

GLORIA ROBERSON, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Union State Bank, presented the city of Pell City with a \$3,000 check to help offset the costs of supplying police officers with bullet proof vests. Shown are, from the left, Sargaent Joe Davis of the Pell City Police Department, Gloria Roberson of Union State Bank, and City Councilman James McGowan Chairman of the Police Committee. (Bob Crisp photo)

- DAILY HOME, Talladega-Sylacauga-Pell City, Ala., Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1990

March 1989



#### Metro Bank-

## Pell City's Newest Industry

Plans for Pell City's new Metro Bank are of the leading function for Metro Bank. He progressing on schedule according to the Bank's President Ray Cox. The initial capitalization of \$2 million has been raised through the sale of stock. "The ideal number of shareholders for a new bank is 225 to 250, and that is the range we ended up in. The organizer's philosophy was to get the stock as widely distributed in the community as possible," said Cox.

Organizers of the bank plan to open for business in temporary quarters during the month of May, while construction proceeds on the permanent facility, which is scheduled to be completed in mid-December. The temporary mobile bank unit and the permanent building will both be located on a two acre lot on Highway 231, south of Water Tank Road. "Alabama Power Company owns 210 front feet just south of Water Tank Road. There will be a 300 front foot lot between the beginning of the bank property and Alabama Power Company's property", Cox said.

Bank Building Corporation of Atlanta will supervise construction of the bank building. They also assisted in the final site selection process. Their only employee in Pell City during construction will be the Project Manager, who will coordinate the building process. The actual work will be performed by local craftsman on a competitive bid basis, and supplies/ materials will be purchased locally. Bids on the site work will be accepted during the week of March 20. Bank Building Corporation has been in business for 75 years and all they do is build financial institutions. "We will have a building that Pell City will be proud of 'Cox said.

Stephen T. Whittle has accepted the position of Vice President and will be in charge is a 1965 graduate of Pell City High School and is looking forward to returning to Pell City. "The organizers feel fortunate to have someone of Steve's background and ability to head up the Loan Department. He has over 20 years of lending experience having worked Finance companies, savings & loans, and banks." Mr. Whittle comes to Metro Bank from First National Bank of Columbiana. "The quality of the loan portfolio is a major factor in the success of a bank, and we believe that with Steve Whittle, myself, and Chairman of the Board Bob Spivey, who will be head of the Loan Committee, the bank will have an experienced and diversified lending team."

The remainder of the staff, which is initially projected to consist of 6 additional employees, will be hired before the bank opens in temporary quarters in May, according to Cox. "We plan to employ a staff of 15 to 20 by the end of our third year of operation. The organizers view the bank as another new industry for Pell City" said Cox.

Organizers of Metro Bank include C.R. (Bob) Spivey, Jr., former executive vice president of SouthTrust Bank and current president and chief executive officer of Bedford Financial Corp. in Birmingham; Gene Morris, state manager of Contel of the South, Inc.; Joe M. Dorough, owner of Cisco Auto Parts and Radio Shack in Pell City; Dr. John E. Haynes, local physician: George E. Williams, recently retired subdistrict manager of Alabama Power Company; John A. DeGaris, local pharmacist, businessman and city councilman; Dr. R.F. (Bam) Cox, Long time local dentist; and Edgar K. (Ned) Paine, chief executive officer of Amerex Corp. in Trussville.

# The Pell City Centennial

## The Bank

## by George Williams

The articles appearing in out Pell City Centennial section are presented by Mr. George Williams in recognition of the Centennial. The Pell City Journal has been proud to bring these to you. Two more installments will appear in our next edition.

With the assurance, in 1902, of an industry to provide numerous well paying jobs, steady employment and a tremendous increase in the town's population, Sumter Cogswell was now in a position to proceed with another step in his grand design for the growth of the city that he visioned. Pell City was now in need of his bank, and he set about the task of building it. His would not be just another local or state affiliated bank, but ultimately one of national scope. The new bank to be built would be named the Bank of St. Clair County, and would be the irst successful one to be established in this county.

With the able assistance and direction of a number of ne county's leading businessmen, the new bank would njoy unprecedented growth and success. During the conomic downturn of 1907 the bank would attain a markable record in the banking industry of the day. hile most banks were issuing script or failing cometely, the relatively new bank in Pell City would reain on a cash basis, meeting local payrolls regularly, mishing cash for cotton crops and paying checks as all. Mr. Cogswell's careful planning and meticulous ections of his business partners had served him welling this particular crisis. By November, 1916 the ik would be proclaimed as St. Clair County's oldest, gest and strongest financial institution.

hen the Bank of St. Clair County opened its doors for iness in 1903, Sumter Cogswell found himself in the lership role of yet another business venture. He was led as President of the bank, and remained in that city for a number of years. McLane Tilton, E.J.

Mautz, Arthur Draper, J. Fall Roberson, Sr, J. H. Moore of Coal City, Frank Holland Lathrop of Riverside and L. Cook served as the new bank's first Board of Directors.

In 1910 the bank received a charter necessary to establish itself as a national bank. The name was changed to the First National Bank of Pell City and McLane Tilton became President, after Mr. Cogswell assumed the title of Chairman of the Board. In 1912 under Mr. Tilton's leadership, a new bank building was completed at a cost of \$20,000.00 and shortly thereafter it was proclaimed by Birmingham newspapers as the "Finest Small Town Bank in the U.S.". The bank building was located on the corner of Cogswell Avenue and 20th Street and would remain as a truly unique landmark until it was removed in 1969. The only evidence of its existence is the vacant lot where it once stood.

In 1918, John Skelton Williams, U.S. Comptroller of Currency, issued a set of rules and instructions that were not very highly regarded by Mr. Tilton and other officials of the First National Bank of Pell City. Due to the disin-

"During the economic downturn of 1907 the bank... would continue on a cash basis, meeting local payrolls reguarly..."

clination of the bank's officials to obey Mr. William's highly resented instructions, it was decided to change the name once again. The name was changed to Union State Bank and it has continued to operate under that name up to the present day.

Not only did the bank weather the crisis that developed during 1907, but it has continued to survive all the other financial storms to develop since that time including the most disastrous financial collapse that occurred during the years 1929 to 1932.

Union State has continued to grow and prosper, and at the present time operates branch banks, not only in St. Clair County, but in Jefferson and Cherokee Counties as well. Under its present leadership the continued success of the bank has been assured.

It has been said that history often repeats itself, and it certainly may be true concerning the banking industry in St. Clair County. Recently, after a lapse of twenty-seven years, a new bank was established in Pell City. Eightysix years after Mr. Cogswell opened the county's first bank, his grandson was instrumental, as one of the principals, in helping to establish Metro Bank that opened for business in mid-1989. The bank is located on property that was part of the original acreage purchased by Mr. Cogswell in 1901.

February 6, 1990 - The Pell City Journal - 7

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THE PELL CITY NEWS

#### xtille Workers ırn Down CIO

lock Hill S. C. The C. I. O. atile Workers Union was devively rejected as collective rgaining agent for the empoyees of the Aragon-Baldwin ills here by a vote of 416 to 15 in an election held Tuesday, an. 4th by the National Labor elations Board.

This was the second defeat sufered by this union in its attempt o "organize" this plant. The first election, also resulting in their ejection, was held approxinately a year ago.

ALABAMA HIGHLIGHTS When Iberville, the famous French explorer sailing for Louis XIV, landed on Dauphin Island January 31, 1699, he was convinced that the Mississippi River emptied into Mobile Bay. Further exploration revealed his error, but he later went on to locate the mouth of the great river.

Iberville was one in a Canadian family of 12 sons. Each of his brothers, like himself, did a stretch in either the French mil itary or naval forces of the day.

Along the banks of the Alabama River not far from Sardis, 27 different species of oak trees can be found.

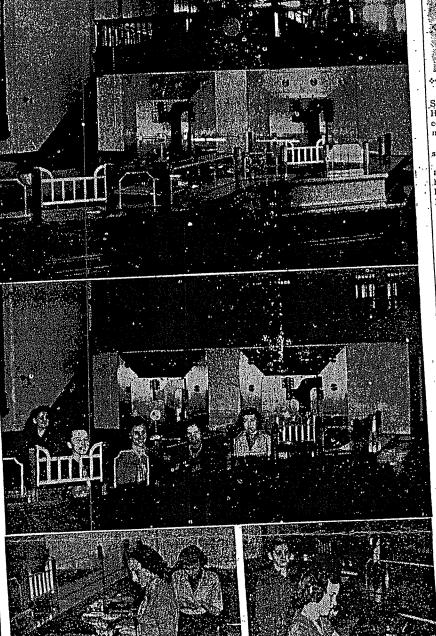
In 1819 publication of The Huntsville Republican, in commenting on health conditions in the state, said, "The general healthiness of our state is no less a subject, not only of congratulation, but of the most heartfelt gratitude to the Allwise Disposer of human events..."

Alabama's first Constitution provided that the State Supreme Court should be composed of Circuit Court judges until 1825. Clement C. Cliay, judge of the fifth circuit, was elected by his associates as the first chief justice of Alabama. He was only 31 years old.

Later Clay became the eighth governor of his state.

MITANCE ACTINCY

Pictorial Review of Pell City Business Houses UNION STATE BANK





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News

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Visiting the John Lackey's Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Vincent and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hammond, of Tolladega.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Collum shopped in Birmingham Saturday. Sgt. and Mrs. Horace Walker and son visited in Lincoln with his mether Sunday. Walker was home for the week end from Ft. Benning.

The Hewlett Walkers had ler mother Mrs. Adams and sisters, Bonnie and Helen, of Huntsville, with them for the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Buster Brazier and son and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Abrams visited relatives in Blue Mountain, Sunday.

Mrs. "Red" Brazier and Mrs. Flossie Gallups shopped in Anniston, Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Tillman Springer of North Birmingham, visited Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Crance, Sunday. Mr. Crance says it will not be long before we won't have to go to Mobile to see the Azelias 'cause he and the wife have put some out up at his place.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Adams and son spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Foots.

Mr. and Mrs. Flossie Gallups and Mr. and Mrs. Red Brazier motored to Oneonta and Birmangham, Sunday.

Visiting the Huey Dickey family Sunday were, Mr. and Mrs. Frunk Alverson, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Williams and Mrs. Horace Wright.

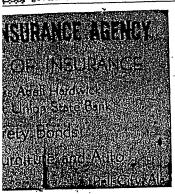
NI. and Mrs. Wade Apple and Mrs. Brona Apple of Reedsville, N. C., visited nere over the week end with the Clyde Turner's

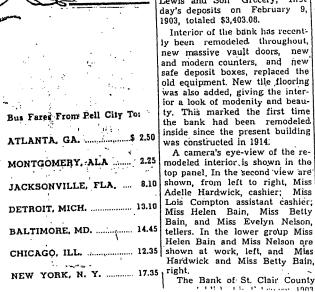
Our most sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Sims in the death of their little naughters.

bar. Lioert Harris celebrated his 51st birthday Sunday in grand style with a big dinner at his noine. Present were, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Turner and Iamily, Mi and Mrs. James McCollough and Mrs. James McCollough theorem theorem Harris, Eugene Har

Alabama. He was only 31 years

Later Clay became the eighth









Union State Bank

From a very modest beginning in February 1903, the Union State Bank at Pell City has grown to be one of the soundest banking institutions in the country.

Opening its doors for business as the Bank of St. Clair County in a location now occupied by M. L. Lewis and Son Grecery, first day's deposits on February 9, 1903, totaled \$3,403.08.

Interior of the bank has recently been remodeled throughout, new massive vault doors, new and modern counters, and new safe deposit boxes, replaced the old equipment. New tile flooring was also added, giving the interior a look of modenity and beauty. This marked the first time the bank had been remodeled inside since the present building was constructed in 1914:

A camera's eye-view of the remodeled interior is shown in the top panel. In the second view are Lois Compton assistant cashier; Miss Helen Bain, Miss Betty Bain, and Miss Evelyn Nelson, Hardwick and Miss Betty Bain,

up the bank. Mr. Cogswell re-

until his recent death.

Present officers and Pat Roberson, president; and Miss Adele Hardwick, cashier. Directors are J. Fall Roberson Sr., Miss Adele Hardwick Roy H. Holladay and Pat Roberson,

Pat Roberson was made president of the bank in 1927. He succeeded C. R. Fay, who went to New Orleans an official of the Federal Reserve Bank, The Rob! erson interest assumed control of

From opening day deposits of been friends and customers slightly less than \$3,000.00 in the bank's opening until 1903, the capital account of the present. (Photo by Hoyett Scott).

bank has been increased from mained as Chairman of the Board time to time to keep pace with the growth of the community served by the bank. Present assets total more than \$2 million.

Some of the depositors on opening day were, S. D. Kilgroe, Jake Gary, H. N. Laney H. B. Guy, Hardie Jones and Dr. J. T. Brown. Mr. Gary is the only one who sur-

vives this group.

A: W, Stewart, well-known St. Clair countian, negotiated the first loan with the bank on opening day. It is interesting to note the bank on the death of McLane that Mr. Stewart and some of his children and grandchildren have been friends and customers since

Mrs. Brona Apple of needsyme, N. C., visited nere over the week end with the Clyde 'furner's

Our most sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Sims in the death of their little usughters.

mr. Lioert Harris celebrated his bist birthday bunday in grand style with a big dinner at his noine. Present were, wir. and Mrs marvin Turner and tamily, Mi and Mrs. James McCollough mrs. George narris, Eugene Har rıs and ıvısıs Howard, Irom Leed:

mr. and mrs. Freeman Kenc once and daugnter of Jackson vitte, fig., are nere with Mr. an Mirs, Ervin Kendrick.

Mr. and Mrs. Louie Griffin l'anadega Spent occiony with m and wirs. Kopert murst.

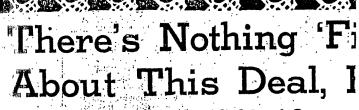
nev. and wrs. Henry Potts hi a pleasant visit to Marion Cou cy mat week cliu. Ilis stater, Int mary namey came home withem for a visit here.

Stanley and Frankle Ann K by spent the week end with the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J.

Sam Whitten and Red and Pe gy Joyce Bruzier enjoyed an o ter supper with Lots and Flos

Gallups Friday night.

Sgt. and Mrs. Charles Bro are here from New York for a



Actually, It's A 'Golden' Oppun





## Groundbreaking Ceremonies

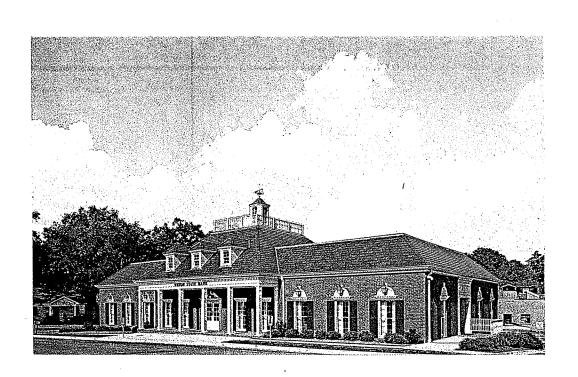
Mrs. Gloria V. Roberson, Union State Bank president, is pictured turning the first spade of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for Union State's new building, which was held last Friday morning.

A large gathering of local dignitaries and citizens attended the event, and were served present Union State Bank following the brief ceremony.

Looking on as Mrs. Rober-(left to ringt), Tom Casaday, president; Jimmy Adams, architect; Hugh Motes, general

coffee and doughnuts at the contractor; and Otis Perry, Pell City mayor.

Construction is underway for the new building, which will be son turns the first spadeful are located immediately east of the present building, on 20th Street director; Lee Ormond, cashier; North. The building is scheduled Amos Hargett, executive vice for completion in about seven months.



UNION STATE BANK
15 North 20th Street
Pell City, Alabama 35125
Full Service Bank
Established 1903 — Member F.D.I.C.
Phone: 338-3351

PLACE STAMP HERE

POST CARD

Address

**1** 

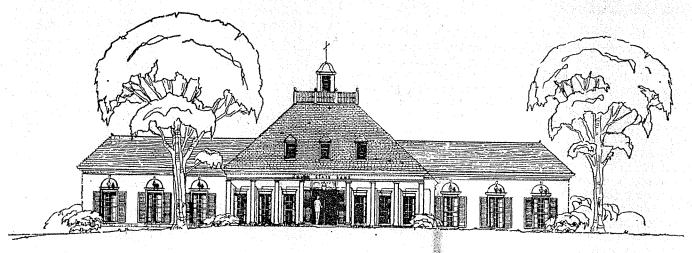
121803

Raymond W. May - 8024 No. 4th. Ave., Birmingham, Ala. 35201



PELL CITY BANK OPENS—Pell City Mayor Joe W. Kilgroe cuts a ribbon to officially open the new People's Bank in his city. Tom Milner (left) is president of the bank. (Photo by Mewbourne).





## New Bank Building In Pell City

Officials of Pell City's Union plement the existing general lease complete plans. It is ex-State Bank announced this week plans for a new home for their financial institution. The new facilities will be located on the entire half block between Cogswell avenue and First avenue north, facing the St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan building.

The building was designed by mingham architects. It will be contract would be awarded just of Williamsburg design to com- as soon as architects could re-

character of the area. The new building will feature two drivein windows, seven teller spaces, two loan and discount windows. a large lobby, conference room, offices for the Bank's executives and an employee's lounge.

Estimates of the cost were not released by bank officials, but Cobb, Adams and Benton, Bir- it was stated that a building

pected that building contract will be let within three months, possibly less.

Included in plans for the new building is a park and sitting area on the corner of Cogswell Avenue and 20th street which has become generally known in the past few years as "Wisdom Corner Jr."

area with raised concrete flowand alantar beds, benches, redwood divider strips and the existing sign of the Union State Bank which is a landmark in Pell City.

This institution which enjoys a long record of success and service to the people of this community and South St. Clair County was established in 1903 as the First National Bank. The present building was construct-The park will feature a paved ed and occupied in 1912. The name was changed to Union State Bank in 1918.

#### **OFFICERS**

S. F. BURT

President

HEFLIN HAYNES

1st. Vice President

PAUL TURNER

Executive Vice President

#### DIRECTORS

S.F. BURT

H. E. HOLLADAY

B. HEFLIN HAYNES HOWELL HENDERSON

PAUL TURNER

A. D. GRIFFIN

JOE W. KILGROE

H. L. EUBANKS

F. O. WHITTEN

HAROLD WILLIAMS

PAUL J. POPE

OFFICE STAFF

SARAH I. STEWART LORENE C. SMITH

Current Dividend Rate 41/2 %



## SAINT CLAIR FEDERAL

Savings and Loan Association

1920 First Ave. North Pell City, Ala.

## STATEMENT OF CONDITION

## St. Clair Federal Savings And Loan Association PELL CITY, ALABAMA

AS OF JUNE 30, 1965 (After payment of Dividends)

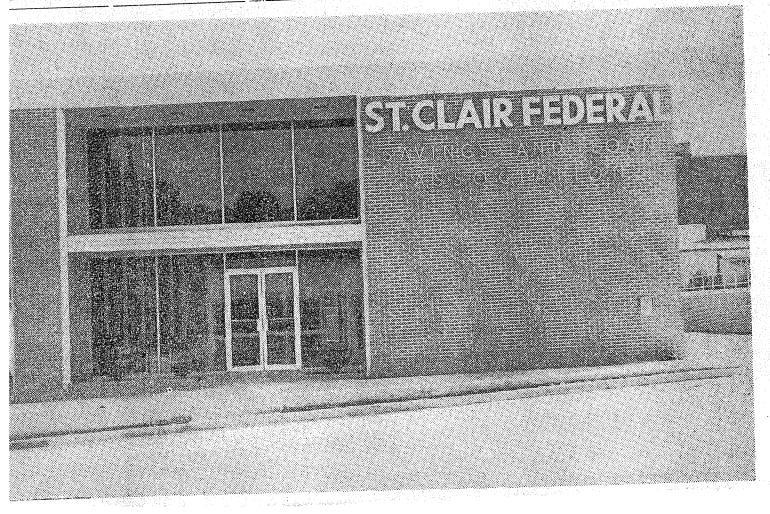
#### **ASSETS**

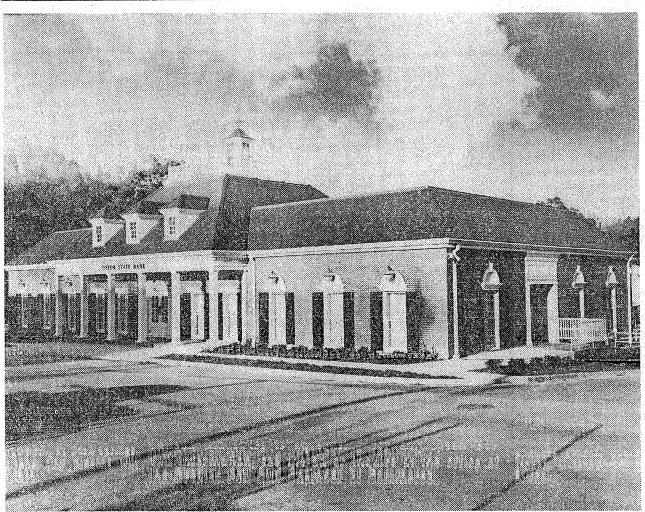
First Mortgage Loans	\$3,691,237.09
Loans on Savings Accounts	70,257.11
Other Loans	100,856.70
Office Properties and Equipment (Less Depreciation)	•
Cash on Hand and in Banks	118,933.62
Investments and Securities	237,396.39
	173,658.97
Deferred Charges and Other Assets	49,164.15
	\$4,441,504.03
LIABILITIES	
Savings Accounts	\$3,811,733.03
Advances from FHLB	350,000.00
Other Liabilities	84,782.37
Specific Reserves	3,266.32
General Reserves	163,593.19
Surplus	28,129.12

\$4,441,504.03

EARTLAND OF DIXIE'S FUTURE WATER WONDERLAND

THURSDAY OCT. 17 196





### OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY AT UNION STATE BANK

The beautiful new Union State Bank building (pictured above), will throw open its doors to people of the comunity and surrounding area on Sunday, Nov. 24, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. for an open house celebration.

Mrs. Gloria Roberson, president, and Amos Hargett, executive vice president, have extended a cordial invitation to everyone to come and inspect their new quarters Sunday. Union State employees will serve refreshments and conduct tours throughout the building for all visitors.

Also, some surprises are said to be in store for visitors to the bank on Friday and Saturday, during the normal

banking hours, prior to the open house observance.

The News-Aegis joins with many others in the community in congratulating the officers, directors and employees of Union State Bank on this occasion. The magnificient new edifice which they have provided does greated to the city in general and to the business community in particular.

S

munity in particular.

We urge everyone to visit with the Union State of South on Sunday and to get a close, first-hand look at the south of their building and the modern banking they are now offering.

# Bank Of St. Clair Organized In 1903

(Excerpted from "The History of St. Clair County," by Mattie Lou Teague Crow, 1973)

In 1903, The Bank of St. Clair County was organized with Sumter Cogswell as president, Frank H. Lathrop as vicepresident, and McLane Tilton and J. Mantz as cashiers. In 1910 a new charter was obtained, and the bank became First National of Pell City. The name was changed in 1918 to Union State Bank. It was the first bank to be established in St. Clair County and has served the public continually ever since. There was another bank of short duration called Pell City Bank and Trust Company, which was in operation from 1910-1911. Today there are two strong banking houses in Pell City, Union State and the Peoples's Bank. Also located there is St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association.

The first Sunday School was a Union school and was organized by Mrs. Carol Alverson, Bays D. Cather, Sr., and W.H. and Fred Miller, with the help of many others. It was held in the building which stood behind Pell City Drug Company. The building also served as Mr. Cather's printing shop, as he was at that time the editor of The Pell City News. Small kegs and wooden boxes from the grocery were used for seats. Soon church services were held in this building on Sunday night. From this humble beginning, the Pell City Methodist Episcopal Church came into being. The Presiding Elder came down from Gadsden to help with the organization. A church building was erected on the site of the present building. At quarterly conference, Bays D. Cather was appointed church clerk, steward, and secretary of the Sunday School. E.E. Emerson was sent by the North Alabama Conference to the the first pastor. He was also pastor at Eden. The membership consisted of fourteen men, women, and children. The first marriage to be performed in the church was that of J.F. Miller to Miss Eddie Rowland.

About 1904, the Baptist organized a congregation in Pell City. Their first building occupied the site of the present First Baptist. There were eighteen charter members. The trustees were M.J. Smith, Mr. Mitchell, and J.H. Phillips. The Reverend Mr. Burns was the first pastor.

The first little schoolhouse was later occupied by the congregation of St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church. Bishop Beckwith of the Alabama Diocese held services there many times. For a brief period their director was Dr. Blacklock of Anniston. Today there are many fine churches in and around Pell City, the newest being Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church.

In 1903, Dr. R.A. Martin came to make his home and to practice medicine in Pell City. He became one of the town's most public-spirited citizens, contributing much to the welfare of his fellow townsmen He established Pell City Drug Company and Pell City Infirmary. His younger brother, Dr. Claude Martin, was the town's first dentist.

The town's first hospital was the Gertrude Comer Hospital, which was sustained by Avondale Mills. It began

operation soon after the mill was purchased by the Comers. Dr. Martin was head of the medical staff, and Miss Elsie Dunn was head of nursing services. It was under these two people that Miss Ruby Zackie. St. Clair County Health Nurse, received her training. The St. Clair Memorial Hospital, which is supported by county taxes, is located in Pell City, and it said to be one of the best equipped small hospitals in the state.

When Pell City became a branch county seat for St. Clair County, prominent lawyers came to make their homes here. W.A. Starnes, whose wife was Selma Eaton, was one of the first and one of the best. His oldest son, Thurston, returned to practice here after receiving his law degree. M.M. Smith,

who came from Ashville in 1903, was an able attorney, and his son, Victor, also practiced law in Pell City. Frank B. Embry came as a young lawyer and has given his time and energy in many civic and religious activities. Charlie P. Pratt, McLane Tilton, and Gardener Greene were all practicing attorneys.

One of the oldest business establishments in the town is Pell City Hardware Company, organized in 1904 with John W. Moore as president, and R.M. Alverson, Claude Alverson, and Hardie Cornett as the associate members of the firm. C.O. Lacy has owned the store since 1961.

Kilgroe Funeral Home was begun in 1908 by Thomas J. Abbott. The only requirements for directing funerals at this date in h caskets. a bier, ar with whi into the known l was mos new ver first fun

devasta once ca that this he reacl floor fe occasion His wife Willingt his busi them, underta have it Abbott

#### Bank of St. Clair County, Pell Bity, Alaban

Sumter Cogswell, President. D. W. Waite, Vice-President E. J. Mautz, Cashier.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Geo. W. Pratt, President Pell City Sumter Cogswell, Fres Manufacturing Company. City Realty Company Frank H. Lathrop, President Jas. L. Herring, A'tor Ashville, Ala. pany, Riverside, Ala.

Hon. W. S. Forman, Probate Judge of St. Clair County, Ashville, Ala.

D. W. White, Merchant, Easonville,

Lathrop-Hatten Lumber Com- (Hon. W. T. Brown, Pre W. S. Forman, Probate Judge) land Coal Compan Ala. A. T. LeFils, Merchant

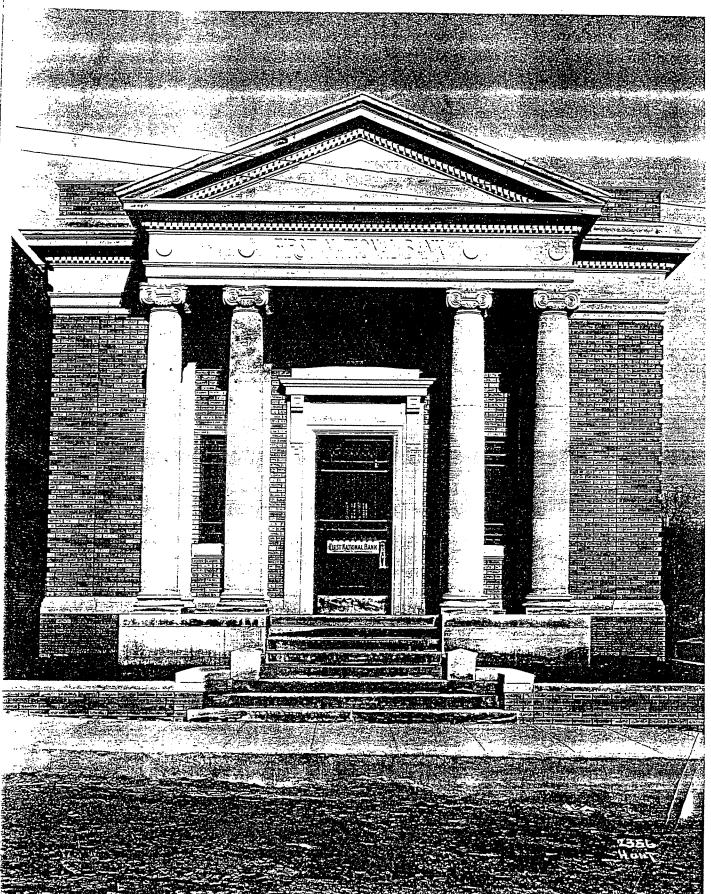
Ala. McLane Tilton, Jr. J. W. Moore, Merchant, Coal City, Law, Pell City, Al.

#### CAPITAL \$50,000.

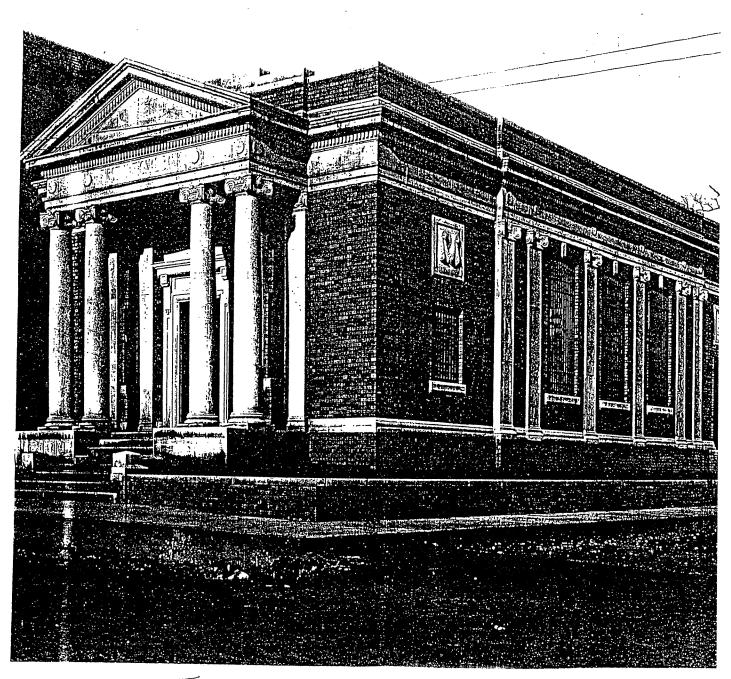
This bank, which is the only banking institution ..... ed county, was organized February 12, 1903, and at on s traveleton of business in its own nandsome brick building.

General Banking Business Transacted. Collections on all F Clair County Given Special Attention.

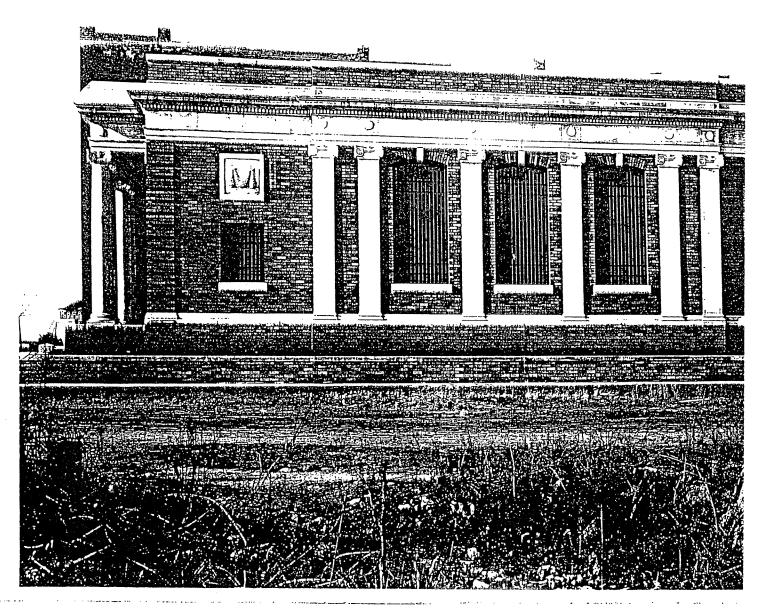




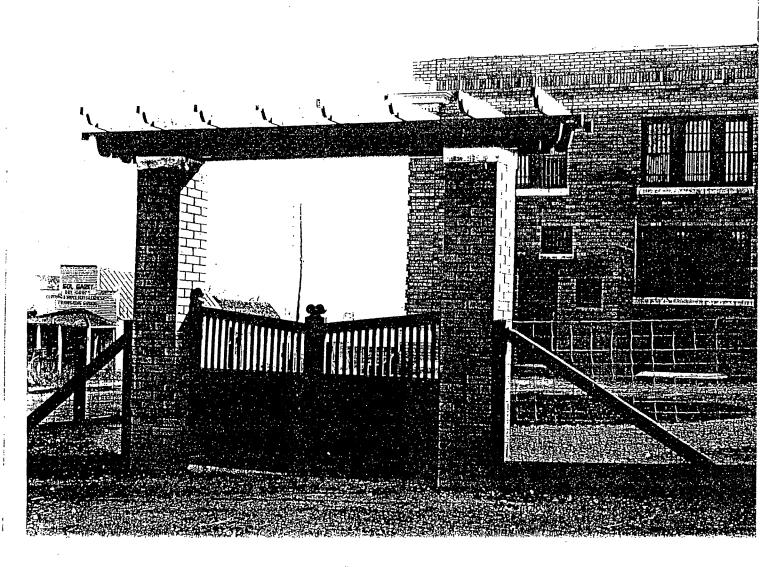
Front Well



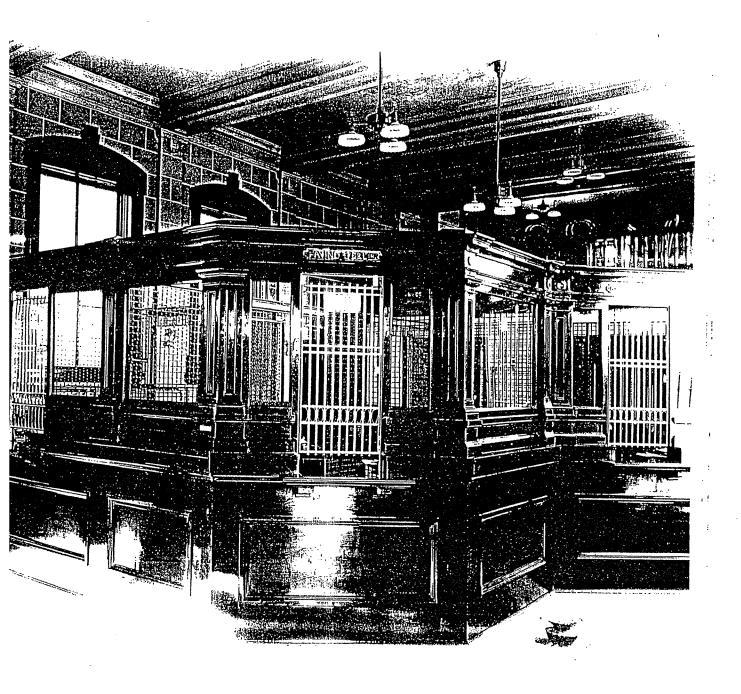
Front and Side View



Side View

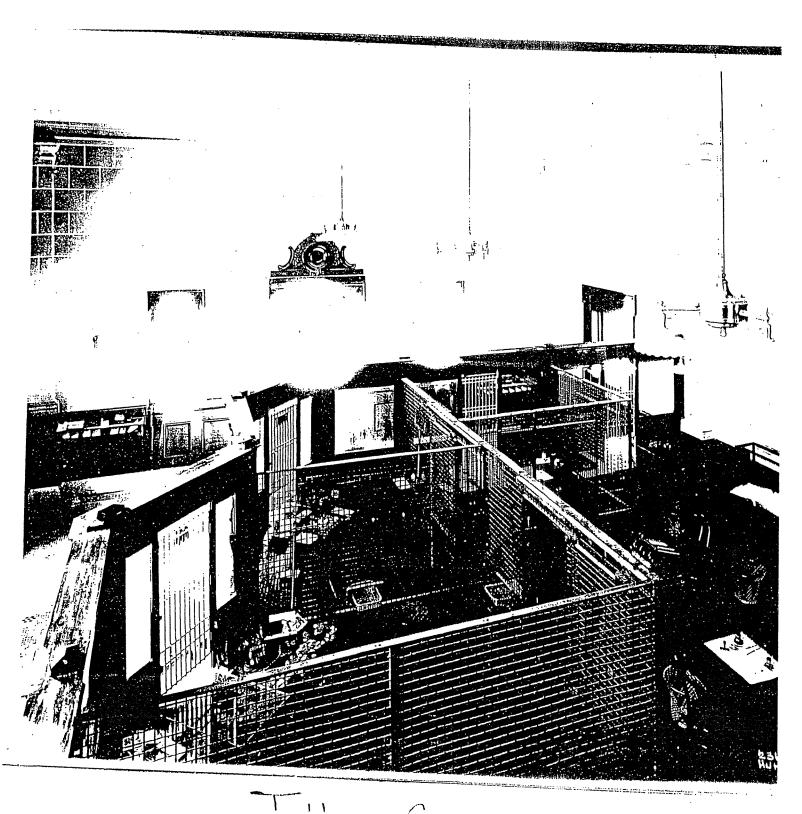


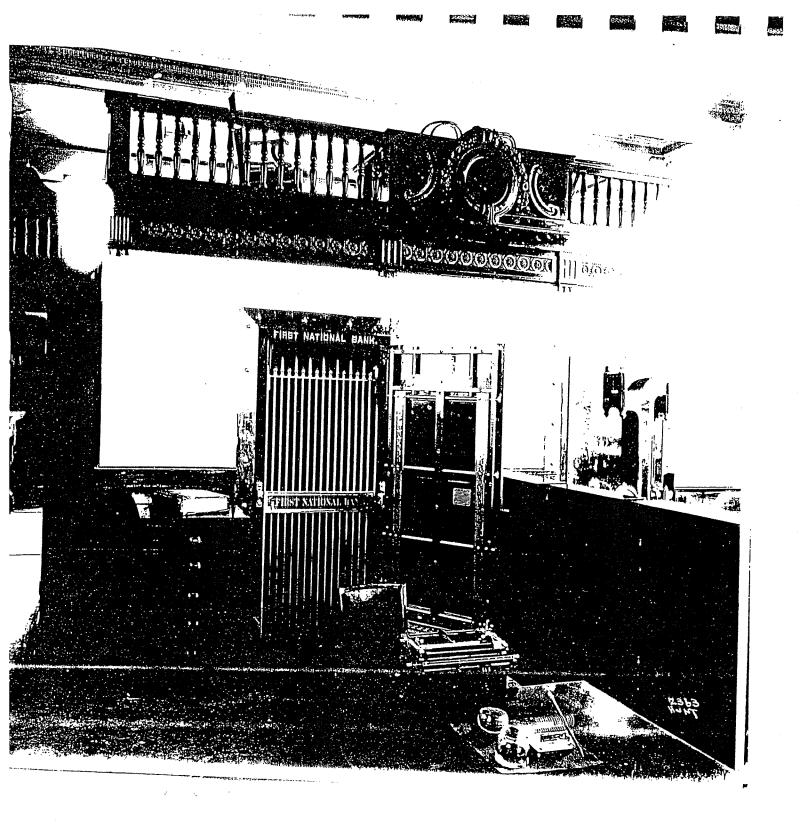
Back View

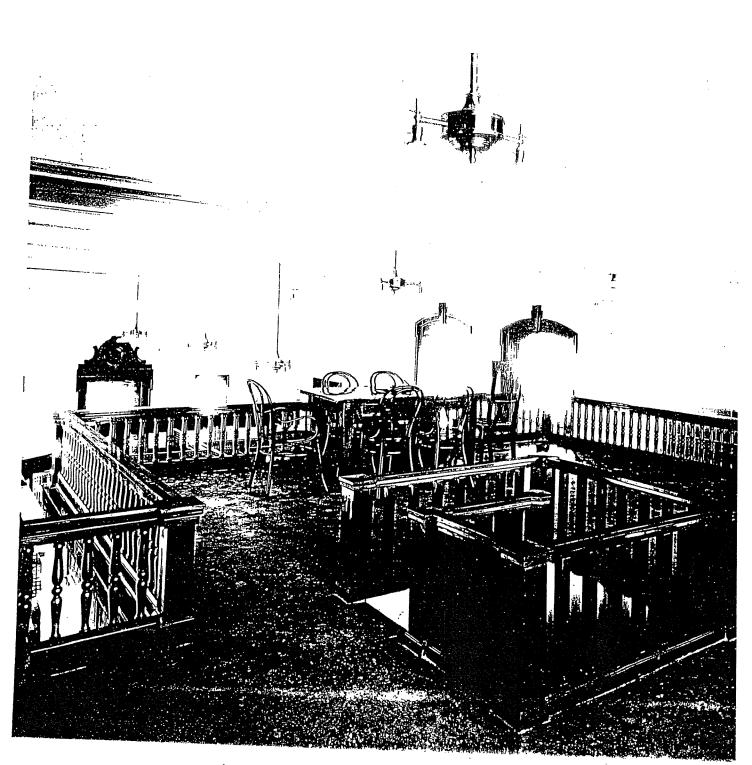


Teller Windows









Upstairs Area

