

D. A. Mefford Observes 80th Birthday Sunday

David Alonzo Mefford, dean of Robinson business men, known to friends and associates as "D. A." celebrated his eightieth birthday Sunday, Feb. 26. On the 26th day of May, 1939, he will have been engaged in the drug business in Robinson 63 years.

Mr. Mefford came to Robinson from Georgetown, Ky., when 17 years of age and the next day went to work in the drug store then operated by his brother, Dr. W. T. Mefford on the location now occupied by Midgett's.

The Mefford Drug Store was operated at different locations on the square until 47 years ago, 1892, when it opened in its present location.

Memories of early school days are closely associated with Mefford's Drug Store to many men and women of Robinson and vicinity for it was from Mr. Mefford that the first slate, sponge and reader were purchased.

OBSERVES SIXTY YEARS IN DRUG BUSINESS HERE

D. A. Mefford Oldest Citizen Still Active In Business In Robinson

D. A. Mefford, the patriarch of business men of Robinson, celebrated his sixteth anniversary as a druggist in this community on Tuesday of this week. Not old in years, as age in this day of longevity is considered, being but seventy-seven years of age, yet Mr. Mefford is the only man in business today in Roberson, who was a merchant at the time of his arrival in Crawford County.

Mr. Mefford is a native of Georgetown, Kentucky, where he enjoyed the privileges of such education as were afforded in the common schools of that state. No high school being available in his vicinity, he went to Lexington, Kentucky where he took a "Commercial Course," which at that time was considered equivalent to a high school course, but which would not be comparable to the advantages of the present day schools.

In March 1876, W. T. Mefford, a brother of D. A. Mefford, and who was a practicing physician in Roberson, moved into this community a stock of drugs, having rented the room now occupied as a drug store by A. T. Midgett on the south side of the square. As soon as D. A. Mefford had completed his commercial course at Lexington, he was sent for, arriving in Roberson on the evening of May 26th, and immediately assumed charge of the store, although he was but seventeen years of age.

The pharmacy laws which are now in force throughout the United States, were not at that time even considered necessary, practical experience being all that was required. However, the two Meffords employed a "practical" druggist, Ed Kilner, of Sullivan, Illinois, a son of a practicing physician, and who had had a couple years experience in a drug store, and with the advice of Dr. W. T. Mefford, the two young men proceeded to

During the many early years of Mr. Mefford's experience as a druggist, he had no help from the pharmaceutical houses in the preparation of medicines. All pills, tinctures, etc., were compounded in the individual drug stores, and it was not until after the turn of the present century that patent medicines made their appearance in any appreciable quantities.

The Mefford Drug Store continued in operation where it was first started for two years, at which time it was sold to Ruddell Bros. D. A. Mefford then worked as a clerk in the Grube Drug Store, in the location now occupied by the Oakley Store on the south side of the square. He remained with Mr. Grube for eleven years, and in 1889 started another store of his own in the room which is now the north side of the Hollywood Shop. In 1892 he moved his store to its present location, and for the past 44 years has continuously operated there.

In a talk with Mr. Mefford Tuesday morning, he told a representative of this paper some of his early experiences in Roberson. Among the things which stands out vividly in his memory is the occasion of the only lynching which ever took place in this county. He had been here but two weeks when that evening Hick Henderson, who was then sheriff, came into his store with his face bleeding, and asked for the doctor. Mr. Mefford, then only a young boy, was considerably upset over the hanging which followed the assault on the officer, and wondered if this was the proper kind of community to stay in if the residents were so violent. He had heard of shootings in his native state, but the deliberate lynching of a man was something which he could not comprehend. However, he was soon to learn that this was a friendly town and the citizens a law abiding people, and he expressed himself Tuesday morning that it was doubtful if a man could have located in a community which had offered better opportunities in a business sense, and at the same time offered such opportunities where friends could be made so easily and of such a lasting nature. He said that looking back over the sixty years the time seemed very short taking into consideration the pleasures in his association with the people of Crawford County.