

# VISITING OUR PAST

Researched by Betty Smith

## TEN YEARS AGO

Sixty Three Year Old, R. E. Little, Jr. was hired by the Smyrna City Council as the new Police Chief. He had retired from the Atlanta Police Department as a Captain.

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Donna Miles replaced Geneva Wilbanks as director of the Smyrna Senior Citizens Center. Ms. Wilbanks was the original director.

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The first meeting of the newly organized American Association of Retired Persons(AARP) was held in the Community Room of the Fire Station on June 28, 1976.

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Two marble monuments and a lecturn were dedicated in Smyrna's Centennial Park in July, 1976. A project of the Smyrna Bicentennial Committee, the monuments contained the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. The lecturn carries the Smyrna Declaration of Independence.

A Time Capsule containing contemporary photographs and documents to be opened in 50 years was prepared for burial at the same time. Photographs of the ceremonies were included in the capsule.

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

The first service of what eventually became St. Thomas Catholic Church was held on Sunday June 5, at Wills High School. Father Morrow was the Parish Priest.

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Calvary Children's Home opened in Smyrna under the sponsorship of Calvary Baptist Church. The Pastor at the time was Rev. Ben Turner.

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June 23, 1966 ground was broken for the new sanctuary of the Smyrna First Methodist Church on Love Street.

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Sanders-Castellaw Funeral Home announced plans for a new building to be located at 501 Church Street, Smyrna.

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The Youth of Smyrna's First Baptist Church presented a "Youth, God, Country program in the church parking lot for the July 4th, Independence Day celebration. The Mayor and City Councilmen, County Commissioners, State Legislators, and many other invited guests as well as several hundred church members and other Smyrna citizens attended. The program included patriotic and sacred music by the Church Youth Choir under direction of Philip Johnson.

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July 7, 1966 Bill Atkins was appointed to the Board of Jury Commissioners for Cobb County.

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July 21, 1966, seventeen persons were injured and \$100,000.00 in damage was done to buildings and signs in town when a violent windstorm, with speeds to 70 miles per hour hit. Windows were shattered in the Big Apple Store at Jones Shaw and South Cobb. A Texaco service station sign across the street was damaged, as was the north end of the King-Williams Building.

NO SWIMMING signs posted on Nickajack Creek at the covered bridge because of polluted water.

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

June, 1956, Hubert Colquitt opened Colquitts, Toys, Gifts & Books Store at Belmont Hills Shopping Center.

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The wife of Georgia's former Governor and United States Senator, Betty Talmadge had a special day in Smyrna when residents of the area were invited to the Belmont Hills shopping center for "Meet Betty Talmadge Day", who at the time was peddling hams.

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Cub Scout Den 7 of Pack 156 visited a "real live" bomb shelter at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Thoroman on Nickajack Creek near the covered bridge.

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Marshall Tanner was appointed Acting Police Chief of Smyrna by Mayor Jimmy Quarles when a squabble between Chief Paul Epps and Councilman Max Scarborough could not be resolved.

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W. M. McDuff was named President of the Belmont Hills Merchants Association.

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In July, 1956, at the direction of new acting police chief Marshall Tanner, Smyrna residents and others driving through the city were likely to be ticketed for "doing good." Commendation tickets were printed for distribution to motorists who performed an act of courtesy.

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Engineers were hired for construction of Smyrna's new water tank.

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July: Five year old Mary June Durham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wylie Durham of Fleming Street, was named Little Miss Belmont Hills of 1956.

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Smyrna Postmaster Zelan Wills announced that the Vinings Postal Station, a branch of the Smyrna Post Office, was moving to a new location in the Vinings Community Building. Eleanor White was clerk in charge.

## FORTY YEARS AGO

Principal U. S. Worley, of Smyrna Elementary announced that the school was getting a steam heating plant. Smyrna Plumber Ernest Brannon was to do the installation.

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June, 1946, Smyrna residents voted 242 to 45 for bonds for better roads.

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Ad for Alexander Machine Company, 112 S. Atlanta Street, Telephone number 117, in Cobb County Times:

REBUILDING FARM EQUIPMENT  
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT REPAIRS  
GENERAL MACHINE SHOP WORK  
TOOL AND DIE WORK

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July, 1946: Two members of the Smyrna School Board were up for re-election: M. L. Ruff and Board Chairman Jake W. Nash. Other members of the board were E. C. Bramlett, J. T. Garner, and Ray Fulton.

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July, 1946, the Rev. Charles W. Drake accepted a call as pastor of Smyrna's First Baptist Church.