

Jerry McKeiv's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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**IT COULD BE WORSE!
HEADLINES FROM THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

We are all concerned about the current economic crisis. It is a serious world-wide recession and some people say it could even get as bad as the Great Depression of the 1930s. Recessions are nothing new. We have always had periods of economic downturns, but this is one of worst in a long time. Hopefully, this recession will soon end and we can get back to more normal times.

Most of us do not remember the days of The Great Depression, but have heard stories passed down in our families about the hard times of the 1930s. Below are some newspaper headlines taken from Nevada Co. newspapers during that time. Reading these headlines will give you an idea of some of the problems in those days—the stock market collapse, extreme weather conditions, high unemployment, bank failures, etc. There was not much good news to report during those years. Unemployment in 1933 was 24.9% compared to the present 9.7%. The stock market lost 80% of its value in 1932 and 10,000 banks failed. Bank deposits were not insured at that time and many people lost all their savings. It was truly a period of hard times for many Americans.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced many new programs which he called “The New Deal”. Many of these programs were very controversial and some accused him of being a dictator. Some of these programs worked and some didn’t. The government became much more involved in the daily lives of the people because everyone was affected by these new laws that were put into effect. The majority of the American people had great faith in President Roosevelt and he was elected for four terms with big landslides. He talked to the people by radio in what became known as “fireside chats”. Some say FDR’s programs only delayed the recovery and say that our involvement in World War II was what really brought the country out of the depression. An amendment was added to the constitution in 1951 which limited the president to two terms in office.

This item appeared in the Boughton local news column in January, 1935:

This depression is my master. I'll never be at peace again. It maketh me to lie down in both spirit and purse. It leadeth me into the presence of the relief office. It restoreth my taxes. It leadeth me in the paths trodden by all broke men, for its name sake. Yea, tho I walk through the valley of the shadows of the living dead, I will fear all kinds of evil, for thou art with me. Thy NRA and abbreviations doth make me sick. Thou preparest a sheet for me to sign in the presence of my creditors. Thou annointest my head with gray. My pride hath flown. Surely, if this is allowed to follow all the days of my life, I will dwell in the “nut ward” down to old age.

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HEADLINES FROM NEVADA COUNTY NEWSPAPERS October, 1929

STOCK MARKET CRASH

1930

COTTON PRICES CRASH TO 1926 LEVELS

3,700,000 MEN OUT OF WORK IN U.S.

DROUTH COVERS WIDE AREA OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY

JULY HOTTEST MONTH COUNTRY HAS EVER SEEN

U.S. BUSINESS IN FURTHER DECLINE

DROUTH RELIEF PLANS MADE FOR NEVADA COUNTY

NEVADA COUNTY COTTON CROP IS ONLY 25 PERCENT

HOOVER URGES CONGRESS TO GIVE MILLIONS IN AID

TWO ARKANSAS BANKS SUSPEND BUSINESS FOR FIVE DAYS

1931

A FIVE DAY WORK WEEK MAY BE NECESSARY FOR RELIEF AS UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES

143 BANKS IN ARKANSAS HAVE FAILED

\$500,000,000 INCREASE SEEN IN U. S. DEBT

DEATHS REACH 600 FROM HEAT WAVE

GRASSHOPPERS DESTROY CROPS IN MID-WEST

MILLER COUNTY BROKE—CAN'T PAY EMPLOYEES

BILLIONS SPENT FOR RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT

1932

725 ARKANSAS SCHOOLS CLOSE DUE TO NO FUNDS

CITY OF PRESCOTT PLANTS TURNIP GREENS TO FEED DESTITUTE

TWO DEPARTMENTS IN PRESCOTT SCHOOLS ELIMINATED—TEACHERS WILL TAKE SECOND PAY CUT

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1933

ADOLPH HITLER ELECTED CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY

BANKS IN ARKANSAS LIMIT WITHDRAWALS TO 5% OF DEPOSIT OR \$15.00--
WHICHEVER IS GREATER

GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE CALLS BANK HOLIDAY

FORESTRY CAMPS OF 100 MEN EACH TO OPEN IN ARKANSAS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
RELIEF

NEVADA COUNTY FARMERS AGREE TO SLASH COTTON BY 7,813 ACRES

16,000 ACRES OF COTTON IN NEVADA COUNTY TO BE PLOWED UP

CWA PROJECTS EMPLOY 510 MEN IN NEVADA COUNTY

STORES CHANGE BUSINESS HOURS TO COMPLY WITH NRA CODE

1934

DROUTH CAUSES CATTLE LOSSES IN MID-WEST

DROUTH CATTLE SHIPPED TO ARKANSAS TO TRY TO SAVE ANIMALS

EMERGENCY CATTLE BUYING TO BE STARTED IN NEVADA COUNTY

SURVEY SHOWS NEVADA COUNTY BUSINESS HAS IMPROVED 20-30% OVER LAST
YEAR

BANK OF PRESCOTT MEMBER OF NEW FDIC PLAN—WILL INSURE DEPOSITS UP TO
\$10,000

1935

DEATH TOLL FROM DUST REACHES 12—20 MORE IN HOSPITAL

NO RELIEF IN SIGHT FROM INTENSE HEAT

GERMAN NAZIS REVEAL STERILIZATION PLANS—WILL RID OUR PEOPLE OF UNRACIAL
ELEMENTS

CONSTRUCTION OF NEVADA COUNTY CCC CAMP STARTED NEAR ROSSTON

1936

FDR AND MRS. ROOSEVELT VISIT HOT SPRINGS AND MALVERN

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BIG OIL STRIKE IN CENTRAL PART OF NEVADA COUNTY

1937

WAR DEPT. PLANS TO EVACUATE 5,000,000 PEOPLE FROM MISSISSIPPI RIVER DUE TO FLOODING—50 MILES EACH SIDE OF RIVER FROM CAIRO, ILLINOIS TO NEW ORLEANS

GOVERNOR BAILEY DECLARES MARTIAL LAW IN ARKANSAS DUE TO FLOODING—REFUGEE CAMPS SET UP ON HIGH RIDGES

PRESIDENT SAYS CROP CONTROL IN U. S. IS NECESSARY

1938

WAR CLOUDS APPEAR TO BE BREWING IN EUROPE

1939

NAZI PLANES BEGIN RAIDS ON ENGLAND

1940

HITLER SAYS HE WILL DESTROY HIS ENEMIES

MANY KILLED IN GERMAN RAIDS ON ENGLAND—DESTRUCTION OF FRENCH ARMY NEXT NAZI MOVE

DRAFT BOARD TO RELEASE NAMES OF DRAFT AGE MEN AGE 21-35

4000 NURSES CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY

WE CAN DEFEAT THE WORLD, HITLER DECLARES

DECEMBER 7, 1941

THE JAPANESE ATTACK PEARL HARBOR—THE U. S. IS AT WAR IN EUROPE AND THE PACIFIC FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bluff City School Bus Reunion will be Saturday, May 22, at the White Oak Lake State Park pavilion. It starts at 10:00 a.m. and there will be a pot luck at noon. Anyone interested is invited to come and visit with old friends.

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The Bluff City Cemetery Association and the Ebenezer Cemetery Association will hold their annual meetings on Sunday, May 2, 2010. Bluff City Cemetery Assoc. will meet at the Bluff City Church of Christ at 2:00 p.m. Ebenezer Cemetery Assoc. will meet at the Bluff City Baptist Church at 3:30 p.m. Anyone who has an interest in these cemeteries is invited to attend.

TOM WALKER'S SERVICE STATION AT BLUFF CITY



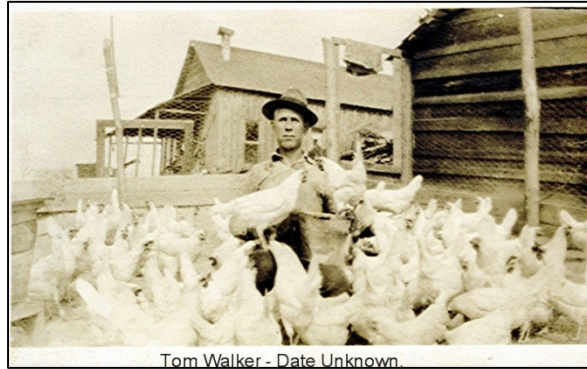
Just when I thought I had uncovered about all the old photos of Bluff City, I was surprised to receive this photo of Tom Walker's service station at Bluff City from David Hendriks of Decatur, Alabama. David has scanned hundreds of old family photos to his computer and recently sent me a DVD containing all these photos.

Thomas Jefferson Walker was the father of Bernadine Walker Gillespie who had sent me information about this service station just a few weeks before she passed away. Here is how she described this station in her letter:

"In 1927, he (Tom Walker) bought the Dr. Thompkins' home in the curve of the road to White Oak park and the road to Gum Grove. He soon built a service station selling soda pop, tires, fan belts, spark plugs, groceries, and candy. He even had a barber chair with haircuts 25 cents or less for men, women, or children. On the same property he built a "shop" to repair car, shoe horses, and grind corn. Next he built an ice house insulated with sawdust near Upton's store."

She also mentioned about her father taking fruit, vegetables, eggs, chickens, hogs, or whatever was available to the oil field workers at El Dorado during the oil boom. David Hendriks also had this picture of Tom Walker in his onion patch at Bluff City and one of him posing with his flock of chickens.

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Look at the size of those onions. Why can't I grow onions like these?

FISHING

A man's fishing equipment is personal--sort of like his toothbrush. He doesn't want anyone messing around with it.

It's been a long time since I did any fishing. I would love to live next to a body of water or maybe just a farm pond where I could walk down to the fishing hole late in the evening and try my luck. A real fishing trip away from home takes too much preparation. You have to take along just about everything you own and you usually forget something you really need. But a few days away from the normal routine may be just what a person needs every once in a while.

I recently got my lifetime fishing license, so one of these days when the weather is just right, I think I'll go fishing. I thought maybe I should check out my fishing equipment first. I opened my old tackle box and saw some fishing lures I had completely forgotten I had.

Every fisherman has his favorite lure--that's usually the one that catches the most fish. I noticed I have two or three lures called a devil's horse. They are wicked looking lures with lots of sharp hooks and I usually have good luck with them. They float on top of the water and will attract the attention of any bass in the vicinity. It seems that the lures I think the fish might like just don't work. I guess you have to think like a fish.

I wonder who names these lures. I can imagine a group of people sitting around a

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conference table at the factory coming up with names for a particular lure. I think they are fishing for customers instead of fish and the name of the lure might make a big difference in how many lures are sold. I recently checked out the fish lures at Walmart and found some with these names: Rooster Tail, Torpedo, Bomber, Super Spook, Wiggle Wart, Hula Popper, Crick Hopper, Foxy Shad, and Jitterbug. I don't usually pay much attention to the name. I look for one that looks like it might catch a fish, but again, I guess you have to think like a fish. Or it could all depend on how the fisherman works the lure that attracts the fish. I remember the old stand-by lure called the Lucky 13. I think the last one I had ended up in a tree limb too high to reach. Many people collect old fishing lures and some of them are worth a lot of money.

There are so many ways to fish. You can use a rod and reel with all types of lures, both floaters and those that run deep. There are spinner baits and lures that are designed to look like a crawfish or whatever. There are plastic worms of all sizes. Some lures are designed for a particular species of fish like crappie jigs, etc.

Or you can go the natural route. Just get a cane pole and some worms, minnows, or crickets and fish the old fashioned way. You can fish from a boat or from the bank. You can set out hooks along a creek or put out a trot line.

I can remember some enjoyable fishing trips down on Caney Creek. We would cut small trees for poles, put a good sized line and hook on them, and set them out along the bank. We had a camping spot and a campfire to keep the mosquitoes away. Every so often we would take lights and make our way down the creek bank to check our hooks. It was a little spooky walking through the creek bottoms after dark and hearing all kinds of strange noises, but it was always exciting to see one of the poles shaking because we knew we had a fish. It could be a nice one or just a little old polly-wog catfish. We would usually check our hooks a few times until about 10:00 p.m. and then go home, get some sleep, and return early the next morning since this was only a short distance from our house.

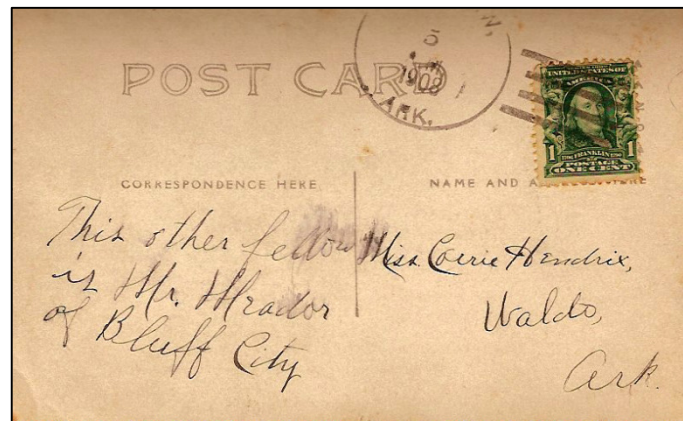
I think the biggest bass I ever caught weighed about five and one half pounds and was caught out of an old gravel pit near Reader. I was a little disappointed when it swam almost to the boat instead of putting up much of a fight. It was almost like it wanted to be caught and was doing its best to get in the boat. It doesn't really matter to me what type fish I catch. I can have just as much fun catching a nice-sized bream or crappie as a much larger fish. I also enjoy fishing with a trot line because of the possibility of catching a very large fish. Of course, you could catch something else--like a turtle or a water moccasin.

I don't own a fancy fishing boat with a motor as big as my car engine and I never cared too much about fishing on the very large lakes. I remember one time we spent a day fishing on Millwood Lake. We motored for about thirty minutes to a spot so far from the landing we couldn't even see the shoreline. We caught lots of fish, but I didn't see why a spot closer to shore wouldn't have been just as good. I also don't want to be caught too far from shore when those afternoon thunderstorms develop. I had one bad experience on Lake Ouachita one night during a bad thunderstorm.

Well, it looks like I might need to buy a few more items for my tackle box before I go

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fishing. Maybe there's some new type lure available that the fish might find irresistible. The only thing I dread about fishing is having to clean the fish (if I catch any). If all else fails, I can always get a fish dinner at the restaurant. At least maybe I won't be bothered by mosquitoes.



Sara Orr Jones of Wichita, Kansas found this old postcard from 1908 in her father's belongings. His grandparents were Solon Bradford and Ruhamah Harriet Mauk ORR who moved from Georgia to Mr. Moriah in Nevada Co. about 1890. They lived there until about 1910 when they moved to Lafayette Co. Solon and Ruhamah had 11 children. Sara thinks one of the young men is likely an ORR. The card was sent to Corrie Hendrix who was a cousin of the Orr children. The other man is referenced as "Mr. Meador" of Bluff City. Sara would like to know more about these men. Notice the one cent stamp on this old postcard.

When I received this card from Sara, I thought I recognized the man on the right. I had published photos of the Union High School faculty at Bodcaw in the January, 2005 issue which included M. G. Orr and J. E. Meador. After comparing the postcard photo and the old newspaper photos, Sara and I believe the two men are M. G. Orr on the left and J. E. Meador on the right. We think they are Marvin Grady Orr and Joseph Erastus Meador. If anyone has more information on these two men, contact me at sandman43@att.net or Sara at gjones63@cox.net