

# THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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Vol. 4 - No. 11

November, 2004

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## SEREPTA SPRING AND CAMP SHED

By Jerry McKelvy



Serepta Spring and Camp Shed is located just about smack-dab in the center of Nevada County near the intersection of Hwy. 299 and Hwy. 372. Here you will find a one-of-a-kind open air camp meeting shed which is still used occasionally for revival services. There is also a small cemetery and a spring which has furnished good water for local residents since the area was first settled.

I have not been able to find much information on this place, but it was frequently mentioned in the local newspapers. It was the scene of many reunions of Civil War soldiers after the war was over. At these reunions, politicians made speeches to the crowd and a good meal was enjoyed by all. I found that at some of these occasions, there were parades and band concerts. In July, 1934, there was a Ladies Rest Camp at Serepta that lasted for three days. Ladies were instructed to bring bedding, food, and other necessities. There was a charge of fifty cents per day to pay for ice, lights, etc.

According to an article in the *Nevada County Picayune* in 2002, the camp shed was built in 1902 for non-denominational revival services to be held in July of each year and the tradition has continued. Jodie Waddle, age 84 when the article was published, remembered going to Serepta as a child and said about 100 people would turn out for the services. He remembered the time when folks went by wagons and animals were tied to every tree around the shed. There were about 50 people present for the revival in 2002.

I don't know who built the shed over the spring, but I found the date 8-19-1968 written in the concrete foundation. I don't know if anyone uses the water for drinking purposes these days, but it does look inviting on a hot summer day. I have located the deed for the

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land on which the shed is built. It was deeded in 1902 by W. E. Evans and his wife, Mary Evans to J. W. House, B. W. Beauchamp, and J. N. Reagan, trustees as a gift “for the purpose of religious worship”. According to the deed, if it ever ceased to be used for the purpose intended, it would revert back to the grantors. The spring and cemetery are located on land owned by International Paper Company at the present time. One can also see the remains of several concrete benches near the spring, what appears to be an old well, and a small shed for cooking barbecue. Things were probably very nice at one time, but appear to have been neglected or vandalized over the years.

I did find a news item in 1950 that mentions that the camp shed was being remodeled, a new galvanized roof was being installed, and the stage and seats were being repaired. The total cost was \$350. This is probably the same roof that is on the shed today. As you can see from the picture, the tin is now rusty.



**THE SPRING HOUSE**



**THE SPRING INSIDE THE SPRING HOUSE**

**A door is installed on top  
to protect the spring**

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## COULD YOU HAVE PASSED THE 8TH GRADE IN 1895?

Remember when grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they only had an 8th grade education? Well, check this out. Could any of us have passed the 8th grade in 1895?

This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 in Salina, Kansas, USA. It was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, KS, and reprinted by the *Salina Journal*.

8th Grade Final Exam: Salina, KS -1895 \*\*\*\*\*

Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
  2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
  3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph.
  4. What are the principal parts of a verb? Give principal parts of "lie," "play," and "run."
  5. Define case; Illustrate each case.
  6. What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.
  - 7 - 10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.
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Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
  2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
  3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
  4. District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
  5. Find the cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
  6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
  7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at \$20 per metre?
  8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
  9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance of which is 640 rods?
  10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.
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U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
  2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
  3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
  4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
  5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
  6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
  7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
  8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.
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Orthography (Time, one hour) (WHAT IS THIS ANYHOW?)

1. What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication?
2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals?
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u.' (HUH?)
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.
6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

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Geography (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.
7. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

Notice that the exam took SIX HOURS to complete. Gives the saying "he only had an 8th grade education" a whole new meaning, doesn't it?! Also shows you how poor our education system has become...

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### **THE LARGEST GRAVE IN LOUISVILLE (from the Prescott Daily News – September 11, 1908)**

Louisville, KY—The body of Mrs. Gertrude M. Hill, formerly Gertrude Parker of Louisville, Kentucky, who died Saturday in Prescott, Arkansas occupies the largest grave ever dug in Cave Hill Cemetery, requiring the space reserved for two ordinary graves.

The undertakers in charge of the burial say the body of Mrs. Hill who weighed 600 pounds was the largest they had seen in their 25 years experience. The coffin of Mrs. Hill had been made for her eight years ago and was of red cedar, especially strengthened. The total weight of the casket and body was 1000 pounds. No hearse in Louisville was large enough to accommodate the casket.

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## GRAVE RECEIVES BULLET-RIDDLED BODY OF OUTLAW ‘Pretty Boy’ Floyd is Buried in Spot He Picked Out (from the 11-1-1934 issue of The Nevada News)

Sallisaw, OK—The bullet-riddled body of Charles A. “Pretty Boy” Floyd, Oklahoma’s phantom outlaw, was buried in a little hillside cemetery near the village of Akins Sunday, while a crowd of curious estimated at 20,000 looked on.

Once rated by federal officers as Public Enemy No. 1, Floyd’s career of crime ended in Ohio last Monday when federal and state officers shot him as he ran. He was accused of several murders, bank robberies, and kidnappings.

His last resting place was a grave he reputedly has picked out for himself more than a year ago with a remark to Mrs. Walter Floyd, his widowed mother.

“Right here is where you can put me. I expect to go down with lead in me—perhaps the sooner, the better. Bury me deep”.

Mrs. Ruby Floyd, the outlaw’s wife; his mother; his 12 year old son, Jack Dempsey Floyd; his four sisters, and two brothers sat in a small arbor, shielded from the eyes of the crowd as the simple casket was lowered into the grave.

The Rev. W. E. Rockett of the Sallisaw Baptist church preached the final services assisted by Rev. Owen White of the Akins Baptist church.

Mr. Rockett took his text from John 19<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 30<sup>th</sup> verse: “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, ‘It is finished’ and bowed his head and gave up the ghost.”

“If heredity alone could direct the lives of our reckless youth,” Mr. Rockett said in his brief talk, “we in all probability should not be here on this sad occasion, but a stronger force, environment, steps in to defeat heredity.

“Thus oft times, the example of consecrated mothers, fathers, and grandparents are nullified by the evil forces of environment.

“There is nothing we could say that would be on any benefit to Charles Arthur Floyd, but it is possible, we hope, to say something that would be beneficial and consoling to those who are living; therefore we urge you who do not know him, the Christ, as your Lord and Savior, that you seek him now before it is too late, for we know neither the day nor the hour when He may come and we have to recognize the fact that it is finished.”

The thousands of onlookers stood about the cemetery and the crowd overflowed onto nearby pastures. Fences were torn down on the pastures to make room for parked cars.

A steady stream of motor cars from 20 states came to the cemetery from Sallisaw. Some spectators came in wagons and buggies and others on horseback. A few came afoot.

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Farm women dressed in calico aprons appeared with babies in their arms. School buses brought children.

Three women fainted near the little shingle arbor and were trampled.

At Sallisaw, the sheriff's office said it was the largest crowd this city had ever seen. A private funeral service was held at the Sallisaw home of Mrs. Floyd before the body was taken to Akins, Floyd's boyhood home. Only relatives were admitted to the Floyd residence.

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### THE ONE I WANT TO BE Printed in The Nevada News 4-14-1927

If I were just the person  
That I would like to be  
There wouldn't be a soul living  
Who could find a fault with me.

I'd never lose my temper  
When things didn't go just right,  
I'd never say an unkind word  
I'd smile from noon to night.

I'd never, never be too tired  
(or cross as the case may be)  
To stoop down to kiss and soothe  
A little dirty, skinned-up knee.

And always I'd be glad  
My friend's success to see  
There wouldn't be room in my heart  
For a touch of jealousy.

I'd find time to talk to others  
Whose lives are sad and gray,  
At least enough of happiness  
To brighten one dark day.

Ah – so many things  
Are left undone by me –  
I'm sure that's the kind of person  
God would have me be.

*Elsie Hop Dillon in the  
Christian Observer*

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### HOW TO BE HEALTHY

**Printed in The Nevada News 9-19-1908. There were 10 rules, but only these five were printed**

1. Rise early, retire early, and fill your day with work.
2. Water and bread maintain life; pure air and sunshine are indispensable to health.
3. Frugality and sobriety form the best elixir of longevity.
4. Cleanliness prevents rust; the best cared-for machines last the longest.
5. Enough sleep repairs waste and strengthens; too much sleep softens and enfeebles.

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## **SOME UNUSUAL NEWS STORIES FOUND IN NEVADA COUNTY NEWSPAPERS**

1930—A tube of lipstick that had been lodged in a seven year old Oklahoma child was successfully removed in Ft. Worth, Texas. The child had swallowed the lipstick while eating candy at home.

1930—Nashville, Arkansas—Mrs. W. M. Layton's hen laid an egg measuring 7 and one half inches the short way and eight and one half inches the long way. It weighed a full quarter pound. When broken it was found to contain a perfectly formed egg in the center of the large one.

1930—Little Rock—A nine year old girl lived 14 hours after coming in contact with a live electric wire after an auto accident. A nine inch square hole was burned in her rib cage. Doctors were amazed because she felt no pain and remained conscious. The doctors even took pictures of her heart and lung action through the hole.

1930—A snake and horse battled it out to their deaths on H. R. Walkins's ranch in Woodland, California. After being bitten, the horse stomped the rattlesnake to death. Both were found dead in Walkin's pasture.

1931—In a court case ruling, cows have the right-of-way when cows and autos meet in Wisconsin. Alfred Ludwig brought suit and won \$400 from a motorist whose auto killed two of his cows.

1931—Tired of his wife Rosie, Alex Grosheim, 70, traded his wife to his best friend for seven hogs, a dozen chickens, and a dog. They had been married for ten years and he decided they were not well matched. He didn't want to divorce her without fixing things so she would have another husband. A deal was struck and Rosie received her divorce. Rosie and Oscar were married with her former husband as best man.

1933—A child was born with a tail in London, England. The tail was two inches long and described as curled and tapering to a point. The child was normal otherwise. The tail can be removed and this condition is “an unusual but not unknown phenomenon”.

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### **UNCLE JERRY PITTMAN (from the Prescott Daily News – July 16, 1908)**

Uncle Jerry Pittman living a few miles west of Prescott has a record which few men have attained. He is 75 years of age, reads without the use of glasses, is cutting his third set of teeth, has one of the best crops in Missouri Township, and is the father of nineteen children, the youngest of which arrived yesterday.

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Mary's father had five daughters: (1) Nana; (2) Nene; (3) Nini; (4) Nono; and ???? What was the name of the fifth one? (see bottom of page 8 for answer)

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This pie won “Best of Show” in the American Pie Council contest in Celebration, Florida in 2003. It is the recipe of Raine Gottess (how’s that for a name?)

## CELEBRATION CHEESE PIE

### Crust

15 to 18 Keebler Pecan Sandie cookies (crushed)

¼ cup butter (melted)

Stir butter into finely crushed cookies with fork. Press into a nine inch pie pan to shape crust. Freeze to firm.

### Layer # 1

2 oz. Philadelphia brand cream cheese (softened)

2 cups Cool Whip

1 Tablespoon sugar

¼ cup confectioner’s sugar

Beat all ingredients in mixer until blended. Spread onto crust and freeze while making next layers.

### Layer # 2

4 oz. Philadelphia brand cream cheese (softened)

¾ cup confectioner’s sugar

4 cups Cool Whip

¾ cup peanut butter

2 oz. melted Bakers German Sweet Chocolate baking squares

Beat first three ingredients together until well blended. Divide into two bowls. Add the peanut butter to one and spread on top of pie. Freeze.

Add the Bakers German Sweet Chocolate baking squares to the second bowl. Beat and spread on top of pie.

Decorate with Cool Whip

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## THANKSGIVING HUMOR

Asked to write a composition entitled “What I’m Thankful For This Thanksgiving, little Johnny wrote, “I’m thankful I’m not a turkey.”

Why did the Pilgrim’s pants keep falling down?  
Because they wore their belt buckles on their hats.

Answer to question on page 7

Why did the turkey cross the road?  
Because it was the chicken’s day off.

Not Nunu. The answer is Mary. Read the question again.