

The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 15, Number 3

Summer 2013

Butler Center Events

Art Exhibitions

Aug. 9–Oct. 27

Butler Center Main Gallery

Mid-Southern Watercolorists—43rd Annual Juried Exhibition

The Mid-Southern Watercolorists seek to further the interest of watercolor by its programs and competitive exhibits.

Sept. 9–Nov. 24

Butler Center Atrium Gallery

Abstract Ar(t)

An exhibition of contemporary, abstract works by Arkansas artists.

Oct. 11–Dec. 29

Butler Center Mezzanine Gallery

The Photography of Barney Sellers

Barney Sellers won awards for news photography while working at the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, TN, and was well known for his images of Arkansas barns and rural landscapes.

Exhibition openings are held during Second Friday Art Night (2FAN), 5–8 p.m. in the Arkansas Studies Institute building. Join us for art, music, and refreshments!

Legacies & Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m., Darragh Center, Main Library, 100 Rock St.

Wed., Aug. 7

Jan Davenport—"Gone But Not Forgotten: 150 Years at the Oakland/Fraternal Cemetery"

Wed., Sept. 4

Jeannie Whyne—"Growing up in Northeast Arkansas: Memoirs of Being in the Memphis Orbit"

Wed., Oct. 2

Michael Dougan—"Black Powder & Bowie Knives: Violence and the Law in Arkansas"

Other Events

Voices of the Razorbacks Book Launch Tailgate Party

Darragh Center and Garden, Main Library

Thurs., Sept. 5, 5:30 p.m.

Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music Book Launch Party

Darragh Center, Main Library

Thurs., Sept. 19, 5:30 p.m.

Arkansas Sounds music festival

Fri.–Sat., Sept. 27–28



Visit www.butlercenter.org for more information.

The Sounds of Arkansas at the Butler Center

by Ali Welky, EOA assistant editor & John Miller, Arkansas Sounds music festival coordinator

"If music be the food of love, play on," someone quite famous once wrote. For us at the Butler Center of late, music is the food of history. In that spirit, we have been doing many things to increase our involvement in preserving and disseminating the music of Arkansas's past and present, including establishing the Arkansas Sounds music festival and creating and publishing the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music*. Researchers interested in Arkansas music will be pleased to know that we have also been expanding our collections of music-related manuscripts, as well as sheet music and audio and video recordings.



Early wax record of "Arkansas Traveler," from the Ron Robinson Collection.

Music-related manuscript collections currently held by the Butler Center include the Alma Colgan Schmitt Collection, Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs Records, Little Rock Musical Coterie Records, Josef Rosenberg Materials, Little Rock Radio Record Charts, Steve Stephens Papers, and Ron Robinson Collection of Arkansas-themed sheet music and recordings. The Butler Center's holdings also include the personal papers of author/musician/producer/filmmaker Robert Palmer, the Art Porter Family Collection, and the Tull Old Folks' Singing Collection of papers and oral history items.

In addition to manuscripts, the Butler Center's expanding music collection also encompasses

Cont. on page 2

Summer Seminar for Teachers: On the Road from the Civil War to Civil Rights

by Kay Bland, Butler Center educator

Approximately forty secondary educators attended a three-day seminar in June co-sponsored by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies/CALS and the Arkansas Humanities Council. The seminar, "Rethinking History Instruction: Using Content from the Civil War to Civil Rights," was designed to introduce educators to the curriculum concepts associated with the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) while using content from history, especially Arkansas history. Not only did educators explore the complex text and curriculum content ranging from the Civil War to civil rights, they also explored techniques for involving students in research and writing.

Humanities scholars featured were Spirit Trickey, Janis Kearney, and Thomas De-Black. Trickey, formerly of Little Rock and daughter of Little Rock Nine member Minnijean Brown Trickey, is currently a Na-



Spirit Trickey speaking to seminar participants.

tional Park Service staff member at the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Seattle. While Trickey was a staff member at the Central High National Historic Site, she published

Cont. on page 2

From Sounds of Arkansas, page 1

a wide variety of Arkansas music on vinyl records, compact discs, and mp3s, both released and unreleased. The Louis Guida Collection features field recordings of blues musicians in the 1970s, with Arkansas artists including Duke Bradley, Marshall Darrough, W. C. Clay, Trenton Cooper, CeDell Davis, Willie Moore, Smith Sisters, Sounds of Soul, Calvin “Slim” Leavy, Harmonica Slim, Nelson Carson, Mack White, Herbert Wilson, Willie Wright, Willie Cobbs, the Cummins Prison Band, and the Cummins Women’s Prison Band. These recordings were made throughout Arkansas in Pine Bluff, Winchester, Osceola, North Little Rock, Elaine, Prattsville, Texarkana, Helena, Sweet Home, and Varner.

The Bob Ketchum Collection of original master studio recordings includes more than 560 songs from more than fifty Arkansas artists recorded from 1965 through 2012. Artists include Richard Johnson, Rick “Eureka” Jones, Hamilton/Lambert, Judge Parker, the Cate Brothers Band, the Vipers, Paperkid, Whiplash Gumbo, and Gary “El Buho” Gazaway. Also included in this collection is the complete collection of the *Hi-Tek Redneck Radio Show*, which features

Ketchum playing songs and telling stories of the Arkansas artists he produced.

The Kenneth King Collection includes many audio and video recordings (live public and private performances, interviews, and rehearsals) of various Arkansas artists, as well as a large amount of paper materials (photographs, posters, album covers, books, and contracts) with many of them autographed by the artists.

The Acoustic Sounds Café Collection includes audio recordings of all performances at the Acoustic Sounds Café in Little Rock from January 1994 through December 2007; the complete collection of the radio program *Live At Acoustic Sounds Café* broadcast on KUAR from 2001 to 2009; and paper materials (photographs, posters, and promotional materials) covering the nearly fifteen-year history of the Acoustic Sounds Café.

The Society for American Music (SAM) Collection includes video recordings of presentations about and performances by Arkansas musicians and composers. These videos were recorded at the March 2013 SAM Conference held in Little Rock. These presentations focused on such artists as Pharoah Sanders, William Grant Still, Scott Joplin, and Florence Price, as well as topics such as shape

note singing, folk and traditional music, gospel convention singing, and the city of Hot Springs as a southern musical and cultural hotbed. One recording also gives a thorough overview of Pharoah Sanders’s career and his SAM honorary membership ceremony in which Little Rock mayor Mark Stodola proclaimed March 8, 2013, as Pharoah Sanders Day and representatives of Governor Mike Beebe named Sanders an Arkansas Traveler.

The Butler Center’s musical holdings also contain many interviews with people important to the development of music and entertainment in Arkansas such as Al Bell, Lawrence Hamilton, Louie Shelton, Steve Stephens, Jim Porter, Sal Bonner, John Cain, John Moss, Bob Ketchum, Bill Carter, “Jim Dandy” Mangrum, Martha Jordan, and Lee Anthony. These interviews are available online at www.butlercenter.org in the AV/AR audio/video collection.

Some of the manuscript and audio collections are as yet unprocessed, but we are working to make them available to the public as soon as possible. Also in the works is a listening/media access point in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute building to allow people to hear these fascinating recordings. ■

From Summer Seminar, page 1

a play, *The One Ninth*. With a talk titled “Central High: Then and Now,” Trickey provided visual and first-hand information for attendees and led them through role-playing scenarios that could be replicated in classrooms. Kearney, author of several memoirs, including the recently published *Daisy: Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, described the memoir-writing technique and described her role as personal diarist to President Bill Clinton from 1995 to 2001. DeBlack, a history professor at Arkansas Tech University, has served as president of the Arkansas Historical Association. As a former secondary school classroom teacher and the author of *With Fire and Sword: Arkansas, 1861–1874*, DeBlack provided information for use in teaching about the Civil War and Reconstruction in Arkansas.

Museum visits were included in the

seminar, and museum educators—Nic Clark, Arkansas Military Museum; Jack Myers, Delta Cultural Center; and Kathleen Pate, Clinton Presidential Center—provided “place-based” instructional



“Sunshine” Sonny Payne interviewing Butler Center educator Kay Bland on King Biscuit Time.

activities ideas. Clark shared information regarding military rations during the Civil War and guided a tour of Civil War artifacts available in the museum. A tour

of the Delta Cultural Center Museum, Freedom Park, and Fort Curtis was organized by Myers, who also took the group to the noon taping of the *King Biscuit Time* radio program, where host “Sunshine” Sonny Payne interviewed me regarding the group’s visit to Helena. Pate hosted a tour of the exhibit *Jazz: Through the Eyes of Herman Leonard* at the Clinton Presidential Center and shared information about an upcoming exhibit on the March on Washington in 1963.

Butler Center staff members Brian Robertson, Steven Teske, and Guy Lancaster provided resources and ideas for classroom utilization. Robertson, editor of *Things Grew Beautifully Worse: The Wartime Experiences of Captain John O’Brien, 30th Arkansas Infantry, C.S.A.* and project manager for the Butler Center digital collection *FORGOTTEN: The Korean War Project*, shared ideas for obtaining

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



As you can see from these pages, there's a lot of excitement building around our music activities. We have been amassing a pretty decent collection of Arkansas music for several years, took a big leap forward last year when we hired John Miller of the Big John Miller Band to head our Arkansas Sounds music festival and got all of his great contacts and knowledge, and are in the early stages of another great advance with the announcement of a new and very important body of materials: the Ron Robinson Collection.

Ron is a legendary son of Arkansas, known especially as the "R" in CJRW (Little Rock-based PR and advertising firm Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods) but purely famous in the collecting world. His remarkable stamp collection and fascination with postal history helped earn him a spot chairing the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service, the group that picks the stamps people put on envelopes and postcards. His love of movie posters, lobby cards, and other documentation of American film history—along with his dear friendship with film star Karl Malden—helped him earn the friendship of the president of the American Film Institute, a connec-

tion that has been helpful to more than a few people in Arkansas. His love of all things Arkansas has helped earn him a spot, no doubt, in the eBay hall of honor, assuming there is such a thing. More importantly, though, to the people of Arkansas, that love will translate into a wonderful collection of documents and memorabilia that will illuminate the state's history for untold numbers of researchers, exhibition viewers, and all kinds of other folks who want to know more about the state.

The Ron Robinson Collection is starting out with what I'm sure must be the most extensive body of sheet music of songs about Arkansas or with the state's name in the song's title. This is a remarkable thing to see, containing everything from Tin Pan Alley tunes describing the state written by people who'd never been west of the Hudson River to hits by Arkansas musicians such as Patsy Montana and the Browns to would-be state songs that never quite made it. The collection will also include a great number of recordings and other materials depicting the state's music, along with Ron's wonderful Arkansas-related movie posters, from which we co-produced with him a fun exhibition about a year and a half ago called *Ark in the Dark*. We'll have even more to say about the full range of the Ron Robinson Collection and the ways

primary source documentation to extend classroom instruction. Teske, co-author of *Homefront Arkansas: Arkansans Face Wartime* and author of both *Unvarnished Arkansas: The Naked Truth about Nine Famous Arkansans* and *Natural State Notables: 21 Famous People from Arkansas*, discussed how to use historical fiction, supplemented with informational text. Teske suggested that teachers have students "check the facts" after reading historical fiction. Lancaster, editor of the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture* (EOA), briefed the educators about the state's authoritative resource and used examples from the EOA as he shared from his personal research focus, racial violence in Arkansas.

Seminar participants also provided handouts or curriculum ideas. George West, Keith Richardson, and Gloria Nunnley of the Central High School Social Studies Department shared writing techniques from their "oral history memory projects." Lisa Lacefield, Arkansas History Hub Teacher Advisory Committee member, shared a handout titled "Why Visit a Museum," designed to explain the concept of "place-based learning" (a term that replaces "field trip") in which the museum becomes the classroom. Laura West from Hot Springs shared the handout "Passport to the World: Teacher Travel Programs."

As the participants were transported to Helena for their own "place-based learn-

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Mike Keckhaver: Layout



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we are going to recognize Ron's willingness to share it with the people of Arkansas in future editions of the *Banner*. And if you're curious about why I'm pictured here playing a cigar box guitar, see the Flash column on page 6. ■

ing," the presentations by Lancaster, the Central High Memory Project Team, Lacefield, and West were all shared with us on the bus trip. The attendees also viewed the DVD *Hoxie: The First Stand*, which is available for loan from the Arkansas Humanities Council.

Seminar participants, who received copies of many of the books and materials mentioned here, had positive evaluations regarding the three days of intense professional development. One wrote, "Thank you so much for facilitating this seminar! This was an incredible experience that has reinvigorated my passion for teaching about history. I am blown away by the quality of the presenters and really enjoyed all the activities." ■

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.):

Cornelius Robinson Coffey
Cold Water School
Charles E. Cunningham
Dickinson-Moore House
Archibald Dobbins
Howard Samuel Eichenbaum
Fayetteville National Cemetery
Flint Creek Power Plant
Hampton Waterworks
Joseph Carrol Hardin
Jack Wilson Holt Sr.
Dallas Cutcher Long III
Lulu Alice Boyers Markwell
Melody Boys Quartet
Morris House
Mountain Crest Academy
Harold Brett "Hal" Needham
Plum Point Energy Station
Thomas Arthur Robertson

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

Entries Needing Authors:

Arkansas 4-H Club
Arkansas Civil Rights Act
Arkansas Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union
Aromatique
Blass, Gus (a.k.a. Gustave Blass)
Brown, Robert (a.k.a. Washboard Sam)
Cherry Street Historic District
Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center
Gibb, Frank W.
Lake Maumelle
M. M. Cohn [Business]
Swamp Land Grant of 1850

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



Encyclopedia of Arkansas: Forward and Back

by Guy Lancaster, EOA editor

For any online encyclopedia of history, going forward is also, in some measure, going backward—what we make available to future readers and students is more and more knowledge of the past. This year, however, we seem to be embodying that paradox a little more than usual.

First off, the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) is releasing—through the Butler Center's publishing arm, Butler Center Books—our first print edition, a themed volume that includes all the music-related entries currently on the website, as well as some rare photographs. Set to come out in conjunction with the 2013 Arkansas Sounds music festival in September, the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music* contains more than 240 pages on the sounds of the Natural

State, everything from Carolina Cotton, nicknamed the “Yodeling Blonde Bombshell,” to Christian death metal band Living Sacrifice to household names such as Louis Jordan, Johnny Cash, and Scott Joplin. The book was ably assembled by music-loving EOA staff members Ali Welky and Mike Keckhaver.

Why do a print version of EOA material? There is something about the feel of a physical book that is reassuring and pleasing. Plus, scientific studies have demonstrated that we better retain material we read in a physical book as opposed to on a computer screen. This is a book to flip through and enjoy. Most importantly, though, producing a print volume is about reaching a wider audience, all the people who have been asking, from day one, when we are putting out a

book version. It's about accommodating the public's wants and needs, which all libraries strive to do.

That was also our thinking in producing the mobile version of the EOA website, which we unveiled earlier this year—meeting the desires of our audience. We want people to be able to access information about Arkansas's history and heritage while they are out roaming the land, mobile device in hand. In recognition of our efforts, the American Association for State and Local History recently bestowed an Award of Merit upon the EOA mobile website—we are one of only two entities in the state to receive such an award this year.

Low tech, high tech. Going forward while going backward. The EOA embodies and embraces that paradox. ■

Genealogy Conference Stresses Talk and Tech



Tony Burroughs, pictured here at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center with the Butler Center's genealogy specialist, Rhonda Stewart.

The Butler Center's annual genealogy conference, with internationally known genealogist and author Tony Burroughs, was a resounding success. A specialist in African American genealogy, Burroughs has consulted on Oprah Winfrey's genealogy and on the

genealogical connection between the Reverend Al Sharpton and Senator Strom Thurmond.

This year, the public had the opportunity to meet the speaker and ask questions at a Friday night event prior to the Saturday conference. About forty people from central Arkansas, and even from Memphis, joined Burroughs at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock, with catering funded by the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the Central Arkansas Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc. These local genealogical groups also presented information on their programs.

Approximately 100 people attended the all-day event on Sat., July 13, which focused on the use of iPhones and iPads for genealogy research and the use of land and military records for research. ■



In addition to the live music presented on Fri., Sept. 27, and Sat., Sept. 28, the Arkansas Sounds music festival will also host the following events.

Arkansas Sounds Youth Events:

Sat., Sept. 28, Main Library

10:30 a.m.—The Kinders concert (all ages), Level 3 Youth Services

1:00 p.m. (ages 7–12); 2:00 p.m. (ages 13 & up only)—Big Piph (Epiphany) and Ferocious host the interactive Hip-Hop Songwriting & Production Workshop, Level 4 Teen Center

Other Arkansas Sounds Events:

Darragh Center, Main Library

Mon., Sept. 23, 6:00 p.m.—Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) Songwriters Showcase. Arkansas songwriters will showcase their original songs "in the round."

Thurs., Sept. 26, 6:00 p.m.—Innovative rocker Tav Falco will read from his new book *Ghosts Behind the Sun: Splendor, Enigma & Death (Mondo Memphis, vol. 1)*, accompanied by a video presentation and soundtrack.

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies presents



a free music festival

Friday, September 27 & Saturday, September 28

River Market Pavilions • First Security Amphitheatre • Main Library campus



www.arkansassounds.org
the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies is a
department of the Central Arkansas Library System

Flash

... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



Music attorney and agent Bill Carter, who worked for the Rolling Stones, discussing his adventures in the music business at June's Legacies & Lunch.



Butler Center intern James Rowe and Butler Center summer employee Lameikia Aycock working on projects in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute building. Rowe is scanning labels from vinyl record albums after recording their audio in preparation for the creation of a media station for these materials. Aycock is abstracting death records from the *Arkansas State Press* newspaper to be used as a resource for researchers.



Ray and Imelda Armstrong, pictured with Arkansas Sounds music festival coordinator John Miller, donating a cigar box guitar that Ray made for the Butler Center. The Butler Center plans to have Arkansas musicians autograph it and then raffle/auction it off to support Arkansas Sounds.



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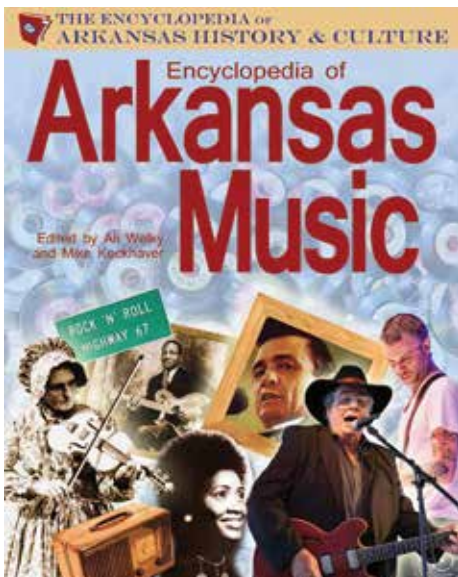
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Two for the Ears: *New BC Books Feature Arkansas Music and Razorback Broadcasting*

What do a rockabilly musician turned cinematic swamp monster, a composer of player-piano music, an avant-garde cellist, an instrument that lent its name to a weapon, a rock musician turned Catholic monk, some of the best audio speakers in the world, and the creator of *Schoolhouse Rock!* have in common? They all come from Arkansas! And you can read about all this and much more in the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music*, a special project of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA), just released from Butler Center Books.



This colorful, photo-filled reference work spanning all aspects of Arkansas's musical past and present includes more than 150 entries on musicians, ensembles, musical works, and events, as well as an overview of the history of music in Arkansas from early statehood to today. Also included is a musical map of Arkansas with some important musical sites—both defunct and extant—marked, including the Rock 'n' Roll Highway. Covering the genres of blues/R&B, classical/opera, country, folk, gospel/contemporary Christian, jazz, rock, and rockabilly, this encyclopedia has something to interest any lover of Arkansas music and Arkansas history—as the state's past, present, and future are tied inexorably to its music. The editors for the EOA's

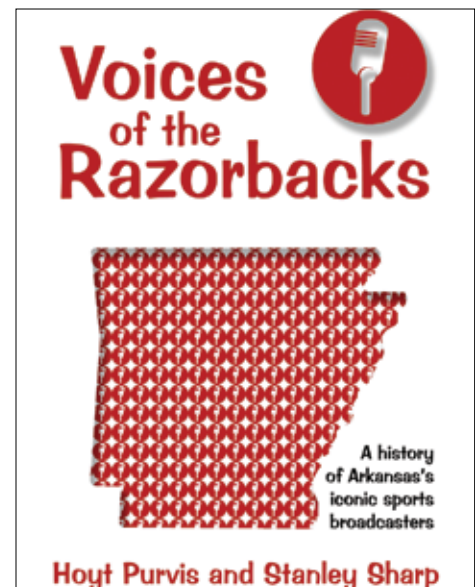
first venture into print are EOA assistant editor Ali Welky and EOA media editor Mike Keckhaver.

Join us for the book launch for the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music* on Thurs., Sept. 19 at 5:30 in the Main Library's Darragh Center, featuring a drawing (brush up on your Arkansas music trivia!), music, and more.

The Razorback network—from its modest beginning to its growth into a major force in sports broadcasting—is the basis of a new Butler Center Book, *Voices of the Razorbacks* by Hoyt Purvis and Stanley Sharp, which vividly portrays the distinctive history of Razorback sports broadcasting. Hoyt Purvis has taught at the University of Arkansas since 1982, with courses in journalism, international relations, and political science, and he established the first sports journalism course at UA. Stanley Sharp of Booneville, Arkansas, has followed Razorback sports all his life and has a master's degree in journalism from UA.

Established more than sixty years ago, the Razorback broadcasting network was a pioneering effort in collegiate sports. With announcers such as Bud Campbell and Paul Eells, it became an enduring feature of life in Arkansas. The creation and development of the Razorback broadcasting network helped not only to build interest in and a loyal following for the Razorbacks, but also forged a close identification among Razorback fans with some of the broadcasters becoming “voices” of the Razorbacks and cultural icons. A sense of kinship developed within the audience, and the broadcasts of Razorback sports became an integral part of the state's culture.

Although an announcer today may say, “This is the Razorback Sports Network from IMG College,” the Arkansas broadcast network still is a direct descendant of the Razorback network Bob Cheyne assembled in the early 1950s at the direction of Athletic Director John Barnhill. *Voices of the Razorbacks* traces the history of the broadcasters and the memorable

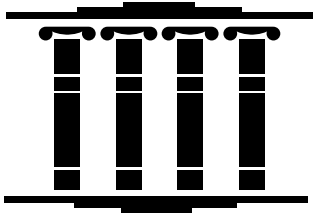


events and highlights over the decades, and features interviews with many of the key figures in that history. It is hard to find anyone in Arkansas—or Razorback fans anywhere—without special memories of listening to or watching broadcasts of Razorback games. *Voices of the Razorbacks* brings it all back.

A “tailgate” party will be held to launch the book on Thurs., Sept. 5 at 5:30 in the Darragh Center and garden of the Main Library.

And for all you Charles Portis fans, Butler Center Books' extremely popular *Escape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany*, edited by Jay Jennings, has just been released in paperback from Overlook Press, which is the publisher for all of Portis's novels. The paperback will feature the same evocative cover art and illustrations by Mike Reddy that the hardback version contains.

The *Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music* and *Voices of the Razorbacks*, as well as *Escape Velocity*, will be available at the beginning of September from bookstores, including River Market Books & Gifts on the CALS Main Library campus, and online retailers. Butler Center Books can also be purchased from the University of Arkansas Press (Butler Center Books' distributor) in Fayetteville at (800) 626-0090 or online at www.uapress.com. ■



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*Terry Cagle on drums and
David Renko on saxophone
performing with the Cate
Brothers Band at the 2012
Arkansas Sounds music festival
in Little Rock.*