

(1892-1980)

# William Aden (Bill) French



Publisher, *The Current Wave*, *Eminence*, 1937-1969. Also published the *Winona Shannon County Democrat* and the *Birch Tree Shannon County Herald*. Settled in Shannon County in 1905 from Tennessee. Was graduated in first class of *Eminence High School*, 1911. He became one of the Ozarks' most prolific writers with distinguished careers in journalism and education. His journals reveal a love of life in the Ozarks and a lifelong enthusiasm for hunting, fishing, farming and writing, from newspapers to novels. He wrote serial stories and four books. A *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* account noted French "wrote the novels, edited them, set them in type, proofread, printed and bound them, then promoted and published them." French taught school a few years, continued to write and mastered the printing trade. He reached that dream many newspapermen and women have sought, writing his *Great American Novel*. He recalled "the thrill that came to me when I saw one of my brain children displayed on the printed page with my name as author."