

## 1882 - 1982 SENATH CENTENNIAL



May day visitors of Mrs. Asenath Douglass at her home north of Senath near the cemetery were (l to r) Alberta Thompson, Bertha Ruth Reaves, Mrs. Douglass, Gordon Lee Hutchins, Ruby Summers. In the swing is the Baptist Church minister, Rev. Latimer.

In 1880, Elizabeth Mott Douglass wanted to build a house on Horse Island at about the block where the Senath City Hall now stands. She bought a house in Kennett, numbered the boards, had the house torn down and rebuilt it in Senath. (The house burned in 1949).

A small, round-faced smiling girl from Tennessee married Allen W. Douglass in 1875 and came to Horse Island. Her name was Asenath. (Bible concordance will give a reference to "Asenath" in Genesis.) A. W. built a large house near the present cemetery, east of the Bethel Church. One of the better roads from Cotton Plant accommodated the mail delivery from Malden and Asenath distributed it. Her husband built a small box with pigeon holes and hung it in the front gallery. This was Senath's first post office.

When Asenath Douglass came to Horse Island, there were 60 voters in Salem Township.

Grist mills, cotton gins, stave mills, and of course farms, were thriving before 1900. The gins were run by hand and rope.

One hundred years ago in 1882, A. W. Douglass and a brother-in-law, A. W. Satterfield built in the middle of the road, a two story building, now housing Booker's Grocery. The bricks for the structure were made and baked in a kiln north of the store, near the library building site. A. W. moved the post office into this building. When it became necessary to name the post office, they called it SENATH. There is no other town having that name. Asenath raised seven children and lived until 1940 - a much-loved, smiling gentlewoman.