

The Norman News

DUES TIME
\$30 PER YEAR
DONATIONS
NEEDED

NORMAN, ARKANSAS

Fall 2011 #17

PAST & PRESENT

**Happy Birthday
with many returns!**



BIRTHDAY BOY!

**He's not whiney, but
he just turned 90!**

If you didn't guess who this birthday boy is, you just need to look a little closer and surely you can recognize those eyes, even if the full grin isn't visible. That would surely give him away.

And don't let that dress fool you, all little boys wore dresses back in the old days. In fact, that was a turning point in a young

boys life, the first time he got to pull on a pair of "long britches".

Give up? Okay, we will give you another hint or two.

He was born September 12, 1921, in Womble, Arkansas, to Una M. Worrell. His mother hailed from over in Clark county.

Still not enough information? Well, we will end the suspense and tell you that about half of you can trace your lineage back to his forefathers, the Bates clan, who came to

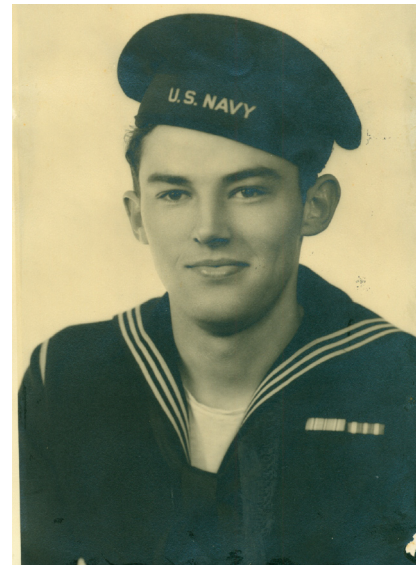
this country in its infancy and propagated so that half of the county's residents are related to this young man.

Many more of you know him from his years at Norman High School. Yelp, it is none other than our own, lovable, sweet, and cherished friend Charles E. Bates, Jr. Or just Charlie to all of us who know him well.

We are sorry to tell you that just one week and one day after celebrating his big birthday,

Charlie had to be rushed to the hospital in Hot Springs. They thought he was having heart problems. After a careful examination and many test, the doctors determined that it was probably inflammation in the wall around the heart and he was released on Tuesday to come home. I talked to Gilda the morning I was writing this newsletter and she said he was doing fair. He did not have a good night, but was okay. So all of you please put Charlie on your prayer list and hold him close in your thoughts as he travels toward the century mark. We want him here to celebrate that great achievement.

I asked Charlie one time what his philosophy on life was, and what kept him going. He told me that he was brought up to always treat the other person as he would want to be treated and try not to hurt anyone. I'll bet all of you would agree that Charlie has done that. He is one of only a few, that I know, who is true to the "Golden Rule" as set out in the Bible. **Happy Birthday Charlie, from all of us at NHS.**





News From The Cardinal

First, I'd like to thank all of you who sent in your dues and ordered the new *Family Scrapbook*, in advance. We had to pay 20% down to get the book printed, and if you had not ordered we wouldn't have been able to do this. This is the first time we have had to pay any money up front, but that is just one more example of how tight funds are these days.

The book is at the printer and it should be ready on or before the 15th of October. If you do not plan to come to the reunion be sure to order your copy now. We only printed 600 and they are going to go fast. We could have made more by ordering 1,000 or more, but then we might have been left setting on our profits, as we have with some of the other books. Anyway, don't take a chance of getting left out, because we probably will not reprint this book.

We have reprinted 50 copies of the Newspaper book. So if you did not get one and you want one, now is your chance. We've already sold several of these, so hopefully they will go fast, as well.

We have had several visitors since the rains came and things have cooled down a bit. We have people researching the Markhams, West

and Demby families, and of course there is someone looking for Cogburn, Bates and Edwards almost every week. We hear from most of these by e-mail, but we do get some phone calls and visitors.

You might be interested to know that Brett Cogburn, a horse trainer from Oklahoma, has written a book about his great-grandfather, John Franklin Cogburn. This was the "Real Rooster Cogburn", who once lived in Montgomery County.

You may not know it, but the Rooster Cogburn of *True Grit* fame, was a composite person, patterned after several former U.S. Marshals, and possibly some others. A look at the *True Grit* web site will fill you in on the details.

However, there was a real "Rooster Cogburn" who was named by his Jayhawker uncle, Page Cogburn, when he was just a little boy.

This James Franklin "Rooster" was the same one who murdered Deputy Marshal J.D. Trammel of Fort Smith, I believe. Anyway, this was back in the 1888 time period and Brett has already dropped a hint of this interesting book by having a short article printed in *True West* magazine in the September, 2011 issue. You can read this tidbit, teaser, of a story on the *True West* web site, or pick up a copy. But keep your eyes peeled for this book to be released by a major bookseller in the spring of 2012. You will be able to purchase it over the Internet or at any major bookstore.

Frank Davis, formerly of Hopper, is also working on a new book, but no release date has been set. Frank already has a copy of his younger

years in print and he has given us permission to use the story in the new book we will have for sale next year at this time.

Clara Jane (Hamilton) West was by the school last week, and she and I had a nice long visit. This is the first time I've had the opportunity to really talk with her and it was very enjoyable. Clara has some interesting stories to tell and I believe if she would put her fingers to the paper, she would have a best seller, at least locally.

I've often been asked what it takes to write a story, or book. The truth is, it only takes wanting to do it and getting started. Now that will not determine who good it is, but it will get 'r done. Writing is not a talent, it is an art, one that is learned. I have two CDs, one called "*On Writing Well*", and the other "*How to Write a Memoir*". Both are by Zenzer, can't think of his first name off hand. If you are serious about writing you couldn't do better than to buy these CDs or books by the same title.

But, to elaborate, if you can talk you can write. That's all writing is, talking on paper. If you want to give it a try take out a piece of paper and write a letter to your mother, even if she is deceased. Tell her all about yourself and how you feel, what you've done since you last saw her, etc. Then take the letter, erase Dear Mother, and then set to work trying to make the story half the size you ended up with. You will, more than likely, have a good story in your hands. Now you can decide to put it in a folder and add to it, or burn it and forget writing. Either way, you've learned something.

Memories of Womble.....

This letter to the editor appeared in a 1971 newspaper. I wanted to share it with you, because it has so much Norman history and I think you will enjoy it.

The story was written by Nettie (Kelly) Singleton, of Oden. I knew Nettie pretty well, as she was a friend of my mothers and I often talked with her at the Senior Center in Mena. She passed away in 2003.



I remember about 52 years ago (from 1971) my father, the late H.W. Kelly, of Oden and his brother, the late J.B. Kelly, also of Oden, who later was County Judge of Montgomery county, had ordered a twin sized monument from Hot Springs for the graves of their father and mother, who were buried near Oden in the Macedonia cemetery. The monument was to be shipped via rail to Womble. Someone would have to get it from there.

In those days every community had a chicken and egg peddler, who came by weekly with items the farmers needed: soda, matches, snuff, tobacco, shoe cobbler tacks, P & G laundry soap, 5¢ school tablets and 1¢ “penny pencils.” These were exchanged to the housewife for eggs and chickens. I still remember the long wire with a crooked end that my mother used to catch chickens from the coop for the peddler.

Our peddler was the late Jim Fiddler, who also owned a little grocery store and lived in Brushy commu-

nity, not far from Oden. It was he who drove to Womble and got the monument for my grandparents graves. Our community depended on Mr. Fiddler to haul freight from Womble that had been shipped there or bought there.

I remember in later years, as 1924 or 25, we would drive to Womble in the Model-T Ford, leaving from our farm home near Oden about sun up and taking with us the dependable

kerosene lantern in case we had car trouble and were after dark getting back home, as car lights were not so depend-

able in those days when Womble was a long way from Oden. My father liked to shop for farming equipment and tools at the Cleve Kelly Hardware Store in Womble., (Cleve was his cousin.)

A big fire occurred in Womble on August 16, 1930. The Cleve Kelly Hardware Store burned. It also damaged the store next door, operated by Blake Hughes. Mr. Kelly had operated the store for several years and it was regarded as one of the leading hardware stores in the country.

I remember the Rowton-Radford Chevrolet Company in Womble. Their advertisement read: “Chevrolet announces Deluxe wire wheels at no extra cost.” Roadster or Phaeton only \$495, Sedan \$675, Special Sedan \$725.

I also remember the Caddo Valley Academy, the pretty buildings on the hill among the many shade tree and pretty rock fences or walks that added to its beauty. One of my girl friends, older than me, attended school there one year. I thought of

how wonderful it must be to go to school at the Caddo Valley Academy, so far away from home - in a big town too, where the girls were prettier and wore much prettier dresses than we at our little country school.

And, Dr. John T. Barr. I’ll never forget. One year he came several times and spoke in our country school, Central. I cannot remember if it was during school hours or if on Sunday afternoon. I was a small school girl, but I do remember how I always enjoyed his talks and how I would listen to every word he would say and I was so happy to know that Dr. Barr was coming back to Central again.

I do not remember when the trains were discontinued to Womble. In 1943, my four year-old son and I rode the train from Delight (where we had visited my aunt, Mrs. Lizzie Kelly), to Norman, as it was called then. There was only one train daily at that time. It was a log train with one passenger coach added. It took several hours to make that trip, due to many stops en route to load more logs. I do remember their telling me at Delight the passenger train was discontinued, but the log train still carried a coach for passengers.

It was a jolting ride I remember, similar to riding across a country road in a wagon, but we enjoyed it. When we arrived at Norman at the freight depot, we walked about one-fourth mile to a service station where my folks were waiting for us to take us to Oden. He [Dad] did not know the train would not come on into town!

These Sulphur Springs notes followed the above story. By Mrs. C.W. Hughes, (Dorothy, mother of Mary Jo, Melba Joyce, C.W. & Leo.)

Mr and Mrs. Walter West of Hot Springs visited Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Black Saturday.

Mrs. Melba Joyce Karr and children and Mrs. C.W. Hughes visited Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Demaray [Doris Reynolds] Lewis and daughters and Mrs. Burlin Maddox at Lewis' Bend. They drove in the Richwood community where Mrs. Hughes grew up.

Becky, Ellen and Randy Romero visited Mrs. Doris Romero and sons in Mena Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Brewer and sons visited Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mack Pearson at Murphy.

Mrs. E.E. Hughes [Eliza Eveline, mother of Pearl.], Mrs. Pearl (Hughes) Kiser, Mrs. Ernest [Edna] Simpson and sons and Mrs. Elmer [Velma] Simpson and children visited Wednesday with Mrs. Glen [Margie] Lewis at Huddleston.

Mrs. Vicie Spake went to Mena Thursday for medical aid.

Mrs. W.J. Johnston has returned home after a stay in Texas.

Black Springs News , Sept. 1971

By Mrs. Dave Brunt

The funeral and burial of Mr. Blake Hughes of Hot Springs were held here Friday. Also Mr. Arlie Bates was buried here Saturday. Our sympathy goes to the bereaved ones.

Everyone is glad to hear that Miss Belle Rhinehardt is able to be home out of the hospital again. Those who visited her and Miss Clara Sunday were Mrs. Zora Duke, Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Hatcher of Arkadelphia, Mrs. Rose Beck of Norman and Mrs. Lester Buck of this community.

Mrs. Evelyn Sheffield of Mt. Ida visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs.

Dave Buck, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgle Cagle of Ft. Smith visited his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Amerson, over the Labor Day weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Tyrell and Mrs. Mary Abee of Vancouver, Washington, visited Mr. and Mrs. Tillman Standridge and Eligah Smith from Thursday until Sunday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Garich of Mena, Mr. and Mrs. James Gaston and son of Norman, and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Pearson and baby, all visited Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Amerson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fryar of Oden visited Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Brewer Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Mitchell of Glenwood visited Mr. and Mrs. Tillman Standridge and Eligah Smith Sunday afternoon.

Recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Guthrey and Jesse Lynn were Willie's nephew and three nieces, Elbert and Florence Rodgers of Little Rock, and Addie, also Lydia Hogue of Paron, Ark. Also Leonard Guthrey of Little Rock visited the Guthreys, on Tuesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Winborn Tackett of Caddo Gap visited Mrs. Zena Alexander and Mrs. Virginia Irby Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Burk Lewis of Mena and Mrs. Mary Lewis of Norman visited Mr. and Mrs. Cleburne Lewis and Children Friday.

Mrs. Lela Standridge visited by telephone with both her daughters, Mrs. Lois Jenkins of Mo., and Mrs. Margarie Akers of Ky, Friday night.

Mrs. Nina Swindle of Mt. Ida visited Mrs. Zena Alexander on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Scott of Mt. Ida and Mrs. Ruth Waggoner of Nor-

man visited Mrs. Ruth Waggoner of Norman visited Mr. and Mrs. Dave Brunt Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Arnold of Mt. Ida visited relatives here Sunday.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

We are asking everyone to bring a poster board or some type of family pictures, book, items, whatever, to share at the reunion.

This will be YOUR display, so make it look however you want.

This is a time to share family & friends, so you might want to make a poster of your school family from when you attended NHS.

**We will be Awarding prizes!
Two prizes will be awarded**

Winners will be selected by members. You will be able to vote without anyone knowing, so if you vote for yourself we won't tell.

Call or e-mail if you want to ask questions, but please be a part of this. It will be so interesting, and fun.

Shirley: 479-234-1967 Cell
Shirley: 870-326-5535 home
nhpp@hughes.net

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

The NHS Class of 1961 will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary, with some special events. Contact Barbara Lybrand Dutton.

1941 - 70 Years
1951 - 60 Years
1961 - 50 Years
1971 - 40 years



REUNION 2011..... OCTOBER 21 & 22 *Our 10th Anniversary*

A MIRACLE

We expect a huge crowd this year as we celebrate our tenth anniversary. It was ten years ago that we founded NHPP, Inc. and bought the old

Norman High School. As the old commercial used to say... "You've come a long way Baby." We have, but we could not have done it without the help of all of you. It took manual labor, for sure, but it also took money, lots of it. I feel like an old mother hen, and I'm so proud of my "chicks".

This year, we have made even more improvements in both the school building and the Home Ec cottage. The Cottage has a new face! As you all know from previous newsletters, the insurance company insisted we do something to the outside of the building, and that it be done by a professional. Personally, I think we could have fought that and won, but instead of fighting we prayed. I'm a BIG believer in prayer. We were down to pennies in the bank. The week after we got the bid on putting siding on the Cottage, things begin to happen.

First we got a \$1,000 check from Floyd Cox! Amazing timing, to say the least. Then smaller checks began to roll in. (These mostly went to pay the payment on our interest, the note on the H.E. and Terminix bill, and the 20% down on the new book.)

Then the mail brought the most welcome and exciting surprise. Carl Bradley, son of the late Betty (Edwards) Bradley, who attended up to the 9th grade at NHS, gave us a check for \$5,000. I was overcome with emotion and gratitude. But the interesting part was that the two checks from Floyd & Carl, were the exact amount needed to pay for the siding. Talk about an answer to prayer! I thank God, but I also want to hug necks and thank Carl and Floyd for remembering us and for the wonderful gift they have made to not just us, but to the town of Norman. You know how it is, you sometimes aren't recognized for your good deeds until you are gone. And it may be that way with our old school, but I know that in the future the local people will come to appreciate the old building and love it as much as we did, and do.

Guys, from the bottom (and top) of my heart, I say thank you for all of us at NHS. Thank you to all of you who sent dollars to help us continue the work.

We have put a new ceiling in the "Throne Room" part of the girls rest room. The outside part of the rest room is now a sales room. The sign reads, "The Girls Room" Antiques - Collectibles - Good Stuff.

Joe has done an excellent job of putting up rough-cut lumber on two walls and shelves on the other two. You are going to be quite surprised at how good it looks, thanks to Tenny, Patsy & myself. We have worked hard painting the room and shelves and filling them with goodies. We hope you will buy something while here for the reunion.

Joe has also completed the new shelves in the office area that we have been using for storage. This was originally supposed to be Hazel's Coffee Nook. Named for Hazel Lybrand, as the office was refurbished with money donated as a memorial to her. I think she would be just as proud to know that we have now turned it into "Hazel's Book Nook," and filled it with books for sale.

We needed the books in a more climate controlled place. We hope to sell them over E-bay as well as off the shelves. We started off well, selling a few the first week they were put up.

We are working on the boys rest room as this goes to press. I'm not sure if we will get it completed before the reunion or not, but it will be a carbon copy of the girls room and will house "Miss Minnie's Treasures". Named for Minnie (Row-

ton) Black. Her son and daughter-in-law, Hodge & Mary Alice Black, gave us \$1,000 a few years ago for this project. It has taken a while, but we are finally getting there.

Another project we hope to have completed by the reunion date, is the donation & memorial box in the auditorium. Joe made this several years ago and I had made paper plaques, which the vandals tore up when they broke into our building.

James Gilham Gray and his wife, Cherry, and Bob & Sharon Shewmake, have graciously taken this project under their wing. Cherry owns a shop that makes plaques and she offered to do these for us.

This is not a cheap job, if we had to pay for it, the expense would be at least \$1,000. So we can't say thank you enough to these kind folks, also.

Isn't it just amazing how dedicated and good our former students and friends are? Every time someone does something like the people just mentioned, I feel like a mom who just had her only child graduate from college--that's PROUD!

And, not to forget or lessen the job that our volunteers do. We are down to only a handful, literally, but they are always there when we need them. So thanks Patsy, Tenny, Joe, and Gene. And also a tip of the hat to our Board of Directors: Betty Ruth Williams, Shirley Head Eudy, Doug Dumont, Joffrey Putman, and myself. We are looking for an additional board member since both Gene and Penny have resigned. So if any of you local people would be willing to take that position, please contact me.

Hope to see you all at the reunion.

SAM

REUNION

Friday Noon to 4

Saturday 8:30 to 4:30

~ AGENDA ~

FRIDAY Oct. 21: School open from 12-4

Open house, with an invitation to all local residents to come see what we have been doing all these years, and to visit with former students who are in town for the reunion on Saturday. We will be serving light refreshments from 1-3 (or as long as they last).

FRIDAY NIGHT: We had a beans & cornbread supper last year, but the attendance was not great, so we have decided not to do a dinner this year. Seems like everyone would rather go eat fish.

SATURDAY: OCT. 22 School open 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Breakfast: We will open with breakfast of biscuit, sausage gravy, or-ange juice, coffee & donuts. Donations requested

10:30-11:30 **Launa Simmons** will be singing in the auditorium.

11:30 Short Business meeting with announcements

12:30 Lunch on patio

8:30-2:00 Bid on Silent Auction Items

2:00 Silent Auction Ends, announce winners and items can be paid for and removed.

2:30 Prize awarded for the two best Family displays.

Lunch will be at 12:30. This is not set in stone, but we are planning to keep with the theme for this reunion, and have an old-fashioned Family dinner of chicken & dressing with all the trimmings. Donations requested.

SALES TABLE WILL BE SET UP ON PATIO FOR SALE OF BOOKS AND T-SHIRTS, ETC. THE NEW BOOK WILL BE READY AND OFFERED FOR SALE.

NEW THIS YEAR - SILENT AUCTION!

We are having a silent auction this year. Tables will be set up in the Auditorium to display the items for sale. PLEASE BRING AN ITEM. Old, New, Used, Home-made, Whatever. Just so it is something worth selling. Be sure your name is on it, and any special notes. Doug Dumont will be in charge.