

THE BUTLER BANNER

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

Volume 6, Number 2

Summer 2003

Arkansans Embrace Encyclopedia of Arkansas Project

Over 500 Arkansans have attended meetings during the past few months to learn about the Butler Center's initiative to create an Encyclopedia of Arkansas. In February Arkansans from across the state filled the Darragh Center at the Central Arkansas Library System to kick-off the encyclopedia project. This was immediately followed by eight regional meetings held in Jonesboro, Springdale, Helena, Hope, Mountain Home, Russellville, Monticello, and Fort Smith.

According to Tom W. Dillard, Butler Center curator and editor-in-chief of the encyclopedia, the regional meetings resulted in the nomination of thousands of possible topics for inclusion in the encyclopedia. Ms. Jill Curran, the coordinator of the encyclopedia project, said the regional meetings were significant because the goal is to have widespread public involvement from the beginning. "We want this to be a product of the citizens of the state, not of some committee or group," Curran concluded.

A large number of Arkansans have volunteered to help with fund-raising, with the ultimate goal of raising \$1,000,000. Jim Metzger of Little Rock has been serving as a volunteer to coordinate development of an application for major grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Many Arkansans have agreed to serve on the Encyclopedia Oversight Committee, the board that will guide the overall project. An even larger number have volunteered to serve on the Encyclopedia Editorial Board, the body that will coordinate all editorial matters.

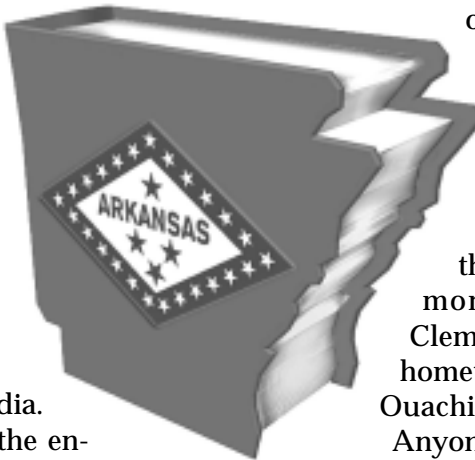
The first six entries in the encyclopedia have been commissioned. These will serve as examples to accompany grant applications. Dillard said the subjects of these preliminary entries are varied in order to show the breadth of the planned encyclopedia.

Dr. Ethel Simpson of Fayetteville wrote a very informative essay on "Arkansas Literature and Writ-

ers," an example of a longer entry. Included among the shorter entries is a sketch of one of Arkansas' most amazing geological features, Crowley's Ridge in Eastern Arkansas, authored by Michael B. Dougan of Arkansas State University. Other writers and their topics are:

Blake Wintory of Fayetteville, writing on W. Hines Furbush, a black Arkansan who served as the first sheriff of Lee County; Eric Lensing of Memphis, Tenn., whose topic is famed singer Johnny Cash; Jane Ellen Murphy of Fayetteville, author of a sketch of the Crater of Diamonds State Park; and Jeanne Clements of Camden, who wrote on her hometown, Louann, population 195, in Ouachita County.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the encyclopedia project, or who has an interest in volunteering, should contact Jill Curran, Encyclopedia of Arkansas, c/o The Butler Center, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201. The encyclopedia can be reached also by email at ea@comcast.net.



To Get You In a Trivia Mood

- ▶ Frank Hickingbotham "couldn't believe" the success of this frozen treat company.
- ▶ This 19th Century author owned a plantation at Clover Bend in Lawrence County and wrote under the pen name Octave Thanet.
- ▶ This Italian-born woman poet was the poet laureate of Arkansas from 1957-1970 and that's no bologna.
- ▶ This Hot Springs native portrayed a quiet gun-fighter who defends homesteaders in a 1953 Classic Western. Come back!

Time for Arkansas Jeopardy! Answers and Registration Form on Page 7.



Curator's Column

Tom W. Dillard

These are certainly exciting times for the Butler Center! We have begun work on the two most significant projects yet, developing an encyclopedia of Arkansas history and culture and creating a comprehensive Arkansas history education curriculum.

These undertakings are of a massive scale. The encyclopedia project is an eight-year effort to develop a comprehensive reference guide to the state of Arkansas. The end product will be both an on-line digital encyclopedia, plus a planned two-volume print edition.

The Arkansas Studies Living Curriculum, which we plan to complete during a three-year span, will create a unified course of study

on Arkansas history which will bring cohesion and system to the study of state and local history in the schools. The project will also produce and distribute a vast variety of teaching materials on Arkansas, and it will also provide for training of teachers who will be implementing the curriculum.

As curator, I fully realize that these two projects will place a great strain on the Butler Center's small staff. Fortunately, many Arkansans are stepping forward to help with these two great undertakings. I want to use this occasion to extend a special invitation to you to help us with these projects. We need volunteers.

Mrs. Shirley Schuette, a graduate student in the public history program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, will shortly begin working three days each week on the encyclopedia as a

summer intern. A number of people have volunteered to write entries for the encyclopedia. We not only need volunteers, we need financial assistance too. We are in the final throes of submitting an application for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the encyclopedia. Recently we received a grant of \$6,000 from the Bridge Fund at the Arkansas Community Foundation to begin work on the curriculum. The encyclopedia is expected to cost about \$1 million for both editions; developing the curriculum will total about \$500,000. Raising this amount of money will not be easy, and we need your assistance to make it happen. Please give me a call if you share our enthusiasm for the encyclopedia project and if you believe that Arkansas history should be meaningfully and thoroughly taught in the schools. If the other states can develop an encyclopedia, why can't Arkansas? And, if Texas can insist on teaching their state history to their children, can we not do so here in Arkansas? Please help us make these projects come to pass.

"If the other states can develop an encyclopedia, why can't Arkansas? And, if Texas can insist on teaching their state history to their children, can we not do so here in Arkansas?"

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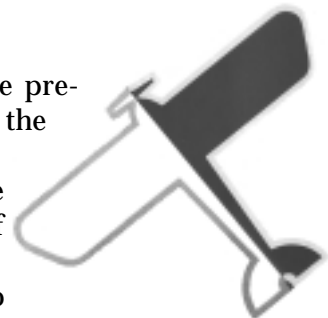


Centennial of Flight To Be Celebrated at October Conference

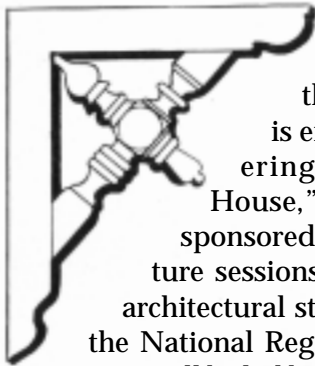
The history of aviation in Arkansas will be presented at an October conference celebrating the centennial of flight.

Scheduled for October 24-25, 2003, the aviation conference will include a myriad of speakers, exhibits, and entertainment.

Full details of the conference have yet to be determined. More information will be released in the next issue of the *Banner*. If you have suggestions and ideas for topics on the history of aviation in Arkansas, contact Programs Coordinator Cary Cox at 501-918-3049.



Discover the Genealogy of Your House With the Butler Center at July 19 Workshop



Anyone interested in researching the history of their home and neighborhood is encouraged to attend "Discovering the Genealogy of Your House," on July 19. The workshop, sponsored by the Butler Center, will feature sessions on identifying your home's architectural style to nominating a house to the National Register of Historic Places. Each session will be led by an expert in the historic preservation field.

During lunch, participants will have the opportunity to hear a couple's personal experience in restoring their house. A box lunch may be ordered with registration or participants may bring their own.

The "Genealogy of Your House" workshop will be held July 19 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, in the Darragh Center of the Main Library. A complete schedule of presentations and speakers is printed on the right.

The Butler Center hosts a genealogy workshop each year as part of its mission to educate Arkansans about their history. Last year's workshop allowed participants to learn about basic genealogical research.

For more information on this workshop, contact Linda McDowell, Genealogy Coordinator at 501-918-3056. To register, complete and mail the registration form below. Please include a check for \$5.00 per box lunch when registering.

9:00 am Registration & Welcome

9:30 am "How to Tell a Stick From a Shingle"
This session will provide the researcher with the necessary information to identify different architectural styles.
Dr. Jean Sizemore

10:30 am "If These Walls Could Talk"
This session will introduce the researcher to the basic resources available for house research.
Cheryl Griffith Nichols

11:30 am Luncheon
Participants may order a box lunch with their registration or bring their own.

"Home Sweet Home or House of Horrors?"
This luncheon program will offer one couple's experiences in restoring a house.
Gary W. & Ann Pryor Clements

12:30 pm "Elements, Elements & More Elements"
Part 1: Interiors--Becky Witsell
Part 2: Exteriors--Tommy Jameson
The presenters will provide researchers with the information necessary to identify the original design features of their houses.

2:15 pm "Is Your Home Register Worthy?"
The speakers will provide researchers with guidelines and instructions for placing a house on the National Register of Historic Places.
Ralph S. Wilcox

3:00 pm "More Than Streets & Sidewalks"
The final session will encourage researchers to discover not only their house history, but also its relationship to the surrounding neighborhood.
Sandra Taylor Smith

3:45 pm Adjourn

Genealogy of Your House Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

I would like to order a box lunch: Ham _____ Turkey _____ Chicken Salad _____ Vegetarian _____ (\$5.00 per box lunch)



Please complete registration form and mail, along with a check for lunch, to:
Butler Center, Central Arkansas Library System, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201
Contact 501-918-3056 for more information

FOCAL Does Its P.A.R.T. You Can Too!

Endowment Allows Butler Center to Bring Historic Items Back to State

Last year, the Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries (FOCAL) created a special endowment known as P.A.R.T. (Protect Arkansas' Resources and Treasures), which is used to purchase for the Butler Center important Arkansas items on Internet auction sites. This fund has enabled the Butler Center to acquire a host of historical materials, including photographs, manuscripts, maps, and diaries. Here is a small sampling of photos.

To do your P.A.R.T. in preserving Arkansas' resources and treasures, contact the library's Development Office at 918-3033.



1



2



3



4

1. V.E. Day Services, Boy Scout Troop #111, Searcy, ca. 1945
2. Paragould Trust Company, ca. 1905
3. Lt. Col. Philander Harrington, Commander of 57th United States Colored Troops, ca. 1864
4. Ford's Business College Baseball Team, Little Rock, ca. 1911
5. Female Worker, Arkansas Ordnance Plant, Jacksonville, ca. 1944
6. View of Fayetteville From East Mountain (Detail), ca. 1910
7. Barbers' Union, Paragould, 1912
8. Steam Shovel of Iron Mountain Railroad (Detail), ca. 1900

Living Curriculum Project Gets Underway

Arkansans are reacting with enthusiasm to the "Arkansas Studies Living Curriculum," a new initiative of the Butler Center to dramatically improve and systematize the teaching of Arkansas history. The most recent example of this is the receipt of a grant from the Bridge Fund at the Arkansas Community Foundation.

Tom W. Dillard, Butler Center curator, said the Bridge Fund grant of \$6,000 "provides us with much needed seed money." The grant funds will be used to commence building the curriculum by surveying teachers to identify needs, create an advisory board, and identify other agencies, institutions, and individuals who would be willing to

contribute to the curriculum. The funds will also be stretched to begin the design of computer programs needed to implement the curriculum.



Dr. Charley Sandage, one of the developers of the project, stresses that for the Living Curriculum to really succeed, it will need to find ways "to structure Arkansas history content

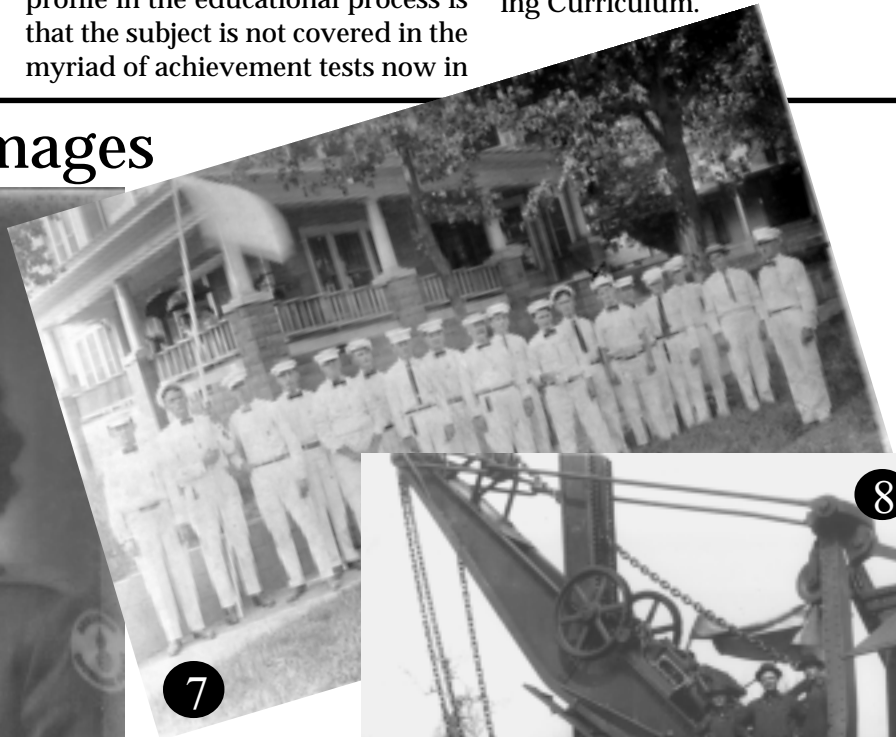
so that it bolsters student performance in reading, writing, critical thinking, and even basic science and mathematics." One reason Arkansas history receives such a low profile in the educational process is that the subject is not covered in the myriad of achievement tests now in

use.

Sandage also emphasizes the potential relationship between the Living Curriculum and the Butler Center's efforts to develop an "Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture." Sandage said "the Living Curriculum provides a means to connect students with the encyclopedia." He concluded, "We hope to develop lesson plans and other instructional tools on many of the major topics in the encyclopedia."

Tom Dillard urges all Arkansans who are concerned about the way Arkansas history is taught (or perhaps *isn't*) in our schools to get in touch with the Butler Center regarding ways to support the development and implementation of the Living Curriculum.

More P.A.R.T. Images



Butler Center “Grows” With Addition of Garden Club Records

The Butler Center recently added the Little Rock Garden Club Records to its collections. The collection contains organizational and financial records of the Club, dating back to 1923, including photographs, scrapbooks and minutes.

The Little Rock Garden Club was organized in 1923 as the first club of its type in Arkansas. In 1960, the organization became affiliated with the Garden Club of America.

One of the missions of the Little Rock Garden Club is the preservation and beautification of historic landmarks in Little Rock and Central Arkan-

sas, including the Old State House and the Historic Arkansas Museum. The Club also promotes horticultural and environmental education, particularly in the public schools of Pulaski County.



The Little Rock Garden Club Records were processed by Manuscripts Assistant Carolyn Cash. The collection, catalogued as MSS 01-12, is available for research use. The finding aid, a detailed listing of contents, facilitates use of the collection. The finding aid may be accessed at www.butlercenter.org.

A listing of other recently processed manuscript collections can be found below.

Butler Center to Announce Major Acquisition at L&L

The Butler Center will announce the acquisition of the Smith Family Papers, immediately before the July Legacies & Lunch.

The Smith Family Papers document the history of this Dallas County family from the 1840s to the early 20th Century. The collection is comprised mostly of correspondence, but photographs and other family memorabilia is also included. One interesting letter found in the collection is an unsent letter written by Maurice Smith to Arkansas Confederate Governor Harris Flanagin in which Smith relays his and others regret at seceding from the Union.

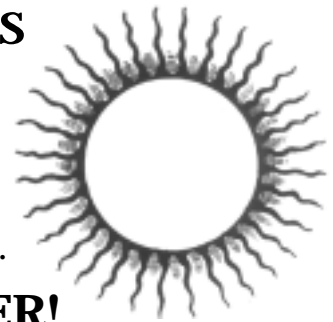
Legacies & Lunch will begin at noon on July 2 in the Darragh Center of the Main Library.

Recently Processed Manuscript Collections

- ▶ Daughters of the American Revolution, Arkansas Society Collection (MSS 97-21)
- ▶ Charlie May Simon Materials (MSS 97-28)
- ▶ Warren E. Lenon Materials (MSS 97-31)
- ▶ M. Drew Bowers Papers (MSS 98-35)
- ▶ Little Rock Council of Parent-Teacher Associations Records (MSS 98-37)
- ▶ Florence Crittenton Home Records (MSS 98-38)
- ▶ Little Rock Federation of Women’s Clubs Materials (MSS 98-40)
- ▶ M.M. Cohn Company Records (MSS 01-06)
- ▶ Fred W. Sanders Materials (MSS 01-08)
- ▶ Little Rock Garden Club Records (MSS 01-12)
- ▶ Bruce T. Bullion, Sr. Scrapbook (MSS 02-27)
- ▶ James E. Bradford Collection (MSS 03-10)



Summertime’s Coming.....



Stay Cool and Help the Butler Center.

VOLUNTEER!

Choose From These Exciting Opportunities:

Manuscripts: work with historic documents and photographs by volunteering your time to process manuscript, photograph, map, or pamphlet collections.

Genealogy: help both newbies and experienced genealogists discover their family history. Also, work on exciting new online databases!

Art: see the Butler Center’s art collection up close! Help the Art Coordinator provide tours of exhibits or research Arkansas artists.

To volunteer or for more information, call the Butler Center at 501-918-3056, or email arkin@cal.lib.ar.us

Historic Maps on Exhibit in Art Gallery

A new exhibit of historic Arkansas maps is on display through July 19, 2003 at the Showcase Arkansas Gallery, Cox Creative Center. "Maps & Measurements: The Art of Cartography and the Science of Surveying" documents the evolution of Arkansas and Westward Expansion through original and reproduction maps. This exhibit is only one of many planned events celebrating the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

Parker Westbrook, of Washington, Arkansas, a long-time collector of maps and avid student of Arkansas history, loaned the Butler Center some of the more interesting maps in his collection. The exhibit also features reproductions of 17th and 18th Century maps from the Butler Center's collections. Two of the 18th Century reproduction maps are available for purchase. Complementing the map exhibit are displays of original land surveying equipment.

The Showcase Arkansas Gallery is located on the third floor of the Cox Creative Center on the Main Library campus in Little Rock. The Gallery is open Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00 and Saturday, 9:00-4:00. For more information contact Reita Walker Miller, Arkansas Art Coordinator at 501-918-3090.

There's Still Time to Get Your Tickets for Arkansas Jeopardy!

The Butler Center will host its third annual "Arkansas Jeopardy!" on June 21, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Darragh Center of the Main Library. All proceeds help the Butler Center fulfill its mission of promoting and preserving Arkansas history.

All Arkansas trivia experts or those who just want to have fun are urged to participate as an audience member. Audience members will not be asked questions.

Categories in "Arkansas Jeopardy" will cover any aspect of Arkansas history and culture. No bit of information is too trivial for us to turn into a Jeopardy question. Three preliminary rounds will be held, and the winners from each match move on to the final game. Each contestant will receive a prize and the overall winner will be crowned king or queen of Arkansas Jeopardy. In addition, the overall winner will receive an extra-special Arkansas-related prize. Skip Rutherford will once again emcee the game.

The festivities will begin with a reception at 6:30 pm. A silent auction of Arkansas items will also begin at that time and continue through the three preliminary rounds. The silent auction is your opportunity to purchase historic maps, autographed books, and other Arkansas memorabilia. The first preliminary round of Arkansas Jeopardy! begins at 7:00 pm.

Use the form below to reserve seats in the audience. General attendance tickets will be sold at the door on June 21, but seating is limited. We urge you to purchase your tickets before June 20. Tickets are \$20 each.

For more information, contact Tim Nutt at 918-3055 or email timn@cals.lib.ar.us.

Let's play Arkansas Jeopardy!

Jeopardy Answers from Page 1

1. TCBY (This Can't Be Yogurt or The Country's Best Yogurt)
2. Alice French
3. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni
4. Alan Ladd

ARKANSAS JEOPARDY REGISTRATION



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Number of Tickets _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

I do not want to humiliate myself in public, but others can 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

In Memoriam

Jim Weatherly
Celia Storey
Little Rock, Arkansas

In Honor Of

All WWII Veterans
Steven Weber
Little Rock, Arkansas

General Support

Gertrude R. Butler
Little Rock, Arkansas

Mr. & Mrs. Park Moore
Little Rock, Arkansas

Ray Lex Tidrow
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Encyclopedia of Arkansas

David & Victoria Harrison
Edwardsville, Illinois

Celia Storey
Little Rock, Arkansas

P.A.R.T. Endowment Fund

**Jim Metzger & Deborah
Baldwin**
Little Rock, Arkansas

**In Memory of
Fred K. Darragh**
Susan Pfeifer
Little Rock, Arkansas

Books and Materials

**African-American
Historical &
Genealogical Society,
Arkansas Chapter**
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Charlotte Hearn
Alexander**
Little Rock, Arkansas

Robert L. Brown
Little Rock, Arkansas

Martha Martin Crease
Mountainside, New Jersey

**Daughters of the
American Revolution,
Arkansas Chapter**
Conway, Arkansas

Ralph Desmarais
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Electric Cooperatives
of Arkansas**
Little Rock, Arkansas

Carol Eruren
North Little Rock, Arkansas

**Country Club
of Little Rock**
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Faulkner County
Museum**
Conway, Arkansas

**Fiction Writers
of Central Arkansas**
Little Rock, Arkansas

Wes Goodner
Little Rock, Arkansas

John W. Graves
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dorothy Haltom
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Kenneth E. Haughton
Los Gatos, California

Rose Hogan
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dixie C. Howard
Maumelle, Arkansas

Murphy R. Keathley
Little Rock, Arkansas

Marian C. Ledgerwood
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas

Donna S. Leslie
Little Rock, Arkansas

Jeanne McDaniel
Little Rock, Arkansas

Linda McDowell
Little Rock, Arkansas

Archie Moore, Jr.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Orwell Moore
Caraway, Arkansas

**National Blue
Family Association**
Seattle, Washington

**National Society Sons &
Daughters of the Pilgrims**
Pembroke, Kentucky

Howard Norton
Vilonia, Arkansas

David Plummer
Charlotte, North Carolina

Ruth Red
Mabelvale, Arkansas

Tom Reed
Chicago, Illinois

George C. Seward
Scarsdale, New York

Connie Thomas
Bryant, Arkansas

Walter C. Tucker
Hartwell, Georgia

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Heber Springs, Arkansas

Mary F. Worthen
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