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## W. H. Halliburton

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## ***W. H. Halliburton***

In 2015, the Clark County Historical Association published “This ‘N That by Hal: A Collection of W. H. Halliburton’s News Features, 1909-1976.” As its title suggests, the book contains a variety of articles from a variety of newspapers from over six decades. Halliburton’s daughter, Caryl Halliburton Linton, lives in Arkadelphia and wrote the introduction for the collection of articles.

W. H. “Hal” Halliburton spent his entire career as a journalist. Born in 1887 in Reydel, he attended Ouachita College. His byline first appeared in 1909 when he began writing for the school’s literary magazine, “Ripples.” By 1920, Halliburton was hired as the city editor of the “Daily Siftings Herald.” During this time he also served as a “stringer” for the “Arkansas Gazette,” “Texarkana Gazette,” “Memphis Commercial Appeal,” and other area papers. He wrote feature articles for the “Arkansas Democrat” Sunday magazine section. In 1943, Halliburton left the “Daily Siftings Herald” to edit the weekly “Southern Standard,” where he remained until his retirement.

W. H. Halliburton covered local sports at both the high school and college levels for over sixty years, and both Arkadelphia colleges recognized him for his contributions to their institutions. His work resulted in a publication called “History of Athletics at Ouachita Baptist College, 1888-1943.” He received the special honor of having Ouachita’s 1954 “Ouachitonian” yearbook dedicated to him.

Halliburton also served as an official weather observer for the National Weather Service, recording the depth and flow of the Ouachita River, as well as rainfall and temperatures on a daily basis.

The articles in the new book illustrate W. H. Halliburton’s wide range of interests—from sports, to local history, to individuals, weather, and more. The volume is not only

entertaining, but is truly a treasure trove of information about Clark County. For decades, Halliburton's writings have established a broad base of knowledge about this area's history, and have been used by an untold number of researchers.

W. H. Halliburton married Grace Leonard of New Jersey. The two met on a blind date in Arkadelphia, when a friend arranged a date for Hal with "a new piano teacher at Henderson-Brown College." The courtship resulted in a fifty-one year marriage, three children, and five grandchildren. W. H. Halliburton died in 1976, and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Arkadelphia.