

Jerry McKelvy's
SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

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COFFEE SUBSTITUTES

I was reading an excerpt from a diary written by a Camden man during the Civil War. He wrote about the shortage of food near the end of the war and mentioned having corn meal coffee to drink. That sparked my interest and I did a search on the Internet and came across a page which discussed the various substitutes for coffee during the war.

According to the information posted on that page, coffee was the most popular beverage at that time. The North had coffee, but before the war was over, coffee was almost non-existent in the South. Prices got as high as \$70 per pound for coffee and very few people could afford those prices.

Southerners came up with all kinds of coffee substitutes including acorns, beans, corn, corn meal, dandelion root, okra seeds, peanuts, peas, and sugar cane seeds. These were parched, browned, or roasted and ground up. Some used carrots, potatoes, and yams cut into small pieces, dried, toasted, and ground up.

Prisoners sometimes parched corn, rye, or wood splinters to make coffee which they called "Lincoln coffee".

Ground nuts from chinquapin trees were also boiled, dried, and toasted. Some used the seeds from grapes and muscadines.

One recipe used okra seeds. The seeds were parched over a good fire and stirred until they were dark brown. The seeds were then removed from the fire and just before they got cool, the white of one egg was added to two teacups of okra seeds and mixed. It was then used as you would use coffee.

English peas were sometimes used as were persimmon seeds. Mashed potatoes were mixed in with the seeds

Hopefully, we will not experience a shortage of coffee, but you can keep these substitutes in mind just in case.

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PRESCOTT FLYING SERVICE

Back in 1947, Nevada County residents could take flying lessons offered by Prescott Flying Service managed by Orville M. Odom. This was very popular with veterans who had just returned from World War II. Students could get primary flight training, a commercial pilot's license, license for night flying, aerobatics, radio range flying cross-country, and could even get flight instructor rating. Planes were in the air about six hours per day to provide this training.

The Prescott Daily Mail newspaper was the first newspaper delivered by air. Prescott Flying Service dropped bundles of the newspaper each day at Delight, Okolona, Blevins, Gurdon, Emmet, Bluff City, Laneburg, Rosston, Bodcaw, Willisville, Waterloo, and Mendenhall.

The company even made a special delivery of medicine to a home in Willisville in 1947. The roads were too bad for travel by automobile and a man in Willisville needed a certain type medicine. The family contacted Prescott Flying Service to see if they could help. The plane circled the house at Willisville and dropped the medicine by parachute to the family waiting below.

CORRUPTED LANGUAGE

I subscribe to a web site that deals with life in Appalachia. Every so often they mention words or phrases common to that part of America and many of them are often heard in Arkansas as well, especially among rural people. Some of them are about to disappear as the older people pass away, but some are passed down from generation to generation. Here are a few of them.

Get shed of -- means to get rid of something or someone such as "I finally got shed of that old pickup truck I had". Maybe that phrase comes from pets shedding their hair.

I'll Swan—

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Many older folks would say this. You would tell them about something that happened and they would say “Well, I’ll swan”. It more or less means “I do declare” and is used to express astonishment.

Carry—

When I was living in Missouri, I told a man I had to carry my car to the Ford dealer for repairs.” I had never thought about how that sounded. How could I “carry” my car anywhere?

You’ns—

I was first exposed to this in Missouri where it is commonly said when referring to more than one person such as “You’ns come to see us next time you’re up this way”. Here in the South, we usually say “Y’all”. I remember an old joke about a man from up north traveling in the South. He stopped at a service station to get some gas and the attendant came out to the car and said “How are Y’all?” The man thought he said “How is your oil?” and told the attendant he thought it was OK since he had just added a quart. Y’all is a contraction for “You all”, but if you go to parts of Missouri, be prepared to hear someone say “You’ns”.

You guys –

I hear many young people, especially waiters and waitresses say “You guys” when talking to a group of two or more people composed of both males and females. I don’t know how women feel about being called guys.

Rench—

Means rinse such as “Rench out these clothes when they are done washing”.

Right smart –

Means a considerable amount. “I’m glad we got right smart of rain last night.”

Haint –

A ghost. “I hear tell there’s a haint up there at that old abandoned house”.

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Jist –

Just. “Wait jist a minute and I’ll help you.”

Rank –

A measure of firewood. I first heard this in Missouri such as “He cut and stacked three ranks of wood.” If you buy firewood, you need to know these terms. In our area, most people use the term “cord”. A cord of firewood is four feet wide, four feet high, and eight feet long. So, if the firewood is cut in two foot sticks, you would need to stack two rows next to each other to make the four foot width and stack them four feet high and eight feet long to have a cord unless you are in Missouri and you would have a rank of wood. A “rick” of firewood is generally one-third or one-half of a cord. Sometimes, people are cheated when purchasing firewood because they do not understand how much wood is in a cord. Some firewood sellers claim to be selling a cord of wood when it might only be a third of a cord or half a cord.

Rank stranger –

I’ve never heard anyone use this phrase in our area. It was the name of a popular bluegrass song by Ralph Stanley called Rank Strangers. It means someone who is completely unknown to you. The song is about a man who left home for many years and then returned home. People he had once known were all gone and everyone appeared to be a “rank stranger” to him.

GOOD WILL TOURS

The Chamber of Commerce in Prescott organized several good will tours in 1947. Prescott businessmen traveled to most of the small towns in the county over a period of several weeks for a program of musical entertainment, refreshments, and drawings for prizes.

In October, 1947, the delegation traveled to Bluff City where they were met by an overflow crowd at the school auditorium. The PTA served coffee and sandwiches. Musical

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entertainment was provided by a group called The Southern Buddies, the Kiwanis Quartet composed of Joe Smith, Jeff Livingston, Dallis Atkins, and Lester Steed. Mrs. Lera Johnson presented several numbers on the accordion.

Here is a list of those who won prizes at the Bluff City event and the names of the Prescott businesses offering the prizes:

- Eloise Ingram – 24-piece silverware set from Dail Bros. Furniture Co.
\$3 in cash from Logan Gro. Co.
- Jo Ann Norman - \$2.50 in trade from Owens Dept. Store
\$2.00 in trade from J. and C. Hardware
A free meal from the Lawson Hotel
A free hair cut from White Way Barber Shop
- Mrs. Joe Meador - \$1.00 in trade from Sterling store
\$2.50 in trade from Joe Boswell
Two meals from Broadway Coffee Shop
A free hair cut from Fore's Barber Shop
- Roy McKelvy- \$2.50 in trade from Hesterly Drug Store
A paper subscription from Prescott Publishing Co.
\$2.50 in trade from Ozan Mercantile Co.
- Mrs. Gladys Wheat- A paper subscription from Prescott Publishing Co.
\$ 2 in merchandise from Thompson Bakery
Five quarts Esso motor oil from 282 Service Station
A free hair cut from Cummings and DeWoody Barber Shop
- Lyndel Knight- A 3-pound beef roast from Ward's Gro. and Mkt.
10 gallons of gas from H. B. Delamar Chevrolet Co.
\$2 in trade from Western Auto store
- Marshall Lewis- A free meal from Bob's American Café
\$2 in trade from Stripling "M" System store
\$2.50 in trade from Prescott Hardware Co.
- Mrs. Ed Harvey- \$2.50 in trade from Foster's Dept. Store
10 gallons of gas from Prescott Motor Co.

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Two meals from City Café
\$2 in trade from Guthrie Drug Store

Mrs. John Alford- \$2.50 in merchandise from Hesterly Drug Store
And daughter- A paper subscription from The Nevada News

Two meals from Roy's Café
Two quarts of oil from Johnson's Texaco station
???? from Langley Frozen Food Locker
10 lbs. flour from E. B. Johnson's Gro. and Mkt.
1 gallon of paint from Nevada Co. Lumber Co.
10 pounds of flour from Kroger Gro. Co.

J. A. Meador - \$3 in trade from Dalrymple and Henry Dept. store
\$3 in trade from Porter Appliance Co.
\$2 in trade from Buchanan Drug store
One half sole and boot repair job from Al Daniel's Shoe Repair

J. A. Henry - \$2.50 in trade from The Quality Shop
\$2.50 in trade from Bryson Truck and Tractor Co.

Mrs. Maude Loe- \$2.50 in merchandise from Callicott and Mitchell
\$2 in trade from Hamilton Electric Co.
Free wash and lube job from Murry Auto Service
\$1 in merchandise from Farmer's Supply Co.

Jerry Ann Ingram- Free wash and lube job from 102 Service Station
\$2 in trade from Stewart Electric Co.
3 cans corn and 1 can condensed milk from W. C. Beaver Gro.
\$2.50 in merchandise from The Leader

HISTORIC HOMES OF NEVDADA COUNTY THE ATKINSON HOME OF FALCON (from the May 12, 1910 issue of The Nevada News)

One of the most noteworthy of the historic homes of Nevada County is the old Atkinson place at Falcon in the extreme southwestern part of the county.

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Before the Civil War, Falcon was a town of 75 or 100 inhabitants and was one of the most cultured communities in the state. A first-class school was early established under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity and was conducted continuously during the war.

Among the teachers of this school worthy of mention before and during the war were Miss Connelly and Capt. W. R. White, now of Prescott. Prominent among the early merchants were W. W. Atkinson, father of Hon. W. E. Atkinson, a former Prescott attorney who was later elected Attorney-General of Arkansas and is now practicing law in Little Rock, Dr. Drake, and Esq. Briant. Prominent among the citizens of the community were the Barton family, the Bayless family, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Moss, and the McSwains.

The Atkinson home was erected in the year 1860 or thereabouts by Col. W. P. Hardy, who was at that time a teacher in the high school or academy at that place. The building is a two-story frame structure with a porch above and below. Both porches are covered and there is a hall that runs the entire length of the house.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Col. Hardy, who was an officer in the Confederate Army, moved away. During the war the place was occupied by Dr. C. A. Gantt, a gentleman of means, culture, and refinement. Following the war, Dr. Gantt moved his family to Arkadelphia and the place was again occupied by Col. Hardy. That was about the year 1866. the school at Falcon under the direction of Col. Hardy was said to be very successful.

A number of men and women now prominent in the business, social, and political life of Nevada County and of the state, at one time attended school at Falcon. Among those who attended we mention: Hon. W. E. Atkinson of Little Rock; Hon. T. C. McRae, Mrs. T. C. McRae, and Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Pittman of Prescott; Hon. D. L. King of Lewisville; Mrs. A. L. Johnson, R. M. and William Briant of Hope; and Hon. John Cook of Texarkana.

Col. Hardy taught about three years after returning from the war, after which he sold the property to Mr. W. W. Atkinson, a prominent merchant and planter, who remained an occupant until his death about two years ago. When Col. Hardy occupied the place, it was headquarters for the school and often as many as 15 or 20 boarding pupils lived there and it was the center of the literary and educational life of the community.

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When Dr. Gantt lived in the home, it was quiet and visited by a small and select circle of friends and relatives. When Mr. Atkinson came into possession of the place, he was doing a large mercantile and farming business, furnishing the people for many miles around and kept open doors during the time he was in business. It is said that any visitor to Falcon was welcome at the Atkinson home and many took advantage of the hospitality so generously extended.

The building is yet in fairly good state of repair and with proper care will last many years.

(If anyone has a picture of this home, send it to me)

BAPTISTS CONDEMN MODERN DANCE AND OTHER SUNDAY AMUSEMENTS

(from the Prescott Daily News—December, 1920)

Ft. Smith, Dec. 10, 1920—Baptists of Arkansas condemned the modern dance as “sinful and unholy” and protested against the practice of permitting dancing in the state schools....

Earlier in the day, a resolution was adopted unanimously condemning the popular Sunday pastimes as sinful. The resolution declared in part: “We infer that everything is sinful on the Lord’s Day which in any way interferes with its hallowed associations, with the proper discipline of our own hearts and with the proper education of our families, and consequently that much of the traveling on railway trains and in automobiles, going on excursions of business and pleasure and sightseeing, visiting, reading, conversation, the running of picture shows, and ‘pulling off’ baseball games and other exercises on this day are an abomination in the sight of God and utterly inconsistent with our Christian profession.”

RAINFALL RECORD

I received 9.4 inches of rain at my house in July making a total of 55.5 inches so far this year and we still have five months to go. Normal annual rainfall in our area is 52 inches. Some areas near us got much heavier rains in July due to Tropical Storm Barry which caused much damage to the roads.

For comparison, here is the total rainfall at my house for the last few years:

2018 – 80.5 inches	2017 – 53.5 inches	2016 – 58.9 inches
2015 – 80.5 inches	2014 – NA	2013 – 56.7 inches
2012 – 54.4 inches		