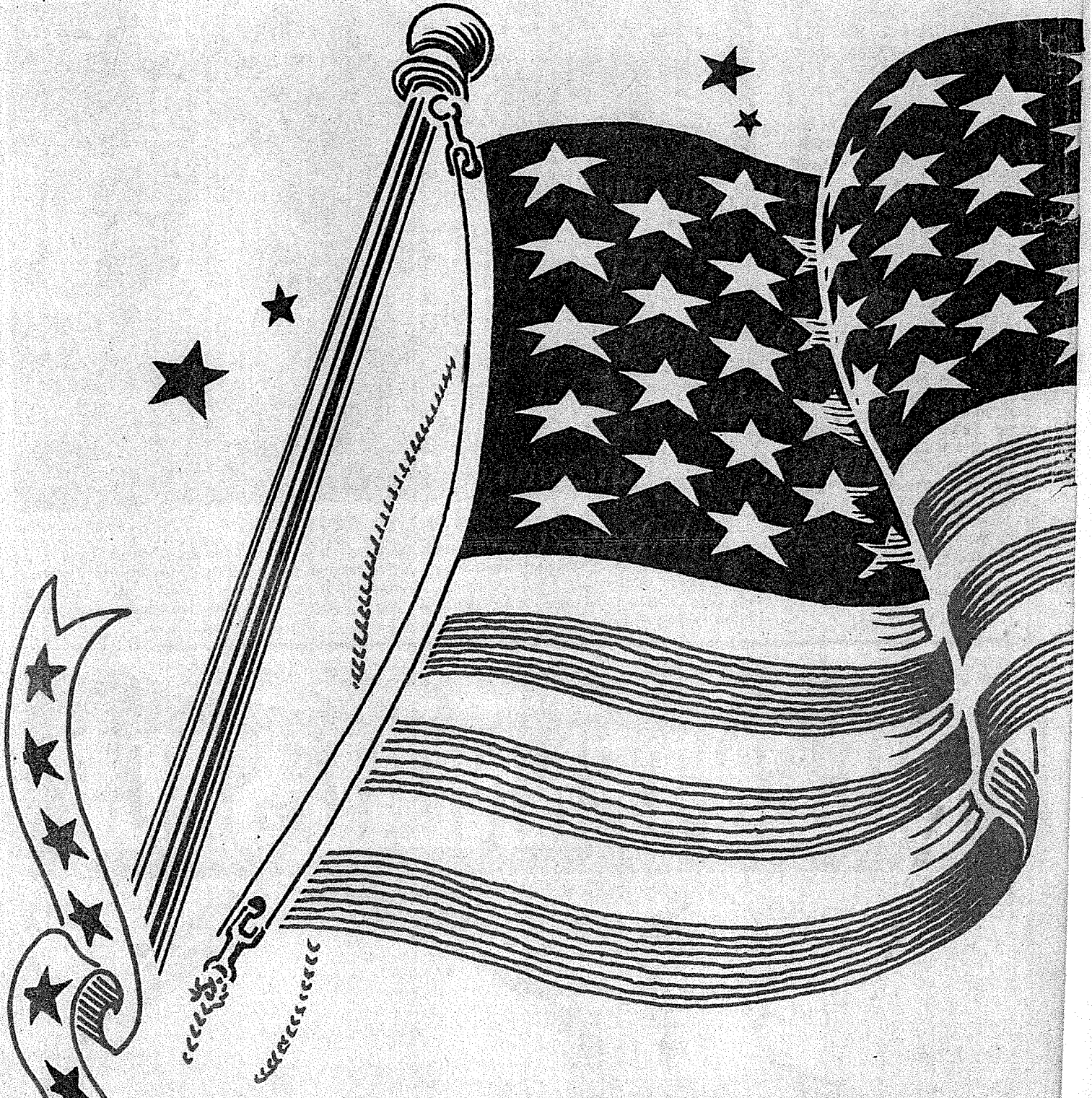
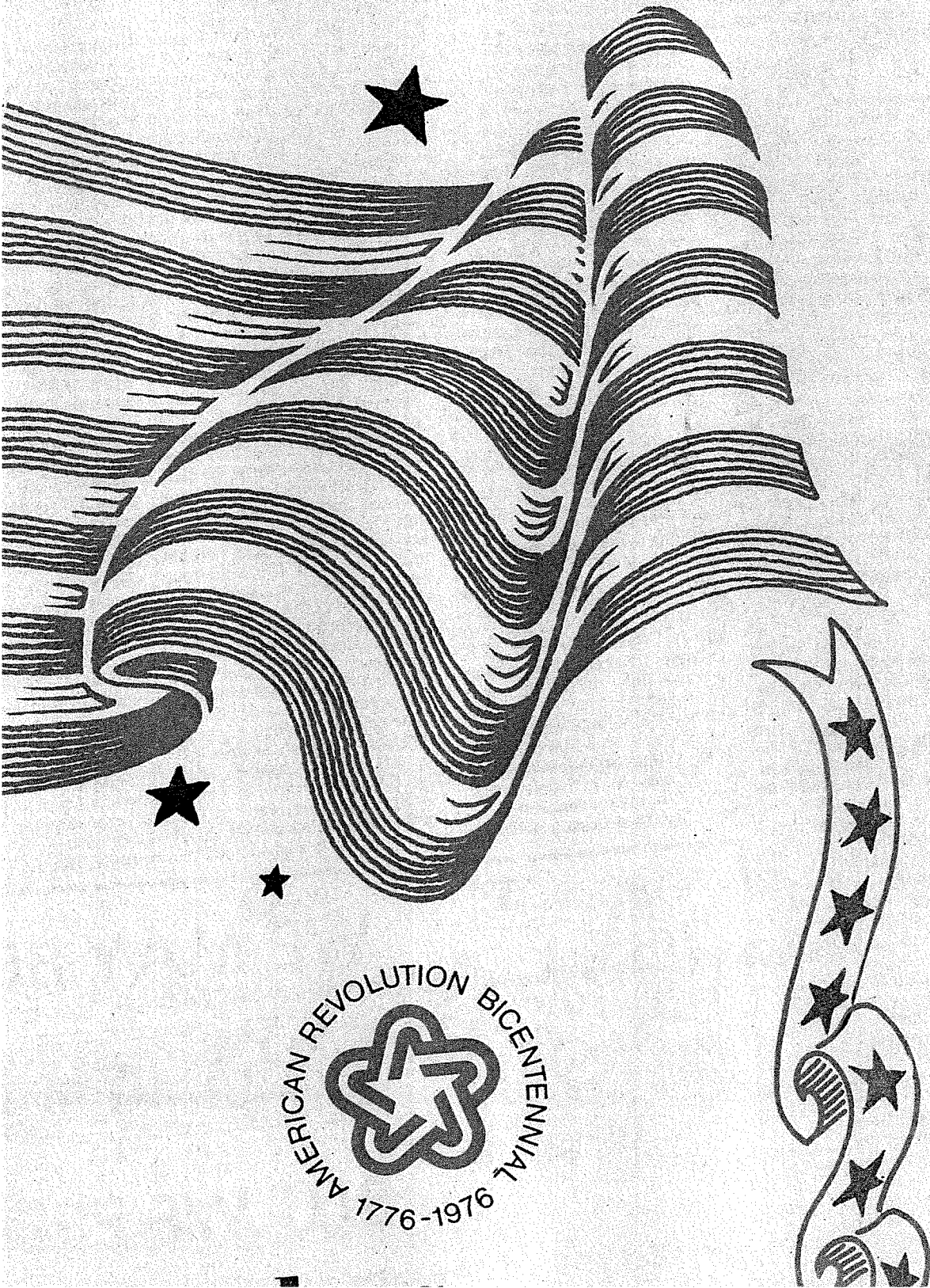


ST. CLAIR OBSER



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Bicentennial Supplement
Thursday, Oct. 23, 1975



Pell City—

'The Town That

(Excerpted from "The History of St. Clair County," by Mattie Lou Teague Crow, 1973.)

There are eleven incorporated towns in St. Clair County: Pell City, Ashville, Ragland, Riverside, Margaret, White's Chapel, Moody, Branchville, Odenville, Springville, and Steele. Of this number, only Pell City can be classified as a small metropolis. Although it is the youngest of the eleven, it is the one which, through the enterprise and resourcefulness of its citizens, has kept pace with the growth of Alabama. In the year 1901 Pell City had a population of 40; today the count stands at 5,602. It may rightly be called "the town that refused to die," for in its early years it suffered a number of setbacks that would have proved disastrous to people of lesser stamina. Laura Kate Eatman Gray, a native of Pell City, has prepared the story of the town for this publication.

Pell City is situated in the southeastern portion of St. Clair County. To the north are the beautiful mountains which divide the county into two geographical sections. To the south, the placid Coosa winds its way to join its sister rivers on their voyage to the gulf. The town is here because of three early railroads that met in the very center of what is today its business section, and because of the foresight of one man, Sumter Cogswell, who upon seeing the location for the first time, was so impressed with its beauty and natural advantages that he immediately began using his talents and energy toward the promotion of a modern city.

The May 4, 1844, issue of *The Southern*, a newspaper published in Ashville by George R. Cather, stated: "Pell City is

Atlanta, since it made connection with the Southern at Pell City. But after the lumber mills at Renfro closed, and the furnaces in Talladega ceased operation, the road was no longer needed, and the right of way was sold to individuals. The only railroad which is operated through Pell City today is the Southern, which began as the Georgia Pacific with plans to extend from Atlanta to Texarkana, Arkansas. It managed to reach Greenville, Mississippi, but was thrown into bankruptcy in 1884 and was taken over by the Southern Railroad Company.

These were the three railroads which met at Pell City, and which caused W.S. Griffith, editor of the town's first newspaper, to speak of this town as the "hub of the South." At the time the railroad station was built, the only other building in town was the Cornett Hotel, located where the old home of R.C. Gravett stands today. The hotel was operated by J. C. Cornett, father, of Hardy, Pat, Dill, and G.P. Cornett. It ceased operation when the building was destroyed by fire.

The little village was a mere infant when, on a March day in 1890, young Sumter Cogswell, on his way to Talladega, was forced to make connection in Pell City. Of necessity he spent

the night there. Mr. Cogswell was in the employment of the Home Life Insurance Company as a general agent, and he was on his way to call on A.J. Savery in an effort to establish an agency for his company in Talladega.

Sumter Cogswell was greatly impressed with the natural beauty of Pell City's location, and his active imagination at once saw the possibility of a future city here. It was near the river. It had three railroads. It was near enough to the markets of Birmingham and Anniston. It was surrounded by fertile farm land. When Mr. Cogswell learned that Mr. Tom Plowman of Talladega was president of the Pell City Land Company, which owned the town, he paid that gentleman a visit and learned that the town was for sale. He managed to secure a two-week option, and within that time limit the land—four hundred acres—was sold to the Pell City Iron and Land Company for \$50,000. Minutes of Probate Court at the Ashville courthouse indicate that "the town of Pell City was officially incorporated on May 6, 1891."

The new owners had the town site resurveyed, streets opened up, and several houses built. The Hercules Pipe Company, the first soil pipe plant in the South, was located at Pell City. Soon there was a second hotel, a

store belonging to Mr. Lindsey, Jesse Williams' blacksmith shop, a saloon with Mr. Flanders as proprietor, a post office, and a few new houses. But the panic of 1893-94 forced the Pell City Iron and Land Company, along with the Hercules Pipe Company, into receivership. The pipe shops were moved to Anniston, which city today has the reputation of being the largest center of soil pipe manufacturing in the world.

Although the older towns in St. Clair County were able to survive the depression of the nineties, for a place as young as Pell City it virtually meant extinction. In 1901, Sumter Cogswell, who had not kept in touch with the little town, again passed through Pell City. Upon looking from the train window, he was surprised to see a deserted village. The streets were grown up with weeds. The houses were empty, and the place had the appearance of a ghost town. When he reached his destination in Atlanta, Mr. Cogswell telephoned Mr. Plowman and learned the sad story of failure. He also learned that the town was again for sale. This time Mr. Cogswell purchased the principal acreage, which is today Pell City, for the sum of \$3,000. The deeds were sent to the Atlanta National Bank for examination



WE MAY BE

Old-Fashioned

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The May 4, 1844, issue of *The Southern*, a newspaper published in Ashville by George R. Cather, stated: "Pell City is the name of the new town east of Eden." The June 4th issue of the same paper reported that "on June 1st, Articles of Incorporation for the Pell City Land Company were filed in the office of the probate judge." The first town charter was granted on the 28th of October, 1887. Green Evans was the first mayor. The incorporators were

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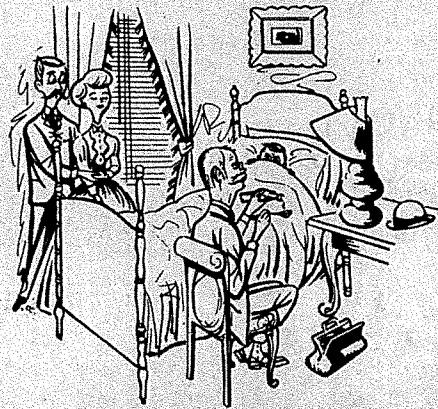
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WE MAY BE

Old-Fashioned

... BUT WE FEEL



That YOU still like to be greeted by YOUR NAME.



That YOU still like to get SERVICE as well as PRICE










John B. Knox, T.S. Plowman, D.M. Rogers, J.A. Savery, John Postell, and John W. Inzer. With the exception of Mr. Postell and Judge Inzer, all of these men lived in Talladega. John W. Inzer was the attorney for the East and West Railroad, and he and John Postell are credited with having named the young town for George H. Pell.

John Postell had been a captain in the Confederate Army, and he was a close friend of Judge Inzer. He was a builder of railroads and served as chief engineer when the Flagler Railroad system was built in Florida. He was general manager of the East and West Railroad when it was built through Pell City in 1887. His wife was the talented and distinguished Lucinda Katherine Hudson who traveled extensively in this country and in Europe, and had been presented at the court of King James.

In 1887, the three railroads, the East and West, the Talladega and Coosa Valley, and the Georgia Pacific, built a joint depot on block forty-three of the town of Pell City. The East and West was later sold to the famous New York family of Pells for whom the town was named. This railroad later became the Seaboard Airline Railroad. The Talladega and Coosa Valley Railroad extended from Renfro, a distance of almost twenty-seven miles, in 1887. The first eight miles of the road were built by Rogers and Franks, lumber dealers, and for years D.M. Rogers managed it. On October 1, 1890, it was merged with the Birmingham and Atlanta Railroad, and between 1886-1899 many short branches were built to ore beds. The road was primarily built for the hauling of lumber, but, when Talladega Furnace was erected, it became the means for hauling iron ore.

The late Mr. John Fant of Cropwell enjoyed telling about the time the train fell into the Coosa River. The railroad crossed the river at Stemley on a wooden bridge which collapsed one day under a heavy load. This would have proved to be a horrible tragedy if a colored porter, Jordan Cranford, and the conductor, Henry Fleetwood, had not saved the lives of the passengers. Jordan Cranford dived in and rescued every passenger, handing each of them to Mr. Fleetwood who stood on top of the car.

The little road was the most convenient mode of travel from Talladega to Birmingham and

-  That YOU still like to FEEL AT HOME when and where you shop.
-  That YOU still want the BEST QUALITY when it concerns YOUR health.
-  That YOU still want A FULL-LINE, FULL-SERVICE Drug Store to take care of your needs.
-  That YOU still want to be able to CHARGE your needs.
-  That YOU still want DELIVERY SERVICE when you are unable to pick up your needs.
-  That YOU still want TAX and INSURANCE RECORDS kept on your medical expenses.
-  That YOU still want a store that will take care of your needs on Sundays, Holidays or after hours.
-  That YOU still want to trade with a Store that is interested in YOU and YOUR NEEDS.
-  These are a few of the things we try to do at Pell City Rexall Drug. If this is OLD-FASHIONED, then we are OLD-FASHIONED!

YOU, OUR CUSTOMERS, are the most important items in our business. Without you our doors cannot stay open.

If you are not already a Pell City Rexall Drug Customer, come in and get acquainted, we want to know and serve you.

HOME OWNED-HOME OPERATED
MONEY SPENT AT HOME STAYS AT HOME
"YOUR HEALTH CENTER"

Come See Our Big Selection Of Gift Items!

PELL CITY REXALL DRUG

"Serving Pell City Since 1908"

1901 Cogswell Ave.

Phone 338-7123

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Refused To Die'

as to title, with attorneys M.M. Smith and James L. Herring of Ashville also examining them. All pronounced the deeds to be legally correct. Mr. Cogswell then became owner of the town site, with the exception of the fifty acres which belonged to the Hercules Pipe Company, for which a young lawyer by the name of Louis J. Brandeis of Boston, Massachusetts, was a trustee. Later Mr. Cogswell purchased these fifty acres.

Sumter Cogswell was married to Mrs. DeGaris, formerly Lydia Elizabeth McBain, in 1900. On September 7, 1901, ten years after the time he had first visited Pell City, he brought his wife and her two sons, Jack and Julian DeGaris, there to live. When this family came there were only forty people living in the town. Tom S. Coleman, a native of Riverside, came to Pell City when he was about twenty years old to work as a night operator of the depot. In 1950 he dictated to Elizabeth Cogswell Starnes his memory of her family's coming there to live:

Continued On Page 3



Enters Coosa Arts Fair

Mary Wadsworth of Cropwell, right, proudly displays a few of the 'china dolls' which she will have on display at the Coosa Arts and Crafts Fair this Saturday at the Pell City National Guard Armory. Other items scheduled to be exhibited by Mrs. Wadsworth include "Holly Hobbies", oil paintings and many types of dolls. Looking on is Mrs. Pat Spradley of Pell City, one of the coordinators of the Fairs. (Photo By August Lehe.)

BICENTENNIAL SALE



TURTLE NECK
PULLOVER

Cogswells Early Set

Continued From Page 2

The day Mr. Cogswell unloaded his household goods it was a sight to see. They unloaded one bay horse, one surrey which amused me very much, as it was the first buggy I had ever seen with fringe around the top, and the first to come to this country town, one bird dog, white and brown, named Jack or Dan, and several loads of household goods. They brought with them a greater stock of groceries than the entire stock of the town's one small store. Jack and Julian were small boys, and there was Righter Cogswell who didn't stay in Pell City much.

The Cogswells moved into the house where Mrs. Starnes now lives, which occupies block number two of the original survey of Pell City. Here were born the three Cogswell daughters: Elizabeth (Mrs. Orr Starnes), Isabelle (Mrs. Dean Davis), and Mary (Mrs. Charles Balof). Mr. Cogswell had great plans for Pell City. He was an enthusiastic promoter and had the ability to instill into the hearts and minds of his fellow citizens the desire to see their town prosper.

Bays D. Cather, Sr., gives a vivid description of the coming mills and the courthouse. Mr. Cather came from Ashville in 1902. He was editor of *The Pell City News*, was postmaster for two terms, and was in the mercantile business. He also owned and operated the local theater. He was married to Daisy Kilgroe of Seddon. Mr. Cather wrote:

The year 1902 was an unusually dry year. Farmers were greatly worried. Some of them sold out and moved to Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Two good things happened to the town: Pell City became a branch county seat and the courthouse was built, and the cotton mill came to town. The spending of a million dollars for labor and materials during such a bad crop year was like receiving manna from heaven.



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An election was held on January 6, 1902, to determine the site of the branch courthouse. Four towns were asking for it: Pell City, Eden, Coal City, and Riverside. After a heated campaign, Pell City won by a majority of 600. Block twenty-six was purchased from the Pell City Realty Company as a site for the building. This was known as Lacy Hill, as it had been the site of the two story log house of Abner Lacy. Probate Judge W.S. Forman was authorized to borrow \$9,000. The money was borrowed from Mrs. Bert McLaughlin Forney, Miss Bertie Lee McClendon (Mrs. Pat Roberson), James L. Herring, and J.P. Philips. The building was accepted by the county in March of 1903, and a spring term of court was held in the Southern Judicial Division.

In 1902, Mr. Cogswell gave 150 acres of land, which included a very fine spring, to Pell City manufacturing Company. Soon the construction of the first saw-tooth cotton mill in the South was begun. George W. Pratt, who was in touch with the Draper autoloom interests, and Howard Bullock of New England were instrumental in having the mill located at Pell City. The cornerstone of the building was laid in August of 1902, and by the close of 1903 there were about 1500 new inhabitants in the town. Pratt was president of the company.

Just as things were looking up for Pell City, two events of catastrophic nature occurred, and again the citizens were called upon to weather a storm. Late in the summer of 1902, the owners of the Seaboard Airline Railroad, having purchased the East and West, tied it to Atlanta. The Coal City and

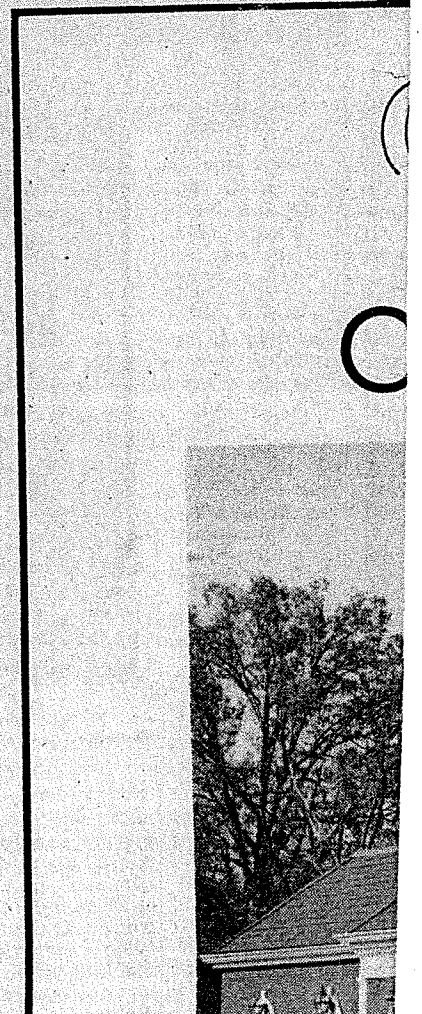
Springs and hauled in wagons across Bald Rock Mountain to the site of the tunnel. The heavy rolling machinery had to be tracked across the mountain. That is, small sections of the track with steel rails were laid, and when the machinery reached the end of the laid track, men were taking up the back end of the track and re-laying it in front of the moving machines. The method was slow but sure.

Some of the high explosives used in blasting were shipped to the Southern depot at Pell City and transferred from there in wagons to the tunnel site. Those were busy days—building a cotton mill, a new courthouse, and a new railroad all the same year.

One night in November, when there was a large shipment of dynamite and several kegs of powder at the station, the depot caught fire. It was some time after midnight, and few of the volunteer fire fighters knew of the explosives until the railroad men began to yell a warning. Jack Hall did not hear the warning. He was attempting to move a new sewing machine from the station. He was instantly killed. Tom Whitfield, a Negro man who was doing the masonry work for the new mill, went too near the fire and was killed. One of the crew, who was moving a freight engine away from the fire was struck by a piece of lumber which pierced his chest. Colonel N.B. Spears was struck by pieces of flying crockery and almost lost his life. Doc Crowley, who had the drugstore, was badly injured. Joe Willingham's house had the knocked from the walls, and the Cornett Hotel was partly wrecked. Windows were blown from the old Maxwell building. A number of homes caught fire from flying timbers. The next morning there was a hole where the depot had been that was big enough to put the courthouse in. One of the engines backed up to

Although the disaster dealt a forceful blow to the little town, the people went back to work with a will to repair the damage. Soon, however, they were to face yet another disaster. Two years after the courthouse at Pell City was finished and sessions of court were in full swing, certain citizens in the northern section of the county charged that it was unconstitutional to have two sets of court in one county. These people requested the legislature to have the sessions of county and circuit court in Pell City abolished. The legislature did this, and the Alabama Supreme Court upheld the decision. The Southern Judicial Division was abolished

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An ordinance passed by the constitutional convention in Montgomery in 1901 provided for a branch county seat in St. Clair County. Travel was difficult since the county is cut in half by Backbone Mountain, and people living south of the mountain and attending court at Ashville has to travel the treacherous mountain road—next to impossible in bad weather—or go by way of train



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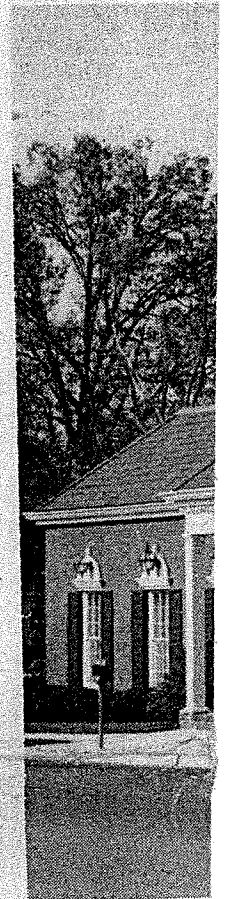
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in 1905 when John Pelham was circuit judge and circuit court in Pell City abolished. The legislature did this, and the Alabama Supreme Court upheld the decision. The Southern Judicial Division was abolished in 1905 when John Pelham was circuit judge and James L. North was sheriff. W.S. Forman was probate judge. Although the pride of the citizens was hurt, they went to work at once to have the courts re-established. They contended that the court dockets were so crowded that lawyers, witnesses, judges, peace officers, and anyone else who had to attend court were forced to make the tiresome trip to Ashville for several terms of

court before their cases finally came before the judge and jurors.

John W. Moore of Pell City ran for the state legislature and pledged himself to have the constitution amended to allow a county to have a branch court. Ed Hamner of Attalla announced himself as a candidate for the state senate on the same platform. These two men were elected, and when the legislature met in 1907, the constitution was amended.

After the re-establishment of the courts, Pell City began its real development. The cotton mill brought Thomas Henry Rennie, a man skilled in the manufacturing business, to take

charge of that enterprise. Mr. Pratt, who was president of the company, was in many respects a genius, but his greatest ability was that of a salesman. Mr. Rennie came in 1907 and remained until 1936, making an outstanding success of the mill. During this period E.A. Thompson was superintendent.

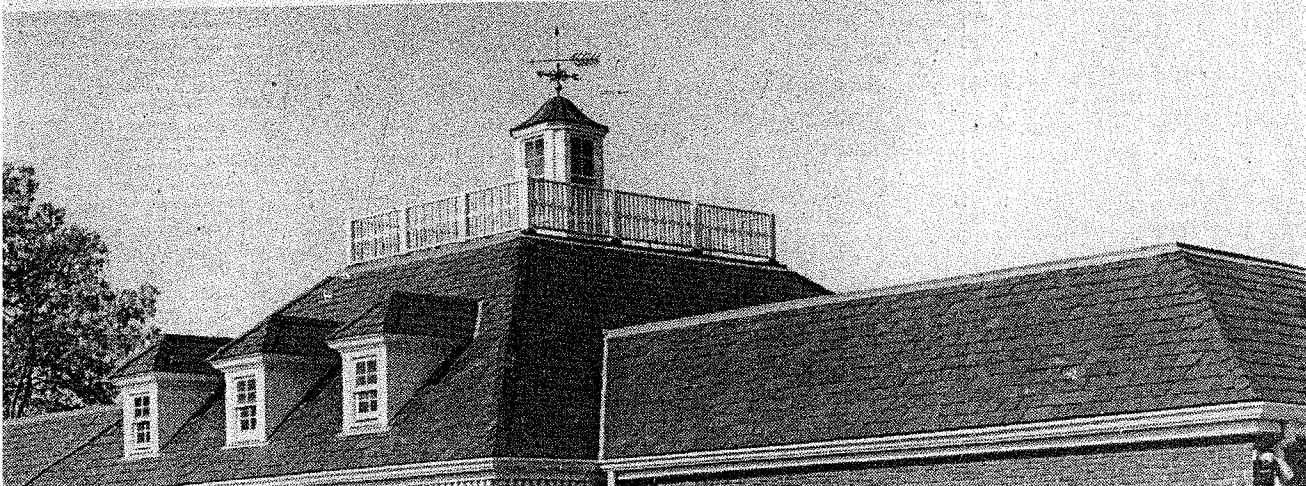
The Pell City Manufacturing Company was sold to Avondale Mills in 1919. The company spent a million dollars in 1938 and 1939 to make it a thoroughly modern denim mill.

Pell City's first school was taught in a little schoolhouse built by Sumter Cosgwell, W.H. Miller, and many others. Miss Dadie Griffith was the teacher. By 1905 the town had a school

system with nine months of free schooling. A brick schoolhouse was erected where the City Hall stands today. Professor P.M. Matthews, who was also a lawyer, served as principal. Handy Ellis--later Judge Ellis--was principal from 1907-1908. In addition to the public schools, the cotton mill company maintained a splendid school on the hill near the mill. Many years later Miss Iola Roberts came to each in that school was taken over by the County Board of Education, and a new brick building was erected, it was named the Iola Roberts Elementary School. Miss Roberts has contributed much to the civic, social, and religious life of the town.

Union State Bank

Oldest Bank In St. Clair



Joe Kilgroe Buys

Continued From Page 10

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During World War I, only one other town in the United States furnished more soldiers and subscribed more for liberty bonds in proportion to population, than Pell City. It was from St. Clair County that Captain Gardner Green and fifty men went with Company C of Alabama's famous 167th Infantry Regiment as a unit of the Rainbow Division. Of the 263 men in Company C, only 51 returned. Captain Greene was one of those who were killed. On July 4, 1937, at "Good Neighbor Day," a granite monument honoring St. Clair County's soldiers who fought in World War I and the Spanish-American War, was unveiled. Miss Mary Ashley Greene, only child of Gardner Greene, unveiled the memorial.

It is not possible to write of all the memorable people who make the Pell City story one of universal interest. Some distinguished, good solid citizens must of necessity be left out. The story would indeed be incomplete, however, without mention of Colonel Napoleon Bonaparte Spears, for he was one of Pell City's most colorful citizens. He was born in Tennessee in 1848 and was educated at Emory and Henry College, in Emory, Virginia. When he was twenty-one, he was admitted to the Tennessee bar and elected to the Tennessee legislature. He came to St. Clair County around 1889 and practiced law here until his death in 1928. He was a member of the Alabama legislature, representing this county from 1898-1901. It was he who, as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1901, had the

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On April 23, 1956, two neighboring towns, Eden and Oak Ridge, merged with Pell City. Eden was an old municipality which flourished in the 1880's when it was the "railhead" for the track workers along the Southern Railroad. Oak Ridge was a new town, incorporated in 1947 through the efforts of E.J. Doby. This merger brought the population count to 3,644. A third area, Avondale Mills Village, also became part of the municipality in September of 1956. Until that time, the mill village had never been within the city limits of Pell City, although the mill was. The 1970 census gave the population as 5,602.

The little village of Eden was once called Manchester. The name was changed in 1872 when a post office was established there. The earliest settler was Jesse Ginn, a Revolutionary War veteran. In 1836 he brought his family to St. Clair County and settled on Wolf Creek two miles below Eden. On November 14, 1971, the Broken Arrow Chapter of DAR marked Jesse Ginn's grave with a bronze plaque. Other early families were the Pattersons, Sweats, Laney, Cowans, Cates, Truitts, Lewises, Robertsons, Stevens, and Hindsmans.

A section of the town of Seddon, known as Seddon Shores, is now a part of Pell City also. This includes the old West residence, land where the Fishing Creek Methodist Church stood, the old cemetery, and the home of Dr. John Roberson. Seddon was settled in 1880 when the Georgia Pacific Railroad was built. It was incorporated that year with a population of five hundred. The people came there to live from Truss's Ferry (Ferryville), one mile away on the Coosa River. It was a lumber community for Empire Lumber company. The town was named for Thomas Seddon, who was the first Secretary of War for the Confederate States under Jefferson Davis. The first merchant was J.K.P. Lacy. Dr. Henry Green Crump was the first doctor. Other pioneer settlers were Jake Maddox, W.H. and W.N. Roberson, and Harvey Bell. When the timber supply was exhausted the mills moved away. Today part of the tiny village stands, dismally

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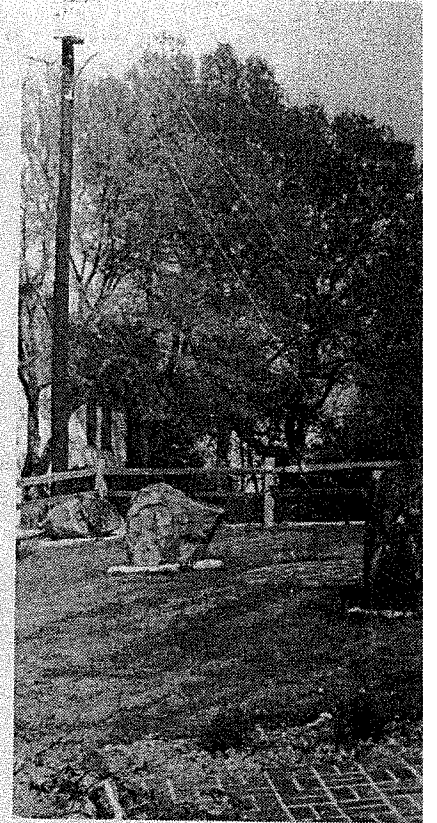
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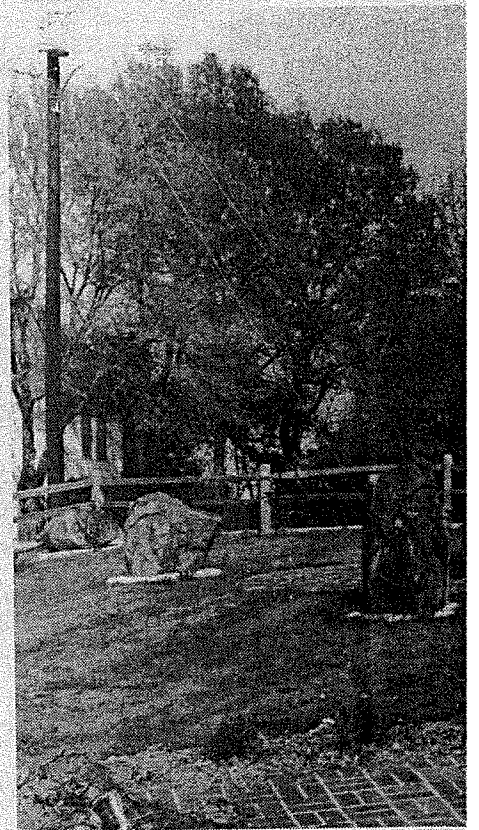
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Another unforgettable pioneer was James L. Garrett. He came with his wife, Sally Hindsman Garrett, to Pell City in 1905. He was a great politician. He was a Populist, and when that party ceased to exist, he did not return to the Democratic Party, but became a Republican. He served eighteen years (three terms) as circuit clerk of St. Clair County. Mr. Garrett was a Baptist ly leader. He loved all-day singings and singing conventions—especially the sacred harp singers. In years gone by, Mr. Garrett, James Ragland, Leroy Truitt, Austin Hazelwood, and Lester Smith sang together. Mr. Garrett's daughter, Mrs. Eula Garrett Vinson, was their accompanist.

Another of Pell City's best remembered citizens was Solomon Davis Kilgroe, who was born in 1861. He loved the land and thought every individual should own a bit of it in order to be a good citizen. At the time of his death he owned and operated nineteen small farms. His life did not lack variety, as he was an active member of the First Baptist Church, a politician, farmer, school teacher, railroad agent, bank director, cotton buyer, and merchant. Joe W. Kilgroe is the son, and his two grandsons are S.E. Kilgroe and Sol Mongold.

In the early 1950's it became evident that the old courthouse at Pell City was inadequate, and it was necessary to replace it. Martin J. Lide of Birmingham was the architect, and the contractor was R.P. Henderson and Sons of Pell City. The building was financed with county funds; no federal or state aid was used, and existing taxes were not increased. M. W.

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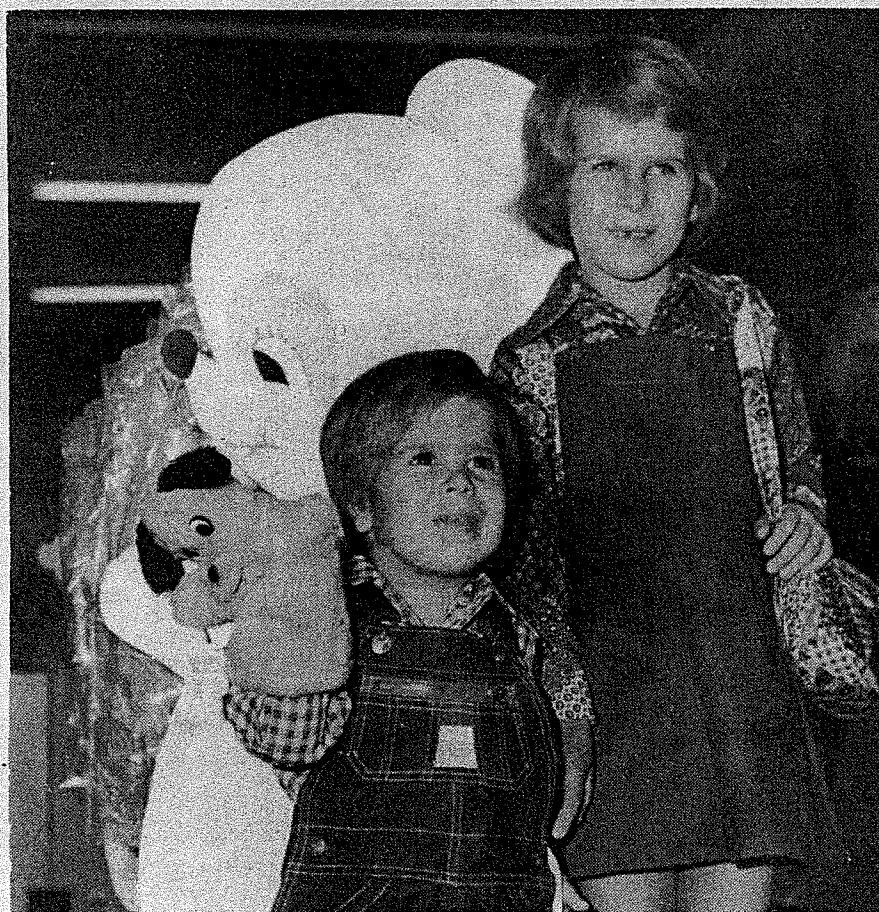
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From The Pink Panda . . .



Pretty Miss Nannette Smith is modeling Health-Tex overalls and shirt, with patchwork bag, while her brother Martin is wearing Liberty Overalls with Health-Tex shirt, selected from Pink Panda's bountiful assortment of quality clothing for youngsters. The overalls come in sizes 0-7, and we also have Hee-Haws. Nannette and Martin are the children of Mr. and Mrs. S.M. Smith, Jr.

One Special Sale Table 50% OFF

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Wrapping Paper
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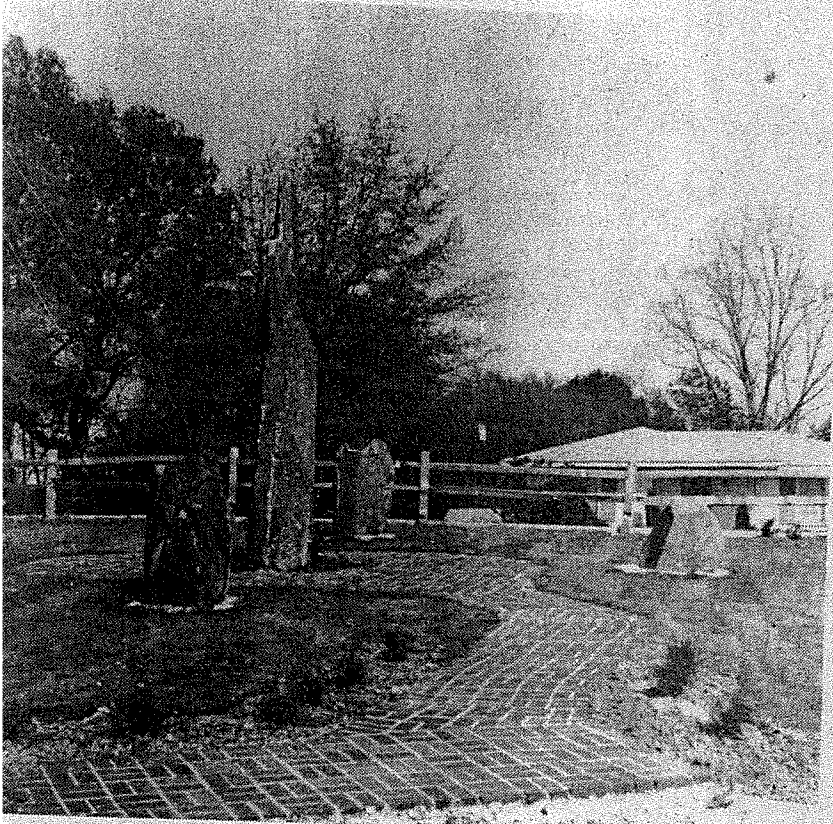
Pell City

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Buys Into Funeral Home

War Soldiers -

Cropwell Marker Pays Tribute



Cropwell Historical Marker

BY AUGUST LEHE

Soon after Alabama formally seceded from the Union on January 7, 1861, the call for volunteers went out across St. Clair County. Those men who chose, many with broken hearts, to take the field against almost certain Unionist aggression came from every corner of the county as the trumpets sounded the opening chapters of the American Civil War.

When completed, the Cropwell Memorial Marker will immortalize an important page in the history of St. Clair County during the Civil War period. The monument, which is nearing completion, will eventually list the names of all members of Company F of the 10th Alabama Infantry Regiment and all ancestors of St. Clair County Citizens who fought in the War Between the States, according to Mary Mays of Pell City.

The committee, which has been charged with the task of making the monument a reality is composed of W.D. Jackson,

James E. Ingram, Gen. Williams, Charles Abbot, Cornett and Mary Mays.

At present, all five St. Clair quarried monoliths have been erected, curbing and light have been installed and landscaping is virtually complete. But without additional funds for the erection of all important plaques, the project may be slowed to a standstill.

The monument's site was donated two years ago by the county. This particular location was selected because it was believed the original volunteers of Company F mustered beneath an ancient apple tree which grew near the present monument area.

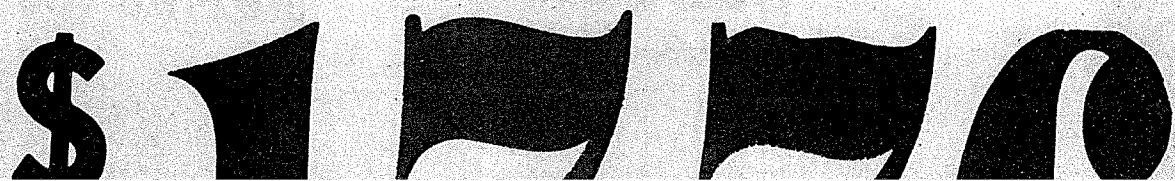
In any event, the Cropwell markers may someday pay a fitting tribute to the more than two hundred men who left their homes and families to march off to waiting trains at Montvill. Men who fought, fell and died in the snowy battlefields of Northern Virginia alongside the troops of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

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In The "Spirit Of 76"

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Cogswells Early Se

Continued From Page 2

The day Mr. Cogswell unloaded his household goods it was a sight to see. They unloaded one bay horse, one surrey which amused me very much, as it was the first buggy I had ever seen with fringe around the top, and the first to come to this country town, one bird dog, white and brown, named Jack or Dan, and several loads of household goods. They brought with them a greater stock of groceries than the entire stock of the town's one small store. Jack and Julian were small boys, and there was Righter Cogswell who didn't stay in Pell City much.

The Cogswells moved into the house where Mrs. Starnes now lives, which occupies block number two of the original survey of Pell City. Here were born the three Cogswell daughters: Elizabeth (Mrs. Orr Starnes), Isabelle (Mrs. Dean Davis), and Mary (Mrs. Charles Balof). Mr. Cogswell had great plans for Pell City. He was an enthusiastic promoter and had the ability to instill into the hearts and minds of his fellow citizens the desire to see their town prosper.

Bays D. Cather, Sr., gives a vivid description of the coming mills and the courthouse. Mr. Cather came from Ashville in 1902. He was editor of *The Pell City News*, was postmaster for two terms, and was in the mercantile business. He also owned and operated the local theater. He was married to Daisy Kilgroe of Seddon. Mr. Cather wrote:

The year 1902 was an unusually dry year. Farmers were greatly worried. Some of them sold out and moved to Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Two good things happened to the town: Pell City became a branch county seat and the courthouse was built, and the cotton mill came to town. The spending of a million dollars for labor and materials during such a bad crop year was like receiving manna from heaven.

An ordinance passed by the



to Birmingham, from there to Whitney, the Southern station three miles from the courthouse at Ashville.

An election was held on January 6, 1902, to determine the site of the branch courthouse. Four towns were asking for it: Pell City, Eden, Coal City, and Riverside. After a heated campaign, Pell City won by a majority of 600. Block twenty-six was purchased from the Pell City Realty Company as a site for the building. This was known as Lacy Hill, as it had been the site of the two story log house of Abner Lacy. Probate Judge W.S. Forman was authorized to borrow \$9,000. The money was borrowed from Mrs. Bert McLaughlin Forney, Miss Bertie Lee McClendon (Mrs. Pat Roberson), James L. Herring, and J.P. Philips. The building was accepted by the county in March of 1903, and a spring term of court was held in the Southern Judicial Division.

In 1902, Mr. Cogswell gave 150 acres of land, which included a very fine spring, to Pell City manufacturing Company. Soon the construction of the first saw-tooth cotton mill in the South was begun. George W. Pratt, who was in touch with the Draper autoloom interests, and Howard Bullock of New England were instrumental in having the mill located at Pell City. The cornerstone of the building was laid in August of 1902, and by the close of 1903 there were about 1500 new inhabitants in the town. Pratt was president of the company.

Just as things were looking up for Pell City, two events of catastrophic nature occurred, and again the citizens were called upon to weather a storm. Late in the summer of 1902, the owners of the Seaboard Airline Railroad, having purchased the East and West, tied it to Atlanta. The Coal City

Springs and hauled in wagons across Bald Rock Mountain to the site of the tunnel. The heavy rolling machinery had to be tracked across the mountain. That is, small sections of the track with steel rails were laid, and when the machinery reached the end of the laid track, men were taking up the back end of the track and re-laying it in front of the moving machines. The method was slow but sure.

Some of the high explosives used in blasting were shipped to the Southern depot at Pell City and transferred from there in wagons to the tunnel site. Those were busy days—building a cotton mill, a new courthouse, and a new railroad all the same year.

One night in November, when there was a large shipment of dynamite and several kegs of powder at the station, the depot caught fire. It was some time after midnight, and few of the volunteer fire fighters knew of the explosives until the railroad men began to yell a warning. Jack Hall did not hear the warning. He was attempting to move a new sewing machine from the station. He was instantly killed. Tom Whitfield, a Negro man who was doing the masonry work for the new mill, went too near the fire and was killed. One of the crew, who was moving a freight engine away from the fire was struck by a piece of lumber which pierced his chest. Colonel N.B. Spears was struck by pieces of flying crockery and almost lost his life. Doc Crowley, who had the drugstore, was badly injured. Joe Willingham's house had the knocked from the walls, and the Cornett Hotel was partly wrecked. Windows were blown from the old Maxwell building. A number of homes caught fire from flying timbers. The next morning there was a hole where the depot had been that was big enough to put the courthouse in.

Although the disaster dealt a forceful blow to the little town, the people went back to work with a will to repair the damage. Soon, however, they were to face yet another disaster. Two years after the courthouse at Pell City was finished and sessions of court were in full swing, certain citizens in the northern section of the county charged that it was unconstitutional to have two sets of court in one county. These people requested the legislature to have the sessions of county and circuit court in Pell City abolished. The legislature did this, and the Alabama Supreme Court upheld the decision. The Southern Judicial Division was abolished



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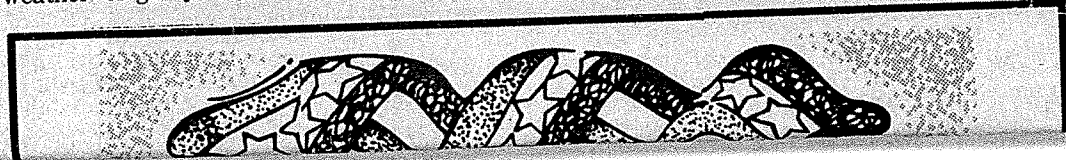
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Some of the high explosives used in blasting were shipped to the Southern depot at Pell City and transferred from there in wagons to the tunnel site. Those were busy days—building a cotton mill, a new courthouse, and a new railroad all the same year.

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The Cogswells moved into the house where Mrs. Starnes now lives, which occupies block number two of the original survey of Pell City. Here were born the three Cogswell daughters: Elizabeth (Mrs. Orr Starnes), Isabelle (Mrs. Dean Davis), and Mary (Mrs. Charles Balof). Mr. Cogswell had great plans for Pell City. He was an enthusiastic promoter and had the ability to instill into the hearts and minds of his fellow citizens the desire to see their town prosper.

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Union State Bank

Oldest Bank In St. Clair



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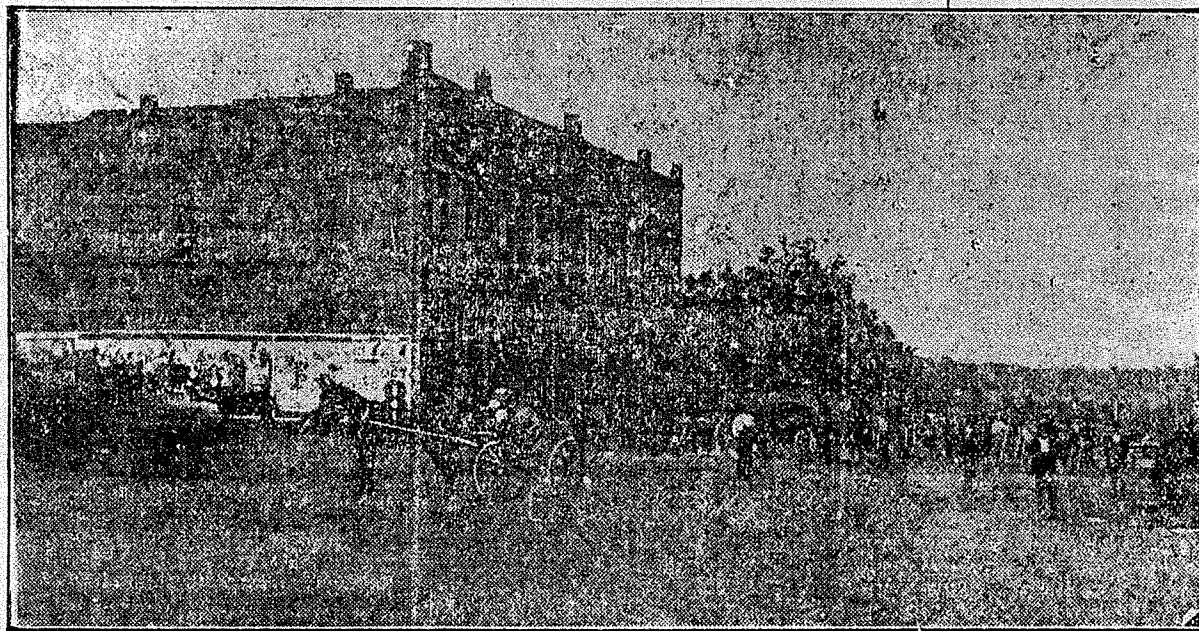
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system with nine months of free schooling. A brick schoolhouse was erected where the City Hall stands today. Professor P.M. Matthews, who was also a lawyer, served as principal. Handy Ellis—later Judge Ellis—was principal from 1907-1908. In addition to the public schools, the cotton mill company maintained a splendid school on the hill near the mill. Many years later Miss Iola Roberts came to each in that school was taken over by the County Board of Education, and a new brick building was erected, it was named the Iola Roberts Elementary School. Miss Roberts has contributed much to the civic, social, and religious life of the town.

Union State Bank

Oldest Bank In St. Clair





MAXWELL BLOCK.
First Brick Building Erected in Pell City, Embracing Four Stores—Erected by Hon. John Maxwell and the Pell City Land Company—It is Now the Business Center of Howard Avenue.

(Continued from Page 8.)

ble and airy hotel buildings in North Alabama. It is located opposite the new depots of the Southern railway and the Seaboard Air Line, and is also within a block of the court house and the business center of the town. Porters meet every train and guests are given every attention that heart could desire from the moment they alight at the station. The present building was occupied on November 1, and already, though it is an unusually large building, it has proven too small for the accommodation of the guests who ask for rooms. As a consequence, Mr. Cornett will, in a few weeks, commence the erection of a large addition which will soon be ready for the accommodation of guests and provide ample room for the business of the house.

Mr. Cornett is one of those warm-hearted, cordial gentlemen who seem born to the hotel business. He seems to have the faculty of anticipating every want of his guests and stands ready to supply every need.

The house is furnished throughout with splendid new furniture and com-

for their employees. These houses are all located upon high ground and each room will be lighted with electricity, and each house will be supplied with an abundance of pure spring water piped into the house. In no other mill village in the south do the employees enjoy such luxuries.

The company owns a splendid water works plant, supplying 1,500,000 gallons of water daily by gravity from a large never failing spring.

In a few days work will begin on a handsome large school building which will be equipped with all modern conveniences and appliances, and the school will be free to the children of operatives.

Taken all together, the plant and village of the Pell City Manufacturing Company makes a model cotton mill community.

BANK OF ST. CLAIR.

One of the most appreciated and needed institutions to be established in the Coosa Valley within the history of its development was the Bank of St. Clair County, which was organized at Pell City, in February.

Mr. Sumter Cozswell, who has been

these years a monument to the enterprise and indomitable courage of the builder.

On the memorable night of December 17, 1902, an explosion of a large quantity of dynamite in a burning depot caused so much damage to the building as to necessitate the entire rebuilding of the front and while this work was going on, Mr. Maxwell came on from the east and superintended the general overhauling of the entire building, making the rooms look like new.

Mr. Maxwell was born in New Glasgow, Canada, in 1830, moving at an early age to Massachusetts, where he has spent most of his life, excepting a period of seven years spent in Philadelphia, learning the leather trade which as a calling until his retirement from active business a few years ago. For many generations, the Maxwells have been in the leather business. In his chosen line of business, Mr. Maxwell was eminently successful, and was succeeded by his son, Mr. S. G. Maxwell, who built and is interested in the largest tannery in the United States, at Titusville, Pa., and who has the rec-

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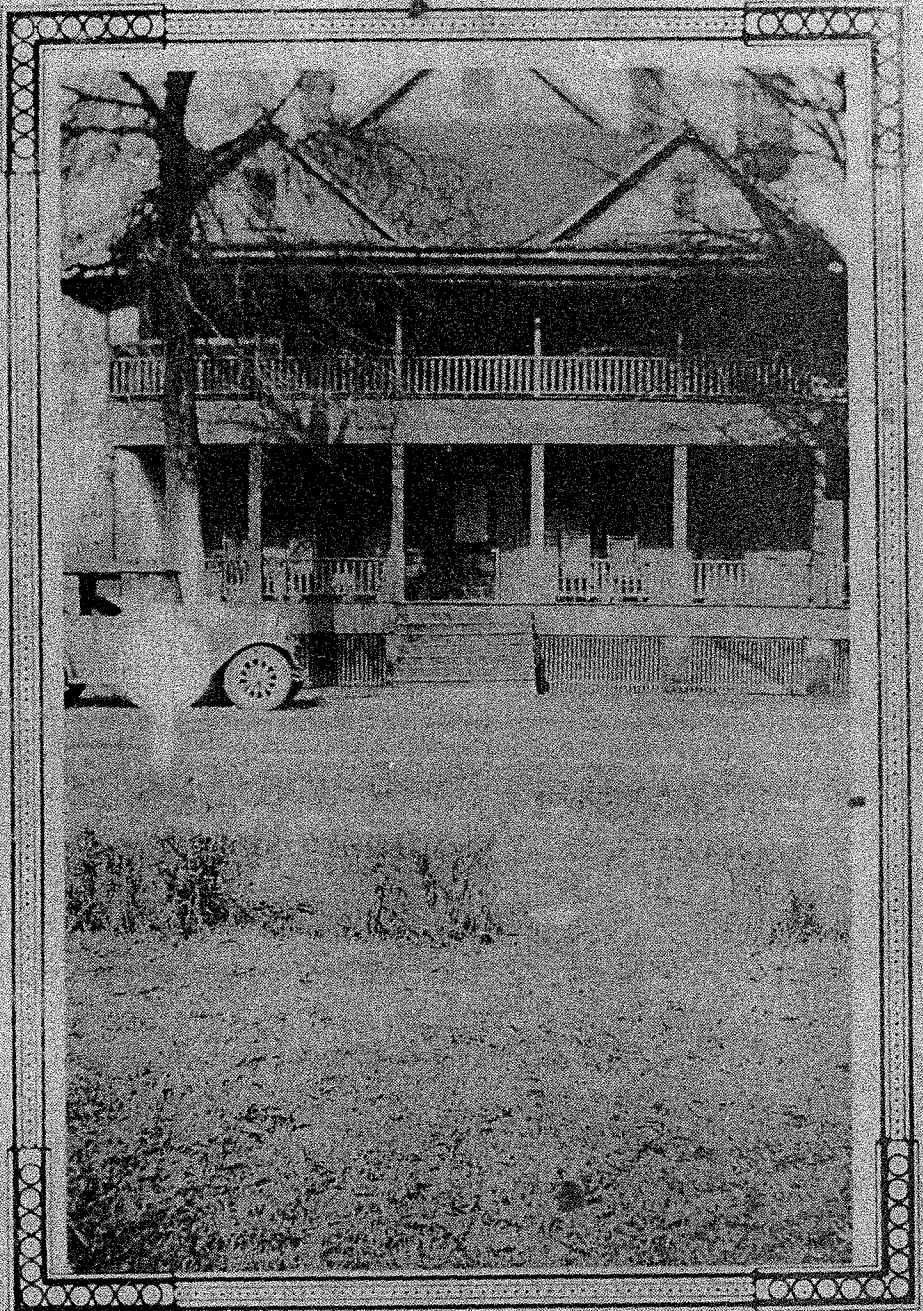
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Hardy A. Cornett was proprietor of the hotel and all its furnishing quarters. Another building, built in 1903 described in 1903 as "one of the most elegant located opposite the depots of the Southern (South) and was also within a block of the residence of Mrs. Red Henninger.)"

YOU'LL LOVE OUR
"BUY-CENTENNIAL"
DEALS



The Cornett Hotel

Hardy A. Cornett was proprietor of the Cornett House in Pell City from 1893. By an unfortunate fire, he lost the hotel and all its furnishings, but was soon in position to continue the business in other quarters. Another building, built in 1902 by Mr. Cornett and his brother, G. P., (pictured above) was described in 1903 as "one of the most comfortable and airy hotel buildings in North Alabama." It was located opposite the depots of the Southern Railway and the Seaboard Air Line (now First Avenue South) and was also within a block of the courthouse and the business center of town. (Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Red Heninger.)



"...So King George, Being A Strong
In The Domino Theory, Decid
Go To War With The Colon



FORTY-TWO YEARS ON PELL CITY

The pictures on this page will doubtless stir the memory of many an old timer and not-so-old-timer in Pell City. Made in 1933, the pictures were loaned to the Observer by Mrs. Jewel Hammett. Those who have been around for awhile will quickly recognize the stately old courthouse which gave way to progress in 1955 when the present new courthouse was dedicated by then-Gov. "Big Jim" Folsom...

...The Martin Hospital, photographed even before the wing which now houses the St. Clair Observer offices was built on...

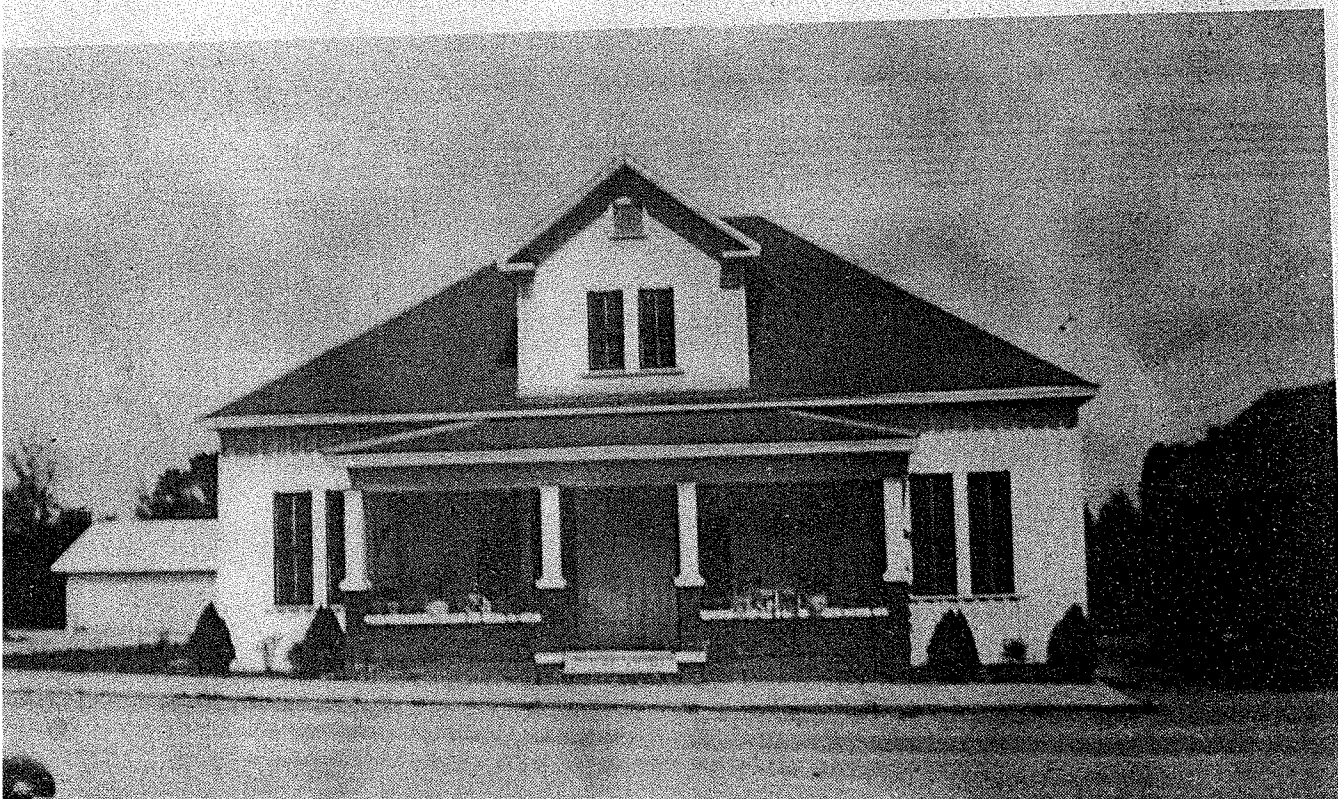
...Mitnick's store, located in the middle of the block on Cogswell Avenue, which later became Cohen's store...

...Jake Garry's Mule Barn. Wanta hazard a guess as to where that one was located, anyone? If you said on the corner of what is now 17th St. and 1st Ave. So., where the



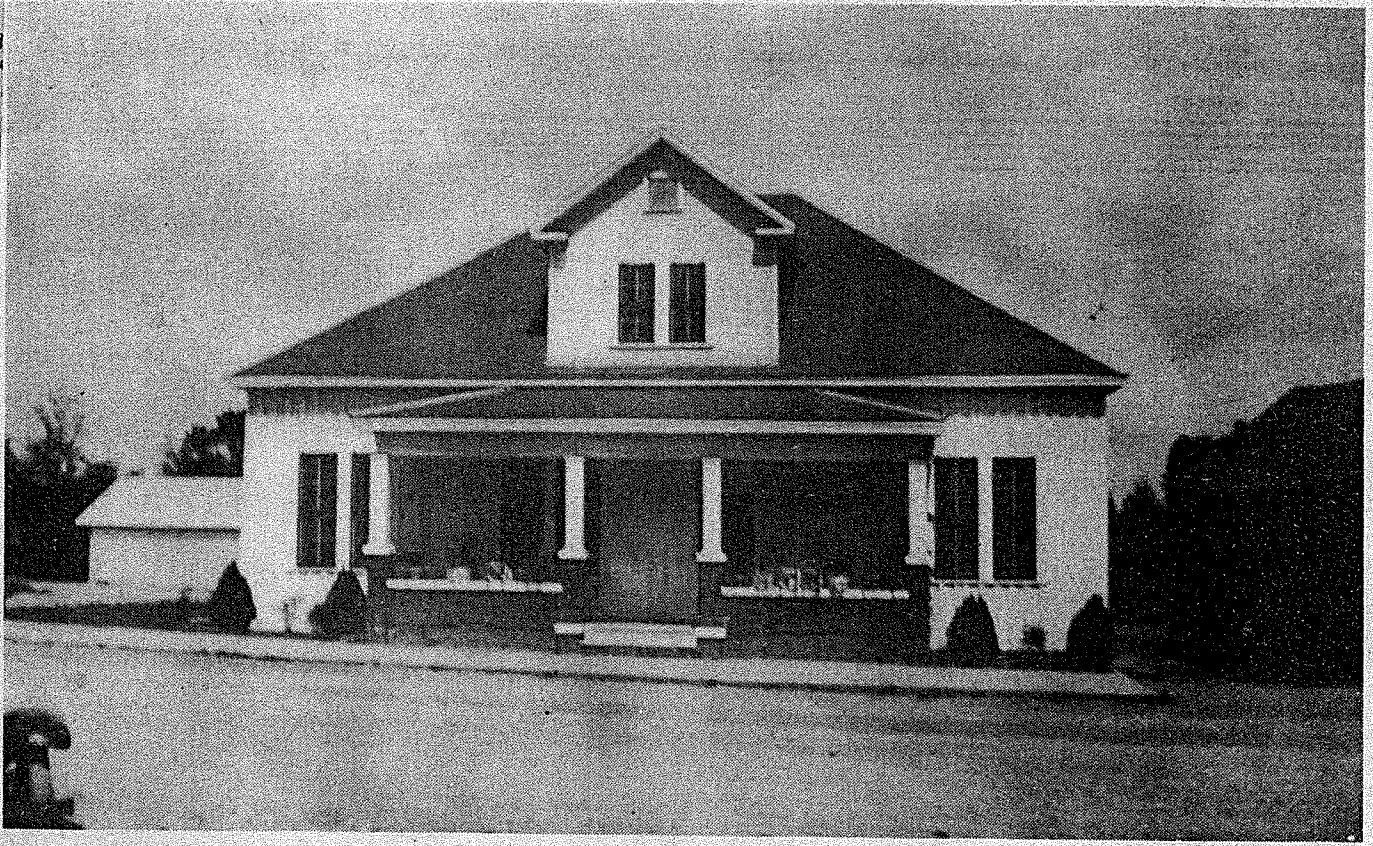
YEARS AGO CITY

Coosa Valley Telephone exchange building is now located, you are exactly right...
...The old Pell City High School, which later became the old Pell City Grammar School, which later became the new City Hall, and many are the men and women who will look at that one with fond memories...
...The Chevrolet building, which in 1935 became Lawley Chevrolet Co., owned by the late Millard Lawley, and is now the Hank Harmon building which has in recent years housed Bargain Town USA, Emory's and now Valu-Mart...
...Ah, sweet reminescences! Sweet, that is until one realizes that he can remember everyone of these landmarks, and isn't getting any younger day by day. Anyway, happy Bicentennial celebration...

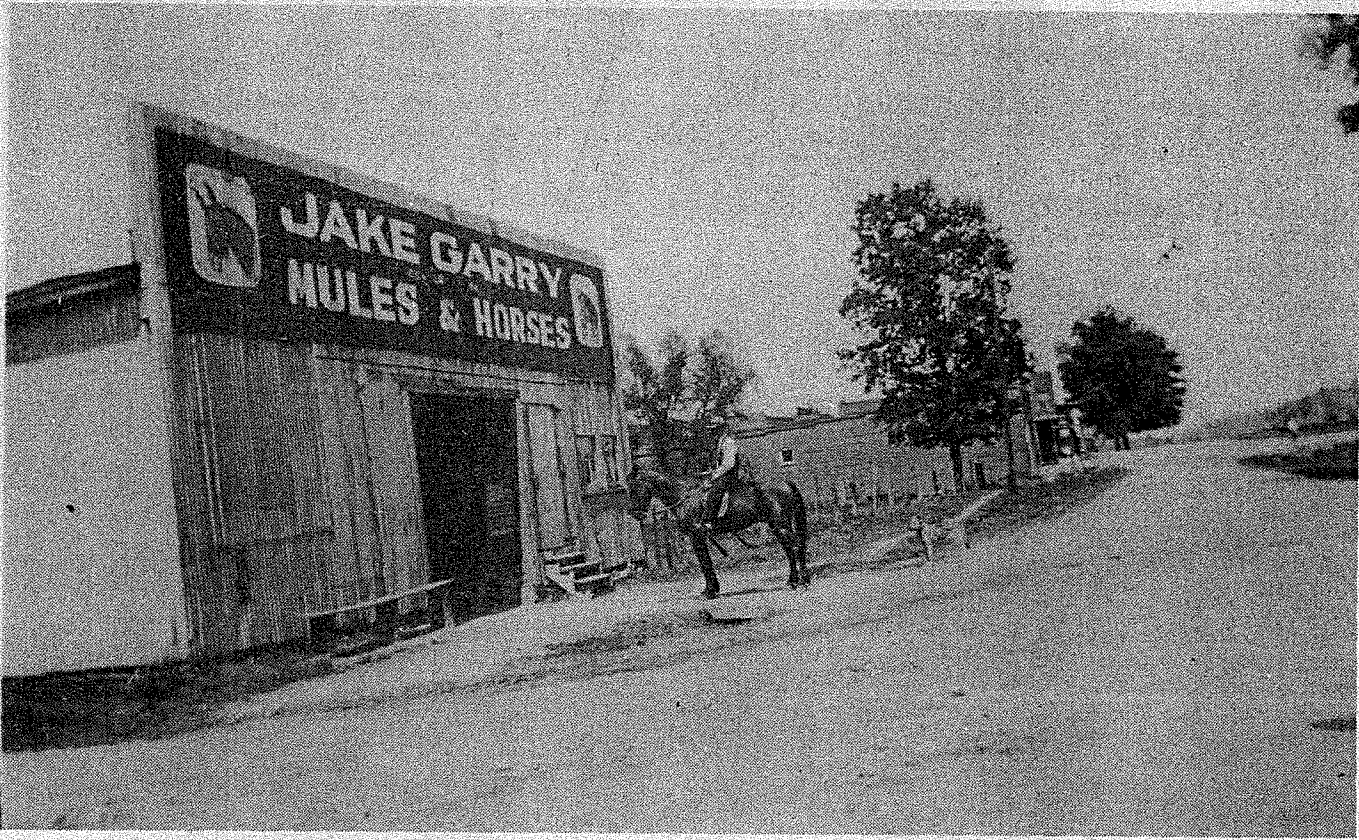


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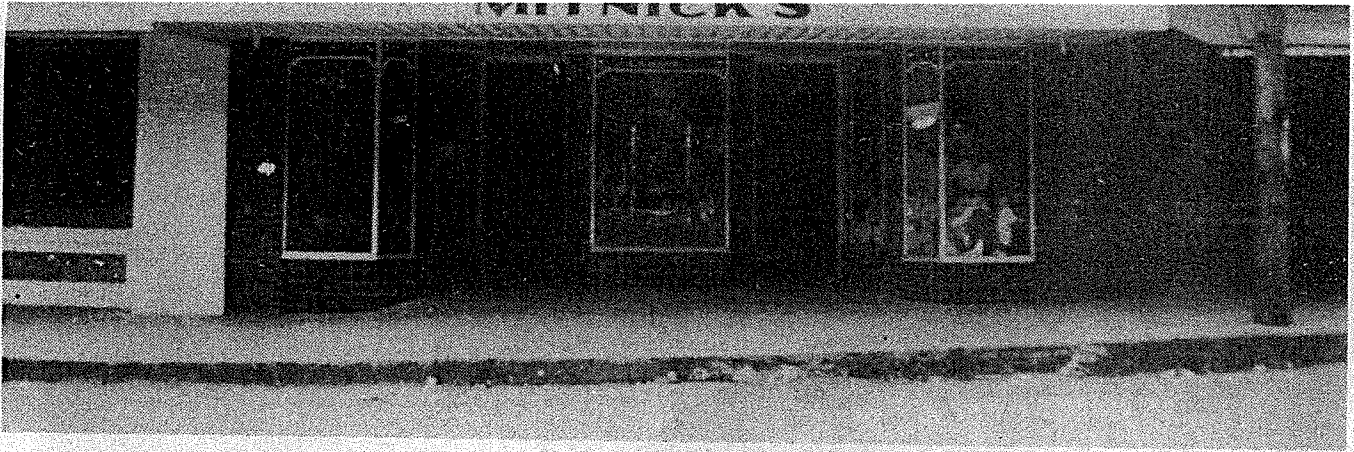
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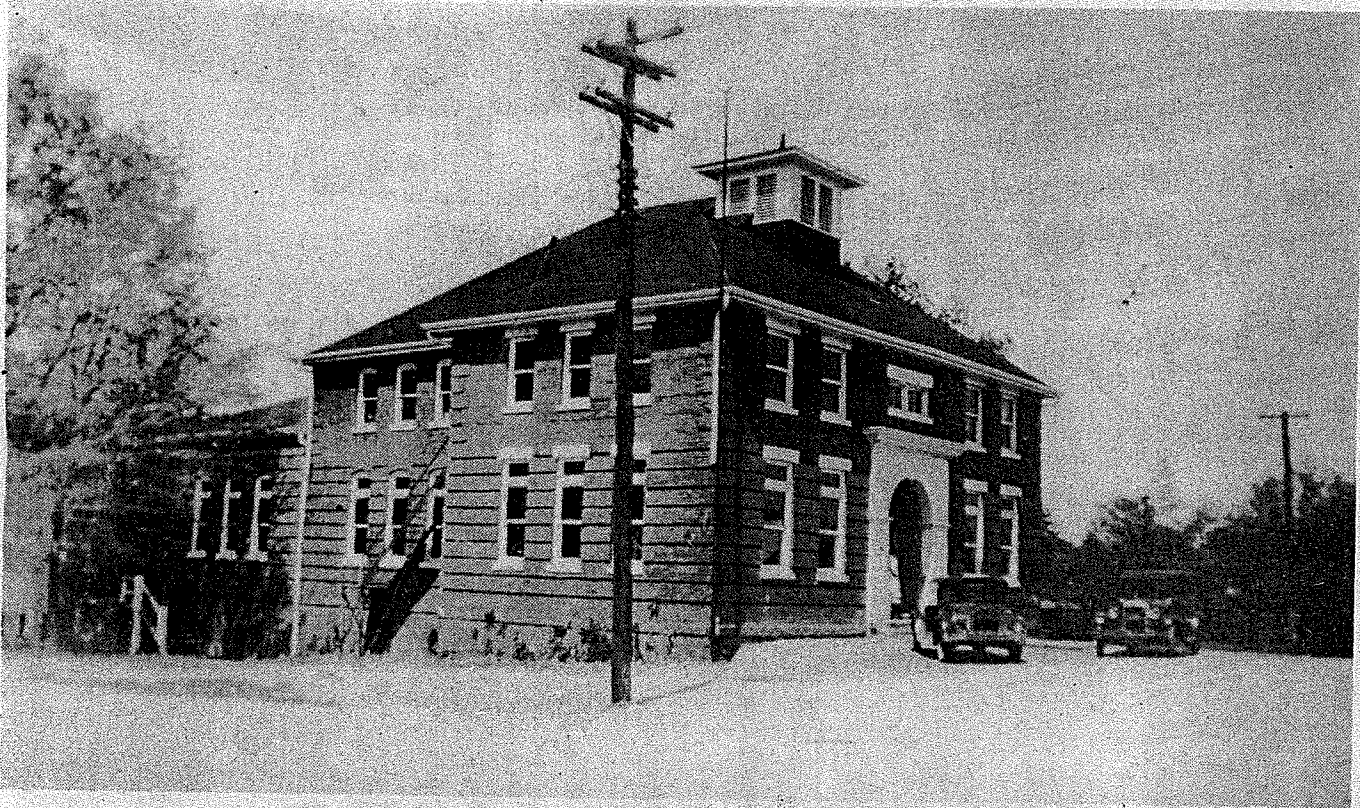


Mitnick's Store





Mitnick's Store



High School-Grammar School

(Photos Courtesy Mrs.



Jake Garry's Mule Barn



Old Chevrolet Company

Hammett)

9424

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Pell City Courthouse

Story Of A House, A Man, A Town

BY MATTIE LOU
TEAGUE CROW

This is not so much a story of a house as it is the story of a man and town. Houses never quite give up the people who live within their walls and seem to hold on the hardest to those who give the greatest service to mankind. This lovely old Victorian house is the home of a very lovely modern-day lady, Lydia Elizabeth Cogswell Starnes.

The house was built about 1888. It began life as a two-story traditional house with typical Victorian trimmings. The bowed-effect, with four matching windows inside their framing of dark green, the small central window, and the one above of tinted diamond-shaped glass—so beloved of the late Victorians—are intriguing to passers-by.

It is difficult to determine just how much belongs to the original structure and how much has been added down through the years. The place is known today as the Sumter Cogswell home.

The first town charter was granted The Pell City Land Company on Oct. 28, 1887, with the following men as incorporators: T.S. Plowman, John B. Knox, D.M. Rogers, J.A. Savage, John Postell, and Judge John W. Inzer. During that year three railroads, The Coosa Valley, The Georgia Pacific, and The East and West, built jointly a depot here.

The East and West was owned by the wealthy Pell family of New York and this is the source of the town's name. The town site was surveyed, the streets were laid out, and a few houses were built. Mr. Green Evans was the mayor.

The village was a mere infant when, on a March day in 1890, young Mr. Sumter Cogswell, on his way to Talladega, was

company had the town site re-surveyed, streets opened up, and several houses were built. Soon the Hercules Pipe Company, the very first soil pipe plant in the South, was located at Pell City. The town grew, with a store, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a saloon, a post office, and a few new homes. But the panic of 1893-94 forced the Pell City Iron and Land Company, along with the Hercules Pipe Company, into receivership. The pipe shops were moved to Anniston.

In 1901, Sumter Cogswell who had not kept in touch with the little town, again passed through and, upon looking from the train window, was surprised to see a deserted village. The streets were grown up, the houses were empty, and the place had the appearance of a ghost town. When he reached his destination in Atlanta, Mr. Cogswell telephoned Mr. Plowman and learned the sad story of failure.

He also learned that the town was again for sale. This time Mr. Cogswell purchased the principal acreage which is today Pell City for the sum of \$3,000. He had recently been married to a Mrs. DeGaris, formerly Miss Lydia Elizabeth

McBain of Memphis, Tenn.

On Sept. 7, 1901, ten years from the time he had first discovered Pell City, he brought his bride and her two small sons, Jack and Julian DeGaris, here to live in the house which occupies block Number Two and which is pictured above.

It is true that one man cannot build a town. When the complete history of Pell City is written there will be many names connected with its development. But always there, with the others will be the name of Sumter Cogswell. He didn't indeed, have a very vital way all the good things which occurred to make Pell City a desirable place to live. The churches, the schools, the mill, the courthouse, the roads, the bank, all were part of his dream and all felt his stedying hand.

When the Cogswells came to Pell City in 1901, there were only 40 people living here. Mr. Tom S. Coleman, in 1950, dictated to Elizabeth Cogswell Starnes his memory of the day this family moved in. Mr. Coleman was a very young man at that time and was working as a night operator at the depot.

"The day Mr. Cogswell unloaded his household goods it was a sight to me. They

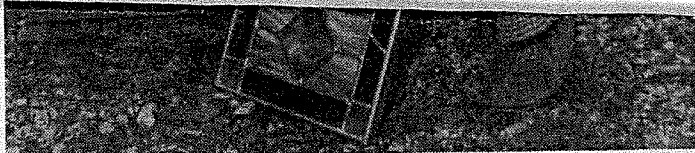
unloaded one bay horse, one surry, which amused me very much as it was the first buggy I had ever seen with fringes around the top and the first to come to this country town. One bird dog, white and brown named Jack or Dan (I can recall which), and several loads of household goods. They brought with them a great amount of groceries that were small boys and their entire stock of the town's small store. Jack and were small boys and their Righter Cogswell who

The house that occupies block Number Two, its veranda shaded by an old large wisteria, its rooms exquisitely furnished in the traditional style, is still a setting for cordial hospitality it offers one a all when Lydia Sumter Cogswell called it home and where they reared a family, the two boys and three daughters, Elizabeth Gertrude, and Mary Cogswell



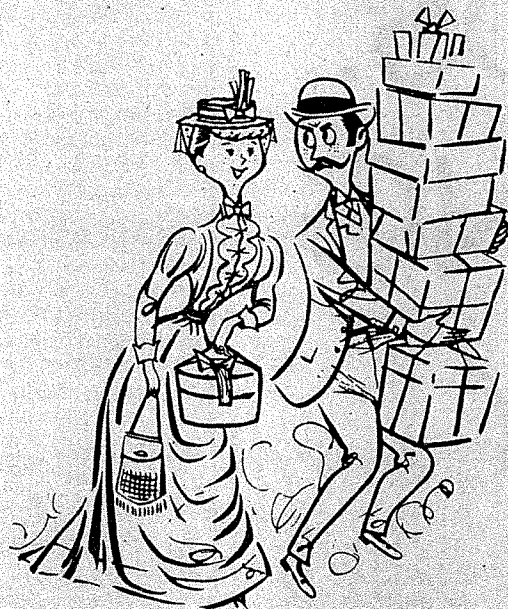
three railroads, was near enough to markets in Birmingham and Anniston, and was surrounded by fertile farm land. When Mr. Cogswell learned that Mr. Tom Plowman of Talladega was president of The Pell City Land Company, he paid that gentleman a visit and, learning that the land was for sale, he managed to secure a two week option.

Within this time limit the land—400 acres—was sold to the Pell City Iron and Land Company for \$50,000. This



Tuscaloosan Enters Fair

Mrs. Donna Bennight of Tuscaloosa displays her stained glass windows which she will exhibit this Saturday at the 'Pell City Armory in the First Annual Arts and Crafts Fair. Mrs. Bennight is one of the many artists and craftsmen who will be on hand this Saturday for the big event which kicks off Pell City Bicentennial Celebration.



10% OFF

To Any Shoppers In Our Store On Saturday, Oct. 25th Who Are Dressed In Old-Fashion Dress.

- Jonathon Logan for Juniors
- Turtle Bax Jeans & Tops
- Lori Lynn Sportswear
- Mr. Jack for the Taller Woman
- Lady Jack in Half Sizes
- Exquisite Form Bras & Girdles
- Hanes Hosiery (Men & Women)
- Manhattan Shirts & Sport Coats
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- Rappers Pants by Mr. Dee Cee
- City Club & Endicott Johnson Shoes for men
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- Red Goose & Mother Goose Shoes for Children

COMPARE US FOR

QUALITY — VALUE — SERVICE

VADA'S

911 Cogswell Ave., Pell City

Phone 338-2631

604 MARTIN ST. No.



The Cogswell House

BASIC COMPANY PHILOSOPHY





1933

**...Thanks To You,
OUR FAITHFUL
CUSTOMERS !**

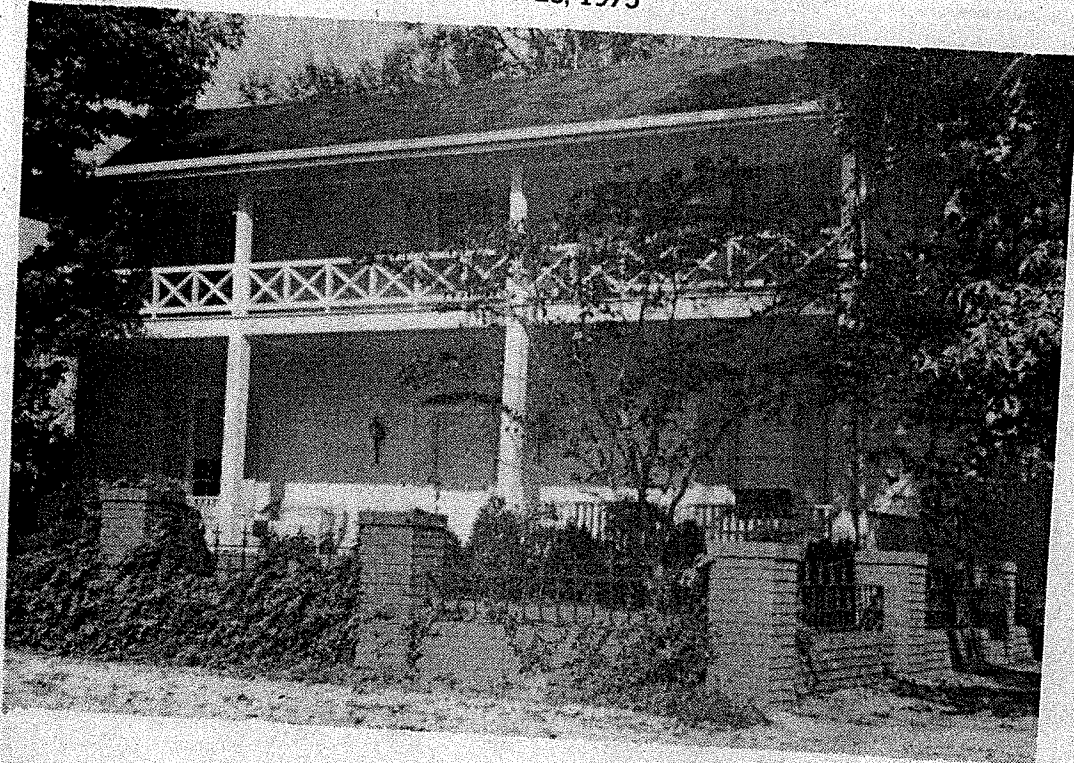
And To Show Our Appreciation,

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY . . .



1975

PRICES ON THIS



The Riser House

Riser House Is City's Oldest

Mrs. A.F. Riser is the proud owner of Pell City's oldest home, a rambling two-story white house reminiscent of deep South plantation life. It actually was a plantation home when Green Evans and his wife, Sarah, built it in about 1891. According to old deeds recorded in the courthouse at Ashville, Mr. Evans owned considerable acreage here.

Representing his area in the State legislature, Moore was instrumental in amending the state constitution to allow St. Clair County, a branch county seat to be located in Pell City. Mrs. Moore organized Pell City's first PTA in 1924. She sold the house in 1939 to Thomas N. Eatman who owned it 17 years, selling to the present

place home are the Evanses, Rowes, Alversons, Raglands, Hazelwoods, Fowlers, and the Eatmans from whom Dr. Riser purchased the house in 1956. Mrs. Riser's love for the place reflects her faith in American traditions.

Every piece of furniture in the house is authentic—either an original, or a true reproduction.

Bank Org

(Excerpted from "The History of St. Clair County," by Lou Teague Crow, 1973)

In 1903, The Bank of St. Clair County was organized with Sumter Cogswell as president, Frank H. Lathrop as president, and McLane and J. Mantz as cashiers. In 1910 a new charter was obtained, and the bank became the First National of Pell City. The name was changed in 1919 to Union State Bank. It was the first bank to be established in St. Clair County and has served the public continually since. There was another bank of short duration called City Bank and Trust Company which was in operation from 1910-1911. Today there are strong banking houses in Pell City, Union State and Peoples's Bank. Also located here is St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association. The first Sunday School was organized by Mrs. Carol Alverson, F. D. Cather, Sr., and W.H. Fred Miller, with the help of many others. It was held in a building which stood before the Pell City Drug Company. The building also served as Cather's printing shop, as was at that time the editor of The Pell City News. Small kerosene and wooden boxes from the grocery were used for seats. Soon church services were held in this building on Sunday nights. From this humble beginning the Pell City Methodist Episcopal Church came into being. The Presiding Elder

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Evans owned the house for nine years, selling it in 1899 to C. J. Hamilton. In 1902 H. A. Cornett sold the home to J. Z. Hazelwood, but no record is available of the transaction from Hamilton to Cornett. The Hazelwoods helped to establish a hotel in Pell City.

Maggie A. Green acquired the house in 1910 and lived there for a short time. Maggie A. Green's husband, James T. Green, descendant of revolutionary war veteran, served as county judge.

The next owner was a Mr. Burns who owned the local telephone company. During Burns' ownership, some of his telephone employees resided in the house.

About 1920, Mr. James L. Ragland purchased the home. He served as postmaster for Pell City from 1923 to 1936.

In 1933, John Moore traded some property and acquired the house. He helped organize Pell City Hardware Company and served as the First president of this early Pell City commercial

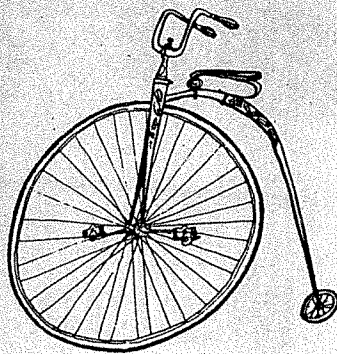
firm. Representing his area in the State legislature, Moore was instrumental in amending the state constitution to allow St. Clair County, a branch county seat to be located in Pell City. Mrs. Moore organized Pell City's first PTA in 1924. She sold the house in 1939 to Thomas N. Eatman who owned it 17 years, selling to the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Riser in 1956. Dr. Riser who died in 1971 had been one of Pell City's leading physicians.

The stately old house has a gambrel roof with a severely plain entablature supported by slender square pillars. There are no pilasters. The three windows opening on the upstairs veranda and the two on the first floor veranda lack ornamentation; their pink louvered blinds are their only decoration. The small window panes are of blown glass. Their simplicity is relieved by the beautiful sunburst transom over the front door. The chimneys at either end of the house are of handpressed brick.

When you step across the threshold, you at once see that Ann Riser has done a superb job of restoration, for you feel that you have stepped back in time to a bygone era in Southern history. The house has had many different mistresses down through the years, and each has given it loving care. Some of the families who have called this

place home are the Evanses, Rowes, Alversons, Raglands, Hazelwoods, Fowlers, and the Eatmans from whom Dr. Riser purchased the house in 1956. Mrs. Riser's love for the place reflects her faith in American traditions.

Every piece of furniture in the house is authentic—either an original, or a true reproduction—and represents a style current in Southern farm homes during the late nineteenth century. One especially fine piece, and likely the oldest one, is a walnut secretary of the early eighteenth century vintage. It was made for an ancestor of Mrs. Riser who lived in Virginia, and it had a very long hazardous journey before it finally reached Pell City.



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Ante-Bellum

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Bank Of St. Clair Organized In 1903

(Excerpted from "The History of St. Clair County," by Mattie Lou Teague Crow, 1973)

In 1903, The Bank of St. Clair County was organized with Sumter Cogswell as president, Frank H. Lathrop as vice-president, and McLane Tilton and J. Mantz as cashiers. In 1910 a new charter was obtained, and the bank became First National of Pell City. The name was changed in 1918 to Union State Bank. It was the first bank to be established in St. Clair County and has served the public continually ever since. There was another bank of short duration called Pell City Bank and Trust Company, which was in operation from 1910-1911. Today there are two strong banking houses in Pell City, Union State and the Peoples's Bank. Also located there is St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association.

The first Sunday School was a Union school and was organized by Mrs. Carol Alverson, Bays D. Cather, Sr., and W.H. and Fred Miller, with the help of many others. It was held in the building which stood behind Pell City Drug Company. The building also served as Mr. Cather's printing shop, as he was at that time the editor of **The Pell City News**. Small kegs and wooden boxes from the grocery were used for seats. Soon church services were held in this building on Sunday night. From this humble beginning, the Pell City Methodist Episcopal Church came into being. The Presiding Elder came down from Gadsden to help with the organization. A church building was erected on the site of the present building.

At quarterly conference, Bays D. Cather was appointed church clerk, steward, and secretary of the Sunday School. E.E. Emerson was sent by the North Alabama Conference to be the first pastor. He was also pastor at Eden. The membership consisted of fourteen men, women, and children. The first marriage to be performed in the church was that of J.F. Miller to Miss Eddie Rowland.

About 1904, the Baptist organized a congregation in Pell City. Their first building occupied the site of the present First Baptist. There were eighteen charter members. The trustees were M.J. Smith, Mr. Mitchell, and J.H. Phillips. The Reverend Mr. Burns was the first pastor.

The first little schoolhouse was later occupied by the congregation of St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church. Bishop Beckwith of the Alabama Diocese held services there many times. For a brief period their director was Dr. Blacklock of Anniston. Today there are many fine churches in and around Pell City, the newest being Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church.

In 1903, Dr. R.A. Martin came to make his home and to practice medicine in Pell City. He became one of the town's most public-spirited citizens, contributing much to the welfare of his fellow townsmen. He established Pell City Drug Company and Pell City Infirmary. His younger brother, Dr. Claude Martin, was the town's first dentist.

The town's first hospital was the Gertrude Comer Hospital, which was sustained by Avondale Mills. It began

operation soon after the mill was purchased by the Comers. Dr. Martin was head of the medical staff, and Miss Elsie Dunn was head of nursing services. It was under these two people that Miss Ruby Zackie, St. Clair County Health Nurse, received her training. The St. Clair Memorial Hospital, which is supported by county taxes, is located in Pell City, and it said to be one of the best equipped small hospitals in the state.

When Pell City became a branch county seat for St. Clair County, prominent lawyers came to make their homes here. W.A. Starnes, whose wife was Selma Eaton, was one of the first and one of the best. His oldest son, Thurston, returned to practice here after receiving his law degree. M.M. Smith,

who came from Ashville in 1903, was an able attorney, and his son, Victor, also practiced law in Pell City. Frank B. Embry came as a young lawyer and has given his time and energy in many civic and religious activities. Charlie P. Pratt, McLane Tilton, and Gardener Greene were all practicing attorneys.

One of the oldest business establishments in the town is Pell City Hardware Company, organized in 1904 with John W. Moore as president, and R.M. Alverson, Claude Alverson, and Hardie Cornett as the associate members of the firm. C.O. Lacy has owned the store since 1961.

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Sumter Cogswell, President. D. W. Waite, V.
E. J. Mautz, Cashier.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Geo. W. Pratt, President Pell City Manufacturing Company.	Sumter Cogswell
Frank H. Lathrop, President of Lathrop-Hatten Lumber Company, Riverside, Ala.	City Realty
Hon. W. S. Forman, Probate Judge of St. Clair County, Ashville, Ala.	Jas. L. Herrin
D. W. Waite, Merchant, Easonville, Ala.	Ashville, A.
J. W. Moore, Merchant, Coal City, Ala.	Hon. W. T. Br
	land Coal
	Ala.
	A. T. LeFils, I
	Ala.
	McLane Tilton
	Law, Pell
	E. J. ...

CAPITAL \$50,000.

This bank, which is the only banking institution in the county, was organized February 12, 1903, and at the time of its organization was transacting business in its own handsome brick building.

General Banking Business Transacted. Collections on St. Clair County Given Special Attention

Bank Of St. Clair Organized In 1903

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date in history were a stock of caskets, a horse-drawn hearse, a bier, and a pair of hand strips with which to lower the casket into the grave. Mr. Abbott, known locally as Uncle Tom, was most enthusiastic about his new venture. He directed his first funeral at Eden and found it to be a devastating experience. He at once came to the conclusion that this was not for him. When he reached home, he paced the floor for an hour, pausing occasionally to scrub his hands. His wife and her brother, J.H. Willingham, were partners in his business. Finally he said to them, "If you want this undertaking business, you can have it. I'm through!" Mrs. Abbott and Mr. Willingham

Continued On Page 11

Bank of St. Clair County, Pell City, Alabama

Sumter Cogswell, President. D. W. Waite, Vice-President.
E. J. Mautz, Cashier.

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Hon. W. S. Forman, Probate Judge of St. Clair County, Ashville, Ala.	Hon. W. T. Brown, President Ragland Coal Company, Ragland, Ala.
D. W. Waite, Merchant, Easonville, Ala.	A. T. LeFalls, Merchant, Pell City, Ala.
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