**NEWS ITEMS FROM DORA MOSS's SCRAPBOOK**

**1861, Jan 5**: James Heard was at Mass meeting in Van Buren on the Committee of Resolutions.

**1866**: B. L. Orrick was a teacher at Chester, Arkansas.

**1859:** Jonathan Fines was on way back to Fine Springs from Texas and he turned his cattle loose in Dyer bottoms cane brakes.

**1925 Oct 31**: Ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will present a play, "Henpeck Holler Gossip" at the Dyer High School Auditorium, Friday Night, October 31, 1925.

Ladies of the Dyer Methodist Church planning an old fashioned supper on Halloween night. Good eats and general good time is expected. The affair should be liberally patronized for proceeds will go to help pay the preacher's salary.

**1928 Oct 26**: Debs Peevy opening a barber shop in Dyer.

**1928**: The Methodist Ladies surprised Mrs. Frances Moss Casperson, a bride of last week, with a shower Friday evening. She was the recipient of many nice gifts and everyone enjoyed a pleasant social hour after which dainty refreshments were served. Frances will be greatly missed as she was the pianist at the M. E .Church for years and a regular attendant at Church and Sunday School. Mr. and Mrs. Casperson left Sunday for Pennsylvania to make their home.

**1928**: School opened Monday morning with Mr. Mitchell as principal and Mrs. Thomas Moss, Mrs. Hallet Floyd, and Miss Cook as his assistants. A number of patrons attended the opening exercise and seemed enthused with the prospects for a good school this year.

**1929**: Six boys from Dyer will attend Camp as follows: John Arbuckle; Paul Bennett; Clay Cottrell; William James; Powell and Tom Stewart.

**1934**: School opened with a good attendance. Teachers are: Lark Cowart, Mrs. Ruth Johnson, Mrs. T. N. McAlester, and Pearl Meyers. Miss Nell Bevel resigned and is teaching in Van Buren. Mrs. Cowart will substitute until another teacher is assigned.

**1934**: Canning. There have been 6,208 cans of meat, fruit, and vegetables canned in the Canning Center since first of July.

School Queen chosen by student body. Martha Renfroe presided as queen of home coming at Alma High School when Alma High School will play Siloam Springs. Queen gowned in red velvet.

**1934** **April**: Girl Scouts sponsored by Nell Bevel presented a program consisting of a play, "Little Mistake" and a negro minstrel at the High School Auditorium Saturday night.

**1935** **Feb 25**: Citizens were surprised Monday morning to find the ground white with snow. It started raining at 8 O'clock Sunday night and turned to snow. This was the first snow of the winter. Coming after a number of gardens had been planted. After daybreak it began to disappear and practically all traces of it were gone by noon.

There are no dates on so many of these news items but feel that they are of interest to people who have lived in Dyer.

Mrs. Wendel Johnson, a bride of September 4, is the former Miss Irma Katherine Orrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Orrick of Alma. The couple will reside in Fort Smith. Wendel is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thad Johnson of Dyer. Mr. and Mrs. Dyer Meadors were in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Varner of Mansfield, Arkansas, announce the marriage of their daughter, Paula Marie, to Kenneth Blevins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Blevins of Dyer. They were married January 7th in Spiro, Le Flore County, Oklahoma.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wright of Dyer, Arkansas, celebrated their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary with an open house May 20 at their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Davis observed their 51st Wedding Anniversary with open house at their home in Dyer on Sunday May 18th. She was the former Miss Mae Harris of Alma.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chitwood of Dyer have announced the marriage of their daughter, Olera, to Rector Price, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Price, also of Dyer. Wedding took place October 17th with Rev. Moon of Pleasant View officiating. Olera is a graduate of Alma High School, class of 1935.

John Layton Moss of Whittenburg, Texas, and Miss Irma Doris Johnson of Pampa, Texas, were married Sunday, May 17, 1936, at the home of his parents in Dyer. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas William Moss and Rev. F. G. Villines read the ceremony.

Claude Gregory of Alma and Miss Willie M. Boze of Van Buren were married May 16th by Rev. S. A. Haley.

Earnest Cottrell and Madge Chastain, both of Dyer, were married Saturday, May 16th, by Brother B. F. England.

Julian Whitlock and Agnes Tune were married March 21, by Justice Casey.

**1935**: Marriage license recorded at County Clerk's office were Cecil Chastain and Lucille Morse, both of Dyer. Rev A. M. Jean read the ceremony.

Mrs. Myrtle Morse announces the marriage of her daughter, Lois, to Olen Selby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Selby of Dyer. They were married March 31 by Justice W. J. Brannon. Lois is a graduate of Mulberry High School the class of 1933.

**April 6, 1934**: Bain B. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Johnson of Tilton, Oklahoma, former residents of Dyer, was married to Freda Wade, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Theo Wade of Mulberry, They were married Saturday afternoon in Dyer with Rev. Mr. Jones reading the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Way of Alma, formerly of Dyer, announce the marriage of their daughter, Dorothea to Itis Blevins, son of Mrs. Lee Blevins of Alma. The bride was a member of the 1935 graduating class of Alma High School.

**December 1928**: "Dear Mrs. T. W. Moss. We take pleasure in sending you a check in the amount of $25.00 for your Christmas Seal story which won first place."

**1956**: Charles G. Moss, Base Education Officer, was presented [a check for] $200.00 for outstanding performance rating during the period April 1 to September 30. This was the second such award for Mr. Moss.

In North Burma, Lt. General Stillwell, accompanied by Lt. Charles Moss, visited the soldiers in General Hospital.

**April 1934**: The "As You Would Like It" Club was entertained with a feat and a "Tacky Party" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lark Cowart on Sunday night after youth meetings. The Club members continued the party with a sunrise breakfast and an all day outing near Chastain. Members present were: Wilma Johnson, Pearl Myers, Lorena Moss, Madge Chastain, Thelma James, Lacy and Kathleen Stephenson, Edith Leftwich, Inez Bennett, and Nell Bevel.

The work is completed on the installation of the new steam engine and mill at the Alexander Gin Company in Dyer.

**April 1934**: S. B. Johnson was named Mayor of Dyer in the election held Tuesday when 17 ballots were cast. Other officers elected were: Thomas William Moss as Treasurer; T. J. James as Recorder; Dr. Rankin as Health Officer; Homer Ree as Marshal. Aldermen are: Thad Johnson, W. J. James, Sam Stephens, D. P. Selby, and Frank England.

The Junior Class of Alma High School presented the play "The Brat" in the Dyer School auditorium on Monday evening to a large crowd. The cast included Martha Renfroe, Olera Chitwood, Virginia Bennett, Jessie Vivian Manuel, Dorothy Way, Jewel Henry Winfrey, and Robert Moss of Dyer.

Members of the B. Y. P. U. and the Epworth League were entertained by their sponsors with a hike and picnic on Sunday afternoon. The evening youth services were held with both groups participating.

**December 1934**: A list of Honor students at Alma High School for second six week period: **Seniors**: Virginia Bennett; Jewel Henry Winfrey; Dorothy Way; Jessie Vivian Manuel; and Robert Moss of Dyer. **Sophomores**: Bonnie Rhea Henson among highest one forth. Irene Morse.

**November 1935**: November term of Crawford County Circuit Court held in Van Buren November 18th. Among the Grand Jurors was Thomas William Moss of Dyer.

**March 2, 1955**: Dial telephones were installed at Dyer.

Gail Cowart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lark Cowart of Alma, has been nominated International Farm Youth Exchange delegate to Finland. Gail was born at Dyer.

**1960**: Mr. and Mrs. Ben A. Fowler of Tulsa, Oklahoma, parents of Patti Page, were among those attending the annual Chastain Cemetery meeting Sunday, September 3. Mr. Fowler grew up in Dyer.

From Steamboating down the Old River, **July 6, 1961**:

"At Arbuckle Island the enthusiast for soil conservation can get a brilliant and sorrowful picture of the erosion of our sacred soil. Just below it, at one point in the Dyer river bottom, the captain exclaimed to me, '"Look at that—an acre of land just dropped into the river."' Perhaps an exaggeration but we can safely say we saw that much drop into the river as we chugged along the banks. Everywhere it was tumbling down."

***[Editor's note: The following is not part of the original document compiled by my mother, Alma Lorena Moss Lancaster, but is being added by me due to the sentence above about Mr. and Mrs. Ben A. Fowler being the parents of Patti Page, and that Ben Fowler grew up in Dyer, Arkansas.***

***These data are found at this website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patti\_Page ]***

Patti Page was born Clara Ann Fowler on November 8, 1927, in [Claremore, Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claremore%2C_Oklahoma), (although some sources give [Muskogee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muskogee%2C_Oklahoma)) into a large and poor family. Her father, Ben A. Fowler, worked on the [MKT railroad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri-Kansas-Texas_Railroad), while her mother, Margaret, and older sisters picked [cotton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cotton). As she related on television many years later, the family went without [electricity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electricity), and therefore she could not read after dark. She was raised in [Foraker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foraker%2C_Oklahoma), Hardy, Muskogee and [Avant, Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avant%2C_Oklahoma), before attending [Daniel Webster High School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webster_High_School_%28Tulsa%2C_Oklahoma%29) in [Tulsa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulsa), from which she graduated in 1945.

Clara Ann Fowler started off her career as a songstress with [Al Clauser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Clauser) and his Oklahoma Outlaws at *KTUL*. Fowler became a featured singer on a 15-minute radio program on radio station [KTUL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KTUL), [Tulsa, Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulsa%2C_Oklahoma), at age 18. The program was sponsored by the "Page Milk Company." On the air, Fowler was dubbed "Patti Page," after the Page Milk Company. In 1946, Jack Rael, a saxophone player and band manager, came to Tulsa to do a one-night show. Rael heard Page on the radio and liked her voice. Rael asked her to join the band he managed, the "Jimmy Joy Band." Rael would later become Page's personal manager, after leaving the band.

Page toured with the "Jimmy Joy Band" throughout the country in the mid-1940s. The band eventually ended up in [Chicago, Illinois](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago%2C_Illinois), in 1947. In Chicago, Page sang with a small group led by popular orchestra leader, [Benny Goodman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benny_Goodman). This helped Page gain her first recording contract with [Mercury Records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_Records) the same year. She became Mercury's "girl singer."

***[End of new data.]***

**August 3, 1959**: Mr. and Mrs. O. R. (Penny) Harris of Alma announce the engagement of their daughter, Emma Lou, to Jimmy Don Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cox of Mulberry. Miss Harris is a 1959 honor graduate from the Van Buren High School.

**January 12, 1956**: John S. Rhoden and his son-in-law Charles Bennett of Fort Smith display the 125-pound buck they shot while hunting near Cove City in mid-December.

**September 30**: GEORGIA HOOK IS MARRIED IN WASHINGTON

Miss Georgia Hook, formerly of Dyer, was married in a church ceremony in Washington, DC, on September 30th to Charles W. Maris. She is the daughter of Russell Hook of Springdale and Mrs. Georgia Hook of Dyer.

**February 12, 1960**: The Dyer Elementary School auditorium was a scene of hushed activity Friday evening, February 12th, when school patrons, friends, and students met for a "This Is Your Life" party to honor Miss Maria Brown who has been a teacher in the Alma District of years and coming to Dyer in 1936 from New Blaine, Logan County, Arkansas.

**June 11**: Miss Martha Sue Moss received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree from the University of Arkansas, June 11. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Guthrie Moss of North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

**July 13, 1961**: Family gathers at House Home

Mr. and Mrs. A. Y. House were host and hostess at their home July 2nd for members of the Burkhead family. Mrs. Lou Earl Selby Burkhead is the only living member of her immediate Selby family of nine, and the mother of Mrs. Elsa House, Maud Winfrey, and Floy Coughlin, all of McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.

**DYER BOY PLACED ON HONOR ROLL**

Gilbert Howard Holt of Dyer, science and math student at Arkansas Polytechnic College at Russellville, Arkansas, was placed on the Dean's List at the end of the fall term. He has an average grade point of 4.53.

The marriage of Miss Ella Jo Henson to James H. Peters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peters of Mulberry is announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Henson of Dyer. The wedding took place Thursday in Dyer at the Assembly of God Church.

**November 27**: The engagement and approaching marriage of Ruth Chitwood to Neil Wayne Coleman, son of Thell and Anna Coleman, is announced by Mr. and Mrs. Jewel Chitwood. The double ring ceremony will be an event of November 27th at 8 o'clock at the Dyer Methodist Church. She is a graduate of 1956 class of Alma High School.

**July 10**: Mr. and Mrs. Walter D Patton of Alma who were married fifty years ago on July 10 at Dyer, their former home, will observe their golden anniversary.

Oklahoma Supreme Court reversed its decision of a year ago on the $1,300,000.00 will of the late C. F. Meadors of Oklahoma City and give the estate to a large group of relatives and church, instead of the two daughters alone. The two daughters of a wealthy real estate dealer who died in 1952 are Mrs Magnolia Meadors Mason and Mrs. Maude Meadors Hurst.

**February 1926**: John Moss of the City Drug Store entered a contest for dressing windows. He won a second prize and check for $1,000.00.

**December 2**: Mrs. J. S. Tomlinson of Dyer has announced the marriage of her only daughter, Virginia, to Jasper Selby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Selby, also of Dyer. The wedding was solemnized December 2, at the home of Rev. A. N. Jean reading the service. She is a member of the 1935 graduating class of Alma. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Babb were the only attendants. They will reside in Dyer.

Mountainburg, **September 1935**: Regular term of school opened with an enrollment of 250 students. Among the teachers listed is Miss Thelma James of Dyer, fifth and sixth grades.

**October 21, 1955**: Granddaughter of Mrs. Dora B. Moss weds in October, 1955. Miss Jane Rhea Lancaster, daughter of Reverend and Mrs. Irl Lancaster, and Lt. Richard Boyd Dodson of Holly Springs, Arkansas, exchanged wedding vows Friday evening, October 21st in the Keith Memorial Methodist Church in North Malvern, Arkansas. Her father read the vows.

Dyer girl winner in shopping news color contest: Taking first prize in girls division was Velma Jean Stephens of Dyer.

Thelma James arrived home from Pharr, Texas, where she has been employed in the public school system.

Mr. and Mrs. Irl Lancaster of Malvern, Arkansas, her mother Mrs. Dora B. Moss, Ples and Marilynn Gregory enjoyed a trip to Eureka Springs and Roaring River last week.

**November 17**: Ina single-ring ceremony November 17, at the home of Rev. J. B. Ives, Miss Wilma Furr of Dyer became the wife of William Steward Brown of Van Buren. The bride is a 1955 graduate of Alma School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Furr.

**December 31, 1959**:

Mr. and Mrs. Will Wright, formerly of Dyer and now of Alma, gave a Christmas party on December 20. There were 27 present. Among those present were three of their daughters: Jonnie Wright Tribulak; Thelma Wright Reynolds; and Marie Wright Vanderheiden. One son, Louis Wright. Mr. Wright, 79 years old, played the role of Santa.

**September 1, 1956**:

Alma High School is to have a new Vocational Agriculture Instructor this year in the person of Selmer E. Morse. Selmer is a former Dyer boy and a graduate of 1925 Alma School. He holds a degree of Bachelor of Science in agriculture from the University of Arkansas where he graduated in 1950.

They win Baby Contest honors:

Among the winners was Jimmy Leon Blevins, 13 month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Blevins of route 3, Alma. He won second place.

**October 15**: Alma High School Queen for Homecoming Day is shown with her maids. Game will be played with Berryville Bobcats October 15; Sue Selby is queen.

Queen contest for the Crawford County Queen Crown Saturday. Among the 17 contestants is Edna McAdoo of Dyer.

**May 26, 1967**: Winslow article: Speaking of the tunnels for trains around Winslow, "There are three women who remember their fathers told them who furnished the timber for the giant pilings which held up the ties and railings across the trestle which spanned the deep hollow to the South. They are Miss Alice McClendon and her two sisters. Miss Alice taught school at Dyer in 1912. She was my first teacher.

**February 1959**: Mr. and Mrs. Lee Morse of Van Buren will observe their golden wedding anniversary Sunday at their home. They were married at Dyer, February 1909.

Mrs. Clay Cottrell was guest of honor at a pink and blue shower on Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Jewel Chastain announces the birth of a son January 23, to whom they have given the name of Kenneth Dale Chastain.

**June 2**: The First Baptist Church of Alma was the scene of the marriage of Miss Carol Ann Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Idus Brown, to Harold Gene Sargent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sargent, Sunday, June 2, with Rev. Jewel Morrison officiating at the double-ring ceremony.

**February 14**: Mr. and Mrs. Fayette Peevy of Dyer announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Verna, to Richard R. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Smith of Alma. The wedding will take place at the Dyer Methodist Church on February 14.

**September 30, 1963**: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wiley Chitwood of Dyer observed their 63rd wedding anniversary on Monday, September 30, 1963. They were married September 30, 1900, at Dyer by J. A. Peters. They have spent their entire married life in Dyer with exception of ten years in Binger, Caddo County, Oklahoma.

**February 3**: Mrs. Myrtle Morse of Dyer will celebrate her 83rd birthday on Monday, February 3, and we salute her for the good job she has done to educate her children. "I have been living in Crawford County for over 60 years and have been a Christian for 64 years, and I try to let my every day speak for me."

Miss Kathryn Leanna Dyer, her engagement to David Eugene Newman son Mr. and Mrs. Perry Newman of Alma is announced by her father, Mack Dyer of Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona. She is a granddaughter of Mrs. A. B. Cranford.

**April 25**: Mrs. E. P. McAlister was Mrs. Madge C. Warrick before her marriage April 25 at Pryor, Mayes County, Oklahoma. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chitwood.

**January 17**: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Blevins, bridal couple of January 17. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warner of Mansfield, Scott and Sebastian Counties, Arkansas, and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Blevins of Dyer.

Justin Lee Sargent was just four months old when his sister Gina Kay Sargent, 3 years old, introduced him to the Van Buren Studio photographer. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sargent of Springdale. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Idus Brown of Alma, and great-grandparents are Mrs. Jess Porter of Dyer and the late Mr. Porter.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Burris of DeRidder, Beauregard Parish, Louisiana, announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaret Ann, to Anthony Hurd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hays Hurd.

***Filename: LookingBackAtDyer 1838-1976 Book 01, 131-137 ~ Dora Moss's scrapbook***