

*From a memorial edition of the Monroeville newspaper from the late 1960s or early 1970s, transcribed and provided by Woody Murphy, 6 Feb 2006.*

## Mr., Mrs. Frank Vickery Moved To Excel From Butler County

Along with the Dock Murphy family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vickery moved from Butler County to Monroe County and settled in the Excel community in 1909. They followed the migration of the A. G. Murphy family, the father of Mrs. Vickery, to the Excel community in 1905.

Mr. Frank and Miss Minnie cleared land and built a home about one mile east of the community and lived there for several years. Mr. Frank, in addition to the farm, worked with the Riley Kelly Company for several years and in about 1940 went into business for himself as a general merchant at Excel.

Mrs. Vickery still lives where she has lived since 1922 and still enjoys the visits of relatives and friends. They both have been lifetime members of the Baptist Church at Excel. Their children are: Randolph H. Vickery of Monroeville, Clara Williamson of Atlanta, Mrs. H. O. Dulaney of Monroeville, Woodrow W. Vickery of Dallas, Tex., and Charles B. Vickery of Mobile. Mrs. Vickery still recounts the memories of the past, including the years she spent in her childhood home in Butler County. Since they were early pioneers in the Excel community and they have been through some periods of depression and prosperity, Mrs. Vickery is always an ardent believer in education, having encouraged many students to remain in school. Her father, Chuck Murphy, was a firm believer in a good education and was one of the moving forces in securing a high school at Excel and at Frisco City. He was also a charter member of the First National Bank of Monroeville.

Their son, Randolph H. Vickery, was appointed superintendent of schools in Monroe County in 1960 to succeed H. G. Greer, who retired at that time.



**EXCEL COUPLE** — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vickery, shown here, came to the Excel Community from Butler County in 1909. They followed the migration of the A. G. Murphy family, the parents of Mrs. Vickery. Mrs. Vickery continues to reside in the old home following the death of her husband.

## **Superintendent**

Randolph Vickery graduated from the Excel High School and the University of Alabama and holds a superintendent's certificate from the State of Alabama. He has served as teacher and coach at the Excel and Frisco City schools for 14 years before accepting a position as principal at the Monroeville Elementary School. After 13 years as principal of the Monroe County High School and Monroeville Elementary Schools, he became assistant superintendent of the Monroe County Schools.

The superintendent has had a diversity of school experiences during his 43 years of service. . . as a teacher; coach of football, basketball, baseball and track; principal of elementary school; transportation supervisor; principal of combined elementary and high school; and assistant superintendent.

During the period of 1960-67, great progress has been made in the schools of Monroe County, especially in the fields of facilities and equipment. Seventy classrooms, three cafeterias, six auditorium-gymnasiums, two music rooms, eight science laboratories, and one library have been constructed. During this period of time also, every school in the county has been equipped with restroom facilities and needed office space. All coal-burning heaters have been removed from schools and, where practical, natural gas has been utilized for heating. In addition to the above facilities, the schools are now better equipped in the matter of school furniture and other equipment needed for a better educational program. Great effort has been made to improve the teaching, staff and methods of instruction and, as a result of this and other factors, more students are remaining in school until they graduate. Monroe County has one of the best school transportation systems in the state, and each year improvements are being made. Vocational training is becoming a major part of each school system and Monroe County has made progress; however, there is a need for expansion of this program. Recently two new courses have been added in the field of brick masonry and industrial sewing. Every effort is being made to also include in the course of study those courses that will challenge the pupils with high I. Q. and give them an opportunity for working in more than the basic subjects. As more funds are made available, this program will be expanded.

Mr. Vickery is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, Alabama Association of School Administrators, National Education Association, Alabama Education Association, and Monroe County Teachers Association. He is past-president of District 1, Alabama Education Association and has served on state committees of the Alabama Education Association for Financing Schools. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Monroeville, having served as teacher of his Bible class for 8 years. A deacon in the Baptist church, Mr. Vickery is married to the former Velma Rollen of Frisco City and they have a daughter, Mrs. Felix Bigby, Jr., who lives in Fairhope with her husband and daughter, Melissa. They also have a son, Jimmy, who lives in Gainesville, Fla., with his wife, Mary Martha, and son, Stephen.

Mr. Vickery worked many years with Crippled Children Service and Cancer Crusade.