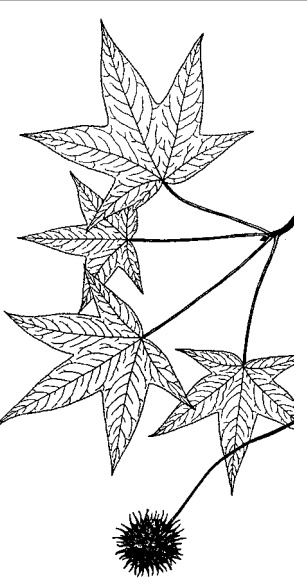


Lifestyles

A riddle, a couple, and turpentine



SWEET GUM
By Sammy Wright

pioneer couple, Mrs. Allie and Mr. Earl could open a window to the past for us.

While talking with Earl and Allie, we kept remembering the words of Isaiah: "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, and there a little." In simple language, the verse means follow a pattern. If the pattern does not work out in exactly the right way, then give a little here and take a little there, and the results will be better. We will carefully watch the giving and the taking of this wonderful family during the earliest decades of the last century.

Ira Turner was reared in the Brightwater community, and the girl of his dreams, Acene Wilson, also lived in the neighborhood. They did not receive much education, but not much was required in those years. Notice that Acene was a Wilson, and realize that Walter Wilson was her brother. It can be stated unequivocally that Walter Wilson was the greatest asset in the Bogueloosa Valley. When the grinding wheels were tight, they ground corn into a fine meal that was used for making bread. However, "man cannot live by bread alone," and there was very much more that came from the grist mill, and it was obtained by simply adjusting the grinding wheels. A coarse gap between the wheels would grind the corn into grits. A looser control of the wheels would produce animal feed.

While bread was the standard, or precept, the other lines produced cereal, meat, milk, and butter. The grist mill was the greatest thing that ever happened to Needham. But the legacy does not end with the mill because a part of the Wilson-Broadhead Park, which is unequalled in any small town, was donated to the town by Walter's descendants, and the beat goes on.

After Walter moved his family to the Red Springs Road, Ira and Acene also moved to the area. During that era,



Mr. and Mrs. Ira Turner

almost everyone was engaged in farming, but the growing crops does not last all year, so farmer devoted some of their time to doing public work. They took whatever was available. Ira worked in the Wallace Camp, for the Wallace Logging Co. There were many small railroads that ran to the river, and the engines on those roads used wood to generate steam because coal was not available nor affordable. Ira cut wood for the engines.

The trains pulled the logs to the river and they were floated to Mobile and other towns along the river. Please understand that the Wallace Camp was not what we now call Wallace Town, which is off the Red Springs road near the fire tower. The Wallace Camp was a mile south of the Ararat road. There was a little village a few miles away that was called Cedar Springs. It had a church, a cemetery,

and a school. When the time came that the number of children in the Wallace Camp was greater than the number in Cedar Springs, the teachers requested that the school be moved, and it was moved. Only the cemetery, now abandoned, remains in Cedar Springs.

There was another kind of work in those early decades, and it stretched on into the 1930's. Many men and boys worked in naval stores, the production of spirit of turpentine and resin. Pine trees were slashed near the bottom and fitted with aluminum cups. The resin ran down the cuts and into the cups. It was carried by wagons to the distillery in Hodge-wood, north of Toxey. Distilling the resin was exactly like making the fire water that our ancestors cherished.

We have a picture of the distillery in Hodge-wood that the late Jud Arrington of York gave to

us years ago. Jud spent his working career on the AT&N railroad and hauled the distilled turpentine to Mobile. The turpentine was used as a thinner, lubricant, and as a base for medicine. The resin residue that was left in the pan was used for caulking ships, and that is why it was called naval stores. Ira worked in the woods each year and gathered the naval stores.

He also made cross ties after the railroad came through this region. In that era of railroads, ties were sent from Choctaw County to every part of the country, especially to the west. Allie stressed that her mother ran the house and made most of the children's clothing on a Singer Sewing Machine. Mrs. Turner was an excellent cook, with just one little peculiarity; she never allowed anyone in her kitchen.

Mrs. Turner took her children to the Methodist Church at New Lusk each Sunday, and Allie told us that she knew the great Emily Boney. Unfortunately, Miss Boney came along before our time, so we never knew her, and the loss was our own because we have heard so much about her through the years. Mrs. Allie has always attended the memorial at Brightwater. Her parents are at rest in the Brightwater Cemetery.

There was no electricity during Allie's childhood years, so all work was manual. The girls worked in the fields with the boys. One practice that Allie mentioned is abhorrent to us now, and that was the practice of primogeniture, the exclusive right of sons to inherit their father's property. This was a part of English law that is no longer practiced in this country, for which we praise the Lord. None of Ira's girls inherited anything.

Our thoughts about women's equality are exactly like those of the late Robert Ingersol who was twice a candidate for the Presidency. "Mr. Ingersol," a reporter

asked, "do you think that men and women will ever be equal?"

"I certainly hope so," Ingersol replied "I am ready to move up."

In this picture of Mr. and Mrs. Turner, notice the woodshed, for it and the family dwelling house stood until recently. The little dog that is looking at them with glowing admiration is "Little Boy," whose larger brother is named "Big Brother." Mrs. Turner made the beautiful dress on her Singer Sewing Machine. Allie emphasized that her parents had a good sense of humor, and they only spoke well of others.

Looking at this wonderful couple, their dog, the sunny day, and the old woodshed, we see something that is distinctly American; we see stability, southern style. This couple's precepts never changed beyond the little altering that went about changing line upon line. They took what they had and made the most of it, and we believe that is exactly what Isaiah had in mind.

The Turners took their values and passed them on to the rest of us. We stand upon the shoulders of some very noble people. The life-style during that era was without the intense pressure that marks us now. We liked Allie's description of her home life: "We were very happy."

We enjoyed our visit with the Mazingos and appreciate their help with this article. Incidentally, Earl stressed to us that the Mazingos are of German descent, a fact that he verified through the late Mr. Paul Miller, a German immigrant who came to Butler and never left. As we stood to leave, Earl told us something that made us hasten our departure.

"You were very right in one part of your answer about the number of children in my family. One brother and six does indeed equal seven, and we all had a sister. What you failed to consider is that she was — — —

The same sister."

Lots going on in Lisman

By Lillian Hodge
Lisman Senior Center

LISMAN -- The Center is doing fine. We are having different classes every week. That is very good for elderly people that are learning how to work together.

We have fun almost every week with different games including Bingo. Mrs. Donnie Randolph will be coming with your weight exercise and food that is a big help to all.

Our sick and shut-in's are Dr. Horace F. Howard, Josephine Chaney, Altone Smith, Charles Ruffin, Fred Johnson, Luther Curtis, Fannie M. Smith, and Rev. David Bush. Keep these people in your prayers.

Also, Mamie James & Laurie J Roberts, Ben



Lillian Hodge

Marsh. We are looking to have lessons on Tuesday morning with Bro. Thomas Horn.

We hope Bishop Johnny B. Payton will be back. We miss him and his help so much. We have so many people coming each

day. The weather has been very nice lately. It has been in the 70s. The Church is doing fine. Every week we have something going on, including very good Bible Classes by our Pastor Rev. Joseph Patterson.

We plan to make a trip with our Pastor. On Sunday evening, he and our music leader will be presenting a special program.

If you need a good meal, please call 398-3842 or 398-3889 and someone will answer you.

The Pastor's Aid of the Greater First Baptist Church of Lisman will be selling fish plates and sandwiches on March 10, 2007 beginning at 11 a.m. at the Lisman Fire Station. Come on down.

Leverett completes basic training with the U.S. Army

FORT JACKSON, South Carolina — Army PFC Dexter J. Leverett has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received

instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and

field training exercises.

Leverett is a 2004 graduate of Choctaw County High School, in Butler, and a 2006 graduate of Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, Miss.

He is the son of Donald R. Leverett Sr. of Lisman, Ala.

Got a new arrival or a big announcement? Share it in the Sun! It's free!

CLEAN SWEEP
Countywide Clean-up Day
Saturday, March 31
GET INVOLVED!

► File your taxes here and...

GET MONEY FAST!

Ask for your **Refund Anticipation Loan... Today!**

STAFFORD & ASSOCIATES
117 W. Smith Street • Butler, AL 36904
Lana R. Stafford • Authorized E-File Provider
Phone: (205) 459-2333 • Fax: (205) 459-2433
E-Mail: stafford@tds.net

HSBC Taxpayer Financial Services
*Subject to credit approval. Refund Anticipation Loan ("RAL") provided by HSBC Bank USA, N.A. RALs are short-term loans secured by the customer's expected federal income tax refund. Read the terms electronically to qualify.



Groundbreaking for new Gilberttown Assembly of God Sunday, March 11, 1 p.m.

Golden Achievement Day Care Needed Immediately
• ADC Licensed Certificate Holder in Early Childhood or a Retired Teacher with Childhood Elementary Experience
• Substitute Teacher also needed
Please contact Thelma Taylor at (205) 459-2538

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Landon Copeland

We Love You, Mom, Dad, MaMa & PaPa and Aunt Patricia

7320SUN07

