

THE BUTLER BANNER

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

Volume 8, Number 3

Spring 2006



Author/Attorney Grif Stockley joins the Butler Center team

Prominent Little Rock attorney and author Grif Stockley joined the Butler Center in January as the Central Arkansas Library System's inaugural Dee Brown Fellow.

Stockley's primary focus as the Dee Brown Fellow will be to produce two comprehensive manuscripts on the history of race relations in Arkansas, one for middle school use and another for adults. He will also advise and assist us in our preparations for participating in the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1957 Little Rock Central High School crisis,

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Butler Center lesson plans receiving an 'Extreme Makeover'!

New plans to be added, existing plans being enhanced

The Butler Center, long a leader in efforts to improve and enhance Arkansas history education, is pleased to announce that one aspect of those efforts, our online lesson plans, are in the midst of an extensive makeover. Dr. Kay Bland, an educator and retired Director of Libraries and Informational Technologies for the Pulaski County Special School District, is leading a team of Arkansas history educators experienced at the elementary and middle school levels in re-working these valuable educational tools. Dr. Bland is editing and revising all our existing lesson plans and correlating them to fit the most recent Arkansas history frameworks created by the Arkansas Department of Education. She has solicited the other team members to create new lesson plans to supplement our existing collection. Her work is being made possible by a grant from the Taylor Foundation.

Currently there are seventy-four lesson plans available on the Butler Center website, www.butlercenter.org, covering various aspects of Arkansas' history from pre-historic times to the present. Many of these have already received a makeover, and those that haven't will still be available for use until all have been re-worked.

We will be adding twenty-nine new lesson plans to our collection, including five specifically for kindergarten-level instruction. Thirteen of the new lesson plans will be geared for elementary grade-level instruction, including six based on the book *Big Woods Bird: An Ivory-bill Story* by Terri Luneau, which can be purchased through the Butler Center. The remaining new lesson plans will be designed for middle school in-



Dr. Kay Bland

struction and are based on the stories included in the Butler Center publication *Bandits, Bears, and Backaches: A Collection of Short Stories Based on Arkansas History* by Velma Branscum Woody. Some of these new lesson plans have already been successfully field tested in the classroom.

Dr. Bland is also helping staff members identify and select articles and media from the forthcoming online *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* which can be linked to appropriate lesson plans, thus providing a new and exciting instructional resource for teachers and students. [Be sure to check out the update on the Encyclopedia's progress elsewhere in this issue of the *Banner*!]

Dr. Bland is organizing a number of workshop and conference presentations to help teachers and librarians incorporate these new online resources into their teaching of Arkansas history. For more information about the lesson plans or to see if Dr. Bland is scheduled for a workshop in your area, please e-mail her at kbland@cals.lib.ar.us.



A Word From the Center

David Stricklin

Head of the Butler Center

The countdown has begun. Launch is upon us. We're not launching a missile, though. It's something else, and it's going not into outer space but into cyberspace, the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture!* Brought to you and to researchers worldwide by a crew of dozens and through the goodwill and support of hundreds more, the EOA will go "live" on May 2. The hard work won't stop then, because we will continue to add entries and features to the EOA for several years. The need for support won't stop either, because tending to the care and feeding of the EOA is a permanent Butler Center commitment. But EOA staff members, writers of Encyclopedia entries, fact-checkers and copy editors, financial supporters, and a host of well wishers will mark a significant milestone on May 2. They will have brought into being a great new resource on the life and history of Arkansas, what many are already calling the premier one-stop reference work on the state's history.

As I've said in this space before, this is an exciting time to be involved with Arkansas history. Terrific partnerships are developing to provide the raw materials, training, and guidance necessary to help the people of Arkansas gain an understanding of their history. Committed professionals and volunteers in institutions and agencies large and small are providing leadership in this great venture, including a lot of people who work with school kids. Their efforts will not go unrewarded. Teachers, their students, and the people who help those students do their homework will celebrate the arrival of the EOA because it will make so much historical information so readily available, not just text material but also photographs, film clips, audio recordings, and

written documents attached to the entries in the Encyclopedia. Those teachers will celebrate also because many entries will be linked to lesson plans available for free on the Butler Center website. Here in the Center, we are thrilled to be on the verge of providing an outstanding addition to the historical tool kit for the study of Arkansas history.

Right now, there's someone in Poland or Singapore or Argentina who is surfing the worldwide web looking for information on rockabilly music or pioneer women politicians or visionary investment bankers. Those people might have only the vaguest notion where Arkansas is, maybe even what Arkansas is. And that might stay that way until May 1. On May 2, however, when they do those internet searches, they'll have a new source to explore, one that will lead them, in one way or another, to Arkansas.

I've stated in previous columns that I'm going to write more about this or that and give some updates on what we're up to in various projects, and I will do that. But at this moment it's just too exciting not to dwell a bit on the EOA. With the next issue of the *Butler Banner*, we'll start having an EOA department to give in-depth coverage to the Encyclopedia project. And by then, the thing will have been launched! In the meantime, though, let me tell you something. Just before I sat down to write this column, project coordinator Nathania Sawyer showed me the mockups of the EOA's homepage and internal pages. Let me just say that if you're one of those people who think the EOA's going to be great, you're exactly right.

To everyone who has helped bring the EOA this far, thanks! To everyone who wants to help take it forward, welcome!



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assist in the development of our collections, particularly those dealing with African American history and race relations, and will work with Butler Center staff and patrons in research and programming activities that relate to his own work. He will also deliver the Central Arkansas Library System's 2006 Fred Darragh Distinguished Lecture. His appointment as the Dee Brown Fellow may last up to two years.

Stockley, a Marianna native, received his undergraduate education at Southwestern (now Rhodes College) in Memphis and his law degree from the University of Arkansas. He served in the U.S. Army and the Peace Corps and has been a practicing attorney for over thirty years. Most recently he served as staff attorney for the Arkansas chapter of the ACLU. An accomplished author, Stockley has published six works of fiction, including bestsellers such as *Expert Testimony* and *Probable Cause*. He has also written two award-winning works of nonfiction, *Blood in Their Eyes: The Elaine Race Massacres of 1919* and *Daisy Bates: Civil Rights Crusader From Arkansas*.

Commenting on the selection of Stockley, the Butler Center's administrative head David Stricklin remarked, "Grif's work has made a significant contribution to the public understanding of Arkansas history, especially the role of race relations in that history, and it is exciting having him work with us."



Art Remarks

Reita Walker Miller
Arkansas Art Curator

Arkansas Treasures

Following up leads to attain art for the Butler Center's Arkansas art collection is one of the many exciting aspects of my job. A recent contact sent me on a search to determine if a particular piece of art was worthy of adding to our collection. Although the piece I was called to look at turned out not to be an item to add, two other pieces were great finds.

Rosemary Beryl Snook Fisher (1920 -1983)

A large coiled ceramic pot (22 1/2" h x 12" diameter) was recently purchased for our permanent collection. Such a large specimen of Rosemary Fisher's work is not easy to

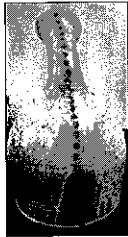


find, so we're very happy to be able to acquire this piece in particular.

Rosemary Snook Fisher, potter, was a native of London, England where she studied crafts for five years. Rosemary met George Fisher at Bournemouth Municipal Art College, Bournemouth, England. They married soon after

WWII ended and moved to the United States. Rosemary was the head of the pottery program in the Arkansas Arts Center Museum School for many years.

A smaller coiled pot was also acquired from the same source. This unusual glazed pot is approximately 10 3/4" h x 5 1/2" in diameter. The artist's signature crown symbol appears near the bottom edge.



Artist's Crown Symbol

George Hunt (1940 -)

George Hunt, who lives in Memphis, Tennessee, is an artist with an unconventional and abstract view of the world. His paintings unmask the emotions of his subjects and evoke an immediate response. George Hunt was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1940 and was raised by his grandparents near Helena, Arkansas. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas, Pine Buff, in 1960. Hunt studied at New York University on a Fulbright Scholarship and earned a Masters in Art at the University of Memphis (then Memphis State). In 2003 he was selected as the nation's official painter for the Year of the Blues.

In the fall of 2005 the Butler Center purchased "Blues for Sonny Boy," for our permanent collection. The 30" x 40" acrylic collage now hangs in the Butler Center staff work area where you're welcome to come and view it.



George Hunt's work is featured on a U.S. Postage stamp which was released on August 30, 2005 as part of a 10-stamp series celebrating the nation's civil rights movement. The series is called "To Form a More Perfect Union."



Entitled "America Cares," Hunt's painting, done in acrylic, commemorates the integration of Little Rock Central High School in 1957. The piece was commissioned by the Little Rock High School Museum in 1997 as part of the 40th anniversary celebration.

It continues to be important to add significant pieces of Arkansas art and craft to our growing collection. We welcome your suggestions and donations toward this effort.

Gift books and historical home décor at the Butler Center? You bet!

Have you ever wanted to give a friend or relative a gift that reflects your love of Arkansas history but couldn't find just the right thing to fit your needs? Or perhaps you would like to display a bit of Arkansas history on the walls of your home or office but aren't sure where to find it? Well, your search is over — the Butler Center has a host of gift and décor items to choose from, including several books, a music cd, and a computer screensaver. We also have a nice selection of reproduction historic maps, including several colonial-era maps as well as two wonderful birds-eye maps of late nineteenth century Little Rock. If none of these items quite fit the bill, how about a reproduction of an historic photograph? The Butler Center has thousands of photographic images in its collections, featuring a wide variety of subjects, from Civil War portraits to small-town street scenes to shots of proud retail merchants displaying their wares. Photo re-prints can be ordered in several sizes, ranging from 5x7 to as large as 20 x 30!

You can check out our selection of books, the music cd, or the screensaver by visiting our website at www.butlercenter.org, and clicking on the link for "Publications" on the right-hand side. Then call us at (501) 918-3056 to place your order. To select and order a print of one of our maps or photographs, come by the Butler Center offices to look at our selection and make a choice. Our selection of maps is readily available, while photograph orders generally take about two weeks to fulfill.

EOA vision soon to become reality, website launch set for May 2

A little more than three years ago, the Butler Center hosted a statewide meeting to pursue the idea of creating a comprehensive, online encyclopedia to serve as a ready reference on Arkansas' history and culture. The response was enthusiastic, and there soon followed regional meetings across the state to build grass-roots support, diligent efforts to raise funds for the task, the hiring of staff to facilitate the vision, and the hard work and dedication of hundreds of authors, reviewers, fact checkers, and others to produce the content to make the dream a reality. Well, the transformation from vision to reality is almost complete; on May 2 the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* website will convert from a project information site to a full-fledged searchable, interactive internet resource containing hundreds of text entries and mixed media relating to the history and culture of Arkansas.

However, just because the encyclopedia will go "live" doesn't mean the project is ended. Over the next four years EOA staff will work to add several thousand more entries and media objects to the website, all toward making it a truly comprehensive reference resource. The website will have several exciting features, including This Day in Arkansas History, the Photo of the Day, the ability to browse entries and media files in several different ways, and a multifaceted search function. Another important feature will be links to professionally developed lesson plans for teachers. Also included will be a list of entries in progress and a list of desired entries needing an author. Visitors to the site will also be able to provide feedback, volunteer to help, or even suggest entries to be included.

Several activities are planned for the launch of the Encyclopedia website, including a preview party for board members, authors, reviewers, fact checkers, and volunteers, a press conference on the morning of May 2 here at the Main Library, and regional launch parties that will take place throughout May at locations around the state. For more information see the latest issue of the EOA newsletter or call the EOA offices at (501) 918-3016.

A toe-tapping good time will be on the agenda at the Arkansas Historical Association annual meeting

Being a bunch of history nuts, the Butler Center crew always looks forward to the Arkansas Historical Association's annual meeting, but with Arkansas music being the theme of this year's meeting, don't be surprised to catch us tapping our toes or humming a tune to ourselves during the activities.

Anyone interested in the study and preservation of Arkansas history is welcome to attend the meeting, which will be held April 6-8 at the Ozark Folk Center State Park in Mountain View. Twenty-three speakers from five states will explore the role of music in Arkansas' past. There will be programs on folk music, religious music, string bands, and college bands. There will also be programs on archeology, forestry, and the history of Arkansas universities. A special session for members of county and local historical societies will be held, as well as sessions for educators on ways to use music to teach Arkansas history. The Butler Center will once again host its popular pre-banquet reception on Friday, April 7, from 5:00 – 6:30.

Retired Arkansas Supreme Court Justice David Newbern will give the luncheon address on Friday, April 7. Judge Newbern, an early organizer of the Ozark Folk Center, will speak on "The Ozark Folk Center: An Outsider's View (From Inside) of the Early Days." Dr. Robert Cochran, director of the Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, will be the luncheon speaker on Saturday, April 8. Dr. Cochran's program is entitled "Our Own Sweet Sounds: The History of Popular Music in Arkansas."

The meeting is open to the public, and teacher in-service certificates will be available. The cost for registration is \$5.00. For more information, contact Donna Ludlow, 479-575-5884, email dludlow@uark.edu, or Dr. Brooks Blevins, 870-698-4210, email bblevins@lyon.edu.

2006 Butler Center Legacies and Lunch Schedule

April 5

Telling the Story of Arkansas Through Documentary Film
by Larry Foley

May 3

Exploring the Encyclopedia of Arkansas Website
by EOA staff

June 7

Harry Miller's Vision of Arkansas
by Jo Blatti

July 5

Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley
by Wendy Richter

August 2

Arkansas Stories in Song
by Charley Sandage

September 6

Keelboating in Territorial Arkansas: Exploring the Past With Living History by the Early Arkansas Re-Enactors Association

October 4

Arkansas Education and School Consolidation
by Trey Berry

November 1

An Arkansas Autobiography
by Walter Hussman

December 6

The Bowie Knife in Arkansas History
by Bill Worthen

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**All Legacies & Lunch programs are held in the Darragh Center/Main Library**

**~ 12 Noon — 1:00 p.m. ~**

**Bring your lunch; water & soft drinks provided.**  
**For more information call Cary Cox at (501) 918-3049 or e-mail [caryc@cals.lib.ar.us](mailto:caryc@cals.lib.ar.us)**

## Recent additions to the Butler Center's manuscript collections now available

The Butler Center's staff has recently finished processing a number of important manuscript collections, and we welcome anyone who might be interested in researching them to come by our research room and examine them. A few of the highlights include:

The Mount Holly Cemetery Association Records Collection (MSS 98-32), a tremendous resource of Arkansas history. Established in 1843, the cemetery is often referred to as the "Westminster Abbey of Arkansas." The collection contains not only administrative records related to the association, but also a great deal of biographical information on those buried there.

The Benjamin Palmer Collection (MSS 03-32) contains thirty-eight letters written by a Union soldier stationed in Arkansas during the Civil War. Palmer served in the 29<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry and his letters provide keen insight into operations within the Trans-Mississippi Theater. In addition to commenting on military topics, Palmer also reflects on the politics of the war as well as its impact upon the civilian population.

The "High Profile" Collection (MSS 05-05) is an assem-

blage of twenty years worth of "High Profile" articles written and/or edited by Phyllis Brandon. The collection contains a veritable "Who's Who" of contemporary Arkansas. These in-depth profiles present a fascinating look into the lives of some great Arkansans who are doing great things. Our oral history coordinator, Jajuan Johnson, has interviewed Ms. Brandon about the series.

Following is a list of other recently completed collections:

- Elizabeth Paisley Huckaby Collection (MSS 97-19)
- Irene Hillman (Almyra) Collection (MSS 97-24)
- Jeanne Mathis McDaniel Scrapbook (MSS 98-01)
- Pulaski County Tuberculosis Assn. Records (MSS 98-16)
- Bobbie Forster Collection (MSS 99-26)
- Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (MSS 02-04)
- Harriet Malone Collection (MSS 03-11)
- Catholic Business Women's Club Records (MSS 04-22)
- Morgan D. Brown Civil War Materials (MSS 04-25)
- Robert Sakon Collection (MSS 05-03)
- Vivian Williams Utley Collection (MSS 05-11)

### Books and Materials

- Skip Rutherford  
Little Rock
- Cheryl Griffith Nichols  
Little Rock
- Cozetta Gray Guinn  
Los Altos, CA
- Michael K. Wilson  
Jacksonville
- Linda Bly  
Little Rock
- Marcia Camp  
Little Rock
- Katherine Stanick  
Little Rock
- Betty Douglass Reid  
Springfield, MO
- Mark Christ  
Little Rock
- Kathy Roberts  
Little Rock
- Mike Polston  
Cabot
- Jeanne McDaniel  
Little Rock
- Jim McDaniel  
Dallas, TX
- Charles Witsell, Jr.  
Little Rock
- Witsell, Evans, Rasco  
Architects/Planners  
Little Rock
- Gary Puckett  
North Little Rock
- Ann Presley  
Sherwood
- Ray Hanley  
Little Rock
- Marguerite Gamble  
Little Rock
- Judi Woods  
Little Rock
- Cary Cox  
Little Rock
- Ruth Hardgrave Red  
Mabelvale
- Shirley Schuette  
Alexander
- Drew Ponder  
Batesville
- Gary Jones  
Little Rock
- Kula Kumpuris  
Little Rock  
(in memory of  
Dr. Frank Kumpuris)

### Gifts

- Joy and Henry Broach  
Little Rock
- Carl Miller, Jr.,  
Foundation  
Little Rock
- Debra Wood  
River Market ArtSpace  
Little Rock
- Mr. & Mrs. John P. Gill  
Little Rock,  
in honor of  
Joy and Henry Broach

### P. A. R. T. Endowment Fund

- F. O. C. A. L.  
Friends of the  
Central Arkansas Libraries

**Thanks for  
helping  
preserve  
Arkansas'  
history!**

### Memorials

- In memory of  
Catherine  
Couch Rimmel  
by  
Fred and Linda  
Van Hook  
Little Rock
- Marie Dunkle  
Little Rock
- Don and Nancy Pfeifer  
Little Rock
- Gene and Linda Pfeifer  
Little Rock
- Mrs. Ray Metzger  
Little Rock
- Emily R. Hall  
Little Rock
- Margaret L. Kemp  
Little Rock
- Scott and Melissa  
Whitfield  
Little Rock
- Lewis and Shirley  
Magruder  
Little Rock
- Mr. and Mrs. Tommy  
Jameson  
Little Rock
- Gaston Gibson  
Little Rock
- Griffin and Libby Smith  
Little Rock
- Jane K. Moses  
Little Rock
- Department of  
Arkansas Heritage  
Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program  
Cary Cox  
Little Rock
- Margaret B. Van Dyke  
Little Rock
- Dr. David Stricklin and  
Dr. Sally Browder  
Little Rock and Batesville
- Margaret Hatchett  
Little Rock
- In memory of  
Jerome Lucker  
by  
Skip Rutherford  
Little Rock
- In memory of  
Betsy Blass  
by  
The Book Club —  
Betty Terry, Elaine Scott,  
Diane Mackey,  
Ginger Wilson,  
& Marilyn McHaney

## ***What a view! A birds-eye view of downtown Little Rock, 1920s.***

*(selected from recent additions to the Butler Center's photograph collections)*



This marvelous photo, taken from an airplane near Broadway and Third, reveals some wonderful old structures from Little Rock's past. Several are still standing, while others have long since disappeared, the most notable of which is the old Marion Hotel at the far left center. Among the noteworthy structures still with us today are the old Federal Courthouse, (lower left) now the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Bldg., the Missouri Pacific Junction railroad bridge, and the old Fones building (upper right), which now houses our very own Main Library.

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