

# Citizen of the Month

## Margaret Virginia Taylor Jackson

By Bobbie Sue Shelton



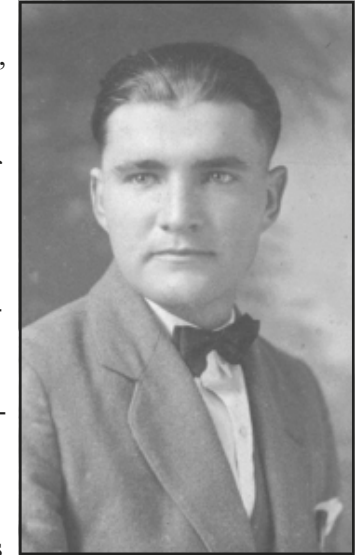
Margaret Virginia Taylor, daughter of William Cullen and Emma Denton Epperson Taylor grew up in the Rover area of Bedford County. She had four siblings; Emmett who married Mary Pearl Lorange; Ralph never married; Ruby married Charles Rust and Dorothy married 1<sup>st</sup> Clarence Wheeler and 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Waymaker. William Cullen, Virginia's father, served many years as justice of the peace and other public offices in Bedford County.

Virginia was attending the Rover School when it burned in 1924. After the fire, students attended classes in the area churches until a new elementary school could be built. She finished her 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the Rover Baptist Church and started high school at Eagleville as a freshman in 1925. She stayed with an aunt and uncle who lived in Eagleville until a school bus route was started through Bunker Hill. At this time, she moved back home and rode the bus to school. Her first school bus driver was Mr. Hezzie Bennett, and later Mr. Ralston. The Eagleville School had also experienced a fire, and the new school was only a year old when Virginia started attending there. The principal was Mr. C. M. Pickler and assistant principal, Mr. H. B. Smith. There were nine teachers including the principals and music teacher, Miss Ethel Elmore. Virginia graduated in 1929 in a class of eighteen and is the only living member of her graduating class. During her senior year she participated in The Franklin Literary Society, class basketball and was a part time librarian. After graduation she and a cousin attended college in Murfreesboro, boarding off campus with a family. After two years of college education, she taught in Bedford County for seven years. During this time she taught at several different schools, which includ-

ed teaching all grades in one-room school buildings. Because of lack of transportation to school each day, she boarded with families that lived near the school where she taught.

In July 1937 she married Evin B. Jackson son of John and Eleanor (Ella) G. Wood Jackson and lived near North Fork in Bedford County. In November 1944 Evin died suddenly. They didn't have any children so Virginia moved back home with her parents and sold the farm. Soon after moving in with her parents, Mr. Wheeler principal at Eagleville asked her to fill in for a teacher, starting after Christmas. She accepted and taught the 8<sup>th</sup> grade until the end of school. She returned the next year as a regular teacher and taught the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grades for the next 11 years. Due to the number of students, grades were often split with 2 different grades in the same classroom. In 1956 Virginia felt she was needed at home and quit teaching at Eagleville. For the next two years, she often substituted for other teachers and taught homebound students who couldn't attend school because of illness.

After the death of her parents, Virginia continued living at the home place in Rover with her brother Ralph until his death in 1997. Virginia who is an active member of the Enon Primitive Baptist Church will celebrate her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006.



Evin B. Jackson (Virginia's husband)



Virginia at her 90th Birthday



1929 Graduation