The Faye New murder;; More Irondale memories if you still want them. I should have included this memory in the first batch, but have just now thought about it. - Bishop Holliman ca 2010
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It was August 1934. Faye New was a Howard College coed who was mysteriously murdered one night somewhere around East Lake. I guess we first heard about it on the radio. I don't know how the authorities placed the time and supposedly the place, but it was determined that she had been out with one "Harold Taylor" and most likely her body would be found near Irondale where the Southern RR shops are now located. The call went out for Boy Scouts, and I guess anyone who would, to join in search of the body. My friend James Pugh, who still survives, and about two years younger than me, came by the house that August morning and cajoled me into joining the search, so off we went. I don't know how many other young sprouts, as well as older males, were involved in the search, but we traipsed through the woods, hardly a mile from our house, afraid we'd find her, but hoping we would. In early afternoon, the body was found not far off the road that connects Ruffner with Irondale, in a patch of grass. We were not in the group that first discovered her but we, as did everyone else, immediately rushed to the scene to view the body. It was a gruesome sight. She had been dead two or three days, and I remember the ambulance that drove up to take her away. So our search was ended and mission accomplished.

This event was big news for weeks and months in Bham. Faye supposedly had dated Taylor. There was another young man involved in the case but he was never tried. To add to the mystery, a woman in East Lake was seen mopping her front porch at 5 o'clock in the morning the day of Faye's disappearance, and there was speculation Faye had been murdered there and her body disposed of where it was found. It was evident she had been brought and placed prone where she was found..

Taylor was tried in Bham and his lawyer was Roderick Beddow, who was known throughout the South as a top-notch criminal lawyer. Taylor was acquitted, and as far as I know, no one was ever tried for the murder, and it's still unsolved to this day.

This event occurred during the depths of the Depression. There was a lot of crime and unrest all around at this time. Grandma Caine always locked her chicken house and coal bin every night. Hobos rode the freights, and we always thought that a transient could get off and commit murder /robbery. Blacks were viewed with suspicion any time there was murder/robbery. Bham ranked high on the list of crimes committed.

Anyway, the Faye New murder case livened up the summer for us and gave us something to talk about for a long time. And it took a long time before I felt comfortable passing the scene where Faye's body was found.