

#104

NCC June 3, 2004



ALMA TURNER SEVIER

From turn of the century way of life, and Christian parents, Alma Turner Sevier came into this world in Booneville, Missouri on February 27, 1906. Mrs. Sevier's family moved to Houston County, Georgia in 1911 where her father, Papa Turner, started a Lumber-mill. At age 5, Mrs. Sevier worked at her first job, doodling sawdust. Later the family and the Sawmill moved to Crockett.

Mrs. Sevier joined the First Baptist Church when she was a sixth-grader and has remained an unwavering Baptist. Mrs. Sevier believed she had a guardian angel, Florence, who was always a protective presence for her. As a child, Mrs. Sevier loved to draw and knew early on that she would be an artist. Mrs. Sevier's winning portrait of Alamo survivor, Susanna Dickson, is still on exhibit in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Museum in Austin. As a junior in college, she won an art scholarship for most outstanding art student and received her Bachelor of Design degree in 1929 from Mary Hardin Baylor. Mrs. Sevier taught art until 1932 when she married James H. Sevier, and they moved back to Crockett.

In 1936 Mrs. Sevier became partner with her father in W.R. Turner Lumber and Construction Company. Papa Turner was her mentor and was the one whom she said she learned more from than anyone in school. His philosophy on beginning a project was to always fulfill your obligations but give more than expected. This was the basic foundation on which she lived her life.

In the forties, she was the only woman to attend the Texas State Lumberman's convention. As her reputation spread, she was chosen architect and designer for many projects throughout the country. Mrs. Sevier was the architect for Crockett's First Baptist Church that was built by her father. Mrs. Sevier's fresco of the Jordan River is in the baptistry of the church. The por-

her work. The paintings which she did of roses, irises and birds pay tribute to the Creator. Everything Mrs. Sevier touched in her life, she made more beautiful, and her work is a treasure.

Mrs. Sevier designed the Piggly Wiggly supermarkets and shopping centers for Child's Foods Stores in Texas and Louisiana. Mrs. Sevier was chosen as the state approved designer for the Downes Aldrich House, in her eighties could be seen on the two-story roof inspecting it to make sure the job was going well. A perfectionist for design and beauty, she could intimidate carpenters with her knowledge of construction but was extremely charming and always a lady. Although small in stature, she was big in heart.

Mrs. Sevier was an her

Sevity would remember how she was born before the invention of the automobile and airplane, and she marveled at space travel. In her eighties she loved to square dance, and even into her nineties, she loved to help campaign for her nephew, Congressman Jim Turner. Her love of animals was passionate; she was gentle and a Godly woman. Mrs. Sevier loved the woods and pine trees that surrounded the home she designed and built. Her favorite color was purple, and people affectionately called her "Plum." Mrs. Sevier worked and created beauty into it mid-nineties and leaves it a world a better and more beautiful place. Mrs. Sevier's tale of hard work and Godliness touched so many. Mrs. Sevier left behind a loyal and loving family, many friends, admirers, customers who will miss that bright shining light that glowed from her and that smile and sense of humor which were so loved. Mrs. Sevier indeed a treasure.

Survivors include daughter Sandra Sevier B and her husband Dr. Vince C. Bash, of Cashier, NC; grandchildren Gregory Rau of Niantic, CT, Sondra Dabe of Scottsdale, AZ, John Coleman, of Austin, Christopher S. Coleman and his wife Nancy, one great-great-granddaughter Hannah Louise Coleman, of Gainesville, FL., one sister Corine Collias, of Crockett; one brother William A. Turner and his wife Beatrice, of Crockett; aces Frances Baker, of Crockett, Carolyn Surles, of Abingdon, VA., Carrie Ballard, of Houston; nephews Congressman Jim Turner, of Crockett, Rufus Lee Turner, of Clatsmont, CA.

Preceded in death by her husband Lt. Col. James H. Sevier, pastor William R.

Turner and Fannie Saun Turner; daughter Louise Se Lack; brother Rufus L. T. Sr.; and sister Carrie Tur Lively. A loving tribute and celebration of Mrs. Alma Turner Sevier's life were held at First Baptist Church of Crockett on May 31, at 10:00 Intorment followed in the ergreen Memorial Park.

Mrs. Sevier was a great lover of animals and would be pleased for any desired materials to be made to Dr. Geo Beeler's City of Crockett Animal Shelter. Your donations may be sent to Crockett S Bank, P.O. Box 2992, Crockett, TX. 75835. Attend Nicki Goldman.

Callaway-Alton Dan