**MEMORIES OF GEORGIA COTTRELL**

It is regrettable that Mrs. Tilatha Shaver and Mrs. Frances Cottrell did not live to enjoy the worship services in the new Church building. Mrs. Shaver died in July 1936 and Mrs. Cottrell died in December, one month after the first service was held in the new Church.

The first record we have of chickens given to help pay for the Church building was June 1936. They were given by Mrs. Bonnie Weese, Mrs. Jess Beckham, Mrs. Nora Weaver, and Mrs. Mattie Moss.

Two of the Church members recall that one lady told them she would give a chicken if they could catch it. They enjoy telling how they chased that chicken all over "Hurricane's Deck" and within two hours another chicken was added to the Church.

On October 12, 1936, the Church sent Floy Tune as a delegate to the Arkansas-Louisiana District Council. The Church paid the expense there and back which was $2.80. The meeting was at Russellville, Arkansas.

Brother Flurry often told of instances when the Lord supplied his needs. On his was home to Van Buren he would stop to get gas and told the attendant that he would pay on his way home. He never failed to stop and pay on his way home and often the attendant would tell him to consider the bill an offering from him.

Once things were looking bad for him financially while he was our pastor. He was trying to decide what direction to take one night when Bro. Furr told him to stop by his house on his way home from Church. His topic that night was, "The Lord will supply our needs," but he admitted that he was feeling very low when he stopped at the Furr home. He visited a few minutes and when he left Mr. Furr shook, hands with him and in the process he left a. bill in his hand. He was anxious to see what he had and when he looked it was fifty dollars.

Brother Ervin Medlock lived in Mulberry when he was the pastor at Dyer. and since he didn't have a car he got to the Church just any way he could. He often walked up the railroad tracks. The first record book shows that the Church paid Orville Coulter .25 to take Bro. Medlock home.

When he was visiting the Church recently the young people were fascinated with the story he told about his first car. Interesting indeed in view of the fact that Brother Medlock hasn't had a transportation problem for a long time. He sells automobiles. May 16, 1937, Bro. Flurry's tithe was $3.19.

During the two years that Bro. Bowden pastored, the family developed lasting friendships. In fact one of the Bowden boys married a Dyer girl and they are now living in California. Mrs. Bowden often visits friends in this area.

The Martins pastored the Church in 1941. They only stayed 3 months, much to the displeasure of the people. They are living in Tulsa.

Bro. Wallace is remembered best for his ability to get a crowd, including all denominations.

The town is aware that Brother Nye preaches more funerals in the Church than any other preacher. There is an interesting story behind the first Funeral he ever preached. It was in April 21, 1948, at 11:30 A.M. It was time for the funeral to start. Everything was in order, that is everything but the preacher: he was not there. Everyone waited reverently. Finally the funeral attendant turned to Brother Nye, he had accepted the pastorate, but Bro. Wallace was scheduled to preach the funeral. Brother Nye stepped behind the pulpit and did a marvelous job. It seemed that his act endeared him to the hearts of the people. The funeral was that of Dock Swafford, the 18 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Swafford who had been killed on January 7, 1945, in France.

Brother James Edwards first visit to the Church may be viewed as an indication of what he could help the Church accomplish with his ability as a carpenter and contractor. He slipped in and sat down on a back seat, wearing a pair of carpenter overalls. He made an appointment to return to preach. The Church was delighted to receive him and his family as was shown in many ways during his ministry.

Georgia Porter Cottrell likes to talk about her first recollection and impressions in the Pentecostal services. One story the youth enjoy is the one of her first experience in the youth choir. We didn't need a song book as I had all the songs memorized in a short time. One song we all enjoyed singing and sang often was "When the redeemed are Gathering in". One day I was sitting around the house writing songs, I asked my older sister how to spell "Freak-a-mow". She said "What, Freak-a-mow?" I repeated and looked in the dictionary and the word wasn't there. It was just an old cheap dictionary. The next time at Church of course we sang "When the Redeemed are Gathering in," I thought, now is my chance to find out how to spell Freak-a-mow sin. I was surprised to find the spelling so simple but it wasn't freak-a-mow at all. It was "Washed like snow and FREE FROM ALL SIN."

Brother Johnny Floyd followed Brother Edwards as pastor and initiated the continuance of the building program with the Fellowship Hall. The whole town remembers the doughnuts that were made at the Church under the Floyd's supervision and were sold for payment on the. building. No matter how many doughnuts were made, there never seemed to be enough. They were delicious. Even if Loy Cottrell hasn't liked doughnuts since he helped with the making.

**THE ALAMO FOUNDATION**

(Taken from Southwest Times Record written by Jane Ann Morris on)

The Alamo home is located on North Washington Street and it faces the East. This house was built by Vilus Manuel in 1918. Some of the lumber used to build was from the old school house that was razed in 1917 and replaced with a brick building. This was a lovely home painted yellow with a wide veranda on front and on one side. There was a fence and a gate if I remember correctly and when one passed Mrs. Goldia would be sitting on the porch and would ask you to come and sit awhile. She always had time to visit with one. During the 30s the family left Dyer and the house was lived in by many families and it began deteriorating and made one sick at heart for we remembered it in its "Hey-Day." But this happened to many a home during the DEPRESSION YEARS.

Sometime in the early thirties Mrs. Home, Susan, and a sister came to Dyer. She told me that they first lived in Dan Chitwood's house before moving into the yellow house.

Tony and Susan Alamo came back to Dyer in 1973 and purchased the this property and restored the house. We are happy to see the house again take on the glamour that it once had back in the 20s. They have also bought the old James Patton place across from the store building and the lot on the corner which once belonged to Bill James as well as the store building on the corner where the telephone exchange building was located in about 1912. The store building that is there which they renovated into a Church center was used as a store building by Washburn and Mrs. Holcombe.

The Alamo's have built residences ranging from single dwellings to duplexes to sleeping rooms for the foundation members.

The Alamo Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization. The profits are turned back into the foundation to buy homes and property for the members. Their operation includes manufacturing clothing designed by Susan, selling Western wear in retail stores in Nashville and now one in Alma, Arkansas, also entertainment promotions in Alma.

The Alma operation includes a restaurant and a 600 seating-capacity dining room for weekly big name country entertainment. There is a service station and plans for a shopping Mall about 1/3 the size of Central Mall in Fort Smith, as well as 114 unit motel, and a 5,000 seat auditorium.

They also have a 30-minute weekly television show with preaching by Susan, singing by Tony, and testimonials by members of the foundation. All the operations are run by the foundation members.

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