



### Team Red finishes season play

Lincoln County Little League, age group 9-12 "Team Red" consisting of players (left photo, l-r) Parker Chester, Bowen Beggs, Gavin Nelson, Jackson Reese, Dakota Barnett, Whit Sandifer, JC Dunsmore, Tanner Savage, Aiden Ferguson, Ranse Chapman, and (right photo) Kingston Elam. Coaches are Daniel Savage, Kyle Reese and Brad Sandifer played its final game on June 3. This great group of boys worked hard all season and showed great sportsmanship on and off the field.

Team parents would like to thank sponsors, Fast Times and Austin's Remodeling and Repair, coaches, umpires, parents, grandparents, and fans of the game for showing up to support the children of Lincoln County.



## Across The Savannah

### Years Lost to Time, the Silent Thief

By TOM POLAND  
tompol@earthlink.net



Growing up I could hear the tick of my church's old Regulator wall clock. I can't hear it today, but my hearing's good. All that keeping of time must have silenced the Regulator's tick and that's appropriate. Time is fleeting in a silent unnoticed way.

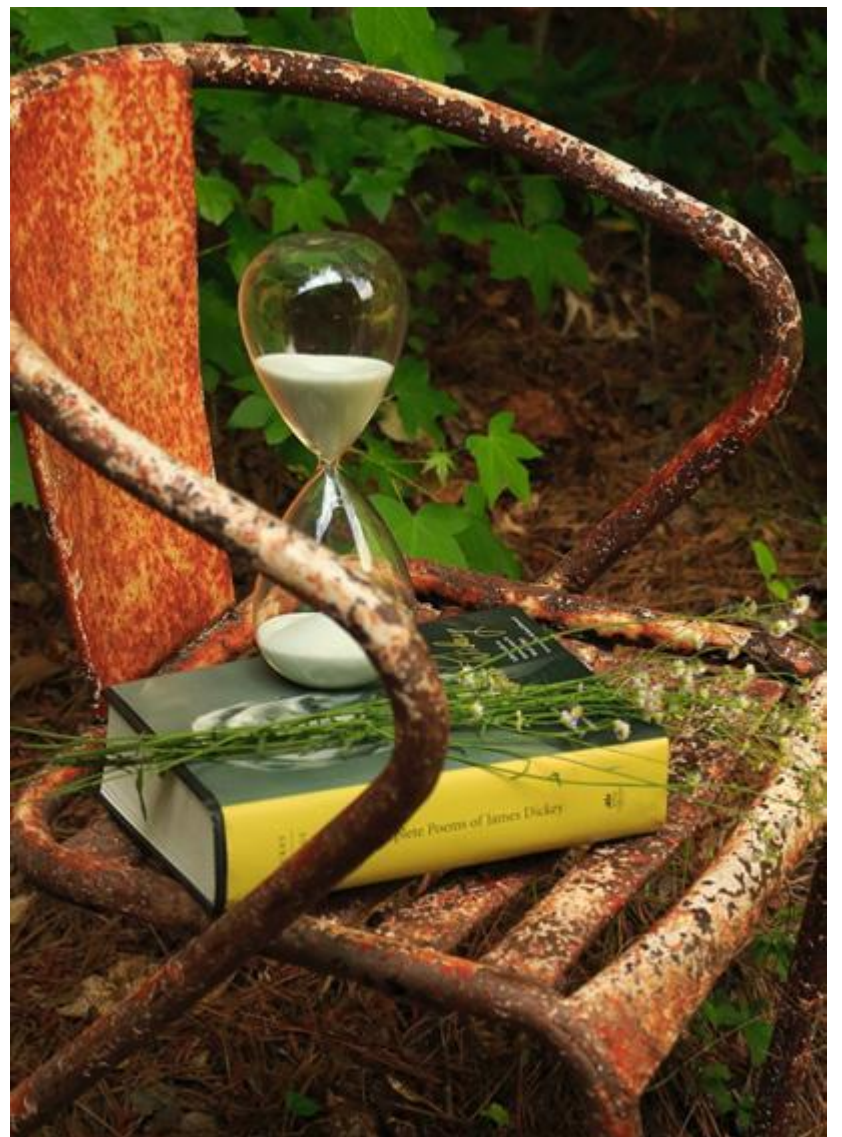
I got caught up in the race and somewhere between 1996 and 2015 time stole not nineteen years but my life. One day it struck me that my daughters were grown. One day it hit me how many people I knew were dead. One day I realized others had gone into shells that swallowed their lives entire. I looked back on the jobs I'd held and how important they were but in the end they amounted to nothing. We waste a lot of time worrying when we should be remembering.

I look a lot now at what was and I do what many will think is a strange thing. On a regular basis I drive up Georgia Highway 79 and park and lean on a steel gate and stare at mom's old homestead. All a stranger will see is grass, trees, and an old store converted to a hunting camp. Not me. I see family. Meals. Games with cousins. Cold winter nights around a wood stove. Sinking deep into a cold feather bed. Drawing a bucket of water up from a well. A smokehouse. Penny candy. Outhouse. Crab apples. Bamboo peashooters. Arrowheads, Indian pennies, and more. Come with me one day and I'll tell you a whole lot more about all I see in that patch of grass and weeds.

Oh, Well, that's okay. I knew you wouldn't have the time to join me.

Time. The *New Oxford American Dictionary* defines time as the "indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present, and future regarded as a whole." I define it as the stuff memories are made from. However you define it, time always seems to be in short supply but that doesn't stop people from spending a lot of time writing about time.

In his epic poem, "Looking For The Buckhead Boys," James Dickey gives us these lines after learning that many years later that his old high school teammates are dead from heart attacks, war, and one's paralyzed, one's in jail, and others maligned in other ways by the clock. He remembers they lived and writes there are "sunlit pictures in the Book of the Dead to prove



I see it as an old chair no one sits in anymore. Covered in rust with a bent leg it nonetheless possesses beauty and it's a fine place to set a favorite book, dried flowers, and hourglass to signify the passing of time.

it: the 1939 North Fulton High School Annual. O the Book/Of the Dead, and the dead, bright sun on the page/Where the team stands ready to explode/In all directions with Time."

Explode in all directions is right. People move never to be heard from again. Where, I wonder, is Benjamin Bradford? Where is Jean Gassaway? Where did Tommy Kennedy go? I know where Eddie, Mike, Dawkins, Janis, Sammy, and Peggy are. Gone. Gone forever. Time is fleeting and ruthless.

In "Time," Pink Floyd gives us this line: "Ticking away the moments that make up a dull day" and this one, "Every year is getting shorter, never seem to find the time." It's true. A dull day seems far longer than a day spent adventuring. And it's true that each year burns up faster than the one before.

Can you hear time? Yes, a newborn baby cries. A young boy's voice begins to change. Brakes lock and tires squeal just before that awful sound. A siren screams down a highway. A bell tolls in the distance.

Can you see time? Sure. You see it as a tombstone. An abandoned home. A wooden cross in a highway curve. A clear-cut forest. A hearse. A wheelchair ramp.

I see it as an old chair no one sits in anymore. Covered in rust with a bent leg it nonetheless possesses beauty and it's a fine place to set a favorite book, dried flowers, and hourglass to signify the passing of time. Seems an old soap opera used to open with the saying, "Like sands through an hourglass, these are the days of our lives." How true.

Time. It's the most important thing we spend. How do you see it?

## Jackson speaks to LWREA members May 20

Ida Jackson, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent - Expanded Food and Nutrition Program Supervisor for Wilkes County, was the guest speaker at the Lincoln-Wilkes Retired Educators Association (LWREA) Virtual Meeting, May 20, 2021.

Ms. Jackson is a native of Wilkes County where she graduated from Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive

High School. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Clark Atlanta University; a Masters degree in Career Counseling from Walden University; and she studied Paralegal Studies at Clayton State University.

She has devoted her work experience in many and various capacities directly to consumers and writes a column in the News Reporter to



IDA JACKSON

assist them. Her service and support to families, children, and the community speak volumes. She is presently supervising the Expanded Food and Nutrition Educational Program, assisting consumers with filing income taxes, as well as finding time to volunteer.

Ms. Jackson's presentation was very informative. She has provided a wealth of knowledge, services, and support to the consumers of Wilkes County and was very enthusiastic in sharing it with the members of LWREA.

### Planning, zoning meetings

The City of Lincolnton Planning & Zoning Board meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows: June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 28. These meetings will be held in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. each month if there is an agenda.

### Midway cookbook

Midway UMC's "Midway to Heaven" cookbook is now available from Tommie Henderson (Henderson Logging); Brenda Danner McGahee (tag office); in Washington from Betty Sue Bunch (REA) or Linda Anthony (706-678-7616).

In addition to recipes group photos from 1930, 1950's, 1964, 1999 and church history data are included. Makes a wonderful gift. \$15.

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### A Lincoln County Republican Party Brunch will be held

Saturday, June 12 at 10:30 a.m.

at the

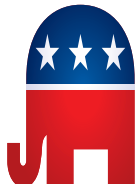
Lincoln County Historical Park Pavilion

guest speakers will be

Lincoln County Chairman Walker Norman  
District 33 Representative Rob Leverett

If you have conservative values and believe in a positive future for Lincoln County, join us for brunch!

If you have questions contact Chairman of the Lincoln County Republic Party Troy Balliew at [balliewgop@gmail.com](mailto:balliewgop@gmail.com) or call 706-825-9063.



## Baseball's Best

### Postcard reveals dramatic story

By LAMAR GARRARD  
Baseball historian



"Hello Folks, I'm having the time of my life. Julian pitches this afternoon and it is nice and warm, so he should be right. I have met all the player's wives and we are having a grand old time. I'll hate to leave. See you soon." - Myrtle

Recently I acquired a picture postcard circa 1940s of the Ponce De Leon baseball park, the former home of the Atlanta Crackers club. It was postmarked Atlanta, April 26, 1942, and addressed to West Palm Beach, Florida.

I have been fascinated with and a collector of old postcards, letters, envelopes, documents, and miscellaneous ephemera for many years. Ponce De Leon Park stood right across the street from the Sears building on Ponce De Leon Avenue in Atlanta. I attended weekend Army Reserve drill in the Sears building for several years back in the 60s and I saw the old iconic ball park each time I reported for Reserve meetings. As a baseball fan, it was exciting to think of all the former major leaguers who at one time had played in its confines, including Babe Ruth and the Braves' Eddie Mathews.

My curiosity about the above message from Myrtle to her family, I assume, led me to try and find out about Julian. The roster showed a right-handed pitcher named Julian Sowell. Further inspection has Paul Richards as manager of the Crackers, a former major league player who later became the general manager of the Atlanta Braves from 1967-72. The team was 76-78 for the year. Sowell was 1-1 in 4 games.

Julian had previously started his pro career at age 19 in 1940 pitch-

ing for West Palm Beach. In '41 he was at Waycross, then Atlanta and Savannah in '42. 1943 and '44 saw him serve in WWII where he played on a service team at Hamilton Field in California. He returned to the Crackers after the war at age 24 in 1945 finishing his baseball career winning 18 and losing 18.

The story unfolds with great interest as I continued to research Julian. Born in Quincy, Florida, in 1926, his March 22, 2007, obituary said he attended Palm Beach High, was a World War II veteran, and left a wife of 65 years named Myrtle. Alas, the postcard came full circle as to who these two people actually were, being Mr. and Mrs. Julian Sowell.

More interesting than Julian possibly was his brother, Richard Gordon Sowell, who was killed in WWII by a Japanese mortar. There were four Sowell brothers and three

of them severed in the war. Richard, "Tiny" as he was called, fought in seven major battles including the Marshall Islands and Saipan.

Having not escaped the foxhole alive, the remains of Richard were not found until 1949. His unidentified bones were sent to Hawaii and buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, near Pearl Harbor.

Not until the DNA of a nephew was compared to Richard's in 2017 was he positively identified and sent back to his family in West Palm beach. After 73 years, he was honored with a proper funeral and buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Palm Beach.

Myrtle Sowell passed away in July of 2017 at age 97. A postcard she mailed from Atlanta 79 years ago shadowed an amazing American story worth telling.

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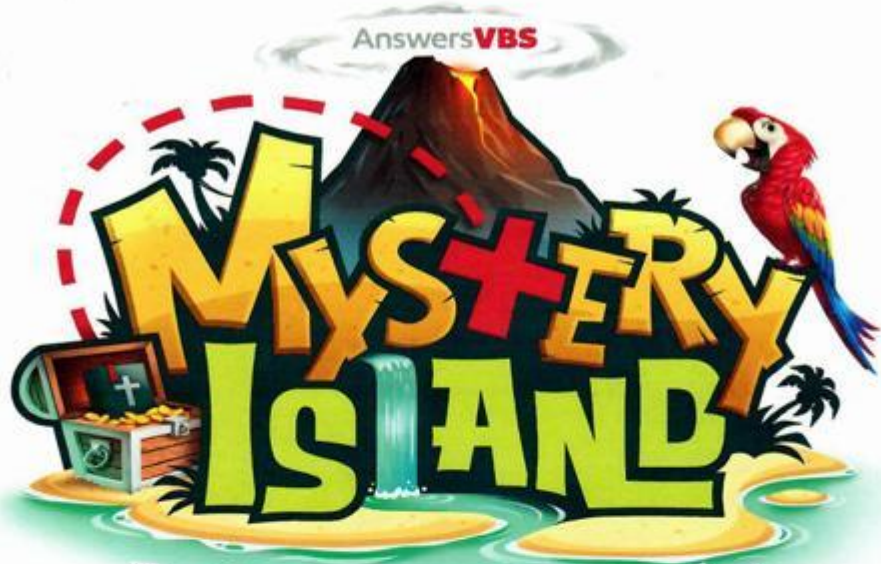
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