

Fifty-nine Years

County Attorney J. N. Story has returned from a trip to his boyhood home near Colfax and Alexandria, La., his first time to visit the old home since he left it fifty nine years ago. He visited the old home place and slept in the house of his boyhood days, and found much pleasure in meeting and talking with children and grandchildren of people of other years.

There are only five persons living who were living there when he left, and he was fortunate in being able to find each of them and to talk with them. That section has undergone a great many changes. It was formerly slave plantations growing cotton in large quantities. Practically no cotton is grown there now. What were formerly large rich fields are now grown up with pine, elm and red oak thickets. Some corn is grown in small patches. The people make their living selling the pine timber and by working for wages at the saw mills and on the tram ways. Although agriculture has declined, the people are prosperous and have their share of automobiles and good roads. The cattle business is good. The country church still thrives in that section.

Mr. Story says that the people still maintain the old custom (called French) of keeping the coffee pot on the stove all day long and whenever a guest comes in, the visitor is soon served with a cup of hot coffee, cream and sugar. He says that he almost got his "fill" of real coffee. The people in that section are not French, but he visited a county seat town near by where not a county officer could answer a simple question in English. When they were spoken to, they would shrug their shoulders and say: "Can no speak English." Mr. Story said he thought he would play safe and asked a Negro where the county attorney was, and the reply was in French, motioning to a shoemaker who seemed to be the interpreter for the town. There is an absence of Negroes, in fact there is only one family living in the small town, where, years ago, there were many.

The 80-year old house which was Mr. Story's home is still in good condition, having been built of logs, plastered on the inside and weatherboarded on the outside. Where stables, lots and outhouses formerly stood, there is today thick underbrush and pine trees 50-ft. high. No wire is used for fences, only boards are used. The place was patented to Mr. Story's people from President Tyler.