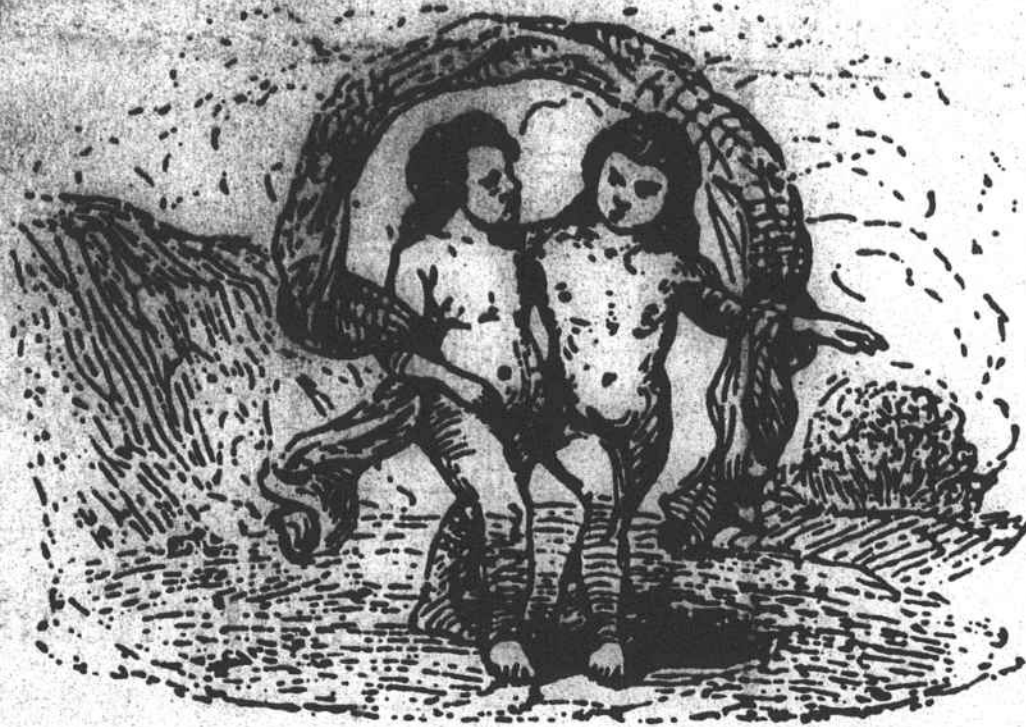


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County twins retain close feelings of ties

By Sonya Falls

Propertius, an ancient Latin poet, had this to say of twins: *A ship is safer when two cables hold it, and an anxious mother, if she rear twins, has less to dread.* Propertius, most likely, never fathered twins, and most assuredly never talked to an exhausted mother of twins after a long day of trying to keep up with four busy little legs.

However troublesome they may seem to be at times, twins must hold a special place in parents' hearts, just as they seem special to the rest of the world.

Their uniqueness is reflected in their rarity; only one set of twins in every 96 births. To the rest of us, twins represent an oddity, something that makes the single-born person curious. What would it be like to be a twin, we ask ourselves. How would it be to look into a mirror and see yourself and your brother, or sister, reflected?

According to Josh Pate, a Hoke County twin, this sometimes grows weary. Being a twin "...makes it hard to be your own person." His brother Jay agrees stating that rarely are twins considered individually, instead being referred to collectively as "the twins, or the boys."

Josh and Jay, sons of Judge

Being a twin "... makes it hard to be your own person."

Josh Pate

Warren Pate and Dayna Pate Elliott, are ninth graders at Hoke High and to most people look exactly alike. Not so to themselves, however. Jay maintains that as they've grown older, they have changed in their looks. (Well, you could have fooled me.) Independence, says Jay, also comes with age. "When we were younger, we depended on each other more, but now we enjoy being more independent."

In spite of such longings for freedom, the brothers still enjoy playing jokes on classmates and teachers. Confessing to switching classes or seats in elementary school, Jay says, "We still do. We're planning to do it next week." Hoke High teachers, look out.

The early dependency that Jay spoke of is evident in the Bowden twins, aged seven. Ronelle and Terrell enjoy being together and especially like being dressed the same. Although Ronelle loves pizza and Terrell, bologna and

cheese, they both enjoy the same kind of ice cream. Insists Terrell, "We don't fight together."

Small arguments probably don't count in this brotherhood. However, it must be reported that a quarrel did erupt concerning their birthdate. Ronelle insisted on March 26, while Terrell was sure that he had entered in the world in June. Checking out this little discrepancy proved Ronelle to be correct, and the two left for class, fast friends. Ronelle and Terrell are the sons of Mrs. Linda Bowden. They attend Scurlock Elementary.

If being a twin looks like fun, the McFadyen twins prove that to be true. Casting mischievous glances at each other, they recall incidents of switching identities in elementary school. Tom and Jim, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Neill McFadyen Jr. are sophomores at Hoke High. Avid sportsmen, they are participating in different sports this spring. Tom is on the baseball team, while Jim is running track.

The twins agree that being a twin has its advantages. Says Jim, "You can always send your brother to see what you look like." "Yeah, explains Tom, "Once Jim wanted to see what he looked like next to his car, so he had me stand next to the car."

Tom and Jim have no definite plans for college, but both have entertained thoughts of attending different schools which, they realize, may tend to estrange them, to a certain degree.

Lawana and Jawana Cooper see nothing in the future to separate them. Although Lawana wants to pursue a modeling career and Jawana has her sites on nursing, both think that they will always be close.

The two girls, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cooper are in 11th

"You can always send your brother to see what you look like."

Tom McFadyen

grade at Hoke High. Exact replicas of each other, they enjoy dressing alike. A shopping trip results in two of everything.

The girls have pulled their share of tricks also, "...especially on teachers," says Jawana, but it is aggravating for friends to mistake one for the other.

Since both work at a local fast food restaurant, this also creates some puzzling looks from customers, the girls admit, laughing. It's obvious that, to these two, being twins is a joy.

But what do age, marriage and families do to twins and their closeness? Nothing, says Shirley Potts. Because she and her brother, Shelby Calloway, were so close as youngsters, marriage did not sever their relationship. Even now, there is an attachment that extends to the physical side. "If one of us gets sick, the other one will in four or five days," says Mrs. Potts.

She recalls their relationship during earlier years. "I'll never forget Shelby when he decided to get married. He asked me, 'What do you think Mama will say if I get married?' And I said, 'What do I think Mama will say? What do you think I'll say?'"

This unmistakable bond between twins is surely a miraculous thing. The idea of always having a partner, a buddy, or at times an opponent, surely has its appeal. As Josh Pate summed it up, "Everybody ought to try it, at least once!"



Ronelle and Terrell Bowden are good buddies.



Independence comes with age, say the Pate twins, Josh and Jay.



Tom and Jim McFadyen admit switching identities, if necessary.



Age doesn't separate twins, says Shirley Potts, shown here with her twin Shelby Calloway.



"Do you think I look like her?" Lawanna Cooper seems to be asking, of the sister, Jawanna.