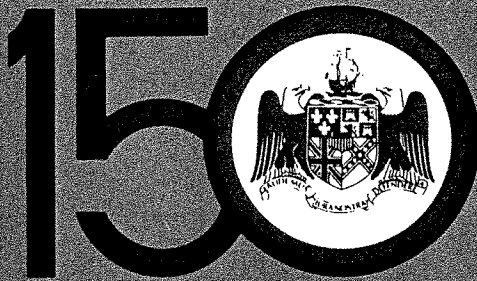


# Alabama



## SESQUICENTENNIAL STATEHOOD 1819-1969

**EVERYONE IN ALABAMA . . . OF EVERY AGE . . . SHOULD SEE  
THE FABULOUS ORIGINAL ALABAMA HISTORICAL DRAMA  
PRESENTED AT THE STATE FAIRGROUNDS IN BIRMINGHAM**

**JUNE 30th THRU JULY 5th**

An original drama, written and produced by Mary Jean Parsons, native Alabamian . . . now an executive with ABC-TV . . . STARRING BERT PARKS OF "MISS AMERICA" FAME and a cast of over 200 . . . chosen by an intensive, state-wide talent search! It's the biggest event of the entire Alabama Sesquicentennial . . . with new excitement . . . a new drama every night . . . as the pageant spotlights historical events of a different county each evening:

MONDAY, JUNE 30	BLOUNT COUNTY
TUESDAY, JULY 1	JEFFERSON COUNTY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 2	SHELBY COUNTY
THURSDAY, JULY 3	ST. CLAIR COUNTY
FRIDAY, JULY 4	WALKER COUNTY
SATURDAY, JULY 5	BIRMINGHAM . . . PLUS THE CROWNING OF THE 1969 "MISS ALABAMA" ON THE PAGEANT STAGE!

Come in and see the historical events of your county presented by a large and impressive cast that includes your talented friends and neighbors! Better still, come every evening! EACH PERFORMANCE WILL BE FILLED WITH MUSIC, SONGS, ENTERTAINMENT! DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RELIVE THE PAST IN THIS MAGNIFICENT SALUTE TO ALABAMA'S 150 YEARS! PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$1.50 CHILDREN: 75¢**

For further ticket information contact:

Mr. Sam Spurrier  
Assistant General Manager  
Alabama State Fair Authority  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Phone: 787-2641

CELEBRATING ST. CLAIR COUNTY'S BIRTHDAY

ST. CLAIR COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

PLUS ONE YEAR

HONORING

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Unveiling Ceremony - Roster Honoring St. Clair County  
Officials Serving Since County's Birth, November 20, 1818

Hon. Hoyt B. Hamilton, Master of Ceremonies

Program Committee

Hon. Hoyt B. Hamilton, Chairman

Hon. S. E. Bell

Hon. H. N. Mize

Hon. J. B. Walters

Hon. J. E. Ingram

Mr. Edmund Blair

Mr. H. L. Eubanks

Hon. H. E. Holladay

Mrs. Irene Hodges

Friday, November 28, 1969, 2:00, P.M.

at

Ashville Courthouse  
Ashville, Alabama

in

Courtroom

The Public is Invited

PROGRAM

Invocation      Rev. Dan Kilgore, President  
                    St. Clair County Ministerial Assn.

The National Anthem                      Jack Dollar  
   Pell City High School

Welcome and Recognition of Honored Guests  
   Judge Hoyt B. Hamilton

HISTORY OF ALABAMA

History of Fort Strother      Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow

Historical Statement      Miss Charlotte O'Donnell  
(St. Clair County)      Ashville Sesqui Belle

Historical Statement      Miss Lynn Purdy  
   Pell City Sesqui Belle

Recognition of Public Officials and Presentation  
of Meritorious Leadership Awards for Those  
Serving 16 or more Years as an Elected Official

Hon. H. Edwin Holladay

Introduction of Special Guest and Featured Speaker

Mr. Edmund Blair

Address                      Hon. Bill Nichols, Congressman  
   4th Congressional District

Unveiling Roster              Judge Hoyt B. Hamilton  
   Hon. Bill Nichols  
   Hon. Edwin Holladay  
   Mr. Edmund Blair

Benediction

November 20, 1818

November 20, 1969

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Presented To

Madison Ward Forman, Judge of Probate Jan. 15, 1935 -  
January 15, 1959  
Ira Davis, Member of Board of Education 1935-1939  
Sheriff 1939-1951, Representative 1951-1955  
Judge of Inferior Court 1969-1971  
Roy Gibson, Superintendent of Education 1938-1955  
Alse W. Scott, Tax Collector, 1949-1973  
Hoyt B. Hamilton, Tax Assessor, 1949-1959, Judge of Probate  
1959-1971  
E. A. Borders, Member Board of Education 1938-1957  
Frank B. Embry, Representative 1922-1926, Circuit  
Solicitor, 1939-1947, Circuit Judge 1953-1959

November 28, 1969

for outstanding contributions and meritorious  
service as an elected official of St. Clair  
County serving the people of St. Clair County  
16 years or more, presented this 28th day of  
November, 1969, for and on behalf of the  
people of St. Clair County by:

St. Clair County Court of County Commissioners  
Judge Hoyt B. Hamilton, Chairman  
S. E. Bell, Commissioner, District 1  
H. N. Mize, Commissioner, District 2  
J. B. Walters, Commissioner, District 3  
James Ingram, Commissioner, District 4

COMMEMORATING 151 YEARS THIS NOVEMBER 20, 1969

St. Clair County Sesqui Belles

Miss Charlotte O'Donnell	Ashville
Miss Dana Blair	Branchville
Miss Suzy Shirley	Moody
Miss Kay Mitchell	Margaret
Miss Lynn Purdy	Pell City
Miss Wanda Gibson	Odenville
Miss Susan Wright	Ragland
Miss Lynn O'Barr	Steele
Miss Donna Sisson	Riverside
Miss Nancy Terry	Springville

Present St. Clair County Elected Officials

Hoyt B. Hamilton, Judge of Probate, Pell City, Alabama  
S. E. Bell, Commissioner, District 1, Ashville, Alabama  
H. N. Mize, Commissioner, District 2, Odenville, Alabama  
James B. Walters, Commissioner, District 3, Ragland, Alabama  
James E. Ingram, Commissioner, District 4, Pell City, Alabama  
Hugh H. Williamson, Superintendent of Education, Pell City  
Charles Braswell, Board of Education, Ashville, Alabama  
James D. Cobb, Board of Education, Odenville, Alabama  
W. E. "Bill" Meads, Board of Education, Ragland, Alabama  
Aubrey Washington, Board of Education, Springville, Alabama  
Ardis Weems, Board of Education, Pell City, Alabama  
F. O. Whitten, Jr., Judge of Circuit Court, Pell City, Ala.  
L. P. Waid, District Attorney, Oneonta, Alabama  
B. C. Banks, Clerk of Circuit Court, Ashville, Alabama  
Joel N. Wood, Sheriff, Ashville, Alabama  
Hoyt Copeland, Coroner, Odenville, Alabama  
James S. Satterfield, Tax Assessor, Ashville, Alabama  
Alse W. Scott, Tax Collector, Pell City, Alabama  
Ira Davis, Judge of Inferior Court, Ashville, Alabama  
Vernon Sollie, Judge of Inferior Court, Pell City, Alabama  
Edwin Holladay, Representative, Pell City, Alabama  
Aubrey Carr, Senator, Guntersville, Alabama

CELEBRATING ST. CLAIR COUNTY'S BIRTHDAY

ST. CLAIR COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

PLUS ONE

On the 20th day of November, 1818, and in the 43rd year of the American Independence at the second session of the First General Assembly of the Alabama Territory, the County of St. Clair was formed. This assembly was held at St. Stephens in Washington County and most important business of this assembly was placed on the preparation of the Territory of Statehood but time was found to create St. Clair County and one other, Autauga County.

The County was named for General Arthur St. Clair who was born in Thurse, Scotland, in 1734 and came to America as a First Lieutenant in the Army of General Wolfe. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, he joined the Colonials. After the war, he was made first Governor of the Northwest territory. When the war was over, many of General St. Clair's soldiers remained in this locality. General St. Clair died in 1818, the same year that the County was established and named after him.

In 1844, the log building being used for a Courthouse was judged to be inadequate and it was ordered by the Court that a new brick building be erected. Littleton Yarbrough was commissioned to erect this brick building. This same building is in use today in Ashville. It has been many times remodeled and renovated, with rooms added from time to time.

In 1903, due to an increasing population and impassable roads, a branch courthouse was established at Pell City by a local act of the Legislature.

## Sesquicentennial

### Alabama

After being ruled under six flags, the Alabama territory was established on March 3, 1817, the enabling Act for Alabama statehood signed two years later on March 7, 1819, and we were officially admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819, as the 22nd State.

Our first governor was William White Bibb, a democrat from Virginia.

The population of the State, taken in the 1820 census, was 129,901. Today, we number over 3,266,740.

St. Clair County was created by the Alabama Territorial Legislature before the State was admitted into the Union.

# Sesqui Talent Show At Stadium Tonight

James V. Gray  
2001 19th. St. So 365

St. Clair County is kicking off its participation in the Alabama Sesquicentennial celebration with a giant entertainment-packed Sesqui Talent Show tonight (June 26) at Pell City High School's Alumni Stadium.

Home-grown talent, including rock 'n roll bands, singers, dancers, and other assorted entertainers, will be featured in this preview to the Birmingham area celebration, which will be held at the Alabama State Fairgrounds, June 30—July 5th.

Tonight's show at Alumni Stadium will be emceed by Tom York, well-known Birmingham television personality, and will get underway at 8:00 p.m.

On hand to "pretty up" the show will be St. Clair's 10 Sesqui Belles — eight of whom are pictured above.

The Belles, one chosen from the various towns of the county, are as follows.

**SPRINGVILLE** — Nancy Terry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Terry. A senior at Springville High School, she won the Miss Springville and Tiger Sweetheart titles during the '69 school year, and is a cheerleader.

**RAGLAND** — Susan Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Wright. A former Miss FHA and member of the Beta Club at Ragland High, she is representing St. Clair in the District 4-H dress revue contest.

**ASHVILLE** — Charlotte O'Donnell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. O'Donnell. A 1969 graduate of Ashville High School, she was a cheerleader, Class Salutatorian, and a cheerleader since '67.

**STEELE** — Lynn O'Barr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Barr. A sophomore at Jacksonville State University, she is a graduate of Steele, Jr. High and Etowah County High School. She was a cheerleader and was chosen Class Favorite at Etowah.

**BRANCHVILLE** — Dana Blair, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Blair, Jr. She is in her senior year at Leeds High School, where she is a popular cheerleader.

**ODENVILLE** — Wanda Gibson, niece of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Byers. During the 1969 school year at St. Clair County High, she was chosen Miss FHA, served as vice president of the County FHA, and president of Oden-ville FHA, and was Good Citizenship Girl.

**MOODY** — Suzy Shirley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Shirley. Winner of oratorical contest while a student at Moody, Jr. High, she is now an officer in the National Honor Society at Leeds High School.

**PELL CITY** — Marian Harrison, daughter of Mrs. Louise Harrison and the late Louie Harrison. A 1969 graduate of Pell City High School, she was Miss Homecoming, a cheerleader, secretary of the senior class, and member of Beta Club, FTA, the Letter Club and the Pep Club.

and other scenes in the musical drama, ranging from an Indian prologue to the launching of a space ship.

There will be no narrator or emcee for the production and all sound effects will be live. The vehicle for continuity throughout the drama, written by Miss Mary Jean Parson of American Broadcasting Company, will be the use of continuing characters — a young man and woman who meet in the several eras of Alabama history.

Each time they meet, they will be older and have a more complicated relationship. Mike Miller and Janice Magro will take these parts. Also acting in several scenes will be TV personality, Bert Parks.

Seven original songs will spark the program and others, along with period jokes, have been selected from the Library of Congress. "Hell and High Water" will trace the history of TVA in Alabama. "We Got Steel" will touch on the open hearth steel process. "Calico Waltz" will tell of the area's recovery from a cholera epidemic.

Local history will figure into the program each night as the following counties are spotlighted: Blount, June 30; Jefferson, July 1; Shelby, July 2; St. Clair, July 3; Walker, July 4; and Birmingham, July 5. On the final evening, Miss Alabama will be crowned.

**PARTICIPATING** in staging the program with James Hatcher, director; will be Larry Deagon, music and orchestration; Robert Burleson, chorus; John Ross, sets; Molly Friedel, lighting; Mrs. Grace Bozenhart, assistant coordinator; Frank Kersey and Jack Saxon, music and dance; Gaenor Grance and Nancy Johnson, ballet; Frances Long, Alfonso Jones, Mae Nolden Pickens, C. J. Kelly, Christian Grey, songs; The Brass Bulton, a rock band from Walker County; and Rita Robinson, costumes.

Fireworks will be used to highlight moments of celebration and conflict in the drama.

(Not pictured):

**MARGARET** — Kay Mitchell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Mitchell. A senior at St. Clair County High, she is a cheerleader, secretary of FTA, president of the Pep Club, and member of the Beta Club.

**RIVERSIDE** — Donna Sisson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Sisson. She attended Jacksonville State University for two years, presently is working with the Head Start program in St. Clair.

Judge Hoyt B. Hamilton, chairman of the county Sesqui event, issued a reminder that tickets to tonight's show also will entitle the buyer to admission to the Fairgrounds show on the night of July 3rd, when St. Clair County will be featured.

A beautiful Civil War Ballet will be one of the original presentations in the Birmingham Area Sesquicentennial Celebration at Alabama State Fairgrounds, June 30—July 5.

**FRANK DEHBAS** of New York City will choreograph this



# Added beauty for pageant: St. Clair's 'Sesqui-Belles'

BY JOY WILLIAMS  
News staff writer

"Sesqui-Belles" and talent have been St. Clair County's much lauded contributions to the Sesquicentennial celebration. To be honored at "Ahead to the Stars" on Thursday evening, citizens of St. Clair have also been selling tickets by the handful.

"We've worked real hard getting ready for the pageant," said Mrs. Anne Milam, county coordinator for the women's committee. The women who have pitched in and helped were present today at Arlington for lunch to receive the thanks of Birmingham and the Downtown Action Committee for their activities. The ladies also enjoyed a tour of Birmingham on air-conditioned buses during the afternoon, leaving Arlington at 2 p.m. and returning at 4 p.m.

THE "SESQUI-Belles" representing St. Clair County are lovely teen-agers who are "belles" in every sense of the word. They are Misses Susie Shirley, Moody; Charlotte O'Donnell, Ashville; Nancy Terry, Springville; Lyn O'Barr, Steele; Susan Wright, Ragland, and Marian Harrison, Pell City.

St. Clair Countians are also proud of their young people who are appearing in the star-studded pageant this week. Among the St. Clair performers are Miss Peggy Jones, Miss Wanda Martis, Jim Hogan, Miss Sarah June Miles, and Randy Smith. Mrs. Archie Jones has been talent coordinator for the county.

Attending Tuesday's Arlington luncheon were: Mrs. R. F. Cox, Mrs. Sol Mongold, Mrs. Tom F. Griffin, Miss Anne Riser, Mrs. Hud Williamson, Mrs. John Haynes, Mrs. Harold King, Mrs. W. R. Carleton, Mrs. Paul Turner, Mrs. George Williams, Mrs. J. Fall Roberson Jr., Mrs. Ardis Weems, Mrs. Hoyt B. Hamilton and Miss Marian Harrison, Pell City.

MISS CHRISTINE Jones, Miss Margaret Forman, Mrs. Charles Rosser, Miss Jane Terry, Mrs. James Terry, Miss Nancy Terry, Mrs. John Cox, Mrs. Fred D. Lesley, and Mrs. J. B. Martin Jr., Springville.

Miss Susan Wright and Mrs. Windon Edge, Ragland; Miss Lynn O'Barr, Mrs. Mary L. O'Barr and Mrs. Leon Wilson, Steele; Mrs. Talmadge O. Newton, Mrs. Charlton Garrison and Mrs. Mike Slovensky, White's Chapel; Mrs. E. A. Davis, Mrs. Anne Milam, Mrs.



PANTALOONS SET THE STYLE IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Miss Katie Johnston, Birmingham, Mrs. Mary Lou Riddle and Mrs. Hoyt Teague, Odenville



ANTEBELLUM EVERYWHERE—EVEN THE DRESSES

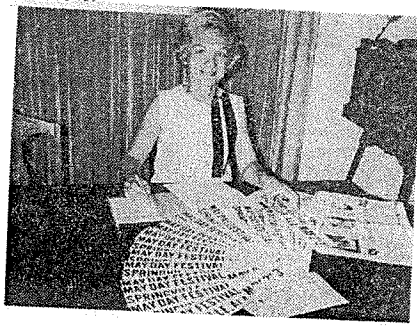
Miss Liz Foote, Birmingham, Mrs. Charles Rosser, Mrs. Archie Jones and Miss Margaret Forman, all of Springville



UNDER THE OLD CHANDELIER

Miss Judy Walker, Birmingham, Miss Nancy Terry, Springville

Hobart S. Tucker, Mrs. Mary Lou Riddle, Mrs. Gerald C. Swann, Mrs. W. E. Henry Potter, Mrs. Mary E. O'Donnell, Miss Charlotte O' Spence, Mrs. Carl Riddle, Donnell and Miss Susan Mrs. Hoyt Teague, Mrs. McCain, Ashville; Miss Suzy Mammie Allgood, Mrs. Jenima Shirley and Mrs. Gail Shirley, L. Blankenship and Mrs. Bonnie Brashier, Odenville. Moody.



### Publicity Chairman

5-1-69

Mrs. John Walker, Jr. (above) has served as chairman of the publicity committee for Springville's May Day Festival, which is being held Friday and Saturday, May 2-3, in conjunction with Alabama's Sesquicentennial celebration. A complete schedule of the events in this jam-packed two-day festival is printed below.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PROGRAM

May 2-3

SPONSORED BY

THE SPRINGVILLE  
PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY

11:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M. **SCHOOL LUNCHROOM**  
Sandwiches, drinks, and dessert will be on sale to the general public.

12:00 P.M. — 3:00 P.M. **FOOTBALL STADIUM**  
**ON THE FIELD:** Live entertainment, Psyche-Hop, Cake Walk, Greased Pig Contest, Sack Race, Potato Race, and Egg Throwing Contest.

**ON THE MIDWAY:** 3 fish ponds, Duck tub, Souvenir booth, White Elephant sale, Jewelry table, Fortune telling, Tiger dart game, Weight guessing, Home made candy, Kissing booth, Parcel post sale, Dunk the "teacher", Ball throwing contest, Test your strength-muscle man, Rolling concession stands.

1:30 P.M. **Parade of baby contestants**  
3:00 P.M. **SCHOOL PLAYGROUND OF HIGHWAY NO. 11**  
Athletic Association is sponsoring a Little League Baseball Game. The rolling concession stands will be there.

5:30 P.M. **FOOTBALL STADIUM**  
An admission fee of 50c per person or no more than \$2.50 for an entire family entitles ticket holder to a covered dish dinner and show to begin on field at 7:00 p.m. as follows:

7:00 P.M. **PRESENTATION OF MAY DAY COURT**  
Queen from Sr. High School and escort Princess from Jr. High School and escort Prince and Princess from Elementary School,  
**MAY POLE DANCE:** Music by Mr. Amos Mashburn at the organ and Mrs. Jimmy Jones at the piano.

#### HISTORICAL PAGEANT

"Life in Alabama" **NARRATOR:** Mrs. C. L. Elam  
**GUEST SOLOIST:** Shirley Steed Gortney

**FIRST GRADE:** "Indians in Alabama"

**SECOND GRADE:** "Frontier Days"

**THIRD GRADE:** "The Vine and Olive Colony" and "Plantation Days"

**FOURTH GRADE:** "Stars Fell on Alabama — 1833"  
(Fireworks display)

**FIFTH GRADE:** "The Civil War"

**SIXTH GRADE:** "Industrial Boom to Modern Alabama"

The Concession Stands will be open all evening.

## SATURDAY

**DOWNTOWN SPRINGVILLE**  
10:00 A.M. **BOOTHS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**  
Country Store — Odds'n Ends Collector's Items — Souvenir Stands.

Balloons — Concession Stands — Art Show.  
11:00 A.M. **PARADE ON MAIN STREET**

Master of Ceremonies — Mr. James (One) Forman. Well known dignitaries from across the state will be judges.

1:00 P.M. **BABY CONTEST FINALS**

12:00-3:00 P.M. **BARBECUE AT THE LAKE**

Plates — Sandwiches — By The Pound — Canoe Rides on the Lake — Buggy and Wagon Rides around town — Checker games to determine champion — Horse shoe contest — Jailers may fine gentlemen who are not attired with beards, mustaches, or side burns — Clowns will entertain the crowd — Performing on the review stand will be Mr. Mashburn at the organ and Mrs. Jones at the piano — Barber-Shop singers — Local talent in Variety Show.

"The History of Springville" — 150 years.  
A souvenir book that is interestingly and cleverly written by Mrs. Ralph Windham.

7:30-10:00 P.M. **FOOTBALL STADIUM**

Square Dance for all Ages.  
**COUNTRY BOY EDDY and HIS BAND.**

# With ceremony, St. Clair County celeb

BY FRANK SIKORA, News staff writer

ASHVILLE

In 49 years, or maybe 149 years, there will be another celebration to honor St. Clair County . . . a county that is older than the state. And when it is held, the people taking part will have no difficulty in determining who was who during the county's first 151 years.

Friday, county officials and local residents gathered at the gleaming white courthouse in Ashville to celebrate the 151st birthday.

It was St. Clair's observance in conjunction with the State of Alabama's celebration of its 150th birthday.

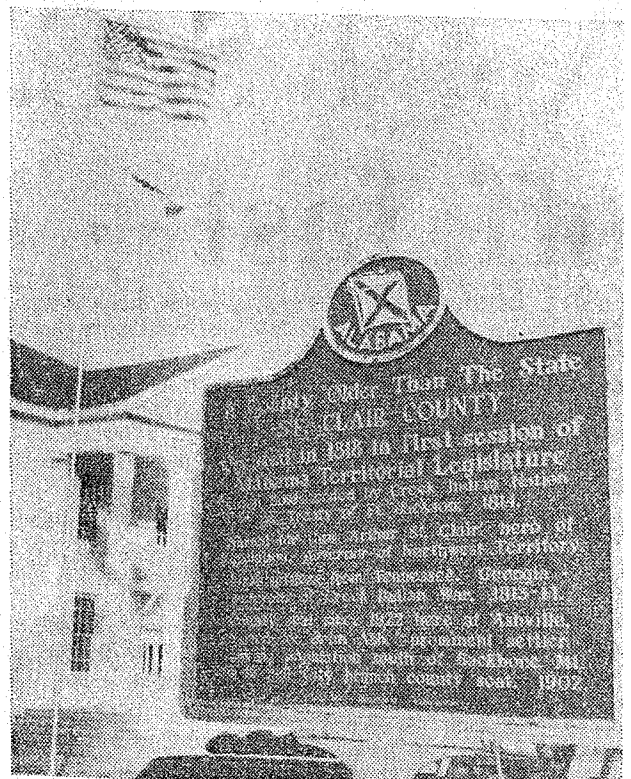
"WE WERE looking for some ways to make this day stand out," said Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton, "and be more than a one-day event that would soon be forgotten."

The roster of all persons holding office from the county's beginning was one way. The roster will be affixed to the Ashville courthouse plus the one in Pell City, Hamilton said.

Secondly, those men who held office for more than 16 years were presented plaques. And there were some who had been here way back when — like M. W. Forman, probate judge; Ira Davis, board of education, sheriff's representative and judge of inferior court; Roy Gibson, superintendent of education, and Alse W. Scott, tax collector.



**OLD-TIMERS RECOGNIZED**  
... From front, Gibson, Forman and Davis



**ST. CLAIR: OLDER THAN STATE**  
... County celebrates 151st birthday

usic, pretty girls

# ates fruitful 151 years

Judge Hamilton isn't exactly a green horn, either. It was a fine ceremony, with music and pretty girls adding a light touch to the historic implications.

GUEST SPEAKER U. S. Rep. Bill Nichols of Sylacauga grinned and told the crowd, "I've been reading about you in the Washington papers."

However, his address dealt with the building of the county through the years rather than the current issues involving a Black Muslim operation.

He recounted the years when farmers would struggle to travel in wintertime from Pell City to Ashville.

Roads are no longer a problem, he said, but added that the pioneer spirit and determination of the

first settlers continues to be reflected in the citizens living in the county today.

THERE WAS a belle from each of the towns in the county, and two of them, Lynn Purdy of Pell City and Charlotte O'Donnell of Ashville, gave brief histories of their home towns.

Other officials honored at the event included Frank B. Embry, representative, circuit solicitor and circuit judge, and E. A. Borders, Board of Education.

Meanwhile, there are still a few Alabama Sesqui events planned around the state.

For instance, on Dec. 13, the freshmen class at Locust Fork High School will present that community's salute, and several other cities and towns have late-in-the-year events planned.

# AS HISTORY SHOWS Tourist follows Indian's lead to St. Clair forests

BY VINCE GIRRANTANO, News staff writer

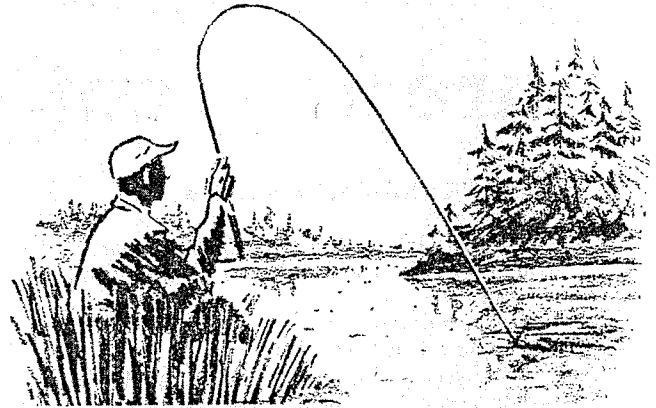
While there is no official, accurate history—as such—of St. Clair County, historical society chapters, librarians, and interested individuals have patiently gathered state, county courthouse, and other records, compiled them in volume form, and preserved them on library shelves.

Other tyro historians have branched out into native lore, providing the more narrative type accounts of the evolution of the county, not to be found in official records, but nonetheless important to the story of its growth.

Though gleaned mainly from memorabilia written by residents of the early eras, and by word of mouth (again from personal memory) perhaps the best chronicle of the evolution of St. Clair from an Indian territory to county status is the "History of St. Clair County, Alabama."

This work is the compilation of a series of newspaper articles written for The Ashville Aegis by its 19th Century publisher, W. H. Cather.

From these official records, and unofficial, but authentic accounts, so carefully reproduced and preserved by conscientious librarians and other preservers of heritage for posterity, the story of St. Clair County, to the interested researcher—begins



FISHING, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES GROW  
... Important to St. Clair County

A SMALL mountain range, known now as Backbone Mountain, which divides the county's northern and southern regions made it difficult in those early days for people in the southeastern portion to get to the courthouse.

On November 6, 1901, an election was held to locate a courthouse on the South side of Backbone Mountain with Pell City, Eden, Coal City and Riverside entering into competition. Pell City won by

to unfold.

ST. CLAIR IS ONE of the "territorial" counties carved out of what was (prior to its settlement starting around 1815 by whites) a vast area of lush forest lands abounding in game, fish, and edible fruits and vegetation.

The "Illinois Territory," claimed by the British because of treaties with France and Spain as one of its possessions, extended roughly from what is now Illinois, east to the Carolinas, south to Mississippi, and southeast to Florida.

Its inhabitants — in what is now Alabama — were the Indians of four great tribes, principally the Muscogee. The others were the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Cherokee.

The Muscogee, because of the many beautiful streams flowing through the territory in which they lived, later became known as the "Creek" Indians.

THE COUNTY was named after a Gen. Arthur St. Clair, a Scott who came to America as a British Army officer, and who later settled and died in Pennsylvania.

At the time of its formation it was part of the "Mississippi Territory," a division of the Illinois territory later claimed by Georgia — eventually ceded by that state to the federal government of the United States — which now forms the states of Mississippi and Alabama.

Until the close of the Creek Indian wars (toward the end of 1815) there were very few white settlers in the north districts of Alabama, and that portion that includes St. Clair was heavily populated by Indians.

After the wars with establishment of the Alabama Territory part of Shelby County became St. Clair County by an act of the General Assembly of the Territory of Alabama in November, 1818.

The Indian town of Cataula, renamed Ashville — for John Ash, its first white settler — became the county seat

In 1902, the State Legislature created two county judicial divisions, and a second courthouse was built in Pell City that year.

Citizens in the northern portion challenged the constitutionality of having two sets of court in one county, and the State Legislature abolished the court in 1905. The Supreme Court upheld the decision.

BUT THE PEOPLE of south St. Clair, wearied by hardships encountered, continued their campaign for a branch courthouse.

Dockets were so crowded that people from the South were often forced to make the trip to Ashville for several terms of court before their cases were finally heard.

Going by train to avoid the trek over the mountain, meant a tedious trip by way of Birmingham and Whitney to Ashville.

In 1906 John W. Moore, of Pell City, announced his candidacy for the State Legislature. He and a candidate for the State Senate from Attalla campaigned on a promise to vote to have the State Constitution amended so that the Branch Court at Pell City would be declared legal.

**They were elected, and in the legislative session of January, 1907 the Constitution was so amended.**

WITH AN ECONOMY based on corn, cotton, coal and iron, St. Clair County's population grew from 4,166 in 1820 to a total expected to reach approximately 27,500 by the end of this year.

Coal and iron industrial activity have come to a halt, but the county is still largely agricultural and — situated as it is in the heart of the Mountain Lakes Region — recreation and outdoor activities are expected to fill the void.

Its major industries today include the Avondale Mills, Pell City; Valk Manufacturing Co. of Pell City, producers of the Valk snow plow, grader blades, and cutting edges; Ragland Brick Co., and the National Cement Co., both in Ragland.

Nov 27, 1969

# County Officials Will Be Feted At Friday Program

Elected officials from the beginning of the county's organization until the present time will be honored at a special ceremony at Ashville Friday afternoon. The program will get started at 2 p. m. at the courthouse.

This will be in connection with the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the State of Alabama, but for St. Clair it will be 150 years plus one, since St. Clair was organized in 1818 one year before Alabama was admitted to the Union.

Feature of the program will be the unveiling of a roster containing the names of county officials from the first one until the present day.

Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton will be master of ceremonies.

Others on the program committee are County Commissioners E. E. Bell, H. N. Mize, J. B. Walters, J. E. Ingram, H. L. Eubanks and Mrs Irene Hodges. Edwin Holladay, Pell City lawyer and St. Clair Representative in the Legislature, will recognize public officials and present Meritorious Leadership Awards to those officials who have served 16 years or more.

Congressman Bill Nichols will be the main speaker. He will be introduced by Edmund Blair. Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow, will speak on the history of Ft. St. rother. Miss Charlotte O'Donnell, Ashville sesqui-belle, will present a historical statement on St. Clair county and Miss Lynn Purdy, Pell City, sesqui-belle, will speak on the history

of Pell City.

Elected officials who have served the county 16 years or more will be presented Leadership Awards for Outstanding contributions & Meritorious service. They are M. W. Forman, Probate Judge, Ira Davis, Board of Education, Sheriff, Representative and Judge of Inferior Court, Roy Gibson, superintendent of Education, Alse W. Scott, Tax Collector, Hoyt B. Hamilton, Tax Assessor, Judge of Probate, Frank B. Embry, Representative, Circuit Solicitor, Circuit Judge. E. A. Borders, Board of Education.

Rev. Dan Kilgore, President of St. Clair County Ministerial Association, will give the invocation. Jack Dollar, Pell City high school will sing the National Anthem.

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# County Officials Honored

All elected officials who have ever served St. Clair county from the time of the formation of the county in 1818 until the present day will have their names inscribed on a permanent roster and placed in the permanent records of the county at a ceremony at the Ashville courthouse on Friday, November 28.

The program will get started at 2 p.m.

The program will be a part of Alabama's Sesqui-centennial celebration as well as a celebration of St. Clair 151st anniversary as a county.

Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow, Ashville, St. Clair's unofficial historian, will present a short history of Ft. Strother. Miss Charlotte O'Donnell, Ashville's Sesqui-centennial queen, will talk on the history of St. Clair county and Miss Lynn Purdy, Pell City's Sesqui-centennial queen, will talk on the history of Alabama.

Bill Nichols, Congressman from the Fourth Alabama District, will be the principal speaker on the program.

All public officials of the county who have served 16 or more years in an official capacity will be presented with meritorious awards. Edwin Holaday, Pell City lawyer and member of the legislature from St. Clair will present the awards.

Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton will be Master of Ceremonies. Rev. Dan Kilgroe, President St. Clair Ministerial Association will give the Association.



# County Officials Honored At Courthouse Program

At a program at the Ashville courthouse last Friday St. Clair county residents and officials celebrated 150 years plus-1 of county organization.

All elected officials of the county from the beginning in 1818 until the present day were honored by having their names inscribed on a plaque, one of which was placed in the courthouse at Ashville, another in the courthouse at Pell City.

In addition a number of county officials who served the county 16 years or more were presented awards for outstanding leadership and meritorious service.

They are M. W. Forman, Probate Judge, Ira Davis, Board of Education, Sheriff, Representative and Judge of Inferior Court, Roy Gibson, superintendent of Education, Alse W. Scott, Tax Collector, Hoyt B. Hamilton, Tax Assessor, Judge of Probate, Frank B. Embry, Representative, Circuit Solicitor, Circuit Judge, E. A. Borders, Board of Education.

Congressman Bill Nichols was the main speaker. The congressman talked briefly of conditions in Washington, congratulated

county officials on the type of program they put on at the meeting. Nichols is serving his second term in the United States Congress, will be a candidate for a 3rd term next year.

Mrs. Mattie Lou Crow read a paper on the history of Ft. Strother and Miss Charlotte O'Donnell, Ashville Sesqui-Centennial Belle, read a brief history of St. Clair County and Miss Lynn Purdy, Pell City Sesqui Belle, read a brief history of Pell City.

Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton was master of ceremonies. He was assisted in organizing the program by Commissioners S. E. Bell, H. N. Mize, J. B. Walters and J. E. Ingram.