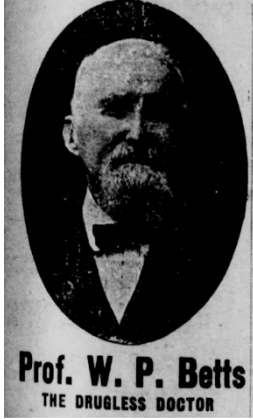


Jerry McKelvy's
WAY BACK WHEN
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THE DRUGLESS DOCTOR



Back about 1907, the newspapers had ads from Prof. W. P. Betts, the drugless doctor, of Prescott. The ads included long testimonials from local residents who claimed to have been cured of their ailments such as this one from Mrs. Sarah Smith:

My dear doctor, this is to certify that I fully believe in your wonderful magnetic healing power that saved me from an untimely grave. I suffered the last 23 years with heart trouble, neuralgia of the head, stomach trouble, catarrh of the head, bronchial trouble, and poor circulation. Finally, I got so weak and nervous I could not stand on my feet without help. I tried doctors and medicine until I told my husband I had lost all hope of getting well. I quit taking anything and gave myself up to die. My son told me about the wonderful cures of Dr. Betts without any medicine and took me to Prescott. The first treatment seemed to put new life and strength in my body. I took five personal treatments and two months of absent treatments. I am 50 years old and enjoying health and happiness for the first time in 23 years – Mrs. Sarah J. Smith

Other similar ads featured testimonials from Florence Westmoreland of Weaver in Nevada County, Isabell Clark of Mt. Moriah, and Mrs. Lienticia Green of Saratoga. One ad mentioned that the doctor was away at Nashville, Arkansas and would soon be going to Sutton and Bodcaw. His office in Prescott was being moved to the two-story residence of Mr. City close to the Catholic church and due south of the post office and the Prescott Hotel. It appears from the ads that Prof. W. A. Betts, the drugless doctor, practiced in Prescott only a few months in 1907.

One ad mentioned that Dr. Betts received training at the Weltmer School of Healing in Nevada, Missouri. The city of Nevada, MO is in the southwest corner of Missouri near the border with Kansas. The Weltmer School of Suggestive Therapeutics was founded by Sidney A. Weltmer and his method of healing became known as Weltmerism.

Mr. Weltmer suffered with tuberculosis as a young man, a disease that was considered fatal at that time. He was a religious man and in his study of the Bible, he came across the scripture where Jesus was sending out his apostles and mentioned that by the laying on of hands, they could cure diseases. He studied all kinds of medical books and came to believe that diseases could be cured by the power of suggestion. His method used a combination of treatments including electro-magnetic treatments combined with

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hypnotism, and psychological suggestion. He supposedly cured himself of tuberculosis.

His methods met opposition from the medical profession and several legal cases were brought against him. One case even went up to the Supreme Court which decided that his methods were “sound and practical”, legitimate, and lawful. With that settlement in court, he went on to establish his school of healing where he practiced and trained others in his methods.

The school became so successful that extra trains had to be added to bring passengers to Nevada, Missouri to the school for healing or to study. The Nevada post office was flooded with mail from all over the country and had to be enlarged due to the volume of mail received. The motto of the school was: “Where every known disease is cured without medicine or surgery”. At its height, the school treated 400 people per day and had a staff of 120.

His method of healing involved personal treatments including the laying on of hands and hypnotism, but he also offered at-home treatments to supplement the personal treatments in the doctor’s office.

In the early 1900s, ads appeared in newspapers all across the country from graduates of the Weltmer School of Healing who claimed to be able to cure diseases when all other methods failed.

A survey was done in which 67% of patients said they were cured or permanently benefitted from the treatment; 30% said they were well-pleased, and only 3% said they were displeased.

The famous Weltmer School of Suggestive Therapeutics in Nevada, MO closed in 1933 following the death of the founder in 1930. His son tried to keep it going but was unsuccessful. The large 17 room building was sold to a funeral home and used for that purpose until 2004. The building was then razed and the site used for other businesses including a video store. Some residents of Nevada thought the building should have been designated an historic landmark because of the benefits the school brought to the town. *(from a biography of Sidney A. Weltmer posted online)*

LYING LIKE A DOG

(from the Nov. 4, 1909 issue of The Nevada County Picayune)

A lawyer in a neighboring town accused a witness of “lying like a dog” the other day. And it calls to mind the absurdity and untruthfulness of that familiar expression. A dog doesn’t lie. That’s one human trait omitted in his make-up.

A dog may be a thief—lots of them are—but a dog is not a liar. He may bark up the wrong tree, but his intentions are not to deceive. He believes there is something up that tree.

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By nature, a dog is truthful. He never wags his tail in the presence of his enemy. Man may smile, but be a villain, but the dog never shows a good nature unless he means it.

Falsehood, as a matter of fact, is false is and not in a dog's nature. The expression "to lie like a dog" is false in itself. If men were as truthful as dogs, we would have more happiness in the world. If dogs lied like men, there would never be a coon treed or a squirrel killed. – The Suttgart Arkansawyer

VIGILANTE JUSTICE

I think the last hanging in Nevada County happened in May, 1916. It was not a legal hanging, but was the result of mob action.

Felix Gilmore, a 21-year-old Negro, went to the home of a Mr. Roe, a white farmer who lived north of town. Mr. Roe's 17-year-old daughter told him her father was not home and then Gilmore attacked her. Her father who was working nearby heard her screams and ran to help. He got his shotgun and fired several shots at Gilmore as he fled.

A search party was quickly organized and Gilmore was found hiding in his mother's attic. He was turned over to Sheriff Sam Munn and placed in jail. The sheriff, thinking there might be an attempt made to take Gilmore from the jail, decided to take Gilmore to Arkadelphia for safe keeping. He and two or three other men started for Arkadelphia just after dark and were stopped by a mob of about fifty men about two miles from town. The mob forcibly took Gilmore from the sheriff's custody and ordered the sheriff and his men to return to town which they did.

The mob hung Gilmore from a tree near the Rose Hill dairy. The body was left hanging for about twelve hours. The next morning, J. D. Cornish and his assistants cut the body down and brought it to the undertaking department of the Prescott Hardware Co.

A coroner's jury questioned several people about the incident, but there was no clue as to the identity of those who took the law into their own hands. Gilmore had previously served a term in the penitentiary and had been previously accused of attacking several Negro girls.

THE GRAND JURY'S REPORT (from The Prescott Daily News – 1909)

A grand jury met each year in Nevada County to examine witnesses in cases referred to the jury by the judge and decide whether there was enough evidence to proceed with a trial. In addition to these cases, the grand jury also reported to the judge about the condition of various county offices and other county facilities.

For example, in 1909, the grand jury made the following report to the judge:

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We find the books of the county offices to be well kept and in order.

The county jail is well kept and in sanitary condition. The building in the court house yard now being used as a calaboose is in filthy and unsanitary condition. We recommend that it be declared a nuisance and removed from county property.

The court house is too small and is in bad repair and in an unsafe condition. The county judge should take steps for the erection of a more suitable building.

We appointed a committee to investigate the county poor farm. The paupers seem to be well kept and cared for. The buildings are clean and in a sanitary condition. A new fence is needed and a cross-fence separating the pauper's houses from the main building is also needed.

We examined 46 witnesses and returned 22 true bills of indictment.



CAROLINA CHURCH
A NEVADA COUNTY LANDMARK
August, 2016

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MAJOR HOMER FRANKLIN BERRY

If you were in Arkansas in the 1960s, you may remember Major Homer Berry, the rainmaker. He was often seen driving his Chevrolet truck with his rain-making machine in the back spewing out smoke seeding the clouds. He soaked lumps of coal in silver iodine solution and burned it in an oil drum lined with fire brick in the bed of his truck. The machine produced smoke which contained particles he believed would seed the clouds to make it rain. He drove slowly at speeds of about 25 miles per hour, stopping at wide spots in the road to seed the clouds more heavily.

The summer of 1962 was very dry in Arkansas. Major Berry offered to air-condition the town of North Little Rock for \$500 per month. He claimed he could lower the temperature ten degrees in the summer, raise the temperature ten degrees in the winter, eliminate frost and tornado damage, and provide needed rainfall at regular intervals.

Radio station KLRA hired him and offered him \$500 if he could produce an inch of rain by August 26. Mr. Berry began working on Aug. 23 and the next afternoon, Little Rock received 1.5 inches of much needed rain, the first rain to have fallen in 44 days. Mr. Berry had predicted the rain would fall between 2 and 4 p.m. and it actually came at 3:30 p.m. This success caused many people to have second thoughts about Major Berry's rain making machine and he received more job offers.

The Arkansas State Fair was in October of that year, and of course, the fair people wanted dry weather for the event which included appearances by Dan Blocker and Loren Greene, stars of the Bonanza TV show. They offered Major Berry \$500 if he could prevent it from raining during the days the fair was open and it was another success for Major Berry. There was no rain to hamper the activities of the state fair that year.

He had also promised a white Christmas for Little Rock, but his timing was a little off. Some light snow did fall on Christmas Eve that year, but was mostly gone by Christmas Day.

Not all of his attempts to alter the weather were successful, but Major Berry was paid \$5000 in one month by six Arkansas towns. He once tried to expand his operations into

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Texas, but he was told that he could be arrested if he tried to modify the weather in Texas without a permit.

Major Berry continued his attempts to modify the weather for several years until 1974 when he decided to retire from the weather alteration business citing eye problems caused by exposure to the chemicals he used. He moved to Arizona and died there in September, 1975 at the age of 69.

Jokes from the 1947 Dragon's Den yearbook (Bluff City High School)

Herbert: "Darling, I'm not much to look at, am I?"

Wilma: "Oh well, you'll be out working all day."

Glenn Morrow: "Don't you ever use toothpaste?"

Bobby Loe: "Why should I, when I haven't any teeth loose?"

A little boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Harvey. He was named Billy because he came at the first of the month with the rest of the bills.

Jimmy Tunnell: "What is the difference between love and life?"

Sam Sarrett: "That's easy. Life is one crazy thing after another; love is two crazy things after each other."

Our tastes change as we mature. Little girls like painted dolls; little boys like soldiers. When they grow up, the girls like soldiers and the boys like painted dolls.

Mrs. Gilbert: "Why did Noah put two of each kind of animals in his ark?"

Sam Sarrett: "He didn't believe in the story about the stork either"

Mr. Benson: "So you met my daughter in college."

Cloys McAteer: "Yes sir, we sleep in the same psychology class".

Mrs. Barlow: "Sam, name a collective noun"

Sam Sarrett: "A vacuum cleaner".

Mrs. Gilbert: "People who drink too much coffee have a coffee heart; men who smoke too much have a tobacco heart."

Myrtie McBride: "If a girl eats lots of sweets, will she get a sweetheart?"

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International Men's Day – by Don Mathis

The time is now, the time is right,
for the human race to unite

for the formal celebration
endorsed by United Nations.

'Zero Male Suicide' is the theme
to remember November 19.

We dialogue on fatherhood
to benefit the common good.

We promote good examples of men,
working stiffs just making a living.

We share the trials of being male,
the sacrifice that this entails.

We laud all men's contributions
to our nation's institutions.

We see fragility of men's health,
how they put others before self.

In times of war and times of peace,
we concede their vulnerabilities.

We know that misandry exists and we
stand guard in men's defense,

for there is much male prejudice
in today's social services.

Sexism against men ensues
in family courts and public schools.

So, we advance better gender relations
and oppose sex discrimination.

Reproductive freedom is not limited
to one gender that is privileged.

Males and females should not fight
but share in their procreative right.

We all want a society
where each can reach their capacity.

Please stop, reflect and remember,
this third Sunday in November,

as we acclaim men's altruism
and hail their humanitarianism.

Here's the heart of what I want to say,
Happy International Men's Day!