

Lifestyles

What heroes are made of

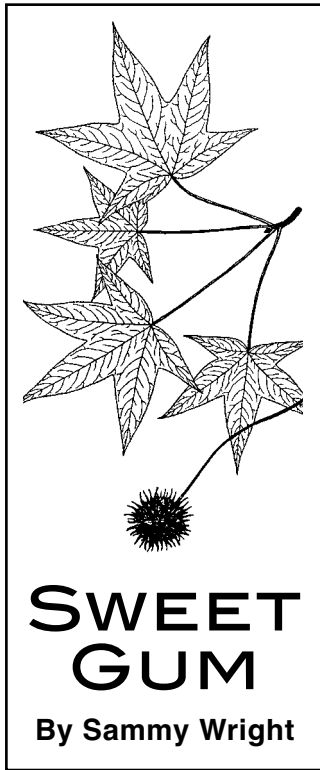
PART ONE

Early records indicate that Wimberley was a village whose families numbered more than a dozen during the first decades of the last century. It had a Post Office in 1910, but it closed before 1920 and the mail was then routed through Toxey. It also had a church and a cemetery. Several creek and branches coursed through the valleys between the hills near the village.

Mr. and Mrs. Dolphus Abston lived in the village during that era, before moving to Melvin. They had a large family, and one of their boys, W.C., died from the bite of a coral snake in 1933. Through this article, and the one that follows, we are going to consider another son, Jessie, and trace his path through World War II and after the war. He made a difference, and in learning about him, you will be proud to be a part of Choctaw County.

Jessie went to school for six years at Toxey, and was self-taught after that time. He cherished education, but going on to school during those depression years just was not possible. Even so, he was very self-reliant and looked at everything as a lesson to be learned. Before entering his teen years, he trained his beautiful bass voice so thoroughly that it was possible to sing alone or in a group.

During those decades, some very good singers



SWEET GUM
By Sammy Wright

met at Lusk Tabernacle on Friday night, and it was not uncommon at all for them to sing dusk to dawn. Many of the people in the Bogueloosa Valley either walked or rode to the tabernacle in wagons. The singing was that popular, and people who loved it were very loyal.

One song, "Angels Rock Me to Sleep, In The Cradle of Love," was a favorite at every singing. The song is very heavy in bass, and Jessie really stood out in singing that part. We will see how well that beautiful voice served him in later years. The family farmed, and things



Jessie Abston

were very hard. Jessie viewed being drafted into the Army in 1943 as a blessing.

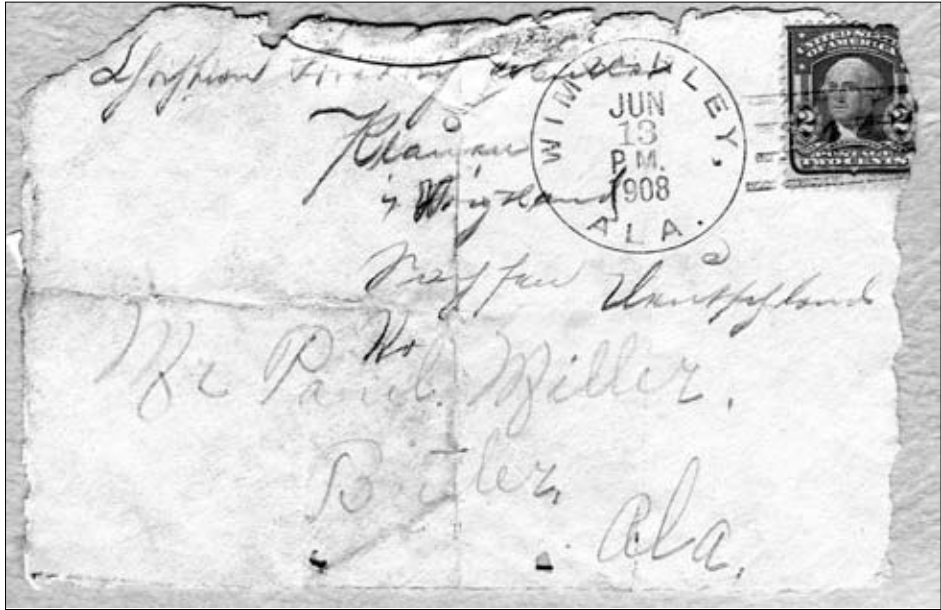
He was sent to Camp Shelby for Infantry training, and then went through special training as a scout. He went from Camp Shelby to New

Guinea, and was placed in Army Intelligence. His job was to detect the movement of enemy troops. Scouts worked in pairs, and were usually miles ahead of their unit. During a battle, the scout fought with their unit.

Living in that manner, food was often hard to secure. During one particular case, Jessie and his fellow scout resorted to killing and cooking a parrot. They boiled it in a helmet and drank the juice that formed during the cooking. The meat was too tough to chew. They ate smaller birds after that ordeal.

New Guinea is the second largest island in

■ See SWEETGUM, 8A



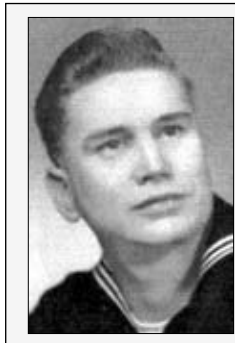
AT LEFT -- An envelope addressed to Butler businessman Paul Miller, postmarked at Wimberley in June, 1908. (Image courtesy of the Wood Collection)

Jeeps could go anywhere

Jeeps were one of the work horses of World War II and the Korean War. Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan made 278,000 of these Jeeps. American Bantam Company in Butler, Pennsylvania made 2,600 for the war.

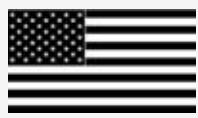
The War Jeeps were loaded with shovels, axes, and gas cans, could run on any rough roads, and its windshield could be pivoted forward for better visibility.

After World War II many military vehicles were repaired by the Japanese people in 1951. The Japanese were using handcarts, bicycle-drawn carts and horse-drawn carriages. When they saw the Jeep and the things it



Our Veterans

By SFC Richard M. 'Pete' Allen (Ret.)



could do and where they could go, well they wanted one.

After the war, Japanese car makers specialized in repairing vehicles such as Jeeps and Dodge Weapon Carriers that were surpluses of the United States military. Before the war Japan had a four wheel drive Kuro-

gane car, which could not compare with the Jeep.

After the war, Willys Overland had financial problems and had been purchased by Kaiser Fraser in 1954. Kaiser Fraser was purchased by the American Motor Company in 1970 and American Motor was purchased by Chrysler in 1987. In

1998 Chrysler merged with Daimler Benz.

Nissan, Toyota, Daihatsu, Mazda, and Mitsubishi, were forbidden to manufacture compact cars by Gen. MacArthur from 1945 though 1949.

Some of the old jeeps are still around, some with hard tops, doors, heating and cooling system. In 1961 we had the open top Jeeps, they were very cold. We did, as all military troops did, cover up with whatever we could find and make the best of it.

We need these old Jeeps here in the county now to get around on some of our dirt roads.

(ED. NOTE: Readers can contact Pete by email at Allwis64@yahoo.com.)

SoundOff

If all we at Choctaw County High School had to worry about was uniforms we would be blessed. Our 8th and 9th graders still don't have a math teacher. The parents can't get any help from the board nor the superintendent, so we have decided to take our plea to the state. CCHS is pitiful and nobody cares.

I thoroughly enjoyed the article on Anita Huey. As a mother and an avid cook myself, I can't wait to try her recipes. Has she considered hosting a cooking class here Choctaw County? I for one would be among one of the first to sign up!

Now that hunting season is over, dog hunters can quit poaching with their dogs and I can quit shooting their dogs.

What in the world is happening to the medical care around here? There is no excuse that anyone should have to wait four to six hours to see a family doctor in Choctaw County.

It is nice to have a newspaper that focuses on the many faith-based GOOD NEWS stories that happen every week in our county. Thank you, Dee Ann, Tommy and staff for caring about our churches and visiting with us. We enjoyed having you at Gilbertown Assembly of God's groundbreaking on Sunday.

It's hard to believe that the mayor and council passed that new business license ordinance. I went into a local store in Pennington where a nice lady works and she may not have a job because the place where she works may have to close. This lady needs her job and we the PEOPLE need our businesses. We aren't worried about NEW businesses, we should be taking care our home people first. Maybe when election time comes the citizens will elect a mayor and council members that understand this.

Thank you for all that you do for our county. We love The Sun! This SoundOff is a good thing. It helps make us more aware of how others feel about things. May God bless you all as you do your jobs.

CCHS needs a MATH TEACHER!!! Does anybody care? Is anybody trying to get one?

I agree. I think all high school graduates should be drafted and have to spend a mandatory one year in military service. The dose of "real life" would be good for them.

I thought if you were a father who didn't pay child support, you would be locked up or some kind of punishment would happen. Well, why is this not the case with my ex-husband? He has not paid in years! We go to court and he says he has filed for disability and they let him go. Well, what if I was down and couldn't work? How would the kids get clothing or food? DHR needs to do something about this.

I am a World War II veteran and I just wanted to thank the Sun for printing Pete Allen's columns on military history. It's nice to have a local paper that still cares about us old soldiers!

Thank you, Tommy, for saying what needed to be said about the Pennington Town Council's decision to raise business license fees to unbelievably high amounts. Businesses, as you said, are already "taxed" and "regulated" to the point that - if ridiculous actions like this keep on - there won't be any businesses in Pennington left to tax.

The Alabama Line Association certainly appreciates Bro. Campbell with *The Choctaw Sun* for being present on Sunday to document the groundbreaking for our new building in Silas. May God bless you. We thank you very much for the nice picture and story in the paper.

When a person's business license fee jumps from about \$200 a year to several thousand dollars - yes THOUSANDS - that's my sign that it is time to get the heck out of Dodge, er, excuse me, PENNINGTON!

I am a volunteer firefighter in Choctaw County. I just want every citizen in this county to know that there is only ONE fire department that is refusing to respond to grass and brush fires. Please don't hold this against the other departments. Most departments here are gung-ho and ready to respond to any and all fires!

Obama for president? I think not. And my opinion has nothing whatsoever to do with his race. I am white and I have voted for a black man (Alan Keyes) who ran for president twice in the past. I would not vote for Barrack Obama because he is Muslim and the fact that we are in a war with Islamic terrorists makes me question if that would cloud his ability and judgment to effectively react to threats to our security and to the safety of the free world.

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