

## St. Clair Springs

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In early days a nearby spa was St. Clair Springs, located near Springville on the old Baden Highway.

Now the springs are overgrown with underbrush, but such was not the case in the "good old days".

A Mrs. Hal Capeland remembers St. Clair when she first began going there over 70 years ago. She says that the springs were covered with Cupolas, and surrounded by beautiful trees. She says there were four springs in all - white sulphur, black sulphur, red sulphur, potassium and lithium. Each was prescribed for specific human ailments. This made it possible for visitors to know which water to drink.

It seems that early in the morning a servant would go to spring and bring back a jug full of water to be drunk before breakfast. Then about ten

o'clock in the morning the guests would gather at the springs, sit around on benches and drink water. After lunch they would rest for awhile, then gather at the springs again.

The owner of the first hotel in St. Clair Springs was a Mr. Goodwin. He named the settlement "Carnegie" for his daughter. The name was later changed to St. Clair Springs.

The discovery of the springs is credited to a woman from Talladega who was being taken to Birmingham for medical aid. The group stopped there to camp for the night. She began digging in the sand and water appeared. She was feverish, and scooped up the water in her hands to relieve her thirst. She continued to drink the water frequently during the night, and the next morning she was so much better that she returned to Talladega. From her experience the springs became better known for their curative power.

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and was, and then leave in a month or so hale and hearty.

Other early summer visitors were Col. Randolph Ryland and his family, Col. and Mrs. Turnbow from ~~the~~ Irondale, a Mr. Will Perkins, and a Mr. Ford. Mr. Ford ran a boarding house. He planted some boxwood bushes. These plants grew as high as a two-story building. Mr. Ford was a retired engineer.

Two years later the original hotel was abandoned and Emil Lissner opened a white column Inn just outside the spring lot. Some cottages were constructed for those who wished to avoid the music of the hotel. In addition Mr. Lissner made use of some white tents on the hill side of the spring lot to accommodate the over flow crowd.

A Mrs. Lovat was a drawing card at the hotel. Her fried chicken was famous for miles around. Bands came from Birmingham or Gadsden to play for the Saturday night dances. Groups of young people would

frequently come and visit for a week  
 or two. Cooks would go over the  
 entire countryside to get enough  
 chickens to fry for the hungry guests.

At these house parties there  
 was always music. A Mr. Bill  
 Badham would make the woods  
 ring with his guitar or banjo  
 playing.

There was a large Croquet  
 Court at the Fox Cottage, and  
 the Heflins had a Croquet Court.

The Harsheys, the Merillo, the  
 Simmons, the Copelands, <sup>and</sup> the Hewitts, ~~and~~  
~~the~~ all from Birmingham had  
 Cottages. The Tolley family from Trussville,  
 and the Byers from Springville had  
 Cottages.

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RESEARCHED BY

Mr. Roy Gibson

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A Mrs. Hal Copeland remembers St. Clair when she first began going there 60 or 70 years ago. She says then the Springs were covered with copulaa, and surrounded by beautiful trees. She says there were five springs in all -- white sulphur, black sulphur, red sulphur, freestone and lithia. Each was prescribed for specific human ailments. This made it possible for visitors to know which water to drink.

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relieve her thirst. She continued to drink the water frequently during the night, and the next morning she was so much better that she returned to Talladega. From her experiences the springs became better known for their curative power.

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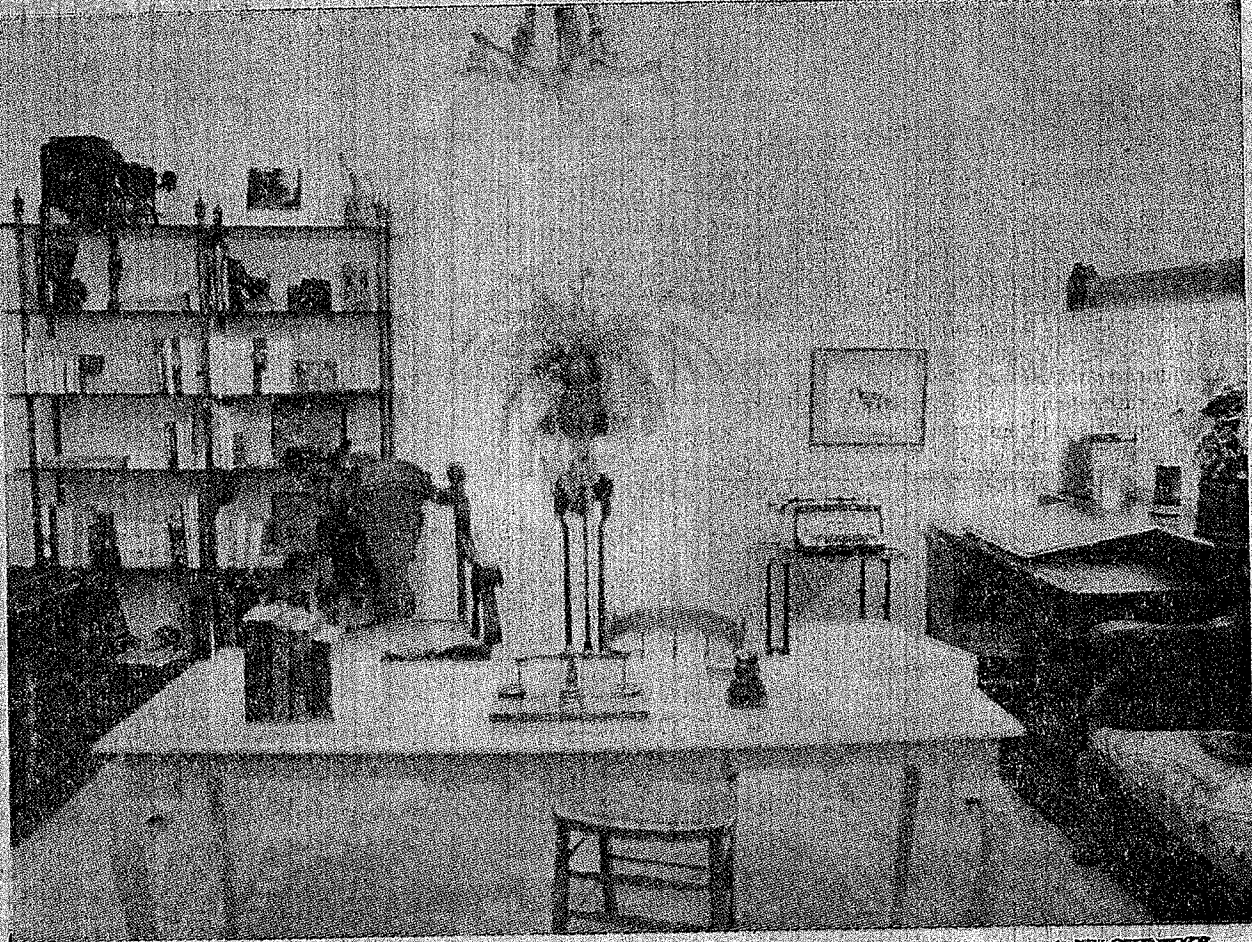
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At these house parties there was always music. A Mr. Bill Badham would make the woods ring with his guitar or banjo playing.

There was a large croquet court at the Fox cottage, and the Heflins had a croquet court.

The Harsheys, the Merillos, the Simmons, the Copelands and the Hewills, all from Birmingham had cottages. The Talley family from Trussville, and the Byers from Springville had cottages.



Picture by Donny Galt

A blending of antique furnishings including a Queen Anne writing table appointed with old books, brass scale, and a glass telephone insulator for

paperweight, plus an 1840 mahogany pedestal desk from Surrey, England are focal points in Mrs. Scott's office. The bookshelf was built by Mr. Scott.

## Talented couple lead a busy life in an old cottage in St. Clair Springs

By Kate Harris  
Staff Writer

*He who loves an old house  
Never loves in vain,  
How can an old house  
Used to sun and rain,  
To lilac and larkspur  
and an elm above,  
ever fail to answer  
the heart that gives it love?*

Words of this verse, written by Isabel Fishe Comant, reflect the philosophy and sentiments of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Scott, two creative people now living in a 90-year-old raised Victorian cottage in the country.

Love of old houses isn't a new thing for the Scotts. Their very first home was a big rambling old house in the city which they sold when apartment buildings sprung

# Living '72

Sarah Teague, Editor

A leaded glass front door, with companion sidelights and transom, opens into a wide breezeway hall which centers the house. Every room has 12 foot beaded pine ceilings; wainscoating with chair rails, and a fireplace framed with simple country mantels.

Of course, the house now has central heating and each

Sunlight filters through imported handmade lace curtains at long windows in almost every room, and are enhanced by gold draperies in the living and dining rooms.

Various types and period of furniture are combined with antiques throughout the house, and a few old portraits and many of Scotty's paintings bedeck the walls.

leg black enameled Wainwright table which has a border of dull gold leaves stenciled around the top, and a tall antique Dutch wine-glass cabinet which is truly beautiful.

Below the white walls in one bedroom the wainscoating has been painted a soft burnt orange to pick up a predominant color in the hooked rug. Here, too, is a black wrought-iron bed with brass finials and elaborately designed brass footboard. The mahogany armoire has a mirror door and its bonnet is carved with scrolls and roses. It and a matching bed in another bedroom came from France.

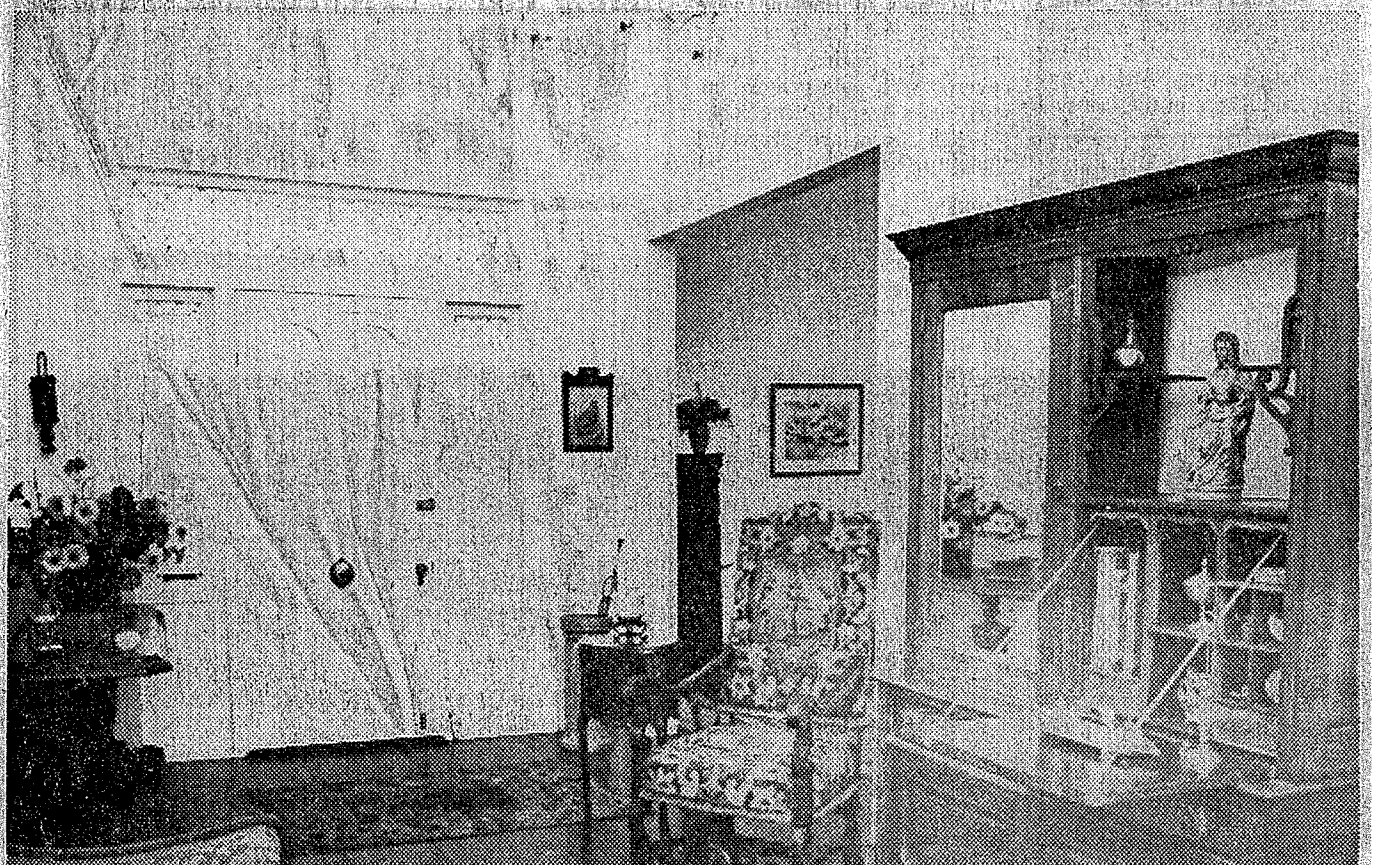
The Scotts are such avid collectors they someday may be compelled to expand their





**For more than a century,** long before people sought sites beside lakes and seashore, St. Clair Springs was a favorite place for a summer home for resi-

dents of North Alabama. This 90-year-old Victorian cottage is the permanent home of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Scott who pursue many hobbies in the old house.



"We like elbow room, fresh air and quiet," says Carolynne a former newspaper woman, who now works at home as managing editor of Southern Veterinarian Magazine and writes short stories. Scotty, a man of many talents, is a painter and freelance commercial artist.

"When we first bought our circa 1880 house in St. Clair Springs two years ago, it was so dilapidated I wouldn't let my mother see it," Carolynne laughingly relates.

"The front porch was held up with two-by-fours, and the outside of the house had not been painted in 50 years. It's almost unbelievable, but the exterior alone soaked up 42 gallons of paint," she added.

The Scotts enjoy the challenge of restoration and do most of the work themselves. What's more, they like to browse around junk yards, second-hand furniture stores, antique shops, and go to auctions.

"The balusters around the front veranda came from an old hotel that had been razed in Tuscaloosa," Carolynne says, and are topped by railings we found in Savannah, Ga."

suspended with long chains, and by an array of interesting lamps.

If you are wondering about the plumbing, there's no "Chick Sales" out under the apple tree. They have running water, and a few years ago the former owner added an old-fashioned bathroom to the back of the house. Replacing a big closet perhaps, there also is another bathroom with green and yellow stained glass window adjoining one of the bedrooms.

Luckily for the Scotts, the people from whom they bought the house also were in the process of updating the lovely old place inside and had modernized the kitchen. It is evident that they too wanted to keep its "country look" for base and wall cabinets are made of warm tone pine.

The Scotts have acquired two large and handsome Oriental rugs which cover the floors in the living room and Carolynne's office, plus a long Sarabend runner for the breezeway hall.

was built it would be called the sitting room and for "sitting" there's an old reproduction Louis XV sofa and a Victorian love seat, with tufted back, which Scotty reupholstered in green velvet.

Quick to catch the eye is a carved wooden Victorian painter's easel which opens out like a desk and has a storage cabinet for paintings below. When we admired the unusual piece Carolynne quipped with good humor, "I'm afraid I held my hand up once too often at an auction."

There also is a lovely old carved mahogany bookcase in the living room where antique bronze candelabra are placed on each side of the fireplace mantel below a gold framed mirror.

Prized possessions in the dining room are a big gate-

the cottage next door to secure more acreage.

At the present time the second cottage also is in disrepair. However, "as is" Scotty uses part of the house for his home studio and another section as a workshop.

That isn't all, the Scotts are enthusiastic organic gardeners. And what vegetables they don't consume, or share with family and friends, are processed and frozen for later use.

Besides the garden, they have a greenhouse where they grow camellias, all types of fern, cacti, and orchids.

Scotty's love for old houses recently prompted him to move his city office into a small old rundown house in the Southside business district which he now is in the process of transforming into new headquarters.

## Noojin-Ramsay vows today

Martha Elizabeth Noojin and Robert McLester Ramsay Jr. will be married this afternoon at Canterbury United Methodist Church with Richard Vignuelle and Dr. Denson Franklin officiating at the 4:30 ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Dr. and Mrs. Ray O. Noojin and Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Ramsay.

To be given in marriage by her father, the bride will wear a gown of candlelight silk peau de soie with Victorian neckline and yoke of

English net and rose point lace. The same lace edges the hemline and chapel train. She will wear a silk mantilla and will carry a cascade bouquet of orchids and stephanotis.

Mrs. Richard LeRoy Walthall will be her sister's matron of honor. Other attendants are Mrs. Ray O. Noojin Jr., Rhoda Ramsay, Barbara Chenoweth, Cecilia Copeland, Mrs. Lawrence Whatley, all of Birmingham; Priscilla Fleming of Huntsville, Mrs. Benny Goodwin of Memphis, Tenn., Mrs. Mike Shelley of Nashville, Tenn., Mrs. Steve Hancock of Columbus, Ga. Mary Ramsay will be junior bridesmaid and flower girls are Catherine Noojin and Elizabeth Walthall.

They will wear gowns of maize linen with tucked bodice and Venise lace trim. They will carry woven baskets of yellow and white daisies and miniature ivy.

Mr. Ramsay will serve his son as best man. Groomsmen are Erskine Ramsay, Charles Ramsay, Richard Ramsay, Ray O. Noojin Jr., Brent McFarland, Robert McClure III, Rob Hackney, Joseph Falkner, Michael McClure of Auburn and William Kruidenier of Decatur.

A reception will follow the ceremony at Mountain Brook Club.



## You can come fast when you really get started at it

couple invited to the dinner, a rather intimate thing for 24. They, of course, have a house in Galway and absolutely adore the country. After Ireland the Fines will spend a few days in Paris before flying back for the weekend in their house in Connecticut where the Mayor and Mrs. Lindsay will be their guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Stevens gave such a charming party in Washington honoring those two dashing gentlemen, Douglas Fairbanks and Samuel Taylor. Sam is the author of the comedy "The Pleasure of His Company." I'm sure you remember, and Douglas has been appearing in it triumphantly from coast to coast for what is beginning to seem like a very long time. Currently, he can be seen at the Eisenhower Theater of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, if you're in the neighborhood.

About 125 guests went directly from Douglas' opening to the party in the Stevens

after another. They ate beef Stroganoff, ham, salad, strawberry pie. Most of the ladies wore those long colorful summer skirts we all know and love, don't we?

Douglas was cutting up old touches like anything — he has so many pals in Washington, do you see. Sam, down from his Maine retreat, was a houseguest of Mrs. Jouett Shouse, head of the Wolf Trap Park Farm for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Va. Mrs. Shouse arrived with Beverly Sills and her husband, Peter Greenough.

### Dapper Doug

And that was only the beginning. Tiptoeing through the garden were the Archibald Roosevelts, the Pete Quesades, Adm. and Mrs. Arleigh Burke, Spanish Ambassador and Mrs. Angel Sagaz, the Jack Valentis, Mrs. Polk Guest, the William McCormick Blairs, Curtis Bohlen, the Hon. and Mrs. George McGhee, Mrs. John Sherman Cooper, Betty