

Edmund Hays was born in Alco, Louisiana in 1928, where his father ran the Alco commissary. After Alco was shut down, the family moved to Long Leaf where again, his father ran the commissary.

When in June of 1954, the rumors began to circulate that the end of rail logging, the mill and the town was imminent Edmund took his wife Velma and escorted either by family members or Crowell employees, they ventured into the woods southeast of Meridian (northeast of Turkey Creek) to watch the loggers at work.

Either Edmund or one of their escorts shot 9 color photos that afternoon and either Velma or their escort shot one additional black and white photo. If Edmund is in the photos, as it appears, then who ever escorted them to the woods shot the photos, and any help in identifying the photographer would be most welcome.

Edmund donated the originals of these photos to the museum in 1995.

Lets go along and see some of the last photos ever taken of the Crowell logging operations by rail.