

Probate Judge

"Thirty-Six Years of Community Service"

# Colbert County Reporter

VOLUME XXXVII

TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1948

No. 36

## R.R. Mens' Annual Meet Next Wed.

Ben Porter, promoter of the Railroad Men's Association for the retired railroad men announces today that plans are under way for the biggest and best celebration of the Association has had. The Association was organized in 1939 by Mr. Porter and the first celebration was August 26, 1939, several thousand attending from ten different states.

There was no meeting held during the war, but on August 27, 1947 the fifth annual celebration was held and interest was at a high peak. Officers of the organization were elected as follows: Mr. A. T. Walker, President; Mr. George Spencer, Secretary; Mr. H. W. Cook, Treasurer.

Interesting programs are arranged for each celebration and outstanding speakers are engaged ahead of time to assure the people of good entertainment. A picnic dinner is served by the ladies of the Firemen's Auxiliary of which Mrs. A. Y. Vickers is President.

Officers elected to serve in 1948 are: R. C. Burns, President; T. W. Emerson, First Vice-President; K. D. E. Lower, Second Vice-President; H. G. Gray, Third Vice-President; H. W. Cook, Treasurer; George Spencer Secretary; Inauguration Committee: Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Norwood, R. W. Emerson, K. D. Lower, B. F. Porter, Mrs. D. E. Campbell, W. G. Means committee: Mr. C. S. Frazier, C. H. Kersey, R. W. Emerson, R. C. Burns, A. T. Walker, Ralph McCollum, Mrs. J. E. Gambill, Julo Stevens, Entertainment: Mrs. Ollie Burns, Arrangements: T. C. Barnes, Sr., E. J. Crosswhite, L. J. Weatherly, Parade: Harris Rossy, F. A. McCorkle, J. M. Gray, Publicity: J. L. Carlin, Mrs. M. M. Watson, T. L. Sealey, Luncheon: Ladies Auxiliary of the Firemen Lodge, Twin City 597.

Each year the publicity committee has published a very interesting bulletin with bits of history about the railroad and its people which is distributed to thousands of people who attend the celebration. The merchants of the Tri-Cities cooperate in making this possible, thereby expressing their appreciation of the host of people connected with the railroads in this area, and contributing their share. They will return to Alabama this weekend. Renominated for a second term, the junior senator will open his office in Huntsville.

## SPARKMAN, HILL IGNORE THURMOND AND TRUMAN

Washington—The Thurmond-Truman ticket is to get the same silent treatment from Alabama senators as they are according to Truman and Barkley, it appeared this week.

Sen. Lister Hill is at his home in Montgomery and Sen. John Sparkman will return to Alabama this weekend. Renominated for a second term, the junior senator will open his office in Huntsville.

"But I have no present plans to take part in any national campaign," he said.

Two years ago, Senator Sparkman headed the speakers' bureau at the Democratic national convention. This year, both senators checked out on Truman. Senator Hill sought to have Sen. Richard B. Russell obtain the nomination as a States' Rights Democrat at the Philadelphia convention.

Neither senator took any part in the Birmingham meeting where Gov. J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and Gov. Fielding Wright of Mississippi were named on the States' Rights Democratic ticket.

The Alabamians are not active in the Southern revolt from the regular Democratic organization. Later Senator Sparkman may make some speeches for other Democratic senators he said—"but not for Truman."

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

As Recorded in the Files of The Colbert County Reporter of This Date

Funeral of the late President Harding held in Marion, Ohio, without pomp or military display. President Calvin Coolidge holds formal reception for all diplomats representing foreign governments. Senator Lodge is against a world court and a special session of congress for that purpose. Supt. of City schools R. E. Thompson selects these faculty members: Miss Opal Adams, Miss Esther Joy Tromp, Mrs. M. K. Persons, Miss Ada Jones, Mrs. Flora Brummitt, Miss Agnes Martin, Miss Julia McGuire, Miss Lada Blackwell, Miss Ruth Grizz, Miss Winne Willoughby, Miss Myrtle Reed, Miss Ruth Blythe, Miss Mildred Brummitt, Miss Mary McCormick, Miss Helen Orman, Miss Lotte Reed, Mrs. Cornelia Bosley, Mrs. G. O. Davis, Mrs. Elizabeth Robbins, Miss Vivian Levitch, Mrs. Harry Allen, Mrs. Edwin Matthews and Mrs. Percy Hoskins joint hostesses to the Methodist Missionary bands. Supt. of County Schools Robert Hudson moves here from Leighton. Thos. M. Steele on a visit to points in Mexico. Mrs. J. E. Gambill returns from Asheville, N. C. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Julian recent visitors. J. T. Vaughn visiting relatives in Georgia. Mr. and Mrs. John R. Underwood visit in Russellville. Miss Lizzie Barton Hammyer home from a visit to Memphis. Mrs. Annie McWilliams is in Memphis with Mrs. Rose Sawyer who is in Russellville. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Wolf, of Opelika, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe M. Hurston. Mrs. Braxton Ashe and Miss Mary Brinkley left entertain for Mrs. Chas. Bray, of Birmingham. Dr. G. T. Harris, former pastor of the Methodist church, but now of Decatur, a visitor. Mrs. M. K. Clements of Montgomery, guest of Rev. and Mrs. M. P. Edwards. Miss Annie Lee Harris home from a visit to Decatur and Chattanooga. Mrs. Rex Whitman home from Albany. The Baptist Baraca class, with Dr. C. R. Whitman teacher, reports splendid progress.

## FIVE COLBERT COUNTIANS RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMAS

Among the 61 graduates who were presented diplomas at the thirty-fourth annual commencement of the State Teachers College Wednesday evening, August 11, at Florence, five are from Colbert county: Grace Mackey Brown, Mary Elizabeth Thompson Hayes, Tusculum; Sue Landers Striet, Florence; Bernice Letson Francis, Sheffield, secondary education, with a major in social science; James Franklin Moore, Sheffield, secondary education with a major in English and social science.

The total graduates for the year number 109, 48 having received diplomas at the close of the spring quarter.

The baccalaureate sermon was delivered by the Rev. E. G. Malten, of Florence, the commencement address by Dr. Ralph McDonald, executive-secretary higher education, National Education Association, Washington, D. C.

## YOUNG MEN'S CLUB INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

The Young Men's Club held its weekly supper meeting at the Community Center with the president Collyer Reed, Jr., presiding.

The following persons were elected to membership in the club, Jack Foster, Ellis Webb, Bob Thompson and Charles H. Smith.

After the transaction of the regular business, plans were discussed for the club's annual ladies night social event.

## EDITORIAL GRIST

ALMOST TIME

Students begin to think about the opening of school, the vacation's end. If they don't like the teacher, they think of teachers. A psychologist says that but it makes a teacher wonder how to have all the pupils like him, or her. A teacher who is too lenient doesn't necessarily have the class on his side. The one who requires students to obey, to study and meet certain scholastic requirements, gets the most respect and co-operation. Too often a teacher will favor the bright children of the class, leaving the slow ones to grope for themselves. This is wrong and causes resentment. The quick pupils will get it for themselves, the dull ones need the help and attention. Teachers must study individuals. The reaction of the child is a problem and with schools so crowded as they are today, it is mighty difficult for a teacher to study each individual.

## TOMORROW

Procrastination is a human failing found among many of us here. We overlook that "putting off until tomorrow what we can do today." Each day's passing finds something accomplished but not enough attention is given the jobs that arise next month. Winter slips upon us and we look to the roof's repair, the pipes to be fixed, furnaces checked, windows caulked. Much of this can be done today when repairs aren't so busy. It is nothing new, this putting off until the last minute. We wait to the deadline to renew licenses, get auto tags, register to vote, do Christmas shopping.

## UNITED PARTIES

Whatever we may have to say against the speeches, promises, fanfare of the political conventions, we praise the line taken by both Democrats and Republicans, in making the foreign policy a bipartisan affair. This country's States has matured. With both our political parties conferring, consulting, together, in the interest of the nation, government is strengthened, respect for policies increased. Those who lean toward Communism at one end of the scale, those who are confirmed isolationists at the other end, will find this bipartisan stand too strong to hear their voices.

That when a man disagrees with us, we think he is prejudiced?

The optimism of Harry Truman and Howard McGath overwhelms us when they claim the south's revolt is tapering off. They should be awarded the gold chain both for their utter stupidity.

Some men can get a good night's sleep wondering what their neighbor thinks about them.

The fellow who thinks he could answer most of the questions on the radio quiz shows, probably couldn't give you all of the Ten Commandments.

The way feminine fashions change, you would think women were ashamed of their original lines.

They say every man has his price, but consider the case of "Ike" who didn't run.

No one understands money or women, but we love both of them.

It won't be long before children won't know when a locomotive looks like a locomotive.

A wag reminds us that too many people don't ask much about their own business as they do yours.

## DR. SNOODY PAYS FINE FOR SMOKING

Dr. J. Sam Snooddy and the City of Birmingham were "all square" Tuesday.

The North Alabama physician and new member of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board ran into trouble with police last week when he failed to appear for trial on a charge of illegally smoking in a hotel bed.

He appeared before Recorder Ralph Parker Tuesday afternoon, however, and paid a fine of \$25 and court costs of \$3, following a plea of guilty.

Dr. Snooddy, who maintains residence both in Haleyville and Russellville, had been arrested in a downtown hotel a week ago.

It was the day after his appointment by Gov. James E. Folsom as a member of the ABC board.

Fire inspector A. Rosenfield, making a check of the hotel smelled smoke. He found the room occupied by Dr. Snooddy and a cigaret burn in the bed upon which the physician was sitting.

Dr. Snooddy came into court voluntarily to answer the complaint.

## CIVIL RIGHTS

Three colored women in Birmingham were discussing what they would do if the Civil Rights bill was passed.

First One: "Ise gonna git me a white dress, a white hat, some white stockings and white shoes, and Ise going down to the Alabama Theatre and sit right there in a box."

Second One: "Ise gonna git me a pink dress, a pink hat, some pink stockings and pink shoes, and Ise going down to Brittling's Cafeteria and sit at the front table."

Third One: "Ise gonna git me a black dress, a black hat, some black stockings and black shoes, and Ise going down to the funeral parlor to meet you when they bring you in."

It is best to use a fine sieve when straining tomato juice for canning. A fine sieve means finer particles and less settling of pulp-particles to the bottom. Never use copper or brass strainers when straining citrus juice or tomatoes because copper is very destructive of vitamin C.

## Interesting History Of The Fifth St. Depot In Tusculumia Now Abandoned

By Sadie Dickson Shrader

She was born... well, no one seems to know the exact hour and date, for in her days birth certificates were not a "must", and births of old landmarks were never recorded in the old family Bible anyway. Nevertheless, an exhaustive search was made to ascertain the approximate date of her birth, perusing in the old newspapers, nosing into scrapbooks of pioneers, interviews by the dozen with old and young, long distance telephone calls and written inquiries to out-of-town folk who "once upon a time" knew the beginnings in Tusculumia. Every effort turned out to be a phantom, but if there are any archives of history left, we shall not stop until we have at least three documentary evidences and a Notary's seal to establish the authenticity of the date of the birth of the Fifth Street Station in Tusculumia, Alabama. These efforts, while futile, brought rich dividends, for this interesting search afforded hours of pleasure and an in-gathering of data on the early life of the town, ever-increasing as the storehouse of knowledge of local history from its beginning in 1815.

It was indeed interesting to find that antedating the birth of the Station, passengers bought their railroad fares at the old Marshall house Hotel, which stood on the corner of West 5th and Water Streets, the present location of our beautiful rock bus Station. An interesting story is told by an eye-witness how Mr. Marshall, owner of the Hotel illuminated the entire building when the news reached town of Grover Cleveland's election to the Presidency in 1884. Tusculumians ever political-minded turned out en masse that evening for a celebration, and the young boys armed with horns serenaded the old hotel where Jack Lassiter, the telegrapher operator, (A Republican) worked. In order to carry on his official business he was forced to close the door of the depot. Later this building became a saloon, operated by Mr. Joe Howell, and adjacent there to was a barber shop operated by Alfred Pleiner.

The passenger trains stopped right in front of the ticket office, where the engine train crew and passengers who lunched to, stopped at the Hotel for lunch at a minimum charge and a bounteous supply, while the train waited for some thirty minutes. The head waiter for many years was Simon White, who efficiently served the public, and because of his faithful service to the trainmen here, they remembered for many years after to register at the hotel in Memphis where he was in charge of the dining room.

The old express office at one time was located in the John W. Davis Jewelry Store building on the corner of west 5th and Main streets, Melvin Wiley, Mayor, was Express Agent. In connection with this, Mr. Wiley also operated a general merchandising business in the same location. There were seven buildings running west on 5th street at that time which was known as "Seven Row." After Mr. Davis bought the corner building, Mr. Wiley moved his business into the last building on the street, for there were five saloons occupying the building in between (two other saloons being located on Main Street) Believe it or not!

There was a little obstreperous lad about five years old who had moved

with his parents from Mountain Mills Alabama, where his father was employed as book-keeper at the Cherry Cotton Mills, coming to Tusculumia in 1887. The family purchased the block just north of the old 5th Street Station for \$1,000 dollars, and lived in the little log house until a more commodious building could be erected, preferring this block to the one on which the County Courthouse now stands which price also was \$1,000, because of the little dwelling.

This little chap, with short trousers and long stockings, watched with eager eyes aglow, the workmen who tore down the old wooden freight depot which was located where the present freight depot now stands, just north of the 5th street depot. At the time this building was razed and a new freight depot erected the 5th Street Passenger Depot was also erected—some time in the year 1889, Gilbert and Keller, contractors. The building was covered with a slate roof which captivated my attention, for it was the only slate roof in existence here," he said. "I watched the carpenters as they used a little hammer with a sharp point to peck two holes in the slate in order to drive the nails in the roof," he added. "An eye-witness speaks! And here unearths the year of the birth of the 5th Street Depot."

All that he has unearthed... for the future archives of history... but we will pass on until another issue and then perhaps startle you with "facts and figures" about the old town... but in case you drop now impatient, just your curiosity gets the best of you... just call Frank Womble, Secretary of the Engineers' Organization... telephone 567.

There are other depots in the vicinity that share honors with 5th Street Station. In 1911 the Southern Railway built what was known as the "New Depot," which was located at the end of First Street in Tusculumia. It was operated continuously day and night, but the Company decided to cut out the day service and have one man on duty at night, which service continued until June 15, 1948. Mr. J. A. Ferguson was the first ticket Agent. W. E. Burton, the last, having served there 29 years and 8 months. Ben Porter was the last person to purchase a ticket. The name Tom Burton is synonymous with First Street Station, and many are the interesting stories he can relate with his connection there. During the 37 years that this station was operated one event stands out vividly in his mind. It was in the early 1920's that the Southern operated quite a few excursion trains. One spring, No. 11 train pulling about a dozen coaches was en route to Memphis, Tennessee, and had just headed in to the old 5th Street Depot as was the custom, in order to get back on the main line had backed out to First Street Station and stopped. Eight or ten shots were fired in the front coaches bailed out of the windows on both sides of the train like bees leaving a hive, two were killed and several wounded. There was a stampede for a short while as the men brought one of the dead and placed him in front of the white waiting-room where the passengers had to pass through to get to the train. Mr. Wallace Payne, Superintendent, was aboard the train and delayed the excursion for a short while until the excitement cooled down. Tom may not believe in ex-

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## MOVIE PROGRAM

STRAND—Tusculumia Sat., Aug. 21

BIGLANTREES OF BOOMTOWN—with Allan Lane. Sun.-Mon., Aug. 22-23

CRY WOLF—with Errol Flynn, Barbara Stanwyck. Tues.-Wed., Aug. 24-25

THE BRIDE GOES WILD—with Van Johnson, John Allison. Thurs.-Fri., Aug. 26-27

DESIRE ME—with Greer Garson, Robert Mitchum. Sat., Aug. 28

COLBERT—Sheffield Sat., Aug. 21

THE FLAME—with John Carroll, Vera Ralston. Sun.-Mon., Aug. 22-23

ALWAYS TOGETHER—with Joyce Reynolds, Robert Montgomery. Tues.-Wed., Aug. 24-25

DESIRE ME—with Greer Garson, Robert Mitchum. Thurs.-Fri., Aug. 26-27

THE BRIDE GOES WILD—with Van Johnson, John Allison. Sat., Aug. 28

RITZ—Sheffield Sun., Aug. 22

MOTHER WORE TIGHTS—in Technicolor, with Betty Grable, Dan Dailey. Mon.-Tues., Aug. 23-24

Double Feature THE PILGRIM LADY—with Adele Mara, Warren Douglas. Also Hal Roach's COMEDY CARNIVAL in Technicolor, with Walter Abel, Marie Wilson. Wed.-Thurs., Aug. 25-26

WELLS STRANGER—with Bing Crosby, Joan Caulfield, Bing Fitzgerald. Fri.-Sat., Aug. 27-28

SOUTH OF THE CHISHOLM TRAIL—with Charles Starrett.



SOUTHERN'S NEW STATION BETWEEN TUSCUMBIA AND SHEFFIELD SERVING THE TRI-CITIES AREA, CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF OVER \$100,000.



SOUTHERN RAILWAYS FIFTH STREET STATION, WHICH HAS BEEN ABANDONED AND TRACKS REMOVED, AND IT IS A SAD SIGHT TO OLD TIMERS TO SEE IT GO.