

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS IN MISSISSIPPI NEWSPAPERS CONCERNING VARDAMAN AND VARDAMAN PEOPLE

Researched and transcribed by Laura Nell LeCornu Young

1904 - 1918

"Vicksburg Evening Post" Vicksburg, Mississippi Saturday, November 19, 1904

VARDAMAN, MISS., NOT ON THE MAP

Jackson, Miss., Nov. 19 – A few days ago the Attorney-General of the State of Mississippi directed a letter to "Vardaman, Miss." and same has been returned to him here labeled "No such office in the State," or words to that effect. Thus it will be seen that Uncle Sam does not propose to recognize the rights of the people of the State of Mississippi to conduct their own affairs, and may be taken as a pointer as to future conduct on the part of the Republican administration. The town of Vardaman is a new one, and one that has been outlawed by the Post Office Department, but just the same it is one of the growing little towns of the State, and whether recognized by the Republican administration at Washington or not, it is going to grow and prosper. The post office address of Vardaman is Timberville, and all letters addressed there will be delivered to citizens of Vardaman.

"Jackson Daily News" Jackson, Mississippi Saturday, August 8, 1908

FARMERS UNION RALLY

TIMBERVILLE, MISS., Aug. 8. – The Hon. G. R. Hightower, president of the Farmers State Union, and Mr. R. A. N. Wilson, a member of the state board, filled their appointment at Elsie (Ellzey), Calhoun county, Wednesday, while their campaign tour throughout the state, and each delivered an address to a large assembly of people. There was a dinner on the grounds and the Vardaman brass band made music for the occasion.

The following was a part of an advertisement for Draughon's College:

"Jackson Daily News" Jackson, Mississippi April 5, 1909

E. A. ENOCHS, CASHIER VARDAMAN BANK, TIMBERVILLE WRITES:

"It is a pleasure to me to testify to the thoroughness of Draughon's College, which I attended. To any one desiring a thorough business education I conscientiously and sincerely recommend Draughon's College.

"Hinds County Gazette" Raymond, Mississippi October 29, 1909

At Vardaman, Miss. A nine-mile canal, to reclaim 15,000 acres of swamp land was planned. *[This was the canalization of the Yalobusha River from Vardaman to Calhoun City.]*

"Hinds County Gazette" Raymond, Mississippi Friday, April 12, 1918

VARDAMAN - One of the saddest accidents that ever occurred in this community happened when Oakley Edmondson was shot and fatally wounded in a playful scuffle over a gun. He and Rex Martin were at the home of Mr. Bradford near town, and were playing with each other and chasing one another around in the house, each having a switch after the other. As they ran

through a room Oakley picked up a small rifle and started to play with it instead of the switch. the other young man, Rex Martin, picked up a shotgun and, the boy not thinking it was loaded, in some manner caused the gun to be discharged, the full load of shot taking effect in Oakley's neck and ranging downward, producing a wound from which he died twelve hours later.

1923 - 1927

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Friday, November 23, 1923

A commission has been made out to W. M. Stephenson of Vardaman, Calhoun County, who has just been elected Mayor of that community, at a special election held to fill a vacancy existing. Mayor-elect Stephenson defeated W. H. McCord, the only other candidate for the post.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Saturday, May 22, 1926

CANNING FACTORY IN VIEW

VARDAMAN, May 21 – That Vardaman will soon have a canning factory now seems assured. Two experts have been here during the past week looking over the situation and are now engaged in aiding local prospectors in raising the capital stock for its establishment. There is a good farming country about Vardaman, well suited to the growing old truck, and if a canning factory can be obtained, a goodly area will be planted to vegetables and field truck.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Friday, June 18, 1926

The Mississippi Board of Dental Examiners met here Thursday morning and passed upon 27 applicants, who have completed the required examination. They will be granted a license to practice dentistry and dental hygiene in Mississippi

C. O. Blue, Vardaman, Miss. Vanderbilt 1926

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Saturday, July 10, 1926

The following men have successfully passed the examination conducted by the Mississippi State Board of Pharmacy this week..... **Allen M. Parker, Vardaman, Miss.**

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Thursday, September 16, 1926

MISS McCLESKEY VISITING MRS. WHITE

Miss Meda McCleskey, of Vardaman, is the attractive guest of her sister, Mrs. C. C. White in her pretty home in Pecan Tree Grove where she will remain until her duties as a member of the Davis School faculty claim her attention. Miss McCleskey will then be at home with Mrs. Parsons on North Street. This young lady is a splendid teacher and has many friends in Jackson who are delighted to have her here.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Saturday, October 9, 1926

TRAIN NARROWLY ESCAPES

OKOLONA, Oct 8 – The fast Okolona-Calhoun City express on the M. and A. Houston branch line came in close proximity to a series of blasts set off by laborers on the Houston-Vardaman highway to eliminate a number of stumps, obstacles in the roadway.

Debris and stumps were flying in all directions, jarring the train which was passing that spot at the time very considerably, but fortunately no damage was done, outside of a broken window pane in the rear coach. After a hasty survey of the situation the train proceeded to Halls Station. The blasting was being done a mile and a half west of Houston on the new highway, running parallel to the Southern tracks.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Thursday, November 18, 1926

SHIPPING TURKEYS

VARDAMAN, Nov. 17 – Calhoun County is shipping this week a large number of turkeys to the Thanksgiving markets in the co-operative shipping cars which have been located at different points on the line. This demonstrates that Calhoun County is a large producer of the popular fowls at Thanksgiving time.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Thursday, December 16, 1926

TURKEY DAY

VARDAMAN, Dec. 15 – Today was an exceedingly busy day in this city, the occasion being the shipment of the turkey car to the New Orleans market, loaded down with the choice birds from Calhoun County, destined to grace the Christmas table of the city diners. Farmers were in this place from the entire countryside loaded down with birds, which were sold at the prevailing market price, under the supervision of the progressive county agent of Calhoun County.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, December 5, 1926

BOOSTING VARDAMAN

PYLAND, Dec. 4 – This city was visited yesterday by a delegation of business men from Vardaman, who presented the advantages to the officials of the Arthur Delapierre Co, Inc., of removing their plant to Vardaman for its present location at Pyland. It is understood that the management of the plant has taken the matter under serious advisement. A number of places in this county are also after this enterprising firm to locate within its borders.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, December 5, 1926

VARDAMAN PROGRESSIVE

VARDAMAN, Dec. 4 – This city is experiencing a considerable building boom at the present time, in the shape of service drive-in stations. The garage now under construction for W. H.

Daniels, by Contractor Fleming, is rapidly nearing completion, and will be ready for occupancy in the next few days. S. S. Collins will erect a huge tank in the near future for the wholesale distribution of gasoline in this section of Calhoun County.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, January 27, 1927

VARDAMAN PROGRESSING

VARDAMAN, Jan. 8 – The new administration of the incoming mayor of this city starts under most auspicious circumstances, and this year is freely predicted to be the banner year in the history of this place. Mayor R. E. Gilder succeeds Mr. Stephenson who returned to his former home in Tennessee. One of the new projects on hand is a new Masonic Temple, which is expected to be built the coming spring at a cost of \$10,000, modern and up-to-date in all respects. The Merchants Association is also negotiating with a large concern to locate a handle factory in this city, and indications at the present time point to the success of the negotiations. Vardaman will be strategically located with the outline of the new state highway running north and south which will cross the Federal aid highway here which runs east and west across the state. In the event of the location of the handle factory fully 200 more people will be added to the town.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Wednesday, February 16, 1927

W. A. COOK, ILL

VARDAMAN, Feb 15 – W. A. Cook, merchant of this city, was taken to the Houston Hospital at Houston in a serious condition for treatment. Mr. Cook has been ill for a long time, his condition having become serious in the past day. He was accompanied by his sons, Grady Cook of Eupora and Otis Cook of Vardaman.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, March 27, 1927

CALHOUN FARMER MAKES MONEY ON POTATOES

CALHOUN CITY, March 21 – R. L. Inman, of Vardaman, was in Calhoun City recently to make settlement for his sweet potato shipments with the County Farm Bureau. Mr. Inman received a check for \$1085.00, which represented the potato crop on 12 acres of his land last year. He states that he has handled sweet potatoes for several years and has learned how to save and handle them, so that he has practically no loss at all on the crop.

The crop is being sold on a low market this year and Mr. Inman has received more money for his crop several times than he received this year. He states with conviction that potatoes are much more profitable than cotton or corn year after year-that they are not near so much trouble as one would imagine; that since the state plant board learned how to stop black rot in potatoes he has practically no losses in harvesting and storage. He uses a drying house after gathering in the fall and waits for better markets in the spring before selling.

Mr. Inman is a real farmer. Besides his potato crop, he engages in poultry production and dairying. He said that he sold \$740 worth of cream in 1926 and used the skim milk, fertilizer, etc. for his farm very profitably. He added that dairying is not job for a lazy man, or one who is behind with his visiting, but that it was well worthwhile. He has a farm of 430 acres and

cultivates about 150. He makes two or three bales of cotton annually. He bought one of the pure bred bulls a week or so ago and a couple of registered heifers.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, April 3, 1927

BANK AT VARDAMAN VICTIM OF YEGGS

Burn Hole in Vault With Acetylene Torch and Get About \$4,000

VARDAMAN, April 2 – A bank robbery occurred here sometime last night when yeggs forced entrance to the Farmers and National Bank and secured about \$3,500 in cash and securities to the value of approximately \$500.

The robbery was not discovered until morning when employees entered the bank to take up their duties.

Acetylene torch had been used to gain access to the bank vault by the robbers, who made good their escape. The county authorities are conducting a vigorous investigation with hopes of apprehending the guilty parties.

1930 - 1936

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Monday, August 18, 1930

VARDAMAN, MABEN IN TIED CONTEST

VARDAMAN. Aug. 17 – The Vardaman Athletics and the Maben baseball team engaged in a furious tie on the Maben park, and the large crowd that witnessed the battle between ancient rivals saw 5 runs made by each team and no more.

The Athletics scored three times in the third inning, and had a substantial lead, but two home runs by Betts, a triple by Cole, and a home run by Wax, set the game on ice until the seventh inning when Vardaman came back and tied the score, which remained still, until the 12th inning, when Umpire Vincent and Williams called the game because of darkness.

The feature of the game was the hitting of Caperton, who secured four out of five, the pitching of Simpson, all of Vardaman, and the hitting of Betts and the fielding of Jobe of Maben.

As a result of the tie in Friday’s game, Vardaman has won 19 games, lost two, and tied one this season.

The score: Vardaman 003 001 100 000 – 5 9 2
 Maben 000 401 000 000 – 5 5 3

Caperton, Simpson, and Scarbrough; Betts and Cole, Umpires Vincent and Williams.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Friday, January 23, 1931

(Note: The article had Chickasaw rather than Calhoun, probably because they had the town as Houston)

BURGLARS ENTER VARDAMAN STORE

\$2,500 In Clothing is Reported Missing From Chickasaw Shop

HOUSTON, Jan. 22 – Thieves last night broke into the pressing shoohp of Otis Ramsey at Vardaman and stole sixty suits and about twenty-five dresses and ladies coats, representing a total loss of around \$2,500. Mr. Ramsey had put on a special offer and had made a thorough

canvass of the town, getting garments from practically all the home in Vardaman. There is no clue as to who committed the robbery, and no insurance covering the loss.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Wednesday, February 4, 1931

Over two score Mississippi cities have elected new officers at special elections called by reason of the tangle which ensued over the confused election chapter in the Code of 1920. Commissions for a large number of the officers are being mailed Wednesday from the office of Secretary of State Walker Wood.....Vardaman:

R. E. Gilder, Mayor, Vardaman, Calhoun County; S. W. Scarbrough, marshal; T. J. Richards, treasurer; T. E. Fleming, S. F. Dye, W. V. Gable, J. M. Evans and J. R. Vanhorn, aldermen.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, May 3, 1931

VARDAMAN TRUSTEES RE-ELECT TEACHERS

VARDAMAN – May 2 – At a meeting of the board of trustees, the faculty of the Vardaman High School, the largest school in Calhoun county was elected for the 1931-32 session.

Superintendent, C. B. Sisler; professor of mathematics, James Franklin Hopkins; professor of English, Miss Loyce Norris; commercial instructor, Miss Mary Virginia Baker, compose the high school department.

For the grammar and primary department, the following teachers were elected: J. R. Penick, eighth grade; J. E. Morgan, seventh grade; Miss Gertrude Phillips, sixth grade; Miss Clara Christian, fifth grade; Mrs. J. S. W. Hodge, third and fourth grade; Miss Elizabeth Stone, and Miss Opha Sanderson compose the primary department.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Saturday, July 25, 1931

VARDAMAN'S FIRE LOSS IS \$70,000

Largest Department Store in Calhoun Destroyed by Early Morning Blaze

VARDAMAN, July 24 – The J. W. Hill & Company department store was destroyed by fire at 3 o'clock yesterday morning on East Main Street, at an estimated loss of \$70,000. As to how the largest department store in Calhoun County was demolished, no one knows, but the heaviest electrical storm that has ever raged in this section of the state came over and played some part in destroying of the Hill firm.

Every man and woman in Vardaman arose at the alarm and made a strenuous effort to destroy the flames, but heavy clouds of smoke rolled along the ground and the firemen were halted.

Telephone wires were severed to keep other business houses and residences from being damaged.

The City Barber Shop and the Merchants and Farmers Bank, next door to the building were damaged slightly, while other buildings across the street had broken glass cases as a result of the heat of the flaming building.

The J. W. Hill & Company department store was first opened in Vardaman some 25, years ago, and because of the splendid success they made, branch stores were operated in different sections of the state.

This store was the headquarters of branch stores, which were located at Fulton, Houston and Bruce, Miss.

As to whether a new building will be erected and the store continue their business here is unknown, according to an announcement that Roy D. Hill, A. A. Hill and J. W. Hill, Sr. told newspaper correspondents today. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Thursday, January 14, 1932

ROB VARDAMAN STORE

VARDAMAN, Jan. 13 – The J. R. McCord Dry Goods Store was robbed in the early hours of yesterday morning. The loss was approximately \$600. Every effort is being made to locate the robbers.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Thursday, January 14, 1932

WINDS HIT VARDAMAN

Bridges Washed Out and Telephone Lines Down

VARDAMAN, Jan. 13 – High winds and heavy rains here last night and this morning resulted in telephone wires being torn down, and part of highway number 8 between Vardaman and Calhoun City being blocked. The county shed of supervisors’ district number 5 was flooded with some four feet of water. Dynamite, which was on the floor, was removed during the night to avoid being dampened by high waters. East of Vardaman, on a local road, two bridges were washed out. School trucks which run north of Vardaman to Loyd, Ellzey and the county line, could not return this afternoon on account of the high water, which completely covered the road near the Vardaman consolidated school.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Monday, February 15, 1932

IRISH LOSE

VARDAMAN, Feb. 14 – The last game of the current season before the Calhoun county field meet, was lost by Vardaman High School delegates away from home yesterday afternoon 44 to 23. The Fighting Irish invaded the Chickasaw County Aggies at Buena Vista and were defeated for the second time.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi May 16, 1932

VARDAMAN SCHOOL TRUSTEES ELECT

VARDAMAN, May 14 – The board of trustees of the Vardaman High School have selected the faculty for the 1932-33 school session. Very few changes have been made this year. J. W. Frost, of Oakland, succeeds C. B. Sisler, who has for the past seventeen years been the superintendent of the school. W. S. Rush of Moorhead succeeds James F. Hopkins of Noxapater as coach and mathematics instructot, V. A. Herron, Jr., of Oakland will teach in the place of J. Russell Penick, who for the past four years has taught the eighth grade.

The other members of the faculty are Miss Mary V. Baker, commercial instructor, Pontotoc; Miss Loyce Elizabeth Norris, English, Holcomb; Julian E. Morgan, seventh, Vardaman; Miss Gertrude Phillips, sixth, Gattman; Miss Clara Christian, 4th and 5th, Vardaman; Mrs. John S. Williams Hodge, third, Vardaman; Miss Elizabeth Stone, second, Tupelo; and Miss Opha Sanderson, first grade, Houston.

“Clarion Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, October 16, 1932

UNIQUE BOOTH AT CALHOUN’S FAIR

Attractive Furniture Is Displayed Made From Native Wood

CALHOUN CITY, Oct. 15 – H. N. Moseley of Vardaman, has a booth in the exhibition hall at the Calhoun County Fair, which is in progress this week, that probably attracted more attention than any other. The principle objects are hand-made pieces of furniture, made entirely of Calhoun County woods and consisting of a bed, a four poster, with the posts of solid black walnut, the end pieces are sun glow design and consist of alternate pieces of black walnut and maple.

The end table is of the same design and of the same kind of material. The vanity case is a four point star design and is made of walnut and maple and has 108 pieces. The screen is a four point star design and is made of walnut, cedar and maple. The cedar chest is of native cedar. Mr. Moseley made his own laths out of two-two by fours and made the chisel of an automobile spring and the power was furnished by a Fordson tractor. There was no glue used in the construction of this furniture, neither any paint, only clear varnish and all the articles are highly polished. One the floor of the booth are rugs and mats, rag rugs, hook rugs and others. The walls of the booth were decorated with handmade pictures made by relatives of Mr. Moseley. He contemplates entering these and other articles in some of the larger fairs next season.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, October 16, 1930

BRUCE DEVILS WIN FROM VARDAMAN 9-0

VARDAMAN, Oct.15 – A big crew saw the Bruce Blue Devils win over the Golden Tornadoes by the score of 9 to 0. Hollingsworth, Hartley and Dan Blue were the stars for the locals.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Monday, December 19, 1932

REPUBLICAN HEAD OF STATE TOWN

VARDAMAN - Dec. 18—For the first time in the history of Vardaman, a Republican will head the administration for the next two years. J. E. Whitehorn, for 15 years city clerk, was elected mayor without opposition. Mayor R. E. Gilder did not seek re-election.

For the first time in 17 years, Vardaman will have a new tax collector. J. Isham (Isom) Anglin was elected over S. B. Scarbrough, incumbent. The board of aldermen will consist of Johnny R. Vanhorn, G. M. “Pepe” Herring, T. Edgar Fleming, Victor Gable and Ottis Cook.

Thomas Jefferson Richard, was re-elected city treasurer. This will be the tenth time that he will have charge of the city’s budget.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Thursday, February 9, 1933

VARDAMAN ELECTS ANNUAL WHO’S WHO

VARDAMAN, Feb 8 – The “Who’s Who” contest at the Vardaman High School resulted in the following choices: Miss Vardaman High, Margaret Vanhorn; Mr. Vardaman High, Dan Hollingsworth; most beautiful girl, Pauline McKibben; most handsome boy, Joe Sedberry; most popular girl, Pauline McKibben; most popular boy, Dan Hollingsworth; best dressed girl, Madra Daniels; best dressed boy, Joe Sedberry; most intellectual girl, Beulah Ward; most intellectual boy, Danner Lantrip; wittiest girl, Margaret Vanhorn; wittiest boy, Dan Hollingsworth; most athletic girl, Lora Lee Bailey; most athletic boy, Dan Hollingsworth; best sport girl, Lora Lee Bailey; most conceited girl, Nina Pearl Sims; most conceited boy, Joe Sedberry.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Friday, December 14, 1934

VARDAMAN HOLDS MUNICIPAL ELECTION

VARDAMAN, Dec. 13 – Mayor J. E. Whitehorn, who for the past two years has guided the destinies of the town of Vardaman, was defeated yesterday in his candidacy for re-election. The new mayor, J. R. McCord received 74 votes, Jim Marion Blue, 42 votes, and J. E. Whitehorn, 24 votes.

Only one new alderman will serve for the next two years. Ottis Cook yielded his position to Millard Filmore Young. The candidates for the town board received the following vote: Millard Filmore Young, 96 votes; John R. Vanhorn, 120 votes; W. Victor Gable, 99 votes; Charlie Churchman, 24 votes; J. W. Hill, 24 votes; “Mike” Martin, 32 votes; Granville M. Herring, 98 votes; Henry W. Daniels, 95 votes.

Islom Anglin was re-elected city marshall by a vote of 74 to 68 to Curtis Scarbrough. Thomas Jefferson Richards was re-elected to the post of city treasurer, a position which he held since the city charter was granted 35 years ago.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, January 22, 1935

....result of a heavy rainfall and a 24-hour assault of heavy hail, sleet and snow. Telephone lines were out of operation, railroad trains were late, intersecting roads were impassable and down. Several thousand dollars damage has been done throughout the county as a result of this terrible storm.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, May 17, 1936

9 STATE YOUTHS CHOOSE MARINES

At monthly examinations held in New Orleans Friday the following Mississippians were selected for service in the U. S. Marine Corps, it is announced by Lt. Commander F. W. Quin, officer in charge: Rufus W, Hendry, Columbia; J. B. Powell, Seminary; Douglas D. Lofton, Collins; Clinton T. Taylor and Felix A. Short, Wesson; Earnest R. Walker, Shubuta; C. O. Milber, McCool; **Inmon C. Gilder and John A. Lecornu, Vardaman.**

1942 - 1946

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Saturday, February 21, 1942

Lieut. J. M. Ferguson, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Ferguson, Vardaman, was graduated from the air corps advanced flying school at Brooks Field, Texas, receiving the silver wings and gold bars of an army pilot officer. He attended Mississippi State College before joining the air corps.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Monday, June 22, 1942

Private First Class Eltis Vanlandingham, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Vanlandingham, of Vardaman is with the Medical Battalion of the 90th Division at Camp Barkley. He completed high school at Derma, attended college at East Central Junior College and graduated from the University of Mississippi. For the past three years he has been working at Beaumont, Tex., and he was there when he was inducted into the army.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, August 23, 1942

Technical Sergeant Vernon Boyd Brannon is serving his fourth successive enlistment in the U. S. Army, and he is now stationed at Camp Claiborne. Sgt. and Mrs. Brannon and their little daughter are now visiting Sgt. Brannon’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Brannon, of Vardaman. They will spend a short time in Vardaman while Sgt. Brannon is recuperating from an operation.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Thursday, April 22, 1943

MORE WOMEN JOIN AUXILIARY CORPS

The WAAC Recruiting and Induction Station, 504 Post Office building, announced yesterday the enlistment of three more members into the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. Their names follow: Juanita McAdams, Whitfield; Margaret Berryhill (wife of Pvt. Matthew P. Berryhill, Camp Shelby) of Jackson; and **Margaret Van Horn of Vardaman.**

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, September 8, 1946

NEW POST ORGANIZED

VARDAMAN, Sept 7 – (AP) – A new post of the American Legion has been organized here by 40 veterans, Dr. J. S. Edmondson has been elected post commander.

1950 - 1959

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Saturday, September 2, 1950

TEACHERS LISTED FOR THREE SCHOOLS

BRUCE – Members of the Vardaman High School faculty are: B. F. Box, Superintendent; Charles Smith, High School Principal and Science; Watt Carter, Agriculture; E. D. McFadden, Math; M. D. Wall, Social Studies; Mrs. Watt Carter, Commercial; Mrs. Ealine Scott, Home Economics; Mrs. Horace Flake, Senior English, Librarian; Martha Swain, English; Mrs. Jimmie Smith, Music; Horace Flake, Elementary Principal and 6th grade; Clara Christian, 5th; Bessie Gilder, 4th; Mrs. J. B. Adams, 3rd; Mary Lou Miles, 2nd; and Mrs. B. F. Box, 1st grade.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Wednesday, February 13, 1952

WATT CARTER NAMED GRAND LODGE HEAD

Succeeds Dr. Smith As Grand Master

Watt Carter of Vardaman, was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi here Tuesday evening during the 134 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi being held at the Heidelberg Hotel, Feb. 12-13. Carter succeeds Dr. Joe Lee Smith of Forest.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Saturday, February 6, 1954

VARDAMAN BAPTISTS GET NEW PASTOR

VARDAMAN, Miss. – The Rev. Hal D. Bennett of New Orleans will become pastor of the Vardaman Baptist Church, Feb. 14. He is a native of Alabama and expects to complete his work on a Doctor of Theology at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, May 1

He is a graduate of Howard College, Birmingham, and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. (Th. M., 1942). He has been pastor of churches in both Texas and Alabama.

The Rev. Mr. Bennett was an Army Chaplain for five years from 1942-47. He was assistant editor of The Alabama Baptist from 1947-50. He became publicity director and tutor of church publicity at the New Orleans Seminary Sept. 1, 1950, and also began his studies toward the doctor's degree.

The Bennetts have three boys: Hal, 11, Tom, 10, and Timothy, 2. They will live in New Orleans until May, and then move to the Vardaman parsonage.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, August 4, 1957

STATE YAM MARKETING IS STARTED

A new sales organization, The Natchez Trace Sale Company, has been formed to offer Mississippi grown sweet potatoes to the entire country. The Natchez Trace Sales, the first organization of its kind to be formed in Mississippi is a sales agency for the farmer.

The company processes and packs the potatoes at the Vardaman, Miss. plant and then markets the potatoes for the farmer. At no time does the company own the potatoes.

The company estimates that approximately 10,000 acres in Chickasaw, Calhoun, and Choctaw counties are under cultivation for this season's sweet potatoes. Most of the crop will come from Chickasaw and Calhoun Counties. They plan to market approximately 1,000,000 bushels this season.

The Natchez Trace Company will market the Mississippi sweet potatoes under 3 labels, Choctaw, Gold, Trade Winds, and Blue Goose. The aim of the organization is to net more money for the farmer than he has been receiving in the past.

The business offices for the company will be located in Jackson.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Friday, February 21,, 1958

DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors was meeting when Sputnik I went up. BOYD CAMPBELL of Jackson was on hand for the special session addressed by “The outstanding space-propulsion expert” available for discussion of the event. When DR. JOHN A SANDERS was introduced to MR. CAMPBELL the latter learned that the distinguished scientist, head of a research laboratory of over 3,000 “brains” gathered by the Navy, actually is a Vardaman, Miss. boy. Educated at Ole Miss, then Johns Hopkins, then a couple of years under Einstein at Princeton, he has been outstanding in the Navy effort.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Thursday, February 19, 1959

SLEEP-WALKER NOW BEDRIDDEN

VARDAMAN (UPI) – Gene Gilder, a habitual sleep walker, won't be able to walk in his sleep again for at least six weeks.

Gilder was bed-ridden Wednesday after suffering two fracture vertebrae in his neck and cuts when he fell while walking in his sleep. Doctors said he would have to remain in bed for a month and a half.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, June 7, 1959

VALEDICTORIAN TOUCHDOWN CLUB PICS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER by Carl Walters

Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer Faye Ward of Vardaman, valedictorian of her graduating class, has been chosen as the recipient of the 1959 Lacey Hargrove Hughes Memorial Scholarship Award, presented by the Jackson Touchdown Club.

The scholarship totals \$2,000-\$500 annually over a four-year period-and can be used by Miss Ward at the college of her choice. The only requirements regarding renewal of the scholarship from year to year is that she make normal progress toward a degree and that her conduct merit the approval of the head of the institution she attends.

Announcement of Miss Ward being chosen as the scholarship recipient was made Saturday by G. P. (Jimmie) Hewes, chairman of the Touchdown Club's Lacey Hargrove Hughes Memorial Scholarship Committee. Other members of the committee are Dr. John Evans, C. H. (Dick) King, Joe Pollard and William Spell.

Hewes said, "We are confident that Miss Ward will make good use of this award and continue in college the outstanding work which she did during her high school career. Our only regret is that we could not award scholarships to all the splendid young men and women who were considered for the 1959 award,"

ALL-STATE CAGER

Miss Ward maintained a straight "A" average during her four years at Vardaman High School and also compiled an outstanding extra-curricular and leadership record.

She won all-state honors as a forward on the Vardaman Girls' Basketball Team that took the stat B-BB championship. In addition, she was active in 4-H Club, Future Home Makers and Dramatic Club work.

A loyal member of the First Baptist Church of Vardaman, she has held every office available in Training Union work and is a member of the church choir.

Following the death of her mother, some three and one-half years ago, she and her younger sister, Ann, kept house for the family until her father, C. P. Ward, married again.

Faye has not decided which college she will attend, and is also undecided regarding her college course, but is leaning towards a major in mathematics.

This young lady is the fourth recipient of a Lacey Hargrove Hughes Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Touchdown Club. Rudolph Oswald of Ackerman was the first recipient and has completed three years of study at Mississippi State University; Reginald Buckley of Jackson was the second recipient and is heading into his third year at Georgia Tech; Miss Maggie Mae Hickey of Charleston was the third recipient and after completing one year of study at Northwest Junior College, she is now enrolled at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing in Jackson.

The scholarships are made possible by profits from the Mississippi All-Star Football Game, which is sponsored by the Touchdown Clue. The 1959 game will be played at Hinds Memorial Stadium here on Friday night, August 7.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Friday, March 13, 1959

10 ALL-STATERS IN SATURDAY’S STATE FINALS

There will be 10 All-State high school cage performers participating before the eyes of an expected 3,000 fans Saturday night in City Auditorium during the ninth annual 1959 “tournament of champions”.

From the Philadelphia boys there will be Charles Pearson, Tom Crosswell and John White and from the opposing Wheeler Eagles there will be Grandle Barron and Sam Lindsey.

In the preliminary feminine fracas, Forest Hill’s A-AA champion girls will bring along All-Staters Glenda Doty and Peggy Hollingsworth while Vardaman’s B-BB champion girls will be relying upon All-Staters **Faye Ward and Zilla Morgan**

1960 - 1966

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Friday, January 1, 1960

HOUSTON MAN FALLS 25 FEET TO HIS DEATH

HOUSTON – Ebin Mays, 52-year-old Houston construction worker, was accidentally killed Thursday afternoon in nearby Vardaman when a building frame collapsed and plunged him 25 feet to the ground.

Authorities said Mays was killed instantly. He was working on a new addition to the Vardaman Manufacturing Co., which makes wooden frames for furniture. Mays was originally from Joiner, Ark. and had lived here about two months.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, January 12, 1960

VARDAMAN GIRLS WIN TOMBIGBEE CONFERENCE TITLE

VARDAMAN – Vardaman’s powerful sextet roared to a 52-28 win over north half Tombigbee champs luka here tonight to clinch the 1960 Tombigbee girls’ championship.

Vardaman, sparked by the 29 point effort of Ann Ward, notched their 20th win in 21 attempts to live up to pre-tourney ranking as the team to beat for the 1960 North A-AA title. Vardaman, the 1959 B-BB state champs moved to A-AA contention this year for the first time. Flora Lee Davis led luka with 21 points.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, January 17, 1960

R. E. GILDER

Senator, Chickasaw, Pontotoc, Calhoun

Voters of the 31st district have chosen as one of their senators, R. E. Gilder, 45-year-old Vardaman farmer and native.

Gilder is a tri-county senator from Chickasaw, Pontotoc, and Calhoun Counties. Married, he is a Methodist.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Friday, July 21, 1961

WAITS 68 YEARS FOR MAIL BOX

CALHOUN CITY – Mrs. Nellie Clark of the nearby Reid community has U. S. mail service after a 68-year wait.

Last week Vardaman Route 2 was extended two-tenths of a mile to include Mrs. Clark's home. Her mail had been delivered to a neighbor's box.

But now, "isn't it wonderful?" Mrs. Clark said. "I just can't believe I have my own mail box."

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, October 15, 1961

Reports are that **GATLIN GILDER**, Vardaman manufacturer and farmer, will seek election to the Senate seat left vacant by the death of his brother, Senator BOB GILDER. It will be necessary for Lt. Gov. Johnson to fill the vacancy on the powerful General Legislative Investigating Committee left by Gilder's death. He was also chairman of the Public Health Committee and vice-chairman of the County Affairs Committee. His other committee assignments were Finance, Game and Fish, Public Utilities, Banks and Enrolled Bills.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, March 27, 1962

VARDAMAN COACH IS NAMED

John Burt, who will get his degree at Ole Miss this summer, has been named head basketball coach at Vardaman High School for next year....He succeeds Coach Red Griffin who resigned recently... Burt starred in basketball at Derma High and East Mississippi Junior College at Scooba before going to Ole Miss.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, April 17, 1966

VARDAMAN CAGE COACH RESIGNS

By. Hubert B. Scrivener

VARDAMAN – John Burt, well known boys basketball coach at Vardaman High School, has announced his resignation at the end of the present school year.

Burt, who was also an assistant football coach, said he had accepted a position in the field of Drivers Education in all of Calhoun County. He will be working with this department in the high schools at Bruce, Calhoun City and Vardaman.

Coach Burt, formerly of Derma is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Burt.

1982

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Wednesday, March 17, 1982

'TOY' GUN KILLS STUDENT, 17

OXFORD – A youngster who thought the derringer he found on the roadside was a toy has shot and killed a Vardaman High School student.

Lagayette County Sheriff Buddy East said William Trahan, Jr., 17, was pronounced dead Sunday afternoon at Lafayette County Hospital shortly after the accidental shooting.

Trahan had been visiting friends in the West Spring Hill community about 13 miles west of Oxford when he was shot in the back just below the shoulder blade by an 11-year-old boy, East said.

"He was out of the car, just talking with some friends when the shot hit him," East said.

"The boy thought he was playing with a toy pistol. He was just looking at it....when it discharged," East said.

No charges have been filed against the boy, whose name has not been released.

2002 - 2008

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, February 3, 2002

DISEASE SUSPECTED IN STUDENT’S DEATH AT NORTHEAST CC

BOONEVILLE – A 20-year-old student found dead in her dormitory at Northeast Mississippi Community College is believed to have died from natural causes, officials said.

Kamilah Douglas of Vardaman was found in the hallway outside her dorm room early Friday morning by a school official, said college spokeswoman Barbara Shackelford.

Shackelford said Douglas’ death was apparently caused by complications from lupus. Lupus is a chronic disease in which the body’s immune system becomes hyperactive and attacks normal tissue and cells. Most cases can be controlled with treatment, but lupus has no cure. An official cause of death, however, will be known until after an autopsy is conducted, Shackelford said.

Prentiss County Coroner James Horn pronounced Douglas dead at the scene.

The daughter of Brenda Allen of Vardaman and Jimmy Ray Douglas of Vardaman, Douglas was a sophomore majoring in paralegal technology.

Northeast personnel were on hand Friday to offer support to students who might be having difficulties with the death, said Northeast President Charles Chance.

“It is always a tragedy when a young person’s life ends,” Chance said. “Kamilah had been a student at Northeast for over two years. She will be grieved by her family, her dorm mates and the entire college family.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Friday, February 15, 2002

VARDAMAN

FIRE CLOSSES SCHOOL

An early morning fire at a Calhoun County school has shut down classes until at least next Tuesday.

Vardaman Elementary Principal James Casey said the building that housed grades first through sixth was destroyed by the fire that broke out around 12:30 a.m. Wednesday and may have started in a classroom.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, May 14, 2002

VARDAMAN SCHOOL GETS GRANT

An Appalachian Regional Commission grant of \$50,000 will help pay for a prefabricated building to be used as temporary classrooms at Vardaman Elementary. The school was destroyed by fire Feb. 14.

The structure will serve as classroom space until a new school building can be constructed, said U. S. Rep. Roger Wicker and U. S. Sens. Thad Cochran and Trent Lott in a news release.

“Clarion-Ledger” Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, July 1, 2008

VARDAMAN PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Under 10,000 population “James Boyd Parker Youth Sports Complex”

A dream years in the making was realized when the small town of Vardaman, population 1,061, opened its brand new Sportsplex in 2008. The complex includes four ball fields, a concession area and more for the youth of this community. The mayor and board of aldermen worked hard to obtain a grant from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks in the amount of \$175,000 which was then matched by the town and community to fund the project

Prior to the construction of the complex, the only field that could be utilized by youth sports was a football practice field at the local high school causing many of the children to have to play in other leagues, or the Vardaman teams to actually have to play "home" games in neighboring towns.

Today, the town's citizens and more importantly the youth, are enjoying the benefits of its own baseball facility that not only offers new opportunity for the citizens, but allows teams from other towns to come to Vardaman and experience the hospitality and pride of the town in the new complex.

2011 - 2012

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Friday, June 24, 2011

VARDAMAN: TORNADO MAY HAVE HIT AREA

The National Weather Service reports initial surveys indicate a possible tornado struck the Vardaman and Tupelo areas on Wednesday. No fatalities were reported.

Winds peaked at 90 mph in Vardaman around 12:50 p.m. Meteorologist Chris Duke said the tornado brought trees down on homes, damaged sheds and caused one minor injury.

In Tupelo, most damage involved power lines and poles.

"Clarion-Ledger" Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, October 9, 2012

TVA PROGRAM

VARDAMAN INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS ON WATER WELL

VARDAMAN – The town of Vardaman is installing solar panels at one of its three water wells. WCBI-TV reports that Vardaman is the latest city to harness the energy of the sun to help with day to day operations.

Norman Griffin of Blue Spectra Solar is providing a system that will produce about 90,000 kilowatts of electricity a year.

"That's the largest size that Tennessee Valley allows under their current program. It's a TVA program that's administered by the local Natchez Trace Electric Power Association.

"Solar put out DC current, so you have to convert it to be compatible to the local power company to AC current." Griffin said.

Mayor James Casey said Vardaman uses 84,000 kilowatt each year.

"That water well down there is our largest well and uses about little over \$1,000 a month of electricity, and we are proposing that this panel is going to furnish that electricity for that well." said Casey.

Griffin hopes to have it online within 30 days.

“TVA pays a premium for the output of the solar system. They also refund the current retail rate and guarantee it for 10 years. So they’ve got a 10-year guarantee of their payment of their rate plus the incentives that help justify the investment.” said Griffin.
After 10 years, Casey said, the town will take over operation of the solar facility.