

The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 14, Number 1

Fall 2011

Butler Center Events

2nd Friday Art Night

5 to 8 p.m.

Arkansas Studies Institute
401 President Clinton Ave.

Friday, December 9, 2011

Ark in the Dark: An Exhibition of Vintage Movie Posters about Arkansas will launch during the monthly 2nd Friday Night art walk.

Friday, January 13, 2012

Arkansas Women to Watch Exhibition

Legacies & Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library
100 Rock St.

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Trennis Henderson on 125 years of Ouachita Baptist University

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

Ron Robinson will discuss *Ark in the Dark: An Exhibition of Vintage Movie Posters about Arkansas*.



BUTLER CENTER
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

Visit www.butlercenter.org
for more information.

Arkansas-Themed Movies Showcased in *Ark in the Dark*

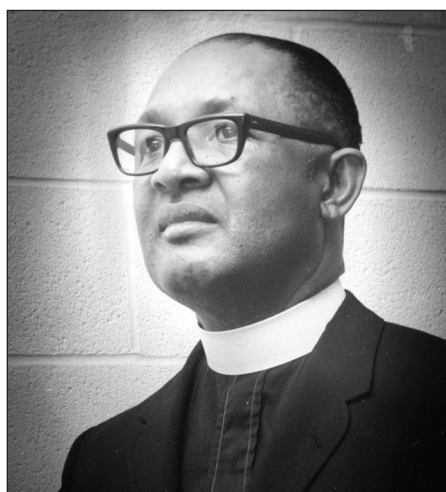
The Butler Center and Ron Robinson will co-host an exhibition of vintage Arkansas-related movie posters to be shown in Concordia Hall of the Arkansas Studies Institute. The exhibition will launch Friday, December 9, during the monthly 2nd Friday Art Night art walk. On display will be 35 posters that feature films from the years 1926 to 2009. Movies include *Arkansas Traveler*, the 1938 film featuring radio comedian Bob Burns; *The Legend of Boggy Creek*, a documentary-style drama about one of Arkansas's most famous monsters; and *True Grit*, the recently reborn revenge

Cont. on page 2



Rufus K. Young Papers Now Available

The Rufus King Young Papers—which were donated to the Butler Center by the family through Young's daughter, Ellen Young Fizer—are now available in the Research Room. The bulk of the collection contains sermons from his long career as an African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) minister, but also includes various family documents, correspondence, photographs, and school- and church-related materials. In today's environment of recycling and green living, one could consider Young an early environmentalist, as he often wrote sermons and outlines on scraps



Rufus K. Young

of paper or the backs of old stationery and church programs. However, this practice likely stemmed from living through the Depression era, when little went to waste. Regardless of the intent, he inadvertently preserved church-related literature that likely would not have survived otherwise. A scrapbook of school memories from the late 1920s and 1930s contains a rare collection of African American school programs, including a piano recital from Dunbar High in Little Rock featuring composer Florence Smith Price in 1935; minutes of three Little Rock ministerial associations from 1956 to 1957, when Young served as secretary; and a 1963

Cont. on page 2

Cont. from Ark in the Dark, p.1

story set in the late 1880s and based on a novel written by Arkansas's Charles Portis.

These posters, which are from the personal movie memorabilia collection of Ron Robinson, showcase the reputation of Arkansas through the cinema industry. David Stricklin, head of the Butler Center, says, "These posters will surprise people. They show areas of creative ex-

pression and storytelling associated with Arkansas life that we're proud to be able to share with the many people who visit us here in the ASI. They also show the amazing range of interests and the sheer energy of the remarkable Ron Robinson."

Robinson is a past chairman and chief executive officer of Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods, a full-service advertis-

ing, marketing, and public relations firm that is currently one of the largest communications agencies in the three-state area of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He collects Arkansas memorabilia, stamps, and vintage movie posters. Robinson will give a lecture on *Ark in the Dark* during Legacies & Lunch on January 4, 2012. The exhibition will run through February 25, 2012. ■



Cont. from Rufus K. Young, p.1

"March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom" pendant.

Young was born on May 13, 1911, on his grandfather's farm in Bayou Bartholomew in Drew County, Arkansas, to Robert Young and Laura Scott Young. He received his early religious training at Young's Chapel A.M.E. Church, founded and built on land donated by his grandfather, Allen Young. He married Essie Mae Adams of Jackson, Mississippi, on September 10, 1941, and they had five children: Essie Mae, Rufus King Jr., James Robert, Ellen Ameatha, and Allena Ann.

He began his early schooling at Young's Chapel, but graduated from high school a few miles away at the Chicot County Training School in Dermott in 1933. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Shorter College in North Little Rock in 1937, and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Payne Theological Seminary at Wilberforce, Ohio, in 1940. He pursued advanced studies at the University of Chicago and received several honorary doctorate degrees.

Young was licensed to preach in 1924 and became an ordained traveling minister. He pastored ten churches during his career in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as well as several churches in Arkansas, including St. Andrew A.M.E. in Little Rock (1933–1937) while attending Shorter College. After some time out of the state, he returned to Arkansas, where he was the minister at Visitor's

Chapel A.M.E. in Hot Springs (1951–1953) prior to his assignment to Bethel A.M.E. in Little Rock in June 1953. In 1949, he spoke on WEDR Radio in Birmingham, Alabama, and his radio ministry continued wherever he lived at the time, including short segments on KTHS in Hot Springs and KOKY Radio and KARK TV in Little Rock.

In his career in education, he served as dean of Edward W. Lampton School of Religion at Campbell College in Jackson (1940–1944), president of Daniel Payne College in Birmingham, (1948–1950), and teacher and dean at Jackson Seminary, Shorter College (1954–1990s). Many of his Shorter College students are today's leading A.M.E. ministers in the state. As an alumnus of Shorter, he devoted considerable time not only as dean and teacher but as a trustee of the college, where he served as treasurer from 1951 to the 1990s.

He was a leader in the Twelfth Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church, comprising Arkansas and Oklahoma. In Little Rock, he was a member of ministerial alliance associations that were involved in the civil rights movement of the late 1950s. Young served as president of the Christian Ministers Alliance of Greater Little Rock and was the first African American president of the Greater Little Rock Ministerial Association. Three of Central High School's Little Rock Nine students—Ernest Green, Gloria Ray, and Melba

Pattillo—were members of his church. He was also a friend to Daisy Bates, who had been a member of Bethel A.M.E. before joining her husband at Union A.M.E. Young participated in the March on Washington in 1963.

Young, well regarded in Arkansas and across the country, was a much sought-after high school and college commencement speaker from the 1950s through the 1980s. His services as a clergyman were often called upon for official events, including the benediction at the inauguration of Governor Dale Bumpers in 1971 and the unveiling of Daisy Bates's portrait at the State Capitol in 1992. He also shared the stage with President Bill Clinton at Bates's memorial in 2000.

His wife, Essie Mae, a retired teacher, died on February 26, 1983, at the age of sixty-two. Young retired in 1986 at the age of seventy-five, after serving thirty-three years as pastor of Bethel A.M.E., and married Yvonne Smith Bruner, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a Prince Hall Mason. In 2002, Connor's Chapel A.M.E. of Little Rock was renamed in his honor. The Reverend Rufus King Young died on August 29, 2004, at the age of ninety-three.

The finding aid for the Rufus King Young Papers can be accessed at www.butlercenter.org by clicking on the Manuscripts, Photos & Maps tab or viewed in the Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute. ■

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center

I'm often asked where I work. Depending on how much the person knows about the Central Arkansas Library System or about Little Rock or about historic architecture, I have slightly different answers. For people who are pretty clued in to Arkansas history, once I mention the Butler Center, they often say, "Oh, yes. You have a lot of wonderful collections of papers." And that is certainly true. Although our online resources are extraordinarily popular, we are certainly not getting out of the paper business. That's where Brian Robertson comes in.



Brian Robertson (left)
and David Stricklin

One of our four Certified Archivists, Brian is the head of our Manuscripts Division and the guiding force behind our remarkable collections of documents and photographs. This issue of the *Banner*

tells a good bit about several newly available collections we're very pleased to be able to share with researchers. Brian directs where we put our staff efforts in processing these materials, oversees the work of these colleagues, and makes sure our archival operation conforms to the highest standards of the profession. He also heads up our fantastic work on Arkansas's experience of the Korean War, and his status as one of the state's leading experts on the Civil War has helped us quite dramatically to contribute to the sesquicentennial observance of the war in Arkansas. Both of these efforts highlight how digital resources can get connected to more traditional archival materials in creative and very helpful ways. Brian is a real leader in that.

We get to do a lot of great projects, wonderful outreach initiatives, and terrific events at the Butler Center. But nothing is more important, nothing is closer to the heart of what we are meant to be, than the fine collections of papers we have that reflect the first-hand experiences of the people of Arkansas. Brian and

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Library System

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BUTLER CENTER
FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES

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his colleagues deserve vast amounts of thanks for getting these papers, processing them, and making them available.

Come see us. Come discover Arkansas through our great collections! ■

Jared C. Martin Family Papers Now Available

The Butler Center is pleased to announce the opening of the Jared C. Martin Family Papers. This fascinating collection documents life in antebellum Arkansas through the personal correspondence of an early Arkansas settler and his family. Correspondence in the collection is dated from 1824 to 1882, with the largest concentration of letters written from the 1830s to the 1850s.

Jared Carswell Martin, the son of Irish immigrants John Martin and Elizabeth Allen Martin, was born on October 11, 1806, in the Cherokee Indian Nation in Georgia. He spent the majority of his childhood in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, before relocating to Little Rock, Arkansas Territory, around 1821. Jared Martin operated a ferry on the Arkansas River with his brother James Hutcherson Martin and spent two years carrying mail between Little Rock and Arkansas Post. Jared Martin served as Pulaski County

treasurer from 1840 to 1842, as a Pulaski County representative in the Arkansas legislature from 1842 to 1844, and as state treasurer from 1843 to 1845. Martin married Mary "Polly" Douglas on January 25, 1827, and the couple had eleven children. The Martin family settled in Fourche Bayou near Little Rock and set up a farm. Jared C. Martin died on November 7, 1857.

Most of the personal correspondence in the collection deals with health, family relations, finances, and the state of the crops. Martin was a religious man, and a few of the letters deal with his involvement in the church. Notably, two letters are from James Wilson Moore (1797–1873), who is considered to be the father of the Presbyterian Church in Arkansas.

Many of the letters discuss local and state politics, as various members of the Martin family were involved in state-level Democratic politics. One letter of note

is a piece of constituent correspondence regarding traveling ministers addressed to Jared C. Martin, John W. Cocke, and P. T. Crutchfield, Pulaski County representatives in the Arkansas House from 1842 to 1844. In addition to Martin's political activities, his brother John Martin III served in the Missouri legislature from 1829 to 1836 and as postmaster of Batesville, Arkansas, from 1848 to 1862. His brother Allen Martin served as Pulaski County surveyor from 1825 to 1830, as a member of the Arkansas Territorial Legislative Council from 1831 to 1833, and as Pulaski County sheriff from 1836 to 1838.

The finding aid for the Jared C. Martin Family Papers can be accessed at www.butlercenter.org by clicking on the Manuscripts, Photos & Maps tab, or viewed in the Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute. Several documents from the collection are being digitized and will also be available online. ■

Butler Center Adds Two Staff Members

Linda McDowell rejoined the staff of the Butler Center in March 2011 as an archival assistant. She was previously employed at the Butler Center as the genealogy coordinator from 1999 until December 2005. In January 2006, she became the African American history coordinator for the Arkansas History Commission, where she was responsible for the collection of African American material, served as the liaison to the Black History Commission of Arkansas, instituted the commission's annual "Profiles in Arkansas Black History" seminar, and coordinated the black history grants program. She is very proud of the *Arkansas African American Legislators, 1868-1893* ruler produced for the Black History Commission in celebration of Black History Month 2011. A native of Hot Springs, she had also worked for eight years as education director at the Mid-America Science Museum. She is a graduate of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, with a BS in education. Since returning to the Butler Center, she has already processed a wide range of materials, with

the Rufus King Young Papers as one of her recent favorites. She delights in the unexpected discoveries that old boxes can reveal. ■

Caroline Millar comes to the Butler Center from the Main Street Arkansas program, a state-wide historic downtown revitalization program, where she helped coordinate local preservation efforts and curated traveling history exhibits. Before that, she was an assistant curator at the Historic Arkansas Museum and an editorial assistant at the *Oxford American* magazine. She has a master's degree in public history from UALR and will become a new board member of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas this month. Millar hails from Indiana but proudly calls Arkansas home. While not at work, she happily chases after her one-year-old son, August, and enjoys reading,



The Butler Center's newest staff members are Linda McDowell (left) and Caroline Millar.

writing, and traveling to off-the-beaten-path places in the state. Millar will help expand the Butler Center's volunteer program and assist in various exhibit research projects. ■

flash

...Butler Center Events in the Spotlight

Delphine Hirasuna (center) signed copies of her book, *The Art of Gaman*, for Richard Yada (left) and UALR's Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis.



Lie Schiffer, the October Legacies & Lunch speaker, signs a copy of her novel, *Camp Nine*, for CALS director Dr. Bobby Roberts.



Sisters Olivia and Nadia Teske, with the O'Donovan School of Irish Dance, entertain October's 2nd Friday Art Night crowd with traditional Irish dancing.



Franke's Cafeteria Records Collection Opens

When I was growing up in Conway in the 60's, we came to Little Rock to do back-to-school shopping and to go to various doctors. The highlight of every trip was lunch at Franke's downtown. Going to the doctor wasn't so bad, knowing you got to go to Franke's afterwards!"

Dolores Treadway, who posted this comment on the Memories Wall at frankescafeteria.com, is not alone in remembering special times at one of the Franke's cafeterias in Central Arkansas. For thousands of people, a meal at Franke's rewarded good behavior, capped off a trip to the city, or highlighted a special family event. The Franke's Cafeteria Records Collection at the Butler Center documents the story of the family-owned company behind these memories.

The company was started by Charles August (C. A.) Franke, who served at

Camp Pike in North Little Rock during World War I. Franke was born in Illinois in 1888 and moved with his family to Auburn, New York, in the early 1900s. He graduated from Cornell University with a degree in mechanical engineering and worked briefly for Auburn Ignition Manufacturing Company before entering the service.

Impressed by what he saw when his military service took him to Camp Pike in North Little Rock, Franke moved to Little Rock in 1919 and opened a donut shop on West Capitol Avenue. This small shop grew to include a full-scale bakery, a series of "hot shops" in several Central Arkansas locations, a truck-sales operation, and a wholesale business serving the region. Franke opened the first cafeteria in 1924 at 115 West Capitol in Little Rock, and eventually sold the bakery operations and concentrated on the cafeterias.

Two Franke's cafeteria locations remain: one in downtown Little Rock a few blocks west of the original location and one in the Market Place Shopping Center in West Little Rock. The company is owned and operated by C. A.'s grandson Bill, Bill's wife Carolyn, and their daughter Christen.

This collection, donated to the Butler Center by Bill and Carolyn Franke with help from Senator David Pryor, includes documents covering the years from 1891 to 1989. The collection consists of accounting records and administrative records, especially for the years 1919 to 1983, including employee training materials, sales records, and accounting ledgers for the various operations and locations. The collection also contains floor plans, architectural drawings, and other documents related to the building of new facilities for the company, dating from 1940 to 1989.

The Collection can be accessed in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute. A full finding aid for the collection is also available under the Manuscripts, Photos & Maps tab online at www.butlercenter.org.

Butler Center Books Make Great Gifts!

The publishing program at the Butler Center has produced some Arkansas gems and offers a great book for everyone on your holiday shopping list. Leading off is a prize-winning novel based on the life of Holocaust survivor and longtime Little Rock resident Penina Krupitsky. Written by Phillip McMath and Emily Matson Lewis, *The Broken Vase* won this year's Booker Worthen Literary Prize, which is awarded annually to the best book by a resident of Central Arkansas.

Other perennial best-sellers involve politics in Arkansas. *A Pryor Commitment* by Senator David Pryor is a "gem of a book," according to political analyst Steve Barnes. Full of warm anecdotes and down-home wisdom, this book could easily serve as

a primer for how to succeed in politics. *Open House: The Arkansas Governor's Mansion and Its Place in History* by John P. Gill tells the stories of the governors and their families who have lived in the mansion over the past six decades. *Open House* is a great "coffee-table" book, filled with lavish color photos.

Speaking of colorful, *Arkansas: An Illustrated Atlas* is a delightful tour around our state. The book is packed with photos and graphics—including charts, maps, and diagrams—thanks to University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, cartographer and professor Dr. Tom Paradise. This fifty-six-page book is great for students and also provides a quick introduction and overview for those new to our state.

In her new book, *Obligated to Help:*

Adolphine Fletcher Terry and the Progressive South, author Stephanie Bayless examines the life of a woman who worked tirelessly for justice in Arkansas and became an enduring role model. While Terry never held public office, many historians believe that she did more to improve life for the average Arkansan than most politicians ever did.

Another recent book, *A. C. Pickett's Private Journal of the U.S.-Mexican War*, shows a journal that might have been lost to history if editor Jo Blatti hadn't rescued it from an estate sale a few years ago. Pickett, who was a native of Alabama, settled in northeast Arkansas after the U.S.-Mexican War. His journal provides a vivid account of everyday life during the war and details the early career of a professional soldier. After the U.S.-Mexican War, Pickett practiced law in the White River towns of Jacksonport and Augusta. During the Civil War, he fought for the Confederacy and commanded the Jackson Guards (Company

Cont. on page 6

A Pryor Commitment

The autobiography of David Pryor
With Don Harrell



Cont. from Butler Center Books, p.5
G, 1st Arkansas Infantry Regiment).

Your purchase of books published by the Butler Center helps ensure that we will be able to continue to bring you important books about the state and also introduce works by new Arkansas authors. Butler Center Books are available in local bookstores, including River Market Books & Gifts (owned and operated by the Central Arkansas Library System) on the campus of the Main Library in Little Rock at (501) 918-3093. Also, you may order through UA Press Distribution at (800) 626-0090 and online at www.ua-press.com, or through other major online booksellers. ■



Call for Docents

We are seeking volunteers to be part of a docent program for the Concordia Hall exhibition space. For more information, or to apply to become a Butler Center docent, contact Caroline Millar at (501) 320-5793 or email cmillar@cals.org.



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.):

Pernella Anderson
David Auburn
Frances Lillian (F.L.) Blaisdell
Cave Springs (Benton County)
Henry Howard "Hank" Chamberlin
Carl R. "Cotton" Cordell
Denton (Lawrence County)
Diamond City (Boone County)
Fayetteville Shale
Hagler (Arkansas County)
Isaac Scott Hathaway
James Earl King Hildreth
Hinemon University School
Humphrey (Arkansas and Jefferson Counties)
Bobby James Hutton
Willa Saunders Jones
Kingston School
David Levering Lewis
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Ralphie May
Mountain Crest Academy
Narrows Dam
Ozark Natural Science Center

Nicholas Bartlett Pearce
Pea Ridge Academy
William Pickens
Jerry Lewis Russell
St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center
Shriners
Harold Raymond (Hal) Smith
Soulesbury Institute
Tillar (Drew and Desha Counties)
Villemont (Chicot County)
If you have pictures or other media, please contact Mike Keckhaver at mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net

Entries Needing Authors:

Edward Coy (Lynching of)
Civil War Veterans' Reunions
Pathfinder, Inc.
Knaak, Richard A.
Seventh-Day Adventists
Trapnall Hall
If you would like to write one of these entries, please contact Guy Lancaster at glancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net



New 2012 Titles from Butler Center Books

Butler Center Books will offer three exciting titles in early 2012. The first one, *Deep Down in the Delta: Folktales and Poems* by Greg Alan Brownderville, will be available in January. This is a new edition that will feature paintings by Memphis “outsider” artist Billy Moore.

Reminiscent of Jean Toomer’s *Cane* and Alice Rae Yelen’s *Passionate Visions of the American South*, Greg Alan Brownderville’s *Deep Down in the Delta* leads the reader into strange country where a buzzard the size of an airplane circles over buried Confederate treasure; an indestructible rabbit haunts a graveyard; a pool table dances across a juke joint; and a hoodoo woman treats a girl who flies around like a balloon losing air. The poems are folkloristic, the tales poetic, and the paintings extraordinary. Brownderville is a native of Pumpkin Bend, Arkansas, and the author of the poetry collection *Gust* (Northwestern University Press, 2011). He completed an MFA in poetry at the University of Mississippi in 2008 and currently teaches creative writing at Lincoln University in

Jefferson City, Missouri.

Unvarnished Arkansas: The Naked Truth about Nine Famous Arkansans by Steven Teske will be released in March. Teske rummages through Arkansas’s colorful past to find some of the state’s most controversial figures. Although the nine people featured in this collection are not the most famous products of Arkansas—more than half of them were not even born in Arkansas—all of them lived in Arkansas and contributed to its history and culture in a unique way. Teske “unvarnishes” the stories of each, peeling away the layers in an attempt to separate fact from folklore.

Unvarnished presents nine illustrious figures from Arkansas history, including a man who squanders his family fortune until he is penniless, loses every time he runs for public office, and yet is so admired by the people of Arkansas that the General Assembly names a county in his honor; a renowned writer who makes her home in the basement of a museum until she is sued by some of the most prominent women of the state regarding the use of the rooms upstairs; and a brilliant in-

ventor who nearly built the first airplane but was also vilified for being eccentric and maybe even crazy.

Finally, in *The Hangin’ Judge: A History of Executions in Judge Parker’s Court*, author Jerry Akins takes a new look at the frontier court of Isaac C. Parker. For twenty-one years, Judge Parker ruled in the federal court at Fort Smith, Arkansas, the gateway to the wild and lawless Western frontier. Parker, however, was not the “hangin’ judge” that casual legend portrays. In most cases, Akins argues, the guilt or innocence of those tried in Parker’s court really was not in question once their stories were told—these horrible crimes would have screamed out for justice no matter who was sitting on the bench.

Jerry Akins is a native of Kansas City, Missouri, and worked as a missile technician for seventeen years. In 1980, he relocated to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he began to immerse himself in the history of the area, including the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas and the cases of Judge Isaac C. Parker. He is a frequent contributor to the *Fort Smith Historical Society Journal*. ■

BUTLER CENTER DONORS

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The Little Rock Brewing & Ice Company was located on the northwest corner of Second and Byrd streets in Little Rock. Today, the site is on the grounds of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park. This photograph was taken inside the boiler room of the plant; ca. 1900.



Images from Our Collection