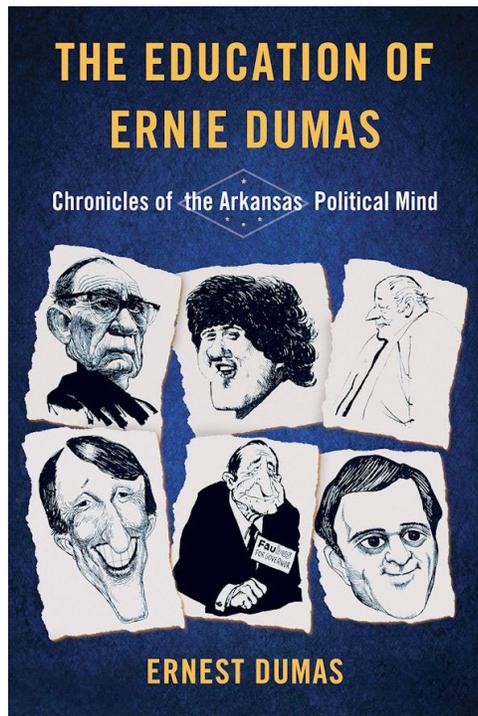


GC Historical Society Newsletter January 2020

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We're starting out the year with an interesting program at noon, Tuesday, January 21, at the Garland County Library. Our speaker will be veteran Arkansas newsman Ernie Dumas. For thirty-two years, Ernie was a political and state government reporter and an associate editor, editorial writer, and columnist for the *Arkansas Gazette*, until it closed in 1991. He continued to write for a number of state and national journals, including the *Arkansas Times*.

His most recent book is *The Education of Ernie Dumas: Chronicles of the Arkansas Political Mind*, which Pulitzer Prize winner Tom Hamburger calls "a captivating, often hilarious journey through the modern history of Arkansas and its remarkable cast of political characters." Ernie presents the mostly untold stories, often deeply personal, that reveal the inner struggles and sometimes the tribulations of the state's leaders—Cherry, Faubus, Winthrop Rockefeller, Dale Bumpers, David Pryor, John McClellan, J. William Fulbright, Bill Clinton, Jim Guy Tucker, Hillary Clinton, and others.



Also at the meeting on Tuesday, newly elected Board members Mike Dugan, Susan Hunter, and Len Pitcock will be installed, as well as Orval Allbritton and Bitty Martin, appointed by the Board to fill vacancies that occurred in 2019.

In order to encourage interest in our history among young people, GCHS is sponsoring an essay contest for Garland County high school students (including homeschooled students) this spring. Please spread the word about the contest to high school students you know.

The contest's theme is "Why Hot Springs-Garland County is the Most Historical Place to Live." The entry deadline is May 7. Seven prizes from \$200 to \$10 will be awarded at an Awards Ceremony on May 19, 2020, at the Garland County Library during the society's noon meeting. (Many thanks to Project Chair Bitty Martin and to Tansill Stough-Anthony, Tom French, Wayne Threadgill, Donnavae Hughes, and the Hot Springs Writers Group for their great work on this project!)

Please see the attached poster for more information about the contest, including length of essay, where to email the finished essay, etc.

The December reception at the archives honoring the memory of Garland County resident and WWII hero PFC Clyde House (as well as the Dutch people who care for the graves of World War II soldiers, like Clyde, who are buried at the American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands) was a very moving event. The large number of attendees met Clyde's family, who skyped with Carol Knijnenburg, Clyde's Dutch "adopter," during the event. In *The Record 2019*, Toma Whitlock tells Clyde's story and the story of the Dutch people's remarkable remembrance of our veterans, including five men from Garland County.



*Marthell Johnson (Clyde's daughter), center, speaks at Clyde House Reception.  
Tommy Johnson (Clyde's grandson-in blue shirt) had just spoken.*

Our December Christmas dinner at the Hot Springs Country Club was a great event, as you can see by the smiling faces of our members!



Our terrific volunteers are working very hard as they help researchers, catalog our holdings, give programs, and develop new projects that showcase our remarkable local heritage.

Thank you again for your love of our history and your support!

Liz

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*Leave a legacy. Please remember GCHS in your estate planning.*