

Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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NANCY TEMPERANCE WILSON

Some people accomplish great things and are remembered for many years after they are gone. Others do great things and their works are soon forgotten. Many are unaware that the little town of Prescott, Arkansas produced a well known poet. Miss Nancy Temperance Wilson was born in Prescott in 1904 and graduated from Prescott High School and Henderson-Brown College in Arkadelphia. She died in 1934 after a long illness. Even though her life span was slightly less than 30 years, she became a well-known poet.

She authored a volume of poems called "Scattering Stars". Some of her poems were used on various radio programs in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Her poem "Talking to Stars" was selected as Arkansas' entry for the international poetry exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933. Her poem "No Street Town" was awarded the Fowler Tree Prize by a women's national poetry magazine. She was working on her second volume of poems at the time of her death. A friend of hers said "she was a gifted writer with a brilliant mind and a vivid imagination".

The Nevada County Picayune published her poem called "Scattering Stars" in their October 5, 1933 edition.

SCATTERING STARS
By Nancy Temperance Wilson

Up in God's skies
I hope to go
Scattering stars
For you below.

When the night lamps
Are strewn above
I'll sit on a star
And beam down my love.

Scattering stars
Over the skies
To see the light
Within your eyes.

Sit on a star
Nearest the moon
Smiling and humming
A gay little tune

Nancy Temperance Wilson was buried at DeAnn Cemetery in Prescott. Her volume of poems (83 pages) is available at several major libraries including the Central Arkansas Library System, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Ottenheimer Library, the University of Arkansas, the University of Memphis, and the Yale University library.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

MA'S OLD GALVANIZED WASHTUB (Author Unknown)

Did you ever take your Saturday bath,
An' try to wash an' scrub,
While squattin' down on your haunches
In a galvanized washing tub?
If not, then you ain't missed a thing,
But I'm telling you what's right,
I done it until I was almost grown,
And every doggone Saturday night.

In summer it was bad enough,
But in winter it was really rough,
Spreadin' paper, fillin' buckets, and kettles
And all that sorta stuff.
But gettin' ready for that ordeal,
Was only half of the rub,
Of takin' a bath on Saturday night,
In a galvanized washin' tub.

Did you ever stand there stripped to the skin.
A woodstove bakin' your hide,
An a-dreadin' to put your foot in,
For fear you'd be burned alive?
Finally you got the temperature right,
And into the tub you'd crawl,
That cold steel'd touch your back,
And you'd squeal like a fresh stuck hog.

You'd get outta the tub next to the stove,
And stand there drippin' and shakin'
The front of your body's a freezin' to death,
While the back of your body's a bakin',
A-shiverin' and a shakin', a burnin' and a bakin',
That's the price I had to pay,
That awful ordeal will haunt me,
Until I'm old and gray.

I ain't thru yet— there's something else,
That I been wantin' to say,
I was the youngest of all the kids
Who bathed on Saturday,
We all bathed according to age,

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

An I fell last in order,
Which meant I had to wash myself,
An' in that dad-blasted dirty water.

I'm a man of clean habits,
An' believe in a bath a week,
It helps ya to keep clean and healthy,
An' it freshens up my physique.
But if I had my druthers,
I'd druther eat a bug,
Then to take my Saturday night bath
In a galvanized washin' tub.

A DIARY FROM 1912

Howard Cornish Foster kept a diary for the year 1912 when he was about 19 years old. He has an entry for each day of the year which gives us a good idea of what things were like at that time. The Fosters lived east of Caney Creek off the Lackland Springs Rd. at the time. Here are some excerpts from his diary:

Jan. 9. I split 101 rails.

Jan. 10. Killed and dressed two hogs. I went to J. R. Dunn's to get his sausage mill. He had loaned it to Frank Johnson, so I went there to get it but they had loaned it to Gee McKelvey, so I staid at Johnson's until one of his boys went and brought it back from McKelvey's, then I brought it home. The weather was cold and disagreeable.

Jan. 15. I helped Charles Foster haul his peanuts out of field to shed. He gave me a load of them which I brought home. (When spring came, I planted some of these goobers. They did not germinate, so my work was wasted.) Hauled a few rails and a load of pitch pine.

Jan. 26. I cleaned out a fence row and built some fence. Went to J. R. Dunn's place and half-soled my shoes while there. Staid overnight at his place. (J. R. Dunn lives about 1 1/2 mile almost due south from our place.)

Jan. 27. Came home from J. R. Dunn's place. I copied their family record while there. Went to Meador's store. After coming home from there I went to Hughey Larkin Belk's place, and from there to Gain Smith's place, and from there to Tom Belk's place, where I staid overnight. About 20 miles travel today.

Jan. 31. About the time we started to go in for dinner I discovered that our house was on fire. A defective flue was the cause. I soon extinguished the fire, but had it not been discovered for two minutes later I think it would have been impossible to save it, for it was spreading rapidly. I

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

went to Bluff City. Took ten pounds of butter and sold it there. At Bluff City I bought the following: coffee 50c, snuff 10c, matches .05c, soda 10c, stamps 25c, writing paper and envelopes 15c, and needles 5c.

Feb. 5. Killed and butchered a hog and dressed it. Hauled rails.

Feb. 6. Hauled rails. Killed three blackbirds. Marked the ears of three calves. Our registered mark for cattle and hogs is as follows: "A split in each ear and an underbit in the left".

Feb. 10. Took five pounds of butter and four dozen eggs to Bluff City and sold them. Bought tacks 5c, snuff 10c, soap and washing powder 25c, 2 files 25c, postage stamps, 4c, stamped envelopes 5c, one No. 2 lamp burner 10c, watermelon seed 5c and one pair of sox 10c.

Feb. 20. Mother and I went to Prescott in our wagon. I paid the taxes on our land for 1911, amount of taxes: \$8.60. This land is the East half of the Northwest quarter and the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 7, Township 12 south, Range 20 West, in Nevada County, Arkansas. Took 4 pounds of butter to town and sold it for 80c. I opened a credit account at J. B. Jordan's store in Prescott and bought there today the following goods: 3 bolts, 1 eye hoe, 1 piece of rod iron, 2 plow cleavices, 3 heel sweeps, 2 twister plows, 2 shovel plows, 1 pair plow lines, 1 monkey wrench, 1 ten inch file, 196 pounds of flour, 1 pair of work shoes for myself, 2 pairs of shoes for my sister Irene Foster, 3 pairs of sox, 4 shirts, 2 pairs of overalls, 1 suit of underwear, 25 pounds of salt, 3 pounds of soda, \$2.00 worth of sugar, coffee 50c, one half gallon onion sets, one half bushel of seed Irish potatoes, 1 gallon karo syrup, 4 gallons kerosene, candy 5c and apples 10c. A heavy rainstorm caught us while on our way home in the afternoon, so we stopped at John Greer's place and staid there for the night. A flurry of snow fell during night.

Feb. 23. Went to a log rolling at John H. Griffith's place. Most of the logs we piled were in new ground south of our place and in the Big Branch bottom.

Mar. 6. Went to our mail box. Sawed and split some wood for our cook stove and our heating stove. Sawed and piled some logs. Piled some brush. Studied arithmetic in common fractions. Took a bath. Went to Will Irvin's to get some seed sweet potatoes.

Mar. 9. Bedded out our seed sweet potatoes. Built a cowpen. Sawed some wood. Hardened a plow and sharpened and hardened two others. Made a laplink and put it in a tracechain for J. R. Dunn. Took a bath. Studied arithmetic in common fractions.

Mar. 15. Went to Bluff City. Took with me 2 and 2/3 bushels of peas that I sold for \$1.25 per bushel. Sold 6 1/4 pounds of butter for .95c, and 2 gallons of peanuts tor 20c. Bought a shaving brush for 15c, snuff 10c, postage stamps 25c, ledger 30c, stationery 20c and coffee 20c.

Apr. 6. Went to our mail box. Took a bath.

Apr. 9. Sawed stove wood. Plowed. Planted corn. Went to our mail box.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Apr. 11. Planted corn. Plowed. Sold 3 bales of peanut hay for \$1.50. Went to our mail box. Took a bath.

Apr. 17. Today Ben and I started to dig a well. We both did some digging in it. Studied some.

May 1. Plowed. Harrowed some cotton row beds in field. Planted cotton. Fixed up a trough that some horses tore down last night. Studied some in the scriptures. Went to our mail box. Took two baths.

May 24. Killed a snake. Took a bath. Studied some. Sharpened two plows. Made a horse muzzle. Plowed out corn middles. Received a letter from Charles Foster.

June 3. Plowed and harrowed our watermelon patch. Plowed cotton. Planted peanuts, peas, and sorghum. Took a bath. Sent a letter each to J. S. Westmoreland and Ezra F. Robertson.

June 6. Plowed in our peach orchard. Plowed corn and corn middles. Got a dead hog from under our house. Took a bath.

June 17. Monday. Plowed out corn middles laying it by. I opened up center furrows in other corn middles to plant peas in. Plowed and harrowed our watermelon patch, laying it by so far as plowing is concerned. Sharpened two plows for Hildre Griffith. Took a bath. Received a letter from Mrs. Ophelia Harris.

June 19. Wednesday. I sharpened ten plows. Took a bath. I opened corn middles to plant peas in. Planted peas in them and laid by the corn.

June 28. Friday. Plowed corn and corn middles, laying the corn by; also planted peas in it. Finished plowing corn for this year, laying it by. Plowed sweet potato plants. Plowed some peas that are among the corn. Harrowed off some peas. While preparing to take a bath in the Big Branch, just inside our field I heard something that caused me to throw a clod of dirt into the thick bushes by the branch. Something quite large was heard to make a jump or two. I thought it was a catamount, so I went to the house and brought my shotgun back. I tried then to raise again what caused the first excitement but was unable to do so. Whatever it was had gone.

July 5. Friday. Went to Prescott, Ark. Bought on account at J. B. Jordan Co., soap 5c, matches 5c, 1 pair shoes \$2.00, 1 umbrella \$1.25, sugar \$1.00, salt 25c, a five gallon oil can for kerosene \$1.50, kerosene \$1.00. I bought for cash, 1 horse collar pad 35c, two bolts 5c, 1 pair half soles 20c, 2 boxes of 6/8 inch shoe tacks 5c, turnip seed 20c, writing tablet 10c, six writing pens 5c, and one bottle of ink 5c. Took dinner, which consisted of a bowl of chili, at Price's restaurant. I brought home 144 pounds of flour that I had purchased at Jordan's store last Feb., as at that time I brought home only 48 pounds of the 196 pounds bought in Feb. On way home found and ate some plums by roadside. Mother, Charles Foster and Clarence Dunn went to town with me today.

July 19. Friday. I split some stove wood. Went to our mail box. Studied some. Hildre Griffith helped me saw some stove wood, some rail timber and some mulberry timber for posts. This

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

was in our turnip patch. My sister, Mrs. Inez Belk, her husband and family came to visit us. We had a mess of fish.

July 20. Saturday. Helped Hildre Griffith saw some stove wood to repay him for his helping me yesterday. Went hunting. I took Hood Belk's double barrel L. G. Smith shotgun. I killed a squirrel and a snake. Worked some in turnip patch. Split some wood.

July 22. Monday. Took two baths. Killed a snake. Worked some in turnip patch. Split some wood.

July 31. Wednesday. I brought 20 watermelons and 8 muskmelons from field to house. We have plenty of them now. Went twice to our mail box. Sent a letter to N. B. Foster. I went to John Dunn's and he and I then went to Robert M. Henry's place to get some Elberta Peaches for canning etc. We came back by Dunn's place then to ours.

Aug. 2. Friday. I split 141 rails. Went to our mail box. I let Charlie White, our R.F.D. Mail carrier take our mare, Maud, to try out on the mail route for a few days. He let me take his mule, Bob, to try out during same time, to see if we might make a trade. I tried out the mule in several ways and he seems O.K. Received 1 pound of turnip seeds from A.L. Morgan, Camden, Ark. Took a bath. Sowed and harrowed into ground some turnip seed.

Aug. 10. Saturday. Took a bath. Borrowed John H. Griffith's saddle and went to Hood Belk's place. I first tried to cross Caney Creek at the Irvin Ford but the creek was too high with water, so I went upstream and crossed at the Clark Bridge. I went by Cale and got the Postal money order cashed that I received Aug. 7. This was the first time I have been at Cale, Ark since I was a very small boy. Arrived at Hood Belk's home in the afternoon. Rode mule, Bob.

Aug. 20. Tuesday. Helped John Dunn strip sorghum cane and helped him haul three loads of wood to Gee McKelvey's syrup mill. After coming home I tied and took up fodder.

Aug. 27. Tuesday. Hauled our fodder from our old crib to our new crib. Picked 72 pounds of peas. Drew a big dead rat out of our well. Sowed some turnip seed and rolled a packing roller over ground after sowing the seed. The old Bill Green house, which lay about ¼ mile east of Gum Grove school, burned down about 9 P.M. I hauled a load of sand and put it on the ground by our water shelf. Took a bath.

Sept. 3. Tuesday. Picked 100 pounds of peas. Hauled some peavines from field to crib. While picking peas close to a dead oak tree a rattlesnake almost bit me. It had eight rattles. I killed it with a hoe. Went to our mail box. Took a bath.

Sept. 16. Monday. Picked 78 pounds of peas. Ben and I sawed some stove wood. I studied some.

Sept. 17. Tuesday. I picked 159 pounds of peas.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Sept. 18. Wednesday. I picked 96 pounds of peas. Took a bath. Rain fell last night. Sowed lots of turnip seed this morning. Mother received her Confederate pension check.

Sept. 19. Thursday. I picked 129 pounds of peas. Went down into the Big Branch bottom to look for muscadines.

Sept. 20. Friday. I picked 180 pounds of peas. Studied some.

Oct. 11. Friday. I picked 107 pounds of peas. We finished picking peas for this year. Went to our mail box. Took a bath. Studied for 50 minutes.

Oct. 15. Tuesday. We hauled six wagonloads of corn from field and cribbed it. I estimate it at 90 bushels. Read for 30 minutes. Weather has turned warm again.

Oct. 21. Monday. I painted some on our house. Pulled corn in the afternoon. I killed a snake that I drew up out of our well. The way I happened to find this snake, I started to take a drink of water out of the water bucket before open daylight in the morning, and got my mouth in contact with the snake before I saw it. This morning elders Royal D. Madsen and Leonard Johnson left here about 4:30 to go to Sayre, Ark.

Oct. 24. Thursday. First, I went to Nelson's gin and got some sideboards for our wagon, then came home and loaded Irene Foster's cotton and hauled it to the gin and had it ginned. It happened that no one was ahead of me with cotton at the gin, so ginning on my load was begun about five minutes after my arrival. Prepared to go to Prescott tomorrow.

Nov. 1. Friday. Ben and I worked nearly all of the forenoon building a flue for a stove pipe to run through, but finally we decided not to finish it, but to put the stove pipe up without any flue at this time. The weather has turned cold and begins to seem like winter. I ate some hog meat and some sausage, for the first time since last spring. Shelled corn to take to mill. Painted some on our house. Studied some. Accidentally dropped a water bucket into our well, but was able to get it out easily. For several days past, recently, we have heard wild geese honking as they flew over, going south.

Nov. 5. Tuesday. We finished banking our sweet potatoes. I think we have about 40 bushels of them. I painted some on our house. Today was warm. We have all of our 1912 crops gathered. I think it to be about as follows: 275 bushels of corn, 40 bushels sweet potatoes, a 429 pound bale of cotton, 3 bushels Irish potatoes, between 1000 and 2000 pounds of watermelons, 40 pounds of muskmelons, 2 wagonloads of peanuts, 3 wagonloads of peavine hay, 700 bundles of fodder, 1 ½ bushel unshelled cane seed, about 70 bushels of peas, and a very nice lot of turnips and turnip greens. Took a bath today.

Nov. 18. Monday. We dug in our well. I ground the hoe that we use for well digging. The handle in it was broken by dropping it into the well, so I made a new handle for it today. Studied for an hour or longer. Went to our mail box. There was frost this morning. Our well is now 25 feet deep or more.

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Nov. 23. Saturday. We dug in our well. It is now 31 ½ feet deep. I went over to John H. Griffith's to take a basket of his to him. I went to mill. Today was bed-making-day at Nelson's gin. I went to Lackland Springs. Bought meat \$1.05, lacking 5c, paying for it, snuff 10c. Studied for 1 hour, 15 minutes. Took a bath. Frost this morning. The weather was some cooler than yesterday.

Nov. 25. Monday. There was a heavy frost this morning, and the day was cool. I worked for about an hour, carrying water for scrubbing and other purposes. I tied and sewed some sacks that are filled with peas. I went to J.R. Dunn's and got his wagon and mule and brought them here to our place, then loaded the wagon with peas and made preparations to go to Prescott tomorrow. I studied for about 1 ½ hours. I ate about twice as much food today as I should. E.S. (Sherman) Nelson had a big sale today and sold nearly everything he had, and intends to move to Texas in the near future.

Nov. 26. I went to Prescott and took 1176 pounds of peas, which I sold for \$1.25 per bushel, for a total of \$24.31. I had intended that this should not be a hurried trip, so I left home late in morning and reached Prescott in afternoon. I bought a pair of shoes for Irene Foster \$1.75, 1 box matches 5c, 1 cocoanut 5c, 1 writing tablet, 5c. Paid to J.B. Jordan's store \$19.00 on account, which was payment in full. I staid overnight at the Farmers' Union Wagon Yard. Cleveland Johnson and a man named Rogers, and another man were there, and they did not fail to make plenty of racket to keep the others awake. I sold my peas that I brought to town today to the Ozan Mercantile Co. Cool weather. Part of day appeared to threaten rain.

Nov. 27. Wednesday. Staid at the Union Wagon yard in Prescott last night. I got a wagon seat for a Leudinghaus wagon from the Prescott Hardware Company for J.R. Dunn.

Dec. 2. Monday. N.B. Foster and I went to Prescott and took between 15 and 16 bushels of peas. Sold them to E.L. Cox for \$1.25 per bushel. Before going to Prescott I borrowed \$4.00 from Charles Foster and \$5.00 from Irene Foster. It was past noon when Ben and I got to Prescott today, so we did not have time to feed our team there, so they got no dinner. We left town about 3 p.m. and got home about 7:40 p.m. I paid \$2.70 to Charles Foster and still owe him \$1.00. I owe Irene Foster \$6.75. I paid N.B. Foster \$3.00 in payment for the \$3.00 Postal money order he sent me last summer. Today was cool, but there was no frost, since last night was cloudy.

Dec. 17. Tuesday. The weather was warm today. I picked off about a half bushel of goobers. Ground my ax. Removed shoes from our oldest mule's feet, then trimmed his feet. Cleared some in a pine thicket. Studied for about two hours. Solved the 11th example on page 219 of Rays Higher Arithmetic. I had spent more than four hours time on this problem in the past before finally solving it. Took a bath. Calvin Boggs left our place this morning for Prescott.

Dec. 20. Friday. Irene Foster and I went to Prescott in wagon. I sold turnips for 60c and peanuts for 55c. Bought suspenders 15c, drawers 40c, half soles 25c, 2 boxes tacks 5c, 1 hamestrung 15c, 1 gallon lard \$1.00, and 24 pounds of flour 70c. I paid Irene Foster 50c for 60c credit voucher on Sears, Roebuck & Co. and loaned her \$1.00. We got back home about sunset. I took John Dunn's wagon and mule back to him and brought our wagon and mule home. John H. Griffith sent to town by me today for a bottle of Peruna \$1.00, a Second reader 35c, rock candy 10c, and

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

sent a Fifth reader to be exchanged for a Primary school history. I took a bath. Was cold today. It is now 8 P.M. and rain is falling.

Dec. 31. Tuesday. I did very little work. Took a bath. Went to our mail box. Received some mail from Draughn's Business College, Dallas, Texas. Calvin Boggs came today, and he and Irene Foster, my youngest sister went to Prescott to get married.

RAINFALL RECORD

RAINFALL RECORD (at my house)—January—5.4 inches; February—3.6 inches plus 5 inches snow and ice; March—10.7 inches plus 2 inches sleet; April—7.7 inches;
MAY—Camden (6.0 inches); Bluff City (12.8 inches)

REMINDER—

National Grandparents Day will be celebrated September 13 this year. I would like to do a special issue of *The Sandyland Chronicle* to honor our grandparents. Maybe you can write a paragraph or two about a special grandparent and include a picture of them if you wish. Space is limited for this (depending on how many respond). You might tell what type work they did, where they lived, a favorite memory you have about them, or anything you would like to share. You have two sets of grandparents. You can choose to write about any one of them or more than one. Go ahead and send it to me as soon as you can so I can start putting it all together. As far as how much to write, I would suggest you try to limit it to about the length of this paragraph, but if you need more space don't worry about it. I look forward to hearing from you.

SEEMS LIKE I HEARD THIS SOMEWHERE BEFORE

Mrs. Zettie Link sent me a long list of sayings she remembers from about 70 years ago. Here are a few of them. I'll include some more in the next issue.

1. I'll be there in a jiffy.
2. She was a humdinger.
3. Just piddlin' around
4. He don't know peaturkey about that.
5. Bought a second used car.
6. That pie was larrapin' good.
7. Hurry and put the vittles on the table so we can eat.
8. Air conditioning was the worst thing that happened to the South. It 'lowed them Yankees to live 'mongst us.