

HOYT B. HAMILTON
JUDGE OF PROBATE, ST. CLAIR COUNTY
PELL CITY, ALABAMA

January 3, 1969

Dear Friend:

It gives me pleasure to appoint the persons on the attached list as members of the St. Clair County Historical Board.

The function of the Board shall be to compile a historical record of this County and/or the territory that is presently this county, before the admission of Alabama to the Union in 1819. The historical record, which should consist of names, places, events, dates, and other pertinent historical information is then to be edited and cataloged for the purpose of writing a history of St. Clair County. Also, this Board shall function as a working group to obtain historical markers and develop historical places and areas in St. Clair County.

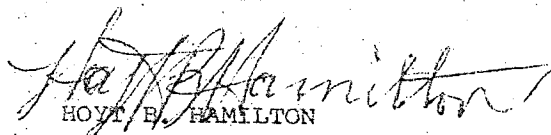
Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, Dr. H. Evan Zeiger and Dr. Wilbur Helmbold will be featured speakers at the first meeting of the Board. This meeting will be a "dutch" supper at the Big Bull Restaurant at Pell City at 6:00, P.M., January 9, 1969.

It is extremely important that we all attend this meeting which is the initial organization meeting, and a more detailed program of the functions and purposes will be resolved.

Your selection as a member to the Board was duly considered on the basis of your knowledge, ability and apparent desire to preserve the rich historical data of St. Clair County. If, for any reason, you are unable to serve in the capacity as a Board Member, will you please notify me and suggest the name of another person with the above mentioned qualities.

I am looking forward to working with you in this very worthwhile endeavor, which is so close and personal to each of us.

Respectfully,


HOYT B. HAMILTON

HBH:am

Enclosure

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HISTORICAL BOARD

Mayor Joe Adkins
Miss Beatrice Alexander
Mr. Ed Ash
Dr. Hugh Bailey
Mrs. Annie Sue Bass
Mr. Edward Bass
Dr. John B. Bass
Miss John B. Bass
Mr. T. R. Beaubien
Mr. Gene Bell
Mr. Edmond Blair
Mrs. Ethel Blair
Mr. H. L. Blocker
Mrs. Lera Blocker
Mr. E. A. Borders
Mr. Charles Braswell
Mrs. Ruby Lee Braswell
Mr. David Bryant
Mr. James D. Cobb
Mayor W. A. (Bill) Coleman
Mr. Fred Crawford
Mrs. Mattie Lou Crowe
Mrs. Kathleen Davis
Mr. Robert L. Dickerson
Mr. George Eden
Mr. H. L. Eubanks
Mrs. Sallie Mae Eubanks
Mrs. Margaret Evans
Mr. Henry Fisher
Judge Ward Foxman
Mr. Roy Gibson
Mrs. Vera Gibson
Mrs. Beatrice C. Green
Judge Hoyt B. Hamilton
Mrs. Martha H. Hamilton
Mr. Wasson Harmon
Mr. William Reimbold
Mr. R. E. Higginbotham
Mrs. Howard Hill
Mr. George W. Hodges, Jr.
Mrs. Irene Hodges
Mr. Edwin Holladay
Mr. James Ingram
Miss Sallie V. Inzer
Dr. George Irons
Mr. Floyd Jackson
Mrs. Gloria Jemison
Mr. Charles Johnson
Mr. Archie Jones
Mr. Charles Jones
Mrs. Laura Kate Gray
Mr. Milton C. Wright
Mr. D. H. Jones
Mr. Walter Kennedy
Mr. Patrick Kirlon
Mrs. W. P. Lamar
Mrs. Frances Layton
Mr. Fred Layton
Mr. C. C. Lee, Jr.
Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe
Mr. Ancy McGinnis
Mr. John W. McKugh
Mr. Roy Mann
Mr. W. E. (Bill) Meads
Mayor Thomas B. Mitchell
Mr. H. N. Mize
Mayor A. E. Moore
Mr. Clyde Morrow
Mr. Connie Myers
Mrs. Dixie Newman
Dr. James Newman
Prof. Lloyd Newton
Mayor T. O. Newton
Mayor Marcus Pearson
Mayor Otis Perry
Mayor Paul Pope
Mrs. Stella Prickett
Mayor Carl Riddle
Mr. Ralph Riker
Mr. Pat Roberson
Miss Iola Roberts
Mrs. Annie Lois Robinson
Mr. Hoover Rogers
Mrs. Marceline B. Sims
Mr. John C. Slovensky
Mr. Coy Smith
Mr. W. T. Starnes
Mrs. Annie L. Sullivan
Mrs. Helen Swann
Mr. David Tims
Mrs. Edith Tacker
Mrs. Vera Wadsworth
Mrs. John Walker, Jr.
Mr. J. B. Walters
Mr. Aubrey Washington
Mr. Ardis Weems
Mrs. Nina Whisenant
Mr. Charles Williams
Mr. Hugh H. Williamson
Mrs. Fannie (W.M.) Wilson
Mrs. Mattie Sue Wood
Mrs. Josephine Wright
Mr. Raymond Yarbrough
Dr. Evan Zeiger

Remember

A Pictorial I St. Clair C Pride & P

Dams are important

By TISA MOORE
News-Aegis Reporter

PELL CITY—Everyone around Logan Martin Lake looks forward to summertime—skiing, fishing, and just good times. Have you ever thought what Pell City would be like without the lake?

Prior to 1964, there was no lake in Pell City because there was no dam. For some of us it is hard for us to imagine life without them. For others, the dam is all in the name of progress.

In 1957, the Federal Power Commission gave Alabama Power a permit to study development on the Coosa River. Little did they know that the development would be the biggest waterway development undertaking carried out by investor capital.

Begun in 1958, the 10-year project was to complete seven new hydroelectric plants and refurbish two old plants by 1968, with a budget of around \$250 million.

Progress brings change and the

The powerhouse is 295 feet long. Its six spillway gates are each 40 feet wide. The capacity of each spillway gate is about 12,567,000 gallons per minute. Across the dam is the highway that connects St. Clair and Talladega counties.

The Army Corps of Engineers has the responsibility of overseeing the development of the nation's navigable waterways.

The Corps supplements low flows during dry months and controls flood waters. The reservoir is lowered during the dry fall-winter periods. From October 1 to April 1 the elevation is the normal maximum of 460.

In the month of April the reservoir is filled. By May 7 it is the normal summer maximum of 465. Fluctuations occur from day to day due to the Logan Martin Power plant, which generates the power for electricity.

The dam is a great source of revenue for St. Clair County. A huge portion of Pell City's sales tax

man of the board of Alabama Power.

He became the Assistant Attorney General of Alabama in 1911 and then went on to become the Attorney General of Alabama 1915 until 1917.

Martin entered the Army during World War I and was a major in the Signal Corps and Field Artillery.

After the war, in 1919, Martin was appointed judge of the Montgomery Circuit Court. In 1920, he moved to Birmingham and practiced law as a member of the predecessor firms to Martin, Balch, Bingham, Hawthorne, and Williams, which was closely related to Alabama Power progress, until 1959.

Martin was Alabama Power's attorney and a member of the Board of Directors.

He died in 1959, just five years before the completion of the dam that was named in his honor.

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Progress brings change and the construction of the dams certainly caused some of that. People had to move their homes, farmers had to move their crops, and even graves had to be moved. Alabama Power was responsible for moving all of this.

The powerhouse is 295 feet long. Its six spillway gates are each 40 feet wide. The capacity of each spillway gate is about 12,567,000 gallons per minute. Across the dam is the highway that connects St. Clair and Talladega counties.

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The dam is a great source of revenue for St. Clair County. A huge portion of Pell City's sales tax is generated from the lake through various business and recreational activities.

The lake also created a building boom in Pell City. All subdivisions in this city were built within the last 25 years. Before the dam was built

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Also in the county is the H. Neely Henry dam, located in the Greensport area. It was the third dam built in the Coosa River project. Construction started on August 1, 1962. It was completed on June 2, 1966. The total investment at completion was \$31,100,000.

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By October 1962, nearly 1,200 graves were discovered and later moved. Included in the move were the Easonville Methodist Cemetery, Coosa Valley Cemetery, Cosper Family Cemetery, Truss Family Cemetery, and the Blooming Light Cemetery. The Coleman Family Cemetery in Riverside was only raised.

Alabama Power moved the graves to what we know now as Coosa Valley Baptist Church Cemetery on Highway 231.

The 15,263-acre reservoir formed by Logan Martin Dam has been complete and commercially operated since August 10, 1964. It was the second hydroelectric installation to be completed on the Coosa River, with a cost of \$47,451,000. The construction began in July of 1960.

The dam, with three generators each producing 42,750 kilowatts, is responsible for putting out a total 128,250 kilowatts of power. The water makes up about 15,000 acres of picturesque water playgrounds and 275 miles of shorelines.

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Alabama Power pays property tax on the dams and the property under the lake, which generates a considerable amount of revenue for the county.

On June 24, 1964 the Logan Martin Dam was officially dedicated. Gov. Lurleen Wallace was supposed to speak at the dedication but was unable to attend. Lt. Gov. Albert Brewer spoke in her place.

Other dignitaries at the dedication were: Mrs. William Logan Martin; Alabama Power President Walter Bouldin; Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Pastor, William D. Boyd. Also included was music from the Talladega High School Band.

William Logan Martin was a native of Scottsboro, Ala. He graduated from West Point and received a law degree from the University of Alabama.

Martin, who was admitted to the Bar Association in 1908, practiced law in Montgomery with his brother, Thomas W. Martin, chair-

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Like Logan Martin, the dam is made of concrete and earth fill. It, too, has 40-foot-wide six spillway gates. The capacity of each spillway gate is about 7,630,000 gallons per minute.

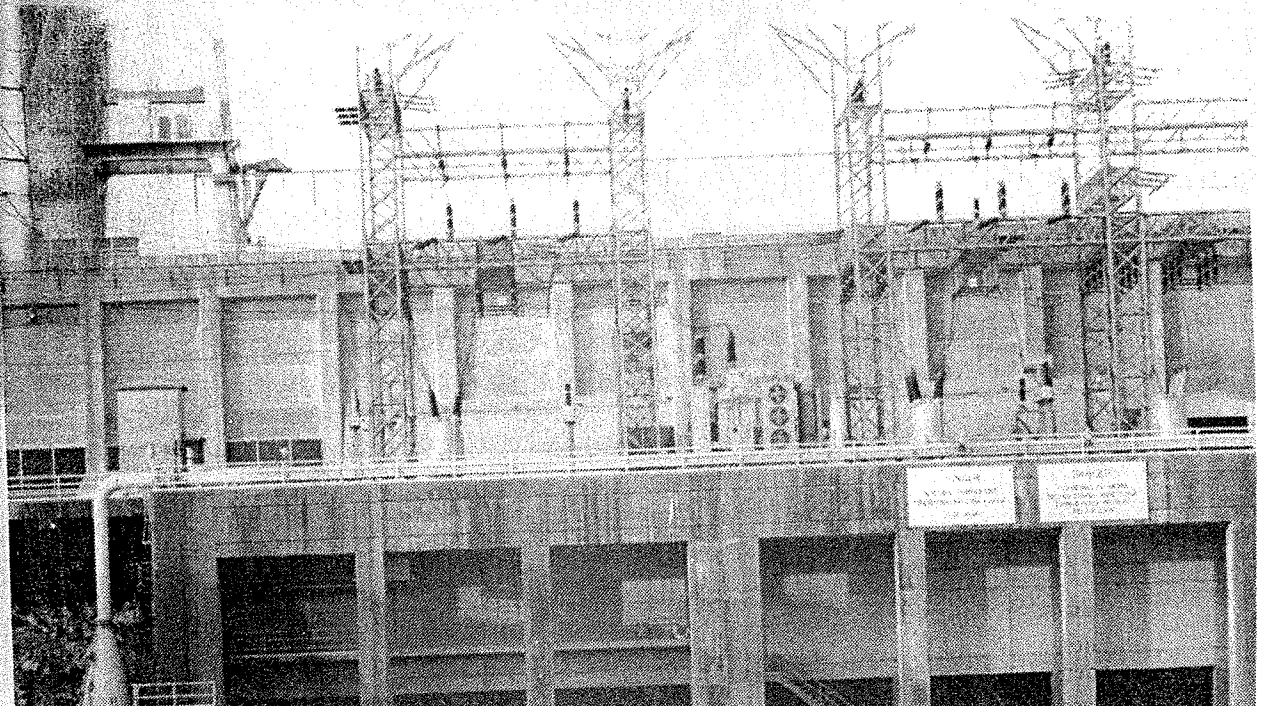
The full reservoir area is 11,200 acres with 339 miles of shoreline.

The length of the powerhouse is 300 feet and its width is 65 feet.

Three hydraulic turbines discharge 33,500 horsepower each. The three alternating current generators produce 24,300 kilowatts each for a total of 72,900 kilowatt capacity. The estimated average annual output is 210,700,000 kilowatt-hours.

While the dam was being built, an Indian burial ground was discovered on what was known as Woods Island. Archaeologists examined the site and came across some artifacts. These are presently on display in the lobby of the Henry Hydro Plant.

The dam was named after H. Neely Henry, a senior executive vice-president of Alabama Power Company.



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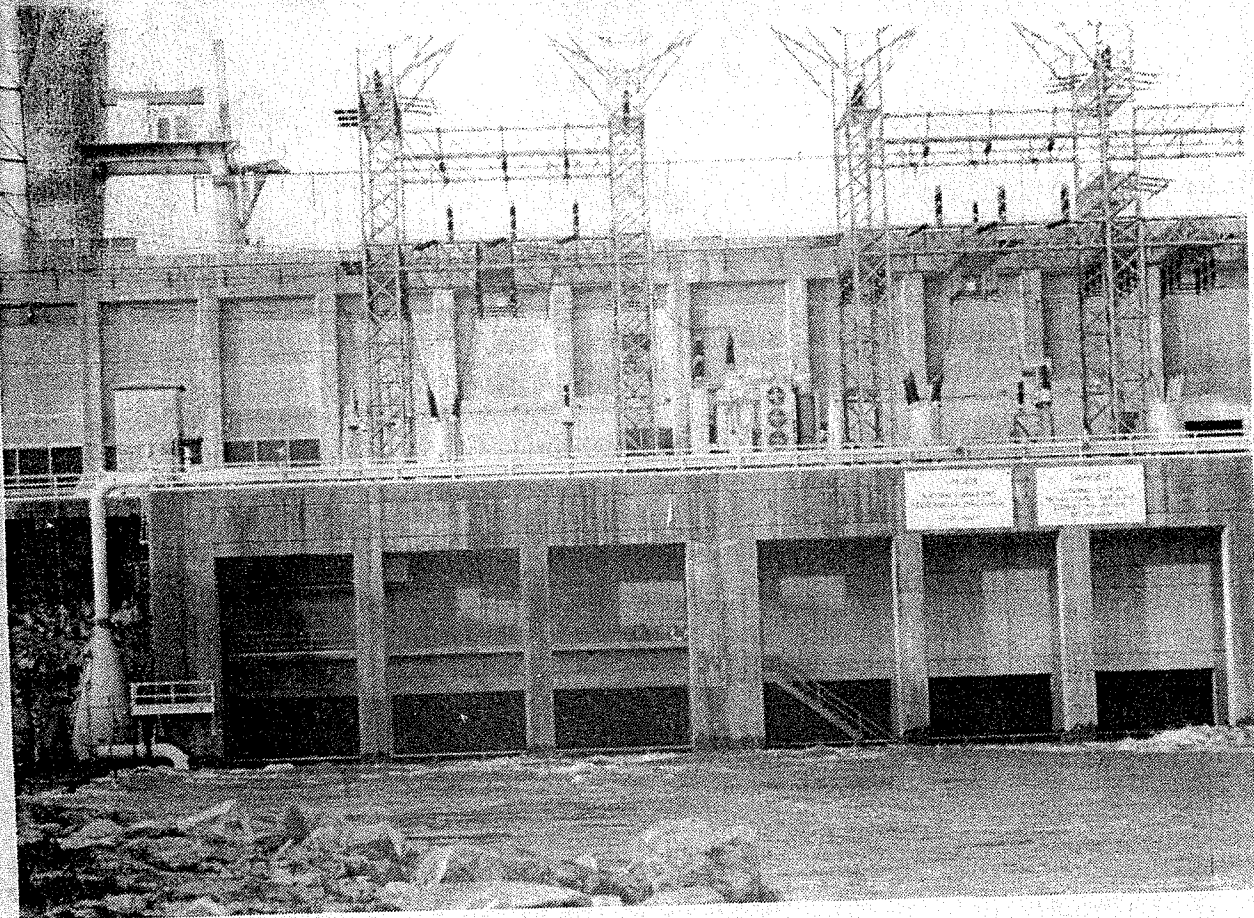
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LOGAN MARTIN POWERHOUSE—The powerhouse of Logan Martin Dam is 295 feet long with a height of 65 feet and a width of 168.5 feet. County Highway 54, the road that goes over the dam, connects St. Clair and Talladega counties. Construction on the dam began in 1960 and the dam was completed in August of 1964.

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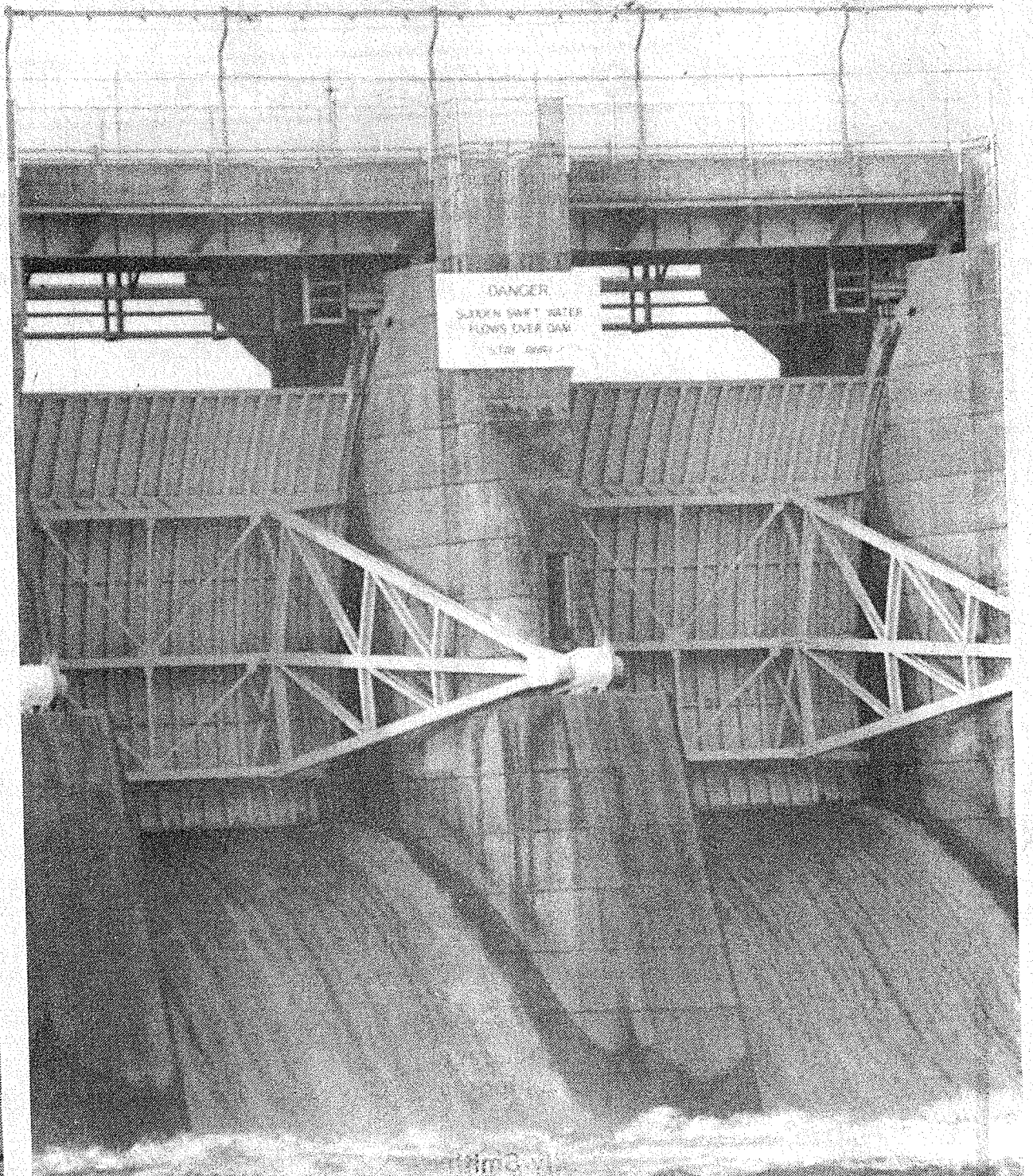
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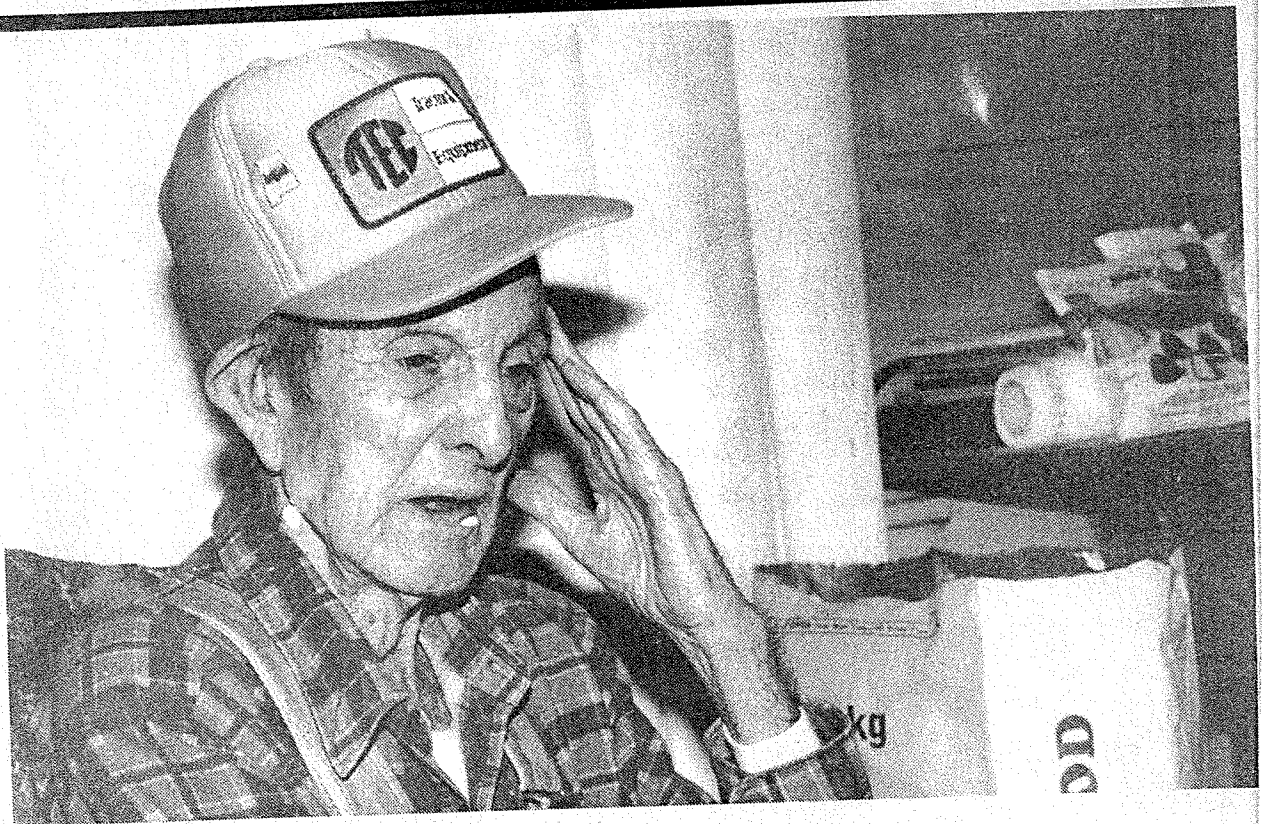
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LOGAN MARTIN DAM—Harnessing the mighty Coosa River, Logan Martin Dam was the second dam built in the Coosa River project. When it was being planned it was known as Kelly Creek. During the first month of construction, the board of directors formally named it after William Logan Martin Jr., a circuit court judge and Alabama Power's general attorney. Below is a close-up of two of the six spillway gates. They are 40 feet long by 38 feet wide and the capacity of each gate is 12,253,000 gallons per minute.



The P



Pilkington



People

Pilkington tells of yesterday

By CINDY WARNER
News-Aegis News Editor

ODENVILLE—When you ask Wes Pilkington a question about the "good old days" in St. Clair County, you can see his eyes light up as he quickly comes up with an answer.

For you see, even though he is 85 years old, his mind is still as sharp as most 21-year-olds. And, he loves nothing better than telling stories of his childhood and about the days he spent working on the farm of Dr. W.T. Farmer.

"I worked 32 years and never missed a payday. I did miss a couple of days one time when I sneezed and broke right half into," he joked.

Pilkington moved into the farmhouse in 1956. He still lives there with the blessing of Dr. Farmer's heirs.

Pilkington moved to St. Clair in 1935 from Talladega. He said he still remembers walking from the Stemley Bridge area (where The Shack Barbecue is located now) to catch the train to go to Birmingham.

"You could buy a Coke anywhere you wanted during the 1920s except on the train because they were so expensive," he said. "They cost a quarter."

The price of postage wasn't quite what it is today either, he said.

"You could buy a postcard for

"It was tough then," he said. "You could get paid \$1 to pick 300 pounds of cotton. That \$1 would buy about three bushels of corn."

Pilkington said one of the first industries he remembers in Pell City was the cotton mill.

"They built the cotton mill in 1902," he said. "There used to be a depot where 3B Foods is now and the railroad used to come through from Pell City to Coal City. And there was a big sawmill where the gas business is across from the Pell City Post Office."

The coal mining business was also big in St. Clair County, Pilkington said.

"There were several coal mines in Coal City and one in Margaret," he said.

During the two World Wars, Pilkington said jobs were available for anyone who wanted to work.

"I was around 40 during World War II and I didn't serve," he said. "But jobs were plentiful to support the war effort. If you wanted a job you could find one."

Pilkington said he missed the first World War due to age also.

"I was only seven then," he said. "But I remember in 1917 we saw about 100,000 soldiers who were training, march down Hwy. 21 from Ft. McClellan to Talladega. I was just a kid but I can still remember what an awesome sight it was."

The things most of us take for

that were around when I was young were the kind with the cranks on the side," he said.

"Doctors were the first people to have cars," he added. "Those things would scare people's old mules half to death."

Pilkington said times were much more relaxed back then and people weren't so rushed for time.

"People had more time then," he mused. "Neighbors would come and visit and sometimes stay a month at a time."

He said resourceful children could usually figure out ways to enjoy their favorite pastimes and make a little money at the same time.

"I used to save up my money and spend it on fishing supplies," he said. "The supplies would usually cost around 75 cents. But after I would go fishing I would sell the fish. I made \$75 dollars one time for the fish I caught."

Pilkington's father outlived four wives and left behind fourteen children.

Pilkington has outlived two wives and has four children—Merle, Minnie, G.W. and Frances.

His first wife, Fanny, died in 1969 and his second wife, Mary, died six years ago.

"I have plenty of grandchildren and great-grandchildren to keep me busy," he said. "They come by here to see me and my dog Joe."

One thing is for certain,

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The price of postage wasn't quite what it is today either, he said.

"You could buy a postcard for a penny," he said. "And that bought the card and the postage."

Pilkington said one thing he remembers well is the hard times of the depression era.

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The things most of us take for granted now as necessities, such as cars and telephones, were luxuries when Pilkington was young.

"The only kind of telephones

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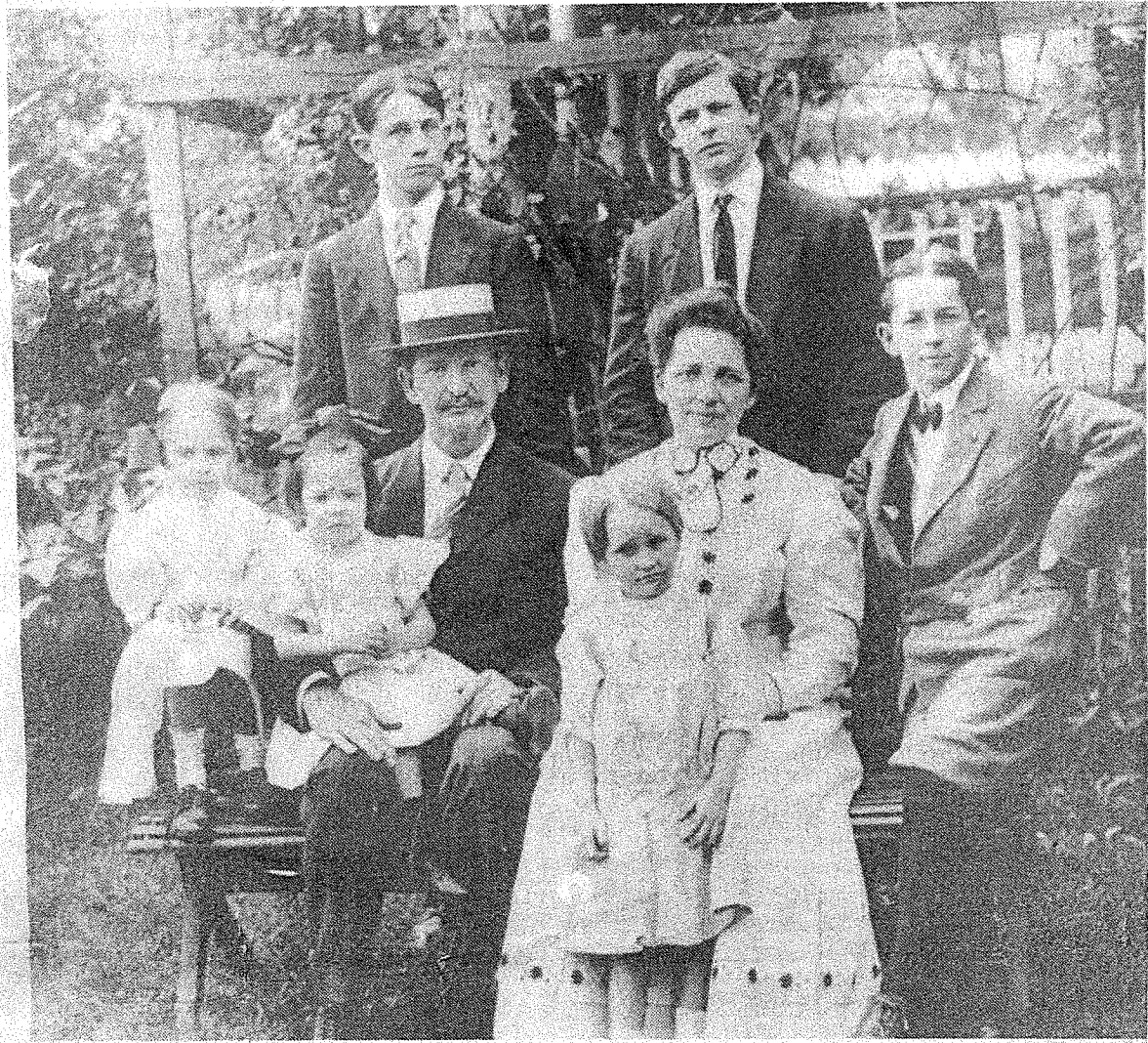
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One thing is for certain, anyone who happens to get a chance to talk with Wes Pilkington is in for a walk down memory lane.

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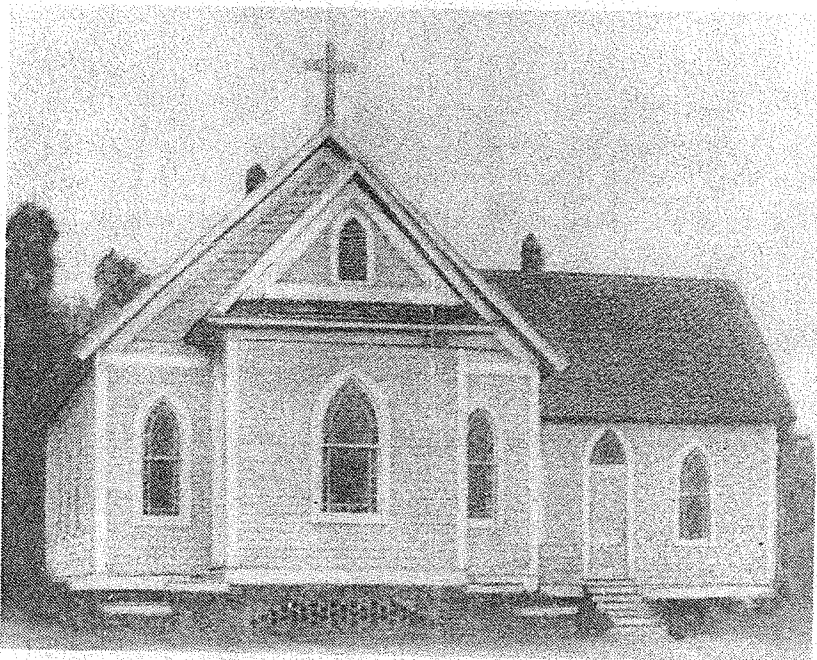
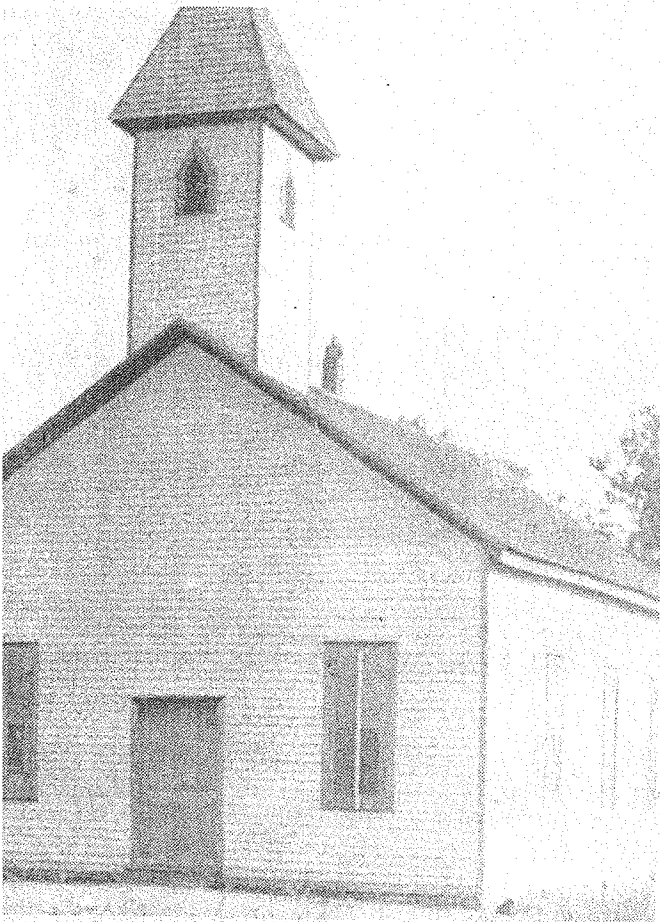
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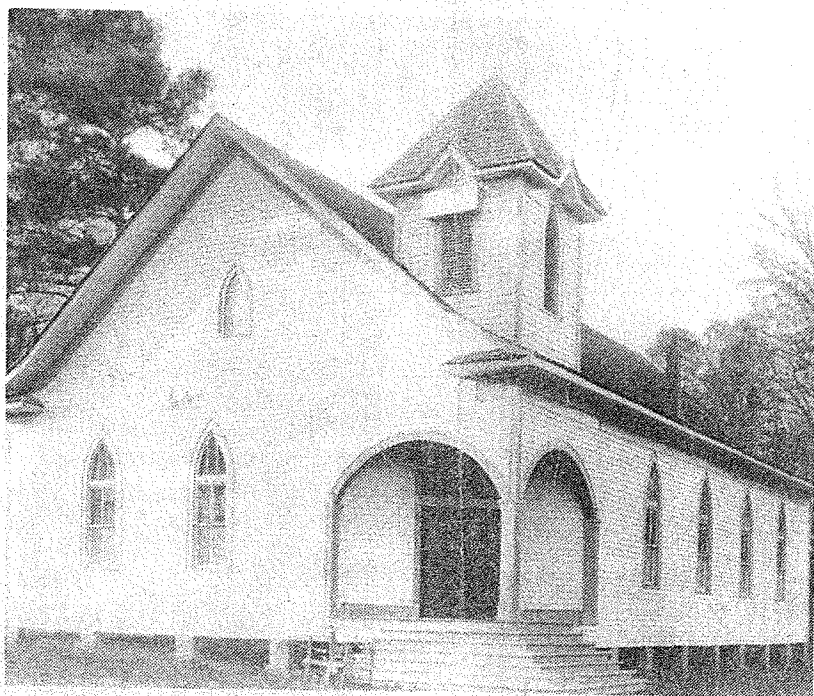
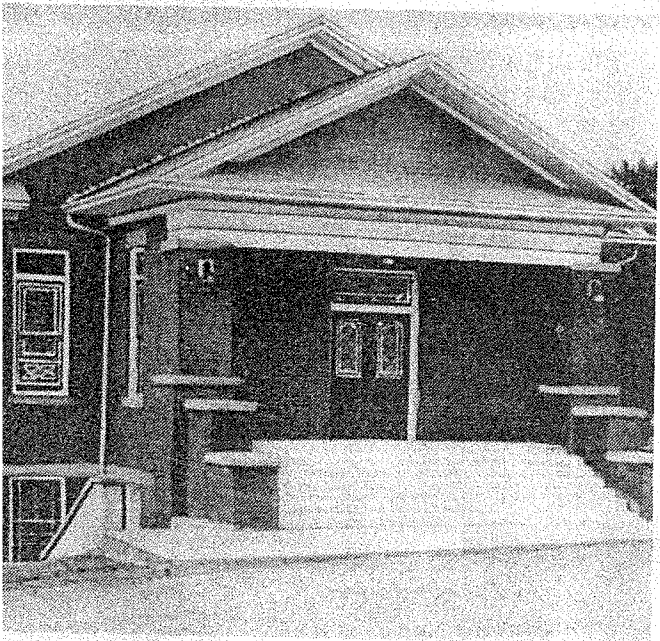
FOUNDING FAMILY—Sumter Cogswell and Lydia DeGaris Cogswell are credited as being the founding and mother of Pell City. Sumter married Lydia, a widow with two sons in 1900. Sumter also had a son, Righter a previous marriage. The couple later had three daughters together. The Cogswells are pictured with their (front row, l-r) Isbella Cogswell, Mary Cogswell, Sumter Cogswell, Lydia DeGaris Cogswell, Elisabeth C (standing in front) and Julian DeGaris. (Back row, l-r) John Annesley "Jack" DeGaris and Righter Cogswell.

The Church



EPISCOPAL CHURCH—The first Episcopal Church building in Pell City was built 1907. The land and the timber for the church was donated by Sumter and Lydia DeGaris Cogswell. The church stood where Gloria Robertson's home now stands.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—First Baptist Church in Pell City was purchased in 1904. This picture was taken in 1915.



WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH—Another one of Pell City's first churches.



NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH—This picture of New Hope Baptist Church in Eden dates back to either the late 1890s or early 1900s. The congregation surely must have been celebrating a special occasion. Look how dressed up they were!

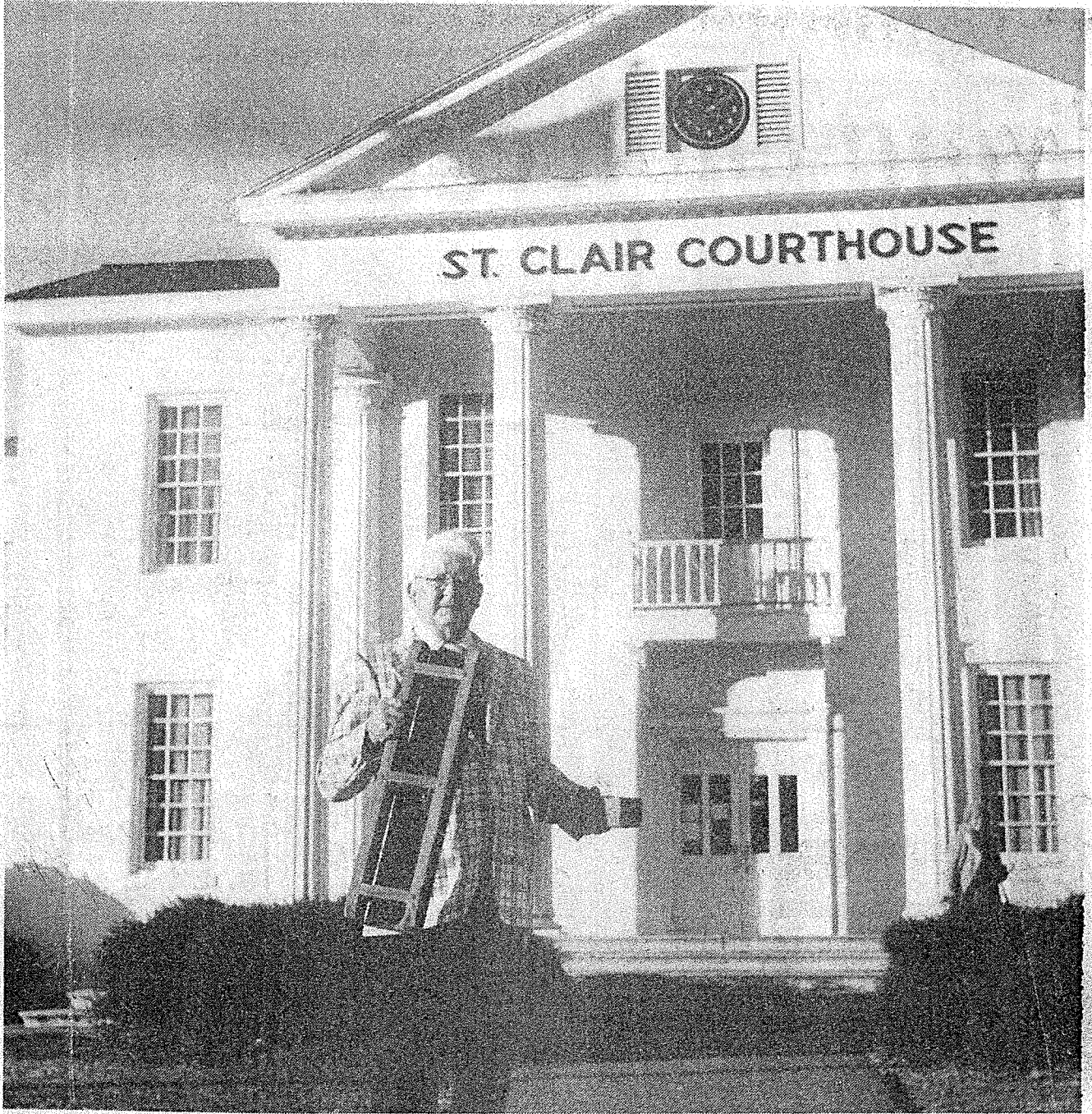


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with the best Financial Services.**

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★ **Compare our Savings & Loan Rates**





The Original Brick



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Mr. and Mrs. Scott Receive Award From Floyd



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its state park projects.

Floyd told society members what they could do to correct the inequity of funding:

"Communicate with every member of your state legislature. Make known your wish that state money be spent for restoration projects."

Floyd said that Alabama's contribution to saving her covered bridges, gristmills, antebellum mansions and other historical landmarks is the lowest of the 50 states.

"We must have more funds from the state," Floyd commented. "We get as much federal money as New York, California and Illinois. We've got to have some state money too."

The preservationist referred to the state's landmarks as "resources as important as our natural resources."

He said that the majority of preservation work done in the state is accomplished by federal and private contributions.

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He mentioned the Birmingham terminal station, and a sigh came from the audience.

He told how four preservationists showed up at the Public Service Commission meeting held to determine the building's fate.

The railroad, Floyd said, brought ten lawyers.

The station is no more. Floyd told about Vestavia

servicing with the Mennonites in Washington, D.C.

Preceding Floyd's talk, State Senator Bill Roberts of Mobile, a member of the state's Revolution Bicentennial Commission, presented a Bicentennial certificate and flag to Ashville Mayor Joe Adkins officially designating the county seat a Bicentennial town.

The 35th District solon used the occasion to remark "the best way we can celebrate the 200th birthday of this country is to rededicate ourselves to the principles that made the United States the oldest constitutional democracy in the world. A rededication to the principles of equality, decency, freedom and justice for all will not only insure that we as a nation will endure for another 200 years, but that we will prevail in a world that, for the most part, does not practice these principles." Apropos of place and time, John Yarbrough brought along one of the original molds and brick his grandfather, Littleton Yarbrough, used to

construct the Ashe Courthouse in 1844.

"Grandfather's last job," Yarbrough explained, "was to find a suitable place to lay. He found it on the north corner of the courthouse square."

The Beaver Valley resident related 155,640 bricks were required to build the structure's original four offices, hallway and auditorium.

Mrs. Polly Creitz, who with her husband Col. J.R. Creitz, in 1972 donated the Looney House and the plot of ground it stands on to the St. Clair Historical Society, gave the group a detailed report of visitors to the house since its official opening Nov. 23, 1974.

According to Mrs. Creitz, they number 2,688 and hail from 19 states, including 36 descendants of the house's builder, John Looney, one save descendant, and six special groups.

The special groups were the St. Clair County Exceptional Children's Class, Pell City;

history classes from Pell City and Arab High Schools; the Ashville Day Care Center; Ashville Special Education Class; and the Josiah Burson Chapter, DAR, Birmingham.

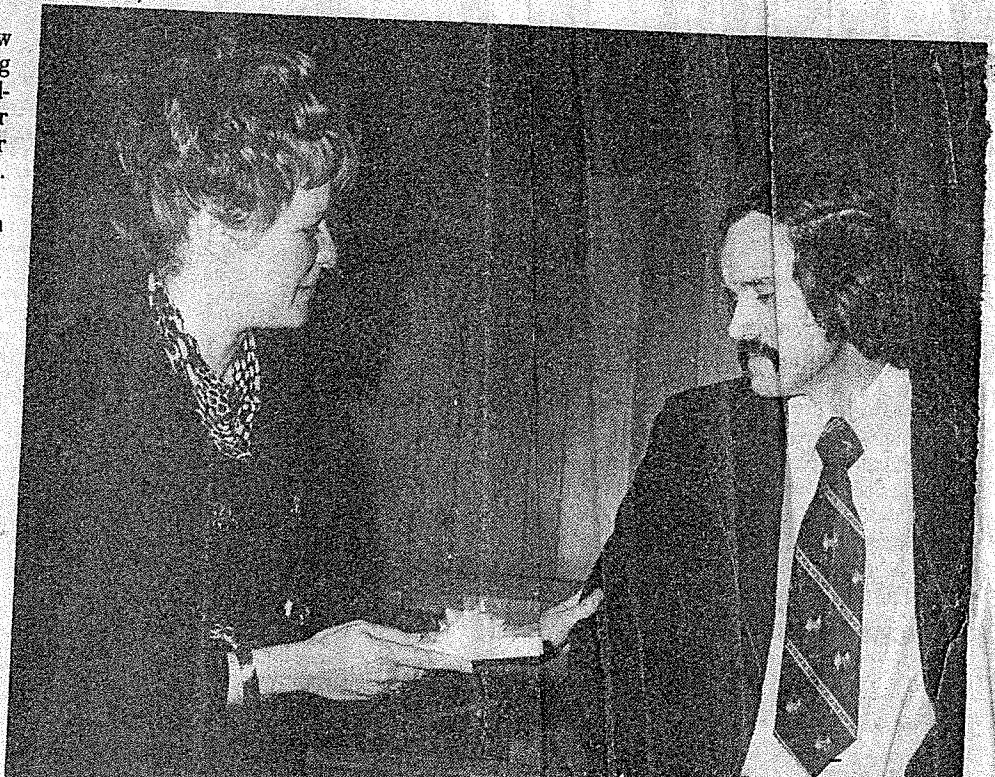
Any group wishing to visit the house, Mrs. Creitz said, should contact Miss Anna V. Jackson, Looney House hostess.

Details of the Society's planned Natchez Tour were offered by Mrs. Scott. She said the tour is being made in conjunction with the Greyhound Travel Club and includes tickets to the play "Southern Exposure" and two nights at the Carriage House.

The tour departs March 19 and returns March 21, Mrs. Scott said. Deadline is Feb. 1 for registration; cost is \$114.50, she added.

Pell City's new Civic Chorus also was on hand at the meeting with its director Ron Partain, who sang "America the Beautiful".

By the way, who won that football game?



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its state park projects.

Floyd told society members what they could do to correct the inequity of funding:

"Communicate with every member of your state legislature. Make known your wish that state money be spent for restoration projects."

Floyd said that Alabama's contribution to saving her covered bridges, gristmills, antebellum mansions and other historical landmarks is the lowest of the 50 states.

"We must have more funds from the state," Floyd commented. "We get as much federal money as New York, California and Illinois. We've got to have some state money too."

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Floyd told about Vestavia Temple's destruction: the secretary's feet were getting wet because the Roman-style reproduction leaked, and so it came down.

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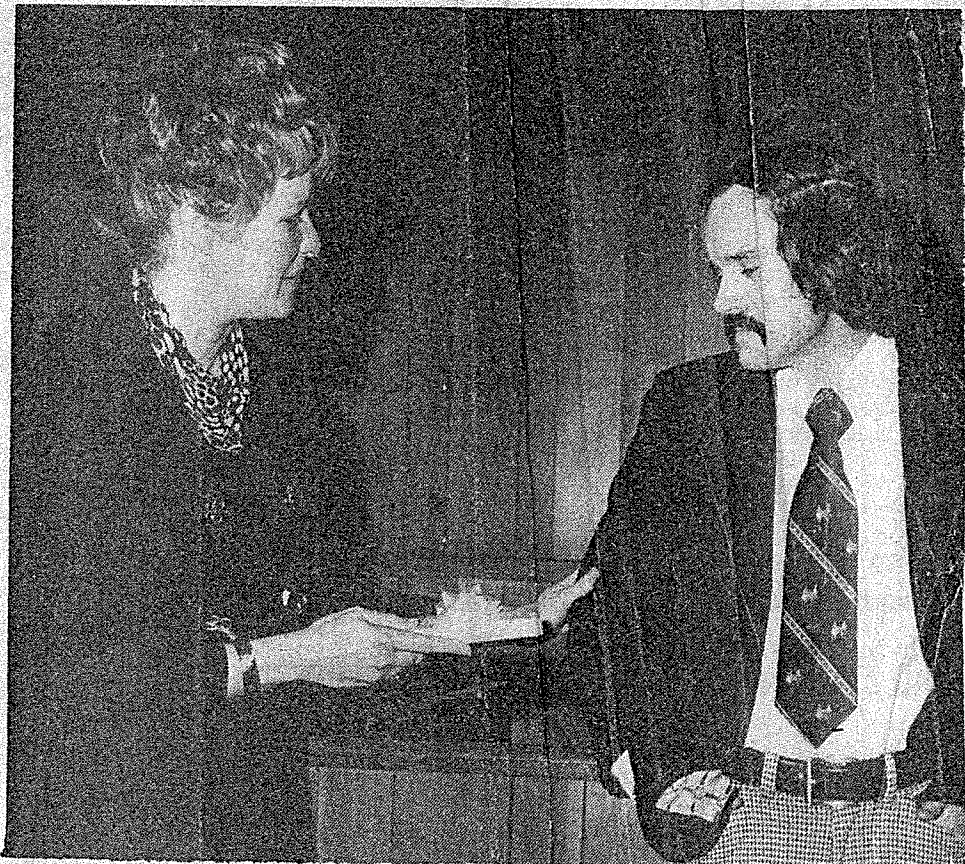
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By the way, who won that football game?



Gift To Floyd

He told about staid old Hotel Albert in Selma: destroyed for block modernization.

He told about a Calhoun County covered bridge jerked down by an irate farmer because his large, new tractor was too big to drive through it.

"These are just some of the ridiculous reasons our landmarks have gone," Floyd mourned.

The director told the group there is no better time than 1976 to apply for state funds for historical preservation work.

"There's only one Bicentennial year. It's here. If we don't get the money we need now, we never will; this is the time."

His speech concluded, Floyd presented 1975 Awards of Merit to Karl and Carolynne Scott, St. Clair Springs; and Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow, Ashville; for their contribution to the Alabama Historical Commission's program of restoring and preserving the state's past.

Floyd cited the Scotts for serving on the original State Live-in-a-Landmark Council, a group of young couples dedicated to restoring historic neighborhoods in Saint Clair County and throughout Alabama.

The couple live in the 1886 Betty Montgomery House, one of 21 structures nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in the St. Clair Springs District.

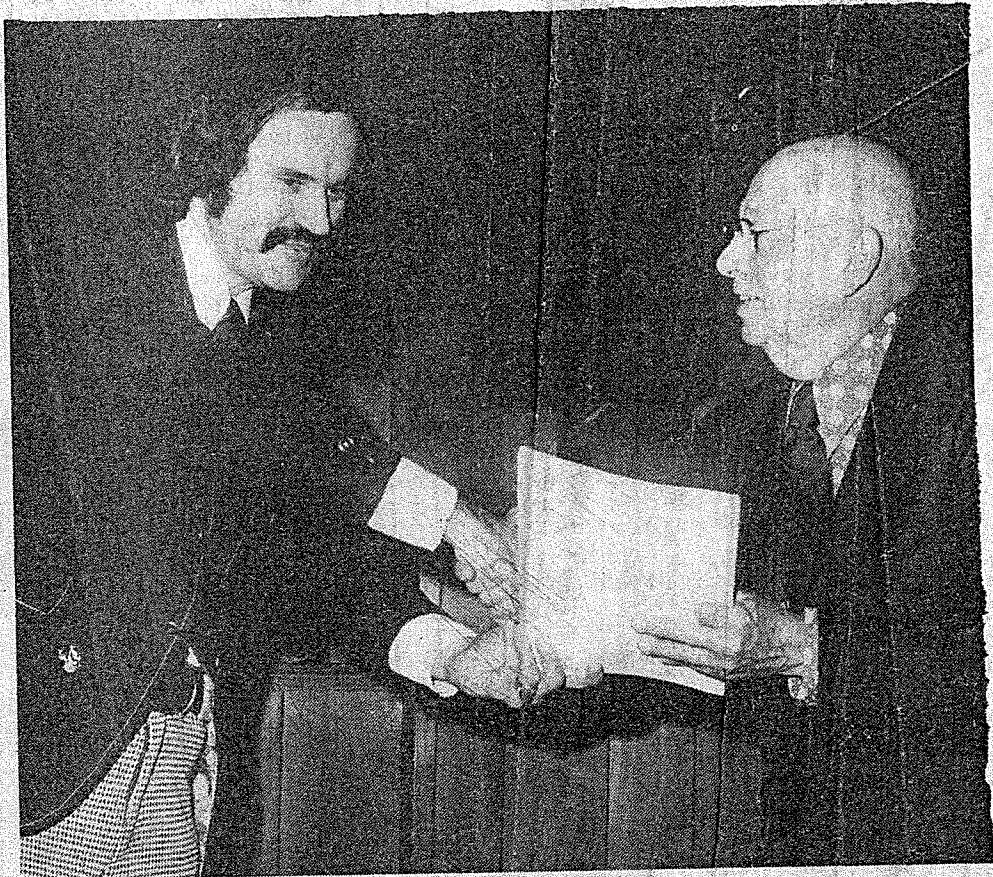
Mrs. Scott served as charter president of the St. Clair Historical Society and has been chairwoman of restoration at the Looney House in Beaver Valley. She is on the St. Clair Historic Development Commission.

A commercial artist, Mr. Scott has designed seals for the Jefferson County Historic Development Commission and the St. Clair County Historic Development Commission.

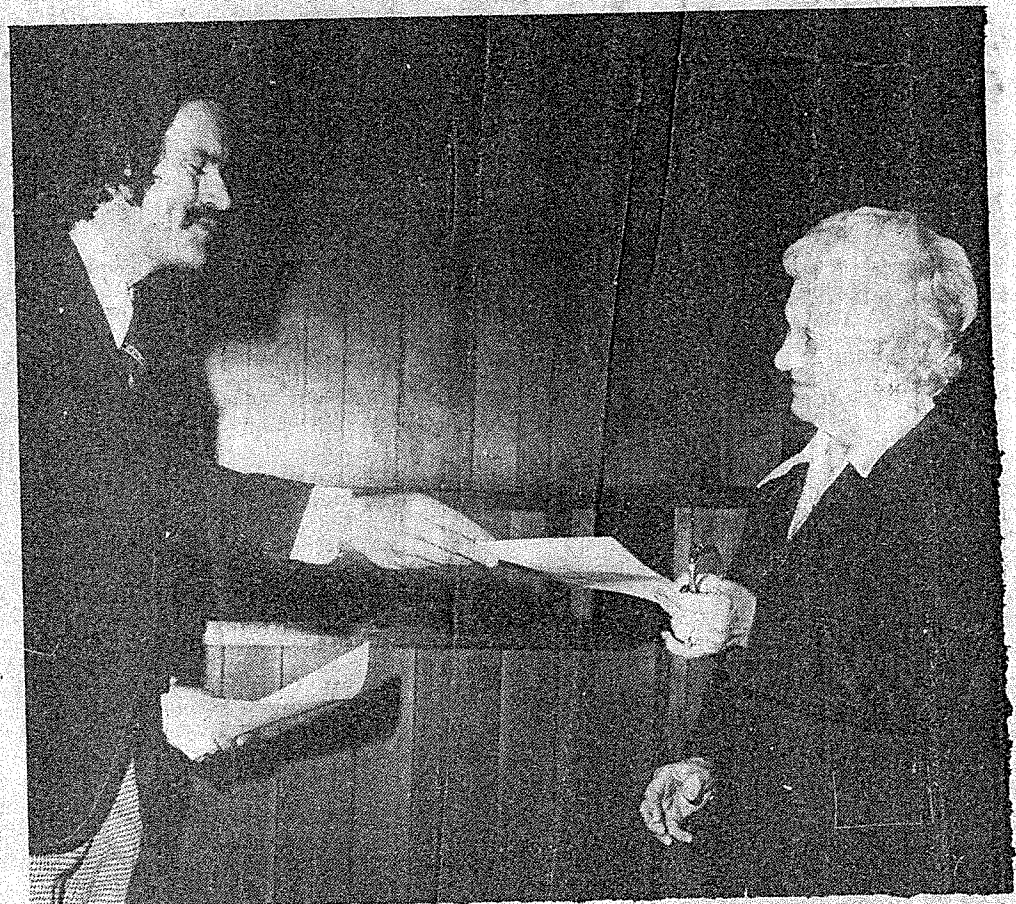
Praising Mrs. Crow, Floyd called the Ashville resident's history of St. Clair County "one of the best ever recorded in Alabama. It is an outstanding county history of an outstanding county."

Acting in her capacity of Society publicity chairwoman, Mrs. Scott presented a 1975 Award of Merit from Floyd's Commission to the St. Clair NEWS-AEGIS for its contribution to preservation work.

Mrs. Scott cited in particular historical articles penned by Jenna Whitehead, a former



**Society President Elmer Welch
Accepts Gift Books From Floyd**



Mrs. Crow Receives Award From Floyd

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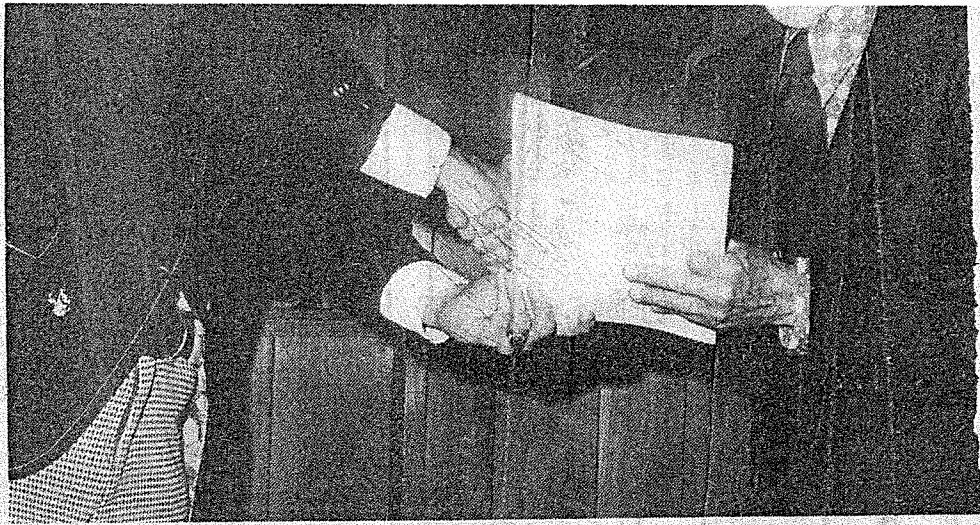
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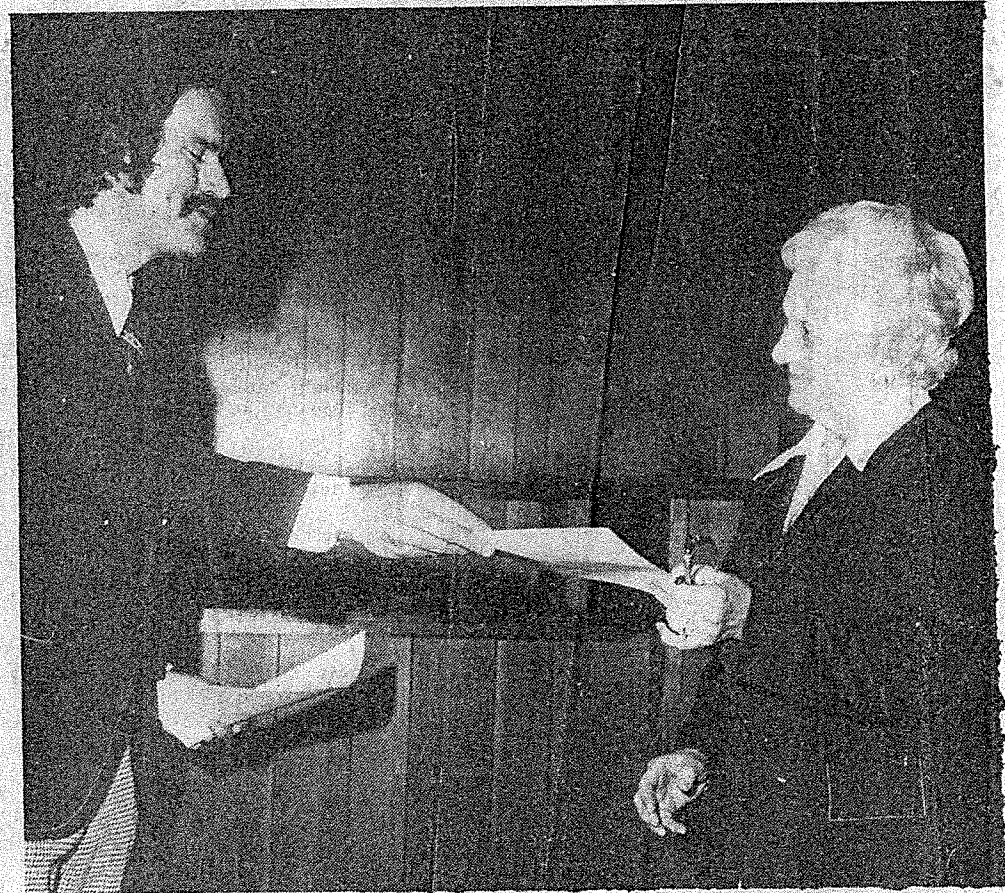
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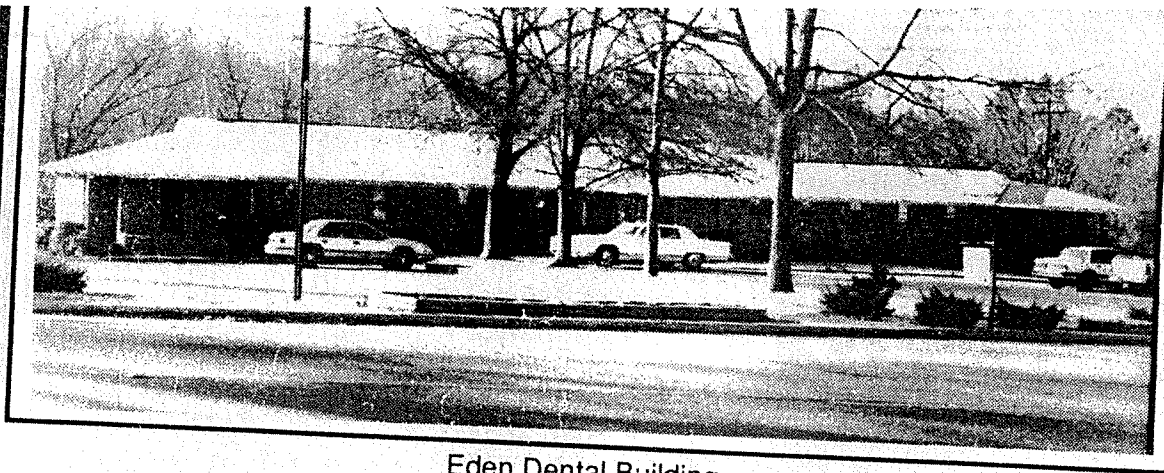
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Society President Elmer Welch Accepts Gift Books From Floyd



Mrs. Crow Receives Award From Floyd



Eden Dental Building

The one day denture service was started in the **mid 40's**, and was the first practice to offer One Day Denture Service in the southeast.

Dr. Joseph Sawyer began practicing dentistry in the One Day Denture Service in Eden in January, 1960. This dental practice is unique in that people from all over Alabama and all over the United States come here for dentures and partials. It is a landmark in the Eden section of Pell City.

Denise Sawyer, Dr. Joseph Sawyer's daughter, has worked in the practice for several years. She is payroll clerk, bookkeeper, and business manager. Norma Sawyer, Dr. Joseph Sawyer's wife, is public relations and insurance clerk for the dental office. Dr. David Sawyer, Dr. Joseph Sawyer's son, has a general practice located inside the Eden Dental Building. We feel very fortunate to have most of our family working in the dental practice.

Dr. Eugene Pauly became an associate of Dr. Joseph Sawyer in September, 1983. Dr. Pauly commutes from Odenville to join our professional staff.

Our entire office staff resembles a family unit in the dental practice working together to offer our patients a concerned interest in each patient's needs. One of our laboratory technicians, Evelyn Ogletree, has worked in this dental practice for over 40 years. Her husband Charles, has worked here for 28 years. LaKeetha Ogletree, daughter of Evelyn and Charles, is a technician for our dental office.

The entire staff has many years working in this dental practice.

"The Original" One Day Denture Service in Eden is open Monday through Friday at 6:30 a.m.

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Required by Alabama State Law: "No representation is made about the quality of the dental services to be performed or the expertise of the dentists performing such services."

Buildings and Events

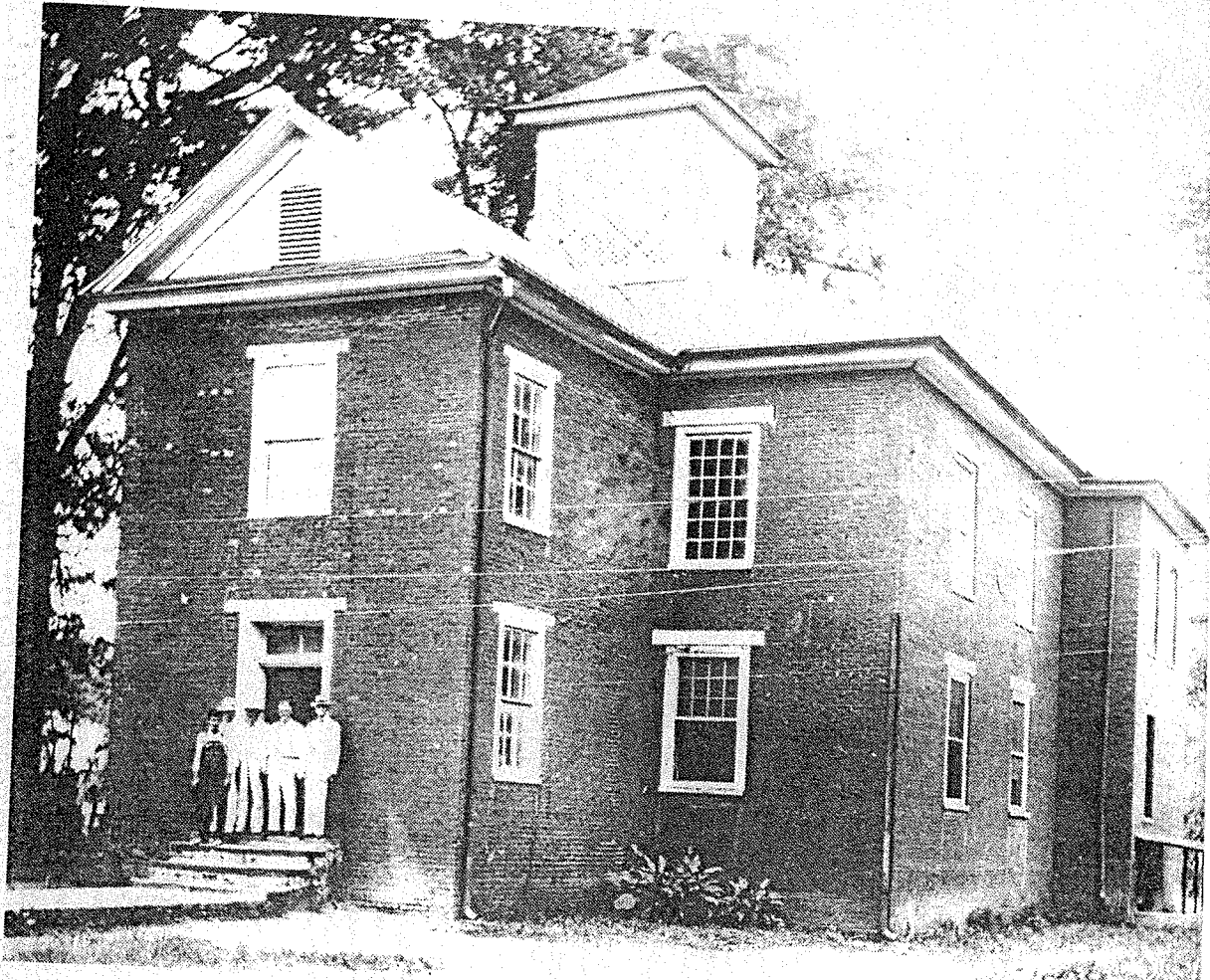


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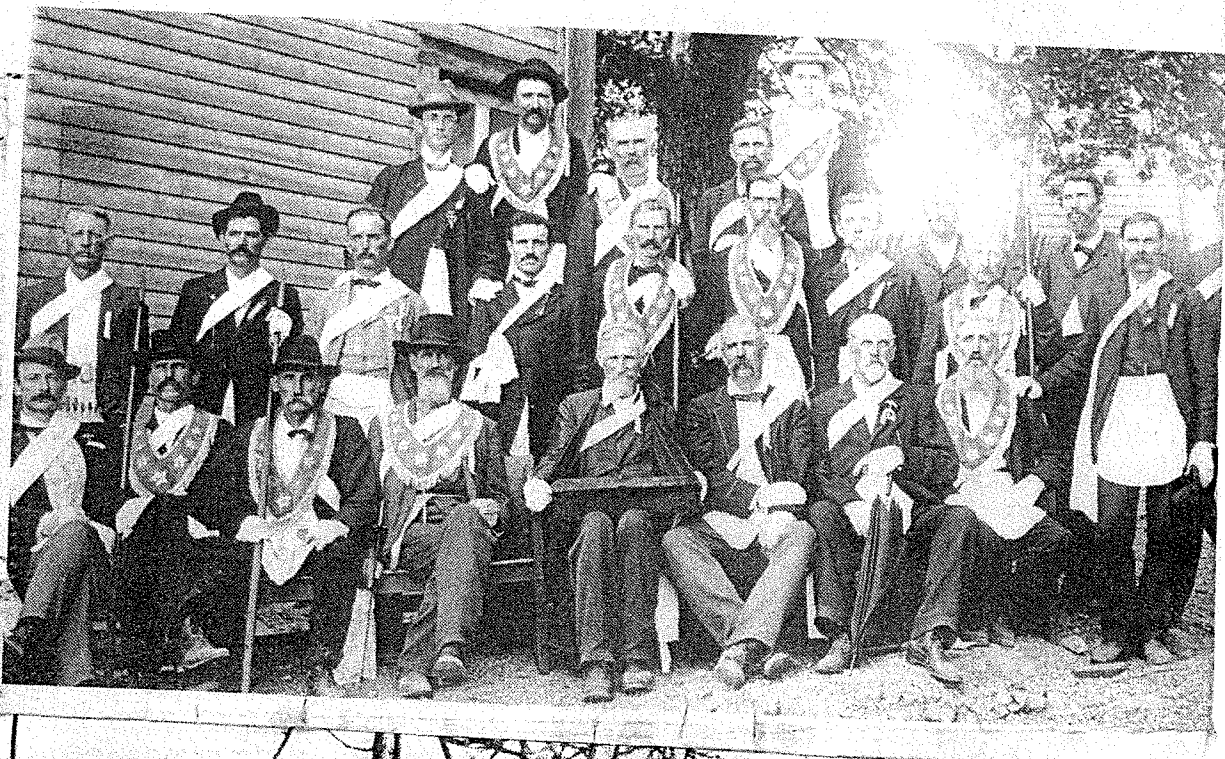
R. AND MRS. FRANK SCOTT HOME—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott are pictured in front of their home on Robin-
n Street in Springville.

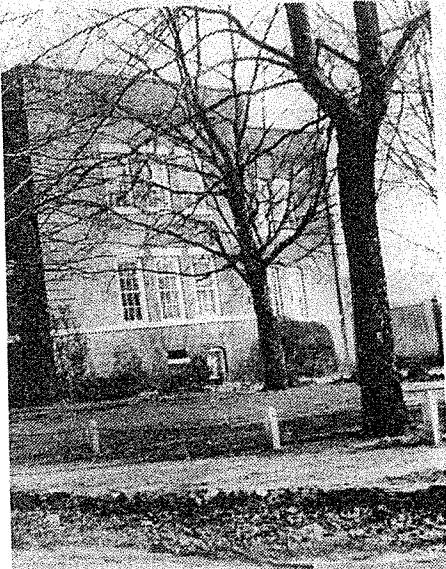
"THE ORIGINAL"
ONE DAY DENTURE SERVICE
JOSEPH SAWYER, D.M.D., P.A.
DAVID T. SAWYER, D.M.D.

HISTORICAL HOMES,



ASHVILLE COURTHOUSE—This picture of the Ashville Courthouse was taken in 1924. The courthouse has remodeled several times through the years and now looks very different. The three men on the left are unidentified but the two men on the right are Sam High, who was probate judge at the time, and Jim Embry.





SCHOOL—This picture of the original St. Clair School was featured in the 1947-48 yearbook. The school was built in 1908 and was torn down in 1960 when the



AVONDALE SCHOOL BURNS—One of the main schools in the area was the majestic white frame Avondale School that sat at the end of 26th Street. The school burned in 1923.

SCHOOL



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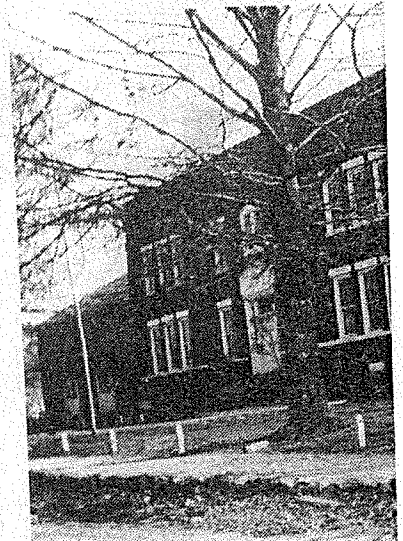
Alagasco

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Remember When?



CLASS OF 1943—The entire senior class of Ragland High School included (front, l-r) Madelyn Shaddix Jackson, Rubye Hall Sisson, Inez Newton (married name unknown), Bonnie Mae Barber Beasley, and Frances Pettus Hermiz; (back, l-r) Jack Rich, Helton Savage (deceased), Charles Kieffer, Buddy Gardner and Ralph Mitchell. Inez Newton is the only one who has not been located for their upcoming 50th reunion. If anyone knows how to locate her, please contact Rubye Sisson in Ragland.



ST. CLAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
 Clair County High School building
 The building was constructed in 1911
 new building was constructed.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

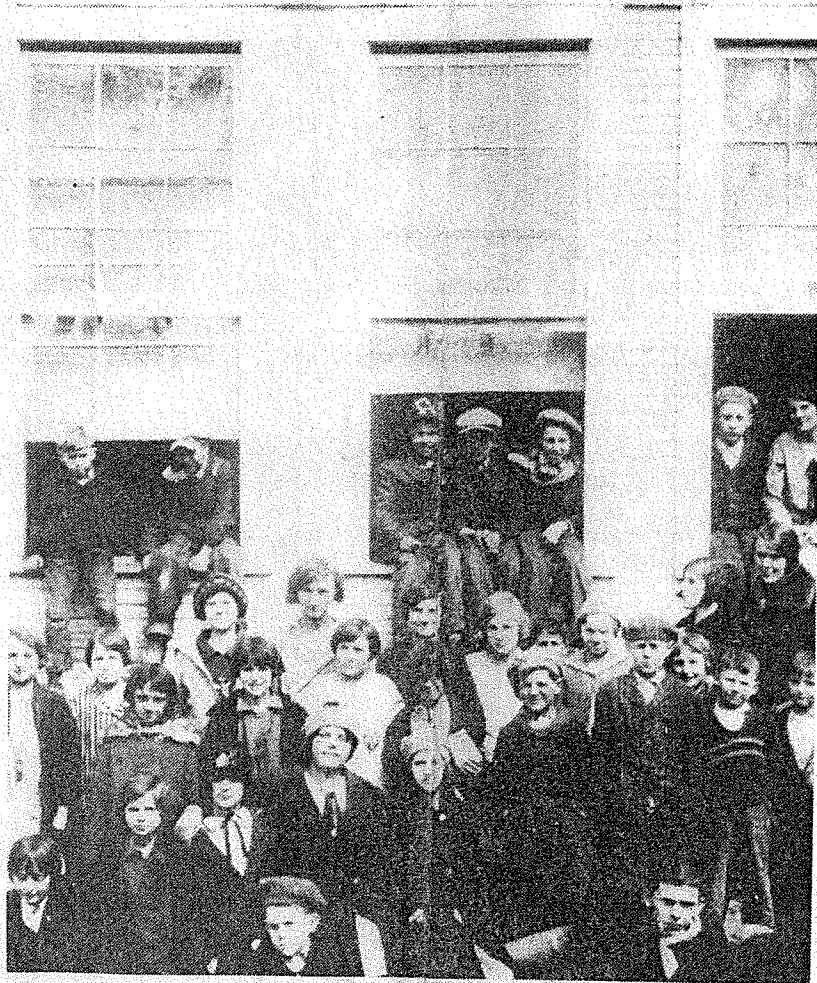


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ST. CLAIR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL—This picture of the original St. Clair County High School building was featured in the 1947-48 yearbook. The building was constructed in 1908 and was torn down in 1960 when the new building was constructed.

PUBLIC SCHOOL



DAR SCHOOL—The Daughters of the American Revolution used to have a school located in Ashville, near Hopewell Church. The school was later moved to Grant, Ala. This picture was taken in February, 1924.

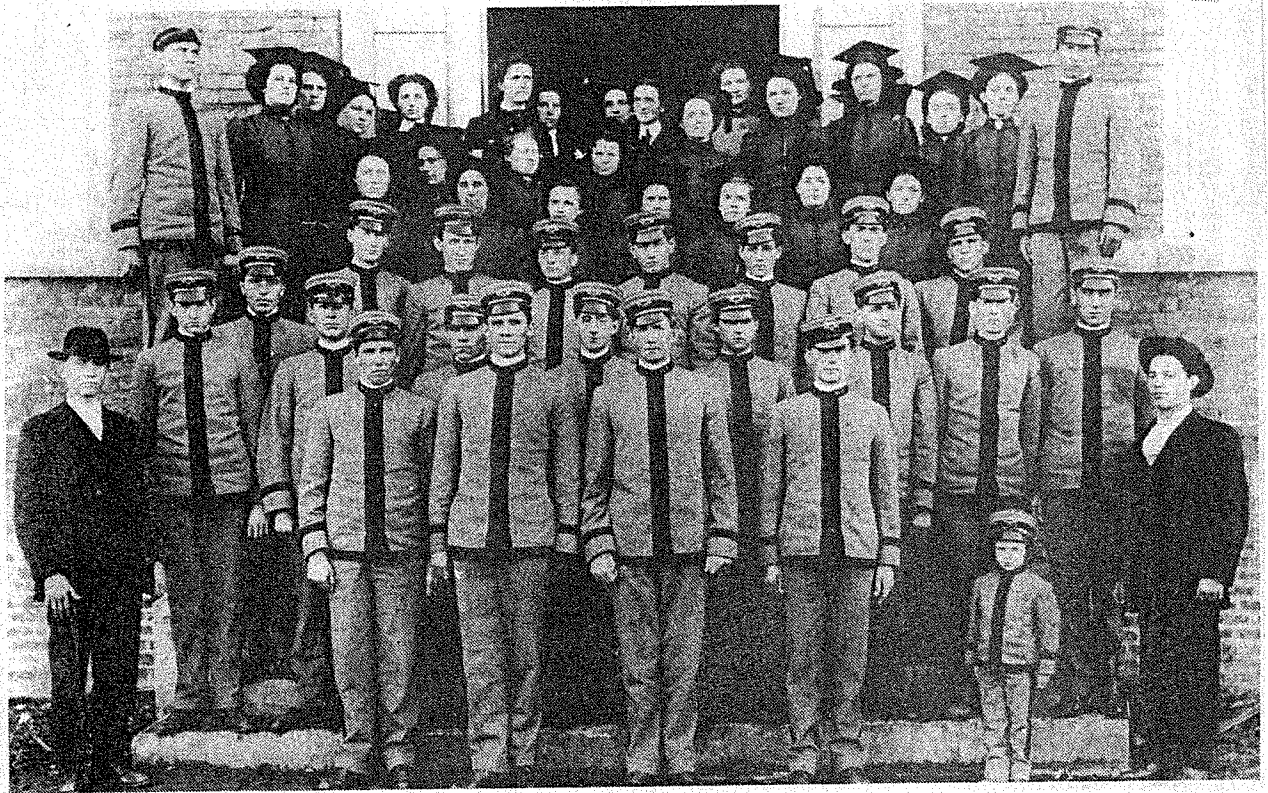
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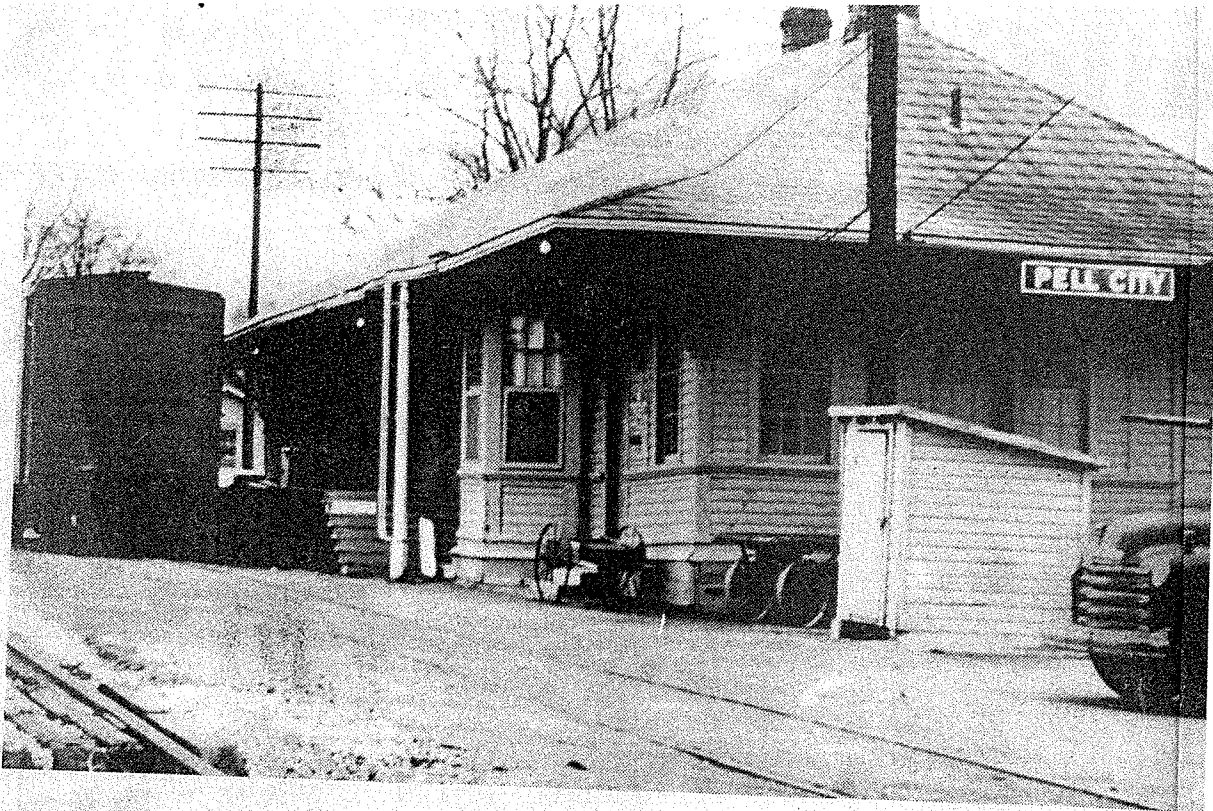
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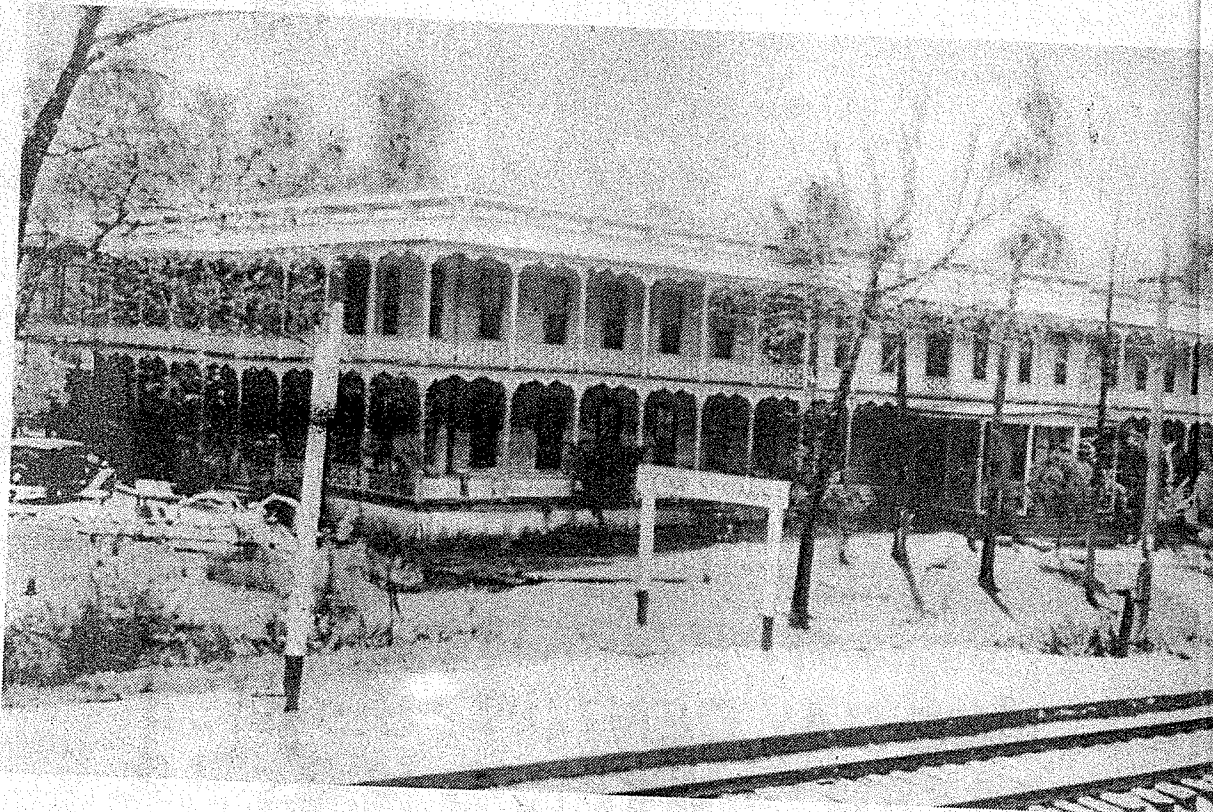
BETHEL SCHOOL—Students at Bethel School in Moody were Era Taylor Gibbs, Joy Coupland Philips, Rena Harris, David Moore, Willie Hawkins, Oscar Harris, Cleaston Clements, Coy Hurst, O.C. Harris, J.C. Kerr, Oscar Ballenger, Curtis Armstrong, B.H. Green, Rexil Crowe, Willie Mae Armstrong, Grace Kerr, Nellie Lee, Alta B. Kerr, Willard Harris, Clearland Breaden, Odell Clements, Melvin Hardwick, Randolph Clements, James Watson, Ruby Lee, Elsie D. Harris, Willie Lee, Eugene Harris, Lyle Taylor, Marie Harris, Mildred Ash, Josie Mae Horsley, Mildred Lee, James Ash, Mr. I.W. Inzer and Miss Prickett. The picture was taken about 1927.



CLASS OF 1909—These St. Clair County High School students attended the only state school who wore uniforms. The girls made their uniforms and the boys ordered theirs.



PELL CITY DEPOT—The Pell City Depot was once located on First Avenue South. Many residents still revere the depot and what an important role it played in the city's history.



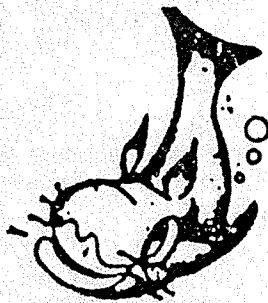
COOK SPRINGS RESORT—One of the most popular vacation spots in St. Clair County was the Cook Springs resort hotel, Mountain View. The resort, built in 1883, drew visitors from far and near. One of the main attractions was the six mineral springs that some say would improve a person's health. Other activities at the resort included bowling, croquet, lawn tennis, hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, mountain climbing and dancing the night away to the music of a string band.



GERTRUDE COMER HOSPITAL—The first hospital in Pell City was Gertrude Comer Hospital. It was supported by Avondale Mills. Dr. Martin was head of the medical staff and Miss Elsie Dunn was head of the nursing staff.

The Ark

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Rally is planned to help save Pell City's Iola Roberts House

Another Pell City historical landmark is about to bite the dust — unless citizens soon show an interest in saving it.

The Iola Roberts House, which may be demolished if final efforts fall through, will be the site of a 2 p.m. meeting on Sunday, Feb. 12, co-sponsored by People's Bank and Pell City Project PRIDE.

The meeting will be a "reunion" of alumni and former teachers at the Avondale Mill School, where Iola Roberts served for years as principal.

It will also be a rally for any friends of the Roberts House not included among the alumni.

"We will be measuring the community's interest by who comes to the meeting and what is accomplished at the meeting," said Harold King, chairman and chief executive officer of People's Bank on whose property the house is situated.

Eventually the bank will need to clear the site for other development vital to the bank's interest, King said.

King, himself an alumnus of Avondale School, and a strong supporter of any effort to save the house by relocating it, said, "If there are no clear and con-

crete plans for moving the house soon, we will have no alternative but to proceed with demolition."

The rally is, Project Pride Chairman Tom Chapman said, a last-ditch effort to focus attention on the problem and find a solution.

"Actually it's a series of problems we're dealing with," Chapman said. "First, although the bank has generously indicated a willingness to donate the house to a worthy community-wide use, it must be moved, and soon."

Sensitive negotiations, to find a suitable site, have been carried out in recent months. "Unfortunately our best hope for a site has been denied," Chapman said. "We're back to square one."

Another problem is house moving costs which could be prohibitive.

Finally, if the bank gives the house away, and a moving fee is secured, will there be sufficient public support to raise necessary funds?

Mary Mays, local historian and chairman of Project Pride's heritage committee, has suggested that the house might be a suitable permanent home for the Pell City Museum, now temporarily housed at the Pell City Civic Center.

City officials have wondered if the house might also be an appropriate location for a community welcome center.

"The house is large enough to accommodate the museum, a welcome center, and numerous other community uses," Chamber of Commerce manager Jane Buttram said.

The house was originally home to the manager of Avondale Mills. It is popularly known as the Robert House because Iola Roberts occupied it longer than any resident.

Its most recent occupant was the Pell City Independent Church which moved

into a permanent home on U.S. 231 S a few months ago.

Located across the parking lot from People's Bank, the house is a three-story modified Greek Revival, dominating the Comer Ave. neighborhood linking Cogswell Ave. with Martin St. N.

The Feb. 12 meeting agenda is simple, Chapman said. "Those who attend will be asked to determine whether the house should be saved — and if so, how?"

Those interested in participating in the rally should notify Mrs. Buttram at the Chamber of Commerce, 338-3377, of their plans to attend.

Poster exhibit now at library

During February, posters created by seventh and eighth grade students at Leeds Jr. High School are on display at the Leeds Public Library. The posters depict the theme, "Honor America."

Those showing the patriotic posters are: Jeanette Bearden, first place winner and two other

Michael Davis, April Shelton, Bettina Johnson, Mike Ray, and Scott Simmons.

Friends and relatives of the students are invited to see the artwork now exhibited.

The library has also arranged an exhibit of biographies of famous persons born in February. The

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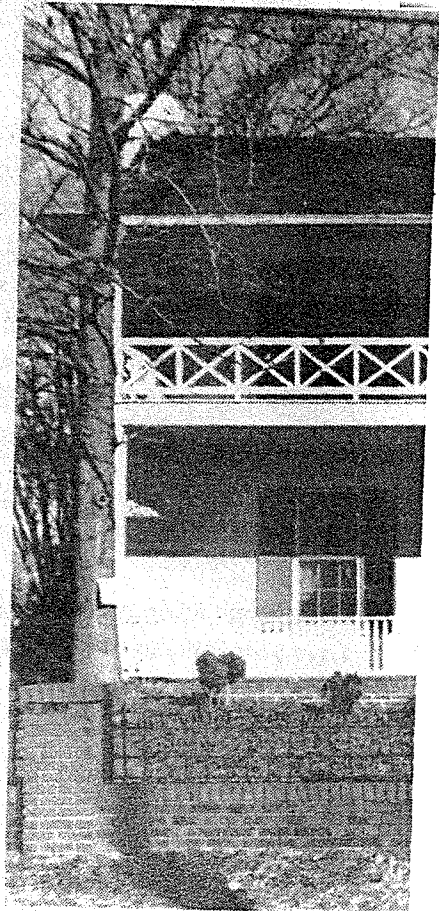
Pell City's Oldest Home to be Sold At Auction Jan.11

The Pell City City Council held discussions at their recent meeting on the upcoming auction of a home located at 116 21st Street North, the previous home of the Riser Family. The house was purchased by Dr. Riser in 1956, but was sold by the Risers several years ago. The house will be sold at bankruptcy auction on January 11, 1990.

The house was built in 1891 and is thought to be the oldest home still standing in Pell City. It was the plantation home of Green Evans, the first Mayor of Pell City. The house stands today as a gracious two story colonial home, "reminiscent of deep South plantation life".

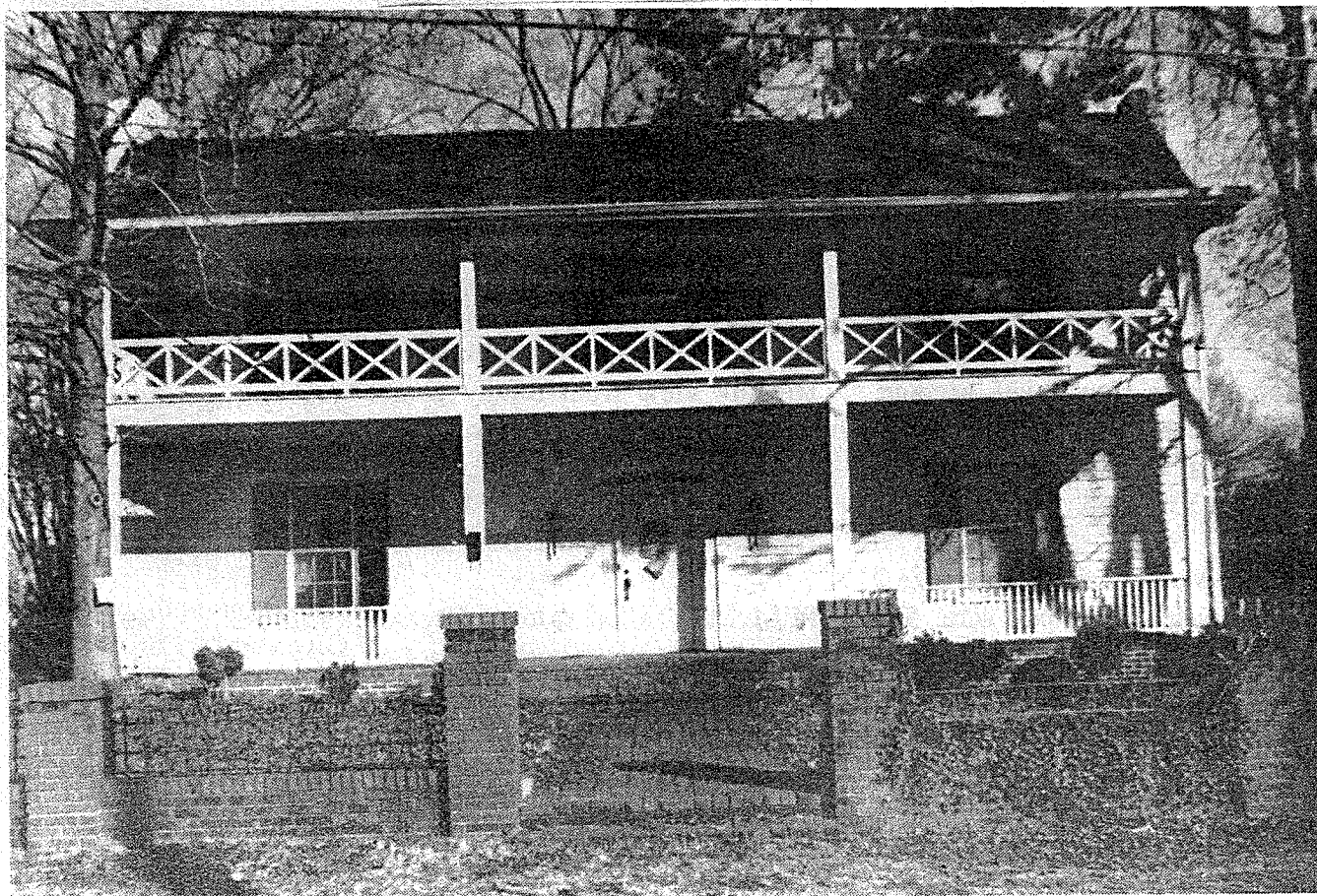
In light of the interest by the Historical Society in having a house located in Pell City for the purpose of making a museum, the Council discussed the feasibility of acquiring this particular home. No action was taken by the City Council regarding the house.

Pictured below: The Riser Home as it appears today.



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banquet,
0 338-3518





Bicentennial Plaque Presented

Congressman Tom Bevill and Alabama Bicentennial Commission Director Bobby Bowick presented Pell City Mayor Pro Tem Paul Turner with a plaque designating Pell City as a bicentennial committee at the annual banquet of the St. Clair Historical Society at Holiday Inn, Riverside. Pictured, from left, are Congressman Bevill and his wife, Mr. Turner, Mary Mays and Mr. Bowick. (See story for details.)



Cornett Hotel - circa 1902

Jan 9, 1969

Organization Of St. Clair History Group Set Tonight

Many hundreds of residents of St. Clair county will be happy to know that the first big step will be taken Thursday (tonight) to preserve the rich history and traditions of the county.

Judge Hoyt Hamilton announced the appointment of 104 residents of St. Clair as members of the St. Clair County Historical Board. He also announced plans for the organizational meeting at a Dutch dinner tonight at the Big Bull restaurant, the meeting to begin at 6 o'clock.

The objective of the historical group will be to compile a record of the county from the time it was a part of the Alabama territory before the state was admitted to the union. St. Clair was made an official county in 1817, two years before Alabama's admission to the union in 1819. Work of the group will be research in an effort to find accurate dates, names, places and events and other pertinent information that must be committed to writing and catalogued for the purpose of writing a permanent history of the county.

Development of all historical places and areas in the county and placing historic markers at the proper places will be done by the group.

Compilation of the county's history will co-incide with Alabama's state-wide sesqui-centennial when the entire state will celebrate it's 150th year as a state throughout this year, — from 1819 to 1969.

One of the top projects of the historical group will be the restoration of Fort Strother. Lo-

cated near Lock Three on the Coosa River, Fort Strother is the place where General Andrew Jackson camped with his army during the winter of 1813-1814 before the battle with the Indians at Horse Shoe Bend, a battle in which a strong army of Creek and Cherokee Indians were defeated.

Later on in 1815 General Jackson led his army in the Battle of New Orleans in which a British Army was decisively defeated. His victory in the New Orleans battle eventually resulted in Jackson being elected president.

Dr. Hugh C. Bailey, Dr. Evan Zeiger and Dr. Wilbur Hembold will be featured speakers.

George Hodges, Nashville, and a former representative from St. Clair County, is in charge with state parks building and restoration, has been invited to the meeting.

All members have been notified of their appointment and invited to attend the meeting tonight and all are urged to be present for the important first and organizational get-together.

Mayer & Jones Department Store
1923 - 1974 - 51 years of operation

Peggy Pruett (Thompson)

Earlene Davis

Virginia Nelson Burkhardt

L. J. (Red) Henniger (deceased)

Essie Louell (Sorett)

Tom Louell (deceased)

Laure C. Smith

Laurella C. Starnes

Flaune O. Compton

Nettie D. Corbett (deceased)

Jessie B. Hall Smith

Blair Jones (deceased)

J. Warner Hammett (deceased)



Bicentennial Placque To Pell City

The St. Clair Historical Society Banquet contained as part of the program, the presentation of Pell City's Bicentennial Placque — presented by Congressman Tom Bevill to Pell

City Councilman Paul Turner. As Bevill noted, Pell City is the first St. Clair County municipality to be named as a Bicentennial City. (NEWS photo by Jenna Whitehead)

Confederate hero honored in

By CAROL PAPPAS

Although it has been more than a century since he took up arms to fight for his southern heritage, Private General Andrew Jackson Alverson is not forgotten.

On Sept. 29, the Sons of Confederate Veterans John W. Inzer Camp 308 and Lieutenant George W. Arnold Camp 360 paid tribute to Alverson, who served in the Civil War.

Twelve men in uniforms, seven of whom were riflemen, participated in the service.

They were Gary Davis, Gary Burtram, Auburn Odom, First Sgt. Barry Taylor, Billy Price, Robert Dobbs and John Thompson. Capt. Mark Horton gave the command, and Master Sgt. Randy Smith was color bearer, carrying the flag. Thirteen-year-old Matthew Smith was the drummer boy.

Twelve-year-old James Wansart was the trumpet player, who played taps after the 21-gun salute by the seven riflemen.

David Bryant, a retired minister and teacher is chaplain of Camp 308 and gave an eloquent invocation and benediction.

Commanding Officer Randall Williams of SCV Camp 308 delivered the memorial to Alverson.

Alverson was born June 20, 1845, the son of Archibald Alverson and Elizabeth Cann.

Following is an excerpt from the commander's memorial:

YOUNG JACKSON, brave and mature for his age, was only 16 years old, had his mind made up and his heart was set on enlisting to serve in the Confederate Army.

His father and brother, George, were both going and he wanted to go, too. On a cold day, Dec. 12, 1861, the three men made the long trek across the mountain to Ashville from their home in Riverside. They enlisted in Company I, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Jackson's grandfather, Elijah Alverson, who was born July 2, 1785, in North Carolina served in the War of 1812. He died in 1872. His great-grandfather, John Alverson, served in the American Revolu-

tionary War.

He enlisted the first time in 1777 and then again in 1780 as a wagon master and was captured by the British at the Fall of Charleston.

He was in the Battle of Brandywine, where he sustained the loss of two fingers on his left hand, a cut on his right arm and bayonet stabs of the right thigh and leg.

Records show that he was allowed a pension for his wounds and for having served in the American Revolutionary War.

Young Jackson had heard stories many times of the hardships endured, about the battles won and lost that his grandfather and great grandfather had been involved in.

IN HIS YOUNG mind, he must have been thinking that some day he would be telling his children and grandchildren of his experiences and the part he played in the Confederate War, and he would be proud he had a part in it.

The 18th Infantry Regiment completed its organization in September 1861, at Auburn. The men were recruited in the counties of Coffee, Pike, Coosa, Butler, Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega and Covington.

It was attached to the Department of Alabama and West Florida. Then, in March, 1862, it moved to Tennessee. Assigned to Jackson's brigade, the unit took an active part in the fight at Shiloh, Tenn. Later, it was ordered to Mobile and placed under the command of General Slaughter and Cumming.

The 18th moved again in April 1863, and attached to General Clayton's and Holtzclaw's brigade.

It fought with the Army of Tennessee from Chickamuga to Nashville. Returning to Mobile in January 1865, it participated in the defense of Spanish Fort. The regiment totalled 858 men in January 1861, but lost 20 who were killed and 80, who were wounded at Shiloh and 56 percent of the 527 engaged at Chickamuga.

It sustained 209 casualties at Chattanooga and had a force of 275 effectives in November 1864. The unit was included in the surrender

of the Dept. of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana.

JACKSON RETURNED TO his father's home at Riverside after the surrender of the Confederate forces. His brother, George, was wounded in battle and died in a hospital in Mobile and is buried in the Confederate cemetery in Mobile.

Jackson married Sarah E. Nichols on Dec. 31, 1871. She was the daughter of Lemuel Nichols and Availine Wester.

Jackson and his wife had 10 children before her death June 26, 1898. The following year, April 21, 1899, Jackson died, leaving children ranging in ages from seven years to 27 years.

The Rev. H.B. Ralls, who conducted the funeral service, spoke consoling words to the family.

The children were: Elizabeth, born Dec. 17, 1872; Mary Etta, Dec. 17, 1874; Mack E., April 17, 1877; Wiley Franklin, August 6, 1879; Ida Louella, Oct. 17, 1881; James Marvin, Dec. 13, 1883; Walter L., Aug. 21, 1885; Jeff Baswell, Oct. 25, 1887; Rose B., Jan. 3, 1890; and Benjamin Grover, June 9, 1892.

Those attending the memorial service for Jackson, coming from Jefferson, Blount and St. Clair counties, were: Hazel Morgan, Lucille Bishop, UDC member, Mona Black Scott, great-granddaughter, Edna V. Gunter, Willie Dean Smith, Vada Vaughn, Vida Jo Odom, Jeralyn Lenox of Atlanta;

Grace Springer, Sue Johnston, Michael Smith, Sonny Smith, Edward Alverson, great-grandson, Barbara Alverson, David Bryant, Camp 308 chaplain, Estelle Higginbotham, Jack Hazelwood, Bobby L.

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Tollison, Morris Nixon, Billy G.
Thorpe, Flynn Nixon, Emma Lin-
der, Nancy Futrell, Paula Smith,
Mary Higginbotham, great-great-
granddaughter of Birmingham;

Susan Dorris of West Frankfort,
Ill., great-granddaughter, Gwain
Dorris, West Frankfort, Ill., Grace
Higginbotham, granddaughter.

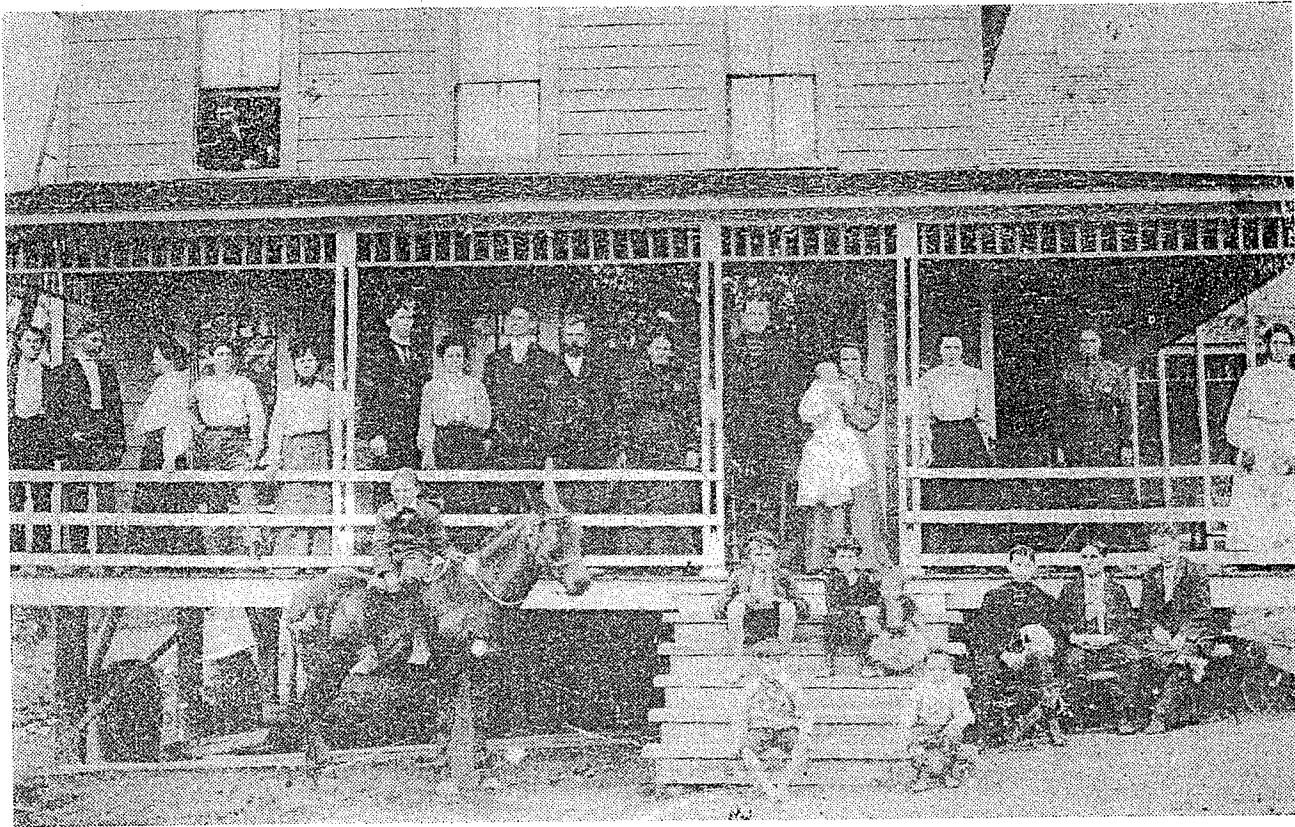
Sons of Confederate Veterans
came from Jefferson, Blount and St.
Clair counties.

"These were difficult times for
the men in uniform and for the
families left behind, said Chaplain

Bryant. Many came back to find
everything gone and their money
worthless. These men have given to
us an example of their love and
patriotism.

"As we look at the rock of
remembrance, people pass by and
say, here was one dedicated to this
country.

"Out of this conflict, men re-
newed their faith in God. Many
pulpits in the South and many in the
North were filled with these men
after they returned."



DOWN MEMORY LANE
Ma Turners Boarding House
 in 1904

This one from our Memory Lane was made about 1904 according to Mrs. Jennie Mode who loaned the picture to the News-Aegis. First man on the porch from left is unidenti-

fied. Next man is John Mode and facing him then Miss Jennie Boley, later Mrs. John Mode. Next are Mr. and Mrs. Padgett. Sixth from left Nona Turner, Sam Spear. Next to

be identified is Mr. and Mrs. Jim Turner next to the woman with the baby who is Mrs. Minnie Turner Rich. Next is Mrs. Betty Turner

Harvey. The two negro women unidentified. Ullman Turner is on the mule. Next on upper step is Ernest Turner and Aubrey Turner. The

three small boys are sons of Mrs. Minnie Rich. The man in the middle on the bench is Mat Backner. All others are unidentified.





MISS MRS. MARY J. WILSON