Cotton Picking Adventure

proaching I have decided the original owner. its time to begin to decorate house had seen its glory with fall colored leaves, days many years before the pumpkins, scarecrows, and Price's took up residence. It all the things that say FALL. was a post-civil war house As we were coming home and was at one time a Beauty. from a day trip yesterday the Two stories of white brick

cotton fields were ripe to bursting as the downy heads of the durable plant's white bolls popped out. The persistent crop is beautiful each year as it matures it always stuns me with the delightful



With fall quickly ap- House" as Dick Strain was

construction with large white columns holding up the upper portico and a wide hall running down the center of the inside. Once it stood in all its glory with brocaded curtains, polished antique fur-

pied beds, a years ago when my Daddy's it stood woefully with its kinfolks lived on a cotton peeling paint, collapsing col-

This once plantation had seen many crops of cotton baled from the vast acres in times past but now only a few of the acres was cotton farmed. My "Big Daddy" raised a few acres and scratched out a small living for his family still young enough to live in the old house. The pay for picking cotton, by hand back then was \$1.00 to \$3.00 per one hundred pounds. Now hand pickers according to the internet makes \$19.00 per hour. Only able to harvest one row of cotton at a time. However most of the cotton picked today is picked by a six-row self-propelled machine that removes cotton probably one of the most in-

lint and seed from the plant

in the abundant white fields

and make us some spending

up to six rows at a time.

cent old mansion.

I had a cousin, same age as me, and we decided one day we would help pick cotton

in this field, and pulled that old heavy canvas cotton sack down our one row we were given for a full day. At the end of the day the cotton in our sack was weighed, paying us \$1.00 for one hundred pounds and we were the partners in all of fifty cents. Our hands were cut from the sharp cotton burs and our knees were engrained with black dirt from crawling along the row and we were so proud of our fifty cents, (a quarter apiece). I realize now that we actually didn't pick fifty pounds, but he paid us as we had. A really good cotton picker could pick at least 200 pounds a day. A cotton-picking machine is

I love to paint cotton bolls and every time I finish a pic-

genious inventions EVER!

ture, I am always reminded

With the smaller cotton farmers, the field hands were provided their lunch usually consisting of "hoecakes". This is my recipe and we like it with vegetables. The original ones were not made like this but way more frugally.

Hoecakes

1 cup self-rising flour 1 cup self-rising meal 3/4 cup of niblet corn ½ diced bell pepper ½ diced onion

1 egg

1-1/2 cups of buttermilk In a large bowl combine all ingredients. It will be thin. Add enough bacon fat in cast iron skillet to fry and drop by spoonsful, flatten out and fry about two minutes on each side or until firm.

* Peggy Sims is a life-long of my time as a cotton picker. resident of Attala County and columnist.



September 6 - Paul Warren and Kim Winstead

September 9 - David and JuliAnna Wynne, Michael and Charlene Smith, Tim and Jackie Turner

September 10 - Jon and Crystal Tate, Dustin and Lauren Boling

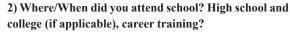
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money. We picked through plantation. The old ante- umns, and in such disrepair the cotton burrs, briars, bellum house they lived in that you knew the war had cockleburs, and tall grasses, was called "The Old Strain taken its toll on the magnifino herbicides were applied

Q and A with: Cruger Police Chief David Simmons

The Holmes County Herald will feature a profile every other week of the county's acting police chiefs in each municipality. A questionnaire was sent to all acting chiefs and sheriff on August 10. Those who responded will be featured here in efforts to support local law enforcement and familiarize readers with

1) Tell us a little about your family, spouse, children, parents, their careers, brothers and sisters (if any/if applicable)? My parents are Rosie and Robert Simmons of Goodman. I have three sisters and one brother. I have a total of four children, one son and three daughters.



As a child, I attended Goodman-Pickens Elementary and Williams Sullivan High School until the 10th grade and I then transferred to Chicago Hope Academy where I graduated High School. I later attended and graduated from police academy at Mississippi Delta College in Morehead. I also received a business degree from University of Chi-



Chief David Simmons

3) What influenced you in pursuing a career in law enforcement? As a child I have always dreamed of becoming a police officer. I have always loved helping out in the community and most of all helping keep the community and everyone in it safe.

4) What areas of law enforcement do you enjoy the most?

I have no particular area of law enforcement that I enjoy the most. I really enjoy all areas of law enforcement.

5) Are there proven tactics and best practices you prefer? I prefer team arrest skills (The ability to make a team physical arrest in the presence of the crowd and media quickly and efficiently is a necessary skill and protective equipment to help with the arrest.)

6) What brought you to serving in your town (county-sheriff)?

My town had a lack of police officers and so I decided to take stand and help out with everything that needed to be done.

7) What are some challenging areas working in law enforcement? There are many challenging areas while working in law enforcements but the one that stands out to me most is domestic violence.

8) What are rewarding aspects working in law enforcement?

The most rewarding aspect you can give someone is providing great satisfaction.

9) How has technology supplemented/strengthened law enforcement? How has it hindered/hurt law enforcement?

Technology has helped law enforcement by allowing us to have body cameras. Body cameras and police car cameras is a way to increase officer accountability as well as their own safety and cut down on unnecessary violent incidents. Social media helps us by gaining crime tips from the public, investigating crimes, and updating the public on crime. Technology has hurt law enforcements by drawing away the attention from even the smallest situation. It can be extremely distracting for officers and even dangerous when their full attention is needed on

10) What do you see as some of the challenges the department and the city (countysheriff) faces? The most challenging situation I have in my town is getting the equipment I need to help me solve the crime and make my town better.

11) How do enjoy free time outside of work? I enjoy my free time by spending time with my family and children.

12) What was your first job? My first job was working at Main Street Grocery in Goodman.

13) What is the best advice someone has ever given you? The best advice I was ever given was Treat people the way you want to be treated.

14) What is your favorite book? My favorite book is Higher is Waiting by Tyler Perry.

15) What is your dream vacation? My dream vacation is going to London, England.

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LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

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