

Caddo Hotel: A long-lost landmark from downtown Arkadelphia

By Wendy Richter
For the Siftings

Through the years, many well-known landmarks in Clark County have been lost. One of the most memorable structures stood in downtown Arkadelphia for almost 80 years, and long-time residents certainly recall the Caddo Hotel. Unfortunately, the building was destroyed by fire in 1960.

In the early 1900s, the advent of the automobile brought major changes in transportation. With increases in numbers of vehicles and new roads, more people began traveling to

Arkadelphia. The response to an increase in demand for housing led to the construction of the Caddo Hotel.

The Caddo Hotel was constructed on the half-block bounded by Caddo and Clinton streets. Designed for retail ventures on the first floor, the upper floor was to contain a hotel. Work began in 1912, and just over a year later the Caddo Hotel opened for business.

The modern hotel rose to prominence by the 1920s and proved to be very successful for a number of years. The building's look exterior was painted white in the mid-1930s and remained that color for the rest of its existence.

The Caddo outlasted every other hotel with which it had competed in its early years. But, the middle-to-latter part of the 20th century brought changes

for which the Caddo was not prepared. The hotel lacked adequate parking. And, while the Caddo was once in the mainstream of traffic flow through Clark County, Interstate 40 resulted in traffic away from downtown instead of to it. Then, in 1965, a new Holiday Inn was built in Caddo Valley, indicative of the changes in types of hotels preferred by modern travelers.

Arkadelphia's entire economic focus experienced a shift — away from downtown. The hotel café closed in 1970. Businesses came and went on the ground floor. The building experienced more and more va-

canies. Then, on the night of Nov. 19, 1989, the Caddo Hotel burned to the ground. With its destruction, Arkadelphia and Clark County lost another landmark.

For additional information about Clark County history, visit or contact the Clark County Historical Museum at the train depot (www.clarkcountymuseum.org or 245.5332).



COURT

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legally entering a vehicle at the London Stone Apartments. They reportedly took two cell phones and sent them to an electronics sales device at Wal-Mart.

The two men were interviewed by Lt. Jason "Shorty" Jackson on Dec. 16, and both allegedly admitted their culpability.

Mason also agreed to a plea in July, a first-time offender, he received 120 days of home detention under electronic monitoring, plus 12 months of supervised probation. For the theft charge, he received 12 months of probation, with a \$100 fine for the same amount of months.

His total amount owed is \$2,000. Conditions for his probation include outpatient substance abuse treatment, 200 hours of community service and a tour of the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

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ent to help and was very grateful for the turnout.

"Thank you to who participated and helped me raise money thanks to the sheriff and his deputies and thanks to everybody who donated. I am gladly appreciative."

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WEWERS

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of Directors. He graduated from Henderson in 1992 with an accounting degree.

The Christopher M. Wewers Scholarship Endowment will benefit students in Henderson School of Business.

Delra Wewers is a 1993 graduate of Henderson with a degree in elementary education. The Debra L. Wewers Scholarship Endowment benefits students studying education in Teachers College, Henderson.

Chris and I have discussed how we could give back to Henderson, recognizing the importance of education and empowerment and their ability to positively change individuals and families forever," Delra Wewers said. "In endowing these scholarships, we are putting our words and thoughts into action by creating opportunities for generations to come."

"We know firsthand the tremendous springboard these types of funds can provide to students as both of us were blessed to earn scholarships that helped us earn our degrees," Chris Wewers said. "The impact that had on our lives is immeasurable and led to a commitment to 'pay it forward.'"

Henderson President Glen Jones thanked the Wewers for their investment in the potential of both the university and future students.

"The Wewers know the value of their degrees and have decided to invest in current and future generations of students who seek to obtain a higher education from Henderson," Jones said. "We are deeply grateful for their generosity toward students in the School of Business and Teachers College."

Students can apply for these and other privately funded scholarships available through the HSU Foundation at the start of the spring semester. The HSU Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides private support to the students, faculty and staff of Henderson through scholarships, programmatic endowments and annual gifts.

"Establishing a scholarship endowment through the HSU Foundation is a wonderful way to provide perpetual financial assistance to deserving students," said Jennifer Boyett, executive director of the foundation. The foundation awards more than \$360,000 in privately funded scholarship support annually.

The couple agreed that their personal experiences at Henderson and their volunteer work with the university's foundation showed them that endowments make a difference in the lives of students.

"Serving on the Business Advisory Council and the HSU Foundation Board of Directors has also given me additional perspectives on how I can have an impact on the university," said Chris Wewers.

"Henderson has an excellent track record of equipping teachers and students people alike, and these funds will help ensure the legacy continues," said Delra Wewers.

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The Gatehouse Media Arkansas Group, 10 community newspapers with digital platforms, has an opening for an editor at the Daily Leader in Stuttgart, AR.

This position is responsible for growing audience through increased local news content, contracting and coordinating story assignments, copy editing and hands on content production for a 5 day per week print newspaper and digital website platform.

Experience in news reporting and management skills are a must. This is a management-level salaried position and requires an understanding of directing a team and the urgency of meeting deadlines.

To be considered, please send a letter of application, resume, salary requirements and references to:
Shane Allen, Senior Group Publisher
GateHouse Media
email: sallan@gatehousemedia.com
Include editor in the subject line.