

Jerry McKelvy's  
**SANDYLAND CHRONICLE**

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**GROVES TASTELESS CHILL TONIC**



We all probably remember some medicine we had to take when we were children. One I remember taking was Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. I wouldn't say it was exactly tasteless. I seem to remember it having a gritty texture, but it was not too bad as far as medicines go.

Chill tonics were used to treat the chills and fever caused by malaria which was common especially in the Southern states. Malaria was caused by the bite of a mosquito. It was sometimes called swamp fever. My great aunt, Hattie McKelvy Greer, died from swamp fever in 1911 at the age of 28.

Grove's chill tonic was invented by Edwin Wiley Grove, a Tennessee pharmacist and was first marketed in 1885. It was a very popular medicine. It was considered to be a necessity to have on hand in many households. British troops were issued a bottle of Grove's chill tonic anytime

they were sent to areas where mosquitos were prevalent. By 1890, more bottles of Grove's chill tonic were sold than bottles of Coca-Cola. Mr. Grove and those who invested in his company became wealthy men.

The advertisement on this page is from an 1899 newspaper and was a little strange even for that time period. The slogan "Makes children as fat as pigs" and the baby's face on the body of a pig was easily recognized by customers. Having a child that was fat was considered to be a sign of good health. I think that is the reason I had to take Grove's

## **SANDYLAND CHRONICLE**

chill tonic when I was a child or maybe they thought it would prevent malaria. I don't know why, but the medicine did improve a person's appetite and cause them to gain weight. Eventually, they quit using the picture of the baby's face on a pig, but they did keep showing a baby's smiling face on the box containing the bottle of medicine.

The main ingredient in the medicine was quinine which was the medicine used to treat malaria. Quinine had a very bitter taste, so Mr. Grove put the quinine in a flavored syrup to make it taste better. Mr. Grove was a staunch prohibitionist and would not allow alcohol to be an ingredient in his products or only in a minimal amount when necessary. This was during the time when many patent medicines contained 70% alcohol.

This was not the only chill tonic on the market but was the most popular. Here is an ad from Hesterly Drug Store in Prescott in 1915. It looks like that store had a good selection of chill tonics from which to choose.

### **Chill, Fever and Malaria Tonics**

Price 25c and 50c per bottle. Swamp Chill and Fever Cure 50c, Herbine Antimalarial Tonic 50c Wintersmiths Chill Tonic 50c, McCroskeys Tonic Guaranteed to Cure Malaria and Enlarged Spleen \$1.00, Mendenhalls Chill Tonic 50c, Johnsons Chill Tonic 50c, Nyals Chill Tonic 50c, Groves Chill Tonic 50c. And all the other kinds.

Edwin Wiley Grove once made this statement: "I had a little drug business in Paris, Tennessee, just barely making a living, when I got up a real invention, tasteless quinine. As a poor man and a poor boy, I conceived the idea that whoever could produce a tasteless chill tonic, his fortune was made."

His invention was a great success and Grove became a millionaire. In later years, he invested in real estate in Atlanta, Georgia and built some hotels and residential communities. He endowed the E. L. Grove High School in his home town of Paris, Tennessee in 1906, the first privately endowed high school in the United States. In his honor, the first football team from that high school was named "The Chill Tonics".

E. W. Grove retired to live in Ashville, North Carolina. He died in a hotel in North Carolina in 1927 and was buried in the city cemetery in Paris, Tennessee. In 2006, the

# **SANDYLAND CHRONICLE**

city of Paris, Tennessee hosted the Grove Centennial Celebration to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the E. W. Grove High School and the many contributions of Edwin Wiley Grove.

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## **DREAMS**

Much research has been done on the subject of dreams, but there are still many unanswered questions. Here are a few things I found online about dreams.

Everybody dreams. Researchers say we usually dream three to six times each night and that the dreams last from five to twenty minutes. They say 95% of the dreams are forgotten before we even get out of bed the next morning.

Most people dream in color, but about 12% say they dream in black and white and that is more common with older people. One possible explanation for this is that older people grew up watching black and white television. An old study done in 1940 says most people at that time dreamed in black and white.

Blind people also have dreams, but the type dreams they have depends on when they became blind. Some think that those who are blind from birth or become blind before the age of five cannot see images in their dreams. Their dreams are usually connected with their other senses, such as touch or smell. Those who become blind after the age of five can see images in their dreams because they can remember how things looked before they became blind.

There is a condition called sleep paralysis that affects about 8% of people. You might wake up in the middle of the night thinking a monster is after you but you can't speak or move. This lasts for a few seconds or a few minutes and during this time, you may have vivid dreams or hallucinations. Since it only lasts for a short time, it is usually not a serious medical problem for most people.

People dream about all sorts of things and wonder what their dreams mean. Some dreams are said to bring good luck and others bad luck. One writer says it is common to dream about sheep. To dream about a flock of sheep grazing means good success in life. If you dream you are carrying a lamb, that means very good luck, but dreaming of sheep running away from you means bad luck. If you dream of scraggly sheep, it could mean your investments might not pay off. I don't remember ever dreaming about sheep. Maybe those folks counted sheep to help them get to sleep.

According to one report, there are 21 dreams mentioned in the Bible with six of them in the New Testament. God often communicated with men through dreams or visions. We remember the story of Jacob's dream of seeing a ladder reaching to heaven. God sometimes caused kings to have dreams. King Nebuchadnezzar awoke from a troubling dream and called for interpreters to tell him the meaning of his dream. He was so troubled

## **SANDYLAND CHRONICLE**

by his dream that he threatened to kill them if they could not interpret the dream. Daniel, with God's help, was able to tell the king what he had dreamed and the meaning of it.

The only woman mentioned in the Bible to have a dream was Pilate's wife just before Jesus was crucified. She said to her husband, "Have thou nothing to do with that just man, for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him". Pilate didn't listen to his wife and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

What Pilate's wife had was probably more like a nightmare. Nightmares are what we might call a bad dream or a scary dream. Researchers think nightmares can be caused by stress, fear, trauma, emotional difficulties, illness, or the use of certain medicines or drugs. A nightmare may cause a person to talk, scream, or wake up and can be very scary, especially for children.

For a long time after I retired, I often dreamed I was still working and some of the people I worked with were in my dreams. It is not uncommon to dream about people we know. We may even dream about a family member who is deceased. Some people even keep a diary about their dreams. As soon as they wake up each morning, they write down what they dreamed about.

Researchers think that animals also dream. We often see a dog twitching or moving his paws while sleeping and assume it is dreaming. Researchers think all mammals dream but insects and fish do not.

What we eat before going to bed may affect our dreams. It is thought that eating spicy or starchy foods may cause bad dreams. Some think chocolate and cheese may cause bad dreams. Researchers say a light, healthy snack may contribute to pleasant dreams. Others think it is more important to be careful about how much we eat and when we eat. Eating a large meal just before going to bed may affect how well we sleep and what type dreams we may have.

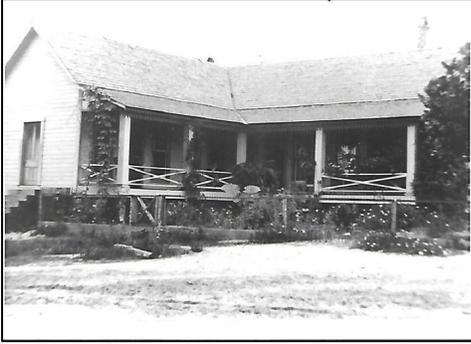
There is still much to learn about dreams and how our brains work even when we are asleep. We spend about a third of our lives sleeping. If we live to be 90 years old, we will have slept for 30 years. That's a lot of time for dreaming.

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## **SOME BLUFF CITY POST OFFICES**

Bluff City has had a post office since 1876. In the early days, the post office was usually in a room in the postmaster's home instead on in a separate building. Some post offices were located inside the local general store, and the postmaster was usually the store owner or his wife. Here are all the pictures I have of post offices at Bluff City.

## SANDYLAND CHRONICLE



This is Luke and Ella Carter's home. Mrs. Elloene McBride had this picture. She says the post office was in the room on the left side of the picture accessed by climbing several steps. I don't have a date for this picture.

Robert Brighton Black was postmaster from 1934 until his death in 1950. His wife, Launah Black, was Acting Postmaster after his death.



Old Bluff City Post Office (used until 1984)

This is the post office I remember. It was located next to Foy and Gladys Nelson's home on Hwy. 24 near the center of town. Mrs. Gladys Nelson was the postmaster from 1952 until her death in 1982. Wilma Knight was postmaster from 1983 until 1990.

This post office was used until 1984 when it was moved to the present location just down the road toward Camden.



The post office is now located in one end of this building on Hwy. 24 (the door on the left side) and is managed remotely by the Camden post office. The office is only open about two hours per day.

The sign on the roof of the store reads "The Company Store" which only operated from 1993 until 1995. The store portion of the building has been used as a convenience store, café, and bar-b-que place at various times. It is vacant at this time.

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**RAINFALL RECORD – 3.3 inches in November making 63 inches for the year and we have one month to go. Normal annual rainfall is 52 inches.**

# SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

*The 38th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, originally planned for Jan. 24-29, 2022, in Elko, Nevada, has been canceled due to COVID. But the Sandyland Chronicle's resident poet wants to celebrate anyway.*

## Buckaroo's Bywords – from Don Mathis



There is no horse that can't be rode -  
And no cowboy that can't be throwed.  
If you fall out the saddle, get right back on.  
A full day of chores begins before dawn.  
And dark don't mean the day has an end.  
A broke man knows who is not his friend.  
'Cause everybody's your partner come payday.  
But when the money's gone, so are they.

If you're not sure, don't spur your horse yet.  
Trust your poker friends, but always cut the deck.  
Don't bother with business that ain't your concern.  
Family fights are private; outsiders ain't welcome.  
Never ask a rancher how big is his spread.  
When you're tired, the ground is as good as a bed.  
There's no time to rest when there's work to be done.  
Forget about sleep and eat on the run.  
You can always just about stand  
a little more than you think you can.  
It don't matter if you are the head trail boss --  
Check over your shoulder to see if the herd got lost.  
And always drink up river from the herd.  
You don't learn nothing when you're being heard.  
When it comes to cussin', don't swallow your tongue.  
Just rare on back and git 'er done.



Romancing is a lot like roping.  
Takes rhythm, timing, and a lot of hoping.  
Your love life is like a campfire -  
Leave it alone, and it'll expire.  
Don't tell everyone when you try something new.  
Kicking gets you nowhere, less you're a mule.  
Letting the cat out of the sack  
is a lot easier than putting him back.

A person who agrees with you all day long  
is a fool -- or else he's stringing you along.  
Horses and dogs can hear better'n you --  
And they often can smell better too!  
Don't wear out your boots on a brass rail.  
You'll pay the devil for raising hell.  
Did you ever see a wild animal embarrassed?  
They don't make saddles for a smarty sass.

# SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Never pass a good chance to shut up --  
Or try to order around someone else's pup.  
Small hound dogs can pee on big ole' trees.  
Bad wind may be underserved, but so's a good breeze.  
Get two dry logs to burn a green limb.  
Only vultures will feed on their friends.



A long walk in new cowboy boots  
will make you forget all your other blues.  
If you can't swim, stay away from the sea.  
When you're with a mooch, curb your generosity.  
If you have to eat your words, the sooner the better.  
If you have free time, write your Maw a letter.  
Never ask the cookie if his food is fine.  
Have a fast horse when you speak your mind.

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## NATIONAL ARKANSAS DAY

National Arkansas Day is celebrated on January 11 each year. Arkansas was the 25th state, admitted to the Union in 1836. Here are a few things about Arkansas that you may not know.

Arkansas was discovered by Hernando DeSoto in 1541 followed by other explorers like Marquette and Joliet in 1673. LaSalle took possession of it for France in 1682. The first permanent settlement was Arkansas Post in 1686.

In 1803, The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France which included Arkansas for \$15,000,000 which was about three cents per acre. The Arkansas Territory was organized in 1819 and Arkansas was admitted to the Union as a state in 1836.

The area was first inhabited by Indian tribes such as Osage, Caddo, and Quapaw (or Oe-gaq-pa which the Algonquins pronounced Oo-ka-na-sa. The explorer, Marquette, wrote it Arkansoa; LaSalle wrote Arkensa; DeTonti wrote it Arkancas, and LaHarpe wrote it Arkansas. When the state was admitted to the Union, it was spelled Arkansas.

There was some confusion on how to pronounce the name of the new state – Ark-an-sis or Ark-an-saw. A committee was formed in 1891 to decide on the proper pronunciation. The result was that “saw” was the proper pronunciation of the last syllable and a resolution was passed by the General Assembly in 1881 declaring the pronunciation to be Ark-an-saw.

The topography of the state is varied. Along the Mississippi River are large farm fields. About half the state is hilly, ranging from gently rolling hills to the beautiful Ozark mountains in the northwest.

# SANDYLAND CHRONICLE



The capital of the state is Little Rock. The French explorer, LaHarpe, came upon a small rock formation on the bank of the Arkansas River which he called “la petite roche” which means “little rock”.



The Arkansas state flag was officially adopted in 1913. The colors are red, white, and blue. The twenty-five stars around the border indicate Arkansas is the twenty-fifth state to be admitted to the Union. The three large blue stars have a double meaning signifying Spain, France, and the United States to which Arkansas successively belonged and also signifies that Arkansas was the third state formed from the Louisiana Purchase. The large blue star above “Arkansas” commemorates the Confederacy and the diamond signifies Arkansas as the only diamond producing state in the Union.

Arkansas has had several nicknames. It was first called “The Bear State”. Later a reporter traveling through the state called it “The Wonder State”. In 1953, the official nickname was “Land of Opportunity”. In 1995, Rep. Dennis Young introduced legislation for a new nickname—“The Natural State” citing the unsurpassed scenery, clear lakes, free-flowing streams, delta bottomlands, forested mountains, and abundant fish and wildlife. The legislation was approved and now “The Natural State” appears on vehicle license plates.

The state flower is the apple blossom.  
The state tree is the loblolly pine  
The state bird is the mockingbird.  
The state musical instrument is the fiddle.  
The state insect is the honeybee

The state beverage is milk.  
The state gem is the diamond.  
The state mammal is the white-tail deer  
The state fruit/vegetable is pink tomato  
The state book is The Holy Bible

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**Mail received about last issue--** This was another great article. I loved Don Mathis’ article about Christmas. We must be about the same age. Many of his comments are exactly what my experiences were, down to the sock monkeys, underwear and apples, oranges and nuts! – T. H.

My parents always said that if you set out a cedar you would die when it was big enough for its shadow to cover your grave. To make a long story short....one of my brothers set out a cedar in our yard at Cale in the early 50's and Mama and Daddy told him to pull it up but he didn't and for some reason they didn't either. He ended up marrying a girl from New York when he got out of the Navy in 1959. He went to work for the subway system and was killed by a subway car in 1966. My Mama always blamed herself for not pulling up that cedar tree. She and my Daddy never got over it. In fact, Daddy died from a stroke the same year. I am not really a superstitious person but I have never set out a cedar tree. – Y. M.