

## About People and Things

By C. B. McDowell

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Elba Church of Christ was organized in 1920 with the following charter members:

Mr. & Mrs. J. J. English, Mr. & Mrs. J. W. English, Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Shealey, Miss Salie Collier, Jack Owen, Arthur Owen, M. A. Owen, Mr. & Mrs. Sam R. Morgan, Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Young, Mr. & Mrs. James J. English, Miss Nettie Ruth Walker, Miss Mollic Blue Walker, Mrs. Ora Lunsford, Mrs. M. Milford, Sam B. Young and Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Young.

The first minister was W. T. Grider who came to Elba from Rose Hill and served the Elba organization for about 4 years. Sunday School and preaching services were held in the court house, school building and Patrick Theatre until the modern brick church edifice was built on Factory Street in 1921.

James C. Dixon came to Elba from North Alabama in 1924 as Minister and superintendent of Elba schools. He served in both capacities for 26 years. Under his leadership the church and school made progress with many boys and girls spending all their school lives under his tutorship.

About three years ago Minister Dixon resigned to take a position in Los Angeles, Calif. Geo. Herring was employed as minister for about 24 months. During that time church membership grew to about 70.

A new minister's home was built adjoining the church two years ago. The marriage of Minister Herring and Miss Nina English, daughter of Mrs. Jas. J. English and the late Mr. English, was an important event recently. They then moved to an Andalusia church.

Since Minister Herring left, the Elba Church of Christ has been calling various ministers with the intention of making a choice of a permanent one soon.

### GET IN CATTLE BUSINESS

(Elba Clipper, June 16, 1908)

The meat rust has given notice of an advance in the price of beef and hog products. The advance is caused by the scarcity of beef on the western ranches. The west cannot, since so much of it has been cut up in small farms, produce beef to supply the demand, and the day of cheap cattle has passed forever for that section.

1853

CENTENNIAL

# The Elba

"COMPLETE NEWS CO

VOLUME 58

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ELBA, ALABAMA,

### YOUR CENTENNIAL EDITION

It took almost everyone in Elba and part of Opp to get out this special issue of The Clipper. Of primary interest to readers will be the pictures of old time Elba which everyone was kind enough to bring in. Winners in the old picture contest will be announced next week.

Because lots of people went to the trouble of digging out these photos, the staff was able to put out an interesting issue.

Merchants advertising their business and subscribers who kept their subscription current are the persons who have made this paper possible.

Then when the press broke down Saturday afternoon, Mayo Prescott and Charles English from Dorsey Trailers obligingly put in some overtime to repair a broken part. Sunday afternoon the press went on the iritz again so part of the paper was printed on equipment belonging to The Opp News. Their pressman, Ned Griffin, worked overtime to pull us out of a hole.

On our own staff, George Green, pressman and compositor, Leon Brunson, pressman, and the owners have put in several 20 hour days getting out this issue.

It has been a lot of work to offer this commemoration issue to you—we hope you enjoy it.

The press breakdown and resulting loss of time limited the number of pages we could print. Consequently some material, pictures and stories which should have been included were left out. However, we we did the best we could under the circumstances.

PEC

## Ex-Resi

By MRS. S. A. KREI

Gathering scuppernongs Will Rushings'?

Stopping to see the black at work on the way home school?

When Mildred Boyd, of burg, had her hair shingled

When your parents d you out of bed past midnight put your coat on over yours so you could go out to see Halley's Comet, Because would not return for years?

The "fantastic riders Christmas morning? Orville red and - was it Morgan ham-dressed as women ar ing all over town on mule

And that your parents to that shortly before 190 young men - and there many eligible young men during Elba's "boom" - we "fantastic riders? That the 'ed at the young ladies'

## Centenn

Elba's big Centennial Da ebration gets underway morning (Thursday) a o'clock on the square wh Elba High School band ceremonies with a ten-r concert. Following this k music, a day of fun, a ments, parade, air show, s es, concerts, singing and pa will follow.

At 10 o'clock Rev. M. L will read the scripture and Elvin T. Edgar will lead prayer. A Negro chorus fro ba will have the next sp the program.

Mayor L. P. Mullins then the speaker's rostrum to come everyone to Elba to brate the town's 100th birt After an explanation is m the details of the day's pr Ex-governor James E. F will give the main address day. Recognition of guests follow his talk.





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**Per Year**

THE NEWS COVERAGE OF COFFEE COUNTY

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURS DAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1953 FOUR SECTIONS—36 PAGES

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## Ex-Resident Asks, "Do You Remember"?

By MRS. S. A. KREIDER

Gathering scuppernongs at the  
Rushings'?

Stopping to see the blacksmith  
work on the way home from  
school?

When Mildred Boyd, of Rich-  
mond, had her hair shingled?

When your parents dragged  
you out of bed past midnight and  
your coat on over your sleep-  
so you could go outside to  
Halley's Comet, Because it  
did not return for eighty  
years?

The "fantastic riders" on  
Christmas morning? Orville All-  
and - was it Morgan Wind-  
n-dressed as women and rid-  
all over town on mule back,  
and that your parents told you  
that shortly before 1900 the  
young men - and there were  
any eligible young men in Elba  
during Elba's "boom" - were all  
fantastic riders? That they cal-  
at the young ladies' homes

and refreshments were served?

Drinking water from those  
ruby glasses at the Farrisses?

The first automobile owned  
in Elba? And was it red? And  
that Dr. H. D. Boyd was the ow-  
ner?

Lev Hammond's dray?

When Sue Windham invited  
you to a cane grinding at her  
parents' home?

When "Miss Mannie" Sanders  
so generously took you to ride in  
her Cadillac?

When even the smallest Shea-  
leys swam in Beaver Dam Creek?

Seeing a water moccasin while  
you were swimming in White  
Water Creek? Several times?

When Mrs. M. S. Carmichael  
had a Circle of Camp Fire Girls?

The Pink Perfection and  
Chandleri Camellias at the Mose  
Les?

When everybody, including the  
faculty, made pine straw wig-  
wags back of the school house

at recess?

Going to see Flora Finch and  
John Bunny for only a nickel?  
And Hamp Vaughn's ice cream  
parlor in the lobby of the pic-  
ture show?

When the best teacher, Miss  
Eunora Farris, took the first  
grade to the "reservoir hill" to  
hunt chinquapins?

The holyhocks in the yard of  
the Laws on "reservoir hill"?

Going back to the Claude Ri-  
ley's each year to get sweet  
gum? And trying to chew it?  
(Ugh- Children were tough in  
those days.)

That Estelle Blue, Felix Cos-  
ton and Elizabeth Sanders were  
the piano playingest girls? And  
how Tup and Willie D. could  
play?

When lovely Mabel Huff, of  
Mississippi, visited Warree Boyd?  
And later married handsome Jim  
Knight?

Mr. Fred Symonds and his

daughter, Annie Rhea, testing  
the newly paved sidewalks on  
Davis Street by waltzing on  
skates?

The pump on Court House  
Square?

Mr. Jace Hutchison fishing  
every day? Near the White Wa-  
ter Creek bridge?

The year there were ten girls  
and only one boy in the High  
School graduating class? And  
Mrs. Kyle Price presented them  
in a comedy of ancient Greece?  
The shrieks of laughter when  
Frank Buck, the only boy, ap-  
peared in Grecian costume - a  
sheet?

When Lamar and Frank Rai-  
ner and others sneaked out of  
rehearsal of a school play and  
went swimming in the creek  
back of the school house?

And a thousand other things  
that will always keep living in  
Elba your most treasured mem-  
ory?

## Centennial Program Starts at 9:50 AM

Elba's big Centennial Day cel-  
ebration gets underway this  
morning (Thursday) at 9:50  
o'clock on the square when the  
Elba High School band opens  
ceremonies with a ten-minute  
concert. Following this kick-off  
music, a day of fun, amuse-  
ments, parade, air show, speech-  
concerts, singing and pageant  
will follow.

At 10 o'clock Rev. M. L. Seay  
will read the scripture and Rev.  
W. T. Edgar will lead in a  
prayer. A Negro chorus from El-  
ba will have the next spot on  
the program.

Mayor L. P. Mullins then takes  
the speaker's rostrum to wel-  
come everyone to Elba to cele-  
brate the town's 100th birthday.  
After an explanation is made of  
the details of the day's program  
governor James E. Folsom  
will give the main address of the  
day. Recognition of guests is to  
follow his talk.



Heads of the var-  
ious committees  
active in putting  
across Centennial  
Day, Nov. 19, in  
Elba are: Bottom  
row, left to right,  
Miss Gladys Clark,  
Mrs. Lamar Rainer,  
Mrs. M. A. Owens,  
Mrs. Bryan Taylor;  
middle row, Mrs. C.  
E. Dorsey, Sr., Rev.  
W. T. Edgar, Rev.  
M. L. Seay, L. P.  
Mullins; top row,  
Flournoy Whitman,  
J. D. Whitman,  
Bryan T.  
Lamar Rai-  
ner, Fleetwood  
E. M. W.  
per Photo



vance is caused by the scarcity of beef on the western ranches. The west cannot, since so much of it has been cut up in small farms, produce beef to supply the demand, and the day of cheap cattle has passed forever for that section.

Conditions are now good for Southern farmers to wake up and reap of the good prices that will have to be paid for meats in his country and Europe. Cattle on Southern farms have always more than paid their way and under present conditions there is a good big money in the business.

The soil, climate and seasons of this section are all that could be desired for raising cattle. It is easy to provide good pastures all the year, water is abundant, grass grows to perfection for the best hay, the markets are close at hand and the demand is always greater than the supply. Under such conditions as these failure is almost impossible.

We have yet to hear the first farmer who gave proper attention to hogs and cattle in South Alabama and failed to make it pay handsomely.



One of Elba's most prominent families, that of Mr. & Mrs. J. J. English, is shown in this photo taken "back when." Seated are Mr. English, John Wiley and Mrs. English; standing, J. O., probate judge; Lee, postmaster, and Mrs. Molly Lefflin. (Photo courtesy Mrs. Lee English.)

#### THOMAS W. TOWLES

WITH THE 24th INFANTRY DIV. IN KOREA—Army PFC Thomas W. Towles, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Towles, Elba, Ala., is now undergoing intensive post-truce training with the 24th Infantry Division in Korea?

Private First Class Towles, who arrived overseas last January, is a machine gun crewman with the 21st Regiment's Company I. He entered the Army in August 1952 and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.

## John Davis of Ino Community Lives

By PAUL CUNNINGHAM

While the rest of Coffee County worries about the Cold war with Russia, implications of the H-bomb, supersonic flight and the myriad of other problems brought on by modern civilization, "Slow John" Davis and his wife in Ino community go on living the tempo of life that prevailed in the South 70 years ago.

Few changes have been made in the house and grounds around "Slow John's" place since it was erected about 70 years ago. Split rail fences surround the land to keep the livestock in while an old cane mill can be seen at the right of the house as a person drives up.

Last year a new covering of of hand-hewn shingles was placed on half the roof of the house and this summer the job was finished up. Some of "Slow John's" children who are still here helped do the job.

No electric current runs into the house which has the kitchen constructed in a building separate from the main portion of the home. Heating facilities consist of small fireplaces in the rooms while the kitchen has a wood or coal-burning range for cooking. Now sealed off but formerly used was an old fire place with a mud-packed chimney.

ACTIVE AT 82

Still active at 82, Mr. Davis was found in the corral feeding his mule. When the long-time resident of the county determined there was no interest on the part of the visitors in buying the large tracts of timber he owns, he was an agreeable host

and readily answered the questions asked by Bob Perry, owner of Perry's Store, Harold English, clerk in the probate office and the writer. He obligingly posed for several pictures.

Sharpest memory "Slow John" has is that of the rough times

the speaker's rostrum to come everyone to Elba to brate the town's 100th birth. After an explanation is made the details of the day's program. Ex-governor James E. F. will give the main address. dev. Recognition of guests follow his talk.

Over 14 civic groups and have arranged for food sessions around the square take care of feeding the tands expected to attend celebration. The Masons Eastern Stars will serve the becue plates for \$1. Other s will serve sandwiches kinds for a nominal charge.

#### AIR SHOW

Weather permitting, an show takes place over EL 1:30 o'clock in the after Performance of the planes the city will take an estim 15 minutes.

Forty entries at least w in the mile-long parade t to wind through Elba o'clock, according to Mrs. Taylor, chairman of the p committee.

Besides a City Float fo Centennial Queen, Mrs. Garrett, most other civic

in years gone by when could raise as much of a thing as you wanted but couldn't sell it". Cotton br 8 to 10 cents a pound and was no market for peanut recalled.

Peanuts were picked of vine by hand and seeds taken from the cotton by (There was no gin in the a This cotton was used at as filler, bunch thread purchased for sewing.

Crops that were raised not be sold, the man rec A hired hand could be se for 50c a day. Each family its own meat and salted it If the fire in the stove on place was allowed to go o was necessary to light it a piece of flint and steel or to the nearest neighbors for some hot coals.

#### REMEMBERS CHILDHOOD

Going back to his child days, the 82-year-old man embered his own mother m the cloth for clothing for nine children. His father the shoes they wore, wagons other equipment needed. were used instead of m Every family had to be sufficient in order to eke a ing out of the land. No bought anything because was no money and what raised couldn't be sold.



Mr. & Mrs. John Davis of Ino community are shown on the "kitchen" porch of the home which his father built about 70 years ago. (Clipper Photo)



will have the next spot on program.

Taylor L. P. Mullins then takes speaker's rostrum to welcome everyone to Elba to celebrate the town's 100th birthday. An explanation is made of details of the day's program. Governor James E. Folsom give the main address of the Recognition of guests is to hear his talk.

Over 14 civic groups and clubs are arranged for food collections around the square to care of feeding the thousands expected to attend the celebration. The Masons and the Elba Stars will serve the barbeque plates for \$1. Other stands will serve sandwiches of all kinds for a nominal charge.

#### SHOW

Weather permitting, an air show takes place over Elba at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Performance of the planes over the city will take an estimated 15 minutes.

Many entries at least will be in the mile-long parade that is held through Elba at 2 o'clock, according to Mrs. Bryan Taylor, chairman of the parade committee.

Entries include a City Float for the Centennial Queen, Mrs. J. M. Taylor, most other civic and



women's clubs will have entries in the parade. Some of the commercial floats that appeared in the Peanut Festival Parade will be seen here.

Bands from Elba, Enterprise, Arlton, Opp, Andalusia, Florala, and Camp Rucker have agreed to attend. Pending is word from the State Negro College and Troy High School. These units might be in the line of march.

#### PARADE ROUTE

Route to be followed by the marchers starts at the high school where the assembly area is. They will then go by City Hall and turn right, going up Opp highway to the stop light at L. P. Mullin's house. From there the route goes two blocks and turns left to go down the street two blocks and then come by the Methodist Church. At the

stop light on the square just before Pea River Bridge, marchers will turn left and return to the high school assembly area.

#### AMUSEMENTS

After the parade amusements consisting of shows, a singing and chicken trot will take place on the square. At 4 o'clock a band concert under the direction of James Patrenos will take place on the square. The Alabama State College (colored) band has been invited and if they attend will give a concert at this time.

After time out for supper a pageant gets underway at 7 at the auditorium or stadium, depending on the weather. Fleetwood Carnley and Lamar Rainer Jr. are directing this show.

Wind up of the day's activities will be a reception in the school lunch room after the pageant.

Coffee and cake will be served free.

During the day, all amusements and entertainments are free, including the pageant in the evening. A nominal charge will be made for sandwiches, coffee, barbecue and other food served.

#### CHANGE IN SILVER \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Persons coming into The Clipper on Centennial Day to buy a copy of this special issue or paying up their subscription, will receive their change in silver dollars when they present a \$5 bill.

Get an extra copy of the paper for a friend or relative and have some hard money jingling around in your pocket Centennial Day.

## Lives in House Over 70-Years-Old

Years gone by when "you raise as much of everything as you wanted but then it sell it". Cotton brought 10 cents a pound and there was no market for peanuts, he said.

Peanuts were picked off the tree by hand and seeds were from the cotton by hand. There was no gin in the area. Cotton was used at home for burlap, bunch thread being used for sewing.

Things that were raised could be sold, the man recalled. A hand could be secured a day. Each family killed meat and salted it down. In case of fire in the stove or fire was allowed to go out, it was necessary to light it with a piece of flint and steel or walk to the nearest neighbors house for hot coals.

#### CHILDHOOD

Going back to his childhood the 82-year-old man remembered his own mother making clothes for her children. His father made clothes they wore, wagons and equipment needed. Oxen were used instead of mules. The family had to be self-sufficient in order to eke a living out of the land. No one could buy anything because there was no money and what was sold couldn't be sold.

With a background such as this "Slow John" and his wife haven't spent much money on modern-day comforts. Clothing, matches, some food items, the range and a few other necessities are the only expenditures made by the couple and two of their 13 children who still live with them.

When asked about automobiles, the pioneer said he once owned a car for several days. He had to take it on a debt but as

around without motor transportation is not much of a problem to the Davis' as they seldom leave their place located about four miles off the hard-surfaced road in a nice growth of pine.

Longest trip Mr. Davis ever made was into Illinois where he visited one of his daughters. The journey didn't seem to impress him very much or stand out as a high point in his life. He said, "I went to Opp, got on the train and travelled to Illinois."



Hand-hewn shingles were used this summer to replace the roof on the house of John Davis in Ino community. This farm house was built 70 years ago and has not been modernized (Clipper Photo.)

That's all there was to it.

#### HAS FEW WORRIES

Living back in the woods like he does, the land owner who has nice stands of pines on his tracts stated the biggest trouble he had was with lumbermen wanting to buy his timber. Otherwise life is quiet and peaceful and "Slow John" said he hoped to live out the rest of his life without making any drastic changes in his home.

While many will be quick to wonder at the lack of modern conveniences in the Davis house, the man has chosen a way of life he found best-suited to him and he lived it. During the course of his 82 years, the elder Davis has acquired a considerable amount of property which would enable him to get just about anything he needed. But he has chosen his way of life, likes the peace and quiet of it, is ruler of his own domain and for one reason or another doesn't want to change. Since this is a free country, he is entitled to his choice and probably doesn't like to have outsiders tell him how to live any more than his neighbors would if he told them to take out their electricity and modern plumbing.

Confidence is sensitive - it never returns if it has abuse.

middle row, Mrs. C. E. Dorsey, Sr., Rev. E. T. Edgar, Rev. M. L. Seay, L. P. Mullins; top row, Flournoy Whitman, J. D. Whitman, Dr. Bryan Taylor, Lamar Rainer Jr. and Fleetwood Carnley. E. M. Warr. (Clipper Photo)