

11 St. Clair Post Offices offer 'personal touch'

Mrs. Youngblood has been post master in Wattsville for 31 years as of Aug. 26, 1974. She is able to see people in the community on a regular basis, and she hardly ever gets complaints, so she likes her job — doesn't even mind raising and lowering the flag each day.

The post office at Cooks Spring was established as Polk post office on Feb. 2, 1882, and changed to Cooks Spring on Dec. 12, 1883. The first postmaster, Franklin M. Polk served for five months. The present post master, Mrs. Virginia Glidwell has held the position for 22 years and would like to continue until her 25th year before she retires.

According to Mrs. Glidwell, the former post office looked like some building in the economically deprived foothills of Kentucky. The new building is comfortable and cozy — Mrs. Glidwell has two rocking chairs in front of the cases, and the building contains her husband, the Rev. W.E. Glidwell, 's library. The library consists of many religious works, but also contains copies of the Alabama State Code, back issues of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC magazine, and stacks of magazines on fashions, gardening and crafts.

On June 2, 1972, Mrs. Glidwell was threatened with a ten-inch knife by a car thief. "I fought and struggled all the way out into the yard. He wanted to use me as a hostage, but I fought. I broke my ankle in the struggle as well as a tooth, but he didn't get me in the car," said Mrs. Glidwell.

Mrs. Glidwell is in the process

The post offices were inviting and would be an easy place to settle for a chat, particularly in good weather.

Small post offices may someday be extinct, but as Mrs. Funderburg said, "They provide services to people in

rural communities, and they still have the personal, concerned atmosphere which comes about in timeM."



Miss Amanda & Mrs. Funderburg





Mrs. Annie Youngblood



Small still

**BY JENNA WHITEHEAD
NEWS AEGIS Writer**

Post offices, in the past, were a meeting place for citizens of a community, and a place to catch the latest gossip. The size of cities in the present decade, and the great volume of mail have caused a cessation of the post office as a meeting place, but in some small rural communities, post offices with front porches, a longtime known postmaster, and daily meeting of neighbors going to get the mail still remains.

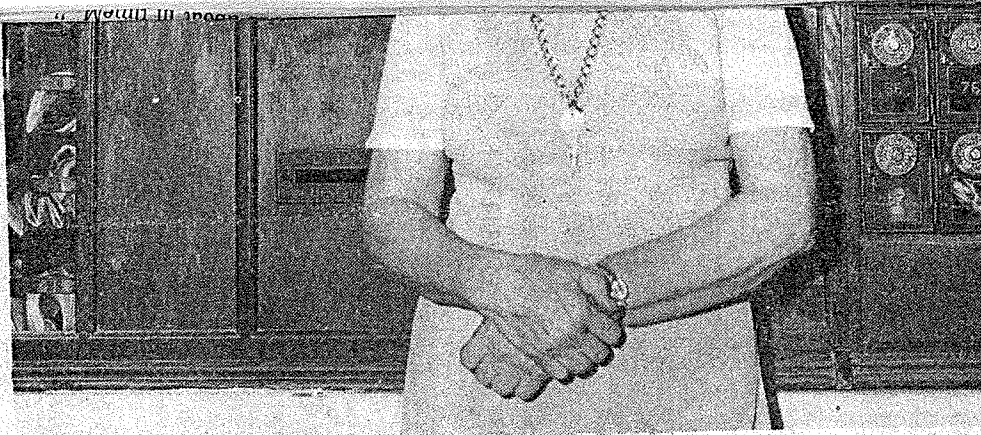
Mrs. Judy Funderburg is the 18th postmaster to work in the Cropwell post office — received her appointment in July, 1970, when Miss Amanda Funderburg retired after 44 years as postmaster.

The first post office in the Cropwell area was Coosa, changed to Diana in 1834 and changed to Cropwell in 1837 and the buildings used varied over the years.

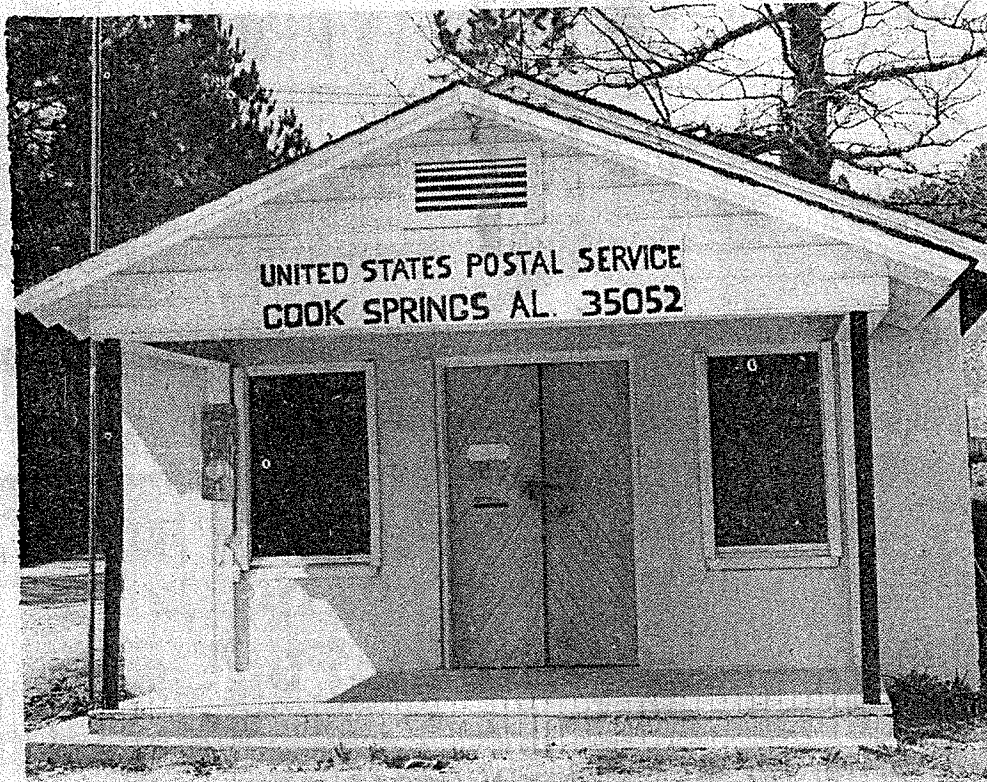
The present post office, which is a rock building with a porch, was built in 1929, and used by Dr. James P. Turner as an office and a drug store. A marker on the building is engraved with the words "Drug Co.," and caused so much confusion for out-of-towners, Miss Amanda covered the words with heavy tape to prevent mistakes.

Miss Amanda owns the present post office building and lives in the store adjacent to the post office. She has lived there since 1936, when the family purchased the building.

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Mrs. Funderburg is a working mother with four children, age ranges four to nine. "I think people in small communities are more community minded, and the post offices this size still have the personal feel about them," says Mrs. Funderburg.

Riverside post office was known as the Readman post

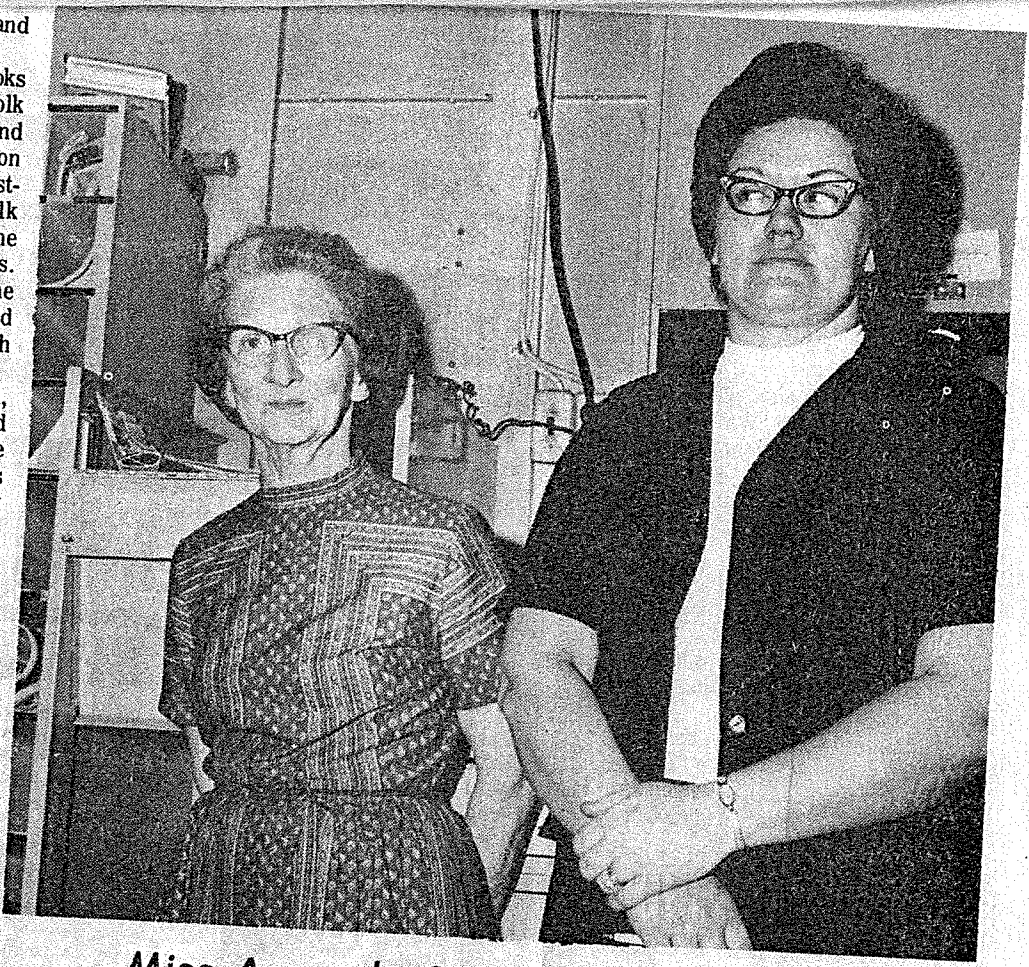
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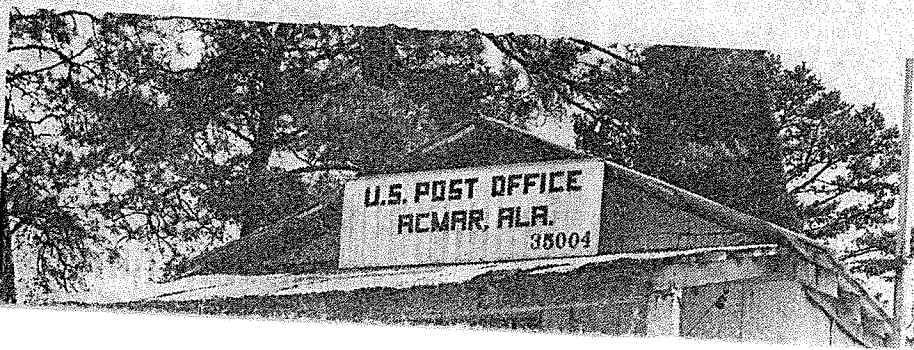
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Mrs. Glidwell is in the process of painting the inside of the post office and she just planted day lilies. The whole building, from the front porch on back, is inviting to sit and chat, and remains cool, even in the summer's heat.



Miss Amanda & Mrs. Funderburg



New Cooks Springs P.O.



office in 1882, and began as Riverside on Aug. 15, 1887. James Buckner received the appointment as post master in 1948, and at that time, Mrs. Oleta Buckner became his leave replacement, which would cause any vacation for them to be separate — if they took vacations, which they don't.

Buckner replaced Joe Bukacek who owned the store and operated the post office until his death in 1948.

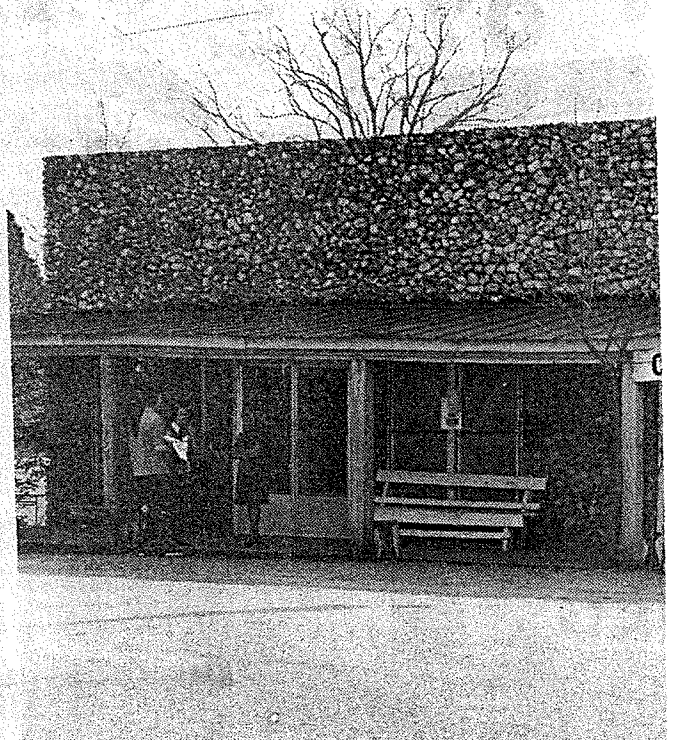
Mrs. Buckner says that people don't complain much, and that most people have taken the increase in postage in stride.

The Buckner's work 160 boxes and general delivery for Riverside. The post office received 135 new boxes which were installed on the day set aside for George Washington's birthday.

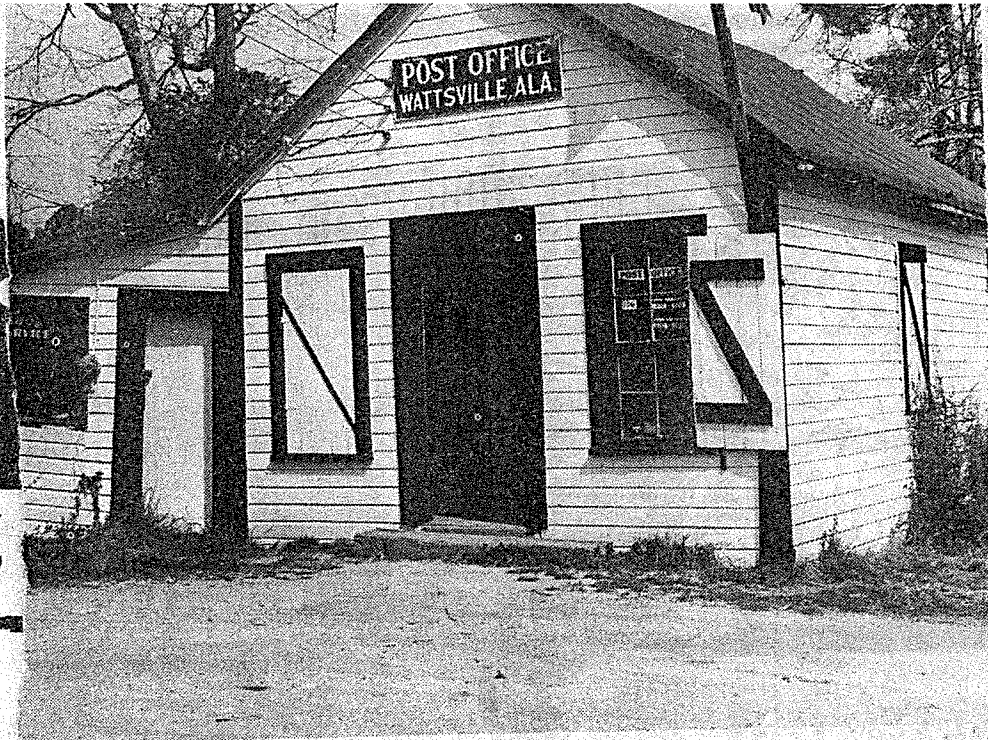
"We have had an increase in patrons and needed more boxes to give proper service. They were on order for three years — the delay was due to our being a fourth class post office, and therefore had to wait. Fourth class post offices used to have to supply their own boxes," said Mrs. Buckner.

The post office in Wattsville was built by Ralph A. Youngblood for his wife the post master, Annie Youngblood, when he was home on leave from World War II.

Wattsville Post Office



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2



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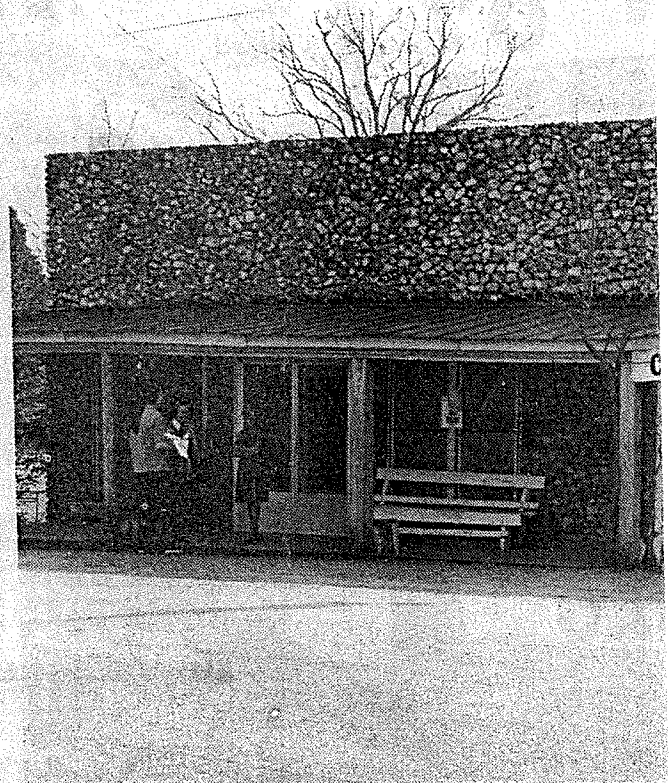
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Mrs. Virginia Glidwell



Cropwell P.O

W

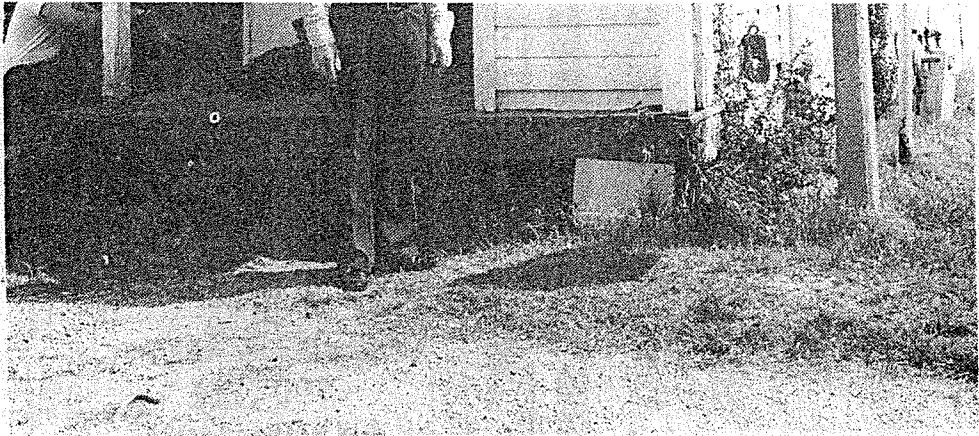
several customers to meet and talk inside.

Horace Nation, Jr. has been postmaster at Acmar since April 4, 1968; prior to that he was acting post master from Sept. 30, 1967. Nation had been post master from May 16, 1951 until Sept. 1952 when he resigned to go to work at the University Medical Center in Birmingham. He returned as a clerk in 1959, while his mother, Mrs. Norah Nation was post master.

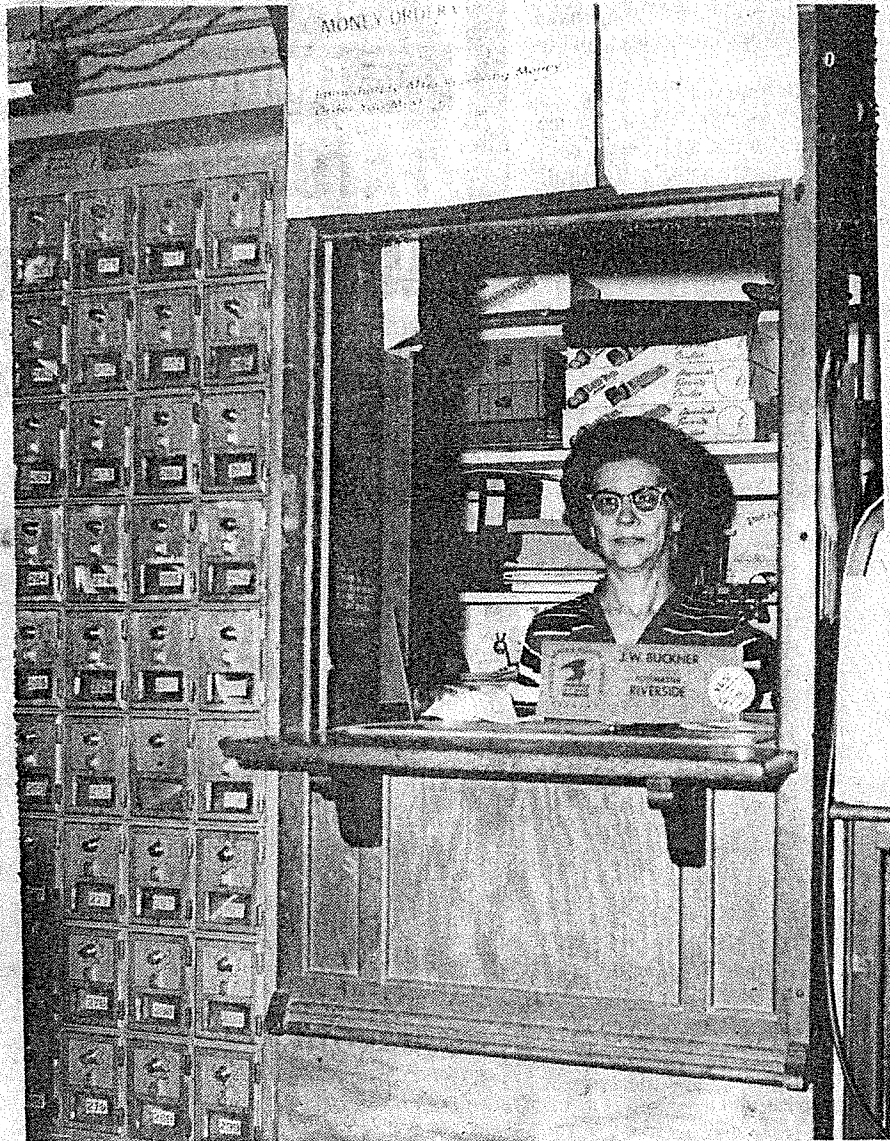
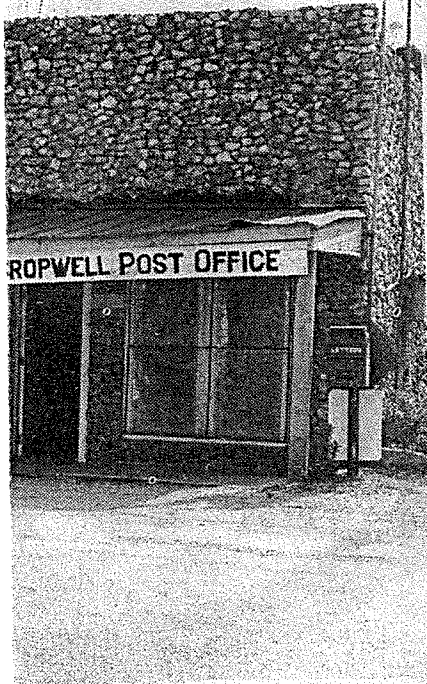
The post office in Acmar burned in Feb. of 1972, and the Nations' offered the present post office for use and it has stayed on the Nations' land since that time.

Nation, in his unoccupied time, addresses correctly, missent mail for the Birmingham post office.

"I like the job. It is a good way to see people in the community, and keep up on things which are happening," said Nation.



Station at Acmar



Mrs. Oleta Brukner - Riverside

"I've had only three complaints on mail delivery during my whole 22 years," said Mrs. Glidwell. "I think the post office gives excellent service, particularly considering the colu[m]ne volume of mail."

Acmar post office looks like a miniature building and gleams in the sun amid from a green background. The tiny building has a front porch and space for several customers to meet and talk inside.

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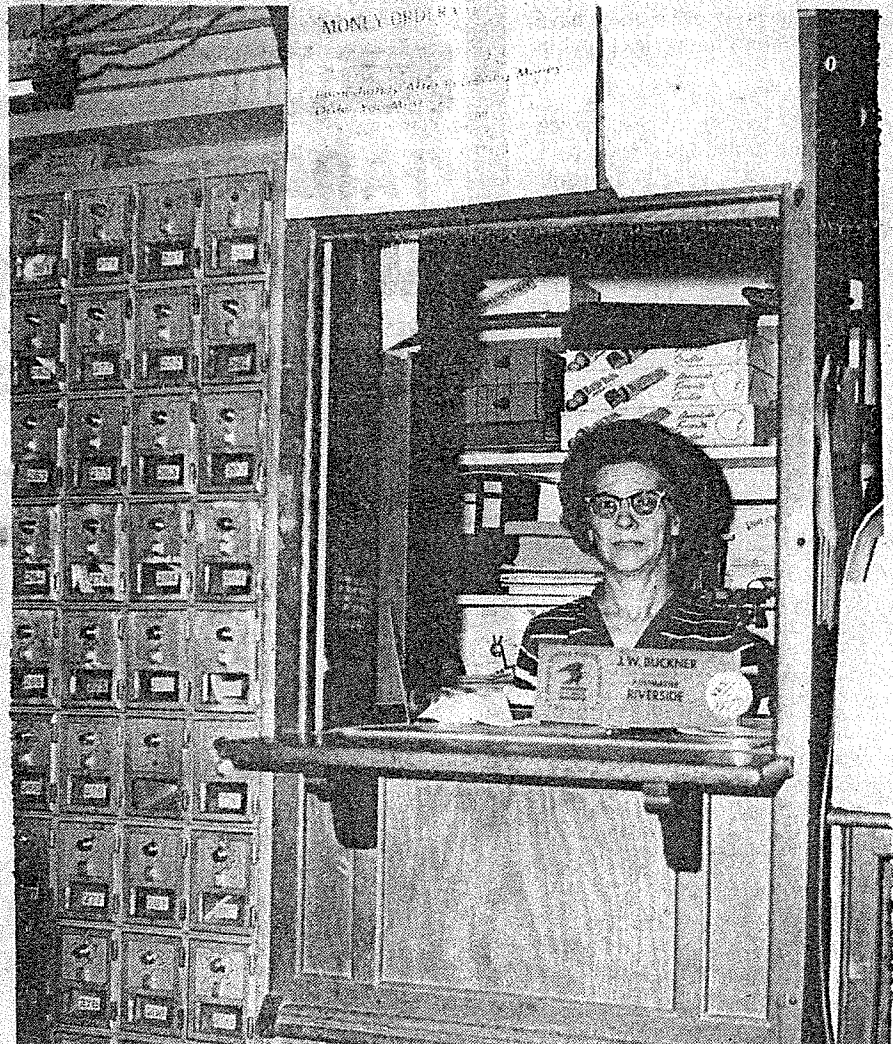
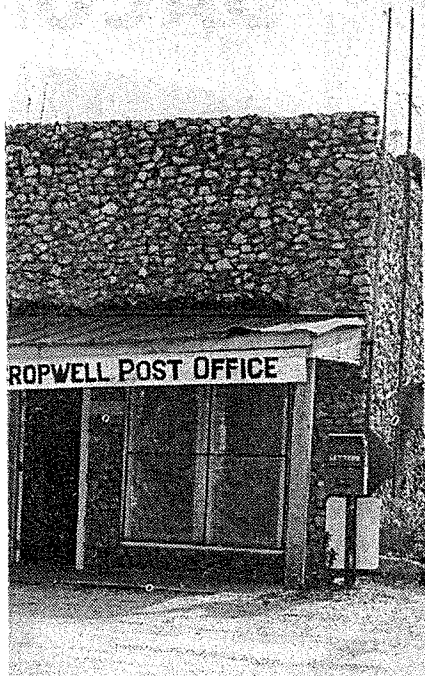
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Station at Acmar



CITY OF PELL CITY ALABAMA



**CITY HALL
DEDICATION
May 5, 2002**

God Bless America

God Bless America.
Land that I love
Stand beside her, and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
to the oceans, white with foam
God bless America
My home sweet home.

God Bless America,
Land that I love
Stand beside her,
And guide her,
Through the night
With the light from above,
From the mountains,
To the praires,
To the ocean,
White with foam,
God bless America,
My home sweet home.

Composer, Irving Berlin

Mayor Guin Robinson

Council

James McGowan, *Mayor pro tem*

Forest A. Walls

Bernard White

Donnie Todd, Jr.

Darrin DeLoach

Program

Welcome	Guin Robinson, Mayor
Invocation	Mike Sewell, Fire Chief
Pledge of Allegiance	Forest A. Walls, Councilman
<i>God Bless America</i>	June Brascho & audience
Recognition of former Pell City officials	Lawrence Fields, former Mayor
Entertainment	St. Clair County HeadStart Elsie McGowan, Director
Closing Remarks	Mayor Guin Robinson

Music provided by Birmingham Society of Piping

HISTORY

From Greenberry Garrett Evans, Pell City's first mayor, to Guin Robinson, the present mayor, the City of Pell City has been well served by progressive leaders. Incorporated in May 1891, the city was an enterprise of railroad entrepreneurs and Northern investors. What started as a boom town, soon became a ghost town and remained so until 1902. In that year, due to the foresight and leadership of Sumter Cogswell, Pell City began a dramatic recovery and was on its way to becoming a New South city.

The meeting place of city government in the early years is not known, but most likely it was the Maxwell Building on present day Cogswell Avenue or the Cornett Hotel located alongside the railroad track. In 1902 the St. Clair County Courthouse was completed, and the mayor and council likely met there until 1904 or 1905. The July 7, 1904 edition of the *Coosa Valleyan*, noted: "The city council has voted to erect a city hall at a cost of \$1,500." The August 4th edition stated: "A city hall and jail to cost \$1,500 is to be built in Pell City at once on the opposite side of Howard Avenue from Starnes law office." The mayor at that time, Thomas S. Millsap, began the project, but it was completed during the W.A. Starnes administration. That building served the city until 1957 and is still standing. It presently houses the optometry office of Dr. Wendell Bedsole.

During the administration of Mayor Joe Kilgroe, the city began an aggressive campaign to improve city services. A new city hall was an essential element of Mayor Kilgroe's master plan. The site selected was the northeast corner of the intersection of 19th Street and First Avenue North which at the time was the location of Pell City Grammar School. The school building had been built in 1905 or 1906 and was the original Pell City High School. It was demolished to make way for the new city hall. At a cost of \$130,000, that building was completed and dedicated on Sunday, October 6, 1957. It housed the mayor, council, city clerk, court, library, as well as the police and fire departments.

The 1957 building served the city for forty-four years. During that time the city experienced tremendous growth. The administration of Mayor Mack Abercrombie saw the beginning of another city wide improvement plan. Once again, the city hall was a top priority. Mayor Abercrombie's plan was implemented by Mayor Guin Robinson. The building which we dedicate today contains 20,000 square feet. It was designed by architect Robert Wanninger and built by the Pell City firm, Goodgame Welding Company at a cost of \$2,000,000.

*Danny Stewart
Pell City Librarian*

A branch county seat was created in Pell City under Ordinance of the Constitutional Convention of Alabama held in Montgomery in the year 1901. This Ordinance No. 390 provided for the erection of a courthouse and jail. An election was to be held to select a site for a courthouse and jail at Pell City. The election was held on January 6, 1902 and the present site was selected. On January 22, 1902 this site was purchased from the Pell City Realty Company. Then on February 13, 1902 the Court of County Commissioners voted to issue bonds in the amount of \$10,000.00. However, on August 13, 1902, this order was revoked and W. S. Forman, Judge of Probate at that time, was authorized to borrow money himself in the amount of \$9,000.00, the rate of interest to be 6%. Then on September 30, 1902, Judge Forman borrowed \$9,000.00 from the following individuals in the county: Mrs. Bert McLaughlin Forney \$2,200.00; Miss Bertie Lee McClendon \$1,300.00; Mr. J. L. Herring \$2,500.00; and J. P. Phillips \$3,000.00.

The total cost of the old courthouse and jail was \$9,038.12, and W. S. Forman as Probate Judge filed a claim with the Commissioners Court for the \$38.12 which he paid out in excess of the original planned cost of the courthouse.

The architect was W. Chamberlain and Company and they were paid for their services a total of \$321.84. The contractor on the building was Robert P. Manley. The building was accepted by the County on the 13th day of March, 1903.

In the past few years it became evident that the old courthouse was inadequate and had deteriorated to such an extent that a new building became necessary. Martin J. Lide of Birmingham, Alabama, was the architect. He was permitted to use the best design and the finest materials obtainable. Bids were received in September, 1954, and R. P. Henderson and Son of Pell City, Alabama, were low bidders and the contract was awarded in December, 1954.

All materials incorporated in the new courthouse were of the finest quality. The structure is of reinforced concrete with an exterior veneer of limestone and granite. All corridors and lobbies are wainscoted of Alabama marble and the floors are terrazzo. All restrooms are of structural glazed tile with ceramic tile floors and partitions of porcelain enamel. Toilets for both white and colored are equal in design and construction. The remainder of floors of the building are covered with a vinyl asbestos tile. All ceilings are of acoustical tile. Marble window stools were used throughout the building. There are a total of 66 rooms in the building and approximately 35,000 square feet of floor space. There were 2700 cubic yards of concrete and 123 tons of reinforcing steel used in the construction. Eight thousand square feet of granite and 11,000 square feet of limestone were used. There is a modern intercommunication system throughout the building and a modern hot water heating system with the cold water air conditioning is used throughout the building.

The cost of the building together with the allied improvements was approximately \$625,000. The building was financed locally without any government or state aid and without increasing any existing taxes.

The courthouse is being dedicated this date, March 3, 1956.

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The Court of County Commissioners of St. Clair County, Alabama:

M. W. Forman, Judge of Probate

E. N. Peace

W. H. Hess

W. A. Coleman

W. D. Wilkins

Virginia B. Luker, Clerk





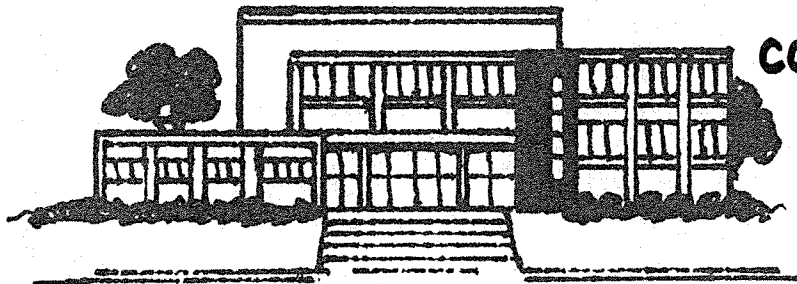
FIRST PELL CITY CITY HALL—The original Pell City City Hall building is now the home of Family Eye Care Center on Cogswell Avenue. The main structure of the building is still in tact, although the outside has changed a lot through the years. The city hall building in use now was built in 1957.



1818 St. Clair

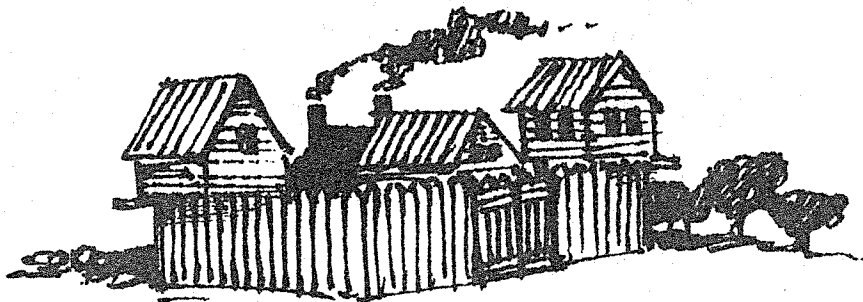
COURTHOUSE - ASHVILLE

Shortly after becoming a county in 1818, St. Clair County's first courthouse, made of logs, was built in Ashville in 1824. In 1844 it was replaced by the building pictured at right.



COURTHOUSE - PELL CITY

Because of rapid growth and Backbone Mountain which divided the county, in 1902 the Continental Convention voted a second courthouse which was built in Pell City. Two courthouses serve the county today.



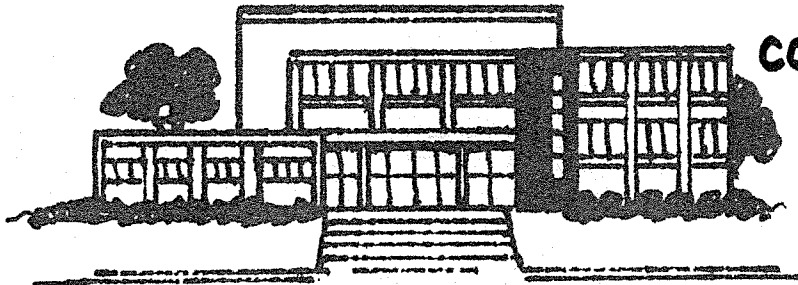
FORT STROTHER

Ft. Strother is a landmark in St. Clair County and it was headquarters for General Andrew Jackson and his men during the Creek Indian War. Soldiers were quartered here as were horses, tools for all needs, medicines, food, guns and rifles along with blacksmiths, carpenters, doctors, cooks and hospital equipment. The supplies for Horseshoe Bend were sent from here and it is on the National Register of Historic places.

BOARD COASTLINE RAIL

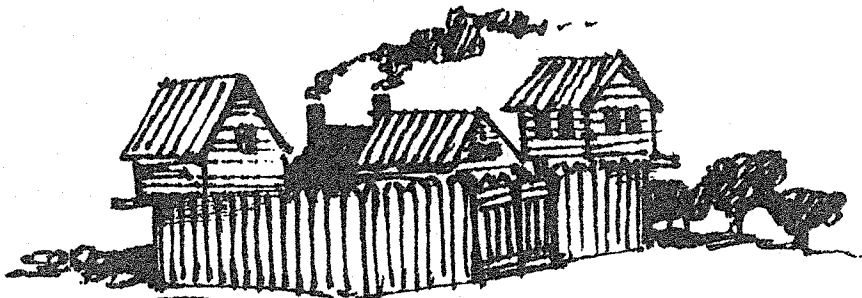
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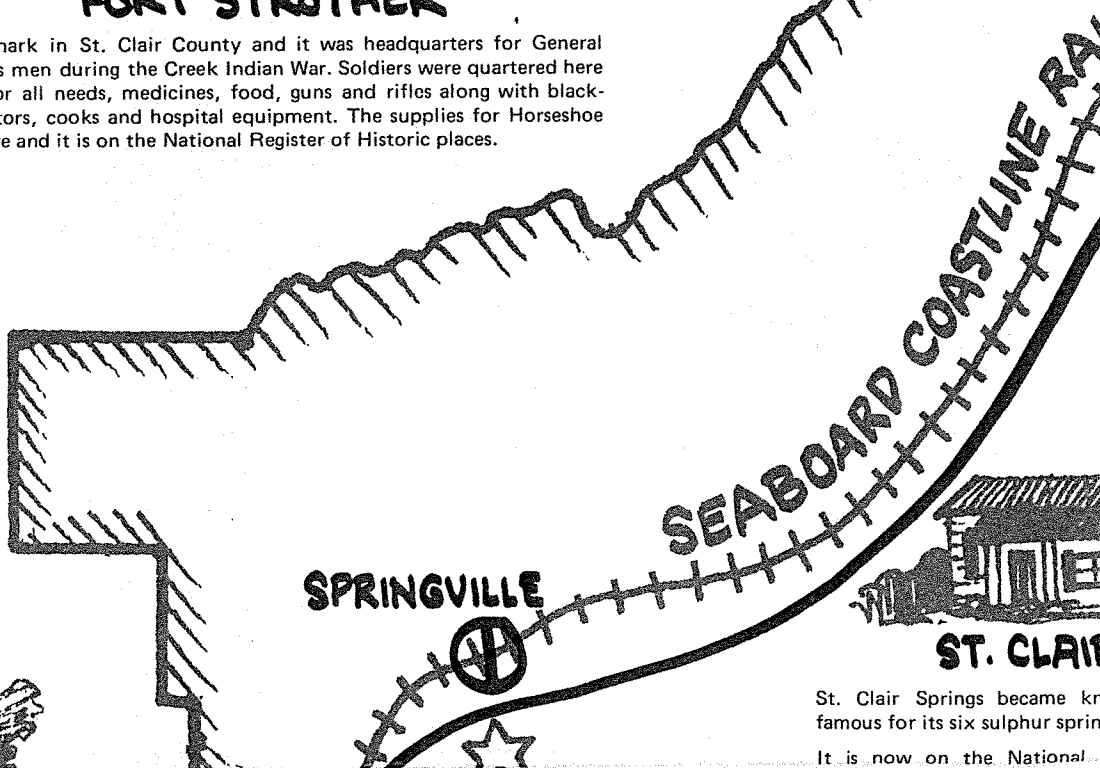
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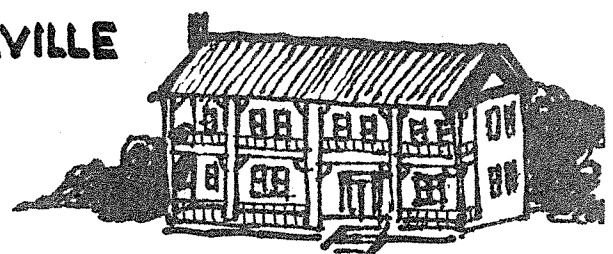
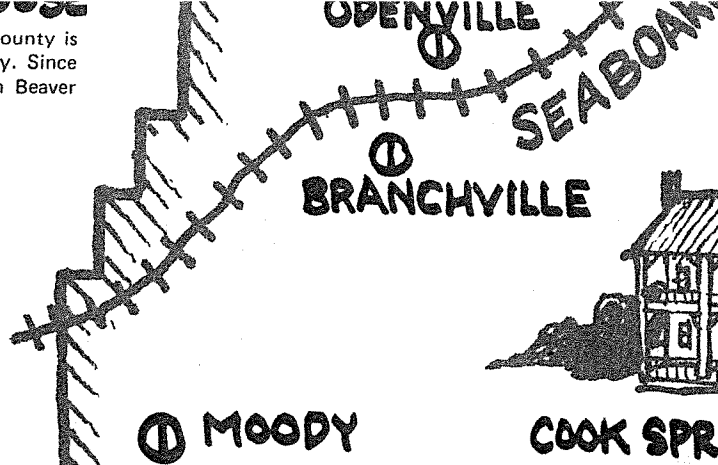
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ST. CLAIR

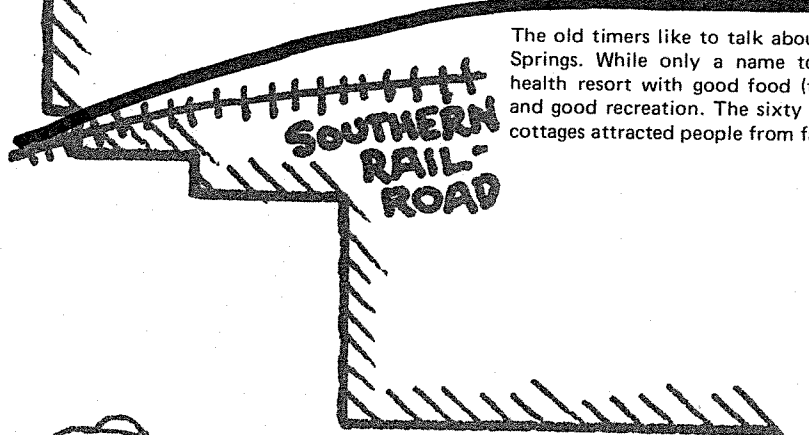
St. Clair Springs became famous for its six sulphur springs. It is now on the National Register of Historic places.

The oldest house in St. Clair County is the home of the Newton family. Since 1817 it has been a landmark in Beaver Valley.



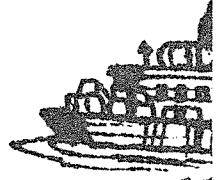
COOK SPRINGS RESORT HOTEL

The old timers like to talk about the mineral waters of Co Springs. While only a name today it was recognized as health resort with good food (the dining room seated 200) and good recreation. The sixty room hotel and twenty gu cottages attracted people from far and near.



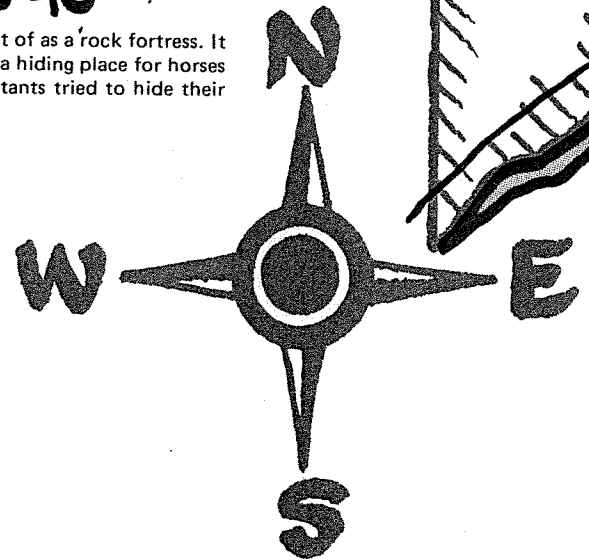
HORSE PENS 40

Horse Pens 40 on Chandler Mountain is often thought of as a rock fortress. It has a room-like formation, 50 ft. tall which served as a hiding place for horses and animals during the Civil War as the local inhabitants tried to hide their possessions from Northern soldiers. Today the entire area is an active recreational center for music and the arts.

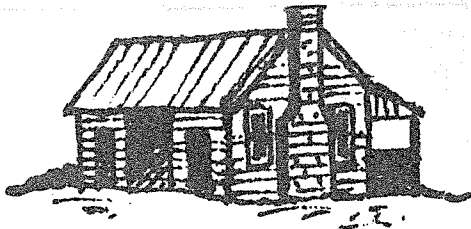


FERRIES

Before there were bridges, ferries were essential for getting across rivers. There were many private ferries and at Truss' Ferry, one of the first, Andrew Jackson's soldiers crossed the Coosa River in Talladega County in 1813.



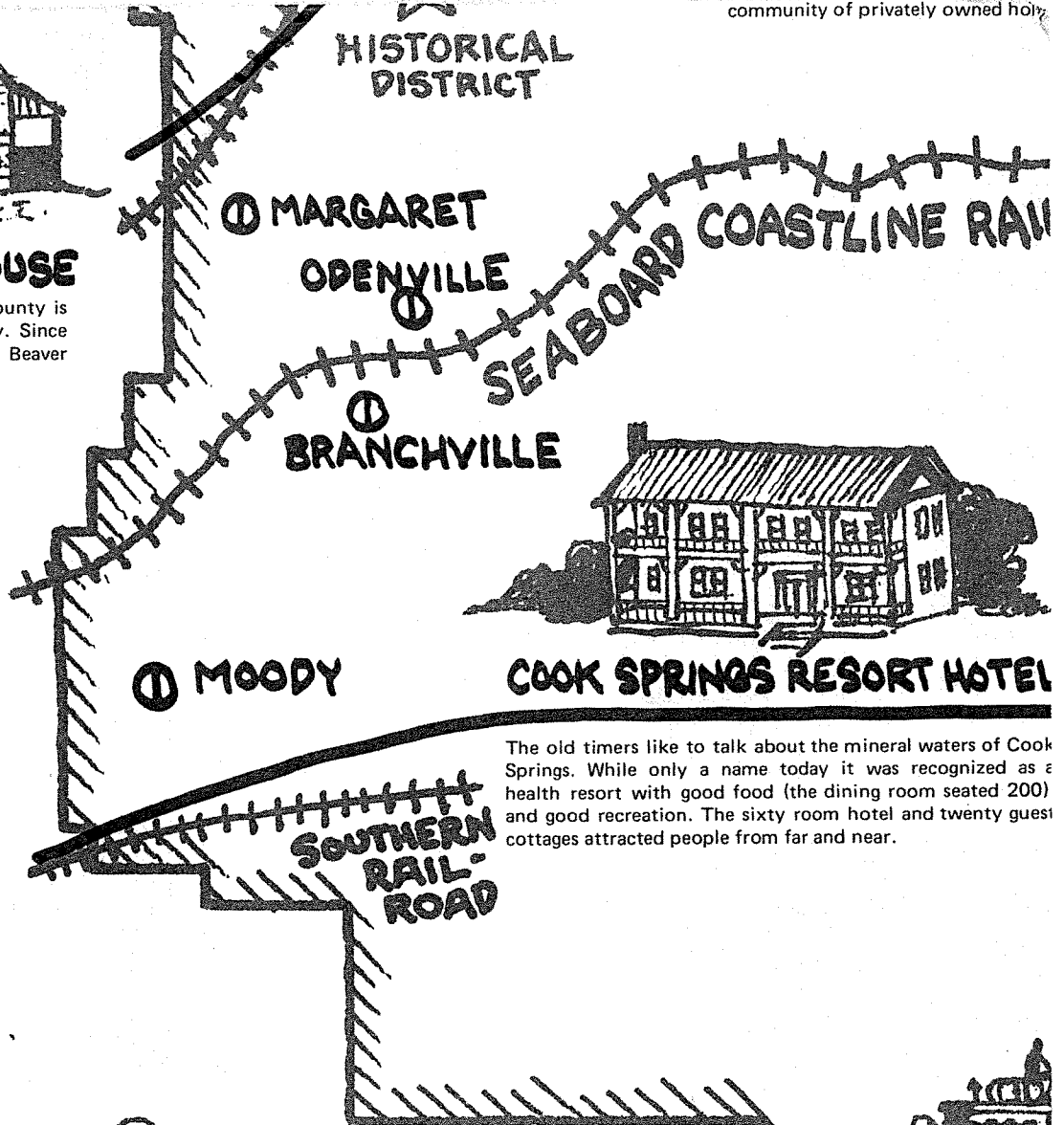
This Historical Map of St. Clair County was Commissioned by The Peoples Bank and researched by Mary Arminda Mays.



THE NEWTON HOUSE

The oldest house in St. Clair County is the home of the Newton family. Since 1817 it has been a landmark in Beaver Valley.

HISTORICAL DISTRICT



① MARGARET

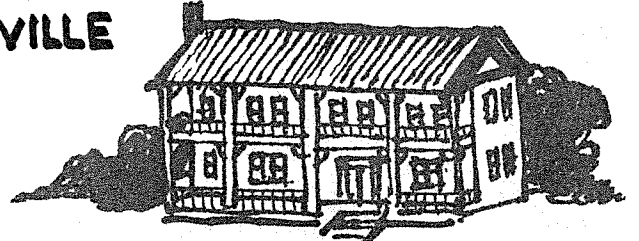
ODENVILLE

①

① BRANCHVILLE

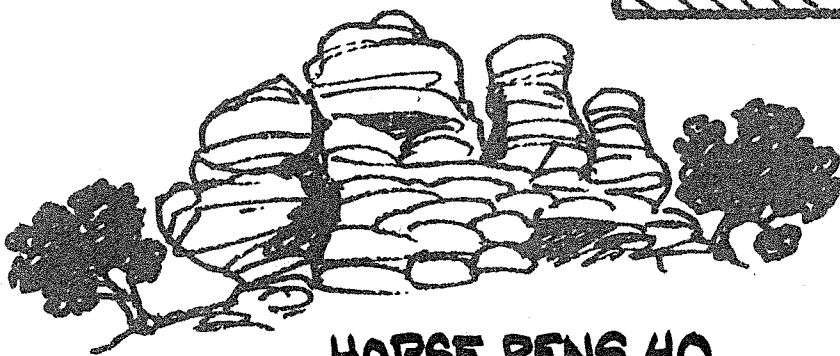
① MOODY

SOUTHERN RAILROAD



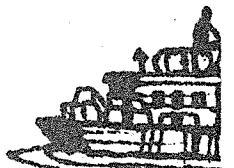
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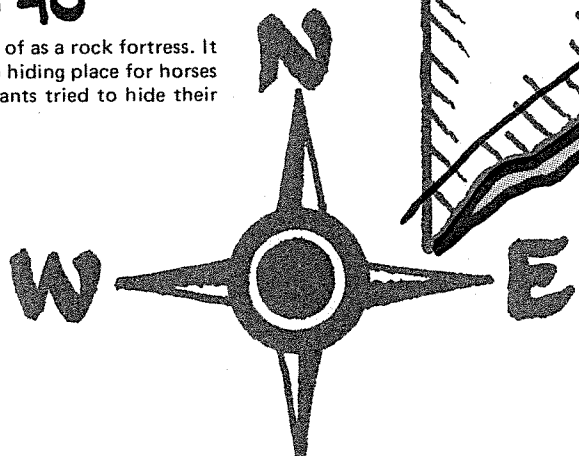
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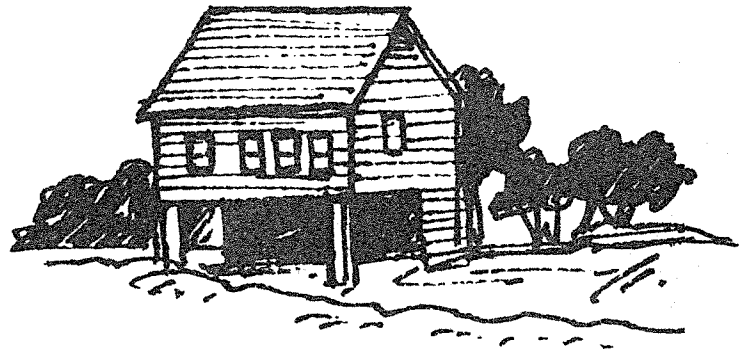
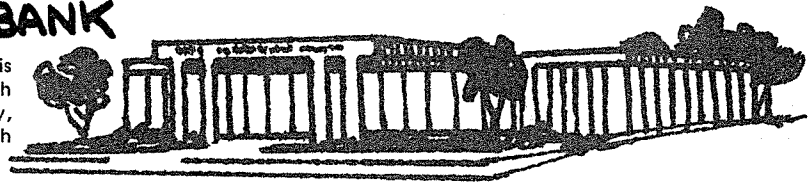


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County 1980

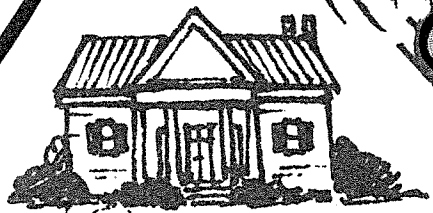
THE PEOPLES BANK

Founded in 1960, The Peoples Bank is celebrating its twentieth anniversary with this Historical Map. With offices in Pell City, Moody and Ragland, we have grown with the county we serve.



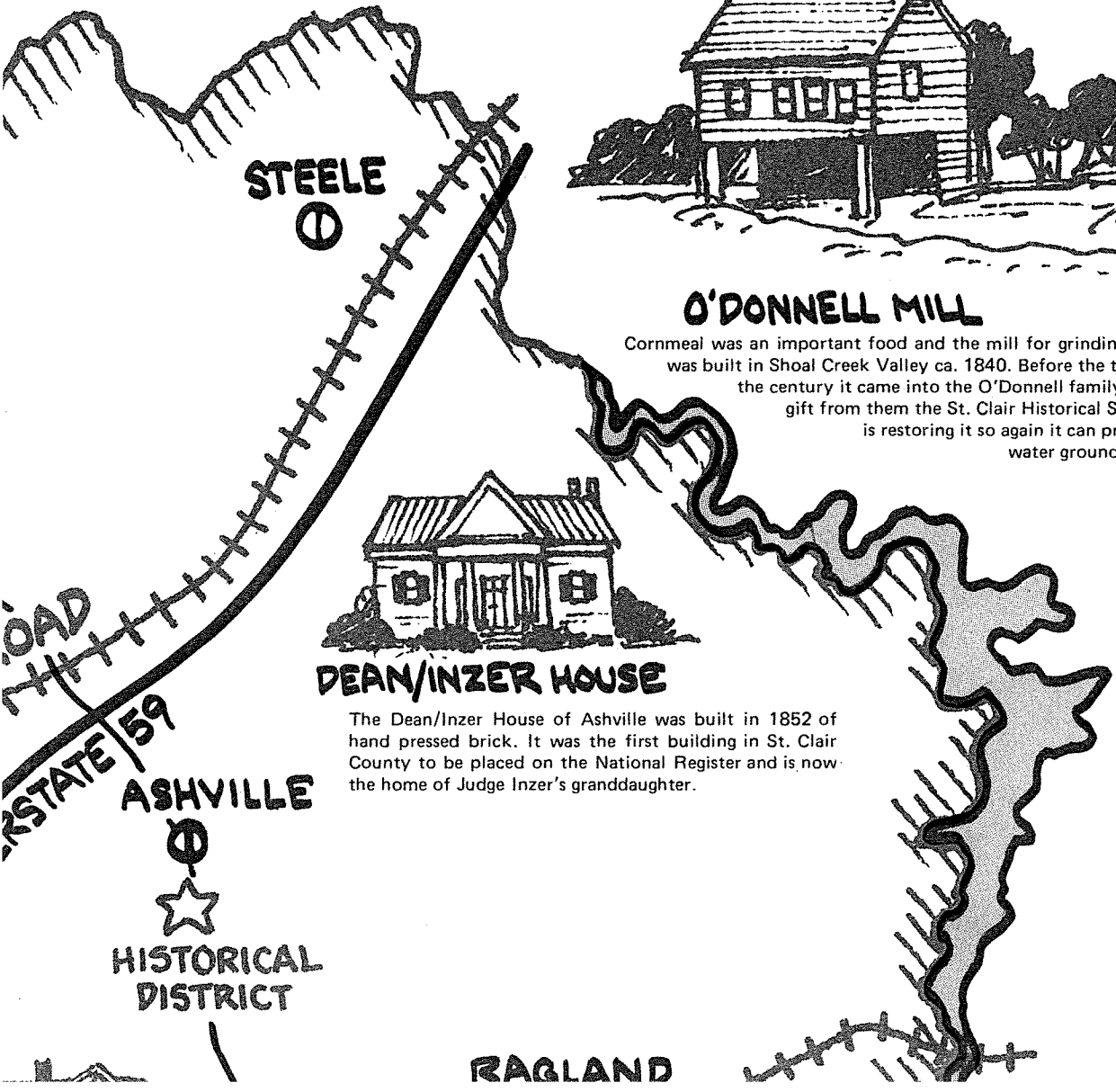
O'DONNELL MILL

Cornmeal was an important food and the mill for grinding corn was built in Shoal Creek Valley ca. 1840. Before the turn of the century it came into the O'Donnell family. As a gift from them the St. Clair Historical Society is restoring it so again it can produce water ground meal.



DEAN/INZER HOUSE

The Dean/Inzer House of Ashville was built in 1852 of hand pressed brick. It was the first building in St. Clair County to be placed on the National Register and is now the home of Judge Inzer's granddaughter.

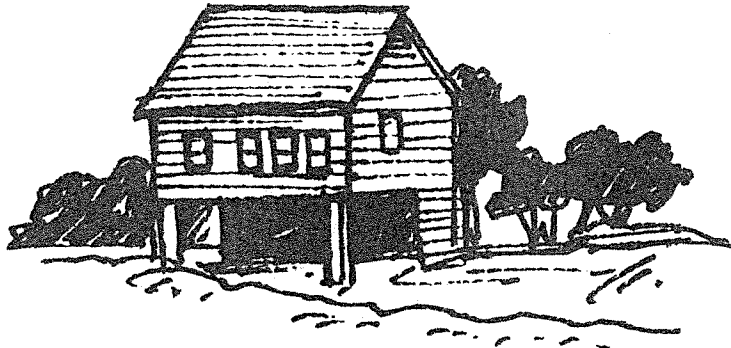
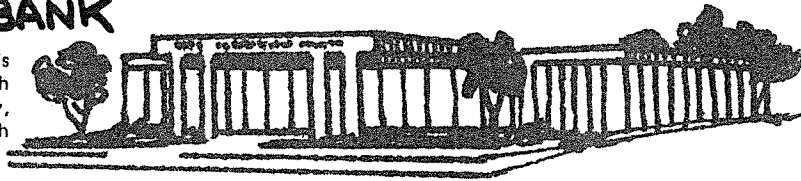


ASHVILLE
HISTORICAL DISTRICT

RAGLAND

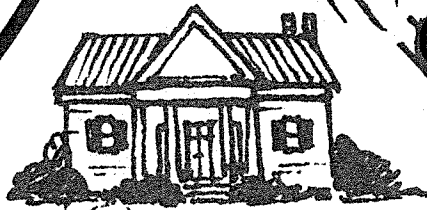
THE PEOPLES BANK

Founded in 1960, The Peoples Bank is celebrating its twentieth anniversary with this Historical Map. With offices in Pell City, Moody and Ragland, we have grown with the county we serve.



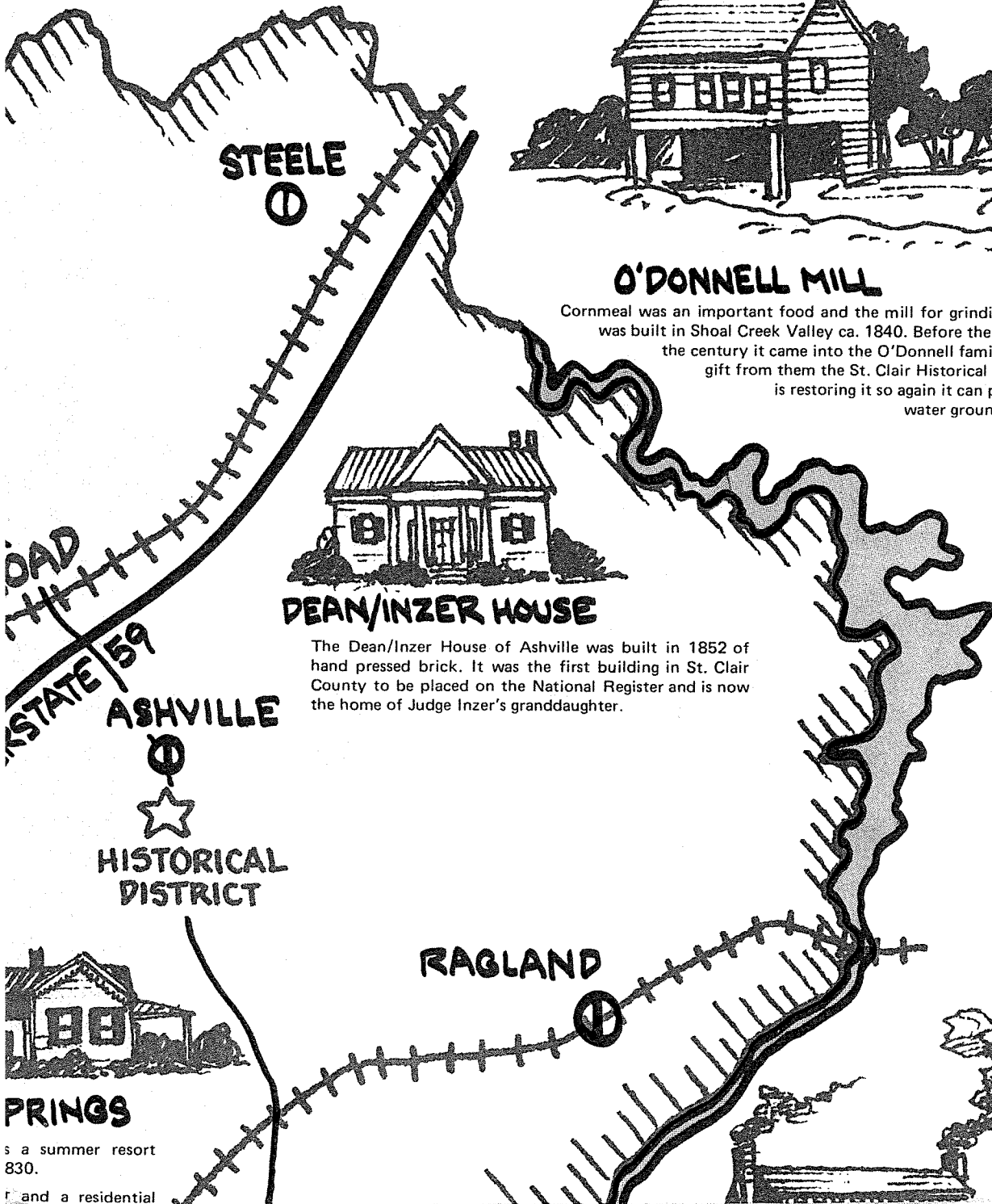
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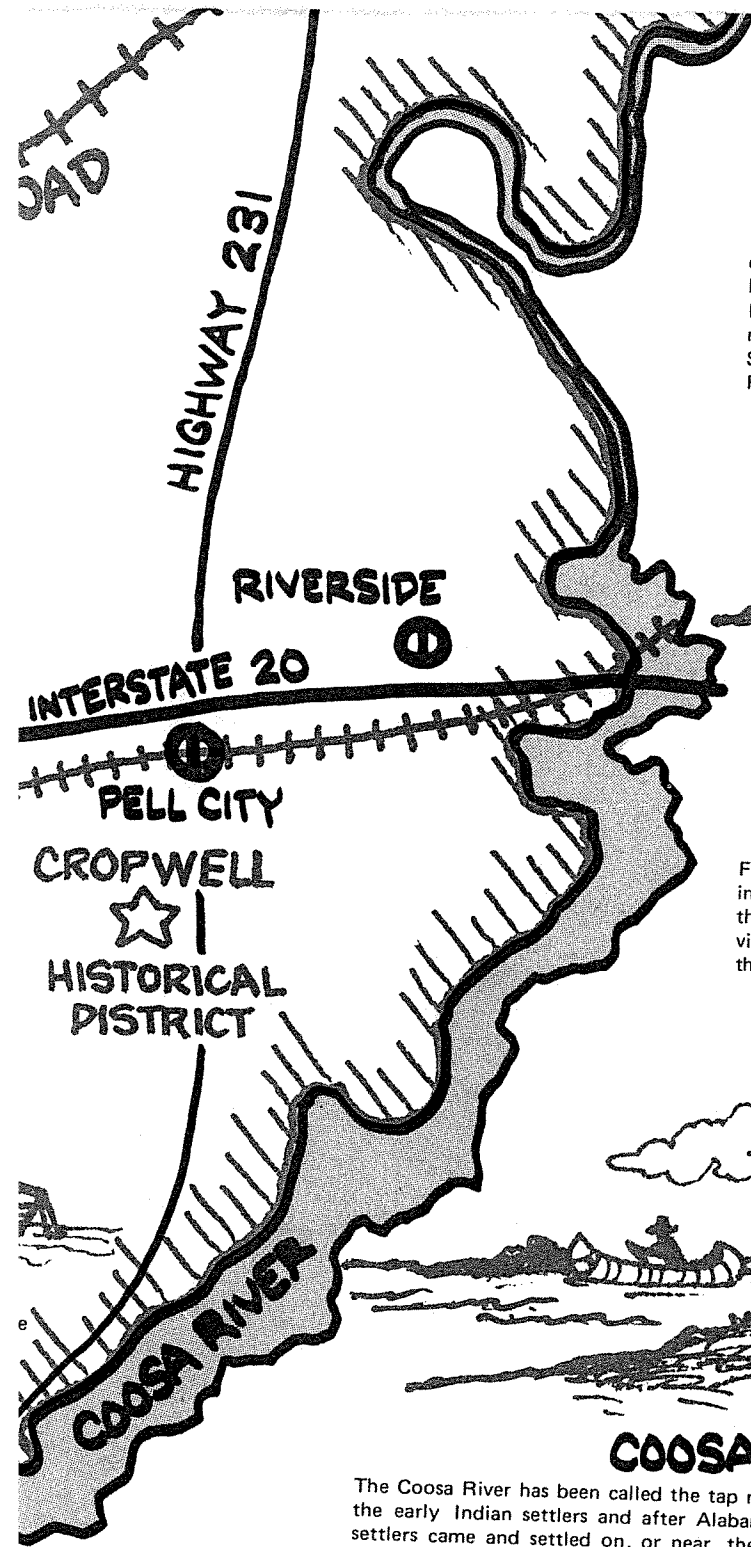
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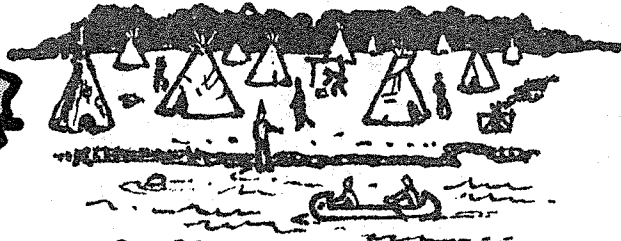
PRINGS

is a summer resort
1830.
and a residential



LOONEY HOUSE

Henry Looney, while serving with General Andrew Jackson during the Creek Indian War, was impressed with the area. After his return to Tennessee he collected his family and returned to Beaver Valley. For two years they worked shaping logs and making pegs to hold them in place. This has been restored by the St. Clair Historical Society as a museum and is on the National Register of Historical places.



CREEK INDIANS

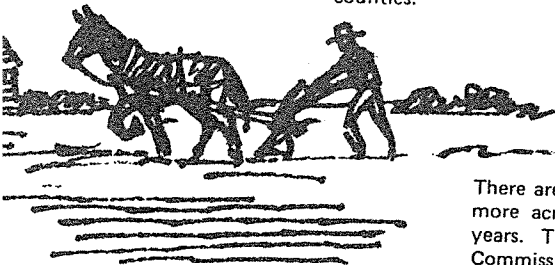
From the large tribe of Muscogee Indians some wandered into Alabama and St. Clair County and were impressed by the vast amount of water. So many came, settled, and built villages. It was called Land of Creeks, and thus was formed the Tribe of Creek Indians.



COOSA RIVER

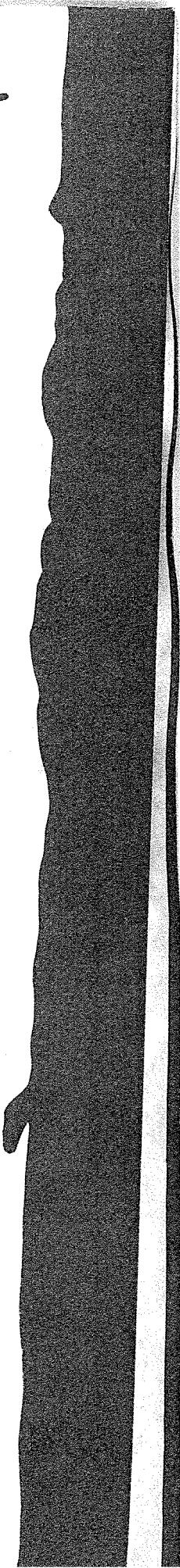
The Coosa River has been called the tap root of St. Clair County. The Coosa attracted the early Indian settlers and after Alabama became a territory in 1817, many white settlers came and settled on, or near, the Coosa to farm and raise their families. For about 200 years it has been a landmark contributing to the growth of the county.

Today there are five highway bridges which span the Coosa from St. Clair into other counties.

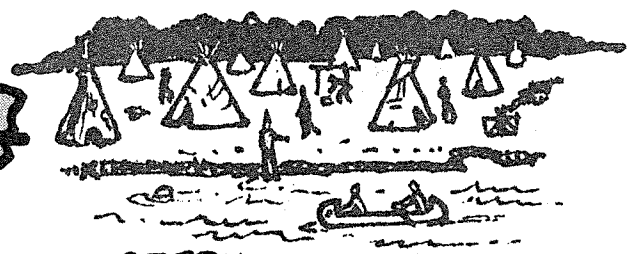
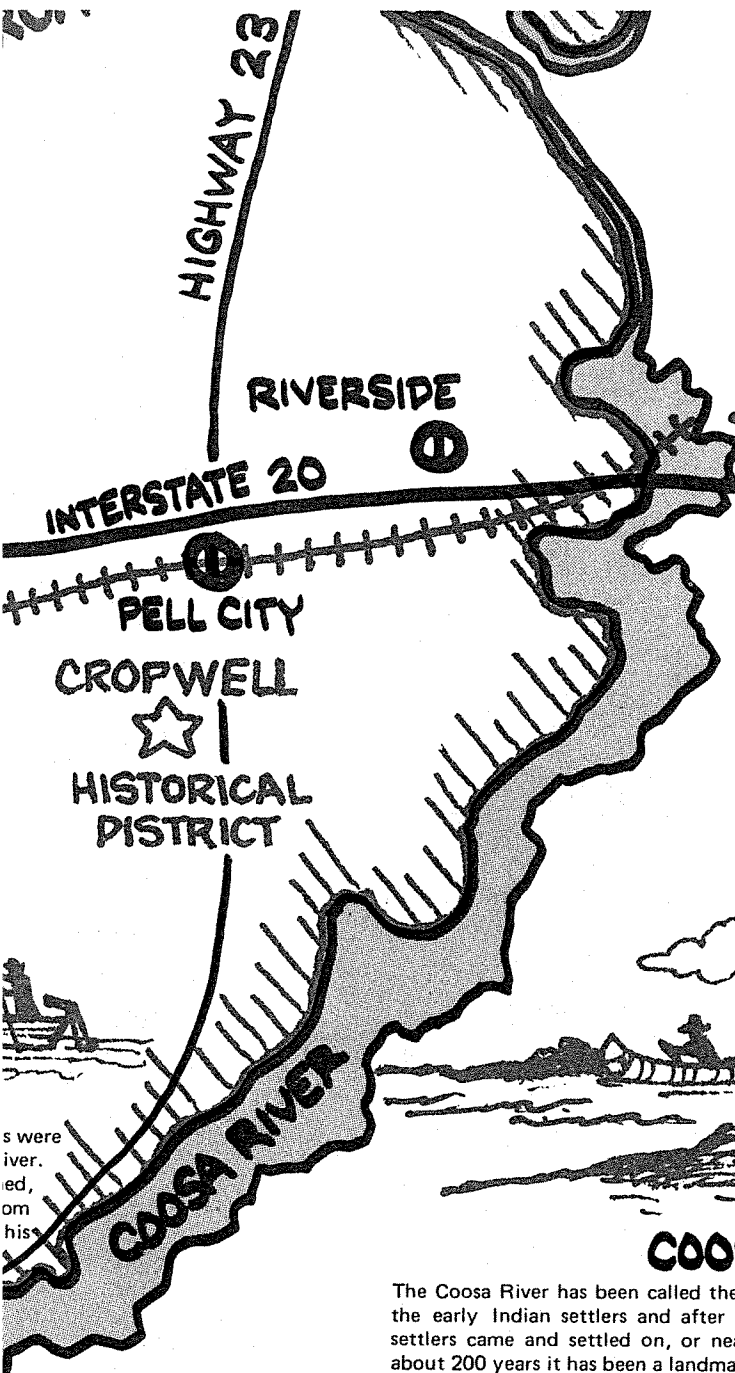


FAMILY FARMS

There are in St. Clair County 15 family farms consisting of 40 or more acres which have been in the same family for over 100 years. These are on the register of the Alabama Historical Commission.



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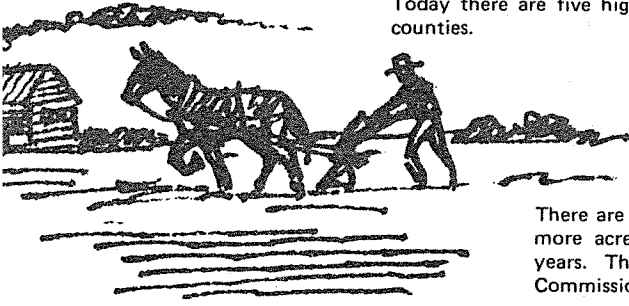
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ST. CLAIR COURTHOUSE? WHICH C

BY JACK HOPPER
News staff writer

ASHVILLE-PELL CITY, Aug. 7—Back in the horse and buggy days, St. Clair County was divided by a chain of mountains, impassable during bad weather.

Thus, the county has two county seats and two courthouses — the original county seat at Ashville and one at Pell City.

Since that time in the early 1900's a "friendly argument" has been going on over which is the county seat. The old-timers in Ashville say, "We are the county seat, and Pell City's courthouse is secondary." Pell City residents claim "There are two county seats, and everything is equal."

Take your pick. Anyway, the county has two courthouses with equal functions.

Actually, this county is the

only place in the state where an elected official can choose where to work. If a person elected lives nearer Ashville he works primarily out of the courthouse there. If he lives nearer Pell City, his office is in Pell City. Of course, all officials spend part of the time in both courthouses.

SEVERAL OTHER Alabama counties have two courthouses, but the secondary courthouse is known as a "mailbox" one, with all officials working out of the main county seat.

St. Clair County is different. The county is divided into two districts for courthouse business.

The Northern District includes the Ashville Courthouse; the Southern Division is at Pell City.

If a law suit occurs in the Northern District, all records are maintained and the case

is tried at Ashville. The same applies for the Southern Division at Pell City.

TO FURTHER complicate matters, when striking a jury for all cases, jurors are drawn from the entire county.

"It sounds complicated," said Circuit Clerk E. C. Banks, "but after getting accustomed to it, it is very simple."

Officials work out of both courthouse at one time or another.

Circuit Court is held at both courthouses, Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton holds Probate Court in Ashville on the first Monday of each month and in Pell City on the first Wednesday of each month. All the officials make frequent trips from one courthouse to the other.

Both do about the same amount of business.

THE ORIGINAL courthouse at Ashville was constructed in 1830, the present one being built in 1847. It was remodeled last year with an ultra-modern interior at a cost of \$270,000. The present courthouse at Pell City was built in 1955, the original one being built in 1902.

Hearing called c

Sen. Larry Dumas of Jefferson has called a public hearing for 1 p.m. Monday in the Commission Chamber at the Jefferson County Courthouse on a Senate bill to set new regulations for the Plumbing Board of Inspection.

The bill, introduced by Sen. John Tyson of Mobile, would effect all counties with populations of more than 150,000.

Dumas said he wanted to give persons who favored or opposed the bill an opportunity to dis-

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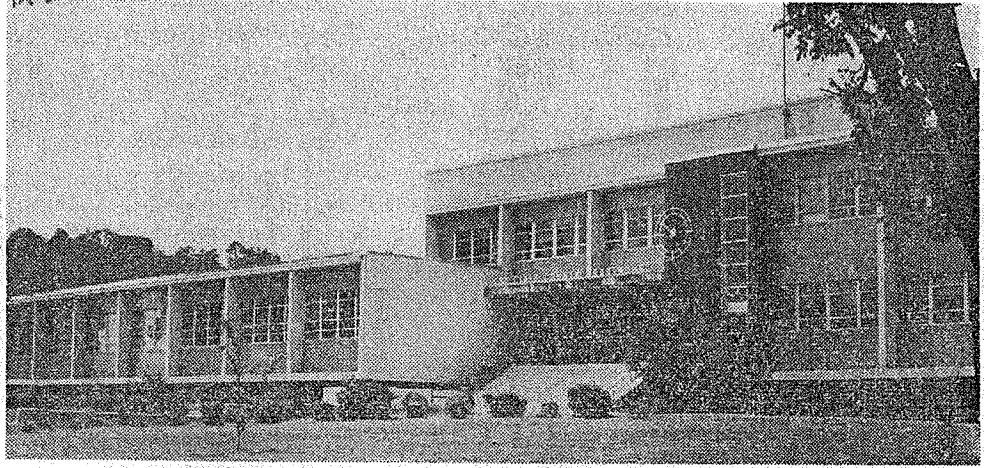
Ashville prides itself on old records still being in the basement of the courthouse. "We have many records dating back to the year 1818," said Banks. "It is a miracle that a fire did not destroy the wood buildings years past."

Hearing called on plumbing

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The bill, introduced by Sen. John Tyson of Mobile, would effect all counties with populations of more than 150,000.

Dumas said he wanted to give persons who favored or opposed the bill an opportunity to discuss it before he took it to the Senate floor. Major provisions of the bill would increase travel expenses of the plumbing inspectors from the present \$2,200 annually to a maximum of \$4,800; enable the board to hire legal counsel to limit the master plumber's certificate holder to a maximum of \$20,000 of business in the six months, \$100,000 the six months and unlimited after.



PELL CITY COURTHOUSE BUILT IN 1955, ON SITE OF ORIGINAL
... Claim to be an equal county seat is denied by Ashville



COURTHOUSE BUILT AT ASHVILLE IN 1847, REMODELED LAST YEAR
... Records in basement date back to 1819

Western parade as horses bolt viewers injured

DEADWOOD, S. D., Aug. 7— (AP) — Two horses pulling a surrey in Deadwood's annual "Days of '76" parade bolted into the crowd today, resulting in injuries to seven persons.

One boy, James Pickett of Lead, was hospitalized with undetermined injuries after a

wheel of the rig passed over his body. A woman identified as Helen Harrington of Central City was hospitalized with a back injury.

Five other children were given emergency treatment at hospitals for cuts and bruises. Sheriff Richard McGrath said

the horses bolted when the tongue broke on the surrey, driven by Robert Clausen of Eagle Butte.

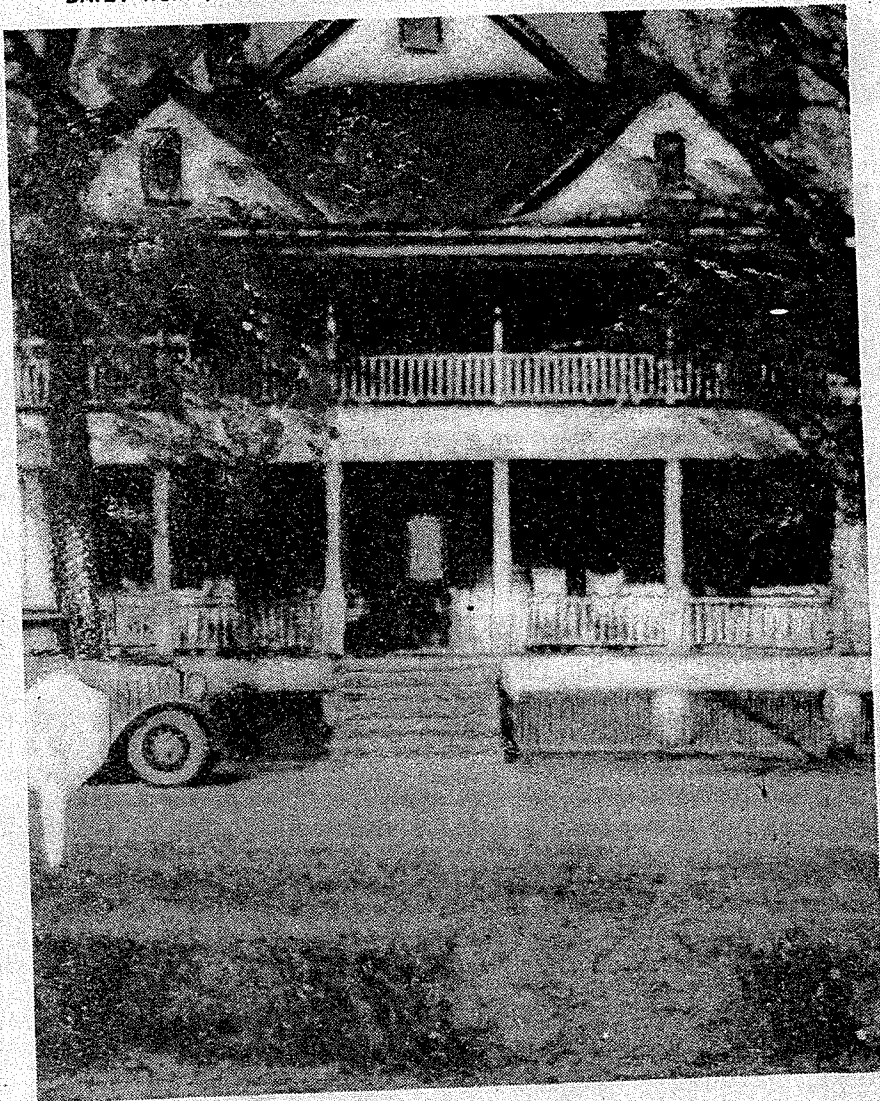
"Days of '76" is celebrated each year in recollection of the Gold Rush days of the last century when Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane were fabled residents of Deadwood.

02

Jan. 12, 1962. The plant now makes a material called greige.

Pell City's first school was taught in a little schoolhouse built by Sumter Cogswell, W.H. Miller, and many others. Miss Dadie Griffith was the teacher. By 1905 the town had a school system with nine months of free schooling. A brick schoolhouse was erected where the City Hall stands today. Professor P.M. Matthews, who was also a lawyer, served as principal. Handy Ellis — later Judge Ellis — was principal from 1907-08. In addition to the public schools, the cotton mill company maintained a splendid school on the hill near the mill. Many years later Miss Iola Roberts came to teach in that school. After a number of years, she became principal. When the school was taken over by the County Board of Education, and a new brick building was erected, it was named the Iola Roberts Elementary school. Miss Roberts has contributed much to the town's civic, social, and religious life of the town. Today Pell City has four schools which are fully accredited.

In 1903, The Bank of St. Clair County was organized with Sumter Cogswell as president, Frank H. Lathrop as vice president, 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



The old Cornett Hotel

and Trust Co., which was in operation from 1910-1911. Today there are two strong banking houses in Pell City,

Union State and the People's Bank. Also located there is St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Federal Savings & Loan

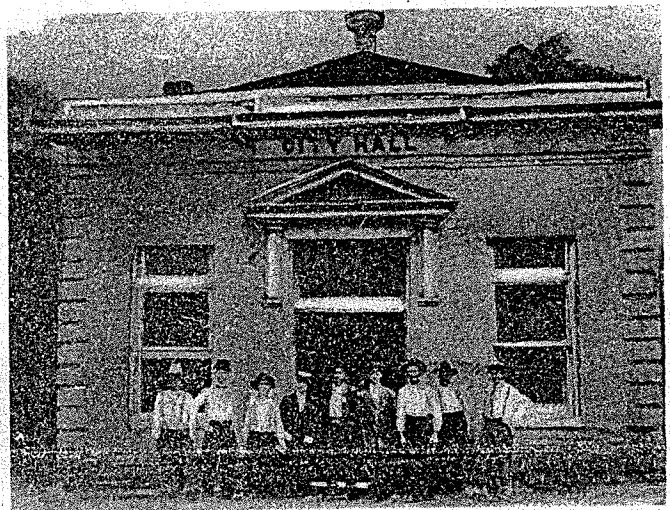


St. Clair Federal Savings & Loan

Then...

1957

Assets of \$237,000



...And Now

1981

Assets of \$28,880,879

AND NOW

Checking Accounts Along With Specialized Savings & Loans...

A CHECKING ACCOUNT THAT PAYS

Pell City...



Looking East on Cogswell Avenue during the early days of Pell City



This clock at Union State Bank in Pell City stopped at 4:10 p.m. Jan. 10, 1925, when a tornado destroyed most of

the city's business district and many residences. For months after power

remained off that day afternoon as it continued to show 4:10 p.m.

THE ALABAMA MUNICIPAL

July 1961

JOURNAL

inside this issue

CITY-COUNTY PROJECTS
• Page 5

PATTERSON'S VIEWPOINT
• Page 7

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGES
• Page 8

URBAN RENEWAL PLANS
• Page 12

THE LEGAL VIEWPOINT
• Page 18

WASHINGTON DATELINE
• Page 22

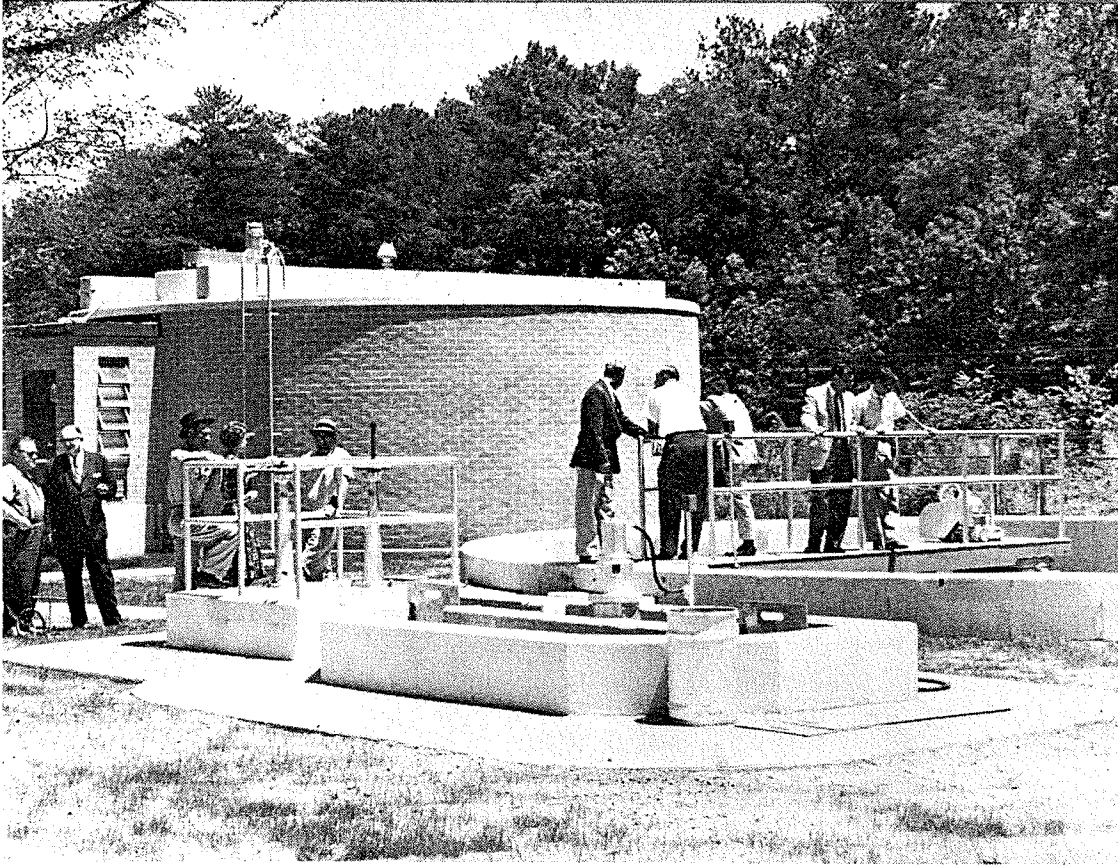
UTILITY DEVELOPMENTS
• Page 26

REVENUE AND FINANCE
• Page 30

ALABAMA LEGISLATURE
• Page 32

SECRETARY OF THE YEAR
• Page 33

ED REID'S FAST BALL
• Page 35



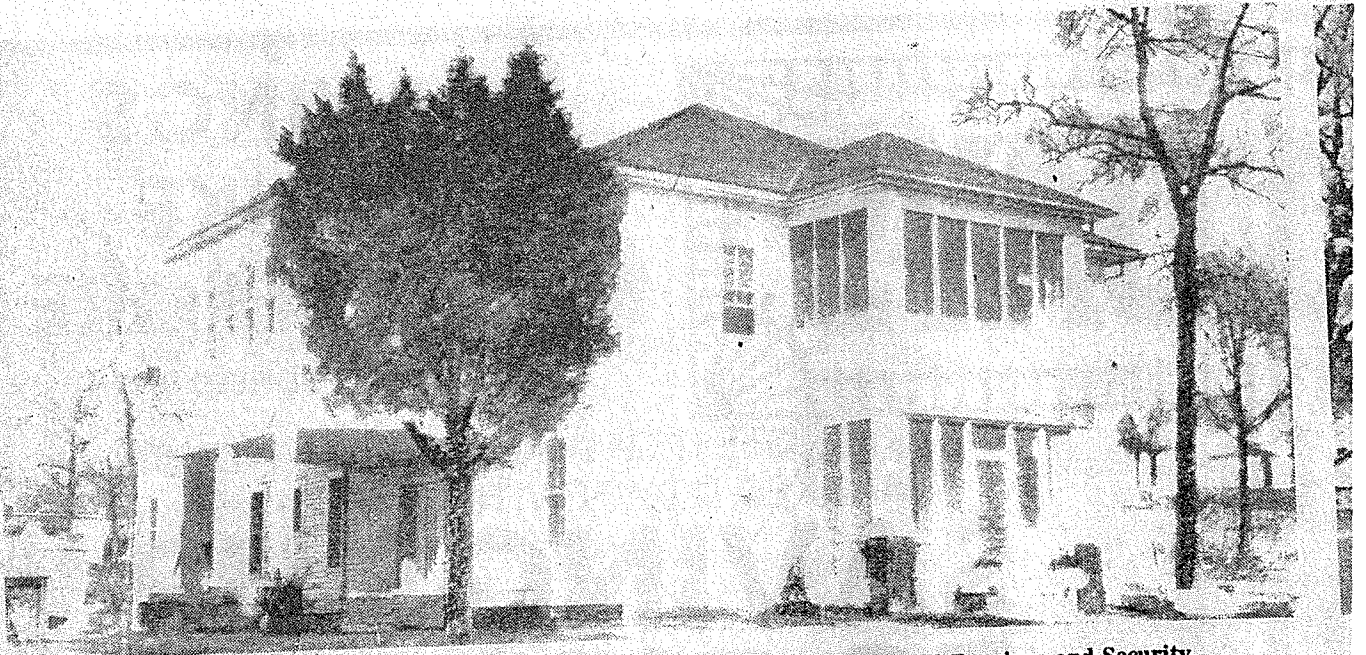
Pell City officials and citizens were pleased to officially dedicate last month the community's new sewage treatment plant and a vast network of sewerage lines. Cost of the entire new system, Mayor Sam Burt says, was \$431,000. Photo shows part of the new system. A local industry helped supply the funds for the project.

Vol. 19

No. 1

Official Publication of

THE ALABAMA LEAGUE
OF MUNICIPALITIES



First hospital, now home of Adult Development Center and Department of Pensions and Security.

New courthouse built; Eden, Oa

In the early 1950's it became evident that the old courthouse at Pell City was inadequate, and it was necessary to replace it. Martin J. Lide of Birmingham was the architect, and the contractor was R.P. Henderson and Sons of Pell City. The building was financed with county funds; no federal or state aid was used, and existing taxes were not increased. M.W. Forman was judge of probate at that time, and the commissioners were E.N. Peace, W.H. Hess, W.A. Coleman, and W.D. Wilkins. Virginia Luker was clerk of commissioners court. The building was dedicated on March 3, 1956. Master of ceremonies at the dedication was Pat Roberson, and the main speaker was Governor James E. Folsom, who was introduced by Circuit Judge Frank B. Embry.

On April 23, 1956, two neighboring towns, Eden and Oak Ridge, merged with Pell City. Eden was an old municipality which flourished in the 1880's when it was the "railhead" for the track workers along the Southern Railroad. Oak Ridge was a new town, incorporated in 1947 through the ef-

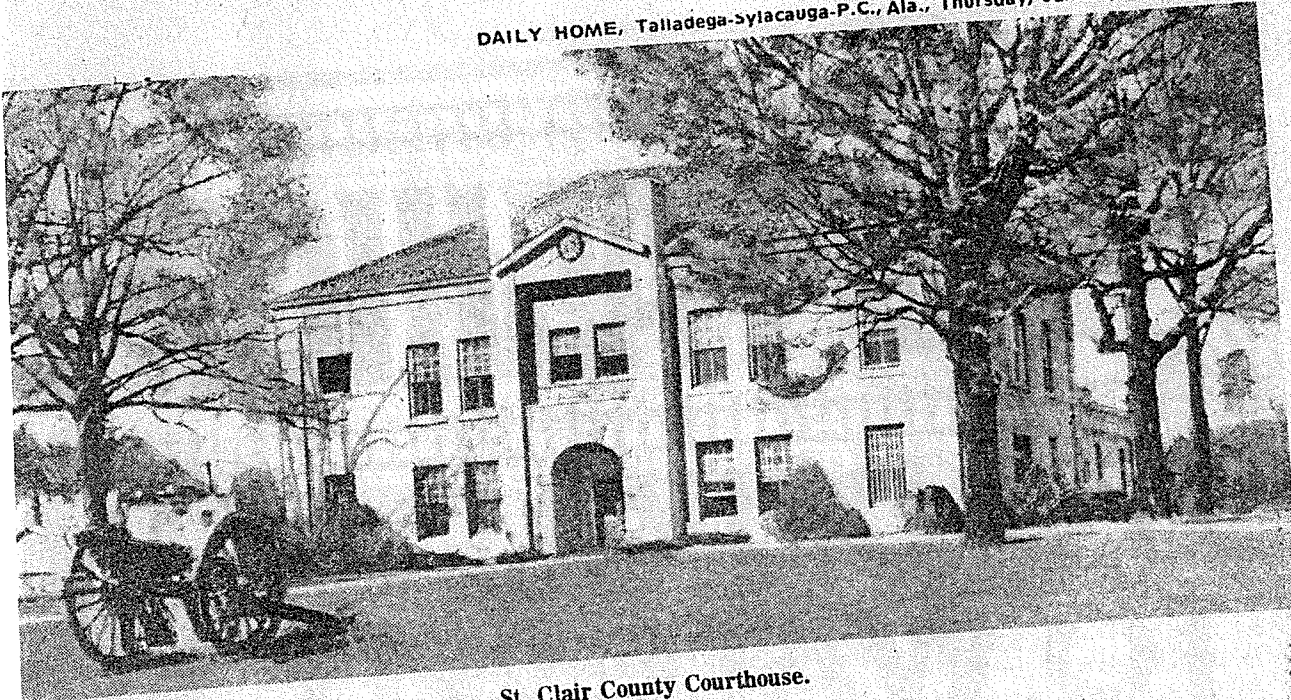
John Roberson. Seddon was settled in 1880 when the Georgia Pacific Railroad was built. It was incorporated that year with a population of 500. The people came there to live from Truss's Ferry (Ferryville), one mile away on the Coosa River. It was a lumber community for Empire Lumber Co. The town was named for Thomas Seddon, who was the first Secretary of War for the Confederate States under Jefferson Davis. The first merchant was J.K.P. Lacy. Dr. Henry Green Crump was the first doctor. Other pioneer settlers were Jake Maddox, W.H. and W.N. Roberson, and Harvey Bell. When the timber supply was exhausted the mills moved away. Todayart of the tiny village stands dismally amid dreams of the past.

The town of Cropwell now is also part of Pell City. Soon after the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, a group of friends and relatives from the Laurens and Abbeville districts of South Carolina came seeking a new home in the wilderness. They were the John Roberson, Willimason, Truss,

Cropwell. James Roberson was the first postmaster. There was another early post office nearby in the Harmon settlement which was called Fountainrun. J.O.N. Hardwick served as postmaster there.

People of the Baptist faith attended church at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, which had been established in 1828, or at Coosa Valley Baptist Church which was founded in 1840. The few Methodists, including the McRaes and the Laneys, went to Easonville Methodist Church. In 1888 the Cropwell Baptist Church was organized, and today it is one of St. Clair County's most active churches.

The proximity of Cropwell to Easonville enabled the Cropwell families to send their children to Easonville to school. Coosa Valley High School was opened in 1880 with I.W. Hill as principal. By 1889 Cropwell had its own school, with excellent teachers from the beginning. Roy Gibson (later county superintendent of education) was principal there; it was the first place he taught in the county. Cropwell was the first community in the county to vote for the three mill tax



St. Clair County Courthouse.

Ark Ridge merge with Pell City

made phenomenal progress toward becoming a city. Recent developments, and new industry, give a preview of the development that can be expected in the future.

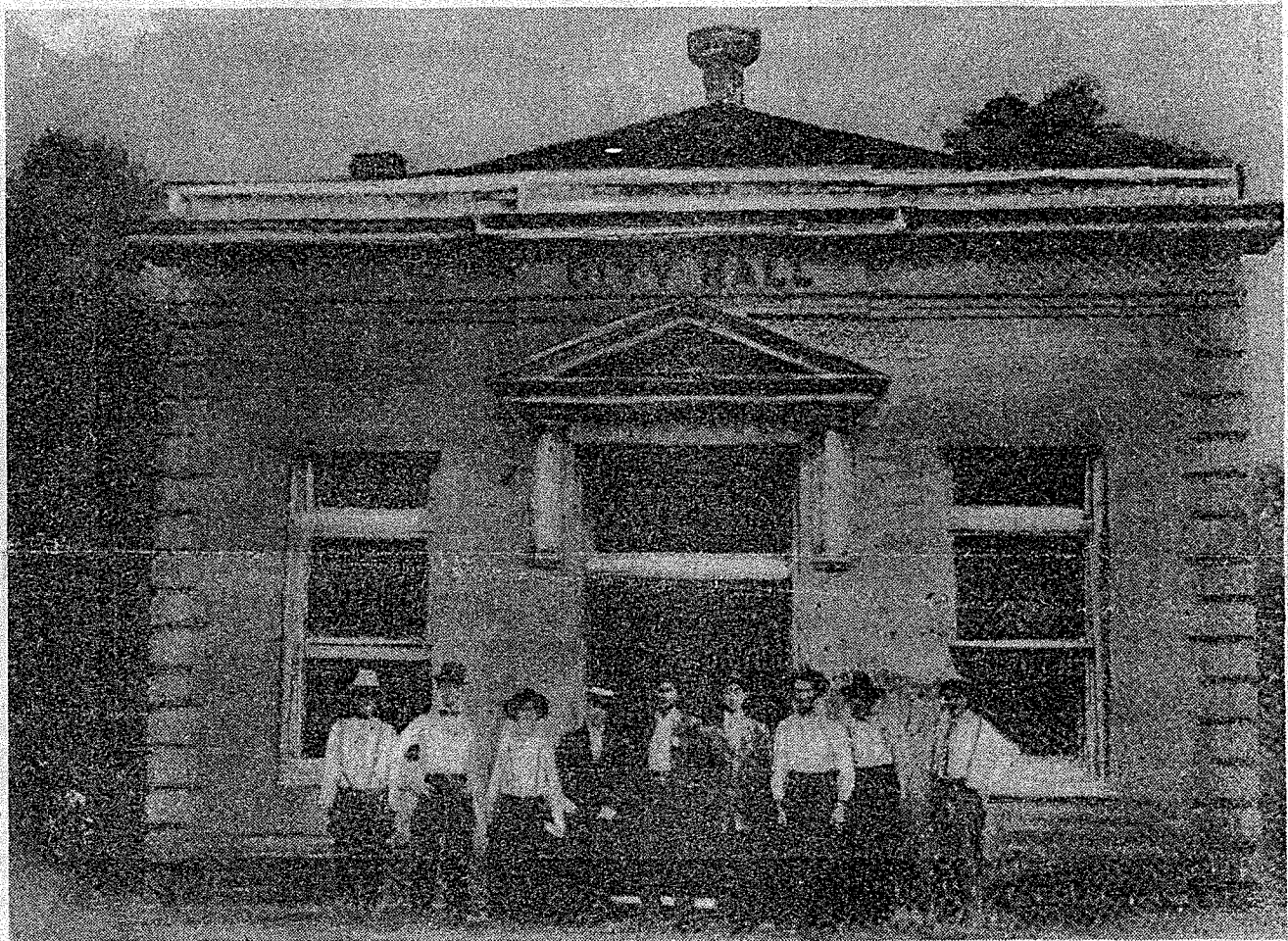
Mrs. A.F. Riser is the proud owner of Pell City's oldest home, a rambling two-story white house reminiscent of deep South plantation life. It actually was a plantation home when Green built it in

veranda lack ornamentation; their pink louvered blinds are their only decoration. The small window panes are of blown glass. Their simplicity is relieved by the beautiful sunburst transom over the front door. The chimneys at either end of the house are of handpressed brick.

When you step across the threshold, you at once see that Ann Riser has done a superb job of restoration, for

purchased the house in 1956. Mrs. Riser's love for the place reflects her faith in American traditions.

Every piece of furniture in the house is authentic — either an original, or a true reproduction — and represents a style current in Southern farm homes during the late 19th century. One especially fine piece, and likely the oldest one, is a walnut secretary of early 18th century vintage. It was made for an ancestor of Mrs. Riser



City Hall, now office building of optometrist Dr. J.H. McClendon. It was the first location of St. Clair County Commission Chairman and Federal Savings and Loan Association.



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