

The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 11, Number 4

Fall 2009

Butler Center Events

Legacies & Lunch December 2, 2009

Bob Lamb, longtime Arkansas economic advocate, will discuss his role in and experiences with Arkansas advancement.

January 6, 2010

Butler Center historian Steven Teske looks at the ways Arkansans contributed to the national effort in two wars: the Spanish-American War and World War I, and how these events shaped life in Arkansas.

Art News

November 13 - February 13

Arkansas Studies Institute Main Gallery: *New Works by Sui Hoe Khoo*

December 11, 2009

ASI Galleries: *2nd Friday Art Night*

January 4 - February 27, 2010

ASI Concordia Hall Gallery: *Local History Goes to School: Traveling the World with Mifflin W. Gibbs*

January 8, 2010

ASI Galleries: *2nd Friday Art Night*

Butler Center Books Event Saturday, December 5, 2009 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Authors Ray and Steven Hanley will sign copies of their new book, *Main Street Arkansas*, at Wordsworth Books & Co., Little Rock.



BUTLER CENTER
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Visit www.butlercenter.org for more information.

ASI Retail Gallery: Gifts Galore

The Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) art program has been making art available to the public for more than fifty years. Now, with a permanent collection of more than 1,000 pieces and access to visiting exhibitions, CALS offers art in all eleven CALS branches and in the galleries located in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) to fulfill its mission of bringing the work of Arkansas artists and artisans into public spaces.



The ASI Main Gallery, the Atrium Gallery, and the upcoming Mezzanine Gallery feature rotating visiting exhibits as well as pieces from the CALS permanent collection, while the ASI Retail Gallery offers works by local Arkansas artists. The move into the ASI has allowed the art program to grow and to display public art such as the ASI image panels and the *Lower Arkansas River Valley Walking Map*, two visually stunning representations of Arkansas history.

The ASI Retail Gallery, a strong retail presence on President Clinton Avenue, features the works

of more than fifty Arkansas artists. Items range from pottery and woodwork to paintings, jewelry, and sculpture. During the holidays, artists bring in and display a large assortment of ornaments, many of which are created from colorful glass bulbs and hand-carved wood. Art administrator Colin Thompson said, "The many different styles of craft and artwork

Cont. on page 2

BASE Donates Arkansas Books

Our state's public high schools will receive free Arkansas-related books again this year from the Books for Arkansas Students' Education (BASE) program hosted by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and supported by the Arkansas state legislature. Since its beginning in 2007, BASE has distributed more than 1,800 books to public high school libraries to assist in a statewide effort to strengthen Arkansas-based curricula. The book distribution program offers Arkansas-based material for all academic areas, from art to social studies, with an emphasis on state history.

This year, the program has received \$10,000 from the state legislature's General Improvement Fund for the purchase of books. These funds have allowed BASE to supplement its usual stock of donated and remaindered books with new copies of the most sought-after Arkansas titles for high school libraries. Some examples of the most requested titles are books about colonial and territorial Arkansas by Arnold Morris, memoirs and poetry by Maya Angelou, studies of race relations in the state by Grif Stockley, and *The Wildflowers of Arkansas* by Carl Hunter.

All public high school librarians in Arkansas are encouraged to participate in BASE, and, to

Cont. on page 2

Cont. from Gallery, p.1

that are on display will appeal both to discerning collectors or casual shoppers; this, combined with the varying price points, makes the ASI Retail Gallery a perfect place for holiday shopping.”

Other art news: The permanent collection continues to grow through the generosity of local artists. Two recent donations to the collection include the photograph *A Solitary Place* from David Mann’s recent Rural Churches exhibit and *Hands*, a realistic bronze sculpture by Terry Bean. ■



“The many different styles of craft and artwork that are on display will appeal both to discerning collectors or casual shoppers; this, combined with the varying price points, makes the ASI Retail Gallery a perfect place for holiday shopping.”

Cont. from BASE, p.1

date, 160 school libraries are registered in the program. Each school is allotted a number of points to redeem for books, and both the books and the shipping are free of charge. The BASE point system favors less advantaged high schools by allotting more points to schools that have a greater number of free or reduced-price student lunches. After registering for BASE, a high school librarian spends the school’s points on books in the BASE online bookstore.

BASE offers more than 670 titles selected by the Butler Center for high school students. Bob Razer, the Butler Center librarian in charge of BASE, has created core lists of the most important

titles for strong Arkansas collections. The core lists have great value to teachers who want to refer students to the best of Arkansas literature. The titles in the BASE bookstore are linked by keywords to related classroom curriculum areas, and the BASE program reinforces the extensive curriculum assistance the Butler Center offers to teachers, such as classroom lesson plans available from the Butler Center website.

Anyone can support the BASE program with monetary donations to support the purchase of new books or with material donations of books about Arkansas or written by Arkansans. To learn more, visit www.basededucation.org or call Christopher Stewart at (501) 320-5711. ■

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

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www.arstudies.org

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**BUTLER CENTER
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES**

Volume 11, Number 4

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



In these pages, you can read about the exciting things going on at the Butler Center and at our still-new home in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI), including two awards the building and the site have received. A third award, which might turn into yet another one, came from *South Central Construction*, a McGraw-Hill publication. The ASI tied for best overall project with a new structure in Louisville, Kentucky. Winners at the regional level go on to a national competition. We'll keep you posted.

We recently enjoyed the grand opening of the Arkansas Humanities Council's (AHC) suite of offices in the ASI. Our lease-exchange arrangement with them helps fund our public programming and outreach efforts and gets the AHC into the middle of the non-profit corridor in downtown Little Rock, connecting them to organizations with similar missions. Also, we're looking forward to welcoming folks who want to conduct interviews for the National Day of Listening initiative being promoted by the StoryCorps organization and National Public Radio.

The interviews will be recorded in our new interview studio we have put together with help from another of our fine partners in the ASI, the Clinton School of Public Service. Those are just a few of the many things going on.

On this page, there's a little note inviting folks to receive the *Banner* by email. This is an increasingly common offer by organizations that send out newsletters. Rest assured that we won't pull the plug on our paper newsletter. We want to save paper, we want to save money, and we like email. But if you'd like to help us keep mailing you a paper copy of the newsletter, you could send us a check for \$10. Make it out to the Butler Center, and put "Butler Banner" in the memo line. Send your check to the address in the box below.

Better yet, bring it in yourself. We're still having a great time sharing the ASI with visitors, people taking tours, groups using our meeting rooms, University of Arkansas at Little Rock students taking classes in the building, and all kinds of folks. We'd love to have you come in to see us! ■

Butler Center
100 S. Rock St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Listening Day Promotion

The Butler Center is partnering with KUAR-FM and StoryCorps, a national oral history project, to promote the National Day of Listening.

The Butler Center will make the new Butler Center interview studio in the Arkansas Studies Institute available one day a week for four weeks for the public to come in and record oral history interviews.

The interview studio will be available for 40-minute recording sessions, and CDs of interviews will be available immediately following the sessions.

The interview studio will be available

to the public on the following dates and times:

- Saturday, November 28:
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Friday, December 4:
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Friday, December 11:
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Friday, December 18:
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Contact Sara Thompson at (501) 320-5718 or sthompson@cals.org to book an interview session or for more information. ■

The ASI Galleries

Shop Locally
This Holiday Season



401 President Clinton Ave.
Downtown Little Rock's
River Market District
www.arstudies.org
www.butlercenter.org/art

Save Paper, Reduce Waste

The Butler Center wants to save paper and reduce its waste. If you have an active email address, help us by opting to receive email-only alerts about our programs and events. Contact Kathryn Heller at kheller@cals.org or (501) 320-5717 to update your information.

Butler Center in the Community

Awards and Recognitions

Guy Lancaster, editor of the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* and book reviewer, has recently published reviews in *Theological Book Review*, *Pioneer American Society Transactions (PAST)*, *Journal of Religion, Conflict and Peace*, and the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.

On September 22, 2009, **Guy Lancaster** and **Mike Polston**, *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* historian, went to Arkansas State University for a reception in honor of a traveling exhibit dedicated to the life of U.S. Senator Thaddeus Caraway. This exhibit was developed by the Butler Center in cooperation with the Arkansas Hu-

manities Council (AHC) and was funded by the AHC and Dr. Cal Ledbetter. The Caraway exhibit was unveiled during the opening of the Arkansas Studies Institute and resided there until its move to ASU.

Rhonda Stewart, genealogy and local history specialist for the Butler Center, is now serving on the planning committee for the campus library at Arkansas Baptist College.

The **Lower Arkansas River Valley Walking Map**, located along the south side of the Arkansas Studies Institute, has been chosen as a 2009 Decorative Project of the Year honoree, an award given by *Concrete Construction* and Hanley Wood Publications. ■



AIA Arkansas

We are proud to announce that the Arkansas Studies Institute building project was given the Member's Choice Award for 2009 by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

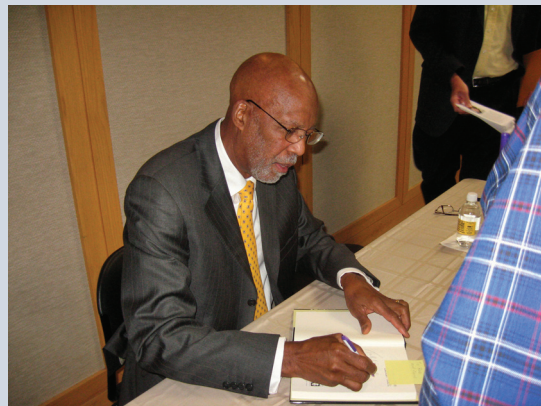
flash

... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



Bob Razer, Butler Center Archie House Fellow, throws a pitch to baseball legend and Arkansas native Hal Smith at the October Legacies & Lunch.

Terrence Roberts, Butler Center Books author and member of the Little Rock Nine, signs copies of his memoir, *Lessons from Little Rock*, during a book discussion at the Main Library.



Jan Ziegler, of Black River Technical College, and Tommy Jameson, local architect, are shown here with Linda Bly, CALS deputy director, and David Stricklin, head of the Butler Center. Ziegler and Jameson spoke during the November Legacies & Lunch on historical renovation projects in Randolph County.

Butler Center Books News

Butler Center Books brings you its latest release: *Homefront Arkansas: Arkansans Face Wartime*. Written by Butler Center Books veteran Velma B. Branscum Woody, along with historian Steven Teske. *Homefront Arkansas* illuminates for young readers the impact of war on Arkansans. Beginning with the Mexican War and ending with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the nine stories in *Homefront Arkansas* provide a factual and compelling backdrop for Arkansas's history as seen through its conflicts. Readers will follow Arkansans into battle and see the effects on soldiers as well as on their loved ones at home.

Woody grew up with a love of history; her book *Bandits, Bears, and Backaches* was published by Butler Center Books in 2004. Currently, Woody is an adjunct professor at Ozarka College.

Teske is a historian and fact-checker for the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, a project of the Butler Center. He is also an adjunct instructor for the

Arkansas State University-Beebe campus located at the Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville and has taught classes for Pulaski Technical College at their Little Rock campus.



Teske believes that studying past events helps all of us understand who we are today. He said, "Whether a conflict was right in Arkansas—as happened in the Civil War and the Brooks-Baxter War—or whether it took Arkansans elsewhere, each of these wars has added another layer to our state's identity. *Homefront Arkansas* helps us see those layers so we can see ourselves and each other more clearly."

Additionally, a recent Butler Center Books release has gained national attention. Terrence Roberts, Little Rock Nine member and author of *Lessons from Little Rock*, was interviewed recently on PBS's *The Tavis Smiley Show*. To view Roberts's appearance on PBS, go to www.pbs.org/tavissmiley and search for Terrence Roberts.

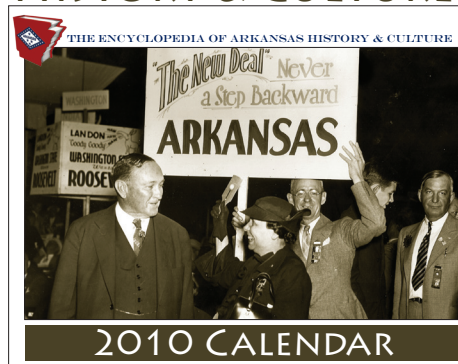
Books published by the Butler Center are available through national and local book sellers, including River Market Books & Gifts, or the University of Arkansas Press in Fayetteville at (800) 626-0090 and online at www.uapress.com. Butler Center Books is a division of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, part of the Central Arkansas Library System.

THE 2010 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE CALENDARS ARE HERE!

To order your 2010 calendar(s), return this form with a check to:

Encyclopedia of Arkansas
Central Arkansas Library System
100 Rock Street • Little Rock, AR 72201

Or you may return this form with the credit card information portion filled out.



I am ordering _____ calendar(s). Enclosed is my payment of \$ _____.

Cost: \$10 each. Please make checks payable to: **Encyclopedia of Arkansas**. (Please add \$2 to your order total for shipping and handling). Please ship my calendar(s) to:

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THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

WANTED: AUTHORS AND MEDIA

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

Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):

David Levering Lewis
John Cecil
Roosevelt "The Honeydrinker" Sykes
Frances Lillian (F. L.) Blaisdell
John Garrett Whiteside
Grider Army Air Field
James Howell Street
Lorraine Albert Cranford
Mercer Mayer
Sidney Wallace
Robert Nighthawk
John Andrew Riggs
Nimrod P. Meniffee
Henry Merrell
Camp Jesse Turner
Pickens W. Black Sr.
Alonzo "Lonnie" Clayton
Adah Lee Pettet Roussan
Sallie Irene Robinson-Stanfield Riley
Dollarway Road
Vince Walker Foster Jr.
John Wesley Snyder
Jesse Lee "Arkie" Shibley

Stump Saw
James Woodson Bates
Dorothy N. McDonald Allen
D. D. Glover
Stephen Brundidge Jr.
Galloway Female College
Alpha Rex Emmanuel Humbard
William Fewell "Casey" Laman
Marty Stouffer

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

Entries Needing Authors:

Soybean Industry
Magnolia (Columbia County)
Wright v. Wright
Maxine Temple Jones
Turkey Trot Festival

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

Explorations of Arkansas History

Guy
Lancaster

COLONY NEGROES FLEE FROM WRATH OF WHITES." Thus read the front-page headline of the *Van Buren Press-Argus* on January 18, 1924, recording the flight of African Americans from the community of Catcher, situated in the cotton-producing bottomlands of Crawford County. The event, now known as the Catcher Race Riot, has long been overlooked by historians, though one can now read about it on the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* website thanks to writer Wanda Gray.

The story begins with the December 28, 1923, rape and murder of Effie Latimer. Shot and left for dead, Latimer lived long enough to identify her assailants as William Bettis and two other unknown "colored men." Events unfolded as might be expected, with Bettis and two others arrested, followed by white mobs surrounding the jail at Fort Smith and running rampant through Catcher. Famed attorney Scipio Jones did his best to defend the three accused men, but a very speedy trial marked by spurious evidence ended

with two sentenced to death and the third given life in prison. Meanwhile, notices were posted throughout the area advising black residents to leave, and many did.

Encyclopedias are by their nature conservative institutions, collecting the scholarship to date but breaking little new ground. However, so much Arkansas history has yet to be studied, and there exist numerous events not yet illuminated. All people concerned with Arkansas history are invited to help us shine a light on the hidden stories of our state. ■



Wounded American Soldier and M4 Sherman Tank, Korea.

Korean War Collection Growing

FORGOTTEN: *The Arkansas Korean War Project*, which began in 2008, has now acquired thirty individual collections of Korean War materials, including dozens of letters, nearly 1,500 photos, and other assorted documents. Our interviews of veterans—twenty-three and counting—are all available online at www.butlercenter.org. Collection of oral histories, documents, photographs, and other memorabilia ensures that the materials are preserved for educators, researchers, and family members

to help future generations understand more about the war and our veterans' ex-

The Butler Center believes it is critical to honor our veterans' service and contributions to the war effort.

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and contributions to the war effort.

The project seeks materials that document life both on the battlefield and on the home front. The oral history component of the project allows veterans to share their personal memories of the war. All Korean War veterans who wish to be involved will be asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding their experiences.

Veterans and/or family members interested in contributing to the project should contact the Butler Center at (501) 918-3056 or email Brian K. Robertson at brianr@cals.org. ■



Members of Section IV, Battery B, 937th Field Artillery Battalion, Korea, November 25, 1951.

BUTLER CENTER DONORS

Butler Center Item Donations

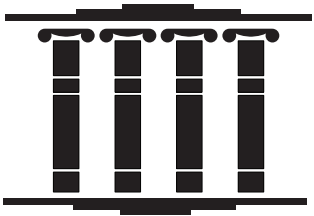
Arkansas Municipal League
Arkansas State Highway and
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Terry Bean
Phyllis Brandon
John Carland, District of Columbia
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Butler Center Monetary Donations

Skip Rutherford, *in memory of
Ike Scott*
Students, Faculty, and Staff of
Clinton School of Public Service,
in memory of Ike Scott
Marge Whitmore



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Images from Our Collection

The Flood of 1927 was the most destructive and costly flood in Arkansas history and one of the worst in the history of the nation. Although floodwater inundated Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee, the worst destruction, both in human and monetary terms, was in Arkansas. In some places, the Mississippi River was sixty miles wide. Almost twice as much farmland was flooded in Arkansas as in Mississippi and Louisiana combined. Much of Arkansas remained under water through the spring and summer and into September. The Flood of 1927 had social and political ramifications that changed the way Arkansas, as well as the nation, viewed relief from natural disasters and the responsibility of government in aiding the victims, foreshadowing issues surrounding the Hurricane Katrina disaster. ■



Refugee tents and boats on the levee at Arkansas City (Desha County), May 1, 1927.