

## Excerpts from "Mama" Bone's Diary

The July 2000 number of this *Journal* published excerpts from the daily journal of Mrs. Mallidine (Halliburton) Bone. According to Joe Bone, one of her four children, those selections from January 1 through May 4, 1961, show how she was trying to cope with the loneliness and responsibilities of her widowhood. At age sixty-four, she was learning to do the buying, checkwriting and recordkeeping that Terrence, her late husband of thirty-nine years, had always done for her.

From May 5 through July 5, 1961, "Mama" Bone was adjusting quite well, extremely busy as she was with berry picking, gardening, helping children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. Each day ended around midnight after she had written in her journal. Her interest in people is evidenced in her including their names at the end of each day.

**Friday May 5th 1961** - Venice and his children, Ruby and others picked the berries this morning, and Mrs. Mallard picked a few and packed. He sold 13 cases at \$4.50 per case....I called Ruth and mentioned seed butterbeans which Joe intended to get....she asked me to spend the night with her. (She had got tired of working outside.) Joe offered to take me--which was after supper, when Ruby and the little boys went for the ride. It was a stormy night--late at night I was very wakeful.

**Sat. morn. early the 6th of May** - my beloved classmate, Inez McLean Bell...was found dead in bed. She was said to have had a checkup on Friday and was thought to be doing nicely. (I saw her last at Mrs. Tommy Capps' funeral Apr. 25th).

As always, I enjoyed being at Ruth's, talking with her, eating her good food and sleeping on her good high bed. Saturday was a gloomy day. I stayed with Ruth until Sunday and went to church with her and Naomi King....The young pastor, Grady Dozier, preached a good sermon "forgiveness"....Naomi let me out at Alice's house and I ate dinner with them. In the afternoon they took me to Karnes funeral home. I spoke to Carolyn and Jack (Bell)....

**Monday May 8th** - A very bad day -- Almost a flood -- some hail with very strong winds. It was so bad I didn't go to Inez's funeral...Venice and hands picked berries until the rain (up in the morning). Several of the pickers found shelter from a hard shower in my carport: Mr. and Mrs. Blaylock, Mrs. Dovie Wimberly, Mrs. James Minton and small son, Mrs. J.W. (Annie Lou) King, Tal Jewell, Mrs. Christine Ramsey and little daughter, Teresa, Mrs. Ryals, Mrs. Rosemary Raines. They had to go home; couldn't pick any more berries that day!

....Aunt Myrtle Barton and her daughter, Junelle Foust came by to see me and my house. (good to see them)

**Wed. May 10th, 1961 - (West Rutherford Club Meeting)**

Joy Lee, Jane, Karen, Virginia Fay and Martha Lynn came at about 11:45 with most of the food and some of the dishes for the refreshments....The ladies kept coming in shortly after 1 p.m. Every member was present--also 4 visitors, viz. Mrs. Franklin Mitchell, Mrs. Howard Hester, Mrs. Joe Bone, and Miss Margaret Dee King--also 4 small children and our nurse, Mrs. Gilliland. It was a very lovely day, bright, sunny, with a northerly breeze. My visitors brought red roses and pink peonies.

**Thurs. May 11th. -** a nice, sunny day. Mailed check for \$3.83 for Cancer Fund from W. R-ford Club to Mrs. Annie Elrod. This took the last of our Club's money in the Rutherford Bank. We still have a Club "purse"....

**Fri. May 12th. -** Richard's Birthday--This has been a nice day. Ruby took Gerald Ray to D.V. Bible School at Rutherford C.P. Church about 8:30 A.M....We went to Dyer....Paid \$5.95 for a six-foot ladder at Nicholson's. Bought a chair at Western Auto for \$5.95 for Joe's birthday. (Ruby paid half). I bought a bag of "horses and men with saddle and tent" \$.59 cents, for Andrew's birthday. (the 18th) ....Andrew fell off the tricycle this afternoon--raised a big knot on side of head and cut the skin in two places. I gathered pokeweed....The Raines boys rode their bicycles through the fields with me to their berry patch where we picked a quart for me.

**Sunday May 14th -** ....went to Dyer C.P. Church with Alice's folks....service was addressed to the 7 high school graduates who attend: Peggy Thomas, John Bonds, George Bonds, Marilyn Mosely, Carolyn Dunagan, Tommy Taylor, Jerry Hutchison. Rev. Stiles presented a Bible to each....ate dinner with Alice. She presented a pr. of hose and a length of dress material to me for Mother's Day....went to Baccalaureate service at Dyer High School where Alice helped sing. Sermon by Rev. Jackson of Methodist Church. I couldn't understand a lot of words of songs or sermon due to heavy downpour of rain with thunder and lightning.

**Mon. May 15th -** ....I decided I would go to strawberry patch and see how many I could pick to ship. I did this and picked 10 quarts this morning --ha, ha. I came back to my house a little past noon. My pkg. from Marilyn arrived today--...This afternoon we picked Ruby's berries

and Venice's old patch. I walked up to Dawn's and offered them some berries, but they had got some from Mr. John B. Cooper's patch today.

**Wed. May 17th** - Venice took berry hands back to Dyer. He asked if the children could eat with me and Tal Jewell who would help him plant their garden.

**Thurs. May 18th** - Andrew's Birthday--2 yrs. old--took him a pkg. and card.

**Saturday A.M. May 20th** - I picked 10 qts for Venice to sell. In the afternoon, I hemmed my new brown print dress. It is size 9 and I took up the length not more than 1 inch. Mailed Randy's birthday card & check for \$3. with letter to Marilyn....Mr. Elihu Jones of Dyer died. (Venice's "Uncle El")

**Sunday, May 21st** - Joe, his family and I went to S.S.... We had 20 ladies in my class which was taught by Mrs. Cummings.

I ate dinner at home but we left home before 2 p.m. - to go for a long drive - We went through Union City and Cayce, KY and thought we could go to Hickman that way but the road was closed on account of high water, and we had to go back to Cayce and take another route. It was my first sight of Hickman. The hills, the water and the "wall" were something to see. The houses appear to be "secure" on the hills, but the business district is low -- Several feet of the "wall" was visible above the water. Wonder how high it gets at its worst?

From there we drove to Tiptonville and then to Reelfoot Lake, where Gerald Ray and Andrew rode on the train and enjoyed it. We saw a few people we know from Rutherford--Madge Rainey and son Jimmy rode the "train" too. We came back through Hornbeak, Glass, Obion and Trimble.

**Tuesday May 23rd** - (Randy's birthday) - I've about lost out on this "diary." I can't remember all--But we picked berries most every day.

**Thurs. May 24th** - I have frozen 32 quarts of berries this season....I went to the City Hall to speak with Mrs. Mary Gilliland who was giving "shots" to Gerald Ray and Andrew....Ruby took the boys to the barber shop where both got haircuts. Andrew did not mind....I ironed Thurs. night and went to bed quite late.

Had not been in bed long when Joe came to get me to stay with the boys at their house while he and Ruby went to see about her father. Floyd Robertson had just come and told them that Mr. Mallard had had a heart

attack at about 10 p.m. They got him to the Obion Co. Hospital and admitted by 1:30. Dr. Freed Bell had come to their home. Joe and Ruby returned from the hospital about 2:30 A.M. They said that he was under the oxygen tent and that he was breathing better. He had been very cold and "just breathing" when they first found him at home near midnight.

**Fri. A.M. May 26th** - None of us adults slept much. I went home and fixed and ate a little breakfast. Stayed with the boys all day. I ate supper with them and with Virginia. They had been to the hospital and Rick stayed when Ruby, Joe and Virginia came home about 5 p.m.....

**Sat. May 27th** - Rick spent the most of the night at the hospital and brought his mother home. Today Mr. Mallard could drink water and seemed to be resting better.

Joe took me to town this afternoon. I went to the bank and renewed my note (C.D.). Withdrew \$5. cash and went to Bugg's where I spent \$3.60 for groceries. Went home and planted 2 kinds of butterbeans, crowder peas, radishes and mustard and got out a few onions.

**Sunday May 28th 1961** - ...Alice & Venice came by to get me in the afternoon about 3:45. We went by their house, got some pretty red or deep rose color, rambler roses and picked up David and Richard to go to the Mt. Olivet Cemetery where we placed the flowers in the vase on Terrence's grave.

All the V.P. Raines family, Jane Canada, and I went to the Dyer C.P. Church for the Children's Service at 7:30. It was well prepared and they sang well. Then we went to the different rooms where we saw exhibits of their Vacation Bible School work, and had punch and cookies. There were 5 great-grandchildren of my husband's father, Hugh Young Bone in this "Commencement." (Sarah Ellen Green, Leroy Baird, David, Jeannie and Richard Raines). Alice said that two more of the g-g-children had been in the week's activities but were visiting in Kansas City. (Edwin Bone's daughters, Mary Beth and Jane)

**Tues. May 30th** - I did a small wash--capped a few berries, froze 1 qt. of these delicious little berries. The children and I enjoyed eating as I capped. Ruby, Joe and Mrs. Mallard went to the Obion Co. Hospital tonight. Mr. Mallard seemed to be doing very well, but he is said to not do just what the nurses want him to do.

**Thurs. June 1st** - It has been good weather to work, but a nice shower of rain would be good for the crops and gardens. Just after 3 o'clock p.m., the Raines children and I went to Venice's where we cleaned the henhouse

and spread the manure on the garden....When I got home, Ruby had something waiting for me--She had enough stamps from the Family Shoe Store to obtain a premium....A nice set of kitchen tools with a rack to hang them on. I really appreciate it. Mr. (Bill) Ragsdale and 2 colored men came and worked on Joe's well....

**Mon. June 5th** - Hermon and Anna came to Ruby's house as they were going to Union City and would go to see Mr. M-. Ruby sent a pair of pajamas by them. When they returned, they said that he was in good spirits and was enjoying the yellow mums sent by Ruby's S.S. class and more yellow mums from New Hope.

**Tues. June 6th** - Dr. Freed Bell thinks that Mr. Mallard can leave the hospital this Thursday. Ruby plans to have him stay at her house a few days.

**Thurs. June 8th** - Mr. M.--was not allowed to leave today as his blood is too low. This afternoon, I got out and dug in flower beds in the highest part of my back yard, the only place not to [sic] wet due to this morning's rain.

**Fri. June 9th** - Dr. Bell had a Karnes Ambulance to bring Mr. Mallard to Ruby's sometime after 1 p.m. T.C. Karnes and Ruby "walked" Mr. M- into the house and to the back bedroom. He felt very well but was weak--

Gerald Ray spent the night at my house. He had had a wonderful day. I read him the story of Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus the last thing before he fell asleep. But listening to it was the mildest thing on his program for this day. His granddad had come home in an ambulance, a new gym set was delivered and set up by the man from Dodd's store and then there were visitors with children to play with on the new swings. ...But to put a happy climax to the day for G.R. & Andrew--Someone's stray dog came to their house, lay down, and acted like she was too hot. We moved her to my carport where she soon had 3 puppies.

**Sat. June 10th** - I can't name the times G.R. has been over to see the dog & her puppies....He would like to keep one....She is a small white dog with a pretty shaped head. She is wearing a collar but there is no name on it....

**Sat. June 10th continued** - Joe's folks have company tonight--Allen Mallard & family--also Margaret (Nig) Halliburton. Floyd Robertson and 2 pretty daughters, Charlotte and Glanese came and later went to my carport to see "the pups" and came in to see my house. It was nice having them. Alice's folks came for a little while after supper.

....**Monday June 12th** - Joe gave me a check for \$143. This was my share of the 1/7 of the farm that Terrence inherited which had to be divided in order to complete the estate settlement.

**Tuesday June 13th** - I finished the "Dead Sea Scrolls." It is some book! I wish I could remember more of it. I've been looking for the "Bug Men." I signed contract with Joe Davis to have my house treated for termites & bugs.

**Wednesday June 14th** - After dinner I walked across the fields to Venice's and met Ella at the mailbox--I went with her and Ruth to the W.R. Club meeting at Mrs. Alice Crouse's. Mrs. Crouse sent lovely Easter lillies [sic] and "Bells of Ireland" to Mr. Mallard and he appreciated them. Someone from the Health Dept. got the dog and pups while I was away. (I called them)

**Thurs. June 15th** - I went to town with Ruby, deposited estate check, bought few groceries and looked at bookcases at Dodd's. ...Later went to Union City with Alice and Venice to Jones' Furniture Warehouse where I bought a drum top table. \$16.27

**Friday June 16th** - The Blackwelder Termite Control men came early today and got away a little before noon. (paid them \$90.) Venice mowed my yard and wouldn't take any pay....I called Mr. Robinson at D. & R. Merc. (Dodd's) and told him which bookcase I wanted. (for \$20.44) Gerald Ray and Gary are elated over catching a black-headed bumble bee in a glass jar. It is good to see the sun shining through the clouds. I received a sweet little letter from Terie Dee Bone today. She is a Campfire Girl and is going to camp near San Bernardino.

**Tues June 20th, 1961** - So sorry that Billy Edmundson had a heart attack. He is in Jackson Hospital and his mother, Fannie, said that he has passed the crisis.

Joe wrote letter to Marilyn tonight and sent check for her 3 children from the T.V. Bone estate.

**Fri. June 23rd** - The Bookmobile came this morning. I had looked for it for a week. Joe came over after supper and looked at the old books in my new bookcase. I told him to take 3 old books that had the names of Martha Jane Robb, Nelson Young Bone and I.B. Campbell in them.

After Joe left, Alice brought my dress she had made this week--a pretty basic dress of navy cupioni and "something" with a white honeycomb shawl collar--I appreciate this very much--her buying the



material and making it too--It is a "Mothers Day" gift. She gave me a set of pink and white clasps & necklace to match (pearls). Very pretty and will be pretty with the navy dress.

Later in the night, Joe came back and we went upstairs and found the army cot. He took it for Gerald Ray to sleep on as Rick, Virginia and Sheila came to spend the night. Sheila is much improved and looks a lot better that she did 4 weeks ago. Virginia looks more "Rested" too. Ruby hoed cotton for Venice behind our lots this afternoon.

**Sat. June 24th** - Dr. Bell came this morning to see Mr. Mallard and said that he could go home. Mr. M. looked better today--He had had a shave and was feeling good over getting to go home. They took him in Rick's car.

**Sunday June 25th** - We heard Rev. Ed Perkins preach at the Rutherford C.P. Church. He is from Austin, Texas and is a student at Bethel Theological Seminary and a part time radio announcer at McKenzie. He has a good, deep voice and preached good.

**Mon. June 26, 1961** - Discussed with Elec. Co. the business of running a (high voltage) wire across my field just north of the Toland's lot and whether to cut the tree or only to trim....We are missing Gerald Ray, who went home with "Uncle Rick," "Aunt Virginia" and "Sheila" to Muscle Shoals.

**Tues. June 27th** - This is the day I bought the old piano. The men who came with the pianos yesterday returned this morning with a lovely old upright piano, with a good tone. It was Dr. Ellis' wife's mother's piano they said. I paid them \$40. for it. It has no stool or bench and needs about 25 ivories....

Ralph Jr. ate dinner with me....Ruby brought her vacuum cleaner over and cleaned out the piano. I dusted it good with a clean cloth and then rubbed it with "Wax-all" polish.

**Fri. June 30th** - Joe and Family left for Muscle Shoals, Ala. for the weekend and to bring Gerald Ray home.

**Sunday, July 2nd** - At S.S., Dyer today, I gave 15 cts. and at worship services I gave \$1. (Helped pass the communion wine down my row--but didn't take any) Sunday afternoon, Jeannie and I went to see Omega Joy Qualls, who has Rheumatic fever. Jeannie took doll Alice bought. The little girl could sit up on bed and enjoy doll, books, etc. The boys played ball. Ralph Jr. spent the night with me and we had thunderstorm with

lightning which blew some fuses. (Lightning had struck just behind my house in Venice's cotton patch.)

**Wed. July 5th** - All of us went in 2 cars to Columbus-Belmont Park in Ky. We took food, lawn chairs, etc. and had a picnic and wiener roast. Enjoyed that and the Museum which had been a Civil War field hospital. Went from there to Wickliffe, Ky then to Cairo, Ill. (I got my first look at the Ohio River). Then we went through Missouri and took the ferry back across the Mississippi River to the park at Columbus, Ky where we had been earlier in the day, then on in home before supper time. (A day long to be remembered)....

**Joe Bone**  
**Rutherford, Tennessee**

