

Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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sandman43@att.net

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EARLY PRESCOTT BARBERS

Barber shops in the late 1800s and early 1900s were quite a bit different from modern barber shops. Most shops also offered hot and cold baths. I'm not sure how they heated the water for the hot baths back then. The barber used a straight edge razor for shaves and the shops probably had some spittoons around for those men who chewed tobacco. A lot of tall tales were told in barber shops as men were waiting for a haircut. I'm sure men discussed everything from politics to the weather

Another word for a barber shop in those days was a tonsorial parlor. Some barbers called themselves tonsorial artists.

Most of the men and boys in the rural areas didn't waste much time in barber shops. Most hair cutting was done at home by a family member. Usually, there was some man in the community who could cut hair. He probably didn't have much training but was a good substitute for a professional barber. Some just let their hair grow long.


Below are some old ads from the Prescott, Arkansas newspapers for barber shops:

Poetically Shaved.

If you wish for an easy shave,
As good as barber ever gave,
Just you call at my saloon—
At morn, at eve, or busy noon.
I'll cut and curl the hair with care;
I'll suit the contour of your face,
My shop is neat and razors keen;
My scissors sharp and towels clean,
And Everything I know you'll find
To suit the taste and please the mind
—At ADAM FREDERICK'S Barber Shop,
Prescott, Arkansas.

Adam Frederick got creative with his ad in 1885. His shop was on West Main St.

BARBER SHOP.



R. L. Langford.

The Barber, is well equipped, and will do only first-class work. Prices low—hair-cutting 25c., shaving 15c.
Place of business next door to the Foster & Logan Hdw. Co.

R. L. "Bob" Lanford was a colored barber. In some of his ads, he refers to himself as a tonsorial artist. He advertised a shave for ten cents in 1889.

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The Palace Barber Shop.
McKelvey & Williams, Prop.
Everything first-class- Clean Towels, Sharp Razors, Bath Room.
We will please you—try us
West Main Street. Prescott. Ark.

J. W. "Jack" McKelvey (no relation to me) and Walter Williams ran the Palace Barber Shop for several year. It seemed to be the most popular shop in town. This ad is from 1907

Barber Prices
Beginning next Monday June 17th, and continuing until further notice, we will maintain the following prices for work at our barber shop:

Shave	15c
Hair cut.....	35c
Hair Singe	35c
Shampoo	35c
Massage	35c
Bath	25c

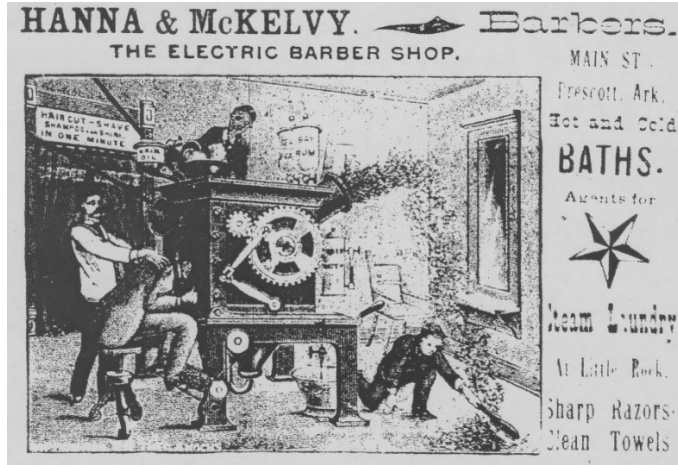
No checks given with shaves.
McKelvey & Williams.

These were the prices at the McKelvey & Williams barber shop in 1907. I wonder what it means by "no checks given with shaves" and what would a hair singe be like?

LANGFORD & CLIMMONS
BARBER SHOP
Every thing up-to-date, clean towels and sharp razors
Hot and cold baths.

R. L. Langford and Tom Clemons were colored barbers. This ad is from 1908.

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This unusual ad is from 1910. Electricity had come to Prescott and this ad featured “the electric barber shop”. The customer sticks his head in the machine and the man on top is adding tonic etc. The hair clippings are ejected onto the floor. The man on the right is sweeping them up. There was really no such machine, but this ad does get your attention. The shop also offered baths and was an agent for a steam laundry from Little Rock.

The barbers were J. W. McKelvy and H. M. Hanna. John W. McKelvey came to Prescott from Missouri. His name is usually spelled with “vey” on the end, but in this ad, it is spelled McKelvy. Besides the barber shop, he also had a hotel called the McKelvey Hotel located on the corner of West Main and Second St.

H. M. Hannah, who is the owner and proprietor of the H. M. Hannah Barber Shop, came to Prescott in 1895. Since moving to our town he has made many friends and his barber shop is of modern convenience, has hot and cold baths with all other modern and first-class conveniences. *(from a newspaper list of leading citizens in 1900)*

WEST SIDE
BARBER SHOP
West Main Street.
Hot and Cold Baths
Everything Clean
Stivers & Porter, Proprietors

EAST SIDE
BARBER SHOP
East Elm Street.
Hot and Cold Baths
Everything Clean
Warren Cummings, Proprietor

These shops offered hot and cold baths in 1912. The barbers at the West Side shop were Cleve Stivers and Albert Porter.

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City Barber Shop

Hair Cut 25c Shave 10c
Massage 25c All Tonic 10c
Shampoo 15c Shine 5c

Special attention to children
haircutting. Call and see me

J. M. WINCHESTER, Prop.
West Main Street.

J. M. Winchester's ad from 1914

To The Public!

I have opened up a Barber Shop the second door from the post office, and especially invite my friends and the public to call on me and give me a trial. Everything neat, clean and sanitary.

Special attention to sick and hospital calls.

Bring me your moles and warts and have them removed without pain.

POST OFFICE BARBER SHOP,
R. D. LEWIS, Prop.

The Man Who Can Deliver The Goods.

The Post Office Barber Shop run by R. D. Lewis in 1915 was not in the post office but was two doors down.

Check out the third paragraph in this ad.

We are still doing business at the old stand.

Our prices are reasonable. Hair cut 35 cents, shave 20 cents and other tonsorial treatments in proportion.

We also do razor honing.

O K BARBER SHOP
West Main Street
PRESCOTT, ARKANSAS

Ad from the O K Barber Shop in 1919. Prices were a little higher by 1919. This shop also offered razor toning.

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Most barber shops had stopped offering baths by some time around 1916. I suppose most towns had electricity by that time and water pumped into homes and hotels.

Many other barbers are mentioned in those early papers in Prescott. Among them are Bob Boyd in 1890, Elmo Conklin in 1907, J. A. England in 1908, Chester White in 1921, and D. S. Cummings in 1922. I am sure there were others.

The Sanitary Barber Shop operated in 1919 and The White Way Barber Shop, formerly the East Side Barber Shop, in 1921.

STRIPES ON THE BARBER POLE

How many of our readers can tell us what the stripes on the barber pole signify? You see pole with its stripes and you know there is a barber shop back of the pole, but here the knowledge of the average person ceases. In the early day barbers did the bleeding for the community and surgeons were not as plentiful as they are now. The first thing thought necessary, way down to the time of George Washington's death, was that any patient should be bled. Tap him, and take a few ounces of blood from him, no matter how weak he might be. When Washington was at the last gasp, the fools bled him. Well, the red stripes on a barber pole mean the red ribbon bandages that barbers bound over the wounds caused by the bleeding of the people.

Have you ever wondered what the stripes on a barber pole represent? I came across this article from 1915 in the Nevada County Picayune.

Now you know!

This item was found in the 1907 newspaper:

The reason men are patronizing barber shops rather than shaving themselves is because no man likes to look at himself in a glass ten minutes at a time.

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THINK ABOUT IT!

Here are some phrases we sometimes hear that seem strange when you really think about them.

You meet someone and they ask, "How do you do? What does that mean? How do I do what? Think about it. Wouldn't "How are you doing?" be a little better. Or just "How are you?"

How about "There's more than one way to skin a cat"? I know what it means, but did anyone ever skin a cat and why would they do such a thing? Maybe they were talking about skinning a catfish. That might make more sense.

Sometimes I hear the phrase "by and large". An example is "Mammals have, by and large, bigger brains than reptiles". It doesn't make much sense to me. They say it comes from a nautical phrase having to do with the wind and sails on ships. I don't think I have ever used that phrase and have no plans to do so.

Another phrase comes to mind that doesn't make much sense. When someone is ready to leave, they sometimes say, "So long". Think about that one. That is used a lot in old western TV shows. It's just another way of saying "Goodbye", but when you really think about it, it doesn't make much sense.

That's all I can think of right now. Maybe you can think of others. So long for now.

RAINFALL RECORD

Rainfall for June was 3.8 inches making a total of 29.8 inches for the first half of 2022. That's just a little above normal. The wettest months so far this year were February with 6.6 inches and March with 6.9 inches. The driest month was January with only eight tenths of an inch.

Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He doesn't seem to be breathing and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his phone and calls the emergency services. He gasps, "My friend is dead! What can I do?" The operator says, "Calm down. I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead." There is a silence; then a gunshot is heard. Back on the phone, the guy says, "OK, now what?"

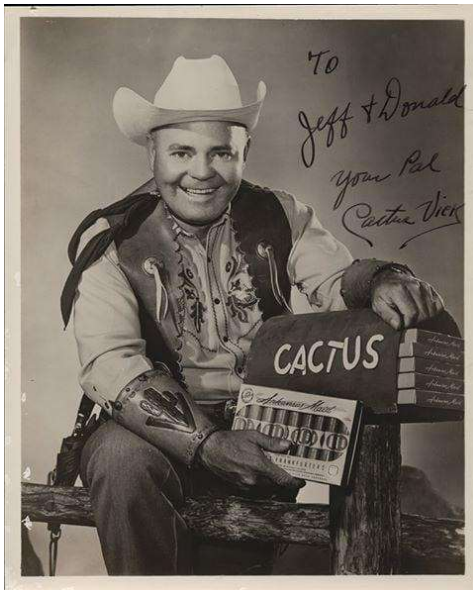
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Life under the Rabbit Ears – by Don Mathis

The Howdy Doody Show & Clarabell the Clown, Shari Lewis and Lamb Chop, Captain Kangaroo and Mr. Green Jeans, and the whole crew in the Mickey Mouse Club were great in black and white – but my brother Jeff and I wanted color television!

And we wanted Daddy to get an outdoor antenna, the little rabbit ears on top of the TV got too much static. I think my father succumbed to peer pressure, rather than his children's begging, and finally got an aluminum aerial.

Because color television sets were so expensive, Jeff and I convinced Dad to buy a film to stick on the TV screen; it made green grass, beige people, and blue sky – and everything blurry. And when the TV program showed a close-up of the star, the colors were hilarious!



Cactus Vick entertained thousands of baby boomers on Arkansas television

My brother and I got to meet Cactus Vick, the TV host that showed all the Westerns we wanted to see. When Saturday morning programming didn't show the modern cartoons we loved (like Popeye The Sailor, Bugs Bunny, or Mighty Mouse), we settled for old re-runs of Laurel & Hardy, the Keystone Cops, and the Little Rascals.

Children's fascination with the Superman TV show must have compelled thousands of kids to leap from rooftops and trees. Zorro was another favorite. A stick, a coat hanger, anything could be a sword. 'Swish, swish, swish;' everywhere we went, we would leave the Z for Zorro!

Uncle Clark owned Mathis Furniture down in Mansfield, Louisiana, and he had a state-of-the-art television. Once Daddy saw his brother's color TV, he had to have one too!

Our family watched Sing Along with Mitch and NBC Saturday Night at the Movies in living color – and loved it! If we didn't go to church on Sunday afternoon, we watched the annual re-run of the Wizard of Oz or the weekly Wonderful World of Disney.

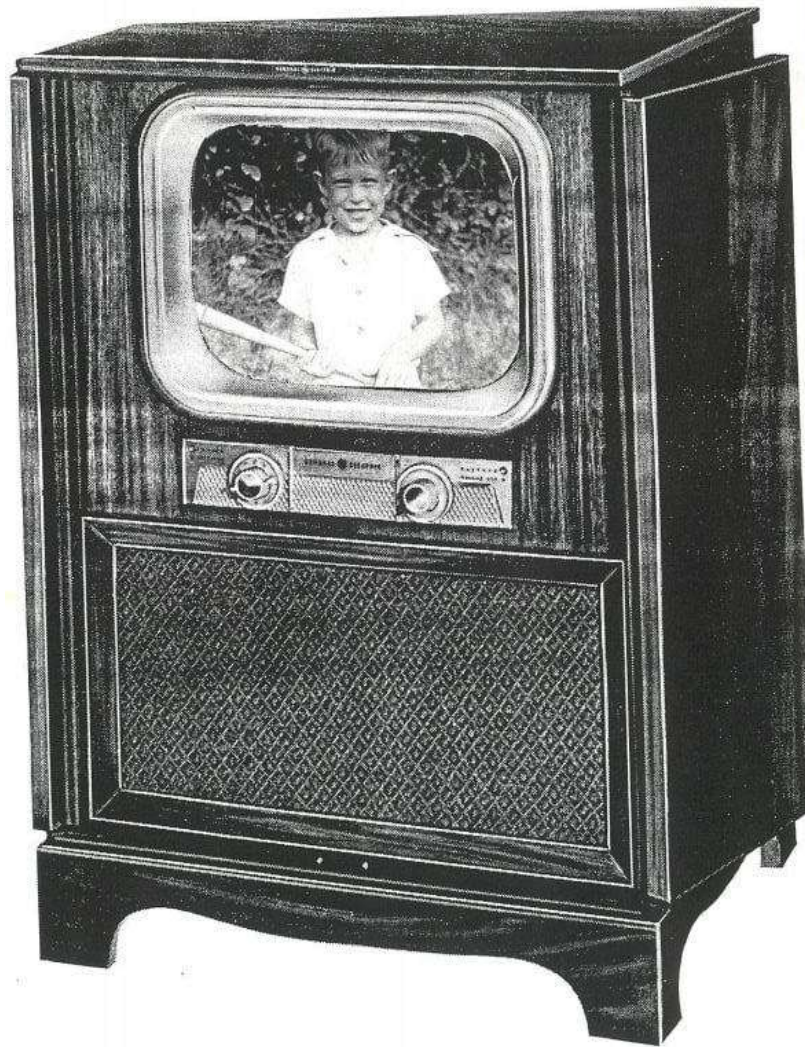
Like millions of other boys, I got a case of Davy Crockett fever. Mom bought me a real coon-skin hat for my 10th birthday so I could re-enact floating down a river, wrestling a bear, or the battle of the Alamo.

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Comedy was king, and we would watch The Three Stooges, The Jerry Lewis Show, The Carol Burnett Show, or The Red Skelton Hour. The music on the Lawrence Welk Show was pretty corny but everyone liked the Ed Sullivan Show.

Mom would send us out of the room when a mature drama came on PBS' Masterpiece Theatre. And Peyton Place was totally out of the question for us kids.

I watched President Kennedy's funeral on television with the rest of the world in 1963. And that was the beginning of the end of my childhood.



Little Donald Mathis dreamed of playing Big League baseball on his family's black and white TV.