

Jan 15, 1959 FBW

SAM RENFROE DIES IN MARIANNA

Samuel Brady Renfroe, 64, Baptist preacher and enthusiastic promoter of church, denominational and community projects, died at his home in Marianna early Christmas morning.

Funeral services were conducted at First Church, Marianna on Sunday, Dec. 28 with Pastor Douglas Watterson and M. A. DuRant officiating.

Renfroe was the leading spirit in the founding of what is now Chipola Junior College, and was instrumental in the establishment of both Trinity and Southside Baptist Churches of Marianna.

His wife, Mary, and two sons, Robin and Stockton, survive.

His passing prompted the re-publication in the local daily press of the following article written some time ago.

WHENCE CAME CHIPOLA COLLEGE?

By Elizabeth Provence

When and where does a school get born? Some accounts state that Chipola Junior College had its beginning on a Sunday afternoon in July in 1945 when Sam and Mary Renfroe and Al Fisher and Marie Chappell sat around a dining table and "dreamed dreams and had visions" and then in prayer committed the whole dreaming to God.

Others put the beginning of the school on August 4, 1945, when the charter was granted, and still others connect it with the day Sam Renfroe was handed the keys to the buildings on the Marianna airfield prior to the opening of the activities for the school.

Perhaps to some it really began with the official selection of its first president, and the day of Dr. Noble Y. Beall's assuming office. But it really began long before any of these events of the last decade or so.

Chipola Junior College was really born in (Continued on page 16)

ATTENDANCE FOR SUNDAY, January 4, 1959

Table with columns: CHURCH, S.S., T.U., For Bapt. Lists attendance for various churches across Florida.

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IN MEMORY OF REV. SAM G. RENFROE

WHEREAS it has pleased our Heavenly Father to call our beloved brother, Rev. Sam Renfroe, on Dec. 28, 1958, member of First Baptist Church, Marianna

WHEREAS We wish to express our appreciation for his untiring efforts in his promotional work of his church, association and denomination

WHEREAS Bro. Sam Renfroe will always be remembered for his efforts in the founding of what is now Chipola Junior College, Trinity Church and Southside Baptist Church all in Marianna, Fla.,

Be it resolved that we, the Executive Council of Chipola Baptist Association, wish to express our deepest sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Mary and family.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this announcement be sent to his wife, Mrs. Mary Renfroe to be placed in the permanent records of this Association and a copy be sent to the Florida Baptist Association for publication.

Respectfully submitted, Members of the Exec. C. Chipola Baptist Assoc Raydell Almand, Clerk

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Jan 15, 1959

C Evangelism Leader Announces New Publication

MALLAS — (BP) — The first issue of a new monthly "Evangelism Today" publication will be mailed to Southern Baptist Convention associational leaders and denominational workers in January.

The SBC Home Mission Board division of evangelism publication will contain condensed real news events, editorials, evangelism public relations ideas, sensitive human relations studies and soul winning illustrations. The information piece will contain specific material for the 100th American Baptist year of "simultaneous crusades," said division of evangelism director Leonard Sanderson. Previously a mimeographed evangelism newsletter was distributed to denominational leadership by Sanderson.

Chinese Pupils Taught and Leader Is 'God'

LONDON (RNS)—A song hailing Mao Tse-tung, head of the Chinese Communist Party, as the "supreme God" and lauding his "virtues and power" is being sung in China's schools, the Peking Radio announced.

The station also disclosed that the song's lyrics are: "No supreme God is in heaven; no god under the earth. I am the supreme God, and the god of the mountains and the cliffs to make way, for I am coming."

The station also disclosed that a literary congress, organized by the Chinese ministry of cultural affairs, local authorities are "fiercely" criticized for "allowing the propagation of religious superstitions" in their areas. Urgent measures are being taken, the broadcast said, to stop propaganda "which has been allowed to permeate surreptitiously various new government publications."

Moscow Radio Gibes At Christian Heaven'

LONDON (RNS)—The Moscow radio injected gibes against "the called Christian heaven" into a broadcast hailing the Soviet Union's cosmic rocket.

It said the latest Russian rocket "went to the moon and the sun proves that Communist-inspired science and man can and do create their own worlds and heavens."

In another broadcast comment on the Eastern Orthodox Christmas, observed on Jan. 7, the station denied that Christ ever existed.

The fact that Christmas is ob-

WHENCE CAME CHIPOLA COLLEGE?

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the heart of a lad who was the 7th of eight children, left at an exceedingly early age to assume a man's responsibility for the support of his mother and sister. It was conceived, all unbeknownst to him in all likelihood, as he stubbornly refused to give up getting an education, despite the fact that he had to alternate schooling and work from the very outset of his attempt to learn how to read and write. The germ of a hope from which such a school was finally born found expression in the back of Sam Renfroe's mind when he, with bulldog tenacity, completed the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades of school between November and February of a year when he was the age of most boys in high school. Refusing to be defeated, Sam would work awhile, go to school awhile and drop out to work again, until he got high school training and then took everything he could get in. As evidence of his ability, he was asked to be head of the school in which he got his business education.

Sam Renfroe came to Marianna in 1916, and has been around most of the time since. To most of the citizens of this area he is "Uncle Sam," and to a host of young adults he has been a source of help and encouragement during their growing up years. He found here other youngsters who were having difficulty finding educational opportunity, and pursuing the dream that he had dream-

ed as a little boy . . . following the light that he saw at hand . . . and taking advantage of opportunities that came through the closing of the Air-base . . . Sam Renfroe shepherded into existence the school he had longed to have access to during his growing up days. Then passing the supreme test that comes to any person who dreams a great dream, having done all that he could do to insure the existence of such an institution of higher learning, he stepped out of the picture to let others take over who could carry it further along the way. Many a dream fails at this point because those who began do not want to get out of the way of the growth and success of their dream. But Sam Renfroe was not that sort.

What it cost him in money and health to make possible such a school nobody will ever know, for Sam doesn't talk about that. What it affords him in heart satisfaction to see the fruition of his dream working out successfully one can only imagine. And what it will mean someday when he stands before his maker and hears a commendation, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . ." is hard for a finite mind to conceive.

From whence came Chipola Junior College? It came from the hand of God wrought out in the mind and heart and life of a man whom God could use to do an exceedingly great thing in behalf of a growing and thriving community.

CBS Radio Broadcast To Feature Baptists

FORT WORTH — (BP) — An Arkansas Baptist pastor will represent Southern Baptists on a coast-to-coast network radio broadcast Sunday, Feb. 15.

Robert L. Smith, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark., will be featured on the "Columbia Church of the Air" program on CBS radio from 9:25 to 10:00 a.m. (EST).

Produced by the Southern Baptist Radio-TV Commission here, the program will include music by the Baptist Hour Choir.

Smith is a native of San Antonio and served as a pilot in World War II. He is a graduate of Centenary College and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

PERSONAL SOUL-WINNING WEEK

February 15-20

These are the books for your study course during Personal Soul-Winning Week. Be sure to have an adequate supply of these books by ordering now from your Baptist Book Store.

For Adults

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by Leonard Sanderson 60¢

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by Roland Q. Leavell 60¢

For Intermediates

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For Juniors

JESUS SAVES

by Hattie Bell Allen

Teacher's edition, 60¢
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Order from your

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Jackson County TIMES

What Happened To All The Trees???? Part two

• • Written by [Pat Crisp \(/local-news/jackson-county-history/itemlist/user/281-pat-crisp.html\)](/local-news/jackson-county-history/itemlist/user/281-pat-crisp.html)

See file for complete article. Marked paragraph is only mention of Sam Renfroe. 12/19/18 PB.



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anopy - Russ to East

• Published in [Jackson County History \(/local-news/jackson-county-history.html\)](/local-news/jackson-county-history.html)

We are remembering again of the beauty of the west entrance to Marianna before the "Man-made Hurricane" hit Lafayette Street.

Since we aren't sure exactly when the "Man-made Hurricane" came through, we will say early 60's. Someone may have a memory which will place an exact date on "the happening."

We took a walk "Down Memory Lane" on the south side of the street last week; now let's visit the north side of the street.

Across the street from Mrs. Paul Carter's house was the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Renfroe.

A write-up in a 1930's Marianna Directory tells about the Renfroe home and the beauty of her flowers. The blooming flowers in the photo are massive plantings of hydrangeas in pink and blue which surrounded the home and bloomed most of the summer. It states that the home was white with green trim. Sam Renfroe would be remembered as one of the two gentlemen who realized that there was a GI bill for WW II young veterans to go to college and that there was an abandoned airbase full of empty buildings north of town which needed to be used. He and Roy Beall "pulled a LOT of strings" in Marianna, Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. to allow Chipola College to be organized at the old airbase... later moved to College Street and "the rest of that story is history".

West of the Renfore home was the large two-story home of the Smith family, torn down to build the present building.

Crossing Wynn Street we are at the beautiful St. Luke's Episcopal Church and churchyard where we can walk through a cemetery which has graves dating back