

PINTLALA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting:

October 20, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.
Pintlala Baptist Church



*c/o Pintlala Public Library
255 Federal Road
Hope Hull, Alabama 36043*

Volume XXXVIII, Number 4

www.pintlalahistoricalassociation.com

October 2024



Consolidated Rural Junior and Senior High School at Ramer
Source: Transportation of School Children, Montgomery County, Alabama
Report Published September 18, 1922
Prepared by T. L. Head, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent of Education, Montgomery County

2024 OFFICERS

President	Gary Burton	(334)288-7414
Vice President & Program Chairperson	Alice T. Carter	(334)281-3708
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Place 2	Daisy Anne Brady	(334)398-0636
Place 3	Frank Ellis	(334)315-8927
Place 4	Alan Davis	(334)270-8657
Newsletter Designer	Angelique Pugh	

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VOTE!

November 5, 2024

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Kristi Skipper
Hope Hull, AL

Pintlala Historical Association Program for October 20, 2024



Dr. Chris Haveman

Pintlala Historica Association will meet on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at Pintlala Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Dr. Christopher D. Haveman, associate professor of history at the University of West Alabama. He is author of *Rivers of Sand: Creek Indian Emigration, Relocation and Ethnic Cleansing in the American South* and *Bending Their Way Onward: Creek Indian Removal in Documents*.

Dr. Haveman will address the subject of the twenty-three thousand Creek Indians who were forced from Alabama and Georgia to Indian Territory between 1827 and 1849.

This lecture is part of the Draughon Seminar in State and Local History sponsored by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University. The series is funded by the Kelly Mosley Endowment in honor of Dr. Ralph B. Draughon, president of AU from 1947 to 1965.

Personal Reflections of Patrick (Pat) Moseley and His Days in Ramer, Alabama

At some time in 2023, I learned that the public schools in Ramer, Alabama had all closed. For the first time in my life (and I was born in 1939) in the town of Ramer there are no longer any schools. All schools under the Montgomery County Board of Education are located in the city of Montgomery, other than Pintlala Elementary and Catoma Elementary Schools. This saddened me greatly. I so remember my youth, being raised in Ramer, Alabama—the fond memories, the many friends and family—I thought all good things must come to an end—my days at Ramer, my friends at Ramer. I am extremely thankful for those days, so I decided to share some of my thoughts and memories of Ramer for this edition of the *PHA Newsletter*.

My days at Montgomery County High School were special days to me. One of the best reasons was that I met my future wife, Butch Marler, at MCHS and we wed in 1959. We have been married for 65 years! It all started in this special place—the home of the Golden Eagles!

Remember, I was born in 1939. World War II was beginning. It was a time when Americans loved America. Americans loved their soldiers; they loved their flag and they visited their neighbors and they sat in their front porch swings. Stores closed on Sunday and an R.C. Cola and a Moon Pie was about as good as it got!



Butch Marler, future Mrs. Patrick A. Moseley, 1957 *The Melting Pot*, Courtesy Pat Moseley

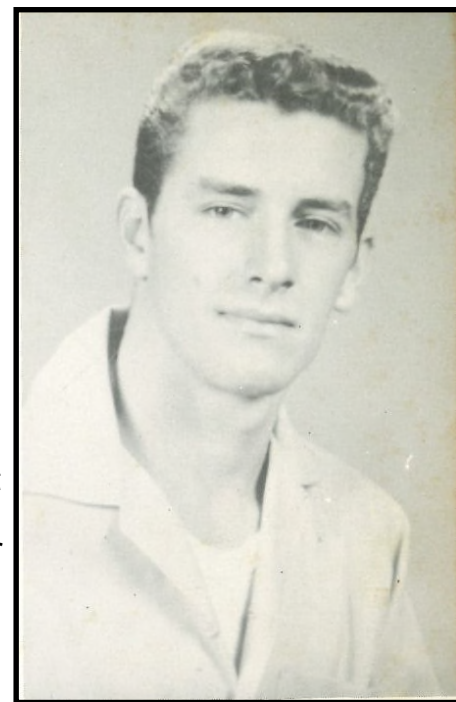
Pat's Memories Combined with History from Editor



Lucille Bigger, second grade teacher, Ramer Elementary School, 1957 *The Melting Pot*, Courtesy Pat Moseley

Patrick A. Moseley, known by all as Pat, is now 85 years old and has happily shared his many memories of living and attending Montgomery County Public Schools, mainly in Ramer. Pat was born minutes ahead of his twin brother, Mike, in his home village of Ramer. He entered Ramer Elementary School in 1945 with his teacher, Mrs. Myra Rushing, encouraging his class forward. Pat forged ahead to second grade with Mrs. Lucille Bigger as teacher and third grade with Mrs. Myrtle Webster, teacher. Life then took a big turn when the Moseley family moved to Montgomery and Pat attended Goode Street Elementary School for fourth and fifth grades followed by sixth grade at brand new Bellingrath School and for seventh and part of eighth grades at Baldwin Junior High.

The biggest challenge for Pat was contracting polio in 1949. He spent time recovering at St. Margaret's Hospital in Montgomery. Miraculously, Pat was able to return to school in the fall. His constant reminder of this disease is not having complete use of his left arm and hand. None of this has ever slowed Pat down in his achievements. After returning to school at Baldwin for a year and a half, the family moved back to Pat's beloved home of Ramer. His senior high years at Montgomery County High School were a favorite time before Pat graduated in 1957. The following teachers remain in Pat's memories with fondness: Louise Kelly (math), Coach Walter Sullins, Mozelle Cummings (Librarian), and Helen Goggans (English). Pat proclaimed math his favorite subject—fortunately for his chosen profession. Thank you Miss Kelly! He graduated from MCHS in 1957, went on to Auburn University and graduated in 1962 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Today



Pat Moseley, 1957 Senior portrait, 1957 *The Melting Pot*, Courtesy Pat Moseley



Myrtle Webster, third grade teacher, Ramer Elementary School, 1957 *The Melting Pot*, Courtesy Pat Moseley

Pat is a partner in Professional Engineering Consultants, LLC in Montgomery. He is a long-time resident of Pintlala, a loyal member of Pintlala Baptist Church and Pintlala Historical Association.

Moseley's Involvement with School Athletics

Another group of wonderful memories for Pat is his involvement in athletics at MCHS. The 1922 *The Melting Pot* (yearbook) informs readers that athletics were always included in the curriculum at MCHS. There were teams for both boys and girls. The Senior III Class History referred to Varsity Girls Basketball. Also in the 1921-1922 year, the senior class was well represented on the football, basketball and baseball teams. The athletics tradition continued at MCHS as Pat played football during his senior high years and wore #31 team jersey all three years. Pat wrote the following regarding his football activities with the Golden Eagles: "At Ramer during the 1950s our schedule normally included the following opponents: Highland Home, Luverne, Union Springs, Fort Deposit, and Hayneville. For a period, we also played Marbury and Tuskegee. These were great experiences for me."



1957 Senior Class football team players, 1957 *The Melting Pot*, Courtesy Pat Moseley

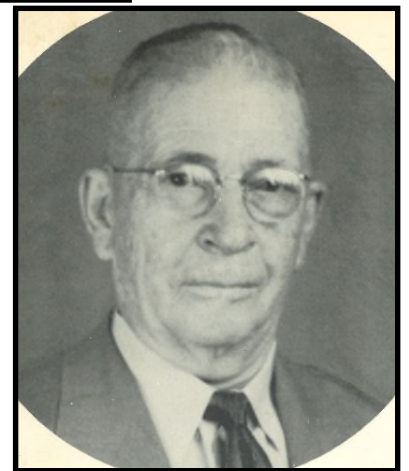
School Campus and Transportation



Lunchroom, MCHS
February 1954, Photo
Courtesy Angelique Pugh

The campus of MCHS during Pat's time there was located on the Ramer/Naftel Road in the brick building which had opened in 1919-1920 school year. The campus was also home to the elementary school building, a cafeteria building shared by all students, a gymnasium and a bus maintenance facility. Pat described the heating system for rural schools as a coal burning boiler and hot water radiators in classrooms. Rural schools each had a well and pump until the early 1960s when rural water systems were developed.

There were seven bus routes for Ramer. Pat's grandfather, Frank Stephens, was a bus driver from 1919 to 1960 for the Grady bus route and also a mechanic according to Pat. All Montgomery County school buses went to Ramer during the summer break for a thorough maintenance check. *The Melting Pot* of 1954 features a photograph of buses and drivers for that year:



Frank Stephens, bus driver for Grady/Ramer Route, Pat Moseley's grandfather, 1954 *The Melting Pot*, Courtesy Pat Moseley



School Buses and Drivers for Ramer School, 1954 *The Melting Pot*, Courtesy Pat Moseley

Cliff Talley, 1928-1954, Mt. Carmel Route

Frank Curtis, 1926-1954 (retired, 1960)

L.L. Alford, 1939-1954

L.V. Walton, 1931-1954, Lapine Route

A. L. Peacock, 1938-1954, Dublin Route

Frank Stephens, 1919-1954, (retired 1960) Grady Route

James (Buddy) Boyd, Student Bus Driver, 1953-1954

Buses were vital to transporting students to schools all over the county. A report titled *Transportation of School Children, Montgomery County, Alabama* by Thomas L. Head, Assistant Superintendent of Education in 1922, related to the public just how important improved roads were for transporting children to the new consolidated schools. Pat Moseley recalled that Highway 94 from Ada to Ramer, Alabama was paved in the 1940s. Other main thoroughfares such as Highways 31, 231 and 331 were likely paved in the 1930s. This made school transportation safer and extended the life of a school bus.

School Buildings Change Functions

Years after school consolidation and new elementary schools had been constructed in rural areas, a few schools near Ramer were closed, students were bused to Ramer school campus. Pat Moseley wrote of these schools and their new functions:

Pine Level School: closed January 1, 1969, now Sikes and Kohn Country Mall

Grady School: became South Montgomery County Academy, a private school which closed in 2017, now owned by the Montgomery County Commission and is used for meeting space and events in south Montgomery County

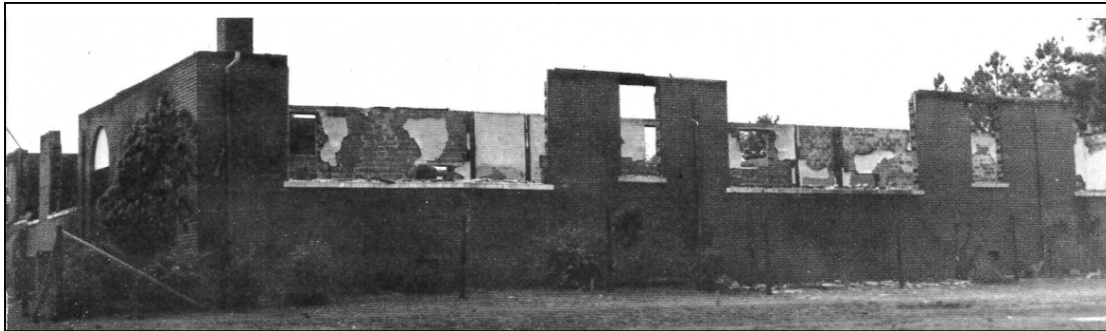
Lapine School: Most recently owned by the Russell Oil Company as office space and storage for their business

These three schools plus **Pintlala Junior High School** were what Pat refers to as “feeder schools” for MCHS. Students finished junior high and moved to MCHS to finish high school with new friends.

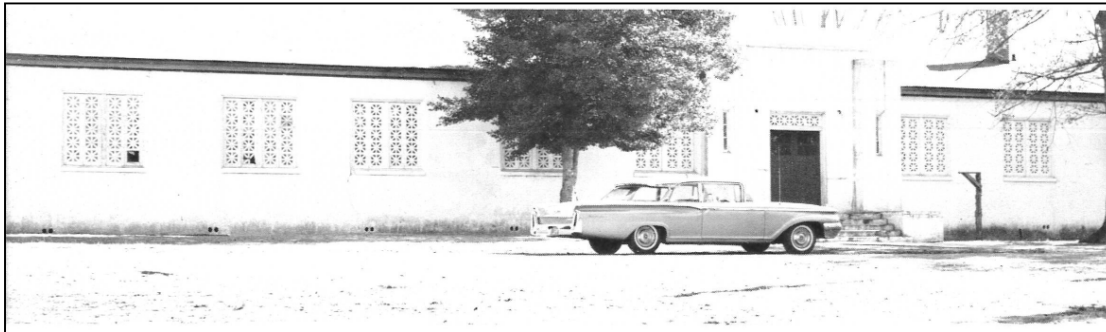
Hill’s Chapel School for African American students: currently Red’s Little Schoolhouse Restaurant



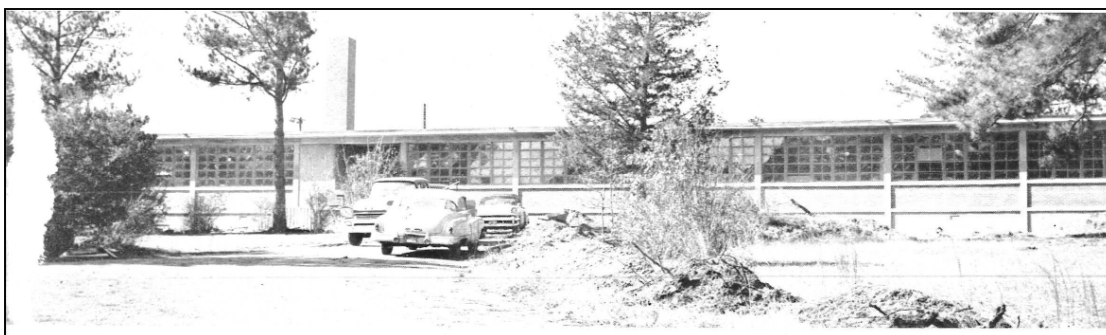
Ramer Elementary - Erected in 1918, 1962 *The Melting Pot* . Lent by Oleta Owens



Destroyed by fire in March, 1961, 1962 *The Melting Pot*. Lent by Oleta Owens



Temporary housing in National Guard Amory, 1962 *The Melting Pot*. Lent by Oleta Owens



New building completed in December, 1961, 1962 *The Melting Pot*. Lent by Oleta Owens

Disaster Strikes Twice

Ramer Elementary School burned in March, 1961, but was quickly rebuilt by December of the same year. These students attended classes in the Ramer Armory until the elementary school was rebuilt. A school called Ramer Academy was located on the current site of Ramer Cemetery. It closed in 1923 and the students moved to the school on Ramer/Naftel Road. On December second, 1966 fire again visited the Ramer Montgomery County High School campus and destroyed the high school building. Students attended classes in other buildings on campus such as gym, Home Economics/Vocational Agriculture building. Although Pat had graduated from MCHS nine years before this fire, he was once again connected to his alma mater. He was a certified engineer and worked for a firm involved with rebuilding MCHS. He drew some of the site plans for the new school.

Integration of Public Schools in Montgomery County

Pat Moseley attended public schools in Montgomery County prior to integration. African American students attended small one and two room schools scattered about the country side. In the early 1960s P.L. Dunbar High School and Elementary School were built on the Ramer/Grady Road. Gloria Smiths *Brief History of Ramer* relates that these schools were dedicated in 1963. They were modern brick and mortar buildings, established prior to integration. The first African American to attend MCHS was William Fuller who graduated in 1967 as seen in the 1968 *The Melting Pot*. After the 2002-2003 school year, the Dunbar students in

grades nine through twelve were bused to Montgomery schools and the K-8 Dunbar students moved to what had been MCHS campus. The school then became Dunbar/Ramer School. WSFA Television reported in October, 2023 that Montgomery Public Schools Board of Education voted to close Dunbar/Ramer School due to low enrollment numbers.

This was the death of public education facilities in Ramer, Alabama and for all of south Montgomery County. As Pat Moseley wrote, this was sad.

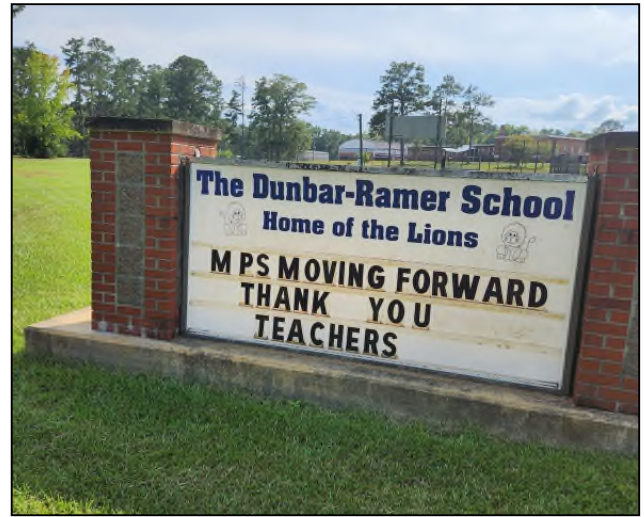


Photo courtesy Gary Burton



Early Ramer Academy, date unknown



Courtesy Pat Moseley



Photo courtesy Gary Burton

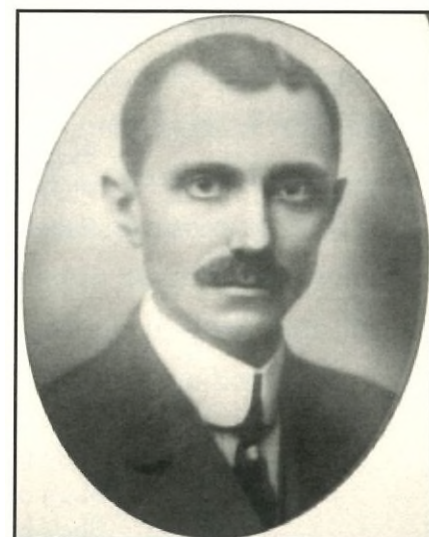
A BRIEF HISTORY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN RAMER, ALABAMA

Alice Carter

The unincorporated village of Ramer is located almost 25 miles from Montgomery, the capitol city of Alabama. It was first known as Athens. However, when the community applied to establish a post office, the name Athens was already being used in North Alabama. The Postal Service approved the name Ramer in 1850.

Prior to the fully developed public school system in Montgomery County, early schools in Ramer were conducted in private homes. Mrs. Gloria Smith's 1984 paper on Ramer's history provides readers with a few clues regarding these early schools. She wrote that the first school in Ramer was around 1860 and was held in the John Green Milligan home. She further mentioned Professor E. Y. McMorris was teaching in Ramer around 1881 and a Professor John W. Weldon taught here in 1884. *The Heritage of Montgomery County, Alabama*, published in 2001, provides information regarding Boyd Academy for Boys, established around 1889, which was a boarding school. Mrs. Gloria Smith's paper, which was reproduced in the *Montgomery County Historical Society Herald*, Summer 2005 edition, explained that a public school was located next door to the Ramer Methodist Protestant Church, date not found. It was described as a four-room building where ten grades were taught. Betty Armistead, of Ramer, has documents identifying this school as Ramer Academy. Mrs. Gloria Smith also wrote that a ball field was located where MCHS/Ramer Dunbar School building is located in 2024.

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) was established by the Public Education Act of 1854. The goals of this Act were to centralize all school systems of Alabama and to empower the state legislature to increase funding for public education. William F. Feagin was appointed State Superintendent of Education in 1913 and was elected to a full term in 1914. He had great vision for improving public education facilities in Alabama. He worked with the Alabama Legislature to pass 15 laws pertaining to education as of 1915. One of these laws was a Constitutional Amendment authorizing counties to levy a school tax of no more than 3 mills (30 cents on each \$100.00 worth of owned real estate and other taxable property). The law passed. Other laws among the fifteen provided for improved school supervision, teacher certification and compulsory attendance.



William F. Feagin

By 1918, Feagin resigned as State Superintendent to assume the same position in Montgomery County. He worked to compile a report to the County Board of Education entitled *The Physical and Health Conditions of The Montgomery County Rural Schools for White Children*. The report was issued in June, 1917 and detailed the deplorable conditions found in the rural schools of Montgomery County. Feagin had been in office for 18 months when the ground work for school consolidation and a building program had been developed. These plans were successfully completed by Dr. Arthur Harman after William Feagin resigned under duress.

Richard Woods Edmonds' article, *School Building in Alabama: The Experience of Montgomery County*, written around 1926 and published in the Summer 2006, *Montgomery County Historical Society Herald*, provides an interesting interpretation of the improvements in the Montgomery County school system. He wrote that some rural residents were not in favor of the school consolidation movement. Many mothers were fearful of allowing their children to board the school "trucks" each day. Opposition to the many improvements and changes were stronger in some areas of Montgomery County than others. Pike Road and Ramer were in this category according to Edmonds. The school board decided to be pro-active in these communities and to build the first new modern school buildings in Pike Road in 1918 (elementary, junior and senior high) and then Ramer completed in 1921. When other rural residents realized the satisfaction with the two new schools, opposition faded away.

Although a 1966-67 Melting Pot was planned and the money was raised to finance it, the yearbook was never published. The fire which destroyed the old high school building on December 2, 1966, also burned all of the work the annual staff had done. Since it was too late in the year to start over, the Class of '67 had no annual published during their senior year. For this reason the annual staff would like to dedicate this portion of the 1967-68 Melting Pot to those seniors who had to struggle through their last year in high school with many misfortunes, but who met them with overwhelming enthusiasm. We hope that this dedication will show them some of the deep feelings that we will always have for each member of the Class of 1967.



TRAGEDY STRIKES



On December 2, 1966 fire completely destroyed Montgomery County High School

Sources:

Books:

The Heritage of Montgomery County, Alabama. Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., Clanton, AL, 2001

Montgomery County High School Yearbooks, *The Melting Pot*: 1922,1923, 1924, 1954,1955,1957, 19??,19??

Internet:

<https://www.wsfa.com/2023/10/11/imps-votes-close-dunbar-ramer-school>

Accessed August 17, 2024

Encyclopedia of Alabama. Alabama State Department of Education.

Accessed August, 2024

Interviews:

Betty Armistead, Ramer, Alabama

August 15, 2024

October 4, 2024

Pat Moseley, Pintlala, Alabama

Various dates during July, September and October 2024

Oleta Owens

Telephone interviews, unknown date, September, 2024 and October 4, 2024

Margie Poole

Telephone interview, unknown date, September 2024

Newsletters:

Richard Woods Edmonds."School Building in Alabama: The Experience of Montgomery County", ca. 1926 in *Montgomery County Historical Society Herald*, v. 14, no. 3, Summer 2006, pp.1-6.

Gloria Smith. "Ramer: A Likely Sketch of the First 100 Years" first published in 1984. Adapted for "In Touch" a quarterly publication published by Mon-Cree Telephone Cooperative as "Ramer, AL—A Short History" in July 2004. Reprinted by *Pintlala Historical Association Newsletter*, V. XXXI, No. 3, July 2017. pp. 7-11 with permission of both parties.

Newspapers:

Montgomery Advertiser, May 23, 1960. Mildred Smith. Pintlala Historical Association Archived Newsletters (Mildred Smith Papers)

Newspapers.com. *Montgomery Advertiser* (Montgomery, Alabama), Friday, April 23, 1957. "William F. Feagin". Accessed September 5, 2024.

Follow-up to *Knights of Pythias Lodge, Big Zion 167*, Volume 38, April 2024:

In the above named article the Pythians discussed were African American members of a local Knights of Pythias Lodge. For the April article this group was of primary interest. PHA member, Cheryl Murchison, later shared with me that her mother was a member of the Pythians and brought an article and picture which appeared in a newspaper, perhaps the Montgomery Advertiser, year unknown. This article documented that there were Caucasian chapters of Pythians.



In Montgomery, Alabama, the Pythian Sisters dress up in costumes reminiscent of earlier days and hold "Tea Parties" monthly as a sort of pre-conditioning exercise for the Big Bicentennial year-long event Pythian folks will be participating in shortly. Matronal charm comes through in this picture of Alabama Past Grand Chief Jewel Nobel at one of their recent parties.

Jewel Nobel in costume; Newspaper and date unknown, Courtesy Cheryl Murchison (Nobel's daughter)

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Follow-up to *Hoop, Jr. and the Kentucky Derby*, Volume 38, July 2024:

An additional article regarding the race horse, Hoop, Jr. was found September 2024 in a scrapbook belonging to Laslie Hall by his sister, Patsy Davis. Both are PHA members. The news article has no source or date. The article has been transcribed in order to be easily read.

Hoop, Jr., Conditioned On Hooper Farms Here, Becomes Derby Threat Overnight

For the first time in history a horse conditioned in Montgomery County is a strong contender for honors in the Kentucky Derby. The horse is Hoop, Jr., and Fred W. Hooper is the owner.

Hoop, Jr., son of Sir Gallahad III and One Hour, moved into the select circle of top-ranking derby candidates by winning the second division of the Wood Memorial at Jamaica Thursday in 1:45 flat. Col. C. V. Whitney's Jeep won the first division in 1:45.4.

The victory was the third for Hoop, Jr., in six races since the racing ban was lifted recently. He finished second, third and fourth in the other three races.

Traveling at high speed under mild restraint with Eddie Arcaro in the saddle, Hoop, Jr., finished three lengths ahead of Alexis, a Christiana Stables entry to win Thursday's race and pay his owner \$18,946.

Florida Contractor

Hooper is a Florida contractor but in the past few years he became interested in thoroughbreds—cattle and horses—and selected a site eight miles from Montgomery on the Mobile Highway to conduct his experiments. Today the Hooper Farms, every bit of 5,000 acres is the home of some of the finest horses and Hereford cattle in the country.

Hoop Jr., and several other thoroughbreds of Hooper's stable, were shipped here late last summer and remained on the Hooper Farms until, December when they were sent to Hialeah at Miami. While here the horses were conditioned and made ready for the time when the racing ban would be lifted. And to give you some idea as to the size of Hooper's stable, when the ban was lifted he shipped 15 two-year olds and nine three-year-olds to Belmont Stables for the Eastern racing season. What's more, Hooper has several other colts on his farm that won't be two years old until next Winter.

Moving Here This Weekend

Hooper Farms, rich in black-belt lime soil, is well adapted to grass and clover and makes ideal grazing lands for Hooper's horse and cattle. And no one is prouder of that 5,000-acre tract than Hooper. In fact, he's moving to the farm after spending the Winter in Florida. He will arrive here sometime over the weekend and then continue on to Louisville for the Derby next weekend. Hoop Jr., left Jamaica yesterday and will arrive today at Churchill Downs, where he will be prepared for the big race on June 9.



Newspaper and date unknown, Courtesy Laslie Hall

Acknowledgements:

As always it takes many people to get a PHA Newsletter ready for the reader's hands. I am indebted to all who make it "work"!

Betty Armistead and her wealth of Ramer knowledge and *The Melting Pots* for 1922,1923, and 1924

Jerrie Burton for scanning many images

Jason Gill at Kwik Kopy for always being on time

Buddy Green for answering my phone calls

Laslie Hall for lending his crumbling scrapbook

Pat Moseley for writing his Ramer memories and lending 1954, 1955, 1957 *The Melting Pots*

Oleta Owens for her knowledge of south Montgomery County plus Crenshaw County and her willingness to share

Margie Poole for lending *The Melting Pots* for 1962 and 1968

Angelique Pugh for her patience with my last minute ready, set, go!

Earl Russell for telephone interview

Ina Slade an A+ proof-reader

I thank all of you for your encouraging comments and support

Alice Carter, Editor



**PINTLALA HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION**

*c/o Pintlala Public Library
255 Federal Road
Hope Hull, AL 36043*



NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2024

2:30 P.M.

**PINTLALA BAPTIST
CHURCH**



Join the Pintlala Historical Association

Please mail completed form & dues to:

Pintlala Historical Association

Ina Slade, Treasurer

15212 Highway 31

Hope Hull, Alabama 36043

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone (Home & Office) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Areas of Interest _____

If you are interested in genealogy, please indicate family surnames _____

\$15.00 Annual Dues