

Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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MT. OLIVE AND IRMA IN 1906
MENTION OF MT. OLIVE BRINGS TO MIND
MEMORIES OF BYGONE DAYS

This article appeared in the Feb. 22, 1906 issue of The Nevada News. Mt. Olive is located on Hwy. 76 between Waterloo and Hwy. 371. Irma was located nearby at the intersection of what is now Hwy. 371 and Hwy. 76.

Taylor Township is one of the most prosperous sections of the county. It is populated with splendid people, dotted with fine farms, and covering a large territory, its property is known all over the county.

Irma post office was established a number of years ago by Louis Waters and named for Mr. Water's daughter and run in connection with a store. The store still operates, but the post office has been abolished and patrons are served by rural free delivery from Rosston.

Mr. Waters carries a splendid stock of general merchandise and enjoys fine patronage. He owns a handsome home and splendid farm situated on the public road between Rosston and Waldo. It is a convenient stopping place for travelers and everyone receives courteous treatment in his home.

One of the points of interest near Irma is Mt. Olive, one of the oldest church structures in the county (pictured on next page). Nearby is the cemetery, wherein lies buried the loved ones of numbers of prominent families, and the well kept grounds and handsome monuments attest to the kind remembrance in which the departed ones are held.

Mt. Olive has history which ante-dates the war. It was under the boughs of the mammoth oaks surrounding the church that Co. I of which W. J. Blake became Capt., was formed and from which they began their march to the seat of war in 1861.

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Probably no hundred men were ever assembled with stouter hearts, truer purpose, or willing sacrifice than did those brave men who came to Mt. Olive church that beautiful spring morn 45 years ago. And their courage never faltered and their campaign never faltered, but was one grand triumph until they were captured at Helena in July, 1862. They were taken prisoner there, and those not wounded were carried to Island No. 10 in Lake Michigan where they were finally paroled. Among those wounded left behind was Z. W. Bailey, father of our Joe Bailey, who was suffering from a broken hip and lost thumb caused by the accidental discharge of a musket in the hands of one of our own men. Mr. Bailey remained in the hospital at Helena several months, and as soon as he was able to creep on crutches, he was paroled and started the long journey home. Afoot, and on crutches, the trip was made slowly. It was six months from the day he left Helena until he appeared at his home near Mt. Olive and relieved the painful anxiety of a waiting family. *(Mt. Olive church pictured below—photo taken in 1993)*



There still remains at Mt. Olive a number of old soldiers of Co. I. At the burial of Mr. Alf Rogers the 12th of last June, there were assembled on this sad occasion five of the men who had met at the same place 45 years before to fight for their rights. As S. W. Wright, A. T. Bailey, Asa Waters, J. S. Marlar, and Z. W. Bailey looked into each other's faces, they must have thought of that other occasion when descending this slow, sloping hill, they cast a parting look at the hallowed church of God and realized that perhaps it was for the last time. These men are growing old, but there remains something of that same buoyant spirit that brought honor to them in war and success in peace.

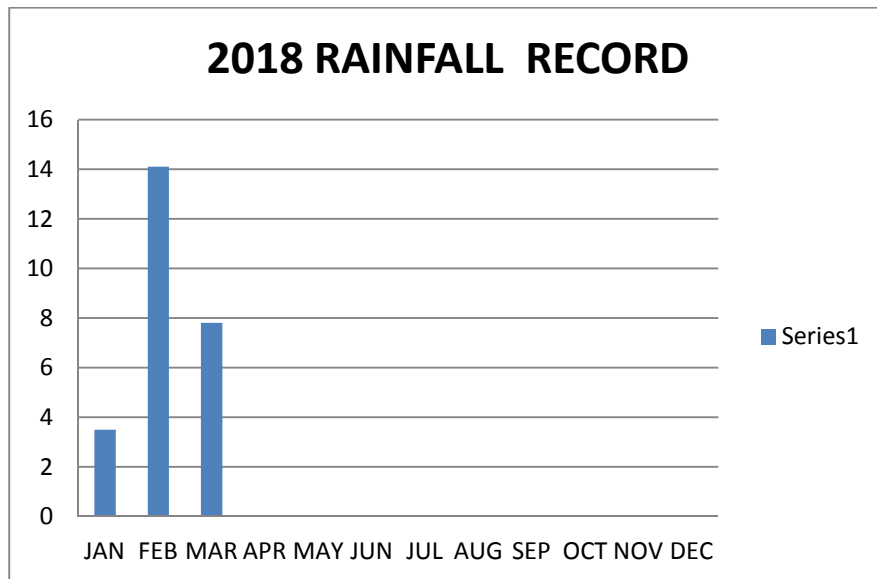
Probably one of the oldest settlers in the Irma community is Asa Waters. Settling here in the 40's, he has been able to watch with civic pride the constant growth of the community from a dreary wilderness to a land of peace and plenty. In those days,

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there was no underbrush, the country was open, and it is one of Asa Waters' familiar expressions that "in those days, you could see a deer fudder than you could shoot a rifle".

There was also bear. Late one evening, Mr. Waters was going up the road from home when he noticed a black object coming down the road ahead of him. Thinking it a yearling, he proceeded joyously on his way. But coming within a few feet of the object, it suddenly raised on its hind legs and Mr. Waters realized the painful fact that he was facing a bear. Mr. Bruin stood motionless for a few moments, then let down on all fours and slowly walked back up the road. Mr. Waters stood motionless too and remained that way until Mr. Bear was out of sight, and then he "flew" to the house. We will always believe the bear acted wisely, for in those days Asa Waters was a man.

The Irma of today, however, is different. There are no bear there now, but instead an energetic and prosperous people who are happy in the contentment that follows a life of industry and peace.



Total rainfall first three months = 25.4 inches

Normal annual rainfall = 52 inches

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FUNNY MOMENTS AT SCHOOL

Do you remember when Art Linkletter used to interview the kids on his show during a segment called “Kids Say the Darndest Things”? Bill Cosby later had a show based on the same idea. Those shows were funny because nobody knew what the kids might say in answer to the questions. School teachers also experience something similar in their classrooms. It’s been years since I taught school, but I still remember a few funny things kids said in class or funny answers they put on test questions. I’m not talking about the very young kids. These kids were in grades 6 through 12. Here are a few examples.

As most of you know Charles Lindbergh was the first person to fly an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean. The name of his plane was “The Spirit of St. Louis”. I once put this question on a worksheet –For what is Charles Lindbergh remembered? One student wrote “He flew his spirit to St. Louis”.

The answer to one question was Alexander the Great. One student wrote “Alexander the Grape”.

I did a brief lesson in a high school class on how to fill out a simple income tax form mainly just to let the students know what an income tax form looked like. I had them fill out all the information on top of the form and gave them some imaginary income figures to use for this lesson. One of the students came to the line where it asked for the name of spouse. He raised his hand and asked me, “What does this spouse mean?”, but he pronounced it “spoose”.

During the late 1960s, Jackie Kennedy’s marriage to Aristotle Onassis was in the news and one student evidently remembered that name. We had been studying about the three great Greek philosophers (Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle). When I asked one of the students to name the three great Greek philosophers, she answered “Socrates, Plato, and Onassis”.

We were studying about Hawaii one day and I asked if any of the students had ever been to Hawaii. One girl said she had been there, but I seriously doubted if she was being truthful. I asked her how she went to Hawaii and she said she went on a train.

One day I used an old saying I had heard all my life about somebody being born with a silver spoon in his mouth. I never thought that some of the kids might not have heard that expression. Several minutes later, a girl raised her hand and asked me “Mr. McKelvy, did he really have a silver spoon in his mouth?” I then had to explain that was just a saying people used for someone who was born into a wealthy family.

I required all my students to know a few basic facts such as who was president of the United States, who was governor of Arkansas, what was the capital of Arkansas, and a few other such questions. Every few days I would ask these same questions hoping it would finally sink in. Sometimes I would have them write the answers and turn them in. Our governor at that time was Dale Bumpers. I never knew there were so many ways the name Bumpers could be misspelled. I have forgotten all the answers, but I decided

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to send the list to the governor thinking he might enjoy seeing some of the different spellings of his name. A few days later I received the following letter from the governor..



DALE BUMPERS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LITTLE ROCK

October 15, 1973

Mr. Jerry McKelvy
Social Studies Department
Cale High School
Cale, Arkansas 71828

Dear Mr. McKelvy:

Thank you for your letter regarding my "name recognition standing" in your Social Studies classes.

I am gratified at their response and amused by their interesting substitutions. I hope "Bummer" was not a Fruedian slip!

I appreciate your providing a day brightener.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale".

Dale Bumpers

DB:itc

These are just a few of the funny things I remember from my teaching days over 45 years ago. More recently, I was teaching a young people's class at our small church. We had been studying about the children of Israel and their journey from Egypt to the land of Canaan. The land of Canaan in the Bible is called "a land flowing with milk and honey". One day in class we were reviewing this study and I asked "The Land of Canaan was called the land flowing with milk and _____. One young boy's answer for the blank was "cookies".

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NEVADA COUNTY

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1880	12,959	—
1890	14,832	14.5%
1900	16,609	12.0%
1910	19,344	16.5%
1920	21,934	13.4%
1930	20,407	-7.0%
1940	19,869	-2.6%
1950	14,781	-25.6%
1960	10,700	-27.6%
1970	10,111	-5.5%
1980	11,097	9.8%
1990	10,101	-9.0%
2000	9,955	-1.4%
2010	8,997	-9.6%
Est. 2016	8,398 ^[6]	-6.7%

U.S. Decennial Census^[7]
 1790–1960^[8] 1900–1990^[9]
 1990–2000^[10] 2010–2016

OUACHITA COUNTY

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1850	9,591	—
1860	12,936	34.9%
1870	12,975	0.3%
1880	11,758	-9.4%
1890	17,033	44.9%
1900	20,892	22.7%
1910	21,774	4.2%
1920	20,636	-5.2%
1930	29,890	44.8%
1940	31,151	4.2%
1950	33,051	6.1%
1960	31,641	-4.3%
1970	30,896	-2.4%
1980	30,541	-1.1%
1990	30,574	0.1%
2000	28,790	-5.8%
2010	26,120	-9.3%
Est. 2016	24,098 ^[4]	-7.7%

U.S. Decennial Census^[5]
 1790–1960^[6] 1900–1990^[7]
 1990–2000^[8] 2010–2016^[11]

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I thought you might like to see the charts on the previous page showing the changes in our population over the years. You can easily see when the population in each county reached its peak. Just about all of southern Arkansas has seen a decline in population in recent years, mainly due to lack of industry and jobs. The next official census will be in 2020.

A SENSELESS TRAGEDY

(from the 11-12-1915 issue of *The Nevada County Picayune*)

Last Sunday morning, James Alexander, colored, after a quarrel with his wife, flew into a rage and picked up an axe and knocked her brains out. He struck her three blows to the head with the back of the axe. The only evidence obtainable at the coroner's inquest was that of a seven-year-old girl who witnessed the tragedy.

It seems that he had brought home some meat from the market and it was not the kind she had told him to get and from that the fuss began. He told her he would kill her and she went into the front room and got a razor and put it in her apron pocket and returned to the kitchen where her husband was and as she stepped into the room, he picked up an axe and killed her as stated.

A posse was quickly formed and the hunt was on. He went to Boughton, a station four miles east of town, where he had relatives and was overtaken by Luke Steele and Henry Holloway who fired at him several times, but were so far away that none of the shots took effect. The Negro was soon out of sight again and no trace of him could be found that evening or night.

Monday morning the news came to Prescott that James Alexander's body was found on the railroad track about one mile east of Boughton with his head severed. An investigation proved the rumor to be true. It is supposed that during the night sometime he made his way to the railroad and attempted to catch a passing train and was beheaded.

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OLD SETTLERS BBQ AND PICNIC IN 1915

An event called the Old Settlers BBQ and Picnic was held in Prescott in 1915. It was said to have been the largest crowd ever assembled in Prescott up to that time. The stores closed from 10:30 to 1:30 for the event and the schools also closed because the children participated in the parade. A band concert was presented by the Prescott band. Prizes were given for the best produce such as apples, pears, peanuts, and ribbon cane.

Here is a list of the events for that occasion with prizes awarded to the winners in each category.

A parade

Prizes for oldest man and oldest woman

Prize for the oldest married couple

Prize for the first couple to marry in county

Prizes for the oldest six people in county

Prize for best fiddler

Prize for the largest family

Prize for the tallest person

Prizes for the heaviest person

Prize for the smallest man over 21



WHAT IS IT?

I found what I believe to be an old antique cream can in a trash pile out in the woods one day. It did not have a lid, but there is a short chain attached to the top which was probably connected to the lid. There is no writing on the can. It is rusty but does hold water. Can anyone tell me more about this old can?

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Mother's Ancestry – by Don Mathis

My name is Donald Edward Mathis. I am honored to be the son of Bernadine Walker Mathis.

I am the grandson of Alice Hearnberger Mathis (Grandma) and the grandson of Rose Dumas Walker (Grandmother).

Grandma's mother was Martha Matilda *Fielder* Hearnberger (1860 - 1898) and her mother was Martha Ann *Jones* Fielder (1826 - 1885).

The mother of my grandmother was Ida E *Henley* Dumas (1878 - 1957) and her mother was Mary Malindie Faulkner (1844-1926)

I am the product of English heritage, Welsh-Celtic extraction, German stock, Scots-Irish culture, and French lineage.

I am the father of Thomas Charlie Mathis whose mother has Indian blood.

And I am the grandfather of Lynnea Gwen Garnet Mathis who is destined for great things in life and whose mother is of African ancestry

To all the women of my family of origin and my family of destiny, I wish a Happy Mother's Day.



I really like this old grave marker found in Ouachita County, especially the words engraved after the dates—"She made home happy". What better epitaph for a lady than that?

MOTHER'S DAY

IS

MAY 13, 2018