

Centennial History



MAIN STREET LOOKING WEST — TURN OF CENTURY (1900)

Prairie Grove, Arkansas

1888-1988

Prairie Grove, Arkansas



(George Sugg Photo)

PRAIRIE GROVE'S MAIN STREET--1940's

Centennial History

1888-1988

Written and Compiled by: George E. and Essie Wiswell

COVER DRAWING

Mary Jones Huckens

Preface

When the Prairie Grove Centennial Committee met for the first time in January, the need for preserving facts about Prairie Grove and its surrounding area was discussed. The idea of printing a history of Prairie Grove was presented and Mayor Eileen Manning appointed G. E. Wiswell to look into the project.

After thinking it over, G. E. and Essie agreed to assume responsibility for the writing and publishing of a History of Prairie Grove, and this book evolved. The hundreds of hours--the phone calls--the interviews--the trips made in assembling and verifying materials--were given as a labor of love and appreciation for Prairie Grove and its people who have been so important in our personal and business life for the past 52 years.

The scope of the project made it impossible to contact every family directly, but much publicity was provided by the *Prairie Grove Enterprise* and many, many people responded. Others should have been included, but did not provide information or pictures. In that sense the history is incomplete and we regret it.

Wherever possible credit for the source is included in the body of the text. If material for the history had been collected several years ago more accurate information could have been secured, but now many of the old-timers are gone, and we had to rely on second and third generations, and on old newspapers and books for information.

The book is about generations of the past, but when possible, information is brought up to the present. Our aim is to preserve the history of Prairie Grove for future generations, and to help them understand the founding and growth of the town.

Preparing pictures for this book has been a difficult task. One must keep in mind that we are working with materials, which in many cases, were almost 100 years old. Photographs were of many materials and in various conditions. Some were dark, some were light, some were torn or broken, some were of one person and some of groups. In order to use as many pictures as possible we have reduced the size of many of the over 300 photographs we received for publication.

In reading this history, it is important to note dates under the headings. Some material is used as it was previously published, written in present tense, when actually the event occurred many years ago.

George E. and Essie M. Wiswell

DEDICATION

This book is lovingly dedicated to
G.E. AND ESSIE WISWELL



G.E. and Essie Wiswell

Many times the phrase, "labor of love," is too liberally applied, too quickly attached. However, in the case of The Prairie Grove History Book, it could not be more accurate.

G.E. and Essie Wiswell have poured love into the research and preparation of this book, devoting literally thousands of hours of work and asking nothing in return. Their commitment to this project is reminiscent of their total devotion to the community they adopted in 1936.

For 35 years, they published the Prairie Grove Enterprise, using the community newspaper for its intended purpose: improving the community. Their collective works have benefitted the Prairie Grove school system, the city government and Prairie Grove Bat-

tlefield State Park. Organizations like the Masonic Lodge, the Order of Eastern Star, the Lions Club and the PTA have enjoyed the fruits of their hard work.

When it was suggested to publish a history book commemorating Prairie Grove's first 100 years as a city, organizers logically turned to G.E. and Essie. Unlike most, they understood the difficulty of the task, but they accepted anyway.

You are holding the finished product of a true labor of love. Every page — except this one — has come to life through the tender care of G.E. and Essie Wiswell. Because of that, and their many years of service to the community of Prairie Grove, this book is lovingly dedicated to them.

Acknowledgment

The following businesses and individuals made cash donations toward the printing of the Prairie Grove History Book and/or the Prairie Grove Centennial Celebration:

J & B Auto, Prairie Grove, AR

Park Place, Butch Robertson, Prairie Grove, AR

Luginbuel Funeral Homes, Prairie Grove, AR

Arkansas Galvanizing Inc., Prairie Grove, AR

Dr. Phoebe Todd Harris, Prairie Grove, AR

Anne H. LaRew, Prairie Grove, AR

John C. Everett, Prairie Grove, AR

Stinchcomb Company, Prairie Grove, AR

Bank of Lincoln, Lincoln, AR

Senator David Malone, Fayetteville, AR

Crescent Department Store, Prairie Grove, AR

Stephens, Inc., Little Rock, AR

Prairie Grove Telephone Co., Prairie Grove, AR

Farmers & Merchants Bank, Prairie Grove, AR

Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Manning, Prairie Grove, AR

Jones Lumber Company, Prairie Grove, AR

Arkansas Western Gas, Fayetteville, AR

Prairie Grove Enterprise, Prairie Grove, AR

First Federal Savings and Loan, Prairie Grove, AR

City of Prairie Grove

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IN APPRECIATION

It is impossible to name all who have contributed material and provided pictures for the History Book; but special recognition should be given to:

Kathy Ashley for the many hours she devoted to preparation of pictures —

The *Enterprise* for the use of their files and equipment, and the staff for their help —

Helen Noeller and the Webb Library for research —

Marie Pendergraft and the City Library for materials made available to us —

Susan Parks, Neva McMurry and others who researched and prepared articles for the book —

To all who called or came by with information and pictures —

To Louise Isenhoff and Word Pro Typing for composition —

To the staff of Siloam Springs Printing Company for printing of the History Book —

To Bill Ramsey and the Finance Committee for securing interim funds for printing the book — and to businesses and individuals who contributed —

To Lorene Jones who handled pre-publication book sales —

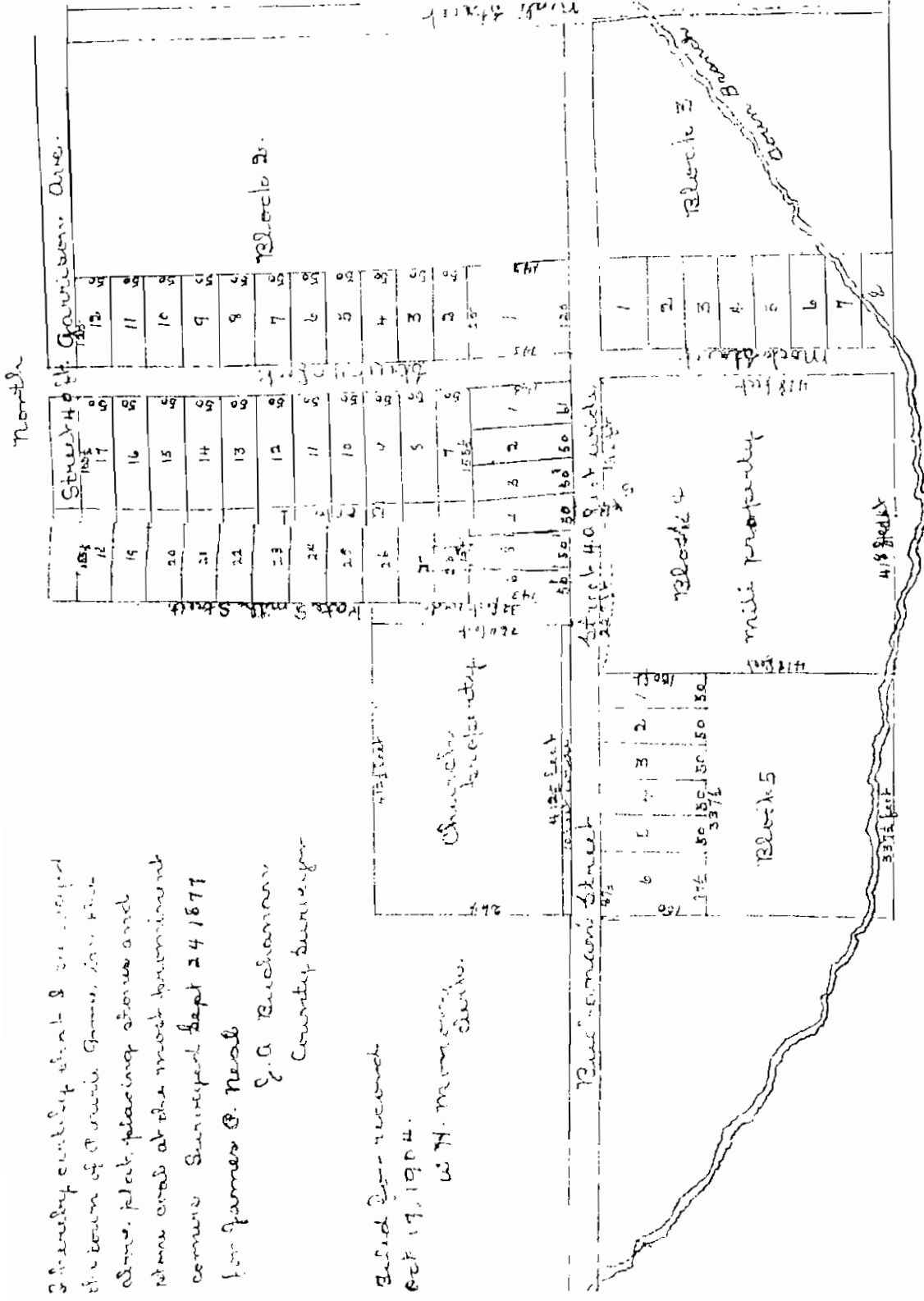
To all those who expressed their confidence by purchasing books in advance of publication.

George E. and Essie Wiswell

Shedley certify that I surveyed
 the town of Prairie Grove, in Rich
 land, plat, placing stones and
 stone walls at the most prominent
 corners Surveyed Sept 24 1877
 for James O. Neal

J. A. Buchanan
 County Surveyor

Subscribed & sworn
 Oct 17, 1877.
 W. H. Morrison
 Clerk.



Survey of Town of Prairie Grove, 1877

Lovely County Becomes Washington County

WASHINGTON COUNTY DEFINED
BY ACT OF OCTOBER 27, 1828

Arkansas and this area now occupied by the white people is young. However, the land itself is old--older than the mind of man can conceive. Indians, it is thought, appeared hundreds of years before the white man came. They did not own the land as private property, but claimed certain areas as their hunting grounds.

The Osage Indians left their homes in Western Missouri in 1802 and explored the beautiful Ozark Region with its crystal-clear streams, fertile valleys and abundant game. They adopted the land as far South as the Arkansas River. Their claims to Arkansas lands were given up in 1825.

For several years the hunting parties of the Cherokee Indians had explored, visited and hunted in this area. In 1817 the U. S. Government granted them a reservation between the Arkansas River and White River in exchange for their lands in Tennessee. This created a problem, however, between the Osage and Cherokees whose hunting grounds overlapped. It also created a problem with the white settlers who sought to secure the rich farming lands of the valleys. By treaty in 1828 the Cherokees exchanged the territory they occupied between the White River and the Arkansas River for that West of the present Oklahoma line. They were moved there and it was known as the Indian Territory until Oklahoma became a state.

The following account of the forming of Washington County was published in "This is Arkansas" in 1986:

"October 27, 1828 Washington County was created. The territory was known as the Lovely Purchase. July 9, 1816, William and Peter Lovely purchased land from the Osage Indians lying

between the western boundary of the Osage cession of 1808 and the Verdigris River. The purchase was confirmed by treaty September 25, 1818, with the Osage. However, the United States, by the treaty of July 8, 1817, granted the Cherokee Nation a large tract of land north of the Arkansas River. When lines of the grant were run, it was discovered that the grant included a large part of the Lovely Purchase and all white settlers were ordered to leave except Mrs. Peter Lovely.

"The Order created much dissatisfaction though most settlers moved without offering resistance. One of those who left was Mark Bean, who was operating a salt works, and later became a prominent figure in Arkansas affairs. In 1824 Henry W. Conway, using the Lovely Purchase as a basis for his contention, succeeded in having a bill passed by congress extending the western boundary of Arkansas forty miles farther west. It was thought that this extension included the right to settle there, but the order of 1818 was still in existence and white people were warned to keep out until all disputes with the Indians were settled.

"October 13, 1827, Governor Izard approved an act creating Lovely County which included the lands in the new forty mile strip. By the treaty of 1828 with the Cherokee Indians, the present western boundary of the state was established and most of Lovely County was included in the Indian Territory. What was left was included in Washington County by the Act of October 27, 1828."

The Western, Northwestern and Central part of Washington County was settled first after the treaty of 1828 was signed giving the white man the right to settle it. According to Goodspeed History of 1889, when

the white men entered this valley they were overwhelmed by the beauty and abundance of wild animals such as bear, deer, elk, buffalo, wolf, panther, wild cat and many small animals. Animal trails made to water and salt licks were the ones traveled by early explorers and settlers. By 1820 the buffalo had receded some fifteen miles northwest of

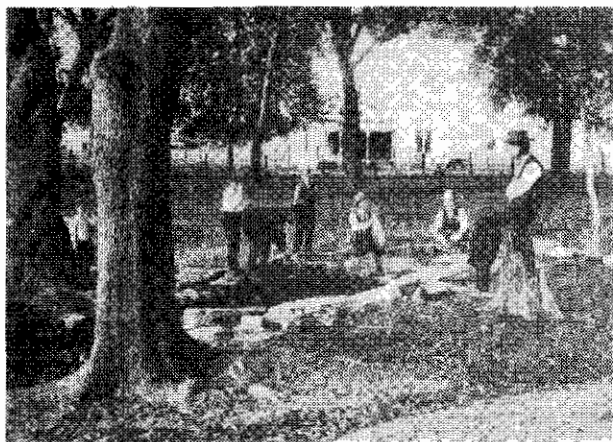
the valley, however their paths were still numerous, mainly leading from one salt lick to another. These licks were depressions of the earth which filled with water, a little brackish in wet weather. In summer when dry, they were used by buffalo for salt with which the earth was saturated and were known as "buffalo licks."

Two Sermons Traded for Spring

TWO SERMONS TRADED FOR "FLOWING FOUNTAIN OF CLEAR, COLD WATER"

The Spanish explorer, Hernando DeSoto and a group of his followers, were probably the first white men to visit what is now known as the Prairie Grove Valley and the spring, in 1541. Newspaper articles, history books, and discoveries of Spanish coins and pottery by early settlers seems to confirm this.

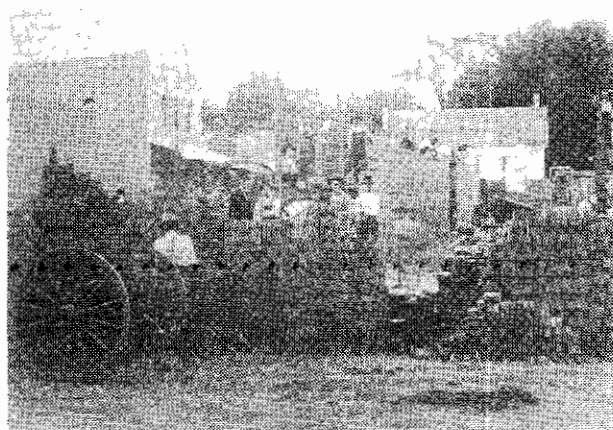
The Buchanans, although early settlers in the Prairie Grove area, were not the first white people to locate in what was then known as Lovely County. There were white families living at Dutch Mills, Cane Hill and other points West of Prairie Grove to the Indian Territory.



*Mock Spring in center of Prairie Grove
(Brewster Photo)*

"Frank Pierce who, about 1819 came up White River trapping and hunting, on reaching the mouth of West Fork, ascended that stream to within two miles of Fayetteville where he discovered

a herd of buffalo. While attempting to kill a buffalo for food, he saw a band of Indians. He lowered his gun without firing, dropped down the bank and retired for the night under the friendly shelter of a large elm.



*Four Brick Business Houses under
Construction in 1904*

(Brewster Photo)

The next day he struck the waters of the Illinois and followed that beautiful stream to its mouth, then down the Arkansas to where Lewisburgh now is, thence across to Batesville. About the year 1828 he came back and settled near the place where nine years before he had spent the night hiding from the Indians." (Goodspeed History of 1889)

In the spring of 1829 Rev. Andrew Buchanan left Warren County, Kentucky, and with his family traveled by boat to Montgomery's Point near the mouth of White River. After remaining there for several days they took passage to Little Rock. From there they took the first boat

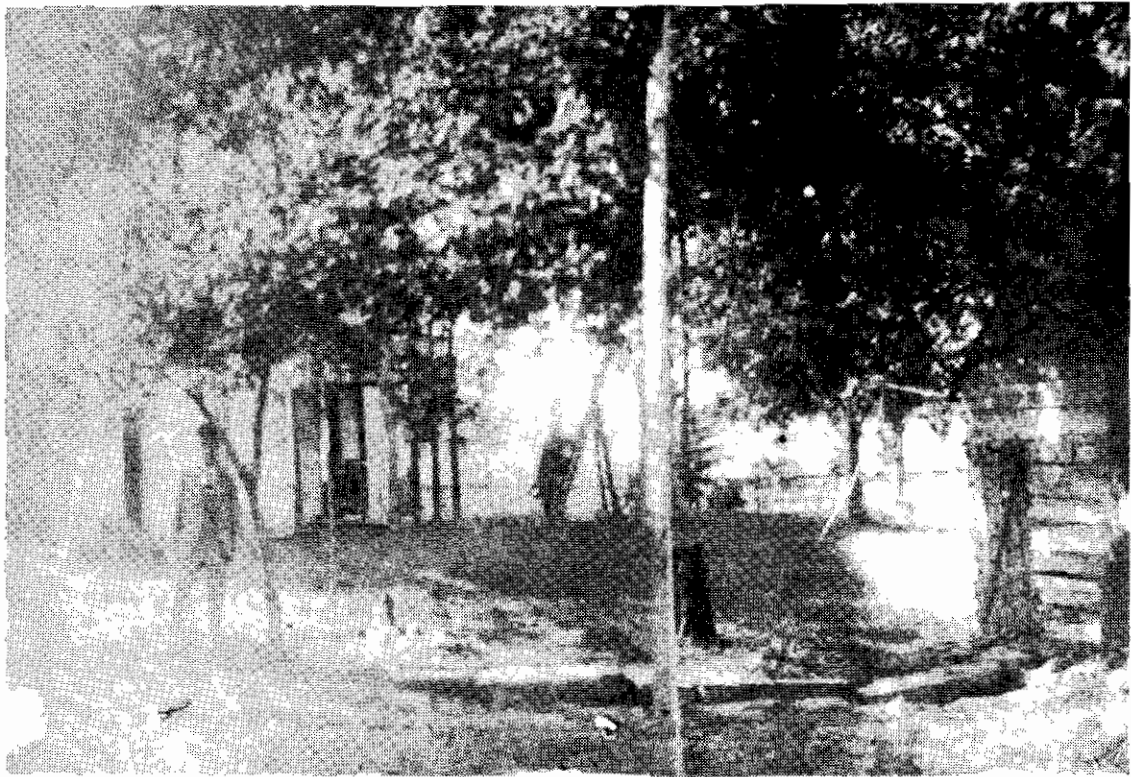
ever to ascend White River, "The Woverly," to Frog Bayou in Crawford County, Arkansas.

After remaining at Frog Bayou for several months, Andrew Buchanan with two men servants left for this area to select a new home. He came to Cane Hill where he had three brothers already settled. He was told of a large spring in the middle of a beautiful valley six or seven miles east of Cane Hill. He and a friend set out to "spy out the land." He was much pleased with the fertile land, large trees for the building of a home, and

in the trunk to pound out his cornmeal and other grain for the making of bread.

The following account of "Uncle Buck" settling at the spring in 1829 was written by Col. James Preston Neal, a stepson of "Uncle Buck" Buchanan, and was carried in the Northwest Arkansas Times under the heading of "Lovely County Heritage":

"My stepfather, familiarly known as "Uncle Buck," and who for short will be mentioned so from now on, told the hunter Wagnon, that he would like to make his home beside that flow-



Above is the earliest picture of the spring available. Note the log springhouse and the frame dwelling in the background. A fold in the old photo causes a line from top to bottom of picture.

the abundant water flowing from the spring. However, another pioneer by the name of Tom Wagnon has already settled at the spring and laid claim to the land. Mr. Wagoner was known as a great hunter and while hunting for buffalo, elk and bear, had followed the wild animal trails to the spring. After laying claim to the land around the spring he made some improvements such as cutting down a large post oak tree and burning a hole

ing fountain of clear cold water. The old hunter very generously offered to be neighborly and courteous to strangers, especially to a preacher, told him that he would take his pony and gun and look over the adjacent hills and valleys and if he could find another good spring not claimed by any one else, he would let him have his improvements--the post-oak stump with the mortar in it. He shouldered his old

flintlock gun and started out through the wilderness and after a two days search, returned saying he had found another spring that would answer his purpose and that if "Uncle Buck" would come to his new home when he got settled down and preach two good sermons, he would let him have the claim to this spring.

"Uncle Buck" agreed to go to his new home and preach the two sermons for the old hunter, and the trade was closed. "Uncle Buck" and his two man servants built a double log house and other improvements and returned for the remainder of his family.

"After his return to Frog Bayou, we were soon on the road for our new home in the wilderness or backwoods of the now famous garden spot of Northwest Arkansas. We arrived at James Buchanan's in Cane Hill on the 3rd day of September, 1829. On the 4th Uncle Buck sent out word to his neighbors there that he would not come out until the 5th. He wished to celebrate the meeting of the First Continental Congress in 1774, by his arrival at his new home. We were to meet him there or at the creek.

"On the 5th we arrived at Marrs' Creek a while before noon, accompanied out from Cane Hill by James and Robert Buchanan, Sam Carnahan, William Woody, Rankin and Peter Pyeatt, and perhaps some others. We met there Isaac Marrs and family, Moses Edmiston and family, old man Lawrence and family, Mrs. Edwards and family, Rev. William Stephens, Sam Stephenson, Major Jim Billingsley, and John Alexander.

"Isaac Marrs lived at the crossing and conducted us across and up the road, took to the right some seventy or eighty yards where there were some ashes, part of a backlog and some chunks, an old face-camp and a delapidated camp-lamp. "Here," he said "I kindled the first campfire and built the first face-camp that was ever

made in this valley by a white man." The chunks were put together, a fire kindled, coffee made, and the families present brought from their wagons baskets well filled with provisions. A temporary table was made by spreading table cloths on the ground. The coffee and provisions were prepared, then we partook of a magnificent dinner. Our meats were buffalo, bear and deer. Dinner being over we proceeded to what is now Prairie Grove spring."



Looking South on Mock Street in early 1900s. Building on right; McCoy Produce, just back of it is Prairie Grove's first Mill,

(C. Wilson Photo)

Shortly after the Buchanans established their home near the spring, a church and school, known as "Uncle" Buck's school-house, was started. J. M. Hoge, who later became a lawyer, taught this school. About this time Sam Houston visited the spring on his way to Fayetteville. He traveled with a large group of men. Among them was Resin Bowie, the inventor of the famous Bowie Knife. School was turned out so the students could hear Houston speak at the spring.

Other noted visitors were Jefferson Davis, General Winfield Scott and the Indian Chief Sequoyah.

Rev. Buchanan died in 1857, leaving his real estate by will to his widow during her lifetime. At her death, with the exception of eighty acres which was to go to the Cane Hill College, and in the event of the failure of that institution, it was to become the property of the Cumberland Book Concern of Nashville, Tenn., and eighty to go to two servants. This bequest naturally created serious complications in the title.

In 1871 Col. James P. Neal, a step-son returned from Texas and settled on the farm of Mr. Buchanan after obtaining deeds from the various parties interested in the property. Four years later Col. Neal conceived the idea of establishing a town. A plat was made and the name of Prairie Grove was a natural as the town was set in a valley and trees around the spring formed a shady grove. The first lot was sold to Neal Kidd and was located on the Northwest corner of Buchanan and Neal Streets. A post office was established and Col. Neal was made postmaster.

The first Prairie Grove store was owned by James P. Neal, and the second by Neal Kidd. A business establishment which predated the town, was a blacksmith and wagon shop started by Rogers and Baggett in 1872. In 1875 a store house was erected and a stock of goods put in. In 1876 McPhetridge, Baggett and Rogers erected a large steam mill on the corner of Mock and Buchanan. (The mill can be seen in one of the early street scenes published in this book.)

In 1877 the town was regularly laid out and the first sale of lots took place March 24, 1877. In 1888 the Town of Prairie Grove was incorporated. It had reached a population of about 500 by 1889.

In 1888 and 1889 the following businesses were operating in Prairie Grove: General Stores were owned by H. C. and G. W. Crowell; B. A. Carl; W. N. Butler and Company; Hardy & Marrs,

W. P. Dyer, and D. F. McMillan. Furniture Store by H. H. Collier; A. Dixon & Co., Harness and Saddle Shop; McCormick & Co., Druggist; H. C. Cronwell, Druggist; Simons & Henderson, Jewelry; Searh & Dorman, Marble Works; Baggett & Sanders, Hardware; J. F. Rich, Lumber; Prairie Grove Mill, H. C. and

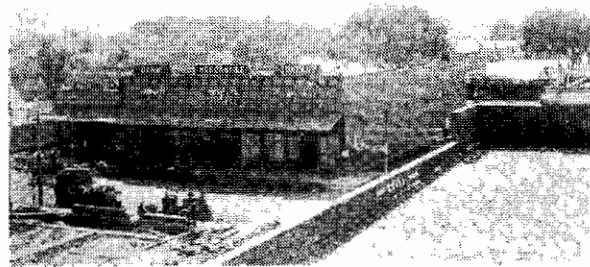


Photo taken from roof of building shows bank building under construction and the Southern Mercantile Co.

G. W. Crowell; Prairie Grove Canning and Evaporating Co. Musical Instruments, Etc., Simons & Henderson.

In 1900, Prairie Grove had six grocers, four general stores, two blacksmiths and J. Hale was listed as the only lawyer. H. B. Collier and J. W. Ellison were jewelers, and S. Davis, the barber. Four doctors were located here at this time: J. H. Brewster, E. G. McCormick, W. H. Mock and Dr. Samuel Rogers. E. H. Dorman was a marble worker and F. W. Youree had a livery stable and operated a hotel. The Terpenings manufactured brick east of Prairie Grove; Mrs. Scott supplied hats, and H. Scott had a furniture store.

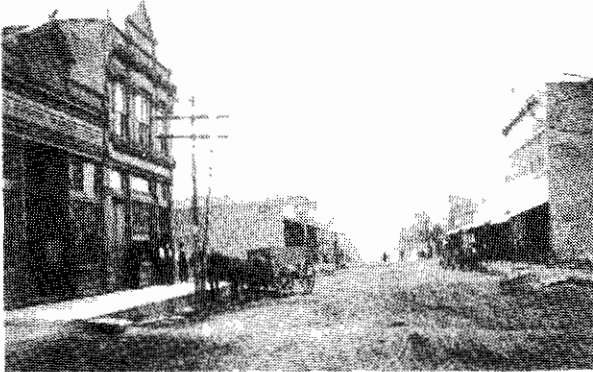
(Information for this article was taken from: Goodspeed History of 1889; old handwritten notes (date unknown); Prairie Grove Enterprise.)

The masonry ditch along the South side of the Prairie Grove Cemetery was approved by the WPA May 22, 1941.

A Walk Around Town

(Reprinted from the "Prairie Grove Banner," August 22, 1885.)

Starting from the drug store of those worthy young gentlemen, McCormick and Bro's, we were soon in front of B. A. Carl's imposing front, that gentleman on the platform looking business all over. Turning North up Mock Street we were soon in front of



*Buchanan Street, looking West
(E. Davidson Photo)*

McMillan's store, looking in a moment at that industrious man we moved on north. This street (Mock Street) has many pleasant residences, among them Mr. Tom Sanders' with its late finish is the most attractive; the sidewalks however are in miserable condition, dirty, weedy, and trashy. Stumps dug from the street are setting along on the sidewalk to dry or to rot. One of them will weigh 700 pounds.

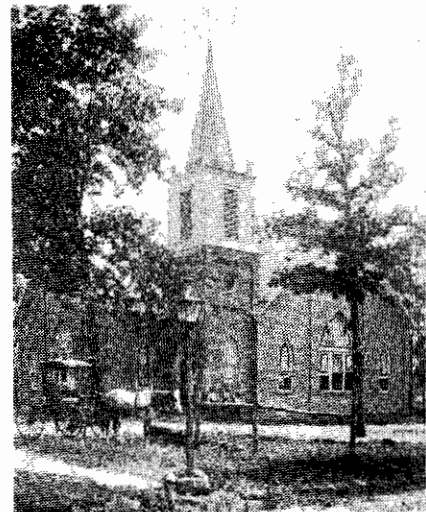
Reaching Garrison Ave. and turning east, our eyes rest on the home of Dr. Garrison. The bang of the hammer and the noise of the saw is heard within, telling that completion is going on; the fine flowers, luscious fruit, and vine-clad bowers surrounding the Dr.'s home reminds one of (dew drop in).

Next we passed by the comfortable and rather attractive residences of Maud Shoffner on the right and Jno. O. Parks on the left. We are next between the M. E. Church on our right and a beautiful grove on our

left going down Neal street on which we pass the Parsonage and several nice residences, the most noticeable ones: Mrs. Laura Parks on the right and Vine Cottage on the left. This street and its sidewalks are in fine fix.

We next find ourselves in the shadow of umbragious trees, seated on a massive rock gazing at the cold clear water of that grand old spring, from whose depth more people have perhaps drunk than from any other spring in the grand North-West. This spring is the property of Col. Neal who has the most imposing mansion with the most beautiful surroundings, shrubs and trees in the place.

We are next going west on Buchanan street passing between a beautiful cottage on the right covered with vines and an imposing residence on the left undraped by tree or flower, passing a yellow cottage--basking in the sun we come to the Hotel peering through leaves and boughs we had glimpses of what might seem to us a nice place for rest and comfort if



*Methodist Church, South
(E. Davidson Photo)*

the trees had been permitted to go up in the air and their stumps trimmed so the gentle breeze and vision could reach it.

On down by the Post Office presided over by that attentive spectacled gentleman the assistant we came to the Skating Rink. A look in at the half opened door our head is made dizzy by the gliding to-and-fro of young ladies looking more angelic than our brightest dreams of the redeemed winging their way around the portals of the better world.



*Mock Street, looking South
(E. Davidson Photo)*

We looked in at Rich & Son's. Joe was selling ribbon to a young lady and the old gent is leaning back in a split-bottom (chair) looking happy. The barber shop is passed, then a nook where boys are at croquet and other boys are looking on. We then enter the door of those attentive business men, the Browells. They were not arguing scripture but courteously inquired, "will you have anything?"

We then cross to the business house of that young-old man, Dr. Blanton, who politely shook our hand while we attentively scrutinized his pious appearing

clerk doing up goods with tears in his eyes. Out on the street we see black smoke rolling up from several furnaces and see strong men moving about in the shops; we hear the busy buzz of the mill and see steam puffing from its roof.

Moving on down Buchanan street we pass the saddlers shop, cabinet shop and several nice residences; halting between the neat cottage of Jonathan Wilkerson and the cemetery we take a view of the sightly residence of J. J. Baggett, then looking over into the cemetery we see many slabs and monuments peering above the grass and weeds, under a bushy blackjack we seat ourselves to rest and meditate.



*Looking South from Mock Park to Depot
(E. Davidson Photo)*

(The above article is used as originally written as far as punctuation and capitalization is concerned, but has been paragraphed to make it more readable.)

Many Fine Horses in Prairie Grove Valley

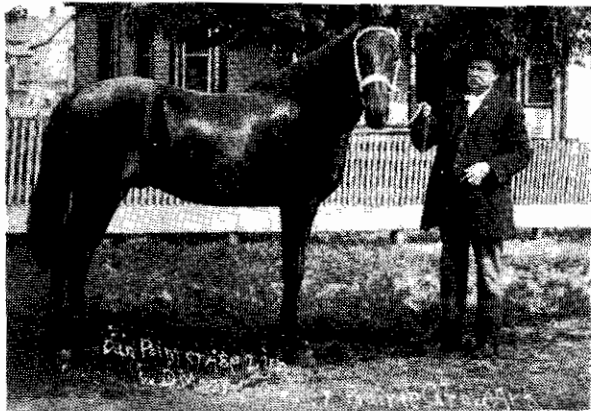
(Arkansas Gazette, November 21, 1965, written by P. J. Heerwagen)

The Prairie Grove Valley at the turn of the century was almost a second bluegrass section. It was flanked by knot country--hills--like Kentucky's, and its settlers were noted for

breeding fine horses. The Valley, in Washington County, included such communities as Prairie Grove, Cincinnati, Walnut Grove, Evansville, Viney Grove, Cane Hill, Rhea's Mill, Dutch Mills, Sugar Hill and it lapped over into Indian Territory at Stilwell.

The majority of early set-

tlers came from Tennessee. Unlike most covered wagon immigrants, with only a hound dog tied to the rear axle, they brought good breeding stock with them--primarily work horses for plowing, logging and heavy hauling. But they also brought blooded stallions for sport and

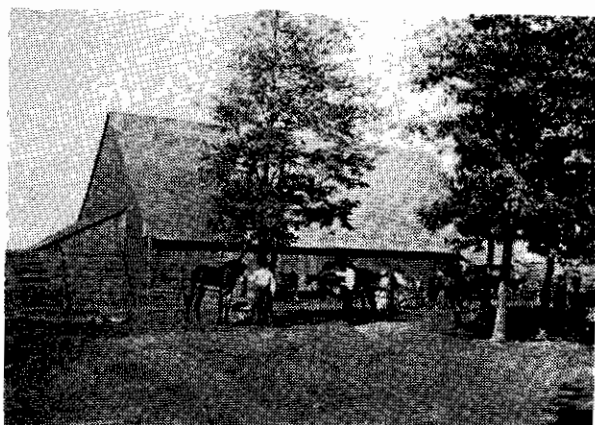


W. D. Moore with his two-year-old horse, Dan Pointer.

(Joy Webb Library Photo)

pleasure. Their stock reflected careful selection and they took pride in conditioning their horses.

These families and their livestock settled comfortably into the fertile Prairie Grove Valley and in time, the area became noted for its good horse-flesh whether farm work horses, fancy buggy teams, good saddlers



Barn of John E. Rogers, breeder of fine livestock, located 1-1/2 miles North of Prairie Grove

(Brewster Photo)

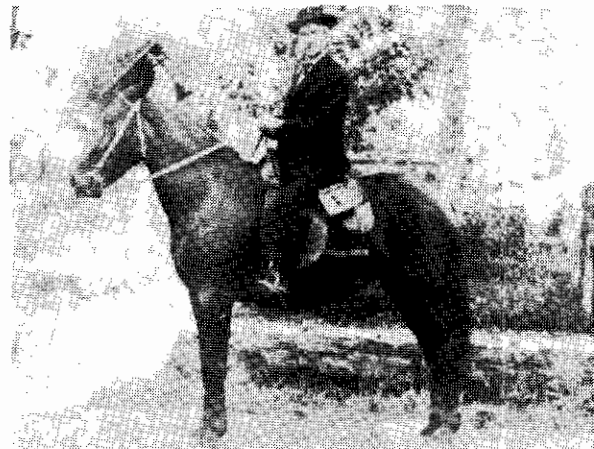
or racing stock--pacers, trotters and running horses.

From time to time these

settlers returned to Tennessee and Kentucky and brought back other breeding stock.

From a stallion--Cold Deck--they developed a strain of running horses. This breed could be easily recognized from its blood bay color with black mane and tail. Cold Deck's offspring weighed around 1,200 pounds, and reportedly were the fastest of any horses in the entire area of Arkansas, Missouri and the Indian territory.

John E. Rogers was a horse fancier who built a track at his place between Viney Grove and Prairie Grove. As his daughter Reca said, "a round track and a straight track." The Rogers were professional horse breeders and even employed a trainer, one Frank West. They went in for



Dr. W. H. Mock with one of his fine horses.

(Joy Webb Library Photo)

trotters and pacers and Early Bug, one of their trotters was famous on tracks at Cassville, Mo., Hot Springs and Kenkakee, Ill. They also had a pacer, Irvin H, which was brought from Kentucky, and a brother of this horse, Clifford H, was owned by Col. Carl Ownbey. Plush Boy, a trotter well known on the tracks, came from Johnson's Stables at Bowling Green; the Rogers traded a fine Percheron for it. Burley Reaper was another of the Rogers' string.

Reca Rogers was brought up on a horse and even when a slip of a girl she could ride--not side-saddle--as well as any horseman.

Once while they were training a mare, Mary Pertum, which belonged to Foss Baker of Evansville and Stilwell, the rider became sick. So her father strapped her in the saddle to exercise the horse. She said later that the animal "was as mean as a snake and if she could, would throw her rider. But I was never afraid of any horse. Mary Pertum behaved beautifully with me in the saddle."

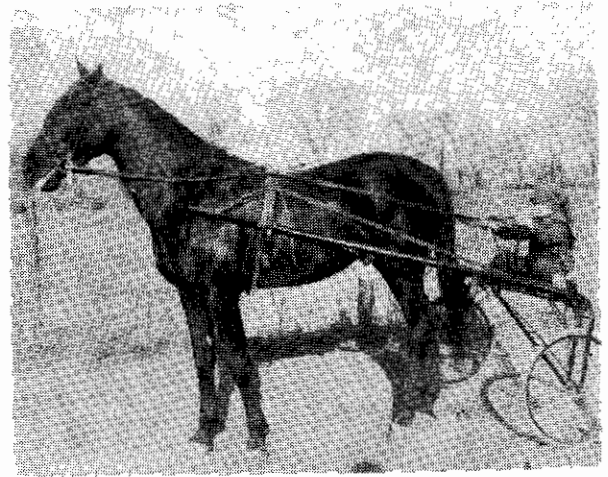
The Moore brothers--whose favorite first name was John--settled around Prairie Grove, Sugar Hill, Cane Hill, and Cincinnati, and maintained pastures of fine horses. It was quite difficult to tell to which John Moore one was referring, but one was easily identified: He was nicknamed "Crying John."

With no effort at all he could wring out tears in a horse trade, even though he knew he was getting the best of the swap. Once while riding a fine horse back from Fayetteville, the county seat, he rode through Prairie Grove. A couple of his friends spoke to him but he seemed to be preoccupied and rode on. In a moment, however, he turned to his friends and broke out in tears. "Been up to Fayetteville," he told them. "It's tax paying time, you know. They robbed me." With that he turned his horse and, still crying, rode off.

Mack Morton, of one of these early families, brought back a saddlebred stallion and, at his farm in the Walnut Grove community, started an annual colt show. Prizes were offered for the different classes, such as the best colt from his stud. Another class was for the best lady rider--sidesaddle. The children were not left out either; there was a class for the best rider among the boys and one for the girls. These colt shows drew entries from breeders in the surrounding counties and were gala days

throughout the Valley.

Locust Dell Farm, south of Prairie Grove, was the John Mock Homestead, and from this family came a famous son, Dr. Will H. Mock.



One of the fine horses owned by John E. Rogers around 1911. Riding in the sulky is Reza Rogers McCuiston.

(M. McCuiston Photo)

When he graduated from medical school at Vanderbilt University, his mother and father gave him a registered saddle horse, Roxana. Dr. Mock started practicing via horseback, carrying his medicines in his saddle bags. From horseback to a single buggy, and then--as Dr. Mock explained--"to double buggy with two horses, to the pole."

Dr. Mock became a famous physician and surgeon and his heritage for fine horses was carried on with stylish buggy teams as well as race horses. Dr. Mock owned many mounts, including Woodland Wilkes, a famous pacer; Woodland was a family horse, too, used to buggy or saddle. Mr. Mock recalled a record breaker pacer, Bill Nye, which he owned, and he recalls a white stallion, General Forrest, which was brought in from Tennessee. For a long while after cars replaced his horses, Dr. Mock kept his saddle horse as his standby. Today, at 90, Dr. Mock practices, lectures and inspires many young men who are working

toward taking the Hippocratic Oath.

Ed Rogers, another of the horse-breeding clan, was in the buying and selling end of the business. His market was largely in the Cherokee nation just across the Arkansas line. "The Indians," he said, "were ready buyers of good horses."



J. W. Ramsey with one of his Draft Horses at Mock Spring in early 1900s.

(Ramsey Photo)

When I asked Ed Rogers if the Indians had the money to buy his horses he said that "most of the time they didn't, but I took their notes. We used a note we called, "Pull Back Note." You see the Indians always had some money coming--their headright money. Didn't have any trouble collecting."

Horse races were usually held in the fall at the various quarter-mile tracks at different farms.

When the Washington County Fair was reorganized in 1906, Mack Morton and Dr. Mock were original board members and were responsible for the racing program.

Macy Harrison was a boy at the time in Prairie Grove. (Later he was postmaster there.) He recalls the horse race of all

The earliest stage line from Fayetteville to Fort Smith passed through Hog Eye, and later went through West Fork.

horse races he saw at that time:

"The Cold Deck horses were the fastest running horses anywhere in that country. This was on a hot September afternoon. There was to be a race between a Cold Deck horse and a small horse, Mary Pertum, that Foss Barker had brought over from Stilwell. She just weighed about 1,050 pounds and was a sorrel, blazed faced and stocking legged. There was pretty heavy betting, too, on this race; Mary Pertum had quite a few backers from the Indian Territory. One of the Moore brothers asked me to go with him down on the turn, to watch 'em go by. When we heard the pistol shot we strained to see the two horses coming around the curve. There was just one horse and that was Mary Pertum. She was jumping 20 to 25 feet at a leap and the Cold Deck horse was hardly in sight. After the race I asked Mr. Moore what he thought of



Mack Rollans and son

(B. Helm Photo)

that Pertum mare. He told me, "The nag has yet to be born that will beat her."

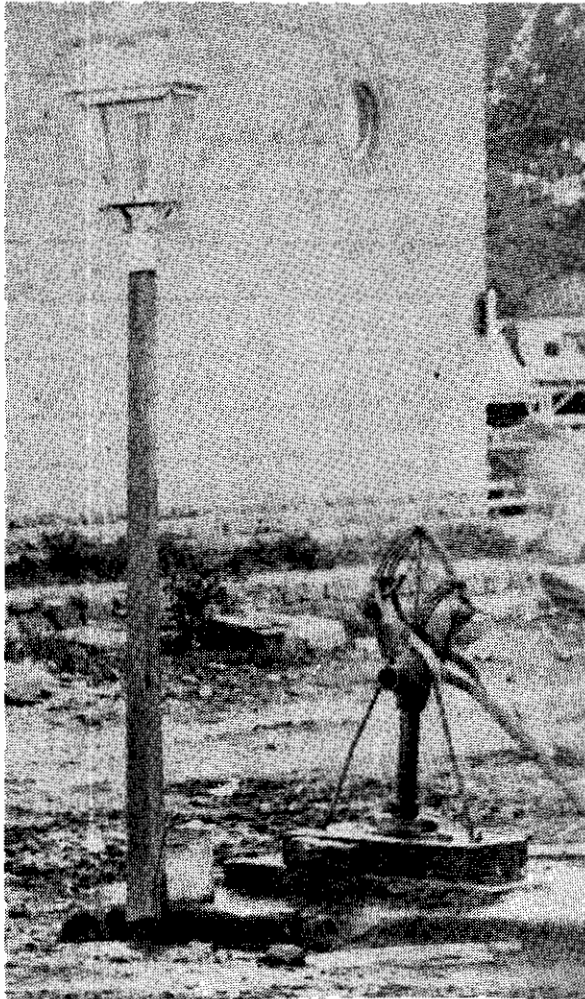
Today throughout the Valley the highbred mounts are gone; but they left a heritage of appreciation for fine horses.

The Cash Store, located in the Masonic Building and owned by Clint Carl, was sold to Tom Bell in 1919.

Remember When?

OLD CITY WELL

The old City well which was located on South Mock street at the Northeast corner of the old McCoy Produce Building, was used as a beginning point when Prairie Grove was platted in



Town Well on the corner of Mock and Buchanan. In use until late '30s or early '40s when it was covered with a new sidewalk.

1888. A stone marker near the well is the point from which all surveying done in the City of Prairie Grove is measured.

The well and pump, with a tin cup usually hanging conveniently by, was used until the '30s or '40s and was covered when the McCoy's poured a new sidewalk.

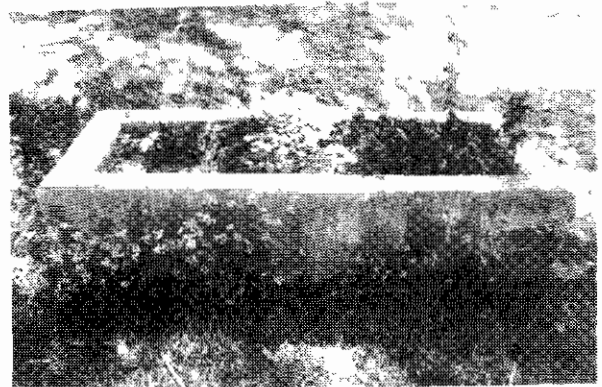
The picture of the well and pump which accompanies this article was taken from a city street, probably in the early 1900s.

OLD WATERING TROUGH

The old horse-watering trough which stood back of the Southern Mercantile for many years, was recently re-discovered when the early Lee Jones home on South Mock was razed and the lot cleaned up.

The trough is made of solid concrete and was filled by water which came by gravity-flow from Mock Spring. It provided cool drinks for both man and beast.

Jimmie Smith, present owner of the antique trough, plans to move it to his home on South Mock and recoat it for use as a flower container.



*Horse watering trough which stood back of Southern Mercantile for many years.
(Blakemore Photo)*

STOCK YARDS

Prairie Grove has had at least two livestock yards. A map dated 1908 shows a stockyard near the old Bill Bartholomew home. A spur of the Frisco Railroad ran to this stockyard and on to the Prairie Grove Mill.

The other stockyard belonged to Lee Jones and was situated back of Jones Grocery Store on South Mock Street. It was used to hold cattle to be bought and sold.

The Prairie Grove Ministerial Alliance was organized February 7, 1940, with Rev. H. H. Scrud-der of the Cumberland Presbyter-ian Church as chairman.

DAVIDSON LAWN DISPLAYS
FAMILY ARTIFACTS

The spacious lawn at the E. H. Davidson home on East Parks Street in Prairie Grove contains two interesting artifacts relative to the crafts of Mrs. Davidson's grandfather, Ernest H. Dorman.

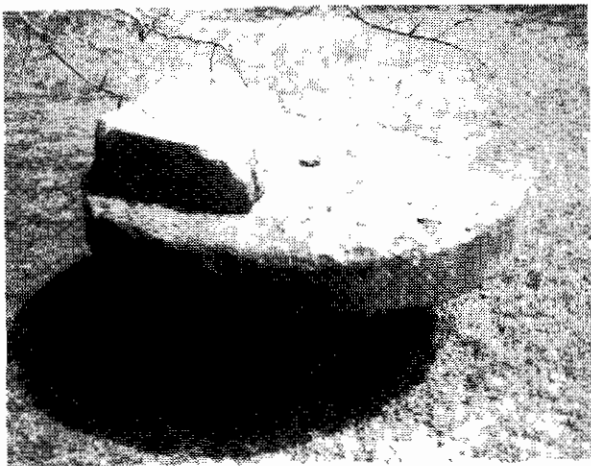
Portions of an iron fence received by E. H. Dorman in the



Historic iron fence in Davidson yard

late 1800s as payment for a tombstone, is used to enclose part of the front yard at the Davidson home. The other artifact is a grindstone wheel, four

GRINDSTONE WHEEL



Old Grindstone from marble quarry.

feet across and eight inches thick. The wheel was used by E. H. Dorman for sharpening tools at his quarry at Mountain Gap, east of Prairie Grove, about 1908. A slab of sandstone shown on top of the wheel also came from the quarry.

1860 CENSUS SHOWS 301 SLAVE OWNERS IN COUNTY

In 1860 there were 301 slave owners in Washington County holding a total of 1,495 slave workers, according to a United States Farm Census taken that year.

The Prairie Grove farming area, with its large acreages of wheat, corn, hay, and fine horses and mules, was using slave labor both in the fields and around the homes. Early pictures and articles tell of slaves on the Mock, Buchanan, Neal, Wilson and Hannah farms,



Charlie Wilson and Pete Defabough

as well as other early families.

According to Ketron Faddis, there is a negro cemetery on his present farm south of Prairie Grove. There are no markers on the graves but it is believed there were 11 or 12 buried there. Faddis discovered the graves while digging fence post holes several years ago. The existence of a negro burial ground has been confirmed by several early residents of this area, he said.

The kitchen portion of the present Faddis home is an old

log structure believed to have been at one time a negro servant's quarters. The floor joist and ceiling beams are of hewed native materials and two of the doors were of solid walnut. One of the doors is still in use. Faddis said that the lumber is still very solid and at the time he connected the building to his home, it was almost impossible to saw into it.

The acreage in the Faddis farm, and other farms now surrounding it, was known as "Tanglewood" in the early days. At one time the ownership was under the Buchanans and the late Rev. Buchanan, negro minister in Fayetteville, recalled playing at the farm when he was a child.

Other information related to the area, pointed out by Mr. Faddis, is that a long rock fence on the west side of the creek across from his farm could have been built by slave labor, however, this has not been authenticated. Also that the first Center Point church and school building was a log structure and located east and south of the Pinnacle Mountain until it was removed to its present location. *****

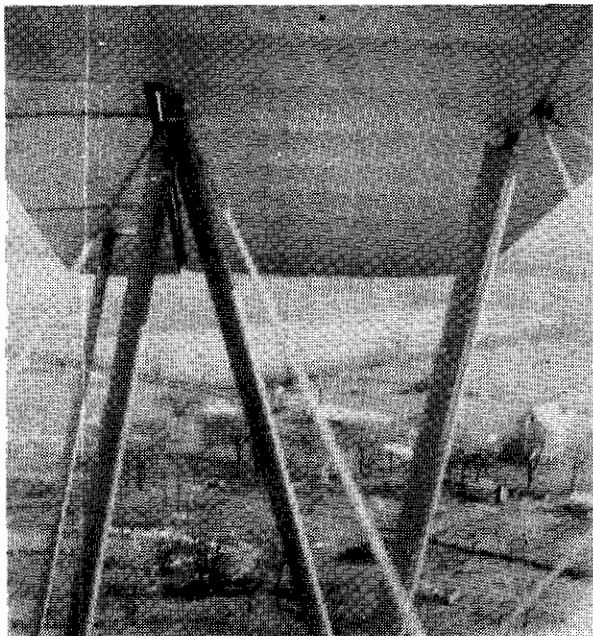


Photo of Rhea's Mill taken from plane about 1923 by Caswell Wilson. (C. Wilson Photo)



Miss Lyde Moore and Mrs. S. R. Wilson. Miss Moore was in charge of the Millinery Department of the Southern Mercantile Company. (Barnes Photo)

FORMER PRESIDENT TAFT GREETED
BY LARGE CROWD AT DEPOT

(Prairie Grove Herald,
November 8, 1917)

Former President William H. Taft, enroute from Muskogee, Oklahoma, where he delivered addresses Wednesday afternoon and last night, was greeted by a large and patriotic crowd at the depot at 12:30 yesterday afternoon as he passed through Prairie Grove.

The pupils of the Prairie Grove school were present in a body, under the direction of their teachers. A large number of school children carried U.S. flags which they waved lustily as the train pulled into the station. In response to call, Mr. Taft appeared on the rear platform, where he was given a cordial greeting. The train was held for about five minutes while he talked to the crowd

upon a patriotic subject, the great war situation, the part we must and will play to put down militarism and bring about peace again.

Mr. Taft spoke in a clear voice and appeared to be in robust health--surely Hooverism is not affecting his avoirdupois to any noticeable extent.

A PROTEST

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
August 6, 1914)*

We the undersigned patrons of the business interests of Prairie Grove, do most earnestly protest against the municipal order requiring our wives and daughters to go into the back lots to hitch their horses and we appeal to all good women of the town to follow the golden rule in the treatment of their country sisters and use their influence for the repeal of said order. Signed: B. C. Campbell, H. D. Cummings, H. S. Mobley, D. N. Ralston, L. E. Maupin, I. N. Broyles, J. N. Kifer, E. C. Henson, J. P. Shofner, W. H. Bennett, W. T. Neal, John Hale.

1888 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTAINS DATA ON PRAIRIE GROVE

Mrs. David Bartholomew owns a copy of the Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Arkansas for 1888 Vol. IV. The Report was



*Hunting Party. Left to Right; Delford E. Rieff, Clarence Brewster, Arvil Rieff, Lee Jones; Front Row; Willard Brooks, Jim Rieff.
(B. Brooks Photo)*

printed in four volumes and Vol. IV was Washington County Plant List. Some interesting excerpts follow:

The picture on the flyleaf is of Fayetteville, "looking East from the Arkansas Industrial University."

"TOPOGRAPHY FEATURES: Prairie Grove--"As the name implies, the surrounding country was originally a prairie, but from this prairie arises at no great distance, several isolated hills and beyond, skirting the southern and western and southeastern horizons are mountains. From the center of the town the land rises to the north, the Institute (Methodist Academy) building being at least 30 feet above the stone at the corner of Buchanan and Mock Streets. This building stands about 100 feet above the water of the Illinois River at the Ford on the Farmington-Prairie Grove road."

"SPRINGS: At the residence of Col. J. P. Neal at Prairie Grove, there is a beautiful spring, flowing from a limestone formation. A well, 75.8 ft. deep, at the residence of Dr. E. G. McCormick, is said to have passed through 69 feet of limestone and chert, and 6.8 ft. of white sand."

"The soils derived from the sandstones and shales of the County are well adapted for brick making. The brick clays will be found especially abundant and good on the planes that adjoin the bases of hills and mountains. The shales of the county are available for the manufacturing of bricks and sewer pipes."

"The establishment of canning plants at Springdale, West Fork, Prairie Grove and Boonesboro, bear witness of the abundance of tomatoes, sweet corn, peas, beans and fruits."

POPULATION--total for Washington County, 1880, 23,844; Fayetteville, 3,000; Springdale, 1,000; Prairie Grove, 500.

Fires Destroy Much of Early Prairie Grove

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.
DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1914

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
July 2, 1914)*

Another serious fire occurred in our little city at an early hour Tuesday morning when the First National Bank building was completely destroyed by fire. The fire was first discovered about one o'clock and at the time the flames were coming out of the windows on the second story, and with the means at hand for combating the fire, it could not be checked, but burned steadily until 3 o'clock, by



*Cleaning up after disastrous fire of 1906,
(Thompson Photo)*

which time the entire structure was a heap of smouldering ruins.

The building was a substantial two-story brick structure. The first floor was occupied by the Bank, and an office room in the rear was occupied by Judge H. P. Greene as a Justice of the Peace room.

The second story was used as office rooms and was occupied by E. K. Torbett's law office and Torbett & Harris Insurance office. It was in this first room that the fire was first discovered. Mr. Torbett lost a valuable law library, with all the other office fixtures, records, etc. His loss was partly covered by insurance.

The second room was occupied by Adolphus Stamps' law office.

He carried no insurance. W. T. Edmisten had just opened a real estate office in the third room on this floor, and carried no insurance. The fourth room was used by Mason and Bain for their real estate office, and had no insurance.

Judge Greene was the most fortunate person who had an office in the building. When it was seen the building was doomed everything in his office was moved out in safety, including all his J. P. records.

All of the Bank's money was in the safe and the books and papers were in the vault. When the safe and vault were opened the contents were found to be in first class condition. In fact, the interior of the vault did not show a trace of the fire.

The bank building and the furniture and fixtures is the loss sustained by the bank, but this was largely covered by insurance.

The bank opened for business Wednesday morning in the old Drug Store Building, two doors east of the Herald office where they expect to be located until they can rebuild their banking house. The volume of business done by this institution in their new quarters on the day after the fire, which amounted to more than the usual daily business, shows the confidence the people have in the stability of this bank.

The good work of the Fire Company and other citizens saved much other property from destruction. The Leader store, which occupies the adjoining one-story building on the east of the bank, was threatened with destruction for a time, and the stock of goods was removed from the house.

The store of J. P. Edmiston and Son on the west, was in less danger, there being about 30 feet vacant space between it and the bank, but the roof was kept



1906 Fire Destroyed North side of Buchanan Street,

(M. Miller Photo)

wet and no damage resulted.

The roofs of the buildings across the street in front of the bank were well looked after and buckets of water were kept on the roofs to put out any sparks that should fall there. The intense heat from the fire cracked the plate glass fronts of Dr. Mocks' buildings and also one in the Citizens Bank front was cracked.

The rain on Monday and the stillness of the night were great helps in preventing the spread of the fire to other buildings.

(*Prairie Grove Herald*,
April 18, 1918)

Shortly after 9 o'clock Sunday night a fire alarm was sounded and at this hour the usual Sunday services were being held at the churches. The congregations were unceremoniously dismissed, and upon going out on the streets, a bright glare in the business section of the town gave the impression that a serious conflagration was in progress.

The fire proved to be at the electric light power house. A large tank of crude oil which stood on the outside of the building, became ignited from sparks from the exhaust of the

engine. The tank of oil soon exploded and scattered oil in every direction. The rear doors of the building took fire and burned, and the blaze also got inside the building and charred the ceiling considerably before it was brought under control. Valiant work, however, with plenty of water, soon conquered the flames and a damage of about \$100 had been done.

(*Prairie Grove Herald*,
April 24, 1925)

Damage amounting to approximately two to three thousand dollars was sustained early Tuesday morning when fire destroyed the three wood buildings in the west part of the business section, owned by Clem Cummings and R. L. McCoy.

The fire, which was supposed to have originated in the barber shop owned by Mr. Rutherford, was discovered about 12:15 Monday night. On account of the wooden structures and the headway that the flames possessed, the fire department was unable to stop its spreading. The three buildings were destroyed in less than an hour.

The brick building occupied by the McCoy Produce, was easily saved with only slight exterior damage. Buildings across the street suffered, the intense heat causing some of the plate glass to crack.

No insurance was carried by the owners of the buildings. The barber shop was covered with a \$350 policy.

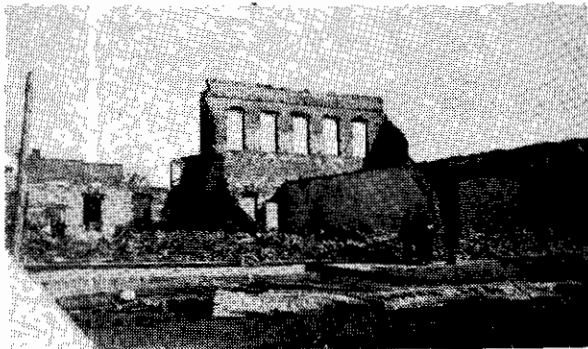
PRAIRIE GROVE'S FIRST MAJOR BUSINESS FIRE IN 25 YEARS

(*Prairie Grove Enterprise*,
January 1958)

Prairie Grove's first major fire in nearly 25 years in the business section occurred Tues-

day evening shortly after five o'clock. It caused estimated damage of \$12,000 to \$15,000 to the Farmers and Merchants Bank, Dr. Calvin Bain's Dental office and Ed Rich's Realty Office. The latter two businesses were located on the second floor of the bank building.

Firemen from Prairie Grove, Lincoln, and Fayetteville fought the stubborn blaze for nearly two hours before it was brought under control. The fire originated in a small room in the dentist's office which held a refrigerator. Smoke followed the attic, escaping from the windows of the air conditioning and furnace room on the second floor of the building. By this time the smoke had completely en-



North side of Buchanan Street almost wiped out by the fire of 1906.

(Thompson Photo)

gulfed the upstairs rooms, making it impossible to tell where the fire was burning.

The fire finally broke through the roof of the building enabling firemen to find the source. High winds made it look for a time as if it would be impossible to save any of the bank building and other structures to the east and north were endangered. An ample supply of water and fine work by local and visiting firemen held the flames to the one building.

D. E. Rieff, president of the bank, said Thursday morning that all losses were completely covered by insurance. Only temporary repairs are being made at present as the bank was almost ready to begin a program of

enlarging and complete remodeling. The building east of the bank, now housing J & B Auto Supply was purchased from Kim Smith about sixty days ago and will be included in the expanded bank facilities.

Mr. Rieff said that no damage was done to any customer papers or property and that loss was confined to water damage to the bank interior and machines. The bank personnel were still working when the fire was discovered and managed to get all papers and most of the machinery into the fire-proof vault. Temporary repairs were made Wednesday and the bank was open for normal operations Thursday morning.

Dr. Bain's chief loss was about \$2,000 in anesthetics and supplies, and an undetermined amount of damage by water and smoke to his equipment. He is setting up temporary offices in the building east of Southwestern Electric Power Co. and expects to be ready to open Saturday morning.

Ed Rich's Realty Office was undamaged except for some smoke and water loss.

Rieff and Bain expressed appreciation for the fine cooperation of the volunteer firemen and other local citizens, as well as firemen from Lincoln and Fayetteville.

The Northwest Arkansas Times reported that while one of the Fayetteville trucks was enroute here the driver sighted a grass fire in Farmington which was whipping towards the school buildings. They stopped and battled this blaze until it was headed away from the schools, then came on to Prairie Grove.

While one of the two Lincoln fire fighting units was at Prairie Grove, a call came from Summers and the second unit from Lincoln was dispatched there. A large grass fire endangered three houses and out buildings. The Lincoln engine and six men helped Summers residents quench this blaze.

FIRES DO MUCH DAMAGE TO PRAIRIE GROVE OVER THE YEARS

On February 13, 1906, Prairie Grove had a fire which destroyed most of the business district of the town. A fire broke out about 10:00 p.m. in a barber shop on the north side of Buchanan Street. The barber shop was at the West end of the business buildings and the wind fanned the flames. Within the space of an hour every building on the north side of the street was in ruins.

There was no water protection and dynamite was used in an effort to check the conflagration. The buildings were all frame structures. The stores on the south side of the street were made of brick and were undamaged except by the explosion of dynamite.

The loss was estimated at \$20,000.00 with but scant insurance. Those who suffered loss on the north side of the street were: Charles Brunk, grocery and meat market; Ed B. Watson, grocery; J. H. Suttle, photographic gallery; Dr. Clarence Luther, dental office; the post office; Pon Ton Barber Shop; N. D. Lewis, grocery and market; and two vacant store rooms.

On the southside, Snodgrass Restaurant and J. B. Lewis

Jewelry Store were burned. The Ozark Mercantile Company building and the First National Bank building were badly damaged by dynamite, all plate glass being broken out. But for the heroic efforts of the citizens, the entire business part of the town would have been destroyed. (Taken from an article by Berry Broyles published in the Enterprise in March 1953.)



Remains of building destroyed by fire, between Webb newspaper office and old Telephone Company building on Buchanan Street.

Prairie Grove Cemetery

*(Information from files of
Prairie Grove Newspapers)*

The Prairie Grove Cemetery dates back to 1831 when Rev. Andrew (Uncle Buck) Buchanan, then owner of the land embracing the old part of the Cemetery West of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, gave space for the burial of Mrs. Mary Percilla Inman, the first person buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

The land for the church, as well as the cemetery, was donated shortly after the Buchanans built their home near the Spring. The original plat of

Prairie Grove, dated 1888, shows the area to be 412½ feet by 268 feet.

Rev. Andrew Buchanan (1792-1857) is buried just West of the Church. His step-son, Col. James Preston Neal (1820-1896), the Founder of the Town of Prairie Grove, and his wife, Adaline (1829-1863), are also buried nearby.

The Cemetery contains some excellent examples of the skills of early tombstone makers, including sandstone markers with arched and serrated tops, massive ground slabs covering the entire grave, and both

marble and sandstone vaults.

In 1905 an iron paneling fence was placed across the front (South side) of the cemetery. It was 52 inches high and ran for 120 feet. The total cost was \$150. It was removed years later to make care of the cemetery easier.

In 1941 a drainage ditch between the cemetery and Highway 62 was made and walled with native stone. The wall began at the culvert East of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and continued to the West side of the cemetery. The Arkansas Highway Department provided trucks



Grave of Rev. Andrew Buchanan in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

for hauling the stones and WPA labor was used for building the wall and obtaining the rock. A bridge at the South entrance was constructed to span the ditch. Total cost of the project was \$6,000, according to the *Prairie Grove Enterprise* May 8, 1941.

Over the span of years since the original cemetery was platted, five areas have been added: Cummings Addition, March 1917; Dodson Addition, March 19,

1958; Rogers Addition, November 5, 1960; Baggett Addition, April 14, 1966; and Bell-Carl Addition, June 28, 1985.

The Bell-Carl Addition consists of 5½ acres joining the West side of the cemetery. One-fourth of this addition has been platted into lots 20 x 10 with concrete markers designating each lot. A gravel driveway was put around the new addition. This latest purchase assures Prairie Grove of adequate land for many years of expansion.

A concrete driveway enters the cemetery from Kate Smith Street on the East, goes West to about the center of the Cemetery then South to Highway 62.

Mrs. E. C. Carl served for many years as secretary-treasurer of the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association, and at her death was succeeded by her daughter, Miss Sarah Carl who served until failing eyesight caused her to resign in 1985.

The Prairie Grove Cemetery Association operated by three trustees, Vincil Bell, G. E. Wiswell and Frank G. Blakemore, for many years until February, 1985 when it was incorporated as a non-profit organization. Officers elected under the new set-up were: Vincil Bell, president; G. E. Wiswell, first vice-president; Frank G. Blakemore, second vice-president; Bill Hulse, third vice-president; and Essie Wiswell, secretary-treasurer.

Present officers are: Frank Blakemore, president; Charles Stills, first vice-president; G. E. Wiswell, second vice-president; Bill Hulse, third vice-president; and Essie Wiswell, secretary-treasurer.

MARBLE STONE MARKS FIRST GRAVE IN PRAIRIE GROVE CEMETERY

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise,
July 1, 1941)*

A marble slab marking the grave of Mrs. Mary Percilla Inman, the first person buried

in the Prairie Grove Cemetery, was unveiled in a special ceremony held at the grave June 27, 1941. Frank Pyeatt presided at the memorial service marking the occasion. The grave is located about half-way between the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the concrete driveway leading to Highway 62.

J. Frank Holmes acted as master of ceremonies and Mrs. Holmes opened the service with group singing. Mrs. Dolph Helm



*First Grave in Prairie Grove Cemetery--
Percilla Inman, died 1831.*

read a history of the grave written by Col. James P. Neal. (Jim Neal of Tulsa, a son of Col. Neal, sent the history to be used in the unveiling ceremony.) A tribute to Mrs. Inman by Mrs. Emma Cook was also read. Mr. Holmes closed the ceremony with a few remarks about the occasion, congratulating the women of the Cemetery Association for marking so historic a spot.

The inscription on the marker: Percilla Inman, Died in

Springtime 1831. First Grave in Prairie Grove. Erected by Cemetery Association, 1941.

Rev. C. D. Purlee was speaker at the Memorial Service held in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church earlier in the afternoon. The program opened with the processional of the color bearers, Miss Dorothy Imes carrying the United States Flag, and Miss Marion Bell the Confederate Flag. The program also included the scripture reading and prayer by the Rev. J. M. Harrison; anthem, "Going Home," by the choir; reading, Wilma Carnahan; vocal solo "Abide With Me," Miss Julian Rogers. Mrs. Lutie Cunningham presided.

HISTORY OF FIRST GRAVE IN PRAIRIE GROVE VALLEY

*Taken from a history written
about 1895 by Col. James P.
Neal, son of Andrew Buchanan.)*

In the summer of 1831, Mrs. Mary Percilla Inman, a cultured lady from Tennessee traveling through the country with her brother, tarried a few days with acquaintances in this neighborhood, journeyed to Cane Hill, where she sickened and died. On her deathbed she requested that her body be carried back to the prairie and buried amongst the flowers.

The neighbors had met here to raise a house for school and church purposes saw horsemen approaching across the prairie whom they supposed to be hunters. A nearer approach revealed the spade and pick. Some one dead, who could it be? Death was a stranger in this land then. The facts being understood, the Rev. Andrew Buchanan (Uncle Buck), who was proprietor of the premises, located the place for the grave, about ninety yards northwest of the house being erected. This grave is now in the Southern part of the Prairie Grove Cemetery. During the afternoon, the corpse, accompanied by a few friends,

arrived. Uncle Buck performed the religious rites.

The occasion was calculated to make a deep and lasting impression. The day was as beautiful, calm and joyous as in the morning of life. Unlike the life of this day when every surrounding gives evidence of care, toil and thought. The prairie was covered with luxurious grass and flowers, the birds sang in forests unvisited by the axe-man ages after ages. The little streamlets moved away from their pebbly fountains unmolested, watering sweet flowers whose heads were dipped by gentle winds into their cooling bosoms.

The wild deer reposed in the shade of the trees, bounded over the landscape or slackened his thirst at the passing brook. Amidst this enchanting panorama was a new grave, the first perhaps in all this valley. The deceased was a beautiful lady traveling for her health and to gratify a refined taste and highly cultivated mind. These surroundings inspired the preacher with unusual fervency and eloquence. The picture he drew of them was grand and solemn.

The suppressed feelings of the little audience broke forth in sobs and tears. When he spoke of her family at home watching for her return, of eyes clouded with bitter sorrow, in the desolation of spirit where winter had settled in the zenith of summer, and where there were little hearts that had grown big and heavy in the darkened rooms, waiting and praying for footsteps which once were cheerier than the songs of the birds that greet the rising sun, but which shall never wake again the echoes of that expectant house.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS BURIED IN PRAIRIE GROVE CEMETERY

(Taken from UDC Records)

Allen, A.--34th Arkansas Infantry; Baggett, John J.--Co. D,

6th Georgia Infantry; Bain, J. C.--Co. B, 16th Tennessee Cavalry; Carl, B. A.--Co. C, 34th Arkansas Infantry; Cunningham, J. C.--Co. A., Texas Infantry; Cummings, K. C.--Co. K, 34th Arkansas Infantry; Dixon, A.--34th Arkansas Infantry; Gillis, J. B.--Co. A, 4th North Carolina Cavalry; Gregory, W. J.--Co. K, Brooks Arkansas Regiment; Hanna, R. O.--Co. F, 19th Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry;

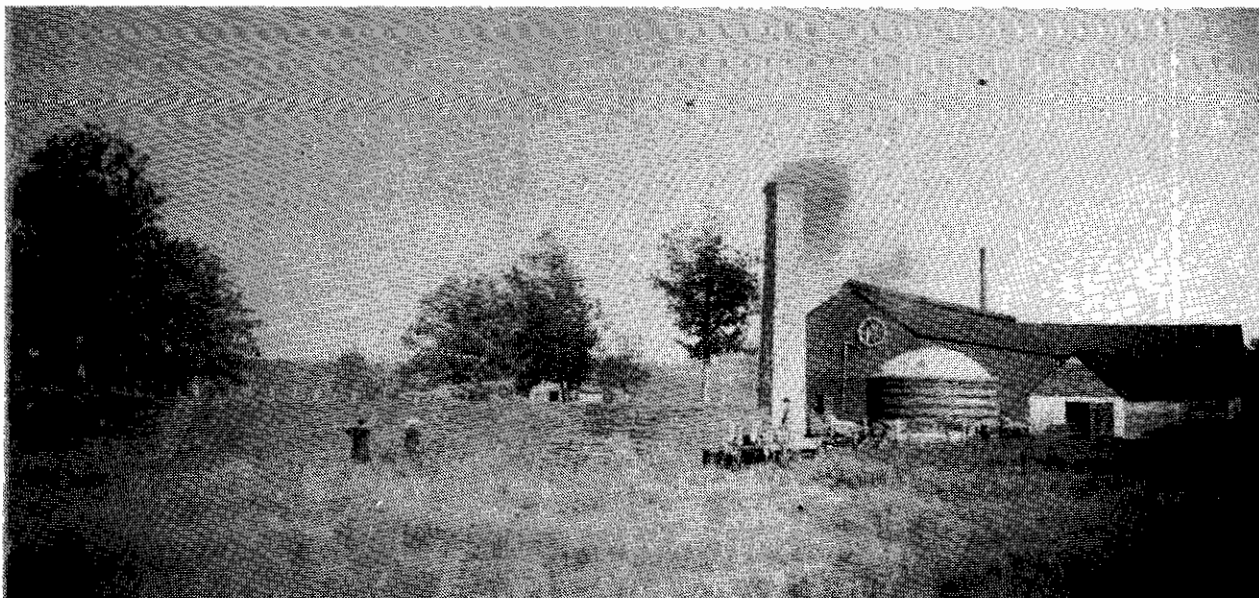
Maupin, Abraham Lincoln--Co. H, 7th Virginia Cavalry; McCoy, J. M.--34th Arkansas Infantry; Mock, J. M.--Co. G, 16th Arkansas Infantry; Nixon, G. W.--Co. A, Arkansas State Troops; Pittman, W. E.--Co. G, 16th Arkansas Infantry; Scott, W. N.--Co. E, 34th Arkansas Infantry; Smith, J. W.--Co. K, 34th Arkansas Infantry; Strickler, A. T.--Co. E, 3rd Cherokee Cavalry; Wallace, W. R.--Co. K, 1st Kentucky Cavalry; Walton, G. W.--Co. E, 59th George Infantry; Woodruff, Jasper Newton--Co. G, 16th Arkansas Infantry; T. J. Preston--18th Tennessee Infantry; Col. Thomas Jefferson Patton, no record; B. A. Rich, no record; R. P. Harrison, no record.

Pioneer Businesses

CASH GROCERY CHANGES OWNERS

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
January 13, 1922)*

Messrs. Ed Rich and Will Adams, who have consolidated the Cash Grocery and Market, in the Masonic Building the past year, have traded their store to Jess Gibson for a 30-acre fruit and berry farm in the Bethel Grove neighborhood, about three miles Northeast of town. These men had built up a splendid trade and were doing a good business. The new proprietor is Charley Gibson, who lives east of town. We wish him much success in his business here.



Terpening Tile and Brick Factory located on the Frank Terpening farm, 3 miles Northeast of Prairie Grove,

(Alpha Terpening Photo)

FRANK A. TERPENING BRICK AND DRAIN TILE

The Frank A. Terpening Brick and Drain Tile Factory, located about three miles Northeast of Prairie Grove in the Walnut Grove community, provided bricks for many of the buildings in Prairie Grove before the 1900s. It is mentioned as the source of bricks used in many of the old business buildings, the Methodist church, and homes in Prairie Grove. No definite dates of operation of the factory were established, but indications are that it was started in the middle or late 1800s and was closed prior to 1920.

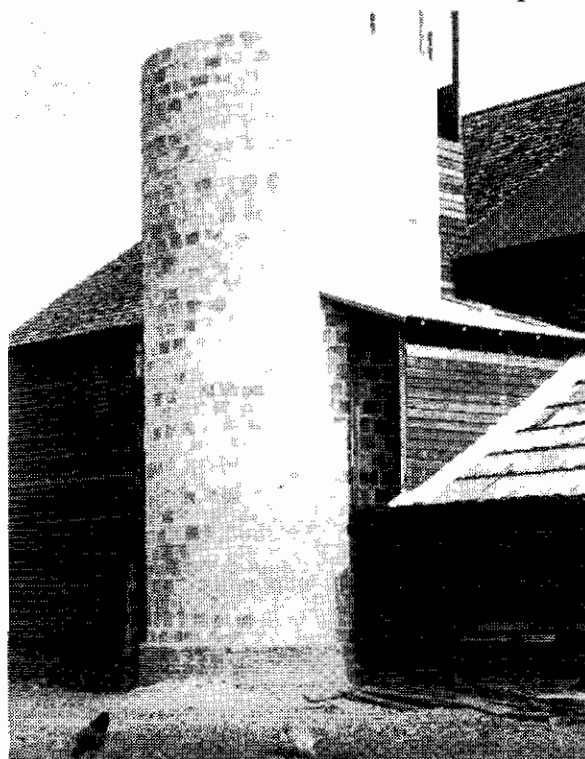
An inquiry through the Prairie Grove Enterprise for information brought calls and letters from Goldie Terpening of Monette, Missouri, pictures and history from Opha Ramsey (Mrs. Charles) Terpening of Tucumcari, New Mexico, and a number of local people who had knowledge of the operation.

Pictures show the kiln located north of the barn, silo and the home. The kiln was a round brick building and callers have memories of children playing in and out after it was no longer in use.

The Frisco Railroad con-

structed a spur to the Brick Factory which was controlled with a switch and flag station. Bricks and tile were shipped far and near by rail. Residents of the area boarded the train there when going to Fayetteville or Prairie Grove.

Goldie Terpening recalls that hobos from the railroad slept in



Barn and silo on Frank Terpening farm, (Early 1900s)

(Terpening Photo)

the old kiln and left old magazines and papers. They also went to nearby houses to seek food.



Frank and Kittie Terpening, Owners of Terpening Brick Kiln,

(Brewster Photo)

Opha Terpening recalls that there was a good spring north of the Brick Factory, which had been walled with brick. She remembers the tall chimney and a portion of the kiln. Several of the employees lived in cabins nearby, but according to Mrs. Terpening, when she and Charles married in 1923, there were no cabins left.

Opha Terpening also sent the pictures of the factory and Terpening homes, which are used in this history book.

George Terpening, who was also a brick layer, lived about a half mile north of his brother, Frank. Both men are believed to have laid bricks in the early buildings in Prairie Grove.

Frank Albert Terpening married Mollie Kate (Kittie) Brunk November 8, 1888. A picture of their first home shows it to be a frame house, but brick and round clay tile used to support a flower shelf at the side of the home indicate that the brick kiln was in operation before

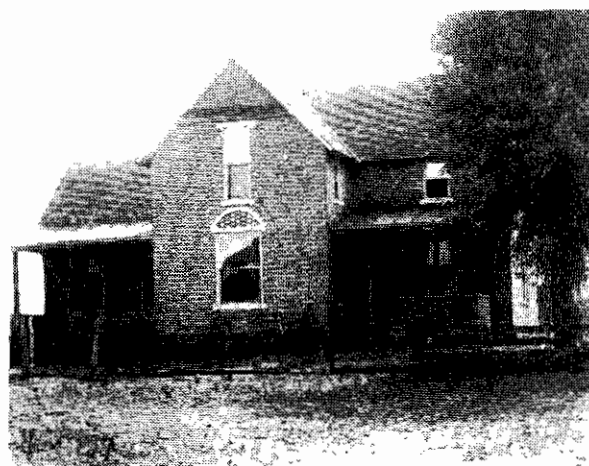


Home of Frank Terpening in 1904. Kittie Terpening, Frank Terpening, Lottie Jones, Charles Terpening in buggy.

(Alpha Terpening Photo)

that time. In 1905 they built and occupied the new brick home constructed of brick from their kiln.

George Edward and Lucy Catherine Brunk, parents of Kittie Brunk Terpening and John Brunk, had lived in Washington County since 1882. John Brunk was the father of the late Lucille Brewster McKeon, and the grandfather of John Henry Brewster.



Frank Terpening home built in 1904 of bricks made in the kiln on their property,

(Alpha Terpening Photo)

WORK ON NEW BUSINESS HOUSES
PROGRESSING WELL

(Prairie Grove Herald,
October 20, 1904)

Work on the new business houses now being erected here is

progressing rapidly, 24 men now being employed on the work. The brick walls of the buildings fronting on Buchanan street are above the first story. This building when completed will present a handsome appearance on the Mock Street side as well as on the front, being of red pressed brick, with grey limestone window sills.

The foundations for the new Bank building and the Wilson building on Mock Street, opposite the Masonic Temple, is now about completed and the brick work on these two buildings will commence in a few days.

**McCOY PRODUCE BUILDING
OLDEST IN PRAIRIE GROVE**

*Prairie Grove Herald, 1915;
Enterprise, 1958 and 1976)*

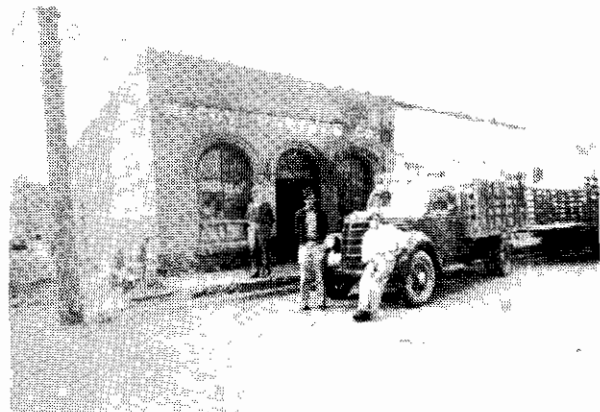
Located on the Southwest corner of Buchanan and Mock Streets in Prairie Grove is believed to be the only building still standing of the original business area. The McCoy Produce building was the first brick structure to be erected in Prairie Grove and was built by Crowell Bros. about 1886 for a dry goods store. It is still a well preserved substantial brick building. In this building B. A. Carl opened a General Merchandise store before 1900. He sold dry goods, shoes, groceries, hardware, saddles and much more.

When a new, larger building was built across the street on the Northwest corner of Buchanan and Mock, the Carl store was moved there. E. C. Carl and his brother, Frank, operated the store for many years. Later A. B. Rich conducted a business in that building.

About 1900 McCoy Produce was opened in the building on the Southwest corner by R. L. McCoy, owner. In later years he was joined by his son, Layton, in operation of the business. In 1907 he bought the building and

later remodeled the interior. The second story of the building was nicely fitted up, suitable for a Lodge Hall or other similar purpose. The entrance to the second story was a blind stairway on the interior of the building. Entrance to the stairway was a door in the East wall about the center of the building. The second story was removed in 1937.

In early years wagons were sent out to other towns and stores in the area to pick up chickens, eggs, hides and other



*McCoy Produce Co, R. L. McCoy, Layton McCoy
and Carthel Strickler.*

(McCoy Photo)

marketable items. In later years the wagons were replaced by trucks which made regular trips to markets with loads of live chickens, cream, feed, fruit, etc. During the early '30s and '40s they trucked strawberries to Kansas City, Tulsa, Oklahoma City and other markets. Each night during the berry season hundreds of crates of berries left Prairie Grove for the fresh fruit markets by McCoy Produce trucks.

In 1958 Mr. and Mrs. Layton McCoy remodeled the produce building and opened the Prairie Grove Laundromat on July 11 in the front of the produce building. The Laundromat had 16 washers and three dryers, featuring the latest in coin operated, completely automatic machines. The McCoy Produce occupied the South half of the building. A new cream room, feed

room and office were added.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sears purchased the Laundry in October, 1981. They completely remodeled the building, doing away with the produce and adding offices in the front for their daughter, Gail Sears Biswell, public accountant. The Laundromat remains in business in the same building--rich in Prairie Grove history.

BARRELS, BOXES AND CRATES TO
BE MADE IN PRAIRIE GROVE

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
November 5, 1903)*

At a meeting of the Prairie Grove Berry Association held Friday night an agreement was arrived at between the Association and a Mr. Hayes of Fayetteville whereby the latter will erect at Prairie Grove and establish a plant for the manufacturing of barrels, boxes, crates, etc. for the shipping of apples, peaches and strawberries.

The large acreage of strawberries now grown here makes it necessary to have a factory here so that no delay will occur in getting crates.

The building was to be located in the Northwest corner of Youree's berry field, on the South side of the railroad. We are informed that the building will be a very large one and will also be used as a shipping shed for the Berry Association.

CUMMINGS TO ERECT NEW
BRICK BUSINESS HOUSE

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
October 14, 1915)*

Mr. C. L. Cummings has this week bought from the First National Bank the lot on the South side of Buchanan street, the site of their old Bank building, which was burned on the morning of June 30, 1914. Mr. Cummings will erect on this lot a new and commodious brick business house, 22 x 100 feet,

and when completed will be occupied by the McNeal Drug Co. It will also have a couple of nice office rooms in the rear. It is proposed to commence work on the new building as soon as the debris of the old building can be cleared away.

DIXON SADDLERY

The Dixon Saddlery Shop, opened in 1884 by Abe Dixon, had the distinction of being the only fully equipped harness shop in Northwest Arkansas. Its first location was probably on the east side of Mock Street at a



*Mock Street, looking South, in early 1900s.
(C. Wilson Photo.)*

point where the Prairie Grove Telephone Co. Warehouse now stands. From there it was moved to a frame building back of the Ozark Mercantile and at a later date, inside the Mercantile building. At that time the Ozark Mercantile building was just north of the Masonic Lodge on North Mock Street.

About 1912 Abe Dixon retired, leaving the business in charge of his son, Tom, who had grown up in the shop and been a member of the firm for a number of years. Also connected with the shop at this time was Dolph Helm, stepson of Tom Dixon, who started working in the shop in 1911. Dolph spent his entire business life at one trade.

In 1918, to the harness making equipment was added a patching machine, bench and tools for shoe repairing. Later, as the shoe repair business

grew, a stitcher, finisher, nailing machine and press were added.

An interesting fact, pointed out by Howard B. Helm, a grandson of Tom Dixon and son of Dolph Helm, in a recent interview was that while the business was still located in the building North of the Masonic Hall, double doors were constructed in the back so that buggies and Model T Fords could be brought inside the shop for the making of new canvas tops. They also made and repaired side curtains.

Dolph Helm bought the Dixon Saddlery Co. in 1939 from the Southern Mercantile Co. and Tom Dixon continued to work for a short time.

In 1950 Dolph Helm moved the Dixon Saddlery to the building three doors East of the Farmers and Merchants Bank on Buchanan Street (this building has since been made a part of the Bank) and operated there until 1963 when it was sold to Carl Nations who moved the business to South Mock Street to the building formerly occupied by the Home Town Grocery.

Tom Dixon died in 1947 and Dolph Helm died October 23, 1977.

ANOTHER NEW INDUSTRY FOR PRAIRIE GROVE

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
March 15, 1917)*

Another new enterprise has been launched in Prairie Grove by Messrs. Fred McNeal and Mac Thompson, that promises to develop into large proportions. It is a plant for the manufacture of pasteurized ice cream and bottling works for soft drinks. The promoters of this enterprise are progressive business men of our town, and will push this new business in a way to make it a winner. They have rented the building one door east of The Herald office and already have a part of their supplies on hand. As their business grows they expect to buy

their cream from the territory surrounding Prairie Grove, and thus create another market for the farmers.

A VINEGAR PLANT FOR PRAIRIE GROVE

*Prairie Grove Herald,
August 9, 1917)*

Prairie Grove is fortunate in securing another industry that will mean much in a financial way to this community. The O. L. Gregory Vinegar Co., of Siloam Springs and Paris, Texas, have



*Prairie Grove Preserving Co.,
(P. Harris Photo)*

bought from the Prairie Grove Vinegar and Preserving Co., the old Arkansas Canning Co. building in the Southeast part of town, that has been laying idle for a number of years. They will establish there a Vinegar plant, which will afford a good market for all of the apples that are unfit for shipping or canning.

Mr. F. M. Crawford, who will be superintendent of the plant here, is now in Prairie Grove, overhauling the building and putting in the machinery for the new plant. He expects to be ready in about two weeks for commencing work of grinding apples.

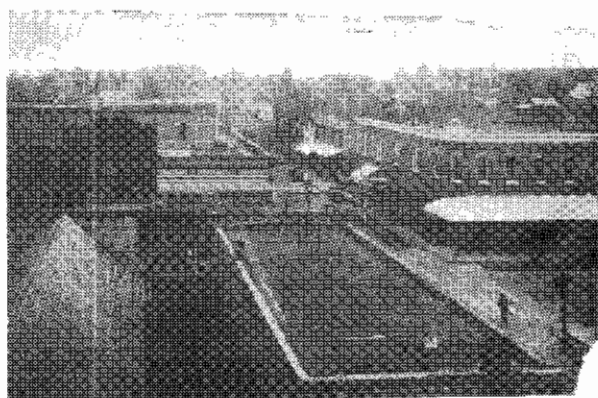
The O. L. Gregory Co. is one of the largest vinegar manufacturing plants in this part of the county, with branch establishments all over Northwest Arkansas. Prairie Grove is to be congratulated upon having this company put in a plant here. It will be a great benefit to all orchard men, in affording a

market for a great deal of fruit that heretofore was a waste on account of it being too small or otherwise unfit for commercial use.

CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF BLACKSMITH BUSINESS

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
November 8, 1917)*

John S. Thompson has bought L. B. Bollin's interest in the Bollin & Miller Blackshop and Mr. Thompson is now at the forge. Mr. Bollin, who has been a partner with Mr. Miller for thirteen years, says he is going to rest up for a while.



*Bird's-eye View of Prairie Grove
(E. Davidson Photo)*

CHEESE FACTORY FOR PRAIRIE GROVE ASSURED

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
September 13, 1928)*

Knott & King, who have cheese factories at Bentonville, Springdale, Siloam Springs and Huntsville, will establish a factory in Prairie Grove. Mr. Knott was in town Wednesday arranging for a temporary location and stated that he hopes to be in operation within one week. He will later build a plant here, work to start at once.

Prairie Grove and community are giving \$1,000.00 and a site. A part of this amount was raised at a meeting held in the Masonic Hall Monday night, and the balance by a committee appointed by the chairman, J. W. Woolverton,

the following day. About 40 local people attended the meeting Monday night and manifested a spirit of hearty cooperation, responding generously when the opportunity was given.

MORE BUSINESS LOTS BOUGHT

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
September 19, 1912)*

It now appears that our little city is to have quite a building boom this fall. Baggett and McCormick have this week sold three more business lots on the north side of Buchanan street, opposite the First National Bank. These lots were sold to Dr. W. H. Mock, S. R. Wilson, and John Beaver. We understand it is the purpose of the purchasers to erect business houses on their lots this fall. With the business houses to be built by the new Citizens Bank, just east of the City Meat Market, and the new building now being completed by J. J. Baggett, makes five new business houses for our town this fall.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE IS GROWING RAPIDLY

*Prairie Grove Herald,
November 30, 1923)*

Prairie Grove is the home of a manufacturing plant, owned and operated by home people, that is perhaps doing more than any other institution to put Prairie Grove on the map. We refer to C. R. Mobley & Co., manufacturing chemists, who are now manufacturing twenty-two different flavors and a complete line of certified food colors. They have recently placed a dry cleaner, "Sure Text," on the market which is meeting with popular favor.

C. R. Mobley & Co. have sold their corporation to the Southern Chemical Co. of Fort Smith and moved their equipment there. *(Prairie Grove Herald, February 13, 1925)*

CREAMERY ORGANIZED

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
June 29, 1922)*

After considerable delay in securing the incorporation papers, the stockholders of the Prairie Grove Co-operative Creamery met last Saturday and elected five directors for the new enterprise. They are M. A. Dorman, H. D. Cummings, Chas. R. Moore, J. P. Harris and W. C. Dickson.

This Board of Directors met Tuesday night and perfected the organization by the election of the following officers: W. C. Dickson, president; Chas. R. Moore, vice-president, and J. P. Harris, secretary-treasurer.

The officers are now investigating the location of the plant, and as soon as this is determined upon, the erection of the building will be commenced, and all details pushed to completion and an up-to-date creamery established.

S. H. ROGERS TO REBUILD BURNED BUILDINGS

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
January 6, 1922)*

S. H. Rogers, who owns the two business lots where the opera house building stood before the fire of October 30th, has bought the adjoining lots where the double room Banner building stood. Mr. Rogers contemplates putting up buildings on these lots next spring, to replace the ones destroyed in the recent fire. They will be of brick and have four good sized rooms.

STAVE FACTORY

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
April 28, 1910)*

Henry Kramer of Shreveport, La., has been in Prairie Grove this week making arrangements to put a Stave Factory here. Mr. Kramer has inspected the timber

in this section and is well pleased with what he has seen. He proposes to put in a plant here that will give employment to about 20 men, which will be a considerable addition to the weekly pay roll of the town. He has selected as a location for the factory, the vacant lot between the lumber yard and the railroad, in the South part of town. He wishes to lease the property and it is thought this can be arranged without any difficulty, as the Commercial League will attend to this part of the proposition.

COTTON GIN IN PRAIRIE GROVE

(Prairie Grove Herald, 1925)

The Prairie Grove Cotton Gin was built in 1925 directly opposite the Prairie Grove Milling Co., near the Frisco Railroad. E. L. Critchfield, manager, stated that construction work on the gin would be pushed so as to insure its completion several weeks before the cotton season.

On January 1, 1926, it was reported by the manager that 314 bales of cotton had been handled. \$36,000.00 was paid to the growers, according to the report.

GRAPE ASSOCIATION SHIPS 16 CARS

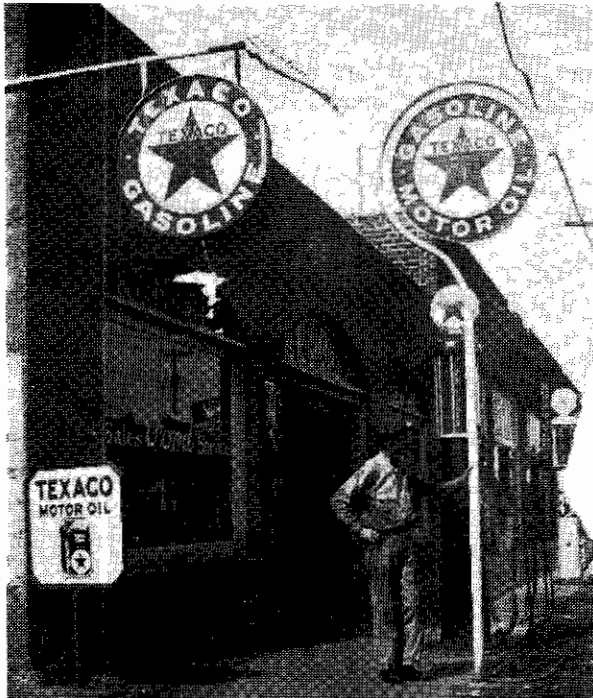
*(Prairie Grove Herald,
August 18, 1933)*

The Prairie Grove Grape Association has shipped sixteen cars by rail to date in addition to a large amount by truck. The truck shipments were loaded directly from the field. Inspector T. C. Beck left Thursday, but the association is still loading and will continue to load for an indefinite period.

Dr. Cecil Riggall volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, July 2, 1942. Dr. Riggall served in the Royal Navy during the last war.

C. A. McCORMICK

C. Arthur McCormick, son of the late Dr. E. G. McCormick and Mrs. Mamie Gillian McCormick, was born in Prairie Grove August 1, 1890, and spent his entire life here. He attended Arkansas College at Batesville.



Prairie Grove Garage

He was an automobile dealer and owned and operated the Prairie Grove Garage for 32 years before selling to Jimmy Smith in 1947. The garage was located in the building which is now the East part of the Farmers Hardware. He started his garage work in a tin building back of Mobley's Grocery where he had room to work on but one car at a time. Later he moved to a building back of McCoys Produce, then built the garage on Buchanan Street.

McCormick was connected with the sale and service of Ford cars from the time he started in business, and sold one of the first Ford cars in Prairie Grove.

He was co-owner of the Beverly Theatre, superintendent of the Prairie Grove Water Department and chief of the local Fire Department.

He was a member of the Prairie Grove Masonic Lodge and the First Presbyterian Church, and contributed much time and talent to the betterment of Prairie Grove.

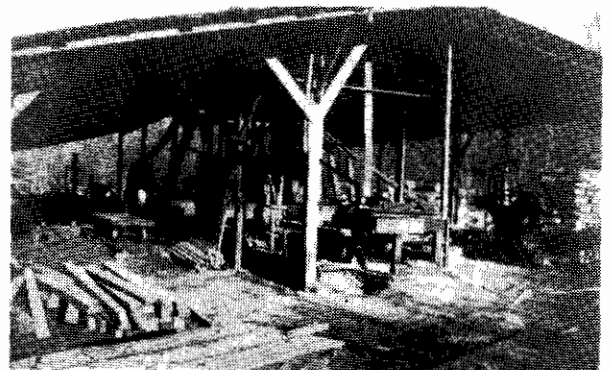
He was married to the former Ruth Fain, and they were parents of two daughters: Bernice, who was married to the late Willard Brooks, DVM; and Dolly Ann McCormick Ward of Pennsylvania. There are four grandchildren, Treka Vaughn of Gentry, John Brooks of Bella Vista; and Brooks and Amy Vaughn of Pennsylvania.

Mr. McCormick died April 2, 1949 following a heart attack. Funeral service was held at the Methodist Church with Rev. G. C. Bidwell officiating and burial was in Prairie Grove Cemetery. Mrs. McCormick died June 11, 1956 and was buried beside her husband.

THE J. A. SMITHS, FATHER AND SON

J. A. (Jim) Smith started his business career as a saw-mill operator in the Devil's Den area, and at one time was operating two mills.

He moved to Prairie Grove in 1929 and, in partnership with



J. A. (Jim) Smith Sawmill located in the Devil's Den area. (Smith Photo)

Lee Jones, purchased the Home Town Grocery on South Mock Street. He operated it about a year before purchasing the Jim Strickler Blacksmith and Wagon Factory located across the street from the grocery business. He operated the shop about



J. A. Smith and Jimmie Smith in their first shop on South Mock Street in the '30s.

(Smith Photo)

four years.

Jimmy Smith joined his father in 1934 and the blacksmith shop was moved to the back of the building and a garage and welding shop opened in the front part.

In 1941 the business was moved to the old Magnolia building on the corner of Buchanan and Neal Streets (now the City Administration building). A room was added to the west side and a garage built on the back.

Jimmie Smith served in the



Prairie Grove Motor Company

(Smith Photo)

Navy from 1943 until 1946, and after returning to Prairie Grove, joined his father in purchasing the Prairie Grove Motor Company from Arthur McCormick. They established the Smith Tractor and Implement Co. which they operated until 1951 when it was sold to E. W. Baugh and Charles McNair.

After the sale of the busi-

ness in 1951, J. A. Smith opened the Smith Auto Supply in the building just east of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and operated it until 1957 when he sold to Jack Meadors.

In 1957 Jimmie Smith and Robert Earl Cunningham bought the business back. Cunningham stayed with the company about a year, but Smith continued there until 1965 when he sold the building to Jack Bartholomew and the tractor business to Winkler



Smith-Cunningham Tractor & Imp. Co.

(Smith Photo)

Tractor Company of Lincoln.

J. A. Smith retired in 1965 and Jimmie built a new garage building back of his home on North Neal Street. He operated the garage there until 1985 when he sold the business to his son, Tommy, and grandson, Tommy Jr., who continue to operate the garage at the same location.

Jimmie Smith and Peggy Eads were married in 1937 and have three sons, Jimmie of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Harold and Tommy of Prairie Grove; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

J. A. Smith died in September, 1973 and Mrs. Smith died in October, 1973.



Smith Garage on South Mock Street in 1930, Building destroyed by fire in the '60s,

(Smith Photo)

BEAUTY SHOPS

FROM PIGTAILS TO PERMANENT WAVES

(Enterprise, April 3, 1941)

Back when beauty shops were unknown and hair dressers were patronized only by the wealthy, Lon Moore, present county clerk, had a small part in helping the proprietor of Lillian's Beauty Salon get her start. As regularly as Mr. Moore called his pupils to order for morning classes in the Apple Hill



Left to right; Lena Helm, Jow Webb, Luttie Cunningham, Ruth McCormick, Mrs. O. B. Durham, Myrtle Carl and Jack, Maggie Council, Clara Bell and Mae Lark.

(Brooks Photo)

schoolhouse, just as punctually did one of the first graders, Lillian Henson, begin taking down her schoolmates' long hair. She was never reprimanded and the hair dressing would often last a half-day.

This continued for two years. The only scholastic accomplishment remembered by teacher or pupil during this time was when Lillian learned to spell "bumble bee."

After finishing high school at Prairie Grove, Lillian married Vol Hannah and took a job in the undertaking department of the Southern Mercantile.

Later Lillian took a nine-month apprenticeship at Ye Olde Beauty Shoppe, Fayetteville's first. Marcells were the thing

then. Soon afterward, permanents came into being and Lillian and her employer took a special course in Kansas City to learn the art. Spiral machines were used in the 6-hour process, and the patron endured steaming for one hour at the price of \$1 per curl.

Lillian and her two assistants, Miss Helen Geiger and Mrs. Alma Abercrombie have all three passed the state board examination and have health certificates.

Miss Geiger has been with the Salon three years, succeeding her sister, Rachel, who is now Mrs. Leonard Maxey of Fort Smith. Helen also taught school and worked as telephone operator. Mrs. Abercrombie came here two years ago as Alma Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Howard of Morrow. She married Howard Abercrombie March 2, 1940.

After much moving between the Hannah home and a local garage, the Salon came to rest on Main Street.

(Helen Geiger Noeller and Rachel Geiger Maxey both live in Prairie Grove. Lillian Hannah is a resident of Medihomes in Prairie Grove.)

As this history is being compiled in 1988 there are seven beauty shops available locally:

Charlie's Family Hair Styling, operated by Charlie Dick; and Valerie's Hair Salon, operated by Valerie Skelton, are located on Buchanan Street; Jeanne's Hair Fashions, operated by Janice Hamilton, on South Neal Street; Fern's Beauty Shop, operated by Fern McNair, on East Parks Street; The Country Classic, owned by Betty Voekel. Operators, Ruth Dial and Lorie Thurman, Highway 62 West; The Hair Affair, operated by Ocie Harrel, and Today's Image, operated by Mrs. Les Johnson, both on Highway 62 East.

Try the new face powder, Tetlow's Gossamer, at McCormick Bros. News, 8-22-1885

NEW BUSINESS HOUSES TO BE BUILT

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
January 13, 1922)*

The new year of 1922 is starting out very auspiciously in Prairie Grove in the way of building activities. Dr. W. H. Mock has just let the contract for the erection of a four room brick building on the North side of Buchanan street on the lot known as the Youree property. The old frame building which occupied this site has been split up and converted into two cottages, now located on Neal Street. The new brick building to be erected on these lots by Dr. Mock, will be an office room for himself, and three business rooms.

C. L. Cummings has begun work

on the foundation for a new brick building on the lot between the Sterling Drug Store and the J. P. Edmiston and Son. This building will have a frontage of about 43 feet and will be 100 feet in length.

S. H. Rogers will put up a four room business house on the site of the buildings burned recently. This work is expected to begin early in the spring.

The new frame annex to the Baptist church is now under roof and enclosed. It will soon be completed. This will be a nice improvement to their house of worship.

This building activity speaks well for our town, as the country is just emerging from a year of great depression, and shows unbounded confidence in the future of the community.

Canning Factories

By Neva McMurtry

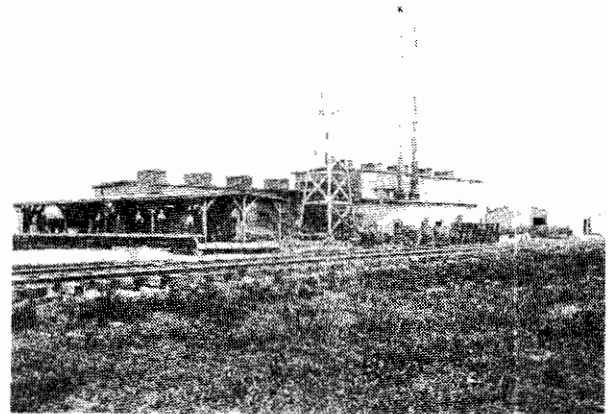
In the 1960s and 1980s I collected some oral history on the canning factories located on South Mock Street in Prairie Grove. I believe this information to be as accurate as memories can make it, but realize that no history is complete.

The factory located on the West side of Mock Street by the railroad track was built by carpenters J. J. Fidler, Will Cohea and John Craft. In 1925 it was owned and operated by J. P. Harris and W. A. Alkine, the latter being in charge of the mechanical part. The factory didn't run the first year while preparations were being made.

Mrs. J. J. Fidler had a picture taken when the factory was first built. The railroad spur showed between the factory and the warehouse. A water tower with storage tank was located near the back of the warehouse. This water used for running the factory came from a well. The factory's boiler was fired with coal or possibly wood. The tin

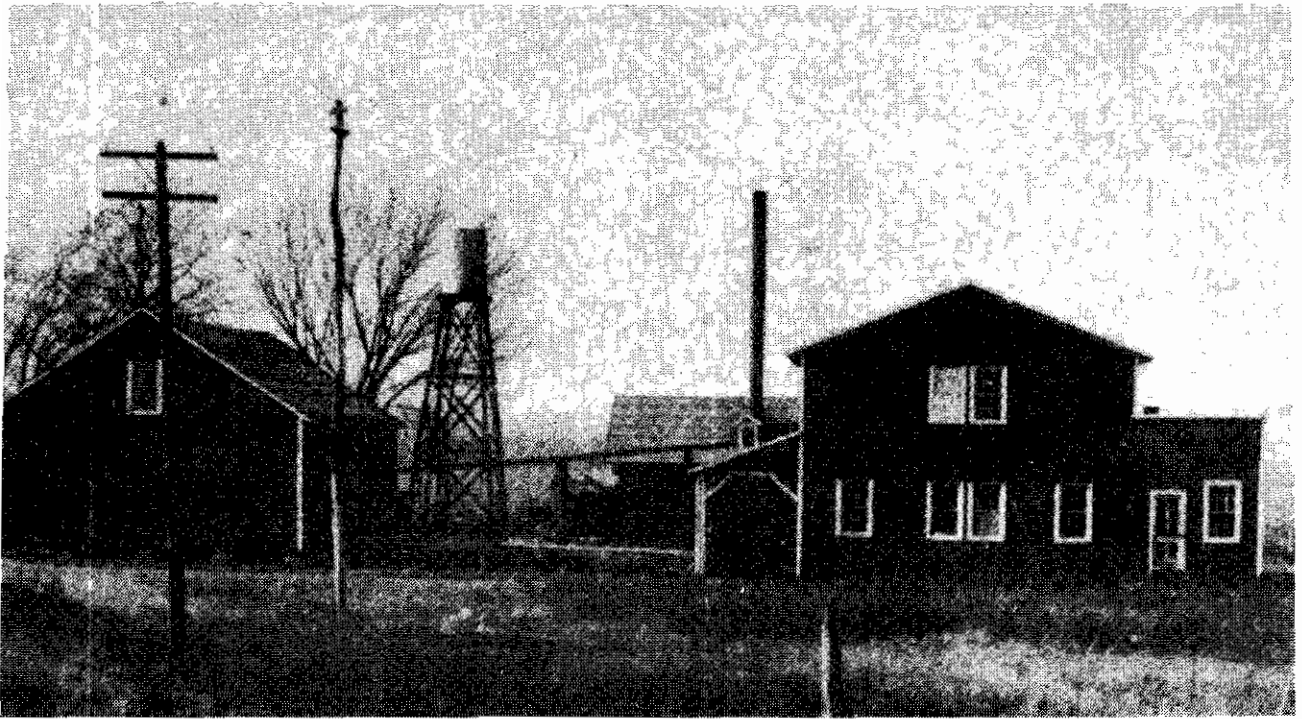
cans were unloaded from boxcars by the warehouse and sent up a track to the top of the factory. Howard Fidler remembered working in this area when very young.

The first warehouse was replaced with a new building in



*Prairie Grove's \$50,000 Canning Factory in
1904 (Brewster Photo)*

later years and a new office was built in front of the factory. The scales were located in front of the new office. Loads of crated tomatoes were weighed here, then loads of empty crates were reweighed to obtain the farmers' new weight of tomatoes



Prairie Grove Canning Factory. Picture from Prairie Grove Enterprise, 1967

for which they were paid.

Several surrounding communities contributed to this central location. Growing tomatoes commercially was a family enterprise, beginning on the farm where tomatoes were planted and grown to the finished crop. Some of the steps taken in the process were: preparing the fields by plowing, harrowing or disking, laying off check rows, fertilizing, raising, pulling and setting the plants, carrying water, cultivating, picking and hauling.

At harvest time as many as could obtain a job at the factory helped to process the tomatoes--along with help from many of the townspeople. There were many steps in this process also, some of which were: loading and unloading cans and crates, firing boilers, scalding, peeling, packing, sealing, cooking, labeling and shipping. The factory family was usually a close one of mutual dependence and caring concern. The management, labor and farm families, as well as the town's business people, were dependent on each other to keep the ball rolling.

In those early times, the

factory had a fall tomato run of three or four months. The tomatoes were of the Marglobe and Great Baltimore varieties. Seed and fertilizer were furnished by the factory to local farmers, the cost later being deducted from their first loads of tomatoes. Crates were also furnished by the factory. The tomato peeling garbage was hauled away by wagon and team and later by trucks, with some of it being fed to farm animals.

Factory workers put in ten hours a day, beginning at 7 a.m., and received three-cents per 14-quart bucket of peeled tomatoes in those early years. The buckets were of red easily-cleaned fiber. The entire factory crew numbered 114 at the checker gate. Miss Effie Bain was first checker of the peeled tomatoes. They were canned in No. 2½, No. 3 and No. 10 cans which were filled by hand. This factory also canned apples for six or eight weeks later in the fall.

Mrs. J. J. Fidler probably worked for this factory longer than anyone living here at the time of this interview in March 1967. She worked from its be-

ginning until her retirement in 1963. Some of the early workers she remembered were: Mrs. Mattie Wilson, Mrs. Nannie West and her daughter, Mrs. Birdie Mason, Mrs. Elsie Curtis (Garrett) and Mrs. Ivy Tate.



*Sarah (Mrs. John) Fidler at fill-trough at
Prairie Grove Canning Factory in 1957,
(H. Cook Photo)*

Before pure-food and child-labor laws were enforced, these early factories operated under different conditions from what are expected today. Young girls peeled tomatoes into their mothers' buckets and boys did some light jobs.

Some later owners-managers remembered were: Mac Morton, Bill Nolen, Ernest Baugh plus Bill Gregory 1942-43. Another factory across the street was run by Mr. and Mrs. Roe Mobley in 1943-44.

A Prairie Grove Enterprise clipping of August 5, 1937, states: J. P. Harris is working on the old Cheese Plant building for a canning factory. J. J. Fidler is to be in charge. August 12, 1937: Harris factory opened Tuesday. August 19: Dry weather damaging tomatoes. September 30, 1937: Harris factory

closed after six weeks run. Eight carloads shipped during season. Average of 35 workers. J. J. Fidler, supervisor.

To tie in the Kelly Canning Company connection, we need to go back to some of its earlier history. Mrs. Ollie Vickery, who worked for it 33 years, helped with this information:

About 1927 Charlie Lamendola started a small factory in an old house on Kelly Mountain of the Cove Creek area. He began with about 20 employees. The scalding vat was fired by wood, the peelers carried their own tomatoes, even sometimes peeling in the shade of trees. He also processed a good grade of tomato paste.

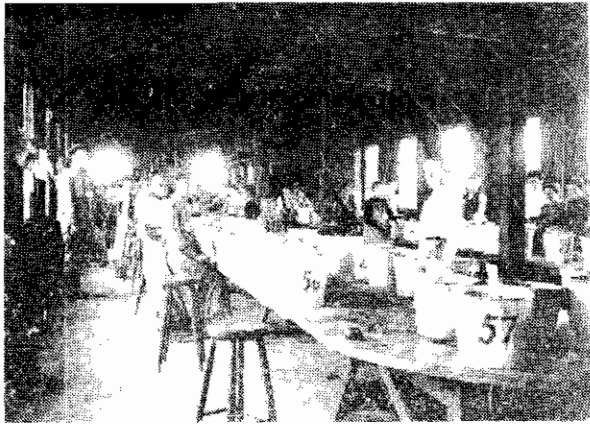
Harrison Leach ran the first factory at Cove Creek, across the branch from the schoolhouse in 1942-43. He and Johnny Kelly were in business together in 1944. This Kelly Canning Company was a short distance North of the first one built on land bought from Walter Brewster. When Kelly bought the Prairie Grove Canning Factory about 1953, many of the factory workers were from Cove Creek.

Lela Couch remembered that some Prairie Grove workers were transported to the Cove Creek factory on days when the Prairie Grove factory did not need them.

The Kelly Canning Factory trucked in tomatoes and trucked out finished products, as the railroad had long since been removed. By trucking tomatoes from other states, the canning season was extended. Beans and greens were processed some years, then some poke greens. Electricity and city water had long been available and a second shift was added for many years. In the last years some quick-freezing was done, especially of strawberries and blackberries.

Lela Couch also remembered about 1936 when some of the workers were Rickert, Fields, Pense and Lankford families, Allie Hudson, Lillian Yount, Opal Phillips and daughters,

Imogene Hudson, Earl Phillips, just to name a few. Mrs. Lois Moore punched tickets. Shell Littrell, truck driver, hauled in workers from outlying communities to the factory.



*Workers at Canning Factory--1904
(Brewster Photo)*

Mrs. Mary Ann Watts Black remembered working there in 1909 when at 9 years of age she had to stand on a box to reach peeling tomatoes. She remembers some other workers: Mattie (Strickler) Watts, Myrtle, Elva, Edith and Charlotte Watts, Pete West and his mother, a Mrs. Crawford who punched tickets, and her daughter, Ocie.

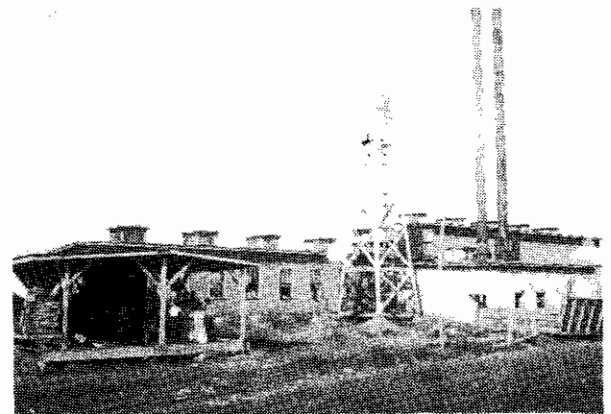
Emery Phillips began working with Johnny Kelly in January 1955. After Johnny's death, he formed a corporation with other stockholders, Kelly Canning Co., Inc., which remains to the present. These buildings are now being used by Madewell Pallet Products. Only a portion of the original factory building remains.

Mrs. Bernice Branch organized the first reunion of the Kelly Canning Factory workers at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park October 26, 1985. (This occasion commemorated the annual cooperative factory dinner held each year at season's end.) Over 100 people attended. Emery Phillips blew a whistle to simulate the factory whistle to assemble. He also sliced tomatoes to serve at the factory dinner.

A few of the factory workers were attired in the visored net

caps, plastic aprons and gloves, and carried spoon knives, uniforms of those old tomato-peeling days. Chairperson Bernice Branch presented fund-gifts to the following: No. 1 Boss, Emory Phillips; No. 1 Secretary, Betty Bell; No. 1 Woman Worker, Ollie Vickery; No. 1 Man Worker, Kenneth Cooper; No. 1 Peeler, Earline Benton and Pearlle Speers; No. 1 Trucker, Lawton Villines. Harrison Leach was remembered, though not able to be present. Ollie Hodges was the oldest person present.

It would be impossible to list all of the hundreds of workers who have been employees of this factory, but many agree that one who should be especially remembered is the late Daisy Tyree, supervisor of women workers for many years. (Louise Cooper followed her in this job.) Although this era has



*Canning Factory
(E. Davidson Photo)*

passed, the workers remaining, still remember.

E. H. DORMAN, MONUMENT MAKER

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise,
March 4, 1937)*

Not 200 feet from Prairie Grove cemetery is a low, tin-covered structure with a narrow gauge track leading up to it from the street, and a number of large slabs of marble and granite set about under the porch roof. This business was owned by

Ernest H. Dorman, who was probably the oldest tombstone carver in the state, having entered the business 59 years ago.

Stones in the Prairie Grove Cemetery date back to 1834 and Mr. Dorman reckons that he has put up four-fifths of them.



*Ernest Henry Dorman (father of Maynard), Aunt Cynthia Dorman, Marquis Warren Dorman (father of Ernest), Maynard Anthony Dorman, at quarry East of Prairie Grove, 1908.
(E. Davidson Photo)*

Dorman was born in Rutlandshire, England, 78 years ago. When seven years old, he came with his parents to Fayette-



E. H. Dorman Marble Works. Left to Right: Tom Leach, Tom Woolverton, Tom Stitzler, J. E. Sturdivant, Louis Switzler, Henderson Brunk, E. H. Dorman, J. J. Baggett and Andy Webb, Maynard Dorman in wagon, (1886)

(E. Davidson Photo)

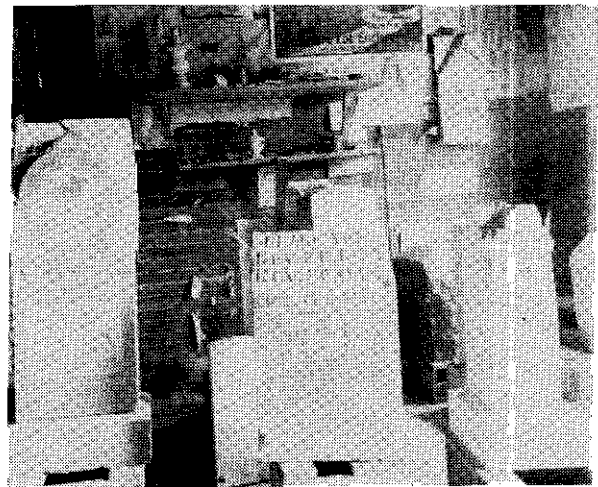
ville.

He began making tombstones when he was nineteen and followed the trade all his life.

His shop was first at Fayetteville, but in 1886 he moved to Prairie Grove. He made and erected tombstones for people over much of Northwest Arkansas and part of Oklahoma.

Until 1932 he carved all tombstones by chisel and hammer. Later he used sand blast, covering the face of the stone with a rubber stencil. "I don't know that it saved much time," he said, "since you have to wait a day or so for the stencil to stick on the stone, and you have to be mighty careful when blasting that none of the smaller pieces come off."

His shop was located on West Buchanan Street about the center of the block (where the Oklahoma Tire and Supply is now oper-



Interior of Dorman Monument Works about the turn of the century.

(E. Davidson Photo)

ating). In the old tin building there was a small room littered with tombstone advertisements, suggesting the shapes and inscriptions that people might want. A book of epitaphs included pieces of four-line verse and scriptural quotations, also lines in Latin and German. When Mr. Dorman was asked if he was ever called upon to inscribe in Latin or German, he replied, "Yes, and in Cherokee. I couldn't read Cherokee any more than rabbit tracks, but I was sent the inscription to put on and a copy of a Tahlequah paper published in Cherokee to get the

type from, and I put it on." Several times he has inscribed Cherokee epitaphs.

Ernest Henry Dorman married Dora Antonio Cohea December 12, 1884. They had six children, Maynard A., Ruby Dorman Hudson, Mittie Jewel Cook, Opal Dorman



Grave markers for parents of E. H. Dorman; Mark Warren Dorman, 1835-1908; Matilda Pogson Dorman, 1836-1883.

(E. Davidson Photo)

Morton, Mary, who died as a child, and Beryl Dorman.

Three granddaughters remain in this area: Eugenia (Mrs. E. H.) Davidson of Prairie Grove, Myrtilla Dorman Cunningham of Rogers, and Joyce Dorman Cunningham of Bethel Grove. These are daughters of the late Maynard A. and Rosalie Dorman.

Mrs. Ernest Dorman died in 1912, and her husband died in 1938.

Mills

PRAIRIE GROVE'S FIRST MILL
DISMANTLED IN 1914

(*Prairie Grove Herald*,
August 13, 1914)

Another one of the old landmarks of this community is now being torn away. Mr. J. Ed Rogers has bought from Mr. Douglas Cummings the old mill property in Prairie Grove and is now tearing the building down.

This is the oldest structure in our town that has been used for business purposes. It was

erected about the year 1877, and at that time, one little store and a blacksmith shop, with a few residences, composed Prairie Grove. (The mill was South of the Laundry, on Mock Street.)

For a number of years this mill did a large business, but has not run steadily for the last ten years.

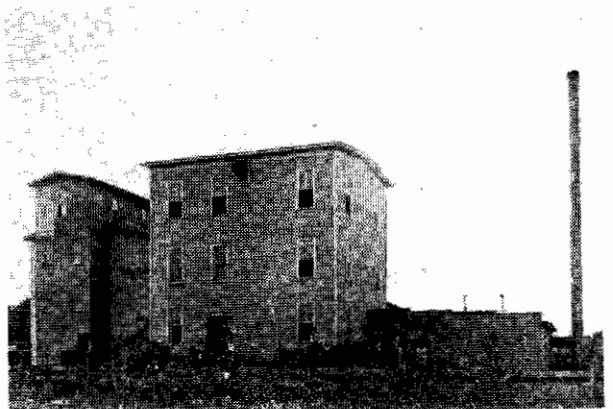
The mill building is four stories high, and the frame is of oak of large dimensions. The lumber will be used to erect another building, and the machinery will be stored away and offered for sale.

LIFE OF L. C. McCORMICK CLOSELY
CONNECTED WITH PRAIRIE GROVE'S MILLS

(*Prairie Grove Enterprise*, 1940)

The two flour mills standing near each other in the south part of town have furnished the setting for L. C. "Fay" McCormick's life since 1902.

The old frame mill was built in that year by Mr. McCormick and equipped with several thousand dollars worth of



L. C. McCormick Mill and Elevator Co. in
1904

(Brewster Photo)

machinery contracted from Barnard and Leas Manufacturing Co., Moline, Illinois. The machinery was the best available at the time and is still in use. A bleach blower has been added recently.

In the early days of the mill, it was operated day and night, turning out approximately 2,400,000 pounds of flour a



Early Prairie Grove viewed from atop Mill (Earl Ogden Photo)

year. In addition, 60,000 bushels of wheat were shipped from the elevators each year.

Mr. McCormick is now operating the Washington County Mill, largest flour mill in the county, under lease from the stock company. The company was formed by Fred Dorman and the mill constructed about the close of World War I with George Terpening as building contractor. Stockholders at the present time are John Brunk, R. D. Bogart, Mrs. Hattie Cunningham, Mrs. Nora Rollans, L. C. McCormick and John Parker.

"Mr. Fay," son and grandson of millers, a native Virginian, came to Arkansas with his parents when he was fifteen. He remembers that his father made nine coffins in one day for yellow fever victims when the family was living in Carlile. Leaving Carlile, the McCormicks moved to Evansville where they operated a mill for several years.

A lot back of McCoy's Produce is the site of the first mill in Prairie Grove. It was run for many years by Mr. McCormick, who worked for its different owners--Crowell, Katlett and Hall, and the Cummings Bros.

In 1893 Mr. McCormick became postmaster, an office he held four years. At the end of that time he resumed work at the Cummings mill and remained there until 1902 when he built L. C. McCormick Mill and Elevator Co. At this time E. C. Carl is operating this mill which is now known as the Prairie Grove Mill.

MILL CLOSES AFTER 38 YEARS OF SERVICE

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise,
January 16, 1941)*

Finis was written to 38 years of milling history when the Prairie Grove Milling Company closed January 1 and the equipment, as a whole or in part, was listed for sale. (This mill was located on the old railroad near what is now the South end of Pittman Street.)

When the mill was organized in 1902 with L. C. McCormick as manager, it was known as the L. C. McCormick Mill and Elevator Company. In 1913, under the management of J. A. Cravens, the name was changed to Prairie Grove Milling Company. E. C. Carl became manager in 1922.

Steam powered machinery used in the mill included four standard flour rolls, three pairs of high meal and chop mills, and chop rolls. Other equipment on hand--a gas engine, scales and automatic elevator scales.

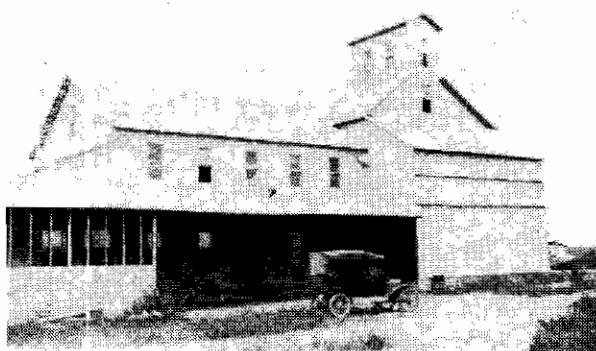
When the mill was operating, its products were regularly sold from Madison County to Fort Smith, and east to Muskogee. At one time Salisaw was one of the big trading points.

Some of the stockholders are: E. C. Carl, Frank Carl, Mrs. E. G. McCormick, Maddox Estate, B. H. Harrison Estate, A. C. Tennant Estate, L. L. Baggett, W. H. Baggett, R. O. Hannah Estate, L. C. McCormick, Mrs. Margaret McCormick, John Sharp, and G. W. Drummond.

WASHINGTON COUNTY
MILLING COMPANY

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
February 20, 1919)*

The Washington County Milling Co. is the name given the new organization just formed here for the purpose of conducting a general milling and elevator business in Prairie Grove. Officers of the new company are: F. A. Dorman, president; R. L.



Washington County Mill, photo by Fred Carlisle about 1919, with his Model T, Ford in the foreground.

(C. Carlisle Photo)

McCoy, vice-president; H. B. Collier, secretary-treasurer. The directors of the company are the above named officers with F. A. Terpening, R. D. Bogart, Walter Robinson, all of this area; and C. R. Latta of Salina, Kansas.

It is proposed for the company to incorporate with a capital of \$30,000.00. The location of the mill will be in the South part of town along the railroad, but the exact place has not yet been fully selected. (This mill is still standing, at the South end of Mock Street.)

MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
OF THE MILLS

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
July 12, 1923)*

The Prairie Grove Milling Company met for their annual

meeting on Friday afternoon. Reports showed that a very nice business had been carried out the past year. Several new improvements have been made, one of the warerooms has been newly sealed and a new water tank, with a capacity of 10,000 gallons, installed. Extensive tiling has been done in the basement. The manager will be elected at an early date by the following board of directors and officers: President, F. H. Carl; Vice President, G. W. Drummond; Secretary-Treasurer, Clint Carl, and Messrs. R. O. Hannah of Springdale, L. L. Baggett, E. G. McCormick and A. C. Tennant, of Farmington, board.

COHEA PURCHASES WASHINGTON
COUNTY MILL IN 1944

(Information provided by Atlas Cohea in an interview with G. E. Wiswell, May 1988.)

In 1944 Atlas Cohea purchased the Washington County Mill from the trustees: R. D. Bogart, John Brunk, Fay McCormick, Hattie Cunningham, A. M. Grey and Mrs. Nora Rollans.

Fred Cohea, a local miller who had operated a mill in Viney Grove since 1924, joined his son in the business. Amos Cohea, another son of Fred Cohea, joined the concern after returning from World War II.

The Coheas did not manufacture flour, but continued to grind and mix all kinds of farm feeds and corn meal. The flour manufacturing equipment was sold piece-by-piece during the time Cohea operated the mill.

Troy Sherry purchased the business and mill building in 1964 and continues to operate it as a feed store. Sherry is a native of the Strickler community and lives on a farm only a short distance from his childhood home. He also deals in buying and selling livestock.

(Herald, July 19, 1919)

The new mill will soon be

ready for operation. The machinery has arrived and a large force of men are now engaged in placing the machinery, a large part of which has been set. The Fairbanks and Morris Crude-oil burning engine, which arrived Wednesday morning is now being placed on its foundation.

The mill is now storing wheat in the new elevator every day, and the manager informs us that they expect to start the mill in about two weeks.

(Herald, July 12, 1923)

The Washington County Milling Company held the annual election of officers last Saturday. They are: President, J. P. Edmiston; Secretary-Treasurer, H. B. Collier. These will constitute the Board of Directors with the following other members: R. L. McCoy, Charles Ratliff, J. L. Strickler and M. F. Rollins. Reports show that the business has been fairly good the past year. This mill has installed an up-to-date corn milling outfit and is erecting a warehouse with a capacity of five car loads. The manager will be appointed at an early date by the board of directors.



Farm Machinery Demonstration on Prairie Grove Street



Walter Nugent with a wagonload of women he hauled to Fayetteville. He received a prize of \$5.00 for the biggest wagonload of women. Photo made between 1904 and 1910. (Rice Photo)

Frisco Railroad

OZARK AND CHEROKEE CENTRAL RAILROAD
IMPORTANT PART OF PRAIRIE GROVE HISTORY

By Neva McMurry

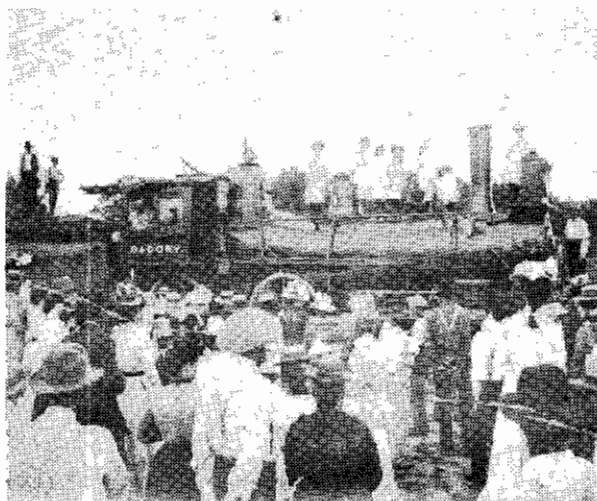
The railroad through Prairie Grove would never have become a reality without the cooperation of other communities along the line, so it is necessary to include much history of others to complete the picture.

When the people of Prairie Grove lost their first bid for the Frisco to Fayetteville, they did not give up. A newspaper item from a paper dated September 26, 1885 states, "After the project begins, Prairie Grove

should have a railway service in about one year." A second item from this publisher dated January 10, 1886, read, "Plans for improvement of Prairie Grove include building a railroad from Fayetteville, building a grand hotel, re-establishing and fixing up the Fairgrounds and enclosing and beautifying a park. Recently, 30 masked couples attended a masque social at the Academy in Prairie Grove." Apparently, the masque affair was to help raise money for these improvements.

From the U. of A. Mullins Library, Michael Dabrishus, Director, wrote "We recently re-

ceived a collection of family papers which included a broadside announcing a meeting



A large crowd turns out to view the first train into Prairie Grove. The arrival of the train was usually greeted by an interested crowd of onlookers.

First Train into Prairie Grove.

(Park Photo)

in Prairie Grove in 1888 relative to building of a railroad. The original came from the Kinnibrough-Engels papers. These families represent some of the pioneer settlers who lived in Washington County from 1830s forward."

The broadside said, Railroad Meeting--Every citizen feeling interested in the building of a railroad from the Frisco line to Prairie Grove is cordially invited to attend a Railroad Mass Meeting to be held at Prairie Grove, Tuesday, September 25, 1888, at 7 p.m. Signed--J. J. Baggett, Jas. E. Mock, C. G. Marrs, Provisional Committee. Names--W. H. Engels \$10,000, other names and amounts illegible in part, Mr. Mayes, President, and Vice-President appears to be Mr. Engels and Mr. Wilburn.

A duplicate of this broadside was received from Russell Broyles of Farmington who noted, "W. H. Engels, my own grandfather, gave the right-of-way for the railroad to run through his 80 A. farm, including a 4A. site for the Farmington depot."

Thus the Ozark and Cherokee

Central Railroad came into being running from Fayetteville through Farmington, Prairie Grove, Lincoln and Summers, Arkansas into Tahlequah, Muskogee and terminating at Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The tracks followed generally the present route of Highway 62.

This railroad was built in sections, beginning at each end and working toward the center. From Fayetteville working west, much of the road was built with convict labor. The Fayetteville camp was located a few feet south of present Highway 62. Convicts were housed in guardhouses. It is concluded that most hard labor on the railroad construction was done by blacks because many convicts were leased by the state to private contractors, and most of these convicts were black.

While the convicts worked, they were chained together in pairs. Hugh Jett recalled that one occasion, a convict became so angry with his partner that he picked up an axe and hit him over the head. The murderer was unshackled from his victim, without ceremony. The dead man was then buried in the railroad fill as the work continued. This incident happened near the hill between Prairie Grove and Lincoln.

Hugh Jett of Fayetteville also remembered hearing his father, Steve Jett, tell of walking from Fayetteville to Tahlequah to work on the construction of the Ozark and Cherokee Central line. On the way, they stopped at the homes of the Indians in what was then Indian Territory. While they worked on the road, they boarded with an Indian family. Mr. Jett said they worked 12 hours a day for which they received \$1.10, labor's going-rate at the time. There were few white people living along the line at the time, and many of the Indians spoke no English.

An undated newspaper clipping from Mrs. Steve Jett's scrapbook

states: "The Ozark and Cherokee Central Railroad was completed in 1901. It was a branch line of the Frisco which ran from Fayetteville to Muskogee. It was built by convict labor. It was constructed chiefly to get the fruit out of the valley."

The road became a very important factor in the development of the Illinois River Valley. During the harvest season, hundreds of train loads of apples were shipped. Second only to the apple crop was the strawberry harvest. Mr. Russell Broyles recalls entire trains loaded with nothing but strawberries. Other products including cattle, grain and timber were sent to market over this line.

The old Washington County Plat book of the early 1900s shows Prairie Grove to have had an evaporator, roller mill, stockyard and canning factory in addition to the depot located within the city limits along this railroad right-of-way.

The road was built originally as an independent line. According to Wm. S. Campbell's "One

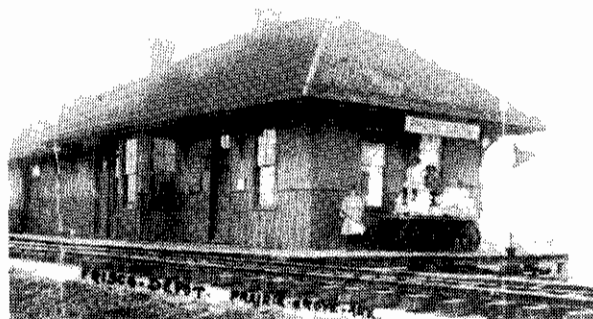


Frisco Depot, 1904
(Brewster Photo.)

Hundred Years of Fayetteville," "About 1900, J. H. McIlroy of Fayetteville, Dr. McCormick of Prairie Grove and others began agitating for a road westward, tapping the great valley of the Illinois and the timber west of it, crossing the Kansas City Southern of Westville, Oklahoma

and continuing to Tahlequah. Soon it was pushed to Muskogee and Okmulgee, making a link between the two main lines of the Frisco through very rich territory."

The accompanying postcard picture of the Prairie Grove Frisco Depot was copied from one lent to us by Glen Hudson of Rogers, Arkansas. His was mailed



Frisco Depot in Prairie Grove
(McMurry Photo)

to his aunt, Miss Celia Webber of West Fork, Arkansas (later Mrs. Celia Skelton of Larned, Kansas). On the correspondence side is written "A big memory in Celia's by-gone days." In talking with several oldtimers, I have found that they feel the same way.

Vol Rutherford of Lincoln also had one of these dated May 17, 1908 and addressed to Mrs. R. Ross, Staunton, now Greenland, Arkansas, carrying a one-cent postage stamp. It bears the message, "I've ventured again to-day. We have a mule and a calf. I never can come again to stay all night. I'll look for Ma and Henry if it ever quits raining."

Two of the signs on the track side of the building say, "Western Union Telegraph and Cable Office" and "Wells Fargo and Co. Express." The third is apparently a chalkboard on which to note train arrival and departure schedules.

As were all area town depots, this was a traditional gathering

place. All say it was the highlight of their younger days to walk down there to watch the trains come in, especially at 3 p.m. on Sundays. Most people really came downhill for it was located in the south part of town with few houses past that point at the time. The pilgrimage usually included a stroll around Mock Park and visit at its spring.

The two houses to the right in the picture are believed to be residences still on E. Thurman Street.

The depot was located on the north side of the railroad track at the corner of S. Neal and Commercial Streets. What is S. Neal now from that point south was Frisco Avenue on the old city plat of that time.

Young people sledding down S. Neal Street on winter snows usually turned around at the depot. Young children sometimes placed two crossed straight pins on a rail for a train to flatten, shaping a pair of tiny "scissors" as it passed.

The young ladies on the wagon and standing in front are as yet unidentified. Their clothing tells us something of the styles of the time--long black stockings, hightopped shoes, full long sleeves and dresses, apparently Bertha collars and bonnets.

There was a section house west of the depot with a well near. This was a source of water for section hands and train crews and it's said that it's never gone dry. Although the depot and other buildings were removed, this well is still in use. It had a unique octagonal top.

The J. W. Crawleys who now own a home on this piece of land use the well for watering their horses and garden. An area where the footing for the old depot once stood is now in their south yard. The grass in this spot turns brown in dry summer times.

A few official records supplied by the Crawleys list major

points up to 1961 when they bought this property from W. H. Bartholomew heirs, Marie and Roy Foren:

The piece of land on which the depot stood is a part of a much larger acreage which was granted to John Moore on March 10, 1843. John Tyler was U.S. president.

John and Lucinda Moore sold some of this to Andrew Alexander and Manerva Crawford June 17, 1837. The Crawfords sold it to Wm. T. and James P. Neal in 1845, some Neal heirs sold a portion to E. C. Carl in 1898 who in turn sold some to D. N. McCormick in 1900.

Some Neal heirs sold a little acreage to George E. Brunk and George and Frank Terpening in 1889. The Brunks donated some land to W. A. Bright, trustee, in 1889 for a railway, provided it were constructed and in operation within a year. W. A. Bright gave a quit claim deed to Ozark and Cherokee Central Railway in 1903, as did W. W. Carl in 1902. (We're sure these names explain the origin of Bright's Addition where my home is located and Brunk Street bordering my land on the north.) Ozark and Cherokee Central Railway and St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Co. formed a corporation in 1907. This system of railroads in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Indian Territory and Territory of Oklahoma operated from St. Louis through Fayetteville to Ft. Smith; also, out of Fayetteville to Okmulgee, in Indian Territory, via Muskogee.

After trains discontinued, St. Louis-San Francisco Railway sold a portion of land between Ozark Street and Mock Street to Ed H. Rich in 1943 who sold some of it to W. H. Bartholomew shortly thereafter.

From Mrs. Jett's scrapbook, "Harry Dutton brought the first train into Prairie Grove and drove the last one out. A celebration was held when the first train came in. Geneva Mock christened the engine. Mr. Rich-

ardson was the first station agent, and William H. Mock was the railroad's surgeon. Mr. Richardson was followed by W. R. Dodson and Walter Lark. Mr. Lark was station agent when the tracks were taken up in 1942. He was called at 4 a.m. that morning. The station was torn down the very same day, leaving him sitting on a keg of nails."

W. R. Dodson came here in 1912 from Pettigrew where he held the first job.

The late Dolph Helm of Prairie Grove rode on that first train that came through. As he was weak from a bout with typhoid fever, Tom Dixon carried him.

While little seems to have been written about passenger train service, memories and common sense tell us that this was a very important part of this railroad. Few people had automobiles in those earlier times. What an exciting trip was even the few miles to the County Seat in Fayetteville, not to mention connections made in the more rare events of travel to farther places.

One personal note: my own parents made at least one trip on this railroad in their move from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Arkansas. I remember also my mother telling of the time shortly after they came, about 1917, when she drove a horse and buggy from their home at Hog Eye to meet my father's nephew here in Prairie Grove where he arrived by train from his home in Muskogee.

Also, this railroad must have been an important part of the U.S. Postal Service and other package freight among other services somehow overlooked or taken for granted in written records of the day.

For sometime before the Ozark and Cherokee Central was finally closed, railroad officials agitated for its closing. According to Mrs. Irene Canady (station agent at Lincoln, and daughter

of Bob Glover, longtime depot agent at West Fork), the Frisco would ship merchandise in a roundabout way into Texas and back into Oklahoma, using trucks to its final destination rather than use the shorter route offered by the O and CC. Never-



Section Hand Crew on Frisco Railroad out of Prairie Grove, William N. Mattison is on the left, (D. Mattison Photo)

theless, business people and farmers employed their influence to keep the road open to the very last. She recalled receiving a letter July 9, 1942, from the officials that the road would remain open. She was elated and took the letter to Mr. Mayes who was in the process of building an apple packing shed beside the tracks. He was investing considerable capital in the business, operation of which depended upon the railroad to ship the apples. Prospects looked bright for the future.

The next morning, July 10, 1942, Mrs. Canady said that when she opened her station's door, the telegraph keys were clicking frantically. The message stated that the road was closing. She was to have everything in the station packed and ready to be picked up by a train arriving at 10 a.m.--just two hours hence. It was impossible to meet this unexpected deadline.

When the train arrived on schedule, those dispatched to dismantle the office piled everything into the empty box-cars without any attempt to salvage what they were loading. Everything was piled helter-skelter. With deepest regrets,

Mrs. Canady had to relay the distressing news to the community.

Removal of the rails was begun about the middle of the line, and crews worked in each direction toward its ends. Mrs. Canady believed it was done in this manner because the Frisco was determined to discontinue operation of the road. The officials feared that if removal of the tracks was started at either end of the line, the business people along the road might bring an injunction to stop the work. She said she could see no other reason for such a surprise move and rapid removal of the tracks.

Traces of the roadbed can still be seen along the old railroad's route and can remind all of us of the pioneering people who gave so much to make this project possible.

We appreciate all the help given in research of this railroad history. We especially thank Robert G. Winn who so graciously allowed us to use much material from his "Rail-

roads of Northwest Arkansas" book.

Albert S. Johnston was section foreman out of Prairie Grove from 1930 to 1942. The Johnston family lived in the house on the corner of Pittman and Center Streets. Abbott Johnston, a son, still has a home in Prairie Grove.

R. L. McWhorter carried the mail from the Prairie Grove Post Office to the Frisco Depot for many years. He first used a horse-drawn hack and later a Model T Ford.

Jeff Campbell worked for Hobbs Enterprises who furnished cross ties for building the Frisco Railroad to Prairie Grove. The old yard used for storing the supply of cross ties was located on the land which was later used by the telephone company for storing used poles, at the South end of Pittman Street.

Theatres and Entertainment

THEATRES AND CHAUTAUQUAS
PROVIDE MANY HOURS OF ENTERTAINMENT

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
October 26, 1911)*

Messrs. Frank E. Wilson and J. Wm. Cohea have made arrangements to put on a Moving Picture show here in the opera house, beginning some time next week.

These moving picture shows are just now having a great run all over the country. They afford a pleasant evening's entertainment and with a careful selection of films, very instructive, affording opportunity to see views of homeland and foreign countries that the average citizen does not have the means of seeing. We feel sure that Messrs. Wilson and Cohea will give us nothing but the best. Mr. Cohea has been in

Kansas City this week purchasing a machine for the shows.

LYRIC, THE NEW SHOW SHOP

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
May 8, 1913)*

The Lyric is the name of the new Picture Show establishment just opened in the room under Masonic Temple, by Bert Taylor. (Presently the home of the Prairie Grove Enterprise.) A person going into the building now would not recognize it as the store room as of yore. It has been nicely fitted up for a picture show, with incline floor and comfortable seats, carpeted aisles, etc.

The building is electric lighted from a new dynamo in the rear of the building, which also furnishes the light for the pic-

ture machine.

The machine booth is in an elevated position above the front entrance, and lined with asbestos, making it fire proof. As a whole, it is a very attractive place of amusement.



An early street scene in Prairie Grove, Buchanan Street looking West. Note Opera House on North row of buildings, the horse-drawn vehicles, etc.
(Brewster Photo)

LYRIC THEATRE NAME CHANGED TO COZY THEATRE

The Lyric Theatre operated in Prairie Grove until 1925 at which time the name was changed to the Cozy Theatre. Mr. C. L. Hilton was manager.

In 1927 a Gardner Velvet Golden Fibre Screen, 9½' x 12½' was installed. A Photo-Player Pipe Organ was added the same year at a cost of \$6,750.00. It was the largest pipe organ ever installed in any theatre in Northwest Arkansas, according to C. L. Hilton, manager.

OPERA HOUSE REMODELED IN 1914 BY E. K. TORBETT

The Prairie Grove Opera House, a very popular entertainment place in the early 1900s, was located on the North side of Buchanan Street over a grocery store and a drug store. A stairway entrance was three doors east of the Bank.

In 1914 the Opera House was remodeled by E. K. Torbett, the new leasee, according to an article published in the April issue of the Herald. All the wood work of the interior is being repainted and given a

fresh appearance. The lighting system is going to be a very attractive feature. The entire house is being wired to furnish lights of different colors. The main auditorium will have 14 lights, and will be so arranged that the room will always be lighted during the picture shows, and still not interfere with the clearness of the pictures. The stage will also be supplied with lights of different colors. The entrance stairway will also be well lighted. Two large electric fans will serve to help cool the auditorium during warm weather. When completed it is going to be a very neat and attractive place. He expects to open Saturday night with a Picture show.

The Prairie Grove Chautauqua was a very important part of the summer entertainment at the Opera house. Such performers as the famous Kilts Band of Canada; Dr. John Merritte Driver, author and composer; Marion Whorton, lecturer and author; the Beverly Entertainers; Ye Olde Towne Quartet, and many others appeared on the stage of the Opera house. The Shepherd of the Hills played at the Lyric Opera House Tuesday, November 17, 1914. Admission 25¢ and 50¢.

LOCAL MOVIE THEATRE TO OPEN FRIDAY NIGHT

*(Prairie Grove Leader,
May 11, 1934)*

The Beverly Theatre will open Friday night, according to a statement today of James Fay Parks, manager. The first picture to be offered is "Sitting Pretty" by Paramount, starring Jack Oakie, Ginger Rogers, Gregory Ratoff, Jack Hailey and others. This is a musical comedy and is favorably reported by those who have seen it. "Betty Boop" will be featured in the short comedy sketch. The same picture will be shown on Saturday night.

Monday and Tuesday Buddy

Rogers and Cliff Edwards will be starred in "Take A Chance." Admission prices are 10¢ and 25¢.

Saturday afternoon Parks will run two matinees, paid for by the local business firms.



*Beverly Theatre, on Buchanan Street in
Prairie Grove, 1938.
(Copied from U of A Library)*

Tickets are being given away by the sponsors of the matinees whose names are listed: Southern Mercantile Co., Crescent Cash Store, Hammontree's Cafe, Bartholomew's Grocery, Sterling Drug, The Weekly Leader, Ideal Grocery, O K Tailor Shop, Carney's Cafe, West Side Garage, J. F. Holmes, Magnolia Service Station, Jim Smith, Farmers Cash Store, City Meat Market, Magnolia Petroleum Co., Vol Hannah, Prairie Grove Garage, Prairie Grove Lumber Co., Harlan and Carl, Peerless Barber Shop, Dixon Saddle Shop, Wilson's Barber Shop, Roy Sharrock.

Parks promises to bring the best pictures obtainable. A partial list of bookings includes: Night Flight; Dancing Lady; Going Hollywood; Dinner at Eight; The Showoff; Men in White; Tarzan and His Mate; Viva Villa and many others.

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise,
April 23, 1941)*

In November 1934 James Fay Parks, his twin brothers, Donald and Barry, and Taylor Hannah went into business. James Fay had been a prominent member of

the Beverly Players, a group of young people who produced plays under the sponsorship of Clay Mobley, playwright; so the new business just naturally fell heir to the name, "Beverly Theatre."

Beverly Theatre first opened its doors in the building one door east of Ratliff Grocery on the North side of Buchanan Street. After showing there for three months, showing two shows a week, it was then moved to the building which is now the Farmers Hardware on the South side of Buchanan. Arthur McCormick, uncle of the Parks, joined the managing force at this time.

In 1935 James Fay turned the management of the now thriving business over to his brother, Donald and went to Chicago where he managed a radio agency.

Donald, then 16, had the distinction of being the youngest theatre exhibitor in the Tennessee-Arkansas territory.

Many improvements have been made since 1934, among which are the replacing of the plain wooden row seats with leather cushioned seats on the elevated floor; the installation of a cooling system and a new sound system. The front of the theatre has also been remodeled with the addition of a marquee and cashier's booth.

Three shows a week are now presented, running every night of the week and Saturday afternoon. Jack Cox helps operate the machines and John Henry Brewster acts as usher.

Their record show attendance was the recent "Gone With the Wind." "Jesse James" was a close second. Gene Autrey is the favorite western star. Action pictures, such as Jesse James and Dodge City are the most popular, and comedy pictures, such as "The Road to Zanzibar," are not far behind.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Jones who moved here from Oklahoma purchased the theatre in 1952 and operated it until it was permanently closed Saturday

night, October 15, 1959. The Jones' stated that most of the equipment would be sent to Oklahoma City where it will be sold.



Prairie Grove Band, circa 1915: Left to Right: John Perry West, Milton Barnett, Mr. McEwen (director and school principal), Paul (Sonny) Stewart, unknown, Lake Hannah and Autry Wilson.

Mock Park, a Gift to City of Prairie Grove

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise,
July 4, 1963)*

Mock Park, long a Prairie Grove landmark, located near the center of the City and adjacent to the new post office building, has been donated to the City by Dr. Will H. Mock, veteran physician and civic leader.

The land, which was to become Mock Park, was purchased in 1901 by Dr. Mock and was the first real estate he ever owned. He removed all old buildings, some being constructed of logs, hauled in hundreds of wagon loads of soil, graded and leveled the tract and planted trees. Later he purchased additional land and added it to the park.

For many years Prairie Grove obtained its city water from the large spring in the park--a spring that served as a water source for early settlers in the Prairie Grove Valley. The Park has been free to the public for picnics, community public meetings, political and religious gatherings. Dr. Mock's only regard and compensation has been witnessing the enjoyment, benefits and pleasures that the city and community derived from the park.

Dr. Mock stated that he made

NOTICE

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
November 1, 1917)*

Beginning November 1, admission to the Lyric Theatre will be raised to 6¢ and 11¢ instead of 5¢ and 10¢. This one cent goes to the government. This is a war tax to be paid by the people. I have to pay 15¢ war tax on each reel that is shown. So come to the picture show, and enjoy a good show, and give your 1¢ to the government.

Manager

this donation to the City by reason of his interest "in the beautification, progress and general welfare of the City, his concern for the citizens whom he admired, trusted and loved, and with whom he spent a lifetime; and further as a means of conveying his deep gratitude for the encouragement, confidence, friendship, and all the courtesies and kindnesses that have been bestowed upon him along the way of life."



*A group of ladies gathered at Mock Park for an evening's outing about the turn of the century.
(W. Allen Photo)*

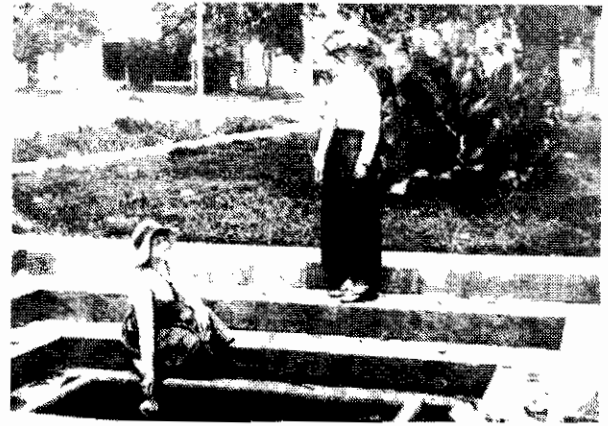
Participating in the presentation ceremony in the park, in addition to Dr. Mock and Mayor Calvin Bain, were Aldermen Donald Parks and D. E. Rieff, City Treasurer Wilford Thompson,

City Recorder G. E. Wiswell; and Barry Parks, president of the Lions Club.

In presenting the deed, Dr. Mock told the city officials the gift is a means of conveying his deep gratitude for the encouragement, confidence, friendship and kindness bestowed on him by the people of Prairie Grove.

Coffins finished always on hand at Collier's. Also a complete line of furniture, such as is required to adorn any home.

(*Prairie Grove News* 8-22-1885)



Young ladies refresh themselves with drink from spring.

Battle of Prairie Grove

By Robert Serio, Park Historian

In April 1862 the Confederate Army that was defeated at the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas (March 7-8, 1862) was transferred east of the Mississippi River. Northwest Arkansas and the remainder of the state was left open to the Union Army which rapidly penetrated the interior of the state coming within 45 miles of the state capitol at Little Rock.

The ensuing consternation brought attention to Arkansas' dilemma, and a savior in the form of Confederate Major General Thomas C. Hindman who was appointed to take command in Arkansas in May 1862. Soon after his arrival, Hindman issued a formal proclamation stating that he had come, "to drive out the invader or perish in the attempt." For the time being he did drive out the invader. With pitifully inadequate forces he managed to harass the Union forces into Helena, Arkansas on the Mississippi River where they remained bottled up and ineffective.

With the few existing Federal troops out of the way Hindman was free to occupy Northwest Arkansas and begin mustering Confederate troops in the region. This also provided an avenue by which Missouri Confed-

erate officers could slip clandestinely into that state to recruit men for the southern cause.

It was this audacious activity, often carried out under the very noses of Federal authorities, that resulted in the first armed clash of the Prairie Grove campaign. In August 1862 southern recruits struck Federal troops at Lone Jack, Missouri. Although the Missouri Confederates won handily and captured an artillery battery they quickly headed south for safety. In response to this escalation in Confederate activity the Federal government put a corresponding force, The Army of the Frontier, into the field under the command of General John Schofield.

Schofield rapidly put his troops into the field, concentrating his force near Sarcoxie, Missouri in late September 1862. To the south was a mixed Confederate force of Indians, Texans and Missourians under the command of General James S. Rains and General Douglas Cooper near Newtonia, Missouri. General Hindman was away on military business in Little Rock.

Schofield's troops struck impetuously at the Confederates on September 30, 1862 and were sent reeling back north. Even with the stinging defeat to the Confederate's credit they realized

their force was no match for Schofield's entire army which would surely arrive the next day for a rematch. They prudently retired across the state line into Arkansas. General Schofield, sensing success, followed close on the Confederate's heels. Sending one division under Brigadier General James Blunt to follow Cooper's Confederate Indians, Schofield scoured Northwest Arkansas for rebels. Blunt caught up with Cooper near Maysville, Arkansas on October 22, 1862 and avenged the Newtonia affair by scattering the rebels, capturing their artillery and much of their supply train. By the end of the month the nearest Confederate troops were in the Arkansas River Valley.

With winter ahead, General Schofield felt that there would be no more major incursions by Confederates into Northwest Arkansas until spring. Accordingly he directed Blunt to go into winter quarters with his division near Maysville, Arkansas. Schofield then marched his other two divisions back to Springfield, Missouri. Then he took leave and repaired to St. Louis, Missouri. Second in command Brigadier General James Totten also went to St. Louis on court martial duty, leaving Brigadier General Francis Herron in charge.

Hindman returned to the army in the field, promptly ousted Rains for not showing more fight, and began to concentrate his troops on Mizzard Prairie south of Ft. Smith, Arkansas. By late November Hindman was ready for action. In response to a reconnaissance in force by some of Blunt's cavalry he unleashed the hard-riding troopers of General John S. Marmaduke. Marmaduke followed the Federal into Washington County, Arkansas fighting a sharp series of engagements in and near Cane Hill on November 28, 1862. Blunt brought up his entire force and Marmaduke skillfully withdrew with infor-

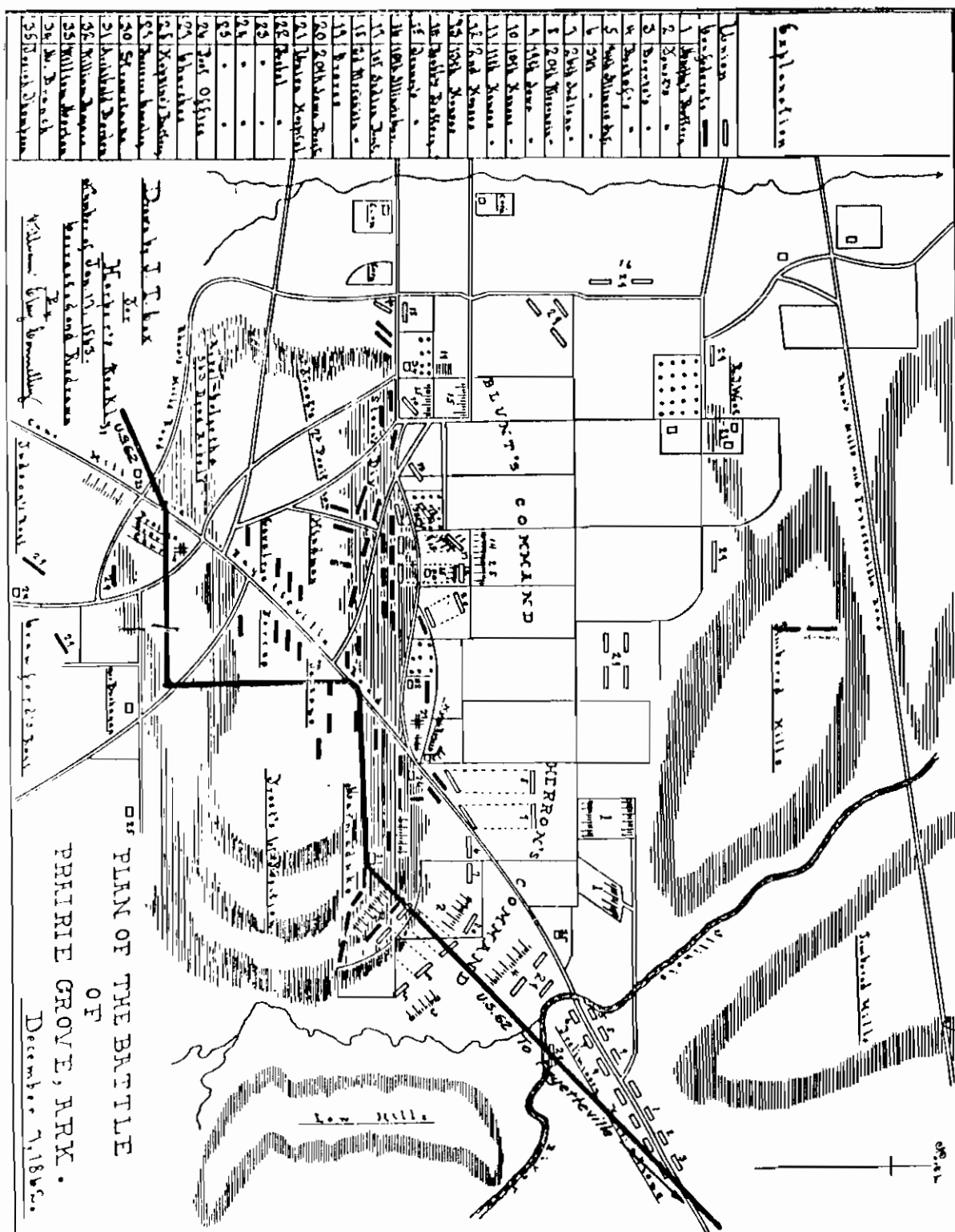
mation on Blunt's strength and position.

With this information at hand, Hindman realized that he could easily strike Blunt with an overwhelming force of 11,000 men. Hindman marched to attack Blunt in his exposed position at Cane Hill, Arkansas, crossing the Arkansas River on December 2, 1862. Blunt, ever vigilant, wired for reinforcements as soon as he knew of Hindman's advance. It was December 3, 1862 when General Francis Herron began one of the swiftest marches of the Civil War, covering the 100-plus miles from Springfield, Missouri to Fayetteville, Arkansas in three days. Herron's troops arrived in Fayetteville around midnight of December 6, 1862.

At that moment, Major General Thomas C. Hindman and the First Corps Army of the Trans-Mississippi was in position to attack the division of General James G. Blunt at Cane Hill. The arrival of Herron in Fayetteville changed the situation entirely. Hindman rapidly altered his plans. By 4:00 a.m. of December 7, 1862 his army was marching north on the Cove Creek Road toward Fayetteville, in search of Herron.

Around dawn Marmaduke's Cavalry struck the advance cavalry of Herron's column just south of Prairie Grove Church. Routing the Union troopers, Marmaduke's horsemen followed them in a whirlwind chase across the Illinois River to Walnut Grove. Here Marmaduke ran into the main column of the Union army. Herron's men went into line of battle and drove the Confederate cavalry back toward the Illinois River.

Ahead of Herron's tired troops lay the Illinois River. The road crossed it at a ford, then ran southwest across a prairie, before ascending a ridge of plateau. East of the road the Arch Borden house loomed on the skyline. West of the road were the houses of Hugh and William Rogers. Farther to



the west was the Morton farm and house. This would be the physical setting for the main action of the Battle of Prairie Grove.

Reaching the ford across the Illinois River, Herron found it impossible to cross without great loss of life. The Confederate army was already in position on the ridge and Blocher's

Arkansas Battery was shelling the crossing with great regularity. Quickly sizing up the situation, Herron had a road cut downstream to another ford, where he crossed a long range battery of rifled guns along with some supporting troops. The artillery soon silenced the Confederate guns and the rest of

Herron's troops came across at the main ford.

Now with several batteries at work Herron shelled the ridge and moved his available infantry to the attack. Two regiments, the 19th Iowa and the 20th Wisconsin rushed over the ridge, past Borden's house and into an orchard behind it. There awaiting them in well-prepared positions were the infantry of General Francis A. Shoup's Division along with Colonel J. O. Shelby's Brigade of dismounted cavalry. This Confederate force outnumbered the Union troops at least three to one.

The hopelessly outnumbered Union Infantry were soon streaming down the north slope of the ridge with the rebels in hot pursuit. The fire of the Union artillery stunned the Confederate counter-attack and sent it reeling back over the ridge to safety.

Once again Herron's troops moved to the attack. This time the 37th Illinois and the 26th Indiana attacked only to be dealt the same hard blows. Again the Union artillery repulsed the Confederate attempt to capitalize on the situation. By this time the Union army on the field had been considerably weakened and Hindman began to assemble a fresh division of troops under General Daniel Marsh Frost. These troops were to sweep down on the Union right flank and press them into the river. The situation was bleak for the Union army.

General Blunt had spent an anxious morning at Cane Hill. Hearing the artillery fire at

Prairie Grove confirmed his suspicions that Hindman's army had stolen a march on him. Blunt rapidly marched for the battlefield via Rhea's Mill in order to secure the mill and his supply train from capture. It was nearly 3:00 p.m. when Blunt came onto the field from the northwest, quickly deploying his infantry and artillery.

Hindman's flanking movement was preempted and his opportunity for fighting and defeating the divided Union army was gone. Blunt now mounted several savage attacks on the Confederate left flank anchored around the Morton farm. Near dusk Blunt accepted the futility of his attacks and retired onto the prairie below the ridge. Just at sunset the Confederates in Blunt's front mounted a strong assault designed to sweep him from the field. Blunt's infantry grimly held their line and along with the massed guns of the artillery shattered the Confederate attack.

Nightfall brought an end to the fighting. Over 300 men had died in the day's battle. More than 1500 wounded men would convalesce in makeshift hospitals in Fayetteville and Cane Hill while over 500 men would be listed as simply "missing." In the dark of the night the southern army, its ammunition nearly exhausted, retreated toward Van Buren. The next morning a cautious skirmish line of Union infantry crested the ridge, rifles at ready, only to find it deserted. The Battle of Prairie Grove was over.

Prairie Grove Battlefield Park

(The following information was provided by Robert Serio, Park Historian, and from articles taken from the Prairie Grove Herald, the Prairie Grove Enterprise, and Flashback)

The Prairie Grove Battlefield Park was formed in 1908

when the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy purchased nine acres of land which was the geographic center of the Battle of Prairie Grove. The grounds were used for many years as a meeting place for Confederate Veterans and their wives who were commemor-

ating the anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Prairie Grove, fought December 7, 1862. The Memorial Park was maintained by the UDC for almost 50 years.



*Ed Smith, Battlefield Park Superintendent
(Park Photo)*

In 1911 Senator Dill sponsored a bill which passed the Arkansas Senate, asking for \$10,000 for the benefit of the Memorial Park which encompassed the Battlefield at Prairie Grove. The appropriation, asked for by the UDC, was to assist in beautifying the grounds so that the Park could be made a fitting memorial to the cause to which it was dedicated.

In 1925 work on the Memorial Gateway and entrance was started with Wade Cheatham of Lincoln in charge. Other improvements made at this time included construction of a band-stand, a gravel driveway through the Park, and other minor changes.

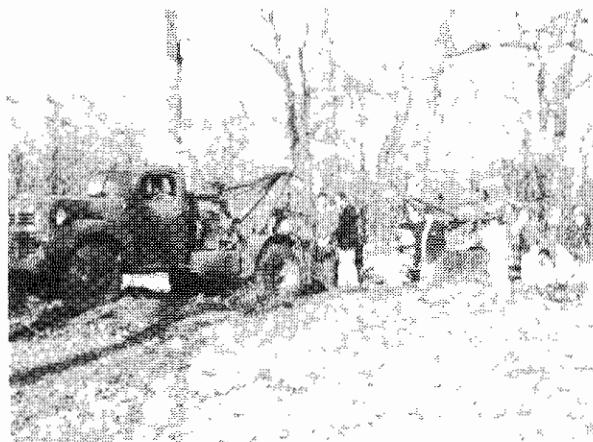
By 1924 the local chapter of United Confederate Veterans was disbanded because they were so few in number. The great Depression of the 1930s followed and close on its heels came World War II. There was little time and less money. Battlefield Park fell into a state of disrepair, and with so many people displaced by the depression and the

war, the annual reunion was cancelled for a few years.

In 1932 the Park was enclosed with a chain-link fence. Park facilities for many years included only a band/speaker's stand, five artillery pieces, a fountain built with funds raised by Children of the Confederacy, and a tablet marking the spot where General Hindman established his headquarters December 7, 1862.

In 1953 the Prairie Grove Lions Club adopted Battlefield Park as a club project, and under the leadership of Dr. Fred McCuiston, became actively interested in its development. As the Lions became involved a series of work-nights were held to clean up and beautify the Park area. The Lions Club installed the concrete picnic tables and benches as well as the playground equipment at the Park. They raised the money through the sale of barbecued chicken dinners at the Clothesline Fairs and Reunions.

In 1957 the stone chimney at



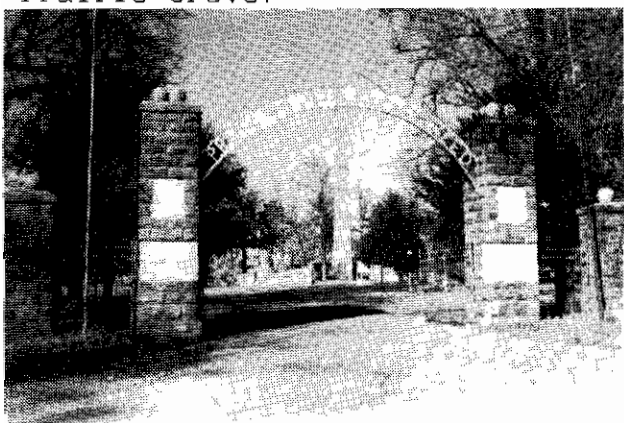
Jimmie Smith with two of his wreckers removing stumps at Battlefield Park when improvement and development of the Park was started in 1953. Others from left to right: Smith, Edward Broyles, Delford Rieff, Bob Henry, Clyde Ross and George Wiswell.

(Smith Photo)

Rhea's Mill was taken down stone-by-stone, each stone marked, and was moved to the Battlefield Park and rebuilt to its original form. Virgil Couch was in charge of this project. The mill at Rhea was operated by

the Federal Army before and after the Battle of Prairie Grove. General Blunt's supply train was at Rhea during the battle, under guard of General Frederick Solomon's troops.

The chimney is 55' high and weighs 200,000 pounds. It is 8' square at the base and 4' x 4' at the top. It contains 700 stones. The chimney was taken down at Rhea (about eight miles West of Prairie Grove), each stone was marked, and it was rebuilt at the Park as a Memorial to the men who fought on this field December 7, 1862. Virgil Couch was in charge of the work. The chimney was given to the Battlefield Park by Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Mennick and stands as a Monument to the Battle of Prairie Grove.



Battlefield Park Entrance

(Park Photo)

In 1958 "Vineyard Village"--the house, barn and well house--was given to the Park by F. F. Latta, grandson of the pioneer builder, and removed to the Park. This two-story log house and outbuildings were erected by John Latta about 1834 on Evansville Creek, about twelve miles Southeast of Evansville. The Latta settlement was called Vineyard, from the "Lord's Vineyard."

Vineyard was the first post office in Washington County (1829). John Latta was postmaster from 1835 to 1838 and conducted the office in his home. It was also a stop on the early stage route from Fayetteville and Cane Hill to Van

Buren. The house figured in many stirring events of pioneer days on the Indian border.



Latta House--moved from Vineyard Village near Evansville to Battlefield Park, (Park Photo)

The Latta House was rebuilt log-by-log in the Park, facing Highway 62, and contains furnishings typical of the Civil War period.

The Latta Barn has been equipped with a kitchen and dining/meeting room. It has served as a meeting place for the Prairie Grove Lions Club for a number of years. It is also the setting for many family gatherings and other meetings.

The home of John Morrow, located on Cove Creek, nine miles south of Prairie Grove, was moved to Battlefield Park in 1957. This ante-bellum home, once the show place of Cove Creek valley, was moved under the direction of professional architects and as far as possible, the original timbers, woodwork, dressed stones, and foundation, were preserved.

This house is historically important. On the night before the Battle of Prairie Grove, Confederate General T. C. Hindman met with the division and brigade commanders in this house and made final plans for the Battle of Prairie Grove. The army left the Morrow farm for Prairie Grove at four o'clock on the morning of December 7, 1862.

The Morrow House also sheltered Confederate General Price in February 1862 as his army was

enroute to the Battle of Pea Ridge.

The circular stone wall that encloses the Battle Monument (the old Rhea Chimney) is built



*Crowd at 1910 Reunion at Battlefield Park,
(Park Photo)*

of stones from historical structures of Washington County. Some 40 communities are represented, including the pioneer settlements of Cane Hill, Cincinnati, Viney Grove, Rhea's Mill, Mt. Comfort, Springdale, Elkins, Farmington, Fayetteville, and others. The stones are from early schools, churches, mills, post offices, colleges, stage-coach stations, and pioneer homes. They include building stones from old Cane Hill College, Ozark Institute, Salem Campground, Ada and Sweet Home Post Offices, the University of Arkansas, and many others. The wall is truly "History in Stones."

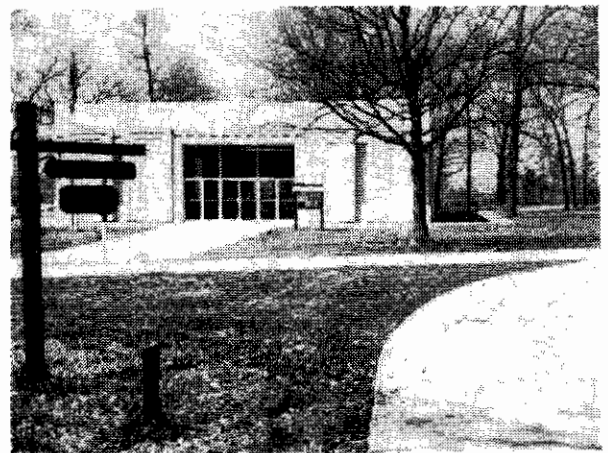
Completed in 1960 as part of the historic Park, were the Garrett Schoolhouse with hand-hewn logs and original seats. This school was originally located approximately 16 miles south of Prairie Grove. The building was erected by community labor around 1891. The teacher's desk was made by Jeff Cantrell in 1921. Will Clines and Riley X. Quinton constructed the brick chimney.

The village church (near the school), over 100 years old, has a belltower and original benches. The country store has a side room, counters, showcases and the customary pot-bellied

stove. A molasses mill is on the front porch. Other buildings include a blacksmith shop and a log dog-trot house.

On May 31, 1965, the Hindman Hall Museum was dedicated. Dr. Ralph Jones of the University of Arkansas made the dedication address. The museum was made possible through a bequest by Bisco Hindman, son of General Thomas C. Hindman, who commanded the Confederate forces during the Battle of Prairie Grove. The beautiful building stands just West of the entrance gate to the Park. It houses all types of battle relics, guns, pictures, cannon balls, Minnie balls, Maps of the Battle, a diorama of the battle, etc. The offices of the Park Management are also located in the Museum.

In 1971 the Battlefield Memorial Foundation turned over the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park to the Arkansas State Park System. Under supervision of the Arkansas State Park System, many improvements have been made, including: blacktopping of driveways, a caretaker's home, construction of a rail fence



*Hindman Hall, Battlefield Park
(Park Photo)*

along Highway 62, and year-around maintenance of the Park.

In 1979 the old Borden House and two acres of land were purchased from Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Grissom. The old house stood in the line of Battle and is mentioned in officers' reports of the Battle. Although the house is believed to have been

constructed two years after the Battle, a house was located on the site and was referred to as "the house on the hill." It is believed that some of the materials in the Borden house may have been from the structure built before the Civil War. The outside of the house has been completely restored.

In 1980 Bill Ramsey, State Representative for this district, asked for \$200,000 from this special session of the General Assembly to purchase 74 acres of land East and North of the Battlefield Park. When this appropriation was approved and the land purchased, it almost doubled the size of the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park. A nice home was included in the transaction and is used by the Park Historian.



Prairie Grove Battle Reenactment, October 25-26, 1980,

(Park Photo)

REENACTMENT OF BATTLE OF PRAIRIE GROVE IS ANNUAL EVENT

Reenactments of the Battle of Prairie Grove are held each year at the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park. The demonstrations are given under the auspices of the State Park Services, and are supervised by Robert Serio, Park Historian.

Men from "Union Rifles," "24th Missouri Civil War Re-Enactors Association," and other units meet at the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park to drill, camp,

and re-live the life of the Civil War era. The Union Rifles participate as both North and South personnel, depending on which side soldiers are needed. Costumes can either be purchased or made.

At the weekend encampments, the soldiers and their families set up tents, cook and eat as was the custom of the Civil War era.

Many visitors come to the Park during the encampment to witness life as it was lived at that time and to see how the Battle of Prairie Grove was fought.

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY

The *Blue and the Gray*, an eight-hour mini-series filmed by Columbia Pictures and aired by CBS in the fall of 1982, contained scenes filmed at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park and other locations in and around Prairie Grove.

The \$15 million Civil War epic was based on a book by Bruce Cotton and starring such well-known actors as Stacy Keach, Rip Torn, David Doyle, Warren Oats, Geraldine Page, Paul Winfield, Sterling Hayden, Diane Baker and Gregory Peck. About 150 speaking parts were cast locally and 4,000 extras were used, many of these from Prairie Grove.

In addition to the excitement of a movie being made in Prairie Grove, it meant much to the economy of the area. Columbia Pictures spent \$55,000 a day while in Arkansas. This was the largest mini-series ever made by Columbia Pictures, and proved to be a successful television movie.

The new motor car, "the greatest improvement in riding comfort since the introduction of pneumatic tires," The Overland, from C. A. McCormick Motor Co. Roadster, \$845; coupe, \$1325; Sedan, \$1375. (*Herald*, 11-6-1919)



OLD TIME REUNION OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
 Front row, left to right; A. Dixon, Albert Strickler, C. W. McClellan, John McClellan, L. B. Roady, William Cass, George W. Nixon, James C. Bain, Preston Patterson, unidentified,

B. A. Carl, W. E. Pittman and Robert O. Hannah, Back row; William N. Scott, unidentified, G. W. (Dick) Morrow, unidentified, H. P. Green, William Allen, A. Allen, W. R. Wallace, B. C. Campbell, Robert W. Parks and James Norwood.



WIVES AND RELATIVES OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
 Front row, left to right; Mrs. Mark Lake, unidentified, Mrs. Lyda Pyeatt, Mrs. Margaret Mock, Mrs. H. P. Green, Mrs. Julia Crawford, unidentified, Mrs. Mary Zellner, Mrs. Emilie Maupin, Mrs. Roberta Magruder, Miss Mary Campbell, Mrs.

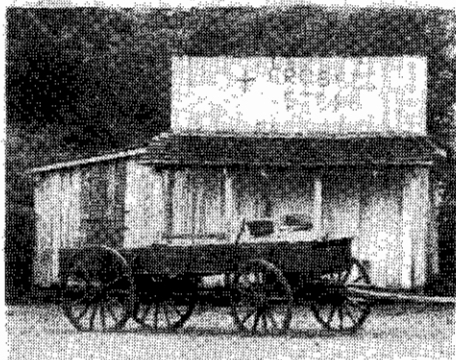
Cherry Scott, Back row; Mrs. Susie Hannah, Mrs. Cynthia Bradshaw, Mrs. Jane Hannah, Miss Betsey T. Campbell, Mrs. Amanda Marlar, Mrs. Julia Pyeatt, Mrs. Tennie Parks, Mrs. Mollie Allen, Mrs. Juan Bell, Mrs. Nancy Staples, Mrs. Sallie Nixon, Mrs. Strickler and Mrs. Bain.



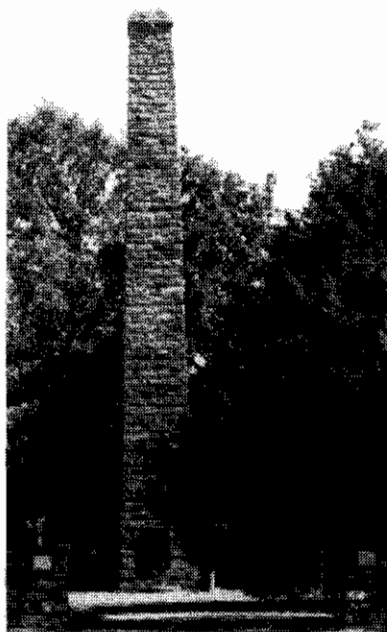
Smokehouse at Latta House



Jim Parks Shelter



Store Building and Wagon



Battle Monument
Old Rhes Mill
Chimney



Crowd at Bandstand



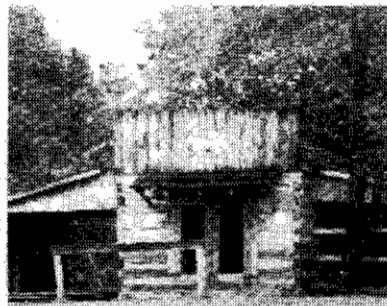
Latta House Ready to Move



School House



Log Church



Blacksmith Shop



Original Morrow House

Banks

By D. E. Rieff, Chairman of the Board, Farmers and Merchants Bank

At one time Prairie Grove had three banks operating at the same time--August, 1912 until August, 1914.

The first bank organized here was the Bank of Prairie Grove in



*Prairie Grove Bank Building, built 1901
(Holmes Photo)*

1901. Officers were: J. S. Edmiston, president; E. C. Carl, vice-president; and W. G. Collier, cashier and secretary. Other stockholders were: J. E. Franklin, I. H. Ford, R. L. McCoy, F. H. Carl, C. L. Cummings, G. W. Nixon, J. H. Brewster, D. N. McCormick, Dr. E. G. McCormick, J. P. Edmiston, G. O. D. Moore, Jonathan Wilkinson, W. W. Moore, Fannie Woody, J. B. Pearson, J. T. Carl, W. T. McCormick, L. C. McCormick, W. H. Simpson, W. D. Moore, W. R. Wallace, Van W. Carl, D. N. Edmiston and J. H. Marlar.

The Bank of Prairie Grove opened for business in a frame building where the Southern Mercantile is now located. Later it was moved to the present site of Neal's Dry Goods. It continued in that location until 1905 when it was sold to the newly organized First National Bank which occupied the same building until it was destroyed by fire in 1914.

The second bank organized was The Home Bank, founded in August, 1904 and located at the present site of the Prairie Grove Telephone Company warehouse which is located immediately north of the present Farmers and Merchants Bank building. The name of The Home Bank was changed to Farmers State Bank in 1913. It operated under this name until January 1, 1929.

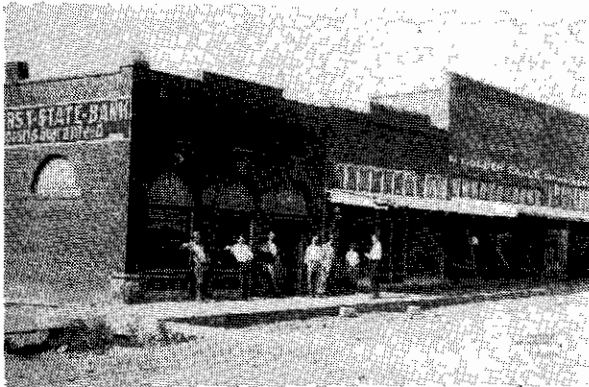
In December, 1905 the third bank was organized under the title of the First National Bank. Officers were: J. H. Marlar, president; E. C. Carl, vice-president; T. L. Hart, cashier and secretary; and W. R. Pearson, assistant cashier. Other stockholders were: W. H. Simpson, D. N. McCormick, J. B. Pearson, J. S. Edmiston and J. P. Harris.

The fourth bank in Prairie Grove was the Citizens Bank, organized in August 1912. Officers were: W. H. Mock, president; W. W. Carl, vice-president; and M. M. (Mel) Collier, cashier and secretary.

Other stockholders were: E. C. Carl, S. R. Wilson, Oscar Dearing, J. H. Zellner, D. N. McCormick, James C. Parks, F. H. Carl, L. C. McCormick, Oliver Phillips, W. R. Dodson, May Hannah, W. J. Maddox, L. L. Baggett and R. O. Hannah.

This bank built a new building at 116 East Buchanan Street. After operating there two years, it was purchased by the stockholders of the First National Bank, at which time the First

National Bank moved to the new building where it continued in business until consolidated with the Farmers State Bank in January 1, 1929 when the name was changed to the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

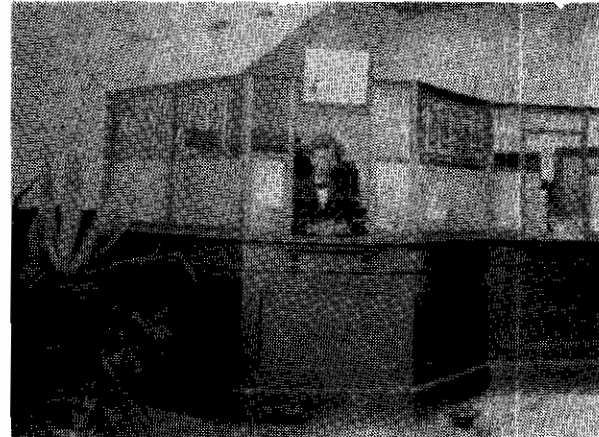


*Looking East on Buchanan Street from Mock Street.
(Alpha Terpening Photo)*

The Citizens Bank name was engraved in a cement slab near the top and across the front of the building. After the First National purchased the building and moved into it, they had their own name painted on a metal sign and attached to the building, covering up the Citizens Bank name. After this building was not used for a bank it was sold and occupied by Clark's Jewelry for a number of years. Mr. Clark took the metal sign down, and to the surprise of many people, they discovered the name of the Citizens Bank engraved in the cement. This building was used for a Post Office for a number of years, and later as a flower shop. The building is owned by Charles Knowles and the name of the Citizens Bank is still visible.

The Farmers and Merchants Bank was robbed April 1, 1932, by three men from Crawford County. Two of them came in the bank and the third stayed in the car. They had parked at the side of the bank. Ky Courtney and Earl Long were the ones who entered the bank; Albert Howell was the one staying in the car. The bank had three employees in 1932: Gilbert Shafer, cashier; D. E. Rieff, assistant cashier; and Jimmie Bell Geiger (now

Delap), secretary and book-keeper. Both Shafer and Ms. Geiger had gone to lunch. There was a customer, Mr. Beatty, in the bank when the robbers came and another customer, George Mobley, came in during the robbery. The robbers took \$4,168.35 before leaving the bank, and went south by way of Hogeys, Onda, Zinnamon and 86 school house. They abandoned the car in Crawford County. Howell was arrested several days after the robbery and put in the Washington County Jail where he stayed until convicted later in the year. Long was arrested in Oklahoma and brought to Fayetteville where he was also confined to the Washington County Jail. They both pleaded guilty. Howell was sentenced to a 7-year term and Long to a 15-year term. Later Courtney was captured near Figure Five in Crawford County. During the exchange of fire with the officers making the arrest, he was hit in his right knee by one buckshot, after which he surrendered. The officers had his brother with them when they



*Interior of one of the early banks in Prairie Grove, Man at window is Dick Collier.
(W. Thompson Photo)*

made the arrest. They immediately started to the hospital in Van Buren and he died enroute. The doctor at the hospital said he died from shock.

From a small beginning, great achievements have been made by the Farmers and Merchants Bank to the present time. Through six booms, five panics, fifteen

presidential administrations, two world wars--over an 84-year span which included good times and bad, the bank has experienced continuous operation. During the early thirties when many banks were failing and able to



*First National Bank
(Terpening Photo)*

pay depositors only a few cents on the dollar, the Farmers and Merchants Bank remained stable and no loss was sustained by a depositor.

When the bank observed its 50th Anniversary in August, 1954, total assets were \$1,602,105.35. The Board of Directors consisted of W. H. Bartholomew, Dr. W. H. Mock, J. C. Parks, W. E. N. Phillips and D. E. Rieff.

In the fall of 1959 the size of the bank building was doubled and employees were: D. E. Rieff, president; W. H. Thompson, cashier; Lorene Jones, secretary and assistant cashier; Mildred Broyles and Lavone Phillips, assistant cashiers; and Betty Beeks, bookkeeper and teller. Directors were Argil Bartholomew, Dr. W. H. Mock, Barry Parks, D. E. Rieff and Dr. Frank Riggall.

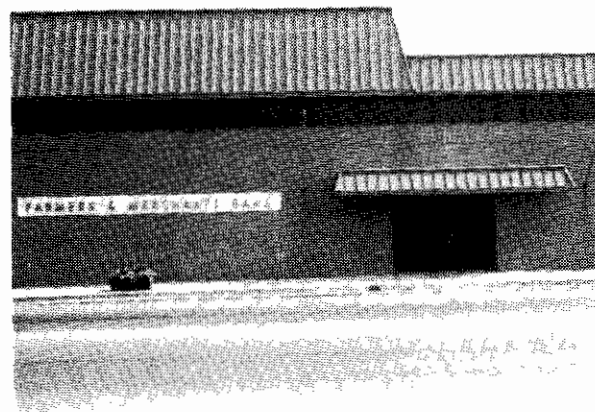
In 1974 an additional 10,800 square feet of floor space was included in the bank, bringing the total to 18,000 square feet. Two drive-up windows were added at this time.

A new branch bank constructed at Farmington to better serve the people in that area was opened in December 1977. This branch has four drive-up windows.

In 1988 as this history is being prepared officials and employees of the Farmers and Merchants Bank include: Directors, James C. Rieff, D. E. Rieff, W. H. Thompson, Barry H. Parks, Jim Herrin, Billy Joe Bartholomew and Argil Bartholomew.

Officers are: James C. Rieff, president; W. H. Thompson, executive vice president; Ted Duke, vice president/cashier; Rick Burden, vice-president/security; Judith Carter, assistant vice president/secretary; Lavonne Hall and Pat Holloway, assistant vice presidents; Pat Hand, Wylene Layman, Wanda Loman, and Katie More, assistant cashiers; and Pat Morelock, assistant cashier/data processing.

Employees include: Sylvia Bentley, general bookkeeper;



Farmers and Merchants Bank

Greig Caswell, Patsy Davis, Paula Ditmars, and Suzie Skelton, bookkeepers; Carolyn Boyle, Gerri Kilpatrick, Nova Phillips, Barbara S. Reed, Sandra Whitehouse, tellers; Tommi Featherston and Lorinda Schader, tellers, Farmington Branch; Carol Acker, Lucille Dyer and Delores Wallace, tellers-part time; Leslie G. Reed, loan secretary; Sue Shuler, proof operator/bookkeeper; Jenny Stinchcomb, secretary to President/loan secretary; Nora Taylor, proof operator/teller, Farmington Branch, and Guy Sparks, maintenance.

Doctors and Hospitals

THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF PRAIRIE GROVE

By Susan Parks

Over 100 years ago, the first medical doctor arrived in the small community of Prairie Grove Valley. Since then, many doctors have practiced in the town, including surgeons, dentists, optometrists, and veterinarians. At one time during the mid-twentieth century, Prairie Grove's residents could choose their medical treatments from one of two hospitals. This article is by no means a biography of each doctor. It is rather a brief overview of those who have worked or are working in Prairie Grove.

One of the first medical doctors in Washington County was Dr. Samuel E. Rogers, who set up his residence and office about a half mile south of Prairie Grove during the Civil War. Dr. Rogers, a physician and surgeon, continued his practice in this area until sometime after 1885.¹

During the 1870's, another physician set up his office in Prairie Grove. An advertisement from the Fayetteville Democrat advised readers with "Surgical and Chronic Diseases" to visit University of Pennsylvania graduate C. G. Garrison, M.D., at the Prairie Grove Infirmary.² How long Dr. Garrison stayed in this area or the location of the Infirmary are unknown.

In 1884, Dr. E. G. McCormick and his wife moved to Prairie Grove from Lee's Creek, Arkansas. At this time, Dr. McCormick's practice covered an area of approximately thirty miles. On excursions into Indian Territory he rode "Old Dick," an Indian pony. And, like his other colleagues of the era, Dr. McCormick performed surgery at his patient's house. Dr. McCormick worked in Prairie Grove until his death in 1938.

By 1885, Prairie Grove had grown to a town of about 200

residents. Another physician, Dr. J. Nantz, was also practicing in Prairie Grove, which raised the total number of medical doctors in the town to five. In 1888, Prairie Grove had gained one more surgeon, Dr. W. W. Mahan, who helped Dr. McCormick incorporate the town of Prairie Grove by writing a petition on a piece of notebook



*Dr. Thomas W. Blackburn of Cane Hill, Dr. James Henry Brewster, and Dr. E. G. McCormick,
(Copied from U of A Library)*

paper and sending it to the county judge.³

There was also an abundance of doctors in between the years 1906 and 1912. Along with Dr. McCormick, others operating in these years were Dr. James Pittman, a physician who worked from his home in town, Dr. James H. Brewster, another physician who practiced in Prairie Grove about 1892, and two dentists, Dr. Charles Moore and Dr. James W. Webb.⁴

Dr. William H. Mock was another physician and surgeon who established an office in Prairie Grove during these years. An 1894 graduate of Vanderbilt Medical School, Dr. Mock began his medical work in Prairie Grove after his graduation. In the early years of Dr. Mock's practice, he would call on his patients by horseback, picking up sticks and boards

along the way to make splints. The first major operation he performed was in a dining room with a patient lying on a table. Dr. Mock boiled his surgical instruments in a pan and placed the dressings in an oven to sterilize.

Sometime in the 1940's, Dr. Mock opened the Mock Clinic, a thirty-bed hospital on main street. Dr. Mock's associate at the Clinic was Dr. Jeff Baggett. After Dr. Mock's death in 1971, Dr. Baggett continued working at Mock Clinic until his retirement in the 1970's. Dr. Johnny Adkins currently practices in the same building where the Clinic was located.

The Mock Clinic was one of two hospitals in Prairie Grove during the 1940's. Dr. Frank Riggall, a co-founder of the Elizabeth Hospital, came to Prairie Grove from Kansas City in 1924. The young surgeon had just returned to America after studying in Europe. Dr. Riggall and his brother, Dr. Cecil Riggall, located their office in the Farmers State Bank (now the Farmers and Merchants Bank), and maintained a hospital in a residence on Mock Street.⁶

In 1937, Drs. Riggall and Riggall announced plans to build a hospital and office building



*Elizabeth Hospital, Highway 62 East
(R. Riggall Photo)*

on Highway 62 across from the Battlefield Park.⁷ The Elizabeth Hospital, named after the Riggalls' mother, opened on December 19, 1937. On that day,

the Riggalls also unveiled the nursery's nameplate, which had Dr. McCormick's name on it since he was "one of the oldest practicing (sic) physicians in the county and one who has brought (many) babies into the world..."⁸

Dr. Cecil Riggall and his wife left Prairie Grove for the state of Washington in 1952. By this time, the Elizabeth Hospital had several other doctors, including Dr. Frank Riggall's son, Ronald, Dr. Doug Manning, Dr. Frank Porter, and Dr. James Skelton, worked at the Hospital from 1939-1948.⁹ One year later, the Hospital had a total of six doctors and sixteen nurses and office staff.¹⁰

After Dr. Riggall's death in 1965, the Elizabeth Hospital remained open one more year. In its brief history, the small twenty-five bed hospital admitted well over 23,000 patients. One of Dr. Riggall's associates, Dr. Manning, has his own office in Prairie Grove.

Dentistry came to the newly incorporated town at the beginning of the twentieth century. Dr. Charles Moore practiced in Prairie Grove during 1906 and six years later was still in town, this time with competition by another dentist, Dr. James W. Webb. Dr. Webb remained in practice until the 1930's. Sometime after Webb's departure, Dr. Lyman Thompson settled in Prairie Grove and served as the town's only dentist until World War II. In 1950, Kansas City Dental College graduate Calvin Bain returned to his hometown and opened an office above the Farmers and Merchants bank. Dr. Bain retired in 1987, and his sons, Drs. John and Andrew Bain, continue the family operation.¹¹

Prairie Grove's first optometrist arrived in July 1950 when Dr. T. B. Ward set up his office on main street. A year later he moved his lens grinding plant from Fayetteville, marking Prairie Grove as the only town in Northwest Arkansas with this

type of equipment. Dr. Ward practiced optometry about ten years.¹³

The town of Prairie Grove has had at least two veterinarians during the twentieth century. The first, Prairie Grove native Dr. Willard Brooks, graduated from Texas A&M in 1939 with a



Dr. J. H. Brewster in his Prairie Grove office in the early 1900s.

(Brewster Photo.)

degree in veterinary science. Dr. Brooks was the town's veterinarian for a year, then accepted a job as District Veterinarian for the United States Department of Agriculture. Prairie Grove's current veterinarian, Dr. Pat Durham, graduated from Oklahoma State University in June 1965 and set up his own office two months later.

For a small town, Prairie Grove has a lengthy history of doctors who have practiced or are still practicing in the area. Many of the doctors were active, not only in their medical work, but also in community services. However, these individuals will be remembered primarily as fine doctors who cared for Prairie Grove's citizens, their pets and livestock.

Endnotes

¹ Prairie Grove Enterprise

² "Prairie Grove Infirmary," Fayetteville Democrat, September

28, 1878, p.4.

³ "Dr. E.G. McCormick Has Seen Prairie Grove Advance in Medical Facilities," by Clifton Paisley, Prairie Grove Enterprise, July 28, 1938, p.3.

⁴ "Prairie Grove," Polk's Arkansas State Gazetteer and Business Directory, Volume 5, 1906-1907, p. 556-557, and "Prairie Grove," Polk's State Gazetteer and Business Directory, Volume 6, 1912-1913, p.489.

⁵ "Dr. Will Mock Dies; Funeral Was Held Tuesday," Prairie Grove Enterprise, July 18, 1971, p.1, and "Dr. Mock Recalls Early Practice in P.G. Valley," Prairie Grove Enterprise, February 6, 1947, p.1.

⁶ "Elizabeth Hospital Admits 13,000th Patient," Prairie Grove Enterprise, August 20, 1953, p.1.

⁷ "Likes Prairie Grove," Prairie Grove Herald, October 24, 1924, p.2, and "Riggalls Will Build Hospital," Prairie Grove Enterprise; August 19, 1937, p.1.

⁸ "Opening Held At New Hospital," Prairie Grove Enterprise, December 23, 1937, p.1.

⁹ "Dr. and Mrs. Cecil Riggall To Make Their Home In Washington State," Prairie Grove Enterprise, September 11, 1952, p.1.

¹⁰ "Elizabeth Hospital Admits 13,000th Patient," Prairie Grove Enterprise, August 20, 1953, p.1.

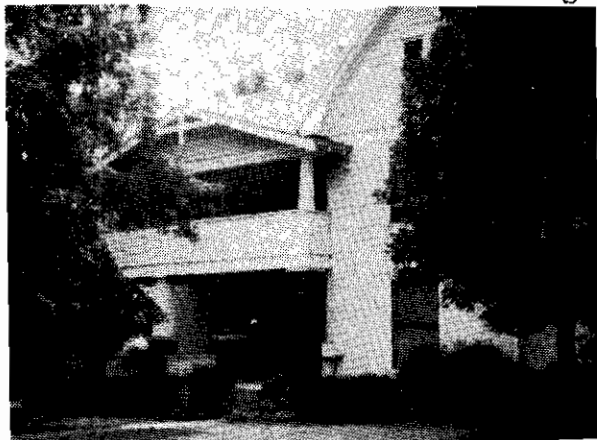
¹¹ "Prairie Grove," Polk's Arkansas State Gazetteer and Business Directory, Volume 5, 1906-1907, p.556-557, and "Prairie Grove," Polk's State Gazetteer and Business Directory, Volume 6, 1912-1913, p.489.

12 "Dr. Calvin Bain Opens Dental Offices Here This Week," August 3, 1950, p.1.

13 "Dr. Ward Moves Lens Grinding Plant to Prairie Grove," Prairie Grove Enterprise, March 22, 1951, p.1.

ELIZABETH HOSPITAL 1938-1966

Elizabeth Hospital opened in 1938 to provide both inpatient and outpatient care. The original medical staff members were Drs. Frank and Cecil Riggall.



First Hospital of Drs. Riggall & Riggall, Present home of Mrs. Dolph Helm, North Mock Street, (R. Riggall Photo)

gall. In 1952 Dr. Cecil Riggall left the staff. Later his share of the hospital was purchased by Dr. R. D. Manning. Following the death of Dr. Frank Riggall in 1965 Dr. Manning became the sole owner of the institution.

Many young doctors, mainly Canadian, trained at Elizabeth Hospital. Those later going into practice in other states include Dr. R. C. Emmott (Oklahoma), Dr. B. F. Green (Oklahoma), Dr. Frank Veroni (Ohio), Dr. Kenneth Porter (Michigan), Dr. Jerry Duck (Mississippi), and Dr. E. R. Riggall (California). Dr. D. Ross Dougall has a practice in London, England. Others who went back to Canada to practice include Dr. Mason Sharp, Dr. G. K. Trotter, Dr. George Wilms, Dr. Stewart Burns, Dr. Keith Johnston, and Dr. Bob Harwood.

The almost 30,000 inpatients of Elizabeth Hospital were drawn

mainly from northwestern Arkansas, northeastern Oklahoma, and southwestern Missouri. However, the patients admitted during one calendar year came from 17 different states and two Canadian provinces.



Home of Dr. and Mrs. Cecil Riggall on Kate Smith, also used as doctors' office.

(R. Riggall Photo)

The nursing, laboratory, housekeeping and cooking staff numbered up to 26 employees. At one time Elizabeth Hospital had the second largest payroll in Prairie Grove. One of the many small hospital casualties of the coming of Medicare, Elizabeth Hospital closed in 1966.

DR. E. G. MCCORMICK

(Goodspeed History, 1889)

Dr. Ephraim Graeme McCormick was born in Augusta County, Virginia, February 10, 1855, and came to Arkansas with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. James Wilham McCormick, in 1875. For about a year he was located at Carlisle, Arkansas. He taught school and was associated with the famous writer, Opie Reed, in newspaper work.

Dr. McCormick was a graduate of the Missouri Medical College at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1881 and from that time was actively engaged in his profession. In 1887 he moved to Evansville and later the same year came to Prairie Grove.

For many years he was widely and favorably known because of his community spirit. Dr. McCormick was a promoter of better roads in Northwest Arkansas.



Dr. E. G. McCormick
(Joy Webb Library Photo)

Many of the highways now in existence follow courses originally established by Dr. McCormick. He was a charter member of Occidental Lodge No. 436, F & A M, having been the first Senior Warden of this body when it was organized March 20, 1886.

In the 1880s Dr. McCormick foresaw the agriculture development of this region, organized and became president of the Prairie Grove Canning and Evaporating Company, the town's first enterprise of this kind. In 1885, with Joseph Garrison, he founded the Prairie Grove News; he was instrumental in the organization of the first high school.

Dr. McCormick was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church and served as an elder for many years. He was a member of the County and State Medical Societies and of the American Medical Association.

The local telephone exchange, the first in the State of Arkansas, was founded by Dr. McCormick. He formed many friends throughout a wide area in the practice of his profession. He had the reputation of responding to any call however distant, regardless of the weather or the patient's inability to pay for his service.

Dr. McCormick was married to Miss Mamie Gilliam on February 10, 1884. To this union were born three children, Grover, Arthur, and Myrtle (Mrs. Jim Parks).

Dr. McCormick died in 1938 and Mrs. McCormick died in 1950. Both were buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

EXCERPTS FROM DR. MOCK'S
AUTOBIOGRAPHY WRITTEN IN 1971

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise,
July 22, 1971)*

Dr. Will Hugh Mock was born July 24, 1874, 1-1/4 miles South of Prairie Grove, in an old-fashioned three-story colonial home, with beautiful hand-carved stairway reaching from the first to third floor. It was known as Locust Dell and was located on a 1000-acre farm on the main road leading from the North through the Valley, South to Van Buren and Fort Smith. (The Walter Glenn home on the Center Point Road now stands where the Mock home was located.)

His father, John Mock, was born near Knoxville, Tenn., on his father's plantation bordering on Pigeon River. His mother was Margaret Elizabeth Rogers.

Dr. Mock attended one term of school in a log building with a puncheon floor and home-made seats. He took another long term in another school that gave no vacations, never closed its doors, and kept open session. It issued no diplomas nor conferred any academic degrees. It had no established curriculum. You planned your own course, and the benefit you derived from it de-

pendent upon how much you contributed. This was the school of experience.

Dr. Mock graduated from Vanderbilt Medical School in 1894 and began practicing medicine on horseback in his local community. He would ride through the valley and sometimes out into the distant hills to lonely cabins where he would encounter difficult situations.

Dr. Mock, in the early '20s, operated a 30-bed hospital in Prairie Grove where he treated all types of disease, injuries and performed all types of surgery. The building and operating room were heated with old-fashioned wood stoves. He had water brought in where needed with pressure from a Myers pump from an old-fashioned dug well. Three doctors and a dentist worked in the clinic and hospital at one time.

Dr. Mock was always interested in education. He was president of the school board that built the first important public school house in this district. He was a member of the City Council, chairman of the street committee and promoted many blocks of the first concrete sidewalks in the City of Prairie Grove. He was instrumental in securing the first electric power line into the city. He was chairman of the Board of Commissioners that brought the water system to our city. He made it possible for the city to procure water by reason of the fact that he had on his park in the center of the city, a spring with a copious water supply. He donated the land for the underground storage tank, for the tower, water office, pumping equipment, for the new fire station, and city hall in Prairie Grove.

He spent time and substance in helping secure a sewage system. He also helped get Highway 62 through the city.

He was chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Church, and also chairman of the District Parsonage Board. He was

local and district Lay Leader of the church, Commissioner of the Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock, and member of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Nursing Home in Fort Smith.

Dr. Mock is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and Vice-President of the Board of two other business organizations. He is a member of the Lions Club and other civic organizations. He is a 32nd



Dr. J. H. Brewster and Dr. Will H. Mock

Degree Mason and has been advanced to the degree of KCCH. He is also a Shriner. He is often called upon to speak before medical and Masonic organizations and church affairs. Even at this period of his life, he speaks easily in splendid voice and without any type of notes.

In his younger days, one of Dr. Mock's hobbies was fine horses. He has owned some high quality standard bred horses. He drove beautifully matched teams to his buggy. Dr. Mock has witnessed many changing scenes in

the panorama of life. He has great respect for the early pioneer days, but does not live in the past. He says it should be treated with respect.

(Dr. Mock died July 18, 1971, at the age of 97. His funeral was held July 20th in the Prairie Grove United Methodist Church with the Rev. Vernon Paysinger, pastor; the Rev. Dewey Dark, former pastor; and Dr. Raymond L. Franks, Fayetteville District Superintendent, participating. Burial was in Prairie Grove Cemetery.)

DR. J. HENRY BREWSTER

Dr. J. Henry Brewster, pioneer physician, attended school in Cane Hill, the University of Arkansas, the School of Medicine in Little Rock and St. Louis, Missouri. He was born in 1861 near Cove Creek, the son of Lafayette Brewster and Elizabeth Jane Simpson Brewster.

Dr. Brewster began the practice of medicine at Natural Dam then at Wedington Gap for a time. He later moved to Prairie Grove where he practiced many years. He built a house on North Mock Street, now occupied by his great-grandson, John Henry Brewster and his family, and maintained an office in the north room. He also had an office back of the drug store at one time, and over the bank. Dr. Brewster died in August 1924 and is buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

DR. FRANK RIGGALL

Dr. Frank Riggall was born August 29, 1897 in Rochdale, England. At the age of fifteen he went to Canada and shortly after to the United States. He was a telegrapher and train dispatcher for various railroads in western Canada and the western United States. He worked on the test board for the American Telegraph and Telephone Company in Kansas City while attending the Kansas City College of Medi-

cine and Surgery, from which he graduated in 1923.

Shortly after graduation he established his practice in



Dr. Frank Riggall

(R. Riggall Photo)

Prairie Grove, attending classes at the University of Arkansas as a part-time student. He received three degrees from the University of Arkansas: Bachelor of Arts in 1931, Master of Arts in 1937, and Bachelor of Laws in 1959.

He received honors through post-graduate work from the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians of London. He was a staff member of the Washington General Hospital and Fayetteville City Hospital.

Dr. Frank, as he was affectionately called, and his brother, Dr. Cecil Riggall, were engaged in medical practice in Prairie Grove for a number of years before building and operating the Elizabeth Hospital in 1937. Their offices were located in three different houses, and over the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Dr. Frank served as Mayor of Prairie Grove from 1947 to 1959 when he resigned to become City Attorney after obtaining his law degree from the University of Arkansas.

He died Monday, November 22, 1965, after a short illness. Funeral service was held at the United Methodist Church in Prairie Grove with the Rev. Marius Lindoff, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, officiating. Burial was in Prairie Grove Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites. Honorary pallbearers were members of the Prairie Grove City Council, the vestry of St. Paul's, board members and staff of the Farmers & Merchants Bank and the Sterling Drug.

Mrs. Riggall and son, Rodney, continue to live at the family home on West Bush Street, Prairie Grove.

DR. JEFF J. BAGGETT
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

Jefferson Jay Baggett was born November 24, 1906, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Loyd L. Baggett of Prairie Grove. He graduated from the Prairie Grove High School, then attended the University of Arkansas where he received his B.S. and B.S.M. degrees. He graduated from the University Medical School in Little Rock in 1933 with a Doctor of Medicine degree, and interned at City Hospital, Little Rock.

In 1934 Dr. Baggett returned to Prairie Grove and began practicing in the Mock Clinic where he was associated with Dr. Will H. Mock, pioneer doctor.

Dr. Baggett was elected president of the Washington County Medical Society January 6, 1938. He also served as Chief of Staff of City Hospital, Fayetteville, from 1950 to 1952.

He was a veteran of World War II; a member of the Prairie Grove Masonic Lodge #436 and received a 50-year membership pin. He is a member of the Prairie Grove Methodist Church, as well

as county and state medical societies.

In 1951 Dr. and Mrs. Baggett purchased the large colonial house on the corner of Mock and Bush Streets from the Dr. McCormick estate. The home was restored and furnished with antiques and family heirlooms, making it one of Prairie Grove's



DR. JEFF J. BAGGETT

most outstanding homes.

Dr. Baggett and his first wife, Natalie, had one daughter, Sandra, who has five children: Suzanne, Steve, Sarah Lou, Stewart and Sheryl, all of Golden, Colorado.

Dr. Baggett and Frances Gose were married October 26, 1960, and are parents of two daughters: Judith Kay Lytton of Cookson, Oklahoma; and Carol Whitlock Zoeller of Little Rock; and two grandsons, Whit and Jeff Whitlock, of Little Rock.

DR. R. D. MANNING

Dr. Doug Manning and his bride of two weeks, Margaret Eileen, arrived in Prairie Grove June 30th, 1952. Dr. Manning came from Canada under the Fulbright Exchange program to work at the Elizabeth Hospital.

He graduated in medicine in 1951 and had completed a year's internship in Canada, while his wife had graduated the same year with an R.N. degree.

Dr. Manning worked first as an intern at the Elizabeth Hospital then acquired staff privileges, doing general medicine and general surgery. He acquired part ownership of the hospital during the years, and his wife worked part-time as a Nursing Supervisor. He also had a part-time practice in Westville, Oklahoma, between 1954 and 1962.

The hospital was forced to close in 1966 due to the advent of Medicare, but Dr. Manning continued to operate his office there for about ten years, after which time he moved his practice to the former Dick Bain home on South Pittman. His office is presently located at 209 West Buchanan Street where he continues practice as a family doctor. His wife, Eilleen, acts as his receptionist-secretary as well as serving as Mayor of the City of Prairie Grove.

The Mannings have four children: Margaret Ann Poeppel of Wurzburg, West Germany; Bob Manning of Colorado Springs, Colorado, is married to the former Anita Patton of Fayetteville, and they have a son, Christopher; and John and Dorothy of Fayetteville. All are, or will be graduates of the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Manning has served on the Prairie Grove school board, has served as the Mayor of Prairie Grove, has been a member of the Administrative Board of the Prairie Grove Methodist Church, and served about 25 years as choir director in Prairie Grove and Fayetteville churches. Their home is on North Summitt Street in Prairie Grove.

Just received a nice fresh lot of new goods at the Post Office.

(*Prairie Grove News*, 8-22-1885)

DOCTORS BAIN

Dr. Calvin Bain, a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Dentistry in Kansas City, opened a dental office in Prairie Grove in 1950. The suite of offices was over the Farmers and Merchants Bank and Mrs. Ruth McCormick was his assistant.

Dr. Bain received his dental degree in 1950 and practiced general dentistry in Prairie Grove until his retirement in 1986. Prior to entering dental school, he attended the University of Arkansas and Oklahoma State University.

He has always been interested in organized dentistry, serving as president of the Arkansas State Dental Association in 1975-76. He was the first Northwest Arkansas dentist elected to the office since Dr. Nolen Helsten held the position in 1926.

Dr. Calvin Bain is the son of J. O. Bain and Effie Carl Bain. He is the third generation Bain, and the fourth generation Carl, to live in Prairie Grove. After his retirement, Dr. and Mrs. Bain moved to their home in Bella Vista.

Dr. John Bain and Dr. Andrew Bain, after graduating from the School of Dentistry in Kansas City, became associated with their father in Prairie Grove and took over the practice at his retirement.

J. PAT DURHAM, D.V.M.

J. Pat Durham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Durham, was born at Alma, Arkansas, and grew up on a farm at Viney Grove. He graduated from Prairie Grove High School in 1956.

He received his Pre-Vet education at the University of Arkansas 1960-61; attended Oklahoma State University, College of Veterinary Medicine 1961-65 and graduated with a D.V.M. and a B.S.

He is a member of the N. W.

Arkansas, the Arkansas and the American Veterinary Medical Associations.

He returned to Prairie Grove and practiced out of a home office at 709 N. Mock from 1966 to 1983.

The Vinewood Animal Hospital on West Highway 62 was opened in March, 1983. The facility, which has 2400 square feet, contains a



*Dr. Pat Durham at Vinewood Animal Hospital
West of Prairie Grove,*

(Durham Photo)

small-animal area, has two exam rooms, a pharmacy/lab, surgery room, and kennels. Facilities are available in the kennel for boarding pets.

The large animal area has a stock for treating horses, an unloading area with movable gates for working cattle through a chute and headgate, then around the building for reloading back at the unloading/loading area. There is also an outdoor corral for holding animals and/or surgeries.

Pat Durham and Marilyn S. Ash were married in 1957 and are parents of four children: Tom lives in Prairie Grove with wife, Janice and two daughters, Renee and Amanda. He works in the art department at Phillips Litho in Springdale; Bill lives in Farmington with his wife,

Barbara, and has one son, Bradley. Bill works as service manager at Bob Clark Toyota in Springdale; Judy recently moved to Baton Rouge, La., where her husband, Kim will attend LSU, working on a Ph. D. in Psychology. Judy has a degree in Psychology and has worked for Social Services and a doctors' clinic; Kemball lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, with Julie Bolden and daughter, Jackie. Kemball is a carpenter by day, and a musician by night. He has his own group, "The Killer Pelicans" who play at area clubs.

Libraries

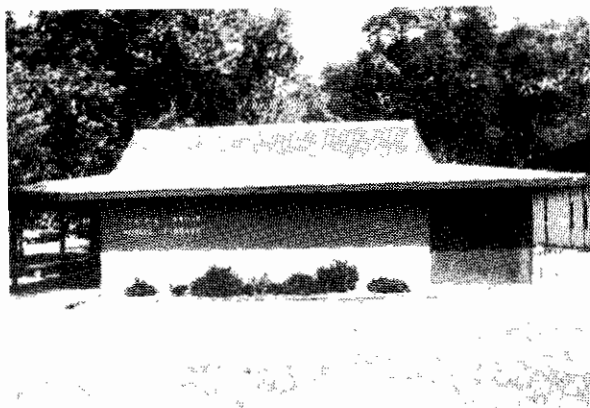
PRAIRIE GROVE LIBRARY

*By Maria Pendergraft and
Lou French*

The Prairie Grove Library had its inception in February 1935. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the Federal Government offered a library project to small towns whereby the WPA would pay the salary of a librarian if the city would take the responsibility of maintenance and improvement. Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Holmes, Mrs. J.C. Parks and Mrs. R.E. Cunningham attended a meeting concerning this project and were inspired to establish a community library.

In order to obtain a collection of books, James F. Parks, manager of the Beverly Theater, offered two special benefit shows. The price of admission was one book. 400 books were collected and thus the Prairie Grove Library was born. The library opened in the Legion Hut on May 27, 1935 with Mrs. Lulu Carl as librarian.

From the start the library was a welcome addition to the life of the community, checking out 91 books in the first 12 days. As an added service, the librarian made weekly visits to "shut-ins."



*Prairie Grove Public Library
(Blakemore Photo)*

The library grew by means of contributions of funds and books by public-spirited citizens and organizations. The yearly report, in December 1936, showed the progress that had been made: 193 books had been added, 108 users were registered and a total of 2,618 books and 473 magazines had been checked out. Services of the library included a weekly children's story hour.

Because of a lack of funds, the library was closed temporarily the first of April 1937. It was re-opened April 29, 1937, after heroic fund-raising efforts of the community. An interesting fund-raiser of this time was the "Silver Tea." The hostesses at these functions used their finest linens and silver. The guests wore their "Sunday Best" and were expected to contribute. At one such affair held in June 1937, it was reported that over 25 ladies attended and a total of nearly \$5.00 was donated.

In June 1937, Miss Frances Morton replaced Mrs. Carl as librarian. Mrs. Carl had been retired under a WPA ruling. Miss Morton served as librarian from July 1937 to July 1939.

At the Library Board Meeting on December 16, 1937, the following officers were elected: Mrs. J.C. Parks, president; Mrs. J.S. Harlan, vice-president; and Miss Frances Morton, secretary-treasurer. Members of the board

were: R.D. Bogart, Mrs. J.H. Brewster, Mrs. J. Frank Holmes, Mrs. Delford Rieff, Mrs. Cecil Riggall, Dr. H.L. Paisley, Mrs. W.E.N. Phillips, Mrs. J.W. Webb, and Mrs. J.H. Zellner.

The yearly report for 1938 showed a circulation of 6,340 books and 1,532 magazines. The book collection then numbered 790 and there were 415 registered users.

In March 1939 the library board reported a total of \$105.25 collected in the annual fund drive. This amount was contributed by 72 individuals and 4 organizations.

Mrs. J.P. Harris replaced Miss Morton as librarian in August 1939. Mrs. Harris was the former Dorothea Campbell and was one of five in the first graduating class of Prairie Grove High School. She was married to James Paden Harris who established a canning company in Prairie Grove. Mr. Harris also served as mayor of Prairie Grove and was a member of the Board of Education for 19 years. Mrs.



1929-30 Freshman Class; Front Row--Left to Right: Lovic Brewer, Harold Watts, Howard Carney, James Walker, James Wheeler, Robert Pittman, Carthel Strickler, Willard Brooks, Gordon Abercrombie, Clyde Ross; Middle Row--Left to Right: Helen Fidler, Janice Barker, Sara Jean Adams, Stella Roberts, Mary West, Pauline Harrison, Myrtilla Dorman, Ruby Wilson, Mary Mitchell, Ruby Fry; Back Row: Mrs. McGaugh, teacher, Unknown, Josephine West, Unknown, Mawie Henry, Marjorie Denton, Lillian Campbell, Jessie Mullins.

(B. Brooks Photo)

Harris continued as librarian until December 1943.

During this period the library maintained a rental shelf of popular books. The fee was 2¢ a day. When the books had "earned" enough to pay for themselves, they were placed on the free shelves.

In 1939, the Arkansas Legislature approved funds for establishing county library systems. This action was a most important step in the growth of Arkansas libraries.

In October 1939, a representative of the Arkansas Library Commission met with the local board and outlined plans for the establishment of a county library system.

The annual report for 1939 showed a continued increase in users and circulation. The book collection numbered 1,032 volumes with a user registration of 681. A total \$154.95 was collected in the fourth annual drive for funds. \$30 was spent for new books. New book cases were made by W.P. Beebe and Arch Morrow. The books could now be arranged so that juvenile and adult books were in separate cases. Services included loans of books to the local school.

An outstanding feature of

1940 was the establishment of outlying community libraries. Rural readers who volunteered their homes for this purpose were: Paul Sharp-New Sulphur, M.A. Dorman - Bethel Grove, Tom Bell - Center Point, Mrs. Adkins - Moffit, W.V. West - Hubbard, Mrs. Armstrong - Viney Grove, H.H. Johnson - Rhea, Otis Hester - Greasy Valley, J.H. Maddox - Illinois Chapel and Mrs. Cruse - Prairie View.

A 1940 state comparison of libraries placed Prairie Grove third among the 32 libraries in District 4. In November of that year: all previous circulation records were broken when 104 books and 20 magazines were checked out in one day.

The 1942 fund drive netted \$202.10, becoming the most successful in the history of the library. An Open House was held in May in appreciation of public support. Gladys Smith won \$1.00 in defense stamps for her entry in an "I am an American" poster contest. In July, Patricia Robertson won an award for best attendance at the popular Children's Story Hour.

Board members in 1942 were: R.D. Bogart - president; Mrs. J.C. Parks - vice-president; J.F. Holmes - secretary; Mrs.



"Idlers at the Neal Spring" (first bikes in the community), First Bicycle Club of Prairie Grove--about 1900. Left to right; Ernest Dorman, Ed Gain, Tom Dixon, Oscar McMillian,

Roy Mock, Unknown, Dr. E. G. McCormick, Unknown, Will McCormick with Arthur McCormick, Dorse McCormick, Mel Collier, Dr. Henry Brewster and J. J. Baggett. (Park Photo)

Cecil Riggall - treasurer; Mrs. J.H. Morton, Mrs. J.S. Harlan, Mrs. Willard Brooks, Miss Mallie Dyer, Rev. Ewing Wayland, Rev. J.E. Reed and Rev. B.B. Long.

Library hours were reduced to 3 days a week in February 1943. The WPA project, which had paid



City Library when it was located in back part of City Water Building, 1956-67, Mrs. J.F. Holmes, librarian.

(City Library Photo)

the salary of the librarian, ended and the city had to assume that responsibility. \$210.00 was collected in the 1943 fund drive.

Mrs. Frances Morton McKinney re-assumed the role as librarian in January 1944 and remained in that capacity until December 1949. \$218.15 was contributed in the fund drive of 1944. The library was moved from the Legion Hut to rooms above the Farmers and Merchants Bank in June 1945.

By 1946 the book collection had risen to 2,091 volumes. The board members were R.D. Bogart - president; J. Frank Holmes - secretary; Mrs. L.A. Carman - treasurer; Mrs. J.F. Holmes, Mrs. J.S. Harlan, Mrs. Cecil Riggall, Mrs. D.E. Rieff, Mrs. John Campbell, Mrs. W.E.N. Phillips, Mrs. J.C. Parks, Rev. A. Eason, Rev. B.B. Long, Mr. Bert

Russell, Mrs. Louis Thornton and Miss Virginia West.

About this time, the Ozarks Regional Library was established to serve Washington and Crawford counties. Prairie Grove Library became a branch of the new system and as a result took a giant step forward. Many more books and services were made available than had been possible before.

The 1948 fund drive was a dedicated effort sponsored by the Library Board, the Lions Club and the Progressive Club. The proceeds had to pay the librarian, the rent and the utilities. It was hoped that enough funds would also be raised to buy new books and magazine subscriptions. Those helping with the drive were Clyde Delap, M.E. Bealy, Rev. G.C. Bidwell, Ken Marvin, H. W. Clark, Paul Jones, D. C. Reddin, Gene Vinson, Everett Basham, Hugh Neal, Elton Skelton, Mr. and Mrs. Vincil Bell, Sam McKnight, Sara Carl, Edward Proyles, D.E. Rieff, Layton McCoy and Mr. and Mrs. G.E. Wiswell. There is no record of the amount collected.

In that same year the library was moved again. A local beauty-shop operator divided her Buchanan Street shop and rented half to the library.

In 1948, Washington County passed a one-mill tax to support its libraries. This action did much to alleviate the financial burden on the city as the salary of the librarian would now be paid by the county.

In February 1950, Mrs. R.H. Morrison replaced Mrs. Frances McKinney Skelton who had resigned. Mrs. Morrison continued as librarian until December 1966. Members of the Board were: Mrs. L.A. Carman - president; G.E. Wiswell - vice-president; Mrs. J.C. Parks - secretary; Mrs. Cecil Riggall - treasurer; Mrs. J.S. Harlan, Mrs. C.R. Fennemore, Mrs. Frank Riggall, Mrs. W.E.N. Phillips, Mrs. Jeff Baggett, Mrs. J. Frank Holmes, and Clyde Delap.



Prairie Grove Band, early 1900s. Front row, Left to Right; James P. Neal, W. T. McCormick, Alex Sanders, D. N. McCormick and Lee Rich; 2nd

row; Finn Collier, Marvin Crowel, Frank Flood, Will Collier, Nath Hanks, Nell Collier, John Mock, (A. Campbell Photo)

In the 1951 fund drive \$518.36 was contributed. \$22.30 a month came from Washington County and the city assumed responsibility for the rent. Circulation continued to rise as indicated by 5,525 books and 332 magazines having been checked out during the year.

The library showed steady growth through 1952 with 6,816 books having been checked out.

In 1954, another move was made to larger quarters in the back of the city water-works building. Mrs. Fred McCuistion was elected president of the library board in June. After the move to the city building, the library board set up and operated a Thrift Shop which was staffed by volunteers and stocked with donated items. This enterprise earned a small but steady income for the library until the late 1960s. With the addition of these funds the library enjoyed a healthier financial condition and the annual fund drive was discontinued.

The library ran smoothly for the next decade with few changes. Library use and services continued to expand. The library board, Mrs. Morrison, and Mrs. Hazel Deal, the county librarian must be given much credit for the success of these years as well as for the next giant step which gave Prairie Grove the attractive library building that we have today.

The dream that began back in 1935 was about to become a reality. In 1966, the federal government offered a plan whereby it would pay 60% of the cost of building and furnishing a library if the community would provide the other 40%.

Dr. Calvin Bain, Mayor of Prairie Grove, promised the cooperation of the city and appointed Barry Parks, Larry Bell, Mrs. Fred McCuistion, Mrs. J.J. Baggett and Mrs. D.E. Rieff as a Building Committee. These public-spirited citizens went into action and by the deadline,

May 1st, were able to report that the drive for funds was "over the top:" \$35,000 for the building and furnishing of a new library was assured. The community of Prairie Grove had raised \$14,000 and the federal grant supplied the balance.

On June 27, 1966, a contract for the building was signed with the Art Smith Construction Company. The designer of the building was Cyprus P. Sutherland, architect and a University of Arkansas faculty member.

Board members in 1966 were Mrs. Fred McCuiston - president; Mrs. L.A. Carman, Clyde Delap, Mrs. M.A. Dorman, Mrs. Frank Riggall, Mrs. J.C. Farks, Mrs. J.J. Baggett, G.E. Wiswell and Mrs. J.S. Harlan. Mrs. M.A. Dorman was appointed librarian.

When Mrs. Dorman came to Prairie Grove in 1898, she was Anna James Hoover. She graduated from Prairie Grove High School and the University of Arkansas. She taught school for 41 years, 32 in the Prairie Grove School District. She married J. Frank Holmes April 16, 1919. Mr. Holmes died in 1947. In January 1966, Mrs. Holmes married M.A. Dorman. She remained librarian until her death, June 26, 1986. In recognition of her many years of devoted service to the people of Prairie Grove, the library was designated the Anna Holmes Dorman Public Library.

The present Prairie Grove Library was dedicated January 22, 1967, with an Open House. The library continued to serve the public in an ever-increasing capacity. Circulation and the book collection grew with each year. Community support has always been and still is of paramount importance. Contributions, Memorial Gifts and financial support from the city have done much to make the library an essential part of the good life in Prairie Grove.

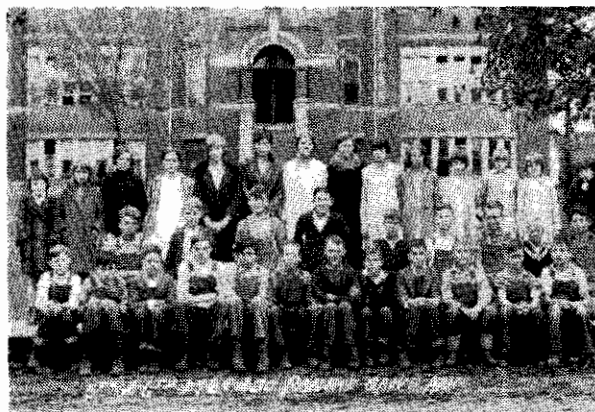
Through the next twenty years (1966-1986), several library assistants worked with Mrs. Dorman in operating the library.

Unfortunately, there is no complete record of these individuals.

Upon the death of Mrs. Dorman in 1986, the duties of librarian were assumed by Mrs. Maria Pendergraft who had been Mrs. Dorman's assistant for several years.

In August 1986 the library board was re-activated according to Arkansas Library regulations. Minor Wallace, Mayor of Prairie Grove, appointed a board of seven voting members and two ex officio members.

The new board met August 8, 1986. Following state regulations, the members drew lots for terms of office and elected officers. Mrs. Nancy Nations was elected president and Mrs. Kathryn Davis was named secretary. Mrs. Carol Pair, city clerk, agreed to act as treasurer. Members were Mrs. Mamie Rieff, Mrs. Jeff Baggett, Mrs. Lidia Stills, Mrs. Emilie Bell, and Ivan Brown. Ex officio members were Mrs. Lou French and Mrs.



1929-30 Fifth and Sixth Grade, Back Row: Margaret Collier, Bernice McCormick, Fay Battenfield, Helen Watts, Clara Babb, Miss Curtis, teacher; Hester Mullens, Jewel Pate, Carmel Nelson, Lizzy Crisp, Phoebe Harris, Frances Cunningham, Louise Barker, Imogene Hilton; Middle Row: Charley Slaughter, Kenneth McCormick, Clyde Ledgerwood, J. B. Gentry, Evert Speaks, Grady Helm, Clifford Howell, Billy Adams, Elton Asher; Front Row: Ralph Tate, Charles Woolverton, Donald Parks, Jim Bob Cunningham, Pat Henry, Orville Crisp, Veryl Hutchens, R. P. Harrison, Barry Parks, Dick Wallace, George Cox, Lawrence Delap.

(B. Brooks Photo)

Carol Pair. Mrs. Pendergraft was formally hired as librarian with the privilege of choosing assistants when needed.

A vacancy occurred on the board in October when Mrs. Lidia Stilla resigned. Mayor Wallace appointed Mrs. Betty Parks as her replacement.

There have been no further changes in board membership to this date. The board meets regularly four times a year. Minutes of the meetings are on file at the library for public examination.

A full measure of credit for the present-day success of the library must go to the Ozarks Regional Library and its directors. Mrs. Hazel Deal, who did so much to get the library started, Mrs. Carol Wright who replaced Mrs. Deal in 1968 and served until December 1986, and Mrs. Karen Duree, the present director.

The regional library provides Prairie Grove with services that an independent small town library could not possibly afford. Over 10,000 books in the Prairie Grove library belong to the regional system. The collection is constantly updated and fiction exchanges are made twice a year so that new fiction is always available to our readers. Prairie Grove readers have easy access to 239,052 books in the regional library system. A few of the many services of the regional library are: Large Print books for the sight-impaired, Talking Books for the blind and physically-handicapped, summer story hours and inter-library loans of books from other library systems.

The Ozarks Regional Library serves a public of 154,815 people (1980 census) in three counties, having eight branches in Washington County, five in Crawford County and one in Benton County. The budget for 1988 is over \$600,000.

Appointed by Washington County judge Charles Johnson,

Mrs. Lou French is serving her second five-year term as the Prairie Grove representative to the Ozarks Regional Library Board.

Although circulation had risen to 31,007 books in 1987, the Prairie Grove library is still a one-person operation. Mrs. Pendergraft runs the library with efficiency and always has a smile and time for a chat with the readers. Substitutes are hired for the days the librarian cannot be present. The library hours of operation are from 1:30 to 5:30 every day but Sunday.

Prairie Grove takes great pride in its modern, up-to-date library which came into being through the enlightened outlook and dedicated support of its citizens and which has, certainly, improved the quality of life in Prairie Grove.

THE JOY NELSON WEBB HOME SERVES AS LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The Joy Nelson Webb Club House and Library, located on the corner of Neal and Buchanan Streets in Prairie Grove, was left as a memorial to her family by Mrs. Joy Nelson Webb at her death in 1974. It is to be used



*Joy Webb Home, now Memorial Library
(Joy Webb Library Photo)*

for "charitable, educational and public benefit, by the people of Prairie Grove." The will established the Webb, Nelson, Murphy Memorial Foundation to be controlled by a Board.

Mrs. Webb was the last sur-

vivor of a family who had been residents of Prairie Grove for approximately a generation. She had preserved the early history of the town by maintaining scrap books, preserving newspaper clippings, and documents of the growth and changes of Prairie Grove. She also passed along many antiques of general interest. The Prairie Grove Woman's Club was bequeathed the former home of Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Webb to be used as a meeting place for the group, a library, a research center, and an antique museum for the public.

Mrs. Joy Nelson Webb was the daughter of Thomas E. Nelson and Alice E. M. Nelson of Brighton, Tennessee. She had six brothers and sisters. Her paternal grandparents were J. M. Hill and Martha Kilpatrick; the maternal grandparents were Henry L. Murphy and M. A. Hurst Murphy. She moved to Prairie Grove in 1914 and was the wife of Dr. J. W. Webb, a practicing dentist.

In 1926 Mrs. Webb purchased

the Prairie Grove Herald and, with the help of Roy G. Nixon, published the paper until 1932 when she sold the subscription list to the Fayetteville Daily Democrat. After the Prairie Grove Enterprise was established by the Wiswells in 1936, Mrs. Webb served as society editor and reporter, serving in that capacity until 1971 when the Enterprise sold.

The Club began working on the house and library in 1977. A vast amount of clippings from newspapers, covering businesses, families, churches, organizations, schools, early history of the community, marriages, deaths, etc., has been catalogued.

A file of Prairie Grove newspapers is available from 1936 to the present time. Mrs. Webb was historian of the local First Presbyterian Church and that material is on file at the library.

The Joy Nelson Webb Library is presently opened the fourth Wednesday afternoon of each month.

Personalities

CAPT. SAMUEL PINCKNEY PITTMAN

(Goodspeed History of 1889)

Capt. Samuel Pinckney Pittman, deputy sheriff and one of the prominent pioneer men of Washington County, was born ten miles Southwest of Fayetteville in what is now Prairie Grove Township, June 27, 1836. He was the son of James C. and Mary Tuttle Pittman, and grandson of Samuel Pittman. He grew to manhood in Prairie Grove Township and adopted his father's vocation, that of a farmer and stock grower.

In 1858 he married Miss Sarah Boon. They became parents of two children, William and Mary. Mrs. Pittman was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and very active in church work.

Pittman entered the Confederate army in June, 1862, and

after serving as orderly-sergeant for one year was elected lieutenant. He was taken captive twice, but escaped each



"Sweet Home," the home of Samuel Pittman family and location of Prairie Grove's first Post Office by the same name.

time. After the war he returned to his farming and stock raising until 1882 when he retired.

He took an active part in the

organization of the Washington County Bank. He became one of its directors, and in 1886 was elected vice-president. Mr. Pittman served as a trustee of the State University for several years and served as captain of the Militia for several years after the war.

Upon the organization of the Grange movement in Washington County, Capt. Pittman rendered important aid and became a charter member of the Prairie Grove Grange. He owned a half interest in one of the first reapers and mowers brought to Northwest Arkansas and was the first to bring a wheat drill into this county. He brought the first herd of Cotswold Sheep and thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle to the county.

COL. JAMES P. NEAL

(From Goodspeed History of 1889)

Col. James P. Neal, a pioneer of Washington County, was born in Butler County, Kentucky, March 24, 1820. He was the son of William Neal and Sinai Neal. After the death of William, Sinai married Rev. Andrew Buchanan, a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and moved to Arkansas.

Col. Neal was reared on a farm and in 1847 volunteered in the Mexican War, marching through Texas into Mexico. He rose to the rank of First Lieutenant, serving in this capacity until the close of the war. Previous to entering the war he had read law and had practiced in Fayetteville. After returning home, he resumed his practice which continued until 1851 when he was elected Mayor of Fayetteville and held the office until 1854.

In 1849 he married Miss Adaline Bean and in 1854 they moved to Austin, Texas where his wife died in 1863. During the War Col. Neal was actively engaged in furnishing the Confederate Army with supplies.

Col. Neal returned to Prairie Grove, then made famous by the Battle commanded respectively by Generals Blunt and Hindman. In 1869 he was married to the widow of his brother, Col. William T. Neal who was killed by the Federal in a skirmish near Clarks-ville.

In 1871 he established the town of Prairie Grove, built the first store and engaged in merchandising and was appointed postmaster, a position he held until 1887 when he resigned on account of failing health.

Col. Neal held many positions of trust and has done much to build up the town. His donations of real estate to public and charitable buildings have been munificent. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, and is a worthy and considerate member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Col. Neal died in 1896 and is buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

JOHN MOCK

(From Goodspeed's History 1889)

John Mock, farmer and stock raiser of Prairie Grove Township, Washington County, Arkansas, was born in Sevier County, Tennessee, October 23, 1821, and was reared and educated in his native state. After reaching manhood he came West and located in Washington County, Arkansas, but, after remaining a short time went to Texas, returning the following spring to Tennessee.

He next went to Northern Georgia where he was married in 1849 to Miss Margaret E. Rogers, a native of South Carolina, reared in Georgia, and a daughter of Hugh Rogers, who now resides in Washington County. Mr. Mock purchased a farm in Georgia which he farmed for four years, then sold out and in 1851 moved to Arkansas where he has since made his home. He became a very wealthy land holder, owning

at one time nearly 1,000 acres in one body. He has given considerable land to his children and sold some, and is now the owner of 668 acres, with about 400 acres in one body under cultivation. The land is very valuable and well adapted to raising corn, wheat and vegetables.

Besides attending to his farm, he spent a number of years in buying and selling horses and mules and shipping them South, but he gave up this occupation in 1883. In 1861 he enlisted in the Sixteenth Arkansas Infantry, participating in the Battle of Oak Hill and Pea Ridge. He was discharged after the Battle of Corinth on account of his age. Returning home he resumed farming.

He is the father of eight children: James, Martha Jane (wife of J. J. Baggett); Mary Ann (wife of Frank Lake); Callie (wife of Thomas Cazorl); Maggie (wife of Sam Neal); Josephine, John and Willie.

His parents, Philip and Jane (Wilson) Mock, were born in North Carolina and Tennessee, and were married in Tennessee. The mother died about 1840. John Mock died December 16, 1899. Both are buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

MRS. NANCY JANE MORTON STAPLES

(Fayetteville Daily Democrat, April 6, 1921)

With the passing this week and burial yesterday of Mrs. Nancy Jane Morton Staples of Prairie Grove, age 90 years, one of the last links binding this section to the Old South and the Civil War was broken.

Mrs. Staples was born February 19, 1831 in the home in which she died and, with the exception of four years spent in Tennessee, had lived all her life on the homestead in Prairie Grove. She was honorary permanent president of the Arkansas Chapter, United

Daughters of the Confederacy, an honor conferred upon her in recognition of her having supplied the Arkansas History Commission more historical data than any other one person in the state.

She was, with one exception, the oldest living member of the U. D. C. in the state and during this past year furnished the History Commission with 80 pages of history.

The pall-bearers bearing the body to its last resting place were all "old settlers," and three of them, P. E. Shoffner, James Shoffner, and W. T. Neal, were Sunday School pupils of Mrs. Staples all during the Civil War. The deceased conducted the famous bullet-pelted "Pitkin barn-loft Sunday School" between lines of the Union and Southern soldiers. The other three pall-bearers were three more of her "boys" known in childhood, Marle Rollins, John Taylor and William Campbell.

Throughout her life since the Civil War, Mrs. Staples has carried "drawn hands" caused by seizing from a bushwhacker a red hot poker which was being used to torture her father, William Morton, in an effort to make him tell the hiding place of the family treasure.

Following the celebrated Battle of Prairie Grove, in which the dead and dying were left for the women to care for, Mrs. Staples and her girl friends, with their own hands, carried fence rails and built pens around the wounded and dead to protect their bodies from the wild hogs which roamed the battlefield.

(The "old homestead" spoken of in the obituary was the old Morton home on North Mock Street, presently the home of Dr. and Mrs. Pat Durham. Frances Morton McKinney Skelton, a daughter of Mrs. Staples, occupied the home for most of her life, and a son, Jim McKinney, graduated from Prairie Grove High School in 1959 and

presently lives in Wichita, Kansas.)

GEORGE W. WALTON

(Northwest Arkansas Times, 1929)

George W. Walton was born in Madison County, Georgia, in 1849. His parents owned slaves and he says that his most pleasant recollections are of the old colored people of his childhood days. In telling of the old black mammy, who told him bedtime stories and healed



George W. Walton, last one to die of Prairie Grove Camp of Confederate Veterans

(H. Mobley Photo)

his hurts and "blessed his little heart," when he was sad, Uncle George could not hide his emotion or keep tears from his eyes.

Four years after the War, in the year of 1869, he moved to Arkansas and settled at Little Rock, where he married. Later they moved to Crawford County. A short time later they moved to Washington County, settling on a farm on Cove Creek where he lived until 1910. Here his devoted wife passed away.

In 1911 he married Mrs. N.T. Neal, a highly respected widow, and they moved out on the Old Wire Road where the old Strickler Post Office once stood.

George W. Walton was 84 when he attended the Thirty-third Confederate Reunion held at the

Memorial Park July 31, 1921. He and G. W. Dixon, 90, walked to the stage with a brisk step and informed the audience that they hoped to be present another 33 years.

Mr. Walton, 90, the last surviving member of the Prairie Grove Camp of the Confederate Veterans, No. 384, died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Moore, Tuesday, May 3, 1938.

George Walton was the step-grandfather of Mrs. Hester Mobley, Mrs. Lois Moore, Mrs. Lillian McKenzie, Mrs. Margarette Carney and Hugh Neal. Mrs. Naomi Neal Walton was the mother of Mrs. A. L. (Deborah) Campbell and S. H. (Dude) Neal.

MEMORIES OF PRAIRIE GROVE SHARED BY 92-YEAR OLD MAN

Mrs. Betty L. Baker of Oklahoma has supplied interesting information concerning her parents, Alec Ralston and Betty Velma Buchanan Ralston, pioneer residents of the Prairie Grove area. She also sent pictures and a program dating back to 1915.

Her mother's family lived on a farm near Viney Grove from the time of its original patent until it was sold in 1973 by Garland Buchanan, a brother of Betty Ralston.

Her father, Alec Ralston, whose family lived in and near Prairie Grove, is 92 years of age and is blessed with an excellent memory. On his 90th birthday the family asked him to tell about many things that he remembered so they could be written down, and Mrs. Baker passed on the following items:

His parents had married and started their family in Tennessee. They "homesteaded" in Kiowa County, Oklahoma. After proving their claim, they sold it and moved to Northwest Arkansas. Mr. Ralston chose to purchase land near Prairie Grove because it seemed so prosperous. "People were selling corn in Prairie Grove while elsewhere

people were buying it."

He bought a little more than 100 acres on the west edge of Prairie Grove. The land included the little mountain called Wolf Mountain. He bought the land from a Mr. Shackelford. They rented the house east of the Carl's house from Clint Carl. The rent was \$5.00 per month for the house and \$2.00 per month for the barn. This was in 1908.

In 1909 they traded the south part of the farm land, the part south of the railroad track, to a Mr. Talbot for a house on the south outskirts of Prairie Grove. In later years this house was the Mack Mason house.

Mr. Ralston was a carpenter and built a number of houses and barns in and around Prairie Grove.

When the children entered school in Prairie Grove, Alec was in the fourth grade and his teacher was Lucy Carl. One of Alec's duties was to take their milk cow to pasture each day. He earned money by doing the same for some of their neighbors who paid him 50¢ a month to take their family milk cows along with the Ralston's to pasture in Lloyd Baggett's pasture and return them home in the evening. One of these neighbors was Mr. Maddox.

Mary, who was the oldest of the children, did not attend school in Prairie Grove. She went to work for the newspaper which was then owned by Mr. Hildebrand. In July, 1909, Mary became ill with appendicitis and died on July 7 following surgery.

When school started in the fall of 1909 the three boys attended in the big white school building. Alec's teacher was Dorothea Campbell.

Marguerite entered second grade in the fall of 1910, in the tall school building by the Presbyterian Church. In that school year, Hal, Alec and Gilbert were in school in the big white school building. Alec's teacher was Alma Sanders who

taught her class the little poem: "Five things observe with care, of whom you speak, to whom you speak, and how and when and where."

That was the last year classes were held in the big white school building. In the summer of 1911, D. N. Ralston and others tore down that building and used the material to build the Presbyterian Manse. There was a large bell in a steeple above the second floor. One day the bell fell without warning. It was so heavy that it broke through all the floors all the way to the ground. It had been hung on a natural log with the bark still on it and worms had eaten the log. No one was under it at the time although it was hung directly above the main entrance of the building where many people were passing as they worked on the demolition.

Mr. Ralston set out apple trees on Wolf Mountain and also planted corn on some of the land there. He later traded it to Gar Henson for a house and 30 acres north of Viney Grove.

LAFAYETTE BREWSTER

Lafayette Brewster, father of Dr. J. A. Brewster, was born in Sevier County, Tennessee, in 1838 and, with his father's family came to Arkansas in 1849. They settled about ten miles south of Prairie Grove and lived there until 1877 when he moved to Cane Hill. In 1909 he came to Prairie Grove to reside.

December 1, 1859 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Simpson. They became parents of ten children.

Mr. Brewster enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 and served as a member of Co. B, 34th Arkansas Infantry through the War. He surrendered with his Company at Fort Smith at the close of the struggle. He was a member of the Prairie Grove Camp of Confederate Veterans at the time of his death in November

1910. Burial was in Cane Hill Cemetery.

B. H. HARRISON

B. H. Harrison, a native of Georgia, was born in 1834 and moved to Alabama in 1858. In 1889 he moved to a farm in the



B. H. Harrison
(D. Ramsey Photo)

Illinois Chapel community east of Prairie Grove. His first wife, Liza, was an aunt of Mrs. J. W. Ramsey. Liza Harrison died in 1901 and later Mr. Harrison married Jennie, the sister of his first wife.

Harrison built the Masonic Temple in Prairie Grove in 1903 and donated it to the Order. Revenue from the building to be distributed to the widows and children of Masons.

In 1908 the home and lots across Neal street from the Methodist Church were willed by Mr. Harrison to the church to be used as a parsonage. His wife was a member of the Methodist Church and Mr. Harrison was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Harrison also left a house, and stock in the Southern Mercantile Company, the proceeds from which go to the Lodge and Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

J. J. BAGGETT

(Portions of an Autobiography written in 1919 and published in Flashback)

J. J. Baggett was born August 31, 1847, in White County, North Georgia. In 1860 the war broke out and my brother, Monroe, went to war and was killed at Atlanta in 1864. I worked in the shop in '61 and '62 and ran the farm in 1863. In March, 1864, my father sent me to Southern Georgia and put me in charge of a farm he had bought.

In June, 1864, I joined the Army, Company "D," the 6th Regiment. After the Battle of Atlanta, I was sick and was discharged and went back to our farm and negroes. I went to school some in '66, '67, and '68 and in '69 I resolved to go West. On the 20th day of September, 1870, I left for the West (Texas). I arrived in Fort Smith, bought a pony and saddle and rode into Washington County, Prairie Grove Valley to see John Mock. In 1870 I went to Van Buren and bought a shop and went to work.

In 1872 I went to Prairie Grove and went in partnership with W. D. Rogers in a blacksmith shop. The first work was done in an old stable on January 15th. We leased a lot from J. P. Neal where the town of Prairie Grove is now, to put a shop on and paid the sum of \$1.00 per month for water from the spring. We built the first house (shop) in March, 1872. I kept the first post office in Prairie Grove. I was a wood worker and Rogers was the blacksmith.

I married Mattie Mock on June 12, 1870. I bought 160 acres of land West of town in the fall of 1873 from J. W. Goddard and

J. P. Neal and built a home on it. We started housekeeping in the fall of 1874.

On June 22, 1875, I went in with W. G. McPhetridge and W. D. Rogers to build the first Prairie Grove Mill. In 1878, I sold my interest in the mill and built a new shop and took A. Sanders in with me as an apprentice.

I bought hogs, cattle, sheep and mules from 1885 to 1889. In 1891 I sowed 150 acres of wheat, dissolved partnership with A. Sanders, and took in D. N. McCormick, giving him one-third interest. Went in the Bank of Fayetteville and took over the M. Ilroy Bank in 1892.

In 1896 J. E. Mock built his home and Dr. Mock stayed with us. In '96 I invested in the Fayetteville Grocery Co. and was elected president in 1897. In 1903 Baggett and McCormick organized the Ozark Grocery Co. in Prairie Grove.

E. H. Harrison built the Masonic building in 1903.

In 1907 Ozark Mercantile Co. bought out S. R. Wilson and called the new business the Southern Mercantile Company. In 1908 Southern Mercantile Co. put a branch in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. In 1911 I was elected director of the Prairie Grove Bank and president of the Southern Mercantile Co.; built a levy on the Brunk farm in 1917.

I have operated nine dry goods stores, five hardware stores, three furniture stores, five retail grocery stores, four wholesale grocery stores, six lumber yards, two flour mills, and have owned 50,000 acres of land.

(J. J. Baggett died in Orlando, Florida, Tuesday, December 23, 1919. Funeral held at Prairie Grove Methodist Church and burial in Prairie Grove Cemetery.)

Go to Baggett & Sanders' to buy your Oliver Chill plows and points at Fayetteville prices.

(*Prairie Grove News*, 8-22-1885)

H. S. MOBLEY

H. S. Mobley was born in Tampa, Florida, June 16, 1869, and when a lad of eight or nine moved with his parents to Missouri where he was educated and graduated from the State University at Columbia. It was at Springfield that he met and married Blanche Hamill, a St. Louis girl visiting school friends there. The couple moved to Evening Shade, Arkansas to make their home.

Early in life, Mr. Mobley identified himself with the church, and having an altruistic



Mobley Family. Back row: Harry, Clabourn, Roe; Front row: Charley, Blanche Mobley, H. S. Mobley, and George

(H. Mobley Photo)

and evangelical streak, he studied theology and preached "every now and then," sometimes having a regular church and sometimes filling in for another pastor, but always earning his living by other means.

His experience was varied. At one time he headed a lumber concern at Corning; at another he founded and edited a paper, the Corning Courier. In 1904 he moved to Prairie Grove to take charge of the Christian Church here. At all times he was interested in agriculture, and his hobby was to promote better living conditions for rural people.

His interest in farm work and workers attracted the attention

of the Farm Extension Bureau of one of the biggest harvester companies in the world. They showed him where he could serve the farmer at a worthwhile salary with the entire United States his field. He accepted the job and mixed better farming on a big scale, with his religion, although he continued to preach.

He was president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau for many years. "My headquarters are in Chicago" (with International Harvester Company Farm Life Extension Bureau) he said once when discussing his work, "but my home is still in a cave in the country."

Mr. and Mrs. Mobley had five sons, Harry, Clabourn, Charley A., Roe and George.

H. S. Mobley, 76, died June 7, 1946, and was buried in Sharp Cemetery south of Prairie Grove. Mrs. Mobley died in 1956 and was also buried in Sharp Cemetery.

Two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Roe Mobley and Mrs. Charley Mobley, still live in Prairie Grove.

JOHN HERMAN ZELLNER

(Prairie Grove Enterprise, January 22, 1953)

J. Herman Zellner, son of W. E. and Mary Polson Zellner, was born at Viney Grove, May 18, 1868. He was married to Miss Betty Pyeatt on October 28, 1891. To this union was born one daughter, Julia, who married Mack F. Thompson September 16, 1920.

Zellner was a member of the Board of Galloway College from 1910 to 1920, and was an organizer, and for many years a trustee of the Valley Springs Training School. In addition to his church work, he was active in civic affairs, serving on the local school board for a number of years. He was president of the local First National Bank, general manager of the Southern Mercantile Company, and was

interested in lumber yards and other mercantile stores. He also had extensive farming interests.

He attended and was a member of the North Arkansas Conference of the Methodist Church from the



Four generations of Zellner family, Left to Right; Mary Ann Zellner with Bann Thompson seated on her lap, Julia Zellner Thompson, Herman Franklin Thompson, and John Herman Zellner, (Thompson Photo)

time he united with the church until his health failed in 1947.

Mr. Zellner died January 24, 1953. Funeral services were held from the Prairie Grove Methodist Church and burial was in the local cemetery. Mrs. Zellner died August 7, 1959 and was also buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

PRAIRIE GROVE CABINET MAKER
AND SKILLED CRAFTSMAN

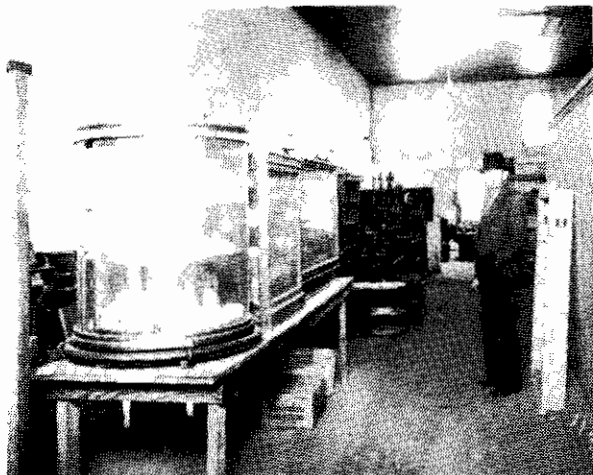
(Prairie Grove Enterprise, November 20, 1941)

In a dust-covered shop behind the offices of Justice of the Peace J. L. McConnell and Dr. F. W. Bodurtha, James Abraham

Geiger works happily at the job he has worked at since he was sixteen, with intermissions in which he took up farming and carpentering.

He is a cabinetmaker of the first order. His woodworking came as a sort of a hobby at first, but for the past twenty years he has made it a steady job. "Farming is all right, I like it," he drawled, "but I believe I like carpentering and cabinetmaking the best."

Mr. Geiger was born 67 years ago right across the Petit Jean River from Havana, Arkansas, nine miles from Danville, the



J. A. Geiger in his Cabinet Shop in downtown Prairie Grove. The building is now part of the Farmers & Merchants Bank.

(H. Noeller Photo)

county seat. His father was a mechanic. "One of the real old precision kind, who has to have everything exactly right." It was then that Jim started working with tools. He has never served an apprenticeship or had a teacher to help him learn the trade. "It's just instinct, I guess," he said. Instinct or not, he can make anything out of wood, iron, or steel, from pocket knives to houses.

He worked with his father as a machinist for a long time, but he didn't "hanker" for that kind of work. He was young in the days when cotton gins were fed by hand and he stood many an hour on a box so he could reach the bin where the cotton was and fed the gin. "That was too

confining and dirty."

Mr. Geiger has worked twenty years in Prairie Grove and has added to the size of the town considerably. He has built over a hundred houses in his lifetime.

He hasn't made "quite all" of the furniture in the Geiger home. He has doll furniture ready for Christmas that would gladden the heart of any grown up. He can furnish an entire house, as he has done for Mr. and Mrs. W. E. N. Phillips. The walnut wood was brought from Madison County, and Mr. Geiger turned out bedroom suites, a dining room suite and living room furniture. He even does the upholstery.

When he was twenty-seven, he moved to Booneville and married Miss Mammie Florence in 1897. They moved to Prairie Grove in 1922.

Five children are now living as this history is being prepared. They are: Mrs. Edna Swint of Booneville, Arkansas; Pershing Geiger of Casper, Wyoming; Jimmie Bell (Mrs. Owen) Delap, Helen (Mrs. Reid) Noeller, and Rachel (Mrs. Leonard) Maxey, all of Prairie Grove.

Mr. Geiger died in June, 1962, and Mrs. Geiger in May, 1972. They are buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

JIM PARKS AND THE
PRAIRIE GROVE TELEPHONE CO.

*(By Earnie Dean,
September 27, 1956)*

Turn-crank telephones, like steam locomotives, are fast disappearing from the Arkansas scene. So are many of the men who "knew them when."

But J. C. (Jim) Parks of Prairie Grove, said to be the oldest independent telephone company owner in Arkansas, is still very much alive and up to his ears in the "number, please" business.

Mr. Parks well remembers when there was only one telephone in

Prairie Grove, hooked up by a single line to Fayetteville some 15 miles away. And he has vivid recollections of personally operating the Prairie Grove exchange that came some years later.

His stepfather, L. C. McCormick, and his father-in-law, Dr. E. G. McCormick, pioneered in the telephone business in Prairie Grove. Mr. Parks says there are no records of when the first line was installed in the town, but he does know from existing records that the year was prior to 1888. (The first telephone in Arkansas was installed in Little Rock in 1879, only three years after it was invented.)

Mr. Parks went to work on the Prairie Grove switchboard in 1901, as a 24-hour-a-day "central," serving some 30 customers.

Now he and his three sons own the Prairie Grove Telephone Co. that serves--with dial equipment--some 1,300 customers in Prairie Grove, Lincoln, Cane Hill, Dutch Mills, Cincinnati, Morrow and Farmington.

The telephone, simple as it was by today's standards, confused many folks in the early days.

Mr. Parks recalled a hillside farmer who talked over the Prairie Grove-Fayetteville line for the first time and who asked in amazement, "Does that little wire holler?"

The customer didn't always come first in those times. One rural community operator used to notify the Prairie Grove office that "my board will be closed about an hour while I hoe in the garden."

Even today's operators get a bit mixed up, he confessed. One of his women employees told him the other day, "I made the wrong mistake."

Jim Parks, gray-headed, wrinkled of face and with eyes that sparkle when he makes an amusing point, operates one of the 230 telephone exchanges in



James C. "Jim" Parks

Arkansas that are called, for want of a better word, "independent."

An independent exchange is one that is not owned by the nationwide Bell System.

Of some 318,000 telephones in operation in Arkansas at the last count, independent exchanges listed approximately 80,000 "stations" as the trade calls a phone outlet. Bell serves larger communities generally, although this does not hold entirely true. The independents serve smaller communities for the most part.

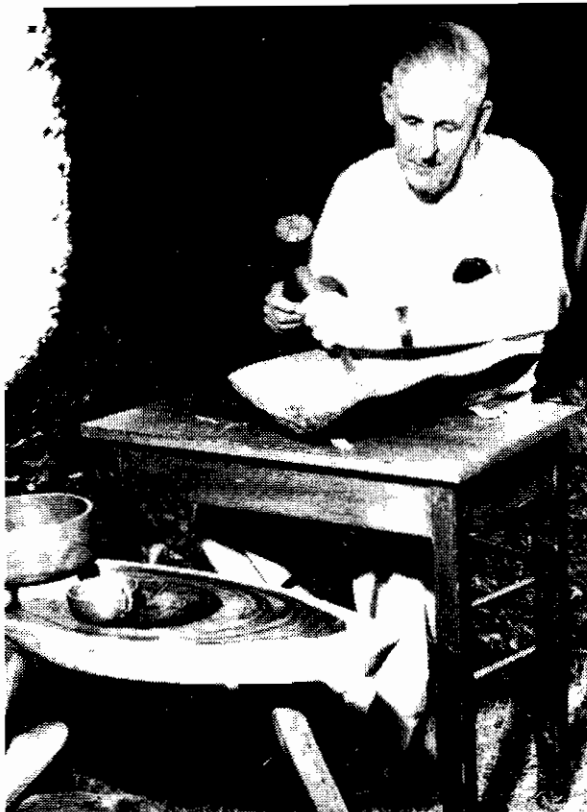
DR. FRED McQUISTION

(Prairie Grove Enterprise, November 30, 1939)

Dr. Fred McQuistion was born in Sulphur City, Arkansas, August 11, 1893, the son of the Rev. and Mrs. John McQuistion, and spent his youth in Prairie Grove where he attended public school. He graduated from Hendrix College in Conway in

1919 with a Bachelor of Science degree; and from Peabody College in 1922 with a Master of Arts degree. His Doctor of Philosophy degree was conferred in June, 1939. He was a graduate student at Harvard in 1928, at Yale in 1934 and 1937, and the University of London in 1937.

Dr. McCuistion's professional career began as high school principal at Lonoke, and superintendent of Ashley county schools at Hamburg, Arkansas. In 1925 he was appointed State Director of Negro Education in



Dr. Fred McCuistion (Park Photo)

Arkansas and served until 1930. From 1931-38 he was executive agent of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in Nashville.

He served in the U.S. Air Force for fifteen months during World War I. He was a member of the National Education Association; of the National Advisory Commission on the Education of the Negro; and was a Phi Delta Kappa.

Dr. McCuistion was married to the former Miss Madge Haslett of Little Rock on November 20,

1927. They lived in various places in Arkansas and in New York City, before moving to Prairie Grove in 1950. They purchased a lovely old house on West Bush Street which they restored for a retirement home.

Dr. McCuistion was active in the development of Prairie Grove Battlefield Park. He located the old log buildings which were moved piece-by-piece and restored as the Latta House and Barn, and Vineyard Village. His love for pioneer log structures led him to have a log cabin moved log-by-log to his back yard and restored as a guest cottage.

In 1953 Dr. McCuistion retired from the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. He continued on a part-time basis with the Southern Education Foundation of Atlanta until 1959 when he and Mrs. McCuistion retired to their Prairie Grove home. Dr. McCuistion died here in 1969 and was buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery. Mrs. McCuistion continues to make Prairie Grove her home.

J. FRANK HOLMES

J. Frank Holmes, former mayor of Prairie Grove and member of the Arkansas House of Representatives, was a native of Georgia and came to Prairie Grove in 1931. He was elected mayor of Prairie Grove in 1932 and was instrumental in construction of the Prairie Grove Water and Sewer Systems. He was also active in the establishment of the Prairie Grove Library.

Holmes was elected Mayor of Prairie Grove in 1932 and served until 1941 when he resigned to become a member of the General Assembly of Arkansas where he worked untiringly for the best interests of Northwest Arkansas. Holmes again served as Prairie Grove Mayor in 1946 and 1947.

He was educated as a lawyer and spent a number of years at

the bar in his home state of Georgia. He also studied for the ministry and was actively engaged in church work, serving lengthy pastorates at the Christian churches in Jasper, Alabama; Belton and Ivanho, Texas.

During World War I he served as a member of the Speakers Bureau with headquarters in Kansas City and traveled extensively in the South in the interest of bond drives. After the close of the war, he married Anna James Hoover of Prairie Grove and adopted this state as his home.

He was a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the local Masonic Lodge; a member of the Lincoln IOOF Lodge; the county Bar Association; Farm Bureau, and president of the Prairie Grove Lions Club.

J. Frank Holmes died June 27, 1947 and funeral services were held at the Christian Church with burial in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

LINCOLN EDWARD MAUPIN

Lincoln Edward Maupin was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, April 30, 1881, the son of A. L. and Emma Campbell Maupin. He moved with his family



Graduating Class of the Prairie Grove High School 1907-08, Back row, Left to Right; Eswin Sharp, Leta Taylor, Allen Blakemore, Johnnie Priscilla Dean Magruder; Seated; Alma Sanders, Dr. J. H. Caldwell and Maude Greathouse (Mrs. Porter Pittman)

(P. G. Library Photo)

to Prairie Grove in 1903 and located at "The Oaks" west of Prairie Grove where he lived until a few months before his death.

He was married to Miss Madge Lake at Pawnee, Oklahoma, January 10, 1911. Their home "The Oaks," west of Prairie Grove, was the center of social activity and a tradition of fine living, courtesy and hospitality.

Mr. Maupin made a large contribution to the development of Washington County, particularly in the field of getting electricity to the rural areas. He was chairman of a group who signed up enough farmers to assure organization of Ozarks Electric Coop Corp., and was a member of the board of directors in 1938 when the cooperative obtained its first Rural Electrification loan. He lived to see Ozarks Electric grow to a membership of 13,000 serving five counties in Arkansas and four in Oklahoma.

Because of failing health Mr. and Mrs. Maupin moved to Houston, Texas, in the early '60s to be with their son, Frank Lake Maupin. L. E. Maupin died in Houston January 5, 1965. Funeral services were held at the Prairie Grove Methodist Church with burial in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Mrs. Maupin was also living in Houston when she died September 8, 1977. The body was returned to Prairie Grove for services and interment. Their son, Frank, died at Fayetteville in May, 1987, and burial was in Prairie Grove.

In 1911 the *Prairie Grove Herald* received from the Census Bureau at Washington, a statement giving the population of Prairie Grove township, including the town of Prairie Grove, as 1,546. The town had 774 residents and the balance of the township had 772.

Anna James Hoover attended school in Prairie Grove and in Houston, Texas, where she stayed with an aunt. When she returned to Prairie Grove she taught at Prairie View--the beginning of her long teaching career. While teaching there she stayed with various families and spent the weekends with her mother. She also taught at Viney Grove, at Huntington, and Little Rock, AR.

It was on a train trip to Prairie Grove from Little Rock



Anna James Hoover Holmes Dorman

(M. Sharp Photo)

that she met J. Frank Holmes. By the time they reached Prairie Grove, he had asked her to marry him and she accepted. They married in 1919, and she accompanied him on many trips, helping in his various activities, from selling war bonds to holding evangelistic meetings. She was an accomplished musician and song-leader and used her talents in the work.

They always returned to their home on Holmes Street in Prairie

Grove. Mr. Holmes, who was a lawyer, served as mayor of Prairie Grove, as State Representative, as a minister of the Christian Church and was active in community work in Prairie Grove for many years.

Anna Holmes held various positions in the Prairie Grove School System. She served as school librarian, taught in the high school, directed class plays, and was elementary school principal for a number of years.

She was a member of the Prairie Grove Woman's Club and served as its president in 1933-34. She was a member of the Prairie Grove Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and a past worthy matron. She was affiliated with the Arkansas Association of University Women and the Washington County Retired Teachers Association.

As a member of the First Christian Church, she was active in church work and played piano and organ. She gave an electric organ to the church.

During her teaching career, she attended the University of Arkansas and received her degree in Education. She taught school for 41 years, 32 years in the Prairie Grove School District.

After her retirement from teaching she worked at the Washington County Library.

She was a tireless worker for the Prairie Grove Library and served as librarian for many years after she retired from teaching. In recognition of her many services to the library and to the people of Prairie Grove, the library was named the Anna Holmes Dorman Public Library.

She married Maynard A. Dorman in January 1966. He died November 6, 1974. Anna James Hoover Holmes Dorman died in 1986 and is buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

If you want a first class cigar, call at the Post-office.

(Prairie Grove News,

8-22-1885)

J. L. (John Leander) McConnell was born May 5, 1861, at Owensburg, North Carolina. With his widowed mother and family he moved to West Fork-Hogeye community about 1882. He taught in area schools for several years and married Edmonia Elizabeth Curtis of West Fork on February 9, 1885. He purchased a grocery



*J. L. (John) McConnell and Wife
(Lloyd McConnell Photo)*

store at Sulphur, and became postmaster about 1896.

When he moved to Prairie Grove in 1913 he became cashier of the Farmers State Bank. Eugene Cole was the other person employed in the bank as bookkeeper at that time.

He later worked at the Southern Mercantile Co. as manager of the Grocery Department. He then entered the produce and insurance business for several years.

J. L. McConnell served as Mayor of Prairie Grove in 1919, 1930, 1931 and 1932 and was a member of the Prairie Grove School Board for many years, often as president of the Board. He was a Notary Public and Justice of the Peace in Prairie Grove for some seventy years.

McConnell died in November, 1944 and his wife died in October, 1943. A son, Lloyd McConnell, lives in Fayetteville.

J. O. Bain, as a young man, joined two other young men of Prairie Grove, went to Colorado and took up a homestead near Greeley. Later Bain traded his homestead for a farm at Apple Hill and began his business career in Prairie Grove.

In the early 1930s Bain was connected with his father-in-law, John Carl, in the Banner Grocery and Hardware. Later he established the Southland Oil Co. Service Station east of the old John Carl home on West Buchanan Street.

Bain was also an auctioneer and real estate dealer.

The following article was taken from the Prairie Grove Enterprise, March 24, 1938:

"Several improvements have been made at the Southland Filling Station and at the manager J. O. Bain's home.

"A new gasoline pump has been placed at the station and two old pumps have been repainted. A new cement island has been laid, and new lights put up on the drive.

"The Bain home, one of the oldest in the community, has been partly repainted on the outside. When John O. Parks moved into the house about a half-century ago, it contained one room, a ceiled upstairs and a lean-to kitchen. Later John Carl added rooms on the front and, still later built the south wing containing the kitchen and dining room. Mrs. Effie Carl Bain was reared in the house and with the exception of the first few years has spent her married life there."

In 1944 Bain retired and sold the station and home. They moved to the John Carl Property on Buchanan and Pittman. This home was later torn down to make room for a parking lot for Dillon's Grocery.

J. O. Bain died January 8, 1956, and his wife, Effie, died December 3, 1965. Both are buried in Prairie Grove Ceme-

tery.

Mr. and Mrs. Bain had two sons, Tom Bain of Springdale, and Dr. Calvin Bain of Bella Vista.

DELFORD ERNEST RIEFF

Delford Ernest Rieff was born on a farm south of Prairie Grove, near Strickler, on October 2, 1909, the son of Clinton Wade Rieff and Eunice McBride Rieff. He received his early education at a non-denominational Christian school held at Zinnamon, which was attended by students from other nearby areas.

He attended the Fayetteville Business College prior to entering the banking business and since that time has had special training in Commercial Banking and Bank Organization and Operation, as well as other courses offered by the Arkansas Bankers Association and the University of Arkansas.

He joined the staff of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Prairie Grove in 1929. In 1932 he became assistant cashier and in 1938 Rieff was made cashier. In 1951 he was elected president and served in this capacity until 1980 at which time he was elected Chairman of the Board, and still serves in this capacity.

Rieff has been active in civic work. He was elected Treasurer of the City of Prairie Grove in 1933 and in the late '30s he was elected to the City Council where he served for some thirty years. He served on the Prairie Grove School Board for a number of years, was a member of the Washington County Fair Board, the Washington County Democratic Central Committee, the Washington County Election Commission, and the Washington County Hospital Board of Trustees.

He is a member of the Prairie Grove United Methodist Church and served as its treasurer for many years. He is a member of

Occidental Lodge No. 436, having served as Worshipful Master, treasurer and trustee. He was also a member of the Battlefield Park Commission and a charter member of the Prairie Grove Lions club.

Rieff has long been a strong supporter of the Soil Conservation program and in 1966 was appointed to serve on the Wash-



D. E. Rieff visits with Paul A. Volcher, Federal Reserve Board Chairman, at an Arkansas Bankers' Seminar held in Fayetteville in August 1983.
(Rieff Photo)

ington County Soil Conservation Commission. He has been re-appointed every three years since that time.

In 1933 he assisted the Arkansas State Park System in making Devil's Den a State Park. He also was instrumental in securing land for a CCC Camp at Devil's Den in 1932. From 1933 until 1939 hundreds of young men worked to clear the landscape, build roads, build a dam and construct cabins and camp areas. Devil's Den is now one of the outstanding natural parks in the State.

On June 27, 1935 Delford E. Rieff married Miss Mamie Edmiston, a teacher in the Prairie Grove High School. They have one son, James Clinton Rieff, who was born December 26, 1939. Jim and Susan Moore Rieff have two daughters, Leslie and Barbara.

Jim Rieff is now president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

DR. HERBERT EARL BUCHANAN

Dr. Herbert Earl Buchanan, a well-known educator, and his wife, the former Ada Tilley, are the last of the Tilley heritage to occupy the historic house, presently known as Cloverdale Farm. The place is located about five miles west of Prairie Grove on the Rheas Mill road. Mrs. Buchanan's grandfather, John Tilley, Jr., built the antebellum mansion around 1855.

Dr. and Mrs. Buchanan acquired the house in 1950 after Dr. Buchanan retired with 52 years in the teaching profession. He enrolled in the University of Arkansas at the age of fourteen and graduated in 1902. He received his Ph. D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1909, and later taught in several states. He, at one time, served as interim president of the College of the Ozarks at Clarksville.

James Albert Buchanan, father of H. E. Buchanan, was born in 1844 and was a student at Cane Hill College when the Civil War broke out. He joined the Confederate army just after the Battle of Pea Ridge and was in Capt. F. R. Earl's Company.

Dr. Buchanan died January 17, 1974 at the age of 94. Mrs. Buchanan died in 1976 at the age of 97.

The Buchanan's son, John A. and his wife, Marjorie, formerly of New Orleans, Louisiana, are now in charge of the farm and divide their time between their retirement home, at Butterfield Village in Fayetteville, and the farm.

HUGH ADAM BEEKS

Hugh Adam Beeks, son of Tiff and Lillie Beeks, operated a blacksmith shop at the southeast corner of Mock and Cleveland Streets from 1943 to 1958.

In 1942 Hugh went to work for John Reynolds' Blacksmith Shop. In a few months he bought the business and moved his family

from the Prairie View Community to Prairie Grove. The family home was adjacent to the shop property. This was handy for the farmers who brought broken equipment to be fixed. Many



*Hugh Beeks with hunting dogs
(B. Bell Photo)*

times Beeks would be interrupted as he ate lunch or after he had closed the shop for the day. Farm equipment does not necessarily break during business hours!

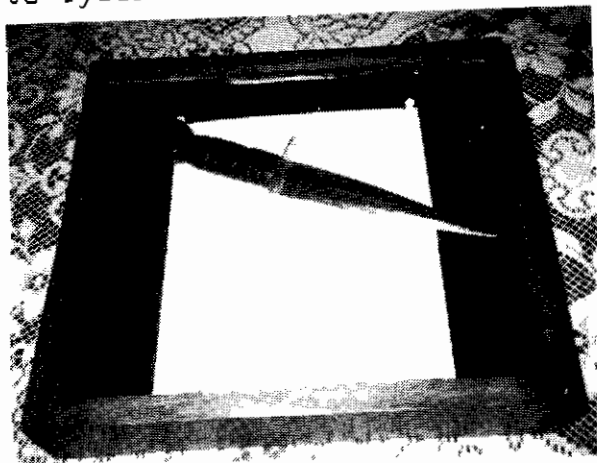
The family consisted of Hugh Beeks, his wife Ortha, and their three children, Donnie, Billy Hugh (Buster) and Betty.

Area farmers depended on him to shoe their horses and repair farm equipment, from fixing wagon tongues to wagon wheels. He also built wagons. His brother, Ivy Beeks, has a wagon Hugh built for their Dad in 1942, which he has driven in the Springdale Rodeo Parade. It was a prize winner in that parade in 1987.

He made and repaired garden plows, made flat-bottom boats, and in the late '40s he made one of the first hay elevators in the country. He made and sold several in the next few years.

During World War II he made several knives to be carried by local boys overseas. One such knife, made for Wilford Thomp-

son, now belongs to Tyler Bell, a grandson of Hugh Beeks, a gift to Tyler from Wilford.



Knife made by Hugh Beeks and given to Wilford Thompson before he went into service. Thompson, in turn, gave it to Tyler Bell, a grandson of Beeks'. (B. Bell Photo)

Hugh Beeks liked all sports, from basketball and baseball to hunting and fishing. His favorite was quail hunting. As an extension of this hobby he raised and trained champion bird dogs, and restored guns. He had quite a collection of guns, one of which was an old black-powder muzzle-loader with a barrel "a mile long."

During the late '40s and '50s Orville Beeks, a cousin worked with Hugh in the blacksmith shop.

One of the many memories of the Beeks children of their Dad, is of him standing at the big forge, heating the metal he was working on to a red hot--knowing just when it was the right temperature to shape and mold. He would hammer, bend it, and when it was just right he would douse it into a big wooden tub of water to help cool it. The forge was fired by coal and there was always a pile of coal just outside the door.

In 1958 Hugh closed the shop and went to work for Kelley Canning Company, in charge of maintenance. His expertise in welding and his inventive nature made him of much value to the company and to Johnny Kelley, owner.

In early December 1960, while quail hunting with his son, Buster, he suffered a heart attack. He died two weeks later on December 17th and was buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

PRAIRIE GROVE'S ONLY NEGRO
RESIDENT IS PROVIDED A HOME

(Prairie Grove Enterprise, 1948)

Charlie Wilson, Prairie Grove's only negro citizen, was made very happy last week when his friends and local businessmen raised a fund to provide a home where Charlie can spend the rest of his life.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bain made available a building at the back of their property to be made into a comfortable room for the 91-year-old negro. The building is being re-roofed along with other improvements to make it comfortable for him. Herschel Clark, local jeweler, was assisted by Rev. G. C. Bidwell and Sam McKnight in raising the necessary funds.

(The J. O. Bain home was the two-story house which was moved back to make the first Dillon's parking lot and has since been torn down for the new Dillon Store. In 1948 this house faced Buchanan Street at the corner of Pittman and Buchanan.)

During the past several months Charlie has been unable to work because of advanced age and failing eyesight. His only income is a small old-age pension.

Charlie's one great passtime is going from business house to business house playing his harmonica. He likes to tell stories of his younger days when he was sometimes up most of the night playing the "shoddish" and waltzes for good old southern dances. He also spent a lot of time in his later years washing windows for local businesses "so clean you might walk through them," he said. He also rendered lard for ladies of the town, "never burning a cracklin'," so

he said.

Charlie was Prairie Grove's "most unforgettable character."



Charlie Wilson

(W. Thompson Photo)

DEATH CLAIMS PRAIRIE GROVE'S
ONLY NEGRO CITIZEN IN 1950

(*Prairie Grove Enterprise*, 1950)

By Mayor Frank Riggall

When Charlie Wilson, Prairie Grove's only negro resident passed away Friday night, June 9, 1950, a link with the past was broken for Prairie Grove. Charlie Wilson, his brother, Neal, and a sister, Doshe, were raised on the William Wilson place five miles northwest of Prairie Grove. His mother was named Edie. Charlie was born about 1859. Nothing is known of his father, and as was common the children took the name of the owner of the place where they were born.

The emancipation of the slaves brought troubled conditions. The South was poor. No adequate wage scale for negroes was worked out, and neither freed slaves nor ex-owners knew just what to do. The Wilson and West slaves went on foot to Van Buren. When Edie reached the junction of the farm lane and the road, she told her children to go back to the Wilson home, a half-mile from where they were standing. She told the children

that the Wilson family would take care of them--and they did!

This was not a cruel, hard-hearted act on Edie's part. It was a matter of getting the best she could for her children. In those difficult times she could, and did, look after herself, but to look after three children in addition might have been an intolerable burden. Edie found employment with the editor of a newspaper in Van Buren and remained with this family until her death.

Charlie Wilson's sister, Doshe, died in her teens. His brother, Neal, died in manhood, but Charlie remained with the Wilson family for many years, living in the "big house" until he was married to Becky, and after his marriage he lived in a house on the farm. After Becky passed away Charlie spent several years working for the Blackburn family, occasionally going back to the Wilsons, or to Mrs. Will Cunningham's.

Later he moved into Prairie Grove. He was honest and a good worker, but liked to work only for the old settlers in the



Charley Wilson, Jack Wilson and Watson Woody, taken at old Wilson home.

(C. Wilson Photo)

valley. He was of a happy temperament and until a few years ago, liked to play his mouth organ for his amusement and that of others. As he grew older and less able to work he had supreme trust and confidence in the

ability and willingness of the "white folks" to look after him in his declining years. This trust was well-founded. Loving care was bestowed on him and although blind and helpless, he maintained his cheerfulness and good humor to the end. "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brother, ye have done it unto me."

PERSHING GEIGER

Pershing Geiger, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Geiger, was born June 12, 1920 in Booneville, Arkansas and moved to Prairie Grove where he attended Prairie Grove Schools and lived until he joined the Marine Corps in 1940. After action in the Pacific theatre and being wounded twice he was discharged



Pershing Geiger at work.

and returned to Prairie Grove.

After a time he went to California where he met and married Miss Louise Wilson of Casper, Wyoming, the daughter of a pioneer Casper area ranching family.

They have lived in Casper for many years and Geiger has carved out a career as a nationally-known sculptor. He has completed hundreds of sculptures, from small enough to be held in the hand to one almost twelve feet tall.

His first work in heroic motif, "The Homesteader," is outside Guaranty Federal Savings and Loan in Casper. When

Casper's massive Events Center was built in the early 1980s, Geiger was commissioned for the heroic statue of Casper's namesake, Lt. Casper Collins, to grace the entranceway. Matching the massiveness of the Events Center, Geiger's Casper Collins looms 11 feet, five inches tall and 10 feet in length, and is mounted on a six-foot base. It is estimated to weigh two and a half tons.

Like most bronze statues, Geiger's "Collins" was cast in sections, the work done by a foundry in Colorado. The sections were welded together and the weld lines ground out. The entire project took 16 months from the design to the finish. The plaster model of the rearing Morgan stallion required nine months of Pershing's time, and is authentically detailed down to the weapons, spurs, and cavalry accouterments. The likeness of Collins came from an old photograph.

According to the magazine, "Horizons," Geiger is one of the most fortunate of humans. His career, from Arkansas farm boy and apprentice cabinetmaker under his master craftsman father, to a long and dangerous war as a twice-wounded Marine Raider, to his own cabinet work in Casper until he took the big, full-time art step in 1975, is an epic success story.

Pershing and Louise Geiger have two daughters, Connie Norwood of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Cheryl Gillam of Casper, Wyoming.



*Group of high school students. Photo taken in 1914,
(W. Allen Photo)*

KEITH L. BLACK

Keith L. Black and his family moved to Northwest Arkansas from Northern New Mexico in the early spring of 1953. They brought with them a semi truck load of



Keith L. Black, surrounded by his sculptures.

cattle; among which, were five fine Guernsey heifers.

The two sons, Richard and Russell, active in 4-H and FFA, used these Guernsey heifers to aid the family in establishing one of the top registered dairy herds in Arkansas. Not only did this provide the basis of the family living, but also, through the boys showing the cattle at county, district and state fairs, they gained scholarships which enabled them to both graduate from the University of Arkansas.

When both sons were in the University, the family shifted from dairying back to a beef cattle operation. This enabled Keith to work as a carpenter and stone mason as he had previously done years ago in New Mexico.

In 1976 he saw for the first time some wood sculptures by the late Willard Stone, the nationally famous Cherokee sculptor. This work inspired him to try it himself, and he was "hooked"!

In recent years he has studied sculpture under Willard Stone, of Oklahoma, and design and sculpture at the University of Arkansas under Professor Subrata Lahiri. He also attends

the annual Art Show and Seminar at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center each year.

His background or heritage being the ranching country of the West coupled with his association with the Mexican and Indian people of New Mexico, has been of immense value in his art work which can be found in public and private collections from Florida to New York to California, encompassing at least 20 states.

Keith L. Black, a native of Des Moines, New Mexico, married Dorris McSpadden of Lubbock, Texas on October 6, 1940 in Lubbock. Dorris has been involved in 4-H Club work, FFA, PTA and other school activities, as well as church, community and civic endeavors.

Their son Richard married Louise Alexander of Fayetteville. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a B.A. in History, and a Master's in Education. He is on the teaching staff of Prairie Grove High School. Louise is Counselor of Elmdale Elementary School in Springdale. Both are active in the Arkansas Teachers' Association.

Richard's children are: Keith Andrew Black of San Diego, California; and Cindy Deana (Mrs. Mitchell) Whitehouse, of Prairie Grove.

The Black's second son, Russell, received a B.S. degree in Agri Economics at the University



*Illinois Chapel School, Taken in 1910,
Demetrius Ramsey, teacher, (Ramsey Photo)*

of Arkansas. He married Brenda Sue Clem on June 4, 1966. Brenda has a B.S. degree in English from the University of Arkansas.

Following their marriage, Russell and Brenda joined the Peace Corps and served and worked in India. They now reside on their farm East of Prairie Grove and are partners in "Westwood Gardens and Landscaping Center" of Fayetteville.

Brenda has served on the Board of Directors of Washington Regional Medical Center for nine years. She was appointed Chairman of the Board in 1984, the first woman to have the honor of serving in this position.

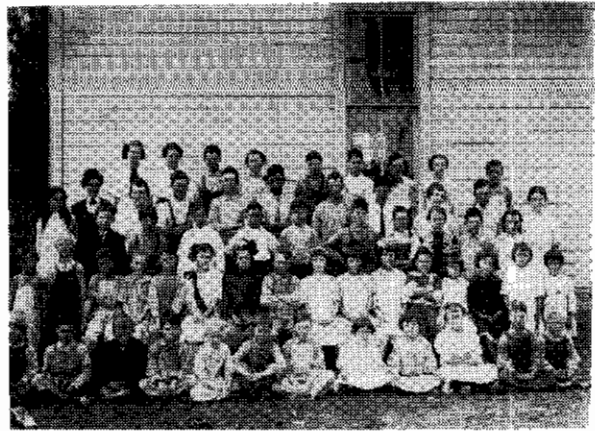
Russell and Brenda's sons are: John Stephen and Jeffrey Richard of the home.

MARY JONES HUCKENS
PRAIRIE GROVE ARTIST



By Mary Huckins

The first five years of my life were spent in the lush woods of the Northwest Arkansas hills southeast of Prairie Grove between Chester and Natural Dam, with my father and mother, Clyde and Fay Mongold Jones, and brothers and sisters, Betty, Willie and Leslie. We lived in a one-room log cabin with no running water and no electricity. My father trapped, hunted, fished and collected ginseng for a living, and my mother raised a garden in the



Illinois Chapel School, Taken in 1914, Mollie Dean, teacher,

(Ramsey Photo)

summer and canned and preserved food for the winter. My grandmothers sewed quilts and our clothes from pretty printed flour sacks.

It was these years of living very close to the land and nature without ever seeing a town or city, that helped me develop a deep love and respect for all living things and their creator, along with an acute perception and sensitivity for color, shape and form.

We moved to Prairie Grove in September of 1949 where my father farmed on the Dr. Jeff Baggett place just North of Battlefield Park. There the family increased to include my sister, Wanda. Then in 1958 we moved to the Baggett farm five miles south of Prairie Grove where a sister, Jacki, and a brother, Doug, were born.

I was always drawing and painting when I could and during my twelve years in Prairie Grove schools I had the opportunity to use my art on the school newspaper and posters for various classes. I was especially encouraged to use my art by Miss Sarah Carl in first grade, and Mrs. Anna J. Dorman in sixth grade.

After graduating from Prairie Grove High School I moved to California, went to work and then met and married James R. Huckins from Des Moines, Iowa. We have two sons, David and

Andrew, who also graduated from Prairie Grove High School.

I enjoy the play of sensual light on an object and try to capture that sparkle on my canvases. The finished painting should take the viewer into an exciting world of color and subject. To capture the beauty and drama of color, light and shadow, whether it's an apple, a mountain, or a portrait, I always work from real life.

(She studied painting at various workshops throughout the world while traveling with her husband during his Navy career, including the Philippines, Hawaii, Japan and California. She has done a number of one-woman exhibits recently and received a number of awards.)

1956 MEMBERS OF BATTLEFIELD
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Prairie Grove Battlefield Memorial Foundation meeting at the Park in 1956. Left to Right: Judge Maupin Cummings, chairman; John Tyler Caldwell, U of A president; Mrs. L. E. Maupin, Mrs. J. C. Parks, Mrs. W. E. Broyles, Robert R. Logan, Dr. Frank Riggall, J. R. Kennan, Ted Worley, Vance Randolph, W. J. Lemke, Donald Parks, Ed Broyles, Dr. Fred McCuistion,

(M. McCuistion Photo)

Prairie Grove Trades Day Association and Junior Chamber of Commerce met January 29, 1942, and voted to join the Northwest Arkansas Chamber of Commerce. R. D. Bogart was selected as board member.

PRAIRIE GROVE MAN SERVES AS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

John W. "Bill" Ramsey has represented parts of Washington and Crawford Counties (including



Prairie Grove) in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1973 through the publication date of this book.

Ramsey's legislative committee assignments going into the 1989 session included chairmanship of Public Transportation, as well as membership on Insurance and Commerce, Joint Budget, Joint Committee on Energy and Legislative Council.

Ramsey served as city treasurer for Prairie Grove from 1968 to 1972. He owned the Crescent Department Store in Prairie Grove from August 1, 1967 until June 1, 1985. After selling the store to Jim Reese, he founded Public Relations Consultants of Arkansas, with an office in Prairie Grove.

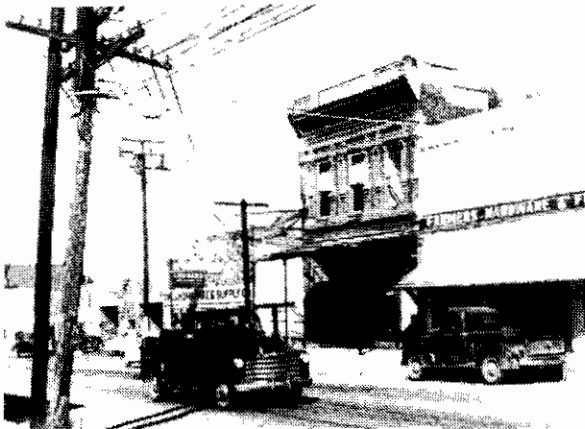
Born July 30, 1934, the son of Dean and Grace Ramsey, he graduated from Prairie Grove High School in 1951, entered the Air Force and then completed a degree in marketing at the University of Arkansas in 1959.

He married the former Beth Vaught of Elkins and they had two daughters, Becky and Brenda.

Telephone Company

By Susan Parks

Since its incorporation on October 4, 1906, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company has remained family-owned and operated to the present. Throughout these years, the Telephone Company has served much of west Washington County, providing efficient and modern service to its subscribers. The central office is located in Prairie Grove (population 1800) with four smaller offices in Lincoln,



Prairie Grove Telephone Co. Central Office in two-story building on West Buchanan. Note wires passing through window. Telephone Company moved to new building on North Mock Street in 1953.

(Parks Family Photo)

Farmington, Morrow and Strickler.

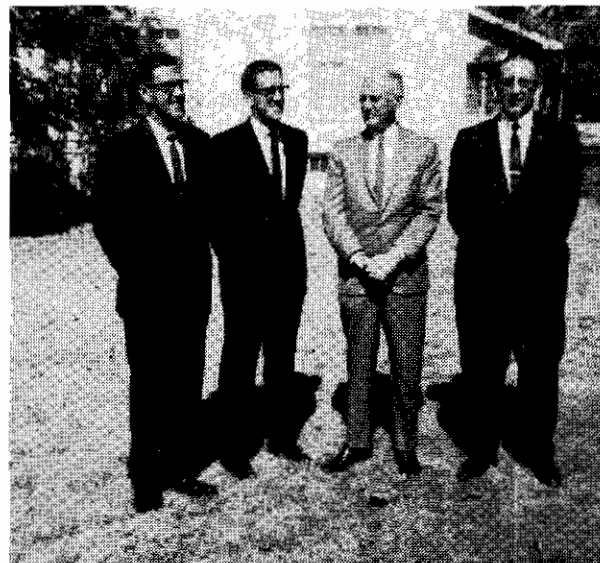
Telephone service in the Prairie Grove area was begun in 1888 by Dr. E. G. McCormick, who strung a wire from his office to his brother William's pharmacy. Later that year Dr. McCormick, with the help of a Dr. Gladson and Jim McIlroy, established a line that ran from Fayetteville to Prairie Grove. This telephone line was reportedly one of the longest in the state of Arkansas at the time.

In 1906, Dr. McCormick, William McCormick, and M. M. Collier, a pharmacist in Prairie Grove who later moved to Fayetteville, incorporated the Prairie Grove Telephone Company.

At this time, the new utility was one of two in the rural town. Their competitor, the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, was later bought out by the Prairie Grove Telephone stockholders.

(Note: The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company was established in the early 1900s by a group of area farmers who rented a house on West Thurman Street for the switchboard. Mrs. Myrtle Beaty moved from Lincoln with her four children, and operated the switchboard. Mrs. Marion Shofner, a daughter, remembers working the switchboard when she was a teenager. Wanda Allen is a granddaughter of Mrs. Beaty.)

One of the Telephone Company's first investments was to purchase a switchboard to direct the increasing number of calls. The central office was located in a small room on the second floor of a main street building where a bundle of telephone wires came in through the wall. Once, an operator ventured near the wires to inspect what she



Barry, Donald, James Fay and Joe Parks (1968)

(J. Parks Photo)

thought was a new cable. Coming closer, the startled operator discovered a large black snake.

One year later, James C.

Parks, Dr. McCormick's son-in-law, began working first as a switchboard operator, then became general manager and later president of the Prairie Grove Telephone Company. Due to Dr. McCormick's and Mr. Collier's own private businesses, Jim Parks operated the Telephone Company until his death in 1958.

As time passed, the Telephone Company's customers grew to several hundred. During the Depression, however, that number rapidly declined. Many customers returned their magneto (crank-style wall phones) until the telephones were lined up on either side of the hallway in the main office. Jim Parks never disconnected a phone for non-payment, even after the Depression years had ended. Phone bills were often paid with eggs, vegetables, and an occasional cow. Parks even co-signed a bank note that allowed

a customer to improve his farm, along with paying his phone bill.

During World War II, telephone service remained limited to a few hundred customers, as people concentrated on the more important issues of rationing and supporting their families. Yet after the war, demand for service began to increase. At this time, Jim Parks' twin sons, Barry and Donald, joined the Telephone Company, installing telephones, digging postholes, and stringing wire. Like all beginners, the two young men learned the trade by making mistakes. Barry Parks recalled installing a phone in what he thought was the right house: "The fellow who got it only made one call, and that was to us, telling us to get that damn thing out of his house." And disconnecting the wrong phone: "There was a lady right there while I was doing it. She told me later that I looked like I knew what I was doing, so she didn't interrupt." The youngest of Jim Parks' sons, Joe, also worked for the Telephone Company from 1947 to 1951, when at that time he accepted a position at the Prairie Grove post office.

One of the first major problems the Telephone Company encountered was an ice storm in January, 1949. Out of almost 2,000 telephones about eighty-five remained in service. Practically all phone lines were down after three days of freezing rain, sleet, and snow. The wires were coated with layers of ice approximately five or six inches in diameter. With only three employees who worked the outside plant, the Telephone Company began hiring anyone they could find. "We even hired the town wino," Barry Parks stated. "Matter of fact, as I recall, that's when we found out he was a wino; nobody had ever seen him sober before." Customers helped by working for nothing and some even made an advance payment on their bills to finance repairs.



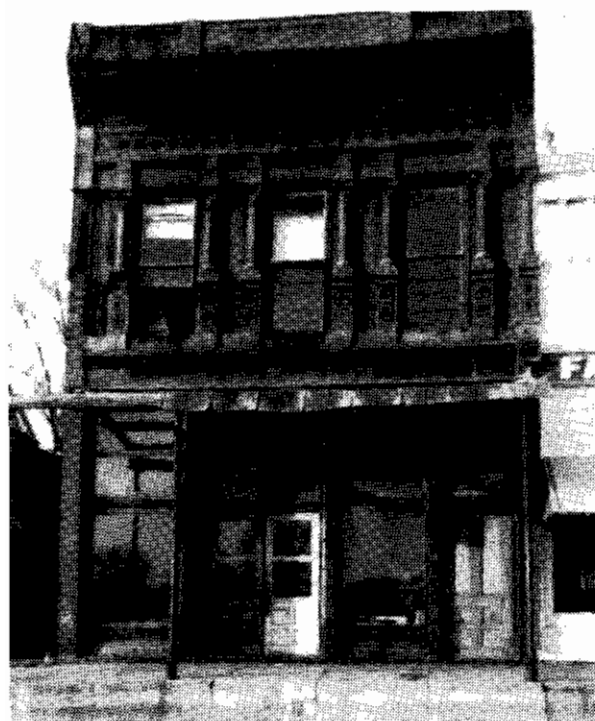
Auda Barnes (Wilson) at first switchboard of Prairie Grove Telephone Company, Jim Parks is standing,

(Barnes Photo)

It took six weeks, Donald Parks remembered, to bring everything back to working order.

Another challenge for the Telephone Company appeared in the late 1960s, when a feasibility study was released which indicated the chances of small, rural telephone companies converting from multiple-party lines to single-party service. "It said they just couldn't do it," said Barry Parks. "We decided to go ahead anyway."

Like most utilities their size, Prairie Grove had many customers on the multiple-service, or "party" lines. The majority of their customers were in favor of receiving a private line and helped the Telephone



*Old Telephone Building on Buchanan Street
(W. Allen Photo)*

Company any way they could. Donald Parks recalled, "Our customers realized that we had to keep the cost of the project down. If we didn't, it would show up in their rates. As a result, we didn't have to pay a penny for right-of-way, and I'd guess we went over the property of between 700 and 800 property owners. We even had people living on opposite sides of the

road arguing who was going to get to give us their right-of-way." This project was completed in 1979, marking



*Prairie Grove Telephone Company, North Mock Street, 1988.
(Parks Family Photo)*

Prairie Grove as the first telephone company in the state to provide all private lines to their customers in a multi-exchange company.

Also in 1979, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company converted to the Northern Telecom DMS-10 digital equipment from the older Stromberg XY central office switch, which allowed customers the convenience of touch-tone and the benefits of call-waiting, call-forwarding, three-way calling, etc. The Telephone Company now has approximately 6000 customers and maintains two standard rates; \$5.91 for one-party residential service and \$11.91 for one-party business service. Twenty-six people are employed for outside plant and central office maintenance.

Donald Parks' son David began working for the Telephone Company in 1980 and is now its President. Barry, who was President beginning in 1958, is now Vice-President, and Donald is General Manager. From its inception in 1888, the Prairie Grove Telephone Company has remained in the McCormick and Parks families and is today the largest family-owned and operated telephone company in the state of Arkansas, continuing its policy of placing the customer's well-being as its first priority.

Endnotes

- ¹ Clifton Paisley, "Dr. E. G. McCormick Has Seen Prairie Grove Advance in Medical Facilities," The Enterprise, July 28, 1938, p.3.
- ² Mike Trimble, "Company Keeps Watch Over Its Telephonists," Arkansas Gazette, September 6, 1981, p.1F.
- ³ Interview with Donald Parks, June 26, 1987.
- ⁴ "Company Keeps Watch Over Its Telephonists," p. 7F.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Ibid.

Bibliography

Interview with Donald Parks.
June 26, 1987.

Paisley, Clifton. "Dr. E. G. McCormick Has Seen Prairie Grove Advance in Medical Facilities." The Enterprise, July 28, 1938.

Trimble, Mike. "Company Keeps Watch Over Its Telephonists." Arkansas Gazette, September 6, 1981.

Utilities

PRAIRIE GROVE ELECTRIC
COMPANY FORMED IN 1915

(Excerpts from the book of minutes of the Company, owned by Mrs. Clyde Delap.)

On March 15, 1915, J. H. Zellner, J. T. Carl, Walter Dodson, S. R. Wilson and Mack Thompson met for the purpose of organizing a Company to be incorporated later. The purpose of said Company being to install an electric system to furnish electricity for electric lights, heat and power to the inhabitants of the City of Prairie Grove, Arkansas.

J. H. Zellner called the meeting to order and was unanimously elected temporary Chairman, and Mack Thompson elected temporary recorder. It was decided to elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The following were elected: J. H. Zellner, President; Walter Dodson, Vice-presi-



Prairie Grove Band, 1900; Back Row, left to right; Lape Nettleship, Dr. Will H. Mock, Ernest Sturdivant, J. C. Parks, M. M. Collier, Oren Brewster, Link Neese, Jim Nixon, Oscar

Yetman, Front Row; Sam Davis, Tom Hart, Loyd Baggett, Percy Cummings, Charles Nixon and Hugh Scott,

(Park Photo)

dent; S. R. Wilson, Secretary; J. T. Carl, Treasurer, Mack Thompson, Superintendent.

Prairie Grove Electric Co. was adopted as the name for the company. It was decided to subscribe \$6,000.00 as follows: J. H. Zellner, \$2,000.00; S. R. Wilson, \$1,000.00; Walter Dodson, \$1,000.00; J. T. Carl, \$1,000.00; Mack Thompson, \$1,000.00 in working capital. Mr. Thompson was to work for one year without salary.

LIGHT PLANT PROGRESSING

(*Prairie Grove Herald*,
June 13, 1915)

The Prairie Grove Electric Co. has purchased from J. Ed Rogers the old Cummings mill lot as a location for the power house for the electric plant and expect in a few days to begin work on the building, which will be of brick.

A large amount of supplies have already arrived and considerable work has been done in the way of wiring houses. A car load of poles has arrived and the work of placing them will begin in a short time.

The Company expects to be ready to turn on lights about July 1st.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT FIRST CLASS

(*Prairie Grove Herald*,
September 2, 1915)

Prairie Grove can now boast of having one of the best light plants in this part of the state. The plant is now completely equipped and in operation every night.

Everything about the power house and entire system is first class and of standard construction. The engine that drives the dynamo is the latest pattern of Bessemer crude oil burner and is a very smooth running piece of machinery.

In 1920 the Prairie Grove Light Plant was under the

No. *100* Prairie Grove, Ark. *Jan 1, 1920* \$ *5.00*

Mr. *Leader Store*

To PRAIRIE GROVE ELECTRIC CO., Dr.

Meter Reading	<i>100</i>	Kilowatt Hours	
Meter Reading	<i>100</i>	Kilowatt Hours	
Current Consumption	<i>3.2</i>	Kilowatt Hours	<i>3.10</i>
Balance Account Rendered			
Wiring and Miscellaneous (Itemized on back)			
Paid	<i>100</i>	Total	<i>3.10</i>

Prairie Grove Electric Company statement to the Leader Store, dated January 1, 1920, for the amount of \$3.10, W. N. Mattison was an employee of the Electric Company at that time, (D. Mattison Photo)

management of Gose and Earl with Will Mattison, operator. L. C. McCormick was running the plant in 1925.

LIGHT PLANT READY FOR OPERATING

(*Prairie Grove Herald*,
August 19, 1915)

The large engine for the Electric Light plant arrived here the latter part of last week, was moved to the light plant Monday, and by Wednesday afternoon had been connected up and was given a trial, and worked admirably. The engine is a new type of machine for these parts. The fuel used is crude oil.

The light plant is now ready for putting into operation with the exception of the main driving belt, which has not yet arrived, but is expected every day now. With its arrival we may expect to have lights.

PRAIRIE GROVE TO HAVE DAYLIGHT SERVICES

(*Prairie Grove Herald*,
June 1, 1923)

At a recent meeting of the directors of the Electric Light Company it was decided to start a twelve hour service. This is something we have all been want-

ing for some time and it will mean much to the business houses and residents to be able to run fans, motors, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, etc.

This service will begin the first of July. "Every day, in every way, we're getting better and better."

LOCAL POWER COMPANY SOLD
TO SOUTHWEST POWER CO.

(*Prairie Grove Herald,*
March, 1925)

Transactions were completed Thursday night in which the acreage, plant, fixtures, holdings of the Prairie Grove Electric Company were sold to Southwest Power Company of Muskogee.

The Messrs. W. B. Miser, Assistant General Manager, and F. W. Morris, Assistant Treasurer of the Southwest Power Co. were here Tuesday and completed the transactions with J. H. Zellner, president, and W. R. Dodson, secretary, of the local company.

According to the transaction papers, the local company will remain in charge of the plant for a period of not over 90 days. During that time the purchasing company will be building a power line from Fayetteville.

It was further agreed that if the line is completed before the expiration of the 90 days, the holders will relinquish the property to them.



*Baptizing in Illinois River near Illinois
Chapel, by Evangelist Dillingsworth,*

(*D. Ramsey Photo*)



Graduating Class of 1922

May 18, 8 o'clock; George L. Amos, superintendent; George A. Cole, principal; Class Members; Lucille Brunk, Grace Harrison, D. Audra Gentry, Eva Pearl Nelson, Edna Louise Nelson, Ruby Estelle Graham, Mary Lilley Williams, Opal Genevieve Morton, Clara Marie McConnell, Mary Virginia Hildebrand, Ella Anne Reece, Mabel M. Carnahan, Jewel Willie Porter, Ray Strawn, Rupert Strawn, Leonard H. Metz, Eldon V. Gleason, Glen H. Blakemore, John Bennett Baggett, and Paul Rollins Stewart. (Not all members of the class graduated.)

(*Barnes Photo*)

ON THE LIGHT SIDE

Two interesting and amusing anecdotes have been told us concerning Prairie Grove's first Electric Light Plant:

According to Ed Horah, who was among the group that gathered at the Light Plant to play "pitch," Wednesday was known as "ironing day" and electricity remained on until 11 p.m. The lights were blinked three times, then turned off. Horah said, "You better have your kerosene lamp lit, or be ready for bed by that time!"

Another amusing story concerns "Uncle" Bob Skelton who lived at the corner of Mock and Park Streets. One night the street light came on and "Uncle" Bob awakened and thought it was daylight. He got out of bed, got the milk bucket and went to the barn and milked his cow. He came back in to wait for daylight, but in a short time the power went off. The power had been turned on because it was time for the birth of Herman Franklin

Thompson and his father, Mack Thompson had gone to the power plant and turned the power on temporarily for the occasion. After the baby was born he turned the power off. The street light coming on had convinced "Uncle" Bob that it was daylight, when it was turned off, he realized his mistake.

SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER CO.

Prairie Grove Electric Company which was formed in 1915 to provide electricity to the town of Prairie Grove, was sold to Southwest Power Company of Muskogee, Oklahoma, in March of 1925.

September 21, 1928, Southwest Power Company announced the sale of all its electric properties in Arkansas to Southwestern Gas and Electric Company with headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Service to Prairie Grove was handled through the Fayetteville office until June 6, 1933, when the Prairie Grove office was opened. W. Edward Broyles was local manager, and Gertrude Harrison (McCoy) was the first cashier. A reception and open house was held for the people of Farmington, Walnut Grove, Prairie Grove and Lincoln, who were to be served by the Prairie Grove office.

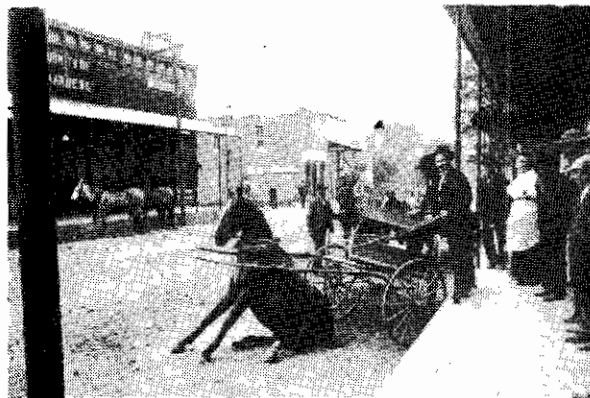
Broyles was local office manager from 1938 until his retirement in 1971.

Harley Freedle was named manager for the Prairie Grove area following Broyles' retirement, a position he held until his death January 25, 1984. At that time SWEPCO changed from office manager to office supervisor and (Mrs. Marvin) Jean Speegle was promoted from local cashier to office manager.

Cashiers serving the Prairie Grove office are: Gertrude Harrison McCoy, Opal Roberts Dodson, Edna Stewart Haugen, Helen Fidler Cook, Erin Hill Cates, Roberta Reed Holt, Audrey Russell Campbell, Euna Ray Boyd

Hutchens, Treva Turner Dyer, Arlene Brink, Marilyn Ash Durham, Sharon Ramsey McCarver, LaNelle Marshall Davis, Lydia Gruden Stills, Jean McKenzie Parker, Nova McMurphy Phillips, Minnie Reed Horah, and Jean O'Brien Speegle.

Servicemen for the local office include: Bob Payton, Bill Delap, Paul Vafakos, Charley Townes, Bob Dempsey, Leonard Bolain, Bill Harp, John Parker, Buford Hand, Jr., and Johnny Cross.



Frank Wilson having trouble with his horse, Main Street of Prairie Grove in early 1900s, (J. Brewster Photo)

ARKANSAS WESTERN GAS CO.

Arkansas Western Gas was incorporated under Arkansas State Laws on July 2, 1929, for the primary purpose of serving natural gas to Northwest Arkansas. Construction of lines from the Clarksville gas field in Johnson County, Arkansas, to Fayetteville was completed and natural gas was turned on February 21, 1930. At the end of the first year the Company served an average of 462 customers, and the price of gas was 10¢ per MCF.

In 1946 the Company began a program of "additions and betterments" and major expansions were made to Mulberry and Prairie Grove. Arkansas Western Gas invested over \$100,000 for the construction of transmission lines and the distribution system to and in Prairie Grove.

Prior to the opening of an



*Old Model T Ford in front of the Henry Carnahan home on East Parks Street,
(Helm Photo)*

office in Prairie Grove Vol Lester, and later a Mr. Gann, were in charge of this area and commuted from Fayetteville. Gas bills were paid at the Prairie Grove Water Office where Rita Thompson served as clerk.

Arkansas Western's first office in Prairie Grove was located in one of the Fidler buildings on West Buchanan Street and was opened September 27, 1950 with Billy King resident manager. Mrs. Peggy Parks was the first cashier in the Prairie Grove office which also maintained service operations for the new gas distribution system in Lincoln.

The gas office was moved to the building East of the Farmers and Merchants Bank until 1959 when the Bank expansion included the building occupied by the Gas Company. At this time Arkansas Western was moved to 118 West Buchanan, its present location.

Billy King was local manager until 1953 when he was replaced by Fred Dorrough who served until 1957. Harry Horne was the next manager and was replaced in 1957. Harry Horne was the next manager and was replaced in 1957 by Leo (Buck) Whitney who was Prairie Grove manager until his retirement in 1974. Rex Sugg was appointed to the position and was local manager until 1984 when he retired and Sonny Hudson assumed the position of local

manager, a position he presently holds.

Arkansas Western cashiers who have served the Prairie Grove office are: Peggy Parks, Pauline Layman, William N. Ellison, Bill Andrews, Myrlene Whitney, Frances Bailey, Glenda Edwards, Sondra Frank and K. C. Ryan.

Prairie Grove has 750 gas meters at the present time.

Ed Kincaid and Chuck Arnold are presently servicemen for the local branch of Arkansas Western Gas. Those who served previously include Fred Brooks, Jr., Charles Thompson, Gerald Neal, Vernon London, Thurman Hatch, Johnny Kelley, Gene Gullett and W. L. Newberry.



Prairie Grove Baseball team--winners of the Ozark Baseball League in 1950. Left to Right: Ed Horah, business manager; Jim Brooks, James Gartman, Buster Dunlap, Harold Pridemore, Thornton Buchanan, Jake Drake, Dick Remington, Charles McNeal, captain; Ed Smith, Charles McNair, publicity chairman, Front Row: Bill Hutchens, Troy Cox, Red Hoskins, Tilford Cosby, manager, Clyde Cavin, John Adams, Gene Williams, Jay Ketcher.

OZARKS ELECTRIC COOP CORP.

Announcement was made in the Prairie Grove Enterprise of May 12, 1938 that a rural electrification program for Washington County had been approved by the REA in Washington, D.C. Money was appropriated to build 210 miles of line in the county as a beginning.

County Agent McMurray, Miss Margaret King, Home Demonstration Agent, and the Washington

County Farm Bureau initiated the project and did much work to get it funded. L. E. Maupin of Prairie Grove, chairman of the County Farm Bureau Rural Electricity Committee, worked untiringly to secure electricity for the farmers of West Washington County.

In the Spring of 1939 work was started and the contract was awarded to Fritz Ziebarth, of Long Beach, California, for the stringing of 290 miles of line. Approximately 150 miles of line was to be on the West side of the County.

Washington County was allocated \$240,000 to build the lines which started at Springdale and continued through the

following communities: Tontitown, Mt. Comfort, Elm Springs, Harmon, Prairie Grove, Cane Hill, Lincoln, Morrow and Evansville.

Most of the farms in the Prairie Grove area were served by this line with the exception of those already served by Southwestern Gas and Electric Co.

The City of Prairie Grove's Water Treatment Plant, Southwest of town, and the Sewer Treatment Plant, located Northwest of town are served by Ozarks Electric Corp. as is a portion of the Prairie Oaks sub-division and other recently annexed areas of the city.

Businesses

SOUTHERN FUNERAL HOME MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

(*Prairie Grove Enterprise, February 3, 1938*)

Remodeling work is almost completed on the new home of the Southern Funeral Home, located in the building vacated by the Elisabeth Hospital (present home of Mrs. Dolph Helm).

Although no formal opening has been held, all of the company's services are being carried on from this location.

A visit to the Southern Funeral Home reveals a modern home and chapel that is a credit to any community. The house, which consists of twelve rooms and a large sleeping porch, has been completely repapered and the woodwork refinished throughout.

The lower floors are covered by a velvety burgandy colored carpet and the draperies are of a slightly lighter color.

The chapel, which has a seating capacity of about fifty people, is dignified and tastefully furnished. The walls and ceiling are light colored. An overstuffed suite, which blends in color with the rugs and draperies, furnishes seating for the

choir. The audience is seated in metal folding chairs with padded seats and backs.

Among the new equipment added is a church truck of the latest model draped in burgandy velvet, and a new pulpit stand for the minister.

Also on the lower floor is the display room for the better grades of caskets and vaults, with carpets and draperies matching those of the chapel, a closet built in the hall which holds a display of burial robes and suits, and the preparation room which is in white.

Upstairs we find the display room of other grades of caskets. There is a separate room for showing caskets for infants and small children.

The remainder of the building is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joe King and family, who are in charge.

A late model funeral coach has been purchased and a dependable service is available for people for all financial standings.

The Southern Funeral Home was previously located in the upstairs of the building north of the Masonic Hall.



*Prairie Grove Hardware Co. and Bank of
Prairie Grove--1904 (Brewster Photo)*

GLADYS' FLOWERS

Gladys' Flowers, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Eb Whitsitt and Mr. and Mrs. George Abercrombie, was established in 1951. It was located in a frame building on the corner of Pittman and Parks Streets, where the Abercrombies now reside. A greenhouse was built on the west side of the lot to be used for growing of plants and flowers, and for storage.

The business was sold to Charles and Colleen Knowles in 1957 and they moved it to the old bank building on Buchanan Street which formerly housed Clark's Jewelry.

The corner flower shop building at the Whitsitt home was used for a time to display antiques, then was moved to the north side of their property and remodeled into a rent house.

Their present business building for Abbie's Crafts and Gifts, was built in 1960. The front half of the building is a craft and antique shop. The back half is used as a frame shop and a woodworking shop.

CARNEY CAFES

Tom and Pearl Hannah Carney lived at Hog Eye for many years where they operated a general store. Mrs. Carney's father, John Harvey Hannah, had an apple orchard. Mrs. Carney was pianist at the Presbyterian Church in

Hog Eye for a number of years. They were parents of three children: Edward Clinton, a son, died in 1935; Bernice (Mrs. Bill Hyland) lives on Eastwood Drive in Prairie Grove; and Wilbur, who died at Grove, Oklahoma, in 1987.

The family moved to Prairie Grove in the early '40s and bought out Harold Miller who had a cafe in the building formerly occupied by the Citizens Bank. About two years later they moved to the Mock building on Main street. After operating their cafe at several different locations downtown, they sold the cafe in 1948 and purchased the Colonial Motel. In 1950 they sold the motel and the Carneys opened a cafe where the Jersey Maid Ice Cream shop is now located. Next Irene Dyer purchased the cafe and later moved it to South Ozark where Irene's Cafe was operated for a number of years. Tom Dyer was a blacksmith and had a shop north of the cafe.

Bernice worked at the J. C. Penney Store in Fayetteville for several years in the mid-fifties.

Wilbur Carney operated a business in Springdale for thirty years before moving to Grove, Oklahoma, where he retired and lived until his death in 1987.

Bernice Hyland married Bill Hyland in 1959 and lived in Springdale until 1971 when they moved to Prairie Grove and built a home on Eastwood Drive. Bill Hyland died in 1984.



T. A. Hannah and A. Jordan using wagons and teams to haul supplies from Fayetteville to Prairie Grove, 1918-'20s. (Enterprise Photo)

HORAH'S MEAT MARKET

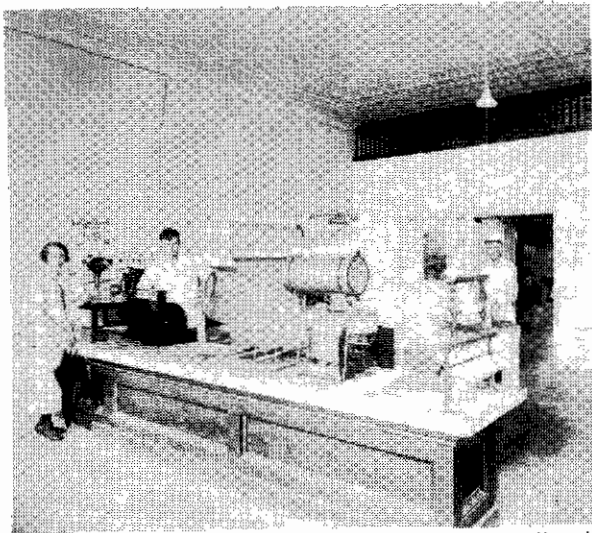
Horah's Meat Market was established in Prairie Grove in 1920 by George Horah and son, Ed. It was located in the building now occupied by Southwestern Gas and Electric on Buchanan Street. A gasoline engine placed at the rear of the building was used to run the meat grinder, according to Ed Horah.

In the late 1920s the Horahs constructed a new building, where Jersey Made Ice Cream Parlor is now located, and moved the market there. An advertisement in the *Prairie Grove Herald* of March 7, 1924, stated that the "City Market" purchased the latest model meat slicer and will now carry homemade ham loaf, bologna, chili, etc., as well as fresh meats."

In 1930 the business was sold to Dodson and Harrison who only operated it a short time. The Horahs again assumed ownership in 1933 or '34 and opened it as the City Grocery and Market.

The business was sold to the Southern Mercantile in 1946. George Horah retired and Ed Horah went to work for the Southern Mercantile where he was employed as butcher until the grocery department closed. Later Ed worked for the IGA for several years.

Ed Horah married Violet Van-



Reca McCuiston, Ed Horah and George Horah in City Grocery and Market, (1920)

(E, Horah Photo)



George Horah and son, Ed Horah in the City Grocery and Market in the 1930s.

(E, Horah Photo)

dever of Lincoln and they have two sons, George (Buddy) Horah and Philip Horah. Ed has been retired for a number of years and he and Violet live on North Mock Street.

BARBER SHOPS

The fire of 1906, which almost completely destroyed the business portion of Prairie Grove, began in the Bon Ton Barber Shop. The shop was located on the west end of the business buildings on the north side of Buchanan and a high wind fanned the flames. Within an hour, every building on the north side of the business street was lost. There was no water protection and dynamite was used in an effort to check the fire. Stores on the south side of the street were made of brick and were undamaged except by the explosions of dynamite. The loss was estimated at \$20,000 with scant insurance. (This account is from a 1906 issue of the *Prairie Grove* newspaper.)

The Bon Ton Barber Shop was operated by Ben Wilson. Henry Clyde Richey (father of Mary Belle Miller of Prairie Grove) was a barber in the Bon Ton.

Other early barbers who worked in Prairie Grove many years ago included Roy Fidler, Archie Phillips and W. G. Strickler.

Ben Wilson also operated a barber shop where Charley's



Ben Wilson Barber Shop on South side of Buchanan Street, W. G. Strickler in chair, Ben Wilson, barber, (W. Allen Photo)

Beauty Shop is now located. Floyd Pennell was a barber at that location for a number of years, selling to A. L. Weeks January 15, 1965. Weeks was a barber there for about fifteen years. He sold to Warren Napier. After a short time Warren sold to his brother, Larry, who later closed out the shop.

The shop on the South side of Buchanan was operated for several years by Ben Wilson, then in 1950 it was sold to Jack McClelland. Jack worked as a barber in that location until 1966 when he sold it to his son, Eddie McClelland who presently owns the shop. Jack and Juanita McClelland moved to a farm near Summers and raised cattle and chickens until 1983 when they sold out and retired to their home in Prairie Grove.

GROCERY STORES

Polk's Arkansas State Gazetteer and Business Directory includes the following Grocery Stores in Prairie Grove:

1888-1889: General Stores: Barton Carl, Beard and Wilkerson, W. N. Butler & Co., William

Dyer, Hardy and Marrs, H. F. McMillin, and Joseph V. Rich.

1892-1893: Baggett, Sanders & McCormick, Grocery; Carl and Son, General Store; John Cole, Grocer; D. F. McMillin, General Store; N. Mallicot, Grocer; C. H. Marrs, General Store; Sanders Bros., General Store;

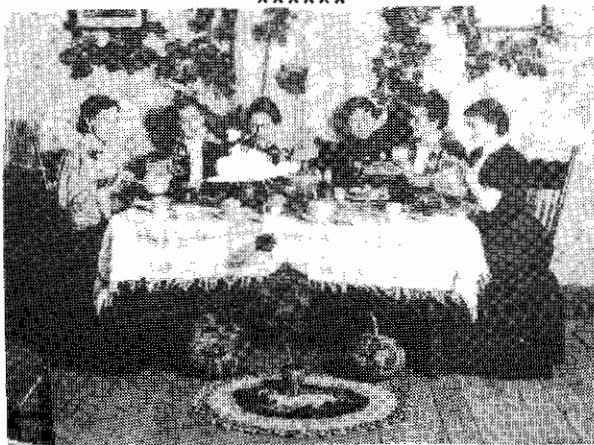
1906-07: E. C. & F. H. Carl, Model Department Store; Ozark Mercantile; Frank Wilson & S. R. Wilson Mercantile;

1912-1913: E. C. and F. H. Carl, General Mercantile; J. P. Edmiston & Son, Grocery and Hardware; Harrison & Campbell, Grocery and Furniture; David B. McNeal, Hardware and Grocery; Charles G. Marrs Grocery; Model Dept. Store, General Merchandise; and Southern Mercantile, General Merchandise.

Carl General Merchandise Store, which occupied the building below the Masonic Hall, was sold in 1919 to Tom Bell.

BARTHOLOMEW GROCERY OPENED ABOUT 1930

In 1930 W. H. (Bill) Bartholomew bought a general merchandise store and fixtures from a Mr. Slaton. He opened the business as a grocery and feed store which was operated by his son,



"A DUMB SUPPER"; Identifying from left--second, Lanora Tennessee Dean Rollans (Mrs. Mac Rollans); fifth, Mattie Pyeatt McCormick (Mrs. Dorse McCormick); sixth, Mrs. Dean Wallace Dearing (Mrs. Oscar Dearing), Marion Bell Sharp and (Mary Dean Magruder Oyer helped with identification of above, and thought the others couldn't be Lizzie Carl, Bell Stewart and Betty Zellner, because of their close association with those identified.)

Jack, for a time and later by another son, Argil Bartholomew. Dick Maxey also worked at the store.

(During that period, Prairie Grove had at least seven grocery stores, including Campbell's Grocery and Market, Ratliff Grocery and Feed Store, Home Town Grocery, Sharp's Grocery, Ed Rich Grocery, City Grocery and Mkt., and the Southern Merc. Grocery.)

In 1939 Bartholomew sold the business to Robert Pittman, who had been working for Goff Bros. in Fayetteville. The store was named Pittman Grocery and operated on a cash and carry basis.

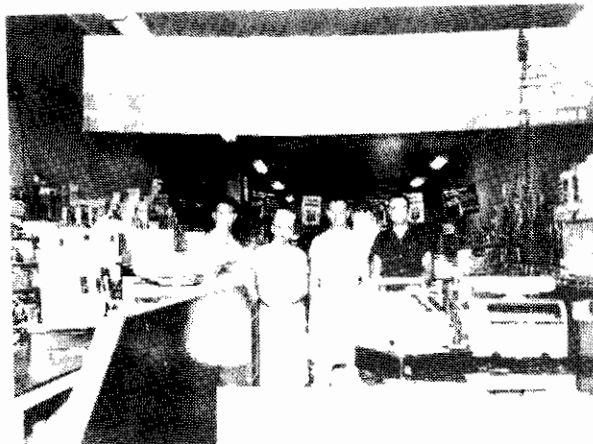
In 1940 George Cox, son-in-law of Bob McCoy, purchased the Ratliff Cash Store on the North side of Buchanan near the bank, and moved the business to the Carl building on the northwest corner of Buchanan and Mock where Cox had been operating a feed store for several years.

In 1950 the Home Town Grocery, located on South Mock, was purchased by Ab Villines and son, Wayne, from Mrs. Mamie Tripp.

SPARKS AND STONE ESTABLISH IGA STORE

In 1950 Guy Sparks and Hubert Keene bought the Fairway Grocery from Clyde Rutherford. The store was located on the north side of Buchanan, in a building later incorporated with the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Ronnie Stone and Bill Ramsey worked there. The grocery was sold to Harold Watson in 1954 and later closed out.

In 1954 Ernest Baugh bought the grocery store owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Marvin in the building now occupied by the Cleaners on the South side of Buchanan. Baugh, in turn, sold the business to Guy Sparks and Ronnie Stone, who restocked it as an IGA Grocery. Crannel (Butch) Miller was hired as butcher and worked for a number of years. Later Ed Horah



Interior View of IGA Grocery, Left to Right: Donnie Stone, Crannel "Butch" Miller, Ronnie Stone and Guy Sparks, (G. Sparks Photo)

assisted in the market.

In 1973 the business was sold to Kenny Bartholomew and he moved it to the building now housing the Farmers Hardware and changed the name to the B & K Market. Guy Sparks then went to work at the Montgomery Ward warehouse in Fayetteville until 1980 when he returned to Prairie Grove and works part time for the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Ronnie Stone went to Rogers where he works for an IGA Grocery.

In 1988 Dillons Grocery completed a new supermarket in Prairie Grove. Details are printed elsewhere in this book.

STERLING DRUG COMPANY FORMED

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
March 21, 1982)*

The Sterling Drug Co. is the name of the new corporation just organized in Prairie Grove. This new business was brought into existence by the consolidation of two drug stores--the McNeal Drug Co. and the Palace Drug Co. The stockholders of the new organization are the members of the two old firms. Invoicing of stocks of the two stores is now being taken. We are informed the new organization will occupy the building now used by the McNeal Drug Co. These two firms are composed of progressive and energetic business men, and

their combined efforts and capital will give Prairie Grove an up-to-date drug firm.

BELL AND DAVIS BUY INTEREST IN STERLING DRUG

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise,
January 20, 1955)*

C. E. Woolverton announced this week the sale of his stock in the Sterling Drug Company to Vincil Bell and Clarence Davis, effective January 18, 1955.

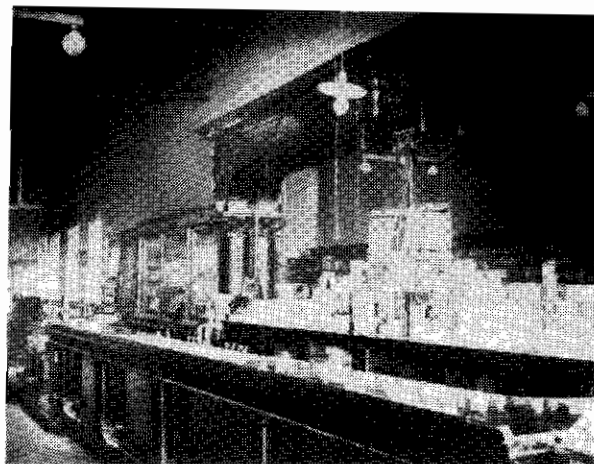
Woolverton began his career in the drug business in Prairie Grove in 1901 as a part-time helper in the Collier and McCormick Drug Store which was located in the old telephone building on the north side of Buchanan Street. In 1908 he went west and worked for 12 years for the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company at Greeley, Colorado and Caldwell, Idaho. In 1913 he married Mary Elizabeth Rowe of Greeley.

In 1920 the Woolvertons moved back to Prairie Grove where he became manager and a stockholder in the Sterling Drug, a position he held for 35 years. He will be retained by the Sterling as a registered pharmacist and will work part time. Mrs. Woolverton has also resigned her position as bookkeeper at the store. The Woolvertons own a beautiful farm home on the Illinois River northeast of town where Charlie plans to raise beef cattle and catch up on his fishing.

Vincil Bell has been with the drug store for 24 years, with the exception of a time he served with the Navy in World War II. Clarence (Grubby) Davis has served the firm for 26 years, with the exception of a short time he worked in Rogers.

The Sterling Drug Company also operates a Pharmacy at the Elizabeth Hospital in connection with their down-town store.

In addition to Bell and Davis, who have controlling interest in the corporation, Dr. Frank Riggall and Dr. Jeff Baggett are stockholders.



*Sterling Drug Company fountain in the early
'20s.
(G. Davis Photo)*

INFORMATION BRINGING STERLING DRUG HISTORY UP-TO-DATE

David Mast, nephew of Clarence Davis, purchased stock in the Sterling Drug and worked as a pharmacist for a number of years.

Larry Bell, son of Vincil Bell, joined the Company in June, 1963, shortly after completing his schooling. Stockholders at that time, other than Bell, Davis and Mast, were Dr. J. J. Baggett and Dr. W. H. Mock.

The pharmacy at the Elizabeth Hospital, owned by the Sterling, was closed in 1965 and the Sterling Drug No. 2 was opened in Lincoln in 1966.

In 1971 Vincil and Larry Bell assumed ownership of the Lincoln store and named it Bell Pharmacy.

Gary Davis, son of Clarence Davis, joined the firm in 1971, and the Davises became owners of the Sterling Drug Company in Prairie Grove.

COLLIER DRUG STORE

(Prairie Grove Herald, 1906)

The first drug store in Prairie Grove was Collier Drug owned and operated by Mel Collier. It was located in a building on the North side of Buchanan Street about where the Oklahoma Tire and Supply now is.

The building was a two-story brick structure with the telephone company occupying the upper story. Collier is still connected with a drug store in Fayetteville.

CARMAN DRUG

L. A. and Ruetta Carman, who formerly owned and operated a drug store at Neosho, Missouri, moved to Prairie Grove in late 1935 and opened Carman Drug on January 1, 1936. The drug store



*L. A. Carman at Counter in Carman Drug Store,
(Smith Photo)*

occupied the west side of the building presently housing Farmers Hardware. When the building was remodeled for the B & K Market, Carman Drug moved further West on the South side of Buchanan to the present location of the Valley Drug.

In June of 1972 the business was sold to David Mast, who had been with Sterling Drug as a pharmacist since graduating from school. The Carmans retired to their farm located West of Prairie Grove. Mr. Carman died May 10, 1973. Mrs. Carman later moved to a new home on West Bush Street in Prairie Grove where she resided until her death February 21, 1986.

In 1974 Mast sold the drug store to Loyd Helms, who only owned the store about a year before selling it to Larry Davis in 1975. Mr. and Mrs. Davis

bought a home and lived in Prairie Grove until 1981 when Larry Bell of Lincoln purchased the drug store and Davis went to work for Walmart.

In 1982 the drug store was purchased by Peggy and Don Woolsey from Pineville, Louisiana. The name of the store was changed to Valley Drug. Mrs. Woolsey is a pharmacist and operates the store with the help of Cindi Bowerman and Loretta Sparks. Mr. Woolsey and sons operate a farm in the Apple Hill community. He was born in Fayetteville. Woolsey Avenue was named for his family.

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS

First Federal Savings & Loan of Fayetteville opened their Prairie Grove Branch in December, 1974. First Federal purchased the Lillian Hannah home located at 307 Buchanan and remodeled it to meet the needs of a branch office. Prairie Grove was the second branch office location for First Federal, now in 1988, there are six branch offices in Northwest Arkansas.

In May, 1988, A. P. Eason Jr. was appointed President of the Board of Directors and Jim Shreve of Fayetteville became the President of First Federal.

The Prairie Grove office staff consists of Martha Flynt, Branch Manager, and Lila Chambers of the Cove Creek area.



First Federal of Fayetteville



R. P. Edmiston Store, located where the Valley Drug now is, R. P. Edmiston on right.

(E. Cate Photo)

PRAIRIE GROVE FURNITURE CO. BECOMES FARMERS HARDWARE

(Prairie Grove Enterprise files)

The Prairie Grove Furniture Co. located three doors east of the Farmers and Merchants Bank on Buchanan Street, was started in 1941 by E. B. Whitsitt and Elton Skelton, partners. They sold not only new stoves, radios and furniture, but also used furniture of varying types and ages. They also offered repair services for sewing machines.

Whitsitt was born on a farm and has divided his life between farming and automobile mechanics. After 16 years as an automobile mechanic, he was hired as a service man for the Southern Mercantile, where he worked for five years. Then Elton joined the Southern work force and they decided to work for themselves--so they started the Prairie Grove Furniture Co.

Skelton was graduated from Prairie Grove High School in 1938 and attended the U of A for one year. After his year as a Southern employee and his

partnership in the Furniture Co., he was called into service, leaving only Whitsitt and Sam McKnight, who helped with the rebuilding, to carry on. George Abercrombie joined E. B. Whitsitt in the furniture store after he was discharged from service.

In 1951 Frank West and Argil Bartholomew, owners of the Farmers Hardware, purchased the Prairie Grove Furniture Co. from Whitsitt and Abercrombie. The two businesses were combined and became the Farmers Hardware. It was moved to the corner of Buchanan and Mock in the building now occupied by the Furniture Department of the Oklahoma Tire and Supply Co.

The Farmers Hardware was started in the building on the North side of Buchanan Street where the Jersey Made Ice Cream Parlor is now located. Frank West had worked for the Southern Mercantile Co. for 5½ years, with time-out for service in World War II. Argil Bartholomew was a local business man and livestock dealer.

In 1960 West purchased Bartholomew's interest in the business and bought two buildings on the South side of Buchanan, now occupied by the Green Light Auto Supply. The building was completely remodeled, making it into one large sales room, and a new front was added.

In 1960 West sold one-third interest in the store to George West who was a part-owner until 1970, when Frank again became sole owner of the hardware business. In 1972 one-third interest was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Airs.

Charles Thompson and Billy Jo Bartholomew purchased the hardware store in 1975 and West began to devote his entire time to his farm in the Viney Grove area.

In 1977 Sam Escue purchased the store from Charles Thompson. The store was moved to the building formerly occupied by the B & K Grocery and later the building to the East, which had been a restaurant, was added to the store.

April 28, 1988, Escue announced the sale of the business of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Teekell and son, John Teekell. The Teekells, formerly of California, moved to a farm near Hogeys last year and are excited about the new business venture.

Sam Escue has been very active in the Prairie Grove business community, serving two terms as president of the Chamber of Commerce and currently is chairman of the GroWest Committee, as well as the Prairie Grove Industrial Park committee.

DODSON LUMBER CO.

Walter R. Dodson and Robert D. (Bob) Bogart established the Dodson Lumber Company in Prairie Grove in 1925. The business was located in the South half of the building now occupied by the Prairie Grove Telephone Company Warehouse on North Mock Street. Mr. Dodson was manager of the



Centerpoint School Picture, Porter Pittman, teacher, standing in door, Identification, beginning at the back row, left to right: Edith Cann, Jeannette Cann, Paul Cann, Claibourn Cann, Ora Cann, Pearl Cann, Gordon Crouch, John Smith, Annie Mitchell, Nora Smith (Bird Oliver's wife), Pearl Smith, Lillie Smith (George Abercrombie's mother), Allie Smith, Stella Avery, Ruby Nugent, Inez Thurman, Clarence Thurman, Bill Nugent, Jim Nugent, Mefford Nugent, Edna Avery, Mamie Fincher, Homer Dinsmore, Ray Dinsmore,

business.

The Dodson family had just moved back to Prairie Grove from Bentonville where he was railroad agent. Mr. Dodson was station agent for the Frisco Railroad in Prairie Grove before being transferred to Bentonville.

In 1932 Dodson purchased the lumber yard operated by W. F. Bell and James K. Woodruff on South Mock Street, present location of Jones Lumber Company, and changed the name to Dodson Lumber and Coal Co. It operated there until Dodson's retirement in 1955.

PRAIRIE GROVE LUMBER CO.

Shortly after selling out to Dodson, Bell and Woodruff reopened the lumber business on North Mock Street under the name of Prairie Grove Lumber Company. In 1946 the business was sold to Ozark Lumber and Supply of Springfield, Missouri. Paul Jones and George Cox managed the business and the name was changed to the Washington County

Lumber Co. The Missouri company closed out the business in the latter part of 1956 and moved the material and equipment to their home office in Springfield, Missouri.

In 1955 Jones Lumber and Supply Company was incorporated and purchased the Dodson Lumber Co. from W. R. Dodson. Paul Jones was named General Manager and other members of the corporation were H. D. Jones, Leroy Jones, Lee Jones and Miss Lorene Jones. This business is still in operation on the corner of Mock and Thurman Streets.



Coast-to-Coast and V. S. Variety Store

FIDLER FAMILY IS ACTIVE IN PRAIRIE GROVE BUSINESSES

Roy O. Fidler, who owned and operated the West Side Garage on North Mock Street in the mid 1930s, purchased the H. E. Dorman Monument lots on West Buchanan Street and tore down the old tin building. He built a garage and filling station of native stone which contained an office, a grease and wash rack and a fourteen foot driveway extending through the building on the west side.

In 1943 Fidler purchased the building occupied at that time by the Prairie Grove Enterprise office, and opened the Oklahoma Tire and Supply Store.

Later, Roy Fidler bought the lots west of his filling station to Kate Smith Street and had two houses removed. Joining the west side of his filling station, he

constructed buildings with rock veneer front along Buchanan Street to Kate Smith Street. The corner building was occupied by Bashams Grocery and Market and the other buildings were occupied for a time by Arkansas Western Gas, Kate Cheatham's Cafe, the Post Office, and others.

Fidler also bought the vacant lot east of his OTASCO store and the old two-story former telephone building.

Jack Cook, a brother-in-law, worked in the OTASCO store for Roy Fidler from December 1946 through 1958. Following that the Cook family went to Cabool, MO., where they owned and operated an OTASCO store for many years. Mrs. Cook was Helen Fidler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fidler of Prairie Grove. Jack Cook died in 1972. Mrs. Cook and John Cook and family live in Cabool, and Danny Cook and family live in Springfield, MO.

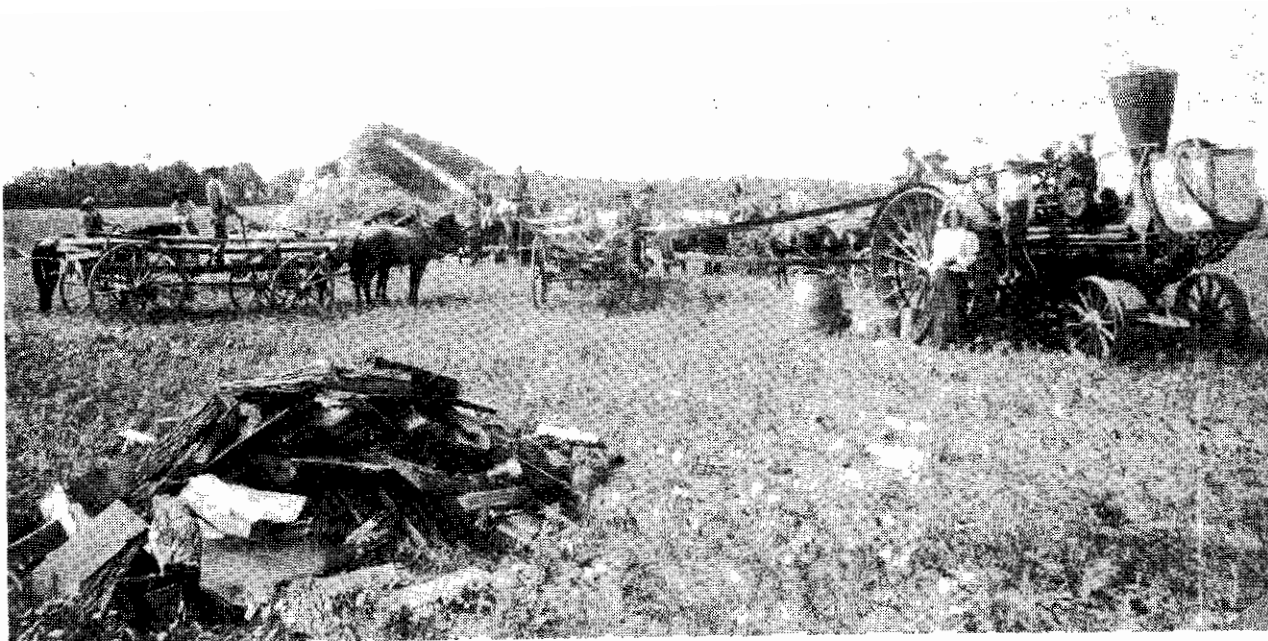
When Howard Fidler and family returned to Prairie Grove from Downey, California, about 1960, he purchased the Oklahoma Tire and Supply Store from his brother, Roy Fidler. At the death of Roy Fidler in 1970, Howard enlarged the OTASCO store and purchased connecting buildings in the block, from the Roy Fidler estate.

Since that time Howard Fidler bought the building on the corner of Mock and Buchanan from Argil Bartholomew and moved the furniture department to this building.

In 1965 Mike Fidler, who had been attending the University of Arkansas, began working for his father in the OTASCO store, and in 1975 Mike purchased the business.

In 1986 the Fidlers purchased the V & S Variety Store and moved the merchandise to the OTASCO store.

In 1987 Marshall's Radiator Shop, which had occupied one of the Fidler buildings, was moved to the old Oleta Campbell property on the South Side of Bu-



Threshing time in the wheat fields near Prairie Grove in the early 1900s. Ivy Tate owned the thresher and other equipment and worked all over the area at harvest time.

chanan, now owned by Mike Fidler.

The Antique Cupboard, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Jordan, and Fab Plate occupy two of the Fidler buildings presently.

A new brick front was put on all the Fidler buildings from Mock to Kate Smith Streets in 1988, giving them an attractive unified appearance. The variety store merchandise was moved to the west of the OTASCO.

The store name was changed from Oklahoma Tire and Supply to Coast to Coast, in January 1988.

Howard Fidler is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Fidler of Prairie Grove. He went to California in 1935 where he worked for Ceramic Decorating Company. He returned to Prairie Grove in 1941 and married Meritt Carter of Lincoln. He went into service in 1942 and served overseas. Their son, Michael, was born in 1943 while his father was in service. After Howard was discharged, the family moved back to Downey, California, and he returned to work for Ceramic Decorating Co., where he was employed for a total of 23

Neighbors joined in to help, while awaiting their turn with the thresher. Women of the families prepared the noon meal for the workers.
(T. Delap Photo)

years. Twin daughters, Linda and Carolyn, were born in California. The entire family returned to Prairie Grove about 1960 and Howard purchased OTASCO. Mike and Carol Fidler have a son and a daughter; Linda (Mrs. Gaylan) Estopy, has two daughters; and Carolyn Shackelford has three daughters. All are presently residents of Prairie Grove.

JONES & SON TO OPEN HATCHERY

*Prairie Grove Enterprise,
October 27, 1938)*

Announcement has been made that J. L. Jones and Son of Emporia, Kansas, will open a hatchery here within the next two weeks. The hatchery will be housed in the building now occupied by L. L. Jones Grocery. Incubators are expected to arrive next week.

The six-unit hatchery will be operated by Mr. Berry and different varieties of commercial chickens will be produced.

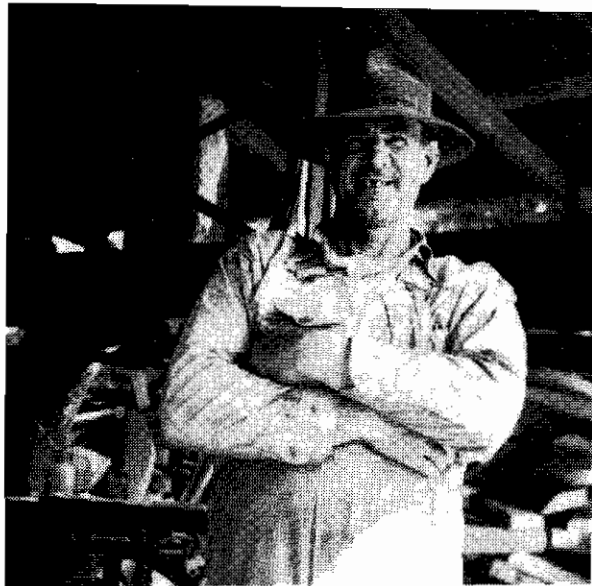
Jones Grocery will move within the next few days to the

frame building south of the hatchery in order to make room for the machinery expected soon. The frame building is being re-modeled and painted this week.

J. L. Jones and Son also own a hatchery in Emporia, Kansas.

NATIONS' HARDWOOD LUMBER COMPANY

Graham English, a veteran sawmill operator, worked in the industry for more than forty years before moving his mill from the Strickler community to



Graham English at his Sawmill at Strickler about 1936.

(F. Blakemore Photo.)

Prairie Grove in 1953. He purchased two acres in the Southwest part of town from Ed Rich and set up his steam-operated mill.

In 1968 the Prairie Grove Sawmill was cutting four to six thousand board feet of lumber in a normal day's run. The greater part of the logs came from Washington County and from across the line in Oklahoma. Oak, elm, pine, sugar maple, walnut and sycamore made up the majority of woods sawed.

There was nothing wasted at the mill. Sawdust and shavings were sold to chicken growers for litter in their chicken houses, and culled lumber was used to stoke the boiler, with excess being sold for firewood.

In 1960, Claud Nations, Eng-

lish's son-in-law, purchased the mill and operated it until 1964, when his son, Huland, joined the family enterprise. A general upgrading of the mill was begun. The old steam engine was replaced and modern saws, planes, and other equipment was added. The name of the business was changed to Nations' Hardwood Lumber Co.

In 1971 the Nations purchased the Keaton Hatchery building and lots on South Mock Street and established a drying and storage area. A chain-link fence was installed and the lots were used for air-drying lumber. The building was used for drying and storing furniture lumber. It also houses planers, saws, edgers, etc.

Claud Nations retired from the business in 1983 and his son, Huland Nations, assumed management. Claud Nations died June 20, 1987.



1954 Deer Hunt; Dr. Jeff Baggett, Willard Brooks, and Loyd Luginbuel, pictured with kill of 12 deer.

(B. Brooks Photo)

PRAIRIE GROVE LOCKER PLANTS

Ernest Gibney and his brother, Paul Gibney, who grew up in the Bethel Grove Community, opened the first Frozen Food Locker Plant in Prairie Grove in 1946. It was on the North side of Buchanan, in a building later taken in by the bank expansion.

When the Gibneys decided to

return to Tulsa they sold the Locker to Frank Wagner, who only operated it for a short time before selling to Roe and Hester Mobley. They later sold to Mr. and Mrs. George Allen of Farmington, who continued the plant for several years before selling to John and Nell Mobley in 1962.

The Mobleys kept the plant at the same location for about ten years before building a new locker plant on West Buchanan across from the cemetery. John Mobley died in 1981 after a short illness and Mrs. Mobley has continued to operate the business with the help of Lonnie Martin, a long-time employee, and her daughter, Lynn Nall. Mary Lee Smith has been a part-time employee of the Prairie Grove Locker Plant since 1969.



*Millinery Shop in Prairie Grove, Right: Mrs. Mitchell; Left: Ola Harris,
(Joy Webb Library Photo)*

CLEANERS

Early operators of Dry Cleaning shops in Prairie Grove included: Roy Fidler, Paul Winn, Clarence Davis, Dee Edmiston, and possibly others.

Charley and Al Mobley bought the equipment from Clarence Davis in the mid-'30s and operated the shop in a building on the North side of Buchanan, later occupied by the Loft. They sold to Tilford Cosby in the '40s.

In the early '50s Mr. and Mrs. Norris Dunn established a

OLD MOCK FARM



*View from Mock Farm, looking toward Prairie Grove
(E. Davidson Photo)*

second cleaning business in the Roy Fidler building on West Buchanan. Later they moved it to the building which would now be the West half of Prairie Grove Auto and Farm Supply.

In 1958 Charles Stills bought Dunn Cleaners. In 1968 he bought out Tilford Cosby and combined the two shops, using the Cosby shop building on the North side of the street.

In 1975 he moved the Charles Cleaners to the former IGA Store building on the South side of Buchanan where it has remained since. In 1986 he sold to Bobby Moore, who only operated it a short time before selling to Doris Kennedy of Dodge City, Kansas. In November, 1987, the Kennedys sold to her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. John Lancus from Dodge City, Kansas, present owners and operators.

BODY SHOPS

SPENCER'S BODY SHOP SPENCER SALES, INC.

Ronnie Spencer purchased a building on the corner of south Mock Street and Cleveland Street from Donnie Skelton in 1962 and opened Spencer Body Shop. He added on to the building in 1967 or '68 for additional space as the business grew. In 1975 he sold to George Suggs who presently owns and operates the business as George's Body Shop.

Spencer constructed a new

building on South Pittman Street in 1976 and opened Spencer Sales, Inc. He sells collision repair equipment in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Louisiana. A son, Rocky, is a full-time salesman and has four jobbers. Two other sons, Rick and Ryan, work on a part-time basis. Tessa Campbell works as secretary and bookkeeper.

GEORGE'S BODY SHOP

George Suggs bought the Body Shop from Ronnie Spencer in 1975 and has operated it since that time at the same location on South Mock Street. His son, Byron, began work in the shop when he finished high school at Prairie Grove in 1976, and is still a part of the business. They specialize in all types of auto body work and have restored several old-model cars.

George Suggs was born in Portales, New Mexico where he lived until 14 years of age, then the family moved to the Strickler, West Fork area.

In January 1951 he married Martha Hyler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hyler of Prairie Grove. They live at 504 South Neal Street.

J & B AUTO

Jack Meadors, who had been a salesman for Automotive, Inc., of Fayetteville came to Prairie Grove in 1957 and, in partnership with his brother, Buddy, purchased the J. A. Smith Auto Parts Store. This business was located in the building east of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and now a part of the bank. The name was changed to J & B Auto Supply.

In 1958 after the bank was damaged by fire and the adjoining buildings purchased by the bank, Meadors moved his auto parts business to the building now occupied by the Jersey Made Ice Cream Store and operated there until 1967.

The store was then moved

across the street to the old Smith Garage & Tractor building now occupied by the paint department of the Farmers Hardware. Murph Pair joined him as an auto mechanic in 1973.

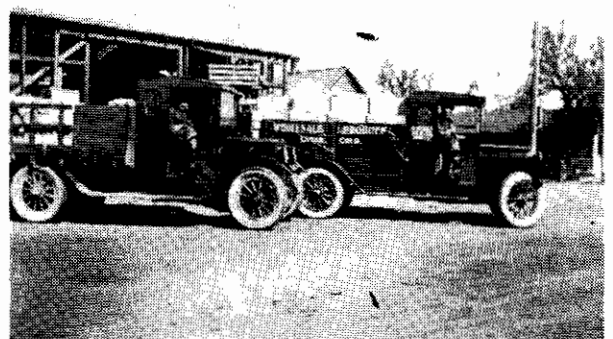
In December of 1973 Meadors purchased the VanHorn property on South Neal St., and constructed a new garage building. Mr. and Mrs. Murph Pair bought the Pierce property just south of the new garage, to be used for parking space for the business.

In November of 1986, after 31 years in business in Prairie Grove, Jack Meadors sold the garage to Mr. and Mrs. Pair and retired. Pair is a nephew of Mr. Meadors.

Jack Meadors was born and raised in Alma, and moved to Fayetteville in 1954 where he continued to live while in business in Prairie Grove.

Murph Pair is a native of Fort Smith where he graduated from Northside High School in 1961. He attended Westark Junior College under the school work-training program, and served two years in the Navy Seabees.

In 1971 he married Carol Payne, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and moved to Fort Smith in 1961. She is a graduate of the Southside High School and attended the University of Arkansas. They moved to Prairie Grove in October of



Trucks loading produce in Prairie Grove to be hauled to Colorado,

(G. Geiger Photo)

1972.

The Pairs have two children, Joshua and Melanie, and live on North Border Street. Mrs. Pair is Prairie Grove office manager for Prior and Associates of Fayetteville, and is City Recorder-Treasurer. Murph is Councilman for Ward Two.



*Farming Country North of Prairie Grove
(E. Davidson Photo)*

CRESCENT DEPARTMENT STORE

(Files of the Prairie Grove Enterprise)

The name "Crescent" has been synonymous with dry goods and clothing stores in Prairie Grove since the turn of the century. Issues of the Prairie Grove Banner carried advertisements for "Crescent Dry Goods Co." in the early 1900s, but no location for the store or owner's names were mentioned.

In 1923 the business was owned by W. H. Baggett, and was located in the building now occupied by the Prairie Grove Cleaners. Later the same year Guy Skelton, Bob McCoy and J. A. Skelton purchased the store. In 1928 the Crescent was moved to the Bodurtha building, its present location on the South side of Buchanan Street.

Guy Skelton was a life-long resident of the Prairie Grove community, having been born and reared on a farm South of town. He worked in the Dry Goods Department of the Southern Mercantile several years before buying the Crescent.

The following item, "See Nathan and Guy," is taken from the May 1, 1941 issue of the Prairie Grove Enterprise:

"In 1929 Nathan Brooks, who had worked in the Southern Dry Goods, joined the Crescent as a partner. For many years the slogan of the store was "See Nathan and Guy before you buy." Ready-to-wear for men, women and children, piece goods, shoes, and household linens were sold. Mrs. J. A. Skelton, aunt of Guy, Mrs. Nathan Brooks and Mrs. Guy Skelton were also clerks."

Both Crescent families had sons, but no daughters. Dr. Willard Brooks, veterinarian, was Nathan's only son. Guy had two sons, Elton, who managed the Prairie Grove Furniture Co., and after World War II owned and operated the Crescent; and Donnie, who also managed the Crescent at one time, and is now co-owner with his wife, Dean, of "Remember When," an antique store in Prairie Grove.

William H. (Bill) Ramsey became part owner of the Crescent in 1967 and in 1972 became sole owner of the business.

In April 1985 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Reese purchased the Crescent



*Mock Street looking North
(E. Davidson Photo)*

and a few weeks later, moved to Prairie Grove. Jim and Bettye Reese were associated with Campbell-Bell in Fayetteville for 39 years. They managed the Bargain Basement from 1958 until the store closed in 1986. Their son, Richard Reese, joined the

Crescent team in 1986 as assistant manager.

July 15, 1987 a second store was opened in Lincoln on the North side of the square. The Reese family, with a combined total of over 100 years in the retail business, had owned and operated a clothing store on the South side of the Lincoln square from 1966 to 1975. Maxine Bush was manager of that store.

Jim Reese is currently president of the Prairie Grove Chamber of Commerce and has been active in the Lions Club and the GroWest movement.



*Strawberry Field and Apple Orchard near
Prairie Grove, 1904 (Brewster Photo)*

FLOWER SHOPS

Charles and Colleen Knowles, after purchasing Gladys' Flower Shop, moved the business to the old postoffice building on the North side of Buchanan Street in 1958. Colleen's talents for decorating were in much demand, especially at the holiday seasons when she decorated a number of Prairie Grove homes for the Christmas holidays.

Curtis and Backy (McNair) Wray, who had worked for Knowles Flower Shop, purchased the business July 1, 1974 and operated it in the same location until 1980 when it was sold to Russell and Brenda Black. The Wrays moved to Fayetteville and bought a flower shop on North Garland Street.

Russell and Brenda Black changed the name of the business to Blackland Florist. They also

operated greenhouses on their farm East of Prairie Grove and bought a Nursery on Highway 16, west of Fayetteville, which they continue to operate. They recently landscaped, and maintain the plants in Mock Park.

Neta Ray Faddis, who had worked in the local flower shop, purchased it in 1986 and changed the name to Flowers 'n Friends. She moved the shop to its present location in the Stills building next to the Bank, which she remodeled for a flower shop in February 1987.

She is assisted in the shop by her sister, Jonnie Calico, full time; and Leola Dees, Helen Carter, Karen Young and Lark Eads, part time. The shop is affiliated with FTD and AFS wire services.

LUGINBUEL FUNERAL HOMES

Loyd Luginbuel of Lincoln has operated a funeral home in Lincoln since 1924, and in Prairie Grove since 1937. He was born in Salem, Arkansas, and in 1929 he married Edna Rankin, who was born near Fort Smith and gradu-



*Marrs Hotel on North Neal Street, presently
Luginbuel Funeral Home. (Luginbuel Photo)*

ated from high school in Siloam Springs. She was given a teaching position in the Siloam Springs school immediately after graduation. She later attended the University of Arkansas, and taught in Lincoln school for five years after they were married.

Edna later attended Mortuary

School in Kansas City and holds licenses in Arkansas and Oklahoma. She served as mortician for their funeral homes in Lincoln and Prairie Grove for many years.

In 1937 Luginbuels opened a Funeral Home in Prairie Grove. It occupied the property known as the F. H. Carl residence located on East Buchanan Street, just east of Southwestern Electric Power Co. (The building has since been removed.)

The structure was completely remodeled and furnished throughout with modern equipment. A late model ambulance was also added to the business. This building also included an apartment for the caretaker. Vincil and Pauline Bell lived there from January '38 until 1941.

Luginbuels bought the Southern Funeral Home in 1942 and combined the two businesses in Prairie Grove, while continuing to operate their Funeral Home in Lincoln.

In 1942 Luginbuels purchased the old Marrs Hotel building on North Neal Street and remodeled it for a funeral home on the first floor, and apartments upstairs.

Local people who occupied the apartments upstairs over the funeral home and worked part-time included: Opal Morton, Myrtle Bullington, Paul and Connie Jones, and Homer and Viola Tate, who moved to Prairie Grove in 1948. In 1961 the Tates moved back to Lincoln but have continued to work at the funeral home in Prairie Grove.

Among people who occupied the other upstairs apartments were Evelyn Bronaugh, Ken and Loretta Marvin, Wayne and Lucille Cann, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harrison, Charles and Anita Thompson, the Kirkendalls, Loyd Wayne and Sharon Luginbuel and David Stills.

The funeral home was completely remodeled and enlarged to include a chapel, waiting room, offices, viewing rooms,

etc. Later improvements include a large building on the back of the lot to house the funeral coach, limousine, car, etc. A



Luginbuel Funeral Home--1988

new "U" shaped driveway and landscaping was also done at this time.

At the present time the upstairs apartment is being remodeled and will be occupied by Stacey Luginbuel who has completed mortuary school and plans to enter the University of Arkansas this fall.

Loyd and Edna Luginbuel have two children:

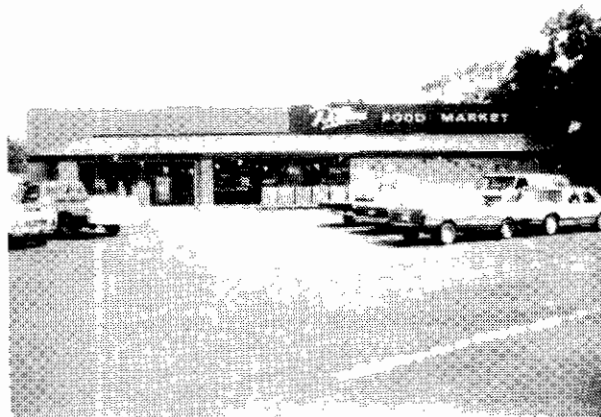
Loyd Wayne Luginbuel, who married Sharon Morris of Lincoln in 1963. They have two children, Stacey and Amy;

Janice Hibbard of Little Rock. She has two children, Keri, who is married and lives in Minneapolis; and Rob, who works for the Red Cross and lives in Boston.

Rhea Mill was constructed in 1854 and was known as the Woodruff and Killum Mill. It was destroyed by fire during the Civil War shortly after the Battle of Prairie Grove. It was rebuilt, or repaired by William Rhea. The old stone chimney of the original mill was donated to Prairie Grove Battlefield Park in 1957 by Mr. and Mrs. George Minnicke, Sr., who owned the property at that time.

DILLONS GROCERY

Dillons Grocery Company opened a new supermarket in Prairie Grove in 1966 on the corner of Buchanan and Pittman Streets. To make room for the store and parking lot, the old



Dillons new Food Market, corner of Pittman and Buchanan,

(Blakemore Photo)

J. O. Bain home on the corner was moved further South, facing Pittman Street.

In 1983 Dillons sold their stores to the Piggly Wiggly Grocery chain but the name Dillon's was retained by the new owners.

In 1987 Dillons needed additional parking space, so the Jo Bain house, west of the parking lot, which housed offices for Stinchcomb Realty and Jim Rush Pollution Control, was sold to be moved and the area was used for parking.

The company began construction of a new 21,000 square foot supermarket in 1988. The two-story house which had been moved South, facing Pittman, and which housed offices of Dr. Manning, was torn down to make room for the new store which opened for business on May 4, 1988. The old store was razed and the large area was included in the parking lot.

Gary Spurlock is store manager and department heads are: Randall Rieff, groceries; Temple Skelton, general merchandise; Janice Langrell, head cashier; Carl Bartholomew, produce; Fred Dick, meat; Bobbie Parris,

bakery and deli; Angel Burnett, dairy; and Eddie Bowling, frozen foods manager.

MAGNETEK UNIVERSAL

By Dick Patterson

MagneTek Universal Electric was born July 20, 1942, in Owosso, Michigan. Steady growth over the years resulted in expansion satellite operations that included the plant in Prairie Grove.

The production of fractional horsepower electric motors to serve the heating, air conditioning and ventilation markets, was started in Prairie Grove in February, 1981.

The Prairie Grove Works hires approximately 300 Associates in the 69,000 square foot building located at the South end of



MagneTek Universal Electric Plant in Prairie Grove,

Baggett Street. Current production is at 3,500 motors per day.

The Universal Electric Family and the Universal Electric Family Spirit have been used to build a firm and lasting foundation. As Universal Electric Associates continue "Working Together--Sharing Together," future goals, fully within the capacity, capabilities and resources of the Universal Electric Family, hold great promise.

The canning factory owned by Bryan Walker, Lee Jones and Ernest Baugh had an \$11,000 improvement program underway in 1947.

Southern Hardware Department



Southern Mercantile Company Hardware Department, Pictured in buggy; Ed Bain and Walter Edmiston,

(E. Cate Photo)

Southern Dry Goods Department



Southern Mercantile Company Dry Goods Department, Left to Right; Jim Pierson, Ella

Fields Wilson, Walter Edmiston and D. N. McCormick, (E. Cate Photo)

SOUTHERN MERCANTILE COMPANY

The Southern Mercantile Company was started in the last days of the horse and buggy era and operated well into the age of automobiles and airplanes.

Over the years, new services and lines of merchandise were added, including a radio service



Crowd gathers in front of Southern Mercantile Company for drawing.

(E, Cate Photo)

shop, electrical supplies, a line of Gold Medal Feeds, and a Funeral Home.

In connection with the Funeral Home, the Southern offered ambulance service and sold burial insurance. Joe King, who divided his time between the Funeral Home and the hardware department, was employed by the Southern for more than twenty years. At that time he held the town record for the longest



Interior of Dry Goods Department, Southern Mercantile Co.

(H. Mobley Photo)

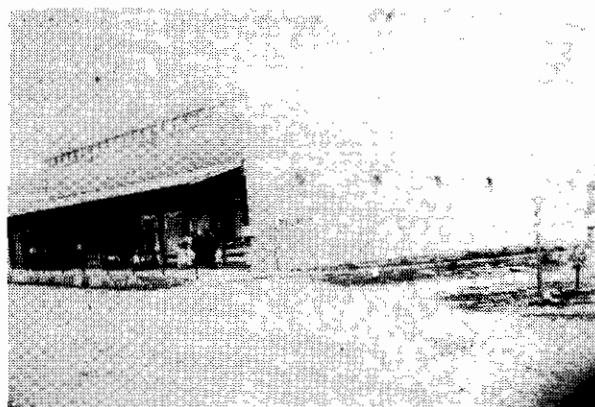


Southern Mercantile Company, Ladies in Dry Goods Department.

(E, Cate Photo)

period of service with one business.

At one time the Southern Mercantile sold buggies. One of the photos accompanying this article shows buggies lined up for display in the hardware department. A former employee remembered the buggies being kept on a platform back of the second hand rooms in the old Wilson building. He also remembered when there was no hitching room



Southern Mercantile Company (note round windows on West side of building and old town pump).

(E, Cate Photo)

in town on Saturdays.

The late S. H. (Dood) Neal worked in the Southern Dry Goods about fifteen years. He was employed in the Grocery Department during World War I and recalled that you bought only two pounds of sugar at thirty cents per pound.

Fred Carlisle served as grocery manager for a number of years. Feed sales were handled

through this department, and at one time they had contracts to feed 16,000 chicks, about twenty flocks.

Regular employees of the Southern in 1941 included: Frank Maupin, bookkeeper; Roy Glover, deliveryman; Harry Mobley, radio



*Southern Mercantile Company
(E. Cate Photo)*

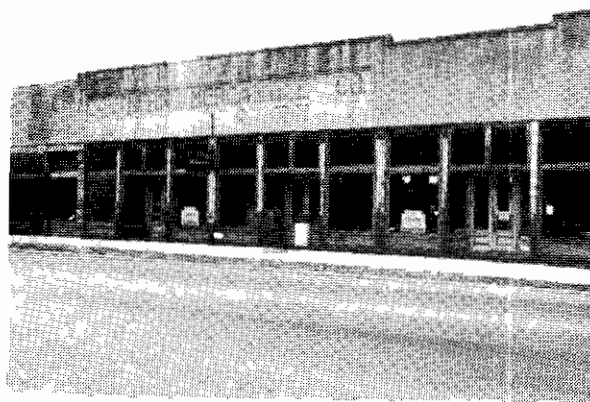
repairman; John Maxey, grocery department; Frank West, hardware department; Claud Nations, feed salesman; and John Self, appliance man.

Good roads and improved modes of transportation gradually had their effect on small towns such as Prairie Grove. The Dry Goods

Department of the Southern was closed in 1948. Dood Neal opened Neal's Dry Goods, which is still in operation under the management of his daughter, Marguerite (Mrs. Howard) Carney.

The Grocery Department was closed out in 1958, and was later used for storage.

The Hardware Department was enlarged to include the west side of the building formerly housing the Dry Goods Department and continued to be open for business until the death of Miss Florence Hill in November, 1987.



*Southern Mercantile Co. today--Time takes its toll--closed after death of Miss Florence Hill, owner-manager,
(D. Wiswell Photo)*

Newspaper

PRAIRIE GROVE NEWSPAPER HISTORY BEGINS IN 1885

*(Information from files in
Prairie Grove Enterprise office)*

Prairie Grove's first newspaper, The Prairie Grove News, was published in June, 1885, by Dr. C. G. Garrison, physician and surgeon. He was assisted by his son, Joseph Garrison, a printer. Dr. E. G. McCormick was a silent partner. The newspaper was printed on a small job press owned by Dr. Garrison and used for printing his advertisements for the 55-8-F6 and 8-F6 and 4 worm medicine made by Dr. Garrison.

After publication of a few issues, a Mr. Oliphant, a young lawyer from Florida became the active editor and issued the paper until August, 1885, when

publication ceased. The shop was located in a frame building on the south side of Buchanan Street at about the present location of the cleaners. It was separated by a walk-way from the drug store and the First National Bank.

The News was succeeded in 1887 by the Prairie Grove Banner, edited and published by H. Milton Butler, who continued the paper for several years. Mr. Butler sold the Banner to a Mr. Renfro who continued publication for a time.

The printing equipment had been purchased in Benton County and was originally stored at Viney Grove until it was determined whether the railroad would be built through Viney Grove or Prairie Grove. This equipment consisted of several cases of

type and an old Prouty cylinder press which was used by later publishers and finally replaced in the 1930s by the Wiswells. The press was turned by hand for many years before it was "modernized" with a gasoline motor. When electricity was



Enterprise office on West Buchanan St. Note Ford car decorated for Trades Day Parade.

brought to Prairie Grove, an electric motor was added.

The Banner office was in an old log building, about 12' x 12', located about where the Farmers Hardware now is, and was all by itself in a wooded area. Circulation was about fifty copies published each Friday. The late Mel M. Collier was the printer's devil (helper).

According to mast heads on some 1887 and 1888 papers, the original owner was joined by W. N. Butler (no relation). W. N. Butler was born in Shellyville, Tenn. He moved to Evansville and was married before moving to Prairie Grove in 1886 where he owned a general merchandise store in addition to being in the printing business.

During the period from 1887 to 1900 two newspapers were published in Prairie Grove. The Rising Sun was published by a Mr. Brasfield. In a short time he sold it to the Banner.

The Prairie Grove Record owned by G. R. Bradfield, was printed in 1896, replacing the Banner. The Record was succeeded in 1900 by the Prairie Grove Herald, owned and published by M. L. Hildebrand.

The Hildebrands owned and operated the newspaper about

twenty-five years before selling it to John Sallas of Clarks-ville, Arkansas, March 29, 1926. Sallis published the Herald for a time, then sold to a Mr. Tallman of Gentry. Mr. Tallman died before final arrangements were made, and his widow published the paper until 1926 when it was purchased by Mrs. J. W. Webb, wife of Dr. J. W. Webb, a dentist.

Probably during the Hildebrand's ownership, the printing shop was moved to the building presently occupied by the Oklahoma Tire and Supply. The handset weekly was printed each Thursday on the original two-



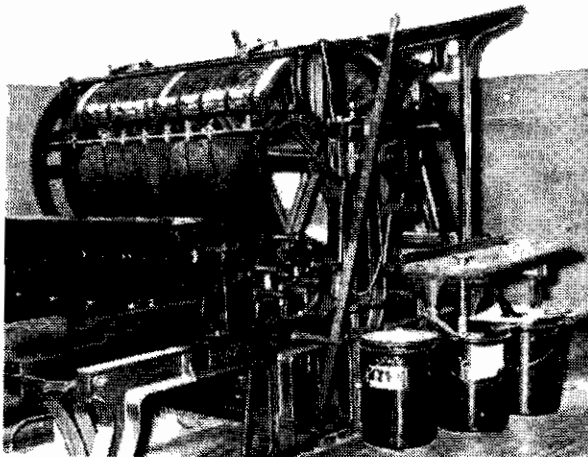
G. E. Wiswell operates small job press, the only piece of original equipment still in use by the Enterprise printing department.

page Prouty press which had been modernized with a gasoline motor.

Shortly after Mrs. Webb bought the paper in 1926, she bought the first type-setting machine to be used in Prairie Grove--a Model Z Intertype. She also had an electric motor installed to run the machinery. Roy Nixon, now of Springdale, assisted in the shop.

Mrs. Webb, a native of

Brighton, Tenn., moved to Arkansas in 1914. Her husband, the late Dr. J. W. Webb, was a practicing dentist in Prairie Grove for many years, and Mrs. Webb was active in the First Presbyterian Church and the Woman's Club, now the Federated



Babcock Cylinder Press which printed the Enterprise weekly, and the Trades Day Sheets semi-monthly, for over 30 years. It replaced the original old Prouty Press.

Woman's Club. At her death, her home, on the corner of Neal and Buchanan, was willed to the FWC to be used for a meeting place and research library for Prairie Grove history. Dr. Webb's office was a small frame building on the home lot, but facing Buchanan (now occupied by the Sugar Tree).

October 4, 1932 the Fayetteville Daily Democrat (now the Northwest Arkansas Times) purchased the subscription list of the Herald. Roy Nixon published several issues of a free circulation paper, the Prairie Grove Leader, for a few months.

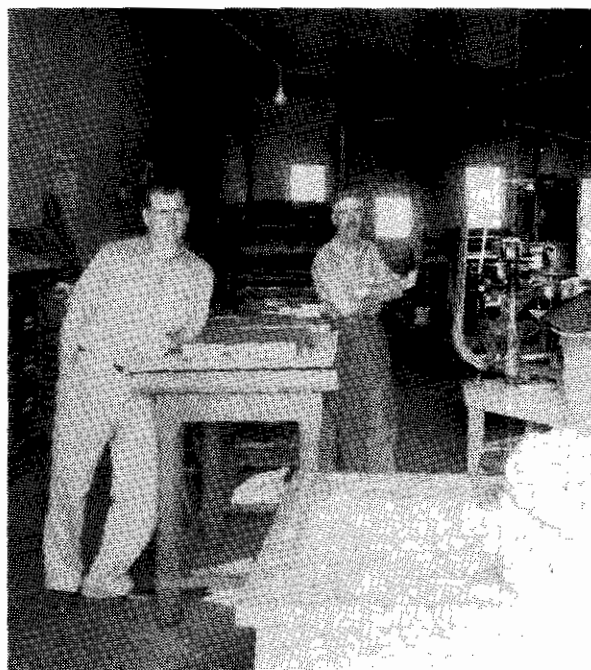
Prairie Grove was without a newspaper until November 19, 1936 when the first issue of the Prairie Grove Enterprise was published by Wiswell & Son. George E. Wiswell Sr. and G. E. Wiswell Jr. purchased the printing equipment from Mrs. Webb and began publication of the Prairie Grove Enterprise. The Enterprise carried the slogan, "A Community Newspaper Dedicated to Building a Better Community," and the Wiswells set that as a goal dur-

ing their years of operation.

The printing office was located in the West side of the building now occupied by the Oklahoma Tire and Supply. On the East side was a cafe run by Virgil Mayberry. The Prairie Grove Telephone Company was in the upstairs over the cafe. To the West of the Enterprise was the Dorman Monument Works, operated by E. H. Dorman a pioneer Prairie Grove businessman.

Original equipment included: Model Z Intertype (first type-setting machine manufactured by Intertype), a Prouty Cylinder Press, known as the "Grasshopper"; an 8 x 10-inch C & P job press, 19-inch paper cutter, several cases of type for hand-setting, and numerous smaller items needed for printing letter-press. The Intertype and two presses were powered by a two-horse electric motor set at the back of the shop, with a drive-shaft running along the wall with a belt to each machine.

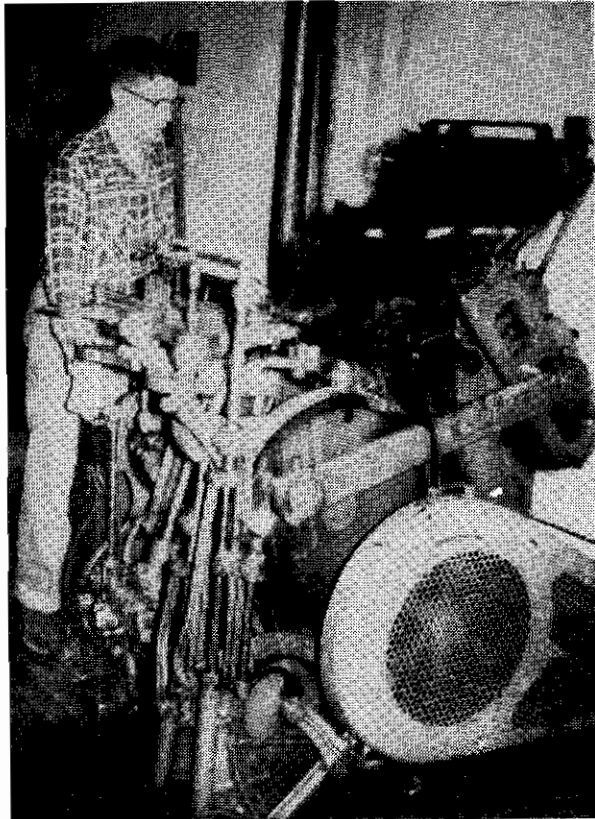
The Enterprise publication



George E. Wiswell Jr. and George E. Wiswell Sr. in Enterprise office on Buchanan St.

was a family operation. George Sr. began his newspaper career with the Green Forest (Ark.) Tribune as a "printer's devil"

(an apprentice), and after working there several years, he became skilled in type-setting by hand, press work, writing, proof-reading and other early-day requirements for a printer-publisher. He worked in a number of printshops in Arkansas,



Donald Wiswell, college student, operated automatic job printing press.

Missouri and Oklahoma. He married Ida Beck of Green Forrest in 1910 and they moved to Pangburn, Ark., where they bought the Pangburn News. A son, George E. Jr. was born there, and the family lived in several towns and worked with various newspapers before 1936 when they established the Enterprise.

About 1943 the Enterprise was moved from the original location to the Masonic building on Mock Street, its present location. The move was a major project. All equipment had to be disassembled--moved piece by piece--to the new location, and re-assembled and adjusted in time to print the following week's Enterprise. Everything was carried by hand or carted

out the back door, across the alley and into the back door of the new location. Jim Cavett, Prairie Grove nightwatchman, assisted in the move.

Mrs. J. W. Webb served as social editor and local reporter of the Enterprise during the ownership of the Wiswells.

Newton Baker worked in the mechanical department for a number of years. Walter Smith, a handicapped person, worked in the printing office, doing odd jobs, for many years. Richard Layman began work in 1966 and is still in the printing department of the Enterprise.

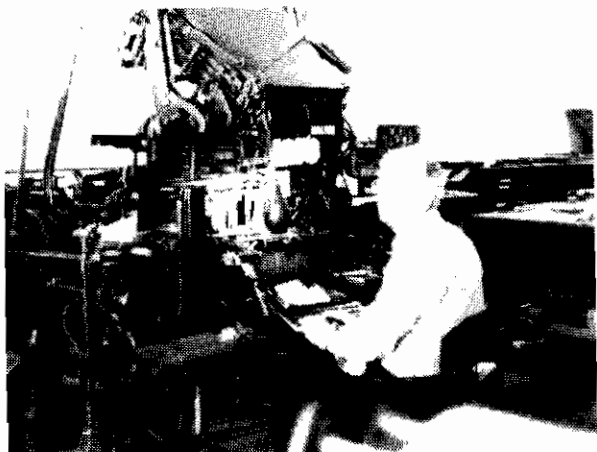
Others working for the Wiswells over the years included Ella Speedlin (Mrs. Joe Delap), Emogene Hutchinson (Mrs. Darwin Delap), Betty (Mrs. Jack) Curt-singer, Thelma (Mrs. Harry) Delap, Juanita (Mrs. Bob) Ray, Helen (Mrs. Jack) Cook, Karleen (Mrs. John) Brewster, Florene (Mrs. Ray) Cornwell.

Mrs. George Wiswell Sr. died in 1950 and George Sr. retired in July, 1956. The G. E. Wiswells assumed full ownership and operation of the Enterprise at that time. George Wiswell died in 1971.

The Wiswells owned the Enterprise from its founding in 1936 until 1965 when it was sold to the Tri-State Publishers of Springdale, Jim Edgman, president and publisher. In July 1965 the commercial printing department and equipment was repurchased by the Wiswells, and the newspaper office was moved to the East side of the building now occupied by the flower shop. Mrs. Herman McMurry wrote local news and worked in the office. The Enterprise was changed to a tabloid size and was printed by offset in Springdale.

June 1, 1967, Boyce Davis, owner of the Lincoln Leader, purchased the Enterprise from Jim Edgman and resold it to the Wiswells. The printing of the Enterprise was brought back to the local office where an 8-page Duplex press had been installed

to handle the newspaper and the Trades Day advertising circular printed twice monthly by the Wiswells.



G. E. Wiswell seated at Model 14 Linotype which was used for newspaper work.

May 6, 1971, after thirty-five years of printing and publishing, the Wiswells sold the entire business to the Alan Nicholas family of Cleveland, Ohio. They published the paper until May 1974 when Carroll and Paddy Rainwater of Colorado purchased the newspaper and commercial printing business. February 6, 1975, they sold to Jeff McLamore, who owned the Westville, Okla., paper, and Larry

Golden who had established, and were publishing, the Prairie Grove News in competition to Rainwater. The two papers were combined as the Prairie Grove Enterprise and became part of the Cherokee Corp., which also included the Lincoln Leader and Westville Record.

In June, 1985, the corporation was purchased by Boyce Davis of Lincoln and David McClinton of Fayetteville who added the West Fork Observer to the Cherokee Group. Beth Sturre is editor of the *Prairie Grove Enterprise* and *Lincoln Leader*.



Prairie Grove Enterprise Office on North Mock Street, present location.

Post Offices

SWEET HOME POST OFFICE WAS
FIRST TO SERVE PRAIRIE GROVE VALLEY

*(From files in Joy Webb Library,
Prairie Grove)*

Sweet Home, the first Post Office in Prairie Grove Valley, was established in September 1840 while Martin Van Buren was president of the United States. James Chestnut Pittman was appointed postmaster and served until November 1844 when the office was discontinued. It was re-established in January 1845 with Mr. Pittman re-appointed by President John Tyler. Pittman was succeeded by Wm. D. Shores in November of 1845. The office was discontinued in April 1846.

The building was a log struc-

ture built by Mr. Pittman and used as a post office and store. It was located east of town, near the spot where Jack Wynn presently has a milk barn. It was later occupied by William Edward Pittman, son of James Chestnut Pittman, as a residence. The following children of William E. Pittman were born in the old Sweet Home Post Office building, James, Ellis, Eliza, Willie and Jessie. W. E. Pittman died in 1920.

James Chestnut Pittman, the first postmaster, was the son of Samuel Pittman who brought his family from North Carolina to Alabama, then to Arkansas in 1828. He lived first at Evansville, then Cane Hill and finally in 1831 settled on the farm



Sweet Home Post Office was Prairie Grove's first Post Office.

east of Prairie Grove which is now occupied by Jack Wynn.

His wife was Mary Alvira Tuttle and they had seven children, three of whom died in early childhood. Those who survived were Samuel Pinckney, William Edward, James Middleton, and Mary Dallas.

James Middleton Pittman was Judge of the District Court 1874 to 1878 and from 1882 to 1890. Samuel Pinckney Pittman, who owned much land, was known as Captain Pink Pittman. He died in 1916. Mary Dallas married Dudley Hines and they lived in Oklahoma.

James Chestnut Pittman had two sisters who came to Prairie Grove Valley with his family. Nancy married a Mr. Stevenson, and Wincy married R. A. Sharp.

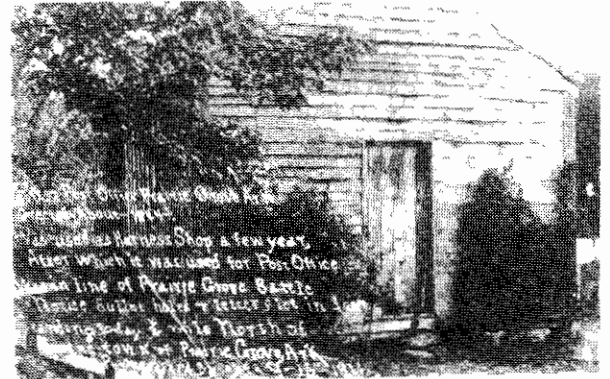
PRAIRIE GROVE'S SECOND POST OFFICE BORE SCARS OF BATTLE

(From files in Joy Webb Library, Prairie Grove)

The second Post Office in this community was located in what is now the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park and was called "Ada." It was in a frame building approximately 20 x 30 feet in size and was used as a store and saddle shop.

The building was in the line of fire during the Battle of Prairie Grove and was hit by a

number of bullets as the picture indicates. One of the bullets struck a keg of molasses and the contents soon covered the floor. After the Post Office was discontinued, the building was moved across the road to the Hugh Rogers home on Battlefield Road. It stood for many years and when it was wrecked, the bullet-riddled door was stored in the garage at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Baggett on the corner of Neal and Parks streets, now occupied by Miss Lorene Jones and her brother, Lee.



Ada was the name of Prairie Grove's Second Post Office, North of Battlefield Park.

In the spring of 1940, while Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Dutton occupied the house, the garage burned and the door, one of the treasured relics of the Prairie Grove Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, was gone.

The Ada Post Office was established in July 1857 during the administration of President



Ada Post Office in dilapidated condition. Note bullet holes in the door.

James Buchanan with Archibald Borden as postmaster. He served until 1858 and was succeeded by

Mrs. Bordon's father, Hugh Rogers. Mr. Rogers served until the Post Office was discontinued in February, 1867.

POSTMASTERS WHO SERVED SWEET HOME AND ADA POST OFFICES IN 1800s

James Chestnut Pittman, 1844
(post office discontinued)
James Chestnut Pittman, 1845
(reappointed--post office
re-opened)
William D. Shores, 1845-1846
(post office discontinued)
Archibald Borden, 1857-1858
Hugh Rogers, 1858-1867 (post
office discontinued)

PRAIRIE GROVE POST OFFICE HISTORY

By Susan Parks

Of all post offices established in Washington County during the Reconstruction Era, Prairie Grove's is the only one which is still in service today. However, prior to its construction in downtown Prairie Grove, two other post offices intermittently served the community.

The first post office in the area was located in Sweet Home, which opened in 1840 and closed in 1846. Eleven years went by before the next postal building opened on what is now the Battlefield Park. Named after a daughter of postmaster Archibald Borden, the Ada post office managed the mail until it was forced to close during the Civil War. A casualty of the Battle of Prairie Grove, the small frame building was moved a short distance west after 1865. People often visited the empty structure to dig bullets out of the wood.

On July 18, 1867, the community's third post office opened on what is possibly now the building's current location. Listed below are the postmasters and the dates they began their service. Absalom Rice - 1867; Eliza E. Reinhart - 1868; Tilghman H. Addison - 1871; James P. Neal - 1873; John Cole - 1889;

Lafayette C. McCormick - 1893; Nelson Mallicoate - 1897; Clinton E. Cole - 1910; Joel M. Harrison - 1914; Robert B. Cox - 1922; James H. Carnahan - 1935; Joe C. Parks - 1964; James D. Ross - 1985.

Information for this article was obtained from Washington County Postmasters and Post-offices, 1829-1976. Compiled and published by Deane G. Carter and distributed by the Washington County Historical Society, 1976. p.24. This issue is located in the Special Collections Department, Mullins Library, University of Arkansas.

PRAIRIE GROVE POST OFFICE HISTORY GATHERED FROM OLD NEWSPAPER FILES

(Information from files of the Prairie Grove Herald, Prairie Grove Enterprise, and Joy Webb Library, Prairie Grove)

The fire of February 13, 1906 destroyed much of the North side of Buchanan Street including the Post Office which was opened in the Barton Carl property between 1875 and 1880. The Post Office was a total loss except for the iron safe and its contents. This building was the property of the postmaster, Nelson Mallicoate.

Following the fire, the Post Office was immediately moved to the directors' room in the Union National Bank building, where it was opened for business until a new location was ready. A modern brick building replaced the one which burned, and on September 14, 1906, the Post Office was moved from the bank to the new building on the site of the old Post Office. Clinton E. Cole was postmaster in 1910.

In 1914 Postmaster Joel M. Harrison moved the Post Office four doors east to the Mock Building. This location was used until 1952 when the Post Office was moved to the Fidler building on West Buchanan Street, which is now a part of OTASCO.

Robert B. Cox was Prairie Grove Postmaster from September,

1922, until July, 1935, when he was replaced by J. Henry Carnahan.

Following the retirement of J. H. Carnahan in 1964, Joe C. Parks, who had been a rural carrier for a number of years, was appointed postmaster. Parks



*Joe Parks on Fishing Trip
(J. Parks Photo)*

served in this position until his death in 1984. Jim Ross, who had 21 years experience in postal service, moved here from Altus, Arkansas and became postmaster in 1985, and is the present postmaster.

Virginia West (now Mrs. Roy Jackson of Lincoln) began work as a clerk in the Prairie Grove Post Office in 1936 and was assistant postmaster when she retired in 1976.

Hattie Mae Jones (now Mrs. Hugh Carney) worked as clerk, and later as assistant to the postmaster from July 1945 until June 1973 when she retired.

Mary Lou (Mrs. George) West began work in the post office in 1969 and worked until 1985.

PRESENT POST OFFICE DEDICATED IN 1963

In 1963 the present post office building was constructed on the East side of Mock Park and was dedicated May 23 of that year by Harold Jinks of Washing-

ton, D.C., director of Postmasters and Rural Carriers' appointments. The Prairie Grove Lions Club sponsored the dedication.

John L. Vandiver, superintendent of Prairie Grove Schools, served as master of ceremonies for the dedication program which included: Invocation, Rev. Harvey Hazelwood; Remarks and Introduction of Employees, Postmaster Carnahan; Welcome, Mayor Calvin Bain; Introduction of Distinguished Guests, John Vandiver; History of Post Office, George Wiswell; Introduction of Speaker, Dr. Frank Riggall; Dedication Address, Harold Jinks, Director of Postmasters and Rural Carrier Appointments, Washington, D.C.; Flag Raising Ceremony by Prairie Grove Boy Scouts, Lee Sharp, Scoutmaster. Open House in the new building followed the dedication.



*Prairie Grove Post Office
(D. Wiswell Photo)*

The red-brick Post Office building, 48' x 49' in size, with a loading dock on the back, is located on a lot 75 x 165 feet which was purchased from Dr. Will H. Mock. Fourteen hundred feet of paved parking area is available.

As this history is being written (1988) Jim Ross is postmaster of the Prairie Grove Post Office. Peggy Tuck, of Springdale, and Freeman Bentley serve as clerks, and Rural Carriers are Charles Knowles and Gene

Cates. Substitute carriers are David Bartholomew and Warren Napier.

When Dillons opened their new grocery store, a satellite post office was included as a customer service. Stamps, cards, money orders, etc., can be purchased there.

HISTORY OF PRAIRIE GROVE'S RURAL MAIL ROUTES

(Prairie Grove Enterprise Files)

RURAL ROUTE NO. 1

Rural Free Delivery became available November 1, 1904, when William M. Graham was appointed carrier of Rural Route 1. He served 17 years and was succeeded by Samuel W. Adams, who served until 1924. Clyde Delap followed Mr. Adams and was carrier for Route 1 until his father, Joe A. Delap, retired from Route 3 and Clyde transferred from Route 1 to Route 3. Elbert Beaty was appointed carrier on Route 1 in 1942 and served until his transfer to Route 2 when Oscar Sharp retired December 31, 1952. Joe C. Parks was appointed carrier January 1958, replacing Beaty on Route 1, and served in that capacity until he was appointed postmaster.

More recent carriers on Route 1 are Charles Knowles, 1965-1970; Lloyd Jordan, 1970-1981, and Gene Cates who was appointed in 1981 and currently serves in that capacity.

When established Route 1 was 25 miles long. The route now has a mileage of 70.40.

RURAL ROUTE NO. 2

Rural Route No. 2 was established November 15, 1905. The first carrier was William H. Maddox, appointed November 15, 1905. He served until his retirement in 1919. He was succeeded by Oscar M. Sharp who was appointed February 23, 1920. Mr. Sharp served 33 years, retiring

December 31, 1952. Elbert Beaty, who had served as carrier on Route 1 since appointment in 1942, was transferred to Route 2 where he served until his retirement in 1970. Charles Knowles transferred to Route 2 at Beaty's retirement and remains in that position.

RURAL ROUTE NO. 3

Rural Route No. 3 was established November 15, 1905. Edward C. Henson was the first carrier on this route. He resigned November 30, 1909 and was succeeded by Joe A. Delap who was appointed carrier December 30, 1909. He retired in 1941 after serving 33½ years. His son, Clyde H. Delap, who had served Route 1 since 1925, was transferred to Route 3.

When established, the mileage on Route 3 was 17-1/4 miles and the present mileage is 43.60.

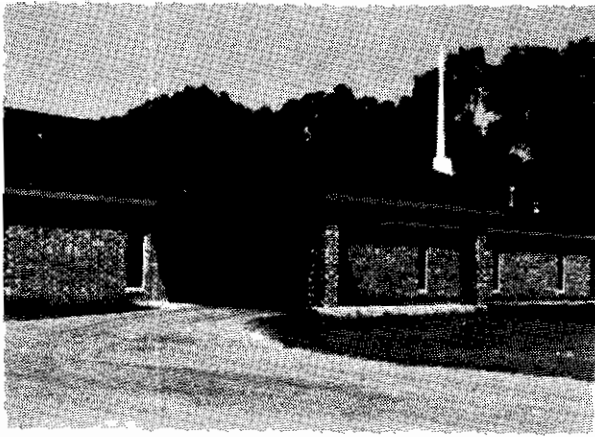
At Clyde Delap's retirement in 1966, Route 3 was absorbed by Routes 1 and 2. When Route 3 was established the mileage was 17-1/4 miles. When it was included in Routes 1 and 2 the mileage was 43.60.

Churches

PRAIRIE GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

In 1936 the Government Avenue (now the Center Street) Church of Christ of Fayetteville, sponsored a ten-day meeting in Mock Park with Herbert Hooker preaching. At the close of the meeting three families began meeting and conducting services in the American Legion building. One of those families was the Ed Broyles family. Broyles served as elder and leader in the church until his death February 6, 1986. Mrs. Broyles is a present member of the church.

In 1948 a lot was purchased at 309 East Parks Street and a frame building was erected in 1952 with donated labor from the members. Later additional lots



Church of Christ

were purchased, including the adjoining property on the corner of Pittman and Parks Street for additional parking space.

In 1979 a new building was erected at the same location and all old buildings were removed to provide more parking space. The auditorium of the new church seats approximately 275, and the Sunday School accommodates 14 classes. On November 25, 1979 the church began services in this building, which also includes a spacious nursery and fellowship hall.

Those who have pastored throughout the years include Bobby Barnett, George Broyles, D. B. Hebbard, Eugene Henderson, C. E. Johnson, Roe Meador, Guy Couch, Ray King, Jack Cole, Lynn Turner, Ed Spurlock, Dean Pappish, Oris Sayler, John Dockery, and Leon Glenn, present minister.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

By Flora Bond

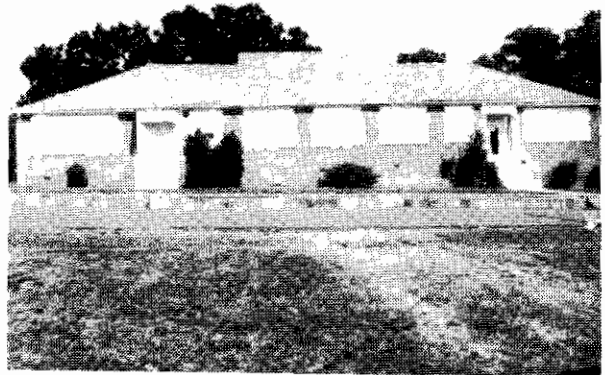
The first meeting of the Assembly of God Church was held in the Legion Hut July 19, 1964, with seventeen in attendance. The First Assembly of God Church of Prairie Grove was set in order November 7, 1965 with twenty-two members. Rev. C. S. Kirkendall was minister and members were: Rev. C. S. and Ellen Kirkendall, Naomi and Calvin Kirkendall; Harold Dean and Virginia Risley; Robert Dale and

Kennie Mae Boyd; John and Marilyn Gregory; Patsy Cole; Freddie and Connie Ritter; Debbie Kaye Whorton; Gladys Pennell; Frank and Emily Tunnell; Shelby and Lela Dill; Tommie and Mary Lou Igo (transferred); and L. C. Butterfield. Additional members by water baptism were Johnnie and Sharon Grose.

The Assembly purchased the old Grade School building on the corner of Neal and Bush Streets after the school was moved to the new building.

Following the resignation of Rev. Kirkendall, Rev. Ronnie Gaither came as pastor. Following Rev. Gaither, Reverends Frank and Faye Costner took over the pastorate of the Prairie Grove Church.

Up to this time very little had been done to improve the building, but under the leadership of Brother Costner, improvement of the sanctuary was begun. The old theater-type chairs which were noted for snagging clothes, were replaced with pews with cushioned seats



Assembly of God Church

and backs. They were paid for by pledges and love offerings. The next project was carpeting the floors.

In the Sunday School classrooms, ceilings were lowered, partitions built, and rooms paneled. Restrooms were moved from the basement to the ground floor, and heating and air conditioning units were installed.

The last improvement was

installation of a kitchen in the Northwest room. A counter was built separating the kitchen from the dining area and a refrigerator, gas range, hot water heater and storage cabinets were added.

Brother and Sister Costner worked very hard for the church and congregation, but because of his failing health they resigned and moved to their home in Springdale, where they lived when Mr. Costner died. Sister Costner has continued to carry on the Lord's work near her home in Springdale.

Pastors following the Costners were Brothers Hugh Still, Bud Lawrence, Robert Morrison, Roy Grinder, and Rev. C. L. Keck who is the present pastor.

CHURCH OF GOD

By Mrs. M. B. Dunnagan

In 1943 Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Dunnagan moved to the Prairie Grove area and immediately began



Church of God

a movement to establish the Church of God.

The first church meetings were held in a tent in the southern part of Prairie Grove, and after a revival meeting a Sunday School and Church was organized and they began to hold regular meetings in a home on South Neal Street.

Later they purchased a plot of ground on West Cleveland Street and built a church building. The Church of God was

organized in Prairie Grove in 1949 with approximately twelve members. The Rev. Ernest Dunnagan was pastor.

The church is active and continues under the pastorate of the Rev. Carl Edler.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By Lorene Jones

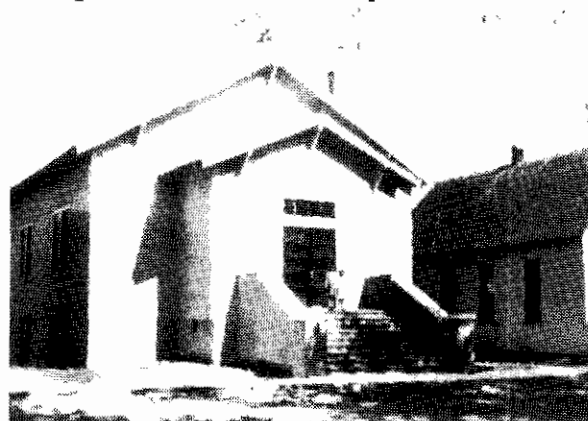
Land for the site of the First Christian Church of Prairie



First Christian Church (original building)

Grove was acquired on May 19, 1885 from George W. and Margaret A. Reed, grandparents of Marvin Moore. Details of the construction date and cost of the original building are not available, but it stood at the corner of Kate Smith and Bush Street for about 40 years.

The sanctuary and basement of the present building were built in 1928 at a cost of \$4,953.62. (Carpenters were paid 37-1/2



Christian Church in 1928

cents per hour.) Dedication services were held May 6, 1928,

with most of the town joining in. For many years it was the only place in town with a kitchen and room for banquets, etc.

The adjacent 77 ft. wide lot on the south was purchased from Mrs. Mae Skelton on January 15,



First Christian Church (present building)

1951, and after her death the adjoining lot and house were purchased from her heirs on May 9, 1955.

The annex with additional classrooms was completed in 1974.

Only sketchy information is available from 1885 to 1897. Some of the ministers during that period were Bros. Knox, Combs, and Dunnlavey. It is believed that Mr. Curtis, father of Mrs. Mattie Wilson, may have served during this time.

The Campbell family moved to the area in 1901. It seems the Christian Church was not having services during that era and sometime later Mrs. B. C. Campbell (grandmother of Phoebe Harris and Anne LaRew) toured the town in her horsedrawn buggy inviting people to church and got services going again.

During part of 1904, 1905 and part of 1906, Bro. H. S. Mobley (father of Harry S. Mobley) filled the pulpit.

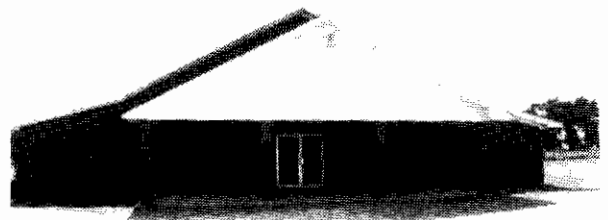
No records are available from 1907 to 1914, but the ministers listed below served the church: O. B. Sears, 1914-15; J. S. Foust, 1923-25; J. W. Towry, 1926-27; C. R. Malone, 1927-28;

R. M. Phillips, 1928-29; and T. G. Fish, 1929-30. Walter Bell, brother of Tom Bell, preached some during 1918 or 1919. In October 1922, F. W. Strong held a tent revival with several additions to the church. He was the father of Edwin Strong who was instrumental in organizing Ozark Bible College.

During the '30s and early '40s three members of the church took turns speaking on Sunday morning. They were J. Frank Holmes, H. S. Mobley and Harry Mobley. Some weeks there were guest speakers including students from Ozark Bible College. Eugene McConley, 1948; E. F. Norwood, 1949-50; F. C. Barrows, 1951; H. R. McKissack 1951-53; Ray E. Hunt, 1953-56 Frank Runyan, 1956 (6 months) Galen Clark, 1957-58; Ralph A. Fox, 1958-59; Dennis Sheffield 1960-62; Robert Hughey, 1962-68 Don Emanuel, 1968 (3 months) Phil Lockhart, 1969-71; Trew W. Lockhart, 1971-85; Harley Ihm, 1985-87; Monte Shoemake, 1987-?.

PRAIRIE OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH

Prairie Grove's newest church is the Prairie Oaks Baptist Church, located at the West edge of Prairie Grove near the Prairie Oaks subdivision. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in January 1982, and the



Prairie Oaks Baptist Church

building was completed the following December.

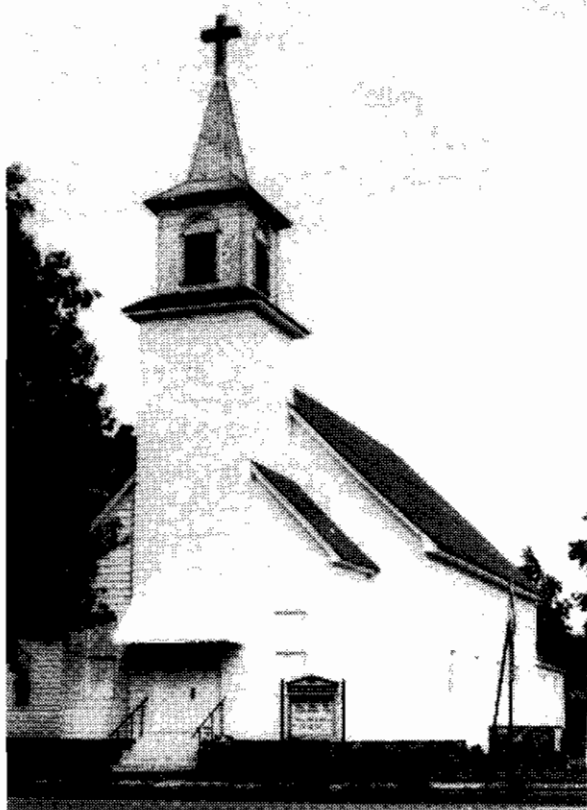
The attractive red brick building holds a sanctuary, which seats three hundred, and seventeen Sunday School rooms.

The balcony, to be finished later, will seat an additional eighty people.

The Rev. Ernest Meadows is pastor of the church; George West is Sunday School superintendent; James Bartholomew is song leader; Myrtle Ray, pianist; and Debbie Bartholomew, organist.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized in 1831, soon after the founding of the town of Prairie Grove. The church building was also used as



Cumberland Presbyterian Church

the town's first school.

The Rev. Andrew (Uncle Buck) Buchanan came by oxcart from Cane Hill to organize the church and was the first pastor. Among other early pastors were: The Reverends W. M. Reed, John Buchanan, James Carnahan, B. F. Totten, F. R. Earle, G. S. Henderson, J. H. Kelly, E.M. Frey-schlag.

The first building erected

was used by Union soldiers as a hospital after the Civil War Battle of Prairie Grove, and as winter quarters in 1863. After that it was partly torn down and the wood used for making coffins. The remainder was burned.

In later years the church made application for reimbursement, and in 1905 the Federal government reimbursed for the destruction of the building. With these monies, the pews in the third and present building were purchased in 1906.

The second building was a frame building, facing east. It stood back of the site of the third building, and was also used as a school house.

The third building, according to church records, was erected in the late 1800s and dedicated in April of 1890. The first Missionary Society was organized in 1862 and the first Christian Endeavor in 1897 by the Rev. John Kelly.

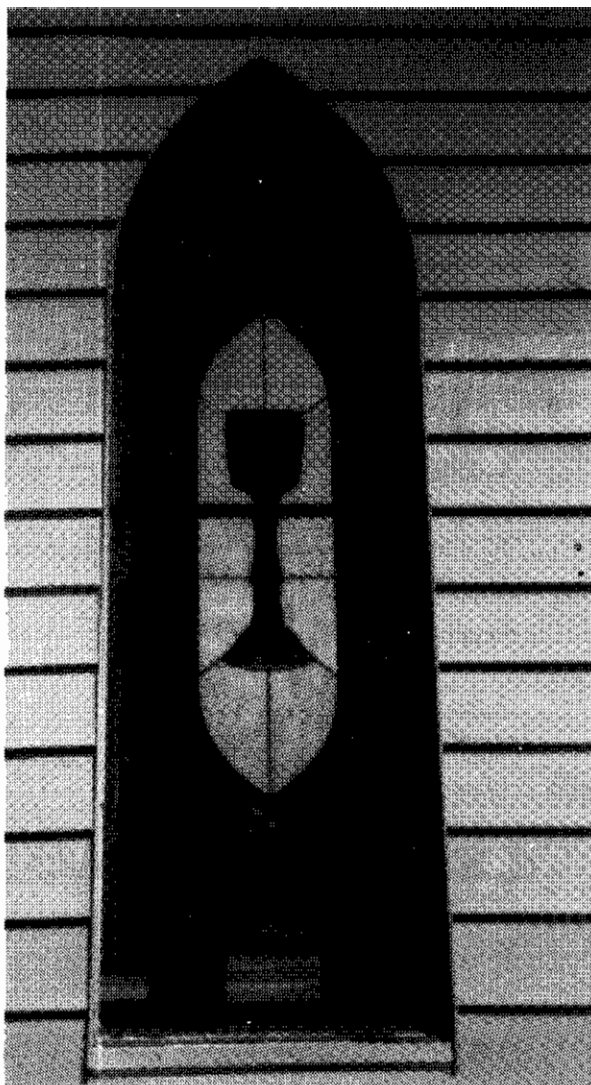
Later, the front of the church was remodeled and the vestibule was added with a small room on each side. The choir loft was added at a later date.

In the early 1950s three Sunday School rooms were built across the back of the church.

In 1959, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Bethel Grove ceased to operate and its building was given by Porter Presbytery to the Prairie Grove Church. It was annexed to the west side of the main church building and used as Sunday school classrooms and as a fellowship hall.

The first organ was presented to the church by Moses Rollans. In 1965 a Baldwin electric organ was presented to the church by Loyd Baggett as a memorial to his wife, Edna Baggett.

The eight windows in the sanctuary are being replaced by memorial stained glass windows. To date windows have been completed and installed in loving memory of John Paul Mobley, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Jones, Mr. and



Stained Glass Window, Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Mrs. C. L. Clement, B. H. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Collier, and W. H. Buchanan, who gave land and founded the first church. A window in memory of the Zinn family, and one to be designated, will be added.

The Rev. Andrew Bowlin of John Brown University is present pastor of the church.

PRAIRIE GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(From Church History of 1986 by George E. Wiswell)

The first Methodist church in Prairie Grove was organized in 1856 and was a part of the Viney Grove circuit until 1904, at which time it became a station. The church secured property in

Prairie Grove on September 4, 1879, when James and Lucy Neal and his mother, Signail Buchanan, deeded property to the Trustees of the Methodist Church, described as, "the N. E. Corner of Block No. 2, beginning at that point and going West 166 feet, then South 160 feet, then East 166 feet and then North 160 feet to the point of beginning." Trustees of the church at that time were: John Mock, S. E. Rogers, James P. Neal, George W. Crowell and Thomas Sanders.

November 23, 1887, eight years after the Neals and Buchanans deeded the first plat to the Prairie Grove Church, John Mock, S. E. Rogers and Julia A. Rogers deeded to the trustees of the church another part of Block 2 just South of the first property in the same dimension of 160 feet by 166 feet. At that time trustees were: P. B. Hopkins, pastor in charge, John Mock, J. J. Baggett, W. O. Rogers, S. E. Rogers and L. T. Sanders. A building on that property was used as a parsonage until the present parsonage was deeded to the church in 1909.

The original Prairie Grove Methodist Church building was constructed on the first property in 1880. It was a frame building and built at a cost of \$1,500.00. (There is very little



Prairie Grove Methodist Church

(Brewster Photo)

information about this building.)

The present Methodist church was constructed in 1903 after

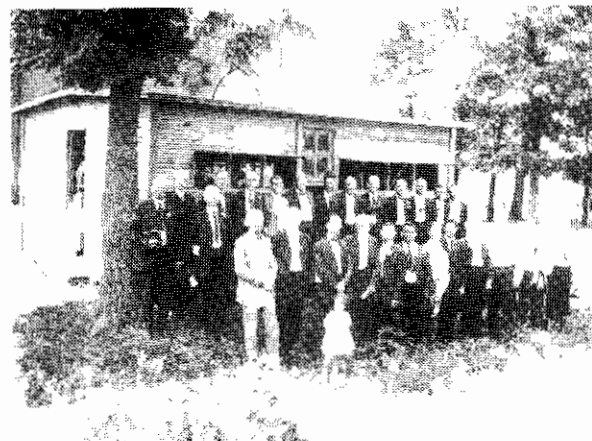
the old church was torn away. The brick church was built mostly by church members and local labor. The bricks were manufactured by the Terpening Tile Factory which was located three miles east of Prairie Grove on the east side of the Illinois River. These bricks were hauled by teams and wagons. M. A. Dorman, C. E. Woolverton and J. Ed Rogers furnished two teams and helped with the hauling. They hauled 600 bricks per load, and "it took a pretty good team" to ford the river and come up the Pittman hill. Some had to double-team to get up the hill.

Early stained glass windows in the church were memorials to: Dr. Mock's mother (Mrs. Margaret Mock), J. J. Baggett, B. A. Carl, D. N. McCormick, John T. Carl, Young Ladies' Class, Young Men's Class, Rev. J. H. Forrest and wife.

The church bell, which was placed in a beautiful tower, is one of the finest solid brass bells of its size in the state. It weighs about 500 pounds and its sound can be heard up to five miles away.

The next addition to the church was the Fellowship Hall or Educational Building, which was built in 1932. According to Roy Nixon, a member of the Board of Trustees at the time, "Sophia Maddox died, leaving no heirs. Her will dispensed her money to various charities. I believe the church's share was around \$5,000.00. We felt with this fund, plus considerable volunteer labor, we could swing construction of the building. I remember taking off from my job to help lay the concrete floor in the basement. Also, many evenings assisting with routine work there. The new school building on the block north of the church was under construction at the same time. A material firm had delivered some brick to the school which were not intended for the job. With only a course or two next to the foundation of the school laid,

someone found the error and the bricks had to be torn out. Some brethren of the church took hatchets and scraped away the mortar to reclaim the bricks. These bricks were used at the church to square up the corners and some doors and windows of



Men's Bible Class of the Methodist Church, taken in 1922 or '23, Back Row, left to right: John Taylor, teacher; W. N. Butler, R. C. Lee, J. H. Zellner, Ivy Edmiston, R. H. Skelton, Harve Fidler, Perry West, P. Edmiston, F. H. Carl, J. T. Carl, Isham Porter, J. Ed Rogers; Front Row: Hannah Dixon, W. W. Carl, Will Stephens, E. C. Carl, Uncle Bill Rogers, Ernest Dorman, Tom Fidler, Austin Carl, Mr. Reese, R. A. Wheeler, Henry Mason, J. W. Woolverton, and Mr. Hannah.
(Sarah Carl Photo)

the educational building," according to Nixon.

The educational building in the early days was equipped with a stage and beautiful velvet curtains. Many local residents can remember performing on this stage. It was torn away in the late 60s in order to make more room in the fellowship hall and kitchen. The upper floor housed Sunday School classrooms.

The Mock Annex was built on the north side of the original building in 1953. It now houses the pastor's study, the secretary's office, choir room and three adult Sunday School classrooms. The pastor's office was remodeled in 1982 with new surface on the ceiling, wall paneling and new carpet. In 1986 the Annex was insulated overhead and new central heating and air conditioning added.

In 1965 a chapel was constructed to the south of the fellowship hall. It is now used as a teen room, two nursery rooms, and a classroom. Scout troops meet in this area each week.

A parking lot, west of the sanctuary, was built by Dr. J. J. Baggett. A new wheelchair walk and ramp was recently completed, connecting the parking lot with the sanctuary. Funds were provided by the United Methodist Women.

In 1982 remodeling of the overflow area of the sanctuary began. The walls were painted and wainscoting stained to match the sanctuary. A suspended ceiling and chandelier were given in 1985 by Mr. and Mrs. Chester McKee in memory of their son, "Butch." Thirty padded chairs were added, beginning in 1983, from the General Memorial Fund.

Four chandeliers were placed in the sanctuary in 1984 at a cost of \$3,200.00. One of the fixtures was given in memory of Ella Stevens, mother of Doris Sharp. The other three were purchased with funds from the General Memorial Funds.

The United Methodist Women started a project in 1985 of installing protective Plexiglas over the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The large north window was covered in 1985.

The Prairie Grove United Methodist Church celebrated its 100-year anniversary April 24, 1966. Bishop Paul V. Galloway was speaker at the eleven o'clock service.

A new bulletin board was placed in the Prairie Grove Methodist Church in August, 1966, as a gift from the McMahan Educational Foundation of Carmel Valley, California, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carlisle of Prairie Grove.

PRAIRIE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

By Mrs. Lloyd Dunham

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ was organized in 1871, at Liberty School house, three miles southwest of Prairie Grove. In 1890 the Liberty School building was torn down,



Early Picture of original Prairie Grove Baptist Church,

(V. Skelton Photo)

and its members met in the homes of various members for about one year.

At the end of that year, the membership moved their worship services to the public school building in Prairie Grove, then to the College Hall in Prairie Grove, for a brief period of time.

In 1893 a church building was constructed in Prairie Grove and in 1894 the name of the church was changed to Prairie Grove Baptist Church.

The Prairie Grove Baptist Church was affiliated with the Fayetteville Baptist Association. It continued in the fellowship of the association when the name was changed to the Washington-Madison Baptist Association and has continued in that fellowship until the present date.

A new auditorium with central air and heat and a seating capacity of 240 with modern furniture was provided in 1964.

A parsonage and annex building were purchased, but due to rapid growth of the Sunday School, the parsonage was converted to classrooms.

Additional land south of the



First Baptist Church

church was purchased to insure adequate parking facilities.

Construction of a 6,000 square foot multi-purpose building was started April 1, 1988. Included in this addition will be a fellowship hall, Sunday School classrooms, staff offices and a conference room.

Forty-four pastors have served this church from its inception to today. Rev. Brad Sheffield, the present pastor, has been at this church for three years.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Neva McMurry

(This history was copied from the files of the late Mrs. Joy Webb, who was Church Historian until the mid-1970s. She thoughtfully preserved much more information on her church and many other subjects, in the library which bears her name. It is located in her former home on North Neal Street, now the FWC meeting place and library.)

A meeting was held in Prairie Grove, Arkansas, by the members of the Southern Presbyterians of this place April 6, 1905 for the purpose of organizing a Southern Presbyterian Church. Said meeting was held in the Methodist Church.

Rev. S. W. Davies of Fayetteville Church was moderator, and Rev. J. C. L. Lawson, also of Fayetteville, was present.

The advisability of organiz-

ing a church at this place was thoroughly discussed, and after adjourning to the home of Miss Mary Campbell where the matter was discussed and put to a vote, and all the requirements of the church Book of Order having been met, an arrangement was effected.

Dr. E. G. McCormick and Mr. H. C. Magruder were installed Ruling Elders. Dr. C. L. Moore was installed Deacon.

There were fourteen charter members: Mrs. Ella Barnett, Miss Mary Elizabeth Campbell, Mrs. Sarah Emeline Maupin, Miss Mary Rebecca Maupin, Dr. E. G. McCormick, Mrs. Mamie McCormick, Miss Myrtle McCormick, Dr. H. C. Magruder, Mrs. Roberta C. Magruder, Miss Annie Rebecca Magruder, Miss Mary Emma Magruder, Dr. C. L. Moore and Miss Fannie Rogers.

On May 4, 1907 the Session called a meeting at the residence of Judge R. O. Hannah at



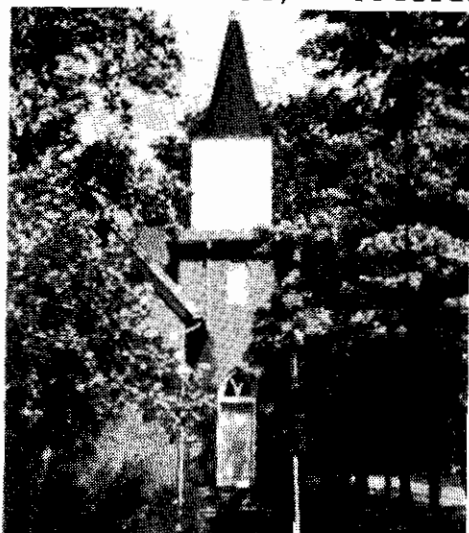
*Southern Presbyterian Church
(Valerie Skelton Photo)*

3:30 p.m. to discuss ways and means of erecting a Southern Presbyterian Church. Those present were Rev. J. A. Harrington, Moderator, with Elders Judge R. O. Hannah and Dr. E. G. McCormick. Judge Hannah reported that lots No. 9 and 10 in the Rogers Addition could be bought for seventy-five dollars for the purpose of erecting a church building.

On motion Dr. E. G. McCormick, Dr. C. L. Moore and W. H. Maddox were elected trustees for

the Presbyterian Church, U. S. (Prairie Grove, Ark.)

It having been determined to purchase the aforesaid estate, to be erected there a church edifice, the following were appointed a building committee: Dr. C. L. Moore, President;



W. H. Maddox, Vice-President; Dr. E. G. McCormick, Secretary.

Later, Judge R. O. Hannah and Dr. E. G. McCormick were appointed as the executive committee for this building. A beautiful brick building was erected and later a Sunday School room was added to the church.

On July 5, a meeting was called for the purpose of purchasing a lot on which to erect a manse. Rev. F. A. Bradshaw was moderator. A building committee consisting of the officers of the church: Judge R. O. Hannah, Dr. E. G. McCormick, Elders; Wm. Murphy, Dr. C. L. Moore, Deacons; and T. L. Byerly and D. N. Ralston were constituted a building committee.

A nine room manse was constructed from materials from the Prairie Grove public school building purchased during Mr. Bradshaw's ministry. Mr. Bradshaw and the officers and others worked as wreckers, carpenters and masons.

The church was dedicated on the first Sunday of January, 1911.

Those who have served as pastors of this church are: Rev.

H. L. Rose, S. S., April 1905-October, 1905; Rev. J. S. Harrington, S. S., June 4, 1906-July 1, 1907; Rev. J. E. Wylie, S. S., July 26, 1908-April 15, 1910; Rev. F. A. Bradshaw was installed pastor August 21, 1910 and remained eight years; Rev. I. D. Terrell, S. S., July 1-August 18, 1918; Rev. John H. Davies, S. S., August 25, 1918-March 26, 1920; Rev. Grover C. Bidwell was installed April 3, 1920 to September 12, 1925; Rev. J. F. Turner, 1926-1930; Rev. R. D. Nolen, June 1930-1935.

Henry Loyd Paisley, September 1935-June 1938; Harold G. Wise, January, 1939-September 1940; B. B. Long, October, 1940-June, 1946; Grover C. Bidwell, December 1946-October, 1954; Stanley Bright served 1955 until retirement, until after John William Bolten (September 1962-1965) when Mr. Bright filled in until 1969. Various people filled the pulpit until Morris H. Springer, March 1970-August 15, 1976. Dr. John E. King came as temporary supply August, 1978, was ordained November 6, 1985, and is still serving the church well.

The first Women's organization was a Missionary Aid Society organized at the home of Miss Mary E. Campbell August 13, 1905. The first officers were: Mrs. Emma C. Maupin, president; Mrs. E. G. McCormick, vice-president; Miss Anne Magruder, secretary and Mrs. Roberta Magruder, treasurer.

The first Men's organization was under Grover C. Bidwell's ministry here. It was reorganized February 25, 1933 with J. S. Harlan, president, W. G. McCormick, secretary; and James Fay Parks, treasurer.

The first Young Peoples' organization was January 2, 1910 under the leadership of Rev. J. E. Wylie. Officers were Dr. C. L. Moore, president; Miss Bess Maupin, vice-president; and Miss Myrtle McCormick, secretary-treasurer.

By 1965, it was recorded that air conditioning, restrooms and

a fellowship hall had been added. This hall was named Bright Fellowship Hall in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bright in 1959.

Many memorial improvements have been added to the Church over the years. Some of the more recent ones are: stained glass windows in the sanctuary, and a steeple cross.

The church was united in 1983.

It is alive and well under the leadership of John E. King, who continues to remind the congregation to be a loving, caring and sharing people. The church programs still bear the message, "You are welcome whoever you are, who enters this church, it is your Father's House; come in the spirit of reverence, worship in the spirit of humility, and leave it not without a prayer for yourself, for him who ministers, and for all others who worship here."

Homes

MOBLEY CAVE HOME

(Fayetteville Daily Democrat, July 24, 1925)

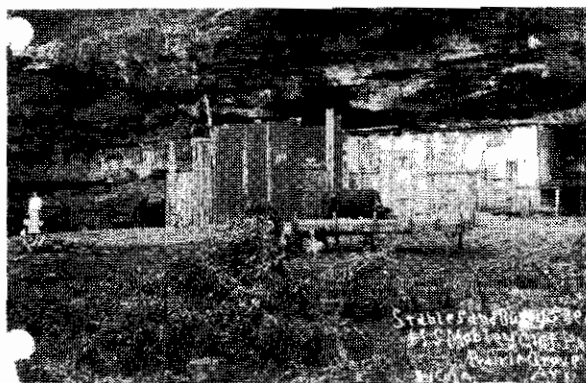
In the early 1900s the Rev. H. S. Mobley, "snooping around" the Boston Mountain Range in Washington County near Prairie Grove, came suddenly upon an uninhabited cave. He always wanted



Mobley Cliff Home as it appeared shortly after it was completed in 1906

(H. Mobley Photo)

to buy a farm in this section and build a home for his wife and sons. Building took money, but here was a house that nature provided free. The more he thought of the cave, which was little more than an over-hanging



Stables and Buggy Shed built close to Mobley Cliff Home

(H. Mobley Photo)

cliff, the more he pictured how comfortable it could be made.

It was of generous dimension, about 78' long across the front, by 18 feet deep, with a ceiling 16 feet high and curving downward in the back with all the beauty of a tinted wall in dull reds, browns, grays and tans; a recess into which the sun shone from the south to the farthestmost corner, but which was hidden from the world on three sides and lodged like a dimple in the elbow of the mountainside.

"'Cliff Heights,' we would call it," he mused, taking his idea to the madam, who was not hard to be persuaded.

In 1906 he bought the surrounding 168 acres of wild mountain land, forests on several sides, with fifty acres of bottom soil fit for cultivation, watered by springs and sufficient for all family needs, and ready for the sons' scientific farming.

The first Mobley Cave Home was enclosed and the front constructed of native rough lumber. In 1909, as the family grew, more rooms were needed in the cave home. The rough boards that did first duty for front doors,

while the interior was made livable, were replaced by native



*Mobley Cave after Rock Front is added
(H. Mobley Photo)*

rock, both durable and beautiful.

Two other rooms were added, built out like the lower half of the letter "L" from the cave proper, affording privacy from the great living room that did common duty as a living room and kitchen. Water had been piped from the nearest spring. So hard and so solid were the ironstone and sandstone walls that not a drop of moisture could find its way in.

A good wooden floor had been laid and stained brown, Indian rugs strewn around, bookshelves built in, hooks hung for the brilliant light-giving lamps. Up the mountainside and into the cave had come the family heirloom, the great, square, sweet-toned ebony piano; and another heirloom, a heavy old mahogany sideboard; easy chairs, and the family books.

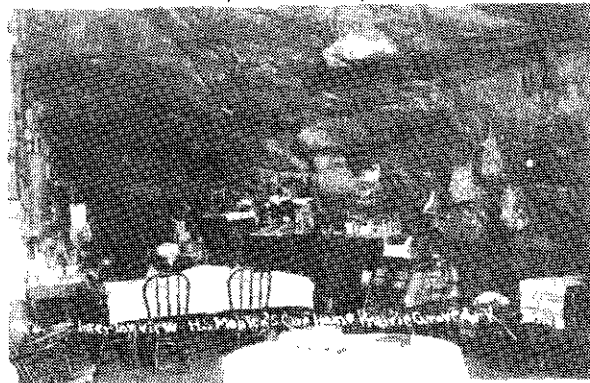
Except for the bedrooms, partitions were not built. The lowest and longest end of the cave was used for the kitchen. The stove pipe stuck gaily out of the wall, a modern sink was installed and such conveniences as every good housewife demands were added.

A chalkline on the floor indicated where the kitchen ended and the dining room began. Table and chairs centered this portion, with the old sideboard

and cupboards placed nearby. Another chalkline was drawn between this room and the library, living and music room, all in one, where it was difficult to tell which held the center of interest--the great piano, the bookshelves with chair and reading lamp nearby, or the great open fireplace, which heated the entire apartment with its half-a-cord of logs piled high, and which always lured to its comfortable corners, not only the big collie dog but the tiny kitten that would not stay outside. Sprawled in front were usually one or another of the five boys.

Sixteen high glass windows punctured the front rockwork like jewels, letting in ample light for all daytime hours. A little portico and a great rock chimney, with its rock expanse, gave the cave the appearance of an oldtime castle which was in time covered with graceful lichens and vines.

Thus came into being a substantial and beautiful, if inexpensive, home. Two other caves were discovered and rocked up to do farm duty. Sheep there were,



*Interior view of Mobley Cave House--showing
dining area*

(H. Mobley Photo)

and goats, not herded together; several head of horses and at least eight cows which, like their masters and mistress, were cave dwellers. Even the poultry perched for the night in mountain cliffs. A quarter of a mile away was the "boys" club, a third cave fitted up for workshop, music studio and photo-

graph gallery, where all youth of the neighborhood could gather in retreat.

(In 1966 the Prairie Grove City Lake covered much of the land of this farm, but the ruins of the old cave house still stand.)

PRE-CIVIL WAR HOME IS INCLUDED IN
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC HOMES

(From an article written by Dr. H. E. Buchanan and published in the Northwest Arkansas Times in 1976)

The old Tilley home located about five miles West of Prairie Grove was built by John Tilley about 1855, and is presently owned by the John Buchanan family.

The two-story house has four rooms which are 20-feet square. There is a large hallway between the two downstairs rooms. In the



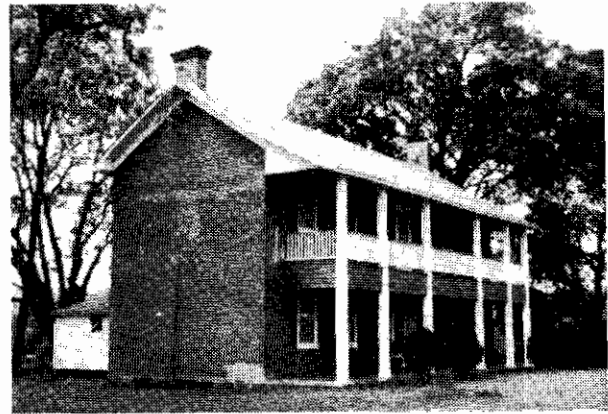
John Tilley Home built in 1853 five miles Northwest of Prairie Grove, Left to Right; Miss Clara Elizabeth Tilley, Joseph Tilley and Agnes Tilley.

(J. Buchanan Photo)

hallway is a stairway which curves up to the second story rooms. The walls are 16 inches thick of solid brick downstairs, and nine inches thick upstairs, leaving seven inches on which to rest the sleepers carrying the upstairs floors. The roof was made of shakes.

A carpenter began making the doors and window frames when the brick masons began building the

walls. The doors were put together with wooden pegs, not a nail was used. The window sills were four inches thick and 14 inches wide. They are still in place more than one hundred



Tilley House as it is today--home of Mr. and Mrs. John Buchanan. (J. Buchanan Photo)

years later. The flooring was tongued and grooved on the place, but was not planed.

About the time of the Battle of Prairie Grove, the Northern Army moved into Northwest Arkansas and camped about three miles north of the Tilley farm where there was plenty of wood and water. The men of the family, John and his son, Joe, were continually harassed by bushwhackers and roaming soldiers. Much of the Tilley livestock was taken and in an effort to save some of the stock a corral was built against a bluff a mile West of Moore's Creek and part of the stock was placed in it. This was soon found and all the livestock was taken.

General Blunt, Federal Commander, told the Tilleys that if several families would get together at the Tilley home he could better protect them. Capt. J. P. Carnahan's family of three came, as did Mrs. Pyeatt, who had three sons in the Southern army. Mrs. Carnahan and Mrs. Tilley were sisters.

The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. A grandson, John Buchanan and family now own the farm and home.

ZELLNER HOME BUILT IN 1903

In 1903 Mr. and Mrs. Herman Zellner moved to Prairie Grove. They bought a large lot, or possibly two lots on what is now the corner of Parks and Rogers Streets. By this time Zellner had added to his business interests and was involved in lumber yards, stores, and other enterprises. It was in 1903 that



*Beautiful House on the corner of Rogers and Parks Streets, built around 1903 by J. H. Zellner.
(Thompson Photo)*

he built the lovely Victorian house which was their home for many years. It was said that he hand picked the lumber used in the house and only the best was used.

After the death of the Zellners--Herman in 1953 and Betty in 1959--their son-in-law and daughter, Mack F. and Julia Thompson lived in the family home. In 1969, after the death of Mr. Thompson, the house was sold to Elton and Lorraine Skelton. They restored and re-decorated the home and lived there until their death in 1986.

Original owners of this plot of land, according to early deeds, were Andrew Buchanan, first permanent settler in Prairie Grove, and James P. Neal, his step-son.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sears and their daughter, Gail Sears Biswell, are present owners of the home. *****

Washington County was first in the State in 1860 in production of wheat.

EXCELSIOR, MY ANCESTRAL HOME

By Suzie Wilson

A fine mist of rain dampened my hair and caused it to hang in heavy strings upon my neck as I strolled up the hill to Grandma Wilson's, the hill I've romped up since I was a child, a hill steeped in history of an era long past, but a history my family re-lives over and over again whenever "two or three are gathered together."

I stood long on the old steps at Grandma's house and it seemed as the mist became heavier and the darkness deeper, that I could hear my great-great-Grandfather's slaves, so familiar to me from fireside stories, singing and chanting their plaintive old spirituals, as they laid the rock foundation for this, my ancestral home. It seems, too, that I could hear the creaking of the old ox wagons as they came up the hill loaded with timbers of oak and pine from the Van Winkler Mill in the hills near Eureka Springs.

But I couldn't stand on the old steps all night, for soon I would be drenched, and too, I was on an errand this time. Yes, I had come to learn from Grandma Wilson and my Uncle Rally all I could about "Excelsior."

Once inside the huge old house, I pulled an antique chair near the fire and waited for Uncle Rally to come from the barn. As I waited I roamed the room with my eyes and it seemed that for the first time I was seeing Excelsior as a romantic place; an ideal place for a Southern child to have as an ancestral home. This old home with its twenty-by-twenty rooms, its high ceilings, its carved fireplace, all suddenly seemed a part of me and I of it. There in the corner was the old collapsible bed, over a century old, and there by the fireplace was the old slanting top desk that my father, grandfather and

great-grandfather used. Next to me an old marble-topped table is covered with socks awaiting a pair of nimble 85-year-old hands and a darning needle.

Oh Excelsior! Your walls are sacred not only to me but to my father and his father, even his father's father. Your halls have known sorrow, for you have seen brother go to war against brother, in the great war. You have heard the sorrowing sobs of



William Wilson residence, built in 1894 or 1895; Upper porch; Maid; Standing on lower porch; left to right, Eliza Wilson, Albert Wilson, hired hand; left to right on ground; Andrew Wilson, Rollans Wilson on rocking horse, standing back of him, Earl Cunningham, and Nannie Wilson, right.

broken hearts as your sons in grey returned not from the field of battle. You've heard, too, the suppressed sobs of happiness as your sons in blue returned to you. Yes, you've seen the victor and the vanquished sitting peacefully together at the Feast of Thanksgiving that at last the conflict that divided families was over.

Then, too, you've known happiness for the crooning of lullabies of faithful mammies have filled your halls as they rocked the cradle that held my grandfather. And many has been the time in the festive seasons of thanksgiving and Christmas that rollicking laughter of both white and black has echoed and reached your halls. The cry of the newborn has often brought pleased smiles to those who tip-toed across your floors, and the

departing sigh of the aged has at times left you solemn and still.

Today Excelsior, your halls ring no more with laughter of gay parties, nor swell with the mammies' songs; nor does the cry of new life come from your doors; no more does the black man fill your field, nor the pickaninny play in your shadows. Aged and decrepit is your "Missus" and lonely and alone is your "Mars." Yet it is they who keep you alive and preserve the memories that we hold so dear. It is they who tell us the stories of Perry, the slave foreman, who whipped the white overseer, and stole the corn from the horse troughs.

It is they who tell us, the young children of the South, how Uncle John and Uncle Anthony marched away, not to return, with the Greys; and Uncle William marched with the Blue. We shill at their stories of Excelsior being used by the Union for dances and parties, and how the Blues drove our horses away, and slaughtered our cows. But we thrill when we learn that great-great-grandfather Wilson spent thousands of dollars equipping Southern boys for the "Rebel" recruits. It is with reverence that we hear how President Lincoln pardoned grandfather for this action and permitted him to keep his great plantation.

Our hearts are filled with pride that not one slave left Excelsior even though they were free, until their master called them together and told them "they were free to go." This pride grows as I rummage through old documents, deeds and papers and find the letter from the ex-slave expressing his love for his master and Excelsior.

These were days of long ago. Days that we enjoy returning to in our dreams and fancies on rainy evenings when we bake by the open fireplace. Days that produced strong men, real men; men of their word, stern and

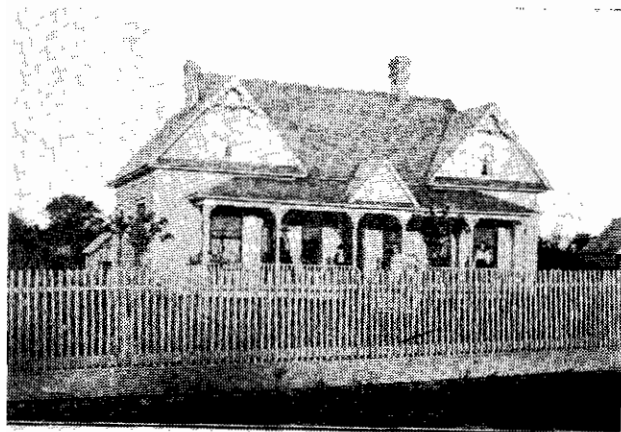
rigid, yet men who were kind and understanding. These things I know, for my father is a son of these great men and the stamp of his fathers is upon him.



*Locust Dell, home of Dr. Will H. Mock, located two miles South of Prairie Grove
(Brewster Photo)*



*Dr. E. G. McCormick home, located corner of Mock and Bush Streets
(Brewster Photo)*



*V. F. Bell residence, North Mock Street
(Brewster Photo)*



*W. N. Butler home, corner of Buchanan and Pittman Streets
(Brewster Photo)*



*McGill and Nora Rollans home, located West of Prairie Grove, Now the home of Dr. and Mrs. Ben Hall and family,
(Helm Photo)*



Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Brewster, Gordon, Vivian and Reba in front of Brewster House on Mock (built by Dr. Brewster about 1898)

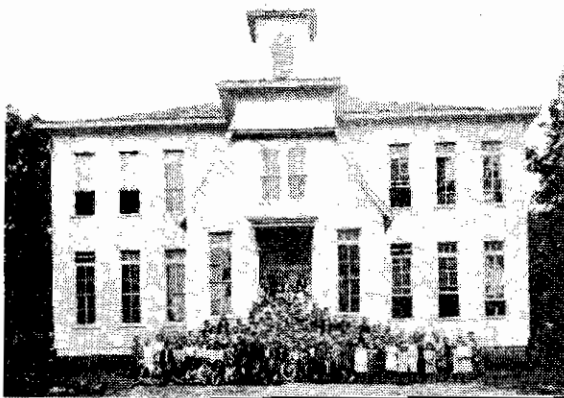
Schools

PRAIRIE GROVE SCHOOLS

The first school in Prairie Grove was held in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church building about 1831. Land for the church was donated by the Rev. Andrew (Uncle Buck) Buchanan. The building was used by Union soldiers as a hospital following the Battle of Prairie Grove and as winter quarters in 1863. The frame building was later torn down and wood from the building was used for making coffins.

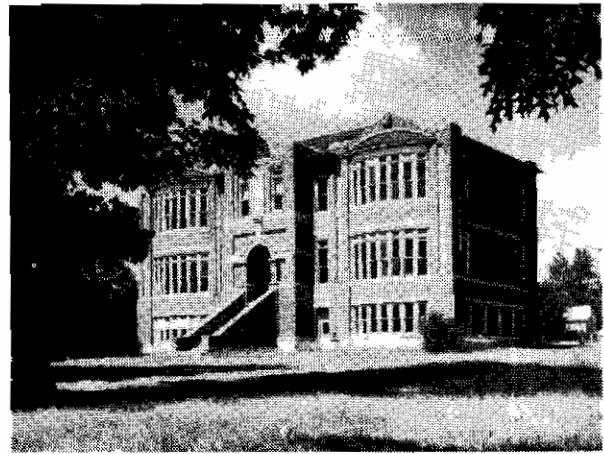
The second building used as a church and school, was a frame building, on the same location at the corner of Buchanan and Kate Smith Streets, facing east, built in the late 1800s and dedicated in April 1890.

The first high school in Prairie Grove was held in the Methodist Academy (Prairie Grove Institute). It was opened in 1883 on the corner of what is now Bush and Neal Streets. It was a two-story brick building in a beautiful grove of stately trees. Twelve grades were taught there and N. J. Foster was principal. Early teachers included Miss Alice Patton, Miss Annie Wagner and Professor W. J. King. The school was turned over to the Prairie Grove School District in 1901.



*First Public School
Corner of Pittman and Graham.*

About 1900 the first public school in Prairie Grove was built on North Pittman and Graham Streets (where the Lake Hannah home is now located).



New \$15,000 School Building Replaces Old Academy

Prof. J. W. Caldwell became superintendent. The first graduating class in 1905 was composed of Porter Pittman, Maynard Dorman, Amy Blakemore, Dorothea Campbell and Emily Maupin. Some of the teachers were Silas McCuiston, E. C. Stamps, Lucy Ross, Minnie Gotcher, C. Moore and Jennie Mitchell.

The *Prairie Grove Herald*, in its July 29, 1911, issue, published the following advertisement: "School Buildings For Sale. Sealed bids will be re-



First Graduating Class of Prairie Grove High School, May 11, 1905, Back Row; (Left to Right) Maynard A. Dorman, Porter Pittman, Dorothea Campbell, Front Row; Emilie Maupin, Prof. J. H. Caldwell and Amy Blakemore,

(P. Harris Photo)

ceived by the Prairie Grove School Board up to and including June 24th, 1911, for the old Brick School Building (formerly the Methodist Academy), and the old Frame School Building. Also the lot where the Frame School Building now stands (the lot sold subject of mortgage). Terms: Cash, or note with approved security, bearing 8% interest. Board reserves right to reject any or all bids. J. Ed Rogers, Sec'y School Board."



Three-Story Building Houses Grade and High School 'til 1931

A new \$15,000 public school building was erected on the lots formerly occupied by the Academy, soon after the Academy was torn down in 1911. The January 26, 1911, issue of the *Prairie Grove Herald* described the new building as follows: "...a very attractive and commodious building, of two stories and a basement, containing six large class rooms and a large auditorium, which can be thrown into more large class rooms if needed. There is also provision made for all other necessary compartments, book rooms, cloak rooms, halls, etc."

"The material entering into construction of the building is to be red pressed brick and stone trimmings. The contract provides that the total cost of the building completed shall not exceed \$15,000."

This building housed both grade and high school until attendance became too large and in 1931 a new one-story elementary school building was constructed across the street South

from the three-story building. Mrs. Emma Cook served as principal the first years. Some grade school students were taught in the white frame building North of the high school until the new grade school was completed.

These school buildings served the community adequately for a time, but as more students transferred to Prairie Grove from rural schools which were consolidated with Prairie Grove District, space for future growth of the schools was needed.

Rural school districts consolidated with the Prairie Grove School District were: Stonewall, January 10, 1925, after school building burned; Center Point, New Sulphur, Hubbard, Rhea's Mill and a portion of Walnut Grove in 1946; Apple Hill and Howe in 1947; Mountain View and Viney Grove in 1948; Prairie View and a portion of Cove Creek in 1949.

The Prairie Grove School Board took steps to insure adequate land for expected growth



High School Building Occupied in 1954

of the school system by planning the purchase of a 35-acre tract of land (for future development) in the Northwest part of town in 1941.

Dr. Frank Riggall served as chairman of the committee to secure the additional land and raised a total of \$8,560 for the purchase of the needed acreage. The site selected was about thirty acres at the North end of Mock Street, one-half mile North of Main Street. Twenty acres of land was bought from Jack Harlan, Dolph Helm and Roy Fidler for \$5,500, then 15 addi-

tional acres were donated to the school by Roy Fidler.

The first building on this new site was the gymnasium, followed shortly by the Home Ec Cottage and the Agri Building, all completed in 1951. Next came the new lighted athletic field, then the High School was occupied at mid-term, with the 1954 class being the first to graduate from the new building.

Prairie Grove School Administrators beginning with 1960 include:

Superintendents: T. Ray Cornwell, John L. Vandiver, Tommy Venters, Jerry Turner, Randall Spear, Nelson Wall, Ben Winborn;

High School Principals: M. P. Lockhart, Jack C. Kreie, Tommy Venters, John Arnold, James Willis, Donald Turney, Randall Spear, Bob Lambert, Lloyd Jones, George Lewis, Paul Brewer, Barry Ferris, Gary Cooper;

Middle School Principals: (Beginning in 1974) Lloyd Jones, Tim Nash, Dan Russell, Gerald Daily, Ken Ramey, Mary Gunter, Bill Whitmire, Joe Giles.

Elementary Principals: Anna J. Holmes, Wendell McCune, Edwin Staggs, J. D. Lyman.

PRAIRIE GROVE SCHOOLS SHOW STEADY ATTENDANCE INCREASE

Prairie Grove Schools have shown a steady, if slow, increase in attendance since 1960, as indicated in these records:

1960-61:	574
1970-71:	800
1980-81:	1,084
1987-88:	1,082

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS 1960 THROUGH 1988

Jack Feltner, Jeff Baggett, D. E. Rieff, Argil Bartholomew, Caswell Wilson, Dr. W. C. Brooks, Alfred Stout, Fred Brandon, Donald Parks, Frank West, Eldon Wetzell, Herbert Carnahan, William Giles, J. B. Traylor, Guy Sparks, Wilford Thompson, Everett Hart, Billy Joe Bartholomew, Charles Stills, Louis

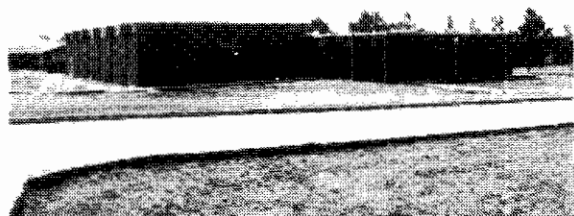
Schraer,

Dr. R. D. Manning, Bill Thurman, Jim Rieff, Greta Mack, Larry Bell, Lou French, Charles Stills, Fred Collins, Dale Foster, Bill Kelly, John Austin, Larry Golden, John Everett, Nancy Nations, Russell Black, Larry Walker, Eugene Hamilton, John Robert Hart, Craig Updyke, Glenda Woods, Randy Laney, Rick Reed, Sarah Agee.

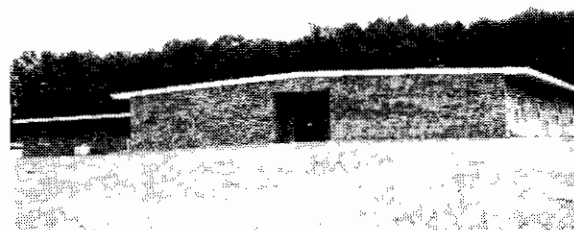
(Superintendent Ben Winborn and Kim Ireland supplied some of the material in the School History.)



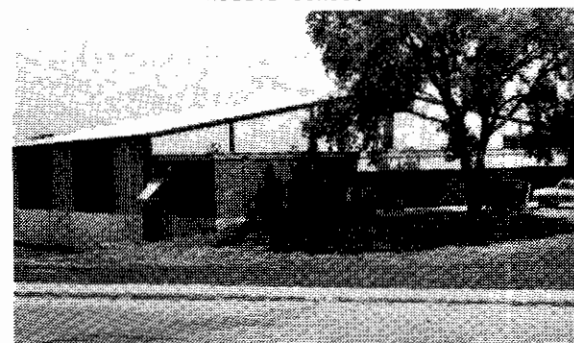
Elementary School



High School North Building



Middle School



Gymnasium

ART CLASSES IN PRAIRIE GROVE SCHOOLS
1958-1968

By Irene Dykes Bernard

1958--First Art classes for school children were taught by Robert Barnes, president of COAC, and Mrs. Irene Dykes Ber-



Art Class in Prairie Grove Elementary School in 1958, Irene Dykes Bernard and Robert Barnes, teachers.

(Irene Bernard Photo)

nard. Classes were held in the library of the old elementary school building. Children, ages 8 through 18, were offered instruction in drawing and painting in charcoal and watercolors.

1959--Art Workshop from June to August 1st at old elementary school with 50 students enrolled. Mrs. Anna Holmes was assistant teacher. At the request of pupils, art classes were organized for fourth through sixth grades for a fee of 25¢ per student. Thus, art was introduced into the Prairie Grove School.

1960--Children's classes held through school year and summer workshop. Their art was exhibited at the Clothesline Fair and at the Washington County Fair, where some students won prizes.

1961 through 1965--Classes in school and summer workshops. A class in clay or ceramics was also added.

Fort Smith District AFWC sponsored art competition for 10th grade students in Prairie Grove High School called the "Penny Art Contest." Each

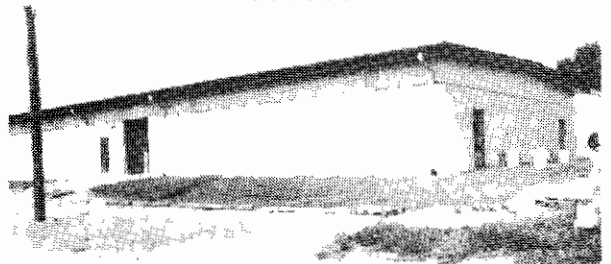
student gave ten cents to cover costs. First-place winner in the State won a week in residence at the Art Camp at the University of Arkansas, plus a \$10.00 prize. In 1961 Charlotte Jackson won first place, and in 1963 Gordon Hart won first place. Lynette Pierce and Danny West also submitted paintings in following years. Sarah Carl served as chaperon for the winners.

1959--Adult art classes were taught at the school library, assisted by Mrs. Holmes. Classes included drawing, pastels and oil paint. We moved to the new school building in 1963 and continued until my retirement.

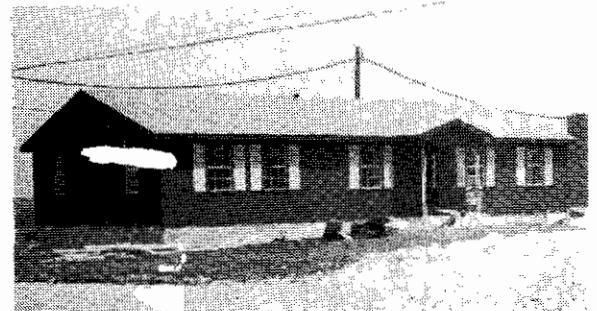
The new Prairie Grove elementary school was dedicated August, 1963. I was put on a school salary. There was a room for art classes for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. I retired in 1965 because of the illness and death of my husband.

1965--Prairie Grove Schools became Class AA in the North Central Division. Art was approved on a statewide basis to be taught in all Arkansas schools.

My position was filled by E.B. Olszewski of Lincoln who carried on the art program and acquired a potter's wheel and kiln with the help of the PTA.



Agriculture Building



Boston Mtn. Coop Bldg.

PUBLIC MEETING

(Copied from the holdings of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville. Supplied by Susan Parks with permission to include in History of Prairie Grove.)

At a meeting of a number of the property holders of Prairie Grove Valley on Saturday, the 2nd day of September (1871) the following proceedings were held:

On motion Col. Wm. Wilson was called to the chair. At the request of the Chair, Col. J. P. Neal briefly explained the object of the meeting to be to organize for the purpose of inducing the location of the Industrial University in the Valley. He gave a beautiful description of the Valley, and urged it as a duty upon her citizens to bring its advantages prominently before the Commissioners--that we could not complain of a bad location if we sit here idle and do nothing. In conclusion he moved the appointment of a committee to prepare and present resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. For said committee, the chair appointed Col. Neal, Col. Lake, R. J. West, S. P. Pittman and W. D. Rogers. The committee reported the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

"Whereas Washington County has bid the sum of one hundred thousand dollars for the location of the State Industrial University within her bounds--and no other county having offered any bid, we therefore take it for granted that the location will be made in Washington County. This being the case we feel alive to its importance.

Therefore, Resolved that we invite an examination of Prairie Grove Valley by the commissioners and recommend the location of the University in said valley for the following reasons: Because of its healthi-

ness; the fertility of the soil; its adaptation to the use of labor saving machinery; the interest taken in agriculture and education; its fine water and climate; its productions of all the cereals and grasses and of all the fruits and vegetables of the temperate zone; the moral status of its citizens. Because of its accessibility and for the important fact that nature has marked it as the highway of travel and railroad from the North to the South; and last for the very important consideration that it is about centerable of the people who imposed a tax upon themselves to secure its location and who are in justice entitled equally to its advantages.

2nd--Resolved that it is the earnest wish of this meeting that the commissioners on whom the State has imposed a trust so important will acquit themselves in a way that the University may stand as a lasting testimony of their wisdom and fidelity, a blessing to the people and an honor to our State--not like our banking houses in years past, and other of our mis-called State improvements and enterprises--monuments to folly and speculation.

3rd--Resolved that Col. Neal, S. P. Pittman, R. J. West, Jno Mock, S. E. Rogers, Col. Rhea, Cols. Fields and Lake, be appointed a committee whose duty it shall be after the commissioners arrive at Fayetteville and after they shall have been wined and dined and toasted, and bored generally on the subject of the fertilization of insipid soils, to invite them to our Valley and to tender to them the hospitality of our people. Also to show them our fine farms, our excellent springs of pure water, our healthy population and the several desirable sites for the location of the University. And to present them the title papers and the evidences and securities of donations given by our citizens to secure its location in

this Valley.

4th--That the meeting on the adoption of these resolutions proceed to make donations commencing with the chairman:

Col. Wm. Wilson: I will give two hundred acres of fine Valley land on which the white sulphur spring is situated and one hundred and sixty acres of fine timber on mountains, if located on the premises or at Viney or Prairie Grove; forty acres less if at the latter places. R. J. West: I will give one hundred acres in Mountain Township if located as above; Hardy Warren: forty acres valley land and forty timber for its location in the Valley; A. Borden: twenty acres for a site at Viney Grove, and thirty-eight of timber; Col. Lake: sixty three acres land if in the valley; S. P. Pittman: forty acres; W. H. Tilley twenty-five acres; Dr. Rogers, forty acres; Moses Rollans, \$100; McDuff: 250 acres at White Sulphur; W. H. Rhea 1000 acres if at Viney or Sulphur, 500 acres if at Prairie; Jno Mock: 100 acres at Prairie Grove, or 500 acres at Viney or Sulphur; (space does not permit listing all contributors, but most property owners in the area agreed to contribute.)

On motion the chair was requested to have copies of the proceedings of the meeting prepared--that a copy of them be presented to Comm. Botifeson with a request that he lay them before the board at Little Rock, and that copies be furnished the Fayetteville and Little Rock papers with a request that they publish them.

Col. Neal: "As one of the committee on donations, I wish to say that I have made up my mind to thirty thousand dollars --I believe we can raise it in fine lands and money. We surpass all competitors in the fitness of the location, in point of money we are able to compete with any, if we will."

Signed/

William Wilson, Chairman

(Several sheets of signatures and amounts pledged followed but space does not permit printing it in full. Residents of the Prairie Grove Valley made a gallant effort to secure the University, but it was located twelve miles to the east, at Fayetteville.)



Girls from the graduating class of 1921, Front Row; Left to right; Lillian Harrison Pyeatt, Sarah Carl, Vera Fidler Wilson; Back Row; Marie Baggett Stone, Auda Barnes Wilson, Grace Carnahan and Ollie Barnes. (Barnes Photo)



7th Grade Class, Top Row, left to right; Opel Stevens, Mima Henry, Leonard Clark, Ethel Ford; Middle row; Helen Ruppel, Leonard Nelson, Rachel Geiger, Clifton Hill, Grace Maddox, Ernest Campbell, Bernice Baker, Vincil Bell; Bottom row; Gladys Searcy, Herman Ratliff, Dorothy Taylor, Earl Moore, Margaret Pyeatt, Marion Nixon, Elsie Stanberry, Julius Woodruff, (A. Campbell Photo)

The value of farm land in Washington County was estimated at \$2,010,802 in 1860.

1914 GRADUATING CLASS

A copy of the graduation announcement for the Class of 1914 was sent to us by Mrs. L. L. Gibson (Mrs. Mary Dean Magruder).

Graduation exercises were held in the Opera House, May 18, 1914. Members of the class were: Henry Carnahan, Isaac Perrigo, Clarence Shackelford, Inman Carl, Eugene Miller, Helen Carnahan, Claire Hoover, Ruby Fields, Vivian Dorman and Eula Butler.

Henry Carnahan was a Postmaster in Prairie Grove.

Eula Butler lived for many years on North Mock Street and was a teacher in Prairie Grove Elementary School for many years.

Claire Hoover, was a daughter of James B. and Mary Ella McGill Hoover. (Mary Ella's second marriage was to Marion Lokey.) Claire was the mother of Jim Bell and Marion Bell Bushong Sharp, both of Prairie Grove, and a sister of Anna James Hoover Holmes Dorman.

TULSA RECALLS ARKANSAS SCHOOL

Mrs. Lola B. Woodfin of Tulsa sent a number of clippings and a picture of the 1925 eighth grade class at Prairie Grove. She recalls that two of her girl friends, Anna Denton and Beatrice Stroud and she and her brother, Merrill Woodfin, all from Strickler and Fall Creek, went to school in Prairie Grove that year.

"My folks moved to Inola, Oklahoma, then to a farm South of Tulsa in 1927. I was born in Texas and when I was five years old my parents and grandparents, also an uncle and his family, moved to New Mexico and lived there three years. Then my parents moved to Strickler and Fall Creek, Arkansas, in 1918. We traveled all the distance from Texas to New Mexico to Arkansas by covered wagon. We arrived at Strickler August 26, 1918. My

brother and I went to school there and Uncle Bob Skelton was first grade teacher."



Junior Class of 1929-30, Standing, left to right: Claudia Asher, Grace Collier, Ruth Strickler, Dorothy Shanks, Mary Sue Carney, Mattie Cavett, Henrietta Williams, Grace Carney, Lillie Day, Emilie Cummings, Thelma Tate, Eugenia Dorman, Lula Wilson, Gladys Maxwell, Daisy Nixon, Verna Guess, and Mamie Edmiston, teacher; Back Row: Gaston Matthews, Tom Nelson, Austin Morrison, and Rivers Geiger; front row: Leon Thurman, Gentry Moore, Carl Lee Bridenthall, Harold Gregory, Tennie Neal, Jerry Nolen, Elbert Nelson and Jim Bob Hale. (T. Delap Photo)



1929-30 Fifth and Sixth Grades. Back row: Margaret Collier, Bernice McCormick, Fay Battentfield, Helen Watts, Clara Babb, Miss Curtis, teacher; Hester Mullens, Jewel Pate, Carmel Nelson, Lizzy Crisp, Phoebe Harris, Frances Cunningham, Louise Barker, Imogene Hilton; middle row: Charley Slaughter, Kenneth McCormick, Clyde Ledgerwood, J. B. Gentry, Evert Speaks, Grady Helm, Clifford Howell, Billy Adams, Elton Asher; Front row: Ralph Tate, Charles Woolverton, Donald Parks, Jim Bob Cunningham, Pat Henry, Orville Crisp, Veryl Hutchens, R. P. Harrison, Barry Parks, Dick Wallace, George Cox, Lawrence Delap. (B. Brooks Photo)



Grade School Class, Back row; left to right, 1, Nell Maxwell, 3, Margaret Eads, 4, Jack Eads, 5, Robert Mason, 6, Bill Cunningham, 7, Ray McClelland, 9, Bill Eads, 2, 8, 10, Unidentified;

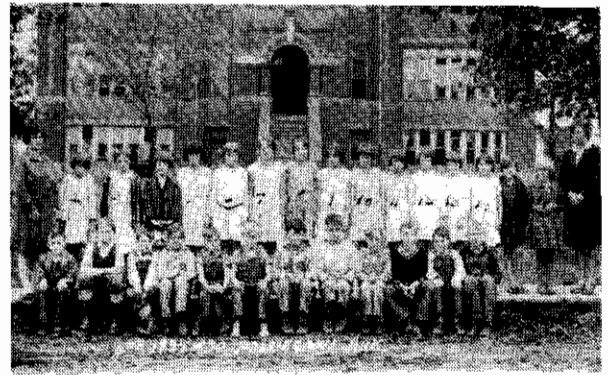
Third row: 1, Harold Brewer, Tom Baggett, 3, William Carlisle, 4, Lawrence McDonald, 5, Unidentified, 6, Jane Cook, 7, Elizabeth Helm, 8, Marilyn Cowart, 9, John Mobley;

Second row: 1, Katheryn Carl, 2, Martha Ray Gibson, 3, Mary Ann Pyeatt, 4, Juanita Morrow, 5, Sue Hedrickson, 7, Freddie Jean Shafer, 8, Louise McWhorter, 10, Betty Cunningham, 11, Bill Hutchens, 6, and 9, Unidentified.

Front row: 1, M. J. Sharp, 2, ? Phillips, 3, John Henry Brewster, 5, J. D. Glidewell, 6, Jim Mac Nixon, 8, James Fidler, 4, and 7, Unidentified, (H, Mobley Photo)



Apple Hill School: Nellie Reed, Kate Reed, Ida Reed, Belle Allen, Lillian Cruse, Annie Kirkland, Reva Moore, Russell Allison, Chelsey Adams, Harrison Kirkland, Frank Couch, George Mobley, Roe Mobley, Ivor Adams, Dane Vanhorn, Holland Kirkland, Rugs Raider, Mark Raider and Buster Cruse, (H, Mobley Photo)



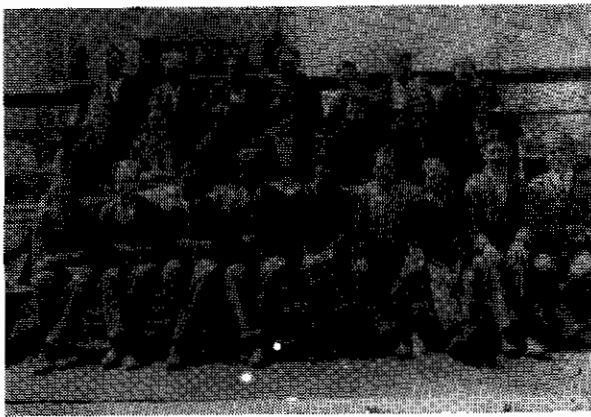
Fourth Grade, 1929-30, Sarah Carl, teacher; 4, Rita Belle Cox, 13, Anne Lockhart Harris, 15, Maurine Woolverton, 17, Miss Wilson, 20, Frank Blakemore, Others unidentified, (Harris Photo)



Prairie Grove High School Graduates of 1915, Left to right: Millie Pearson, Ray Falkerson, Ida Falkerson, Autry Wilson, Edith Campbell and Frank Blakemore, (Barnes Photo)



Sophomore Class, 1929-30, Back row, left to right, Earl Moore, unidentified, John Maxey, Ernest Campbell, Vincil Bell, Clarence Dees, Lester Gose, Herman Ratliff, Dick Maxey, Julius Woodruff, Ople Stevens, Sarah Carl, Teacher, Front row: Anna Hale, Margaret Pyeatt, Elsie Stanberry, Grace Maddox, Edna Derryberry, Mima Henry, Rachel Geiger, Unidentified, Dorothy Taylor, (A, Campbell Photo)



Prairie Grove High School Class. Back row; left to right, Joe Pittman, Wes Williams, Edgar Sherman, Edgar Benson, Unidentified, Eugene Tyler, ? Meeks. Middle Row; Oletha Lamb, Irene Abercrombie, Helen Geiger, Lyde Skelton, Lucille Morton, Nettie Mae David (Cates), Lorena David (Faddis); Front row: Ralph Dodson, William Campbell, James Fay Parks, Loy Stanberry, Louise Delap (?), Millard Stone, Phil Weaver Jr., Frank Maupin, Maupin Cummings. (A, Campbell Photo)



Eighth Grade Class (no date); Back row; Margaret Ruple, teacher; 2, Rachel Geiger, 3, Elsie Stanberry, 4, Gladys Searcy, 5, Bernice Baker, 8, Ethel Cosby, 9, Margaret Pyeatt, 10, Grace Maddox, 1, 6, 7, and 11, Unidentified; Middle row; 1, Hyatt Beaty, 10, Harry Collier, Others on middle row unidentified; Front row; 1, Vincil Bell, 2, Herman Ratliff, 4, Earl Moore, 5, Clifton Hill, 6, Johnny Condry, 7, Lester Gose, 8, Ernest Campbell, 9, Ellis Henson, 3, Unidentified. (A, Campbell Photo)



Miss McClendon's 2nd Grade Class Brooks Photo



Graduating Class of the Prairie Grove High School. Back row, left to right; Edwin Sharp, Leta Taylor, Allen Blakemore, Johnnie Priscilla Dean Magruder; Seated: Alma Sanders, Dr. J. H. Caldwell and Maude Greathouse (Gibson Photo)



School Class. Back row; left to right, 2, James Fay Parks, 3, Howard Bates, 4, Loy Stanberry, 6, Vern Harrison, 7, Millard Stone, 8, Frank Maupin, 1, 5, 9, Unidentified. Middle row; 1, Irene Abercrombie, 4, Joe Pittman, 6, Maupin Cummings, 7, Magill Rollans, 2, 3, 5, 8, Unidentified; Front row; 1, Hazel Barnes, 2, Helen Geiger, 3, Lucy Cummings, 4, Lucille Morton, 5, Reba Fidler, 6, Juanita Neal, 7, Unidentified, 8, Quida Whittaker (ACampbell Photo)



2nd Grade; 1929-30



Prairie Grove High School Class, Back row; 1, and 2, Unidentified, 3, Paul Jones, 4, Darwin Delap, 5, Veryl Hutchens, 6, Unidentified, 7, Pershing Geiger, 8, and 9, Unidentified, Front row: Anna Holmes, teacher; 2, Unidentified, 3, Mary Cavett, 4, Helen Hooker, 5, Unidentified, 6, Geneva Bowling, 7, 8, and 9, Unidentified, (Holmes Photo)



HIGH SCHOOL CLASS; Front row (seated), left to right; Lucille Morton (Bay), Unidentified, Helen Geiger (Noeller), Ralph Dodson, Juanita Neal (keys), James Fay Parks, Opha Morrison; 2nd row; John Baggett, teacher; Oletha Lamb, Millard Stone, Frank Maupin, Irene (or Louise) Copenhaver, William Campbell, Phil Weaver Jr., Lyda Skelton (Hilton); 3rd row; Loy Stanberry, Maupin Cummings, Irene Abercrombie, Meeks (?), Eugene Tyler, Joe Pittman, (A. Campbell Photo)



High School Class (Unidentified) (B, Brooks Photo)



1947 FIRST GRADE CLASS; Sitting in front; Terrell Cunningham, William McDonald; kneeling, left to right; Ronnie Hutchens, Gene Rhine, Carlene Osburn, Patsy Cavett, Jerry Mobley, Sharron Marshall, Sylvaleen Long, Eugenia Maxey, Geneva Vickery, Emma Lou Oliver, Carolyn Keck, Sandra Sharp, Richard Johnson, Donnie Bennett, Henry Giles, Ivan Gene Beeks; Third row; Auda Ray Faddis, Frankie Dean McKee, Sue Wiswell, (next two unidentified), Cuba Langrell, Carolyn Brindle, Betty Rice, Alice Lawhorn, Letha McMurry; Fourth row; Ollie Faye Beeks, Larry Anagnost, Paul Morrisson, Bobby Taylor, Bill Curtsinger, Jim McKinney, Wayne Brockman, Lewis Fair, Jimmy Redesel, Jerry Dunnagan, Clyde Nichols, Van Norman, Homer Phillips, Jerry Couch, Jimmy Gibney, Douglas Pray, Leroy Taylor, and Gordon Slaughter,



1907-08 GRADUATING CLASS; Ladies holding sign; Lizzie Patterson and Ruby Coffee; 2nd row; Frank McCormick, Unidentified, L. D. Simpson; Back row; Effie Carl, Amy Blakemore, Professor Caldwell, next two unidentified,



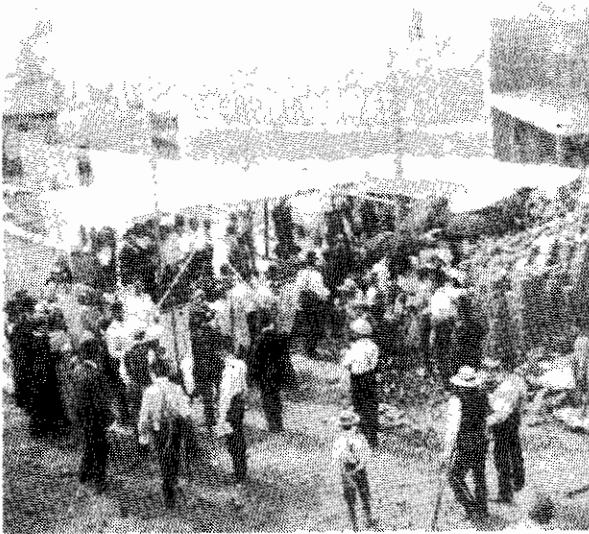
High School Class (Unidentified) Brooks Photo

Organizations

MASONIC HALL BUILT IN 1903

Construction of the present Masonic Hall located on the West side of Mock Street, one-half block North of Buchanan, was started in 1903. The Prairie Grove Herald carried the following in the issue of July 9, 1903:

"An occasion of much interest to the Masonic fraternity was the laying of the cornerstone of



Ceremony for laying of cornerstone for Prairie Grove Masonic Hall.

(C. Wilson Photo)

the B. H. Harrison Masonic Temple at three o'clock yesterday afternoon with the beautiful ritualistic ceremony of the Masonary, by Occidental Lodge No. 436 of Prairie Grove, assisted by visiting Masons from other lodges, with the following assisting as Grand Officers: R. H. Sharp, Grand Master; E. G. McCormick, Deputy Grand Master; W. S. Inman, Grand Senior Warden; R. O. Hannah, Grand Junior Warden; W. S. Moore, Grand Senior Deacon; W. G. Nixon, Grand Junior Deacon; J. J. Baggett, Grand Marshall; and J. L. Barker, Grand Tyler.

"The date for laying the cornerstone was announced last week for today at 2:30 p.m., but since that time those in charge of the exercise changed the date

so as not to conflict with another meeting today. About 80 members marched from the old Lodge Room to the site of their new Temple where a large crowd had assembled to witness the ceremonies.

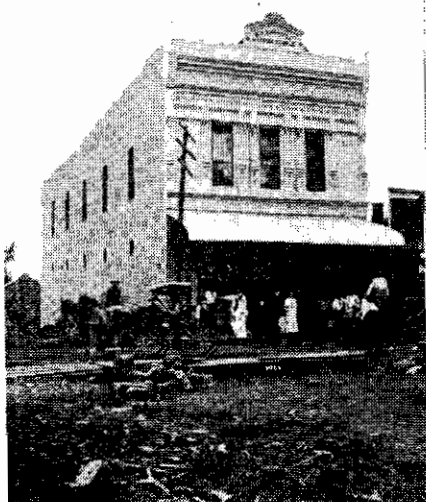
"The Cornerstone is cut from native limestone and is 12½ x 12½ inches and 13 inches high. The face has a fine polish and bears the following inscription: Erected and Donated to Occidental Lodge No. 436 F & AM, by B. H. Harrison. Anno Domini MDCCCC III, Anno Lucis VDCCCIII, Esto Perpetua.

"A zinc box about 5 x 6 inches was placed in a socket in the bottom of the stone. It contains the following articles: A piece of shell and a Minnie Ball found on the Prairie Grove Battleground forty years after the Battle of December 7, 1862. A Role of Officers and Members of Occidental Lodge No. 436, F & AM; History of the Prairie Grove Methodist Church South; History of the Christian Church of Prairie Grove; History of the Prairie Grove Lodge No. 70, A. O. U. W.; a copy of the Prairie Grove Herald with its history; Business history of McCormick and Collier; Business history of E. C. and F. H. Carl; present town officials' message to future officials; Bank of Prairie Grove to future generations.

"Personal histories of B. H. Harrison, Dr. E. G. McCormick, Dr. S. E. Rogers, W. F. Bell, Dr. James Pittman, M. C. Gentry, G. W. Nixon, J. E. Sturdivant and J. L. Barker; and Business history of C. L. Cummings."

The following Masons have served as Worshipful Master of the Prairie Grove Lodge: 3-20-1886--J. E. Mock; 12-11-1886--E. G. McCormick; 1888--E. G. McCormick; 1889--W. W. Mahan; 1890--H. W. Welch; 1891--W. W. Mahan; 1892--A. Sanders; 1893--N. D. Hanks; 1894--A. Sanders; 1895--W. D. Moore; 6-1-1895--

W. N. Butler; 1896--T. S. Tennant; 1897--R. A. Sharp; 1898--R. A. Sharp; 1899--M. M. Collier; 1900--R. A. Sharp; 1901--Hugh Scott; 1902--R. A. Sharp; 1903--R. A. Sharp; 1904--Hugh Scott (election changed to December); 1905--W. F. Bell; 1906--W. F. Bell; 1907--W. G. Collier; 1908--R. A. Sharp; 1909--R. A. Sharp; 1910--E. G. McCormick; 1911--E. G. McCormick; 1912--Hugh Scott; 1913--Hugh Scott; 1914--F. A. Bradshaw; 1915--F. A. Bradshaw; 1916--F. A. Bradshaw; 1917--M. M. Collier; 1918--F. A. Bradshaw; 1919--J. Ed Rogers; 1920--



*Masonic Temple--Wilson & McMillan Mercantile
on first floor (Brewster Photo)*

J. Ed Rogers; 1921--Jno. W. Stansberry; 1922--Jno. W. Stansberry; 1923--L. G. McCormick; 1924--E. P. Pyeatt; 1925--W. E. Lark; 1926--W. E. Lark; 1927--C. A. McCormick; 1928--G. B. Shafer; 1929--John Baggett; 1930--Dan Pyeatt; 1931--M. L. Barnett; 1932--Clyde Delap; 1933--Foy Robertson; 1934--Clarence Davis; 1935--N. L. Brooks; 1936--Edward Broyles; 1937--Raleigh Dodson; 1938--Delford E. Rieff; 1939--S. H. "Dude" Neal; 1940--James R. Hale; 1941--Willard Brooks; 1942--A. T. Speedlin; 1943--Ed Horah; 1944--G. E. Wiswell; 1945--H. E. Durham;



*Looking South on Mock Street from present
location of Prairie Grove Telephone Co.
(W. Thompson Photo)*

1946--Ed Horah; 1947--Carl Nations; 1948--W. M. "Bill" Taylor; 1949--Wayman Giles; 1950--Dr. Frank Riggall; 1951--Dr. Frank Riggall; 1952--Vincil Bell; 1953--Lyde Campbell; 1954--Paul Jones; 1955--T. B. Ward; 1956--Joe Parks; 1957--Sam McKnight; 1958--Claude Nations; 1959--Jack Ditmars; 1960--George Abercrombie; 1961--Philip Horah; 1962--Clarence Davis; 1963--Arthur Maguire; 1964--John Oyler; 1965--Charles Redfern; 1966--Roy David; 1967--Robert Quinton; 1968--J. W. Calvert; 1969--Ronnie Spencer; 1970--Huland Nations; 1971--Jim Delap; 1972--Larry Bell; 1973--Joe Parks; 1974--Huland Nations; 1975--Randall Spear; 1976--Bob Whitlock; 1977--John Everett; 1978--Howard Branch; 1979--Roger Quinton; 1980--Roger Quinton; 1981--Jack Ditmars; 1982--Frank David; 1983--Earl Rieff; 1984--Howard Branch; 1985--Lee Terry; 1986--Homer Dalrymple; 1987--Lee Terry; 1988--Roy David.

(Portions of this history were taken from the Lodge History prepared in 1986 by Lee Terry, Vincil Bell, D. E. Rieff, Homer Dalrymple and Bill Ramsey for the 100th anniversary of the Lodge.)

Miss Julian Rogers was soloist of the Hagenback-Wallace Circus 1921 to 1926. (P. G. Herald)

Prairie Grove Occidental Lodge No. 436, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized March 20, 1886, with the following officers: J. E. Mock, Worshipful Master; E. G. McCormick, Senior Warden; J. J. Baggett, Junior Warden; G. E. James, Senior Deacon; J. O. Parks, Junior Deacon; W. R. Wallace, Treasurer; R. S. Staples, Secretary; W. D. Rogers, Tyler.

Charter members were: J. E. Mock, E. G. McCormick, J. J. Baggett, John Mock, W. D. Rogers, G. E. James, S. E. Rogers, Hugh Rogers, William Mitchell, J. D. West, R. S. Staples, John Cole, W. R. Wallace, William Shafer, and Joseph Shafer.

The meetings were to be held in the Institute Building in Prairie Grove or within three miles thereof. T. C. Humphry was Grand Master, and Fay Hempstead, Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas when the Charter was issued in 1886.

A copy of the first stated meeting of the Lodge on March 20, 1886, follows:

"The first stated meeting of Occidental Lodge U. D. was held at the lodge hall in the Town of Prairie Grove, County of Washington, State of Arkansas on 20th day of March A. D., 1886, A. L. 5886.

"Present: Brothers J. E. Mock, Worshipful Master; E. G. McCormick, Senior Warden; J. J. Baggett, Junior Warden; G. E. James, Senior Deacon; J. O. Parks, Junior Deacon; W. R. Wallace, Treasurer; R. S. Staples, Secretary; W. D. Rogers, Tyler. Members: William Mitchell and William Shafer. Visiting Brothers: R. H. Blackburn of Viney Grove Lodge No. 265; J. O. Parks of Washington Lodge No. 1; B. A. Carl of Valley Lodge No. 336; J. H. Haley of Lodge No. 406; W. H. Bonds of Hillsboro Lodge No. 196, Hillsboro, Texas

"Meetings to be on Saturday on or after full moon at 7:00

p.m. Dues \$2.00 a year."

AMERICAN LEGION

The Prairie Grove American Legion Post was organized and chartered November 28, 1931. Charter members were: James A. Smith, J. H. Carnahan, G. B.



American Legion Hut

Shafer, Harve McDonald, James H. Caton, Ben Ford, Hugh Neal, Bill Ray, R. B. Cox, J. B. Russell, Clifford Delap, Cleve Holcomb, B. B. Reed, C. E. Smith and G. W. Brewster. Meetings were held in the Mock building until an American Legion Hut was constructed.

The American Legion Hut was built in 1934 by WPA labor and the rocks for the exterior were hauled from Center Point community. Dedication of the building was held August 5th, 1934 at Mock Park. The program included numbers by a string band from Lincoln and vocal solos by Rachel Geiger (Maxey), and Julian Rogers. Speakers were Mayor J. Frank Holmes, Bob Brooks of Springdale, Dr. Frank Gordon of Fayetteville, Dr. W. H. Mock and Claude Fuller. Miss Sarah Carl and Mrs. Gordon Brewster were also on the program.

The Mason-Nation Post was the name chosen for the organization in honor of James Edward Mason, who was the first Prairie Grove man killed in World War I, and Morris Edward Nations, who died December, 1941, of injuries re-

ceived in the attack on Pearl Harbor, which started World War II.

An addition was made to the Hut in 1973-74 when a room was built at the rear, making space for skating, dancing and other civic activities.

For many years the Legion and Auxiliary sponsored a boy and girl to Boys' State and Girls' State. They have also sponsored a Boy Scout troop.

Bruce Kyle is present Commander of the Mason-Nation Post of the American Legion.



Christmas Tree Sale by Boy Scouts. Front Row, left to right, Larry Bell, Eugene Hamilton, Huland Nations, J. G. Ward, Clyde Delap, Scout Master; Tommy McCoy, Billy Joe Bartholomew, Jackie Clark, Bryce Curtsinger and Jim Rieff.

(I. Delap Photo)

PRAIRIE GROVE TRADES DAY ASSOCIATION

The Prairie Grove Trades Day Association was organized in 1935 and sponsored the publication of a bi-monthly advertising sheet. A drawing was held every second and fourth Saturday when \$50 in cash was given away.

The Trades Day sheet was printed out-of-town during the first year, but after 1936 when

the Enterprise was established by the Wiswells, it was printed locally. Jim Woodruff, Jack Harlan and Henry Carnahan headed the organization the first few years.

The Trades Day Association acted as a Chamber of Commerce and sponsored such activities as: decorating the town for the Christmas holidays, encouraging new businesses and industries to locate in this area, and assisting the farmers in every way possible.

In December 1942 the Trades Day Association and the Prairie Grove Junior Chamber of Commerce joined the Northwest Arkansas Chamber of Commerce and R. D. Bogart was selected to represent Prairie Grove in this organization.

Henry Carnahan, postmaster, served the Trades Day Association as president for several years at its beginning. Other businessmen acting as president were: Charles McNair, Guy Sparks, Elton Skelton, Frank West, Wilford Thompson, Paul Jones, Edward Broyles, Jack Bartholomew, John P. Mobley, Bill Ramsey, Hubert Dunham, and Ronnie Stone.

In 1971, after thirty-six years of continuous operation, the Trades Day sheet was discontinued and the organization disbanded. At that time the Prairie Grove Lions Club became the leading civic organization working for betterment of Prairie Grove and its trade territory.

PRAIRIE GROVE CHAPTER UNITED DAUGHTERS OF CONFEDERACY

(Prepared from Minutes of UDC)

A number of ladies met at the home of Mrs. M. L. Hildebrand July 25, 1906, and organized the Prairie Grove Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Number 1006. Officers elected were: Mrs. M. L. Hildebrand, a Virginian and most loyal Southerner, president; and Mrs. David Hall Torbet, recording secre-

tary.

One of the primary purposes of the organization was to preserve the Battleground, and in 1909 a Park Association was formed and nine and one-tenth acres were purchased at a cost of \$975.00. It became necessary to form an Association and the following trustees were appointed: Dr. Welch, Judge R. O. Hannah, Mrs. Margaret Mock, Mrs. Dora Parks, and Mrs. J. H. Zellner.

Charter members of the UDC were: Mesdames W. T. McCormick, W. T. Neal, Dora Parks, E. K. Torbett, Eugene B. Lawson, J. H. Caldwell, D. H. Torbett, Fannie Bell, Mag Neal, M. J. Green, Margaret Mock, Julia Pyeatt, Walter Edmiston, L. C. McCormick, Dorse McCormick, Margaret Shofner, A. Borden, R. M. Crawford, Will Maddox, M. J. Staples, M. M. Ross, E. G. McCormick, J. B. Pearson, A. E. Barker, P. Edmiston, Hugh Rogers, Harry Dutton, L. C. McVay, D. W. Adams, Pearl Hart, George Nixon, Jimmie Rogers, Dora Neal; Misses Emma Magruder, Maude Bell, Dorothea Campbell, Jessie Pittman, Mamie Bell, May Rogers, Caddie Green, Betsy Grey Campbell, Maude Rogers, Sallie Bell, Birdie Bell, Annie Magruder, Clyde Rogers, Bess Hannah, Betsy McCormick, Clara Shoffner and Myrtle McCormick.

The Prairie Grove UDC Chapter has been honored with several State Officers: Mrs. M. L. Hildebrand, Historian in 1920; Mrs. J. B. Harris, Recorder of Crosses; Miss Emma Blakemore, Registrar in 1924; Mrs. J. H. Zellner, Corresponding Secretary, and also in charge of the Childrens' Chapters, and Mrs. Earl Cunningham, first Vice-President in 1922.

In 1930 the Battleground Park was legally presented to the State Division United Daughters of the Confederacy and the dream of this chapter is to see the park improved year by year, with the continued help of the state, until it becomes the beauty spot



Members of UDC on trip to Hot Springs, Left to Right; Vivian Baggett, Bess Cummings, Ollie Barnes, Lillian Hannah, Luttie Cunningham, and Mildred Broyles.

(Norwood Photo)

it could well be--the mecca of every chapter in the Arkansas Division.

While a very vital part of the Chapter's interest has always been centered upon the Park, other calls have not been neglected. Markers have been placed on the site of an emergency hospital, used during the Battle of Prairie Grove; historical programs have been given at chapter meetings and interesting data gathered by the various historians.

The most cherished possession of the Chapter is the camp flag, presented by the local camp United Confederate Veterans, and handed down to the Daughters as a sacred trust when the camp had been forced to discontinue its activities, because of the infirmities of age.

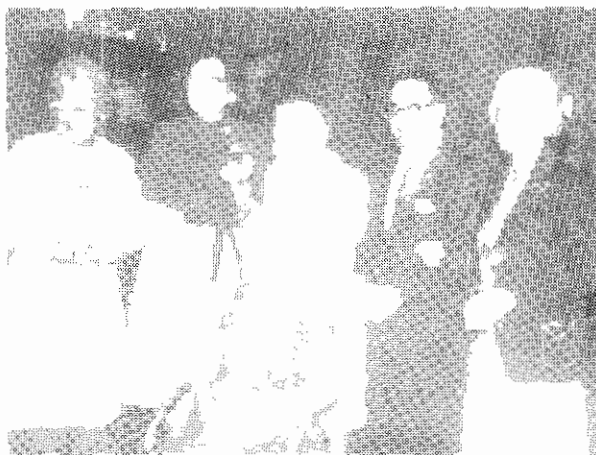


Unidentified dog in front of Farmers and Merchants Bank, (G. Geiger Photo)

PRAIRIE GROVE CHAPTER
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

(Information provided by Mildred Broyles, Secretary of Prairie Grove Chapter, OES.)

In 1925 Mary Woolverton became interested in forming a Prairie Grove Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of Arkansas. Her mother-in-law, Ella Woolverton, who joined the Eastern Star in 1882 at Brightwater, Arkansas, was initiated by her father. Masons were conferring



Charter members present at the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Prairie Grove Chapter, OES, March 1976; Left to Right; Lillian Hannah, Irene Delap, Myrtle Parks, Floyd Woolverton, Lillian Pyeatt; Seated; Lutie Cunningham.

(I. Delap Photo)

the Eastern Star degrees at that time. Mrs. Woolverton approached Walter Dodson, a Mason, and through their efforts Prairie Grove Chapter 491, OES, was formed January 29, 1926.

The first officers were: Mary Woolverton, worthy matron; Walter Dodson, worthy patron; Ruth McCormick, associate matron; Vivian Baggett, secretary; Arthur McCormick, treasurer; Lillian Pyeatt, conductress; Lillian Shafer, associate conductress; Myrtle Parks, chaplain; Lutie Cunningham, organist; Irene Dodson, Adah; Tuttle Henson, Ruth; Jessie Carlile, Esther; Lillian Hannah, Martha; Bess Dodson, Electa; Edna Baggett, Warder; Floyd Woolverton,

Sentinel. These with Dorothea Harris, Fred Carlile, Charles E. Woolverton, and Jim Parks, were the Charter Members.

B. H. Harrison built the Masonic building in Prairie Grove in 1903 and donated it to the Masonic Lodge. He also left a sum of money in trust with proceeds to be used by the Lodge and for charity purposes. The Board of Trustees of his estate are selected from members of the local Masonic Lodge.

The following have served as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron to the present time:

1926-27: Mary Woolverton, WM; Walter Dodson, WP;

1928: Ruth McCormick, WM; Floyd Woolverton, WP;

1929: Lillian Pyeatt, WM; Floyd Woolverton, WP;

1930: Lillian Shafer, WM; Walter Lark, WP;

1931: Mae Lark, WM; Clyde Delap, WP;

1932: Myrtle Parks, WM; Nathan Brooks, WP;

1933: Marie Stone, WM; Edward Broyles, WP;

1934: Irene Delap, WM; Clarence Davis, WP;

1935: Mamie Rieff, WM; Delford E. Rieff, WP;

1936: Mildred Broyles, WM; Walter Dodson, WP;

1937: Olyve Brooks, WM; Walter Lark, WP;

1938: Louise Fidler, WM; Nathan Brooks, WP;

1939: Effie Bain, WM; Walter Lark, WP;

1940: Lutie Cunningham, WM; Nathan Brooks, WP;

1941: Ethel Speedlin, WM; Walter Dodson, WP;

1942: Helen Geiger, WM; Walter Lark, WP;

1943: Helen Geiger, WM; Nathan Brooks, WP;

1944: Essie Wiswell, WM; Nathan Brooks, WP;

1945-46: Violet Horah, WM; Edward Broyles, WP;

1947: Wilma Carnahan, WM; Walter Lark, WP;

1948: Pauline Bell, WM; Vincil Bell, WP;

1949: Violet Nations, WM;

Nathan Brooks, WP;

1950: Eva Riggall, WM; Dr. Frank Riggall, WP; Very elaborate drill for Grand Matron's visit. Men and women in costumes dating back to 1875. Repeat performance at Grand Chapter in Little Rock. Members from Lincoln, West Fork, Clyde and Prairie Grove went by chartered bus.

1951: Velma Giles, WM; Wayman Giles, WP; raised dues from \$1.00 to \$2.50. Rainbow Girls organized and sponsored by OES.

1952: Geraldine Parks, WM; Paul Jones, WP; purchased signet and coffee urn.

1953: Marie Moore, WM; Rodney Riggall, WP; Contribution to Washington General Hospital toward Prairie Grove room in polio ward;

1954: Melda Moore, WM; Ople Stevens, WP; Gave old signet and \$25.00 to Clyde Chapter after they lost all in a fire;

1955: Zella Nations, WM; Walter Lark, WP;

1956: Zella Nations, WM; Charles Woolverton, WP; The pink sheet and diagram of the labyrinth was replaced with new ones and new ribbons added to the badges;

1957: Lorene Jones, WM; Claud Nations, WP; bought first printed checks, a new lace tablecloth, punch bowl and cups;

1958: Anna Holmes, WM; George Abercrombie, WP;

1959: Anna Holmes, WM; Maynard Dorman, WP; New altar drape and a mirror on piano for convenience of organist. Small Bible given in memory of Mrs. J. A. Stevens. Her son, Ople, Past Patron.

1960: Pauline Abercrombie, WM; George Abercrombie, WP; George presented flag to chapter in memory of his aunt;

1961: Geneva Keene, WM; John Oyler, WP;

1962: Myrlene Whitney, WM; Leo Whitney, WP; OES assumed responsibility for keeping hall clean; hired cleaning service;

1963-64: Velma Calvert, WM; J. W. Calvert, WP; Meeting time

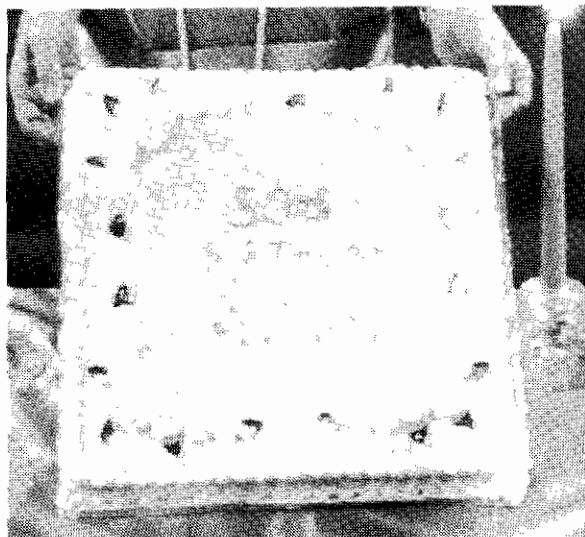
changed to 7:30 p.m. all year; Pledged \$100.00 to help Masons pay for air conditioner;

1965: Ida Layman, WM; George Abercrombie, WP; Joyce Cunningham appointed State Mother Advisor for Rainbow.

1966: Minnie Horah, WM; John Oyler, WP; Christmas party and toys for underprivileged;

1967: Wylene Layman, WM; John Oyler, WP; District saddened by death of Pearl Keeton, Grand Sec., December 16, 1967;

1968: Joyce Cunningham, WM; Robert E. Cunningham, WP; Lodge



OES 50th Anniversary Cake

building completely remodeled; stairway changed; kitchen completed with cabinets, etc.; entire building paneled and carpentering laid. All paid for by the B. H. Harrison Estate; Obtained ESTRAL funds for Terry Dees, ministerial student;

1969-70: Virginia Vafakos, WM; William N. Vafakos, WP; Joyce Cunningham appointed Grand Organist-1969; and District Deputy in 1970;

1971: Betty Bell, WM; Larry Bell, WP; Joyce Cunningham appointed District Deputy for second year; dues raised from \$2.50 to \$3.50;

1972: Doris Sharp, WM; R. E. Cunningham, WP;

1973: Velma Calvert, WM; Larry Bell, WP;

1974: Pauline Bell, WM; Vincent Bell, WP; \$150.00 to ESTRAL;

1975: Joyce Cunningham, WM; R. E. Cunningham, WP; Bought new flag for chapter room;

1976: Betty Bell, WM; Larry Bell, WP; Observed 50th Anniversary March 1976; Charter members



Prairie Grove Chapter OES celebrates 50th Anniversary.

present: Lillian Pyeatt, Floyd Woolverton; Myrtle Parks; Lutie Cunningham, Irene Delap and Lillian Hannah. Larry and Betty Bell presented large picture of 1976 officers, framed by George Abercrombie, to chapter;

1977: Helen Noeller, WM; Leo Whitney, WP; Cunninghams presented picture of Men's Drill Team to chapter; Reception for Pauline Bell, Grand Representative; at home of Larry Bells. Obtained 100% International Temple Fund. All members' names now recorded in International Temple Records. Zella Burkett presented "100 years of Eastern Star" to chapter.

1978: Helen Noeller, WM; R. E. Cunningham, WP; Dues raised from \$3.50 to \$5.00; OES agrees to help pay utilities on hall;

1979-80: Anna Spear, WM; Larry Bell, WP; Observed Olyve Brooks 96th birthday, September 11, 1979;

1981: Virginia Vafakos, WM; William N. Vafakos, WP; Honor night for Joyce Cunningham, district deputy;

1982: Doris Sharp, WM; George E. Wiswell, WP; Brunch at Joyce

Cunningham's honoring Mildred Broyles' 45 years as Secretary;

1983: Jimmie Belle Delap, WM; George E. Wiswell, WP; Purchased altar cloth for Rainbow Girls; Friendship Plantation Party held July 16;

1984-85: Velma Calvert, WM; Larry Bell, WP; \$100.00 to Rainbow for expenses to Supreme and Grand Assemblies; Money Tree for Ministerial Alliance at Christmas and box of candy to shut-ins for Thanksgiving;

1986-87-88: Wanda Zarelli, WM; Phillip McCoy, WP; Betty Bell named State Mother Advisor for Rainbow; Purchased file cabinet; to pay half of all utilities beginning January 1, 1988; dues increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00; helped Masons serve annual Pancake Breakfast; City of Prairie Grove celebrating its 100th birthday in 1988.



Quilting Club at Legion Hut, Left to Right: Ora Specht, Bonnie Villines, Mrs. G. C. Wentworth, Estelle Prater, and Sarah Fidler (seated).

(H. Cook Photo)

The 1860 Farm Census showed that Washington County was listed second in production of swine, hops, flax and sorghum.

PRAIRIE GROVE LIONS CLUB

(Courtesy of Dr. John Bain)

The Prairie Grove Lions Club was organized October 4, 1946, with the following officers: J. Frank Holmes, president; Lee Jones, first vice-president; Clyde Rutherford, second vice-president; Charles E. Woolverton, third vice-president; Delford E. Rieff, secretary; Bill Wainwright, Tail Twister; G. E. Wiswell, Lion Tamer; Vincil Bell, Layton McCoy, Dr. Frank Riggall and Dr. Jeff Baggett, Board of Directors.

The Charter was presented to the Lions at a special banquet meeting attended by more than 160 members and guests. The meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall of the Methodist Church, with Dr. Will H. Mock serving as master of ceremonies. The program included the Invocation by Rev. Alf Eason, pastor of the Methodist Church; Song, "The End of a Perfect Day," Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Dorman and R. E. Cunningham; Lawrence Delap played two piano numbers; and Mrs. J. F. Holmes led group singing.

"We Serve" is the motto for the Lions Club and over the years members have served in many capacities. "Sight Conservation" is a major concern of the club and many fund-raising projects have been carried out by the local club to benefit the program.

For many years the Lions Club's main fund raiser was barbecued chicken dinners served during the annual Labor Day three-day celebration. People came from far and near to enjoy the chicken which was prepared on long grills set up by the Lions for the occasion. Chicken was served with baked beans, potato salad, sliced tomatoes and bread. After the Park was included in the State program, the chicken dinners were discontinued. In recent years the Lions operate a hamburger wagon

during the Clothesline Fair as a fund raiser.

The Lions donated concrete tables and benches, and various playground equipment to the Park. They also developed the recreation area at Budd Kidd Lake with picnic tables and benches and a ballfield. They have also sponsored a Boy Scout Troop and participated in the summer recreation program.

1988 officers are: Larry Crawley, president; Sam Escue, first vice-president; Dr. Andrew Bain, second vice-president; Charles Hudson, third vice-president; Homer Dalrymple, secretary-treasurer; Murph Pair, Tail Twister; Dean Harper, Lion Tamer. The Board is composed of the above officers plus Ed Smith and Rick Reed, members-at-large. David Parks is immediate past president.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Prairie Grove Chamber of Commerce was organized April 15, 1978. The first officers elected were: Hubert Dunham, president; Bill Ramsey, president elect; Martha Flynt, secretary-treasurer; Sam Escue, 2-year Board member; and Carroll Rainwater, 1-year Board member.

They listed as their projects, the Labor Day Parade, 5-K Battlefield Run, Scholarship Fund for a Graduating Senior; giving support to the Gro-West organization.

Accomplishments to date: The Chamber was instrumental in bringing Universal Electric to town; helped with acquisition of Arkansas Galvanizing, Inc., Tyree Trucking and Gregg Enterprises, in conjunction with the Prairie Grove Industrial Corp.

The Chamber of Commerce meets monthly on the fourth Thursday for lunch at Latta Barn, Battlefield Park. Their goals include economic growth for the town; and installation of welcoming signs on each side of town on Highway 62.

Past presidents are: 1978

Hubert Dunham, 1979 J. W. "Bill" Ramsey, 1980 Larry Golden, 1981 Vol Eads, 1982 Russell Black, 1983 Harley Freedle, 1984 Craig Updyke, 1985-1986-1987 Sam Escue and 1988 James Reese.

Current officers of the Chamber are: James Reese, president; Ron Stinchcomb, president-elect; Jean Speegle, secretary-treasurer; Sam Escue, Martha Flynt, and Jim Rieff, board members.



Prairie Grove Baseball Team of 1916 or '17, Row 1 (Left to Right): Oscar McCuistion, John Womack; Row 2: Dale Allen, Athol Gentry, Dolph Helm, Raleigh Blakemore; Row 3: Charley Nixon, Otto Bollin, Byrd Hammontree and Ed McCuistion. (F. Blakemore Photo)

PRAIRIE GROVE FEDERATED WOMAN'S CLUB

*By Mildred Broyles and
Eileen Manning*

In December 1932 a group of women met to form a Garden Club. As such, they sponsored flower shows, planted Elm trees at the grade school, and promoted interest in beautifying lawns. At the 1933 Flower Show, a baby show was also held.

November of 1933 "Federation" was discussed and application made. The name was changed to "Art and Garden Club." June 18, 1939, the members voted to become federated with the General Federation of Women's Club. As this history is written, only

one charter member is still on the roll, Mrs. Lena Helm is an honorary member.

During the war-years and post-war years, forty boxes containing more than 400 small gifts were collected and sent to soldiers in the Ft. Chaffee Hospital for Christmas. Club women were credited with \$9,500.00 maturity value War Bonds sold on the sixth bond drive. In 1945 the club collected some 725 pounds of clothing for overseas relief.

In another major project, the club led a community drive and raised \$591.98 to help furnish a polio ward at a new General Hospital. The club gave \$118.70 and spearheaded a community drive to collect funds for an Iron Lung at the same hospital. This was accomplished through countywide efforts, but Prairie Grove contributed \$1,350.00.

April 1952, a member of the local club, Mrs. W. E. N. (Florence) Phillips was installed president of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs, serving the 1952-54 term. The Ft. Smith District planted a Magnolia Tree in her honor on the grounds at the Governor's Mansion in 1952 at the International meeting of the GFWC held in Philadelphia. Mrs. Phillips told of her plans for a State Federated Club Paper, this was the beginning of AFWC Clubwoman magazine. The first issue was delivered to our members at the September meeting, 1952. Another local club woman, Mrs. J. C. (Myrtle) Parks was the first editor of the Clubwoman. Mrs. Phillips contributed \$100.00 in the name of the local club for the restoration of "Independence Hall" at Philadelphia, and a bronze plaque in the Hall bears the club's name.

In 1954 the Club won the "Five-Point Star of Achievement Award." Several local members have held offices and been on committees at District, State and National level. We have had two State Presidents, three Dis-



*Results of 1946 Ice Storm in Prairie Grove,
(Smith Photo)*

trict Presidents; and in 1984-86 we had a GFWC Regional President.

In 1978 our club was again honored when Mrs. R. D. (Eileen) Manning was elected president of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs. She was installed at the conclusion of the 1978 State Convention held in Hot Springs, and served for the 1978-80 term. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Sowards re Mrs. Mike Quint was GFWC International President. Mrs. Linda Bynum, Siloam Springs, was president of the Ft. Smith District GFWC. Her theme was "U+2 with UNITY-in the Land of Opportunity," meaning grow. An all-out effort was made to increase membership across the state.

It was during this term that the Arkansas Sheriff's Boys and Girls ranches were adopted as a state project, and was carried through 1986. The program of Growth was reflected in the creation of nine districts in place of the existing six. At the close of this term, Eileen was offered the chairmanship of the GFWC Health Division which she held for 1980-82 term under Mrs. Donald Shide, GFWC International President. This same year Mrs. Manning was elected secretary-treasurer of the GFWC South Central Regional Conference. In 1984 at the conclusion of the GFWC Convention in Las Vegas, Mrs. Eileen Manning was installed as president of the GFWC South Central Regional Conference.

Mrs. J. W. (Joy) Webb, one of the local club's charter members, died July 2, 1976. September 19, 1977, the Administrator of her estate, Wilford Thompson, met with the club and explained parts of Mrs. Webb's will in which she expressed her desires that her home and contents be known as the "Murphy-Nelson-Webb Memorial" and that it become a permanent home for the Prairie Grove Woman's Club and the Junior Civic League, the latter she was instrumental in establishing.

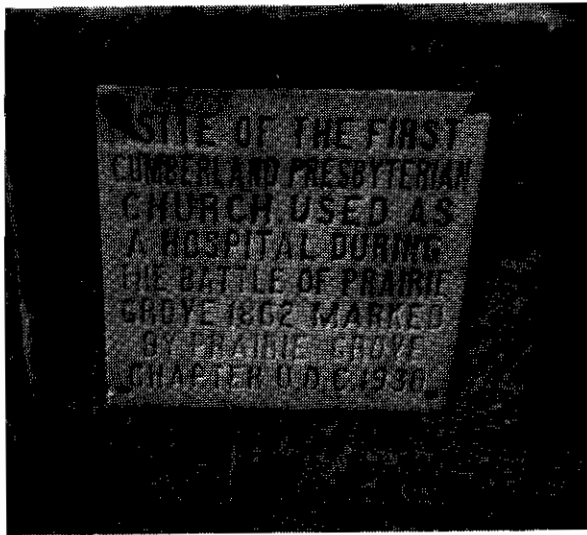
This mandate was accepted by the club members who immediately began our continuing "Community Improvement Project," (C.I.P.) setting in order a research Library for local history, preserving, cataloging the antique pieces of furniture, dishes, papers and other artifacts. The highlight of this mandate was realized when, on Saturday, October 29, 1983, we held open house to the community, inviting all citizens, with special invitations to community leaders, school officials, teachers, history buffs, all with the intent to tell the community what is available at our "Resource Library." We now volunteer club members' time once a month and have the Library open for public use.

We have a membership of 29 club members--24 active, 5 honorary.

MARKER UNVEILED BY
LOCAL CHAPTER UDC

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
June 5, 1930)*

A marker of native limestone with marble inset was unveiled Sunday afternoon with impressive ceremonies on the lawn of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The marker which was prepared by E. H. Dorman of the Prairie Grove Marble Works bears the following inscription: "Site of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, used as a hospital



Marker at site of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church,

during the Battle of Prairie Grove. Marked by Prairie Grove chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1930."

Mrs. J. H. Zellner delivered the address, and John Bennett Baggett, little son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Baggett, and great-great-grandson of Mrs. Margaret Mock, the oldest member of the UDC Chapter, drew the string.

Honor guards, dressed in white and carrying Confederate flags were Misses Lucy, Emilie and Mary Cummings, Eleanor Bell, Pauline Harrison, Mary West, Beulah Stone, Ruth Wilson, Janice Barker and Mary Dean Magruder. Miss Sarah Carl and Mrs. J. C. Parks gave readings.

PRAIRIE GROVE RAINBOW ASSEMBLY #53

By Betty Bell, Mother Advisor

The institution of Prairie Grove Assembly #53, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, was held Tuesday, October 30, 1951, in the Masonic Hall at Prairie Grove. Sam Ballard, Grand Deputy, was unable to attend and Mrs. Essie Ray substituted as Deputy. Others assisting were: Helen Shudlin, Pat Ambrose, Mary Lou Pearce and Retha Woods.

Following the institution, initiation was held for twenty-one girls. The Charter Members

of Prairie Grove Assembly were: Bobbie Curtsinger, Nadine Neal, LaVonne Phillips, Sue McKenzie, Shirley Curtsinger, Kay Lynn Cates, Shirley Ramsey, Julia Feltner, Ellen Marie Clark, Kathryn Bidwell, Camilla Bidwell, Sue Wilson, Coretta Wilson, Jephalline Henson, Mary Nell Geiger, Sue Vinson, Charlene Brewer, Marilyn Henson, Marilyn Wilson, Doris Jean Smith and Barbara Patrick.

Following the initiation, which was done by the Fayetteville Assembly, O. E. S. served a buffet supper, then a public installation was held. Bobby Curtsinger was installed as Worthy Advisor and Mrs. Ratha Lane as Mother Advisor. Members of the Advisory Board were: Mildred Broyles, Ethel Speedlin, Irene Delap, Anna J. Holmes, Winifred Stephens, Paul Jones and Hubert Keene. Mrs. Velma Giles was Worthy Matron of Prairie Grove Order of Eastern Star, the sponsoring body. Vincil Bell was Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge.

On May 6, 1952, Prairie Grove Assembly #53 was officially Chartered. The Charter was signed by Rev. Mark Sexson, Supreme Recorder, founder of the Order of Rainbow. During the past thirty-seven years, 267 girls between the age of 12 and 20 joined the Prairie Grove Assembly.

OES members who have served as Mother Advisor and the years they served are: Ratha Lane, '52; Eva Riggall, '53; Jo Bain, Jan-Apr '54 and Dec '54; Jerry Parks, May-Nov '54; Essie Wiswell, '55-'57; Velma Calvert, Jan-Jun '58; LaVonna Phillips, Jul '58-'59; Eula Curtsinger, '60-Aug '61; Pauline Bell, Sep-Dec '61; Joyce Gunningham, '62-'64; Eula Curtsinger, '65-'66; Pauline Abercrombie, '67-'73; Colleen Knowles, '74-May '76; Doris Sharp, acting M.A. Jun '76-Sep '76; LaVonne Hall, Sep '76-'80; Dortha Coleman, '81-'82; Anna Spears, '83-April '84; Betty Bell, May '84 to present

time.

Walter Lark was selected to serve as the first Rainbow Dad. Many other Masons have served as Rainbow Dad since then, Clyde Delap first served as Dad in September '55, and was Dad numerous times after that. He continued to work with the girls until 1984 when his health prevented him from attending the meetings. Vincil Bell was another longtime helper until his death in December '86. Prairie Grove Assembly gave tributes to both at the Memorial Service at Grand Assembly in 1987.

In February, 1952, the girls held a Hobo-Week to earn money to purchase the Officer Jewels for the Assembly. Cost of the complete set was \$47.50. (A set bought today costs \$199.50.) M.A. Dorman presented the Assembly a Rainbow gavel which is still used.

At Grand Assembly held at the Marion Hotel, Little Rock, in June 1959, Betty Beeks, now Mrs. Larry Bell, was appointed Grand Choir Director, Prairie Grove's first grand officer. Grand Offices and Grand Appointments are in recognition of service and the ritualistic work.

The following is a list of Prairie Grove Grand Officers and the year they were honored: Betty Beeks, 59-60; Charlotte Cunningham, Grand Drill Leader, 65-66, Grand Recorder, 66-67; Gladys Jane Abercrombie, Grand Love, 68-69; Margaret Manning, Grand Choir Director, 71-72; Tracy Sullivan, Grand Fidelity, 73-74; Janna Rice, Grand Confidential Observer, 79-80; Tammy Coleman, Grand Immortality, 81-82; Sharon Luttrell, Grand Choir Director, 83-84, Grand Treasurer, 84-85; Jane Grigson, Grand Confidential Observer, 84-85; Dorothy Manning, Grand Musician, 85-86; Laura Bell, Grand Nature, 86-87; Ann Gragg, Grand Choir Director, 87-88; Amy Dodson, Grand Outer Observer, 88-89.

We have also had two State Mother Advisors from our



Children of the Confederacy, Back Row: Virginia West Jackson, Darene Baggett, Bernice McCormick Brooks, Ruth Dodson Booth, ? Watts, Ann Harris LaRue, Phoebe Todd Harris, (B, Brooks Photo)

Assembly: Mrs. Joyce Cunningham, 65-66 (she also served on the Executive Committee, 1967); and Mrs. Betty Bell, 86-87. She was also named 1988 Mother Advisor of the Year.

Girls who have been named to the Grand Cross of Color Team are: Andrea Hall, Jennifer Corner, Dorothy Manning, Jane Grigson, Laura Bell, Jenifer Appleby. This is a select group of only fourteen officers. Once named, you usually remain until majority age or marriage. These girls are picked for outstanding service to the assembly and community.

Other State honors received by Assembly #53 members are: Ann Gragg, Outstanding Reporter, '86; Fara Ferguson, Outstanding Reporter, '87; Jennifer Appleby, Grand Representative to Maine, 85-86, 1st place Parade of Costumes, as a Mariner; Shirley Stults, Grand Representative to Iowa, 87-88, as Ear of Corn, 1st place.

Assembly honors: Membership trophy, 82 and 83; State Trophy for Outstanding Assembly in Service, 1985-86-87-88 (Prairie Grove is the only Assembly in Arkansas to do this four years). Some of our service projects are: Monthly birthday parties for the Medihome; Community

Easter Egg hunt. This was started in '73 and has been an annual project since; park cars over Labor Day Weekend since 1977; help Ministerial Alliance at Christmas; help families in need; give to the Ronald McDonald House, Childrens' Hospital at Little Rock, Shriners Burn Clinic, and Rainbow Scholarship Fund.

Some of the money-making projects to finance these are: parking cars Labor Day weekend, garage sales, sell fried pies, Tupperware parties, catering a wedding rehearsal supper, bake sales. The latter has been used since the beginning of our assembly as a fund raiser.

Girls named as District 2 Miss Service are: Sharon Luttrell, 82; Denise Baker, 83, also second runner-up for State Miss Service; Ann Gragg, 86, also 1st runner-up for State Miss Service; Zana Carte, 88, District 2. Girls are chosen as local assembly Miss Service, then she submits an essay to the State on what Rainbow means to her and what she has done in regard to service to her family, church, assembly and community.

June 22-26, 1984, the Arkansas State Convention Center, Little Rock, was the site of Supreme Assembly. Supreme meets only every two years. At this time girls and their advisors from every state and jurisdictions outside the U.S. come together. Arkansas is privileged to have Mrs. Mary Sperry as Supreme Love and Supreme Inspector of Arkansas.

Our Assembly helped finance Supreme by selling "Love Pops." We also made 175 padded picture frames for the Supreme Banquet and furnished 125 tatted crosses for the Grand Cross Luncheon. Those attending from our Assembly were: Supreme Hostesses Dorothy Manning, Sheresa Dodson, Jennifer Appleby, Stephanie Young, Katie Snodgrass, Betty Bell; Supreme Choir: Tammy Purser, Jennifer Appleby; Supreme Pages: Sharon Luttrell,

Laura Bell, Jane Grigson. Also attending were Ann Gragg, Eileen Manning, Janice Rice, Sue Hutchens, Janna Higby, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Luttrell. It was a real honor for Arkansas to host Supreme. Jurisdictions outside the U.S. attending were: New South Wales, Australia, Canada, Germany, Philippines, Japan and Panama.

In addition to the fellowship we have with each other at our meetings twice a month, we have enjoyed meeting other girls from all over the state and other states and countries; visited the Supreme Temple in McAllister, Oklahoma; had bunking parties, swimming parties; hayrides, barn dances, pizza parties, caroling, and the trip to Grand Assembly each year is always a highlight and a chance to renew friendships. Leadership held at Camp Mitchell on top of Mt. Petti Jean is always fun and the view is an inspiration.

In 1982, Prairie Grove O.E.S. bought satin material and Helen Noeller made an Altar Cloth for the Assembly. Betty Bell, M.A., sewed on the large Rainbow Emblem. Worthy Advisor Laura Bell, Summer Term '84 had as her project a Miss Service Sash for our Assembly. The sash was designed by her mother and was presented to the Assembly by the Bell family. Mrs. Dorothea Coleman made the Assembly Flag in 1981.

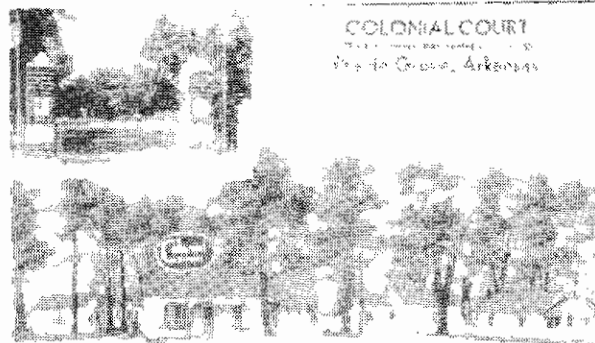
EARLY FARM SCENE
LOOKING NORTH FROM PRAIRIE GROVE



COLONIAL COURTS

Colonial Courts, located across Highway 62 from the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park was built by Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Bogart in 1939. Herb Terpening and Elbert Beaty constructed the eight cabins, a coffee shop with a terrace dining room enclosed almost entirely by windows. A horseshoe-shaped driveway led to the cabins and encircled a number of large oak trees.

Arthur Andrews, a cabinet maker and violin maker, made the



*Colonial Court (across from Battlefield Park)
(E. Matthews Photo)*

wood chandelier in 1941 and it still hangs from the ceiling in the dining room. Gene Sivage, a fifth grade student, cut the wood "C" shaped chain on which the chandelier hangs, working on it each afternoon after school.

The rock fireplace, which is in the coffee shop, has a large spearhead embedded in the front of it. It was found by Roy Norwood on the Illinois River and presented to Mr. Bogart.

Bogart hired Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Reed of Rogers to manage the court and coffee shop. After a time the business was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carney, who operated it for two years. Other managers of the cafe and courts over the years have included: Mr. and Mrs. Hal Deshong, Lorraine Swain, Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Jarosh ('54-'69), Clinton Moore of Tulsa, Gary Chaney, and Guy and Erma Matthews, present operators.

SAXON CARS SELL WELL

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
September 16, 1915)*

The Prairie Grove Garage, which has the agency for the Saxon automobile, is having great success with its sale of this car. Recently they received a shipment of six cars from the factory and all of these have been sold. Four of the cars have been sold to parties in town and two out of town. Those in town who purchased these cars are Messrs. W. E. Harper, Percy Cummings, Will Baggett and D. N. McCormick.

RAIL ROAD MEETING!

Every Citizen feeling interested in the building of a Rail Road from the Frisco Line to Prairie Grove is cordially invited to attend a RAILROAD MASS MEETING to be held at Prairie Grove TUESDAY, SEPT. 25, 1888, AT 7 P. M.

Chas. J. Bogart, Provisional
Thos. E. Jarosh, Committee
W. E. Harper, Committee
W. E. Harper, Committee
W. E. Harper, Committee
W. E. Harper, Committee

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We received a duplicate of the broadside from Russell Boyles of Farmington who notes, "W. H. Engels, my own grandfather, gave the right-of-way for the railroad to run through his 80 acre farm, including a 4 acre site for the Farmington depot."

Thus the Ozark & Cherokee Central Railroad came into being. It ran from Fayetteville through Farmington, Prairie Grove, Lincoln, Sumner, AR onto Tahlequah, Muskogee and terminated at Okmulgee, OK.

DRIVES TURKEYS TO MARKET *(Herald, 1915)*

The unusual sight of turkeys being driven to market like stock was witnessed last Thursday evening when Allen McAtee arrived here about sundown with a drove of 92 turkeys. Mr. McAtee lives at Evansville, 20 miles southwest of this place, and he had driven the turkeys from that place to Prairie Grove that day. The bunch brought about \$180.00 when sold.

City of Prairie Grove

Mayors

The following list of Mayors of Prairie Grove is incomplete. The information was obtained from old newspapers, court records and books of minutes of the City Council:

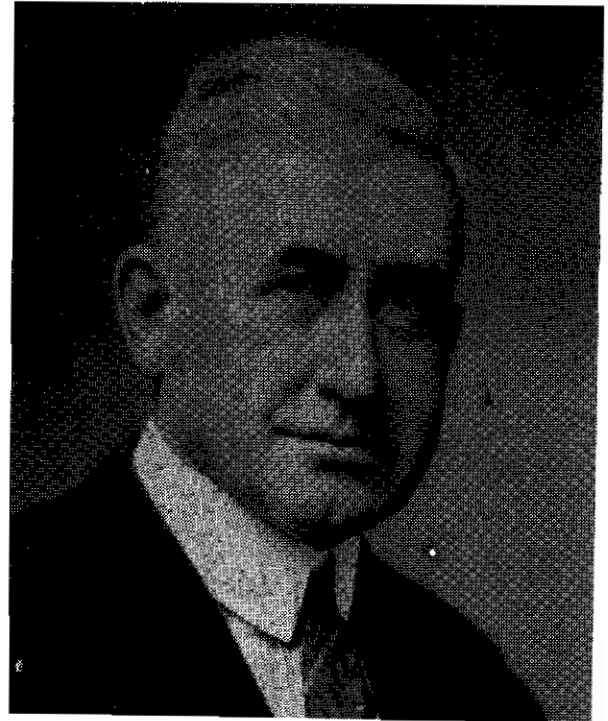
1905: F. W. Youree, Sr.
1906-08: J. S. Dill
1909-10: F. E. Wilson
1911-12: M. M. Collier
1913-14: J. S. Dill
1915: H. B. Collier
1916-18: H. L. Hilderbrand
1919: J. L. McConnell
1920-22: J. P. Harris
1923: W. F. Bell
1924: E. P. Pyeatt
1925: R. C. Lee
1926-28: B. H. Slaton
1929: M. H. Hill
1930-32: J. L. McConnell
1933-36: J. Frank Holmes
1937-38: G. B. Shafer
1939-40: J. Frank Holmes
1941: James R. Hale
1942-46: J. Frank Holmes
1947-60: Dr. Frank Riggall
1961-72: Dr. Calvin Bain
1973-75: Dr. E. S. Davidson
1975-78: Dr. R. D. Manning
1979-84: J. G. Ward
1984-86: Minor Wallace
1987-88: Eilleen Manning

PRAIRIE GROVE HAD A SWIMMING POOL

By Joy Nelson Webb
(*Prairie Grove Enterprise*, 1967)

The discussion of the possibility of a swimming pool for the local community in the near future, has brought to mind a swimming pool here fifty years ago. I remember distinctly the day the first scoop of dirt was moved to make the pool, and a few weeks later was an observer at the first swimming party. The following information about the pool is copied from the *Prairie Grove Herald*, July 19, 1917, which was published by the late M. L. Hilderbrand and is in my

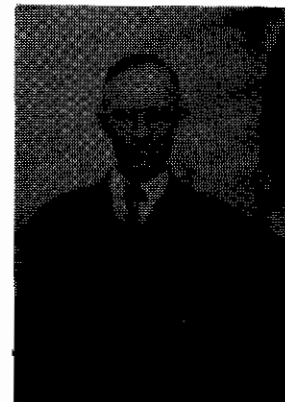
MAYOR; 1920-22



J. P. Harris

(P. Harris Photo)

MAYOR; 1929



M. H. Hill

(E. Cate Photo)

files:

"Dr. W. H. Mock is now launching a new enterprise in Prairie Grove that gives promise of a very beneficial and attractive feature for our little city, in the form of a bathing and swimming pool.

"Dr. Mock has bought from Mrs. Sallie Carney the lot on the West side of Neal Street and adjoining the Morton Hotel

property, where he will put this new attraction. (Back of the old water office, near where the water tower stood.)

"This lot is about 200 x 300 feet, and at the west end of this lot a large force of men, with teams and scrapers, began work today scraping out the basin for the pool, which we are informed will be 100 x 150 feet. The water for the pool will be supplied from the spring in Mock Park on the opposite side of the street and a little North of the lot.

"In front of the pool will be erected the necessary buildings for dressing rooms, heating apparatus, shower bath, etc."

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
August 16, 1917)*

"The swimming pool recently constructed by Dr. Mock, is now full of water and is affording a fine bathing place. The recent

MAYOR: 1933-36 1939-40-42-46



J. Frank Holmes

rains have so increased the flow of water from the spring that the pool filled much more rapidly than at first expected."

MAYOR: 1947-60



Dr. Frank Riggall

PRAIRIE GROVE'S POPULATION 774

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
February 16, 1911)*

"Special Dispatch to the Herald": Washington, D. C., Feb. 11, 1911. Prairie Grove Herald, Prairie Grove, Ark. Prairie Grove town population, thirteenth census, 774. Signed: E. Dana Durand, Director."

The information contained in the above telegram received by The Herald this morning, will be a great surprise and disappointment to our citizens, who will be loath to accept these figures as correct. It does look awfully small in view of what we were expecting the figures to be, and as the best means of satisfying ourselves as to the correctness of the figures as to how large we are, we would suggest, as many other disappointed towns are doing, that a new census be taken at once by the town authorities, or under their supervision. A public subscription for the purpose of paying the expenses can be taken without any trouble.

MAYOR: 1961-72



Dr. Calvin Bain

Listed below are some capital improvements launched and completed for the City of Prairie Grove during the twelve years that Dr. Calvin Bain served as Mayor of Prairie Grove.

A lighting system of mercury vapor lamps for the streets.

A parking lot located behind buildings on Highway 62 from Neal to Mock Street.

A city library--thirty percent of which was funded locally.

A new city lake for a water supply.

A new fire protection system which the city operated in conjunction with a Rural Fire Association (the city owned two new trucks and the rural group owned one new one).

A new city hall building now in the architectural drawing stages.

A radio-equipped police department.

A hot-mix asphalt paving program for city streets.

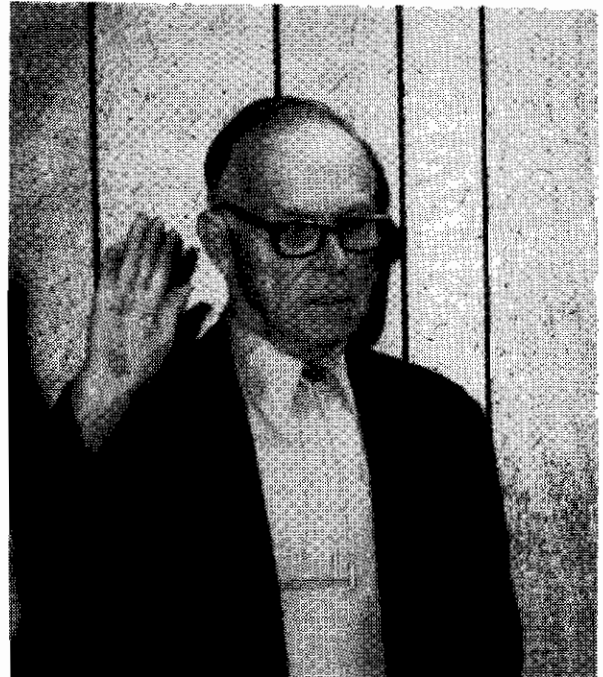
Launching of a budgeting system.

Comprehensive planning.

The above listed capital im-

provements were completed without the issuance of any bonds except revenue bonds, Bain said.

MAYOR: 1973-75



Dr. Emmett Davidson

Water Department

*(Prairie Grove Herald,
December, 1921)*

An editorial in the above paper urged citizens of the town to begin planning for a city-wide water system. It said, "A Town cannot grow beyond a village in the absence of the conveniences and utilities furnished by an ample supply of water. There has been enough property destroyed in Prairie Grove by fire since the advent of the railroad to have constructed two sets of water works, to say nothing of the amount paid out in insurance because of increased risk due to the absence of fire protection."

The editorial goes on to expound the benefits to be obtained from a gravity-flow system even though the cost of construction is greater. On October 7, 1905, a survey was made indicating that 288,304 gallons of water per day could be brought into Prairie Grove by gravity flow from Nail, Hanks,

Felton, Delap and Nixon Springs.

City Ordinance No. 100, passed and approved February 25, 1925, provided for formation of an improvement district, "for the purpose of constructing a water system, for purchasing land and water rights for a water supply, etc., and for completing ready-for-operating a water plant for the purpose of supplying and distributing water for domestic and commercial uses within the City of Prairie Grove, Arkansas." A second improvement district was formed in 1926. However, no actual work was done on a water system until 1933 when the Public Works Administration began providing funds for such projects.

The Prairie Grove Herald, in the November 9, 1933, issue carried a headline, "Prairie Grove Gets Loan and Grant for

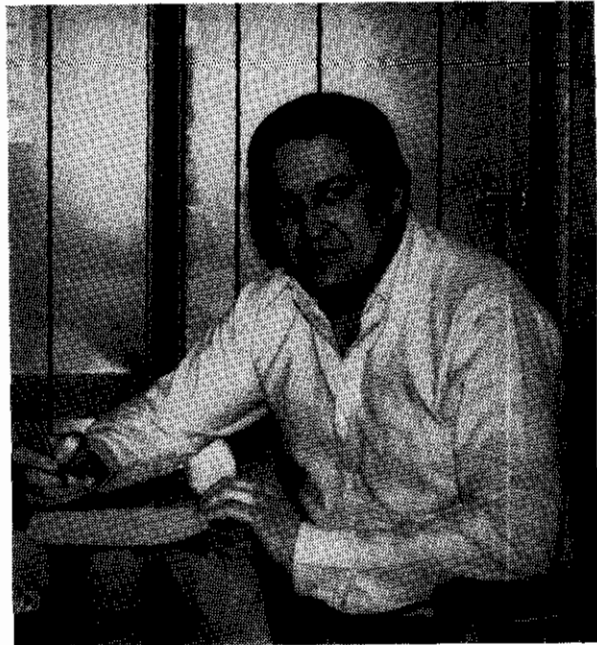
MAYOR: 1975-78



Dr. R. D. Manning

City Water." It says, in part: "Word reached Prairie Grove November 1 of the granting of \$60,000.00 for the construction of a water system consisting of an elevated tank, pump house and distributing system. Thirty percent of the cost of labor and

MAYOR: 1979-84



Jackson G. (J. G.) Ward

materials, which totals about \$51,000.00, is a grant. The balance is a loan secured by 4% bonds to be retired from the revenue of the plant."

Construction contractors were required to abide by WPA guidelines. "Wages are expected to range from 40¢ per hour for unskilled labor to \$1.00 per hour for experts. Enough work is estimated for 32 men for four months, or for more men for less time provided there are no layoffs on account of weather conditions or other causes. Work should start in a month."

"We are assured," Mayor J. Frank Holmes said, "that local labor will be given preference and no machinery will be used to displace hand labor in excavation." The Mayor said, "we plan a beautiful plant that will be an ornament to Mock Park area. Our supply of water will come from Mock Spring. We will have a filtration plant and an automatic pumping system that will practically operate itself. We will save much money on piping and insurance rates will be reduced as soon as adequate fire protection can be provided. We have waited 100 years for this--the most important event

since the Civil War battle was fought here."

"Application for a sewer system will be filed as soon as all necessary information can be supplied."

MAYOR: 1984-86



Minor G. Wallace

(*Prairie Grove Weekly Leader*,
September 27, 1934)

The concrete reservoir is complete, mains are going down every day, the spring house is well along and the tower reaches skyward section by section. The spring is capable of a three-inch stream day and night and runs two barrels a minute. If the load at the peak of the day exceeds the output, the reservoir holds 200,000 gallons, the tank 50,000 gallons and the mains 70,000 gallons, a total of 320,000 gallons.

The water will flow from the spring to the reservoir through a ten-inch main by gravity. The reservoir is of reinforced concrete and measures 50 x 70 x 8 feet. The steel tank tower rises in four 30-foot sections to a height of 120 feet. The tank adds 25 feet more with a roof in addition, making the top center about 150 feet from the ground.

The pump house is 12 x 150 feet, of brick, housing two automatic pumps, each capable of doing the job alone. Thirty-three fire hydrants offer ample protection from fire.

Around 150 connections for water have already been ordered and more will be added later. (A blueprint of the original water system and names of original customers is on display at the Prairie Grove Water Department office.)

(*Prairie Grove Enterprise*,
May 27, 1948)

About 100 persons attended the Town Meeting Tuesday night and heard proposals for increasing the City's water supply. Major Frank Riggall told of three proposals submitted by engineers working with the Council to solve the water shortage in Prairie Grove: the Delap Springs on Apple Hill, the Shores spring and the large hole of water on the Illinois River near the Woolverton farm, and the third suggestion, a 200 acre lake on land offered free of charge by Mayor Riggall from his farm south of town. After much study and discussion, neither alternative was adopted.

(*Prairie Grove Enterprise*,
November 25, 1948)

Prairie Grove is confronted with another water shortage and this time it seems that the rains are not going to save the day as they did at two previous times during the spring and summer. Thursday, Arthur McCormick, Water Superintendent, said the water in the tower was so low that drastic measures must be taken to insure enough water reserve for use in case of fire. Supplementary water has been flowing into the tank twenty-four hours a day from the well at the canning plant and has failed to keep the reserve from going lower each day.

Wednesday, the water supply



*Eileen Manning
Prairie Grove's First Woman Mayor*

to the schools was cut to the bare minimum, and the Giles Laundry has been hooked onto a well.

Two outstanding factors have led to the water shortage in Prairie Grove: one is the extremely dry weather which has caused the failing of the spring and wells in this area, and the other is the large increase in water usage. We now have two concerns using nearly 100,000 gallons of water per month, in addition to the many new meters installed during the summer.

*Prairie Grove Enterprise,
April 24, 1952)*

The building of a new fire station and city building was awarded to Henry Curtsinger on a low bid of \$1,775 at a meeting of City Council. The concrete block building will be attached to the south of the City Water Office.

Mock Spring provided Prairie Grove with an abundance of water which met all needs for several years. However, years of below-

average rainfall and increased usage as the town grew, convinced the City officials that an additional water supply was needed. In the late 1940s and early 1950s other sources were explored for supplementing water from the Mock Spring and well.

In July, 1954 three alternatives were presented: 1-Construction of an 8-inch line from Farmington to Prairie Grove at an estimated cost of \$105,000 and purchasing water from the City of Fayetteville; 2-The development of Ruby Spring in the Bethel Grove community at an estimated cost of \$60,000; 3-The building of a dam and formation of a lake south of Prairie Grove.

When no solution was found that was satisfactory to all councilmen and citizens, it was decided to settle the matter by calling a special election and let the people of Prairie Grove decide. The election was held and the majority voted to pursue the Ruby Spring project.

March 15, 1955, L. M. McGood-

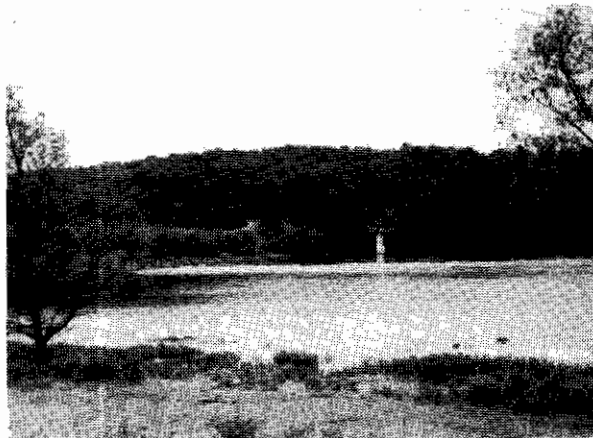


win, City Engineer, purchased water rights to the spring from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ruby. Water from the spring was piped into the storage and treatment tank used for the Mock Spring water, then into the water tower and to Prairie Grove homes and businesses.

The project was financed by revenue bonds. Price Dickson, attorney for the city, and L. W. McGoodwin, city engineer, were given instructions to go ahead with the project.

When the water was piped from Ruby Spring to Prairie Grove, farmers along the line were allowed to connect and have city water. At present there are 29 users on what is known as the Ruby Spring line.

In 1965 Muddy Fork Watershed project program was building small dams for flood prevention

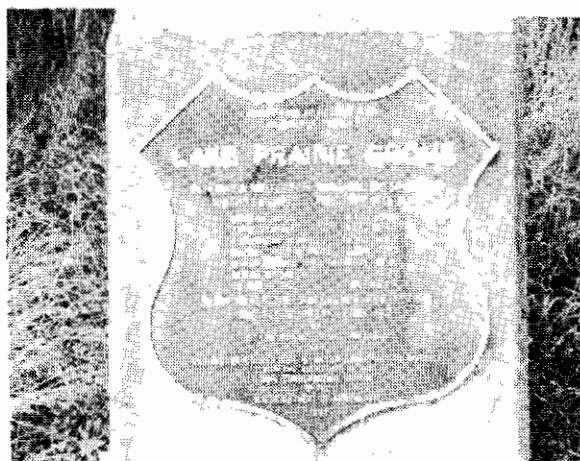


*City Lake--Prairie Grove's Water Supply
(Delrich Photo)*

and had built, with financial assistance from the town, a lake to supply the town of Lincoln with water. Prairie Grove Mayor Calvin Bain said, "We agreed to pay for having the size of one of the flood detention lakes increased in order that the City of Prairie Grove could have an adequate water supply for the future. As the plan was worked out, the City of Prairie Grove would pay forty percent of the cost of the enlarged lake."

The financing plan was unique. The Soil Conservation Service built in the extra stor-

age capacity, with payment deferred for ten years or such earlier date as Prairie Grove might start using the water.



Provision for repayment was worked out by the Farmers Home Administration. "We had to issue \$230,000 worth of bonds in two series to pay for the system to carry the water into town," Bain added.

The dam was completed in 1968 and included the intake structure and pumps. In 1974 the water treatment plant and a 500,000-gallon storage tank were constructed, and a 12-inch line was laid from the tower to Prairie Grove.

The city used water from the lake, Ruby Spring and Mock Spring until 1980 when the Arkansas Department of Health required the spring water to be excluded from the system.

In 1977 the West water line was laid from the lake to the west side of Prairie Grove, pro-



Water Treatment Plant (Delrich Photo)

viding city water to approximately 100 customers. In 1980 a line was laid to Universal Electric on the southwest side of Prairie Grove.

Residents of the Viney Grove area north of Prairie Grove petitioned the City of Prairie Grove to extend city water to them and in 1985 the Viney Grove line was laid, supplying water to approximately 40 customers.

In 1988, when the Industrial Park was purchased by the Gro-West organization, the city installed city water to the park, completing the loop around town and greatly improving fire protection for its citizens.

Present employees of the City of Prairie Grove in charge of maintenance and installation include: Larry Oelrich, administrator of city services; Leroy Thurman, water treatment superintendent; Billy R. Howell, Milton Thompson, Shawn Hancock, Water and Sewer Department; Mike Dobbs, John Ferguson, Street Department; and Joe Griffith, Sanitation. Janice Cross, Water Department office clerk.

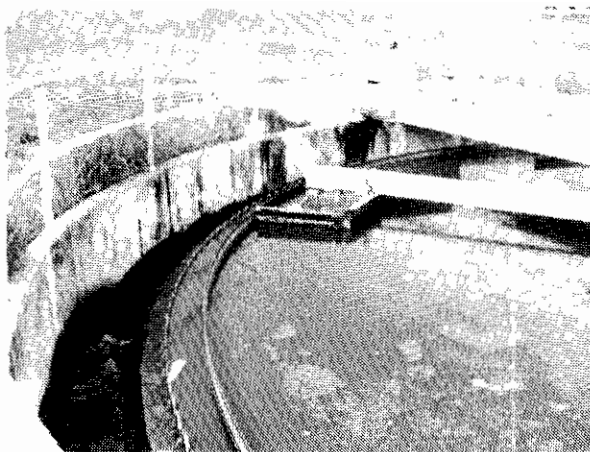
Sewer Department

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise--
1933 to 1939)*

Shortly after the Prairie Grove Water System was approved in 1933, the citizens of Prairie Grove began work on a Sewer project, knowing they would go hand-in-hand. After four years their untiring efforts were rewarded when the Sewer project was approved July 1937.

Ordinance No. 112, authorizing and directing that the necessary steps be taken by the Incorporated Town of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, for the installation of a municipal Sewer System, was passed by the City Council November 13, 1933. Application was made to the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for a loan or purchase of bonds.

The original contract for the

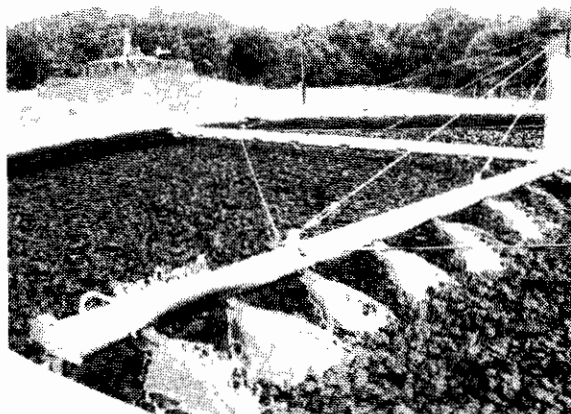


Trinkling Filter

Prairie Grove Sewer System was for a loan of \$36,363, but on November 10, 1938 a revised allotment allowed for a loan of \$20,000 and a grant of \$16,363.

Bids for the project were opened November 21, 1938 at 10 a.m., at the Farmers & Merchants Bank. Terms required that work on the project must begin by January 1, 1939. Tanner Paving Company was low bidder for the Sewer System project.

The initial sewer system was designed to provide main lines through as much of the town as could be served with the \$36,363 in grant and loan funds. It was soon found that additional funds



Filter

would be required, and on April 27, 1939, application was made for an additional loan and grant so that the Elizabeth Hospital and other parts of town could be provided sewer service.

The sewer mains were laid in the alleys at the back of the

business houses, and Buchanan Street was cut only in one place, at the crossing in front of the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

The disposal plant was planned to be located on the Muddy Fork north and west of Prairie Grove along the natural drainage of the City, but right-of-way problems prevented this. A tract of land of about eight acres, a quarter-mile south of Highway 62 and Muddy Fork bridge, was purchased from Earl Cunningham. The Sewer Plant consisted of a settling tank, filters and drying beds. This site was used until 1970. Mr. Ganaflo, engineer for the Public Works Administration, expressed the opinion that the Prairie Grove plant was one of the most complete systems which had been built in the area under his supervision.

In 1964 the City officials began to realize that Prairie Grove was outgrowing its sewage disposal system, and McGoodwin, Williams and Yates Engineering Firm began a study for current needs and a new Sewer System.

In 1970 a Revenue Bond issue for \$184,000 from the Farmers Home Administration was made for a new sewage treatment plant. The two-stage bio-filtration plant with a capacity of 500,000 gallons per day, was constructed Northwest of Prairie Grove on Muddy Fork. A 30-acre tract of land was purchased from the Lokey estate. The project also included 10,874 feet of 15", 12" and 10" clay pipe, manholes, etc. A well was drilled at the plant and used until 1986 when a potable water line was laid from the city to the plant.

In 1980 the land used for the city's first sewage disposal plant was traded to the Yosts for a right-of-way down Baggett Street for the new Universal Electric plant.

McGoodwin, Williams and Yates, city engineers, are presently working on plans for major improvements at the Sewer

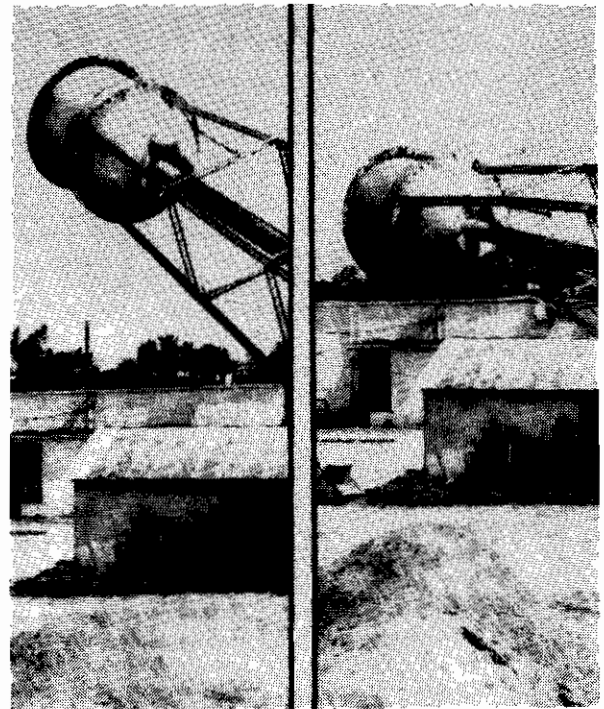
Treatment Plant to meet requirements of the 1988 Clean Water Act.

The Prairie Grove Sewer System presently serves 750 connections.

REMOVAL OF WATER TOWER IN 1983 PROVIDED NEWS STORY OF THE YEAR

*(Prairie Grove Enterprise,
July 28, 1983)*

The Prairie Grove City Council voted in February to remove the city's 50-year-old water storage tower which had not been



*Removal of Water Tower Damages Several
Buildings*

used since 1980. When water from the city lake was pumped into the tower at the lake, it came by gravity flow into the city water system.

Service Enterprises Corporation of Evansville, Indiana, was the low bidder at \$4,610 for removal of the tower and was awarded the contract.

The operation to fell the tower began early Sunday morning as the contractor cut support bars on the bottom section of the tower and severed the northeast leg, the southeast leg and the standpipe. The southwest and northwest legs were "notched"

and were expected to act as a "hinge" as the tower fell.

A cable had been attached to the top of the tower and the other end was secured to a wrecker. After the area was cleared, the wrecker made its first assault at the tower. It budged slightly, but the front end of the wrecker came off the ground. Workers weighted the front end of the wrecker with a nearby backhoe and the wench was started again.

The tower slowly started to fall toward the alley and the cable went limp. The trouble began when it reached about a 30-degree angle. With the northwest leg obviously buckling, the tower changed directions about 45 degrees and took its aim on the buildings.

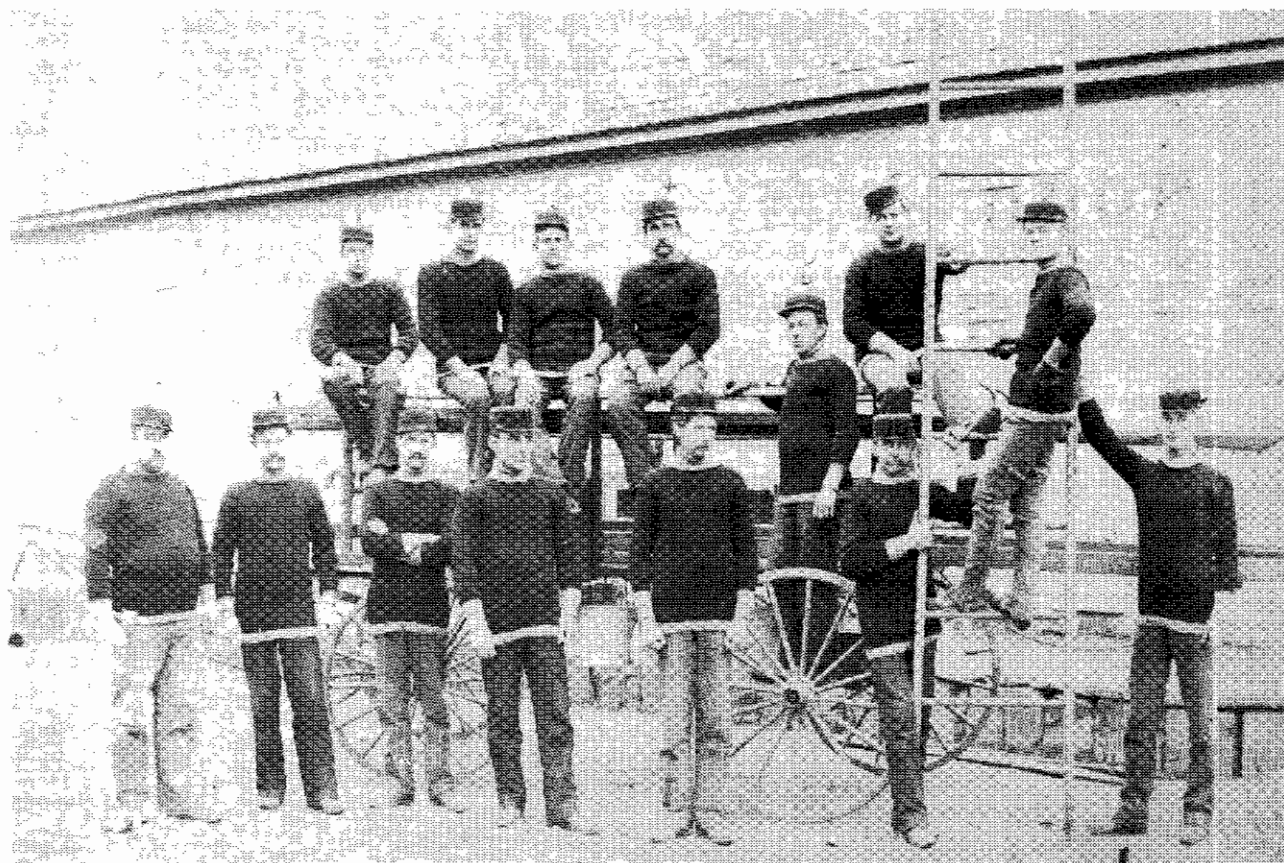
There were no injuries, but

hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage was done to the Crescent Department Store and Farmers True Value Hardware. Sterling Drug also received lesser damage in the mishap.

The contractor was covered by liability insurance and restitution was made to the store owners.

The following day four huge cranes worked in unison to successfully remove the misguided Prairie Grove water tank from the top of the two businesses. The operation, which took about four hours, went without a hitch. Portions of the tower were cut off and removed with cranes. Then all four cranes were attached to the structure, estimated at 35 tons, and it was lifted from the buildings.

Fire Department



New Bucket and Ladder Truck, early 1900s

Prairie Grove Firemen pose with new bucket-and-ladder wagon, Front Row; M. M. Collier, Tom Dixon, Unidentified, D. N. McCormick, Unidentified, Unidentified, and Clem Cummings.

Back Row; L. L. Baggett, Sam Davis, Tom Hart, Unidentified, Charley Nixon, Van Carl and Jim Nixon.

(Park Photo)

FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

(Information provided by David Stills, Fire Department Secretary)

Many buildings in early Prairie Grove were lost by fire before the advent of city water supplies and motorized vehicles. Bucket brigades had the almost futile task of extinguishing fires by carrying buckets of water and using dynamite to prevent spread of the flames.

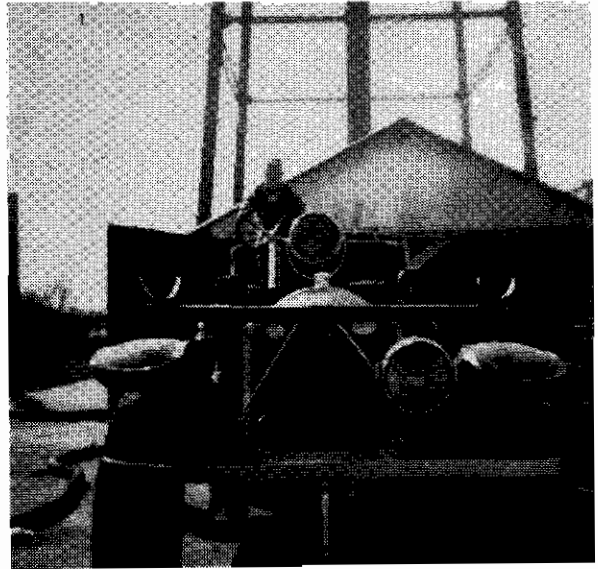
In the early 1900s a Volunteer Fire Company was organized, and a pull-type vehicle equipped with ladders and buckets, was used. (A picture of this vehicle will be found elsewhere.)

In 1922 the town officials organized a fire company to have charge of the new Chemical Fire Extinguisher which was ordered. Members of the company were: Isham Porter, chief; Arthur McCormick, assistant chief; S. J. Campbell and J. C. Parks, hosemen; James K. Woodruff, Lake Hannah and Charles Woolverton, ladder men. "These officials were authorized to call to their assistance such help as is needed in case of fire."

The following quote is from the Prairie Grove Herald of December 12, 1922: "Of course this apparatus (the Chemical Fire-truck) is not of the largest pattern, but it will be a great help in fighting fires. It has a 50-gallon tank, and will throw a stream 60 feet high, and carries 100 feet of hose. It can be re-charged in a few minutes. The apparatus used at present is to be worked over and made more efficient and easier to handle."

The next fire-fighting equipment added to the system was described as a "chemical extinguisher of fires with two 35-gallon tanks mounted on a one-ton Ford chassis." It was supplied with "200 feet of hose and an ample supply of ladders, hooks, axes, bars, etc."

As time passed, the Prairie Grove City Officials cooperated with the Fire Department in ex-



American-LaFrance Fire Truck used in Prairie Grove for a time in the 1930s.

(J. A. Smith Photo)

panding and purchasing more efficient equipment. As this History is being compiled in 1988, the Prairie Grove Fire Department is above average in personnel and equipment, surpassing most towns of this size in the area.

From its original location in the Prairie Grove Garage (where the Farmers Hardware Paint Store is now located), the Fire Department was moved to the old city tool house which had been moved to the lot south of the City Water Office, for future storage of trucks. In 1952 a contract was let for building a new fire station and city building by adding on to the south and west of the water office.

About 1973 the Prairie Grove Fire Department proudly occupied its beautiful new facility on the East side of South Neal Street, its present location.

Current officers of the Prairie Grove Fire Department are: Randall Rieff, Chief; Tommy Smith, Captain; Randy Tyree, Captain; David Stills, Secretary-Treasurer; and Harold Bottoms, Inspection Officer.

Present firemen are: Ken Aman, Doug Bartholomew, Harold Bottoms, Tom Calvert, Mark Cook, Larry Crawley, J. L. Flynt, Tim

Franks, Gordon Hart, Dwayne Higgenbotham, Roger Hulse, Bobby King, Loyd Luginbuel, Stacy Luginbuel, Murphy Pair, Randall Rieff, Tom Smith, Tom Tom Smith, Jamin Snarr, David Stills, John Teekell, Randy Tyree and Roger West.

A partial list of those who have served as Prairie Grove Fire Chief includes: Isham Porter, Arthur McCormick, Jimmie Smith, Billy Harp, Joe Parks, James Fidler, Bobby Rice, Lee Couch and Randall Rieff, present chief.



Fire Station and Fire Trucks

Current apparatus in use by the Prairie Grove Fire Department includes the following:

Engine 31: 1982 Pumper/Tanker, 1500 gpm, 3000 water tank;

Engine 35: 1980 Brush Pumper, 300 gal. water tank;

Engine 36: 1969 Pumper, 500 gpm, 500 gal. tank;

Engine 39: 1971 Pumper, 500 gpm, 500 gal. tank;

Engine 38: 1973 Rescue/Pumper, 500 gpm, 500 gal. tank, rescue equipment;

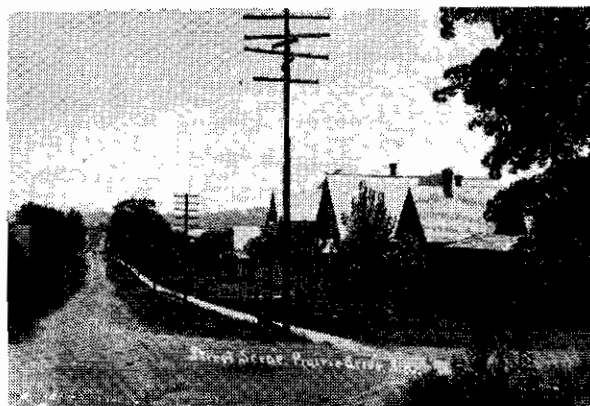
T-1: 1977 Tanker, 550 gpm, 5600 gal. tank;

T-2: 1979 Tanker, 6300 gal. tank.

The ISO Fire Rating changes for the City of Prairie Grove were: from 8th to 7th in 1973; and from 7th to 6th in 1980. These ratings affect rates charged for fire insurance.

Prairie Grove Rural Fire Association, Inc., was incorpor-

ated in 1969 on petition of Lloyd Rouse, Everett Hart, Wayne Hall, Lavonne Hall, Glenn Curt-singer, Earl Cates, Bob Ray, Chester McKee, Bucky Morris, Dean Ramsey, Ellis Thurman and C. L. Ake.



Old Photo showing residential street

(M. L. West Photo)

RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION

The Rural Fire Association made memberships available to rural residents in its territory and money received from these dues was used to purchase a specially equipped rural truck. The truck was to be housed in the Prairie Grove Fire Station and manned by Prairie Grove Firemen.

Board Members of the Rural Fire Association are: Everett Hart, president; Dan Castor, Philip Clement, Bucky Morse, Dale Quinton, Earl Rieff and A. C. Williams. Currently the Rural Association has a membership of 1300 plus.

Since August, 1985 the Farmington Fire Department has been working in conjunction with the Prairie Grove Rural Fire Association and the Prairie Grove Fire Department to provide improved fire protection to the rural area surrounding the two cities. In 1985, the Rural Fire Association placed a pumper, and in 1987 a 5600 gallon tractor/trailer tanker in the Farmington Fire Station. These units are manned by Farmington Firemen and respond to rural fires in the area. This arrangement has resulted in improved response

times and greater manpower resources at the fire-scene. All calls now directed to either the Farmington or Prairie Grove Fire Departments will be answered simultaneously by both departments. This results in automatic mutual aid for both cities, in addition to the rural areas.

The Prairie Grove Fire Department provides heavy extrication services for the Western part of Washington County. This includes the following areas: Prairie Grove, Farmington, Lincoln, Hog Eye, Cove Creek,

Strickler, Morrow, Evansville, Summers and all the areas surrounding these communities.

The Prairie Grove Fire Station is the location of the Paramedic Ambulance for the Western part of Washington County. In August, 1987, Central Emergency Medical Service placed an ambulance in the Prairie Grove Fire Station to support the City of Prairie Grove's request for paramedic-level care. This area is now provided with 24-hour-a-day paramedic ambulance care.

Law Enforcement



Law Officers: Left to right--Chief Lee Terry, Robert Gibson III (Arkansas State Policeman), Greg Lovett, Wayne Dearman, Tommy

Smith, Gary Ricker, David Stills, Tim Franks, Randall Rieff and Mark Cook,

(Police Dept, Photo)

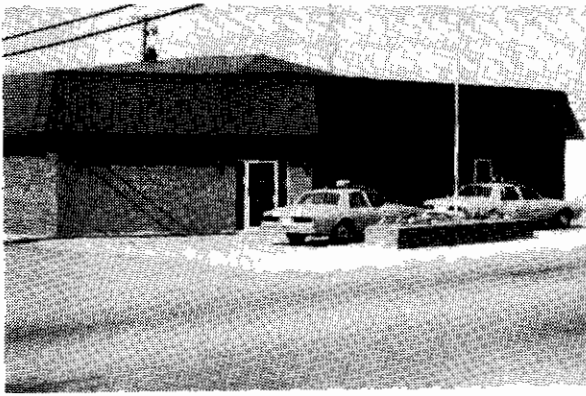
PRAIRIE GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Many changes have been made in law enforcement in Prairie Grove during the past century. When the town was incorporated in 1888 there were few laws to enforce and constables or marshals kept the peace.

In the '20s, '30s and '40s, merchants contributed to a fund to pay a night-watchman whose chief duty was to protect local businesses and keep the peace. Names of those who served in that capacity are incomplete, but the following were among those who served as night

watchmen and law enforcement officers: Isham Porter, Gene Denton, Al Napier, Harris Abercrombie, Jim Cavett, Bert Russell, Luther Jones, Elmer Remington, Tom Ash, Dick Maxey, Dean Remington, Claud Ferguson, J. C. Duckett, Eldon Davis, Jess Shader, Finis Smith, Jack Neal and Lee Terry.

Terry says that when he began work in the Police Department in 1970 there was only one police car and one police radio. The radio was located in the marshal's home. Finis Smith was marshal and he had Jack Neal, J. B. Traylor, Bill Estep, Bill



*City Administration Building
(D. Wiswell Photo)*

Yancey, Steve Hamilton and Ruben Strong working as deputies.

At that time the job of marshal required no training and they were appointed by the mayor. When Finis Smith retired, Jack Neal became marshal and Lee Terry was deputy marshal.

Neal and Terry took training to meet requirements to become policemen instead of marshals. They trained through the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy, the FBI, the Fayetteville Police Department, and the

University of Arkansas Department of Public Safety.

When Neal moved from Prairie Grove, Terry became City Marshal and Guy Keene was deputy. The Police Department then moved from the fire station into the remodeled former Magnolia Station on the corner of Buchanan and Neal.

Dr. Emmett Davidson, Dr. R. D. Manning, mayor, and Terry began working with Owen Barnes of LEAA to obtain a grant to build a municipal court building. The police department building was remodeled to house the police department, municipal court room and offices.

Bob Gladwin is municipal judge; Wanda Allen is municipal court clerk and Betty Johnson is assistant court clerk.

The police department personnel includes Lee W. Terry, chief of police; Wayne Dearman, Gary Ricker and Gregg Lovett, patrolmen; Dee Terry, clerk; and David Stills, Doug Bartholomew, Tim Franks and Mark Cook, auxiliary officers.

Families

JUDGE H. P. GREENE

The Articles of Incorporation for the Town of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, were signed July 25, 1888, by H. P. Greene, County Judge of Washington County, Arkansas.

H. P. Greene was born in White County, Tennessee, June 4, 1828, the son of Wesley and Catherine Green. He was a direct descendant of Nathaniel Greene of the Revolutionary War.

His parents died when he was seven years old and he became a "bound boy" to Alfred Davidson. He grew up in Green County, Missouri, and became a teacher.

In 1860 he was elected for Christian County, Missouri, to the Legislature for two terms. In 1861 he helped organize Company F, 4th Regiment of Missouri Volunteers of the U.S. Army and served as Commander until cap-

tured two years after the war started.

After the end of the war, Greene lived in Texas two years before moving to Cane Hill, then to Prairie Grove in 1886. He lived in the old Tom Dyer home on West Bush, presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Frank.

He was elected to the lower house of the legislature in 1884, and two years later became County and Probate Judge of Washington County.

H. P. Greene was a founding deacon of the Prairie Grove Baptist Church when the white frame church was bought in the country and moved to Prairie Grove.

His first wife was Elizabeth Tillman of Christian County, Missouri. They had five children, three sons and two daughters, one of whom was Mattie Greene Hannah. Paul Hannah and John Hannah of Muskogee are

great grandsons of H. P. Greene.

Later Judge Greene's first wife died and he married M. J. McGlothlin January 9, 1874. They had two daughters: Ottie Greene Sharp Edmiston, and Caddie Greene Beaty. J. O. Beaty of Summers is a son of Caddie Beaty and provided the information in this article.

Ottie Greene married J. P. Edmiston then J. S. Sharp. J. O. Beaty had one daughter, Iris J. Jones, who lives in Greenland. She has two children. The late Clyde Ross of Prairie Grove was a nephew of H. P. Greene's wife.

H. P. Greene died in Prairie Grove and was buried at New Hope, southwest of town.

STRICKLER FAMILY

A. T. (Albert) Strickler moved from the community of Strickler to Prairie Grove in 1900. He married Mary Brewster and they had ten children, including W. G. and Jim Strickler.

W. G. (Goob) Strickler was a barber and worked in a barber shop in Prairie Grove about

1912. The shop was located where Eddie McClelland operates a barber shop at the present time.

Jim Strickler married Emily McClelland of Zinnamon community in 1902. They were married at Prairie Grove and moved to a home on East Cleveland Street where they lived and raised five children. The house was sold in 1973 and Loy Long recently built a new home on the lots.

Jim owned and operated a blacksmith and wagon making shop on South Mock Street and began work there in 1900. His father, Albert Strickler, also worked in the shop. (Nations' Hardwood building is now on the ground where the shop was located.) In 1930 the shop was sold to Jim Smith and Jim Strickler moved some of the blacksmith equipment to a small shop back of his home and operated there. Jim Strickler died in 1951 and Emily died in 1972.

Children of the Jim Stricklers were:

Lillian Strickler Gray,
mother of two children;
Grace Strickler married

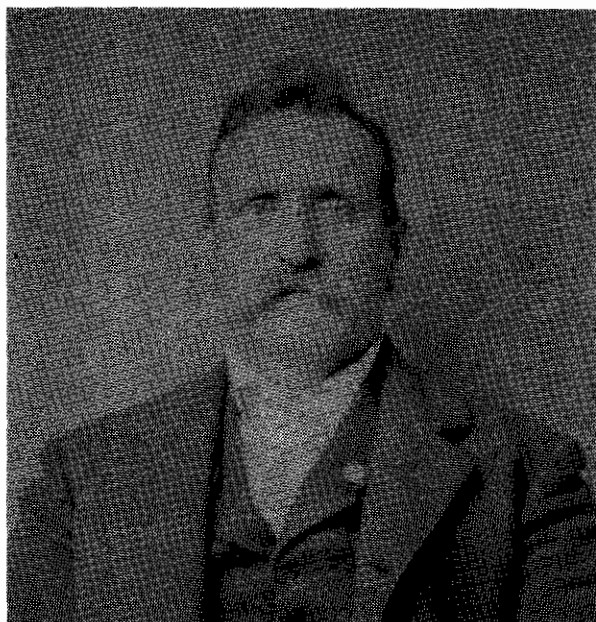


(6, Geiger Photo)

Strickler Family--Standing; Mark Richardson and baby, Earl; Dolly Richardson, Jim Strickler, Emily Strickler, Ben Strickler, Ida Strickler, Mattie Strickler Watts, Oscar Strickler, Pate Holland, Arthur Strickler Holland and baby, Lula Mae, W. G. Strickler,

Gertie Strickler and baby, Oscar Burl (Pete); Seated; A. T. Strickler with Grace Strickler Geiger on lap, Mary Brewster Strickler with Clarence Strickler on lap; Standing; Lillian Strickler Gray; on ground; Eva, Noah Richardson, Arville, Leon, Albert Strickler.

Lilburn Geiger April 20, 1929. They lived in Fayetteville fifteen years then moved back to Prairie Grove. Lilburn died July 20, 1958 and is buried in the



A. T. Strickler, blacksmith at Strickler, moved to Prairie Grove in 1900 and started shop on South Mock Street. (G. Geiger Photo)



Jim Strickler followed his father's trade as blacksmith in Shop on South Mock Street. They also built wagons. Sold shop to Jim Smith in 1929 or '30. Pictured on horse which he raced. (G. Geiger Photo)

Prairie Grove Cemetery. They had four children: Jim Geiger of Houston, Texas, has two children; Joe Geiger of Augusta, Georgia; Roger Geiger of Denver, Colorado, has two adopted children; Mary Nell (Mrs. Kermit) McFarland lives in Louisiana, Missouri, and has four children and six grandchildren.

Ruth Strickler Benson, mother of one son;

Carthel Strickler married Dymple Vanderpool, they had one son, John David;

Hazel Hamilton, mother of four children and grandmother of six.

Mrs. Grace Geiger is the only one of the Strickler children still living. Her home is on North Summitt Street, Prairie Grove.

BELLS, FATHER AND SON, DIE WITHIN TEN HOURS OF EACH OTHER

In April, 1914, Prairie Grove residents were shocked by the death of two of its prominent citizens, J. M. Bell and his son, Dr. Vincil B. Bell, who succumbed within ten hours of each other from the same disease, pneumonia.

J. M. Bell was born in Calloway County, Missouri, August 8, 1832. He married Miss Juan Norfleet of Miller County, Missouri, August 12, 1858. To this union were born four children. J. M. Bell was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and served every office of the Sunday School and church except that of minister. He was a gallant Confederate soldier and participated in the Battle of Prairie Grove.

Dr. Vincil B. Bell was born in Vernon County, Missouri, October 5, 1880, the son of J. M. and Juan Norfleet Bell. He was converted and joined the Methodist Church while attending Polytechnic College in Fort Worth, Texas, when he was only seventeen years of age. He married Eula Bates and they had

three children: Alvin, who married Emilie Cummings, and they had one daughter, Emilie; Eleanor, who married Leslie Nations, and they had two children, Nancy and Charles; and Vincil, who was born in September after his father died in April. Vincil married Pauline Harrison, and they had two children, Larry and Juann.

Dr. Bell had been in Chicago all winter attending the Chicago Veterinary College and had returned to his home in Prairie Grove on Saturday, April 4th, 1914. Shortly after his arrival, his father, who was suffering from pneumonia, became worse and Dr. Bell assisted his wife and mother in caring for him until a nurse had to be called in. He died April 12, 1914.

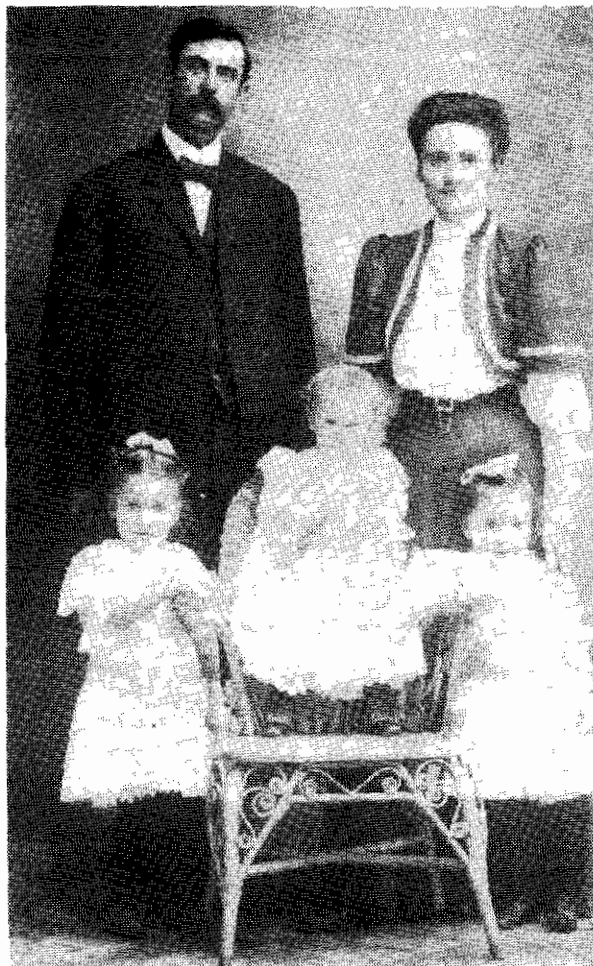
Dr. Bell, who had been feeling ill, became worse and succumbed to pneumonia at 4 a.m. Monday morning, just 10 hours after his father's death. Eula, the young wife of Dr. Bell also took pneumonia and lay critically ill for some time. She was pregnant at the time and a son, Vincil B. Bell was born the following September 27th.

A double funeral service was held from the Methodist Church on April 14 at 10:30 with the pastor, Rev. W. B. Wolf officiating. The bodies were laid to rest in one grave in the Prairie Grove Cemetery. Masonic rites were conferred at the burial, and Confederate Veterans attended in a body.

April 4, 1940, Mayor J. F. Holmes announced a WPA project for blacktopping ten or fifteen blocks of city streets. Mock Street from Dodson Lumber Co. (present Jones Lumber Co.) to North City limits. Also Depot (Neal) Street from the schoolhouse to two blocks South of Buchanan, and from the schoolhouse West to the city limits on Viney Grove Road. Work calls for curbing and guttering as well as blacktopping.

RAMSEY FAMILY

John Wesley Ramsey, the third child of Richard Marion and Mary Elizabeth Ramsey, was born November 4, 1874 in Etowah



Mr. and Mrs. John Wes Ramsey and children, Jewel, Pearl and Ophelia, Taken around 1908, (D. Ramsey Photo)

County, Alabama. He moved with his family to Washington County, Arkansas at the age of twelve. They settled near Campbell School, northwest of West Fork. He married Ida Lee Stephens, the niece of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Harrison, on August 28, 1902 and moved to the B. H. Harrison farm which he bought in 1904.

They had six children: Laura Jewell, died at eight years of age; Ozelma Pearl/m. Oren McKee; Ruth Ophelia/m. Charlie Terpening; Sylvia Marie/m. Claude Hale; William Dean/m. Grace Maddox; and Wesley Lee/m. Lorraine Kinion.

Ida Lee (Mrs. J. W.) Ramsey

died January 29, 1938. J. W. Ramsey died June 3, 1963. Both are buried in Illinois Chapel Cemetery.



*Wesley and Dean Ramsey
(D. Ramsey Photo)*

DEAN RAMSEY FAMILY

William Dean Ramsey, born December 4, 1911, and Wilma Grace Maddox, born April 6, 1914, were married April 29, 1933. They had four sons:

John William (Bill), born July 30, 1934; married Evelyn Elizabeth Vaught on March 24, 1961. She was born June 12, 1942. They have two daughters, Becky and Brenda, and make Prairie Grove their home.

Bobby Lee, born July 3, 1936, married Anne Elizabeth Pitts January 20, 1957. She was born May 12, 1938. They have three children, Robin, Cary and David, and live at South Lake, Texas.

James Donald, born September 28, 1940, married Betty Louise Lane on August 31, 1963. They had two sons, Wade and Jason. Donald and his present wife, Marcia, live at Ervin, Texas.

Smoke King's cigarettes for sale at the Drug Store.

(Prairie Grove News, 8-22-1885)

FRED HARRISON FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harrison were married in Decatur and moved to Montana in 1915 where they farmed. They filed papers to homestead land in 1917. However, they decided to return to Arkansas and moved back to Decatur in 1920. In 1922 or '23 they moved to Prairie Grove and occupied the two-story house facing Buchanan Street and owned at that time by Frank Carl. They kept roomers and Mr. Harrison was a Raleigh salesman.

The Harrisons were parents of two children, Vern and Pauline. Vern was born in 1910 and attended the University of Arkansas. He taught math in rural schools, and at Prairie Grove and Farmington. He and his wife, Louise, later lived in Corpus Christi, Texas, and were parents of four children. Vern died in 1967 and was buried there.

Pauline graduated from Prairie Grove High School with the class of 1933. She worked for a time for Drs. Riggall, and married Vincil Bell in 1937. They moved to an apartment at Luginbuel Funeral Home, the former Frank Carl house, on Buchanan Street. Their first child, Larry, was born in 1941. They later moved to the Eula Bell house for a short time, then to a house on North Mock Street where Pauline lived while Vincil was in the Navy. They later moved back to the Luginbuel apartment where they lived when their daughter, Juanne, was born. After the war they bought a home on North Summitt Street and moved in when Juanne was ten months old.

Fred Harrison died May 31, 1954, and Nona Harrison died June 14, 1946. Both were buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Vincil worked at the Sterling Drug, beginning at the fountain when a high school freshman. He graduated in 1932. After working for a number of years with a licensed pharmacist, and taking

a test, he received his license as a pharmacist and worked at the Sterling Drug for many years. After he and his son, Larry, opened Bell Pharmacy at Lincoln, Vincil worked until he was 65 when he sold to Larry. He continued to work two days per week until his death in 1987.

Vincil was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star, Scottish Rites and Lions Club. Pauline is a member of the Methodist Church, Ruth Circle, and Eastern Star, they have two children: Larry married Betty Beeks. They have two children, Tyler of Florida, and Laura, who will attend the University of Arkansas this fall; Juanne, married Jim Ford; they live in Fort Smith and have two daughters, Susan and Sarah.

HISTORY OF OLD BEATY HOUSE

By Maxine Beaty Fortenberry

My cousin, Marie Taylor Harris, grew up in the old house on the corner of Mock and Bush Streets, as did Leon, Juanita and I. She lived there from 1905 until 1925. She was born in 1902, and the Beaty family lived there from 1943 until we left home.

In 1905 when Marie and her



Lev and Lillie Beaty celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 1943. Left to right; Aldah Taylor, Lev and Lillie Beaty, Hattie and Ame Woodruff.

(Beaty Photo)

sisters and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Taylor, moved into the house, it was a small one-story house. The original part is the north ell that extends back toward the Broyles'. Marie doesn't know how old the original part is. I have an abstract on the property. The land



Virgie and Elbert Beaty. Photo made in 1943 in front of the Beaty home at the corner of Mock and Bush Streets.

(Beaty Photo)

was bought from the government in 1855, and the next date is 1880. That could be the date of the first house--just speculation.

Marie's father, J. W. Taylor, was a Prairie Grove merchant. He built the house as it is now, remodeling the old part and adding all the front part in the two-story addition. This was in 1910. It originally had a porch on the east wing which Elbert Beaty (my father) removed some time after he and mother bought the place in 1943.

J. W. Taylor was a Prairie Grove merchant--part owner of the mercantile store formerly located where the *Enterprise* now is. It was sold to the Zellners who moved the stock to Buchanan Street and started the Southern Mercantile.

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Beaty, lived across the street from the big house from the early '40s until their deaths. Our aunt, Aldah Taylor, lived with them for a time.

JIM CARNEY FAMILY

By Phyllis Orr

The (James) Jim Carney family had a son, John. No name available for his first wife. Children were Ellis, Etta and Bill; he then married Emma Morrison. Their children were:

Joseph White (Joe), born November 20, 1878; Lillie and Mollie.

John then married Dora Davis. Their children were: Tom, Pearl, Reona, Beamon and Beatrice.

Joe Carney married Maude Cate January 12, 1902. They celebrated fifty years of marriage January 12, 1952. Their children were:

RUBY, born December 14, 1906. Married Oliver McNair. Children: Clay, married Fern McNair; Coy died August 13, 1941, age 14.

GRACE, born May 26, 1911. Married Loyd Stone. Children:

Ronnie, married Deanna Mullinax. Children: Sandi married Jake Kimbrough; children Robin and Shelby; Terri. Ronnie is now married to Barbara Fincher and they live at Rogers.

Donnie, married Carol Tunnel. Children: Dawn, married Terri Reynolds. Children, Angela, Emmie, Caitlin; David, married Shelia Richardson; Susan married Chris Glenn.

EMMA BELL, born August 15, 1918. Married Argil Bartholomew September 18, 1937. Celebrated their 50 years of marriage September 18, 1987. Children:

Phyllis Mae married Burl Orr. Children: Venessa Mae and Bartholomew Burl (Bart);

Billy Joe, married Willene Neal. Children: Cary Lee, married Kori Jackson. Children: Dustin Lee, Dara Lynn and Dallas Jackson; Steve Joe, married Mary French. Children: Colt Logan. Mitchell Wade;

Dwight Argil, married Carolyn Latta. Children: Nicole Maurea, Clinton Dwight, and Courtne Reann.

Dwight is now married to

Kelley Richardson and they live at Fayetteville.



Mock Street, looking North

***** (W. Thompson Photo)

MR. AND MRS. VIRGIL COUCH

Virgil Couch was a skilled craftsman in many fields--he was a stone mason, a carpenter, a mechanic, and jack-of-all-



trades. His skill as a stone mason was used in the reconstruction at Battlefield Park. When the old Rhea Chimney was to become the Battle Monument at the Park, Virgil was chosen for the job. He took the chimney down, one course of stone at a time, and carefully numbered and marked each stone. It was moved from Rhea and re-built in the Park to exact specifications.

The old log buildings that make up Vineyard Village at the Park were handled in the same manner--moved one log at a time and rebuilt at the Park, with Couch in charge.

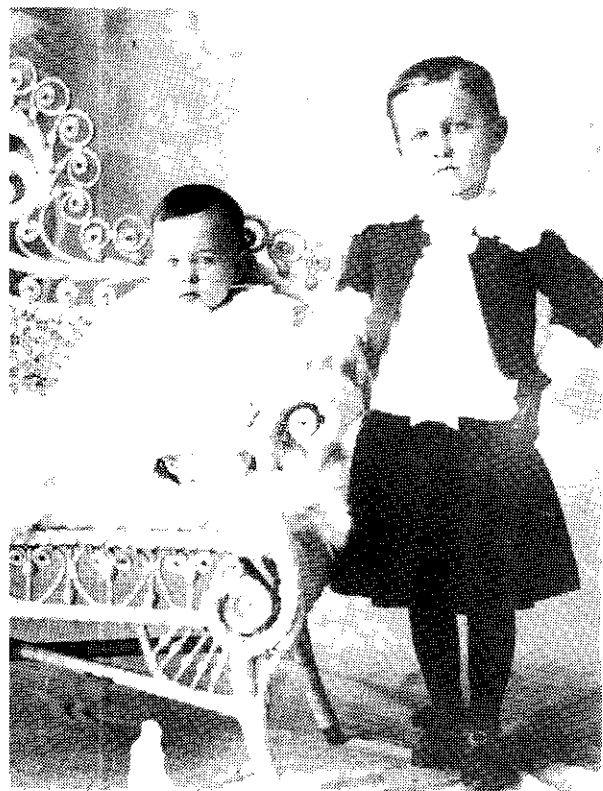
Virgil died May 3, 1982, and was buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Virgil and Mabel Couch lived on East Thurman for many years.

After his death, Mable moved to a home on Wallace Street near her son, Lee Couch and his wife. Mabel has served as supervisor of the Prairie Grove School Lunchroom for many years. She has one granddaughter, Cindy, who lives in Fayetteville.

WILSON FAMILY

William Wilson, born 1807 in Georgia, came to Little Rock, Arkansas with his wife, Eliza J. B. McCulloh in 1834. After several years in Little Rock they came to Washington County via Van Buren. They stayed in Fayetteville for a few years before



Rollans Wilson (standing), born 1892; Jack Wilson, born 1895, (Brewster Photo)

moving to the farm between Viney Grove and Rheas Mill in the 1850s.

They had 13 children. Some died in infancy and three boys died in the Civil War. Eliza J. B. and William, with three of the children, are buried on the farm. Albert, Eliza and Andrew, the last of the 13 children, ran the farm.

In 1890 Andrew J. married Nancy Naomi Cunningham. Their

four boys, Rollans, Jack, James and Caswell grew up on the farm. Three of the sons married and moved away. Rollans never married and took care of the old folks. Caswell married Geraldine Carter in 1929 and moved back to the farm in 1938 with their three daughters, Faye, Coretta and Sue. He built his own home on his share of the farm. After their mother, Nancy Naomi, died in 1952, the farm was managed by Rollans and Caswell.

In 1983 Geraldine passed away and in 1985 Caswell married Rachel Barbour. Rollans, at 96 years, is still living in the original house. Jack passed away in his California home in 1985 at 90 years of age. James is in a nursing home in Salina, Kansas, at 88 years. Caswell still lives on and manages the farm at 80 years of age. He now claims six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

RICHEY FAMILY

Henry Clyde Richey was born at Braceville, Illinois, September 30, 1885, the son of Henry Chapin Richey of Indiana, and Mary Elizabeth Tremain.

As a young man, he was a barber in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, Lincoln and Prairie Grove where he worked in the Bon Ton Barber Shop, owned by Ben Wilson in the early 1900s. An old Prairie Grove newspaper tells of the Bon Ton Barber Shop being among the buildings lost in the fire of 1906 which destroyed all buildings on the North side of Buchanan Street.

Richey later bought a sawmill, then a lumber yard in Lincoln which he operated until his sons, Glenn and Harry, took over in the mid '30s. Henry Richey died September 19, 1960. His wife, Vera Bisom Richey, died October 18, 1984.

A daughter, Marybelle, married Crannel H. Miller and they have one son, Dr. C. H. Miller and three grandchildren, all of Fayetteville.

THE ENGLISH FAMILY

By Martha Blakemore

The English family has lived in or near Prairie Grove since 1868. John English and Elizabeth



*James Graham English and Della Florence English in 1914.
(F. Blakemore Photo)*

Graham were married in 1845 and spent the later part of their married life in a home at the East end of Park Street (known as the Hilliard place). They had fourteen children, four of whom died as infants.

Their youngest child, Lewis English, married Laura Bell Walker in 1885. Ten children



*Mr. and Mrs. Graham English and five daughters; Zella Nations, Roxie Miller, Violet Nations, Martha Blakemore, and Joy Bartholomew.
(F. Blakemore Photo)*

were born to this union and all lived to be grown.

The youngest of these children was James Graham English. He and Della Florence Secrist were married July 1, 1914. They lived at Strickler where he operated a saw mill until 1953 when they moved the saw mill to Prairie Grove. They were parents of five girls; Zella (Nations), Roxie (Miller), Violet (Nations), Martha (Blakemore), and Joy (Bartholomew), all of whom live in or near Prairie Grove. There are ten grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

ARTHUR L. CAMPBELL FAMILY

W. C. Campbell and his wife, Plemely Josephine Richie Campbell, came from Tennessee in 1870 and located at Alma, Arkansas. A few years later they



*Left to right; Texas Florida Alfred, Dr. Arthur L. Campbell and Etta Hall (Sisters of Dr. Campbell)
(H. Mobley Photo)*

moved to Cedarville and reared a family of fifteen children, one of whom was Arthur L. Campbell, who was born March 27, 1887.

Arthur moved from Alma to Strickler to work in his Uncle John Neal's store. (John was the father of S. H. Neal.) In 1900 Arthur Campbell married Princess Deborah Neal. They had four

children, all born at Strickler, except Lillian.

They moved to Prairie Grove in 1912 and operated the old Red Front Grocery Store and Wagon Yard on South Mock Street. They



Picnic at Bug Scuffle in 1890, A. L. Campbell, second from left (H. Mobley Photo)

later operated Campbell Grocery and Market on the North side of Buchanan.

Four children were born to the Campbells:

Hester married Roe Mobley. They had four children; John Paul Mobley (deceased), Mary Ann Bowling of Rogers, Faye Mobley (deceased); and Arthur Scott Mobley of Maryland;

Lois married Marvin Moore. They live on a farm west of Prairie Grove;

John married Betty Brewer, and they lived on the corner of Kate Smith and Bush Street, Prairie Grove. Betty died in 1982 and John died in 1986;

Lillian married Roy McKenzie. They had three children, Sue McKenzie of Little Rock, Coleen Knowles (deceased), and Jean Parker of Connecticut;

Carthel married Goldie Tyree, and they had one son, Bill Campbell, who lives West of Prairie Grove.

A. L. Campbell married Allie Jones in the mid-forties, and they had one son, Allen, who is married and lives in California. Mrs. Allie Campbell presently lives on East Buchanan Street in Prairie Grove.

A. L. Campbell began work as

a veterinarian in 1928 and practiced over 40 years. Arthur and John went to Little Rock in 1938 for an examination which made them licensed veterinarians.

Arthur Campbell and his son, Carthel, both died in 1961 and were buried at Prairie Grove Cemetery.

THE JONES CONNECTION

Lewis Leroy Jones, 1893-1975 (better known as "L.L." or Lee), was a businessman involved in various enterprises in and around Prairie Grove for most of his adult life.

In 1930, after several years of store operation and saw milling in the Strickler-Devils Den area, Lee moved with his wife, Bina, and four children to Prairie Grove--which became the Jones hometown from there on.

Jones' first business venture here was a partnership with Arthur Campbell in the Ideal Grocery, located at 124 South Mock Street. The site had once been a wagon yard, with many of the buildings and pens still intact and usable. Also, a commercial (drive-on) scale was located on the premises. These facilities were to figure prominently in the Jones livestock business, which soon started as a sideline and grew to be a major livestock dealership in West Washington County.

In 1936 the partnership was



Unidentified, L. L. Jones, Lorene Jones and Paul Sharp (Jones Photo)

dissolved and the food store re-organized as L. L. Jones Grocery. James A. (Jim) Smith had been active in the first operation for a short time before moving across the street to start a successful automotive business, known for many years as Smith's Garage.

The store continued as L. L. Jones Grocery through the Great Depression and into World War II when it was sold to Ernest Baugh in 1942. Basically a family enterprise, the storekeeping activities and/or related chores were shared in turn by the four Jones kids: H. D. (Dan), Lorene, Paul (later to be manager of Jones Lumber Company), and Leroy (Lee). Long-term employees and associates included Paul Sharp, now of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and the late John J. Fidler.

Much, if not most of the business was done on credit; and during the depression years many customers found themselves in circumstances in which they simply could not pay. Many moved to other parts of the country seeking work--leaving unpaid bills. Later, long after Lee's retirement, he was gratified (but likely not too surprised) when former customers would seek him out to settle accounts incurred 20 to 30 years earlier (thus supporting his oft-repeated observation that "most people do the best they know how").

Although maintaining an office in the store building, Jones' personal time became dedicated almost exclusively to his livestock business. He served as both buyer and supplier to farmers and ranchers over a wide area and frequented livestock markets from Fort Smith to Joplin and Springfield. Before the railroad was removed from Prairie Grove in 1942, he used it for shipments to more distant markets.

The stock pens and public scales were witness to a wide-ranging procession of four-footed occupants: horses, mules,

cattle, sheep, hogs; even a wild boar (javelin) from below the border was on display for a time

One operation which Jones always recalled with mixed emotions was the part he played in the now infamous livestock "purge" of the 1930s. Prices became so depressed that farmers had literally no market for



*John Fidler, Paul Sharp, Lorene Jones
(Jones Photo)*

their livestock (a cow, hog or sheep would sell for scarcely enough to pay for transporting it to market). So the federal planners decided to create a quasi-market, to buy and destroy enough farm animals to relieve the glut. Lee agreed to serve as a buyer for a local phase of the program, and actually saw many truckloads of hogs and cattle killed and buried. While this may have been a successful way to alleviate the economic problems, it was certainly not a pleasant experience, as he recalled.

The public scales operated on the store-stockyard premises were the only such facilities in the area at that time. For a 10¢ ticket, one could obtain the "official" weight of anything from a pig to an elephant. For many years the local canning factory had no scales of its own; and all its tomatoes, berries, etc., were weighed at the Jones complex. Probably the toughest test for these scales,

and their various attendants, occurred during the re-routing and paving of highway 62 through Prairie Grove. For some now-obscure reason, each truckload of gravel used on the project had to be weighed and they came through the Jones scales at a furious pace. Paul Sharp recalls how the drivers were so hurried to keep their loads moving that speed barriers had to be erected to avoid damage to the scales.

After selling the complex in 1942, Jones continued his live-stock activities on a diminishing scale and by 1965 had retired from business completely. Over the years he had owned several stock farms in the area, never keeping any of them for more than a few years at a time. His other business interests included a stint as part-owner of the Prairie Grove Canning Company in the 1950s.

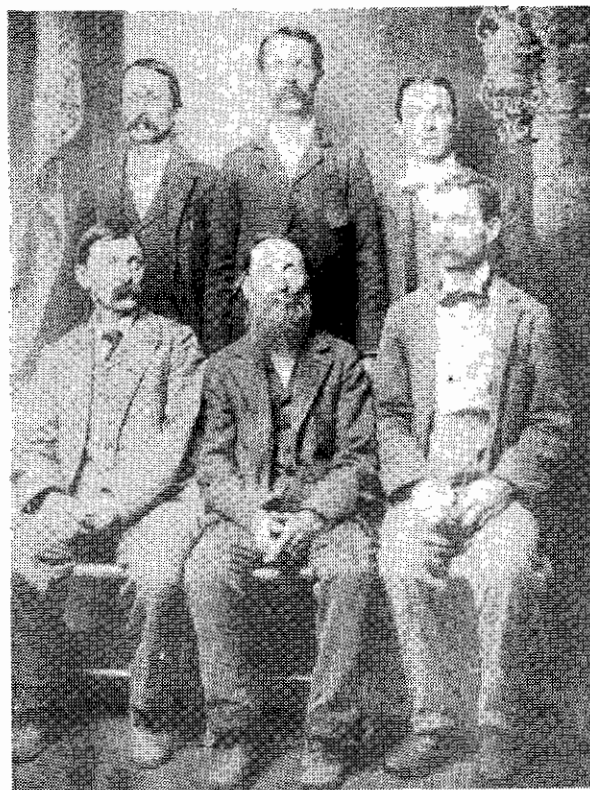
Along with his business activities, Jones found time to serve several terms on the city council, and was a charter member of the Prairie Grove Lion's Club. He was instrumental in organizing and directing the Prairie Grove Singing Convention held annually in Mock Park in the 1930s.

In 1955 Lee joined his daughter and three sons to form what has since been known as the Jones Lumber and Supply Company on South Mock Street. Though never active in the management of Jones Lumber, he served as chairman of its board of directors until shortly before his death in 1975.

DORMAN FAMILY

Mark Warren Dorman, born April 28, 1835, died March 28, 1908. He married Matilda Pogson Dorman, born May 20, 1836, died September 15, 1883. They were parents of nine children: Fred A. Dorman, Ernest H. Dorman, Herbert W. Dorman, Cuthbert Dorman, Christopher Dorman, Ronald Dorman, John Dorman, Victoria and Gertrude Dorman.

All children except John, Victoria, and Gertrude, were born in Manton, Rutlandshire, England. About 1868 the family moved to Arkansas and located on the White River, southeast of Fayetteville. For a short time



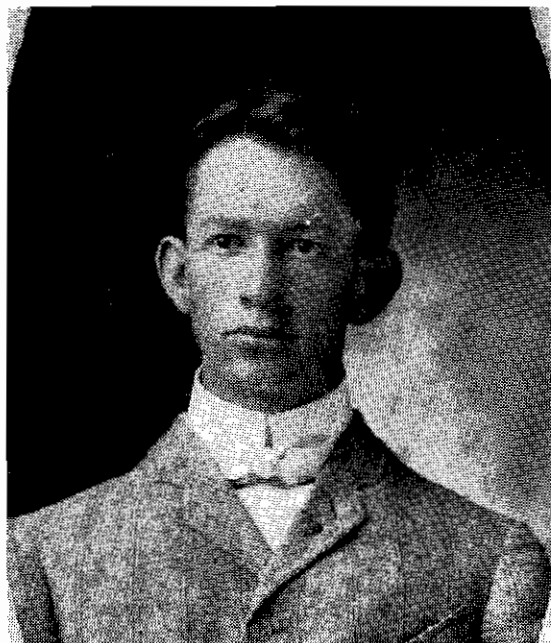
Front Row; Fred A. Dorman (son), Mark Warren Dorman (father), Ernest H. Dorman (son); Back Row; Herbert Warren Dorman (son), John Dorman (son), Cuthbert Dorman (son). (E. Davidson Photo)

they operated a bakery shop in Fayetteville, and later moved to Mountain Gap. Ronald died in infancy; Victoria and Gertrude, believed to be twins, died in infancy and were probably buried on the old Dorman homestead near Mountain Gap.

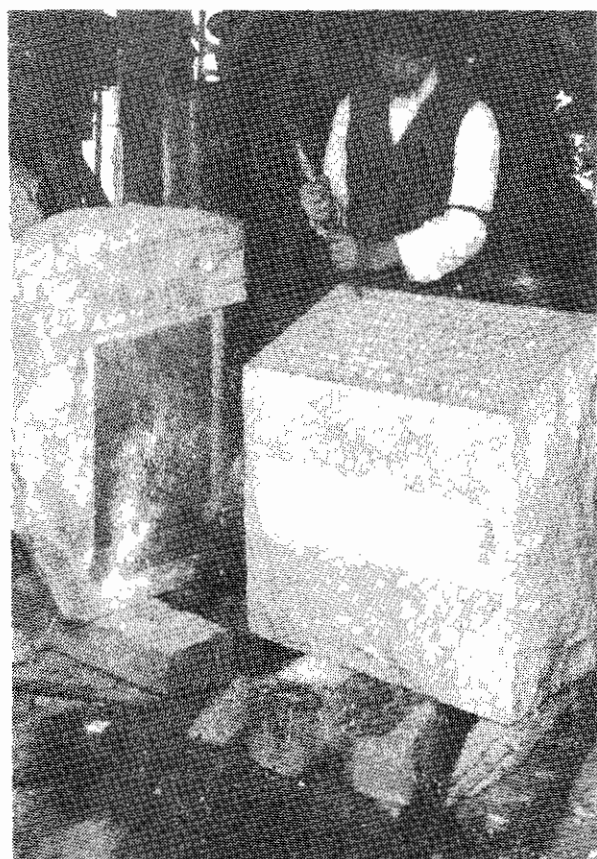
Ernest Henry Dorman, born April 17, 1859, died May 4, 1938. Married Dora Antonio Cohea December 28, 1884. They were parents of six children: Manard Anthony Dorman, Ruby Dorman (Hudson), Mettie Jewel Dorman (Cook), Opal Dorman (Morton), Mary (died in infancy), Beryl Herman Dorman. After the death of his first wife, E. H. Dorman married Jeannettie C. Manly; they had no children.

Manard A. Dorman, born May 2,

1866. Married Rosalie Euge on June 23, 1910. They had three daughters: Eugenia Dorman Davidson of Prairie Grove, Matilla Dorman Cunningham of Rogers, and Joyce Dorman Cunningham of Bethel Grove; and five grand-



Maynard Anthony Dorman (about 1900)
(E. Davidson Photo)



Ernest Dorman at work in Shop
(E. Davidson Photo)

children.

The M. A. Dormans lived on a farm in the Bethel Grove Community. They were active members of the Prairie Grove Methodist Church. The church history tells of Mr. Dorman hauling wagonloads of brick from the Terpening Brick Kiln in the Illinois Chapel community for use in building the church. They were both active in the church choir, Sunday school teachers, members of the various boards and committees.

Manard Dorman served as secretary of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company for many years, and was succeeded by his daughter, Joyce Cunningham.

Manard married Anna Hoover Holmes in January 1966 and they made their home in Prairie Grove until his death November 6, 1974.

CUMMINGS FAMILY HISTORY

By Emilie Cummings Bell

Newton Benton and Lucy McGill Cummings moved to Wesley, AR (Madison County) about 1840 from Bedford County, Tennessee. They came by wagon with two other families--Martin Shofnew and Tom Terry, whose wives were sisters of Lucy McGill.

In Wesley, Newton bought several stores and he started a store. They were active in the growth of Madison County.

In 1843 Kibble Carr was born. In 1860 he enlisted in the army of the Confederacy. He fought in several battles and in the Battle of Helena, AR, he lost an arm. He returned to Wesley after the War and bought the store from his father, Newton. He was successful in the business and invested in farm land in several areas.

In 1880 Newton, Lucy McGill Cummings with son, Kibble Carr and his wife, Emma Vale and their two sons, Hugh Douglas and Ernest Hayden, moved to Prairie Grove.

The land in Prairie Grove

Valley was fertile, so Newton and Kibble bought farms in several areas--Prairie Grove, Fayetteville, Rheas Mill, Stonewall, Lincoln, Illinois Chapel, and Cove Creek.

One farm they bought was on what is now Battlefield Road. Kibble bought an additional 160 acres where his son, Douglas, later built a home for his bride. A granddaughter, Emilie Cummings Bell still lives in the family home.



Ernest Hayden Cummings, born in 1872 at Wesley, AR. (Bell Photo)

Kibble sold 10 acres of land from the farm to Sons of the Confederacy (later the United Daughters of the Confederacy). This was the beginning of Prairie Grove Battlefield Park. All through the years people have come to the Cummings farm and found pieces of bullets and other firearms from the Battle of Prairie Grove because part of the battle was fought on the Cummings farm.

Kibble was interested and active in politics of Washington County. He was County Treasurer



Kibble Carr Cummings, father of Douglas Cummings. (Bell Photo)

1890-1892 and served in other places in county government.

In 1894 Douglas began his studies at what is now the University of Arkansas.

In early 1890 there was a Post Office, Aday, in a small building joining the Cummings farm.

Douglas was a lover of the land, just as his father was and he continued with the farms after his grandfather, Newton Benton Cummings and Lucy McGill Cummings, died in 1892. Douglas was active in the Presbyterian Church and served as an Elder. He was a writer, especially poetry and several poems were published.

Douglas loved horses and was a fine horseback rider. He was a familiar figure, riding a fine horse to town and to the farms. He was known for his sense of humor and as a teller of amusing stories.

In 1903, A. L. Maupin and family moved to Prairie Grove from Harrisburg, VA. They lived in a large home on the Viney Grove Road, known as "The Oaks." (In recent years purchased by the Robert Whitlocks and restored.) One daughter of this family, Mary Rebecca (Bess) Maupin and Douglas Cummings were

married in 1909.

They moved into the home just built by Douglas Cummings on the Battlefield Road in 1909. Bess helped to organize the Presbyterian Church in Prairie Grove, along with her mother, Emma Campbell Maupin, and aunts, Mary Campbell, Roberta Magruder, and others. Bess played the piano for Sunday School and church and



*Mary Rebecca (Bess) Maupin, about 1900,
(Bell Photo)*

was active in church activities. Visiting preachers were always welcome guests in her home. She was never too busy to help others and listen to others' troubles. She was a volunteer with Home Demonstration Agents in teaching homemaking.

Their five children were born in the family home. Children of Hugh Douglas Cummings and Bess Maupin Cummings:

Judge Maupin Cummings, Fayetteville: Circuit Judge for 35 years. Served in the State Legislature, Major General in the Army. Married Louise Kayser. Children, Steve, Dr. Douglas Cummings, Gordon Cummings, lawyer. He has five grandchildren.

Lucy, Monroe, LA: married Dr. W. H. Webster; one daughter,



*Hugh Douglas Cummings, born 1875, Wesley, AR,
(Bell Photo)*

Mary Elizabeth Richardson; two grandsons, John and Edward.

Emilie, Prairie Grove:
Married Alvin Bell; taught school 25 years; one daughter,



*Mrs. H. D. Cummings and son, Maupin, made in
1910,
(Joy Webb Library Photo)*

Emilie Elizabeth Giles; one granddaughter Sara Elizabeth Giles; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Giles and Sara live in Fayetteville.

Mary, Rogers, AR; married Cy Jongeward. Served 23 years in the service.

Roberta, Mrs. Robert Tucker,



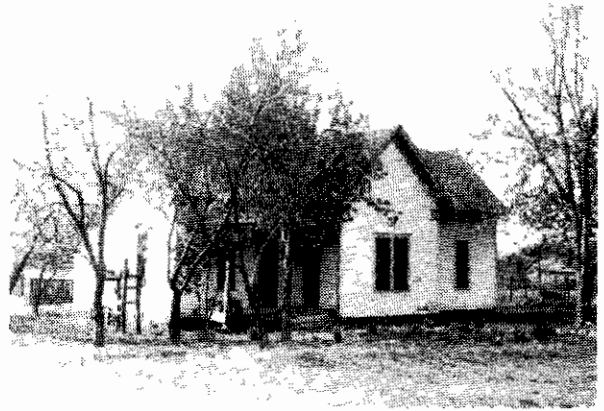
Douglas Cummings family home, built in 1909, on Battlefield Road. Now occupied by Emilie Cummings Bell. (Bell Photo)

Rogers, AR: Five children, nine grandchildren; Nancy (Mrs. Richard) Jennings, two sons, Nick and Richard; Emilie (Mrs. R. R.) Varnell, Ft. Worth, TX, children, Suzanne, R. D., Charley; Bobby Tucker, Persian Gulf, overseas engineer; children, Robert, Sara, Mary Elizabeth; Lucy (Mrs. Brett) Smith, Little Rock, AR; son, Justin; Susan (Mrs. Duke) Chappin,; Houston, TX.

All children and grandchildren are college graduates, several from the University of Arkansas.

FRED CARLISLE

Fred Carlisle moved to Prairie Grove from Farmington in 1919, to operate the Washington County Milling Company. His son, Carl Carlisle, remembers that the mill was powered by a big Fairbanks-Morse diesel engine, whereas the "old mill" (the McCormick Mill on the East) was powered by a steam engine. "The



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carlisle in 1919, last house on East McCormick Street. (C. Carlisle Photo)

diesel engine back then was high tech compared to steam power," Carl said.

After working for the Washington County Mill for four or five years, Carlisle went to Fayetteville to work in a mill.

In 1928 he returned to Prairie Grove and opened a flour, feed and seed store in the building presently occupied by Valley Drug.

He worked for the Southern Mercantile Grocery Department until it closed, then he went to Fayetteville and operated a grocery for Carl Gray.

Carlisle later returned to Prairie Grove and operated the Second Hand Furniture Department of the Southern Mercantile in the building north of the Enterprise office.

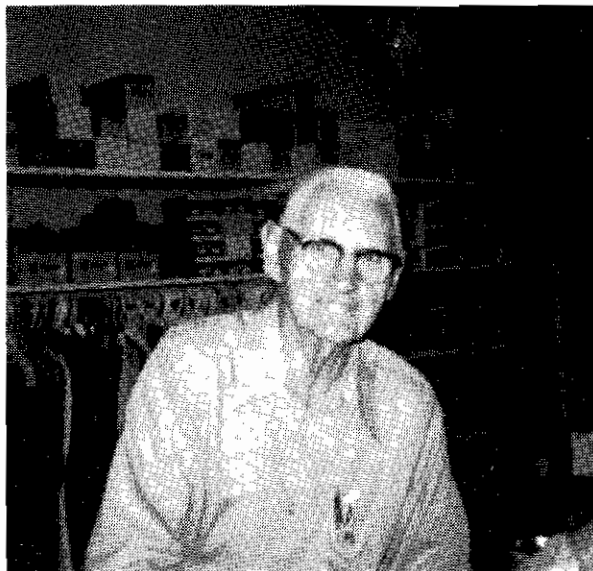
Fred Carlisle's hobby was keeping records of the weather conditions in the Prairie Grove area, and he furnished a weekly column of weather records for the *Prairie Grove Enterprise* during the years it was owned by the Wiswells.

May 10, 1951: Indians retracing the "Trail of Tears" stopped in Prairie Grove, while on the 1200-mile retracing trip to mark the 113th anniversary of the forced removal by American troops of all but a remnant of the once powerful Cherokee Nation to strange lands in the West. Mayor Frank Riggall greeted the delegation.

THE S. H. (DOOD) NEAL FAMILY

By Carolyn Carney

S. H. (Dood) Neal was born September 11, 1895 at Cedarville, the son of John and Naomi Crowell Neal. He grew up in the



*S. H. (Dood) Neal, (Photo taken in 1978,)
(Carney Photo)*

Strickler area where his parents farmed and operated a general store. John Neal was also a Presbyterian preacher.

On September 21, 1915, Dood Neal and Emma Elizabeth (Bettie) Quinton were married at Strickler. Bettie was the daughter of James and Emma Pierson Quinton who also lived in the Strickler area.

Dood and Bettie lived at Strickler where he farmed and operated a general store. Their daughter, Margaret, was born there. The family moved to Prairie Grove in 1917 and after a short time moved back to the farm at Strickler where they lived until about 1924 when they returned to Prairie Grove to make their home. A son, Hugh, was born in Prairie Grove.

Margaret Neal married Howard Carney, son of Claud and Lenora Hannah Carney on April 18, 1945. They have two daughters, Carolyn, a teacher in the Prairie Grove School; and Janette (Mrs. Jimmy) Hall, also with the local school system; three grand-



*Strickler Store, 1900, Operated by John F. Neal, father of S. H. (Dood) Neal
(H. Mobley Photo)*

children, Elizabeth Paige (Betsy) Hall, Aimee Michele Hall, and Neal Thomas Carney Hall. All members of the family are residents of Prairie Grove.

When Dood and Betty Neal moved to Prairie Grove he was employed by a milling company. Later he began work for the Southern Mercantile Company where he was employed for over twenty years.

On September 18, 1952, the Neal family opened Neal's Dry Goods and Dood Neal was active in the operation of the store until his death April 26, 1981.



S. H. Neal with unidentified passenger. Picture taken in front of Webb office, where Sugar Tree is now located. (Carney Photo)

His wife, Bettie, died December 29, 1968.

Hugh Neal and Margaret Carney continued operation of the store until Hugh's death, June 27, 1988. As this history is being compiled, Howard and Margaret Carney are operating

Neal's Dry Goods.

Dood Neal was a member of the First Christian Church where he served as a deacon for many years, and was a member of the Prairie Grove Masonic Lodge.

FADDIS FAMILY

By Kettron Faddis

The Faddis family originally came to the United States from Scotland and settled in Pennsylvania, then west to Virginia and Kentucky. Two of my great-grandfather's brothers were in the Civil War.

My great-grandfather, Franklin Pierce Faddis, came from



Frank Faddis, 1854-1940

(Great-grandfather of Kettron Faddis)

Kentucky to Madison County as a teenage boy, with an older brother. They settled at the head of Kings River near Boston. There were five children by his first wife. He married again after her death and fathered three more children. My grandfather, Henry Faddis, was the oldest child. My father, Isham Faddis, was the oldest son of Henry Faddis. There were six boys and two girls in the family. One girl, older than Isham, died when she was small. The others lived to be grown. Only one is still living.



Photo taken in what is now Buffalo State Park in 1913. Left to right; Laddley Hickman, Isham Faddis and Charley Jones, (K. Faddis Photo)

My father, Isham Faddis, was born in Madison County in 1892. The family later moved to Newton County. They were small farmers, mostly working in timber, logging and saw mills.

My grandfather, Henry Faddis, was killed in a hunting accident in 1909. My grandmother, Sarah Faddis, never remarried. She had a 160-acre farm and the boys worked in the timber and helped support the family.

Isham Faddis married Jeanie Jones, January 14, 1914. My mother's father and step-mother died about this time, leaving four of her younger half-brothers and sisters. Mother and dad and an older brother of my mother's raised three of these children, and an aunt raised the other one.

We moved from what is now the Buffalo River National Park, to Farmington with a team in February, 1922. The weather turned very cold and the creeks froze over. We were three days on the road. We lived on Goose Creek, made a crop, then moved about

3/4 mile south of Farmington on 170 acres. We stayed there 'til the fall of 1923 when we rented a small farm from Mr. and Mrs. Claude Couch just south of Farm-



Isham, Jennie and Kettron Faddis, Photo taken about 1916, (K, Faddis Photo)

ington and east of Old Appleby Switch.

We made a trip back to Newton County in the fall of 1922, sold



Kettron Faddis standing in front of old log house on farm in what is now Buffalo River State Park, about 1918, (K, Faddis Photo)

some cattle we had there and led one milk cow behind the wagon back to Farmington. It took three days to make the trip and the cow had very sore feet!

I went to my first school at Highland, west of Farmington, then attended school at Cemetery Hill about halfway between Farmington and Walnut Grove. This school was later consolidated with Walnut Grove. I had two years high school at Walnut Grove. The high school was then consolidated with Prairie Grove and I finished there, graduating in 1932.

We moved to Prairie Grove, renting Dr. Mock's farm 1-1/2 miles south of town in 1932. I married Lorena David in February, 1938 and we lived with my dad and mother until 1939. We then rented a farm from Roe Mobley (now owned by Jim and Delford Rieff), west of the Mock farm. My parents continued to live on the Mock farm until 1943 when they bought a small place west of Center Point.

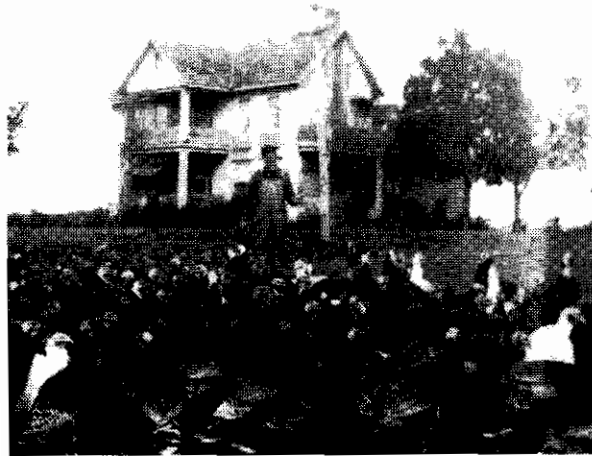
My wife and I lived on the Mobley farm until the fall of '40, when we rented the Jim Mock farm, owned at that time by Lincoln Maupin. Mr. Maupin called the farm "Fanglewood Farm." O. D. Ford, from western Oklahoma, bought the farm before I got moved in the fall of 1940.

We rented from Mr. Ford for seven years, then bought 50 acres from Tom Bell, part of the old Jim Smith farm, in 1945. In 1947 we bought the farm we now live on and sold the Bell land. We bought part of the Mock farm in 1965.

We have three children, Auda Ray, born in 1941. She got a Home Ec scholarship to the University of Arkansas, but decided instead to take a business course at Fayetteville Business College. She worked briefly for Arkansas Western Gas, then was offered a job with the Army engineers in the office at Rogers. They were building Beaver Dam. When that project was closed, she was transferred

to the Arkansas River project, working at Little Rock, Russellville and Ft. Smith. She was later transferred to the Social Security office at Fort Smith where she is still working. She started working for the government in 1960. Auda Ray married Billy John Page in 1979.

Joe was born in 1944. He completed high school at Prairie



Ketron Faddis with flock of turkeys in front of old Mock farm South of Prairie Grove, (K. Faddis Photo)

Grove and graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in engineering. He worked his way through school--two summers with the County Road Department, then for the University. Joe married Querita Shannon of Lincoln when he was a junior at the University. She worked and helped him through his senior year. Later she attended college at Conway and finished with a degree in Home Ec from Memphis State University. Joe worked eleven years for Buckeye Oil Mills, owned by Proctor and Gamble, as an industrial engineer at Little Rock, Montgomery, Alabama, Augusta, Georgia, Memphis, Tennessee, and finished his work with the company at Little Rock in charge of the labor force. He came back to Evansville and bought a dairy farm which he still operates.

James was born in 1947. He graduated from Prairie Grove High School and attended the University of Arkansas for about

two years. He then joined the National Guard. He married Neta Rae Calico and went to work for the Prairie Grove Telephone Company where he had worked as summer help since his sophomore year in high school. He likes the company and the work. He has a 100-acre farm southwest of Prairie Grove and is the father of our only grandchildren, Lance, Jonathan and Jennifer Faddis.

Lance graduated from Prairie Grove high school this year, making five members of the Faddis family, and one daughter-in-law, to graduate from the Prairie Grove High School. There are two more grandchildren we hope to see graduate from Prairie Grove High School.

JAMES CARNEY

By Judy Jones Carter

The James Carney family of Tennessee homesteaded near Prairie Grove, Arkansas at Hogeys in 1832. They had five sons and two daughters. The sons were Henry, George, John, Ellis and Jim. The daughters were Cindy and Mary Jane. Cindy married Will Howell and Mary Jane married John Rutherford.

George Carney, son of James, joined the Union Army and served in Company "C," First Regiment of the Arkansas Cavalry. His father and brothers all served in the Confederate Army. George married Martha Cedonia Barron, daughter of Hiram Barron. The Barrons were also early settlers at Hogeys. Children of George and Martha Carney were Claud, Jimmie, Callie, Tonia and Dora.

Claud Carney, son of George and Martha Cedonia Carney, married LaNora Carney Hannah, daughter of R. O. and Susan Ann Hannah. The Hannahs moved to the area in 1867.

Descendants of this family living in the Prairie Grove area today are children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Claud and LaNora

Hannah Carney. They are as follows: Hugh Carney, Howard Carney, Mary Sue Carney Jones, Carolyn Carney, Janette Carney Hall, Judith Jones Carter, Linda Jones Barnes, Jerry Donald Jones, Betsy Hall, Aimee Hall, Neal Hall, Shawn Barnes and Justin Carter.

The old homestead at Hogeys has been passed down from generation to generation. Claud and Nora Carney were the last of the family to live on the farm before moving into Prairie Grove. Judy and James Carter own the old farm today.

THE DAVID FAMILY

By Roy David

I was born March 9, 1914 in a log room, part of a building where Frank and Jessie James, the famous outlaws, might have slept. My parents were Ren H. and Alice Pyeatt David. My father was the youngest son of Thomas B. David, who came to Arkansas in 1860 after serving in the Confederate Army in Arkansas, being in the Battle of Prairie Grove and others. He came to Cane Hill, Arkansas, in 1868 where he married Prudence M. Whittenburg. They raised a family of four daughters and three sons. Thomas David was a carpenter, horticulturist (developing the King David Apple), and a farmer.

My mother was E. Alice Pyeatt, the daughter of G. Fisk Pyeatt and Lorena M. Edmiston. They had eight daughters and one son. She was a descendant of James Pyeatt, who with his brother, Jacob Pyeatt came to Crystal Hill, Arkansas, near North Little Rock in 1812. In 1828 Jacob led a group to Cane Hill, including Porter and J. Rankin Pyeatt, sons of James Pyeatt. Porter settled near Morrow. They (Porter and John) went to California with the Evans Company in the gold rush of 1849. Porter drowned while attempting to ride a raft down a

canyon.

My father's family moved to a farm Northwest of Prairie Grove in the Fall of 1923. We children went to school at Stonewall District. The building burned in 1924 and the school district was annexed with Prairie Grove. We were transported in a Model T Ford bus, the first school bus in this part of the country, to the old red brick eight-room school with a basement. It was steam-heated. Since that time many other rural schools have consolidated with Prairie Grove.

In the Fall of 1936 Reba Lee Walker and I were married. We had two children, Sondra Louise (Mrs. Bob Frank) of Prairie Grove and Thomas Leroy of Portage, Michigan. We also have five grandchildren and one great grandchild. Reba died in April, 1982, and was buried in the Fly Creek Cemetery.

Reba and I both graduated from high school, as did our son and daughter and several of our brothers and sisters. Several of our families received honors when we finished school.

During our lifetime, in and around Prairie Grove, we have seen many changes, such as: formerly two flour mills, now there is none; a cotton gin come and go; a railroad gone; from electricity produced by a gasoline engine to power transmitted by highlines; natural gas piped in; modern telephone system; modern water and sewer systems; from dirt roads and streets to paved streets and highways.

We have also seen two hospitals come and go. At one time we had several doctors, now we have two. We now have an ambulance service and paramedics. Farming has changed from wheat, corn, oats, meadows, apples, grapes and strawberries, to pastures, cattle and chickens.

Our families have always supported community activities--the churches, schools, clubs, building projects, etc.--anything that would make life

better and help the community grow. Prairie Grove is our home and we are proud of it.

THE CAMPBELL CLAN

*By Phoebe Todd Harris and
Ann LaRue*

"The Campbells Are Coming," and come they did from Virginia still devastated from the War Between the States. First came Bean Cartmell Campbell with his wife, Betsie Todd Walker Campbell and four children -- Robert Douglas, Dorothea, Betsie Gray, and Temple Lockhart Campbell -- on March 1, 1901, to Battle Mead, a farm located down the hill from Prairie Grove Battlefield Park. Adah (Prairie Grove's first post office) was located on the Campbell farm. Mr. Campbell chose to locate in the Prairie Grove Valley because it reminded him of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where he was born and reared (one of 11 children) and later served under General Robert E. Lee in the Army of Northern Virginia -- Company A, 39th Battalion, Lee's Scouts, Guides & Couriers.

Also accompanying the family West was Rose Lee Kearney, who was taken from an orphanage in Washington, D.C. in 1891. She lived with the Campbell-Harris family until her death on December 31, 1948. Rose was a gifted story-teller, taught the Primary Class at the Christian Church for years, and each Sunday afternoon visited the ill and shut-ins, walking every step in her high-top button shoes.

Douglas and Temple Campbell became owners of the bank in Beverly, Kansas, where Douglas' son, David, is now associated with the same bank. Dorothea married J. P. Harris (see Harris family). Betsie was graduated from the Fayetteville City Hospital Nursing School as an R.N. She served in Public Health Work in Tulsa, OK, and in Pueblo, CO, before returning to City Hospital as Night Supervisor.



*Mrs. J. P. (Dorothea Campbell) Harris
(P. Harris Photo)*

Because of health reasons, she retired in 1933, and then lived with the J. P. Harris family until her death January 28, 1977.

In December, 1903, three sisters of B. C. Campbell, with their families, moved to Prairie Grove from Virginia: Mary E. Campbell, Emma C. Maupin, and Roberta C. Magruder.

Mary never married. She resided in a home provided by a brother, J. Edward Campbell of Nowata, OK. "Virginia Home" is located on Bush Street immediately west of the First Presbyterian Church. In later years, after the deaths of their husbands, her sisters, Em Maupin and Roberta Magruder, resided at "Virginia Home." This was headquarters for the reunion on October 21, 1909, of the eleven Campbell brothers and sisters born at Stony Mead in the Shenandoah Valley near Winchester, VA. This was the only day in their lives that the eleven were together. By the time the youngest was born the older brothers were serving in the Confederate Army.

Emma and Abraham Lincoln Mau-



THE CAMPBELL CLAN REUNION

Prairie Grove, October 21, 1909. A reunion was held and the above photo made at "Virginia Home" on Bush Street, just West of the First Presbyterian Church.

1, Robert Madison Campbell 11, Kansas, 2, Mrs. H. D. Cummings (Bess Maupin), Prairie Grove, 3, Mrs. R. W. Magruder (Jonnie Dean), Prairie Grove, 4, Mrs. R. M. Campbell II (Elizabeth Harber), Kansas, 5, Mary Elizabeth Campbell, Prairie Grove, 6, Betsie Gray Campbell, Prairie Grove; 7, Dr. William H. H. Campbell, Dwings Mill, Md., 8, Dr. Josiah L. Campbell, Mt. Lake, Md., 9, Roberta Emilie Maupin, Prairie Grove, 10, Mrs. W. H. H. Campbell (Jessie Grosuch), Dwings Mill, Md., 11, Mrs. J. E. Campbell (Emma Journeycake), Nowata, Okla., 12, Mrs. Nannie E. Hale, Point Pleasant, W. Va., 13, Mrs. B. C. Campbell (Betsie Todd Walker), Prairie Grove, 14, Bean Cartmell Campbell, Prairie Grove, 15, Mrs. Howard Hill (Rebecca Campbell) and son, 16, Maxwell Hill, Lafountain, Kans.,

17, Mrs. William W. Glass (Nannie Campbell), Winchester, Va., 18, Emma Magruder, Prairie Grove, 19, Mrs. Henry Clay Magruder (Roberta Campbell), Prairie Grove, 20, Herbert Lockhart Campbell, Talala, Okla., 22, Mrs. A. L. Maupin (Emma Campbell), Prairie Grove;

23, John Edward Campbell, son of 24, Herbert Lockhart Campbell, Nowata, Okla., 25, E. M. Lockhart, Neodesha, Kansas; 26, Margery Lockhart Magruder, Prairie Grove, 27, Dorothea Campbell, Prairie Grove, 28, Mrs. Maude Hale, Nowata, Okla., 29, Lena C. Gore, Winchester, Va., 30, Mrs. Eugene B. Lawson (Roberta Campbell) with son, 31, Edward Campbell Lawson, Nowata, Okla., 32, Rose Lee Kearney, Prairie Grove, 33, Mrs. H. L. Campbell (Flora Dougherty), Nowata, Okla., 34, H. Douglas Cummings, Prairie Grove, 35, Mrs. Allan Campbell (Lucy Walker), Talala, Okla., 36, Anne R. Magruder, Prairie Grove, 37, John Edward Campbell, Nowata, Okla., 38, Robert Wilson Magruder, Prairie Grove, 40, Eugene B. Lawson; Nowata, Okla., 41, Henry C. Magruder, Prairie Grove, 42, Richard Lee Maupin, Prairie Grove, 43, Major Abraham Lincoln Maupin, Prairie Grove.

pin settled at "The Oaks," a farm located about a mile west of Prairie Grove on the Viney Grove Road, with their children: Mary Rebecca (Bess), Richard Lee who died 3/21/11, Lincoln Ed-

ward, and Emilie. Bess married Hugh Douglas Cummings. (See H. D. Cummings family.)

Lincoln Maupin married Margaret (Madge) Lake. They had one son, Frank Lake Maupin. Lincoln

was one of the pioneers in REA development in Washington County. Madge was active in the Methodist Church and in community affairs, charter member and president of the PTA, Women's Study Club, UDC. Frank, a graduate of the University of Arkansas, taught four years in Prairie Grove High School and worked in the office of Southern Mercantile under the direction of Florence Hill. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II and then worked for Esso and its affiliates in Tulsa, Shreveport, and Houston until his retirement when he returned to Northwest Arkansas and settled at Heritage Bay, east of Rogers. He died in May, 1987.

Emilie Maupin married Howard Clendening of Virginia. Their children were: Herbert C. Clendening (graduate of West Point Military Academy) and Mary Bruce Clendening (graduate of University of Arkansas).

Roberts and Henry Clay Magruder settled at "The Elms," a farm east of Prairie Grove (presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Joe Bartholomew) with their children: Robert Wilson, Anne Rebecca, Mary Emma, Henry Campbell and Margery Lockhart Magruder.

Rob married Jonnie Priscilla Dean of Prairie Grove. Their children were: Mary Dean and Virginia Magruder, both graduates of the University of Arkansas. Rob was a farmer and merchant. For many years he was Sunday School Superintendent and an Elder in the Christian Church where Mary Dean and Liford L. Gibson of the Farmington community were married. Mary Dean retired from teaching and Liford from Commercial Credit. They live in Macon, GA. Virginia married Alton Cole, son of Ernest and Annie Dean Cole of Prairie Grove. Virginia and Alton have retired from teaching and live in Creede, CO. Both the Gibsons and Coles maintain homes in Prairie Grove.

Anne married Grover McCormick

of Prairie Grove. They, too, lived at "Virginia Home."

Emma was a teacher in the schools of Nowata, OK, and in Havana, Cuba. She served with the YMCA in Europe during and after World War I as one of two selected from Oklahoma to represent the General Federated Clubs. She married Edward Cook, a pharmacist of Nowata, OK. They later moved to "Virginia Home" in Prairie Grove where Emma was principal of the Elementary school for many years. The Cooks had two children: Edward Magruder (Mac) and Jane Campbell Cook. After teaching for many years and later working for the Federal Government (FDIC), Mac is semi-retired and resides in Vienna, VA, with his wife, the former Joanne Craig. They have four sons. Jane married Paul Lawrence, an officer in the U.S. Air Force. After Paul's retirement they built a home on Beaver Lake east of Rogers. The Lawrences have five children.

Henry was in the mercantile business in Nowata and Inola, OK and Gentry, AR until his retirement. He married Marteen (Teen) Pyeatt of Prairie Grove. Their son, Henry Preston Magruder, served in the U.S. Army in World War II. He holds a B.A. degree from the University of Arkansas, M.A. from University of Iowa, and a doctorate from Denver University. He was a Professor in the Speech and Drama Department at the University of Arkansas for many years until his retirement and still resides in Fayetteville.

Before her marriage to Clairborne Riggs Mobley, Margery taught school and later worked for the President of Northeastern State University at Tahlequah. In the early 1930s when the Mobleys lived in Prairie Grove, Clay Mobley wrote many plays which he and James Faye Parks produced. They formed a company named "The Beverly Players." The cast members were residents of Prairie Grove. The plays were given locally and in

surrounding states. From the experience gained in this endeavor James Faye Parks went on to Hollywood as an agent and Clay Mobley to WLS Radio, a station in Chicago, as a writer. He later joined the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. where he wrote and produced documentaries for the Farm Credit Administration. Margery was employed by the Federal Government. The Mobleys had one daughter. Margery Anne Mobley, graduate of Radford College in Virginia, married Floyd Swanson. They are the parents of four children. Margery Anne has worked on Capital Hill for an Ohio Congressman for many years.

The Prairie Grove roots of the Campbell Clan have remained strong through the years.

MILLER FAMILY

Joe A. Miller and Alice Miller came from London, England in the mid-1800s and later settled at Osage, Arkansas.

Their son, Charles Ross Miller, was born July 3, 1889 at Osage. He married Mattie B. Allred, born May 5, 1888, at Osage and they moved to Newton, Kansas, where he worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for many years. He died December 14, 1972 at Lincoln and his wife died in 1935.

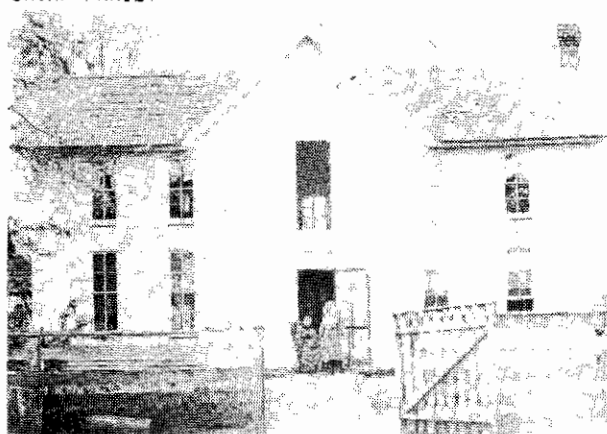
Crannel H. Miller, son of Charles Ross and Mattie B. Miller, was born at Osage October 12, 1909. He married Mary Belle Richey July 4th, 1937 at Lincoln in a double wedding with Mary Belle's brother, Harry Richey and Glenn Fraysher.

Crannel was a butcher (or meat cutter) and they lived in Lebanon, Missouri, for a number of years. A son, C. H. Miller, was born at Lebanon February 8, 1942. The Miller family returned to Prairie Grove in 1947 and Crannel worked in the meat department of several grocery stores, before retiring because of ill health. He died June 28, 1975, and was buried in the Lin-

coln Cemetery.

Dr. C. H. Miller, physician and surgeon, returned to Fayetteville after graduating from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine at Little Rock. He married Carol Skelton and they have three children, Charles Richey, Christopher Arnold and Sarah Ann.

BRUNK FAMILY



The G. E. Brunk home on Walnut Grove Road. Later remodeled by John and Mary Brunk. Pictured is Grandmother Lucy Brunk and Nita Crawford. (Brewster Photo)

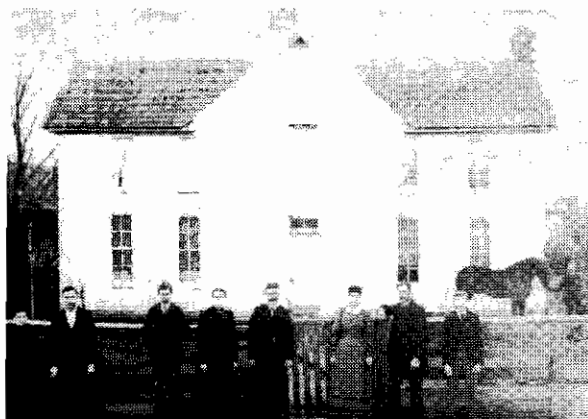
G. E. Brunk and Lucy Catherine Sims married in 1863 at Low Gap, Lee County, Virginia, and moved to Prairie Grove in 1883. George E. Brunk and a Mr. Sanders had a store in Prairie Grove in 1891 according to a business envelope and bank statement found in the Brewster



John and Mary Brunk, 1897. (Brewster Photo)

papers.

George and Lucy Brunk were parents of eight children, two of whom died in infancy. John F. Brunk remained in Prairie Grove



G. E. Brunk home, later the John Brunk home. Left; Mary Brunk, John Brunk, Stephen Brunk, Lucy Brunk, George E. Brunk, Kittie Terpening, Frank Terpening, Charlie Brunk, Bill Brunk with horse, (Brewster Photo)

and married Mary Caswell Cunningham in 1895. They lived in the Illinois Chapel area East of Prairie Grove.

One daughter, Paulene, died as an infant; another daughter, Lucile, married Gordon Wallace Brewster, son of Dr. and Mrs. James Henry Brewster. Gordon was a registered pharmacist and worked for many years in the Sterling Drug Store. One son, John Henry, was born to Gordon and Lucile Brewster.

The John H. Brewster family lives in the house on Mock Street which was built by Dr. J. H. Brewster before the turn of the century.

THE TERRY FAMILY

By Lee W. Terry

In the southeast corner of Washington County, Arkansas, south of the Sunset Community, is a neatly-kept cemetery surrounded by a chain-link fence, with the name "Terry" on the gate entrance. This is the burial place of Clark H. Terry, surrounded by family members. Down County Road No. 110 is a

modern-looking two-story house--this is the home that Clark Terry built after the Civil War and lived in until his death.

Clark H. Terry was born February 26, 1838, and died March 13, 1913. He enlisted in the Union Army, A Company, 13th Kansas Infantry at Camp Babcock. He fought in the Battle of Prairie Grove and was wounded and taken to the hospital in Fayetteville. After leaving the hospital he was transferred to New Company B of the 1st Kansas Volunteer Veteran Mounted Infantry. He was mustered out in Little Rock on August 30, 1865.

After the War Terry settled on a quarter section of land in the Sunset community. The building in front of the homestead served as a general store. Clark Terry served as postmaster of the Sunset Post Office in 1899. He was also a Master Mason and a Baptist. The minutes of the 43rd annual session of the Washington Association of Regular Baptists held with New Hope Church (located southwest of Prairie Grove) on September 3, 4, 5, 1880, show Clark Terry listed as a messenger representing the Boston Community Church of Washington County.

Clark Terry's Union uniform and sabre are on display at the University of Arkansas Museum in Fayetteville.

Clark H. Terry (2-26-1838 to 3-7-1913)

Wife, Tabitha (Vinie) Jane Long (1-31-1835 to 4-11-1907)

Children: Henderson, George Washington, William Dowel, Alford B., Thomas Green, James Noah, John Noah, Elisha E., Mary Elizabeth and Nancy J.

Children of John Noah Terry (1-30-1877) and Martha Osborn: Hugh, Ralph, Milburn, Lee, Bessie and Flora.

Lee W. Terry is Chief of Police of Prairie Grove.

In 1920 the first oil test well was located on the Baggett-Maupin farm two miles South of Prairie Grove.



Broughton Family. Back row; left to right: Nettie Thurman, Garfield Broughton, Roxie Broughton, Wiley Broughton, Millie Broughton, Ella Broughton, John Broughton, Hettie Broughton;

ton; seated; Dutch Thurman and baby, Martha Broughton, George Broughton, Ellis and Andy, John Turner and children, Charlie and Minnie Broughton.
(Ogden Photo)

THE BLAKEMORE FAMILY

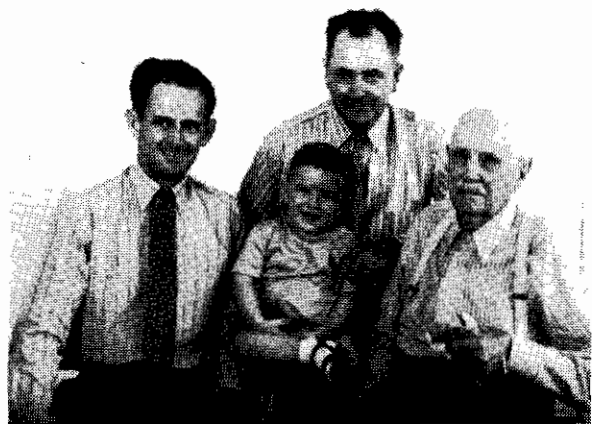
The Blakemores have lived continuously in the Prairie Grove area since the 1830s, when Lee Cage Blakemore (1800-1882) moved his family from Tennessee to Washington County, Arkansas. He settled on a farm south of

Hog Eye. He and his wife, Charlotte Johnson, had a total of ten children, three of whom remained in Washington County. One lived in the Cane Hill area, one lived in the Springdale area, and one, Thomas Johnson (1824-1908) lived in the Hog Eye area.

Thomas Johnson Blakemore married Emeline Rutherford, and they had a total of eight children, two of whom remained in the Illinois Chapel area. The older of the two, Calvin Jessie Blakemore (1852-1942) married Ollie Dearing and they had two children, one of whom, Ralph Coleman, stayed in the area.

Ralph Coleman Blakemore married first, Lila Morrison, and second, Sylvia Phillips. His children remaining in the Prairie Grove area are: Paul Raymond Blakemore, Bessie Mae Bryan, Larry Lee Blakemore and Lonnie Eugene Blakemore.

Thomas Mark Blakemore (1855-1948) married Jane Pickett Allen and they had a total of eight



Four generations of Blakemores; T. M. Blakemore, J. Raleigh Blakemore, Frank Glenn Blakemore, Keith Blakemore, (1946)

(F. Blakemore Photo)

children. They moved from the Illinois Chapel area to Prairie Grove about 1908. Two of their



Robert Owens Hannah Family. Back Row, left to right; Mollie, Emma, Bess, Nora; Front Row; Rob, Jim, Robert Owen (father), Clara, Maggie, Susie (mother). Photo taken at the Hog Eye home which burned about 1976. (F. Blakemore Photo)

children remained in Prairie Grove. Emma (1881-1943) never married and took care of her father until her death in 1943.

John Raleigh Blakemore (1855-1953) married Clara Hannah and they had three children, Frank Glenn, Robert and Jane.

Frank remains in Prairie Grove and is married to the former Martha English. They have one child, Keith Blakemore of Danville, and two grandsons, Scott and Shawn.



Thomas Mark Blakemore and grandchildren. Back Row, left to right; Sara Jane Blakemore Sanders, Frank Glenn Blakemore; Front Row; Robert Thomas Blakemore, Jane Blakemore Morrow, Nancy Allen Blakemore. (1932) (F. Blakemore Photo)

Robert married Mary P. Tippen of Springdale and lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They have three sons and a daughter.

Jane Coones Morrow lives in Sheridan, Wyoming, and has two sons and a daughter.

BROOKS FAMILY

Nathan Brooks married Osha Crawford, and to this union was born one son, Willard C., August 6, 1915. Osha Brooks died January 11, 1919, and was buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery. Nathan



Nathan Brooks and wife, Osha Brooks and son, Willard. (B. Brooks Photo)

later married Olyve Niehaus. They lived on a farm west of Prairie Grove and later moved to a home on North Mock Street.

Nathan worked for the Southern Mercantile Dry Goods Department for many years, was associated with Guy Skelton in operation of the Crescent Department Store for several years, and later employed by J. C. Penney Company in Fayetteville.

Nathan Brooks died February 26, 1953, and Olyve Brooks died October 8, 1980. Both are buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Willard C. Brooks graduated from Texas A & M School of Veterinary Medicine in 1939 and returned to Prairie Grove to practice. He was an Army veteran, a member and deacon of the First Presbyterian Church, a member of Prairie Grove Masonic Lodge, past president of Ozark Electric Corp., past president of Arkansas Veterinarian Association, a member of Arkansas Livestock Assn. He later worked on a government job and was supervisor of five counties when he retired. He died May 16, 1985, and was buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Dr. Brooks and Miss Bernice McCormick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. McCormick, were married in 1941. They are parents of two children:

Treka Brooks, married Curtis Vaughn and they live on a farm near Gentry. Curtis works for Peterson and they have two daughters, Brooks and Amy.

John and his wife, Carolyn, live at Bella Vista. John works for Cooper Community and they have two children, Ashley and John Crawford.

HENDRICKS FAMILY HISTORY

Mary (Mrs. Dallas) Rice sent the following information about her ancestors. It was copied from a letter found in the old family Bible belonging to Armstrong Hendricks and Nancy B.



Home of Armstrong Hendricks and family--1900. Left to right; Babe A. Hendricks, Press Hendricks, Leona and Nancy Hendricks, and Edgar Hendricks. (Rice Photo)



Nancy Bell Hendricks, Babe and Edgar Hendricks, Leona Bell Hendricks, 12 or 13 years of age, Picture made about 1912. (Rice Photo)

Hendricks. Their home was southeast of Prairie Grove on the Butler Road--the second house on the left past the Jess Giles place was the old Hendricks place. The house which was the birthplace of Mary Rice, burned several years ago.

"Armstrong Hendricks, farmer, stock raiser and mechanic of Prairie Grove Township, Washington County, Arkansas, was born in Pulaski County, Kentucky, November 22, 1828, the son of Green and Rutha (Hall) Hendricks, who were born, reared and married in their native state.

"They came to Arkansas about 1838, locating on the farm on which Armstrong Hendricks now resides and owns, and here the father's death occurred in 1840 and the mother's in 1850. They were parents of two sons, Armstrong and Gibson H.

"The former was reared in Washington County and at the breaking out of the war enlisted in Col. Brook's Regt., serving with him two years and the following two years served on de-

HENDRICKS FAMILY PICNIC



(Mary Rice Photo)

This picture was taken about 1909 or '10. A picnic near a bluff just above the Buffalo Branch on the road from the Hendricks homelace, on around the road to Center Point. Front row, left to right: Gordon Crouch, Edgar Hendricks, Ed Gregory, unidentified, Clarence Thurman, Fannie Hendricks, one of the Smith girls?, Press

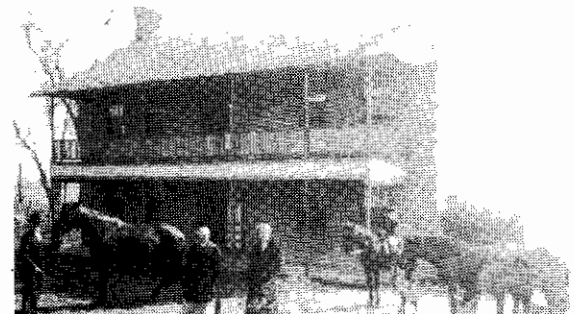
Hendricks, unidentified, Ed Crouch; Ladies seated on bluff; first four unidentified, Inez Thurman, Leona Hendricks Branch, unidentified; back row, standing: Will Branch, Armstrong Hendricks, next seven unidentified, Cale Thurman, Mrs. Thurman, Nancy Hendricks, and Grandma McDonald.

tached duty. He was in a number of engagements but escaped unhurt and after the cessation of hostilities, returned home and began working at the blacksmith's trade which he had learned previous to the war, continuing the same about three years after which he began improving his home and farm. It consisted of 153 acres, with about 75 acres under cultivation, on which is a good two story residence. Besides this he has another good farm of 100 acres.

"May 13, 1875 his marriage with Miss Nancy B. Rainwaters was celebrated. She was born in Washington County and is a daughter of Matthew Rainwaters who was formerly from Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks are the

parents of three sons: James Pressley, Edgar Austin and William Perry; and a daughter, Leona Bell."

Mrs. Rice is a daughter of Leona Bell Hendricks Branch, and a granddaughter of Armstrong and Nancy Rainwaters Hendricks.



Old Rhea House at Rhea's Mill, now the home of Bill and Dorothy Kelley, (Norwood Photo)



Photo made at "The Walnut Grove" on the farm of Mac and Nora Rollans West of Prairie Grove around 1910.

1, Pinkney Elms Shofner, 2, Earl Cunningham, 3, Douglas Cummings, holding 18, Maupin Cummings, 4, Bess Cummings, 5, M. F. "Mac" Rollans, 6, Nora Dean Rollans, 7, Jonnie Dean Magruder, 8, Rob Magruder, 9, James P. Shofner, 10, Lou Ella Mahan Shofner, 11, Marion Lokey, 12, Nancy Naomi Cunningham Wilson, 13, Hattie Cook Cunningham, 14, James Caswell Cunningham, 15, Newton Cunningham, 16, Mary Brunk, 17, Gus Shofner, 19, Adaline Gillis Shofner, 20, Sallie McGill Dean, 21, Kibble Cummings, 22, Lutie Bird Cun-

ningham, 23, Frances Cunningham, 24, Lucy Elizabeth Rollans Carl, holding 48, Barton Carl,

25, Ella McGill Hoover Lokey, 26, Anna James Hoover, 27, Clara Hoover, 28, Sarah Isabelle Rollans Stewart, 29, Edna Kathleen Carl, 31, Andrew Jackson Wilson, Jr., holding 30, Newton Caswell Wilson, 32, Burdett Shofner, 33, Dean Rollans, 34, Unknown, 35, Lena Van Carl, 36, Katie Marie Shofner, 37, Harold Rollans, 38, James Wilson, 39, Martin Mahan Shofner, 40, Edna Stewart, 41, Sarah Mildred Carl, 42, Unknown, 43, Lucille Brunk, 44, Louise Shofner, 45, Paul "Sonny" Stewart, 46, Virginia Shofner, 47, Unknown, (W. Allen Photo)

THE J. P. HARRIS FAMILY

James Padon Harris was born in Beardstown, Illinois, on April 3, 1860, the son of John Henry Harris and Phoebe Ann Padon Harris. When the First National Bank of Beardstown, in which he and his father had controlling interest, was sold, he then developed interests in the mines near Joplin, MO, and in the H. D. Lee Industries of Kansas City.

Around 1907 he moved to Prairie Grove where he bought the Prairie Grove Preserving Company and canned tomatoes under his Grove brand. John Fidler, father of Roy and Howard Fidler, was his top manager for

many years. Mr. Harris was also a partner in the canning factories in Lincoln, AR, and in Stilwell, OK, and in the Prairie Grove Vinegar & Preserving Company where apples were dried along with other food products processed. He was the owner of several farms and of a large apple orchard near Cane Hill. Until his marriage J. P. lived at the Marrs Hotel on Neal Street now site of the Luginbuel Funeral Home. Another resident of the hotel was Dr. Will H. Mock. At that time the Mock home was "Locust Dell" located south of town, and in the horse and buggy days living in town was essential for the young doctor. The two men formed a life-long

friendship while residents of the Marrs Hotel.

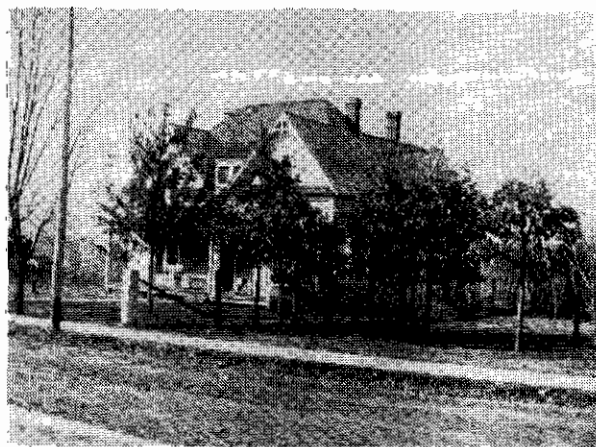
For decades Prairie Grove Preserving Company was the town's largest employer giving work to approximately 125 women and men. For three months each year (except for the devastating drought years of 1934 and 1936 when there was nothing to can or process) the smokestack whistle sounded twice a day, six days a week, in the early morning at 6 a.m. (work began at 7 a.m.) and at 1 p.m. to signal work was again starting. Every Friday night the entire Harris family gathered around a table to calculate and prepare the cash payroll for the following day.

In the off-season when a carload of tomatoes was sold, 10 to 15 key employees worked labeling the cans and putting them in boxes which were then loaded on the railroad car waiting on a siding outside the huge doors of the factory.

Mr. Harris served as Mayor from 1920-22, School Board member for many years, and a bank director. After his marriage he joined the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was baptized in a large vat at the canning factory as it was the winter season and the church had no baptistry. He served as Sunday School Secretary, Church Clerk, and Deacon until his death July 17, 1942. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Ozark Cannery Association for over 25 years.

On September 10, 1913, after a courtship of five years, he married Dorothea Campbell, daughter of Bean Cartmell and Betsie Todd Walker Campbell, at "Battle Mead," the Campbell home. He purchased a home on North Mock where their daughters Dr. Phoebe Todd Harris and Anne Lockhart Harris LaRew still reside.

Dorothea Campbell Harris was born June 10, 1887, in King and Queen County, VA, at "Society Hill," the ancestral home of her grandparents, Dr. Bernard H. and



J. P. Harris Residence, 1916

(P. Harris Photo)

Dorothea Bagby Walker. After living in Virginia, Florida, and New York City, she moved to Prairie Grove with her parents in 1901. She was one of the five members of the first graduating class of Prairie Grove High School in 1905. Before her marriage she taught school for eight years. Her first contract was at Illinois Chapel for three months. The Board was so pleased with her work that they managed to raise enough money to extend the term two additional months. She later taught at Viney Grove, Prairie Grove, and in Fayetteville where Professor Root was her Principal.

Mrs. Harris joined the Christian Church in Virginia at an early age. In the local church she taught the Young Adult Class for years, sang in the choir (and at many weddings and funerals), and was active in the women's organizations. Her mother was instrumental in re-organizing the local church which had been inactive for years. Mrs. Campbell served as an elder and even preached when no minister was available.

Mrs. Harris was a charter member and President of the PTA, Women's Study Club, and local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC). She was also an officer in the local Cemetery Association and was the second person to serve as librarian in the local library when it was located in the

Legion Hut. During WWII she was employed in the office of Fayetteville City Hospital, retiring in 1957 at the age of 70. She died October 31, 1981, in her 95th year.

J. P. and Dorothea Harris had two daughters, Phoebe Todd and Anne Lockhart. Phoebe Todd holds a B.S. degree in Home Economics from University of Arkansas, Masters degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, and a Ph. D. degree in Family Economics and Home Management from Penn State University. After teaching a year in North Heights High School in Texarkana, AR, she joined the Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service where she worked as Home Agent in Hempstead, Randolph, and Pope Counties before becoming the Northeast District Home Agent for Arkansas. From 1953-57 she was in the Republic of Panama with the University of Arkansas Mission where she worked as the Associate of Panama's Director of Home Economics Program.

After receiving her Ph. D. degree she joined the faculty of Mississippi State University (Starkville) as head of the Home Economics Research Department. Under her leadership a Home Economics teaching program was begun. She retired in 1984 as Professor Emeritus and still maintains a home in Starkville.

Anne holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas. After teaching a year in Fairview High School (Camden, AR), she moved to Shreveport where she worked for United Gas Corp. From January 1944 to May 1949, she was employed by the U. S. Navy Department at Headquarters, 15th Naval District, Balboa, Canal Zone. Upon her return to the States she moved to Midland, Texas, where she was employed by Bethlehem Supply Company. After the death of her husband, Wesley Alex LaRue, III, she moved to Tulsa, OK, where she is still employed by an independent oil

and gas exploration and producing company.



Party at J. P. Harris Home (no date available)

Front Row, left to right: Mrs. M. F. Thompson, Miss Bess Pyeatt, Mrs. C. R. Mobley, Mrs. W. G. McCormick, Edith McKinney (child), Mrs. H. N. Clendening, Mrs. H. D. Cummings, Mrs. Mary Lake; Second Row: Mrs. W. F. Bell, Mrs. F. A. Bradshaw, (11) unidentified, Mrs. J. C. Parks, Mrs. Sarah Graham Roy, Miss Betsey Campbell, Mrs. D. N. McCormick, Mrs. Proctor Johnson, (17) unidentified, Mrs. Herbert Campbell, Mrs. J. C. McKinney, Mrs. Oscar Butler, Mrs. R. W. Magruder, (22) unidentified, Virginia Hilderbrand, Back Row: Mrs. J. P. Harris, Miss Maude Rogers, Mrs. Nora Rollans, (27) unidentified, Mrs. Ella Barnett, Mrs. Minnie Woodruff, Mrs. L. E. Maupin, Mrs. M. L. Hilderbrand, Mrs. Oscar Dearing, Mrs. George Wallace, Mrs. Leon Irby and Mrs. Fred McNeal.

WHITMIRE FAMILY

Lewis Stephens Whitmire was born in Rayburn County, Georgia, November, 1864. He drove a team of oxen to Arkansas when he was 15 years of age. He married Miss Cassady McHenry of Quincy, Illinois, in 1890. They moved to a farm west of Prairie Grove in the Tilley community in 1906, and were residents of this community for over twenty years. They later lived in and around Prairie Grove.

Nine children were born to this couple: Luther, L. H. (Dick), Austin, John, Gilbert, Oma (Rowden), Ora (Specht), Clara (Lockhart), and Ella (O'Brien). Only three of the children survive at present: Ella O'Brien of Farmington, Clara Lockhart of Modesto, California, and Gilbert, who lives with his wife, Thelma, on a farm



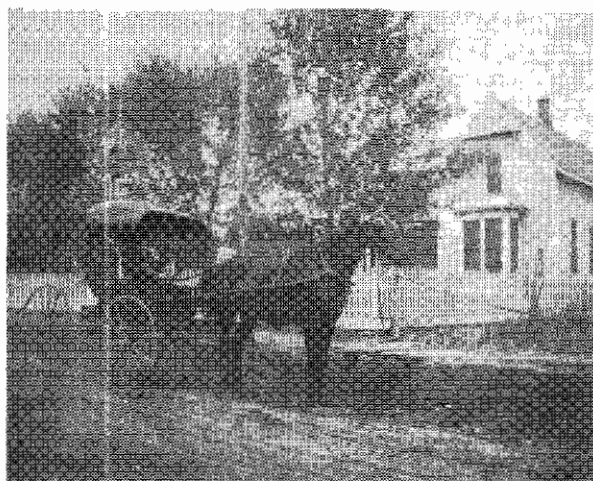
Back Row, left to right; Luther Whitmire, his wife Elsie, Dick Whitmire, Oscar Whitmire, Oma Bowden; Middle Row; Ora Specht, Clara Lockhart; Front Row; John Whitmire, L. S. Whitmire (father), Ella Obrien, Conzady Whitmire (mother) 1912

west of Viney Grove.

Three of the brothers, Luther, Dick and Gilbert, were farmers in this area their entire lives.

Gilbert Whitmire married Thelma Beasley in 1937 and they have two children: Vincil Whitmire of Fort Smith, and Donna Sue Baker of LaPuenta, California. Vincil has three children and Donna Sue has two.

L. S. Whitmire died in 1941 and his wife died in 1942. Both are buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.



Birthplace of Autry Wilson next to home of Tom and Pearl Hart on Parks Street. It was later moved to present location north of Prairie Grove Telephone Company on Mock Street.
(Barnes Photo)



1915 PHOTO

Back Row: Ed Ove Bill Little, Bill Caudle, Tom Carnev, Cliff Hannah Bob Shanks, Otis Wright, George Hannah

Second Row: Lena Little and Ralph, Josephine Hannah, Tonia Hannah Ella Wright Mrs. Tom Carnev holding Wilbur, Belle Ove Jessie Caudle, Mattie Shanks

Front Row: Edward Carnev, Lloyd Shanks, Carrie Hannah Dorothy Shanks Marie Hannah Fave Hannah Milton Shanks William Hannah.



SHOFNER SISTERS

(Brewster Photo)

Seated, left to right; Clara Shofner, Margaret Shofner; Standing; Mary Ella Shofner Brewster, and Myrtle Shofner Dutton,

THE HENRY BARTHOLOMEW FAMILY

By Phyllis Bartholomew Orr

Henry was born in the 1600s in Holland. He came to America and settled near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His trade was blacksmithing. His four children were minors at the time of his death in 1740. Children: Peter; *Henry, born in Easton, PA (no year recorded) died in Lancaster County; John; and Nicholas.

*Henry the second, also a blacksmith, married Elizabeth Shofstall. Children: Mary, John, Henry, Elizabeth, *Joseph, born 1780, died in Lancaster, PA August 22, 1834. Married Margaret Merchants on April 5, 1807. Margaret: born 1785; died 1871. Children: Samuel, *Andrew Jackson, born March 11, 1915, died (?); married Margaret Scott March 29, 1838. Margaret born March 15, 1819. Children: James, Jane Elizabeth, *William Scott, born March 17, 1846, died October 21, 1917; Samantha, Thomas, John G., Delphine, Isaac Newton, Benjamin F. (Isaac and Ben were twins), Thomas Martin.

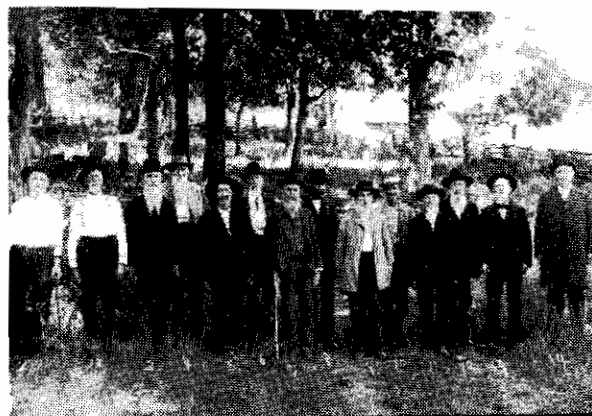
Andrew and Margaret were married in County Cork, Ireland. They left Ireland in 1846, because of the continuous war between the Catholics and Protestants. William Scott Bartholomew was born on the ship enroute from Ireland to America. His birth certificate reads, "An Irishman born at sea." The family settled in Steubenville, Ohio, on the Ohio River. Their living was made by having boats and ferries on the river, a merchandise store, a warehouse and a farm.

When the Civil War was declared William Scott went in as a drummer boy, but soon picked up a gun from one of his slain buddies and became a regular soldier. He participated in most of the battles of the war, and lost the sight of one eye. He was with Sherman's march to the sea.

After the war he married

Cornelia Elizabeth Mitchell, daughter of Captain James Mitchell, June 14, 1866. After their marriage they went to Newton County, Missouri, to homestead. They left Missouri and settled in Arkansas near Strickler. Later they moved to Scott County, Arkansas, 30 miles south of Fort Smith. Mansfield was their post office.

Cornelia Elizabeth Mitchell Bartholomew was born on April 6.



Confederate Veterans, photo taken at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park. Left to right: S. P. Pittman, Y. J. Baird, C. G. Reagan, Jake McCoy (grandfather of Layton McCoy), Joe Williams, James M. Smith, Gibson Hendricks, R. A. Sharp, Abe Dixon, Sam Williams, Armstrong Hendricks, Jasper Farmer, B. A. Carl, and Elijah F. Boone.

1846, in Tennessee. She was a very prominent woman, involved in church and civic affairs. She was well-educated and a singer as well as a musician. She had two cousins who alternated as governor of Tennessee. Their name was Tailer--one was a Democrat and the other a Republican. Cornelia was in finishing school in Gettysburg and was present when President Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address. She died February 12, 1905, and was buried in Coop Prairie Cemetery in Mansfield, AR.

Children born to William Scott and Cornelia were: *Charles Sheridan--born March 22, 1867 in Newton County, MO; died June 7, 1947; Minnie, Theresa, Margaret Emily, Mary Alice, Ben Andrew, James Garfield, William Vinton and Clif-

ford Irvin.

After the death of Cornelia, William Scott married Etta Charlotte Bullard, August 21, 1905. He was 59 years old at the time. Etta was born September 26, 1877 in Alabama. She died May 24, 1965 and is buried in Townsendhouse Cemetery in Dade City, Florida. Children: Floy Eddie and Robley Evans. William Scott was remembered as a kind, considerate family man. They moved to Florida as a member of the Zephyrhills Colony Company which was a retirement community for Union Veterans. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a society of men who fought for the North in the Civil War.

While in Arkansas, William Scott helped build a lot of the original Arkansas railroads. He was also a circuit rider. There were two kinds of circuit riders, one was a religious man who road a circuit (regular route) conducting services; the other was a judge who road a circuit, hearing cases. William Scott was a preacher, so he was a religious circuit rider. Preachers, often called backwoods preachers, began riding circuits in what is now the United States, during the 1760s. He was an Odd Fellow Lodge member in Abbott, Arkansas in 1906.

William Scott was a very patriotic man. He always played "taps" on his bugle. He was musical, playing several instruments, and was an ordained Methodist preacher for 30 years. On October 21, 1917, he died of an apparent stroke at Zephyrhills, Florida, and was buried there in Oasdie in the Civil War Veterans Plot.

Charles Sheridan Bartholomew, a farmer, married Clara E. Wilcox on August 2, 1888. Children: Claire O. *William Hamilton (Bill) born Septembr 10, 1892, at Strickler, AR and died September 12, 1957; Elbert, Retta, Samantha (Mant), John Arthur, Ray.

Children of Bill and Mae

Bartholomew were:

BEATRICE VIOLA, born September 9, 1913, married R. B. Cope land. One daughter, Anita Darlene, born December 1, 1956, married Billy Walker;

KENNETH REX (JACK), born November 7, 1914, married Marie Reeder. Daughter, Wanda Ruth, born January 28, 1937, married Leon Hudson. Children: Rickey, Rachel, Randall, Russell.

Jack is now married to Marietta Ellison. Children:

Carol Kenneth (Kenny), born December 24, 1941, married Billie Wainwright. Children: Jackie, married Shanra; daughter, Heather; Kelly married Phil Huff. Children: John Robert, died as an infant; Jennifer Lynn; and Kendra.

William Luther (Bill), born May 31, 1947. Married Vickie. Children: John, Lori, A. J..

WILLARD GARL, born June 12, 1916, Married Cleta Pierce. Children:

Barbara Jean, born September 2, 1940. Married Dean Goodhart. Children: Glenn, married Tina Phillips. Children: Crystal Glenn, Rachel Renae, Chad Dean; Cynthia, married Rocky Dexter. Children: Barbara Rae and Patricia Ann (twins), Nolan Dean and Cheri Lorraine. Cleta Marie married Bobby Mast. Daughter Caresa Lynne. Barbara is now married to Zed Dixon.

Patricia Gale, born November 15, 1942, married Harold Dexter. Children: Drenda, married Bill Dodson. Son, Wesley Frank. Wayne married Connie. Children: Khrista Gale, David Allen. Gale is now married to Rudy Geihl.

Ricky Wayne, born November 12, 1948, was married four times. Children: Patrick, Deena, Ricky, Billy, Christina.

Garl Dee, born January 28, 1953. Married Barb. Children: Roshell and Matthew. Dee is now married to Tammi Staggs. Children: Jennifer Lynn and Brandon Alexander.

WALLACE CARL, born June 12,

1916. Married Edna Deaton.
Children:

Kathleen Laverne, born February 20, 1936, married J. C. Allison. Children: John Sheridan, married Kathy Morgan. They have two children, Joshua Sheridan, and Jonathan. Deborah Joline married Keith Lunsford. They have a daughter, Brooke Allison; Mark Shane.

Loretta Gale, born May 5, 1939. Married Jackie Sparks. One daughter, Carlita Gale.

Thomas Wesley, born January 10, 1946. Married Rosalita Fleeman. Children: Tammie Rochelle, married David Carter; and Todd Wesley.

Carlis Lane, born October 5, 1949. Married Annette Campbell. Children: Crystal Lane, Christina Lee, and Samantha Joe.

(Wallace and Willard were twins.)

BERNICE MARIE, born July 10, 1918. Married Roy Foren. Daughter: Donna Jean born February 16, 1944, married Roy Gene Franks. Children: Timothy William, married Cheryl Johnson; Ladonna Jean.

ARGIL CLETIS, born June 9, 1921. Married Emma Bell Carney. Children:

Phyllis Mae, born November 26, 1938. Married Burl Orr. Children: Vanessa Mae and Bartholomew Burl (Bart);

Billy Joe, born June 2, 1940. Married Willene Neal. Children: Cary Lee, married Kori Jackson. Children: Dustin Lee, Dara Lynn, Dallas Jackson; Steve Joe, married Mary French. Son, Colt Logan; Mitchel Wade.

Dwight Argil, born May 24, 1952. Married Carolyn Latta. Children: Nicole Maurea, Clinton Dwight, Courtnie Reann. Dwight is now married to Kelley Richardson.

HAROLD RAY, born September 2, 1923. Married Maudileen Cates. Children:

Jerry Allen, born March 5, 1943.

James Ray, born April 17, 1945. Married Debbie Oliver. Children: Christopher Ray, mar-

ried Susan Oxford, Matthew James.

Beverly Sue, born March 17, 1947. Married John Lossing. Children: Stephanie, married David Attebury; Children: Susan, Doug.

David Leon, born January 22, 1949. Married Linda Lossing. Children: Bridgette, Kara, Candice.

WILLIE, born July 12, 1929, died July 22, 1929.

(Twin stillborn July 12, 1929.)

NELLIE DEAN, born February 1, 1932. Married J. B. Traylor. Children:

Charles Michael, born November 8, 1951. Married Marianna Sellers. Children: Deanna Michelle, Scott Michael, Kimberly Elaine.

Marsha Ann, born July 8, 1955. Married Randy Smith. Children: Megan Renae and Amanda Michelle.

A baby was born and died in between 1918-1921, which made 11 children for Bill and Mae Bartholomew.

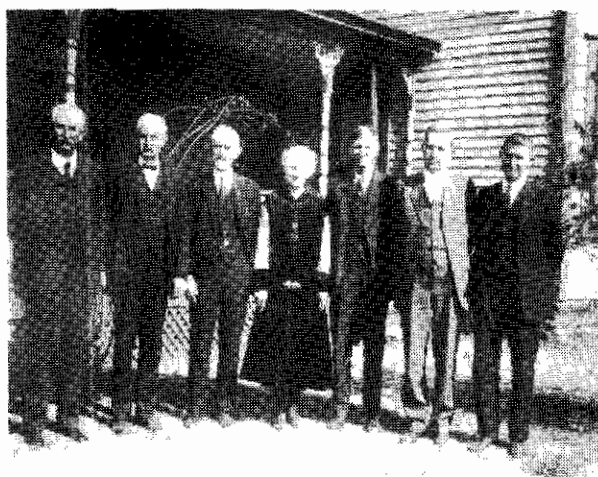
Bill made a living selling fruit, cutting railroad ties, owning a grocery store and post office at Strickler. After selling the store, he bought the Washington County Sales Company (which is presently owned by Argil and son, Billy Joe). In addition to the Washington County Sale Barn, he also owned the ones at Rogers and Decatur (with Argil).

Bill and May were lovers of gospel music. They sang professionally on the radio as well as for personal enjoyment. Several of their children and grandchildren also enjoy singing.

In 1872 the Prairie Grove Valley Agriculture and Mechanical Assn. was organized, holding a fair in Prairie Grove Valley October 17-18, 1872. Officers: Samuel P. Pittman, president; Robert J. West and M. F. Lake, vice presidents; J. J. Baggett, secretary; B. F. Lofton, treasurer. (*Prairie Grove News*)

T. J. BLAKEMORE FAMILY

Thomas Johnson Blakemore was born in 1824 in Gallatin, Texas. He married Emiline Rutherford December 7, 1849. The following



Children of Thomas Johnson and Emiline Rutherford Blakemore. Thomas J. was the son of Lee Cage and Charlotte Johnson Blakemore. Left to Right: Andrew Jackson, Thomas Mark, Lee Cage, Dona Blakemore Ross, Calvin Jessie, James Elliott, and Hugh Finley. One son, Dr. John William, had a medical degree and left Arkansas in 1874 or '75 and was never heard from. (This picture was taken in front of the home of Thomas M. Blakemore in Prairie Grove. The house was moved to another location and the One Stop Mart is now located on this spot.

(Bryan Photo)

children were born in Hogeeye:

John William Blakemore, born January 12, 1852. Obtained medical degree. Left Arkansas in 1874 or '75 and was never heard from.

Andrew Jackson Blakemore, born September 8, 1857. Married Sadie Miller; children, Loren, Lester and Steven. Sadie died in childbirth and Steven died three months later. Andrew later married Annette Martin, daughter of Henry Clay and Frances Elizabeth Combs Martin; children, Forbus, Bessie, Emmett, Effie, Eva and Frances. They lived in Summerfield, Texas, and were farmers.

Thomas Mark Blakemore, married Jane Pickett Allan; children, Emma, Charles Andrew, Amelia, William Allen, Nora Grace, Raleigh, and James Frank-



Calvin Jessie and Ollie Belle Dearing Blakemore with sons Ralph Coleman Blakemore and William Marion Blakemore, probably taken around 1890.
(Bryan Photo)

lin. He was a farmer.

Lee Cage Blakemore, married Susan Duncan; children, Maggie, Earl and Findley. He was a farmer in Spokane, Washington.

Fredonia (Dona) Blakemore, married William Ross; had two



Seated: Christopher Columbus Dearing and Isa Belle Sawyer Dearing; Standing: Ollie Belle Dearing Blakemore and Lou Dearing McConnell.
(Bryan Photo)

children, both died in infancy. Farmed in Oak Dale, Washington.

Calvin Jesse Blakemore, married Ollie Belle Dearing; had three children, Marion, Ralph

and Johnny. Johnny died in infancy. Farmer in Prairie Grove area.

James Elliott Blakemore, married Belle Carney. He was a doctor in Van Buren, AR. No children, but had a great part in the raising of Loren and Lester Blakemore (nephews) whose mother died when they were very young. Lester became a prominent attorney in Sapulpa, OK, and Loren was a minister.

Hugh Finley Blakemore, married Cora Hodges. Children were Minnie, Myrtle, Thomas, Shelby, James Olen, Beatrice and Jack. Lived in Prairie Grove area and was a farmer. Later moved to Liberal, KS, and operated the Ideal Grocery chain in Oklahoma and Kansas.



Home of Calvin Jesse and Ollie Belle Dearing Blakemore, 2-1/2 miles North of Hog Eye, Left to Right; first man unidentified, Ralph Coleman Blakemore, William Marion Blakemore, Calvin Jesse and Ollie Belle Blakemore, Probably in the early 1900s. (Bryan Photo)

THE CRUSE FAMILY

Theophilus Lacy was born in New Kent County, Virginia in 1736, the son of Henry and Angelica Lacy. In 1759 he married Martha Cocke in Amelia Co., Va. She was the daughter of Abraham and Mary Batte Cocke.

Theophilus and Martha Cocke Lacy reared seven children. Their son, John Lacy and his first wife, believed to be Jane Rogers, are progenitors of the Cruse-Lacy descendants, among others. The Cruse-Lacy lineage starts with Hopkins Lacy, II who was the father of Martha Lacy

Cruse, born March 26, 1851, and several other children.

Martha Lacy was born in Morgan County, Alabama, presumably near Lacy's Spring, in 1834. On March 26, 1851, she married William M. Cruse in Madison County, Alabama. William M. Cruse was born in Tennessee in 1827. The Washington County, Arkansas, Census of 1860 lists William Cruse, 33, a farmer, born in Tennessee, wife, Martha, 28, born in Alabama. Children: Susan, daughter, and Alexander, son, born in Alabama; William, son, born in Arkansas. This indicated that the Cruse family moved to Cane Hill no later than 1859.

The William Cruse family lived just North of the intersection of the New Hope (Greasy Valley) and the Cane Hill-Fayetteville roads. During the Civil War their house was burned by Union soldiers. All that was saved was a few clothes and a featherbed. Martha and the children carried these to the Mitchell home nearby. Nothing is known about where the Cruse family lived during the remainder of the War.

After the War, William bought a farm at Apple Hill near the settlement now called White Church. There the Cruses reared their family and William lived out his life. Martha Lacy Cruse spent her last years in the home of Susan Cruse Henbest and her husband, John A. Henbest, her daughter and son-in-law, at Mt. Comfort. Date of William's death is unknown. Martha Lacy died in 1916. Both are buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Alexander Cruse, called Alex, was born February 11, 1856, in Alabama, the son of William M. and Martha Lacy Cruse, and moved with his parents to Cane Hill about 1859. On January 13, 1878, Alex Cruse married Lucy Crawford at Cane Hill. She was the daughter of Andrew and Rachel Tinnons Crawford. They bought a farm at Apple Hill adjoining that of his father, and were ac-

tive members of the Cane Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church as long as they lived on the farm. This was the first Cumberland Presbyterian Church built in Cane Hill Township and was located in the "White Church" community.

Alex and Lucy reared twelve children. The first six were born on the farm at Apple Hill and the others were born at Prairie Grove after their parents moved there in 1889. It is not known what profession prompted Alex Cruse to move to Prairie Grove. During the time the family lived there, however, Alex Cruse served as Constable of Prairie Grove Township for at least four years and as City Marshall for two years. He also served on the local school board for fourteen years.

In 1906 the Alex Cruse family moved to Fayetteville where he was a member of the police force and served as Chief of Police for a number of years. He retired from the police force about 1926 and he and Lucy returned to the farm at Apple Hill. Lucy died in 1938, probably about 81 years of age. Alex died in 1950 at the age of 94. Both are buried at Prairie Grove.

Children of the Alex Cruse family were: Nannie Leila, 1879-1919; Lacy Neal, 1881-1901; William Alfred, 1882-1888; Ola Kate, 1884-1972; Clara Alice, 1886-1954; Martha Rachel, 1888-1959; Maurice Theodore, 1890-?; Mary Emma, 1892-1965; Elizabeth Ruth, 1894-1959; Alexander, 1896-1931; Robert Hugh, 1898-1965; Rufus Merle, 1899-1946.



Gathering at Battlefield Park

WISWELL FAMILY

George Ellis Wiswell, Sr., and Ida Rosetta Beck were married June 28, 1910 at Salem, Missouri. George was the son of Henry Wiswell and Nancy Hayhurst Wiswell, and was born at Green Forest, Arkansas, December 15, 1891. Ida Rosetta Wiswell was the daughter of Henry and Ida Beck, and was born at Colcord, Oklahoma, on December 8, 1895. Her mother died at her birth and Ida was reared by a Wilson family at Green Forest, Arkansas. They were parents of one son, George E. Wiswell, Jr., who was born at Pangburn, Arkansas, August 29, 1914.

George Wiswell, Sr., grew up at Green Forest and worked as a printer's devil (apprentice) for the Green Forest Tribune, published by Ertie Allred. He followed the printing and publishing trade his entire business life, working in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, before coming to Prairie Grove.

While attending high school at Eureka Springs, G. E. met Essie Mae Burrow, also a student there. They were married June 25, 1934, shortly after she graduated from high school.

Essie Mae, daughter of Goodwin H. and Lillie Mae Reagan Burrow, was born at Cordell, Oklahoma, June 30, 1917. She moved to Eureka Springs with her parents and younger sister, Charlene, in 1929.

After their marriage at Eureka Springs, G. E. and Essie Wiswell moved to a farm near Springdale, and later to a farm North of Prairie Grove, where their first child, a son, Donald Lee, was born January 18, 1936.

The Wiswell families moved to Prairie Grove and established the *Prairie Grove Enterprise* November 19, 1936. The newspaper was a family business and members shared responsibility and work. George Sr. retired in 1956 and G. E. and Essie assumed ownership of the business. Ida

Wiswell died July 10, 1950, and her husband, George Wiswell, died June 29, 1970. Ida Wiswell is buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery. George Wiswell is buried in Lincoln Cemetery with his second wife, Lillian. Lillie Burrow died October 25, 1940, and was buried at Cordell, Oklahoma; G. H. Burrow died at Westville, Oklahoma, May 10, 1950, and was buried at Westville.

Sue Ann Wiswell, a daughter, was born to G. E. and Essie Wiswell on May 26, 1941, at the Elizabeth Hospital in Prairie Grove. She married George Robert (Bret) Campster June 10, 1959. Her children are Scott Campster of Gardner, Kansas, and Selena and Stephanie Campster of Olathe, Kansas. Scott married Nan Kirsch of Olathe, and has two children, Danna and Tyson.

Both Donald and Sue Wiswell are graduates of Prairie Grove High School. Donald graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in mechanical engineering and presently works in Ponca City. He married Mary Lou Pitts in 1957 and they are parents of three children, Mark of Joplin, Missouri, and Paula Wiswell and Lou Ann Burriel of Ponca City; and six grandchildren. Donald presently lives in Ponca City with his wife, Maureen.

The Wiswells have been active in all Prairie Grove community activities. They are members of the United Methodist Church and have served there in many capacities. G. E. served on the Prairie Grove school board for 16 years, he was a member of the Prairie Grove City Council, as a councilman and later as recorder for many years; member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, a charter member of the Lions Club, the Trades Day Association, a past master of the Masonic Lodge and past worthy patron of the OES.

Essie served as president of the Parent-Teachers Association, Mother Advisor of the Prairie Grove Rainbow Assembly, Cub

Scout Den Mother, past matron and present associate matron of the Prairie Grove Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

When the *Prairie Grove Enterprise* was sold in 1971, G. E. retired and Essie began work for the City of Prairie Grove as bookkeeper and cashier of the Prairie Grove Water Department. She changed to part-time work in 1982, and retired June 30, 1988.

The Wiswells are devoting much of 1988 to preparation and publishing of the *Prairie Grove Centennial History Book*.

"DIVERSIFICATION GIRLS"



Top row, left to right: Mary Dean Magruder, Lucy Cummings, Lucille Morton, Frances Cann, Jeanie Barnes, Jaunita Neal, Lucille Owens; Middle row: Jimmie Bell Geiger, Georgia Barron, Willine Forrest, Hazel Barnes, Hazel Lee, Cleo Critchfield; Bottom row: Leola Sharp, Blanche West, Maxine Baggett, Eula Barnes, Lois Pearson, Alice Bassue, Ollie Barnes. (Norwood Photo)

PICKING DAISIES FOR WEDDING



Picking daisies at Grandpa Thomas' farm (by the Old Spring) for Kathleen Carl's wedding (to Jack Harlan). Left to Right: Lillian Blackburn, Kathleen Carl, Grady Helm, Katherine Blackburn, Betty Velma Buchanan. (Baker Photo)

By Judy Jones Carter

Robert Owen Hannah, born May 24, 1836, Benton County, Tennessee, was the youngest son of John F. Hannah and Annie Grace (Telford) Hannah. He was a resident of Washington County, Arkansas for over 50 years and at one time was its County Judge. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. F 19th Tennessee Army, CSA, and participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain. He was captured by the Federals at Mill Creek, Georgia and imprisoned at Rock Island, Illinois for 15 months.

He left Tennessee for Arkansas in 1867. He, along with his father, three brothers, Thomas Alexander, Andrew Vance and John Harvey; and one sister, Jane McConnell Hannah Skelton, settled near Prairie Grove. One sister, Miriam Elizabeth Hannah Stephenson, and one brother, George Whitfield Telford Hannah, remained in Tennessee.

R. O. Hannah married Susan Ann Pearson who lived near Prairie Grove. Her parents were Eli and Elizabeth Pearson who had moved to this area from Madison County, Kentucky. He was owner and operator of a general store at Hogeys for several years. At the time of his death (1921) Judge Hannah was president of the Prairie Grove Milling Company, a Justice of the Peace, and Commander of the local Confederate Veterans Post.

The children of R. O. Hannah: John Absalom (died young); Martha M. William Franklin Phillips, lived in Texas; William Blount (died young); Owen Whitfield (died young); Mary m. W. H. Maddox; Emma Jane m. Albert Dearing; Grace Elizabeth m. George Wallace; LaNora Lou m. Claud Carney; James Berry m. Vera Taylor; Robert Olen m. Beulah Bain; Maggie May m. Frank Council; Clara Helen m. Raleigh Blakemore.

In August each year, the Hannah Family Reunion is held at Prairie Grove. This is attended by a large number of Hannah descendants from all over the United States, including descendants of the brother and sister of R. O. Hannah who remained in Tennessee.

Descendants of R. O. and Susan Ann Hannah living in the Prairie Grove area today are grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, etc. They are Hugh Carney, Howard Carney, Mary Sue Carney Jones, Frank Glen Blakemore, Grace Maddox Ramsey, Louise Hannah Estes, Judy Carter, Carolyn Carney, Janette Hall, Nancy Estes Nations, Bill Ramsey, Harold Dean Ramsey, Clinton Dearing, Jimmy Dearing, Elizabeth Watson, Phillip Clement, Molly Dean Ashley, Jerry Donald Jones, Gerri Kilpatrick, Ricky Clement, Rachel Kilpatrick, Adam Kilpatrick, Darrell Prater, Dennis Prater, Darla Trout, Sharee Ramsey, Russell Ramsey, Graham Nations, Holly Nations, Janet Estes, Peter G. Estes, Jr., Linda Barnes, Stacey Barnes, Shawn Barnes, Keith Blakemore, Jason Trout, Tracy Trout, Justin Carter, Betsy Hall, Neal Hall, Aimee Hall, Nathan Prater, Logan Prater, Brooke Prater, Cynthia Prater, Scott Blakemore, and Shawn Blakemore.

ROSS FAMILY

Fountain P. Ross and Margaret Ross were early Washington County residents and lived at one time in the area southeast of Prairie Grove where Eddie McClelland and family now live.

Their son, Gregg, married Dean Simpson. They had two sons, Clyde Ross and Fount Ross, both born in Prairie Grove. Clyde was 5½ years old when his mother died.

Gregg Ross then married Maude Cannon. They lived in Farmington then at Illinois Chapel community. Gregg and Maude had ten

more children. One of these is Faye Phillips who lives near Lincoln.

Clyde and Fount grew up in Prairie Grove and attended Prairie Grove High School. In 1934 Clyde Ross married Melba White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis White of Durham. They had one son, Joe, born in Prairie Grove in 1936.

The family moved to California where Clyde worked first for Swift's Packing Company in San Francisco, then moved to Snelling, California, where he worked for a Gold Dredging Company during World War II.

They returned to Prairie Grove in 1946 and moved to a farm to raise cattle, then to town where Clyde followed the plumbing trade until about six years ago.

They have one son, Joe Ross, who married Shirley Ramsey, and they presently live in Fort Smith. Joe and Shirley have three children and eight grandchildren. Clyde and Melba also raised Melba's niece and nephew, Jean Ann Webb Cripps of Tulsa, and Jerry Webb of Cane Hill. Jean Ann has two children and one grandchild. Jerry has two sons, Bryan and Colburn.

Clyde Ross died January 7, 1988, and is buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

M. F. ROLLANS

McGill French Rollans was born in Prairie Grove January 13, 1870, and spent his entire life here where he was a progressive and successful farmer.

He married Miss LaNora Dean and they were parents of three sons, Dean, Harold and McGill. The family lived on a farm West of Prairie Grove. Dr. and Mrs. Ben Hall and family presently own the Rollans farm.

McGill Rollans died July 5, 1928, after sustaining several broken ribs and internal injuries in an attack from a bull. Dr. M. E. Foster, a Fort Smith

surgeon was brought by airplane to Fayetteville to perform the emergency surgery on Rollans, but death followed shortly.

THE DELAP FAMILY

(From a family history written by Eddie Delap in 1952, while a student at Prairie Grove High School.)

At the turn of the century when a fast-growing America entered the nineteenth century, there came to America a French family with six boys. The family's name was de Lapp. The family settled in Pennsylvania, and as the boys grew into manhood, they scattered over the country in search of a new land and a new hope.

One of their descendants lived with his family on a 40-acre farm near Knoxville, Tennessee. Times were hard and the family was forced to trade their farm for a horse. They migrated to Southern Iowa where they lived for a while, then on southward to a small town named Cane Hill, Arkansas. Tired and weary from their journey by covered wagon, they stopped to rest.

Cane Hill was a beautiful place, with its gushing springs, huge trees and rich farmland. This was the place they were searching for. It was my great-grandfather who bought land there for \$5.00 an acre.

There is an old story that my great-grandfather's brother, when leaving Iowa, broke off a willow switch to drive the horses with. When they bought land in Cane Hill, he stuck this switch in the ground near a creek bed. It grew into a huge, shapely, old willow tree. For many years it stood as a memorial of their old home in Iowa.

With the help of neighbors these brave settlers cleared their land and built a small frame house. Remains of the old chimney can still be seen there. The family worked hard and

raised apples and small crops of other fruit. The family name changed to Delap.

A son, Henry Delap, married a neighborhood girl, Emma Pearson, and bought an adjoining farm. Their home was below a beautiful bluff which had a spring gushing from it. Henry and Emma had ten children, one of whom died of typhoid fever. Henry died in 1901, leaving his wife and nine children.

One of their sons, Joseph A., married Harriet Jones of Lincoln. They lived for a while in Cane Hill with his mother. They later bought property West of Prairie Grove, next to the Muddy Fork Creek. Six boys and one girl were born into this family.

Owen Delap married Jimmie Bell Geiger. Owen held a government job and they lived near Washington, D.C., for many years before retiring. They returned to Prairie Grove and built a home on North Summitt Street. They had three children, Charles William, who died in 1972; Richard (Dick) of Woodbridge, VA, and Suzie (Mrs. John) Murray, of Greensboro, N.C.; and six grandchildren.

Clyde Delap, married Irene Dodson. Clyde served as a rural mail carrier until his retirement. He was active in Boy Scout and Rainbow organizations. They had one son, Jim, who works at the University of Arkansas and they live in Prairie Grove. He married Kathryn Bidwell, and they have two children, Joe and Joann. Clyde died in 1987 and Irene continues to live in their home on North Mock Street.

Harry Delap, married Thelma Tate. Harry (Bill) was a carpenter and an electrician, and they lived in Prairie Grove all their married life. Bill died September 26, 1985, and Thelma continues to live in their home on North Neal Street. They have one son, Eddie, who presently lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

Louise Thornton was a school teacher for many years. Upon retirement she moved to Springdale

and presently lives with her daughter, Marybelle (Mrs. Reuben Blood). Marybelle has three children and two grandchildren.

Lawrence married Catherine Peake. He died May 9, 1979.

Joe Delap married Ella Speedlin of Prairie Grove. Joe worked in research for Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, until his retirement. They had four children and two grandchildren.

Darwin Delap married Imogene Hutchenson. He worked for Phillips Petroleum Co. in Kansas City. They had two children and four grandchildren. Since Darwin's retirement they make their home at Fayetteville.

FOOTNOTE: Eddie Delap, who graduated from Prairie Grove High School in 1954, was the last of a generation which started when Clyde Delap started to school in 1912. For 42 years after Clyde began school, Prairie Grove School was never without a Delap. Eight boys compiled a total of 96 years in Prairie Grove Schools.

BREWSTER FAMILY

Jeremiah Brewster was born in 1808 in Eastern Tennessee. His wife, Barsheba, was born in North Carolina in 1812. They came to Cove Creek, Washington



Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Brewster
Clara Shofner house built in 1893 on Parks Street, East of the present home of Sarah Carl.

County, Arkansas about 1849.

Jeremiah Brewster was appointed postmaster March 14, 1855 at Cove Creek, then known as Greenville. He was a farmer and carpenter by trade, but



Vivian, Gordon and Reba Brewster, children of Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Brewster, (Brewster Photo)

represented his district in the State Legislature in 1858-1859. Jeremiah and his wife, Barsheba, were both buried in the Brewster-Simpson Cemetery on the old Simpson homestead on the Cove Creek Road.

Their children were: Rebecca, born 1834 in Tennessee. Married James S. Rodgers, April 24, 1853;

William S. Brewster, born in Tennessee, 1836. Married Martha Miranda Strickler;

Lafayette Brewster, born in Tennessee, 1838. Married Elizabeth Jane Simpson on December 1, 1859. Born in 1843 in Arkansas, she was the daughter of John Simpson. They lived in the Cove Creek area for a time but moved to Cane Hill to be near the Cane Hill College. They bought the Carnahan place there. Lafayette served four years in the Confederate Army and was wounded in the Battle of Jenkins Ferry.

Hiram Brewster, born December 31, 1842 in Tennessee. Died 1932;

Adaline Brewster, born in Tennessee, 1845;

Mary Evaline Brewster, born in Tennessee, 1848; died 1920, buried in Prairie Grove Ceme-

tery.

(Above information is from Flashback, published by Washington County Historical Society. The following is taken from the Brewster family Bible.)

Children of Lafayette Brewster and Elizabeth Jane Simpson:

Annie and Henry (twins), born June 20, 1861; Arthur, born June 20, 1866; Dollie, born January 5, 1868; Orrin, born February 20, 1869; Boudinot, born July 12, 1871; Jeremiah (called Babe), born September 1, 1873; Hugh, born April 20, 1876; Frank, born October 21, 1877; and Fannie, born September 19, 1881.

Henry (Dr. J. H.) Brewster married Ella Shofner December 23, 1890. Their children were: Gordon Wallace, born December 24, 1894, died 1946; Vivian, born April 18, 1897, died 1979; and Rebecca, born June 1, 1900,



Lucille Brunk, second daughter of John and Mary Brunk, (Brewster Photo)

died 1927.

Vivian Brewster married W. H. (Bill) Baggett, youngest son of J. J. Baggett. W. H. Baggett



*Lucille Brunk Brewster, born in 1902,
(Brewster Photo)*

died in 1947. They had two daughters:

Dariene Baggett married Hayward Lawrence. They had one son, Gary (Rusty); and one grandson. Hayward died and Dariene is now married to Julian Richards. They live in New Orleans.;

Billie Lou married Bryce Radabaugh. They have a son, James Brewster, and a daughter, Malinda, who live in Mattoon, Illinois.

Vivian died in Port Charlotte, Florida, in 1979.

Rebecca married David Minor. They had a daughter, Betty Jo Whorton, who lives in Pittsburg, Texas. Rebecca died in childbirth in 1927. Her infant son also died and both are buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Gordon married Lucile Brunk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Brunk. Gordon was a registered pharmacist and worked for the Sterling Drug in Prairie Grove for many years. They had one son, John Henry, who was born in 1926 in Prairie Grove.

John Brewster married Karleen Roberts in 1947. She grew up in Madison County. They have lived in Prairie Grove their entire married life and are parents of five children.



*John Henry Brewster, 18 months old, held by
"Mamaw" Brunk, (Brewster Photo)*

John David, born 1948; Michael Gordon, born 1950; Richard Lynn, born 1954; Kathryn Jane Brewster Ashley, born 1955; and Patricia Brewster Hyler, born 1960. John David, Kathy and Pat live in Prairie Grove; Richard lives in Talala, Oklahoma, and Michael lives in Tampa, Florida. John and Karleen have eleven grandchildren.

Another company of orphan children arrived in Prairie Grove Friday, September 25, 1915, and were taken to the Opera House where a large crowd had gathered. In the company were three girls and eight boys. Homes were found for all.

FAMILY OF JOHN R. PHILLIPS

By Bessie Mae Bryan

John R. (Jack) and Sarah Belle Crowe were married August 6, 1882. They lived in Hogeye all their married life and are buried in the Howell Cemetery. Sarah Belle died March 12, 1942, and John R. died January 10, 1951.



Back Row, Left to Right: Albert Phillips, his wife Louisa, Olvy Phillips Reynolds, Louisa Jane Phillips, and Hattie Elizabeth Phillips. Front Row, Left to Right: James W. Phillips, Sarah Bell Crow Phillips, Argyle Phillips, John R. (Jack) Phillips, Louisa Kennan "Grandmother" Crow. (Bryan Photo)

Their children were:

Albert Herman, born 1884, died 1959 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Married Louisa Walker in 1904. Their children were Valtzy Floyd, Jennie Ruth and Ida Belle.

James William, born 1885, died 1963. Married Nellie Ann (Chance) McClelland in 1906. Children: Sylvia Belle, Loyd William, Clarence, Ruby Ellen, Louella, Nellie Irene.

Olivie Cordelia, born 1887, died 1959. Married John Louis Reinold in 1908. Their children were Emma Belle, Ora, Sadie, Lillian, Marvin Lesley, and Ronald Louis.

Louisa Jane, born 1888, died 1965. Married Theodore Francis Reinold in 1905. Children: Opal May, Ernest Louis, and Ruby Marie.

Hattie Elizabeth, born 1890, died 1948. Married James Everett McClelland in 1906. Children:

William Archie, Reta Belle, Jack Roscoe, Goldie Gertrude, and Geraldine.

Argyle, born 1899, died 1952. Married Henry Faye McNeely in 1918. Children: Raymond Lesley, Myrtle Elaine, Melba Dean, and Randall Lawrence.

Parents of John R. Phillips were John R. and Rebecca Phillips. They settled on a homestead in Billingsley, Arkansas, now known as Moffett or Hogeye. John R. had three brothers and two sisters. Rebecca's parents were William and Louisa Kennan Crow. She was born at War Eagle, and had eight brothers and sisters.

Being a great-granddaughter of John R. and Sarah Belle (Crow) Phillips, and a granddaughter of James William Phillips, I have many fond memories of this family. We were always a very close family and had many family gatherings.

Direct descendants living in Prairie Grove at this time include: Louella (Mrs. Russell) Cate, Ruby (Mrs. Ernest) Gibney, Irene (Mrs. Fred) Bartlett, Bessie Mae Bryan, Lillian (Mrs. Raymond) Blakemore, Shirley (Mrs. Vernon) London, Jack McClelland, and Goldie (Mrs. Raymond) Martin.



The old Sarah Shofner Rollans home which was located 3/4 mile Northwest of the present home of Dr. and Mrs. Ben Hall. (Helm Photo)

In 1860, 43,125 pounds of tobacco was grown in Washington County.

McKENZIE FAMILY



McKENZIE FAMILY; Front row; Matilda McKenzie, John McKenzie, Susie McKenzie, Maggie

McKenzie; Back row; Dan, George, T. J. Arnon Solomon, William (Bill) and Arthur McKenzie.
(McKenzie Photo)

GRANDPARENTS AND RELATIVES OF ROY McKENZIE



Middle Row; 2nd from left; Nettie McKenzie (Roy McKenzie's mother), 2nd from left; Susie

McKenzie (Roy's grandmother, Sarah McKenzie; Men across the back are brothers. (McKenzie Photo)

MCKENZIE FAMILY

John and Suzie McKenzie, grandparents of Roy McKenzie, were married in 1848 in Illinois and came by ox team to Arkansas. They homesteaded on 80 acres of government land southeast of Prairie Grove in what is now known as the Illinois Chapel Community. They later bought 200 additional acres and raised their family there.

One of their sons, George, married Nettie Bowles in 1894 and lived on the old homeplace. George and Nettie were parents of five children, one of whom was Roy McKenzie. Roy and Lillian Campbell were married in 1932 and lived on the old homestead while raising three daughters, Sue Owens of Little Rock; Colleen Knowles (deceased), and Jean Parker of Marlborough, Connecticut. The McKenzies have five grandchildren.

In addition to farming and raising cattle, Roy McKenzie has been an auctioneer for many years. They bought a home on West Graham Street in 1977 and moved to town, but retain ownership of the family farm.

GENERATIONS

By Charla Knowles (Harris)

Susannah McKenzie climbed the path behind her house, pausing every few steps to listen. It was barely daylight, but already she could hear the rumble of wagons. At the top of the hill, she stopped and shushed the crying child clinging to her skirts as though it was dangerous to make a sound.

In the valley below, she saw only two clouds of dust billowing in the gray half-light. Rebel soldiers had ridden by the house yesterday to warn her that a Yankee army was close to Rheas Mill, and she had offered the dust-covered young men a dipper of water from the well. She had not told them that her blind

husband, fearful that he would be shot for either treason or cowardice, had fled to Texas over a year ago, but after the soldiers trudged out of sight, she had herded the one lonely cow, two horses, and six chickens into the storm cellar.

Now as she leaned against a bare oak tree, pulling her cloak more tightly against the cold December wind, she wondered if the larger cloud near the river might be the Yankee army. The Rebs, she knew, occupied the hill behind the Borden home. Mr. Clements told her that yesterday. He was always good about stopping by to check on her and give her the news from town.

Suddenly, a thunderous boom rattled the ground beneath her feet. Another boom quickly followed, and she watched in horror as thick black smoke rose from the valley. The billowing dust clouds merged, and the sharp cracking of rifles filled the silence between the deafening cannon fire.

Her child, hardly a child at ten, watched intently the two raging clouds of dust, no longer crying. Susannah wondered if she, too, was horrified by the scene before her and then realized that her child was unaware of the butchery in those clouds.

Minutes stretched into hours, and at some point, the cannons no longer seemed to rattle the hill. The acrid black smoke, though, had drifted up from the battlefield, and Susannah sensed the ferocity of the battle almost three miles away. Absorbed by the smoke and the cannon neither she nor her daughter heard the footsteps on the path behind them. A neighbor woman stepped into the clearing next to them without speaking, her eyes focused on the battle.

Susannah peeled her eyes away from the dust clouds and turned to the ashen woman, remembering that the woman's son had enlisted only a week ago. Surely he was not down there in those

clouds, but the woman's face betrayed her.

The gray sky darkened, and icy rain pelted down as the booming and cracking below grew more intense. Then, deliberately, one of the clouds moved back up the hill. The Rebs can't be retreating, Susannah thought anxiously. She glanced at her neighbor who had begun to tremble.

Not even when she had lain alone at night with the rifle propped against the empty pillow beside her had she believed that such a thing was possible. She had stood with arms crossed, on her porch when Rebel soldiers requisitioned her livestock, not the least bit fearful of the Yankees, or the Rebels, for that matter, because her family was hungry.

But this...this meant that the Rebs would lose, and Susannah also began to shake as she thought of her family. The child began to whine and shift from foot to foot, trying to stay warm. Susannah sent her home, unable to leave the scene before her, although the sun was slowly setting behind the rumbling brown-black clouds.

The two clouds had rolled far to the west when the winter darkness enveloped her. In the valley, scattered campfires sprang up, sending up tiny bright specks in the night. The woman beside her still had not spoken. Susannah thought of the boy who had been fighting in the clouds below and suddenly decided what she would do. She gently touched the woman's arm and spoke to her softly but urgently. They would ride into town and find the boy. If he was alive, the woman could rest easy, at least for tonight. If not...well, at least the woman would know. The woman only nodded her head, and the two felt their way down the path in the black winter dusk.

Soon they were rattling down the frozen road, Susannah driving the horses. In the cloudy

moonlight, only the dim eerie light from the lantern the woman held, made the familiar road visible. The thick odor of cannon smoke pervaded the night, burning Susannah's nose and eyes and the specks of campfire grew larger as the wagon clattered into the valley.

A tired-looking Yankee soldier stopped the wagon as they approached the Borden home, questioning Susannah fiercely, but she noticed in his eyes a glazed, unseeing look, and after a moment, he softened. He pointed the women in the direction of the battlefield, and Susannah led the woman down the hill, stepping gingerly. The only way to find the boy was to look for his body.

Hours later, Susannah's grimy, tear-streaked face mirrored the horror of the battlefield. Hundreds of dead bodies lay strewn across the valley. Maybe he's still alive, she thought, but then near a tall, old maple tree, they found him. He was half-kneeling behind the tree as though he had been trying to shoot just one more Yankee before the retreat. Susannah remembered the boy--he couldn't be much older than 16--from meetings at the Chapel. He was too young to be here, she thought as she stroked his blonde hair. The woman still knelt over his body, and Susannah got up and ran to one of the Yankee soldiers standing nearby. Despite his blue uniform, the soldier picked up the boy reverently and carried him to the wagon up the hill.

Susannah climbed into the wagon, now beginning to feel the wet chill that numbed her hands and feet. The moon was high overhead, and it reflected the tears streaming down the face of the woman in the back, nestling the boy's head in her lap. Wearily, Susannah picked up the reins, and the wagon rattled up the hill toward home.

I awoke suddenly, startled by a noise outside. In the small

red glow from the electric blanket controls, I could barely read the clock. It was almost 3:00 a.m. "What is that?" I thought, pulling the covers more tightly around my neck. I could hear someone snoring downstairs, but this sounded more like horses. Horses and a wagon, maybe. I lay there paralyzed for a few more minutes and then the noise gradually faded away.

(Charla, now Mrs. Stephen Harris of Texarkana, is the daughter of Charles and the late Colleen McKenzie Knowles, and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy McKenzie, and Mrs. Warren Knowles and the late Mr. Knowles. Her great-great-grandmother, Susannah McKenzie, lived in the Illinois Chapel Community where she and her husband homesteaded, and could have been the character in the story.)

(Kettron Faddis recalls hearing the story from his father. The war victim was a "Morrison" and was buried in Sharp Cemetery.) *****

MRS. ROLLANS WRITES OF TRIP
FROM TENNESSEE, 1895

*By Lanora Tennessee Dean Rollans
(Mrs. M. F. Rollans, daughter of
James Henry and Sally McGill
Dean who moved from Shellyville,
Tennessee, to Prairie
Grove in 1895)*

We left Wartrace, Tennessee, March 18th and arrived at Fayetteville, Arkansas, by train March 20, 1895.

There had been an unusual amount of snow all winter which made deep mud everywhere. Mud on the floor of the depot at Fayetteville was ankle-deep, and around outside were a lot of old-looking wagons hub-deep in mud with teams fagged and tired looking, in need of good feed.

The cousin who came to meet us and take us to Prairie Grove had a three-seated hack--the first one we ever saw--and a good-looking team, so we started on a twelve-mile four-hour drive. With the exception of the hills we pulled through that

deep mud most of the way. We stopped many times to let the team rest and when we finally arrived we had never seen a team so tired from a hard day's work in the fields.

Fayetteville had some nice homes but the greater part of the town was drab and dirty looking. Paved streets and roads we now have, were beyond the wildest dreams.

Prairie Grove was a little place of a few hundred people and maybe a half-dozen two-story houses. The remainder of the houses, a few rooms, low and shabby affairs. The Cummings flour mill, a few stores, a blacksmith shop and postoffice, were the business houses. There were four churches--the Christian, Methodist, Cumberland Presbyterian and the Baptist, have been remodeled and are still in use. The town now (1949) has seven churches.

Around the town on farms, there were a few large homes built before the War Between the States. Some of which are nice homes yet. The John Cole home, the Tillys', the John Mock, the Col. Lake and the Billie Wilson place. (John Cole place became The Elms, home of H. C. Magraders; the Wilson place became the Caswell Wilson home where Rollans Wilson now lives.)

Horse-back and farm wagons were the mode of conveyance. There were two or three old buggies and maybe as many of those 'hacks'.

"*Prairie Grove Banner*" was the name of the little paper published here then.

In 1901 a railroad was built from East of Fayetteville into Oklahoma. It was abandoned in the 1930s.

The road went by our house and was a direct route from Oklahoma to Farmington where a distillery was located. Many a horse-back rider went by with all the jugs he could tie on. For some years dozens of covered wagons passed. Families with their worldly possessions going

to Oklahoma for cheap land. The tragedy was, many of them came back by in a year or two much worse off and trying to get back home.

The farm on which we lived was a part of the ground on which the Battle of Prairie Grove was fought during the war between the States. A lot of the battlefield is now a beautiful "Confederate Park."

In the fall of '95 several nice homes were started and since then, in spite of four wars, depressions, floods and droughts, improvement has been fairly steady.

Sixty-four years has worked

miracles for this part of the world. Paved streets and roads, electricity and an abundance of water and gas for heating is a change, indeed.

1941: The Butler home on North Mock Street narrowly escaped burning Monday when a chimney burned out. The fire falling down into the fireplace in the parlor caused the mantel to catch fire. When discovered, the flames were leaping to the ceiling. It was put out by the family, before the fire truck arrived.



CENTER POINT SCHOOL--1904; Edith Cann, Jannette Cann, Paul Cann, Clabourn Cann, Ora Cann, Pearl Cann, Porter Pittman, teacher; Gordon Crouch, John Smith, Annie Mitchell, Nora Smith, Pearl Smith, Lilly Smith, Allie Smith, Stella

Avery, Ruby Nugent, Inez Thurman, Clarence Thurman, Bill Nugent, Jim Nugent, Mefford Nugent, Edna Avery, Mamie Fincher, Homer Dinsmore, Roy Dinsmore,

(Mary Rice Photo)

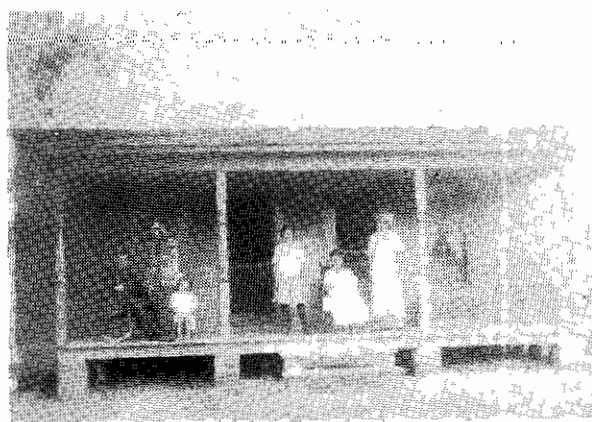
Family Pictures



Martha Broughton, grandmother of Earl T. Ogden Jr. Photo taken about 1910. (Ogden Photo)



Dean Carl, Seary Carney, Ozora Stevens and Minnie Broughton in 1914. (Ogden Photo)



Charlie Broughton, Virgie, Julie, Hattie (Neal) Broughton, and Violet Minnie, Picture of house on corner of Bush and Pittman, across highway from Baptist Church. (Ogden Photo)



Back Row, Left to Right; Vivian Baggett holding Billie Lou, Myrtle Barnes Carl, Leta Taylor, Bernice McCormick, Ruth McCormick, Vivian's hired girl, Mae Lark, Kate St. John; In front; Jack Carl, Unidentified, Darene Baggett. (B. Brooks Photo)



Anna James Hoover Holmes and J. Frank Holmes. (M. Sharp Photo)



Jack Hulse, Deputy Marshall of the Western District, Sworn in on July 28, 1890, (Hulse Photo)



Isaac Newton Hulse, grandfather of Bill Hulse, Fought in the Battle of Prairie Grove and was taken prisoner, (Hulse Photo)



Van C. Tate and Sara Tate, maternal grandparents of Bill Hulse, They lived at Onda, (Hulse Photo)



William and Nora Hulse were married in the buggy at Onda on December 14, 1909, They were parents of Bill Hulse, (Hulse Photo)



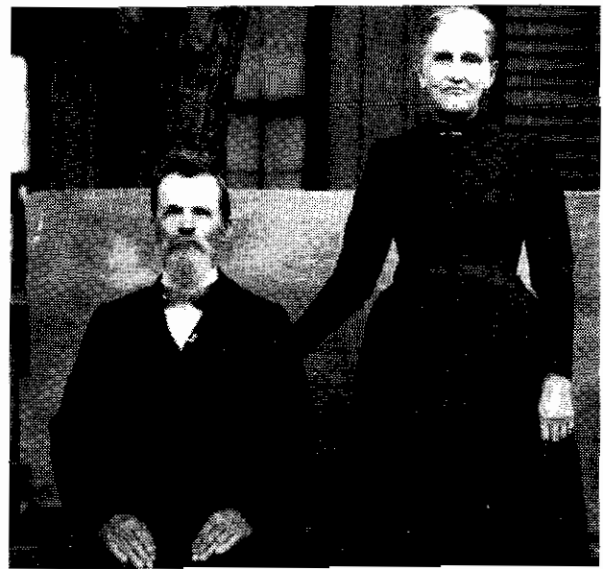
J. A. (Jim) Smith with his mother and two sisters, Mert and Maude, standing behind him Photo made in 1907. (Smith Photo)



J. A. (Jim) Smith, his wife and son, Jimmie, (Smith Photo)



Mr. and Mrs. Clint Carl on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1943, (Helm Photo)



Barton Arnold Carl (1832-1915) and Sarah Parks Carl (1837-1925) (Helm Photo)



Standing, Sarah Carl, Mrs. Jack Harlan; Seated: Mrs. Dolph Helm and Mrs. Clint Carl, mother (Helm Photo)



Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Helm in 1957, (Helm Photo)



Back Row: Paul Stewart, Martin Shofner, Harold Rollans, James Wilson, Dean Rollans, Middle Row: Katie Shofner, Sarah Carl, Tina

Rollans, Kathleen Carl, Lena Carl, Front Row: Lucille Brunk, Louise Shofner, Barton Carl, Edna Stewart, (Brewster Photo)



Back Row, left to right; Judge R. O. Hannah, Bess Hannah, two unidentified; Front Row; Anne Magruder McCormick, Dr. E. G. McCormick,
(Joy Webb Library Photo)



Back Row; Ruth and Arthur McCormick, Dr. E. G. McCormick, Jim Parks; Front Row Donald, Barry and Joe Parks,
(B. Brooks Photo)



Mrs. E. G. McCormick and members of her family.
(Joy Webb Library Photo)



Dr. E. G. McCormick and grandchildren, Donald Parks, Barry Parks, Bernice Brooks,
(B. Brooks Photo)



L. C. (Fay) McCormick (Parks Family Photo)



Back Row; Annie (Mrs. Grover) McCormick, Grover McCormick, Myrtle (Mrs. Jim) Parks, Arthur McCormick, Ruth (Mrs. Arthur) McCormick; Front Row; Bernice McCormick, Mrs. E. G. McCormick, Dr. McCormick, Joe Parks, Donald Parks, Barry Parks.
(B. Brooks Photo)



Four generations of Pyeatt family. Left to Right; Betty Pyeatt Zellner, Julia Zellner Thompson, Julia Ann Pyeatt and Herman Franklin Thompson, (Thompson Photo)



Back Row, Left to Right; Edna Baggett, Sumner R. Wilson, Mary Polson, Frank Wilson, Mrs. Edna Stewart, Dorse McCormick, (Barnes Photo)



Vivian Baggett and baby (Brooks Photo)



Family gathering in Westville, Oklahoma; Pearl Hart, Tom Hart, J. H. Zellner, Betty Zellner, Mary Wilson, Mrs. John Pearson, Alton Hart, Mattie McCormick, Hayden and Robert McCormick, Julia Zellner, Autry Wilson, two daughters of John Pearson, John Pearson, (Barnes Photo)



The Cavin Family; Hattie, Nora, Ella, Minerva, Annanias, Tom, and Neal. The small girl in front is Fannie Cavin, (Lillian Cavin Photo)



J. C. Cunningham home. At present time it is the Yost home on Highway 62 West. Pictured, Left to Right; Luttie Cunningham, Tennie (Cunningham) Moore, Frances (Grandma) Cunningham, Clyde Moore, Denton Moore and Earl Cunningham, (Brewster Photo)

One hundred eighty-five cars of local products were shipped out of Prairie Grove by the Frisco Railway in 1926.



*Wilford Thompson, five years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Thompson of Rheas Mill.
(W. Thompson Photo.)*



*Dolph Helm and Clifford Turner, members of Prairie Grove Baseball team in the 1920s.
(Helm Photo)*



*Ed Horah standing in Southern Grocery Department in 1940.
(E. Horah Photo)*



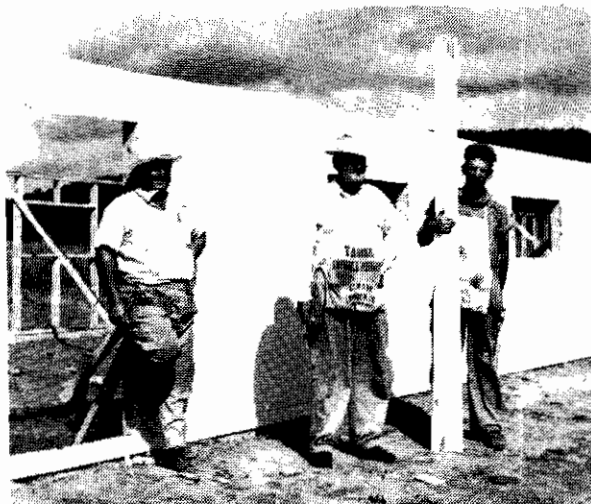
*Left to Right, Back Row; Ada Rogers Bain, Mack Rollans, Clara Shofner; Front Row; Ed Bain, unknown, Ed Rogers, Laura Youree, Douglas Cummings, Dorse McCormick.
(Park Photo)*



(Unidentified) (Park Photo)



Left to Right Robert (Bob) Layman Gene Vinson, Drvil Sizemore Bertie Mason.



Left to Right Gene Vinson Drvil Sizemore Bob Layman.



Julia Zellner Thompson age 3.
(Thompson Photo)



Early street scene in Cane Hill,
(W. Thompson Photo)



Booth Campbell of Cane Hill, (Murray Campbell is a son.)

(Park Photo)



Garland Buchanan

(Ralston Photo)



*Liza Harrison, first wife of B. H. Harrison,
(D. Ramsey Photo)*



*Jennie Harrison, second wife of B. H. Harrison,
(D. Ramsey Photo)*



Gathering around Mock Spring



*Study Club of the 1930s,
(M. Sharp Photo)*



*Sarah Carl born May 12, 1902
(Brewster Photo)*



Jack C. Dittmars

Centennial Celebration

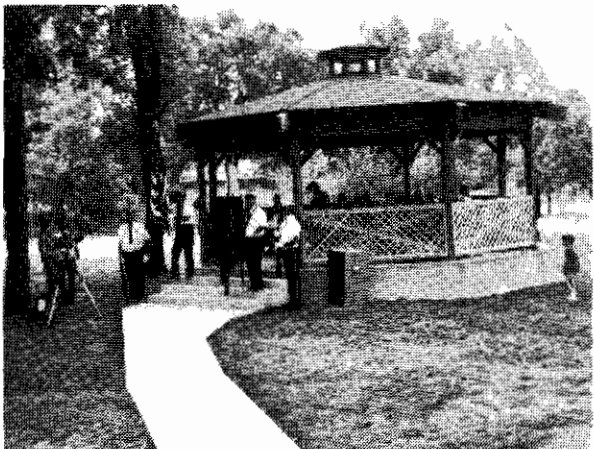
MOCK PARK DEDICATION OPENS CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

The Centennial Celebration for the City of Prairie Grove began at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, July 2, 1988, with the Dedication of Mock Park.



Mayor Eileen Manning speaks at Centennial Celebration. (D. Wiswell Photo)

The new gazebo was the setting for the ceremony which included: Invocation, Dr. R. D. Manning, Mayor 1975-76; Presentation of Flags, American Legion; Pledge of Allegiance, Rachel Wagner; National Anthem, Prairie Grove School Band; Special Introductions, Mayor Eil-



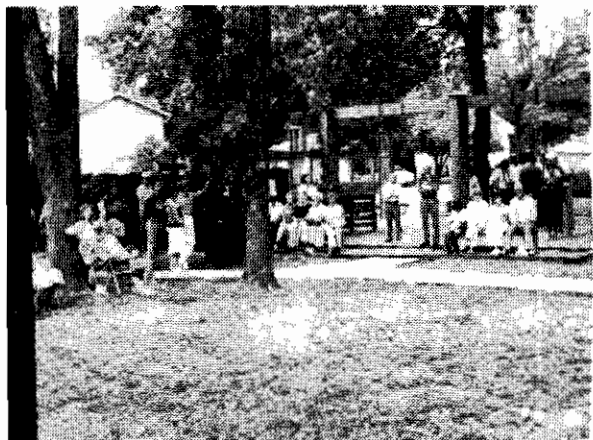
Presentation of U.S. Flag by American Legion at Park Dedication (Delrich Photo)

leen Manning; and Special Presentations, J. W. (Bill) Ramsey, State Representative.

A grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism turned 1988 into a year of beautification and improvements

at Mock Park. Bruce Davis, who was a member of the Prairie Grove City Council at the time, was instrumental in securing the grant, and Larry Oelrich, City Administrator, was in charge of construction and overseeing the project.

Funds from the grant were used to build the concrete steps leading down to Mock Spring (as it was before the spring was enclosed to meet State Health Department regulations for city water supplies); a rustic fence with brick cornerposts enclose the spring; brick and concrete sidewalks were laid through the



Gathering for Park Dedication and Centennial Celebration July 2 and 3, 1988 (D. Wiswell Photo)

Park; rustic playground equipment was installed; and a gazebo, which can be used for programs or musical entertainment was added.

To complete the renovation, the City of Prairie Grove funded the construction of brick rest-



(D. Wiswell Photo)

rooms; and the landscaping of the Park. Westwood Gardens, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Black, was awarded the landscaping contract. Ornamental and shade trees were set, shrubs and flowerbeds were placed along sidewalks and around the spring, creating an attractive, useful area in the center of Prairie Grove.



Mock Park Entrance, showing Spring, Walks and Flower Beds
(Allen Photo)

GIANT FIREWORKS DISPLAY CLOSES SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

Prairie Grove's Centennial Celebration over the July 4th holidays was marked by many special activities:

A number of the business houses had interesting window displays marking the occasion. Some employees were dressed in



Flower Beds and Spring in Mock Park
(Delrich Photo)

period costumes.

Following the dedication of the newly-renovated Mock Park at



Old photo of Mock Spring showing concrete steps. The steps were replaced in 1988 along with other improvements for the Centennial Celebration.

10 a.m. Saturday, candles on the Centennial Birthday Cake were lighted. Special guests were introduced by Mayor Eileen Manning, and State Representative Bill Ramsey made special presentations.

Browsing sites were open both Saturday and Sunday afternoon and attracted large crowds: The hospitality room at First Federal Savings and Loan contained displays by local artists. Martha Flynt was in charge. Area artists whose work was displayed included: Keith Black, well-known sculptor; Temple Skelton, artist; Dorothy (Hobbs) Campbell, painter; Irene Dykes Bernard, teacher-artist; Marion Sharp, who works with graphite pencil and watercolors; and Marye Jones Huckins, still-life paintings. (Mary also provided the line-drawing for the cover of the Centennial History Book.)

Martha Blakemore was in charge of the display of antique quilts in the Municipal Court Room. A number of very old quilts and spreads were shown. She was assisted by Violet Nations.

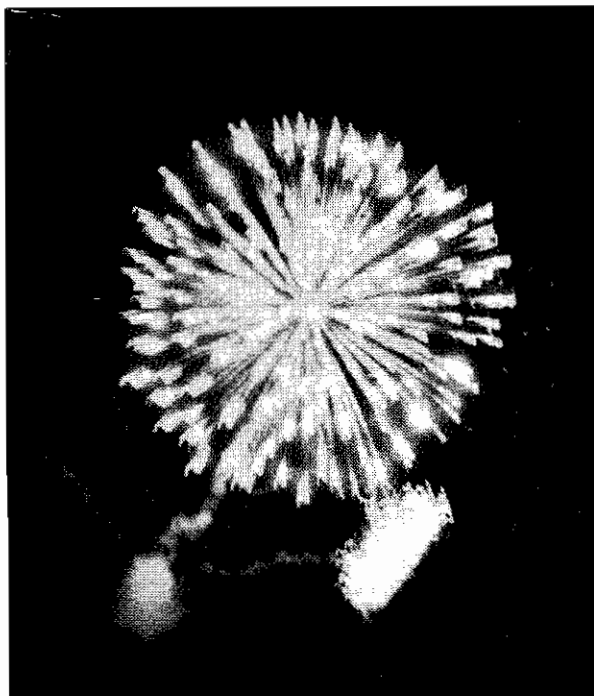
Pictures and articles for

publication in the Prairie Grove Centennial History Book were displayed in the Prairie Grove Water Department office. Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Wiswell were assisted by Miss Lorene Jones in that department.

Saturday afternoon ice cream was served at the Webb Club House by the Federated Woman's Club.

At 4:00 p.m. activities moved to the Prairie Grove School area. Open House and exhibits were held at the High School and old-time games were featured.

A program of Country Music was provided to entertain as the crowd gathered and waited for the Fireworks Display. Seats in the football stadium were filled for an outstanding display of fireworks.



Members of the Prairie Grove Lions Club were in charge of the hamburger and cold drink sales, as well as the much-enjoyed fireworks display.

Sunday morning local churches were encouraged to ring their bells 100 times, and use the centennial theme in their morning worship program.

A Gospel Singing at Battlefield Park at 5:00 p.m. closed the activities.



TRAIL OF TEARS GROUP VISITS PRAIRIE GROVE

The Trail of Tears Commemorative Wagontrain, 1988, which was on a 1,000-mile journey through six states, entered Arkansas at Gateway on November 25, then journeyed to Prairie Grove for an overnight stay at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park on November 28. They were greeted by local officials and other Prairie Grove residents.

The Wagon Train travelled from Tennessee through Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma in commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the forcible removal of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole and Creek Indian tribes beginning in 1830 and ending in 1838 with the Cherokees.

People along the route were invited to join the train for any distance--to begin and end the trip wherever they desired from Cleveland, Tennessee, to Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

PRAIRIE GROVE BATTLE REENACTMENT FIRST OF DECEMBER

Reenactment of the Battle of Prairie Grove will be held this year during the first week of December. The Reenactment is an annual event at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park, and this year it is to be a part of Prairie Grove's Centennial observance.

In Memorium

of

Charles Emmitt Woolverton

Born January 19, 1889

Died March 11, 1971

Charles Emmitt Woolverton was born in Prairie Grove January 19, 1889, the son of James William and Ella Nora Liner Woolverton. James and Ella had three other children, a daughter who died in infancy, Selma Beulah and James Floyd. All the children attended school in Prairie Grove. As a young man, Charles went to Greeley, Colorado, where he worked for the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company. In Greeley, he met Mary Elizabeth Rowe whom he married on April 30, 1913. Shortly after, Charles was promoted to head night miller at the company's plant in Caldwell, Idaho. While in Caldwell, their three children were born. Charles Emmitt, Jr., Ruth, who died in infancy, and Helen Maurine.

Charles, affectionately known as Charlie to his many friends, had long been interested in pharmacy. When he learned the "drug store" in Prairie Grove was having financial problems, Charlie moved his family to Prairie Grove. Charlie went to Pharmacy School in Little Rock.

Mary, an accomplished pianist, shared her talent generously. Soon both Mary and Charlie were active in the Methodist Church and other civic and social activities in the community. Charles and Maurine attended the Prairie Grove schools.

Mary became very interested in having an Eastern Star chapter in Prairie Grove and worked with others in succeeding to establish the Prairie Grove Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star about 1925.

I believe my daddy served as Mayor for one term at the high salary of \$1.00 per year.

Mary and Charlie enjoyed their two grandchildren, Charles Richard Lee, who now lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and Patricia Maurine Lee Laubach, who lives in Houston, Texas.

Mary died May 15, 1962, and Charlie died March 11, 1971. Charles, Jr., died July 19, 1979. All are buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Maurine Woolverton McMillan lives in Houston, Texas.

In Loving Memory

by

Maurine Woolverton McMillan

In Memorium

of

Willard G. Bartholomew



Born June 12, 1916 Died April 30, 1970

A butcher by trade,
A singer at heart,
A man in this world,
Who played a big part;

In spreading good news
To those who were sad,
Just hearing him sing
Would make a heart glad.

He traveled these hills
For quite a few years,
Just singing his songs
And spreading good cheer.

He taught his four children
To sing them old songs,
With him and dear mom
We'd sing right along.

We sometimes would sing
For hours on end,

Then go somewhere else
And do it again.

A kindhearted man
Who went out of his way,
To help someone out
And brighten their day.

He never complained
Nor would he embrace,
A thought of a frown
To put on his face

And out of his mouth
You would never hear
A word of unkindness
To fall on one's ear.

I'm proud to have known
And more proud to have had,
This wonderful man
To be my dear dad.

In Loving Memory

by

Dee Bartholomew

In Memorium

Martin Elbert Beaty

of

Virgie Zinn Beaty

Born February 10, 1905
Died January 15, 1988

Born August 9, 1902
Died February 5, 1977



Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Beaty (Virgie) came to Prairie Grove to make their home in 1940 and were residents here until their deaths. They had three children: Maxine Beaty Fortenberry of Little Rock, AR; Juanita Beaty Boatright of Lynchburg, VA; and Robert Leon Beaty of Burlington, IA. After the death of Virgie, Elbert married Ella Zinn in November, 1978. Ella lived in Lubbock, Texas, and was a cousin of Virgie.

Elbert Beaty was a native of Viney Grove where he lived until moving to Prairie Grove, except for a few years in the late 1920s when he and Virgie lived in Arizona and Texas. His parents were Leven Will and Lillie Crawford Beaty, who were from pioneer families in the Viney

Grove community.

Virgie Beaty was born in Afton, Texas. Her parents were Rev. Jacob Albert Zinn, V, and Alice Casteel Zinn. Rev. Zinn, a Methodist, was a fifth generation preacher. His predecessors in the long line of preachers were Cumberland Presbyterian. Rev. Zinn served the Viney Grove Methodist Church as pastor for several years.

The Beatys were lifelong Methodists who were faithful Christians and active members of their church. Virgie served for 25 years as superintendent of the children's division of the Sunday School at Prairie Grove Methodist Church. She was a graduate of Clarendon College (Texas) and taught school in Benton and Washington counties prior to her marriage to Elbert June 27, 1926. After moving to Prairie Grove, she worked as a seamstress in her home. Virgie and Elbert lived in the old house on the corner of Bush and Mock Streets from 1943 to 1959, when they built a new home one block west on Bush Street.

Elbert was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade. In 1942 he became a rural letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, and he repaired and refinished furniture as an avocation. During his 26 years of postal service, he drove approximately 356,000 miles on the three routes out of Prairie Grove Post Office. His first years were on Route 1, and later on Routes 2 and 3.

Elbert and Virgie Beaty are buried in the Prairie Grove Cemetery.

In Loving Memory by
The Beaty Children

In Memorium

of

The D. N. Ralston Family



David Newton Ralston - father (b. 1860 in Tennessee), Gilbert Hugh - son (b. 1898 in Tennessee), Marguerite - daughter (b. 1903 in Kiowa County, Oklahoma),

Laura McBroom Ralston - mother (b. 1868 in Tennessee), Alec David - son (b. 1896 in Tennessee) and Hal Clinton - son (b. 1892 in Tennessee)

This pioneer family left Tennessee in 1900 to homestead a farm in the newly-opened land in Kiowa County, Oklahoma. Having proven their claim, they sold that land and moved the family to Prairie Grove in 1908 for the advantages of a more established community and education for the children. Mr. Ralston was a carpenter and built a number of homes and other buildings in Prairie Grove. They lived in

this house on the south edge of Prairie Grove until 1912. They then moved to Viney Grove, where Robert Enoch was born in 1912, later they moved to Gentry and finally to Gravette.

On the day this picture was made, the men of the family were cutting wood when the photographer arrived. They decided to include their tools in the family picture. Mr. Ralston is holding the axe and Alec is displaying the crosscut saw.

In Loving Memory

by

Betty Baker and Ann Baker

Granddaughter and Great-Granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Ralston

In Memorium

of

John Garland Buchanan

Betty Velma Buchanan Ralston

Born October 6, 1894
Died April 7, 1976

Born January 24, 1893
Died November 25, 1969

Children of John Andrew Buchanan
and Elizabeth Thomas Buchanan



Velma and Garland were orphaned in their teens. They attended the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas. Velma later graduated from Cottey College, Nevada, Missouri, and taught school in Cane Hill, Farmington and Greenland, Arkansas, in the 1920s. Garland op-

erated the farm which had been in the family since the original patent. He was a representative of Washington County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company for more than 25 years and a member of the Washington County Board of Equalization for a number of years.

In Loving Memory

by

Betty Baker and Ann Baker

Daughter and Granddaughter of Velma Buchanan Ralston

Too Late to Classify

MAYOR 1906-08; 1913-14



J. Sherman Dill
(1910 Photo)

J. Sherman Dill was a farmer in the Prairie Grove area for a number of years before buying a home and moving to town where he went to school to further his education.

He was elected State Senator from the Fifth District (Washington County), and served in the 37th and 38th General Assemblies of Arkansas.

J. S. Dill was elected Mayor of Prairie Grove in 1906 and served through 1908. After he completed two terms as Arkansas State Senator he returned to Prairie Grove and was re-elected Mayor for 1913-14.

Thirty-one of the States of the Union have counties named for General George Washington, the first president of the USA. Washington County, Arkansas, was created October 27, 1828. It has approximately 855 square miles within its limits and has an average elevation of 1450 feet.



CARL DILL

A son of J. S. Dill, Carl Dill served as a page while his father was State Senator. He was recommended by a group of Prairie Grove businessmen as shown on the card.

CARL DILL

Is a good boy, honest and energetic, and you can always depend upon him. If you should make him one of the Pages of the Senate we feel sure you would be pleased with him, and you would greatly please the undersigned by so doing.

Southern Merc. Co.	Famous Merc. Co.
Home Bank.	E. C. & F. H. Carl.
First National Bank.	Model Dept. Store.
Prairie Grove Herald.	M. M. Collier.
Banner Grocery Co.	Palace Drug Co.
W. C. Murphy, Supt. Schools.	T. L. Hart, S. S. Supt.

(Dixie Rone of Springdale, a granddaughter of J. S. Dill, provided the pictures and above information which was received too late to be included with other Prairie Grove Mayors.)

