

# THE BUTLER BANNER

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

Volume 7, Number 3

Fall 2004

## Butler Center Curator Accepts Position as Head of Special Collections at University of Arkansas--Fayetteville

Tom W. Dillard, Curator of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, recently accepted a job with the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to head up the library's Special Collections department.

Dillard was the founding director of the Butler Center since its establishment in 1997 with an endowment from the late Richard C. Butler, Sr. of Little Rock. The Butler Center is the Arkansas history and genealogy department of the Central Arkansas Library System and in its first seven years emerged as one of the leading archives and special collections in the state. In addition to acquiring a large number of manuscript and photograph collections, it is very successful in its public programming.

The job at the University of Arkansas--Fayetteville is in some aspects similar to the one Dillard held at the Butler Center. He will solicit materials for the collection as well as actively fund raise for the library and special collections. Dillard will remain Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas project at the Butler Center.

Tom says that moving to Fayetteville was a difficult decision, but one that provides many opportunities in the teaching and studying of Arkansas history.

Bobby Roberts, director of the library system, said the Butler Center would continue to provide the quality service and programs it had done under Tom's leadership. Timothy G. Nutt, deputy curator under Dillard, has assumed the responsibilities of Interim Curator.

Please join the Butler Center in wishing Tom the best in his new endeavor. He can be reached at the special collections in Mullins Library on the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville by emailing [tdillar@uark.edu](mailto:tdillar@uark.edu).

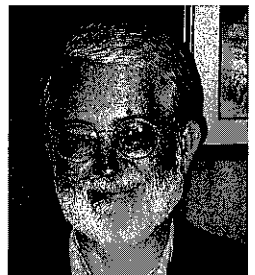
### Farewell Message from the Butler Center Curator

By Tom W. Dillard

Leaving the Butler Center was the most difficult career decision I've ever made. Since its creation seven years ago, the Center has been a thing of great joy and pride to me.

My philosophy in developing the Butler Center was based on the belief that, first, Arkansas history matters, and second, our heritage ought to be shared with the people of the state. With the help of Tim Nutt, deputy curator, and all the other Butler Center staff, I sought new and innovative ways to tell the story of our state. I think we demonstrated that Arkansas history can be presented in a myriad of ways, ranging from the purely academic to the entertaining.

We sought to bring new audiences into the Library, and among our more successful strategies for that were mini-conferences on such unusual topics as the history of fishing in Arkansas ("Bait Pails and Tall Tales"). Our conference on Arkansas' role in World War II resulted in an overflow audience that saw scores of people sitting on the floor.



### Butler Center Welcomes New Employee

The Butler Center is pleased to welcome a new employee. Judy Rickard, the new office manager, is keeping the Butler Center organized and acting as a liaison with the library's business office.

Judy, a native of Oklahoma, was reared in Illinois, and relocated to Arkansas after her college graduation. She has lived in various cities around the state, but has spent the majority in Little Rock, where she taught mathematics at Mount St. Mary's Academy for a number of years. Judy most



See "Judy" on Page 3

See "Farewell" on Page 2

"Farewell," continued from Page 1

Perhaps our most amazing program was a two-day conference in Helena on the Elaine Race Massacres of 1919. More than 1,000 people attended the sessions, with the audiences almost equally divided between the two races. News reporters attended from as far away as Los Angeles.

We also sought new and innovative ways to use the Internet to further our mission. For example, the Butler Center's "Arkansas Black History On-Line" project has taken a previously neglected aspect of our heritage to worldwide audiences.

One of the Center's most significant efforts is the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History Project. Our goal is to develop the definitive reference work on the state and local history of Arkansas.

A less visible but very important project is the Butler Center's contributions to developing a detailed curriculum in Arkansas history for use in the schools of the state. Working in a joint venture with a private company, AAL, Inc. of Nashville, Ark., the Butler Center is creating a detailed course of study that will for the first time make state history an important component of our educational system.

The Butler Center has worked diligently to maximize its resources by collaborating with other agencies. We

**"I think we demonstrated that Arkansas history can be presented in a myriad of ways, ranging from the purely academic to the entertaining."**

have worked closely with the Old State House Museum, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, the Arkansas Historical Association, and Little Rock's public access television channel—as well as many other organizations and agencies.

I know this is getting to be a long list, but let me mention one more program of which I am inordinately proud: our publishing enterprise. In the past few years we have published a brief overview of Arkansas history, two volumes on the Civil War in our state, and a collection of short stories on Arkansas history for middle and junior high school students. In addition, we've brought out a compact disc on 1960s Little Rock "garage band music" and a computer screen saver with images from Arkansas history. Within the past year a generous individual who wishes to remain anonymous has endowed the Center's publications program with a gift of over \$100,000.

Oh, I forgot...there's the creation of the William Grant Still Arkansas Musical Heritage Series—which has brought attention to the state's impressive contributions to the field of Ameri-

can music. And, then, there's the...but, I must stop.

None of this is due to my work exclusively. It is due to the efforts of scores of Arkansas individuals, organizations, and state agencies—all of which share my belief that Arkansas history matters.

Now, I'm off to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where I will become head of the special collections department in the University Libraries. I am very excited about this new opportunity, especially the potential for mentoring young historians and teachers. I am looking to the future, and I hope my new academic work will enlist a whole new generation of people who will contribute to the preservation and dissemination of Arkansas history.

My wife, Mary Frost Dillard, and I have bought a 30 acre "farmette" just outside Farmington, Ark., and we are trying to settle in. Both of us have lived in Little Rock for most of our lives, so it is not easy to start anew. That process will be made easier if you will come by for a visit when you are in the vicinity of the UA campus. Also, you can always reach me via email at [tdillar@uark.edu](mailto:tdillar@uark.edu).

Thanks to all of you for your help and encouragement. I hope you will extend the same warm assistance to the new curator. Don't forget...Arkansas history is important to every resident of the state.

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](mailto:arkinfo@cals.lib.ar.us)  
<http://www.cals.lib.ar.us>  
Printed and distributed with private funds.  
Timothy G. Nutt, Editor



**Pre-Order Your 2005 Calendar Featuring Historic Photos of Arkansas**

**\$10.00 plus \$1.50 s/h**

All proceeds benefit the Encyclopedia of Arkansas project

Send check to:  
Encyclopedia of Arkansas  
Butler Center for Arkansas Studies  
Central Arkansas Library System  
100 Rock Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

# It's Time for Another Exciting Game of Arkansas Jeopardy on November 6

The Butler Center will host its fourth annual "Arkansas Jeopardy!" on November 6, 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. Tom W. Dillard will be the

question and answer czar.

Previous winners of Arkansas Jeopardy include Larry Ahart (2001), Zack Mobley (2002), and Dr. Sondra Gordy (2003).

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 or volunteer to be a contestant. General attendance tickets will be sold at the door on November 6, but seating is limited. We urge you to purchase your tickets before November 2. Tickets are \$20 each.

For more information, contact Tim Nutt at 918-3055 or email [timn@cals.lib.ar.us](mailto:timn@cals.lib.ar.us).

Put on your thinking caps and let's play Arkansas Jeopardy!

"Judy" continued from Page 1

recently served as the Executive Director for the State Board of Dental Examiners.

Judy is married to Dave Rickard. She is the mother of Michael Safly and the proud grandmother of Luke and Ben Safly. Her son, daughter in law, and grandson live in McLean Virginia so she doesn't get to see them very often.

She loves to sew and quilt and often wears her quilting projects to work as vests or jackets.

Judy says she is delighted to be serving as the Office Manager for the Butler Center.

In addition to her office managerial duties, Judy also helps on the Butler Center's information desk one night a week and some weekends.

Her phone number is 501-918-3089 and her email is [jrickard@cals.lib.ar.us](mailto:jrickard@cals.lib.ar.us).

Please join the rest of the Butler Center staff in welcoming Judy.



## Arkansas Jeopardy Registration



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I know tons of Arkansas trivia and I want to prove it. Sign me up as a contestant.
- I do not want to humiliate myself in public, but others can do so. Enclosed is my \$20.00 per ticket.

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

## General Support

Jerry and Anna Bedford  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Lee and Paula Johnson  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dorothy Morris  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Dori Shaffer  
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas

## P.A.R.T.

### Endowment Fund

**In Honor of Tom W. Dillard**  
Tom, Susan, and Susannah DeBlack  
Conway, Arkansas

**In Memory of Lynn Strother**  
Tom and Mary Dillard  
Farmington, Arkansas

## Honoraria

**Tom W. Dillard**  
Arkansas Community Foundation  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Cherry Light  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Bob Razer and Valerie Thwing  
Little Rock, Arkansas

## Memorials

**William W. Daniell**  
Eileen Daniell  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Kathy Floyd**  
Lee and Paula Johnson  
Little Rock, Arkansas

## Books and Materials

**Desmond Walls Allen**  
Conway, Arkansas

**Mary K. Barrett**  
Warren, Arkansas

**Carolyn Billingsley**  
Alexander, Arkansas

**Tom Bonner**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Anne Bryant**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Mark Christ**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Henry de Linde**  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

**Carol G. Eruren**  
North Little Rock, Arkansas

**Diane Everman**  
St. Louis, Missouri

**David E. Gifford**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Raymond G. Hawes**  
Hamden, Connecticut

**Carol Jenkins**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Minola Jolley**  
North Little Rock, Arkansas

**Robert Leland Johnson**  
Denver, Colorado

**W. Wilson Jones**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Jim Lewis**  
Jacksonville, Arkansas

**Jim McDaniel**  
Farmers Branch, Texas

**Steven Meldrum**  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

**Todd T. Morris**  
Conway, Arkansas

**Mike Polston**  
Cabot, Arkansas

**Jeanne Spencer**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Bill Sayger**  
Bisbee, Arkansas

**Dave Wallis**  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

**Fred R. Williams**  
North Augusta,  
South Carolina

## Rice Art Conservation Fund

In Memory of Mrs. Janet Honeycutt  
Peyton and Betty Rice  
Little Rock, Arkansas

In Memory of Mrs. Gordon Wittenberg  
Peyton and Betty Rice  
Little Rock, Arkansas

## Encyclopedia of Arkansas

**Catherine Hodges Hamilton**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**William C. Norman**  
Crossett, Arkansas

**J.L. and Billie Rutherford**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Michael Turner**  
Newport, Arkansas

T • H • E  
**BUTLER**  
**CENTER**  
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

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

The mission of the Butler Center is to collect, preserve, and provide access to the historical and cultural record of Arkansas.

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LITTLE ROCK, AR  
PERMIT NO. 183