

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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MURAL AT PRESCOTT, ARKANSAS

If you have traveled through Prescott, Arkansas recently, you have probably seen this mural painted on the side of a store building at one of the busiest intersections in town. It has become one of the most photographed spots in town.

Here's a little background information as reported in the county newspaper. The mural was painted by Jorge and Maria Villegas of El Dorado and was completed in August, 2000. The cost of the project was \$46,000.

I will have to say that the painters did an excellent job and it has greatly improved the image of the town. The painting portrays some of the historical past of Prescott and Nevada County as well as some of the modern day industry and recreation advantages of this area.

On the far left of the mural is the old iron bridge which I will discuss later. Next is a scene of some of the store buildings in Prescott. In the center is a steam train which could represent all the railroads in Nevada County. The main railroad line is just a few feet from this mural, although the trains these days are more modern than the steam train in the mural. The railroad has always played an important role in the history of Prescott. The steam train could also represent the old steam engines once used on the Prescott & Northwestern railroad or the steam train known as the Possum Trot Line which once operated between Reader and Waterloo (see the July issue for more information on that railroad).

Next is a scene showing piles of logs and standing timber which represents the timber industry. Even though the Potlatch sawmill in Prescott just closed a few months ago, Nevada County still has an abundance of good quality timber just waiting for better economic times. Also pictured are some deer which represent the good hunting opportunities in this part of the state. The county has an abundance of deer, turkey, squirrel, and other game animals.

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The little park next to the mural was once the location of a well known five and dime store called Sterling's which I'm sure most Nevada County residents remember. A sign on the store in a 1965 photo showed the prices as 5-10-25 cents. These variety stores are now a thing of the past, but almost every town of any size once had one. Probably the most famous was F. W. Woolworth stores which finally closed in 1994. If you are ever in Branson, Missouri, you should visit the old five and dime store there to get an idea of what one was like.

About the time the mural was being painted, a contest was held to name this little park. The winner was Meredith DeWoody who suggested the name Sterling Square Park. Wouldn't it be nice if the whole town of Prescott could be as neat as this little part of town?

THE IRON BRIDGE

Some of you who have admired the mural have probably wondered where the iron bridge is located. It crosses the Little Missouri River northeast of Prescott at a place once called McIntosh's Bluff, which was once a popular recreation spot. The bridge is still there, but it is not open to traffic. I can remember driving across it in the 1970s. Like everything man-made, it had deteriorated over the years until it became unsafe to use.



Here is a picture of the bridge I took in 1996 looking from the Nevada County side of the river. A large mound of dirt blocked the road to keep vehicles off the bridge. The land is flat on the Nevada County side, but hilly across the river in Clark County.

The bridge was built about 100 years ago. According to the newspapers at that time, a meeting was held at McIntosh's Bluff on the Little Missouri River to discuss building a bridge to connect Nevada and Clark counties. Other sites visited were Hayes Crossing and the Okolona Crossing. Those present were County Judge Denman and Commissioners Britt and Wallace for Nevada Co. and Judge Hardage and Commissioners Ross and Hughes for Clark Co.

After some discussion a vote was taken and the result was:

For the Bluff—4 (Denman, Britt, Hardage, and Hughes)

For Hayes Crossing—2 (McRae and Ross)

The bridge was projected to cost \$8,000 and would be put just above where the ferry was located at that time. The approach to the bridge on the Nevada County side would be

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raised about four feet and on the Clark Co. side; a cut of eight to ten feet would be needed. Nevada Co. would have about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of bottom to grade and drain, but Clark Co. would not have any bottom land.

The iron for the bridge was shipped to Boughton by rail and transported to the bridge site. According to the newspaper, work was set to begin on the bridge in July, 1908 and should be completed within sixty days, so this is the 100th anniversary of the old iron bridge.

I told you in the last issue about a product made in Prescott called Parfay and asked you to take a guess as to what it was. Here is the answer. Sounds like it might have been a good drink on a hot day, but might not have been too popular in the wintertime.

Drink
Parfay

PRESCOTT'S OWN DRINK

We are not simply bottlers of **Parfay** in Prescott. We are wholesalers and distributors. Making Prescott the center of all the enormous **Parfay** business that is being built up in this section of the State.

So when you order **Parfay** you can do so with the feeling that it is very much Prescott's own drink.

And once you have tried **Parfay**, once you have found for yourself how delicious, how delightful, how refreshing and invigorating **Parfay** is, then you will continue to drink **Parfay** for the sake of the drink itself.

So try **PARFAY**. Try it, if you will, because it is new, because it is a local industry, try it for this that or the other reason but in any case **try it today**. Do this and you will drink **Parfay**, you will drink it tomorrow, the next day and each day thereafter simply because it represents the very utmost of soft drink goodness.

Prescott Ice & Milling Company
Prescott, Arkansas
Here. There. Everywhere.
At Founts **5¢** or Bottled

As Stimulating
Parfay As a
Cold Bath

Parfay's stimulation is very much like that of a cold plunge, or a brisk ten minute's walk in the keen morning air.

When you're hot and tired and all worn out from the day's hard work you can step across the street, or around the corner, and in a glass of **Parfay** find all the delightful and wholesome stimulation that you could obtain from a refreshing cold bath.

Try it To-day—

Prescott Ice & Milling Co.
Prescott, Arkansas
Here. There. Everywhere.
At Founts **5¢** or Bottled

Ads from Prescott Daily News

PRESCOTT ICE AND MILLING COMPANY

A well known business in the early days of Prescott was the Prescott Ice and Milling Co. It was a source for ice for the residents of Prescott and was also a well known beverage bottling plant. An advertisement in 1912 invited the public to come to the plant to observe how the bottles were cleansed and sterilized and how the beverages were made.

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The following list of flavors was given in the ad. All of them cost \$1.00 for a case of 24 half-pint bottles except for the Hop Ale which was \$1.15 per case.

Hop Ale	Jersey Cream	Pineapple	Chocolate
Plezol	Strawberry	Cherry	Sarsaparilla
Lemon Sweet	Peach	Blossoms	Hot Tom
Cream	Orange	Gay-Ola (Coke)	Grape
Root Beer	Vanilla	Afri-Cola	
Blackberry	Ginger Ale	(Coke)	

The company also sold mineral water and distilled water in half gallon and five gallon bottles. Customers could return the empty bottles for a refund. The telephone number for the company was 56.

LARGE FAMILY CONVICTED OF MURDER IN MAINE (from the 6-18-1921 issue of *The Prescott Daily News*)

In unmistakable terms the supreme court of Maine recently affirmed the action of the lower court in the conviction and sentence of death passed upon the Musca Domestica family.

This is the first instance where an entire family regardless of the age or sex of the members, received the death sentence by a court of the United States. The record of the trial shows one member of the family was only four days old. The members of the family were not permitted to introduce any evidence in their behalf.

They were placed on trial for murder. The family received the most scathing denunciation ever delivered by a court when the Supreme Court speaking through its chief justice said of the head of the family, which applies to all members:

“He is the meanest of all scavengers. He delights in reveling in all kinds of filth; the greater the putrescence, the more to his taste. Of every vermin, he, above all others, is least able to prove an alibi when charged with having been in touch with every kind of corruption, and with having become contaminated with the germs thereof. After free indulgence in the cesspools of disease and filth, he then possesses the further obnoxious attribute of being most agile, and persistent in ability to distribute the germs of almost every deadly form of contagion.”

This same family has relatives in every state in the Union and every member of that family is a murderer. Every citizen who enjoys life should be at all times armed to deal death and destruction to members of this family wherever he may meet them.

Who is this Musca Domestica? The ordinary house fly, which is ever busy transporting cholera, typhoid fever, and other deadly germs.

Swat him!

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I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT.... By Jerry McKelvy

MY FIRST AIRPLANE RIDE

I know that traveling by airplane is statistically one of the safest ways to travel. Thousands of planes are in the air on any given day, but occasionally we do hear about one that crashes. When you look at the numbers, you will see that many more people die each year in automobile crashes than airplane crashes.

I never liked wild rides of any kind. I have never ridden a roller coaster or any carnival rides any wilder than a Ferris wheel. I would never consider riding a bucking bull at a rodeo or participating in activities like bungee jumping. I don't even think I would like snow skiing. I would probably end up with a broken bone or plastered against a tree. I do remember some fun we had one day after an ice storm using an old refrigerator door for a sled on a steep hill behind our house.

I was 36 years old before I ever rode in an airplane and that was sort of forced upon me. A tornado had hit a part of Camden in April, 1979. I was working for International Paper Co. at the time helping to manage their forest lands in that area. It was decided that a survey was needed from the air to determine the extent of the storm damage to the company's timber.

I had been working with aerial photographs as part of my job and was familiar with the company's land as viewed from the air. I was asked to go along on the flight to survey the storm damage and help pinpoint the company's land from the air. I don't know how they talked me into doing it, but I reluctantly agreed to go along.

We chartered a small plane at the Camden airport. I think there were four of us on the trip including my boss and two more supervisors above his level. The pilot was a young fellow, but he seemed to know what he was doing. It was decided that I should ride in the front seat next to the pilot so I could see well. All I could think about was that if something happened to the pilot, I would have to be the one to try and land the airplane, and I didn't have the slightest idea how to do that. I couldn't help but notice how flimsy this small plane appeared to be. I hoped it had been checked out mechanically.

The plane was equipped with a radio and the pilot had to get special clearance to fly over the storm damaged area. We finally got up in the air and headed north following the Ouachita River to Tate's Bluff where the Little Missouri River merged with the Ouachita. We then followed the Little Missouri to near Prescott. The woods were flooded from all the recent rainfall, and I didn't much like flying over all that water. I felt a little better when we got around Prescott and could see open fields below us. I figured we might be able to land in a field in an emergency.

The weather was not cooperating very well for our flight. Strong winds caused the plane to hit air pockets and sometimes it felt like we would drop several feet. We finally got over the tornado path near White Oak Lake and followed the storm track back to Camden. The others were looking down at all the timber damage, and I was acting the part of the navigator telling them about where we were as I picked out different landmarks from the air.

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Despite it being a bumpy ride, I was beginning to enjoy or at least tolerate the experience. We were soon back near Camden and I was looking forward to the landing when the top supervisor decided we should fly over the tornado path one more time. We spent about an hour and a half in the air and then headed back to the airport. I felt better when I was back on the ground. That was my first airplane ride and it will probably be my last unless there is a good reason to do it again. I did have several chances in later years to ride in a helicopter, but declined the invitations, mainly because the company pilot was a former military pilot and had a reputation for doing some wild maneuvers to prove how skillful he was with a helicopter.

The excitement of that day was not over yet. Our plane ride was in the morning, but that afternoon, a very severe storm approached Camden. The residents of the city were a bit edgy due to the recent tornado and it was beginning to look like there would be a repeat performance.

Our supervisor made the decision that we should evacuate our office and find a more secure place to wait out the storm. We quickly made our way down the street to the post office parking deck and waited underneath in the concrete parking garage where many other folks had gathered. I was not too sure this was a safe place to be since the garage was open on the western and southern sides, but it was probably a safer place than our office.

After about thirty minutes of severe lightning, thunder, and rain we made our way back to the office to finish out our day. The bumpy airplane ride in the morning and the evacuation of our office in the afternoon was enough excitement for one day.

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE?

I was thinking about some of the things I enjoyed when I was growing up. Some are still around, but most of them are just memories. If you can think of some not listed, send them to me. **Next assignment: Tell us about something that existed when you were growing up that you wish you could still buy. If you remember something from your childhood days that you really enjoyed, tell us about it. I'm mainly talking about things from before 1965. I need your answers by September 15.**

Comic Books

Little Lulu, Casper the Friendly Ghost, Archie and Jughead, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Lash LaRue, Wyatt Earp, The Lone Ranger; Davy Crockett, Superman, Superboy, Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, Donald Duck, Micky Mouse, Elmer Fudd, Bugs Bunny, Woody Woodpecker.

Candy/Ice Cream/Gum

Cherry Hut, Coconut Grove, Zagnut, Clark Bar, O'Henry, Tootsie Roll; Push-ups, Zero; Coconut Plank; Bit-O-Honey; Homemade snow ice cream; Double Bubble Gum;

Toys/Games

Erector Sets, Tinkertoys, Yo-Yo, Slinky, View Master; B-B gun; Etch-A-Sketch; Hula Hoop,

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Chinese Checkers, Wahoo, Sorry, Life, Monopoly, Twister, Croquet; Jacks; Yahtzee; Hop-Skotch

TV Game Shows

What's My Line; I've Got A Secret; Twenty One; The \$64,000 Question; The Match Game; Truth or Consequences; Let's Make a Deal; Beat The Clock

TV Westerns

Sugarfoot; Cheyenne; Gunsmoke; Bat Masterson, The Rifleman; The Lone Ranger; Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy; Roy Rogers; Bonanza; The Big Valley; Broken Arrow; Have Gun Will Travel; Wyatt Earp; Cisco Kid; Range Rider; Annie Oakley; Wild Bill Hickok; Wagon Train

Other TV Shows

Amos and Andy; Ed Sullivan Show; The Honeymooners; Dr. Kildare; Mannix; Barnaby Jones; Empire; Art Linkletter; Red Skelton Show; Ben Casey; Car 54, Where Are You?; Highway Patrol; Dobie Gillis; The Fugitive; Father Knows Best; Flipper; Gilligan's Island; I Dream of Jeanie; Leave It To Beaver; Mr. Ed; Ozzie and Harriett; 77 Sunset Strip; Topper, This Is Your Life, The Millionaire; The Three Stooges; The Little Rascals; American Bandstand; Lassie; Superman; Micky Mouse Club; Captain Kangaroo; Walt Disney

SOME FAMOUS VISITORS TO PRESCOTT

Oct., 1909

President William Howard Taft passed through Prescott on a special train. The train slowed as it came through town, but did not stop. A crowd of 1000 people lined the track to catch a glimpse of the president.

Dec., 1909

Cole Younger, the noted outlaw and member of the Younger Gang, gave a lecture at the opera house. The title of the lecture was "What My Life Has Taught Me".

Sept., 1910

William Jennings Bryan, the distinguished orator, spoke to a crowd of about 3,000 people in Prescott.

1911—He was not famous when he arrived in Prescott. He was found dead in the city park, but nobody knew his identity. He was embalmed and efforts were made to locate his next of kin, but none could be found. Weeks turned into months, and months into years. He was given the name "Old Mike" and became quite an attraction over the years. He was finally buried 64 years later in 1975 at DeAnn Cemetery in Prescott.

Feb., 1918—

Tommy Bryan; ex-world champion boxer from 1890-1898; gave lectures to students and boxing exhibitions in Prescott

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Jan., 1920—

O. B. Freeman and W. O. Beaty; pioneer aviators of the aerial mail service. They were flying to Dallas and spotted Prescott's air field (Thrasher Field) and decided to land

May, 1921—

Princess Nalda, a Persian dancer, to promote her feature films at the Gem Theater

Oct., 1925—

Mutt and Jeff, cartoon characters, appeared in a one-night show

April, 1928—

"Rip", the world famous horned toad, visited Prescott as part of the Broadway of America tour. He has lived in a corner of the Eastland, TX court house for the last 31 years. I suggest you do a Google search to find the rest of the story about "Rip", the world famous horned toad.

Oct., 1929—

Adolph Topperwein known as "the wizard of the rifle" gave a shooting exhibition. He was an expert with rifle, shot-gun, and pistol.

Dec., 1937—

The bullet-riddled car in which Bonnie and Clyde (Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow) were killed was on display at Delamar Chevrolet Co. in Prescott

Dec., 1938—

The "Red Heads" girls' basketball team. The girls averaged six feet in height and had never been defeated by another girls' team.

May, 1943—

Grand Ole Opry show at Prescott under a tent at the fair grounds. Appearing were Jam-up and Honey, Eddy Arnold and the Tennessee Plowboys, Uncle Dave Macon, Minnie Pearl, and others. Admission was 60 cents for adults and 30 cents for children.

March, 1953

"Aunt Jemima" appeared at Ward's Thriftway grocery store

April, 1979

Coach Lou Holtz was speaker at the Chamber of Commerce banquet

May, 1987--

Glen Campbell played golf at the Prescott country club.

Paul Eells, TV sports announcer, spoke at the Chamber of Commerce banquet

David Houston, country singer, appeared in Prescott. He lived in Prescott in 1987 and 1988.

July, 1989—

Comedian Jerry Clower appeared at the Chicken and Egg Festival