

THEN CAME
JACKSON COUNTY



CLASS OF '73
HISTORICAL

Then Came

Jackson County

.... And what a delightful addition to the world it has become! Its scenery--mountains, rivers, and rolling farmlands and its exciting and occasionally awe-inspiring history can not be matched. More intriguing than these, however, are the people of Jackson County, both those who are living and those who are now dead, from various individuals have come enticing bits of folklore, hair-raising ghost stories, interesting epitaphs, and fascinating biographies.

The Senior English classes of Scottsboro High School gathered the information mentioned above as a special Journalism project. Because we have depended entirely upon interviews with people from all around our county rather than researching what has already been printed in other publications, there may be errors in our presentation of facts, However, memories bring fascinating recollections which may contain mistakes but do not fail to capture the spirit of the people.

The Seniors wish to express their appreciation to Mr. Ray Collins, Principal, for his cooperation in this project and to Mrs. Sandra Wallingsford and her typing students who helped prepare the manuscript for publication. A number of people deserve our thanks for visiting our English classes to give us information about various aspects of life in Jackson County as well as tips on gathering this material from other people.

Mr. A. A. Clemens
Mr. R.W. Gibson
Mr. Frank Grigg
Mr. Walt Hammer
Mrs. M.L. Harris
Miss Christine Jenkins
Mrs. Irene Jordan
Mr. A.C. Parker
Mr. Wiley Snodgrass
Mrs. Christine Sumner
Mrs. Gertrude Tyson
Miss Eliza Hackworth

And now from caves to graves, from shucks to sows, as well as from preserves to cures for nerves...

Cover Designed by Mike Taylor

Table of Contents

Portraits of Fascinating People.....	1-12
Patterns of Every Day Life.....	13-22
Making Things.....	23-26
Folk Remedies.....	27-32
Ghost Stories and The Unexplained.....	33-47
Superstitions.....	48-49
Community Sketches.....	50-56
Natural Phenomena.....	57-60
Tombstones and Such.....	61-65
Odds and Ends.....	66-68

Portraits Of Fascinating People

The Atkins Family

John Thomas and Maudie Marie Atkins head a very musical family of three sons and two daughters. At times such as reunions, parties, Christmas, or simple get-togethers, the family makes music and provides entertainment. Using this talent has been a tradition in this home for many years. Mrs. Atkins started her children's interest in music many years ago, using the instruments that were available. John Ed, J.D., and Bobby play guitars and sing; the daughters, Louise and Laura, sing. John Thomas, the father, plays the banjo and the guitar.

John Ed has really gone far with his hobby. He has made four recordings and has many films and pictures of his performances from a time when he lived in Florida. He has a guitar that cost four hundred dollars and a Porter Wagoner-type suit worth almost as much. The best picture of John Ed comes from a music contest in Nashville at which he received more encores than Merl Haggard. There are other pictures of him talking with Porter Wagoner and Spec Rose. In 1970 he sent some songs to Johnny Cash, but he has never heard anything about them. He says that it takes a long time to make it in music and that with him it is just a hobby.

Interviewers:

Ronnie Johnson
Ronald Lawson

Interviewee: Mrs. Maudie Marie Atkins

Jeffrey Bailey

Mr. Jeffrey Bailey grew up mainly around Baileytown. He had to help his father and mother on the farm year-round. Every night he had to split stove wood so his mother would have enough to cook supper and have enough left over to cook breakfast the next morning. After he did that, he had to milk the cows and feed the pigs.

Mr. Bailey said he had to get up every morning at four o'clock to feed the chickens and get ready for breakfast. After he ate his breakfast at 4:30 every morning, he was ready for his daily work. His day's work lasted from five o'clock every morning until sundown every evening.

Mr. Bailey said he went into the army when he was seventeen and stayed until he was twenty-one. After his father died, he took over his farm at Baileytown and lived there and worked

until he was sixty-eight. He then retired and rented his farm.

Interviewer: Larry Lewis
Interviewee: Jeffrey Bailey

Moody Baugh

My grandfather, Moody Baugh, was born April 25, 1890, in Cherokee County. He was raised at Bishop Point, now called Hytop. He moved with his mother and father to his house at Hytop.

He made his living by working in a stamemill and by farming. He made lower wages than people do now.

He married Floye Annie Jackson, and born to them were fifteen children, ten boys and five girls.

My grandfather lived to be seventy-seven years old. He died August 2, 1967. He was a man who was the same every time anyone saw him. He was always nice, kind, and polite to everyone. He and his wife raised all of their children except two and he always tried to teach them what was right and wrong.

Interviewer: Marie Baugh
Interviewee: Coleman Baugh

Pat Baxter

Mrs. Francis Milligan related to us a story about a man who was well-known throughout the Sand Mountain area and the state of Alabama. This man's name was Pat Baxter. He lived in the general Sand Mountain area until he died a few years ago.

Mr. Baxter had a natural talent for music. He became a well-known person because of his special talent. He became a great gospel music composer in his time. During his life, he also taught music classes, played the piano, and taught singing classes.

Mr. Baxter wrote the music and words of many gospel numbers that were published in many widespread gospel songbooks and magazines.

Mr. Baxter became known and liked by everyone. He was a fat, jolly man who always had something nice to say.

His wife once said that Mr. Baxter would get the words to a song on his

mind and would lock himself in his workroom until he finished the song. He would sometimes stay in the room for days at a time without food until he finished. When he thought that his work was completed and perfected, he would try to get the song published. He would then start on a new song.

Today in many of the old churches and some of the newer ones throughout Alabama and neighboring states, Mr. Baxter's songs are still sung.

Interviewers:

Ronnie Henegar

Billy Johnson

Interviewee: Mrs. Francis Milligan

John Benson

John Benson was the son of Newton Wesley Benson and Mollie Morgan Benson. He was born in Paris, Texas, in the late 1800's. He volunteered for services in World War I. Mr. Benson was released from the service in 1919, at which time he moved to Jackson County and married.

Later Mr. Benson got into a number of different businesses, all of which were highly successful. At one time he and Mr. Padgent started the first car dealership in Scottsboro and one of the first in Jackson County. It was located on the corner of Market and Peachtree Streets. He was a partner and manager in this firm for many years. At other times he was a partner in a hardware store and in a cotton gin. He also owned a large cattle farm in Langston, Alabama. Today the road that goes to Langston is named for this man.

Before F.H.A. was established, John Benson personally lent money to many people who could not afford to build their own homes. Many people feel that this was one of his greatest deeds. Besides being a very generous person, he was also, for very long time, an elder in a Presbyterian Church. This individual was a great man for Jackson County.

Interviewer: Steve Webb

Interviewee: Mrs. Lucille Vaught

Mr. Dan Bibbs

Mrs. Rene Bibbs talked about her husband, Mr. Dan Bibbs, who died in 1971. He was 119 years old. He was known as Uncle Dan. He was the son of slaves, and he helped build railroads through Alabama. Mrs. Bibbs said that

he could remember that the place where the Jackson County Courthouse is today was just woods. He did not know much about the War Between the States because it was back in those days when the Negroes were treated harshly. She said the old Brown or Kirby Mansion, which has been torn down, was partly built by Mr. Bibbs.

He remembered plowing fields with a mule. At one time, he plowed a whole field by himself. He believed that hard work was the reason he lives so long.

Interviewer: Martha Craft
Interviewee: Rene Bibbs

Judge Virgil Bouldin

Judge Virgil Bouldin's first ancestors beat the Mayflower to America by ten years. Thomas Bouldin, a farmer from England, came over on the Swan to assist John Smith in the fight against hunger in Jamestown. His future wife, Mary, came over with a shipload of women who did this for the purpose of marrying these men.

Judge Bouldin was the son of John and Mae Ann Bouldin. He was born on October 20, 1866, on a farm in Paint Rock Valley. Of the twelve children in the family eleven went on to college.

The judge was very intelligent man. He held many degrees which included: A.B., L. L. B., and L. L. D. He attended college at Buritt College, Winchester College, and Lebanon College.

Judge Bouldin was married right before he left to serve in the Spanish-American War. Because of the shortage of men during the war, his wife served as a mail carrier. In the line of duty, she caught pneumonia and later died.

When a college was founded in Scottsboro in 1890, the people refused to allow their children to attend the school because of a typhoid epidemic. Judge Bouldin had fresh water piped into Scottsboro and the typhoid disappeared.

Judge Bouldin was very religious and taught the men's Sunday School class for the First Baptist Church in Scottsboro for many years.

After he retired from the Supreme Court of Alabama where he gained the reputation of being the most-quoted person ever to serve from this group, he lived in a house on Scott Street. Judge Bouldin died on July 28, 1949.

Interviewers:
Gina Sheppard
Tom Gibson
Pam McGinty
Pam Sims

Interviewers:

Mr. Virgil Bouldin
Mr. Joe Dawson

Dr. John Harvey Boyd

Dr. John Harvey Boyd practiced medicine in Jackson County for twenty-nine years. He was the grandfather of Miss Mary Cotten and Mrs. Annie Lee Webb, who presently reside on East Willow Street in Scottsboro.

Dr. Boyd was originally from Virginia. He later lived in Huntsville, Henryville (which is in Marshall County), Larkinsville and then Scottsboro. He went to schools in Lebanon and Nashville, Tennessee, and in Kentucky where he finished medical school.

Dr. Boyd had three sons who became doctors. They were Andy, Ed, and Hugh Boyd. They all practiced medicine in Scottsboro. He also had a daughter who was the mother of Miss Cotten and Mrs. Webb.

Dr. John Harvey Boyd was often paid with eggs, butter, meat, or whatever his patients had. He traveled on horseback carrying his medicine in saddlebags. If he had to travel as far as Langston or Section, he would have to stay overnight because of the long journey.

Dr. Boyd did not have modern science to use. He often operated on a table on his back porch or on a patient's kitchen table. His only light was a coal oil lamp. He once removed a man's eye on his porch.

A doctor in the 1800's followed a very difficult profession. Very few people today would travel across the country for hours to be paid with whatever a patient had, as Dr. Boyd did.

Interviewers:

Stanley Woodall
Nita Brown

Interviewees:

Miss Mary Cotten
Mrs. Annie Lee Webb

W.R.W. Cobb

W.R.W. Cobb was the first man from Jackson County to serve as United States Representative from the eighth district. He owned a plantation between Scottsboro and Pikeville, on which several slaves worked. He was tall and ruggedly built, and although he was not highly educated, he had a keen sense of management and a good business mind.

W.R.W. Cobb became well known to the local people by peddling clocks

around the county. Exactly why a plantation owner would peddle clocks cannot be determined, but it is possible that it was more of an avocation than means of earning livelihood.

His initial involvement with politics came when he ran for the Alabama State Legislature and won. While serving in the Legislature he amended a bill which dealt with families in debt. The old bill stated that families in debt would have to give up all their belongings except a table and chairs. The new, amended version, known as the "Crockery Bill," stated that debtor families would be allowed to keep six cups, six saucers, six plates, and six forks, knives and spoons, since these seem to be more necessary for survival than tables and chairs.

In 1874 he ran for U.S. Representative from the Eighth District. Although he was a dark-horse candidate, he won the election. (Bob Jones is the only other man from Jackson County to serve in this capacity.)

Congressman Cobb served from 1847 to 1861, when he left the room with the other southern congressmen after they had decided to secede from the Union.

Interviewer: John Newman
Interviewee: Eliza Hackworth

Monroe Cook

Mr. Monroe Cook was born in the year 1890. He was raised around Hollywood, and while living there, he took the responsibility of farming at the age of eight. At this time only mules were used, and he was so small he had to stretch to reach the plow.

Even though he only finished approximately the ninth grade, he was excellent with numbers.

Monroe Cook married Miss Dora Jane Matthews in 1915, when he was twenty-five. They had five children, three boys and two girls.

He moved his family to Scottsboro in 1926 when he began working at Word Motor Company as a car salesman. He was one of the leading salesmen in the county. He sold more cars than any two salesmen together.

With the promise of electricity many people became eager to purchase an electric washing machine. Mr. Cook sold these machines even before the purchaser's electricity was established. These people would keep their machines sometimes a year before they could use them.

Mr. Cook's first house in Scottsboro was on the corner of Charlotte and Houston Streets. The house caught fire

and his family barely escaped injury. The only items he salvaged were the desk and a box of baby clothes that had not been unpacked. Heat shattered a window, causing a piece of glass to lodge in his face. The piece of glass worked itself out after about thirty years.

Later the Cooks moved into a house on Maple Avenue. Eventually he built a house across the street.

It is said that Mr. Cook was one of the strongest men in the county. He could hold his wife and children off the floor with his out-stretched arms. At a carnival once, there was a side show where men could wrestle a bear. Mr. Cook did and won!

He retired from Word's when he was about seventy years old. He was discontent not working, so he would go to Scottsboro Trailer Sales to work.

At the time of his death in 1969, Mr. Monroe Cook owned a considerable amount of property on both sides of Maple Avenue and some on Willow Street. He was an outstanding man who contributed himself to his family and work.

Interviewer: Cindy Hicks Cook
Interviewee: Mrs. Evelyn Cook

Don J. Cummins

The Cummins diesel engine is the world's leading heavy-duty engine. One of the researchers and makers of that engine lives here in Scottsboro, Alabama. His name is Mr. Don J. Cummins.

Mr. Cummins was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1902. His father was a lumber man. At the age of twelve, Don Cummins worked in the lumber plant picking up barrel heads. He worked his way through two years of high school. When Mr. Cummins was seventeen, he started with the engine company.

The Cummins Engine Company was first started in 1919. Mr. Cummins' brother, C.L. Cummins, had the patent on the diesel engine. There were about six or eight people in the company. Now there are about twelve or thirteen thousand people involved with the company. Fifty-seven percent of all diesel engines now are Cummins engines. There are factories all over the world.

Mr. Cummins referees the Indianapolis 500 each year. He has never driven a race car, but five cars with Cummins diesel engines have been in the race. In 1932 one Cummins car was driven 500 miles non-stop. It is the only car ever to do this. In 1933 there were two cars raced. One had two cylinders

and the other had four cylinders. Mr. Cummins himself designed the car which was raced in 1950. In 1952 another Cummins car was driven.

Mr. Cummins is the only man alive who was with the company when it was first started. He retired in 1960.

Mr. Cummins and his wife moved to Scottsboro almost five years ago. Mr. Cummins loves boating, big game hunting, and traveling. He is a man of seventy years, but he is as active as if he were seventeen. He and his wife have a beautiful home on the lake.

Interviewers:
Sherry Gentle
Mike Bellomy
Interviewee: Don Cummins

Tom Dean

Mr. Tom Dean was a mail carrier and a Baptist preacher. He carried the mail twenty years, including the years of the Depression. During the Depression he helped people who were out of work and needed money by giving them money and food on which to live. Mr. Dean was also the father of C.T. Dean, former sheriff of Jackson County. Mr. Tom Dean was a very unique person in the eyes of many people.

Interviewer: Roger Jones
Interviewee: Mrs. Bill Griffin

Claude Edmondson

Mr. Claude Edmondson was born in Jackson County in the late 1800's. He grew up in this area, although he lives in Detroit, Michigan, now.

When Mr. Edmondson was a teenager, he assisted in the building of the Brown and Kirby home by helping to carry tools and supplies to the workmen. Although the home, located behind Brownwood School, has recently been torn down, its construction served to help Mr. Edmondson develop an interest in masonry. As years went by, his knowledge of this skill grew.

Mr. Edmondson frequently returns to Scottsboro to visit his nephew, also named Mr. Claude Edmondson.

Interviewer: Martha Craft
Interviewee: Mr. Claude Edmondson

Sam Elcott

Sam Elcott was born in Stevenson, Alabama, in the late 1800's and left home at an early age because his family was too poor to support him.

He made his living by fishing and selling his fish where ever he could find someone to buy them. In the summer he had to sell his fish quickly before they spoiled. Sam never saw his parents again and fished for a living the rest of his life.

He died around the age of forty-five or fifty. While fishing on a frozen pond, he lost his balance, fell into the hole through which he was fishing and drowned.

Interviewer: David Ruby
Interviewee: Mrs. Hilda Ruby

George Sam Dant

George Sam Gant was born June 9, 1878. He was the son of George and Betty Thomas Gant. The family originally came from Tennessee. They floated down the Tennessee River by flatboat and settled near the present location of the Gant Cemetery in the Bethany Community. Sam was one of nine children including Will, Jim, Charley, Cal, John, Zack, Claudie and one other.

Sam married Cindy Shelton, and they had seven children: Maudie, Ab, Fred, Edith, Ethel, Creed and Erskine. Sam was a farmer all of his life and owned seven or eight hundred acres of land. He raised livestock, wheat, corn, cotton, and hay. He was also the owner of two different general stores during his lifetime.

Sam spent all of his life in the Bethany Community. The first house he lived in is still standing. An interesting thing about the house is that the rocks composing the chimney are supposed to have come from the old poorhouse near Hollywood.

In 1948 Sam ran for the office of District Road Commissioner of Jackson County and won. He ran a total of four times, winning twice. He also served as member of the Jackson County Board of Revenue in 1953. During this time there was a mass renovation of the courthouse. Sam Gant died of a stroke on March 27, 1962.

Interviewers:
Lester Gant
Alan Looney
Gary Talley
Kenny Bonner
Interviewees:
Erskine Gant
Lizzie Gant

Robert Wallace Gibson

Mr. Robert Wallace Gibson will soon enter his thirty-third year of operating Gibson's Rolling Store. His is one of the

few still in existence today. In it he carries frozen foods, canned goods, fruits, and essentially what might be found in a country store.

Mr. Gibson was born on March 16, 1905, in Hollywood, Alabama. He was the oldest of five children, and therefore maintained a tremendous responsibility. The Gibsons had a small farm in Hollywood, where Robert faithfully helped his father tend his crops.

On February 7, 1927, Robert married Myrtle Brooks, also from Hollywood. They made their home at Hollywood, where they raised five children. They now have twelve grandchildren.

Before Mr. Gibson started his rolling store he was a farmer, and he worked a couple of years with the T.V.A. too. In 1940 he started driving a rolling store for another man. He continued this for several years and then branched out into a store of his own.

During his thirty-two years he has had seven trucks, three of which were new. He drives approximately sixty miles a day, going six days a week, until recently, when he discontinued his Monday route. Mr. Gibson has not missed over twenty days because of sickness or a death in the family. Another interesting fact is that he has never had an accident or even an attempt of robbery.

Mr. Gibson also owns a grocery store at Mud Creek on Highway 72, from which he operates his rolling store. His wife and youngest son operate the grocery store while he is on the road.

Interviewers:

Cindy Kirby
Pam Turner

Interviewee: Robert W. Gibson

Mr. Joseph William Hale

Mr. Joe Hale quit school after about the sixth or seventh grade, but to this day a certain resident of Scottsboro, Alabama, declares that he was one of the most well-read persons in Scottsboro. The last school he attended was in Section, Alabama, and since he lived at the foot of Sand Mountain, he had to walk up the mountain every day to get to school. After Mr. Hale quit school, he helped his father in his store which was commonly known as Uncle John Hale's store and was located at the foot of Sand Mountain near the Section Ferry. He also farmed during his teenage years. Mr. Joe Hale was drafted during World War I and was stationed in Germany most of this time. He was there when the Armistice was signed.

After the war Mr. Hale returned to Jackson County where he met Fannie Walker. They were married in 1924. At this time Mr. Hale was a commercial

fisherman, and two years after their marriage, the Hales lived on a houseboat at Capertown's Ferry in Stevenson, Alabama. The houseboat was secured to land by ropes tied to trees along the bank of the river. They lived on the houseboat for twelve years during which time they had a daughter whom they named Jo Anne.

The Hale family moved to Tennessee where Mr. Hale continued his commercial fishing. The family then moved back to Section and from there to Scottsboro. Mrs. Joe Hale still lives in Scottsboro, Alabama, in the same house where they lived when the Hale family first moved here.

Interviewer: Cindy Cotten
Interviewee: Mrs. Joe Hale

Mrs. Annie D. Harris

Mrs. Annie D. Harris was the person that I interviewed. She told me about her family, the Jacobs.

Her grandfather's family was originally from middle Tennessee. He and his two older sons fought in the Civil War, but later on he was sent home because he had dysentery. He later died with this sickness. The two older sons were Willis and Dallas Jacobs. Mrs. Harris' father was the younger brother, who was too young to fight in the war. Her grandfather's trade was that of a mason.

During the war the Jacobs family heard that the Yankees were coming, so the family hid all their silver and horses. When the troops came, they were considerate and nice to them. They said that they would not harm them. The troops were camped across the road and kept their word.

In 1890 the Jacobs moved to Scottsboro. Mrs. Harris' father was a trader. He would buy land and then sell it for a higher price. This is how he made his living, by using his head instead of his hands. He was also the founder of J.C. Jacobs Banking Company.

Mrs. Harris attended school where the Scottsboro Junior High is today and her home was where the Jacobs Bank is today. The school had a fence around it and stiles to keep animals in.

If one attended school, one's parents paid for the education. When funds for the school would run out, the school would close down. Mrs. Harris attended the Baptist Institute and graduated from there. She also graduated from a college in Nashville that no longer exists.

Mrs. Harris married a Baptist preacher, M.L. Harris, and brought up

five children.

Interviewer: Steve Gravitt
Interviewee: Mrs. Annie D. Harris

Pleasant Hodges

Great-great-great-grandfather Pleasant Hodges came to Jackson County from Virginia with his father, John, about 1815. He was the originator of the large Hodges family that now exists in Jackson County. He died sometime during the Civil War.

Pleasant Hodges' son, Robert J. Hodges, my great-great-grandfather, was probably the most prominent man ever in the Hodges family. Robert J. Hodges served a term as Commissioner of Marshall County. He ran a store in Woodville in 1879-80. He was best known for being on the jury that tried and convicted the noted bandit, Frank James, in Federal Court in Huntsville, Alabama, about 1884.

My grandmother told me about two men named James and Hy Whitecotton, who were the leaders of a band of Confederate renegades during the Civil War. They were killed in 1869 at a Masonic Picnic near Woodville in a fight with Pleasant Woodall and his son, David. The story was told to my grandmother by her step-mother, whose grandfather was present at the picnic. The Whitecotton's graves are said to be located in Thomas Cove near Woodville.

Interviewer: Dale Hodges
Interviewee: Callie Hodges

"Lynus"

Relying on information given to him by his father, R.C. Johnson told me about one of Jackson County's early drunks, who shall hereafter be fictitiously referred to as Lynus. During his time, Jackson County was wet; so was he. Lynus tried everything in the book to make money to pay for his whiskey.

Mr. Johnson told me of one especially interesting thing Lynus did. About twelve o'clock one hot Saturday, Lynus wanted a drink. He had only one problem--no money. He had only one way to get money, and that was to steal. Lynus could not figure out what to steal when he suddenly spied a watermelon patch. The thought came to his mind that people would buy a melon on such a hot day.

Lynus pulled a few and took them into town to sell them. His first customer was the owner of the patch, and the watermelons were a special type that only he grew. Needless to say, this

ended Lynus's experience with watermelons.

Interviewer: Phil Broyles
Interviewee: R.C. Johnson

Silas Johnson

Elmore Reed's great uncle, Silas Johnson, was a colonel for the United States Army during the Spanish-American War. During the course of one battle in 1899 in Cuba, Silas was injured and returned stateside for three months. He was discharged a retired colonel in 1905.

Silas and his wife came back to Jackson County in 1907 and bought a farm. He died of pneumonia a few years later.

Interviewers:

Lee Colbert
Billy Davis

Interviewee: Elmore Reed

Mrs. Bertha Kirby's Family

Mrs. Bertha Kirby, until several years ago, was a genealogist here in Scottsboro, Alabama. She tell us:

"I had always wanted to study the family trees of my husband Clarence and myself. I was able to become one of the genealogists here in Scottsboro. I enjoyed it very much until I had to quit due to illness.

"I learned a great deal about my ancestors. I learned about my close neighbors and where they had come from.

"An important man from Jackson County was Williamson Robert Winfield Cobb. He was the first Congressman of Jackson County. The house in which he lived no longer stands today.

"After the Civil War my grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Cobb, and four brothers fought in the Battle of Shiloh. They came to visit a sister who lived at the foot of the mountain. She, Sarah Margaret Cobbs, married Isaac Campbell. His brother John fought in the Mexican and Civil Wars and lived at Mud Creek.

"Harold Foster's grandfather, Andrew Jackson Foster, carried my grandmother to a square dance at Congressman Cobb's home. This is where my grandmother and grandfather met and married. They were united in marriage on February 19, 1865. After they were married, they moved close to where I was born and reared.

"My mother and father, Harrison Cunningham, were married as the sun was coming up by Morgan Higginbotham, a minister of the gospel. They caught a train for Rogersville, Alabama, and went there. Papa didn't have enough money to take Mama all the way, so he borrowed money from Pash Patterson for Mama's board until he could come back to get her. He and Captain Cobb, who was Rena Clay's father, borrowed money and started back in the mill business again. Mama and Papa lived only in mill shacks.

"Inez was their first child. She is Mrs. W.I. Floyd, now 83 years old. Loreen was the second born. Mama pinned \$1800 to her corset cover and brought the girls here when Loreen was just a baby. Her father (Benjamin Franklin Cobb) helped her buy back part of the property of Sergeant James Holland, her grandfather.

"Sergeant Holland fought in the Battle of New Orleans under Andrew Jackson. His wife, Myra, died after having her fourth child, and he married for the second time to Barbara Holland Frazier. Barbara is buried at Frazier Cemetery.

"Mama bought a piece of property for \$1800, and Papa cut timber from Hollywood, Highway 72, and Tupelo Pike. He saved the best timber for his house. They moved into it when it was completely furnished in October, 1896. The way they came to have it completely furnished was that Bridgeport started out as a booming town. They had a furniture factory up there. Papa's house was of golden oak. Each bedroom had three full-length mirrors with a half box on the side and two drawers below. In the living room Mama had an organ and a red velvet sofa, with straw matting on the floors."

Interviewers:

Gay Zilbert
Mike Greene
Anita Walker

Interviewee: Mrs. Bertha Kirby

Admiral Houston L. Maples

In an interview with Mr. W.L. Heath here in Scottsboro on December 11, 1972, he gave me some facts about my great uncle, Admiral Houston Maples who lives in Scottsboro. As for credentials, most of the following is confirmed in Who's Who in America.

Houston L. Maples is a retired rear admiral in the United States Navy. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in time to see action in World War I as a junior officer. A career officer in the Navy, he served in the Atlantic Fleet, the Mediterranean,

South Pacific, and China. He taught at the U.S. Naval Academy in the 1930's. At the outset of World War II his commands rapidly escalated. He was captain of a tanker that shuttled between San Diego and Honolulu. At the time Pearl Harbor was bombed, his ship was on its way to San Diego.

He fought in the battle of the Coral Sea, the Marianas, and Guadal Canal. When Guadal Canal was secured, he was made chief commander of all naval forces there. Subsequently, he served on the joint chiefs' Board of Logistics.

His next assignment was to Moscow where he served as American Naval Attache. Among his associates, there were such notable people as General Bedel Smith and Harry Hopkins, both ambassadors to Russia, Admiral Harriman and Joseph Stalin. His duty in Russia lasted three years during which time he frequently had dinner with Stalin and lesser heads of state. He was present, as representative of the U.S. Navy under Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the Yalta Conference. He was also present at Potsdam, under President Truman, with such famous people as Clement Attlee and Winston Churchill. He was later present at the Big Three Conference of Foreign Ministers in 1947.

Among other notables he has known are C.B.S. Commentator Walter Cronkite, a personnel friend of his whom he met while in Russia, George C. Marshall, and Dr. Werner Von Braun, who visited him at his home on the Guntersville Lake. He retired from the Navy some years ago with the rank of rear admiral.

Interviewer: Warne Heath
Interviewee: W.L. Heath

Dr. William Caswell Maples

Dr. William Caswell Maples was a very prominent man. It seems that no more popular doctor lived in Scottsboro, and Dr. Maples had many friends. He had a kind and gentle disposition. He was a progressive man not only as a physician but in civic affairs as well.

Dr. Maples was born in 1859 at Poplar Ridge in Madison County. In 1889 he married in Jackson County a Miss Starkey and they later moved from Bellefonte to Scottsboro. Dr. Maples had graduated cum laude from the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee and later did post graduate work at the New Orleans Polyclinic in 1893 and again in 1901.

In the Maples home there were seven children: two girls, Ann and Will, and five boys, Emmett, Jack, John, Houston and Jim. Maples was a serious man and was not known to joke or "fool around" with his children. He was not really strict. He talked to his children instead of whipping them. Mrs. Maples did the whipping and was the "boss" of the family. However, Dr. Maples felt an education was important and he would sit down to help his children. All seven children went to college.

Dr. Maples could always be seen wearing a suit—even in the summer. He lived near the Harris Livery Stable where he kept his two horses. The Maples home was at the end of the present day Market Street near the depot. The doctor could catch the train to see his patients who lived too far out for him to ride his horse. To cross the river, the doctor used the ferries. These were propelled by oars and sometimes rowed by one man.

Dr. Maples' office was on the square where Wales Jewelry is now located. People would ride on horseback or mule into town to get the doctor. Usually at one house there would be a message that someone on the next farm wanted to see him.

Nobody had to have means of paying him because his first interest was treating the illness. He was very charitable and it could be said that no one needing medical attention ever failed to receive that attention from Dr. Maples.

There are many interesting facts about Doctor Maples' practice. These listed are just a few. Dr. Maples did all his own office work. He kept his own records because he did not have a secretary. Doctor Maples read the current medical journals to keep himself up to date. He wrote prescriptions but carried enough drugs with him to treat the person at their home. There was no hospital in town so most surgery cases were taken to Nashville. Maples did set broken bones similar to the way physicians do now, but he used wooden splints instead of metal ones. Jack Maples also remembers that his father treated the men wounded in shoot-outs on the square.

Some common diseases at this time were typhoid, tuberculosis and malaria. There were often Malaria epidemics. Sometimes the doctor was out all night treating people. The doctor's interest in malaria was shown by a paper he wrote. The American Medical Association requested he read this paper before them. Dr. Maples' paper explained that quinine stopped the chills caused by malaria. His son said it is believed Dr. Maples was the

first doctor in the United States to know this. His reputation as a physician was not confined to Jackson County. He was recognized by the State Medical Society as one of the outstanding physicians of the profession and in 1890 was elected a counselor. Dr. Maples believed in his profession and let nothing come between him and the practice of healing.

He was also interested in civic matters and was a member of the Scottsboro town council five years and was county health officer for two terms.

Dr. Maples was honest in his work, his civic duty, his life. He is remembered in this area as a physical of never-ending patience who put the health and well-being of those he treated first in every way.

Interviewers:

Patty Mullaney
Sharon Wolf
Teresa Akin

Interviewees:

Mrs. M.L. Harris
Mrs. Bill Heath
Mrs. Jack Maples
Mrs. Houston Maples

Nathan McBride

Nathan McBride was a Green Beret and has made a career of the army. Once when he was in Cambodia, during the Vietnamese War, the fighting was very heavy. Nathan had a very close friend who had requested that if he should be killed during all the fighting, he wanted Nathan to carry him out of the rice paddy to a helicopter to be transferred from Cambodia. Nathan's friend was killed, and he carried his body almost three and one-half miles through fighting to get him to a helicopter.

Interviewer: Kathy Keller

Interviewee: Nathan McBride

Milo Moody

Mr. Joe Dawson related the following story about Mr. Milo Moody, an outstanding defense attorney. He was "one of the last of the old-time, what would be referred to as country-type, lawyers." He grew up in Langston, Alabama, and practiced law in Scottsboro for more than sixty years. He had a general law practice—mainly the defense of people charged with criminal violations—and some civil practice.

"He was a rather comical attorney. He always had some comical answer and was a very dangerous adversary before a jury because he was a very strong speaker. He had a great way of convincing the jury that his theory of

what he was trying to put over to them was correct.

"Mr. Moody had a very unique expression that would especially amuse the younger lawyers, as I was at the time I came to Scottsboro. He would tell us of some experience, and then he would say that it was the funniest experience, or that was the strongest experience, or the greatest experience that he'd ever had while he was practicing law, and that he'd been practicing law for twenty-five years. He stayed with that 'twenty-five years' until after he had been practicing more than sixty years. He never did move it up any.

"He liked to tell about his successes, but like all other lawyers he never did like to talk much about the ones he failed on.

"He was a much sought-after man when people were charged with the violation of serious criminal laws, like murder cases and things like that, because he was a very able lawyer and a very smart man. Mr. Moody had the reputation of being one of the best pleaders that had ever practiced the Scottsboro Bar."

Mr. Dawson added that Mr. Moody was a country lawyer. He believed in speaking long, loud, and convincingly. His legal papers were very short, but they contained all the information needed. He was not a modern man. His office and equipment were not fancy, and he was not found in his office very much.

"In his later years he had offices up in the Hackworth Building, and he did not stay in his office. He stood down on the street in front of his office all the time. When anybody went by that he knew, he'd stop them and talk. I always knew pretty well what he was going to tell me because he'd told these same old stories over and over, so you'd get to where you'd avoid being stopped because he was gonna stand there and tell you his old success stories over and over. He very seldom stayed up in his office. He stood down in front, and if anybody wanted to see him, why, he'd go upstairs with them, and when they left he'd come down with them and stand there until another client came along and then they'd go back up.

"One story he (Mr. Moody) used to tell was that he was the first lawyer in Scottsboro that ever collected a fee of one thousand dollars for representing a man in a criminal case. He won that one. I believe he said that he told a man that if he won the case, he'd charge him a thousand dollars, and the man said 'If you win it, I'll pay you a thousand dollars.'"

Milo Moody was a real character who

had some strange ways about him, and yet he was a very successful attorney.

Interviewers:

Pam McGinty

Tom Gibson

Interviewee: Joe M. Dawson

General Floyd Morris

General Floyd Morris was born in 1890. In 1909 he married Alley Wright. At the age of twenty, he settled in Crabtree's Cove along with his wife and mother-in-law. He built a one-room house, and eventually cleared the bottom of the cove.

When his first son, Orville, was ten years old, the family built a five-room, two-story house and a barn across the cove. After twenty years, Alley's brothers, Bud and Floyd Wright, moved into the cove with their families. From those three families there were twenty-five children.

These families got together and built a schoolhouse. Floyd Wright and Bub Wright went to Winchester and hired a schoolmaster. In 1940 a blacksmith's shop, a hotel, and a logging railroad were built on top of the mountain because there were so many people living there. General Morris now lives at Skyline.

Interviewer: Jerry Cunningham

Interviewee: Mr. Floyd Morris

Dr. George Earl Nye

Dr. George Earl Nye was born in Tennessee in the year 1874. He fought in the Spanish-American War with the Tennessee National Guard. After the war he attended and graduated from Grant University in Chattanooga in 1906. He started his medical career by riding trains in and out of Chattanooga checking for yellow fever. He caught the fever and was discharged. After his recovery he began his practice with a horse and buggy. Dr. Nye was the first doctor in Jackson County to own a car. The gasoline had to be shipped from Cincinnati, Ohio. The J.C. Jacobs family owned the only other in Scottsboro, and when one or the other left the state, they had to swap the tag because there was only one tag in the county. He owned the fourth radio in the city of Scottsboro, and it is still in the attic of his home in Scottsboro where his widow, Bernice Nye, stills lives.

Dr. Nye joined the Army in World War I and was a medic. He went as a lieutenant, was promoted to captain, and right after he returned home, word came that he had been promoted to major. He was wounded in the right leg

and was discharged in Anniston late in 1919.

He came home and continued his practice. He along with Doctor Rayford Hodges began the Nye and Hodges Clinic, which was the first hospital in Jackson County. He sold out of the business and went back to school to become a tonsil expert.

When World War II began, he wanted to volunteer again, but because of his age and the need for him at home, the Army would not accept him. So he stayed at home and lived in Jackson County until his death on January 30, 1960. He contributed much to this county and to his country. He served his country in two wars and volunteered for a third. He served the county well in his travels and set a phenomenal record in that he delivered over a thousand babies in his long career.

Interviewer: Lawrence Phillips

Interviewee: Mrs. Bernice Nye

Coach Guy O'Brien

Worth Proctor related this story of his good friend, Guy O'Brien, on December 10, 1972.

Coach Guy O'Brien enjoyed life to the fullest extent. He was actively involved in the Methodist Church, basketball, Boy Scouts, and the fire department. Then in the prime of his life, he died.

Coach O'Brien was the Chief of the Scottsboro Fire Department at one time. During that time he gained the fullest respect of all the firemen. He aroused their interest and got cooperation from them as he did in all his activities.

Coach O'Brien assumed tasks and responsibilities that nobody else would. Then he did whatever needed to be done. He never gave up even though things got tough. He had continuous faith in his fellow man and an ever-burning hope for the youth of Scottsboro.

Once when he took his basketball team to state tournament, at the end of the game the officials began to tell Coach O'Brien to come out for an ovation. He replied, "Give the boys all the credit; they did it, not me." This was the sort of man he was.

One June 30, 1944, Coach Guy O'Brien died of appendicitis at the age of thirty-nine. He had also developed a rare type of incurable gangrene.

Interviewers:

Debbie Karrh

Julie Boykin

Interviewee: Worth Proctor

J.L. Parker

J.L. Parker is now seventy-seven years old. He was born in 1895 and his family moved to Jackson County from Sand Mountain in 1902. There were nine members in his family, and it took them two days to reach the county line in their wagon. They broke a wheel and had to spend the night near Skyline Farms. They moved into a 14' x 16' house which had no windows; therefore, all the cooking was done outdoors. They hauled rock to build a chimney. They also built an 8' x 16' shed because the children were growing and the space was getting more cramped.

When J.L. Parker got old enough, he began cutting timber. One day when they were logging, someone cut a tree without yelling, "Timber," and he got his arm hurt. Back then, one worked from sunup to sundown and usually for thirty to fifty cents a day (without anything to eat, unless one took his own lunch to work). Mr. Parker hauled lumber to Hollywood and hauled coffee back to Hytop for twenty cents a pound.

Everyone knows how thrifty Mr. Parker is, but they are all aware, also, that he is willing to help anyone in need.

Interviewer: Faye Wilbourn

Interviewee: J.L. Parker

Andy Peters

Andy Peters was born in North Carolina in the late 1700's. In the early 1800's he moved to Jackson County. He settled in Peters Cove, which was named after him. He was one of the first persons to build a house in Woodville.

After Mr. Peters built his log cabin, he began work on his well. While doing this, he fell through his well and drowned. He did this by hitting the creek bed while he was in the well and falling into it.

Interviewers:

Frankie Amos

Mack Peters

Interviewee: K.E. Peters

Mr. G.B. Phillips, Sr.

My grandfather is Mr. G.B. Phillips, who owned the oldest business in Scottsboro. He was born in 1900 at Paint Rock and later moved to Woodville and then to Scottsboro. When he was nine years old, he fell from a tree and broke his back. His parents did not know anything about it until he was twelve, and he did not even stop doing his share of the work.

When I asked him about his career as a blacksmith, he said, "I just grew into it." His father was a blacksmith, his grandfather, and as far back as he can trace, his people have been blacksmiths or gunsmiths. Remembering when his father would shoe a horse with reworked shoes and furnish the nails for fifty cents, Mr. Phillips recalled that it was his job to hand him the tools and nails. In 1917 when Mr. Phillips was seventeen years old, his father, Erwin Phillips, died, leaving G.B. to continue the business. Between both of them the business is in its eighty-sixth year.

Being seventy-two years old and having had the Asiatic flu in 1964, Mr. Phillips has slowed up a little in his work, but is still able to put in a good day's work. He said that if he quit work completely, he would not live three years.

He quit shoeing mules and horses twelve years ago, but continued to shape and do other blacksmith work for his customers.

He said that horseshoes are about one dollar each, but he can remember when they were five cents.

The first car he remembered seeing was from Chattanooga and looked like a buggy with a motor-chain drive. He did not realize the effect this would have on his business.

G.B. Phillips is known far and near as an honorable man, familiar with work and doing everything he can, for anybody he can, at a fair price. This outstanding man had a gleam in his eye as he recalled these tales.

Interviewer: J.D. Phillips
Interviewee: Mr. G.B. Phillips, Sr.

Colonel A.A. Russell

Colonel A.A. Russell was a physician in Jackson County before the Civil War. He served as a surgeon in the Confederate Army.

Colonel Russell organized the Fourth Alabama Cavalry in the Tennessee Valley. He refused to take the oath of allegiance to the U.S. He went to Mexico where he bought a coffee farm. He returned to visit relatives in Jackson County, but he never gave his allegiance to the U.S.

Interviewer: Linda McAllister
Interviewee: Mrs. Julius Keller

Judge John Ryan

Connie Gentle interviewed Mrs. C.H. Bramlett on Saturday, December 9, 1972, in Stevenson, Alabama. Mrs.

Bramlett recalls her mother telling her about Judge Ryan and also about a copy of an obituary of his death. John Ryan was Mrs. Bramlett's great-grandfather.

Judge John Ryan was an outstanding figure in Jackson County around the 1870's and 1880's. He was known and admired by many people in his community.

He served as circuit judge of Jackson County for two years during which time the county seat was at Bellefonte. Being associated with the official business of the county brought him in contact with wide ranges of people in Jackson County. Judge Ryan was also elected as a representative to the state senate. He was serving as Superintendent of Education of Jackson County at the time of his death. One of the reasons for his many accomplishments was his education. Judge Ryan was an extremely well-educated man. He had followed the honorable profession of school teaching during his earlier years.

He was married to the former Carolyn Berry, and they had four children: Flora, Johnny, Elen and Billy.

Judge Ryan died at his home on February 24, 1885. His exact age was unknown, but he is believed to have been around sixty-three years of age when he passed away.

Interviewers:
Connie Gentle
Carolyn Crawford
Interviewees:
Mrs. C.H. Bramlett
Mr. Lonnie Crawford.

Pearly Sanders

Pearly Sanders was born in the late 1800's in Kyles, Alabama. He had a very large farm. Since he had seven daughters and one son, the girls plowed the fields.

Mr. Sanders logged with oxen. He owned a sorghum mill, and people from miles around would bring their sugar cane to his mill to be made into syrup.

Pearly Sanders was the blacksmith at Kyles. He also owned the General Store and ran the Post Office there.

Interviewer: Mellisa Cookston
Interviewee: J.W. West

Robert Scott

Mr. Robert Scott was the founder of Scottsboro. Although he did not have a college degree in engineering, he was well informed on the subject. Mr. Scott

donated the land where the Jackson County Courthouse is located. He also gave land for the county jail as well as for all the churches in early Scottsboro.

It has been said that Mr. Scott was a very stubborn man. It seems he had a son-in-law whom he disliked. In his will he said some very derogatory things about this son-in-law. The next day he was in a better mood. He wrote a codicil to his will, leaving out the degrading remarks. Only the codicil was probated.

Mr. Scott is buried at the top of a ridge which the Fort Payne Highway curves around slightly in order to miss the Scott family graves.

Interviewers:
Anita Walker
Tom Gibson
Pam McGinty
Steve Patrick
Interviewees:
Frank Grigg
Joe Dawson
Richard Patrick

Lawrence Sebring

Mr. Lawrence Sebring became sheriff of Jackson County in 1950. He enjoyed his term because he had some real experiences. There was one man who would always tell him where and when certain people had a still. One cold night, Mr. Sebring and a deputy waited half the night for some men to come out with some moonshine. The men never showed up. The man had told them the wrong night.

One night the sheriff and a state trooper were chasing a criminal. The trooper wrecked the car, and Mr. Sebring broke his hip.

For two years Mr. Sebring worked in Governor's Wallace's office. He still visits the governor.

As prison commissioner of Alabama, he had some real experiences. There was one prisoner who was an artist. He drew a picture of him which is hanging in his den.

The prison department would farm large acres of land. It had the prisoners to pick the cotton. From the crops they raised the prison department would almost pay for itself. Mr. Sebring was in charge of all of this.

In 1961 Mr. Sebring bought out the local International Harvester dealership. He had a large business except in 1967 and 1968 when the crops were poor and that made business slow.

In April 1970, he sold out. For about a year he did some more farming. About

July of 1971, he opened a service station. In November of 1972, he sold the station, and now he is taking a rest waiting to find something else to open.

Interviewer: Ron Parker
Interviewee: Mr. Lawrence Sebring

H.M. Shelton

H.M. Shelton was born on March 8, 1890, and he died on August 17, 1972. He had children, seven of whom are still living. Five of the children became teachers, which was really a family tradition that had passed down from generation to generation. One child died during childbirth, and one boy drowned in the Tennessee River. Marcelle Shelton Edwards was one of the daughters, and she is the one who told this story.

Mr. Shelton, my grandfather, took an active part in World War I. He served as a mess sergeant.

He lived in Jackson County all his life. He first lived at Bellefonte, but later moved to Sand Mountain where he lived till he died. He lived at Pisgah most of his life, and that is where all his children went to school. He later moved two or three miles down from Pisgah, where he lived until seven or eight years ago. This was where he had his big farm, and he made his living from farming. He later moved to Dutton where he lived till he died.

During the later years of his life he was very active in church and clubs. His favorite club was the Senior Citizens.

Interviewer: Dale Edwards
Interviewee: Mrs. Embril Edwards

J.W. Skelton

Mr. J.W. Skelton was born on November 23, 1852, in the Sauta Creek Community. His father, William Jefferson Skelton, lived only two weeks after the birth of his son. Mr. Skelton was raised by grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kirby.

Mr. Skelton went to school just before and after the War between the States. He studied from the Bluebacked Speller and Davies' Arithmetic.

He loved nature and liked to farm. He owned good land and built an attractive home near his grandfather's residence.

Mr. Skelton married Nelly Kelly. She was also from Scottsboro. Mr. and Mrs. Skelton had fourteen children. Twelve of their children lived to be married. These had children who are now living.

Mr. Skelton lived through four wars: the War Between the States, the Spanish American, the First World War, and the Second World War. He said that no one knows of hunger and hard times unless they lived during Reconstruction days.

Interviewer: Julie Boykin
Interviewee: Mrs. Worth Proctor

Alva Sloan

Alva Sloan was born in southern Tennessee in 1896. His family moved to Alabama when he was six years old. His father was killed in a gun-fight when Alva was ten.

In the early teens of the 1900's, Alva carried the mail on horseback over the mountains from Huntland, Tennessee, to Princeton, Alabama. After a few years of service for the mail company he quit to become a farmer and settle down.

Alva married Mattie Showers. They had ten children, but four died at an early age.

In 1958 Mr. Sloan suffered a heart attack and died on a Birmingham Street.

Interviewer: Bruce Sloan
Interviewee: Mr. Jimmy Sloan

Mr. C.T. Smith

Mr. C.T. Smith, quite a unique person, lives in Pisgah, Alabama. He is approximately sixty-nine or seventy years old. Mr. Smith grows many kinds of plants to make medicine. His father was one of Jackson County's bootleggers who taught his son how to make corn liquor and also how to dispose of the mash.

When Mr. Smith's father was younger, he made and sold whiskey until "it got too risky to get rid of the mash, so I just quit doing it."

Mr. Smith now has a farm on which he grows food for his family. He has no tractor, but he plows with a mule that he calls "Ass." Amy says that her grandfather is quite a fellow.

Interviewer: Mike Pell
Interviewee: Amy Smith

J.D. Snodgrass

Mr. J.D. Snodgrass was the mayor of Scottsboro for over fifty years. He was one of Scottsboro's best mayors and was a strict believer in discipline.

It is told that one time Mayor

Snodgrass got drunk just so he could fine himself. He got out of paying the fine because of good behavior.

Another time Mr. T.H. Machen and Johnny Sumner, who now live in South Carolina, were wrestling in front of Payne's Drug Store. Mr. Snodgrass walked up to Mr. Machen and Mr. Sumner and began naming items such as sugar, salt, flour and other products from the store. These were all the things he would buy with the money from the boy's fine if they did not stop wrestling.

Interviewers:
Janice Remita
Marsha Phillips
Vonda Proctor
Interviewee: T.H. Machen

Topy Snodgrass

Topy Snodgrass was the first black mail carrier in Scottsboro. Back then the mail was not delivered door-to-door, as we have it today. The mail was picked up at the train by the carrier and taken to the post office. The post office was in the building where Western Auto is now. Mr. Snodgrass would meet the train at any hour of the day or night to deliver or pick up mail. Mr. Snodgrass was permitted to carry a gun for protection. There was never any report of violence.

Interviewer: Rick Campbell
Interviewee: Fannie Sanford

Robert Oglesby Starkey

Robert Starkey was born January 18, 1874, and died of pneumonia in 1936. He was born in Wannville, which is located between Fackler and Stevenson. He was the oldest of nine children. He married Laura Caldwell.

Robert Starkey lived in Hollywood most of his life, but he came to Scottsboro to go to school. He and several other students from Hollywood lived in a boarding house with their teacher. The youngsters hated the teacher and did many cruel things to him.

The school was located at the side of Melody Mountain. In order to get to the school from the boarding house, the boys and the teacher had to cross a foot bridge, which was just a log across a stream. The boys hurried to school each morning, hoping to beat the teacher and play tricks on him. As soon as school was dismissed, the boys would begin thinking of ways to scare the teacher. One day, they split the log nearly in two and placed it back over the stream. When the teacher came across it, he stepped right on the split and the log

caved in.

Robert loved to carry the teacher's clock. One afternoon Robert had the clock, and he just happened to trip on his way home from school. There was a huge rock in the path, and somehow, the clock hit the rock and burst into a thousand pieces.

The boys found it fun to lay grape vines across the path. The teacher could not help falling at least three or four times in his attempt to go home.

The poor teacher finally left. Maybe he had a nervous breakdown.

Robert owned the only picture show in Hollywood. But he had to close it down because if the youngsters did not have enough money, he let them in anyway.

On Halloween he would gather up children from all over Hollywood and go around to houses to sing. People threw them candy and other treats.

Robert was a very generous man. Every Christmas he would buy kegs of candy, apples and oranges. He divided these and took them to underprivileged children. He had once run a general store, so he obtained this wholesale. The world would be a nicer place if only there were more Robert O. Starkeys in this world today.

Interviewer:
Rachel Cash

Interviewees:
Nell Starkey Cash
R.M. Starkey Sr.

Leroy Walker

Mr. Allious Petty said that it was not generally known that Leroy Walker, who was Secretary of War in Jefferson Davis' Confederate Cabinet, lived awhile in Bellefonte. He also practiced law there. Mr. Walker ordered the shot at Fort Sumter which started the Civil War.

Interviewer: Tom Green
Interviewee: Mr. Allious Petty

Jack Wann

Jack Wann, a veteran of the Confederacy, farmed in Wannville, Ala. in the middle 1800's. He also started the first and only post office in Wannville. Later, he built and operated a small grocery store. He received supplies about every two weeks from a ferry boat that came down the river from Chattanooga.

Before dams were built in the area, the land often flooded. Mr. Wann had to ride a mule through the water to get to the store and post office.

Mr. Wann and his wife had seven children-five sons and two daughters. The daughters ran the store and post office for a long time after their father's death. One of his sons served as sheriff of Jackson County.

Jack Wann died in the early 1920's of a heart attack. After his death there was talk around the community of Jack Wann's being a member of the Ku Klux Klan. This was never proven.

When his daughters died, his land was divided and sold at a public auction.

Interviewers:
Miranda Jacobs
Susan Henshaw
Glenda Durham
Carol Miller
Interviewee: J.D. Shrader

Mrs. Fred Welch

Mrs. Welch is unique because she is an expert painter. She has completed some three hundred paintings since she began painting in 1963.

Mrs. Welch has given away and sold about 230 paintings, some for as high as fifty-five dollars. She has some paintings that she has been offered \$150.00 for, but did not want to sell. She still paints as a hobby and said, "I need to sell some of the paintings to get out the money I have in them." Her house is also becoming a bit crowded with 150 paintings in it.

Mrs. Welch, who has never received any formal training in art, began painting pastels in 1963 and went to oil painting a little more than five years ago.

She retired from the poultry-raising business five years ago, and her painting has increased since then.

"Once you get into this, you can't stop," said Mrs. Welch. She prefers painting flowers and many other forms of scenery. Most of her paintings are twenty-four by thirty-six inches. One of her paintings, Shadow of the Valley, hangs in Larkinsville Methodist Church.

Mrs. Welch has four children. They are Mrs. Ethel Proctor, Mrs. Frances Knight, Mrs. Patty Sue Lackey and Mr. Fred Welch, Jr., all of Scottsboro.

Mrs. Welch also does a considerable amount of crocheting.

Interviewers:
Ronald Lawson
Ronnie Johnson
Interviewee: Mrs. Letha Welch

Great Great Uncle

John West

My grandmother, Mrs. Dawn Lusk related this story to me. The character of this sketch was her husband's uncle.

Great-Great-Uncle John West was an Irishman. He was stockily built and had blonde hair and blue eyes. He was near forty years old in the middle 1800's and was a very rich man. He lived on West's Mountain, which received its name because his family had owned the mountain for several years.

The family tradition that had been carried on through the past century or so was still alive. This was the making and selling of that good corn liquor. Mr. West supplied the mountain and half the valley with his brew. Great-Great-Uncle John West was said to have the biggest and the best still in the state.

His capers were not altogether happy though. He had much trouble with revenuers. One evening in the middle of August, when his still was going full blast, a troop of revenuers came up the mountain. One of his sons saw them coming, but it was too late to do anything about it. They found the still and told him it was too late to destroy it because the sheriff was waiting for them at the bottom of the mountain. They said they were going to leave to go get the sheriff so that he could arrest Mr. West.

Great-Great-Uncle John West's mind began to work fast. As soon as the revenuers were out of sight, he called all his sons together. They disassembled the still and poured most of the liquor into a nearby stream.

When the revenuers returned, they told him that the still had better turn up. They said that they all had seen it, and there was no need in denying that they had had a still. They were prepared to arrest him, still or no still!

Great-Great-Uncle John was smart though. He said, "Uhm, must have been that old bulldog of mine. He'll eat up anything that gets in his path. He must have eaten up that still. Last week he ate up the ole lady's last pair of drawers. Got 'em off the line. better get out of here. He's mighty partial to blue (the revenuers wore blue uniforms). He just might be makin' another sweep through here any minute now."

The revenuers took off down the hill with the sheriff running along after them. They did not return for a long, long, time!

Interviewer: Connie Pickett
Interviewee: Mrs. Dawn Lusk

Boone White

Mr. Chester Hastings related this story as told to him by friends who have lived near or spent the night with Mr. Boone White.

Mr. White, a man about sixty, was an only child and has never married. He has not been seen for several years, and if someone knocks on his door, he says "Go away; I don't need nothing."

About fifteen years ago Mr. White lived in a house at Jenny's Chapel. While living there, he heard Uncle Grundy, a man who had died several years back. Uncle Grundy's house was about three miles from Boone's, and he saw a light coming from it. He followed the light, and when he got close enough, he heard Uncle Grundy feeding his hogs. He heard the pigs squealing as he threw them corn. If he got too close to the light, it would rise into the trees.

On his way back to his house, he was followed by a mule's skeleton. After he went to bed, he saw the skeleton on the wall. His parents had died in this house, and he saw their faces on the walls. He also saw his parents' images on the walls at his second home in Berry's Cove. He tried to talk to them, but did not get an answer. Many times after he went to bed, he would feel as if someone were trying to turn the bed over.

For several years Mr. White was the janitor at Limrock School. After school, mostly on rainy, dreary days, he would ask boys to spend the night with him. He told the boys about the strange happenings he had seen and heard. When they were asleep, he would see things and awake the boys, who very seldom rose from under the covers.

Mr. Rice Gant lived near him once, and he too heard a woman's scream that Mr. White has heard and followed so many times before.

As you see, Mr. White is an interesting person. He is still living at Limrock.

Interviewer: Cindy Hicks
Interviewee: Mr. Chester Hastings

Susan Janey Augusta Bryant White

Susan Janey Augusta Bryant married Andrew Barclay White, and they were my grandparents. In those days Andrew was better known as Samson because of his size and strength. Susan had grown up in Piedmont, Alabama, and Andrew was from Georgia.

Susan's mother and father were never married. Her father was a

wealthy plantation owner who had some slaves. Susan lived with her father and stepmother, thinking that she was living with her real mother. Susan's actual mother sent her letters and addressed herself as the girl's aunt. When Susan was about sixteen years old, her mother wrote and told her who she really was. Angered at the entire family, Susan was ready to leave home, but a Negro cook, called Mammy, talked her out of it. It seemed that Mammy was Susan's only family for awhile.

During the Civil War, Andrew Barclay White was with the Confederate Army when it came through Piedmont, Susan's home. Susan opened the gates for the troops, met Mr. White and later ran away with him to become his bride.

Susan became a schoolteacher, medic and midwife. She was the first schoolteacher at Princeton, Alabama, and the first teacher of Judge Virgil Bouldin. She learned to be a medic mainly from books she had read.

Susan was born in 1853 and died at the age of seventy-five in 1928.

Interviewer: Stanley Parker
Interviewee: Mrs. Beatrice Parker

Mr. Dewey Whitehead

In the 1920's when Mr. Dewey Whitehead was a young boy in the Woods Cove Community, his life was much different from a boy's life of today. When he was growing up, there was not much of a chance to go to school. The chores had to be done around the farm before breakfast, and if there were a chore during the day, then he had to forget about school.

Mr. Whitehead said that when he did go to school, he would buy one notebook tablet, and it would last him all year. If he finished writing on one page and had some paper left over, he would tear off the clean paper and save it.

Mr. Whitehead came from a family of three other brothers. The way he got his schooling was that he would go to school one day and stay home to plow the next. If there were a lot of plowing to do, then none of the boys went to school because there was too much work to do in the cotton fields. "If we weren't planting the darn stuff, we were picking it." The only spare time they actually had was on the weekend, and they really took advantage of it. Often they would gather around and have a baseball game, except they called it "cow pasture ball," because they played in a pasture. Sometimes when there was a group of boys walking somewhere they would stop off at an old barnyard and have a corn cob battle. He said that someone was always getting hurt, but it surely

was a lot of fun.

After he had quit school for the summer, he had to stay on the farm and never got to go anywhere. He only got to go to town about once a year. When he did go, he usually got a new pair of shoes that had to last him a year. The way he saved them was that he did not wear them during the summer. In the winter, he would put gunny sacks around his feet and chase rabbits through the snow. They did not hunt with guns, but used a stick instead. They would just run the rabbit till it was nearly dead and then knock it in the head. In the spring and summer, he would kill squirrels with a homemade sling shot.

Interviewers:
Tony Thomas
David Whitehead
Interviewee: Mr. Dewey Whitehead

Wiley Whitfield

Wiley Whitfield was a Jackson County native who was born on September 26, 1849 of slave parents. He had two brothers and three sisters. When his parents died, the children inherited the land and money, which was later turned into prosperity. The land that Scottsboro High School is built on was owned by Wiley. This land was called Whitfield's Bottom. He gave land to Joyce Chapel United Methodist Church, which is probably the oldest church in the Scottsboro area. His house, which is located on Railroad Avenue, still stands today. He was called a jack-of-all-trades. When he died there was no will, and his land was sold.

Interviewers:
Rick Campbell
Eugene Harris
Interviewee: Mrs. Irene Jordan

Mr. Isaiah Wood

Mr. Isaiah Wood's family was the first to ever move into Wood's Cove. Mr. Wood did not have an easy life and was by no means a rich man. When he moved his family into the Cove, he had twelve children. There was not another family in the Cove then, but he had so many girls, men just naturally came. It seemed as though the Cove "just sprung up over night."

According to Mrs. Beard, the great-granddaughter of Mr. Wood, his children were very mean, as he had always been. When growing older, he was still spending his weekends in jail. No matter if his family needed money for other things, his fun and drinks came first.

Mr. Wood had been born in Bridgeport, Alabama, but when he was a young child his family moved to Scottsboro. When he reached the age of sixteen, he got married. By the time he had aged to fifty-nine, he had twelve children and thirty-two grandchildren.

Interviewer: Pat Berry
Interviewee: Mrs. Joan Beard

Doc Zimmerman

In an interview with Razz Shelton, who is just over eighty years of age, I found that during the operation of the Princeton Corporation, there was a company doctor named Dr. Zimmerman. No one recalled his first name because he never used it. He was always called Doc or Doc Zimmerman.

Mr. Shelton resided in Princeton before it closed. He moved here in 1900 approximately. During the time he lived in Princeton, he became well acquainted with the good Doc.

Mr. Shelton grew very ill one time, and the Dr. came to administer to him. Doc knew the recovery would be a slow process, so he came by every day to carry wood and water in for Mr. Shelton. He helped Mrs. Shelton to care for Mr. Shelton.

Doc Zimmerman was always doing kind deeds for the people of Princeton.

When Princeton disbanded, Doc moved to Woodville. The people from Skyline still called on Doc Zimmerman for his services. This man made a great impression on these people.

Interviewer: Monte Washburn
Interviewee: Razz Shelton

The Old Man Of The Mountain

My father, Mr. W.L. Heath, told me about a rather unique person who once lived here in Scottsboro. I know the old man's name, but I will call him "the old man of the Mountain." The story covers more than a year and takes place around 1935.

My father lived with his aunt and the rest of the Maples family at the foot of Melody Mountain. One day he and a friend, Mr. Bridges, who still lives in Scottsboro, were playing on the mountain, and they came across the old log cabin which had stood empty for many years. This time when they went in, they saw an old man lying on a shelf in the cabin asleep. This was the first

time they saw the "old man of the mountain." He was a cabinet maker, and, as my father came to know him better, the old man would make bows and arrows for them. He made the arrows hollow at the end so they could write notes and roll them up inside. If they wanted to see the old man, they would sneak up near the house and shoot an arrow onto his roof. He would come out and read the note and hurry off to the designated meeting place. Most of the time he thought he was Robin Hood, and my father and his friends were members of his clan.

My father said he was always a little afraid of him, but the old man never tried to hurt them. In fact, he was very kind to him and often made things for them. One thing that scared my father was the way the old man would sometimes have fits of rage and beat on the trees at night. He remembers also that he would stand up on the rocks at night in the summertime and play the violin. More than once the old man stopped trains here in Scottsboro in front of my father's house by burning newspapers on the tracks. He even ran for mayor here once, although no one paid him much attention. It is interesting to note that the old man used the "V for victory" before Churchill made it popular. The old man was in his late sixties or early seventies at this time. He was sent to Bryce Mental Hospital. My father could not say for sure when the old man died.

A few years ago, my father showed me what is left of the shack the old man lived in.

Interviewer: Warne Heath
Interviewee: W.L. Heath

Patterns Of Everyday Life

Customs Of The Past

Jackson County has changed many of its customs, fashions, and general way of life over recent years as has the rest of the world. The selections which follow are a glimpse into the habits of our past.

In the early 1900's women wore lace or button-up shoes with floor-length dresses which later climbed daringly up to the instep. Because they wanted the skin to remain soft and white, ladies wore gloves and some protective covering about their necks with a fancy hat trimmed in flowers and ribbons to complete an outfit. Girls' clothing imitated their mothers except that hemlines were sometimes slightly higher. Boys wore knee pants and high socks.

For light, people used kerosene lamps. Before this pine knots were used from these trees for light. Fire would be started by striking sand rocks together.

People were far more self-sufficient in earlier days. Flour, sugar, coffee, and kerosene were the only things bought regularly at a store. Materials for making a family's clothing was frequently bought, but people often carded and spun their own yards for weaving into cloth.

Girls made their own stockings by using four needles. They would knit some each night until the stockings were completed. People had maybe three changes of clothes, one for Sunday and two for everyday. Work dresses were often made from fertilizer sacks. Women also made blankets and candle-wicked bedspreads. Gay-Tred Mills got its beginning from spreads made in the homes.

Housecleaning was somewhat more involved than today. Women used washpots to boil their clothes, and then they scrubbed them on a rubboard. Some women beat the dirt from their clothes with rocks. Plank floors were swept with salt, rock, and sand to keep them clean. Mops were made from sage grass. Some people grew broom corn and made their brooms from this.

Interviewers:

Debbie Brazelton
Melissa Cookston
Tom Gibson
Pam McGinty
Irene Mitchell
Kay Whitehead

Interviewees:

Eunice Matthews

Leola Matthews
Ira McCoy
Roney Mitchell
Mrs. Pace
J.W. and Lillian West

Horse And Wagon Days

Here is a typical account of growing up in the earlier days in Jackson County.

Mr. Floyd Helton said that when he was young, he had to walk to school to get his education, since the only other transportation available was the horse and wagon. He said their school was held in a church house and only went to the sixth grade. To get a further education, he had to go to Norman High School. After graduating from there, he became a school teacher for two years and then a carpenter.

Mr. Helton began to tell about his earlier life. He said homes used to be heated with fireplaces, one room at a time.

He said the groceries they bought were very cheap. They could get a twenty-four pound bag of flour for forty cents, eggs for ten cents a dozen, and a whole plug of chewing tobacco for a dime. Money was hard to get, but things were very inexpensive.

He said they used to make most of their household appliances. Mr. Helton's father used to plant broom straws in the garden. Then after the straws were dried out, he made brooms and sold them. The brooms would only last for a year until spring came, and then he would make some more.

Mr. Helton used to work for thirty-five cents a day by planting oak trees. He said when they had a quarter they felt rich. He would occasionally treat a girl with a nickel, but he could not afford it most of the time, so he usually would spend only a penny.

Interviewer: Forrestine Grayson
Interviewee: Mr. Fredrick Floyd Helton

Olden Days Of A Negro

An elderly black citizen of Scottsboro told of a typical day in a Negro's life the way it used to be.

First thing in the morning the hogs needed slopping, the cows needed milking, and the chickens needed feeding. Everyone had to get out of bed before dawn to help with all the chores that had to be done before the grown-ups went to work and the children went to school. Some of the children could not go to school because the school was a "country mile" away from the house.

The lady of the house had to work in another woman's kitchen all day long. The pay was very bad. "I can remember when Mama worked all week for one dollar and sometimes seventy-five cents."

Some of the family picked cotton from sunup to sundown. They stopped working at this back-breaking job just long enough to eat lunch. At dinner time the luxury of the day was sometimes bologna, otherwise known as "niggerham." Everyone drank from a dipper in a water pail.

After a hard day of work the family would return to the house tired. Everybody had been working one way or the other, but they still had their own work to be done. They knew it was to be done, and they had to do it.

Interviewer: Constance McQueen
Interviewee: Robert Doss

Living With Unkle Matt

The story opens when Mrs. Lila McQueen's father died. After the death of her father, the family was separated. The boys went to the "deepest part of the country" to live with their uncle. The girls, or some of the girls, were sent to live with their grandmother. The boys had to work hard all day long, picking cotton and doing the necessary chores.

The boys would begin the day with flour gravy and corn bread for breakfast. The young men were just normal, red-blooded American boys, and boys will be boys. "They, being boys, jus' naturally fought." The boys were constantly fighting. The problem about their fights was that they knew they would have to "kiss and make up." This was a rule set down by Uncle Matt (uncle with whom the boys were living). So whenever they fought, they had long, hard fights and, of course, beautiful making-ups.

One of the other duties the boys had was to bring in the firewood and the

coal for the stove that heated the house. The guys would mess around all day long and wait until it was dark. Then they would not want to go out into the dark, cold night. So another rule was set down by Uncle Matt. "Boy, you better get that coal in 'fore dark."

Interviewer: Coni McQueen

Interviewee: Mrs. Lila Talley McQueen

Miss Pink's

In the 1930's the major means of entertainment for the Blacks was at "Miss Pink's." Miss Pink's was the place to be--that was where everything was going on. Miss Pink was respected by all. Everyone obeyed her and honored her. The dancing area was her front porch, which was screened off; a juke box was also on the porch. On the inside, she sold snacks and cold pops. After a hard day of work, Miss Pink's was the place to be.

Interviewer: Coni McQueen

Interviewee: Mrs. Lila Talley McQueen

Hobos

In the 1920's people were more apt to help out the less fortunate than they might be today. But this might have worked to their disadvantage. The following incidents were related by R.I. Gentry.

"It was back when I was a small boy and we used to live on the side of a railroad depot. One night when the train went through the depot, a hobo got off the train and came up to the house asking if he could have some food and a place to spend the night because it was raining. Well, we gave him some food, but about staying the night, we just did not know about that. But Mother got soft-hearted and let him spend the night out on the front porch. In the morning, when we got up, he was gone and had left the covers that we had lent him for the night.

"The next time a hobo incident happened was when we were out behind the barn counting our chickens. We noticed that some of them were missing, so we started looking for them. Finally, after hours of looking, we came upon a hobo having the best time eating our chicken. So Daddy got his shotgun and went back to the place where the hobo was. He loaded the gun with salt and shot the hobo all over his backside. I never saw anybody run so fast and so far in life. We never saw that hobo around our place again."

Interviewer: Russel Gentry

Interviewee: R.I. Gentry

Do They Think Of Me At Home?

The following folk song was given to us by Mrs. Pearl Jones of Fackler. The song was handed down to Mrs. Jones by one of her aunts; consequently, she does not know its origin.

DO THEY THINK OF ME AT HOME?

Do they think of me at home?
Do they ever think of me?--
I who shared their every grief,
I who mingled in their glee.

Do they think of how I loved
In my happy, youthful days?
Do they think of Him who came,
But could never win their praise?

I am happy by His side,
And from Him I'll never roam,
But my heart still sadly sighs,
"Do they think of me at home?"

Do they think of me at eve,
And the songs I used to sing?
Is the harp I touched unstruck?
Does the stranger wait, the strange?

Does no kind, forgiving word
Come across the raging foam?
I would give the world to know,
Do they think of me at home?

Interviewer: Kenneth Gerald Jones

Interviewee: Mrs. Pearl Jones

Depression Days

On November 3, 1934, Mrs. Bertha Kirby was appointed County Supervisor of Women's Work on the Works Project Administration program. In the following article, she gives us an inside view of some of the efforts made by the federal government to alleviate the hardships in Jackson County.

Mrs. Kirby's office and the first Works Project Administration sewing room were upstairs over the old city hall. The materials for the room were delivered by the men on W.P.A. These men were in charge of the warehouse. Then the finished product was picked up, signed for, and stored so that the Directors of Relief could distribute the clothes. The clothing consisted of dresses, slips, bed-wide sheets, pillow cases, and little boys' coveralls.

Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Lola Barclay were chosen to teach first aid to the overseers of the first road-building project. There were also about twenty-six National Youth Administration girls to whom Mrs. Kirby taught first aid.

Selected women were chosen from the sewing rooms established in the Scottsboro, Stevenson, Bridgeport, and

Pisgah areas to work in the first school lunchrooms in Jackson County.

Mrs. Kirby described these lunchrooms in this way: "At the elementary school, where the Scottsboro Plaza has been built, there was an old, old toilet. Using W.P.A. laborers, all fixtures were torn out, the brick walls cleaned, fresh concrete floors poured, and the walls painted a soft, pale green. Two huge hotel ranges with plenty of hot water were brought in. Cleanliness was our motto."

The P.T.A. President and members prepared the menus. The W.P.A. women did the cooking. The National Youth Administration girls carried the hot meals on trays up the stairs to the students where they ate in their rooms.

Mrs. Kirby's work was hard and often involved long hours, but she felt that the reward of helping people made it worthwhile.

It was later said that Scottsboro survived the Depression much better than other towns in north Alabama.

Interviewers:

Dan Gilley
Marsha Phillips
Ellen Larsen
Gina Sheppard

Interviewees:

Mrs. Bertha Kirby
Elizabeth Machen

World War II

World War II created hard times in all areas of the United States and Jackson County is no exception. The following article consists of recollections of citizens of the county during this time.

When World War II occurred, it was hard for anyone to get anything to eat or wear even if he had the money. A person had to have stamps to get shoes to wear. During this time, tennis shoes were introduced, and a person was only allowed one pair per year. The government rationed items such as coffee, sugar, meat, lard, and flour. Stamps would be issued to buy these rationed items. When the merchants received the stamps, they would send them to the government to be tabulated. There was a certain stamp to be used for each item a person had to have. Gas was also rationed, not only for cars, but also for tractors. If a farmer had to have a tractor tire, he would have to have a stamp to get it.

During these times there would often be blackouts. At these times all lights would have to be turned out, and if there was a fire burning, it had to be covered with some kind of material.

Most of the time all the people cooperated during these blackouts, because they were afraid of the enemy. During the war, Scottsboro had no bomb shelters, nor did they go to the trouble of constructing any.

When the soldiers had to leave for duty, they would catch a bus at the old sulphur well which was located on the downtown square of Scottsboro. At this time, all of the soldier's family and friends would go into town to watch him leave.

During war times the people would often see blimps flying over these aircraft scared almost everyone, since no one in this area had ever seen or heard of blimps before.

Most of the people of this time worked at either Patrick's Lumber Company or Word's Saw Mills. The only way the children of this time could make money was by collecting scrap iron and selling it to dealers who would take it to Tennessee to be processed for the war.

Interviewer:
Mike Metcalf
Ernest Ray Guffey
Interviewee:
Mr. Joe Guffey
Fannie Ruth Metcalf

Churches In Jackson County

The churches in the late 1800's or early 1900's were very different from ours of today. All of the girls had to sit in the front of the church while all of the boys were in the back. The minister was strict on everybody who came to church. There were several different religions then with everybody going to one church. The minister just got to preach once a month. The different religions did not matter because everybody was worshiping the same God. The Methodists were the first to join the church. The Church of God, the Presbyterians, and the Baptists were the last to join, with the Church of Christ coming into the church later. Mrs. Lilah Swain stated that the people who were Methodist later turned to Baptist.

When the people had a baptizing, everybody came to watch with all of the different religions joining in, but with each one having its baptizing separately. While one group had its baptizing, the others would all wait for next group to get through.

The people had all-day singings every once in a while with no music. On Easter Sunday all of the different

religious groups would be at the church before sunrise and stay till dark with praying going on all day long. All of the people were religious and lived what they said they did.

Interviewer: Debra Edmonds
Interviewee: Mrs. Lilah Swaim

Holiness Faith

Reverend Carl Haswell of the Bridgeport Holiness Church discussed some of his church's beliefs. He stated that the beliefs of the Holiness are very similar to those of the Baptist or any other church. The basic difference is that they believe in a few ideas that the others do not follow.

To be a member of the Holiness Church one has to have faith in it. In the writings of Peter are some things which God gives when a person becomes born again or receives the Holy Ghost. The Lord casts out devils, and enables believers to speak in new or unknown tongues. When one speaks in tongues, he is not talking to man but to God through the Holy Ghost which refers the words back to God. No man can understand this tongue, not even the one who speaks it.

Mr. Frank R. Boozer, member of the Holiness Church of Section, said that his church does not use musical instruments because these were not used in the churches of Jesus' day.

Mr. Boozer revealed that his church believes in handling snakes because the Bible says that handling snakes will heal the sick. The animals have a certain spirit that enables them to cure. From the time people enter the church, they pray before and after they handle the snakes. There are usually about five snakes. A person tells what is wrong with him; then he removes the snake from the basket and prays.

Another member of this faith recalled that as the preacher prayed and then preached for awhile, people would start to feel the spirit. As this happened, they would move from their seats to the front, pick a snake from the box, wrap it around the neck, step on it, put it up to the face, and scream at it. Then the snake would be passed around until everyone had enough faith to handle them.

Aline Hutchens related her memories of attending Holiness meetings. People greeted one another with, "Hello saints, praise the Lord!" Then they would say, "Thank you, Jesus." Then members would testify to what the Lord had done for them. As the spirit moved people, they would begin to jump up and down and shout. Sick people would put special oil on the spot and pray for a cure. If anyone had medicine, he would take it out and pour it on the table.

People who failed to comply would have the medicine taken from them. At the end of the meeting the congregation would pray to try to get the demons from anyone who had hell in him. As they left, they would cry, "Jesus! Oh, Jesus!"

Interviewers:
Charles Eakin
John Haswell
Clifford Holloway
Roy Lee Hutchens
Danny Osborne
Interviewees:
Frank Boozer
Hugh Dudley
Rev. Carl Haswell
Aline Hutchens

Jackson County Schools Of The Past

Early schools in Jackson County were usually housed in churches. Typically all classes were held in one room and heated by a wood stove. Parents provided the fuel, and the students would come in at daylight to build a fire. The older boys would make trips to a nearby well to get buckets of water for the students. Everyone shared the same dipper. Students sat on hard wooden benches

There were no cafeterias, but lunches were brought to school packed in molasses buckets or wrapped in newspaper. Other people used a paper bag, called a poke. The meal usually consisted of biscuits with ham, sidemeat or jam. Occasionally people were known to get into one another's lunches.

Teachers were usually high school graduates who took an examination to get a teacher's certificate. Reading, writing, arithmetic, history, science and spelling were offered at most schools. Spelling bees were held on Fridays. Punishment for misbehavior usually consisted of using a hickory stick on the boys or sending the girls home.

Schools operated sometimes on what was called a "Rainy Day Schedule." If the weather was bad, there was no thirty-minute recess in the afternoon, and the lunch hour was shortened so that school was dismissed early that afternoon.

At one time there were thirty school centers in Jackson County. Due to consolidation, there are fifteen today. Several people have contributed in-

formation about various schools in the area.

Mrs. Lucy Kindred recalled the first school in Skyline. Her husband, Mr. Jim Kindred, helped build the school, served as its janitor, and even drove the school bus. Frequently students had to leave at lunch to work at home. This was common in other schools also.

The land for Park's Campground School, one of the county's oldest, was donated by Mr. Tom Parks. This school was located across the lake around the Jackson County and City Parks, but the land is under water today. The building was constructed of logs and contained one window, one door, and a fireplace. In 1898 the school was destroyed and rebuilt. Mr. Julian Clemons reported that there were no age or grade levels. The teacher would live in one student's home, then another, and earned about forty dollars a month. When Mr. Joe Hale attended this school, Miss Virgie Giddens was the teacher. The building also served as a Methodist Church. When T.V.A. flooded the original site of the school, it was moved next to Burgess Cemetery.

Mr. A.A. Clemens, today's county school superintendent, attended the McCutchen School at Sauta Bottom. This was also held in a church building. Miss Robinson taught the one hundred students who attended this school.

Mrs. Mary Tidwell told about an old school at Woods Cove that still stands next to the Church of Christ there. This one room building was also a church. Because it was so difficult to get back and forth to Scottsboro, few people went beyond the six grades offered at Woods Cove.

The first school in Langston was located near Cobbler Springs. It was a small one-room school with a plank floor. Mr. Ed Michaels taught there in the early 1900's. Primers used there were sometimes called "Little Red Hen Books." After students finished the four grades at this school, they usually went to Scottsboro to continue their education. Mr. Glen Wilborn reported that the teacher paid him one dollar a month to start a fire in the potbellied stove every morning before school.

Larkinsville School was a small three-room building that housed six grades. Students rode the bus to school in Scottsboro after completing their elementary education. The rooms were heated in the wintertime by large jacket heaters. The only source of water was a neighbor's spring. The water was kept in a container with a faucet. The school term usually lasted from seven to eight months. The schools in Jackson County were supported by the precinct they were in. Larkinsville School usually lasted

longer because it received more taxes.

Interviewers:

Pam Sims Marsh
Irene Mitchell
Sallie Stratton
Tommy Venable
Waylon Simpson
Phillip Wilborn
Delores Brewer
Cindy Cotton
Linda McAllister
Lynn Price

Interviewees:

Mrs. Joe Hale
Mrs. Lucy Kindred
Mr. A.A. Clemens
Mrs. Mary Tidwell
Mr. Vernon Wilborn
Mr. Glen Wilborn
Mrs. Blanche Kenamer
Miss Janie Fennell
Mr. Julian Clemons

Negro Schools In Scottsboro

The first black school in Scottsboro began at Joyce Chapel United Methodist Church on West Willow Street. The church is now about 135 years old, and the school began about ninety years ago. It consisted of one classroom, one teacher, and it was open for three months of each year.

The school was moved to St. Paul's A.M.E. Church located on the railroad. Later it was moved again to St. Elizabeth's Missionary Baptist Church located on Walnut Street.

In 1927 the first school building was opened and went through the ninth grade. It later became a high school. Mrs. M.E. Hunter was the first principal. It was called Scottsboro High School. In 1946 Carver High was opened and then closed in 1968 when all students began attending the present Scottsboro High School.

Interviewer: Carolyn Tolliver
Interviewee: Mrs. Irene Jordan

Land Travel

About a hundred years ago there were not many ways of travel, but people did go places.

One way of traveling was to ride a jenny. A jenny was a small, female donkey which was used very often for transportation. The women rode side-saddle on the jennies.

Two early forms of transportation were walking and horseback riding.

People often had to walk three or four miles to school. Horses were ridden over long distances.

Not many people were fortunate enough to have fancy buggies. Just about everyone had a saddle horse, field wagon, or buckboard wagon.

Roads were not too good back then. As a matter of fact, there were not any roads as there are today. Only small, dirt, wagon trails existed.

Interviewer:

Ernest Guffey
Teresa Akin
Patty Mullaney
Sharon Wolf
Eugene Smith

Interviewee:

Mrs. Joe Guffey
Mrs. Liza Boozer
Mrs. Bessie Westmoreland

First Cars In Jackson County

The first cars around Hollywood caused excitement and confusion.

Grandpa Grider recalled that the first car he ever saw was owned by Dr. McCleanon. People came out in the streets to see this newfangled vehicle. It was noisy, smoked, and it looked quite funny to see this man sitting in the seat holding a gliding stick instead of horse reins. This car traveled on Lee Highway right out there with the horses and buggies. It took a person about one hour to go to Scottsboro from Hollywood by horse and only took half an hour with this new invention.

An interesting factor of the Model T was that it had two gears, one low gear for forward and one reverse gear.

Interviewer:

Rita Grider
Steve Gravitt

Interviewees:

Grandpa Grider
Claude Matthews

Water Travel-Ferry Boats

Back in 1908, there were no bridges built around Jackson County. Anyone who wanted to get to the other side would have to go on a ferry boat. A tub boat was attached to the front of the ferry to carry the wagons and mules across the river. The motor that propelled the tug boat was like a car motor. The body was long and flat, and

there were two big paddle wheels at one end. On the side was a small building where the engine was.

There was a ferry at Larkin's Landing located at Langston. The charge for passage on the ferry was twenty cents—a dime going and a dime coming back. Mrs. Joe Guffey's grandfather and father ran this ferry.

Another ferry was the Garland's Ferry located at Scottsboro. The boat went from Scottsboro to Section. The charge was the same amount as the one at Larkin's Landing.

In Bellefonte there was a ferry called Coffey's Ferry. This crossed the Tennessee River near Pisgah. This ferry was located where Mr. Red Sharp gets sand and gravel now.

Caperton's Ferry ran from Stevenson to a port available to Flat Rock, Yucca, and Fabius communities.

What is now the County Park Road is part of what used to be the Section Ferry Road. This ferry went from this road to Section, Alabama, by means of the Tennessee River. Another road, the old Garland Ferry Road, which was located across from the present Town and Country Furniture Store, led to a ferry that also went to and from Section.

With the modern manufacturing and brilliant contractors, the ferries have been replaced with bridges. However, many people continued to use the ferry for awhile because it was cheaper than paying the toll at the bridge.

Interviewers:

Ernest Guffey
Teresa Akin
Patty Mullaney
Sharon Wolf-
H.R. Radtke
Eugene Smith
Richard Smith

Interviewees:

Mrs. Joe Guffey
Mrs. Liza Boozer
Mrs. Bessie Westmoreland

Section Ferryboat

Mrs. Joe Hale's father and brother operated the Section Ferry which traveled across the Tennessee River between the road going up Sand Mountain and the road leading into Scottsboro, Alabama.

This ferryboat consisted of a large barge with a tugboat attached to its side. The tugboat contained a paddle wheel which supplied the power that moved the ferryboat.

On each end of the boat were aprons. When the boat was loaded, the aprons were raised; when the boat landed, the aprons were led down so the cargo could be moved down the apron to the land.

A chain was also attached to each end of the boat. When the boat was in motion, the chains were fastened across each end for the safety of the passengers. When the boat reached land, the chains were used to secure the boat to land.

The ferryboat carried people, trucks, cars, wagons, buggies, and various items to be delivered to the opposite shore. At this time there were no bridges across the river.

Interviewer: Cindy Cotten
Interviewee: Mrs. Joe Hale

Balloon Flight

In the early 1900's the citizens of Scottsboro were treated to a balloon flight.

It took half a day to inflate the balloon, and by the time it was ready to go, a large crowd had gathered to witness the feat.

The balloon was launched from the west side of the square after much anxious anticipation.

The sole occupant was insured with a parachute in case of an emergency (or just for fun if he ever got high enough).

As it was, the balloon and its frightened transient barely escaped hitting the courthouse dome.

After a struggle to bring the craft under control, a successful landing was made in the Jacobs' front yard.

Interviewer: John Newman
Interviewee: W.L. Heath

Early Aeronautics In Jackson County

Before the advent of television and other modes of entertainment, the people of Jackson County had to invent and improve their own forms of recreation.

Some of the amusements were not only interesting and entertaining to watch but were often dangerous to the participants.

This is especially true of aerial entertainments, and Jackson County had its share of aeronautical spectacles and exploits.

One particularly unique diversion was "barnstorming." Pilots would fly into Scottsboro, as they did in many other cities and towns.

Their crafts were the old bi-planes with two cockpits, a front and a back.

These airborne virtuosos would amuse and beguile the townspeople by giving them a ride for a dollar. The ride featured a bird's eye-view of the town. This of course, was very dangerous, but the riders seemed completely unaware of the risk involved.

Interviewer: John Newman
Interviewee: W.L. Heath

Entertainment

In Jackson County

In past Jackson County has had a wide variety of social activities, most of which were really treats because of long, hard hours of work which had to be "put in" before time was allowed for fun and games. Most events were family affairs while many were geared toward teenagers and courtship. Children always had a number of games which kept them occupied.

Before the days of radio and television, families entertained themselves by singing together. Many of the songs were sung by grandfather about exciting people of the past. Songs were not written down, but were passed by memory from one generation to the next. Many musical numbers were religious in nature, inspired by the churches which played an important role in the development of Jackson County. Some hymns were written by people in our county. Families went in groups to church revivals in the summer, usually walking together to the meeting place. After Sunday services people would gather to watch the boys play ball. Church singings were popular events and people enjoyed eating dinner on the ground.

Community picnics were always popular for families. A man might prepare barbecue all night long to get ready for a big picnic the next day. One popular spot was a picnic area beside the Paint Rock River. Children entertained themselves at these gatherings by riding on the horse-pulled merry-go-round, called a Flying Jenny.

Men enjoyed playing cards or having turkey shoots. Some nights men went on possum hunts, using lanterns for light. During these get-togethers the men exchanged ideas, farming techniques, tall tales, and hunting stories. Usually there was a jug to pass around.

Hunting and fishing have always been favorite activities of the men. Dove, raccoons, quail and birds were hunted in summer while rabbits, ducks and geese were hunted in winter. Fall was the season for hunting deer, squirrel, fox and mink.

In summer everyone went swimming at an old water hold. Often a rope was tied to a tree so that people could swing out over the water and drop off. On hot days a crowd always gathered at such a popular spot.

Other entertainment in some areas was the picture show. People would walk three or four miles to join their friends on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and the theater would be packed with both youngsters and adults. Mrs. Nell Starkey Cash reported that because her grandfather owned a theatre, the Starkeys were always there. She also tells of the popularity of Mr. Dee Meeks, the father of Mrs. Margaret Hodges. He and his son sat on the front row every week. When Mr. Meeks read the captions of the silent movies to his child, he spoke loudly enough that everyone benefited from his reading.

Interviewers:

Pat Berry,
Shirley Bradford
Rachel Cash
Mike Copenhaver
Danny Gilley
Ronnie Henegar
Dale Hodges
Larry Holder
Beverly Johns
Billy Johnson
J.J. Keller
Cindy Kirby
Ellen Larsen
Jackie Roberts
Ronnie Skelton
Mike Taylor
R.R. Thomas
Pam Turner
Kay Whitehead
Charlotte Wootten
Patricia Worthen.

Interviewers:

Mrs. Virgil Berry
Mrs. Irene Carney
Mrs. Nell Starkey Cash
Flora Chambers
Mrs. Ruth Clendon
Ida Cowley
Faye Evett
Callie Hodges
Rena Holder
Mrs. Louise Keller

James R. Porch
Bobb Tubbs
Kate Turner
Dewey Whitehead
Jesse Wilbourn
Meredith Wootten.

First Radios

The arrival of radios in Jackson County brought a new form of family entertainment. One couple remembers their first experiences with this new invention.

The Loudermilks bought their Philco radio at a nearby town for about sixty dollars. The radio had a three-cornered cabinet, and got its power from a battery about the size of an automobile battery. A battery of this type could be purchased for about six dollars.

At the time they purchased this radio, Scottsboro probably had not even considered having a radio station because it was still just a tiny town. The only station the couple could pick up was Nashville.

The radio was hooked to a ground wire. If the wire became dry, the station could not be clearly received. Someone had to run outside every so often to throw water on the wire.

The grand part of the week came on Saturday night when everyone gathered at the Loudermilks' house to listen in. Their favorite program on Saturday was the "Grand Old Opera" that lasted until twelve that night.

Interviewer: Shelia Hale

Interviewee: Mr. and Mrs. Loudermilk

Practical Jokes In Jackson County

Practical jokes, such as the following one, have always been popular forms of entertainment in Jackson County.

Mr. James Brazelton, who told this story, said that it took place in a graveyard in the Hollywood community when he was a boy.

Four men were walking by the graveyard late one afternoon and noticed a crippled man sitting beside a grave in a wheelchair. The four men decided they wanted to see the disabled man walk.

They planned their prank very carefully. Two of the men placed several ears of corn on each side of the cemetery gates. The other two dressed up as ghosts and hid behind some bushes.

Meanwhile, the first two men had walked over to the cripple and were carrying on a conversation with him. They told him that they had seen some corn piled up by the cemetery gate, and that they would let him have it if he would go get it. The crippled man agreed to get it himself.

The three men began inching their way toward the corn, the crippled man rolling his wheelchair painfully. As they got even with the shrubbery, the two men dressed as ghosts jumped from their hiding place. The cripple, surprisingly enough, jumped from his wheelchair and beat all four of the other men home.

Interviewer: Debbie Brazelton

Interviewee: Mr. James Brazelton

Work Parties

Frequently people would gather to help one another when a need existed, and more often than not, the event turned into a happy social occasion.

Cotton pickings:

Jackson County has always grown much cotton, and in the late nineteenth early twentieth centuries there were no cotton gins or mechanical cotton pickers. The first real ginning machinery on Sand Mountain was set up about 1930.

When harvest time arrived, people would start picking the cotton balls from the fields as soon as they could before the cold, rainy weather set in. Every now and then a family would hold a "cotton pickin." All the neighbors from miles around would assemble at a particular home to help pick the cotton fiber from the seeds in the cotton that had been stored from the fields. Before they could do this, they worked from sunup until sundown picking the cotton, free of charge.

Lunch and a huge supper were prepared for the workers. After everyone had eaten all he could hold, the furniture would be moved to the wall in the largest room of the house, and people would square dance all night until they were "give out." Everybody usually had a grand ole time at a cotton-picking.

Quilting Bees and Land Clearings:

If a young couple were just starting out or a new family moved into the community, families would gather to help. Men would help clear the land while women would quilt and cook. When the quilting was finished, the women would put a

cat into the center of the coverlet. As they began tossing the animal into the air, it would usually run off at one side. The woman holding this spot would be the next to marry.

After the work was done, everyone would enjoy a big meal together and talk until time to go home.

Apron Parties:

Another activity of the women while the men worked was to make aprons. The first woman to finish the hem of her apron won a prize.

Corn Shucking:

A popular type of work party was a cornshucking. The first boy who found a red ear of corn was allowed to kiss the prettiest girl at the gathering.

Furniture bidding:

In some communities people gathered almost every Saturday for auctioning off furniture and household goods. The bidding, which only resembled auctions of today, took place in someone's front yard. Some people went just to get away from the house, while others would trade for things they wanted.

Interviewers:

Pat Berry
Shirley Bradford
Mike Carter
Rachel Cash
Melissa Cookston
Danny Gilley
Forestine Grayson
Beverly Johns
Ellen Larsen
J.J. Keller
Cindy Kirby
Jackie Roberts
Ronnie Skelton
Pam Turner
Kay Whitehead
Patricia Worthen

Interviewees:

Mrs. Virgil Berry
Mrs. Carney
W.A. Carter
Mrs. Nell Cash
Ida Cowley
Mrs. Ruth Clendon
Louise Keller
James R. Porch
Bobb Tubbs
Kate Turner
Mrs. Lualice Walker
J.W. and Lillian West
Jessie Wilbourn

Social Life Of Teenagers

In earlier years girls got married earlier than they do now, in general. Most of the time a young man would go

to the young lady's home to court her. He usually went on Sunday afternoon and stayed until dark. Unless there was a special occasion, the only other place a couple might go was to church. If a boy offered to walk a girl home from church and she refused, the other fellows joked that he had a "broken leg."

Mr. Claude Matthews, who graduated from high school in Jackson County in 1917, said that during his teenage years it was fashionable for young people to go one of two places, Tater Knob Mountain or Salt Peter Cave. Class picnics were often held at Robinson Spring, a creek near Tupelo Pike. Schools and churches often presented plays which people enjoyed.

At one time cave exploring became very popular. The young people would walk to all the caves in the area and spend the day wandering through them. In the fall, when snakes were not out, teenagers would go mountain climbing.

Dancing was popular at Salt Peter Cave a few years ago. A dance hall was located near the entrance, and it contained a bar which sold alcoholic beverages. Square dancing was the most popular entertainment there.

In the early 1900's young people's entertainment started on the way to parties. If the get-together was more than a mile away, the group might hitch up the horses to a wagon and pile the back high with hay. They would all climb in and sing songs as they traveled along.

Socials included such events as square dances, candy breakings, and candy pulls, box suppers or lunches, ice cream parties, and "Skip-to-My-Lou" parties.

Square Dances:

Mrs. Margie Reno informed us that when she was growing up young people used to go to a square dance every Saturday night. The girls would dress in their Sunday best and the boys would put on their best pair of over-alls. They were always home by ten o'clock.

Every Saturday night in Woodville a big square dance was held. The whole family attended. In the summertime the dance was in a neighbor's pasture.

Mr. James R. Porch reports that he played in a band. He played a guitar and sang, too. This band entertained at the local square dance. The best part was when the dance was over and the boys walked the girls home.

Around 1930 there were five families that lived close together in the main part of Fackler. Every month all the

families would get together and have a square dance. Each month a different family would have the dance at their home. The host family would buy all refreshments that were to be used that month. The cost of the refreshments would run around thirty dollars or sometimes more if the refreshments were especially fancy.

The day of the square dance was usually on a Saturday. All the ladies would come to the house and get everything ready to go for that night. Usually all the furniture was moved from one room. A long table was placed in the room so the food could be set on it. After everything was ready to go, everyone went home to get ready for the night. The square dance started around seven. Sometimes people who did not live in Fackler came to the dance. When everyone got there, they danced awhile and then ate. After everyone ate, they started to dance again. Sometimes the men at the dance would start drinking and singing. They were not too good, but the show was funny. The square dance was over when everybody got tired. The next morning the ladies came over to help clean up and began to prepare for next month's square dance.

Candy Breakings:

A group of people would get different flavors of stick candy and break them up. When a pan was filled with candy, a white cloth was put over the pan. Then partners were selected by pairing those who chose the same color of candy. These partners would draw sticks of candy from the covered bowl. If the candy pieces matched, then the girl would bite the same piece of candy her partner had drawn from the pan at the same time, or the guy had to kiss the girl on the cheek.

Candy-Pulling:

One person and a partner pulled sorghum taffy until it turned a light color. When it broke, whoever was the quickest would hit the other on top of the head with his end of the sorghum.

Box Lunches or Suppers:

All the young single girls in a community would fill a box with pie, cake, fruit, cookies, candy, or even a full meal. Then they added ribbons and flowers to make the boxes appealing. They would go to a nearby schoolhouse, where most of their community activities took place, and arrange their boxes on a table. The young, available men would also gather at the schoolhouse. Next, after everyone had arrived and assembled, the boxes were auctioned. The highest bidder on each box would get to eat the food with the girl who owned the box. If two or three boys were interested in the same girl,

the bid might go up to two or three dollars. Sometimes the boy would just buy the box for the food (because the girl was a good cook) and then run off and leave her. Most of the time these events were rigged. A young man would find out in advance which box belonged to a certain girl in order to be sure to get his sweetheart's box.

Ice Cream Parties:

The young people often went to ice cream parties. They would order ice cream from towns or make it at home. The girls would make cookies. After eating they played games like dropping-the-handkerchief.

In the summer the teen-agers had ice cream suppers. The girls would make refreshments. Sunday night was the ice cream social night. Everyone helped make the ice cream. The men put up a merry-go-round made of something like porch swings. At the ice cream supper a fiddler sat on one end and picked a girl to sit beside him. It was a great honor to be picked by the fiddler.

"Skip-to-My-Lou" Parties:

When Mrs. Annie Lee Johnson was in her teens, she attended many Skip-to-My-Lou Parties. This was a great treat for the teenagers on Crow Mountain. The youngest were all invited to a friend's house. All the belongings were removed from one of the larger rooms, which was left bare of everything but the teenagers.

The dance was to the popular tune known as "Skip to My Lou" to the younger people today. Participants would join hands with their partners to form a large circle.

For music they had a fiddle, guitar and a banjo. All the girls would get in a circle, and the men would pick their partners. The fiddler player would call out special steps during the dance. Mr. William W. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson's future husband, played the guitar for parties.

After the party was over, the groups would join hands and play Pleased or Displeased. Usually during this game the people would end up walking in couples. As one couple walked, some of the others would hide in the ditch waiting for the pair to come by. This was really the fun of the game Pleased or Displeased.

The young people of Aspel would have a party about every two weeks. These parties were at different homes each time. One of the games was called "Good Night, Shaggy." The boys and girls would walk down the road together. To decide which boy would walk with which girl, the boys would go outside and the girls would stand behind a chair and name a boy. Then

the boys would come back in. If the chosen boy sat down in the chair of the girl who named him, she had to walk with him. If he sat down in the wrong chair, the girl would walk him to the door and say, "Good Night, Shaggy."

Another game the youngsters played at the parties was called "Come In and Meet the King and Queen." To play this, a certain number of unsuspecting guests would go outside. The others would get two straight chairs and put a pan of water between them. Then the sheet would be placed over the chairs to give the appearance of three chairs in a row. A boy and girl would sit in the chairs to represent the king and queen. The other people would invite someone to come in to meet the king and queen. This person would come in and sit down between the pair. When he did this, the king and queen would jump up, and the person would sit in a pan of water.

Interviewers:

Dianne Cobbler
Jackie Roberts
Janice Remita
Pam Sims Marsh
Gina Sheppard
Gary Talley
Sherry Gentle
Connie Gentle
Kay Whitehead
Debbie Brazelton
Cindy Kirby
Debra Wright
Teresa Hancock
Jana Downey
Yvonne Johnson
Patsy Donnelly
Mike Benson
Fay Wilbourn
Thomas Elkins
Bonnie Manning Franklin

Interviewees:

Mamie Smith
James R. Porch
Lily Butler
Mrs. Margie Reno
Mrs. Mattie Hall
Mrs. Stella Talley
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie McCoy
Mr. A.A. Clemens
Mrs. Irene Jordan
Mr. Claude Matthews
Mrs. Elora Pace
Mrs. Ruth Clendon
Mrs. Jean Brandon Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hancock
Mrs. Annie Lee Johnson
Mrs. Ernest Donnelly
Miss Myrtle Hastings
Mrs. Pauline Benson
James L. and Lora Golden
Miss Osie Elkins
Mrs. George Manning

Children's Activities

"We didn't have all the fun in the world, but we enjoyed ourselves in numerous ways. We often wonder what

happened to the innocent fun we used to have. Kids nowadays have to have newfangled ideas, and fancy fun. We could have more fun with old tin cans than kids nowadays can with all their money." These are the words of Mrs. Virgil Berry, comparing the young people of her day with the young people of today.

Back in the days before there were places to go, shows to see, and television to watch, the children from many families would play games to keep themselves entertained.

The following are several games enjoyed by children:

Mumblety Peg was a favorite with the boys. A knife was balanced on different parts of their body and they would try to make it stick in the ground. The boy who could make the knife stick up in the most places in the ground was considered the winner.

Another favorite of the boys was shooting marbles. Everyone placed his marbles in a ring measuring one foot in diameter. In turns, each boy shot at the marbles with a white one. The first boy to knock all marbles out of the ring was declared the winner. There were many variations of this game.

Girls enjoyed playing London Bridge. Two people held their arms up, representing the bridge. The others would go under the bridge. Whoever was underneath the bridge when it fell was the loser. A game similar to this was Cross-Eye Snap. Two people would choose teams as the remainder ran through the two teams.

Both girls and boys enjoyed playing Drop the Handkerchief. All the children would form a circle; one of the youngsters would take the handkerchief and go around behind the others. The person he dropped it behind had to try to catch him before he could make it all the way around the circle.

Crack the Whip was a rough game played by the older children. A long line of children holding hands was formed and everyone would run, turning sharply to the right and left. Naturally, the ones on the end would be thrown around roughly.

Fox and Geese was similar to checkers, using buttons to represent the foxes and grains of corn to represent the geese.

Fox and Hens was another favorite of girls and boys. One person was chosen as the fox and everyone else represented the hens. Each hen was given a color by a non-participant. If the fox called one of the hens' color, that hen had to run to a base about fifty

feet from the starting point and reach it before the fox. If the hen did reach it first, she was safe. If the fox reached it first, she was out of the game.

One common game at parties was called Double Tap. Everyone would stand in a circle except one person. He would tap between someone's hands, then run around the circle to get back to the opening created without his being caught.

Annie-Over was a good game for the out-of-doors. Groups of children stood on opposite sides of a house and threw a ball over. If a person caught the ball he could move to the other side. If not, he remained where he was.

Girls always enjoyed playing house. They would sweep off a place in the yard, get old bulbs for their lights, put planks on old rocks for their chairs, and play for hours. For a stove they would get old bricks and rocks and build a pit. They killed rats and lizards to cook for their meals, which, of course, were not meant for eating. On rainy days little girls cut dolls from catalogs and played with them.

A big snow was a highlight for the children. In 1940 a twelve-inch snow accumulated and schools were dismissed for two weeks. A story is told of the snowman that Bub Starkey created with the help of almost every youngster in Hollywood. This figure was very wide and stood seven feet tall so that the Starkey's car fit perfectly under its arm.

Interviewers:

Pat Berry
Rachel Cash
Charlotte Wooten Cook
Debra Edmonds
Thomas Elkins
Bonnie Manning Franklin
Danny Gilley
Dale Hodges
Larry Holder
Beverly Johns
J.J. Keller
Cindy Kirby
Ellen Larsen
Jackie Roberts
Kay Whitehead
Faye Wilbourn
Patricia Worthen

Interviewees:

Mrs. Virgil Berry
Mrs. Carney
Mrs. Nell Starkey Cash
Mrs. Ruth Clendeon
Miss Osie Elkins
James and Lera Golden
Callie Hodges
Rena Holder
Louise Keller
Mrs. George Manning
James R. Porch
Jesse Wilbourn
Meredith Wooten

Holidays

Holidays or any special occasions to provide a break in the routine of laboring from dawn till dark have always been welcomed by hard-working people. Some customs have changed over the years, but spirits have always been high at the prospect of enjoying a break from the usual.

On the Fourth of July people would sometimes go to a church singing that would last all day, or they would have ballgames. At the singings they would always eat dinner on the ground and everyone would enjoy his feast there.

Another event which everyone relished was the Annual Fourth of July Picnic. Families would bring a picnic lunch to Salt Peter Cave where the meal was spread on a large table. Everyone would go around the table and fill his plate. The day was spent in playing all kinds of fun games.

On Halloween the older boys would get together and slip to someone's barn. They would take his mules and exchange them with some other person's mules. They would take the man's wagon apart and take all the pieces and put the wagon back together in the loft of the barn, or sometimes they would put the wagon on top of the barn.

On Christmas Eve people would get together and go caroling or serenading. They would get tin cans, cow bells, pans, and any other thing that would make noise. Some of the boys would break bottles and would black their faces, and everyone would yell and holler. They would line up around the houses and holler "cake" or name some other Christmas treat. Most of the time the people would invite them in and give them oranges, apples, candy, cake, or some other food. Occasionally they would serenade the wrong person, and he would get a shotgun after them.

Christmas tree decorations in the early days were homemade. Some of the more favorite ones were stringed popcorn, ribbon, red pepper, and paper ornaments.

Christmas gifts were usually serviceable in nature although fun surprises were included. Oranges and candy were treats often enjoyed only at this season of the year. Children usually received one pair of shoes to last for the whole year. Ladies and girls might receive a pair of cotton stockings.

Interviewers:

Melissa Cookston
Thomas Elkins
Bonnie Manning Franklin
Kay Whitehead
Faye G. Wilbourn

Interviewees:

Miss Osie Elkins
James L. and Lera Golden
Mrs. George Manning
Ina McCorry
J.W. and Lillian West

An Old-Time Christmas

Mrs. Jean Wright was one of seven children who were born and raised on a farm in Tupelo. She recalls the Holiday season at her home.

Every Christmas all the children would go down to the "bottoms" (lower land behind the house) and decide on a Christmas tree. This was a big event around this time every year. Of course, after they chopped it and carried it back to the house, they would decorate it. Since they seldom bought anything but necessities, they made most of their own decorations. They would pop corn and paint sycamore balls and hang them on the tree. They also gathered mistletoe and holly for trimmings.

They would spend days at a time just cooking for Christmas. "We baked about twelve cakes, several pies for our company and ourselves to enjoy on Christmas." Mama would always bake fruitcakes, too. I remember her mixing 'em up. She'd have to cook 'em in a dishpan."

They also went caroling on Christmas Eve. They walked around to all the neighbor's houses and stood out front and sang a few songs. When they were through, the neighbors would give them something to eat like cake and hot chocolate.

She remembers some of her relatives coming on Christmas Eve to her house with their fiddles, guitars, and banjos to "make some music." After they were through playing and singing, they would get a big slice of cake or pie for their efforts to brighten up the Eve.

Interviewer: Debra Wright

Interviewee: Jean Wright

Decoration Day

One activity of Jackson County which is also customary in other parts of the country is Decoration Day. On one specific day each year, people come to their families' cemeteries to clear and redecorate the graves as well as to pay respect to the dead. Picnics are prepared and spread for everyone to enjoy and the affair usually lasts all day.

When gas was being rationed during World War II, several families would go in together to rent a truck for the trip to the cemetery. If children behaved well, they were sometimes rewarded with a coke.

Interviewer: Dennis Neeley
Interviewee: Mrs. Frances Neeley

Racial Discrimination In The 1920's

Early Sports Activities

Ballgames have always provided special pleasure for the people of Jackson County. Participaters as well as spectators have become involved and shared in supporting local teams.

Basketball has been a popular sport in Jackson County for many years. However, basketball courts were not like those we have today. The boys built their own court from barrel hoops for the goal and trees for the goal supports. Many times the boys would play the girls a game of basketball, but the boys would have one hand tied behind their backs.

Mr. Claude Matthews recalls one of the few trips the Scottsboro basketball team made. It was a journey to Flat Rock, Alabama. The team left home around 8:30 on a Saturday morning and took the train to Stevenson. They were then met by a man with a horse and wagon which was to take the team up the mountain. But the wagon was overloaded, and the team had to climb the mountain by foot. They played the game and got home around 5:00 in the afternoon. Mr. Matthews said that most of the basketball games were played either in the open or in a barn.

Mr. R.P. Wills, who was the principal of the high school in Scottsboro around 1913 or 1914 built a gym, called "the barn," in the sight of the present junior high gym. It was a plain building with a few bleachers inside. The goals were placed on the walls of the building with no boundaries on the floor. Mr. Matthews recalls players' running and climbing the walls in order to make a goal. He stated that the ball was always playable except when it went into the stands. An admission of fifteen to twenty-five cents was charged to the basketball games because they were indoors, but there was no admission to a football game unless it was predicted to be a pretty good game.

The baseball and football games had to be played in the day because there were no lights. The football field was located on Market Street where the Bo-Kay flower shop now stands. Scottsboro played such teams as Bridgeport, which had an academy and Flat Rock, which had a Methodist Academy School.

Interviewers:

Carolyn Crawford
Connie Gentle
Steve Gravitt
Mark Thomas

Interviewees:

Mr. Claude Matthews
Mr. Gene Thomas

Sports activities provided entertainment in more ways than one. The following story illustrates how one game had more than the ordinary excitement of a regular event.

As it happened, Fackler community's Blacks were to play Scottsboro's Blacks. The Fackler team had a problem, their pitcher was gone and they did not have a replacement. Uncle Bill Lovelady, known as a bit of a character back then, was asked to help them out. He got some shoe polish and blacked his face and hands. Things went well until about the sixth inning. Fackler was leading when the sweat began to make the polish run off. The members of the Scottsboro team were furious and ran Bill out of town. This seems to be the first incident of racial discrimination in athletics in Jackson County.

Interviewer: Charles Lovelady
Interviewee: Mr. Bedford Lovelady

Cock Fighting

Cock-fighting was a main form of recreation for the grownups and children alike in the later years of the 1940's. Instead of raising prize roosters for some of the county fairs that passed through Jackson County, people would raise their roosters for prize fighting. People took pride in their roosters and bred them through good blood lines just as they did for their cows, dogs, and any other valuable animal.

There was always a lot of money changing hands at these events, sometimes as much as three thousand dollars. These fights were illegal, but people still gathered in someone's barn on a Sunday afternoon to hold them. A person would come to these fights, see a good-looking start rooster, and bet his money on it. Sometimes he would go away from the fights smiling and happy because he had bet on the right rooster and had won. But on the other hand, more often, he left not smiling and happy at all because he had lost his money.

These fights were carried out somewhat like our boxing fights are carried out today. The roosters were placed in a pit-like area where they would fight. The owner of the rooster would place razor-type spurs around the ankles of the rooster. These were for cutting the other rooster. The roosters were then placed in the pit where they would fight until one was dead.

Roosters were sometimes placed in a derby-like contest. When these contests took place, a rooster would have to fight more than once to be a winner. When they were in a derby, the roosters would fight until one was dead. If his rooster had won, the owner would then grab it, suck blood from its beak, and throw it back in the arena to fight again. When another one was dead, the same process occurred. This would go on until there was just one rooster left, and he was then declared champion.

Interviewer: Billy Johnson
Interviewee: Mr. M.H. Thomas

Coon Hunting

One of the most physically demanding sports next to football is coonhunting, a sport that seems to be practiced mainly by overall-clad farmers.

To go coonhunting one needs at least two hounds of a coonhunting breed. Most hunters use black-and-tan breed or treeing-walker dogs. We usually used the former and did our hunting on mountain ridges though sometimes we also hunted cornfields. I remember that almost every time we hunted it was often one o'clock in the morning or later. Many times we would spend six hours running up steep wooded hillsides to get to a tree the coon was in before he could hide. A long run would usually show its marks in the stiff movements of both dogs and men the next day.

Interviewer: Josh Hayes

Rifle Exhibition

According to Mr. Albert Ricker, there was one event that attracted the people of Scottsboro and Jackson County in the year 1945. In that year, an exhibition was put on by an expert marksman from the Remington Rifle Company at the sight of the old Veteran's Field.

During this show he threw six discs about the size of a golf ball into the air and shot them all before they hit the ground. Other related skills occurred, but the main event came last. In this event the marksman shot at a piece of cardboard several yards away and formed an Indian head with the bullet holes.

Interviewer: Ronnie Ricker
Interviewee: Albert Ricker

Making Things

Introduction

In our journeyings around the county, we ran across many unusual recipes and instructions. These varied from such things as lye soap and wine to digging a well and making a toy wagon. Although we have not experimented with each recipe, we have been assured by the contributors that each one is "tried and true."

Hair Care

SHAMPOO RECIPES

To wash hair well, take one ounce of Borax and one half ounce of camphor. Powder these ingredients and dissolve them in one quart of boiling water. Let the mixture cool. The shampoo is now ready for use.

According to many of our interviewees, nothing is better for hair than rain barrel water, lye soap and egg whites.

To get rid of dandruff, a person should wash his hair with raw eggs and quinine water.

CURLING

Before hair rollers were invented, girls culred their hair on tin cans covered with paper. They achieved the same effect girls do today, and they saved money as well.

Interviewers:

Lynn Price
Frances Woodall
Danny Gilley
Ellen Larsen
Steve Webb

Interviewees:

Mrs. Julian Clemons
Mrs. H.B. Cannon
Mrs. Laila Sisk

Complexion Care

COMPLEXION CREAM

For your complexion use the sweet cream spooned off freshly churned milk. Combine it with ground cucumbers to form a mask which can be washed off easily with warm water.

FRECKLES

Put banana peels on your face while lying in the sun.

Wash your face in stump water every night for nine nights. The freckles will then disappear.

Interviewers:

Frances Woodall
Danny Gilley
Ellen Larsen

Interviewees:

Mrs. H.B. Cannon
Mrs. Laila Sisk

Making Stockings

The cotton is gathered and spun into thread on a spinning wheel. The thread is then knitted into stockings. For different colored stockings, oak bark and walnut hulls can be boiled to make dye.

Interviewer: Judy Arnold

Interviewee: Cora Garner

How To Make Cloth Out Of Sheep's Wool

One should first shear the sheep and wash and dry the wool. Then make a roll just about as big around as one's index finger or bigger. Put it on a spindle wheel to make the thread. The final step involves putting the thread on the loom and making the cloth.

Interviewer: John Haswell

Interviewee: Mr. Luther Frazier

How To Dig A Well

Get some hand tools. Pick out a good spot and start digging, throwing the dirt aside as you dig. When you hit a rock, get a steel drill and drill through it. Keep on digging until you hit water.

Interviewer: John Haswell

Interviewee: Mr. Luther Frazier

How To Make A Softball

"Take an old terrycloth sock and stuff it with rags until firm. Sew the end to give a round shape."

Interviewer: John Haswell

Interviewee: Mr. Luther Frazier.

How To Make A Toy Wagon

Take 3 boards; build in triangular shape. Place a flat board across triangle for seat. A platform is then built underneath, and tied to the seat with old ropes. The ropes serve as foot rests and guiding sticks. Assemble four wheels on the triangular base and the wagon is ready to cross any prairie.

Interviewers: Joni Douglas, Carnell Townson

Interviewee:

Mrs. Emma Townson

Lye Soap

Many recipes were submitted for soap using commercial lye. The following is a typical one.

Ingredients:

4½ pounds meat grease
1 can lye, such as Mary Warr Lye
3 pints water

Put the meat grease into a wash pot and bring it to a boil. Mix the water and lye until it is well dissolved. Then add the grease to the lye solution and stir constantly in the same direction until the soap hardens. Remove it from the fire, let it cool, and then cut it into squares.

Interviewers:

Kay Whitehead
Carolyn Tolliver
John Hughes
Billy Davis
Lee Colbert

Interviewees:

Emma King
Ina McCoy
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Reed

Lye

If one didn't wish to use commercial lye in his soap-making, he could instead make his own. The directions are as follows:

Save the ashes from an oak, hickory, or other hardwood tree. These ashes may be gathered directly from the fireplace. They should be placed in a large 50 pound barrel or in an ash hopper--a trough with sides four feet high and a small slit in the bottom to allow the lye to drain out. The lye should drain until there is enough to make the soap. It is a reddish-brown color.

Interviewers:

Pam McGinty
Tom Gibson
Deby Redmond
Linda McAllister
Connie Gentle
Rita Grider
Judy Arnold
Mary Beth Shelton
Ernestine Robinson

Interviewees:

Miss Eunice Matthews
Miss Leola Matthews
Myrtle Bishop
Mrs. Cora Garner
Julius Keller
Mary Guinn
Mrs. Katherine Gamble
Mrs. Minzie Harris
The Griders

Killing And Dressing A Chicken

Pick out a fine, fat hen and take it by the neck. Sling it around with a jerking motion till you hear the neck pop. Then dip the chicken in scalding water to loosen the feathers. It should then be possible to pull out the feathers with ease. Singe all fine hairs off. The chicken is now ready to cook and eat.

Interviewer: Ann Dicus

Interviewee: Mrs. T.H. Dicus

Killing And Dressing A Hog

There are two methods for killing a hog: one can hit the hog in the head with the flat part of an ax or he can shoot it with a 22 rifle.

After the killing, the hog is placed in a large barrel and scalding water is poured over him. This loosens the fine hairs so they can be scraped off with a large butcher knife. The ankles of the hog are cut so a sharp stick can be placed between the tendons and the ankle bone of the back feet. The hog is then hung in the air, high enough so the snout does not touch the ground. Then a large slit is made from the chin to the stomach so the insides can be removed. The hog is then laid on a scaffold and cut up.

Interviewer: Ann Dicus

Interviewee: Mrs. T.H. Dicus

Curing Of Meat

Meat can be cured by setting it in a big box for four to six weeks. It should then be taken out, washed and sprinkled with black pepper. After being hung up and smoked, it is ready for use.

Interviewer: Dale Hodges

Interviewee: Mrs. Callie Hodges

Making Cornmeal

Nail a piece of tin to a plank. Rub an ear of corn against this tin to grind it into meal for bread.

Interviewer: Irene Mitchell

Interviewee: Roney Mitchell

The Making Of Hominy

Cook corn in a pot of water (use washing pot). Put some ashes in a bag and put in with corn. This removes the husk from the corn. When the corn is tender, wash it several times. Then it is ready to cream and use.

Interviewers:

Debbie White
Judy Arnold

Interviewees:

Mrs. Birdie Chaney
Mrs. Cora Garner

Making Bread From Cornmeal

Ingredients:

1 tps. salt
1 cup cornmeal
1 tps. soda
1 cup milk

People would take corn from the fields to the mill to be ground into cornmeal. They took the cornmeal and then added soda, salt, and milk. The mixture was then placed in an iron pot with a lid, and hot coals from the fire were placed on the lid to cook the bread.

Interviewers:

Deby Redmond
Mary Beth Shelton

Interviewees:

Mrs. Kathleen Gamble
Anonymous

Souse Meat

Ingredients:

Red pepper
Salt
Pig feet
Pig head
Water

Clean pig's feet and head very well and cook in water until tender. Then take the meat off the bone and season with red pepper and salt. Pack in an iron pot. Put a weight on top of completely. Then take the lid off and slice the souse meat. It is now ready to eat.

Interviewers:

Mary Beth Shelton
Ernestine Robinson

Interviewees:

Mrs. Kathleen Gamble
Mrs. Minzie Harris

How To Make Sorghum Syrup

After all sorghum juice has been removed from the cane, place it in buckets, and put them in a cooking vat to heat the syrup. The heat will cook the syrup to sugar.

Interviewer: Linda McAllister

Interviewee: Mr. Lloyd McAllister

Homemade Pickles

Place two gallons of cut cucumbers into a jar. Add boiling salt water containing two cups of salt per gallon of water. Let this soak for twenty-four hours. Drain the salt water and reboil it. Pour the same water over the cucumbers again adding more, if necessary. Repeat this for four days. On the fourth day drain the salt water, then add one tablespoon of alum to make the pickles crisp. Soak this mixture for one day. Then rinse the alum off the cucumbers.

Next, make a syrup of the following ingredients.

5 pts. vinegar
6 c sugar
½ oz. celery seed
1 stick cinnamon

The celery seed should be placed in a bag to add flavor without getting the seeds in the syrup. When the syrup is ready, pour over the cucumbers and let stand for four days.

After the four days are up, remove the cinnamon and celery; add tumeric; can and seal.

Interviewer: Stanley Woodall
Interviewee: Mrs. D.P. Woodall

Sassafras Tea

Dig up the roots of sassafras and strain some of the liquid out. Use 2 quarts of the liquid, adding 1 cup of sugar for every ½ cup of liquid. Use this tea to drink at mealtime.

Interviewer: Linda Webb
Interviewee: Mrs. J.C. English

Old Fashioned Butter Cake

Ingredients:
1 cup butter
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup milk

Cream butter and sugar. Add well-beaten egg yolks. Mix and sift dry ingredients and add them alternately with the milk to creamed butter and sugar. Add flavoring; fold in beaten egg whites. Bake in greased muffin pan at 375 degrees for 15 to 25 minutes in layered pans at 365 degrees for 15 to 25 minutes; in loaf pan at 325 or 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes.

Interviewer: Joan Pursley
Interviewee: Mrs. Robert Wynn

Old Fashioned Egg Pie

Ingredients:
5 eggs
1½ cups sugar
3 cups milk

Mix ingredients. Put in uncooked pie shell. Shake a little nutmeg on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until it is done.

Interviewer: Linda Webb
Interviewee: Mrs. J.C. English

Vinegar Cobbler Pie

Ingredients:
2 cups vinegar
1½ cups sugar
2 cups water
1 pinch salt

Heat all ingredients until they come to a steady boil. Keep mixture boiling while preparing the mixture for the dumplings as found below.

Ingredients:

3 cups flour
½ cup milk
¼ cup shortening
1 pinch of salt

Knead dumpling mixture until stiff. Rollout about one third inch thick. Cut in one inch strips or blocks. Dump these into the boiling vinegar mixture. Top with a circle of dumpling mixture, sized to fit the pan. Put a sugar topping, dry white or brown sugar, over the entire top crust.

Interviewer: Yvonne Johnson
Interviewee: Annie Lee Johnson

Grandpa's Grape Wine

Mix in a churn the following ingredients:
3 gallons of grapes
1 gallon water
1 yeast cake
4 cups sugar

Let the mixture sit 9 days. Strain it with a cloth, add 4 more cups of sugar, and let it sit 9 more days. Strain and bottle.

Yields 5 gallons.

Interviewer: Debra Wright
Interviewee: The Griders

Grandpa's Cherry Wine

Ingredients:
3 gallons of cherries
1 yeast cake
1 gallon water

Put the ingredients in a jug with a hose near the bottom. Seal the jug airtight. Put the other end of the hose in the jug, seal airtight, and set till the wine quits bubbling. Add 4 cups of sugar and let it sit 9 days.

Interviewer: Debra Wright
Interviewee: The Griders

Baked Possum

"Do you know any old or unusual recipes"? This question was asked of Mr. George Smith, and his recipe on how to cook baked possum followed.

"Well first ye kill yeself a fat possum, a young'un if yer lucky," he said. "Then take yer knife an' cut around his neck and slit him down the middle," he continued. "Next, remove his innards an' grab aholt of his skin right behind his neck an' slowly pull it down till it comes off; then he's ready to cook," he explained.

"Next ye get a big baking pan, seven or eight sweet taters, an' plenty of salt an' pepper. Then ye lay him belly up in the pan, put the sweet taters around him, season him, an' put him in a warm oven. Next, let him cook about four hours, an' then yer in fer a real feast," he finished.

Interviewer: Randy Wilhelm
Interviewee: Mr. George Smith

Broiled Crawdads

This recipe was not used very often, but when it was, it made "real good eatin'!"

Bring a kettle of salt water (½ cup of salt to 1 gallon of water) to a boil. Throw in a few dozen crawfish and simmer until they turn a deep red. Break the tails off and serve them like shrimp, letting each person shuck out his own meat.

Interviewer: J.J. Keller
Interviewee: Mr. Rudder Gonce

Here is another tasty but seldom used recipe.

Muskrat Meatloaf

Ingredients:

1 muskrat
salt solution (1 T salt to 1 qt water)
2 beaten eggs
½ C dry crumbs
1 C evaporated milk
¼ onion, minced or grated
¼ T. thyme
1 T. salt
¼ t. pepper
1 t. Worcestershire Sauce

Clean muskrat, carefully removing musk glands. Soak the muskrat overnight in the salt solution. Remove the meat from the bones and grind it. Next, mix the ground meat thoroughly with eggs, crumbs, milk, onion, thyme, salt, pepper and Worcestershire Sauce. Place meat in meatloaf dish and put dish in a layer pan of hot water.

Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 1½ to 2 hours. Serves six.

Interviewer: J.J. Keller
Interviewee: Mr. Rudder Gonce

Introduction

During the depression many people were too proud to accept relief, so they learned to make good use of whatever they trapped or killed. Skunk just happened to be very plentiful, so they made a meal of it. They found that skunk meat was white, tender and tasty and was also a favorite delicacy of the Indians. Here are a couple of recipes that will turn a polecat into a meal.

Broiled Skunk

Ingredients:

Skunk
Salt
Pepper
Onion Juice
Butter

Clean, skin, and gut the skunk. Then carefully remove the scent glands. Parboil in salted water for fifteen minutes. Pour off water and add fresh water. Let the water steam for one hour, and then rub the meat with salt, pepper and onion juice and spread butter on the meat. Broil about forty minutes and baste every ten minutes with butter.

Interviewer: J.J. Keller
Interviewee: Mr. Rudder Gonce

Roast Skunk

Ingredients:

2 carrots
1 tsp. onion juice
Skunk

After cleaning the skunk and removing the scent glands, parboil the meat in salted water for fifteen minutes and drain off water. Place the meat in fresh water and steam until it becomes tender (about one hour). Place the meat in a roasting pan and roast in oven at 375 degrees. Add two sliced carrots and one teaspoon of onion juice. Cook uncovered for two hours.

Interviewer: J.J. Keller
Interviewee: Mr. Rudder Gonce.

Folk Remedies

Acne

For acne put buttermilk on the face and let it dry overnight. Wash the face the next morning, and it will be very soft.

A mudpack will help pimples.

Arthritis

To cure arthritis let a honey bee sting the sufferer.

Wearing copper bracelets helps ease arthritis.

Pick pikeberries and mash and boil them. Let the juice set and make into a wine. Drink this for arthritis.

Asthma

To cure asthma, live with a chihuahua dog.

Combine thirty-six peach kernels and one pint of hog lard.

Fry this on slow heat and strain it into a fruit jar. Combine one teaspoon of turpentine, one teaspoon of sassafras oil, and one block of camphor gum. Stir and mix this into the lard. Use this as a cure for asthma by taking one teaspoon night and morning for adults or one-half teaspoon for children.

Gather pine branches and place them in the bedroom before going to bed. This will help asthma.

Cut a sourwood stick. Make the stick the length of the child. When the child outgrows the stick, he is cured of asthma.

Bed Wetting

A teaspoon of honey at bedtime will prevent bed wetting.

Bleeding

Put a piece of lead on a string and wear it around the neck to stop a nose bleed.

Sniffing ragweeds stops a nose bleed.

A nosebleed can be remedied by putting a knife down the back.

Tie a nylon thread in the hair.

To stop bleeding, read, recite, or simply think about the words of Ezekiel 16:6: "And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live."

Place an onion directly on a bleeding area. The blood will quickly thicken and stop flowing.

Spider webs are used to stop bleeding.

Salt or sugar will stop bleeding. Fill the cut with the crystals and tie a cloth around it.

Stop bleeding by putting soot or mud on the wound.

Put a dime under the lip to stop a nosebleed.

Boils

To get rid of a boil, one should make a paste of iodine and lard, and apply it directly to the boil.

An Irish potato poultice applied to a boil will cause it to get well more quickly.

One should apply meat fat to a boil.

For boils take the green-white, slick leaf of a house leak plant and mix cream with it. After this has been beaten, drink the mixture.

Bruises

For a stone bruise split it with a razor blade, put rosebud salve on it, and wrap it in a clean, white cloth.

Chicken Pox

To cure the chicken pox, one should turn around three times under the place where a chicken has roosted.

The person wishing to cure his chicken pox should lie down on the ground and allow someone to run chickens over him at a fast rate. This

will cause the disease to be transferred from the person to the chickens.

Colds, Flu, And Pneumonia

For pneumonia, one should wrap salt in a hot rag, and place it on the chest for a few hours.

To cure the flu, one should bake an onion in the ashes of a fireplace. When fully baked, the onion should be crushed between two cloths. The cloths should be placed on the chest of the ailing person.

The bark of a slippery elm, when boiled, is an effective remedy for the flu.

To cure the common cold, one should go to bed and stay as warm as possible. The heat will sweat out the cold in about three hours.

A dose of Black Draught will cure the cold.

A sip of whiskey and a bit of rock candy is a good remedy for a cold.

A mixture of kerosene and sugar will cure a cold.

Pine tar and turpentine rubbed on the chest is good for a chest cold.

Tea made from boiled sassafras roots will cure a bad cold and a sore throat.

One should burn pine tar on the coals of a fire, and inhale the smoke to keep off colds.

For a cold, one should mix $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon soda, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 teaspoon paragoric, and a glass of water. One should drink this two or three times a day.

Whiskey and honey may be used for colds.

The following procedure is suggested for the cure of a common cold: Take a flannel cloth, and put grease or lard on it to keep it from blistering. Then put camphor, kerosene, turpentine, Vick's Salve and anything else that might be around the house, on the cloth. Heat the cloth until it is very warm, and place it on the patient's chest. It should remain there overnight. It is very important to keep the patient warm, or he will take more cold.

This remedy will stop the whistling

caused by a cold. Generally speaking, however, only those people who trap animals will have access to the ingredients. One should bake a skunk thoroughly. A spoonful of the remaining grease should be mixed with a little sugar and taken whenever needed.

To get rid of a cold, one should mix one teaspoon of sugar, one drop of kerosene, and two drops of turpentine in a half glass of water. One should then drink this several times a day.

Hot ashes mixed with water and placed on the patient's chest will cure a cold. It will take approximately four hours.

For colds, one should boil the leaves used in making catnip tea. Two teaspoonsful of sugar should be added to the liquid before drinking it.

To get rid of a cold, one should boil three onions. After removing the juice from the onions and mixing it with two teaspoons of sugar and a glass of water, the patient should drink it. This is also an effective remedy for hives, especially on babies.

Whiskey and lemon mixed together and boiled, is an effective remedy for colds.

Tar mixed with vaseline or lard is good for colds. One should place the mixture on a wool cloth and tie it around the patient's neck. The cloth must be woolen because this fabric holds the heat better than any other.

Moonshine whiskey mixed with peppermint candy is a good remedy for colds.

For head colds, one should drink a mixture of whiskey, sugar, water and lemon, boiled together.

Coal oil or turpentine rubbed into the chest are very good cures for the cold.

Asafetida (a wax) will ward off colds from children if worn around their necks.

When treating a baby's cold, one should mix one drop of turpentine and one teaspoon of castor oil and give it to the baby.

Hog hook (the toenail of a hog), when made into a tea, can be used to break pneumonia and flu.

A mustard plaster on the chest will break up a bad cold.

To get rid of a cold, one should inhale snuff deeply.

To ward off a cold, one should keep a few drops of turpentine in a bottle at the head of the bed.

Tea and bourbon is good for a cold.

Constipation

For constipation boil walnut bark and drink the tea. Use Black Drought for constipation. Castor oil will relieve constipation. Eat prunes for irregularity. A good cure for bowel trouble is to make a tea of flux weed.

Corns

To get rid of corns, one should rub kerosene on the corn every night for nine nights. He should then skip nine nights, and then go through the procedure again. The corn will then disappear.

One should put bread, oil and paper on the corn until it goes away.

A slice of lemon placed on a corn every night will eventually bring it to the point where it can be lifted.

One should rub corns with pumace stone to get rid of them.

Coughs

Drink mullin tea or sassafras tea for coughing.

A dill pickle with salt will help stop coughing. A lemon with salt will help also.

A mixture of whiskey and rock candy or a combination of kerosene and sugar is good for coughs. Turpentine and sugar may be used.

Honey helps coughing. Lemon juice may be added.

Wearing asafetida around the neck will cure whooping cough.

For whooping cough fry a rat and eat the grease.

A tea made from redwood bark will help coughs.

A good cough syrup may be made from mullin, water and sugar, boiled until thick.

For a cough mix three spoons of honey and one spoon of alum with one cup of warm water. Take as needed.

Boiled onion with sugar is good for croup.

Glycerin and whiskey make a good cough syrup.

For coughs, take one teaspoon of

white or brown sugar and put a few drops of coal oil on it. This should be given to children.

The recipe for a good homemade cough syrup is as follows: Get a handful of hickory bark, cherry bark, and sweet gum bark. This should be boiled together with two bunches of hore-hound weed. Four cups of sugar should then be added, and the mixture should be boiled to a syrup.

Another cough syrup can be made by combining one cup of white or brown sugar, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon of black pepper. One teaspoon of this held in one's mouth until it melts will stop coughing immediately.

Cure-Alls

Boil sassafras roots into a tea. This drink may be used as a sedative, a cure for almost anything, or a preventative in general.

To ward off illness wear asafetida around the neck.

Garlic may be worn around the neck in a sack to keep children from having diseases.

Mustard plaster is used mainly for heart attacks, but may also be used for any kind of pain. To make mustard plaster put a small amount of flour in a sack and roll it out. Lay the sack on the heart or where the person is hurting.

A mixture of asafetida and whiskey may be used to prevent such diseases as measles, mumps, chicken pox, or whooping cough.

Sulphur and cream of tartar is a mixture taken to purify the blood.

Chicken noodle soup cures all.

Take castor oil every morning to clean out the system.

Give a child an aspirin every day from birth to twelve years, and he will become a better person.

Cuts

A piece of meat on a cut will draw the pus out of it.

Cut the bark off a red oak tree and boil it. Put the tea in a pan with a little salt and soak the infected area.

Rub honey directly on a cut.

Put kerosene on the cut.

Immediately after a person has been cut, pour coal oil over the wound, and it will not get sore.

For a puncture wound burn an old felt hat and smoke the wound.

To draw an infected area to a head, one should scrape a beet and place it on the infection.

Tobacco juice may be used on cuts and scratches.

Diarrhea

To cure diarrhea, drink one tablespoon of flour mixed with water.

Dog Bites

For a dog bite wash the bite with warm water and lye soap. Then pour kerosene on it.

Earaches

To cure an earache, one should drop some blood from a betsy bug into the ear.

A drop of warm sweet oil in the ear will cure an earache.

Pipe smoke blown into the ear will cure an earache.

A person with an earache should put a drop of hot water in his ear.

For an earache, one should cut a persimmon branch and stick one end of it into a fire. The juice will run out of the other end. A drop or so of this juice, placed in the ear, will cure the earache.

The sap of a sour wood tree is an effective remedy for earache.

Hot ashes sprinkles with water and wrapped in a rag, are very good for an earache. The warm rag of ashes should be placed on the ear.

For an earache, one should heat urine and drop it into the ear.

Also, for earache, one should cut the heart of an onion out, fill it with sulfur, wrap it in a wet rag, and roast it in the stove. When roasted, one should apply this to the aching ear.

For earaches, one should roll onions in a wet cloth and roast them in the ashes of a fire. When the juice from these onions is dropped into a person's ear, the pain should cease in one hour.

Eye Irritations

Take flax seed, cook, and make a slimy mixture. Put this on the eye to draw out something that is in it.

Make a poultice from an Irish potato. Put this over the eye to remove any foreign particles.

Fainting

Mix camphor gum with whiskey and put this around the nose to revive a person who has fainted.

Fever Blisters

Ear wax will cure fever blisters on the lips.

Frostbite

One should hold frostbitten feet over burning cedar branches.

Gallstones

For relief from gallstones find some bull needles and boil them. Cool the tea and drink it.

To ease pain from gallstones, boil the roots and green leaves of blackberry bushes. Take $\frac{1}{4}$ pint before each meal and before retiring.

Headaches

If one will rub vinegar on his forehead his headache will go away.

Tie a band around the head very tightly to relieve a headache.

Heartburn

Hold a new nail in the mouth and do not swallow for a few minutes to cure heartburn.

Hemorrhoids

A mixture of snuff, hog grease, and kerosene applied to the area will cure hemorrhoids.

Hiccups

One should drink sugar mixed with water for hiccups.

Hives

"Poly-poty," which is a moss-like growth on trees, should be mashed and stewed into a tea. One should drink it slowly to cure hives.

One should make a tea of catnip leaves and add a roasted onion. This is usually given to babies suffering from hives.

A person with hives should drink onion tea, which is made by boiling an onion with water and straining it.

To prevent a baby's ever having hives, one should rub catnip over the child's body regularly, from birth until the age of three.

"Scarfacng" a baby for the cure of hives should be done as follows: (1) Make a small cut on the back of the child's neck. (2) Place a small gourd over the cut. This gourd should have a tiny hole cut in it. (3) Draw out the bad blood by sucking it out through the gourd.

To cure hives in small children, one should make catnip tea. This can be done by washing and boiling the catnip and straining it through a clean cloth. The child should be given one cup of the tea at bedtime. This will cause him to sleep better in addition to curing his hives.

Peach tree tea is good to cure the hives.

Onion roasted with a pinch of sulfur is good for hives.

Indigestion

One should drink warm soda to relieve indigestion.

Insect Bites

Place snuff or mud on bee stings. A mixture of the two will work also.

Put motor oil on areas inflicted with ticks or fleas.

Put coal oil on bites from chinchies or bed bugs.

Purex is sometimes used to remove the poison of a bee sting.

For wasp stings, cut an onion in half and rub it on the area of the sting. Mud packs may also be used on wasp stings.

Clorox is an exceptionally good anesthetic for insect bites. Clorox rubbed on the sting over a mixture of pine resin and lard is good.

Rub saliva over a sting. It scatters the poison and keeps it from infecting.

Use a fine-toothed comb to remove lice from the head. Sometimes it is necessary to shave the head.

Itch

Use a mixture of sulfur and grease to relieve itching.

Boil poke salad root with sugar and put on the area which is itching.

Measles

One should drink strong whiskey to break out the measles.

To break measles out, eat sheep pills.

Mumps

Rubbing sardine juice on the swollen area will cure mumps.

Poison Ivy Or Poison Oak

Take several green tomatoes and cut them in half. Rub them across the portion of the skin that is broken out with poison ivy or poison oak. The juice with the acid in it should cure the rash.

For poison oak take fresh milk directly from the cow, boil it, and then apply it to infected areas. Do this once a day for a week, and the infection should be gone.

A cure for poison ivy is mixing coffee and baking soda into a paste and spreading it over the area.

Removing Bones

To remove a fish bone from the throat, cut a lemon in half and suck the juice of it slowly. This will soften the bone and give quick relief.

Rheumatism

Skin an eel and save the skin. Dry the skin and cut it into strips to put around the part of the body troubled by rheumatism. Wear the skin as a belt if it is long enough.

The rheumatism sufferer should place his head on a pillow with a quart

jar of cold water under the pillow.

Ginseng cures rheumatism.

Snakebites

To cure a snake bite, kill a chicken and place it directly on the bite. The chicken will turn green once the poison is gone from the body.

Sore Mouth

Take yellow root which grows on Cumberland Mountain; mix with water and gargle.

Apply leeches to mouth ulcers.

Sore Muscles

Use a liniment made from turpentine and eggs. Rub this mixture onto the sore muscles.

Break up a handful of green dog fennel plant and place it in a jar. Add one tablespoon of turpentine. Fill the jar full of cider and vinegar and shake. Apply to a sore muscular area.

Sore Throats

For sore throat, one should tie a dirty sock around his neck and lose it in bed.

To relieve a sore throat, one should gargle with kerosene.

A mixture of lemon juice, vinegar, and honey will get rid of a sore throat.

One should drink one spoonful of kerosene mixed with sugar to relieve a sore throat.

Red oak tea is good for sore throat. The recipe is as follows: Take the bark from a red oak tree, and boil it in water until the solution turns red. One can drink this for minor mouth ailments and toothache, as well as sore throat.

Gargling with hot salty water will relieve sore throat.

To relieve sore throat, one should inhale a pinch of snuff.

Yellow root should be used to cure a severe sore throat. It can be eaten or chewed raw, or boiled into a tea.

For sore throat, one should drink one teaspoonful of sugar mixed with one drop each of kerosene and turpentine.

Splinters

Take the lining from an eggshell and place it on the skin where a splinter is located. This will draw out the splinter.

Sprains

For a sprain mix vinegar and red clay mud into a thick paste. Put this mixture into a cloth, and then wrap it around the sprain. Wrap brown paper soaked in vinegar over the cloth.

Make a poultice of salt, egg yolk and vinegar. Place this on a sprain to make the swelling go down.

Make a paste of a dirt dauber's nest and vinegar. Putting this on a sprain will make the swelling go down.

Sties

If one wishes to be rid of a sty, he should do the following: Go to a crossroads and say, "Leave my eye and go to the next one who passes by." The sty will disappear.

Stomach Ache

To cure a stomach ache, a person should take the skin off a chicken's neck and let it dry. The skin should then be boiled in sauce. The patient will get well when he drinks this.

If one swallows a chunk of ice, his stomach ache will be cured.

Warmed salt, placed in a bag and laid on one's stomach, will cure a stomach ache.

If one mixes rue (an herb) with sugar until it becomes syrupy, he will have an effective medicine for the stomach ache.

To cure a stomach ache, one should scrape the bark off a peach tree, boil it, and drink it.

To cure a baby's colic, one should cook an onion and feed the baby the juice.

Swelling

For swelling, one should pat tobacco juice onto the swollen area.

Baking soda mixed with water to make a paste is a very effective remedy for swelling.

Wet snuff applied to a swollen area will relieve the pain.

To stop swelling, one should drink a little blood from a freshly killed hen.

One should wrap the swollen area in a cloth layered with cow manure.

To stop feet from swelling, one should bathe them in salt water.

To stop swelling, one should follow this procedure: (1) Boil a piece of mullet. (2) Make a paste of red clay and vinegar. (3) Place the paste and the boiled mullet on a clean, white, sterile bandage and wrap tightly around the swollen area.

Teething

To lessen the agonies of teething, one should place a cricket nest around the neck of the baby.

One should have a teething baby wear a new dime around its neck to prevent difficulty.

To alleviate a baby's teething pains, one should kill a rabbit, and while its blood is still warm, take the brain out and rub it on the baby.

Thrash

To cure thrash get the white from chicken litter and mix it with water. Wash the mouth out with this mixture.

To cure thrash have someone who has never seen his father blow into the mouth. Another alternative is to have this same person put fresh water into his shoe, and have the patient drink water from the shoe.

Let the seventh son born of the seventh daughter blow into the mouth of the child who has the thrash, and the infection will go away.

Toothache

To alleviate the pain of a toothache, one should rub carbolic acid on the aching tooth.

Cooked baking soda applied to a toothache will cure it.

Eating Vicks or drinking whiskey will cure a toothache.

To relieve a toothache, chew yellow root.

To cure a toothache take the scum from the lining of a tobacco pipe and pack it around the tooth.

For a toothache pick the tooth with a splinter from a white oak tree.

Warts

To get rid of warts, one should rub a broomstick across the wart, and then bury the broomstick under the "drip of the house" (eaves) and wait. When the broomstick rots, the wart will disappear.

If a person with warts will steal a neighbor's dish towel and bury it in the back of his house, either under rocks or under the back steps, his warts will disappear.

To get rid of warts, one should do the following: (1) Count warts. (2) Count the same number of pints of beans. (3) Put the beans in a bag and throw the bag away. The person finding the bag will get the warts.

A person with a large number of warts should count them slowly. Every time a wart is noticed, he should rub it and count the number of warts in that immediate area. In one to two weeks, the warts will be gone.

One should rub castor oil on a wart to remove it.

Peroxide should be used for removing warts.

A piece of string tied around a wart will get rid of it.

Anyone with warts should rub rocks on the warts. The rocks should then be tied up and thrown away. The next person to pick them up will get the warts.

If one will cut one notch in a stick for each wart he has, and then throw the stick as far as he can, the warts will disappear.

To make warts disappear, one should rub them with a dirty dish rag and bury it.

To get rid of warts, one should take the lining of a chicken gizzard and rub it on the wart. One should then bury the gizzard, making sure that no one sees him. The wart will then go away.

An old man with a deformed thumb is able to get rid of any person's warts by rubbing his thumb on the wart and repeating some magic words. The wart will then fall off.

Stumpwater applied to a wart will make it disappear.

Worms

A person with worms should cut some bark from the north side of a peach tree. This bark should be blended with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water, and then boiled until there is a syrup. The person should then drink the syrup and the worms will die.

For ringworm, one should drink green walnut juice.

To get rid of worms, one should go without food for several days. Then he should place a bit of boiled cabbage on the tip of his tongue. The tapeworm will crawl out of his throat.

Turpentine mixed with sugar is good for worms.

If one drinks the liquid made by pouring boiling water over mashed pumpkin seeds, his worms will disappear.

Milkweed juice placed on ringworm will cure it.

A mixture of sage and sugar is good to cure worms.

Jerusalem oak berries and molasses mixed will get rid of worms.

To get rid of worms, one should drink boiled horehound weed.

Wounds From Rusty Nails

If a person steps on a rusty nail, coals of fire should be put into a pail. Then sugar and turpentine should be sprinkled over the hot coals, and a rag placed over the pail. The person who is wounded should hold his foot over the pail to draw the infection from the foot.

If a person should step on a nail, he should drive it over his head into the wall, and the wound will not get sore.

INTERVIEWERS

Teresa Akin
Judy Arnold
Mike Bellomy
Pat Berry
Shirley Bradford
Nita Brown
Rachel Cash
Lee Colbert
Leslie Copenhaver
Raymond Cornelison
Joe Cornelius
Cindy Cotten
Loretta Cullins
Bill Davis
Patsy Donnelly
Jana Downey
Sha Downs
Gwen Drinkard
Debra Edmonds
Dale Edwards
J. Eiford
Thomas Elkins
Janet Evett
Dale Ferguson
Bonnie Manning Franklin
Connie Gentle
Sherry Gentle
Tom Gibson
Danny Gilley
Steve Gravitt
Ernest Guffey
Teresa Hancock
Eugene Harris
Randall Harrison
Susan Henshaw
John Hughes
Roy Hutchins
Donnie Hyatt
Miranda Jacobs
Beverly Johns
Ronnie Johnson
Yvonne Johnson
Rodney Jones
Roger Jones
Kathy Keller
Cindy Kirby
Ellen Larson
Ronald Lawson
Paulette Ledbetter
Michael Lewis
Alan Looney
Charles Lovelady
John Lynch
Marsha McGahey
Mike McCauley
Pam McGinty
Irene Mitchell
Marlene Mitchell
James Moore
Kathy Neal
Reba Nicholson
Nelson Page
Connie Pickett
Vonda Proctor
Joan Pursley
H.R. Radtke
Deby Redmond
Ronnie Ricker
Charlene Selby
Gary Sharp
Waylon Simpson
Eugene Smith
Lyn Stephens
Sally Stratton

Carolyn Tolliver
Robert Tucker
Pam Turner
Tommy Venable
Linda Webb
Danny Westmoreland
Kay Whitehead
Debra Wildman
Denny Williams
Linda Williamson
Frances Woodall
Roger Woodall
Ronnie Wright

INTERVIEWEES

Mrs. Laura Bates
Mrs. Gene Airheart
Mrs. Julie Allen
L.W. Allen
Richard Bailey
Mrs. Betty Bohannon
Mr. Buford Bohannon
Claude Bradford
Mrs. Eloise Bridges
Mrs. H.B. Cannon
Mr. Obie Clark
Janis Cornelison
Mrs. Frances Culver
Mrs. Darwin
Mrs. Donnelly
Jimmie Lee Downey
Rosco Downs
Mr. and Mrs. Embril Edwards
Osie Elkins
Mr. and Mrs. Embril
I.C. English
Mrs. Jim Evet
Mrs. Irene Ferguson
Mr. David Finley
Mrs. Cora Garner
Mrs. John Will Gay III
Edna Gentle
Mrs. James Gravitt
Emma Grayson
Mrs. Guffey
Mrs. Julie Guinn
Mrs. Mary Guinn
Mrs. Frances Haggard
Mrs. Frankie Haggard
Mrs. Mattie Hall
Mrs. Perry B. Hall
Mrs. Pearl Hammons
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hancock
Mrs. Winford Heath
Mrs. Bill Higginbotham
Myrtle Hilley
Lee Hoar
Gussie Holman
Eline Hutchins
Mrs. Beatrice Keel
Edna Keeton
Mrs. Bertha Kent
Mrs. Bertha Kirby
Mrs. Lands
Eva Lewis
Mr. Cecil Manning
Mrs. Lester Manning
Mamie Manning
Miss Eunice Matthews
Miss Leona Matthews
Mrs. Estel McCloskey
Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCoy
Eva Mitchell
Eva Potter Mitchell

Roney Mitchell
Evelyn Neal
Mrs. John H. Neal
Mrs. Rayburn Parker
Albert and Annie Payne
Alice Pockress
Mrs. Dean Proctor
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Reed
Mrs. Bill Richardson
Mr. Albert Ricker
Mrs. W.H. Robinson
Mary Ann Sampley
Mrs. Ella Mae Sharp
Mrs. Shelton
Mr. J.D. Shrader
Mrs. Ann Simpsom
Mrs. Layla Sisk
Mr. Henry and Mrs. Velma Smith
Mrs. Charles Summer
Fanny Tiffin
Mary Tucker
Mable Venable
Sherman Webb
Mrs. Bessie Westmoreland
Mr. Joe Wheeler
Mrs. Paulene Wildman
Effie Windsor
Mary Nell Womack
Mr. Benton Woodall
Mrs. Mildred Woods
Mrs. Ethel Wright
Hazel Wright
Nora Wright.

Ghost Stories And The Unexplained

The Lost Baby

Back in the early 1900's, Josh Martin and his wife, Betty Jo, lived out at Section, Alabama, up on Sand Mountain. Josh and Betty Jo had just recently had a baby boy.

The story begins on a Saturday evening. The Martin family was planning to go to a revival meeting at Antioch, just a few miles away. Josh and Betty Jo were about to begin their journey on horseback, when they had a small argument as to who was to carry their baby. Betty Jo finally agreed that she would carry it for a while if Josh would take turns on the way.

On their way to Antioch, Josh and Betty Jo had to pass through a big hollow. Somewhere middleways through the hollow, they stopped to rest. After they had rested for a few minutes, they rode on their way down to Antioch. About a mile or so before they go to Antioch Church, Betty Jo suggested that she would carry the baby for the rest of the way; but Josh did not have the baby. They had left him back where they had stopped to rest. Josh and Betty hurried back to the hollow but found nothing but a puddle of blood on a big flat rock where they had previously stopped. They never did find any other trace of the lost baby.

Folks say that one can hear a baby crying up in the woods of that hollow over near Antioch, if he were to go down that old trail on a Saturday night. Mrs. McKenzie said a lot of folks claim that it is true, but she had never gone down there to see if she could hear the baby still crying.

This story was obtained in an interview with Mrs. Vivian McKenzie of Section, Alabama as told to her by Ralph Stanfield.

Interviewer: Mike Carter
Interviewee: Mrs. Vivian McKenzie

Baby Crying

Mrs. Jim Evett is about 86 years old, and she lives in Scottsboro. Mrs. Jim Evett said that she was sleeping one night when she heard a noise that sounded like a baby crying on the hill behind the house. She said that she made her husband get out of bed to go see what it was. When he got back he said that there was not anything there. Mr. Jim Evett said if there had been a baby out there, it wouldn't have been able to live in the cold weather.

Interviewer: Janet Evett
Interviewee: Mrs. Jim Evett

The Haunted Stream

Mr. Leon Downey tells a ghost story that happend in the backwoods of his brother's home in Section. A lady got on a horse every night and rode over the stream. Her husband had found her missing several times. He got up and followed her one night. Just as she was crossing the bridge it collapsed. She drowned in the stream. Now everyone can hear at night her screaming for help.

Interviewer: Teresa Hancock
Interviewee: Mr. Leon Downey

Clothes Make The Ghost?

Mrs. Minzie Harris, who is 84 years old, tells the following story which occurred when she was a child. The setting is Langston, Alabama, where Mrs. Harris lived most of her life.

The story begins about two weeks after the funeral of Mrs. Harris' Uncle George. The family had sorted through his clothes and packed them in a trunk which they set on the front porch. One rainy afternoon, while everyone was gone except the children. Uncle George's ghost, dressed in a dark brown suit, came over the fence to the trunk of clothes on the porch.

The children heard the noise and went out to look. When they saw the ghost, they ran into the house and hid under the bed.

When Mrs. Harris' mother came home, they told her what they had seen. She said that it was no one but their Uncle George checking on his clothes.

Interviewer: Ernestine Robinson
Interviewee: Mrs. Minzie Harris

The Ghost Of Anna Shoeburt

Mrs. Ina Ledbetter of Scottsboro used to take care of Anna Shoeburt, who lived on July Mountain. Mrs. Ledbetter would check on her every day. One day when Mrs. Ledbetter drove over to see her friend, she found her dead.

Approximately a year later, the Ledbetters moved into Anna Shoeburt's

house. Shortly after, when Mrs. Ledbetter was coming from the well, she looked toward the house and saw Anna standing on the front porch.

Interviewer: Paulette Ledbetter
Interviewee: Ina Ledbetter

Reappearing Wife

My grandmother, Mrs. Callie Hodges, told about a ghost story that happened around the 1920's. The story involves my grandmother's grandfather, Abner Yarbrough.

Abner Yarbrough's wife was dead, and since her death, Abner had been in a fight with their son Sam. One night Abner's wife came to his bedside and persuaded Abner to go and see Sam and make up with him.

The next day Abner went to see Sam and told what had happened to him. Everybody said he was just dreaming, but he swore that she was at his bedside in the real flesh.

Interviewer: Dale Hodges
Interviewee: Mrs. Callie Hodges

The Headless Man

There was once an old man who would sit on the steps of the old White Church in Langston, Alabama. The Church was in a hollow. This man was no ordinary man; he had no head! All day long he would sit and sit, waiting for people to walk by. He was searching for the appropriate head for himself, which, by the way, he never received.

There is a story told of some children, Emma and Dude Grayson, who reportedly saw the headless man. They were going to meet their grandfather one night as he returned from courting. As they passed the churchyard that night, they saw the old man dressed in his suit and tie, and sure enough, he was headless.

Interviewers:
Darcy Buck
Gwen Drinkard
Interviewees:
Mrs. Irene Jordan
Mrs. Emma Grayson

The Bridge Ghost

It is told that a man was once killed in a car on a Saturday at 5:00 p.m. near the B.B. Comer bridge. After this accident happened, word got out that when a car got to the very spot where the man was killed, the car motor would die. The man who was killed would then appear in a white gown. The ghost would walk around the car five times, then disappear into the woods. Immediately the motor in the car would start.

Interviewer: Jane Phillips

Interviewee: Mrs. Bobbi Carbonneau

The Dark Lady

This story, as told by Micheal Maynor, occurred in 1966 or '67 in the Woods Cove area.

It seems that his parents were driving home from church on the Woods Cove Road, which is a long, dark, spooky road. At one point in the road there is a wooded area with a cemetery nearby. As they approached this point, they saw an old lady dressed in a long, dark dress and shawl, carrying a basket. They said she walked from one side of the road to the other and then disappeared into the woods.

The next day, when passing by the same spot, they discovered a fence on both sides of the road, which the woman apparently walked through. They never found out who she was, and she was never seen by them again.

Interviewer: Linda Evett

Interviewee: Mr. Michael Maynor

Lady On Horseback

Some people from Jackson County were horseback riding one night. The weather was awful: it was raining, lightning and thundering and the sky was very dark. These people rode by a cemetery out in the country, just over the Tennessee line. Before this time a woman had been killed there. When the people rode by there that night, they heard a woman screaming. The woman jumped on the back of one of the horses. The horse got excited and began to run very fast. The horse galloped toward home, but when the horse reached the gate, the woman was not there.

Interviewer: Lyn Stephens

Interviewee: Mrs. Alice Clark

The Slave Ghost

There is an old house at Langston in which mysterious things have taken place. The man who lived in this house during the Civil War owned some slaves. After the war was over, instead of freeing these slaves, he chained them to a tree in the yard of the house. He left them there to starve to death. It is said that after their death, one could sit on the front porch after sundown and see one of the slaves chained to the tree.

It has been said that at twelve o'clock every night the front door would swing open and wind would whirl through the house. The people who lived there tried locking and bolting the door. When midnight came, however, the locks would fall off and the door would swing open.

Interviewer: Phillip Wilborn

Interviewee: Mrs. Gathel Wilborn

Wandering Woman

When my grandmother, Mrs. Lina Mae Phillips, was a young girl, she went to spend the night with some friends. They were sitting around talking when they saw a woman coming down the road. The lady who owned the house got up to shut the door, because she thought it was an aunt of hers who had come back from the dead. The woman came on down the street and walked across the yard. When she turned the corner of the house, the girls looked out another window to see where she went. She had disappeared.

More than a few people saw this woman. One night Mr. Dixon was coming home late at night. He was walking down the road through a wooded area when he saw a woman coming toward him. Before he got close enough to see who it was, the woman stepped behind a tree. He thought it was his wife and said, "all right, Lilly, come on out. I saw you go behind that tree." When he got to the tree, there was no one there. He ran all the way home, and when he arrived, his wife was there with their children.

Several people came along after that and told of seeing the woman walking around a field. They tried to find out who she was but could not get close enough because she would disappear. After the area was cleared and more thickly populated, she was never seen again.

Interviewer: Lawrence Phillips

Interviewee: Mrs. Lina Mae Phillips

The Ghost Who Choked People

This story is told by Mrs. Obie Clark, as related to her by her grandmother. It is reported to have begun happening in the 1800's.

A man slept in a particular room every night. During the night, he would hear someone coming toward him. This "thing" would start choking him until he could not breathe. He would cut on a light but would see nothing. The choking would also stop. He told everyone about this experience, but no one would believe him except his grandmother. She believed him because she owned the house and had heard this story before. She was going to sleep in his bed to see if this would happen to her. That night she heard someone walking toward her. He started choking her, and she began to scream. Her grandson heard her screaming and came running into the room. He switched on the light, but they saw nothing. The choking had stopped immediately. Ever since this time, anyone who sleeps in this bed hears someone walking and feels someone choking him.

Interviewer: Lyn Stephens

Interviewee: Mrs. Obie Clark

An Old Lady And Her Parrot

At one time there lived an old lady in the Goose Pond Community who had a problem with low calcium in her bones. She lived by herself with only her parrot to keep her company. As time passed by, the old lady got worse, until finally she died. Her body was discovered about a week later with a hole pecked through the skull for the parrot had gotten hungry during this long time. The woman was buried amongst the trees near her property. Her parrot, which had died shortly after the woman did, was buried with her.

It has since been reported that around midnight, the grave starts glowing, the trees start blowing, and a parrot flies out from beneath the trees.

Interviewer: John Thomas

Interviewee: Mr. J.O. Chambers

Will Davis' Ghost Friend

Will Davis lived in Jackson County all his life. He claimed some land on Crow Mountain in the late 1890's when the homesteading was going on. He was clearing off his land and logging when he noticed another man, name

unknown, on down a ways. He asked the man what he was doing and if he knew that he was on his land. The man said he needed to work and if he could help, he would like to. They got to be good friends working together every day.

One day after they had everything going well, Will had to go to his house for something and when he got back, the man was dead. He was lying on the logging road right at the edge of the woods. Will went into shock when he saw him, and he turned around and started home as fast as he could. After he got down the road a ways, he decided to go back and get the man. So he turned back, got the body and started back to his house. He had not noticed how the man had gotten killed. He turned around and saw that the man had broken his neck; also, his face had been beaten up and cut up pretty badly. Will took him home and got in touch with his family.

After that Will did not go up the old logging road for awhile. Every night in his sleep he saw his friend at the edge of the woods.

One day Will wanted to go up to the old logging road to see how things looked. He took a short cut that led through a dark wooded area. Just as he reached the woods that day, a man appeared from nowhere on the tongue of his wagon. The unusual thing about this man was that he had no head! When he reached the other side of the woods, the man disappeared. After that, every time Will traveled that road, the man with no head would always ride with him. Nobody else ever saw the man but Will.

Interviewer: Larry Holder
Interviewee: Mrs. Cora Garner

The Confederate Ghost

This story was related to me by Mrs. Joe Thomas of Stevenson, as told to her by her mother, Mrs. Bradford Crabtree. Mrs. Thomas added that the story was probably made up by her mother to scare her sons.

When Mrs. Thomas' brothers were ten or twelve years old, they would sneak off at night and go to a place in the woods, where they would meet some of their cousins. Several thrashings from their mother seemed to do no good.

Mrs. Crabtree told the boys that a corporal in the Confederate army had been killed in the woods, and his spirit still guarded the area at night. Whenever he found someone in the woods, he would take his knife and cut out his tongue. She told them that if the corporal ever caught this person again,

he would cut off his arm or leg. If he caught the person a third time, he would cut out his heart and feed it to the wild animals.

Mrs. Thomas said that this story ended her brothers' sneaking.

Interviewer: Mark Thomas
Interviewee: Mrs. Joe Thomas

Midnight Visitor

This story came from a taped interview made by Wendell Page with his father, Lewis Page and uncle, Milton Page on November 11, 1963. The story actually took place around 1905.

Wendell: "Daddy, tell us about your midnight visitor."

Lewis: "Well, I'll tell you. It was like this. It took place around what we called Cedar Grove. That's close to Bat Cave, but now they call it Cathedral Caverns. One night the Cedar Grove baseball team had an ice cream supper to raise money for balls, bats, and masks. I was in my teens. Ole Dee Woodall got sick and he wanted to go home. I don't know if he'd had any liquor or not. We went to my house. He got in his bed and I got in mine. Dee went to sleep, but I didn't; I just lay there. I heard some steps outside the door. We had high steps leading up to the porch. I thought it might have been some of the neighborhood boys. I noticed that whoever it was wasn't just walking up the steps; he was slipping. Whoever it was tiptoed across the porch toward the door. I was about scared to death, and I didn't know what to do. He started to open the door and that's when I squalled out like a wildcat or something. Whoever it was slammed the door shut and ran off. We knew that if it had been any of the neighborhood boys, he would have sung out or said something so we could have recognized him."

Interviewers:
Bobby Manning
Robert Page
Interviewees:
Wendell Page
Lewis Page
Milton Page

Baby's Visitor

This story is set in the old Snodgrass home in Bellefonte in the 1920's. The lady of the house had a tiny baby.

When the baby was about a month old, she was sleeping in a room by herself. The baby's big sister heard her crying one day. She went to check on her and there was a man standing beside the

baby's crib. The little girl didn't know who this stranger was, so she went to get her mother. When they came back to the room, the baby was lying on the floor crying, and the man had vanished

Interviewer: Dale Hodges
Interviewee: Mrs. Callie Hodges

Dead Graveyard Caretaker Inspecting Graves

This story was told by Gary Allen of Scottsboro, as told to him by his father, Thomas Allen.

In the early 1900's Mr. T. Allen and his brother, Bernard Allen, were walking through a graveyard one night just after it had quit raining. This graveyard was located where the Revere plant is now, but it has since been moved. Mr. Allen said that they went by the grave of a certain person whom they had both known. They stopped and looked at this grave and talked a little about the person, a man, who was buried there. As they left, they thought they heard somebody walking behind them. They hid behind a tombstone to see just who it was following them. After they had hidden, the footsteps stopped.

There was no sound for what seemed to be a long time, but really was probably only a few minutes. They saw, however, that this person who was supposed to have been dead was who was following them. They could not believe what they had seen, so they ran all the way home as fast as they could and told their father. Just like any other parent, he did not believe them. They told him to go back with them to the graveyard, and they would show him just what they had seen. He went to the graveyard just to please the two boys. After they got there they hid behind the same tombstone that they had hidden behind the first time. They sat there for a while and waited to see if anything happened. They waited and waited and eventually this dead person came walking back by. Their father could not believe what he had seen, for he remembered going to the man's funeral and to the graveyard to watch them put him into the ground. But there he was—the same person-walking around the graveyard. They could not make out what he was doing, but it looked like he was inspecting graves. Strangely enough, when the man was living, he had been the caretaker of this graveyard.

This story might not sound true, but to this day the Allens still believe they saw that caretaker walking around the graveyard inspecting the graves.

Interviewer: Rita Harless
Interviewee: Mr. Gary Allen

Twisting Skull

Many years ago, there was an Indian graveyard called Ninety-Six Springs in this area. One day a young boy was playing there and accidentally dug up an Indian skull.

The boy took the skull home with him and put it beside his bed. The skull twisted and turned, keeping him awake all night long. He moved it to other rooms several times, but it always reappeared in his room.

The next morning the boy returned the skull to the graveyard.

Interviewers:

Jana Downey
Al Butler

Interviewee: Mr. Lee Hancock

Mr. Snodgrass' Body

Mr. Nat Snodgrass ran a plantation in Bellefonte of over 1500 acres. At one time his arthritis and rheumatism became so bad that one of his slaves had to drive him around in a buggy whenever he wanted to survey his property. Finally he died in 1848.

His body was placed on boards that had been laid across two chairs. Many people gathered in the parlor that night to sit with his body. About 12:30 a.m. ole Nat's body jerked and sat up. Everyone scattered as if a cannonball had struck. A few minutes later, some of the braver people decided it was a muscle spasm. They came back, pushed ole Nat down, and put weights on his body to keep it from jerking again. After the wake was again underway, Nat jerked up again, causing all the weights to hit the floor.

It is said that even today, on any night a little past 1:00 a.m. one can hear the weights hit the floor.

Interviewers:

Leslie Copenhaver
Jimmy Nelson
Mrs. Edna Clyde Gay

The Three Sisters

This story is about my great-grandfather, Wilson Perry, during the late 1800's. It was told to me by Mrs. Ida Cowley, my grandmother. There were three sisters who were always telling stories about seeing ghosts and people who had been dead for ten or fifteen years. Of all of their tales there was one specific tale that they tried to get

people to believe. It was said that every night at midnight a woman holding a baby without a head would be sitting under a certain bush along a road. This road is close to a mountain and at night it was very dark and spooky. The three sisters tried to get people to go with them so they could prove their story true.

One night when everybody was at church, the oldest of the three sisters was not there. Later she was found dead on the road close to the bush.

That happened on a Sunday night, and the following Sunday night the middle sister was found dead near the bush. The youngest of the three sisters was found dead the next Sunday.

After that my great-grandfather said that every Sunday night, when he was traveling on the road, he would pass the bush where he would see the three sisters. They were always sitting in a row, starting with the oldest sister, then the middle one, and finally the youngest.

Interviewer: Ronnie Skelton
Interviewee: Mrs. Ida Cowley

Sell Your Soul?

Several years ago a fortune teller witch lived in the Tupelo area. She could see into the future and tell people what would happen to them and their children in later years. A man in the vicinity learned of her powers and decided that he, too, wanted to be able to look into the future. He went to this witch and begged her to grant him the powers. She told him that he did not know what he was getting himself into, and she would not grant him the powers. He continued to annoy her, however, until she finally told him, "Meet me at Liberty Cemetery every night for eight nights at the eleventh hour."

The man followed the instructions of the witch, arriving at the cemetery at the appointment time. Each night there was a great black cat there. It would sit on one of the tombstones and stare at him. The eighth night he returned to the cemetery, and instead of seeing the familiar black cat, he saw the devil! He was dressed in black, had fiery eyes and horns, and beckoned to the man to come to him. Something told the man that the devil wanted him to sell his soul before being granted the powers. The man, horrified, fled the graveyard, and changed his opinion about witchcraft.

Interviewer: Connie Pckett
Interviewee: Mrs. Erlene Bohannon

The Witch At The Coffee Home

This story was told to Mama Granny, otherwise known as Mrs. Auburn Grider, by Grandma Smith, Mrs. Grider's grandmother. It took place in the old Coffee home at Rash. Grandma Smith was the Coffee's maid. The characters are Plez Coffee, his brother, whose name is forgotten, and a witch.

Plez and his brother slept upstairs at the Coffee home. One day Plez started noticing how tired his brother looked and asked him why. His brother told him that every night a witch came in the window with a bridal and rode him like a horse. Plez then decided that he would sleep on his brother's side of the bed. That night Plez was in bed when the witch came in the window and started to put the bridle on him. Plez grabbed her arm and cut it round and round; in the process he cut off her sleeve.

The next day, Grandma Smith went upstairs to clean. She found the sleeve and asked the boys which one of them had Alice Romines' sleeve in his bed. (Alice Romines was a girl who lived in the Rash area). Plez told her the story. Later on in the week, Alice was seen with her arm in bandages. When she was asked what happened, she said that she fell on a fence.

Interviewer: Rita Grider
Interviewees:
Mrs. Aubrey Grider
Grandma Smith

Mrs. Kelly Sparkman

Mrs. Kelly Sparkman, born the fifth of March, 1885, has lived in Jackson County all of her life. Mrs. Sparkman tells of a story that was told to her great-aunt, Miss Martha Guffey. Mrs. Sparkman states that she was eight or nine when this story was told. The story takes place in Dry Cove.

Mrs. Sparkman says that her great-aunt Martha knew an old witch that lived close to her in Dry Cove. They lived along this branch that ran through Dry Cove.

Miss Martha had heard a lot about witches, and how they could turn themselves into different things. Martha thought this would be fun, so she decided to become a witch.

The old witch was going to show her how to become a witch. The witch told her that she would have to turn herself over to the Devil. In order to do this, the witch told her to go to a certain part of

the branch and stand there until morning. If she stood there without being frightened, she would become a witch.

That night Martha went down to the creek and stood for a long time. Then all of a sudden two large dogs came by; but she didn't get frightened, so they went on by; a few minutes later, she heard something moving behind her. She turned to see what it could be. It was a large ball of fire coming toward her, and it kept getting closer and closer. Martha became very scared and began to run and scream.

The next day the old witch came to visit Martha. The witch told her that she could become a witch, since she had gotten frightened of the ball of fire. The witch told her never to tell anyone about her experience. If she did tell anyone and he went to the place where the event occurred, he would experience the same thing. Martha, however, did not heed this warning: instead, she told many people of her experience.

Interviewer: Mike Benson
Interviewee: Mrs. Kelly Sparkman

Killing A Witch

Mrs. Kelly Sparkman tells a story told to her by a Miss Morgan. Miss Morgan was living with her brother, Mr. Morgan at this time.

Miss Morgan knew of an old witch who had put a spell on her neighbors' cows. She said that these neighbors had no control over their cows and couldn't milk them.

Miss Morgan told Mrs. Sparkman that the only way to kill a witch was to shoot her picture with a silver bullet.

Soon Miss Morgan's neighbors found out that this witch had cast a spell on their cows. So they made some silver bullets and got a picture of the old witch and shot it. They found the old witch lying on the ground, and thinking she was dead, they put her in a coffin and started to bury her. Then they heard her moving and screaming, but they said she was a witch and buried her anyway.

Mrs. Sparkman doesn't remember the location of this burial, but she said Miss Morgan told her that on a dark dreary night, if anyone walks over the witch's grave and looks down, he can see her face looking up at him from the ground.

Interviewer: Mike Benson
Interviewee: Mrs. Kelly Sparkman

The Picture That Broke The Spell

Some people feared witches and their curses. The following is a story about a man who lived to overcome one of the witch's curses.

In the 1880's there were reported to be witches who lived in Jackson County. These women would cast spells of sickness on people in the county. One man, whose son was supposedly afflicted due to the witches' curses, secretly took a picture of them. He then shot the picture with a silver bullet and broke the spell.

Interviewer:
Tom Gibson
Pam McGinty
Interviewee:
Miss Eunice Matthews
Miss Leola Matthews

The Man Who Died Hungry

Mr. Frank Craft, who now resides in Scottsboro, tells the following story.

Rich Kyle was killed over his own bologna and crackers. Rich had divided his lunch with his friend, Brad Henry, but Brad wanted it all. When Rich refused to give up his portion, Brad killed him.

Mr. Craft, formerly of Bellefonte, states that he has seen Rich's ghost many times. It would always appear at the window at mealtime. It was evidently looking for food, since Rich had died hungry. Mr. Craft says that he would put something over the window whenever Rich's ghost appeared, and then it would go away.

Rich Kyle was the brother of Dollie Craft, who resides on Highway 72 in Scottsboro.

Interviewer: Martha Craft
Interviewee: Mr. Frank Craft

Who Is There?

Mrs. Jeanetta Snodgrass was in Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga recovering from surgery. She was in a very weakened condition. Her husband had died not too long before this time.

She said that one day her husband rushed into her room, and she told him to have a seat.

He said, "I don't have much time. How do you feel? I don't want you to worry again." Then he rushed out.

He actually did not come back; it was only her imagination. Her mind was not working right because she had a very high temperature.

She later asked the nurse, "Who was that who rushed in, gave me a message, and rushed out?"

The nurse replied, "I didn't see anyone. You have a high temperature from surgery, and you will be better in a few days."

Interviewer: David Cullins
Interviewee: Mrs. Jeanetta Snodgrass

A Paint Rock Valley Ghost Story

I was deer hunting on November 30, 1972, on Moon Mountain, in Paint Rock Valley when I met an old man eighty-nine years old. His first name was Matthew and he did not tell me his last name. It was about 4:30 in the afternoon when I first saw him. He had a very nice deer at the bottom of the deep, black hollow. He was trying to drag the deer up the high bank, and it was just too much for him. I went down to the bottom of the hollow and asked him if he needed any help. He said that he could use it. When we got the deer to the top, I asked him if he knew any ghost stories about Jackson County. He said, "If you want to see a ghost, you are in one of the best places in the world to see one, if you will look in the bottom of that deep, black hollow."

In about 1916, there were three men found dead in the bottom of the hollow and there were no marks or wounds on them. Another man said that he was going to find out what happened since one of the dead men was his brother. That man disappeared soon after that, and has not been found yet. Men took torches and went to the hollow and looked for him. They decided the hollow was haunted and left very quickly.

Matthew said he hunted in there pretty regularly, and the only time there was danger was after sundown. He said a horse or a dog would not go near the hollow. He said, "I carried my mule as far in the hollow as it would go, and then I tied him up. When I came back, my mule had been scratched with wide claws that looked like human fingernails scratches." The old man said that was about all there was to it.

I was curious and I stayed around until sundown, and I saw something move that was not a deer. I left as fast as I could.

Interviewer: Boyd McClure
Interviewee: Matthew

The Dead Lady

This story takes place around 1929 in the Ridges of Stevenson. Back around that time, a person who died was often not taken to a funeral home unless the body was in bad shape.

This is a true story about a lady named Mrs. Watson who had been sick for six months. She was expected to die anytime.

Mrs. Watson was pronounced dead early one morning. The family was poor, so rather than having her embalmed, her husband just had her cleaned up and laid out.

Many friends and relatives came to pay their last respects. The day passed quickly and many people planned to sit up all night with her body. Around 8:30 that night, there were fifteen or twenty people sitting up with the body. Among these people was Mrs. Stella Talley's grandfather who told her this story later. They were all gathered around the fireplace since it was rather cold. They were talking about the old times, when someone across the room said, "It's cold." At that time everyone looked over to the other side of the room. Mrs. Watson, who was supposed to have been dead, was sitting up. Everyone in the room headed for the door, running like crazy. A fat lady was so frightened that she ran outside and crawled under a car. Afterwards, she could not get out until the car was jacked up.

The lady, Mrs. Watson, who was supposed to have died, had merely been in a deep coma, and the doctor thought she was dead.

Interviewer: Gary Talley
Interviewee: Mrs. Stella Talley

A Man Who Died On A Mountain

During the winter months when it was very cold, an old man died up on the mountain. They brought his body back to his home in Fackler. They opened up the coffin and everyone passed a round and looked at the body. Everyone was seated, and it was real quite in the room. Then, all of a sudden, the old man raised up out of the coffin and said, "Stir up the fire; it's getting cold over here in this corner."

Interviewer: Charles Eakin
Interviewee: Mr. Hugh Dudley

Strange Experiments

It seems that during the late 1800's a doctor in Stevenson lived in a two-story house with an attic, next door to the

Stevenson Baptist Church. At night the people in the neighborhood could hear strange sounds from the house. While all of this was going on, citizens of the community began to disappear, and within a few weeks, over ten people were missing. The folks of the town became suspicious of the doctor and broke into his home one night.

They found the doctor experimenting with the bodies of the people who were missing. All of the people the doctor was experimenting with had certain parts of their bodies missing. The people of the town forced the doctor to tell them what he was doing. He told them about his aim to create a perfect man from the perfect parts of different people.

The people of the town were ready to hang the doctor, but he talked them into letting him go to the attic for a minute. After a long while had passed, and the doctor had not returned, the people went to investigate. When they arrived at the attic door, they found a note stating that the doctor had gone into the attic and placing a curse on anyone who entered the attic and disturbed his coffin.

Today this house is still standing and no one will enter the attic of the house to see if the doctor is really in the coffin or not.

Interviewer: Mack Peters
Interviewee: Mr. Robert Dawson

Mystery Treasure

Mrs. Wayne Shelton related the following story: "About forty years ago in Carnes, there lived a man whose name I cannot reveal. I'm not sure what kind of work he did, but he probably was a farmer. He was a good man who worked very hard. He wasn't a wealthy man, but saved as much as he could, and it was rumored that he had buried it. Of course being a man with a family he probably didn't save as much as most people thought.

"One night, after his death, several of the men in the community got together. After talking about this hidden treasure for a while, they decided to go look for it. It took a lot of digging and back-breaking work, but they finally hit a chest.

"Before they could see what it looked like, a ghost-like figure rose up out of the ground. They all ran back to the car. In those days cars had runningboards on the sides. Every single one of those men said that the man's ghost rode on the runningboard nearly all the way back home with them. I'm not quite sure whether this is a true story or not, but as far as I know nobody ever went back up there to find out what had been discovered."

Interviewer: Ricky Shelton
Interviewee: Mrs. Wayne Shelton

The Gold Smoke

This story takes place in an old house near the Scottsboro city park.

It seems there was an old man that lived alone in this house. He had plenty of money, but did not believe in keeping it in the bank. He always had the money that he had saved turned into gold so he could keep it around the house and bury it. Everyone around knew about the old man's money.

When the old man died, he was buried near his home. Since he had no family to claim what he left, people began to come around to look for the money. It is said that when anybody came into the house, a yellow smoke would fill the room. If anybody tried to dig in the ground, the smoke would come from the ground. This was supposed to have been caused by all the gold the old man had in the house. The gold has never been found.

Interviewer: Deborah Lewis
Interviewee: Mrs. Simmons Grider

The Peg Leg Ghost

This story was told to me by Mrs. Harvey Eakin, as told to her by her grandmother, Mrs. Jane Guinn. Mrs. Eakin wasn't sure when the story took place, because it was so long ago.

There was a house (place unknown) that everyone in that community thought was haunted. No one would stay there past midnight. A few people of the community paid a man to stay in the house overnight. After he had settled himself in the front room, he heard something coming toward the house. It made a sort of thumping sound. When it got to the house, the door opened, and there stood a ghost with a peg leg. This was the ghost of the man (unknown) who had owned the house.

The visiting man asked, "What in the name of the Lord do you want?"

"Follow me," replied the ghost.

The man followed the ghost outside, and suddenly the ghost disappeared. Although the man could not see him, he could hear the sound of his peg leg. Finally they came to an old mill house, which the ghost had owned when he was alive. The ghost reappeared again after they were inside. The ghost pointed to a loose board in the floor and told the man to dig there. The ghost disappeared. The man dug down and found a large amount of money.

It was believed that the ghost man had been killed for his money, but no one had ever found it. The ghost could not rest until someone found his money. After the money was found, the house was never haunted again.

Interviewer: Gary Sharp
Interviewee: Mrs. Harvey Easkin

A Pot Of Gold

The story begins in the 1860's. There were two sisters who lived together. The two sisters were relatives to Lester Hopkins' mother. The people around this area had heard that there was a pot of gold. Some of them were trying to get this gold. A number of them were killed trying to get it. It was said that if a person was not afraid, he could get the gold. The person who tried to get the gold would hear noises--screaming, chairs rattling, people walking behind him. This went on; nobody got the gold, and it was forgotten.

One of the aunts believed it, and the other one did not. The one who believed it, was sitting one night sewing on a dress. She was almost finished when she heard some one calling her. She went to the door and saw an old Indian with gray hair. This Indian told the woman that he was going to tell her something and only once. He began to tell her about the gold and the noises--chairs rattling, people screaming, and footsteps. She remembered the story about the gold's being there, and told her sister about this. Her sister did not believe that she had seen an Indian. She replied that there was no doubt what she had seen or heard.

The sister who saw the Indian thought about this for a month or so, and one day while she was alone, she made up her mind that when night came she was going to do what the Indian had told her. When night came, she and her sister were talking. As midnight arrived, she got up, put on her clothes and started out the door. The Indian had told her to go straight out from the house and turn fifteen feet away, and there would be a pot of gold. She got a lantern and went out; she did as the Indian said, and she began to hear noises the Indian had mentioned. She kept telling herself that she was not afraid. She heard the footsteps behind her and the chains. She thought to herself that everything was happening just as the Indian had said. She turned left as the Indian told her and heard a sudden noise. A chain was dragging over the ground, and she heard a dog barking. People were screaming telling her not to go. She reached her destination and started to dig. She dug two feet and hit a box like a chest. She raised it and found the gold.

She looked at the gold and started jumping and screaming. Then all of a sudden, as she was screaming, her sister heard her and got up. She ran out the door and told her to come back to the house. The old man had told the woman not to listen to anybody and not to say anything when she got the gold. Unfortunately, as she was getting the gold, she forgot what he had said. She said to her sister, "It's true; I found it; it's true; I really found it!" When she said this, the gold began to sink into the ground. When the old lady found that she could not get it, she lay on the ground and cried.

Interviewer: Linda Williamson
Interviewee: Mr. Lester Hopkins

Ghosts?

One morning a man had gotten off work about 2:00 a.m. He was riding a mule and had to go through a graveyard to get to his house. As he rode through the graveyard, he looked down into a grave that was fenced in. He saw something white moving around. This scared him. He went on home and tried to sleep but couldn't. He got back on his mule and went over to the graveyard with his gun. He shot at the white figure. After he had shot at it a couple of times, he noticed it had fallen to the ground. He felt of it, thinking it was a ghost. It was only a sheep that had crawled under the fence.

Interviewer: Teresa Hancock
Interviewees:
Mr. Leon Downey
Mr. Lee Hancock

The Haunted Stump

One night after dark Mr. John Little and Mr. William McAbee were traveling on horseback from Grove Oak to Langston, taking a short cut by way of Acre Springs.

The men noticed a light in the distance. It grew small, then large. It would be high, then low. This confused the men and horses, and the men began to believe it was a ghost.

Arriving at this decision, they decided to go around the light instead of by it. When they arrived home they told their wives of their experience. Mrs. Little did not believe it was a ghost.

Both men and Mrs. Little went to investigate the light. When they got close to the light, the horses would not go any further. Mrs. Little said that they could walk the rest of the way. As they got closer, they found that the light was a burning stump.

Interviewers:
Deleslyn Bruce
Rachael Lockard
Interviewee: Mrs. Ethel Little

The Ghost In The Cemetery

Long ago there was a certain cemetery at Woodville where the graves were covered with little sheds. People believed there was a ghost in the cemetery, because on rainy or stormy nights one could see something white moving around under the sheds over the graves. Whenever the weather was stormy, people would not use the road by the cemetery, because they were afraid.

They continued for about twelve years, until Erwin Phillips moved to Woodville. He heard people talking about this ghost, but he did not believe them. He decided that the next stormy night he would see what it really was. After he saw what it was, he decided that it would be better for everyone if he killed it, so he did.

This frightening ghost of the cemetery turned out to be an old, wild, white goat. People around Woodville were very ashamed when they found out that they had been afraid of an old goat that was trying to protect himself from the storms.

Interviewer: J.D. Phillips
Interviewee: Mr. G.B. Phillips

The Moonlit Ghost

Mrs. Forrestine Brown, a resident of Scottsboro, stated that a friend of hers came in contact with this story one Saturday night, around thirty years ago.

One moonlit Saturday night four women, who lived on Sand Mountain, were walking home from a church party. Their homes were about a mile from the church and they had to walk past a cemetery which was located near the church.

As they were passing the cemetery, one of the women glanced over and spotted a white object floating around the tombstones. This frightened the women very much. Instead of running, the women stood there and watched. Finally, one decided to walk over and investigate this incident. As she neared the object, it floated away.

This same thing happened several other times. One of the times a white cow was reported to be the object roaming around in the graveyard.

These four women exclaimed that they were sure that it was not a cow they had seen.

Interviewer: Carolyn Crawford
Interviewee: Mrs. Forrestine Brown

A Horse That Was A Ghost

This is a story told to Sherman Webb by his father, William C. Webb. William C. Webb was squirrel hunting around Hollywood one day, in the late 1930's, and it was getting dark when he got to the rocky road which led through the ridge. Upon reaching the ridge, he saw a white horse running on the rocks, but he couldn't hear any noise that the horse should have been making. He couldn't figure out why there was no noise unless it was because the horse was a ghost.

Interviewer: Linda Webb
Interviewee: Mr. Sherman Webb

The White Horse

Approximately five years ago there was a house fire near Woodville in which a man was burned to death. Before his death he told some people that he would be reincarnated as a white horse. When the remains of the house were removed from the land, another house was built. A white horse has since been seen from the house at midnight on rainy nights. The horse was seen on the road in front of the house, but as soon as it passed the house it disappeared.

Interviewer: Debbie Johnson
Interviewee: Mary Huggins

The Dog In The Hollow

This story was told to me by my grandmother, Mrs. Veda Lands, as told to her by her grandfather, Mr. Moore. This is a true story.

Once when Mr. Moore was walking his date home, he had to follow a road through the woods and down through a hollow to get to her house. There were sayings that this hollow was haunted. When they got down in the hollow, a little white dog appeared and started walking with them. Mr. Moore swung at the dog with a stick, and it seemed to go through the dog. He tried hitting it several times, but it was just like a ghost. Then the dog disappeared.

Interviewer: Denny Williams
Interviewee: Mrs. Veda Lands

The Chase

This story was told to me by my father, Howard Brewer, as told to him by his mother, Dovie Davis. The story is about my great-grandfather, Joel Sharp, when he was very young.

My great-grandfather lived on Cumberland Mountain and was on his way home one day. He had to walk through the woods to reach his house, which was still almost a mile away. He heard a noise and turned around, only to get a look at something not much larger than a big dog. Whatever it was, it was black and started chasing him. He ran until he reached the house. He had run so long and hard that he almost died of a heart attack.

The story would not be so remarkable except that nobody knows what was chasing him. The animal had been reportedly seen by a couple of people, but nobody knew what kind of an animal it was. Nothing had been seen like it before, and nobody ever reported seeing it again.

Interviewer: Delores Brewer
Interviewee: Mr. Howard Brewer

The Monster Who Killed Children

There use to be a place in Jackson County which inspired fear in all the children, especially at night. The exact location of this place is uncertain.

It was like a path, surrounded in one spot by so many trees that it was completely black, except for any moonlight that seeped through.

All the children were afraid of some monster that lurked there in the dark. This monster would hurt or even kill any child it caught.

The children tried to tell their parents of the monster, but, of course, the parents never paid much attention to them.

The Whatever

Mr. Dave Mitchell was walking down a road one night, when he saw something coming towards him. He didn't know what it was. Sometimes it would walk on four feet and sometimes two. It looked partly like a man and partly like a bear, but old Dave decided he wasn't going to find out what it was. So he crawled under a fence. The thing went on by him and he never did see it again.

Interviewer: Marlene Mitchell
Interviewee: Mr. Dave Mitchell

The Tree

A man tried to buy a fine horse from a second man. The owner of the animal refused to sell it. The first man said to him, "But I'll get it," and then he left. That was a fine plow horse, and the owner did not plan on selling it at any price. The man who wished to buy it was not very well liked anyway.

A few weeks later the horse turned up missing and was found dead in a nearby creek. The owner of the horse was furious, so he and a few of his friends went to hang the man who tried to buy the horse. They found him at home and questioned him on the matter. He said he did not do it and had no idea who did.

The men hanged him anyway on a nearby tree. The next day the tree died, losing all its leaves. The next owner of the house said that one night he had seen a noose on the tree. He sold the house the following day.

No one else has ever reported seeing the noose.

Interviewer: Tom Kolarik
Interviewee: Amy Smith

Whenever anybody approached this place, he would run through as fast as he could go so that he wouldn't be caught.

Some of the kids would swear that they had seen this monster, and others said they were almost caught. They began daring each other to run through the path.

Then one day a little boy was found there. He was dead. No one ever knew how or why; but the children knew.

Interviewer: Valerie Gogan
Interviewee: Mr. Charlie Smith

A Disappearing Light

Two men walking along a path one night heard something following them. When they turned around, all they saw was a light. When they went toward the light to investigate it, it suddenly disappeared.

Interviewer: Marlene Mitchell
Interviewee: Dave Mitchell

That Which Haunted Pierceton

The following story is told by Mr. James Washburn, who has lived in Jackson County all but twelve years of his life. He now lives in Letcher, Skyline, Alabama.

When Mr. Washburn was about thirteen, he was working at various jobs around a coal mining town called Pierceton, located on the side of Skyline Mountain. There were about 125 people living in this town and surrounding areas. Pierceton had a bank, railway station, general store, and over 25 houses in its relatively small area. They were built around a concrete slab shaped as a square and called the Commissary.

Mr. Washburn stated that although he couldn't say all his sources were reliable, he knew that those things he saw and heard himself were true.

"Pierceton is on the edge of the sinks," said Mr. Washburn, "and that's supposedly where the creature was to have come from." He told of many people who ventured into the sinks and never returned. "I never saw it real clear, but I did get glimpses of it. It looked like an oversized donkey, but it could jump like a cat and could stand on its back two legs."

Many nights were restless for the people of Pierceton because of the pounding and grinding sounds outside the houses. People weren't really afraid, however, until seven men were

killed while working the night shift in a coal mine. "They were working so far back in that mine, it was decided to leave their bodies there and close the mine off to serve as a grave for 'em."

After that, people were frightened and numerous rumors were spread about the creature.

One man who was coming home on a wagon claimed to have been attacked by the creature. He claims that he shot it. He stated, however, that it wasn't the wound that made it leave, but the noise.

Once a mine inspector had his gently saddle horse knocked out from under him by the creature. He shot at the creature, and it ran.

Finally the breaking point came when one night the waste dumps caught fire, almost burning up the loading docks and almost getting into the coal mines. This fire burned for over six weeks and it burned so hot that "you could throw on a green stick and it would flame up like a dry one."

Soon after this disaster the Pierceton Coal Mining Corporation moved away, and Pierceton lost all of its residents

Today one can see the ruins of Pierceton. It's sole owner?-- the creature!

Interviewer: Monte Washburn

Interviewee: Mr. James Washburn

Lights And Footprints

Around 1940, when Mrs. Wilma Wilbanks was a child, there were some strange occurrences in Section.

They all began one rainy night when she and her brother walked to a neighbor's house, one and a half miles away, to borrow some eggs. As they passed by the huge hollow between the two houses, they saw a moving light down in it. The light looked as though it came from a lantern, but there was no one carrying it. The children ran to the neighbors, house as fast as they could.

When the neighbors were told about the light, they didn't seem to believe it. They did follow the children part of the way home, however, to see if they could see the light for themselves. They saw nothing.

After the neighbors had turned back toward their own home, the children felt something touch them on their backs. They turned around, and there was the light again! They ran all the way home.

The children's parents offered an explanation of the moving light. Many

years before, an Indian named Sunshine had been murdered in the hollow. He was called Sunshine because he hated damp weather and always wanted the sun to shine. After he was killed, the hollow became very sacred to the Indians, and according to the parents of the children, his ghost would chase anyone away from the hollow if it got too close.

After the children heard the explanation, the whole family heard footsteps on the porch. They went out to check and found nothing but muddy footprints. They never found out where these prints came from.

Thirteen years later, after Mrs. Wilbanks had had her first baby, she saw the light again down in the hollow. The weather was very damp and dreary. As she stepped over to warm her baby's bottle on the wood stove, she heard footsteps. She looked out on the porch and saw muddy footprints!

Interviewers:

Joni Douglas

Carnell Townson

Interviewee: Mrs. Wilma Wilbanks

Over My Dead Body

When Mrs. Opal Merritt was a young girl, she lived in, or at least visited, a house near the Finney Cemetery. She said that the cemetery was easily seen through the living room window of the house.

It was through this window and from the porch that Mrs. Merritt, as well as the rest of the family observed something strange happening at the Finney Cemetery. The strange sight was seen regularly for a period of about seven months.

The sight seemed to be an illumination showing the human legs and feet from the knee down. They seemed to be walking or sometimes just standing around a grave. She said it was much like it would be if someone were holding a lantern about knee-high.

Mrs. Merritt was sure, however, that it was impossible for it to be merely someone trying to pull a prank. Her uncle and others in the community investigated, only to find nothing. Whenever they were some distance from the cemetery, the illumination could be seen again.

Mrs. Merritt did say, in reference to some explanation of the strange happenings, that some of the people in the community decided that it could possibly be gases rising from the ground. No documented proof has ever been established.

Interviewers:

Terry Shelton

Robert Brooks

Interviewee: Mrs. Opal Merritt

Hanging String

Several years ago some boys from Rosalie decided to go camping. Not long after they had arrived at their destination, it was decided among them not to sleep outside. Close by their camping site was a house, supposedly haunted by a ghost. They decided to sleep there for the night.

They had been in the house for some time when they began hearing footsteps. Several times the steps would go to the window, as if looking out. When this happened the boys found they were unable to see anything out of the house. It so happened that Jimmy, one of the boys, was the last to leave the house. A string hanging from the top of the house began wrapping itself around his neck. Jimmy pulled the string from his neck and ran to catch the other boys.

Interviewer: Donna Smith

Interviewee: Anonymous

The Ghost Clock

The following ghost story was told to me by Mr. and Mrs. Carl McLemore, who knew of the story through personal experience. According to Mr. and Mrs. McLemore, there used to be a house sitting in the field in front of what is now Marvin's Lumber Co. Mrs. McLemore said that she was always told that the house was haunted, but since she did not believe in ghosts, she refused to accept such a story.

One night after a storm, Mr. and Mrs. McLemore and their son were returning to this house from their storm cellar. They went straight to bed. Mrs. McLemore said she wished she had looked at her table clock to see what time it was, but being extremely tired, she neglected to do so. A little later however, the chimes of a seven-day clock struck three times. When she got up to look at the clock, she saw that it really was three o'clock, but her clock could not chime. There was not even a seven-day clock in her house. Another time when the family had company, the clock struck eleven times. When she got up to look at the table clock, it actually was eleven o'clock.

The ghost clock was always correct, but nobody ever knew from where the striking of the seven-day clock came. The seven-day clock only seemed to strike at night.

Interviewer: Brenda Whitehead
Interviewees: Mr. and Mrs. Carl McLemore

The Pikeville School Bell

This is a story about the old Pikeville school, which was located at the foot of Cumberland Mountain.

The school was built sometime between the years 1900 and 1910. Mrs. Bradford said the teacher helped in building the school, which was a small, one-room structure. He did not remember the name of the teacher; however, he did say that the teacher taught there until his death.

It has been said that the teacher rang the school bell regularly, even after his death. Some of his students heard it and believed it was he, because he rang the bell with a certain rhythm.

Interviewer: Ronald A. Wright
Interviewee: Mr. Herman Bradford.

The Glowing Graves

There are several fenced-in graves located in the woods back of the new Goodyear plant. It is said that on a clear, moonlit night, the graves glow. The headstones shine with a lime green color, and from a distance they look like ghosts rising from the ground.

Mrs. Potter states that the glowing graves have been a favorite parking place with the young people in the area for many years.

Interviewers:

Sharon Downs
Mike Copenhaver

Interviewees:

Mable Potter
Mr. Randall Holder

Moving Light At Aspel

Miss Myrtle Hastings, Mrs. Pauline Benson, and Mr. Gentry Hastings, all of Aspel, Alabama, tell the following stories about a moving light in their community.

Miss Hastings described a light that travels in Caney Cave on dark rainy nights and is often seen traveling up and down Caney Beach. Nobody has ever known what it is, but all old residents of Aspel have seen it and know the stories about it to be true. The light looks like a lantern with someone carrying it, but nothing can be seen except the light moving by itself. The light is visible at any time during the night.

Miss Hastings said that a Mr. Stewart told her of his experiences with this light. She said one night he opened his door and stepped out on the porch. He saw this light coming down the ridge in front of his house. He stood there and watched the light until it came across the road and into his yard. He then stepped back into the doorway and the light started up his front steps. It came across the porch and toward the door. Right before the light got to the door, Mr. Stewart slammed it shut. He said that he just could not stand the thought of that light walking over him.

Miss Hastings said that she saw the light one night herself. She was just a young girl at the time and was still living with her mother. She said they had two beds in one room. She slept in one bed, and her mother and younger brother slept in the other one. One night she woke up, and there was a light shining on their television set. She thought it was someone shining a light through the window. Then the light began to move around the room. She

Warning Lights

This event was told to me by my grandmother, Mrs. Bill Grider, who will be 70 years of age in 1973. The story was told to her by her mother, Susan Winkles, who died almost 16 years ago. My grandmother explained to me that this event occurred in the year 1907, over 65 years ago.

One night my great grandfather, Dick Winkles, was passing by a house with a load of wood. The house was vacant, and yet he saw lights on inside. When he reached his home, he told his wife, Susan, that he had seen lights in the vacant house down the road. In just a few days, he passed away.

Interviewer: Barbara Adkins
Interviewee: Mrs. Bill Grider

pulled the window shade down, but the light was still there. The light moved over to her mother's bed and started moving up and down the bed. She became frightened and yelled, "What in the devil is that?" and the light went out.

Mrs. Pauline Benson said that one night she woke up, and the light was going around and around her room. She said that she watched it for a little while, and then it suddenly went out. A few days later they received word that her brother had been killed in World War II. She now believes the light to have been a sign that her brother had been killed.

Mr. Gentry Hastings states that a Mr. Buster Hastings built a log house with a large open hall down the middle of it. Mr. Gentry Hastings said Mr. Buster liked to explore caves and mountains. One day he was exploring a mountain and found a large hole in the ground. He climbed down into the hole and found a skeleton of an animal. He took the skeleton back to his house and put it in a large closet in the open hall. That night he heard something outside, so he opened the door and looked. There was a light in his front yard, but he couldn't see anyone. Then the light began to move toward the house. The light came up the steps and started toward the hall. This frightened him, and he ran into the house and barred the door. The next day he took the skeleton back, because he believed that was what caused the light to come to his house.

Interviewer:

Mike Benson

Interviewees:

Miss Myrtle Hastings
Mrs. Pauline Benson
Mr. Gentry Hastings

The Mysterious Light

Near Hollywood, Alabama, in Mrs. Mary Owens' yard, a strange light has been seen several times at night.

According to Mrs. Owens there has been a light about as big as a saucer that comes up through her garden and across the yard to a big oak tree. The light then circles the limbs of the tree until it reaches the top.

Interviewer: Robbie Thomas
Interviewee: Mrs. Mary Owens

The Mysterious Lantern

According to Clyde Tidwell a mysterious lantern has appeared on the mountains of the chain of hills around Jackson County known as Skyline.

Mr. Tidwell told a strange tale of a lantern's appearing in the hollows, and slowly approaching the top of the mountain. When anyone went to look for the mysterious light, it always disappeared. It only returned on a foggy, rainy night. It appeared to be carried by someone or something because it waved in the air as if someone were signaling for help.

One man was told to have seen the lantern and whatever carried it. He was found the next morning in the hollow, frozen stiff. Even though it was the middle of winter and the mountain was known for cold weather, the mountain people still believe the man saw this ghostly lantern and died of shock.

Interviewer: Gail Berry
Interviewee: Mr. Clyde Tidwell

The Moan Of The Dying Man

Many years ago, Mrs. Veda Lands' grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Moore, moved into a house where a man had been killed. They found this out after they had moved into the house. One night they heard a moaning, and it sounded like it was in between the walls in the room with the fireplace. Mr. Moore started tearing planks off the wall and every time he would tear one off, the moaning would move to another part of the wall. They later found out that the man was murdered in the room with the fireplace, and while he was dying, he moaned like that.

Interviewer: Denny Williams
Interviewee: Mrs. Veda Lands

The Ghost Of The Ritz Theater

When the Ritz Theatre first opened in 1932, a man named Tate came with his wife and brother-in-law to watch a movie. During the movie, he suffered a heart attack. Since it was dark in the theater, the other people there could not see what was happening, and consequently, did not think much about the disturbance. Tate's wife and brother-in-law carried him out into the lobby where he died shortly after. From that night on, Tate's ghost wandered around the old theater, where it was seen and heard many times by the employees.

One employee, Ricky Boles, was told of the ghost right after he began working there at the Ritz. He often thought of the story as he was working around the theater, but he didn't really believe it.

One day before the show started, Rick went inside to rest for a minute. All the doors were locked, and the lights were out. According to Rick, he was the only one in the theater. After a while he began hearing strange noises. Then he

saw a grayish-white haze in front of the auditorium. At first Rick thought it was merely a shadow created by the sun's shining through the booth. It couldn't have been that, however, because the haze began moving up the aisle toward him. After it passed Rick, it seemed to fade out. Each day for two weeks, Rick sat in the theater as he had that first day. The haze appeared each time, behaving as before. One day Rick became brave enough to stand in the aisle as the haze came toward him. When the ghost reached him it became brighter. He could not tell if it went around him or through him, but there was a quick flash, like a camera bulb, and the ghost was on the other side of him. Seconds later it disappeared.

This is just one of many tales that have been told about the ghost of the Ritz Theater.

Interviewers:
Danny Osborne
Tommy Higginbotham
Clifford Holloway
Interviewee: Mr. Ricky Boles

Fern Cliff House

Fern Cliff House was located on a part of the Section Bluff. The house acquired its name from the large number of ferns growing around it.

Fern Cliff was originally built as a summer resort by a family of Yankees. It was sold at the turn of the century and used for a hotel. When the hotel closed, the house became deserted.

Several years later, rumors began to spread that the house was haunted. It was said that noises and voices could be heard. On Sunday afternoon people came from around the community to the house to see if it was really haunted.

Mrs. Ethel Carter was once persuaded by her friends to enter the house. While she was inside, she began to hear howling noises and a whistling around. Mrs. Carter ran out of the house and said that she would never go back there.

The house has been torn down for quite some time now.

Interviewers:
Debbie Karrh
Jim Barclay
Interviewees:
Mrs. Ethel Carter
Mr. Virgie Chambers

Haunted House

The story told by Mr. Gene Rose, is one that took place at a mountain in Jackson County. It involves his mother during World I.

One afternoon Mr. Rose's mother was in the barn tending to the horses. When she returned to the house, she heard footsteps inside, so she called for help. While she waited, she and a neighbor hid under the house. (Back in those days, houses were built on posts off the ground). They watched from under the house to make sure that no one came out. While they waited, they listened to the sounds in the house. They heard doors opening and closing, and what they thought to be mumbling noises.

The men finally arrived and neither Mr. Rose's mother nor the neighbor had seen anyone leave the house. It was searched from top to bottom, but nothing seemed to be out of place. Although footsteps were heard, no one was found inside.

Mr. Rose's mother said that the attic was not searched, so someone could have hidden there, but she believed it to have been a ghost. His mother told this story to Mr. Rose through the years of his childhood.

Interviewers:
Lynn Price
Kathy McConnell
Interviewee: Mr. Gene Rose

The Repeating Voices Of Death

Mrs. Essie Glass told us the story of how her grandmother, Cindy Tally, once lived in a haunted house in Fackler. The house was formerly owned by a young, widowed lady. While this young lady lived in the house, she was often visited by a man who was perhaps in love with her.

On a certain night during the late 1860's, the young woman was murdered after an argument with her reported lover. She was killed with a pair of scissors during a violent rain storm.

No one was willing to live in the house until the Talley's bought it and moved it. Shortly thereafter, strange things began to happen. Every rainy night a large, bloody spot would appear where the murdered victim had lain years before. At dusk they would hear someone say, "Hello," and the gate would squeak open. They would see no one when they looked. Later they would hear the sewing machine being dragged out from the wall and the pedals beginning to slowly move. Mrs. Glass recalls how her grandmother would tell of hearing voices of a man and a woman every time it would rain.

Despite Cindy Tally's efforts to disbelieve, she was convinced that the murder sounds and blood stains that appeared during every rain after nightfall were definitely real.

Interviewers:

Steve Patrick
Chuck Gibson

Interviewee: Mrs. Essie Glass.

The Red House

There used to be a large, red colonial house in Section that was rumored to have been haunted. It belonged to Mrs. Myrtle Zeigler's family.

The entire neighborhood was frightened of this house. Noises were often heard coming from inside particularly at night. A neighbor, Mrs. Gant, said she could look out her kitchen window at night and see lights going on and off.

Mrs. Zeigler states that she does not believe that the house was haunted. Her theory is that men gambled in the house at night, thus explaining the lights and noises.

Interviewer: Marsha McGahey

Interviewee: Mrs. Myrtle Zeigler.

The Unknown Ghost Of Carnes Cove

One of the most well-known ghost stories in Jackson County around the early twentieth century was of a ghost that was never seen. He was frequently heard, however, and often left evidence of his presence. This ghost haunted an old English home located in Carnes, North of Fackler, Alabama. The house, over one hundred years old, is still lived in today.

There are several stories told about this ghost. One is that every afternoon at the same time, he makes noises sounding like a large piece of iron being dragged across the floor.

Another story states that almost every night the ghost will walk through the halls of the house, opening and closing the front door periodically. One night the family timing these heard the front door swing open. They thought the wind had blown it open so one of the boys got up to close it. When he reached the door, it was closed and locked.

Occasionally on weekends, the parents would lie in bed waiting for their sons to come home from their dates. A car would be heard driving up the road and stopping in front of their

house. They would wait for their sons to come in, but no one would enter. When they would get up to see if anything was wrong. There would be no car.

Every Saturday afternoon the family would go to town to do their shopping. On returning, they would often find a tea pot of water boiling on the stove.

Still another story has it that several people came to visit the family one day. As they walked up the drive, they heard a radio going full blast. When they reached the porch, however, the radio went off mysteriously. The visitors soon discovered that the family was not at home—the ghost again!

The father got up one morning only to find his shoe strings tied together.

Many strange, unexplainable things happen at this house in Carnes. Perhaps someday the occupants will meet their annual visitors face to face!

Interviewers:

Patsy Donnelly
Deborah Brooks

Interviewees:

Mrs. Reb Willmon
Mrs. Howard Garner

Brownwood Mansion

Brownwood Mansion was once a stately mansion and entertainment center of the area. It was a popular gathering place and a location for parties and social events of all kinds.

The mansion is now an old, decaying, brick cavity. The grounds are strewn with litter and rubble.

But the stories and tales about the mansion, which abound throughout the county, are still widely told.

As with most stories of this nature, the facts become colored and possibly distorted with each telling, and each narrator enhances or misrepresents the facts with his own particular versions and augmentations.

Mrs. Telford, a lifetime resident of Jackson County, gives a concise and factual account of the incidents surrounding this story.

Sometimes around the late 1930's or early 1940's, Lawrence Brown built Brownwood Mansion for his mother because he wanted her to have more privacy in her reclining years.

Lawrence also built an annex to the mansion, containing all of his mother's old furniture and personal

belongings, which the superstitious and sentimental Mrs. Brown was attached to.

The mansion itself was a two-storied, rectangular brick structure. An unusually wide front walk led to a highly adorned and arched front door.

Inside was a large foyer and wide staircase. There were two huge fireplaces. The house sits back from the crooked dirt road which was, and still is, the only accessible passage to the mansion.

Mrs. Brown was a firm believer in reincarnation and the transmigration of souls. Her wish was to return in her next life as a bird and sit on the magnolia tree. She also wished to be cremated.

Her wish to be cremated, however, was denied, and she had to settle for a plot of the family

But Mrs. Brown may not have lost her claim to fame entirely, as the mocking bird in the magnolia tree will testify.

Interviewers:

John Newman
Phil Broyles

Interviewee: Mrs. Sid Telford

The Masonic Lodge

If one is ever in Larkinsville visiting, or if he is just passing through, he must stop and see the Masonic Hall. It is just a plain building, and nothing exciting is happening there now. However, there have been rumors of some strange incidents occurring there.

This incident dates all the way back into the 1800's when the Masons were really closely bound together. They were very odd, also, in their ways. In fact, their group was so clandestine that they established a principle: Any member that told anything his group did, would pay for it by having his life taken.

One day a member, who was a newspaper reporter, decided that Masonic Ritual would be simply fantastic as write-up in the daily newspaper. He decided that he would uncover all the group's secrets and publicized them in the paper for every one to read.

A few weeks later, this man was reported missing. He was never found.

Later on in the next century, a skeleton was supposedly found in the Masonic Hall. Could it be that this group was really true to their word, or was it just an animal that had been locked in there and couldn't get out? Think about it.

Interviewer: Nita Brown

Interviewee: Mrs. Christine Sumner

A Punishment Of Death

Around 1921 there was a small house back in the woods about a mile from Section School. The house was so old and run down that most people said they wouldn't let their horses stable there. One night the man who lived there was killed, along with his family. The murderer was never found.

The murdered family professed to be atheists. Their coffins were mysteriously made and left in the house, where they remained. Several days after the murders, several older women went to the house and placed three crosses in the windows. As they were leaving the house, it began to shake and finally collapsed. When people later tried to find the coffins, all three had strangely disappeared.

Interviewers:

Danny Westmoreland

J. Eiford

Interviewee: Mildred Woods.

The Moody House

There was once a haunted house called Moody House. It was a two-story house on a corner not far from the first Baptist Church to day. Around 1920, it was said that Mrs. Moody, who had died there, would walk around on the second floor at night. A group of children, including Mrs. Ambrester when she was a child, hid in a wellhouse on the property to see if they could see the woman walk around.

Interviewer: Linda Webb

Interviewee: Mrs. Roy Ambrester

An Old House

Mrs. Mildred Woods from Section, Alabama, told the following story in December 1972.

In 1927, a young man and his wife moved into an old mansion around Section. The young man was an important businessman and made very good money. The young lady was very pretty and taught at the local school.

The story is that one afternoon she went home from school and found her husband sitting in the drawing room. He had been fired from his job for some reason and was very upset. He and his wife got into a big argument, and he left.

A couple of years went by, and she became very sick.

One night she heard footsteps coming up the stairs and became very frightened. The steps stopped at the door, and she didn't hear them again until they left. She fell asleep and never woke up.

Some of her relatives had been informed a few days earlier that she was ill and were on their way to her home. When they got there, they found her lying on the bed face up. Her eyes were wide open, and she was purple with shock. Her hair had turned white, and her face had wrinkled. Her hands gripped the sides of the bed as if in fear.

There was a trap door open beside the bed where someone or something had entered in the night.

No one could ever figure out what happened to her or how it happened. The husband never came back and was never heard from again.

Interviewer: Danny Westmoreland

Interviewee: Mildred Woods

Snodgrass Mansion

Back in the early 1800's Mr. Nat Snodgrass built a beautiful mansion in the Bellefonte community. Part of it is still standing today. There have been many tales told about the house. The following stories are only a few of them.

In one of the upstairs bedrooms there is a trap door where slaves were often hidden during the Civil War. There were occasionally as many as 146 slaves hidden here and a few times, over 245.

There is a door in this mansion leading from the root cellar to the kitchen. This door is held shut by a bent nail. The strange thing about this door is that it will not stay shut for any length of time. It flies open everytime a storm brews up, as well as at other times.

One story has it that the Snodgrass family was going to church one night. Mr. Snodgrass made sure this door was shut and locked. When the family returned from church, however, the door was standing wide open.

Interviewers:

Jana Downey

Teresa Hancock

Dale Hodges

Interviewees:

Mr. Lee Hancock,

Mrs. Collie Hodges

Mrs. Mary Nell Downey

The Haunted House

Davy Bradford and a friend of his were going to visit some friends in another town. They started out early one morning, so by night they were very tired, and their poor old horses could just barely move. They were looking for a place to rest that night, but they couldn't find anywhere suitable. They rode for miles until they finally found a place. Up ahead they could see a big house with lights on in every room. Loud music was coming from the house and yard. They rode up to the house and got down from their horses. The minute their feet touched the ground, the lights went out and the music stopped. They went up to the house and looked in, but there wasn't anyone there. This scared them, so they got on their horses and took off. When they got back on the road they looked back, and the lights came on and they could hear music again. They were scared nearly to death. They hit their horses and took off as fast as they could make their horses go.

Interviewer: Shirley Bradford

Interviewee: Mr. Leon Venable

Grandfather's House

Mrs. Dorothy Scott related a true story that her grandfather, a Mr. McAbee, had told her when she was a little girl. According to Mrs. Scott, Mr. McAbee was in his early twenties (she was not sure of his age) when the story occurred.

Soon after Mr. McAbee married, he and his wife moved to an old house out on Sand Mountain that had belonged to his grandfather, who had died before Mr. McAbee was born. Mr. McAbee's father had told him that the house was haunted with his grandfather's ghost, and that the house had not been lived in since his death.

Mr. McAbee, not being a superstitious man, found no reason to believe this absurd tale.

The McAbees lived in the house for almost two weeks. It seems that almost every night when they went to bed, they heard sounds in the house, as if someone were still up and moving around. When they investigated the sounds, they found nothing.

The strangest part about this whole story is that, just as they were on the verge of sleep, they felt the bed move and creak just like someone or something was getting into bed with them! This was the same bed Mr. McAbee's grandfather had slept in.

It did not take the McAbees long to realize this was not the house for them. They moved, and the house was soon torn down at the request of the family.

Interviewer: Brenda Hardin
Interviewee: Mrs. Dorothy Scott

Pipes

Rolling In A Church

My mother, Mrs. Ina White, tells the following story as it was related to her in 1936, by her great-grandfather, Tommy Smith. The setting is a church in Stevenson.

There were four or five men who took some pipes to the church to be used in a heater. After they put the pipes inside, they cut out the lights, went outside, and locked the door. Then the pipes started rolling through the church and the lights came back on. This frightened them terribly, and they left. This story is reportedly true.

Interviewer: Debbie White
Interviewee: Mrs. Ina White

Something's Under The Floor

Around 1958, Cecil Stewart lived about four miles outside Hollywood. The only neighbors he and his wife, Bobbie, had were the people who moved in and out of the house down the road.

Cecil began to wonder about the house and why nobody ever stayed in it for more than a week. He began asking and soon found out that everyone who had lived there believed it was haunted. Cecil doubted this, so one night he went over to the newly occupied house and asked if they had been hearing any noises. The couple had been moved in about two days. They had been hearing knocking noises under the floor. Cecil and Mr. Edwards, the man who just moved in, looked under the floor, but they never saw anything that resembled a ghost.

As time progressed, one family after another moved in and out. Around Christmas Eve, fire destroyed a portion of Cecil's house, and he and his wife decided to move. Their plans were to

move to Scottsboro, but Cecil decided instead to move into the old house down the road. If anything was driving people out of the house, he would find out for good what it was.

Cecil moved in to the house on Christmas day. Within the next few days, all his things were transferred to the old house. The next few nights in the house were calm, and Cecil and his wife heard nothing. Nothing at all was bothering them. But about the fifth night there were strange knocking sounds heard under the floor. This continued, so Cecil and his wife also decided to leave with out even trying to find out what the sounds were.

In January, 1959, Cecil and his wife moved to Scottsboro, and to this day the house still stands, outside Hollywood, unoccupied.

Interviewer: Steve Maynor
Interviewee: Mr. Cecil Stewart

The Church Ghost

In the early 1900's near Woodville Mr. Bill Shrader and some of his buddies were pretending to have church inside an old, abandoned church house.

It was night, and the only light the boys had was an old lantern.

Mr. Shrader was acting as the preacher, and his buddies were the congregation. They were half-way through the pretend service when a noise like iron chains and steel balls hit the floor. The lantern went out and the doors of the church, which were closed and latched, flew open. A wind rose quickly.

Mr. Shrader said that he and his buddies almost killed each other leaving the church.

Interviewer: Larry Lewis
Interviewee: Mr. Bill Shrader

A Girl At The Window

One night when it was raining very hard, Mrs. Veda Land's grandmother, Miss Moore, was alone in the kitchen washing dishes. Her mother had just had a new baby girl the day before. She looked at one of the windows and saw a girl who had her face pressed up against the window and was smiling; then she left. She got the lantern and went into another room and did not tell anyone what she had been. The next night the baby girl died at the same time.

Interviewer: Denny Williams
Interviewee: Mrs. Veda Lands.

A Warning Of Death

Mrs. Shelton said she didn't know if it was a warning but several times at night she would see a red light above the graveyard. She said the next morning she would get word that someone she knew had died during the night.

Mrs. Shelton said that the night her husband's mother died, a strange collie dog jumped upon the window. They thought that it was a warning.

Interviewer: Bonnie Manning Franklin
Interviewee: Mrs. Shelton

Dogs And Death

When I visited Mrs. Shelton, she said that when her husband was young he and his sister were walking to a neighbor's house to tell her that their mother was very sick. The path went through a graveyard and on the way to the neighbor's house a small, white dog followed along beside them. This scared them, because they knew that there was not a small, white dog in the neighborhood. On the way back home they told the neighbor about the dog, and she told them it was a warning that their mother was going to die. That night their mother died.

Interviewer: Bonnie Manning Franklin
Interviewee: Mrs. Shelton

Haunted House

This story was told to me by my mother, Mrs. Harvey Eakin as told to her by my great-grandmother, Emma Venable.

As the story goes, Emma and Bill, her husband, moved into a house that everyone said was haunted. One night Emma went out on the porch where she saw a ghostly sight. By the moonlight she could see a man riding toward her on a horse. The man had on a dark suit and a white shirt and the saddle creaked like new leather. What was so terrible about it was that this man had no head! Emma turned white and ran back into the house. Bill asked her what was wrong, and she told him. He laughed at her and told her there was no such thing as a ghost.

The next night she went outside, and the man without a head rode up again. She went back into the house, and Bill laughed at her and asked if she had seen another ghost. She said, "You can call it a ghost or anything you want to, but I saw a man without a head riding a horse, and his saddle was squeaking." Bill still didn't believe her and laughed at her again.

The next day Emma was outside washing clothes when two men went by. They were talking about the house being haunted, and one of them said no one lived there very long. She told her husband about this, but again he only laughed.

That night they were in bed when they heard the cow moo. They went outside and saw a calf running around. The cow was mooing like it was hers, but she wasn't supposed to have a calf for at least another month. They didn't think anything about it until the next morning when they went back to see the calf, and it was gone. One could tell that their cow had not had her calf yet. This finally convinced Bill that the place was haunted, so they packed their things and moved.

Interviewer: Johnny Eakin
Interviewee: Mrs. Harvey Eakin

Lightning Strikes Again

Mrs. Leon Downey tells of a ghost story that happened in the Langston graveyard. A man once said before he died that lightning would strike his grave the day after his death if there was a heaven or hell. Lightning struck his grave in Langston one day after his death.

Interviewer: Teresa Hancock
Interviewee: Mrs. Leon Downey

A Warning

The story, as told to me by my grandmother, Lucy Wilkerson, was about a close neighbor who was the same age as she. This neighbor had a young baby three or four months old. It had been sick for almost a week.

One day, as the neighbor was sitting in her rocking chair, a young baby about the age of her own appeared in the room and eased up very close to her. When she reached out for the baby, it vanished. In three or four days her small baby died.

Interviewer: Cathy Wilkerson
Interviewee: Mrs. Lucy Wilkerson

Seeing Caskets

Back in the 1930's, a woman named Sarah West from Hollywood, Alabama, would see visions of a casket whenever someone in the community died of illness. The visions would appear to her at the moment of the person's death. They always turned out to be valid.

Miss Hazel Wright of Hollywood is Sarah West's granddaughter.

Interviewer: Linda Webb
Interviewee: Miss Hazel Wright

White Blob

Mrs. Mary Thrower was coming back from milking the cows when a lady in white appeared behind her. It followed her as she walked to the house. Mrs. Thrower's son and brother saw this lady following her, and they became so frightened that they ran into the house and locked the door. Mrs. Thrower turned around and saw the lady in white for herself. When she did, the lady disappeared in the air. Mrs. Thrower said it looked just like a woman whom she knew. Later on, this woman, who resembled the lady in white, died.

Interviewer: Brenda Lovvorn
Interviewee: Mrs. Mary Thrower

Warnings Of Death

This story was told to Mrs. Virginia Gant's mother by her grandmother. It happened on Jacob Mountain near Trenton, Alabama, in 1932. An old man named Bob Reeves had been sick for a long time. Mrs. Gant's grandmother lived near his house, and on the particular night this story occurred, was at his house with several other people.

Everybody had gathered in the kitchen and was eating supper. The man's daughter happened to look out the door and saw what she thought to be an old man dressed in white. The man was leaning up against a tree in the yard. She told everybody else what she had seen. When they looked outside, they saw the same thing.

The daughter wanted to go outside to see what the "thing" was. Mrs. Gant's grandmother told her it was a warning of some kind. When they started out the door to see what the "thing" was, it vanished into thin air. That very same night the old man died.

Interviewer: Lester Gant
Interviewee: Mrs. Virginia Gant

Superstitions

How To Avoid Bad Luck

Do not bring an ax in one door of the house and take it out another.

Do not take the ashes out of the fireplace between Christmas and New Year's.

Do not do any washing between Christmas and New Year's.

Place a horseshoe over a door to keep evil spirits out.

If one accidentally swings a broom over a bed, he should break the broom to break the bad luck.

If a black cat crosses your path, turn around backwards.

Make a cross when a black cat crosses your path.

If a black cat crosses the road in front of someone, he should turn his cap around.

When a black cat crosses your path, spit across your left shoulder to cross out bad luck.

Never start a job on Friday unless it can be finished that day.

Interviewers:

Loretta Cullins
Bonnie Manning Franklin
Susan Henshaw
Mike McCauley
Irene Mitchell
Carnell Townson
Ronald Wright

Interviewees:

Mami Manning
Mrs. Herman Bradford
Mrs. Lura Bates
Rony Mitchell
J.D. Shrader
Mrs. Shelton

Baby Superstitions

There are many superstitions concerning babies and their care. The following are a few of these.

Many ladies believe that when a baby begins to crawl, no one should step over it at anytime. If someone does, it will stunt the baby's growth.

Mothers of young children do not have anything to worry about when it comes to snakes. It is believed that a snake will not bit a boy or girl younger than seven years.

One should never cut a baby's nails when it is less than two months old, or it will have trouble cutting its teeth. If the nails are cut before the child is nine months old, he will become a thief.

Mothers should turn the mirrors to the wall before their babies are nine months old. If by chance a baby sees himself in a mirror, his life will be full of trouble.

Parents should never cut the baby's hair before he is one year old, for this action will shorten his life.

If an expectant mother is having difficult labor, someone should put snuff on her nose. Another thing that helps is to boil water with a silver dollar in the bottom of the pot.

Interviewers:

Sallie Stratton
Theresa Fischer

Interviewee: Mrs. Bridges

Superstitions Concerning Illness & Death

When someone in the house is sick, do not take the ashes out of the fireplace until the person is well.

If a row is missed when planting the crops, someone in the family will die.

One should not watch a funeral procession because he might be one of the next three to die.

Pictures should not be taken of a pet, or it may die.

There are certain signs in the sky which indicate when teeth may be pulled. If these signs are not observed, the patient will become ill.

Interviewers:

Loretta Cullins
Susan Henshaw
Mike McCauley
Irene Mitchell
Carnell Townson
Ronald Wright

Interviewees:

Mami Manning
Mrs. Herman Bradford
Rony Mitchell
Mr. J.D. Shrader
Mrs. Laura Bates

Odds And Ends In Superstitions

If a screech owl is hollering, turn your pockets inside out, and it will stop.

If someone's nose is itching, he is about to receive visitors.

If someone's ear burns, he is being talked about.

Interviewers:

Loretta Cullins
Bonnie Manning Franklin
Susan Henshaw
Irene Mitchell

Interviewees:

Mrs. Lura Bates
Rony Mitchell
Mrs. Shelton
Mrs. J.D. Shrader

Aids For Weather Predicting

Count the number of chirps a cricket makes in one minute. Divide this by 4 and add 50. This will equal the temperature.

When the wind blows out of the south for three straight days, it is sure to rain.

A rain should also be expected if ants begin to pile dirt around the opening of their home.

If the firebugs fly low to the ground, rain is coming soon. If they fly high, pretty weather is the prediction.

When there is a ring around the moon, the number of stars within the ring will indicate the number of days until the next rain.

A beetle lying on its back clicking means storms are near.

The last six days of a year combines with the first six of the next year are called the "ruling days." Each day's weather represents the weather of that respective month of the year.

Interviewers:

Ernest Guffey
Mike McCauley
Carnell Townson
Roger Woodall
Ronald Wright

Interviewees:

Mrs. Herman Bradford
Mrs. Joe Guffey
Mami Manning

Planting By The Signs

Planting crops by signs is a very strong tradition among some of the farmers of Jackson County. The old timers, particularly, use these methods year after year.

When corn is planted in the dark of the moon, the stalks will not grow so tall, but the ears will grow larger.

When cotton is planted in the sign of the arm, it will limb out. The more limbs a stalk has, the more cotton there will be. The sign that represents the arms is Gemini, or the twins.

Vegetables such as beans, tomatoes, squash, and okra should be planted while the signs are in the arm.

A good sign in which to plant products that grow underground, like potatoes, peanuts, and onions, is the feet. The sign for the feet is Pisces, or the fish.

The sign by which to plant watermelon is the lion, which is in the heart. When they are planted by this sign, the heart of the watermelon is larger.

Interviewer: Ernest Guffey
Interviewee: Mrs. Joe Guffey

New Mother At Log Rolling

Sometimes people ignore superstitions against the advice of their friends and neighbors. The following is such a story.

People used to believe that the mother of a newborn baby was unclean, and that no one should eat anything cooked by her.

Miss Leola Matthews said that her great-great-grandmother Williams had had a newborn baby. There was to be a log-rolling to build some new buildings and much food would be needed. Mrs. Williams hid her baby so that people would not know that she was the mother of a newborn infant, and she cooked for the log-rolling. There were no known ill effects for anyone.

Interviewers:
Pam McGinty
Tom Gibson

Interviewees:
Miss Eunice
Miss Leola Matthews

Bewitched

Occasionally, people who put stock in superstitious lore find that they do not always hold true. The following story, as related by Mr. Richard Wilks, occurred on Sand Mountain. Mr. Wilks believes the story to be true.

In the 1880's Mr. Wilk's uncle, eighteen months old at the time, was playing outside. A rabbit came by and stood on its hind feet and began prancing back and forth. This scared Mr. Wilks' uncle very much, and, supposedly as a result, he caught polio. This left him unable to walk without crutches. His parents consulted a witch doctor who claimed that the child had been bewitched.

The witch doctor told the parents to take a silver dollar, make a silver bullet, and shoot the rabbit. If this were done, then the child would be able to walk. The parents made the bullet and killed the rabbit, which they had tried to kill with ordinary bullets many times before. However, contrary to the witch doctor's promise, Mr. Wilks' uncle never walked again without crutches. The descendants persist in believing the child was bewitched.

Interviewers:
Teresa Akin
Patty Mullaney
Sharon Wolf
Interviewee: Mr. Richard Wilks

Community Sketches

Activities At Aspel

Mrs. Pauline Benson states that there used to be a one-room store in Aspel, Alabama. The store was located at the present site of Mr. Bill Smith's home. The store was owned by Mr. Herbert Smith.

Mr. Smith's wife got sick and they moved to Tennessee. He sold his store to Mr. Buster Bradford. Mr. Bradford had not owned the store long before he decided to turn it into a dance room. He quit the store business and gave the one-room building to the community of Aspel for entertainment purposes. The place was opened every Saturday night for square dancing. This was the only day of the week it was open except on holidays. The building usually opened about six o'clock and closed at ten o'clock every Saturday night. Usually twenty or twenty-five people would come each week.

There was another recreation center in Aspel. This was the old building which stood in front of the Blowing Cave near Salt Peter Cave. This building was used as a dance center also. It was larger than the one owned by Mr. Bradford and contained a cafe in the front part of the building. This building was owned by Mr. Jim Matthews.

During this time the selling of alcohol was legal, and everyone brought his own to the dances. Miss Myrtle Hastings states that this was a rough place and she never went there. Her friends had been there and told her about it.

Mr. Clete Shelton said he was there one Saturday night when things really got rough. He said he was starting to leave about the time two men got into a fuss and began to fight. Then all of a sudden, one cut the other with a knife. After this incident many of the youngsters' parents would not let them go back for a long time. Then one Saturday night another fight took place; the owner turned out the lights during the fight, and everyone started fighting each other. One man grabbed a chair and said that the first one to hit him was going to get a chair broken over his head. Shortly after this the cafe and dance center was closed down.

On the Fourth of July everyone from Aspel would go to Salt Peter Cave to have a picnic. Each family would bring something to eat and put it on a big table. Then everyone would go around the table and choose what he wanted to eat. After lunch the people would all get

a lantern and go into the cave to look around. This event included both young and old.

Interviewer: Mike Benson
Interviewees:

Miss Myrtle Hastings
Mr. Clete Shelton
Mrs. Pauline Benson

Baillytown

A small community in Jackson County now known as Baillytown was founded by Mr. Bill Bailly. He moved to this area after the road from Paint Rock Valley to Scottsboro was built.

The next family to move to the community was the George Shaw family. They moved there shortly after Mr. Bailly. Mr. W.W. Woodall moved his family to Baillytown in 1938. Mr. Woodall and several of his children still live there.

Interviewers:

Roger Woodall
Clark Gwathney

Interviewee:

W.W. Woodall

Bellefonte

Bellefonte, a picturesque location beside the Tennessee River, was the first county seat of Jackson County. This abandoned community is presently located near Hollywood, Alabama. Prior to the Civil War this settlement had a population of about two hundred with seven lawyers, and it was served by seven stage lines and eleven steamboat lines.

Bellefonte was the cultural center of Jackson County, which was basically poor otherwise. There was some high society in the community, and there were a few plantations around Bellefonte which had slaves for both house and field.

Several historical buildings are still standing at Bellefonte. One of the oldest is a two-story shell of the Bellefonte Inn, which faced the old courthouse built in 1828. The hotel was turned into a federal hospital for use during the Civil War. Dark spots can be seen on the woodwork there and are believed to be blood stains from amputations of arms and legs of wounded soldiers.

There was quite a bit of fighting in and around Bellefonte during that war. The courthouse was burned during the fighting if not somewhat earlier. The

jails were left standing, and it is said that a negro who allegedly killed a settler couple was left in jail there.

Another old building that is still visible today is the old general store which was operated by Mrs. Snodgrass.

Approximately eight years after the courthouse burned at Bellefonte, the county seat was moved to Scottsboro, where it has remained to this day.

Interviewers:

Debbie Brazelton
Mike Greene
Stan Hall
Anita Walker
Kay Whitehead

Interviewees:

Mrs. Wallace Bradford
Mary Hastings
Frank Gregg

Gen. Morris And Crabtree's Cove

General Floyd Morris was born in 1890 in Winchester, Tennessee. General Morris, his wife, the former Alley Wright, and his wife's parents moved to Crabtree Cove. General Morris built a one-room house single-handedly.

When General Morris' first son, Floyd, was ten years old, he helped his father build a new house and barn. This house was two stories with four rooms. They built General Morris' mother-in-law a house of her own across the cove.

For twenty years the Morris family lived alone in the cove. In 1930, Floyd Wright and Bub Wright moved into the cove with their families. Combined, the three families had twenty-five children. The families built a school building and hired a teacher from Winchester.

In 1940 they built a blacksmith shop, a hotel and a railroad. By 1950 there were thirty families living in the area. In 1951 General Morris sold his land to a Mr. Carter for one dollar an acre. The land is now known as both Lakeview and Crabtree's Cove. General Morris now lives at Skyline.

Interviewer: Tony Winger
Interviewee: Ricky Saint

Dutton

The first post office in Dutton, which was then known as Press, was established in 1884. During the eighty-eight years since its founding, nine

postmasters have served the post office. The postmaster kept the supplies in his home.

In 1890 the office was moved to the Dutton Brothers' Store. This was the reason for the change in name of the community. About 1900 Leonard Thomas was appointed postmaster. He built a new store with the office quarters in the rear of the building.

The people of the community did not call for their mail more than once a week. At this time the mail consisted mainly of letters. People did not know much about newspapers and magazines.

The first free delivery of mail was in 1905. Mr. E.G. White was the mail carrier. When roads were too bad to travel in a buggy, he would ride a horse.

The post office was moved to another building in 1914. It remained there until the new post office was completed. Mail service was very uncertain until 1929. The mail was brought across the river by ferry boat. During high water it might be several weeks before the mail reached Dutton. The service was very much improved when the B.B. Comer Bridge was built.

Small scale farming was the main occupation of most settlers in the Dutton area. The first industry other than trapping and hunting was tanning hides. The tanyard was established about 1885 by W.J. Wigginton. In addition to tanning leather for his customers, he made shoes and sold whips, harness leather, and shoe strings. Goat Skins, sheep skins, and cowhide were used.

The first grist mill, called Roaring Hill, was located at the gorge above Dutton. Water furnished the power to operate the mill. The average day's grinding was three bushels. The miller kept a skillet at the mill so that those who must wait all day could parch corn for their dinner.

The first cotton gin was owned by Mr. M.M. Dutton. It ginned one bale of cotton per day and about twenty-five bales per season. The cotton was packed by horse-drawn press. Four men were required to operate the gin. They received fifty cents per day.

These first industries of Dutton helped the town to become prosperous.

Interviewers:

Jim Barclay

Interviewee:

Mrs. Virgie Chambers

Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Larbarre

A Skirmish At Goosepond

Material has been published con-

cerning the concentrations of Union troops in northern Jackson County during the Civil War, but few people know that during the time that the Union Army was passing through Jackson County, a Civil War Skirmish was fought at the present locations of the Revere Copper and Brass Reduction Plant and the Goosepond Colony Golf Course. During that time, the only existing water was a small stream running down the middle separating the two areas of land. The stream ran all the way to Bray Island, which was clearly distinguishable then. With the area now under water, it is hard to distinguish Bray Island from the other islands surrounding the golf course.

The Rebels came up from Bray Island and stationed their men on the western side of the island. The Yankees were on the opposite side where the Revere Plant is located. The battle was small but was significant enough to be retold generations later. It is unknown which side won the skirmish.

Interviewer: Gail Berry

Interviewee: Murphy Bellomy

Hagwood Hollow

There were many refugee soldiers during the Civil War, but one was especially significant. As a memorium to this soldier, a community, a graveyard and a church were named after him.

This story has been passed down through the years, and the exact date is not remembered. The refugee Confederate soldier, who was probably trying to make it back home, had a tragic ending. His first name is not remembered, but his last name was Hagwood.

As the story goes, this soldier was standing at a stream watering his horse when a Yankee soldier spotted him. The Yankee shot him, and Hagwood fell over into the stream.

When he was found, the people buried him upon a nearby spot of ground. This is known as Hagwood Graveyard. On the other side of the road across from the graveyard, there was a church built, and it is known as Hagwood Church. This area of Sand Mountain is called Hagwood Hollow. The soldier's grave and tombstone are still there in the graveyard.

Interviewer: Debra Wildman

Interviewee: John D. Jordan

Hollywood

In 1910 Hollywood was nothing more than a small community with a population of approximately three

hundred. These people worked long, hard hours in the fields raising cotton, corn, and beans.

One of the oldest landmarks in Hollywood was the Sequoyah Trail, which is said to have been inhabited by Indians. Another old relic was the brick mill, which was built by Willis Nere in 1912. Mr. Nere later constructed a lumber mill which was moved to Decatur after a short time.

Around 1915 Cedar Ridge School was built in Hollywood for Negroes. There was a church beside the school. This church was built in Hollywood in 1912. It was located across from the post office building.

Interviewers:

Clevyone Tucker

Robert Tucker

Interviewee: Mr. David Hardric

The July Mountain Dinner Bell

July Mountain is the mountain that heads Woods Cove. A large dinner bell was brought to this mountain by a Shuberts family from Temperance Hill, a community located where the Goosepond Colony is today. The Shuberts lived in July Mountain for about twenty years until the family passed away. Mr. Shubert is thought to have died around 1940.

The Shuberts hired people to work in the fields for them. Mrs. Shubert cooked dinner for all the workers, and she would call them to dinner by ringing the bell. This was the only means to signal to the workers, since they worked so far away from the house.

Three or four other families lived on July Mountain. When all the families moved off the mountain, the Shuberts stopped using the dinner bell because they became too old to take care of their land. The bell was rung only to signal that help was needed from the people in the valley.

Once Mr. Shubert rang the bell when his wife was very sick. The people from the valley ran up the mountain to help. The young people arrived first, since it took so much energy to climb the mountain. When they reached the home, someone ran down the mountain to get a doctor for Mrs. Shubert.

After the Shuberts were gone, James Ledbetter bought the land from the heirs of the family. The Ledbetters then became the owners of the July Mountain Bell. Mr. Virgil Berry recently bought the bell from James Ledbetter. It is now standing in Virgil Berry's front yard.

Interviewer: Diane Evans
Interviewee: Mr. Newton Bell

The Moody Brick Home At Kyles

The Moody Brick is a very old house at Kyles, Alabama, near Fackler. It was built by slave labor for the family of Mr. Albert Moody, a former probate judge of Jackson County.

A mural of angels has been painted on the ceilings and walls. An Indian came to live with the owners until he completed this work. According to one source this was the same man who painted the mural on the dome of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The Moody Brick, preserved with only slight changes from the original structure, was a plantation home and had cabins nearby to house the slaves. There have been stories of slave killings there, and some older people say that when it rains the slaves can be heard, singing and crying.

Interviewers:

Mellisa Cookston
Mike Green
Gay Zilbert

Interviewees:

Mr. Frank Grigg
Mr. and Mrs. J.W. West

Old Church-School Building At Kyles

This is the story of an old church-school building which is located about a quarter of a mile from my home in Kyles Community. My father, Mr. Cornelison, told me a few things about the old building.

The building consists of one large room with three windows in the back. There are two doors in the front of the building, and these are the only entrances and exists other than the windows. The building once contained ten to twelve benches and one podium at the front of the room upon a small stage.

The building is over one hundred years old. My father, who was born around 1920, attended the school five days a week. Then on Sunday most of the families in the community attended church, which was held in the same building.

Use of the building was stopped twenty years ago.

Interviewer: Raymond Cornelison
Interviewee: Mr. Lester Cornelison

Plane Crash In 1934

One morning about 4:00 a.m. Mrs. Ella Mae Sharp was in her kitchen in Kyles when she heard a plane right over the house. Her daughter, who was in bed, also heard it. No one could see the plane, however, because of the heavy fog. Suddenly the whole house trembled. Mrs. Sharp's daughter ran into the kitchen. Her son ran in about the same time and said the plane had crashed in a field close to the house. The pilot had parachuted from the plane safely. No one knew why the plane crashed, but the pilot, whose name was unknown, said he was off course because of the fog.

The pilot deputized my grandfather, Sillas Patrick Dudley, to guard the mail which was scattered all over the ground.

Interviewer: Gary Sharp
Interviewee: Mrs. Ella Mae Sharp

Langston School

The first school in Langston was located near what people called the Cobbler Springs. It was a small one-room school with a plank floor. Ed Michaeals was the only teacher in the school.

The students sat on benches made from logs. They had a table at the end of the room where the water was kept. When more water was needed, someone walked to the spring and carried the water back to the school. Everyone drank from the same container. The students walked to school because that was the only way to travel. They used primer books, sometimes called "Little Red Hen Books."

The school only went through the fourth grade; then students came to Scottsboro and went to the old Central Junior High School for the next two grades. Students then went to the Jackson County High School in Scottsboro until graduation.

Interviewers:

Phillip Wilbourn
Waylon Simpson

Interviewees:

Glen Wilbourn
Vernon Wilbourn

Longhollow's First Store

Mrs. Dixie Wyer's grandmother, Alice Cody, opened the first store in Longhollow in 1959. Fifteen people lived in the area. Mrs. Cody converted an old church into what is now Longhollow Grocery Store.

The grocery store has been handed down from generation to generation for thirteen years. Mrs. Dixie Noblet, daughter of Mrs. Cody, operated the store after her mother's death. Mrs. Noblet retired in 1970. Mrs. Dixie Wyers, her daughter, now operates the Longhollow Grocery Store.

Interviewer: Kathy Neal
Interviewee: Dixie Myers

The Old Robison Home At Longhollow

The Old Robinson Home at Longhollow was built of red cedar and weatherboarded yellow poplar. It has two brick fire places. The house is 150 years old. It was built before the Civil War and never completely finished because of the war. There were pockets built under the floor to hide meat and food from Yankee soldiers. The attic also had places to store grain and food.

Only three families have lived in the house up to now: two Robertson ancestors--William Nelson and Allen F. Robertson--and Robertson Cemetery has several slaves buried in it. These are believed to have belonged to Allen F. Robertson. The cemetery is about a half a mile down the road from the house.

There is a big spring in a cave behind the house where the families got their water. A bottom in the pond there has never been found. During the summer months, families used the spring as a refrigerator.

Ben Lindsay lives in the Robinson Home now.

Interviewer: Miss Charlene Selby
Interviewee: Mrs. Pearl Lindsay Giddens

The Rocky Springs Community

Rocky Springs is located near the Tennessee-Alabama state line at the mouth of a cove.

This area was less fertile than that along the river, but many people settled here.

In the early 1800's there was a postal service route which passed through Rocky Springs. This service consisted of mail delivery once every two weeks by a postman on horseback.

A stagecoach road was constructed along the postal route. The stagecoaches carried passengers, luggage, and mail. This brought new business to some communities, in-

cluding taverns and a ferryboat service across the streams. An inn was built at Rocky Springs by one of the established settlers. The passengers rested there, and the drivers changed their horses for the rest of the trip.

The first Church of Christ building in Alabama was built at the foot of the mountain in Rocky Springs. It was used for worship until about 1850; then it was abandoned for a larger structure. This church was occupied by Federal soldiers during the Civil War and was then burned.

Interviewer: Linda McAllister
Interviewee: Mrs. Julius Keller

Scottsboro

The city of Scottsboro is named for the family of Robert Scott, one of its early settlers who donated the land for the Jackson County Courthouse as well as for other buildings which were important to the young community. The town's earliest buildings were located along the railroad, mainly across the tracks from where downtown is today.

Scottsboro followed Bellefonte and Sauta as county seat for this county. The first records were brought here April 13, 1868, and housed on Railroad Avenue in a small oblong building which is still standing. The present courthouse is located on land once surrounded by Robert Scott's racetrack. Early in this century the courthouse burned. Additions to the building were made in 1912, 1954, and in 1968. The last addition almost doubled its size.

In 1890, a school was founded in Scottsboro which served as a college as well as an institution for earlier educational training. Shortly after its opening a typhoid epidemic broke out. Judge Virgil Bouldin decided that the cause of this problem was contaminated water at the school. Judge Bouldin produced a new water system for Scottsboro by piping spring water from Staples Mountain into Scottsboro. Because of this Virgil Bouldin has become known as the "Daddy of the Scottsboro Water System."

A number of other events have colored Scottsboro's history. Probably the most publicized is the Scottsboro Case, which has been covered so extensively in other volumes, that it will not be discussed again here. Suffice it to say that of the people who recalled this affair in various interviews, hardly a person recalled a piece of information which did not conflict with some other statement made from another person's memories.

An interesting regular feature of Scottsboro occurs on the first Monday

of every month. People from all over Alabama and other parts of the South come here to bargain with one another. In the past large animals such as pigs, cows, horses, and mules were exchanged as well as dogs of all varieties. In more recent years the trading has involved fewer animals because of laws passed against this, but the swapping is still extensive for old furniture, glassware, coins, knives and general odds and ends now useless to their owners. Children have been taught by their parents to sell high and buy low. First Monday is a popular setting for gospel preachers, singing groups, and politicians. For its participants it serves a dual purpose of entertainment and business.

Besides contributing the land which serves as the location for the courthouse, Mr. Robert Scott gave lots for the first churches as well as for the county jail. The First Baptist Church is the only church which is housed on its original site. The Methodist Church was founded where the post office is today. The Presbyterian plot was located where the parking lot of Word Lumber Company is at present. The Episcopalian lot was at the location of Shook's Laundry, and the Church of Christ was at the location of Bryant's Auto Parts. The County jail was built where the Pensions and Securities office stands.

Many old homes of Scottsboro are still standing while others have been destroyed. The Dickerson home on Railroad Street is said to be at least a hundred years old. It is now owned by Nina Griffith, but it was once the Dicus home. The old Beach home on North Houston Street was beautiful, but has recently been torn down.

The Bailey Hotel was one of the oldest inns of Scottsboro. Mrs. Nanny Bailey and her children ran it. The Baileys would meet trains which stopped in Scottsboro and would serve box lunches to the crew and passengers. This building has been torn down. Older than the Bailey was the Harris Hotel which was razed some time ago. More recently the Jessica Hotel was known by visitors and local citizens for its family-style meals.

One of the first stores in Scottsboro was Payne's Drug Store, built in 1869 by W.H. Payne. The Sentinel Age was a newspaper begun in the early 1900's, and its office was located at the present Word Arcade. The original printing press now stands on the front lawn of Scottsboro Junior High School. The first funeral home set up in Scottsboro was above Word Furniture Store and operated by Mr. Hollis. An opera house was located where Rough and Tumble Furniture Company is today. Two ladies had a private school in the opera house.

Probably the first movie theatre in Scottsboro was located where Casual Corner is now. In 1928-1929 it was run in a tent. An interesting early theatre in Scottsboro was the Airdome on the corner across from the present Word Vending Company. Mr. Robert Word established the Airdome as an experiment. It consisted of four brick walls with no ceiling at all. The seating was made of blocks of wood or planks. The screen was a white cloth draped over a cardboard backing. Mr. Word borrowed movie equipment to operate the theatre and charged an admission fee of ten cents. When it rained, the theatre provided newspapers for shields. Much of its success may be attributed to drawings held on Wednesdays and Fridays for cash prizes. The Words still own several movie theatres in Jackson County today. Another old theatre was the Bocanita, run by Tex Snodgrass. She was always there to run the place for the show. The Bocanita has an elegant appearance, but its first flooring consisted of planks laid across the ground to keep people's feet dry. The building is still owned by the Snodgrass Family, and Lorch's Jewelry Store is there today.

Not many people know where the first football stadium was. It was situated on South Market Street just below the old junior high school. Now there is no evidence of this stadium other than in the memories of people.

About fifty years ago Scottsboro was just a small country town. There were a few main roads and a railroad. Streets were unpaved. Highway 79 was the Langston Ferry Road; the "wagon-carved road" went as far as Jackson County Park; Highway 35 was the Garland Ferry Road.

Scottsboro's face is constantly changing. People who have lived here most of their lives may enjoy recalling old businesses which have been replaced by newer ones:

OLD BUILDINGS

Ice and Coal Plant
Bocanita Theatre
Vann's Ten Cent Store
Rock House Cafe
Hunts Grocery
Fate Miller Grocery
Chevrolet Place
Henshaw's Grocery
Owen's Grocery
Scottsboro Hardware
Armstrong Cleaners
Cobb Grocery
Old Theatre Place
Woods Grocery
Martin's Grocery
Progressive Age
Ford Place
Pool Room
Jones Dry Goods
Caldwell Grocery
J.C. Jacobs Bank

Scottsboro Funeral Home
Gulf Service Station

NEW BUILDINGS

Gaytred Warehouse
Lorch's
Sterchi's
All Sport Sporting Goods
Moonlight Cafe
Hammers
David Lee's
Word Arcade
Skelton's Drug
Cato's
Old Top Dollar Store Building
Derrick's Department Store expanded
Causal Corner
Crawford Cleaners
Dr. Lynch's Office
Scottsboro Antiques
S.B. Manning's
Sterchi's
T.V. Cable
Parking lot of Skelton's Drugs
Skeleton's Drugs

Robert Scott, buried just off Highway 35 before the overpass, probably would be amazed by the city named after him. New industry is steadily coming to this area and causing the city's population to increase rapidly. It is said that Scottsboro is the fastest-growing town in North Alabama.

Interviewers:

Robert Cash
Jana Downey
Gwen Drinkard
Lois Dudley
Theresa Fischer
Chuck Gibson
Valerie Gogen
Mike Green
Shelia Hale
Rita Harless
Steve Patrick
Pam Sims
Sallie Stratton
Mark Thomas
Anita Walker
Brenda Whitehead
Kay Whitehead
Stanley Woodall

Interviewees:

Mr. Virgil Bouldin
Mrs. R.R. Bridges, Sr.
Mrs. Nell Casl.
Miss Mary Cotten
Mrs. Gogan
Mr. Frank Griggs
Mr. Lee Hancock
Mrs. Mary Hastings
Mrs. Sanford E. Holland
Mr. and Mrs. Loudermilk
Mr. Richard Patrick
Mrs. C.O. Penny
Mr. Gene Thomas
Mrs. Annie Lee Webb.

Scottsboro Freight Depot

Mr. Frank Grigg states, "You may remember the depot that was right across from us here to the north. That

was the passenger depot. It was not here during the Civil War, but the freight depot was. The town was centered around where the depot is today. It is the only building in Scottsboro that received a shell shot during the Civil War." Mr. Griggs tells the following story:

"Captain Lyon left Tennessee down through Maynor's Cove. He went down what we call Tupelo Pike. He left this road and went down Kyle Street which was, at that time, the old stage road from Tennessee. He was crossing the railroad where the welding shop is today. He looked down the old depot and saw some Yankee troops unloading supplies. Captain Lyon, being sort of a daring fellow, ordered the one gun he had to be unlimbered and fired. It was a direct hit on the east end of the depot. This frightened the troops and they ran away, deserting their ports. The people of Scottsboro came back to the depot and got the supplies which they needed very badly. The scar on the depot can be seen today. That is probably the only cannon shot in Scottsboro. We did have many skirmishes though. One occurred where the Church of God is now. That was probably the biggest one."

Interviewer: Anita Walker

Interviewee: Mr. Frank Griggs

Triple Hanging

During the 1850's, a man named Henry Porter moved here from England. He had disease and was expected to die, but his condition began to improve. Then he built a home on Sand Mountain and called it Porter's Bluff. Porter, his wife, his wife's sister, and the two girls who lived in the house were well liked by everyone.

One night the household was awakened by the sound of gunshots. This night of March, 1883, became a nightmare. The members of the household saw four men coming toward the house. The men entered and demanded five hundred dollars, which Mr. Porter did not have. The men, now angry, set a bed on fire, using coal oil.

Trying to salvage some of their belongings, one of the younger girls was pushed into the burning house by one of the men.

The people wanted to hang whoever committed the crime, even though they were generally opposed to hanging.

John Grayson, an older man named George Smith, and two young boys, George and Asbury Hughes were arrested a few days later. They admitted stealing some meat, but insisted that they were innocent concerning the houseburning.

They were tried in Bridgeport. Three of them were convicted of arson.

George Smith was caught last. Smith testified that he had nothing to do with the incident, but he stated that he probably deserved a hanging for some other crimes that he had committed in other states.

In June the next year they stood trial, and they all claimed to be innocent throughout the trial.

George Smith and the Hughes brothers were sentenced to hang, but John Grayson received life imprisonment. Three thousand people came to watch the hanging. The sentences given had caused mixed feelings.

Before the hanging, each man was baptized in jail, and each spoke to the crowd declaring his innocence.

They were hanged in privacy in Scottsboro.

This was the first time that a white man was hanged for arson in Alabama.

A few years later an old schoolteacher confessed to burning the house down. He confessed it while on his deathbed; he died only a short while later.

After hearing the confession, people were quite stirred by the thought that three innocent victims of justice had been mistakenly hanged. This incident created so much resentment and mixed emotions around Jackson County and the surrounding area that the triple hanging was marked as one of the last hangings ever to occur in Jackson County.

Interviewers:

Valerie Gogan
Mike Carter

Interviewees:

Mr. Ken Gist
Mrs. Lucas Stanfield

Last Hanging In Jackson County

The last person to be hanged in Jackson County, according to Mr. Snodgrass, was Mr. Bob Rucketts, accused of murdering his wife. Mr. Rucketts was having an affair with another woman. When he asked his wife for a divorce, she refused, so he killed her and threw her into a sink hole. She was found three weeks later by neighbors.

Mr. Rucketts was arrested, tried and sentenced to death by hanging from the neck until dead. He was hanged from a

scaffold on Maple Avenue in 1891. There is now a little white house sitting off the road near the place where he was hanged.

Mr. Rucketts rode on the back of a wagon on top of his coffin to the place where he was to be hanged.

Interviewer: Constance McQueen
Interviewee: Mr. Wiley Snodgrass

Trapped Convicts

In the late 1930's a truck carrying Negro convicts from Camp Scottsboro was accidentally set on fire. Seventeen of the twenty-two convicts were burned to death because the door to their wagon was locked. Five of the convicts escaped the flames only to die later of severe burns.

Other countries confused the convicts with the nine Scottsboro boys. They reported that Scottsboro citizens had set the Scottsboro boys on fire.

Interviewer: Robert Cash
Interviewee: Hollis Cash

Deaths Of Two Firemen

There have been many tragic deaths in our county. The following is an account of one such death that affected deeply the residents of Scottsboro.

Captain Lonnie Webb of the Scottsboro Fire Department, station 1, told us about the tragic deaths of two firemen in 1967.

Floyd Dawson and E.V. Bishop were firemen for the city of Scottsboro. Floyd, known as "Shank" Dawson, and E.V., known as "Shorty" Bishop, were well-known and loved by their fellow workers.

On September 1, 1967, they were called to assist the Hollywood Fire Department. En route they had a tragic wreck that shocked the entire city. A little go-cart was in front of a car going in the direction of the fire truck. The car went around the go-cart and pulled into the path of the fire truck. The collision killed one of the firemen, and the other died enroute to the hospital. The loss of these two firemen was one of the most tragic things that ever happened in Scottsboro.

Interviewers:
Robert Brooks
Terry Shelton
Interviewee: Captain Lonnie Webb

Section Shooting

In 1918, a man from Section killed his

wife and younger daughter. He reportedly had found some cows tearing his corn field apart, and thinking his family somehow responsible, had murdered them in cold blood.

His ten year old daughter was the only person to escape the man's rage. She ran from the house and hid in a gristmill.

After killing his wife and other daughter, the man went to the apple orchard and shot himself. He recovered, however, and was tried and sentenced to death. He was hanged from an oak tree next to a church.

The daughter who survived later discovered that the cows who tore her father's field were his own.

Interviewers:
Joni Douglas
Carnell Townson
Interviewee: J.M. Brown

The Founding Of Skyline

In the 1940's Congress gave President Roosevelt permission to start a colony on Cumberland Mountain. Mr. W.I. Floyd was in charge of the operation and supervised about fifty men.

People from Sand Mountain moved out to the colony which was named Skyline. They bought houses which included three bedrooms, a kitchen, and a dining room. Each farmer also had one hundred twenty acres of land, which he plowed with oxen. The farmers paid the government once a year from the money they made from the crops they grew. Most of the people who bought these houses still live in Skyline.

Mr. and Mrs. W.I. Floyd, ninety and eighty-three years old respectively, still live at Skyline today. Their house when first built, had three rooms. Later, one of the rooms was converted into a sawmill. At first they did not have any windowpanes in their home. They had to nail planks over the windows to keep the cold wind and rain out. Mrs. Floyd said she had to nail pasteboard on the wall for wallpaper. There was no electric power. Their house was the first completed house at Skyline. The house next to it was used for the first school on Cumberland Mountain.

Mr. Lester Anderson was in charge of building the road constructed up the mountain. When the crews reached the top the government gave a big barbeque. It was supposed to be a banquet for everybody, but so many people were going hungry that some of the workers did not get anything to eat.

Interviewers:
Danny Osborne
Beverly Johns

Interviewees:
Royce Osborne
Mrs. Manning

The Rock Store At Skyline

One of the oldest buildings in Skyline is the Rock Store. The building is made from sand-rock of many colors.

For many years this store was the only place to get supplies that could not be grown on the farms. Often there was not much business because the only method of travel was horse and wagon. It took at least one day to travel to Scottsboro and home again.

The store is now very modern. It is heated by a huge stove that is near the front of the building. Elderly people often sit around the stove and exchange news and stories.

Interviewer: Joe Cornelius
Interviewee: Virgil Brewer

Temperance Hill School

Temperance Hill School was once located at Goosepond, Alabama, where the Cagleline Truck Terminal is now located. The building which was used as the school has been remodeled, and the truck line is now using it. The small school had several rooms including an auditorium. The school had only six grades. In most of the classrooms there were chairs around tables, and in some rooms there were desks.

The school was heated by coal and wood heaters. Mr. Jack Evett and his daughters cut the wood, which was mainly hickory and oak, and brought the wood to the school by wagon. Each room contained one heater.

The school grounds were very rocky. There was not much room for the children to play. Most of them, especially the girls, went home with their knees and elbows skinned. They played the usual games children play. Softball was a very common sport.

Since the school had no lunchroom, the teachers and pupils brought a packed lunch to school. Their water came from a well that was yellow mineral water. There was barely enough to furnish the school. The restrooms were on the outside.

The principal, Mrs. Houston Dicus, is still living today. Mrs. Dicus rang a

hand bell to call the children in to school. She was a strict principal and believed in using the paddle instantly. One of the teachers, Miss Gertrude Stockton, also believed in strict punishment. Her favorite weapon was a ruler. She slapped legs that were protruding into the aisle when they should have been under the desk.

The children dressed simply. No pants were worn by the girls. Many of the boys wore overalls. It was considered proper for the girls' dresses to come over the knee. They did not enjoy riding the "rickety-rackety" school buses over the poorly constructed roads. They did enjoy putting up a Christmas tree, having Easter egg hunts, and other holidays we enjoy today.

Interviewer: Debra Wildman
Interviewee: Mrs. Pauline Wildman

The First Wannville Church

The first church in Wannville was used as a general meeting place and recreational area. It was on one acre of land which was set aside by the owner, J.D. Shrader's great-grandfather.

When the church was first built in the late 1800's, it was only a one-story building with a hitching post in front. In 1910 the church burned. This time the building was two stories with a bell tower. About 1912 the top story and the bell tower were removed. It then became the first school in Wannville.

Interviewer: Carol Miller
Interviewee: J.D. Shrader

Woodville

Although Woodville is now a currently changing community, electrical power did not exist until 1947. Kerosene lamps provided light, and water was drawn from wells.

One of the most tragic events that occurred in Woodville was the burning of the high school in the early 1950's. The exact cause of the fire was undetermined, but it was thought to have been started by sparks from an old flue. Although the old building was completely destroyed, all persons escaped injury.

Some men attending class under the GI Bill were at the school when the fire occurred. They managed to save several typewriters by tossing them out the windows.

During the remainder of the school term, classes were held in the church

buildings in Woodville.

Interviewers:
Nelson Page
John Hughes
Interviewee: Edward Page

Natural Phenomena

The Blowing Well

Frank Vandiver used to visit a family who lived on what he called "Dishroom Place." At the present time, three of the four members in the family have died. The fourth has moved to another location. The head of this family, Mr. Luke Sanders, has told some interesting stories about the countryside to Mr. Vandiver.

One of the most interesting stories is one about the Blowing Well. This well is located in Jacob's Hollow. The Blowing Well resembles a sinkhole, with the exception of a creek running through the bottom measuring three or four feet in diameter. The well is almost circular. It is very easy to fall into unless one knows about it.

The distance from the top of the well to the surface of the water is approximately twenty feet. Mr. Vandiver did not know the depth of the water, but he thought it was not very deep. However, one might be seriously hurt or killed if he fell into the well because of the rocks and the long fall down.

There is a special entrance into the well that moonshiners have used in the past to get inside. Mr. Sanders told Mr. Vandiver that there used to be a still located at the bottom of the Blowing Well at one time, and it stayed there a number of years.

The Blowing Well still exists, but it is extremely hard to find unless one knows exactly where it is located.

Interviewer: Pam Vandiver
Interviewee: Frank Vandiver

The Indian Rocks

Mr. "Tac" Pace of Boxes Cove related that the Indian Rocks are located off Highway 79 North, close to the top of Skyline Mountain. The Indian Rocks are a combination of eighteen caves on one stone cliff. It is said that the Indians hid in these caves when Andrew Jackson was rounding up all of the Indians in Alabama and carrying them to reservations somewhere farther west. These caves are a network of underground passages into a large mountain. The caves are three ledges high, which would be about equal to the heights of a six-to seven-story building.

In these caves are some deep bluffs or drop-offs that drop a thousand feet or more. Many men and several young boys have tried exploring the caves. In

some of them, when one gets to a big drop-off, he can sit there and look down all day and not want to go an inch further.

These caves have several springs with water running in them all the time. The caves would be a good fallout shelter except for the trouble of getting to them. There is no way to get to them unless one walks, rides a jeep, or rides a horse to them. Some people would not stay there in the first place because they say it is too scary; it makes one feel that there is someone watching all of the time. To others the place seems peaceful.

Interviewer: Boyd McClure
Interviewee: Tac Pace

Starkey Island

According to an old fisherman who has lived between Bellefonte and the Comer River Bridge, Starkey Island is a very interesting place located just above Bellefonte.

One story that was told to me was about an old man who lived there, had a still, and raised goats. Today part of his home is still standing, and a few wild goats still remain.

Many of the fishermen used to meet at the old man's shack at night after their work was done to play cards and drink. People say that there have been many good fights at the card games. About twenty years ago this shack was considered an exciting place. Nowadays, the old island is just used by hunters and fishermen. Most people have never heard of the island or even know where it is located. However, to the old fisherman and other people who had good times there, it is a memorable place.

Interviewer: Donnie Hyatt
Interviewee: Old Mack, a fisherman at Bellefonte

Poorhouse Mountain

Poorhouse Mountain is two miles north of Hollywood. It got its name because there used to be a Poorhouse for the needy on this mountain. It was used in the early 1920's, but nobody knows exactly when its use was discontinued.

There are more than thirteen poor men's graves found a half mile north of where the old house once stood. The graves are marked with five-foot limestone slabs, over three feet of which is buried.

It is said the Indians once met near a bluff only fifty yards east of the graves.

Overlooking the bluff is a rock into which the Indians carved hand and foot prints, a figure of a man, and a cross. They also cut out a deep bowl-shaped hole which was used to mix paint and medicine.

A rock trail, made of ten-inch rocks, leads to a small cave just a little distance from the top. This cave goes back about five feet and is about five feet high. The cave seems to be a natural one because it is lined with igneous rock.

The mountain is now owned by a man who lives in Scottsboro, his name is Virgil "Dude" Bouldin.

Interviewer: Bruce Sloan

Valley Of Eden

After the Civil War, many people were starving in the South because the war had destroyed most of their crops. Many people went in search of food and found Irish potatoes in a valley they called the "Valley of Eden," which was later called Paint Rock Valley.

Interviewer: Joan Pursley
Interviewee: Mr. Robert Wynn

The Blowing Cave

The Blowing Cave is located at Route One, Fackler, Alabama, at a place called "the end of the creek." This cave is popular for its change in the weather. In the summertime it blows cool air, and in winter it blows warm air.

Inside the cave are many rooms. People have used the Blowing Cave for shelter from tornadoes and other storms. Unfortunately, many of the rooms have been washed away by great gushes of water, which are known to come unexpectedly from the cave.

Many people have told that the end of the cave comes out in Winchester, Tennessee. Some say they have traveled all through the cave, and it took from three to four days to reach the other side.

Once a family had entered the cave because there was a very bad storm. About half-way through the storm, they heard a roaring coming from further back in the cave. They hurried out of the cave just in time to see cans, rocks and other

debris coming from the cave. This time, over three or four rooms were washed away by the water.

The cave is now posted, and people enter at their own risk.

Interviewer:
Cathy Wilkerson
Tom Kolarik

Cave At Guesses Creek

There is a cave at Guesses Creek that makes a person colder as he gets to it. The original name of this cave has been forgotten. When anyone walks into it, the experience is like walking into a gigantic room. In the rear of the cave there is a small stream.

Many Indian signs and mounds are in the cave. It is said that a few years ago an old Indian man slipped into the cave and dug up some of the graves. Supposedly, he took some of the articles buried with the Indians.

The cave has served many useful purposes. People once kept their milk and butter in it to keep it from spoiling. Also when cemetery decorations were held, some people would gather at this cave before going to the affair. Guesses Cave is another of the many interesting caves explored by this publication.

Interviewer: Irene Mitchell
Interviewee: Rachel Myers

Meeker Cave

Meeker Cave is located in Sweden's Cove near Stevenson. The cave was first found in 1888 by Mr. T.R. Meeker. In the early 1900's the cave was used for the mining of coal, but this only lasted about two years.

Deerhunters frequently camp in the cave for days. Also many tourists visit there.

Interviewer: Stanley Parker
Interviewee: Ricky Steele

The Old Lead Mine

There is a cave with lead deposits stored in it, going under Crow Mountain at Big Coon. It was discovered before the Civil War and mined on a small scale. The lead was hauled to Stevenson and made into bullets. Because of Union soldiers during the Civil War, bullet molds and a small furnace were moved to the mine for protection from forces at Stevenson. Here the bullets were made for the Confederate soldiers. However, very few bullets reached them. Instead they were distributed among the farmers. As far as anyone knows, a landslide covered

the mouth of the cave and hid it. The molds, furnace and mining equipment, along with lead ladles and water buckets, are still in the cave.

Interviewer: Jerry Cunningham
Interviewee: Jeffery Bailey

Russell Cave

People say that Russell Cave had people living in it hundreds of years ago. The cave is located in the northeastern part of Jackson County near Bridgeport.

The cave is now a national monument, and tours are conducted there. A building at the cave houses articles that men have found in the area.

Explorers have found old bones of people and animals. Some pottery has been found, and some of the old weapons are on display in the buildings.

Interviewer: Michael Lewis

Salt Peter Cave

Salt Peter Cave is located near Scottsboro on the road to Aspel at Sauta. The cave was once used by the Indians for shelter and during the Civil War to mine saltpeter for explosives. It was the first county seat for Jackson County until 1821 when Bellefonte received this distinction.

Salt Peter Cave made history during the Civil War because of extensive mine operations carried on by the Confederate government. Therefore, production reached its peak at the outbreak of the war. Men around Scottsboro could meet their military obligations by working the mine. Mrs. A.B. Petty's grandfather worked there around 1862 and 1863.

Until that time, Jerry French had owned the mine and John B. Boren operated it. Shortly after, French sold the mine. It was taken over by the federal government when General Mitchell found the cave and took all the workers prisoners.

To get the matter from the cave, a track of sweet gum poles was laid a quarter of a mile into the opening. Mules were used to pull the material out when it reached the opening. It was then dumped into a large hopper. Water came from a spring a quarter of a mile from the cave near the top of Gunter's Mountain. Particles from the interior were then combined with ashes.

Next the mixture was boiled in huge kettles. The product, saltpeter was poured up and sent to the railway station five miles away at Larkinsville. It was then shipped to Rome, Georgia, where it was used for gun powder.

There is a huge rock near the mouth of the cave. Under the rock are buried a Negro man and a horse. The rock fell from a ledge and buried the pair as they were hauling saltpeter from the cave.

After the war the government sold this property to Jim Matthews. He and his family used this place as a dance hall. They also built a cafe and cabins. On Saturday nights cock fights were held.

The cave is approximately forty feet wide, thirty feet high and about two and one-half miles deep in solid rock. The temperature in the cave is about 55 degrees F. On the walls of the cave are names of people who have visited the cave and the date of the visits. They are written with soapstones.

There is another opening to Salt Peter Cave. It is 250 feet above the main entrance. The cave below the main opening is a branch of Salt Peter Cave. There are metal gates in front of all the entrances of this cave.

In the cave there is a creek that contains blind fish. Beyond the creek, the cave forks off in two or three directions. To get to a larger room of the cave, it is necessary to crawl through a small hole.

People use to gather to explore the cave. Several efforts have been made to develop this cave because of its potential as a tourist attraction. As one looks toward the outside, the opening resembles a ball of fire. Toward the back there is a mountain called Rocky Mountain. When examining this part of the cave, explorers must be careful not to take a wrong turn coming out.

The cave is now being used as a fallout shelter by Jackson County's Civil Department.

Interviewers:
Jana Downey
Chuck Gibson
Tom Green
Mike Greene
Cindy Hicks
Tom Kolarik
Steve Maynor
Steve Patrick
Gay Zilbert
Interviewees:
Rose Dulaney
Mr. Lee Hancock
Mr. Chester Hastings
Mrs. A.L. Petty
Bertha Sparks

The Cave Of Water

In an interview with Howard Tidwell, age forty, I found that there is a cave below the Heartline Mines on Skyline Mountain. He told me of his exploration of it.

He found it accidentally and decided to return to it later. He came back with an old kerosene lamp and went into the cave. The entrance was extremely small, and he had to crawl through it. He came to a large room with a pond in the middle of it. He found four exits in the large room and decided to explore the largest. He walked approximately a mile before reaching a wet passage. The further he walked, the deeper it got, and finally it was up to his waist. The ceiling appeared to get lower and lower. Finally the water began to get shallow, and he found another large room. He saw an exit and realized it was to the outside because the sunlight shone through. He climbed up on a ledge and slipped out. He was now far down in the valley. He had to walk the entire way up the mountain because he did not want to go back the way he came.

Interviewer: Monte Washburn
Interviewee: Howard Tidwell

Introduction

Disastrous weather events have riddled Jackson County periodically. This county has had its share of ice storms, floods, snows and tornadoes. The following are accounts of a few such events.

Flood Of 1905

On February 28, 1905, a flood took place around the community of Big Coon. Big Coon is a small settlement seven or eight miles from Stevenson, Alabama. A cloud came up and burst with the water rising higher and higher every minute. The water was rising so high that the people put all the children in hickory nut trees to keep them safe.

The water was everywhere. It was in homes, sheds, and anything that water could get into. Several hundred stock drowned. A few of the older people drowned because they could not get out fast enough.

The water stayed at a high level for about two hours and then began going down. When the water went down, it became obvious that homes had been completely destroyed. It took the people a long time to repair their homes adequately and replace the stock that

had drowned. The flood of 1905 was an experience the older generation will never forget.

Interviewer: Debra Edmonds
Interviewee: Mrs. Mary Scott

Tornado

In 1927, when Mrs. George Manning was a little girl, there was a terrible storm in Jackson County. The lightning was flashing so fast that the sky stayed lighted all the time. She remembered her father going out on the porch and coming back in, talking about the big roar that the storm was causing.

The tornado which passed by her tiny community went instead through Tupelo and across the ridge through Maynor's Cove, destroyed homes and other buildings. She remembers seeing one house with all the walls destroyed and only the floor remaining. On the floor was some food in glass jars that were not broken, but everything else in the house was destroyed. About nine people from Tupelo were killed during the tornado, and several more were hurt. Mrs. Manning said that a huge rock was blown out from under a porch, and a wagon in Box's Cove was blown across the mountain to Fackler or Kyles. A small child was blown into the top of a tree where he stayed for several hours.

Mrs. Manning said this was probably the most severe tornado in Jackson County's history.

Interviewer: Bonnie Manning Franklin
Interviewee: Mrs. George Manning

Tornado Of 1932

On the night of March 21, 1932, at seven o'clock p.m., a loud noise was heard in Paint Rock. Mrs. Bessie Smith said it sounded like a freight train coming. It had started as a pretty day, and Mrs. Smith had worked in her garden until the rain ran her inside.

When the storm began to get pretty bad, she took her two children into the middle bedroom where they huddled up together. All at once their house was blown away. They were knocked unconscious from the blow. When they came to, they had no house around them. Fortunately, however, no one was hurt except for bruises and soreness.

Mrs. Smith wanted desperately to reach her husband who was a night watchman at the hosiery mill. The roads were flooded and power lines

were down. Mrs. Smith and the children stopped at the home of Leona O'Neal, an old friend. They decided it would be best for Mr. O'Neal and another man to go check on Mr. Smith. They returned with the news that he was dead. His neck had been broken when a beam fell on him.

The hotel and Rousseau's Store, both two stories high, blew down. Broken possessions of the people in the valley were scattered across the railroad and the river and were carried up the mountain by the wind.

Mrs. Smith had to move to Scottsboro to find work, and she still lives here. She is eighty-one years old, but remembers the tornado of '32 as if it were yesterday.

Interviewers:
Brenda Whitehead
Deleslyn Bruce
Rachel Lockard
Interviewee: Mrs. Bessie Smith

The Storm

This is the story of the tornado that hit Scottsboro in early 1956, as told by Grady Smith.

"All of a sudden there was a loud roar as if the Joe Wheeler were thundering through town. It was late Friday or early Saturday morning. I went outside and there was a yellow, hazy light in the west. After I had looked around awhile, I decided to go back to bed.

"The next morning I discovered that a tornado had hit Scottsboro. Trees were uprooted and lying in the streets and on cars. Electrical power was off, and the power lines were lying all over the streets. Roofs were blown off houses, and much property was damaged.

"There was a bedspread company, Bamatuft, located near where the old Buick Auto Company used to be. The factory was completely blown away and was never rebuilt.

"People were needing building supplies so badly that Patrick Lumber Company, where I worked, stayed open until two o'clock Sunday afternoon."

This was the worst disaster to hit Scottsboro since the fire in 1908.

Interviewers:
Eugene Smith
Ricky Selby
Interviewee: Grady Smith

Ice Storm

It began raining early one morning in 1960 and continued raining all day. The temperature dropped radically during the day, and the rain began freezing. Late that evening limbs began cracking, and trees began breaking. The temperature was still falling, and the freezing rain continued drizzling down.

By the next morning all the electric lines at Skyline were on the ground, and everyone was out of electricity. The power company tried to fix the lines, but they were covered with so much ice that they broke again. It was bitter cold, and due to the increasing number of lines down, the power company began begging people to help in repairing them. They could not accomplish much, however, because it was so cold.

Later that day, the temperature dropped still further, and the ground became a solid sheet of ice. Mrs. Manning remembers a fence out by her home that looked like a block of ice all the way to the ground. They had to cook on a wood stove, and Mrs. Manning's job was to go outside and break off bits of ice for their tea.

One of the main problems in this storm was the absolute lack of communication that it caused. There was, of course, no radio, and the roads were impossible due to the ice.

After a few days of slightly warmer weather, people from other areas of the country came up the mountain just to see the ice. One man from Tupelo stated that it was worth every bit of fifty dollars just to see it!

Mrs. Manning stated that the people in Skyline were without electricity for two weeks. She is sure that it is the biggest ice storm ever seen in Jackson County.

Interviewers:

Bonnie Manning Franklin
Al Butler

Interviewees:

Mrs. George Manning
Mr. Alvin Butler

The power lines broke from the weight of ice. For eleven days there was no electricity, and people with electric heat were forced to stay with their relatives.

Interviewer: Randall Harrison
Interviewee: Jack Martin

Big Snow

During the second week of December, 1961, snow began falling on Cumberland Mountain. Temperatures dropped rapidly, and by nightfall it was ten degrees. The next morning people awoke to find a foot of snow spread all across the mountain. In some spots the drifts covered cars.

Tombstones And Such

Introduction

Tombstones can be of interest to genealogists as well as to people simply interested in learning more about their family backgrounds. This chapter contains information gathered from various cemeteries around Jackson County.

Bryant Cemetery

CARNES, ALABAMA

Irena Bryant
Oct. 11, 1820
Nov. 14, 1897

Her spirit smiles from that bright shore, and softly whispers, Weep no more.

John Bryant
Born
September 3, 1818
Died
March 7, 1889

God gave. He took. He will restore.
He doeth all things well.

John P. Bryant
June 10, 1865
March 8, 1899

Tis hard to break the tender cord
When love has bound the heart
Tis hard so hard to speak the word
We must forever part,
Dearest loved one we must
lay thee in the peaceful
grave's embrace,
But thy memory will be cherished.
Till we see thy heavenly face.

Rebel L.
infant son of
J.P. and Danna Bryant
Born March 4, 1895
Died April 22, 1895
Sleep on little Rebel and take thy rest.
God calleth thee home, He thought it best.

CONTRIBUTORS: Miranda Jacobs

Burgess Cemetery

SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA

Joseph B. Reed
was born
Dec. the 31st 1860
and died
April the 20th 1890

Hugh Boyd
son of
N.H. and Martha Shumake
Born
April 6, 1898
Died
April 6, 1899

No pain, no grief, no anxious fear can touch the peaceful sleeper here.

Cedar Hill Cem

Louisa Catherine
Whitworth
Born in Franklin Co. Tenn.
May 24, 1829
Died at her home in
Scottsboro, Ala.
July 21, 1884

A faithful loving wife and humble Christian has gone to rest.
We will meet again.

CONTRIBUTOR: Susan Henshaw

Cedar Hill Cemetery

SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA

Bennie Coffey
daughter of J.C. and N.E.
Jacobs
August 28, 1884
October 17, 1897

She was too good, too gentle, and too fair to dwell in this cold world of ours.

Lucinda Jane Frazier
Born
May 15th 1816
Died
June 26th 1886

I saw the river of life pure as air white as snow.

Death bed words

Walter Henderson
Jan. 8, 1900 - Feb. 2, 1901
Rest in Peace, my lamb.

Mollie Hickey
1814 - 1952
We will meet again.

Denny Holliver
Aug. 15, 1945 - Mar. 18, 1968
Gone to join his brother, now both may rest.

Lawrence Holliver
July 2, 1943 - Sept. 5, 1965
Here lies our son, where he longed to be.

Rest In Peace.

John P. Oliver
June 9, 1912 - Dec. 30, 1964
We will meet again.

Catherine Peterson
1880 - 1940
She was too good for this world.

Charles A. Reed
Born
October 11, 1861
Died
October 25, 1882
Death is but a path that must be trod

if man would ever pass to God.

Martha Ann
Scarborough
Born
Nov. 4, 1823
Died

April 20, 1903
Earth has one sweet spirit less,
Heaven one inmate more.

Mary Etta Springer
1876 - 1947
There is peace in heaven.

Ann G.
wife of
Rev. G.J. Stockston
born
June 3, 1816
died
September 19, 1881
Fifty years she was a member of the C.P. Church and twenty years a life member of the B.M.'s

Carter Brandon
CPL Tenn. Militia
War of 1812
June 2, 1861

Sally, wife of Col. Richard B. Clayton who departed this life June the 4th, 1828 age 32 years, 9 months, and 20 days.

John Davenport
Alabama CPL
852 Co. Trans. Corps
Born: 1888 Died 1946

In Memory of Mary Frazier
Born Jan. 17th, 1799
Died Dec. 31, 1818

W.M. Herrington
1895 - 1917
Veteran of World War I

Rosie Jackson
Mar. 10 1912 - Feb. 20, 1913
Rest in Peace

Elizabeth Jenkins
Jan. 12, 1800 - Nov. 3, 1880
Our mother

John Jenkins
Born October 2, 1829
Died January 5, 1885
At Rest

Belle Deura Matthews
Born December 16, 1852
Died May 8, 1891

Joseph Money
Pvt. 18 Bn. Ala. Inf.
CSA
Apr. 21, 1928

Albert Owens

Coi. 1 2 Ala. Inf.
Sp. Am. War

William Porter
Dec. 15, 1890 - June 20, 1956
Veteran of World War I

Jane Proctor
Born Jan. 7, 1786
Died Jan. 18, 1863.

Jeremiah Proctor
Tennessee
Pvt. 1 Regt. West Tenn. Militia
War of 1812
1777 - 1839

The following epitaphs of interest
were also found in Cedar Hill
Cemetery:

O be joyful unto the Lord,
Let us heartily rejoice in the
strength of His salvation.

It was hard indeed to part with thee,
But Christ's strong arm supported
me.

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the
bar

When I put out to sea.

God gives us love,
Something to love,
He lends us.

She was a kind and affectionate wife.
a fond mother and a friend to all.

A loving wife, a mother dear,
lies buried here.

Woe thou who no longer stay
To cheer me with thy love
I hope to meet with thee again
In yon bright world above

Since he went home
the long, long days have
Crept away like years.
The sunlight is dimmed
With doubts and fears and
Dark nights rained many tears

Contributed by Deleslyn Bruce,
Miranda Jacobs, Rachel Lockard, and
Carol Miller.

Freeman's Cemetery

WOOD'S COVE, ALABAMA

Inf. son of W.E. & Bessie Carter
born and died
Feb. 10, 1903

Julia A. Childress
Born Dec. 6, 1832
Died Jan. 15, 1905
Age 72 years
1 mo. & 9 days

Sleep on dear mother,
And take thy rest.
God called thee home,
He thought it best.

James A. Gayle
born
March 2, 1827
died
May 1, 1903

M.J. Gayle
born
Oct. 13, 1822
died
Aug. 18, 1894

Mary Alice Judge
April 22, 1867
June 14, 1936

Robert M. Judge
1864 - 1950

W.A. Roach
Oct. 26, 1877
May 23, 1940

Mary E.
Wife of
A.F. Rounsavall
born Dec. 25, 1835
died Jan. 29, 1875

Willie E. Swaim
Dec. 29, 1901
Oct. 26, 1924

Willie
Son of W.S. and Ellen White
Born Dec. 17, 1895
Died Sept. 6, 1896
He was the sunshine of our home.

J.R.
Son of J.W. & S.C. Wilhelms
Born
Nov. 27, 1887
Died
Sept. 18, 1908
Though thou art gone
Fond memories cling to thee.

Contributed by Glenda Durham.

Goosepond Cemetery

SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA

Dovie Belle
Born: November 28, 1876
Died: January 26, 1945
She has changed her cross for a crown.

Jonathan Finney
Born: August 11, 1872
Died: July 20, 1958
His memory is blessed.

Carl Law
Born February 28 1894
Died: January 17, 1972
Earth has no sorrow that heaven
cannot heal.

Eligah B. Tigon
Robertson Cem

Born: November 16, 1814
Died: July 5, 1894
Gone but not forgotten

Contributed by: Michael Wilson

Hollywood Cemetery

HOLLYWOOD, ALABAMA

Father
Elias Barber
April 8, 1789
October 30, 1884

Maurine Bryant
1915 - 1915

Ephrim Robert Carter
Alabama
52 USNR
World War II
Feb. 11, 1911
Jan. 18, 1957

Frank
Cobb Jr.
PFC
366 Infantry
97 Division
World War I
October 3, 1893
Jan. 30, 1951

Albert Baxton Dudley
Born April 22, 1837
Died June 2, 1872
Resting 'til the resurrection.

S. Alabama Elkins
Born
Dec. 21, 1839
Died
Feb. 4, 1905
Farewell, dear mother, Sweetly rest.
Weary with years and worn with pain.
Farewell till in some happy place, We
shall behold thy face again.

Elijah Ellison
Cpl 527 Serv. Bn.
Engr. Corps
World War I
April 4, 1898
February 27, 1945

Calvin Hartley
Co. H
55 Ala. Unit
CSA

Calvin Hartly
Jan. 4, 1830
to
Sept. 4, 1896

Curtis Alexander Holt
Alabama M Sgt
60 Infantry WW II Korea
Oct. 31, 1911
Dec. 31, 1958
55 & OLC - BSN

Tosin Hunter
1885 - 1886

S.B. Kennamer
Died
July 2, 1894
Aged
79 years 11 months 28 days

Owen Moore
Owen Moore has gone away, owing
more than he could pay.

B.H. Pennington
Born
Dec. 5, 1847
Died
Oct. 9, 1909
A father dear lies buried here.

John Strange
"Here lies an honest lawyer" That is
Strange

George Tally Jr.
Nov. 6, 1941
Budded on earth to bloom in heaven.

Tilda Tubbs
wife of
John M. Womack
1885 - 1913
AT REST

Mildred Wilson
Born - Feb., 1811
Died - April, 1884

Thomas Wilson
Born - Dec. 11, 1799
Died - April, 1884

Philip D. Wink
1818 - 1853

Sam C. Wynn
Born
March 10, 1881
Died
August 2, 1951
Father

Stella May Wynn
Sept. 21, 1911
June 6, 1926
She was the sunshine of our home.

Contributed by: Tom Gibson, Pam
McGinty, Mark Thomas

Inglis Cemetery

CARNES, ALABAMA

Inglis
Eliza J.
wife of
E.R. Inglis
Born Jan. 23, 1839
Died March 16, 1868
Faithful to her trust, even unto death.

Martha A. Baker
wife of

R.E. Inglis
May 15, 1895
Down in her low and narrow bed she
sleeps among the quiet dead with every
earthly sorrow past our dear one is
home at last.

CONTRIBUTED: Miranda Jacobs

Larkinsville Cemetery

LARKINSVILLE, ALABAMA

Claude Blakemore Berry
Born March 29, 1899
Died Sept. 21, 1900
"Sweet babe has gone to be an angel"

Margaret Melvina Berry
Born Oct. 8, 1881
Died April 19, 1898
"Her spirit smiles from that bright
shore and softly whispers, weep no
more."

Stagy Bryant
Wife of Wm. G. Berry
Born Dec. 24, 1848
Died May 2, 1880
Her happy soul has winged its way to
one pure, bright eternal day.

Johnnie Compton
Wife of Sg. Hamlet
Born Feb. 20, 1863
Died Mar. 5, 1899
Age 36 yrs. and 13 days
We loved her, yes we loved her, But
Angels loved her more. And they have
sweetly called her, to yonder shining
shore.

Edward Lee Cotten
Born August 12, 1864
Died April 29, 1890
Thy hands are clasped upon thy
breast, We have kissed thy lovely brow,
And in our aching hearts we know, We
have no brother now.

Robert Hamlet
Born Oct. 9, 1823
Died Dec. 4, 1903
The toils are past, His work is done,
He fought the fight, The victory won.

Sallie P.
Daughter of
Robert and Mary Hamlet
Born Sept. 20, 1857
Died Nov. 11, 1897
Died 40 years, 1 month, and 21 days.
One less at home, the charmed circle
broken, A dear face missed day by day
from her usual place. One more in
heaven.

Francis Elizabeth Larkin
Dec. 28, 1833 - May 22, 1907
Death to her was but a gateway to a
larger, sweeter, more glorious life.

Priscilla Larkin Stephens

Born Feb. 20, 1839
Died Feb. 26, 1863
Asleep in Jesus.

CONTRIBUTORS: Lester Gant, Mike
Metcalf and Alan Looney

Mill Creek Cemetery

SKYLINE, ALABAMA

Martha J. Brewer
Dec. 28, 1861
Feb 26, 1879

M.J. Evans
Jan. 21, 1811

Rebecca Garland
Nov. 9, 1798
Sept. 23, 1883

E.P. King
Co. A.
1st Ala. Cav.

J.N.D. Mashburn
Co. 1
8th Ind. Cav.

G.M. Nelly
Born - 1830
Died - 1905

Susan Nelly
Born 1835
Died 1900

J.A. Sanders
Born 1836
Died 1917

Susan C. Sanders
Oct. 2, 1860
March 17, 1939

E.A. Swaford
May 27, 1840
Apr. 22, 1919

Rebecca Swaford
March 28, 1865
Aug. 2, 1898

George Williams
July 5, 1885
May 12, 1885

CONTRIBUTOR: Marie Baugh

Mink Creek Cemetery

MINK CREEK, ALABAMA

AT REST
Sallie Ola Brandon
Aug. 18, 1879
June 5, 1938

David
Morgan

Cowley
Oct. 3, 1878
July 27, 1919

God Gave, God Took He will be here
He doeth things well.

David P. Cowley
August 19, 1889
April 4, 1962

Another link is broken in our beloved
band, A golden chain is forming in a
better land.

MOTHER
Catherine
Evans
June 6, 1799
Sept. 24, 1879

FATHER
Thos J.
Evans
May 19, 1796
Aug. 5, 1875

Dear Parents, Though we miss you
much, We know you rest with God.

EVANS

W. Wallada
Evans
May 7, 1801
Sept. 24, 1889

It was hard indeed to part with thee
but Christ is strong and supported me

Carla L. King
Oct. 25, 1886
Oct. 25, 1937

The earthly song is ended, the voice
joins the heavenly choir.

OLINGER
J. Henry
Mar. 4, 1876
Feb. 8, 1943
Nancy C.
Mar. 11, 1873
Mar. 22, 1948

Benjamin Perry
July 24, 1846
July 24, 1931

Resting in hope of a Glorious
Resurrection

Jane Perry
Feb. 24, 1847
Nov. 9, 1925

Restoring hope of the Glorious
Resurrection

Pink P. Perry
Born
July 1, 1871
Died

Nov. 8, 1892
For Mary I lived,
For Mary I rest.

Howard Royce
Woodall
1917 - 1963

Contributed by: Deborah Lewis,
Debbie Johnson, Theresa Fisher

Peter's Cemetery

WOODVILLE, ALABAMA

Mary Eliza Houk
- July 2, 1855 - December 28, 1935
Life's work well done, she rest in
peace.

William S. Patterson
December 10, 1876 - October 13, 1918
Woodman of the World Tombstone
Weep not for me my companion dear,
I am not dead but sleeping here.
He was beloved by God and man.

Amanda Peters
Born 1857
Died April 2, 1902
Her happy soul has winged its way to
a pure bright eternal day.

Carrie Peters
Born April 18, 1884
Died August 3, 1908
How sweet to think of her in her new
home.

George W. Rousseau
1864 - 1949
A precious one from us has gone.
A voice we loved is stilled.
A place is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled.

William M. Sherrell
Born March 25, 1875
Died Feb. 11, 1924
To him we trust a place given among
the saints with Christ in heaven.

Lucinda Tipton
Born Oct. 12, 1841
Died Nov. 21, 1916
She has gone to her home in heaven

Virginia Rachel Wallace
August 30, 1920 - July 23, 1921
The spirit hath rest, thy sufferings
are over.

Contributed by: Mack Peters, Debbie
Karrh

Scott Cemetery

SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA

John William
Bynum
Born
Nov. 1, 1867
Died
June 13, 1868

Katie May Bynum
Born
Oct. 29, 1880
Died
Jan. 18, 1881

Lillie Bynum
Born
Aug. 30, 1868
Died

Aug. 31, 1868

Elizabeth A.
wife of
R.T. Scott
Born 1809
Died
Oct. 14, 1873

Robert T.
Scott
Born
Dec. 1, 1800
Died
June 18, 1863

Contributor: Susan Henshaw

Skyline Cemetery

SKYLINE, ALABAMA

Abram Marinoh
Co. A
1st Ala. vid. Cav.

Wm. Messer
Co. H.
1st Ala. Cav.

William T. Bradford
Alabama
Pvt. 113 Guard Co. Asc.
World War I
April 3, 1890 (?) -

July 11, 1954

Contributed by: Mary Buford

Union Cemetery

WOODVILLE, ALABAMA

George Bulman
Born Dec. 1, 1852
Died March 6, 1905
"There's a beautiful region above the
skies, And I love to read its shores, For
I know I shall find my treasure there.
The loved one gone before."

Flora E. Hodges
Born Oct. 23, 1891
Died Nov. 16, 1917
"Just when we learned to love her
most, God called her back to heaven."

J.W. Hodges
Born April 17, 1853
Died Jan. 5, 1927
"A loving father, a husband dear, A
noble Christian resting here."

Catherine Maples
Born Dec. 19, 1805
Died June 20, 1893
"Kind mother in love thou art gone to
rest. To her pardoner with the pleasure
of the blest."

Contributors: Mack Peters and Debbie
Karrh

Indian Mounds

There are several Indian cemeteries in Jackson County. The ones that have been found are located along the Tennessee River banks in the form of mounds in which these people were buried above ground, one over another.

Some of these mounds were found about a mile above Bridgeport and some were found several miles before there. Three mounds were found at Sublett's Ferry near old Bellefonte.

Interviewers:

Deborah Brooks
Tom Green
Charlene Selby

Interviewees:

Mr. John Keller
Mrs. A.L. Petty

The Woman Buried Four Times

The story starts as Mr. W.H. Robinson was driving through Paint Rock Valley near Hollytree. He had remembered the stories of a certain graveyard and began looking for it. It was late in the afternoon and it was quite chilly when he found the Hollytree Cemetery. He left the car and walked over to the first set of graves and studied the tombstones. They were very old, but they were not too interesting. The other graves made the same impression on him, until he came upon a group near the back of the lot. The first tombstone had the inscription, "Here lies Sue, wife of Sam Summers."

Mr. Robinson decided after only a few seconds that this was not very normal for a woman to be buried four times, so he headed the old car back toward home. When he told it to his wife, she sort of laughed. To convince her, Mr. Robinson took her, along with several friends, back to the graves. Sure enough, there were four graves for the same woman.

After they got back to town, they did a little investigating and found that Sam Summers had married five different times. Each wife was named Sue. Four of the graves are in Paint Rock Valley near Hollytree, and the fifth is somewhere near Scottsboro.

Interviewer: Ann Dicus

Interviewee: Mrs. W.H. Robinson

Odds And Ends

Introduction

In talking with various people throughout the country, we came across many interesting stories and tidbits of information that we just could not categorize. So we finally grouped them together and labelled them "Odds and Ends."

Hobos

During the young years of our county, there was a large group of men called hobos. They spent their lives living off others plus whatever else they could find.

My mother's father, Mr. Jessie had a relative who was a hobo. This hobo had many exciting and trying adventures throughout his life. Here is one of them:

The hobo had been traveling all day and had become very tired and sleepy, so he began searching for a place to bed down. When he came upon a small shack, he decided that it would do. He went inside and pulled a piece of wood over to lay his head on. When the hobo had dozed off to sleep he was awakened by a movement of the wood. He placed the wood back under his head and continued to sleep. A few moments later he was awakened by the same movement. This continued throughout the night.

The next day when the hobo awoke, he discovered his trouble. He found that he had been sleeping on another hobo's peg leg.

Interviewer: Sheila Hale
Interviewee: Mrs. Dovie Hale

Horse Theft

In the 1920's, most people still used horses as their chief methods of transportation, and therefore, a horse was a very valuable possession.

One very old lady, who lived in the mountains had only two horses. One afternoon a rough looking man came by her place and asked if he could borrow her horse for about two days. She was a very kind woman who trusted everyone, so she let him borrow it.

When the two days were up, she had not seen him. After two weeks had gone by, she went to town to see the sheriff. She told him that she wanted her horse back. He told her that he and his men would get the thief and bring back her horse.

A few more weeks went by, and finally the sheriff found the thief and

the horse and brought both of them back. When the deputy took the lady's horse back to her, she asked him where the thief was. The deputy told her that he was dead. All horse thieves were hanged in those days. It was the law.

Interviewer: Marlene Mitchell
Interviewee: Roney (Evelt) Mitchell

Mirror, Mirror

Mrs. Lucille Harris does not remember the name of her grandmother who lived during the 1800's. Mrs. Harris' grandmother was a slave when she was young. She lived in a cabin that was built of logs. Mud was put between the cracks when it got cold. She went to work everyday except Sunday because she said, "This is the Lord's Day."

It would be late in the evening when she came home from her job, and she would be very tired from the hard work that she had done.

Mrs. Harris' grandmother did not have a large mirror as people do today, but she had one that was small in size. Once she had forgotten about the small mirror that was built inside of the cracks in the wall. She was getting ready for church one night when all at once she thought someone was peeping in on her. So she started screaming, and her neighbor came running to her cabin because they thought someone was breaking in on her. When they got there they asked what was the matter. She pointed to the small mirror in the wall that rocked like a window glass, but it was her own reflection which had scared her.

Interviewer: Roy Hutchens
Interviewee: Mrs. Lucille Harris

The Snake Story

One of the largest snakes ever seen in this area was discovered by Mr. Polk Wynn back in 1912. One Sunday he was coming from church which was then held in McCutcheon's school house, better known as Hell's Half Acre. As he walked along, he met up with a large rattlesnake approximately ten inches around and six or seven feet long. Mr. Polk followed the snake down Old Damp Lane with a fence railing in his hand. He never used the railing, however, because he was afraid of the snake's size. Instead, he set fire to the brush pile, hoping the snake would run out. It undoubtedly ran into a hole instead.

Every spring the same snake crossed the road in approximately the same place heading toward Old Damp Lane.

The snake would then crawl off July Mountain into the bottoms to find water. The children in the area were always afraid to play around these bottoms.

Mrs. Pearl Gidden's grandmother, as a little girl of ten, can remember seeing the wide track made by the huge snake.

Interviewer: Charlene Selby
Interviewee: Mrs. Pearl Lindsay Giddens

Teaching Singing School

I interviewed Mr. Roy Osborne December 10, 1972, over the telephone. The information I was interested in concerned his hobby of teaching singing schools. He has been to various churches all around Cumberland Mountain to teach these schools. I asked him to explain the methods he uses.

Mr. Osborne said that first of all he has everyone to sing a song and then listen to him sing certain spots so that he and the people can get used to each other.

Next, he gives out small workbooks called rudiment books. They contain all the information needed to teach the entire school, and everyone is given one to use.

Next Mr. Osborne stated, is the process of using the musical scale (do, re, me, fa, so, la, ti, do). He teaches everyone the proper way to sound each note, going over it time and time again until everyone catches on. He teaches people how to tell if they are pronouncing the sounds correctly.

Mr. Osborne said that it is very important to attend the school beginning with the first day, for if someone misses the first few days, it is almost impossible to understand what's going on later.

After he is satisfied with the way the people sing the musical scale, the next step is learning to beat time. This is the movement of one's arm throughout a song when directing a choir. There is a certain motion for each different time. He said that this was a very important step. After a few days he has everyone, or almost everyone, singing and beating time correctly.

The complicated part is learning to read the music. Everyone learns how to read and look at a measure and tell if it's full. He draws them on a chalk board and explains them carefully.

After everyone has completed the singing school, the class gives a concert. He then gets each person who has learned to direct in front of the choir and has him lead a song. That is the final step in the school.

Interviewer: Bobby Manning
Interviewee: Mr. Roy Osborne

"I'll Take This One, You Take That One"

One hot summer day a man was out with his horses plowing his field, which was located near the Larkinsville Cemetery. While plowing, he kept hearing voices saying, "I'll take this one, you take that one." The man looked but he could not see anyone, although he still could hear the voices. "Oh no!" he thought. "The devil and the Lord are dividing up the dead."

He was so frightened he ran and got several of his friends and told them what had happened. He and his friends

Raising Fighting Cocks

Fighting roosters are raised like any rooster until they are about ten months old. The age varies with the rooster, but it is usually between ten and twelve months before they are ready to begin training. Classification of the roosters are by their colors and ages. Gray and red are the color classes, and stag (under 15 months old) and cock (15 months and older) are the age classes.

When the rooster becomes a stag, he is placed in a cage, thus protecting him from injury caused by fighting with another rooster. At this point the rooster is put on a special diet consisting of high grains and plenty of vitamin supplements. Fed this until the owner thinks he is ready to fight, he then goes into the final stages of training.

Fourteen days prior to fighting, the rooster's comb and crop are trimmed, and it is taken off almost all food (called drying out). Also during this time he is placed in contact with other roosters who will pick at him and goad him into fighting.

Before the big fight, the rooster is given a medicine supplement which prevents massive bleeding. Galves, which are stainless steel tips, are placed over the spurs of the rooster at this time. These razor-sharp weapons are used to rip and tear up opponents. The last action before the fight is weighing the roosters. They must weigh within three ounces of each other. Bets are also placed at this time.

Each owner then carries his rooster to the pit. A pit is a circular arena measuring about ten to fifteen feet across. While here the owners let each bird peck at the other until they become angry, and then they are freed to fight. Fighting usually lasts around ten minutes, but some fights go on for hours. If, during the fight, a rooster runs three times from his opponent, the other rooster is declared winner. Otherwise, the roosters fight to the death or until one is mortally wounded.

Interviewer: Mike McCauley
Interviewee: Mr. Gerald McCauley

went to the cemetery, and sure enough, when they got there, the voices could still be heard saying, "I'll take this one, you take that one." Cautiously the men slipped toward the cemetery to get a better look. To the men's surprise, when they got to the cemetery they found two boys sitting under a tree dividing hickory nuts. This poor farmer was the most laughed at man at Larkinsville for quite awhile.

Interviewer: Thomas Elkins
Interviewee: Osie Elkins

Getting Rid Of Lice & Fleas

It was once said that a fox got rid of lice and fleas by swimming with a twig in his mouth while keeping his mouth and nose just above the water. When the pesky little critters climbed up for air, they would jump on the twig and the fox would let go of it and swim off free of the fleas and lice.

Interviewer: J.J. Keller
Interviewee: Mr. Steve Keller

Quail Raising In Jackson County

There are two well-known quail raisers in Jackson County. The first one is a man by the name of Shorty Brown. He lives and raises his quail in Paint Rock, where he has been raising them all of his life. Mr. Brown raises about nine to ten thousand bobwhite quail per year. He calls his farm Shorty's Quail Farm. It is located just off Highway 72 in Paint Rock.

The second quail raiser in our county is James T. Pell, who has his farm in Scottsboro. He began raising quail only two years ago as a hobby, starting with only thirty quail, some of which were purchased from Shorty's Quail Farm. He became discouraged when a dog broke into his pens and killed over half of the quail he had. He put an electric fence around the pens, and now he occasionally hears the yelp of a too curious dog.

Mr. Pell raised and hatched about two thousand birds in 1972. He has sold all but about six hundred birds, which he is keeping to start a new breed next year. In early 1972, he ran an ad in Sports Afield, and received letters from all over the nation. Mr. Pell had originally called his farm J.M.P. Quail Farm, but he has since changed the name to Tri-A-Quail Farm, which it is now.

Interviewer: Mike Pell
Interviewee: Mr. James T. Pell

Objects Of Interest

Mrs. Mae Rutter of Stevenson has collected articles of interest for a number of years and has the story behind most of the objects. Her collection includes:

A little brown jug:

This is one of the first and only musical jugs in Jackson County. It belonged to Mrs. Sid Skelton Hackworth. In 1937 Mrs. Hackworth died, and the jug was given to Mr. H.H. Simpson who gave it to Mrs. Rutter in 1968.

Unusual window:

Mrs. Rutter collected the multi-colored lids from old fruit jars she found around the country. When she had around ninety of these, she placed them on a plain sheet of glass to create a stained glass effect.

Square church and gas lamp:

Both from the streets of Stevenson.

Child's casket:

Mrs. Rutter said that the casket was in her house when she moved in, and she has no reason to throw it away.

Square nails from the freight depot.

First Chevrolet Sign:

First sign (Chevrolet) in Stevenson, 1916.

Old Newspapers:

Stevenson Chronicle, July 7, 1896.

Hobbles:

These are braces put around the hind feet of a cow to keep her from kicking.

Hat stretcher:

Used to enlarge hats or just to hold their shape.

Drug Store Spoon:

Around 1901, a Stevenson boy walked out of the local drug store with an ice cream spoon. In 1971 this man brought the spoon to Mrs. Rutter.

Oldest hand loom in Scottsboro or Jackson County.

Civil War Hospital:

Mrs. Rutter's home is connected to the funeral home in Stevenson. The two combined were hospital for the Stevenson area during the Civil War.

Railroad Lanterns.

Interviewer: Ann Dicus
Interviewee: Mrs. Mae Anna Rutter

Syrup Making

Syrup making is sometimes considered a hobby, but some people do it for a living.

Mr. Louis Farmer tells us:

"This is the only way I have a makin' a livin' for me and my family. I went into this kind of business 'cause I thought I'd made more money. My father done it when he was younger, and he enjoyed it very much. I went into the syrup business in 1945, and enjoyed it then and still do. I got my two patents up there in Washington, D.C., enabling me to do this type work.

"I grow my own sugar cane. My fields consist of one hundred acres or more. The cans the syrup is put in come from Continental Can Company, Tallapoosa (Tallapoosa), Georgia. We make two hundred and fifty to three hundred and fifty cases of syrup daily. We have two trucks on the road takin' our goods to various states.

"Our main salesman is Bill Black. I pay him five hundred dollars monthly and for his motel bill while traveling. We sell to all the A & P's, Winn Dixie's, Piggly Wiggly's, and Gibson's in the state of Alabama. We also serve five other states.

"We have a machine that cuts the cane and another to gather it on a conveyor wagon. After being gathered, it goes through several different steps before the syrup is actually ready. It is automatically sent through a machine. The machine can hold from six to eight tons in one hour. This is put in an air tight container that holds the stem and juice in. This evaporates and makes the syrup. If we have a cracked jar, it will

leak, and we will have to stop and clean it up.

"When I was a small boy, I dreamed of always operating my own business.

"It takes lots of electricity to run my business, about three hundred and fifty dollars monthly. We never mess up and have to start over. We do, sometimes, have to stop and repair the labeling machine. It takes six hands to fix it.

"There is a big profit in my business, about one hundred and five thousand dollars annually! Yeah, we really enjoy it. My whole family is in it. I have a boy at Pisgah who is in the same business I'm in.

"We also sell honey. We have our own bees. Our profit is about fifteen thousand dollars annually. I don't like this near as much as syrup making, but it does help pay the bills. We sell the honey to two different wholesale companies like C.B. Ragdon and Maylon and Hyde."

Mr. Farmer showed us through his mill and explained all the parts to us. He also showed us how the cane is taken from the field to the mill.

His whole family enjoys syrup making and will strive to make it a more profitable business.

Interviewer:

Gay Zilbert
Anita Walker
Mike Greene

Interviewee: Mr. Lewis Farmer

Lizzie Wright

Approximately 1945, when Tom Wright or any of his family lost anything, they would ask Lizzie Wright where it was. There was no earthly way she could know where it was, for she was an invalid, but wherever she told them it was, that is where they would find it.

Interviewer: Linda Webb

Interviewee: Miss Hazel Wright

The Bird Dog Mule

One day a man was sitting on the side of a road when his neighbor came riding toward him. He rode a mule and had a shotgun slung over his shoulder.

"Whar ya' goin'?"

"Huntin'"

"Whatcha huntin'?"

"Birds."

"Whar's yer dawg?"

"Ain't got nun."

"How'r ya gon' to hunt birds without a bird dawg?"

"My mule points 'em."

"Land! I don't believe that."

"Well, you jest foller me!"

They went out in the fields and in a minute the mule stopped dead still and pointed. The man jumped off his back, flushed the birds, and shot a couple.

"Man! If I hadn't seen that with my

own eyes, I wouldn't e'r believed it!"

"You think that's sumptin'! He'll tree squirrels, too!"

"Would ya sell 'em?"

"Yeah, but he'll come high."

So right out there in the field the two men made the deal. The man got on his new mule and started to ride off.

"Whoa, whoa!"

"Huh?"

"There's sumptin' I've got to tellya 'bout that there mule."

"What's that?"

"Ya can't hunt him near water."

"Why's that?"

"Cause he'd rather fish as hunt."

Interviewer: Rodney Jones

Interviewee: Mr. J.R. Porch