

Cooleemee Journal

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10 Cents

Clothing From Cooleemee Makes A Big Hit In Vietnam

Don Overcash Gets Plaque For Service

Remember last Christmas when you received a plea for clothes to be sent to Vietnam?

Maybe you don't realize it, but you came through in a big way: Thirteen boxes of clothes from Cooleemee were the first to arrive in the Cam Ranh Bay area.

The man behind this project was Spec/4 Donald R. Overcash, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Overcash of 50 Duke Street. Donald went to Vietnam last August, arriving on the seventh, as a welder in the 159th Transportation Battalion.

In his spare time, he began working with chaplains in the area and he soon learned that we needed to send clothes as well as guns to win the battle over Communism there.

He wrote each church in Cooleemee, explaining the problem and asking for you to help by sending clothes. Many pieces of clothing in the 13 baskets sent by the churches and the Davie Republican Women's Club were distributed in what was then Viet-Cong held territory.

Many of the little boys and girls were running around naked until Donald received your boxes. Under the chaplains' guidance, GIs, including Donald, distributed the clothes and chipped in money of their own to buy food and toys from Okinawa.

It was a big Christmas the Cam Ranh Bay area for the Vietnamese children — thanks to the folks in Cooleemee.



Don Overcash snaps a picture of Cooleemee clothing being distributed in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, Donald became so interested in the aid program that he was transferred from the transportation battalion to the chaplain's office as an assistant chaplain.

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— In Memory Of Miss Rosa Mae Tatum —

BY A FRIEND

"Hello, Miss Rosie," seemed to be uttered by two generations of children.

Of course, adults called her "Miss Rosa" and some parents even insisted on their children saying "Rosa," but it was "Rosie" spoken affectionately by the majority.

Walking with her by a group of boys eagerly engaged in a game, not one, but all called out "Hello, Miss Rosie," and back to the game. She had been their teacher in one, if not more of their primary grades. They respected her for she expected it of them.

Many a parent, have I heard say, "I'm glad my boy is in Miss Rosa's room for I know she will make him behave himself." A good disciplinarian, she was. Besides drilling the three R's, she also drilled honesty, fair play, and courtesy, and those who did get out of line did not escape punishment.

Miss Rosa Tatum's reparture from "her earthly abode"



— MISS ROSA TATUM

... 1886-1967 ...

was the last link the First Baptist Church had with its founders. She was the youngest of the six members of her family that made up half of the 12 charter members when the church was organized in 1901.

Two other members of the family, Mrs. Sadie Tatum Durham of Lumberton and Mrs. Pattie Tatum Moore of Washington, D. C., moved their membership upon leaving Cooleemee. The others are deceased.

Miss Rosa was in bad health when she went to live with her brother and because she felt she could not take an active

part in the First Baptist Church of Salisbury, she decided to leave her membership where it had been during her active years. She loved her church and taught in the Sunday School and was leader of the Sunbeams (a missionary organization for children) for many years.

Later she became president of the Woman's Missionary Society and led all the missionary organizations for fourteen years.

It was after many years of her leadership that her church, for the first and last time, received highest recognition in the state as being an A-1 W.M.U.

The Tatum family lived on Church Street in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Huske. Her father died in his early fifties. Her brothers and sisters made homes of their own as she was left to care for her mother who lived to a ripe old age.

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Don Overcash shows Editor Marlene Benson his notes back on Vietnam.