

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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ON CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

by Jerry McKelvy

Some people complain that we are too easy with criminals these days. They spend their time in a jail, but are provided with television, air conditioning, exercise rooms, and other amenities, or at least that is the impression we get. Others just serve their time at home, as long as they report regularly to the law enforcement people. Most law-abiding people feel that a criminal, especially someone who commits a serious crime, should be made to suffer a little while incarcerated. We have come a long way from the days of chain gangs, but one time in Indiana, I did see prisoners picking up trash on the highways guarded by officers on horseback. I feel that this type work, farm work on a prison farm, or making license plates is a good idea and helps to defray the costs of running the prisons. We will always have a criminal element in our society and we must have some system of punishment.

I don't believe I have ever been inside a jail or prison or I would probably have remembered it. I remember taking a course one time in college and a field trip was planned to the federal prison in Texarkana, but for some reason the trip was cancelled.

I have a book called *Old Time Punishments* which describes various ways criminals have been punished in various parts of the world. It describes such things as the ducking stool, the pillory, the stocks, the drunkard's cloak, whipping, and the repentance stool for minor crimes and for the serious crimes, such things as beheading, drawing and quartering, and hanging.

These punishments have long since disappeared with the exception of hanging. Hanging is still a method of execution in a few states, even though it has not been used since 1936.

There have been three legal hangings in Nevada County since the county was created in 1871, and probably some that were not legal. The first legal hanging was at Rosston on July 27, 1877. Albert Trammel was hanged before a crowd of 3000 people. He had been found guilty of killing his wife in Ouachita County, and the trial had been moved to Rosston.

The next hanging was on August 5, 1898 in which Charles Clyborn was hanged for killing Sol Rollins, a deputy sheriff of Clark County. This trial was also moved to Nevada County. (*see page 3 for more on this story*)

Squire Smith, a black man, was hanged in Prescott on June 14, 1906 about seven months after being convicted for killing John and Count Gleghorn, two well-to-do white men who lived west of Rosston near the Hempstead County line. The cause of the murders was an argument over a hunting dog. (*continued on page 3*)

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A WINNING TEAM

Congratulations to the Broncos Pee Wee football team this season. They won all their games except one. Members of the team from Bluff City are Brandon and Bryan Meador, Tyler Carman, Dexter Sims, and James Threadgill.

Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young. *Benjamin Franklin*

God must have loved the plain people: He made so many of them. *Abraham Lincoln*

BIBLE TRIVIA

What is the last word of the New Testament? (Answer on last page)

OLD PHOTOS NEEDED

If you have an old black and white photo of an ancestor, a building, or something connected to the history of this area, let me know. I might be able to use it in a future issue. Your photo will be returned unharmed.

A NEW BOOK

Jerry McKelvy has recently completed another booklet. This one is entitled *Hard Times*, and is full of local news tidbits of how people in Nevada County survived during The Great Depression. The booklet is 38 pages and is available for \$5.00. It also includes some interviews with some of our local people done in 1996. Sorry, there are no pictures in it.

The following poem was written by Sgt. Vernon Dale Simpson, a member of Co. C, 153 Inf. from Nevada Co. The unit was in training at Camp Robinson in the spring of 1941.

OLD GLORY

Wave on you mighty Emblem
Spirit of Democracy
Unfurl your gallant Stars and Stripes
That I may gaze on thee.

The many storms you've weathered
Blood shed without redeem
And yet you have not fallen
God's blessed you with supreme.

Old Fellow, I salute thee
Yet, such an act seems small
When thinking of the great pioneers
Who've died and gave their all.

But wave on Old Glory
O're the land of Liberty Free
Unfurl your gallant Stars and Stripes
That ring with Democracy.

Sign at a laundramat: Automatic washing machines. Please remove your clothes when the light goes out.

ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Millard and Elloene McBride of Bluff City who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on Nov. 14th.

DEEP THOUGHTS

1. Is it OK to use the AM radio after noon?
2. What do people in China call their good plates?
3. What do you call a male ladybug?

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(continued from page 1)

Here are some excerpts from a news item that appeared in an 1898 edition of The People's Tribune, a Prescott newspaper:

Last Friday was hangman's day in Prescott and deputy sheriff Sol Rollins life was avenged in the hanging of Charles Clyburn in the courthouse yard. There were about 300 people present to see Clyburn swing to eternity.... On the scaffold, Clyburn had nothing to say only to tell his friends goodbye and expressed a desire to see his wife sent back to her fathers. After being introduced by Rev. Mr. Hawkins, pastor of the Methodist Church, Mr. Clyburn made the following remarks from the courthouse balcony after reading the 18th chapter of Matthew:

"Kind people, I am not able to say very much. I will say this one thing, if there is anybody here today that I have ever done aught against, I ask you to forgive me. I forgive the bitterest enemies I have on earth. I feel that I have made my peace with God, I am ready to go. One thing especially I will ask you to do for my sake, that it may benefit some of the young people.... In the next general election, everyone that has a right to vote at the polls, cast their vote against whiskey. Vote it out of the state. It has been my ruin forever. It is the cause of my death this day...I beg you all to take warning from me... Shun bad company and leave whiskey alone.

"I went out this morning and looked at the scaffold, the first one I ever saw in my life. I am perfectly willing to walk on the scaffold and die for Jesus. I have a wife and two little children. She was not able to be here today. I have not seen her or my children in over eleven months. I have here a lock of her hair she sent to me and I will carry it to my grave. *(Clyburn showed the crowd the lock of hair pinned over his heart)*. As for me being guilty of the charge that I am to die for here today, God and the angels in heaven know I am innocent. I don't deny killing the man. I killed that man, but I done it in self defense."

By Mr. Clyburn's request, a choir sang "Jesus, Lover of My Soul", and when dismissed by the minister, the crowd of more than 300 swarmed about to see the prisoner being led to the gallows. the prisoner was courageous to the last and seemed to die with unassuming faith in the certainty of his salvation by Him who was led to the cross to die for all.

Many people thought that Clyburn had acted in self defense in killing Rollins, the officer who was trying to arrest him, the guns going off about the same time.

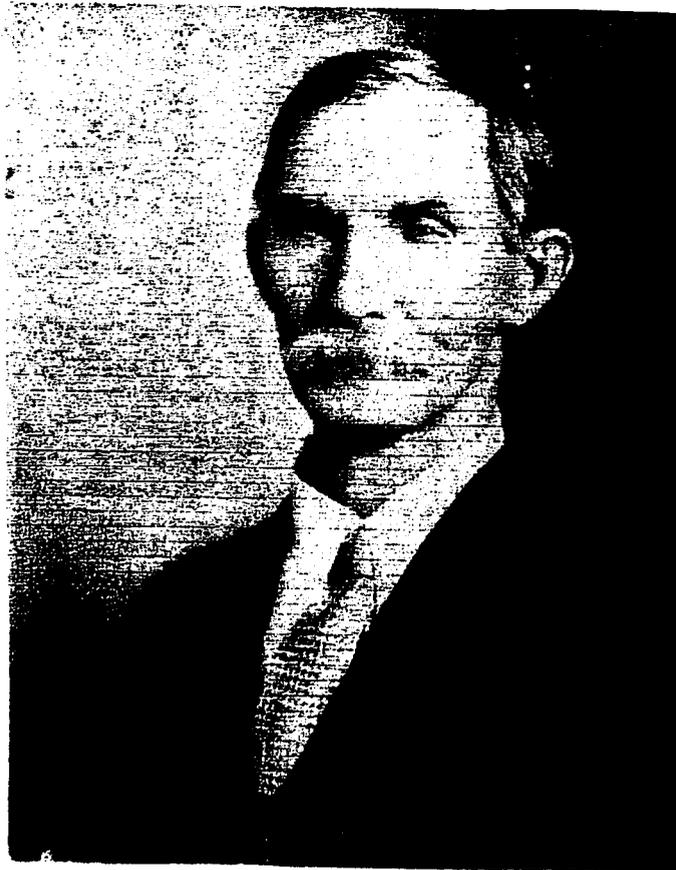
The sheriff who had the responsibility of carrying out the execution of Charles Clyburn was Alexander P. Greer. He was a farmer by profession except for serving four years as deputy sheriff and two years as sheriff. Mr. Greer had a farm a few miles south of Bluff City and was living at Lackland at the time of his death. In his obituary dated Dec. 9, 1905 the writer had this to say:

"He made a good officer and a most excellent sheriff, was courageous, brave, and true. Nevada County never had a more competent sheriff than A. P. Greer".

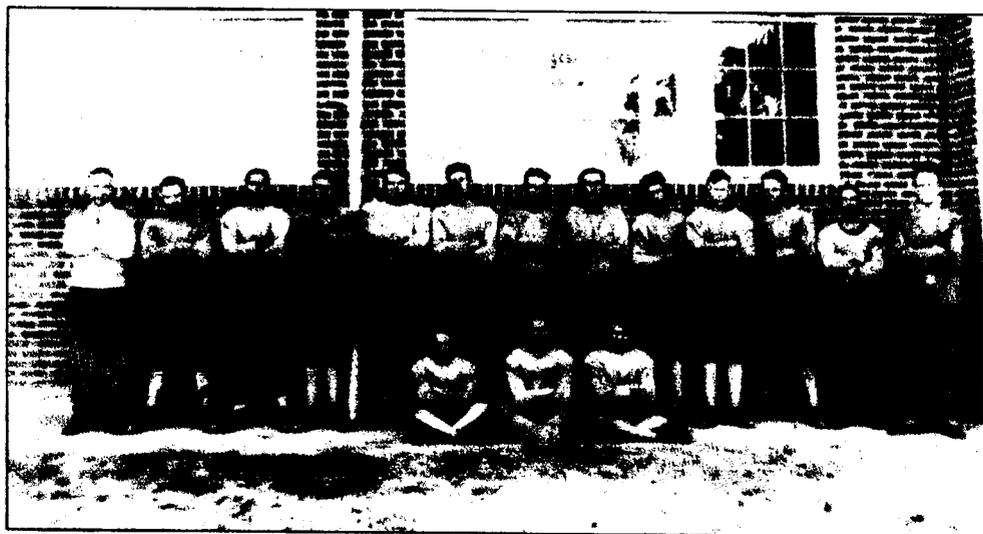
"Mr. Greer did not hang Clyburn. The crime with which he was charged and convicted and the law did it. Mr. Greer was only an instrument of the law and its execution. No man was more tender in feeling, more kinder in disposition, and more charitable. In him the needy had a helper to the extent of his ability. He was a good citizen, a good father and husband, and a professed and consistent Christian."

A. P. Greer is buried at White Church Cemetery, about eight miles south of Bluff City.

Next issue--The hanging of Squire Smith



Alexander P. Greer (1833-1905)
Sheriff when Charles Clyburn was hanged
(photo from Ruth Greer Pierce)



Chidester Football Team of 1928
Photo from Mr. Hassel Starnes who passed away in 1996

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A DAY TO REMEMBER

In a few days we will mark the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. We now have another date, September 11, 2001 which we will never forget. Let us hope and pray that we never have to remember a third date.

The Bluff City area lost one of its own back in 1941. Harl Coplin Nelson gave his life for his country while serving on board The *USS Arizona*. He was a brother of Claudis Nelson of Bluff City.

HARL COPLIN NELSON
Oct. 11, 1917—December 7, 1941

DID YOU KNOW THAT--

1. The lifespan of a dragonfly is 24 hours.
2. The average person falls asleep in 7 minutes.
3. The only food that doesn't spoil is honey.

TWO FROGS

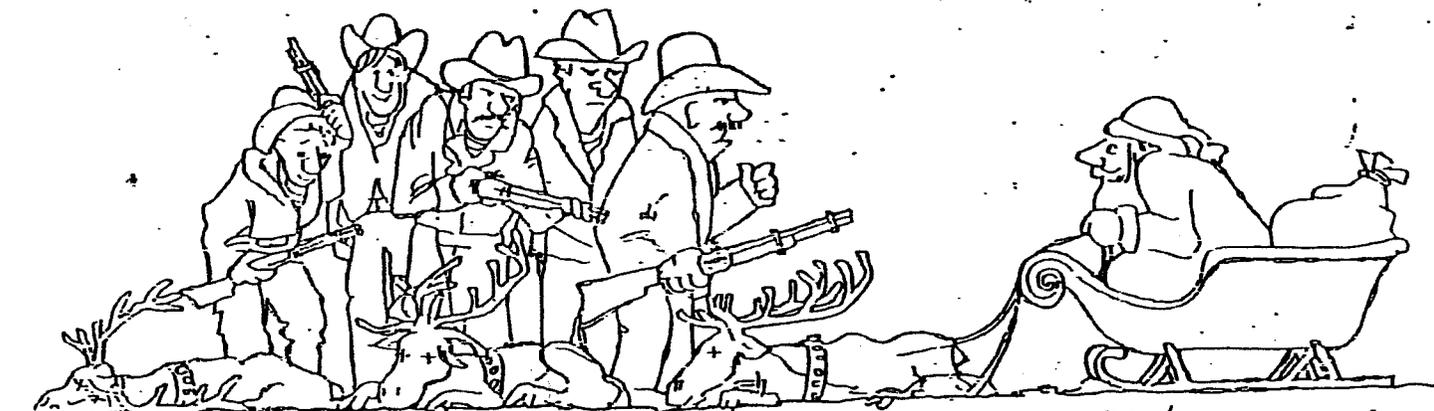
Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl,
One was an optimistic soul,
But the other took a gloomy view,
"We shall drown", he cried, without
more ado!

So with a last despairing cry,
He flung up his legs and said "goodbye".

Said the frog with a merry grin,
"I can't get out, but I won't give in.
I'll just swim around till my strength is
spent, then I will die the more content."

Bravely he swam till it did seem,
His struggling began to churn the cream,
On top of the butter at last he stepped,
And out of the bowl at last he leapt.

What of the moral?
Tis easily found,
If you can't get out...
Keep swimming around!!!!



"I DENT GIVE A DOG GONE WHO YOU ARE! THEM CRITTERS IS ON OUR DEER LEASE!"

CHRISTMAS IN OUACHITA COUNTY, ARK.

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THIS MONTH'S RECIPES

SWEET POTATO PIE from Claudis Nelson's Cookbook

1 cup mashed sweet potatoes (baked ones are best)	3 teaspoons flour
1/4 teaspoon salt	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 and 1/2 cups sugar	3/4 cup Pet milk
2 eggs	1 stick oleo

Mix well and pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 375 degrees for about 45 minutes, or until firm.

MEET THE COOK (S)

Claudis and Oleta Nelson live about three miles from Bluff City on Hwy. 299. They are retired, but stay busy with various hobbies. Mrs. Nelson enjoys painting, gardening, grafting trees, and other hobbies. As I write this, she is recuperating from having a pacemaker implanted and we wish her well.

STEAK SOUP (Makes 7 cups)

1/2 lb. ground beef	2 celery sticks
1/4 lb. butter	1/2 cup half & half (cream)
1/2 cup flour	1 1/2 cup beef broth
1/4 teaspoon Accent (seasoning)	1/2 pint tomatoes (or 1/2 can)
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce	1 large carrot
1 onion	

In processor (I use blender), do celery, onion, and carrot to a medium chop. Simmer about 15 minutes after adding to "browned beef". Add tomatoes, beef broth, Accent, and Worcestershire....simmer while making roux.

ROUX

Melt the 1/4 # butter, slowly add the 1/2 cup flour; then stir in the half and half. Add to beef mixture using whip to incorporate. Heat through. Recipe can be doubled.

This recipe was sent in by Barbara Masterson, a subscriber who lives in Arizona. She is the great granddaughter of William L. Webb, who was the first mayor of Prescott way back in 1876. She says she hasn't tried this recipe because she doesn't eat meat, but has been told it is delicious.

Answer to Bible trivia question: *Amen*