

GC Historical Society Newsletter/Link to February 16 Zoom Meeting

Dear Friends,

Please join us for our **noon, Tuesday, February 16** Zoom meeting, when Hollis Duncan and Harold Higgins will present "Radio Station KTHS: The Arlington Years." See the zoom link below.

If inclement weather forces us to postpone the program, we'll present it at noon, Tuesday, February 23. That zoom link is also given below.



The KTHS radio station towers are in place as the third Arlington Hotel nears completion. Built by Ault & Burden of Little Rock, the two-million-dollar hotel was built in a record eleven months. The 501-room hotel contained two million feet of lumber, five million pounds of cement, nearly three million bricks, sixty-five miles of plumbing pipe, and two hundred miles of electrical and telephone wires. KTHS broadcast the official opening of the hotel on December 19, 1924.

When is the meeting? Tuesday, February 16, Noon, CST

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85487941468>

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16465588656,,85487941468# or +13017158592,,85487941468#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 854 8794 1468 International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdcJN7DPWf>

What is the inclement weather date? Tuesday, February 23, Noon, CST

The link to the February 23 program is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85611492453>

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +13017158592,,85611492453# or +13126266799,,85611492453#

Or Telephone: US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 856 1149 2453 International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdMLYuhYDQ>



Seated at left, KTBS Manager Cam Arnoux performs the first radio test broadcast from the KTBS studio in the top of the west tower of the Arlington Hotel on December 11, 1924. There was a separate transmitter and control room, and the hotel's ballroom and orchestra pit were wired for broadcasting.

The most important pioneering radio station in Arkansas, KTBS ("Kum to Hot Springs") was licensed in 1924 to the newly opened third Arlington Hotel. The station became a powerful promotional tool for Hot Springs, and its live broadcasts featured much local talent, such as Chester Lauck and Norris Goff, whose *Lum & Abner Show* premiered at KTBS. Eventually the station moved to other locations in Hot Springs, and, after a 1953 move to Little Rock, it evolved into KAAY.

Hollis and Harold will focus on the history of KTBS when it was located at the Arlington Hotel between 1924 and 1928. They will explore the origins of radio broadcasting in Hot Springs and present the reasons that KTBS

was known as “The Best Radio Station in America.” They will also discuss the programs that were presented on KTHS and introduce the people who made its success possible.

Hollis and Harold have been researching the current Arlington Hotel since 2014 in many locales, including institutions in Arkansas, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian Institute. They will publish a comprehensive history of the hotel in time for its 100th anniversary in 2024.

Hollis Duncan started his career in broadcasting as a fourteen-year-old disc jockey and quickly moved into broadcast engineering. He has degrees from the University of Seattle in electrical engineering, philosophy, and law. The former Chief Engineer of KAAY, he is a Registered Electrical Engineer in Washington State and the principal engineer at Duncan Engineers in Tacoma, Washington.

Harold Higgins’ first experience in broadcasting was in 1968 when he became a studio technician/engineer at KARK-TV Channel 4, working in Master Control. In 1982, he went to KLRT-TV Channel 16 as the first assistant chief engineer/director of engineering at the station. He is an Amateur Radio (Ham) radio operator and spends most of his free time building radio antennas and repairing transmitters and receivers for other hams. He also donates his time assisting his local Amateur Radio club, which provides radio communication for charity events such as bicycle and runner marathons.

We’ll leave time after her presentation for questions.

Please share the Zoom link with friends!

Please read the copy of the January minutes at the end of this document. If you want to make any corrections or additions to them, please email or call me.

History fans should note:

The Walter J. Lemke collection at the Arkansas State Archives includes 447 drawings, each one created by self-taught artist Lemke, depicting figures and episodes from Arkansas history. 366 of these, one for each day of the leap year, were published in select Arkansas newspapers in 1936 in honor of the Arkansas State Centennial. Featured first under the title of “This Day in Arkansas History,” this interesting graphic series can be viewed at <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/lemke-drawings-dailies/>.

If you missed the January live concert sponsored by the Arkansas Highlands Folk Project, Garland County Library has made it available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6GcMaIOEUE>.



On February 4, the society lost a wonderful friend, our board member Mike Dugan. Mike’s passing leaves us incredibly sad for having lost him and also very grateful for having known him. Mike cared deeply about people and about our community—he made Hot Springs a much better place with his tireless work with the Chamber of Commerce and many other organizations. Many people know him as a superb baseball historian—he was instrumental in the formation of the Hot Springs Historic Baseball Trail and the Majestic Park Baseball Complex. He leaves a beloved family, countless friends, and a legacy of caring and commitment.

Thank you for your support! I hope you can join us remotely on the 16th (and on our Facebook page). Remember—the “snow day” back-up date is Tuesday, February 23.

Liz

Liz Robbins, Executive Director
Garland County Historical Society
328 Quapaw (71901)
PO Box 21335 (71903)
501.321.2159

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

Garland County Historical Society

Monthly Meeting

January 19, 2021

The meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Clyde Covington at noon.

Minutes of the November 17 meeting had been emailed to members by Liz Robbins. There being no corrections or additions received, the minutes were approved.

Installation of officers:

Officers for 2021-2022 were installed:

President - Julie Brenner Nix

Vice-President - Bitty Martin

Secretary - Elaine Johnston

Treasurer - Ray Rosset

Board vacancy - Toma Noble Whitlock

Covington turned the meeting over to incoming President Julie Nix. The tradition has been that the outgoing President is presented a gavel. However, since Clyde already has two such gavels, he was presented with a plaque with the new GCHS logo in appreciation for his continuing long service.

Executive director's report:

The Santas for Seniors project was successfully completed, using funds usually used for the Christmas party. 36 seniors received GCHS masks and Walmart gift cards.

Robbins expressed our sorrow upon losing longtime GCHS volunteer and past President Nat Martin.

Membership levels were explained.

The next meeting will be February 16, 2021. The speaker will be Hollis Duncan, who will give a program on the early radio station KTHS, especially concentrating on the 1922-28 time period. He is writing a book on the subject.

Program:

Executive Director Liz Robbins then introduced today's speaker. Shelby Linck is an architectural historian with the Arkansas Department of Highways (ARDOT) who has degrees from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and UALR. She presented an informative and very well illustrated program on Cluster Springs and other area cold water springs.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately one p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine C. Johnston

Secretary