

### JACKSON COUNTY WAR DEAD

"THEY MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR THEIR COUNTRY"

#### WORLD WAR I

WILLIAM M. ALRED HARRISON T. BENNETT JOHN BIRDSONG ALTON L. CHORD ELDER M. COLE
HENRY DAVIS
GILBERT FEEBACK
NEILL GRIFFIN
FRANCIS HAWTHORNE

ELDRIDGE R. HOWELL WILLIAM E. NASH JOHN C. SMITH DULEN A. WARD

#### WORLD WAR II

KENNETH N. ADDINGTON CHARLES ALLISON JACK BELL STEVE F. BIBLE BILLY J. BIRMINGHAM LEON BRADFORD ALBERT L. BROWN BOOKER L. BROWN LEE COLIE BROWN ERNEST BRUCE ARCHIE G. BRUNT J.C. CARR CARL W. CATHCART DIAL CATTERLIN CALVIN COOLIDGE CLARK MANSON O. CLARK JAMES E. COLE ALLEN C. COLLIER, JR. OTHO M. COOPER ELMER DENNIS JAMES W. DOBBS Joel H. Doss CHARLES M. DUNAHAY HERBERT V. EASTHAM

DELMOR N. ERWIN CURTIS G. FORD GOLDEN FOSHEE ELZIE FRAKES CLARENCE H. FRENCH LEON C. GILLUM HAROLD B. GILMORE GEORGE E. GOCHENOUR DAVID L. GOWANS MELVIN GROSSMAN EARL A. HARRIS CLENNIS HICKMON TURNER JEROME HOWARD RALPH M. HUSKEY JOHN J. JACOBS CLYDE JONES, JR. FRANK KELL ALFRED O. LAWRENCE DOYLE DEAN LAXTON ALFRED L. LELAND IRA J. MACK THURMAN MANNON SIGMAN F. MASSEY

EARL A. MATHENEY BILLY J. MAY MARVIN MAYHAN WILLIAM MCBEE M. McDougel, Jr. NEAL COLEMAN METCALF WILLIAM T. NUCKOLLS FORREST L. PECK ROBERT LEE PETTIT EDWARD C. PIRC LOYD LEVAN RAZER FINIS J. ROBERTS HENRY H. RODGERS BYRON FOSTER ROY HOY SHAW ALTON J. SMITH CLAUDE J. SMITH NORMAN G. SPAULDING WILLIAM H. STEPHENS CECIL CLEO STOUT THEODORE E. VINES L.Z. WARD BILLY MAX WHITLOW CARL LEO WILLIAMS

### KOREA

RUFUS BALCH
ERNEST L. BUCHANAN
JOHN T. COOK
J.C. FAIN

C. EDWARD HARVEY
ARTHUR JORDAN
ROBERT E. MITCHELL

STERLING G. PAINTER
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FLOYD SNEED

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### 1988 Follies







Newport High School Auditorium / Newport, Arkansas June 9 & 10

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MUSIC THE TOWNSMEN

# MEMO . . . From the Editors

The net proceeds of this program will go into a trust fund to build a Jackson of the Follies generally and this program County Civic Center. It is the purpose of the Follies generally, and this program Specifically, to point out those facts (and perhaps a fanciful touch of fiction if it adds to the matter), that make each of us "Jackson County Proud." Thus, there are caveats (warnings!). First, some of those about whom the pages "brag" resisted, and some of the pages "brag" resisted, and some of (warningsi). First, some of those about whom the pages brag resisted, and some of the pages contain material included without the knowledge or consent of the "bragee." Second, we have liberally and unabashedly borrowed from "The Stream of History," the publication of the Jackson County Historical Society. Our deep pride can begin with both this outstanding publication and the organization behind it. Read and join! Third, we have tried to be positive and upbeat. If there are errors of commission, or even I fird, we have tried to be positive and uppeat. If there are errors of commission, or even omission, please excuse them and help us to make next year better by eliminating

FDR, in the depths of the depression said: "There is a mysterious cycle in human

events. To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny." Special thanks to Craig Printing Company, especially Robert, who made this program a labor of love. We hope you will enjoy the show.

Larry Pankey

Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.



### JACKSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

### -Creation—

Jackson County was created by an act of the Sixth Territorial Legislature of Arkansas, signed by Governor John Pope at Little Rock on November 5, 1829. This act struck off a portion of Independence County, made this territory into a new county (called Jackson), set up the basic machinery of its county government, gave the new county a part of the funds in the Independence County treasury and designated the residence of Thomas Wideman as the place for holding court in the new county until a permanent seat of justice could be selected. The act went into effect on December 25, 1829.

The Independence County territory of which Jackson County was made consisted of Taylor's Bay Township (all of Independence County east of White and Black Rivers) and part of Christian Township. The southern part of Taylor's Bay later became part of Woodruff County. Much of the territory west of White River in the original Jackson County is now part of White County.

### —Boundary Changes—

In 1835 a part of Jackson County was included in the new White County. In 1836 a part of Independence County was attached to Jackson. In 1851 a part of St. Francis County was attached to Jackson. In 1862 Woodruff County was created, chiefly from Jackson County. The external boundaries of Jackson County have remained the same since 1862.

Jackson County was the 24th county created in Arkansas. It was formed Nov. 5, 1829, from territory taken from Independence County and included what is now known as Woodruff County. It was very much larger that date than now, its boundaries containing approximately 1,500 square miles, while the Jackson County of today contains only 634 square miles.

At that time it was very sparsely settled, having a total population of only 333 inhabitants. There was no post office nearer than Batesville, 40 miles away, no roads but bridle paths. The first county court was held at the residence of Thomas Wideman, a few miles east of Litchfield, May 3, 1830. Hiram Glass was judge, and John Saylors was sworn in as clerk. We have a record of very little business having been transacted, as court adjourned soon thereafter.

On November 5, 1830, court again convened, this time at Litchfield, which remained the county seat until 1839.

The place of Thomas Wideman's residence is now known as the Erwin Switch. Wideman was an educated, Christian gentleman, with a beautiful, cultured wife whom he brought with him from Georgia. He had been an officer in the Indian wars in Florida, and was held in esteem wherever he went. He assisted in laying out the first roads in this section of the country and was for many years a justice of the peace. The first township was named for him—Wideman township—but afterwards was enlarged and called Village Creek township.

Litchfield settlement, near where Thomas Wideman lived, began in 1830 when land was entered by John C. Saylors, James H. Patterson, Henry Currens and Sam Litchfield, who took out the first ferry license over Village Creek. The license was two dollars a year, and the rates 25 cents a wheel, 25 cents a man and horse, 3 cents each for cattle and hogs. Taxes assessed in this township were as follows: County tax, 1/4 of 1 percent; poll tax, 50 cents for each white male citizen; and land tax 60 cents per 100 acres.

Continued on Page 3





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#### Continued from Page 2

D.C. Waters built the first bridge over Village Creek. He was a prominent and popular man, being county judge for several terms and later representative and senator in the State Legislature.

Hoping to find interesting stories of early days in that part of old Jackson County now known as Woodruff County, I wrote a letter of inquiry to Mrs. Laura Stanley, a prominent resident of Augusta. Mrs. Stanley's husband was one of our old Confederate veterans, and she very kindly referred my question to Senator Roddy who, from his boyhood, had been interested in pioneer tales and early legends.

Mr. Roddy furnished me with interesting information, which I shall give in his own words:

Augusta, August 13, 1921

W.E. Bevens, Newport, Ark. Dear sir and friend:

Your letter to Mrs. Laura Stanley was handed to me, thinking that as my father, Booker Roddy, came to what was then Jackson County in 1833, I might be able to give some account of those days. My father came with John and Elias Roddy, his uncles. They found, camped on the bluff at Augusta, a trapper named Dan Gray with his "varmint" traps, his "b'ar" dogs and incidentally a couple of wives. Knowing, I suppose, the scarcity of the gentler sex in these wilds, he decided to assemble a sufficient number to fortify himself against emergencies, rather than encumber his coon-skins for enough of the filthy lucre to make a long journey to civilization for another help-meet.\*

\*From a column by W.E. Bevens in the Newport Daily Independent, January 2, 1945.

### —County Seats—

From 1830 to 1832, the courts in Jackson County met at the home of Thomas Wideman, at what is now called Erwin Switch. In 1832 the seat of justice was moved to Litchfield.

### -Settlement-

Settlement of the county began at least by 1820, though it was sparse and sporatic.

In the fall of 1831, the Robinson Party brought a large number of settlers to Jackson County, including Dr. James P. Montgomery (physician), Dr. Daniel L. Gray (Presbyterian minister), Col. Henry Harvey Means and Charles M. Murphy, in addition to the Robinsons and Logans. Alvin McDonald may have come with this group; at any rate, he was in Jackson County in the mid-1830s. His father, Robert McDonald, settled in Pike County around this time. Alvin McDonald settled near Weldon. Robert Crump, who settled at the mouth of Village Creek, also may have come with the Robinsons.

Elija. /ilkerson settled near Litchfield. James Litchfield and John C. Saylors were also early settlers there. At the site of Newport, Rowland Tidwell established a ferry and landing. He sold it in 1835 to Jesse B. Daugherty, whose widow, Sarah Daugherty, tried to develop it into a town about 1840. It failed.

In 1833 Thomas T. Tunstall bought a mill at Jacksonport. His son, William W. Tunstall, platted the town of Jacksonport around 1840 and developed the town. John J. Waddill settled near Newport in the mid-1830s. Asa M. and Elijah Carpenter settled in the same area about 1835. George W. Cromwell settled on Village Creek in the early 1830s.

During the 1840s a large number of people settled in Jackson County. Settlers in the northern part of the county, now in Bird and Glass Townships, were: Henry Miller, Robert and William Harvey from Tennessee, Christopher W. Board from Kentucky, David and Samuel Hollingshead from South Carolina, Thomas Arnold from Tennessee, Elias Ruffner from Tennessee and John Vandiever from Kentucky.



### McDONALD CHEVROLET

BUICK

"We are Jackson County Proud!"







### **Merchants and Planters Bank**

Merchants and Planters Bank was founded and chartered by the State Banking Department in March 1946. In the beginning, it was the belief of the stockholders that Merchants and Planters Bank would be a community bank serving the people of Jackson County. Through the years, we have held to that belief and we are committed to our community, our customers and our stockholders.

Merchants and Planters Bank has been guided by four presidents since 1946. They are D.H. Burton, Percy Copeland, Ernest D. McDonald and Jim S. Gowen, Sr. Today, Merchants and Planters Bank is a \$48,500,000 institution and is locally-owned by approximately 250 stockholders. Merchants and Planters Bank still has the same committment to the people of Jackson County as when it began, the committment to offer the banking products which meet the needs of our community and to extend friendly and professional service to our customers.

### Merchants and Planters Bank

"Your Hometown Bank"

Downtown and Village Mall













### WELDON

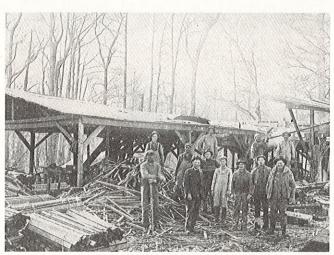
Practically all of the early settlements in Jackson County were on the sand ridge along the edge of White River bottoms, extending from Augusta to Jacksonport, a distance of over thirty miles. This was an early trail for travel and later known as "The Old Wire Road", as the first telegraph wire in the county was extended here.

Some of the early settlers in the vicinity of Weldon were Alvin McDonald, Col. Matthew Davis and Dr. Pickett, who settled around what is now known as Pickett Lake. These men have many descendants living in this area today.

After the War Between the States, the first person to settle in this town was Mr. W.H. (Billy) Wise, the father of the late R.J. Wise of Newport. Mr. Wise found a sand hill about a mile east of the Old Wire Road, and it was here the town site was surveyed and the streets named for the Presidents of the United States. At the beginning, the town was given the name of Linden; however, another place by that name was discovered in the state, so the name was changed to Weldon.

The town began to grow rapidly, as it was supported by rich timber lands and a good farming area. The Kimbroughs, Deans, Torians, Moores, Gilliams, Sweats and McCauleys were some of the people who decided to move in or near here to start a new life for their families.

The Brinkley & Batesville Railroad, later called the Rock Island, was built in 1886 from Brinkley to Jacksonport. It was never extended to Batesville, and Jacksonport became the terminal at that end of the line. It gave daily passenger service and local freight. The passenger train was called "Old Jude" by all who traveled on it. The coming of the automobile and truck, and better roads caused business to decline to such an extent that the railroad was abandoned in 1941.



The Methodist Church was organized in 1889, and the building was used as a school during the week and a church on Sunday until 1895, when the first schoolhouse was built. The teacher was a Mr. Oliver, who was also the preacher. Dave Kimbrough and Billy Wise donated the land on which to build the church. Before that time the people worshipped at the White Church and Sand Hill near Auvergne.

At one time Weldon could boast of a hotel, a drugstore, millinery shop, sawmills, stave mills, a brick kiln that was built and operated by Mr. B.R. McDearmon for several years and, of course, the church and school.

As Weldon has come along in history, cotton is no longer the main farming interest. We have become more diversified over the last decade. Weldon's main farming interests are rice, corn, soybeans and milo. We also have facilities to store and handle all major crops.

Weldon has its own fire department and rural water supply which the residents are proud of. Weldon is also the home of Jackson County Judge Bobby Miller.

-Sponsored by-

### The City of Weldon

Jim Shumate, Mayor







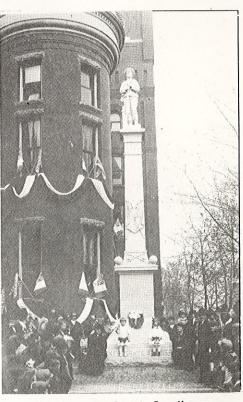


We're Jackson County Proud!

# 1988 County Officials



1988 JACKSON COUNTY OFFICIALS
Front row, left to right: Geneva Leland White, County Clerk,
Donna Lewis, County Treasurer, Faye Smith, County Tax Collector.
Back row, left to right: Bobby Miller, County Judge,
Don Daniels, Circuit Clerk, Donald Ray, County Sheriff,
Aaron Sutherland, County Tax Assessor.



The Jackson County Courthouse has always been the scene for special events, including this dedication of the Confederate Monument (now located at Jacksonport) on November 24, 1914.

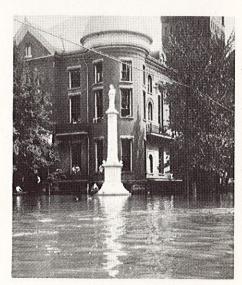
The "Overflows" of 1915 and 1916



First Methodist Church, Laurel and Third Streets, Newport



Hazel Hotel, corner of Hazel and Second Streets, Newport



Jackson County Courthouse Third and Main Streets Newport

### MANAGEMENT ORPORATION of AMERICA

BENEFIT PLAN ADMINISTRATION

History tells us that there are certain men who, because of their foresight and willingness to take a risk, always catch the flood at its tide. James E. Spencer is such a man. A native of Newport, he saw the need for group insurance and founded Management Corporation of America in 1963, which oper-

ates today under the direction of Frank Plegge, who joined the company in 1966 as Chief of Operations. Management Corporation of America wishes the very best for the residents of Newport and Jackson County—a quality place to live—with a history of strong and unique citizens.



# The Surrender of the Confederate Army at Jacksonport

June 5, 1865

Almost 6,000 troops north of the Arkansas River surrendered and received paroles at Jacksonport, Arkansas on June 5, 1865.

Brig. General Jeff Thompson, "Swamp Fox of the Confederacy", signed an agreement with Lt. Colonel C.W. Davis on behalf of Gen. Dodge and Gen. Pope of the Military Division of the Missouri. He sent Gen. Order No. 8 to all officers north of the Arkansas River advising them to surrender under the Grant-Lee terms.

Thompson arrived at Jacksonport with Col. Davis June 4th, and visited the different commands already encamped in the woods and fields near the town. The next day they assembled at the steamboat landing accompanied by the townspeople and many friends and relatives from around the county.

Tall, sinewy, weatherbeaten, "dressed in white, with sword belts and white gloves", Thompson stood on the cabin deck of the steamboat and gave a farewell address. After the long business of writing the paroles was finished, he gave his horse and saddle to the hotel proprietor, saying it was all he had to pay the bill for himself and his staff.

One June 5th, Col. Davis made the following report on the condition of the Confederate troops that surrendered to him:

No transportation except 300 to 400 dugout canoes.

No public animals.

No other property of any kind except \$4,821 in Confederate money for which he gave a receipt.

Less than 500 arms.

No food.

The Union Army issued 28,000 rations of sugar, salt, coffee, vinegar and hard bread. The first reaction to the end of the long hard years was a stunned relief. Col. Davis wrote that there seemed to be a holiday spirit. Everybody shook hands with everybody else; some shouted, some cried; some talked of planning parties for the next week.

No one could quite believe the war was over; none were prepared for the equally hard years of Reconstruction that were soon to follow. Col. Hans Mattson and the Third Minnesota Regiment maintained the Federal garrison at Jacksonport for several months.



A FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK

2005 MALCOLM AVENUE NEWPORT, ARKANSAS TELEPHONE 523-9811 Independence Federal Savings and Loan opened for business in Newport on October 22, 1975. It started in a small portable building at the corner of McLain Street and Highway 67 North. In 1977 and 1978, the glass facility, located at 2005 Malcolm Avenue, was constructed. Independence Federal started as a state-chartered institution. In 1983 it became a Federal Savings Bank and is presently known as Independence Federal Bank.



ROUTE 3, BOX 705 NEWPORT, ARKANSAS 72112

-Compliments of-

Ray O. Fann Jewelry

Downtown Newport, Arkansas



1700 Malcolm Avenue Newport

We're out to win you over.

Jackson County PROUD!

Late **JOE E. LEWIS**, guitarist of the (Conway) Twitty Bird Band, author of several hit songs.

# MOBLEY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.



In 1931, Bryce Mobley, Sr., bought property for the first location of the Mobley Construction Company business on White River at Newport from Mr. Sol Heinemann, later adding more river frontage. In 1946 Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Brown, son-in-law and daughter of Bryce Mobley, Sr., made their home in Newport. Mr. Brown managed the plant until his death in 1973. His widow, Mrs. Faye Brown, still lives in Newport and is Chairman of the Board. Bryce Mobley. Jr., of Morrilton is president and Neal Pankey is Newport Plant Manager. Mobley's employs from nine to twelve people, and also has a plant in McCrory, Arkansas.

Mobley Construction Company has long and deep ties to Jackson County and to the rivers, and the company is "Jackson County Proud".

Mobley's Construction Company and the City of Newport during the 1915 flood.







This group of Newport Hospital and Clinic nurses posed for this photograph which was used in the 1958 Follies Program.



It's a good feeling.

# Newport Hospital & Clinic, Inc. Continues to Grow With Community

Newport Hospital and Clinic, Inc. was established in 1922 as an acute-care hospital with approximately 35 beds and grew to its present size of 86 beds over the next 45 years. The hospital was operated at its original location at Second and Laurel Streets for sixty years.

In June 1981, construction was started on the new three story \$6,000,000.00 facility at 2000 McLain Street. The project was completed in seventeen months. On November 22, 1982, the entire staff and all of the hospital patients were moved to the new 86 bed facility.

Newport Hospital is continually striving to upgrade the quality of medical care for the citizens of the community. Newport Hospital serves an area of approximately 80,000 people to include Jackson, Independence, Woodruff, Poinsett, White, Craighead and Lawrence Counties. Newport Hospital is also one of the major employers in the county. As the medical needs of the residents of this area arise, Newport Hospital continues to strive to meet that need with quality health care.

We're Jackson County Proud!!!





### **Tuckerman**

In 1872 the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad came through Jackson County. One of the stations established was Tuckerman, which supposedly was named for a man connected with the railroad.

D.C. and F.R. Dowell, sons of Henry Dowell, who left Kentucky and settled near Elgin in 1850, saw the possibilities in the site of the Tuckerman station and built the first store in Tuckerman. The second building in Tuckerman was the residence of Frank Harrison. His daughter, Julia Harrison (later Armstrong), was the first white child to live in Tuckerman, coming from Elgin at the age of three months. The first child born in Tuckerman was a Negro, Joe Lucas (a girl). The first white child born in the town was Foster B. Dowell, a son of D.C. Dowell.

Dr. Richardson and Alex Lockard were other early pioneers of the town. Lockard operated a store in Tuckerman. A log blacksmith shop was erected in the '70's, followed by a number of other buildings: Bloom's Store, the Masonic Lodge, T.D. Lawrence's Store and the L.D. Smith residence.

As the town progressed, the children of Stephen J. Graham, who had settled south of Tuckerman in 1850, moved into the town and built a store. As the town expanded, the Graham Brothers enterprises also expanded.

Among the other pioneers who settled in the area of Tuckerman were the following: John Darden, Wash Parrott, W.S. Armstrong, George Bandy, T.E. Jones, Ed Maxey, Henry Hill, John Mathis, Henry Allen, Sam Harvey, Wiseman Tims, Cal Biggers, Roe Anderson, the Gardners, the Terrells, the Deatons, the Bowens, the McNutts, the Conditts, J.Y. Harrison, Henry H. Penix, the Yelvertons, the Slaydens, the Palmers, the Langstons, Dr. Crawford West, Dr. Boyce, the Vandivers, the Farmers, George Washington Miller, the Choates, Rev. Evans (built the first Methodist Church in 1888), Bob Harvey, the Sees, Bob Graham and W.H. Parrott.

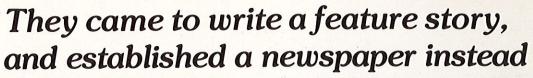
Tuckerman was incorporated November 9, 1891. The mayor in 1988 is Everett King. Clerk/Treasurer is Barbara Fields, and the Council consists of Mac McCool, Sue Schreiner, Luther Goodman, Bill O'Brien, Bill Cockrill and Scotty Armstrong



Fire destroyed this old Tuckerman schoolhouse during the early days of World War II.



### र्थः विवयः



In April, 1901, the Newport Daily Independent was established by Percy H. Van Dyke of Marshall, Mo., and E. C. Hoffman. Mr. Van Dyke and Mr. Hoffman had come to Newport not to establish a newspaper, but with the idea of writing a feature story about the prospect of Newport's becoming a boom town.

The White River Branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad was to be built from Newport to Kansas City; the Frisco had already completed a spur from Jonesboro as far as Grubbs. Newport was to get smelters to process the minerals from newly opened zinc mines in Marion county, and the steamboat trade from Memphis and St. Louis was still brisk.

The people of Newport expressed their need for a strong, independent newspaper, and the *Daily Independent* was born. Mr. Hoffman soon moved to Oklahoma, leaving his interest in the paper to Mr. Van Dyke. The paper started with a circulation of 350, with a subscription price of a dime for the first week.

Aside from the newspaper business, Mr. Van Dyke became one of the town's most responsible citizens and throughout his long life took an active part in the city's advancements. His high ideals and standards of what a good newspaper should be left its stamp upon the *Independent*. He married Lula Empie and they were the parents of a daughter, Margaret, who lives in Newport and writes an occasional column for the paper.

The Independent was leased to Austin C. Wilkerson, editor of the Batesville Guard, in 1916. Two years later, he and Mrs. Wilkerson, the former Norine Case of Batesville, purchased the newspaper.

Mr. Wilkerson was a born newspaperman, "a prolific writer, never at a loss for words or clarity of expression, for soundness of thought and the instinct to reach the important subject matter of a news story or editorial... He was able to correlate the efforts of those with whom he was associated." This tribute was paid him by the late James L. Bland, one of the many young men who learned the newspaper business under Mr. Wilkerson. Bland bought the Walnut Ridge Times-Dispatch, with Wilkerson's help, in 1921. The late Oscar E. Jones, who worked at the Independent during his college years, subsequently bought the Batesville Guard. He never failed to give credit to his mentor, Mr. Wilkerson. Roy Evans, former owner of the Tuckerman Record, also gained much of his early experience at the Independent.

He was actively engaged in politics as a Democrat, but never ran for public office himself. He served as campaign manager for the late Senator Joe T. Robinson, Democratic candidate for

vice-president on the 1928 ticket with Al Smith. He attended National Democratic conventions as a delegate from Jackson county.

After his death in 1935, the paper was continued by his widow, and under her dedication and perseverance and through many hardships, the paper never missed a day's publication. There were two wars to endure, bringing a scarcity of manpower, leaving obsolete machinery which often made the paper late. Typesetters came and went, often without notice. It should be noted that one faithful linotype operator, Jeff Henderson, is legendary at the *Independent* because of his long tenure of 40 years. His keen sense of humor was well-known to his many colleagues.

The Wilkersons' daughter, Betty, began work in different phases of the newspaper during vacations from the University of Arkansas, where she majored in Journalism. She married Orville Richolson, trained in Journalism at the University of Missouri, and they assumed management with Mrs. Wilkerson after moving to Newport in 1953.

Their five children worked at the *Independent* during their years of growing up. Both sons, Ricky and Austin, had paper routes at an early age, and worked in the press room during high school. After Ricky's graduation from the University of Missouri, he returned to work at the paper, and became publisher in 1985.

The Richolsons' oldest daughter, Norine, married Terry Tribbey of San Antonio, Texas and they are the parents of a son, Wesley, and a daughter, Ashley. Norine, who attended the University of Missouri, returned with her family in 1986 to Newport, where she became Advertising Manager of the Independent, after working in the advertising department of the Houston Chronicle. Terry, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, worked for several years in the advertising department of Southwestern Bell at Houston, and is now Managing Editor of the Independent.

The Richolsons' other daughters, Louise and Sally, now live and work in Mission Viejo, Calif., and Austin, Tex., respectively. Their son, Austin, died in an accident in 1986.

The Independent is one of only seven remaining Arkansas daily newspapers (out of 32) that are still family-owned. Lady Elizabeth Luker, writing in 1966 in the Stream of History, publication of the Jackson County Historical Society, described the Independent as "an impartial vehicle of the news and growth of Newport and Jackson county, willing to give both sides of a controversy, encouragement and praise when merited, and yet never losing touch with the threads of personal life in this locality."

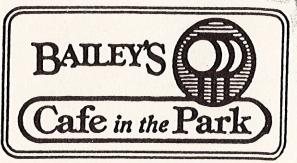
Newport Daily Independent

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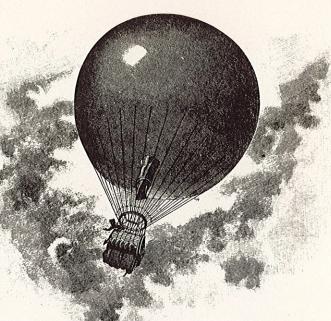




901 Highway 67 North, Newport



Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner Salad Bar ● Noon Buffet



### FORTUNE'S HOT AIR BALLOON TOURS

Newport's first Hot Air Balloon Company

Jackson County PROUD!

DR. REGINALD HAMPTON, Presiding Elder, Hot Springs District, Candidate for Bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church.



Jerry Shelby JERRY'S HAIRSTYLING

TERESA DRIVE, NEWPORT

Telephone 523-9353



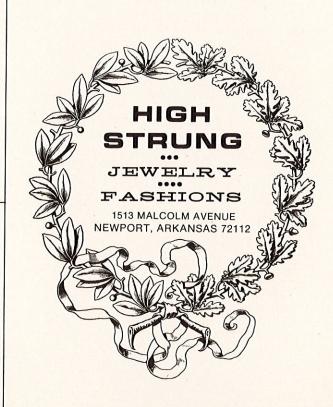




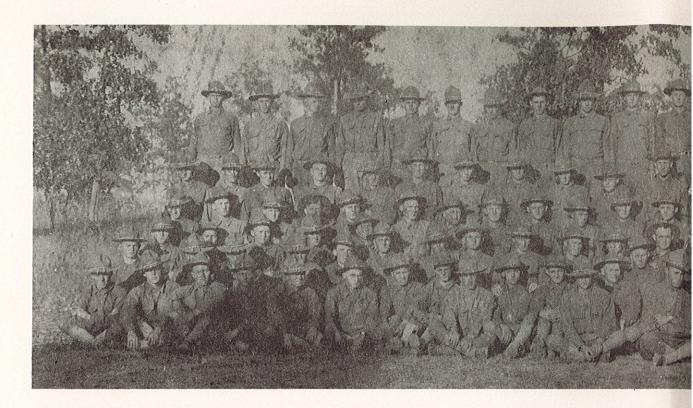
Dr Pepper 7-Up Royal Crown Bottling Co.

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### A FEW MEMORIES

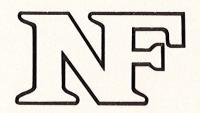
Company E was quartered at the old Hazel Hotel (now the location of the Merchants and Planters Bank) for about a month before orders came for their departure. This was the last time that an entire company was organized from one place. The boys were all from Jackson County (or nearby), and their friends planned many entertainments for them while they were waiting for their orders to go to the First World War.

They drilled out at the old Fair Grounds every day and always had an audience of both adults and children who drove out in buggies, wagons or pony carts to watch.

Mrs. B.W. Jamison, whose oldest son John was a member of the Company, arranged for different women in Newport to make pies every day. Each afternoon she and Mrs. E.L. Watson drove around in the surrey to pick up the pies and take them to the hotel for the boys' dessert. The night before Company E was to leave, Mrs. Dorsey had a lawn party for the entire Company at her home at Third and Pine Streets. The side yard was decorated and lighted with colorful strings of Japanese lanterns.

When the final morning came, Company E marched in formation from the hotel to the Missouri Pacific railroad station. The whole county had gotten the news, of course, and thousands of people were already at the station or walked down the street on each side of the column. Patriotic sentiment was high in Newport, flags were waved everywhere. Many of the stirring songs of the First World War had already been written. "Over There," "Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag," "Bring Back the Kaiser's Mustache," and "On The Way to Tipperary" were sung spontaneously by different groups along the way. A couplet made up strictly in Newport, Arkansas, probably by one of the soldiers, ran: "Shoo Fly, don't bother me, For I belong to Company E."

This page is proudly sponsored by



# NEWPORT FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

(ACROSS FROM THE COURTHOUSE)



### OF COMPANY E

Finally, amidst the last goodbyes, the hugs and kisses and tears, the deafening cheers of the whole town, Company E boarded the train. The long, full-throated whistle of the big steam engine blew, white jets of steam hissed from the exhausts, the giant power wheels began to turn. All one hundred and fifty boys were jammed at the windows of the town-side of the cars, each trying to pinpoint a last glimpse of his particular loved ones waving there as the faces swept by faster and faster and then were gone.

But what was this??? Down below the Oil Mill at the levee, the train was slowing down—a jerking and slamming of brakes, everyone was thrown against the seats or someone else—and came to a grinding stop before they even reached White River Bridge! Lo and behold, one volunteer too many had been discovered on the train. Lawrence Hillhouse, then about fourteen years old, was determined to go to war with his brother Albert Bevans. And board the train he did, unnoticed in the excitement and crowds at the station. Unfortunately for his patriotic ambitions, he joined Albert as soon as the train pulled out, and he was reported to the conductor by Captain Garland Hurt. Lawrence's short membership in Company E was brought to an end, and he was handed down from the train steps just below town.

With crushing disappointment he trudged his way back up the track to Newport, not alone however in his fervor to serve his country, for many another younger brother had wished the same thing.

The whistle blew again for the bridge, and the long black train thundered across the river, through Oil Trough bottoms, on past Olyphant—and away.

-Compliments of-

Shirley and Glover Haigwood Farms





### "All Day Dinner"

A hospitable custom in Jackson County in the late 1890s was the gathering of many friends for what was called an "All Day Dinner". The picture below was taken at such an occasion at the E.L. Watson home on Main and Second Streets in Newport.



We all know that McDonald's® was not around in the 1890s. As a matter of fact, the Newport McDonald's® celebrates its fifth anniversary on June 11, 1988. Even though we were not around 100 years ago, we definitely plan to be here 100 years from now. If there had been a McDonald's in the 1890s, we're convinced that the "All Day Dinner" would have included many good things to eat from McDonald's®—and the picture might even include a Big Mac® or two.

Steve Taylor, owner/operator is proud to be in Jackson County and is "Jackson County Proud".

# IT'S A GOOD TIME FOR THE GREAT TASTE





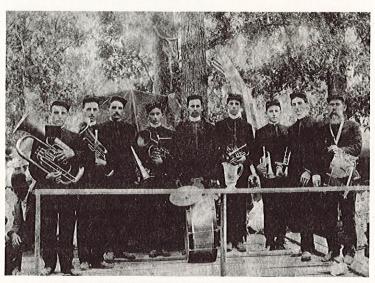


### **SWIFTON**

As early as 1861 there was a settlement where Swifton stands, and religious services were conducted here according to a record of one of the local churches. It was not called Swifton until the Iron Mountain Railway came through in 1872 and began purchasing wood for its locomotives from a farm family named Swift.

Many of the settlers came prior to that time including J.M. Glass who came to Jackson County in 1850 as a school teacher. In 1857 he moved on to the township which later was named for him. He was elected to the offices of justice of the peace, county surveyor and school director.

Prominent among the ranks of those who fought for the Confederacy were many of the early settlers. J.W. Clark, who arrived in 1860, enlisted early with an Arkansas regiment and soon rose to the rank of Colonel. Mr. Glass participated in the Battle of Prairie Grove and other skirmishes. He was made First Lieutenant and then Adjutant. G.W. Dudley enlisted in 1861 and engaged in many major battles including Mannassas and Shiloh. He was severely wounded twice. In 1867 he moved to Glass Township, R.E. Jones, who settled in this township in 1865, served three years and participated in the battles of Helena, Pea Ridge and others. William R. Harvey, who came to the county in 1849, served



SWIFTON CIVIC BAND, CIRCA 1900 (Left to right) Lee Moon, Robert Gilliam, C.C. Nicholson, Roy Moon, N.D. Moon, Sr., Doc Rorex, Billy Altman, Jim Moon, Colonel Russell.

from 1862 until the close of the war. He was in many battles. After the war, he moved to Glass Township. He built one of the first roads from the old St. Louis trail to his home.

In the establishment and growth of Swifton some of the "firsts" were the postoffice and Alexander J. Jones, who was postmaster; the first school, a private one called the Moon School, located north of town near the county line; doctors: J.H. Rutland, Bud Tunstall, T.W. Toler, who came as a child with his father in 1869, N.D. Moon and A.J. Mills, 1883. Among the large landowners were the Moons, Harveys, Dudleys and C.C. Nicholson, who was born a native son in 1863. Joseph G. Smith was active in maintenance of the railroad, being a foreman of an extra gang. Most all of those mentioned have descendants still living in Swifton.

In the 1880s Swifton contained—among other things—a postoffice, a steam-grist mill and cotton gin, two general stores, one dry goods and grocery store, two groceries, two hotels, a school house, mechanics shops, with a population of 150. By 1980, that figure had risen to 859 and we're still growing with Jackson County!

Swifton city officials during 1988 are: Jerry King, mayor; Linda Blackwood, recorder-treasurer; and aldermen Steve Tinsley, James Adams, Joe Kinder, J.W. Hulen and Bill Grimes.

-Sponsored by Sen. Robert Harvey-

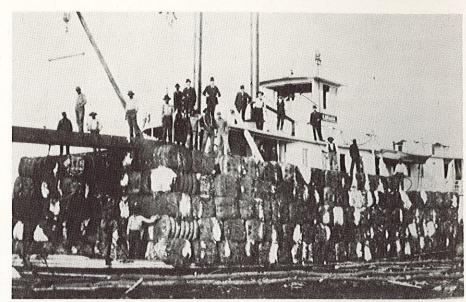




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### Agriculture in Jackson County

When Jackson County was established in 1829, only a few farms had been established within its boundaries. During the early 1830s, a number of settlers arrived with the means to transform the rich lands into prosperous farms



Local farm products were shipped to various ports by means of steamboats like this one, the A.R. Braggy, which was constructed at Newport in 1890.

and small plantations—farm implements and slaves. By 1840, cotton had become the principal cash crop of Jackson County farmers—a position it held until the 1950s, when it was replaced by soybeans. Cotton gin stands were owned by many of the farmers in the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s. During the 1870s, more efficient public gins were established. By 1900, almost every town in Jackson County had at least one cotton gin. The last of Jackson County's cotton gins shut down in the 1970s.

Rice was first planted in Jackson County on an experimental basis in 1905 in Cow Lake Township by E.E. Huggins. Several serious efforts were made to grow rice in the county in the decade between 1910 and 1920, but it was not until the 1920s that Jackson County became a significant rice-producing area. Corn, grown for many years as fuel for the livestock used to produce other crops, has in recent years become a major crop in Jackson County. Wheat, milo and peanuts are also grown.

J.J. Holden (1845-1895) moved to Jackson County from New York in 1879. He and his three sons, John Robert Holden (1869-1946), George Washington Holden (1873-1931) and Charles Ellingham Holden (1879-1951), farmed on Village Creek. Following their father's death, J.R. Holden and Charles Holden continued to farm in the area until 1918, when their partnership was dissolved. The Holden brothers had also operated a sawmill on the old Holden farm for several years prior to 1908, and they operated a stave mill at Campbell Station a few years later.

J.R. Holden became one of Jackson County's major landowners. He and his two sons, Robert Gray Holden (1897-1974) and Brouce Holden (1899-1967), had a number of farming enterprises, including the American Gin in East Newport. The sons later operated the gin and their farmland as Holden Brothers Farm and Gin Company. Their sister, Josephine Holden Biggadike, lives in Newport.

R.G. Holden married Miss Lelia Tims, of Tuckerman. Their only child, Mary Alice Holden, married John Louis Conner, the son of William Emerson Conner (1894-1972) and Martha Campbell Conner (1894-1969). William Emerson Conner, a native of Auvergne, was the son of John Louis Conner (1863-1917) and Emma Clements Conner (1872-1962). John Louis Conner was the son of Bolivar B. Conner (1829-1892), who owned and operated a large farm in Woodruff County, Arkansas. Emma Clements Conner was the daughter of Dr. George M.D. Clements (1844-1915), who lived at Auvergne for many years and acquired a large landholding. Dr. Clements had two other daughters, Linnie Clements Hare, the wife of Marvin B. Hare and Annie Antoinette Clements Bleakley, the wife of Forrest Lee Bleakley.

Holden-Conner Farms and its various related businesses are operated by John L. Conner and his son, John L. Conner, Jr.

### HOLDEN-CONNER FARMS

-18-



L.aaa.

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Plate Lunches

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4-Wheel Drives

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TELEPHONE 523-5594 HOME 523-8534

Shawn Gates, Salesman

David McClellan, Salesman

### र्भ व<del>व</del>ब

### 96 Years of Growing in Jackson County

In the past 113 years the city of Newport has seen fantastic growth occur. The First State Bank of Newport has seen similar growth come its way.

From a small beginning on September 22, 1892, First State has seen silver, gold and diamond anniversaries slip into history. First State Bank of Newport, called Jackson County Savings Bank on its inception, is now nearing the end of 96 years of banking in Jackson County.

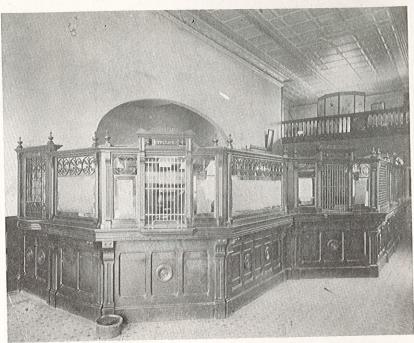
Eleven directors began the Jackson County Savings Bank back in 1892 with some \$12,600 in capital stock. Sigmund Wolf served as president of JCSB in those days. He, along with L. Hirsch, G.W. Hurley, Adam Bach, E.G. Thompson, J.T. Henderson, N.P. Wilson, B.C. Manson, S. Brash, W.A. Joyce and W.A. Billingsley, served as directors.

Only one year after the opening, in 1893, the word savings was dropped from the institution's name. Most of the dividends of the bank were put back into the institution but just after the turn of the century the first dividend, 8 percent, was declared.

The year 1903 proved to be an auspicious occasion for the bank with the obtaining of a national charter. With this charter, First National Bank of Newport, officially came into existence.

In the 1920's W.A. Billingsley was president and Chief Executive Officer. Billy Parish was Cashier. Fred Jones was head bookkeeper. Charlie Bandy, Norman Campbell and Jimmy Wilmans were tellers. Mr. Threlkeld kept the general ledger and worked closely with Mr. Billingsley. It was the sole surviving bank at the end of the decade.

A progression of steady growth has marked First National of Newport. Though the rate of growth of the city has been phenominal, the growth rate of the bank has paralleled this growth or in some cases exceeded it.



Several times in history First National has outgrown its facilities. The bank was first housed on Hazel Street and in 1897 the five-year-old institution moved into the "second" First National bank building at 113-115 Hazel Street when the structure was opened. It is presently known as the Dr. Gray building. In 1917 this building was remodeled with a complete new stone facelifting.

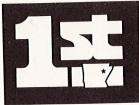
In 1946, First National moved to more spacious quarters at 502 Front Street and it remained there until 1966.

In December of 1966, the bank moved to its present location on the corner of Hazel and Second Streets as they opened the new \$500,000 facility with some 14,000 square feet of floor space.

An open house on January 9, 1967 saw more than 6,000 people visit the new building. Included in this number were some 200 correspondent bankers.

Since its final move to the present location, two more additions have been added: the Village Mall Branch, which went into operation January 18, 1971 and the Branch in Tuckerman.

First National Bank officially changed its name to First State Bank on July 6, 1978.



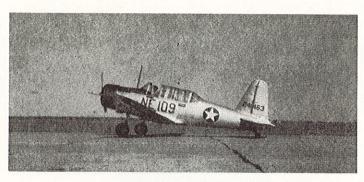
First State Bank of Newport

MEMBER FDIC









Lt. Colonel Cullus Z. Walker, USAF, Retired, *left*, was stationed at the Newport Army Airfield 1943-44. His duty was Squadron Commander at the Basic Flying Training School. Some of the planes located at Newport were like the BT-13 Aircraft, *above*.

### NEWPORT AIRBASE

Newport not only gave of its man-power during World War II, but the Home Folks rented rooms, manned a USO and gave of their time and hospitality to welcome the two branches of the Armed Forces stationed at the Newport Airbase.

Newport and Jackson County citizens felt and saw the actual preparations for war through the training at the Airbase. The U.S. Government constructed the Newport Airbase during the summer and fall of 1942. The Airfield was activated November 1, 1942. The order of activation was read by Col. Daniel A. Cooper, first post commander, while the Newport High School Band played the Stars & Stripes.

The field was complete in every detail with all training facilities for cadets, as well as recreational and religious buildings. Four commanders of the base were stationed here.

The Army Air Force evacuated the Base July 1, 1944 and the Marine Corps took over for the duration of the life of the Base.

The Airbase, together with 1250 acres of farm land, was deeded to Newport in 1947. In 1973 the county passed a bond issue for \$775,000, creating the Jackson County Air Industrial Park, utilizing \$375,000 in government assistance to rebuild the railroad bridges and spur track, separate water and sewer systems, an elevated water tank and eventually a fire station and terminal building. Joe Ballard is the airbase manager.

### Aerosonic Corporation

Aerosonic, Inc. opened the Newport operation on April 28, 1974, presently employing twenty-two, with a peak employment of approximately fifty. It manufactures aircraft instrument components to highly-technical and exacting dimensions. The parent corporation is located in Clearwater, Florida. The president is Herbert J. Frank and David S. Goldman is Executive Vice President and Treasurer. Thurlo "Cotton" Halford is manager of the Newport Division.

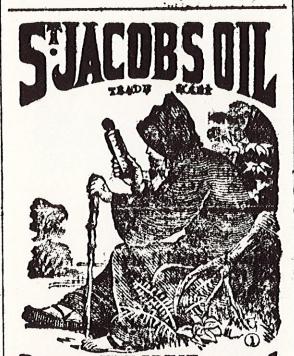
We are proud to be a part of the Jackson County Industrial Community!





CHEAPER than blacksmithing—is Frazer's Axle Grease. For sale everywhere. Try it.

**BBBE** 



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Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago,
Backache, Soreness of the Chest,
Gout, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Swellings and Sprains, Burns and
Scalds, General Bodily
Pains,

Tooth, Ear and Headache, Frosted Feet and Ears, and all other Pains and Aches.

No Preparation on earth equals St. Jacobs Ott. as a safe, sure, simple and cheap External Remedy. A trial entails but the comparatively trifling outlay of 50 Cents, and every one suffering with pain can have cheap and positive proof of its claims.

Directions in Eleven Languages.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS AND DEALERS IN MEDICINE:

A. VOGELER & CO.

Newport Weekly News, April 2, 1881

Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Arkansas covers more Arkansans than any other medical insurance plan. Even so, we cannot match the claims of St. Jacobs Oil. Indeed, St. Jacobs Oil contained directions in eleven languages, and our entire purpose is one of service and we try to reduce our relationship with you to simple english. But even if we cannot cure everything like the ad promises, we can cover virtually everything, and we are proud to offer that coverage to you through our local agent Tom Simmons, 1208 Graceland Drive, Newport, 523-3583.

We have been Jackson County Proud since our beginning: The late Dr. Jabez F. Jackson, Sr., was on our founding board of directors, and served our company with great distinction.

This ad reminds us of our history—but should also point out the incredible and life saving strides made in medical care, for which we all should be grateful.



A Mutual Insurance Company

Registered Marks Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

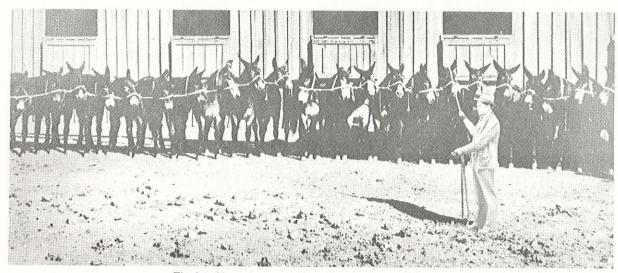


### Shoffner, Arkansas

The town of Shoffner, which has never been incorporated, is located in Breckenridge Township between Auvergne and Weldon on Highway 17. As a town, it dates from 1903, when the Shoffner Mercantile Company began business there.

The Batesville & Brinkley Railroad, running from Brinkley to Jacksonport and crossing the Iron Mountain (now Union Pacific) line at Newport, was built in the 1880s. A station was established at the site of Shoffner, chiefly for the convenience of two planters whose enterprises were centered in the vicinity: A.E. Shoffner and John W. Ferrill. The station, located on Shoffner's property, became known as Shoffner's Switch.

Aenas E. Shoffner came to Jackson County in 1859, settling first in Richwoods Township. He later acquired property east of the Pickett Plantation and became a planter of considerable stature in that area. Another large landowner in the Shoffner area was Will Hamby, a Negro, who died about 1930. He was well-thought of by everyone.



The late Mann Shoffner, Sr., doing what he loved most.

A.E. Shoffner married Martha W. Patterson and they had eight children. Because so many of these descendants have been deeply involved in the history of south Jackson County, they will be listed: Emily J. (1854-1897) married Joe T. McCartney (1851-1905) and had Maftie, Anderson, Birdie, Dora, Dee Hester and Maude McCartney; Queenie A. (1856-1922) married B. Frank Bridges and had E.B., Pearl (married a Balch), Letha J. (married Joe T. McCartney) and Gus A.; Susan L. (1857-1896) married Birrell R. McDearmon (1852-1938) and had Pearl M. (married a Seaman), Nora (married a Pomeroy) and George; William H. (1859-1946) married Ida Fallin (1870-1953) and had Johnnie (married Elbert Johnson), Marjorie (married Joe McDonald), Hazel (married Edward Morgan), Mann A., Edith (married George Beard), Elmo and James Shoffner; Charles L. (1867-1920) married Birdie Finley (1877-1963) and had Ruth A. (1899-1904), Woodward (died in infancy), Charles L., Jr. (1903-1925) and Bessie Finley (married Joe Stiles); Daniel L. "Sig", twin to Edward, (1868-1941) married Minnie B. Murphy and had one son, Daniel L., Jr.; Edward P. (1868-1912) married (1) Dicie A. Finley (1875-1899) and had Homer A., married (2) Eva Shuford (1874-1937) and had Irma, Fay (married C.E. Makoski) and Edward P., Jr. (1912-1933). Nanny B. died in Alabama, the youngest child.

There have been five generations of Shoffners on the land near Shoffner, Arkansas. Many have been involved in the history of the county as prominent farmers and citizens. For example, Irma Shoffner was highly esteemed as a circuit clerk for many years. But none has been better known than Mann Shoffner, Sr., known far and wide as "Mr. Mann". He was born within one-half mile of where he lived almost all of his life (built in 1906). He was known far and wide as one of the great mule traders of the mid-South. In a series of interviews in Harryette's Hotline he told about his education: "I've never been in a school house since I was 14. I told them they burned down the school house to get me out of the third grade and I stayed in the fourth grade so long they thought I was the teacher! But I do have an R.H.D.! That's for 'Root Hog or Die!' "He married Lucia Lofton in 1920, and they had three children: Bud, Mann, Jr. and Julia Lynn. At the height of his farming operation he worked 2,000 acres and 20 families. Mann, Jr. is living in the oid family home, Julia Lynn has recently moved back (her son, Lofton Shoffner (Jack) Kent is an established farmer) John, Jr. and his wife Wendy are engaged in experimental and research farming, all in the town of Shoffner, Arkansas! Not a bad record for a town that has never incorporated.

This page is proudly sponsored by the Mann Shoffner Family and an anonymous admirer of "Mr. Mann".





### **BURTON'S, INC.**

Burton Mercantile & Gin Company, Beedeville, was organized in 1923 as a partnership between D.H. Burton and the late M.B. Hare, both of Newport. They purchased the store and cotton gin from the Beede Brothers of Beedeville. At the time of this purchase, Burton and Hare were part-owners of the Clements Mercantile Co., Auvergne; Burton was the manager. B.H. DeSears was hired to manage the new concern and served until 1926, when he became manager of the Ferrill Farm at Shoffner. D.H. Burton sold his interest in the Clements Mercantile Company in 1926 and assumed the active management of the Beedeville business, then known as Hare Mercantile and Gin Company. This company began acquiring land in Cow Lake Township and enjoyed a steady growth through the years. Hare and Burton continued as partners until Hare's death in 1934; a year later Burton bought the Hare interest from his estate.

R. Owen Burton, elder son of D.H. Burton, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1934 and joined the firm as bookkeeper that fall. The Tupelo store, gin and farmland were purchased from the Heckart Estate of Augusta in 1938. J.H. Snapp of Fitzhugh purchased an interest in the gin and was an active partner for a number of years. A short time before his death he sold his interest in the gin and several hundred acres of land to D.H. Burton. David Paul Burton, the younger son of D.H. Burton, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1939 and joined the Tupelo operation as farm manager. Burton Mercantile & Gin Company was incorporated in 1955 with D.H. Burton as president, D.P. Burton, vice president and R. Owen Burton secretary-treasurer. David Owen Burton, son of R. Owen Burton, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1960 and joined the firm as farm manager at Beedeville. In 1963 Stanley Bruce Burton, oldest of four sons of David Paul Burton, graduated from the University of Arkansas and joined the Tupelo operation as assistant farm supervisor.

During D.H. Burton's active management of the business he was instrumental in organizing Farmers Oil Corporation, Newport Rice Mill, Inc., Farmers Equipment Company and Merchants & Planters Bank, all in Newport. He served as president of Farmers Oil Corporation and Newport Rice Mill and as chairman of the board of Merchants & Planters Bank. David Paul Burton was president of Farmers Equipment Company.

D.H. Burton was born at Bowen's Ridge on April 2, 1888. The place was known at that time as Layton and is now known as Blackville. He was one of eight children born to T.J. and Ada Jane (Murphy) Burton. T.J. Burton came to Arkansas in 1869 from Mississippi, where he was born March 15, 1847. He fought for the Confederacy in 1864-65. He was a son of Thomas Farrar and Nancy (Burton) Burton. Ada Jane Murphy was born at Bowen's Ridge, July 10, 1860; her parents were B.W. and Mary E.J. (McElwee) Murphy.

The Burton family has owned land in Jackson County for over 100 years and has been paying taxes on one parcel for almost that long.

James D. (Jimmy) Burton is president of Burton's, Inc., the successor corporation. He is becoming widely known for his innovative farming methods and crops. He has raised under contract for canning companies

green beans, cabbage, cucumbers and broccoli. He is raising cut corn for retail sale for table use. Both the corn and cucumbers are run through a hydro-cooler, which drops the temperature of the corn by forty-five degrees, to a temperature of approximately thirty-six degrees. These are placed in wirebound crates and shipped in refrigerated trucks. With his engineering background from the University of Arkansas he has been an innovator, not only in crops, but equipment associated with the crops.

Jimmy Burton is playing in the Follies Band.



Group of Jackson County men, around 1910, all traveling by means of oxen teams







The Frank A. Rogers Company traces its Jackson County beginning to the original company of Short & Brownlee, which was founded around 1946. That company later became Brownlee and Rogers which grew to its present name, Frank A. Rogers Company in 1965. At that time, the company was formed by Frank A. Rogers and Ed Scoggins.

- We have grown with Jackson County and Northeast Arkansas in the field of agriculture. That began with farm equipment sales by Short & Brownlee and later constructing grain storage systems on the farm, farm buildings and commercial elevators with the Frank A. Rogers Company.
- We have grown with Jackson County in industry. The Rogers Company has built many of the industrial facilities in this area. These include National Aluminum, Victor, American Lantern, Brown-Jordan, Curtner Lumber Co. and now Medallion Foods.
- We have grown in the area of commercial buildings. The Village Mall Shopping Center, McCartney, Manning, McDonald & Guinn, Guinn and Monday Hardware, McDonald Chevrolet, Kell Motor Company, Harris Hospital and Clinic, Production Credit Association, Hodges Law Office, Pratt Square, C & C Distributors, Fortune Distributing Company, Miller Distributing Company and National Guard Armory.
- Growth has occurred through construction of educational facilities. Newport High School (The John W Mullins Technical Building, Maintenance Shop, High School Cafeteria as well as two new buildings this summer) and the White River Vo Tech School.

We are fortunate to have our many agricultural friends and customers as well as our many satisfied clients in industry, education and commerce. We are definitely Jackson County Proud!



J. Ed Scoggins (right), pictured with the late Frank A. Rogers.

Frank A. Rogers & Company, Inc.



Present Owners
Terry, Eddy and Ed Scoggins



Kaaa.

John Minor Co., Inc., a family-owned and operated Independent Insurance Agency, evolved from the original family business. The Phillips-Ferguson Agency was established in 1896 by Sam Phillips, Alcorn Ferguson and Lancelot Minor. The name of the agency was changed in 1931 when Alcorn F. Minor, Sr. and A.M. Edgar purchased it and formed a partnership with A.E. McCartney. In 1944 A.F. Minor, Sr. became the sole owner. Then, in 1960, a Corporation was formed and the stockholders were A.F. Minor, Sr., A.F. Minor, Jr. and John Minor. The Agency was known as A.F. Minor and Company, Inc.

The original location was 117 Walnut Street, Newport. Following expansion, the business was moved to 103 Walnut Street, in the building formerly occupied by First National Bank. This

Alcorn Ferguson

handsome building, constructed in 1916, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, John
Minor Company, Inc.
offers Property and
Casualty Insurance,
Life and Health
Insurance, Bonds and
is actively engaged in
the Real Estate
Business. A
subsidiary, John
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Insurance, Inc., is
available to service
the area's agricultural
needs.



**Lancelot Minor and Sam Phillips** 



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Our building as it looked in the 1920s.



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Gizmo Shop

COX KOBBLER & JR. KORRAL







Village Grill

VILLAGE MALL MERCHANTS



Purdy's

Dr. Rodman's



MERLE NORMAN

Jackson County PROUD!

GEORGE KELL, Third baseman for Detroit Tigers, 1983 Inductee in Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, New York

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Purina & Tindle Chows
Field Seeds ● Farm Supplies
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### FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1987. Newport Juniors Take Opening Tilt

From Monday's Daily

they came from behind aggregation sent the Augusta down to an 8 to 4 defeat.

able to reach his opponent on four. ber. Mills of Augusta struck defense with several out more batters than Shoffner, fielding plays.

but Shoffner showed better con-The Newport American Legion trol, walking only four men to junior baseball team won the Mills' 9. Mills' walks were costopening game of the season ly in the sixth and seventh inyesterday at Mann field when nings when Newport filled the and bases on walks and scored them on clean hits.

Newport's Wilber, Shoffner, Newport's curve ball rightfielder, led the day at the pitcher, allowed the visitors but plate with three hits out of five seven hits, and his mates were trips, while Mullins got two for diminutive Newport's the mound for the same num-shortstop, Kell, starred on the

The following three men are mentioned in the above story:

Mullins: The late John W. Mullins. A graduate of Newport High School, P.O.W. in WWII, Superintendent of Newport Special School District 1962-1983.

Shoffner: Mann Shoffner, Jr. Lives in the family home at Shoffner. Retired major, U.S.M.C. (Korea, Vietnam). Outstanding amateur for Hendrix, University of Arkansas and the Marine Corps.

Kell: George Kell, Sr. Major league batting champion, nine-time all time All Star, Cooperstown Hall of Fame.

Mr. H.W. Morrison of Little Rock, father of Harryette Morrison Hodges (Harryette's Hotline) was a close friend of the Bellingraths of Little Rock. When Mr. Bellingrath was approached by family members from Georgia about investing in a new drink product called Coca Cola, Mr. Morrison declined an offer to join in. His thinking was fundamentally sound: men who wanted to drink would go to a saloon, and women did not drink anything in a public place. If a drink was to be prepared in a home, it would certainly be hot tea. Thus, there clearly was no market for such a drink as the Bellingrath family proposed. Mrs. Hodges laughs today about the investment never made. After all, its not hard to imagine why Mr. Morrison thought a warm carmel-flavored soda in a bottle (ice was difficult to obtain) would be hard to market.

The Coca Cola Bottling Company opened its first branch at Newport in 1916. T.L. Bellingrath bought his brother's interest in the parent company in Arkansas in 1915. The first location in Newport was at the site of the old Collier works. About 1931, the company moved to Beech Street. After a fire in the 1960s, the entire operation was moved to Batesville in 1965. Carl "Buster" Bellingrath, a member of the Bellingrath family so closely identified with Coca Cola, was the manager of the Newport plant, and after its move continued to live in Newport until his death.

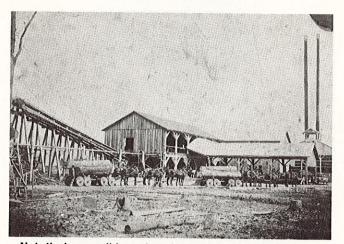






### REMMEL COMMUNITY

The settlement of Remmel was started before the Civil War. John W. McCartney, Sr. and Cane McCall (who wore earrings) were among the immigrants coming from Alabama and Georgia to this part of the country looking for a better life for their families. They arrived in Jackson County at what is now known as the Remmel Community prior to the Civil War. They built houses from logs hewn by hand, and Mrs. McCall built a large two-story house which was the showplace of that time.



Note the huge, solid wooden wheels on the carts used to carry virgin timber cut from the vast forests around Remmel.

These six-mule teams were not uncommon in the years before and around the turn of the century.

These people prospered because of the fine timber and rich soil. They planted cotton, Indian corn and hay for their livestock.

Not all was pleasant in these surroundings as they were troubled with the jayhawkers during the War. John W. was captured at one time and forced to go with them for several miles. Finally, he contacted a freed slave and told him if he would have his mule at a certian tree at 12 o'clock that night he would give him a twenty dollar gold piece. At the appointed hour the Negro was there with the mule. John W. gave him the gold piece and made his escape. For some time after this, he had to hide out in the woods in the daytime and go home at night. His wife used a white sheet to signal when the coast was clear of the enemy and it was safe to come home.

John McCartney, Sr. built the first gin in this area. The press was pulled by a team of oxen. The screw was made of wood and could be heard for a long distance if they did not keep it well-lubricated with axle grease.

The McCartney family continued to work for a better community, helping to build the school, the church and roads. Joe and John, Jr., sons of the above John W., Sr., built a store and later acquired the first postoffice through the help of H.L. Remmel (thus giving the community its name). This was in the early nineties.

W.A. McCartney, father of Frank and Charles and Jewel M. Heffington, established a mercantile and gin business at Remmel. He was one of the earliest rice producers in the county in addition to growing cotton and soybeans. Later they went into the minnow business, which in its time was one of the largest in the state.

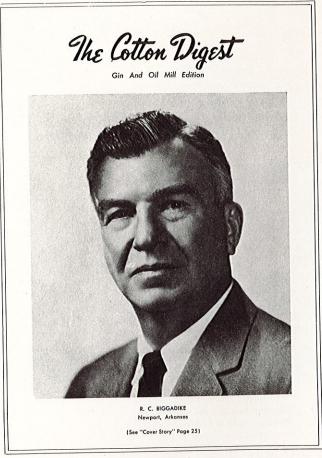
Bowman Manufacturing Company is located in Remmel. Incorporated in 1977, it started with one production item: an injection unit to put liquid fumigant into the fields to retard nematodes in soybeans. One of the early goals was to use more effectively farm labor in the off season, and the early business employed approximately four people. Product lines have expanded since that time, with the rope wick being the biggest seller, going into in excess of twenty states. At the present time wide booms up to forty-five feet are being sold as far away as the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. The company has employed a high of twenty-five at peak, and today employs ten people. (*Editor's Note:* It is a model for entrepeneurs as to what can be produced by intelligence, hard work and ingenuity.) Morris Bowman is president, David and Donald Bowman are vice presidents and Roger Bowman is secretary-treasurer.

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### Cotton Buyens

or more than a century, cotton was the main crop grown by Jackson County farmers. In the early days, ginned bales of cotton were taken by the farmers to merchants in Jacksonport and Augusta who took the cotton on consignment and shipped it by steamboat to New Orleans or Memphis, where it was sold. When the "commission merchant" received payment, he paid the farmer for the cotton (or, as was often the case, he credited the farmer's store account with the proceeds), deducting a commission for handling the sale.

In the 1880s, many of the farmers freed themselves from debt to the stores and began bringing their cotton to Newport, where cotton buyers inspected the bales and bought the cotton directly from the farmers. By 1925, it had become customary for the gins to buy the cotton from the farmers. Cotton buyers then inspected the cotton kept on the gin platforms and bought it from the ginners. During the cotton season, the buyers made daily rounds to the gins, negotiating with the ginners.



R.C. Biggadike as he appeared on the cover of the December 5, 1959 issue of *The Cotton Digest*.

Among the cotton-buying companies which established offices in Newport were Lesser-Goldman, George H. McFadden and Brother, Anderson-Clayton, Weil Brothers, Creekmore and Hillhouse Brothers. By 1970, only three cotton buyers were left in Newport: R.C. Biggadike, with George H. McFadden and Brother Cotton Company; F.M. "Crackie" Parker, representing Weil Brothers Cotton Company; and C.R. "Red" Farrar, of the Anderson-Clayton Cotton Company.

R.C. "Biggy" Biggadike started in the cotton business in 1921 in Little Rock, where his family had moved from Earle, Arkansas. He became associated with George H. McFadden and Brother Cotton Company. After assignments in Little Rock, Memphis, Fort Smith and Walnut Ridge, he was transferred to McFadden's Newport office in 1929. Biggadike continued to work as a cotton buyer, but he also engaged in other business activities in Jackson County. He was a member of the first board of directors of the Merchants and Planters Bank, and he was a commissioner of the Newport Municipal Water Company for thirty years, serving as chairman several years. He also served as president of the Newport Special School District board.

Roy Cecil Biggadike, born in 1902, died in 1978. He and Josephine Holden, the daughter of J.R. Holden and Elizabeth McLain Holden, were married in 1930. They were the parents of three children: Elizabeth Biggadike Scroggin, Robert Holden Biggadike and Josephine Ann Biggadike Drew.

-Sheeder

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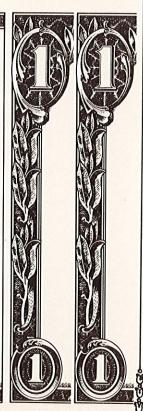
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### BASEBALL IN JACKSON COUNTY

Community-supported baseball nines were the order of the day from the beginning of the county. In 1888 a Little Rock newspaper reported plans for a Fourth of July baseball game and barbecue in Newport.

The first record of baseball in Jackson County was in 1869, only thirty years after Abner Doubleday invented the game. In that year the Stonewall Baseball Club was organized at Jacksonport and soon numbered over twenty-five members. President Lynn was quoted: "Although three fourths of the members are strangers to the game, it is very evident that we have excellent material to operate upon, and they hope soon to be able to give and receive challenges for match games." Batesville and Searcy also had teams.

In 1900 a baseball field was built in East Newport in the 500 block of Holden Avenue. A Newport team was organized, but only two or three games were played each season because there were so few teams in this area with which to compete. Bob Bandy was Newport's star pitcher.

In 1907 the Northeast Arkansas League was formed. Its first president was J.E. Doherty, whose son, J.E. Doherty, Jr., held the position of catcher on the Newport team. R.T. Simmons umpired all games for the league. No games were ever played on Sundays during those early years.

In 1908 a Newport Baseball Association was again organized. For \$100 per year, five acres of land for a baseball field were leased on the south side of Remmel Avenue. This field was used until the late 1920s. The baseball field was moved a long block east in the 1930s to a location approximately where the back of Dr. T.E. Williams' home stands.

Beginning in 1936 the town supported a Class D baseball team affiliated with the St. Louis Cardinals, for five years. Such baseball notables as George Kell, Johnny Sain, Pete Reiser, Chuck Conners (the star of movies and television) and Danny Gardella played for Newport—one of seven teams in the Northeast Arkansas Baseball League.

Three Newport men—Fred Williams, F.M. "Crackie" Parker and Lockwood Burkett—became the fathers of Little League and American Legion Baseball in Newport in 1952. They prompted the summer program in the city which continues today. Newport has boasted champion Little League, Pony League and American Legion teams.

One of the outstanding amateur baseball players in the history of the county was Clyde Kell, father of George and Everett Lee "Skeeter" Kell. He was a barber, and was hired to come to Swifton in 1921 to play baseball. He owned his own barbershop until 1946, when he bought an appliance store. Skeeter played in the major leagues with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1951-52. George Clyde Kell, elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York in 1983, is an all-time baseball great. He signed a professional baseball contract in June of 1940, and was a leading hitter in all of organized baseball in 1943, winning a Silver Bat. He went to the major leagues in 1944, playing 14 full seasons, almost all with the Detroit Tigers. He led the American League in hitting in 1949, hit over .300 nine times and played in nine All Star games. He finished with a lifetime batting average of .306. He has continued his relationship in baseball by working as a play-by-play announcer, first for CBS in 1958, and since 1959 on the Detroit Tigers Network.

Bobby Winkles was born in 1930 in Tuckerman, graduated from Swifton High School in 1948, and has one sister, Mrs. Joan Tinsley, who still lives in Swifton. He was a minor league infielder in the Chicago White Sox system 1951-58. His college baseball coaching record at

Arizona State University was 524-173 for a .752 winning percentage. He won three NCAA Championships (1965, 1967 and 1969) in 13 years as college coach. He joined the L.A. Angels coaching staff in 1971, and served as manager in 1973. More than two dozen of his college players reached the major leagues, among the more familiar being Reggie Jackson, Sal Bando and Rick Monday.

In 1959 Mose Brownstein and R.C. Biggadike purchased Beaumont Motor Company and formed Brownstein Motors, Inc. Upon the death of Mr. Brownstein in 1962, George Kell purchased his one-half interest and the name was changed to George Kell Motors, Inc. Upon the retirement of Mr. Biggadike in 1974, George Kell, Sr., became the sole owner.

This page is sponsored by George Kell Motor Company, whose cars, people and service are as American as mom, apple pie and baseball. George, Sr. loves to promote baseball, but he is too modest to have allowed the part listing his own accomplishments (it was done without his knowledge or approval!). But a wonderful part of our history is intertwined with baseball, and a part of our pride comes from the accomplishments of these outstanding ball players.

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### Listed below are some of the Jackson County organizations we support:

- Jackson County Learning Center
- Newport Special School District
- Newport Youth Baseball Program
- Newport Lions Club
- Jackson County Family and Childrens Service
- Newport/Jackson County Industrial Development Commission
- Jackson County United Way
- American Cancer Society
- United Cerebral Palsy
- March of Dimes
- Newport Optimist Club
- Easter Seals
- Preventing Alcohol Abuse Program

"Good Luck with the Follies!"

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There are no more \$2.00 iron wagons reduced to \$1.50 today, but high-quality used equipment at the lowest prices is still found right here in Jackson County. It may surprise you to know that Bob Forrester Auction and Equipment, Highway 67 North, Newport, during the first four months of 1988, sold over \$1,000,000.00 in equipment (that does *not* include auction sales). It would take 66,666 iron wagons from 1896 to reach that figure!!

On top of that, Bob as auctioneer and Patsy as comptroller/treasurer run over 30 sales a year—multi-state—making him the top auction company in north Arkansas and one of the top two in the entire state!

The company employs six full time employees and 12-13 for sales.

The growth has been quiet but strong—a local and regional success story. More evidence of "Jackson County Proud!"



### CITY OF NEWPORT

H.S. Hascall of Little Rock became editor of the *Newport News* in April, 1875. He was a promoter of civic causes, and he began to urge the citizens of Newport to adopt a corporate identity. A petition drive was led by George W. Hurley, and on October 7, 1875 the County Court issued an order for the incorporation of Newport. Few details survive of the first municipal election on November 23, 1875. Editor Hascall was elected mayor, and served until 1876.

In 1876, a night watchman was hired as a deputy town marshall, and the town began to use prisoners for work on the streets and other public services. An ordinance was passed to build sidewalks on Front Street, and property owners were charged \$20.00 per lot. In 1879, Editor Walters of the *Newport News* said: "We learned a lady fell through the walk on Hazel Street the other evening, receiving serious injury. Pity it wasn't a member of the town council." By 1878, the Newport Board of Health had been established, issuing in that year a regulation restricting travel into Newport during the yellow fever epidemic. The first census of Newport in 1880 showed 683 residents. By 1890 it had increased to 1571, reflecting the migration of a large number of Jacksonport families to Newport following the change in the county seat. A special census on November 30, 1891 showed the city had grown rapidly to 2544 people.

Early elections in Newport, particularly the election of 1879, were hotly contested and marked with hot-blooded language and many lawsuits.

James Logan Morgan has prepared an excellent history of early Newport in more detail, found in "Centennial History of Newport, Arkansas, 1875-1975", available through the Jackson County Historical Socitey.

#### -Mayors of Newport-

1876-1879-A.W. Horton 1879-1882-J.F. Staley 1882-1885-W.H. Bogart 1885-1889-J.E. Wilmans 1889-1890-R.M. Davis 1890-1891—Franklin Doswell 1891-1894-T.T. Ward 1894-1898-J.P. Foster 1898-1900-T.J. Watson 1900-1906-J.W. Grubbs 1906-1910-W.R. Thompson 1910-1912-Judge E.L. Boyce 1912-1914-J.P. Paul 1914-1918-Anton T. Hubley 1918-1918-Dr. Elbert Watson 1918-1924-C.M. Erwin 1924-1928-T.J. Gregg 1928-1932-P.H. Van Dyke 1932-1936-J.E. Williams 1936-1944-Dr. H.O. Walker 1944-1946-R.P. McCuistion 1946-1952-Dr. H.O. Walker 1952-1960-J.N. Hout 1960-1962-Bill Duncan 1962-1963-T.J. Walden 1963-1966-Dr. Oras Dotson 1966-1967—Harry Minton 1967-1969—Lloyd Fulenwider 1969-1971—Scott Elphingstone 1971-1973—Robin Stamps 1973-1975-James A. Wallace 1975-1978-Wayne Beard 1978-1980-Wayne Collier

1981-1981-Harold Rutledge

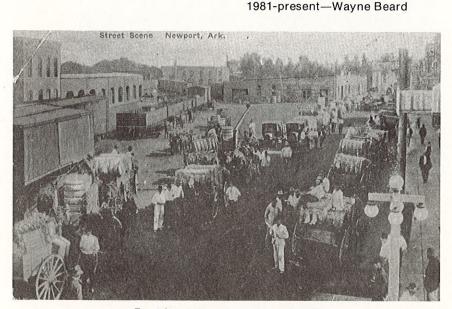
#### 1988 City Officials

Wayne Beard, Mayor J. Paul Heard, City Clerk

Council Members:

Gus Jowers
Doris Borders
Lynn Pinkett
Inez McDaniel
Joe Treadway
Gene Ivy
Chris Welch
Doyle Stackhouse
Joe Raney
David May

City Attorney: Stanley Montgomery



Front Street, Downtown Newport, 1920
Day when cotton buyers sampled and bought cotton on the street.



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### Victor Metal Products Corporation

Victor Metal Products Corporation came to Newport in 1946. The following column, written by Mr. Roy Evans for his column "Off The Record" in the Newport Daily Independent of August 17, 1987, gives some of the beginnings of Victor Industries. However, it does remind one of the comment Mark Twain made when he was told that rumors circulated that he had died: "The news of my death is premature." Victor Industries has been "Jackson County Proud" since 1946, and though these are difficult times it is the hope of Victor Industries, and its local manager Buzz Soden, that the mutually proud and mutually beneficial relationship between Victor Industries and Jackson County will continue indefinitely.

Victor Industries has been good for Jackson County. The news stories of the company's departure is saddening and brings back memories of when and how it all came about. And about all the thousands of people who have worked there and otherwise benefitted by the industry during these 40-plus years.

We're writing this "off the top of our head," so detailed accuracy need not be expected. We do remember that it was barely after WWII that J.B. Rhinehart, Jr., a Trimfoot vice president, brought that shoe factory to Newport. The city had raised nearly \$100,000, (over \$99,000) in a fabulous campaign led by P.H. Van Dyke. The organization to handle the fund was named "Newport Industrial Development Association," and is still functioning with P.K. Holmes as president.

The money could be donated outright or the donor could buy stock in the association. Those who received stock certificates were told they should never expect redemption of the certificates nor any return on the money; it was only a choice for handling the donation in claiming a tax benefit. Heirs to these stock certificates, (including some churches and some banks which are handling estates), however, come forward occasionally to see if they have any equity in the association. The answer, of course, is "No."

One of these old stock certificates is on display in our office. It is for 75 shares, (\$2.00 per share), and was issued on July 18, 1946 to J. Fred Ball, Newport postmaster.

The money, as Mr. Van Dyke viewed it, was to be "loaned" to prospective industries, to be repaid over a period of time; not to be summarily depleted through grants. This policy has been carried out fairly well through the years with countless industries having benefitted. In fact, at times, the value of the fund has far exceeded the original \$99,000.

Victor came our way by a casual encounter and conversation, as we recall it. Mr. Rhinehart was sitting alongside Victor Muscat on a train trip and they discussed plant locations. Rhinehart, fresh from his pleasant associations with Newport people, planted the seed with Mr. Muscat, a seed that grew in Muscat's mind and eventually resulted in Victor coming to Newport.

Our natural verbosity gets the upper hand when writing about something as interesting as the "Victor years" in Newport, so we'll use another column or two to set down all our pleasant memories. As well as the unpleasant memories... like the strike. And like the time the company was toying with a potential beer can contract that would exceed the plant's production capacity. Seems like the St. Louis brewery needed a trainload of cans every week, (maybe every day), but wanted all of them to come from the Newport plant. It seems that the information the public received was that it was too big a bite to attempt, besides jeopardizing the long-time and pleasant associations they had with their regular customers, like Colgate. Still some people visualized a vastly expanded industry for the city and wanted the company to go through with the deal.

# Revolutionary War Soldiers who Settled in Jackson County

- 1. John Smith. Served from North Carolina, settled in Oil Trough area about 1818. Died in 1839, buried at Surrounded Hill.
- Thomas Wideman. Served from Georgia, settled in Jackson County at what is now called Erwin Switch in 1824. Died in 1840, buried in Wideman Cemetery.
- 3. John Robinson. Served from Pennsylvania, settled in Jackson County near Litchfield in 1831. Died in 1834, buried near Litchfield.
- 4. **Joel Hill**. Served from North Carolina, settled in Jackson County (now Woodruff County) near Augusta in 1834. Died in 1842, buried in Roddy Cemetery (Woodruff County).
- Charles Pistole. Served from Virginia, settled in Surrounded Hill area in 1838. Removed to Greenbriar area of Independence County. Died in Independence County in 1839.





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Jackson County PROUD!

STEVE STEPHENS, Long-time Little Rock television personality

### **A Jackson County Native Company!**

hile living at Elgin in the mid 1890s, O.F. Craig began a family tradition by working as a printer's devil at a Newport newspaper. Later, around 1898, he moved to Tuckerman and helped found a short-lived newspaper, *The Tuckerman Sentinel*.

By 1901 O.F. Craig had moved with his wife (Elgin native Ella Lee Davenport) and their three children to nearby Newark where he established the *Newark Journal*, a paper he, his son and grandson owned until 1958.

At that time, the Craigs moved to Newport where they have continued in the commercial printing business.

Our goal has always remained the same: creative, quality printing at fair pricing. We are simply carrying on a fourth-generation family tradition of committment to excellence.

ROBERT, MARILYN & ROY CRAIG



Roy M. Craig (1901-1963) in 1915 at age 14, after returning from the Mergenthaler Linotype School in New Orleans, where he became the school's youngest factory-trained typesetter.



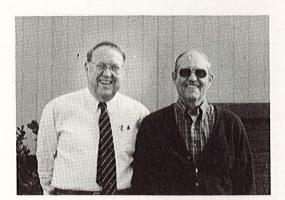
Oscar Franklin Craig 1875-1941











Albert H. Miller

Robert W. Newell

Albert H. Miller and Robert W. Newell began their partnership in 1963 as Miller-Newell Associates. Their offices were located in the First National Bank Building on Front Street. Later they occupied offices in the Brosh Building on Hazel Street until they moved to their present location at 308 Walnut Street. Branch offices were opened in Jonesboro, Arkansas and Cassville, Missouri in 1978 and 1970, respectively.

Mr. Miller graduated from Newport High School in 1950 and received degrees in engineering from the University of Arkansas and the University of Missouri. He was employed by Delta Irrigation of Memphis as a sales engineer and by Brownlee and Rogers as a construction engineer before forming the partnership. Mr. Miller is married to the former Lynette Alexander. Their daughter, Alison, is a CPA in Dallas. Their son, Alex, is a student at the University of Arkansas.

Mr. Newell graduated from Newport High School in 1948 and received his engineering degree from the University of Arkansas. He was employed by R.D. Wilmans and Sons as an agricultural engineer before forming the partnership. Mr. Newell is married to the former Betty Burt. Their oldest son, Burt, is a lawyer in Hot Springs, and their youngest son, Robert, after receiving an accounting degree, is a law student. Their daughter, Beth, is married to Senator Mike Bearden of Osceola.

Both Mr. Miller and Mr. Newell are also Registered Land Surveyors.

Miller-Newell has been involved in a wide variety of engineering projects over the past 25 years. Mr. Miller recalls that one of the most memorable projects was the Jackson County Industrial Park. "This project sticks out in my mind," Mr. Miller said, "because of the complexity of the work involved. It required an elevated water tank, rebuilding the railroad spur and three bridges, both water and sewer treatment plants and planning for building a fire station." Mr. Newell said that the project he remembers was in Grubbs, Arkansas. Mr. Newell remarked, "I received a call from the city, telling me that there was good news and bad news. The good news was that the contractor had gone broke. Naturally, I wondered what the bad news was. The bad news was that the bonding company had also gone broke. Fortunately, the SBA guaranteed the completion of the sewer system project."

Some other notable projects over the years in Jackson County have been the drainage systems within the City of Newport, the Breckenridge-Union Water System for the south part of Jackson County, later extended to Remmel, and two water systems underway for rural Jackson County at this time: North Jackson Water System and Independence-Jackson Water System.

Lynette and Albert helped write the script for this show (maybe we shouldn't have told that!)—and Al Miller and Bobby Newell are in the Follies cast. Both have been in many of the previous Follies.



# Miller·Newell Engineers, Ltd.

POST OFFICE BOX 717 NEWPORT, ARKANSAS 72112





### भू विवब

# Jacksonport

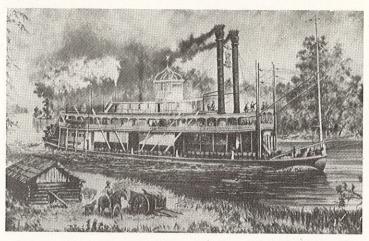
The first record of the name of Jacksonport is in a petition filed with the County Court of Jackson County on April 13, 1835, for a road from Thomas Tunstall's sawmill at "Jackson Port" to Litchfield.

Jacksonport was incorporated December 17, 1852. It became the county seat in 1854.

For about thirty-five years between 1850 and 1885, Jacksonport was the leading town in Jackson County and, indeed, a Queen of the River, as the old ports were called, in the center of the White and Black Rivers trade. The steamboat men were the magnates of the day.

The big boats from all over the Mississippi system brought cargoes to be transferred to small upriver craft or ox-drawn wagons. Outgoing cargoes of cotton, timber, game and livestock were often loaded on the boats until the guardrail was under water. Dressed deer and bear meat topped the local freight and wild turkeys hung from the upper deck.

Thomas Todd Tunstall bought the land and platted the original town of Jacksonport in the 1830s. Social life



The Josie Harry. Constructed and owned by Capt. Milt R. Harry and named for his wife, Josie Hamblet Harry. Built in 1878 at a cost of \$55,000, it was destroyed by fire in 1883 below Memphis.

centered around the steamboats. The arrival of a big boat was the occasion for feasting and dancing on board. Wedding trips, business trips and the United States mail left via the river for all parts of the south.

During the Civil War, Jacksonport was occupied continuously by Confederate or Union armies. It was designated as the place for Confederate commands north of the Arkansas River to rendezvous for surrender at the close of the war.

Refusing the right-of-way for the Cairo and Fulton Railroad in 1872, the town was by-passed and eventually lost its importance to Newport, the county seat being moved in 1892. But Jacksonport endowed the county with a heritage that is felt to this day. The outgoing, knowledgeable, optimistic quality of Jackson County people stems from that golden era of the old steamboat town with its hospitality and joie de vivre!

The following is a list of the earliest settlers of Jacksonport on record. This list is compiled from the households on the 1850 census of Jackson County:

William Lankford, carpenter from Virginia William Ford, blacksmith from Kentucky Rush Hudson, tailor from Virginia Lewis Judson, merchant from Connecticut James Ellis, wagonmaker from North Carolina Thomas Manning, carpenter from Tennessee Joseph Bennett, physician from Missouri Alexander Pool, saddler from Illinois Andrew Lankford, carpenter from Virginia George Caldwell, hotelkeeper from Tennessee

Publius S. Wisdon, grocerykeeper from Tennessee John Diamond, clerk from Illinois Patrick Gallagher, clerk from Ireland John Garner, carpenter from Tennessee John Witherspoon, lawyer from Alabama William Tunstall, farmer from Indiana Parmenas Redman, storekeeper from Kentucky Lovin Finley, carpenter from Kentucky Gabriel Bredden, carpenter from Tennessee

City officials in 1988 are Harry Grizzle, mayor; Joe James, city attorney; Delana Epperson, city clerk; and the council members are William Smart, Mitchell Jones, Joyce Guffey and Ernest Averill.

This page is sponsored by the following Jacksonport citizens and merchants who are both Jacksonport Proud and Jackson County Proud:

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Jackson County Levee District No. 2



र्भ ववब

Timber has been vital to man's welfare in all recorded history, and Jackson County is no exception. As a matter of fact, one of the greatest attractions of the county in its earliest days was the abundance of hardwood timber growing in the rich soil and easy access through nearby rivers. It is safe to say that lumber was one of the earliest—if not the earliest—industry in Jackson County.

The lumber industry came into existence in Newport soon after the town was established. In 1874, John Miley, of Indianapolis, Indiana, bought a tract of land in what is now northwest Newport, to establish a sawmill. In 1876 the Remmel brothers (A.C. and Harmon L.) bought land near the Miley tract and built a steam mill. (Remmel Park in Newport was donated by and named for the Remmel family.) In 1888 one of the items featured in the Arkansas section of the St. Louis Exposition was a piece of curly pine molding made by the Newport Lumber Company.

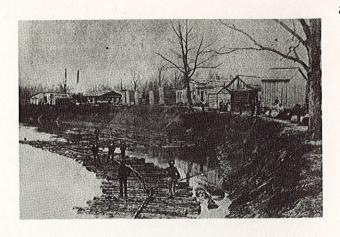
The various lumber processing businesses located in Jackson County specialized in staves for barrels, shingles for houses and the planing of hardwood lumber used in building.

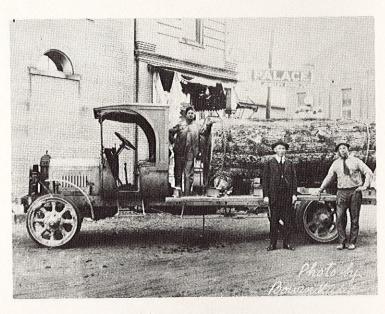


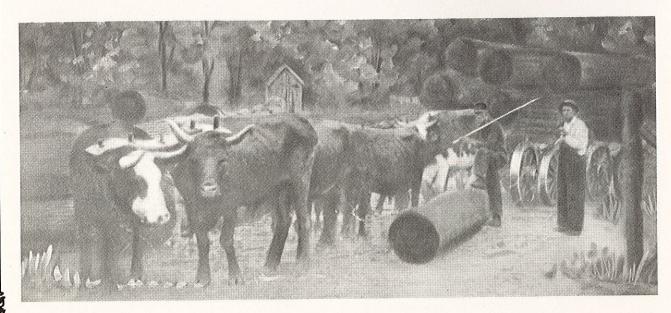
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J.R. Holden

# J.R. HOLDEN

John Robert Holden was born in 1869 in New York City, one of three sons of the Rev. John James Holden and Mary Jane Ellingham Holden. After exchanging town lots in Astoria, New York, for 520 acres of unimproved land on Village Creek in Jackson County, Arkansas, the Rev. J.J. Holden moved his family to Arkansas in December 1879. The Rev. Mr. Holden, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was a brilliant man, but he was poorly equipped for farming the swampy land along Village Creek.

The intense hardships of his youth gave J.R. Holden a strong drive to attain material success. Through his own efforts, self-denial and determination, he eventually accumulated about 10,000 acres of land. Along with his determination to succeed, he had a vision for the future. Early in this century, he foresaw the need for clearing and farming land which at the time was thought to be marginal, and he was a pioneer in rice production in Jackson County.

In 1901, J.R. Holden raised cotton and ran a sawmill, a cotton gin and a small commissary on Village Creek near the old Holden home place. Eventually he owned a lumber company and a wholesale grocery in Newport. He and his father-in-law, Judge W.D. McLain, owned the McLain and Holden Land and Lumber Company and laid out the "East Newport" addition. They also donated the land on which Harris Hospital now stands for the building of a public school in East Newport.

Without any engineering training, Mr. Holden built the causeway across Newport Lake in 1914, connecting East Newport with the older part of town. In 1915, he paved Walnut Street, one of the first residential streets in Newport to be paved. His purchase of the Hurricane Farm for \$87,500 in 1917 was reported in all the state papers.

J.R. Holden married Alice Armstrong in 1896. She died in 1904, leaving two sons, Robert G. Holden and Brouce Holden. In 1905, Mr. Holden married Elizabeth "Lettie" McLain. Their daughter, Josephine Holden, married R.C. Biggadike. J.R. Holden died in 1946.









Dr. Haymond Harris



Dr. Jabez F. Jackson, Sr.

# Harris Hospital and Clinic

Harris Hospital and Clinic has continued to provide quality care to Jackson County residents since it was established on September 1, 1947.

The original founders were Drs. M.L. Harris and Haymond Harris. The hospital, which was first located at Third and Hazel Streets, had a total bed capacity of 36, and was operated as a proprietary hospital under that ownership until July 1964. A corporation was then formed under the ownership of Drs. Jabez F. Jackson, Sr., Willie Harris, John C. Wright and Haymond Harris.

Construction of the present facility was then begun and was ready for occupancy on November 8, 1965. A later expansion program increased the facility's capacity and today Harris Hospital is licensed for 132 beds.

Harris Hospital is the only Joint Commission Accredited Hospital in Jackson County. This voluntary accreditation is the assurance that the facility meets the highest standards of medical care in services, equipment and personnel. In addition, Harris Hospital is continually striving to upgrade the quality of medical care for the citizens of Jackson County.



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# Percy H. Van Dyke

Percy H. Van Dyke came to Newport in 1901 to compile a special ediction for one of the two newspapers being published at Newport at the time. After talking with some of the merchants in town who were dissatisfied with both the papers, he and E.C. Hoffman, his partner at the time, decided to start a third newspaper in Newport, the *Newport Independent*. Van Dyke was the reporter and advertising salesman, and Hoffman was the typesetter. The actual printing of the newspaper was originally done on an old Washington hand press which belonged to E.C. Tetwiler, who owned a job printing shop not connected with either of the papers. The job of running the old press to print the papers required the efforts of both Van Dyke and Hoffman. Hoffman stayed with the paper only a short time, but Van Dyke was able to buy a new press. His coverage of the 1902 campaign of Gov. Jeff Davis for the *Arkansas Gazette* gained Van Dyke statewide attention.



Percy H. Van Dyke

Within a few years, both of the newspapers in Newport when the *Independent* was established had folded. Other newspapers were started, and several of them had long runs, but only the *Independent* has survived through the years. In 1917, Van Dyke sold the paper to A.C. Wilkerson. Van Dyke left the newspaper business at that time. He became an automobile dealer, first selling Buicks and later Chevrolets, and he also owned a furniture store in Newport for many years.

Van Dyke was active in civic affairs. In 1915, he had been one of the leaders in the reorganization of the Newport Board of Trade, which was again reorganized as the Newport Chamber of Commerce in 1918. Van Dyke served as president of the Chamber of Commerce from 1921 to 1925. He was a leader in another reorganization of the Newport Chamber of Commerce (now the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce) in 1935 and served as its president from 1946 to 1947. He also served as president of Newport Federal Savings and Loan Association and president of the board of directors of the White River Production Credit Association. He owned farm land in Jackson County and in Woodruff County.

Van Dyke served as mayor of Newport from 1928 to 1932. He was also active in the establishment of the Newport Industrial Development Association and served as its president. He was in a large measure responsible for attracting the industries and several businesses which located in Newport following the Second World War. He helped establish Remmel Park in 1926 and was one of its first trustees.

He was an avid sportsman and especially enjoyed duck hunting. He was active in the Newport Golf Club, serving as its president many years, and was instrumental in the organization of the Newport Country Club in 1953.

Percy H. Van Dyke, born in 1877 in Marshall, Missouri, married Miss Lula Empie, daughter of William B. Empie and Louise Remmel Empie. They had one daughter, Margaret Van Dyke. Mr. Van Dyke died in 1970.



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# Contraction of the contraction o

### -DIAZ-

Diaz was settled in the early 1840s when it was known as Highland. A land company, called Highland Company, was established in order to obtain the removal of the county seat from Elizabeth to Highland. This was never accomplished.

Shiloh Church was established at an early date at Diaz. Shiloh Cemetery dates



Timber was important to all areas of early Jackson County, including Diaz.

back to the 1840s. One of the earliest plots in this cemetery is the Hudson-Jones-West family plot. A Presbyterian Church was established in Diaz and operated until around 1936. The children of Robert West donated four lots in the town of Diaz for the building of a Presbyterian Church. That building was destroyed by a tornado.

On November 5, 1956, the town of Diaz was incorporated. In February of 1957 Sarah W. Hurley, a daughter of Robert West, was elected as the first mayor of the city, serving until her death in 1963. Other mayors have been Blount Hohn (1963-1965), E.B. King (1965-1968), Charles Stephens (1963-1973) and Blount Hohn (1973-present). In 1988, the City Clerk is Jean Sullins, City Attorney is Edward Boyce and Judge is Richard Allen. The Council Members are G.L. Balch, Richard Banks, Jon Barbarotto, John I. Coley, Robert Lewis and Phil Wesson. Mayor Blount Hohn and Council Member Jon Barbarotto are participating in the Follies.

Robert West was born in Chester, S.C., in 1851, one of eleven children of Robert C. and Sarah (Willard) West. Sarah Willard West's mother, Mrs. Mary Hudson, had come to Jackson County with her second husband, Rush Hudson, in 1842, settling at Jacksonport, where Rush Hudson was a tailor and for some time sheriff of Jackson County.

Robert C. and Sarah West brought their family to Jackson County in 1866 at the urging of her brother-in-law, William R. Jones. Robert C. West died in Jackson County in 1871. Of their children, three sons lived in Jackson County: Robert West, James Iro West and Dr. Crawford West. Dr. Crawford West practiced medicine in Jackson County until his death in 1913.

Robert West bought a tract of land near Diaz in 1876. He increased his landholdings to some 450 acres, at one time renting 800 additional acres, all of which he devoted to corn and cotton. Seeing the need for a cotton gin in his area, West built one at Diaz in 1891, the first gin at Diaz and one of the earliest in the county. The gin burned in 1894 and he built a second steam-operated gin on the site of the old Hurley Gin at Diaz, operating a store and gristmill in connection with the gin. Around 1900, he discontinued the use of his gin and it was torn down.

Robert West

#### **West Family**



Sarah West Hurley



**Dr. Crawford West** 









The rice field of Ferdinand Toney in 1910 near Swifton.

#### RICE FARMING IN JACKSON COUNTY

Arkansas, the number one rice-producing state in the nation, grows 41 percent of all the rice grown in the United States. Although Jackson County did not begin growing rice as early as some of the counties in the southern part of the state, we are now the sixth largest producer in the state, growing approximately 6.5 million bushels annually.

In 1910 Ferdinand Toney persuaded Thomas B. Fleming to plant a small acreage of rice. A.J. Geotz planted his first rice just east of Tuckerman in 1912. David Hare gave it a try in 1915. But rice farming on a commercial scale did not get underway until years later. Slowly other producers joined in the experiment: C.J. Peacock in 1929, W.A. McCartney in 1931, F.L. Penix in 1931 and R.G. Holden in 1933.

Reasons why farmers were slow to go into rice production are understandable. In the first place, the price fluctuated so radically, that the grower could never figure his return. One day the market price could be .93 per hundred weight, the next day 1.8, or the next day valueless. Cultivation itself was slow and tedious. Mules had to pull a levee pusher, the matured crop was harvested by an early day binder pulled by six mules. The "bull wheel" of the binder was mounted on a sled. They were equipped with a six-foot or a three-foot cutter, either used depending on the crop. The mules often became mired in the mud. Once down the only way to free them was to take a shovel and dig them out.

Neighboring farmers chipped in and helped each other haul their bundles to the thrasher. The separated rice was stacked and then the farmer had to find a buyer.

Rice farming today is done entirely by machinery. Big tractors build levees, planting is often done by plane, and big combines and special pieces of equipment can harvest a huge field in one day. But it is still an expensive and means fighting mud and mosquitoes. Producing and processing rice is a story of hard work, determination and progress.

During the 40s and 50s, there were five rice dryers and two rice mills operating in Jackson County to process the 1.5 million bushels of rice grown in the county. Today, there are just three dryers left, two owned and operated by Riceland Foods, Inc., but our farmers will grow more than six million bushels of rice worth at least \$30 million and could go higher than \$40 million.

#### RICELAND FOODS, INC.

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Jackson County PROUD!

Late **BEATRICE WISHON**, a "Flora Dora Girl" in the Zigfield Follies in the early 1900s.



Just how many Sigma Chis and their dates can you get on a boat on the White River at Newport in 1906 before it capsizes? Twenty-two is apparently the correct number, one less than this group had. This party of 23 (which included several chaperones) ventured out for a day on the river, but, as one who watched them depart said, "Well, you're leaving Presbyterians, but you'll be coming back Baptists!" After hitting a submerged snag, all aboard were tossed into the water; fortunately none were hurt (except for a little pride maybe?).



Rev. W.B. "Daddy" Ricks, pastor of the Methodist Church at Newport from 1897-1899, went on to become the 31st national president of the Sigma Chi International Fraternity, 1941-1943.

#### SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY JONESBORO, ARKANSAS





# Denton Family

The Denton family planted its roots in this section of Arkansas in the 1850s and has been active in diverse fields including farming, ginning, timber, sawmilling, grist milling, banking, merchandising, etc. It was involved in cotton ginning in Jackson County for 120 years. This covered the time when cotton was king.

John Denton, born in Tennessee in 1815, moved to Alabama and then to Arkansas. He arrived in Jackson County around 1854. His first home was about one and a half miles north of the present city of Grubbs. In 1861, he purchased 160 acres of land where he was living. The 160 acres was purchased for \$120.00 from the state of Arkansas, having been given to the state by congress in 1850 because it was considered "overflow" or "swampland". On this land a Denton graveyard was set aside. In it, four generations of Dentons are buried. John was a planter, cotton ginner and sawmill operator. The 1870 census showed he owned four horses, one mule, ten milch cows, two working oxen, fifteen cattle and twenty-five swine. He produced fourteen bales of cotton, 500 bushels of Indian corn, 400 bushels of Irish potatoes, 40 bushels of sweet potatoes, 365 pounds of butter, \$20.00 of orchard products and \$180.00 of animals sold for slaughter. He and his wife, Julia, had two sons and six daughters. His oldest son, Michael, served in the Confederate Army and died during the Civil War. His other son, James A., born in 1852, married Emma Biggs of Grubbs in 1879. John lived with his son, James, in Jackson County until his death.

James A. Denton, son of John, purchased 160 acres of land on Denton Island in 1886 and farmed this land in addition to the land nearer Grubbs. Denton Island is located about six miles northeast of Grubbs. It was at that time a high ridge of fertile land, almost completely surrounded by creeks and sloughs. In many years cotton was picked in the fall and could not be brought out until the next year. He built a house in 1888 and moved the family and gin to "Denton Island", converting the gin from a treadmill type, powered by a horse, to a steam engine. James and his wife had three sons (one died at age one) and four daughters (two died in infancy). James was a cotton ginner, a planter and operated a sawmill and grist mill as had his father before him.

James Denton's two daughters who survived infancy were Emma and Betty. Emma married Dosey Brewer and they had one son, Denton Brewer. Betty Denton married Charles Greenhaw of Tuckerman. She had two daughters, Cornell and Jeanette, and one son, Denton Greenhaw. Denton Greenhaw lives in Tuckerman and has been a cattleman and planter in Jackson County for many years.

Michael (Mike) Denton, oldest son of James A., was born in Jackson County in 1880, and lived his entire life in Jackson County until his untimely death in 1929.

James Goldman Denton, youngest son of James A. Denton, was born in Jackson County in 1890. He married Lula Cordelia Graham in 1919. Lula Graham was the daughter of Nimrod Graham of Tuckerman and a sister of Gus Graham, Sr. Two sons were born from this union, Nimrod Graham and James C. Denton, Jr., the youngest son, who is married to Mary Ann Penix of Newport and now resides in Newport.

Denton Brothers Company was formed in 1913 by Mike and James Goldman Denton who were the two surviving sons of James A. Denton, who died in 1895. They built a general merchandise store that they operated in addition to their farming operations until 1948. Denton Brothers acquired several thousand acres of land in Jackson and Craighead counties that they used in cotton and farming operations. It was lost during the depression but slowly rebuilt to an even larger operation.

James G. Denton, Jr., youngest son of James Goldman Denton, was born in 1923. He was another fourth generation Denton to be engaged in cotton ginning, cattle raising and farming in Jackson County.

Mandred Stimson (1812-1862), the great-great-grandfather of James G. Denton, Jr., had a secret place on his farm near Grubbs where he buried his gold. When he died in 1862, no one knew where the gold was hidden. Members of the family searched the plantation thoroughly, but could never locate the gold. Jim Denton, Sr. was told by a man he knew that one of the sharecroppers had been using a

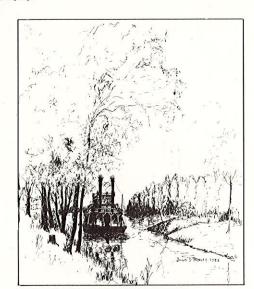


James Goldman Denton, Sr.

breaking plow and had turned up a brick, thought it odd to find a brick in the field, and uncovered the brick vault in which the gold had been placed. The man alleged to have found the gold was a very poor subsistence farmer. Mr. Denton, unable to verify the find, watched his activities over the following years, when the man began slowly to accumulate forty acre tracts of land. He was never able to prove that the gold actually had been found by this man, but it certainly has not turned up since either!



Ladac.







#### **ACT I**

#### JACKSONPORT AND NEWPORT: THE RIVER AND THE RAILROAD

Scene I.	JACKSONPOR <sup>-</sup>	T—THE RIVER TOWN	
The Town Crier Peddler/Medicine Man Planter Smithy Mother Young Boy Reporter	Charles E "Scooter" Coe Jabez Jackson, Jr. Rick Dobson Beth Long Alex McCombs	Confederate Soldier Merchant Bookkeeper Doctor Little Boy (Marbles) Little Boy (Top)	Jerry Carlew Zack Curtner Penn Stafford Steve Pankey Claude Burris Trent Brown Matt Nicholson Lindsey Brown
	RIVER	CITY PARADE	
L	_eader	Lindley H	odges
Chorus: Cassandra Bonds Judy Brannon Jerry Carlew "Scooter" Coe Connie Dabbs Jason Felts Mary Gilmore Pam Graham Captain Daughtery First Lady Second Lady Gambler's Lady	Melvenia Ahart Judy Felts Pam Graham	Becky Joyner Beth Long Pat McCombs Mark McGaughey Greg Murphy Marla Murphy Sharon Osier Sandra Pankey  Son Drunk Gambler Maid	Dale Turner Phil Hout Mary Gilmore
Texan		Hostess	Kellie Jackson
Scene II.	THE QUESTION:	RIVER OR RAILROAD	
"The River and the Ste		a"	Chorus
Scene III.	THE GAY NIN	ETIES AND LATER	
Barbershop Quartet: Preacher: Joke Board:	Rick Dobson	ry Hedrick and Mark McGau Miller, Greg Hubbard, Toby	ghey McDonald and Debiee Huls

		WAD !	
Scene IV.	WO	RLD WAR I	Judy Brannon
"How You Gonna	a Keep 'Em Down on the Farm	After They've Seen Paree	oddy Brainier
Can-Can Girls: Chrys Wilmans Michelle Pratt Kelly Jackson Joy Massey	Leah Zuber Alissa Ray Cara Lowery	Caroline Frankum Casey Beshears Jennifer Lowery	Susan Burton Cortney Rodman Audra Evins
			Chorus
Will Bogors: "Ho	noring the Troops"		Zack Curtner
	PROSPERITY AN	ID DEPRESSION: The 20's	
Scene V.			
Will Dogore on (	enties: "The Charleston"		
We Turn to God	: "Down by the Riverside"		Gnoir
Gregory D. Sills, Direct Lucille S. Dillingham, Arphlue Aaron Shadyne Brown Francine Everett Debra Jackson Kathy Robinson Derrick Person	ctor	Gregory Sills Lucille Dillingham Jessie Jones Odell Hatchett Barbara Ratliffe Tom A. Watson	Charles Eslinger John Rainey Dewitt Haynes Dee Robinson Bobbie L. James Ailene Davis
Frank Wesley			Kathy Coburn Robinsor
"Precious Lord"	"	ACT II	····· (Kullin)
"Precious Lord"			
	PROUD	ACT II	
Scene I.  Recorded Nam	PROUD  DEPRE  ration from "You Are There"	ACT II LY WE MOVE ON ESSION AND HOPE	Steve Pankey and the Choru
Scene I.  Recorded Narr "Happy Days A Roosevelt	PROUD  DEPRE  ration from "You Are There"  Are Here Again"	ACT II LY WE MOVE ON ESSION AND HOPE  DUNTRY STORE	Steve Pankey and the Choru
Scene I.  Recorded Narr "Happy Days A Roosevelt  Scene II.  Guitar Medley Stranger Man with Rop Second Man of	PROUD  DEPRI ration from "You Are There"  Are Here Again"  CO	ACT II LY WE MOVE ON ESSION AND HOPE DUNTRY STORE	Steve Pankey and the Choru Robert W. Newe 
Scene I.  Recorded Narr "Happy Days A Roosevelt  Scene II.  Guitar Medley Stranger Man with Rop Second Man of	PROUD  DEPRIFY Tration from "You Are There"  Are Here Again"  CO	ACT II LY WE MOVE ON ESSION AND HOPE  DUNTRY STORE	Claude Burri Zack Curtne Bill Wiggin Jerry Carle Blount Hoh
Scene I.  Recorded Narr "Happy Days A Roosevelt  Scene II.  Guitar Medley Stranger Man with Rop Second Man o Priest "Side by Side"	PROUD DEPRE ration from "You Are There" Are Here Again"  CO e on Porch	ACT II LY WE MOVE ON ESSION AND HOPE  DUNTRY STORE  RADIO DAYS	Steve Pankey and the Choru Robert W. Newe Claude Burn Zack Curtne Bill Wiggir Jerry Carle Blount Hoh
Scene I.  Recorded Narr "Happy Days A Roosevelt  Scene II.  Guitar Medley Stranger Man with Rop Second Man of Priest "Side by Side"  Scene III.  Announcer "Jeepers Cree Jitterbuggers	PROUD DEPRIFY Tration from "You Are There" Are Here Again"  CO e on Porch	ACT II LY WE MOVE ON ESSION AND HOPE  DUNTRY STORE  RADIO DAYS	Steve Pankey and the Choru Robert W. Newe Claude Burri Zack Curtne Bill Wiggir Jerry Carle Blount Hoh David and Kathy Robiso Bobby Newe Chrys Wilmans, Scott Jone
Scene I.  Recorded Narr "Happy Days A Roosevelt  Scene II.  Guitar Medley Stranger Man with Rop Second Man o Priest "Side by Side"  Scene III.  Announcer . "Jeepers Cree Jitterbuggers "Stardust" Ballroom Dar Father	PROUD DEPRI ration from "You Are There" Are Here Again"  CO e on Porch	ACT II LY WE MOVE ON ESSION AND HOPE  DUNTRY STORE  RADIO DAYS	Steve Pankey and the Choru Robert W. Newe Claude Burn Zack Curtne Bill Wiggir Jerry Carle Blount Hoh David and Kathy Robiso Bobby New Bobby New Chrys Wilmans, Scott Jone Michelle Pratt and Pat McGh Vickie Williar Beth Long and Bill Wiggi
Scene I.  Recorded Narr "Happy Days A Roosevelt  Scene II.  Guitar Medley Stranger Man with Rop Second Man o Priest "Side by Side"  Scene III.  Announcer "Jeepers Cree Jitterbuggers "Stardust" Ballroom Dar Father Mother Grandmother	PROUD DEPRIFUCTION TO THE PROUD Tation from "You Are There" Are Here Again" CO e on Porch  epers"	ACT II LY WE MOVE ON ESSION AND HOPE  DUNTRY STORE  RADIO DAYS	Steve Pankey and the Choru Robert W. Newe Claude Burr Zack Curtne Bill Wiggir Jerry Carle Blount Hor David and Kathy Robiso Bobby New Bobby New Chrys Wilmans, Scott Jone Michelle Pratt and Pat McGh Vickie Willian Beth Long and Bill Wiggi Blount Ho Mel Ah Becky Joyn

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Lauren Turner Kate McCombs Amy Bonds

The Andrew Sisters: "Boogie Woogie Bugle

Boy from Company E" ...... Judy Brannon, Sharon

Osier and Linda Gail Wilkowsky

#### Scene V.

#### JACKSON COUNTY CHANGES

1950's Laugh-in Board

Elvis in Newport: Rock 'n Rollers:

Ronnie Brown

Chrys Wilmans and Scott Jones; Michelle Pratt and Pat McGhee

Cara Lowery and Leon Nicholson

Porky Sellers as himself

#### Finale:

#### WE'RE JACKSON COUNTY PROUD

Mayors on Parade: Amagon-Charles Vaughn; Beedeville-James Eskew; Campbell Station-Don Massey; Diaz—Blount Hohn; Grubbs—Albert Miller; Jacksonport—Harry Grizzle; Newport—Wayne Beard; Swifton—Jerry King; Tuckerman—Claude Burris; Tupelo—Jerry Carlew; Weldon—Greg Sills

"This Land is Your Land" ...... Greg Sills

Kickline: ..... Leah Zuber, Michelle Pratt, Jennifer Lackey, Cortney Rodman, Chrys Wilmans and Joy Massey

Color Guards:

Ark. National Guard Color Guards ..... William A. Lewis, Deal Johnson, Bill O'Barts, Dale Harris Neil Griffin Post No. 47..... Jeff Ellis, Jr. Collier-Massey Post No. 4683 Veterans of Foreign Wars ...... Wardell Pennington Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 34...... Lowell A. Wagster

Memorial Reader ...... Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.

"God Bless America" ...... Bobby Long Closing Salute ...... Anna Stafford

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Amagon

Brandon Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Issac Campbell Hillary Vaughn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vaughn

Tamantha Suzanne Adams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lawrence Adams Beedeville

Kilby Erwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Erwin Luke Grady, son of Mr. and Mrs. Skeeter Grady Wade Massey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Massey

Diaz

Campbell Station

Justin Stoner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stoner Sara Beth Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Taylor

Jessica Tennyson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tennyson Grubbs

Brooke Dale, daughter of Pam Dale and Kirk Tennyson Joe Ferguson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen R. Ferguson Jeanan McElroy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry McElroy

Newport

Jacksonport

Cordra Pruitt, son of Edward Pruitt and Debbie Reynolds Kristi James, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlon James Dallas (Dee) Moon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moon, Jr.

Swifton

Tupelo

Bethany Runyan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Runyan, Jr.

Angie O'Brien, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill O'Brien Tuckerman

Joey Riley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith O'Brien Jessica Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Clark

April Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Loman Clark Stacy Shumate, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Shumate Weldon Phillip Sills, son of Mr. and Mrs. Greg Sills

-Program 3-

Amelia Frankum, co-chairman

Ronnie Kay Erwin, co-chairman

# 1988 **Follies**

#### Honorary **Patrons**

Mary Kathryn Graham **Eleanor Jowers** 

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#### Special thanks to the following:

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"Aunt" Caroline Dye

Almost seventy years ago, one of the most nationally famous Jackson County citizens died, "Aunt" Caroline Dye. But the memory of this Negro fortune-teller is still strong, though mixed with many legendary tales, as it was even during her lifetime.

She was born about 1843 to a slave of Henry C. Dye, a merchant of Sulphur Rock, Independence County, Arkansas.

From scattered sources, it is evident that Caroline developed her ability as a clairvoyant early in her life, while still owned by the Dye family, as it is said that they permitted her to carry on her occult business.

Caroline Dye married another slave, Martin "Mart" Dye. They had no children, and "Mart" Dye predeceased Caroline in 1907. He was buried in Gum Grove Cemetery (near Walnut Grove), Newport, and Caroline erected a monument to his memory there.

Martin and Caroline Dye moved to Elgin, in Jackson County, shortly after the end of the War between the States. He farmed, and she enlarged the scale of her fortune-telling, attracting more than local attention by this time. Around 1900, they moved to Newport, to a house at 618 Remmel, which was popularly called "the Avenue" by the Negro community.

"Aunt" Caroline's house on Remmel was one of the busiest places in Newport prior to her death. It was a big house, with a small house to one side and a lot in the back, where she kept her cows and chickens. An elderly Negro woman told of the activities at "Aunt" Caroline's from her memory:

"Aunt Caroline Dye had cooks and would have supper—any evening, but especially Sunday evenings. People would go there and have dinner. She had very good food—fried chicken, biscuits, buttermilk if you wanted it or sweet milk, all you could eat and drink—and all for just 35¢ a meal. She had one man to cook and two to serve. Alec Taylor—he passed just a little while back—was Aunt Caroline's cook for years, until she died. And he was a cook of no mean ability. He wore white aprons and caps. It was just like a hotel. There was a long table with white cloths, and the floors were kept scrubbed white and the place was kept as clean as it could be."

Discussing the conduct of "Aunt" Caroline's business, the same woman quoted above said:

"Aunt Caroline had a secretary, Annie Jones, since she could not read or write herself. Aunt Caroline's house had lots of rooms, and Annie Jones lived there. Her husband lived there too; I guess he was "assistant" secretary. The postman would have a post office when he got to her house. Annie Jones and her man would go through the mail and get the checks and money orders out and send them to the bank and keep the cash. I saw them come down in a taxi and carry nine thousand dollars out in boxes after Aunt Caroline died and take it to the First National Bank."

From the money she made as a "medium" (as the woman quoted above called her), "Aunt" Caroline acquired quite a bit of property. She owned eight farms when she died on September 26, 1918. The *Newport Daily Independent* wrote an extensive obituary upon her death. It stated of her wealth, "Not a few persons in many states, both white and black, will be interested, as well as though by the news of the death of this remarkable old Negro woman. Born and raised in Jackson County she accumulated a tidy fortune amounting probably to \$100,000, including moneys, city property, farms, Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps."

Her good works were noted: "She was thoroughly patriotic, always willing to purchase War Savings Stamps, of which she bought to the \$1,000 limit, and Liberty Bonds, and helped in the raising of other war work funds. Children were not born to her, but she raised many in her home, and supported others."

W.C. Handy—the famous Blues musician of Memphis—wrote a song about "Aunt" Caroline Dye.

#### SUNDOWN BLUES

(Hurry Sundown and Let To-Morrow Come)
Copyright 1923 by Handy Bros. Music Company, Inc., 1547 Broadway, New York City, New York.

My two-timing papa is aggravating me He's running wild but I can't let him be Tomorrow I'll be a-racing with the rising sun Hurry sundown ad let tomorrow come. For I'm going to Newport I said to Newport I mean to Newport Naw! Naw! Naw! I'm goin' to Newport Arkansaw! I'm going' there to see Aunt Car'line Dye.

#### Chorus

I've put some ashes in my sweet Papa's bed So that he can't slip out Hoo-doo in his bread Goopher dust all about I'll fix him! Conjuration is in his socks and shoes Tomorrow he will have those mean Sundown Blues.

(End of Chorus)

I've got mines of troubles, carloads of misery
I'd give it all to find out who it can be
That steals my sunshine and leaves me only bluey gloom
Hurry sundown and let tomorrow come.
For she knows something
I said something
I mean something
Naw! Naw!
Why she's a reader
And I need her
Law! Law!

She reads your fortune and her cards don't lie.

Sponsored by Allen M. Turner, Chicago, Illinois (Unanimous choice for duck claimer of the year and Suzie Keller in the Sitzer woods)









# "The Fire"

of March 1, 1926, at Newport

Just as "The War" means only the Civil War to Southerners, so "The Fire" means only one fire to Newport—that fateful day, March 1, 1926, when the whole world seemed to be one raging, orange blast of flames and wind.

The Fire destroyed a 30 block area (see map next page) in Newport, burning for a week. Because the fire occurred in the day, only one life was lost.

Newport bounced back with strongwilled determination. The town astounded the entire state with its optimism and energy, winning the nickname of "Plucky Newport" in news accounts over a wide area.

# Delta Trailer Company

This advertisement brought to you by your friends at Delta Trailer Company, Dale Eaves, President. The company was founded in December 1971 by Dale and one employee. Today the company employs 50 people, and has sold into 49 states (we cannot confirm Hawaii!).



Delta Trailer Company produces everything from golf cart trailers to a 22 1/2 ton low-boy trailer. Two thirds of the production is still in livestock trailers, but the last two years have seen a dramatic increase in self-contained flat-bed trailers. One of the things that has made Jackson County Proud has been its history of entrepreneurs; Dale Eaves, founder and developer of Delta Trailer Company, matches with the best. (The editor has added this as his opinion—Dale is too modest to say it himself).







McCartney, Manning, McDonald & Guinn, Inc.

Present Office 833 Malcolm Avenue, Newport

Van Manning, CPCU President

Pete Guinn Secretary/Treasurer

Kim Shumate
Vice President & Office Manager

**Bob Alcorn** Vice President & Office Manager Tuckerman Office



"Miss Jewell" Daugherty Clyde McDonald Roy Hinkle On Hazel Street, Newport

Fire of 1926, Cont'd



Fire path circled and shaded in on insurance map



#### Ladies on 1890 Boating Parties Were Not Supposed to Swim!



Medallion Foods, Inc. was not fortunate to be in Jackson County in 1890 or 1906. In fact, we are the newest "industry kid" on the block, having settled in Jackson County in 1987. We are sure of three things: First, had we been here in 1890 or 1906, the ladies on the boating party and those attending the Euchre Party would have been eating Medallion Chips; Second, we will be here in 1990 and 2006 and every year after; Third, we are as "Jackson County Proud" as if we had been here for 100 years!



#### \*Euchre Party, 1906



\* Euchre—A card game in which each player is dealt five cards and the player making trump must take three tricks to win a hand.



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# PICKENS W. BLACK AND BLACKVILLE

Pickens W. Black was born a slave in Alabama. He moved to Arkansas when he was about fourteen years of age. It is believed that he worked for his older brother, John Lee, who had already moved to Jackson County and was in the process of buying land, and that John Lee gave Pickens Black part of the land on Bowen's Ridge in Cache Township the two cleared and paid for.

In 1887, Pickens W. Black married Miss Emma Henderson. She was the grand-daughter of Henry Henderson, who had been brought as a slave to Bowen's Ridge by Capt. James T. Henderson, the founder of the town of Auvergne. Henry Henderson was a prosperous farmer and landowner near Auvergne.

Through hard work and sacrifice, Pickens and Emma Black began to acquire a large landholding. Pickens Black established a store and cotton gin on his land. Later, grain drying and storage facilities were added. The community which developed in the area became known as Blackville. In the 1930s, the community had one of the few airstrips in the state—built to accommodate the airplane owned by Pickens W. Black, Jr., a pioneer aviator.

John Lee, the brother of Pickens Black, was elected director of School District 4, which included Blackville, in 1897, and a few years later Pickens W. Black became a director of the school district, as did John H. Laird, another black farmer who was one of the few black notaries public in the state at the time. By 1912, all the directors of the district were black, although a school was maintained for white children who lived in the district.

Emma Black died in 1940 at the age of seventy. Pickens W. Black lived until 1955, when he died at the age of ninety-three. Their children were: Ida Mae Hatchett, William Brice Black, Charles S. Black and Pickens W. Black, Jr.

William Brice Black graduated from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, and earned an M.D. degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. On his return to Arkansas, he practiced medicine in Little Rock for about twenty years before moving to Newport in 1938. Dr. Black died in 1960 at the age of seventy. He married Miss Willa A. Brown of Nashville, Tennessee. They were the parents of three daughters: Loretha Black Jones, Emma Black Walker and Willa Black Murdock.

-Sponsored By-

W.B. BLACK LAND CORPORATION





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# The Great Olyphant Train Robbery!

One of the most dramatic hold-ups of the dangerous era of train robberies occurred in Jackson Count at Olyphant November 3, 1893. The Iron Mountain's southbound passenger train No. 51, due in Little Rock at 1:20 a.m., had pulled to the siding at Olyphant at 10:00 p.m. to allow the northbound Cannonball, No. 56, to pass.

Scarcely had it stopped when seven masked riders covered the train crew with Winchesters. Conductor W.P. McNally rushed to the coaches, warning passengers to hide their valuables and get out their guns. He drew his pistol, ran toward the express car, and was shot to death. Silent men and women trembled as a barrage of over 200 shots was fired at the windows and doors of the coaches.

Help was almost obtained when Frank Lipman of Olyphant, coming to meet his daughter Ethel, ran down the track and frantically waved his lantern to signal the Cannonball. By one of those quirks of fate, the engineer of the Cannonball misinterpreted the signal to mean the track was clear and shot past the beseiged No. 51 with the throttle wide open.

Mrs. Ethel Lipman Patterson stated that the robbers took over the train, were brutal to the people and snatched watches and jewelry from women's clothes. All cash was taken from the safe in the express car and from passengers, but, with one of those legendary pseudo-gallant gestures, a Waterbury watch and a silver dollar were returned to Walter Kline with the magnanimous remark, "You'll need this dollar for breakfast." The seven men finished their work and rode off into the night.

Jackson County Sheriff James Hobgood and a posse left Newport before midnight in pursuit. Woodruff County Sheriff Marshall Patterson and another posse with 15 bloodhounds also joined the chase. Patterson's posse met Deputy Sheriff Oscar Pennington of Independence County the next day and captured Tom Brady and George Padgett near Jamestown with some of the loot and a map showing roads from Olyphant to the Indian Territory, evidently the intended route of escape. During the next four weeks, the search extended to Benton and Searcy counties, ending in Crawford County with the capture of Jim Wyrick on December 6.

Tom Brady, Jim Wyrick and John Hill, alias Albert Mansker, were tried in the January term of Circuit Court in Newport by Judge James Butler for the murder of Conductor McNally. J.M. Stayton, prosecuting attorney, was assisted by Judge Stucky; the defendants were represented by George Hillhouse and Stucky, Jr. After 33 days of trial, they were found guilty February 6, 1894, and sentenced to hang.

On April 6th, the only triple execution in Jackson County history was held on the jail yard in a fenced-off area. One of the largest crowds ever seen in Newport was gathered for the hanging. But so fickle is public feeling, that in the next term of court, George Padgett, Samuel Powell, Pennywright Powell, Al Freeman and Robert Chesney were freed. The jurors and the town felt that a sufficiency of punishment had been exacted.

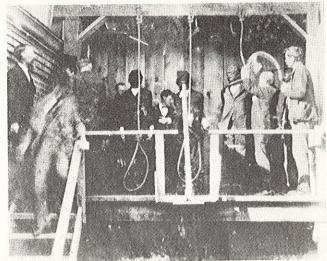
-Sponsored By-

# Gary Edwards Bonding

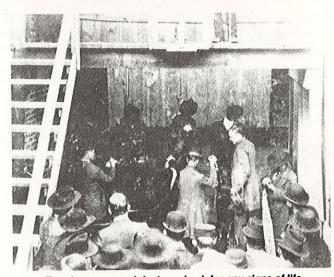
111 Beech Street, Newport, Arkansas 72112

(501) 523-2133 • 1-800-382-3153

Don't be left hanging—call Gary Edwards—if you need bonding assistance!



Official starts process of placing, adjusting nooses



Trap is sprung and doctors check for any signs of life



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-Special Summer Program-

# ADVENTURELAND PRESCHOOL

Infants & Up • Daycare & Preschool State Licensed

Breakfast ● Hot Lunches ● Snacks
6:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m., Monday—Friday
Ludean Bullard & Debbie Curtis, Co-Directors
McLarty Avenue 523-2918



# Agri Flite

HELICOPTER SERVICE

P. O. Box 236 SWIFTON, ARK.

72471

Bubba Moon

Owner Operator 501-485-2250

# Kentucky Fried Chicken.

is

#### **Jackson County Proud!**

Kentucky Fried Chicken opened its doors in Newport in 1971. Since then, with the support of the people of this area, we have continued to grow.

Kentucky Fried Chicken is proud to be a part of Newport and Jackson County!

Highway 67 North, Newport.
Telephone 523-6323

Jackson County PROUD!

**DR. CHARLES DONALDSON,** Vice Chancellor, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

### JAN'S BOUTIQUE

-For all of your decorating needs-

Wall Coverings ● Carpeting
Vinyl Floor Covering

1611 Dill Street, Newport Telephone 523-6564

-In the Ivy Bros. Building-

#### **NAPA** Dealer

-DAVID MAY-



Baughn Construction Co., Inc.

EAST FIRST STREET TUCKERMAN, ARKANSAS 72473

**DALE BAUGHN** 

PHONE (501) 349-2793

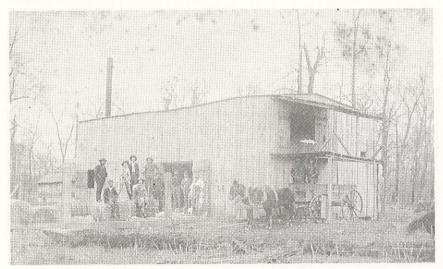






# We Give Farmers the Credit They Deserve!

Agriculture has always been Jackson County's primary source of income. When the first settlers came to the county, it was a vast swamp area. Only the high, sandy ridges and bluff banks adjacent to the rivers were cleared and planted in commodities to feed the families and livestock, and sell for cash. It took approximately 75 percent of the cleared ground to raise food for both the family table and livestock used to work the fields. Fields were generally small—40 acres or less—as clearing of land was done by hand and was slow and labor intensive.



Cotton gin owned by a man named Sharp around the turn of the century.

Up until 1900, the small family farm and the large plantation-type farm used the same slow hand labor farming methods. The one-horse plow, two-horse cultivator and the hoe were the standard tools of the trade. The 40-acre farm was a familiar farming unit.

The total value of all farm commodities (corn, cotton, cattle, pecans, timber, etc.) produced for any given year in the Jackson County area prior to 1900 was probably less than \$2,000,000 and in some years far less than \$1,000,000.

Times have changed! The swamps have been drained, the forests cleared. Mules have been replaced by huge tractors, and chemicals have retired the hoe. Today one farmer can grow enough farm products to feed and clothe 114 people. Little cotton is grown in Jackson County in 1988, and there are no commercial herds of cattle. The family farm unit has grown from the standard 40 acres of years gone by to more like 1,000 acres.

In 1988, Jackson County farmers will grow approximately 60,000 acres of rice, 4,000 acres of corn, 20,000 acres of milo, 35,000 acres of wheat and 175,000 acres of soybeans and some specialty crops like sweet corn, peanuts, cucumbers, pecans, fish, etc. If everything goes well, Jackson County farmers will gross more than \$75,000,000 during 1988.

—Prepared by Jeff Ellis, Jr.

One thing that has not changed in the history of Jackson County has been the need for credit or financial services. When you need farm credit or financial services, you can't do better than Farm Credit Services—your Land Bank and PCA. In addition to supplying dependable credit at competitive interests costs, knowledgeable loan officers and services for developing new and better ways to manage and improve your farm business, we have something no other lenders offer: total committment to agriculture. Farm Credit is the only farmer-owned lender dealing exclusively in agricultural finance. And we're constantly striving to upgrade our service and help improve the income and well-being of farmers like you.



#### FARM CREDIT SERVICES

605 THIRD STREET / NEWPORT, ARKANSAS 72112





# **Built to take it.**

- Custom paint to match your bike or attractive economical standard finish.
- Complete line of custom accessories, from chrome tongues to deluxe light bumpers.
- √ 30 cubic feet of storage, only weighs 160 lbs!
- Hi-tech ABS plastic construction, just like your bike; stronger, lighter than fiberglass, with a smoother, odorless interior.
- Styled and priced to compliment your bike beautifully.



#### HITCHCO

The first name in fun and safety

Dealer inquiries invited.

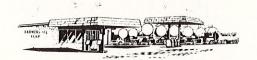
#### Call 1-800-HITCHCO

(501) 523-8095
For more information and your nearest dealer, Or write: HITCHCO, Inc. Diaz, AR-72043

### POLLARD'S FIXTURE COMPANY FOOD EQUIPMENT - FIXTURES

2512 MELODY LANE NEWPORT, ARKANSAS 72112 (501) 523-2931

CLEDY POLLARD, Owner



#### FARMERS OIL CORP.

Highway 69 & Third Streets NEWPORT, ARKANSAS 72112

Gas ● Diesel ● L.P. ● Oil

# Jackson County PROUD!

FREDDIE BLACK, has sung with various opera companies in New York and other eastern cities.



Remodeling Insurance Work

Phone 523-3569

### RHEW Building Supply

**Highway 67 North** 

John Rhew, Pres. Kay Rhew, V-Pres. Bob Rhew, Sec. & Treas.

P.O. Box 697 Newport, AR 72112



STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

#### DON SMOTHERMAN Agent

1402 Malcolm P.O. Box 722

Newport, Arkansas 72112

Off.: 523-3254 Res.: 523-8471

(501) 523-9881



#### East Newport Cleaners

FREE PICK UP & DELIVERY

JAMES PIKER Owner

1200 MALCOLM NEWPORT, ARKANSAS 72112

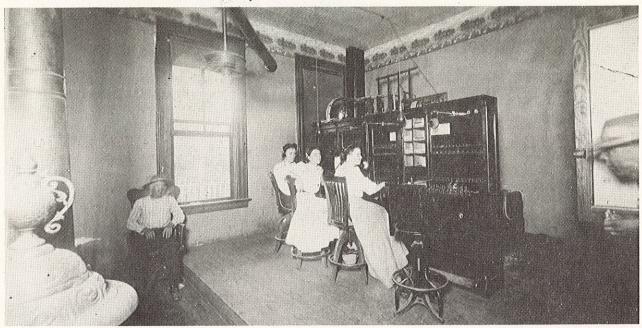


Open 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Highway 67, Tuckerman Telephone 349-2414



### HELLO, CENTRAL? ...



A private telephone line between Jacksonport and Newport was installed in Newport in 1879, but it was more a novelty than anything else. In 1883, Lancelot Minor, a Newport businessman and lawyer, installed a telephone system in Newport, with his office at Hazel and Front Streets as the exchange. The White River Telephone Company of Newport was organized July 19, 1886, "to construct, maintain and operate telephone exchanges for the purpose of transmitting intelligence by telephone for public and private use and convenience." The directors were: Joseph J. Walker, Franklin Doswell and T.S. Stephens. In 1888, Lazar Hirsch was secretary, J.M. Stayton, treasurer and Lancelot Minor, manager.

This picture above was taken in 1910 when the company was known as the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company. One of the operators at the swtichboard is Maude Dunham Risner, sister of Mrs. Joe Hunter, chief operator of the Southwestern Bell system in Newport for many years.

The advertisement is from the *Newport Evening News*, February 24, 1900, when having a telephone was considered a luxurious option, rather than a necessity, which it is today. Southwestern Bell went to direct dial in 1959, to touch tone in 1970, to electronic switching in 1980 and to divestiture from AT & T in 1984. The offices moved from the Brosh Building on Hazel Street to its own building on Poplar in 1959, while converting to direct dial. The operators were moved to a central location in Jonesboro in 1978, and the business office was relocated to Jonesboro in 1981.

The ads clearly have changed for telephone service, but the need for instant communication is today a necessity, and the hallmark of good service has never changed. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company always has been and continues to be proud of its history in Newport and Jackson County.

This history is sponsored by Southwestern Bell Telephone.



When you consider this fact, don't you think you are mistaken when you say you "don't need a telephone in your home.

What you have most precious in the world is there, and in the event of accident or danger you would need it even more at your home than at your office.

And that is saying a good a deal.

LORAL LONG THE SO THE SO

The Southwestern Tel. & Tel. Co.

- Seed





Some of the earliest families to settle near and to form the town of Tupelo before the Civil War were the McCoys, Campbells, Captain Price of the Confederate Army, Colliers and Joneses. Others coming in later were Simmons, Taylors, Gardners and Hardins (Millard Hardin was the first, coming from Alabama).

In 1884 the Brinkley & Batesville Railroad was built from Brinkley to Tupelo and stopped there because of the lack of funds. The passenger train known as "Old Jude" was turned each day on a "Y" and made the return trip.

Mr. Bryant W. Jones, Sr., gave the two blocks of land in the town for the railroad turntable.

The Collier family built and operated the first gin in Tupelo. One of the first postmasters was Henry Johnston, who was also depot agent.

Otto Hardin had a big sawmill and cotton gin. Mr. John Gardner helped found the First Baptist Church at Tupelo and had a large mercantile store. Tom Morris was postmaster for many years, and H. Oscar Jones has been postmaster for the last several years.

For a small town Tupelo is fortunate to have four outstanding churches.

Tupelo was incorporated November 28, 1904.

### **Amagon**

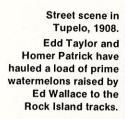
The land on which the town of Amagon stands today was owned by Will Pennington at the turn of the century. In 1864 the Bonnerville Southern Railroad was built, and at this point a settlement began to grow and was given the name Red Hill. Bud Mitchell built a general store; Stringer and Bobbet operated a sawmill; Hunt and White had a blacksmith shop and a Mrs. Deavers ran a hotel.

Sometime later a timber man by the name of Ragon—realizing the chance for a profitable business—came here. Mr. Ragon later changed the name of the town to Amagon. The postoffice was established in 1912. Wes Cooper was the first postmaster and Elzie Balch delivered the mail to Amagon from Balch Postoffice.

Charles Vaughan is mayor; Gwen Keller is secretary-treasurer; and the aldermen are Wilma Hodge, Philip Birdsong, Marty Keeler and Nola Hickman.

# Jackson County PROUD!

Late **JOHN DAVID McLAIN**, artistic director of Cincinatti Ballet Co., and head of dance at Cincinatti College Conservatory of Music.







We are pleased to present this bit of Jackson County history!

Building systems for Industrial, Commercial & Community Newport, Arkansas







Taggart and Taggart is a family-owned company in Augusta that was started in 1935 by Glenn Taggart and his father, Thomas Talmadge Taggart. Glenn's son, Charles, now manages the farming operation of rice, soybeans, milo, corn and wheat. Glenn's other son, Tommy, started managing Taggart and Taggart Seed after graduation from college.

The seed company sells different varieties of rice, soybeans, wheat, mile and corn to southern states and Mexico.

In 1978, Port Augusta was built on the banks of White River at Augusta. Several barges and a tow boat named the *Tom T*, which pushes the barges up and down the river, were purchased.

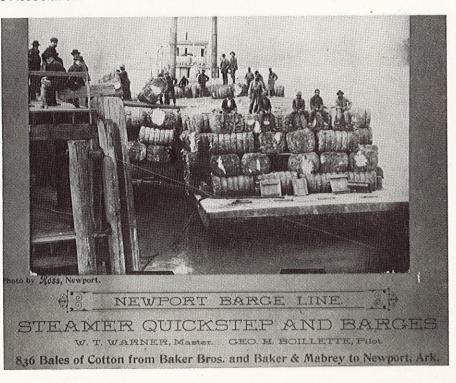
Augusta is situated in a major rice-producing area and the strategic location of the Port enables the loading of rice onto barges and shipping via White River and the Mississippi River to mill customers in Texas, Louisiana and Europe. Rice going to Europe is loaded onto ocean-going barges in New Orleans and shipped to Italy and other points. Rice was shipped down the White River by barge the first time from Port Augusta. Soybeans, wheat, milo and corn are also shipped from the river facility. A large order of popcorn raised on Taggart and Taggart farms was recently shipped to the country of Kuwait.

Taggart and Taggart now has elevator locations at Searcy, Macks and Alicia, Arkansas, and grain storage at Osceola, Arkansas and Parma and Sikeston, Missouri. Last year's total grain storage was eleven million bushels. A fertilizer plant is currently under construction on White River at Newport to be followed by one at DeVall's Bluff. A unique feature of the company is the fact that they have designed, engineered and built all of the facilities themselves.

Tommy Taggart has served as president of the Arkansas Seed Dealer's Association and has been on the board of directors of the Mid-South Soybean and Grain Shippers Association. He is president of the Arkansas Drier and Warehousemen Association and is on the board of directors of Arkansas-Oklahoma Port Operators Association.

Taggart and Taggart is looking forward to completing its new facility here in the Newport area, and the company is Jackson County Proud!

Around the turn of the century, Capt. W.T. Warner shipped steamboat loads of cotton to various ports. Today, Taggart and Taggart is using the same White River to ship other types of farm produce all over the world.



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# Farmers Electric salutes Jackson County Riverboat Days

... serving Jackson County since July 2, 1937



Early Farmers Electric meeting in Jackson County.

President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Administration bill on May 20, 1936, bringing electricity within the grasp of rural Arkansas. Rural meetings were started by Leland Bunch, county agent for Jackson County, to acquaint people with REA and how it could benefit them by bringing electricity to their homes and farms. The following are testimonials by some of those early cooperative members.

**CORBETT JOHNSON** (first manager, Farmers Electric Cooperative) — "When we first got electricity, I was so ignorant of the use of any appliance that I barely knew how to turn on a switch...a lady told me she understood electricity — that electricity heated water and cooled food and it was brought to her by the wires, one wire for heat and the other the cold."

**BOYCE NANCE** — "We had kerosene lamps and gas lanterns. When we got electricity we had a sin-

gle 60-watt bulb . . . it really seemed to light things up."

**E. E. KENNERSON**—"... people were anxious for this (electricity); it was like getting religion. They almost shouted at the Co-op meetings they were so happy ... it was an answer to prayers."

ISAAC BETTS — "The day we got our first electric iron, my wife was visiting her mother. I wanted to see how it worked so I talked my daughter into washing and ironing her doll clothes."



# FARMERS ELECTRIC

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# **Brown Jordan**

Is Brown Jordan Company "Jackson County Proud"? You bet we are, and in the following short story you will learn why we are.

In 1948 Bob Brown and Hugh Jordan formed a company in Pasadena, California that made wrought iron dining furniture. They were looking for a company to buy back east.

Meanwhile, in Newport, Arkansas, a company had been formed in 1954 to manufacture wrought iron metal furniture. The name of the company was Victor Metal Furniture Company. It was located in our present location. This new company was managed by a native Jackson Countian, Forrest (Frosty) Wise. It was through the influence of Forrest that caused the two companies to merge in 1956. The name of the Newport location was changed to **Brown Jordan Company**.

This new company manufactured some of the best wrought iron furniture that was available, because of the unique method used in the pre-paint treatment of the product. A short time later, Brown Jordan began using aluminum tube in some of their new designs. This was an innovation in the furniture market. Forrest traveled to the West Coast where he learned the technique of weaving a vinyl lacing onto the seat and backs of this new aluminum furniture. The aluminum was much easier to work than the steel, and was well-received in the furniture market. As the aluminum became more dominant over the steel, Brown Jordan stopped production of the steel products in the Newport location about 1963.

In 1959, Forrest purchased a lighting company and brought it to Newport. This was made possible by the support and lending capabilities of both of the local banks. The name of the company was American Lantern. In 1969, Scott Paper Company purchased the Brown Jordan Companies from Bob Brown. Some of the companies that we sell Brown Jordan furniture to from the Newport location are the world's finest: Bloomingdales, Lord and Taylor, Neiman Marcus, etc.

A new building was constructed for American Lantern and they moved into it in November 1975. In late 1983, Scott Paper sold all of its Brown Jordan holdings to a group of investors. On December 4, 1987, the lighting companies were sold to First Chicago Ventures Capital Corporation. On December 23, 1987, the furniture group was sold to Chicago Pacific Corporation. They are the present owners and have six top-of-the-line furniture companies and two appliance manufacturing companies. The furniture group is made up of Brown Jordan, Pennsylvania House, Kittinger, McGuire, Gunlocke and the Charter Group. The appliance group is made up of The Hoover Company and The Rowenta Company.

Mr. Forrest Wise retired from Brown Jordan Company in 1983, and he left some mighty big shoes to fill. He knew how to plan for, manufacture and sell a quality product. We at Brown Jordan are trying to live up to the image and the dedication to our company that he left behind.

Now, finally, we'll tell you why we at Brown Jordan are "Jackson County Proud". In the 34 years that we have had a furniture company in Newport, Arkansas, virtually everyone in Jackson County has been touched—either directly or indirectly—by Brown Jordan. A lot of good, honest and hardworking people have passed through the doors of Brown Jordan during this time. Brown Jordan and American Lantern have the very best quality and designs in our industry. We also have Customer Service Departments that are unequaled anywhere in our industry. We have the hardest-working, and the most dedicated group of employees here in the Newport location, 160 strong at peak. It takes everyone working together to make a company successful. That is what Brown Jordan has had since its beginning and we still have it today.

That, my friends, is why we are "Jackson County Proud"!









# Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Lindley

Mr. James Wesley Lindley was born October 23, 1865, near Wynne, Arkansas, and received his early education in the schools of Arkansas. His mother died when he was five years of age and his father when he was twelve. After the death of his parents, he worked near Wynne, coming to Jackson County, Arkansas in 1879 to become engaged in farm work. So he continued for several years, on different farms, until he purchased a small tract of land of his own to which he added from time to time by new purchases until, at the time of his passing, he had about 1,200 acres. He also established a general mercantile store, and conducted it successfully for a period of years. At that time, Battle Axe tobacco was very highly advertised, and he sold this brand so extensively and with such success that his place came to be known as "Battle Axe", a name that it retains today. At Battle Axe, he also owned a cotton gin; and another of his enterprises was the handling of stock, which he bought and sold in large numbers. After his death, Mrs. Lindley sold seven hundred head of cattle, and continued to operate the farm and business, the latter of which was sold in 1929.



J.W. and Willie Mae Lindley on their honeymoon in 1905

Along with his other enterprises, Mr. Lindley was the possessor of business interests of importance to his community, having been a director and president for twenty-five years of the Bank of Tuckerman. Keenly interested in public affairs, he was a supporter of the policies and principles of the Democratic party. His religious faith was strong, his affiliation having been with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he was for several years a steward. Into all of these varied activities he put his fullest measure of energy and enthusiasm, with the result that he was esteemed by his comrades and associates as were few men.

James Wesley Lindley married (first), in 1883, E.E. Choate, who died in 1894. They had three children: Ada, Carrie and Lucy. Ada (1886-1959) married Dan Dowell: one child, Emma Hester, deceased; Carrie (1888-1930) married Ralph Smith, three children: the late Lindley Van Smith, married to Elizabeth Rossington, Grace Carolyn, deceased, Ralph Smith, Jr. of Pine Bluff. Lucy (born 1892) married Forrest Penix, deceased, three children: James Forrest, married Ann; James Albert, married Betty; Robert Lindley, married Marilyn, deceased.

He married (second), on September 6, 1905, Willie A. Gardner of Izard County, Arkansas, daughter of John W.C. and Sarah Elizabeth Gardner; her father was an active figure in Izard County, having taught school there for a number of years and having served as a representative in the State Legislature for one term. James Wesley and Willie A. (Gardner) Lindley became the parents of one daughter, Ruth, who was born November 12, 1909, and who received her education in the grammar and high schools of Tuckerman, and at Galloway College and Baylor Univesity, married Dr. Joseph M. Williams, deceased.

The death of Mr. Lindley, which occurred May 18, 1929, was the cause of widespread and sincere sorrow and regret among his fellowmen, for he had contributed much to the well-being of his community and state, and had won, by careful efforts, the lasting esteem and respect of his friends and acquaintances. There was scarcely any phase of community affairs in which he was not interested, and he will long be remembered in the vicinity of Tuckerman and Battle Axe. Descendents still in Jackson County are: Lindley Van Smith, Jr. (President, Bank of Tuckerman); Betsy Penix and Forrest Graham "Buddy" Penix, children of J.A. and Betty; Robert "Rob" Deene Penix and Mary Forrest Winston, children of Bob and Marilyn, deceased.

Ruth Lindley Hodges, granddaughter of J.W. Lindley, was the initiator of the 1988 Follies, and is in the cast.

Lindley Gene Penix, a great great granddaughter of J.W. Lindley, is in the Follies cast.







### RAY O. FANN

Literally thousands of Jackson Countians, past and present, are better men for having been Boy Scouts under the leadership of Ray O. Fann as scoutmaster. Troop 67, which he has led for almost fifty years, was organized in 1914 by George Hillhouse, the first scoutmaster. Roy Evans also served as scoutmaster. Prior to World War II Ray Fann came to Newport from St. Louis, where he had served as a scoutmaster of a polio troop. He tells an interesting story about how he became involved with the Boy Scouts in Newport: "I saw Harryette Hodges pushing her son Morrison as an infant. He had braces as a result of polio. I got interested in getting back into the scouts in Newport. Morrison was later an Eagle Scout in my troop, as were all four Hodges boys." Within three meetings of serving as assistant scoutmaster, Mr. Fann assumed the duties of scoutmaster, which he has held since before World War II. He has served a total of 54 years as a scoutmaster in St. Louis and Newport.

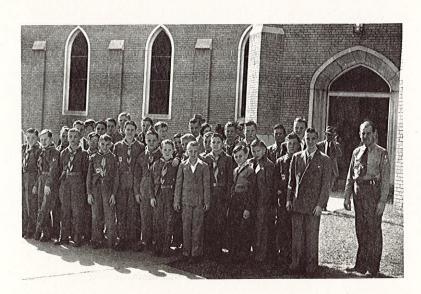
Thousands of young men have learned the twelve Scout Laws (trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent), memorized the scout oath and advanced through the various ranks in scouting, with the highest being the Eagle Scout. Mr. Fann estimates that more than 100 have attained the esteemed rank of Eagle. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, more than 100 boys at a time would attend troop meetings, held in a building in the 400 block of Walnut Street.

Boy Scouts from Newport, under the leadership of Mr. Fann and through Troop 67, have attended three World Jamborees, all the National Jamborees in the last 50 years, three trips to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and at least three canoe trips into Canada. Every summer the scouts attend camp, for years at Camp Quapaw in Benton, Arkansas, which was moved in 1976 to Cove Creek Camp near Damascus, Arkansas.

Mr. Fann was awarded in 1953 the Silver Beaver for outstanding service to the Boy Scouts, he is a member of the Order of the Arrow (Vigil), and has won numerous additional scouting and civic awards.

This page is sponsored by former scouts and friends of Ray O. Fann, whose outstanding leadership for so many years has made Troop 67 of Newport, Arkansas known throughout the United States, and has changed for the better thousands of lives. Scoutmaster Ray O. Fann represents the very finest of what is meant when the phrase is used: "Jackson County Proud".

Mr. Fann's grandson, David Allen, is playing drums in the band for the Follies.



Ray O. Fann, far right, in 1954 with one of the many groups of Jackson County Boy Scouts he has guided over the past half century.



Ladac.



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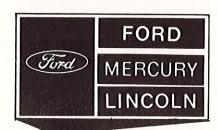
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# Jackson County Cemeteries

- 1. Adams/Foust Family Cemetery
- 2. Arnold Cemetery
- 3. Ashley Family Cemetery
- 4. Balch/Johnston Cemetery
- 5. Barnes Cemetery
- 6. Ballews Chapel Cemetery
- 7. Bethlehem Cemetery
- 8. Bowen's Cemetery
- 9. Calvary Cemetery
- 10. Carter Family Cemetery
- 11. Centerville Cemetery
- 12. Cheshier Cemetery
- 13. Coffeyville Cemetery
- 14. Cross and Hodges Family Cemetery
- 15. Davis Cemetery
- 61. Denton Family Cemetery
- 62. Denton Island Cemetery
- 16. Dowell's Chapel Cemetery
- 17. Eightmile Cemetery
- 1. Foust/Adams Family Cemetery
- 18. Gartland Cemetery
- 19. Gracelawn Cemetery
- 20. Goad Cemetery
- 21. Greenhaw Cemetery
- 22. Gum Grove Cemetery
- 23. Hanes Cemetery
- 24. Hankins/Sullins Cemetery
- 25. Hickory Grove Cemetery
- 26. Hickmon/Mason Cemetery
- 27. Jacksonport Cemetery
- 4. Johnston/Balch Cemetery
- 28. Lampkins Family Cemetery
- 29. Litchfield Cemetery
- 30. Madden Family Cemetery
- 31. Mardis Family Cemetery

- 32. Martin Cemetery/Memory Garden
- 26. Mason/Hickmon Cemetery
- 33. McCall/Remmel Cemetery
- 32. Memory Garden/Martin Cemetery
- 34. Mt. Zion Cemetery
- 35. New Hope Cemetery
- 36. Nuckolls Cemetery
- 37. Oakgrove Cemetery
- 38. Oakland Cemetery
- 39. Odd Fellow Cemetery
- 40. Palmer/Lawrence Family Cemetery
- 41. Parrott Cemetery
- 42. Parrott Family Cemetery
- 43. Pennington Cemetery
- 44. Penix Family Cemetery
- 45. Prysock Cemetery
- 33. Remmel/McCall Cemetery
- 46. Robinson Cemetery
- 47. Salem Cemetery
- 48. Sandhill Cemetery
- 49. Scantlin Cemetery
- 50. Shiloh Cemetery
- 51. Smith Cemetery

25. Sullins/Hankins Cemetery

53. Surrounded Hill Cemetery No. 1

54. Surrounded Hill Cemetery No. 2

30. Walker/Madden Family Cemetery

60. Westmoreland/Heffington Cemetery

56. Thompson Family Cemetery

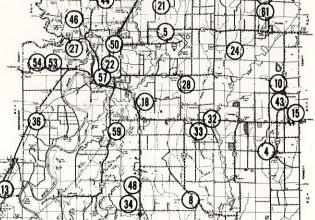
57. Walnut Grove Cemetery

58. Waters Family Cemetery

52. Sunnyside Cemetery

55. Swifton Cemetery

59. Watson Cemetery



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Located in the agricultural area on Cache River, the Grubbs community was first located about one mile and a quarter mile north of its present site. It took its name from James C. Grubbs, a leading political figure of the area at the time the post office was established.

The post office was established at this point of settlement, August 28, 1888. The Grubbs post office remained at this location until the early 1900's, when the Bonnerville and Southwestern Railroad was laid through the area. This railroad became the major factor in the growth of the community to the south. It was then that the post office was moved to the present site of Grubbs.

In the early 1900's, the Bonnerville and Southwestern Railroad extended its lines from the northeast through what is now the Town of Grubbs. This railroad, named for the small town of Bonnerville (now shortened to Bono, in Craighead County), was extended primarily as a log and lumber train, but at times it was used to carry passengers to Jonesboro, where changes were made for journeys to other locations. With the establishment of the railroad, mills for lumber and timber and other associated business firms were developed. The Morse Land and Timber Company built a large mill and loading platform, providing work for several hundred workers. The town grew and a depot was established at the northen end of the community. The Bonnerville and Southwestern made its runs six days a week, hauling freight, mail and a few passengers, as well as its primary cargo, timber. The plat of the town was dated December 26, 1906, and the town was incorporated January 4, 1909.

The earliest religious denominations which established churches at Grubbs were the Church of Christ and the Baptist (Mount Zion Baptist Church, later changed to First Baptist Church of Grubbs). In 1909 the Farmers and Merchants Bank was organized, and later the same year the Bank of Grubbs was incorporated. A telephone system was installed in 1908, but a severe storm in 1917 wiped out the entire telephone system.

In 1988 the mayor of Grubbs is Joe Maez, Recorder is Linda Maez, Treasurer is Evelyn Ridmore and Aldermen are Buck Wagner, Randy Wagner, David Calhoun, Billy Bice and Willie Dean Tidmore.

Jackson County PROUD!

**RODNEY BRAND**, former Razorback Football Player, elected to the 1969 All American Football Team

#### **AUVERGNE**

Although its history as a town can be dated from 1885, Auvergne is located in an area which was settled earlier than any other section of Jackson County, with the exception of a few points on White and Black rivers.

Among the settlers of the 1870's was Rev. David Jabez Hare, a circuit riding Methodist preacher. Many of the older families of Auvergne were well known and won renown in their respective lines of endeavor. Captain James T. Henderson had a fine home in an oak grove just west of town; he had a 1000 tree fruit orchard and fine Jersey cattle. John E. Henderson just east of town had a racetrack on his farm, where large crowds gathered for several years to see horse racing, ball games and summer picnics.

Auvergne Academy was erected in 1885 by D.W. Bristol, who came from Beebe and was a recognized school teacher. For some years the Academy was under the management of Dr. G.D. Clements and R.M. Laird. The Auvergne Academy flourished for some years, reaching at a peak 200 students. Then in 1894 a cyclone swept through and demolished the academy building. The large two story building was never rebuilt.

There are two stories about how the town got its name. Both are similar in that several names were submitted to Washington, D.C. by the postmaster, but were rejected for various reasons. There the versions differ. One says a shipment of flour was received at Harwood's Store with the name "Auvergne" printed on the barrel-heads, and at Mrs. John Henderson's suggestion this name was submitted and accepted. The second version comes from a letter in 1906 which indicates that Amanda, wife of Colonel J.T. Henderson, had recently read a French book, saw the name Auvergne, and thought it would be pretty to have the post office named that. (Auvergne is the name of a district in France).

An article in the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1941 had the following to say: "The town of Auvergne, ten miles south of Newport, an active, thriving town in days gone by, with an academy where girls and boys came from distant towns for 'higher learning', good churches where older people worshipped and younger ones courted and busy merchants, is only a shell of its former self. All that is left to remind one of the town's former days are two stores, a church, a few descendants of the Carry founders, thousands of acres of rich farming land and the old town pump."

Marvin Hare, Jr., president of Hare Planting Company,is the great grandson of the original circuit riding Methodist preacher.

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# Jackson County Veterans & Organizations

The following young men from Jackson County were inducted into the army on January 6, 1941. HQ Btry 2d Bn 206 CA (AA) ANG Leroy Allen, Thomas C. Armstrong, Charles Brunt, Allen C. Collier (Killed in Action 6/3/42), George Crawford, John Ennis, Neil C. Ennis, Raymond O. French, Albin A. Garrich, Gerald O. Griffin, Clifton Guthrie, James Heathcott, Donald Heffington, Alex L. Hogan, Ralph Holt, Shelby L. James, Richard B. Johnson, David L. Johnston, Edward Earl Jones, Oscar H. Jones, Walter D. Martin, Craig Massey, Guy D. McCoy, Robert H. McDonald, Charles A. Morris, William T. Morris, Hobert T. Nelson, O.K. Nicholson, Pellum P. Nicholson, Wilie P. Ray, Harvey W. Schroeder, Walter M. Snodgrass, James A. Snow, Anderson J. Stephens, Leo E. Stuart, Homer T. Swink, Homer N. Willmuth.

AMERICAN LEGION. Neill Griffin Post No. 47, American Legion, applied for a charter which was issued on August 22, 1919.

The post was named for Neill Griffin, who was killed in action at Argonne Forest in France on October 18, 1918. He was inducted on August 5, 1917, and was a member of Company E, 154th Infantry, which was raised at Newport. Griffin was Jackson County's first fatality in World War I.

In 1920, Jeff Avera was the post commander, and Ransom Hayden was an officer of the post. In 1930, George E. Coleman was commander. In 1934, the post built the "Legion Hut" in Remmel Park. The post was incorporated after the hut was built, on February 12, 1935.

Post commanders (with year of election) since 1938 have been: Frank Leach, 1938; O.O. Hamilton, 1940; Dr. O.A. Jamison, 1942; Jeff Mack, 1943; E.A. Fullbright, 1944; L.P. Mann, 1945; Frank Rogers, 1946; Roy Evans, Leonidas Mack, 1947; Fred M. Pickens, Jr., 1948; Ottie Dillinger, 1949; Ray O. Fann, 1950; E.T. Ridgeway, 1951; Fred Williams, 1952; Wayne Collier, 1953, 1955; Neal Rogers, Wesley Bengel, 1954; Ed Madison, 1956; W.R. Pratt, 1957; Kern Steen, 1958; Sam Penix, 1959; Dr. Walter A. Rossington, 1960; John Baker, 1961; O.E. Guinn, Jr., 1962; Iverson C. Cameron, 1963; Sam Boyce, 1964; Orville Richolson, 1965; Ralph Parker, 1966; Al Goss, 1967; Jeff Ellis, Jr., 1968; Gerald Madden, 1969; Eugene Johnson, 1971; Billy R. Cockrill, 1973; Tom Collier, 1975, James Pridmore; George Hulett; Wayne Beard, Jr.; Jerry Hulett; Henry Hicks, 1984; Burl Caldwell, 1985; Jeff Ellis, 1986-1987; Don Gale, 1988.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. Collier-Massey Post No. 4683, V.F.W., was chartered February 27, 1946, with the following members: Thomas C. Armstrong (commander), Cleveland M. Adair, Lloyd P. Archer, Luney B. Breckenridge, Robert C. Brin, Ruel E. Burkett, James C. Carr, Lee Carter, James D. Carvell, Henry Denton, William H. Duncan, Arthur Faulkner, Jack Grimes, Joe C. Hardin, Luther B. Harrell, Marvin K. Harrelson, Charlie Henderson, Jeff D. Henderson, James M. Henley, Jewel B. Henley, Eugene B. Jackson, John T. Jackson, Harry R. Jordan, Virgil G. Knopp, Samuel Lamitina, Don D. LaVoy, John H. McGuire, R.C. McKee, Jerry L. Midkiff, Edgar L. Nave, Cyrus O'Neal, Thomas E. Owens, John W. Pearce, Wardell B. Pennington, Gustave J. Rankin, Jr., Thomas C. Reid, Joseph M. Schratz, John N. Skaggs, Roy N. Skaggs, Eugene G. Wallace, Jr., Hubbard R. Williamson, Cecil W. Baker, Van J. Bell, Orvel Balch, Richard L. Bandy, Jr., Wesley H. Bengel, James A. Boston, George M. Bowden, Alvin L. Brannon, Hugh Bullard, Burl N. Campbell, James K. Carr, Titus J. Christian, A.F. Clark, Hall C. Coe, Joseph C. Coe, Albert L. Collier, Billy W. Davis, Chester C. Doyle, Harry A. Eden, Jr., John L. Ennis, Raymond W. Erickson, Almon C. Evins, Manuel H. Grossman, Wilkerson Hanley, Donald B. Harris, Ezra P. Heatherly, Charles D. Henley, Alex L. Hogan, John W. Hogan, Paul K. Holmes, Boyce A. Huey, Joseph W. Hunter, Peel A. Johnston, Oscar H. Jones, Glenn W. Hale, Samuel M. Lewallen, Dale A. Martin, Paul K. Massey, Roy L. McAllister, Alfred L. McCullar, Cecil D. McDonald, Robert H. McDonald, Kelly J. Murphy, Jasper N. Nance, Bryan Ormsby, Thomas L. Parish, Henry Patton, Fred M. Pickens, Jr., Robert Poore, Gale Reese, Jake L. Reineccius, Clayton L. Rice, Jr., Felix L. Roberts, Doyle W. Rogers, James H. Rogers, Tuck Romines, Roy L. Runyan, Robert A. Schulz, Robert S. Simmons, William L. Simmons, Reuben E. Skaggs, Maurice H. Steenburgen, John L. Shoffner, Everett C. Stephens, William M. Stephens, Earl B. Sullivan, Roy L. Sweatt, Ray S. Tucker, Bill C. Turner, Ralph P. Turner, Lowell A. Wagster, Raymond Wagster, Emmett G. Wallace, Elbert Watson, Lester D. Weaver, William W. Whybrew, Jesse E. Williams, Jr., Virgil L. Wilson, Woodrow W. Wilson, Hosea Woodard, J.L. Woodruff, Herman A. Young and James P. Young.

Post commanders have been: Tom C. Armstrong, George Heard, Joe Hunter, John W. Hogan, Peel Johnston, Bob Jackson, W.O. Hulett, Charles Darling, John T. Worthen, Harold G. Rutledge, Otto Barron, D.T. Allen, Wardell Pennington, John K. Hipp, Gerald Bullard, James P. Young, Roy L. Sweatt, Leo E. Stuart, Earnest P. Heatherly, W.C. Vest, G.B. Kennedy, Albert Collier, Ernest C. Dyke, Karl E. Kunkel, J.D. Maris, Joe W. Thompson, Frank Durham, Alvin L. Brannon and Wayne Harrington.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS.** The local unit of the Disabled American Veterans has had the following presidents: George Bowden, Chester Wymer, Charles Darling, Ernest C. Steel, G.B. Kennedy, Wayne Harrington, George Hulett, Franklin Durham, Roy E. Scott, Ott McDonald, Vernon Anderson and Rhea Dennis.

#### D.T. ALLEN and COMPANY

D.T. Allen and Company, Mike Allen, President, is proud to sponsor this page about veterans for whose service we cannot repay, but simply say "Thanks".



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#### Judson N. Hout

Judson N. Hout (1911-1966) was born near Tuckerman. He began the practice of law in 1932 and was the founding partner of the firm that today is Thaxton, Hout, Howard & Nicholson. He was mayor of Newport from 1952 to 1960.

But—above it all—he loved the Follies. When people get together today and reminisce on the Follies of old, one name always comes up: "Jud" Hout. His real calling may have been as a comedian: during one of the Follies he carried a chicken across the stage time and time again—always to great laughs—but none so great as when he walked into the audience, stopped behind Alcorn Minor, Sr., pulled an egg from his pocket and quietly broke it on Mr. Minor's head. Only Jud could have gotten away with it.

During another year's performance, he walked onto the stage, and in his loudest voice (which was *very* loud) made the entire Follies stop so that his "sister" could come up on the stage and display her "talent". Her name has been forgotten, but everyone remembers she had on a long dress, pulled it above her knees—displaying a cymbal attached to each knee—which she then proceeded to bang together for her "talent".

He always had great fun in the Follies, exceeded only by the great fun, pleasure and laughter he brought to many others through his years on the Follies stage.

Son Phil Hout continues the family tradition as both a lawyer and member of the Follies cast. Jud's great-granddaughter, Stacy Shumate (with cymbal-less knees!) is also a cast member.

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#### JACKSON COUNTY QUIZ

Look at these two pictures and identify who is the most famous and successful peanut farmer "hanging around" Jackson County??



For those who live in Jackson County the answer to the question is easy: Jimmy and Sandra Walker, President and Secretary-Treasurer of Hickory Grove Seed Plant, Inc. Jimmy began to grow peanuts in 1972, and last year planted 500 acres. They raise certified seed for sale into Oklahoma, shipping by 50,000 pound loads, after drying in their own seed plant. Good yields are 2800 pounds to an acre on dry land farming, and up to 4,000 pounds on an irrigated acre. The math works out to be approximately 1,500,000 pounds of peanuts a year produced by the Jimmy Walker family. By any stretch that's not peanuts even in peanuts! With this kind of production it is easy to see why Jackson County is proud of the Jimmy Walker family, and they are themselves "Jackson County Proud."



Hickory Grove Seed Plant, Inc.

Jackson County PROUD!

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# Van-Atkins

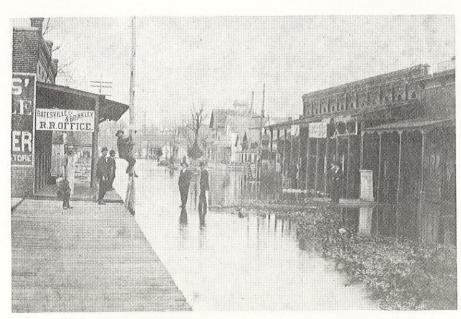
Van-Atkins Stores were founded by Earl Vanhook and Mr. O.M. Atkins in September of 1949. The first store opened in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas in that year. The name was decided on by taking the "Van" from Vanhook and Mr. Atkins' last name. The hyphen was between the "Van" and "Atkins" denoting that there were two people involved.

After the first store opening in 1949 in Walnut Ridge. a second store was opened in Pocahontas, Arkansas in May 1950; third store in Newport in September 1951; then Batesville and Searcy in August 1952. Brinkley and Wynne stores number six and seven opened in 1954 and number eight opened at Conway in 1956. The following year the Van-Atkins Stores purchased the "Fair Stor" in Monticello, which became number nine. Number ten was Van-Atkins in New Albany, Mississippi and Morrilton and Russellville became numbers eleven and twelve.

The ownership was equally divided by the Vanhook and Atkins families until Mr. Atkins retired in 1962. At that time the stores were divided into two divisions. Headquarters for the western division is at Batesville, Arkansas and is being headed by Mr. G.W. Moseley, who has been active from the beginning of the stores in 1949. He is the son-in-law of Mr. Atkins and now owns considerable stock in the western division. The eastern division, headquartered at Newport, is controlled and operated by the Vanhook family.

Van-Atkins moved to its present location in the Village Mall in 1969. Additional stores have opened in Fayetteville, Harrison, El Dorado and Malvern.

Earl Vanhook passed away in 1986. Present officers of the company are: Robert Vanhook, president; Nita Vanhook Lindsey, Vice-President and Ann Vanhook Rutledge, secretary-treasurer.



The original location of the Van-Atkins store in Newport, Arkansas was on Front Street, long after the street had dried out and the wooden sidewalks had been replaced and elevated!



Lades-



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Manufacturing Residential and Commercial Building Wire in Newport Since 1980, and we are—

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BATESVILLE 352 HARRISON 793-4234

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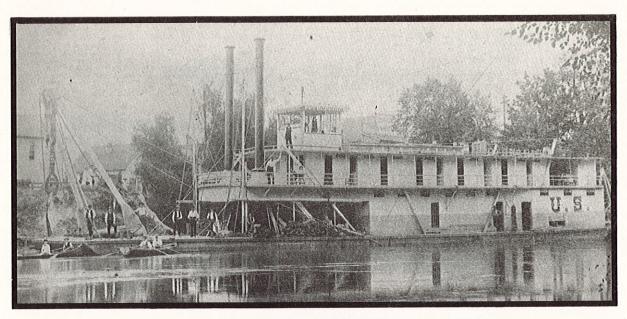
Joey Treadway

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS FIRE - AUTO - TRUCK - COMMERCIAL - LIFE









Unidentified government snag boat docked at Newport around 1910.

#### -Steamboats-

The first steamboat ventured up the White River in 1831, and steamboat traffic began to increase dramatically. In 1837 Jessie Daugherty put an advertisement in the Arkansas Gazette announcing the sale of lots in the Town of Newport, describing its location as being on White River, "At the crossing of the main United States road lately opened." Daugherty's advertisement went further to say "Steamboats of any burden can ascend the river to Newport and the supplies of this flourishing section of the country are now furnished by these boats." Another advertisement announced a public auction of town lots in Newport for November 8, 1837. Jessie Daugherty died in 1839, and his widow, Sarah, took over the management of his business enterprises. Mr. Daugherty ran the ferry crossing on the White River at Newport, and hoped to develop the ferry and mercantile business as Tunstall was doing at Jacksonport and Noadiah Marsh at Elizabeth. Elizabeth, halfway between today's Newport and Jacksonport (location probably is now in the river). In 1840, shortly after Elizabeth became the county seat, a move to change the seat to Newport was made. However, Elizabeth remained the county seat until 1852. By this time Newport was but a few houses on the river and a dim memory in the minds of a few old settlers. The plat of Daugherty's Newport was never put on record, but a few deeds to lots in the town (sold in 1840 and 1841 for \$75.00 each!) were recorded. Creditors of the Daugherty Estate obtained judgments, and eventually the 140 acre tract, much of which is present day Newport, was sold to satisfy the judgments. Further, Mrs. Daugherty had to sell the steamer Mount Pleasant to satisfy judgments against the estate of her husband.

Steamboat traffic became an increasingly important trade factor on the river throughout the 19th century. The page sponsored by citizens of Jacksonport gives more details about riverboats, and background for the opening scene of this year's Follies.

# NATIONAL

Aluminum Corporation Newport Rolling Mill has been an integral part of Jackson County's industrial base for many years.

Employing in excess of 250 people, Newport Rolling Mill produces a wide variety of aluminum foil and foil laminated products for use in packaging, labeling, container, construction and pharmaceutical applications.

The location of the facility is easily recognized and has long been associated with the large U.S. flag prominently displayed adjacent to the facility and Highway 67.

National Aluminum and the employees of the Newport Rolling Mill are proud of the role they have played in the history of Jackson County.

-76-





#### J. Wilmans Corporation

James Edward Wilmans, the patriarch of the Wilmans family—with his wife, Matilda, four children and his widowed mother—moved to Arkansas in 1859. They were fourteen days on the steamboat going from Brandenburg, Kentucky, to Jacksonport on White River, Arkansas. It being the fall of the year, when the river was at a very low stage, much time was

James Edward Wilmans

spent getting over "sand bars". In Jacksonport he engaged in the milling business and later, with his brother-in-law, Isaac Robertson, he established a family grocery business.

Soon after the beginning of the Civil War he moved to Elgin, on Black River, and went into business with Captain James S. Smith, who owned a large plantation there with a sawmill, cotton gin, ferry and store. Here the Wilmans family lived until February 1864, when conditions became so bad with bands of outlaws committing all kinds of outrages on the people, that Mr. Wilmans was determined to get his family away as soon as possible. Accordingly, one morning in early February, he and Captain Smith rode to Jacksonport to see if there was any probability of getting a boat there.

They were able to find one at the landing scheduled to leave that evening. That was a memorable journey: the floor was so crowded that beds were laid over the floor of the cabin for the children to sleep, and there was scarcity of food. Fortunately the mother had baked a lot of cakes the night before leaving (else the children and others on the boat would have been hungry!). They were to go on this boat only as far as DeVall's Bluff, from which point all boats were escorted under a convoy of gunboats as a safeguard against guerrilla firing from shore.

At DeVall's Bluff the family was transferred to a Mississippi steamboat which took them to Memphis where they were again transferred to an Ohio River boat that landed them at Brandenburg, from which place they had embarked not quite six years before. But how many changes! Here was a man with mother, wife and six children. No home, no household goods. They had only a very little money made from cotton hauled to Memphis

and sold there a short time before leaving Arkansas. But thanks to his heredity of French, German and Dutch blood, he had indomitable courage, great resourcefullness and a spirit of optimism that never forsook him.

After the Civil War, with the help of his four sons—C.H. Wilmans, J.S. Wilmans, E.B. Wilmans and R.D. Wilmans—Mr. Wilmans bought more land and the business was incorporated under the name of Wilmans Land Company. With the general exodus from Jacksonport, the Wilmans Brothers moved their business from Elgin to Newport where, in 1896, they re-established their mercantile business. In 1903 headquarters of the business was moved to Diaz, chosen for its accessibility to the two railroads. This facilitated the shipping of cotton, cattle and other products.

Robert Dorsey Wilmans was born on a farm belonging to his father, near Elgin, Jackson County, September 2, 1876. There were eight children in the family when he was born. On June 11, 1902 he married Cornelia Phillips, a native of Jackson County, and they had seven children: James Edward, who married Mary Alice Gregory and is now married to Betty Taylor; Amanda, who married H.D. Woodson; Mildred Ann, who married Rev. Paul Newell and later married Perryman Page; Narcissa, who married Dr. Jabez F. Jackson; Robert Dorsey, Jr., who married Hildegarde McCuistion; Lucy Robertson, who married S.W. Freeman; and Cornelia Phillips, who married Dr. Irby Stephens.

In 1924 Robert Dorsey Wilmans, Sr., bought out his brothers' interests in the business and formed Wilmans Mercantile Company in partnership with his two sons, J.E. Wilmans and R.D. Wilmans, Jr. In 1948 the business was reorganized and incorporated as R.D. Wilmans & Sons, under which it did business until 1958. R.D. Wilmans & Sons continued under the direction of R.D. Wilmans, Jr., and J. Wilmans Corporation continued the operation as it exists today: J.E. Wilmans, Sr., President and J.E. Wilmans, Jr., Vice President, headquartered at the Sand Hill Farm north of the Newport Airbase.



Robert Dorsey Wilmans, Sr.

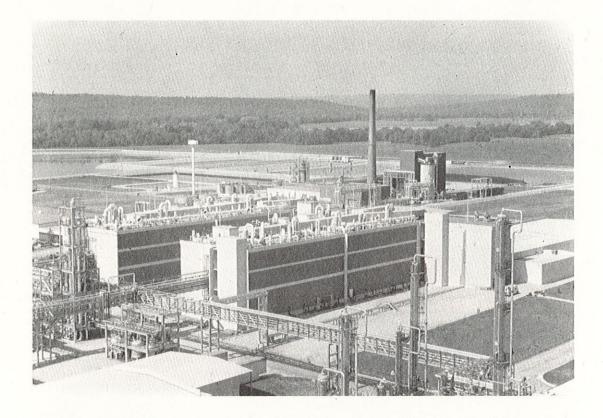
Great-grandsons Bobby Newell and Dr. Jabez F. Jackson, Jr., and great-great-step granddaughter Angie Cook are in the Follies Cast.

Early historical data taken from "A History of Arkansas and its People", pp. 402-403.



# Arkansas Eastman Company Kodak





On March 26, 1970, Eastman Kodak Company obtained options on a tract of land near the old Rutherford Community in southeast Independence County. The following year, Kodak exercised its option to purchase the property and plans for the establishment of Arkansas Eastman Company were announced in September 1974. Construction on the plant began the next spring and the company shipped its first chemical products in January 1977.

Today, Arkansas Eastman produces chemicals which are used by hundreds of companies worldwide. Chemicals manufactured by Eastman are used to produce such consumer and industrial products as photographic film and paper, medical supplies and prescription medicines, paints and coatings, plastics and bottle polymers, food supplements, fibers and agricultural products.

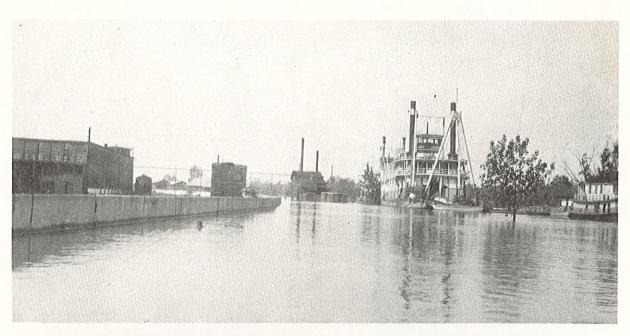
Located on a plantsite of nearly 1850 acres, Arkansas Eastman Company employs approximately 475 people. During 1987, Eastman's contribution to the Arkansas economy in terms of wages and salaries paid, goods and services purchased, freight and express paid and taxes paid totaled over \$28.9 million.

—An Equal Opportunity Employer—









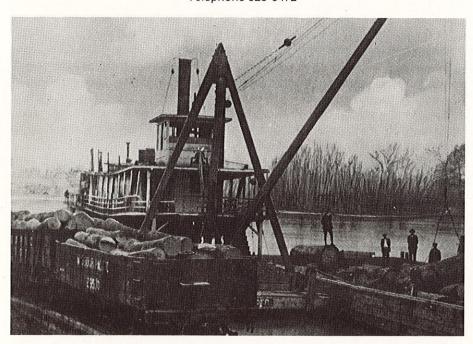
This old paddlewheel boat was moored outside of Newport around the turn of the century during a flood.

Note the Newport seawall to the left of the photograph.

# Norman & Baker Pharmacy

1117 McLain Street / Newport, Arkansas

Telephone 523-9472



Steamboat loaded with logs at Newport Landing around 1915.
The boat might be the Robert H. Romunder.



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# Indians

Throughout the many uncharted years of Jackson County history before its settlement by white Americans, the area was occupied by other Americans—the Indians. According to archaeologists, there is evidence of humans occupying the area as early as 9000 B.C.

The Paleo Indians (Paleo Indian Period—20,000 B.C.-8,000 B.C.) hunted large game animals, some of which are now extinct, such as the mammoth and mastodon (relatives of the modern elephant) and a large species of bison. Little is known of these people except they had beautifully made chipped projectile points, large enough to suggest the use of spears. These points, found in Jackson County, are called Folsom and Daltons.

Dr. C.R. McGinsey III, Director of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, has remarked there may be more Archaic Period (8,000 B.C.—1,000 B.C.) sites in the area between Black River on the west and Crowleys Ridge on the east than anywhere in the world (Jackson, Lawrence, Craighead and Poinsett Counties). It was once thought these were nomadic small bands of people who were hunters and gatherers. However, recent evidence in Northeast Arkansas (including Jackson County) indicates there may have been permanent settlements. They lived off large animals such as deer and bison, small animals such as rabbits, corn, ducks, plants, nuts, berries, fish and shellfish.

The early Woodland culture (1,000 B.C. to time of Christ) consisted of small bands, hunters and gatherers, indicating the first evidence of agriculture and buildings. Also, the people built and used burial mounds which suggest a more complex religious and social organization. Pottery made its appearance, usually undecorated and utilitarian. There is virtually no evidence in our area of population in the mid-Woodland Period (Christ to 500 A.D.), for reasons unknown.

Late Woodland (700 A.D.—1700 A.D.) found a dramatic resurgence of Indians in our area. The social, religious and political organization was very complex. Temple mounds for religious ceremonies and burial were found in much of eastern Arkansas. The pottery was highly decorated (often colored), in effigy form (frogs, people, ducks, etc.) and often beautifully and skillfully made. They lived in more permanent settlements, sometimes large, and depended more on agriculture (e.g.; Elgin mound, Lindley Landing Mound on Black River). This period evolved into the Mississippi Period.

Most evidence of Indians is surface finds, turned up by farm discs and made visible by rain. But Jackson County contains literally hundreds of significant archeological sites, including campgrounds and burial grounds, along the Black, White and Cache Rivers and Village Creek.

Jackson County is located on what became known as the Great Southwest Trail, running from Canada to Mexico. It is thought that this trail was formed by migratory herds of buffalo, skirting the mountains to the west of us and the swamps to our east. Many tribes of Indians are known to have used the trail, and some of them stayed in Jackson County for a time, enjoying the abundance of fish and game in the area. They traded with other tribes, and they often fought with them as well. No tribe seems to have stayed for any considerable length of time.

Arrowpoints found in Jackson County have been identified as belonging to the Quapaw, Choctaw, Accansea, Shawnee, Illinois, Delaware and Cherokee Indians, as well as many other tribes. A burial ground of the Chickasaw Indians was discovered on the Stephens farm in the "Island" area south of Newport.

The Cherokees are known to have come through Jackson County in the 1830s, enroute from their homes in the Eastern states for the territory assigned them by the government in what is now Oklahoma. A "Military Road" had been built through Jackson County in 1835, and this road was one of the paths taken by the Cherokees to the west—a part of what is called the "Trail of Tears" in Cherokee history.

#### Farm Serve U Center

No one ever accused Junior and Jerry of being "Brave," Kenneth and Cotton think there are too many "Chiefs" and no one has accused us of being "Indian-givers!"



Heder.









**Pocahontas Pistole Graham** 

#### Stephen J. Graham Family

Peter Graham was born about 1795 in North Carolina and probably died about 1848 in Mississippi. He was married first on August 6, 1823 in Maury County, Tennessee to Martha Bowden who was born about 1805 and died about 1832. Peter and Martha Graham had at least two daughters who died in childhood and three sons: Nimrod P., Stephen Jirard and Jack. It was about 1839 that Peter Graham moved to Jackson County, Arkansas. He probably came because his second wife, Susan (Pistole) Graham had relatives in the county.

On September 1, 1849 Stephen J. Graham made his first purchase of land, 40 acres in Jackson County, near Village Creek from the United States Government paying the standard \$1.25 an acre for the land at the land office in Batesville. He bought the land on January 17, 1852 on which the then Pleasant Grove Cemetery was established, (changed to Gracelawn Cemetery, in 1954.)

Stephen Jirard Graham (1827-1873) was married a second time (his first wife died in 1850) on September 28, 1851 to Mrs. Pocahontas Fidelia Pistole Greenhaw, widow of Jobe K. Greenhaw. Pocahontas Graham was widely known for her charity—she raised eight orphans as well as her own children. She was said to have been one-half Cherokee and one-half French. They were the parents of ten children—nine sons and one daughter, all born in Jackson County, Arkansas: Henry Clay, John Randolph, Cardelia Saphronia (married Joseph Everett Slayden), Thomas Jefferson, Frank, Nimrod R., Nathan, Josephus S., James and Samuel. Frank died in 1862 of accidental poisoning at the age of two. The other eight Graham Brothers in 1880 organized the original Graham Brothers Partnership.

The sons of Stephen J. and Pocahontas Pistole Graham were educated in the Pleasant Grove school (now Tuckerman) and at the LaCrosse Academy in LaCrosse, Izard County, Arkansas.

The present Graham Brothers Company was organized in 1902, Henry Graham, President, and continues to this day. Stephen J. Graham is president and Gus Graham is vice-president, both fifth generation Grahams in Jackson County. Steve Graham, son of Stephen J. and Hildegarde, is the sixth generation of Grahams to be associated with the company and to farm in Jackson County. Steve's wife, Pam, is a member of the cast of the Follies.

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Our services include helping you with:

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1000 Malcolm Avenue

We are proud to serve you and serve our community!

Jackson County PROUD!

KANEASTER HODGES, JR., Former United States Senator from Arkansas



1623 Malcolm Avenue Newport, Arkansas Telephone 523-6829

"We are proud to support the Jackson County Follies and to be a part of the Jackson County Community!"



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McGAUGHEY BROTHERS, INC.

-PLANTERS-



McDonald Family

The McDonald family is one of the oldest in Jackson County. Robert McDonald moved from Tennessee to Pike County, Arkansas in the early 1830s. He may have come through Jackson County with the Robinson party in 1831. He died in Pike County in 1843. He had eight children, five boys and three girls, one of whom was Alvin McDonald, born March 5, 1815 in Tennessee. Alvin married first Nancy Jane Robinson and they had one child, Lavator B. (1844-1932). He then married Mary Ann Robinson (1817-1855) and they had five children: John (1843-1890), Florence Polk (1844-1932), Robert Edwin (1845-1905), Alvin "Tobe" (1850-1924), Margaret (1854-?). Alvin then married Emily V. Davis (1835-1923) and they had three children: Charley (1861-1869), Forrest (1864-1887) and Laura (1858-1942).

The McDonald Brothers Partnership (Lavator, John A., Alvin "Tobe" and Robert E.) was formed in 1873 and they moved their extensive operations to Weldon when the railroad came through in 1886. They were involved in farming, cattle, ginning, timber, sawmilling, banking and merchandising. The wide influence and variety of enterprises is seen from the fact that in 1882 Robert E. McDonald sold the town of Newport a tract of land northeast of Newport to establish a town cemetery.

Alvin McDonald was instrumental in the construction of the Weldon Methodist Church, serving as one of the original three trustees when organized in 1886. The church began with 68 members, and grew to 164 by 1890. The church served as a school until one could be built. Over the years, as the town lost population, membership declined until the church was closed in 1971, and sold in 1979 to the City of Weldon for use as a city hall and activities center. McDonald descendants were some of the backbones of the church during its years.

Tobe married Mary Susan Johnson (1860-1935) and had eight children, three girls and five boys: Alvin G., Sue Mary, Robert Haas, Lottie Lee, Joe Johnson, Ralph E., Clyde P. and Helen. Alvin G. died young (1884-1888); Sue Mary married George L. Robinson. Robert Haas married Annie Sue Wilder and had two children, Robert, Jr. and Chrystine. Lottie Lee married Dee Hester McCartney. Joe Johnson married Lena Phillips, and had two children, Joe, Jr., who died in an accident at age 17, and Mary Ann, who married Jim Dupree. Ralph E. married Marjorie and they had three children: Ralph, Jr., Patricia Jean

and A. Toby. Clyde P. married Elliott, and they had two children, Nancy and Phillip A. Helen married Harney Chaney.

The descendants have played an extensive role in Jackson County history since the earliest days—ranging from every phase of agriculture, churches, business, rodeo queens and bull riders, insurance, sports (Clyde P. was an outstanding amateur baseball pitcher), banking, politics and civic affairs. They have excelled in Newport High School.

Among the descendants in the county are Luckett Martin (and her children Jimbo and Robert), Katherine Sue Wilmans (and her children Chrys and Rex), Joey Dupree (and his twins Jacob McDonald and Will Rutledge) and Susan Hubbard.

Chrys Wilmans, Susan Hubbard and Toby McDonald are in the Follies cast.



CHILDREN OF ALVIN McDONALD
(Seated): Margaret McDonald Johnson, Florence Polk McDonald Gilliaum,
Lavator B. McDonald, John McDonald. (Standing): Laura McDonald Bailey,
Alvin "Tobe" McDonald, Robert E. McDonald, Forrest McDonald



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# The Legal Profession

The first lawyer to practice at Jacksonport was John Graham Witherspoon, who came from Alabama about 1849. He died at Jacksonport in the early 1850s. The first attorney known to have established an office in Newport was Rowland Gaskill, who practiced from 1877 to 1879. From 1880 to 1892 a total of 17 attorneys practiced law in Newport, including Lancelot Minor, O.D. Watson and Franklin Doswell. The hottest political issue in the 1880s and 1890s was whether the county seat should remain in Jacksonport or be moved to Newport. At the heart of the issue was where court would be held. The courthouse at Jacksonport, so beautifully and lovingly restored by Jackson Countians headed by Lady Elizabeth Luker, was where court was held. As early as 1880, the *Newport Weekly News* suggested that Newport would be a more suitable county seat than Jacksonport. Newport already had a larger population, and it was definitely the commercial center of Jackson County.

In 1882, the issue was taken to the voters of the county for the first time. Aaron Hirsch had agreed to donate a block of land in Newport for a new courthouse, and a petition had been circulated to get the question on the ballot. The *Arkansas Gazette* remarked as the campaign progressed: "An epidemic of 'county seat removal' has broken out in the Newport and Jacksonport papers." The election was held on November 7, 1882, resulting in the defeat of the proposition to move the county seat to Newport by only a few votes. The ad on this page of the Jackson County Rooster from the *Jacksonport Herald* of November 11, 1882 indicates the response in Jacksonport. In 1886 it came to a vote again, with Jacksonport interests making a more determined effort to defeat the removal proposal, and Newport lost the election by an overwhelming majority. It was this election that inspired the drawing by C.R. Hite of the "Tug of War" by two lawyers - Lancelot Minor (who had moved to Newport in 1882) and Joseph M. Bell. Bell moved to Newport in 1887.

By 1891, Jacksonport had begun to decline, the major cause being the population shift to Newport. The decline in business in Jacksonport was so severe that a newspaper reported that "lawyers and litigants . . . have to attend court in Jacksonport and get their meals and lodging at Newport." The Batesville and Brinkley railroad had begun a policy of running special trains from Newport to Jacksonport while court was in session.

Finally, on September 29, 1891, after what the *Arkansas Gazette* reported as "one of the most intensely exciting campaigns ever held in any county . . .", Newport won the election with 88% of the votes in favor of removal of the county seat to Newport. The committee to select the site, John W. Wallace, A.E. Shoffner and Wiley M. Baird, selected the two lots donated by E.L. Watson as the site for the new courthouse. The present courthouse was built on that site after much controversy, being formally accepted by the county on October 22, 1894.

This page sponsored by the following Jackson County Attorneys: Linda Boone, Max Bowie, Gerald Carlyle, Joe James, Jim McLarty, Stan Montgomery, Fred M. Pickens, Jr., Ronnie Winningham.

Jacksonport Herald, November 11, 1882

County Seat Election Returns.



This is our county seat rooster. We do not pride ourself so much on his beauty as on his good qualities. He has been engaged in a fight with those Newport roosters for some time and has his plumage somewhat disarranged, but is still able to crow, while his adversaries are very sick, and will hardly show themselves this week. The following figures will show what our bird is crowing so justily about:



This famous cartoon from the mid 1880s illustrates the determination of both Lancelot Minor and Joseph M. Bell to win the battle of the location of the county seat.

-84-

# City Drug Store, Inc.

Highway 67 North Tuckerman

"Over 100 years"

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—Owners—

Gifts
Prescriptions
Olde Fashioned Soda Fountain

#### Newport Wholesale Electric

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Highway 67 North, Newport Telephone 523-8949

**Tandy Computers** 

Pioneer Home & Car Stereos

# Jaco Construction Company

Highway 67 North, Newport

Ed Michael—President/Secretary Wiley Allbright—Vice President

Jackson County PROUD!

Late **VAN SMITH**, chairman and/or member of several state and national banking organizations

# Sneaker Alley

1902-A McLain Street Newport Telephone 523-9900

#### White River Vocational Technical School

Newport, Arkansas

Telephone 523-8966

# WAYLAND INSURANCE -ANDREALTY

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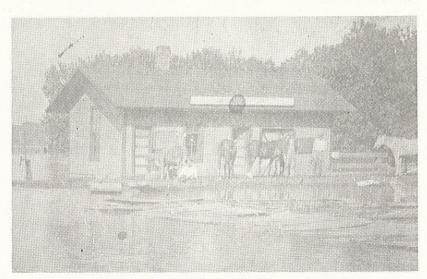


#### **BATESVILLE & BRINKLEY RAILROAD**

The old B & B (named Batesville & Brinkley because it began in Brinkley and was intended to go to Batesville, although it never did), later purchased by the Rock Island Line, operated between Jacksonport and Brinkley from 1886 to 1927. One of its early conductors was Gus Martin.

During the flood of 1927, the fill of the roadbed was washed away and some 350 yards of railing was bent beyond use. The railroad sought bids for the burning of cars left at Jacksonport and the destruction of the rest of the railroad track as it was useless after the flood receded.

Ben Nelson, who was a native of Jackson County, persuaded the roadmaster that the cars could be saved at much less cost than was first estimated. For the princely sum of \$750, Mr. Nelson rebuilt the roadbed, laid rails, and, using three 700-lb mules, pulled seven cars from Jacksonport to



The Jacksonport depot of the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad during the 1927 flood which was the beginning of the end for the never-completed railroad.

Newport. The company was able to salvage all seven. The line to Jacksonport was never rebuilt; but trains ran between Newport and Brinkley until 1941.

The railroad made Newport and other railroad towns more accessible for circuses and other shows. The *Arkansas Gazette* in 1875 reported that "about four thousand people attended the circus at Newport." The *Batesville Guard* in 1878 commented: "One of our boys who went down to Newport to look at the big show came back and told us about seeing the big elephant 'eating hay with his tail'." The next year, the "Great London Consolidated Show" was opened at Newport on November 28, featuring an illuminated show pavillion, with electric lights equal to 3500 gas jets. In 1880, P.T. Barnum's "Greatest Show on Earth" played at Newport.

The main line that runs through Newport is the principal railroad connection between St. Louis and Dallas. The line branches at Diaz and goes northwest, and it is the principal carrier of 100-plus car coal trains coming from Wyoming to the Independence County Steam Electric Station every other day. The vast majority of trains today are freight, many being "piggy back" trailers, working in harmony with truck transportation.

It is difficult from today's railroad business to imagine how many tens of thousands of people traveled in and out of Jackson County by railroad until the late 1950s. Today, after mergers, the parent corporation is known as Union Pacific Railroad Company.

This advertisement sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad Company



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1403 Malcolm Newport, Arkansas 72112

H&R BLOCK®

Telephone (501) 523-3523

-Compliments of-

#### TEN PIN LANES

HIGHWAY 67 NORTH NEWPORT, ARKANSAS 72112

—Summer Special—
Two games for the price of one on Wednesdays.

Equal Housing Opportunity



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# SOUTHERN Management Corp.

\_A Nice Place to Live\_

WHITE RIVER APARTMENTS

-Federally Subsidized-

1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom apartments

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Jackson County PROUD!

Late **LUCY GREGG PATTERSON**, a well-known authoress of many short stories which appeared in various national family magazines.

-Compliments of-

Fletcher's Liquor Store

Party Store

Wilmans Liquor Store



Rob Penix Interiors Main Street Tuckerman, Arkansas

THE

Shamrock Cafe

In Diaz is Jackson County Proud!





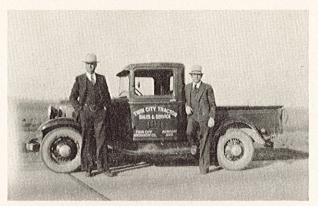
#### Wixson Brothers Equipment Company, Inc.

Wixson Brothers Equipment Company, Inc. had its beginning in 1925 at Fisher, Arkansas. The name of the company was Fisher Garage and Hardware. We made repairs and over-haul jobs on cars and trucks and had a line of farm machinery which was known, at that time, as M M Twin City or Minneapolis-Moline Twin City.

Sometime in the early 1930s, Kenneth Wixson and D.L. Shoffner began a farm machinery business which was known as Twin City Machinery Company, Newport, Arkansas. After a few years, they closed that business.

In the late 1940s, Kenneth Wixson began a butane gas business on Highway 67 North, Newport, which is our present location. In 1947, the business was incorporated under the name of Wixson Bros. Equipment Company, Inc.

We constructed a new building in the early 1950s, and once again brought Minneapolis-Moline equipment to the Newport area, along with the butane gas business. In later years, we dropped the machinery business and in the 1970s we added Ace Hardware.



Kenneth Wixson (I) and D.L. Shoffner (r) with one of the old Twin City Machinery Company trucks.

Wixson Bros. has been in the well and pump business for around 48 years. This service has always been rendered through the Fisher store. Over the years, we have put down several hundred irrigation wells and installed that many pumps in the Newport and Jackson County areas.

We have been in business in Newport—serving our customers—for over forty years. We appreciate our customers very much and the loyalty they have given us over the years.



A group of Minneapolis-Moline dealers and company men. This was at the opening of the new

store in Newport.





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Dr. J.D. Collier Dr. Tasker N. Rodman II

Newport Evening Herald, May 2, 1888



# **Jackson County Schools**

In the very early days of Jackson County, either parents or some educated person taught the "Three Rs", and perhaps a little history in their homes. There is no record of a school building at Litchfield, the earliest community in the county in the 1830s. There is a report of a school at Elizabeth some years later, but it probably was conducted in a private home, as were the first schools at Jacksonport and Grand Glaize.

The little log school houses in the county appeared during the 1850s. These country school teachers were paid a small amount from county script. As early as 1854, provision was made by the state for establishment and maintenance of "Common (public) schools", chiefly by sale of Section No. 16 in each township. The teacher lived a part of the time with each family during the school term, usually the four winter months.

Parents, who were able, sent their children to established boarding schools in Memphis or some other place for high school-level education.

It was not until after the Civil War that a greater effort was made for more public schools under the leadership of Franklin Doswell, a Jacksonport attorney. The Doswell School at Auvergne was one of the first good public schools. Soon a white wooden school was built at Jacksonport—one for all grades, one teacher for all subjects. The Auvergne Academy and the Doswell Institute (in Newport) were both supported by private tuition.

Today the educational picture gives a vastly different story. In place of the 90-odd small schools around the county, consolidated school districts offer better facilities and a wider range of subjects.



Clara Harvey Dowell on her graduation in 1913.

In the spring of 1913, Samuel William Harvey and his wife, Maud, proudly presented their daughter, Clara Rose Harvey, as the first graduate of Tuckerman High School. Although the school itself had been operating for several years, Miss Harvey was the first person to successfully complete the 12th grade and thereby receive the first degree issued. She was the sole member of the Class of 1913. Invitations were sent out across Jackson County and many visitors made the trip by train and buggy from the surrounding countryside to attend the graduation ceremonies. The principal speaker was Dr. Charles Hillman Brough, a professor at the University of Arkansas and soon to be elected governor of the state.

Clara Harvey married Taylor G. Dowell, the son of a pioneer Jackson County family.

Sylla Harvey, (1896-1988), sister of Clara, was also an early student at Tuckerman. She graduated from Ward-Belmont College at Nashville, Tennessee. She became the wife of Edward Wayne Boyce, Sr.

The Harvey sisters attended Ward-Belmont Col-

lege and each graduated from what is now Arkansas State University. Sylla Harvey Boyce went on to receive a Master of Science degree from the University of Arkansas.

Mrs. Boyce taught at Newport and Tuckerman while Mrs. Dowell taught school at Tuckerman and Swifton. Sylla Boyce and Clara Dowell each spent over 40 years teaching Jackson County students.



Sylla Harvey Boyce

This page sponsored by the Boyce families

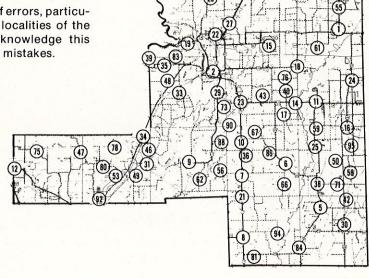


Listed below are all of the known schools of Jackson County. Of the 96 named, only four (shown in bold type) remain in 1988. The last school consolidation in the county was when Beedeville joined the Newport School District in 1985.

The numbers in front of the school name show its locality on the accompanying map. Numbers on the right side of the school indicate which district it was later consolidated with. Those schools with little or no known information are shown with a "(?)" on the right side.

There is a great possibility of errors, particularly in the placement of some localities of the lessor known schools. We acknowledge this probability, and regret any such mistakes.

# Jackson County **Schools**



- 15. Airbase → 2. 25. Algoa → 5. 11. Amagon → 2. 41. Anderson → 2.
- 78. Arnold → 3.
- 10. Auvergne → 2.
- 16. Balch → 2.
- 55. Ballew's Chapel → 1. 85. Bandy's Chapel → 4.
- 48. Bateman → 2.
- 31. Battle Ax → 4. 5. Beedeville → 2.
- 62. Bengel → 2. 6. Blackville → 2.
- 86. Bowen's Ridge → 2.
- 64. Bridge → 3.
- 49. Bundy → 2.
- 27. Campbell Station → 4.
- 54. Centerville → 1.
- 39. Christian Twp. → (?) 94. Citizenship → 5.
- 91. Cooks → 3 (?) 42. Cow Lake → 5.
- 92. Cross Roads → Bradford. 19. Jacksonport → 2.

- 93. Denton Island → 4.
- 65. Dunn's → 4.
- 38. Eight Mile → 5.
- 13. Elgin → 4.
- 74. Elm Grove → 3 (?)
- 22. Erwin Switch → 2.
- 73. Gartland → 2.
- 68. Goetz Up. & Low. → 4. 30. McFadden → 5.
- 57. Goodhope → 4.
- 84. Gourd Neck → 5.
- 51. Greenhaw → 4.

- Ingleside → 2.
- 29. Island → 2.
- 95. Jackson Chapel → 2.

- 12. Denmark → Bradford.
- 22. Diaz → 2.

- 1. Grubbs.
- 61. Hankins → 2.
- 69. Harper → 4.
- 66. Hatchett → 6.
- 28. Hickory Grove → 4.
- 56. Horseshoe → 2.
- 60. Hurricane → 2.

- 50. Jacobs → 5.
- 40. Johnstown → 2.
- 58. Jones → 5.
- 20. Kenvon → 4.
- 75. Liberty → Bradford.
- 67. Litchfield → 2.
- 43. Martin → 2.
- 78. Mason → 2.
- 76. McCall → 2.
- 26. Mildred Dorsey → 1.
- 90. Needmore → 2.
- 89. New Home → 3.
- 53. New Glaze → 2.
- 2. Newport.
- 88. Nubbin Ridge → 2. 83. Nuckle Switch → 2.
- 79. Oak Grove → 4.
- 80. Oakland → 2.
- 46. Oak Leaf → 2.
- 31. Old Glaze → 2.
- 34. Olyphant → 2.
- 82. Page → 3.
- 59. Paradise → 2.

- 81. Peabody → 2.
- 24. Pennington → 2.
- 52. Pleasant Valley → 2.
- 84. Plunkett → 5.
- 44. Pond Switch → 4.
- 70. Possum Trot → 3.
- 32. Post Oak → 4.
- 71. Proctor → 5.
- 72. Ray → 4.
- 17. Remmel → 2.
- 33. River Bridge → 2.
- 14. Rutherford → 2.
- 36. Sandhill → 2.
- 7. Shoffner → 2.
- 45. Sneed → 3 (?).
- 18. Stegall → 2.
- 35. Surrounded Hill → 2.
- 3. Swifton.
- 4. Tuckerman.
- 20. Tucker's Ridge → 2.
- 8. Tupelo → 2.
- 63. Village → 4.
- 21. Weldon → 2. 87. White → 4.

#### Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company

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Bill Nelson, Manager







Lighting has always played an important role in the history of Jackson County—from lighting this intersection in front of the old Opera House at Second and Hazel Streets in Newport to the growth and prosperity of American Lantern Company.

# American Lantern Company

It was not until 1891 that an electric light system was inaugurated in Newport—complete with street lights—by Morrison & Decker Manufacturing Company.

Forty-two years later, 1933, American Lantern Company was founded. The company was purchased by Brown-Jordan and moved to Newport, Arkansas in 1959. Today it is the largest outdoor residential lighting manufacturer in the United States. Whereas most lighting plants are just assemblers, the American Lantern Company makes about ninety-five pecent of the lighting materials from scratch, bringing in raw materials such as brass, aluminum and steel to the Newport plant to be made into lighting fixtures.

American Lantern, founded in Cleveland, Ohio, now has three lighting manufacturing plants in the United States, with the Newport plant being the largest with 240,000 square feet. The other two plants are in San Antonio, Texas and Los Angeles, California.

The success of the company and the high quality of the products both attest to and bear handsome evidence that the company, its people and products are all "Jackson County Proud".



See Co





Fred Holden (Deceased 1981)



Charles E. Holden (Deceased 1951)



Robert Holden (Deceased 1983)

#### Charles E. Holden Family

In 1879 the Rev. John J. Holden, a Methodist preacher, and his wife, Mary Jane (nee Ellingham), of Astoria, N.Y., exchanged town property in Astoria for 520 acres of unimproved land on Village Creek in Jackson County. With their three sons (John Robert, Charles Ellingham, and George), they came to their land, knowing nothing about farming. Their neighbors showed them how to clear and fence their land. Mr. Holden farmed with his sons until his death. Thereafter, John R. and Charles Holden continued farming in partnership, George moving to Louisville, Ky., until 1918 when they dissolved partnership.

The Holden Brothers (John R. and Charles E.) operated a sawmill and gin west of Cathey's Store on Highway 18 for several years before 1908, when the sawmill was closed due to the expiration of the timber contract. At the site of the sawmill a community developed, with a store, boarding house, and other houses. As many as 25 families lived in the community, Milltown, at its height. The Holdens also operated a stave mill at Campbell Station around 1911.

After dissolving partnership, both John R. and Charles E. Holden continued to farm separately. Charles E. Holden bought out R.D. Torian's interest in Hayes Motor Company in Newport in 1928, buying out the remaining interest of Dr. L.T. Hayes in 1931. Holden obtained a Chrysler Plymouth franchise in 1932. Before the death of Charles E. Holden in 1951 he was assisted in the automobile business by his two sons, Fred M. Holden and John Robert Holden.

In 1966 Fred M. Holden and his son Charles R. Holden moved the Chrysler Plymouth franchise to a new site located near the Newport and Diaz city limits and continued the operation until it was sold in 1975.

Through the years the Holdens have retained continued ownership of the farm lands obtained in 1879. Mildred Holden (widow of Fred), Carmen McHaney (daughter of Fred), Michael F. Holden (son of Fred), Charles R. Holden (son of Fred) and Melvia Holden (widow of John Robert) share in the management of the property.

Today Charles Holden Appraisal Service provides a complete valuation service to the Jackson County area which is backed by a family history of 109 years of continuous business and farm experience.



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We're proud to be a part of the team.





# Campbell Station

Campbell Station was incorporated in 1956, the newest town in the county. W.O. Keeter was the first mayor, donating the land on which the city hall and the Baptist Church is located, presently called Keeter Park. The city got its water system in 1970, buying water from the City of Diaz. Harry Gamble had his shop in Campbell Station for twenty-two years, starting in about 1966, making all the pews for the Baptist Church. Bro. Cecil Guthrie helped start the church. Harry Gamble was known far and wide for his outstanding cabinet making. Howard Trucking Company, a fast growing firm, is within the city limits.

Bill Walker is mayor, Alma Massey recordertreasurer, and the aldermen are Don Massey, Woodrow Pretty, Mark Proffit, Tommy Emery and Dennis Ray.

#### Beedeville

The town of Beedeville was named for the Beede family. William A. Beede came from Orange County, New York as a sixteen year old, going to work for the Nance family (probably Jasper Nance) just before the Civil War. There were five Beede brothers, and they all owned and operated farms in the area. Two of the Beede brothers built a two-story general store, where the Odd Fellows had meetings in the upper story. A Mr. Plunket owned a store in a small community about two miles south of Beedeville. It was the first post office in the area, named Plunket, and was moved to the present Beedeville about 1906, changing the name from Plunket to Beedeville. The nickname for Beedeville was "Gumbo" before it became Beedeville.

A grade school was built about 1908, a high school was established in 1938, with the first graduating class having four students. The first one-room school house was also used by the Church of Christ for services, then later the Church of Christ built its own building, later building a larger one which is in use today.

The town was incorporated in 1963. The mayor is James Eskew, the recorder-treasurer is Mary Addington, the aldermen are: Hershel Breckenridge, Howard Beshears, Jimmy Ireland and Dean Adams.

Jackson County PROUD!

Late **S.W. FREEMAN**, served on U.S. Assay Commission, 1962, was business mgr. for Amer. Numismatic Assoc. Magazine.



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Capt. Thomas T. Tunstall

# CAPT. THOMAS TODD TUNSTALL

#### FOUNDER OF JACKSONPORT

Thomas Todd Tunstall, a descendant of two of Virginia's early prominent families, the Todds and Tunstalls, who settled in Virginia from England in the 1600s, was one of the most colorful pioneers in north central Arkansas.

While living in Kentucky he served in the War of 1812 in Col. James Simroll's Cavalry Regiment of Kentucky Light Dragoons. He soon entered into the steamboat trade and owned many boats operating on the Mississippi River. He was pilot of the first steamboat on White River to go as far as Batesville, the *Waverly*, in 1831. On this trip while passing the mouth of Black River, he realized the importance of the juncture of this river with the White. In 1834 he bought the land on which he later founded a steamboat landing and in 1839 developed the Town of Jacksonport with his son William Tunstall. He built a tavern there which became the political headquarters of the area for many years. He bought many pieces of land in Independence and Jackson Counties and built a large brick home called Parrakeet for the many wild birds of this species.

Always a lover of thoroughbred horses, he made available blooded stallions for breeding which attracted horse owners from all points in Arkansas Territory. He was instrumental in the establishment of racing stables in several Arkansas areas. His steamboats and race horses became known from New Orleans to St. Louis.

His granddaughter Elizabeth Caldwell married E.L. Watson in 1859.

#### ELBERT L. WATSON

1819 - 1901

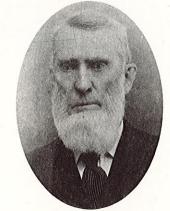
Elbert Lycurgus Watson was born in Georgia of early English stock, and his father Oran Datus Watson moved to Henry County, Tennessee, in 1822. Orphaned at an early age, E.L. was first under the guardianship of court appointed guardians, but he soon rose to a position of importance in Hickman County, Kentucky, in the mercantile business. Here he married Mary James and had one son, Thomas

James Watson. The marriage was unsuccessful and E.L. left Kentucky with his young son and arrived in Jacksonport, Arkansas, in 1853, where he established a mercantile business and also bought land and cotton for export.

In 1859 he married Elizabeth Jane Caldwell, granddaughter and heir of much property from her grandfather Thomas Todd Tunstall. E.L. Watson fought in the Civil War with the Eighth Arkansas Regiment, was invalided at the Battle of Shiloh, and after that served as commissary officer for the Confederate army until the close of that war. He moved to Newport in 1879, and again started a mercantile business and founded the Safe Deposit Bank of Newport in 1889, the first bank in Newport.

E.L. Watson promoted the growing community, bought the lots and donated them for the present Jackson County Courthouse, built the first Hazel Hotel (now the location of the Merchants and Planters Bank) "where the hotel had new electric lights throughout", and was a member of the committee to build the Opera House in Newport which was considered second only to the one in Little Rock.

Thomas James Watson, oldest son of E.L. Watson, was president of the Bank of Newport, and a member of many organizations such as the Masons, Woodmen of the World and others. He was married to Elizabeth Board in 1869.



Elbert L. Watson

Children of E.L. Watson and Elizabeth Caldwell who stayed in Newport and have descendants here were Oran Datus Watson (daughter: Lady Elizabeth Watson Luker) and Elizabeth Caldwell Watson Erwin (children: Claude Mayo Erwin, Katherine Erwin and Mary Erwin)

Children of Thomas James Watson were Dr. Elbert L. Watson (children: Franchelle, Emily and Elbert Watson), Lucy Watson Gregg and Elizabeth Board Watson, unmarried, but fondly remembered as "Miss Bessie", who resided in the big T.J. Watson house on Third and Elm Streets until her death in 1969.





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Sam and Helen Walton lived at 6 Park Place and are proud of their Jackson County roots. Mr. Sam began his retail business here in the Ben Franklin Store, three of their four children (John, Jim and Alice) were born in Newport and the family and Walton Enterprises are all "Jackson County Proud".

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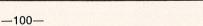
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#### TUCKERMAN, ARKANSAS

Tuckerman, Arkansas was founded in 1873 with the building of The Iron Mountain Railroad. Existing information reveals that it was named for a Mr. Tucker, an early official of the railroad.

There were many early settlers whose descendants still make up the city and community where we are glad that we live. In mentioning these early citizens, some will be inadvertently omitted because of lack of information, and this is regrettable but cannot be avoided.

Credit for clearing the site for Tuckerman and building the first store goes to D.C. and F.R. Dowell, who, with the coming of the railroad, saw the possibilities of a well located town. D.C. Dowell was the father of Grace D. Holt, Taylor G. Dowell, Foster B. Dowell, Ida D. Graham and D.C. Dowell, Jr. who served many years on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Tuckerman. Foster B. Dowell was the first child born in Tuckerman.

The second building in Tuckerman was the residence of Frank Harrison, father of the late Julia Harrison Armstrong and grandfather of O.B. Armstrong. Julia Harrison was the first child to live in Tuckerman, coming here from Elgin at the age of 6 months. This house was built where the New Theatre later stood.

A Dr. Richardson erected the next frame building on the site which is now occupied by Calvary Missionary Baptist Mission.

The fourth building, a store, was located where the Dunn building, occupied by C&D Corporation now stands. It was built by Alex Lockard.

Horses being the chief mode of travel at the time, a need soon arose for a blacksmith shop. One was built of logs at the place where the Slayden Building, where Lucille's Florist and Gift Shoppe now stands.

Other buildings began "springing up" in the town—Bloom's Store, where Rob Penix Interiors is now located, the first Masonic Lodge, T.D. Lawrence Store east of the railroad, the L.D. Smith residence and store on the corner where Armstrong Insurance Agency is located.

A few years later, the Graham family, with its pioneer spirit, moved into Tuckerman and contributed much to its growth and progress. They built their first store where the American Legion Hut is now located. Soon they moved across the street and started a series of buildings on the block now occupied by First State Bank of Newport, Rob Penix Interiors and Shirley's Hair Care.

J.W. Lindley, the first President of the Bank of Tuckerman, moved to Jackson County just north of Tuckerman in 1880. He stayed to become one of the leading citizens of the county—a church man, political leader, planter, merchant, ginner and school leader. He was the father of four daughters, Ada Dowell, Lucy (Mrs. F.L.) Penix, Ruth (Mrs. J.M.) Williams and the late Carrie (Mrs. R.J.) Smith. Mrs. Willie Gardner Lindley, his widow, lived in Newport and died only a few years ago.

In 1878, D.C. and F.R. Dowell, being unmarried, and in order that they might have a place to take meals, built a house located near where a service station is now situated, for a black family by the name of Lucas. It was in this house that the first black child, Joe Lucas, a girl, was born.

There were a great many early settlers of the same spirit with which our great country was built, who were largely responsible for the expansion of Tuckerman—W.S. Armstrong who came in 1888, married in 1893 and opened his own business in 1900—George Bandy, grandfather of George Greenhaw—T.E. Jones, who lived north of Tuckerman—Mr. and Mrs. Ed Maxey—Henry Hill, father of Carl and R.A. Hill and Idella Parrott—John Mathis, father of Mrs. J.L. Parrott—Henry Allen—Sam Harvey, father of Mrs. Sylla Boyce and Clara Dowell—Wiseman Tims, father of Roe Tims and grandfather and great-grandfather of many leading citizens—Cal Biggers—Roe Anderson—The Gardners—The Terrells—The Deatons—The Bowens—The McNutts—The Conditts—J.Y. Harrison, who had probably the first cotton gin in the area—George Washington Parrott, grandfather of J.L., Edgar, Joe, Alfred, Bryan and Dewey Parrott—The Coes—The Penix family, who settled much of the area between Tuckerman and Hickory Grove—The Yelvertons—The Slaydens—The Palmers—The Langstons—Dr. Boyce, the first physician—The Vandievers—The Farmers—The Millers—Dr. West and family—The Choates—Rev. Evans who built the first Methodist Church in 1888—Bob Harvey, father of Sam Harvey and Rosa Choate—The Gardners—The See Family—Bob Graham.

In 1902, the proposed organizers of the Bank of Tuckerman purchased property from the Dowell family and erected the first bank building in Tuckerman. By this time, Tuckerman was growing rapidly, and it was only ten years later that the Bank of Tuckerman, growing with the town, built a new and larger building located where a portion of the present bank now stands.

BANK OF TUCKERMAN



TUCKERMAN • SWIFTON • GRUBBS





# GOD BLESS AMERICA

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Words and
Music by:
Irving Berlin

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If ever it was decided to change our national anthem by popular vote, the winner—by a landslide—would be "God Bless America," a song that sums up in just a few phrases the deep love, honor and hope that we share in our great and beautiful land. When Berlin wrote his first Army show, Yip Yip Yaphank, in 1918, he cut out the song rather than risk being accused of "flagwaving." Twenty years later Kate Smith was persuaded to risk the same accusation and introduced the song on an Armistice Day radio program. Berlin, refusing to cash in on his patriotism, assigned all royalties from the song to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.