



NO LAUGHING MATTER

Political Cartoons and the Arkansas Historical Perspective

ARKANSAS CARTOONISTS

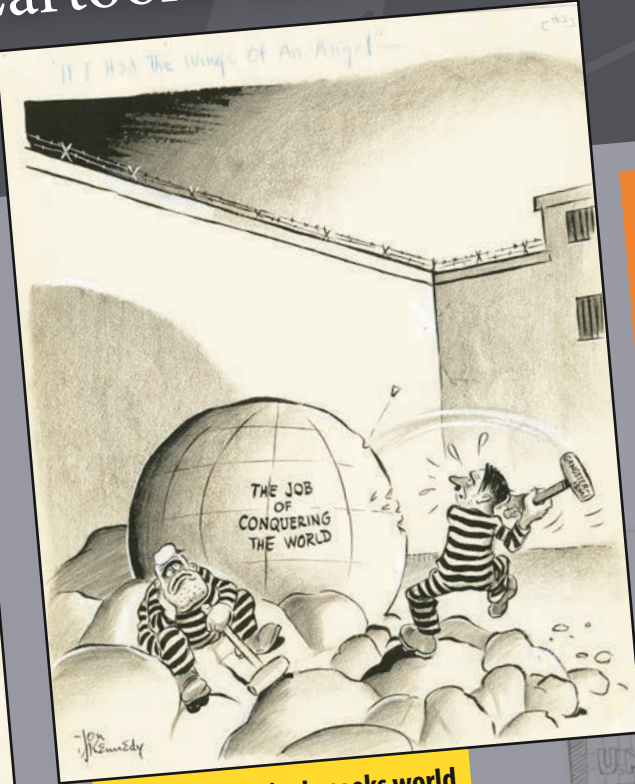
Jon Kennedy (1918-2014) was the editorial cartoonist at the *Arkansas Democrat* for 47 years, from 1941-1988—a time briefly interrupted with enlistment in the Army and stints working in comic strips outside of Arkansas. After retiring from the *Democrat*, Kennedy worked for *Arkansas Business* from 1992-2005.

William K. "Bill" Graham (1920-1994) was the editorial cartoonist at the *Arkansas Gazette* for 37 years, from 1948-1985. In the 1940s Graham served as an Army training artist and created a comic strip for Fort Chaffee, Fort Smith, Arkansas, entitled *Stinky*.

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1940s

American troops receive a heroes' welcome following WWII.



The United States declares war on Germany on December 11, 1941. Hitler is actively slaughtering Jews at concentration camps.



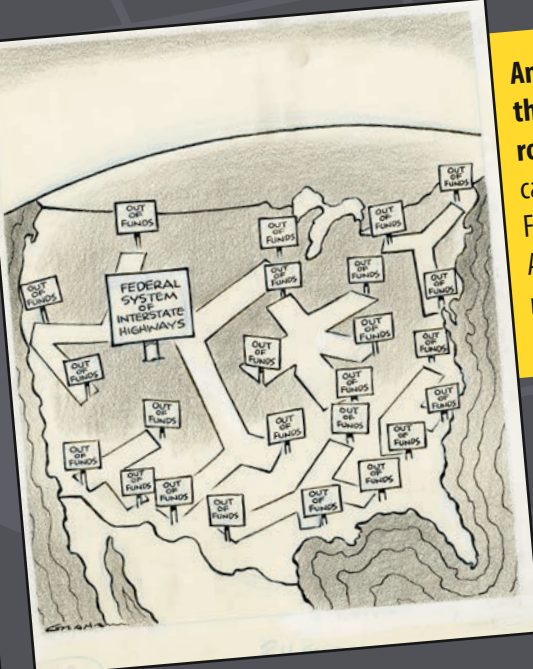
1950s

Though Arkansas strives to provide new industrial opportunities, better offers are available elsewhere.

The Little Rock School Board struggles to comply with the wishes of the NAACP and conservative southern segregationists.



On June 22, 1955, 178 Little Rock bus system employees go on strike seeking a wage increase. Events culminate in a bus bombing.



Americans protest the unpleasant road construction caused by the 1956 Federal-Aid Highway Act, which results in numerous "roads to nowhere."

Fidel Castro overthrows the military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

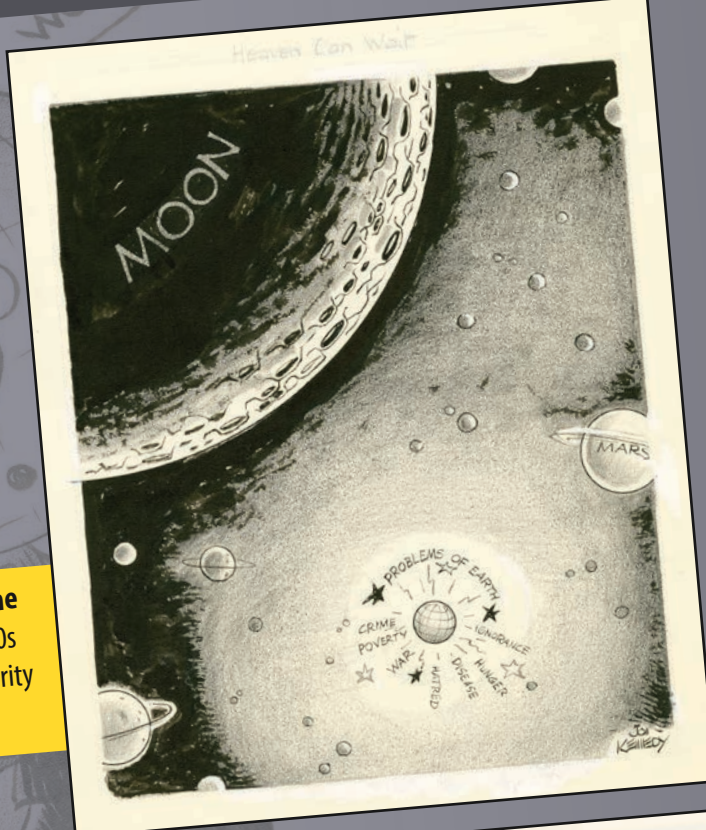


1960s

In 1959 Russia launches Luna 2, the first space probe to the moon.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers works with Arkansas officials to increase the usability of Arkansas waterways.

A concentration on the Space Race in the 1960s seems to be taking priority over world problems.



The 1967 Arab-Israeli War or the six-day war is won by Israeli forces.

1970s

Nixon promises the removal of troops from Vietnam while stationing others in nearby countries.

Arkansas prison conditions are notoriously poor.

Arkansas's River Development increases industry, jobs, and revenue in rural and urban areas.

Governor Bill Clinton seeks to eradicate litter in Arkansas.

While First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton works to improve public education standards.

On June 3, 1979, the Mexican-owned Ixtoc 1 oil spill incident occurs in the Bay of Campeche.



Arkansas remains desperately in need of educational improvements in the early 1980s.

After Cuba and the Soviet Union initiate a diplomatic relationship in 1959, Cuba becomes heavily reliant on large amounts of Soviet military aid.

In the 1980s, people around the world fear the possibility of nuclear war.

Republican Frank White defeats Democrat Bill Clinton in the Arkansas's Governor Race of 1980.

1980s

