**[KHBS-KHOG 'Not Exactly' for Sale](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/82811/khbs-khog-not-exactly-for-sale)**

* by [Arkansas Business staff](mailto:info@arkansasbusiness.com)
* Posted 9/12/1994 12:00 am
* Updated 8 months ago
* [](http://twitter.com/share?text=KHBS-KHOG+'Not+Exactly'+for+Sale&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/82811/khbs-khog-not-exactly-for-sale&related=lt,gwenmoritz,JeffHankins,innovateAR,ArkSports360)
* [](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/82811/khbs-khog-not-exactly-for-sale)
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* [ Print Story](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/print/article/82811)

It looks and sounds like a couple of northwest Arkansas television stations are for sale, but the president of Sigma Broadcasting Inc. says they're "not exactly" on the buying block.

"That is not exactly accurate," Darrel Cunningham, president of Sigma, which owns KHBS/KHOG-TV, Channels 40/29, says of published reports that the ABC affiliates are on the market. "It would be wrong to say that the stations are up for sale, but it is not wrong to say we have hired an investment banking company to explore our options."

Sigma is a family-owned media company, which Cunningham says is somewhat of a vanishing breed. George T. Hernreich brought KHBS on air in Fort Smith in 1971 and several years later added KHOG of Fayetteville to the Sigma family. He sold majority stock in Sigma to his children, Bob and Cindy Hernreich, in 1985. The brother-sister team still owns majority stock in the company.

"It's fairly uncommon in the marketplace today to have a family outfit like ours," Cunningham says. "There would be more strength in the programming we could buy, in hiring engineers and things of that nature, if we were to form an alliance by being acquired by a larger company."

He says numerous inquiries have been made since Sigma hired the investment firm, but he couldn't discuss who had shown interest. Some speculate that Donrey Media Group, headquartered like Sigma in Fort Smith, is an interested party. However Cunningham declined to elaborate.

"There have been indications, but I couldn't discuss who has shown interest," he says. "I can say that I am sure a sale for cash is something we wouldn't be interested in.

"An alliance or some sort of an exchange of stock would be more of what we would be looking for."

[**TV-Man Banks New Job**](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/75871/tv-man-banks-new-job)

* by [Arkansas Business staff](mailto:info@arkansasbusiness.com)
* Posted 10/21/1996 12:00 am
* Updated 8 months ago
* [](http://twitter.com/share?text=TV-Man+Banks+New+Job&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/75871/tv-man-banks-new-job&related=lt,gwenmoritz,JeffHankins,innovateAR,ArkSports360)
* [](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/75871/tv-man-banks-new-job)
* [](http://www.linkedin.com/shareArticle?mini=true&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/75871/tv-man-banks-new-job&title=TV-Man+Banks+New+Job&summary=&source=Arkansas%20Business)
* [](https://plusone.google.com/_/+1/confirm?hl=en&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/75871/tv-man-banks-new-job)
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* [ Print Story](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/print/article/75871)

Darrel Cunningham, president and general manager at sister stations KHBS-TV, Channel 40, in Fort Smith and KHOG-TV, Channel 29, in Fayetteville for 11 years, has been named senior vice president of City National Bank in Fort Smith.

KHBS/KHOG Television was taken over in June by Argyle Television Co. of San Antonio. Argyle bought the stations for about $34 million from Sigma Broadcasting Inc., headed by Robert Hernreich of Vail, Colo., and Cindy Hernreich-Beller of Fort Smith.

As an original shareholder in Sigma, Cunningham got a cut of the purchase.

Cunningham was replaced by Jeff Rosser, who has run Argyle stations in Dallas and Providence, R.I. Since Argyle's takeover, at least a dozen employees have been laid off at KHBS/KHOG, primarily in a consolidation of the production department.

[**Management Shuffle**](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/76883/management-shuffle)

* by [Tyler Treadway](mailto:info@arkansasbusiness.com)
* Posted 7/1/1996 12:00 am
* Updated 8 months ago
* [](http://twitter.com/share?text=Management+Shuffle&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/76883/management-shuffle&related=lt,gwenmoritz,JeffHankins,innovateAR,ArkSports360)
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* [](https://plusone.google.com/_/+1/confirm?hl=en&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/76883/management-shuffle)
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* [ Print Story](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/print/article/76883)

Darrell Cunningham is out and Jeff Rosser is in as president and general manager of KHBS-TV, Channel 40, in Fort Smith and KHOG-TV, Channel 29, in Fayetteville.

The move is part of the takeover of the stations by Argyle Television Holding Inc. of San Antonio from Sigma Broadcasting Inc., which is headed by Robert Hernreich of Vail, Colo., and Cindy Hernreich-Beller of Fort Smith.

Argyle paid about $34 million for the stations in February.

Cunningham says he was neither surprised nor upset by the move: As a shareholder in Sigma, he got a cut of the purchase deal. He also agreed to stay on as a consultant for the station for three months.

"He's their guy," Cunningham says of Rosser, who has run Argyle stations in Dallas and Providence, R.I.

Cunningham says he'll decide his plans beyond KHBS/KHOG during his three-month consultant's gig.

"I'll either retire or go to another station," the 57-year-old says. "I've got a couple of feelers out, one outside the state. But I'd rather stay in Arkansas, Fort Smith if possible. I'm not anxious to retire, but for a guy in his late 50s, job prospects aren't that plentiful."

Cunningham says he's proud of his 11 years at the twin stations. "From a station that wasn't making a profit in 1985, we put together one that's worth $34 million. That's a pretty good run."

Argyle is a publicly traded company listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market as "ARGL." The company also owns TV stations in Buffalo, N.Y.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Jackson, Miss.; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

[**TV Station Sold**](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/77455/tv-station-sold)

* by [Arkansas Business staff](mailto:info@arkansasbusiness.com)
* Posted 3/25/1996 12:00 am
* Updated 8 months ago
* [](http://twitter.com/share?text=TV+Station+Sold&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/77455/tv-station-sold&related=lt,gwenmoritz,JeffHankins,innovateAR,ArkSports360)
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* [](https://plusone.google.com/_/+1/confirm?hl=en&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/77455/tv-station-sold)
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* [ Print Story](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/print/article/77455)

ABC affiliates KHOG-TV, Channel 40, of Fayetteville and KHBS-TV, Channel 29, of Fort Smith are being bought by a Texas-based company in a stock-swap transaction.

Sigma Broadcasting Inc. of Fort Smith, which owns the two stations, has signed a definitive letter of intent to be acquired by Argyle Television Inc. of San Antonio. Under the terms of the agreement, Sigma shareholders will receive about 226,000 shares of Argyle's series A common stock, which is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange under the symbol ARGL. It is trading near $21 a share.

In addition, Sigma shareholders also will receive shares of a newly created series A preferred stock, convertible at $35 a share into about 307,000 shares of series A common stock, and shares of a newly created series B preferred stock, redeemable at the option of Argyle in five years for $10.75 million.

Argyle also will assume certain obligations of Sigma, estimated to be about $3.5 million at closing. Sigma shareholders will receive an additional $3 million in cash at closing for the transfer of certain real estate associated with the stations and for an agreement not to compete with the stations. The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval from the Federal Communications Commission, which is expected to take 90-120 days. Officials hope the transaction will close by July. Sigma's majority shareholder is the Hernreich family of Fort Smith.

The two stations generated about $7.9 million in net revenue in 1995. Argyle, which recently released its year-end data, posted revenues of $46.9 million. The company owns and operates five network-affiliated stations: WZZM-TV, the ABC affiliate in Grand Rapids, Mich.; WGRZ-TV, the NBC affiliate in Buffalo, N.Y.; WNAC-TV, the Fox affiliate in Providence, R.I.; KITV-TV, the ABC affiliate in Honolulu, Hawaii; and WAPT-TV, the ABC affiliate in Jackson, Miss.

Officials with KHOG/KHBS do not expect the change in ownership to drastically alter operations at the station and are eager to have the expanded resources of a larger company at the stations' disposal.

[**Argyle Socks Away Stations**](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/77818/argyle-socks-away-stations)

* by [Arkansas Business staff](mailto:info@arkansasbusiness.com)
* Posted 2/19/1996 12:00 am
* Updated 8 months ago
* [](http://twitter.com/share?text=Argyle+Socks+Away+Stations&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/77818/argyle-socks-away-stations&related=lt,gwenmoritz,JeffHankins,innovateAR,ArkSports360)
* [](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/77818/argyle-socks-away-stations)
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* [](https://plusone.google.com/_/+1/confirm?hl=en&url=http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/77818/argyle-socks-away-stations)
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* [ Print Story](http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/print/article/77818)

Argyle Television Holding Inc. of San Antonio has agreed to buy KHBS-TV, Channel 40, in Fort Smith and and KHOG-TV, Channel 29, in Fayetteville from Sigma Broadcasting Inc. pending approval from the Federal Communications Commission.

Darrell Cunningham, president and general manager of KHBS, says representatives of the two companies have signed a letter of agreement and are continuing to negotiate the terms of the sale, which he estimates will be finalized by mid- to late summer.

Argyle is a publicly traded company listed on the Nasdaq exchange as "ARGL." The company already has five TV stations: in Buffalo, N.Y.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Providence, R.I.; Jackson, Miss.; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sigma is headed by Robert Hernreich of Vail, Colo., and Cindy Hernreich-Beller of Fort Smith.

Cunningham says the recently approved Telecommunications Act, which allows companies to own more television stations both nationwide and within specific markets, "will mean that small, family owned stations will be a dying breed in the years to come."

Cunningham says he doesn't know Argyle's plans for the Arkansas stations "but they're experienced broadcasters with a reputation for competing with good local news in all their markets and for providing local stations with lots of autonomy."

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| **Delivery date :** Wednesday, February 13, 2013 12:51:17 pm  **Username :** gwj1946 :: ([**Log out**](http://library.ardemgaz.com/EndSession.asp))  **Your query :** George Hernreich  **Charge for this story:** $1.95  **Publication:** Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  **Page(s):** B3  **Section:** B3  **Original Date:** 02/17/2000 |

Fort Smith television pioneer Hernreich dies at 97

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

\*NW EDITION\* FORT SMITH -- George Hernreich, who founded the first television stations in Fort Smith and Jonesboro, died Sunday at his home in Fort Smith.

Hernreich died after several months of illness. He was 97.

During World War II, Hernreich earned money selling wristwatches to soldiers at Fort Chaffee. With the proceeds, he bought KFPW radio station in Fort Smith. He also started what is now KFSM television station, the first TV station in Fort Smith.

He later started KAIT television station in Jonesboro and developed other stations in Fort Smith and northwest Arkansas as well as in Hot Springs. He also owned Esquire Jewelers.

Darrel Cunningham, former general manager of KHBS television station, said Hernreich broke significant ground in the broadcasting industry in the state.

"I think of him as a pioneer Arkansas broadcaster," Cunningham said, "At an age when many men would be thinking of retirement, he was still an active business entrepreneur."

Cunningham said Hernreich left a mark on more than broadcasting.

Hernreich donated the land on which the Sebastian County jail was built. Unknown to recipients, he supplied Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to between 100 and 150 local families annually.

Hernreich is survived by his wife, Johnnie; two sisters, Esther Yurman of Sacramento, Calif., and Celia Goodman of San Francisco; one daughter, Cindy Beller of Mountainburg; one son, Bob Hernreich of Vail, Colo.; and five grandchildren. The late Mary Jane Hernreich was the mother of his children.

Slug Line: nwaphernth 2B NW

This article was published on page B3 of the **Thursday, February 17, 2000** edition in the **B3 section**.

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| **Delivery date :** Wednesday, February 13, 2013 12:45:39 pm  **Username :** gwj1946 :: ([**Log out**](http://library.ardemgaz.com/EndSession.asp))  **Your query :** Sigma Broadcasting  **Charge for this story:** $1.95  **Publication:** Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  **Page(s):** B6  **Section:** B6  **Original Date:** 03/09/2000 |

Court finds for widow in $1.4 million dispute

SETH BLOMELEY ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the widow of a former Arkansas media magnate in a dispute with his daughter over $1.4 million Wednesday.

The suit involved the Hernreich family of Fort Smith, formerly owner of television stations KHOG in Fayetteville, KHBS in Fort Smith and KAIT in Jonesboro. The patriarch, George Hernreich, died Feb. 13 at age 97.

George and Johnnie Hernreich opened a brokerage account at Morgan Stanley in 1988. Seven years later, their son, Robin Hernreich of Vail, Colo., exercised power of attorney over the account, according to the Court of Appeals decision.

Robin Hernreich established a new account whereby George Hernreich's daughter, Cynthia Hernreich-Beller, shared the account with her father. The daughter, Cynthia Hernreich-Beller of Mountainburg, later refused a request by her father and his wife to return the money.

George and Johnnie then sued her in Sebastian County Chancery Court. A judge granted them summary judgment and ordered the money be placed in an account in their name.

Hernreich-Beller appealed but the Court of Appeals, in a decision Wednesday written by Judge John Stroud, affirmed the lower court's decision. Judges John Robbins and Andree Layton Roaf concurred.

The court ruled that there was "no evidence of a valid gift to Cynthia" because the funds weren't delivered to her and that George never gave up control.

Hernreich conveyed ownership of KHOG and KHBS to Robin and Cynthia in 1985. They then formed Sigma Broadcasting. In 1996, they sold to Argyle television, which merged with Hearst media two years later, according to KHBS General Manager Jeff Bartlett. The family also previously owned a radio station in Hot Springs, KZNG.

According to the court decision, Hernreich's estate, worth $10.5 million, "had become somewhat depleted" by 1995 because of bad investments. The money at the root of the $1.4 million in dispute was invested to help improve the estate's finances.

Robin Hernreich at one time partly owned a chain of nursing homes in Texas and the U.S. Repeating Arms Co., the maker of legendary Winchester guns.

Slug Line: ycourt-hernreichth 2B

This article was published on page B6 of the **Thursday, March 09, 2000** edition in the **B6 section**.

This article was published on page 81 of the **Sunday, August 13, 2006** edition in the **Business section**.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Darrel Cunningham of Fort Smith received the Arkansas Broadcasters Association’s Pioneer Award. The award honors an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the broadcast industry.

[**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TV\_Guide**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TV_Guide)

**Annenberg/Triangle era**

The national *TV Guide'*s first issue was released on April 3, 1953. The cover featured a photograph of [Lucille Ball](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucille_Ball)'s newborn son [Desi Arnaz, Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desi_Arnaz,_Jr.). A small photo of Lucy was also placed in the top corner under the title of the issue which read: "Lucy's $50,000,000 baby".

*TV Guide* as a national publication resulted from [Walter Annenberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Annenberg)'s Triangle Publications' purchase of numerous regional television listing publications such as *TV Forecast*, *TV Digest*, *Television Guide* and *TV Guide*. The launch as a national publication with local listings in April 1953 became an almost instant success with the magazine becoming the most read and circulated magazine in the country by the 1960s. The initial cost was just 15¢ per copy. In addition to subscriptions, *TV Guide* was sold from grocery store counters nationwide. Until the 1980s, each issue's features were promoted in a television commercial. Under Triangle Publications, *TV Guide* continued to grow not only in circulation, but in recognition as the authority on television programming with articles from both staff and contributing writers. Over the decades the shape of the logo has changed to reflect the modernization of the television screen. At first, the logo had various color backgrounds (usually black, white, blue or green) until the familiar red background became a standard in the 1960s with occasional changes to accommodate a special edition.

Under Triangle Publications, *TV Guide* was first based in a small office in downtown Philadelphia until moving to more spacious national headquarters in [Radnor, Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radnor,_Pennsylvania) in the late 1950s. The new facility, complete with a large lighted *TV Guide* logo at the building's entrance, was home to management, editors, production personnel, subscription processors as well as a vast computer system holding data on every show and movie available for listing in the popular weekly publication. Printing of the national color section of *TV Guide* took place at Triangle's Gravure Division plant adjacent to Triangle's landmark Philadelphia Inquirer Building on North Broad Street in Philadelphia. The color section was then sent to regional printers to be wrapped around the local listing sections. Triangle's Gravure Division was known for performing some of the highest quality printing in the industry with almost always perfect registration.

Triangle Publications in addition to *TV Guide* owned [*The Philadelphia Inquirer*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Philadelphia_Inquirer), [*Philadelphia Daily News*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia_Daily_News), 16 radio and television stations ([WFIL AM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WFIL)-[FM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WBEB)-[TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WPVI-TV) Philadelphia, PA, WNHC [AM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WYBC_(AM))-[FM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WPLR)-[TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WTNH) New Haven, CT, KFRE [AM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KWRU)-[FM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KSKS)-[TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KFSN-TV) Fresno, CA, WNBF [AM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WNBF)-[FM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WHWK)-[TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WBNG) Binghamton, NY, WFBG [AM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WFBG)-[FM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WFGY)-[TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WTAJ-TV) Altoona, PA and [WLYH-TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WLYH-TV) Lancaster/Lebanon, PA) [*The Daily Racing Form*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Daily_Racing_Form), *The Morning Telegraph*, [*Seventeen*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventeen_(magazine)), and various cable TV interests. It was under Triangle's ownership of WFIL in Philadelphia that [Dick Clark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Clark) and [*American Bandstand*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Bandstand) came to popularity. Triangle Publications sold its Philadelphia newspapers to [Knight Newspapers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knight_Newspapers) in 1969, its radio and television stations during the early 1970s to [Capital Cities Communications](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_Cities_Communications) and various other interests retaining only *TV Guide*, [*Seventeen*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventeen_(magazine)) Magazine and the *Daily Racing Form*. Triangle Publications was sold to [News America Corporation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/News_Corporation) in 1988 for $3 billion, one of the largest media deals of the time.

[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=TV_Guide&action=edit&section=4)]

**News Corporation era**

The advent of [cable TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cable_television) was hard on *TV Guide*. Cable channels began to be listed in TV Guide in 1980 or 1981, depending on the edition. Channels were also different, depending on the edition. Each channel was designated by an oblong bullet of three letters; for example, ESN represented ESPN and NIK represented [Nickelodeon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nickelodeon_(TV_channel)).

he sheer amount and diversity of cable TV programming made it hard for *TV Guide* to provide listings of the extensive array of programming that came directly over the cable system. *TV Guide* also could not match the ability of the cable box to store personalized listings. *TV Guide'*s circulation went from almost 20 million in 1970 to less than three million in 2007.

**MAGAZINES >** [**Movie/TV**](http://www.cultureandthrills.com/catalog/category/20) **>** [**TV Guide**](http://www.cultureandthrills.com/catalog/subcategory/91)

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| **TV GUIDE, November, 1971** | |
| [**Click to view larger image**](http://www.pulpsandcomics.com/auction2/L021005da.jpg) | **Inventory No:** WS30-129  **Year:** 1971  **Day:** 20  **Description:** Classic issue of TV Guide. Good or better condition. Central Pennsylvania Edition. Also includes articles on 'Nichols' Man-Made Earthquake, Down the Drain with Jane Withers, 'All in the Family's Carroll O'Connor, Horatio Alger in the Sticks and Sports King Lamar Hunt.  **Grade:** G  **Price:** $15.00 |

[**http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=401**](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=401)

The shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico during the first part of the Cenozoic (“new”) Era ran through southwestern Arkansas, near the present route of Interstate 30 from [Hope (Hempstead County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=895) to Arkadelphia and on to Little Rock (Pulaski County), [Newport (Jackson County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=905), and beyond, along a huge bay extending northward to southern Missouri. During the first part of the Cenozoic era known as the Tertiary period, the Gulf receded to the south, leaving behind the sands and gravels that made up its bottom and beaches as well as the deltas of rivers that emptied into it. These deposits, as well as most Mesozoic deposits in southwestern Arkansas, were not subsequently compressed and cemented into hard rock, like those in the northwestern half of the state. Therefore, the surface geology of this area that is now called the Coastal Plain Natural Division is characterized by unconsolidated deposits of sand, gravel, silt, and clay from the ocean bottom, beaches, and, which have become an important economic resource for this region.

During glacial advances and retreats (the Pleistocene epoch), rivers became swollen relative to today and covered much larger areas, creating extensive alluvial terraces along the larger rivers and sometimes blanketing large areas between today’s rivers. Sometimes these terraces have been converted to productive farmland or pasture.

The Coastal Plain Natural Division includes surface deposits from the Cretaceous period of the Mesozoic era (uplands of southwestern Arkansas), the Tertiary period of the Cenozoic era (uplands of south-central Arkansas), and the Quaternary period of the Cenozoic era (alluvial terraces and bottomlands throughout the natural division). The natural division as a whole is referred to as the West Gulf Coastal Plain (that part of the Gulf Coastal Plain west of the [Mississippi River](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2648)) and extends from Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana across southern Arkansas northward to the Ouachita Mountains and reaches southern Little Rock (Pulaski County).

**Formation of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain (a.k.a. the Arkansas Delta) Natural Division**Eastern Arkansas was originally part of the northward-extending bay of the Gulf of Mexico already mentioned, created by subsidence of the underlying rocks. However, as this bay was filled and emerged from the sea, it was dramatically altered by rivers, primarily the Mississippi, Ohio, and Arkansas. The older Tertiary deposits were carved away, and rivers replaced the upper several hundred feet of marine deposits with the sand, silt, and clay that they carried from the north, east, and west. The courses of the rivers constantly changed over thousands of years, reshaping virtually all of the eastern third of Arkansas along with parts of six other states, including large parts of Louisiana and Mississippi. The region they created is the Mississippi Alluvial Plain Natural Division, often referred to as the Delta. The Delta vividly demonstrates that geologic processes are still operating today, as rivers carve away older sediments and simultaneously lay down new deposits. Much of the surface of this region has been created within the last several thousand years.

However, some areas are older. They are outwash deposits laid down by the rivers swollen with meltwater from the Pleistocene glaciers. These deposits often form terraces that are higher than modern river floodplains. The oldest is the Prairie Terrace—the largest unit of which underlies the [Grand Prairie](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2996), extending over a half million acres—deposited by the Arkansas River over 100,000 years ago. That terrace extends from Searcy southward past [Lonoke (Lonoke County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=928), [Des Arc (Prairie County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=964), [Stuttgart (Arkansas County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=820), and [Dewitt (Arkansas County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=819) to near the Arkansas River. Other younger and lower Pleistocene terraces cover most of the Delta north of the Arkansas River, and some of the land south of the Arkansas River is occupied by these terraces as well. Almost all the Delta is extremely flat, with local elevation differences of only a few feet. The Grand Prairie terrace is even flatter than most, without even the abandoned river features, such as oxbow lakes, that add variety to much of the region.

The deep alluvial soil of the Delta has made it the most important agricultural region of Arkansas. [Soils](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=5141) and crops often reflect the character of the river that shaped the local landscape. [Cotton](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2092) is most important in the sandy soils along the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers, while [rice](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=380) is most extensive on the Pleistocene terraces that often are underlain by a clay subsoil or “pan” that provides a watertight bottom for irrigated fields.

The subsidence that created the Mississippi Alluvial Plain actually began as a rift in the North American continent starting in the late pre-Cambrian (about 700 million years ago). If that rift had continued, it would have split the ancestral North American continent in two and created a new ocean. Although it did not accomplish that, there is still geologic activity today in a different form. Opening of the Atlantic Ocean along the Mid-Atlantic Spreading Center is pushing North America westward and causing compressive forces in the middle of the plate. In 1811–12, this force field caused the [New Madrid Earthquakes](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2218), among the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded in North America.

The Mississippi Alluvial Plain in Arkansas reaches from Missouri to Louisiana and is bounded by the Mississippi River on the east, while on the west it intersects each of the other natural divisions. Pine Bluff lies on the boundary with the Coastal Plain, and Little Rock and [North Little Rock (Pulaski County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=973) lie on the boundary with the Coastal Plain and the Ouachita Mountains. Overall, the Mississippi Alluvial Plain extends from Illinois through Missouri and Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico.

**Formation of the Crowley’s Ridge Natural Division**During the most recent glacial advance, the Mississippi River flowed west of its modern course, nearer to the Ozark Mountains, while the Ohio followed a route parallel to it near where the Mississippi is now, and the two did not join each other or the Arkansas River until all three were south of today’s Arkansas. As they reworked eastern Arkansas, they left untouched a narrow strip of land typically from half a mile to twenty miles wide and over 150 miles long, reaching from Missouri to [Helena-West Helena (Phillips County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=950), Although this low ridge was primarily composed of the Tertiary marine deposits that originally covered all of eastern and southern Arkansas, it was capped with river-deposited sand and gravel. Today, shark’s teeth can be found in the marine deposits, and the gravel deposits are the most valuable in this part of the state. This low ridge became the core of the Crowley’s Ridge Natural Division, which was completed by the addition of wind-blown dust, or loess, up to fifty feet thick at the southern end. The loess originated as glacial ground silt that was spread out as thin sheets over the adjacent Mississippi Alluvial Plain about 20,000 to 30,000 years ago. When it was picked up by the winds, the low ridge of ocean-bottom materials disturbed wind flow and allowed silt to accumulate, primarily from [Jonesboro (Craighead County)](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=862) south, building the ridge up to its present height. The bulk of the wind-borne silt was transported on to the uplands along the eastern side of the alluvial plain, creating a line of loess hills from north of Memphis, Tennessee, southward through Vicksburg and Natchez, Mississippi. Although it is generally less than 200 feet higher than the surrounding Delta, Crowley’s Ridge has been dissected by streams into very steep valleys. Because of the chemical and physical properties of loess, landslides are common where it is thick. Upland hardwood forests on the ridge contrast with bottomland hardwood forests of the adjacent delta. Thus, although Crowley’s Ridge is completely surrounded by the Delta, the geologic histories of the two are very different, and even though Crowley’s Ridge is small, it is a distinctly different upland ecosystem.

Holy Angels Academy was opened in 1930 in part of the new addition to the convent, which faced Jackson.  The community continued to grow in membership and by the mid 1960's, the community numbered close to two hundred members. The need for more room for the convent and needed hospital expansion caused the community to make the decision to relocate to a tract of land north of Jonesboro.  In 1974, the community relocated to the new Holy Angels Convent, located off 141, near KAIT TV Station.

The mission of the Jonesboro Benedictines is the same today as it was 123 years ago when they first came to Arkansas. They came to serve those in need.

Although the community will be 124 years old this December, 2011 it has been in Jonesboro for 113 of these years.  The bond of friendship formed in 1898 when the Sisters first came to Jonesboro to serve, has continued to grow for more than one hundred years.