



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Saint Patrick's Day

By Sandra Mills

Did you know that Saint Patrick wasn't even Irish?? He was British. And did you know that St. Patrick's Day originated right here in the USA? Yep! In 1737 it was organized by the Charitable Irish Society of Boston.

Popular Irish traditions for St. Patrick's Day include:

- * Wear green or you'll get pinched! (probably made up by a mischievous leprechaun)
- * Parades—cities like New York, Boston and Philadelphia put on big ones.
- * Drinking—the Irish are known for their fondness of this pass time, but I would dis-advise this one, personally.
- * Turning ponds, lakes and rivers green—even the White House fountain is tuned green.
- * Church services and pea planting are also traditions, though less popular.
- * Drinking—(yes, I said it twice) Green beer in pubs is the going thing apparently.

Did you know that in some regions, the lore of leprechauns has them dressing in red rather than green? And did you know that they are little shoe makers? I knew about the pot of gold at



How do you get your St. Patty on?

the end of the rainbow, but not about where they got the gold.

For your Irish supper, you could eat corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and soda bread...and maybe some green (colored) tea to wash it down

However you celebrate, make it a good day—and don't pinch anyone too hard!

Why do I need to pre-plan?



Young's
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David Garner
General Manager

508 Champagnolle Rd.
El Dorado, AR 71730
870-863-7121
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PLANNING IS SIMPLY THE RIGHT CHOICE

1. LOCK IN TODAY'S PRICES

Choose to fund your prearranged funeral plans today and avoid price increases in the future.

2. AVOID EMOTIONAL OVERSPENDING

By communicating which merchandise and services you want, your family avoids emotional extravagance.

3. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Like a will and estate planning, securing your final arrangements in advance makes emotional and financial sense and protects your loved ones from the burden of planning services for you.

4. PEACE OF MIND

Knowing that your family is protected from making difficult decisions at a time of loss is one of the greatest gifts you can leave to your loved ones.



Member Spotlight:

Smackover Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following people and businesses for their membership. We couldn't do what we do without you!

- ♦ **Smackover Pharmacy;** Pharmacist Jennifer Davis
- ♦ **Smackover Family Practice Clinic;** Doctors Richard Davis and Keith Davis
- ♦ **WTS Petroleum Services;** Warner Smith, owner
- ♦ **Traylor Equipment;** Don Traylor, owner
- ♦ **Union County Community Foundation**
- ♦ **Shelter Insurance Company**
- ♦ **Smackover Motors;** James Langley and Jimmy Langley
- ♦ **Cross Oil/Martin Operating Partnership**

Whenever possible, do your business with these folks—or just thank them for their contributions to our community.

MEMBERS:

NOW AVAILABLE:
FREE ad space
on the Chamber website!
Call us for details.

MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE

FOR RENT

Commercial Property on Broadway—the old Antique Depot building—is available.

Contact: Colby Rinker
with Union Pacific RR
1-402-544-6041

SMACKOVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



PO Box 275

710 Pershing Hwy
Smackover, AR 71762

Phone: 870-725-3521 or 870-944-0221

Fax: 870-725-3521

E-mail: smkovercofc@sbcglobal.net



JOB OPENING!

Chamber Manager position at the
SMACKOVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

High School Diploma or GED equivalent and
3 months to 1 year related experience

Candidates must submit
cover letter & resume to
Heather Fife at heather.fife@davita.com

For more information visit our website or office
(contact info located above this ad)

Next Chamber Meeting: March 18 @ 6 p.m.

Limbs/Leaves and Large Refuse Pick Up Days:

Please call City Hall @ 725-2258 to be placed on the lists for either pick up day.

Limbs/Leaves: 2nd Thursday or Friday of each month-usually

Large Items: Last Wednesday of the month—you must be on the list by the Friday before.

***Get Rid of It does NOT pick up: TVs, microwaves or appliances**

Missed and Ever Remembered



Smackover lost another long-time resident b a c k i n

December. This writer wishes to apologize for not having mentioned her already. Thank you, Mrs. D. Tolin, for bringing this to our attention!

Mary Alice Williams, better known as “Mae”, was born on May 1, 1918 to O.C. and Jewel Smith.

Mrs. Williams’ family lived in

the Silverhill Community of Union County, AR when she was born. She was sister to eight siblings. When she married, it was to the late Doyle Williams and they raised a daughter together, Weida Frachiseur.

Mrs. Williams had a bundle of grand-, great grand-, and great great grandchildren. She was also a former owner of the Classic Dress Shop in Smackover, which is now run

by her sisters, Ms. Gussie Nance and Ms. Bernice Kinard. She attended First United Methodist Church of Smackover.

She made her departure, at the age of 95, on December 22, 2013.

(from information from Bailey Funeral Home)

Words of Wisdom: Even Better Than an Irish Blessing!

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

Blast From the Past: “My Friend Vance”- Part 2

By: Don Lambert (from the “Around Town” series)

-As we left off last month, Vance had transferred to Washington High School and had become their star basketball player-

A young Leo Chitman was hired to take Vance’s place and we became good friends although Leo was a few years younger. I called him “Little Leo” since, at that time, he was shorter than I was. Within a year, “Little Leo” was six feet tall. Why couldn’t it have been me?

But back to Vance. He not only excelled on the playing field, he was really good in the classroom as

well. Professor Gurst saw to that. Upon graduation in 1948, he accepted a dual athletic/scholastic scholarship to Arkansas AM&N College (Today’s University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff). He was named to the All-Negro Southwestern Conference team in football and basketball, and graduated cum laude with a degree in mathematics.

Vance received a fellowship and matriculated to Michigan State for a couple of years, receiving a Master’s Degree in Drama and Performing

Arts. After a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, he made his way to Canada and found his first employment as a bass voice in the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra’s chorus. After a few bit parts in television he landed a major supporting role in the Canadian film, “Fortune and Men’s Eyes”.

This led to a long running television series similar to our “Starsky and Hutch”, except one of the detectives was a black man.

(continued on next page)

My Friend Vance —Part 2 (continued from page 3)

Next, we follow Vance to Hollywood where, over the years, he played supporting roles in movies : “The Zebra Force”; “Cahill-U.S. Marshall”; “Walking Tall”; “Grambling White Tiger”; “The face of Fear”, and others. He also appeared in several “Columbo” and “The Rockford Files” television segments and the made-for-television movie, “Highway to Heaven”.

I only saw Vance the few times he returned home to see his mother (she died while he was in Canada), and [to attend] occasional Training School and Washington High reunions, but I’ll never forget the last visit I had with him. It was around 1988 and he was here for a Washington High class reunion. He was a scratch golfer and had his clubs and, as usual, we played a few rounds of golf at the public course in El Dorado.

He knew that I had something to do

with the formation of the private golf course in Smackover and really wanted to play the Pine Hills links. Then State Representative Bobby Newman and I proudly took Vance as our guest and had a great time. That was the first time that a black person had played at Pine Hills and it was the last time I saw him, although we kept in touch with occasional cards, letters and phone calls.

By this time, Vance had his own film company (Five Iron Productions) and kept busy filming golf instructional videos and public relations films for golf courses all over the nation (including Hot Springs Country Club and Belvedere Golf Club in Hot Springs).

Vance died of cancer in 2002. he had no close family ties remaining in Smackover and was buried in Beverly Hills, California. He left his estate to the Mexican lady who was his secretary and who later

nursed him during his lengthy illness.

Vance’s father was absent and his mother, Mattie, was a domestic servant. Between them they barely made ends meet. I often wonder what would have happened to him if it hadn’t been for Professor Gurst.

P.S. –Oh, I almost forgot about Little Leo. He also went to AM&N and received his degree in Secondary Education (later a master’s from the U of A Fayetteville). After retirement as a high school teacher and administrator, Leo Chitman served two terms as Mayor of the City of West Memphis, Arkansas (pop. 28,500). He was the first black person to hold that office.

There must have been something special in that daily free milkshake that Paul Jones let Vance and Leo have as a reward for jobs well done.

Dates to Remember:

March 2nd: Old Stuff Day

March 3rd: Nat’l Anthem Day

Mar. 3rd-7th: Jump Rope For Heart

March 6th: Dentist’s Day

March 7th: Employee Appreciation Day

March 10th: City Council Meeting; 6 p.m.

March 13th: Pop Corn Lover’s Day

March 17th: School Board Meeting; 5:30 pm

March 17th: St. Patrick’s Day

March 18th: Chamber Board Mting; 6 pm

March 20th: Report Cards

March 22nd: National Goof Off Day

March 24th-28th: Spring Break

March 30th: Nat’l Doctor’s Day

****Check with Sandee Taylor @ Antique Depot for March’s monthly Auction date!**

March is also Nat’l Women’s Health Mo and Red Cross Month