The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 15, Number 1 Winter 2013

Butler Center Events

Art Exhibitions

Jan. 11, 2013-April 27, 2013

Clinton for Arkansas

Butler Center Atrium Gallery

Materials from the Bill Clinton

State Government Project depict

Clinton's political career in

Feb. 8, 2013-April 27, 2013

Arkansas Society of Printmakers

Arkansas.

Butler Center Main Gallery
Works will be displayed from the
Arkansas Society of Printmakers
(ASP), a community of artists, art
collectors, and supporters of the
art of printmaking.

March 8, 2013–May 25, 2013 No I'm Not, He Is: Flying Snake and Oyyo Comic Retrospective

Butler Center Mezzanine Gallery Artwork by Michael Jukes, whose cartoon strip was featured in Little Rock's alternative newspapers in the 1980s.

April 12, 2013-June 29, 2013 **Quapaw Quarter**

Butler Center Concordia Gallery

All exhibitions open during each month's **Second Friday Art Night (2FAN)**, 5–8 p.m. in the Arkansas Studies Institute building. Join us for art and refreshments!

Legacies & Lunch

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

Wed., Feb. 6, 2013: Linda McDowell—"Biographies of Notable Arkansas African Americans"

Wed., March 6, 2013: Rebecca Howard—"Women in Arkansas during the Civil War" Wed., April 3, 2013: Susan

Wed., April 3, 2013: Susan Young— "Down in the Holler: A Lesson in Ozark Folk Speech"

Butler Center Books Launch of Natural State Notables and Sneak Peek at new Children's Library:

Mon., March 4, 4 to 6 p.m. CALS Children's Library, 4800 W. 10th St.

Visit www.butlercenter.org



he Butler Center for Arkansas Studies is proud to announce the launch of its mobile-friendly version of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) website. This was made possible by a generous grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council (AHC), which was an early supporter of the EOA project.

The primary aim of the EOA mobile website is to increase the public's engagement with local history. For example, users will now be able to access an entry on the history of a town or city they might be visiting by pulling it up on their smart phones in a format specifically designed for that kind of interface, just as teachers leading field trips will be able to access authoritative material from the EOA to share with their students. As Paul Austin, executive director of the Arkansas Humanities Council, said, "Making Arkansas history and heritage even more accessible to the general public has the potential to revolutionize the way we teach, the way we do business, and even the way we think about our state. This is a wonderful example of the benefits of our partnership with the Butler Center to strengthen the public's access to the humanities. The AHC is very excited to have made this possible."

David Stricklin, head of the Butler Center, remarked, "This is one of the most exciting things to come along since the EOA itself! Students, tourists, people just wanting to

know what happened near where they are, and all-out history lovers will all be served by this great new resource. I'm very proud of the work our colleagues have done on the new mobile website."

In addition to the mobile website, the AHC grant also funded the development of more locally oriented content for the EOA, especially entries on many of the smaller communities across the state.

Guy Lancaster, editor of the EOA, said, "Imagine sitting in a café in a town you're visiting and being able to read, on your phone, the EOA entry on that specific town, as well as about the county, the Civil War skirmish that happened a mile away, the local history museum down the street, the nearby state park, and the National Register property just across the road. Suddenly, your vision of this town has become three-dimensional—it's more than just a pit-stop on the highway. We want everyone to have that kind of deep experience and engagement with Arkansas."

Smart phones and other mobile devices will access the mobile version of the site automatically, but readers can also see this version on their regular computers by going to the URL m.encyclopediaofarkansas.net. At the beginning of 2013, the EOA had more than 3,100 entries and 4,200 pieces of media, all of which are accessible through the mobile site, with new entries and media being added every week. The mobile site also offers a photo of the day and a daily "This Day in Arkansas History."

Penick Collection Unveiled

he James H. Penick Collection, while relatively small, contains many interesting items from the life of a man who played a significant role in business and community life in Little Rock and Arkansas as a whole. The collection also touches on the interesting work James Penick did as a financial service officer during World War II.

James Henry Penick, born on July 14, 1897, in West Plains, Missouri, arrived in Little Rock with his family in 1904. The family lived near the grocery store his father, Edward Penick, opened on South Main, and the children attended public schools. James's time as a student at Little Rock High School (which later became Central High School) is documented in the collection through copies of the school's yearbook and magazine, as well as photographs of the Delta Sigma fraternity.

Following his 1915 high school graduation, Penick attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, for one year. The collection includes his notes and study materials from several university classes. Following his service in World War I, Penick received a degree from the Arkansas Law School in Little Rock. He was admitted to the bar in 1923, an event also documented in the collection.

In 1918, just before he left for World War I in Europe, Penick married Mary Worthen, the daughter of W. B. Worthen, founder of Worthen Bank in Little Rock. When he returned from the war, in addition to attending law school, Penick went to work as a cashier at the bank, begin-

ning a career that spanned more than fifty years. While his banking career may have begun because of the family connection, his knowledge and skills carried him to success and leadership in the field, locally and nationally.

Penick's banking experience also became important during World War II, when he reentered the U.S. Army as a



James H. Penick.

financial officer. In the summer of 1943, he attended the army's School of Military Government. He then served in North Africa and Italy with the Allied Financial Agency, a group responsible for the currency and banking systems in occupied territories. Of particular interest in the collection is Penick's draft of an evaluation of the banking and currency situation in Germany during the war, including recommendations for procedures to

be used during the Allied occupation.

Penick was also active in numerous public service positions in Little Rock. In honor of his years serving on the board of the Little Rock Boys Club (of which he also served for a time as president), the city's new Boys Club facility was named for him. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, he also held many leadership and fundraising positions for Little Rock Junior College as it developed its new campus on Hayes Street, and as it moved through the years as Little Rock University to become the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). He was chairman of the university's board of trustees during the merger process, retiring from UALR's Board of Visitors in 1972.

James and Mary Penick had three children. Following Mary's death in 1950, Penick married Virginia Ivey of Hermitage, Arkansas, and had two more children. Penick died in 1975.

The collection contains pre–World War II photographs of Penick and other members of the Arkansas Territorial Restoration Commission and the Capitol Grounds Commission, as well as photos from his years as a leader in several statewide and national banking organizations.

Additional information about James Penick, his family, and his work may be found in the Worthen Bank Records Collection, also held by the Butler Center. Both the Worthen collection and the James H. Penick Collection can be viewed in the Research Room at the Arkansas Studies Institute building. The finding aids may be accessed at http://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/.

Butler Center Collaborates with the Pettaway Neighborhood Association

he Butler Center and the Pettaway Neighborhood Association hosted a community history panel at Rockefeller Elementary on December 6, 2012. The panel—composed of Joan Adcock, Melrita Russ-Bonner, Steve Bullock, P. H. Gilkey, Maggie Hawkins, Faye Russ, and Carol Tabron—answered questions from fourth- and fifth-grade students about local businesses, the ghost legends of MacArthur Park, what children did for fun in times past, and

the tornado that hit the area in the late 1990s.

The audio of the panel discussion was recorded by the Butler Center and will be available online as part of the Butler Center's AV/AR Audio Video Database. This panel discussion was the first phase in a public art collaboration between the Pettaway Neighborhood Association and the students at Rockefeller Elementary, for which the students will be designing a community-inspired mural to be painted

on the wall of the Interstate 30 overpass at the corner of East 17th and McAlmont streets. The Butler Center will also be working with the Pettaway Neighborhood Association to collect oral histories of long-term neighborhood residents.

The Butler Center welcomes further collaborations of this kind, and people interested in preserving the history of their neighborhood and its residents should contact Anna Lancaster at alancaster@cals.org.

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Head of the Butler Center



The new year has already brought a swirl of news—some good, some sad. The good news is led by accolades for one of our Butler Center Books projects, Es-

cape Velocity: A Charles Portis Miscellany, edited by Jay Jennings. The book received rave reviews on NPR's Fresh Air and in the New York Times, The New Republic, The Los Angeles Review of Books, and the Wall Street Journal. In fact, it was one of the most widely reviewed books of 2012. John Wilson, editor of the journal Books & Culture, chose it as his Book of the Year for 2012. The New York Times Book Review named it as one of its "Editor's Picks," and the San Francisco Chronicle said it was one of the top gift books for 2012. It is also the first publication from Butler Center Books to have a Kindle edition.

Sad news was the death of Dolores Bruce. Mrs. Bruce was one of those people who are both generous and involved. She and her husband, Dr. Tom Bruce, were the very first financial supporters of the Butler Center's Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, making a leap of faith that their investment would help an idea become a strong new tool for people interested in Arkansas his-

tory. They were right, of course, as the EOA has grown to fantastic proportions and continues to impress all manner of people in Arkansas and all over the world as the great, reliable one-stop resource on the state's history and culture. We are grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Bruce for their confidence and graciousness.

Work is moving very quickly on the Arcade Building project next door to us. Butler Center archivists and those who work for our partner institution, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, will move into some new space there where they will do their processing work on the many collections of papers, photographs, and other material people have given us to share with the researching public. As part of our storage-management plan, we will then convert the Butler Center processing space we have now in the Arkansas Studies Institute to compact shelving for the ever growing numbers of boxes of material in our care. The theater space on the main level of the Arcade Building will also be very exciting. It will feature the latest digital projection and sound equipment for screening films, a very nice stage area for spoken-word presentations and acoustic music, and a welcoming lobby area for gatherings and displays. Our Legacies & Lunch presentations will move into that space, along with a great many other programs put on The Butler Banner is the quarterly newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System

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by the Butler Center and other parts of the Central Arkansas Library System. It will be quite spectacular.

Thanks for your support of our many efforts to bring Arkansas history to people near and far. We do appreciate it.

Summer Seminar for Teachers—Arkansas Delta: From Civil War to Civil Rights (1864–1964)

he Butler Center for Arkansas Studies has created a three-day seminar on June 12–14 for secondary history teachers all over the state. The seminar is sponsored by the Arkansas Humanities Council. Teachers participating in the seminar will visit sites of Civil War and civil rights events that took place in the Arkansas Delta from 1864 to 1964.

The seminar participants will focus on Civil War battles in Helena and events surrounding the Camden Expedition. They will also examine a century of civil rights and social change in Arkansas, as these changes also reflect the national experience. Participating teachers will focus on gaining skills in acquiring and evaluating information about the past, not just amassing details. The point of the seminar is not just to teach facts about the past but also to help teachers learn how to find reliable factual information so they will be able to guide their students through the maze of materials available to them, especially on the Internet. To a large extent, the skills gained by exploring the Civil War and civil rights in this seminar could be transferred to the study

of any topic on Arkansas or U.S. history.

As high school teachers begin implementing the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) during the 2013–14 school year, with emphasis on academic rigor and technology utilization, secondary history teachers will be developing instructional strategies regarding ways to incorporate informational text into their classroom instruction. Teachers who participate in this seminar will be asked to consult informational text and media entries from the Butler Cen-

Cont. on page 7

Bill Clinton State Government Proje

utler Center staff members in the Bill Clinton State Government Project (BCSGP) are at work processing Bill Clinton's attorney genstaff members are conducting oral history interviews with various Clinton associates as well as digitizing and preserving previously created audiotapes. The

> project has almost 2,000 audiocassettes of Bill Clinton's speeches, press conferences, and meetings. Efforts are under way to digitize these recordings and make them available to researchers. The equipment for preserving what is recorded on the audiotapes was purchased by former staff, cabinet members, and friends of Clinton.

REQUESTS **CLINTON HISTORY:** BCSGP staff members frequently field requests from researchers around the country and the world regarding these valuable and fascinating materials. Often, people who request information from the project's mate-

rials are doing research for theses or dissertations on such topics as music used in campaigns, food consumed during campaigns, and Clinton campaign efforts to appeal to specific constituencies.

COLLECTING PAPERS FROM CLINTON CONTEMPORARIES IN ARKANSAS POLITICS: Although the staff has plenty to keep them busy, they are actively seeking more papers from

other

who worked with the Clinton administration, especially ADMIT ONE BILL CLINTON'S the working papers members of the General Assembly who served while he was governor. These papers

provide a differ-

people



Bill Clinton at the 2013 ASOB reunion, with Betsey Wright and other associates.

ent perspective and valuable insight into policies and politics of Clinton himself.

ARKANSAS SUPPORTERS OF **BILL:** The Arkansas Supporters of Bill (ASOB) Reunion began in 2004 when CALS launched the Bill Clinton State Government Project. With 2013 being the twentieth anniversary of Clinton's presidential inauguration, this year's reunion was coordinated with the reunion of Arkansas Travelers. More than 500 people came to the private event held in the ASI on January 25.

EXHIBITING ITEMS FROM THE COLLECTION: The Clinton for Arkansas exhibition on view now showcases just a small sampling of the many materials in the project's collection, which contains 3,450 linear feet of materials associated with Bill Clinton

IIT ONE

and his staff from 1973 through 1992, when was elected INTON'S president. During this time span, he served as a law professor at UA-Fayetteville, campaigned for election to the U.S. Congress, served as attorney general of Arkansas, and held the office of governor of Arkansas.



This sign was donated by the Clinton campaign, whose headquarters were in the historic Gazette building at 112 West 3rd St.; on loan from the Museum of American History, Cabot Public Schools.

eral, gubernatorial, and campaign papers, which are held in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building. This processing involves arranging and describing the materials and creating finding aids for future researchers. Here are some recent goings-on with the BCSGP.

AUDIO HISTORY: Under an arrangement with the Pryor Center at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville,



Materials displayed for the Clinton for Arkansas *exhibition*.

ect—Lots More Than Papers!



Clinton campaign buttons.

Among the items displayed are a quilt covered in hundreds of signatures from Bill Clinton's fortieth birthday party (see back page of this issue), a handmade bowie knife presented to Clinton by representatives of Old Washington Historic State Park, and a documentary film about Clinton created by gubernatorial press secretary Mike Gauldin.

The Clinton for Arkansas exhibition, which is free and open to the public, is on display through April 27 in the Butler Center's Atrium Gallery in the ASI.



Bill Clinton at the 2013 ASOB reunion, with Bill Clinton State Government Project staff members Michael Hodge, Glenn Whaley, and Steven Teske.

One of the missions of the Bill **Clinton State Government Project** is connecting with former Clinton staff members and interested parties to encourage donation of their working papers.

Over the years, we have received papers and other materials from the following donors:

Liza Ashley Sam Bratton Sheila Bronfman Julie McDonald Cabe Rose Crane Mike Gaines

Mike Gauldin Kay Goss Ed Gray Anne Henson Dick Herget Paul Levy Robert Lyford **David Matthews**

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Since the last Arkansas Supporters of Bill (ASOB) reunion in 2011, the Bill Clinton State **Government Project has received** monetary donations from the

following donors: Edwin and Diane Alderson Brady and Betty Anderson Kay Kelley Arnold Julie Baldridge Jay Bradford

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Monetary contributions have been made in memory of the following:

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Bill Simmons Don "Dude" Spence Elizabeth Stodola Yvonne Ward Storm Whaley

Robert Wilson

... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



Annie Abrams speaking at December's Legacies & Lunch as part of the Butler Center's *Arkansas Autobiographies* series.



CALS director Bobby Roberts speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Arcade Building, a joint project of CALS and Moses Tucker Real Estate. The mixed-use Arcade Building, which is located next to the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building on the corner of President Clinton Ave. and River Market Ave., will house additional archival space for the Butler Center/ASI as well as have a theater that will host CALS events, including presenters at the Arkansas Literary Festival and performances for the Arkansas Sounds Music Festival.





Bob Nash speaking at January's Legacies & Lunch about his longtime association with Bill Clinton.

BUTLER CENTER DONORS

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Arkansas Pioneers Pulaski County Association, in memory of Dell Leveritt and Robert Lee Holyfield

East Harding Inc., Arkansas Sounds Music Festival sponsorship Regions Bank, in support of the Arkansas Sounds Music Festival Gloria Futrell, to purchase the Nashville News on microfilm Vincent Insalaco, in support of the Making a Place exhibition Lloyd McCracken

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To receive your copy by email, contact Meg Arey at marey@cals.org or (501) 918-3033.

This Valentine's
Day, give gifts
that are as unique
as Arkansas.

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New Book for Young Readers Features Famous Arkansans

new book just released from Butler Center Books, Natural State Notables: 21 Famous People from Arkansas by Steven Teske, gives young readers biographies of twenty-one notable people from Arkansas. They include musicians, athletes, business leaders, and public servants.

Those profiled in the book include a famous doctor, Samuel Kountz, who was a pioneer in developing the early procedures for kidney transplants; a hospital administrator, Ruth Beall, who fought to keep Arkansas Children's Hospital open during the Depression; Jimmy Driftwood, a teacher who wrote a famous song to match a history lesson; the famed singer Al Green, who is also a preacher; and Maya Angelou, a poet who is also an actress. All of these people are "Natural State notables," some of the many who have made Arkansas what it is today. Publication of the book was made possible in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council.

Author Steven Teske, who works in the

NATURAL STATE NOTABLES
21 FAMOUS PEOPLE FROM ARKANSAS

BY STEVEN TESKE

Butler Center's manuscripts department, has also written *Unvarnished Arkansas* about famous people in Arkansas in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as co-writing *Home-front Arkansas* about wartime life in Arkansas. Teske has also served as a fact-checker for the Butler Center's Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, and he teaches college classes in history and comparative religions at the Arkansas State University–Beebe campus on the Little Rock Air Force Base.

On Monday, March 4, the Central Arkansas Library System will celebrate the release of *Natural State Notables* from 4 to 6 p.m. at its new Children's Library at 4800 W. 10th St. in Little Rock. Teske will discuss the book and will be available to sign copies. This event, which is free and open to the public, will also offer a "sneak peek" at the new Children's Library, which is slated to open later in March.

Natural State Notables (paperback, \$9.95) is available from local and national book sellers or through the distributer, the University of Arkansas

Press in Fayetteville, at (800) 626-0090 or online at www.uapress.com.

From Summer Seminar, page 3 ter's online Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture (EOA) as authoritative background information prior to the seminar. During the seminar, authors of EOA entries and other experts will lecture on the topics of the Civil War and civil rights.

At the end of the seminar, participants will begin the process of developing lessons or teaching tools on these topics. Teachers will then be required to submit a teaching tool or lesson that could be shared with the entire state through submission to the Arkansas History Hub by the mid-point of the 2013–14 school year. Curriculum products will need to reflect one aspect of the topics covered during the seminar, be supported by EOA text or media entries, and align to CCSS and appropriate Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) content frameworks.

The Butler Center and the Central Arkansas Library System have been approved ADE professional development providers for the last five years. The Butler Center's education coordinator, Kay Bland, administers and documents these activities. Participants in this seminar will earn a total of fifteen hours of professional development and may also earn an additional three hours

of professional development upon receipt and approval of their final product for submission to the Arkansas History Hub. Teachers who attend the summer seminar will also have the tools with which to train other teachers around the state about these topics.

For more information about the seminar, contact Kay Bland at (501) 320-5713 or kbland@cals.org.



Author Readings
Workshops
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Images from Our Collection



On August 16, 1986, thousands of people attended Governor Bill Clinton's fortieth birthday party at the Hall of Industry at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in Little Rock. Attendees were invited to sign this quilt to commemorate the governor's birthday. It was made by Mildred Delores Steele, mother of Public Service Commission appointee Pat Oualls. Now held in the Bill Clinton State Government Project collection at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, the quilt is displayed in the Atrium Gallery of the Arkansas Studies Institute building as part of the Clinton for Arkansas exhibition on view through April 27.