

Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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Web Site: <http://sandyland.dreamhosters.com/>

E-Mail: sandman43@att.net

The Nevada News in 1906 did a series of articles about various communities in Nevada County, Arkansas at that time. This first article is about Union Township which includes the area around Bluff City in the northeastern part of the county.

**IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH
A FINE SECTION OF THE COUNTY AND A SPLENDID PEOPLE**

This article appeared in the Aug. 11, 1906 issue of The Nevada News.



Union Township is in the eastern part of the county and has a population of about 1100, twenty percent of whom are colored. Voting strength is 225, and while a majority of them have affiliated with the Populist Party, they in later years have very little interest in politics and each one is trying to see who can raise the most corn, the finest cotton, the biggest potatoes, and the largest hogs. As bad as conditions were last year, most everyone in the township made plenty to do them, and as late as June of this year, Mr. J. N. Kirk told us he had one crib of corn he had never opened.

In the township, there are four post offices-Bluffs City, Zama, Foss, and Theo which receive daily mail via Sayre. Inspection has recently been made for rural free delivery, and is almost certain a route will be established soon.

Bluff City is the most important of these post offices. It is an old town, and in the early days was quite aristocratic. At present, it has two stores-that of J. N. Byrd and John Henry. Dr. F. R. Epperson is the physician and R. W. Black is the postmaster.

Among Prescott's citizens who formerly lived at the Bluff, we call to mind Jno. T. Nichols and Dr. S. J. Hesterly. While just a few miles southwest near Zama lived Green R. Blake, one of the most prosperous farmers Union Township has ever had.

John G. Purifoy is the postmaster and storekeeper at Zama and keeps a well assorted stock and enjoys a splendid trade. Lee Moody, formerly a Prescott barber, has purchased and lives on part of the Green Blake farm.

Foss is the post office run by E. E. Epperson in connection with his store in the southeastern part of the township and is surrounded by a class of citizens who have no superiors in the county.

T. L. Gulley is the postmaster at Theo and runs a big plantation. Besides raising all staple products, Mr. Gulley devotes considerable attention to fruit and has last week marketed some of

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the finest peaches we have seen this season. Dr. E. E. Shell is the physician at Theo and bears the reputation of a splendid gentleman and fine doctor.

There is much beautiful scenery around Theo. One point of interest is Bluff Springs, where the clear sparkling water bubbles out of the base of a 60 foot hill and causes a deep ravine to join the waters of the sea.



In the picture is a tree known as the “bear tree”. A good many years ago some hunters were chasing a bear through this country, when the animal took up the ravine. Reaching the high embankment which forms the head of the ravine, Mr. Bruin was unable to go further, so he climbed the tree to escape the dogs, only to be shot by the eager hunters.

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Union Township has splendid advantages of religion and education. Church structures and school buildings dot the township in every direction. It matters not what your religious views may be, somewhere in Union Township you will find the church of your choice. And the people are generally religious and law abiding, and it is very seldom that they have any work for the courts to do.

As an illustration of what little interest they have taken in police affairs, a few years ago when John Milburn was running for the Democratic nomination for representative, the voters nominated him for constable.

Union Township is rich in land and timber. The soil is sandy loam, very strong and deep, and always makes a crop. This year's prospects are unusually bright. The corn is made and the crop is bountiful. The cotton is healthy and full of bolls. The timber is the finest in the county, and while large bodies have been cut, there is considerable pine left and it attracts the attention of everyone passing through the township.

It would be impossible within this space to name the prominent citizens of the township. All the way from E. W. Barlow's on the north to Theo Gulley's on the south, is a string of fine farms as any state affords.

VOCABULARY

Occasionally, when I do research, I come across an unusual word. Below are a few I've noticed in the last few weeks. I included the year when the word was used and a sentence using the word. See how many you know. Answers are on page 8.

1. PLANATORIUM (1918)

Joe said, "Jim, where have you been?"

Jim answered—"I just came from the planatorium".

2. GRAFANOLA (1918)

John's family was excited because he had just purchased a grafanola from the Prescott Hardware.

3. ARKOLA (1918)

The first thing Sue planned on doing when she got to Prescott was to get an Arkola.

4. HOPPER JR. (1918)

I think I'll go down to the Prescott Hardware and get me a Hopper Jr.

5. VIANDS (1912)

After dinner as I was putting up the viands, the cat tried to jump up on the table.

6. PERAMBULATING (1885)

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John was seen last Saturday perambulating the streets of Prescott.

7. OBSTREPEROUSNESS (1885)

Another man was chained on the street in Prescott because of obstreperousness. Our marshal knows how to bring such men into subjection.

8. CATAMOUNT (1912)

I heard something in the bushes. I thought it was a catamount.

THE ESKIMO PIE

Some of the information in this article comes from the Internet and from an advertisement for Eskimo Pies in The Nevada News in 1922.

The well-known ice cream treat known as Eskimo Pie dates back to 1920. A man named Christian Nelson was in the ice cream and confectionery business in Onawa, Iowa. One day a boy came in his store and had to choose between ice cream and a chocolate bar. He finally decided on ice cream. This gave Christian an idea of making an ice cream bar coated with chocolate.

He worked for weeks trying to develop a way of making chocolate cling to the ice cream. He even painted an ice cream bar with house paint to see how it would cling to the ice cream. After many experiments in mixing ingredients, he tried cocoa butter and it worked. He made 500 of his new ice cream bars which he called I-Scream Bars.

Chris Nelson later teamed up with Russell Stover, who was already a successful candy maker, and they agreed to split the profits on their new creation which they called Eskimo Pie, a name suggested by Mr. Stover's wife. The men got a patent on their new product and the process for making it. They advertised the product in newspapers and the Eskimo Pie became very popular. The first 250,000 bars produced sold out in one day. One store owner said he was selling twice as much ice cream since the Eskimo Pie was invented. One man compared the invention of the Eskimo Pie to the discovery of America. The price for an Eskimo Pie in 1922 was ten cents.

Many companies had a franchise to make and sell the ice cream treats. Some companies had to double their shifts to keep up with the demand. Russell Stover later sold his share of the business and concentrated on candy making. Christian Nelson became wealthy from the royalties he received from the sale of his Eskimo Pies. In 1922, he was selling one million pies per day.

There were some legal problems in those early days regarding the patent and the patent was invalidated in 1929. One rival company came up with idea of putting ice cream between two sugar wafers and then dipping it in chocolate (an ice cream sandwich).

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Nelson sold his share of the business to the United States Foil Co., the company which made the foil wrappers for the Eskimo Pies. Some say he sold out because of the stress of running the business. He was able to retire at a young age but soon became bored and joined Reynolds Metal Co. where he invented new ways of manufacturing and shipping Eskimo Pies. He stayed with that company in an executive position until he retired again in 1961. Nelson died in 1992 at the age of 99. Reynolds spun off the Eskimo Pie Corporation in 2000, which was purchased by CoolBrands International, a Canadian company. Nestle Corporation purchased the Eskimo Pie brand in 2007.

A controversy developed in regard to Eskimo Pies when a tourist from Canada who was visiting New Zealand claimed that the term Eskimo Pie was racially insulting. The companies involved said they had no plans to rename the product or to cease production.

Eskimo Pie was mentioned in 1927 in a song called "I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream". George Jones wrote and recorded a song called "Eskimo Pie" in 1957. The term has also been used in several movies and TV shows.

Christian Nelson was 27 years old when he got the idea for the Eskimo Pie. It is another example of someone having a good idea and working to make it happen even while being ridiculed. People called Nelson crazy for coming up with the idea of dipping ice cream in hot chocolate without melting the ice cream. One person called it "a fool idea".

I'm sure you have heard that money doesn't buy happiness. Christian Nelson became wealthy very quickly from his Eskimo Pies, but a newspaper article in the *Iowa City Press Citizen* dated January 16, 1922, has this quote from Mr. Nelson, who was a former school teacher: "Money! The more I see of it, the less I like it. I'd rather be with my books, or back on the job as teacher again," He had not even bought an automobile and was still unmarried at age 29. Some speculated that wealth came to him too quickly since he became wealthy in just a period of about one year.

Another article stated that Albert Einstein, the famous physicist, was making less money than Christian Nelson, the inventor of a simple ice cream treat. The reason given was that Einstein's work only served a small number of customers (other scientists) whereas Nelson's invention served millions of people with each one contributing a small amount. The advice given for those who wanted to get rich was to come up with something that appealed to a great multitude of people. Just about everybody loves ice cream. Nelson got five cents royalty for each dozen Eskimo Pies his franchised companies sold. If my math is correct, that means Mr. Nelson was making \$4000 per day in 1922 when one million Eskimo Pies were being sold each day.

The Eskimo Pie is still around today almost a hundred years after it was first invented, although I could not find any locally. I found plenty of Klondike ice cream bars which is something similar. The earliest Eskimo Pies were in a rectangle shape. Later a stick was inserted so it could be held more easily. Klondike seems to be the more popular brand these days and they offer several different flavors. They are square-shaped and sell for about fifty cents each at Walmart.

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Christian Nelson did finally get married but I couldn't find a date. He and his wife, Myrtle, were buried at Lake Forest Cemetery in Orange County, California.

GRANDMA'S BONNET

By Jerry McKelvy

Just a small piece of cloth
She sewed by hand
It served a useful purpose
For a woman of the land

Protection from the sun
As she did an outside chore
All the neighbor ladies had one
Or maybe three or four

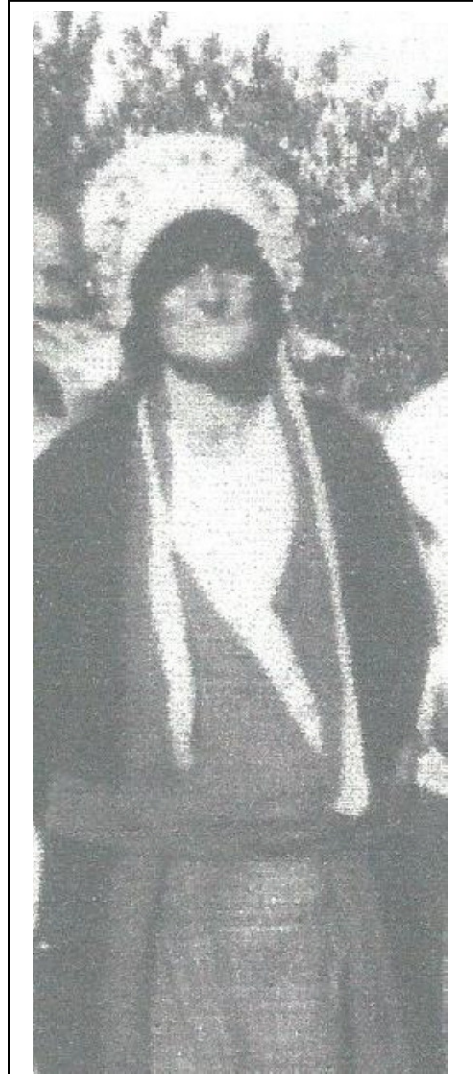
A bonnet and an apron
Were always close at hand
Two essential items
For a woman of the land

Working in the garden
Or gathering the eggs
Grandma always reached for her bonnet
She kept hanging on a peg

Bonnets are no longer in style
As they were in days of yore
They are now just a part of our history
Remembered in rural folklore

Grandma would be surprised
At our modern dress
Not a bonnet to be seen
Why they're gone is anybody's guess

When you are out of the house
And feel the rays of the hot sun
Remember Grandma's bonnet
Don't you wish you had one?



Georgia Anna Margaret Johnson
Hardwick, my great
grandmother's sister

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THE RESCUE

I don't remember just when this happened, but it was sometime in the late 1950s or early 1960s. At that time we pastured some cows at my grandparent's old place near Rocky Hill which was about four miles from our house. We usually checked on the cows every day.

The Rocky Hill community was sparsely populated at that time. The old Methodist church building was still there, but it was only used occasionally. Nobody was living in the area near the church at that time.

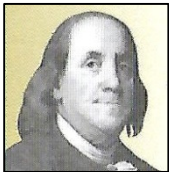
One day while my Dad and I were tending to the cows, we thought we heard someone hollering "Help" off in the distance in the direction of the church. The sound was so faint we could barely hear it. In a few minutes, we heard it again. We decided someone must be in trouble, so we immediately left to see what the problem was.

We drove up to the church and noticed that a vehicle had recently driven down a logging road near the church. We hollered loudly and immediately heard a response from a man but the sound was still a good distance away. We followed the vehicle tracks and by that time the man was hollering more often because someone was answering him. We soon located him. It was Martin Purifoy, a black neighbor of ours, who was working in the woods by himself cutting a load of pulpwood.

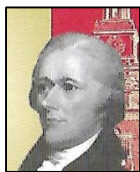
When we go to him, we found him in a deep, narrow ditch with a large stick of pulpwood on top of him. He didn't have room enough to push it off him, so he was stuck there. The temperature that day was very high and he had been lying there for a long time. He was very thirsty, but otherwise not injured. He was one very happy man because we had come to his rescue. He said it would have been hours before any of his family came to check on him.

It always feels good to help someone in need. We hope that others might do the same for us. I know Martin Purifoy never forgot the time we rescued him in his time of need.

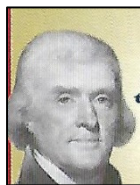
FOUNDING FATHERS



A



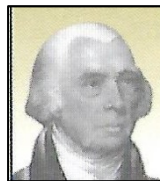
B



C



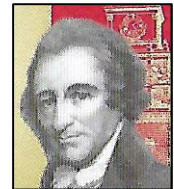
D



E



F



G

Here are seven of our Founding Fathers. Can you identify them? Answers on page 8.

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ANSWERS TO THE FOUNDING FATHERS QUIZ ON PAGE 7

- A. Benjamin Franklin
 - B. Alexander Hamilton
 - C. Thomas Jefferson
 - D. George Washington
 - E. James Madison
 - F. Patrick Henry
 - G. Thomas Paine
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ANSWERS TO THE VOCABULARY QUIZ ON PAGE 3

- 1, The planatorium was a business in Prescott in 1908 which cleaned, pressed, and repaired clothes and made them new again. The proprietor was E. J. Taliafero.
 - 2, A grafanola was a tall cabinet-style record player with a crank. Later, they would be called a Victrola.
 3. Arkola was the name of a soft drink bottled by the Prescott Ice Co. in 1918.
 4. Hopper Jr. was the name of a walk-behind horse-drawn cultivator popular in 1920. It was advertised for \$42.50.
 5. A viand is an item of food or a choice or tasty dish.
 6. Perambulate means to walk or move about; go for a stroll.
 7. Being obstreperous means to be noisy, boisterous, or unruly.
 8. A catamount is a large animal of the cat family, such as a cougar.
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RAINFALL RECORD

January – 4.7 inches February – 6.5 inches March – 12.7 inches April – 6.4 inches
May – 1.3 inches

JULY 4, 2016 – AMERICA'S 240TH BIRTHDAY