

Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE
August 22, 2013

**CHANGES TO
PAPER**

Almost thirteen years ago, I started *The Sandyland Chronicle*. I never thought it would last this long. If you have ever tried to produce a monthly newsletter or magazine, you know that it takes a lot of work. I have learned a lot about our local history along the way and I know there are many more stories to tell if I just had the time to do the research. I have approximately 130 people in my contact list who have asked to be notified when a new issue is posted. I have no idea how many people come across it online while

doing research or just accidentally stumble upon it. I know there are many because I have heard from many of them. I have made many friends while doing this who are interested in local history or genealogy and some who just enjoy reading about the old days. Where else can you get all this good information to read at absolutely no cost to you?

I have decided to try something a little different just to see how it works. Instead of a monthly issue of ten or more pages, I will try to put out a smaller issue (about four pages) every two weeks. I will try to post these smaller issues

on the web site every other Thursday. This will give me an opportunity to include more local news from this area. Some who now live in other states have requested this.

I don't know how this will work out. This is just a trial. I still need your articles, old pictures, or anything you think might be of interest to readers--especially things related to Nevada County or surrounding counties. Let me know if you have something you would like to see included. I welcome your suggestions or criticisms.

ROUGH RIDING SAVES LIFE OF HOPE CHILD

(from the 3-5-1927 issue of The Prescott Daily News)

Roads between Hope and Texarkana, which are very rough in places, are declared responsible for saving the life of Juanita Collins, eight-year-old daughter of Ray Collins of Hope.

Last night while dressing one of her dollies, Juanita swallowed a safety pin. Frantic efforts of Hope physicians to dislodge the pin were futile and the child was rushed to Texarkana in an automobile.

The automobile was driven as fast as the driver dared, and as the roads were rough, occupants of the car were jolted a great deal.

Juanita, whose condition was growing worse steadily, often was seized with coughing spells as the car bounced about.

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Upon arrival, an X-ray picture was taken, and failed to reveal the pin in the child's throat or stomach. Within a short time, Juanita, whose life a few minutes before was despaired of was chatting with members of her family.

A search of the car revealed the safety pin. Juanita had coughed it up enroute to Texarkana.

It will not be necessary for local safety pin swallowers to start for a hospital. Just take a joy ride on the streets of Prescott.



WORLD'S LARGEST TIRE ON DISPLAY IN CAMDEN

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. had a promotional tour about 1930 showing off the world's largest tire at that time. The photo above (courtesy of David Hendriks) shows the tire displayed at Camden at the 59 Service Station. The tire was pulled by a specially built 1929 Flexible bodied Buick. The tire was 12 feet high, 4 feet wide, and weighed 1800 pounds. It took 45 minutes to inflate the tire to three pounds of air pressure. The huge tire visited about 25 states from 1929 to 1933 often appearing in parades and at county fairs, attracting much attention from the public.

A LOOK BACK TO SEPTEMBER, 1953

Ward's Foodland in Prescott advertised sirloin and T-bone steaks for 39 cents per pound and hamburger meat for 19 cents per pound. A quart of Miracle Whip was 49 cents and lettuce was two heads for a quarter.

The Nevada Theater was showing a movie called "The Woman They Almost Lynched" and the Gem Theater was showing a Roy Rogers movie.

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The answer to "Who Is It?" in the last issue is Mrs. Tucker who was pictured on buckets of shortening. The buckets I remember were mostly white with a blue lid. This is a very old bucket my grandmother had (the label has the date 1914 on it). Mrs. Tucker's shortening was first made in Sherman, Texas in 1913. I tried to find out if Mrs. Tucker was a real person or why that name was selected for the product, but could not find an answer.

Readers who came up with the right answer were Yvonne Munn, Bill Carman, Charles Middlebrooks, Warren Ober, Barbara Lyerly, Dan Westmoreland, Brenda Barham, Melba and Don Hall, Ginger Patterson, Don Bennett, Annette Lemons, Vernell Loe, Thomas Knight, and Ann Wylie.

Other answers received were: Betty Crocker, Mrs. Clabber, Mrs. Stewart, Lydia Pinkham, Mrs. Something (?) (on a lard can), and FDR.

RAINFALL RECORD

Jan. – 4.3 in.; Feb. – 2.8 in.; Mar. – 4.1 in.; Apr. – 3.7 in. ; May – 4.2 in.; June – 4.2 in.; July – 5.2 in.

July had the most rainfall of any month this year so far due to the heavy rain received near the end of the month ending a six week dry spell.

We have had no rain in August so far even though other parts of the state have had plenty. We had a few very hot days followed by a nice cool spell around the middle of the month.

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Fight or Flight from a Sting or Bite – Don Mathis, San Antonio, TX

They call 'em bugs for a good reason.
They all bug you, even the no-see-em.

That little gnat will choke you to death
if he gets in your mouth while drawing a
breath.

The flying palmettos give me the jitters.
Nasty cockroaches - what good are those
critters?

Horse flies and house flies make me ill at
ease.
If they don't bite, they may carry disease.

What's worse than a wasp? Maybe a dozen!
I don't want to see a bee or hear one buzzin'.

Same goes for yellow jackets or daubers of
mud,
or any flying varmint out to suck my blood.

I don't want a mosquito to ever come near.
I hate it when one gets in my ear.

Even a June bug may cause you grief
if you're on a Harley and it hits your teeth.

Allergies to insects may cause you to swell.
And I could do without that stink bug smell.

Farmers consider grasshoppers as evil
and cotton deplores the little boll weevil.

Termites may eat you out of house and home.
I wish all those bugs would leave me alone.

Swarming insects give me cause for alarm.
I always get fearful I may be harmed

Reminder: You might want to consider stocking up on 60 watt incandescent light bulbs pretty soon since they will no longer be available after January 1, 2014. Stores will be able to sell them after that date until their supply is gone.

Lower White Oak Lake is gradually filling up after being drained to make repairs. All it needs is a lot of rainfall. There will be some restrictions on fishing the first year or so, but most folks are glad to see some water in the lake once again.

The Presbyterian Church in Prescott closed its doors August 4 after serving the city of Prescott for 140 years.

The city of Prescott is trying to figure out what to do with the old Prescott Hardware building on Elm St. The Prescott Hardware was started in 1893 and was probably the largest store in town. I can even remember when they had an undertaking department connected to the hardware where people went to pay their burial insurance premiums. The store was last open in 1996 when a flea market was located in the building. A lot of work and money would be required to bring the building back to a usable condition. Tearing the building down would also be expensive. Every town faces such problems as this—what to do with very old large vacant buildings. Unless they are maintained, they soon become an eyesore and become hazardous to the public. It will be interesting to see what is decided regarding this old historic building.

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GOLDEN CROWN LODGE NO. 411

For many years I have noticed the old two-story Masonic lodge just off County Rd. 47 in Nevada County. I think it has probably been at least 40 years since it was last used. The bushes began to grow up around it many years ago and soon the glass in the windows was broken. Any building will soon deteriorate if not maintained properly.



I didn't know much about this old building except that it was a lodge. Cana AME church (African-American) is located just across the road. This area is very sparsely populated these days. The nearest residence is about one mile away.

I took this picture (*top left*) of this old building in 1996 and even went inside and looked around back then. Now the building is almost completely surrounded with young trees so that it is almost invisible from the road unless you know where to look. (*see photo bottom left*)



A few weeks ago I visited the lodge again and took more pictures of both the inside and outside. At first I thought the building must have been torn down or moved, but it was just hidden by the trees growing up around it.

It was a hot summer day and I expected to find some wasp nests inside. I didn't see any wasps, but did hear what sounded like a swarm of bees somewhere nearby—possibly inside the walls.

There were also some boards with nails in them lying around so one has to be very careful. The front door or porch has completely collapsed, so I entered by the rear door. Just inside this door is the staircase leading up to the second floor. It was a little creepy walking up the dimly lit stairs. I didn't walk very far into the upper room because I was afraid some of the flooring was rotten and I might fall through. I took a couple of pictures and soon made my way back down the stairs.

I like doing research, so I decided to visit the tax assessor's office in Prescott to see if they had a name for this old lodge. I was lucky because they had the name and also

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the book and page number of the deed transferring the land to the lodge. I learned that this was the Golden Crown Lodge No. 411. A half acre of land had been deed to the trustees of the lodge in 1948 by W. E. and Faye Bevill (*Book 180, page 597*). The trustees of the lodge at that time were Lumus Gulley, Charlie Tidwell, and B. T. Trammel. When I checked the cemetery records, I learned that these were African-American men.

So now I know more about this old lodge in case anyone ever asks and have some pictures of it. In a few more years, the building will be gone or at least too dangerous to go inside.

More pictures of the lodge



This is the rear of the building with the rear door. The staircase is just inside this door.



Inside view of the first floor looking toward the front door. A small stage is in the corner just inside the front door. There are support posts in the middle of the room and some old lumber scattered about.



This is inside the second floor. A stage is in the center of the room toward the front of the building. A white cross had been painted on the wall on both floors. Some of the flooring was rotten. A long, narrow room is at the rear of the building at the top of the stairs.

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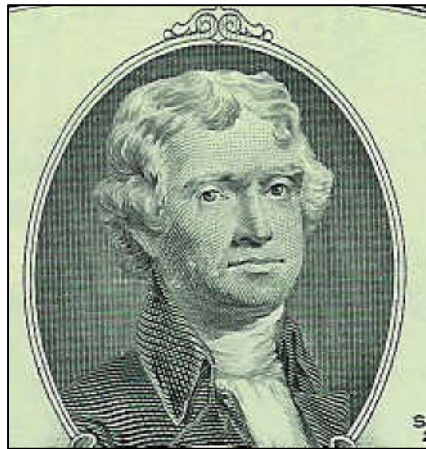
Masonic symbols outside front near the roof

A LOOK BACK TO SEPTEMBER, 1939

Forty boys were employed doing landscaping and building a five-room teacher's house at the Bluff City school. The school had six teachers: Mrs. Dale Denman, principal, W. J. Walthall, coach, Laverne Carter, Miss Oliver, Miss Bertha Thompson, and Mrs. Bradberry.

The deadline for paying the poll tax was Oct. 1 to be qualified to vote in the next election.

Nash's Tonic was advertised for kids returning to school. It was a remedy for malaria and biliousness.



WHO IS IT?

You might have seen this gentleman's picture somewhere before. If you think you know who it is or want like to make a guess, send me your answer within the next few days.

RAINFALL

No measurable rainfall was received at my house in August. It is getting very dry.

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Special Hymns for Those Who Speed on the Highway

45 mph – God Will Take Care of You

55 mph – Guide Me, O Thou Great

Jehovah

65 mph – Nearer My God to Thee

75 mph – Nearer, Still Nearer

85 mph – This World Is Not My Home

95 mph – Lord, I'm Coming Home

Over 100 mph – Precious Memories

Found in *The Nevada News* (January, 1953)

Holding one's tongue
So opinions stay put
Is easier by far
Than extracting one's foot.

LOCAL NEWS

Funeral services were held Friday, August 30, for Geraldine Robinson Odell, age 90. Burial was in Bluff City Cemetery.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo D. Young, age 34 of Rosston, who was killed during an insurgent attack in Afghanistan August 28th.

Funeral services for Mr. Pershing Cox, age 95, were held Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013. Mr. Cox lived in the Redland community. Burial was at Liberty Cemetery.

The Bluff City Church of Christ will have a lectureship Saturday, Sept. 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. An instructor from the Memphis School of Preaching and three students will be the speakers. The theme of the lectureship is "Timeless Truths". You are invited to any or all of these lectures. Speakers and times are:

9:00 a.m.--The Truth About Sin—Luke Quinn

10:00 a.m.—The Truth About Salvation—Brock Kendall

11:00 a.m.—Does Truth Exist?—Bobby Lidell (instructor)

12:00 p.m.---Lunch (provided by members of the congregation)

1:30 p.m.—The Truth About Heaven and Hell—Timothy Glasshof

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“LITTLE GRANNY”

Elizabeth Ann McLelland married Alexander Fletcher McKelvy in 1881. She was 18 years old and Alexander, known as Fletch, was 29. They made their home in the Rocky Hill community of Nevada County and made their living by farming. Fletch accumulated a fairly large amount of land during his lifetime (approximately 1100 acres).

They had 11 children (six daughters and five sons), but three of them died in infancy. Their life at Rocky Hill, known locally as Goose Ankle, was similar to that of many of their neighbors. Their time was spent doing all the chores associated with farm work--plowing, planting, and harvesting crops with some timber related activities thrown in for good measure.

Elizabeth, known as Bettie, was my great grandmother. I know very little about her since I was only three years old when she passed away in 1947. I'm pretty sure she spent much of her time taking care of her children and doing all kinds of work women usually did in those days such as cooking, gardening, milking cows, sewing, quilting, and many other chores.

I was told by those who knew her that she was a small woman, maybe a little over five feet tall. In her later life, family members called her “Little Granny”. Her husband died in 1914 when she was 51 years old. "Little Granny" lived 33 years after her husband's death, living to the age of 84. Two of her daughters, Esther and Beulah, remained unmarried and cared for their mother in her old age.

A cousin who knew “Little Granny” said that she spent much of her time in the woods around her home gathering rich pine knots which were used for kindling. She would pile these up in the woods so they could be brought to the house later. Many of these piles of kindling were found scattered in the woods long after her death.

"Little Granny" was a life-long member of the Rocky Hill Methodist church which was about a quarter of a mile from her home. In fact, she and her husband had donated two acres of land for this church back in 1907.

Most of what I have learned about “Little Granny” came from an older cousin who is now deceased. I have found some tidbits of information in the local news columns of the county newspaper plus some information about land transactions from the deed records at the court house.

She didn't get to see man travel to the moon, but she did get to see the automobile taking the place of the horse and buggy. Imagine living to witness that! I wonder what she thought the first time she saw an airplane fly over her farm. She may have even witnessed the coming of

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electricity to her community just before her death—another great advancement. She was born during the Civil War and lived through two world wars. If I could go back in time to about 1940, I would have a lot of questions to ask “Little Granny”. I’m sure she would have been able to tell me many stories about life at Rocky Hill over a hundred years ago.

From what little I do know about “Little Granny”, I admire her a lot. The following excerpt from her obituary was written by her friends, Betty Sue and Sally Lou Plyler and leads me to believe that “Little Granny” was a fine woman. I wish I could have known her.

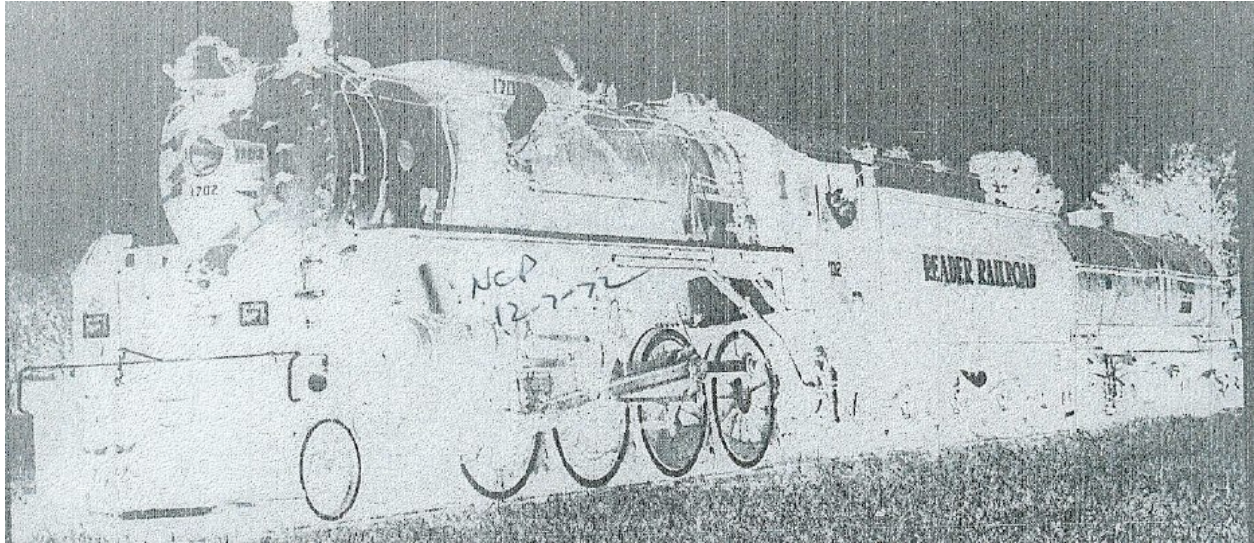
She professed a faith in Christ at an early age and united with the Methodist church more than 60 years ago and was a true follower of Christ until she was called away, her life one worthy of imitation. Her companion passed on to glory in 1914 leaving her with 2 daughters and a small grandson to face the rugged battles of life. Two daughters, Esther and Beulah, remained single and lived with her and cared for her very tenderly until she passed away. During her many years on earth, she witnessed many trials in life, having given up her companion, 2 daughters, and 3 sons and suffered many lingering spells of sickness, but she endured her suffering with wonderful patience.

Aunt Bettie, as she was familiarly known, treasured her family and friends above all earthly possessions. She was kind and generous hearted. In her passing away, the family has given up a loving mother, the church a true and loyal member, the community a kind and worthy neighbor.



*You have lost a loving mother
From this world of sin and care,
She has sailed across death's river
To a city bright and fair.
She has gone to meet her Savior
On the pearly throne of gold
Where she'll live in peace forever
In that blessed heavenly fold.
Oh, she was a faithful mother
Always teaching with her love,
For her children to love Jesus
That they may meet her up above.
Long and bitter was her suffering
As she on her death bed lay,
While you stood close beside her,
Knowing soon she would pass away.
Oh, how vivid is her picture
As in death she closed her eyes,
When she left this world of sorrow
For her home beyond the skies.
Yes, she left you, oh how lonely,
You'll miss her smile and loving hand
While you knew it was only
Her birth into a better land.*

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THE GHOST TRAIN

I was at the library one day and made a copy of an article from the *Nevada County Picayune* about the last scheduled run of the Reader Railroad in December, 1972. This picture of the train accompanied the article. When I got home and looked more closely at the copy, I noticed that the train appears ghost-like which I thought was fitting since this was marking the end of an era. Many of us still wish we could hear the steam whistle of the train as it blew for the various crossings as it made its way from Reader to Waterloo and back. There's something about a steam engine that is special. Maybe it's the black smoke billowing from the smokestack or the sound of the whistle that takes us back to simpler times. I'm glad I got to ride the Possum Trot Line before it passed into history.

FIRST WORDS

Match the following first words with the document, song, or book in which they are found. Answers on page 4. Don't peek!

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Fourscore and seven years ago | A. The Bible |
| ___ 2. We the people | B. Declaration of Independence |
| ___ 3. In the beginning | C. United States Constitution |
| ___ 4. O, beautiful for spacious skies | D. Star Spangled Banner |
| ___ 5. Mine eyes have seen the glory | E. America the Beautiful |
| ___ 6. O, say can you see | F. Gettysburg Address |
| ___ 7. When in the course of human events | G. Battle Hymn of the Republic |

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A LOOK BACK TO OCTOBER, 1939

A new industry was announced for Prescott. It was an oil mill which processed cottonseed, peanuts, soybeans, and flax for their oils. It was said to be Prescott's largest and newest enterprise.

The Piggly Wiggly store in Prescott became a Kroger store.

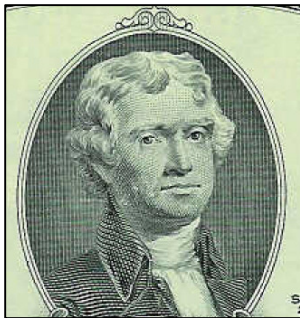
Prescott Hardware advertised a sewing machine for \$25, a rural mail box for 88 cents, shot gun shells for 68 cents a box, and a single shot 22 rifle for \$4.89.

The Williams Roofing Plant at Waterloo burned. The plant was erected in 1929 and employed 60 men.

Answers to First Words quiz: 1.- F; 2.- C; 3.- A; 4.- E; 5.- G; 6.- D; 7.- B

RAINFALL RECORD

Still no rain at my house! Our last measureable rainfall was July 28th--51 days ago. Many trees and shrubs have died and others are losing their leaves early. Fire danger is high and burn bans are in effect in many counties in south Arkansas. Total rainfall this year at my house is 28.5 inches.



The correct answer to "Who Is It?" in the last issue was Thomas Jefferson whose portrait is on the \$2 bill. Those who sent in the correct answer were: Yvonne Munn, Bill Carman, Jeanie McKelvy, Brenda Barham, Blake Fairchild, and Don Hall.

Many people hold on to their \$2 bills thinking they are rare and maybe worth something. Some even think the bills are no longer being printed or in circulation which is not true. Some young workers in stores call their manager when someone tries to pay with a two dollar bill, thinking it is counterfeit. Most cash registers do not have a slot for the \$2 bills which is a slight inconvenience to the stores. Some consider the \$2 bill to be unlucky and others consider it to be lucky. You will probably have to contact your bank to find a \$2 bill since they are rarely used. Most are not worth more than the face value, although some say if you have one with a red seal, it could be worth a little more than face value.

Thomas Jefferson is also pictured on the nickel coin and the presidential dollar coin. His likeness is also one of the four images carved on Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota.