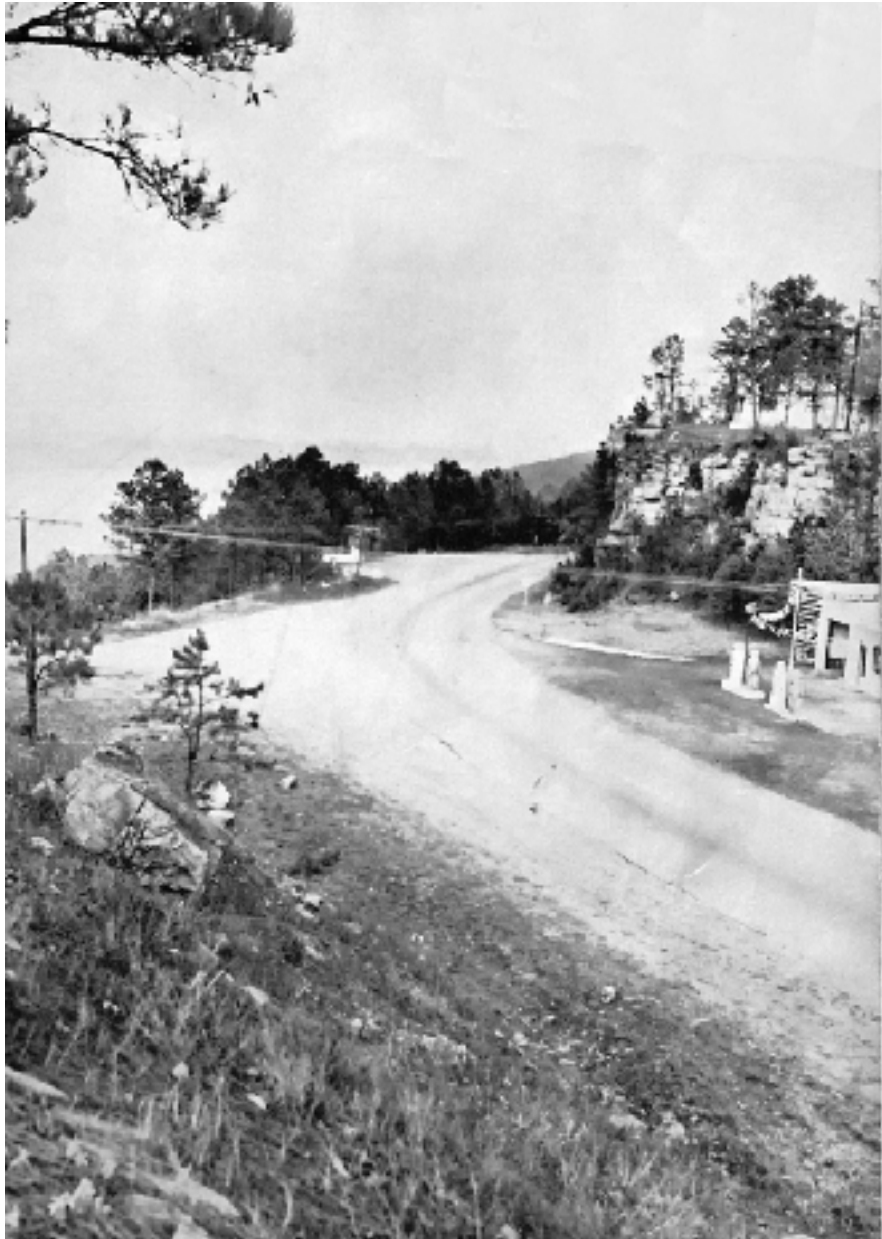


# Section, Alabama Articles and Photos



Collected and formatted by Annette Bradford

# A Look at the History of Section by Elizabeth Selby McAlpin



**A STREET SCENE** in front of the D. I. Durham General Store in Section, D. I. Durham is shown standing in the middle of the door. The building was destroyed by fire. Courtesy of Gordon Smith.

**JACKSON COUNTY ADVERTISER, Thursday, November 17, 1977**

In time, the children grew up and married others in the settlement and nearby settlements, and today descendants of this pioneer couple are scattered all over Jackson County.

A daughter, Allie Johns, married James Allen and built a frame house that fronts on west Main Street today.

Children born to this union were, Durwood, Lucy, Pebble and Nina. Pebble Allen today lives in the home on west Main Street built by her parents, Allie Johns and James Allen, on land homesteaded by her grandparents, Marion Francis and Phebe Johns. The homestead deed, which remains in the family reads: Homestead Certificate No. 8649, Land Office, Huntsville, Alabama and bears the signature of President Grover Cleveland.

A son, Durwood, married Pearl Carrol, and they built a frame house that fronts on west Main Street within a stone's throw of his parents home. Durwood is deceased and so is Lucy Allen. Children born to this union were Burmadell and Don.

Nina Allen married Dee Manning and they too live on west Main Street. Children born to this union were, James C. and Wilda.

Marion Francis Johns, the progenitor of the Johns descendants, was a most remarkable man, father and husband. He was well liked by all who knew him and was highly esteemed in his adopted county.

A daughter, Ida, married Joe Stephens of Collinsville and lived out her life there. Children born to this union were, Claude A., John C. and Clevadell.

Josie Johns married Dan Langston of Collinsville and lived out her life there.

Eugene Johns married Correna Allen. Children born to this union were Bernice, Irene and Flora.

Charles Johns married Ollie Shankles. Children born to this union were, Thelma, Ila Mae and Harold.

Willie Johns married Katie Lasseter. Children born to this union were Liles, Malissa who married John Rob Seabolt, Beulah, Essie Jewel and Billie Jean.

Lonnie Johns was drafted into the Army during World War I, and died as the result of an illness.

Marvin and Beulah Campbell moved to Section in 1918 and established Section Gin and Grain Company. Campbell purchased cotton from local farmers and shipped it to Broadus Cotton Mill in Stevenson and Crystal Spring Bleacher Company of Chicauga, Georgia.

Campbell's first experience in operating a cotton gin was in 1800 when he drove a mule around and around to produce power for his father's cotton gin in Langston.

Campbell was born on Oct. 24, 1890 in Campbell's Cove, a pocket in Jackson County, the son of J. J. and Nora D. Campbell. He married Beulah Hubbard. Children born to this union were Harry and Sarah.

Harry Campbell operates Section Gin and Grain Company, is active in local civic affairs and is Minister of Music at Section Missionary Baptist Church. His wife, Betty, works at the Security and Pensions office in Scottsboro. Children born to this union were, Carol, Bill and Marvin Jr.

Doctor Eugene Smith emigrated to the mountain from Nashville, Tennessee. Records show that Dr. Smith homesteaded a tract of land in 1866. He married Celia Ann Stringer. Dr. Smith rode his favorite horse, Blackhawk, for some twenty years and carried

medication in his saddlebag. In 1915, he was postmaster of Section, post-office being in his office. Children born to this union were, Gordon, Dixie and Pelham, who was killed in a hunting accident in 1920. Dixie is also deceased. Gordon and his wife, Betty Clyde Rudder Smith, live in Section today. They have a daughter, Ann Smith Moore.

Dr. Smith served in the Civil War, and that is not unusual. But what is unusual is that he has a son, Gordon, living in Section today. Many people in Jackson County had a grandfather or

great-grandfather who served in the Civil War, but a father is most unusual.

Another interesting pioneer family was that of Jacob Lorene Tate, who was sent to the mountain by his physician in search of a healthy climate in an effort to regain his failing health. Tate spent three weeks in search of a spring and a site to build a log cabin. He picked a site near Holland Chapel Methodist Church. Not only did he regain his health, but he lived to raise a large group of boys and girls. A daughter, Annie Tate, married Robert Coffey and settled in Hodge.

Joining pioneer settlers in Kirby Creek was Ezekiel Stringer, teacher, born in Tennessee. His wife, Cynthia, born in Alabama, according to the 1850 census. Stringer was among the first school teachers on the mountain. Children were, John, Daniel, Mary, Benjamin, Joseph, Drusilla and Thomas.

The pioneer settlers of Kirby Creek

The pioneer settlers of Kirby Creek gave house raisings and all the neighbors both far and wide pitched in and raised a log cabin. Another early custom the settlers had was to spread word by mouth that winter was approaching and a nearby farmer's cotton was still in the fields. A cotton picking was given and all the neighbors showed up with pick sacks and picked the farmer's cotton. A delicious meal was served at the end of the day and everyone present had a good time.

There were the Hamilton's, Flowers, Kirby's, Whitts and Chisenalls living in Kirby Creek. And still the settlers continued to emigrate to the mountain and lay claim to the free land given by the government.

Kirby Creek continued to grow and spread out as more settlers entered land. Entering land at the Land Office in Huntsville, Alabama, were John White, Butler and Granville Tipton, William and John Carter, Alfred Hamilton, Richard Wood, John Black, Delany Chisenall, Jim Reed, George Harris, Charley Shelton and Dr. Eugene Smith. Many of these original pioneer settlers have descendants living on Sand Mountain today.

A direct descendant of pioneer settler Alfred Hamilton was the late Luther J. Hamilton, a resident of Section. His wife, Elna Hamilton, lives at the old homeplace today. Children born to this union were, Rayford, Mayme, Betty, Harold, Anita Joe, Gayle and Pat.

Another prominent pioneer settler in Kirby Creed was John Flowers, blacksmith, born in Tennessee. His wife, Margaret, born in Alabama. Children born to this union were, Sarah, Franklin, Caroline, Charles, Joseph, Thomas and John.

Delany Chisenall, farmer, born in South Carolina, his wife, Jane, born in South Carolina. Chisenall donated the site for Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church and Mount Zion cemetery. Children born to this union were James, Nancy, Georgia, John, Martha and Ann.

Joining pioneer settlers in Kirby Creek was I. W. Whitt, who sold monuments and traveled in a horse-drawn buggy. In addition to farming, Whitt also sold Singer Sewing Machines in Jackson County. During the great depression, Whitt sold many sewing machines collecting only \$.50 a week in payment. He is buried in Mount Zion Cemetery beside his wife, Nancy.

A prominent and interesting family was Circeo and Minnie Statton, who moved to Section from Charleston, Tennessee, in 1911. Our subject and a son, Argle, drove a wagon containing the family's possessions, while the mother and the remaining children rode the train. The family settled in a frame house, the property of Carl Williams, and farmed a tract of land along the banks of the Tennessee River. Flood waters from the river flooded the crops in 1919, and the Statton children went swimming in the cornfields. In that same year the farmers received \$2.50 per bushel for corn, the best price they had ever received. Children born to this union were, Argle, Lenard, Dovie, Margaret, Tossie, Bessie and Bernice.

Ernest Statton, owner of Skeel's General Store in Section, grew up along the banks of the river on the south side, and he often met the streamers to buy Coca Colas in the old brown bottles for a nickle and three cakes for a nickle, which was mighty fine eating for a young lad in those early years. Statton once took a trip on a steamer to Bridgeport and ate his first yellow corn on the cob served on the steamer by a negro servant named Tom Boles, which he said was the best corn he ever ate. Our subject married Mattie Lee Moore, daughter of Lee and Maggie Moore, moved from Charlston, Tennessee to Section in 1923. Moore was a farmer and lived to the ripe old age of ninety.

Coca Colas eventually came to the mountain in a horse-drawn wagon driven by Tal Thomas of Scottsboro. Mud was hub-cap deep on Section's unpaved roads and it would take Thomas all day to make a round-trip to Section and back to Scottsboro. At times the river was too rough to cross, so Thomas spent the night in Section. The story goes that Coca Colas were once lost in the river in crossing. It could very well have been Thomas, who delivered Coca Colas, that cool refreshing drink, to Section for a number of years.

There were others living along the banks of the Tennessee River during this period of time, including Bill Ward, George Keeble and John Hale. Hale operated a small general store and sold farm implements and other needed items.



items.

There were other Stattons, brothers to Circeo, who emigrated to the mountain from Charleston, Tennessee, in 1911. There was John Statton who settled at Dutton, where he raised a large family and died there. At Section there was Luther and his wife, Gertie, and their children, Bruce, Blanch and Robert.

Joining pioneer settlers in Section was Allen Lacey, a fine old gentleman, who was highly esteemed by all who knew him. Lacey married Lily Nichols, daughter of Haim Nichols, another pioneer settler of the area. At one time Lacey and his wife, Miss Lily, as she was fondly called, operated the Central switchboard for Southern Bell Telephone Company. Children were Mae, Jay, Luther, Ina, Vera and Alma.

William and Josephine Neeley emigrated to the mountain from Cherokee, Georgia, and homesteaded 160 acres of land near Section. Their children were Jim, Fannie, Savannah, Mary, Lola, Mae, Canna, John, Gordon and Roosevelt.

There were others too, who emigrated to the mountain. The stream of settlers was endless. One of those families was O. H. and Phebe Stanfield, who moved to the Mountain from Sales Creek, Tennessee, and settled on a productive tract of land. The Stanfields cultivated the soil, reared their children, and made a place for themselves in the town. Children born to this union were Charlie, Amy, Ralph and Vivian.

Clarence Edward Nix emigrated to Patterson's Crossroads by way of Valley Head in 1922. Patterson's Crossroads, also known as Greasy Hill, is located approximately two miles south of Section, and named in honor of Thomas Patterson. Patterson School was an early school in the community. Among the teachers were, Era Ryan, Uncle Jim Southern and Uncle Toney Cook. Nix met and married Mattie Patterson, daughter of Thomas and Ada Bell Patterson.

Thomas and Ada Bell Patterson founded the sparsely settled community known as Greasy Hill today. Patterson was instrumental in getting Patterson School established. Children born to this union were Ellen, Hattie, Mattie, Ollie, Leon, Leroy, Maydell, Leander, Estell, and Ruthdell. Children born by second wife, Easter, were Troy, William, John and Ada.

Joining pioneer settlers in Fyffe, Alabama, in DeKalb County in 1800 was James R. and Angie Willis Outlaw, who emigrated to the mountain in an ox wagon from Georgia, and homesteaded 160 acres of land. Descendants of this early pioneer family live on the mountain today.

Children were, George, who was killed in a slave uprising in Georgia, Jimmy, Joseph, Walter, Aubrey, Oregon and Laura.

Joseph Outlaw left family and friends in DeKalb County and traveled in a steer wagon to Ft. Payne, where he boarded a train to Texas, the trip taking three weeks. Outlaw remained in Texas for a year, where he met and married

Caskey Mantley. He returned to Alabama with his bride and settled at Duncan's Crossroads, near the Jackson-DeKalb County Line. A daughter, Essie Outlaw, recalls that she picked cotton and stripped sugar cane on land where Northeast College now stands.

In time Outlaw moved his family to "The Bluff", located approximately three miles west of Section, overlooking the broad Tennessee Valley and the winding Tennessee River. He farmed the land along the banks of the river and logged with oxen. As time passed, Outlaw became a fertilizer salesman, the fertilizer being shipped in by barge, and the skipper sounded his fog horn to alert Outlaw that he had a shipment of fertilizer aboard the barge.

Mail was shipped in by barge and delivered to Tipp Postoffice in Tipp, Alabama, which was located on the Jackson-Madison County line. Tipp Postoffice was a log building and the postmaster was Ethram Allen, assisted by his wife, Aunt Sallie Allen. Essie Outlaw recalls that she walked to Tipp Postoffice with her mother to pick up the mail, and that when she arrived, she was thoroughly exhausted, so Aunt

Sallie Allen fed her biscuits and jelly to build up her strength for the long journey back to "The Bluff."

The Outlaw family traveled to Ft. Payne to purchase clothing and other needed items in an ox wagon, and the trip took all day, so the family spent the

night and returned home the following day. In time barter peddlers traveled the circuit in one-horse wagons. The family bartered chickens, eggs and meat for needed items. The barter peddlers disappeared from the scene about 1912.

In time Essie Outlaw, the little girl who walked to Tipp Postoffice and ate biscuits and jelly, grew up and married Marvin Dawson, son of John and Jeanette Johns Dawson, and they live at "The Bluff" today. They had one daughter, Mary Kathern, a lovely girl who is now deceased.

Joining pioneer settlers in Bethany, also known as Shake Rag, was William and Laura Miller Martin, who came to Jackson County in two ox wagons from Tennessee in 1880. Children born to this union were Frank, who married Sarah Cunningham; George, who married Nellie Keel; Joe, who moved to Texas and died there; Doc, who married Pruddie Smith; Laura, who married Wade Rowe; and Norma, who married Jim Kunkendell.

Martin, also known as Red Oak, because of his flaming red hair and flowing beard, fought on Tennessee soil

during the Civil War, and has a monument erected in his memory in that state. According to family tradition, Martin killed many Yankees during the Civil War, and once killed a Union soldier for the food he carried, and ate the body and ate the food.

then sat on the body and ate the food. Another time he was drinking water from a stream, when he looked up to see a Union soldier drinking water from the other side of the stream. He figured the soldier was as thirsty as he was, so he waved to the soldier, the soldier waved to him and they went their separate ways. Martin was captured in Tennessee and managed to escape, according to family tradition.

In time Martin joined Bethany Primitive Baptist Church and became an integral part of his community, and all aspects of his lifestyle changed drastically. He lived to a ripe old age and is buried at Gant cemetery in Bethany.

A daughter, Laura Martin married Wade Rowe, and they settled in Bethany. Nell Rowe Carter, recalls that her mother, Laura, baby sat with Hess and Allie Mae Snodgrass, when their mother, Texas, went on business trips.

The Rowe family eventually sold out in Bethany and moved to Texas, where they toured the salt wells where salt was mined and dripped in large hoppers, producing salt.

In 1907, the family grew homesick for Jackson County, so they returned and settled in Pisgah, where Wade Rowe established a blacksmith shop. The children, Nell, Mary Lou, Annie, Ollie and Mae, attended school at Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church and Beeson's Academy.



1950 Section Yearbook View from Tacobet.

SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1953

SECTION WINS EIGHTH DISTRICT TITLE



Pictured above are the winners of the first annual Eighth District Junior High School Basketball Tournament which was held at Hamsterville High March 13 and 14. Reading left to right are Roy Buford, Principal, James Albert Goebbins, Clarence Hynum, Max Buff, S. L. Stone, Donald Moore, Billy Joe Reed, Kelly Holt, Stanford Mix and G. B. Strickland, Coach.

The final game was an all-Jackson County affair with Section defeating Macedonia 34 to 21. Section gained a 9-6 quarter lead and widened it to 18-13 by halftime. They led by 27 to 20 at the end of the third and by the middle of the last period held an 11 point advantage but Macedonia whittled the lead to 8 points by the closing minutes of play.

In the first three rounds of play Section defeated Asbury 54-24, Madison Cross Roads 31-20, and Union Hill 44-30 respectively, while Macedonia defeated Priceville 54-32, Geraldine 31-21, and New Hope 37-31. Among the ten players receiving all-district honors were Donald Moore and S. L. Moore of Section and Jimmy Roder and Marlon Hancock of Macedonia.



1950s photo of the weatherly park view



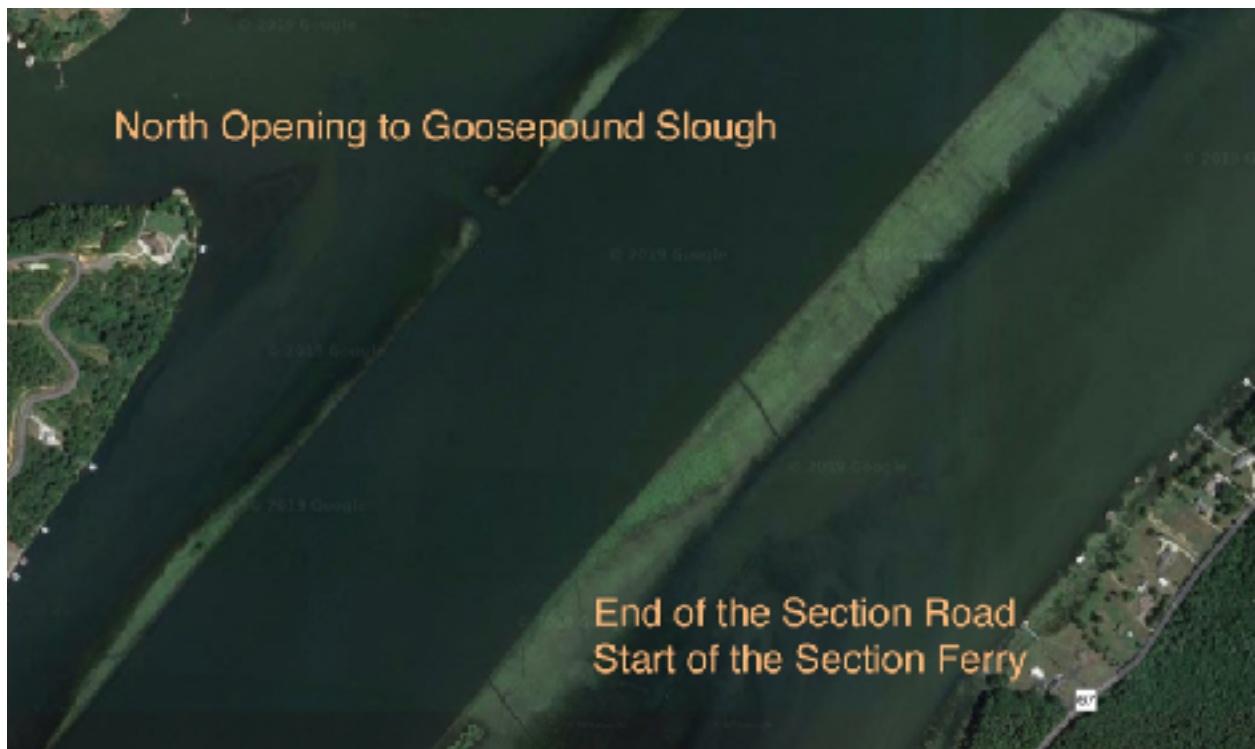
View of the Valley before TVA

## SECTION HIGH SCHOOL CHOOSES BEAUTIES



THEY TOOK TOP HONORS—These three girls, Marilyn Medlock, Donna Ruth Wooten, and Mickey Pass, were honored recently by being chosen as Miss Section High School, Miss Section Junior High School and Miss Section Elementary School respectively.

Jackson County Farmer, 1957







The ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on the old campus houses the first three grades. Teachers are Mrs. Shirley Wornack, Mrs. Ruth Berzett, Miss J. V. Outlaw, and Mrs. Mabel Hembree.

From the Daily Sentinel Reflections books



*Third Grade*

T. Anderson, M. Black, J. Boozer, J. Dew, K. Downs, R. Dunlap, J. Dupree, M. Farmer, E. Gaff, J. Graden, S. Graden, R. Hardy, R. Hawkins, A. Jackson, R. Jones, C. Kay, R. Linville, L. Lowman, E. McAbee, B. McKenzie, E. McKenzie, M. McKenzie, L. Moore, I. Nix, Jr., M. Putnam, C. Reed, D. Reeves, D. R. Robbins, M. L. Slade, E. Smith, W. Smith, J. Strickland, J. Summerford, L. Summerford, J. Talley, R. Thomas, L. Townson, W. Townson, J. Verhine, B. Wilson. TEACHER: Mrs. Mabel Hembree.



From yearbook ads







Yearbook ads, Haynes Grocery and Rainsville Gin





SECTION FIRE DEPARTMENT--The Section Fire Department works to save the Section Gin and Grain Company from being destroyed by fire.

Photos from the 1957 Jackson County Farmer

## Section Methodist Dedication



Picture shows left to right, first row, Mrs. Shelly Thomas, President of the WSCS, Bishop Buchanan Hodge, Birmingham, North Alabama Conference, Dr. J. S. Christian, District Superintendent, Huntsville, Rev. Henry Lewis, Pastor Section Methodist Church, T. H. Green, Sunday School Superintendent. Back row, youth ushers of the church, Bobby Sampson, Jimmy Stringer, Rodney Carter and Carter Naves.

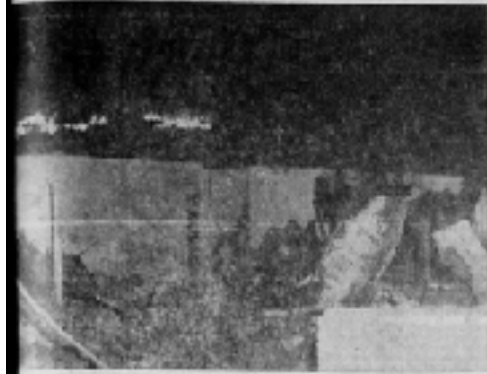
# JACKSON COUNTY SENTINEL

ISSUED JANUARY, 1928.

SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1924

TWELVE PAGES — ONE EDITION

## ICE DESTROYS 35 YEAR OLD SECTION SCHOOL



The demolished remains of the Section School that was located in the heart of the town, showing the extent of temporary measures will be one of the major projects.

The citizens of Section as well as the children of that town, suffered a great loss Thursday afternoon, October 22nd, 1924, when the almost completely destroyed 35-year-old elementary school and section building.

The Southern Railway Blue Commission report, the school at 2:15 p.m. had found the town already through the roof of the school when they received a report of damage to the school was sent by the town.

Section County Board Supervisor Robert L. Lyle reported to the newspaper that the school was partially covered by ice-mass. The building's value is estimated to be \$20,000 while the damaged area was valued at \$10,000.

The school on being ice destroyed, and many of the children and their parents were taken to the school together to provide one of the first school projects in this area. Section made a great name for their community and year through historical and are expected to again be of use.

Although the school was destroyed, it was reported that the building's superintendent had the fire department and police for the school and police if a school can be started.

Temporary classrooms will be set up in the school building in Section until a building program can be developed and started.

The greatest loss will be to the many people who have done so much to provide the children of Section with every opportunity. The school system here substituted another loss is reported by the school.

The fire is believed to have started from a fire in a coal house in the basement that was set on fire and a new fire department was being installed in the town.

The fire also started a fire, the tank had been checked for water and several tons of coal burned on the roof for some time before the fire was out.

Removal of the Section school is being pushed. Other schools of the town and the future building program will be started in the near future.



This close up was taken to show the destruction of the building that caused the destruction of Section School. Students will have to use their private tables and chairs. The building is being repaired. (Left photo)

## Section Citizens Have Organized A Complete Defense and Emergency Unit

The defense unit has been organized and will be ready to take up the fight at any moment. The unit will be in charge of the town's defense and emergency work. The unit will be in charge of the town's defense and emergency work. The unit will be in charge of the town's defense and emergency work.



Check the fire at Alvin's Corn Sheller

## Wildcats Get Sixth Win of Season By Romping Over DeKalb Co. High 59 To 6



The Jackson County High School Wildcats team romped to their sixth win of the 1924 season Friday night, October 23rd, by driving Fort Payne 59 to 6.

The passing attack of the Wildcats and the running game of the DeKalb High team, led by the Wildcats, played the entire game that was never interrupted.

Late in the final quarter, first string running back, Harold Winters, stepped and stepped in the Wildcats made a great line attack against Fort Payne. A hospital report

