



# Millie M. Brooks

**(1932-2005)**

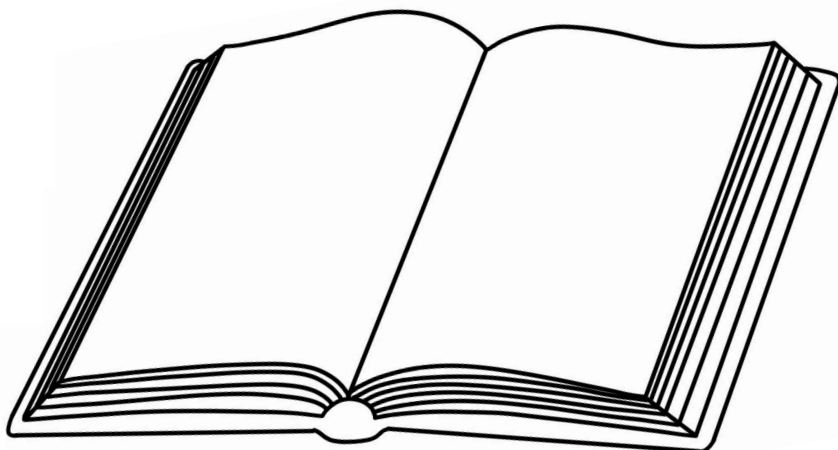
Millie M. Brooks was a long-time African American alderman in Wrightsville, Arkansas. The Wrightsville branch library of the Central Arkansas Library System (CAL S) was named for her in 2013.

Millie Muriel Ward was born on August 27, 1932, and she spent her life in Wrightsville, later marrying and raising two children there. She entered politics later in life than is customary, besting two opponents to become Ward 2, Position 1 Wrightsville alderman in 1992. She apparently faced no other opponents for reelection during her tenure as alderman.

She died while in office on July 9, 2005. Her daughter Tena Brooks was appointed to fill her unexpired term and later won reelection to the post.

As alderman, Millie Brooks had been a proponent of having a CAL S branch library in Wrightsville, and when a decision was made in 2012 to renovate a space between the Wrightsville City Hall and the city gymnasium into a branch library, the city decided to name the new facility in her honor.

The Millie M. Brooks Library opened to the public on June 1, 2013, with a focus on serving southeastern Pulaski County residents.





# Thase Daniel

(1907-1990)

Thase Daniel was an internationally known nature and wildlife photographer. During a career that spanned the 1950s to the 1980s, her work appeared in major publications and magazines, including *Field & Stream*, *Ranger Rick*, and *Reader's Digest*.

Thase Christine Ferguson was born on December 5, 1907, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. In 1929, she graduated from what is now Ouachita Baptist University with a bachelor's degree in music. She married John Daniel, and frequent family vacations across the nation inspired her interest in photographing the countryside. When her initial images failed to meet her expectations, Daniel began studying the work of well-known wildlife photographers. With no formal training in photography, she practiced by taking pictures of birds near her home.

Though she began photography relatively late in life, Daniel's patience and determination paid off.

Daniel traveled the world recording scenery and all kinds of creatures on film. Her adventures included riding an elephant across a river in India, making a two-week expedition by dogsled across the Greenland icecap, and being attacked by a 600-pound bull sea lion in the Galapagos Islands.

One of her photos was used by Kodak for advertisements displayed in camera shops across America in the 1950s.

She ultimately came to be recognized as one of the world's leading nature and wildlife photographers. She died on September 10, 1990, in El Dorado, Arkansas.





# Sue Kidd

(1933-2017)

Sue Kidd was a baseball star who gained local fame for the athletic prowess she displayed while playing on and against all-male baseball teams in Van Buren County, Arkansas, and surrounding areas.

Glenna Sue Kidd was born in Choctaw, Arkansas, on September 2, 1933. As a high school student, Kidd pitched so well that she was allowed to play on the high school boys' baseball team. She was best known in the county for a game she pitched and won in 1949 at the age of fifteen. She was backed up by a team of male amateur baseball players from the area that had been put together by her father. Kidd pitched for all nine innings and became known for a deceptive curve ball.

At fifteen years old, Kidd tried out for traveling teams in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. She impressed the Springfield Sallies, and they immediately added her to their roster, starting her career in professional baseball. Her career consisted of stints with the Springfield Sallies (1949), Peoria Redwings (1950), and South Bend Blue Sox (1950–1954).

In 1988, a permanent display including her name was opened at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, honoring the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. She went on to teach and coach sports in Indiana. She later returned to Choctaw, where she died on May 4, 2017.

