UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 2 9 1975

DATE ENTERED ADD 9 n 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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AND/OR COMMON	Burns House			
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STREET & NUMBER				
	Jefferson		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ІСТ
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STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	ansas	05	Crawford	033
CLASSIFICA	TION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
_STRUCTURE	<u> х</u> вотн	X_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	X IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	XOTHER: hist
STREET & NUMBER	County Historical S	Society		soci offi
P.O. Box	486		STATE	
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CONDITION

_EXCELLENT

GOOD

__DETERIORATED

_RUINS

X_FAIR __UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED
X_ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original house was built in 1885 by Alex Lacy, a Van Buren merchant. It was a white frame two-story Victorian style home.

The original floor plan had three rooms downstairs and three rooms upstairs separated by hallway. There was a front and back porch downstairs.

Sometime in 1890's, probably about 1893, when running water came to the city, a bathroom was built upstairs. The footed-tub and ceramic lavatory are still in the bathroom. The commode has been replaced by a more modern type.

Probably in early part of the 20th century, the backporch was boxed in and a kitchen in L-shape was built with a new backporch on north side. Sometime later, part of the boxed in porch room was made into another bathroom.

Mrs. Lacy had a small millinery shop in a building on part of the property in the 1880's.

The W.R. Burn's family moved to the house in 1896 when Bob Burns (stage name) was six and his brother, Farrar was eight. The boys lived here until manhood.

Mr. Burn did not purchase the house until 1901.

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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW **PERIOD** __COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __RELIGION __1400-1499 __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION LAW _SCIENCE __LITERATURE __1500-1599 __AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS _SCULPTURE _MILITARY __1600-1699 ARCHITECTURE __EDUCATION SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _XMUSIC __1700-1799 __ART __ENGINEERING THEATER X 1800-1899 __COMMERCE _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY _TRANSPORTATION __1900-__COMMUNICATIONS _INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _OTHER (SPECIFY) **X**NVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The W.R. Burn family came to Crawford County in 1880 or 1881. Mr. Burn was a surveyor for the Frisco railroad when it was being built through Crawford County.

Robert (Bob) and Farrar were very talented musicians, getting their start, playing with small bands in Van Buren. They and some of their friends invented the "bazooka" which was to become world famous as a musical instrument and trademark for Bob Burns and Van Buren. The original bazooka, consisting of an iron pipe with another metal pipe over it and a whiskey funnel attached at the end with a piece of wire that moves top pipe back and forth has been given to the Historical Society.

This will go into a Burn family museum room along with other mementos and this room will be open to the public.

Bob Burns got his start to stardom playing with famous bands; then a radio show sponsored by Kraft. He also made several motion pictures. Bob Burns entertained the soldiers during World War I and II. One of the Army's quns is named the "bazooka" after the famous instrument.

For several years while Bob Burns' was famous as a radio comedian and movie star, his step-mother, Mrs. Kate Smeltzer Burn, had a gift shop in the home and it was open to the public.

The family name is "Burn" but they added an "s" to "Burn" for Bob Burns' stage name.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clara B. Eno's <u>History of Crawford County</u>
The Press Argus, Bob Burns Edition, July 31, 1936
The Courier Newspaper, Monday, April 7, 1975

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1. UTM REFERENCES		<u>e</u>		
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Form No. 10-301a (Pev. 10-7'+)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 2 9 1975

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COL	MPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
	ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bob Burns House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

___VICINITY OF

Crawford

STATE

Arkansas

2 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

Van Buren

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Southwest elevation and southeast facade, viewed from the south

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PHOTO NO.

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southeast facade,

43



Form No. 10-301a (Pev. 10-7)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

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VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Van Buren

Crawford

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET Facade, viewed from the southeast

РНОТО NO.

2 43



Form No. 10-301a (Pev. 10-7)

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PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

Van Buren

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Rear and southwest elevations, viewed from the west

3 4 3

Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

*UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVEDDEC 2 9 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 3 0 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bob Burns House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Van Buren

Crawford

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey, Van Buren Quadrangle

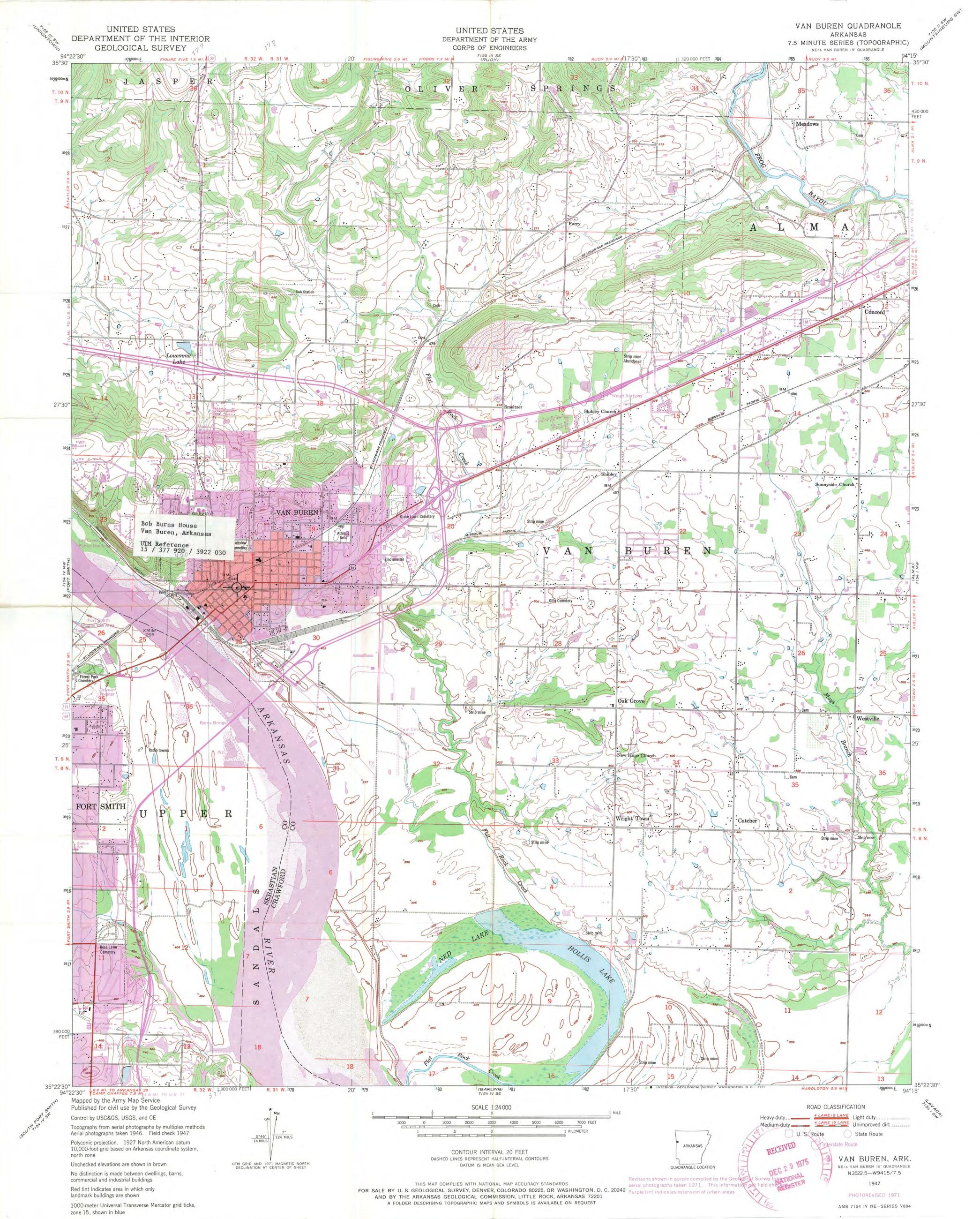
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DATE 1947, photo revised 1971

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

4FK 35 19/6

STATE Arkansas

Date Entered

Name

Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College

Van Buren Historic District

Burns, Bob House

Location

Little Rock Pulaski County

Van Buren Crawford County

Van Buren Crawford County

Also Notified

Hon. Dale Bumpers
Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. Wilbur D. Mills
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt

Regional Director, Southwest Region

PR-M. Mott:fdf 5-4-76

State Historic Preservation Office Ms. Anne Bartley Acting Director, Department of Natural and Cultural Heritage The Old State House 300 West Markham Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

THE NATIONAL CYCLOPÆDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

BEING THE

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIVES OF THE FOUNDERS, BUILDERS AND DEFENDERS
OF THE REPUBLIC, AND OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE
DOING THE WORK AND MOLDING
THE THOUGHT OF THE
PRESENT TIME

VOLUME XLII



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f Illinois, and he was advanced sor in 1907, assistant professor ofessor of sheep and meat in 1921 to the University of Mindirector of the Department of included the College of Agri-and Home Economics; the are at University Farm, Crookrand Rapids; the Agricultural ions; and the Agricultural Ex-In July, 1941, he was named and in November of the same dent of the University of Minl in 1945 as president emeritus. building fund committee for a the University of Minnesota's s. The administration building s named Coffey Hall in his honvas clairman of the board of e University, Saint Paul, Minn., life and in 1952 had served as of Hanline and chairman of a et a new president. From 1938 associated with the Federal Reinnearolis as chairman of the erve agent, and class C director. in agriculture, he was active in ations and committees seeking lue and diversity of farm crops, and national level. At various expert in sheep husbandry in nt of Agriculture and chairman t's informal conference with coent stations on factors influencalatability of meats; a member lvisory committee for perennial ional Farm Chemurgic Council; ent Coolidge's Agricultural Conof the agricultural board of the h Council; member of the Minsory Committee on Soil Conserof the International Live Stock Flax Institute of the United finnesota Rural Rehabilitation president of the Twin Cities nal Dairy Council. When the complicated agriculture in the 4, Coffey was named state direcergency drought relief for Minhe served as regional director in several adjacent states. Addispecial agent for the U.S. Tariff mber of the National Youth Adisory committee for Minnesota; visory committee of the fellowthe Danforth Foundation; and of the Minneapolis area council he national rural scouting comts of America. Coffey was the ctive Sheep Husbandry" (1918) letins and circulars on agriculblished by the universities of mesota, as well as co-author of prises" (1928). He was the Distinguished Service Award of rm Bureau Federation in 1942, onorary degrees of LL.D. from sity in 1927 and D.Sc. from in 1943 and the University of 5. He served on the executive tees of the Association of Land

nstructor in animal husbandry belonged to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Animal Production, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul-Minneapolis Committee on Foreign Relations, Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association, Minneapolis United Nations Committee, Saint Paul Association of Commerce, the Masonic order, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, and the Rotary, University, Minneapolis and Minikahda clubs of Minneapolis. His religious affiliation was with the Methodist church, and he served on that denomination's Board of Education. Politically he was an independent Republican. He was mar-ried in Big Rapids, Mich., Aug. 14, 1907, to Jennie Crisler, daughter of Alexander Lardner, a farmer, and had two sons, Lardner Allen and Walter Calvin. Coffey died in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 31, 1956.

BURNS, Bob (Robin Burn), entertainer, was born in Greenwood, Ark., Aug. 2, 1890, son of William Robert and Emma (Needham) Burn. His father was a civil engineer. Bob Burns received his education at public schools in Van Buren, Ark. As a boy he learned to play several musical instruments, including the mandolin, guitar, violin, cornet, and piano and at the age of fifteen played his own invention, the bazooka, with the Van Buren City Queen Silver Cornet Band. He contrived the bazooka by accident in 1905 when he fitted together two pieces of gas pipe and began playing the device as though it were a trombone. It made a semblance of tone, and subsequently he improved upon the idea by fitting together two pieces of metal tubing, one sliding upon the other, the sliding tube having a funnel at the end to throw out the sound. Having no mouthpiece, the tone was varied by the sliding movement as in the case of the trombone. He gave the instrument the name of bazooka, which ne copyrighted in 1920. A weapon of the U.S. Army during the Second World War was given the name bazooka by the troops because of its resemblance to the musical instrument which Burns invented and popularized. Bob Burns began his professional career as an entertainer in 1911 when he toured the South with the Black Cat Minstrels show in which he teamed with his brother, Farrar Burn, in blackface, although he had appeared with that group as early as 1907 playing the bazooka. He continued in vaudeville and carnival business for some years and at various times also was an orchestra leader, river ferry pilot, hay and magazine salesman, peanut farmer, and advertising salesman. From 1922 to 1930 he was associated with Claude West as the team of Burns & West. During 1930 he and John Swor worked for Fox Motion Pictures as a blackface team, playing Black and Blue in "Up the River." Beginning in 1931 and continuing until his retirement in 1947 he was well known as a radio entertainer. He first did comedy bits on local West Coast radio shows and in 1932 became known as Soda Pop in the "Circus Radio Show" on the West Coast for the National Broadcasting Co. Burns had become friendly with Will Rogers (q.v.), appearing in several of Rogers' pictures, such as "Young as You Feel," and Rogers encouraged the development of his talent and advised him to go East. In July, 1935, he auditioned for Paul Whiteman in New York and subsequently appeared as guest star on his coast-to-coast program, "The Paul Whiteman Hour." He was an imd Universities; was an honorary mediate success and was signed as guest with the Minnesota State Horticultural "Rudy Vallee Music Hall" for numerous engagetate Agricultural societies; and ments. In December, 1935, he joined the Bing

Crosby show on the "Kraft Music Hall" program Plumas of the National Broadcasting Co. He continued on that show until 1941 when he became star of the "Arkansas Traveler" series on radio, continuing in that capacity until 1947. As a radio personality he was best known for his long stories sonality he was best known for his long stories of his imaginary relatives in his native Van Buren, Ark., including Grandpa Snazzy and Uncle Fud, and for playing his bazooka. In 1930 he had moved to Hollywood, Calif., to make motion pictures, and he appeared in "The Singing Vagabond" (1935), "Rhythm on the Range" (1936), "The Big Broadcast of 1937," "Radio City Revels" and "Wells Fargo" (1937), "Tropic Holiday" and "Arkansas Traveler" (1938), "Waikiki Wedding" (1939), and others. Following his retirement from (1939), and others. Following his retirement from the entertainment business in 1947, he devoted his attention to the development of business property and his 40-acre ranch in Canoga Park, Calif., and he was the owner of six gas stations in the San Fernando Valley and also held investments in trust deeds and oil leases. From 1936 until 1940 he wrote a syndicated column for Esquire Fea-tures entitled "Well, I'll Tell You." From 1940 until 1954 he served as honorary mayor of Canoga Park. During the First World War he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, becoming a sergeant. He went overseas with the 11th Regiment, U.S. Marines, AEF, and later became leader of the Marine Corps jazz band in Europe. In 1919 he was awarded a gold medal as an expert rifleman. He also received a plaque from the government for outstanding contributions during the Second World War. Other honors he received included appointments as ambassador extraordinary by the gover-nor of Texas in 1937, Arkansas traveler by the governor of Arkansas in 1941, honorary colonel on the staff of the governor of Oklahoma in 1946, and colonel by the governor of Kentucky. In 1936 he received an honorary diploma from the University of Arkansas. He was a life member of the U.S. Marine Corps and a member of the Masonic order, Sportsmen's Club of America, Aqua-Sierra Sportsmen's Club of Chatsworth, Calif., and the Kiwanis. His religious affiliation was with the Episcopal church. Politically he was a Republican. He had numerous hobbies which included fishing, trap and skeet shooting, playing golf, photography, carpentry, and astronomy. Burns was married twice: (1) in Atlantic City, N.J., Sept. 22, 1921, to Elizabeth, daughter of Charles E. Fisher of Lancaster, Pa., and had a son, Robert; his first wife died in 1936; (2) in Las Vegas, Nev., May 31, 1937, to Harriet Madelia, daughter of Floyd Williams Foster of Independence, Kan., a real estate broker, and had three children: Barbara Ann, William Robin, and Stephen Foster. His death occurred in Encino, Calif., Feb. 2, 1956. WILSHIRE, [Henry] Gaylord, publisher and business executive, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 7, 1861, son of George and Clara (Clemons) Wilshire and grandson of Samuel and Mary (Phillips) Wilshire, who came to this country from England about 1810 and settled in Readfield, Me. His father was a banker. After receiving his preliminary education at public schools in his native city, Gaylord Wilshire attended Harvard University during 1880-81. He began his career

in 1883 as manager of the Riverside Rolling Mill Co., Cincinnati. He also worked as a clerk in the

Third National Bank, Cincinnati, for a brief

time and in 1884 went to San Francisco, where he

became associated with his brother, William B.

Wilshire, in the latter's safe and scale business.

He also became interested in gold mining in

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V.42, p.91

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COMMERCE-6 COMMUNICATIONS-7 CONSERVATION-8	CENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16		·f	CLAIMS:	
CONSERVATION - 8	EXPLORATION - 12 LITERATURE - 17	the state of the s	SETTLEMENT-29	irst'	explain
ECONOMICS-9	HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19	☐ SCIENCE- 23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30	-24 OTHER (SPECIFY)	ldest'□	
	INVENTION - 14 PHILOSOPHY - 20	☐ TRANSPORTATION - 25	- 'o	nly'	
		dates of initial construction: major alterations; historic events;	1885		ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION
(s): EK REVIVAL	architect	6:		@e	ngineer:
/ garden designer:	minterior decorator:	artist:	33 artisan:	builder	/contractor:
& date					
	ry sections, irregular st trance with transom withi ar. Home of Bob Bur	nape, intersecting n front porch wit ns, entertainer a	gabled and hipped th balustraded dec ndinventor of mus	roof se k, piero	ections, interior ced attic roundel; strument "bazooka
To the state of th	STORICAL SOCIETY (s): EK REVIVAL t/garden designer: & date	t/garden designer: interior decorator: & date	PRIVATE RESIDENCE STORICAL SOCIETY OFFICES MUSEUM (s): EK REVIVAL t/garden designer: interior decorator: & date TER WRITE-UP	PRIVATE RESIDENCE STORICAL SOCIETY OFFICES MUSEUM (s): EK REVIVAL t/garden designer: a) interior decorator: a artist: artisan: TER WRITE-IIP	PRIVATE RESIDENCE STORICAL SOCIETY OFFICES & MUSEUM historic events; (s): EK REVIVAL t/garden designer: interior decorator: & date major alterations; historic events; major alterations; historic events; architect: architect: artist: artist: artisan: artisan: