

## LOOKING BACK: October 3

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By Compiled by retired News librarian Betty Slowe

### **100 years ago this week:**

The Oak City Drug Co. acquired the store next door to it and began to expand, creating a 45-foot front on Greensboro Avenue. W.H. Ward said he expected to have a big inventory of newspapers and magazines and a large line of field seeds. Part of the addition would be devoted to the wholesale department, which had outgrown its quarters entirely.

Norfleet Harris was sworn in as a commissioner of Tuscaloosa to succeed Commissioner Hugh Prince.

The Right Rev. Edward P. Allen, Bishop of Mobile, led the dedication of the School of St. Mary Magdalene, a new school and church for blacks on 14th Avenue. The dedication was followed by High Mass celebrated by the Rev. Thomas H. Massey, pastor of the new church.

Cotton growers of Tuscaloosa County were urged by the committee of the Board of Trade and the Farmers' Union to destroy all cotton stalks in the county on Oct. 10 and thus kill a large percentage of the boll weevil as well as take away their supply of food, which they require before going into hibernation.

Mrs. Wilson Howel of Reform was seriously injured along with others when the car in which they were riding ran into a ditch and dumped them out. Mr. Howel was driving on a steep and narrow place between Searles and Brookwood when he met an old man in a buggy. To avoid the buggy, Howel took the ditch.

The rehabilitated steamboat John Quill would arrive in Tuscaloosa on its initial trip. The boat had sunk the previous June near Tuscaloosa. The John Quill would begin its regular schedule and make weekly trips to Tuscaloosa and Mobile.

The Tuscaloosa News became a member of the Associated Press, according to Percy C. Williams, editor. The News was being delivered to 80 percent of the white families in the city, but was seeking to expand its circulation.

The marriage of Albert Holman, a prosperous young lumber man, to Sallie Price was announced. Price was a graduate of Central College and was a successful teacher in the Tuscaloosa County public schools.

The Rev. S. J. Winchester delivered two addresses "Give the Girls a Square Deal" to the men at the courthouse. Winchester was a member of the Southern Sociological Congress and was active with the great question of social evils and the double standard.

The large ginnery of W.S. Patton and Co. in Fosters was destroyed by fire. Patton had about 500 bushels of oats and 200 bushels of rye stored in the gin waiting to be threshed. The threshing machine was destroyed along with other things.

The latest fad in jewelry was shown in Raiford's window on Broad Street -- the Scents-a-bal. Instead of having a jewel pendant, it had a small enameled ball, which contained a sponge to receive a few drops of perfume. The jewelry creators that made the item had also created the "bob-o-link" bracelet that sold like wildfire all over the country.

Petitions were being circulated in Tuscaloosa asking for an election on the recall of the commission form of government. The petitions were to go to the probate judge who would certify that the signers were qualified electors and the commission must then call an election within 40 days. It was said that disappointed office seekers and friends of the disgruntled ones were circulating the petitions and claims were being made to return to the old form of government for the city. One of the chief claims for the adoption of commission form of government was that it would remove politics from the municipal elections, but it appeared there would be politics in the management of city

affairs, regardless.

### **50 years ago this week**

The Northport City Council voted unanimously to hike all business license fees, to license every taxi picking up passengers in Northport, to increase water deposits and to take positive steps to rid the community of its old buildings and eyesores, among other actions. Business licenses would be increased by 20 per cent.

Promotions of four Tuscaloosa firemen were approved: Robert Felix Hamner was promoted from captain to assistant chief; Robert George Delbridge Jr. from lieutenant to captain; Billy Gene Kelley, from pump operator-driver to lieutenant and Ronnie Narramore to driver-pump operator.

Alabama's football freshmen, dubbed the Baby Tide, whipped Mississippi State's Bullpups, 27-14, in Denny Stadium.

Alabama flanker Ray Perkins caught nine of Ken Stabler's 16 completed passes in the previous week's game against Ole Miss. Perkins' nine catches set a school record for one-game receptions and Stabler tied the all-time high for completions as Alabama beat Ole Miss, 17-7.

Advertisements for bids went out for a new federal courthouse and office building here. The site for the building, which would occupy the eastern half of Greensboro Avenue between 11th and 12th streets, was purchased in 1964.

Members of the Friedman Library Board asked for an increase in its budget for the fiscal year of \$10,000. The previous years' appropriations for library services amounted to \$54,696, which was paid as follows: Northport, \$2,100; City of Tuscaloosa, \$25,300; and Tuscaloosa County, \$27,698.

Dr. J.S. Tarwater, director of the Alabama Department of Mental Health, was named president of the Southern Psychiatric Association.

An explosion at the Mattson Corp. on Kicker Road burned a truck driver badly. Howard Averett, though injured, heroically drove his 7,000-gallon tanker truck away from the source of the flames. Ignited fumes were thought to be the cause of the blast and blaze.

The city was ready for the “invasion” of out-of-towners for the weekend football game at Denny Stadium. Traffic problems were expected since Denny Stadium had been expanded to accommodate 46,000 people. (It would seat 56,000 by the Mississippi State game on Oct. 29.)

The Crimson Tide played against Clemson in 82-degree weather, winning that game, 26-0.

Coed Collar Co. delivered its first shipment of combat jackets for men fighting in Vietnam. The Tuscaloosa firm had been awarded a \$206,400 contract for the manufacture of 30,000 of the lightweight poplin jackets specially designed for hot-climate warfare.

### **25 years ago this week**

A search was underway for Carrie Smith Lawson, who was abducted from her Jasper home on Sept. 11. A Cullman woman was arrested in connection with the kidnapping, but the man authorities believed to be the kidnapper shot and killed himself after being questioned by authorities.

Lewis Manderson, a former Tuscaloosa businessman and University of Alabama graduate, donated \$1 million to the Capstone. It was Manderson’s second donation to the university. Through the Lewis Manderson Foundation, he gave more than \$1 million to the school through 1985.

Longtime Tuscaloosa attorney Robert B. Harwood was appointed to fill the Tuscaloosa County circuit judgeship left vacant by the retirement of Joseph A. Colquitt.

The Alabama Crimson Tide breezed past UT-Chattanooga, 53-7.

The Tuscaloosa City Council voted to introduce a resolution for a 1-cent sales tax increase. If approved, the resolution would boost total sales taxes in Tuscaloosa to 8 cents on the dollar and would generate an estimated \$7 million to \$8 million annually in additional revenues.

### **10 years ago this week**

Two employees of the Alabama Fire College were indicted on conspiracy to

commit theft and fraud from the government. A mother and daughter were accused of using state money to pay for improvements to a house owned by Shelton State Community College, which the two later bought from the college for less than half the appraised value.

Robert "Bob" Green was chosen for Northport's 2006 Citizen of the Year for his extensive involvement in a broad spectrum of charitable causes.

Deaths this week included Nathan Green, 58, a geologist who had spent 25 years teaching and researching science at the University of Alabama. Also, Evangeline's executive chef Joseph Haskins, 25, died in an automobile accident.

The Crimson Tide had a rough time with Duke, but was able to pull away in the second half to win, 30-14.

Five years ago this week

The county documented 41 subdivisions that did not comply with regulations meant to ensure that roads, drainage systems and signage are properly constructed or installed. The county had not accepted the roads in those subdivisions because they were not built to county specifications.

A Tuscaloosa attorney would spend three months in federal prison after pleading guilty to not reporting a felony she knew had been committed. The attorney was ordered to pay restitution to the estate of a dementia patient; she had been appointed to serve as the woman's guardian and conservator of her estate.

Using GPS data from cellphone calls to 911, law enforcement officers were able to locate two University of Alabama students who were stranded while canoeing on Hurricane Creek and nine Nashville, Tenn., residents who were riding four-wheelers in the Sipsev Swamp area.

Brookwood businessman John Gibson, owner of Brookwood Oil Field Service, was awarded the Patriot Award for going above and beyond the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act that protects the jobs of non-full-time military when they are called into active duty.

Northport's Civil Service Board upheld the termination of two city employees fired for selling city-owned scrap metal.

The Crimson Tide had a slow start but came on strong in the second half for a shutout victory over Vanderbilt, 34-0.

### **One year ago this week**

Tuscaloosa Police Capt. Mike Flowers retired after 35 years without a sick day.

On the eve of his 10th anniversary of first being sworn in as mayor of Tuscaloosa, Walt Maddox announced his intention to seek a fourth term.

The No. 13 Crimson Tide throttled No. 8 Georgia, 38-10.

Northport Mayor Bobby Herndon said he would appoint a small task force to research and compare the council and mayor salaries with other part-time salaries of similar size municipalities. "The elected officials here are embarrassingly under-compensated," Herndon said. Herndon makes \$15,000 a year as part-time mayor. The council members make \$8,500 a year.

Tuscaloosa City Schools Superintendent Paul McKendrick received about a "C" average on his annual performance evaluation.

The Tuscaloosa County Commission was considering purchasing the Fosters Waste Water Treatment Plant from Alabama One Credit Union for \$750,000.

Charles Swann was named the 2015 Northport Citizen of the Year. Swann was cited for his consistent and sustained service to the Northport community, working for the city of Northport as public works director, city administrator and city engineer.