

# THE BUTLER BANNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUTLER CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Volume 11, Number 3

Summer 2009

## Butler Center Events

### **Legacies & Lunch September 2, 2009**

Butler Center Books author George Lankford discusses his novel *Surprised by Death: A Novel of Arkansas in the 1840s*

### **October 7, 2009**

Butler Center Books author Billy Higgins discusses his book *The Barling Darling: Hal Smith in American Baseball*

### **Art News**

#### **Aug. 14 - Sept. 27, 2009**

UALR Faculty Art Preview—ASI Atrium Gallery

#### **September 11, 2009**

2nd Friday Art Night—ASI galleries

#### **Sept. 11 - Oct. 24, 2009**

Arkansas Woodworkers from the Museum School at the Arkansas Arts Center—ASI West Gallery

#### **Oct. 9 - Nov. 13, 2009**

*Main Street in Black and White*—ASI Concordia Hall Gallery

#### **October 9, 2009**

2nd Friday Art Night—ASI galleries

#### **Oct. 9 - Dec. 12, 2009**

Arkansas Sculptors—ASI Atrium Gallery

#### **Nov. 13, 2009 - Feb. 13, 2010**

*The Art of Ray Khoo*—ASI West Gallery

### **Butler Center Books Events**

#### **September 19, 2009**

Authors Ray & Steven Hanley discuss their book *Main Street Arkansas*—River Market Books & Gifts, 3:00 p.m.

#### **September 22, 2009**

Terrence Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine, discusses his new memoir *Lessons from Little Rock*—Darragh Center, Main Library, 6:30 p.m.



Visit [www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org) for more information.

## Serial Set Access for CALS

Through a cooperative arrangement put together by CALS documents librarian Sarah Ziegenbein and UALR documents librarian Karen Russ, CALS recently acquired access to the digital version of the U.S. Serial Set produced by Lexis Nexis. This three-way arrangement makes this superb research tool available at the Arkansas Studies Institute, UALR's Ottenheimer Library, and the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law Library. In addition, CALS has agreed to fund the new maps package, which includes all the maps in the Serial Set—many in color. CALS hopes to have that portion available by September.

Most people have never heard of the U.S. Serial Set, but it is one of the most important sources available for the study of American history, politics, and society. It provides primary source material for the scholars, genealogists, and students who use our libraries. Using the Serial Set lets people analyze the thinking behind historical events—adding

context and insight to the decisions of politicians—by examining the journals and scientific reports that provided information for those decisions. In a letter to UALR documents librarian Karen Russ, CALS director Dr. Bobby Roberts described the Serial Set as covering every aspect of American history beginning with the early nineteenth century, including the era when Arkansas became a territory and then a state. The acquisition of the U.S. Serial Set database puts many of the primary documents of American history at the fingertips of CALS and UALR patrons.

Lexis Nexis has completed the digitization of the entire Serial Set to 1969, going back to 1789 to include the American State Papers. The Serial Set offers such departmental publications as the Labor Statistics Bureau Bulletins, the Geological Survey Bulletins, the Water Supply Papers, the Minerals Yearbook, the Agriculture Yearbook, the Statistical Abstract of the United States, American Ethnology Bureau Bulletins, Foreign Relations Papers, and annual reports of many government agencies.

*Cont. on page 4*

## Butler Center Volunteers

The Butler Center relies on student help every year in the form of volunteers and interns. This summer, we had more help than ever with a total of nine student workers.

Megan Massanelli, a junior art history major at the University of Arkansas, spent her summer with us working on expanding the art collection database for the CALS permanent collection and assisting with the exhibition and retail galleries.

Caty Henderson, an English major at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA), and Bernard Reed, a writing and linguistics major at UCA, along with Davis Roher, a student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, spent their summer researching and writing entries and performing other du-



*Intern Megan Massanelli*

ties for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, as well as working on Books for Arkansas Students' Education (BASE).

Nicole Topich, a sophomore at Swarthmore College near Philadelphia, is studying anthropology and history. She assisted with the processing of new books and other processing projects, including videos, pamphlets, and Arkansas cookbooks.

*Cont. on page 2*

Cont. from *Butler Center Volunteers*, p.1

Hope Dixon, Isaiah Washington, and Cane West worked closely with Rhonda Stewart over the summer. Dixon and Washington are both part of the New

prominent citizens and openings of local businesses, and they also assisted the staff at the research room desk.

Emma Smith, a mass communications major at Ouachita Baptist University, worked with Kathryn Heller on many programming and public relations duties throughout the summer, including compiling several brochures for the Butler Center and the ASI.

Our volunteers and interns provided much-needed help for the many projects of the Butler Center. The Butler Center has an ongoing commitment to preserving and illuminating

Arkansas history and culture, and student-oriented programs are an important aspect of that commitment. Anyone interested in volunteering or becoming an intern at the Butler Center is invited to contact us at 501-320-5700. ■



Intern Nicole Topich

Futures for Little Rock Youth program, and West is a history major at the University of the South. They spent much of their time searching through back issues of local newspapers for relevant historical information, including obituaries of



Intern Isaiah Washington



Intern Hope Dixon

## Butler Center Staff in the Community

### Awards and Recognitions

**Brian Robertson**, manuscripts coordinator for the Butler Center, served as a co-curator—along with Dr. Bobby Roberts, director of CALS—for the *Badges, Bandits & Bars: Arkansas Law & Justice* exhibit currently on view at the Old State House Museum.

**Rhonda Stewart**, genealogy and local history specialist for the Butler Center, is now serving on the board of directors for the Daisy & L. C. Bates Museum. The Bates home is a designated National Historic Landmark.

**Guy Lancaster**, editor of the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* and a PhD candidate in the Heritage Studies Program at Arkansas State University, is now serving as creative materials editor for the new *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*. Lancaster, also a book reviewer, has recently published reviews in *Arkansas Review*, *Material Culture*, *Labor Studies Journal*, *Western Folklore*, and two UK publications, *Heythrop Journal* and *Political Studies Review*. ■

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

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Kathryn Heller: Editor  
Mike Keckhaver: Design/Layout

### Arkansas Studies Institute's Hours Are Changing

For Fall semester 2009, the ASI will have extended research room hours:

9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday–Thursday  
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday



Volume 11, Number 3

# A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



Readers of this column have seen the expression “things are popping at the Butler Center” quite often. With a few months of operation in the

new Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) behind us, I can report without fear of contradiction that things are popping even more than they were before. We just dispatched the last of our nine summer interns. We just welcomed the first meetings of seven classes the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) is holding here this fall, five from the university’s excellent master’s degree program in public history and two from the nonprofit management certification program. New art exhibitions are up. We’re about to announce a deal with a local family to manage a retail business in the lease space we’ve reserved in the front of the 1914 Geyer & Adams building—the middle structure of the three that make up the ASI. We’re helping to host a national conference of genealogists. And we just welcomed the business and management staff of the fabulous publication *The Oxford American* into our office space.

All of this—and more—is on top of what we usually do, which is a lot.

I’ve been thinking about what we do and what it means, especially because of a trip I got to take this summer. As part of a group organized by UALR, I had the great fortune to be able to visit Sichuan Province in the southwestern part of China. Our group worked in several cities, including places

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I had the great fortune to be able to visit Sichuan Province in the southwestern part of China.

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where the horrible earthquake of 2008 killed more than 90,000 people. We were helping historical organizations based at Sichuan University, a national park in the northern part of the province, as well as museums in the western and southern areas of the province, improve their preservation and interpretation practices. A great deal of that work was done by two museum profes-

sionals from the United States, including Andy Zawacki of the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock. I concentrated mainly on overview and philosophical topics having to do with open access to information, public outreach, and working with educational institutions. Many of my presentations featured photographs of the ASI.

Constantly, I was reminded of how fortunate we are to be able to share our remarkable historical resources with our researchers, including the students and faculty members who are coming into the ASI now that school has started. China is an ancient country with a stunning sweep of historical experience and achievement. But its people have essentially remade the country since 1949, and historical organizations there are racing to find ways to tell the remarkable story of the country’s history at a time when the country is investing so heavily in its economic development, building social services for its staggeringly large population, and rebuilding earthquake-ravaged areas. This grand facility we are privileged to share with the public, the ASI, is such a gift, such a reflection of a commitment to the preservation and interpretation of the past. I appreciated it before I left for this trip. I came back with an even more profound sense of awe because of what we have to offer.

Come see us. Come share in this great gift. ■

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## Butler Center Books Update

In the previous edition of the *Butler Banner*, we were honored to announce our upcoming releases, including *Lessons from Little Rock* by Terrence Roberts and *Main Street Arkansas: The Hearts of Arkansas Cities and Towns—As Portrayed in Postcards and Photographs* by Ray and Steven Hanley. In this edition, we’re pleased to invite you to events featuring the authors of these two books.

Authors Ray and Steven Hanley discuss their book *Main Street Arkansas: The Hearts of Arkansas Cities and Towns—As Portrayed in Postcards and Photographs* Saturday, September 19, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cox Creative Center, Main Library

Campus. This photo-filled book is a visual history tracing the development and evolution of Arkansas’s business centers.

Terrence Roberts will discuss his memoir, *Lessons from Little Rock*, Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library, Darragh Center. This intimate, powerful, personal account of the integration of Little Rock Central High School relates the inner struggles of one of the nine students who subjected themselves to the wrath of a mob in their quest for an equal education.

Books will be available for purchase at both events, and the authors will be signing copies after the discussions. ■

### 2009 Releases

- *The Barling Darling: Hal Smith in American Baseball* by Billy D. Higgins, with Hal Smith
- *Main Street Arkansas: The Hearts of Arkansas Cities and Towns—As Portrayed in Postcards and Photographs* by Ray and Steven Hanley
- *Proudly We Speak Your Name: Forty-four Years at Little Rock Catholic High School* by Michael J. Moran
- *Surprised by Death: A Novel of Arkansas in the 1840s* by George Lankford
- *Lessons from Little Rock* by Terrence Roberts, member of the Little Rock Nine
- *Homefront Arkansas: Arkansas Face Wartime Past and Present* by Velma B. Branscum Woody

*Cont. from Serial Set, p.1*

While many of these titles are available in the CALS collection of U.S. documents, as well as in other local depository libraries, because CALS did not become a federal depository until 1953, much more material is available in this digital version of the Serial Set. UALR's collection includes one of the early bound sets, but the volumes are dusty and cumbersome to use; the digital Serial Set is a vast improvement for researchers.

What kinds of questions can you answer with the Serial Set? By searching for keywords appearing in the text, document title or author, personal names, or subject terms, you can find, for example, the names of all the warships that took part in the Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition in 1907, or

the language spoken by the Yattassee tribe, or the details on a patent held by President Abraham Lincoln. The reports of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and their Corps of Discovery can be found in the Serial Set, as well as John C. Fremont's report of his exploration of the American West, which provided scientific and economic information about the West for pioneer settlement. The complementary maps database will allow researchers to see the maps that accompanied Fremont's report, the boundaries of a Native American tribe, or perhaps just the drainage area of a creek in Pulaski County.

Virginia Saunders, who had worked on the compilation of the Serial Set since 1969, died recently. Representative Robert Brady of Pennsylvania delivered a tribute to her in the House of Representatives on

June 26, 2009. In it, he quoted Arkansas author Dee Brown (for whom one of the CALS libraries is named) saying that the Serial Set "contains almost everything about the American experience...our wars, our peacetime works, our explorations and inventions...If we lost everything in print, except our documents, we would still have a splendid record and a memory of our past experience" (Congressional Record, June 26, 2009, p. H7441).

—Article by Sarah Ziegenbein

### Contact the Butler Center at the ASI!

Visit [www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org) and click on Contact Us for a list of Butler Center staff members' new phone numbers. Call (501) 320-5700 to reach the Arkansas Studies Institute Research Desk.

# flash

## ... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



CALS director Bobby Roberts signed the Memorandum of Understanding with UALR Chancellor Dr. Joel Anderson at the Arkansas Studies Institute on June 16, 2009.



The French Ambassador to the United States, Pierre Vimont, visited the Main Library campus on Monday, August 3, on his way to speak at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. Vimont is pictured here with CALS director Bobby Roberts and assistant head of the Butler Center Nathania Sawyer.

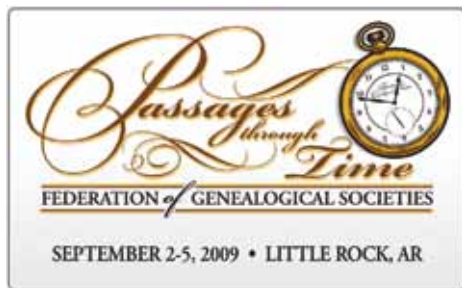
Former Arkansas first lady Gay White donated a collection of videotapes that include footage of political events and political campaign ads. White is pictured here with Rhonda Stewart, genealogist and local history specialist for the Butler Center.



# 2009 FGS Conference

The Butler Center and Butler Center Books will have booths in the exhibit hall at the upcoming Federation of Genealogical Societies conference, September 2–5, 2009, at the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center. This is a great opportunity to showcase the city of Little Rock as well our many history and research institutions to the guests of this national conference.

Not only will the Butler Center have a presence in the exhibit hall, but many of the staff are involved as speakers and volunteers. David Stricklin, head of the Butler



Center, will lead an oral history workshop; Kay Bland, educator for the Butler Center, will present the class Oral History in the Classroom; and Alex Baird, genealogy assistant for the Butler Center, will lead Clues Found by Plotting Your Ancestors' Land in the Federal Domain.

For more information on the conference schedule, visit [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org). ■

## Butler Center Genealogy Workshop

The Butler Center presented the eighth annual Genealogy Workshop on Saturday, July 18, 2009, to more than 100 guests. The featured speaker, Beau Sharbrough, focused on using Internet databases for research. The new genealogy website Footnote.com was touted as one of best tools to have emerged lately. Sharbrough also demonstrated the usefulness of spreadsheets for organizing genealogical material.

As always, Arkansas school teachers were able to receive credit hours for attending. The Arkansas Genealogical Society provided volunteers who assisted with the event, and the Butler Center is looking forward to returning the favor by participating in the national Federation of Genealogical Societies conference this September. ■

### Attendees' Comments:

*"I have really enjoyed today's program. Mr. Sharbrough is a really great teacher with a funny and charming personality. He is really knowledgeable. Thanks to all of you, very much."*

*"Mr. Sharbrough covered more than technology, more than genealogy. He's an excellent speaker with a powerful use of humor. I have enjoyed his lectures in the past and hope to hear him again in the future. The workshop was nicely organized as usual."*

*"It gave me a starting point on how to organize data. Good job!"*

# OXFORD

\*\*\* AMERICAN \*\*\*

## Oxford American at ASI

The Oxford American, an award-winning national magazine dedicated to Southern writing and documenting the American South, has moved its business staff to offices in the ASI this month.

Its publisher, Warwick Sabin, and four other members of The Oxford American management team will be housed on the third floor of the ASI with staff members of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

As part of the agreement with The Oxford American, CALS will be credited as an institutional sponsor on the magazine's masthead, receive free advertising space in each issue, and serve as a co-producer of future projects the magazine engages in, such as a planned radio program.

"This will be a great partnership for us," said Butler Center head David Stricklin. "The Oxford American is a ter-

rific resource for Arkansas, the South, and the nation. We're very pleased to be working with them and looking forward to building on our relationship."

The Oxford American has been based at the University of Central Arkansas since 2004, and its editorial staff will continue to work from the magazine's offices on the UCA campus in Conway. The business staff previously had a satellite office in Little Rock from 2004 to 2008.

"The business staff of The Oxford American is very excited about joining the dynamic atmosphere that exists at the new Arkansas Studies Institute," said Sabin. "We look forward to contributing to the academic and literary environment there, as well as working with the Butler Center and the Central Arkansas Library System on projects that explore and enhance the culture of Arkansas and the American South." ■



# THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

## WANTED: AUTHORS AND MEDIA

We need authors, 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.):**

Acme Brick Company  
Amish  
Jack Appleby  
Joseph Bachman  
Band Museum  
Frank Bonner  
Pickens W. Black Sr.  
Arkansas Negro Democratic Association  
Little Italy (Pulaski and Perry Counties)  
Camp Magnolia  
Nimrod P. Meniffee  
Crop Circles  
Alonzo "Lonnie" Clayton  
Arkansas State Guard  
Assemblies of God  
Island 37  
Nelson Hackett  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Harmonial Vegetarian Society  
Douglas Clyde Jones  
Edsel Ford  
Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge  
Camp Aldersgate

Church of God in Christ (COGIC)

Panel of American Women

Flu Epidemic of 1918

Jean Baptiste Bénard de La Harpe

Command-Aire

Win "Skinny" Whipple

Hiram Abiff Whittington

Geleve Grice

Eleanor de la Vergne Doss Risley

C. D. Wright

Jim McDougal

If you have pictures or other media, please contact Mike Keckhaver at [mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net](mailto:mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

### **Entries Needing Authors:**

Danville (Yell County)

Prescott (Nevada County)

Star City (Lincoln County)

Muslims

Citizens Co-Operative Laundry of Little Rock  
If you would like to write one of these entries, please contact Anna Lancaster at [alancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net](mailto:alancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

## Explorations of Arkansas History

Guy  
Lancaster

The story of the Kruse Gold Mine was recently brought to life in the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* by John Spurgeon, one of our many volunteer authors. So now you're wondering when gold was ever mined in Arkansas—it wasn't, though a man named Will Kruse did believe there was gold in the hills of Benton County. Around the turn of the twentieth century, while living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Kruse began having visions of large

deposits of gold to be found on his father's farm in Rogers. These visions told him of a coming world war, after which this Arkansas gold could be used for reconstructing society and providing plenty for all mankind. Supported by his family, he conducted excavations on his father's farm for several years, eventually establishing fourteen mines, and though he found traces of gold, there was never the rich vein promised by his visions. Work on the mines essentially

came to an end in 1912, though Kruse remained preoccupied with his grand vision until his death in 1925.

Kruse himself never offered public investment in his scheme—in fact, he worked to remain as true to his visions as possible, his only motive being the relief of a world destined for destitution. While his visions about the location of gold in Benton County may have been wrong, his heart was certainly in the right place. ■

# New Overhead Scanner Available to the Public

The Butler Center has purchased an overhead scanner that will allow the public and staff to scan fragile and large documents. Many documents that were difficult or impossible to copy—including fragile and over-sized books, ledgers, three-dimensional items, and other archival materials—can now be scanned and saved as high-resolution digitized files. The scanner is located in the ASI Research Room, where patrons will have easy access to this versatile piece of equipment. ■



Right: The Arkansas Studies Institute's new overhead scanner.

## Planning for CALS Birthday

The Central Arkansas Library System will turn 100 in 2010 and is planning a full year of special events for our patrons. A written history of CALS and its impact on Central Arkansas is one of the many projects slated to commemorate CALS's birthday. Here are a few intriguing questions the book will answer:

Which CALS branch has a replica of the Statue of Liberty as part of its landscaping?

What two well-known Little Rock siblings each have a branch library named for them?

Why did the Pulaski County Library rent space from the Little Rock Public Library?

When did bookmobile service to rural

Pulaski County begin?

What is the Panhellenic Association, and what does it have to do with the history of CALS?

You are also invited you to share memories of your experiences with the Central Arkansas Library System by completing a questionnaire. You may download a copy of the survey that can be printed and mailed, or complete it online. A link to the survey is provided at [www.cals.org](http://www.cals.org). ■

## BUTLER CENTER DONORS

### **Butler Center Item Donations**

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### **EOA Donation**

Betty Sorensen Adams

### **Butler Center Monetary Donations**

W. Christopher Barrier; *In memory of*

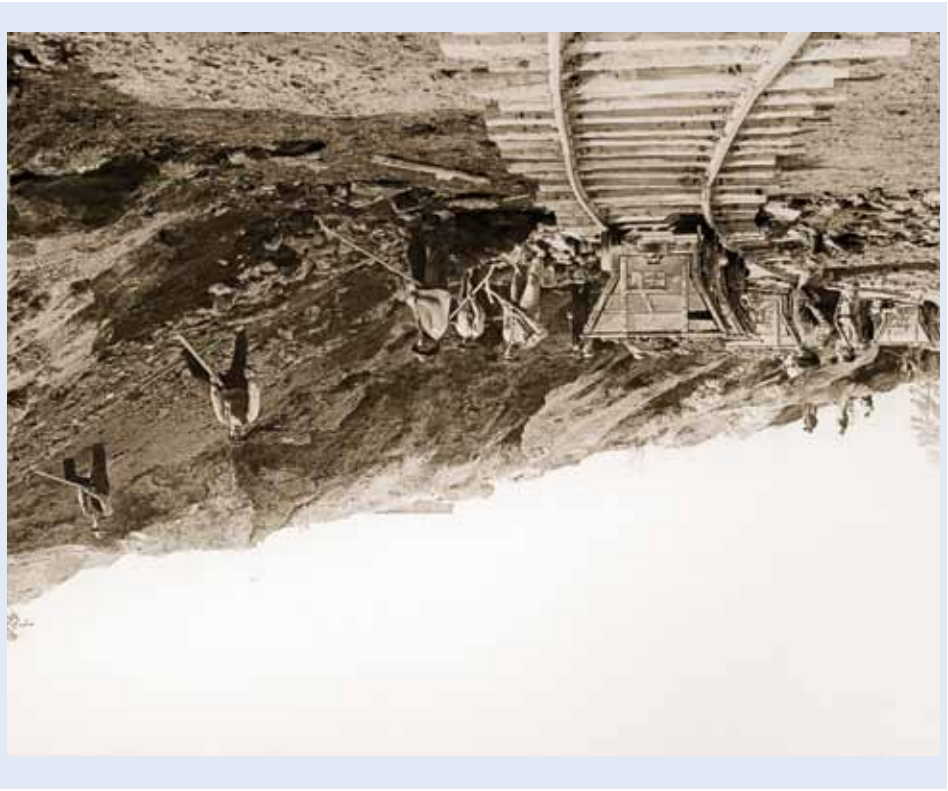
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David Stricklin; *In memory of Tom Steves*  
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*The following people donated in memory of Peyton Rice:*  
Mrs. Guy Amsler, Arkansas Urology  
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Miners loading bauxite onto rail cars, 1912. Bauxite in Arkansas was first described in 1842 by Dr. W. Byrd Powell, though it was not mined as an ore of metallic aluminum until 1896. During the twentieth century, Arkansas provided about ninety percent of all domestic tonnage mined. Many of the Arkansas bauxite deposits mined in the early years were exposed on the surface as outcrops or were beneath only a thin layer of sedimentary cover. Before and during World War II, significant ton-nages were mined underground. Some years after the war, surface operations resumed. Open-pit panel mining has been the normal surface method since the early 1960s. Due to changes in both do-mestic and world economic market con-ditions, 1982 was the last year in which bauxite was mined in Arkansas for alu-minum metal. Small tonnages continue to be mined and used in the production of a variety of alumina-based materials. ■



# Images from Our Collection