

The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 14, Number 4

Fall 2012

Butler Center Events

2nd Friday Art Night

5 to 8 p.m.

Arkansas Studies Institute
401 President Clinton Ave.

Friday, November 9, 2012

From the Vault: Works from the CALS Permanent Collection will feature historical and contemporary artwork from the CALS permanent collection, with live music by Dave Williams & Friends.

Friday, December 14, 2012

Art, holiday shopping, and live music by the CALS Christmas Choir.

Legacies & Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m.

Darragh Center, Main Library
100 Rock St.

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

John Deering, chief editorial cartoonist for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, will discuss the work of longtime Arkansas political cartoonist George Fisher.

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

As part of our Arkansas Autobiographies series, Annie Abrams will talk about her work in civil rights, education, and politics.

In conjunction with the Arkansas Sounds music festival

Tues., Oct. 30, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Darragh Center, Main Library
100 Rock St.

"Don't Believe in Taxes or Policemen: The Strange Career of Jim Dandy and Southern Rock in 1970s Britain," lecture by Brian Ward

Finding Family Facts

A monthly genealogy course

Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14

3:30 to 5 p.m.

Room 204

401 President Clinton Ave.

This free class takes place the second Monday of every month.

Visit www.butlercenter.org
for more information.



Henker Collection Now Available

Fred O. Henker III, a Little Rock psychiatrist, was born on September 20, 1922, in Little Rock, Arkansas, to Fred O. Henker Jr. and Blanche Crawford Henker. He graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine (now the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences—UAMS) in 1945. He was appointed to the faculty of psychiatry at UAMS in 1958 and retired as professor emeritus in 1989. Henker also had a great interest in history and geology, with memberships in various geological and historical societies. He wrote and published numerous medical and historical articles and was especially interested in the founding physicians of the Arkansas Industrial University Medical School (which eventually became UAMS). Dr. Henker married Virginia Cassady on March



Fred O. Henker Jr.

24, 1945, and the couple had three children: Virginia Gail, Gloria, and William (Bill) Henker.

The Fred O. Henker Collection contains biographical material and articles written about early Arkansas physicians, especially founders of what is now UAMS. The majority of the articles were written by Fred O. Henker III and published in various journals. However, the collection also contains a surprising glimpse into the world of early show business. Fred O. Henker III's father, Fred O. Henker Jr., traveled the country between 1910 and 1917 as a vaudeville performer known as Waldo. Vaudeville, popular from the 1880s to early 1930s, featured a variety of performers billed on the same show in a series of unrelated acts.

By 1900, there were chains of vaudeville theaters around the country. This collection captures Fred O. Henker Jr.'s early life as a performer through publicity photographs of himself and fellow actors. *Cont. on page 2*

A Look at the Thomas Harding Photography Collection

The Thomas Harding Photography Collection, now available in the Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute building, contains a broad range of images reflecting the life and work of the well-known pinhole photographer. The approximately 7,500 images record Harding's work with art photography and span nearly a century of his family history. Included are photographs of early twentieth-century Little Rock, glass negatives showing Harding family members, and images of buildings designed and built by three generations of the Harding family.

Four men named Thomas Harding have put their mark on Little Rock and Arkansas. The first two were architects, and the fourth helped found East-Harding Construction

Company. The third Thomas Harding made his contribution by creating an eclectic photographic record, both of his life and experiences and of the history of his home state and city.

Thomas Harding I came to Little Rock in 1869. As an architect, he was well known for designing the 1880s Cathedral of St. Andrew in Little Rock. Following his father's death in the mid-1890s, fourteen-year-old Thomas Harding II began work as a draftsman for architect Charles Thompson. Thus, Thomas Harding II also became an architect, first partnering with Thompson and later forming his own firm.

Thomas Harding III, born on July 7, 1911, initially followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He studied at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and returned to Little

Cont. on page 2

From Henker Papers, page 1

Fred O. Henker Jr. was born on August 27, 1891, in Arkansas, the son of German immigrant parents. He discovered at an early age that he was very limber and could perform tricks of twisting his body into unusual positions. After training and studying other traveling contortionists, he began his amateur career in April 1909 at local theaters and shows. By the end of 1910, he had started collecting costumes and stage props with the intent of performing professionally in vaudeville shows. Henker decided that his stage name would be Waldo (his middle name Os-

wald rearranged), but he was sometimes referred to as Fred Waldo. He left Little Rock for St. Louis, and then moved on to Chicago. Sometime after 1911, he began to achieve show business success, touring the country from coast to coast and spending some time in New York. While on the road, he collected autographed portraits of other vaudeville performers of the day.

Following his vaudeville career, Fred O. Henker Jr. became a Little Rock bookbinder and served in the U.S. Army during World War I. During the war, Henker was assigned to a military show that entertained troops in Europe, but he

returned to his printing career in Little Rock at the end of the war, raising his family here. He and his wife had two sons: Fred O. Henker III and William O. Henker.

Fred O. Henker Jr. died at age seventy-seven in April 1969, and his wife died in June 1979 in Little Rock. Dr. Fred O. Henker III died on March 15, 2005, in Little Rock and is survived by his wife Virginia and daughter Gail.

This collection can be accessed in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute building. A full finding aid for the collection is available online at www.butlercenter.org. ■

From Harding Collection, page 1

Rock to work in his father's firm. At the same time, however, he pursued an interest in photography, eventually choosing this as his vocation.

Harding was able to develop his skills as a photographer during World War II. The collection includes images taken by and of Harding and other soldiers while he served as the personal photographer for General Ira Eaker in and around Naples, Italy. Returning to Little Rock, Harding opened a studio, photographing many famous Arkansans for the next two decades. To further expand his skills, he worked during the 1960s at the well-known Bachrach Studios in New York and Boston. Images from this time period, mostly of casual situations, are included in the collection. In 1970, Harding returned to Little Rock and again opened a studio, working in both commercial and portrait photography. Images in the collection from these years include buildings designed by an-



Thomas Harding III self portrait taken with a pinhole camera; ca. 1977

other Little Rock architectural firm, Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, and some built by the construction firm founded by Thomas Harding IV.

After retirement, Thomas Harding III pursued art photography, especially pinhole photography. He published two books, *One-Room Schoolhouses of Arkansas as Seen Through a Pinhole* (1993) and *An Outhouse by Any Other Name* (1999). The collection contains images from these books, as well as many photos taken for the books but not used. Harding wanted to record the state's deteriorating vernacular buildings before they were gone forever.

The collection also includes commercially produced cameras as well as pinhole cameras, the latter constructed by Harding. The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net) has an entry on Thomas Harding III, including photos and a video of Harding talking about pinhole cameras.

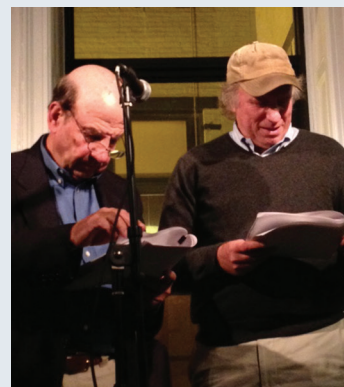
For more information about the Thomas Harding Photography Collection, visit www.butlercenter.org. ■



Escape Velocity editor Jay Jennings signs copies of the book at the launch party in Little Rock

ESCAPE VELOCITY

The publication of *Escape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany* by Butler Center Books was celebrated in style with launch parties in New York City and Little Rock. The New York launch party at Housing Works bookstore, hosted by the book's editor Jay Jennings and sponsored by the *Oxford American* magazine, featured readings by Roy Blount Jr., Calvin Trillin, and others; music by Rhett Miller; and a staged reading of a scene from Portis's only play, *Delray's New Moon*. The party in Little Rock also included a performance of a scene from the play, as well as a reading by Graham Gordy and music from Mandy McBryde and her band.



At the New York launch party, writers Calvin Trillin and Ian Frazier read from Portis's play Delray's New Moon

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



As you can see on pages 4 and 5, the first Arkansas Sounds music festival was a big hit. It was a lot of fun. The musicians were great. They all talked about what a wonderful thing CALS and the Butler Center were doing to celebrate the music of Arkansas and the people who have made it something of international significance. I said so often in the months leading up to the festival, “We’ve never done anything that’s generated so much excitement, and we haven’t even done it yet,” that I started to get a little superstitious as the actual thing approached. Then we had these two great days of music. The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau (LRCVB) estimated that we had more than 8,000 people at the festival; my goal had been 5,000. We were very pleased, as you can imagine.

Special thanks to LRCVB, East-Harding Construction, Regions Bank and Regions Insurance, the Point 94.1 FM, KUAR FM 89.1, and the *Arkansas Times* for sponsoring the festival. And extra special thanks to Bobby Roberts and all of our great CALS staff colleagues who worked so hard to make it happen, make it a success, and make it fun. One of the posts on the Arkansas Sounds Facebook page said, “This first AR Sounds Music Festival was awesome! Great job. It was

well run and showcased all the wonderful talent we have here in the state. Enjoyed it very much. Looking forward to next year.” We are looking forward to it, too.

Arkansas Sounds coordinator John Miller did a fabulous job pulling this festival together in just a little over six months. Getting sixteen bands ready for two days of music, handling a million logistical details (including weather insurance—who knew?), and highlighting our overriding desire to make this something special for Arkansas kept him hopping. I’m very proud of him and of everybody who pitched in and made it, indeed, special.

Speaking of special, we’re very excited about the new Charles Portis book, *Escape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany*, we published through our Butler Center Books operation. Editor Jay Jennings did a marvelous job selecting the pieces and writing a wonderful introduction, H. K. Stewart and Mike Reddy did a great job with the design, and Rod Lorenzen and Ali Welky of our staff did excellent work on it. As you can see from the coverage of the book launch parties in both New York City and Little Rock on page 2, the reaction has been exciting and gratifying. We love it that Arkansas is associated with great writing and that we are helping get that word out.

As always, lots of other great things are happening at the Butler Center. The Encyclopedia of Arkansas (EOA) not only passed the 3,000-entry mark but also

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picked up another country when someone from the tiny South Pacific island nation of Niue visited the encyclopedia. That’s 214 countries that have had somebody use the EOA and find out something about Arkansas. Our manuscripts and art operations are booming, along with our outreach to teachers and students and our fantastic research room service.

And we’re celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Butler Center, which opened on October 29, 1997. It’s been a great decade and a half. We look forward to a bright future! ■

Barbara Ann Rudolph Collection Soon to Be Released

Barbara Ann (B. A.) Rudolph worked for Bill Clinton’s first gubernatorial campaign, through his first term as governor, and then in the Clinton presidential administration. The Barbara Ann Rudolph Collection consists of documents, photographs, campaign material, and other items associated with Bill Clinton’s early campaigns and his first gubernatorial term, as well as memorabilia from both presidential terms.

Rudolph worked on the staff of Clinton’s 1974 campaign for U.S. represen-

tative in the state’s Third Congressional District (Clinton lost to Republican John Paul Hammerschmidt) and was the Third District coordinator for his successful 1978 run for governor. During Clinton’s first term, Rudolph served as his administrative assistant, researching and creating profiles for potential appointees to state boards and commissions. She again worked for Clinton on his 1982 gubernatorial campaign as the chief assistant to the Finance Committee chairman, responsible for organizing and coordinating fundraising efforts.

In 1983, Rudolph moved to Washington DC and was named director of federal relations for Beverly Enterprises. During Bill Clinton’s presidency, Rudolph served as deputy chief of staff to Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater and later as chief of staff to Brady Anderson, the U.S. Agency for International Development administrator.

Preliminary processing has been completed on the Rudolph collection, and the staff is taking final processing steps to make the collection’s materials available to the public. ■

IMAGES FROM THE 2012 ARKANSAS



Sleepy LaBeef



Jim Dandy Mangrum of Black Oak Arkansas



Rachel Ammons of Tyrannosaurus Chicken

flash

... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



Margaret Jones Bolsterli, 2012 winner of the Porter Fund Literary Prize for her work in nonfiction, speaking at *A Prized Evening*



Steve Davidson performing at 2nd Friday Art Night



David Welky, 2012 winner of the Booker Worthen Literary Prize for his book *The Thousand-Year Flood*, speaking at *A Prized Evening*

All photos by Mike Keckhaver



Sonny Burgess (left) and Kern K. Kennedy of Sonny Burgess & the Legendary Pacers



Ben Nichols of Lucero



Terry Cagle performing during a tribute to his uncle, Levon Helm

Upcoming *Clinton for Arkansas* Exhibit

On the third floor of the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building, in a locked area accessible to only a few members of the Butler Center staff, rows of movable metal shelving contain roughly three thousand boxes of papers and other items from Bill Clinton's political years in Arkansas. In these boxes are the working papers of the gubernatorial staff, gifts that were given to the governor, and mementos from his various campaigns, from his run for Congress in 1974 to his 1992 presidential campaign. The collection also holds audio tapes from hundreds of speeches and events and video footage in a variety of formats. When Clinton was elected president, his staff cleaned out their desks and filing cabinets, and their papers and other items were put into stor-



age, along with earlier working papers that had been saved. Years later, in February 2004, Bill Clinton and the Clinton Foundation agreed that the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) would house and process these materials and make them available for research. Today, three Butler Center staff members—Project Manager Glenn Whaley and Archival Assistants Michael Hodge and Steven Teske—work in the basement of the ASI, processing the materials of the Bill Clinton State Government Project. Processing these items involves several steps, including removing rusty staples and paper clips, organizing the papers, putting the papers in acid-free folders, and labeling the folders for the benefit of researchers. Finding aids

are also being created so researchers will know what the collection contains and how the materials are organized. The papers are sorted by topic first (such as education, environment, or economic development) and then by gubernatorial staff member. This year, the staff of the Bill Clinton State Government Project began making digital copies of the speeches from Governor Clinton's first term. They have also been processing working papers from the governor's advisors in the area of education, including Don Ernst, Gloria Cabe, and Kathy Van Laningham.

The Butler Center's *Clinton for Arkansas* exhibit, featuring assorted items from the Clinton gubernatorial papers, will open in January 2013 in the ASI, in conjunction with the Arkansas Travelers for Clinton reunion. In addition, some items from the collection are on loan to Madison Square Garden in New York City, whose exhibit in November 2012 of top moments at the arena will include Clinton materials from the 1992 Democratic National Convention.



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

WANTED: Arkansas Music!!!

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas is planning a foray into print by publishing an Arkansas music encyclopedia, using EOA entries and media, to coincide with the 2013 Arkansas Sounds music festival. But we need your help to make it complete! We are seeking the following entries and media.

Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):

Luther Allison
Cate Brothers Band
E. M. Bartlett
Sarah Caldwell
Carolina Cotton
Ronnie Gene Dunn
Fred Calvin Marshall
Patsy Montana
Moondog
Robert Nighthawk
Walter Norris
Opera in the Ozarks
Charlie Rich
Frank "Son" Seals
Roosevelt "The Honeydripper" Sykes
Johnnie Harrison Taylor
Sister Rosetta Tharp
Howlin' Wolf

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

Entries Needing Authors (by musical genre):

Bluegrass:

Arkansas Bluegrass Association

Blues:

Melvin Endsley

Floyd Jones
Washboard Sam

Classical/Opera:

Classical overview
Opera overview
Nola Locke Arndt
John S. Hilliard
Jeff Hitt
Buryl Red
Thomas Stacy

Country:

Country overview
Barbara Fairchild
Kye Fleming
Morrison Twin Brothers String Band

Folk:

Kelly Pace
Ollie Woody Gilbert

Jazz:

Jazz overview
Junie Cobb

Rock:

Mike Saunders

Misc.:

Rogerline Johnson
Joseph (Joe) Jackson

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



Encyclopedia of Arkansas Posts 3,000th Entry

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) reached another milestone in September when it posted its 3,000th entry online. The EOA had earlier surpassed the 4,000 mark in terms of pieces of media.

"It's been more than six years since we launched," said the EOA's senior editor Nathania Sawyer, "but we are processing entries just as steadily today as we were when we began this project. The public and the history community remain deeply committed to expanding the reach of the encyclopedia."

Most recently, the EOA has received grants from the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to generate more entries on Civil War-era military events, as well as a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council to establish a mobile-friendly version of the website and add more local content. In addition, the EOA staff is working with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to develop entries on the state's many National Register of Historic Places properties. The staff has also been expanding the site's offerings on music in anticipa-

tion of the EOA's first foray into print, a handbook of Arkansas music scheduled for release next fall.

"By this point, hundreds upon hundreds of people have been involved in developing the EOA," said Sawyer, "from writing and reviewing entries to sending us media and more. We continue to be amazed at the generosity of the reading public."

So what was the encyclopedia's 3,000th entry? "Engagement at West Point," an August 14, 1863, military event in White County.



Butler Center Books Make Great Gifts!

The publishing division of the Butler Center has been turning out some great books for holiday gift-giving.

Our newest book, *Escape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany* (\$27.95, hardcover), has received critical acclaim from major book reviewers around the country. Carlo Rotella, writing in the *New York Times Book Review*, calls the book “a thoughtfully composed selection of published work spiced with rare and fresh material.”

The book—a collection of Charles Portis’s nonfiction, short stories, memoir, and drama—spans his half-century-long writing career, from the early journalism of the 1950s when he worked for several newspapers up to more recent stories published in the *Atlantic* and *Oxford American* magazines. Known as a master of deadpan humor, Portis has seen his best-selling book, *True Grit*, made into two award-winning films and his four other novels become cult favorites. Portis, who grew up in southwestern Arkansas, has lived in Little Rock for the past forty years. *Escape Velocity* collects almost everything that Portis has written outside the novels, including never-before-published and hard-to-find work.

The book is edited and introduced by Jay Jennings, a journalist and humorist who, like Portis, is a Little Rock resident. A former reporter for *Sports Illustrated* and frequent contributor to the *New York Times Book Review*, he is the author of

Carry the Rock (Rodale Press 2010), a book about football, race, and Little Rock’s Central High School. “Like many Portis devotees,” said Jennings, “for years I’ve kept a folder filled with these occasional pieces and I’m thrilled to be able to collect them here—along with some new finds.” New to most readers will be the wide selection of Portis’s journalism, including a striking section of his reporting on the civil rights movement for the *New York Herald Tribune*. He covered many major events in the summer of 1963: protests in Birmingham, the assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers in Mississippi, and Alabama governor George Wallace’s stand to prevent admission to African American students at the University of Alabama. *Escape Velocity* is a must-have for present and future Charles Portis fans.

Our catalog contains many other great gift books, such as John Gill’s *Open House: The Arkansas Governor’s Mansion and Its Place in History* (\$50.00, hardcover). In this coffee-table book filled with lavish color photographs of the mansion and surrounding grounds, former governors and their families describe in their own words what it was like to live in the Governor’s Mansion.

From Carnegie to Cyberspace: 100 Years at the Central Arkansas Library System (\$29.95, hardcover) by Butler Center staff members Shirley Schuette and Nathania Sawyer brings the century-long history of the Central Arkansas

Library System to life. The authors tell the story of the modest beginnings of the library and how CALS has evolved into one of the best regional library systems in the country.

Main Street Arkansas: The Hearts of Arkansas Cities and Towns—as Portrayed in Postcards and Photographs (\$33.95 hardcover; \$19.95 paperback) by postcard collectors Ray and Steven Hanley is a unique look at main streets throughout Arkansas in vintage postcards and pictures.

A Pryor Commitment (\$29.95 hardcover; \$19.95 paperback) by Senator David Pryor is a warm and compelling look at his long career in state and national politics.

Books may be purchased at River Market Books & Gifts, owned and operated by CALS, located on the Main Library campus in Little Rock (501) 918-3093, as well as from other local and national book sellers. Your purchase of books published by the Butler Center helps continue to fund our publishing program for great books by Arkansas authors. ■

BUTLER CENTER DONORS

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David Stricklin

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This holiday season,
give gifts that are as
unique as the state
they were made in.



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Images from Our Collection



This 1893 photograph shows students at the Colored Industrial Institute of Pine Bluff, which was established in the late 1880s by the state's Roman Catholic diocese for the education of African Americans. Churches often took a leading role in the creation of black educational institutions. Northern Presbyterians founded several academies for African Americans throughout Arkansas, the most famous of which is probably the Cotton Plant Academy, while in Clarendon, local black churches pooled their resources to create the Consolidated White River Academy. Many of these schools closed in the early twentieth century, but their legacy proved long-lasting.