

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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CYCLONE HITS NEVADA COUNTY- MANY DEAD AND INJURED

November 25, 1915

Editor's note: This was probably the most severe storm to ever hit Nevada County. In those days residents had no advance warnings of storms, no radios, no weather forecasts, and no radars to look at. After the storm hit, there was nobody but country doctors to treat the injured, no helicopters or ambulances to take them to the hospital, and no way to warn others in the path of the storm. It also proves that these severe storms can happen anytime of the year- not just in "tornado season".

First reports: A great storm did considerable damage in the vicinity of Bodcaw and Laneburg. Early reports say as many as 20 people were killed and a great number injured. The Baptist College at Bodcaw and a number of residences were blown down. The extent of the damage has not been verified.

In the next few days, the extent of the damage was verified and the damage was greater than first thought. The storm began at Mt. Pleasant School House in Lafayette Co. and moved southwest to northeast as far as Hot Springs. The path of destruction was from one half to three fourths of a mile wide.

The Mt. Pleasant school house was destroyed and the storm next hit Tom Hamilton's place. Walter McCoy's place was next causing some injuries. Joe Bailey's place was next and was blown away, killing Bill Bailey. Mrs. Bailey received serious injury and the eight month old baby of John Bailey was blown $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the house and was found dead the next morning. Also injured was his five year old son and eight year old daughter. Mr. Bailey was away from home at the time.

The storm also struck the farms of J. B. Blankenship, George Washington, Lewis Armstrong, Abe Mitchell, R. S. Smith, M. M. Duke, J. Cassidy, Cleve Downs, John Parker, and Dr. Garner. The Bodcaw post office received heavy damage.

Judge J. J. Hirst was returning from Prescott to his home in the Laneburg vicinity when he noticed the black cloud near the Georgia Mill. He drove fast to a vacant house he knew about. He unhitched the horse from the buggy and put it in a lot and just as he was about to close the gate, the storm hit. He was knocked to the ground with the gate on top of him. He did not know how long he remained unconscious, but when he came to, the house he was trying to reach was completely gone.

A list of the dead and injured are as follows:

Dead:

W. M. Bailey, 60- a farmer near Stamps

Lewis Armstrong, 30-a farmer near Bodcaw

Baby of John Bailey- near Stamps

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Son of Will Cummings- near Patmos

Fatally Injured:

Mrs. John Bailey- near Stamps (head crushed)
Mrs. J. C. Downs- Bodcaw (head and face crushed)
Sid Deaton-Bodcaw (internal injuries)
Mrs. Lewis Armstrong- (body crushed)

Injured:

Judge J. J. Hirst- Cale (external injuries and bruises)
Mrs. Callicutt- near Prescott (hurt by flying timbers)
Mrs. Dunaway- near Prescott (limbs broken by flying timbers)
John Bailey- near Stamps (bruised and cut)
Tom Hamilton- near Stamps (leg broken)
P. H. Herring – 10 miles north of Stamps (leg broken and back hurt)
W. P. Lewis- Bodcaw (chest crushed)
Edgar Downs- Bodcaw (side injured)
Barney Brown- Bodcaw (serious internal injuries)
Son of John Bailey- age 1 (internal injury; shoulder dislocated)
Daughter of John Bailey- age 10 (broken leg)
R. S. Smith- 8 miles from Stamps (bruised and cut)
Others from Bodcaw, Sardis, and Azor

Dr. Garner, Dr. Strange and Dr. Benton of Stamps, Dr. Kemp of Patmos, and Dr. Sherill and Dr. Nichols of Falcon were busy all night dressing wounds and setting broken bones.

THE HOME TOWN (The Nevada News- June 5, 1924)

Some folks leave home for money
And some leave home for fame
And some seek skies always sunny
And some depart in shame.
I care not what the reason
Men travel east or west
Or what the month or season
The home town is the best.

The home town is the glad town
Where something real abides
'Tis not the money-mad town
That all the spirit hides.
Though strangers scoff and flaunt it
And even give its name
It has a charm about it
No other town can claim.

The home town seems bluer
Than skies that stretch away
The home town friends seem truer
And kinder through the day.
And whether glum or cheery
Light hearted or depressed
For struggle fit or weary
I like the home town best.

Let him who will go wander
To distant towns to live
Of some things I am fonder
Than all they have to give.
The gold of distant places
Could not repay me quite
For those familiar faces
That keep the home town bright

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ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Matthew H. Rothert of Camden, Arkansas organized the Camden Furniture Company in the 1930s and made frequent business trips to Chicago. In 1941 he became ill with pneumonia and developed hypoglycemia (a blood disorder) for which there was no known cure. A Chicago physician properly diagnosed his problem and began treatments which helped. The doctor suggested that Mr. Rothert engage himself in some interesting hobby to keep him busy, so he became interested in coin collecting. His health began to improve.

While attending church services in Chicago in 1953, Mr. Rothert noticed as the collection plate was passed that only the coins had the motto "In God We Trust" on them. He then began a determined one-man campaign to get the phrase placed on our paper money. He wrote many letters to politicians, to the Secretary of the Treasury, and even to President Eisenhower. In his letters he said putting the motto on our currency would "affirm our trust in God in such a manner that it will be heard around the world and give moral and spiritual strength to those who realize a great nation humbly and reverently places its trust in the Almighty".

At that time Arkansas had two powerful politicians serving in Congress. J. William Fulbright was a U. S. Senator and Orren Harris was the congressman from south Arkansas. Fulbright was chairman of the Banking Committee that would have to approve such a request. These two men agreed with Mr. Rothert and they introduced bills into Congress making the change to our paper money. The bill became law and was signed by President Eisenhower in 1955.

The dies that are used to print the money had to be changed to add the new wording. The first paper money with the motto "In God We Trust" appeared in 1957, two years after the law was passed. Two years later, another law was passed making "In God We Trust" the official motto of the United States.

Some groups felt that any mention of the word "God" on our money violated the Constitution and the separation of church and state. These groups wanted prayer to be taken out of schools and wanted the motto to be removed from our money. Several court cases were brought, but the courts ruled that the phrase "In God We Trust" was not a religious phrase and the U. S. Supreme Court refused to hear cases appealed from lower courts on this matter. The motto even hangs on the wall of the U. S. Supreme Court.

There will be more challenges in the future on this matter. We frequently hear of those groups who want the Ten Commandments and nativity scenes removed from public buildings and prayers abolished at school functions. They want any mention of God removed from anything of a public nature. I'm sure this will continue in the future.

Although things were different at the time Mr. Rothert started his campaign, it shows that a single person with determination has the power to change some of the biggest things in the world. Through his persistent efforts, a flood of letters to important people, and many speeches he gave on the subject, Matthew H. Rothert of Camden, Arkansas accomplished his goal of having the phrase "In God We Trust" appear on all paper money printed in the United States.



A few weeks ago one of the Nelson boys showed me a picture of a sign they had found in the woods a few miles south of Bluff City. We wondered about the significance of it and after further research, I have discovered some things I did not know.

There are 57 natural areas in the state of Arkansas which the Natural Heritage Commission oversees. It just so happens that one of these, the Arkansas Oak Natural Area, is right in our back yard and we didn't even know it. This natural area consists of 40 acres purchased by the Arkansas Heritage Commission in January, 1980 for the sum of \$32,000. It is home to several endangered or unusual species of plants. One of these is the Arkansas Oak tree which only lives in a small portion of this part of the state.

Other rare plants found here include bristly-stalk sedge, umbrella sedge, scarlet beard tongue, large clammy weed, coral greenbrier, and smooth twist-flower.

To visit the Arkansas Oak Natural Area, go out Hwy. 299 from Bluff City for 4.5 miles; turn left on County Road 47 (Kirk Rd.); go 1.1 miles and look for an old woods road to the left. Walk about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up this old road to the natural area. There are signs posted, but as you can see, some are showing the effects of time.

There are certain rules for visitors to Arkansas natural areas. (1) Leave nothing but footprints and take nothing but photographs, (2) Removal of plants and animals from natural areas is strictly forbidden, except for legally taken game and fish, (3) Limit travel in natural areas to foot traffic only to minimize erosion and the disturbance of sensitive habitat. (4) Motorized vehicles, horses, camping, and construction of permanent hunting stands are prohibited.

This natural area is of particular interest to me because it just so happens that this 40 acres was part of the land my great-great grandfather, Jabez McKelvy settled when he came to Arkansas about 1859.

TRIVIA: (answers on page 6)

- (1) What mountain has the faces of four Presidents carved on it? (2) famous "rock" that guards the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea (3) What insect is the state insect of Arkansas?
- (4) What is mutton? (5) Write 1973 in Roman numerals. (6) A male goose



These are believed to be young men from Bluff City. (Photo taken about 1912-14)
Second from left is Con Harvey (1894-1967). Can you help identify the other three?

**ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STATUES
(from the Old Farmer's Almanac of 1977)**

There is a world-wide regulation in regards to heroic horse and rider statues. It is (1) Horse standing on all four legs with rider mounted means the rider is a National Hero; (2) Horse has three legs on the ground with rider mounted means the rider died as a result of his wounds in battle; (3) Horse has two legs on the ground with the rider mounted means the rider died during the battle; (4) In all the above positions, if the rider is standing beside the horse it means the horse died also. These rules and regulations can be found in the National Archives in Washington, D. C.

**LITTLE PRESCOTT LAWS
The Prescott Daily News- May 3, 1907**

It shall not be lawful for any person to wear under his clothes or concealed about his person any pistol, or slug shot, or brass knuckles, or knuckles of lead, brass, or any other metal, or bowie knife, or dirk, or dagger, or a knife resembling a bowie knife, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon within the town of Prescott. Anyone who violates this law will be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, fined not less than five dollars or more than twenty-five dollars.

**THIS MONTH'S RECIPES FROM THE 2001 ELKHART COUNTY, INDIANA
COUNTY FAIR CONTEST**

GOLDEN CRESCENTS

This recipe from Bertha Johnson of Indianapolis, IN came from *Taste of Home* magazine (April-May, 1998). In 2001, it was entered in the county fair in Elkhart, IN by Jane Stutsman and it was one of the prize-winning recipes. We have used it several times and agree that it is a very good roll recipe.

2 packages (1/4 ounce each) active dry yeast
3/4 cup warm water (110-115 degrees)
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons butter or margarine (softened; divided)
Note: We use 5 tablespoons instead of the 1/4 cup
2 tablespoons shortening
2 eggs
1 teaspoon salt
4 to 4 1/2 cups all purpose flour
additional butter or margarine (melted-optional)

In a mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add sugar, 5 tablespoons butter, shortening, eggs, salt, and 2 cups flour. Beat until smooth. Add enough of the remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 6 to 8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl; turn once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled (about 1 1/2 hours). Punch the dough down; divide in half. Roll each portion into a 12 inch circle. Melt remaining butter and brush over dough. Cut each circle into 12 wedges. Roll up wedges from the wide end and curve to form crescents if desired. Place with point down two inches apart on greased baking sheets. Cover and let rise in warm place until doubled (about 45 minutes). Bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown. Brush tops with melted butter if desired. Yield: 2 dozen.

SKILLET CAKE (Eva Allen)

Melt 1/3 cup shortening and 2/3 cup brown sugar in a 10 inch skillet. Add one cup drained, crushed pineapple and one cup drained apricots.

Batter Ingredients:

1/2 cup shortening	2 cups sifted cake flour	3/4 cup milk
1 cup sugar	3 tablespoons baking powder	1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs		

Cream shortening. Add eggs. Blend in dry ingredients. Add milk and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Pour on top of pineapple/apricot mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for 40-45 minutes.

Answers to trivia questions on page 4: (1) Mt. Rushmore; (2) Rock of Gibraltar; (3) honey bee; (4) meat from sheep used for food; (5) MCMLXXIII; (6) gander