

# SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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## THOSE STRANGE-LOOKING GRAVE MARKERS



If you have visited some of the older cemeteries in our area you may have seen grave markers shaped like tree trunks. These markers are for members of the Woodmen of the World fraternal organization. The markers are not all alike. Some look like a tree stump and others look like a stack of logs. There are several other different shapes and designs.

The organization known as Woodmen of the World was founded in 1890 in Omaha, Nebraska by a man named Joseph Cullen Root. Its original purpose was “to minister to the afflicted and to relieve distress; to cast a sheltering arm around the defenseless, and to encourage broad charitable views”. It is said that Root got the idea of the term “woodmen” from a speech he heard about pioneers clearing away the forest to provide shelter of their families.

The goals of the modern Woodmen of the World organization are “to help others, to promote patriotism and civic responsibility, and to provide financial protection for their families”.

It is a non-profit organization owned and governed by its members. No women or girls were allowed to join until 1957, but there was a women’s auxiliary even in the early days known by several different names. Today, it is mainly known as an insurance company involved in selling life insurance, investments, real estate, mortgage loans, and financial planning.

Fraternal organizations were common in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In reading old newspapers, you will find that many are mentioned such as The Odd Fellows, the Masons, The Knights of Pythias, and others. This was the time before television and people enjoyed getting together with friends (sort of like a club). They had rituals, ceremonies, and uniforms. These provided some diversion from the hum-drum life at that time. The Woodmen of the World organization believed in hard work and the pioneering spirit. They didn’t want lazy people as members. One of their goals was to help provide for financial protection for the members and their families and this was popular because at that time there was no social security. When the bread winner of the family died, families were sometimes left destitute.

The founder believed that no member should lie in an unmarked grave. From 1890 to 1900, a grave marker was provided to members who had purchased a life insurance policy. From 1900 to the 1920s, members had to pay a \$100 rider to their insurance policies in order to receive a grave marker. Rising costs of the markers caused the organization to discontinue the grave markers, but some of the more modern markers have the Woodmen of the World emblem.

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The most commonly recognized Woodmen of the World grave marker is the one shaped like a tree stump usually four to six feet high sitting on a base shaped like small logs. They are known as “tree stones”. Some markers are shaped like a stack of small logs. In some cases the number of logs represents the number of children the deceased had. The markers may be decorated with such things as axes, mauls, wedges, or any instrument associated with the wood industry such as the one pictured here.. Some have depictions of doves, squirrels, or flowers.



All of the markers have the circular Woodmen of the World emblem with the motto “Dum Tacet Clamet” which is Latin meaning “Though silent, he speaks”.

There are at least 75 of these Woodmen of the World grave markers in Nevada County. The death dates on these markers range from 1903 to 1934 with the great majority of them being from 1909 to 1919.

The unveiling of one of these Woodmen of the World grave markers was a special occasion in the early 1900s. A parade of members would march to the grave site for the unveiling, a eulogy would be delivered, and flowers were placed on the grave. The sixth day of June each year was the Memorial Day for Woodmen of the World members and similar ceremonies were sometimes observed on that day.

The Woodmen of the World organization is also involved in community activities. They sometimes give aid to senior citizens, help for orphans and the disabled, and also join with the Red Cross in providing disaster relief.

Anyone associated with the wood industry as an occupation, hobby, or interest is eligible for membership in the organization.

On the following page are photos of several Woodmen of the World markers found in Nevada County. **One word of caution—Be careful if you have young children with you in a cemetery that has old grave markers. Some of them are unstable and could easily fall. I have heard of several serious accidents involving old grave markers falling on a young child. They are very heavy and can cause serious damage.**



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Bluff Springs Cemetery



Laneburg Cem.



Bluff Springs Cem.



Waldrep Cem.



Moscow Cemetery

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## THE BULLET

The following is an account of an incident in 1961 involving our family that we never expected to happen in our normally peaceful farming community.

Mr. John I. Stovall of Camden had recently purchased a farm a few miles down the road from our place. The farm was located at the intersection of what is now Hwy. 299 and County Rd. 47 near Ebenezer Cemetery. My dad and Mr. Stovall were friends and they decided to farm this land together that summer. I spent many hours helping to break the land with our little Farmall Cub tractor. Mr. Frank Pfeifer of Chidester had organized a group of farmers in the area to plant cucumbers for a pickle company and they decided to join in thinking it would be a good way to make some quick money.

Anyone who has picked a large patch of cucumbers knows that it is back breaking work. Growing the plants is not too much of a problem, but bending over picking them is quite a chore. The vines had to be picked about every other day because the smaller cucumbers brought the most money. A cucumber could quickly grow too large and be considered a cull. The picked cucumbers were taken to Chidester to be graded and sold.

You would think that growing and pickling cucumbers would be a pretty safe job, but on that particular day, an incident happened that was very scary for our family.

About 11:00 in the morning of June 6, 1961, my mother (actually, my step-mother) and Mrs. Ismay Stovall were picking cucumbers in a field just across the road from a house. A young boy who was almost eleven years old was at that house and was outside in the yard with a .22 rifle. For some reason he fired the gun across the road into the field where my mother and Mrs. Stovall were working. The bullet struck my mother in the hip as she was bent over picking cucumbers. At first she thought Mrs. Stovall had thrown a cucumber at her, but then she felt the pain and realized she had been shot.

I wasn't there that day so I don't know exactly how they reacted. I'm sure it was quite a shock for them. They rushed her to the Cora Donnell Hospital in Prescott, a distance of about 25 miles. I suppose they chose Prescott because that's where our family doctor practiced at that time. It was about the same distance to Camden in the other direction.

The medical facilities at the small town of Prescott were pretty basic. They were not equipped to handle very serious cases. Dr. Charles Hesterly determined that the bullet had entered her hip and traveled up her body about eight inches and was lodged very near her spine. The doctor said it would be too dangerous to try to remove the bullet since it was so near the spinal cord. He claimed that it would not be a problem to just leave it alone. That sounded strange to us since we had watched so many westerns on TV where they always removed the bullet when someone was shot.

After a period of recuperation, my mother was released from the hospital to recuperate at home. The sheriff (Horace Hale) was called to investigate the incident. The young boy at first claimed he

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was shooting at a bird, but later in court he changed his story. I went to the court house recently and looked up the records for this case.

The prosecuting attorney filed a petition to the court stating the boy “either intentionally or because of gross carelessness and negligence shot Mrs. Ruel McKelvy in the hip with a 22 caliber rifle thereby inflicting upon the said Mrs. Ruel McKelvy a dangerous and serious wound” and that the boy was “a dependent, neglected, and delinquent child as set forth in Section 45-204 of the Arkansas Statutes”. The petition requested that the court place the child on probation or that he be sent to the Boy’s Industrial School “in order that he may receive the proper training, education, and necessities of life”. About two weeks after the incident, the judge ordered the boy to be sent to the Boy’s Industrial School and directed the sheriff to escort him to that facility. There was no set time for him to remain there. In those days, an inmate could be released when it was determined by the school officials that such release was appropriate, but each inmate had to remain at the school for a minimum of four months.

My mother was very lucky that day. If the bullet had been just a fraction of an inch further toward her spinal cord, she could have been left paralyzed for life.

You can imagine the talk in the community when the neighbors learned what had happened. Things slowly returned to normal and my mother returned to her normal routines. She is now 88 years old and is still carrying the bullet in her body from that incident almost 60 years ago. She recently fell and broke her hip and when they did an x-ray, the medical folks noticed the bullet and we had to explain to them what happened.

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## RAINFALL RECORD FOR 2017

January – 3.1 inches	February – 6.6 inches	March – 3.0 inches
April – 9.0 inches	May – 7.9 inches	June – 4.4 inches
July – 3.7 inches	August – 5.4 inches	September -- .7 inch
October – 1.4 inches	November – 1.0 inch	December – 7.3 inches

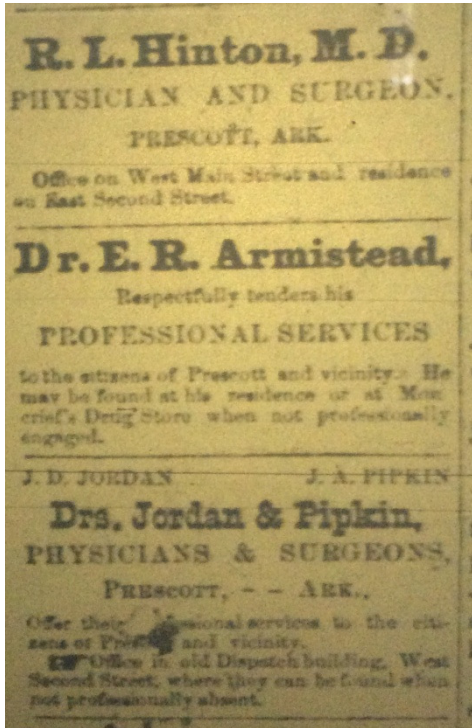
Total rainfall for the year – 53.5 inches

Normal rainfall for the year – 52 inches

The first eight months of the year were wetter than usual. We began to wonder in September, October, and November if we were going to make our normal annual rainfall, but a heavy rain in late December brought us to slightly above the normal amount. We had no snow to speak of in 2017. The year ended with some very cold weather with lows around 14 degrees. Only a few people braved the cold temperatures to venture out to celebrate the arrival of 2018.

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## ADS FROM DOCTORS IN 1885 (FROM NEVADA COUNTY PICAYUNE)



R. L. Hinton, M. D.  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON  
PRESCOTT, ARK.

Office on West Main St. and residence on East Second St.

**Dr. E. R. Armistead,**

Respectfully tenders his

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

to the citizens of Prescott and vicinity. He may be found at his residence or at Moncrief's Drug Store when not professionally engaged.

Respectfully tenders his Professional Services

To the citizens of Prescott and vicinity. He may be found at his residence or at Moncrief's Drug Store when not professionally engaged

J. D. JORDAN

J. A. PIPKIN

**Drs. Jordan & Pipkin,**

**PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS,**

PRESCOTT, -- ARK.,

Offer their professional services to the citizens of Prescott and vicinity.

Office in old Dispatch building, West Second Street, where they can be found when not professionally absent.

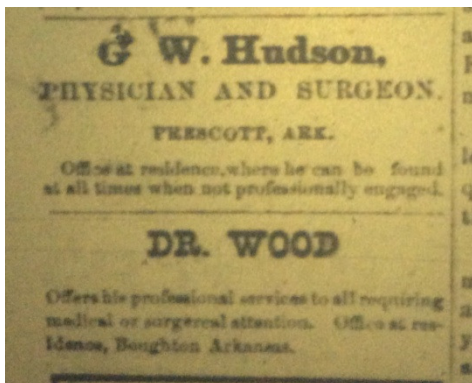
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**G. W. Hudson,**  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

PRESCOTT, ARK.

Office at residence, where he can be found at all times when not professionally engaged.

**DR. WOOD**

Offers his professional services to all requiring medical or surgical attention. Office at residence, Boughton, Arkansas.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

How well do you know your abbreviations? Answers on page 8.

1. PS (may be written at end of a letter)
2. ASAP – (I need that A. S. A. P.)
3. ETA – (what is your E. T. A.?)
4. CEO – (he is the C. E. O. of that company)
5. DACA – (immigration problem being considered by Congress)
6. FDIC – (has to do with banking)
7. NBC – (The program will be shown on NBC)
8. AFIB – (he suffers from AFIB)
9. CAT – (he had a CAT scan)
10. COPD – (he suffers from COPD)
11. QID – (the doctor wrote this on a prescription)
12. FAQ – (you might see this on a company's web site)
13. RIP – (you might see this at a cemetery)
14. IQ – (he has an IQ of 140)
15. AWOL – (a military term)
16. SOS – (somebody in trouble might do this)
17. MIA – (John was reported MIA)
18. POW – (he spent five years as a POW)
19. DOB – (what is your DOB?)
20. BA – (he got his BA degree)
21. c – (used with a date such as c1890)
22. DC – (Washington, DC)
23. fl. oz. – (The bottle contained 16 fl. oz.)
24. GOP – (the GOP gained five seats in Congress)
25. IRS – (he is being audited by the IRS)
26. NRA – (he is a member of the NRA)
28. RN – (she is a RN at the hospital)
29. YMCA – (he had no money, so he is staying at the YMCA)
30. AVE – (his address is 240 Wilson Ave.)
31. WPA – (that building was a WPA project in the 1930s)
32. CCC – (There was a CCC camp near Rosston)
33. tsp – (the recipe calls for 1 tsp. of vanilla flavoring)
34. CST – (the show comes on at 8 p.m. CST)
35. NASA – (NASA is in contact with the space ship)
36. SCUBA – (he enjoys SCUBA diving)

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## ANSWERS:

1. Post script
2. As soon as possible
3. Estimated time of arrival
4. Chief executive officer
5. Deferred action for childhood arrivals
6. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
7. National Broadcasting Company
8. Atrial fibrillation
9. Computerized axial tomography
10. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder
11. Four time a day
12. Frequently asked questions
13. Rest in peace
14. Intelligence Quotient
15. Away without leave
16. Some say it stands for “Save our souls” or “Save our ship”. Actually it doesn’t stand for anything. In Morse code, it is three dots, three dashes, three dots. It was used as a distress signal because it could not be easily misinterpreted.
17. Missing in action
18. Prisoner of war
19. Date of birth
20. Bachelor of arts
21. circa (about, approximately, around)
22. District of Columbia
23. Fluid ounces
24. Grand Old Party (Republican)
25. Internal Revenue Service
26. National Rifle Association
27. Registered nurse
28. Young Men’s Christian Association
29. Avenue
30. Works Progress Administration
31. Civilian Conservation Corps
32. Teaspoon
33. Central Standard Time
34. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
35. Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus

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- February is the month most often misspelled.
  - Amethyst is the birthstone for February
  - Four presidents were born in February – George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, William Henry Harrison, and Ronald Reagan