

Jerry McKeiv's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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sandman43@att.net

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WHY DIDN'T THEY SMILE IN OLD PHOTOS?

If you have ever looked at old family black and white photos from the late 1800s or early 1900s, or even old school photos, you may have noticed that the people didn't smile when their picture was taken. Why is this? I've heard several explanations which may or may not be true.

The most common explanation is that the exposure time required for the cameras at that time was very long. People couldn't hold a smile for that length of time. Having a photo made in those days was a serious thing. It required dressing up in the best clothes and, in some cases, it may have been the only photo taken in a person's lifetime. It did require posing for a long period of time. Try smiling and holding your smile for one minute and you will see that it is hard to do.

Some think that before the days of modern dentistry, most people had bad teeth (or no teeth) and therefore kept their mouth closed when having their photos taken. One would think that there would be someone with good teeth, especially young people, but you rarely see students smiling in early school photos. It's as if the teacher warned the kids to "be sure and don't smile".

Others think that at that time, smiling for photos was considered undignified or frivolous. Showing emotion was not considered to be proper.

Some say that times were hard in the old days and people didn't have a reason to smile. Could it have something to do with the economic situation at the time? I have seen some sad looking pictures from the Great Depression. But as far as I know, people are still smiling in photos taken today even though we are in the worst recession since the Great Depression. Even though this recession is bad and many people are out of work, it has not yet reached the stage of despair witnessed by those who lived through the 1930s. Some think that people first began to smile in photographs during "the Roaring Twenties".

What about our presidents? I called up a web site which has pictures of all the American presidents. I was curious to see if any of them were smiling. I was surprised to find that the first president who was smiling was John F. Kennedy and all the presidents who followed him were smiling, although Lyndon B. Johnson only had a slight grin. All the presidents before Kennedy had a very solemn expression on their faces.

Would you have a different opinion of Abraham Lincoln or George Washington if they had been smiling in their photos on the five dollar bill and one dollar bill? From what I've read about Abraham Lincoln, he had a wonderful sense of humor and was always telling funny stories, but he is never pictured with a smile. Of course, there was not much to smile about during the Civil War and I'm sure President Lincoln had a lot on his mind. Did you ever see a picture of a Civil War general smiling?

The painting *Mona Lisa* by Leonardo da Vinci shows a girl with a slight smile. For five

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hundred years, people have wondered about this mysterious smile. That is the exception rather than the rule, since smiles in photographs didn't really appear until more modern times. If you have some free time on your hands, you might check your old family photos and try to determine when the first smile appeared in a photo.

Could it be a fashion thing? An item in the April 23, 1885 issue of *The Nevada County Picayune* states:

“An exchange says large mouths in sweet women are the present fashion, and the maidens who are up to snuff no longer purse up their lips in the purse and prism style. The wide, natural style of wearing the mouth is supposed to have originated with the popular belles who have pretty teeth.”

An article from 1902 concerning actresses stated, "Actresses who are always smiling and looking frivolous in their pictures are almost invariably of minor importance. Even Lillian Russell, who has for years posed as a professional beauty, is seldom photographed smiling."

In another newspaper article from 1906, a photographer is quoted as saying, "It's the smile that ruins a photograph. Women don't use their smile any more. It ruins their beauty."

Evidently, there was a period of time when smiling was not considered appropriate when having a picture taken. Maybe it was just a "fashion trend" of the times. These days we want people to be smiling in their photographs. We even get them to "say cheese" to force a smile.

These are just some random thoughts of this subject. If you have another thought or wish to express your opinion, let me know. In the meantime, check your driver's license and see if you smiled when your picture was taken. Does your driver's license photo capture your true personality or does it look more like something found on a wanted poster?

Nevada County Picayune (May 28, 1885)

Emmet Etchings local news column: City Marshal W. G. Burton arrested four white boys for robbing a wild bird's nest. They were fined \$3.00 by the mayor.

Prescott Daily News (April 20, 1907)

Little Prescott Laws: It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of eighteen to remain on the streets, alleys, or commons of the town later than 7:30 o'clock p.m. during the months of November, December, January, February, and March and later than 8:30 o'clock p.m. during the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, and October without the written permission or in the company of a parent or guardian. Fine not to exceed \$10.00

Prescott Daily News (June 6, 1907)

The quarantine finally ends after 36 days for Fred Powell who had contracted smallpox. The disease only left one or two small scars.

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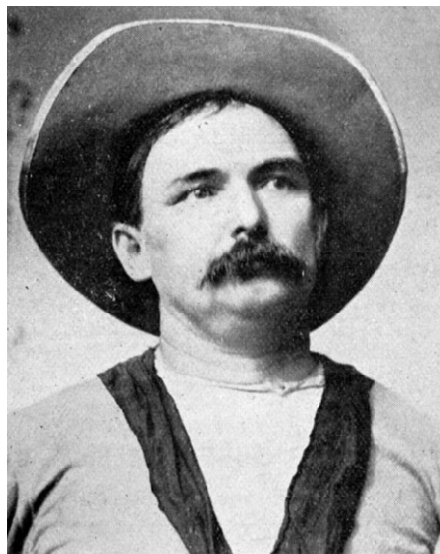
HAPPY HOLLOW

provided amusing photos of Hot Springs tourists for over 50 years

Researched by Cathy Straley
Abstracted from the website <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net>

McLeod's Amusement Park, more commonly known as Happy Hollow, served as one of Hot Springs's most popular tourist attractions from the late 1800s until the 1940s. It was located at the head of Fountain Street, just off Central Avenue (behind the Arlington Hotel), and north of Hot Springs Mountain.

Photographer Norman McLeod owned and operated Happy Hollow from the time of its founding through 1908. McLeod, who was born in Georgia, became a wanderer after his college days, when he came to Hot Springs (Garland County) in 1888 and established his business. Happy Hollow began as a picture studio. The amusement park complex gradually developed from McLeod's vision. After selling Happy Hollow to Dave Anselberg in 1908, there were several other proprietors—T. E. Davis in 1921 and Benjamin Unsell in 1940, as listed in the city directory as owners. Today, all that remains to preserve the name are the Happy Hollow Motel, located at 230 / 231 Fountain Street, and Happy Hollow Springs on the southeast slope of North Mountain.



Norman McLeod in a Buffalo Bill pose

Sometimes called a tourist trap, Happy Hollow's park contained a shooting gallery, a zoo, and a souvenir shop. The shooting gallery was located on the side of the mountain, where a shelf held targets made of bottles. The park's zoo held fifty animals, while additional uncaged animals, such as burros, ponies, and horses, roamed the park for adults and children to ride.

The park was best known for its humorous photographs. Happy Hollow's visitors could have their pictures made in an old bathtub, riding on the back of a burro or a bull, or taking a drink at the 'saloon' (especially popular during Prohibition years)—and all of which contributed to Arkansas's hillbilly image. Misspelled, hand-printed signage often appeared in the photos, with such announcements as "Travelin Thru Arkansaw—Will Be Home Soon", "Mune Shine Stil" or "Home Sweet Home". Painted scenery served as backdrops for additional images, including a hot air balloon, a jailhouse, and a gigantic angry bear. There were also humorous photography vignettes where tourists posed with their heads placed in cut-outs where the models' heads should have been. Other amusing pictures could be taken with live costumed clowns, Indians or cowboys, or as mighty gun-toting hunters positioned next to slain taxidermy deer, bear or elk.

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As tourists approached McLeod's business, signage proclaimed that the photography studio specialized in "Wild West Combination Rustic and Comic Photos". These newly-taken images could be quickly printed onto postcard stock so that they could be sent to friends and family or saved as keepsakes. And nearly everyone who has family that lived near Hot Springs in the early 1900s has one or more photographs taken here! Most of these photos were so interesting that family members kept them even if they threw the rest of the family photos away.

Below is a photo of Nevada County's 1940 graduation class from Bluff City, which was made at Happy Hollow during their Senior Trip to Hot Springs in March of that year. It was reprinted 50 years later in the *Nevada County Picayune*, just prior to a scheduled Bluff City Reunion. The photo was sent in by Mary Hildebrand Cox—she's in the photo sitting on the bull holding the reins (*she's also the mother of Cathy Straley*).

10—Nevada County Picayune, Thursday, May 3, 1990



OLD PHOTO: Shows the Bluff City High School graduating class of 1940 on their senior trip to Hot Springs. They are left to right: Mary Hildebrand (Cox), R.L. Cummings, Pauline Cummings (Towers), Lewis Pruitt, Marie Andrews (McCormick), Lorene Beville (Wicker), Frederick J. White Sr., Mavis Nichols (Pruitt), Elloene Moore (McBride), standing in back: Georgia Hillery (Kulaga), Herbert Knight, and Mrs. Alvearne Denman, teacher and school superintendent. Pauline, Mavis, Elloene and Herbert were post-graduate students, who came back that year to take more courses of study. Picture was taken at Happy Hollow, Hot Springs National Park, March 27, 1940. This class group will be commemorating their graduation of 50 years ago at the annual Bluff City School Reunion get-together Saturday night, May 5, at the Housing Authority recreation room on Hale Avenue in Prescott.

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Photographs were not the only fun attraction at Happy Hollow. At one time, a burro-drawn streetcar carried visitors down Central Avenue to Happy Hollow, but a slight grade made it a difficult pull for the burro. One day, when the burro became tired, and he was unhitched from one end of the car and waited to be re-hitched to the other end, he jumped aboard the rear platform and refused to move. This amusing addition became an instant attraction. And from that day forward, the donkey made return trips in style.



As a regular stop for tourists for over 50 years, Happy Hollow and McLeod were both nationally known. A few famous visitors included Billy Sunday, Carry Nation, Al Capone and many professional baseball players while in Hot Springs for training camp.



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Found on the back of one Happy Hollow photograph was an explanation advertisement of the business—*"McLeod, The Wild West Photographer. The man who made Happy Hollow famous the world over, and who has for the past ten years provided, free of charge, the most Popular Resort for out-door and innocent amusement in the south. McLeod originates, his neighbors only make an effort to imitate. A picture from Happy Hollow that does not bear the name of McLeod, would be a disappointment to the friend to whom it is sent. Come see the animals, ride the donkeys and ponies and get your photo taken. Choice saddle ponies and rigs at half the regular rates.*



Long before McLeod arrived or the amusement park was created, the site was already known in the 1870s by locals as Happy Hollow.

But the Happy Hollow of yesteryear is now long gone, to be remembered only through the fanciful photographs left behind as keepsakes by some of Hot Springs' early tourists.



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A Happy Hollow photo from turn of the century.



For additional information:

...House, Boyce. "Arkansas Boyhood, Long Ago." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 20 (Spring 1961): 172-181.

...Hudgins, Mary D. "Norman McLeod and His Happy Hollow." *The Record* 10 (1969): 27-30.

...Scully, Francis J. *Hot Springs, Arkansas and Hot Springs National Park*. Little Rock: Hanson Co., 1966.

...Terry, Jessie Gantt. "Happy Hollow." *The Record* 22 (1981): 81-84.

...<http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net>

Do you have any Happy Hollow photographs in your family pictures? If you would like to share them, send me a copy.

Thanks to Cathy for researching and submitting this story about Happy Hollow.

There has been much discussion in recent years about the Bible being removed from the school rooms and prayer not being allowed in public schools based on decisions handed down by our federal courts regarding the separation of church and state. For your consideration, I thought I would include this article from the June 7, 1926 issue of The Nevada County Picayune on the subject.

THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS

A movement is underfoot to restore the Bible to the schools of Arkansas and to require the daily reading of a passage of Scripture in every public school in the state. Petitions are now in circulation in many sections to secure the necessary number of signers to

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put the question on the ballot at the regular election this fall. The W. C. T. U. is back of the effort and they are receiving encouraging support from many strong elements and signatures are rapidly being received.

The movement is thoroughly in harmony with the fundamental principles of our government. In the early days, education was held to be fundamentally religious, and the Bible was read daily in all the schools. This was true over the nation till about 50 years ago, when the Bible was quietly pushed out of the school room. The change was not brought about by law. Organized minorities, usually recent arrivals from foreign shores, misinterpreted the underlying principles of our government, quietly pushed the Bible out while real Americans did not observe what was going on.

For the last half century, our secularized schools have been developing the minds of our children, but they have not adequately strengthened their character, and great numbers of thinking people are beginning to believe that this is, more than anything else, the direct cause of the appalling lawlessness and immorality of our day.

At any rate, the Bible is going back into the schools and the children of our nation are beginning to receive its great moral and religious truths in the school rooms of the land as part of their preparation for the duties of citizenship. Prior to 1913, only one state--Massachusetts--used the Bible daily in all schools by mandate of law, she having had the law since 1855. In 1913, Pennsylvania passed a law requiring that at least ten verses be read every morning in every school. In 1915, New Jersey put the Bible into all her schools. Alabama did the same in 1919. Georgia followed in 1921. Maine and Delaware did it in 1923. Kentucky in 1924. Florida and Idaho in 1925. It looks like a sensible move, and there seems to be no reason why the great state of Arkansas should not this fall be the twelfth state to put the Bible back into daily use in every school room.

SEARCHING

Does anyone know who the "Elizabeth" stone is buried directly beside Joseph Cornelius in the Mt. Moriah Cemetery near [Rosston, AR](#)? (Joseph was also a grandson of the Weaver family, via his mother Sarah Weaver.) His other grandmother was Elizabeth Cornelius, but no last name exists on the stone.) Does anyone out there know of anyone who can help me? Please call collect: Dr. Annette B. Lemons (Cornelius) [870-426-2989](tel:870-426-2989)

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SEARCHING

I am very pleased that you are adding a genealogy component to your great newsletter. I love your newsletter...and do hope that someday all of the issues will be turned into a great book that will become part of my genealogy library.

I have much history in [Nevada County](#). My father was born in Nevada County. My grandmother was born, Tommie Carrie Gammage, daughter of Thomas Gammage and Mary Amelia Greer. I am a bit confused about the [Greer](#) connection but I do believe that [Pringle](#) Greer was the father of Mary Amelia. I so very much would like to know more about the Greers. I know that Mary Amelia died young and that Henry Grady went to live with my grandmother after she married, and their father, Thomas passed away. Grady and other Gammages migrated to [Arizona](#) and when my father's brothers contacted TB, my grandparents moved to AZ as well. Luther Hitt, my grandfather, also contacted TB and for reasons that I do not know, left AZ and moved back home to Nevada County, where he died shortly after my father's 12th birthday. My Grandmother, Carrie Gammage Hitt, lost 2 of her 4 sons to TB after the move to AZ. I have a fairly good paper trail for the Gammages and Hitts. I am trying to figure out the Greer and White piece of this puzzle. My father passed away in 2001 and it was his wish that his family history would be passed down to the generations to come and he left me with the task...I was working at the time and had little time, but in the past few years, I have attempted to complete the research as best I can. My wish would be to have a picture of my grandfather, Luther E Hitt. My father last saw him when he was 11 years old and he always hoped to find a picture of him. I have been unable to locate any photos of the Hitt family, including Luther. Do you have any ideas where I might look? I would love to know more about Grandfather Luther Hitt and any information would be so much appreciated.

I look forward to your next Sandyland issue...thank you so much for giving us all this bit of history each month!

Betty Hitt Southard, [Port Townsend, WA](#)
southard@olympus.net

[Nevada County surnames](#) of interest: Hitt, [Gammage](#), Greer, McDaniel, Stone, McGraw, Burton

Comments from Jerry--

I received a reply from my query last month asking if anyone knew who the community of Morris in Nevada County was named after. Linda Franks reported that Morris was named for her great grandfather, W. Ephram Morris. His grave is the oldest marked grave with the surname Morris in Caney Cemetery. Hopefully, we can find more information about this man. About all we know about him is that he was a Confederate soldier. I am hoping that his family can provide more information about him.

Please continue to submit your family stories, old photos, or questions about genealogy or local history.

I wish each of you a healthy and prosperous new year.

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PRALINE YAMS

29 oz. can Sugary Sam Cut Yams, drained
1/3 cup chopped pecans
1/3 cup coconut
1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
3 tablespoons flour
3 tablespoons margarine or butter, melted

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place drained yams in ungreased 1 1/2 quart casserole or baking dish. In small bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Blend well. Sprinkle over yams. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until bubbly. Makes 7 servings.

(Recipe from Sugary Sam sweet potato can)

CHERRY NUT BARS

2 cups all purpose flour	1/2 cup chopped pecans
2 cups uncooked quick-cooking oats	1 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 cups sugar	1 21 oz. can cherry pie filling
1 1/4 cup butter, melted	1 cup miniature marshmallows

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients except pie filling and marshmallows in large bowl. Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often, until mixture resembles coarse bread crumbs. Reserve 1 1/2 cups crumb mixture for topping. Press remaining crumb mixture into ungreased 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until lightly browned on edges. Gently spoon pie filling evenly over hot, partially baked crust. Sprinkle with marshmallows. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture. Continue baking for 25-35 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely. Cut into 36 bars.

IF YOU COME ACROSS A GOOD RECIPE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE,
SEND IT TO ME.