

THE BUTLER BANNER

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

Volume 5, Number 1

Spring 2002

Arkansas Heritage Month at the Butler Center Promises to be a Rockin' Good Time!

The Butler Center has big plans in the works for this year's celebration of Arkansas Heritage Month, with programs ranging from thoughtful and compelling to just plain old fun! This year, thanks to a generous grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage, we are presenting four events, all connected to this year's theme, "Growing Up in Arkansas."



Sonny Burgess

We will kick off our celebration with our regular "Legacies and Lunch" program on Wednesday, May 1, at noon, with noted author and attorney Grif Stockley sharing his reflections on "Growing Up in Marianna, Arkansas in the 1950s and '60s." Our "Legacies and Lunch" programs, held on the first Wednesday of every month, are fast becoming the place to grab a bite of history with your lunch. Most recently, we had 115 in attendance for Tom Dillard's presentation of "Ten Amazing Women of Arkansas."

Our second program, "Growing Up in the Arkansas

Delta: Two Perspectives," will focus on the experiences of two women of different races, Dr. Margaret Jones Bolsterli and Mrs. LaVerne Feaster, who will relate the similarities and differences of growing up in a similar time and place but in very different environments. Dr. Bolsterli, a retired Professor of English at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, grew up on large farm in Desha County during the Great Depression and World War II. Mrs. Feaster, a retired teacher and Home Extension agent whose parents were also teachers, grew up in Arkadelphia

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Butler Center Adds AncestryPlus Database to Genealogy Holdings

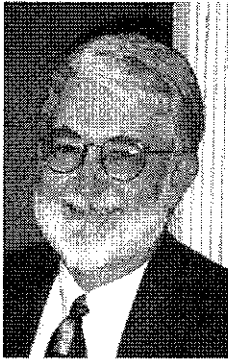
As part of its goal to acquire new electronic genealogical resources, the Butler Center has subscribed to AncestryPlus, an online service containing records of more than 1.2 billion names and over 3,000 databases from around the United States and the world.

Although AncestryPlus contains a plethora of important research tools, the most exciting is the Federal Census database. Comprised of over 6 million digitized images of actual pages from each state's census from 1790 to 1920, this database is one of the most important resources the Butler Center has acquired in recent years. "Obtaining census information is crucial in genealogical research, and the Butler Center is pleased to offer this important database to our patrons," said Linda McDowell, Genealogy Coordinator for the Butler Center. Because of the prohibitive cost of census information on microfilm, the Butler Center chose to focus on Arkansas. With AncestryPlus, we are able to offer the entire United States census at the fraction of the cost of a microfilm version.

AncestryPlus is now available for research in the Butler Center. For more information, contact Linda McDowell, Genealogy Coordinator, at 918-3056, or come in person and find your place in history!

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Curator's Column

Tom W. Dillard

I have so many topics I want to share with you! The Butler Center is alive with ac-

tion as we work to implement our mission "to promote the study and understanding of Arkansas, its history, literature, arts, and culture."

Seeking Amazing Women:

Thanks to everyone who attended our Legacies and Lunch program on March 6th in honor of Women's History Month in Arkansas. With over 110 people in attendance, it was our largest L & L program yet! I truly enjoyed and benefited from researching and writing that program, which was titled "Ten Amazing Women of Arkansas" but which actually included twelve women. I could not bring myself to delete two of those fascinating people! Many people in attendance asked that the Butler Center publish the presentation, and we are in the process of refining it for that purpose. More on this publication later.

Meantime, I urge you to submit your nomination for additional "amaz-

ing women of Arkansas." Please send me a letter listing why you think your nominee is truly amazing. A list of sources would also be useful. Maybe we can do a yearly program on this topic.

Volunteer Opportunities: The Butler Center is seeking a few good volunteers. Are you tired of retirement? Would you like to volunteer where your efforts will really make a difference? Would you like to contribute to our crusade to reconnect Arkansans with their heritage?

Whatever your interests might be, I'm certain we can match you with a rewarding task. For example, we need someone to come in a minimum of eight hours a week to help process our photograph collections. The Butler Center has been lucky enough to receive many outstanding photographs, postcards, and other images which visually document our heritage. We can train you to classify and describe the images, how to clean them, and how to get them ready for use by researchers.

We need a team (perhaps a married couple recently retired?) to help process a large collection of records from a humanities agency. This work can be fascinating. In this particular instance, you would be dealing with documentation ranging from audio/visual recordings to published documents to correspondence. Give me a call at 501-918-3054 if you would like

to join the Butler Center team as a volunteer.

Public Programming: On Saturday, April 13th, the Butler Center will launch a new public program titled "The Arkansas Book Guys." Yes, we admit, this program is directly modeled on National Public Radio's "The Book Guys," starring Allen Stypeck and Mike Cuthbert, and we were pleased when they agreed to our sincere form of flattery by imitation. Tim Nutt, Butler Center Deputy Curator, and I will team up to do an evening program on Arkansas books and writers. We invite you to come down to the Main Library's Darragh Center for The Arkansas Book Guys—and we invite you to bring along an Arkansas book for discussion and appraisal.

Arkansas Jeopardy Returns: Last year the Butler Center hosted a fund-raiser modeled on the television quiz show "Jeopardy." All the questions (or, should I say "answers") dealt with Arkansas. Many people asked us to make this a series, and we have bowed to public demand. "Arkansas Jeopardy" will be held on the evening of Saturday, June 15 (which just happens to be the date Arkansas was admitted to the Union). A \$20 admission fee will be charged. If you would like to be a contestant, please contact Tim Nutt at 501-918-3055. Like I said, these are exciting times for the Butler Center. Please accept this invitation to participate in all the fun!

The *Butler Banner* is the quarterly newsletter of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. Central Arkansas Library System 100 Rock Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501)918-3056 (501)375-7451-FAX arkinfo@cals.lib.ar.us http://www.cals.lib.ar.us Printed and distributed with private funds.



ARKANSAS JEOPARDY!!
JUNE 15, 2002



Art Collection Greatly Enhanced

Reita Walker Miller
Arkansas Art Coordinator

Recent gifts of art to the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies have added greatly to our collection of Arkansas artists and our ability to document and display outstanding examples of Arkansans' creative production. As our acquisition budget is meager compared to most institutions, we are dependent in great part on the generous donations of our supporters.

Until recently, we had few examples of Josephine Graham's works. Mr. R. J. "Bud" Brown donated an important piece of her work from 1968 titled *Markham and Main*. We hope to acquire other Graham works, especially from her Suggin' series.

Mike and Marty Schaufele, along with Marty's father, Van Bettis, have given over 25 woodblock prints by J. P. Caldwell, a self-taught artist from south Arkansas. Many of the works depict Arkansas scenes, memories, and recognizable symbols of the state. We are searching for more documentation on this prolific artist and businessman.

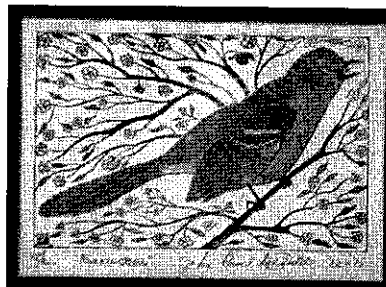
Sandy Besser, a former resident of Little Rock, Arkansas, now living in Santa Fe, New Mexico, read about our new gallery and growing collection of Arkansas art last summer in the *Arkansas Times* weekly newspaper. He contacted the Butler Center about donating work from his collection of Arkansas artists and we added seven new pieces of art. The artwork was donated "In celebration of the life of Diane Besser, from Grant, Matthew and Sandy." We are especially grateful for the Carroll Cloar pencil on paper work *Peaceable Plantation* from 1962. The other gifts include: *Ozark Landscape*, watercolor on paper by Elsie Freund; *Two Boys and One*, enamel on copper by Thom Hall; *Untitled drawing*, pencil on paper by John Ford; *Untitled Bowl*, ceramic by Greer Farris; *Orb*, ceramic, and *Two Flat Vases*, ceramic, by Rosemary Fisher.

As you can see, our collection of art by Arkansans is steadily growing with the generous gifts of our supporters. The Showcase Arkansas Gallery on the third floor of the Cox Creative Center Building across, from the Main Library, will have rotating exhibits of our collection. A gallery schedule is included in a side-bar on this page.

If you have any questions regarding donating to the art collection or acquisition fund, please contact me at 918-3090, or email reitam@cals.lib.ar.us.



Two Flat Vases
by Rosemary Fisher



Mockingbird, 1975
Woodblock Print by J.P. Caldwell

Showcase Arkansas Gallery

Cox Creative Center, 3rd Floor
Across from the Main Library

*Beyond the Stained Glass Window
to the Unspotted Mirror:
The Discalced Carmelite Nuns of
Little Rock, Arkansas*

by Jim Young

Black and White Photography Exhibit
March 11 - April 27

*Growing Up In Arkansas:
Celebrating Arkansas Heritage
Through Art*

Selections of Art by Arkansas
Artists from the
Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
Collection

May 1 - June 22

Reception and Gallery Talk
May 9, 5-7 p.m.

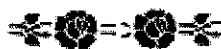
GALLERY HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 9 - 5

Saturday 9 - 4

The Cox Creative Center is also home to the Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries' River Market Books & Gifts Store and Gomez Estate Coffee Corner on the 1st floor, and the Arkansas Artists Gallery, a co-op of Arkansas artists with work for sale on the 2nd floor.

Since opening in late October 2001, the 3rd floor Showcase Arkansas Gallery has been visited by over 10,000 people. Come and enjoy the art and casual atmosphere in the newest old building in the Historic River Market District.



Butler Center Recognizes "Arkansans of Achievement"

In an attempt to bring public recognition to the outstanding accomplishments of Arkansans, the Butler Center has initiated the Arkansans of Achievement Award program. On February 15, the first two awards were issued to Gary Newton and Theresa Roth, former residents now living and working in Los Angeles and Atlanta respectively.

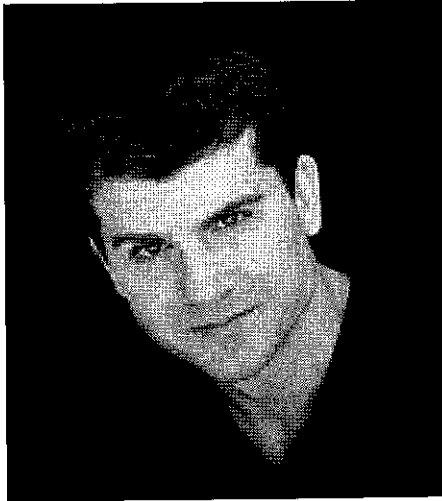
Newton and Roth were recognized for their contributions to film. The awards were presented on the same evening the Butler Center screened a documentary film put together by Newton and Roth titled "Jo's Town." The 84-minute film chronicles the efforts of a

group of high school classmates as they stage a 20-year reunion production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," a play they originally produced in 1978. As local journalist

Philip Martin noted in his review of the film, viewers discover much "about how time mitigates dreams and roughs people up." The film recently won the "Best American Feature Film" award at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival.

Tom W. Dillard, Butler Center Curator, said Newton and Roth

are "representative of many thousands of Arkansans who are contributing mightily to our city, state, and nation. They are truly Arkansans of Achievement."



"Events," Continued From Page 1

and Cotton Plant during the same time period. This program will be presented Tuesday, May 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The third and fourth programs in the Butler Center's celebration of Arkansas Heritage Month are devoted to combining serious historical inquiry with plain and simple fun! Arkansas can legitimately lay claim to being one of the birthplaces of rock 'n roll music, a legacy which will be explored in the program "Growing Up with Arkansas' Roots of Rock N' Roll," to be presented on Friday, May 17, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. by

Dr. Robert Cochran, Professor of English and Director of the Center for

Arkansas Studies at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Then on Saturday night, May 18, the Butler Center will present Billy Lee Riley, Sonny Burgess,



Billy Lee Riley

and the Pacers in concert at the River Market Pavilion. Riley and Burgess were among a select group of young musicians, including Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis, who made their way to Sun Records

in Memphis in the mid-1950s and helped make that label one of the pioneering influences in early rock 'n roll. The concert will be held from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m. All programs except the concert will be held in the Darragh Center in the Main Library, and are free. Reservations are not required, so come early to get a good seat and enjoy some 'Red Hot' rock 'n roll with the Butler Center!

For more information about the Arkansas Heritage Month events, contact Cary Cox, Programs Coordinator, at 918-3049 or caryc@cals.lib.ar.us.



“Arkansas Book Guys” Team Up for a Night of Folio Fervor, Frivolity, & Fun!

An event that promises to be an altering experience on Arkansas books makes its debut next month. On the heels of National Public Radio’s “The Book Guys” third and immensely successful visit to Little Rock, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies will introduce its own version of fast-paced fun with books when it presents “The Arkansas Book Guys,” Saturday evening, April 13, 2002, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Darragh Center at the Main Library.

“The Arkansas Book Guys” program will highlight Arkansas books and authors and will include discussion and appraisals of rare and significant Arkansas books, interviews with prominent Arkansas authors and collectors, tips on how to care for and conserve books, and how to build one’s own Arkansas book collection. “The Arkansas Book Guys” will feature the Butler Center’s own Curator, Tom W. Dillard, and Deputy Curator, Timothy G. Nutt, as hosts.

Just as it is done for the national program, the public is invited to bring their own personal Arkansas books to the program for the opportunity to have them expertly examined and appraised. The Butler Center will also showcase some of its own rare Arkansas books. The highlight of the evening will be interviews with Arkansas authors Crescent Dragonwagon and James Morgan, and author and book collector Judge Morris S. Arnold.

Crescent Dragonwagon, a national award-winning author of children’s and culinary books, is also an accomplished chef, the former innkeeper of Dairy Hollow House in Eureka Springs, and the founder and propri-

etor of the Writer’s Colony at Dairy Hollow, a retreat for writers working on new projects. Her children’s books include *Half a Moon and One Whole Star*, winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, and *Bat in the Dining Room*.

Dragonwagon’s cookbooks include *The Dairy Hollow House Soup & Bread: A Country Inn Cookbook*, which has sold nearly 280,000 copies and is in its 14th printing. James Morgan, a former magazine editor and founding editorial director of *Southern Magazine*, is the author of *If These Walls Had Ears*, a memoir of a Little Rock house and the eight families who have called it home. He is also the author of *The Distance To The Moon: A Roadtrip Into the American Dream*, and collaborated with the late Virginia Clinton Kelley on her autobiography, *Leading With My Heart*. Judge Morris S. Arnold serves on the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis and is also a highly respected scholar of Arkansas colonial history. He is the author of three books, including *Colonial Arkansas, 1686-1804*, and *The Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws and Old World Newcomers, 1673-1804*. Judge Arnold is also an avid book collector, and his interview will feature a discussion of his extensive collection. The program will be



Tom Dillard and Tim Nutt are the Arkansas Book Guys.
Caricature by Bill Lewis.

capped off with a discussion of how to begin one’s own collection of Arkansas books, featuring the Central Arkansas Library System’s own associate director and Arkansas bibliophile extraordinaire, Bob Razer. Razer compiles an annual detailed bibliography of Arkansas books for both *Arkansas Libraries* and *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

The evening’s festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a reception and book evaluation session conducted by Tom Dillard and Tim Nutt. Also on hand with their own exclusive collections of new and used Arkansas books for sale will be Wordsworth Books, Lorenzen & Co. Booksellers, and the Friends of the University of Arkansas Press. Public radio station KUAR, FM 89, will also be on hand to tape the program for local broadcast at a later date. A special logo has been designed for the “Arkansas Book Guys” by Little Rock artist Bill Lewis.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Cary Cox, Programs Coordinator, at 918-3049.

A New Season of Arkansas Jeopardy Scheduled

Arkansas trivia buffs will have another opportunity to prove they know everything there is to know about the Natural State when the second annual "Arkansas Jeopardy" is held on June 15th at the Main Library's Darragh Center. The premier of Arkansas Jeopardy was held last year as a fund-raiser for the millage election. The proceeds from this year's event will benefit the Butler Center directly.

Everyone who wants to show their support for the Butler Center is invited to participate, whether as a contestant or an audience member. Audience members will not be asked questions.

Topics will be on various aspects of Arkansas history, including people, events, places, and anything else that can be turned into a trivia question. Three preliminary rounds will be held, and the winners from each match will move on to the final game. Each contestant will receive a prize and the overall winner will be inducted into Arkansas Jeopardy royalty as well as receiving a prize worth thousands of Arkansas Confederate dollars. Skip Rutherford, Arkansas' version of Alex Trebek, will once again emcee the game.

Use the form below to register as a contestant or to buy tickets. A drawing of these forms will select the game participants. Deadline to register as a contestant is May 31, but general attendance tickets will be sold through June 14. Seating is limited, and only 100 tickets are available. Audience member tickets are \$20.00 each. Tickets are not required of contestants.

Tom Dillard, Butler Center Curator, said he believes "the second annual Arkansas Jeopardy will surpass last year's event. We had nothing but praise from the contestants and audience members. Skip Rutherford did an excellent job as emcee, the game board itself was impressive, and everyone had lots of fun" Dillard urged all Arkansas history enthusiasts to attend. "This is an opportunity for everyone to showcase their Arkansas history knowledge."

Last year's winner was Larry Ahart of the Old State House Museum. His prize was a week-long stay at a beachfront condominium.

For more information, contact Tim Nutt at 918-3055 or email timn@cals.lib.ar.us. Get out those reference books and start studying!

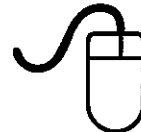
Arkansas History Listserv Up and Running

The new and improved Arkansas History Listserv, sponsored by the Butler Center, is up and running. Originally established in 1998, the listserv functions as a forum for the study, teaching, and preservation of Arkansas History, in addition to announcing Butler Center events and news of interest. In its four years of existence, listserv subscribers have debated and discussed topics ranging from religious practices among slaves to the racial attitudes of Governors Charles H. Brough and Orval Faubus.

To subscribe to the listserv, enter the URL <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arkhistory/> and follow the instructions for joining the group. If you have not already created a user name for Yahoo!, you will be asked to do so before joining the Arkansas History Listserv.

Once the registration process is completed you will be able to post messages to the listserv. Sign up now and let's talk about Arkansas history!

For more information on the listserv contact Tim Nutt at 918-3055 or timn@cals.lib.ar.us.



ARKANSAS JEOPARDY REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

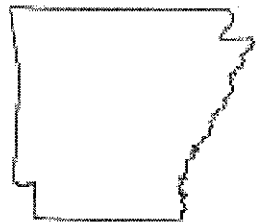
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Number of Tickets _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

I am the Master of Arkansas Trivia. I want to be a contestant and prove it.

I do not want to humiliate myself in public, but I will watch others do so. Enclosed is my \$20.00 per person.

Mail all inquiries and registration forms, along with a check, to:
Butler Center, Central Arkansas Library System, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201



Quench Your Thirst For History With "Legacies & Lunch"

The Butler Center's successful monthly lunch series "Legacies & Lunch" will once again provide entertaining Arkansas history manna to the masses in 2002. Legacies & Lunch programs are held every first Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the Darragh Center at the Main Library. Attendees are encouraged to bring a physically-nourishing sack lunch to complement the mentally-nourishing information doled out during the lecture. Soft drinks and water are provided.

Although the topics and presenters are subject to change, the following is a list Legacies & Lunch through the rest of the year. For more information about the series or to suggest a topic, contact Cary Cox, Programs Coordinator at 918-3049 or caryc@cal.s.lib.ar.us. We suggest you cut out the list and post it on your refrigerator.

April 3

"Early Tourism in the Ozarks"

Lynn Morrow

Local Records Program Director, State of Missouri

May 1

"Growing Up in Marianna, Arkansas in the 1950s & '60s"

Grif Stockley

Little Rock attorney and author

June 5

"Moonshining in the Ozarks"

Susan Young

Education Director,
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

July 3

"Artists and Artisans of Antebellum Arkansas"

William B. Worthen

Director, Historic Arkansas Museum

August 7

"Arkansas' Vernacular Architecture"

Jean Sizemore

retired Professor of Art History, UALR

September 4

"Who Killed John Clayton?"

Ken Barnes

Professor of History,
University of Central Arkansas

October 2

"Hattie Caraway: America's First Woman Elected U.S. Senator"

David Malone

Director, University of Arkansas Foundation

November 6

"Some More Arkansas Stories in Song"

Charley Sandage and Harmony

Master songmaker, storyteller, and musician

December 4

"A History of Arkansas' Prisons"

Bobby Roberts

Director, Central Arkansas Library System

All Legacies & Lunch programs are held
in the Darragh Center/Main Library
12 Noon - 12:45 p.m.

Bring Your Lunch.

Soft Drinks & Water Provided

Photograph of 1900s Paragould City Band Acquired



In Memory Of

Kenneth P. Wilson
Timothy G. Nutt

In Honor Of

John Gill's Birthday
Henry & Joy Broach

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North Little Rock, Arkansas

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John G. Emerson
Houston, Texas

Jon Evans
Little Rock, Arkansas

Heritage Seekers
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Historic Arkansas Museum
Little Rock, Arkansas

Colleen Holland
Hampton, Virginia

**Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
Convent of the Holy Spirit**
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Freed S. Little
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