

Jerry McKelvy's  
**SANDYLAND CHRONICLE**

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sandman43@att.net

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**THE BUTTON JAR**

Most of us remember our mother's or grandmother's collection of buttons. She probably kept them in a jar or in a button box. There were buttons of every size, color, and shape.

Our ancestors who grew up in the Great Depression learned to save just about everything in case it would be needed later. My grandmother was like that and when I was a kid, I enjoyed looking through all the things she had stored away. When a garment became too old to be worn, all the buttons were removed and put in the button jar. The cloth was kept also if it wasn't completely worn out. It could be used for rags or maybe pieces could be used for patches or made into a quilt. Women made a lot of the clothes for the family in those days and the buttons could be used again on a new garment.

These days in our throw-away society, most people just toss clothing when they get tired of it or maybe put it in a garage sale. I don't know how much sewing women do these days. Maybe they still do a little repair work or sew on a missing button, but most women of working age are too busy these days with their careers and other chores to bother with making clothes.

Grandma's life was different. Many of them lived in the rural areas far from a town and sewing, quilting, canning, and cooking were just part of a woman's life in those days. Many of these ladies became experts at making beautiful quilts, dresses, etc. out of scrap material or even cloth feed sacks or flour sacks. They learned to do crocheting and embroidery work and they did all this with poor lighting in their homes. They took pride in their work and much of their work has been passed down to the younger generations in their family.

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Many of us may have used a button or two from Grandma's button jar to put on a string to make a spinning toy sometimes called a buzz-saw or a whizzer. They were simple to make and could keep a child occupied for hours. Maybe some of these old-time simple toys should be introduced to the children of today who think a toy must have a battery or be hi-tech.

Some people still collect buttons and look for button collections at garage sales. Button collections are a part of our history and even if the buttons are never used, they are a good conversation piece and bring back many pleasant memories.

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## AUNT RUTH CLARK

profiled in 8-3-1939 issue of *The Nevada News*



When a reporter went to interview her, she was sitting on the "gallery" as she called it. In answer to some of the reporter's questions, she said, "I never kep' no 'membrance of sech".

She was born 107 years ago in Ouachita Co. about 15 miles west of Camden. There were six children in her family. She spent her childhood in slavery, belonging to a family from Hempstead Co. named Adams. Each darkie was assigned a white child to care for. She was assigned Nancy Jane Adams, but the child died. She was then sold to a man named McCracken for a short time and then to Colonel Garland where she was married to Joe Garland and was owned by the Garland family. He died and she was then married to Ben Clark until his death. All six of her children were Garlands. She said she "didn't wan' no mo chilluns--they too bad, and can' do nuttin' wid um."

Her oldest daughter is Charlotte Nora, age 78, who lives nearby. Her son, Willie Jackson is age 59 and the next is Belle, age 45. The other three children are not living.

She lives alone aided by the WPA. She says she rarely gets sick, but her eyesight is beginning to fail. Her hair is snow white and she walks with a cane. Her hands are still steady with no trembling as many her age.

Near her home is an old frame church called "Aunt Ruth's church". The Baptists have Sunday school there and have preaching one Sunday each month. Her home is located near the Delight Road.

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Below are some quotations made by famous people. See if you can guess who said them. Answers are on page 6.

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1. "And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."
2. "But we have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it."
3. "I regret that I have only one life to give for my country".
4. "Give me liberty, or give me death".
5. "A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take from you everything you have."
6. "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time".
7. "Mr. Gorbechev, tear down this wall".
8. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself".
9. "Speak softly but carry a big stick".
10. "I do not like broccoli. And I haven't liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I'm president of the United States and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli".
11. "From the time I was a kid, I always knew something was going to happen to me. Didn't know exactly what".
12. "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat".
13. "Be sure you are right and then go ahead".
14. "The education of a man is never completed until he dies".
15. "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen".
16. "That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind".
17. "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible".
18. "I have not yet begun to fight".
19. "Old soldiers never die. They just fade away".
20. "Today they are making pictures I wouldn't want Trigger to see".

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Have you ever been to Nevark? Most people living today have never heard of it, but back when the oil fields were booming in Nevada County, a town was created called Nevark. Here's a little history about Nevark.

Some old maps show the town of Nevark. The location is at the intersection of Hwy. 278 and Hwy. 76 about eight miles east of Rosston. I can remember a store building at this location in the late 1960s although it was closed. The town of Nevark has now passed into history. There is no evidence today that a town ever existed at this location.

### **NEVARK IS NEW OIL TOWN**

***Nevada County Picayune--Feb. 18, 1937***

With ideal weather, activities in the Nevada oil field have continued unabated. Large crews have been busy digging pits to hold production of new wells and erecting houses for employees of Benedum & Trees Company and warehouses for supplies. Roads in the field are in good condition and hauling of oil from storage to Berry Asphalt Company's plant at Waterloo has been constant. Pumps are being installed to force the heavy oil through the new eight inch pipeline to Waterloo, and the line should be in use this week.

Claude Garner and associates have begun erection of their store and hotel building on the lands bought recently by them near the field, and they are offering 150 lots for sale in their new town site which bears the name Nevark, a contraction of Nevada County, Arkansas.

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### **Giving Her Whole Life With A Song**

**By Barbara Lyerly**

**(previously published in the Chidester Museum newsletter)**

Attending the Chidester School was such a privilege for those of us who spent our years of learning there. There were so many people who influenced us to be good students, good citizens and good Christians. They did this by teaching, modeling and through the example of their lives. Many had gone before I was old enough to know them, but so many come to mind. I remember Mrs. Gladys Sanders, Miss Bessie Benton, Mrs. Mary G. Wylie, Mrs. Eloene McBride, Mrs. Nettie McGill, Mr. Calvin Oliver, Mr. Frank Pfeifer, Mr. Billy McGill, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Jennings, Mr. Ben Birchfield, Mrs. Amolee Kizzia, Mrs. Mattie L. Walker, Mr. T.E.D. Jackson and maybe most of all Mrs. Lula Jewell Tribble.

My early memories of grade school included music with "Miss Lula Jewell" and how happy we all were to sing the holiday, patriotic, and church songs each week. I remember being in the choir at high school even though I couldn't sing a note and everyone made fun of me for it! Mrs. Lula Jewell tried, but she couldn't help me a bit. But, did she send me to study hall? No, she told everyone that I would sing tenor and made me feel like I was a contributing part of the group! She taught several

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classes other than music and went on to become certified as a guidance counselor. I'm sure those who were lucky enough to have a counselor to help them with problems and planning are as grateful as I am to have known her.

She was an integral part of all my school years, but even more important, she was an integral part of my Christian upbringing. I can't ever remember entering Rushing Memorial Methodist Church that she wasn't there. She literally "shared her life with a song" by providing great music, by being a leader of our youth group for years and by always "being there" for us if we needed her. She even accompanied my class on our senior trip to Galveston and Houston! She never raised her voice to a student, but oh that look she could give you if you were misbehaving! Many of my fondest memories are of those Sunday evenings when a gang of teenagers would swarm into the Methodist Church and always find Mrs. Lula Jewell and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bussell there with lessons planned, food to share, and music, music, music.

She, like so many more, have gone to their very just rewards and I feel sure that Mrs. Lula Jewell is leading a choir of cherubs in Heaven right now!

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### SGT. STUBBY THE MOST DECORATED DOG OF WORLD WAR I



Our military uses highly trained dogs for various duties such as guard duty, to sniff out bombs, rescue work, etc. Most police departments also have a dog assigned to a particular policeman which is used to sniff out illegal drugs during traffic stops.

A reader sent me a story about a famous dog used in World War I—a dog named Sgt. Stubby. This dog was a stray which happened upon a group of soldiers of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry which were training to be shipped out for duty in France. One of the soldiers, Cpl. Robert Conroy, made friends with

the dog and named him Stubby because of his short legs. When the unit shipped out, Cpl. Conroy smuggled the dog on board the ship.

Stubby was involved in the trench fighting in France for eighteen months and was involved in four offensives and eighteen battles. The noise of the guns didn't seem to bother Stubby. During the heavy fighting, Stubby would search for wounded soldiers. During one of these battles, he was wounded in the leg by a grenade. When he recovered from his wounds, he returned to duty. Due to his keen sense of smell, Stubby was able to warn soldiers of poison gas in time for them to put on their gas masks and he was also able to hear artillery shells coming in time to warn the men. It is thought that countless lives were saved by Stubby's heroic actions in battle.

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Stubby even once caught a German spy. The German had made the mistake of speaking to Stubby in German and Stubby realized he was not an American and grabbed the German by the seat of his pants and held him until he could be detained by the Americans. Stubby received many medals for his actions in the war and was the only dog to be promoted to sergeant during military action.

When the war ended, Cpl. Conroy smuggled Stubby home to the United States. He appeared in many parades and even met three presidents—Wilson, Coolidge, and Harding. He became a life member of the American Legion, the Red Cross, and the YMCA. When Conroy later enrolled in college, Stubby went with him and became the team mascot.

Stubby died in 1926 at the age of ten. He was given a brick in the Wall of Honor at the World War I monument. The brick reads—Sergeant Stubby—Hero Dog of World War I—A Brave Stray.

Stubby's remains were preserved by taxidermy and are displayed at the Smithsonian Institute of Military History.

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## Answers to Quotations Trivia on page 3:

1. President John F. Kennedy
2. Nancy Pelosi
3. Nathan Hale
4. Patrick Henry
5. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Gerald Ford
6. President Abraham Lincoln
7. President Ronald Reagan
8. President Franklin Roosevelt
9. President Theodore Roosevelt
10. President George H. W. Bush
11. Elvis Presley
12. Winston Churchill
13. Davy Crockett
14. Robert E. Lee
15. President Harry S. Truman
16. Neil Armstrong
17. President George Washington
18. John Paul Jones
19. Gen. Douglas MacArthur
20. Roy Rogers

**Correction: The two children on page 3 of the last issue have been identified. They are Julia Barlow Nelson on the left and Jesse Barlow, her younger brother on the right.**

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## CONSUMER CORNER



Here's another product we like—Vidalia Onion Hot Chow-Chow. The only problem is I can't find it anymore in our local stores. Walmart once carried it, and when I found it I would sometimes buy ten jars at a time. It can be ordered on the Internet, but by the time you pay shipping, it is too expensive. It is made by a company in Georgia where the Vidalia onions grow. If any of you know of a store in the southwest Arkansas area that carries it, please let me know. It is very good with purple hull peas or beans. It comes in pint size jars in both hot and mild versions, but we like the hot. It reminds me of the chow-chow my

grandmother used to make many years ago.

If you have a product you really like, let me know so I can tell others about it.

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## A GOOD WEB SITE

<http://blindpigandtheacorn.com>

I mentioned this web site to you a couple of years ago, but I'm mentioning it again in case you have forgotten about it. I think many of you might enjoy it. Tipper Pressley runs the site and posts daily on a variety of subjects, mostly pertaining to the Appalachian region. The Pressley family is involved in music and many of their songs are featured on the site. You never know what subject will be discussed each day. She posts on such subjects as old cemeteries, bottle collecting, old recipes, gardening, local history, Appalachian grammar lessons, or anything unusual discovered by Tipper and her daughters, Chitter and Chatter, as they explore the area where they live. This site has been on the web for several years with many subjects being discussed. There is a search box on the home page where you can type in a word and do a search to see if it has been discussed in previous posts. There are also links to other interesting web sites. I have been following this web site for a long time and highly recommend it. It's a good way to learn about another part of our country.

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## RAINFALL FOR 2012

It was another dry year for the Sandy Land around Bluff City, but at my house in Camden, I received six inches of rain in December making the total for the year 54.4 inches. That is about normal rainfall for this part of Arkansas. Scattered showers can sometimes dump large amounts of rain in a small area. It all depends on where you live.

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## BURIALS AT BLUFF CITY AREA CEMETERIES IN 2012

### BLUFF CITY CEMETERY

Vernie Smith  
Marguerite Towery Starnes  
Ruby Inzer Black  
Judy Annette Martin Cooper  
Helen V. Wilson  
Joe Jackson Gulley  
Brandon Kade Cartwright  
Alta Jewell Neuberger  
Helen Kathleen Smith  
Clifford H. Lemons Jr.  
Ted Edison Starnes  
Marion Estelle Billingsley Meador  
Ronnie Dale Cox  
Doris Pauline Cummings Powers  
Jessie Faye Orr

### EBENEZER CEMETERY

Betty Carolyn Cook Harrison  
Mavis Velta Belisle  
Sarah Elizabeth Pearson  
Hazel Plyler

### ST. JOHN CEMETERY

Donnie Sims Jr.  
David Sims

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## THIS AND THAT

A bill was introduced in Illinois to increase matrimony and reduce race suicide. Each mother would be paid \$100 each for children born within the first two years of marriage. They would be paid \$200 for twins and \$300 for triplets. To pay for these rewards, a tax of \$10 per year would be levied on each bachelor over the age of 35. (*Prescott Daily News—March 21, 1911*)

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Residents of Prescott were warned in 1911 about riding bicycles, velocipedes, and tricycles on the sidewalks (*Prescott Daily News*)

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According to a study, an oak tree is the most dangerous tree to stand under in a thunderstorm. A beech tree is least likely to get hit by lightning. Of course, it is advisable to not stand under any tree during a thunderstorm.

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Three of our presidents died on July 4<sup>th</sup>.—John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe