

The Butler Banner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Volume 16 Number 4

Fall 2014

Butler Center Events

Art Exhibitions

Nov. 14, 2014–Feb. 28, 2015

Of the Soil: Photographs by Geoff Winningham

Butler Center Loft Gallery

A collection of photographs highlighting Arkansas's vernacular architecture

Jan. 9–April 24, 2015

Reflections on Line and Mass

Butler Center West Gallery

Paintings and sculptures by noted Arkansas artist Robyn Horn

Exhibitions open during each month's Second Friday Art Night (2FAN), 5–8 p.m. in the ASI building.

Arkansas Sounds

Fri., Nov. 21, 7:00 p.m.

Big Piph & Tomorrow Maybe

CALS Ron Robinson Theater

Hip hop music with a full backing band—\$15

Fri., Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Meshugga Klezmer Band and Dave Rosen Sextet

CALS Ron Robinson Theater

Non-denominational, inclusive holiday concert—Free

Fri., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Velvet Kente Arkestra

CALS Ron Robinson Theater

Funk, soul, and rock fusion—\$10

Visit www.arkansasounds.org for more information.

Legacies & Lunch

Noon – 1 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 5

Troy Poteete—A talk by director of the National Trail of Tears Association and Cherokee Nation Supreme Court justice (co-hosted by the Clinton School of Public Service); CALS Ron Robinson Theater

Wed., Dec. 3

Deb Crow & Jim Ross—The history of the Arkansas State Fair; Main Library's Darragh Center

Wed., Jan. 7

Ed Bethune—"Arkansas Autobiography" by the former U.S. congressman; Main Library's Darragh Center

Finding Family Facts

A free genealogy course

Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12

3:30 – 5 p.m.; ASI Room 204, 401 President Clinton Ave.

Serving Arkansas, Preserving Its History

In its archives, the Butler Center holds the papers of governors, the handwritten wartime journals of soldiers on American soil and overseas, works of art by the famous and the lesser known, and countless other items gathered over the years by those who care enough about the past to preserve its artifacts and materials and give them a safe home. This kind of care is also taken

by those who donate records from nonprofit organizations, as people who serve tirelessly for the sake of many important missions in the state also care deeply about preserving the history of their efforts. The Butler Center has already made available to researchers many collections from nonprofits, including the records of the Quapaw Quarter, Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, Panel of American Women, National Conference for Community and Justice, and Fiction Writers of Central Arkansas. The Butler Center will also receive the records of the Arkansas Red Cross.

Two collections in this same tradition have just been opened to researchers: the Little Rock YMCA Records and the Central Arkansas Chapter, National Audubon Society Records.

YMCA

The collection of documents from the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Little Rock comprises twenty-nine bound volumes and some loose papers



YMCA building, built in 1905, at Capitol and Scott.

that contain minutes and reports of the Board of Directors of the Little Rock YMCA, mostly covering the years from 1910 to 1990.

The YMCA was founded in London, England, in 1844 to provide a refuge for Bible study and prayer for young men seeking escape from the hazards of life on the streets. The organization aimed to meet social needs in the city and to cross social-class barriers. The first YMCA in the United States opened in Boston in 1851, and the Little Rock YMCA was established in 1885. Included in the Butler Center's collection are copies of the Constitution of the Little Rock YMCA as it was written in 1901, as well as revised bylaws approved by the Little Rock YMCA in the 1970s. The official documents of the board reflect the social history of Little Rock during two world wars, the Great Depression, desegregation, and many other major events of the twentieth century.

The Little Rock YMCA Records also contain documents that describe the efforts to place the YMCA building at the corner of 6th Street and Broadway Avenue on the National Register of

Cont. on page 2

Cont. from *Preserving History*, p. 1

Historic Places, a goal reached in 1979, as well as the further history of that building. The YMCA originally met on the second floor of a building at 4th and Main Streets. It then had a building (completed by the firm of Charles L. Thompson in 1905) at Capitol and Scott Streets. The “new” building (completed by the firm of George Mann and Eugene John Stern in 1928) became a Little Rock landmark. The facility was closed in 1996, with the space eventually converted to commercial use. Work has been done, however, to preserve and restore the historical character of the building.

Audubon Society

The Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, was founded in 1952 as the Pulaski County Audubon Society. It changed its name in 1981 to reflect the larger regional interest of the group.

Named for naturalist John James Audubon (who visited the Arkansas Territory in 1820 and 1822, describing and depicting the birds of the territory), the National Audubon Society focuses attention on conservation of natural resources, with a particular emphasis on the wild birds of America.

The Central Arkansas Chapter, National Audubon Society Records include many documents that illustrate the work of the local chapter, such as field trips, films, programs, and workshops. Also



The Pulaski Snipe newsletter; circa 1970s.

detailed is a “crash bird course” that helps spotters identify the roughly 350 species of birds that can be seen in Arkansas. The records include official minutes and reports from chapter meetings, correspondence with other chapters and with the national organization, and records of involvement in other local organizations, including the Little Rock Zoo, the Meadowcreek Project, the Arkansas Nature Conservancy, and the Arkansas Wildlife Federation. Correspondence with government agencies, such as the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the state’s Department of Parks and Tourism, is also included.

The chapter publishes a quarterly newsletter—originally called *The Pulaski Snipe* and since 1981 *The Snipe*—and the collection contains every copy from 1967 through 1997. One of the more notable subjects covered in the letters and other documents is the efforts of the chapter

around 1987 to negotiate with Arkansas’s fish farmers regarding government agencies’ limits on the killing of waterbirds (such as egrets and herons); the waterbirds were causing problems for the farmers by feasting on the young farmed fish. The chapter also raised money in the 1980s to provide a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Arkansas residents who were maiming and killing wild birds.

Like all the Butler Center’s manuscript collections, both the Central Arkansas Chapter, National Audubon Society Records and the Little Rock YMCA Records can be accessed by the public in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building.

Continuing Efforts

According to Butler Center manager David Stricklin, “Our research room in the ASI building has become one of the best places in Arkansas to study the efforts and benefits of nonprofits in Arkansas. When you figure in the collections held by the UALR Center for Arkansas History and Culture with the Butler Center’s total collections, there are more than sixty collections from nonprofits in Arkansas available to researchers at the ASI. We’re very pleased to add these great materials to a large and vibrant body of research resources.” The Butler Center encourages other nonprofits to donate their records to preserve their important work. ■



Friends of Central Arkansas Libraries 2015 Membership Options

FRIEND MEMBERSHIP \$35

benefits include:

- 2 free tickets to one regular movie at CALS Ron Robinson Theater
- Early entrance to the Main Library basement book sale
- Discount at River Market Books & Gifts and Bookends Café
- Book plate placed in book
- Quarterly FOCAL Point newsletter

PATRON MEMBERSHIP \$75

all benefits at Friend Level, plus

- 2 tickets to one CALS ticketed special event

WEEKEND BOOK SALE PASS (3 OPTIONS)

benefits are for one person only

1. \$5 wristband for early entrance to the Main Library basement book sale only
2. \$10 wristband for 50% discount on used books at River Market Books & Gifts only
3. \$15 wristband for early entrance to the Main Library basement book sale and discount at River Market Books & Gifts

FOCAL



Friends of Central
Arkansas Libraries

For more information,
contact Susan Hill Gelé at
sgelé@cals.org or 918-3086.

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Manager of the Butler Center

Having been obsessed with ideas of time and place for many decades, I'm always fascinated by the changing of the seasons and the way those changes affect the landscape. At the Butler Center, we have a lot of recurring events that drive on into the future, irrespective of seasonal cues such as weather, leaves on or off the trees, or what kinds of gear people feel led to put on their heads.

Much of our time is spent planning, promoting, and carrying out our events. The flagship of our monthly events is Legacies & Lunch. We also have genealogy training events every month, and now we have a full-scale monthly concert. We also offer dozens of presentations, workshops, tours, and all kinds of other events throughout the year during which we tell

conference featured Billie Fogarty, who taught people about land records and tombstones, among other things, and what they have to tell about the people who came to places, put their stamp on those places, and then were put within



David Stricklin (right) with country musician Suzy Bogguss, who was featured in our September Arkansas Sounds concert, along with Arkansas Sounds coordinator John Miller.


the very ground of those places. It was a powerful event that spread understanding and skill. That summarizes a lot of what we try to do.

Our events are important to us. They connect the Butler Center with people who want to know things. Sometimes, people at these events communicate to us what they want

know more about. Events, then, spawn other events or initiatives, or they inspire us to create new resources.

I hope you will be able to attend one of our events soon. There are a lot of them, as you can tell from this newsletter (see the sidebar on page 1). Come see us and find out what all the fuss is about!

Speaking of newsletters and fuss, we are surely one of the last organizations with a paper newsletter. It is a very expensive thing to produce, which is one of

 Our events are important to us. They connect the Butler Center with people who want to know things.

people about Arkansas history and what we are doing to preserve, interpret, and share it with you.

Then there are the annual events with great sweep and power to influence and guide those who want to know about the state's past or improve their ability to get at it. For many years now, one of those events has been our summer genealogy conference. That event has been guided by our great colleague Rhonda Stewart, whose skill in genealogical research and passion for sharing her knowledge have been keystones of our success since she joined our staff in 2005. This year's

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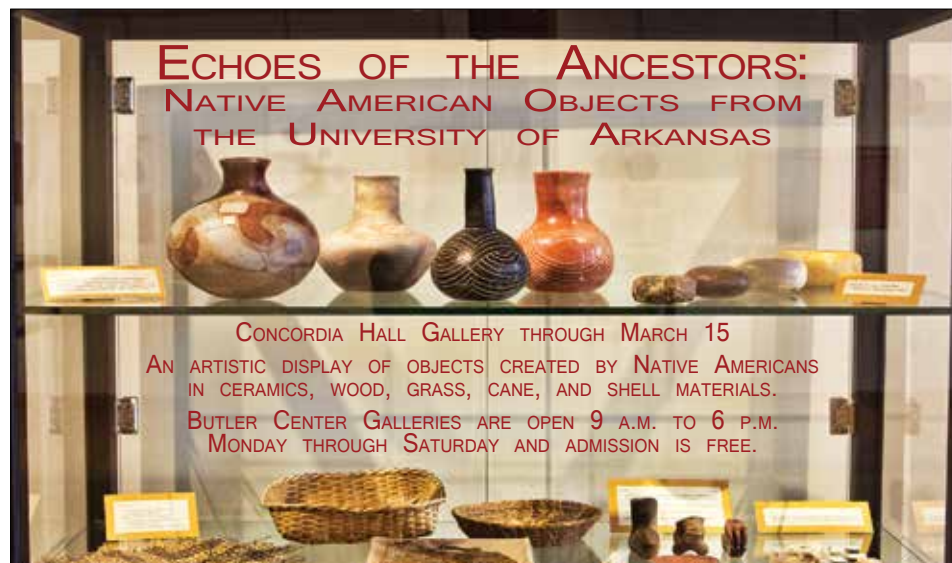
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the reasons so many organizations have stopped doing it. Help us keep doing it—or at least do it more efficiently—by letting us know if you still wish to receive your copy by U.S. Mail or if you would like to help us save some money by receiving it by email. Send an email to our outreach coordinator Kate Chagnon at kchagnon@cals.org so we can confirm or amend your preference. Or, you can drop me a note (and maybe include a donation...) at 100 Rock St., Little Rock, 72201, to declare your allegiance to the paper version. ■



Arkansas Vietnam War Project

The Butler Center is proud to announce a new initiative to document and preserve the role of Arkansans in the Vietnam War. This project follows the award-winning online collection *FORGOTTEN: The Arkansas Korean War Project* and demonstrates the Butler Center's continued commitment to collecting and disseminating the state's military history.

More than 58,000 Americans were killed in the Vietnam War, including 592 Arkansans. The Vietnam War was complicated and often controversial, with guerrilla and chemical warfare, intense bombing campaigns, atrocities, and political maneuvering—coupled with an unpopular draft and widespread protests. The war affected the United States in ways still felt today.

The Butler Center wants to make contact with Arkansans who served during the conflict,

family members of veterans, and civilians wanting to share memories of the war. We hope to preserve photographs, letters, diaries, and other documents to help future generations understand the human side of this conflict.

Additionally, the Arkansas Vietnam War Project will include an oral history component, allowing veterans, family members, and civilians to share their personal memories of the war. Highlights from the collection materials, as well as additional information and questionnaires, will be available online for easy access.

For more information or to fill out a questionnaire, visit www.butlercenter.org/arkansas-vietnam-war-project. If you have questions or would like a questionnaire mailed to you, contact Brian Robertson, project director, at brianr@cals.org or (501) 320-5723.



■ Arkansas Vietnam War veteran Larry Weaver.

Give the gift of Arkansas art!

Paintings
Sculpture
Pottery
Cards
Jewelry
and More



Butler Center Galleries
401 President Clinton Ave.
Little Rock
(501) 320-5790
Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.



flash

... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



For August's Legacies & Lunch, Frank Sata spoke about how his experiences as a child in an internment camp in Arkansas during World War II shaped the future for himself and his family. This lecture was held in the Ron Robinson Theater in partnership with the Clinton School of Public Service.



Ben Nichols—Arkansas Sounds concert series, August



September's Legacies & Lunch featured Marvin Schwartz discussing his new book *We Wanna Boogie: The Rockabilly Roots of Sonny Burgess and the Pacers* (Butler Center Books, 2014).



For October's Legacies & Lunch, Nancy Hendricks talked about the life of U.S. Senator Hattie Caraway.



Suzy Bogguss—Arkansas Sounds concert series, September



Editor Guy Lancaster and illustrator Ron Wolfe at the signing table for the September launch of *Arkansas in Ink: Gunslingers, Ghosts, and Other Graphic Tales* (Butler Center Books, 2014).



Dave Rosen Big Band—Arkansas Sounds concert series, July



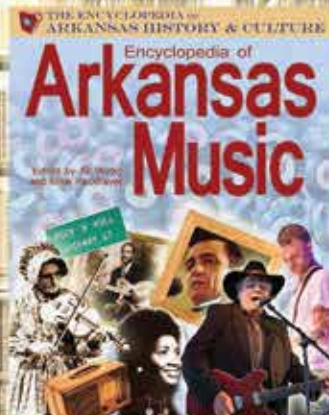
On September 16, the Butler Center hosted a delegation of Russian archivists from the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Center who learned about the various ways we manage our collections and connect with the community. They are pictured here with Archival Assistant and AV/AR Specialist Anna Lancaster.

Butler Center Books Make Great Gifts!

We Wanna Boogie
The Rockabilly Roots of
Soviet Burgess and the Poets

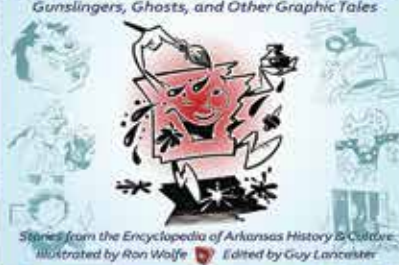


The inside history of rock and roll pioneers and their origin in the river town of Newport

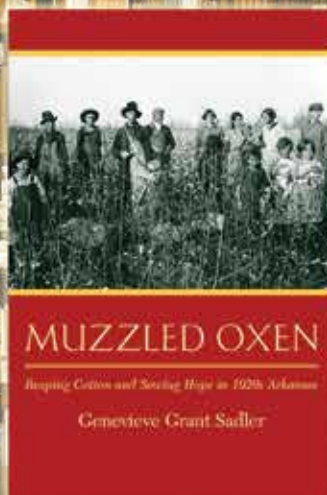


For the music lover on your list—a photo-filled reference on Arkansas music, past and present

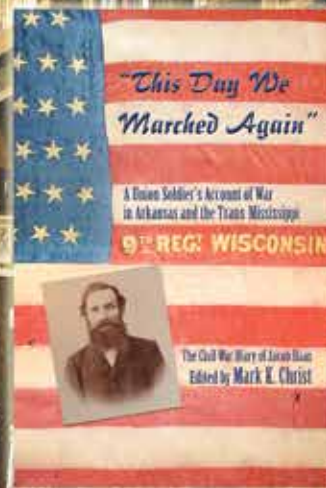
Arkansas in Ink
Gunslingers, Ghosts, and Other Graphic Tales



Encyclopedia of Arkansas entries paired with witty cartoons bring to life the wacky but true stories of Arkansas history.



In 1920, a sophisticated California woman moves with her husband to an Arkansas cotton farm and weaves a keenly observant narrative in her letters home.



A German immigrant soldier marches through scorching summers and brutal winters to fight in savage Civil War combat—and captures it all in his journal.

From Azaleas to Zydeco

My 4,600-Mile Journey Through the South



Mark W. Nichols

Inspired by a 1937 map and travelogue, an author journeys through the unique cities of the South.



Butler Center Books are available at River Market Books & Gifts on the Main Library campus in Little Rock and other local bookstores, through the University of Arkansas Press (via University of Chicago Press) at (800) 621-2736, and from online retailers. To see a complete list, please visit www.butlercenter.org/publication.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE **WANTED: AUTHORS AND MEDIA**

We need entries, photographs, documents, videos, maps, and audio clips to help make the EOA the most comprehensive and engaging resource on Arkansas history.

Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):

Arkadelphia Presbyterian Academy
Osro Cobb
Carl Richey "Cotton" Cordell
Corinth (Howard County)
Cotton Plant Academy
Incoming Kingdom Missionary Unit
Indian Bay (Monroe County)
Mitchellville (Desha County)
Monticello Academy
Montrose (Ashley County)
Clarence Bloomfield Moore
Charlotte Moorman
John Pruitt
Rabbits Foot Lodge
Raggio (Lee County)
Reed (Desha County)

James Byron Reed
Benjamin Franklin Rice
Yancopin (Desha County)
Yellowhammer

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

Entries Needing Authors:

Evangeline K. Brown
Diphtheria
Kathryn Hall-Trujillo
Gladys McFadden & the Loving Sisters
Office of the Surgeon General
Whooping Cough

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

Encyclopedia of Arkansas: Of Mussels and Men

By Guy Lancaster, EOA editor

Do you know what a "derecho" is? You will soon, because the Encyclopedia of Arkansas (EOA) has an entry in progress on the subject—in this case, a particular weather phenomenon. In fact, the EOA is currently working to expand its offerings in the categories of science and nature, with numerous entries in development covering various classes of plants and animals, specific endemic species, and important scientific and agricultural research centers in the state.

Far from being an excursion away from

the realm of "proper" history, the expansion of the science and nature components of the EOA helps to illuminate and reveal human history as well, because people, as the Catalan writer Ignasi Ribó explains, "are embodied beings, embedded in a natural and a cultural environment, members of a human community but also of a biological community." Arkansas's history has been shaped dramatically by microscopic organisms, from the *Plasmodium* protozoan that causes malaria to the influenza virus that disrupted Arkansas life and politics in 1918. Plant-parasitic nematodes remain one of the most pernicious agricultural pests

for both Arkansas and the world at large. And last year, the never smooth surface of Arkansas politics was further roiled by the possibility that the federal government would designate forty percent of the state as critical habitat for two endangered mussel species.

There is no easy division between nature and history, and making the EOA more useful to a wider circle of readers means tackling the stuff most of us last confronted in a biology textbook. If you'd like to join the fun, click on the "Get Involved" tab on the EOA homepage (www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net) to find the list of entries we are seeking. ■

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Community Foundation, in honor of *Stephen Schafer & William Lindsey*
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Elder Mediation, Inc. (EMI) by Sidney McCollum, in support of *Arkansas Sounds*
Friday, Eldridge & Clark, Attorneys at Law, in support of *Arkansas Sounds*
Ray Hanley, in support of *Butler Center Books*
W. Jan Schick, in honor of *Tom Dillard*

Images from Our Collection



Buxton Brickyard in Nashville, Arkansas; circa late 1800s. The brickyard was started by Fred M. Buxton in 1884. He later sold the land and opened a second brickyard in 1897. From the Lucille and Parker Westbrook Collection.

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