

BETTY SLOWE'S BLOG: September 24, 2018 | One hundred years ago this week

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The Hon. F.S. Moody received a letter from U.S. Senator John Hollis Bankhead expressing the opinion that the price of cotton would be fixed by the government. The Tuscaloosa Town Farmers' Association and Mr. Moody protested against price fixing unless the price be made as high as 35 cents per pound. Later Moody received notice that the War Industries Board would not set the price of cotton.

In the municipal election Hugh Prince was elected to membership on the city commission to succeed Commissioner Cliff Atkinson, who was the opponent of Mr. Prince.

A mass meeting called by the city board of education voting was unanimous against a proposal to hold school six days a week. The proposed six-day schedule would have allowed school to end earlier so students could help on farms.

The U.S. Employment Service had instructed community labor board to prepare a list of non-essential positions in their jurisdictions which were then held by men and which could be held by women. If men refused to leave those positions and take up essential work, they would be looked upon as slackers. The action was found necessary because certain employers of non-essential labor in some cases failed to surrender their employees to essential war industries.

Loss of doctors and nurses at Bryce Hospital caused Governor Henderson and the local board of the institution to send a message to the Secretary of War that unless physicians and nurses be excused from the operation of the draft, it would be necessary to close the institution and turn the patients back to the counties of the state from which they were sent to the hospital. One hundred and six

physicians and nurses employed in caring for the 1700 patients had entered the service and that as a result if only those over 45 years of age were retained, the number, including Dr. Searcy, superintendent, would be only three doctors.

A Tuscaloosa family was overjoyed to find that their son, W.R. Baker, who was reported to have died, was actually alive and well in Norfolk. Apparently there were two men with this name in the Navy.

The Tuscaloosa News received notice from Montgomery that the governor had pardoned Dr. Gurganus, sent up in 1915 to serve ten years in connection with a hold-up and murder on a branch line of the railroad extending to Lock 17. Evidence at Gurganus' trial showed that Dr. Gurganus was at the head of a conspiracy to hold up a handcar upon which parties were carrying a pay roll to Lock 17 with several thousand dollars. The men alleged to have been employed by Gurganus stopped the car and a fight ensued, resulting in Paymaster Turner being killed. There was no indication upon what grounds the pardon was issued.

"Bully" Vandegraaff was a star of the Army football game as the football season opened. The Army defeated the Aviators of the Mitchell, Mineola, 20-0.