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LOOKING BACK: One hundred years ago this week

Sunday, [July 10, 2016](#) at 4:30 by [betty.slowe](#)

One hundred years ago:

The U.S. Health Officer Dr. Harington advised the boiling of all well water in the area after storms overflowed the Warrior River and polluted grounds were washed over and the water seeped into wells. The city board of health advised residents to pump or bail out standing water and if this was not possible, it should be kept oiled to prevent mosquitoes breeding. The receding waters made washouts in the electric car line to Holt. The cars could make it to Riverview though the waters left nasty mud about a foot thick that would be removed as soon as the river got within her banks. Trains on the Mobile & Ohio were operating cautiously after one was delayed by a washout near Centreville.

The attorney of a Tuscaloosa man, Fred Tillery, who was charged with desertion from the Warrior Guards, succeeded in having him discharged on account of enlisting under the impression that he would receive \$50 per month for the support of his family.

A plant for the manufacture of the Tucker Boll Weevil machine was opened at the corner of 22nd Avenue and 7th Street. W.M. Thomas, blacksmith and carriage builder, was in charge. B.L. Allen worked one of the machines on his plantation near Newbern and said he was perfectly satisfied with it. The machine combined a system of fans and brushes which disturb the cotton plants enough to shake off weevils and punctured squares, but without damage to the plant. The weevils and squares were gathered in pans containing water and kerosene oil, and are destroyed when the pans were emptied.

Bryce Hospital held commencement exercises for the eight Bryce Hospital Training School Nurses in the chapel. It was the school's 21st commencement. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Partlow presided and presented diplomas. Col. Sam Will John, chairman of the board of trustees delivered an eloquent address. Hon. C.B. Verner made a characteristically entertaining and humorous speech interspersed with wound and wholesome advice.

Mrs. J.A. Rountree, secretary of the Birmingham Red Cross, came to Tuscaloosa upon the invitation of Mrs. Ellen Peter Bryce to assist in the organization of the Tuscaloosa Chapter Red Cross. Mrs. Bryce declined the presidency of the organization. A nominating committee, was appointed by

the chair and they suggest the following officers and executive board who were elected by acclamation: President, Mr. F. G. Blair; Vice president, Mrs. George H. Searcy; Secretary, Mrs. W.A. Collier; Treasurer, Mr. Robert Cochrane. The executive board consisted of Ms. Ellen Peter Bryce, Judge H.B. Foster, Mrs. Battle Searcy, Judge W.W. Brandon, Miss Margaret Miller and Mrs. J.A. Gilder. Sixty of the most prominent men and women were charter members of the Tuscaloosa Chapter, American Red Cross.

One of the largest crowds which ever gathered in response to a sale advertisement blocked the sidewalk in front of the L. Rosenfeld stores when an unloading sale began. The rush was handled with difficulty by the salesforce and the assistance of the police was necessary to keep the crowd in check at the doors as the sale began. An unnamed prominent Tuscaloosa banker was passing the stores when the clock struck nine and was caught by the rush of the crowd, and struggling mightily, was carried inside the doors, whereupon he was given one of the 200 envelopes which were distributed to the first two hundred entering the store. Inside his envelope was one of the ten one dollar bills which were given away. He was one of the few in the assembled crowd who had money forced upon him against his will, according to the News. L. Rosenfeld & Co. had advertised the sale to raise \$20,000 quickly.

Six newly enlisted men left for Montgomery to join the Warrior Guards.

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The Tuscaloosa News librarian, browses the News archive for people, places and events in the colorful history of Tuscaloosa and West Alabama.



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