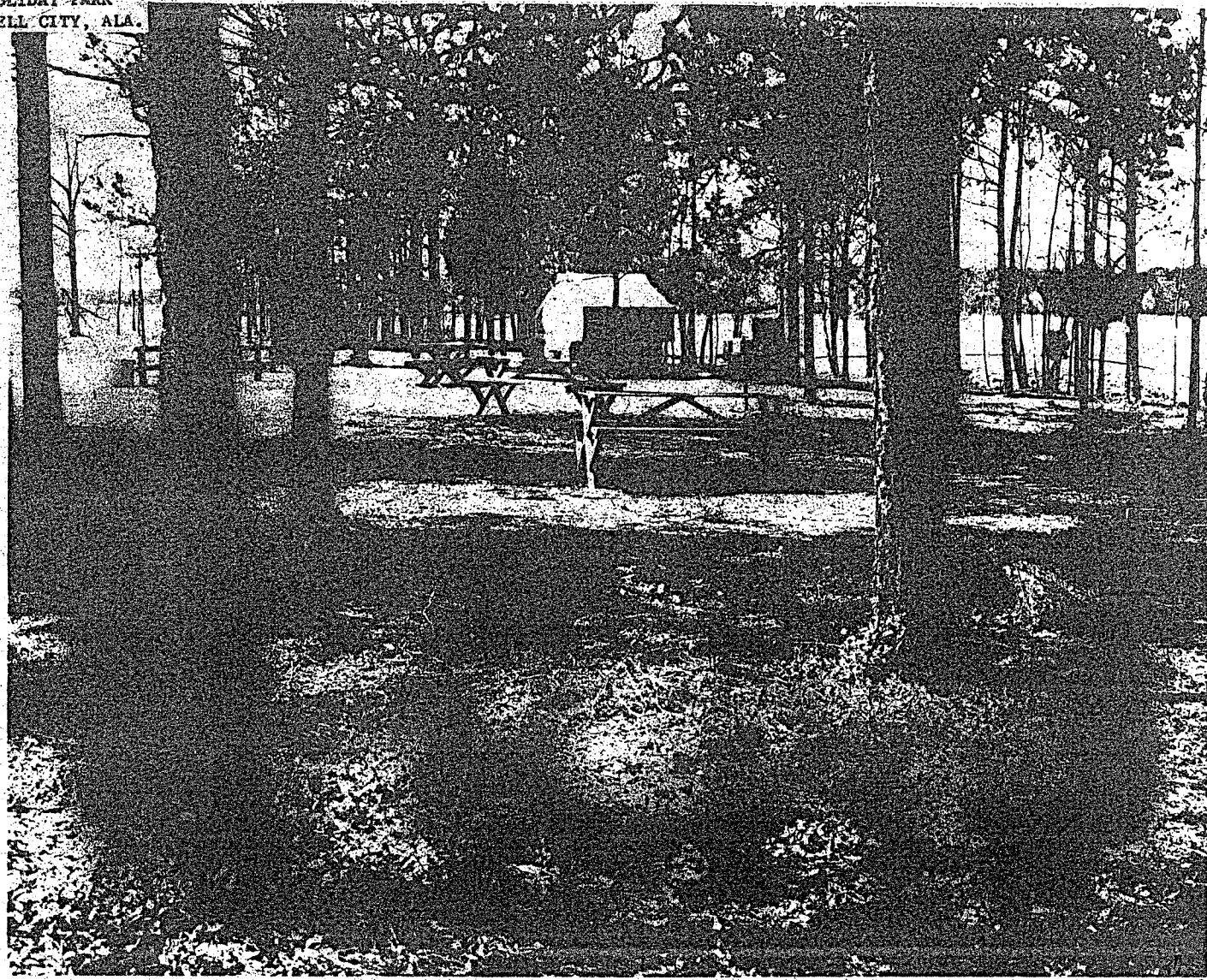


Shades Of The Wrights

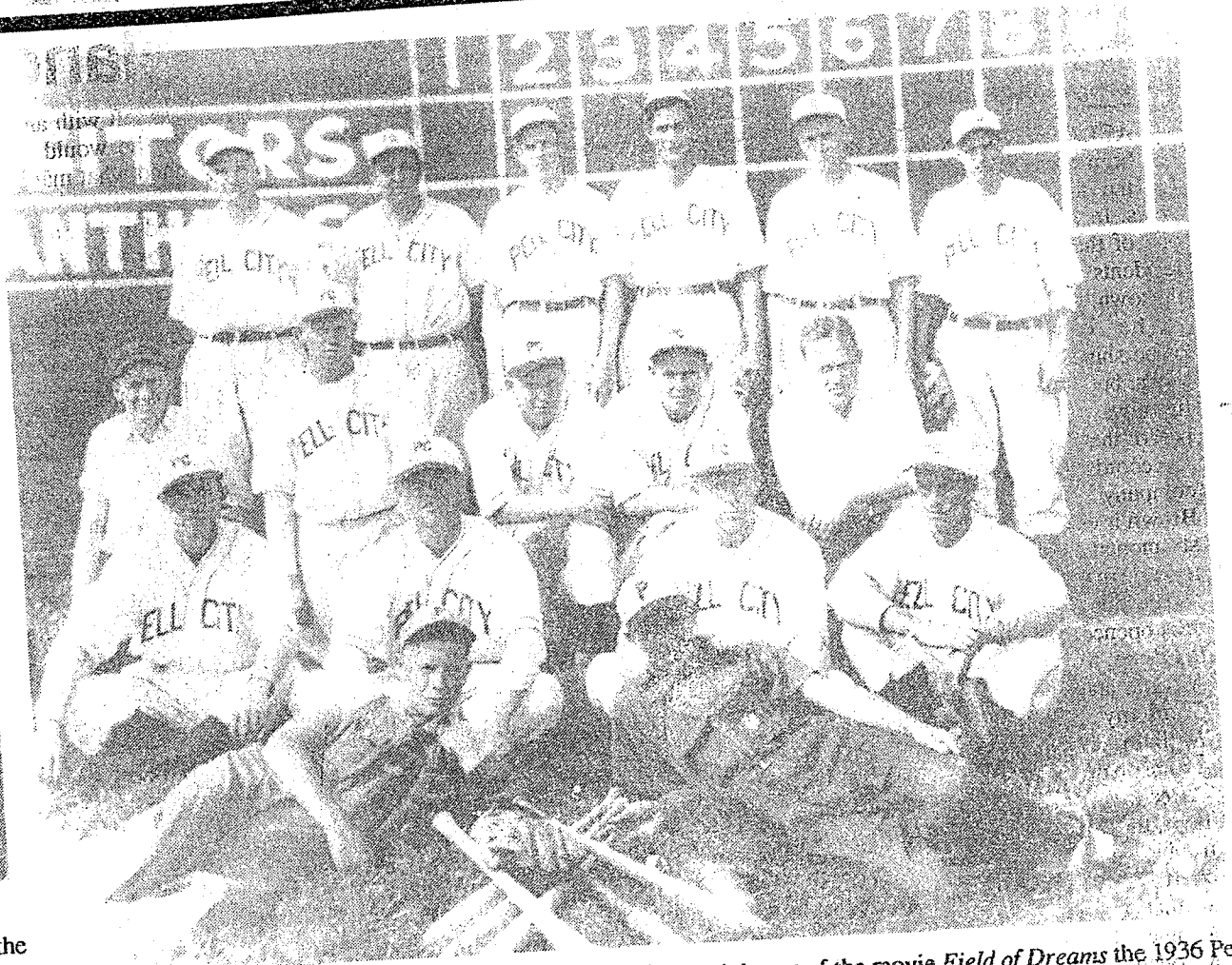
Dale Jolley stands beside a "breeze," which is not a Wright Brothers replica, but an open craft in which rides are sometime given at the air- port.



PELL CITY, ALA.



ports



Behind the

PELL CITY BASEBALL TEAM—Looking like they stepped right out of the movie *Field of Dreams* the 1936 Pell City Baseball Team included (l-r, front) bat boys Freck Smith and Tiny Freeman; (second row) Frank Simpkins, Henry "Toats" Casper, I.Z. Patterson, "Lefty" Walker; (third row) Maxie Davis, Henry Dickey, Dee Brodgers, Ray Skelton, Ed Blair; (last row) Elmo Riley, Flossie Gallups, Norman Smith, John "Nig" Alverson, Martin Patterson, and W.J. Vinson.

Sp





RAGLAND ROUNDBALLERS—This 1929 Ragland Basketball team consisted of (front row, l-r) Floyd Dav
Joe Brown Robinson, (back row) Calvin Ruby, Mr. Hand (coach), Fabert Davis, and Manley Hare.



SPRINGVILLE BASEBALL—This early picture of this Springville baseball team was made in the early 1900s. The men are unidentified. Do you know who they are?

Business &

Cement plant is the heart of Ragland

By CINDY WARNER
News-Aegis News Editor

RAGLAND—National Cement has been the heart and life's blood for the town of Ragland for 83 years. In fact, the giant structure is one of the first things visitors and residents see when they come into the town.

The company has changed ownership several times through the years, but one thing is for certain. It has always played a very important part of the town's history.

Records show construction of the company began in 1909. Walt Brown is credited for being very instrumental in getting the company to settle in the town of Ragland.

The doors of the company actually opened on July 18, 1910. At that time, the company's name was Atlantic and Gulf Portland Cement Company. The owners were William Shaffer and Charles Adamson of Pennsylvania.

Records show that in February 1914, the company was in financial trouble and was in bankruptcy court. The property was purchased at that time by G. Ransom and Minnie Hartman of Baltimore, Maryland. They changed the name to Coosa Portland Cement Com-

pany.

In 1922, the name was again changed to the present name of National Cement after George E. Nicholson and Ralph E. Nicholson purchased the plant.

The plant was forced to close its doors for a period of time during the Great Depression, but it was up and running again in 1935.

There are not many records detailing the activity of the business for that point, but in 1961 another change of ownership occurred. This time the owner was Woodward Iron Company.

In 1966, National Cement fell under the authority of the Mead Corporation during an exchange of stock.

The present owners, Vicat, bought the plant in 1974. They also purchased another plant located in Lebec, California.

Vicat is a name truly synonymous with the cement industry.

In 1812, the Frenchman Louis Vicat, was commissioned to build a bridge at Souillac on the River Dordogne. At the time the river was subject to severe flooding and had eroded to the rock bed.

Because Napoleon's Russian Campaign had drained the French

finances, Vicat was left with ample time to study how he would construct this bridge and what material he would use.

Vicat's studies led to the creation of what is today known as Portland Cement. He did not patent his creation as he wished to make the benefit of his research available to all industries.

Today, Vicat's invention is still being used to build bridges, but cement is also a very important component of buildings and roads.

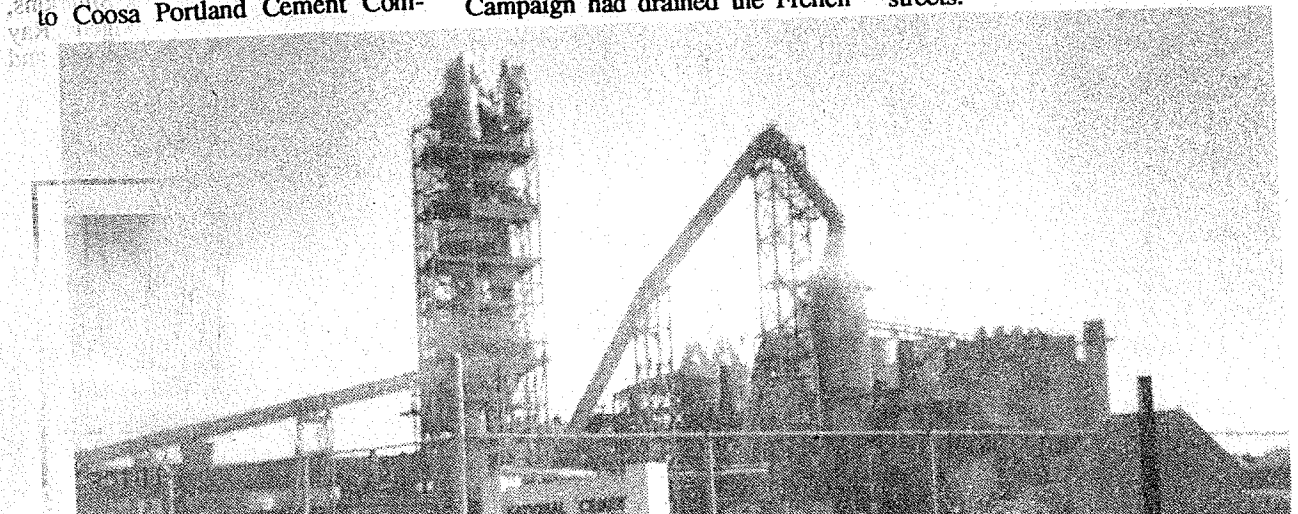
Company officials said National Cement has become one of the most efficient cement producers in the industry by utilizing the most modern equipment available in the world.

National Cement's contributions to the town of Ragland are also impressive.

Mayor Gary Daffron, who also happens to be one of the companies 125 employees, said the town's operating budget greatly depends on National Cement.

During the snowstorm a couple of weeks ago, the company's importance once again became very evident. The company graciously turned over their equipment for the emergency crews to use to clear the streets.

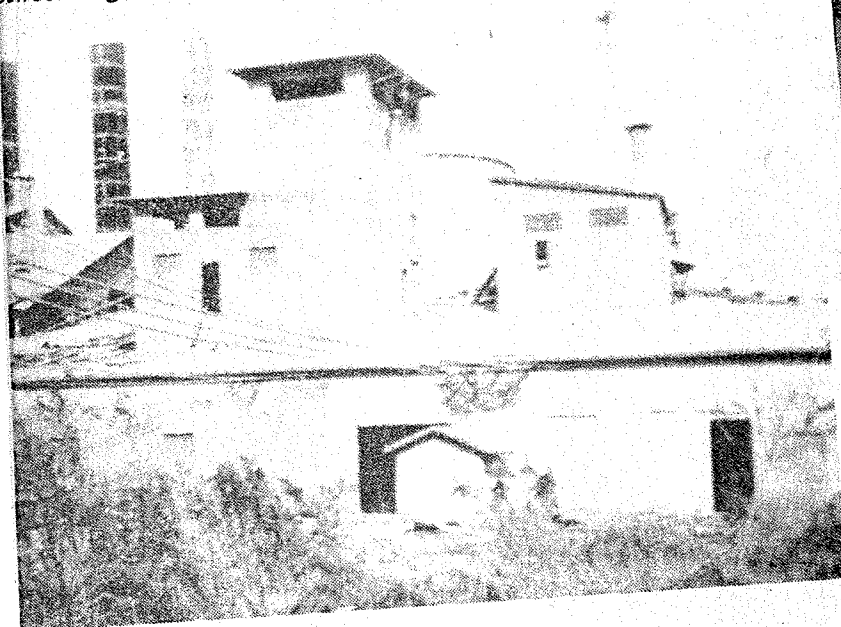
Pell
ins,
Ray
and



Industry



ROCK QUARRY—These men took time out from their back-breaking work at the rock quarry in Collins Spring between Ragland and Coal City in 1930 to pose for this picture.



EARLY CEMENT PLANT



CEMENT PLANT LAB—This interior shot of the cement plant lab pictures J. Mitchell Thornburg and Paul Strieth hard at work.

out is Issue

BY WARNER
St. Clair News Editor

year's progress edition of *St. Clair News-Aegis* is a little different from progress editions of

year's issue features several photos of the county. The main behind the section was simply: how far you have progressed. You have to look at where you have been. As you can see, things have changed drastically in places that have stayed the same in others. The staff at the paper has worked hard to make this section a

However, it would never have been possible without all of the photos we received from several people. They not only loaned us very precious and valuable photos, but they graciously took the time to tell us the history behind the photographs. Without responding to our plea for pictures, we would have never been able to put this special issue together.

Every special thanks goes to the following people: Guin Robinson, DeGaris, Polly Lamar, Gene Simpson, Joe Whitten, Stewart, Mildred Hardwick, Abercrombie, Carolyn and Hall, Buddy Eiland and Emma Power, Rubye Sisson and Alice Stone.

Time would not permit us to show all of the pictures we had turned over to us and for that we apologize. We wish we could have used all of the pictures, because they were all so wonderful.

We do hope you enjoy the special. Please let us know what you think. It was a lot of fun and we hope to do it again.



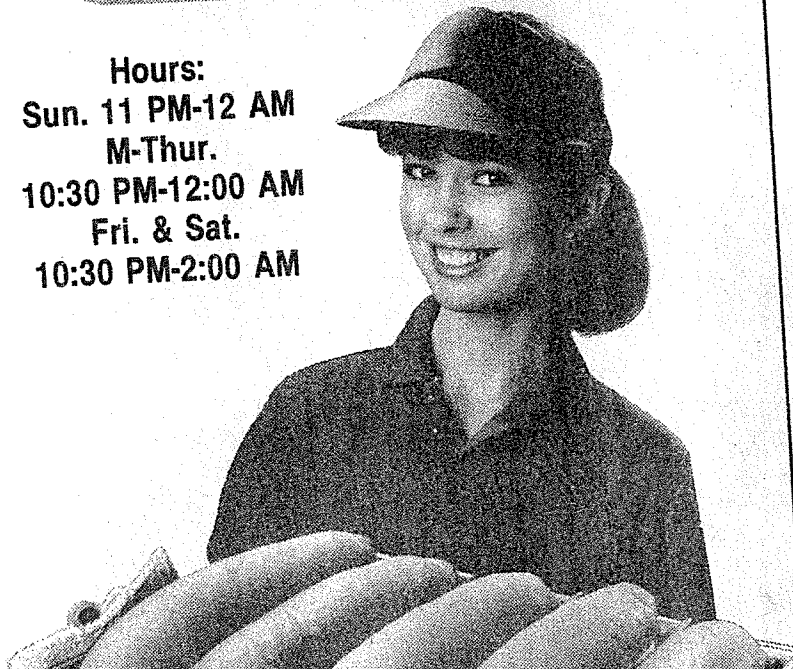
BOY SCOUT DUTY—Pete Rich, left, and "Sonny" Brown are pictured during their younger days as boy scouts helping Avondale Mills deliver fruit baskets.

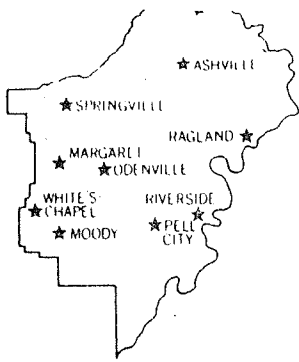
WE'RE ALWAYS BUSY BAKING BREAD.

Our bread's baked fresh every few hours. In fact, all our ingredients are fresh — from cold cuts to free fixin's.
 Hot Sandwiches, Salads & Kids Paks
 Whichever Subway sub you choose, we make it fresh—inside & out



Hours:
 Sun. 11 PM-12 AM
 M-Thur.
 10:30 PM-12:00 AM
 Fri. & Sat.
 10:30 PM-2:00 AM





ST. CLAIR O

A Newspaper Dedicated to C

VOLUME FVE — NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

Thursday, Jan. 16, 1975

PELL CITY, ALABAMA - THURSDA



Moments After Twister Struck

This was but one gruesome scene left in the aftermath of last Friday's tornado-spawned storm which ripped across the heart of Pell City, Ragland and outlying areas. The above picture was taken of the Top Dollar Store building (formerly Mays and Jones Department Store) on Pell City's Cogswell Ave. only seconds after

the twister passed over the Pell City business district. Moments later, local citizens began combing the debris for signs of life as city and county law enforcement officers and emergency crews swung into action to rescue the injured and trapped.

Manning Disaster Headquarters-

Human Needs First Concern Of These Dedicated Workers

BY AUGUST LEHE
Although cleanup operations continue to dominate the Pell City and Ragland disaster scenes, another side of the relief effort has gone underway.

noticed in the wake of last Friday's tornado which devastated large portions of the two St. Clair communities.

special assistance than we have seen so far," St. Clair Civil Defense Director R. L. Timmons told the Observer Tuesday. "The problem is finding them, who are poor families."

*Fede
Go
Be*

Still re devastating major disaster area, and financial million in dollars alone, the towns of Pell City are anxious from Washington after Governor formally filed the request with President Jimmy Carter. The disaster is a necessary step in obtaining funds and the area's disaster relief.

Governor filed the request with the official disaster declaration was made by the state mayors, and the state Civil Defense Council.

Congressional the Observer office had Disaster Washington the necessary received, and ready to act.

Local business be eligible for Administrative and families destroyed with temporary employment and other financial assistance available.

At the Observer Wednesday's appearance by the channel.



James Perry sat smiling outside his service station on Highway 221 Saturday morning,

CHICKEN SCRATCH—Benjamin Homer Hindsman (1838-1916) is pictured feeding his chickens at his home in Eden. This picture was made in either the late 1800s or early 1900s.



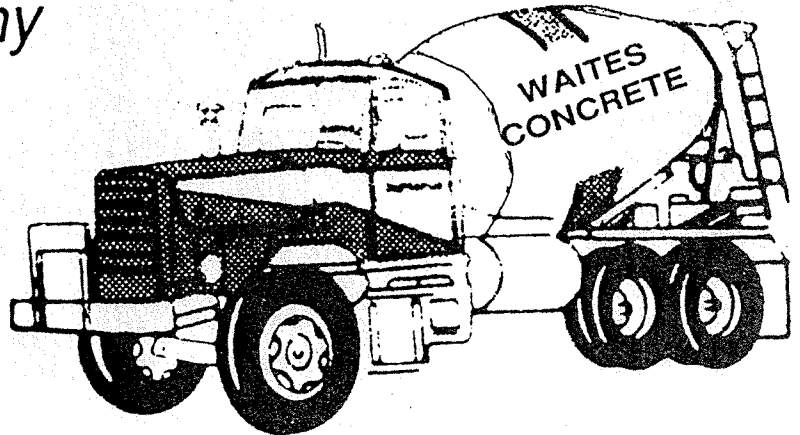
EARLY LIONS CLUB—Lions Club members pictured in the late 30s or early 40s at the old Black and White building in Cook Springs are (l-r) A.T. Winkler, Jack DeGaris, Lester Smith, Hoyt Hamilton, William "Bill" Snider, Cliff Hallmark, O.D. Duran, Lloyd Garrett and Ed Love.

Waites Concrete Co., Inc.

"A Solid Foundation For Your Future"

MASONRY SAND • MORTAR MIX • CEMENT • BLOCK • GRAVEL • REBAR • WIRE

*Call us at any
of our three
locations
for quick,
efficient
service.*



210 17th St.
Talladega, AL 35160
362-2318

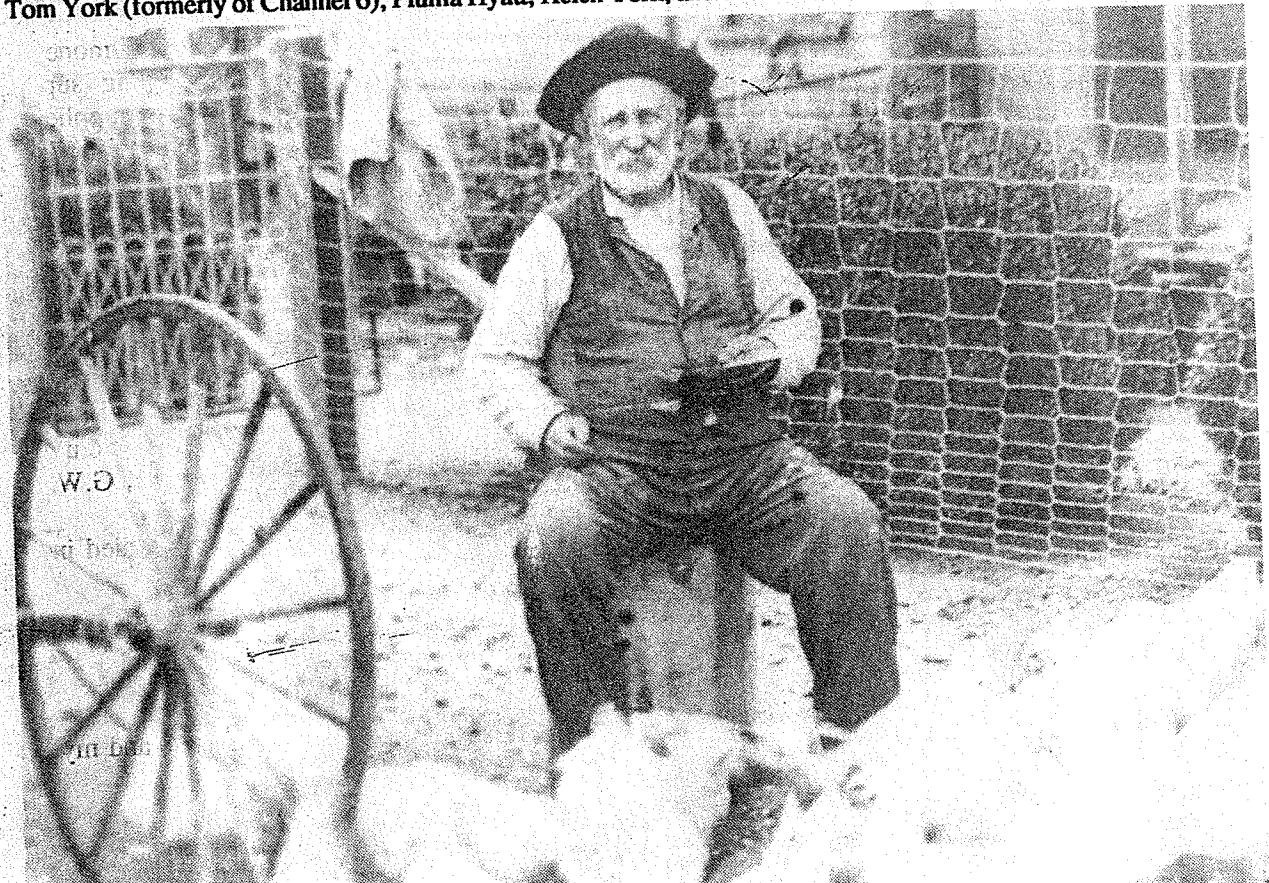
502 Industrial Park Drive
Pell City, AL 35125
338-6361

By Cl News-

This differ the pe Th histor idea l To se ed, you' have and s Th very reali have the peop their pict their beh their ture able tog



HORSE PENS 40—Picnicking at Horse Pens 40 back in the 1950s were (clockwise) unidentified, Byron York, Tom York (formerly of Channel 6), Pluma Hyatt, Helen York, and unidentified.



folll Ka Ch Da Lir Bo Al Be

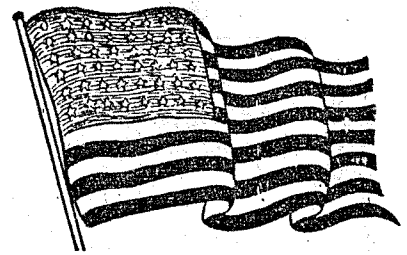
priced W the w

tic th m

JEWEL—AEGIS

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

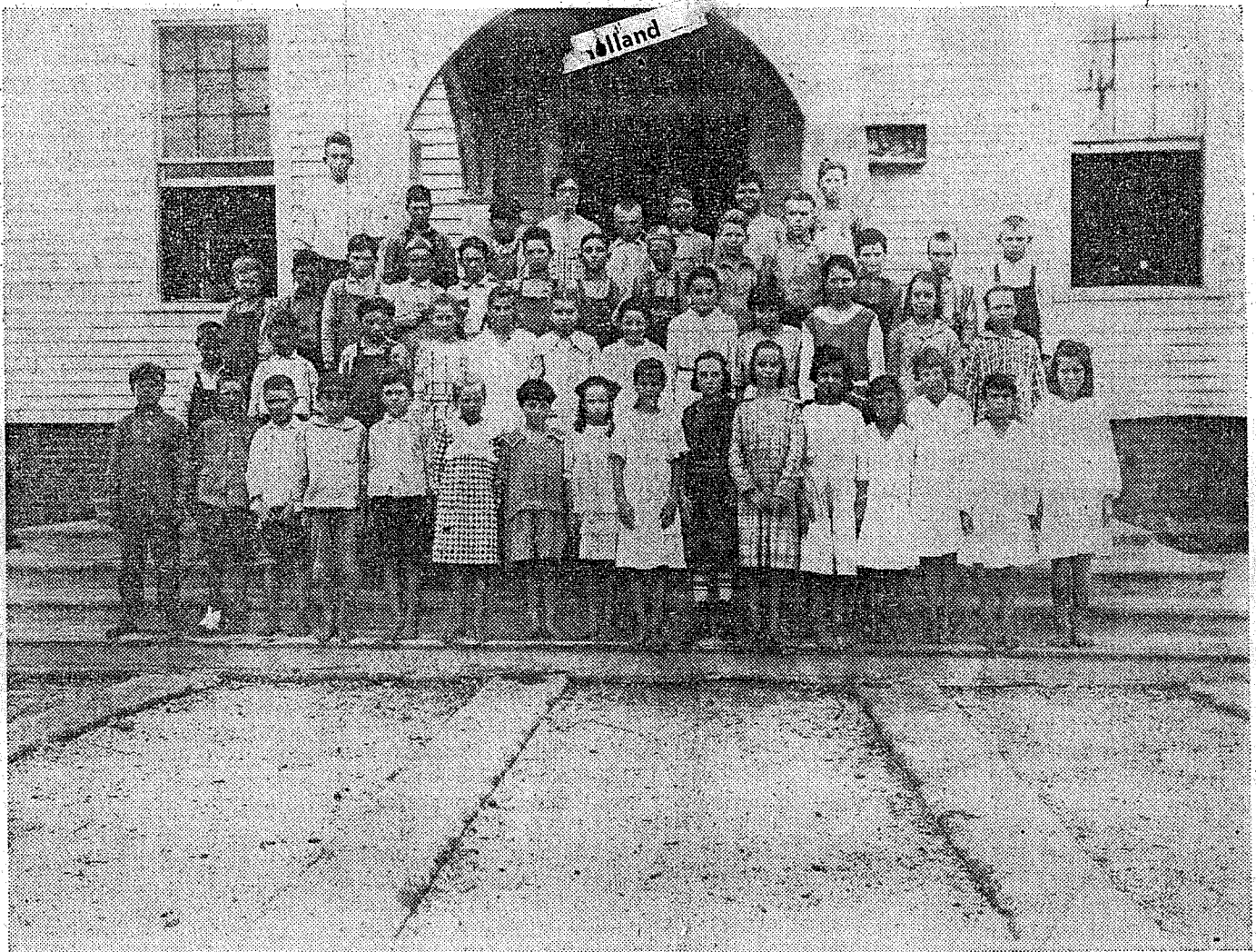
Successor To The Southern Aegis, Est. 1873



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1959

\$2.50 A YEAR

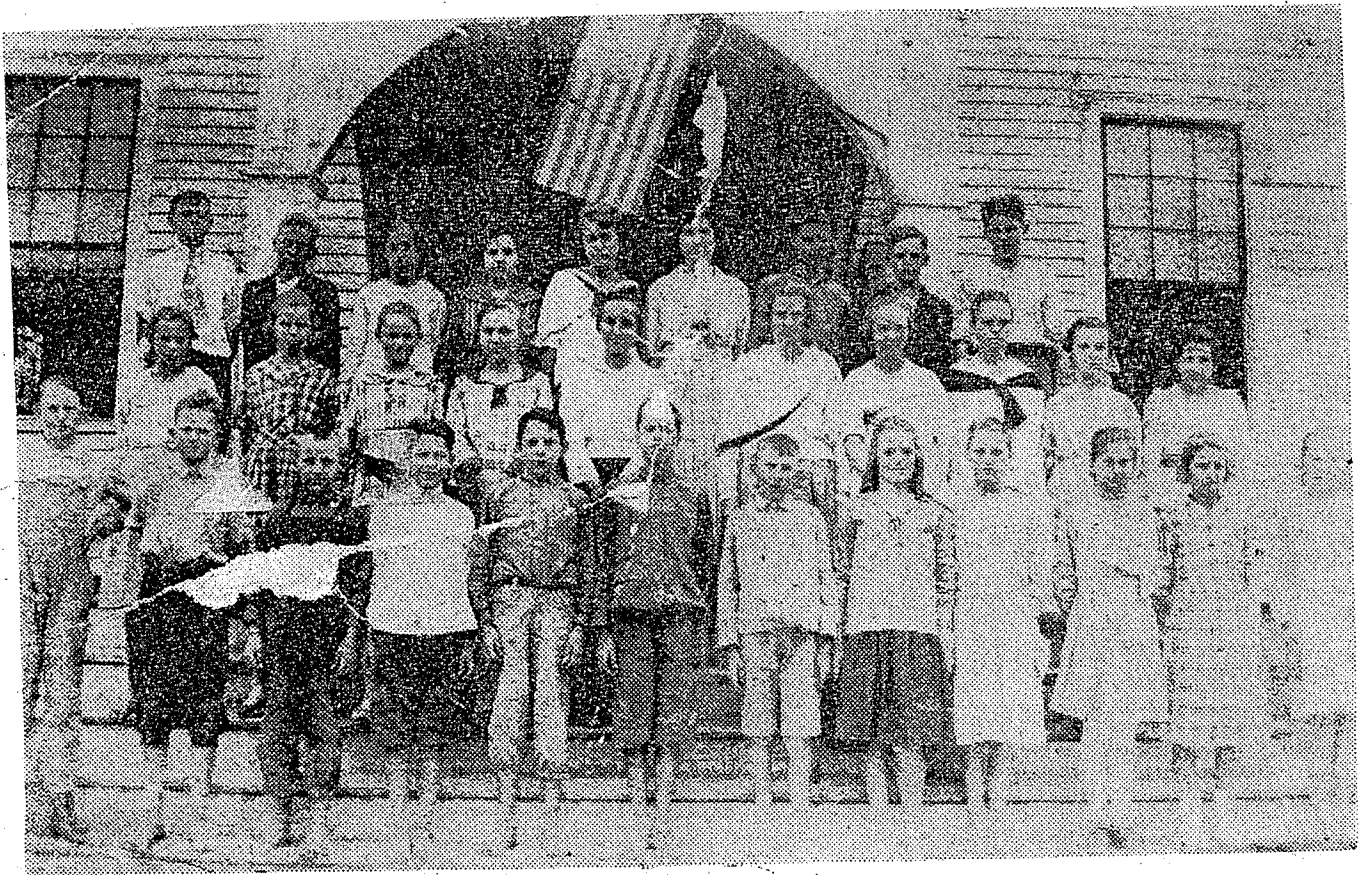
5¢ COPY



ST. CLAIR ALBUM . . .

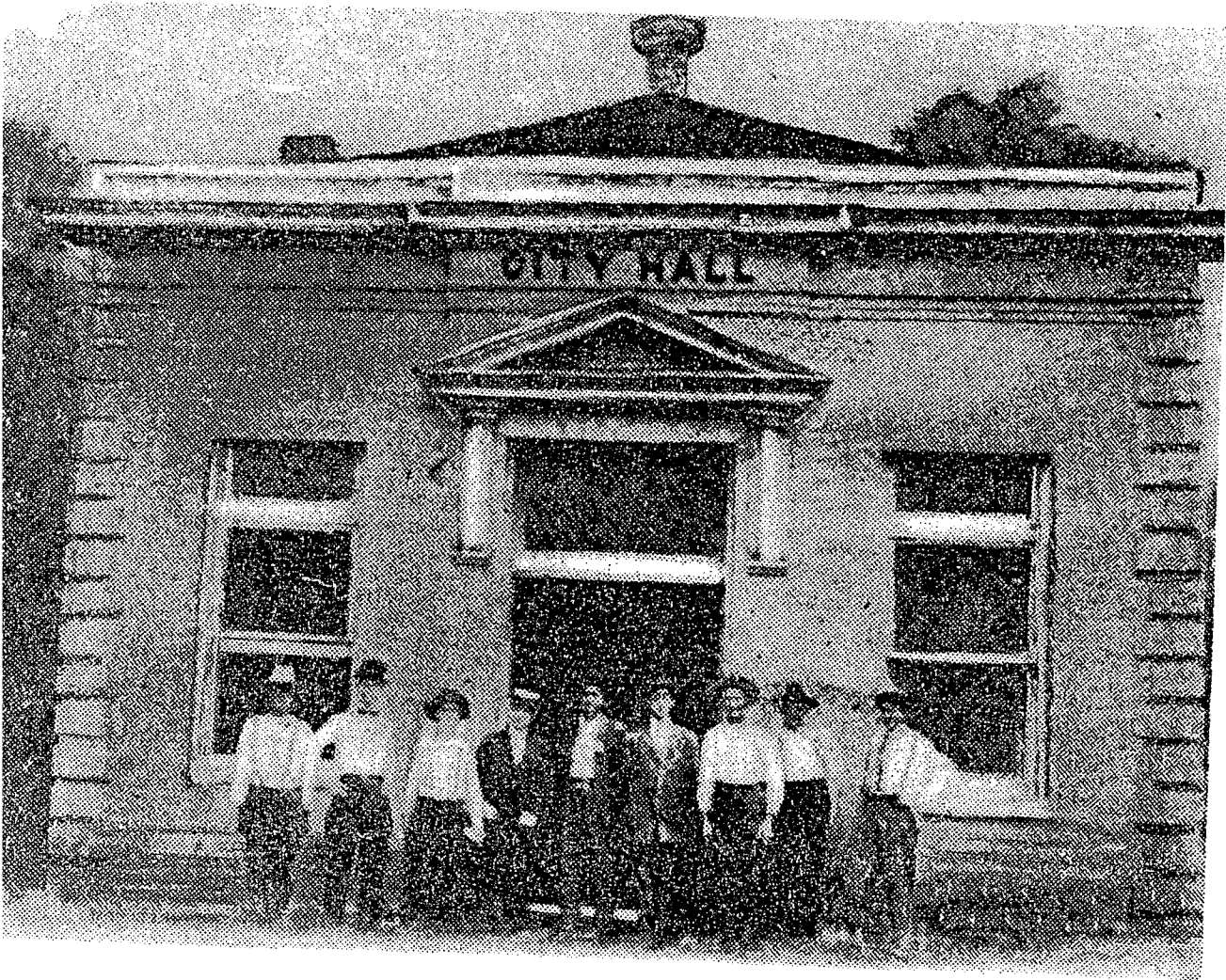
WHO DO YOU KNOW in the above photo of a group of pupils in front of the old Avondale school known as Hall Hill School? The picture furnished by John H. Martin, Pell City groceryman, is believed to have been made in

1917 or '18, just a year or so before the school burned. John is seventh from the left on the third row, but he doesn't trust his memory to try and identify the others. See how many of them you can recognize



ANOTHER OLD ONE from the album of the News-Aegis files. This picture was loaned to the News-Aegis by Mrs. Lindsay Smith, nee Miss Bessie Duke. They are from left front row; Robert McClellan, Clarence Phillips, unidentified, Joe Stone, Alton Brown, unidentified, Ralph Renegar, Mabel Bowen, Flossie Stephens, (Mrs. John W. Singleton), Helen Mikul, Ruth Zackie, unidentified. 2nd row: A Bowman girl, first name unknown, Ice Graham, Mae Luker, Bessie Duke, Bertie Mae Neal, Ruby Zackie, Ollie Owens, unknown, Pearl Levans, Stevans last name, first name unknown. 3rd row; Hubert Pear, last name Stevens, first name unknown, Ila Day, Inez Thomas, Clara Spruiell, (Mrs. Hughie Dickey), Vanire Walker, teacher; J. D. Stephens, Laney Bain and Laney Graham. This picture was made at the old Hall Hill school about 1918.

Savings & Loan

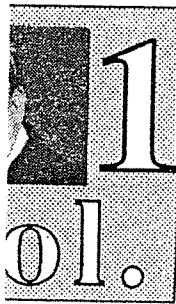


And Now

Good News About You and

No. 1

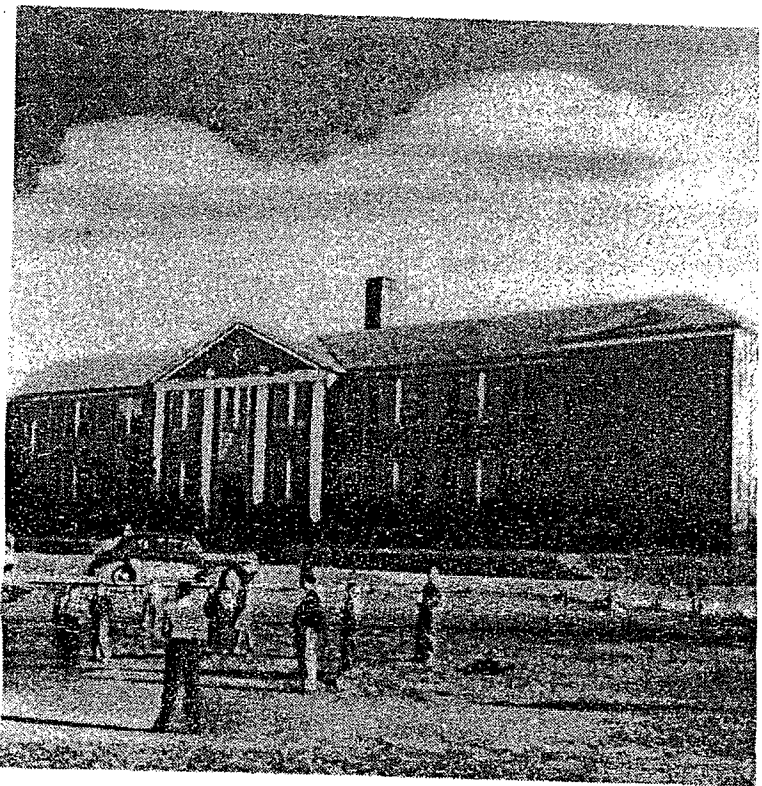
February 1, 19



Bob Cornett

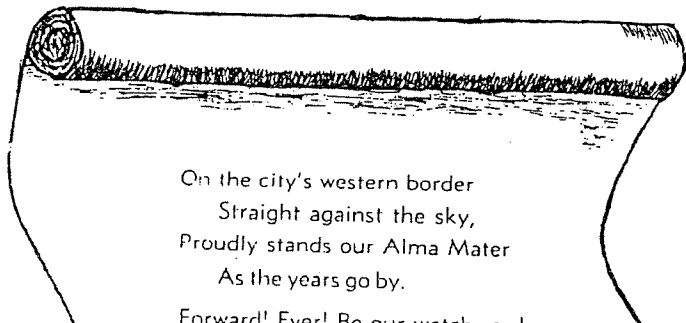
a great name for
 er? I mean, who
 e to hear a little
 now and then?
 es and riots and
 rapes and shady
 it-shady politi-
 shady financiers
 hey-grubbing
 ing television
 I make great grist
 ular journalistic
 ne grows weary.
 , the little good
 offered falls into
 format and is
 "... and the bad
 So, I thought I
 o kick off this
 return from self-
 tirement with
 news" not fol-
 ie bad news."
 DNEWS is that
 on, whom I still
 Robert Wayne,
 brought his old
 f Pell City some
 ity by getting
 ed field judge
 er Bowl game
 Bengals and the
 .
 ong you who do

Photo Courtesy: Margaret Mongold



Burned 1945 - Built 1930 - 31

Education Makes B



On the city's western border
 Straight against the sky,
 Proudly stands our Alma Mater
 As the years go by,
 Forward! Ever! Be our watchword

Your Neighbors

989

20 Pages

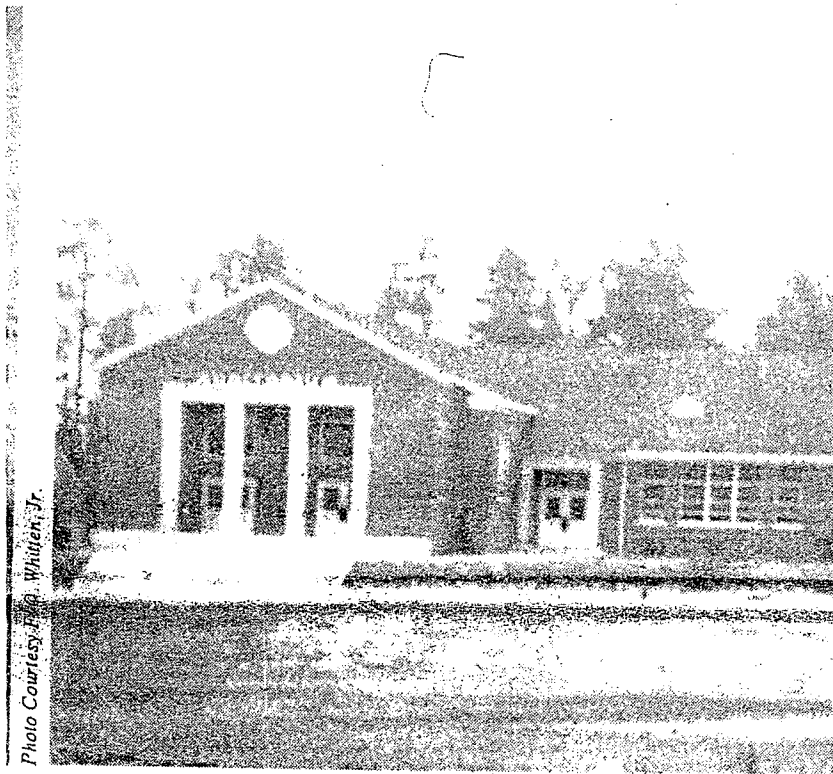
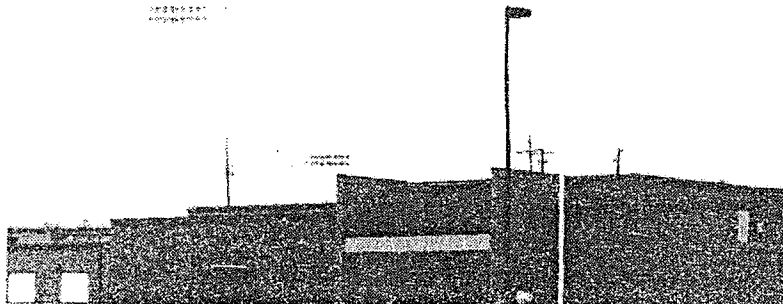


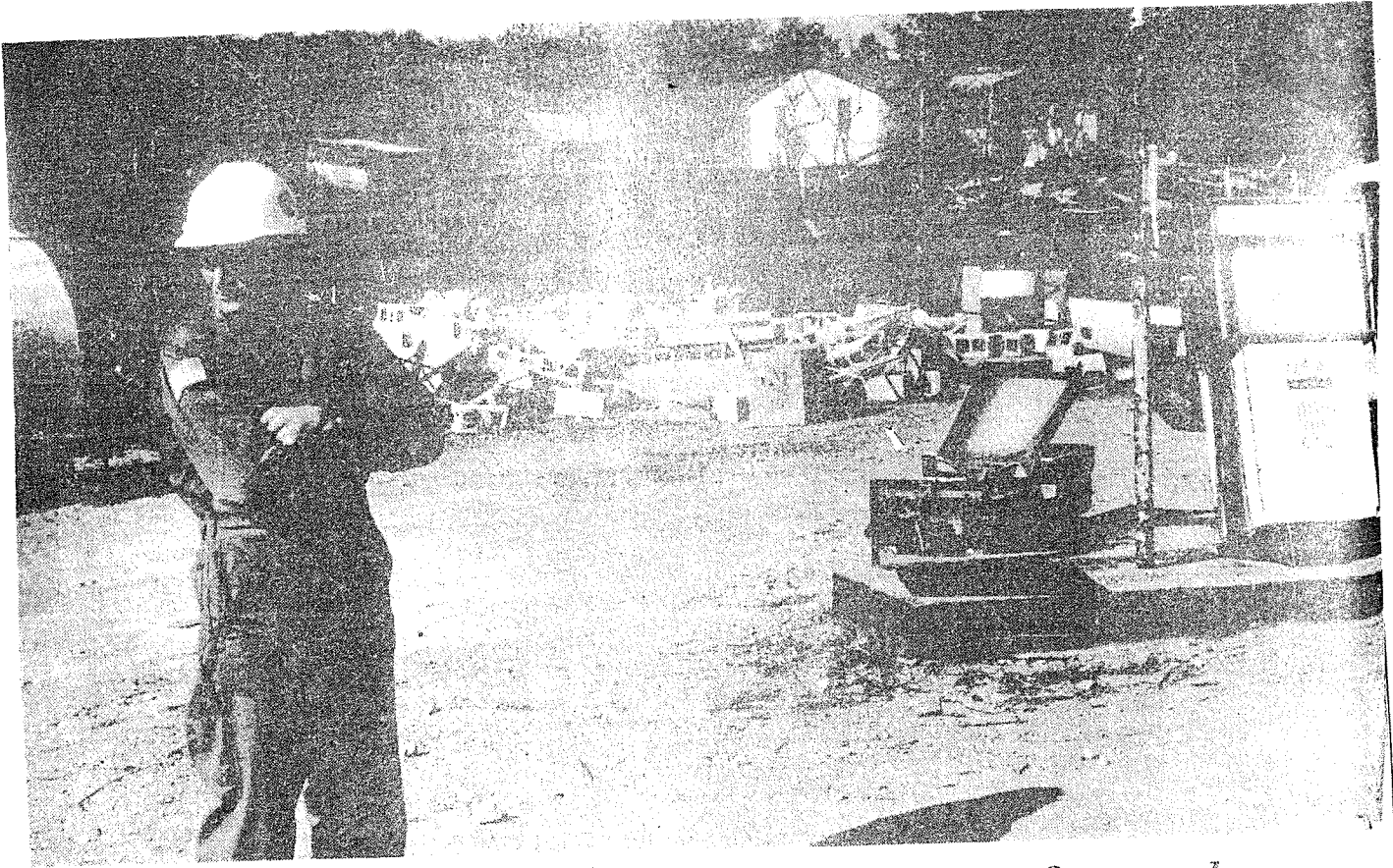
Photo Courtesy: E. P. Whittaker, Jr.

Opened 1947

Biggest Strides



Front +
Back

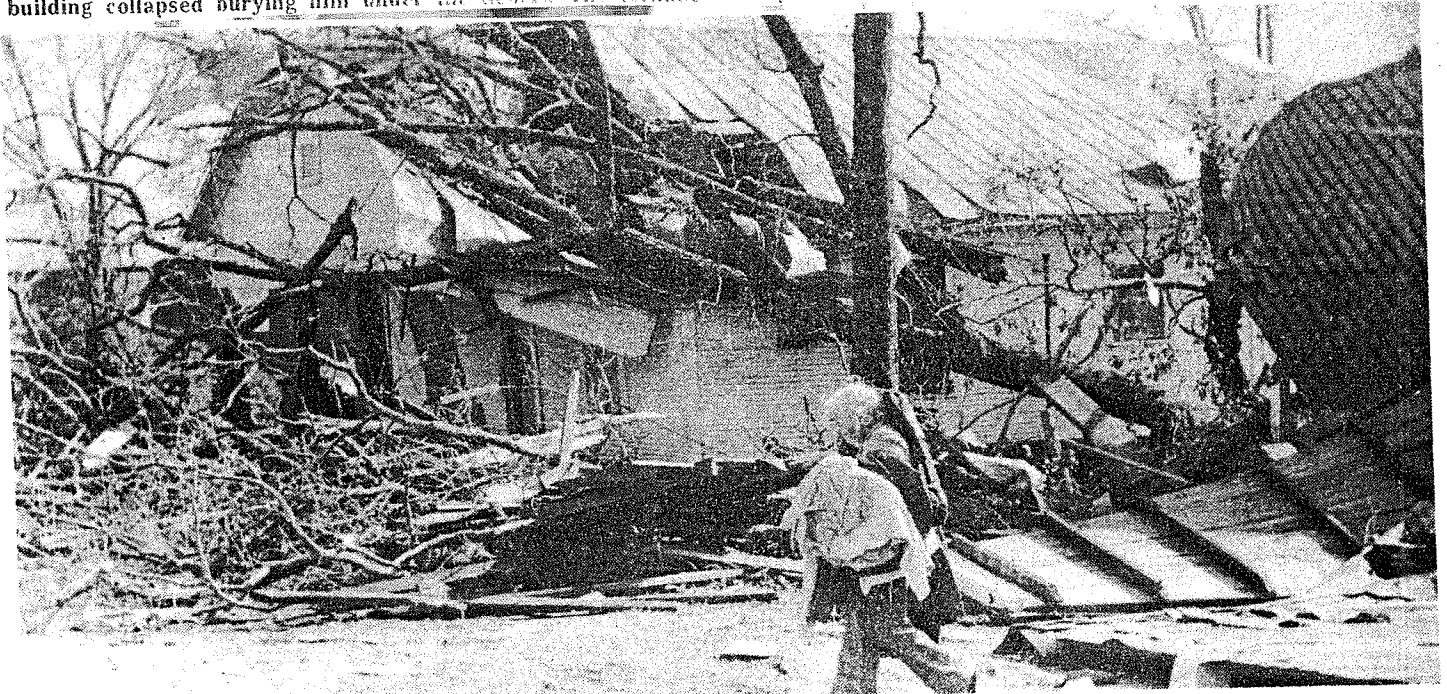


Ragland Service Station Where Fatality Occurred

St. Clair Observer Ragland Jan. 16, 1975

This was the scene Saturday morning at Ragland's Macedonia community where service station and grocery operator J. L. Phillips was pronounced dead at the scene Friday night when the building collapsed burying him under the debris. The tornado-

generated winds also damaged the station's gas pumps causing considerable quantity of gasoline to escape from storage tanks. A civil defense spokesman said Saturday guards would remain on duty until the danger of fire or explosion had passed.



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Ragland Tornado Path

Although authorities agreed Pell City was worst hit by last Friday's tornado winds, it was not the only St. Clair community to suffer widespread destruction — as is evidenced by this scene at Ragland Saturday morning. Here a Ragland mother attempts to salvage family clothes as scenes of destruction lay all about. Fair

weather conditions on Saturday allowed many Ragland residents to begin the hard task of rebuilding in the aftermath of Friday's tornado which left one dead and 12 injured, three seriously, according to Ragland Mayor Aubrey Watson.



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

School Library Remains

Ragland



St. Clair Observer
Ragland
Jan. 16, 1975

Ragland Service Station Where Storm's

Only Fatality Occurred

Front
Back



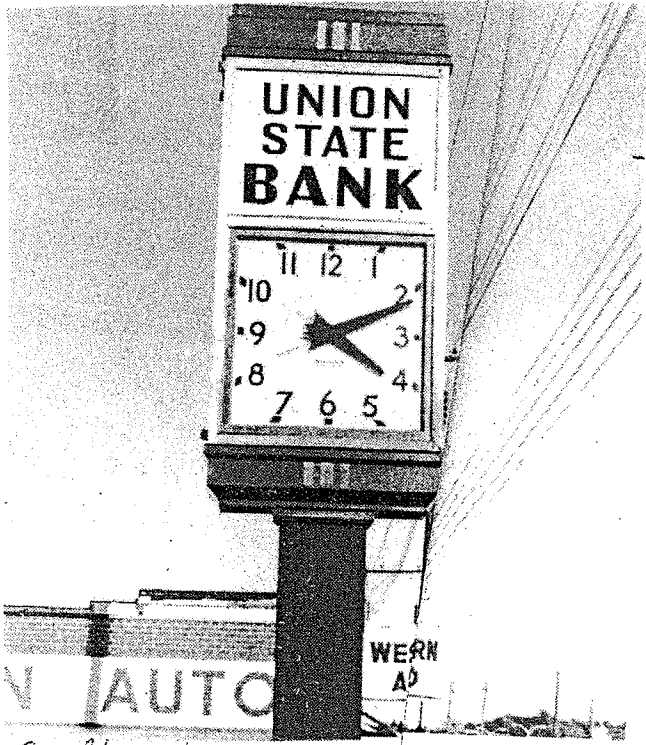
Remains Of Randy Bullard Trailer

Page 11 - OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. January 16, 1975



Freak Occurrence

Danny Mathis and Bobby Shockley of Odenville examine a tire which was found Saturday morning near Smith's Trailer Park in Pell City with a dried leaf stuck into it. Tornado-force winds are believed to have driven the fragile leaf into the rubber at high speed.



St. Clair Observer
Pell City
Jan. 16, 1975
**Stopped Clocks
Time Tornado Hit**



Pell City
St. Clair Observer
Pell City
Jan. 16, 1975
**Deputy James Murray
Deploys 'troops'**



St. Clair Observer
Pell City
Jan. 16, 1975
**Calhoun CD Ladies
Serve Hot Meals**



St. Clair Observer
Pell City
Jan. 16, 1975
**Furniture Store Windows
Knocked Out**



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Mrs. Roy Holladay's House Destroyed



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Front Torn From Graysville Fabrics

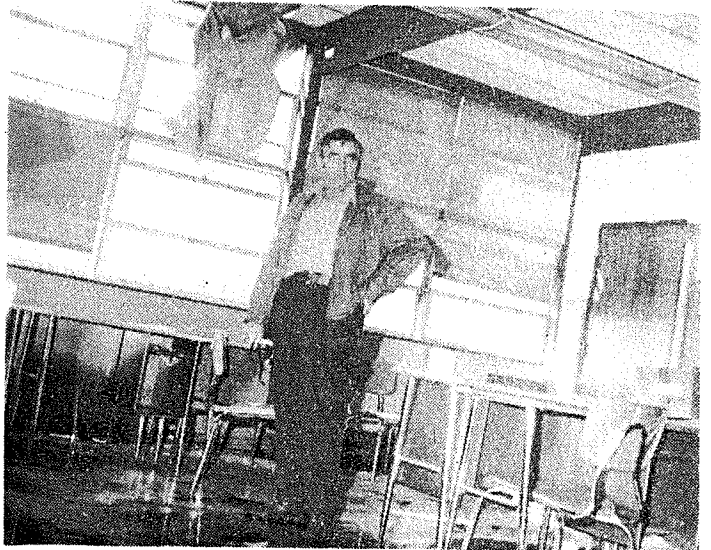


St. Clair Observer Pell City Jan. 16, 1975
KEN RANSOM OPERATED "HAM" RADIO
... Assisted By Wife, Shirley



Back to Work For Vada

Mrs. Vada Vaughan poses in front of her store — Vada's — on Pell City's Cogswell Avenue Monday morning, just before going back to the gigantic task of cleaning up after the roof fell in on her — literally — last Friday. Mrs. Vaughan and several employees escaped injury when the roof tumbled in during the tornado, causing severe damage to the store and its merchandise.

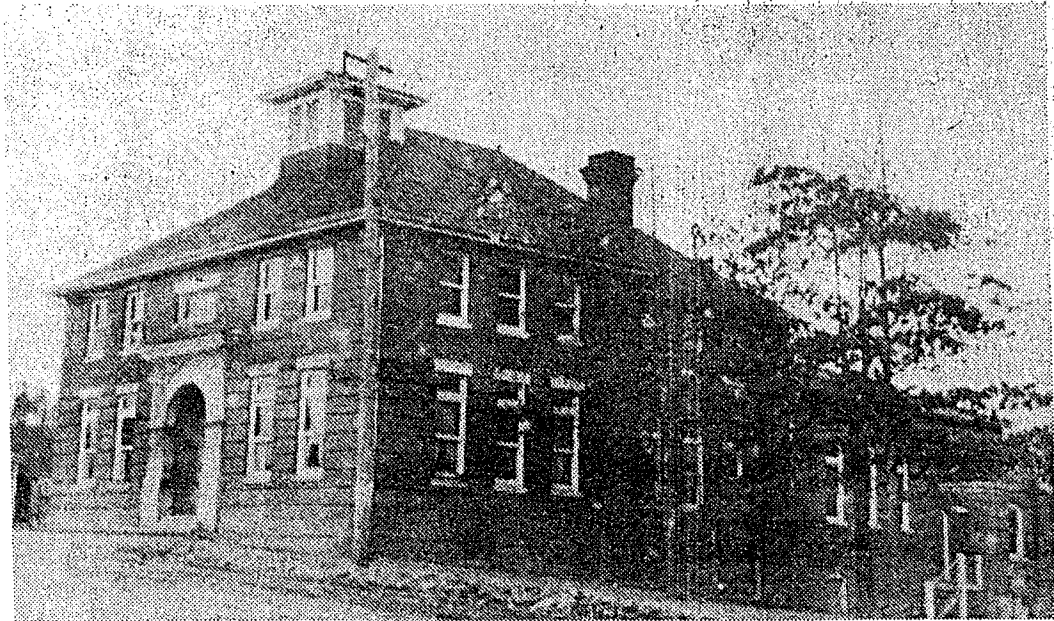


Duran Damage

O. D. Duran Junior High Principal John Slovinsky surveys a part of the damage the school suffered in the tornado, estimated at \$250,000. Slovinsky said it is indefinite when classes will begin at the school again. The tornado ripped huge holes in the roof of the building causing extensive damage to the school, as well as supplies and equipment.



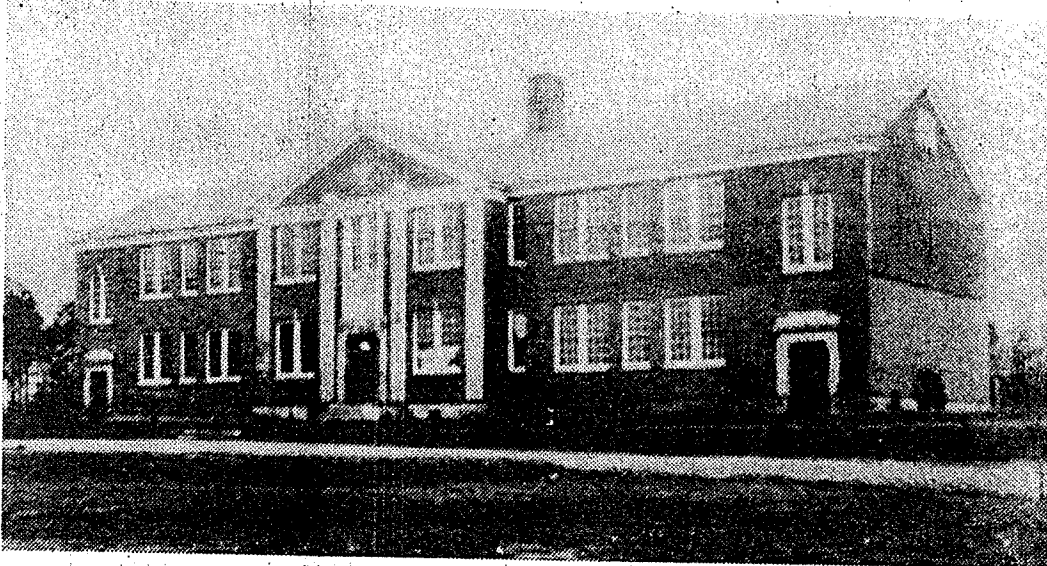
ASHVILLE SCHOOL—This picture of an early class at Ashville School was taken in 1913. This school was built in 1907 after the previous school, St. Clair College, burned. The new school was named Ashville High School.



FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL—This was Pell City's first public grammar/high school building. It was built in 1905 and stood where the present Pell City City Hall is now. The first principal was Professor P.M. Matthews.

1000 St. Clair Federal Main Office
308 Martin St. M. B. B. B.

ols



PELL CITY HIGH SCHOOL—This was Pell City's second high school built in 1930. The school burned in Dec. 1945.

Alameda®



Downtown Pell City

This aerial view of Pell City from the north side of Cogswell Avenue shows a full, booming and busy Pell City business district which some cities the same size cannot claim. At the present time there is

only one empty building while other office buildings and businesses have been added to the Pell City business community.

Progress Edition Thurs. May 15 1980

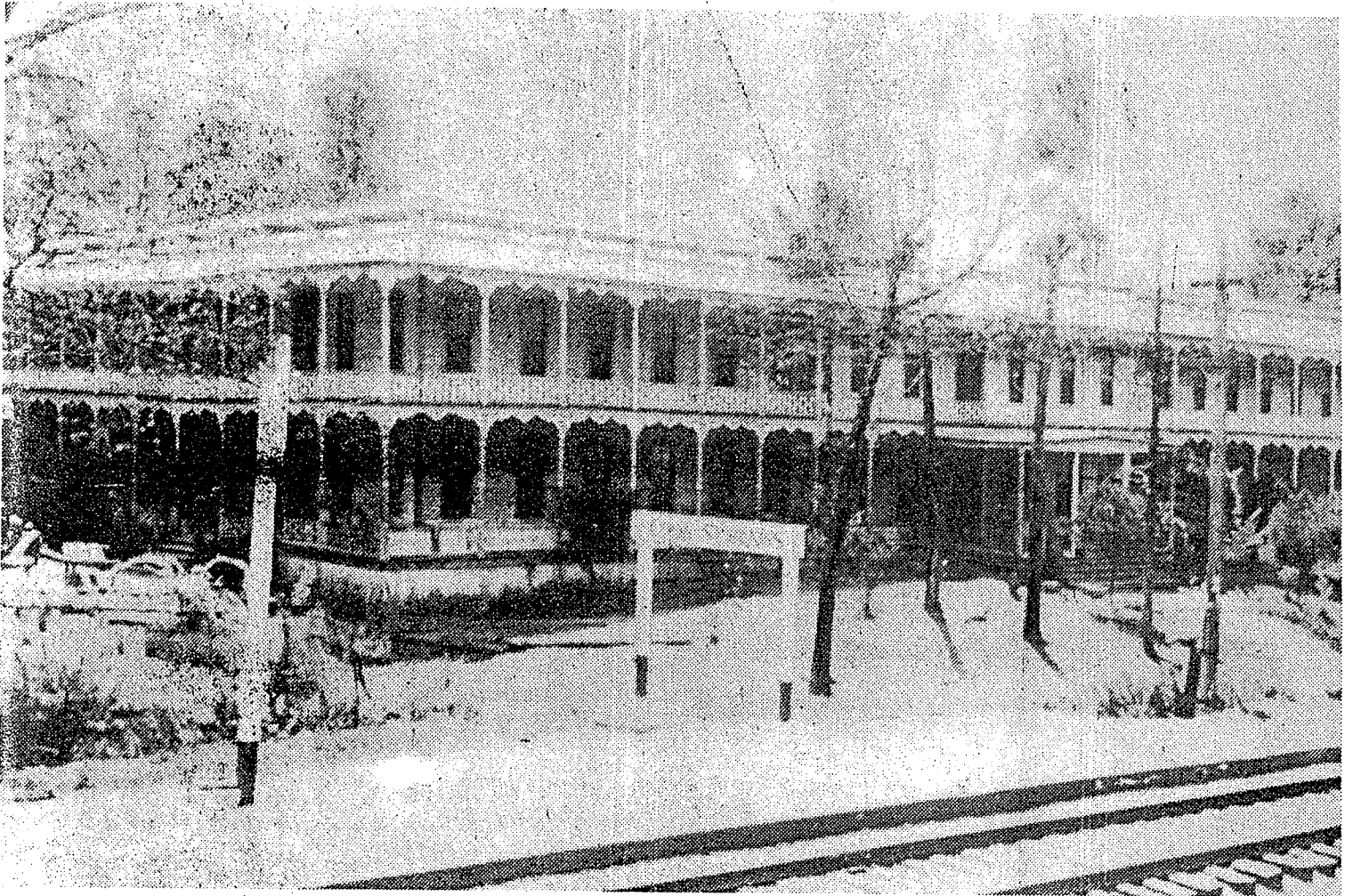
YOU G ANY E

There's (in this col can get to planning a for All you

- AUTO •
- LIFE •HE

Com

CITY DEPOT—The Pell City Depot was once located on First Avenue South. Many residents still remember 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 Hotel, Mountain View. The resort, built in 1883, drew visitors from far and near. One of the main attractions were the six mineral springs that some say would improve a person's health. Other activities at the resort included croquet, lawn tennis, hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, mountain climbing and dancing the night away to the music of a string band.



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Ragland High School Hard Hit



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Mrs. Arthur Smith's House Hit

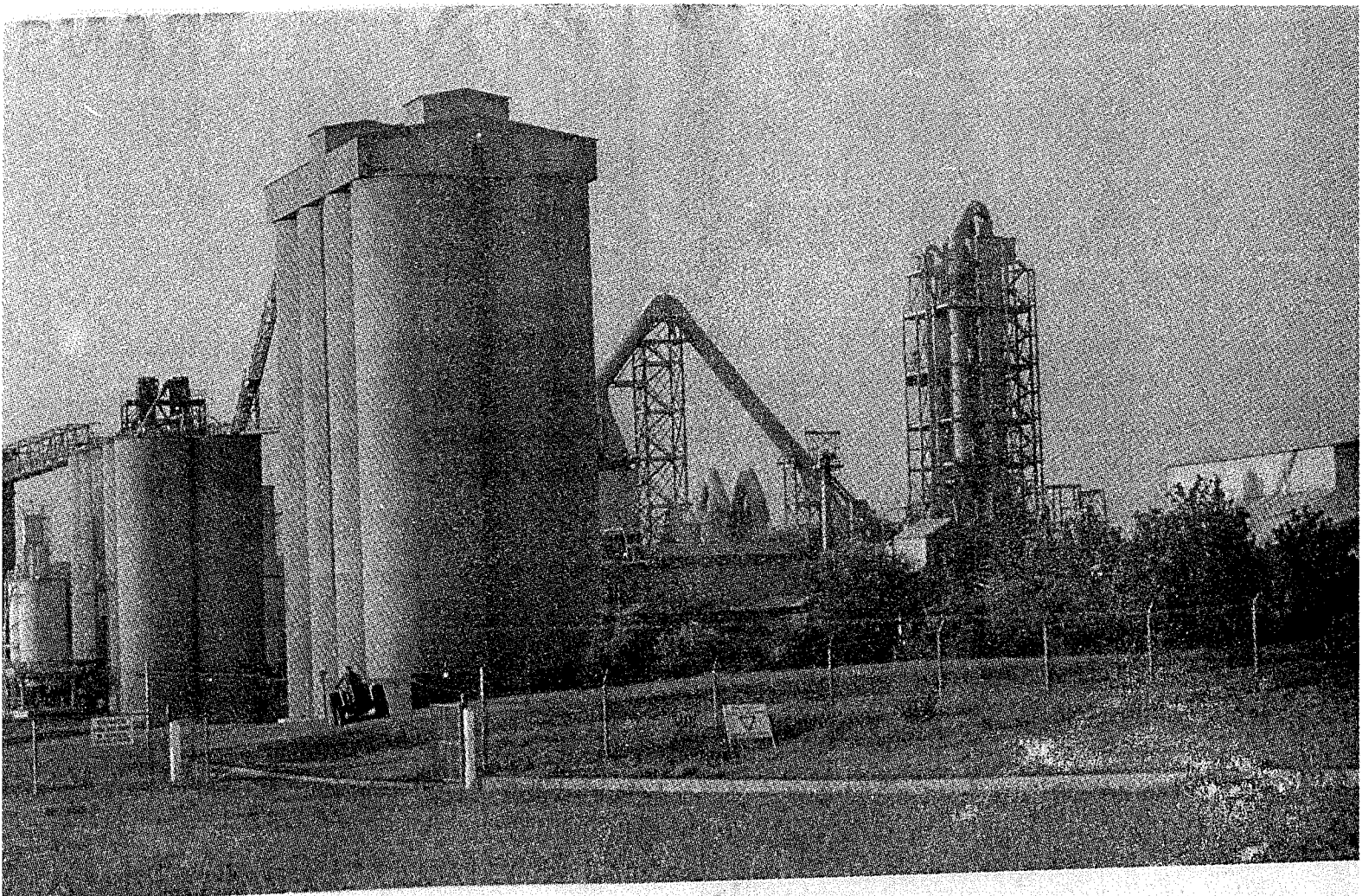
St. Clair Observer Pell City Jan. 16, 1975



PERRY'S STANDARD HAD A MESSAGE
...See Bob Cornett's Column One



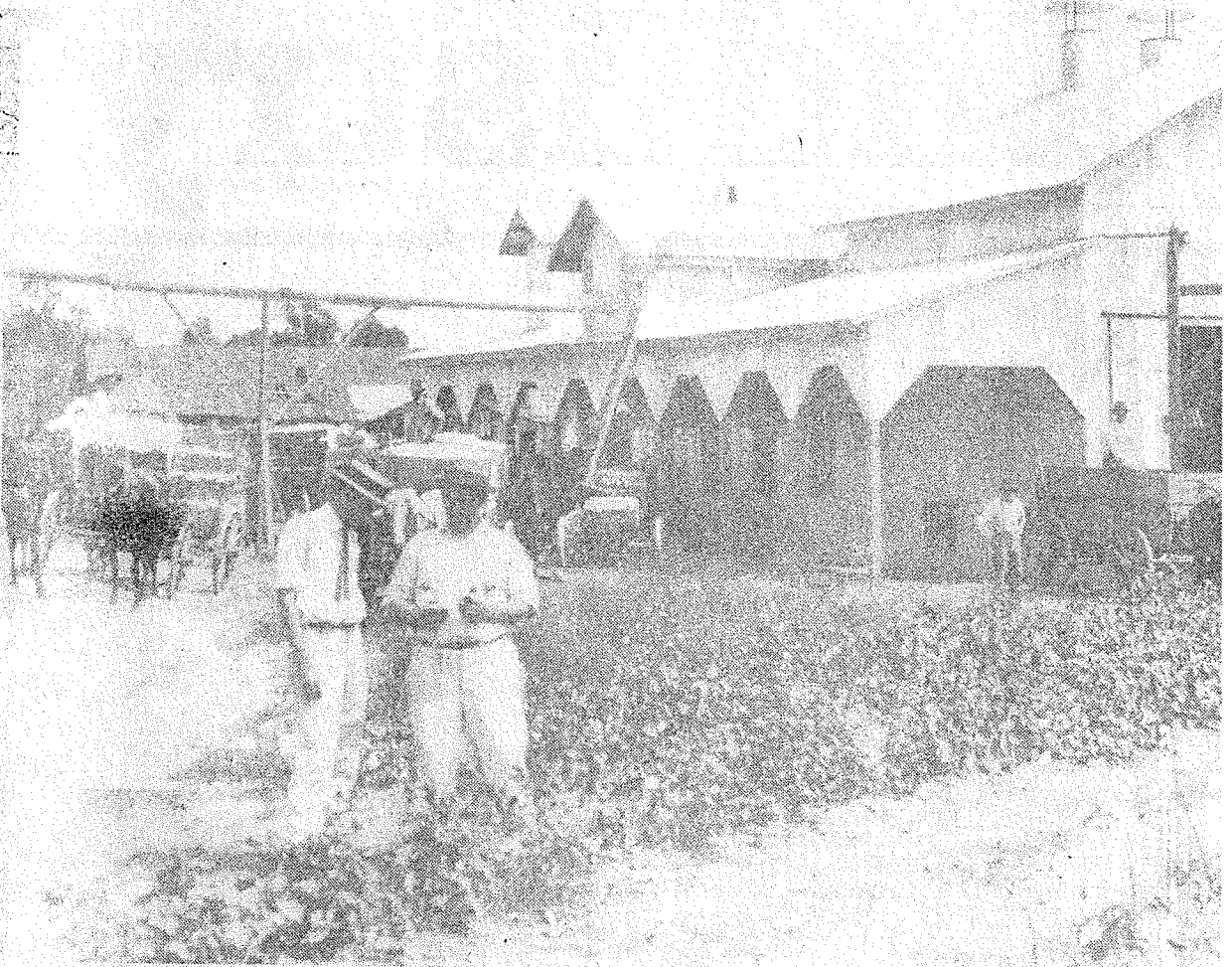
St. Clair Observer
Pell City
Jan. 16, 1975
Bob Rowe Home Destroyed
On 1st Ave. South



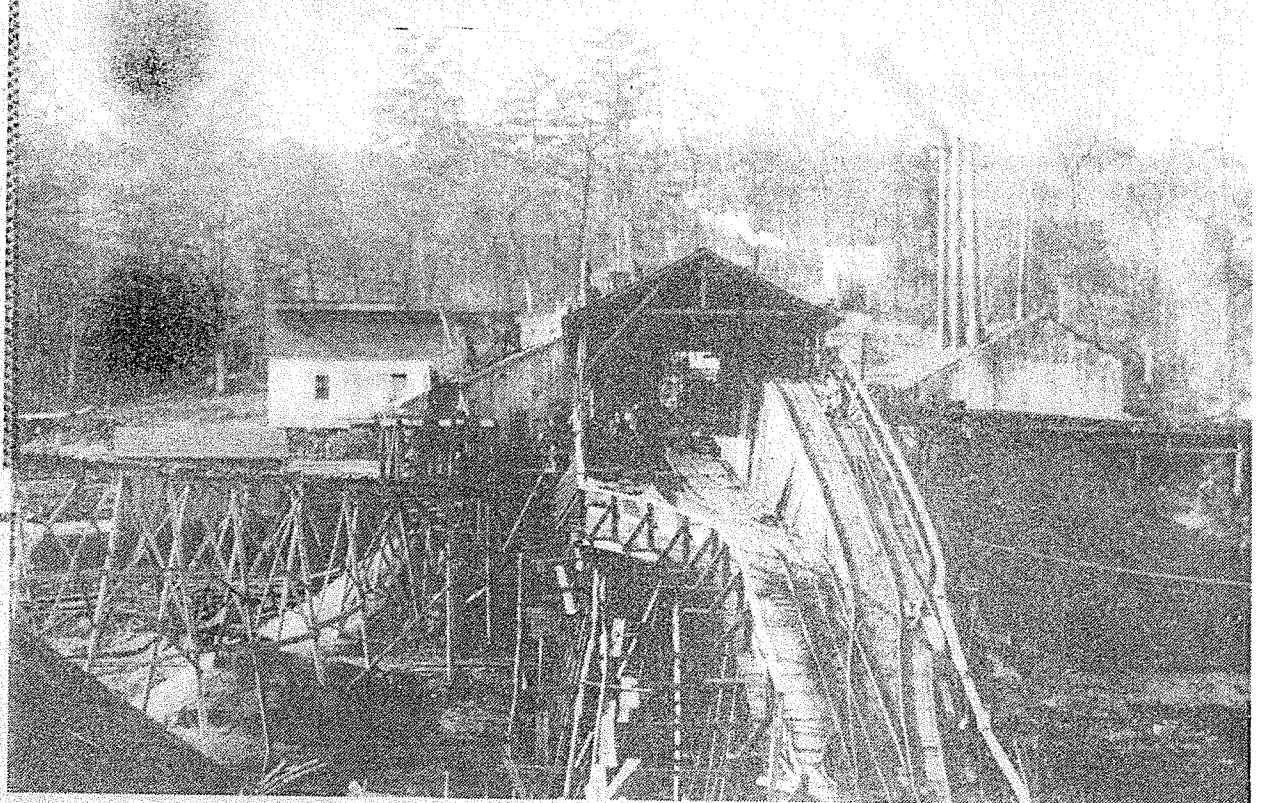
More Than 10 Years of Cement-Producing Experience, Now Shows How To Meet The Needs of The Demanding Portland Cement Market.

Our Commitment To Improved Safety Product Quality, Customer Service and Distribution Has Made Us A Leader In The Cement Industry.

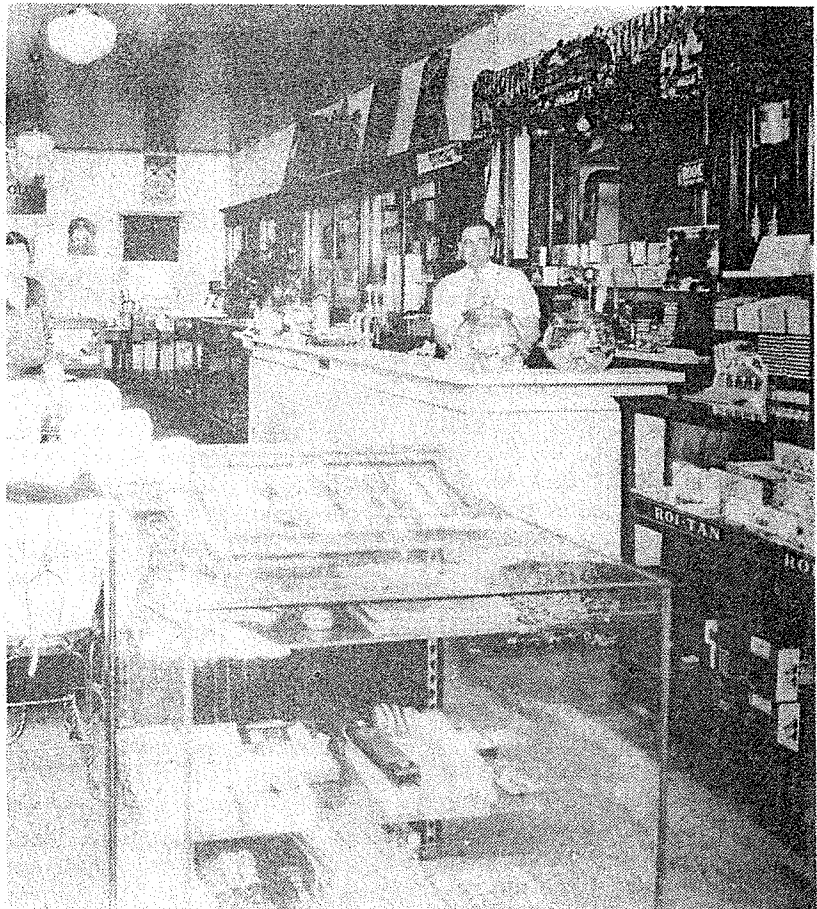
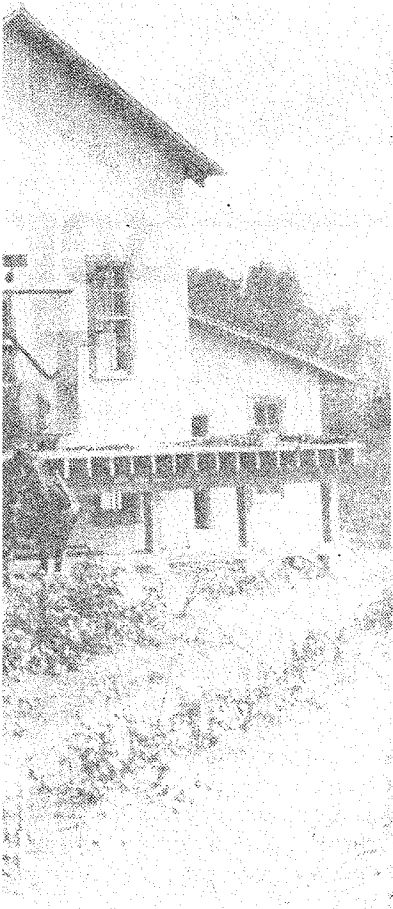
Our Portland Cement Company Employees Are Dedicated To Providing The Best Service To Each Of Our Customers.



ASHVILLE COTTON GIN—Continental Cotton Gin in Birmingham made this picture circa 1920 of a modern gin and used it in their international magazine. The cotton gin in Ashv now. The two men standing in the c

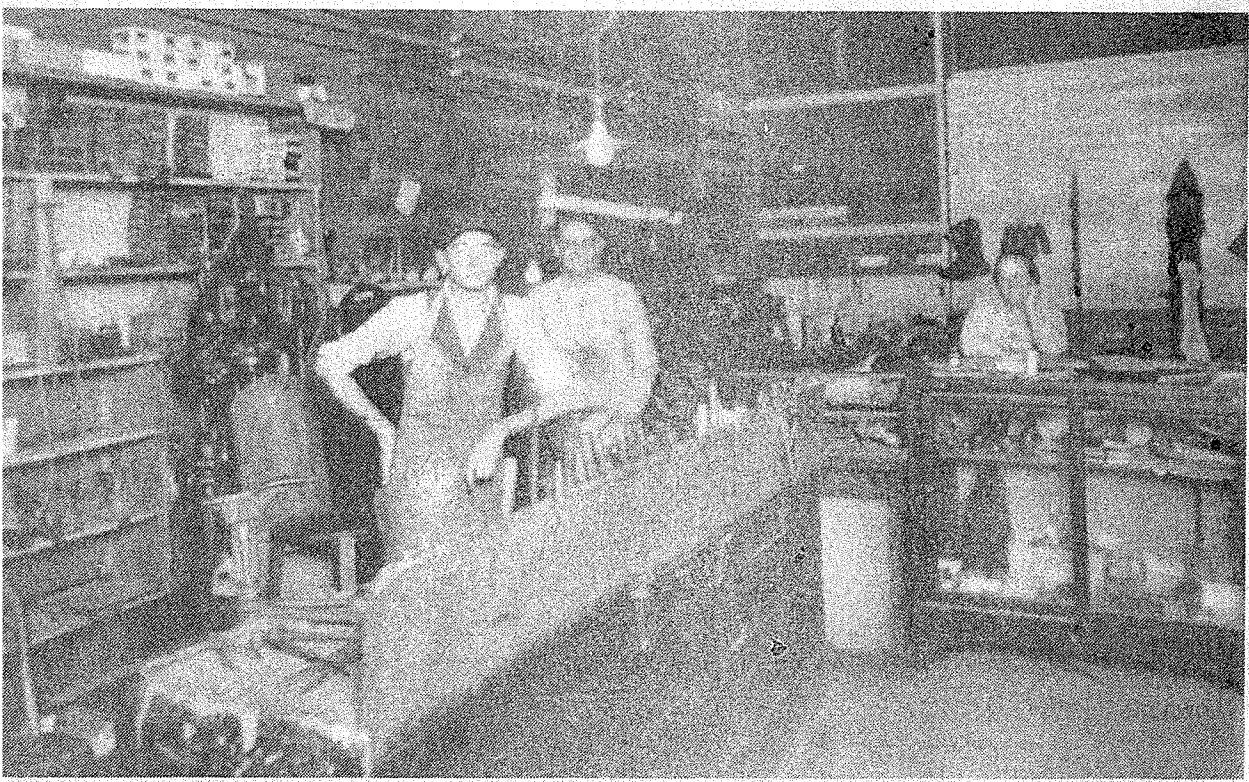


MARGARET MINE—The coal mining industry in St. Clair County was very a very important part of our history This picture of the Margaret Coal Mine was taken in 1910

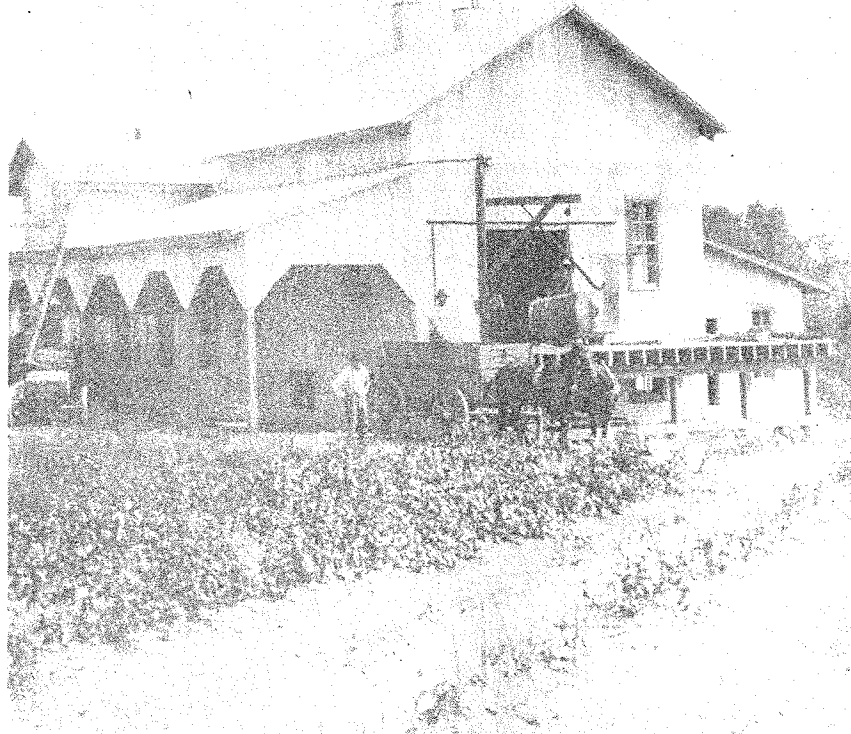


SPRINGVILLE DRUG STORE—Mrs. Otis Laster and Mr. Lee Laster are pictured inside Springville Drug Store. Time era of the picture is unknown.

was located where Ashville Park is
are U.H. Prickett and Sam High.

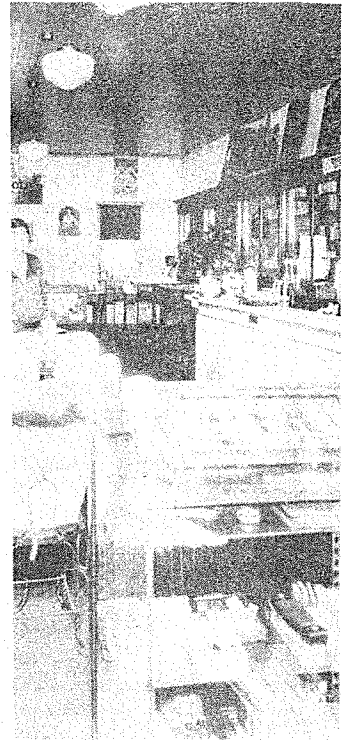


SINGLETON SHOE SHOP—This shoe shop was located in Pell City near where Griffin's Jewelry Store is now. It is believed that the picture was taken in the 1920s or 30s. Shown (l-r) are Anthony Sleay, William Lafayette Singleton (1876-1940) and Lucy Hindsman Singleton (1880-1959).

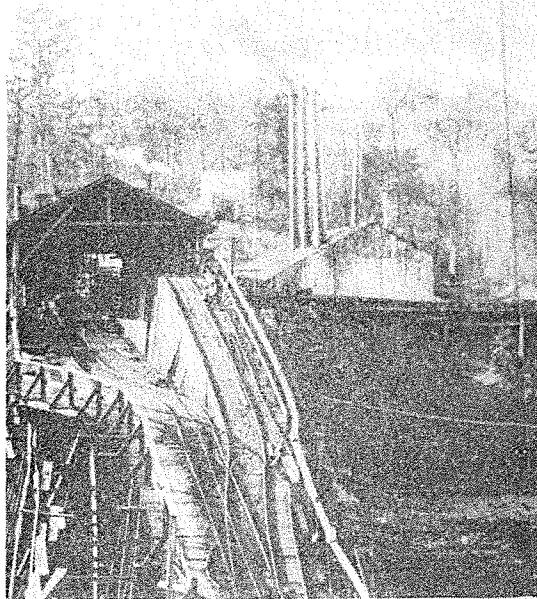


Gin in Birmingham made it in their international

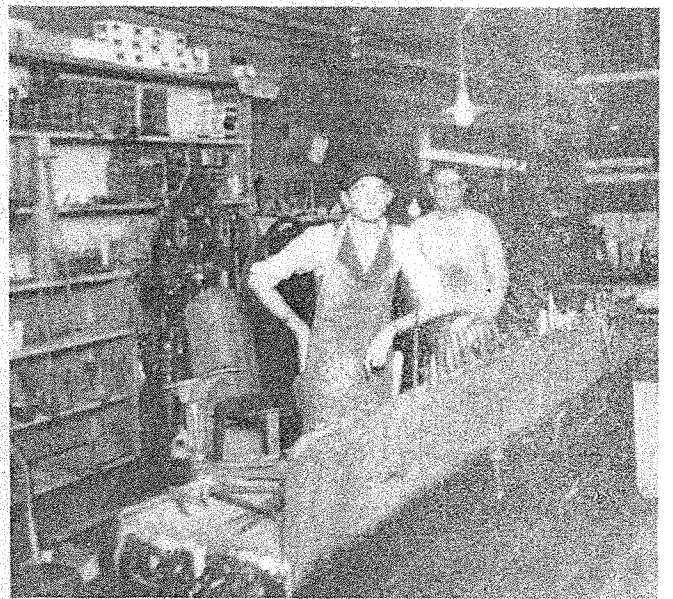
magazine. The cotton gin in Ashville was located where Ashville Park is now. The two men standing in the cotton are U.H. Prickett and Sam High.



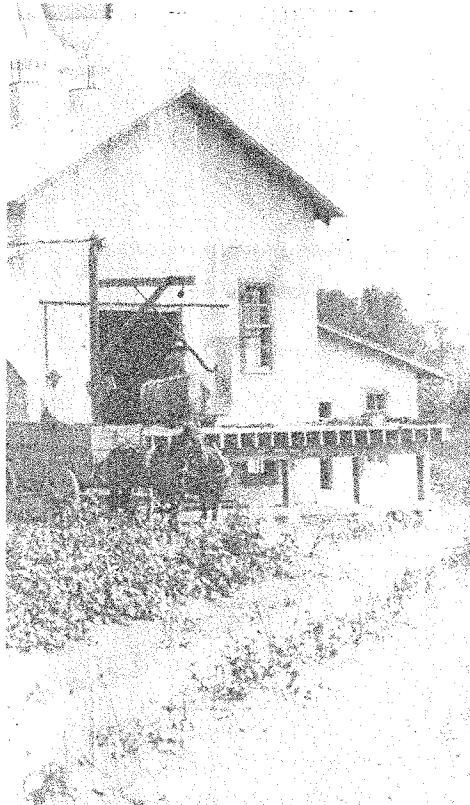
SPRINGVILLE DRUG STORE—Mr. [unclear] pictured inside Springville Drug Store. 7



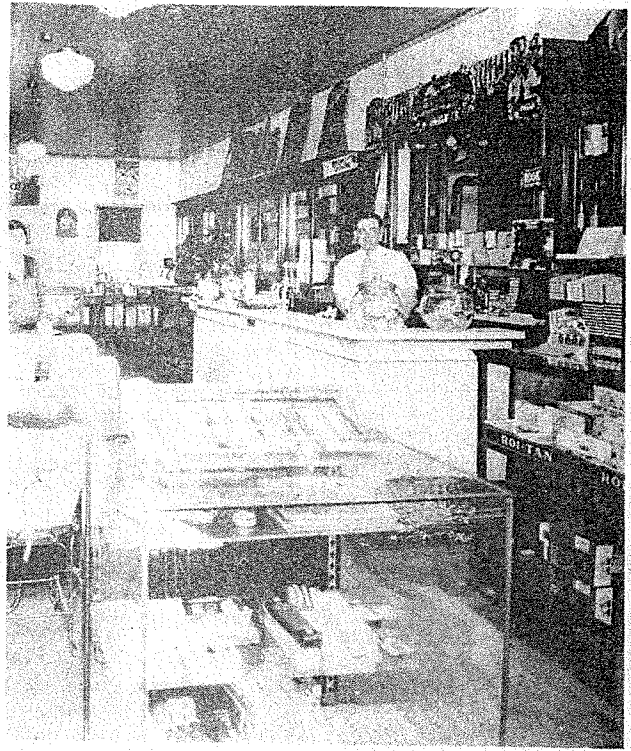
n St. Clair County was very a very important part of our history.



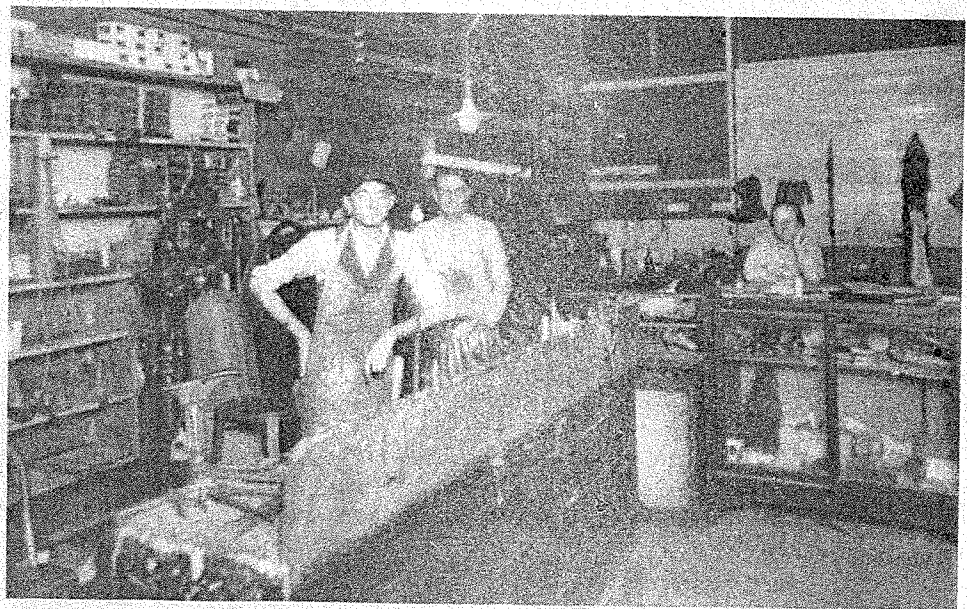
SINGLETON SHOE SHOP—This shoe shop was located in Pell City near w [unclear] 1900-20 [unclear] 71-2 [unclear] 8



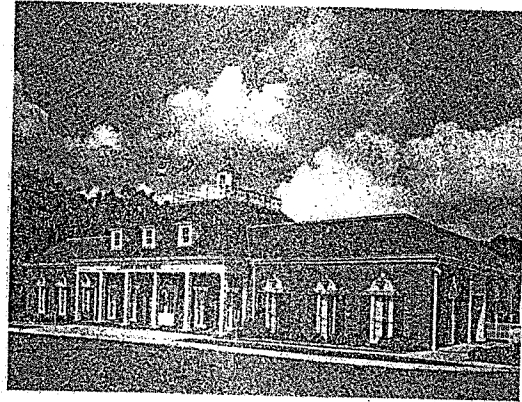
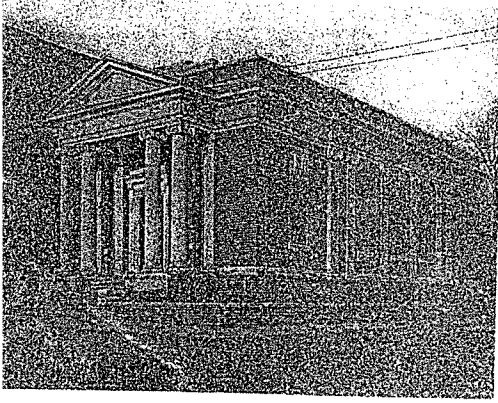
on gin in Ashville was located where Ashville Park is standing in the cotton are U.H. Prickett and Sam High.



SPRINGVILLE DRUG STORE—Mrs. Otis Laster and Mr. Lee Laster are pictured inside Springville Drug Store. Time era of the picture is unknown.



part of our history. **SINGLETON SHOE SHOP**—This shoe shop was located in Pell City near where Griffin's Jewelry Store is now. It is believed that the picture was taken in the 1920s or 30s. Shown (l-r) are Anthony Sleay, William Lafayette Singleton (1876-1940) and Lucy Hindsman Singleton (1880-1959).



Union State Bank

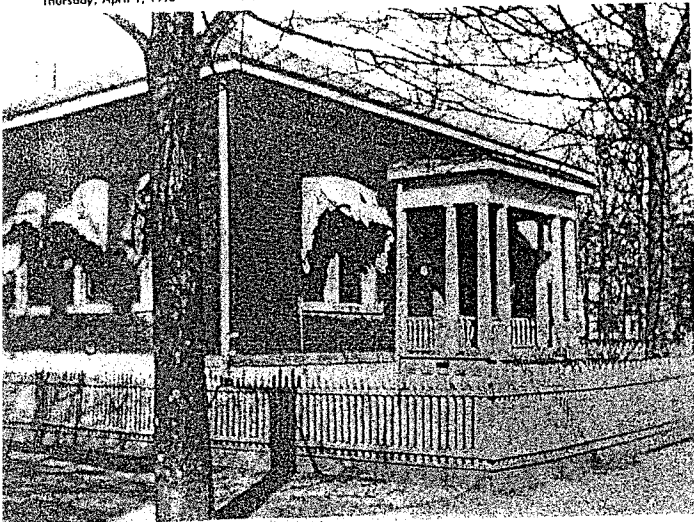
Since 1903
FDIC

For ninety years Union State Bank has provided the finest in progressive, innovative banking services to our Pell City and St. Clair County neighbors.

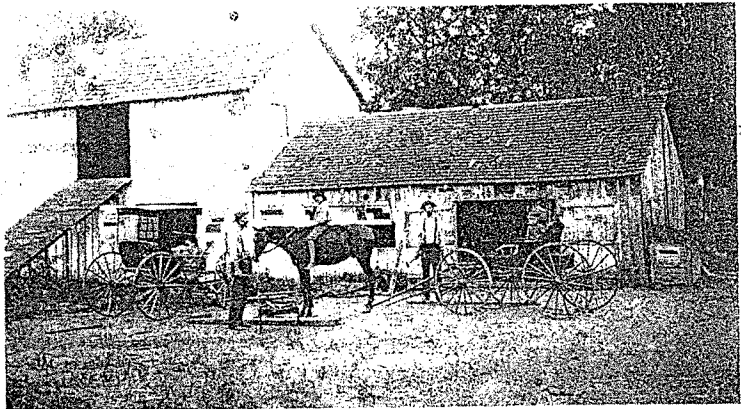
Union State Bank had its beginning in the organization of the Bank of St. Clair County in 1903. It was the first bank to be established in St. Clair County. In 1910, a charter was obtained and the bank became the First National Bank of Pell City. In 1918, the name of the bank was changed to Union State Bank and has operated under that name until the present day.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your confidence in us, and invite you to continue to grow with us during 1993 as we celebrate our 90th Anniversary of service to Pell City and St. Clair County.

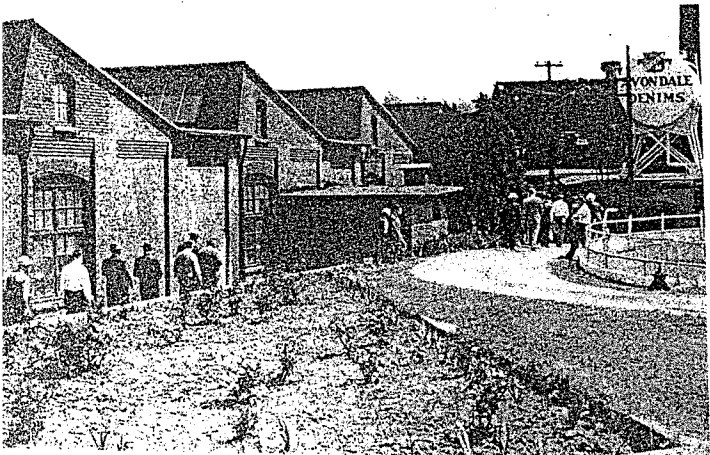
UNION STATE BANK
90th Anniversary
1903 - 1993



AVONDALE OFFICE—The administrative office at Avondale Mills once looked much different from the way it today. It used to be red brick and had awnings over the windows. Today the building has been painted white and awnings have been taken down.



BLACKSMITH SHOP—This picture shows the Theo Scott Blacksmith Shop that was located on Main Street in Springville. The blacksmith shop was run from water from Spring Creek and was the only shop with a rubber tire machine for buggies. Wagons and buggies were built and repaired there. The picture was taken in the early 1900s.



INSPECTION DAY—This picture, taken in the early to mid-1940s, is of an Avondale Mills Inspection Day. The



**Proud To Be
A Part of
St. Clair County**



Since 1900