

KILGROE FUNERAL HOME
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR;

NO. 2075
 YR. 75

Name Mrs Floy L. Yorty Age 77 Color white Sex female
 Address Pell City R-1, Alabama County St Clair Beat 10
 Date of Death July 23, 1956 Hour 6:45 PM Place residence Beat 10
 Marital Status widowed Husband or wife of Andrew Jackson Yorty
 Cause of death D K Social Security No. _____ Veteran _____
 Date of birth 9-13-1878 Place Beaver Falls, N. Occupation Music Teacher
 Father's Name Henry Oberly Mother's Maiden Name ? Florida
 Informant Miss Bertha Crump Address Pell City, Alabama
 Physican M. G. Norrell Address 1716 1st Ave N
 Place of service Grave Side Date July 25, 1956 Hour 11 AM
 Cemetery Yorty Family Cemetery Minister None
 Shipment To or From _____ R. R. _____
 Date of arrival or leave _____ Hour _____ Station _____
 Clothing 4-3 Orchid Casket 750-LGX Vault B S I Vault
 Hearse _____ Grave setup _____ Flowers _____ Lamp _____ Chairs _____
 Door Badge _____ Press Notice PCN Police escort _____ Permit 7-24-56
 Disposition of Clothing & effects destroyed
 Delivery Home NO Date _____ Hour _____ Place _____
 Survivors none

 Pall Bearers _____

 Funeral Directors _____ Embalmer 426
 Burial Policy Numbers Brown-Service Burial & Vault

as flagship of the 7th. Fleet in Far Eastern waters.

The vessel visited ports in Japan, Formosa, Okinawa, the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Hong Kong.

4-H Member To Attend Wildlife Camp

Dalton Wester, a Ragland 4-H Club Member was chosen by the St. Clair Sportsmen's Association to attend the wildlife camp at Camp Rotary, near Wetumpka, August 7 through 11. The association will pay the fees for the week.

Mrs. Floy L. Yorty Succumbs

Private graveside services were held last week at 11 a. m. for Mrs. Floy L. Yorty, who passed away at the residence of Miss Bertha Crump following a long illness.

Mr's. Yorty, a resident of Pell City, Route One, was 77 years old. There are no survivors. Kilgroe directed the service.

Boston, Mass. While a householder was out clipping his hedge, a thief slipped into his home and clipped him for \$227. Not only that, but he locked the door after him upon leaving and the owner had to climb in through a window to unlock the door.

television, but thirteen live ra
he enjoys listening to records. Both chuckawalal dese
boys really 'cut a rug' whenever es, and fifteen tu
they hear music. These little fel- ing on the floor
las catch on to music fast, and keep ed to Jasper N. M
up with the latest records. Mack and cannery wor
especially likes to sing "Standing hotel wouldn't let

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The city Joe Black remembers so vividly is likened to that of an industrial boom town many may not imagine as they pass through its boundaries today.

The area Black speaks of, lives in and writes about was a populous town that was once a major resource producer called Broken Arrow, later known as Coal City.

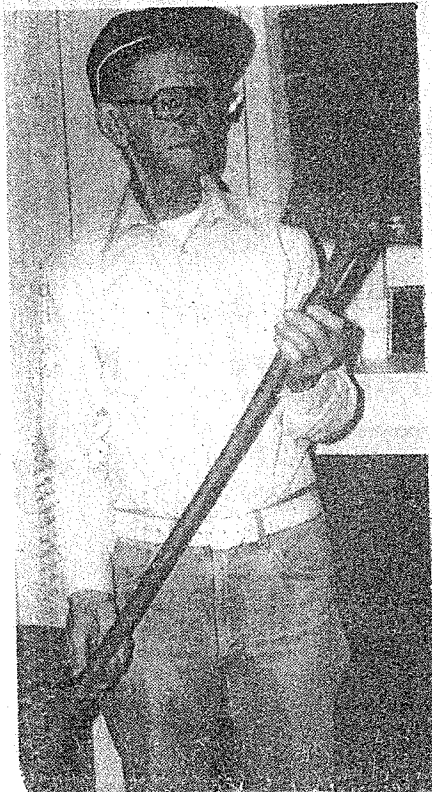
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HE MAY STOP now and then to admire a good quality tree and later use one of its branches to make a walking cane.

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Although his carving hobby is a time-consuming process, Black also



finds time for his first love — history.

Black, who always has been “crazy about history,” quickly found the more he learned during his early years, the more he wanted to know — more than what was contained in school books.

In later years, he began gathering old pictures from his neighbors and talking to “old-timers.” He soon found, as he delved deeper into the place he calls home, that his information could be developed into a history of the area.

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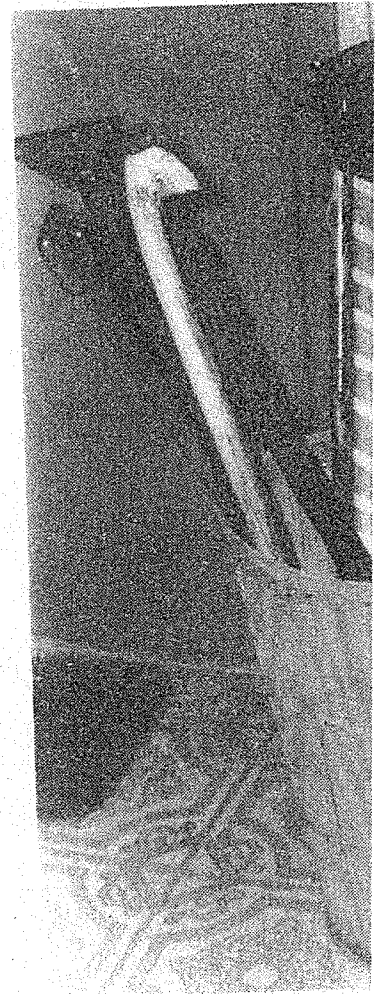
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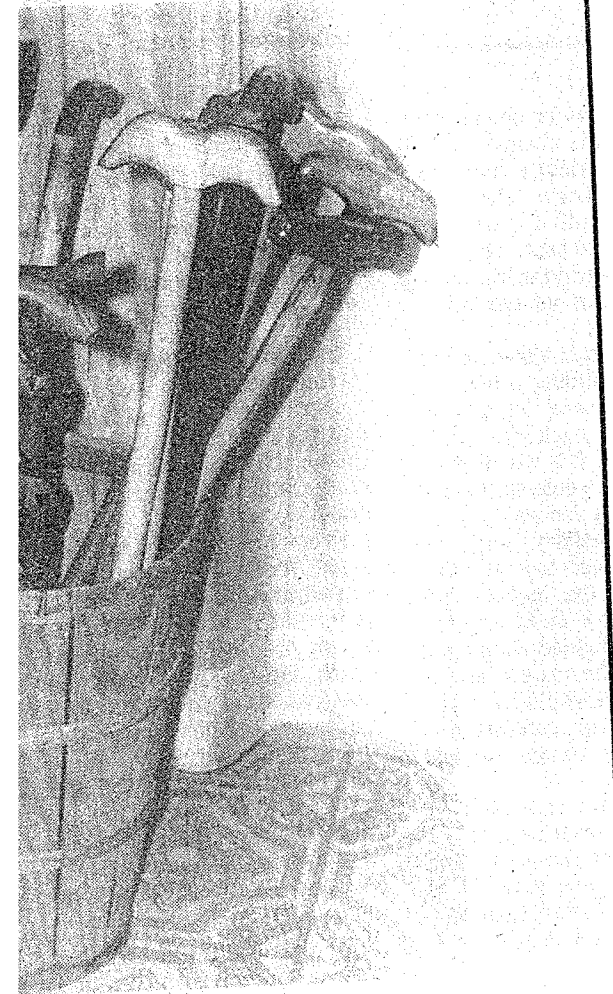
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miles away.

Late in the 19th century, John
Postell built the East and West
Railroad running through Coal City,
which he later sold to Seaboard Airline
Railroad.

In 1890, Postell changed the village's
name to Coal City to perfectly fit St.
Clair County's coal-producing
metropolis.

And today, Coal City, though not as
active as it once was, is still a perfect
fit for one of its well known and long-
time residents, "Papa Joe" Black.

Carol Pappas



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COAL CITY

The present baptist church was built in 1905 and they now have 147 members in their church. The Methodist was also built in 1903 or 1904. The Methodist Church was built two years before the baptist was and the methodist church was built two years before the baptist was and the methodist has about 194 members now.

The first railroad was built in 1889 and it was the Eastern and Western which came from Coal City to Talladega. The Eastern and Western sold out to seaboard, who continued the line to Birmingham. They called their first train "Old Hoodlum". The people on Saturday would get on "Old Hoodlum" and go to Talladega to do their shopping and during the week they would carry coal to Talladega.

The first coal mine was opened around 1874 and the mines started drying out around 1915. The last one shut down in 1919. When the mines started drying down, people started moving away.

The St. Clair Drive-In Theater was started in 1950 and was finished in 1951. The first show was "The Steel Helmet."

They used to have boarding houses and hotels above the viaduct. Between Coal City and Ashville, they had "poor houses" for the people who couldn't make a living for themselves.

Mrs. gave the community the property to build a school in Coal City so their children wouldn't have to go to Pell City School. The first school was a log cabin where the Methodist Church is located now. They built another school up on a hill but it is now burnt down. It burnt down in 1952.

Coal City used to be called "Broken Arrow" and "Old Town." Wattsville got its name from a man named Watts Brown and also Mr. Brown owned the post office in Coal City. One section of Coal City is still called Wattsville but a lot of us refuse to call any section of it Wattsville because it was first Coal City and will always remain so in our hearts.

Laura Tollison

INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF COAL CITY

The early settlers, in this territory, earned their living by farming. At this time there was only one store in Coal City. This store was owned and operated by Mr. Rube Alverson. It was located at the "Old Boldin Crossroads", which was near the present day crossroads. Mr. Alverson bought most of the farmers produce, which was transported by horse and wagon to Greensport, where the produce was exported by way of water, to market.

Mr. Rube Alverson moved his store to Coal City and there Mr. J.W. Moore joined him as a partner. They started operating the first coal mine in Coal City. After the discovery of coal this area was later named "Coal City". Heretofore it had been called "Slope", "Broken Arrow", "Old Town and New Town."

The first railroad was built in the 1800's. This railroad was a Narrow-Gage, known as the East and West. This line ran from Rome, Georgia to Talladega, Alabama. In the year 1889 it was widened and changed to a Standard-gage railroad. The first train that traveled this line was the "Hoodlum". During World War II, The rails were taken up and given to the Bynum Ordnance Depot at Bynum, Alabama.

The Railroad Company operated the largest coal mines in Coal City, known as the Seaboard Coal and Coke Company.

During World War I, the Japanese owned and operated a portion of the coal fields. Mr C.R. Faye, also operated under the name of "Vulcan Supply Company", on a different seam. Mr. Watt T. Brown was the last to operate a coal mine, since the Watt T. Brown operation there has been very little coal produced in Coal City.

The mining of Coal brought many new residents to Coal City. At one time, the population of Coal City was 1200. Coal City became a "Boom mining Town."

Several large stores were built in Coal City. Namely, the Commisary, Jerry Savage and Sons Grocery, and Mark Hamiltons store, which still stands today. Also there was a large hotel and one boarding house.

The Heading mill was built in 1920, just as the mines were ceasing to operate. The Heading mill was owned and operated by Mr. W.B. Lawley.

At one time there was plenty of timber in Coal City, but it was consumed so rapidly by the Mining, heading mill, and saw mill industries. A large portion of the timber has been cut and burned for charcoal.

There were two grammar schools in Coal City, each school had two teachers. These schools were consolidated and Mrs. Bessie Moore, a very active citizen, gave the land where the present day Junior High School, now stands. The first teachers in the new school were Mr. and Mrs. Vickers.

There are several churches in Coal City: the Freewill Baptist; The missionary Baptist, the holiness, and the Methodist. The Methodist was established about 166 years ago. There have been three churches built on the same ground.

Daily Magazine

WALLING KEITH—

How say Broken Arrow?

Does "Thle Teka" mean "Broken Arrow?" Mrs. E. A. Harris, of Bessemer, who grew up on Indian legend and lore handed down by her grandparents from the days Elijah Alverson came to Alabama with Gen. Andrew Jackson, would like to know.



Elijah Alverson was Mrs. Harris' great-grandfather and he settled in what is now St. Clair County at a spot now known as Wattsville, Ala.

Wattsville is about half way between Asheville and Wolf Creek (Alabama Highway No. 53 and on the Seaboard Railway) and once was known as Bolton's Cross Roads.

On some of the Alabama maps you'll find the name "Broken Arrow" Creek and if you find others you'll find the

name Coal City for the area.

The community got the name, Cold City, when the black mineral was discovered and mines were opened in the area. But the name "Broken Arrow," so legend has it, grows out of an Indian deer hunt.

A young brave was stalking a deer and came within arrow shot of the big buck at the big creek. As the deer leaped into the air over the water the bow string snapped and the arrow plunged into the deer and brought him down. But the arrow broke and the young brave shouted: "Thle Teka," which Mrs.

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Elijah Alverson was buried in the old Methodist Church yard at Harkier Chapel in the Wattsville area. Many of St. Clair County's first settlers were buried there.

St. Clair County has some picturesque places for Alabamians who like to explore for half-hidden bits of history.

You can wander off the big highways and find little country churches whose cemeteries carry old, old headstones.

Part of old St. Clair County was added to Jefferson in 1820, just two years after St. Clair was carved out of Shelby County.

Among the towns, of course, are Asheville, Pell City, Eden, Odenville, Ragland, Riverside and Springville.



KEITH

If you take a leisurely ride into St. Clair County one of these beautiful spring days, be sure to stop at Springville so the children can see the big fish in the Spring Lake.

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of Many Names

BY MATTIE LOU TEAGUE CROW

Take a good look at a map of St. Clair County. There's a spot in the southeastern section where numerous roads cross and criss-cross many times. These roads seem to have been made by a weary traveler who could not make up his mind in which direction to go and so meandered back and forth, up and down, in and out. This is the town of Coal City.

I had many times been to Coal City, but I had never really taken a good look at the place until the spring of 1971 when I visited there for the purpose of gathering information — facts — to be put on paper. With me that day were two of my young grandsons, grubby little inquisitive boys who considered a day spent in the country with me a real adventure.

We drove up one road, down another, then discovered we had back-tracked and were covering the same ground.

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ues., Oct. 21, 1969 The Birmingham News —75

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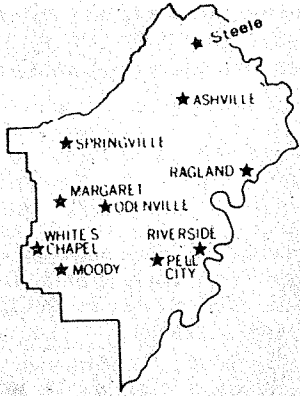
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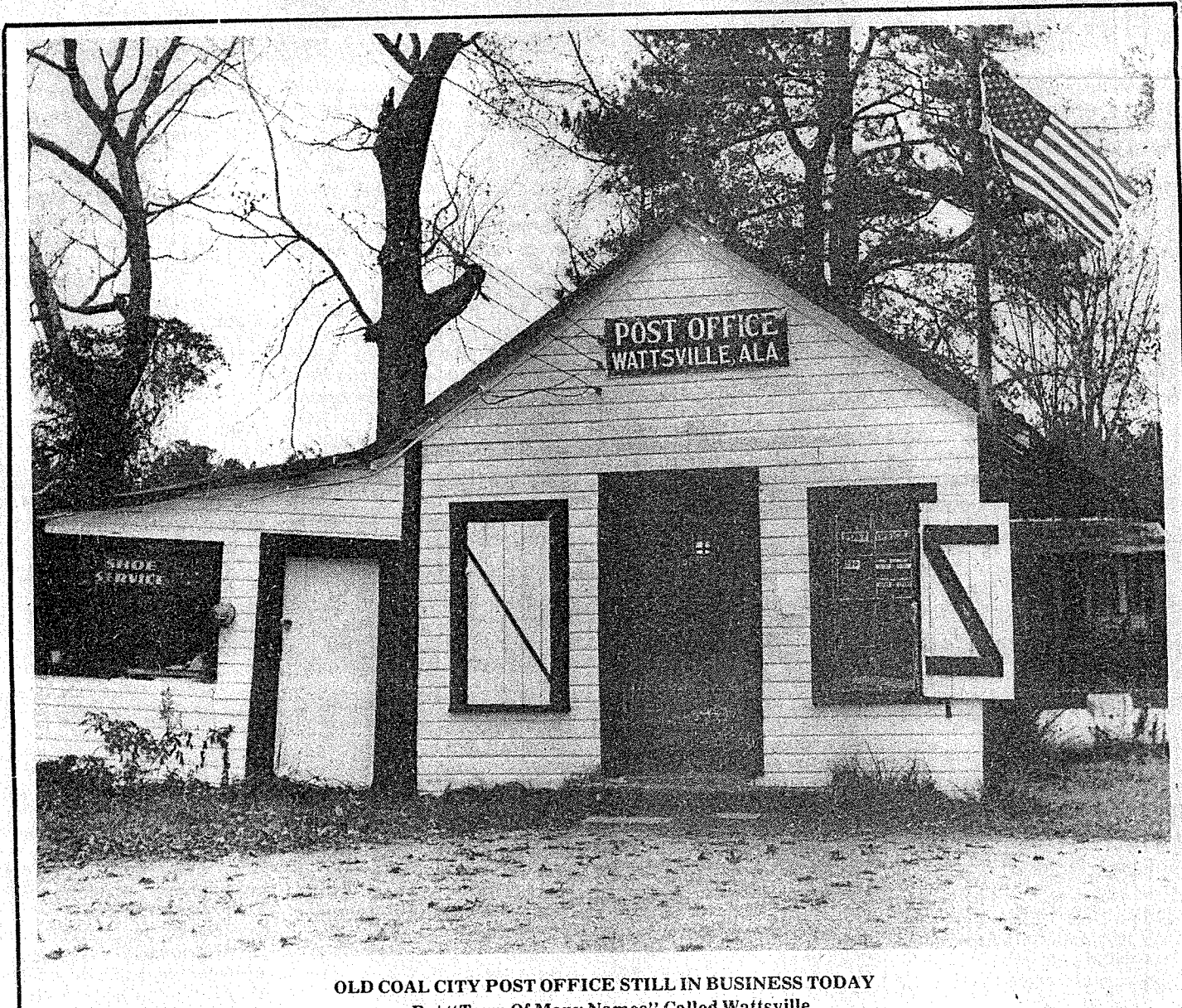


ST. CLAIR C

A Newspaper Dedicated to

VOLUME FOUR — NUMBER THIRTY-THREE

PELL CITY, ALABAMA - THURSDAY



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1974

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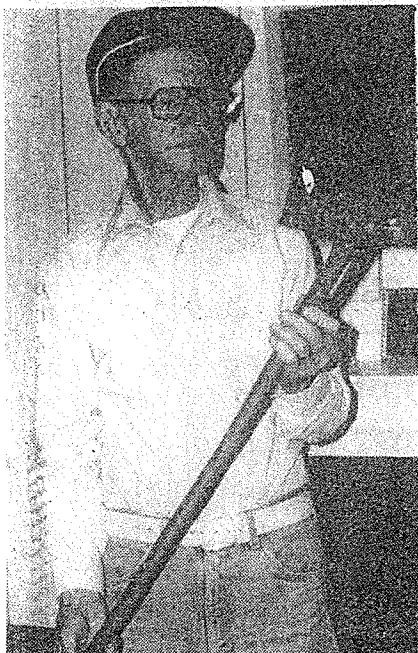
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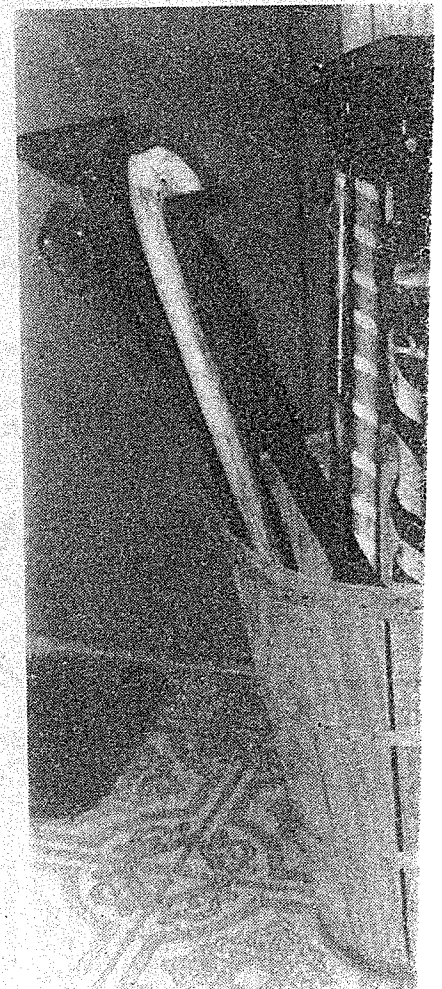
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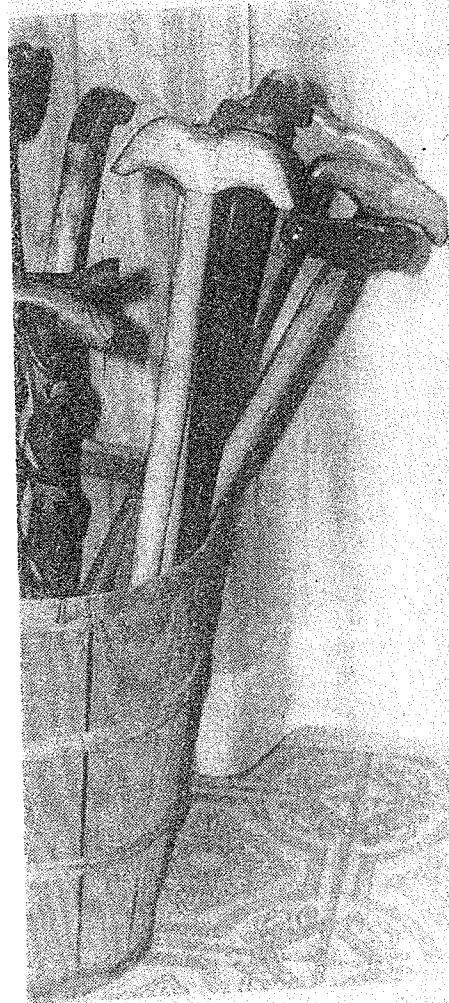
Gould's time, it was dug by hand and hauled by wagon to the Coosa River six miles away.

Late in the 19th century, John Postell built the East and West Railroad running through Coal City, which he later sold to Seaboard Airline Railroad.

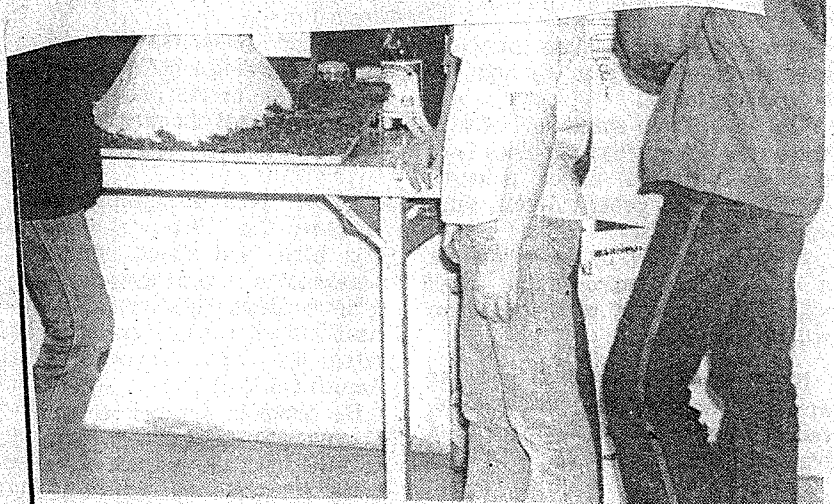
In 1890, Postell changed the village's name to Coal City to perfectly fit St. Clair County's coal-producing metropolis.

And today, Coal City, though not as active as it once was, is still a perfect fit for one of its well known and long-time residents, "Papa Joe" Black.

Carol Pappas



individual characteristics. He then carves the branch into a cane, leaving the "personality" of the branch intact.



Gibson, second place poster; Switzer, third place poster; Tommy Goodwin, second place project; Rodney Staples, first place poster and Tracy Crump, first place project. (Carol Pappas photo)

For Easter...

sensitive taste but... a limited budget? Satisfy both at

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Coal City ... Town

Continued From Page 1

surely had been many interlocking "romances" here in by gone days for it appeared that a goodly number of the inhabitants were either kissin' kin or had a family "connection." One of the boys asked,

"Why is this place called Coal City?"

To which the store-keeper replied,

"Son, back in the early 1900's this place sure enough looked like a Coal City."

Ant then to my delight and to the fascination of two curious little boys, the history of Coal City unfolded. Facts which I jotted down as he talked were later verified from records at the court house at Ashville. Mona Black Scott also added interesting information which she had learned from her parents. These facts she assembled and worked into a five-scene tableau which was presented by the students of Coal City School on Thursday night, February 8, 1973. Mona dedicated this historical drama to her parents, Joseph E. and Orene Thornburg Black. Joseph Black was born and reared in Coal City. Orene Thornburg's home was Ragland until she married Mr. Black.

The store-keepers story went back to the 1820's. One John Bolton brought his family here where he entered four "Forties" and built a log house. Mr. Bolton found his wooded rolling acres by following a Creek Indian trail which began in Ashville (Cataula) and ended at Cropwell on the Coosa River. Another Indian path crossed this trail at Bolton's cabin, giving the place the name: Bolton's Cross Roads.

This second trail went from Bolton's southeast six miles to the river and westward over the mountain to the Friendship community. The later portion of the old road has long been abandoned but the one going to the river is a well-traveled black-top. The Indians were natural engineers and many of our present-day roads follow rather closely the paths they made in early days.

Commissioner's Court Records at the court house at Ashville show that the road from Ashville to Bolton's Cross-Roads was widened and improved and authorized as a public thoroughfare in 1839.

The same year the Federal Government estabunsea a post office for the community with Francis Barnes Walker as the postmaster. Prior to this a member of the neighborhood walked over the mountain to Ashville to get the mail.

There are many legends about St. Clair County place names. After the Treaty of Fort Jackson in 1814, the Indians were ordered across to the east side of the Coosa. The belligerent ones were forcefully removed but many Creeks who fought with Jackson were allowed to remain and they became friendly helpful neighbors to the settlers.

One legend relates that a number of young men of both races were hunting on John Bolton's land when they spotted a big deer drinking at the creek. An Indian boy raised his bow and let an arrow fly, bringing the deer down. The animal fell into the creek. As the boys ran to retrieve the kill, the young brave shouted, "Thle Teka," as he pointed to the arrow which had broken when it entered the deer. Thus the white boys learned that "thle teka" was Creek language for "broken arrow." Thereafter the stream was known as "Broken Arrow Creek." When the post office was established in the home of Mr. Walker whose cabin was near the creek, it became Broken Arrow Post Office.

More people moved into the area surrounding John Bolton's acres. Soon there were, in addition to homes, schools and churches. The oldest church in the communitiy was founded in 1829 or 30 by David Harkey and is today the active Harkey's Chapel Methodist Church. Located on

College and one-time president of the Alabama Association of Secondary Principals, was a student at Coal City High.

The school also produced some outstanding athletes. Eddie Martin began his baseball playing career here. He went on to the big leagues and played for the New York Yanks. Darrell Pratt played ball for the school, helped to organize Coal City Mining Ball Club, and later played with the major leagues. After finishing school at Coal City, Clyde Warren made All American with Auburn's 1925 football team.

"But why was the name of this town changed from Broken Arrow to Coal City?"

Years before the Civil War an Englishman by the name of William Gould entered land in the Broken Arrow community. Having come from the coal mining area of Newcastle in England, he was aware that there were veins of coal on his land. He managed to mine a small amount which he hauled by ox wagon six miles to the river and from there it was floated to Selma or Wetumpka by flat boat. Thus he was busily occupied throughout the war.

Soon after the war, George Washington Daugdrill purchased land at Broken Arrow and moved his family there from Demopolis, Alabama. Mr. Daugdrill, a graduate of old Howard College in Marion, served in the Confederate Congress until near the end of the war when he entered military service and fought under J.E.B. Stewart. With the war went the Daugdrill fortune. The small amount of money he had and all that he could borrow he put into the coal mining business at Broken Arrow. The family brought their French furniture to their newly built log home and Mrs. Daugdrill, who was a musician of note, entertained her neighbors by playing for them on her rosewood piano. One of the Daugdrill daughters was married to Alonzo Embry of Talladega; another to John W. Moore of Pell City.

In 1883, the Daugdrills sold their mining interests to John Postell. Mr. Postell was a promoter for sure. He soon had a railroad — the East and West — a narrow affair called the "Hoodlum" — running from Cedartown, Georgia, to Broken Arrow. It was he who changed the name of the town to Coal City as he thought that a more appropriate name for an up and coming mining town. Later, the East and West was sold to the Seaboard Airline, it was converted to a standard gauge, and extended to Pell City.

With the advent of the railroad Coal City became a rip-roaring boom town. In the early 1900's it had the largest population of any town in the county — 1200. There were four coal seams going full blast. They were called the Coal City, the Dirty Dozen, the Broken Arrow, and the Marion. From six to seven hundred miners were kept busy — time and over time.

The town, comprising a mile radius from the old Broken Arrow Bridge, was incorporated in 1910. About one-half mile from Kiker's Camp on the mountain two iron ore mines were opened. This brought more people to the already overcrowded communitiy. Thomas Berry, a brother to Miss Martha Berry who founded the famous Berry School at Rome, Georgia, was superintendent of the iron mines. Sixteen year old Cliff Barber was one of the more than one hundred miners there. The iron mines were in operation for about eight years.

Now the community had a big warehouse, barber shops, a commissary, a livery stable, a number of stores, and a pool hall. Soon a new jail had to be built and two policemen, Joseph Egbert Black and Lee Sheffield, worked around the clock to keep law and order. Archie Savage and Bob Bonds were busy. Justices of the Peace

with the Coosa River, the first building was of split pine poles.

Early members were Charles D. Alverson, R.M. Alverson and his wife Elzie, Charles Alverson and his wife Characy and Louvenia Alverson. Perhaps the first minister to visit here was Brother Patton, a Methodist Circuit Rider. The cemetery and adjoining this church is crowded and legend says that the first grave there was that of a gypsy child. The gypsies were camped nearby when the child died and Chesley Alverson gave permission for its burial.

Around 1860 Refuge Baptist Church was established. The Barber family gave the land for this church. During the early days it served as a school as well as a meeting house.

Broken Arrow Baptist Church was instituted in 1890 by Madison Hendrix. Other churches within the boundary of the community are: Pope's Chapel Congregational Methodist, established 1904 by John Pope, Shiloh Baptist Church (negro) founded 1913 by the Reverend Tom Oden, Mount Moriah Baptist (1925), Wattsville Church of God (1945) Wattsville Freewill Baptsit (1947), and the newest the Guiding Light Baptist Church.

All this talk about churches let to a question from one of the boys. "Wher did the kids go to school?" And we learned that, during the long life of this community, there have been seven schools. First, in the old Refuge Baptist building, then the Old Town School just below Broken Arrow Church, third the Red Men's School in the Red Men Hall Across from Mutt Oliver's homesite, Robinson School in the Pope's Chapel area came next, Rowe School near Mt. Moriah was fifth, and the Coal City School on the hill which burned in 1951 was the one that brought them all together. Today the Coal City School is on Highway 231.

The Coal City School built in 1919, taught all twelve grades. M.A. Vickers was the first principal. Joe Black and Inell Savage were the last two to graduate in 1929. After that year it became a feeder school for Pell City High. Coal City High School sent out some young people who have held responsible positions in Alabama. Herbert F. Singleton, recently retired as president of Blue-Cross — Blue Sheild Insurance Company of Alabama, was a graduate. James A. Baswell, Superintendent of Education for St. Clair County 1934-1938, received his early training here. Dr. Ray Black, Professor at Birmingham-Southern

Near the depot a huge water tank was located. A two-story hotel was built across the tracks form the depot, and Mrs. Louia Alverson's commodious home was turned into a boarding house for the miners.

One of the two Carroll Alversons ("long" Carroll) was proprietor of the livery stable which rented buggies and two-horse rigs, called "hacks." This was an early version of today's You-Drive-It. "Long Carroll was an enterprising young man who brought the first chain driven auto buggies to this country. The two which he kept for hire in Coal City were the pride of the town.

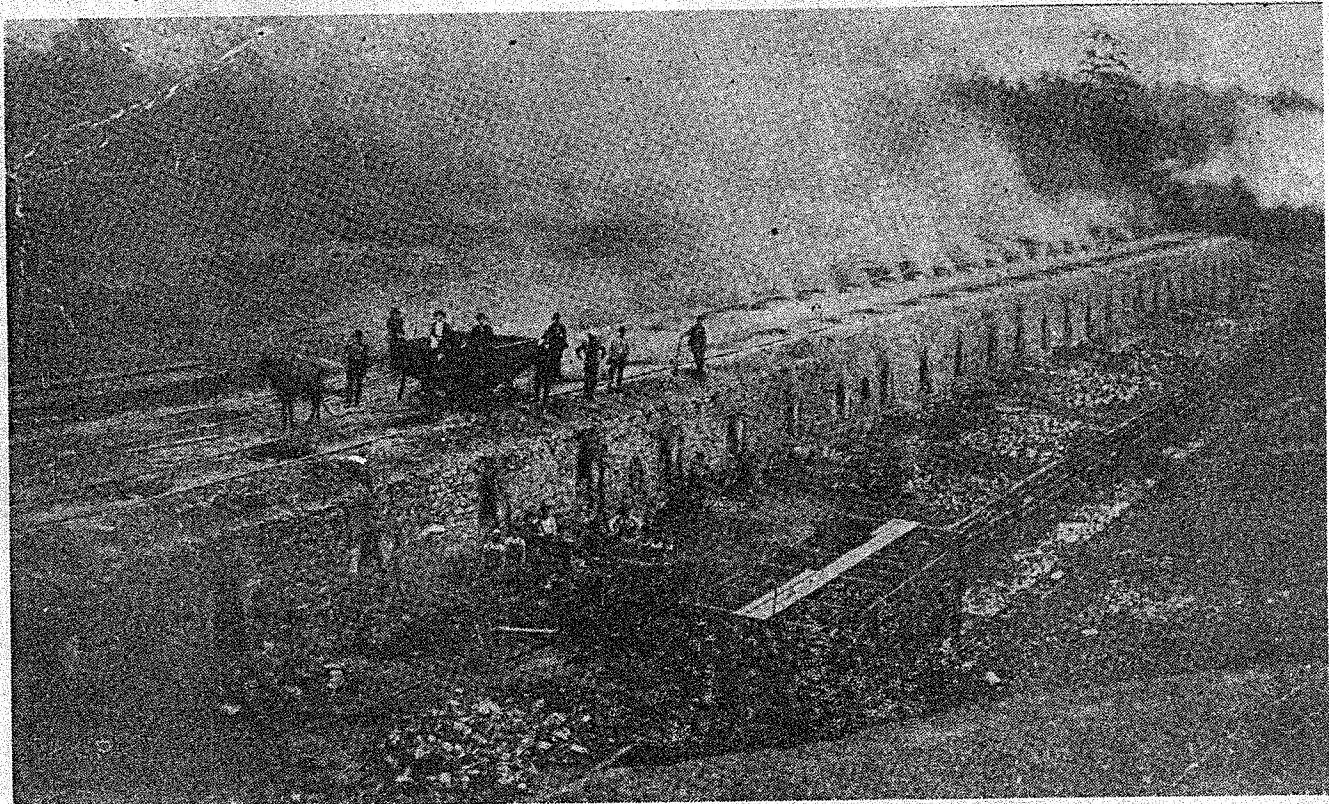
Somewhere near the Edward Layton homesite and the Siloh Baptist Church were located the famous coke ovens. They were in constant operation, belching forth evil smelling, lung choking black smoke.

The social life of those days consisted of concerts at the school, church socials, dinners at the hotel, and joy rides through the scenic hills and to the river. The town had three fraternal organizations: Order of the Red Men, Odd Fellows, and Woodmen of the World. Of the three of the Order of Red Men was the most active. They built Red Men Hall, where all three organizations held their meetings. There was a school on first floor of the Hall and community socials were often held there. This Order was very active in the State of Alabama and was the oldest patriotic and beneficial fraternity of purely American origin. It traced its lineage to the "Sons of Liberty" of 1763 whose members, disguised as Indians, participated in the famous "Tea Party" in Boston Harbor. The Broken Arrow chapter of Coal City was active from 1889 to 1921.

In 1920, Watt Brown, a pioneer in the coal industry and a well-known St. Clair County promoter, came to Coal City. He operated a coal mine located on Pope's Chapel Road. Mr. Brown was a member of the State Legislature in 1903. He served as Senator from St. Clair and Etowah Counties in 1911 and again in 1919. The town's name was legally changed to Wattsville to honor Mr. Brown.

As we left for home one of the boys asked, "Are you sure that you have taken the right road? I wouldn't want to get lost in Bolton's Cross Roads — Broken Arrow — Coal City — Wattsville." And the other one remarked, "I'm sure glad it didn't turn into a ghost town. I like it just like it is."

Without realizing it they had enjoyed a wonderful history lesson.



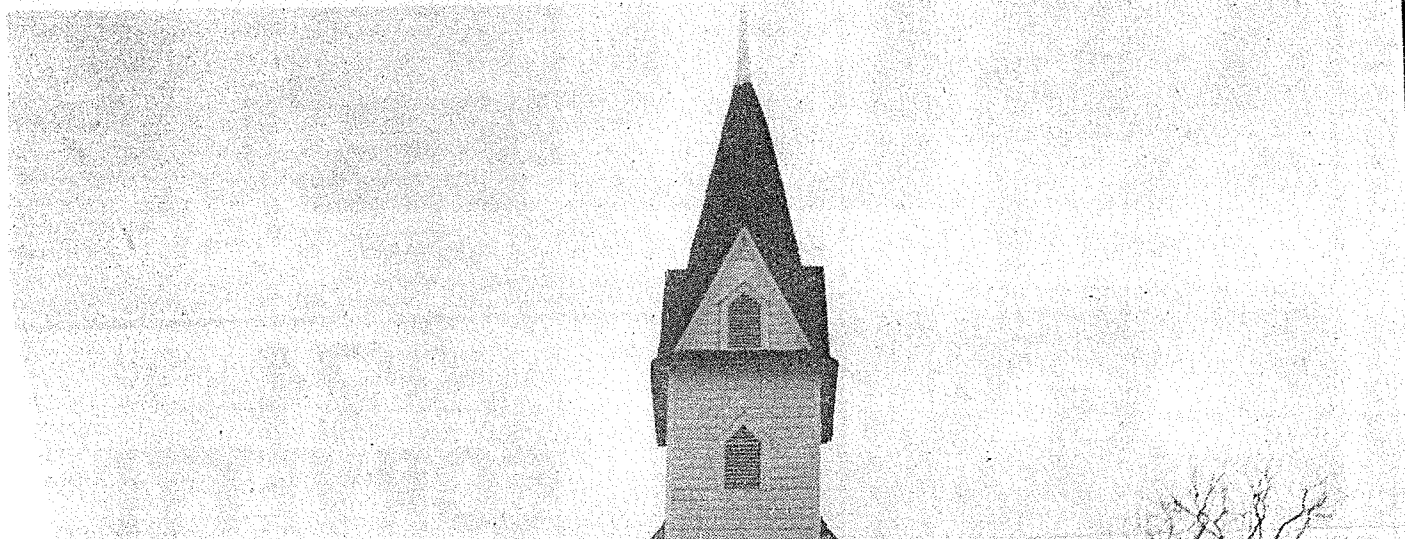
The Old Coke Ovens In Coal City

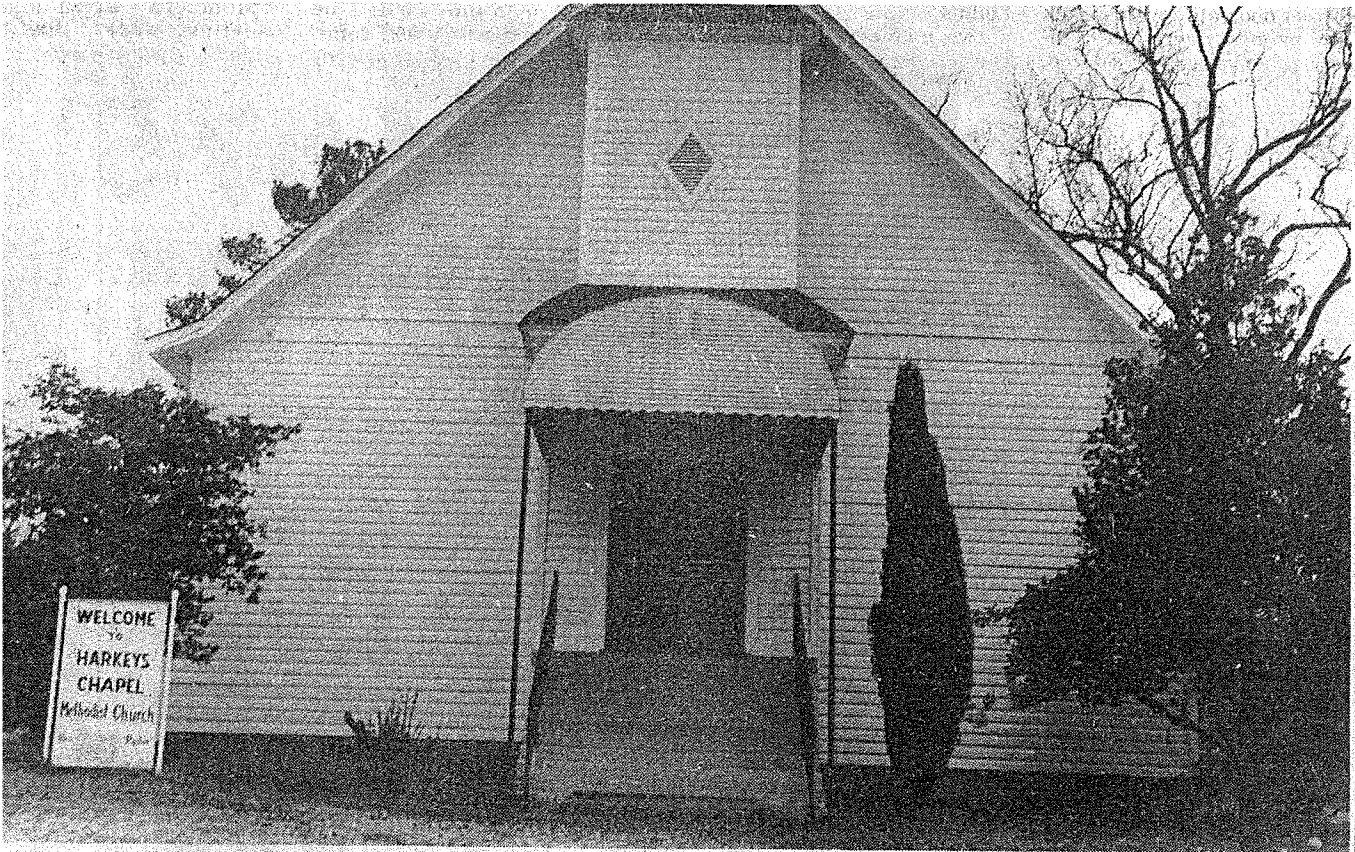
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Of Many Names

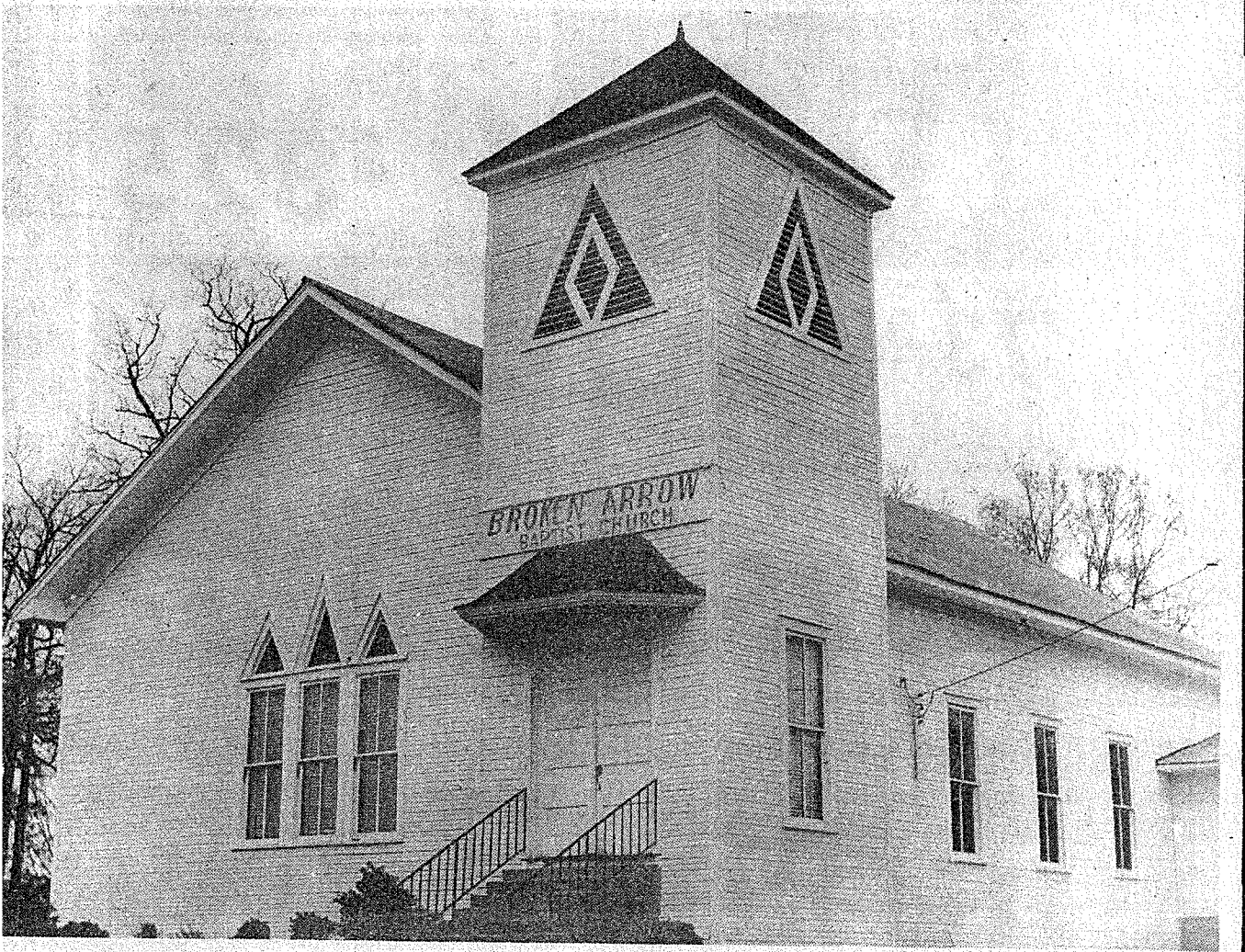


The Yarbrough House





Harkey's Chapel Church



Broken Arrow Baptist