

Tim Tingle Speaks to Historical Society

On January 21, 2024, the well-known local wood-carver and artist, Tim Tingle, captivated an attentive audience with his personal story and a variety of interesting anecdotes about the whimsical and imaginative figures he has carved into the trunks of more than 50 cedar trees that line the banks of Shoal Creek in Orr Park.

The program consisted primarily of Tim taking his audience through a projected photographic slide show of most of his creations and his explanations of what each figure was intended to be and the impressions he hoped to achieve among viewers of his handiwork.

Tim is retired after a 37 year career as an underground coal miner. He lives in the Pea Ridge area just a few miles west of the Montevallo City Limits. He grew up here and attended local schools. As a young man he developed an interest in making carvings in wood and pursued this unique hobby as work obligations and family time allowed.

Tim's Orr Park carvings all started when Tim noticed

that several venerable red cedar trees near the creek had been heavily damaged as a result of a freak snow and ice storm that swept through Central Alabama in March of 1993. To Tim, who at the time was just a novice wood

carver, the blasted cedar limbs and trunks littering the creek bank were a dream come true.

He inquired with the city employees doing the clean up about acquiring some of the wood for himself but got no cooperation.

This rejection triggered Tim's sense of mischief, so he resolved to slip into the park and start doing some anonymous carvings on the downed trees just to see if anyone noticed. By the time he had finished six carvings,

he was found out by city officials, but all was not lost.

Members of the City Council became fans of Tim and his work and soon named the walking path area Tinglewood. Fast forwarding to today, the Tinglewood festival has become one of the town's major attractions.



YOU CAN SEE A VIDEO OF TIM'S JANUARY 21 PROGRAM AT
WWW.HISTORICMONTEVALLO.ORG

Next MHS General Membership Meeting Sunday April 28, 2024 • Parnell Library • 2:00 pm

Montevallo native Sally Sears will present a program introducing the **Ralph and Marcia Sears Media Archive**, the newest addition to the online digital archives of the University of Montevallo's Carmichael Library. Named for Sally's parents, the archive will preserve and make available to the public a variety of audio, visual, and print artifacts from their careers in public relations, broadcasting, journalism, and advertising while living and working in Montevallo and Shelby County.

President's Letter

Dear Friends:

The make-up and mission of the Montevallo Historical Society is spelled out in the bylaws that were submitted when the organization registered with the state of Alabama as a non-profit corporation in 2017.

The bylaws state that the society is governed by a board of directors and that four officers, President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected from the group of currently serving directors each year .

The bylaws also specify that directors serve terms that conclude after three years. At that time, these directors may choose to serve another three-year term (with board approval) or step down. Officers may decide to succeed themselves, also with approval of the board. In recent years, for continuity, the board asked directors whose terms would be expiring to stay on a bit longer.

I'm happy to report that we are back to normal and we are now positioned where we can be true to the guidelines in our bylaws about choosing officers and directors.

This is all to say that four directors' terms expire this month: Susan Godwin, Marty Everse, Melinda Nix, and Anne Thomas. Susan and Marty have asked to step down from the board while Melinda and Anne will continue.

At a special meeting of the board in March called to fill vacancies created by these expirations, two currently serving MHS members were nominated to replace Susan and Marty. They are Tara Brantley and Anita Williams. When a vote on the nominees was taken, they were both approved unanimously by the eight directors present.

A previous special board meeting had been called in February to name a new Secretary. The office opened when Acting-Secretary, Susan Godwin gave up the post. The name of director Judy Duda was put forward as a nominee.

At the meeting, Judy agreed to take on the duties of Secretary for the board. She was elected unanimously by the directors present for that meeting.

During the same meeting, I announced that I was happy

to continue as MHS President for another year if approved. There were no objections to my decision, so I look forward to another fulfilling year in office.

For about a year, Vice-president Clay Nordan has handled finances for MHS due to the office of Treasurer being vacant. He made a proposal that would relieve him of this double-duty and return us to four distinct officers.

Clay offered to step down as Vice-president but continue as Treasurer. In his place he nominated director Bill Nathews for VP, who agreed to accept the office.

The board voted on Clay's proposal with unanimous approval. Now our slate of officers and directors going forward will be as listed in the line-up below. I thank each person for their willingness to serve and I look forward to an enjoyable year working with you all.

I would like to thank former director and president, Susan Godwin for her years of service. She was a founding director in 2017 and stepped in to take over the presidency following Jim Day's departure in 2018. Susan is one of our most dedicated members who exhibits an admirable love for Montevallo. I know that she will remain a loyal, interested, and active MHS member.

I must also thank Marty Everse for all he did to get MHS off the ground at the start and all he has contributed to our growing base of knowledge about Montevallo. You can't think of Marty without thinking of Mike "Doc" Mahan. Together, Marty and Mike were among those who sparked the Montevallo Historical Society into life and Marty has single-handedly located, preserved, and digitized a treasure trove of historically valuable photographs that "Doc" shot and saved during his colorful life. To both Susan and Marty, I say thank you and best wishes for all that is to come.



Officers

John E. McCulley
President

Bill Nathews
Vice-President

Judy Duda
Secretary

Clay Nordan
Treasurer



Directors

Tara Brantley
Marilynn Donoho
Martha Eisenberg
Billy Mack Lee
Melinda Nix
Anne Thomas
Sherry L. Vallides
Anita Williams

FOUNDING DIRECTORS:

Dr. James S. Day • Kenneth Dukes • Marty Everse • Mae Glosson • William Glosson • Susan Godwin • Dr. S.M. Mahan, Jr. (1934 – 2018)
John McCulley • Norman McMillan • Melinda Nix • Clay Nordan • Debbie Pendleton • Janice Seaman • Anne Thomas • Sherry Vallides

Montevallo Historical Society Roster of Active Members – April 2024

KROELL BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS (\$250)

C&V Painting, Inc.
Sherry Vallides
Central State Bank
Mitt Schroeder
Smitherman's Pharmacy
Sammy Shunnarah

JESSE WILSON SOCIETY (\$250)

Ed Czeskleba
Karen Czeskleba
Bill Denson
Judy Lien Duda
Helon Everse
Marty Everse
Catherine Griffin
Clay Nordan
Sally Sears
Adelle Simpson

PATRON LEVEL (\$100)

Richard Anderson
Sharon Anderson
David Bennett
Patricia Bennett
Charlie Binion
Laurie Binion
Beth Jeter Bishop
Linda Cicero
John Cox
James Day
Renè Day
Patty DeBardeleben
Marilynn Donoho
Paul Doran
Lois Doyle
Robert Doyle
Yvonne Kroell Graham
Cecily Orr Hullett
Margie Scott Jones
Bill Keller
Jeanetta Keller
Missy Ketchum
Charles Kaiden Kroell
Marijean Kroell

Bob Lightfoot
Gene Lightfoot
Michael E. Malone
Guy Milford
Jack Moran
Lynn Rotenberry Moran
Barbara Morris Nabors
Melinda Nix
Rusty Nix
Laurie Gene Orr
Mildred Bolton Orr
Sara Pankaskie
Emily Pendleton
Debbie Pendleton
Douglas Rodgers
Libby Rodgers
Randie Sears Rosenberg
Molly Sears Rosenberg
Andrew J. Rosenberg
Sandra Scott Small
Anne Thomas
David Thomas
Daniel Thornton
Jonne C. Thornton
Becky B. Thornton
Barbara Vance
Clare Vance
Sid Vance
Barry Woodham
Dee Woodham
Peggy Davis Woods

SINGLE & FAMILY LEVEL (\$25 OR \$40)

Ron Albright
Deanna Anderson
Ellen Andrews
Mary Arledge
Steve Arledge
Phyllis Bailey
Cathy Barber
Brenda Bates
Rebecca Beaty
Gary Bell
Lee Binion
Cheryl McClure Blackmon
Becky Holcombe Bolton
Tara Brantley
Becky Brown

Jim Brown
Jane Watson Bullock
Janet Rotenberry Burnett
Tad Cairns
Glenda Terrell-Cairns
Pam Campbell
Pat Clark
Martha Eisenberg
Judy Robinson Feagin
Barclay Fisher
Priscilla Fisher
Bryan Fowler
Nancy Fowler
Randy Fowler
Bruce Fraser
Danny Gamble
Sarah Garcia
Mae Glosson
William Glosson
Margie Hardin
Carey Heatherly
Jim Hermecz
Barry Hocutt
Clark Hultquist
Ben Ingram
Debbie Ingram
Kitty Keener
Karen Kelly
Peggy Hurt Kent
Kathy King
John Kirby
Carolyn Kirby
Jimmy Lawley
Linda Lawley
Susan Ledbetter
Billy Lee
Brenda Lewis
Carol Lightfoot
Kirk Lightfoot
Eddie Lovelady
Kathleen Lovelady
Luci Lovelady
Elizabeth Chism Ludwig
Scott Martin
Bruce McClanahan
Jane McClanahan
John McCulley
Mary McCulley
Jerry McGaughy

Larry McGaughy
Nancy McGaughy
Susie McGaughy
Jan McKinnon
John McKinnon
Joan McMillan
Norman McMillan
Laurie Middaugh
Barb Milstead
Herb Milstead
David T. Morgan
Judy Morgan
Bill Muehlbauer
Courtney Parker Murphy
Bill Nathews
Joan Pickett
Mike Pickett
Bill Plott
Atticus Plott
Sandra Albright Rogers
Steve Sears
Alma Sears
Madeleine Sears
Bobby Joe Seales
Diane B. Seales
Teresa Shell
Lonnie Shell
Luke Smith
Eddie Spears
Maureen Spears
Plesia Spears
John Starks
Jackie Starks
John W. Stewart, Jr.
Kathy Stewart
Carolyn Frost Turnbull
Scott Turnbull
Marilee Turnbull
Hubert Van Tuyll
Susan Wilder-White
Bill White
Anita Williams
Bradford Williams
Andrew Wilson
Nancy Wilstach
Bobby Wyatt
Jan Wyatt
Julia Youngblood
Gary Youngblood



MONTEVALLO

FIRE PREVENTION PARADE • 1979

Editor's Note:

In previous issues of the *Montevallo Historical Times*, we presented photographs made by Mike "Doc" Mahan of both the old George Kroell house on Main Street prior to its demolition in 1967 as well as of the King House on the UM campus during its restoration in the 1970s. In those instances, the photographs came to light due to the efforts of Marty Everse, who gained access to Mike's collection of thousands of color slides and did the painstaking work of organizing and evaluating them for their historical value as well as the subjects they recorded. What you see here and on the following pages is one more example of Mike Mahan having the forethought to make a photographic record for posterity of an important event in the life of his home town.

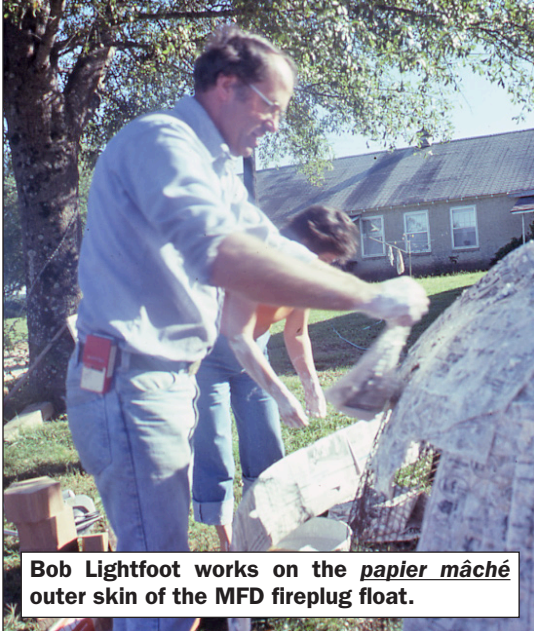
"Doc" Mahan followed in the footsteps of his father, S.M. "Red" Mahan, Sr. as Chief of the Montevallo Volunteer Fire Department, serving from 1971 until 1991. Fire fighting was one of his many passions, including photography, so we owe him (and Marty) our gratitude for the opportunity to present to you this story in pictures of the 1979 Montevallo Fire Prevention Parade, put on by the MFD and its volunteers.



(L-R) Assistant Chief Bob Lightfoot, Assistant Chief Joe McGaughy, Chief Mike Mahan.



MFD members gather for a photo with their homemade fire plug float just before it joined the parade.



Bob Lightfoot works on the *papier mâché* outer skin of the MFD fireplug float.



Lining up for the parade in front of Montevallo Elementary School.



Special Thanks to Bob and Gene Lightfoot for providing background information about the 1979 parade.



The MHS Marching Troubadors lead the way.



Support from Main Street Merchants and Businesses.



Linda Mahan with father-in-law, "Red" Mahan, MFD first Fire Chief.





Brierfield



Montevallo

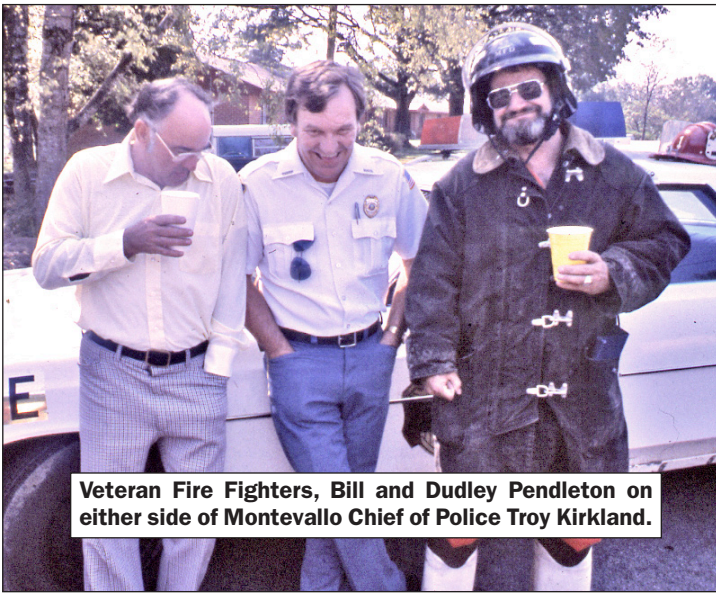


Pelham





Following the parade, MFD members put on a repelling demonstration descending from the snorkle truck bucket.



Veteran Fire Fighters, Bill and Dudley Pendleton on either side of Montevallo Chief of Police Troy Kirkland.

Fire Chief Mahan visits with Mayor, Ralph Sears.

MFD Volunteer Cadet Firefighters



Assistant Chief, Joe McGaughy. Also pictured, Diana Baugh.



“Little Red”

– A Reminiscence by Mike “Doc” Mahan –

Excerpted from **In Praise of Shelby Street** as compiled by Robert David Ward in **Time has Made a Change in Me, Growing Up in Alabama** (2000), page 91.

You may think that having one emergency number is a very modern development. It's not. In Montevallo we had 411. That was my phone number on Shelby Street. With Bea Fancher on duty at the Central switchboard the number wasn't important. You just cried out “Bea, my house is on fire!” But

with a dialing system 411 became very important. My daddy, Stanley M. “Red” Mahan, was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and was generally at home since he didn't have a car. Plus, my house was only a block and a half from the fire truck. Dial 411, get Red Mahan, and you got the Montevallo fire department.

Our city hall wasn't opened 24 hours a day. Nor is it clear that it was opened seven days a week; or if it was opened that anyone was there. Our night watchman, Mr. Gardner, was never at city hall. He was always in dad's barbershop. He would sit in dad's new barber chair, raise the shade on the big glass window, keep the light off in the shop and he could see up the street to city hall and Clarence Chism's dry cleaning shop and then all the way down the street to the St. George Hotel and perhaps even Elliott's store. Mr. Gardner was not out on patrol and unlikely to know if there was a fire or not.

So the call came in to 411. Dad would run up a block and a half to city hall, push a button on the right side of the building and the siren would begin



Former chiefs “Red Mahan” and Brewer Carpenter rode together on “Little Red” during the 1979 Montevallo Fire Prevention Parade.

not stop the sound of the siren through our uninsulated walls.

In a matter of just a minute or two, Brewer Carpenter's wrecker would crank up, and he would proceed up Shelby Street toward the fire station. [*This was a small garage that housed the fire truck.*] Brewer needed to bring his wrecker because most of the time the little red fire truck wouldn't crank and had to be pulled to the fire. That was no problem. Brewer had his wrecker.

The little red fire truck had been purchased in 1938 for the price of \$1,600. Dad was fire chief then. Can you imagine what an honor?

By the way, the little red fire truck is still going strong. Its known endearingly by all as “Little Red” and has a place of honor in the Montevallo Fire Department's new building on Main Street.

We are told that it is the oldest Peter-Pirsch fire truck still being utilized in the United States. Can you

imagine my grandsons, Jacob and Michael, third generation, still riding on Little Red during the annual Fire Prevention Parade? This is Montevallo at its finest!

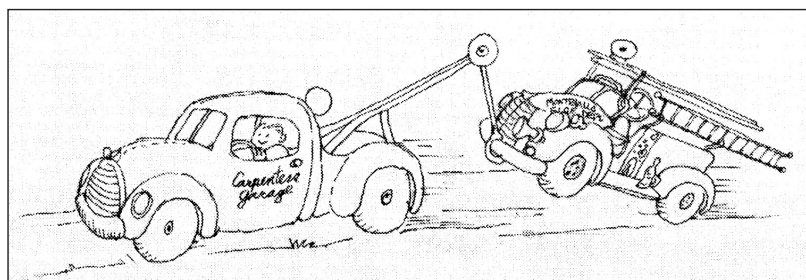


Illustration by Laurie Orr Binion. Excerpted from *Time Has Made a Change in Me*.

Blaze Causes \$3000 Loss of Equipment

Defective Flue is Cause of Fire says M.L. Orr, Supervisor of Schools.

Reprinted from the December 12, 1938 edition of the *Alabamian*, the campus newspaper for Alabama College

Fire destroyed the elementary school annex Wednesday morning, December 7, with a total loss of the building and an estimated loss of \$3,000 in equipment. The building was covered by insurance.

Cause of the fire has not been definitely decided. According to Dr. M. L. Orr, superintendent of Montevallo city schools, sparks from a faulty flue probably started the fire in the roof. The blaze had made headway when it was discovered by a custodian.

“One hundred and thirty children, ranging from five to eight years of age, marched from the building in perfect order within two minutes,” said Miss Lela Rice, supervisor of the training school.

“Routine fire drills have been held once a week and apparently the pupils did not realize that there was a fire,” reports Miss Rice.

Books and teaching materials provided the biggest loss in equipment. Desks and most of the children’s wraps were saved.

The seven room frame house was built in 1924 and was originally a dormitory on the campus. When larger dormitories were constructed, the building was moved to the training school grounds to serve as a temporary elementary school annex. The annex served as a training school for college students and as a primary school for town children.



Back in the days when open fires were the primary source for residential and commercial heating, spectacles of smoke and flame reaching to the heavens were common in Montevallo.

The contract for replacement of the building has been let to H. Y. Dempsey, Piedmont, for \$35,000. Work will begin immediately. A six-room brick structure of architecture blending with that of other college buildings will replace the burned building. The contract also includes plans for a new auditorium and gymnasium to be added to the high school building.

Pupils of the nursery school will have classes in the basement of the Montevallo Methodist church until the new building is completed.

Two years before I started first grade, the old elementary school, which sat at the corner of Valley and Boundary streets, burned to the ground. Although I was only five at the time, I remember the excitement it caused because Dad drove to the fire in the brand-new Peter Pirsch fire truck the city had just bought. In the excitement of dealing with the smoke and flames billowing out of the heart-pine structure, he forgot to turn on the cooling system that pumped fresh water into the block and radiator of the six-cylinder Chevrolet engine. Before long the engine burned up. So the new fire truck met its Waterloo on its first trip out. This was a minor scandal, and Dad was, of course, mortified, but luckily the city had insurance and could replace the motor.

Reprinted from Mike Mahan's *No Hill too High for a Stepper*, page 214.



As fire chief, “Red” Mahan (1900 - 1985) spearheaded the purchase of Montevallo's first fire truck in 1938.

Montevallo Historical Society
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Birmingham, AL 35223-1253

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