THE BUTLER BANNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUTLER CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Volume 9, Number 1

Fall-Winter 2006



Upcoming Butler Center Events

Southern Jewish Historical Society:

Annual Conference, Nov. 10–12 at the Peabody Hotel

Legacies & Lunch:

Noon, Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the Darragh Center, Main Library. Speaking: Trey Berry on "Legacies in Chalk: A History of Education in Arkansas."

Check out the Butler Center website at www. butlercenter.org for more information on these and other events.



Encyclopedia of Arkansas SectionMore EOA news,

photos, and updates

– beginning on page 4.

Grab Your New EOA Calendar NOW!Order form inside.

Papers of Power—and Light

he Butler Center has acquired the Couch-Remmel Family Papers, a collection consisting of materials related to two prominent Arkansas families. It provides documents from the careers of Harvey Couch, the state's foremost publicworks entrepreneur, and Pratt Remmel, former Little Rock Mayor.

The Couch and Remmel families were first allied through Harvey Couch's request to Harmon Remmel, Sr., for support for constructing a dam across the Ouachita River. Couch named the dam, which was completed in 1923, after Remmel. The dam

was the first major electrical generating facility in Arkansas built by Couch's Arkansas Power & Light.

Included in the Couch materials are hundreds



Pratt and Catherine Couch Remmel (center), the day Pratt was elected mayor of Little Rock, November 6, 1951. Rollie Remmel pictured on far right.

of pieces of personal and professional correspondence as well as scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and legal documents. There are dozens of *Cont. on Page 2*

Rowing on the River (Again)

he recently formed Arkansas Boathouse Club (ABC) held a luncheon on Thursday, October 12, in the River Front room at the Peabody Hotel to report on efforts to reestablish the sport of rowing on the Arkansas River and to bring together former members and descendants of members of Little Rock's original Boat House club.

The ABC is named for the historic Little Rock Athletic Association (LRAA), which was commonly known as the Boat House. Organizers of the new club used materials from the Butler Center's collection when researching the LRAA and discovered that the organization promoted many different sporting and social events. The Boat House's major event was a regatta on the Arkansas River, and the participating boats were named for society debutants.

At the October 12 luncheon, local historians and descendants of former LRAA members viewed memorabilia and shared stories about the club. The Boat House was established in 1878 and was active until 1938, when the clubhouse

burned. The club officially disbanded in 1945.

Plans for the new ABC include building a dock and facility on the North Little Rock side of the Cont. on Page 2



The winning rowing crew from the Little Rock Athletic Association's 1906 regatta.

Cont. from Papers of Power

photographs, including Harvey Couch working as a mail clerk for the St. Louis Railroad, being sworn in as a member of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), and posing with various political figures. There is even an audio recording of a speech Couch gave to the Little Rock Rotary Club in 1940.

The Remmel materials are equally impressive. Within that group are hundreds of letters, a variety of photographs, scrapbooks, assorted documents, and newspaper clippings. Many of the items relate to Pratt Remmel's political career, but there is also an abundance of materials dealing with his insurance business, as well as his work on the Arkansas River Development Committee.

In addition to Pratt's materials, there are

also many items relating to his mother, Ellen Lucy Cates "Nell" Remmel. Like some of her other family members, she played an active part in the state Republican Party. In fact, one local newspaper once referred to her as "Mrs. Republican of Arkansas." And finally there are several items related to Pratt Remmel's great uncle, Harmon L. Remmel, who was elected to the state legislature on the Republican ticket in 1886, continued to lead the Arkansas Republican Party into the 20th century, and whose prestige brought his and the Couch family together.

Heartfelt thanks to Cathie Remmel Matthews, Rebecca C. Remmel, and Pratt C. Remmel, Jr., for the gift of this collection and to Richard Butler, Jr., for his assistance. For more information, visit encyclopediaofarkansas.net..

The Butler Banner is the quarterly newsletter of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System 100 Rock St. Little Rock, AR 72201 501.918.3056

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Cont. from Rowing (Again)

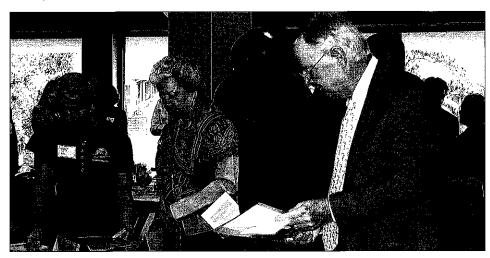
Arkansas River, offering training through adult and youth rowing programs and sponsoring regattas.

In addition to re-establishing the sport of rowing, the organizers are partnering with the Butler Center to preserve the history of the original Boat House. Members and descendants of members are encouraged to work with the Butler Center to scan or copy photographs and any other surviving memorabilia. Members of the ABC will also be collecting oral history interviews with former members and descendants of members; the oral histories will be archived at the Butler Center.

To find more information about the Arkansas Boathouse Club, visit the web-

site at arkansasboathouseclub.org (no www.), or write to the Arkansas Boat-

house Club, 125 Johnson Street, Little Rock AR 72205.



Lynette Watts (left) shares memorabilia from the original Boat House with luncheon guests.

Donations: Dignity In Death

he Butler Center announces the donation of papers and photographs from Jean Parham Eason, CEO of Hubble Funeral Home, Inc. Items include duplicate photos of her ancestors, George and Rosa Parham of Dallas County; a history of the Dallas County Training School/J.E. Wallace School; an employee manual from Hubble Funeral Home and a souvenir program from the 1936 dedication of the Hubble Bros., Inc. Funeral Home at 924 Cross Street in Little Rock. Dupli-

cate photos of the Hubble family are also included.

The Hubble family began working in the funeral service business at Newport (Jackson County), in 1900, when Walter S. Hubble established his service. By 1920, a location was added in North Little Rock, and by 1936, the Little Rock location carried the Hubble name. After the death of Walter S. Hubble in 1928, Jerome N. Hubble, Edward S. Hubble, Hannibal H. Hubble, Mary Hubble, and Sarah Hubble all contributed to maintain-

ing the family business.

An article in the *Arkansas State Press* dated February 27, 1959, announced the appointment of Georgia Parham Tucker, a licensed funeral director, notary public and accountant, as the manager of the Hubble Funeral Homes.

The Cross Street location was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. The North Little Rock location, through the efforts of owners Jean Parham Eason and Doyle Parham, may soon be added to the list.

Believing It

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies will take part in *This I Believe*, a public radio project that invites Americans to write essays that discuss core beliefs that guide their lives. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow.

Eleanor Roosevelt, Presidents Harry Truman and Herbert Hoover, Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson, and Albert Einstein were just a few of the hundreds of people who participated in the series, which reached 39 million listeners daily and appeared weekly in 85 newspapers.

Here in Arkansas, a statewide campaign has been launched to urge Arkansans to participate. The Butler Center is committed to documenting the thoughts of Arkansans by airing some essays on KUAR, publishing some in a special edition of the *Arkansas Times*, and archiving all submissions for public record at the Butler Center.

Please take time to tell Arkansas and the world what you believe at www. kuar.org/believe.html or by mail to Re-Center, Attn: Riley Lipschitz, 4301 W. Markham, #748, Little Rock, AR 72205. Please keep your essay between 350 and 500 words. For advice on writing your essay, please consult the web address. ■

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin

Head of the Butler Center



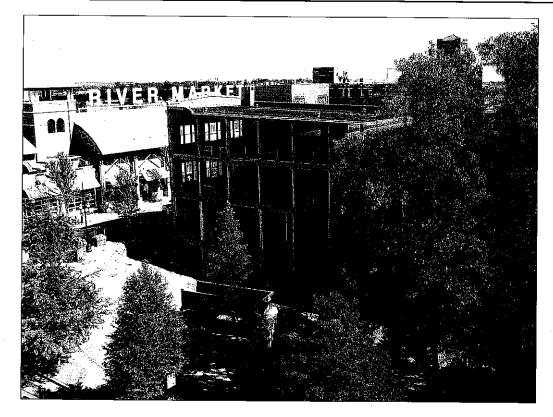
attended my first meeting of the Oral History Association (OHA) in the fall of 1977. I was a new member of OHA and in my first full-time

public history job, at Baylor University. OHA has given me a great deal over the years, and I am glad that my "new" public history job, at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, has given me a chance to give something back. Along with our friends at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and my colleagues at the Butler Center and our parent organization, the Central Arkansas Library System, we are delighted to help host OHA's visit to Little Rock for its 40th anniversary gathering. The conference features a number of presentations and special offerings on civil rights, Little Rock, and change and continuity in southern U.S. history, including various efforts to document Hurricane Katrina's effects on the Gulf South and New Orleans in particular. It's an exciting conference, and we welcome its attendees to Little Rock!

Working with OHA is just one of the many ways the Butler Center is broadening and deepening its reach. The StoryCorps mobile recording studio was parked outside our present building and within a Frisbee's throw of the new one being constructed; we're also working with the *This I Believe* program. Our partnerships with KUAR and with the Reynolds Institute on Aging at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences on these projects are both expressions of how we are connecting our local and state history efforts to regional and national narratives.

Our ongoing work in Arkansas's schools is connecting kids in class-rooms to their own history, experiences they otherwise wouldn't have any way of knowing were even part of history if not for the efforts of dedicated teachers working with materials the Butler Center and our partners around the state are providing to them.

We're reaching out and reaching in! Thanks for your help.



New Home for Arkansas Studies

enovations are currently under way at two historic buildings for the new Arkansas Studies Institute, a joint project of the Central Arkansas Library System and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). The Institute will be the state's largest freestanding facility dedicated to the study of all aspects of Arkansas.

You can get a bird's-eye view of the changes happening at the Arkansas Studies Institute through our live web cam available at www.cals.lib.ar.us.



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

Senior Editor's Column

Nathania Sawyer



Before the Encyclopedia launched on May 2, David Stricklin liked to illustrate its potential usage by saying that people in Poland would be able to learn about Arkan-

sas from the EOA website.

Since May, not only have people from Poland visited the site, but also from 105 other countries. Every continent is represented ... including Antarctica (thanks to the crew at the McMurdo Station near the South Pole). In all, we've had more than 1.1 million page views of the site.

As much as I love the big numbers, I'm more impressed by the individual responses we have had to the site. From the elementary level to the college level, teachers are starting to incorporate the Encyclopedia into their curriculum. Cecilia Patterson at the Arkansas Community Foundation summed up the sentiment of many of our readers: "I have been fascinated today, as I have been on several days in the last few months, to learn about someone or some event that I had previously known absolutely nothing about."

The most common complaint we receive is some version of, "I can't believe you don't have an entry on (fill in the blank)." This is a good time to remind everyone that we are a work-in-progress. We have added more than 300 entries to the website since we launched, and we continue to add more entries every week. We also are seeking authors on another 750-plus entries. I encourage you to go to the Entries Needing Authors section (http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas. net/get-involved/needing-authors.aspx) of our website, which is located under "Get Involved" on the home page. This is where we list entries we would like to include in the Encyclopedia, and it gets updated each week as we receive suggestions for additional entries. Please feel free to suggest additional topics and authors to write them. We need the help of everyone possible if we are going to reach our goal of having 3,500 entries on the site by the end of 2010.

The more we work with the website and talk to people about how they are using it, the more ideas we generate for ways to upgrade the features and content. I talk a lot about how we want to find a way to add sections to capture people's memories about the topics of the entries and selected comments that add insight into the topics. That type of information can add depth and texture to the regular factual content. Finding the funding to expand the website, of course, is the challenge.

I need your help with one other thing. One of my goals is to be able to say that someone from every country that participated in the last Olympic games has viewed the site. We have 63 represented so far. We are missing Algeria, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bermuda, Cyprus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nepal, San Marino, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Venezuela. Pull out your international address book and help us get the word out about the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History Culture!

Recent EOA Donors

Arkansas Humanities Council

Bridge Fund of the Arkansas Community Foundation

M. Lloyd Davis - Little Rock

Janis D. Emberton - Little Rock In memory of Chuck Cunning

Jane Davis McCain - Little Rock

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David Stricklin & Sally Browder
- Little Rock
In memory of Mr. Rollie Remmel

David Stricklin & Sally Browder
- Little Rock

In honor of Paul Sawyer's AASFE award for Headline Writing

Lisa Wilder & Hazel Fisher
- Little Rock
In memory of Mrs. Peg Smith

ARCF Grant Supports Encyclopedia

he Encyclopedia of Arkansas has received a \$30,000 grant from the Bridge Fund of the Arkansas Community Foundation (ARCF), one of several highlights of the ARCF's celebration of its 30th anniversary. As part of the ARCF grant, the Butler Center will produce an Encyclopedia entry on the history of philanthropy in Arkansas with a longer version to be published on the Butler Center website.

One of the state's ten largest foundations and its only statewide community foundation, ARCF was incorporated in 1976 as an independent philanthropic organization. The Bridge Fund was established in 1993 by an anonymous donor to make grants to Arkansas libraries to improve access to information, improve services to patrons, and upgrade history and reference collections. Thanks ARCF, for all you do.

"I Didn't Know That About Arkansas" Guest contributor: Guy Lancaster

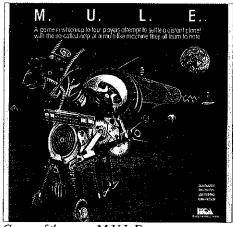
s kids, my brother and I used to play a computer game called *M.U.L.E.* The game involved acquiring tracts of land on this alien planet and the setting up agricultural, mining, and energy facilities. You buy and sell your stuff on the open market, trying to become the one with the most accumulated wealth.

It was a pretty interesting game, basically an economics lesson, but even more interesting to me now is the story of its designer, Danielle Bunten Berry (1949–1998). Berry was born Daniel Bunten in St. Louis but soon moved to Little Rock, where in 1980, he founded Ozark Softscape as a venue for his computer game work. Bunten developed a number of games that were ahead of their time, games that are considered landmark achievements: *M.U.L.E.*, *Seven Cities of*

Gold, Heart of Africa, and more. In 1992, Bunten began the process of gender reassignment, and Daniel was "reborn" as Danielle.

What makes Berry's name hallowed in the halls of programming was her concentration upon the multiplayer game. Though multiplayer games abound today, in the infancy of the industry the focus was upon the solitary player. Berry saw the limits of such a focus. As she once remarked, "No one on their death bed ever said, 'I wish I had spent more time alone with my computer."

In 1996, Computer Gaming World named *M.U.L.E.* the No. 3 all-time best game for the personal computer. A search online today will yield a number of sites developed by fans of *M.U.L.E.* or admirers of its creator. The bestselling computer game of all time, *The Sims* (released in



Cover of the game M.U.L.E.

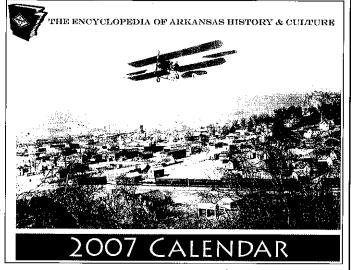
2000), was dedicated by its creator to the memory of Danielle Berry, who is recognized now as a genius by most in the field, even if the executives of gaming companies then did not always understand her greater vision.

The fact that your kids today spend so much time online, lost in *Everquest* or some other game—well, you've got Danielle Berry to thank or blame for that.

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uthurs and media

We need authors, photographs, documents, video, maps, and udio clips to help make the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & ulture the most complete resource on Arkansas history available

Entries Needing Authors:

Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Clay County **Bradley County Chicot County** Monroe County Arkansas Gazette **Bauxite Mining** Red River Raft John Harold Johnson Heifer Project International

If you would like to write one of these entries, please contact Anna Lancaster at alancaster@ encyclopediaofarkansas.net

Entries Needing Media:

Tony Alamo Owen Vincent Madden Timothy Joseph Hursley **Diamond State Chorus** Lonnie (Marvin) Elonzo Glosson Jonesboro Church Wars Catfish Industry Panel of American Women Silver Mining William Harold Flowers

If you have pictures or other media, please contact Mike Keckhaver at mkeckhaver@ encyclopediaofarkansas.net

Putting the Fun in Fundraiser

n August 26, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies hosted its annual Arkansas Trivia Challenge (previously called Arkansas Jeopardy). The competition consisted of three rounds of questions and a final round in which all the winners faced off against each other. For the first time, the game also included a special celebrity

State Capitol Historian David Ware took home the laurels of victory after competing against Carolyn Earle Billingsley, an independent historian and lecturer on genealogy, and Wes



Dr. David Ware

Goodner, an administrator at the Office of the State Auditor. In the celebrity round,

> television personality Leslie Basham won out against sportscaster Craig O'Neill and lawyer Peter Miller. The game was emceed by Skip Rutherford, dean of the Clinton School of Public Service.

> The Arkansas Trivia Challenge is a fundraising event for the Butler Center and is accompanied by a silent auction. Keep an eye out in future issues of The Butler Banner for announcements of next year's event and make plans to attend.

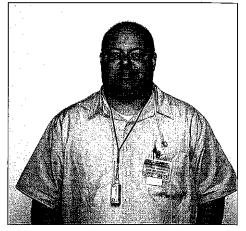
Welcome to Little Rock!

Oral History Association • October 25-29

Southern Jewish Historical Society • November 10-12

If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday. ~ Pearl Buck

New EOA Intern



Michael Hodge is the fall intern for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture. Mike is a graduate student in the professional and technical writing program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Join the Arkansas Historical Association (AHA)

The Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) is dedicated to promoting the preservation, writing, publishing, teaching, and understanding of Arkansas history.

Membership benefits include:

- Four issues of the Arkansas Historical **Quarterly**
- AHA newsletter
- · Discounts on AHA books & videos
- Invitations to special AHA events

Membership Levels

Regular: \$20 🗖 Regular, 2 year: \$35 🖵 Student: \$15

Contributing: \$50 □

Sustaining: \$100 🗅 Supporting: \$200 🗅 Life: \$500 🖵 Permanent; \$1,000 □

Corporate/Business Memberships

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Arkansas Historical Association

History Department, Old Main 416 University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72701

Visual Arkansas Captivates "Movie Day" Viewers

isitors who expected to drop in momentarily to Arkansas's first annual Home Movie Day could not resist staying for the whole event. Most remarked that they could not tear themselves away and were among the many in attendance who found the screening of amateur home movies to be unexpectedly captivating and evocative.

About 22 families from around Bob Ketchum the state furnished over 190 reels of film and VHS tapes for the event hosted by the Butler Center on August 12. Their films capture scenes of Akansans at work, at play, and in ceremony. Selections from the films were shown on the Little Rock Main Library's large screen. The films spanned the 1930s to the pres-

ent and ranged from scenes of historic events, like Will Rogers' open-cockpit plane landing in Batesville, to domestic family scenes, sometimes as candid as a hog-butchering. The Butler Center and local film preservation expert Kathleen Fairweather provided DVD copies of all the films for the families.

Bob Ketchum, a video and music producer from Mountain Home, began the program with *This*

Is Your Town, a montage of restored film showing all aspects of daily life in Mountain Home (Baxter County) in 1955 for which he has produced a soundtrack performed by a local musician.

In conjunction with this year's Home Movie Day, the Butler Center has established a new

collection of Arkansas amateur home movies. A digital copy of each film from this year's and subsequent Home Movie Day events will be added to the new collection. The collection will be indexed and made accessible as a rich source of Arkansas's cultural history.

New BC Staff



Public service at the Butler Center is enhanced by two new employees. Tiffany Turner, our new Genealogy Assistant, is finishing her Master's degree in Public History at UALR and is the Assistant to the Director of Education at the Historic Arkansas Museum. Charles Rodgers, our new Genealogy Collection Development Coordinator, served as Director of the Donald W. Reynolds Library and Technology Center at Philander Smith College and is a board member of the Historic Arkansas Museum.

Butler Center Donors

ENDOWMENTS TO THE BUTLER CENTER

Linda Bly - Little Rock

Nancy Couch Huckabay - Little Rock In memory of Catherine Couch Remmel

Magna Charta Dames & Barons
- Arkansas Division

- Arkansas Division
In honor of Sheila Moore Mitchell

Bob Razer - Little Rock In memory of Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden

David Stricklin & Sally Browder

- Little Rock In memory of Rollie Remmel

Katrina B. Weed - Little Rock In honor of Ann Hoffstetter

GIFTS OF MATERIALS TO THE BUTLER CENTER

William L. Blair - Little Rock

Bill Boggess - Naples, FL

Phyllis Brandon - Little Rock

Stephen Burgess - Rogers

Conway County Genealogical Association - Morrilton

Virgil Dexter Doyne - Little Rock

Mrs. John A. Dunaway - Atlanta, GA

Richard Frothingham - Little Rock

Marguerite Gamble - Little Rock

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Marie J. Griffin - Chicago, IL

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Don F. Hamilton - Little Rock

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Charles F. Hanselmann - Yorktown, VA

Lawrence Harper - Little Rock

Jack E. Hill - Little Rock

Hannah Hollingsworth - Jonesboro

Pam Holmes - Wynne

Marie H. Ingram - Clarksville

Mira Ann Leister - Fayetteville

Little Rock Musical Coterie - Little Rock

Cathie Matthews - Little Rock

Holly Mathisen - Little Rock

Jeanne McDaniel - Little Rock

Jim McDaniel - Dallas, TX

Archie Moore, Jr. - Little Rock

Howard Norton - Vilonia

Mike Polston - Cabot

Quapaw Quarter Association
- Little Rock

Eddy Ransom - Wynne

Pratt C. Remmel, Jr. - Little Rock

Rebecca C. Remmel - Little Rock

Florence B. Stevenson - Blacksburg, VA

Rhonda Stewart - Little Rock

David Stricklin - Little Rock

Charles Witsell, Jr. - Little Rock

Bill Worthen - Little Rock



In partnership with KUAR, the Story-Corps MobileBooth visited Little Rock in the parking lot of the Main Library. Story-Corps is modeled—in spirit and in scopeafter the Works Prog-Administration (WPA) of the 1930s through which oralhistory interviews with everyday Americans across the country were recorded.

Although the mobile recording booth left Little Rock on October 21 for Lawton, Oklahoma, you can still participate in the project. See the do-it-yourself guide at the Story Corps website, www.storycorps.net.



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