THE BUTLER ATNNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUTLER CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Volume 8, Number 4

Summer 2006

It's a triple play!

Three new programs in August offer something for everyone, especially FUN!

It's usually pretty quiet around the Butler Center during the dog days of August, but this year the action will be as hot as the temperatures outside as we present three unique, entertaining, and very different Saturday programs!

- ❖ Arkansas Home Movie Day: Saturday, August 12, 2006, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm.
- ❖ Arkansas Beļles & Baseball Diamonds: Saturday, August 19, 2006, 1:30 – 4:30 pm.
- ❖ Arkansas Trivia Challenge: Saturday, August 26, 6:00 – 9:30 pm.

Look for detailed information on each program inside, then mark your calendars to attend one, two, or all three of these fun and interesting programs!



Encyclopedia of Arkansas Section More EOA news, photos, and updates – beginning on page 4.

EOA Blasts Off Into Cyberspace

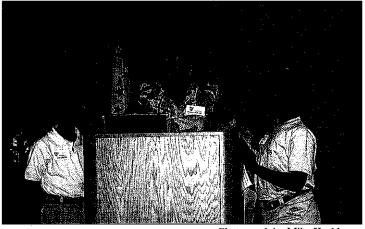
he Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture became a reality on Tuesday, May 2, 2006, when it was debuted to the public at a press conference in the Darragh Center at the Main Library.

Dana Keller, a teacher from Little Rock's Rockefeller Elementary School, brought some of her students to participate in the press conference. The students had previewed the site and spoke about the entries they had viewed and the features of the site they liked the most. Lieutenant Governor Win Rockefeller, who along with retired U.S. Senator David Pryor serves as honorary co-chair of the Encyclopedia project, expressed his sentiments about the project in a letter that read in part, "the Encyclopedia

of Arkansas History and Culture will not find (a) resting place on a dusty shelf. It will live and breathe as a chronicler of Arkansas's past and present thanks to hundreds of contributors who love our state and love history."

The previous evening, the Butler Center and the Encyclopedia Project hosted a preview party

with approximately 200 people who contributed to the project. The party was a celebration of more than three years of work by hundreds of people to make this website a reality. On launch



Photograph by Mike Keckhaver

Dana Keller, a fourth grade teacher at Rockefeller Elementary School, and a group of her students discuss their experience using the Encyclopedia.

day and during the next few weeks, regional launch parties and events were held in Fort Smith, Hope, Mountain Home, Russellville, and Springdale—five of the eight towns that hosted regional meetings in 2002 and 2003 to help plan the Encyclopedia project.

Cont. on Page 2

Learn To Be A "Digital Genealogist"

At the Butler Center's Fifth Annual Genealogy Workshop

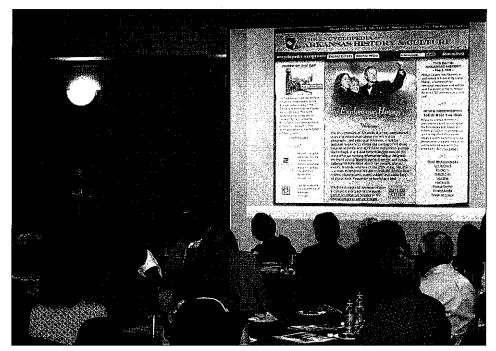
latest in digital technology will be the theme as the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies presents its annual genealogy workshop, "The Digital Genealogist: Using Technology to Enhance Your Genealogy Research," Saturday, July 15, 2006, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Main Library in Little Rock.

Now in its fifth year, the Butler Center's annual genealogy workshop is designed to provide helpful instruction for newcomers to family history research as well as the advanced student. This year's workshop will feature four presentations on incorporating digital technology into

genealogy research, all conducted by professional genealogist Tony Burroughs.

The first presentation, "The Digital Genealogist," will discuss how to use the latest technology, including the internet, portable scanners, digital cameras, and software to help the genealogist maximize his time and results. The next presentation, "The Paperless Office," will examine the advantages, disadvantages, and practicality of reducing the amount of paper most genealogists deal with by transferring their notes and records to their computer. Another presentation, "Digital Video," will look at the advantages

Cont. on Page 2



Photograph by Paul Sawyer Senior Editor Nathania Sawyer unveils the new Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture website to everyone at the pre-launch party.



Photograph by Paul Sawyer Editor-in-Chief Tom Dillard thanks the many contributors to the project.

Cont. from EOA Blasts Off

The Encyclopedia already contains hundreds of text entries on a broad spectrum of people, places, events, and



Photograph by Paul Sawyer David Stricklin introduces Bobbie Heffington (left) of the Department of Arkansas Heritage and Bob Bailey of the Arkansas Humanities Council, two of the project's major funding agencies.

forces that have helped shape and define our state, plus hundreds of photographs, maps, video, and audio files. The site also contains features such as This Day in ArThe Butler Banner is the quarterly newletter of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System 100 Rock St.

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Little Rock, AR 72201

Printed and distributed with private funds.

Cary Cox: Editor
Mike Keckhaver: Designer



Volume 8, Number 4

kansas History, Photo of the Day, an interactive timeline, embedded links within the entries to other topics of interest, as well as lesson plans for teachers and opportunities for everyone to get involved with the Encyclopedia.

Major funding for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture is provided by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the Arkansas Humanities Council. It is also supported by grants from other foundations as well as donations from historical societies, organizations, and individuals around the state.

Best of all, the Encyclopedia is a work in progress! The project will continue through 2010, and staff members anticipate adding several thousand more text and multimedia files to its database, as well as additional lesson plans.

Cont. from "Digital Genealogist" of using video to record oral interviews, family biographies, and other genealogy projects. The fourth presentation, "Improving the Quality of Genealogical Documents," will demonstrate how poor quality original documents, photocopies, and microfilm can be enhanced using inexpensive imaging technology.

Tony Burroughs is a nationally recognized author, lecturer, and teacher of genealogy methods and research. He teaches genealogy at Chicago State University and is the author of *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree.* He has

served on the boards of the Association of Professional Genealogists, New England Historic Genealogical Society, and Federation of Genealogical Societies, and currently serves on the board of the Friends of Genealogy at the Newberry Library in Chicago. He has received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Genealogical Society and has appeared as an expert genealogy consultant on PBS, CBS, ABC, and BET television networks.

The Butler Center's genealogy workshop is free, but pre-registration is required. A catered boxed lunch is available for \$6 per person. Participants may

also bring their own lunch or choose from many area restaurants in the River Market district. All sessions will be held in the Darragh Center auditorium at the Main Library. To register for the workshop or for additional information, please contact Rhonda Stewart, Butler Center Genealogy Specialist, at (501) 918-3056, or email rstewart@cals.lib.ar.us. The Butler Center serves as one of the leading institutions for Arkansas and family history research in the state. Check out the many ways the Butler Center can help you learn more about your family and Arkansas's history by going to our website, www.butlercenter.org.

Butler Center News and Notes

THE BUTLER CENTER recently added 1,326 rolls of microfilm to our collection. These microfilm records will be useful to anyone tracing the military service of their 18th- and 19th-century ancestors. Below is a partial list of the new microfilm materials we have added; we invite you to come visit the Butler Center and check out our other new materials and the many other genealogical resources we offer.

- Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers.
- Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteers Who Served During Indian Wars and Disturbances, 1815 1858.
- Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteers Who Served During the Mexican War
- Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations Raised Directly by the Confederate Government
- Compiled Service Records of Confederate General and Staff Officers and Non-Regimental Enlisted Men
- Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteers Who Served During The War With Spain
- War of 1812, Bounty Land Warrants and Pensions
- Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files
- Register of Confederate Soldiers, Sailors and Citizens Who Died in Federal Prisons and Military Hospitals in the North, 1861 - 1865
- Selected Documents Relating to Blacks Nominated for Appointment to the United States Military Academy During the 19th Century, 1870 - 1887.

THE MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION recently completed finding aids for two more fascinating photograph collections, available in the following categories:

PHO 6 (Buildings)

PHO 32 (John Gould Fletcher and Charlie May Simon)

There are over 800 photographs in these two collections, and they go far in documenting the history of our great state. Please stop by and take a look at these wonderful additions to our state's visual history; you won't be disappointed!

THE BUTLER CENTER SPONSORED two new prizes awarded at the State History Day competition held at UCA in March. The prizes, known as the Butler Center Awards for Arkansas History, were given to those students who presented the best paper or project on Arkansas history. The Junior Division award winner was Taylor Jackson, Carl Stuart Middle School, Conway, for Individual Documentary, The Little Rock Nine - Nine Students, One Big Stand. In the Senior Division, the award winner was Nichola Clark, Conway High East, for Historical Paper, Epperson v. Arkansas: Taking a Stand by Teaching Evolution. The Butler Center's oral history coordinator, Jajuan Johnson, presented the awards, which included a certificate and a \$100 cash award.

THE BUTLER CENTER ADDS dozens of new items to its book collection every month, but one recent addition is particularly notable. Footprints across Arkansas: Trail of Tears Removal Corridors for the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks and Seminoles is a comprehensive, full-color atlas detailing all the known corridors within the state that the various Native American tribes traveled during their forced removal from their ancestral lands to their new federally-mandated territory in what is today Oklahoma. It was compiled by Amber H. Horne, a University of Arkansas graduate student in archeology,

and published by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program with funding from the Department of Arkansas Heritage. At a cost of \$200 each, the 182-page atlas is one of only 50 printed and distributed to selected libraries, universities, and historical agencies around the state. We are grateful to the Arkansas Archeological Survey and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program for providing us with a copy of this important new resource on Arkansas's Native American history.

THE FRED DARRAGH FOUNDATION recently provided the Butler Center with a grant to extend Grif Stockley's Dee Brown Fellowship through June 2007. Stockley is using the fellowship to complete work on two books on the history of race relations in Arkansas. One book will be geared for use in middle school Arkansas history education, while the other will be a scholarly survey for adults.

IF YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, come on down to the Main Library on the first Wednedsay of every month for the Butler Center's Legacies and Lunch brown bag luncheon programs! We have some very interesting programs coming up, including Arkansas Stories in Song, by Charley Sandage on August 2, and Keelboating in Territorial Arkansas: Exploring the Past With Living History, by the Early Arkansaw Re-Enactors Association on September 6. All programs run from 12 noon - 1:00 pm, and patrons are invited to bring their lunch. Free soft drinks and bottled water are provided.

Head of the Butler Center David A Word from the Center Stricklin



For this revamped edition of the Butler Banner, with so much news to share about the Center and its fabulous Encyclopedia of Arkansas project,

I'm giving most of my space to coverage of events and opportunities we're generating. But I don't want to miss this chance to thank everyone who helped launch the Encyclopedia and who help

us in so many ways, through your financial and moral support, through your gifts of materials for our collections, and through your participation in events we sponsor or your inviting us to be part of your events.

I say very often, to everybody who will listen, that there's more work to do in Arkansas history than there are people to do it, so the collegiality and mutual assistance we enjoy with our fellow laborers in these fields are gratifying and typical of the spirit of the people of this fine state. Thanks, thanks very much.



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

Senior Editor's Column

Nathania Sawyer



Writing a book is an adventure. To begin with, it is a toy and an amusement; then it becomes a mistress, and then it becomes a master, and then a tyrant. The last phase is that just

as you are about to be reconciled to your servitude, you kill the monster, and fling him out to the public.

- Winston Churchill

ometimes I wonder what Churchill would have said about creating an online encyclopedia. The past 2 ½ years have been an exhilarating, stimulating, and maddening experience for me, but the payoff came May 2 when we launched the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture to the public.

Response to the website has been overwhelming! We had more than 250,000 page views by Friday, May 5; we reached the 500,000 page-views mark by May 19. With more than 63,000 visits to the site, we know that people are not only coming to the site, they are staying awhile and averaging more than 10 page views per visit.

The feedback we've received also is very gratifying, especially when we hear from teachers. Dr. Kay Bland, who works with the Butler Center in developing lesson plans as well as a host of other projects, has been providing in-service training to teachers on using web-based resources for teaching Arkansas history. She includes information about the Encyclopedia in her talks, and the teachers are all very excited about using the new resource. We've heard from teachers who have already made assignments that include the Encyclopedia, and many teachers who are learning about the site this

summer have already started coming up with creative ways to incorporate it into the curriculum.

And more people are finding out about the site every day. Our board members, authors, volunteers, and other supporters are talking about the site everywhere they go. I have to give a special thanks to Steve Powell and the other folks at Good Morning Arkansas. They committed to providing 26 weeks of information on the Encyclopedia through an A to Z tour of the site. Each Wednesday morning, you can tune in and see a special guest talking about an Encyclopedia entry. Bill Worthen from the Historic Arkansas Museum kicked off the series with "A is for Arkansas Traveler." Stephen Koch, host of Arkansongs followed with "B is for Blues Music." We've worked our way through the Concatenated Order of Hoo Hoo up to the Fried Dill Pickle (which was cooked on-air by David Austin, son of Fatman Austin, the inventor of the fried dill pickle).

As happy as I am that the site is up and working, I know that we still have a ton of work to do before it is completed. What you see on the site represents less than one-fourth of what we plan to include before the project is completed. We're already talking to our team at Aristotle about expanding the features and functions on the site, and we're adding new entries and new media to it every day. More important, we're starting to solicit new entries and authors. I can't stress enough that this is YOUR Encyclopedia. We couldn't have launched it without you, and we definitely can't reach our long-term goals without you. If you're already involved, please stay involved. If you haven't contributed yet, please consider helping with this wonderful project.

Recent EOA Donors

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In honor of Nathania Sawyer
& the EOA staff

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"I Didn't Know That About Arkansas"

Guest contributor: Guy Lancaster

aurence Luckinbill. The name didn't mean anything to me until the other day, when our editorial assistant mentioned that someone had suggested him as a possible entry for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas. So I got online and looked him up, and it turned out that, along with a long and varied career in television, especially during the 1970s, he had played Sybok, the villainous Vulcan in *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*. Sybok! All these years, and I never knew that Sybok was a native Arkie!

Laurence Luckinbill was born in Fort

Smith on November 24, 1934. He began his television career during the 1967–68 season of the soap opera, *The Secret Storm*, and later appeared in such shows as *The Mary Tyler Moore Show, City of Angels, Barnaby Jones, Bonanza*, and more. I asked around, and one person said that he was the go-to guy for television in the 1970s. He also had a notable career in Broadway, earning a Tony nomination for his role in *The Shadow Box*. He is also the son-in-law of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, having married their daughter, Lucie, in 1980. Apparently,



Actor and Arkansas native, Laurence Luckinbill.

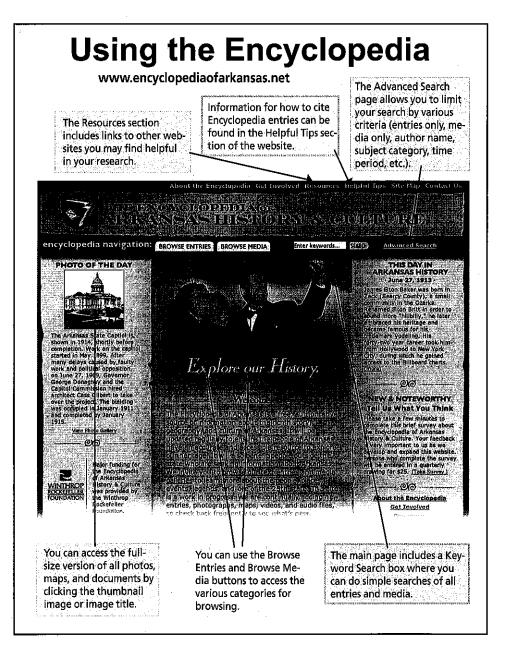
Luckinbill was not the first choice to play the role of Sybok in *Star Trek V*. The producers originally wanted Sean Connery, but he was busy with another project.

So live long and prosper, Laurence Luckinbill!

Most Wanted: Your Media

There are several Encyclopedia entries now online that need media. Following is a list that has proven elusive. If you can provide pictures, documents, video or any other kind of media for these (or any other) Encyclopedia entries, please contact Mike Keckhaver at mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net. Please read these fascinating glimpses of Arkansas history and help bring the stories to life with pictures. Thanks.

Gerald L. K. Smith Olin Cavanaugh (O. C.) Bailey Duwali (aka Bowles) **Brockwell Gospel Music School Sonny Liston** Win "Skinny" Whipple Howlin' Wolf **Arthur Lee Hunnicutt** King of Clubs **Opie Pope Read** John Howard Yancey SS Ouachita Victory Albert Rust **Morgan Allen Powell** Merci Train **Sunken Lands** Yale Camp Jim Ferguson Sr.



Don't Drop the Ball

Catch Arkansas's Belles of Baseball on August 19!

Most everyone has seen or at least heard of the movie A League of Their Own, the 1992 film that tells the story of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League of the 1940s and 1950s.

Did you know that four of those pioneering ladies live right here in Arkansas? It's true, and the Butler Center will welcome three of them to the Main Library on Saturday, August 19, from 1:30 - 4:30 pm to participate in a special program celebrating their unique contributions to the golden age of baseball.

The All American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) was formed in 1943 in an effort to return professional baseball to towns in the Midwest-that had seen and their men's minor league teams fold from lack of players because so many of them were fighting in World War II. The AAGPBL thrived during its first few years, adding teams and increasing attendance through 1948, when ten teams attracted nearly one million fans. Eventually the post-war boom of men's professional baseball, increased summer

vacation travel, and other entertainment options such as the rising popularity of television caused the demise of the AAGPBL, and it ceased play after the 1954 season.



Photograph by Jajuan Johnson AAGPBL players (1 to r) Sue Kidd, Mary Lou Studnicka Caden, and Dolly Brumfield White.

Four women who played in the AAGPBL live in Arkansas. Sue Kidd, born in Choctaw, Arkansas, and now living in Clinton, is one of two Arkansas natives to have played. Mary Lou Studnicka Caden, originally from Chicago, now lives in Bella Vista, and Dolly Brumfield White, originally from Alabama, now lives in Arkadelphia. Mildred Earp, from

West Fork, will not be attending.

The free program will be held in the Darragh Center auditorium and will begin at 1:30 pm with a screening of the movie *A League of Their Own*. Following the movie, the three women will join in a panel discussion and take questions from the audience. They will discuss the differences between the movie and real life,

how they learned to play baseball, and their experiences playing and traveling in the league. Following the program, the women will make a special appearance at the Arkansas Travelers baseball game at Ray Winder Field at 7:00 pm, where they will be introduced and recognized for their contributions to baseball. Kidd, who performed as a pitcher in the AAGPBL, will throw out the first pitch. All those who attend the Butler Center program will receive free general admission tickets to the game. This will be one of the last

chances to catch a professional baseball game at historic Ray Winder; the Travelers will move to their new ballpark in North Little Rock next spring. Don't miss this great opportunity to visit with these ladies who made baseball history!

For more information, please call (501) 818-3056 or email caryc@cals.org.

Same Game, New Name, and Even More FUN!

The former Arkansas Jeopardy is back, with a new name and a new feature that proves that fundraisers really can be fun! The Butler Center's annual fundraiser, now known as Arkansas Trivia Challenge, will present the ultimate in Arkansas trivia fun and frivolity Saturday, August 26, from 6:00 – 9:30 pm, in the Darragh Center at the Main Library.

Even though the name has changed, Arkansas Trivia Challenge will still showcase some of Arkansas's greatest trivia minds as they compete in the familiar game-show format for fabulous prizes and fleeting fame! Anyone can sign up in advance for the opportunity to claim the crown of Grand Master of Arkansas Trivia and win some great prizes to boot, but for all those who are just too modest to embarrass their friends and family with their superior knowledge of all things Arkansas, tickets are only \$25

per person, with all proceeds going to support the Butler Center's ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the study of Arkansas's history, art, and culture.

The evening will begin at 6:00 pm with a silent auction that's bigger and better than ever, featuring a wide variety of items and objects including art, pottery, furniture, historical documents, dinners, gift certificates, and more—all with a unique Arkansas connection. Preliminary games begin at 6:30, each followed by a short break and the chance to check bids in the silent auction. In between the preliminary games and the championship game, we will introduce a new feature, a celebrity game! Three of the best-known personalities in central Arkansas will face off for the chance to proclaim themselves the celebrity trivia champion of Arkansas-Craig "Lips" O'Neill, sports director for KTHV, Channel 11; Peter Miller of the Peter Miller Law Firm (the Man With the Smile!); and Leslie Basham, perennially perky spokesperson for the Landers Auto Group.

For the fifth consecutive year, Skip Rutherford, dean of the Clinton School of Public Service and Little Rock's foremost goodwill ambassador, will serve as our emcee. Skip will trade barbs with the contestants and present questions from such devious categories of Arkansas trivia as Noah's Arkansas, Wild, Wild Weather, Mascot Mania, and Trinomial Arkansans. Now isn't your curiosity piqued just a little bit? Then come on down (oops, wrong game show!), or rather, come join us on August 26 and show your support for the Butler Center. To register as a contestant, purchase tickets, or even donate an item for the silent auction, please call (501) 918-3056, or email caryc@cals.org.

Civil War Diary Now Available

Important new Civil War resource published by the Butler Center

Continuing its tradition of publishing significant works in Arkansas history and literature for the general reader, the Butler Center is pleased to announce the publication of "A Rough Introduction to This Sunny Land": The Civil War Diary of Private Henry A. Strong, Co. K, Twelfth Kansas Infantry, edited by Tom Wing.

Written during the Civil War from 1862 until 1865, the diary of Private Henry Albert Strong provides a rare record of the experiences and observations of a Western Federal infantryman. His diary covers enlistment in Kansas in 1862, duty in southwest Missouri, the march across Indian Territory to Arkansas, camp life in Fort Smith, and the Camden Expedition. He describes Confederate guerrilla operations, the execution of bushwhackers, and aspects of civilian life in Arkansas during the war. Strong pulls no punches as he questions leadership decisions and expresses admiration for former slaves in the Union Army and respect for the conviction of rebel forces.

Editor Tom Wing's introductory and interpretive material connects Strong's accounts of life in the field to other events during the war and to people Strong describes in his diary.

Strong's diary has already received praise from well-respected historians of the Trans-Mississippi theater of the Civil War, Edwin C. Bearss, Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, comments, "Good Civil War soldiers' diaries ... for the western border are as scarce as hen's teeth. Because of Tom Wing's work on the journal of Private Henry Strong, we have an account that 'tells it like it was." Mark Christ, author or editor of several Arkansas-related Civil War books, asserts, "Henry Strong's diary will be a valuable asset to all who study the Civil War in Arkansas. Strong's diary [is] a remarkable historical document and an exciting and enjoyable read."

Tom Wing, editor of the diary, teaches history and historical interpretation at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith and serves as chair of the West Central "A Rough Introduction to This Sunny Land":

The Civil War Diary of Private Henry A. Strong, Co. K, Twelfth Kansas Infantry

Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail. Previously, he was a park ranger and historian at the Fort Smith National Historic Site for eight years.

A Rough Introduction to This Sunny Land will be available at area bookstores or can be ordered by mail directly through the Butler Center. The retail price is \$11.95. For further ordering information, including tax and shipping costs, please call the Butler Center at (501) 918-3056, or visit the Butler Center's website, www.butlercenter.org.

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Butler Center Gets Reel With Arkansas's First Home Movie Day!

Anyone who has home movies stashed away will now have a chance to show them to the world! The Butler Center will launch Arkansas's first Home Movie Day Saturday, August 12th, from

1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Darragh Center auditorium at the Main Library in downtown Little Rock.

Home Movie Day is a part of an international movement to preserve and archive personal historical records and snapshots of our past. This event is held each year worldwide on the second Saturday in August.

Activities will include an information session on the care and storage of those celluloid treasures and extended home movies screenings. A film archivist will inspect the submissions to determine whether they can be projected without being harmed. The Butler Center is especially interested in home movies filmed in Arkansas or by Arkansans. With the owner's permis-

sion, the Butler Center may make and provide a digital copy of the home movie to the owner in exchange for making a preservation copy for its archives. Prizes will be awarded for the oldest, most his-



torically significant, and most humorous screenings.

"We can't promise that every home movie received will be screened, but we do plan to show at least one selection from everyone who submits a film," says Kathleen Fairweather, Home Movie Day coordinator for the Butler Center. "The clips will be about two to 10 minutes in length, and the film's owner is invited to provide an introduction or commentary during the movie. We are also looking for volunteers to help us with registration and screening."

Fairweather, a documentary filmmaker and journalist from Los Angeles, now makes her home in Little Rock. She is a member of the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA).

"While many people might have movies stashed away, they're often not aware of what's on these reels," says Fairweather. Anyone who wants to participate is invited to make an appointment at the Butler Center through Friday, July 14, to drop off their Super 8, 8mm, or 16mm film or VHS or other digital video formats.

For more information and to schedule an appointment with the film archivist, please email Kathleen Fairweather at kfairweather@cals.org, or call Kathleen at (501) 280-0830.

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CENTER

FOR PICKAINSAS STUDIES

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