

The Clarksdale-Coahoma County Sports Hall of Fame is
dedicated and done in Honor of

Mr. Aubrey Dale Rozzell



Aubrey Rozzell was born on Wednesday, November 02, 1932. He is a product of Rena Lara, MS and a famous professional NFL player.

Mr. Rozzell is a retired gentleman, a share cropper's son who grew up in rural Mississippi and used his strengths, skills and ability to escape from a life of poverty and achieve remarkable success in his life. His family had been doing very well before the Great Depression came along and wiped them out, leaving them left with hardly anything and struggling to survive on the Back Forty planting cotton and living in a rustic shotgun cabin, one long, dark, gloomy, wooden structure with doors at both ends that when the doors were open one might shoot a shotgun from end to end.



After going to college on a football scholarship and doing a short stint in the NFL playing for the Pittsburgh Steelers, he coached high school in Pascagoula. A chance meeting with the Governor of Mississippi led to a position as Director of the State Parks, heading it up and providing leadership to promote and develop the state parks. His efforts and leadership were also instrumental in cleaning up the Chickasawhay River, which, "had been destroyed by white man." Aubrey enjoys speaking about his life experiences to church groups and anyone who will lend an ear, especially students, or other "trapped" audiences.

There is a sparkle in Rozzell's eyes and sincerity in his voice, for the stories he tells are from the heart and soul of a man who realized at an early age that one is not limited by what others say they can't do, but is made by their dreams, their determination, their will to reach for the stars and succeed.



Everyone of Rozzell's tales brightened my heart and reminded me of how important it is to be aware of God's presence in all things, that He really does work in a mysterious way. When as a young lad he was told by his father, in an alcoholic rage, that he would never amount to anything playing ball, Rozzell resolved to prove his father wrong, excelling in sports through high school and getting a scholarship to play football at Delta State College in Cleveland, Mississippi. He was



signed with the Chicago Bears in 1957, then traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers, suffering an injury in an exhibition game at Pittsburg in 1958. After returning to the Chicago Bears he was sent to the Montreal Alouettes and suffered a back injury in the last game of the season which cut his professional football career short.

Then he did some coaching at Holmes Jr. Collage, Delta State and Pascagoula High School prior to serving with the Mississippi State Parks Service under four governors -- an unusual circumstance and acknowledgement of the value of his public service to the state and leadership abilities, as usually when a governor leaves office and a new one comes in, they fire everyone and hire all new people. But Rozzell was so good at what he did, every governor recognized they would be fools to fire him!

Today Rozzell enjoys the blessings of a good home life in Quitman, Mississippi, with his loving wife, Denece Rozzell.

