

Gift and Release Agreement:

We Dulcie Terrell Whitten and Jennifer L. Wilcox
(Interviewee, print) (Interviewer, print)

do hereby give and grant to Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at the home of Dulcie Whitten, 1900 Dee Hicks Rd., Altoona, AL 35952 on the date(s) of January 16, 1996 for the oral history collection being compiled by the Jacksonville State University Library.

Dulcie Terrell Whitten
(Interviewee's signature)

Address 1900 Dee Hicks Rd.
Altoona, AL 35952
Phone (205) 589-6429

Date January 16, 1996

Jennifer L. Wilcox
(Interviewer's signature)

Address 5315 West Fourth St.
Hokes Bluff, AL 35903
Phone 492-4778

Date January 16, 1996

Interviewee Background Information

Name: Dulcie Whitten

Address: 1900 Dee Hicks Rd. Altoona, AL 35952

Phone Number(s): 205-389-6429

Approximate age or date of birth: Senior Citizen

Mother's name: Add Griffin Terrell

Father's name: Malcom (Luther) Terrell

Places lived and when: Altoona, AL until married

when married - lived in Albertville, AL - Montgomery, AL 35410.

came back to Altoona in 1982 (was 1941) stayed permanently

Education: West End High School, Jacksonville State

University, Peabody College (studied Geography)

Religion: Baptist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present):

did missionary work and taught Sunday school at Capital Heights Baptist

in Montgomery, Study Club (book reviews), Homemakers Club,

Present occupation: taught history, geography, arts in Albertville grammar school

Former occupation(s): decorating in the church in Montgomery,

does weddings, (cakes & flowers), puts on tea parties and wedding showers

Special skills: sewing, flower arranging, painting pictures

Major Accomplishments: did Governor Wallace's wedding cake & made

Cumarindine (a medicine for burns now sold in pharmacies)

(her parents started this)

Local events in which you have participated: Governor Wallace's daughter's

wedding (fixed a cake for 6,000 people & served it)

State and/or regional events in which you have participated: her husband

was an auditor for the State of Alabama in Montgomery, displayed Cumarindine

at Auburn University at a convention. she also did a TV program on Cumarindine

National events in which you have participated: out of

International events in which you have participated: _____

Natural born U.S. citizen? (Yes)/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/(No) Date: _____

Country from which you emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in your possession:

pieces of crystal and china from Civil War, paintings that are

hand painted by Mrs. Whitten appraised in New York for \$2500-

\$3000.

Individuals you recommend who might be candidates for an oral

history interview: Mr. Avery Thrasher, Altoona, AL.

Additional information: belonged to Soroptmist Club (highly-

professional women: doctors, lawyers) - in her home, she

housed missionaries from various countries in Montgomery.

belonged to Inventors Organization

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Historical Chronology
- II. Personal Chronology
- III. Questions
- IV. Interviewee Information Sheet
- V. Tape Release Form
- VI. Tape Table of Contents
- VII. Paper
- VIII. Bibliography
- IX. Pictures
- X. Notes

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

- 1920- National League of Women Voters organized
- 1920- American Farm Bureau Federation organized
- 1920- Presidential election- Harding and Coolidge elected
- 1938- Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated President
- 1941- Roosevelt reelected President
- 1941- Selective Service Act
- 1941- Blacks fight in WWII
- 1955- Montgomery bus boycott catapults Martin Luther King Jr. into national prominence
- 1956- Autherine Juanita Lucy enrolls as first black student at The University of Alabama.
- 1957- Congress passed Civil Rights Act of 1957
- 1957- Martin Luther King Jr. forms Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
- 1961- Freedom Riders attacked in Alabama and Mississippi
- 1963- Martin Luther King Jr. writes "Letter from the Birmingham Jail"
- 1963- University of Alabama desegregated
- 1963- Kennedy assassinated
- 1965- Selma to Montgomery March accompanied by violence and murder of Viola Liuzzo and Reverend James J. Reeb
- 1966- Blacks register to vote in Birmingham, Alabama

PERSONAL CHRONOLOGY

1932- Married Olan Whitten

1940's-1950's- She started teaching History, Geography, and Art at Albertville Grammar School. She taught 4th grade. She taught there for 12 years.

1940's-50's- She continued making Cumarindine after her parents passed away.

1950's-60's- She housed missionaries from various countries when she lived in Montgomery.

1960's- She belonged to the Soroptimist Club, which is a group of professional women.

1960's- She displayed Cumarindine at Birmingham Civic Center with Inventors and Innovation Organization and won 2nd place. She won a television appearance on Cumarindine.

1960's- She took special lessons in art under an art professional in Montgomery, Alabama.

1960's- She first painted The Magnolia, which was appraised by a New York Fine Arts Company.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you tell me about your family and education background?
 2. Can you tell me about your missionary work in Montgomery?
 3. Can you tell me about the weddings you did and were involved in?
 4. Can you tell me about the Soroptimist Club and other organizations?
 5. Can you tell me about specific paintings?
 6. Can you tell me about life in Alabama?
 7. Can you tell me how the South managed during your lifetime?
 8. Can you tell me about politics in Alabama?
-

TAPE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction and Family
- II. Education
- III. Religion and Missionary Work
- IV. Weddings
- V. Clubs and Organizations
- VI. Paintings
- VII. Life in Alabama
- VIII. Southern Life
- IX. Politics in Alabama
- X. Conclusion

THE LIFE OF DULCIE WHITTEN

Mrs. Dulcie Whitten, who resides in Altoona, is a very interesting person whom I think has had a big impact on the people she has come in contact with in her lifetime. I feel that Dulcie is a person that everyone should get to know. The topics of the paper will be family and education background, missionary work in Montgomery, specific weddings, clubs and organizations, specific paintings, and life in Alabama and the South as it was during her lifetime.

In 1932, Dulcie married Olan Whitten. Olan wanted to marry her after three years of college. He sent a salesman to ask her parents if he could date her. At Christmas, Olan gave Dulcie a diamond necklace. Her daddy was very concerned and serious about things. She was a country-girl who liked to do woodwork. Her husband's grandfather loaned money to family and friends and was a wealthy man. His grandfather got Dulcie aside and coached her on money management and how to have something in life. He got an oil well in Oklahoma from purchasing a piece of land. He was a kind, understanding man. Olan's mother was stingy and didn't like to spend a lot of money. Olan liked to fish and play golf. Dulcie always handed her check to her husband to pay rent, etc. Dulcie made \$70 a month and her husband made \$125 a month and they were able to afford a home and a new car. She wasn't really crazy about money, but she had plenty of it. Her father was a progressive man. He cut timber to build the house she now lives in. He farmed and built a sawmill. He also built an icehouse which kept meat. There was no refrigeration during this time. Her father had the first T-model Ford in the community. Her father also bought a school bus and her brother drove it. The family had a dairy farm with ten jersey cows. The family furnished the community with milk and butter. Dulcie's father was very particular with her. Her father said, "Whatever you are or whatever you'll ever be you've got to make it yourself." Her husband was an accountant in Albertville before becoming an auditor for the state. Dulcie went to Etowah High School and then West

End High School. She went to college at Jacksonville State University, then on to Peabody College. She taught in Albertville City Schools for 12 years. She taught Primary Art one year at Snead College. She also worked in the Primary Department at First Baptist Church of Albertville. Olan and Dulcie sold their home and moved to Montgomery. They lived there for 35 years. Her husband got a job with the state as an auditor.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitten housed many missionaries in their home while they lived in Montgomery. They went to Capital Heights Baptist Church. She spent two years as the GA's Montgomery County GA Counselor. Her pastor asked her to teach a Sunday School class. She taught it for fifteen years.

Dulcie loves to fix pretty food. A lady from the University of North Carolina wanted Dulcie to make her wedding cake, a double wedding ring cake. The cake was put on 2x4's because it was so big. Dulcie also made the flower arrangements. She put on a fine gown and cut the cake. Dulcie then made a cake with lillies formed out of icing for a Jewish girl's wedding. Then Peggy Wallace wanted Dulcie to make the cakes for 6,000 people and serve it at her wedding. She designed roses and lily of the valley. Dulcie also decorated the reception. The governor sent Dulcie a nice check, but didn't ask her what she charged in the beginning. Peggy comes from an important family because her father was Governor George Wallace. She had a brother, George Wallace Jr. and two sisters, Bobbi Jo and Lee. The family was very religious. Dulcie also decorated and made the cakes for Jewish couples in Montgomery. Dulcie decorated and arranged many different types of weddings and really enjoyed doing them all.

Dulcie was a member of several clubs. The Soroptomist Club consisted of professional women such as doctors, lawyers, and merchants. Dulcie was involved in this club because of her art of decorating. She was also involved in the Progress Club. The club was a part of

various projects to help out and benefit the community. There were nice programs for the holidays. Dulcie organized the Christmas program. She prepares big tea parties at the Governor's mansion for special people coming in to town. Mrs. Whitten also escorts people to historical buildings throughout Montgomery. She says, "There's a lot of history in Montgomery."

The paintings in her home were painted by her. The Magnolia painting has been appraised for \$3000 by a New York Fine Arts Company. They wanted to hang it in the Art Gallery in Washington. Some of her other paintings will be valuable after she passes away. She says, "You have to be inspired when you paint a picture." She painted a wall in her home with carriages and horses in a typical Southern style. The home lives in now has been remodeled by Dulcie. She painted another wall to the back entrance. People from Birmingham want to write feature stories about the historical home Dulcie inherited from her parents. The Gadsden Times also wanted to write a feature story on her house, but Dulcie would not let them.

Olan and Dulcie moved to Altoona after her father and mother died. They attended Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Olan died February 28, 1989. Dulcie still resides in Altoona and remains a member of Mt. Olive church. Dulcie grows and arranges the flowers for the arrangement on Sunday's. She is the head of the WMU. She is very active with missions programs. She cares about missionaries and wants everyone at our church to know and learn about the work of a missionary. She organizes different missionaries to come and speak to our church. She is at every business meeting to try to help organize the different functions for each job held in the church. Dulcie enjoys going to church and wants everyone to be saved who can and will. She will go out of her way to help anyone who needs it.

Dulcie is now taking over a medical product called Cumarindine. This project was her father and mother's dream. Dulcie keeps the laboratory going. She gets orders from all over the United States and Canada. The product spread by word of mouth. A University of Alabama professor, Jack Montgomery, helped develop the product and help decide on a name for the product.

Life in Alabama has changed during her lifetime. They used to have watermelon cuttings and make homemade icecream. There would be cookouts. The family hunted and had a guest house for the men that hunted. Squirrel, hot bisquits and gravy were traditional foods when the family hunted. The family had money from growing wheat, cotton, soybeans, etc. Horse plows and tractors were used by Dulcie on the farm. Life was always busy.

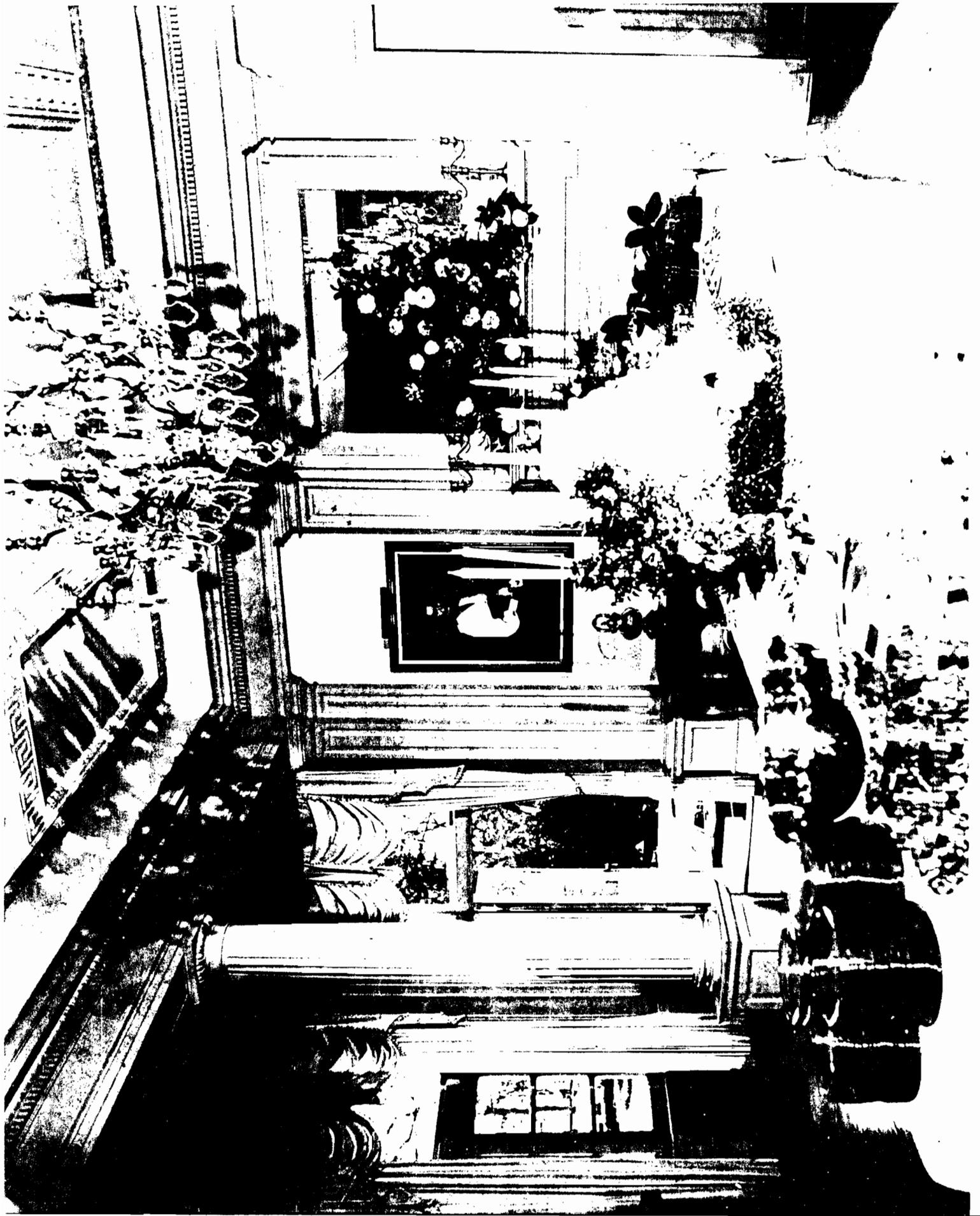
Politics was strong in Alabama. Governor Indsor was a friend of Dulcie's father. He made the family will. The will was very strong, but not one of the family members knew what they were going to get. A Senator from Etowah County, E.K. Hamby, was a special friend and a very fine man. Dulcie's father relied on his judgement. Dulcie tried to teach Alabama history to her children. Dulcie thought that the Indians were very important. "They had a hard way of life, but accepted it."

Mrs. Dulcie Whitten and her family are very special people and are very important to society. Dulcie is very creative and was very involved in the community and her church. She painted, fixed and prepared food for many weddings, a decorator, and a wonderful wife. Olan and Dulcie contributed a great deal to society and she is still continuing to do so.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Encyclopedia of African-American Civil Rights: from emancipation to the present/edited by Charles D. Lowery and John F. Marszalek; foreword by David J. Garrow.
2. A Chronology of African-American History by Alton Hornsby, Jr.
3. A Chronological Encyclopedia of American History by Irving Kull.
4. The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates by Gorton Carruth.
5. Paul Robertson Photography
P.O. Box 1423
847 So. Perry St.
Montgomery, AL 36102
6. The tape of Dulcie Whitten
7. The Wallaces of Alabama, My Family, by George Wallace, Jr. as told to James Gregory.













very important; they had a hard way of life, but accepted it.

Life in Al. cont.

The family had an electric stove, which was a luxury during that time. They built fire out of coal to heat water. They also had an electric refrigerator. Dulcie had a role model, which was Miss Winston Walker. Dulcie loved to hear a hand saw played with a bow.

Gov. Wallace
stuff

→ Peggy comes from an imp. family because her father ~~was~~ ^{was} Gov. George Wallace. She had a brother George Wallace Jr. and two sisters, Bobbi Jo and Lee. (Book) The family was very religious.

Dulcie was a member of several clubs. Sceptomist Club, women: doctors, lawyers, merchants. Dulcie was ^{invited} in it ^{because of her} art of decorating. A bunch of business women. Progress Club - various projects to help in the community. nice programs for the holidays. She ^{organized the} Christmas program. had big teas at op's mansion for special people coming to town. carry people to historical buildings in Mont. she says "There's a lot of history in Mont. TAPE"

^{Painted by her.} The paintings in her home were ~~had~~ been ~~one's~~ she's done.

The Magnolia ^{painting} appraised for \$3000 by the New York Fine Arts Company. wanted to hang it in Art Gallery in Washington. some of her other paintings will be valuable after she ^{passes away} ~~passes~~ later. she says, "You have to be insured when you

lives in now has been remodelled
by Dulcie. She ~~has~~ painted
wall to the back entrance.

People from B'Ham want to
write feature stories about
the historical home Dulcie
inherited from her parents.

The Gadsden Times also wanted
to write a feature story on
the house, but Dulcie would not ~~agree to~~ ^{let them}.

~~Dulcie and~~ ~~Clan &~~ Dulcie ^{after her father's mother died}
moved to Altoona and

attended Mt. Olive Baptist Church.
Clan died Feb. 28, 1989. Dulcie
still resides in Altoona and

① remains a member of Mt. Olive
Baptist Church. Dulcie is now
taking over a medical product
called Cumaridine. This
project was her father and
mother's dream. Dulcie ^{orders from all over U.S.}



~~The~~ family furnished the ^{community} ~~people~~ with milk and butter. They had a well. ~~Her~~ ^{Dulcie's} father was very particular with her. Her father said, "Whatever you are or whatever you'll ever be you've got to make it yourself." Her husband was an accountant in Albertville before becoming a ~~state~~ auditor for the state.

Dulcie went to Etawah High School and then West End High School.

She ~~then went to~~ ^{went to college at} ~~FSU, then on~~ to Peabody College. She taught ~~at~~ in the Albertville City Schools for 12 years.

Taught
Primary
and
1st
at
Peabody
College

She also worked in the Primary Department at First Baptist Church of Albertville. Olan + Dulcie ~~sold their home~~ moved to Mont. They lived there for 35 yrs. Her husband

~~didn't like teaching~~ got a job w/ the state as an auditor.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitter housed

Her pastor asked her to teach a
Sunday School Class. She taught it ^{for} 5
yrs.

She ^{Dulcie} loved to fix pretty food.

~~A~~ A ~~lady~~ lady from U. of N. Carolina
wanted Dulcie to make her
wedding cake, a double wedding
ring cake. She made Peggy
Wallace's wedding cake and
decorated the reception. @ The
cake was put on 2x4's because
it was so big. Dulcie also
made the flower arrangements.

She put on a fine gown and
cut the cake. Dulcie then made
a cake w/ lilies ^{made out of icing} on it for
another girl's wedding. Then

Peggy Wallace wanted Dulcie
to ~~to~~ make the cakes for 6,000
people and serve it ^{at her wedding.} She ~~made~~

designed dresses & ~~liby~~ liby of the rally.

Dulcie also decorated the
reception. The ceremony was

Peggy came

Paper had 4 brothers, only
girl in family

Mrs. Dulcie Whitten, who resides in Altoona, is a very interesting person whom I think has ^{had} a ~~big~~ big impact on the people she has come in contact with in her lifetime. I feel that Dulcie is a person that everyone should get to know. The topics of the paper will be family and education background, missionary work in Montgomery, specific weddings, clubs and organizations, specific paintings, and life in Alabama and the south as it was during her lifetime.

In 1922, Dulcie married Olan Whitten. Olan wanted to marry her after three years of college. He sent a salesman to ask her parents if he could date her. At Christmas, Olan gave Dulcie a diamond necklace. Her daddy was very concerned and nervous

got Dulcie aside and coached her ^{on} ~~management~~ ^{how} to manage her money and to have something in life. He got an oil well in Oklahoma from purchasing a piece of land. He was a kind, understanding man. Olan's mother was stingy and didn't spend a lot of money. Olan liked to fish and play golf. Dulcie always handed her check to her husband to pay rent, etc. Dulcie made \$70 a month and her husband made \$125 a month and still had a ^{new} home and new car. She wasn't really crazy about money, but she had plenty of it. Her father was a progressive man. He cut timber to build the house she now lives in. He farmed and built a sawmill. He also built an outhouse which kept meat.

There was no refrigeration during this time. Her father had the

~~mother & father built the house she
lives in now~~

~~father - a progressive ~~man~~,
he cut timber to build the
house she now lives in, farms,
built a grismill & a shingle mill
& saw mill. He built an icehouse
which kept meat - didn't have
refrigeration during this time.~~

~~He had the 1st T-model ford & a
saddle horse. Her mother had a~~

~~horse & buggy. Went to Etowah
high school & West End High School.~~

~~father bought a school bus &
her brother drove it. Had a~~

~~dairy farm w/ 10 Jersey cows.~~

~~furnished people w/ milk & butter.~~

~~Had a well & gasoline engine.~~

~~Went to TSU. father was very
particular w/ her. Her father said,~~

~~"whatever you are or whatever
you'll ever be you're got to
make it yourself." then "went~~

~~Albertville. Alan now decides to
go to Montgomery + work w/ the
state~~

1
Selling cumarine oil
over U.S. in
pharmaceuticals

taught Albertville City Schools for 12 years -

Just - lived in a duplex in Montgomery -
her husband got a job with the
state in Montgomery. Her husband's
grandfather loaned money and was well-
to-do. His grandfather got Mrs. Whitten
aside and coached her as to manage
her money & to have something in life.
He got an oil well in Oklahoma from
purchasing a piece of land. He was a
kind, understanding man. Olan's mother
was stingy and didn't spend a lot of
money. Olan liked to fish. Mrs. Whitten
liked to work with wood. She remodeled
a house to perfect condition. Mr. Whitten
had a farm in Montgomery. Money was
hard to get during that time. After school,
Mrs. Whitten would go and do woodwork
and remodeling. Made \$70 a month &
her husband \$125 a month. They had
a home & a new car. Mr. Whitten enjoyed
playing golf. Olan wanted to marry
Dulcie after three years of college. He
sent a salesman to ask her parents
if he could date her. She went to
First Baptist at Albertville. While they

~~check to her husband to pay rent, etc.~~

~~She wasn't really crazy about money,
but had plenty of it. Miss Winston Walker,
her cousin taught school with Dulcie.~~

~~Dulcie thought Walker was her role model.
At Christmas, Olan gave Dulcie a
diamond necklace. Her daddy was very
concerned and serious about things.~~

~~Croquet was played during her time.~~
✓ she stayed at Daughette Hall

~~She was a country girl~~

She stayed a week at Mentone with
the church group. A man would play
a hand saw with a saw. She had an opal
necklace designed by one of Mr. Whitten's
students. Olan did not like teaching, so
he left. Mr. ~~Whitten~~^{Young} designed the necklace
and watch. Olan was Mr. Young's role model.

Albertville was an aristocratic town during
her time. She worked in Primary Dept
at First Baptist Church. Olan took job with
State of Al. sold their home in Albertville
to move to Montgomery. There was nothing
to rent or nothing for sale. Lived in
Mont. for 35 yrs. Lived there for 7
years before they bought land, a
cabin. taught primary at - for