnymede Elementary school opened its doors for students in 1951, and busses collected young residents attending Darby Junior High School and Fort Smith Senior High School. Fort Smith Community College was just a short drive from the Sunnymede addition, and Fort Smith city busses made regular runs

**AERIAL VIEW
OF
SUNNYMEDE
ADDITION,
LOOKING
WEST FROM
ALBERT PIKE**

(Photograph by Matt Caldwell)



to the neighborhood.

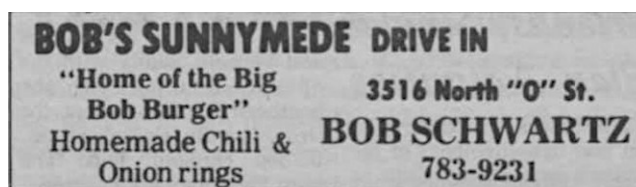
Tilles Park on Grand Avenue with its wading pool, basketball courts, and concessions was a frequent destination for Sunnymede families, and the Arkansas River was handy for fathers and sons who liked to spend a weekend fishing. For the first generations of its development, Sunnymede residents had access to pasture land at the northern end of Churchill road, and many former residents have memories of riding horses boarded there through the neighborhood.

In 1952, the Little Theatre purchased the "Little Grand" mercantile store at address North O and opened their doors to public performances. There, the group established itself as the star of the neighborhood with its theater in the round.

The Little Theatre thrived at its Sunnymede location, and its growth eventually led them to build their current theater on North Sixth Street.

The 1960's were a great period of growth for the area. Rolling Knolls housing addition was established on Sunnymede's west, Sunnydale was in place on its north, and the lands around the former East Gate Park were developed for homesite. The Sutton lands immediately across North Albert Pike were carved into the Sutton Estate addition, and Kimmons Junior High opened its doors in 1964, meaning Sunnymede teens no longer rode busses to Darby Junior High.

The small shopping center on North O situated between the entrances to Victory Circle offered many services to the neighborhood. The Thriftway IGA store was a favorite, and it shared the shopping strip of offices with Sunnymede Pharmacy, various clothing



stores, medical offices and other establishments throughout the years. A well-worn path between the houses on Victory Circle to the Thriftway parking lot give evidence to the number of youngsters who walked up from the Sunnymede Addition to visit Thriftway over the generations the store was open for business. One former resident recalled a service station at the eastern intersection of Victory Circle and North O Street where a friendly attendant would air the bike tires of neighborhood children.

Eventually, the Kroger grocery chain opened a large store on the south side of North O, just across from the Victory Circle and North O intersection. Kroger was popular with residents throughout Fort Smith, and the Osco Drug Store sharing the space with the grocery giant also did robust business in their Sunnymede location. The Thriftway shopping center, Kroger, and Osco offered convenient services to Sunnymede residents, as well as employment to family members.

Probably the most fondly remembered business in the area was Bob's Sunnymede Drive-In at the intersection of Churchill and North O Street. Owner Bob Schwartz provided neighborhood families a fun destination, while giving local teens a safe and

welcoming meeting place. Bob's Sunnymede seemed represent the collective memory of many former residents who remember their times in the area as pleasant, peaceful, and filled with friends and good experiences.

When the remainder of the old Rolling Knolls golf course was developed in the early to mid-1960's into what is now the Nelson Hall Homes, real changes came to the Sunnymede Addition. The road called Division, was extended from Midland Boulevard along a line traveling east to where it intersected Churchill Road, linking Sunnymede and Sunnydale to Midland. Soon after the completion of Nelson Hall, the small bits of remaining Bonneville land around and behind homes on the west side of Churchill were parceled into homesites which quickly saw construction. The horse pastures at the end of Churchill were divided down their center by Bradley Circle and filled with single family homes. By the middle of the 1970's, Sunnymede was completely boxed in by new additions, and Bonneville's lands offered no more open space.

Fort Smith continued to grow beyond. Central Mall drew the city's attention to Rogers Avenue east, where development continues today. New housing and shopping areas in the south part of town pulled families from Sunnymede and old neighborhoods gave way to subdivisions offering central heat and air, two car garages, and swimming pools.

As Fort Smith changed, so did its older neighborhoods. Still offering solid homes to families, houses in Sunnymede now boast of additions to fit modern lifestyles. New buyers found central heat and air units, single car garages transformed into additional bedrooms or dens, decorative fencing, and backyard patios. As purchase prices increased in newer housing developments, Sunnymede became a neighborhood of choice for hourly wage earners who continue to seek the American dream of home ownership.

Sunnymede Elementary school currently supports one of the largest student populations in the city. The diversity of the students brought new challenges and opportunities to educators. Dedicated teachers and staff at Sunnymede continue to meet the needs of students entering their classrooms and offering the best education available.

The former Kroger store and Thriftway center now house businesses directed to the demand created by local ethnic groups who moved into the neighborhood. Hispanic food vendors park across the street from an Asian market, and Bob's Sunnymede Drive-in became the Rodeo and offered some of the best Mexican food in town.

Teenagers still gather in the parking lot where Bob's once stood, youngsters continue riding their bicycles down the straight stretch of Churchill Street and children flock to the playground at Sunnymede Elementary school to slide down its gentle slopes in the snow. Fort Smith social and cultural history continues to be made on General Bonneville's land.



Retired after thirty-three years in media and public relations, Sue Robison researches, writes, and volunteers at the Fort Smith Museum of History.

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ENDNOTE

- ¹ Enacted by Congress in 1944, the GI Bill sent more than eight million World War II veterans to school between 1945 and 1956. It also backed home loans, gave veterans a year of unemployment benefits, and provided for veterans' medical care. The bill was a huge success, propelling Americans to new heights of education and helping to fuel the economic prosperity that characterized the postwar era.

Chasing Bent Trees

By Mark Wilson

Several years ago while hunting on Fort Chaffee, I ran across an oddly misshapen tree. It was quite large, had two main vertical trunks, a third vertical rising from the side of the tree and a strange snout pointing downward off the end of that branch. This snout resembled a water spigot, or perhaps a short elephant's trunk. After having snapped several pictures with my phone, I was off to the truck. Like most pictures I take with my phone, it was never deleted and resided in my picture album for several years.

One day, while researching Jesse James' connections to our area, I ran across the phrase, *marker tree*. Not familiar with the term, I googled it and found images that shared many of the characteristics of the Fort Chaffee tree. I also found a couple of organizations that were dedicated to cataloging and maintaining a database of these trees. I submitted the Chaffee tree to one of these organizations for review. I was somewhat surprised by their reply:

This is a remarkable tree. It is one of the top five largest marker trees found to date. It was likely bent by the Osage Indians in the mid-1700's. We think it may be connected with a ceremonial site possibly for healing. If that is the case, there will be upwelling earth energy associated with the site that enhances the healing.

Excited about the find, I enlisted the help of my friend, who is a history professor. We then contacted an archeologist to gauge his interest. I was dismayed to learn that he had no interest in the tree and didn't believe that marker trees were anything other than the work of nature. He did, however, offer to core the tree to determine its age through a process called dendrochronology. In this process, the tree would be bored and a core would be removed to enable the dendrochronologist to count the rings to determine age.

Undaunted by the archeologist's lack of interest, we plowed ahead and contacted the Osage Nation concerning our Chaffee find. They readily accepted the tree as the work of their tribe and stated they would not want the tree cored because marker trees are considered sacred to Native Americans. This fueled my desire to learn



ODDLY SHAPED TREE AT CHAFFEE

more about marker trees and to see if there were any more out there to be found. Sure enough, there were.

These trees may be called by any number of names. They are often referred to as trail, bent, prayer, healing, thong, signal, yoke, sacred, ceremonial, and CMTs (culturally modified trees). I am certain that there are several other names that could be added to this list. These modified trees may serve many purposes. Some point the way to burial sites, while others may point the way to an important natural resource, a hidden spring for instance. The meaning of some may be known only to the bender. If you accept that identifying a trail was important both to travelers and settlers, then it is logical to assume that marker trees can be found along trails, roads, and highways. You should be able to find them along waterways as these were the highways of yesteryear.

The organization that reviewed the Chaffee tree upon my request is Mountain Stewards. Their website is MountainStewards.org. They have a project to catalog



CATALPA TREE believed to mark several graves near Sweden Falls

marker trees and have several thousand in their database from nearly every state in the continental United States. You can upload pictures on a link within the website for their evaluation and inclusion to the database should they determine you have discovered a marker tree. This website has a lot of information for you on the subject. There, you can see examples of marker trees and a diagram of how they are believed to have been created.

Several Facebook sites have information on marker trees. Some of them are *Trail of Trees (Ozarks Trail Trees)*, *Mystery Trees*, and *Native American Culturally Modified Trees / Prayer Trees*. There are Facebook pages that are critical of marker trees. A post that mentions a belief in marker trees will be savaged.

Skeptics of marker trees argue that the oddly shaped trees were the result of damage by storms or accidents or other inadvertent causes. They point out that the trees are small indicating that they are not old enough to have been created by Native Americans. Undoubtedly some of the trees posted on Facebook in hopes of being a marker tree are simply damaged trees and some may indeed be too young to have been created by Native Americans. It should be noted however, that not all the bent trees found were modified by Native Americans. Explorers and settlers adopted the practice of bending trees to use as markers. I have even read that the Knights of the Golden Circle used bent trees to mark trails to hidden gold caches.

Taken singularly, it would be easy to see a misshapen tree as just strange. One cannot, however, easily dismiss hundreds of trees, many miles apart, sharing similar characteristics as being a work of nature. Several trees have had a limb or branch grafted onto their



ABOVE AND BELOW — BASHORE TRAIL TREES





LEE CREEK TRAIL TREES

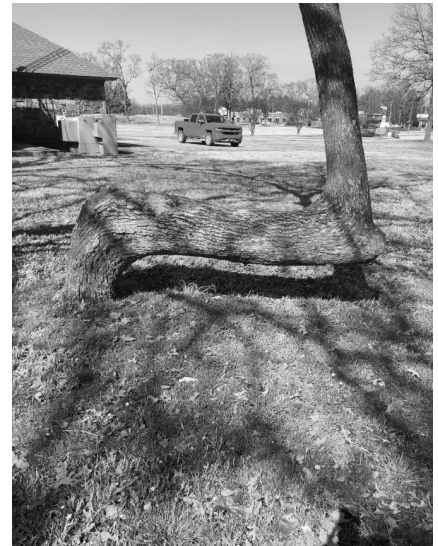
bodies. There must be a human hand in the creation of these trees. Each tree has its own unique story to tell. At this point, that story is up for discussion, interpretation, and without that process and our recognition, something valuable may be lost to history.

Marker trees became a topic of conversation with several of my friends and I was joined in pursuit of these trees. Concerning the Chaffee tree, Mountain Stewards reply *“there will be upwelling earth energy associated with the site that enhances the healing”* caused me to research dowsing. We conducted some experiments and three of us that attempted to dowse did experience some strange movement of the rods. At this time, I have no explanation and no interpretation for the movement of the rods.

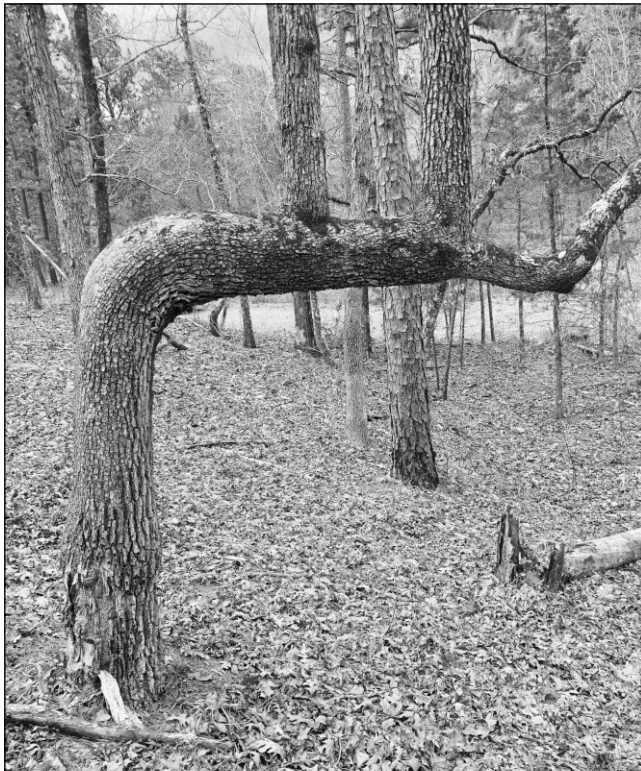
Already an avid outdoorsman, hunting marker trees gave me another excuse to roam the woods and backroads of Arkansas. My wife and I drove to Shepherd Springs in Crawford County and found two. A trip to Lee Creek yielded another two. We found two more at Petit Jean. At Ponca along the Buffalo River were another four. We found another along the Alma Lake trail. There were two on a golf course in Fort Smith. Found some at the Bashore Ridge loop trail in the



PETIT JEAN MOUNTAIN TREE



LEFT, grafted tree from Alma Lake. **Center**, grafted tree from Fort Chaffee. **Right**, tree from golf course in Fort Smith, about a mile south of the Cavanaugh mounds.



TREE NEAR PILOT'S KNOB. *Believed to have been created by a descendant to mark the grave of a previous ancestor.*



TREE FROM THE FOURCHE LA FAVE RIVER *believed to mark the death of three members of the tribe in the river.*

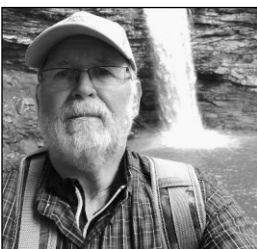
Hobbs State Park Conservation Area. We found marker trees at Haw Creek falls north of Hagarville, along the Pedestal Rocks trail at Pelsor. Found them near Pilots Knob and along the Fourche La Fave River in Scott County. We found some remarkable trees on the Poteau Mountain Wilderness Area in Scott County. It seemed marker trees were everywhere.

Perhaps the most important aspect of hunting trees was spending time with family and friends and seeing a small portion of the natural beauty that Arkansas has to offer. We saw the elk at Ponca, the disappearing pool below Sweden Falls at Kingston. Saw the Triple Falls at Compton. Looked across the hollow from Hawksbill Crag. Listened to the barking frogs at the grotto on the

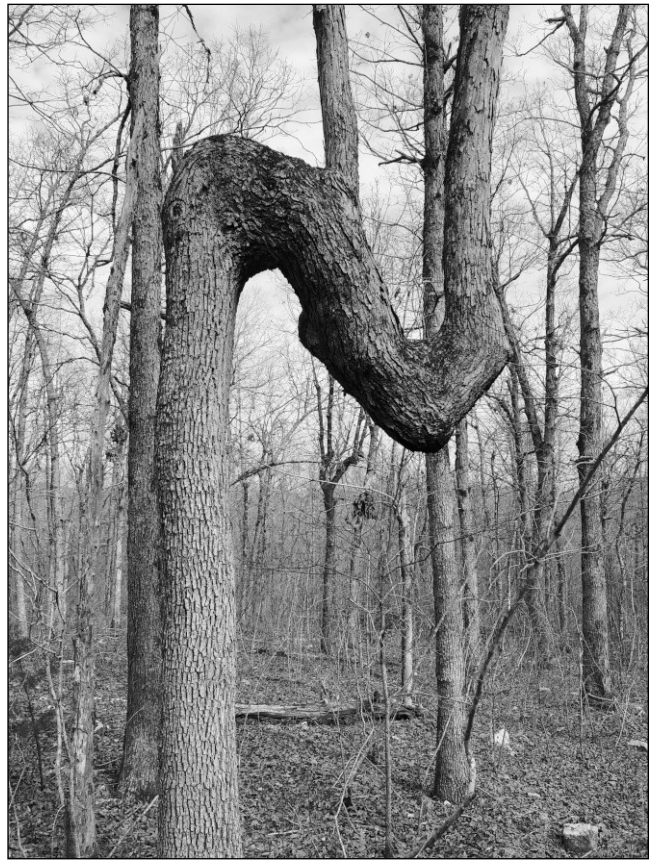


TREE ON THE POTEAU MOUNTAIN *believed to be a ceremonial tree marking the burial of several prominent members of the tribe.*

Seven Hollows trail at Petit Jean. Hiked the Bashore Trail in the snow. Perused the shops at Jasper. Marveled at the rock formations on the Pedestal Rocks trail and the Arkansas Sphinx. We saw the cave on the Poteau Mountain believed to have been a hideout of Belle Starr as well as other outlaws. We saw deer, bear, turkey, eagles, snakes, wildflowers, raging torrents of spectacular waterfalls fed by spring rains. We ate lunch at quaint spots off the trail at Oark and Ozone. We had the Sasquatch sandwich at the Buffalo Outfitters restaurant. We marveled at the view while having lunch at the Mount Magazine lodge. All this beauty, mystery, and travel adventures because of a chance meeting with a funny looking tree!



Mark Wilson is a retired Baldor engineer who somehow finds time to bike, hike, hunt, fish, play tennis, paddle ball, and pickle ball. (Photos for this article courtesy of the author.)



ABOVE AND BELOW, POTEAU MOUNTAIN TREES



Fort Smith's Connection to Butterfield's Overland Mail Co.

Stations Between Memphis and Fort Smith

by Bob Crossman

Editor's Note: The following article is an excerpt of Butterfield's Overland Mail Co. Stagecoach Trail Across Arkansas 1858-1861 by the author.

In 1858 the corner of Second Street and Garrison Avenue in Fort Smith was the central hub of the longest stage line in the world. Fort Smith was the merging point for the bifurcated Overland Mail from St. Louis and Memphis as it headed on westward to San Francisco.

There are a great number of journal articles and print books on Butterfield's Overland Mail route from St. Louis to Fayetteville to Fort Smith and on to San Francisco. However, there is very little in print on the stage stations on the Memphis to Fort Smith portion of the line. For example, Ted Worley wrote, "Of specific stopping places between Pottsville and Fort Smith little is known."¹

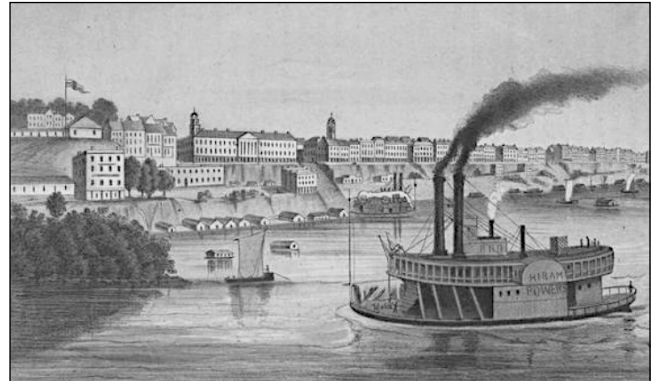
This article will focus on that second route, and hopefully this article will encourage further research on this portion of the bifurcated Overland Mail route.

Memphis Eastern Terminus

According to the files of the Fort Smith Public Library, the Memphis headquarters for the Overland Mail was in the Commercial Hotel at Front and Jefferson Streets, where D. F. Kandy was the Butterfield agent. John Butterfield intended to use steamships to carry passengers and mail direct from Memphis to Fort Smith and made no provisions for any alternate method of travel.

In September 1858 the Arkansas River levels were so low that steamboat travel was impossible. Butterfield hastily engaged John Chidester, one of the largest stage lines in Arkansas, to carry the Overland Mail and passengers.

Departing Memphis on September 16, 1858, John Chidester successfully delivered the Overland Mail to Fort Smith in sixty-six hours, beating the St. Louis stage to Fort Smith by fifteen minutes.



'MEMPHIS IN THE MID-1850's'

(Photo courtesy [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memphis, Tennessee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memphis,_Tennessee))



MEMPHIS' COMMERCIAL HOTEL housed Butterfield's Overland Mail offices. The hotel was built in 1848 and survived until about 1891.

According to the schedule, the Overland Mail left Memphis every Monday and Thursday at 8 a.m. The San Francisco mail was to arrive in Memphis every Thursday and Sunday.

When water levels were unfavorable for the steamboats, the first leg of Butterfield's Overland Mail

out of Memphis began with a ferry crossing of the Mississippi River, reaching the train depot in Hopefield (now known as West Memphis). The ferry was necessary because the Memphis Bridge (also known as the Frisco bridge), carrying a rail line across the Mississippi River at Memphis did not begin construction until 1888 and was not completed until May 12, 1892.²

The February 25, 1859, issue of *Memphis Daily Avalanche* reports that since the fog was so thick that the ferry could not cross the Mississippi that day, the Overland agent, William H. Walton, hired a skiff to personally row across to Hopefield carrying the Overland Mail.

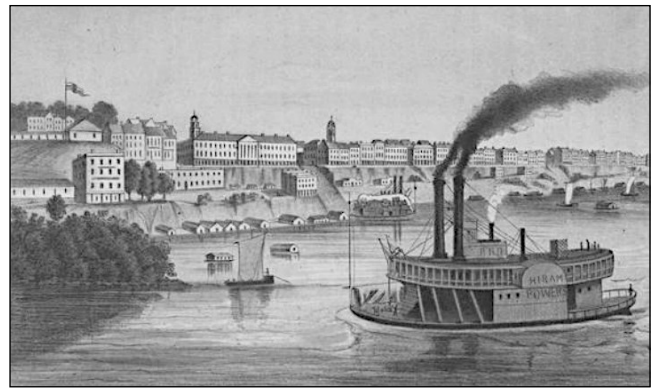
When Butterfield's Overland Mail arrived across the Mississippi River by ferry, it was transferred to the train at Hopefield for the first leg of the trip across Arkansas.

At the Hopefield port, the Overland passengers and mail boarded a train for a twenty-four-mile trip, ending twelve miles short of Madison. Tom Dillard reports that the engine on this route was called "Little Rock."

This was the first actual railroad in Arkansas, and was laid from what is now West Memphis (Crittenden County) to Madison (St. Francis County), which is on the St. Francis River. That section was complete by late 1858. This was the first section of what would become the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad. At the time, it was Arkansas' only functioning railroad.

"The . . . Railroad ran from Hopefield near present-day West Memphis, Arkansas, only to a point 12 miles east of Madison, Arkansas, on the St. Francis River. From there the route headed overland by stagecoach. When the Arkansas River was high enough, the mail could instead travel from Memphis by steamboat down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Arkansas River, navigate up that river to Little Rock, and on from there by stagecoach. When the Arkansas was too low for steamboat traffic, the Butterfield could take the White River to Clarendon or Des Arc, Arkansas, before switching to the stagecoaches. Sometimes the entire route across eastern Arkansas would be by stage."³

By late November 1858 the rail line had been extended by twelve miles to reach the city of Madison. From that date, when the Overland did not leave Memphis by steamboat, it would cross the Mississippi by ferry, then travel forty-seven miles by train to Madison. At Madison, Overland Mail and passengers would board a stagecoach or Celerity wagon and continue westward toward Fort Smith.



THIS VIEW OF THE MEMPHIS BRIDGE (also known as the Frisco Bridge) under construction also shows the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway transfer ferry S. D. Barlow from the west bank of the Mississippi, November 12, 1891.

(Photos from www.condrenrails.com/MRP/Memphis-Bridges/Frisco-Railroad-Bridge.htm)



MAP SHOWING MEMPHIS AND HOPEFIELD connected by ferry. Much of the train track was elevated on trestles over the swampy delta land, indicated by the second arrow west of Hopefield.



1864 MAP OF ARKANSAS showing train tracks from Hopefield to Madison. Smaller arrow twelve miles east of Madison shows end of tracks where switch was made to stagecoach.

The Overland Mail, crossing the Mississippi by ferry, then boarded the train at Hopefield (known today as West Memphis). The short twenty-four-mile section of train tracks stopped twelve miles east of Madison. The Madison community, named for President James Madison, is located on the western bank of the St. Francis River at the foot of Crowley's Ridge in eastern Arkansas. Leaving Madison, the Overland Mail traveled west on the Military Road.

The 1826 Military Road at this point was built to be twenty-four feet wide with timber and brush removed



DURING 1858 THE OVERLAND STAGE crossed the St. Francis River on this ferry until the railroad was extended into Madison.

(Images of America: Forrest City and St. Francis County, by H. Wayne Parker.)



PHOTO OF MADISON as the railroad was being laid through town, circa 1859.

(Images of America: Forrest City and St. Francis County, by Wayne Parker)



THIS ENGINE WAS USED in the Little Rock division of the Memphis and Little Rock railroad.

(Mike Hood, Civil Engineering Manager for the City of Little Rock)

and stumps cut as low as possible, marshes and swamps to be “causewayed” with poles or split timber, with ditches four feet wide and three feet deep on either side of the road.

Kirby Sanders suggests that the Butterfield Station here at Madison was likely just an improved cargo transfer platform at the rail terminus for the transfer of passengers and mail directly from the train to a waiting Celerity wagon.

This section of track “was of foremost importance to the State because the swamps of eastern Arkansas

made Memphis, only 133 miles from Little Rock, virtually inaccessible by land, and the water route wound far to the southeast . . . laid mostly on trestles, had reached Madison on the St. Francis.”⁴

On at least one occasion floodwaters covered the tracks between Hopefield and Madison. *The Memphis Daily Avalanche* on May 24, 1859, reports:

THE OVERLAND MAIL — CHANGE OF DAYS OF DEPARTURE — The days of departure for the California overland mail from this city, have been

changed from Mondays and Thursdays to Tuesdays and Saturdays. This arrangement will continue until the water gets off the Little Rock Railroad sufficiently to allow of the passage of trains over it."⁵

Possible Stations South of Oakland and South of Cotton Plant



1855 MAP OF ARKANSAS showing old road from Madison to Des Arc.

The swing stations for the change of horses were typically nine to fifteen miles apart. Madison is almost fifty miles from Des Arc, so most likely there were two swing stations on that route. South of Oakland, the 1855 map shows an intersection on the main road south of Oakland—a possible location for a swing station at the crossroads.

About fifteen miles east of Des Arc on that old stagecoach road, the 1855 map shows an intersection south of Cotton Plant 34.956125, -91.258388. This would also be a likely location for another swing station where the stagecoach would obtain a fresh team of horses.

Des Arc's Jackson House N34 58' 36.91", W91 29' 38.62"

When the train arrived at Madison the Butterfield's Overland mail and passengers were transferred to stage coach headed west to the Jackson House in Des Arc.

The Des Arc Station was the Jackson House, a twelve-room brick structure owned by M. M. Erin. It was located on the main street (Buena Vista) and about 100 yards from the steamboat landing. The dining room of the Jackson House was a frame addition 45 by 16. In another frame wing, 16 by 16, was the stage office.⁶

According to files of the Fort Smith Public Library, Henry Myers was a driver, carrying Butterfield Overland Mail. His obituary in *The Citizen*, July 27, 1859, states he had been driving the stage during the previous twelve months on the Des Arc to Fort Smith route.

During flooding or when waters were entirely too low on the Arkansas River, Des Arc served as an Overland swing station when the entire Memphis to Fort Smith route was by stagecoach.



EVERY VILLAGE ACROSS CENTRAL ARKANSAS had a blacksmith with the ability to repair broken wagon wheels, cracked axles, and shoe horses. These were likely places for the Overland to contract to serve as a swing station, or to call upon for emergency repairs between stations along the route.

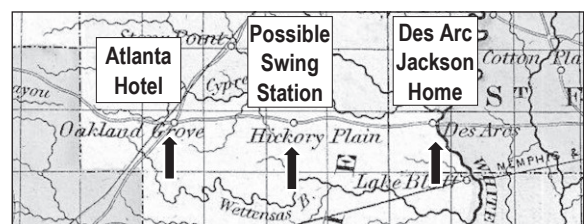
(Images of America: Cabot, Arkansas, by Mike Polston, circa late 1800's)



THE WHITE RIVER at Des Arc. When water levels were favorable, the Overland traveled by steamboat from Memphis to Des Arc. When the Overland came from Memphis by train and stagecoach, they used a ferry to cross the White River at Des Arc. The ferry was run by Erwin, by Frith & Vader, and by William H. Harvey.

(Image from www.Butterfieldoverlandstage.com)

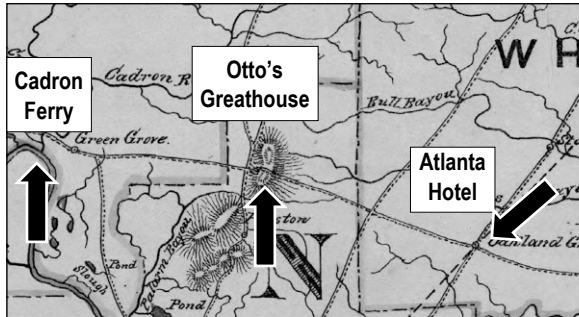
Possible Station at Hickory Plain N34.989524, -W91.736460



1855 MAP OF ARKANSAS showing old road from Oakland Grove to Des Arc

The swing stations for the change of horses were typically nine to fifteen miles apart. Des Arc is twenty-six miles from the Atlanta Hotel at Oakland Grove. Most likely there was a swing station halfway on that route. A possible location for a swing station would be in the community exactly halfway between on the old road, called Hickory Plain as shown on the 1855 map printed above.

Atlanta Hotel (Oakland Grove) Old Austin
N34 59' 06.22", W91 57' 49.82"



1864 MAP OF ARKANSAS showing old road connecting Oakland Grove, Otto's Greathouse, and the Cadron Ferry.

Leaving Des Arc's Jackson House, the Butterfield stopped at the Atlanta Hotel in the community of Oakland Grove, now known as Old Austin. The Atlanta Hotel was near the present Dogwood Lane and Highway 38. According to the files of the Fort Smith Public Library, the Atlanta community at that time had about 150 residents, three dry goods stores, two boot and shoemakers, harness shop, tailor's shop, sawmill, grist mill, school, and a brass band.

For the first few months of the Overland Mail, from Austin the stage immediately proceeded west toward the Cadron Creek ferry (Conway), Hurricane (Atkins), and Potts Inn (Pottsville) before crossing the Arkansas River on the ferry between Norristown and Dardanelle.

At the state capital, residents of Little Rock had to travel or send their letters north by Hanger's Stage to meet up with the Butterfield Stage at the Atlanta Hotel in Old Austin. Hanger's Stage had a regular route from Little Rock to Batesville, passing the Atlanta Hotel on its way.⁷

The October 2, 1858, *Weekly Arkansas Gazette*, reports in reference to the Overland Mail service between the Atlanta Hotel and Little Rock's Anthony Hotel:

... then they carry it from Atlanta to Little Rock and back to the same place in buggies, or on



OLD DIRT TRAIL IN HICKORY PLAIN. *If there was a swing station in Hickory Plain, it would have been conveniently located on the Old Military Road.*



BUTTERFIELD'S OVERLAND MAIL route a mile west from the Atlanta Hotel. by R. D. Keever, local Butterfield historian, in 2018.

horseback, or as best way they may. [The Overland stage] can not lay over at Atlanta until this branch mail goes to Little Rock and returns—and this detention must be two days to each mail, and may be three days.⁸

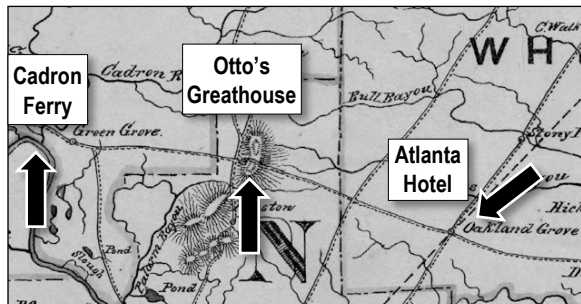
In January 1859, a few months after the Butterfield began, bowing to political pressure, the route was changed to include Little Rock.

This addition rerouted the stage from Otto's Greathouse, then south passing through Argenta (North Little Rock), arriving at Little Rock's Anthony House for mail and passengers.



OTTO'S GREATHOUSE. *The original of this 1960 photo of Otto's Greathouse is in the collection of the Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock. They have photos from various angles, but this was the best showing the front of the house.*
(Division of Arkansas Heritage, Arkansas State Archives)

Otto's Greathouse



1864 MAP OF ARKANSAS showing old road connecting Oakland Grove, Otto's Greathouse, and the Cadron Ferry.

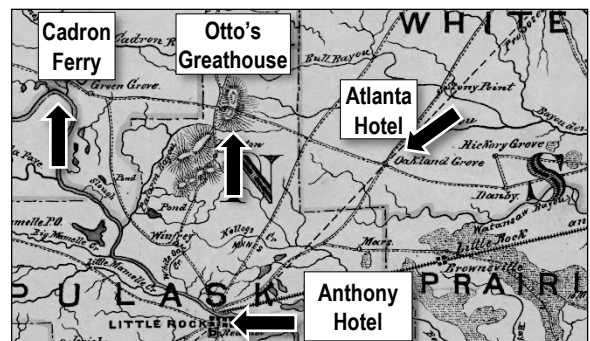
In early January 1859, when the southern loop to Little Rock was added, the Overland Mail stage would leave the Atlanta Hotel, heading west to Otto's Greathouse, then south through Argenta to Little Rock's Anthony House.

It is highly likely that the stage also stopped at Otto's Greathouse September to December 1858, when the sub-contractor Chidester, Reeside & Co. was the primary overseer of this portion of the route. It is thirty-two miles from the Atlanta Hotel to the Cadron Ferry, so a swing station at mid-point would be expected.

According to Arkansas State Archives files, this frontier log house, was built by Daniel Greathouse in

1830 at Otto, eight miles east of Conway. The archive files also mention that the house served as a residence and inn, and was a stagecoach stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail route, from 1859 to 1861. The house was relocated and rebuilt on the Faulkner County courthouse grounds in Conway in 1961.

Crossing The Arkansas River
by ferry to reach the Anthony House in Little Rock
N34 44' 52.80", W92 16' 10.86"



1864 MAP OF ARKANSAS showing old road from Oakland Grove, Otto's Greathouse, Little Rock, and Cadron Ferry.

Jared C. Martin owned and operated a ferry in Little Rock on the Memphis road, crossing the

Arkansas River two miles downstream.

According to the *Little Rock True Democrat*, by the time of November 16, 1859, the “steam ferry” at Little Rock could not keep up with the volume of stages headed west:

EMIGRATION. – The number of families moving in and through the State is unprecedented. The steam ferry boat at this place, though constantly running, cannot cross the wagons as they come, so that fifty or sixty may be seen on the opposite bank of the river.

When the Little Rock loop was added to Butterfield’s Overland Mail route in early 1859, the stage crossed on the ferry and stopped at the Anthony House in downtown Little Rock for mail and passengers. The Anthony House was a premier hotel on the southwest corner of Markham and Scott streets. In 1841 Major James C. Anthony and his son Philip bought the Peay’s House and changed the name to Anthony House.

In 1859, the Anthony House frequently published their list of guests in the *Weekly Arkansas Gazette*.

Arrivals at the Anthony House.			
WILSON STIDHAM, PROPRIETOR.			
W. Robinson, Tenn.;	Thos. Young, Texas;		
James Phillips, "	W. J. Murphy, "		
L. M. Filkins, "	T. P. Raines, "		
N. F. Little, "	Mrs. P. Smith, serv't, Ark.;		
Mrs. C. M. Hays, sv't, Ten.;	T. H. Compier, "		
T. S. Hays, "	E. E. Desmokes, "		
O. E. Durivage, "	J. W. Cunningham and		
W. L. Ballew, "	lady, "		
T. W. Tyers, "	S. W. Jackson, "		
J. S. Tyers, "	Mrs. S. Jackson, "		
T. P. Anderson, "	G. Kingsbury, "		
C. L. Smith, "	W. B. Brinkley, "		
L. D. Banks, "	J. W. Moore, "		
J. B. Smith, "	John King, "		
Col. Juge and family, "	Col. F. H. Drew, "		
Miss Mary Juge, "	G. M. Vayney, "		
C. Haynes, "	C. M. Cole, "		
W. C. Cheese, "	E. G. Allen, "		
Capt. Lynch, "	D. H. Sessions, "		
Samuel Hall, Cinn.;	G. H. Hughes, "		
M. Lindauer, "	Dr. Sherman, "		

WEEKLY ARKANSAS GAZETTE,
October 29, 1859, Saturday

Little Rock’s well-known Anthony House was a station and served as a stopping place for Butterfield passengers whether by boat or stage..

The Anthony House stood on the east half of the block bounded by East Markham, Scott, Cherry (Second St., and Main Streets. Its accommodations, as early as 1843, included a dining room 60 feet long, two parlors, 28 bedrooms, meat house, ice house, and a bar. In 1858 William H. Dawson was proprietor of this famous inn though title to the real estate belonged to the heirs of Jacob Brown. ⁹

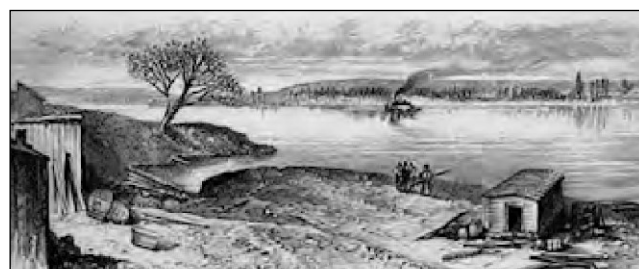


WE DO NOT HAVE A PHOTO of the *Little Rock ferry* from these years; however, we know it was a “steam ferry.” It was likely similar to this 79-x-20-foot steam ferry owned by the West Memphis Ferry Company. ca. 1895.



THE THREE-STORY ANTHONY HOUSE was a famous landmark in Little Rock. Following a fire in 1840 the three-story hotel was rebuilt with red brick.

(Photo courtesy of The
Arkansas State Archives [Image #ASA 5300.36])



VIEW OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER, where Butterfield’s Overland crossed by ferry to reach Little Rock’s Anthony House Station.

Leaving the Anthony House, the stage then headed northwest to cross Palarm Creek and entered Faulkner County.

Crossing Palarm Creek N34.903724, -W92.447587



“THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL ROUTE THROUGH FAULKNER COUNTY,” by D. Brooks Green and David A. Dempsey, *Faulkner Facts and Fiddlings, Faulkner County Historical Society, Vol. 24, Spring & Summer 1982, p 13-20.*

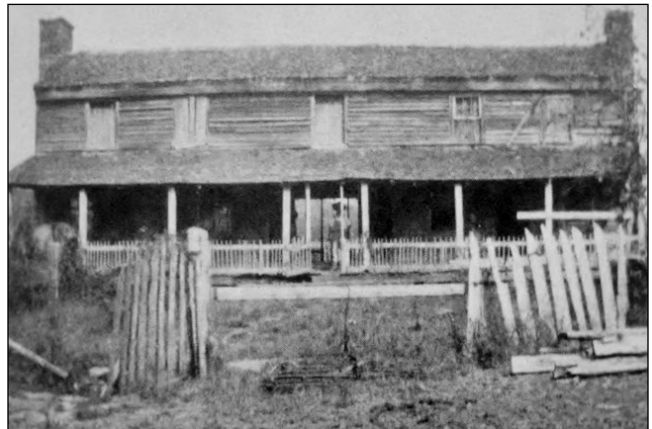
The route of Butterfield’s Overland Mail Company stage through Faulkner County is best described by D. Brooks Green and David A. Dempsey in the journal of the Faulkner County Historical Society:

This route entered Faulkner County as it crossed Palarm Creek or Bayou. The exact crossing site is not known, although the terrain suggests that it was probably within a short distance from the mouth of Palarm Creek as it enters the Arkansas River. Early records indicate that near the mouth, the stream was about sixty yards wide with high banks and a miry bottom, all of which made it difficult if not impossible for wagons to cross. That was certainly true at various times of the year, but due to river level fluctuations, wagons or stagecoaches were able to cross. Present day manipulation of water flow at that point makes it difficult to envision how the area may have looked in 1858. In any case, the creek was forded and the road



“THE OVERLAND STAGE CROSSING A STREAM WITHOUT A BRIDGE OR FERRY”

(Image is taken from “The California Overland Express: The Longest Stage Ride in the World,” by William Tallack, *Historical Society of Southern California, Quarterly Publication, Vol. XVII, Number II, June. 1935, page 34.*)



SEVIER’S TAVERN (no image exists of Hartje’s Tavern). *Faulkner County: Its Land and People, Doris B. Dolan, editor, 1986, Faulkner County Historical Society, page 177.*

entered the county and proceeded northward towards present day Mayflower. ¹⁰

The sixty-foot wide Palarm Creek was forded by the stage.

Sevier Tavern and August Hartje’s Tavern

August Hartje built his tavern about 1854, and 1.5 miles south, Mike Sevier built his tavern about 1860. The Butterfield’s stage stopped at the Sevier Tavern or the Hartje’s Tavern after crossing Palarm Creek.

Some sources only list the Hartje Tavern.¹¹ Other sources indicate that the Savier Tavern was the normal stop, but when the Palarm Creek flooded, the stage



THIS SECTION OF THE BUTTERFIELD STAGE LINE TRAIL was located just south of Sevier's Tavern and northwest of Mayflower.

The photo is circa 1947. *Pine Mountain Americans*, by Ruff Haydn, Hobson Book Press, 110 pages, January 1, 1947.

stopped at the Hartje Tavern because it was on higher ground.

According to Ted Worley, traveling north from Little Rock to the Cadron Ferry (west of Conway in Faulkner County) the stage frequently followed the 1827 "Old Military Road" instead of blazing new roads.¹²

Cadron Creek's Ferry 35.114209, -92.533529

Approaching the Cadron Ferry, the stage was now back on the original route, having completed the southern loop to Little Rock. James L. Dawson, surveying for the future Military road, reported in 1826 that Cadron creek was seventy yards wide, miry bottom, banks high and firm, and never fordable by wagons.¹³

Crossing on the Cadron Ferry, the stage continued west to Plummer's Station, Lewisburg, Hurricane, Potts Inn, Norristown, the Dardanelle Ferry crossing



BUTTERFIELD'S OVERLAND CROSSED CADRON CREEK BY FERRY NEAR THIS LOCATION.

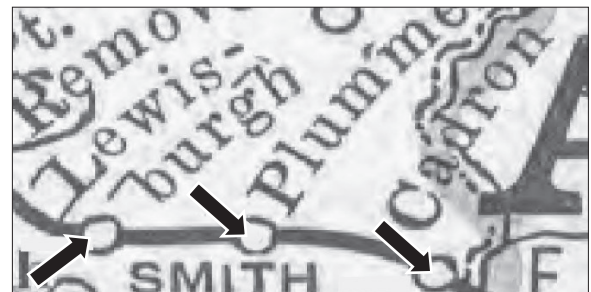
(The Butterfield Overland Mail Route Through Faulkner County," by D. Brooks Green and David A. Dempsey, *Faulkner Facts and Fiddlings*, Faulkner County Historical Society, Vol. 24, Spring & Summer 1982, pp. 13-20.)



WE HAVE NO DESCRIPTION of the Cadron Ferry, but the South Dakota image above is typical of a simple flat-bottom ferry of the 1850's in common use across Arkansas.

and on toward Fort Smith.

Plummer's Station N35°09'22.1" W92°38'34.5"



1881 MAP SHOWING Lewisburg, Plummer's and Cadron Ferry

Crossing at Cadron Ferry the Overland stage next stopped at Plummer's Station, where Samuel Plummer was the station agent. The community that arose around

the station is now called Plumerville. The Plummer's Swing Station building survives but is in great disrepair.

Samuel Plummer, the founder of the community spelled his name with two "m's" but the community spells Plumerville with one "m."



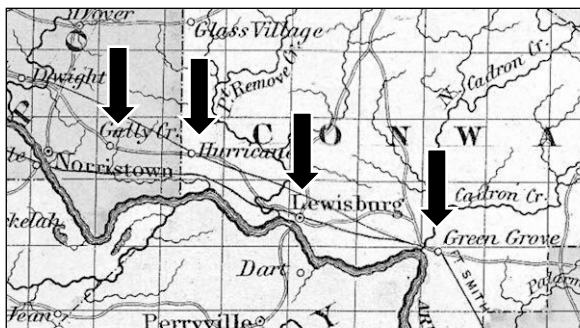
SAMUEL PLUMMER
(1800-79), station agent
of Plummer's Station
(Courtesy of David Plummer)

"Plummer's Station, 301 S. Van Buren Street, Plumerville, Arkansas. Originally constructed ca. 1830, Plummer's Station is significant for its association with the namesake of Plumerville, as a witness structure to the Trail of Tears, and a stagecoach stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. In the 1830's, Samuel Plummer purchased 160 acres of high ground north of the Arkansas River at present-day Plumerville. The land included a 14' x 14' log cabin that was later enlarged to accommodate Plummer's leather workshop and a tavern and inn on the route from Little Rock to Fort Smith. About 1900, wood siding was added to the home's exterior. The interior walls were covered with plank boards, preserving the original logs within the frame walls.

Plummer's home was visited by John Bell and Edward Deas during the removal of the Cherokee in December 1838, making it one of three remaining structures in Arkansas to bear witness to the Trail of Tears.¹⁴

Lewisburg Station

N35 08' 30.31", W92 44' 09.42"



THIS 1855 MAP shows the stagecoach road between Cadron, Lewisburg, Hurricane, and Gally Creek.
(1855 Map of Arkansas, by J.H. Colton & Co., New York)

Leaving Plummer's Station and heading west, the next station was at the river port of Lewisburg. The Lewisburg community is now a part of the south side



PLUMMER'S STATION as it appeared about 1950.
About 1900, this log house's exterior was covered with wood siding.



THE PLUMMER'S STATION adjacent leather shop as it appears in 2020.

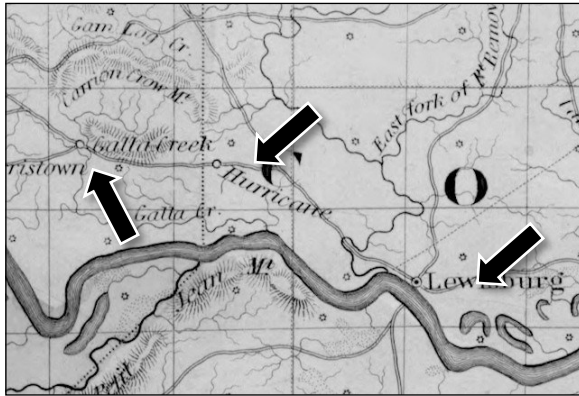
"Preserve Arkansas, 2020 Most Endangered Places Spotlight: Plummer's Station," May 24, 2020, www.facebook.com/PreserveAR/posts/10158244201504356

of today's Morrilton. Today several hundred people live in the old Lewisburg community but only one or two of the homes look like they might have existed in 1858-1861 when the Butterfield Overland Mail stage was passing through.

There is no Butterfield historical marker in Lewisburg, but a two-sided historical marker tells of the founding of the community and its Civil War history, and flagstone stone monument in the northeast corner of the Lewisburg cemetery records the founding of the community. The inscription reads:

These stones memorialize old Lewisburg. First trading post of Conway County. Established 1825 by Stephen D. Lewis. Made County Seat in 1831 to 1850, again 1873 to 1884. Incorporated 1844. This marker erected by Lewisburg H. D. (Home Demonstration) Club 1937.

Hurricane Flag Station
N35°14'13.5" W92°54'14.2"



THIS 1852 MAP OF ARKANSAS shows the location of Hurricane west of Lewisburg Station, and nine miles east of Galla Creek's Potts Station.

(1852 Map of Arkansas, by D. F. Shall, Little Rock Surveyors Office)

Leaving Lewisburg and heading west fourteen miles on the Old Military Road, the next station was at Hurricane where Stephen D. Lewis was the U.S. postmaster.

Although local memories are certain that this was indeed the swing station of the Overland Mail, we are still looking for contemporary sources from 1858 to 1861 for confirmation. It may very well be that Hurricane was not a regular stop, but a "Flag Station." At a Flag Station the stage would be flagged down if there were passengers or mail needing to be picked up.

We know that a post office existed at Hurricane, east of Potts Inn. In the 1840's when Kirkbride Potts was the postmaster of Galley Creek (now called Pottsville) he had to fill out and personally sign a form



THIS IS THE BUILDING that the current property owners and neighbors have always been told served as a Swing Station for the Butterfield Overland Mail Co.



SITE OF LEWISBURG showing stone marker.



THIS MODERN PAINTING depicting "The City of Lewisburg 1852" is displayed at the Morrilton railroad Station Museum in downtown Morrilton.



LOOKING AT THIS 2021 PHOTO by Margaret Motley, if you listen carefully, you can almost hear the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage as it traveled over this original route near Hurricane on the Old Military/Wire Road.¹⁶



(LEFT) POTTS STATION at Galla Creek is the only surviving home station in Arkansas. It is now a museum.



(RIGHT) We do not have a photo of Kirkbride Potts' 1828 two-story log house. Most likely it was similar to this circa 1834 home in northwest Arkansas, the John Latta residence on the grounds of the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.

(Image in Public Domain)

for the Postmaster General. On that 1840's form we read, "The name of the nearest office on the same route on the other side is Hurricane and its distance is 9 miles in an East direction from it." ¹⁵

Potts Station Home of Kirkbride Potts at Galla Creek

Nine miles west of the Hurricane, was a larger "Home Station" known as the Potts Inn, with Kirkbride Potts as station master and postmaster.

Potts Station is the only surviving Home Station in Arkansas and is now a museum making more information and photographs available. It's a shame that so many of the other Overland Station details have faded into history.

At the larger Home Stations, like Potts Inn in Galley Creek, a fresh team was provided. Also, the stagecoach's axles were greased, and the passengers could disembark for a quick bite to eat. If the stage was on schedule, passengers were allotted two breaks each day of no more than forty minutes rest while eating at a Home Station, before reboarding the coach to continue their journey.

Meals cost the passengers from forty cents to a dollar. At more civilized stations such as the Potts



KIRKBRIDE POTTS
station agent for Potts
Station

(Image from the Potts Inn
Museum)

Home Station, passengers came to expect a hearty meal of hot cakes, corn bread, biscuits, pork, fish or wild game, beans, bread, butter, sweet milk and coffee.

For example, at the Fayetteville Home Station, passenger William Tallack reports:

Our commissariat here amply amends for our recent desert fare. This evening we had a good supper of eggs, honey, potatoes, French beans, steaks and pastry in abundance, and with courtesy; the latter you do not always receive in addition, when in the plains or elsewhere. ¹⁷

Unlike the great food at the Potts Station, at isolated Overland Stations across the west, fare might be wormy biscuits and grease-laden meat of unknown source.

We don't have a unique report for conditions at Potts Station. However, a historian wrote that typically:

At the stage Home Station you would find a stationmaster in charge, a handful of hostlers to care for the animals, and perhaps a rough eating house or restaurant. The buildings would be of logs, whipsawed lumber, sod or adobe, depending on the location. There'd probably be a tin basin on a bench beside the door where you could wash up, aided by some soft soap in a side dish—soap that would curl the hide off a hippo. A roller towel that had seen better days, and a more or less toothless comb, detained by a rawhide string, would help you complete your toilette. Inside



WE DO NOT HAVE A PHOTO OF THE DARDANELLE FLAT-BOAT FERRY from 1858. Most likely it was similar to this “Flatboat Crossing the Missouri River,” circa 1870.

(Cowley County Historical Society Museum, Winfield, Kansas, www.cchsm.com/resources/photos/cc_transportation_history/flatboat.html)

there'd be a big fireplace, acid sputtering tallow candles . . . your meal would be the inevitable hog and hominy or beef and beans of the frontier. ¹⁸

In 1828, at the age of twenty-five, Kirkbride Potts moved to an Arkansas river port known as Galla Rock. Shortly afterward, Potts moved north about seven miles to Galley Creek and bought 160 acres from the government for twenty-five cents an acre. He later enlarged his holdings to 650 acres. He chose a high spot on that land at the foot of Crow Mountain near Galla Creek and built a log house in 1828 for his growing family. In 1858, about a mile south of the log house, he built a grander house where Potts descendants lived until 1970 when they sold it to the Pope County Historical Foundation. ¹⁹

Potts was appointed postmaster of Galley Creek (sometimes called Gally Creek or Galla Creek) by the president of the United States. Butterfield Overland Mail addressed to Galley Creek or Galla Rock (actually on the banks of the Arkansas River seven miles to the southeast), was delivered to postmaster Kirkbride Potts at his home. That mail was handled in the living room using a desk that Potts had designed and built.

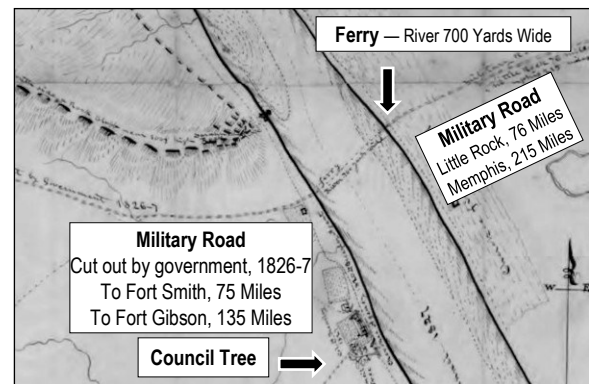
The Norristown to Dardanelle Ferry Over the Arkansas River

Kirby Sanders wrote, “The ferry landing well on the south bank of the Arkansas River at Dardanelle has been reasonably well documented in the vicinity of River Front Park and the southwestern foot of the modern Arkansas Highway 27/7 Bridge.” ²⁰

Just eleven years after the Overland, on November 5, 1872, the *Little Rock Republican* described the ferry at Dardanelle upon the occasion of a circus crossing the

river. “The ferry was simply a flat-boat arrangement, and of course necessarily slow and tedious.” ²¹

More than likely, based on the newspaper description, the Dardanelle ferry at the time of Butterfield’s Overland looked something like this flat-boat ferry pictured above that was on the Missouri River in Kansas.

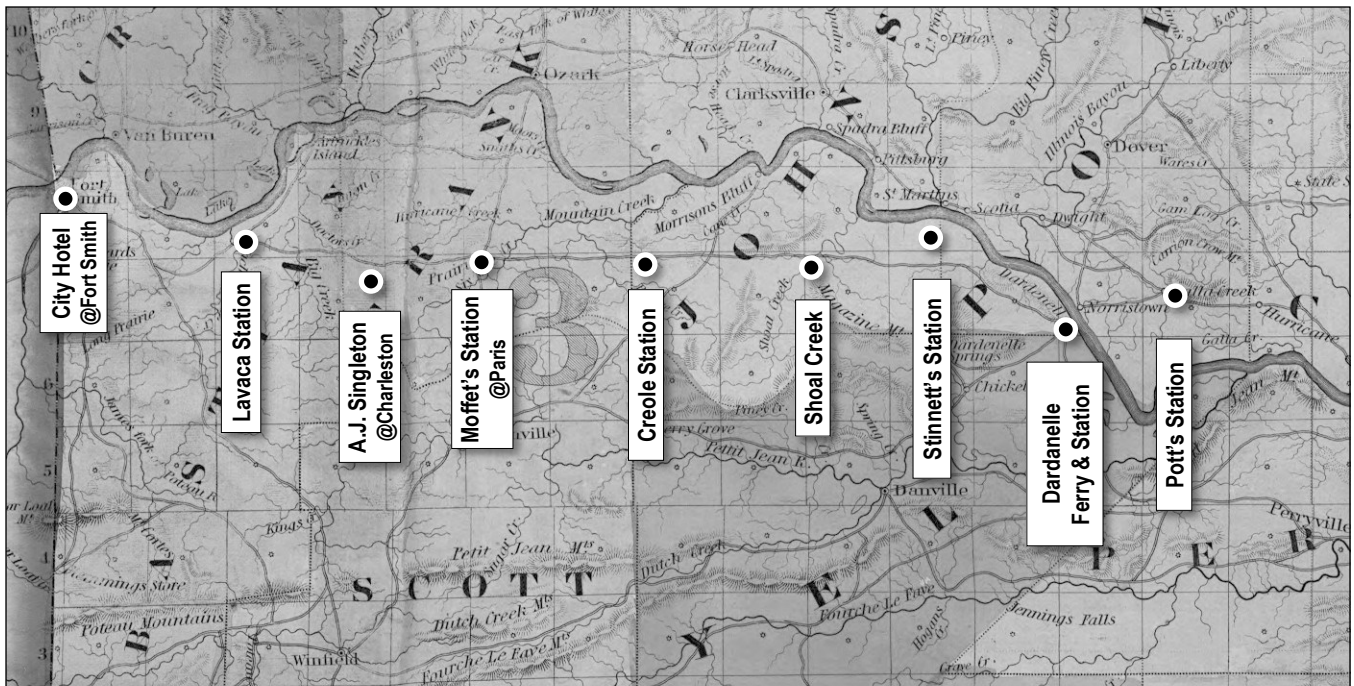


1827 MAP SHOWING Indian agent’s home (present-day Dardanelle) and ferry crossing site. also shows the 1826 Military Road that connects Fort Smith and Little Rock. Council Tree is where the territorial governor met with the Cherokee chief in 1823.

(Map 0194, Map collection inventory, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, AR)

At the time Butterfield’s Overland crossed the Arkansas River by ferry at Dardanelle we do not know the ferry rates. However, just twelve miles downstream at the Galley Rock ferry, the rates as of January 25, 1858, as revealed in his petition to the court for a renewal license, are as follows: ²²

For each wagon and two horses or oxen	\$1.50
Four-wheel carriage and one horse	75¢



STATIONS WEST OF DARDANELLE

Two-wheel carriage and one horse.....	50¢
Each man with one horse.....	25¢
Each lead horse	10¢
Each loose horse or cattle.....	10¢
Each footman.....	10¢
Each sheep or dog.....	5¢

On January 4, 1859, a correspondent for the *San Francisco Evening Bulletin* wrote about his experience at the Dardanelle ferry:

When we reached Dardanelles (Dardanelle, Arkansas) it was late at night, and raining in an old fashioned way . . . We were most unceremoniously turned out of the coach by the driver and delivered into the charge of the ferryman, who took the mail-bags on his shoulder, and, his lantern in hand, told us to follow up to this boat at the ferry landing, about one mile distant up the river . . . placing our blankets on our back, and valise in hand, the passengers proceeded to accompany him, through a torrent of rain . . . We all got soaking wet by the time we reached the coach on the opposite bank, and three of our party were considerably used up, next day, from the effects of the drenching." ²³

The Overland stage travelled on the Old Military Road from Dardanelle to Fort Smith. According to

"Little Rock to Cantonment Gibson Road" in the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, the construction of that road was approved by Congress on March 3, 1825.

The road was to travel from Little Rock to Dardanelle (Yell County) north of the Arkansas River, avoiding Petit Jean Mountain and its surrounding bayous. It was to cross to the south of the Arkansas River at Dardanelle, to continue toward Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

The total distance of the road from Indian Territory to Little Rock was estimated at 208 miles, seven chains, and seventy-two links.

Stations West of Dardanelle

NOTE: When GPS locations are cited as location of the following stations, most of those have come from Kirby Sander's work, The Butterfield Overland Mail Ox Bow Route Through Arkansas and Oklahoma, 1858 -1861, first edition, 2013.

Stinnett's Home Station

Leaving the Dardanelle Ferry and Station, heading west the stage would arrive at Stinnett's Station. There is a historical marker near the site of the Stinnett Butterfield Swing Station on Highway 22, along the lake, west of Dardanelle. Approximate coordinates are N35° 16' 38.80", W93° 16' 28.37".



SITE OF STINNETT'S HOME STATION. *The historical marker is in center of photo.*



NANCY ANN STINNET ROLLANS was born 1855 to the station master, Moses and Patsy Stinnett. She married into the Rollans family of New Blaine and helped found that town. Nancy's son's store was the Greyhound bus stop for years.

(Image courtesy of Curtis Varnell, Ph.D., Western Ark. Ed. Service Coop.)

The historical marker at this site reads:

Moses and Patsy Stinnett established this station in 1850 along the Military Road between Little Rock and Fort Smith.

When the Butterfield Overland Mail Co. began operations along the route, the Stinnetts contracted to provide a Swing Station with coaches and teams of horses.

The station was about 100 yards from this marker on the east side of the Stinnett Creek, near the Stinnett Cemetery.²⁴

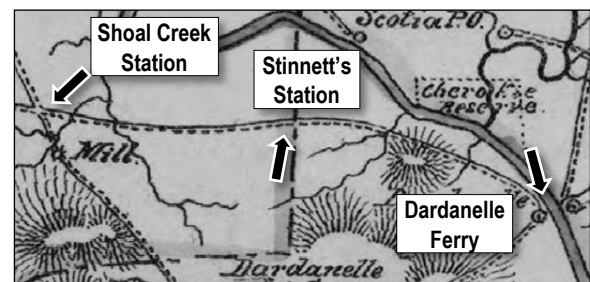
From Stinnett's Station to Fort Smith the Overland stage followed the Old Military Road.

Finished in 1836, the road connected Dardanelle to Fort Gibson, OK. while running through Paris, Charleston, Lavaca, and Fort Smith. Originally it was built to assist the military in moving supplies and men as needed into Indian Territory.

General Arbuckle and his men mapped out part of the road, at least as far as Fort Smith, and his men were given the task of constructing that portion of the road.

The general felt he had other duties to complete but, after a year's delay, he began his portion of the road in 1826.²⁵

Shoal Creek Swing Station



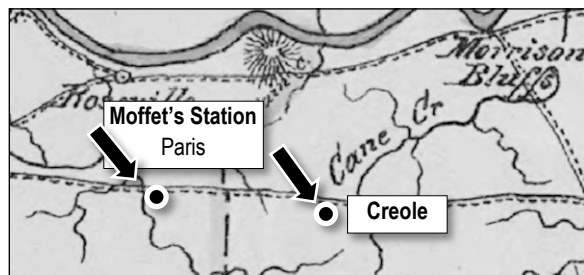
1864 MAP SHOWING STAGECOACH ROAD
from Dardanelle Ferry to Shoal Creek.

Dr. Curtis Varnell:

I think there was a swing station just out of what was the town of Shoal Creek. It was a thriving community at the time and I know that Jo Shelby and his troops camped there in 1863.

There was an old barn located just west of town and I can remember passing it on the bus and watching it crumble. It was made of logs and wooden shakes etc. I have some photos of the foundation that still exists. It is located right on a creek and a steep path goes from the road to the creek so you can see where possibly horses or animals were taken to the creek for water. I was always told that was a Butterfield station.

Creole Swing Station



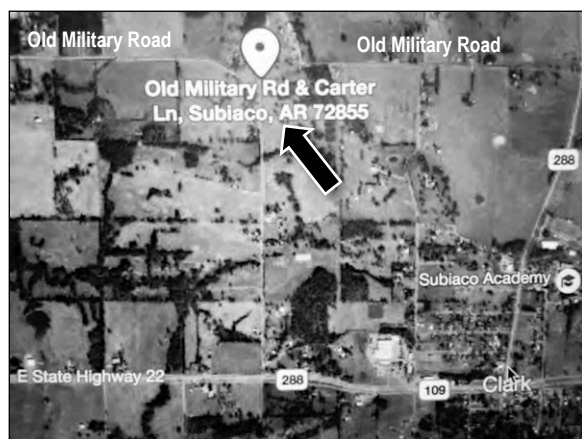
1864 MAP showing old road between Creole and Paris

Creole community was located on the Military Road five miles south of the Arkansas River. The name of the community may have come from Cajun pioneers from Louisiana.

The 1987 *Logan County, Arkansas: Its History and its People* records:

Creole was a relay station on the Old Military Road where stagecoaches traveling between Dardanelle and Fort Smith stopped to change horses and to give passengers a rest. Creole is located a mile west of Subiaco, and a mile north of Highway 22. The Arkansas River was five miles north . . . In 1888 the post office was closed and the settlement of Creole perished.

The Creole site, along with 160 surrounding acres, was deeded to Ranson C. Hart in 1858. He sold the land to J.J. Looman in 1860. In 2020, the Frank Schluterman family lived on a portion of the original 160 acres.



THE CREOLE STATION would have been one mile northwest of Subiaco on the Old Military Road as shown here by the red arrow. The Creole Station was designated an official Post Office in 1877 with Josiah Hickman as the first postmaster.²⁶



MOFFET'S STATION is thought to have been near this site. This is a 2021 photo of the land southwest of the intersection of Kalamazoo Road and Old Military Road, northeast of Paris, Arkansas.

Moffet's Home Station (Paris)

N35° 18' 36.51", W93° 42' 10.45"

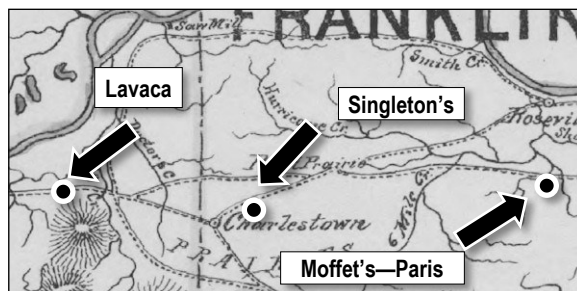
Dr. Curtis Varnell of the Western Arkansas Educational Service Cooperative reports that on September 27, 1863, General Jo Shelby led a contingent of 800 men along the road from Shoal Creek to near Paris. Four or five abreast with twelve wagons and two cannon, the column would have stretched nearly a mile.

Meeting 200 men of the first Arkansas Infantry union under Captain William Parker, the battle ensued. Union reports refer to the site of this skirmish as "Moffet's Station."

This reference by the Union forces indicate that this location had been a stage station prior to the outbreak of the Civil War.

The exact site of "Moffet's Station" has not been located specifically, but it was in the vicinity of Kalamazoo Road and Old Military Road northeast of Paris (approximate coordinates N35° 18' 36.51", W93° 42' 10.45").

A. J. Singleton Swing Station (Charleston)



1864 MAP SHOWING OLD ROAD between Moffet's, Singleton's and Lavaca.

At Charleston, Arkansas, the A. J. Singleton Station was built in late 1850 for the stagecoach. Andrew J. Singleton was born near Nashville, Tennessee, on December 16, 1814, and died on February 29, 1888. He was the father of Mrs. J. A. Cormack. The property passed on to the Cormack family who were still the property owners when the photograph below was taken in 1976.

According to the files of the Fort Smith Public Library, the Singleton Station had stables, blacksmith shop, country store, and a horse operated cotton gin. The same file indicates that the A. J. Singleton home was dismantled and relocated to the Combs Cavanaugh Dairy Farm in Fort Smith. About 2014, the first floor of the home had been reassembled, but the project was left unfinished.



SINGLETON'S STATION, showing the rear side. At the time of the Butterfield there was a kitchen addition on this side of the house.

(Charleston Express, July 9, 1976)

Lavaca's Swing Stations at Oak Bower on the Strang's or Andrew's Land

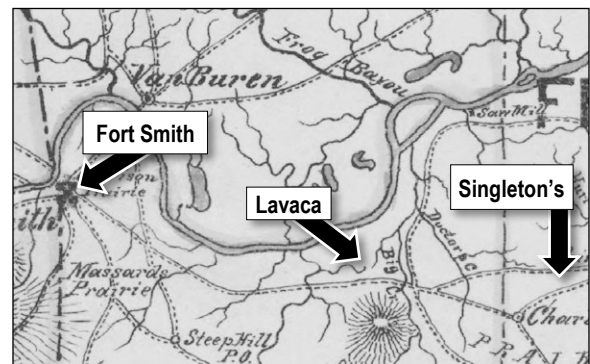
N35° 20' 7.69", W94° 9' 0.62"

Or N35° 20' 11.24", W94° 11' 10.56"

Kirby Sanders writes that Jack James (curator of the Military Road Museum in Lavaca, Arkansas) reports local stories that indicate the possibility of two local stage stations in the vicinity of Lavaca. Those locations are said to be on property long owned by the James A. Strang and Bronson Andrews families respectively.

The Strang Station site is across the street from 2706 E. Main near Feather Hill Road, Lavaca, Arkansas (N35° 20' 7.69", W94° 9' 0.62") where the old town, Oak Bower once stood.

John Rogers City Hotel Home Station Fort Smith



1864 MAP showing old Military Road between Singleton's and Fort Smith.

The schedule called for the Memphis and St. Louis stages to both arrive in Fort Smith at 3 o'clock in the morning every Monday and Friday. The stage from San Francisco was scheduled to arrive at Fort Smith's City Hotel every Sunday and Wednesday about 12:30 in the afternoon.

Arriving from Memphis, the stage headed to the City Hotel on Washington Street (now called Second Street) where the Overland Station was originally located. The City Hotel was built by John Rogers who is known as the "Founder of Fort Smith." On November 26, 1858, a passenger wrote:

The stage stops at the City Hotel, where most of the persons connected with the O. L. M. Co. board. On landing at this comfortable abode, I was most kindly welcomed by Mr. J. K. McKenzie the proprietor. Californians could not well fall into better hands, enjoy



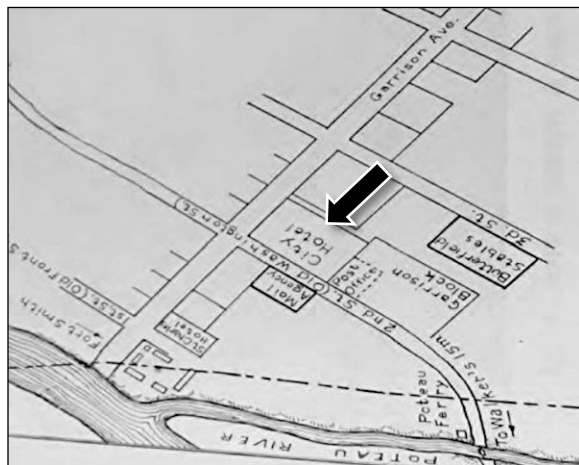
ON THE EAST SIDE OF LAVACA, the Overland stopped at the Strang homestead near the intersection of E. Main and Feather Hill Road. The arrow points to all that remains of the Strang Station—an old well that was once dug in the shadow of a large ancient oak tree according to Paul Strang. Lynn Strang reports that in about 1954 an old wooden trading post building and well was still standing across the road, twenty-five feet west of the existing house.



THE OVERLAND STAGE OFFICE AT THE CITY HOTEL in Fort Smith. *The Roberts Library/Butler Center collection dates this photo as circa 1870.*

(UA Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture)

more pleasant quarters, or obtain choicer fare than they will find here."²⁷



MAP SHOWING LOCATION of City Hotel where Butterfield Station was located "The Butterfield Overland Mail," R. Conklin, drawn in 1932, Vol. 3, plate 29.

The Overland stables, with fifty to 100 horses and mules, were located behind the City Hotel facing Third Street. The Overland Mail Co. maintained a large agency with spare coaches and Celerity wagons stored here because Fort Smith was the junction point where the St. Louis and Memphis stages met and merged into



THE CORNER OF SECOND AND GARRISON in 2021, where the City Hotel was once located.

a new stage before entering Indian Territory.

A Closing Word about the Arrival of the St. Louis Stage

The stage arriving from St. Louis, upon arriving at Van Buren, would cross the Arkansas River on a ferry. In September 1858 passenger Waterman Ormsby

wrote about crossing the mud flats when exiting the ferry after reaching the Fort Smith side.

Our course through the soft bed of the flats, which were not covered [by water] owing to the low state of the river was somewhat hazardous, as our heavy load was liable to be sunk on the quicksands which abound here. But by the aid of a guide on horseback, with a lantern (for it was night), we crossed the flats and up the steep sandy banks in safety. Picking our way cautiously for five or six miles, we reached Fort Smith . . . at five minutes after two o'clock a.m., having made the 65 miles from Fayetteville in 14 hours and 7 minutes or three hours and seven minutes less than scheduled time.²⁸

Ormsby, a passenger on the first Overland stage described the Van Buren/Fort Smith ferry when he said he crossed on “a flat boat much resembling a raft.”²⁹

Within a year, the simple flat-boat ferry was replaced by a “high tech” ferry propelled by a team of horses which operated a turnstile and pulley system from the Fort Smith side of the river.

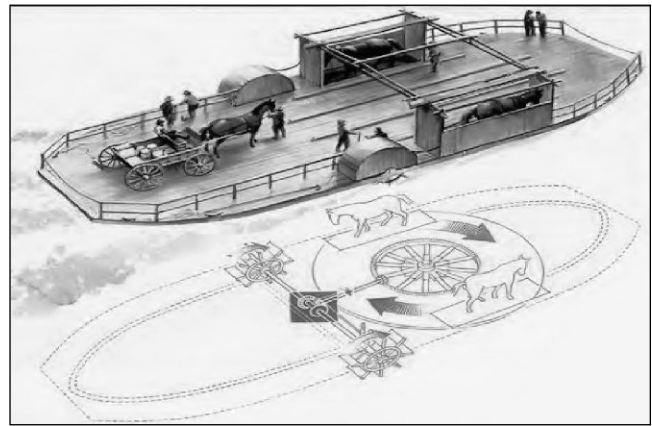
In July 1860 passenger William Tallack describes the new “high tech” Van Buren/Fort Smith ferry:

In the evening we crossed the Arkansas River, on a ferry propelled by two horses walking round a sort of treadmill, or nearly horizontal wheel, communicating motion to the paddles. This kind of locomotive power we had not previously met with, nor did we see any recurrence of it subsequently.³⁰

William Tallack seems to be describing a ferry similar to the 63-foot-length-by-18-foot-beam *Superior Horse Boat Eagle* that was operating in 1841 out of Westport, New York. This New York ferry was featured in the October 1989 issue of *National Geographic*.

According to reports by Van Buren’s *The Press Argus*, this ferry was seized and burned by General Blount when he marched his troops into Van Buren after the Battle of Prairie Grove in December 1862.

Upon the arrival of the first Overland Mail Co. stage at 1:50 a.m. on September 19, 1858, completing the trip from Memphis in record time of forty hours, a celebration broke out in Fort Smith. Business was suspended for the day, homes were decorated, and the fort fired a multiple cannon salute. The parade included wagons, floats, and the Fort Smith brass band marching through the streets of the town followed by champagne



A SKETCH OF THE SUPERIOR HORSE BOAT EAGLE. This ferry seems similar to the one William Tallack described the Van Buren/Fort Smith ferry after being aboard the vessel in July 1860.

at Everle’s. The details of that celebration, and the story of the City Hotel fire will have to wait for another issue of the *Journal*.



Dr. Bob Crossman is a member of the Arkansas Historical Association, Faulkner County Historical Society, and the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History. Bob received a B.A. from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, and received graduate and post-graduate degrees from SMU in Dallas, Texas. He can be reached at bcrossman@arumc.org.

This article is an excerpt of his book, *Butterfield's Overland Mail Co. Stagecoach Trail Across Arkansas 1858-1861*."

Endnotes

- ¹ *The Butterfield Overland Mail in Arkansas*, by W.J. Lemke and Ted R. Worley, p. 16.
- ² "Frisco Bridge," last updated Oct. 9, 2020, [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org).
- ³ *The Butterfield Overland Mail Route Lucian Wood Road Segment*. Archived Feb. 1, 2014, at the Wayback Machine History & Architecture: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.
- ⁴ *Arkansas; A Guide to the State*, by Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Arkansas, 1941, p. 54.
- ⁵ *Memphis Daily Avalanche*, May 24, 1859.
- ⁶ "The Butterfield Overland Mail—Memphis to Fort Smith Branch," by Ted R. Worley, p. 14.
- ⁷ "The Butterfield Overland Mail—Memphis to Fort Smith Branch," by Ted R. Worley, p. 14.

- ⁸ *Weekly Arkansas Gazette*, Oct. 2, 1858, p. 2.
- ⁹ *The Overland Mail in Arkansas*, by W. J. Lemke and Ted R. Worley, p. 14.
- ¹⁰ "The Butterfield Overland Mail Route Through Faulkner County," by D. Brooks Green and David A. Dempsey, *Faulkner Facts and Fiddlings*, Faulkner County Historical Society, Vol. 24, Spring & Summer 1982, pp. 13-20.
- ¹¹ "Historical Map of Faulkner County, Arkansas," *Faulkner County 1873 Centennial*, W. E. Bailey, 1973.
- ¹² The Butterfield Overland Mail—Memphis to Fort Smith Branch, by Tom Worley, Arkansas History Commission, 1957, p. 12.
- ¹³ "Early Arkansas Travel and the Old Wire Road," Delwanda Glover, *Faulkner Facts and Fiddlings*, Faulkner County Historical Society, Summer 1964, p. 29.
- ¹⁴ "Preserve Arkansas, 2020 Most Endangered Places Spotlight: Plummer's Station," May 24, 2020, www.facebook.com/PreserveAR/posts/10158244201504356.
- ¹⁵ "Site Location Reports of Post Offices, 1837-1950," on microfilm at the Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, catalog # MG02116 AHC.
- ¹⁶ Photo by Margaret Motley, February 2021, Overland Mail route near Hurricane.
- ¹⁷ "The California Overland Express: The Longest Stage Ride in the World," by William Tallack, *Historical Society of Southern California*, Quarterly Publication, Vol. XVII, Number III, Sept. 1935, page 91.
- ¹⁸ *900 Miles on the Butterfield Trail*, by A. C. Greene, University of North Texas Press, Denton, Texas, 1994, p. 23.
- ¹⁹ "Kirkbride Potts," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/john-kirkbridepotts-78>.
- ²⁰ "New Data," by Kirby Sanders, February 2012.
- ²¹ *Little Rock Republican*, Nov. 5, 1872.
- ²² *A Heart Within a Valley: A History of the Atkins Area*, by John C. Stroud, Centennial Bicentennial Committee, History Committee, 1976.
- ²³ *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, Jan. 4, 1859.
- ²⁴ "Stinnett's Station" historical marker on Highway 22, west of Dardanelle, Arkansas.
- ²⁵ "The Old Dirt Road," Curtis Varnell, one-page typed manuscript.
- ²⁶ "Creole," Joe Carter, one-page typed manuscript.
- ²⁷ *The First Overland Mail; San Francisco to Memphis*, by Walter B. Lang, 1945, p. 44.
- ²⁸ *The Butterfield Overland Mail*, by Waterman Ormsby, edited by Wright and Bynum, Huntington Library.
- ²⁹ *The Butterfield Overland Mail*, by Waterman L. Ormsby, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California, p. 45.
- ³⁰ "The California Overland Express: The Longest Stage Ride in the World," by William Tallack, *Historical Society of Southern California*, Quarterly Publication, Vol. XVII, Number III, September 1935, p. 89.

Suggestions for Submission of Articles

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

Manuscripts, including quotations and footnotes, must be double-spaced, using *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press). Footnotes should be numbered consecutively in the text, assembled at the end of the article, along with a list of additional sources.

The author's name, address, and phone number and email address should appear only on the title page. Manuscripts may be submitted on CD disks, using word-processing programs supported by Windows. Photographs should be submitted in digital format.

All correspondence and manuscripts should be submitted to:

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

Rev. Dr. A.J. Parish, Jr.

Sebastian County Coroner

By Sherry Toliver

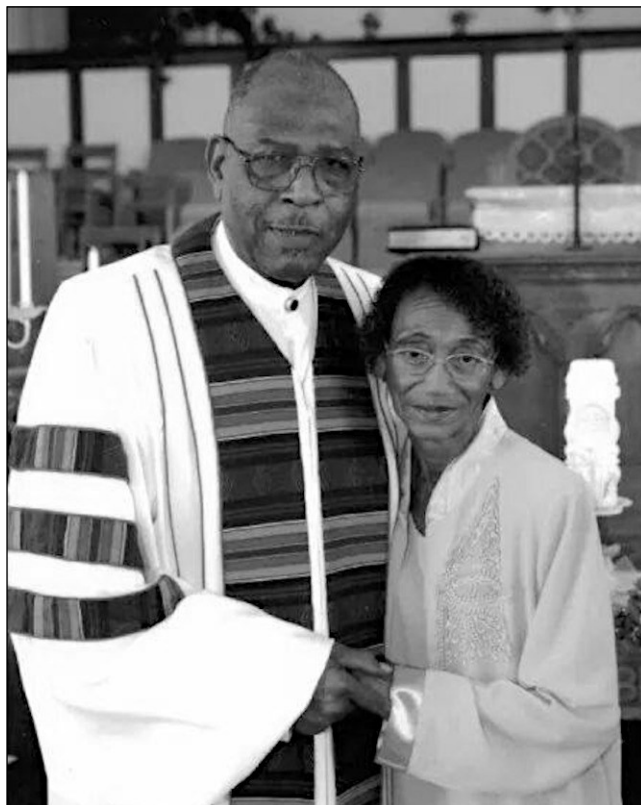
Andrew Jackson Parish, Jr. was born January 14, 1936, in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the only child of Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Parish, Sr. The family moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, when he was a small child. After he graduated from high school in Pine Bluff at the age of fifteen, Andrew, Jr. attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff before leaving school to join the Air Force, where he served as an air policeman for the law enforcement agency. After two enlistments, including being the first African American to serve in the Selective Service, he moved to Little Rock, attended Shorter College and Arkansas Baptist College where he graduated in 1961 with a philosophy in religion major.

He met and married the former Ruth Cowan. Their union was blessed with five children: Harold, Carol, Michael, Jeanette, and Mae.

Following in his father's footsteps, young Andrew Parish, Jr. decided to seek a life in ministry and enrolled in the Jackson Theological Seminary of North Little Rock. Upon receiving that degree, Parish served as pastor for Christ Temple Church of Searcy for three years. Later, when the pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church of Little Rock became homebound due to a stroke, Rev. Parish was invited to serve as associate pastor. In January 1966 he took over the reigns of the Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Smith and remained there until his passing in 2014.

Again enrolling in an institution of higher education, Rev. Parish received a bachelor of science degree from Central State University, now the University of Central Oklahoma, where he studied pathology. He worked in nursing at the Veterans Administration Hospital. In association with that occupation, Parish completed both basic and advanced courses in medico-legal death investigation and forensic pathology investigation at the Forensic Pathology Department of the St. Louis University School of Medicine. He also took a degree from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, and a doctorate of divinity.

His professional organization membership included the National Association of Medical Examiners, the Arkansas Coroner's Association, and the Antioch



REV. ANDREW JACKSON PARISH, JR. and his wife, Ruth, in the Ninth Street Baptist Church

District Association, of which he was elected president. He was a 33rd degree Mason, a member of Widow's Son Lodge No. 3 where he served as chaplain and a member of E.O. Trent Consistory No. 223.

Parish became licensed in Arkansas as a mortician and funeral director. He started as an assistant manager of Miller Funeral Home in Little Rock. In 1967, moving to Fort Smith, Parish managed the Rowell Mortuary after the owner, W.A. Rowell, died and eventually owned and operated Rowell Parish Mortuary on Ninth Street in Fort Smith.

Rev. A.J. Parish, Jr. is considered a pioneer. The Air Force veteran was the first African American to serve on a Selective Service Board and in 1988 he became the first African American in Arkansas to be elected to the office of County Coroner. He was last elected to the position in 2004. He retired from the coroner's office in 2006.



NINTH STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

County coroners are charged with investigating sudden, violent, or unusual deaths in their jurisdiction, providing evidence and scientific data concerning the death and circumstances of it to law officers. The coroner signs the death certificate and acts as a point of information to family of the deceased. Records of deaths and statistical data are maintained in the coroner's office.

It might be said that Rev. Andrew Jackson Parish, Jr. was successful in all of these complicated duties as he was consistently re-elected over a period of eighteen years. It might also be said that duty called him out at all hours of the night, and many types of deaths occurred, some of them no doubt suspicious and because of foul play or strange accidents. His experiences in this field will be the subject of a planned series of articles in the *Journal* about this side of Fort Smith life and culture.

Rev. A.J. Parish died on October 3, 2014. During his life, he wore many hats. He was a husband, father, grandfather, pastor, counselor, teacher, Mason,

mortician, funeral director, coroner, and friend to all he met. He was a humble man, kind and non-judgmental. His mortuary business was in the heart of the black business community on North Ninth Street. It was his mission field. Many of the funeral services he performed were done at no cost. Both his business and his home were located a few blocks apart near the Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church, where he pastored for so many years.



Sherry Toliver is a Leadership Fort Smith graduate and was recognized as a woman of distinction by the Mount Magazine Girl Scout Council. She co-founded the Lincoln Echo newspaper and co-authored Lincoln High School History Book: A Significant Past, Solid Present, and a Sacred Future, which has become a reference book for historical research. Ms. Toliver is the current president of the Fort Smith Historical Society.

Hal R. Smith

'The Finest Arm of Any Catcher in the League'

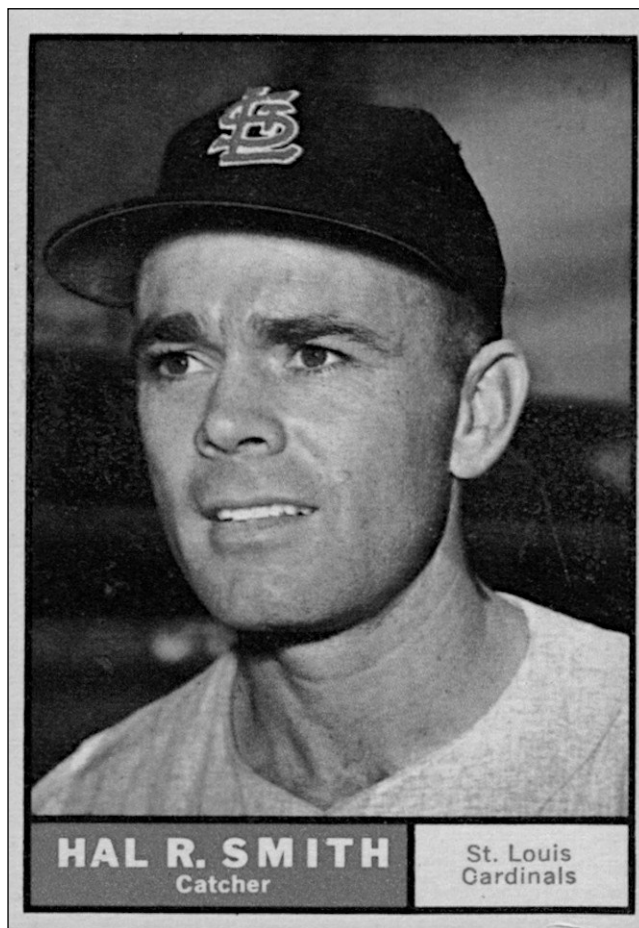
By Bruce Harris

Hal R. Smith's seven-year major league career (1956-61; 1965) overlapped with that of fellow catcher¹ Hal W. Smith (1955-64), who is remembered for his crucial home run in Game Seven of the 1960 World Series. The Hal Smith discussed here was a two-time All-Star, best known as a skilled defensive receiver.

Smith impressed many knowledgeable baseball people. Joe Garagiola said, "What set Hal apart was his cannon arm and daring, something that you can't teach a kid."² According to Gene Mauch, "[Hal] has the finest arm of any catcher in the league."³ Smith led National League catchers in highest percentage of runners caught stealing in both 1959 (32 of 76, 42%) and 1960 (34 of 66, 52%).⁴ He committed only 33 errors in 3,090 chances.

He was no slouch with the bat either, as a .258 average with 23 homers in the majors show. Yet against some of the National League's premier pitchers, Smith had some loftier numbers. He hit .364 including a grand slam home run against Sandy Koufax; .373 against two-time 20-game winner Johnny Antonelli; .353 versus Pirates right-hander Bob Friend; and .308 against Don Newcombe. Smith faced Warren Spahn eighty-one times. He had eighteen hits, including five for extra bases, seven walks and just two strikeouts. After his playing days, Smith was asked about his favorite park. "Wrigley Field," he responded.⁵ Cub hurlers Moe Drabowsky and Glen Hobbie might have had something to do with that. Smith hit .333 against Drabowsky and .286 versus Hobbie.⁶

Harold Raymond Smith was born on June 1, 1931, in Barling, Arkansas (in the Fort Smith metro area). His parents were Ronald and Katherine (née Wray) Smith. Ronald, a former schoolteacher, owned and ran a small grocery store with a gasoline pump in front. The shop was a popular stop for the locals and its likable owner was elected mayor of Barling. Katie Smith tended to the children and, when absolutely necessary, helped out in the store.⁷ Hal had three sisters: Virginia, Nancy, and Becky. His three brothers—Ron, Jr., Herbert, and Tommy—played baseball as well. Tommy, also a



HAL R. SMITH'S 1961 TOPPS CARD

catcher, originally signed with St. Louis in 1961. He played in the Cardinals organization until 1968 before being traded to Houston. When the Kansas City Royals began in 1969, they selected him. He finished a ten-year career in that organization, reaching as high as Triple-A.⁸ Ron, Jr., an infielder, played minor league ball in the Giants organization. Herbert was a catcher in American Legion baseball.⁹

As a boy, Smith spent hours every day throwing a baseball at a Dr. Pepper sign painted on the side of the family store. He played sports on Barling's vacant fields and shagged balls for the semipro team on which his brother played. Basketball was his sport while attending Fort Smith High School. The school did not have a baseball team. He played one season of basketball at Fort Smith Junior College (1947-48) and was described

as “an excellent ball-handler who showed up well at guard and was fast with the footwork.” The college, like his high school, had no baseball program.¹⁰

Smith’s first experience in organized ball was at third base, playing for the American Legion’s Fort Smith Randall Victors. In 1948, the Victors competed against the Little Rock Doughboys for the Arkansas state championship. By then, Smith had been converted to catcher. Though his team lost the championship, he was singled out for praise. “No official award was made, but most of those present at all tilts believed Harold Smith, Fort Smith catcher, to be the tourney’s outstanding performer. His hustle, rifle-like arm, and field generalship fired the Victors at all times. The strapping seventeen-year-old backstop also mace-mailed tournament pitching at a .422 clip.”¹¹

The New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals showed interest in him. He had grown up a Cardinals fan idolizing Stan Musial, so on September 23, 1948, he agreed to sign with St. Louis scout Freddie Hawn.¹² In the spring of 1949, Hawn accompanied Smith to the camp of the Houston Buffaloes, the Cardinals’ AA team, in Seguin, Texas, where Buffs manager Del Wilber was instrumental in teaching him proper footwork behind the plate. Smith was assigned to the Class D Albany Cardinals in the Georgia-Florida League. In ninety-nine games, he hit .224 with one home run and thirty-one RBIs. Led by future big league pitcher Vinegar Bend Mizell, the Albany Cardinals finished 96-42, eleven games ahead of the runner-up.¹³ Smith and Mizell became close friends on and off the field.

Later in life, Mizell recalled his professional debut at Albany.

It was almost six weeks after I joined the club that I pitched. Up in Americus, Georgia, one night, sixth inning, score was 15-0 we was getting beat. Hal Smith was the catcher. He goes behind the plate and caught all my warmup pitches with a little effort and that first hitter up was feeling cocky, leading 15-0. So he dug in about knee deep and Smitty gets down and gives me the sign: fastball. He and I know that’s the only pitch I had. Needless to say, I was a little bit nervous. Nobody knew this but me: when I put my foot on the rubber my foot would shake. It wasn’t fear at all, just that nervous tension when the adrenaline flows, and so I’d take it off the rubber. When I cut that first pitch loose I threw it right over everything. Smitty come running out to the mound and he said, ‘Mi-Mi-Mi-Mizell, are you nervous?’ And that hitter got way in the back of that batter’s box. That next pitch was about a foot over and a foot behind his head. Later, when Hal Smith and I

Smith’s first experience in organized ball was at third base, playing for the American Legion’s Fort Smith Randall Victors.

were both with the Cardinals, he told me, ‘You know, I was as nervous as you were that night until I realized I was the safest man in that whole ballpark.’ He said that’s the only time he ever looked behind him and saw people lying behind their seats.¹⁴

In March 1950, Smith married telephone operator Carolyn Treece. He received a \$50 raise, upping his salary to \$250 a month. As the 1950 season began, he was originally assigned to Lynchburg, Virginia, in the Piedmont League, but after two games, management sent him instead to the Class D Hamilton, Ontario, Cardinals in the Pennsylvania-Ontario-New York (PONY) League. The location allowed the newlyweds to honeymoon at Niagara Falls. Smith joined future major leaguers Ken Boyer, Stu Miller, and Pidge Browne on the team. Hamilton, 68-57, finished in third place, 13½ games behind the first-place Hornell Dodgers. Again, Smith finished the season hitting .224. But world events were about to temporarily detour his career.

The Korean War was at hand. Smith volunteered to join the U. S. Air Force. After completing basic training at Shepard Air Force Base in Texas, he was transferred to George Air Force Base in Victorville, California. It was the spring of 1951. Smith was assigned to Special Services, the recreational squadron. However, after only six months in uniform, he was granted a release and returned home. Carolyn was pregnant (she gave birth to Sandra in July), and her parents were ailing. Smith took a job with the Dixie Cup Company in Fort Smith while playing semipro ball for the South Fort Smith Smokers. The new father began thinking of leaving baseball in order to support his family. Fortunately, he persevered. Hal contacted Freddie Hawn, who helped place Smith with the Class A team in Columbus, Georgia, at the end of the 1951 season. However, Smith quickly became homesick and returned to his family without having appeared in a game. That winter he worked at the Fort Smith Boys Club.

The Cardinals' management knew Smith's value and were not willing to give up on him. In 1952, they assigned him to Allentown, Pennsylvania, in the Class B Interstate League. Smith played in eleven games before being sent on August 7 to the Single-A Omaha Cardinals in the Western League. Omaha's starting catcher was going on two weeks of Army reserve duty and Smith was slated to fill in. According to Smith, Omaha manager George Kissell "took a liking to me and kept me there in Omaha for the rest of that year." In twenty games, he hit .255 with one home run. Defense was his strength. His strong, accurate throwing arm made would-be base stealers think twice before taking off. He was a superb handler of pitchers. After another year at Omaha, Kissell recommended sending Smith to the Cardinals' Triple-A Columbus (Ohio) club. However, management had other ideas. He reported instead to the Houston Buffaloes, managed by Dixie Walker. After .259 season, he was advised by Walker that, in order to make it in the majors, he would need to improve his offense. Smith agreed to play winter ball in Mexico. He, Carolyn, Sandra, and his second daughter, Sharon, headed to Guadalajara. But winter ball did not provide the desired promotion. In 1955 he was back in Houston. But this time he hit .299 with seven triples and eight home runs, and drove in sixty-seven runs. Smith showed everyone, including Buffaloes' manager Mike Ryba, that despite never having played at the Triple-A level, he was ready for the big leagues.

During the off-season, Smith received the good news. The Cardinals had added him to the forty-man roster. "When I got to spring training in 1956 and saw Musial for the first time as a teammate, he came up and it was like you had known him all your life. When he shook hands with me then, it was my greatest thrill in baseball. I kept thinking, 'Is this real?' I just can't describe that feeling because it's something that you'd dreamed about."¹⁵

His big-league debut came on May 2, 1956, at Busch Stadium against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Manager Fred Hutchinson called on him to pinch hit for Lindy McDaniel in the bottom of the fifth inning. Flustered, Smith grabbed Musial's bat and strode to the plate without a helmet or hat liner. With Rip Repulski on first base and two outs, the Cardinals trailed, 6-3. Smith drilled Jack McMahan's fastball into left-center for a stand-up RBI double.

His first start occurred on May 8 in Busch Stadium against the Philadelphia Phillies. Two days before, Willie Mays of the Giants, on his 25th birthday, had stolen four bases in the second game of a doubleheader against the Cardinals. Starting Cardinal catcher Bill

Sarni said, "I guess 26,000 people will think I can't throw."¹⁶ Smith made the most of his chance. With two strikes in his first at bat, he singled to center off Robin Roberts, driving in Bill Virdon. Then, in the sixth inning with Repulski at second, Smith hit a Bob Ross slider into the left-center field bleachers. After the game, the modest Smith told reporters, "Yes, I was nervous facing Roberts for the first time, but they said he'd get the ball over, so I just swung where he pitched it."¹⁷

The starting assignment came somewhat as a surprise. Carolyn, Sandra, and Sharon did not attend the game. However, they were at Busch Stadium the following day, May 9, and saw him hit one out, this time off Phillies hurler Herm Wehmeier.¹⁸ The 400-foot blast again landed in the left-center field bleachers. Hutchinson said, "I didn't think he could hit a ball that far."¹⁹ By the end of the season, Smith had replaced Sarni as the Cardinals' number one catcher. Despite hitting under .200 over the last two months, he finished at .282 with five homers and 23 RBIs. He decided to play winter ball again, this time with the Marianao Tigres in the Cuban League.

Smith was the incumbent Cardinals catcher as the 1957 season began but missed six games after leaving during the season's third game with a split finger.²⁰ He returned to action on April 30. The Cards were 9-7 when they visited the Polo Grounds for a two-game series on May 7-8. The Giants won the first game and led the second, 3-0, when Smith came up to face Antonelli in the top of the fourth inning. With two on and two out, he got St. Louis back in the game with a two-run single. It was just the beginning of what was arguably Smith's finest day at the plate. In the seventh, he hit a two-run homer off Joe Margoneri; the next inning, he singled home two more runs (off Gordon Jones), capping a three-for-five, six-RBI day. The Cardinals won, 13-4.

The season ended with the 87-67 Cardinals in second place, eight games behind the Braves. Smith played in 100 games. He was tough in the clutch, hitting .333 with runners in scoring position. Defensively, he threw out 35% of would-be base stealers (the league average was 40%). On the negative side, his seventeen passed balls led the league.²¹ He was a member of the NL All-Star team but did not see action.

During the offseason, Hal and Carolyn welcomed their third child, Dennis. Smith had become something of a local celebrity in and around his home in Florissant, Missouri. He wrote songs and played some of them while deejaying on Sunday mornings for radio station KMOX. He was invited to speak at local charitable events and civic organizations. He signed for

\$10,000 in 1958, but the season turned out to be a letdown for both him and the team. His BA dipped 50 points; the Cards finished sixth. After the season, Smith was part of a 22-game tour to Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Okinawa, and the Philippines

On May 9, 1959, in St. Louis, Smith had his only multi-homer game. The Cardinals led, 1-0, in the fourth inning. With two on and two out, he hit a Glen Hobbie pitch over the left field fence. His second long ball of the game was a two-run shot in the eighth inning off Cubs reliever Joe Schaffernoth. Despite the offensive eruption, the day turned bittersweet. Smith headed from Busch Stadium directly to a hospital where his eldest daughter, Sandra, was being treated for two broken arms. She had fallen off a swing at a friend's party. "Some celebration for the two home runs," Smith said.²²

Smith was a member of the 1959 National League All-Star team. He did not play in the first game and went 0-for-2 in the second. In between those games, on July 10 at Connie Mack Stadium, Smith hit what he considered to be his longest homer. "Turk Farrell was pitching for the Phillies and the player before me [Gene Oliver] hit a home run. So, I was the next hitter and I swung and hit the ball and actually thought I popped it up. But it went on the roof at that old ballpark in Philadelphia."²³ Another memorable hit occurred on September 22 in St. Louis in a wild game against Sandy Koufax and the Dodgers. The Cardinals came up in the bottom of the first already trailing, 3-0—but the Dodgers' lefty, who'd struck out 18 San Francisco Giants three weeks earlier, lasted only 2/3 of an inning. Smith delivered the big blow; his only career grand slam, hitting a 3-2 fastball into the bleachers (oddly, Koufax stayed in to face one more batter before getting the hook). The Cardinals eventually won, 11-10.

Smith finished the season second to Milwaukee's Del Crandall in the Gold Glove award voting and tied the Braves' backstop with a league-leading 32 caught stealings. He was rewarded with a raise to \$21,000 for 1960. Smith shined behind the plate for the third-place Cards, throwing out thirty-four of sixty-five would-be base stealers (52%) to lead the NL. However, his offensive productivity slipped. In 127 games, he batted only .228. When he hit his first home run on June 26, driving in all four runs in a 4-3 win in Philadelphia, he celebrated by writing a song, coming up with various whimsical titles, including "I Hit a Dilly in Philly, Millie," "Rocket on the Roof," "Cape Canaveral Capers," and "Phillie-Buster from St. Loo."²⁴

On June 7, 1961, Hal Smith's career—and life—were about to change. During an 8-6 win over the Cubs at home, while putting on his catcher's gear, he felt a

On June 7, 1961, Hal Smith's career—and life—were about to change.

stabbing sensation around his heart. It wasn't the first instance of chest pain. According to Smith, he had experienced a "kind of pain in my chest. It felt like if I could burp, it'd go away. But it kept lingering."²⁵ He ultimately saw a heart specialist, who diagnosed an angina condition. Smith spent twelve days in the hospital, and physicians informed him that his playing days were over.

Bing Devine assured Smith that he had a job in the organization. Following his recovery, Smith spent the remainder of the 1961 season working with young catchers in the Cardinals' minor-league system, notably Tim McCarver. Johnny Keane had taken over for Solly Hemus as Cardinals manager roughly halfway through the 1961 season. On May 8, 1962, Keane asked Smith to be the Cardinals bullpen coach. Smith accepted but did not return in the same capacity in 1963. Instead, he worked as a minor league catching coach for St. Louis.²⁶

In 1964, Smith became a first-time manager with the Rock Hill Cardinals, a Class D team in the Western Carolinas League. The franchise led the league in attendance and finished second with a 76-51 record, a half-game behind the Salisbury Dodgers. Smith had help. First, the team's batboy was his seven-year-old son, Dennis. Second, future star Steve Carlton was on his staff. The nineteen-year-old lefty went 10-1 with a 1.04 ERA, winning promotion to Double-A in midseason (and later the big club, though his big-league debut came the following April). Smith showed his wry wit, saying, "That's when I became a dummy. I couldn't manage near as well."²⁷

Smith's managerial career in the minors lasted only one year. After the season, Harry Walker asked him to join the 1965 Pittsburgh Pirates' coaching staff. Smith accepted. He felt that his heart condition was not as serious as the doctors had originally feared; after an extensive physical, he was cleared to pitch batting practice—and for catching duty if needed. Indeed, an emergency arose on July 1 when all three of the Bucs' receivers were hurt. Smith played in four games as a Pirate from July 1 through July 8. He appeared three times as a late-inning defensive replacement and went 0

-3 in his one start. When his family first heard his name announced and saw him come to bat, they were moved to tears.²⁸

Smith remained with the Pirates through 1967. During the '67 exhibition season, Harry Walker tested Smith again as an active player. On April 4, against the Boston Red Sox, the thirty-six-year-old replaced Jim Pagliaroni as catcher and singled in the eighth inning, sparking a Pittsburgh rally.²⁹ As late as July, the press called him an "ace in reserve," noting that he could be activated at a moment's notice.³⁰ However, the need did not arise. For part of the 1967-68 season, Smith managed Licey in the Dominican winter league before being replaced by Manny Mota.³¹ In 1968, he joined the Cincinnati Reds coaching staff and stayed there through the 1969 season. He spent the next several years (1970-75) scouting for the Cardinals. He remained a catching tutor too, helping Ted Simmons.

During the 1976 and 1977 seasons, Smith was a coach for the Milwaukee Brewers under former teammate Alex Grammas. On July 20, 1976, he was coaching at first base in County Stadium when Hank Aaron hit the final home run of his illustrious career. Following an unsuccessful season, Grammas and Smith were fired. Smith returned to his home in Texas. However, he was soon back in baseball, scouting for the Cardinals in 1978 in the middle section of the United States. The following year Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and New Mexico were added to his territory. Smith covered this vast area for twenty years, bringing in at least eight future big leaguers.³² His most notable recommendation, however, came when he urged the Cardinals to obtain Willie McGee (then a Yankees farmhand) in 1981.³³

After a thirty-nine-year career, Smith retired from baseball in 1997. He and Carolyn moved back to Fort Smith. He spent his time playing golf. In 2002, Smith was elected to the Texas Scouts Association Hall of Fame. In 2005, he became a member of the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. Although he played basketball and not baseball for what was then Fort Smith Junior College, the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Lions elected Smith to their Hall of Fame in 2011.

In 2009, Smith's biographer, Billy D. Higgins, perfectly summed up his subject's life. "Hal and Carolyn have six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. As he was in his playing days, Hal remains the dedicated family man. He fought the battles on the field that a professional athlete thrives on, competing against the very best in his sport. But, he found his comfort, solace, and inspiration at his hearth with Carolyn, his children, his close friends, and his

extended family."³⁴

Hal Smith passed away at the age of eighty-two on April 12, 2014. He is buried at Fort Smith National Cemetery.



Bruce Harris has been a baseball fan all his life and a SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) member since 2014. He is the author of two books about Sherlock Holmes published by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box: Sherlock

Holmes and Doctor Watson: About Type (2006) and Anticipations in D. Martin Dakin's 'A Sherlock Holmes Commentary' (2021). He lives in New Jersey.

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ENDNOTES

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- ¹⁴ Norman L. Macht, *They Played the Game* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2019), 177.
- ¹⁵ Higgins and Smith, 65. When Tommy Smith signed with the Cardinals in 1961, he had the same memorable experience meeting Stan Musial for the first time.
- ¹⁶ Neal Russo, "Redbird Notes," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 7, 1956: 4B.
- ¹⁷ Neal Russo, "Phillies' Star Out Early in 9-1 Rout," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 9, 1956: 4B.
- ¹⁸ Higgins and Smith, 73. Two days later, Wehmeier and Smith became teammates following a May 11, 1956 trade. Wehmeier was dealt by the Phillies along with Murry Dickson the Cardinals for Ben Flowers, Harvey Haddix and Stu Miller.
- ¹⁹ Bob Broeg, "Redbird Notes," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 10, 1956: 4E.
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- ²¹ Over the next four years, Smith dramatically improved. He totaled only 10 passed balls.
- ²² Higgins and Smith, 158.
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- ²⁴ Neal Russo, "Cards Home After Smith's Bat Helps them Break Even on Road; His Homer Nips Phils, Who Split Twin Bill."
- ²⁵ Higgins and Smith, 192.
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- ³³ Neal Russo, "He Scouted McGee: Hal Smith Recommended Bonanza Deal," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, October 29, 1982: 3C.
- ³⁴ Higgins and Smith, 216.

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Julia and Maud

History and Historical Fiction

**By Joyce Faulkner
and Tom Wing**

Tom Wing: My first knowledge of the Maud Avery Allen case came shortly after starting work as a park ranger/historian for the National Park Service at Fort Smith National Historic Site. While preparing tours and programs centered on the history of Fort Smith, I came across paper copies of the partial case file. Intrigued, I inquired about it with other staff members. Long before my time as an interpreter, Maud's story was declared somewhat off limits, due to the mature themes, graphic nature of the evidence, and the connection to descendants possibly still living. The story provoked me, not just due to the scandal, but it was also a prime example of the diversity of cases heard by the federal court in Fort Smith. The most common cases being murder, rape, trafficking illegal liquor, cattle-rustling, horse theft, and even admiralty rights on the river, obscenity through the mail was not typical. So, while the story was not made into an exhibit, or included in programing at the site, it was an often discussed and debated topic in the lunchroom and sometimes with staff at the Fort Smith Museum of History.

After the 1996 tornado, while the site was being repaired and the exhibits redone, I was sent to Fort Worth for a week in the Southwest Regional Branch of the National Archives. The complete files for the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas are housed there. My job was to scan and digitize important case files, including testimony, for the purpose of future exhibits and programs. I took a predetermined list of files we needed. I planned to explore little known cases that might make entertaining stories for the public. With a laptop and scanner in tow, I spent eight hours a day for a week pulling files, scanning, creating CDs and making a copy for the archives staff. Our existing paper files were incomplete and somewhat sporadic. This work gave us all the paperwork for a given case—from the grand jury through the petit jury trial, sentencing and in some cases the appeal process. This work enhanced our understanding of Cherokee Bill, Jack Spaniard, Sheppard Busby, Belle Starr, the Rufus Buck Gang, and even Bass Reeves, along with a host of other cases—including Simon Amonia, who was brought into court for selling



MAUD AVERY ALLEN

... I was somewhat surprised to find the actual evidence presented at the trial, the obscene letters, the case file itself.

American Hops Ale in the Choctaw Nation, an Anheuser-Busch product that required a deposition by August Busch and testimony of the company brewmeister.

On the last day, after all the other important documents had been scanned, I asked to see the Maud Avery Allen file. When I did, the staff members helping me burst into laughter and asked if I knew the case. I



THE SEVENTH CALVARY charging into Black Kettle's village at daylight, Nov. 27, 1868.

responded yes but was hoping to learn more. They guaranteed that I would and presented me with the file jacket. When I opened it, I found the usual writs, subpoenas, and the transcript of testimony, but I was somewhat surprised to find the actual evidence presented at the trial, the obscene letters, in the case file itself. The staff knew their collection well and were very helpful.

After the renovations at Fort Smith were complete, the staff stopped by on the way to a conference, and we let them sit in the courtroom jury chairs and get their photos made.

When Joyce Faulkner asked me to assist her in telling the story, I was interested but somewhat cautious. Being a historian, and not a fiction writer, I wanted to make sure we told the story with respect and with as much truth as we could uncover. While a historian always has questions with no answers, the scandalous nature of this story, and the possibility of offending descendants made credibility, authenticity, and accuracy very important. I had no, and still have no desire to sensationalize the story for effect. These are real people, caught in difficult and tragic circumstances. Inside, I was very glad the time had come to tell a story that had been hidden to recent generations. Joyce has an eye for detail and a knack for using fictional narrative and dialogue to illuminate historical events. When we finish, I will have no doubt we will have explored every lead and followed every twist and turn the story holds.

I find myself wondering what one particular Cheyenne girl was thinking when she heard the first notes of Garry Owen that heralded General Custer and the 7th Cavalry's attack on the banks of the Washita River.

It is a great honor for me to work with such a talented and accomplished writer like Joyce in bringing as much truth and light to the story as we possibly can.

Historical fiction is my favorite genre to read and my favorite genre to write.

Joyce Faulkner: That's not to say that I don't love straight history. I do. But as a writer-turned engineer

turned novelist, it's frustrating sometimes. Where are the smaller personal stories that bring historical figures to life? I find myself wondering what one particular Cheyenne girl was thinking when she heard the first notes of Garry Owen that heralded General Custer and the 7th Cavalry's attack on the banks of the Washita River. Sometimes I sit at the "Angle," in Gettysburg and wonder why General Robert E. Lee, looking across that deadly expanse of farmland, thought there was even a chance Pickett and his boys could make it. And most especially, I ponder what the first man to scale the fence and cross Emmitsburg Pike was thinking when he saw the cannons being lowered for canister fire?

Any and all historical events are an amalgam of things you can prove happened, things you deduce happened—and what the participants believe happened. When you mix in time, exaggeration, point of view, misreporting, gossip, etc., what you have is—well a mess if you are looking for absolutes. Students of history do what they can with contemporaneous witness statements, images, documents, maps, relics, etc. Now we have DNA to help. But the fact of the matter is that the further an event is in our rearview mirrors, the less likely all the known pieces can be proven factual. Sometimes we get a “break”—newly found fossils that fundamentally challenge what we think we know, a family history with pictures proving or disproving one thing or another. On the other hand, sometimes the “break” forces an entirely new narrative.

Thus, as an author who loves to write historical fiction, my hat is off to historians. It's a tough job. And I rely on them almost everyday. Research used to be arduous and expensive, involving travel, long distance telephone charges, translators, and print copy costs. Acquiring the same information is now easier, faster and cheaper due to technology. The advent of online genealogy tools and newspaper archives, indexed and digitized local historical society journals like this one, private family histories, email, and face to face consultations using services like Zoom or Facetime have made answering the traditional who, what, when and where questions easier, more complete, and even more fun. It's amazing what an afternoon chasing a single lead across the World Wide Web can produce. Inquiries that would certainly have ground to a halt during the pre-vaccination Covid 19 pandemic era found new life as museums began producing both free and paid programming via the Internet with software that allowed question and answer sessions. For example, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine at civilwarmed.org has produced dozens of lectures on the topic of civil war medical techniques. Since several



FAGAN AND JULIA BOURLAND

(Image Courtesy of the Pebley Center)

of my characters—both real and fictional—are Civil War veterans, this programming was on point for what I needed. It both widened the range of topics available to me and increased comprehension. For example, I could browse through the video lectures archives until I found the specific topic I needed. Then I could watch it over and over until all the ramifications sunk in. I gladly pay memberships dues and fees for that kind of access.

Also, many universities around the world house personal or family archives or local historical society publications like this one. But what's in which one? Without the excellent work of Shelley Blanton at the Pebley at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS), for example, I would be dead in the water most of the time. Having a coauthor like Tom Wing who has been studying this case for many years before I even conceived this project is pure gold. Working with him has made all the difference in getting to the core truths of the relationship between Julia and Maud.

So now let me share some background about my philosophy and technique. When plotting a historical novel, I try to remember that real events mean real people with families. That means that when I turn them

into my characters, I have to treat them with respect. I don't see that as a limitation. It is my guiding principle. When a real person is a character, that means I am literally putting words in their mouths. It's a guess most of the time based on how well I have come to know these people from all the information about them I can find. And the better the information . . . recorded history . . . I have, the better I know them. But, no way can I know someone from another century as well as families. Inevitably, my concepts won't jive with everyone.

To get around this problem, I like to use fictional first person narrators who participate in the story as well as tell it. This works because like every other witness to a big event, my narrator in *Julia and Maud* has a perspective. He tells the story as he sees it . . . and then channels how other people—real or fictional—see it and how it was reported in contemporaneous newspapers and how tall people see it and young people see it and religious people see it and political people see it—and so on and so on.

However, there are problems with this approach too. What if my narrator isn't present when something historically important happens? For example, in my first Fort Smith based historical novel *Garrison Avenue*, coauthored with my sister, Dr Micki Volkel, UAfS, my narrator is a young woman. And then we discovered that women were not allowed to attend the town meetings about the lynching of Sanford Lewis. Uh oh!

That's when the historian and the researcher and the author come together. What information do we have in hand? What information is rock solid? Who historically would be an eye witness? Who wasn't there to witness this event? What was in the newspapers about this? Are there court documents? Letters? Who among our array of real people would be most likely to have witnessed this event? One thing for sure, my woman narrator wasn't in that room. However, it turned out that I had the answer in my back pocket. Through the late Reginal Moore and the late Willard Wenz, I had acquired half of the handwritten record of the Grand Jury investigation and the indictments for those who participated in the lynching. I had perpetrators . . . in their own words . . . talking about what they did. But how to share that insight with the reader? Certainly, they wouldn't have told my narrator what they did.

So how to handle it? Have them tell someone who told my narrator? Even I didn't buy that these guys would be that careless. Then I remembered overhearing a long involved whispered conversation about poaching between two guys at the airport in Nairobi. That was it! I put my narrator on a trolley car on Garrison and had

two of the real perpetrators board the car and sit behind her, talking to each other about what they personally did that night. The ability to do this is one of the major advantages for authors of historical fiction who work closely with archivists, librarians, and historians like Tom and Reggie and Willard.

A second advantage to having historians and archivists as resources is to protect the author from his/her own ignorance. For example, as we were working on an early chapter of *Julia and Maud*, my narrator—a young man in this case—tries to get in to witness the execution of Lewis Holder in 1894. I had several people read the scene and give me a thumbs-up. However, Tom Wing, who studied that incident closely years back, took one look and said, "That character wouldn't be carrying that kind of gun at that time and place." While that might be perceived as a small mistake by some, it might have been a flaw that collapsed credibility of the whole narrative. Yes, every one makes mistakes. Not even the best content editor catches all of them. However, a blatant historical mistake about the era you are writing about is at the very least distracting. For the whole piece to hold together, the factual background must be as right as humanly possible.

This is because the genre often substitutes for straight history books for broader cultural audiences. For example, how many of us learned about the origins of the State of Israel by reading Leon Uris' novel *Exodus*? Or found out about Sherman's "March to the Sea" in *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell? Or were introduced to the role of surgical medical units in Korea by reading Richard Hooker's *M.A.S.H.*? Or first discovered Judge Parker's Court on the pages of *True Grit* by Charles Portis?

Now in the real world, we know that these novels are just a pinprick. The whole story . . . the bigger picture . . . lies in the hands of historians. And their work is two-fold—to keep trying to find out more and more about what's gone before us by rescuing people, places, and things from obscurity—and then to understand how that information impacts the present and changes the future.

Julia and Maud is an incredibly sad tale although the absurdity of what happened makes most of us titter with dark amusement. The conflict between these two women was rooted in issues far greater than lust though. It's about societal limitations, loss, addiction, financial and emotional insecurity . . . and the destructive role of desperation.

As for Maud's childish literary provocations, that are often deemed inappropriate for museums displays, we will be sharing some of the angry, taunting, sexually

explicit letters and demeaning drawings that she sent to Julia. Without them, Julia's response can't be properly evaluated. And certainly, our book will be the appropriate venue for their first publication.

So with that background, I'd like to give you a peek at the prologue for the novel Tom and I are working on which will most likely launch in the summer of 2022. It's titled simply, *Julia and Maud*.

Prologue
The Hotel Main
Fort Smith, Arkansas
August 1, 1941

"They think I'm crazy, but I'm not."

"Who'd say a mean thing like that, Miz Julia?" I set a breakfast tray down in front of the old woman.

"Everyone. It hurts my feelings but they say it anyway." She picked up a spoon and dipped it into her bowl of oatmeal. "It's not hot."

"How do you know that without tasting it, ma'am?"

"The spoon didn't vibrate." She laid it down on her tray. "I can't eat it without

the butter and brown sugar—and it has to be hot enough to melt them both. Sam knew that."

"I'm sorry, ma'am. We all thought Sam would live forever—and that he would take care of you forever. So's I never learned about no vibrating spoon..." I filled her mug. "...but this here coffee's gonna be nice and hot."

She stuck a fresh spoon into it.

"It vibratin' for ya, Miz Julia?"

She looked up at me, raising one eyebrow. "You think I'm crazy?"

"No, ma'am. Just particular."

"Anything wrong with that?"

"Heck no, ma'am. We all want breakfast to be jes so. You enjoy your coffee and I'll go get you oatmeal hot enough to melt a mountain of butter and brown sugar."

"Thank you, Sam."

"It's Archie, ma'am. Sam's been gone quite a while now."

She looked up at me. "Oh?"

"He died in 1938."

"How long's that been?"

"Close on to three years, ma'am."

"Oh yes." Her eyes filled.

"Here you go, Miz Julia." I handed her a handkerchief.

She wiped away her tears. "Poor old Sam."

"Yes, ma'am."

"Where's Fagan?"

"He went for his morning stroll up and down Garrison, don't you remember?"

"Is he okay?"

"He's jes fine. Same as always."

She leaned forward to peer out the window. "I don't see him."

"He'll be back soon, I promise. Want me to go heat up your oatmeal now?"

Her shoulders tensed and her eyes widened. "Maud?"

"She's still dead, ma'am. You don't have to worry."

She grabbed my sleeve, eyes wide — breathing faster. "You're sure?"

"You can relax." I patted her hand. "That particular haint ain't comin' back to spoil your day. I promise."

"Good." She let go of me and relaxed back into her chair. "Good."

"How about some toast?"

"Where."

"Right there." I pointed to the tray.

"Oh, yes. Thank you."

As the old woman buttered her toast, I picked up her bowl of oatmeal. Just before leaving, I turned to look at her. She was staring out the window again. I sighed and went out, latching the door after me

A short, gray man in a straw hat came out of the elevator halfway down the corridor.

"Cold oatmeal again, Archie?"

"Yes sir."

"Wrong bowl?"

"No sir, vibratin' spoon."

The man sighed. "You have to wonder what's going on in her head these days."

"If I wasn't doing this for Miz Julia, I'd be doing something like it for someone else. It's my job and I'm happy to have it."

Fagan Bourland slipped a coin into my free hand. "I appreciate how kind you are to her. How patient."

"She's no trouble, really. Just sits and stares out the window like she's watching for someone. I peek out myself sometimes, but Garrison Avenue's too busy to pick out anything in particular—specially when I don't know what to look for."

"She's looking for trouble, she told me one time—like we haven't had our share of it over the years."

I pocketed the money. "I spose we all meet up with it from time to time."

Fagan sighed. "I love that old bat, but I haven't always been kind to her—or patient. Not in my makeup, I guess."

I nodded. "Ain't always easy with kin."

"No. It's not. But she's odd. Always has been."

"Ain't we all?"

Fagan chuckled. "I guess so—but Julia? Well, she's not like anyone else in the world. That's what drew me to her in the first place, I think. I never knew what she might do next. It's like living with something dark and fierce—and quite wonderful."

"Wonderful, sir?"

"She never gave up on me, Archie."

We looked down at her together. "She never gave up on any of us," I murmured.

We'd run out of words.

"Well, then." Fagan took off his hat. "You better go heat up that oatmeal. I'll hold the fort until you get back."

I was on the top step of the staircase when I heard a crash and someone calling my name. I looked back down the long corridor.

Fagan Bourland was hurrying toward me. "Fetch the doctor, Archie. Julia's not well." He was pale.

"I'm sure she'll be fine, Mr. Fagan."

"Hurry."

"Yes sir."

Julia? Jooo-li-ya!

Julia opened her eyes. "Did you hear that?"

Fagan shook his head.

"Did you?" She turned to me.

"I-I did. I heard it, Miz Julia."

It's time, you ugly old bitch.

Julia clutched at the quilt covering her. "Not yet. I'm not ready."

It won't be long now—you whore, you dog. You mother of hounds.

"Maud?" Julia raised her head off her pillow.

Fagan lifted her hand and kissed the palm.

"Do you hear her?"

"Hear who, darlin'?"

"Maud."

"No, sweetheart—not now, not then."

Sssssssss.

Julia cringed and I looked up at Fagan worriedly.

"It's okay, my darlin'," he stroked her cheek.

"Maud's dead. Gone. She can't hurt you—us, anymore..."

A slight breeze lifted a fringe of curls off Julia's forehead. She held a finger to her lips. "Shush. She's listening, Fagan. Waiting."

He held his hand to his ear. "I don't hear anything."

Julia rocked her head from side to side on her pillow. "Why did you do it? Why did you...bring her

into our lives?"

"That was a long time ago, sugar. I forget now."

"She's a demon—sure as Jesus lives." Sweat glistened on Julia's cheeks.

"Now Julia. Maud was no such thing. She was just a selfish, misguided girl. She's gone now and will be gone forever."

Maud be waiting for you, Joo-li-ya! Waiting to tell you how Fagan really feels about what you did to his sweet girl. Sssssssss.

Goose bumps raised the hair on my arms. I looked around the room. Nothing but a breathy breeze from the open window.

"Fagan." Julia whimpered. "Fagan?"

"I'm here, darlin'." He squeezed her hand.

Just because you'll be free of that diseased carcass doesn't mean you'll be free, you ugly old whore. Maud's still here. She'll always be here.

"What can I do, Mr. Fagan?"

"Stay with us, Archie. She knows you—and isn't afraid of you."

"Afraid? Of me?" I leaned forward to straighten her blanket. "I've been taking care of her a long time now. Ain't I, Miz Julia?"

She smiled up at me. "Like always, Sam."

I shivered. "Like always."
Sssssssss.



Joyce Faulkner graduated from St. Anne's Academy in 1966. She studied writing at the University of Arkansas, Chemical Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh and received her MBA from Cleveland State. She is co-owner of Red Engine Press. Her historical novel with Dr. Micki Voelkel, Garrison Avenue, came out in 2019 and her newest, Julia and Maud with Tom Wing is due in 2022.



Tom Wing is Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Drennen-Scott Historic Site. He is an award-winning historic preservationist, accomplished grant writer and has published two books, A Rough Introduction to this Sunny Land, and Images of America: Van Buren. He has written for Do South Magazine, and has appeared in documentary films on PBS, the Smithsonian Channel, Discovery and History Channels.

Book Reviews

***The Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Arkansas: How Protestant White Nationalism Came to Rule a State*, by Kenneth C. Barnes, (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2021, Pp 234. Appendix, notes and index, hardback, \$34.95).**

Certainly Ken Barnes, a professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas, is to be congratulated for his sterling research and fair assessment of the second of three emergences of the Ku Klux Klan in the history of Arkansas in his latest book, this one from the University of Arkansas Press.

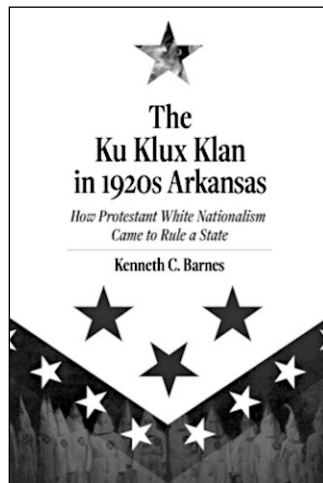
His work will open the public's eyes to the 1920's and how both national and local political realities of the era, allowed a resurgence of this secret society to nearly take over the entire state and political structure.

Professor Barnes's work exposes the revival of the KKK in 1920's Arkansas as built and empowered by demagogues and then presents an alleged pattern of criminal activity and personal enrichment of a few individuals.

This same 1920's resurrection of the KKK in Arkansas was perpetuated in the era for the public to stand up and demand a much needed "spirit," if you will, of personal morality, law and order, a renewed religious aggrandizement of what is "right and wrong" and elsewhere commit brazen and very illegal actions all the while hiding behind the starched white cloak of Christian purity and public moral sanctity.

As Arkansas's second-largest city, Fort Smith was not exempt from the Ku Klux Klan's influences in the 1920's. Fort Smith, according to the appendix claimed the fifteenth KKK Chapter formed in the state and featured a Women of the KKK Auxiliary chapter.

And the city was often the gathering places for large rallies of the Klan's entry into politics both state and nationally.



"In some ways, the Klan was a creation of the moment," Barnes writes. "Like all populist movements, it struck a nerve of a large segment of the population in a way that whipped people up into a lather and then channeled that energy into an organizational system."

William Simmons, the founder and organizational brainchild of an elaborate Ponzi scheme of Ku Klux Klan brought the Klan's resurgence into Arkansas via a duo of brothers from Houston, Texas, Allen and Lloyd Brown.

Working out of a room in the Marion Hotel in Little Rock, the recruitment schemes of this pair had organized Arkansas's chapters.

It is estimated Arkansas had nearly 200 chapters and 20 percent of all Arkansas's males were Klansmen. In Sebastian County, there were organized Klaverns in Mansfield and Hartford, plus nearby Klaverns in Van Buren, Alma, Charleston, Ozark, Waldron, and Booneville.

James A. Comer, a Little Rock attorney, led the KKK for the next decade. Comer amassed millions of dollars in dues, fees, assessments and from the sale of stationary, printed goods and even the ceremonial robes worn by Klansmen in the state.

During the early 1920's, several Klan chapters across Arkansas developed a disturbing pattern of its members, often in hooded robes, interrupting church services or tent revivals to commend local pastors for doing their moral and holy duty.

The Fort Smith KKK chapter did no such public events, but did, at a Nazarene tent meeting of some 2,000 attendees, where the pastor spoke about the Klan in his message, apparently sent a letter to be read from the chapter and offered a small cash donation to the revival.

Fully robed Klan members interrupted court hearings, city council meetings to promote their beliefs and thank judges and others who stood with them.

In the state General Assembly in 1923, opposition to the Catholic Schools of Arkansas was filed by former State Senator Claude Thompson of Fort Smith and he filed a bill requiring children aged eight to sixteen to attend public schools, thus outlawing parochial education. The bill, apparently, never came to a vote.

Politics, especially those of Al Smith, Democrat

from New York and a devout Catholic running for president in 1923, ignited Klan activities in the state. In early September 1923, Andrew A. McDonald of Fort Smith, hailed as the Great Titan of the Klan's western province, joined the anti-Smith ticket, even after Arkansas's favored U.S. Senator, Joseph T. Robinson, came on the Smith ticket as vice presidential nominee. That same month, September 1923, a Klan rally was held in Fort Smith, where more than 2,000 people heard speakers' rail against the Smith ticket for November.

A state office for the anti-Smith ticket was opened in Little Rock and later another office was opened in Fort Smith, just across from the Democratic headquarters on Garrison Avenue.

Barnes winds up the book, as the influence of the KKK waned with economic conditions of the late 1920's and early days of the Depression descended upon Arkansas. Its leadership was found aggrandizing itself with dues and expenditures of such epic proportions that the Klan basically imploded from within as the money to sustain such a secret society was squandered or vanished into the pockets of its leaders.

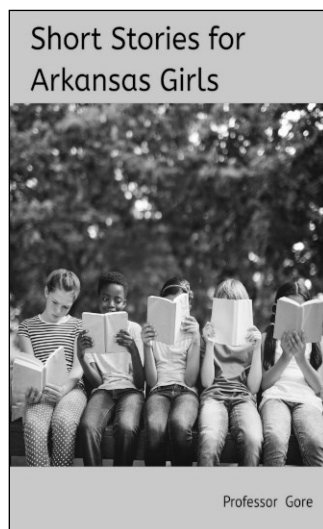
—Reviewed by Maylon T. Rice, Fayetteville

***Short Stories for Arkansas Girls* by Professor Gore. Pre-publication review.**

I feel the strengths exhibited in *Short Stories for Arkansas Girls* is the culmination of a variety in both interest and reading levels and the portrayal of difficult situations rarely represented in children's literature. Heavy topics end not in tragedy but in the prevalence of hope and problem solving.

Most children love animal stories, and as evinced by authors well-loved across decades like Beatrix Potter, A. A. Milne, and Brian Jacques and reaching back into the history of fairy tales, it is an enduring trope valuable in engaging children with reading.

The Arkansas Center for Research in Economics through the University of Central Arkansas reported a child poverty rate of 23.8% in 2016. Talk Poverty, a project



of the Center for American Progress, reported it at 24.4%, placing Arkansas only ahead of New Mexico, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

A significant population of children is facing insecurity. When considered in conjunction with families who do not technically reach the poverty threshold but nonetheless struggle to compromise what is needed with what is wanted, financial woe is a stark reality for many in Arkansas.

The short story "Fayetteville Ruby" properly jars someone who has always been privileged to participate in any school activity desired. It was the norm for me that my parents would pay whatever I needed for basketball, quiz bowl, and band. I was always the priority, and this is simply not the case for numerous children whose parents' priority has to be survival.

The range of children's experiences should be reflected in the stories they read, just as those who do not relate need to be exposed to what life is like for others. Idealized childhood in media should not remain the status quo because it was never the reality, although marketed as such to avoid discomfort. Society is uncomfortable, and ignoring this in favor of a neutral fantasy of normalcy helps no one. So, too, is the mental illness in "Hot Springs Knight" a topic necessary in exploring difficult situations children face and voices rarely heard.

The settings and references to Arkansas bring fun touches to the stories. The major cities often used in literature are places most children have never been and may never will, but encountering a local place such as the Van Buren opera house can capture attention that otherwise would not be relevant to them.

The southern voice present is something I needed as a child. My love for reading molded a pretentious child who strove to be correct above all else and worked hard to speak properly and neutralize my accent. Encountering William Faulkner in high school baffled and discomforted me. I did however, years later, come to realize the classist issues prevalent in the rejection of non-standard English and quit caring about my accent. Dialects are not right or wrong, and words are not real or fake; they are family history, which leads to my appreciation for the short story "Little Rock Surprise."

Many children are uninterested in history. Genealogy is a beautiful solution, and this story is well suited to preface an introduction to genealogical research. After reading Lillie's discovery of her ancestor at the War of 1812 monument at the Arkansas State Capitol, parents and/or teachers have an opportunity to bring students into their libraries to see

what they can uncover through Ancestry.com's database available at numerous locations including the Fort Smith Public Library, Central Arkansas Library System, and Fayetteville Public Library to engage in history as well as build information system literacy.

Short Stories for Arkansas Girls is endearing as well as pertinent. There is a story in the collection for everyone, and the curation of endearing characters and diverse experiences lends well toward allowing for the pairing of educational components such as discussions on mental illness, history, and points of interest throughout the state.

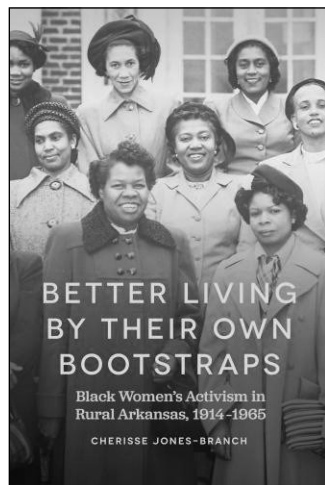
—Reviewed by Taylor Wright, Fort Smith

***Better Living by Their Own Bootstraps: Black Women's Activism in Rural Arkansas, 1914-1965.* By Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2021, pp. 227, Introduction, 12 chapters, conclusion, notes, bibliography, index, hardback \$39.95.)**

In the first ever major examination of black women activists in Arkansas, Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch has documented the educational, social, cultural strides of brave and bold advances, almost always against overwhelming barriers of the day between just before World War I and until the Civil Rights era of the mid-1960's.

Given the title, seemingly focused on activism by rural Arkansas leaders, Fort Smith readers of this volume should not feel geographically abandoned as Jones-Branch well documents the activities in local, state and national women's clubs of Fort Smith resident Mame Stewart Josenberger.

Fort Smith's connection, through Josenberger, who has direct connections with Mary Murray Washington, the third wife of Booker T. Washington, was that of a club woman of national status in the early days of black female activism. Her (Josenberger's) legacy in Fort Smith and the nation has been well documented and praised for her works.



Jones-Branch, a native of Charleston, South Carolina, is currently the James and Wanda Lee Vaughn Endowed Professor of History at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She is Dean of the ASU Graduate school and a prolific writer and historian. Jones-Branch in her book details the many rural black women who were advocates, if not outright organizers of the Southern Tenant Farmer's Union cause. She has unearthed a well-documented scene of previously untold personal violence and outright lawlessness against an activist in the spring of 1936.

It tells the story of Eliza Nolen, a sixty-year-old black sharecropper from Earle, Arkansas (Crittenden County), who was severely beaten by area white planters, "with sticks the size of axe handles" for her activism. Nolen was first jailed for her activism but alleges she was taken from the Earle jail to a cotton gin owned by one of her attackers, all named in a lawsuit for her mistreatment. The suit alleges she was not only beaten but possibly sexually assaulted. The three men, named in the lawsuit were members of the East Arkansas Planters collective. During a subsequent public trial, the men denied any involvement in the attack. She later died from her injuries May 1938, at a Memphis hospital.

Along with such harsh actions seeking to impede the steps of progress in Arkansas many other black women activists managed to make headways in education, public health, jobs for better wages and rights for black women and landowners, even in the days of Jim Crow legislation.

Jones-Branch documents black Arkansas women who did not seek to emulate white club women in their activism but exceed the strides similar fraternal groups were attempting to make in the state's political and social landscape.

The establishment of schools and better educational opportunities abounds in this volume, but so does the very essence of caring for black families to make sure there was sufficient wages, medical care and food to care for African-American homes.

Among the many other individual black women featured in the book, is a well-researched and written chapter on Annie Zachary Pike, the first African American appointed to the state Welfare Board, in 1968, by Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller. She used her position on the state Welfare Board to address food insecurity and inadequate housing among the state's poor.

Rockefeller was the only Southern governor to publicly memorialize the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee,

and thus possibly stalling or thwarting any major riots of disturbances, as witnessed in other states following King's death. Rockefeller appointed an unprecedented number of African Americans to state boards during his four years as governor.

To those readers who hail from the eastern and southern portions of the state, the book is filled with names, events and examples of heroic black women who really did bring about "better living by their own bootstraps."

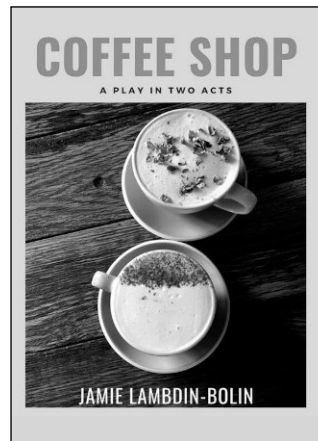
—Maylon T. Rice, Fayetteville.

***Coffee Shop, a Play in Two Acts*, by Jamie Lambdin-Bolin. (Published in 2020. 89 pages, paper. \$14.95.)**

The overarching subject in Lambdin-Bolin's two-act play is learning how to work with the cards, or ahem . . . wigs . . . you've been dealt. Set in a small-town coffee shop, the parade of characters play off one another's dialogue like old friends. In fact, *Coffee Shop* has the banter of *Friends* with the heart of *Steel Magnolias*.

The play highlights the regulars who frequent a small, nondescript coffee shop owned by Gale, a woman with a big heart. Her main employee, Irene, lives with Gale and runs the shop better than anyone else. Irene's past is a secret, and while it never bothered Gale, her sister Margot is suspicious. Enter Margot, smart and sassy, she is Gale's sister who comes to help with the coffee shop because like Irene, Gale has a secret of her own.

Reading a play takes a bit more imagination than picking up a novel, but that is one of the reasons this



works so well. Lambdin-Bolin clearly recognizes her audience, and through her characters and the spaces they inhabit, readers familiar with small-town life will appreciate the types of people we see in the play: the snob, the dreamer, the outsider, the artist, and the one who keeps them all together.

Though stereotypical in description, the dialogue Lambdin-Bolin creates gives the characters the heart needed to bring the play to life.

As a reader, you can imagine the setting as your favorite local coffee shop and the characters will fill in the gaps. Lambdin-Bolin's stage directions are a must read—do not skip over these—here we see the wit of the writer and while there isn't a lot of description, what she does offer is essential to the indirect characterization of the characters. There is a lot of pantomiming behind the backs of other characters which could lend to some really funny theater.

Lambdin-Bolin's eighty-seven pages move quickly, and I imagine that the play itself would simulate the hustle and bustle of a coffee shop first thing in the morning, slowing down as the shop closes in the evenings. As long as the punches come quickly, the audience will certainly be entertained. Lambdin-Bolin efficiently tells the story of Gale's coffee shop and the people who love her. There is grit and heart in the characters we meet, and I guarantee readers will see someone they know in these pages.

—Reviewed by Sara Putman, *Bookish in Fort Smith*

Give Local History Fans
You Know the Gift of Membership.

They will love the *Journal* — and you.

1921 Newspapers

The latter half of 1921 brought brazen armed-robberies, spreading in a seemingly epidemic way, across our city, leading law enforcement to declare war on crime and enlist the help of the local Legionnaires to combat it. We saw a local hero from the Great War, finally come home, and sent one of our own to Washington to honor the masses of nameless dead from that war, soon to be represented in a newly built tomb.

Slot machines made a brief appearance on Garrison Avenue, leading to some unwanted attention by local and state authorities. Our Twins found much success, along with considerable controversy, and ultimately a new manager. South Fort Smith found itself in the news more often than usual, and an accident on a viaduct, got city planners attention.

A moving bridge still fascinated our citizens while a new bridge moved ever closer to completion. And, like most cities of the time, the taint of Jim Crow racism remained glaringly obvious, both in its insensitivity and in the easy callousness of our everyday language. Yes, it was quite an interesting time to live in our city—as fast triggers, bleeding barbers, deadly curves and Sunday school sentences captured our attention and the kindness of a banker, warmed all of our hearts. This was our town, at the end of 1921.

Friday, July 1, 1921

FORMAL OPENING OF KIDDIES PLAYGROUND AGAIN POSTPONED

A semi-official opening of the playgrounds at Fourth and A streets was made last night, when between 100 and 125 children reported at the grounds in expectation of the formal opening.

The rain which fell Thursday morning left the ground soft and muddy and unfit for the formal opening, it was said.

As the evening advanced, throngs of children began congregating at the playgrounds. Miss Dimple Johnson, a member of the playground committee, noticed and called Otto Wilkerson, supervisor of the playgrounds and he, on a minutes' notice, summoned two others.

**"Don't Say Bread,
Say Holsum"**



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Clean
Sold
Clean
Delivered
Clean

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our bakery.

**Shipley Baking
Company**

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Fort Smith, Ark.

Some Hot Prices During a Hot Time!

Tolle Du Nord Gingham, the yard	35c
40-inch Organdy, white, the yard	35c
Domestic, the yard	10c
36-inch Percale, all checks, fast colors, the yard	25c
Good Gingham in all popular checks, the yard	25c
Ladies' Silk Hose, white and black, the pair	69c
Ladies' Leather House Slippers, the pair	\$1.95
Ladies' Felt Bed-Room Slippers, the pair	\$1.45
Men's Blue Work Shirts	69c
Men's Khaki Shirts	69c
Men's Overalls	95c
Men's Lisle Hose, all colors, the pair	25c
Men's Silk Ties, each	75c
Men's Silk Socks, the pair	65c



804 Garrison Ave.

"Keep Hunt In Mind"

Louis Weinstein and Herschell Hunt, and collecting a quantity of paraphernalia, set out for the playgrounds. Later, the kids were started playing a number of games which continued until dark.

The formal opening of the playgrounds will be made next Wednesday night, weather conditions remaining favorable, Mr. Wilkerson stated. Games and plenty of ice cream, with all the trimmings, are included in the evening's program.

Saturday, July 2, 1921

POTEAU WATER MUDDY BECAUSE OF RAINS

The city is being put to an additional expense to clear up exceptionally muddy water in the Poteau river, from where the supply is taken, announced Commissioner Mike Smith yesterday afternoon.

"The river water is very muddy as a result of recent heavy rains, and for that reason we are having

If Your Water Tastes Bad

And You Want a Refreshing Drink

TRY

**Melting 50 Lbs. of Pure
Distilled Water Ice**

And you will have seven gallons of pure distilled water at a cost of three and half cents per gallon.

50 Pounds Ice At 25c

Seven Gallons Distilled Water

Cash and carry station, 10th Street and Grand Avenue
Phone No. 4. Red White and Blue Wagon.

**Border City Ice & Cold
Storage Co.**

Remember that your ice must be distilled water ice if you expect to get water that is pure and free from alkali taste.

much trouble with the filters in clearing the water. It is expected however, that the water will clear, and the river will fall within a week, and the matter can be straightened out with little difficulty."

Sunday, July 3, 1921

SCHMIDT GIVEN FULL AUTHORITY TO RUN TWINS

Boss Schmidt will have a free rein with the Twin baseball club during the second half of the Western association race, according to announcement made by club owners yesterday.

Several squabbles which have arisen recently have threatened the harmony of the team and the vesting of authority in the veteran manager and catcher was decided upon as the best solution of the problem.

Interference of club owners with Schmidt in the management of the club is given as one of the reasons for the poor start of the Twins which prevented their winning of the pennant. There will be no such alibi available during the second season and chances for a Twin victory have increased accordingly.

SCOUTS CELEBRATION OF JULY FOURTH TO BE A MERRY ONE

All arrangements have been completed and the celebration at the Boy Scout park Monday in celebration of the Fourth of July is expected to be one of the largest of the kind ever held here, announcements Saturday indicated.

A firework display of exceptional brilliance has been arranged for Monday night. The Scouts and members of the Country club will celebrate jointly in the evening.

The parade, in which all Boy Scouts in Fort Smith and Van Buren and the scout executives will participate, will start promptly at 10:30 o'clock, forming at the Goldman.

TO RETURN BODY OF VICTOR M. ELLIG THIS MONTH; FIRST LOCAL BOY KILLED IN WORLD STRUGGLE

The body of Victor M. Ellig, first Fort Smith boy killed overseas in the great World war, will be returned home sometime this month for burial in the National cemetery here. The body will reach New York City about July 15 and will be immediately sent on here, according to a telegram received yesterday.

Victor Ellig was the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. C.



VICTOR ELLIG

Ellig of 1017 North Eleventh street. He enlisted in the regular American army for active service abroad November 13, 1917, soon after the outbreak of hostilities. From Fort Smith he was sent to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., to be sent from there to France in March, 1918 as a member of Company B, 4th infantry, Third Division.

July 23, 1918, in a charge upon

the German positions in the Aisne-Marne offensive, Victor Ellig was shot through the heart by a German sharpshooter while advancing upon the enemy. He was the first Fort Smith man to make the supreme sacrifice in the world struggle for Democracy.

Now, three years after his death on French battlefields, Ellig is returning home. The military funeral to be held for him will be the biggest and most impressive the Victor Ellig post of the American legion here, named in his honor, can stage. It is expected that the funeral will be held about July 23, the third anniversary of the hero's death.

In the little home of the Ellig's on North Eleventh street, in the corner of the little parlor held sacred to his memory, are a number of tributes to the heroism and sacrifice of the soldier. A tribute in memoriam by General John Pershing, a word of sympathy and appreciation signed by Woodrow Wilson, ex-president of the United States, and a certificate signed by Ex-Governor Charles Brough, are among these treasures. A beautiful gold medal bearing the engagements of the American armies abroad with a list of the allied, given only to the survivors of the heroic dead, is given a place of honor among the treasures.

Friday, July 8, 1921

STONE CELLS TO BE REMOVED FROM OLD FEDERAL JAIL

A contract to tear out brick and stone constructed cells from the Welfare building, formerly the federal jail here, was let at a specially called meeting of the city council yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

The bidder offered to tear out the cells for \$760 and complete the work in approximately three weeks.

The city officials some time ago let a contract for the tearing [out] of steel partitions and fixtures from the

building and contemplated a complete renovation of the old jail and [to] utilize that part not used by the welfare association for office rooms of the board of health.

It was found, however, that in the long run cost would be less to tear out all brick partitioning and remodel the outside of the building again.

All rock and bricks torn from the building will go to the city and will be dumped back of Meister Brothers -Bract company's property [on] Parker avenue for future use.

It is expected that part of the bricks will be used to construct a concrete floor in the building.

Tuesday, July 12, 1921

GIRL HAS NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH IN SWIMMING POOL

Miss Grace Eppler, 500 South Twelfth street, narrowly escaped drowning at the Boy Scout swimming pool on North Tenth street Monday night, shortly after 7 o'clock.

Miss Eppler was a member of the party of young business women of the Young Women's Christian association who spent Monday evening at the pool and was one of several young girls who had been receiving swimming lessons.

While Otto Wilkerson, who is in charge of the class in swimming, was engaged in assisting other beginners about the pool, Miss Eppler failed to heed the warning of girl friends and ventured out in the deep water. A moment later, Mr. Wilkerson and others were attracted by screams for help. They rushed to her assistance, and she was only rescued after she had gone down the second time.

The Fentress lung motor was rushed to the scene, and with this use of artificial respiration, Mr. Wilkerson revived the patient. She was removed to her home on South Twelfth street, where reports last night indicated a speedy recovery.

Tuesday, July 19, 1921

LEGALITY OF GUM SLOT MACHINES TO BE DECIDED TODAY

Whether or not the slot machines that are in play in approximately fifteen Fort Smith places of business, principally pool halls, are illegal will be determined in municipal court tomorrow at 2 o'clock, when every

man with a machine in his building has been ordered to appear pending investigation of the court.

The question as to whether the machines are liable to a tax is already being probed by the city attorney.

The machines consist of so-called gum roulette wheels. A nickel is inserted in the slot and a lever is pulled. If the insignia on the wheels come to certain combinations, a number is checked in a visible place that announces whether or not, and to what extent, the player will win on the next cast. If he wins, he secures a number of trade checks that may be played in turn or may be changed for merchandise at a value of 5 cents apiece.

In the event the player does not win a combination, he receives a block of mints, providing he remembers to pull a certain lever at a certain time. Usually the mints are forgotten.

It is maintained that the fact that [each] time he plays either mints or checks [are disbursed], prevents the machine from being a gaming device. It is further maintained that the machine is not a game of chance because the player always knows what he is going to get the next time he plays. This is the reason for the deferred prize in the checks.

The machines resemble pure gambling devices with the exceptions of these technicalities. Whether or not they will be enough to keep their owners from paying strict penalties for the use of the "gum roulette wheels," will be determined in court.

Saturday, July 23, 1921

SOUTH TOWN TEAM ATTACKS UMPIRE; FRANCHISE TAKEN

The charter of the South Fort Smith team in the Municipal league has been forfeited by that club, according to Will Johnson, secretary of the league. The South town team is alleged to have almost mobbed the umpire in a recent game with the Polar Bears, because of a close decision at the end of a battle.

The Polar Bears were playing South Fort Smith at the Stadium Thursday afternoon and the score was tied in the first of the seventh. Geren, for the Bears was on second and started for home on a single by Self. He scored according to the umpire, Johnson Ehing. The South Fort Smith team and rooters, it was said, got very ugly and threatened the umpire with bats and fists and it was only after a strenuous argument that the game was resumed.

Self went to second on the play and a hidden ball

trick pulled by the centerfielder caught the man off the base. Ehing did not see the play and said so, calling the runner safe. The South Fort Smith team and a large number of fans started for Ehing when he spread out his hands, it was said, and started striking him. The man was hit over the head with several bats and was struck brutally in the face by a number of the men, it was said. He finally escaped by outrunning the mob, but his head was badly bruised and yesterday was swollen and bruised from the fight. Some of the Polar Bear players who attempted to protect Ehing were also struck, it was said, but they were unarmed of baseball bats, all of which had thoughtfully been garnered up by the South town boys in their initial rush. A number of spectators left too hurriedly to be injured by the scrap in which nearly 150 men and boys from South Fort Smith [participated] it was said.

Upon consideration of the case yesterday, Johnson said the other teams in the league had decided to evict the Southsiders, and that in the future the league would be formed with only the Maccabees, Knights of Columbus, Polar Bears and Van Buren.

The South Fort Smith team at the time of their eviction from the league had won 8 games and lost 2, an average of 800. The K. of C. leads the league with a perfect record of six games won. The league season was split and the winners of the second half, providing it is not the first half champion K. C. team, will play for the city championship.

Thursday, July 28, 1921

MUCH RIVALRY IN RANGER CAMP OVER SWIMMING RECORD

The attempt of Paul Northum, boy ranger, to break the record swim of Pat Duncan, who swam six miles down [the] Poteau river Tuesday evening, failed yesterday, according to C. F. Wilmans, who accompanied Northum in his attempt to swim a ten mile stretch in the river. Northum was seized with a cramp at the end of a three and one quarter mile paddle and was forced to withdraw.'

This leaves the record of Pat Duncan at the head of the list. Tuesday, Duncan who is only 12 years old, swam six miles, besting the five mile mark of Gordon Bonner who Monday broke the previous record which had stood for over a year, established by Northum who swam 3 1-4 miles last summer.

In his unsuccessful trials yesterday, Northum was accompanied in the water by Fred Cabell, 14 year old

boy and Gerald Cabell, 11 year old boy. Fred Cabell swam 3 1-2 miles and dropped out while the younger boy swam four miles, beating the other two handily.

Fred Cabell has entered into training and will attempt to beat Duncan's mark soon, it was said. Northum will also make another attempt to hang out a new long distance mark.

Tuesday, August 2, 1921

MASKED BANDITS HOLD UP GRAND AVENUE TROLLEY; JEWELRY AND MONEY TAKEN FROM VICTIMS

With a drawn revolver, a masked bandit stopped an inbound Grand avenue street car at 10:45 o'clock at North Thirty-fourth street last night, relieved the motorman and three passengers of money and jewelry, amounting to \$100, and escaped. A confederate stood on the outside and uttered sharp, hoarse commands to the passengers and the other bandit.

A second hold-up last night was reported by J. Alexander 1012 North Fourteenth street, who told police that an unmasked white man carrying a large caliber revolver held him up and took \$5.25 from him. The hold-up occurred late last night in the 800 block of North Fourteen street just as Alexander was returning home.

Thursday, August 4, 1921

MAN RIDDLED WITH BULLETS IN BATTLE WITH POLICE; WAITS NEAR SCENE OF HOLD UP UNTIL OFFICERS ARRIVE

Shot in six or seven places and seriously wounded, Stanley R. Kerr, 1515 North Fourth street, alleged highwayman, lies at the point of death at Sparks' hospital. The man was shot by Motorcycle Officer Ellig and Night Captain Robertson, shortly before midnight last night in a shooting affray on Texas road two miles south of Fort Smith, as a result of the officers' attempts to arrest the man.

The two officers, answering a call to arrest the alleged highwayman, sprang from the police car to arrest Kerr, who opened fire and the officers responded, it was said, with their revolvers. After firing four shots, the man fell riddled with bullets. He was taken to Sparks' hospital immediately following the shooting.

His injuries include a bullet hole in the abdomen, and bullet holes in the hands, hips and leg. It is probable that death will result from the wounds, attendants at Sparks hospital said last night.

ATTEMPTS HOLD-UP

According to the officers, Kerr at a late hour last night attempted to hold up the car of Matt McCuvray of Greenwood, who with Miss Roberta Gamble, was riding on Texas road, coming toward Fort Smith. The man thrust a revolver into McCuvray's face and searched his clothing, it was said.

After the holdup and after McCuvray and Miss Gamble had escaped Kerr, it was said, [they] drove rapidly to Fort Smith to report the case to police. They met motorcycle officer Ellig on the way in and the motor policeman entered the car and returned to the scene of the holdup. When he attempted to arrest Kerr, Kerr resisted and with his gun in the officer's stomach, made Ellig turn about and return to town.

Ellig reported the matter to Chief Gordon and the two officers raced out Texas road to arrest Kerr. When they approached him, they leaped from the car and Kerr opened fire.

A man with Kerr, an E. S. Williams, was brought to police headquarters last night. Williams, according to his story, had never before seen Kerr in his life but said Kerr forced him to accompany him on his raid out Texas road. Williams is a young man about 20 years of age and officers believe that he told the truth. Kerr is known to have been drinking heavily and showed the effects of the liquor, officers said, even after he was shot and taken to the hospital.

Attempts to locate the home of Kerr last night proved fruitless, police state at 2:30. No such address as those given by the wounded man could be found.

Friday, August 5, 1921

VETERANS, ARMED WITH AUTOMATICS AND RIFLES READY NIGHT AND DAY

Complete organization of the American Legion Vigilantes who will be fully armed and will travel by automobile to patrol the city was effected at a meeting of the Victor Ellig post last night. They will be ready at a moment's notice to respond to calls either from police or sheriff's office, according to announcements by officials of the post.

Public announcement of the names of the more than 20 legionnaires, who will be subject to call at any time, and the large reserve subject to call on notice, was

withheld by Legion officers for obvious reasons. Each man will be fully armed, probably with army automatics and in some instances rifles. Upon call, plans have been laid for assemblage and course of action in case of necessity. The commander of the Legion men, it is said, will be directly under orders from the police or county authorities. He will direct his men accordingly, in case they are called out.

Provided lawlessness continues to occur without signs of abating, the vigilance patrol will be called out this week; otherwise they will remain in readiness for a hurry call. In most instances they will not be uniformed except for squad officers and the commander. The men will work in pairs and if called will probably patrol the city systematically.

Saturday, August 6, 1921

KERR, FACING DEATH, DECLARES HE IS INNOCENT; SAYS WAS SHOT BY OFFICERS WITHOUT PROVOCATION

That he did not resist officers, that he did not fire a single shot and did not attempt to hold up anyone in an effort to secure money or valuables, were statements made yesterday by Stanley Kerr, alleged highwayman, who lies at the point of death at Sparks memorial hospital.

M. C. Harper of Muskogee, friend of the family and an old newspaper man, who is making a special investigation of the affair for the family of Kerr, stated last night that he was convinced that Kerr had not attempted to hold-up anyone. The death of Kerr, should the man die, will be upon the head of the officers.

Kerr's statement, made after he was informed that his chances for living were practically nil, seemed to bear out Harper's statements. Kerr admitted having a gun on the fatal Wednesday night, but denied having shot that weapon during the evening, or having attempted to hold-up any persons in a search for money.

Miss Roberta Gamble, one of the two persons whom Kerr is alleged to have held up, said yesterday afternoon that the man made no attempt to rob them. "He stopped us," said the girl, "and asked our names, after informing us that we were going pretty fast. After we told him our names he let us go."

Effort to prove that Kerr was the man wanted in connection with the Grand avenue street car hold-up on Monday night has so far proved futile. W. F. Knighton, with whom Kerr and his family have rooms and D. E. Tedder, who also resides at the Knighton home, 1022

North Fourth street, yesterday said that positive proof could be furnished that Kerr was at home at the time the robbery was committed. They said he came home at 10:15 o'clock Monday night, conversed with them for a moment, [and] then went to his rooms.

Tedder said that he saw Kerr at home at 11 o'clock. "While we did not see Kerr between 10:30 and 11:00 o'clock positively, we have every reason to know that he was at home during the time that the robbery was committed, because he came downstairs to talk a minute before he retired at 11 o'clock," said Knighton.

"In that length of time he could not have possibly reached town, and I am sure that Kerr is not the man wanted for the street car hold-up," he added.

While Kerr was in the habit of drinking, according to his associates he was not a man of law-breaking habits, they said. Only during the past few weeks has he been attending the dances at "Society Curve," which were held three times each week, they said.

Sunday, August 7, 1921

TO ASK INJUNCTION AGAINST DANCE HALL

Suit for an injunction restraining the operation of the open air dancing pavilion on Texas road, commonly called Society Curve, will be filed in chancery court Monday according to information received last night.

The suit is to be filed by a resident in the vicinity of the dance pavilion and he will ask for the injunction on the grounds that it is a nuisance and disturbs the peace of people residing in that part of town.

The suit, it is understood will also allege that the dance promotes crime and is a gathering place for law violators.

Tuesday, August 9, 1921

WORLD WAR VETS ARE CALLED; WAR IS DECLARED ON CRIME IN CITY

Members of the American Legion Flying Squadron were roused from their beds shortly before midnight last night to assist in a search for two automobiles which were stolen off Garrison avenue earlier in the evening.

Efforts of the police to trace down the auto bandits were unsuccessful. It was feared by the police that the theft of the autos might be a ruse by hold-up men to occupy the police during the hours near midnight, in

order that others of their gang might have a clear field for richer game.

Within ten minutes after a reported burglary in a remote part of the city, cars of the "Flying Squadron" Legionnaires, police and county officers swooped down on the scene, and the whole neighborhood was bathed in the lights and a dragnet thrown from rays of flashlights and auto-headlights which no burglar could have hope of escaping.

At 1 o'clock a call was received from North Sixth street. A prowler was reported. As before, the "Flying Squadron" in command of Police Captain Robertson was on the scene.

In both instances it was found that a frightened house-holder had sent in an alarm at a slight noise. The whole neighborhood where the disorders were reported awoke to find mysterious men receiving gruff orders and were at a loss to learn the cause until it was explained by the commander.

Eighteen veterans of the World war, armed to the teeth, will tonight begin a systematic patrol of Fort Smith and vicinity to combat the crime wave which has swept the city the past week.

Many of them carrying the army rifles which they used to put the Hun to flight and all of them full of the same spirit with which they defended the Stars and Stripes in the great conflict, the Legion Patrol will present an organized resistance to the rapid occurrence of bold robberies and daring hold-ups which have placed the city in a state of terror.

The legionnaires have been organized into a flying squadron consisting of nine automobiles, each carrying two men. Each car has been assigned a district of the city and will patrol the streets of that district keeping a close lookout for suspicious characters. People on the streets at a late hour will be placed under arrest unless their presence can be explained to the satisfaction of the patrolmen.

At a meeting in the court house last night, the 18 men listened in grim silence to instructions given them by Chief of Police Mike Gordon, Night Captain Robertson and Sheriff Harper. They were warned of the desperate chances which a criminal would take to escape arrest and instructed to take no chances.

The air in the chief of police's office, where the meeting was held, was tense during the 15 minutes that the war veterans listened attentively to the instructions and advice given them. After informing them of their duties and warning them of the danger which they might at any moment face, the volunteers were given an opportunity to withdraw. However, these men, many of whom faced the bullet fire of the Huns without

flinching, did not waver as they took the oath to enforce the law and protect the city from law-violators.

Sheriff Harper and Police Chief Gordon last night expressed deep appreciation to the legion volunteers for their offer of assistance in breaking up the gang of bandits, which is thought to be operating in this city. The police officers, sheriffs' force, and the legionnaires will work in closest cooperation, it was said.

Friday, August 12, 1921

SHERIFF CONDEMNS PUBLIC DANCES; IS POWERLESS TO ACT

Emphatic declaration that he personally was opposed to public dances such as are being conducted now on the outskirts of Fort Smith, but that as sheriff he did not have authority to stop the operation of such dance halls until an injunction was secured against them, was made last night by Sheriff Blake Harper.

The statement by the sheriff was made in answer to many requests that he put a stop to the dances.

"I visited the place in company with Judge Fishback for the special purpose of making arrests in the event there were any violations of the law, but finding no such violations, was powerless to take any action," said Mr. Harper.

"Because I did not make any arrests many people have construed this to mean that I have approved the project, which is not true. I believe that the thing should be stopped and I called upon many of the people living in the vicinity of the Society Curve pavilion and advised them to file complaint and petition for an injunction. I shall be only too glad to serve such an injunction, if the people will take the necessary steps," concluded the sheriff.

SHOT FIRED AT MAN WHO REFUSES TO HALT, ACCIDENTALLY WOUNDS BARBER; POLICE HOLD COMPANION

Attracted by the sound of pistol shots, Charley Dear, a barber, stepped to the edge of the street at the intersection of North Eleventh and A streets last night and was shot through both legs by Patrolman Durham, who was chasing an unknown man who had failed to halt on command.

The shooting occurred about 8:20 o'clock, when an unknown man started running east on A street after Patrolman Durham had repeatedly ordered him to surrender. He was first seen in company with Al Hagen, walking north on Tenth street, and both men were

acting suspiciously. When the two men saw the officer, they parted, one going south on Towson avenue, and the other going east on A street. The man who went out A street was followed by the officer who ordered him to halt. At the command, he is said to have started on a dead run, with Durham following, firing as he ran.

It was at this juncture that Dear was shot. It was thought the bullet glanced from the sidewalk, hitting Dear first in the calf of the left leg, and then passing through the calf of the right leg.

Durham gave up the chase and ministered to the needs of Dear, who was later taken to St. Edwards infirmary in the Fentress ambulance. Although his injuries are considered serious, they are not dangerous, provided complications do not set in.

Al Hagan walked into the county jail and submitted to arrest a half hour after the shooting. He said he did not know the man who was walking with him. Hagan is being held by order of the chief of police for investigation.

In a sack picked up near the scene of the shooting, an automobile spotlight was found. The police say the light was a stolen one.

Saturday, August 13, 1921

PLAN BOXING CARD AT ANDREWS FIELD FOR LABOR HOLIDAY

A boxing card of 26 rounds of fighting, featuring the appearance of Jack McDowell, the "fighting fireman" of Fort Smith, against some fast light heavyweight, probably Ted Hargrove of Muskogee, has been arranged by local promoters for the night of September 5, according to announcement made last night.

The card will be staged at Andrews field on the night of Labor day.

Thursday, August 18, 1921

CLAIMS ALIENATION OF WIFE'S AFFECTION SUES FOR \$25,000

Claiming that C. Hammet has alienated his wife's affection to the extent that she does not love him, refuses to cook his meals, and take any interest in his affairs, R. N. Robinson yesterday filed suit against Hammet asking as damages \$25,000.

The petition states that Mr. Robinson married Miss

Henderson in 1912 and up until a short time ago she has been loving, affectionate, and kind, and had helped him in every way to make their home a happy one.

Alleging that his wife did not care for any other man until they moved on North Third street, directly across the street from a store operated by Hammet, Robinson prays that judgment be awarded with costs of action. He further declares that Hammet has promised his wife more luxuries in life than he Robinson is able to provide. That he has taken her automobile riding and that she entertains him in his house while he is at work trying to eke out a living for them and their adopted son.

Friday, August 19, 1921

TO RAISE SPAN OF FREE BRIDGE NEXT SUNDAY

[The raising] of the movable span of the Fort Smith -Van Buren free bridge will be held at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon instead of at 9 o'clock in the morning as previously announced, Secretary Clemons of the bridge board said last night.

The event which is an annual occurrence is usually attended by a large crowd and the change in time was made for the convenience of the people of the Twin cities who may desire to be present. By holding the test in the afternoon it will not interfere with Sunday dinners or church goers as might have been the case of the morning hour.

Street car service across the bridge will be stopped for a short while and gas served by the Wildcat or Clear Creek companies from the Kibler field will be cut off.

Secretary Clemons also issued a warning to spectators not to take a position too close to the movable span for although no trouble is anticipated in raising the span, an accident might cause serious trouble, he said.

Sunday, August 21, 1921

HENRYETTA WILL NOT PLAY SCHMIDT CLAN AT MOFFETT; LEAVE FOR OKLAHOMA CITY

Steve O'Rourke's Henrys will not play the Twins at Moffett today according to a statement made by O'Rourke last night. The Henryetta team will take the 8:40 train for Oklahoma City from where they will go to Enid to open a four-game series Monday.

O'Rourke claimed last night that he had been hit by a pop bottle and exhibited a bump on his head to substantiate his statement. Harris, left fielder, is nursing a bump near his right eye which he says was caused by a thrown rock. Other players were struck by flying cushions.

"The boys are afraid to play tomorrow because of the feeling that is held here against us" said O'Rourke last night. "We were not treated fairly and we do not intend to play a game that is not forced upon us out of any good feeling toward this city."

The game is not a forfeit to Fort Smith, because the Moffett park is not a recognized ground of the Western association and a team can refuse to play upon it without fear of having a forfeit declared. The contest between Fort Smith and Henryetta, as far as the average column is concerned, will be simply called off."

In all fairness to O'Rourke, his action is more or less justified. He was personally humiliated after an argument with the umpire over a decision that was palpably miscalled. He carried things too far it is true. But regardless of what he did, there was not possible justification for the attack of some of the fans with pop bottles and cushions as weapons and the Henryetta team as targets. They should have been arrested for the attack and the Henryetta players should have been given full protection by the law.

"They found officers to put O'Rourke off the field but they couldn't get any law to protect us" said one of the players last night.

Henryetta put in a long distance call for O'Rourke last night urging him to try to come to some agreement with the Fort Smith team. O'Rourke's last statement last night was to the effect that they would leave this morning.

Tuesday, August 23, 1921

POLICE SAY PAYNE ROBBED STREET CAR

Claude Payne, arrested and ordered held for investigation by Chief of Police M. J. Gordon early Sunday, is thought by local authorities to be connected with the robbery of Louis Whittaker near his home in Van Buren on the night of August 6. Possible implication of Payne has been suggested by officials here, in the robbery of a Grand avenue trolley a month ago.

Mr. Whittaker, proprietor of an electric company by that name in Van Buren, was held up and robbed of \$200 and his automobile just as he stepped out of his

garage about midnight. The automobile was found in an alley in the North end of town several days later.

TO ENFORCE LAW AGAINST SPITTING ON SIDEWALKS

“Five dollars fine for spitting on the sidewalk,” declared officials of the Anti-Tuberculosis association yesterday. Within the next two days the declaration by order of Acting Mayor M. J. Miller, and under the direction of Mrs. H. C. King of the Tuberculosis association, will be painted on the sidewalks of the main thoroughfares of the city.

Acting Mayor Miller issued a permit to the association yesterday allowing the warning to be stenciled on sidewalks. Within a short time, a consultation with the chief of police resulted in an order to nab the “careless spitter.” Every patrolman will be given special instructions to arrest all persons seen expectorating on sidewalks in the downtown districts.

Wednesday, August 24, 1921

THE LOCAL BASEBALL SITUATION

The Southwest American presents to its readers this morning only the bare results of yesterday’s baseball game in this city.

For the benefit of those who do not know the circumstances which brought this condition about the following brief statement is given.

The management of the club objected to the manner in which the story of Saturday’s game was handled by reporters for the Southwest American and Times Record and on Monday notified the baseball writers that the press box had been closed to them for the season. In addition, the management circulated among the baseball fans a petition which was obnoxious to both newspapers and reflecting upon the honor of the baseball writers and the integrity of the newspapers. And again the management attempted to dictate to the newspapers which members of their respective staff of writers should handle the baseball games in the future.

No self-respecting newspaper would stand for these tactics.

When the management of the Twins acknowledges the right of the a free press, or in other words, that baseball writers shall write the stories of the games as they see them, when the management opens up the press box [this paper will again] devote its usual amount of space to accounts of the games and boost for the Twins.

It’s strictly up to the owners of the club.

Thursday, August 25, 1921

EFFORTS OF AD CLUB TO SETTLE BASEBALL CONTROVERSY REBUFFED BY OWNERS OF FORT SMITH CLUB

With the final admonishment that the attitude of the club owners was uncompromising, unfair and would work harm to the good name of Fort Smith, President Oscar Fentress and Louis Cohen of the Fort Smith Ad club ceased their efforts yesterday noon to effect a reconciliation of the differences between the owners of the Twins and the Southwest American and Times Record, in a conference held in the Fentress office.

Charley Coffey took the position of chief spokesman for the club, with owners Brittain and Bullock also present. Coffey declared with vehemence that he would not alter his position in the matter one whit and that the newspapers would have to apologize publicly and admit they were in error in reporting the Saturday near-riot at the baseball park. He declared there was absolutely no truth in the newspaper reports, even though Mr. Fentress had previously stated in the conference that one of his friends on returning from the game Saturday evening had stated there was a big row at the ball park and cushions and POP BOTTLES were thrown. Mr. Cohen had also previously stated that his nurse at the hospital, on returning from the game, had told him she had witnessed an exciting scene at the park, which almost developed into a riot. It was admitted by club owners that Charley Brown attempted to “get to” one of the visiting players with a two-by-four jerked loose from one of the railings about the boxes.

Elmer Brittain, said the club owners had a five-year lease on Andrews field and that they could close it up for that length of time if they wanted to and not be out very much money, and no one else could put a club in the town.

Coffey with great fervor declared it was a very

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Experienced and specially trained mechanics to do the work—All work guaranteed—Fair and honest charges!	
W. F. Penny	
102 No. 5th	Phone 877

serious affair, quite a matter of honor, and that the newspapers would be required to make statements satisfactory to the club owners before the newspapers could hope to be in good standing with the management, in fact it was a sort of "over my dead body" ultimatum Mr. Coffey tragically spilled.

Mr. Fentress and Mr. Cohen should be commended by the friends of baseball for their efforts to pour oil on the troubled waters-even though rebuffed by the club owners.

Friday, August 26, 1921

JUDGE BOURLAND FLAYS 'SOCIETY CURVE,' ISSUES AN INJUNCTION

Declaring that conditions surrounding the "Society Curve" dancing pavilion during the operation of that resort were the worst that he has ever heard of in his experience on the bench. Chancellor J. V. Bourland yesterday enjoined J. C. Monk, proprietor of the resort from operating the pavilion, through a restraining order. The order, granted on petition of citizens in that part of the township, takes effect immediately.

"If I had a daughter I would rather see her dead and beneath the roses than to think that she would be tempted to go to such a place." Judge Bourland declared in one of the most brilliant denunciations against crime that has ever been given here." The place was a hell-hole of degradation and immorality and was a thorn in the side of every decent citizen in this community."

Testimony given tended to show that the most disgusting of immoral conditions existed near the pavilion during the dance events. Tales of depravity, disgusting and obscene, were told in the court. Some of the evidence was of such a nature that the chancellor excused women witnesses from repeating it in the courtroom in terms that it should have properly been described.

Attendants of the dances trespassed upon neighboring fields and wood lots, evidence showed. Much of this activity concerned young girls it was said, who were enticed by men to



the dance, given liquor to drink and then depraved. The testimony was some of the strongest ever given in a local court. Women were accosted along the streets at night with invitations to attend the dances for a "night out."

J. C. Monk, proprietor of the pavilion, offered as testimony the statements of numerous officers and others that nothing improper occurred at the pavilion over which he had personal charge. While this was admitted, the nature of the resort was vigorously flayed by the chancery judge, and declared closed immediately.

After the close of the trial, Judge Bourland was approached by Monk, who asked if he might see him a minute. "No, you cannot talk to me," declared the Chancellor, "talk to your lawyer."

WHY BROWN WANTED TO WHIP BALL PLAYER

In the Thursday morning issue of the Southwest American, it was stated [that] the club owners admitted that Charley Brown attempted to get at one of the Henryetta ball players with a 2 x 4 scantling; Brown admits it himself, but has requested that his reasons for doing so be published. He declares [that] a Henryetta ball player threw a cushion into the grand stand and it hit his wife in the face, knocking off her glasses. When this occurred, Brown prepared for action, but was prevented by other spectators from carrying out his intentions.

Statements by those who witnessed the ruckus at the ball grounds last Saturday are to the effect that, the ball player threw back into the grand stand a cushion with which he had been hit, by someone in the grand stand.

Saturday, August 27, 1921

ENJOINING ORDER IS MADE PERMANENT BY JUDGE BOURLAND

J. C. Monk, proprietor of the "Society Curve" dance pavilion of Fort Smith, can never operate such a resort within the limits of Sebastian county again, according to the final judgment of Chancellor J. C. Bourland yesterday.

At the close of the hearing Thursday, Chancellor Bourland granted a temporary restraining order against "Society Curve," and upon application from assisting prosecuting attorney, Ray Gean, yesterday, made the order permanent.

The decision does not affect any other pavilions in the county, except "Society Curve," or a similar resort conducted by Monk.

Wednesday, August 31, 1921

GOLD MEDAL SHOWS AT OLD STADIUM GROUND LABOR DAY

The Gold Medal Shows that open here September 5, Labor Day, for the benefit of the Twins baseball players is considered one of the cleanest and best carnivals on the road. The Slogan of "Not Quantity but Quality" fits in with all of the attractions that they carry.

The riding devices, of which there are three in number, are the best and newest on the road. Their attractions consists of one of the best animal shows now in the business and attracts the ladies and children wherever they go and plays to a full house at every performance. The athletic show features Olie Olson, one of the best known wrestlers in the business, who meets all comers. The Motor Drome, where two ladies and a man face death at each performance, and even smile as they race around the drome at break neck speed, flirting with death at each turn. The Billicks Dixie Shows, with 18 of the best colored performers that can be obtained, carry you back to the days of old

when the banjo rings and the darkies shuffle their feet, and lots of comedy that keeps you in laughter from the beginning to the end.

Their attractions are too numerous to mention, but each show will receive a good description before they arrive, and the people of Fort Smith have a great treat in store for them when the shows open Monday, September 5, on the Old Stadium grounds.

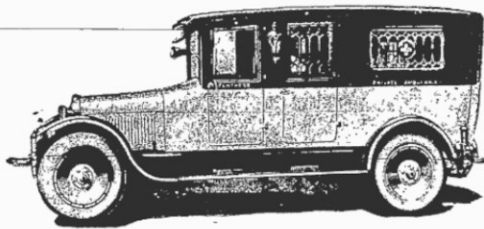
The ball players of the Twins are putting on this carnival and all profit derived from the carnival will be divided among the players, so it is up to the good loyal ball fans and friends to see that they get good results. Remember, it opens Labor Day, September 5, and continues six days.

Wednesday, September 7, 1921

FOUR MEN HIT BY LADDER ON AERIAL TRUCK

Four men were hurt yesterday afternoon when the long extension ladder on the rear of the aerial fire truck swiped into a crowd at the corner of South Ninth and A streets. W. B. Slaton and Lloyd Bennett are at St. Edwards hospital receiving treatment for cuts about the head and face. Their injuries are not serious. The other two men, employees of the Gold Medal shows, were

A NEW AND FINER AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT



This Ambulance is regarded by all, who are in a position to know to be the finest automobile ambulance ever placed on the American market, complete in the most minutest detail, equipped with every modern convenience and just such a car as is best suited to the requirements of every man who wants to give an Exclusive Ambulance Service.

By Exclusive Ambulance Service, we mean a service that will best appeal to the public, a service rendered in the most efficient manner, and a service that cannot fail to be absorbing.

What could be more beautiful than to see a car of this Ambulance which is being driven by a person from roof to floor?

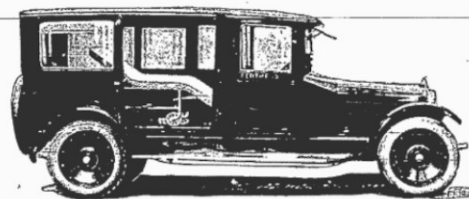
What could be more pleasant than to be placed in this Ambulance on a winter day and to feel the warmth that comes from the heater inside the car?

What could be more convenient than to go into this Ambulance on a hot summer day and to find the door glass dropping, the ventilation, and the electric fan in the roof, working from the storage battery, keeping up a fine cool circulation?

There is ample room for the patient and attendant. There is every detail there for the comfort of the patient, and for the efficient service of our ambulance.

This Ambulance is equipped with a Red Cross Emblem and First Aid Appliances—Band and Cold Water, Breathing Tubes, Electric Portable Hand Lamps, Thermometer, Thermos Bottles and Bandaging, Attendant's seats.

It is mounted upon Turbilo Thrash—spring underpinning under the axle, bringing the center of gravity low, so that you do not have that side sway which is so objectionable in an ambulance.



This is our Invalid Coach, and is the latest word in Ambulances. It is designed for the discriminating clientele who have an objection to the sensational appearance of an ambulance driving to the door, attracting attention.

This design reflects the dignity of its mission, is complete in all its appointments, distinctive in all its features, efficient in operation, and embodies every modern convenience for practical requirements.

This Coach is equipped with double side doors for loading the cot in from the side, as we find that today, most of the people, giving Ambulance service, on account of so many narrow streets, find the side door appeals to a good many people.

In so many places the curb is high, where the back door cannot be opened, and so often the streets will be muddy, this makes the side doors very desirable.

The speed of these cars is from one mile an hour to the greatest that the emergency demands.

Our establishment offers this equipment to their clientele evidencing our desire to provide for everything to show our appreciation of the quality of service expected by discriminating people.

OSCAR FENTRESS

PHONE 778

1110 Garrison Ave.

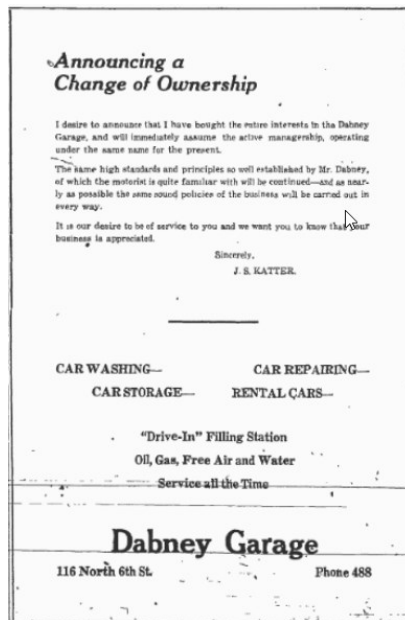
PHONE 778

dismissed from Sparks hospital after an examination showed that they were not hurt.

The men were standing on the sidewalk near the corner, it was said, and were struck by the ladder when the truck swung around the corner. The truck was making a regular weekly practice run.

The length of the truck makes driving on a narrow street dangerous and, according to city officials, the firemen had been ordered to confine their practice to Garrison and Rogers avenue. Rogers avenue was blocked by a Fort Smith and western train, and after the truck had been turned off Garrison it was necessary to continue out to South A street, firemen said.

An investigation of the accident will be made this morning by Commissioner Miller.



Tuesday, September 13, 1921

LEVERETT SHUTS OUT DRUMMERS, 4 TO 0; TWINS CINCH PENNANT

Gorham Leverett tossed his glove on the field yesterday and the frightened Drumright youngsters submitted meekly to a 4 to 0 drubbing at the hands of the star Twin hurler, who has been sold to the Chicago White Sox. The victory clinched the pennant for the Twins and the Schmidt clan can lose all remaining games and still stay at the top of the percentage ladder until the season closes.

Thursday, September 15, 1921

FINED FOR SUNDAY CARD PLAYING HERE

A little Sunday card game cost Dan Anderson and Jennie Rector, negroes, a fine of \$25 and costs amounting to \$43 each in the court of Municipal Judge

Fishback Wednesday morning. The minimum fine was assessed under an old law making it a misdemeanor to play cards on the Christian Sabbath. The negroes were arrested following complaints to the prosecuting attorney's office by neighbors, and the charge filed by Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Roy Gean.

J. C. Williams was fined \$1 and costs by Judge Fishback Wednesday on a charge of reckless driving, Simon Yaffee also was assessed a fine of \$2.50 for a violation of traffic ordinance.

VETERANS' PENSION CHECKS RECEIVED BY COUNTY CLERK

Confederate pension checks have been received by County Clerk Luther Hopkins and can be obtained at his office at the Sebastian county courthouse, it was announced Wednesday afternoon.

The checks this year are for \$125 each, \$6 more than last year and, in fact, more than any year previous. There are 119 Confederate pensioners in this district, and 197 in the Greenwood district, making a total of 316 in Sebastian county. The total amount paid to the Confederate veterans in this county is \$39,500.

Friday, September 16, 1921

NEW TRAFFIC RULES IN EFFECT TODAY; SEE WHITE LINE

Automobile drivers who have occasion to cross or enter Garrison avenue from either Sixth or Ninth street will have to come to a complete stop at a white line 10 feet from the avenue, before proceeding forward, as a result of new traffic rules announced Thursday by Mayor Fagan Bourland. The rules were put into effect this morning.

White lines eight inches wide and extending from curb to curb were painted on the pavement last night on both sixth and ninth streets.

The lines are 10 feet from the avenue on both the north and south sides of the streets. In the center of the lines painted in red letters two and a half feet across, are the words "Stop."

These two streets, Mayor Bourland said, are the main thoroughfares crossing Garrison avenue and every day near accidents occur when a traffic officer is not on duty. By coming to a complete stop before entering the avenue, it is thought drivers will be more careful than heretofore.

Wednesday, September 28, 1921

**MATZENAUER CONCERT TICKETS
TO BE ON SALE NEXT WEEK**

Tickets for the first concert of the season under the auspices of the Fort Smith Concert Club, the Matzenauer concert, will be ready for the public Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. Those holding the \$10 tickets will make their selection on Monday, the \$6 series on Tuesday and the \$2.50 series on Wednesday.

Colored people, who hold Number Six for the recital, must make reservation at the Davis drug store, Saturday afternoon, October 1, between 3 and 6 o'clock.

Sunday, October 2, 1921

**FIRST MOVIE HERE IN BARE ROOM; YEARS
AND PROGRESS BRINGS FORT SMITH JOIE**

People, who out of curiosity, visited Fort Smith's first moving picture show in a tiny office building on North Sixth street and sat in the small bare room with uncarpeted floor and uncomfortable wooden benches for seats, and watched the dim, poorly focused "floating figures" cast upon a white sheet, little realized how marvelously the moving picture art and its requirements were destined to grow within a few years. The Joie, Fort Smith's new \$125,000 motion picture house, with its mirrored lobby, its beautifully decorated auditorium, [and] its myriad of softly glowing lights is a fitting expression of this almost phenomenal growth.

The first moving picture show in Fort Smith was opened in 1906, in one of the small office buildings on North Sixth street. It was called the "Electra", and the admission charged was 5 cents. There was no attempt at decoration or comfort—those who visited the show did so at first merely to be able to say they had seen the new fangled floating figures, as they were first called.

Friday, October 21, 1921

**GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR PAY FINES,
JUDGE WARNS YOUTHS**

Failure to attend Sunday school each Sunday for the next three months will cost George Packard Jr., Edward Sinclair and Charles Kingsberry, high school youths, \$40 each as a result of their conviction



JOIE THEATRE
OPENS TODAY
MATINEES
5 ACTS
ORPHEUM VAUDEVILLE
—and—
BIG FEATURE PICTURE
JACK LONDON'S
Greatest Novel
"THE LITTLE FOOL"
Pictures Start 2:00 P. M. Vaudeville 3:15 P. M.
PRICES: 25c, 35c, 10c
NIGHT SHOWS
Pictures 7:30 PRICES: 75c, 50c, 25c Vaudeville 8:45
"RESERVED SEATS NOW ON SALE"

yesterday afternoon in Municipal court on charges of breach of the peace in connection with a disturbance at a local theater Wednesday night, while the show was in progress.

The verdict of Judge Fishback was a fine of \$50 and costs, with \$40 remitted, provided the youths reported weekly to Mrs. Edith Woodward, juvenile officer, their attendance at Sunday school the previous Sunday. The sentence remains in effect [for] three months, Judge Fishback said.

According to the testimony, the three youths attempted to "bribe" the door keeper in the second gallery to allow them to see the show. He refused the "tip," it was said, and the youths attempted to "rush" the door. A disturbance followed and a panic was narrowly averted, the manager of the theater said.

W. A. Lick, manager of the theater, said yesterday afternoon, that the youths evidently did not know the enormity of their act, for if a panic had resulted it would have been a "survival of the fittest" and women and children would certainly have been trampled under the feet of the 1,100 people in the theater. He asked the judge, however, to assess the minimum fine.



NEW THEATRE
TODAY-TOMORROW
Dorothy Dalton
in
Half an Hour
—and—
"MADE IN THE KITCHEN"
A brand new Mack Sennett Comedy

OKLAHOMA MUST PAY ITS SHARE



885
is our Telephone Number
407
Garrison Avenue is our address and
"Orange Freeze"
is the most popular drink in town
Made of the pure orange and carbonated water.
A. Constantino
"Where the Crowds Go."

WASHINGTON, Oct 20--Officials of the Bureau of Public Roads, Department of Agriculture said definitely today that they would hold up federal aid for the interstate bridge at Fort Smith, Arkansas,

until two conditions are complied with. They are; First: The present cost-plus contract must be replaced by another contract. Second: Oklahoma must participate in the project.

When these conditions are complied with officials pledged that they would place \$100,000 of federal funds at the disposal of state officials to complete the structure--\$100,000 to come from the federal fund allotted to Arkansas and \$10,000 from the federal funds allotted to Oklahoma.

Saturday, October 29, 1921

**ARKANSAS 'U' MEETS S. M. U. HERE
TODAY – RAZORBACKS-MUSTANGS - RAH!
RAH! RAH! FOOTBALL**

Hundreds of cheering, tan-cheeked, clear-eyed, happy-go-lucky college boys will invade our fair city early today and sweep all before them in a parade up Garrison avenue, their steps keeping time to the music of bands. The grounds at Andrews Field are in good condition. Through the courtesy of Commissioner Smith and the Fire department, the field was sprinkled Friday afternoon and nothing in the way of preparation has been left undone, John M. Andrews of the Fort Smith board of education said last night.

Forty-two booths have been arranged for automobiles and tickets for the spaces will be disposed of like the box seat tickets, Mr. Andrews said.

Sunday, October 30, 1921

**NATIONAL GOLF KINGS
TO PLAY HERE SATURDAY**

Fort Smith golf enthusiasts will be afforded [a] very rare treat at the Country Club November 5, when

You Will Like

Poe-Herden Hosiery



for its smooth, elastic,
even texture, fitting close
at every point.

\$2.50

POE-HERDEN SHOE
SHOES & HOSIERY
710 Garrison Ave.
FORT SMITH, ARK.

**New Numbers
Popular Colors**

Buy at Isaacson's and Save the Difference!

**Boys' New Fall
Suits**

with Two-Pair of Trousers

\$5.95 to \$13.50

**School Days
Will Soon Be Here**

—and every mother is anxious to see her son in clothes that look well and yet have the quality that will make them wear. Our stock of Boys' Suits are just the thing for school wear, so they have two-pair of trousers, giving them double the usual wear, and the price is unusually low for such high-grade suits.

Other items for the Boy for School
Wear at our usual Low Prices.

ISAACSON



Charles "Chick" Evans, Jr., and Bob MacDonald will be seen in action on the golf course.

These two celebrities will play with two local men, according to announcement, who have not as yet been selected. Their names will be announced within a few days, it is understood.

Two bigger drawing cards in golf than Chick Evans and Bob MacDonald would be hard to find. Evans is ex-open and amateur champion, while MacDonald is Metropolitan open champion. Both players are two of the best, if not the best, known players in the country, and are widely known the world over.

All members of the Country Club are requested by the club officials to be in attendance at the game.

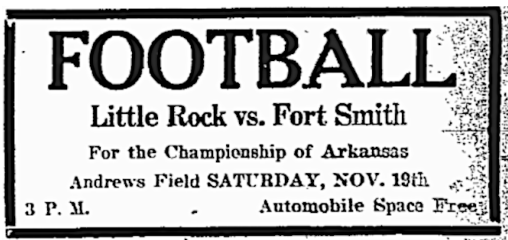
Tuesday, November 1, 1921

JOY REIGNS SUPREME ON HALLOWEEN

Ghosts, goblins and witches were busy last night when Fort Smithians cooperated in one of the most complete Halloween celebrations in many seasons. Many clowns, follies, jesters and popular characters were in evidence.

Men, women and children shared alike in the pleasures of the day. Staid businessmen, retiring women and joyous boys and girls, costumed in gaily colored raiment thronged Garrison avenue from early in the evening until nearly midnight Monday.

Halloween runs Christmas a close second in popularity with the boys, and last night was no exception. Handmade masks, an old suit of Dad's clothing, an idolized Big Brothers hat, and off he



dashed. "Tick tacks", the pride of the school boy, but the horror of the teacher, were immensely popular.

The pranks of the boys, so far as could be learned at a late hour last night, were limited to mere fun and little damage was reported.

Friday, November 4, 1921

REV. LOCKHART AT FUNERAL OF UNKNOWN HERO

Rev. Malcolm W. Lockhart, of this city, who is now in Washington as one of the three representatives from Arkansas in the ceremonies incident to the burial at Arlington today of the unknown soldier, will march in the first row of the 132 state representatives, according to information received here. The representatives will march from the Capitol to Arlington cemetery, where interment of the unknown hero will take place.

SAYING IT WITH SCISSORS IN K. C.

Leigh Kelly, director of the Business Men's club, who attended the American legion convention at Kansas City this week, reports that one of the features of the convention was the presentation of souvenir scissors by members of the Victor Ellig post of this city.

The scissors are about one and a half inches long and fastened to a small card on which is printed "Souvenir scissors, made in Fort Smith, Ark. by Solid Steel Scissors Co., compliments of Victor Ellig Post." The card also states that there are opportunities in Arkansas worth knowing about, with a hint that information in regard to them may be gained by making application to the Business Men's club of Fort Smith.

Thursday, November 17, 1921

TRUSTEES OF SPARKS ESTATE TO ERECT \$35,000 BUILDING

Construction on a new building on the vacant lot in front of the New theatre, Tenth street and Garrison avenue, to cost approximately \$35,000, started by January 1, 1922, it became known today, when a complaint in equity was filed in the Sebastian chancery court.

The complaint was filed by David B. Sparks and Frank H. Handlin, trustees of the estate of the late George T. Sparks, and the court is to enter a decree allowing the trustees to use \$35,000 for the construction of the building, as outlined in a section of the will of the late Mr. Sparks.

The section of the will, it was stated in the complaint, requests the trustees of the estate to make such improvements on the property as will become a permanent investment and the trustees have agreed upon the office building and the court's sanction is asked before work is started.

Friday, November 25, 1921

CAR GOES OVER BRIDGE ON GREENWOOD AVENUE

Nine persons were injured, two of whom may die, as the result of an automobile plunging through the railing of a bridge over the suburban railroad on the Greenwood road three miles from Fort Smith about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The car landed on the railway tracks 25 feet below.

The injured: Mr. and Mrs. Alex Lancaster, and two small children Beatrice and Clara, of 313 North B Street, Fort Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Wells, Fort Smith; Miss Mary Daly, 17 year-old niece of Mr. and Mrs. Wells; Mrs. Clara Beck and daughter, Cecilia, of Okmulgee Okla.

Mrs. Lancaster and Wells were probably fatally injured and were not expected to live until morning.

The Putman and Fentress ambulances were rushed to the scene of the accident and the injured were brought to hospitals here. Mr. and Mrs. Wells and Mary Daly were occupying the front seat of the machine and Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster, Mrs. Beck and children were in the rear, when the accident occurred. It is understood that one of the tires of the machine sustained a blowout just before the auto reached the bridge, which caused Wells to lose control of the

Car Refinishing Our Specialty

Refinishing
 Body Rebuilding
 Tops Covered.
 Upholstering
 Fenders Straight-
 ened.
 Satisfaction
 Guaranteed.
 Honest Charges



**A New Coat
of Finish**

—or perhaps a new top will again give your old car the appearance of a new one.

There's nothing like PAINT to protect and preserve and to check the depreciation of your car.

Let us estimate the cost of refinishing your car. Come and see how our baking enamel and paint process is operated.

Armbruster & Company
 523 No. 9th St. Phone 2784

machine, allowing it to crash through the railing and to the hard roadbed 25 feet below, where it was completely wrecked.

Mrs. Lancaster and Mr. and Mrs. Wells were unconscious when the ambulance arrived. Mrs. Wells regained consciousness about 8:30 o'clock last night, but the two former were still unconscious at an early hour this morning.

The Becks were spending the week end in Fort Smith. Cecil Wells is the owner of a North Fourth street garage. Mr. Lancaster is employed by the Glick company.

Saturday, November 26, 1921

REVELLERS PUT TO FLIGHT, MEN AND WOMEN FLEE DANCE HALL AT SOUTH FORT SMITH

Suddenly, swooping down on a dance hall in South Fort Smith commonly called "Heartless Place" at 9:45 o'clock last night, a storming party broke windows, battered down a door and put to flight about 50 persons of both sexes who were in the midst of a dance. The party consisted of men and women, it was said, who wore no masks but were armed with bricks and sticks which they wielded with telling effect, judging by the appearance of several young people who fled from the place.

ABOUT THIS TIME O' YEAR



The persons who broke up the dance were said to be indignant residents of that vicinity, who have been protesting against the frequent night gatherings there of late. A man whose identity could not be learned last night was hit in the back of the head with a piece of brick, it was said, and received a severe cut. He was able to return to Fort Smith for medical treatment however, according to reports.

The protest was precipitated about 9:45 o'clock.

When a representative of the Southwest American reached the scene 30 minutes later, not a person could be seen, the lights were out in the buildings and but for the broken glass and door, no evidence of the trouble was noticeable.

Evidence of the stubbornness in which the dancers were catapulted from the exquisite bliss of a waltz or one-step and the strains of enchanting music, to the sudden realization of making a hasty retreat is shown by the report that a man driving along the road a few minutes later was stopped by a thinly-clad woman with a window sash around her neck. She jumped on the running board of the machine, it was said and attempted to climb inside but the yoke around her neck prevented, and the driver of the automobile stepped on the gas leaving her by the wayside.

Sunday, November 27, 1921

‘HEARTLESS PLACE’ QUIET AND DARK

A lapse of twenty-four hours has failed to bring a single complaint to the constable's office in regard to

the sudden manner in which a number of people in South Fort Smith early Friday night broke up a dance in progress at "Heartless Place."

It was said yesterday that earlier Friday afternoon several complaints had been received by the constable's department and the officers were in the act of making the trip to the scene for an investigation, when the report of the culmination of affairs was received. When the officers reached the scene, the only report obtainable was that people enraged over the manner and methods of the people frequenting the dance hall, had put a halt to proceedings with the aid of clubs and bricks.

HUNTER FINDS ANIMAL'S TOOTH ON SAND BAR

A well preserved tooth of a Mastodon that probably roamed the then small continent of North America tens of thousands of years ago, was found Friday on a sand bar four miles up the Arkansas river by J. L. McCormac, 1011 South Twelfth street. Mr. McCormac made his valuable find while hunting.

The tooth apparently is petrified, and small rocks, presumably of volcanic origin, are cemented in the crevices of the tooth. It is black and has a glossy appearance, but midway between the roots of the grinding surface, is a ring and the upper part is perhaps a shade lighter, showing where the tooth protruded from the gum. There are three nipple-like protuberances on the grinding surface, but one of them is chipped and the other two show evidence of wear. Several local scientists have viewed the find and their opinions as to the age of the tooth vary from 20,000 to 100,000 years.

The Mastodon, so-called for the protuberances on the teeth, lived during the era known in geology as the Cenozoic, the first period in which remains of mammals are found. The animal was allied to the elephant, the only distinction being to the points on the grinding

surface of the teeth. In North America, the main strata of rock in which the remains of the Mastodon are found are in those known as the Pliocene, the third subdivision of the Cenozoic era.

There is much speculation as to how the tooth came to be on the sandbar. It may have washed, rolled and ambled down the Arkansas river hundreds of miles and again the rivers of the Arkansas may have slowly but surely worn away the rock along the river bank at some point near here until a strata of the Pliocene was encountered, and the tooth gradually worked out of its long resting place and onto the sandbar. The Pliocene strata, in North America, according to geology extends from New York state to Texas.

Wednesday, November 30, 1921

MAY CHANGE ROUTE OF GREENWOOD ROAD

A change in the route of the Greenwood road, so that it will follow along the section line south from Kelly hill, thereby eliminate the viaduct over the suburban railroad near the Burke Brick plant is being proposed, according to announcement made here.

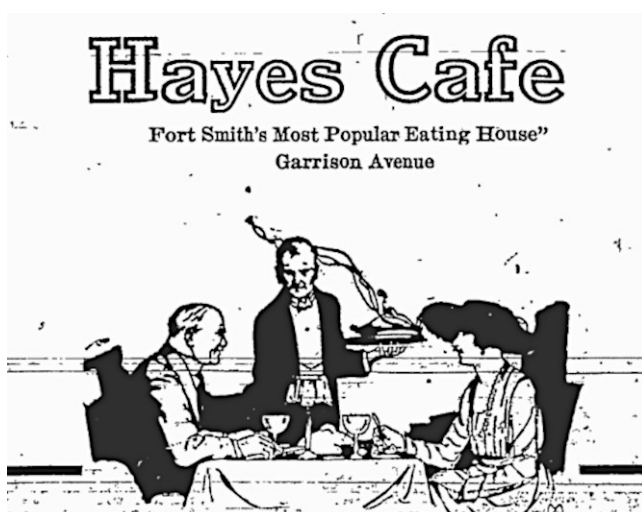
Property owners have offered a right of way through most of the property and the only right of way remaining now to be obtained is one through the Donahue property.

County Judge T. A. Norris was in Fort Smith Tuesday and probably will inspect the proposed routes before returning to Greenwood. A strong argument advanced in favor of the new route, in addition to eliminating the viaduct, is that it will place the road on the section line. The road would then extend [in a] straight line from the Country Club property due north to North "O" street, a distance of more than two miles.

Sunday, December 4, 1921

DUCKY HOLMES PILOTS TWINS NEXT SEASON

Following negotiations extending over a period of several weeks and successful termination several days ago, the Fort Smith baseball management announced here Saturday that Ducky Holmes had been signed as the 1922 manager of the Fort Smith Twins. Holmes has assumed the role of manager and will represent the local club at the minor leagues association meeting at



Buffalo this week. Ducky will manage from the bench.

Ducky is a manager and player of the old school, and fandom is always behind him. His greatest playing days were in 1903, 04 and 05 with the Chicago White stockings, and Charles Comiskey, the grand old man of baseball, pronounced him the greatest outfielder of his time. Holmes first entered the major league in 1894.

Wednesday, December 7, 1921

LOCAL HIGH STUDENT AUTHOR OF POPULAR SONG

Miss R. D. Martin, a senior in the Fort Smith High school, is the author of the words to one of the popular new songs, "Please Be Mine." The music was written by Leo Friedman of Chicago, and the song was published by a Chicago company.

Miss Martin has been active during her four years in high school in the writing of plays and songs and is said to be unusually talented in this line.

Thursday, December 22, 1921

ASK MAYOR TO APPOINT NEGRO PEACE OFFICER

A petition signed by several negro residents of the North side asking that a peace officer be appointed for their district, has been filed with Mayor Fagan Bourland and probably will be presented to the city council at an early date.

The petition is signed by 25 or more negro residents. In presenting the petition, it was said that the petitioners preferred the appointment of a negro police officer to be in charge of the district. Mayor Bourland said yesterday afternoon that he



**Bring Your Motor Cycle and
Bicycle Troubles To Us**

Experienced and specially trained mechanics to do
the work—All work guaranteed—Fair and honest
charges!

W. F. Penny

102 No. 5th Phone 877



avored the petition to a certain extent. It was his opinion that a negro officer should be appointed, if an appointment is made at all. The officer would be restricted to enforcing the peace among his own race only, it was said.

Sunday, December 25, 1921

BANKER PROVIDES ELABORATE DINNER FOR PRISONERS

Christmas cheer will be taken into the county jail today by I. H. Nakdimen, president of the City National bank, who has ordered Christmas dinner exactly the same as that which will be served in the dining room of Hotel Main, to be served to every prisoner.

This is an annual custom of Mr. Nakdimen's. Wherever he is on Christmas day, he makes it his special responsibility to see that all prisoners are given a good dinner. The menu served today will include oyster stew, turkey, dressing, celery, olives, potatoes, hot rolls, salad, mince pie, coffee, and all the other good things dedicated to the Christmas dinner. Each man prisoner will receive a good cigar and every woman will be presented with candy.

Dinner will be served from the Hotel Main dining room on tables placed in the corridors of the jail. Sheriff Blake Harper said yesterday. Everything will be done to make the day comfortable for the prisoners, through the courtesy of Mr. Nakdimen.



Al Whitson is the editor of the Journal's long standing section of reprinted 100 years ago newspaper articles, pictures, and advertisements about Fort Smith, a city and its history to which Al is dedicated and serves so well.

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NOTES: # — Some sort of graphic, other than a portrait, is used.
 * — 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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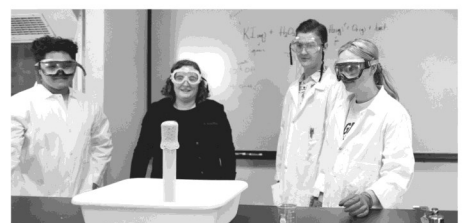
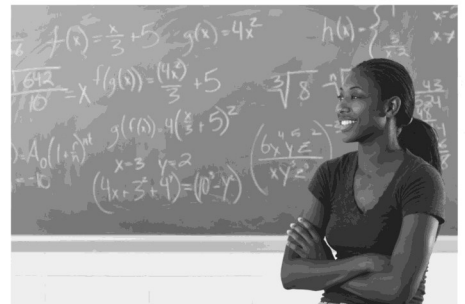
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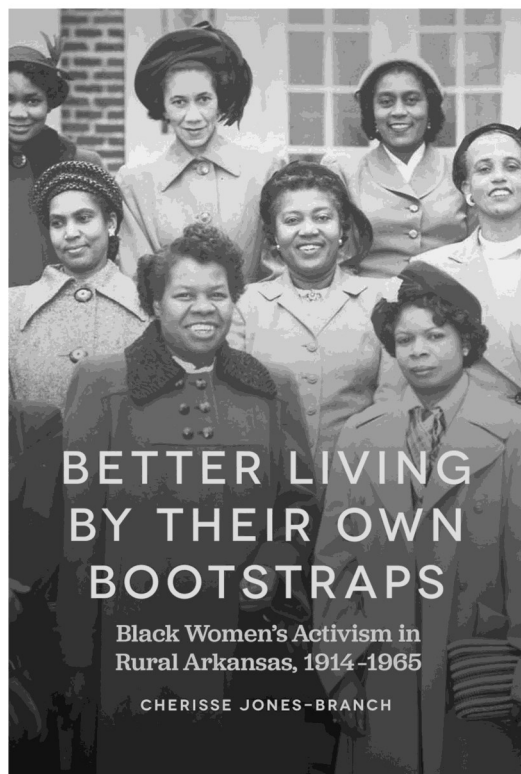
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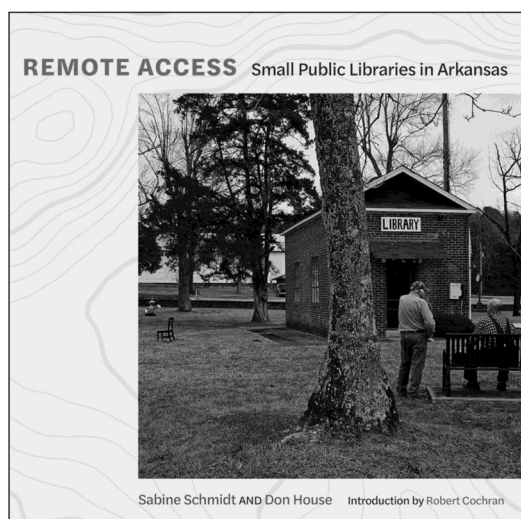
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