

GOVERNMENT

Inman was incorporated along school district lines on August 21, 1911.¹⁸ The first (and to the best of our knowledge, only) mayor was John Ambrose Burch. Ben Pierce, the blacksmith, was named marshall. There was a small "calaboose" made of 2 x 4's used to incarcerate those who were rowdy.

After the school district was consolidated with Fayetteville in 1921 and the school district repealed, the town technically remained incorporated but was inactive.

In 1971 it was noted that the county zoning laws applied only in the "unincorporated areas" of the county. Without an active government, all the land lots in Inman were without any zoning protection. On March 16 of that year a group of citizens held a meeting and discussed the advisability of either reactivating the government of the town or giving up the charter. It was decided to give up the charter and as a result a petition was circulated among the registered voters of the town requesting that the town's charter be revoked. Judge Andrew Whalen issued an order revoking the charter in April 1971.

UTILITIES

After telephones came to Fayetteville in 1905, there was a privately owned line built from Fayetteville to below Woolsey. There were at least eight parties on this line including John Nash, Mrs. Dora McLucas, Dr. E. B. Welden, Will Harp, W. N. T. Harp, John T. Burch, Dr. J. A. S. Chambers, and Wyatt Wesley. The phones hung on the wall and the person calling had to crank to get the operator in Fayetteville to connect them with the party they wanted.

Those who owned the line were responsible for its upkeep. Clint McLucas and Russ Harp were the main ones who did the work. It is said that during World War I an ice storm ~~came and~~ broke down the lines while the young men were off in the army. They were never rebuilt.

Inman was without telephone service for over thirty years. After Fayetteville went to the dial system, telephone service was extended to Inman in March of 1951, with most lines being either four-party or eight-party. The phone lines were on poles overhead.

A big ice storm struck in March of 1960 and broke down almost all telephone communication except for the telephone at Lamb's Store. Rather than try to repair the overhead lines which would be subject to the destructive forces of weather in the future, Southern Bell replaced them with underground cables.

People here now have single party lines and as modern telephone communication as anywhere else. With calls to Atlanta and surrounding area being on a local basis, Inman is part of the largest toll-free calling area in the world.

Artificial light in the homes was first provided by candles. When coal-oil (kerosene) lamps became available they were adopted by those who could afford them because they were better and were safer.

In the early 1900's, Dr. Welden and Dr. Chambers had their homes lighted with an acetylene gas system with the fuel provided by a white powder (stored in a little house in the back yard) which was mixed with a liquid. This was piped to light fixtures in the house.

Around 1918 a few homes in Inman, including the John Minters', "Miss Dora" McLucas', and the John T. Burch's, had home electric systems powered by Delco power plants. These had sixteen thirty-two volt batteries which were recharged by a gasoline engine. In addition to his own home, Mr. Minter provided power to light the Inman Methodist Church across the street from his house.

In the latter part of the 1930's, after establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration by the Roosevelt Administration, a few people became interested in getting electricity extended into the rural areas of Fayette County. Harry Harp was one who worked tirelessly going around the country getting farmers to join the Central Georgia Electric Membership Corporation out of Jackson. It was around 1940

when the houses ⁴⁷~~around~~ Inman got their first electricity from a central power station. A few years later local EMC members were transferred to Coweta-Fayette EMC out of Newnan and this remains the local source of power. From one bare bulb hanging from the ceiling in the middle of the room, customers have expanded their use of electricity to include myriad household and farm tasks.

SPECIAL EVENTS

During the year there would usually be one or two community barbecues. The men would stay up all night barbecuing the meat and making brunswick stew in wash pots. (Tradition says that on the following morning some people in town might miss some chickens that they had not intended to contribute to the festivities.) Friends and relatives from miles around would be invited to share the feast.

On occasion a fish fry would be held down by the Flint River. This was back in the days when the water was clean and one was not afraid to eat fish caught from the river. The men would catch and clean the fish and then fry them and hush puppies in large pots of hot lard.

During the summer after "laying by time" (when the farmers had cultivated their fields for the last time and the plants were large enough to outgrow the weeds), the church would hold protracted meeting. Usually a visiting preacher would come and he would probably be one who could get people emotionally aroused with "hell-fire and damnation" preaching. Many people were convinced to mend their ways during these sessions. The meetings would last one or two weeks with services both in the morning and evening.

During the time she was growing up, Nannie McLucas had the reputation of giving some of the best parties around. She had the knack of seeing that everybody had fun and they all liked to be invited.

She was engaged to Andrew Wesley from Woolsey but he died in the flu epidemic of 1918. She kept alive his memory until her death in 1963.

Annually in the summer time the Sunday School would charter a railroad car and the whole community would go to Grant Park on a picnic. Everyone would come home worn out and sun-burned but bubbling over about the fun they had had.

EVERYDAY CUSTOMS

In the early days it was customary to have the yards around houses bare since there was no way to mow grass. It was a ritual to sweep the yards at least weekly using a dogwood brush broom. Under most old houses, the dirt under the house is several inches higher than that in the surrounding yard where it had been swept away.

When push lawn mowers became available a few persons had small grass lawns. It was in the late 1940's and early 1950's that power mowers became common and they changed the complexion of the landscape. Neatly kept grassy lawns are now a very attractive feature around almost every home, no matter how modest.

Meticulous housekeepers would whitewash their fireplaces using white mud which was available in nearby streams.

In the early days toothbrushes were a luxury that many could not afford. They found that a small branch of a blackgum tree would serve the purpose very well.

Some people seemed to have special gifts. Mrs. Mabel W. Prayor was frequently sought out to talk the fire out of a burn or to cure the thrash in a child's mouth or to get rid of warts. She would never reveal how she was able to do this. More important than her talents along this line was the very positive influence she had on her church and her community by her good works.

During the time poultry farming was in its heyday, chicken feed was bagged in print sacks that were suitable for making dresses or window curtains or whatever. Some women made their spending money by washing, ironing, and selling feed sacks. Many a child went to school in feed sack dresses or shirts and the family slept on pillows with the cases made out of feed sacks.

RECREATION

Marbles were played not only by boys but by grown men. The champion was the hero of the day.

Candy pulling was popular at boy-girl parties. After the candy was cooked, the boys and girls would grease their hands and each take hold of an end of the candy and pull it, doubling it back and pulling again until it was a light golden strand. When it cooled, it would be hard and brittle and would be eaten.

Square dancing was a family affair with everyone in the community coming and no drinking allowed. Davis Turnipseed from Fayetteville is well remembered as one of the ^{CALLERS} ~~fiddlers~~.

Tennis was a popular sport. There was a good tennis court at Inman and the Harp family had one at Harps. These were attractive gathering spots for the young people.

Baseball was another favorite sport. Every community would have a team and rivalry would run high. The baseball prowess of the identical twins, Dan & Jeff McLucas, became legendary.

At night it was fun for a group to get together and play Rook, a card game. Some considered regular playing cards sinful but Rook cards were different.

There were usually plenty of fish in nearby streams and a lot of people enjoyed catching them. In the fall and winter men hunted doves, quail, and rabbits. A good bird dog or rabbit dog was a source of pride.