

*Roy Gibson
Ashville*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The early history of Ragland was told to us by Mr. Tommy Floyd, Mr. Watt T. Brown, Mrs. R.A. Greene, Mrs. F.A. Gardner, and Mrs. F.G. Rinnert, who several years ago secured this information for the church.

The information concerning the history of Ragland was obtained by the following people: The material about the cement plant was given by Mrs. F. A. Gardner and Pa Swafford.

Mr. Tommy Floyd and Mr. Pa Swafford, who are old residents of Ragland, gave us the material concerning the 'East and West' railroad and also the purchase of the land for the Seaboard Railroad.

We secured the information about the post office and the different postmasters from Mrs. Andrew Box and Mr. Tommy Floyd.

The history of the stores was given to us by Pa Swafford, Mr. Tommy Floyd, and Dr. J.T. Brown.

The material about the different industries was given to us by Mr. S.B. Gardner, Mr. Roy McCormick, and Mr. Clyde Greene.

A member of the class wrote Mr. Roy Gibson, conty superintendent of education, and acquired the information concerning the former principals and the establishment of the present school building.

We received the information about Mr. Leroy F. Box from Mrs. Jessie Hare, the former Miss Jessie Box, who is related to him. Mr. Box was a very prominent citizen of Ragland and the entire state.

Mr. Tommy Floyd and Mrs. Henry Box told us about the churches and their former and present locations.

HISTORY OF RAGLAND

The present town of Ragland is located in north central part of Alabama in St. Clair County. It lies about fifty miles north west of Birmingham, the largest city in Alabama and one of the largest industrial cities of the south. The area of Ragland is approximately one square miles. Ragland's population is nearly 1,000.

Ragland's industries are the Cement Plant, Brick Plant, Heading Mill, and Saw Mill. There are two drug stores, several Dry Good and Merchandise stores, three cafes, and three barber shops in Ragland. They are all located on the main street.

Ragland was first called Trout Creek because of abundance of fish found in the creek at this place. The first settlers camped on the creek where the Methodist Parsonage is now located. The place being rich in minerals was the main feature in drawing settlers. The name of this place was changed from Trout Creek to Ragland in honor of Mr. George Ragland, who owned and operated the first coal mine. The first settlers, after the name of the town had been changed to Ragland, were Jim Reed, Louis Dickinson, R. A. Green, Joe Woods, and Dr. Jones. It is said that Mrs. R. A. Green was the first woman to settle in this section after the town had been changed from Trout Creek to Ragland.

The first railroad was 'East & West' and was completed in 1881. In 1902 the Seaboard Railroad Company purchased 'East & West' railroad and began operation.

The first post office was in the home of Samuel Reed, who was the first postmaster. The mail was received from Whitney to Mumford in Talladega County on a star route. The mail came from one direction on Friday and the other direction on Saturday. After Samuel Reed's death his son John F. Reed was appointed postmaster. The post office is now located between Mr. M. O. Jones and Mr. E. H. Borders' stores. The succeeding postmasters were as follows:

Samuel Reed
James F. Reed
E. E. Clayton
A. S. Box
Mrs. F. A. Gardner
L. L. McCall
C. G. Davis
W. T. Floyd
G. C. Adams
W. F. Adams
Nell Adams (acting)
T. F. Adams
George Davis
W. N. McKathan (acting)
George Morris (acting)

The first store in Ragland was owned and operated by J. P. Reed. The next stores were opened by R. A. Green, Hamilton, and later the commissary was opened by Brown and Haggins. The first general stores in Ragland were owned by C. G. Davis and J. J. Teague.

The Brick Yard Mountain was formerly owned by Mr. Allen Greene. The present Brick Company bought the mountain and opened the Ragland Brick Company. The brick plant makes about 75,000 building brick and 50,000 paving brick per day.

The Cement Plant was established in 1908. Its promoters were W. H. Shaffer and his two sons Edgar and Manass. On July 4, 1910 the first kiln was lighted.

The Ragland Cooperage Company was established in 1910 and Coose Cooperaged Company in 1913. It is now called Ragland Heading Company. There are about thirty-four men employed. The total amount of salary for one week averages one thousand

dollars. The employees make five hundred and ten bunches of heading per day, there being fifty pieces of heading in each bunch. The superintendent at present is Mr. Floyd Jackson and the time keeper is Mr. Glovers.

Ragland is also a good agricultural section. The most important crops are cotton, corn, and alfalfa. Most of the farming land is level and fertile. About one-third of Ragland's population are farmers.

The first school building was called Oak Grove. Later money was donated and Acker School was built. It was destroyed by fire. There were two or three small country schools. The present school was built in 1918. The ceremony of dedication was performed by the masons. Vocational work was added in 1919. The principals of Ragland were:

J. J. Williams (1919-1922)

W. C. Johnson (1922-1923)

J. R. Kimbrough (1923-1924)

W. D. Buckner (1924-1934)

W. N. McKathan (1934-1938)

W. E. G. Sutton--serving his first term at present. 1938-1942

Jamot Ragland 1942-1945
Styers 1940-1946
C. R. Allen 1946-1947

The trustees of Ragland School requested the County Board, April 20, 1925, to transfer the Vocational Department to another community. The unit was transferred to Odenville. The Home Economics Department burned in 1934.

Mr. Jim Teague ran the first boarding house where Mr. Ed. Borders' warehouse now stands. The Cement Company built the first hotel known as the Ragland Inn. It was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Issac Ledbetter. In 1910 Mr. Henry Lee built the Lee Hotel which Mr. C. E. Neil now owns and Mrs. C. A. Neil operates.

One of the most prominent citizens of Ragland was Leroy F. Box. He was a lawyer and judge born April 9, 1837 on his father's farm near the Coosa River. He died while holding Circuit Court at Edwardsville, March 26, 1895. He was the son of Allen and Mary Box second cousins, the former a native of Charleston, South Carolina. Leroy's father fought in the war of 1812 and in the Seminole War. The ancestors of the Box family came to America from Kent, England. There were members of the family who fought in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Seminole War.

Leroy received his early education in the county schools from Lelas Law and Benjamin F. Pope. Leroy taught school for several years. He served as Superintendent of Education of St. Clair County until the outbreak of the war in 1861, then resigned to enter the C. S. Army. He was commissioned lieutenant of Company A, Tenth Alabama Regiment, Wilcox's brigade and acted as major at times. He studied his law books all during the war while he was in winter quarters. After the war was over he continued his study of law at Jacksonville, Alabama in Calhoun County teaching school at the same time. After he received his license to practice law he returned to his home town Ashville, and formed a partnership with Judge John W. Inzer. He was elected to legislature 1870-1871.

Mr. Box was elected State Superintendent of Alabama and served two terms. Before his second term expired he was elected circuit judge of the seventh district. He was serving his third term as circuit judge at the time of his death. He was a democrat, Steward in Methodist Church and a mason. He married Sara Isabella April 22, 1866. They lived near Ashville.

The first Church was a Baptist Church called Providence. It is located now about three miles from the center of Ragland.

The land on which the present Baptist Church now stands was bought from the Northern Methodist, there was also a small Church on this land. The Baptist people bought the Church and land in 1902. In 1931 the old Church was torn down and the present one built. There has been a small amount of work done on the Church since then. Church services were held in the school house while the present Church was being built.

The Methodist Church was first located where the parsonage now stands. Mrs. Polly Box selected the location on which the Church is now established, and Mr. Samuel Reed gave the land for the purpose of Church and cemetery. The present Methodist Church was built about the year of 1927.

Services for the first Christian Church were held at the home of Mrs. Joe Roberson. A few years later services were held where the shoe shop is at present. Services were held there for about a year and the people who belonged to the Church bought the present Church from Mr. E. H. Borders. It was a small house when they bought it. It is now a very nice Church.

The bank of Ragland was established in 1910. Mr. W. L. Harris helped construct it. The bank of Ragland went into bankruptcy in 1932, and has never been reopened.

The Cotton Gin was established in 1912. It was owned and operated by Mr. Billie Morris. It is now owned by C. A. Neil.

The Spertric Saloon was owned by Billie Morris, and was located where the Hawkins Barber Shop is at present.

The present stores of Ragland are:

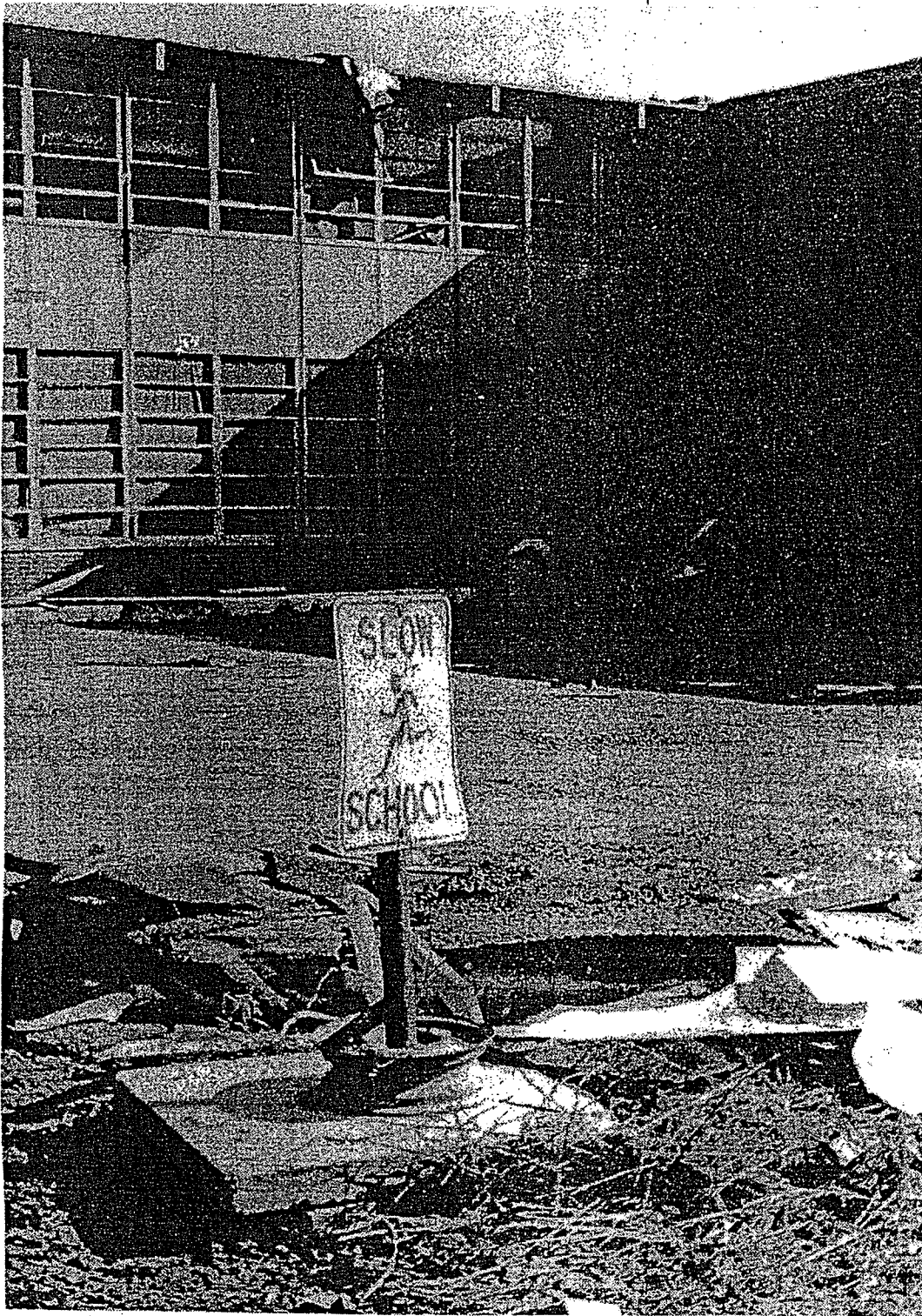
- M. O. Jones
- E. H. Borders
- J. T. Harrison
- H. C. Brannon
- Joe Roberson
- U. W. Ellard
- J. L. McElwee
- J. E. Dempsey

The present cafes are the following:

- M. F. Tambrough
- C. B. Hall
- Bill Hazlewood

The present drug stores are the following:

- Corbin Drug Company
- Rexall Drug Company



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Ragland High School Hard Hit



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



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



Hotel built in 1902 by Hardy & G. P. Cornett

*The Pell City Centennial
Hardy Cornett
A Pioneer Citizen*

BY: GEORGE WILLIAMS

Hundreds of interesting stories could be written about the early beginnings of Pell City, but none could be more fascinating than were the actual characters who comprised this City's earliest population.

Hardy Cornett was the epitome of the adventurous entrepreneur of the late 1800s. He was one of the few who dared to lead the people into the unknown territory. Solomon D. Kilgroe was a "man for all seasons" who combined his many talents to become a farmer, merchant, politician, school teacher, railroad agent, bank director, cotton broker, church and civic leader and ultimately, an elder statesman of local history. Sumter Cogswell was very fortunate, indeed, to have had the able assistance, sheer determination and abundant resourcefulness of individuals such as those two in helping to assure the success of his new city.

Hardy's family moved from Harris County, Georgia in 1862 to settle on the Jim Coleman plantation at Riverside. He was only thirteen at the time, but in later life could vividly recall the difficult years of reconstruction after the Civil War. Almost seventy five years later he would recall the war years, Carpet Baggers, hard times, and especially would he remember the lack of food that was so prevalent. He stated that he was "raised" on buttermilk and cornbread and always

knew when Sunday came because that was the only day of the week when the family had biscuits for breakfast.

It was fortunate for many St. Clair residents, in that day and time, that wild game was plentiful during those difficult years. The food supply of man families depended upon the marksmanship of the hunter. During the family's first winter in Riverside, Hardy killed enough wild duck and geese to enable his mother to make and fill a large feather bed and two pillows. An abundant deer population also enabled him to kill two large bucks on one morning's hunt. His uncle was hired by Jim Coleman to protect his wheat crop from the geese. He not only paid him for his marksmanship, but also furnished a horse, gun and an ample supply of shotgun shells to accomplish the task. It can be assumed that everyone in Riverside ate wild geese during the winter of 1862.

Hardy's family moved to Seddon, after having lived at Riverside for a number of years, and his

Hardy killed enough wild

duck and geese to enable

his mother to make and

fill a large feather bed and
two pillows.

father operated a water powdered cotton gin that had been constructed on Fishing Creek. The family ginned an estimated two hundred bales of cotton per season, and his father's financial prospects were vastly improved, but the unexpected happened. The authorities decided that the impounded water behind the dam was the cause of an outbreak of chills and fever and required that it be destroyed. Ironically, the old mill and dam site have long been covered by the backwaters of a much larger dam. Today, even though the dam and mill cannot be located, the foundation of the old Seddon Baptist Church that was nearby can be seen on the bottom of Fishing Creek slough during the low water level of winter pool.

Hardy's father then purchased the land now

...TO MEN IN INDUSTRY

Locate  in the
NEWS SOUTH

IN

RAGLAND

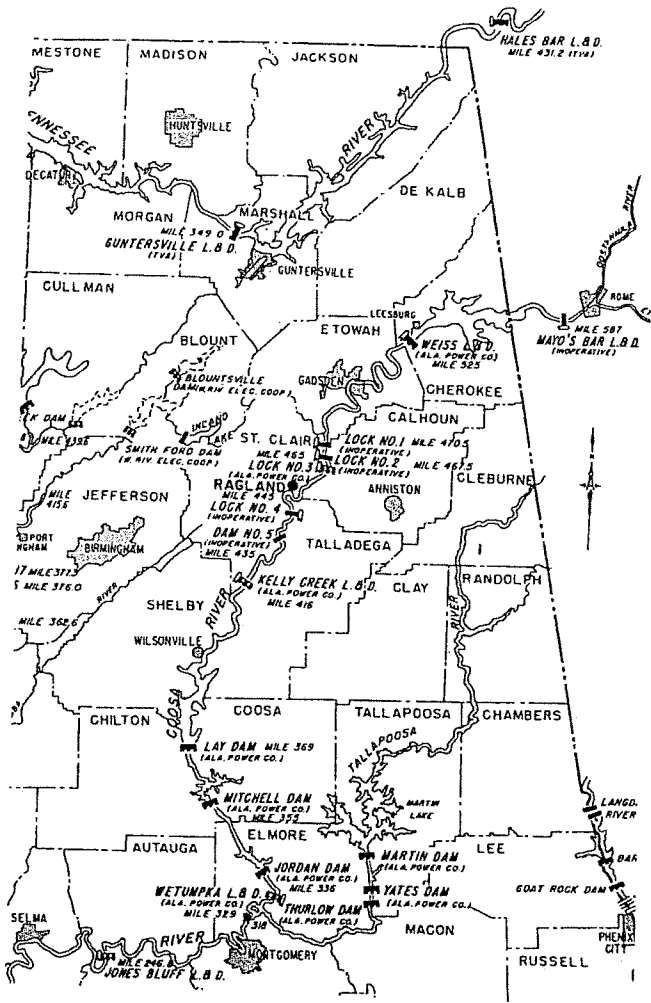
A
COMMUNITY
INVENTORY

ALABAMA

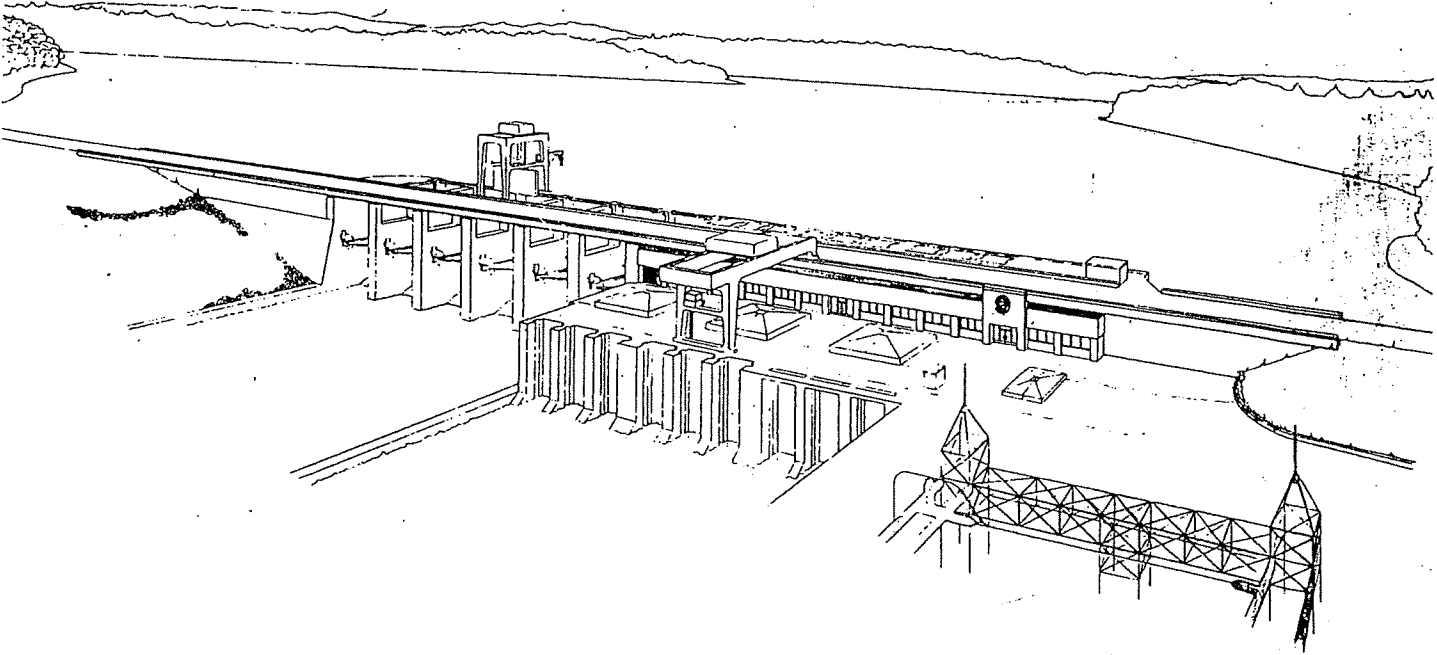
COOSA-ALABAMA RIVER

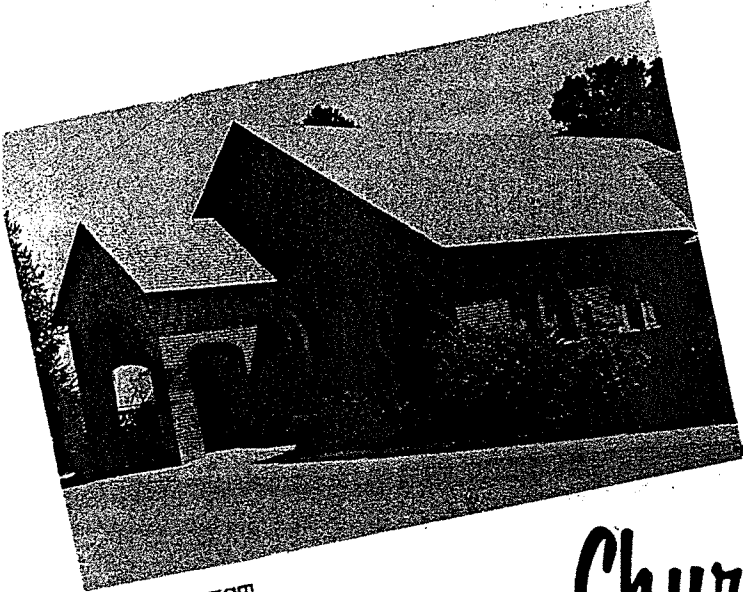
The Coosa River is formed by the Oostanaula and Etowah Rivers at Rome, Georgia, and descends some 450 feet to its junction with the Tallapoosa, 285 miles downstream, to form the Alabama River. The Alabama, flowing through the coastal plains, descends about 106 feet in the 315 miles before it joins the Tombigbee to form the Mobile River, which flows to Alabama's growing port city of Mobile.

Alabama Power Company has been licensed to construct hydroelectric and flood control dams which will create navigable lakes, assuring a nine-foot navigation channel (minus the essential locks) for this entire distance along the Coosa River. To open this long stretch to barge navigation will require the addition of locks in the dam structures. Provision for these locks is part of the planning of the dams, which will be built under the supervision of the Corps of Engineers. Construction of Lock 3 Dam is scheduled to get under way shortly by the Alabama Power Company.

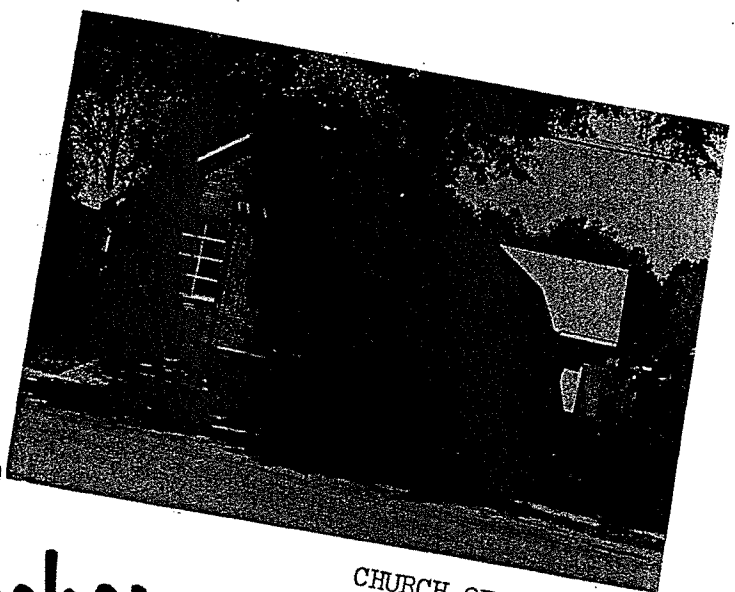


PERSPECTIVE OF LOCK 3 DAM
Powerhouse and Spillway



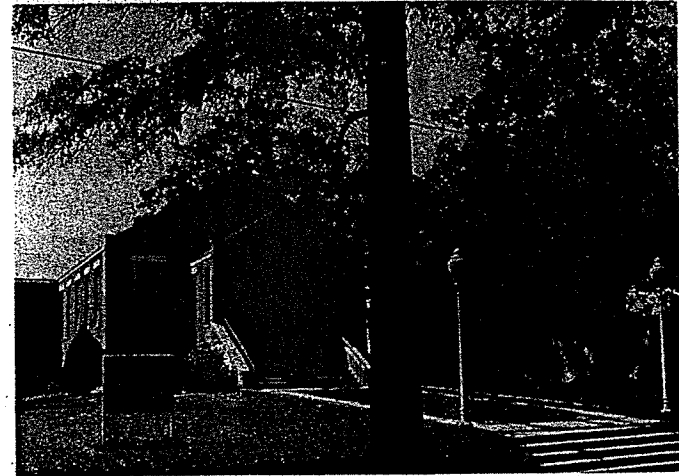


BAPTIST



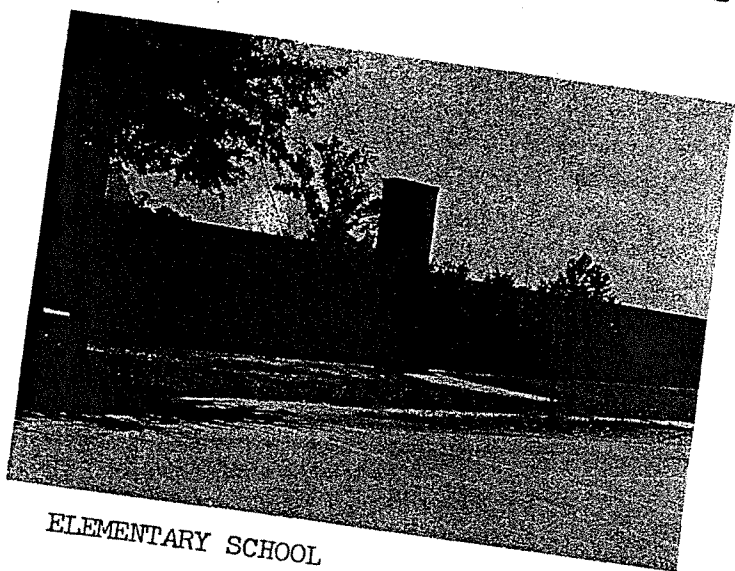
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Churches

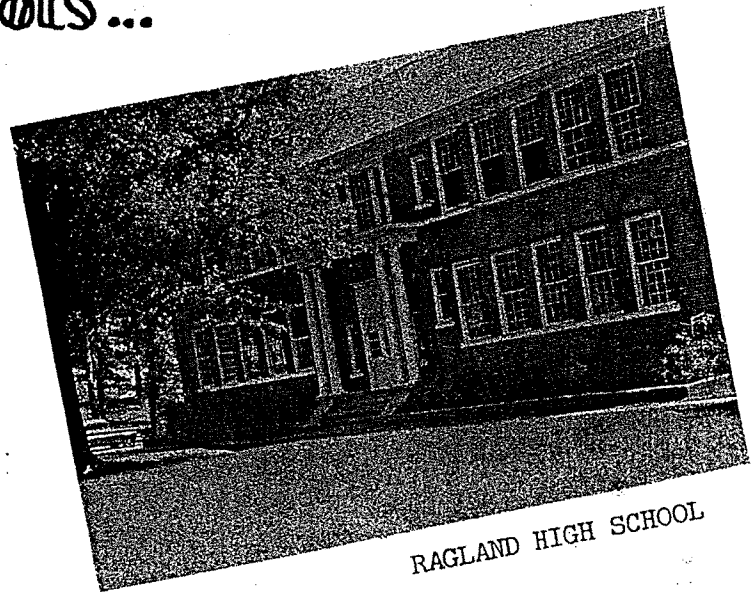


FIRST METHODIST

Schools...



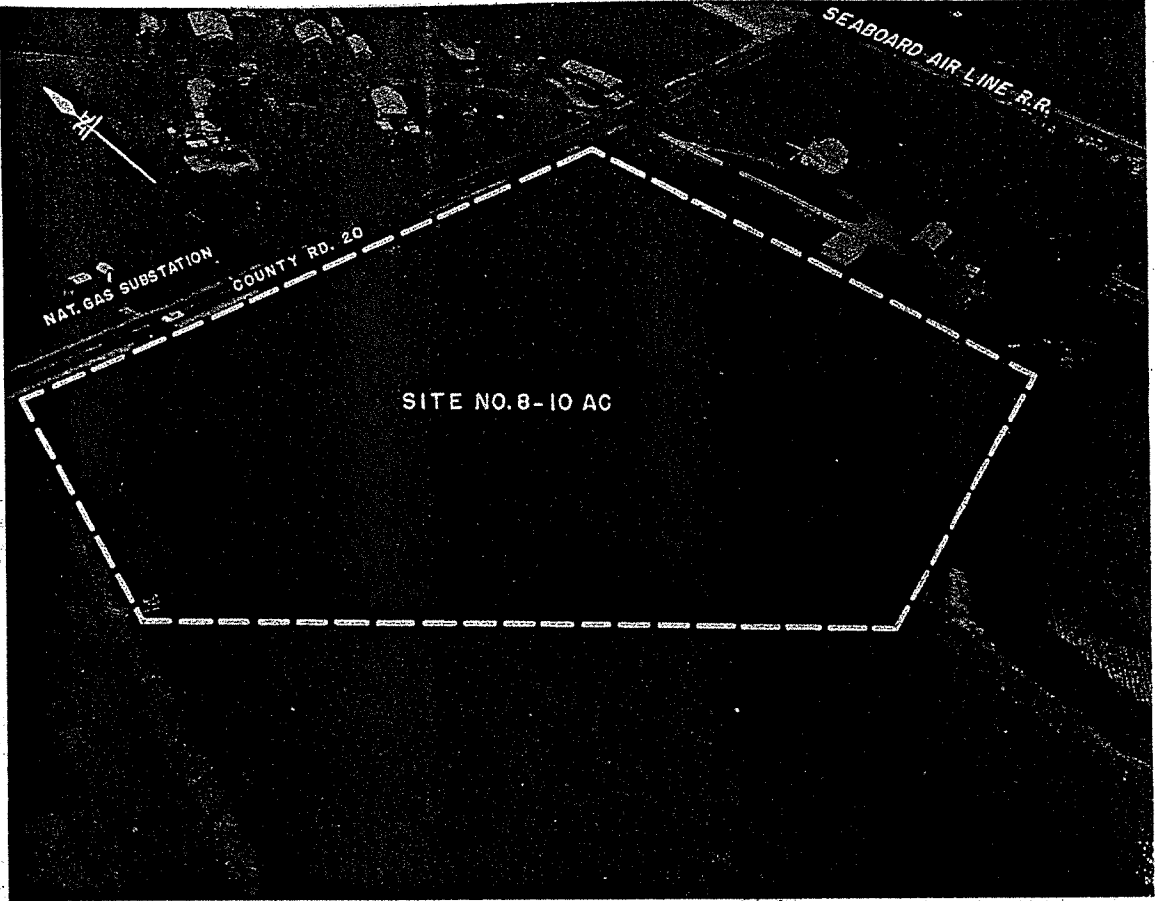
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



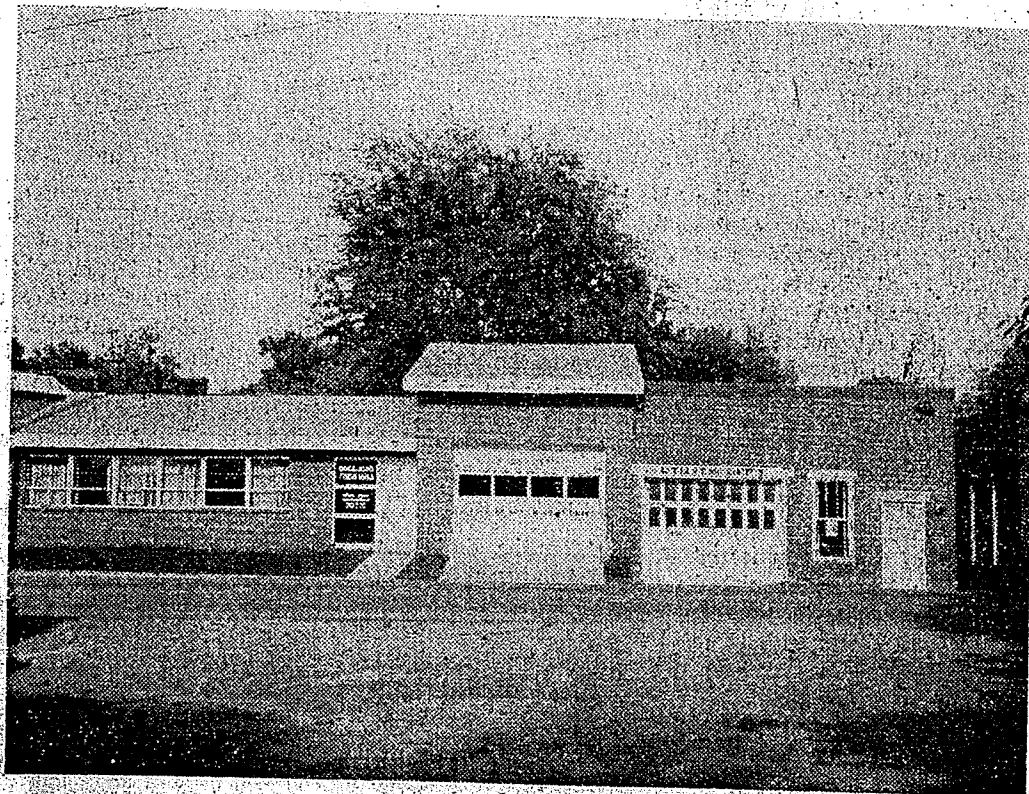
RAGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Industrial Sites

IN R A G L A N D



Let us show you these and other good sites suitable for your operation.



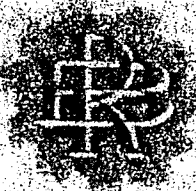
Ragland's New Town Hall

On Sunday, October 11, Mayor George W. Jones and members of the City Council will hold open house to celebrate the construction and formal opening of Ragland's new Town Hall, above. The building, constructed at a cost of approximately \$25,000 was

built of cement and brick both made in Ragland. C. D. Wilson, Ashville contractor, was the builder. The old city hall building will be converted to house a public library. The town bought a new fire truck in 1958, and just completed a street improvement program.

Three and one-half miles were re-surfaced and one and one-half miles new paving has been done. A new traffic light has been added at the school intersection and a caution light on Church and Main street where county highway 20 intersects.

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THE BANK OF RAGLAND

Ragland, Ala.

Aug., 5th 1916.

Thos. M. Owen, Director Archives & History,
Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Mr. Owen:-

I beg to give you the following as a history of Ragland as best I can.

The name of Ragland was given in honor of George L. Ragland, an old citizen, who lived here when the first railroad was built into the town (the East & West Ry.)

We are living in section 7, township fifteen, range five east, St. Clair county.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Fourteen miles to the county site, Ashville.

The old settlers, Dr. Robert Evans, Judge Leroy Box and Rev. Young, a Methodist preacher.

The first merchant was James W. Reed.

First postmaster, Jas. F. Reed. The ~~skaz~~ name of the post-office was Trout Creek, named for a creek running through the town.

Trout Creek was changed and the name of Ragland given.

The first doctor was Dr. Robert Evans.

The first preacher was Rev. Young, a Methodist preacher.

We are on the main public road known as the Greensport and Ferry's ferry road.

The most distinguished persons born and reared at Ragland were Judge Leroy Box, Dr. Robert Evans and Rev. Young.

Corporations and industries that are and have been at Ragland:

- Cessa Portland Cement Company.
- Cessa Coal & Coke Company
- St. Clair Coal Company
- Trout Creek Coal & Mining Co.
- Ragland Coal Company
- Ragland Ceperage Co
- Cessa Ceperage Co.
- The Bank of Ragland
- The Ragland Brick Company

A few miles off here in Ft. Strether where Gen. Lee was camped and threw up breast works before he crossed Cessa river going south toward Talladega.

After the Eriefield Furnace was built near Talladega and twenty miles of railroad built to get coal to Burnside which would make gun steel, during the Civil War, the coke was not available and Gen. Schultze in his official report now on record in Washington, reported that he found coal suitable for making gun steel at Trout Creek, now Ragland.

Since Ragland took the contract to burn such iron coke he beat it down Cessa river for this purpose.

Under separate cover I am mailing booklet of the town of Ragland, and community.

Yours truly,
W. H. R.

In Alabama Schools—

Ragland building new high school



GEORGE G. EDEN

BY THELMA YOUNG

News staff writer

RAGLAND, Oct. 31—Construction has started on the new high school at Ragland.

It will, at first, consist of one wing, but later additional classrooms, a cafeteria and gymnasium will be added. Then the present two-story Ragland High, built in 1918, will be torn down.

The first portion of the school now under construction will also house the home economics department, science labs, library and two classrooms. These departments constitute, for the time being, the greatest need at Ragland High. The present physical plant, although adequate, cannot accommodate more than its 450 students now enrolled in the 12 grades.

George G. Eden is in his fifth year as principal of Ragland High, having come to this school in 1948 as classroom teacher and coach, and has spent his entire career in this school. Eden has his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Jacksonville State. He has 16 teachers on his faculty.

THIS WAS AT ONE time a coal mining town with a population of considerably more than its present 1,200. Mining has given away to cement and brick making, the main industries now. Lock Three Dam, on the Coosa River, is presently under construction, and is expected to help the entire area. A new pipe line is also being built, and is expected to

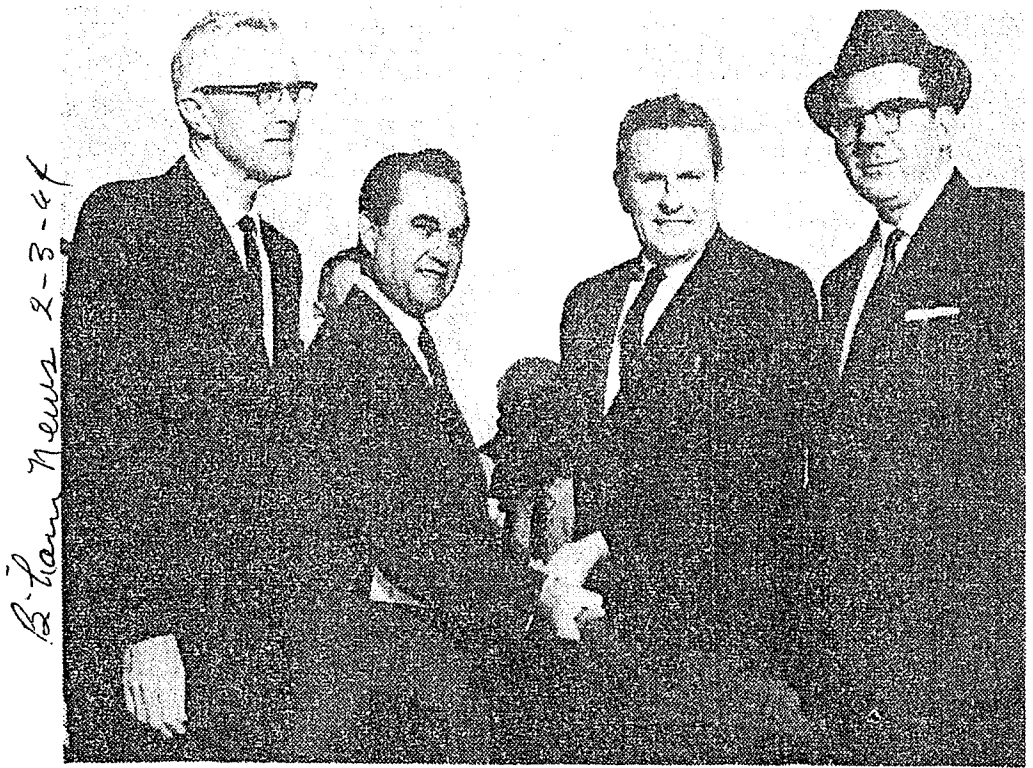
mayor, and members of the council are Ed Weiss, Windon Edge, Otis Boswell, Arthur Ligan and Alden Bunt.

RAGLAND ALSO benefits from the interest and assistance of the Quarterback Club, with 125 members which contribute approximately \$1,000 a year to the school. Charles Ford is president.

The problem of dropouts which is very real in most schools, is of no great concern here. This can be attributed in part to an excellent course of study, which includes trigonometry and solid geometry as a combination course, industrial arts, chemistry and physics on an alternating basis, and, starting in junior high, twice as much time is being spent on English in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades. A program of remedial reading was started last year, too.

For the past three years local individuals have given four Ragland community scholarships, each valued at \$200. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of need, scholastic achievement in high school, ability to succeed in college, a desire to attend college, and citizenship.

O. D. Duran is superintendent of St. Clair County schools, and members of the board of education are Harold Williams, president, Ralph Windham, James



Wallace opens Ragland plant

Ground was broken in Ragland Saturday for a \$2.5 million pipe plant, CAPCO, a subsidiary of Woodward Iron Co., Birmingham. Gov. George Wallace, second from left, did honors, along with St. Clair Probate Judge Hoyt B. Hamilton, left; Woodward President W. R. Bond, next to the governor, and S. D. Weaver, who will manage the plant.

Ground Breaking Ceremony

RAGLAND, ALABAMA

Saturday, February 1, 1964, 3:00 P.M.

FOOTBALL STADIUM

Announcing A Multi-Million Dollar

ASBESTOS CONCRETE PIPE PLANT LOCATION

BY

Hon. GEORGE C. WALLACE

GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA

AND

Hon. W. R. BOND

WOODWARD IRON COMPANY



Program



MASTER OF CEREMONIES	Hon. Hoyt B. Hamilton Judge of Probate
INVOCATION	Rev. W. W. Brown
WELCOME	Hon. George W. Jones Mayor of Ragland
PRESENTATION OF GUESTS	Hon. Edwin Holladay St. Clair County Representative
INTRODUCTION OF HON. W. R. BOND	Hon. L. E. Baer President, National Cement Co.
PRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA	Hon. John H. Martin
CLOSING REMARKS	Hon. Hoyt B. Hamilton Judge of Probate

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY AND INSPECTION OF SITE

"PROGRAM ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE"

- Hoyt B. Hamilton, Judge of Probate, St. Clair County
- George W. Jones, Mayor of Ragland, Alabama
- Edwin Holladay, Representative, St. Clair County
- John H. Martin, Attorney, Pell City, Alabama
- J. B. Walters, County Commissioner, Ragland, Alabama
- O. D. Duran, St. Clair County Superintendent of Education
- H. L. Eubanks, County Agent

RAGLAND LIBRARY
FALL HOURS
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 27, 1990
(472-2007)

MONDAY- 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY- 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY- 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY- 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SATURDAY- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

SUNDAY- closed

STORY TIME FOR ALL CHILDREN PRE-SCHOOL -SIXTH GRADE EVERY SATURDAY

PRE-SCHOOL- 9:00-9:30

first -third-10:0-10:30

fourth -sixth-10:30-11:00

WE ARE STARTING A HOME BOUND PROGRAM; IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO CAN NOT GET TO THE LIBRARY BUT WOULD LIKE TO USE IT'S SERVICES PLEASE CONTACT THE LIBRARY. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE BOOKS TO THEIR HOME

137
The Settlement of Ragland

It was a beautiful morning on that day 115 years ago which opened our history. There were three main things that appealed to these travelers. They were (a) cheap land, (b) rich soil, and (c) plenty of game and fish. The warm rains had left the air filled with strong odors of wild grapes and honeysuckles. The mocking bird was singing and swaying in the top of the trees, while the call of the quail and turkey was louder than usual. Even the friendly Indians felt a closer protection than they had felt before. However, the Indians showed some curiosity at the unusual sight of the travelers, who coming from land further north stopped here and there and fainted.

The party was small and the leader seemed to be a stalwart young man with a gun on his shoulder, and a sweet faced woman, on horseback with a babe on her lap.

They made camp on a little stream which emptied into the Coosa River, where a heavy deposit of limestone was found.

These people who had traveled the long way from Tenn. to Central Ala. on horseback and a foot found the promised land, land where they could worship their maker and rear their children in the faith which appealed to them.

So the Trout Creek settlement came into existence.

Allen and Polly Box were the leaders of the little party that first came to Ragland. They built their log cabin where Mr. Charlie Davis now lives, near the bottom of Morning Star Hill. Thomas R. Adams, another one of our old settlers, who owned 160 acres of land, settled where Mrs. Margaret Douglas now lives. Nelson Nash and Westly Griffin selected the land where the Cement Plant now stands. Samuel Reed married Celisa, the daughter of Samuel Gordon, and the two families together built their cabin in the exact spot where the Green house stands today. Andrew Dickson lived one and one-half miles east of Ragland on the Lock Three road. Stephen Wood settled on the land that is now being occupied by Mr. Johnny Gray. It is located one mile south of Ragland. Milton McDill lived one half mile west, off the Meceadonia road. Noah Daffron's land was located on the exact spot where W. T. Daffron lives today. Chrisper Davis was located on the lime quarry land, two miles south of Ragland. Thomas R. Adams also married Viney Box, the sister of Allen Box.

Polly Box was a woman of strong character and deep religious convictions. The preachers were welcomed in her home, and her front porch served as the first church. The first methodist Church was a log cabin built near the foot of Morning Star Hill. This church was named Rhodes Chapel, after Uncle Billy Rhodes, an old minister, who was loved by all. The religious life was greatly enriched by Mr. A. J. Dickerson and wife, who came to this community from South Carolina.

Mr. Dickerson was a singer and both he and his wife were active church workers. Their children did much to enrich the religious life of the community. The present Methodist Church property was given to the Methodist people by Samual Reed on October 23, 1858. This property was given through the trustees, Mr. R. W. Box, W. D. Floyd, and Thomas Phillips to belong forever to the church as long as used as church property, but to revert to the Reed heirs if other wise used.

This property has gently rolling grounds, and plenty of water that has long caused this ground, we are gathered on today, to be used as a meeting place.

Our first Methodist church was built of logs, which was later torn down and replaced by a frame building. This building was used until it was torn down and replaced by the brick building that we are still using. The Methodist Church has always been located on the same spot it now stands.

Later the Baptist people organized a church, where the Baptist people organized a church, where the Baptist Church now stands. This was a frame building owned by the Methodist Church and sold to the Baptist people. The church was later torn down, and replaced by a brick building, our present Baptist Church.

The church of the colored people was organized in the year of 1814, under the leadership of Jim Wiley and C. E. Mitchell. Wiley and Mitchell thought there should be a colored Baptist church in Ragland, so they started a petition to organize a Baptist church of Ragland. This petition was sent to the association which was headed by the Rev. R. T. Tremble, and a committee organized a Baptist Church in New Town.

This building was a one room log house, which was also used as a school house, and church. It was given the name of Colbenezer Baptist church.

The Rev. Dan Forman was the first pastor of the eight member church. During the time he was pastor, the little church and lot was brought from Sythus Harris for \$75. It was during the time that the Rev. Wallace was pastor that the little house was burned, and the services were held in the home of L. V. Culpepper.

In 1918 they finished paying for the lot and got a clear deed, but as some of the members had moved away or died, a church had not yet been built. It was in the year of 1920 that the church was built under the leadership of L. V. Culpepper, and was remodded in 1939 under the leadership of the Rev. S. S. Thomas. The church which now has over a hundred members was rebuilt in 1940 by the Rev. J. H. Chambers.

Suppose we stop her to tell you how the little community of Ragland got its name. Before the civil war, George Ragland and a Mr. Sims from Talledga came to the Community of Trout Creek, and started our first coal mines. One of these coal mines was located where the Edge Shoe Shop is today.

It was about this time that our Confederate lads started drilling and used as their drill ground the land where the Methodist Church now stands.

These mines were worked by slaves which were brought from Talledga county. About this time the first post office was established on the Henry Box place, and mail ran from Bolton Cross Roads (now Coal City) by the Box place on to Green Sport.

The post office was then changed from Trout Creek to Ragland, in honor of the Ragland-Simis Coal Operation. As the years passed children's children began to take the place of the old timers, and so the community of Ragland lives on.

Our first school house was located behind Mr. Dickenson's home, and was built of wood. The attendance of this school was large in accordance to the population. This building was ~~in~~ burned about 1904, and was later replaced by another frame building. While this building was being built, school was held in the upstairs of Bowlin's store. Sam McCaee was teacher of this school when the building was burned.

Their furniture and books were similar to ours, even though it was a two teacher school.

In 1918 W. T. Brown gave the land for our present school building. This building was made of brick, and now has a faculty of 17 teachers and an enrollment of 516 students.

The school building is located two blocks east of Ragland.

In 1915 ~~W~~ when New Town was founded the colored people thought it would not be a progressive community with out a school. It was decided that E. D. Mitchell and L. V. Culpepper elected a committee, L. V. Culpepper, Jim Wiley, and Frank Frayer, ~~together~~ to get the County Board of Education to get a location for the school.

The first school was formed November 1, 1916, with twenty students, and they only went four months a year. This was a log building with Elvira Hilmon from Birmingham as teacher. She was paid \$20 a month, partly paid by the county and partly by the community.

One day the teacher and her students went in the woods to get some wood, and while they were gone the building caught fire and burned down before they returned.

School was then held at Jim Wiley's home for the remainder of the year. Until the year of 1926, the church house was used as a school.

In the year of 1926, the school had grown to a two teacher school, with an increase of salary. In this year L. V. Culpepper and Jim Wiley gave the land where the colored school is now located.

In 1927 the present school house was started and school was taught in this uncompleted building until 1938, when it was finished by Jesse Culpepper. It was chartered an New Town Jr. High School in 1940, and had the faculty of three teachers.

During the thirty two years of history of this school, it has had twenty three teachers.

The first train that ran through Ragland was known as the East and West. This train ran from Cartersville, Georgia, through Ragland, Fairview and on to Bell City. The depot was located in what is now known as Bowlin's store and was given the name of Ragland in honor of George Ragland.

It was about 1902 or 1903 that the Seaboard Air Line brought out the old East ~~and~~ West. They changed the line to its present location and extended the line to Birmingham.

The first store of Ragland was owned by J. F. Reed, J. R. Brown, and Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Reed owned a store on the corner of Ragland where Mrs. Hare now has a garage. This was an old fashion frame building. Mr. Brown's store was located just west of Mr. Mc C. Jones' store. Mr. M. C. Hamilton's store is still standing directly across the street in front of Mrs Hare's garage. This is an old frame building and all though it is practically in ruins it still stands bravely. Making the beginning of our community in Ragland.

The text of our next study will be the industries of Ragland. The first industry of Ragland was coal mining. George Ragland and a Mr. Sims came here from Talladega County and formed the Ragland and Sims Mining Corporation. They brought negro slaves from Talladega County to work these mines. About the first mines was located down towards Mr. Dickinson's saw mill. Among the other first one was the one located where the Edge shoe Shop is today and another one is one mile west of Ragland.

It was in the year of 1906 or 1907 that the Brick Yard was established. Its location has always been where it is today, one-half mile northwest of town. This location has always been good because of the supply of shale and convenencies of the railroad. Its chief aim is the making of brick.

Our next phrase of the industries of Ragland is the saw mill. The first saw mill was owned by Watt T. Brown, and was located where the City Hall stands today.

The saw mill today is located about two blocks west of Ragland and is owned by Mr. Dickenson. This mill produces lumber that is used in our present war effort. It gets all of its logs from the from the surroundings of Ragland.

At one time the saw mill burned except the planer and later was ~~like~~ replaced by Mr. Dickenson.

In 1904 or 1905 Mr. W. B. Shaffee and his associates came to Ragland and built the Cement Plant. Due to the cheap land, good transportation, and plenty of lime stone. Ragland became a good center for the cement plant. The plant has always been located at the place it stands today. The deposit of limestone which supplies this plant with material is located one and one-half miles south of Ragland. The crushed limestone is carried on a belt line that runs from the rock quarry to the cement plant. This belt has been built recently and is the longest of its kind in the South.

The owner of this plant at the present time is Mr. Wickinson of Birmingham.

The cement that is made in Ragland is shipped to places all over the world.

The first Heading Mill of Ragland was owned by the Co-operag~~e~~ Co. andand The Coosa Co-operage Co. This mill was located on the left side of the old East and West railroad where the Ragland hardward~~s~~ stands today.

Later the Coosa Co-operage Company bought out the Ragland Co-operage Company and changed the mills name to the Ragland Heading Mill.

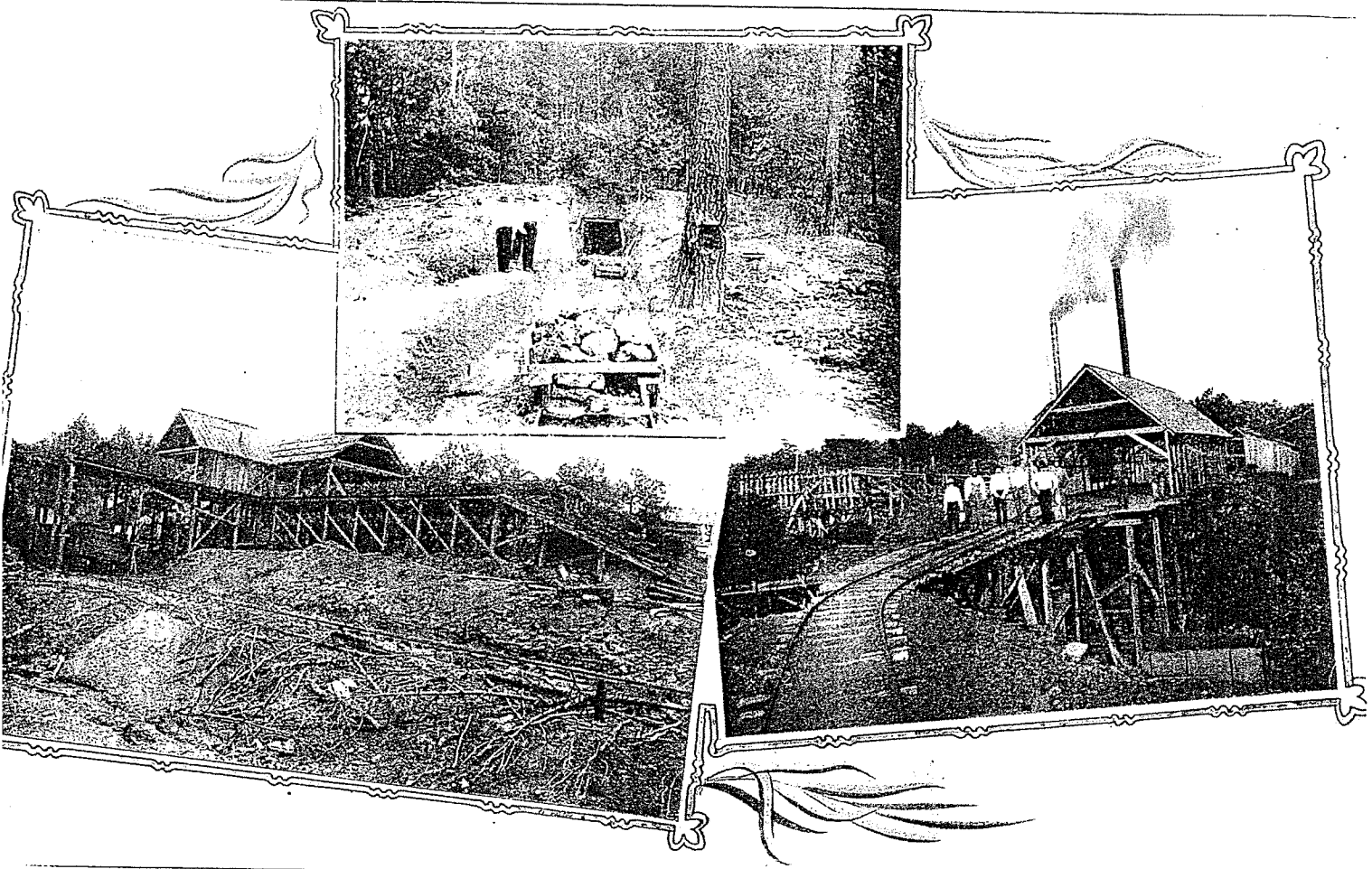
The most important job of the heading mill today is making headings to help in the war effort. This is a 38% war productive mill.

At one time there was a bank in Ragland. It was established on April 1, 1911 in the empty building next to Champions Grocery Store. Mr. Watt T. Brown was the first president and served until 1921. His cashier was E. C. Records from Kentucky. In 1921 Mr. W. T. Floyd became president and served until January 1, 1928, at this time he sold his entire interest to Dr. Forman and associates of Attalla, Alabama. Dr. Forman became president and T. S. Williams his cashier.



The bank closed in the fall of 1932, due to the lack of security of the money which had been loaned out. Since that time we have never had a bank in Ragland.

From 1898 until 1905 there was but little water that was good to drink in Ragland. There were just two wells in Ragland and they were known as Company wells. The location of one of these wells was near where Mr. Shaddix has his filling station and the other one was located half way up the hill where Mr. Ragland lives today. In 1905 Mr. Andrew Box, brought water in barrels from a spring and sold this water at one half cent per gallon. It was not long after this that the people of Ragland began to dig cisterns. These wells were hard to dig because of the mines in Ragland. The present water system began on March 1, 1941 and was a W. F. A. project. It took a year to complete this system. The cost of the plant, meter and other expenses was \$42, 780.21 and Ragland borrowed Government funds to finance it. The Government also paid for the labor. The town of Ragland still owes \$19,300 on this debt. About 150 people in Ragland has this water in their homes today. 3,000 gallons of water cost \$2.00 and each additional 1,000 gallons is 50¢. The Towns Water Department takes in about \$200.00 per month, and it cost \$100.00 per month to operate the water system. Ragland uses about 500,000 gallons of water in one month.

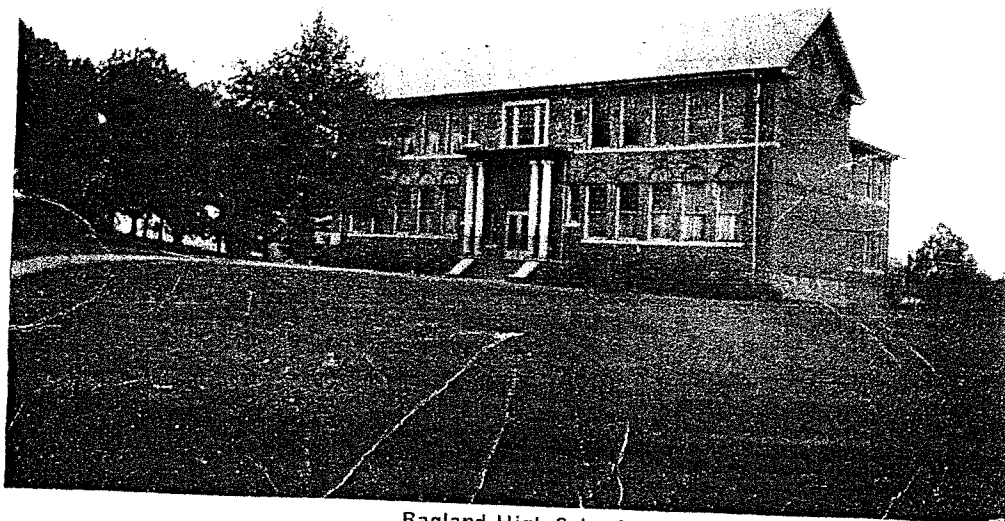
So the beautiful and thriving little community of Trout Creek grew to be the ²¹Industrial town of Ragland.



COAL MINES OF THE RAGLAND COAL CO. AT RAGLAND, ALA.

	<p>COAL MINES OF THE RAGLAND COAL CO., AT RAGLAND, ALA.</p>	
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The opposite views show three coal mines in Ragland, operated by the Ragland Coal Co. Some of the best steam and blacksmithing coal is mined and shipped from Ragland by this company. Once a customer gets accustomed to using this coal for steam purposes he rarely will consent to use any other, it being free from dirt, slate or rocks, and being a bituminous coal of a soft nature, it is unusually fine for steam purposes where there is good draught and plenty of boiler power. Its peculiar quality for blacksmithing purposes has given it an unusual demand. The company ships this coal into North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and all over Alabama and as far west as California and Mexico through the port of Mobile. This company has been mining and shipping this coal since 1892. It also makes extraordinary fine coke, classed third by the Geological Department of Alabama, of all coal in the United States.



Ragland High School

Ragland High School 1933



What Ragland Has and Offers



IN PRESENTING this booklet, it is the intention to call public notice to RAGLAND. It is not the desire of those most active in encouraging the upbuilding of the town to get up any excitement in the sale of property. The town lots are just now being put on the market from an overflowing demand and will be sold at reasonable prices. No place with similar industries and natural advantages is selling off its property in the town, or the surrounding community, so cheaply. Many thousand acres of land near the town and surrounding country can be bought for from \$5.00 to \$25.00 per acre for farming purposes. The town property can be bought on very reasonable terms, one-third cash and balance in one and two years, with interest, if preferred. No better location could be found by persons looking for small farms and wanting to get near good schools and a prosperous town. We have a splendid public school, which runs nine months in the year, two churches (Methodist and Baptist.) Knights of Pythias and Masons both have strong organizations here. The health could not be better; splendid water, creeks and springs head back in the mountains and run right through the town. The farming interest is splendid where all kinds of farming products are grown, such as corn, cotton, wheat, oats, clay peas, Irish and sweet potatoes, strawberries, onions, and all kinds of vegetables and fruits, such as apples, peaches, plums, cherries etc., can be grown in abundance.

Ragland and the surrounding territory are wonderfully blessed with minerals, having high-grade steam and coking coal, brown ore, limestone, shale, fire clay, high-grade moulding sand as well as building sand, kaolin, clays for the manufacture of mineral paint; building stone is also in close proximity to the town.

Six or eight industrial plants are now negotiating with the view of locating here, and it is expected that hundreds of small industries will seek a location at this town on account of its superior advantages, being considered the hub of the mining and manufacturing district of the South and having both railroad and water transportation. The atmosphere is perfect at all seasons of the year.

For further information of Ragland and community, address

W. T. BROWN,
RAGLAND, ALA.

P. S.—Our labor is happy and contented and labor troubles are scarcely known.

History of Ragland

The present town of Ragland is located in the north central part of Alabama in St. Clair County. More than a half century ago this place was known as Trout Creek. Tradition gives us this story of its name. Long years ago a group of people from Tennessee came and settled near a creek where the Methodist Parsonage is now located. As was the custom of olden times, they hunted and fished much of the time. They caught so many trout that the name Trout Creek was given to the place.

Many years later a man named George Ragland came to this settlement and bought most of the land in and around here. The name was then changed to Ragland. Prospectors found rich deposits of coal. George Ragland owned and operated the first coal mine.

The first settlers, after the name of the town had been changed to Ragland, were Jim Reed, Louis Dickinson, R. A. Green, Joe Woods, and Dr. Jones. It is said Mrs. P. A. Green was the first woman to settle in this section after the town's name had been changed from Trout Creek to Ragland.

At an early date a church was built. The first congregation was Southern Methodist. The church was located where the Methodist parsonage now stands. Mrs. Polly Fox selected the site where the present Methodist church stands. It was built in 1929. Mr. Samuel Fox gave the land for the church and cemetery.

The first Baptist Church in the area was known as Providence. It is located about three miles from center of Ragland. The land on which the present Baptist Church stands was bought from the Northern Methodist in 1902. There was a small church on this land, but in 1931 the church was torn down and the present one built.

Services for the first Christian Church were held at the home of Mrs. Roberson. Later services were held where the shoe shop is at present. The present Christian Church building was bought from Mr. E. A. Borders.

The first school was called Oak Grove. Later money was donated and Asker School was built but soon was destroyed by fire. There were two or three small country schools located near by. The present high school was built in 1918. The ceremony of dedication was performed by the pastor. The school building was destroyed in 1924 upon request of local business, the vocational department was moved.

The home economics department burned in 1954. In 1954 an elementary building was constructed. In 1951 football was added to the sports program, the stadium was built and dedicated in 1956. The first principal of the present high school was J. J. Williams.

The first store in Ragland was owned and operated by J. P. Reed. Samuel Reed was the first postmaster and his home was used as the post office. The mail was delivered from Whitney and Munford on a star route.

Though the coal deposit was exhausted, rich deposits of limestone shale, and clay gave rise to other industries. Brick Yard Mountain was formerly owned by Mr. Allen Greene. Ragland Brick Company bought the mountain and opened a plant. The plant was destroyed by fire and a new one built in a new location between the cement plant and the railroad.

The National Cement Company was established in 1903. Its promoters were W. H. Chaffer and his two sons, Edgar and Manassah. On July 4, 1910, the first kiln was lighted.

The cement Company built the first hotel known as the Ragland Inn. It was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ledbetter. In 1910 Mr. Henry Lee built the Lee Hotel. Today it is the Neil Hotel, owned and operated by Mr. C. E. Neil.

The first railroad was the "East and West" and was completed in 1881. In 1902 the Seaboard Railroad Company purchased "East and West" and began operation.

One of the most prominent citizens of Ragland was Leroy F. Box, born April 4, 1837 on his father's farm near Coosa River. He was the son of Allen and Mary Box. Leroy taught school for several years and served as Superintendent of St. Clair County Schools until the outbreak of war in 1861. He served as lieutenant of Company A, Tenth Alabama Regiment in the Army. After the war he took up the study of law. Upon receiving his license to practice law he formed partnership in Ashville with Judge John W. Inzer. Leroy was elected to the legislature in 1877. He also served two terms as State Superintendent of Education. He was elected Circuit Judge of the seventh district. He was serving in the third term as circuit judge at the time of his death.

In 1910 the Bank of Ragland was established. Mr. W. L. Harris helped construct it. The bank continued business until 1922, when it was forced to close the doors and has never reopened.

PARENTS:

HERE IS THE UGLY TRUTH ABOUT EDUCATION IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY

	State Pays	County Must Pay
Salaries of Teachers and Principals \$1,440,839.00	\$1,211,571.00	\$229,268.00
Transportation Costs . . . 185,000.00	132,347.00	52,653.00
Other Current Expense Maintenance, Heat, Light Bills, Janitor Salaries <u>122,175.00</u>	<u>114,353.00</u>	<u>7,822.00</u>
TOTALS \$1,748,014.00	\$1,458,271.00	\$289,743.00

Before the county can pay any funds for the above, we must set aside \$125,000.00 to pay on bond issues used to build the Duran Jr. High School, Pell City High School Gym., Ragland High School and the Ashville High School. Therefore, we must have \$289,743.00 + \$125,000.00 = \$414,743.00 of local funds to continue to operate at our same level. This leaves us short \$22,743.00. We have received \$389,000.00 so far from property tax. The beer tax amounted to approximately \$3,000.00 for the first 1 1/3 months.

We received the money from state on the basis of 217 teachers allotted to our system. We have to employ 22 extra teachers paid by local funds to keep 6 high schools accredited by state and 3 of these by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

We need increased teachers' salaries, additional teacher units, additional funds for transportation (We have been able to buy only 4 buses in the last three years), additional funds for other current expenses such as maintenance and operational costs. As of March first every one of our schools has had to begin paying its own light bill. The average light bill is about \$200.00 per month per school. The Bookmobile Service has been lost because there are not enough funds. In some counties the county board pays all of the funds needed with Title III. This county matches on a 50-50 basis for Title III, but a lot of our schools can not take advantage of this because they do not have the money.

If you are interested in your schools and want to help by writing letters, express your interest, concern and desire to the following:

Honorable Albert P. Brewer Governor of Alabama State Capitol Montgomery, Alabama 36105	Honorable Edwin Holladay Alabama State House of Representatives State Capitol Montgomery, Alabama 36105
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Honorable Aubrey Carr
Alabama State Senate
State Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama 36105

For you to help in this matter it should be done by March 10, 1969.

Compiled by your P.T.A.

ST. CLAIR BUILDING SCHOOLS

PELL CITY, Dec. 31 — Work has begun on St. Clair County's largest school building program in history.

Education Superintendent Hugh H. Williamson said new projects are underway at Pell City, Ashville and Ragland which will cost \$1,034,000.

The Pell City project includes new junior high school with 17 classrooms, adminis-

trative offices and auditorium-gymnasium and new high school gymnasium.

RAGLAND WILL HAVE eight new classrooms, cafeteria, administrative offices and gymnasium-cafeteria.

The Ashville contract calls for a new high school, home economics and vocational agricultural departments, administrative offices and

gymnasium-cafeteria.

Building is being done through a 20-year extension of a five-mill tax voted on by the county electorate.

Williamson said the contract should be complete by October, 1966.

Scott Brothers Construction Co. of Alexander City has the contract. Architect is Henry Sprott Long.

Phon News Dec. 31, 1965



Prancing chorus line of southside flagbearers

LACK OF *Everyone part of*

BY FRANK SIKORA, News staff writer

RAGLAND
The fact that the school doesn't have a band of its own doesn't stop it from having Homecoming Day, including the parade full of floats.

Ragland High School's principal, E. E. Higginbotham, called Southside High School and asked them if they would provide the music . . . again.

SO BAND director Curtis Whited loaded his marching group onto a couple of buses and took them the short haul to this St. Clair County town of 1,000.

The event, held under bright October skies, was noteworthy in that the parade kicked off right on schedule. At precisely 2 p.m. Friday the police car, blue light flashing, pulled out onto the main street, followed by a truck carrying the Ragland cheerleaders.

Then came Southside's prancing flagbearers and majorettes leading the band. By now, groups of youngsters were running down the street beside the band, anxious to be at the main part of town when they wheeled in.

THE FLOATS, representing every grade in the school, rambled in behind the band. Down the street they rolled, past houses, the First Baptist Church, shops and clusters of people standing on the sidewalk.

An old woman came out onto her front porch to see what was going on. Then she came down the steps, holding her hand up to shield her eyes from the sunlight.

"Why, no one told me they was having a parade," she said disapprovingly. "I almost missed it."

The game that Ragland was playing against

Springville was incident would be named as t

THAT WAS ONLY everyone taking part. trying to come up with the judges' eyes.

There were young Indians, Halloween g assortment of other c was made up of Indian Columbus at the helm mast.

The students had putting the parade u went further back, emergencies.

In the case of Co most democratic way the boys draw number down with a virus We to be thrown into the

AT THE MAIN in gathered, and they ch by. Even the band m as they reacted to the

As homecoming p Ragland's had, nor t everybody agreed.

Now, what everyo will Ragland have its

But if they did, it little suspense of won music for the parades



White sails in the sunset: Columbus fifth graders

NO HANDICAP

gland's Homecoming

was the fact that one girl during the halftime.

it. Homecoming means every class competing. The float that will catch

essed out as spacemen, football players, and an. The fifth grade's float ettlers, with Christopher ig 'neath a huge white

vetishly since Thursday, ther. But the planning re were last minute

the teacher figured the him would be to have winner, however, came and a replacement had

of town; a crowd had rtily as the units rolled on a brisker note here,

, it wasn't the best one. It was a good one,

iting to know is: When l?

be quite the same. The t who will provide the gone.



Petite pioneer: Bonnet frames a pretty face

Business

Cement plant is the heart of Ragland

By CINDY WARNER
News-Aegls 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 time to study how he would construct this bridge and what he would use.

Vicat's studies led to what is today known as National Cement. He did not patent it as he wished to benefit his research to the benefit of his research in all industries.

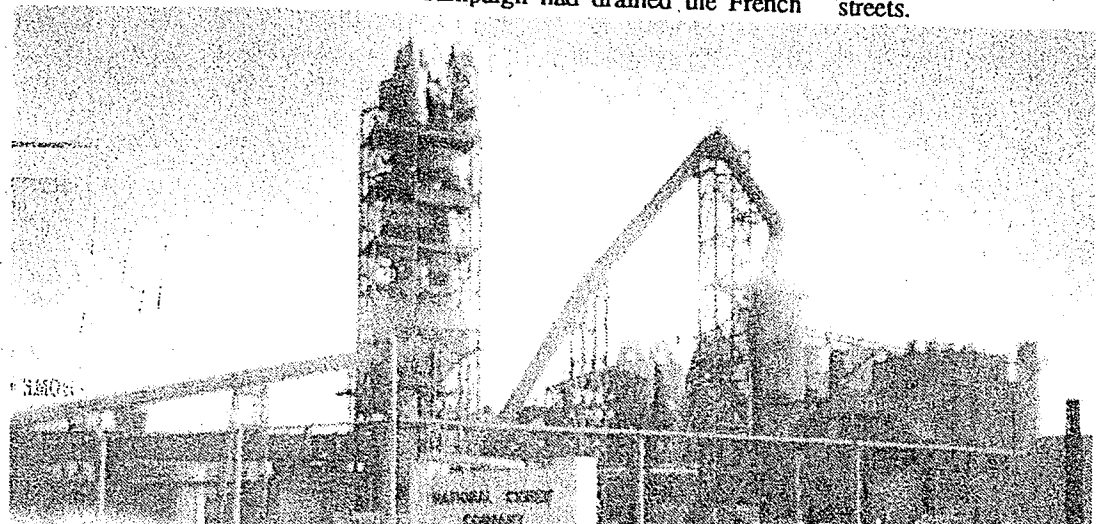
Today, Vicat's invention is being used to build brick and cement is also a very important component of buildings and

Company officials say National Cement has become one of the most efficient cement production industries by utilizing modern equipment available in the world.

National Cement's contribution to the town of Ragland is impressive.

Mayor Gary Daffron says it happens to be one of the 125 employees, said to be operating budget great on National Cement.

During the snowstorm of weeks ago, the company's assistance once again became evident. The company graciously offered their equipment and emergency crews to use the streets.



& Industry

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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.



CEMENT PLANT LAB—This

Ragland Mauled B Begins Road To R

Alabama's only tornado-related death occurred Friday night at Ragland when J. L. Phillips, operator of a service station and grocery located along Macedonia Road, was found buried beneath the ruins of the cinder-block structure, according to authorities.

The news that Pell City had been devastated by a killer tornado had barely spread Friday afternoon when word came that Ragland had been crippled by the same twister.

Although eyewitness accounts varied regarding the appearance of the storm, virtually all described the storm in awesome tones.

"I didn't see it coming and I didn't hear it like they say you're supposed to, but I know that one minute it was just raining and the next moment it was like the world was coming to an end," one Ragland woman recalled.

Ragland Head Football Coach Bobby Beckett, who sat watching the storm from just inside the Ragland High foyer, reported furious whirling winds whipping around the school.

"The next thing I knew it was

still and then a moment later the whirling started again and moved off towards Macedonia Road. I may be wrong, maybe it never touched ground like they say—all I know is some kind of funner passed right smack over the school building," Beckett told the Observer the day after the storm.

Whatever its exact nature, the twister managed to inflict 12 casualties, one fatality, and destroy or heavily damage 101 (the count as of Wednesday) structures valued at more than one and a half million dollars, according to Ragland Mayor Aubrey Watson who was on the scene directing relief efforts minutes after the storm hit.

Watson also noted that he had received only one report, from a "reliable" witness who actually saw a funnel cloud in the sky above Ragland.

The Mayor's office also announced Tuesday that Ragland's water "crisis" has ended and most sections of the city were again being supplied with safe drinking water.

Ragland authorities said the twister carved a zig-zag path

for miles through the town with unusually heavy damage sustained at Ragland High School and in pockets along either side of Macedonia Road. St. Clair Superintendent of Education George Ed. estimated the damage to the high school to be in excess of \$250,000.

A spokesman for repair crews on the scene at the damaged school Monday estimated days for completion of repairs. "I personally don't think will be open anytime this year but I may be wrong," Mayor Watson said.

Despite Ragland's losses being put at one-third that sustained by Pell City, Watson said the aftermath was no terrible.

"Words like 'less terrible' don't make you feel any better when there's death and destruction around you," Watson said.

Watson estimated that more than 100 buildings were devastated, six mobile homes and five conventional homes were a total loss.

Ragland's ability to get by without emergency help

y Twister;

ecovery

Friday night was attributed to the close-knit nature of the community, authorities said. "Friends, neighbors and relatives just pitched in and opened their homes," Watson said. Three families were placed in units at the Ragland Housing Project.

"And that's one reason we're not even sure what our needs are here," Watson continued. "Sooner or later these folks are going to need a place to stay and we need to know how many," he said.

"Just guessing, I would say that about ten or 11 families need immediate housing and another ten to 12 need some kind of temporary housing," Watson said.

Temporary, rent-free housing may be among the federal benefits to be received if Ragland is declared a disaster area by the President, authorities said Tuesday.

Other benefits to be gained from such a declaration from the President might be low-interest loans for businessmen and residents who suffered losses, authorities said.

Continued On Page 9

Ragland Mauled

Continued From Page 1

Another side of the disaster at Ragland was told by Watson as he recalled the situation as it was in Ragland just after the storm passed through.

"We didn't know how much help we were going to get, until it started rolling in from all sides."

Ragland authorities said rescue units included the St. Clair Search and Rescue Squad and the Etowah County, Harpersville, Calhoun County and Piedmont Rescue Squads.

According to Ragland Police Chief D. R. Hasker, law enforcement volunteers poured in from the Ohatchee, Vincent, Southside, Springville and Moody police departments and from the Talladega and Blount County Sheriff's Departments.

"And these guys didn't come because somebody said they had to," Hasker said, "they were all volunteers and most had already worked a regular shift at home before coming to our aid."

"Ohatchee sent practically their entire police department

and put it at our disposal," Hasker said.

"In addition to these people, we were assisted by the Gadsden Ambulance Service, the Salvation Army, representatives of Georgia Craft Corporation, St. Clair County road crews dispatched by Dr. James McClendon and Commissioner J. B. Walters and the American Red Cross," Watson noted.

"We especially want to thank the Ragland police officers, clerks, and workers who performed their hearts out on next to no sleep throughout the past few days. And Alabama State Trooper James Norton who offered us his services early on," he said.

"I guess the list is really endless. Most of all the people of Ragland should be praised for their calmness and helpfulness. There was no looting, no panic, and no storm-related crimes at Ragland," Hasker said.

"You can't put people like that and you can't heap too much praise on them either. Everyone just rolled up their sleeves and pitched in," Watson said.



Jerry Martin/Home staff photo

Waiting for reconstruction

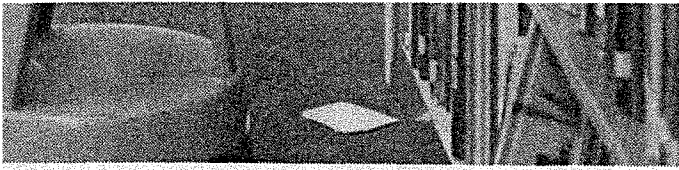
Harold Sisson stands on the steps of the old Ragland Train Depot, built in about 1916.

It is being restored by the Ragland Historical Society to house a museum.

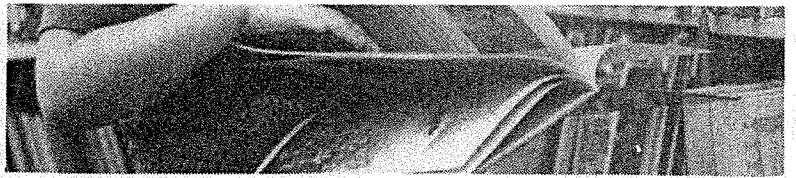
Daily Home
1-22-94



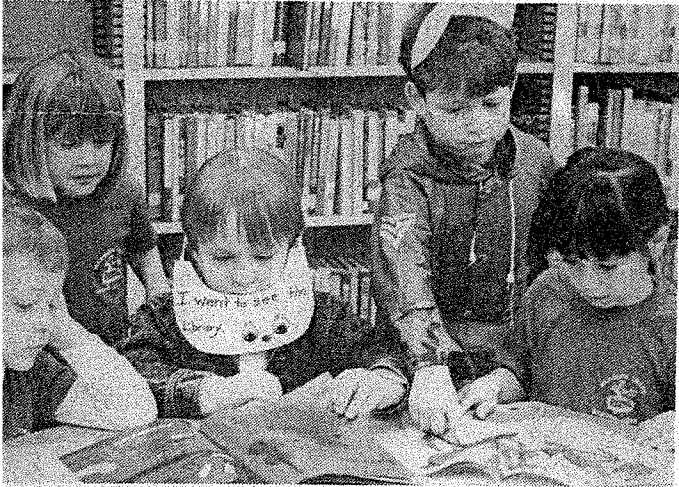
THE BASEBALL—This picture is thought to have been taken around 1910 on the field behind
the men are?



Reaching for the stars



Too many pictures



'Round the round table

Bookworm mania

Hardin's Chapel Christian School of Ragland visits the St. Clair Library in Pell City. The librarians hosted Children's Month -- an introduction to the library for the youngsters, some of which had never used the library before.

Those pictured are: Michael Bunt, Zac St. John, Bradley Kay, Matthew Phillips, Carla Muir, Amanda Sanders, Katie Ford, Gabriel Ford, Allyson Daffron and Lee Williams. -- PHOTOS BY JANET BONDS

