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

Volume 6, Number 4 Winter 2003

EOA Project Receives Support From DAH

The Butler Center's Encyclopedia of Arkansas History &

Culture project recently received a sizable financial contribution from the Department of Arkansas Heritage, a state agency.

"The mission of the Department of Arkansas Heritage is the same as the mission of the Encyclopedia. From the time we heard about this, we wanted to be involved. And we knew we wanted to be involved in lots of ways." Cathie Matthews, Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, spoke these words at the Encyclopedia project's Kickoff Press Conference held on November 3. From the beginning, Matthews and other DAH personnel have sup-

ported the Encyclopedia by participating in planning meetings and agreeing to serve on the Editorial Board or the Oversight Board. At the news conference the Department took its support to a new level by announcing a contribution to the Encyclopedia project of \$200,000.

The contribution, which comes from the 1/8 cent conservation tax fund, is an appropriate application of those funds,



It was standing room only at the EOA Kickoff Press Conference on November 3.

Matthews said, precisely because the Encyclopedia goals so

closely match the promises made when the conservation tax was put before Arkansas voters in 1996. These goals include identifying the history and heritage of the state, promoting heritage education by working in the schools, and telling the story of the Arkansas to people in the state and beyond.

Even while expressing the Encyclopedia team's gratitude for the donation, Editor-in-Chief Tom Dillard stressed the importance of the ongoing hands-on support that Matthews and her staff have volunteered. The Department has volunteered assistance from their staff, as their staffing allows, to work on the Encyclopedia. Such support, Dillard stated, "will in the long run be just as important as the grant,

if not more so."

Also present at the news conference were Department of Arkansas Heritage Deputy Directors Frank Arey and Bobbie Heffington.

To contribute to the Encyclopedia, contact Jill Curran, Project Coordinator, Butler Center, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 or 918-3022, eoa@comcast.net

New Civil War Book Published by Butler Center

A new Arkansas Civil War book has been issued by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System, as a part of the Center's book publishing program. Edited by well known historian Mark Christ, *All Cut to Pieces and Gone to Hell: The Civil War, Race Relations, and the Battle of Poison Spring* was published under a new joint project between the Butler Center and August House Publishing Co. of Little Rock. The volume was partly underwritten by the Old State House Museum, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

The 147-page book grew out of a conference on the battle of Poison Spring sponsored by the Old State House Museum in 2002. The purpose of the conference was to shed light on the 1864 battle and the age-old argument over charges that wounded and surrendered African-American troops were murdered by the victorious Confederates.

The book commences with an overview on the Camden

Expedition, of which the battle was a part, written by Thomas A. DeBlack. Carl H. Moneyhon contributed a chapter which placed the attitude towards black soldiers in societal context, while Ronnie A. Nichols wrote about how blacks had to gradually find a way to serve in the U.S. forces. Frank Arey wrote a chapter on the First Kansas Colored and the battle at Honey Springs, Indian Territory, a battle, which resulted in a visceral hatred between the black and white troops who would later fight again—this time at Poison Spring. Gregory Urwin concluded the book by placing the Poison Spring battle into the larger issue of racial atrocities during the Camden Expedition. In addition to editing the volume, Mark Christ contributed a chapter on a contemporary letter that documents the atrocities in cool detail.

According to Tom W. Dillard, Butler Center Curator, the publication of *All Cut to Pieces* is an important work that once and for all puts an end to the debate over

See "Book" on Page 3

Curator's Column

Tom W. Dillard

Since I was born near the end of December, the passing of every year marks my birth-

day as well as a new calendar year. Perhaps this perspective gives me a special affinity for those "Annual Holiday Letters" that often accompany Christmas cards from relatives and close friends. Though it might be the acme of nerddom, I love reading these letters and catching up on the unveiling saga that is the life of every human being.

My curator's column is just the kind of update that I like. I know others feel just the opposite, so you can stop reading now...but I urge you to stay with me.

The year 2003 has been an important and transforming one for the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. We have had record numbers of people attending programs here at the Main Library and off-site as well. Our Internet presence is growing by leaps and bounds. We have embarked upon a massive effort to create an entire curriculum in Arkansas history educa-

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Timothy G. Nutt, Editor



tion, and we have made a great deal of progress in developing the first *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*.

The Butler Center puts a great emphasis upon fulfilling our two-part mission: to preserve the historical record of our state, and secondly, to share that heritage with all Arkansans. Thus, I want to commence my year-end report with *public programming*.

Our first-Wednesday of every month brown-bag lunch series, "Legacies & Lunch," has emerged into a major venue for Arkansas historians. This year, for the first time, we had to turn away people who filled the Darragh Center to overflowing. That was on May 7th, when Federal Judge Morris S. Arnold spoke on "Exploring Arkansas Before the Louisiana Purchase." We had a good turnout from North Little Rock (which is not in our Central Arkansas Library System service area) at the July L & L when Butler Center Deputy Curator Timothy G. Nutt told the convoluted story of how North Little Rock became its own city. Attendance at L & L programs averaged 120. Staff member Cary Cox, Coordinator of Programs, deserves credit for making all arrangements for the L & L series.

The Programming Division also sponsored a variety of other programs during the year, including a two-day conference on the history of aviation in Arkansas, appealingly titled "Flight in the Natural State." Our yearly "Arkansas Book Guys" program, which is modeled after National Public Radio's Book Guys, was a big success this year. Local public radio station KUAR will broadcast "The Arkansas Book Guys" on January 1st, 2:00-4:00 pm.

We had a record turnout this past July when the Butler Center's Genealogy Division hosted our yearly family history workshop. This year the emphasis was on researching the "genealogy" of a family home. Linda McDowell continues to manage the Genealogy Division with grace and good humor, assisted by Kelly Taylor, Genealogy Assistant. The Center's genealogy research room is open seven days per week, and we receive researchers from all over the nation and world.

Our Art Division has had an exceptionally good year, with a whole variety of interesting exhibits, educational programs, and outreach efforts. One highlight of the year came during Arkansas Heritage Month in May, when Reita Miller, Art Division Coordinator, organized an exhibit featuring some of the Butler Center's rare historic maps. The Butler Center's art operation is headquartered in the "Showcase Arkansas Gallery" in the Cox Creative Center on the CALS campus.

Our Manuscripts Division, under the leadership of Coordinator Brian K. Robertson, has continued to build our research collections. We received a number of fine manuscript donations during the year, including that of the Maurice Smith family from Tulip, Arkansas, which covers a family from its immigration to Arkansas in 1843 until well into the 20th century. Archie Moore, Jr. of Little Rock gave the Butler Center his collection of Arkansas African-American funeral programs. The 750 programs cover the period 1937-2001. Archie, who serves on the Butler Center's Advisory Board, has been a faithful donor to the Center. Finding aids to many of our manuscript collections can be accessed on our website, www.butlercenter.org. Also on the Manuscripts Division staff are Carolyn Cash and John Lawrence Smith, both Manuscript Assistants.

Art Notes

Reita Walker Miller Arkansas Art Coordniator

The 2004 Small works on Paper juried exhibition will open at the Cox Creative Center, Showcase Arkansas Gallery in Little Rock on January 10,

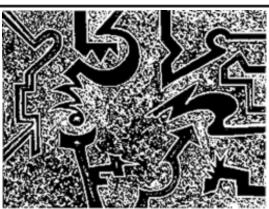
2004 with a reception from 1:00-3:00 pm. Admission is free and the exhibition will remain on view through January 31. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday 9 am to 4 pm

Now in its 17th year, the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, presents the exhibition annually. This year's show features 38 works by 27 Arkansas artists. Rosemary Meza, artist and art instructor from El Centro College in Dallas, Texas, juried the show.

Rosemary holds an MFA from the Hoffberger School of Painting at the Maryland Institute College of Art. In addition to selecting the artwork for the exhibition, Ms. Meza also presented nearly \$2000 in purchase award money for twelve pieces.

The Small Works on Paper exhibition is a collaborative effort of the Ar-

kansas Arts Council and the International Paper Company. International Paper Company granted \$1000.00 for the purchase awards to supplement artists' en-



Jorge Villegas' artwork *Reunion*, a gel marker and colored pencil work, is featured in the Small Works on Paper exhibit.

try fees. Works selected for purchase become a permanent part of the visual arts collection of the Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The nine artists selected to receive purchase awards are as follows: Robert Reep, Little Rock; Charlotte Bailey Rierson, Fairfield Bay; Kathy Lindsey, Little Rock; Brenda Fish, Jonesboro; C. Victor Chalfant,



Fayetteville; Pepper Pepper, Little Rock; Doug Waterfield, Magnolia; Steven Wise, Rogers; L. Eric Smith, III, Fayetteville. Purchase award recipients receive a cash award equivalent to the value of the selected work.

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies is proud to host the 2004 Annual Small Works on Paper exhibit sponsored by the Arkansas Arts Council. The Butler Center shares a common goal with the Department of Arkansas Heritage--that of preserving and enhancing the heritage of the state of Arkansas.

After leaving the Showcase Arkansas Gallery, the Small Works on Paper exhibit will travel around the state. A detailed exhibit schedule may be found on the Arkansas Arts Council website, www.arkansasarts.com. For more information on future exhibits at the Showcase Arkansas Gallery contact us at 918-3090.

"Book," continued from Page 1 whether there was a racial massacre at the Battle of Poison Spring. "We need to know the whole of Arkansas history, the good, the bad, the ugly. While we cannot deny that the battle is an ugly stain on our collective heritage, it is a mark in our favor that we can stand back and analyze it objectively as an historical event," Dillard concluded.

The book is available by completing this form and sending it to the Butler Center along with a check for payment.

For more information on the Butler Center's book publishing program, contact Tom Dillard at 501-918-3054 or tomd@cals.lib.ar.us.

"All Cut To Pieces" Order Form
Name
Address
CityStateZip
Number of Copies @ \$25.00/each + \$2.50 shipping per book
Total Amount Enclosed \$
Enclose check made payable to Butler Center and mail to: Butler Center, CALS, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201

Moore Gathers African-Arkansan Funeral Programs in New Collection

The Archie Moore Jr. Collection of Black Americana manuscript collection has been processed and is available for researchers. The collection consists of African-American funeral, church, and school programs as well as other materials on black American history in Arkansas.

Archie Moore, Jr., a native of Little Rock, is a dealer in antiques and an avid collector with a personal interest in Black Americana.



Archie Moore (left) recently donated his collection of African-American funeral programs to the Butler Center. He poses here with Butler Center Curator Tom Dillard.

He has one of the largest collections of African-American memorabilia in the state of Arkansas. Moore attended the public schools of Little Rock and is a 1992 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has been employed with the United States Postal Service since 1989, and also serves on the Butler Center Advisory Board. Moore has exhibited his collection at various genealogical, religious, and historical conferences and institutions.

The collection is strong on materials from the cities of Warren, Bradley County and Little Rock. However, there are materials from other Arkansas cities and towns as well. Some of the programs are for people who had relocated to other states, but were removed back to Arkansas upon their deaths. A few of the programs have related, but often undated, newspaper obits placed inside individual funeral programs.

At least four of the earliest funerals documented in the collection, dated between 1937-1939, were arranged and conducted by the United Friends of America, an early fraternal insurance and hospitalization organization that also had its own funeral business. After the 1930s, the funeral programs document various funeral home businesses, churches and pastors and provide details such as birth, death and marriage dates, occupations, schools attended, names of parents and other invaluable information. Currently, there are over 750 funeral programs ranging from the most simple to the most elaborate, and providing wonderful biographical information. The collection also includes a significant number of church programs for various denominations.

The collection is catalogued as MSS 03-01 and may be used in the research room of the Butler Center. A detailed finding aid is located in the research room and on the Butler Center's website at www.butlercenter.org. The Moore collection complements the Tom W. Dillard Black Arkansiana Collection, which is also available for use.

For more information on using the Archie Moore Jr. Collection of Black Americana, call the Butler Center at 918-3056. Reservations are required if planning to research the collection on the weekend.

Butler Center to Recognize Gardening Historian at Event

The Butler Center is planning to present a special award to C. Allan Brown, a former Arkansan who is recognized as one of America's premier landscape historians, at a conference on March 18, near Little Rock. Brown, who was raised in Arkansas and graduated from the University of Arkansas with a landscape architecture degree, will receive the Butler Center's "Arkansan of Achievement" Award.

Butler Center curator Tom W. Dillard said the Arkansan of Achievement Award is designed to bring public attention to *expatriate* Arkansans who are making major contributions to the nation or larger world. Dillard said, "Allan Brown, though still young in his career, is recognized throughout the landscape history world as one of the nation's brightest professionals in the field. Though he now lives in Virginia, Arkansas is proud to share him with the rest of the world. Someday, of course, we hope he will return to our state."

Brown has built his reputation on his deep research on the gardens of Jeffersonian America. In addition to President Jefferson's home at Monticello, Brown as consulted on garden restorations throughout the east coast as well as Arkansas. He has helped develop plans to restore the landscapes at a number of Arkansas historic sites, including Old Washington, the Historic Arkansas Museum, and the Pike-Fletcher-Terry Home in Little Rock. He has published important articles on Arkansas and Little Rock landscape history as well.

Brown will be in Arkansas to give a lecture on "Gardening in Arkansas: Historical Contexts," as a part of the Heirloom Gardening seminar sponsored by the Pulaski County Master Gardeners. The all-day seminar, which includes a variety of speakers, will be held on Thursday, March 18, at the 4-H Center at Ferndale. Information on the seminar can be obtained at the Pulaski County Extension Office, (501) 340-6650.

Arnold Collection of Colonial Records Acquired by Butler Center

The Morris S. Arnold Colonial Arkansas Materials manuscript collection is now available to researchers. The materials, pertinent to Arkansas Post and pre-territorial Arkansas history, consist mainly of photocopies of seventeenth-to-nineteenth century correspondence and official documents collected from various international repositories. Since the bulk of the materials are copies of primary sources, the correspondence and documents are presented in the contemporary French and Spanish languages.

Morris S. Arnold was born in Texarkana, Texas in 1941. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and his LL.B. from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville; in addition, he received his LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from Harvard Law School, where he specialized in legal history. Arnold held several high-level academic positions with various universities, includ-

ing Indiana University Law School, University of Pennsylvania, and Cambridge University before being appointed by President Reagan to the bench of the United States District Court, Western District of Arkansas, in 1985. There he presided until 1992, when Judge Arnold was appointed to the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, where he presently serves.

In addition to Judge Arnold's renowned legal career, he is recognized as the premiere expert on colonial Arkansas history. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and several books on this particular subject, including Colonial Arkansas, 1686 – 1804: A Social and Cultural History and The Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws and Old World Newcomers, 1673 – 1804. His most recent published work is included in Arkansas: A Narrative History.

The Morris S. Arnold Colonial Arkansas Materials collection is one of the more significant held by any archive in the nation on this topic because it gathers materials on Colonial Arkansas from around the world. Numerous topics concerning French and Spanish rule in the early years of Arkansas' recorded history, such as military and Indian affairs, and daily government of Arkansas Post are documented within in the collection.

A detailed finding aid for the Arnold collection is located in the Butler Center research room or at www.butlercenter.org. The collection is accessioned as MSS 02-08 and was processed by Manuscripts Assistant John Lawrence Smith.

For more information on using the Morris S. Arnold Colonial Arkansas Materials, call the Butler Center at 918-3056. [Please note that most of these documents are in 17th-18th century French and/or Spanish.]

Reservations are required if planning to use the collection on the weekend.

New Acquistion Features A Nice Place in the Bogg

This photo of the Bogg Springs Hotel (ca. 1915) was recently purchased on an online auction with P.A.R.T. funds, an endowment established by the Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries (FOCAL) to save historic Arkansas materials from leaving the state. Bogg Springs is located in Polk County, about 45 miles southwest of Mena.

To learn how you can do your P.A.R.T., contact the library's development office at 918-3033.



"Curator," continued from Page 2 Our staff photographer, Offie Lites, is also a valued member of the Division.

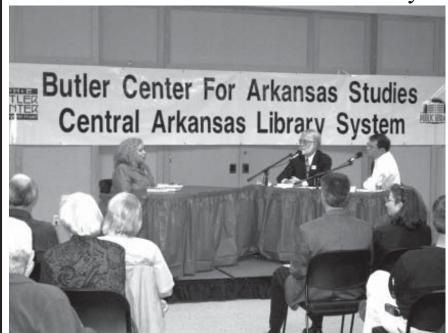
Two huge programming initiatives begun in 2003 were projects to create an encyclopedia of Arkansas and an Arkansas history education curriculum. We launched the Encyclopedia Project in February with a conference in Little Rock, followed by eight regional meetings all over the state. We have been successful in raising enough money to hire a staff, and we have already announced the hiring of Jill Curran as Encyclopedia Project Coordinator, Nathania Sawyer as Senior Editor, and Shirley Schuette, UALR graduate assistant.

Since the day the Butler Center was created in October 1997, improving Arkansas history education has been one of our central goals. To put it plainly, Arkansas history has traditionally received little emphasis in the official curriculum of the state. To remedy that, the Butler Center has launched "The Arkansas Studies Living Curriculum," a three-year plan to develop a detailed course of study, and, more importantly, produce all the instructional materials needed to implement the curriculum. We are working with a group of private contractors to develop the curriculum, and while fundraising has been slow, we are expecting more support as we raise the profile of this project.

On the education front, the Center also provides support for Arkansas history teachers in a variety of other ways. Our "Butler Fellowship Program" continues to recognize outstanding work by Arkansas history teachers around the state. We host several dozen lesson plans on Arkansas topics at our Website.

Finally, I want to mention our new book-publishing program. This year we published the first volume in our joint venture with August House Publishing in Little Rock. This first book is a history of a tragic Civil War battle, titled *All Cut to Pieces and Gone to Hell: The Civil War. Race Relations, and*

Romance and the Arkansas Book Guys



Tom Dillard (center) and Tim Nutt, the "Arkansas Book Guys" interview Laura Parker Castoro during the November 22 event. Castoro is a Pine Bluff native and well-known author in the romance genre. Radio station KUAR (89.1 FM) will air the taped performance on January 1, 2004 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Other guests included Mark Christ, Kevin Brockmeier, and David Cockroft.

the Battle of Poison Spring, edited by Mark Christ. We hope to eventually get to the point of producing three volumes per year.

I cannot complete a year long review without mentioning the indispensable role that Deputy Curator Tim Nutt plays in all aspects of Butler Center work. Though his quiet demeanor often causes him to be overlooked, Tim is the steady organizing force in the Butler Center. He works closely with our volunteers, especially Elsie Whitson and Geri Chandler; he coordinates all publications within the Center, and on the side he edits the Pulaski County history magazine and the newsletter for the Arkansas Historical Association. The staff members are only partly jesting when they whisper behind my back, "Tom is the Curator, but Tim really runs the place!"

This has been an exciting year for all of us at the Butler Center. With your interest and support, we can make 2004 even more rewarding.

Television Pioneer to Inaugurate 2004 Legacies & Lunch Series

Dale Nicholson, general manager of KATV-Channel 7 in Little Rock, will kick-off the 2004 Legacies & Lunch series with a talk on January 7. Nicholson, who was a pioneer in early Little Rock television, will speak on his long career.

The Legacies and Lunch series will concentrate on biography and autobiography during 2004. Among the other speakers scheduled are Bill Valentine, Parker Westbrook, Mary Worthen, Dr. John L. Ferguson, Richard Davies, Phil Kaplan, and Bob Fisher, among others.

The Butler Center will publish a full list of 2004 Legacies & Lunch speakers in the next issue of *The Banner*.

Books and Materials

In Memoriam

Eloise Barksdale

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Fred Darragh

David & Barbara Pryor Little Rock, Arkansas

Maxine Davison

Arkansas Pioneers Association

(Ret.) Col. Royce L. Eaves, Sr.

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Mary Engles

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Lula Gray Howell

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Susannah Lynch

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Barbara Brittain Ryals

Janet Cannon Decatur, Alabama

Mary Florence Scobev

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Mary Schmid

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Peg Smith

Helen T. Leigh Mason City, Iowa

David & Barbara Pryor Little Rock, Arkansas

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Selma Wooley

Arkansas Pioneers Association

Arkansas Genealogical Society

Hot Springs, Arkansas

Gary Cozzens

Capitan, New Mexico

Lou Drummond Little Rock, Arkansas

Carol Griffee Little Rock, Arkansas

Jack Hill Little Rock, Arkansas

Minola Jollev North Little Rock, Arkansas

Jeanne McDaniel Little Rock, Arkansas

General Support

Mary Delia Prather

Little Rock, Arkansas

Dallas, Texas

Archie Moore Little Rock, Arkansas

Howard Norton

Vilonia, Arkansas

Hilaire Rousseau North Little Rock, Arkansas

Cindy Scaife Bryant, Arkansas

Wanda Wilson Harrison, Arkansas

Arkansas Studies Living Curriculum

Gertrude R. Butler Little Rock, Arkansas

Encyclopedia of Arkansas

Paul Greenberg

Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. A. Cleveland Harrison

Auburn, Alabama

Freed S. Little

Houston, Texas

Robert S. McCord

North Little Rock Arkansas

Bob & Jo Ann Pugh

Portland, Arkansas

Mary Sue Reagan

Rogers, Arkansas

Orlan & Joan Roper

England, Arkansas

St. Paul United Methodist Women

Little Rock Arkansas

Rice Art Conservation Fund P.A.R.T. Endowment Fund

In Memory of Gov. Sid McMath

Peyton & Betty Rice Little Rock, Arkansas

C. Grimsley and Carol Graham, Jr.

Rogers, Arkansas

In Memory of Caroline Bond

Dr. & Mrs. Bobby Roberts Little Rock, Arkansas

In Memory of Gov. Sid McMath

Bob Razer Little Rock, Arkansas

Dr. Bobby Roberts Little Rock, Arkansas

Remember the Butler Center during this Holiday Season! Call Tom Dillard Today at (501) 918-3056.

Civil War Collection Features Letters by Father & Son

The Butler Center recently acquired an impressive collection of Civil War letters. The Munger Family Civil War Letters chronicle one family's experience during the American Civil War. Written by a father/son pair, the letters provide keen insight into Federal operations in the Trans-Mississippi Theater.

When the war began, Solomon V. Munger was a thirty-eight year old farmer living in Barry County, Michigan. Munger heeded his country's call to service and enlisted at Battle Creek, Michigan on March 10, 1862. He joined company "I" of the 2nd Missouri Cavalry Regiment, U.S. The unit was commonly known as "Merrill's Horse" after its commander Colonel Lewis Merrill. The regiment saw extensive service in Missouri chasing after bushwackers and partisan rangers. In the summer of 1863 the unit moved into Arkansas, where it participated in the Little Rock campaign and later the Camden Expedition. During the fall of 1864 "Merrill's Horse" was engaged in the effort to defeat Price's Missouri Raid. The regiment eventually mustered out of service at Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1865.

In February 1864, Solomon's son, Hiram, enlisted in the Union Army against his father's wishes. Hiram volunteered for service in the 2nd Missouri Cavalry and soon joined his father in camp in Arkansas. The pair wrote many letters home and a portion of them are preserved in the collec-







Hiram V. Munger

tion. Unfortunately, Solomon Munger died in Little Rock in May 1864.

The Munger Family Civil War letters were processed by Manuscripts Coordinator, Brian K. Robertson. The seventy-seven letters and three photographs have been cataloged as MSS 03-23. The finding aid, a detailed listing of contents, is available in the Butler Center's research room or on the Internet at www.butlercenter.org. For more information on the Munger Family letters or other Butler Center collections, please contact Brian Robertson at (501) 918-3094 or brianr@cals.lib.ar.us.



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