



The New

# SHARECROPPERS VOICE

Spring 2014

Southern Tenant Farmers Museum

Tyronza, Arkansas

## EVENT TO CELEBRATE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF STFU

On a hot night on July 13, 1934, 18 men--11 white and 7 black--met at the Fairview School at Tyronza to organize the first integrated agricultural union in the United States known as the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Not only was this union integrated, it also allowed women to have leadership positions. Both of these were unheard of in 1934 and the planters' dislike of the idea of tenant farmers and sharecroppers organizing created a tumultuous time in Tyronza history.

Although the union had a few successful strikes, its main achievement was that it showed the nation that blacks and whites could work together for a cause in an era where everything was segregated.

On July 14, 2014, the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum will be hosting an open house to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the union. The open house will be held from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. with free tours of the museum. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

At 7:00 p.m. a "members only" event will be held in the Tyronza Senior Center. Anyone needing to renew or pay for a membership should contact any staff member.

### WINNERS OF PHOTO CONTEST



Congratulations to the students who placed in the STFM/Farm Bureau Farm Life Photo Contest.



The winners were: Justin Hood, East Poinsett County, 4th Place--\$25; Stacey Mott, East Poinsett County High School, 2nd place--\$75; Alaisa Morgan, Harrisburg High School, 1st Place--\$100. Not shown is Camille Clem, Harrisburg High School, 3rd Place--\$50.

### MEMBERSHIP

#### SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS MUSEUM

- Individual - \$25
- Family - \$40
- Seniors/Students \$10

Free Admission—15% off Gift Shop items—Newsletter  
Call or email any STFM staff member

### COME VISIT US!

Hours  
 Monday-Friday: 9 am – 3 pm  
 Saturday: Noon – 3 pm

Admission  
 Adults: \$5  
 Seniors/Students/Groups: \$3

### TAKE A PEEK IN OUR GIFT SHOP



Games our  
parents played!

### Jacks and Marbles

Jacks  
\$3.75

Marbles  
\$5.50





## Southern Tenant Farmers Museum

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The Tyronza Stars and Stripes Jubilee  
will be held on June 13 & 14!

Games ~ Carnival ~ Music ~ Food

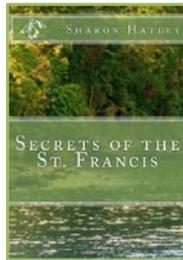
Visit the Wall That Heals,  
a traveling replica of the  
Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.  
The wall will be located behind the EPC  
Tyronza Elementary School.



## JUNE EXHIBIT

Sharon Hatley of Trumann will have an exhibit of paintings on display during the month of June in the STFM Bank Gallery. The exhibit will be available for viewing from June 3-30 during regular museum hours.

Hatley is also an accomplished author, having written books about life in Northeast Arkansas. One of her books, titled *Secrets of the St. Francis*, is a series of five short stories about tales of area rumors that have been passed down through generations of happenings in the St. Francis Floodway area.



A reception and book signing will be held on June 6 at the museum beginning at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to drop by and meet the artist/author. Light refreshments will be served.



## CATHY HUNT JOINS STFM STAFF

The Southern Tenant Farmers Museum is pleased to welcome Cathy Hunt as a new employee and tour guide. Cathy graduated from Jacksonville High School and attended the University of Arkansas. She moved to Lepanto in 1995 with her husband and daughter, Sarah.

Cathy's interests include reading and learning more about the history of Poinsett County.

Drop by the museum and meet our newest member of the STFM team!

## IT'S A BOY!!

The Southern Tenant Farmers Museum is proud to announce a new addition to the ASU Heritage Sites family. His name is Historic Dyess Colony: Boyhood Home of Johnny Cash. This new addition is due to officially join the family on August 16 when the grand opening will be celebrated at Dyess. To help with the expense of the expanding family, the Johnny Cash Music Festival will be held at the ASU Convocation Center on August 15 starring Reba McEntire, Loretta Lynn and Bobby Bare!



Happily awaiting the new addition are the other members of the Heritage Sites family: Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum at Piggott (age 15), the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum at Tyronza (age 7½), and Lakeport Plantation at Lake Village, (age 6 ½). Proud parents are Dr. Ruth Hawkins, Director, and Paula Miles, Assistant Director.



## CHERRY BEAM/ TYRONZA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL REUNION

The 6<sup>th</sup> Cherry Beam/Tyronza Consolidated School Community Reunion will be held on Saturday, May 24 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Tyronza Senior Citizens Building. The day's activities will include games, fun trivia, prizes, spotlight corner and, of course, lots of food!

The reunion will continue on Sunday, May 25, beginning at 2:00 p.m. with a service at the Cherry Beam church delivered by Elder Eddie Hendrix from the Calvary Hill Church at Detroit, Michigan. STFM Graduate Assistant, Bryan Pierce, will be recognized for his community project of cleaning headstones at the Cherry Beam cemetery during the Sunday service.

STFM will be displaying photos of many of the families of the Cherry Beam congregation and old school photos courtesy of Lenora McFarland Alexander and Renna McFarland Allen, both former Tyronza residents who now reside in Jonesboro. The museum will be open from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. for tours and oral histories on Saturday.

The Tyronza Consolidated School was where black students from Tyronza were educated before integration.



*Ingvar Peterson and Johan Hagastrum of Sweden were recent visitors to the museum. They found us by Googling "area attractions" while on vacation in Memphis. They loved the museum and took some of our Arkansas cotton seed back to Sweden so they could start their own "plantation."*

## RECENT VISITORS



*Mr. Joe Buck of Jonesboro, Arkansas, got a pleasant surprise while touring STFM recently. He found a photo that relates to his family. He is pictured beside our photo of the cotton picking contest that was held annually at Blytheville, AR, until the mid 60s. Mr. Buck informed us that his father, Mr. Wesley Buck of Hornersville, MO, won \$1,000 in this same contest!*



*These fine ladies and gentlemen work for the Welcome Centers that surround the borders of Arkansas and Little Rock. They stopped by this month to visit STFM while they were on the 2014 Spring Arkansas Welcome Center Familiarization Tour. What does this mean to us? Our brochures are in each of the 20 Welcome Centers in our state. By personally visiting the attractions, they can better advise the 835,000 annual visitors that stop at the centers of area attractions that might be of interest. STFM is fortunate to get many out-of-state visitors through referrals from our friends at the Arkansas Welcome Centers! We appreciate everything this group does for us and Arkansas tourism!*



*Being a historic site, we love when professors use us as a resource for their classes. This group is from ASU's Agriculture Policy class that is taught by Dr. Bert Greenwalt.*

**Southern Tenant Farmers Museum**  
An Arkansas State University  
Heritage Site

