

First Memories

What is your very first memory? How old were you? Some say we have no memories until we reach about six-years-old. I know I can remember some things way back before that age. I remember living in an old duplex house down passed where the new Veteran's home is now, a house with a high porch and I can remember my daddy coming home from work and me meeting him on the porch and jumping into his arms. And I remember making mud pies underneath the house where I had a play-



Peggy's Take

house build out of boxes and laying them on the steps, in my oven, to bake.

One of my favorite memories of that old house is the mysterious and baffling older lady walking the road right by my house every day, just a few steps from me standing in the yard watching her. She was always dressed in black with a big, large brimmed black hat and carried an enormous black purse. She always had on lots of makeup and red, smeared lipstick. She was a striking woman and to tell the truth, I was a

little afraid of her. He name was Miss Eula Utz and she lived in a small, paint peeled, rather shackled house down the road and way back off the beaten path. I always wanted her to stop, and I didn't want her to stop as she passed by. She never even said "hi" to me and she was always in a big hurry to get home it seemed.

Another good memory I have of an early age was the time we just lived up the road from this old house up on a high hill included in the "Rock Hill District". I began school from this house

and as I have written before, this is the house from which I would always get on the school bus and get off at the next person's house and go back home. We lived here for quite a few years and I always had plenty of friends to play with as the neighborhood was just full of young families. And I certainly remember being switched with every step as my mother walked me to school that faithful day.

I can remember lots of things at the age of six, when I started school in the little school that sat where one of the administration buildings now sits across from the public library. One of the sweetest ones is the day I carried my little blue purse my mother had made me from a salt box with strings and as we left school on of my classmates asked, "Would you like some money for your purse?" She gave me a dime and I was so excited. I would go on to finish high school with her in later years.

I remember the smell of the shots the nurses would bring into the school on shot day and how they would always give us a small can of Donald Duck orange juice after the shots. That was, if I was still there because as soon as I smelled the injection "juice" I was calling my mama to tell her I was sick. Seems like I was sick a lot during my sixth year of life!!

EASY CHICKEN POT PIE

2 cups frozen mixed vegetables, thawed, one can of cream of chicken soup

USDA launches 2021 Agricultural Resource Management Survey

Jackson, Mississippi – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is collecting data from approximately 50,000 farmers and ranchers for its annual Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). The survey looks at all aspects of U.S. agricultural production, the well-being of farm households, farm finances, chemical usage, and various farm production characteristics. The survey also collects detailed information on production practices, costs, and returns for different commodities on a rotating basis. In 2021, the survey will take a closer look at corn, rice, dairy and organic dairy in the United States.

At this time NASS has sus-

1 cup of cooked chicken cut into small pieces, 1 cup Bisquick, ½ cup of milk, 1 egg

Mix vegetables, chicken and soup in ungreased pie plate. Stir in remaining ingredients in bowl and blend well, pour into pie plate. Ake 400* for 30 minutes.

Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.

pended in-person data collection. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their survey online at agcounts.usda.gov with the survey code mailed to them.

"The annual data from ARMS are used to gauge the financial health and resource use of today's producers," said the Mississippi State Statistician, Esmerelda Dickson. "The information gives us an annual snapshot of the role of the farming industry in the U.S. economy." The information producers provide through the survey influences national and state policy-making decisions. In addition, ARMS data are used to calculate the farm sector portion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is an important measure of the U.S. economy.

The survey is conducted in three phases from June 2021 through April 2022. The current (first) phase screens participants to make sure they have the commodities of interest that are needed to accurately represent the entire U.S. farm sector. During the second phase, NASS will collect information on production practices and chemical

use for specific commodities. In the final phase, NASS will survey producers on farm income and production expenditures.

"We strongly encourage every producer contacted for ARMS to participate, as their response represents not just their own farm, but many other similar operations across the country," added Dickson. "For maximum convenience, producers should complete the survey online at agcounts.usda.gov. Online reporting is fast and secure. Producers can also complete and mail or fax the paper form to us."

All information from respondents is kept confidential, as required by federal law, and reported so that no individual operation or producer can be identified. For more information on how NASS protects information, visit www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality.

ARMS is a joint effort of NASS and USDA's Economic Research Service. For more information about the 2021 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, visit nass.usda.gov/go/ARMS. For information on how these data used in this region, or if you have any questions about this survey, please call the NASS Delta Field Office at (601) 359-1259.

Atheists, humanists sue over Mississippi's license plates



In a May 10, 2018 file photograph, Clay Chandler, director of communications for then Gov. Phil Bryant, holds Mississippi's new standard license plate at the Capitol in Jackson, Miss. It displayed the state seal that includes the phrase, "In God We Trust." American Atheists, the Mississippi Humanist Association and three nonreligious state residents filed a lawsuit Tuesday, June 22, 2021 against the state over the slogan emblazoned license plate. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis, File)

Jackson (AP) — Four words on Mississippi's license plates have sparked a federal lawsuit.

American Atheists, the Mississippi Humanist Association and three nonreligious state residents filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the state over its "In God We Trust" license plate. The complaint accuses the Mississippi Commissioner of Revenue of violating the people's freedom of speech and religion by forcing them to display the religious message on their personal vehicles.

The license plate has included "In God We Trust" since 2019. The lawsuit claims that car owners are forced to promote the religious statement or pay an additional fee for a specialty plate without it.

"Every minute they spend on the streets of Mississippi, atheists are forced to act as a billboard for the state's reli-

gious message," said Geoffrey T. Blackwell, litigation counsel at American Atheists. "Some can avoid being a mouthpiece for the government by paying a penalty."

The lawsuit also claims that there are no alternatives to the plate for trailers, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, drivers with disabilities and custom plates.

"For years, I had a personalized license plate message on the old blues guitar design," said American Atheists' Mississippi Assistant State Director for Gulfport Sarah Worrel. "In 2019, when 'In God We Trust' became the new standard plate, I was forced to either give up my chosen message or display it alongside the Mississippi government's religious statement. I shouldn't have to make that choice. The government shouldn't be able to decree that

I display a message that goes against my beliefs."

Gov. Tate Reeves, in a statement on Twitter, said he plans to defend the license plate's motto.

"I know Mississippi's values are our strength...and I meant it when I said as Governor I would defend our values every single day! I will defend 'In God We Trust' on our tag, on our flag, and on our state seal....Every. Single. Day," he wrote.

"No matter how much Gov. Reeves or other politicians want to pretend that Mississippi is some kind of Christians-only club, it doesn't make it true," said Nick Fish, president of American Atheists. "Forcing atheist drivers to endorse a religious message they reject is antithetical to our values as Americans and unconstitutional, plain and simple."

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BY
LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Jonnie Richmond, sister of Goldia Landfair, was home from Iowa third Sunday weekend. Goldia tried to call me but I was away from my phone and did not hear it ringing. They are my cousins-in-law. Jonnie came to one of her in-law's funerals. Her in-laws are the Richmonds that live in Popular Springs Community up Highway 17 out from Acona. Mr. Lee Henry Wright's daughter is doing much better healthwise. She's able to sit on the bed and swing her legs. Thank you to all that prayed for her. She's not going back to Chicago. Her son is taking her to Arizona where he lives.

To those of you that have not taken your OCVID-19 shots, please go get your vaccine. These shots can help rid the US and other countries of the COVID-19 virus. At least it won't be so severe if you get the virus. Young folks and old folks that have not had your vaccine, do not be hard headed.