When I considered writing about the Great Coushatta Fire, I looked around to those of still living here, who remembered it, so as to assemble all the facts I could, but fifty five years was a long time and I was like a memory and it is small wonder that all of us were a little hazy on some of the facts. Fortunately I was able to secure from the Shreveport Times their account of the fire as published by that paper on the next day, together with their permission to publish it along with this article, which throws a great deal more light on the subject. At any rate it is certain that the fire occurred on Tuesday afternoon, the 28th day of June 1918 and it is equally certain that it was the worst storm ever to visit our fair city.

At the time of the fire I was working as Stillman at Red River Refining Company at Coushatta, La., and when I heard late in the afternoon that the town had burned, I persuaded the engineer of a freight train that had stopped at the station, on my account to pick up cars, to let me ride the ten miles to Coushatta. When I got home, there was a pall of smoke everywhere and everybody was so excited and exhausted, that I had trouble finding out what had happened. Of course it was a great relief to me to see my mothers home still standing and to find that the fire had been confined to Old Town.

As the story unfolded, I found that a trash collector, working for the Town, whose name was Jonas "Bib" Myers was burning trash under the river bank, just below Lisso's warehouse, there was a dead chins tree standing next to the warehouse, where some dead leaves had lodged in one of the forks, and some of the burning paper was blown by the strong southern wind into the leaves which were burning. Nearby Lissso's store saw the burning leaves in the tree, but it was too late and unable to extinguish the fire, and soon Lisso's warehouse was on fire. It was very dry and there was a strong southerly wind blowing so that the building as Lisso's warehouse, located on the extreme southern edge of the town, on fire, the conditions were ideal for a Great Fire and a Great Fire was really had. Next came Lisso's store and John Brownes store, and then it jumped across the street to Mrs. Jane Paxton's home, then the Fannie Wolfson Millinery shop, occupied by Mrs. Wym, then Mrs. Lois Merrells home, then the Coushatta Citizen and the J.P. Clark home and the W.P. Carter home all on the east side of Abney Street and Front Street, the stores of Redner Merrell and S.T. Armistead were destroyed, as also were the Coushatta Drug store and Jackson's Drug store shop and then Mrs. Wym's store, and then Linna's store of Redner Merrell destroyed the three story Drug store of Dr. Edgerton, the J.J. Clarkson home, a residence of J.T.S. Thomas. Miss Parker est.

$130,000 of property was destroyed. Miss Parker was one of the four who gave her name to this fire. Perhaps the only good that may have come from this fire, is that it hastened the day, when most of the businesses from old town were rebuilt over on the railroad and brought the town together again. It is interesting to note that some of the boys that were serving in the army in World War One, were home on furlough, at the time of the fire, and were of great service in our hour of tragic need.

But we can find solace from our tragedies, and this was a tragic thing, although no lives were lost, by the passage of time that great healer, and by the next day the fire had burned itself out of many buildings only to leave a trash blaze in the warehouse of Lissa and Brown.

Miss Parker was one of the four who gave her name to this fire. Three large buildings burned in all and perhaps a hundred smaller houses. Frequently three or four huge frame buildings would be burning at the same time. The people worked until they were exhausted. The bucket brigade worked all day and night at this fire. Furniture and goods were hauled out of many buildings only to see much of it destroyed by the overhanging fire. Twenty-three houses were destroyed, as also were the Coushatta Drug store of Dr. Edgerton, the J.J. Clarkson home, a residence of J.T.S. Thomas. Miss Parker was one of the four who gave her name to this fire. Perhaps the only good that may have come from this fire, is that it hastened the day, when most of the businesses from old town were rebuilt over on the railroad and brought the town together again. It is interesting to note that some of the boys that were serving in the army in World War One, were home on furlough, at the time of the fire, and were of great service in our hour of tragic need.

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