

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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MAN FINDS CHILD STOLEN FROM HIM TEN YEARS BEFORE

As I do research for this paper, I sometimes come across stories that are a bit unusual. We hear news reports these days about missing children and parents who are desperately hoping for some clue as to the whereabouts of their child. The following incident happened over 100 years ago and was recorded in The Nevada News on Feb. 2, 1910.

After a search of ten years covering most of Arkansas and Louisiana, W. F. Pittman last Friday found a lost child stolen from him by a woman by the name of Mattie McIntyre in 1900 at Greeley's Spur in this state.

The mother of the child, Mr. Pittman's first wife, died when the babe, which was christened Della, was two years old. For the next two years, Mr. Pittman lived at the Spur and was rearing the child himself, but when nearing her fourth birthday, she suddenly disappeared and all effort to locate her failed. At the Spur there was living at the time a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre. Just two days previous to the disappearance of Della Pittman, the McIntyres lost by death a girl just two days younger than Della. Yet no suspicion rested upon them.

Mr. Pittman in his search for his lost child, drifted from place to place, and came to Prescott several years ago and has since made his home here.

Three years ago, someone told him that John McIntyre had stolen his child. He went again in search and located McIntyre, who by that time had separated from his wife, and from him learned that the former wife had the child. The search then centered on finding the woman, whom he located last Wednesday at Woodson's Switch, 20 miles from Little Rock.

Going to the capital city, Mr. Pittman secured the aid of Chief W. M. Rankin of the Humane Society and they with M. A. Belar, an assistant, went to Woodson's where the woman denied them the privilege of seeing the child, who was now 14 years old. Mr. Pittman's life was threatened and he was told that they would kill him before he could get the girl, although they did acknowledge that it was his child.

With the determination of a fond father, and the realization of the outrage that had been perpetuated upon him, he stood his ground, secured the child, and arrived in Prescott with her last night at 11:00 p.m. The incident has been kept a secret until divulged today by Mr. Pittman, who gave out the story as narrated above.

I thought this was the end of the story, but two months later another article appeared in the paper. Turn to page 2 to find out what happened in this unusual case.

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THE REST OF THE STORY—TWO MONTHS LATER (APRIL 10, 1910)

Mr. and Mrs. John McIntyre of Saline County arrived in Prescott accompanied by their attorney with proper papers for the possession of Miss Ella (Della-?) Pittman, daughter of W. F. Pittman over whom there has been much contention lately.

Mr. Pittman contested this action and a trial was held before Judge Denman. Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre were given custody of the girl with the recommendation that the Saline Probate Court investigate their rights in the matter. There were many sensations during the trial and some trouble seemed imminent. The girl herself stated that she desired to go with Mrs. McIntyre, and upon her statement rested largely the decision of the judge.

Now we wonder if this really was the end of the story. Did the Saline Probate Court investigate the matter? Did Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre face any type of punishment for stealing the child? What happened to Della Pittman? Did she go through life as Della McIntyre? Imagine the emotions Mr. Pittman had as he lost his child, found her after ten years, only to lose her again.

I searched at the courthouse for the trial records, but none could be found. Judge Denman was the Nevada County Judge at that time and the "trial" or hearing was hastily arranged which may explain why no records can be found. A good researcher with plenty of time could probably find answers to some of these questions. It sounds like this case would make a good television movie.

MORE FROM THE 1913-14 BLUFF CITY HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK

1. Send mail, messages, etc. to your children, but in care of Bluff City High School.
2. Furnish your children only a small amount of spending money. They will do more and better work, will give us less trouble, and you will receive better and more satisfactory reports of their deportment.
3. If your children get sick, we care for them promptly and see that they have the very best medical treatment; if they are seriously sick or likely to be, we shall notify you promptly. Young people sometimes magnify the slightest ills and frighten their parents needlessly. We ask parents to rely upon our judgment and care, and not be alarmed over any reports, for we assure you that your children shall have the very best treatment and that you shall be notified of any illness that has any semblance of seriousness.
4. Pupils sometimes do not willingly submit to discipline. We cannot always manage to please young people in our discipline When your children complain, we ask you to remember that we are striving to develop our pupils to the very best possible advantage. We would, therefore, ask that when complaint is made that you write us before allowing them to leave school. One letter to your child, upholding our management and methods, may suffice to settle the whole difficulty and insure success of your dear boy or girl in school and life;

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one letter of so called “sympathy” decrying our management and methods may forever ruin your child. If parents will be firm, and not yield to childish whims, school management will be easy and children will be saved.

5. The correspondence of pupils must be limited and approved by parents and teachers.
6. No borrowing of money or clothing will be allowed among boarding pupils.
7. Students will be dismissed from the school whenever, in the opinion of the Board, they are pursuing a course that will be detrimental to the school.
8. Pupils shall render perfect and willing obedience to those who have authority over them; they shall pursue their studies as directed, and keep such outside regulations as the faculty and board may direct.
9. Pupils shall study all the subjects of the grade to which they belong, and shall remain in such grade until, by examination, they show themselves ready for promotion. They will be held responsible for the neatness and cleanliness of their books and desks.
10. All fragrant violations of good order are liable to be punished by expulsion from the school. So is habitual carelessness in preparing lessons. We do not want any idlers in our school. If your children are low, mean, and vicious, we do not want them. This school is not a reformatory, but an institution for educating and training civil boys and girls. We want the patronage of only such as will make the proper use of the opportunities we offer, and of such as will be subject to our rules and regulations. While mild, our discipline shall, at all times, be firm and our ruling shall be final. We believe that the discipline pupils receive from a well regulated school is of the greatest value in preparing them for the conflicts of life; and to this end, we have determined to be as rigid in discipline as the circumstances in any case may demand.
11. If any pupil so deports himself that it becomes necessary to expel him from this session, he will not be permitted to re-enter the same.

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BRAIN TEASERS

1. What happens when you throw a white rock into the Red Sea?
2. What is half of two plus two?
3. What time is it when 12 cats chase one mouse?
4. What word looks the same upside down and backwards?
5. What kind of rocks are at the bottom of the Mississippi River?
6. If two’s company and three’s a crowd, what are four and five?
7. What has one foot on each end and one foot in the middle?
8. How much dirt is in a hole 4 feet deep and 2 feet wide?

Answers

- | |
|----------------|
| 1. it sinks |
| 2. three |
| 3. 12 after 1 |
| 4. swims |
| 5. wet ones |
| 6. nine |
| 7. a yardstick |
| 8. none |

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A NEAR "MIDGET" WEDDING NEAR LOUANN (from an old Camden newspaper about 1912)

Mr. George Pace, a prominent young businessman of this city, who stands about 4 feet 10 and tips the scales at 102, led to the altar Miss Blanche Myatt, who looks up to her liege lord from about 4 feet 6, and who finds it necessary to slip a couple of bars of soap on the scales to tip the beam at a hundred when she is weighed.

At services held at the church last Sunday afternoon, a large crowd was present, but George had no idea of "claiming his own" in their presence. He quietly asked the minister, Rev. C. G. Ferguson to wait until the crowd dispersed and then tie the knot, which he very kindly agreed to do.

The happy young couple departed after the ceremony, the groom returning to this city, while the charming little bride remained at the home of her parents. This morning Mr. Pace asked Mrs. W. L. Wood to prepare the bridal suite, as he was going to Louann to escort his bride home.

They arrived on the afternoon train and are now at home at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Wood.

With a wide circle of friends, we wish the "little fellows" a happy, long, and prosperous life.

SOME OUACHITA COUNTY NEWS ITEMS FROM 1908

July, 1908 - Frank McGaughey from south of Buena Vista brought in a stalk of cotton waist high that had been stripped of every hull and bloom by the boll weevil and the pestiferous bugs were crawling all over the stalk looking for food. Unless a systematic and careful fight is made by every man where the weevil appears, there will be but little cotton raised this year. It is up to every man to fight his own battle.

July, 1908 - Miss Elberta is attracting much attention these days. This excellent peach gladdens those who buy and those who sell. Our county will not be much in evidence in the market this season, but when the 75,000 or 100,000 trees planted get fully into bearing, there will be carloads and trainloads going out.

July, 1908 - Camden has disorderly houses and a big crusade to purge the city of the disreputable female characters is now on. It seems the city council has allowed them to exist through the fine system, but public opinion has resolved for their banishment and the victory will be in favor of law and order. Perhaps Camden's saloons will be next to suffer at the hand of this moral influence.

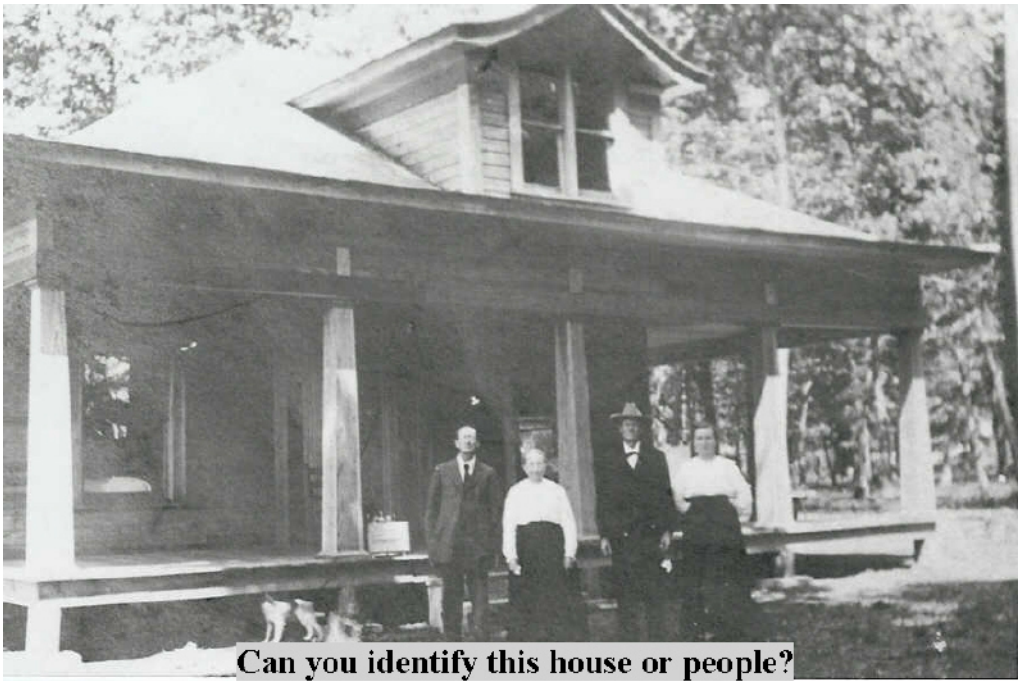
Nov., 1908 - The Agee Wagon Works was destroyed by fire. The firm employed 20 men and had been here for a number of years. The business is a total wreck with the loss estimated to be \$75, 000 to \$100,000.

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PHOTOS FROM THE PAST



Warren and Trine Starnes (both preachers who loved to fish)



Can you identify this house or people?

Mrs. Brodie Knight of Bluff City had this picture in her collection, but it was not labeled.

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THIS MONTH'S RECIPES

RAW APPLE CAKE

This recipe is from Mrs. Nell Kirk, wife of Horace Kirk. They lived on the old Jasper Kirk homestead a few miles south of Bluff City. Both are deceased and buried at Bluff City Cem.

3 cups flour
2 and 1/4 cups sugar
1 cup chopped pecans
1 and 1/2 cups Wesson oil
3 cups raw apples (Winesap or homegrown), chipped
2 eggs well beaten
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 and 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
Pinch of salt

Mix Wesson oil, sugar, and eggs. Beat well. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Stir in apples and nuts. Bake in loaf pans at 350 degrees until done. Or use tube pan.

SUGAR COOKIES

This is my grandmother Katie May McKelvy's recipe for sugar cookies.

1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar
1 egg or egg yolk
2 tablespoons cream
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1 and 3/4 cups flour

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and mix well. Add all other ingredients and mix. Drop by teaspoonfuls on greased cookie sheet.

A RECIPE FOR ALL AMERICANS

A heaping helping of American pride
Equal servings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
A bunch of truths we still hold to be self-evident
Add according to taste: old fashioned friendship, kindness, and brotherly love
Fill to overflowing from sea to shining sea
Enjoy with warm hearts, and
Serve with pride.