

# THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Jerry McKelvy, Editor

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## HATTIE ORPHELIA WYATT CARAWAY FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS UNITED STATES SENATOR



On January 12, 1932, Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas became the first woman ever elected to the United States Senate after winning a special election to fill the remaining months of her husband's term. Arkansans elected Hattie Caraway to the Senate two more times, and she served in the U.S. Senate until January, 1945.

While in the Senate, Hattie Caraway in 1933 became the first woman to chair a Senate Committee and in 1943 became the first woman to take up the gavel on the Senate floor as the Senate's presiding officer.

*Arkansas History Commission* Hattie Caraway made history again recently by becoming the first Arkansan to ever appear on a stamp. On February 21, 2001 in Little Rock, the 76-cent Hattie Caraway definitive stamp was unveiled, which is the third in the "Distinguished Americans" series after Joseph W. Stilwell and Claude Pepper.

There is no doubt that Hattie Caraway's service in the Senate paved the way for women seeking elective office. Twenty nine women have followed Hattie Caraway to the U. S. Senate and today, a record high of 14 women are serving in the Senate all at the same time.

Hattie Caraway was born near Bakerville, Tennessee in Humphreys County. She married Thaddeus H. Caraway and moved with him to Jonesboro, Arkansas where she cared for their children and home and her husband practiced law and started a political career.

Her husband was elected to the United States House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1912 and served in that office until 1921 when he was elected to the United States Senate where he served until he died in office in 1931.

Arkansas Governor Harvey Parnell appointed Caraway to serve out the rest of her husband's unfinished term. She was sworn into office on 9 December 1931 and was confirmed by a special election of the people on 12 January 1932 becoming the first woman elected to the United States Senate. Caraway made no speeches on the floor of the Senate but built a reputation as an honest and sincere Senator.

When she was invited by the Vice President to preside over the Senate she took advantage of the situation to announce that she would run for reelection. Populist Louisiana politician Huey Long traveled to Arkansas on a 9-day campaign swing to campaign for her. "Huey waited until there was only ten days left in the campaign before he made his move", former Arkansas Governor David Pryor related. "He told Senator Caraway

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to meet him on the courthouse steps in Magnolia down in southwest Arkansas. Huey showed up with about a dozen trucks, sound equipment, a band and a portable printing press plus dozens of campaign workers.”

“Hattie and Huey then embarked on a whirlwind campaign like nothing that Arkansas had ever seen before or since,” the former U.S. Senator from Arkansas noted. “They drew huge crowds where ever they went. Hattie's opponents used every trick in the book to stop her and Huey, even cutting off the electricity at their campaign events.”

“But nothing slowed down Huey and Hattie,” Pryor explained. “Huey caught a train in Memphis for New Orleans late in the afternoon of Election Day. When his young son Russell met Huey's train in New Orleans later that night, he gave the “Kingfish” the news from Arkansas that Hattie Caraway had beat everyone in the first primary.”

In 1938 she ran again for reelection against John L. McClellan and was victorious after receiving support from a successful coalition of veterans, women, and union members.

She ran for a final time in 1944 and was defeated by J. William Fulbright.

Caraway was a prohibitionist and voted against anti-lynching legislation along with many other southern Senators. She was generally a supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt's economic recovery legislation.

Hattie Caraway suffered a stroke in early 1950 and died in Falls Church, Virginia. She is buried in Westlawn Cemetery in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

One of the subscribers to this paper suggested that I include an article on Hattie Caraway. As you can see from the above information, Hattie had an important part in our history. Anyone who does something that is a “first” deserves some special recognition.

The subscriber has a special connection to Hattie Caraway because she was named after this lady. The subscriber's name is Hattie Wyatt Caraway Griffith Raines who lives in Salem, Massachusetts. Adella Irvin Griffith was her grandmother and Mrs. Raines has fond memories of her early days on the farm about four miles west of Bluff City, Arkansas.

Mrs. Raines says she didn't like her name as a child, but wishes she had been wise enough to use Hattie Caraway as her role model. Mrs. Raines has a letter that was mailed to her mother from Sen. Hattie Caraway at the time of her birth. She wanted to send me a copy, but the letter is too fragile to make a copy.

She also had a silver baby spoon that Sen. Caraway had given her mother. It was safely tucked away among her treasured possessions until a bad experience with a French exchange student in the 1970's. It, along with other valuables, was missing and lost forever.

Thanks to Mrs. Raines for sharing this bit of information. I had wondered about her name when she first subscribed to this paper. So, as Paul Harvey says, now we know the rest of the story.

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**FACULTY MEMBERS- BODCAW BAPTIST UNION HIGH SCHOOL (1908)**

(see October, 2004 issue for related article and photo of school)

**M. G. Orr—Third Assistant**

**Samuel H. Warmack, First Assistant**

**Prof. J. M. Langston, Superintendent**

**J. E. Meador, Second Assistant**

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**Just in case you are worried about eating too much over the holidays,**

## **METHUSELAH**

**Methuselah ate what he found on his plate,  
And never, as people do now,  
Did he note the amount of calorie count;  
He ate it because it was chow.  
He wasn't disturbed as at dinner he sat,  
Devouring a roast or a pie,  
To think it was lacking in granular fat  
Or a couple of vitamins shy.  
He cheerfully chewed each species of food,  
Unmindful of troubles or fears  
Lest his health might be hurt  
By some fancy dessert;  
And he lived over nine hundred years.**

**--Anonymous**

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## EARLY NEVADA COUNTY HISTORY

*Editor's note: The following article was written by R. P. Hamby about 1940 and was published in a souvenir edition of **The Prescott Daily Mail** newspaper.*

The first white people to settle in what is now Nevada County were five families who journeyed from middle Tennessee by flat boat and landed at a point on the Little Missouri River near where Hwy. 67 crosses. The names of two of the families are forgotten, but the other three were named Whiteside, White, and McLelland. They settled in various parts of the county. Nevada County was formed of parts of Hempstead, Ouachita, and Columbia counties in 1871 and Mt. Moriah was designated at the temporary county seat.

Acting Governor O. D. Hadley appointed commissioners to select a county seat and they selected what later became the town of Rosston. The first county officers, appointed by the governor, were D. C. Tuttle-county judge; A. B. Parsons-county and circuit clerk; J. S. Vandergriff-sheriff; T. W. Hammon-treasurer; Samuel Weaver-coroner; W. H. Prescott-surveyor; and John Meeks-assessor.

The first county court was held in a church at Mt. Moriah on May 8, 1871 and the first circuit court met July 3, 1871. The county seat was removed to Rosston during the fall of that year where it remained until Prescott became county seat and the records were moved on August 13, 1877 and the newly erected Methodist church served as a court house for about a year.

At the time Nevada county was created, there were small villages at Falcon, Glenville, Mt. Moriah, and Moscow. The Cairo and Fulton railroad (now Missouri Pacific) was constructed across the north part of the new county in 1873, the first passenger train arriving at the new town of Boughton on July 4. Prescott was surveyed in August, 1873 and Robert Burns erected the first store building on West Main Street where the First State Bank building now stands about September 1 of that year.

Prescott was incorporated as a town on October 6, 1874 but the town officers were not chosen until 1876 when the following were selected: Wm. L. Webb-mayor; M. J. Saxon-marshal; J. J. Whiteside-recorder; E. E. White-treasurer; and Brad Scott, W. B. Waller, W. A. Bright, D. M. Wadley, and Guy Nelson-aldermen.

The present court house was erected in 1911, the one which was erected in 1884 being torn down, and the present county jail was built in 1926. Prescott's city hall was erected in 1939 at a cost of \$30,000. The first paving was laid in 1927 and the sewer system was constructed in 1911, the water and light plant having been built in 1898. The post office and the Masonic temple were built in 1927.

The Cumberland Presbyterian organization erected the first Prescott church in 1875.

Prescott has an area of 720 acres and a population as of 1940 of 3,177. Nevada County has an area of 620 square miles and in 1940 its population was 19,786.

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The county officers (1940) are Brad Bright-judge; Otis Langston-sheriff; C. C. Mitchell-circuit clerk; Brad DeWoody-county clerk; Dallis Atkins-treasurer; J. D. Cornish-coroner; and J. M. Plyler-tax assessor.

Prescott's present (1940) officers are Randolph P. Hamby-mayor; Horace Hale-chief of police; L. M. Cummings-recorder; Wren Scott-treasurer; and aldermen- A. W. Hudson, Horace DeLamar, R. B. Hardley, Joe R. Hamilton, J. D. Cornish, T. E. Logan, J. M. Stripling, and J. Alvin Cole.

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Just for fun, I have included this little quiz to test your knowledge about the state of Arkansas. Some questions are very easy and some are more difficult. You can check your answers on page 7.

- \_\_\_1. The official state bird of Arkansas is the—A. sparrow; B. robin; C. mockingbird; D. cardinal
- \_\_\_2. Which of these country singers was **not** born in Arkansas?—A. Johnny Cash; B. Loretta Lynn; C. Glen Campbell; D. Jim Ed Brown
- \_\_\_3. The official state flower of Arkansas is the—A. yellow rose; B. morning glory; C. petunia; D. apple blossom
- \_\_\_4. The world's championship duck calling contest is held annually in—A. Jonesboro; B. West Memphis; C. Stuttgart; D. Pine Bluff
- \_\_\_5. Arkansas became a state in—A. 1825; B. 1836; C. 1850; D. 1900
- \_\_\_6. The official state tree of Arkansas is the—A. pine; B. red oak; C. bald cypress; D. sweet gum
- \_\_\_7. Which one of these generals was born in Arkansas?—A. Robert E. Lee; B. George S. Patton; C. Tommy Franks; D. Douglas McArthur
- \_\_\_8. The official state gem is —A. ruby; B. sapphire; C. pearl; D. diamond
- \_\_\_9. Arkansas is known as—A. The Land of the Rising Sun; B. The Natural State; C. The Land Down Under; D. The Gateway to the West
- \_\_\_10. The official state fruit is the—A. watermelon; B. red delicious apple; C. Elberta peach; D. pink tomato
- \_\_\_11. The official state mineral is—A. gold; B. bauxite; C. oil; D. silver
- \_\_\_12. The official state beverage is—A. milk; B. sweet tea; C. coffee; D. Coca-Cola classic
- \_\_\_13. A person from Arkansas is called—A. a hillbilly; B. a redneck; C. an Arkansan; D. a Dixiecrat

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- \_\_\_14. The official state insect is the—A. seed tick; B. monarch butterfly; C. honey bee; D. grasshopper
- \_\_\_15. The official state instrument is the—A. dulcimer; B. guitar; C. harmonica; D. fiddle
- \_\_\_16. The official state rock is—A. sandstone; B. quartz crystal; C. granite; D. marble
- \_\_\_17. Which of these states does **not** border Arkansas?—A. Kansas; B. Oklahoma; C. Louisiana; D. Missouri
- \_\_\_18. Which of these men was **not** a governor of Arkansas? Orval Faubus; B. Winthrop Rockefeller; C. Ben Laney; D. Sam Walton
- \_\_\_19. The “Arkansas Toothpick” is a nickname for—A. a cannon used in the Civil War; B. a small twig from a sassafras tree; C. the Bowie knife; D. a plant that grows in the Ozarks
- \_\_\_20. The highest mountain in Arkansas is—A. Mt. McKinley; B. Mt. Rushmore; C. Pike’s Peak; D. Mt. Magazine
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**THE HARVEY HOME IN BLUFF CITY**

(was located about where the Bluff City Laundramat is today behind “Willie’s”)

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## ANSWERS TO ARKANSAS QUIZ

1. C – designated as such in 1929
2. B
3. D – designated as such in 1901
4. C
5. B – it was the 25<sup>th</sup> state admitted June 15, 1836
6. A – designated as such in 1939
7. D – he was born in Little Rock in 1880
8. D – designated as such in 1967
9. B
10. D – designated as such in 1987
11. B – designated as such in 1967
12. A – designated as such in 1985
13. C
14. C – designated as such in 1973
15. D – designated as such in 1985
16. B – designated as such in 1967
17. A
18. D
19. C
20. D

How did you score?

16 or more correct – You are very smart or just lucky  
12 to 15 correct – Not bad since you didn't study  
7 to 11 correct – You learned something, didn't you?  
6 or less correct – You must not be from around here!

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## CADDO GAP SPRINGS

An official of the U. S. Government was here today to inspect the hot springs recently discovered. He believes an unlimited supply of hot water is available.

The springs were discovered last February by J. M. Davis, a mining prospector. He noticed the peculiar rock formations and late at night fired a shot of dynamite which uplifted the capstone and disclosed the hot water.

Further search revealed numerous springs of hot water. He carefully concealed his find with brush and stones until he could file a claim to the land.

He also claims to have found rich deposits of gold, silver, and other metals near the springs. Many theories are advanced in regard to the hot springs. Old men say the blasting in the gap during the construction of the railroad shocked the strata of rocks apart and caused the hot water to come forth. Others say the hot water has been there forever and a day.

One thing is certain is that the hot springs and plenty of them are here. People come from far and near to visit them daily and drink the water. *(from the 9-1-1908 issue of the Prescott Daily News)*

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## CHICKEN POT PIE

2 chicken breasts  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
1 large potato, diced  
½ cup carrots, cut in pieces  
¼ cup English peas  
1 tablespoon finely chopped celery  
1 tablespoon chopped onion  
1 teaspoon salt (for broth)  
¼ teaspoon poultry seasoning  
salt and pepper to taste

Boil chicken breasts in a medium (2 qt.) stew pan of water seasoned with pepper and 1 teaspoon salt. Cook until chicken is tender and easily de-boned. Remove skin and bone from meaty part of chicken and chop the chicken. In a 1 ½ quart baking dish or pot, dump a can of cream of chicken soup and a can of broth from the stewed chicken. Add the chopped chicken, diced potato, onion, celery, carrots, and peas. Season with poultry seasoning, salt, and pepper and simmer while preparing pie crust.

### Crust:

2 cups plain flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
2/3 cup shortening  
4 or 5 tablespoons of water

Cut shortening into flour and salt until crumbly. Add water, a tablespoon at a time, until well blended and moist. Divide in half and roll out to fit a 2 quart baking dish. Spoon in the prepared filling (see above) and cover with top crust. Crimp edges together and cut slits in top crust. Bake at 350 degrees for about 50 to 60 minutes. Makes 5 or 6 servings. Leftovers freeze well.

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## GOOD CHILI

½ cup chopped onion  
2 teaspoons garlic salt  
2 teaspoons salt  
1 teaspoons pepper  
2 ½ teaspoons Worcestershire sauce  
2 ½ lbs. ground beef  
1 oz. chili powder  
2 small cans tomato sauce

Combine first five ingredients with ½ pint of water and let set. Meanwhile, brown ground beef and drain. Add above mixture along with chili powder and tomato sauce. Add approximately 2 pints of water (if desired) and ½ cup plain flour to thicken. Simmer 1 ½ to 2 hours.

\*Note: You can increase pepper and chili powder if you like it hotter.