

Four Winds Cemetery

GPS Coordinates: 35 4.714 92 30.630
Township 5 North, Range 14 West, Section 17
Political Township: West Cadron

Location and Description

The beautiful and picturesque Four Winds Chapel was constructed by Robert and Pat Ott at the junction of Highway 60 and Lee Andrew Lane west of Conway. The address is 5031 Highway 60 West, Conway, AR. Members of the Ott family are interred in the cemetery, which is situated on the grounds of the chapel. The addition of the Robert Ott Memorial Garden with bronze statues of children in a serene, garden-like setting, enhance the grounds and reminds one of a picture in a quaint, pastoral fairy-tale.



History

In a 1996 article in the Faulkner County Historical Society's publication, Facts and Fiddlings, the chapel and cemetery were described as follows:

The New England-style 700-square-foot chapel has seating for 40 to 50 people. The chapel pulpit was once used in the old Church of Christ at Robinson and Center in Conway and the chapel pews are from the former University Church of Christ at the corner of Donaghey and Bruce. The pulpit Bible belonged to Mrs. Ott's family; the table in the entrance hall belonged to her grandmother in Tennessee; the oak halltree-bench came from the Noble Smith estate on Caldwell Street; and the stone used in the posts for the brick wall are from the original Faulkner County Courthouse constructed in 1877-78. The chapel will be available for weddings, funerals, and small gatherings of a spiritual nature. Future plans for the area include a perpetual care cemetery.

Approximately two years later, Robert L. Ott died at the age of 72 and was the first person buried at Four Winds. His obituary, as it appeared in the *Log Cabin Democrat*, read:



Developer Robert Ott, 72, dies.

Robert L. Ott, whose real estate stratagems changed the face of the landscape in Conway, died Saturday (Dec. 19, 1998) at Conway Regional Medical Center after a lengthy illness. He was 72 years old.

Many of his business decisions were spectacular in scope, as he orchestrated the development of shopping centers, apartment complexes and other commercial buildings.

His thriving ventures in insurance, land and an abstract business were a measure of his accomplishments. His depth of talent and intelligence in matters of finance seemed bottomless, his friends maintain.

Many of them, who go back a long way with Ott, were not surprised by his successes. They knew him as a brilliant student, a focused individual who knew exactly what he wanted and got it.

Ott was a master planner and his vision for the growth of Conway was acute and on the mark. He was a real estate realist, perspicacious in the way he conducted a flourishing and prosperous business and circumspect in his dealings. He was, friends say, quietly purposeful and tied to his business. He had little time for diversion.

“A lot of people knew who he was, but really were not close to him,” says Frank Robins, an old friend and former publisher of the *Log Cabin Democrat*. “I knew him going back to high school. He was content to be a loner, a quiet sort and greatly interested in work.”

Another estimate came from Don Vogan of Conway, who recalls Ott as a “brilliant fellow who made all A’s in school. He was the kind of fellow you knew would be successful one day.”

Ott made his fortune the old-fashioned way, earning it, Vogan said. “He went to work at a young age with the old Gus Bahner insurance and company of Conway and he later bought the business. Hard work and determined effort were Ott’s hallmarks. He’d work 23 hours a day and he knew how to make money.”

Not many people knew about his nobility in giving, “but when you talked to institutions and others, you got word of the depth of his generosity,” says investor and farmer Bunny Adcock of Conway, a long-time friend.

Ott had few outside interests. One was his church and another was Four Winds Chapel in west Conway on Prince Street, which he and his wife, Pat, built, making it available for weddings, small gatherings of a “spiritual nature” or for funerals.

The New England-style chapel seats 40 to 50 people. It is built of white wood and has a steeple which houses a bell that is a replica of the bell Mrs. Ott used when she taught kindergarten.

Mrs. Ott once said the pulpit in the chapel is the one used in the old Robinson and Center Church of Christ. The pews are from University Church of Christ.



“I sat near Mr. Ott for 15 years during his time as a member of the board of First National Bank,” Adcock says, “and I worked for him in the insurance business in 1980. I had the utmost respect for the man. His honesty and integrity were unquestioned.”

Adcock gives currency to the belief that Ott was responsible in good measure for the development of Conway. “He was the first Realtor with a real vision for the city, and he saw early where Conway was going. His leadership and vision were wonderful attributes.”



Ott also carved out a reputation for candor. “I never met a person who didn’t say that Ott was fair and honest. To his credit, it was true.”

Minister Lendal Bolin and former minister Harold Thomas of University Church of Christ painted Ott as a “loving and generous man who has been followed by good works, straightforwardness and honesty.” As a leader in the church, Ott exerted influence, always promoting unity and love. “And because of his faith, he was a living example of Christ-like spirit,” Bolin says.

Thomas recalled that Ott was instrumental in the minister coming to Conway. “He was a very generous contributor to the church, and I know that because I was a beneficiary of his generosity. He was a wonderful family man and a faithful church member.”

Not surprisingly, in view of the seemingly universal regard Ott engendered, is Pam McDowell’s comment that “I wished I had been a mouse in Bob Ott’s pocket to learn how he did business. He was visionary and, you can say, without fear of contradiction that western Conway wouldn’t be what it is today if it hadn’t been for Bob Ott,” says Ms. McDowell, owner of Pam McDowell’s Properties and an old friend of the family and gracious competitor. “He has forgotten more about real estate than I’ll ever know.”

Born August 28, 1926, in Conway, a son of James Roy and Louise (Scheibel) Ott, he was also a World War II Navy veteran. Survivors are his wife, Patricia W. Ott; a son J. R. Ott of

Arlington, Texas; a daughter Joanna Rankin of Conway; a sister, Alleen Long of Santa Rose, California; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday at University Church of Christ with Mr. Jim Bob Baker and Mr. Harold Thomas officiating. Burial will be in Four Winds Cemetery by Roller-McNutt Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Gene Salter, Jim Hambuchen, Kevin Watson, Tom Day, Tommy Huett and Randy Sims.

Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Four Winds Chapel at Prince Street and Lee Andrew Lane. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, the National Kidney Foundation, Southern Christian Home in Morrilton, Vera Loyd Presbyterian Home in Monticello (Drew County), the American Diabetes Association or Florence Crittendon Home in Little Rock.

Census Data

As of 2004, there were five burials in Four Winds Cemetery. Two of these (James and Louise Ott) were originally buried at Oak Grove Cemetery in Conway and moved to Four Winds.



Emily Elaine "Emmy" Ott
b. 26 Mar 1999
d. 8 Jun 1999

James R. Ott
b. 30 Sep 1895
d. 13 Oct 1970
DS w/ Louise E. Ott
(Re-interred from Oak Grove Cemetery)

Louise E. Ott
b. 1 Mar 1896
d. 7 Jan 1957
DS w/ James R. Ott
(Re-interred from Oak Grove Cemetery)

Patricia Ann (Williams) Ott
b. 3 Apr 1928
DS w/ Robert Lester Ott

Robert Lester Ott
b. 28 Aug 1926
d. 19 Dec 1998
DS w/ Patricia Ann (Williams) Ott
md. 6 Nov 1947 in Faulkner Co.

RESOURCES

Johnson, Sondra. McNutt Funeral Home Index. Faulkner County Museum, 2007.

Log Cabin Democrat. Conway, Arkansas. Dec. 21, 1998.

Shubert, Dwight. Faulkner County Marriage Index, 1926-1967, Vol. 2, 1997.



Robert L. Ott Memorial Garden

"Let the little children come unto me.."
Matthew 19:14
1999





Driving Directions: From the junction of Hogan Lane and Prince Street (Highway 60) in west Conway, drive west on Prince Street to Lee Andrew Lane. The chapel and cemetery are on the southwest corner of this intersection.