



NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH—This picture of New Hope Baptist Church in Eden dates back to either the late 1890s or early 1900s. The congregation surely must have been celebrating a special occasion. Look how dressed up they were!

city of Eden is a strong, handsome, modern structure but "oldtimers" hereabouts can remember an early Spring night in 1929 when a tornado made a shambles of its predecessor.

The old, wooden frame building which then housed Eden Baptists on Sunday and on "prayer meeting" nights and other worshipful occasions, was not alone as a victim of those angry winds of 43 years ago, however.

A hundred yards or two away sat another wooden frame building, with — if an old alumnus' memory serves — three rooms and as many pot-bellied stoves, which served the "Grammar School" students of Eden for many years.

That house of learning where the late Miss Dadie Griffith and others through the years taught no-nonsense spelling from a Blue Back speller and readin' and 'rithmetic and all the other essentials, lost some of its dignity to one of Mother nature's rages on that night, also.

As a matter of fact, the Eden school lost its entire top and the debris spilled over into the church yard, where the "church house" teetered and sagged on its foundations, its windows and doors blown out and many of its planks missing (see pictures).

Elsie Wadsworth, who authors the West Pell City News for this paper, recalls that a bouquet of flowers placed on the Church altar by her mother, Mrs. Block Williamson, remained in place, every blossom intact, despite all the damage to the church.

Worship services went on undaunted, however, although Homecoming Day observance, the second Sunday in June, had to be shifted to the Eden Methodist Church.

In August, work was begun to repair the church, and men, women and children all pitched in to help. Mr. Jim Harless, a deacon of the church, brought in his team of mules and, using chains and ropes, pulled and straightened the damaged building, braced it inside, and the volunteer workers then

second Sunday in August, the late Rev. C. J. Donahoo, then pastor of the church, began revival services.

New Hope Baptist was founded in 1824. Its present pastor, who resides in a pastorium where the old Eden School sat on the night of that tornado, and for many years thereafter, is the Rev. Curtis Rush.

The entire roof of the Eden School became airborne when the big blow hit, sailed across the church and into a then-vacant lot (where Dana Ballard's home is now).

Only about five years prior to the tornado, the school had been rebuilt, the top story removed and a nice stage built where the students performed in plays, programs, and the like. The community was proud of its "new" school.

Mrs. Virginia Lonergan was the principal then and taught the 5th and 6th grades. Mrs. Sara Fowler Stokes taught 3rd and 4th grades and Mrs. Iva Robertson taught 1st and 2nd.

School was out for the summer when the tornado hit because the school term back then was only seven months. And by the time September rolled around again the damage had been repaired and the school — if not the students — was ready for another term to begin.

Some other victims of that tornado that Mrs. Wadsworth recalls were the H. B. Guys whose house suffered roof damage and the Newt Butterworths, who lost a back porch.

The tornado struck Mr. Sam Smith's barn, too, and some of the local men had to help Mr. Smith rescue his cows and horses, which wound up in the hayloft.

Doubtless there were others affected by the tornado, whose names probably would not register on many of West Pell City's current residents.

But for some of the "oldsters" of the community, that April night of 43 years ago will be a vivid memory for some time to come.



WINDS TOOK TOLL ON OLD BAPTIST CHURCH.

FREE



pell City

son of the Industrial Development Department, Alabama Power Co. Hoyt Hamilton, probate judge, Harold Williams of the legal staff of Alabama Power, and Edwin Holladay, city attorney.

Sheriff Evans Will Not Resign His Office

"I have no intention of resigning as sheriff of St. Clair county. I did not run and get elected to resign. My plans are to stay in office for the full term and to serve the people of St. Clair county to the very best of my ability."

Above was Sheriff Dave Evans answer to county-wide rumors that he planned to resign less than two months after taking office.

Word has been making the rounds over the county also that Sheriff Evans had been shot and that he had also been cut. Neither of the rumors are true. The sheriff has been and is suffering from a huge carbuncle on his head, but word that he was shot or cut are strictly rumors.

Sheriff Evans said he was happy in his work. "I like my new job," he said. "I am highly well pleased with my staff and the work they have been doing in behalf of good law enforcement, in this county."

New deputies are Hoyt Coupland, chief deputy and "Gabs"

by" Hays, at Ashville and Bill Newton, Pell City. The three men are experienced law enforcement officers. Courland and Newton came to St. Clair from the police department at Leeds and Hays from police work at Irondale.

Sheriff Evans was deeply appreciative of the many calls he has had from men and women in every section of the county urging him not to resign after they had heard the rumors.

"That kind of thing sure makes me feel good," he said. "Although there are very likely more than one group in the county who would be glad for me to quit, calls from people of the county who want to stay on the job make me more than ever determined to give people of St. Clair four years of good law enforcement."



MRS. SARA FRANCES INZER

Begins 2nd 100 Years

Former Eden Woman Reaches Century Mark In Lifetime

One hundred years is a long, long time even measured by the swiftness of time's passage in this atomic age, but the lady above, Mrs. Sara Frances Inzer, formerly of Eden, will reach the century mark, tomorrow, February 27.

Born Sara Frances Lewis, near Eufaula in Barbour county, Ala., Feb. 27, 1859, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac M. Lewis, she is last survivor of 12 children of that family.

Her parents moved the family home to St. Clair county near Vincent when Mrs. Inzer was about two years old, moved to Eden a short time later. She is making her home with a daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Floyd in Birmingham.

There will be an Open House and Reception for relatives and close friends of the family at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Sunday afternoon from 2 until 5 p.m.

Mrs. Inzer was married to John Thomas Inzer, member of a prominent Alabama family when she was 24 years old. She has survived her husband who died in 1912, by nearly 47 years.

The Inzer family home was located in Eden on the site of the present Eden school. A large many-gabled house with a setting in a broad lawn under a number of ancient trees, the home was the show place of the community and the gathering place for the young folks of that day. Unfortunately the old home burned in 1910.

Mrs. Inzer joined the church for many years was an active member and worker in the New Hope Baptist church at Eden. She has been for a number of years the oldest member of the Dawson Memorial Baptist in Birmingham. She attributed her long life to her faith in Christ and "work in the service of the Lord". During her later years she has spent many happy hours writing poetry and "letters of condolence and sympathy to relatives and friends.

Her faculties are keen, her hearing and sight good, "but right here lately", she said, "I have been having a little trouble. Must be that I am just getting old."

Seven of Mrs. Inzer's nine children survive. They are Mrs. Gladys Floyd, Mrs. Mary Sorrells and Mrs. Uene Farabee, Birmingham, Mrs. Flora Griffin, Sylacauga, J. A. Inzer, Eden, B. W. Inzer, Atlanta, and Roy Inzer, Pascagoula, Miss. She has 10 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

She expects to see all of her children, many of her other relatives and close friends at the reception Sunday.

AT PELL CITY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Junior High Tourney Starts Monday Night

The annual St. Clair County Junior High School Basketball Tournament gets underway here Monday night, March 2, at Pell City Junior High, with Coal City meeting Springville at 6:30, followed by Steele vs. Ashville.

Pell City is entering two teams in the 12-team meet, an "A" team, coached by Hugh Williamson, and a "B" squad, coached by O. D. Duran. Other schools participating are Ragland, Coal City, Springville, Steele, Ashville, Moody, Cropwell, Odenville, Chandler Mountain and Easonville.

Four teams were seeded, in the following order: Ragland, Easonville, Pell City "A", and Moody.

The tourney will last all week, through Saturday night, with two games played each night. Trophies will be awarded the first, second and third place teams, with the Most Valuable Player receiving a plaque. Also, a ten-player All Tournament team will be chosen, with each player selected receiving a small trophy or medal.

After Monday night's action, the remainder of the schedule is as follows:

TUESDAY - Cropwell vs. Odenville at 6:30, followed by Chandler Mt. vs. Pell City "B".

WEDNESDAY - Ragland vs. winner of Coal City - Springville, then Pell City "A" vs. winner of Steele-Ashville.

THURSDAY - Moody vs. winner of Cropwell - Odenville, and Easonville vs. winner of Chandler Mt. - Pell City "B".

FRIDAY - Semi-finals.

SATURDAY - Consolation match at 7:00; Championship game at 8:00.

Eden West Side Baptist Revival

The Eden West Side Baptist Church will hold its simultaneous revival services March 2nd through the 8th, with Rev. O. H. Forehand, evangelist.

Rev. Forehand is the former pastor of the Eden West Side Baptist Church and is now pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church of Gadsden, Alabama. Music will be directed by Ned Gunter, who will also present "chalk talks" during the invited to attend the services week. The public is cordially each evening at 7 p. m.

The W. M. S. will observe the week of prayer for some missions at the church each morning at 9:30 a. m. The evangelist, Rev. Forehand, will conduct the devotional at each of the morning services.

St. Clair Plans Easter Seal Campaign

D. O. Langston, Chariman of St. Clair Chapter of the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults, has announced that Friday February 27 will open the 1959 Easter Seal campaign.

Mr. Langston has appointed Mrs. Ralph Windham as county Drive Chairman. Opening officially February 27, the drive will continue through Easter Sunday, March 29.

Professional authorities estimate that 90 per cent of the crippled and handicapped can be rehabilitated to the point Continued To Back Page

S. W. Dill To Be New Pony League Prexy

S. W. Dill was elected president of the Pell City Pony League for the coming year at a meeting held last week and Mrs. Louise Hullett was re-elected to the office of secretary.

Other officers named were: Alpha Walker, vice-president; Mrs. Ernestine Barber, treasurer, and Jim Mullins, player agent.

Named to the board of directors, were B. W. Tucker, Sheriff Dave Evans, Fletcher Blackwood, Jim Davis, Alvin "Shorty" Hurst, Jr., and Ed Spruiell.

Committees were appointed as follows: Finance Committee - Dave Evans, chairman, Ossie Lawley, and Jim Davis;

Field Committee - Robert Foster, chairman, E. L. Love, Jr., Alpha Walker, and Bob Adams.

Consession committee - Mrs. Steve Lee, chairman, Mesdames Kenneth Barber, I. A. Fambrough, Jim Davis, Alvin Hurst, Jr., S. W. Dill, Robert Foster, Jim Mullins, and B. W. Tucker.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday night, March 3, at the Hillcrest.

Joint Meeting Of Methodist Men's Classes

The men's classes of the First Methodist church will meet together Sunday morning at the Sunday School hour to hear Judge Frank Embry teach the combined classes. Everyone is invited to the Sunday meeting.

Hiway Patrolmen Transferred

The two Highway Patrolmen stationed in Pell City, B. W. Tucker and Len Fields, received word this week, they are to be transferred effective March 1st.

Tucker, who has been stationed here for almost eight years, will move to Centre

signed to Tusculumbia. They will report to their new stations Sunday, March 1st. Fields has been in Pell City 20 months. Word of the transfers came in a letter from Public Safety Director Floyd Mann. Names of the patrolmen who will be sent to Pell City have not been

LALOCK Assistant

John Patterson the appointment of J. Blalock of the post of assistant Defense Director. Blalock had a restaurant. He is an Air Force pilot. He has served 13 years in the Air Force. He is a work in progress of communication. His training with the in the Ground and in the field is particularly Blalock for "Joe Foster" of Civil. Dr. Blalock has new duties and home to Mount

Sponsors Circus

High School building an indoor room and to stage of the am. with all of the bene American Indoor Back Page SECTION

C. M. GILLHAM MENTION
 Mrs. Ben Hestley, Jr., Field, Montgomery and Monday of last arrives here.
 Thomas Holtbrooks funeral of Mrs. John Vista at Vandiver
 Neighbors returned to Veteran's Hospital on Saturday, having two weeks.
 Leeves of Birmingham A. Inzer visited related some fishing near Mississippi Thursday
 er had his tonsils re-Children's Hospital in Saturday. He is reco- at his home.
 Gillhams made a trip Saturday.
 s, Roy Evans and Wil- led Mr. and Mrs. Her- last Lake Sunday.
 King made a trip to Sunday.
 Spradlin and children visited Mrs. Junior Sunday.
 Leeves and children of spent the weekend L. Inzer.
 Armstrong of One- ng this week with Mr. Brannon.
 ce Davis underwent at Highland Baptist Birmingham Thursday. rating at home now.
 nnon and Mrs. John in Anniston Wednes-
 s are on the loose few children are out izing the germ. Too, lone adult has them.
 Lindsey of Birming- ursday with Mr. and nnon.
 s. Harvey Robertson Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd lson of Arab visited Sunday.
 King has joined the d unit here.
 la Fulmer and "Bog- lyn Lonnergan and in Anniston Tuesday.
 s. L. W. Brannon of d Mr. and Mrs. Jim rday.
 by goes to Mr. and Stevens in the pass- infant son Monday Children's Hospital in
 and Mrs. Edward

announce the birth of a son, Gregory Fields Crowe, March 17th. This young fella weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 ozs.
Mrs. Adrian Howard Hostess At Phillipine Luncheon
 Mrs. Adrian Howard, a native of the Phillipine Islands was hostess at a luncheon April 11th at her home.
 The guests really enjoyed the native food that was so deliciously prepared. They were also amazed at the difference a Phillipine touch can make to basic foods used in our country.
 The menu included: mustard green salad, chicken chow mein, Phillipine fried rice, fritada (stew) green beans, a la Filipine, cherry pie, sweet potato and cocónut and iced tea.
 The guests were Mesdames Fred Lewis, Rufus Rooker, T. R. Akridge, Melvin Truitt, J. A. Hunt, J. A. Inzer, Lucia Cate, Wash Howard and the hostesses daughters, Nina and Adrene.
Civic Club Supper Held At Armory
 The Eden Civic Club members and their wives enjoyed a most delicious fish supper at the armory last Monday night.
 Mr. Joe Kilgroe, mayor, spoke to the group about some of the plans underway for the development of the newly acquired area within the city limits of Pell City.
 Mr. Earl Bowman entertained with some of his wonderful imitations and his version of the recently popular song "Davy Crockett".
 After the meal the club members held a business session. About fifty persons were present for this delightful feat.
Officers Installed At Eden PTA
 The Eden Elementary PTA met at the school April 6th. The inspirational was given by Rev. L. L. Bowlin.
 Officers for the ensuing year were installed by Mrs. Carl Schogins, St. Clair County PTA Council president.
 Mr. D. O. Langston, St. Clair county School superintendent, spoke to the group on "Schools Your Responsibility."
 Mr. Hoyt Sims, Eden school principal, presented his sixth grade students in a playlet "Much Too Much."
 Mrs. Morris and her first grade mothers were the hostesses. The room also won the attendance prize.
Cub Scout Family Night To Be Held Saturday Night

present the pins to their sons.
 The Eden cub leaders are: Rev. L. L. Bowlin, institutional representative; Mrs. William Alverson, cub master; Mrs. James Brown, Cook Springs den mother; Mrs. William Alverson, Eden den mother.
 Officers elected in the Eden den recently are: David Tillery, president; Glynn D. Lonnergan, secretary; and Danny Stevens, treasurer.
CHURCH NEWS
Eden First Methodist Church
 Rev. J. A. Hunt, pastor
 Thursday, April 19
 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
 Sunday, April 22
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School. Mr. Howard Smith, superintendent
 11:00 a.m. Worship service. Sermon by the pastor
 6:15 p.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship. Mr. Troy Knight, counselor.
 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship service. Sermon by the pastor
 Wednesday, April 25
 6:30 p.m. Bible study conducted by Rev. S. W. Edwards.
Fellowship Supper Held
 A fellowship supper was held at the church Friday night. Each family brought a covered dish and everyone had a wonderful time. This is a monthly affair.
 After the supper the men's club held their business meeting.
Steward's Meeting Held
 The Stewards held their monthly meeting at the church Sunday night, April 15th Dr. Culver Lee, Chairman of the board of stewards, presided over the meeting.
WSCS Meets With Mrs. Culver Lee
 The WSCS met Monday night, April 16th, at the home of Mrs. Culver Lee.
 Mrs. Adrian Howard reviewed the second chapter of the study course book "The Five Classics". She also sang a solo.
 Mrs. Culver Lee, in the absence of Mrs. Mattie Lovell, president, presided over the business session.
 Refreshments were served to fifteen member by the hostess.
New Hope Baptist Church
 Rev. E. A. Moore, pastor
 Sunday April 22
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Mr. James Stevens, superintendent
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship. Sermon by the pastor.
 6:30 p.m. Baptist Training Union
 Mrs. Claud Gillham, director
 7:30 p.m. Evening worship, Sermon by the pastor.
 Tuesday, April 24
 8:30 Vacation Bible Study conducted by Rev. Moore.
 Wednesday, April 25
 7:30 p.m. Hour of Power

JUNIORS ENTERTAIN Seniors At Ashville Friday

A gala affair at Ashville High School April 13th was the Junior-Senior banquet. The Juniors entertained the Seniors in their "Gypsy Camp." It was a very colorful occasion.
 The following program added to the gaiety, "Call of the Wild," Mary Nell Sprayberry, Jr. Class President, "Heeding the Call" Buford Sanders, Sr. Class president; "Wanderers", Wanda Gilliland "Fortune Telling", Jerry Gibbs; Jokes, Glenn Jackson. Sam Wright was chairman of the activities that followed in the auditorium, where dancing and games were enjoyed.
 There was also a real Fortune Teller that added much to the evening of real fun. D. A. Cox is Junior Class sponsor.

Farm Briefs

Shotes that make fast gains on comparatively little feed are the kind that make a market hog business profitable.
 Farm economists believe that substantial recovery in hog prices should be seen by mid-spring.
 Good ponds that are well stocked with desirable kinds of fish should be fertilized.
 Semen is now available for artificial breeding of Milking Short-horn cows in Alabama.
 Aldrin and heptachlor are both recommended for control of budworms and wireworms.
 If fresh clean water is kept near creep feeders, little pigs will use their feed to best advantage.
 The Goldrush, the most widely grown sweetpotato variety in Alabama, besides being a good yielder, has a uniform size and shape and is resistant to stem rot and cork.
 This is the time of year when the plum curculio and brown rot attack fruit trees.
 Insect-infested trees should be removed to make use of the wood before rotting and to get the bugs out of the timber stand.

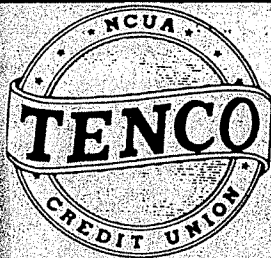
April 13th for the members of the Young Married People's Sunday School Class.
 A most enjoyable time was had by those present: Mr. and Mrs. Louie McKnight, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hollis and son, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stevens, Rev. and Mrs. E. A. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Glover Stewart, Mrs. James Smith and children, Mr. Glynn Lonnergan, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Jones, Mr. and Mrs.

Honore Shower
 Mrs. D. Miss Jean a miscell night in t ning hall a
 The dini ly decorat lillies and and dogwe throughou
 Many lo and refres Mesdames gan, Mel Crump. H en, Mark Lawson K Nina Willi lton, Ber Dorothy Alex Ban Ervin The L. Owen, nett, Dee Tollison dames P. Hoyt Cru Gordon B:
Revive At Od Baptis
 Rev. J. College ar near Cla Youth Re ville Bap Rev. Char from How pastor of will lead Service: at 7 o'clo Rev. V. the Odenv dial invit: tend thes conducted





NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH—This picture of New Hope Baptist Church in Eden dates back to either the late 1890s or early 1900s. The congregation surely must have been celebrating a special occasion. Look how dressed up they were!



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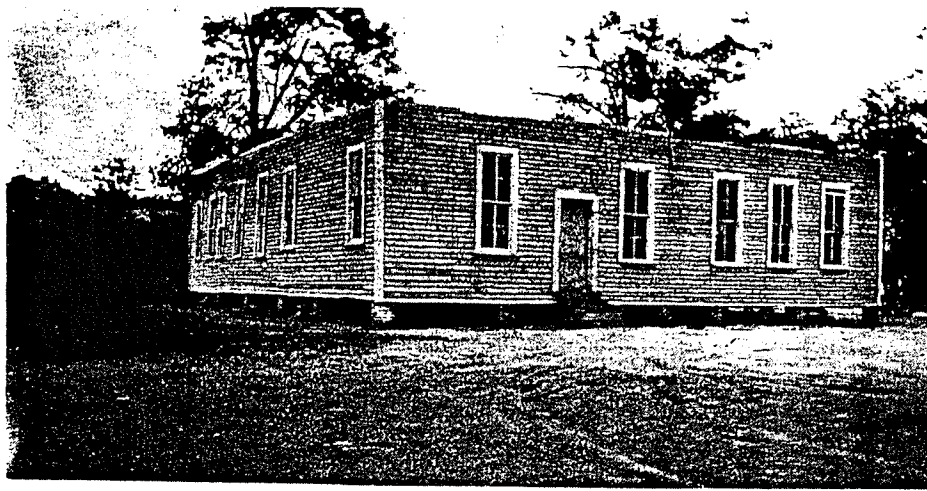
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Only Available Picture

This picture of the Eden School was taken after the storm in April of 1929. The entire roof was blown over the New Hope Baptist Church into a

vacant lot. It had been remodeled in 1924 and the storm carried away the second story.



Oldest Former Student

Mr. Spurge Alverson is the oldest pupil known from the old school. He began his education there in 1886 at the age of seven and remembers his teacher was B. M. Mathis. Mr. Alverson celebrated his 95th birthday on March 3 at Ingram Manor Nursing Home. He had a son, John Barnett, of Pell City and a daughter, Mrs. Floyce Cunningham to Birmingham. Mr. Alverson had an Eden school mate, Mr. George Rich of Cropwell, who is 93 years old.



... And The Youngest

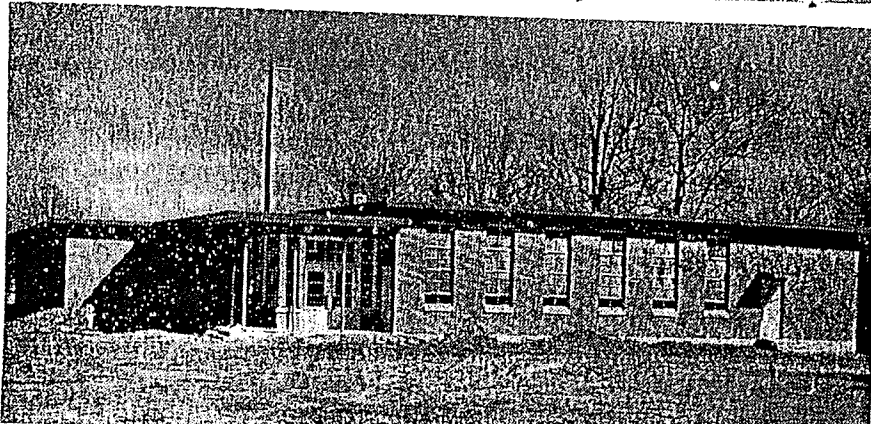
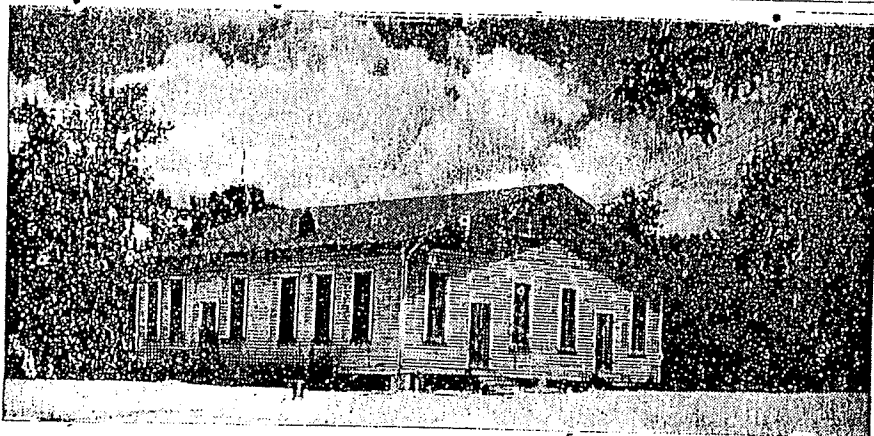
Dana Ballard, daughter of James and Ruth (Hamilton) Stevens is the youngest pupil known who went to school in the old building. She is a registered nurse at St. Clair County Hospital here in Pell City and has two children, Susie and Pam.

The Pell City News

ALABAMA'S BIG WEEKLY NEWSPAPER Circuit Clerk's Office ESTABLISHED 1908

VOLUME 41

PELL CITY, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1949



Civic Clubs Start Fund Drive For Rev. Heflin Home

Pell City's Civic clubs have started an active drive to raise funds to buy or build a permanent home in Pell City for Rev. Marvin Heflin, pastor of Pell City's First Methodist Church.

The Lions have appointed their committee and Civitans and Shrine Club will select committees in a short time.

Members of the Lions' committee are Paul Turner, Foster Oliver and J. R. Lowery.

The drive will be set off with a dinner at Black and White Gardens. Jack Cline, owner, said the Black and White would serve the meal for \$1.00. Minimum price of tickets to the meal will be \$10.00, but there is no limit to the price that can be paid for the ticket.

All above the actual cost of the meal, \$1.00 per person, will be turned over to the funds committee. An outstanding speaker will be on the program for the "Brother Heflin Dinner". Sponsors of the dinner hope to have a minimum of 150 people attend the dinner with the maximum set at 200.

Date of the dinner and names of other committee members will be announced in a short time.

While nothing permanent has been done, it is believed those sponsoring the movement will try to buy a home rather than to build one.

Rev. Heflin will retire after this year. He has served for many years in the Methodist ministry, and since he expressed a desire to make his permanent home in Pell City, citizens of every denomination as well as members of Rev. Heflin's church have expressed a desire to have Rev. Heflin...



FROM The old to the new . . . Views show the new and the old school building. Last week



change, the first change that has been made in, some say 69 years, some say about 50 years.

In any event it has been a long time since children who attended school at Eden had a chance to walk into a brand new building.

But that's what happened last week when Professor E. C. Bolea, his five school faculty and just over 200 pupils left the old school on Highway 7B and marched nearly a mile to the recently completed school building on the site of the old Inzer home.

The new six classroom building cost about \$80,000. In addition to six classrooms, the building has an office for the principal, a cafeteria (what would old-timers think about the young'uns eatin' right in the building?) an auditorium, a storage room for books. In addition each room has a drinking fountain. There is a furnace no more toin' coal or pine knots to stoke the heater and indoor toilets.

Top view shows the old school building. Some say this building was first constructed in 1880, some say about the turn of the century—around 1900. In any event the building is an ancient one, was worn out and outmoded at

Pell City.

Farm Boys Group To Celebrate National FFA Week

Future Farmers all over Alabama and all over the nation will celebrate next week February 19-26 as National FFA Week as announced by Nick Lindsay, state FFA president, Orville, Alabama. President Lindsay said that boys have been released to the 100 Future Farmer chapters in Alabama for conducting the most elaborate celebration in the history of FFA, the world's largest farm boys organization. The FFA is the national organization for boys studying vocational agriculture.

"I BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF FARMING" will be on the tongues of FFA boys everywhere next week. This statement was selected as the theme of 1949 FFA Week because it is the first seven words in their own FFA creed. Individual FFA chapters will

(Continued on Back Page)

The Car And

(Second in a series of safety articles)
New, highly powered cars zip just on the concrete. Laboriously, four men push a

cheap 1932 coupe out onto the highway. Gaining momentum, they break into a pushing trot . . . one jumps under the wheel, slips the gears into mesh, lets out the clutch . . . the aged engine coughs hesitantly to life . . . all pile in, the driver steps on it to get home before dark catches them without lights . . . and all keep their fingers crooked against an emergency—with no brakes they could never stop in time.

Some get away with it. Some don't. Those who don't usually hurt or kill someone with a better sense of responsibility.

The restaurants where we eat are inspected. The buildings we work in are inspected. The elevators we ride are inspected. Inspection at every turn, to assure the public of at least minimum protection.

Inspection everywhere, that is, except where automobiles are concerned. Anything with four wheels and the means of translating gasoline to motion can use the highways—and all those meeting it have absolutely no assurance that such so-called automobile has even the minimum capability of control . . .

The highway engineer wants to put a grade separation at a busy

1992

**YOU ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME!**



**NEW HOPE
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Pell City, Alabama 35125
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The Church Is People!

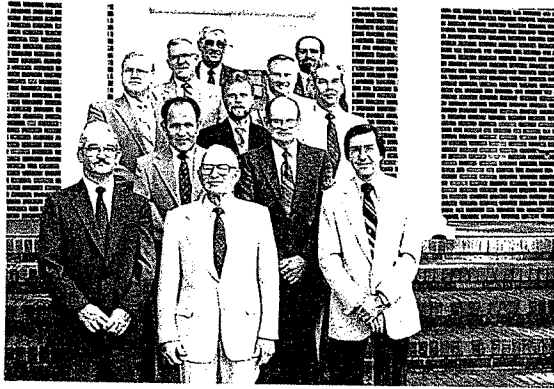


Schedule of Services
Sunday

- 8:30 Worship
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship
- 6:00 Discipleship Training
- 7:00 Worship

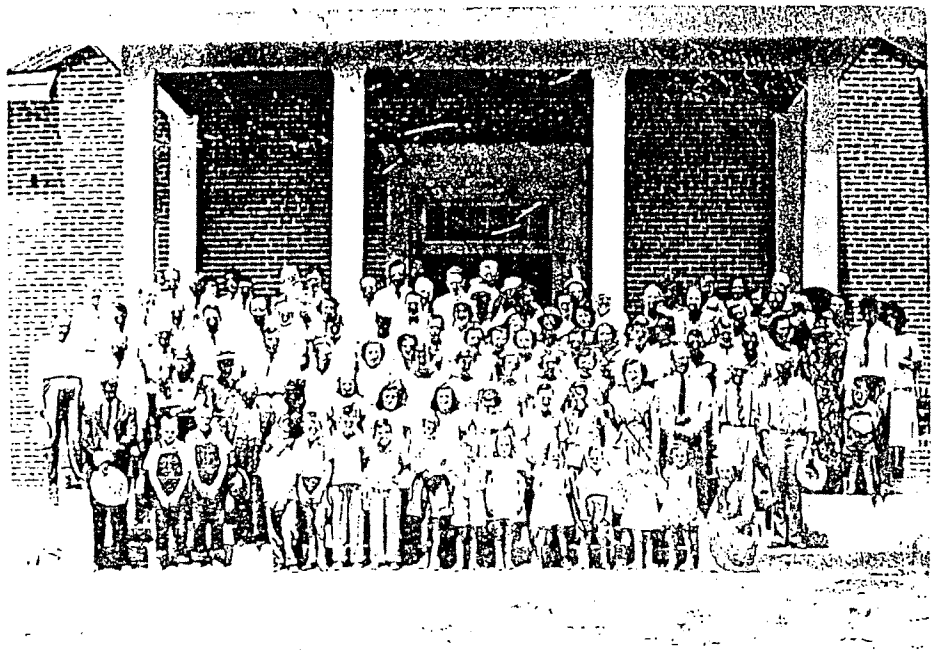
Wednesday

- 6:15 Preschool and Children's Choir
- 7:00 Prayer Meeting
- 7:00 Mission Organizations for
Preschool, Children and Youth
- 8:00 Adult Choir



A warm welcome is waiting for you at New Hope Baptist Church. The doors are always open to those who are seeking the truth and abundant life that is found in Jesus Christ.





Proud of the New Church Building. The membership posed for this photo in the front of the newly completed building in 1950. Rev. A.C. Phillips was pastor at the time.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
OF
EDEN, ALABAMA
ORGANIZED 1824

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Baptist Training Union	23
Baptist Women's Work	24
Before the white man came	5
Building a new building	20
Brotherhood work	26
Church Buildings (Photographs)	33-38
Church Music and Singing	25-26
Civil War Days	11
Deacons	27
Discipline	14
Early Beginnings	6-8
Interesting Events	9-10
Naming of Eden	12-13
Pastors of New Hope 1834 - present	39-45
Past Events of Interest	17-21
Present Pastor	4
Preface	3
Resident Membership - present	30
Revivals at New Hope	16
Sunday School Work - Superintendants	22
Some old-timers (photographs)	28-29,61
Statistical Reports	46-60
The Pastor's Home (Pastorium)	21
More photographs - present	61-62

PREFACE

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that we undertake the compiling and writing of an historical sketch of the New Hope Baptist Church.

The idea came to me several years ago when a young lad who lived in Eden at the time, Dennis Robertson, was staying home from school one day and had checked out a book from the library, Historical Tales of Talladega, by Grace Jemison. As he read the section on religion he came to the name of New Hope Baptist Church as a member of the Coosa River Association which met in 1834. He called me to ask if this was New Hope of Eden. This news that the Church existed that far back whetted my own appetite to investigate further. Before having the opportunity to do much in that direction we were called to the pastorate of Springville Baptist Church and did not get the project off the ground. Returning now to the New Hope Church in 1971 we again renewed interest and began this undertaking.

Since the records of New Hope Church were burned, we only have them back to 1925. Up until this extensive search, the organizational date was given as "in the 1840's" which was the oldest date which could be established and this was more or less a guess.

Now that more information has been found we feel the membership and future generations will cherish the information we do have. As you read you will discover however, that there is much information still missing which may yet turn up at some future date which will give light to the already interesting and inspiring past of this great Church.

It is with humble gratitude that we recognize that many who have helped us in the gathering of information without which this work would have been an impossible task. To all who have contributed in any way we say "THANKS". We also recognize and acknowledge the following sources from which much of this information was gleaned.

Minutes of Coosa Valley Association
Minutes of the Coosa River Association - Coosa River Baptist
Association Office - Talladega, Alabama
Minutes of Cahaba Valley Assoc. - Microfilm - Sanford University
Minutes of the St. Clair County Baptist Association
History of Baptists in Alabama, by B. F. Riley
St. Clair News/AEgis
Ashville Baptist Church - A Historical Sketch, by Mattie Lou Crow
Historical Tales of Talladega, Paragon Press, Montgomery, Ala.,
1959, by Grace Jemison
A Historical Sketch of the Springville Baptist Church, by Mrs.
Troy E. Taylor
Baptists in Alabama, by A. Hamilton Reid
Central Baptist Church History, by Carol and Earl Massey
Records of the St. Clair County, Court House Probate Office,
Ashville, Ala.

In addition to these sources, we are indebted to many of our members and friends who have been willing to share many incidences and have given much helpful information regarding the history of our Church. We recall the past only as a means of challenging us to a greater future in the work of our Lord. May this work be received as a labor of love and used as a challenge to greater things in the future of our Church.



PRESENT PASTOR - CURTIS E. RUSH

Curtis E. Rush is a native of North Georgia, having moved to Alabama in the 1930's with his family, residing in Cullman County. There, in 1941 he married Edith Winnell Buckelew. They have three children, Edward, Margaret and Maurine. They now have two grandchildren, Sherri Rush, daughter of Edward and Bobbie Rush, and Leigh Ann Fox, daughter of Jim and Maurine Fox.

"Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 10:18

These words of Jesus have surely been true to New Hope Baptist Church for she has been "Kept by the Power of God" through the years. Surely we can see the handwork of God in the labors of this Church since she was founded long ago. Through these many years God has built and is building for himself a spiritual Church.

"You are the crown of my rejoicing...." St. Paul said to the churches at Thessalonica.... you are our glory and joy." This is the way this pastor feels about New Hope Church. You are my crown of joy. It has been my privilege to serve this wonderful Church for 9 years once and then to return for a second time as pastor at the present time.

I count it all joy to have had a small part in the making of history, as well as in the compiling of this historical sketch of the New Hope Baptist Church.

BEFORE THE WHITE MAN

To talk of the history of any part of these United States of America, even a small community like Eden and Pell City, would be incomplete without mention being made of the Indians. After all, this was once their home. So a brief word about Eden and South St. Clair County before the white man came.

It is hard to imagine Eden and surrounding area as nothing but virgin forest, yet we know that not too many years ago it was just that. The hills and valleys around here must have been a favorite hunting ground for the Indians living up and down the Coosa River Valley. That there were Indians near by, if not right in Eden is a known fact. Several Indian villages are known to have been located up in the Coal City, Broken Arrow Creek area, and Indian artifacts have been found in that area.

One legend has it that there was a wealthy tribe of Indians living in that area, and when the white man came and they were being driven out, on the march to the reservation, that one old chief took his young son and blindfolded him and led him down a rough trail, over a hill and down a steep bluff, then inside a dark cave. There he took off the blindfold and showed the lad a room in the cave which contained many pots of gold. He then told the lad that when he grew up that he could return to this place, and if he could remember the way they came, and find the cave, the gold would be his. Many years later the Indian lad returned to the area, set up a blacksmith shop, and was one of the best in Coal City. But every opportunity he would go down toward the Coosa River and search for the lost cave and the gold. If it was ever found no one knows about it.

Cecil Barber, who told us this story, also told of an old cave where he played as a boy, and where there were many signs of the old Indian tribe in the area.

As these Indians lived in their many villages, such as Coal City, the Broken Arrow Creek, and the "No Business Creek" they no doubt found their way on many hunting tours of our Eden and Pell City. Who knows but that there may have once been Indian Villages in this area before white men settled it.



EARLY BEGINNINGS

New Hope Baptist Church, St. Clair County has been affiliated with the Associational Organizations as far back as we know of there being any Associations of Churches in this country, in reach of this church. It is from these records of Associational Meeting and their recorded minutes that we know anything about New Hope Church at all in the early beginning of the Church.

The Coosa River Association of United Baptist was organized November 8, 1833. There are no records of that first meeting, but the second meeting was held at the Providence Meeting House; being held on Choccolocco from the 11th to the 13th of October, 1834. "A sermon introductory to business delivered by Brother Philip Archer from Isaiah 62 Chapter and 1st and 2nd verses." Jordan Williams was clerk, and Leon Blythe was moderator; there were 229 members of churches forming the Association and the following churches had messengers present at the meeting:

Church	Delegates	Number of Members
Tallahoga	Loab Lawler, John Lawler, B. Madison	47
Providence	William McCain, T. Neal, and J. Ray	57
Fond Spring	T. Hill, L. Murphey, and C. McGee	31
Tallahatchee	P. Archer, G. Hill, and J. Drennen	61
Cedar Spring	G. Blythe, J. Williams	10
New Hope (St. Clair Co.)	W. G. Foster, J. Madden, T.N. Bell	23

New Hope was received the second year of the Association. This information definitely establishes the existence of the New Hope Baptist Church as being in existence at the time, and it is very possible that the three men who were messengers to the Association that year were Charter Members of the Church.

An interesting article is written in Baptist in Alabama, King and Boid, Printers, Phil. 1840, by Hosea Holcomb, about this meeting. Page 248 speaking of the organization of the Coosa River Association in 1824 "The number of churches was 170. The glorious gospel of the Redeemer, the humble servant prayer, the songs of Zion, and the war whoops of the savage were heard in the same neighborhood." At their next meeting, they received New Hope Baptist Church in St. Clair County, formerly a member of the Mount Zion Association, but united with the Coosa River Association in 1834.; "They have always, until recently, been a small band. Their number has increased considerably in the course of one year. Elder William McCain labors with them in word and in doctrine."

Rev. McCain is listed in the minutes as one of four ministers present at the organizational meeting of the Coosa River Association, November 8th, 1833, and at that time was Pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church of the same Association. The Friendship Church did not report at the next meeting.

EARLY BEGINNINGS

So we see that, like many of the primitive churches, the people who formed these early associations did so under great hardships, traveled to the meetings over dangerous roads through the woods all for the purpose of propogating the beloved gospel they preached. One of the early ways that these churches communicated with each other was through the "Circular Letter" which was written from one association to another. These letters were in a way sermons expounding each other and encouraging each other.

These early churches were not mere assemblies of professing Christians, who agreed to meet once a month, or oftener and attend to formal round of ceremonies connected with religion. They were bands of men and women whose hearts the Lord had touched, attracted by the Cross to the cause of the Redeemer. They were set as lights in the world and for the defuse and propogation of the Gospel. In this grand object they took a most lively involvement in serving the Living Christ.

To establish the earliest record of the organizational date for the New Hope Baptist Church we researched all the records available and the first record to give the date of organization was the Associational minutes of the Coosa River Baptist Association. At the annual meeting dated 1853 the associational clerk asked all the churches to please give the date their church was organized and these dates would be printed in the next report of the Association. A photo copy below shows a part of that minute in which the request was made.

COOSA RIVER ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

SPRING CREEK CHURCH,

IN SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA.

The Clerk of the Association would be glad if the Clerks of the Churches would state in their next Letters, when their Churches were constituted, and with how many members.

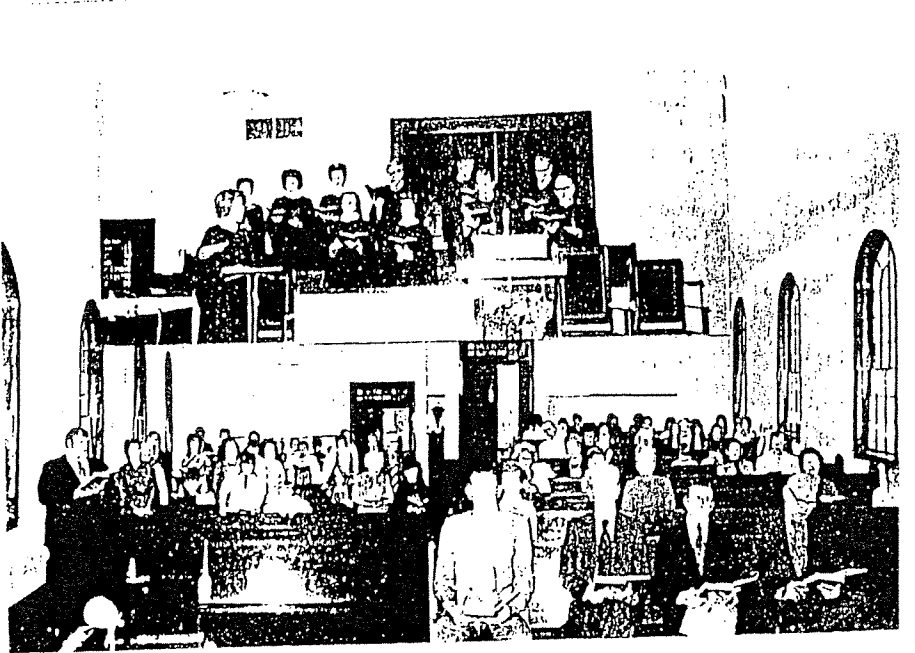
J. L. M. CURRY.

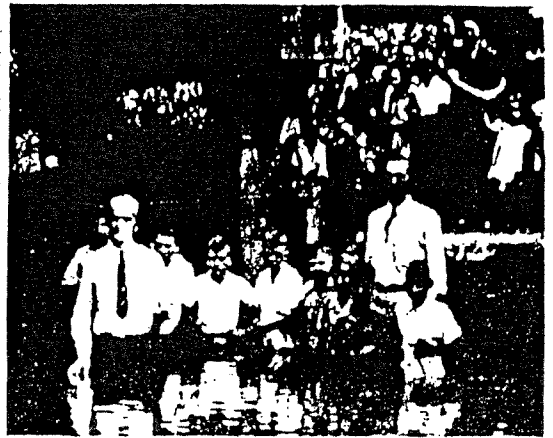
1853 minutes

MONTGOMERY:

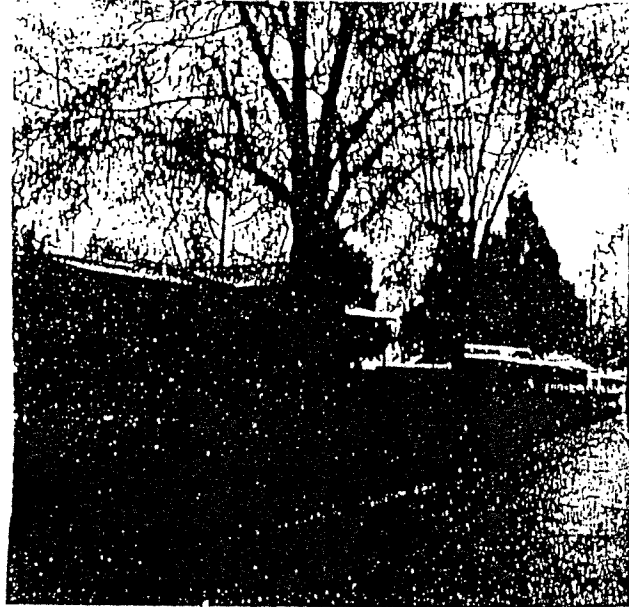
ADVERTISER AND STATE GAZETTE JOB OFFICE

1853.





*Typical old fashioned baptismal service. Rev. B.W. Inzer
in both photos baptizing in Wolf Creek. June 1946 & 1944.*



THE FIRST CHURCH

In 1822 St. Clair was established and named after General Arthur St. Clair, and the first county seat was established at Ashville, Alabama a town named after General John Ash. Just two years later in 1824 a small church was established with an humble beginning of five charter members. The new church was called New Hope; the reason for this name we can only guess. There was not another church established in the area for many years, and this was, at the time, the only house of worship for this entire area. Churches were like neighbors, few and far between. Of the date and name, we are sure. Of the location of this first building, we have only the stories which have been handed down from one generation to another. Our knowledge comes from the following story told by Rev. B. W. Inzer, written in a letter to Mrs. Pauline Baker and dated April 14, 1964.

AS I REMEMBER

"The oldest thing I ever heard about a church at Eden, Uncle Fealy Stewart told me about 1935. He said "I use to walk down here when I was seven years old and older with my Grandma Mullins. She told me about the only church anywhere in this area was about where Jim Stevens built. It was logs and split logs and boards made the seats, windows and doors. They came here from Leeds, west, Riverside, east, Sterrett, south, and from the big mountain to the north. It must have been largely Primitive Baptist. Of course the cemetery was in pasture when we moved here in 1898."