

Highlights from The Covington Leader and True Tales of Tipton

- 1920 -

Gov. Roberts visits Covington. The purpose is to recruit for the battleship Tennessee.

Harvey Hendrick first entered the world of professional baseball by signing a contract with the Memphis Chicks of the Southern Association.

Dr. James Robert Sanford of Covington dies at age 84. He was a prominent physician in Covington for 58 years and was a confederate veteran.

Samuel Richard Shelton, Sr., former proprietor of the Shelton House Hotel, former longtime Mayor of Covington and editor, dies in Covington.

Tipton County Mills were sold to the D. B. Channel Chemical Company of Chicago, for approximately \$250,000.

- 1921 -

The state legislature abolishes the charter of Randolph, and the once proud little town, which dominated early West Tennessee from its position on the second Chickasaw Bluff, passes into history.

The three-story Covington Supply Co. Building located on the northwest corner of the Square, burns to the ground in a massive fire.

A fire which threatens the destruction of the entire business section of Mason occurs when an oil stove in H. H. Sanders' barber shop ignites and flames sweep across four brick buildings, leaving them in ashes.

Richard Bernard Shelton, Covington architect, dies. His services are used for most buildings built from the late 1880s to 1910s in Tipton County.

The first football team in Covington was organized. The team was nicknamed the Golden Tornado and coached by C. E. Johnson. The team won ten of ten games on its schedule.

- 1922 -

Henry McClain of Idaville dies of pneumonia.

City Grammar School is now being served hot lunches.

At a special session of the Covington Board of Mayor and Aldermen, it is decided to have the square paved. The estimated cost of the project is \$27,500.

Ed and John, the horses of the fire department that have galloped to the rescue of so many burning buildings in Covington before the arrival of the town's first fire engine, are themselves burned to death in a fire which destroys the city barn.

- 1923 -

Harvey Hendrick joined Lou Gehrig as a rookie with the New York Yankees.

A pistol duel between Covington City Marshal Ermon J. Coats and Joseph J. Hunt, a local jeweler, occurs on the Square.

Col. William Sanford, retired Covington attorney, businessman, editor, Confederate veteran and politician, dies at his home on South Main. He served as a State Senator from Tipton and Fayette counties in 1887-1889; helped establish with Dr. Morrison Munford in 1867 The Tipton Weekly Record.

Bozo's Bar-B-Que was established by Thomas Jefferson "Bozo" Williams. The first building was so small everyone was served at a counter. A "pig" sandwich sold for fifteen cents.

U-Cum-Inn was started by Maurice Coats. It became a place for young people to gather and dine on the best toasted barbecue sandwich ever.

- 1924 -

The first church service is held in the present First Presbyterian Church in Covington in a new building.

The Tipton County Board of Education buys the Old Dyersburg District Training School and six acres surrounding it from the Methodist Church and the heirs of William Henry Wooten. The Board of Education had leased the buildings and land since the Dyersburg District Training School closed in 1913. This was the site of the old Munford High and Elementary Schools.

L. L. Lewis moved to Covington and purchased the Paine Opera House Building and started to reconstruct a theatre.

- 1925 -

The Munford Savings Bank & Trust Co., merged with the Citizens Bank & Trust Co., The institution is now called the Munford Union Bank.

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Covington stage a dress parade through the streets of the city, presenting for the first time such a demonstration in Tipton County. Dressed in white robes and carrying flaming torches, the silent marchers present quite a spectacle to the hundreds of onlookers who line the streets through which the demonstration is staged.

- 1926 -

The old Munford High School gymnasium was built by the citizens of the community.

Having first been elected in 1918, William A. Owen is reelected Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of Tennessee.

- 1927 -

A new town is springing up at the Munford-Atoka crossroads. Filling stations are already being erected onto the choice corner lots. Just what the new town is to be named has not yet been determined, but people of the neighborhood seem to prefer to call it Crosstown.

Ruffin succeeded Lewis as the owner of the theatre. The theatre named "Pleas-U" opened with one of Paramount Studio's top hits "Knock-out Reilly". Ruffin purchased the Palace from Lewis.

- 1928 -

A resolution is introduced before the county court which authorizes the Court to appoint a committee to have the tower of the courthouse torn away and other necessary improvements made to the top of the building to fill the resulting hole. It is pointed out that the tower is dangerous, having caused cracks in the wall over the judge's bench. After much discussion, a vote on the matter is called and the resolution passes by a vote of 24-11.

A tornado enters the county in the neighborhood of Tipton and travels in a northeasterly direction through Atoka. The entire business district of the little town is leveled by the twister. In just four minutes, the work of 30 years is undone.

- 1929 -

The first talking picture shown in Covington was "The Barker." It made its debut at the newly decorated Palace.

The new Jeff Davis Highway bridge over the Obion River is named in honor of Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Joseph B. Adkison of Atoka.

Harvey "Gink" Hendrick of Covington, first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers, is leading the National League in hitting with a 4.10 average.

Furnished by The Covington Leader; The Tipton County Historical Society, Tim Sloan Chairman, David Gwinn Secretary; and the Covington Economic and Community Development Corporation. The year 2004. True Tales of Tipton is by Gaylon Neil Beasley.