



# Staff Notes

Gretchen Hunt

## Sharing stories

One of my favorite parts of my job is seeing people share clippings of articles or photos from The Times Dispatch on Facebook or getting a phone call or email from someone who has enjoyed something they have read in The TD.

Often times it is a call from a grandparent who is pleased with seeing a photo of their grandchild or a share from a parent who is proud of an award their child has received.

Other times, it might just be that something that ran in The TD sparked a memory and led to a call or email from a reader.

One such example was a recent correspondence I received from Steve and Betty Snow of Michigan:

"My wife Betty and I would like to express our appreciation to The TD for the article 'Fallen Soldier from LawCo still remembered in Netherlands,' found on page A10 in the edition of May 6, 2020.

"Betty has a personal connection to the subject matter of the article. Like David Lambert, her uncle Flight Officer Willard Van Eyck, U.S. Army Air Forces, is also buried in the U.S. military cemetery at Margraten in the Netherlands.

"Willard Van Eyck, a glider pilot, lost his life in action March 24, 1945. In part because his family was of Dutch descent, it was decided that he should be buried in the Netherlands, rather than returned to the United States. A marker in his honor was, however, placed in the family burial plot in Holland, Michigan, so named by the town's Dutch settlers.

"Except for the COVID-19 pandemic, which curtailed air travel between the U.S. and the Netherlands, we would have been in the Netherlands to help celebrate 'Liberation Day,' to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, and to honor her uncle who died in the Liberation of Europe from the Nazis.

"Like that of David Lambert, featured in the article, Willard Van Eyck's grave has been adopted by a Dutch family, whom we had hoped to meet during our visit. Betty has contributed photographs of her uncle to the 'Faces of Margraten' project, which seeks to put faces to the names of the fallen.

"We commend the TD and Lawrence County Historical Society President Jon Walter, who wrote the article, for honoring those who sacrificed their lives in World War II and for acknowledging the gratitude of the Dutch people."

It always makes me feel good when people express their enjoyment of reading The TD. Many times I have received such a message at just the right time to pick up my spirits after a hard day's work.

Sharing the stories of others, and then seeing those stories shared by others is definitely one of the highlights of my job.

# Let your VOICE be heard

The Times Dispatch accepts Letters to the Editor to be published in our print edition.

Submissions can be brought into the office at 225 W. Main in Walnut Ridge or emailed to [tdnews@thetd.com](mailto:tdnews@thetd.com).

Letters must go through an approval process and are subject to editing.

# VIEWPOINTS

## PICTURES OF THE PAST



The team that won the 1979 Walnut Ridge National Little League Championship was the Ashlock Tire Service Cardinals. Members of the team were (front, from left) Roger Guthrie, coach; John Andrews, Derek Carson, Jeff Floyd, David Smith, Alan Welch, Lancy Langley; (back) Ronald Wheeless, John Phillips, Brian Devecsery, Glen Burnett, Lance Shackelford and William Barrentine. Other team members, Bryant Colston and Darren Rash, were not present for the photo.

Photo courtesy of the Lawrence County Historical Society

### YESTERYEARS

#### 10 Years Ago

Melba Verke has been appointed mayor of the town of Alicia to complete the term of Beth Reynolds, who recently resigned due to health reasons.

Lawrence County 4-H members recently attended summer 4-H camps at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center in Little Rock. Those who attended include Jessie Webb, Jeffery Coles, Daniel Doyle, Sara Willfond, Alex Jones, Brandon Doyle, Auggie Wicker and County Extension Agent Bryce Baldrige.

Construction continues on the Powhatan Historic State Park's Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives facility. A roof has been added to the building, which could be complete as early as October. In addition, brick is being added, along with arched windows.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Fisheries District 3 Newsletter listed Lake Charles as the best place in Northeast Arkansas for largemouth bass fishing. The newsletter stated that about 45 percent of bass population in the 700-acre lake at Lake Charles State Park is greater than 12 inches. Fish greater than 15 inches make up 38 percent of the population.

#### 20 Years Ago

Kenneth Moody Guthrie, 80, of Walnut Ridge, former Lawrence County sheriff and chief of the Walnut Ridge Police Department, died Thursday at St. Bernards in Jonesboro. He served as sheriff from 1961 to 1971.

The Hoxie Junior High School cheerleaders attended NCA Cheerleading Camp at Valley View School in Jonesboro July 10-12. The squad won five superior ribbons, one excellent ribbon, the spirit stick and a trophy for the most improved squad at the camp. Team members are Lindsey Haney, Whitney Lawson, Lara Ervin, Jenny Williams, Lisa Spargo, Cara Beth Dudley, Beth Graham, Stacey Bawker, Emily Dickerson and Ericka Polston. Teresa Campbell is the team's sponsor.

Those participating in the Lawrence County 4-H annual Outside Day competition were Shantel Blankenship, Shawn Richey, Karen Rorex, Kevin Rorex, Alysia Coles, Richard Kee, Leah Carlson, Jessica Wheeless, Joseph Fowler, Logan Coles, Stephanie Richey, Nancy Barnett, Elizabeth Swartzlander, Bridgette Whitlow, Maegan Barber, Adam Carlson and Nick Duncan.

The Walnut Ride Junior High cheerleaders attended the NCA cheerleading camp at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock from June 27-30. The squad received six superior ribbons and brought home the spirit award. Cheerleaders include Cyndal Dunn, Stephanie Rainwater, Rachel Beasley, Jackie Layne, Melanie Chesser, Emily Henry, Courtney Carson, Morganne Dame and Krystle McClung. Sponsors are Sonya Emison and Chrissy Sain.

#### 30 Years Ago

Mindy Lancaster, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ted Lancaster of Walnut Ridge, was nominated as a 1990 "All American" Finalist by the National Cheerleading Association.

Organizers of the Black Rock Alumni Banquet held July 7 report that 169 people, 116 of whom were from out of town, registered.

William Felton has been elected as a state 4-H officer. He will serve as the Northcentral District vice president during 1990-91.

#### 40 Years Ago

All heat records in Lawrence County have been shattered by the devastating high temperatures of this month of July 1980. Temperatures have climbed higher and higher, climaxed by a reading of 108 degrees Sunday.

A group from First Baptist Church attending Cedar Glade Baptist Camp last week were: Jeff Willmuth, Jeremy and Chris Winters, Robby Hunter, Britt Scheer, Butch Freeman, Joe Shell, Monetta and David Corbett, Patrick Thedford, Ginger Massey, Linda and Debbie Allison, Stephanie Dilday, Mandy Rush and Sharon Lee Broughton. Marlene Kennedy served as lifeguard, Karen Daniel and Ross Collier were counselors and Jay Shell was counselor and lifeguard.

Carla Cate of Walnut Ridge attended drum majorette camp at Arkansas State University recently. She will be the drum majorette for the WRHS Band this fall.

#### 50 Years Ago

Winners of the Baby Contest at the Portia Picnic July 4 were: Lisa Watts, daughter of Sherry and Bobo Watts of Lynn; and Denny Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wayne Smith of Rt. 1, Smithville.

Ronald Winningham of Walnut Ridge has been named a member of the Legislative Advisory Committee on Tax Reform.

Beth Bland, Rhonda Sain and Teresa Hoaglan will return tomorrow from Wayland Springs Methodist Camp, where they spent the week.

Diane Walter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Walter of Hoxie, is in New York this week attending the national meeting of the Future Homemakers of America.

#### 60 Years Ago

Wave Edward Verkler Sr., age 79, of Black Rock died. He was a farmer and sawmill operator.

Dorothy Jeanne Graves, Hoxie High School senior, departed for Washington, D.C., where she is attending the National Convention of the Future Homemakers of America.

Three students from Lawrence County are among 64 students who have been awarded scholarships to Arkansas State College. They are Mary Jane Williams and Catherine Moore of Walnut Ridge and JoAnn Penn of Black Rock.

Mary Bassett is here visiting her mother, Mrs. Dud Bassett. Mary will maintain Congressman Wilbur Mills' office at Searcy during the congressional recess and then return to Washington when Congress reconvenes.

#### 70 Years Ago

Walnut Ridge continues to lead the College City Softball League, although they lost to the Preachers Monday night by a score of 10-6.

Open house will be held at the new Dr. Joseph Clinic Sunday afternoon from one until four o'clock. Located on Northwest Second Street, the building is of brick construction and houses an 11-bed clinic.

Bids will be received on Friday, Aug. 4, for 8.4 miles of hard surface work on Highway 63 between Portia and Ravenden at the offices of the state highway department in Little Rock.

#### 75 Years Ago

Louis N. Bone, age 56, died at his home in Walnut Ridge Sunday morning of a heart attack. He had come to Walnut Ridge Saturday for a period of rest from Little Rock, where he had been employed since the first of 1941 by the State Highway Department.

W.E. Spikes, Walnut Ridge, director of the White River Production Credit Association, was elected to represent the Associations of Central Arkansas on a tri-state district committee at a recent conference of directors held at Little Rock.

Linual Cameron, county supervisor of education, went to Fayetteville last Monday to enter the University of Arkansas for a special course in school management and programming.

A number of relatives and friends surprised Mrs. Kit Phillips at her home near Black Rock last Sunday with a birthday dinner in honor of her 72nd birthday.

#### 80 Years Ago

Tuesday at noon the Misses Laura and Rebecca Andrews entertained with a luncheon at their home with 20 guests in attendance. Following lunch the group enjoyed hooking rugs.

The Wednesday Bridge Club was entertained at the home of Mrs. Minnie Swindle Wednesday afternoon. High score prizes were won by Mrs. Earl Sloan and Mrs. J.L. Bland. Low prize was awarded to Mrs. Fred Foster. Little Peggy Mae Rainwater, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rainwater, was recently made a life-member of the Women's Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church of Walnut Ridge. Members of the society voted to make her a member in honor of her grandmother, Mrs. Mae Cooper, who has been one of the most active members of the society for many years.

Fred Foster, R.D. Burrow and William Townsend were among those from Walnut Ridge attending the doubleheader ball game in St. Louis Sunday.

### Call for photos

The Times Dispatch is seeking historic Lawrence County photos to publish on the editorial page, along with the News of Yesteryears. Readers are encouraged to submit photos in person at 225 West Main in Walnut Ridge, via email to [editor@thetd.com](mailto:editor@thetd.com) or through the mail to P.O. Box 389, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476.

# The Times Dispatch

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REECE TERRY, Publisher  
GRETCHEN HUNT, Editor

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## Policies & Deadlines

### NEWS

News submissions are needed by Monday at 10 a.m., however items should be submitted as soon as possible to ensure proper handling and publication.

Ideally, wedding articles should be submitted within 14 days of the wedding, and must be submitted within six weeks of the wedding, or a charge may apply. It is preferred to receive birth announcements within seven days, and they must be submitted within a month or a fee may apply.

The TD uses specific formats for weddings, births, engagements and obituaries, which are published free of charge. If a different format is desired, a charge will apply. Photographs are published with weddings, engagements and anniversaries of 50 years or more as a free service. In addition, photographs with births, obituaries and anniversaries of less than 50 years can be published for a fee.

Listings of people attending events will be limited to those from out-of-county for in-county events and those from in-county attending out-of-county events. Space permitting, additional listings may require a fee.

The TD reserves the right to edit, rewrite or omit any news article submitted for publication, as available space and news-worthiness dictates.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Times Dispatch welcomes letters to the editor but reserves the right to edit or reject all letters. Letters to the editor must not contain libelous comments.

Letters must be received no later than Monday for publication in that week's edition.

All letters must include the name and address of the writer, and any letter we print must include the writer's name.

Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Times Dispatch.

### ADVERTISING

Block advertising, classified advertising, legal notices and cards of thanks are needed no later than 3 p.m. on Monday. No cancellations or ad copy changes can be made after this deadline.

## Voice Your Opinions

To voice your opinion, here are some addresses of area, state and national leaders who might like to hear from you.

President Donald Trump, The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500.

Vice President Mike Pence, Old Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20501.

Sen. Tom Cotton, B33 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, telephone: 202-224-2353. Jonesboro Office: 300 South Church, Suite 338, Jonesboro, AR 72401.

Sen. John Boozman, 320 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, telephone: 202-224-4843, fax: 202-228-1371.

Rep. Rick Crawford, 2422 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D. C. 20515, telephone: 202-225-4076, fax: 202-225-5602. Jonesboro office: 2400 Highland Drive, Suite 300, Jonesboro, AR 72401, telephone: 870-203-0540, fax: 870-203-0542.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson, State Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201, 501-682-2345.

Atty. Gen. Leslie Rutledge, 323 Center Street, Suite 200, Little Rock, AR 72201. 501-682-2007. Consumer Division: telephone: 1-800-482-8982 fax: 501-682-8084.

State Rep. Fran Cavenaugh, 870-761-3990. fax: 870-886-1152. E-mail: [frances.cavenaugh@arkansashouse.org](mailto:frances.cavenaugh@arkansashouse.org).

State Sen. Blake Johnson, 870-323-1766; During legislative sessions: Sen. Blake Johnson, Senate, State Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201 (telephone: 501-682-6107 or TDD: 501-682-1952). E-mail: [Blake.Johnson@senate.ar.gov](mailto:Blake.Johnson@senate.ar.gov).  
Legislative Hotline:  
Senate: 501-682-2902  
House: 501-682-6211