

THE BUTLER BANNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RICHARD C. BUTLER, SR. CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Volume 4, Number 4

Winter 2001

New Butler Center Fellowships Awarded

Four more outstanding Arkansas educators have been awarded Butler Fellowships by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. The new Fellows are Julie Hill and Sherry Tipps, both from Conway; and Ellen McClure, from Plantsville, Conn., and Rebecca Holeman Pugh, from Fayetteville.

Butler Fellows, according to Butler Center Curator Tom W. Dillard, receive one-year appointments during which they produce instructional materials to improve the teaching of Arkansas history. Dillard said the Butler Center and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, an agency in the Department of Arkansas Heritage, jointly sponsor the latest round of Fellowships. Three of the new Fellows will write lesson plans on the natural history of the state, while one will develop a picture book on Arkansas for children in the early grades.

Julie Hill is a teacher at Bob Courtway Middle School in Conway, where she teaches 7th grade geography. A



Julie Hill

graduate of the University of Central Arkansas, Mrs. Hill is a highly regarded teacher, especially in the area of geography education. She was named "Secondary Geography Teacher of the Year" in 2000 by the Arkansas Geographic Alliance. The National Council for Geographic Education granted her a "Distinguished Teacher

Award" earlier this year.

Sherry Tipps also teaches in Conway, at Carl Stuart Middle School. After graduating from high school in Alabama, Mrs. Tipps took her undergraduate degree at

Ohio University, followed by a master's degree from the University of Central Arkansas. She has gained renown in recent years. In 1999 she won the distinguished title of "Arkansas State Teacher of the Year." She has also been recognized for the excellence of her geography



Sherry Tipps

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Butler Center Welcomes Two New Employees

The Butler Center is proud to welcome two new employees to our staff.

Carolyn Webb Cash is the new manuscripts assistant. A native of Central Arkansas, Carolyn comes to the Butler Center after eleven years at the Terry Library in West Little Rock. She has been with the library system since 1986. Carolyn is helping Brian Robertson, the manuscripts coordinator, with processing manuscript and photograph collections.



Carolyn received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Central Arkansas. She enjoys studying Arkansas folklore and historic places, in addition to family history research.

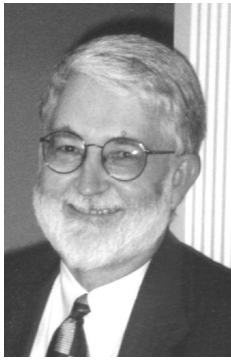
The mother of a daughter, Carolyn recently took on the title of grandmother.

John Lawrence Smith, the Butler Center's Assistant Genealogy Coordinator, is a native of North Carolina with degrees in electronics and history from Northern Essex Community College (Haverhill, MA) and

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Curator's Column

Tom W. Dillard

At this time of year we are tempted to look both to the past and the future.

We at the Butler Center take pride as we think back on the wonderful programs of the past year, including our three day conference last July on Arkansas during World War II—which was so well received that people actually sat on the floor when all the chairs were filled. We recall with pride the many teachers who have contacted us seeking help in teaching Arkansas history to a new generation. The monthly Legacies and Lunch program continues to draw large crowds, demonstrating to us that Arkansans want to know more about their own history. During the summer we kicked off our book publishing program by issuing our first two volumes, which have been well received. Scores of Butler Center patrons contributed funds to the millage campaign last August, with the result being that Little Rockians voted by a huge margin to raise our library tax by one mill. We still face many challenges, but the Butler Center enters its fifth year with a sense of pride and expectation.

Our expectations for the new year are diverse and optimistic. Recently the Butler Center staff, with help from various colleagues elsewhere in the Library System and members of our Advisory Board, have been charting plans for the new year. Before I summarize some of those plans, allow me to invite you to contribute ideas for future programs. We are always alert to new program ideas, our only criteria being their potential to interest Arkansans. [Good programs do not happen by accident; we must seek out the topics and speakers carefully, being sure to identify presenters who can actually inform and entertain. Then, we work with the speakers to craft a program that meets our needs—being careful to avoid pedantic “academic papers,” or speakers who have an axe to grind.]

For almost two months we have

been trying to select all the speakers and topics for the monthly “Legacies and Lunch” program. Though that process is unfinished, you can expect entertaining and informative programs. How about starting off the year on January 2nd with a visit from Tom DeBlack of Arkansas Tech. I don’t want to put too much pressure on Tom, but I sometimes think of Tom as “Arkansas’ David McCullough.” Judith Kilpatrick of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, School of Law, recounts the lives of some interesting Arkansas lawyers of color, such as Scipio Africanus Jones. Two speakers this year will analyze common criminal conduct in Arkansas history, moonshining and murder. We will also learn about Arkansas vernacular architecture, about how Ozarkers learned it was easier to pick tourists than cotton,

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The *Butler Banner* is the quarterly newsletter of the
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Center for Arkansas Studies.
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Printed and distributed
with private funds.



“Gertie” is Unveiled



Butler Center Curator Tom Dillard and Gertrude R. Butler pose with “Gertie” the new computer donated by Ms. Butler. The only stipulation put on the purchase was that the computer had to be named after the donor. Brian K. Robertson, the Manuscripts Coordinator, is the proud user of “Gertie.”

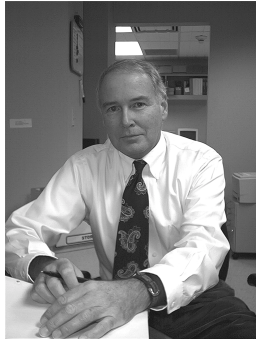
"New Employees," continued from page 1

East Tennessee State University, respectively. He is currently working towards a masters degree in history from Middle Tennessee State University.

After serving in the Navy for four years, John Lawrence worked as a computer guru in North Carolina and Massachusetts. Prior to working at the Butler Center, he lived in California where his fiancée Rhonda Wilson worked as an archivist at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley. She currently works with the Clinton Presidential Materials Project in Little Rock.

John Lawrence will assist Genealogy Coordinator Linda McDowell in maintaining and expanding the genealogy division. When not working on his thesis or at work, John Lawrence enjoys camping, reading, and fiction writing.

Please join us as we welcome Carolyn and John Lawrence.



"Curator's Column," continued from page 2

and toward the end of the year, Bobby Roberts will intrude upon the holiday season with a program on a topic about which he is personally intimate--the history of Arkansas prisons!

In recent months I've been ruminating on the historical legacy of Governor Winthrop Rockefeller, a fascinating man who led Arkansas during a time of immense turmoil and resulting change. Next November marks the 36th anniversary of WR's election, and I'm hopeful the Butler Center can sponsor an observance of the occasion, including a reunion of Rockefeller associates and supporters.

Butler Center staffers like to employ innovative means to introduce Arkansas history to large numbers of people, including hosting "historical debates" and re-enactments. You've heard of the NPR program "The Book Guys?" Well, be prepared for an Arkansas version. And I can't forget our promise to host a second "Arkansas Jeopardy" evening. We will also be employing an innovative approach to celebrating the 2002 Arkansas Heritage Month theme of "Growing Up in Arkansas."

We at the Butler Center wish you a happy holiday season. And we invite you to partake of the Center's programs during the second year of the new millennium.

New Acquisition Features Little Rock Stables



This recently-donated circa 1911-photograph shows the stables maintained by the City of Little Rock for its work horses. The city used horses to transport everything from street cleaners to water. The stables were located at the intersection of Eighteenth and McAlmont streets. This photograph is just one of many donated from a North Little Rock Butler Center supporter. To donate a photograph or other Arkansas items, call Tom Dillard at 918-3054 or Brian Robertson at 918-3094.

Give Someone Special a Butler Center Gift!



The holiday season is fast approaching and the Butler Center has produced a number of items that would make the perfect gift for that special Arkansiana aficionado.

Music is an integral part of the seasons, but why limit yourself to only holiday-themed tunes? The family can rock around the Christmas tree with *The Little Rock Sound, 1965-69*. Produced in 1999 as part of the Butler Center's first annual Arkansas music conference, the CD features twenty-five songs by various Little Rock garage bands.

The state has been the scene of many holidays since it was admitted to the Union in 1836. Early Arkansas pioneers eagerly awaited the arrival of Christmas and Hanukkah and decorated their houses and public buildings to ring in the season. With the Arkansas History Screensaver, both computer gurus and technophobes are able to imagine how Arkansans spent their holidays. Consisting of three modules, the screensaver contains forty-five images of Arkansas buildings, Arkansas people, and Arkansas art—all from the Butler Center's collections. The screensaver is compatible with both Macintosh and PC computers. Although it cannot deck the walls, the Arkansas History Screensaver can deck your computer screen with historic images of Arkansas. Only a limited

number of the Arkansas History Screensavers remain, so order soon.

Crossroads of Arkansas: A One Hour Arkansas Perspective by John P. Gill is the perfect "Cliff's Notes" to Arkansas history, according to Tom W. Dillard, Curator of the Butler Center. This engaging one-hour armchair guide to the state is also the perfect size to fit into a stocking. *Crossroads of Arkansas* is the premier title in the Butler Center's Book Series.

Things Grew Beautifully Worse: The Wartime Experiences of Captain John O'Brien, 30th Arkansas Infantry, C.S.A. edited and annotated by Brian K. Robertson is the second title in the Butler Center Book Series. Captain John O'Brien, the subject of *Things Grew Beautifully Worse*, was an Irish immigrant who became a leading businessman in antebellum Little Rock. Mustered into Confederate service and later captured and imprisoned in a Union prison. While imprisoned, O'Brien kept a diary in which he recounts his military service and capture in addition to his daily life in the prison. Through it all, Captain O'Brien is able to maintain his sense of humanity—and even a bit of his native Irish wit and humor. The Civil War buff will appreciate finding a copy of *Things Grew Beautifully Worse* underneath the Christmas tree.

Everyone loves receiving Christmas cards in the mail. The folks on your Christmas card list would be ecstatic if they received the Arkansas Paintings Postcard set. All of the images are reproductions of paintings in the Butler Center's collection.

Flags are usually associated with July 4th and other patriotic holidays, but you can celebrate freedom every day with a reproduction poster and postcard of the famous *Sentinel of Freedom* painting by Adrian Brewer. Originally painted in 1941, the reproductions were printed for the grand opening of the Showcase Arkansas Gallery in the newly renovated Cox Building. The opening exhibit featured paintings by four-generations of the Brewer Family.

Each item mentioned is in stock and waiting to be delivered. If you order by December 20, 2001, we guarantee delivery by Christmas Day! Be the first (Noel) on your block to buy these Butler Center holiday gifts! A special holiday order form is included below for your convenience.

Order soon as sale prices are only good through December 31, 2001. As a special incentive, postage will be waived during the holiday season; however, there is a limit of three items per order.

Holiday Order Form

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ Gill, *Crossroads of Arkansas* . _____ Copies @ \$8.00 each. TOTAL: _____

☐ Robertson, *Things Grew Beautifully Worse*. _____ Copies @ \$8.00 each. TOTAL: _____

☐ Arkansas History Screensaver. _____ Copies @ \$2.50 each. TOTAL: _____

☐ Little Rock Garage Band Music CD. _____ Copies @ \$2.50 each. TOTAL: _____

☐ Arkansas Paintings Postcard Set. _____ Copies @ \$5.00 each. TOTAL: _____

☐ *Sentinel of Freedom* Poster & Postcard Set. _____ Copies @ \$10.00 each. TOTAL: _____

Make checks payable to:

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

"Fellows," continued from Page 1

teaching.

Ellen Turner McClure is a native of Hope, and has taught at Rogers High School. She is currently living in Connecticut where her husband has been transferred. She earned biology degrees from Hendrix College and St. Louis University. Mrs. McClure has won many awards, including Rogers High School Teacher of the Year and Arkansas PTA Teacher of the Year. She is also a former chairwoman of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

While Hill, Tipps, and McClure will all concentrate on producing instructional materials about Arkansas and its natural regions, Rebecca Pugh is using her Fellowship year to write a book for use in introducing young children in kindergarten through third grade to Arkansas. Pugh is a native of Little Rock where she attended Mount St. Mary's Academy. Her

college degree is from the University of Central Arkansas. She teaches 7th grade science and Arkansas history in the Lincoln Consolidated Schools in Washington County. [See page 7 for the article on Mrs. Pugh's fellowship project.]



Ellen Turner McClure

According to Tom Dillard, the Butler Center has a special mission of lending support to Arkansas history teachers. "Most teachers have never had a course in Arkansas History, yet they are expected to teach the subject," Dillard said. Lesson plans developed by the Fellows, after being thoroughly evaluated and revised, are posted on the Library System's website for free use by teachers. Dillard said the Butler Center has placed a wide variety of other materials on the website, including an array of primary source materials, historic photographs, and bibliographies.

Millage Election Successful

Thank you, Little Rock! Because of your tremendous support at the polls on August 14th, 2001, the Butler Center will be able to continue supporting, preserving, and promoting Arkansas history.

The Central Arkansas Library System sought the millage increase to offset drastic cuts in state aid. As with other departments in the library system, the Butler Center's future was in doubt. Although the millage passed in Little Rock, it was unsuccessful in Pulaski County. The millage rate in Little Rock was raised from 1.8 to 2.8 mills. The county millage remains at 1.6 mills.

The election results were extremely good in the city. Little Rock was carried by a 63% majority. The best areas of Little Rock were the Heights and Hillcrest neighborhoods, where all nine precincts were carried. Our poorest performance was in Southwest Little Rock and even though we lost twelve out of sixteen precincts, the results were still the best ever for that part of the city. This is perhaps due to the building of the new Dee Brown Library on Baseline Road.

The rural precincts voted against the millage by a 61% margin. However, the city of Maumelle voted 215 to 186 for the millage.

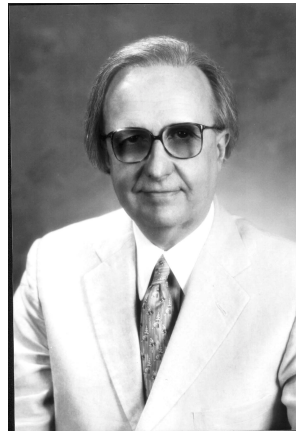
Butler Center Board Member Recognized for Historical Contributions

Butler Center Advisory Board Member, Morris S. "Buzz" Arnold, was recently honored by state and national organizations for his contributions to Arkansas history.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) awarded Arnold with a Certificate of Commendation for his book *The Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws and Old World Newcomers, 1673-1804*. The book describes the relationships between the native Quapaw and the French and Spanish administrators of Arkansas Post. Arnold previously received a Certificate of Commendation for his second book, *Colonial Arkansas, 1686-1804: A Social and Cultural History*. Both books were published by

the University of Arkansas Press. Arnold currently serves on the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Arnold also recently received the Booker T. Worthen and Porter Prizes for *Rumble of a Distant Drum*. The Booker Worthen Literary Prize is presented annually by the Central Arkansas Library System and honors an author of an outstanding book published the previous year and living in the library system's service area. The Porter Prize for Literary Excellence is an annual literary award presented to an Ar-



kansasian who has amassed an impressive body of work throughout his or her career. It is given in memory of Dr. Ben Kimpel, former head of the English Department at the University of Arkansas. Louise Porter was Dr. Kimpel's mother. The Porter Prize is presented annually by WORDS: The Arkansas Literary Society.

The Butler Center congratulates Judge Arnold on this well-deserved recognition and is proud to have him on our Advisory Board.

Lawhon Papers Document North Little Rock History

Recently the Butler Center acquired the papers of Ross L. Lawhon, a prominent mayor of North Little Rock. Lawhon (who died in 1969 at age 74) served as North Little Rock mayor on three different occasions, 1927-1931, 1937-1939, and 1949 to 1953. He also received a gubernatorial appointment to serve as Pulaski County Judge upon the death of the incumbent. His attempt at a political comeback in 1960 was ended by Casey Laman, who went on to serve many years as mayor. Perhaps Lawhon's most visible legacy is the seawall along the North Little Rock bank of the Arkansas River.



Mayor Ross L. Lawhon with his namesake

Upon his death, Lawhon's papers were transferred to the home of his only child, Ms. Dorothy-Ross Lawhon. When Ms. Lawhon died recently, the materials were donated to the Butler Center by Lawhon's only grandchild, also known as Ross L. Lawhon.

Butler Center Staff Honored by Arkansas Historical Association

The Butler Center and Tom W. Dillard were honored by the Arkansas Historical Association during its annual conference. Each year, the Association honors an individual or group, involved in the preserving Arkansas history. The Butler Center was awarded a Letter of Commendation for its "model program of providing modern, user friendly resources for researchers and genealogists, disseminating information on Arkansas through the *Butler Banner*, and promoting Arkansas history through outreach efforts, educational events, and other activities." Tom W. Dillard, Curator, accepted the award on behalf of the staff.

Tom was also honored, individually, for his life-long commitment to the heritage of Arkansas. The award was presented by the Association president Dr. Ann Early. In her remarks, Dr. Early noted that during his career, Tom had been the Arkansas Historical Association president, the director of the Department of Arkansas Natural and Cultural Heritage (now Department of Arkansas Heritage); and the director of the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebration, in addition to being the first archivist at the University of Central Arkansas and the Butler Center.

Butler Center Offers Volunteer Opportunity

Tom W. Dillard, Butler Center curator, said a preliminary inventory of the Lawhon collection shows it to be interesting and diverse. "We need a volunteer to process this collection," Dillard added. He said the papers include a magnificent selection of photographs, as well as scrapbooks, correspondence, and a number of artifacts. Among the more unusual items is a handmade walking cane given to Lawhon when first elected mayor in 1927.

Anyone interested in volunteering to process the Lawhon collection should contact Dillard at 501-918-3054. Dillard said the Butler Center staff would provide volunteer training and oversight.

New Spanish-American War Photograph Acquired



This photograph is one of several recently acquired images of soldiers of the Second Arkansas Volunteer Infantry. Although mustered, the Second Arkansas never fought during the Spanish-American War, and, in fact, never even left the country. The subject of this photograph, Capt. James F. Meaderis mustered in on May 14, 1898 in Walnut Ridge.

Teaching Arkansas Geography to Five-Year-Olds!

How would you react if someone told you to teach Arkansas geography to a classroom of 5-year-olds? Rebecca Holeman Pugh is a young woman only a few years out of college, yet she jumped into the project with relish. She is now well into writing her first draft of a book about a frog who travels around Arkansas seeing the sights and discovering the six natural divisions of the state.

Pugh is writing the story of "Fred the Frog" in rhyme, which is a typical approach to use with young children. Fred has the misfortune of being born in the community of Toad Suck, and he foolishly feels out of place living with toads rather than frogs. So, he sets about to find a "better place" for an amphibian of his kind. When he hops aboard a barge, he not only gets a ride but he also meets a furry new friend:

Fred took a chance and leapt as far
As his froggy legs would fly.
He wouldn't have made it either
if it wasn't for that furry little guy.

The mouse twitched his gray, grizzled whiskers,
And said, "Would you look at that."
There's a frog on this here boat of mine;"
And he slowly tipped his hat.

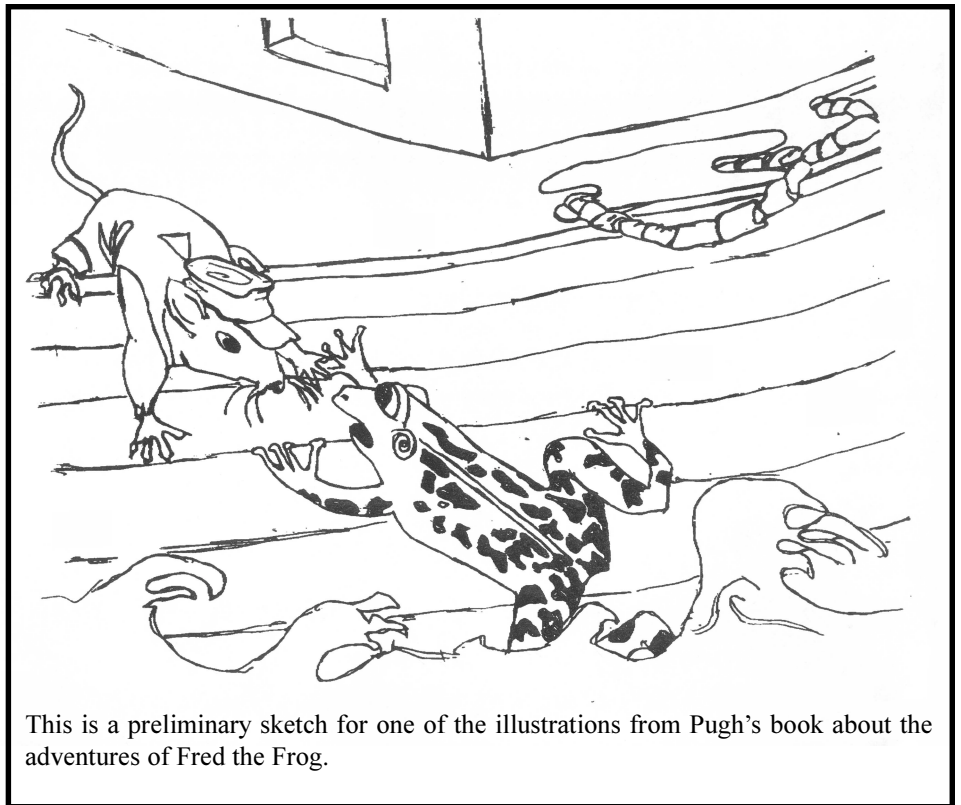
Though a final decision has not been made, it is expected Pugh's mother, Alice Holeman of Little Rock, will illustrate the book. Holeman has extensive training in painting, and she said she loves the idea of getting to work closely with her daughter.

Butler Center Curator Tom Dillard said the idea for this book came from conversations with elementary teachers who lament the lack of good teaching materials on Arkansas. "State law mandates the teaching of Arkansas history starting at the elementary level, yet we are almost bereft of quality teaching materials for those early grades," Dillard said. Dillard also said the Butler Center has made Arkansas history education one of its top priorities.

Pugh will submit her first draft by January 1st. Revising the manuscript and preparing the extensive illustrations will delay publication of the book until the end of 2002.



Rebecca Holeman Pugh is one of the 2002 Butler Center Fellows



This is a preliminary sketch for one of the illustrations from Pugh's book about the adventures of Fred the Frog.

In Memory Of

George W. Browning
Jamestowne Society-Little Rock Company
Little Rock, Arkansas

Mabel Formica
Jeanne McDaniel
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sylvia Smith
Jeanne McDaniel
Little Rock, Arkansas

Betty H. Pagan
Little Rock, Arkansas

In Honor Of

Tom W. Dillard
Greenville Garden Club
Greenville, Mississippi

Friends of Conway County Library
Morrilton, Arkansas

General Support

Russell Bearden
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Gertrude R. Butler
Little Rock, Arkansas

Laura Butts
Columbus, Ohio

Arkansas Genealogical Society
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Freddie Nixon
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Mr. & Mrs. T.J. Nutt
Bigelow, Arkansas

Betty Brewer Rice
Little Rock, Arkansas

Kitty Sloan
Paragould, Arkansas

Janice Turley-Edwards
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Nellie Vogt
Sherwood, Arkansas

Billie Wiseman
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Mary Worthen
Little Rock, Arkansas

Mary M. Youngchild
Heber Springs, Arkansas



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