Kirk Road Landmark

YOU o New War ErΩ Subdivision Homest **000**

By ALICE PARK
DeKalb Historical Society
A big, old rambling farmhouse.
long a landmark on Kirk Road in
South Decatur, was recently done
lished to make way for a new make way ent of 18 si

development of 18 single family homes, to be named appropriately enough Candler Oaks.

This historic old house was the post civil war home of U.S. Senator Milton Candler, built on the foundation stones of his original farmhouse that was burned in the Battle of Atlanta.

The story of that event reads

The story of that event reads like a chapter out of Gone With The Wind. Mr Candler was away at war when his young wife, Bliza (aged 25), with their four small children (aged seven months to six years) left by carriage on the night of the evacuation of Atlanta in September of 1864.

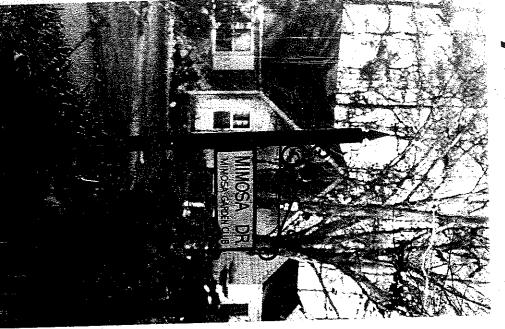
The oldest of the children, Charles Murphey Candler, Sr wrote of his mother's flight many years later in 1922.

"Household goods and supplies had been louded for days on walk ons, in anticipation of the fall of Atlanta," he reported. "With her children in the carriage at the head of a refugee train composed of slaves, horses, cattle and hogs on foot, she hastily started some where, anywhere towards the south, hoping to get beyond the reach of Federal raiders. The second day a squad of calvary came on the little caravan, destroyed every wagon and piece of furniture, killed the cattle and hogs and killed the cattle and hogs and carried away captive the slaves and horses. My mother and her children, nurse and driver escaped only because they had gone ahead only because they finally reached Dawson, where a refugee camp had been established."

MILTON Candler had bought gathe 250-acre furm a few miles from Decatur Square when he married Eliza Murphey in 1857.

He was the older brother of where other distinguished DeKalb Scounty Candlers: Ass. Griggs, of County Candlers: Ass. Griggs, of Coca-Cola fame, Bishop Warren, a Coca-Cola fame, Bishop Warren, a Coca-Cola fame, Coca-Cola fame, Bishop Warren, a Coca-Cola fame, Crist president of Emory University and John S., a. Georgia Supreme Court Justice.

Eliza was the only child of another prominent early Decatur family. Her father, Charles Murphey, served as a representative and senator in both the Georgia



Mimosa Trees **Lined Entrance**

the Milledgeville convention to vote on secusion, he is quoted as saying that he prayed he would never live to see the day that Georgia seceeded from the Union. His prayer was answered as he died the day, the convention condition that the died the day, the convention condition to the day, the convention to the day, the convention to the day the convention to the day the convention to the day the day the convention to the day that the day that day the day that day the day that day that day that day the da His prayer was a died the day the vened

Their original farm extended down what is now Candler Street to the vicinity of Hancock Street, with an avenue of Mimosa Trees lining the long drive to the house. This accounts for the present Mimosa Drive in that area. At this

couple. Only six reached adult is couple. Only six reached adult is hood.

Decatur historian Caroline Mc. of Kinney Clarke, a granddaughter of the couple, heard many stories of the farm from her mother, Claude Candler McKinney, who spent her of early childhood there and always referred to the farm as "Out the Home" after mouther in the couple. gnivora into

war hero and twice governor yorgiu, was a frequent Sunday

home to sit on the porch and home to sit on the porch and discuss farming and politics with her father. When Mr. Candler was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1877, men of Decatur held a torchlight parade from the town square to the farm — some on foot and some on horseback — with a long line of flickering lights.

After 31 years on the farm, with all of the children gone except for two little girls, the Candlers moved in 1889 to a smaller home on Candler Street near Agnes Scott College where Mrs. Clarke still lives and where her mother lived until the age of 96. afternoon visitor. He often rode his horse over from his Kirkwood home to sit on the porch and

of her mother's childhood recollections of the farm. The dairy was out by the kitchen door, where the butter, milk and meats brought from the smokehouse were kept in cool, below-ground depths. Down the steep wooded hill east of the house and across Big Shoal Creek were the servants' cabins, and under a huge oak the spring was located, where the clothes were washed. There was a sheep lot back of Chestmut Hill, and two vineyards. The wine cellar, under the big kitchen wing, held home-made wines made chiefly for cooking. The parlor with lace Nottingham curtains and a big square piano faced east with a buy win dow Back of it was the sitting room where every night Milton Candler had family prayers and read the Bibbe by the light of a kerossne lamp. When Gene Fink, who is devel oping Candler Oaks on 4.1 acres of the old farm went in, nost of the old farm went in, nost of the surrounding area described was under a blanket of kudzu with only cleared areas between the giant old ask and pecan trees testifying that once it was an active self-supporting farm. The house, in a said state of disrepair, had under gone many changes.

It we'll save as many of the huge old trees as we can," he said. "The folds on they will not become dated of tree will be of houses built on the site will be of houses facing it."