

# Sarepta Celebrates 50th Homecoming

October 2008

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By LEE YANCY

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Founded in 1958 and first observed on October 5 of that year, the annual observance held on the first Sunday in October features, tributes, singing, speakers and a dinner on the grounds.

Martha Dickson, longtime organizer of the event, said, "Many people have told me that this was the best Homecoming they've ever attended," adding that she was especially pleased to see so many people visiting the historic cemetery afterwards.

This year's ceremony was kicked off by Atty. Bob Cooper, who acted as master of ceremonies. Music was provided and led by Cleo Hoing, Betty Lou Jeffreys and Brenda Winter. The devotional was conducted by Rev. Billy Q. McCord, pastor of Shady Grove UMC.

Also on the program were Sandra Wright, who delivered the Welcome, and Melba Yancy, who conducted the Memory Time, a listing and reminiscence of friends and relatives who had died within the past year.

This was followed by a loving tribute to Sarah Catherine Emma "Cattie" Leachman, given by her granddaughter Carolyn Hallman. This year's speaker was Jimmy "Smokey" Barefield, who delivered a spirited and emotional reminiscence of Sarepta in its heyday as a thriving township and its subsequent decline.

The Cemetery Report, an accounting of the finances and activities of the Sarepta Cemetery Association, was given by Margie Grist. Larry Hellums, vice president of the Calhoun County Historical and Genealogical Society, conducted a presentation on "Sarepta's Teachers" at the school there, which was active from 1904 until 1957.

During the Reminiscence Time, Dickson read a profile written by her late cousin Thomas W. Yancy about their aunt Jettie Yancy Cain. This was followed by a closing prayer by Rev. McCord and dinner on the grounds.

# Sarepta Homecoming

2014



More than 80 people met Sunday for the 56th Annual Sarepta Homecoming where they were regaled by guest speaker Judge Fred Wicker of Pontotoc. The group spent a day of reminiscing and shared a meal. Brenda Yancy Winter, in the background, has attended all 56 Homecomings