

***The******Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.***

**Glade, Pine Log and Garfield, AR 72732**

**Glade Newsletter # 4, 2014**

Glade Post Office/Store, circa 1880

**The work of the society is to preserve the history of the communities by researching and gathering stories, documents and artifacts.**

The Glade Post Office/Store returned to Glade July 14, 2014 when Ron Howard of Dora, Missouri, and his moving crew, moved the building to its present site. The trip went smoothly and was completed in approximately two hours. Mrs. Doris Briley donated the land adjacent to the Coal Gap School and the original foundation stones were retrieved from the low waters of Beaver Lake in 2011 and will add authenticity.

Around 1960, the building moved to a Pea Ridge farm after Liss and Ona Williams’ farm in Glade was claimed by Beaver Lake. Since its July return the Post Office roof has been replaced and exterior restoration has begun. Many people and businesses have contributed to this building project, and the Glade Community Historical Society appreciates every contribution that was made to preserve Ozark history. Additional financial funding and many hours of labor will be necessary to complete the future Glade Post Office museum.

**“Historical Facts and Stories from Glade, AR”**

Children grasp the concept of fairness at an early age. Who has not voiced “that’s not fair” at a squabbling sibling, when choosing sides or during a game when we were not chosen or when we lost. As adults, we became more aware of the complexities of life’s injustices and we have many opportunities to put the fairness practice into words and deeds. Each day we can ponder and reminisce that our childhood days seemed easier than the intricate shades of choices we find in our adult world.

Summers were hot in Glade and electricity was new in the Arkansas farming communities in the late 1940’s and 1950’s. Life was a sequence of school, hot summers, chores, and church. Glade seemed safe in the 1950’s until the community was shocked when Ralph Ogden Shrader of Mundell, AR was arrested for murder on November 2, 1951. The people of Glade were surprised to learn the news about their milk carrier who was well known in the area. Charges occurred when a roadside altercation east of Rogers ended in the death of Paul Bowman, former county highway superintendent, according to the *Rogers Daily News*. Following his arrest, Shrader was at liberty under bond.

Families in Glade were not aware of any problems in Ralph’s life. Ralph’s job took him to many farms in the area as he drove his truck, picked up local farmers’ milk and hauled it to the Carnation Milk Company.in Rogers, AR. And, in those days, the main road was traveled going west from Glade, driving down a dirt road and across Ford’s creek, climbing up Gravel Hill and then into Prairie Creek store and on to Rogers on Highway 12. Those roads disappeared with Beaver dam and the rising waters. After the dam, people traveled the road from Glade to Garfield and into Rogers on Highway 62. Ralph was 30 years old at the time of his arrest and he had lived several places: in the Clifty area at age 8, and in Pea Ridge, AR at age 13. He was living in Mundell, AR (across White River) at the time of his arrest. His parents had moved to the Ozarks from West Virginia several years earlier. Ralph was a friendly, good looking guy and easily recognized in Glade and surrounding communities.

The trial for Ralph Shrader, on a charge of second degree murder, was set for May 26, 1952 in Benton County Circuit Court. The courtroom was filled and people from Glade and neighboring communities made an appearance inside the packed courthouse or near the courthouse steps to show their support for him. Many adults and young people from Glade had their first glimpse inside a courtroom. In those days, no walk-through metal detectors or panic buttons existed in the Benton County Courthouse located on the square in Bentonville, AR. The courthouse building appears much the same today but security guards the door. The jury had been completed by 6 p.m. Monday May 26, but at the last minute one of the jurors was excused. Court

was convened at 9 a.m. Tuesday May 27, 1952 and the final juror of the 12 man jury was selected. Opening statements by attorneys and the questioning of jury members indicated the case would revolve around the issue of self-defense. Ted P. Coxsey, prosecuting attorney, told the jury that the state would attempt to prove that Shrader made sufficient effort to avoid an altercation with Paul Bowman before he used his knife as a self-defense weapon. Vol T. Lindsey, defense counsel, said the defense would attempt to prove that Shrader did exercise every possible effort to avoid trouble and that Bowman was stabbed to death in self-defense.

Presentation of testimony followed the noon recess on Tuesday. Seven witnesses had been called by Attorney Ted P. Coxsey when the prosecution rested at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday. Exhibits entered as evidence included: pictures of Prairie Creek grocery, where the altercation between Bowman and Shrader occurred, and clothes with blood stains, and a knife. The state had stipulated Bowman was the aggressor and that the two men had nearly fought at a Rogers, AR business four months before the Prairie Creek altercation that ended in Bowman’s death. The prosecution motion came soon after court reconvened following the lunch recess and after the state had rested its case. The prosecuting attorney told the court that he felt that evidence presented by the state was not sufficiently convincing to warrant a conviction. The defense attorney said that he felt that should a conviction result, it would not be sustained by the Supreme Court.

Judge Maupin Cummings granted the motion and ordered an immediate end to the trial. Ralph Shrader was free. Following the trial and the relief of his family and friends, Ralph and his wife Helen stayed in the area and raised three children. Ralph died in 1987 in Pea Ridge, AR

The trial was an important lesson in justice to the youngsters of Glade, AR, and most had their first glimpse inside a courtroom. The trial broadened their concept of the legal system. Another great lesson of fairness came to life with the story of Atticus Finch in To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee. The book was published in 1960, less than a decade after Ralph’s trial, and it won a Pulitzer Prize, and much later, Lee was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bush. Harper Lee’s story emphasized the child’s instinct for justice. Today, the author (88) lives in Monroeville, her hometown in Alabama where her sister lives. As a child she lived next door to Truman Capote. She helped him research his book, In Cold Blood, a lesson of fatal unfairness to a family in Holcomb, Kansas. Even Harper Lee dealt with complexities of fairness in 2013. She filed a lawsuit to regain the copyright of To Kill a Mockingbird. Apparently someone had tried to wrestle it away from her following a stroke.

Our July meeting of “Still on the Hill” at the NEBCO building in Garfield was a huge success. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, October 26, our fourth meeting of this year and Ms. Susan Young who will present her topic, “Meat, Meal and Molasses: A Look at Traditional Ozark Foodways.”. She is always humorous and informative, so plan to attend for a Sunday afternoon of fun. And, we will serve our soup supper for $7.00 and we will meet at 4 pm. We had a great time last year, so mark your calendar for good food and a delightful speaker!

Next year’s four general meetings will be January 25, April26, July 26 and October 25, 2015. Memberships will remain $25 and can be paid to Sam Reynolds, 20916 Slate Gap Rd, Garfield, AR. Oral interviews of Glade and surrounding communities will continue and volunteers are needed. Also, you can buy a foundation stone from the original Post Office foundation for $50 and it will be used at the site of the Glade Post Office.

We look forward to seeing you at our last general meeting of this year!