

Highlights from The Covington Leader and True Tales of Tipton

- 1930 -

Munford High School had their first football team.

The Covington Supply Co. building burns to the ground again.

L. E. Gwinn, Covington attorney, issues a formal announcement of his candidacy for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. He will oppose Governor Henry H. Horton in the August primary.

A crowd fills the circuit courtroom of the courthouse to hear an old-time Democratic speech by Cordell Hull, candidate for the United States Senate. Hull is introduced in a brief but fitting speech by a comrade of the Spanish-American War, Major M. A. Walker.

The Tipton County Department of Health is organized from funds made available by the Tipton County Court and the State Department of Public Health. The staff consists of Dr. A. J. Butler, medical director; Bessie Morse, public health nurse; W. B. Holmes Jr., sanitary officer and Elise Portis, clerk.

Prices of new cars: Standard Coupe - \$598, pick-up open cab - \$517, Roadster - \$535, pick-up closed cab \$547, Sugar (16-1/2 pounds) 93 cents, Sardines (3 boxes) 10 cents.

Extended drought is broken by good rain. A one-inch rainfall in Covington ended a drought that lasted for more than two months.

- 1933 -

Dr. Ulys R. Webb of Covington, who entered the Navy as an Assistant Surgeon on Oct. 11, 1901, is promoted to Rear Admiral, MC, USN.

Following a period of almost midnight darkness, a cloud bank forms over the central part of the county, and out of it comes one of the deadliest twisters the county has ever seen. After touching down just south of Brighton, the rapidly revolving funnel cuts a 15-mile-long-swath through the heart of the county to the vicinity of Charleston, where the greatest damage and loss of life is recorded.

George "Machine Gun" Kelly visits Covington. The F. B. I.'s most wanted criminal stops in his flight from the law long enough to drink a few beers at a local restaurant.

- 1934-

Highway 59 West (once known as the Randolph Road) is paved from Covington, westward to the Rocky Branch in Oak Grove community.

The Tennessee Emergency Relief Administration, known as TERA, commences work in Tipton County. This new agency's first major project deals with the control and eventual elimination of malaria throughout the county.

Byars-Hall High School publishes their first yearbook. This first annual contains 100 pages.

The U. S. government sends over 300 head of cattle purchased from farmers in the “drought regions” of the nation to Tipton County. Both dairy cows and beef cattle are included in this shipment. They are made available to all local farmers who can properly care for them.

- 1935 -

Local farmers announce they finally have the dreaded cotton leaf worm under control.

A posse is formed to kill all stray dogs in Covington when a boy develops rabies after being bitten by a roaming canine.

The town of Covington eliminates the position of traffic officer but soon has to rescind its action following a public outcry.

The Covington Canning Factory opens with 70 employees.

- 1936 -

The luxurious Ruffin Theatre opens in Covington. It occupies the site of the old Palace Theatre, which burned to the ground on Jan. 29.

The annual Confederate reunion, held each year at Brighton, is canceled, despite elaborate plans because of a polio outbreak in the county.

The Covington Leader celebrates its 50th anniversary with a paper containing five sections and 40 pages.

- 1937 -

The Ruffin Amusement Company, with headquarters in Covington, enlarges its chain of movie theatres with the purchase of the Chickasaw Amusement Company, a concern operating theatres at Humboldt and Milan.

Engineers arrive to run TVA lines in Tipton County.

The Rev. and Mrs. Paul Earle Sloan and their son Paul Hamilton Earle Sloan are welcomed to Covington. Mr. Sloan takes charge of the area Episcopal churches: St. Matthew’s Covington; Holy Trinity Church Mason; Ravenscroft Chapel Brighton; and Immanuel Church Ripley. Theodore Bradford “Tim” Sloan was born later in 1937.

- 1938 -

Leonidas Polk Marshall, the county’s lone surviving Confederate veteran, dies at the age of 95.

A poignant touch is added to the Armistice Day Parade in Covington, a riderless black horse, decorated with Confederate banners and bearing a Confederate sword, is led in memory of Leonidas P. Marshall, who was a regular participant in the annual parades.

The Confederate reunion at Brighton is revived. New attractions include a movie and a softball game.

- 1939 -

Covington's new dial telephone system is inaugurated in simple ceremonies held in the new telephone office on Washington Avenue.

Record crowd of 5,000 attends Tipton County Fair opening.

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.