

Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

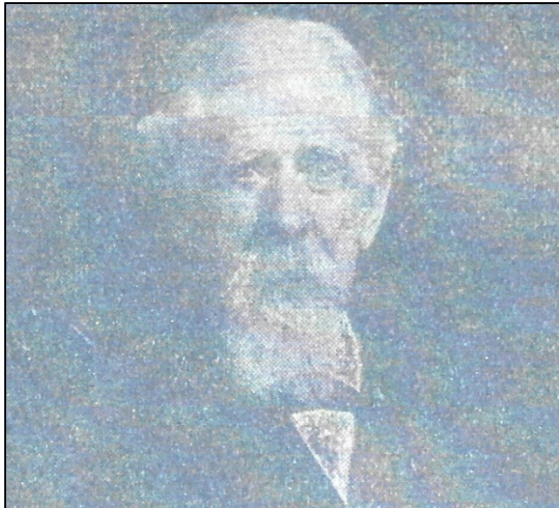
Vol. 18 – No. 7

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July, 2018

CAPT. W. R. WHITE'S 91ST BIRTHDAY

Back in the early 1900s, a person was considered to be “an aged person” if they reached seventy years old. A few people managed to live much longer. The March 18, 1920 issue of *The Nevada News* had a long article about Capt. W. R. White who was celebrating his 91st birthday. The article stated this was an annual affair. It mentioned the excellent food that had been prepared, what flowers were used for decorations, and listed family members who attended. The article then included the following sketch of the life of W. R. White. Such information is welcomed by his descendants and genealogists who might be researching the White family.



Capt. White was born March 8, 1829 at Russellville, Alabama. His ancestors lived to great ages. His grandfather lived to be nearly a hundred. His grandmother died at 88. He had two brothers who lived to be more than four score years. He was the third of nine children. His father was killed in a run-away accident at the age of 66. Capt. White grew up before the days of public schools when educational advantages were

poor, but his father gave him a good business education which has always stood him well in hand. Before he reached his majority, he moved to Shreveport, La., and chose the mercantile business. He operated a branch store on the Caddo Lake at a place which afterwards became the city of Jefferson, Texas. He had the distinction of opening the first store in Jefferson. He returned to Alabama and on Feb. 1st, 1854 was married to Mary J. Clark. Three children, Amelia A., William M., and Fannie, were born to them in Alabama. William M. died in infancy. In

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1857, he with his wife and two girls, came to Pine Bluff. There Fannie died but another girl, Norvelle, was born to them. There he established a mercantile business which he conducted until 1861 when the Civil War began. From Pine Bluff he volunteered as a private and left his business and family to enter the military service of the Confederacy. He went out with Col. Carroll's regiment, the first that went from this part of the state. Soon after his enlistment, his son, Wm. R. White Jr. was born.

By faithful service he was soon promoted and commissioned as Captain and assigned to duty as Commissary for his brigade. He served during the entire four years of the war, and was for fifteen months in prison; five months at Camp Chase and ten months at Ft. Delaware. His family suffered much privation during the war. At the battle of Mark's Mill, they were compelled to leave the house where they lived because it was needed for hospital purposes, and before the fighting was over his wife and children, with other women and children, were between the firing of the two armies. In this emergency, Mrs. White removed her petticoat and tied it to an improvised flag-staff and advanced with the white flag toward the Federals. This incident, then so serious to her and the children, has been since the cause of much merriment to the officers and men who saw it.

Just before the surrender of Gen. Lee, Capt. White came home on a furlough to look after his family, and started with them to Texas, but was compelled to stop at Falcon in this county for the treatment of his daughter, Amelia, who had become sick. In their sickness they found many sympathizing friends who cared for them. There they found one of the best communities in the South with a church of their own faith and a splendid school. They received such kind treatment from the people of that community that they decided to make it their home. He was offered and accepted a position as teacher in the school which had been promoted and was controlled by the Masonic Fraternity of which he was a member.

There was born to them at Falcon, Willie W., who died there, Samuel T., and Watson W.

He also taught school at Mt. Moriah in this county. Later he engaged in the mercantile business at Falcon and continued until the organization of this county. At the first election held in the new county in 1872, he was elected County Clerk and this caused his removal to Rosston, then

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the county seat. There his son, John C., was born. He was re-elected three times consecutively and served all eight years. During his service in 1877, the county seat was changed to Prescott and that caused his removal here where he has since remained.

Immediately after the inauguration of President Cleveland in 1885, he was appointed Postmaster at Prescott, being the first Democratic appointment in this county. At the expiration of his term, he resumed business as a merchant and cotton buyer.

His first wife died in 1884, and he was married to his present wife, Miss Mary C. Love of Huntsville, Alabama in August 1889, and they have since lived happily together.

His daughter, Norvelle, who married Eugene M. Cheatham, died in Prescott in 1890.

His daughter, Mrs. Thomas C. McRae, and his three sons, W. R. Jr., Samuel T., and Watson W., reside here. His son, Jno. C., lives in Durango, Colo.

The families of all of his children including their companions, children, and grandchildren, number 56.

His father was a Methodist minister, and Capt. White has been a member of that church since he was 15 years old. He has been a steward since 1865.

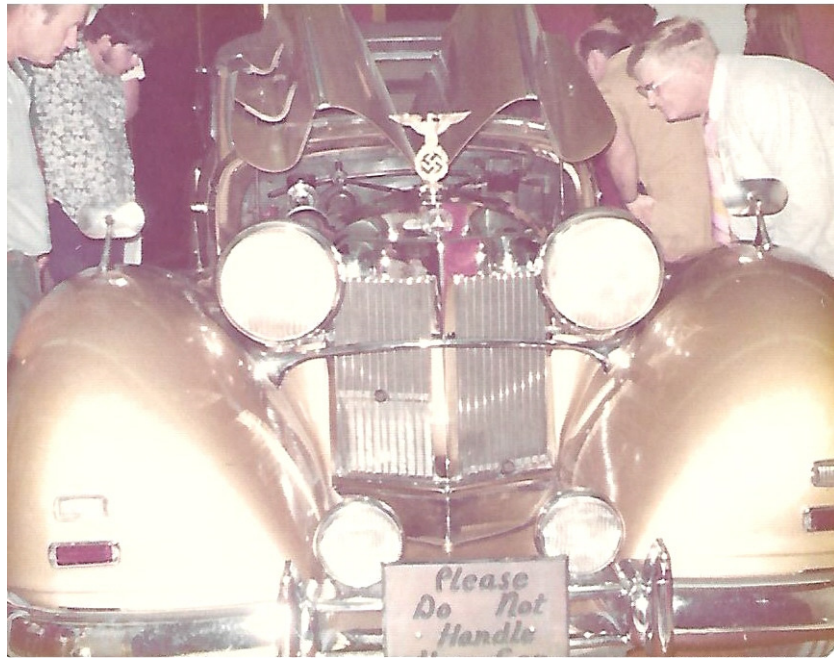
The period covered by his life is full of great events. In the military affairs of the United States, it embraces the Indian, Mexican, Civil, Spanish-American, and lastly, the great world war. In science and learning and general improvement, there is no period in which so much has been accomplished for the advancement and uplift of the human family.

Capt. W. R. White died the next year after this birthday celebration at the age of 92. He was buried in the old section of De Ann Cemetery in Prescott. His full name is not mentioned anywhere in the newspaper article and is not engraved on this tombstone. Researchers say his full name was William Richard White. His oldest daughter, Amelia, married Thomas Chipman McRae who served as governor of Arkansas from 1921-1925. Both are buried at De Ann Cem. in Prescott.

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THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE CAR

My wife and I were shopping at Southwest Mall in Little Rock back in June, 1974. We noticed a crowd of people gathered around an unusual automobile, so I stopped to check it out. The flyer available at the display claimed the car was a gift from Adolph Hilter to his mistress, Eva Braun. I took this picture from a stack available at the display and as you can see, it does appear to be a very fancy automobile. You can see the gold plated swastika hood ornament. I wondered why such an important piece of history would be displayed in a shopping mall instead of in a museum.



I kept the picture and the flyer I picked up at the display to put in my scrapbook. Well, it turns out that this whole story was just a fake. From what evidence I find on the Internet, this was a publicity stunt conceived by a car auctioneer to promote his business. The car was displayed at fairs, carnivals, and shopping malls all across the United States in the 1970s.

One person who declined to give his name stated that there is no evidence Eva Braun ever had a Mercedes, although they do say Hiller once gave her a Volkswagon as a gift. He goes on to say that the claims mentioned in the flyer about the car being able to go 175 miles per hour and being able to run on both gasoline and diesel are false. He said the car was actually built in California.

I'm sure many people, including myself, were fooled by this display. We went away thinking we had personally seen a car once owned by Adolph Hitler. At least we didn't have to pay to see the car. From what I can find on the Internet, the location of this car today is unknown.

Here is the flyer I picked up at the display:

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The Most Valuable Car in the World

\$250,000 GOLDEN MERCEDES

Ladies and Gentleman – This 1938 Mercedes Benz is the most valuable car in the world. It is alleged that the Chancellor of Germany ordered this car to be the personal car for Eva Braun. The history is also legendary though engineering and construction are fact.

The chassis and motor were hand crafted in Stuttgart, Germany and the body hand crafted in Zurich, Switzerland. The motor is super charged – Straight eight – 400 Hp.. The cruising speed is 170 Mph and it has been driven at 175 Mph. It has 2 transmissions, both with over drive, 2 sets of gears and may be driven with 4 or 7 speeds. The first transmission takes it to 125 Mph using the first set of gears – Then converts to the second transmission to reach 175 Mph. This automobile has both fuel injectors and spark plugs – The gas tank is under the hood – The diesel tank is in the rear of the car and it may be driven with either fuel. The lever on the steering wheel converts it from gas to diesel. There is also a lever on the steering column that lifts the body away from the chassis for a more even ride. It is claimed that the British Jaguar was copied directly from this car in 1940. The wheels are of special interest – Each wheel individually suspended and each wheel is equipped with 7 automatic balancers. The tires have been replaced – They are exact replicas of the originals – 17 inch – 7 ply.

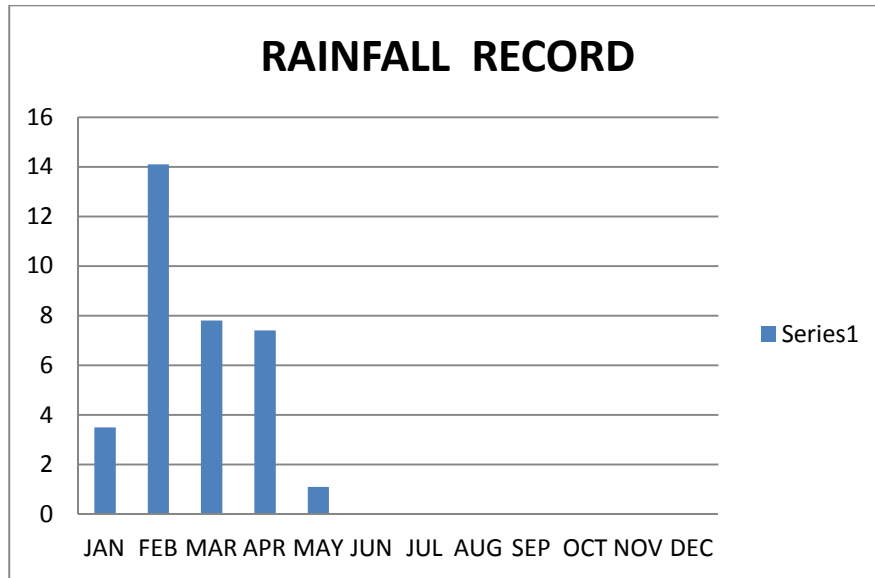
The only other change made on the car is the paint – Original color was black and silver. The gold trim you see on the automobile is 22 carat pure gold. The metal curtains in front of radiator slide up so as to keep the cold out and allow engine to heat faster. The automobile weighs 7,500 lbs., Almost as much as 2 Cadilacs. The body is made of 10 guage steel. The body of this car is built in 1 piece with no seams, and there are only 4 removable parts – 2 doors, the trunk and the hood.

The automobile is laden with history. Before the Allies blockaded Berlin, the chauffeur, who was a storm trooper and body guard to Eva Braun, drove the Mercedes to a family farm in Austria in the Bavarian area where he hid it away in a barn. It remained there until he died in 1965. The German Schmeiser automatic machine gun was in the trunk and we assume it belonged to him because the S.S. were equipped with this type of gun.

An American newsman, looking for a story interviewed his widow and was amazed to discover that she was in possession of this automobile. He managed to buy the car from her with the understanding that he would remove it from Germany without involving her. He contacted the president of a farm machinery co. in Germany and gave him \$5,000 in U.S. currency to arrange with his company to crate and ship and label this car as a farm combine and the company charged and added \$5,000 for this service. It so happened they had an order for farm implements to be delivered to New Jersey and included this vehicle in their shipment. Normally, had they asked for an export permit to ship this car out of Germany it would have been refused. The German government could have claimed ownership of this car.

The automobile is valued presently at \$250,000. It is the only car of it's kind in the world.

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I only received 1.1 inches of rain at my house in May. Some areas close by received three or four inches. That's typical for Arkansas this time of the year.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Several years ago, I purchased a book at an estate sale called "Compliments to the Bride and Groom". It was given to couples when they got married and included recipes and advice on how to manage a home. The book had much personal information about the couple who once had the book including pictures and family history about their families. The following advice for husbands and wives was included in this book from 1931.

DON'TS FOR WIVES (from a 1931 book)

1. Don't forget that wife means partner and pal, too.
2. Don't repeat gossip, even if does please a crowd.
3. Don't go untidy on the plea that everybody knows you.
4. Don't question his motives. Some men can't be understood.
5. Don't forget that it is the little things that start the big mischiefs.
6. Don't fail to keep interested in the things your husband likes.
7. Don't worry about his old girls. Remember why he chose you.
8. Don't fail to always look your best. That is the way he learned to love you.

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9. Don't neglect to do the little things for your husband that his mother did for him.
10. Don't think a man likes to go without buttons or that he can sew them on himself.
11. Don't fail to mother him when he is sick. Remember how easy a man is in the hands of a trained nurse.
12. Don't fail to help him along with his particular hobbies. Next to you, they are his heart's desire.
13. Don't object too much to his smoking—maybe he has been at it since he was eight years old.
14. Don't fail to learn his special dishes. Try to make them even better than his mother did. She'll tell you how.
15. Don't forget that he thinks right now that you are the finest girl in the world, and only you can make him think otherwise.

DON'TS FOR HUSBANDS

1. Don't forget that love is "woman's whole existence".
2. Don't forget that she, too, can be tired when you get home.
3. Don't promise her that you will do it and then put it off till you feel like it.
4. Don't pass up your wife's hunches. Some women have second sight.
5. Don't forget that headaches are a natural event and make allowances.
6. Don't forget that you took her for better or worse; and there may be no medals on you.
7. Don't forget that there is no set day for a honeymoon to end. If there is, you make it.
8. Don't keep your wife in ignorance of your business standing. She is your closest partner.
9. Don't fail to play the lover. Women are never too long married to be told they look young.
10. Don't argue. Remember that a woman convinced against her will is of the same opinion still.
11. Don't forget that she is entering into an absolutely new sort of life, and that you are the teacher.
12. Don't forget that she is a walking advertisement of your manhood and keep her dressed to equal the part.
13. Don't forget that she is a very complex creature, and you have a great deal of studying to do yet before you can understand.

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14. Don't say that you would "horsewhip the man who would do a trick like that on your sister," and then do the same trick on your wife.

15. Don't forget that she is to be the mother of your children, and respect her accordingly.



PEARL

One of the readers of this paper is James Daniels. James is a proud graduate of Bodcaw High School in Nevada County and is a Prof. Emeritus at Clemson University. He has written a book which may be of interest to many who read this paper. The name of the book is *Pearl*.

The setting for most of the story is at Laneburg in Nevada County, Arkansas in the year 1916. If you like stories about

the rural South or if you are from this area, you will probably enjoy this book. Many of the towns and landmarks in Nevada County are mentioned in the book and the story involves some interesting characters. It is easy to read and keeps your interest as the story unfolds. The book is about 600 pages and is available on Amazon/Kindle. The link below will give you more information on how to get the book. Just click on that link or just do a search for "pearl by james daniels" and it should come up. Look for this picture of the dog-trot house. Here is a little synopsis of what the book is about:

Shortly after arriving in St. Louis in the early 1900s, Pearl Wesley is left on the doorstep of an orphanage by her father. At 18 she takes a job singing in a seedy River District nightclub. Ultimately, on the promise of better pay, she is deceived into a life of prostitution. Following a daring escape, she flees by train to a recently discovered grandmother in the rural sandy lands of southwest Arkansas. After her grandmother's death, Pearl and her young son inherit her farm and soon find themselves at the mercy of unscrupulous county officials who are determined to steal her land. Fortunately, the local sheriff comes to their rescue.

Click on this link for more information on how to get this book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Pearl-Southern-Fiction-Book-2-ebook/dp/B07CY1CJW7>

Farmer: "I have a horse that sometimes walks normally and sometimes limps. What should I do? Veterinarian: "The next time he's normal, sell him."