

ARKANSIAN

Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department

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Senator Dale Bumpers Project Begins

By Diane F. Worrell

The first day of spring break, March 22, kicked off the beginning of a major processing project, with the hiring of an archivist for the U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers Papers. Case Miner, formerly a processor and acting archivist with the Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt Papers project, came on board to manage this effort. The Bumpers papers will be open for research in about three years when the project is finished.

Bumpers was a U.S. Senator from 1975–1999, known for his fiscal conservatism, social liberalism, and oratorical skills. Born in 1925 and reared in Charleston, Arkansas, Bumpers spent the depths of the Great Depression picking crops, delivering newspapers, working at a cannery, driving his father’s funeral vehicle, and working in a grocery store. In his autobiography, *The Best Lawyer in a One-Lawyer Town* (Random House 2003), he observed, “We had a small Philco radio, which we listened to in the dark, because Mother couldn’t bear the thought of the radio and the lights both being on at the same time.”

Bumpers got his enthusiasm for politics from his father, whose political aspirations led him to serve one term in the state legislature. The senior Bumpers was firmly convinced that “there was nothing as exhilarating as a



Sen. Dale Bumpers, ca. 1979. Photo courtesy of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. From the U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers Papers.

political victory and nothing as rewarding or as honorable as being a dedicated, honest politician who actually made things better and more just.”

After serving in the U.S. Marines during World War II, Bumpers finished college at the University of Arkansas, earning a degree in political science. He earned his law degree from Northwestern University in 1951. continued on page 11

Leadership Report

From the Desk of Tom W. Dillard

The long, hard winter has finally loosened its grip on northwest Arkansas, and all of us here at the Special Collections Department look a little more relaxed, and we walk with a little extra bounce in our step. Despite the dreary weather of last winter, Special Collections has been making progress on many endeavors.

In early March we were pleased to open the Diane Blair Papers for research use. Arkansians have so many reasons to be pleased with Blair's many contributions to Arkansas political and social life. This is a large collection, consisting of some 107 large document boxes. And, this does not include the oral history interviews she did on the 1992 presidential campaign.

THE ARKANSIAN

The Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries collects, preserves, organizes and provides access to research materials documenting the state of Arkansas and its role in the regional, national, and international communities. *Arkansian* is an old name by which our early ancestors called themselves, as well as the name of an antebellum newspaper in Fayetteville. *The Arkansian* is published twice a year.

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The *Arkansian* is available online at:
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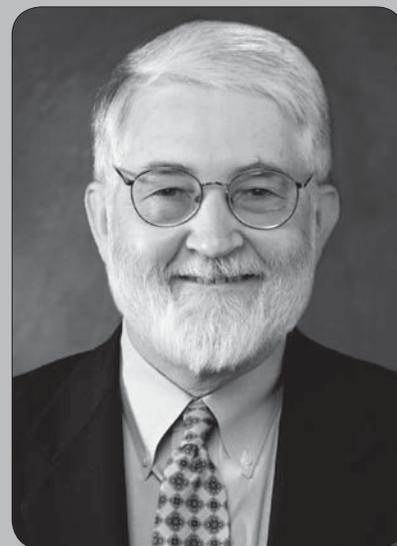
Diane's death in 2000 robbed Arkansas of one of its preeminent educators and leaders, but her manuscript collection will stand forever as a monument to an amazing Arkansian.

With the hiring of Case Miner as project director, we have begun processing another large manuscript collection—the Senator Dale Bumpers Papers. After serving four years as governor, Dale Bumpers began his senatorial career by defeating incumbent U.S. Senator J. W. Fulbright in 1974. He retired from the Senate in 1999. Students and the general public are in for a treat when this important collection is opened.

Since the last issue of *The Arkansian*, Special Collections has finished a project to digitize and post on-line the *Commonwealth Fortnightly*, the newspaper published by Commonwealth College located in Polk County near Mena in western Arkansas. This project was underwritten by a grant from University of Arkansas communications professor Stephen Smith. The *Fortnightly* was a lively newspaper, reflecting the spirited reformist impulse behind the school. The *Fortnightly* editors, despite their political agenda, had eclectic interests, including giving a good deal of attention to their neighbors in Polk County.

I am really pleased with the photo spread in this issue of *The Arkansian*. It reminds me that Special Collections has a huge photograph collection. Indeed, it is so large—perhaps as many as 500,000 images—that we have not had the financial resources to process the entire collection. Regardless, we are pleased to share the pictorial heritage of Arkansas in *The Arkansian*.

Index Arkansas continues as a major project of Special Collections. Established in September 2009, *Index Arkansas* has added 5,643 citations to reach a total for the entire data base of 96,185. Our goal is 114,000



Tom W. Dillard

by the spring of 2011, and progress is evident every day. If you have not yet made use of *Index Arkansas*, I urge you to visit this on-line index to Arkansas literature at <http://arkindex.uark.edu/>.

Ms. Amy Allen has recently joined the staff of Special Collections as the University Archivist. In this role, Amy will be responsible for systematically documenting the institutional history of the University of Arkansas. And, given the fact that the University was established in 1871, Amy will be very busy playing catch up. If you see Amy, please give her a warm welcome—and let her know if you have materials documenting the history of our University.

Enjoy *The Arkansian* And, when in Fayetteville, please stop by for a visit.

Tom W. Dillard

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Newsletter of Historic Labor College Now On-Line

By Diane F. Worrell

The newsletter of Commonwealth College, a controversial labor college that operated from 1924 to 1940 near Mena, Arkansas, is the newest digital collection available on the web site of the University of Arkansas Libraries' Special Collections Department.

Commonwealth College was one of the nation's most famous and longest lived experiments in cooperative living and labor education. The newsletter, titled the *Commonwealth Fortnightly*, is available free of charge at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/commonwealth/fortnightly.asp>.

Labor colleges, an outgrowth of the noncommunist reformist labor movement, flourished in the 1920s and 1930s, an era rich in educational experimentation. Socialists Kate Richards O'Hare, Frank O'Hare, and William E. Zeuch, founded Commonwealth in 1923 near Leesville, Louisiana. The college moved to Arkansas in 1924. "Commoners," as students and staff were known, carved a campus and farm out of the wilderness 13 miles west of Mena near the Oklahoma border.

Commonwealth's founders believed that a different type of education for the new industrial class would bring about a series of social changes that would transform American capitalism into a utopian cooperative commonwealth. The college offered a liberal education curriculum taught from a working class perspective.

Faculty members were unpaid and expected to participate in the communal work required to contribute toward the school's self-sufficiency. Students labored four hours per day in return for their subsistence and education. Commonwealth gave no grades and conferred no degrees, but it offered a rich intellectual life. Although the small staff and student body were diverse and cosmopolitan, there were no African



Neighbors come to hear Mrs. O'Hare at Commonwealth College, Special Collections Department Picture Collection, #2900.

Americans. The school's most famous alumnus was Orval E. Faubus, a six-term Arkansas Governor, whose previous attendance at the school became an issue in his first campaign. Ironically, while Faubus's gubernatorial record was progressive, he was best known for his stand against the desegregation of Little Rock Central High school in 1957. Faubus, whose parents gave him the middle name Eugene after socialist Eugene V. Debs, ordered the Arkansas National Guard to stop African Americans from entering the school, greatly escalating the Little Rock crisis.

The newsletter documents the college's social activities, curriculum information, lectures, plays, cooperative living projects, and community relations efforts, along with satirical pieces, labor union news, letters from prominent supporters, including Eugene V. Debs, and commentaries on social issues and current events.

The publication's "Society News" was often humorous. The May 15, 1926 society column announced that

livestock foreman John Mars "put a stop to nonsense in the barnyard." Elderly hen Alice lost her head on the chopping block. "She not only wouldn't lay, herself," charges John, "but she was spreading contraceptive information among the other hens."

In 1926 the American Legion's State Convention accused Commonwealth College of Bolshevism, Communism, and "free love." Although an investigation by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover cleared the college of these charges, Commonwealth College continued to be associated with communism in popular opinion.

Over time Commonwealth College developed a more radical direction. A 1931 student-staff revolt resulted in a leadership change which moved the college toward more aggressive labor activity, including a close affiliation with the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union in eastern Arkansas. The Great Depression continued on page 13

From the Rare Book Collection:

Fore-Edge Paintings

By Ethel Simpson

The electronic age in communication and publishing has brought to academic libraries countless new media and formats. Most of the Libraries' patrons, students and academics, grew up knowing the difference between a byte and a bit, or between an iPod and a smart phone, so it isn't strictly necessary to instruct them in the major points of working with these resources.

But academic libraries are also responsible for the older method of dispersing information via media that used paper instead of electrons. Special Collections, especially, is charged with preserving some of the most valuable and vulnerable of these paper formats, including manuscripts, maps, photographs, and rare books.

The best-known materials in Special Collections are the manuscript and Arkansas book collections, covering Arkansas studies from autobiography to zoology. As a public institution in a relatively young and poor state, the Libraries rightly focus on acquiring materials for research, rather than items of interest primarily to bibliophiles.

Although they are sometimes used by researchers, rare books, many of them gifts to the Libraries, are housed in a protected environment mainly because of their monetary value, rarity, or fragile condition. They include art books and atlases that are vulnerable to theft of plates and other graphics, rare first editions, and autographed books in many fields. Some were acquired to use as examples in teaching the history of writing, printing, and book publishing.

One such example is a bibliographic curiosity, a book with a "fore-edge painting." It is *Poems* by William Cowper (London: W. Sharpe, 1819), one of the most popular poets of the early nineteenth century. According to the bibliographic note in the catalog, it is bound in "contemporary red straight grained morocco, sides paneled in blind and in gilt. Broad raised bands on gilded spine. Fore-edge painting of Cowper's summerhouse at Olney."

Doubtless most people have never heard of fore-edge

paintings, much less seen any. The fore-edge of a book consists of the cut edges of the pages opposite the spine. Anyone who has ever written his name or the title of a book on this edge of a school textbook has created a "fore-edge" embellishment.

A fore-edge painting, then, is such a decoration, painted along the cut edges of a book. The edges of the book are then gilded. When the book is closed, only the gilt edges are visible, but when the pages are fanned open, the painting appears. Typically, as in the case of the Libraries' example, there is some relation between the subject of the painting and the contents of the book.

The earliest fore-edge paintings were produced during the English vogue for the

"picturesque," verbal and graphic images of nature and rural life common in English Romantic poetry. But other subjects are frequently found, including scenes from the Bible, famous military and naval battles, portraits, noted cathedrals, and grand English houses. The Edwards family of Halifax, famous booksellers and publishers, produced the largest number of these books between 1774 and 1834.

In time, the art developed to such a degree that two paintings might be produced, side by side along the fore-edge. Most remarkable and extremely rare, are books on whose edges double paintings were created, one visible with the front cover on top and the other visible with the back cover on top. Occasionally a book has a total of four paintings.

Books with fore-edge paintings are still offered for sale. The web site of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America describes a considerable range of possibilities. A 1790 anthology of English poetry with a fore-edge painting of an English hunting scene is priced at \$2,000. A 1770 edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* is offered for \$5,000. It contains a split double fore-edge painting with two views on each side, for a total of four views. The subjects include Adam and Eve, Noah, the Nativity, and the Crucifixion.



Fore-edge painting on the rare book *Poems*, by William Cowper, (London: W. Sharpe, 1819). The painting, visible only when the pages are slightly fanned, depicts Cowper's summer house. Photograph by Valerie Robertson.

Help Us Find *Chicora*!

By Diane F. Worrell

The Special Collections Department is trying to find a copy of Arkansas's oldest published cookbook, *Chicora's Help to Housekeepers*, published in Little Rock in 1891. Verinda Gaines Pendleton Sappington (1826–1903) authored the book. Because ladies of that era avoided having their name in print, Mrs. Sappington used the pen name “Chicora,” which was the name of her Mississippi River plantation located in Chicot and Desha counties. After the plantation flooded and the home slipped into the river, Mr. and Mrs. Sappington moved to Little Rock in 1876. Mrs. Sappington was a prominent woman, who was known for her splendid parties.

Our readers might have noticed that *The Arkansian* began running a foodways and cookery column, titled “Arkansauce,” starting with the Fall 2008 newsletter [page 6 in this issue]. One of the purposes of the column is to highlight materials in our Arkansas cookbook collection, but an equally important motive is to underscore the importance of cookery as a research topic.

The term “foodways” refers to everyday, conventional food-related practices and traditions among a group of people. Examples include the kinds of foods prepared and eaten on a regular basis as well as the types of foods prepared for holidays and special occasions. Current practices of bringing casseroles to a bereaved family, preparing chicken soup for a sick person, roasting a turkey at Thanksgiving, and grilling hamburgers or hotdogs on the fourth of July—all represent foodways.

Not only are cookery and foodways interesting topics, they also provide a window on the past in terms of historical research. Old cookbooks were written as guides for women, who often spent long hours engaged in food preparation. They were usually published by merchants, clubs, or community organizations, sometimes containing advertisements for local goods and services. In some cases, a cookbook may be the only record of community life in a small town. Old cookbooks reflect the daily lives of people, the customs of a community, trends in diet and nutrition, and the availability of ingredients.

Special Collections holds more than 1,000 cookbooks and is always on the lookout for more, especially those from



Verinda Gaines Pendleton Sappington, author of *Chicora's Help to Housekeepers*, ca. 1891, from “Chicora” by Inez E. Cline, *The Record*, vol. VII, 1966, p.56.

the 1800s through the 1930s. *Chicora's Help to Housekeepers* is particularly needed; it would serve as an anchor that will connect researchers to nineteenth century Arkansas. A recent search of *WorldCat*, an online database of library catalogs, revealed only three copies of *Chicora's Help to Housekeepers* held by American libraries, two in Arkansas and one in Texas.

Modern cooks sometimes have difficulty with recipes from older cookbooks, due to changes in terminology, ingredients, and cooking appliances. Some older cookbooks lack standardized measurements. *Chicora's Help to Housekeepers* contained a “valuable house wife's table, by which persons not having scales and weight at hand may readily measure the articles wanted to form any recipe [sic] without the trouble of weighing: Wheat flour—1 pound is 1 quart; Indian Meal – 1 pound 2 ounces is 1 quart; Butter – 1 pound is 1 quart;

Loaf Sugar – 1 pound is 1 quart; White Sugar – 1 pound 1 ounce is 1 quart; 10 eggs is 1 pound; a tumbler holds half a pint; a teacup is one gill; a large wineglass is 1 gill; a teaspoon is 40 drops.” The book also included instructions for operating wood-burning cook stoves.

Chicora was one of the last cookbooks still using the paragraph system of writing recipes. Instead of an exact amount, the housewife making Mock Turtle Soup was given this instruction: “Remove the brains from a calf's head.” The cookbook contained 15 recipes for catsup and 30 recipes for eggs. A recipe for “peach leaf yeast” contains potatoes, flour, and peach leaves. The author claimed that, “It takes less of this yeast than hop yeast.”

Readers, if you should stumble across this cookbook, please let us know. Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard said, “We are proud of our Arkansas cookbook collection, but acquiring *Chicora's Help to Housekeepers* would add ‘icing to our cake.’ Please keep a lookout for this book, and give me call at 479-575-5577 (or send me an e-mail at tdillar@uark.edu) if you see one.”

Arkansauce

Arkansas Foodways and Cookbooks

[Editor's Note: Jennifer Harington Brizzi is the author of a bi-weekly food column called "Ravenous" for a group of weekly newspapers. She also pens two food blogs, "Tripe Soup" and "The Rhinebeck Gourmandizer." Like her late father, she likes to write fiction as well and is working on her fourth unpublished novel. As a child, Brizzi spent much time in Arkansas and now lives in the Hudson Valley of New York State with her husband and two children. This piece was published in her "Ravenous" food column shortly after the November 7, 2009 death of her father, Donald Harington, the beloved Fayetteville artist, teacher and writer.]

Nourished by Arkansas

By Jennifer Brizzi

I grew up in Vermont on a distinctly un-New England diet. In our white brick house in the small college town of Putney, we ate—in order of reviled to beloved, for me—boiled okra, kidneys with green peppers, black-eyed peas, and fried chicken. My parents grew up in Little Rock, but managed to find or grow the southern food they grew up on for our dinner table, food that I consider my legacy, and still cherish, even the okra, not so much the kidneys . . .

I love to travel and write about foods of the world, but dearest to my southern-bred, northern-raised heart are dishes like long-simmered greens and cornbread sausage stuffing at Thanksgiving, food that I was weaned to eat, stuff that formed the foundation of my eating and cooking self. I spent a good bit of time in Arkansas as a kid and have made many visits since, so the foodways of the little southern state made most famous perhaps by my home-boy Bill Clinton will always be part of me.

My father, Donald Harington, a writer of 15 books, died November 7, 2009. I visited him in Arkansas in June and went to his funeral, and of course ate a good deal both trips. I don't know much about Vermont food in spite of my 18 years there, but I know a little about what they eat in Arkansas.

Some think that in the encyclopedia at "Arkansas" there ought to be a picture of a toothless rube, and yes, the life of simple Ozark hill folk were the subject of much of my father's fiction. Some say that Arkansas is culinarily behind California by ten to fifteen years, and I'm still laughing about a large sign I saw a few years ago outside a Springdale eatery that advertised "Cooked Sushi." But, in fact, sophisticated eating has finally come to Arkansas,

and my own parents, raised in the state, went on to get good educations, read widely (very, very widely), live in Boston, Dublin, and Majorca, and traveled around Europe for a few months when I was little. At home my parents insisted on a nightly family dinner, and we supplemented that frequent fried chicken and black eyed peas with plenty of lobster, snails, and good T-bones from local cattle, often washed down with the best wine they could find.

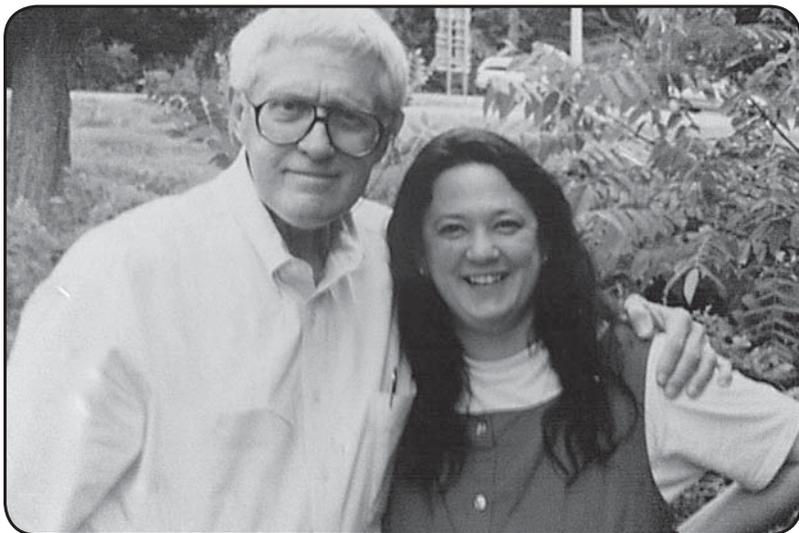
"I spent a good bit of time in Arkansas as a kid and have made many visits since, so the foodways of the little southern state made most famous perhaps by my home-boy Bill Clinton will always be part of me."

Nana, my mother's mother, an elementary school principal, traveled all the way from Little Rock to Vermont to visit us every single summer and every Christmas, and her Arkansas cooking rubbed off on me, too, although mostly what I remember are her divine strawberry preserves and strawberry shortcake on flaky biscuits. And we spent a lot of time visiting her in Little Rock, too, although mostly what I remember about eating there was getting to dine from TV tables while we watched *Lassie*, a real treat as we had no television at our home in Vermont.

Back in Vermont, my mother did most of the cooking, but my father was into food, too. He grew a gigantic organic garden, and I grew up loving vegetables, I swear! One of Daddy's specialties was chicken, shaken in a paper sack with flour and lots of pepper, fried in bacon fat, with peas and mashed potatoes on the side, and that remains one of my top two comfort food meals, next to my mother's macaroni and cheese, which I could eat by the bucketful. Daddy also liked to grill steaks or giant beef ribs in our blue barn's breezeway, comfortably ensconced in an armchair by the simple low grill, Scotch in hand, perhaps a pipe or cigar or book to while away the time. In the Spring 2005 *Oxford American* magazine he claimed, in a piece he wrote about chicken and dumplings, to have cooked us that dish once a month for Sunday supper. I don't remember that, although I do love to cook and eat it to this day.

And it was always "supper." In fact, when it was time for one of us to run upstairs to Daddy's study where he was writing, to alert him that it was time to eat, our simple code word was "S.I.R." for Supper Is Ready.

When I was in my late teens my parents split up. Eventually Daddy went back to Arkansas and settled in Fayetteville, where he married a fan and kept on cooking. And writing. He invented the word “scrumdidlyumptious,” although it referred to a woman, not a food. He developed a cult following for his wonderfully inventive novels, and his grilled butterflied leg of lamb recipe was included



Jennifer Brizzi with her late father, Donald Harington, ca. 1998.

in a 1992 cookbook of recipes from southern celebrities. “Your old man,” he wrote me, “when it comes to cooking, is right up there with Clinton and Gore!” (whose recipes were included, too). A few months before Daddy died, I finally made his leg of lamb, and in spite of a lack of garlic (sorry, Daddy!), it was quite tasty. In too-few visits to Fayetteville, I enjoyed his wife Kim’s delightful purple

“In the early 1990s my father contracted cancer of the larynx, eventually had trouble eating, and in the last years of his life couldn’t eat or drink at all, living through nourishment from a feeding tube. I tried to tone down my food obsession in my letters to him, but in his imagination he was still a hearty eater, and the characters in his books carried on for him, swilling jars of moonshine and scarfing good down-home Ozark victuals.”

hull peas, sort of a pretty tender cousin of the black-eyed pea, good mill-ground grains from War Eagle Mill, heavenly chicken-fried steak in Eureka Springs, the same town where Daddy’s friend Crescent Dragonwagon tended Dairy Hollow House for many years (now she lives near

my mom in Putney), crispy chicken tenders from the AQ Chicken House, and the biggest meatiest ribs ever from Penguin Ed’s. In between, occasional mail orders of luscious bacon from Ozark Mountain Smokehouse sustained me.

In the early 1990s my father contracted cancer of the larynx, eventually had trouble eating, and in the last years of his life couldn’t eat or drink at all, living through nourishment from a feeding tube. I tried to tone down my food obsession in my letters to him, but in his imagination he was still a hearty eater, and the characters in his books carried on for him, swilling jars of moonshine and scarfing good down-home Ozark victuals.

He remained a taster of life until the end. Two weeks before he died, his friend Archie Schaffer, Executive V.P. of Corporate Affairs for Tyson Foods (which has Daddy’s early art in the halls of their corporate offices), brought him some Grapette soda to pour over his crushed ice, and Daddy was moved to write a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Rice, likely one of the last things he ever wrote: “I have been a Grapette fan practically from the day I was born. . . . [T]here has always been a unique grapy quality to it Here’s to Grapette! . . . May it live forever!”

Today [November 30, 2009] there was a big memorial service for him at the University of Arkansas where he taught art history for many years. I couldn’t go due to the expense, but I hope someone talked about him as an eater and cook and a true son of the Ozarks, a man who experienced life to the fullest, even when he couldn’t eat or drink.

For me Arkansas food is great barbecue, muscadine wine, fried okra, and sky-high meringue pies. But more than that, it’s about the foundation of my life as an eater and cook, and as the daughter of a man I am prouder of than I can ever say, and who I already miss very, very much.

In Appreciation



This newsletter and other operational funding for the Special Collections Department are provided through the generosity of the late Elizabeth Morris Walker and Robert Morris.

Images of Arkansas

Agriculture

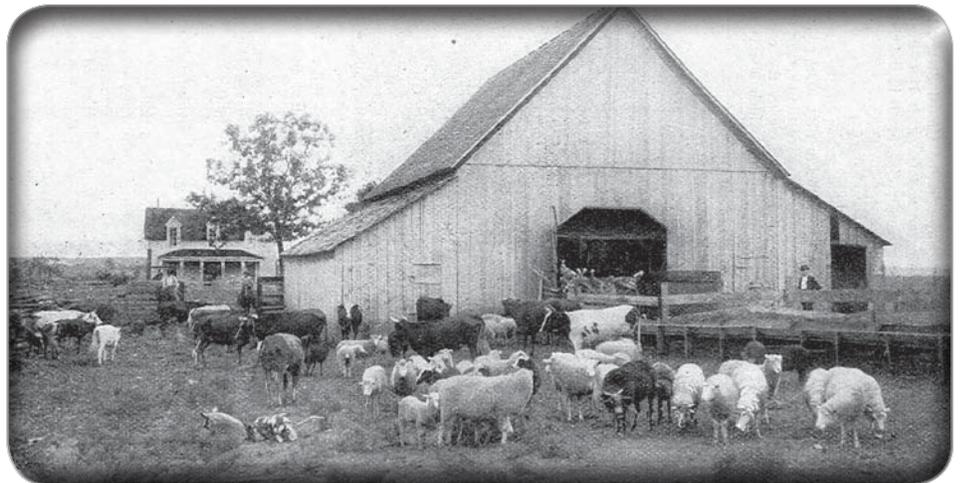
Selected and Annotated by Todd E. Lewis



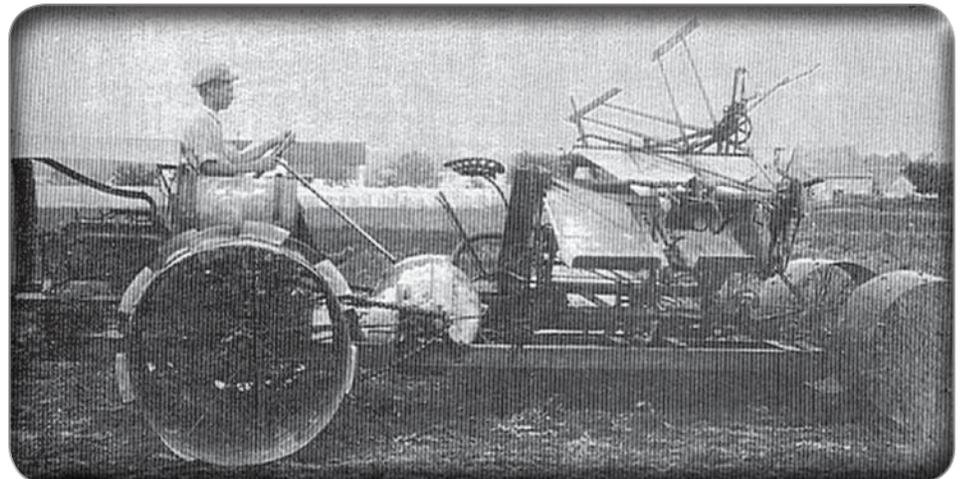
Top left: Members of the Future Farmers of America in Des Arc, Prairie County, treat a colt with a broken leg, ca. 1940. From MC 1298, Future Farmers of America, Des Arc, Arkansas Report.

Top right: In Des Arc, Prairie County, a young James Ferguson hugs his mule colt, 1941. From MC 1145, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service records, 1914-1988.

Middle: Sheep, cattle, and pigs gather in a Logan County farm yard, ca. 1904. from *Arkansas: The Land of Lumber, Fruit, Coal, and Cotton* (1904).



Bottom: G.I. Dill, a designer of tractors, established a tractor plant in Harrisburg, Poinsett County, in 1914. From J.M. Spicer, *Beginnings of the Rice Industry in Arkansas* (1964).





Top left: In one of the barns of the R.E.L. Wilson plantation, owned by the Wilson family in Mississippi County, three boys sit atop a wagon filled with cotton, ca. 1940. From the Special Collections Department Picture Collection.

Top right: William S. Campbell (upper right) began working with the A.C. Hamilton and Company green and dried apple shipping business in Fayetteville, Washington County, in 1902, becoming its manager by 1914. From MC 1427, the William Simeon Campbell Photograph Albums and Papers.

Middle: James Oliver (right), who served as president of the International Flying Farmers, Inc. in 1967, and "Bobo" Hair stand in front of their airplane in Arkansas County, 1952. The Arkansas Flying Farmers Association was founded in Little Rock in 1946. Its Arkansas County chapter was a family business organized by George Rex Jones and his son-in-laws, James Oliver and Norman Core, to provide spraying, dusting, seeding, and fertilizing services. From MC 1380, Core Family Papers.

Bottom: Farmers display their sheep in Harrison, Boone County, 1945. From MC 1145, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service records, 1914-1988.



Meet Our New Archivists

Interview with Case Miner, Archivist for the U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers Papers Project

Please tell our readers about your background.

I'm 32 years old and live with my wife Robyn and stepdaughter Ally in Fayetteville. I have a varied background; I guess I'm sort of a Renaissance Man. I've been a landscaper, a juvenile detention officer, a fire alarm and security alarm technician, a sailing instructor, and a self-employed handyman for hire. I grew up in Oklahoma and received a B.A. in English from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2001. I moved to Arkansas in 2004 and began working on an M.A. in history, which I completed in the summer of 2008. I signed on with the Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt manuscripts processing project in November 2006. I eventually rose through the ranks until I was Acting Archivist, managing the Hammerschmidt processing project through its last five months.

At home I probably don't seem like the quintessential archivist at all. I like baseball and football. I do our house remodeling myself, as well as landscaping, auto repair, etc. I cook, and I'm an avid home brewer (beer and mead). I hike and camp as often as I'm able. I'm a voracious reader, and I'm also writing a novel when I can squeeze a couple extra hours out of an evening (okay, that part is pretty archivist-esque). My favorite book is *Moby Dick*, and I'm entranced by anything written by Cormac McCarthy. My favorite musician is Dave Brubeck.

What appeals to you about archival work?

Being an archivist means I get to be a working, hands-on historian. Honestly, this was never something I considered as a career; the plan was to pursue a Ph.D. in history. After working on the Hammerschmidt project, I discovered I have an aptitude for taking huge amounts of unorganized material, breaking it down, processing it, and re-organizing it into something coherent enough for researchers and students to use. I'm good at it, I enjoy it, and there are actually people out there willing to pay me for it. What's not appealing about that?



Case Miner

Describe the steps involved in processing a congressional papers collection.

Step one: See a psychiatrist. No, seriously, the first thing is never assume you know what you've got. There are roughly 1,300 legal sized boxes in the Bumpers collection. You have to roll up your shirtsleeves, get into those boxes up to your elbows, and assess the material. If you don't, and just assume what's written on the box is correct, you'll be very sorry before it's all said and done. Once an accurate inventory is created it's time to make a rough organizational scheme of where things go. Then the materials are processed, one box and one item at a time, slowly making order out of chaos and adhering to archival preservation techniques. Once done, everything is re-boxed according to what should, by then, be the final organization scheme. Then an accurate "finding aid" (a guide for using the collection) is made, the boxes are stored, and *voila*, an orderly congressional collection is born. Simple. Right? No. It's much more complicated than that, but that's processing in a nutshell.

Amy Allen is the First University Archivist



Amy Allen

The University of Arkansas Libraries recently hired a University Archivist to plan and implement a new University Archives program. In February, **Amy Allen** became the University's first full-time University Archivist. Amy comes to this position from the Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt Congressional Collection where she was a manuscripts processor. She earned a B.A. in English from the University of Arkansas in 2000 and a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama in 2008.

University Archives is a new unit of the Special Collections Department. Amy's task is to identify materials

of enduring historical value to document the history of the University and to preserve and provide access to these materials. These collections will document student activities and the teaching, research, and administrative activities at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville campus. This is no small task, yet the unit is starting with just one staff member. Despite its small size, University Archives has big plans. Amy said, "This is an exciting time to be an archivist. The digital world has provided so many different options for collecting and making materials accessible." The University Archives will be a resource for promoting awareness of the value and use of University of Arkansas's institutional history, culture, and memory.

Special Collections already contains many resources and collections about the University, including publications produced at the University and manuscript collections from some faculty and staff. Amy will work on a program to foster a systematic method of documenting the University. Some examples of items that will be collected include photographs, newsletters, magazines, event materials, annual reports, and office files of key administrators. The University Archives is not a records management program; it will collect only materials that have enduring value for the history of the University. Amy said, "I look forward to working with the different departments to create a resource that can be useful for the University and the community."



Sen. Dale Bumpers with President Jimmy Carter, ca. 1978. From the U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers Papers.

Senator Dale Bumpers

continued from front page

After his graduation from law school, Bumpers and his wife Betty returned to Charleston, where they raised three children. He took over his father's business, the Charleston Hardware and Furniture Company, and he opened a law practice. In his years of practicing law in Charleston, from 1952 to 1970, he lost only three cases.

Bumpers was a key figure in the desegregation of the Charleston public schools in 1954. The Charleston School District was the first district among the eleven states comprising the former Confederacy to integrate its public schools following the *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation.

After an unsuccessful campaign for the Arkansas House seat his father had once held, Bumpers defeated Orval E. Faubus in the 1970 Arkansas Democratic primary, despite being a relative unknown. He then defeated incumbent Republican Governor Winthrop Rockefeller in the general election. During his four years as governor, Bumpers presided over an unprecedented amount of progressive legislation in the areas of education, consumer protection, parks and recreation, prison reform and construction, and in improvements to social services.

In his 24-year career in the U.S. Senate, Bumpers supported environmental legislation and the expansion of the national parks system. He worked to reduce the national debt and was often critical of military spending. Bumpers was adamantly opposed to frivolous efforts to amend the U.S. Constitution.

Bumpers used his oratorical skills to defend President Bill Clinton in his impeachment trial. After leaving the Senate, Bumpers directed a Washington think tank, the Center for Defense Information, and practiced law in Washington, D.C.

Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard, observed, "Dale Bumpers is one of the great lions of modern Arkansas. He came out of nowhere in 1970 to win the governorship, and from there he never looked back. His senatorial papers comprise one of the great manuscript collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries. Students and scholars of Arkansas and American political history will be delving into this collection for generations."

Special Collections Thanks Its Supporters

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Celebrating the Life of Diane Blair and the Opening of Her Papers

On March 9 the University Libraries and the Special Collections Department celebrated the opening of the papers of Diane D. Blair, award-winning Arkansas educator, political scientist, activist, writer, public servant, and friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton. Many of Blair's friends and family members were present for the event, which featured remarks by University Libraries leaders, husband Jim Blair, friend Ann Henry, University Chancellor G. David Gearhart, as well as videotaped remarks by her friend, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The collection consists of 113.5 linear feet of biographical materials, correspondence, newspaper clippings, research materials, notes, primary and secondary source documents, manuscripts, memorabilia, photographs, VHS recorded programs, audio interviews, and electronic data and databases. The materials are organized into five series: personal and family materials, professional materials, Bill and Hillary Clinton materials, general political materials, and photographs and audio materials.

Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard observed, "The Diane D. Blair papers are remarkable not only for their scale, but also for their depth. Her interests were broad, ranging from the everyday minutiae of local government to the national issues that shaped American politics, government, and history. Researchers who use Blair's papers will have an inside look at 40 years of Arkansas and American history."



Bill Clinton and Diane Blair, ca. 1981.



Diane Blair, ca. 1955.



Bill Clinton, Jim Blair, Diane Blair, and Hillary Rodham Clinton at the wedding of Jim and Diane Blair, 1979. Bill Clinton performed the ceremony, which was held at the home of Morris and Ann Henry



Special Collections manuscripts processor, Krista Jones, standing in front of the Diane Blair exhibit she created. Photograph by Valerie Robertson.



(L to R) University Chancellor G. David Gearhart, University Libraries Dean Carolyn Henderson Allen, Jim Blair, and Ann Henry all spoke at the event. Photograph by Valerie Robertson.



Diane Blair's granddaughter Sydney Frances Kincaid, child of Bill Kincaid and his wife Missy, attending the event. Photograph by Valerie Robertson.



Student Group, Commonwealth College, Special Collections Department Picture Collection, #2898b.

Commonwealth

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radicalized staff and students, who were prominent in the establishment of a new Arkansas Socialist Party in 1932. The party nominated Clay Fulks, a Commonwealth instructor, for governor in 1932. These events generated negative publicity throughout the nation, resulting in renewed charges of atheism, free love, and communism. Despite the college's tireless efforts to maintain good relations with the local community, it never gained the acceptance of its rural neighbors.

The school closed in 1940 due to shattered finances, a deteriorating physical plant, harassment from the state legislature, and acrimonious relations with the neighboring community. In a last ditch effort to save the school, the Commonwealth College Association attempted to transform the college into a drama school under the auspices of the radical New Theatre League of New York City. Local citizens filed charges against the school in the Polk County Court for anarchy, failure to fly the American flag during school hours, and displaying the hammer and sickle emblem of the Soviet Union. The court found the college guilty and fined it \$5,000, a sum it could not pay. Commonwealth's property was ultimately sold to pay the fine.

Digitization of the *Commonwealth Fortnightly* was made possible by University of Arkansas Department of Communication Professor Stephen A. Smith. Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard said, "Students of Arkansas History will forever be indebted to Professor Smith for making possible the digitization of this unique resource."

The Walter B. Reuther Library at Wayne State University and the Annenberg Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Pennsylvania provided assistance to the project. The collection includes nearly a complete run of the newsletter, which was issued from January 1, 1926 through March 5, 1938. The Special Collections Department also holds other materials related to Commonwealth College.

Congratulations to Our Departing Seniors

The Manuscripts Unit is losing three valued student workers who are graduating and going on to bigger adventures.



Jared Bludworth

Jared Bludworth, who graduates in December, is studying abroad in Austria next fall. Bludworth is from Dallas, Texas; he is slated to receive a B.A. in international studies and German at the end of his semester in Austria.



Alexandria Gough

Alexandria ("Alex") Gough grew up in Ozark, Missouri. She has been with Special Collections for nearly three years. Alex enrolled at the University of Arkansas at the tender age of 16 and will graduate this semester with a B.A. in history. In the fall, she hopes to pursue a master's degree and Ph.D. in history. Alex's studies focus on the American West and U.S./Native American relations. She hopes one day to teach American history at the college level. Alex's hobbies include "keeping history alive through the lost art of quilting."



Lori Neumeier

Lori Neumeier has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship and will be leaving Fayetteville after her May graduation with a bachelor's degree in both English and German. She grew up in Little Rock and enrolled in the University in 2006. Last summer she enjoyed studying abroad in Holzkirchen, Germany. With the Fulbright fellowship, Lori will be able to utilize her two majors, by teaching English to German students, ages 12 to 18. Of this opportunity, she says, "I hope to stimulate an interest in America on the part of the German students. I look forward to learning as much from my students as they do from me. I hope we are all positively affected by the connection between our two cultures that this program allows." Lori ultimately intends to pursue a career in librarianship.

NEWS from Research Services

By Andrea Cantrell

One of our recent international visitors, Markku Ruotsila, is a professor of American church history at the University of Helsinki, Finland.

He is researching fundamentalist Christian sentiments between the World Wars and during the Cold War to analyze anticommunist activities in a global context. He is especially interested in the International Council of Christian Churches and the American Council of Christian Churches, both headed by Carl McIntire.

His research in Special Collections focuses on the Billy James Hargis Papers (MC 1412) and the J. William Fulbright Papers, both of which contain publications of conservative Christian organizations. During this research visit to the U. S., Dr. Ruotsila is also working at the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Ruotsila is the author of numerous books and journal articles. His books include: *British and American Anti-communism before the Cold War* (Portland, OR: Frank Cass, 2001); *Churchill and Finland: A Study in Anticommunism and Geopolitics* (London, England: Routledge, 2005); *John Spargo and American Socialism* (New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006); and *The Origins of Christian Anti-internationalism: Conservative Evangelicals and the League of Nations* (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2008).



Markku Ruotsila being assisted by Special Collections Research Services Librarian, Andrea Cantrell

NEWS from the Manuscripts Unit

By Timothy G. Nutt

Special Collections acquired the records of *The Grapevine*, a newspaper established by the Arkansas Student Free Press Association in 1970 as an alternative to the University of Arkansas-sponsored student newspaper *The Arkansas Traveler*. Its first issue appeared on March 18, 1970.

In April 1970 Paul Blume, a University of Arkansas junior and native of Nashville, Tennessee, was named *The Grapevine's* first editor. Subsequent editors included Joe Eblen, Doug Howard, Brynda Pappas, Peter Tooker, Barry Weaver, Charlie Alison, Kim Martin, and Terry Kost. *The Grapevine* was sold to a brother-and-sister team, Nancy and John Maier, in 1986. In September 1986 they had arranged for John to be the publisher and Nancy to serve as editor, an arrangement that lasted until the final issue of *The Grapevine* was published on July 16, 1993.

In an editorial in the final issue Nancy Maier proclaimed that she and her brother had decided to take a “sabbatical” from publishing *The Grapevine*. She acknowledged the difficult nature of the work of publishing a small alternative newspaper, and also noted resistance from city and county officials. However, she expressed her greatest disappointment in the “liberal-progressive community” of Fayetteville. In particular she charged that the members of the “liberal elite” pursued personal rather than collective agendas. She was especially disappointed that some “members of the liberal community” had used the newspaper as “a stepping stone and a whipping boy.” For these and other reasons, she declared that *The Grapevine* would cease publication until the progressive community genuinely came together to pursue a common agenda.

Contents of the collection include editors’ files, reporters’ files, business records, advertiser records, written copy and newspaper art, research materials, images, and issues of the newspaper. Business records include correspondence, draft articles, notebooks, contracts, receipts, newspapers, and newspaper clippings. Images include photographs, negatives, and drawings. Cassette tapes with interviews are also included in the records.

The collection contains issues of newspapers published by special interest groups, including the Audubon Society, the American Civil Liberties Union, the United Mine Workers, and white supremacist organizations, including the Ku Klux Klan.

The Grapevine Newspaper Records collection is accessioned as MC 1604 and is available for research.

NEWS from *Index Arkansas*

By Joan Watkins

Index Arkansas, an on-line index of Arkansas publications, is quickly becoming an essential research tool for anyone studying the history of Arkansas, its people, and its institutions. A key indicator of the success of the *Index* is the number of times it is being searched. The total number of searches researchers conducted in the *Index* from July 2009 through March 2010 was 35,727, an average of 132 per day. When compared with the total number of searches made in 2004—the year that the *Index* became available on-line—the use of the database has grown from 8,640 searches to 35,727 in the current year.

Index Arkansas received a \$59,000 two-year grant from the Happy Hollow Foundation of Fayetteville to index county and state historical publications from 1985 through 2009. This project, started in September 2009, has added 5,643 citations to the *Index*, for a total of 96,185 citations in the entire database. The goal of the *Index* staff is 114,000 citations by the spring of 2011, and progress is evident every day.

With the gift from the Happy Hollow Foundation, Special Collections added staff to the indexing project. Two of the five staff members involved in the project include:

John Riley, who joined the staff of *Index Arkansas* last August, brought important library and academic experience to the project. He began working in the Mullins Library's Reference Department in 2007, helping students and other researchers identify sources and connect with the tools offered by the Libraries. As a teaching assistant for the Department of English from 2002-2007, John taught Composition, Essay Writing and World Literature.

John's library experience has led to plans to pursue a master's degree in library and information science beginning in the fall. John earned a bachelor's degree in history and master's degree in education from Harding University. He competed for Harding's cross-country team and eventually completed seven marathons, including three Boston Marathons. Although he never experienced the "runner's high" that people talk about, he did enjoy competing, mainly against himself.

A native of Little Rock, John came to Fayetteville in 2001. In his free time, he enjoys relaxing at home with his wife Kelly, an English teacher at Fayetteville High, and their eight-month old white German Shepherd and three Maine Coon cats.

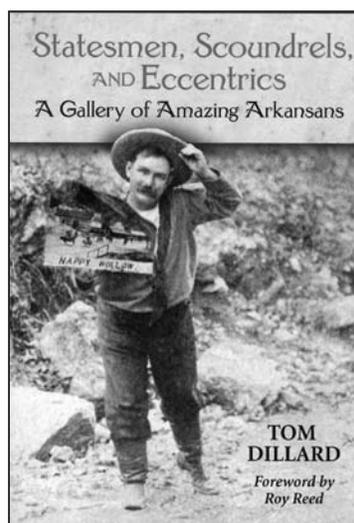
Fulbright College honors student, **Keith Webb**, is a veteran member of the *Index Arkansas* team. Keith will be graduating from the University in May with a bachelor's degree in history and economics and a minor in math. He is looking for employment as an economic forecaster or business analyst. We will miss him.

Keith's history studies have focused on Ancient Greece and Rome. He spent a month in Greece last summer with the Classics in Greece study abroad program. His combined studies and work could easily absorb all his time, but he does find opportunities to enjoy his hobbies of riding and working on bicycles.

Year	Number of <i>Index Arkansas</i> Searches
2004-2005	8,640
2005-2006	9,982
2006-2007	11,765
2007-2008	14,050
2008-2009	23,622
2009-2010	35,727

Index Arkansas is sponsored by the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries and available free of charge at <http://arkindex.uark.edu>.

Dillard's Book Profiles Amazing Arkansans



Book jacket of *Statesmen, Scoundrels, and Eccentrics: A Gallery of Amazing Arkansans*, University of Arkansas Press, 2010.

Fans of Arkansas history will relish Tom Dillard's new book, *Statesmen, Scoundrels, and Eccentrics: A Gallery of Amazing Arkansans*, recently published by the University of Arkansas Press. The book contains a collection of 73 biographical sketches of interesting Arkansans, originating from Dillard's "Remembering Arkansas" column in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*.

Dillard's selection of "amazing" Arkansans includes colorful and eccentric characters, as well as leaders who greatly influenced Arkansas history. The profiles range from explorers, American Indians, and early settlers, to entertainers, politicians, business people, and artists. The 264 page book sells for \$22.95.

Are You Arkansas-Literate?

- 1. Arkansas has how many counties?**
(A) 55 (B) 75 (C) 76 (D) 81
- 2. The last county created in Arkansas was:**
(A) Cleburne (B) Pulaski (C) Nevada (D) None of these
- 3. The county known as the “mother of counties” is:**
(A) Pulaski (B) Cross (C) Union (D) Lawrence
- 4. The elected body in charge of counties is named the:**
(A) Court of Appeals (B) Quorum Court (C) County Senate (D) None of these
- 5. Which of the following counties has two county seats?**
(A) Washington (B) Mississippi (C) Montgomery (D) Perry
- 6. Stateline Avenue divides Arkansas from Texas in which county:**
(A) Little River (B) Lafayette (C) Hempstead (D) Miller.
- 7. The city of Benton is located in which county:**
(A) Benton (B) Pulaski (C) Hot Spring (D) Saline
- 8. Which of the following counties is home to a large oxbow lake?**
(A) Polk (B) Calhoun (C) White (D) Chicot
- 9. Which of these counties was the site of major oil discoveries in the 1920s?**
(A) Union (B) Pike (C) Pulaski (D) Stone
- 10. W.H. Furbush, an African American, was the first county sheriff of:**
(A) Lee (B) Pulaski (C) Grant (D) Madison



ANSWERS: 1 (B); 2 (A); 3 (D); 4 (B); 5 (B); 6 (D); 7 (D); 8 (D – Lake Chicot); 9 (A); 10 (A)