

BUTLER CENTER TO HOST GALA EVENT HONORING P. ALLEN SMITH'S NEW TV SHOW

The term 'garden party' will take on a whole new meaning Thursday evening, September 28, 2000, when the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies presents "Arkansas Garden Gala: An Evening With P.

A l l e n Smith," at the Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts in Little Rock. The Arkansas Garden Gala will honor the beauty of Arkansas gardens and celebrate



the premiere of P. Allen Smith's new nationally-syndicated, 30-minute television show, "P. Allen Smith Gardens." At first glance it may seem unusual for the Butler Center, the archives and genealogy department of the Central Arkansas Library System, to be hosting a gardening event, but according to Curator Tom Dillard, "It shouldn't be. The mission of the Butler Center is not only to collect and preserve all aspects of Arkansas heritage, but also to celebrate Arkansans for their achievements

in establishing and maintaining that heritage. More specifically, Arkansas has a wonderful heritage of gardening and horticulture, which Allen's accomplishments will certainly enhance."

The Arkansas Garden Gala will take place in the Caba Auditorium at Wildwood, beginning with a reception at 6:30 p.m. The reception will feature a silent auction with a variety of paintings and photographs available for bidding. All were created by Arkansas artists who were inspired by Allen's garden, including a painting by Allen himself. At 8:00 p.m. a short program will be presented, highlighted by a premier of excerpts from Allen's new television series. "P. Allen Smith Gardens" promises to be much more than just a show on how to grow better flowers or vegetables. It will feature interviews with fascinating

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Annual Music Conference Planned William Grant Still to be Focus

One of America's greatest composers of the twentieth century, native Arkansan William Grant Still took symphonic and operatic music in new directions



Photo courtesy of William Grant Still Music

William Grant Still

by infusing them with elements of African-American musical idioms such as jazz, gospel, and blues. The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, will commemorate and celebrate the life and music of William Grant Still with its second annual music conference, this year titled "Melodies and Memories: A Celebration of the Legacy of William Grant Still," October 6-7, 2000 in the Darragh Center at the Main Library, 100 Rock Street, in Little Rock.

The conference is free and open to the public and will feature notable scholars and members of Still's family discussing Arkansas and American music as well as the life and musical works of William Grant Still. Highlighting the conference will be a video-slide biography of Still and a special performance of Still's musical works.

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Curator's Column

Tom W. Dillard

Please take time to read our front page announcement of the "Arkansas Garden Gala" celebration scheduled for September 28th. This is an exciting event for everyone at the Butler Center, for it will give us an opportunity to do something we believe is important: celebrate the lives of outstanding Arkansans. And in my pantheon of contemporary Arkansans, I don't think anyone outpaces P. Allen Smith of Little Rock.

I met Allen in the mid-1980s, not long after he graduated from Hendrix College and established Birnum Wood Nursery in Little Rock. He was (and is) a fascinating young man, an interesting mix of native intelligence, sound education, and enthusiasm for the natural world around us. On top of all that is a wonderful sense of humor.

Allen had a long association with the late Richard C. Butler, Sr., the namesake of the Butler Center. When Dick endowed the Butler Arboretum at Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, Allen developed the masterplan.

We are eager to celebrate the life and work of P. Allen Smith. And, yes, this celebration will also be a fundraiser for the Butler Center. We wish this could be free, but the Butler Center has to pay its own way. I am constantly surprised to meet people who assume the Butler Center has no financial worries since it has an endowment. This assumption is wrong.

It is true that we have been blessed with a sizable endowment, but it is being held in a unitrust and proceeds from the bequest are not yet available. The Central Arkansas Library System bears most of the expense of the Butler Center from its operating budget. Most of our programming money comes from the CALS Endowment Fund. Public and private grant sources also assist with many of our projects.

Earned income is crucial to our ability to continue quality programming. Our recent conference on John Gould Fletcher, the Pulitzer Prize winning poet from Arkansas, cost well over \$7000. Our upcoming Arkansas Music celebration, which will feature the music of composer William Grant Still, will probably be even more expensive.

Whatever the costs, whatever the challenges, the Butler Center is intent upon raising the resources necessary for us to continue the quality programming offered in the past. The Garden Gala allows us to combine good programming with fundraising.

Come out to Wildwood on September 28, and join us in honoring P. Allen Smith. In so doing, you will also be helping the Butler Center continue its work.

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Timothy G. Nutt, Editor

Butler Center Christmas Wish List

Give Tom Dillard a call at 918-3054 if you can help the Butler Center with any of the listed items. We would appreciate any assistance.

- Refrigerator
- Pick-Up Truck (with Camper Shell)
- Large-size paper cutter
- Mat Cutter
- Light Box
- Four new Gateway Computers
- Five New Printers



“Still,” Continued from Page 1

“Melodies and Memories” will open on Friday, October 6, at 6:30 p.m. with a reception and memorial to William Grant Still. At 7:00 p.m. Still’s daughter, Judith Anne Still, will present “William Grant Still: A Video-Slide Biography.”

The conference will continue Saturday morning, October 7, at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Michael B. Dougan, Professor of History at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, will present a survey of music in Arkansas and the United States in the early twentieth century. At 10:30 a.m. Dr. Ethel Simpson, Arkansas and Regional Studies Archivist at the University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville, will present a brief biography of Still as well as an overview of the William Grant Still/Verna Arvey Collection held



Judith Anne Still

by the University of Arkansas Special Collections. Martha W. Rimmer, local historian, will follow Simpson with a discussion of Little Rock during Still’s youth. After a break for lunch the conference will continue at 1:00 p.m. with the presentation “Interpreting the Vocal Works of William Grant Still,” by Celeste Anne Headlee, a nationally recognized vocalist, actress and dancer and granddaughter of William Grant Still. At 2:30 p.m. Dr. Richard Fields, Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Cincinnati, will speak on the piano works of Still. The confer-

ence will conclude at 4:00 p.m. with a concert given by Celeste Anne Headlee and accompanied by Richard Fields, featuring selected works of William Grant Still.

William Grant Still, Jr. was born in Mississippi in 1895 but moved shortly thereafter with his mother to Little Rock after the death of his father. Still’s family worked diligently to cultivate a love and talent for music in young William. He was sent to Wilberforce University in Ohio to become a doctor, but his love of music dictated a different career path. Still spent fifteen years building a name and reputation in the music industry, working with such famous musicians

as W.C. Handy, Eubie Blake, and Leopold Stokowski.

Still’s first major success as a composer, his “Afro-American Symphony,” is also his most well known work. The recognition it received led to numerous honors and achievements, including having his works performed worldwide by more than forty orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, and Berlin Philharmonic. Among those who

conducted his works include Leopold Stokowski, Paul Whiteman, Eugene Ormandy, and George Szell. Still received Guggenheim and Rosenwald Fellowships, and special honors from the United Nations and the 1939 New York World’s Fair, among others. Still also guest conducted numerous orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. He composed over 150 works of music, including ballets, operas, symphonies, chamber works, and vocal and choral pieces. William Grant Still died in Los Angeles in 1978.

For more information, please call the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at (501) 918-3056.



Celeste Anne Headlee



William Grant Still, circa 1915

Butler Center Sponsors Arkansas Book Club

Read any good Arkansas books lately? The Butler Center is finalizing plans to establish the "Albert Pike Book Club," a book club that will keep up with books by or about Arkansans. We are looking for a minimum of twenty folks who might be interested in this endeavor. Maybe you ought to be a charter member of this book club?

At this early stage, specifics on the club are few. It is anticipated that club members will define how they want the group to function.

Please return the form below or call if you are interested in Arkansas writers/books. We will make sure you are informed of the club's first meeting.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Suggest three titles for the book club's consideration:

Arkansas History Tidbits Did You Know?

1. Which town was once known as Poke Bayou?
2. Which town was once known as Esau?
3. What was the county seat of Conway County before it was moved to Morrilton?
4. What was the last county created in Arkansas?
5. Which city is known as the Brick Capital of the World?
6. The largest peach orchard in the world was once located in which county?
7. What was the name of the Little Rock-based airplane manufacturer?
8. The Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources is located in which city?
9. Charles Lindbergh's first night landing was in which Arkansas county?
10. Which rock formation was referred to in LaHarpe's journal?

ANSWERS:
 1. Batesville 2. Bigelow 3. Lewisburg 4. Cleburne 5. Malvern 6. Pike County 7. Com-
 mand-Aire 8. Smackover 9. Chicot 10. Big
 Rock



Help!!!!

The Butler Center recently acquired the picture shown on the left. Unfortunately, it is unidentified, so we are asking for your help. We have dated the photograph from the mid-1890s and it is possible that the barber shop pictured is either in Hot Springs or Little Rock.

The photograph is a fine example of Arkansas photographic history and we are eager to know more about it. If you have information concerning the individuals or the barber shop itself, call Brian Robertson at 918-3056.

Butler Center Expands

Work will soon begin on the Butler Center's fourth floor storage space. The area has been in an unfinished state since the Butler Center moved into the new Main Library in September 1997. With the remodeling will



This area of the fourth floor expansion project will be the processing area.

also come some much needed expansion space, exceeding 4,000 square feet. This has become necessary because the Butler Center is expanding very rapidly.

Our previous manuscript storage areas on the third and fourth floors have become insufficient due to the increasing number of donated manuscript collections combined with the continued acquisition of books and periodicals in addition to our large (and unprocessed) photograph collection. Currently, we have approximately 1000 linear feet of unprocessed materials.

Although the majority of the new space will be devoted to manuscript processing and storage, offices and art storage are also included. Work is scheduled to be completed early next year.

Brian K. Robertson, Butler Center Manuscripts Coordinator is asking for volunteers to help with our manuscript processing. If you are interested call Brian at 918-3056. Training will be provided.



Unprocessed manuscript collections will be shelved in this area.

ART WISH LIST

The Butler Center wants to become the premier repository for Arkansas art. If you wish to help us achieve that goal, look over the wish list and call Reita Miller, Butler Center Art Coordinator, at 918-3090.

Books and Materials

Easels (sturdy, old, new, interesting...)

Art catalogs for Arkansas artists

Books including Arkansas artists

Any materials about early

Arkansas Art Leagues

Contemporary Arkansas quilts

Original Works by:

Elsie Freund

(especially her "Elsaramics"
jewelry)

Carroll Cloar

James Hayes

Kathy Holder

David Bailin

Mary Cockrill

Audrey Brewer Wood

Pat Musick

Warren Criswell

Ellan Kauffman

Henri Linton

Tarrance Corbin

Pearl Schmidt

Donald Roller Wilson

Anita Huffington





Genealogy Gab: BC Acquires County Marriage Records

by Linda McDowell
Genealogy Coordinator

Documents help to bring those family stories to life! When I first held a copy of my grandparents' marriage license in my hands, I reflected back to the interview that I had with them, leading up to their 63rd wedding anniversary in 1990. My grandfather went from Nashville (Howard County), Arkansas to Saratoga (Hempstead County) to ask Delia, my grandmother's mother for permission to marry her daughter. Recently widowed and going through hard times, she let him know that she

was unable to get her daughter ready for marriage. My grandfather insisted that he would take care of everything. With earnings from his farming, he had the wedding dress made; "cloth and material was inexpensive then," grandmother stated. And my grandfather bought her new shoes, "he was really wanting me." My grandfather rode from Nashville to Saratoga in the minister's Model T-Ford (the minister was also his uncle). "People really went to weddings in those days, car loads of people were there," according to grandma. She dressed in a white wedding veil, a satin old rose dress and brand new shoes. The ceremony was performed on her mother's front porch. The year was 1927 and they lived to enjoy 68 years of marriage.

Marriages were recorded at the county level even before being mandated by the state in 1917. So, whether great-great grandpa and grandma were married by the justice of the peace or a minister of the gospel, in a church ceremony or on the front porch of the old homestead, you are likely to find a marriage record to add to your family research file. The Butler Center has recently acquired microfilm marriage records, through the Mormon church in Salt Lake City, for all but 16 counties in Arkansas.

If you are unsure about a marriage date, census records can often provide clues. I often calculate a marriage date to a few years prior to the birth of the oldest child listed on the census. If you are lucky enough to find your ancestors on the 1900 census, the process is even easier. That census records the number of years a couple has been married.

Start by checking the marriage index for the approximate year of marriage. When the names are found, the index will refer you to the marriage book and page number. The good thing about the index is that it generally covers a long span of years, so even if your calculations are slightly off, it will not put a damper on your search because you likely will still spot the name.

Marriage records can be a great source for discovering the maiden names of your female ancestors. Early marriages often indicated the race of African-American by using the terms "colored" or "col." and sometimes Freedmen's Bureau marriages were also filed with the county. Was there a preacher in the family? It is possible to find minister's credentials and other miscellaneous records filmed among the marriages.

For those counties for which we did not get the microfilm, you may call the county clerk's office.

Fugitives: Seventeen Counties Missing From BC's Marriage Records

You would think county officials throughout Arkansas would be overjoyed that the Butler Center is trying to acquire microfilm copies of their marriage licenses for genealogy research purposes. Alas, such is not the case! Sixteen counties have refused to cooperate!

The situation is really quite simple. About twenty years ago, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (commonly called the Mormons) mounted a national effort to microfilm county records in all fifty states, the territories, and many foreign countries. Teams visited all 75 counties in Arkansas, and they microfilmed county records which might have value in genealogy research, including marriage license records. At the end of the filming project, the microfilm was stored in Mormon facilities in Salt Lake City, with a copy being placed in the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock.

Since the Butler Center gets many requests for county marriage records, we decided to order a full set of microfilms from Salt Lake City. The Church was very helpful, but they noted that it would be necessary for us to get permission of the local counties before the films could be copied for us. We, in turn, prepared a letter of explanation—and sent it to every county clerk. When several counties failed to respond, a second letter was sent out.

Ultimately, sixteen counties failed to respond to our repeated inquiries. Only one of 75 counties, Cleburne, actually refused to grant permission. Here are the names of the counties which will not be represented in our marriage record archives: Arkansas, Clark, Cleburne, Columbia, Cross, Grant, Greene, Jefferson, Johnson, Lonoke, Lafayette, Lawrence, Newton, Ouachita, St. Francis, Union, and Woodruff.

It is really sad that Arkansas County, which we used to proudly call the "Mother of Counties," will be left out of our archives. Lawrence County, another of the five "original" counties, is also missing, as is the youngest county in the state, Cleburne.

If you are a resident of any of these counties, please contact your county clerk and urge him/her to sign the authorization.

Tom W. Dillard, Curator



“Smith,” continued from Page 1

people and tours of homes and gardens all across America as well as Europe, with segments relating gardening to art, science, home decorating, cooking, and even history.

P. Allen Smith grew up in Little Rock in a family known for its love of gardening. He received a degree in biology from Hendrix College, and went on to study garden history and design in England on a Rotary Scholarship, becoming a Certified Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Upon returning to Little Rock Allen became a successful nursery owner, garden de-

signer, and local television personality. Having developed a national reputation as a garden designer and consultant, Allen now concentrates primarily on workshops, lectures, and television



P. Allen Smith also contributed a painting for the silent auction.

programming, including a 90-second television gardening and en-

vironmental report seen each weekday nationwide on local television stations or on The Weather Channel. Allen’s new 30-minute series will air locally on KATV, Channel 7.

The Arkansas Garden Gala is being presented as a benefit for the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. Tickets are \$50 per person and are available only through the Butler Center. A public, non-profit institution, the Butler Center is a part of the Central Arkansas Library System, 100 Rock St., Little Rock.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Butler Center at (501) 918-3056.

Garden Paint-Out/Shoot Out Held in Conjunction With Smith Reception

Sixteen creative Arkansans braved the August heat to be inspired by P. Allen Smith’s garden in Little Rock. Four professional photographers and twelve professional artists visited the garden at various times on August 25, 2000, to sketch, draw, paint or photograph a variety of summer garden scenes.

Each invited artist and photographer will donate one finished piece of work for a Silent Auction to be held in conjunction with “Arkansas Garden Gala,” Thursday, September 28 at the Wildwood Park for Performing Arts.

Photographers in Mr. Smith’s garden were Mark Mathews, Cindy Momchilov, Dixie Knight, and A. J. and Chere Payne. Each of the photographers is known throughout the state for high quality award-winning work.

Artists came from Fayetteville, Russellville, Pine Bluff, Malvern, Hot Springs, North Little Rock, and Little Rock to find their own personal garden view to translate into a painting. Several media and styles were represented such as oil paintings by J. O. Buckley, Bill Garrison, Kevin Kresse, and Dolores Justus; watermedia paintings by Selma Blackburn,

Gloria Garrison, and Dixie Shelton, and James Morgan; and mixed media works by Beverly McLarty, Reita Walker Miller, and Alice McCallum.

P. Allen Smith not only shared his beautiful garden and grounds, but also



Dixie Shelton’s painting will be one of the many available during the silent auction.

Painted with the visiting artists and photographers. Creative energy was as prolific as the lush foliage and the Bantam hen and chicks that chased and chirped about the garden paths.

In Memory Of

Richard C. Butler, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Witsell

Frances Adele Shackelford
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Shackelford

Martha Bass
Mrs. Roy F. Prather

Books and Materials

Olga Elwood
Jean Hundley
Jeanne McDaniel
John G. Ragsdale
Kelly Sharon
Dewey Taylor
Georgia Division, U.D.C

General Support

Gertrude R. Butler
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Carolyn Witherspoon



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