

THE BUTLER BANNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUTLER CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Volume 10, Number 3

Summer 2008

Upcoming Events

Visit www.butlercenter.org for more information

Legacies & Lunch

(First Wed. of every month at noon in the Darragh Center, Main Library)

August 6 - Michael Dougan

September 3 - Steve Barnes

October 1 - Al Bell

Jump! The Louis Jordan Story

July 19 and 20 at 6pm at Wildwood Park

Cox Creative Center Galleries

2nd Friday Art Night.

On the 2nd Friday of each month, the Cox Creative Gallery and Showcase Arkansas Gallery remain open until 8 p.m. Visit www.butlercenter.org/art or call 501-918-3090 for more information.

Showcase Arkansas Gallery presents, **Statewide Student Art Exhibition** - on display through October

THE
BUTLER
CENTER
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Dave Wallis Papers

You might recognize the name—Dave Wallis. You might have personally known Wallis, or maybe you read one of his books or saw him hanging around at air shows. It might just sound familiar to you, but you cannot put a face to the name. So, who was Dave “Jimmy” Wallis? Well, Wallis was many things. He was an Arkansan, a photographer, a historian, a businessman, a writer, even a mayor. He cared about the history of his family and his home; he worked to preserve that history for others while at the same time creating a little history of his own.

Born in 1923, Dave Walter Wallis grew up in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, like the majority of this family before him. He graduated from Pine Bluff High School before serving as a photographer in the Army Signal Photographic Corps in World War II. He ran Wallis & Wallis Advertising, Inc., and served as justice of the peace and later mayor of Pine Bluff, while still finding time to research and write on Arkansas history.

It is clear that Dave Wallis was a man who had his hands in many things, and the Butler Center is very pleased to be able to preserve his papers. The collection is currently being processed and will soon be available to the public. The Dave Wallis Papers contain documents relating to five major categories: the Wallis family, books written by Dave Wallis, aviation, Arkansas history, and photographic materials.

The Wallis Family category includes items from Dave Wallis’s early life in Pine Bluff but also includes documents and photographs of his extended family. The information Wallis collected on his family covers over 100 years of history, most of which took place here in Arkansas. In addition to family history, this part of the collection also includes Dave Wallis’s correspondence, documents

cont. on page 2

Governor’s Mansion Project

The Butler Center is assisting a project on the history of the Arkansas Governor’s Mansion under the leadership of Little Rock attorney and historian John P. Gill. The Center’s involvement has taken several forms already, particularly serving as the host for the oral history phase of the project. During the spring semester just concluded, students in the seminar in oral history methods offered through the M.A. program in public history at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock conducted interviews with members of all the families that have lived in the Mansion since it opened in 1950. The course was taught by Butler Center head David Stricklin, who is an adjunct history professor at UALR. The students conducted about 30 interviews with former governors and their families to aid the research for a book on the Mansion Gill is writing. Gill is the author of The Crossroads of Arkansas, a book published by the Butler Center, and the Chair of the Arkansas History Commission.

Bill Shumaker, a member of the UALR class, said, “The project was wonderful. It was great going to the Governor’s Mansion and meeting Governor and Mrs. Beebe. He was very interested in the project and very encouraging. It was good to talk to people who had lived this history but who hadn’t had a chance to contribute their stories to the historical record.” Shumaker, who volunteers at the Butler Center, interviewed Phil and Bruce McMath, Bill Bumpers, and John Mark Huckabee.

Interviews on the Governor’s Mansion and other materials will be publicly available at the Butler Center after the publication of Gill’s book, which is tentatively titled “Open House.” ■

Cont. from Dave Wallis Papers

relating to Wallis & Wallis Advertising, Inc., and items dealing with his time as mayor of Pine Bluff.

The collection includes research and manuscript drafts of the many books and articles written by Dave Wallis. This includes his book about his time in World War II, *Saga of the Seventh*, his book about life in Pine Bluff Ark., *Sing to the Nickel Seats*, and an assortment of articles and short stories. It also includes a wealth of subject and biographical research Wallis used for his book on the history of Arkansas aviation, *Eight Nine Romeo Poppa*, as well as early drafts of the manuscript and photographs. In addition to the historical information on aviation, the collection also includes documents and a wealth of photographs pertaining to the Razorback Wing of the Confederate Air Force (now Commemorative Air Force) located in Pine Bluff. Wallis was very active with the CAF and kept newsletters, correspondence, and meeting information covering the years 1978-1996.

Wallis also collected a wealth of information on Arkansas history, including business and tourism brochures and documents on a number of biographical and other topics. A great deal of this information focuses on Pine Bluff but also focuses on Arkansas Post, Historic Washington, and other areas across the state. In addition to the paper items, the Dave Wallis Papers contains more than 10,000 photographs, slides, and negatives relating to Arkansas and its people.

The Butler Center would like to thank the Wallis family for donating the Dave Wallis Papers to our collection. ■

Contributed by Stephanie Bayless

The **BUTLER BANNER** is the quarterly newsletter of the
Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Central Arkansas Library System
100 S. Rock St., Little Rock, AR
72201

501.918.3056 - arkininfo@cals.org
www.butlercenter.org



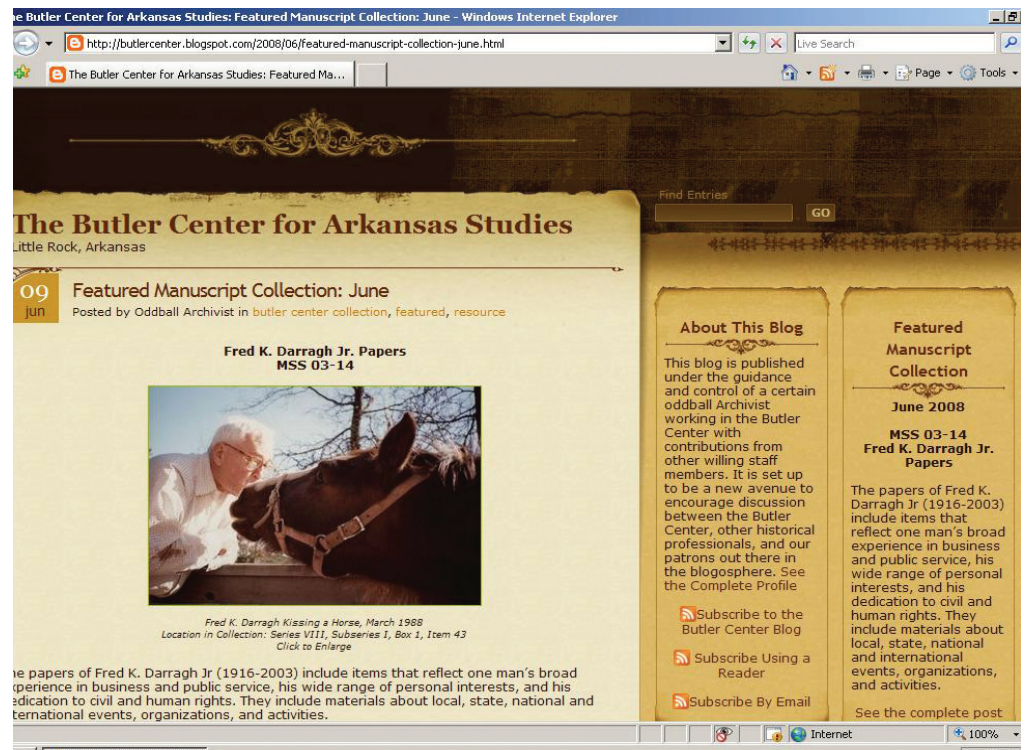
Printed and distributed with private funds.

Kathryn Heller: Editor and Designer
Volume 10, Number 3

The Butler Center Gets a Blog!

The Butler Center Blog was created to open a new line of dialogue with our patrons and to add to our ever-growing web presence. Using the blog, people from around the world can connect with the Butler Center and learn about our collections without even getting out of their pajamas (we had visitors from Canada, France, Ireland, and Slovakia in our first week!). Visitors can learn all sorts of fun facts about Arkansas, view images of items from our collections, learn about new resources we have to offer, and keep abreast of important archival and genealogical news. Any staff member can contribute posts to the blog and readers are free to comment if they wish. As the blog grows, we hope to continue to spread the knowledge of our collections—especially some of the lesser known items—and to bring Arkansas history to the world. ■

Contributed by Stephanie Bayless



www.butlercenter.blogspot.com

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



As you can see from this issue of the *Banner*, things are popping at the Butler Center. As usual, we're pleased to be able to share good news with you.

I'm happy to tell you that we've begun a new emphasis in our Legacies & Lunch program series on four-year colleges and universities in Arkansas. C. Fred Williams of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock inaugurated this series of presentations with an illuminating and entertaining talk about that institution's history. We'll do programs on several institutions a year. We're also deep into the planning for a major level of involvement with the Arkansas Literary Festival, whose operation has been turned over to CALS. More on that later. I'm very pleased with how the new Arkansas Studies Institute building project is progressing. We are on track to open late this year. It will be great. We will be delighted to share it with you and with everybody who is interested in the life and history of Arkansas. You can take a virtual tour of the ASI by means of some computer-generated interior renderings on our website. You can also visit our new blog, described on page 2. Don't forget our new Audio-Visual Archive, and be sure to check out the latest developments on the always-fabulous Encyclopedia of Arkansas.

Speaking of the EOA, Nathania Sawyer mentioned in her column some news about her excellent colleague Guy Lancaster. She's too modest, of course, to praise herself, so what's missing from her account of the Encyclopedia's history is how she led the EOA into existence a little over two years ago. A lot of people have helped bring this great resource to the point of its present development, but the driving force, both for the volume and the quality of the EOA, which is enjoyed in Arkansas and around the world, was and is Nathania.

You can enter any of these resources from our website, butlercenter.org. Better yet, visit us in person before we move, here in our longtime digs in the wonderful Main Library of CALS. We're going to miss being in the great old Fones building, but we are looking forward very much to being in our new home. Come see us when you can, now or then.

JUMP! The Louis Jordan Story

Indoor Fish Fry and Show

July 19 and 20 at 6 pm

The Butler Center is pleased to collaborate with Wildwood Park for the Arts on the production of a new play celebrating the life and work of a great Arkansas musical pioneer, Louis Jordan, who ruled the charts, stage, screen, and airwaves of the 1940s and '50s and put his stamp on the music of the United States and the world. The play was written by Stephen Koch, the host of KUAR's weekly series Arkansongs and the state's leading authority on Louis Jordan. It is directed by Cliff Fannin Baker, Executive Director of Wildwood and longtime figure in the Arkansas theatre community. Taking a cue from one of Jordan's most popular songs, "Saturday Night Fish Fry," dinner will be served indoors at Wildwood, followed by the show, featuring a Jordan character who tells of his life, which began 100 years ago this summer, and a number of Jordan's songs presented by a cast of five singers and an onstage band.

Wildwood Park for the Arts is at 20910 Denny Road in Little Rock.



Sponsored by Chip and Cindy Murphy

Presented by: CALS, the Butler Center, Wildwood, KUAR, and Arkansongs

Extra! Extra!

For a centennial history book and exhibit on the Little Rock Public Library and CALS, we are asking people who have documents on and photographs of libraries in Little Rock and in the Central Arkansas Library System to get in touch with us. Thanks!

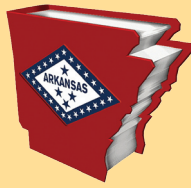
How You Can Contribute to the Library

Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries (FOCAL), a non-profit group interested in literature and libraries, is dedicated to supporting the Central Arkansas Library System, including the Butler Center. FOCAL volunteers work throughout the year raising money through book sales and staffing the desk at River Market Books and Gifts, the library's "gently-read" book store. The money goes to numerous FOCAL-sponsored programs such as Summer Reading Club, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF, distributing free books to school children), Read To Me (supplying books to newborns and toddlers when their parents register them for a library card), story-

telling, music and puppet shows at the Main Library, and many public programs at CALS's twelve branches.

Last year FOCAL donated nearly \$50,000 to the Central Arkansas Library System. You can help FOCAL continue to provide programs like these. Submit a FOCAL Membership Application at any CALS branch or contact Susan Hill Gelé at 501-918-3086.

You can also make a financial gift to CALS using a credit card by visiting www.cals.org or www.butlercenter.org.



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

Senior Editor's Column

Nathania
Sawyer



When I look back at the history of the Encyclopedia project, I'm reminded of the John Lennon quote, "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans." The first two years of the project were full of unexpected events that dramatically changed our plans for the Encyclopedia. The first big change was when Tom Dillard left to go to UA Fayetteville. Tom had been the driving force for starting the Encyclopedia project, and his departure

had the potential to derail the project. But, we were able to regroup and keep moving forward. We regrouped again when our managing editor left for a new career opportunity and again when our project coordinator succumbed to the siren song of motherhood. I became the project manager with a staff that included four relatively new people filling the positions of staff historian, media editor, assistant editor, and editorial assistant. I have to confess that, for awhile, I was very depressed, felt abandoned, and was unsure if the Encyclopedia would launch in May 2007.

Then, the most amazing thing happened. In record time, the staff coalesced, and the Encyclopedia was back on the fast track. This group brought new energy and new ideas to the table,

and the Encyclopedia you see today is the result of the vision of this new team. I have never worked with a group of people so determined to make something happen in such a short period of time. We were like the NASA team in the 1960s—one way or another, we were putting a man on the moon.

I can't brag enough about this incredible staff of dedicated people. But, today I want to focus on one person in particular. Guy Lancaster was our summer intern in 2005. He thought he was getting a fun summer job that would add a credential to his resume as he worked on his PhD in Heritage Studies at ASU. Instead, he ended up filling in for our assistant editor who left the project about the same time Guy started his internship. We convinced him to join the project full-time at the end of his internship. Guy took over most of the editing responsibilities I was supposed to have before I became the project manager. His previous experience working on an encyclopedia of world folklore and his skills as a developmental editor made him an invaluable asset.

We recently changed his title from assistant editor to editor. Guy "assists" at nothing. He has taken his assigned responsibilities farther than I ever dreamed he could, and he has become the point person for editorial content. I may tease him about some of his topic suggestions, but I have nothing but respect for his unique and expansive mind. Please join me in congratulating Guy on his new (well-deserved) title. ■

Explorations of Arkansas History

Guy
Lancaster

Many commentators on the world religious scene have remarked upon the phenomenal growth in recent years of global Pentecostalism, especially in Latin America and Africa. The Pentecostal movement formally got its start at Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas, in 1901 and continued to Los Angeles, California, where the almost decade-long Azusa Street Revival proved to be the catalyst for the movement's spread. Modern Pentecostalism includes a number of denominations, two of which, the Church of God in Christ and the Assemblies of God, have intimate ties to Arkansas.

The Church of God in Christ, a primarily African-American denomination of over 5.4 million people at present, was founded by Charles Harrison Mason, who was ordained by the Mount Gale Missionary Baptist Church in Preston, Arkansas, but was later disfellowshipped by Baptists associates for his teachings on sanctification. In 1897, while walking the streets of Little Rock, he conceived the name "Church of God in Christ" and soon began the work of organizing his new movement, which was later

heavily influenced by the experience of the Azusa Street Revival.

The largest Pentecostal denomination, the Assemblies of God, was organized at the Grand Opera House in Hot Springs during an April 2–12, 1914, meeting of individuals from across the United States who sought to cooperate on ensuring doctrinal purity and the sending out of missionaries. The following month, the Arkansas District of the Assemblies of God was created in Russellville. Since that time, the Assemblies of God has grown to over 57 million adherents worldwide, becoming the largest Pentecostal denomination.

If the Spirit so moves you, check out the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, where you can learn more about these groups and the religious history of the state. ■

Genealogy Workshop to Focus on Military History this Summer

Now in its seventh year, the annual Genealogy Workshop will be providing the research tools to delve into the world of military history. This summer's workshop will be held on Saturday, July 26 at the Main Library in the Darragh Center beginning at 9 am.

Led by Ronnie Nichols, attendees will spend their day listening to Nichols and the Butler Center's Genealogy Specialist, Rhonda Stewart. They will lead the group in learning the techniques of military history research and guiding researchers on military records covering the Revolutionary War through World War II with an emphasis on the Civil War. Ronnie A. Nichols, artist and historian, is the owner of Nichols Consulting in North Po-

tomac, Maryland; which provides planning, research and technical services for documentary films, publications, and public programs. Ronnie has written a number of articles and presented papers on the role of troops of African descent in the Civil War serving west of the Mississippi river.

Ronnie Nichols received notice when he served as a technical advisor for the Academy Award winning movie *Glory*. This movie was based on the story of Col. Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first black regiment in the East, to fight in the Civil War. ■

WANTED AUTHORS AND MEDIA

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

Entries Needing Media:

Stump Saw
Miss Laura's Bordello
Band Museum
Alfred Edgar Smith
T. Texas Tyler
John Joseph Salvest
Geleve Grice
Louis T. "Moondog" Hardin
Pharoah Sanders
Cicero Oscar Pilgrim
William Lee Gerig
Jane Ross
Command-Aire
Silver Mining
Harrison Railroad Riot
Stop This Outrageous Purge (STOP)
Terrence James Roberts
Jim Crow Laws
Camp Magnolia
Arkansas Teachers Association (ATA)
Williams Baptist College
Harold Edward Alexander
Ozark Society
Nimrod P. Menifee
Ronald Gene Simmons
Convict Lease System

Skip Hays
Cleburne County Draft War
Frank Glasgow Tinker
Verna Cook Garvan
Jonesboro Church Wars
Religious Society of Friends
Florence Clyde Chandler
Southwest Experimental Fast Oxide Reactor
Carl Glenn Hunter
Information Galore
Win "Skinny" Whipple
Henry Miller Shreve
Frank Nash
Carlos Hathcock
Manganese Mining

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

Entries Needing Authors:

Hookworm Eradication
Lake City (Craighead County)
Pellagra
Des Arc (Prairie County)
Star City (Lincoln County)

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

Bob Razer Named Archie House Fellow

Bob Razer has been named the Archie Franklin House Fellow at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System.

Razer has worked for the Central Arkansas Library System since 1973, serving in numerous positions. As the Archie House Fellow, Razer will oversee the collection development of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies as well as the Books for Arkansas Student's Education (BASE), which provides free books on Arkansas history and culture to public high schools across the state. Razer will also work on the Arkansas Literary Festival, which CALS will operate beginning in 2009, and continue to serve on the Booker Worthen Literary Prize selection committee.

"I am delighted to have the chance to work with the legendary Bob Razer in building a great collection of books and other materials for the Butler Center and the new Arkansas Studies Institute. His knowledge and instincts in the area of Arkansas writers are unsurpassed," said David Stricklin, associate director of CALS for special collections. Razer has received the LaNell Compton Award four times for best article in Arkansas Libraries, a journal produced by the Arkansas Library Association. He is a longtime contributor to the publication, noted particularly for his columns on Arkansas bibliography. Archie House served on the board of the Little Rock Public Library from 1945-1949. He was also president of the Arkansas Bar Association and was a member of the Rose Law Firm from 1925 to 1972. ■

Contributed by Carrie Snodgrass, Media Liasion of CALS

flash ...Butler Center People in the Spotlight



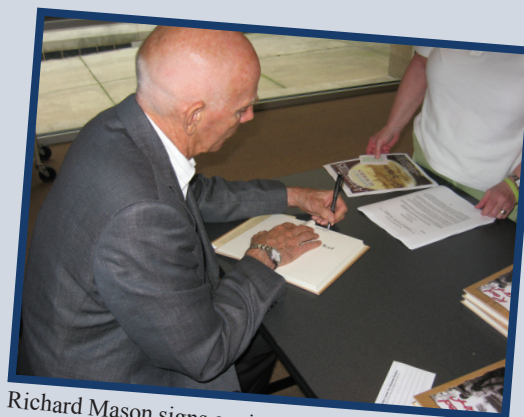
Corey Butler, Thomas Center, and Mya Farr, Volunteers.



UALR history student Marc Gibson, left, and volunteer Bill Shumaker are working at the Butler Center this summer.



David Stricklin of the Butler Center shows Paul Sawyer, Executive Director of the Arkansas Humanities Council, and AHC board chair Jeff Root the AHC's new office space, under construction in the ASI.



Richard Mason signs copies of his book at June's Legacies and Lunch.

BUTLER CENTER DONORS

DONATIONS

Cox Creative Gallery

David Edwin Gifford, Little Rock
Holly Mathisen, Little Rock
David Stricklin, Little Rock

BASE

Rivermarket Books and Gifts

MEMORIALS

Skip and Billie Rutherford, Little Rock
in memory of Rutha Mae Henry

GIFTS OF MATERIALS

AR State Hospital (Beckey Weber,
William Shumaker, Doug Strock
Mary Goodman, Southlake, TX
Marcia Camp, Little Rock
Jan Emberton, CALS
Martha Barber, Little Rock
Sybil Crawford
Jon Kennedy, North Little Rock
Jim McDaniel, Dallas
Gloria B. Reid/DAR, Hot Springs
Village
Redia Dickerson, Little Rock
Mike Polston, Cabot
David Stricklin, Little Rock

Jerry Blackburn, Little Rock
Bobby Roberts, Little Rock
Robert W. Graves, Prescott, AZ
Martin Koch, North Little Rock
Virginia Thorndike and Irving
Spitzberg, Monkton, MD
Jack E. Hill, Little Rock
Archie Moore, Little Rock
Barbara Clark-Lawrence, Little Rock
Joseph C. Beck, Little Rock
Dean Banks, Murfreesboro
Raleigh Peterson, Little Rock
Reita Miller, Little Rock
Mary Louise Cantwell, Little Rock
Lawrence Harper, Little Rock
Bob L. Reynolds, Cooperative Extension Service, Little Rock
Betty Sorenson Adams, Little Rock
Jamie Metrailer, CALS
Susan Miller, Little Rock
John G. Ragsdale, Little Rock
Boyd Blythe, Mabelvale, AR
Audrey Henry, Little Rock
Ruth Remmel, Little Rock
Mattie Mae Rice, Little Rock
Rhonda Stewart, Little Rock
Dr. Ron Moseley, Sherwood
Ray Hanley, Little Rock

Brandon Burlsworth Foundation,
R. Robert Bailey, Little Rock
Bob Knapp, Benton
Philip Jones, Little Rock
Cass and Kimberly Filhiol, Collinsville,
OK
Tiffany Filhiol Bazile, Tulsa, OK
John Truemper, Little Rock
Howard Norton, Vilonia
Jim McDaniel, Dallas, TX
Jeanne McDaniel, Little Rock
Mike Polston, Cabot
Rhonda Stewart, Little Rock
James W. Bell, Little Rock
Velma Block, Little Rock
Catholic Business Women's Club,
Little Rock
David Stricklin, Little Rock
Robert England, Memphis, TN
John G. Ragsdale, Little Rock
John Griffin, Searcy
George Worthen, Little Rock
Marie J. Griffin, Chicago, IL
Robert Whitaker, Cambridge, MA
Bob Knapp, Benton
Paul Magro, Little Rock

The Butler Center Welcomes Kathryn Heller and Jamie Metrailer

The Butler Center has added two new members to their Team.

Kathryn Heller came on board as the new Programming and Outreach Coordinator. "I'm thrilled to be a part of the Butler Center and the Central Arkansas Library System," says Heller, "It's such a great team and workplace." Heller comes to us with a background in advertising and a degree in Journalism and Public Relations from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

Jamie Metrailer joins the Bill Clinton Government Project as an archival assistant. He came to us from the Arkansas History Commission. Metrailer has worked for CALS as a library assistant at the Williams Branch library, as an intern and contributor to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, and as a volunteer in the Butler Center.





Images From Our Collection



The new Arkansas Studies Institute will have a large number of panels with images from Arkansas's past, such as this shot of the 1935 girls basketball team from Batesville High School from the Butler Center's collections. The image panels will serve as guard rails throughout the building, but they are also nice ways to honor someone or commemorate a business, hometown, or organization. If you're interested in purchasing a panel, get in touch with David Stricklin at the Butler Center. You can see representations of what the panels will look like in the ASI by taking the virtual tour of the new facility on the Center's website, www.butlercenter.org.

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LITTLE ROCK, AR
PERMIT #183

Central Arkansas Library System
100 S Rock Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES
BUTLER CENTER
T • H • E

