Mr. Butten was a native of Ireland. I don't know the year he came to the U.S., but he ended up in East Tennessee, attending Maryville College, and eventually becoming pastor of the Presbyterian church in Irondale about 1933. He also pastored a church near Trussville and one other out by Lake Purdy. They were very small, and he preached at a different one, I guess, each Sunday. He was about Robert's age so they became very close friends, the Dalys took. Butten under their wings. He was not married, had no family in the States, so he welcomed their friendship. He went with Vena, Robert, Loudelle to the Chicago World's Fair in 1933 and to Florida several summers. He became like one of the family and became sort of a role model for me as I was a young teen-ager, and was always around the Dalys when Mr. Butten was there.

Irondale of course was a very conservative congregation, but I guess it was Mr. B, s Irish wit that endeared him to the church and community. He seemed to be a good fit, but he was way ahead of the time and place with his social and liberal views.  about religion, politics, etc.; yet, he managed to get along well with all the folks. Once, though, he spanked a little boy who had misbehaved at the Bible school one day. The boy's daddy brought suit against him, and the newspaper picked up the story, and it got ll the way to Belfast, Ireland, and was seen by Mr.’s family there, and that's how they learned that he was in the ministry and what he was doing! The suit was eventually dropped and nothing came of it.

Mr. B drove a motor cycle to his various churches, as an auto was too expensive. I guess that was also his way of flouting the establishment. He was well educated, a well-read man. He enjoyed engaging Robert (and me) in heated discussions about current events, FDR, and other issues of the day. He would usually end up every Sunday night at the Dalys and I would often be there to hear their discussions and engage in arguments with them. He left Irondale in 1937, taking a church in Knoxville, TN, lived there several years, moving to some job in Ohio, and eventually went into library work. He married in the late 1930s or early 1940s. He moved back to Chattanooga and ended up in Knoxville. We visited him in a nursing home there and also in his home, His wife, Hazel, died before he did.

He went back to Ireland once, I'm sure, after Hazel died, and visited his old home place. He is buried near, Seymour, Tn. near Knoxville. Robert died in 1959, and Mr. Butten lived on into the 1980s.

After writing my epistle on Mr. B., I read Bobby Prince’s news article about Mr.'s appoitment to the church in Knoxville but couldn't bring up any info about the hurricane.
After Mr. B. moved to Knoxville, that summer 1937, he returned to Irondale on a visit, and I went back to Knoxville with hi, stayed at the home of one of the members. They had a by my age, and we went up to the Smokies, my first time there, climbed Chimney Tops. I rode the train back to Bham. – Bishop Holliman, 2011