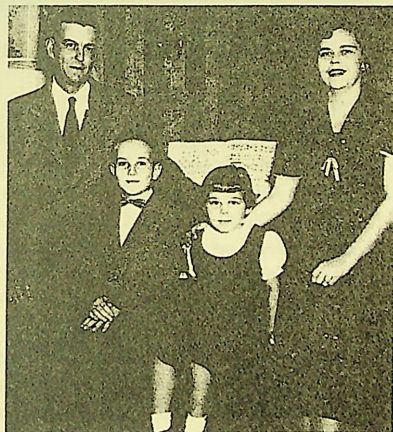


Susan (Ford) Robertson (center) cuts the ribbon dedicating the East and West Pascagoula River bridges on October 15, 1954, while her escort, Warren Gautier, and her mother, Gloria (Colle) Ford, look on. Memories of this day remained vivid after the passage of half a century. In June 2003, Robertson recalled, "I wore a new dress, light blue with yellow daises, and a black cape and black patent leather shoes. The ribbon was light blue, and the scissors had long pointed blades and had ribbons hanging from the handles. The high school band was playing, and I had to wait for the photographer to get ready before cutting the ribbon."

Now she will have new memories to add to the old. In carrying on the tradition of keeping Pascagoula Bridge dedications all in the family, she and Warren Gautier have been invited to reprise their Friday, October 15, 1954, performances on Friday, August 29, 2003.

One of the members of the Pascagoula High School Band (in background above and inset) that played at the October 15, 1954, dedication of the East and West Pascagoula River bridges will be present once again with Susan (Ford) Robertson and Warren Gautier at the dedication of the East Pascagoula High-Rise Bridge. That former band member, Trent Lott, now U. S. Senator (R.-Miss.), is credited with pushing through Congress the appropriation for the structure. Photo courtesy of Susan (Ford) Robertson. Inset of Trent Lott from the 1959 Panther, the yearbook of Pascagoula High School courtesy of Eddie Burgo.



From left, Quin Gautier and son Warren, Susan Ford and her mother Gloria [Colle] Ford. Gloria escorted by Quin dedicated the 1928 East Pascagoula River Bridge. Susan escorted by Warren dedicated the 1954 East and West Pascagoula River bridges. Photo courtesy of Susan (Ford) Robertson.