



H. R. 'Bob' Abbott and Mrs. Sudie King

Re-united After Nearly 40 Years

He just walked away from home and disappeared. No one knew where he was. No one knew if he was living or not. That was nearly 40 years ago. But Monday he came back home, back to the scenes of his childhood and early life. Such is the story of H. R. 'Bob' Abbott, shown above with his sister, Mrs. Sudie King of Pell City.

Born at Cooks Springs in 1881, he was orphaned at three or four years old when his mother died. After his mother died he was taken into the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sam Blair, then a railroad construction supervisor at Eden. Later he went to the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ginn where he made his home until old enough to go to work.

He left Birmingham in 1918 or 1919. He was not sure of the exact year. "I left because of domestic trouble", Mr. Abbott said. "I kept thinking all the years I would write to my sisters or someone at home, but like a lot of people I just kept putting it off and I just kept on wandering."

He followed the construction trade for most of his working years, was a foreman of various types construction in past years, working at building tunnels and bridges, also worked on the giant irrigation project in the west when the water impounded by Hoover dam were piped to the western desert land.

Monday morning Mr. Abbott registered at Lewis' Motel. He signed the register as Bob Abbott. He began to inquire of Mr. Lewis about old timers, people he had known many years ago. Mrs. Lewis came in. She found out that he was back in Pell City to try and get a birth certificate for himself. Mrs. Lewis named over a number of people who might help.

Among those she named was Mrs. Sudie King. "Mrs. Sudie King"! "She is my sister", Mr. Abbott said, "is she still living"? Within minutes Mr. Lewis had him on the way to the home of a sister he had not seen for nearly forty years. The joyous reunion followed.

Mr. Abbott has some property in Texas. "I am going to Texas where I have some property. A man said he wanted to buy. I am going out there and attend to that. Then I am going back to St. Paul, Minnesota, where I have been making my home for some years. Then I am coming back to Pell City and spend the winter."