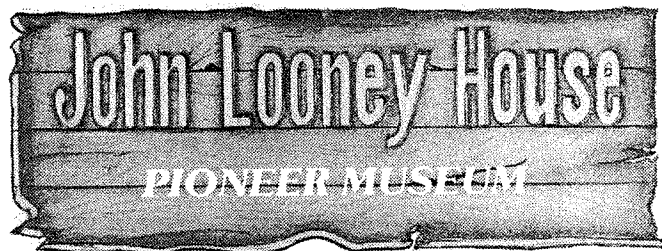


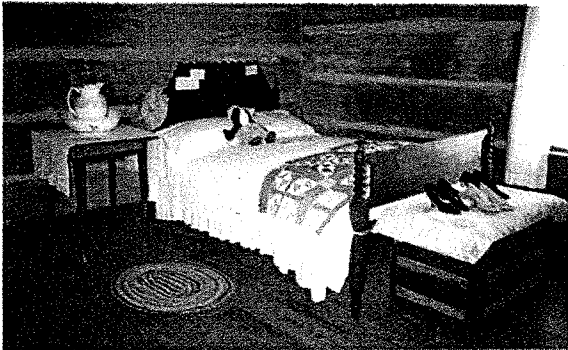
**STEP BACK INTO THE PAST
AT THE**



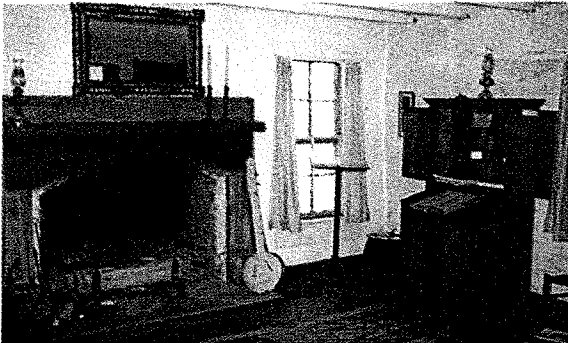
**Circa 1820
Ashville, Alabama**

**The John Looney House is the only re-
stored two-story double-dogtrot
pioneer log home in Alabama.**

**Restored by the
St. Clair Historical Society**



Bedroom (Upstairs)



Front Room Fireplace

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Saturdays and Sundays 1-5 p.m.

ADMISSION

Adults - \$2.00 Children - \$1.00
 Under 6 - Free
 Group Rates - One-half admission price

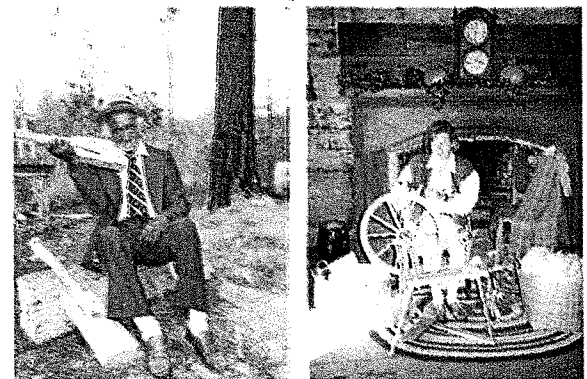
For more information about touring the John Looney House, contact hostess:

Inez Franklin
 Route 1, Box 790, Ashville, AL 35953
 Telephone (205) 594-7849

**ENJOY OUR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
 AND PIONEER CRAFTS SHOW
 2nd Saturday of October**



Civil War Reenactment Group



Homemade Instruments

Spinning Wool

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 NEAR ASHVILLE INCLUDE:**

- John Inzer House Confederate Museum
- Ashville Museum and Archives
 (located in Ashville Library)
- St. Clair County Courthouse
- Ashville Masonic Lodge building
- Numerous historical homes

For more information contact

Ashville Library - (205) 594-7954
 P.O. Box 187, Ashville, AL 35953

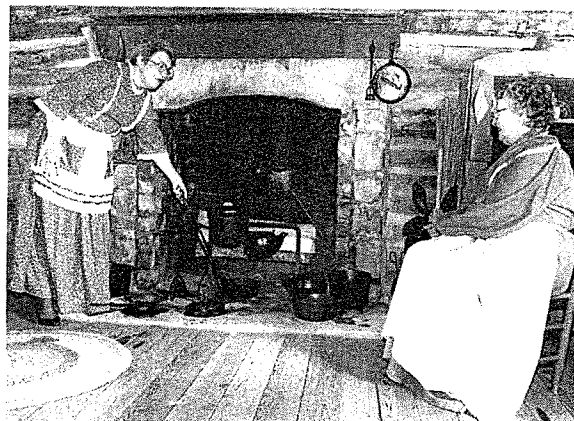
In the year of our Lord, 1813, General Andrew Jackson brought an army of volunteers into what is now Alabama with orders to subdue the hostile Creek Indians. Among Jackson's men were John Looney and his son, Henry, who helped build Fort Strother on the Coosa River and fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. During this time John Looney fell in love with this beautiful country and resolved to move his family to this new land.

Late in 1817, John and his family left Marion County, Tennessee and traveled to Alabama. An Indian territorial grant signed by President James Monroe allocated eighty acres to the Looneys in Beaver Valley on the western banks of the Coosa River. John and Rebecca and their seven children worked hard all winter setting the place to rights. But in the spring an unexpected freshet brought disaster when it flooded their home. Invading mosquitoes and sickness forced them to undertake the tremendous task of dismantling and relocating to higher ground. And the house stands there today -- a perfect example of pioneer architecture.

On September 16, 1972 the Looney House property was deeded to the St. Clair Historical Society by Colonel and Mrs. Joseph S. Crietz. It was furnished and officially opened to the public on November 23, 1974. Today the house is much as it would have been during those pioneer days. You step back into the past as you tour the rustic two-story log home with its authentic replicas of rope-slat beds with straw and feather mattresses. Examine the buttermilk painted cupboards, hand-hewn rafters and the hand-pressed bricks. Historical documents and other 19th century artifacts aptly portray the rugged life of the pioneer.

AS YOU TOUR THE PIONEER LOG HOME ENVISION THE LIFE OF THOSE BYGONE DAYS

THE WOMEN TENDING STEW OVER THE COOKFIRE, MEN LABORING IN THE FIELDS AND CHILDREN DOING THEIR DAILY CHORES.



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Pine Harbor to host local sailing club ^{regatta}

PELL CITY, Oct. 15 — The Pine Harbor Yacht Club will host the Birmingham Sailing Club, the Dixie Sailing Club and the Muscle Shoals Sailing Club at its first annual Pine Harbor Regatta Sunday.

Approximately 50 sail boars are expected to participate in the event.

Races will be held and awards will be presented to the outstanding skippers of the race. Tony Besaulniers, public relations officer for the club, said the regatta promises to be one of the most colorful water sports events held in Alabama.

B'ham News

Alabama Amblings

Pell City offers natural beauty

BY PAT HOUTZ, News correspondent

PELL CITY

If you live in Alabama you don't have to be a millionaire to enjoy spectacular natural beauty — mountains, lakes, forests and miles of unspoiled scenery.

There are places like Pell City — less than an hour's drive from Birmingham — that can make you believe that all of America has not gone to the dogs.

This little town of only a few thousand people bustles with activity yet its streets are tree-lined, there are signs "4 dozen eggs—\$1" and you can find a parking place "downtown" any time day or night.

Hundreds of people bring their boats to Pell City to get them repaired. When you see the boat marinas with craft stacked three high, waiting for tune-ups and paint jobs, you wonder if all the stories you have heard about the depression are really true.

ALTHOUGH PELL CITY is small and tree shaded, the St. Clair County Courthouse is modern and airconditioned. Nearby Riverside, even smaller, boasts a spanking new, modern brick Town Hall.

A day or two visiting around the area convinces you the citizens have found the best of two worlds — natural beauty and economic liveliness.

There are places like Tollie's Grocery Store which does

a roaring business and the Pell City Steak House — where the service is equal to or better than in many of the finest eating places in the country.

There is an old shed standing alongside a dilapidated house on a side street. Inside the shed stands a 50-year-old Ford. The wheels are made of wood and there are lanterns on the front. The old Ford is covered with years of accumulated dust.

THE OWNERS have had the car standing there on blocks for decades — they have been offered as high as \$6,000 for it. Visitors from Birmingham stop almost daily to ask if the old car is for sale.

"No ma'am! That car ain't for sale!" a barefoot youngster playing outside will tell you if you look in and wonder if they realize what a valuable collectors gem they have.

Pride in ownership of the old car is obviously worth more than \$6,000 to the little working family who have inherited it from grandparents.

Other sights in Pell City are prosperous vacationers who came to spend a day or weekend boating, swimming or sitting in air-conditioned motel rooms peering out at the breath-taking scenery.

THERE ARE lots for sale advertised at \$100.

It is easy to take for granted some of the small towns in Alabama like Pell City. But we should appreciate them more. They are a part of Americana that we ought to look at and savor while they last.



MRS. HOUTZ

HISTORY OF PELL CITY

Pell City, Alabama, is situated among the beautiful mountains and fertile valleys of East Central Alabama, at an elevation of about 700 feet, there is no more healthy spot anywhere, "Where nature has assembled the inter-dependent materials, Corn, Cotton, Coal, Iron and other minerals, in the finest natural workshop known to man, the mountain country of the South, carrying with it the energetic climate of the North." Pell City is located 35 miles east of Birmingham on the Coosa River. The Southern Railroad gives through Pullman accommodations to Washington via Atlanta and to New York and the east; going west, Pullman accommodations to Birmingham, Memphis, Kansas City, Texas and California. The Seaboard Air Line Railroad, before its liquidation several years ago, gave excellent service to Birmingham, Gadsden, Atlanta, and Eastern and Northern points, both freight and passenger. Auto Bus lines operate on regular schedules, giving excellent passenger and freight service, East, West, North, and South.

Pell City has several miles of black topped streets and its streets are lighted by electricity with a Whiteway ten blocks long.

Pell City has everything that is required to make her citizens prosperous, happy and contented. There cannot be found a more orderly law abiding and moral citizenship than Pell City possesses. Pell City is a delightful place of residence all the year round.

The climate is faultless. The temperature in mid-winter seldom falls to 20 above zero and in the summer time rarely above 95 degrees. Cases of prostration from heat are unknown. Owing to the heavily wooded mountains, there are nearly always refreshing breezes during the summer months, and the nights are generally cool enough to require covering.

The present town of Pell City is due to the vision of foresight of one man, Sumter Cogswell, who upon seeing the location for the first time, was so impressed with the beauty of it and the natural advantages possessed by the location that he immediately began using his talents, his energy toward the promotion of a modern city. The first town charter was granted the Pell City Land Company on the 28th day of October 1887, its incorporators being, John B. Knox, T. S. Plowman, D. M. Rogers, J. A. Savage, John Postell and Judge John W. Inzer. The town site was surveyed, streets were laid out and a few houses built. During the year 1887 three railroads, the East and West, The Coosa Valley Railroad and The Southern Railroad built a joint depot, a two-story structure located about where the annex of the St. Clair Motor Company now stands. The East and West Railroad, later sold to the famous New York family of Pells. This is where the town of Pell City derives its name. At the time the railroad station was built the only other building in town was the Cornett Hotel, located where the home of R. C. Gravette now stands. Mr. Sumter Cogswell, at that time in the employ of the Home Life Insurance Company as General Agent. In the regular course of business Mr. Cogswell went to Talladega, Alabama, to establish an agency. Being unable to make train connections at Pell City, he was forced to spend the night there. This was in the spring of 1890. Being so impressed with the location, for a town site, he asked who the town belonged to and was told that he was to see Mr. Tom Plowman at Talladega, Alabama. Mr. Plowman informed him that the town belonged to the Pell City Land Company, of which he (Mr. Plowman) was president. Mr. Cogswell secured a two weeks option, and sold the Pell City Land Company to the Pell City Iron and Land Company of which Milford W. Howard, J. H. Barr, T. S. Plowman, G. N. Henderson and General Wilder Incorporators. \$1 for 1/4 acres land.

50,000 400

The Pell City Iron And Land Company had the town site re-surveyed, streets laid out and several houses built. This company was instrumental in bringing to Pell City the Hercules Pipe Company, the first soil pipe plant to be erected in the South. At this time the young city seemed to be on a prosperity basis. W. G. Evans was the first mayor. A store was being operated by Mr. Lindsey, where Jess Williamson's blacksmith shop now stands. The postoffice was located where the Martin Building in the rear of the Pell City Drug Company now stands. A saloon was doing business where Hill grocery company stands at present. A Mr. Flanders was the proprietor of the saloon. In the panic of 1893-94-95 The Pell City Iron and Land Company was forced into receivership as was the Hercules Pipe Company. The Pipe shops were moved to Anniston, Alabama, which city now enjoys the reputation of being the largest center for soil pipe manufacturing in the world. Mr. Cogswell had heard of the growth of the town, but did not know how disastrously the panic had affected its fortunes. In passing through Pell City in 1901, Mr. Cogswell naturally looked from the window of the train to see what progress had been made in the place he sold 10 years before. He was surprized to see that there was not a building to be seen from the train, and at the deserted appearance of the town. Upon arrival in Atlanta, he communicated with Mr. Plowman, and asked what was the matter with the town? Mr. Plowman, replied, telling him of the towns misfortunes and its ups and downs, and also said the town was for sale. Mr. Cogswell decided to buy. The price being agreed upon, the deeds were sent to the Atlantâ National Bank for examination to title. Before payment, N. K. Smith and Judge Herring of Ashville, Alabama, examined the deeds and pronounced them good. Mr. Cogswell, then paid for, and secured the title to the town site, with the exception of the holdings of the Hercules Pipe Company. Louis J. Brandies 50 acres and Boston associate Justice of the US Supreme Court.

At this time there was only 45 people living within the co-operate limits of Pell City. Seven of these moved away, and in September 1901, Mr. Cogswell brought his family of five, to live in Pell City making the total population 40. At

At this time the town had grown up in weeds and shrubbery. There was not a country road leading into or out of the town in any direction. There was nothing for the new owner to do, except promote some industry, which was the Pell City Manufacturing Company, now the Avondale Mills Company. In 1902 Mr. Cogswell went to Boston, and bought from Hon. Louis D. Brandeis, as trustee, all of the Hercules Pipe Company holdings in Pell City. At this time, an opening of a new era for the south, boom times were in evidence in all sections of dixie, particularly in Alabama, and in Birmingham, and the country adjacent to Birmingham. Steel and iron and coal in the red clay hills of Alabama was changing the old order of industry. Instead of depending all together on agricultural products for a living, well trained engineers and chemists were pointing ores the way for the erection of giant plants, utilizing the raw metals and ores found in native hills of Alabama. Thus bringing an influx of population and capital from all parts of country.

(Sold to Avondale Mills in the Fall of 1919) Mr. Cogswell incorporated the Pell City Realty Company, donating to it 150 acres of land, and the Mills Spring which is at present site of The Avondale Mills. The cornerstone of the mill was laid in August, 1902 upon its completion in 1903 about 1500 more inhabitants moved to the town. This factory was built by the Howard-Bullock Manufacturing Company and The Draper Company of Hopwell Mass. and is now said to be the finest and most modern textile plant in the world. The town was now coming into its own. The first school was taught in a building in front of where Dr. Claud Martins house now stands.

Miss Dadie Griffith was the teacher. Zac Hazlewood operated a store where Steeds Market now stands. Col. N. B. Spears, Mayor of Pell City, reorganized the council by elections of aldermen. He was followed in 1902 by W. J. Purdy, who served in 1903 and in 1904. In 1903, Dr. R. A. Martin, a young physician came to Pell City to make his home and began the general practice of medicine. Dr. Martin has been instrumental in the promotion of several sub-divisions, and has been of its most public spirited and leading citizens, contributing much to the welfare and the upbuilding of the city.

In 1901 an election was held to locate a courthouse on the south side of Backbone Mountain, which is the geographical divide of St. Clair County. Pell City, Eden, Coal City and Riverside entered into competition to have the courthouse located in their respective towns. Pre-election activities were hot. A heated campaign was waged by each fraction. In the election, held November 6, 1901, Pell City won by about 600 majority over all, Sumter Cogswell then donated Block 26, for the erection of the courthouse and jail. County court is held here each month, Judge M. W. Forman of Ashville being the presiding officer of the county at the present time. The home of probate Judge Abner Lacey was located on this present court house site.

Home of Col. Spears was a log house. A term of circuit court is held here twice each year. Judge Rayburn of Gadsden and Judge Disque of Gadsden, being the present judges of this circuit. The peace officers of the county at the present time are: Ira Davis, Sherriff, R. E. Alverson, Pell City, Chief Deputy. Since the location of the courthouse here, naturally several attorneys made Pell City their home. The leading members of the local bar at the present are Frank B. Embry, W. T. Starnes and W. A. Weaver, Edwin Holiaday.

As the town thrived more stores continued to locat in Pell City.

Mr. H. B. Guy, who for years previously, had done business in a large department store, located at Eden, removed his business to Pell City. At that time Mr. Guy's store was the largest and most modern store between Birmingham and Anniston. During the year 1902, several county roads were opened up, among them being one going Northwest from Pell City, connecting with the Old Vandergrift Road. During the next year, road building continued, one going from Pell City, due North to Coal City and one from Pell City to the Coosa Valley Section. As the town grew the need was felt keenly for modern and up to date church and school buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Cogswell donated land for church sites to the Methodist, Baptist and Episcopal denominations and also land for church sites to the colored denominations. Land was donated for the site to of the present high school building and Negro school.

At about the time the court house at Pell City was finished and sessions of court were in full swing, a certain clique of citizens in the northern section of the county went before the State Legislature and asked that the sessions of the county and circuit court at Pell City be discontinued. The Legislature abolished the court here and the Supreme Court upheld their decision. The court was abolished in 1905, when Judge John Pelham, was the circuit judge and J. L. North was sheriff. The abolished court was of course a serious setback to the young town. Business felt a sharp decline. The pride of the citizens was hurt. Showing a spirit typical of their pioneering ancestors, the people of the northern section of the county court re-established at Pell City. The campaign waxed am. The people of the northern section endeavored to prove that the re-establishment of the court here was too expensive to the people of the county. The people of the southern section pointed out that with only one court in the

county, the docket was so crowded that litigants, lawyers, witnesses, judges, peace officers and anyone attending court from this side of the mountain was forced to make the trip to Ashville for several terms of court before their case finally came before the judge and jurors. In those days this was quite a trip. With the only means of travel, going to Ashville one had to make the arduous trip over the mountain, or going by train, had to make the trip by the way of Birmingham and Whitney. John W. Moore of Pell City announced himself as a candidate for the state legislature from St. Clair County and pledged himself to vote to have the state constitution amended so that the same platform. The election was held in November, 1906 and John W. Moore and E. D. Hamner were elected to the legislature and senate respectively. The legislature and senate of Alabama met in January 1907 and the constitution of the state was amended, making branch courts legal. The Municipal code of 1907, was enacted by this session of the state senate and legislature, and was adopted by the town council of Pell City in 1908. After the re-establishment of the court here, Pell City began its real development.

Prominent lawyers came here to make this city their home. The leading members of the bar during this period were, W. A. Starnes, Captain J. Gardner Greene, who later organized and led the Pell City Guard in France during the World War, and was killed in action "over there." M. H. Smith, who moved his family from Ashville to Pell City in 1903. In 1904, The Pell City Hardware Company was organized, its officers being John W. Moore, President, R. M. Alverson, Claude B. Alverson and Hardie A. Cornett. The need for a bank was keenly felt. Sumter Cogswell, McLane Tilton, and others organized the bank in St. Clair County and located it where M. L. Lewis and Son Grocery now stands.

Its officers were the following: Sumter Cogswell, President, Frank H. Lathrop, Vice-President, McLane Tilton, J. Mantz, Cashier, Pickens Pearson, Assistant cashier. The Bank's directors consisted of the following: Sumter Cogswell, F. H. Lathrop, W. N. Maddox, W. S. Forman, J. W. Moore, W. T. Brown, J. Fall Robertson, Jas L. Herring, A. J. Draper, E. Mautz and McLane Tilton, Jr. Dr. R. A. Martin, established the Pell City Drug Company. The Griffis and Sayers General Merchandise Store was located here in 1906. Leroy Truitt operated the first furniture store in the building where Cohen's Store is now. J. H. Willingham opened the first embalming and undertaking establishment here in 1910. In 1908, T. H. Rennie, an experienced mill man came here as president of the company. E. A. Thompson, was the superintendent. 150 acres of barren land had been turned into a giant industrial plant. A model city had been built around the plant.

The automobile industry progressed, and competition between manufactures, brought prices in the range of the pocket book of the working people, the need was felt for more and better roads. Senator John Hollis Bankhead of Jasper, Alabama, for many years the most enthusiastic advocate of good roads in the United States Senate, had long visioned a hard surfaced road from the National Capitol at Washington to the Pacific Coast. He finally succeeded in having a bill passed through the National Congress providing for this highway. Each state through which the highway passed was to furnish part of the funds needed to build and maintain the road and the federal government was to supply the rest of the capital needed. When the bill was passed, influential men in Pell City and St. Clair County went to work to have the Road pass through Pell City. Naturally there was keen opposition from property holders in other parts of the county. Delegations from several parts of the county went before the state legislature in Montgomery, and the Congress at Washington.

Frank B. Embry, local attorney, was at that time St. Clair County's representative in the state legislature. With the help of Sumter Cogswell, W. A. Starnes, L. Cook and several other influential men, Mr. Embry finally succeeded in having, the highway routed through Pell City here this of course, was a great help to the business men and property owners in this section. The coming of the good roads brought other means of transportation in addition to the excellent railroad service that Pell City enjoys. Hughe truck and bus lines routed their trucks and buses through here. At the present time the road is being paved from Pell City to Leeds and when this is completed about July, 1933, The Bankhead Highway from Birmingham to Atlanta will be completely hard-surfaced. This will bring Birmingham about one hour from here by highway and Atlanta about three and one half hours ride. The Bankhead Highway will be one of the main arteries of traffic from all parts of the country.

For the past seventy five years the discovery of oil in any section of the United States, particularly in the southwestern states in the Alleghany Mountain section of the eastern states, have led to "Booms" and land settlements that have caused the migration of thousands of people to these gas and oil sections, and the making of towns overnight. For many years, men who are in position to know have said that there was gas and oil in St. Clair County, particularly near Pell City, and running west by the Eden to Cooks Springs. However, nothing much was done about this until 1929. Mr. J. D. Linthicum, a geologist from Texas made an extensive survey over this county. In his report, he states that all the geological formations of the Appalchian Range exist here. In the Appalchian Province, are located the richest crude oil and gas sections of the United States. This includes the states of, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia and the northeastern part of Tennessee. In his survey, Mr. Linthicum, found the oil and gas in many parts of the county that points to the present of gas and oil.

Additional findings in the survey also showed the presence of all the minerals that are to be found where oil and gas is found such as Bauxite, Kaolin, Barite, Copper, Paint Base Clays, Asphalt and outcroppings that showed a possibility of lead. After their report of the survey was made public, naturally the enthusiasm of the people of county ran high. Several major oil companies were interested and contemplated moving in machinery and drilling here, but due to the unsettled business conditions, no drilling has been done up to the present time. However, several of the major oil companies are interested in the possibility of oil and gas in this section, and will beyond a doubt, move machinery here, and drill, as soon as the conditions of the gas and oil business warrant it.

One of the greatest steps that the people of Pell City have made toward the building of a modern city, and one of the most progressive items that have featured the rapid growth of this city from a cross roads village to one of the most habitable places of residence in the south was the erection of a modern, city owned, waterworks system, on May 10, 1926, during the administration of Hon. Frank B. Embry, as Mayor, Sumter Cogswell, serving at that time on the Board of Aldermen, of the town of Pell City, introduced an ordinance, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the town, whether or not they will authorize the mayor and town council to issue bonds for the purpose of erecting waterworks and this ordinance was unanimously adopted June 21, 1926, Mr. Robert L. Totten, a consulting engineer was employed, and after a careful survey of all the available sources water supply, recommended Dunlap Springs, about one and one half 1 1/2 miles airline from Pell City, as the logical source of water supply, Mayor Embry, was authorized by the town council to start whatever legal proceedings he deemed necessary for the purpose of vesting the title of this property in the town of Pell City.

The bonds were bought by Steiner Brothers, a financial house of Birmingham. Then pumps and a chlorinator were purchased, a transmission line was built from Dunlap Springs to Pell City, and the present, modern, municipally owned water works system became a thing of reality. As the years progress, we find in 1933, that through the vision and foresight of a few dauntless men, that Pell City, the country hamlet forty six years ago, is now a modern city in every respect. The chief resources upon which Pell City relies for its future growth are coal, iron, wood and cotton. Pell City is located in the center of the Brown Hematite Iron Ore District of Alabama. The south holds the reserve forest lands of the United States. Lumber can be bought cheaper here than either in the west or north. Pell City is a good cotton market and there is no better place in the world for cotton mills. Pell City is located in the center of the industrial development of Alabama, with Birmingham 35 miles west, Gadsden 40 miles north, Anniston 28 miles East and Talladega 21 miles south. Pell City is about the center of these growing and thriving cities and Pell City as ever natural advantage of any of them, with the additional great advantage of the Coosa River. None of the cities above named, except Gadsden are situated on a River, and with the completion of locks one the Coosa River, which is assured in the near future. Pell City will grow by leaps and bounds, and will assume her natural place among the thriving cities of industrial Alabama. Ten thousand bales of cotton are raided annually within a radius of ten miles of Pell City, producing a by-product of 5000 tons of cotton seed. The cheapest and best steaming coal in Alabama is mined at Coal City, only five miles distant. The coal mines are on the Seaboard Airline Railway, which has its terminus at Pell City, St. Clair County, has a population of over 23000, 80 per cent of which are white, therefore, the best native labor can be had in abundance, and at very

reasonable wages. Pell City, with her invigorating and health giving climate, with her competing lines of railroad, iron, coal, lumber and cotton, presents the ideal place and opportunity for the building of a city of cotton, iron clay and lumber industries making a complete chain of industries from the raw material to the finished product.

Comfortable homes have been erected for the employees, where rents, electric light, water and fuel were furnished at a nominal rate.

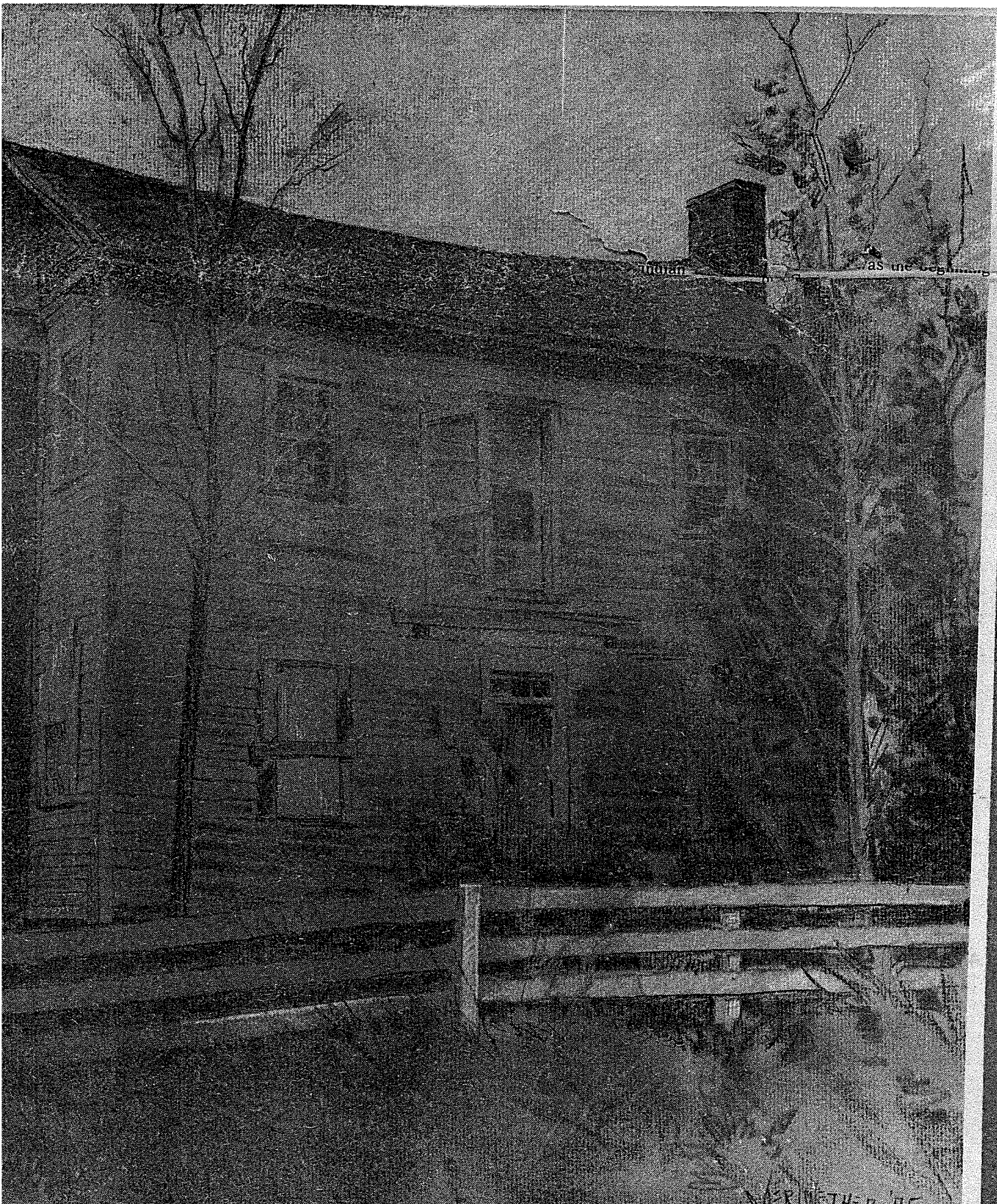
The company established a school in the Mill Village, in fact, everything to make the employees happy and content, was done. Industry sprang up in the Mill section, mercantile establishments, markets, barber shops, shoe shops. Places of recreation, Athletic activities, baseball, basketball etc., were encouraged by the officials of the company.

With the advent of the automobile, old roads were repaired and new ones built. The principal one, known as the Pell City Cut Off of The Bankhead Highway NR 73 United States Ala NR 1 from Pell City, to Anniston was built. Before this road was built, to go from Pell City to Anniston, the traveler had to go by the way of Talledega. The road from Pell City to Birmingham, by the way of Leeds was built. T

The first automobile Garage was started in 1913 R. D. Love was the proprietor, and he started business where Tom's Junk Yard now stands. His garage was quickly followed by a more modern one, built by Claude Hays, Julian DeGaris and John Mode in the building were Alex Anders Garage is operating at the present time. Insurance agencies were established. The post office was moved to its present location. The school were raised to the grade of a high school, and was accredited by the State Department of Education. A handsome and attractive city hall was built. The town took on all the characteristics of a thriving city. The Pell Realty Company continued in active promotion of the town.

They granted almost any reasonable concession to new business, who wished to locate here. Merchants and tradesmen of all kinds found that this was the place to come and prosper. Several of the leading makes of automobiles established agencies here. Mechanics everywhere, became more skilled in repairing automobiles. Gasoline and lubrication oil filling stations sprang up. Hardware merchants and garages stocked automobile parts. One of America's largest and most capitalized industries began to take shape. "The Automotive Era had begun."

In April, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson declared that a state of war existed between these United States of America and Germany. Patriotic fever swept the country from one end to the other. Men and capital was mobilized. Everywhere young men rushed to the colors. In Pell City J. Gardner Greene, one of the leading lawyers of the city, who had served with the American Armies during the Spanish-American War, was commissioned captain and raised a company, composed of men and boys from Pell City and St. Clair County. This company became a part of the famous "Fourth Alabama Regiment and was a part of the illustrious "Rainbow Division" in France. This famous division fought with gallantry and distinguished themselves in the principal battles of northern France, being at the Gates of Sedan, the last important stronghold of the German army in France when the Armistice was signed. Captain Greene, Jesse Scroggins and Austine Patterson, made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefield. The St. Clair County Chapter of the American Red Cross, with Sumter Cogswell as the local chairman went over the top on every occasion. In the several Liberty Loan drives to raise funds to carry on the war, Pell City and St. Clair County, always contributed more than asked of them. After the victorious end of the war, these boys who had so courageously done their "Bit" at the front, returned to their homes, merged themselves into civilian life, and can be found ready to "carry on" in whatever line of endeavor their talents call for.



OLD STAGECOACH INN — NEAR ASHVILLE

Drawing By J.D. Meriwether

APRIL 17, 1975

ST. CLAIR HISTORICAL TOUR

Building Still Stands -

Road To Stagecoach Once Was Indian Trail



Old Stagecoach Inn (1852)

BY MATTIE LOU CROW

Just as there is romance in old houses, there's bound to be romance in old roads. When white men first came to their homes in what is now Clair County, they traveled rivers or over Indian trails.

The Creek Indians developed a network of paths which connected their small settlements. These Indian trails usually followed the watershed between two streams and always pursued a course that encountered the fewest physical obstructions. The Founding Man had a native engineer's ability.

These numerous trails were widened into roads by the white men and the roads played a very important part in the settlement of the county. The road known as old number one leading out of Ashville in Etowah County follows almost precisely such an Indian trail. Over this road, first marked by the hoofs of wild animals and the soft moccasined feet, the travelers were men on horseback, mule-eaten mules between the mended shafts of rattler wagons, mud-spattered buggies, ox-carts, and—prints of them all—the mighty stagecoach drawn by four spanking horses.

In the early days of statehood many postal roads were established by acts of Congress. Some of these had their starting point or destination: "St. Clair Courthouse at Ashville." Su

Stagecoach Inn

as Indian Trail

BY MATTIE LOU CROW

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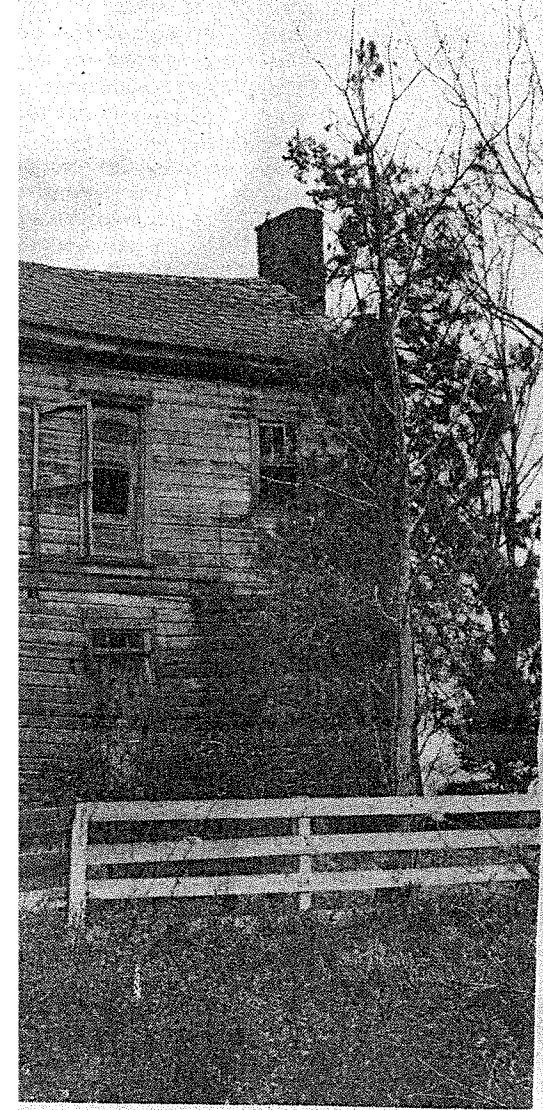
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An old Tract Book in the courthouse at Ashville shows that Jacob Green entered land in T13 and T14 in 1820. A two-story house was built on this property by Richard Crow for Jacob Green and his wife, Fanny Acre Green. Very near the house is a fine spring of freestone water which was an important reason for selecting house site. Another reason, of course, was the proximity of the road.

Mr. Green sent two ox-wagons to Georgia for brick used in the foundation and the two chimneys. Some years after the house was built he secured from Huntsville the weather boarding which today covers the old structure.

In 1832 Jacob Green sold this house and moved down the valley to the Coosa River where he built a beautiful house and where he operated Green's Ferry. This was the beginning of Greensport which has a history of exciting incidents about early steamboats and the infamous "steamboat men," who did much toward opening new homes for the pioneers. This part of the county is now under water as a result of Henry Neely Dam.

But the first Jacob Green home still stands, its veranda sagging, its doors and windows boarded up, but the main part of the house still sturdy and staunch. The bricks of the two chimneys have an exciting quality, a soft purplish tone. It is said, that, when the wagons brought them in from Georgia



Inn (1852)



Old Stagecoach Inn (1852)



Jacob Green House At Greensport (1832)

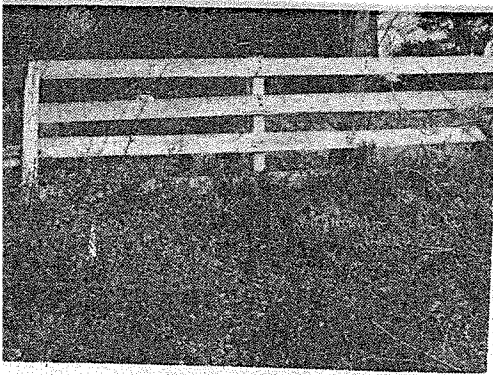
the hoofs of wild animals, the soft moccasined feet, the traveled men on horseback, the moth-eaten mules between the mended shafts of rattan wagons, mud-spattered buggies, ox-carts, and—of them all—the magnificent stagecoach drawn by four spanking horses.

In the early days of statehood many postal roads were established by acts of Congress. Some of these had their starting point or destination: "Stage Courthouse at Ashville." An act, passed May 13, 1832, established a road from Ashville to Huntsville, by way of Bennett's store."

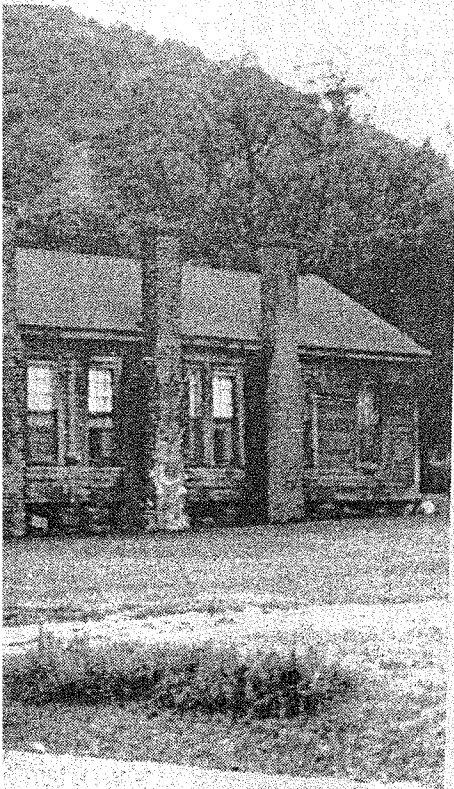
Ashville had a post office, so did Bennettsville (V. Bennett's store). The only road between Bennettsville and Ashville was Jacob Green's. Here the stage stopped to rest the passengers to refresh themselves and often to change horses for the drive into Ashville, twelve miles to the south.

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But the first Jacob Green home still stands, its veranda sagging, its doors and windows boarded up, but the main part of the house still sturdy and staunch. The bricks of the two chimneys have an exciting quality, a soft purplish tone. It is said, that, when the wagons brought them in from Georgia, master builder Richard Crow had them soaked under water for days and then allowed them weeks to dry. This gave them lasting wear and durability.

What a heritage in old houses St. Clair County has! And how wonderful it would be to see them restored to usefulness!

Stonewall Brown, caretaker at the Jacob Green House, will be narrator during the St. Clair Historical Society tour on Saturday, April 19.

Much of the Materials
For This Section And
Some Of The Pictures
Courtesy Of Mrs.
Mattie Lor Teague
Crow's Book -
"History of St. Clair County"

(OTHER PHOTOS BY AUGUST LEHE

Old O'Donnell Mill Provided 'Daily Bread'

BY MATTIE LOU
TEAGUE CROW

"Give us this day our daily—
bread."

Bread. A magic word. A word as old as language. A word that means many different things to as many different people. In the prayer it means subsistence, food, shelter, raiment—all that is necessary for physical life. The One who gave us the prayer also said, "Man does not live by bread alone. And at the Last Supper, "He took bread and gave thanks and brake it, and gave to them saying, "This is my body...take, eat..." Bread is a magic word.

It is the staff of life. We are told to cast our bread upon the water. And never to eat the bread of idleness. Also we are admonished to know which side our bread is buttered on.

When Marie Antoinette asked why the people were rioting in the streets of Paris, she was told, "Because they have no bread." This self-centered luxury-loving queen facetiously answered, "Then let them eat cake." Two weeks later the French Revolution was in full swing and the queen was on her way to the guillotine.

Bread is a magic word.

When our pioneer ancestors first came into this wilderness to establish new homes, they were careful to bring with them enough corn to feed the animals and furnish bread for their families until a new crop could be harvested.

Until mills were built, the man of the family often travelled all the way back to Georgia or Tennessee to have corn ground into meal. In time, each community had its own grist mill.

What a laborious task it was to build a dam across a stream in order to have water power to operate the mill. And how far they traveled and how many long hours of work were necessary to secure and shape the two huge mill stones—the bed rock and the runner—that ground the corn into meal. It was no easy task to build a turbine, or water wheel, to catch the force of the water and transfer that force into power which rotated the big stone runner, thus grinding the meal.

The men who could accomplish this were creative artisans, equal to any the world has today. They took what was available and, by careful planning and hard labor, were able to furnish bread for their people.

Early St. Clair County has many water-powered grist mills. Today, O'Donnell's Mill is still intact, but is rapidly disintegrating.

O'Donnell's Mill has not been in operation for a number of years. Originally built by the Gibson family, it is now owned by the O'Donnell family of Ashville and is located about 10 miles southeast of Ashville.

Today we buy a loaf of bread for 50 cents or so, or buy a box of corn muffin mix which Tennessee Ford assures us is "pea-pickin' good." But it is a sad thing that today's generation will never know what real corn bread was like.

Corn pone. Egg bread, Spoon bread. Johnny (journey) cake, Cracklin' bread. Corn dodgers, Hush puppies. Today's variety is a pale imitation of the bread our grandparents made from that wonderful water-ground meal.



l Provided 'Daily Bread'

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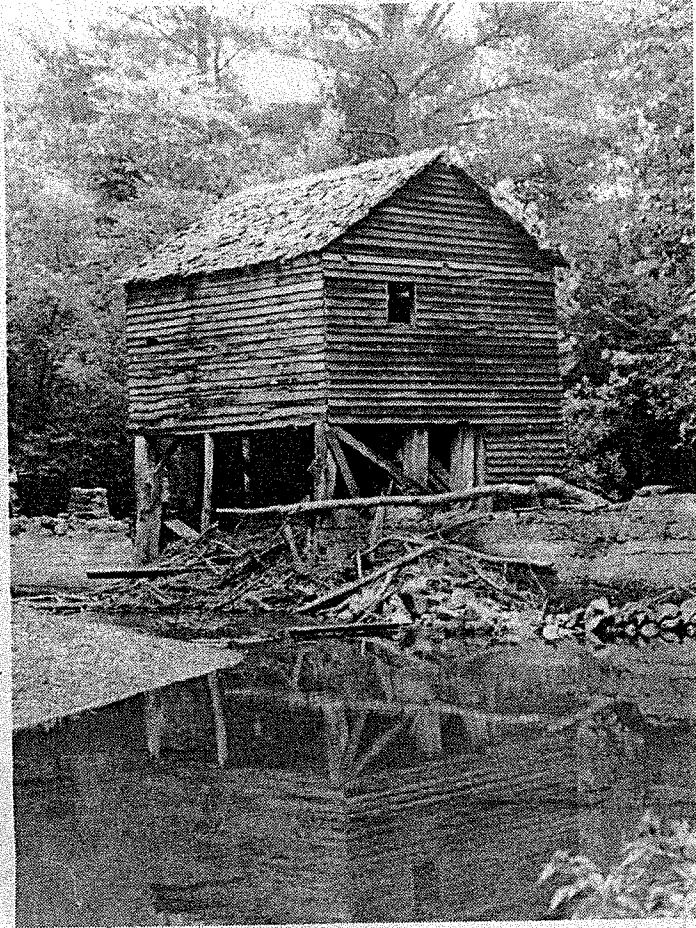
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O'Donnell Mill

On Shoal Creek

of People Houses

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A Story of People, H

BY MATTIE LOU
TEAGUE CROW

This is a story of people and houses. The town of Ashville was incorporated in 1822. It had become the county seat and the leading town of St. Clair County.

A great many of the first settlers entered the land in the beautiful Beaver Valley area, and today there are interesting houses still standing in the valley which were there long before the Civil War.

The people who built these homes and cleared these acres were families from Tennessee, Georgia and the Carolinas. They soon became staunch friends and their children intermarried. Ashville was their trading center; they attended the early churches there, and sent their sons to Ashville Academy. Many of these land owners filled important county offices.

One family coming from South Carolina to Ashville in

1819 was that of Reuben and Rebecca Watkins Phillips. They first lived on Canoe Creek near Rebecca's father Jack Watkins. Later they moved to lower Beaver Valley and established their home on the River Road, eight miles from Ashville and three miles from Greensport. Reuben Phillips built a two-story hewed-log house with a roof of split shingles made with a drawing knife. There they reared a large family, and they prospered, accumulating

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Eugene Davis Home (1847)

Cracklin' bread. Corn dodgers, Hush puppies. Today's variety is a pale imitation of the bread our grandparents made from that wonderful water-ground meal.

of People, Houses

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1819 was that of Reuben and Rebecca Watkins Phillips. They first lived on Canoe Creek near Rebecca's father Jack Watkins. Later they moved to lower Beaver Valley and established their home on the River Road, eight miles from Ashville and three miles from Greensport. Reuben Phillips built a two-story hewed-log house with a roof of split shingles made with a drawing knife. There they reared a large family, and they prospered, accumulating

property and numerous slaves.

Rebecca died in 1850, followed by Reuben in 1856. Their graves are in the Hopewell cemetery. The old log house was home for the Phillips family for many years. It was standing and in good repair as late as 1918.

One son, Ross Phillips, was four years old when he came with his parents to Beaver Valley. When he married Marzee Aubrey in 1843, he brought his bride to the old homestead, and they lived there until long after the Civil War. Ross Phillips was one of the early schoolteachers at Ashville Academy. Records in the courthouse show that he served the county as probate judge from 1852 until 1859. During Reconstruction, he was a successful merchant. Later he moved his family to Sherman, Mississippi, where he and his wife are buried. One of his daughters, Katherine Phillips, married Abraham Green and reared an interesting family at Greensport. Mrs. Dave Evans Sr. is a descendant.

The house pictured here was built by James Madison Phillips, another son of Reuben and Rebecca Phillips; for his wife, Elizabeth Yarbrough, a few years after they were married in 1847.

This house is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Davis. It is in excellent repair and is furnished in the traditional manner. When one climbs the front steps and lifts the heavy iron knocker on the old front door, he half ex-

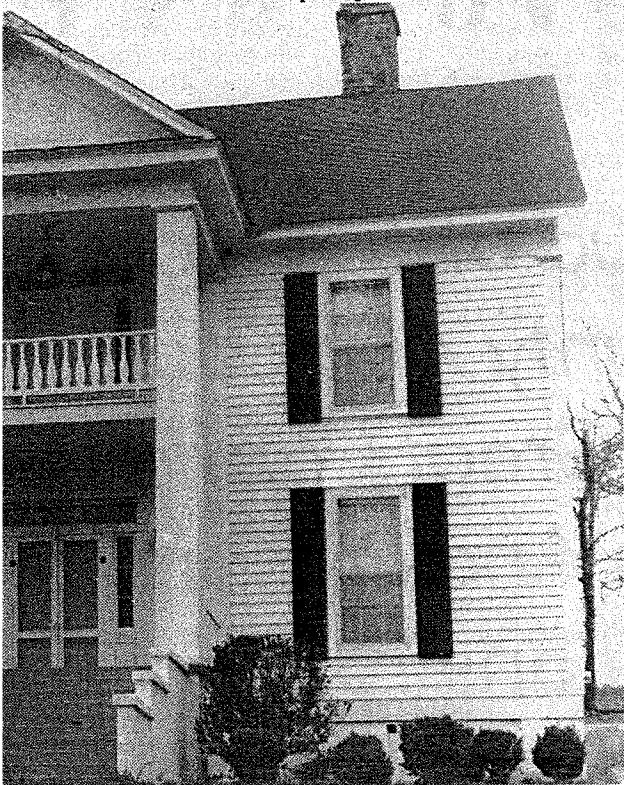
pects to be met by a hostess in hoop skirts. Time seems to have stood still, and the house rests serene in its own past. The people who have lived in this house must have loved it, for today it reflects the hospitality of ante-bellum times.

James Madison and Elizabeth Yarbrough Phillips reared five sons and eight daughters in this stately old home. One daughter, Sallie, was married to James A. Hodges, an Ashville merchant. They were the parents of Elizabeth Hodges Hill, who traveled the world over with her famous husband, the late Howard Hill. She helped him edit books and films of his exploits while hunting with the bow and arrow.

Another daughter, Lilly Phillips, who was the wife of Dr. W. A. Beason, was the first woman to hold an elective office in St. Clair County. For a number of years she was a member of the board of education.

When we study the history of old homes, we are actually learning about the people who built them and lived in them. The lives of these people are so closely interwoven with the story of the houses that it would be difficult to separate the two.

The descendants of Reuben and Rebecca Phillips are found not only in St. Clair County, but also throughout Alabama and in many other states of our nation. They have made and are making worthwhile contributions to the welfare of our country in many walks of life.



Davis Home (1847)

Home Listed National Register

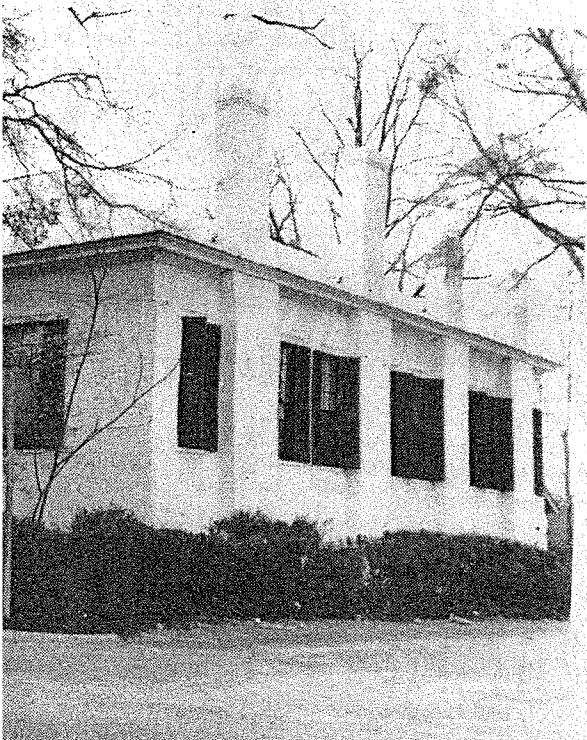
BY MATTIE LOU
CROW

This house is known as the Judge John W. Inzer home. It was built in 1852 by Moses Dean, who had come to Ashville and entered land here in 1825. On the land he entered was the big spring which today supplies Ashville with water and which is still spoken of as Dean's Spring. Mr. Dean built his house near the spring when he married Miss Eliza B. Hoke, daughter of Daniel Hoke, and here he lived until 1852 when he built what is today known as the Inzer house.

Moses Dean was one of Ashville's first merchants. His store stood just across the street from the court house where the little cobblestone building on the corner now stands. At first this firm was known as BYERS AND DEAN, as Alemeth Byers was the senior partner. Later when Mr. Byers sold his interest to William Augustine Edwards, the store became DEAN AND EDWARDS and, sometime before the Civil War, Peyton Rowan became a partner and the firm name was changed to DEAN AND BROWN.

All that remains to remind us of this emporium of yesteryear where everything from candles to coffins could be purchased is "The Rock." To most citizens of the United States the term "The Rock" brings to mind the grim walls of Alcatraz. For Ashville citizens it has a happier association. In the early Fifties, Mr. Dean sent one of his clerks, Jackie Partlow, in an ox wagon to Red Mountain Rock Quarry, east of Ashville, to secure a stone which might be used as a mounting block for his lady customers, most of whom rode horse-back. Mr. Partlow returned after weeks of labor with "The Rock."

"The Rock" must weigh nearly a ton, as its dimensions are 26" by 26" x 42." There was originally a companion rock of much smaller proportion which was used for the same purpose.



John W. Inzer Home (1852)



The Upping Block

whom rode horses with "The Rock."

"The Rock" is 26" x 42." The smaller proportion of young ladies of saddles. They appeared as today. "The Rock" is still in poses. Many times when an ambitious. There is talk to his friend while, but he will.

Moses Dean disposed of her As her family to J. shortly after the Dean house. He left this house in 1866.

John Washington Talladega in 1856. Walker and John 1856, and was State Convention at Montgom years of age and Secession. Judge Army, attaining Constitutional Convention to Montgom St. Clair County Judge. His father Deacon in the As Superintendent.

The Dean-Inzer has two graceful pilasters are square the two fluted Doric before the war but the two other pilasters Reconstruction I capable of making had the square windows with blown perfect touch to the on either side of the the ground up, into

The house was yard which lay a history it has been brick is hidden.

Inside, the roomishings are intimate winter and cool woodwork retain

The lawn and shrubs, colorful; love and care of the

Five grandchildren splendid anti-bell

The Inzer House Places on January

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"The Rock" must weigh nearly a ton, as its dimensions are 26" by 26" x 42." There was originally a companion rock of much smaller proportion which made it convenient for the matrons and young ladies of the Sixties to step from the street to their side saddles. The need for an "Upping Block" has long since disappeared as today's girls wear jeans and ride astride. But "The Rock" is still there. Through the years it has served many purposes. Many times as the proverbial STUMP OR SOAP BOX, when an ambitious politician wished to convince the voters of his ability. There is a legend that says "A person who sits on the rock to talk to his friends will never leave Ashville. He may go away for a while, but he will surely come back."

Moses Dean died in 1855 and soon afterwards Eliza began to dispose of her Ashville property. When the war was over she moved her family to Jacksonville to be near the Hoke family. It was shortly after the war that Judge Inzer came into possession of the Dean house. He brought his bride, Sallie Elizabeth Pope, to live in this house in 1866.

John Washington Inzer, who was born in Georgia, came first to Talladega in 1854. There he read law in the office of Messrs. A. J. Walker and John T. Morgan. He opened a law office in Ashville in 1856, and was St. Clair County's representative at the Secession Convention at Montgomery in January, 1861. He was twenty-six years of age and the youngest delegate to sign the Ordinance of Secession. Judge Inzer served with distinction in the Confederate Army, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Conventions of 1861 and 1875, respectively, and was sent to Montgomery as Senator in 1873 and again in 1900. He served St. Clair County as Probate Judge and for many years was Circuit Judge. His father was a Baptist minister and Judge Inzer was a Deacon in the Ashville Baptist Church and its first Sunday School Superintendent.

The Dean-Inzer house is a one-story Greek Revival. The portico has two graceful Doric pillars, flanked by two square ones and the pilasters are square. The discrepancy is explained in this manner: the two fluted Doric pillars were carved by slaves of Moses Dean before the war but, due to Dean's illness and the advent of the war, the two other pillars and the pilasters were never carved. During Reconstruction Days it was impossible to find laborers who were capable of making pillars, so when Judge Inzer became owner he had the square variety made and they are there today. The double doors with blown glass for transom and for side lights add the perfect touch to the small portico. There are four interior chimneys on either side of the house. The walls are sixteen inches thick from the ground up, including the room dividers.

The house was built of red brick made in the old Ashville brick yard which lay adjacent to the property. Sometime during its long history it has been painted and thus the beauty of the hand-pressed brick is hidden.

Inside, the rooms are specious and many of the antique furnishings are intact. It is a house built for comfort; easy to heat in winter and cool during the summer months. The original floors and woodwork retain their beauty.

The lawn and garden are picturesque. Old fashioned flowering shrubs, colorful spring bulbs, and stately magnolias speak of the love and care of by-gone days.

Five grandchildren of Judge Inzer are joint owners of this splendid anti-bellum home.

The Inzer House was added to the National Register of Historic Places on January 3, 1974.

er Home (1852)

The Upping Block





*Story Of Log House That
Became County Museum*

Became County Museum

When Andrew Jackson answered the call in 1813 from early pioneers in what is today Alabama and came from Tennessee with a volunteer army to fight the Creek Indians, there were two young men in his troop by the name of Looney, Jack and Henry. These were two of the men who helped Jackson build historic Fort Strother at Ten Islands on the Coosa. This Fort was Jackson's headquarters throughout his campaign against the Creeks and the Looneys were with him and fought at the final battle at Horseshoe Bend.

They liked the country. After the treaty removing the Creeks to the East Side of the Coosa was signed in 1814, Jack and Henry Looney, with the help of their father, John, disposed of their Tennessee holdings and the entire family, along with their slaves and their livestock and household goods, were on their way to new homes.

On reaching this area, they found that Choccolocco Valley on the East side of the river was still in the hands of the Creeks. So they chose around 900 acres on the West side of the river and an early tract book at the courthouse in Ashville shows the land was entered in the name of the father, John Looney.

Their two story log house was completed by 1820. Jack Looney, who brought his wife with him from Tennessee, built his home some three-quarters of a mile from the house that Henry, who was not married, helped his father build. This

house was known as the Henry Looney home where Henry later brought his bride, Jane Rutherford Ash (daughter of John Ash for whom the town Ashville is named) there to live.

Today, the Looney House is standing, still as steady and strong as when it was built.

The house is 19' by 48'. No metal nails were used, only wooden pegs. The exposed rafters were hand placed, and the pine logs, one 48 feet long, dovetail to fit perfectly. There are four huge rooms, two downstairs, two up and two fireplaces large enough to burn five-foot logs. The fireplaces are built of hand-pressed brick, made of clay from the land. The sills of the house are of cedar.

The house is a perfect example of pioneer architecture. The story of people coming into a wilderness, and with a few crude tools building homes of native materials that have stood for 150 years is a story that has inspired the St. Clair Historical Society and other interested citizens into restoring it as nearly as possible to its original condition as a county museum, now open to the public.

In March of 1972, Col. and Mrs. J. R. Creitz, then newcomers to St. Clair County, offered the old log house and the land on which it stands—with enough extra for parking—to the county or to any historical organization which would pledge to have it properly restored and used as a museum.

And while many meetings had been held around the county for years concerning the

organization of a historical society, this goal of restoring the Looney cabin brought the County to a sound basis for the beginning at the St. Clair Historical Society.

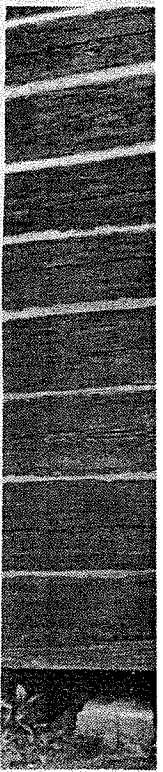
During that first year, the membership climbed to over 500, an accomplishment which earned state wide recognition for a new historical society.

Funds for restoration of the house have come from many sources—membership in the Society, donations from interested persons and businesses, a subscription drive to the St. Clair Observer substantial donations from the St. Clair County Commission and numerous fund raising drives by the Society. But the job was done.

In December of 1974, the Looney House had its grand opening, a restored replica of the beginning of St. Clair County.

Since December, the Looney House has been open to visitors on each Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Now, the Cabin is open on Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00. Mrs. Anna V. Jackson is hostess and special group rates are available. Regular admission to the house is \$1.00. However, groups with ten or more in number may be admitted for .50 cents each.

In February of this year, the Looney House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The certificate, signed by Governor George C. Wallace, was presented to the Society in ceremonies on Sunday, February 15, 1975.





Henry
Looney
House

*Of Log House That
e County Museum*

St. Clair County Museum

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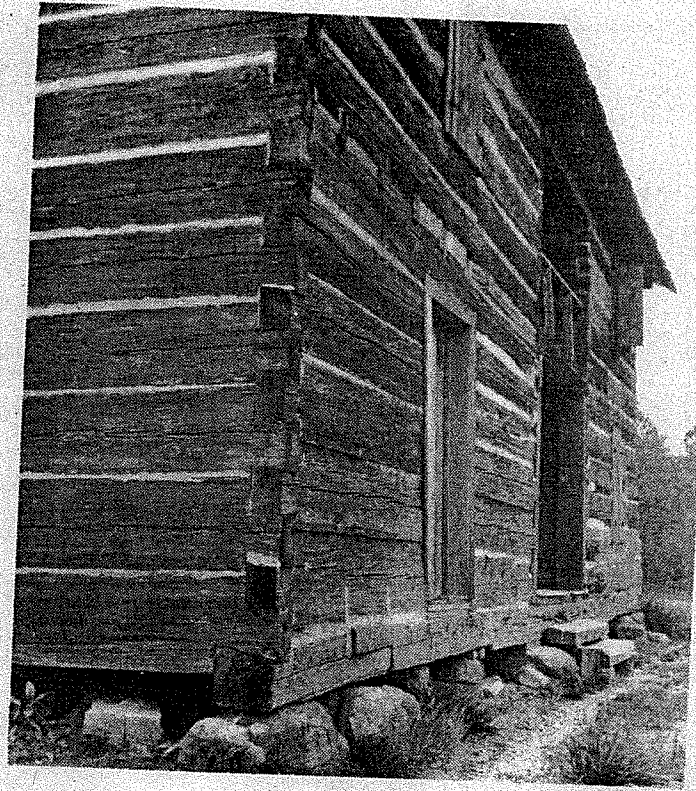
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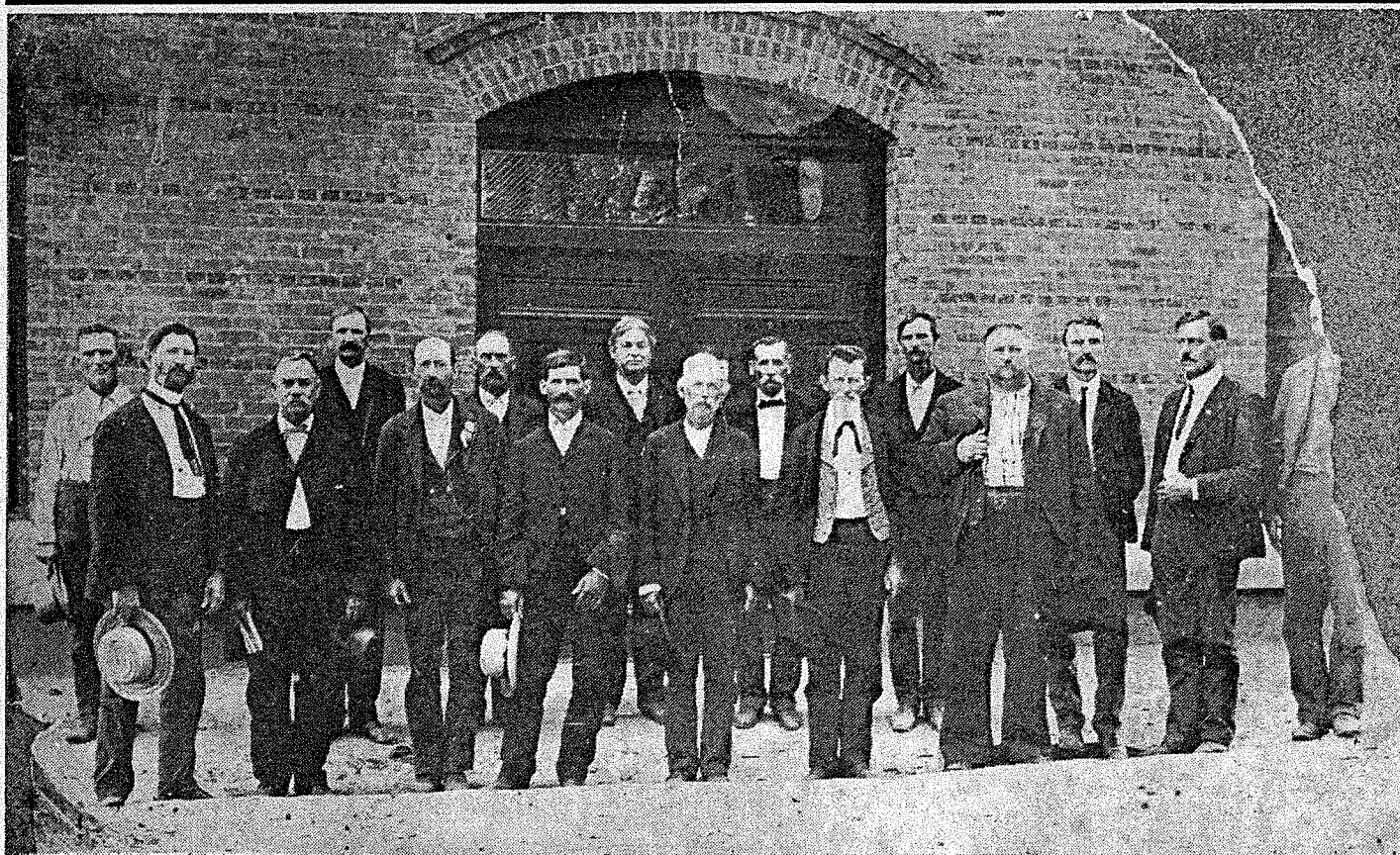
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View Shows
Sturdy Construction

Photos By August Lehe



FIRST GRAND JURY

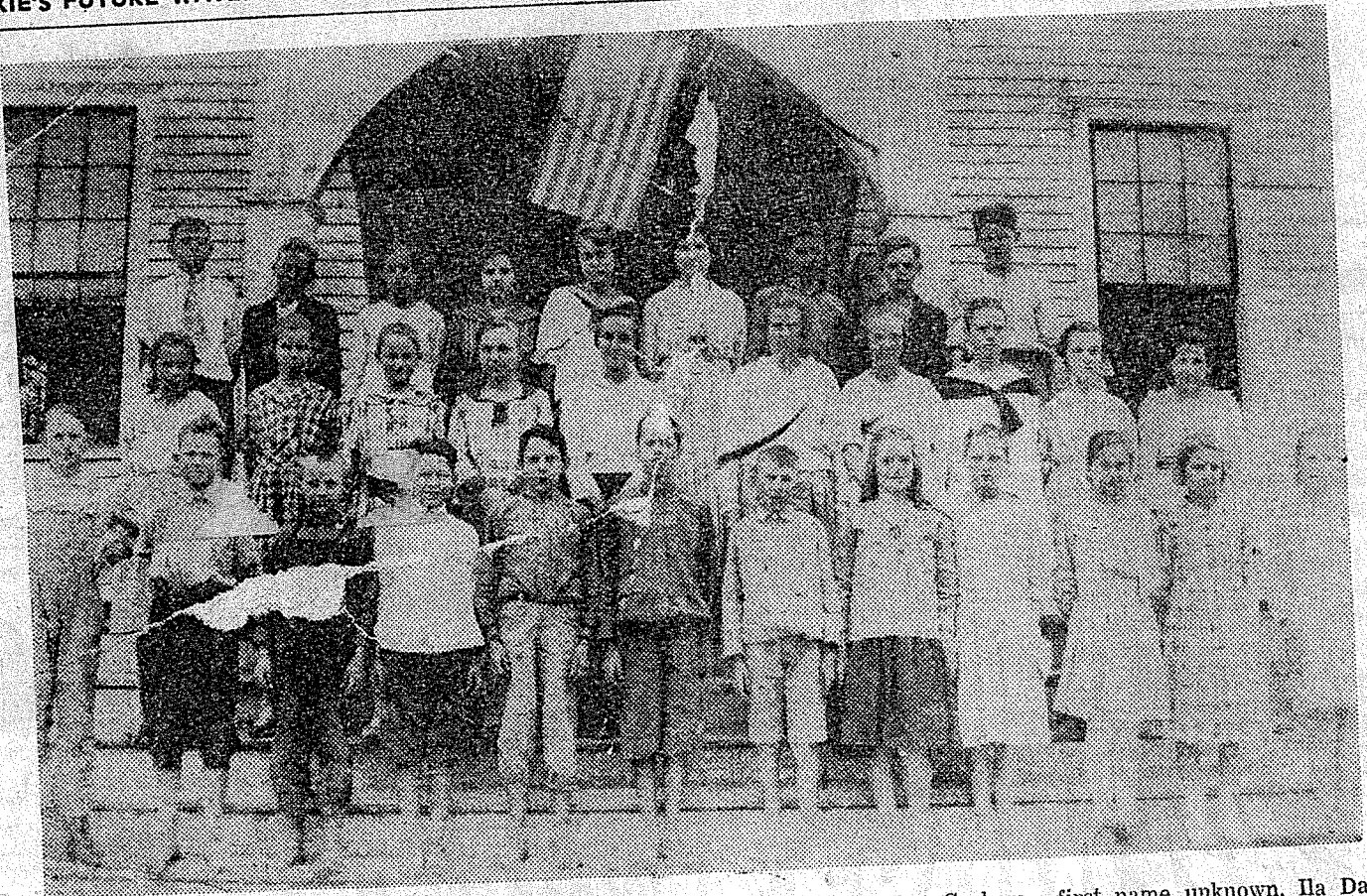
One of the most interesting pictures in the News-Aegis series of old prints of St Clair County is the one above. It shows the members of the First Grand Jury ever organized in the Southern Judicial Division of St. Clair. The picture was made in 1902, shortly after the courthouse was built here and after Pell City was made a branch county seat and the Southern judicial division of the county was created.

Names of the jurors listed on the picture include, Thos. D. Courson, Wm. Murrick, W. J. Smith, Sumter Cogswell, foreman, John W. Moore, J. H. North, S. J. Hare, N. A. Butterworth, J. W. Abercrombie, J. R. Rowland, Jas. Harmon, R. A. Greene, L. A. Bradford, D. R. Griffith and W. C. Alverson, J. E. North was baliff.

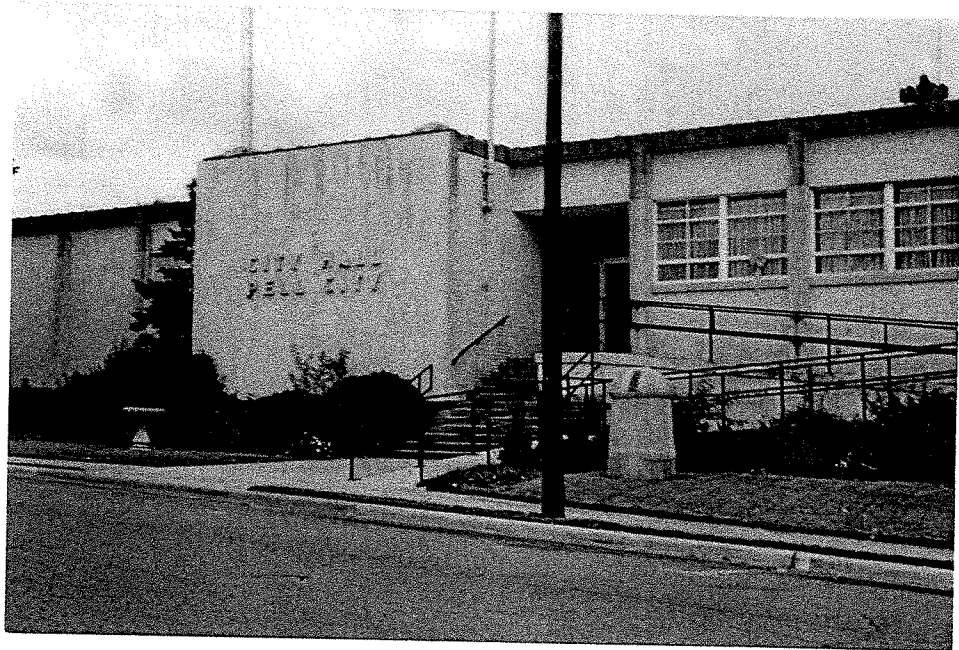
Do you have any old prints? Pictures of school, church or family groups, or any other interesting old cuts. The News-Aegis would like to print all such pictures in the county. They will be promptly returned to the owner after printing.

THURSDAY MAY 14, 1964

IF DIXIE'S FUTURE WATER WONDERLAND

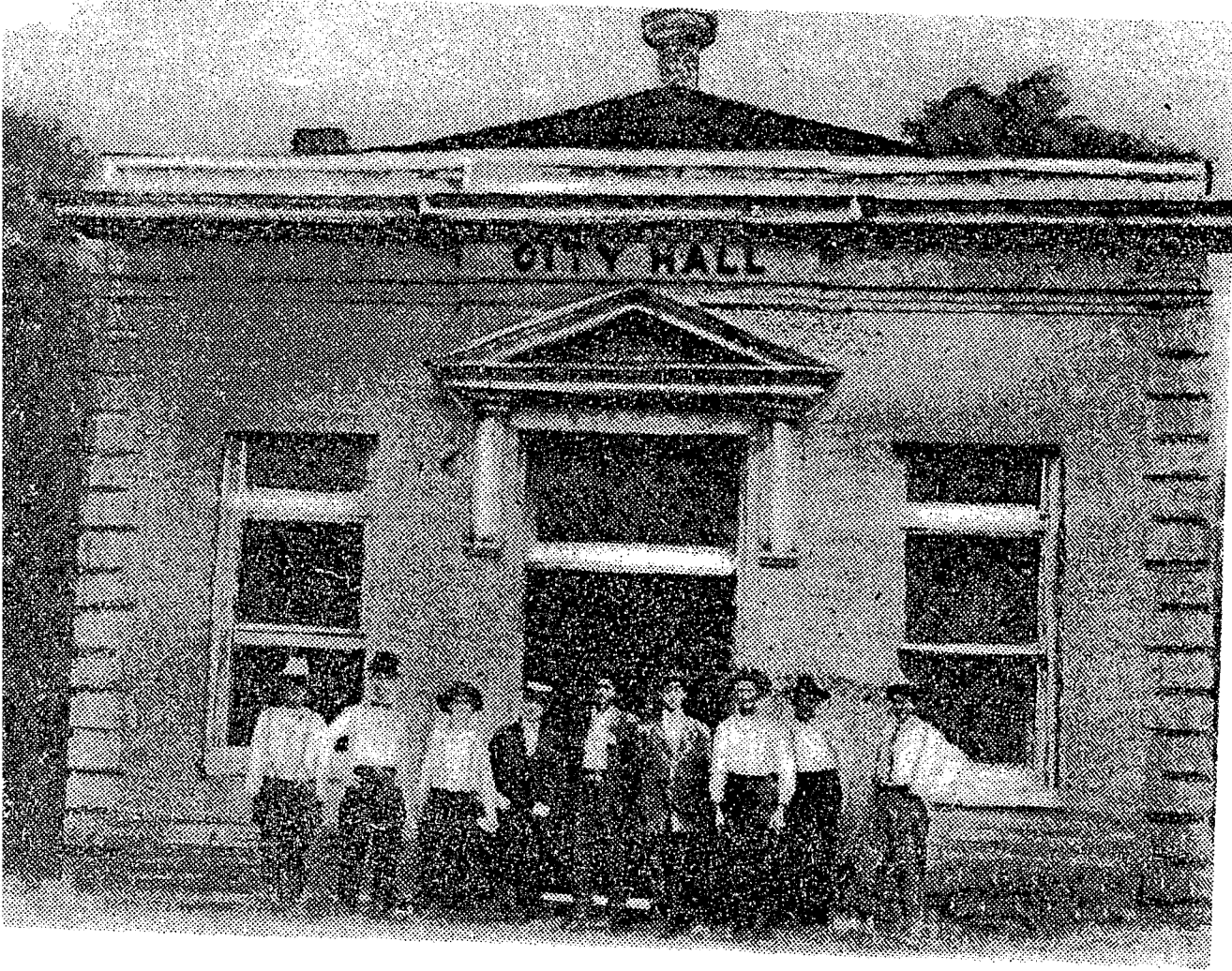


ANOTHER OLD ONE from the album of the News-Aegis files. This picture was loaned to the News-Aegis by Mrs. Lindsay Smith, nee Miss Bessie Duke. They are from left front row; Robert McClellan, Clarence Phillips, unidentified, Joe Stone, Alton Brown, unidentified, Ralph Renegar, Mabel Bowen, Flossie Stephens,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



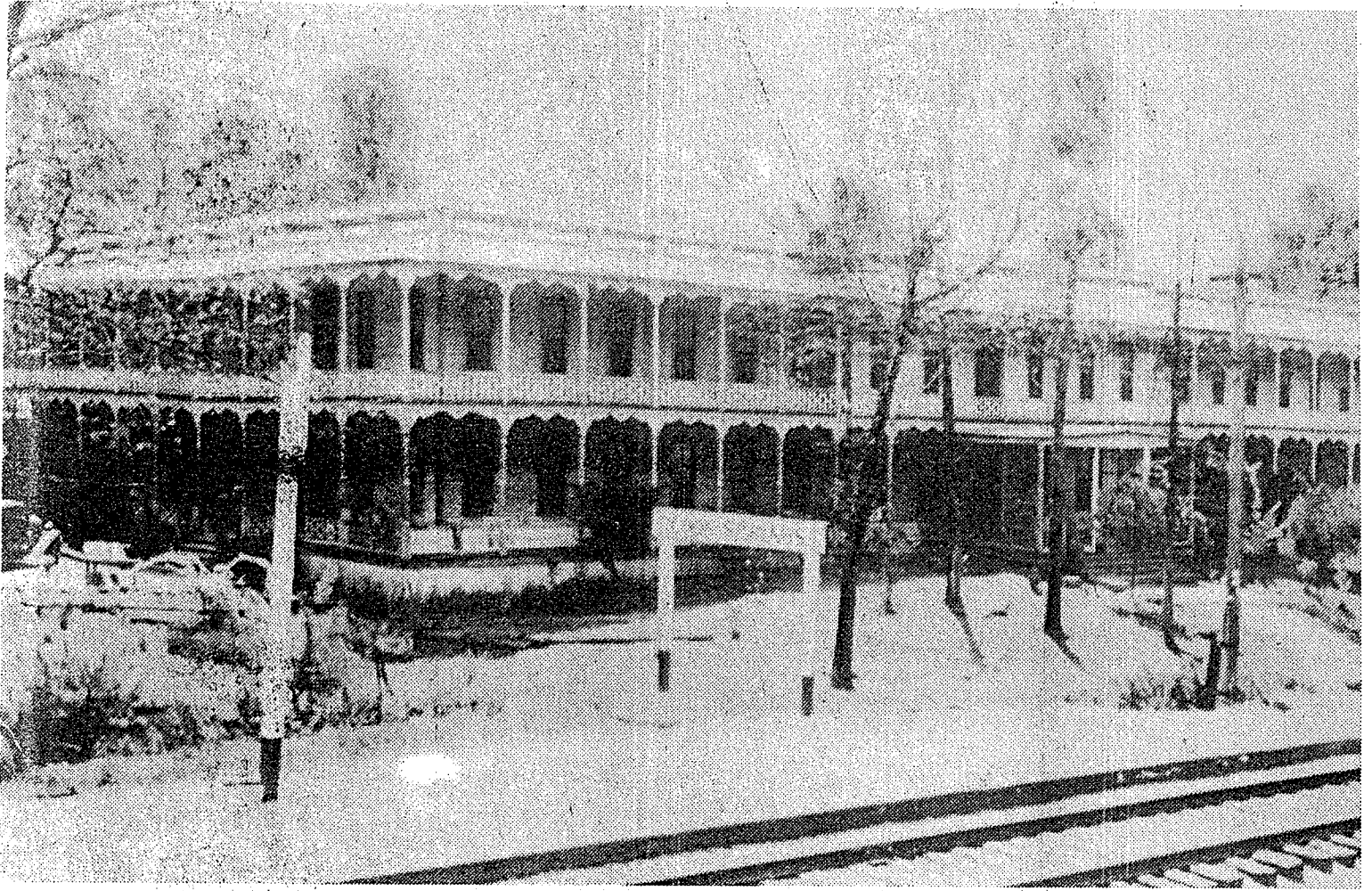


Savings & Loan

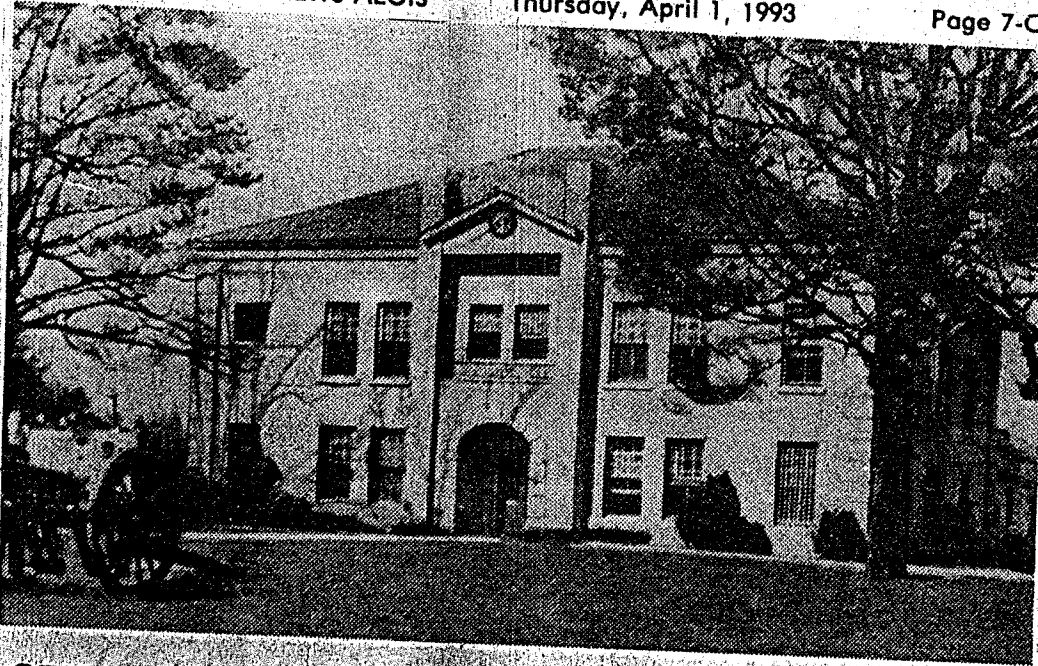


And Now

—The Pell City Depot was once located on First Avenue South. Many residents still remember the depot and what an important role it played in the city's history.



OK SPRINGS RESORT—One of the most popular vacation spots in St. Clair County was the Cook Spring resort hotel, Mountain View. The resort, built in 1883, drew visitors from far and near. One of the main attractions were the six mineral springs that some say would improve a person's health. Other activities at the resort included golfing, croquet, lawn tennis, hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, mountain climbing and dancing the night away to the music of a string band.



ORIGINAL PELL CITY COURTHOUSE—An election was held on Nov. 6, 1901 to vote on a site for a new courthouse for the Southern District of St. Clair County. The four towns being voted on as possible sites were Pell City, Coal City, Eden and Riverside. Pell City won by a 600 majority vote and the new courthouse was built. The original building was torn down in 1956 when the new building that is still in use was built.



TEN POTATOES 20¢
 WHEATIES CEREAL 54¢
 COLGATE TOOTH PASTE 95¢
 YOU PAY 12-OZ PKG
 YOU PAY 7-OZ TUBE

sources close to the in-month but gave no further post-dated check after the
 investigation' said Attorney details. vigation began, asking him
 General William Baxley will Baxley had previously con- not to cash it until the money
 seek the indictments for alleged firm reports the Talladega could be raised.

St. Clair News Aegis July 13, 1975



1700 Cogswell Ave

The house at 1700 Cogswell Avenue in Pell City is no more — in its place stands nothing — bare earth after many years. The house was built by Jake Gary, purchased by Wasson Harmon and rented for a time to the M.L. Nelson's as a residence. In its years it served as a residence, a hamburger haven and a gas station, and in 1945 it housed the switchboard, test board and business offices of the St. Clair County Telephone

Co. In 1955, the building was purchased by Mrs. Jean S. Brandli and continued to serve as a major part of the Coosa Valley Telephone Co. Following the move of the CVTC to new quarters, the building was rented for a time and housed the law firm of Gaines, Hereford and Clark. It is no longer, but along with many early buildings in the city has been removed to make way for progress. (NEWS photo by Larry Camp)

Moody school bidding delay due to sewerage

Ashville Citizens Excited About Inzer House

Ashville citizens are excited about the restoration of one of Ashville's best loved landmarks - The John W. Inzer house. Many who knew and are related to the Inzer family are willing and ready to have a part in the restoration. They hope that members of the SCV will give them the opportunity of being involved in this community effort.

Below is an article written by Marie Tuck who was at the time (1975) correspondent for the St. Clair Observer.

When Marie Tuck was Ashville's reporter for the St. Clair Observer, on November 6, 1975 she wrote about the Ashville Bicentennial Day. Closing her story of the occasion, Marie had this to say:

"This correspondent's own Bicentennial Thought for the Week."

Miss Sally V. Inzer's home here in Ashville holds more history per cubic foot (yes, floor, ceiling, walls - all) than any other place this side of the Smithsonian. And her generosity in sharing it with those who are interested in the preservation of our historic past is something for which

she should be commended. Her home was on the Bicentennial Tour on October 27. The crowd came by bus, in cars, and on foot, and many wanted to linger - some asked if they could come individually later.

Assisting Miss Inzer as hostess to this group for the occasion were Mrs. Lee Gibbs, Mrs. Bill Keltner, Mrs. Buron McBrayer, and Miss Marie Tuck.

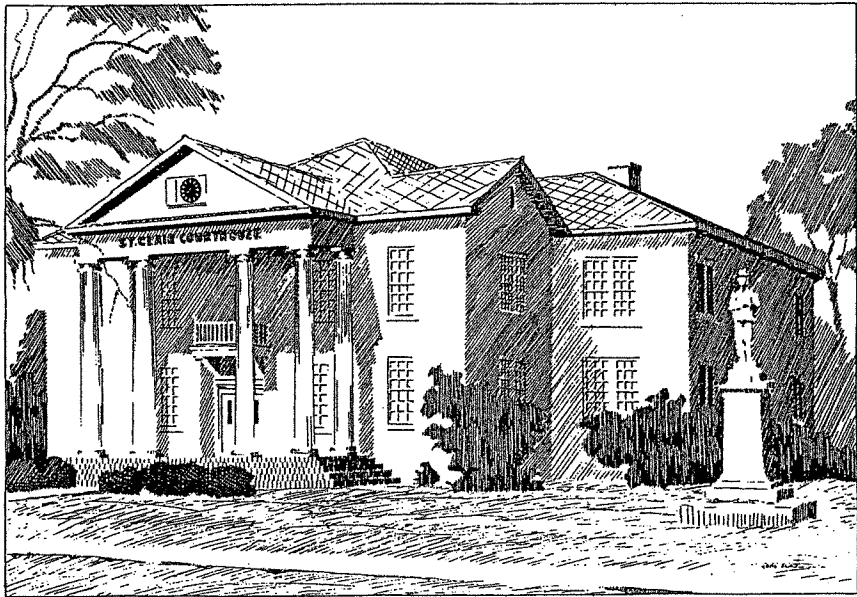
Miss Inzer will long be remembered for her generosity in sharing all that she called her own with her friends. A group of these friends has ask permission of the SCV - who now owns the Inzer house - to re-decorate her (Sally's) own room, known as the "green room" in its original beauty to honor her memory.

For Sale

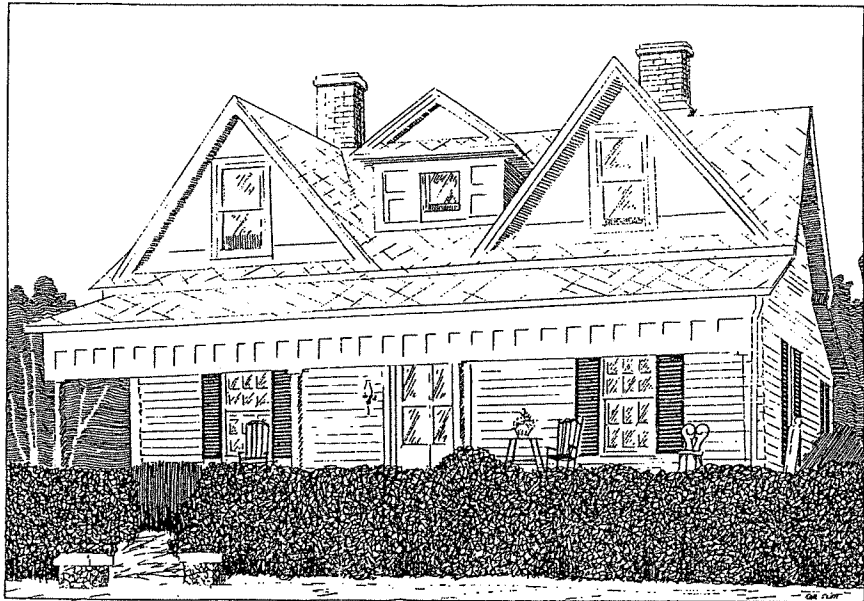
1981 Yamaha 750
Only 7,000 miles. \$995.00
338-1519 12-9 p.m.

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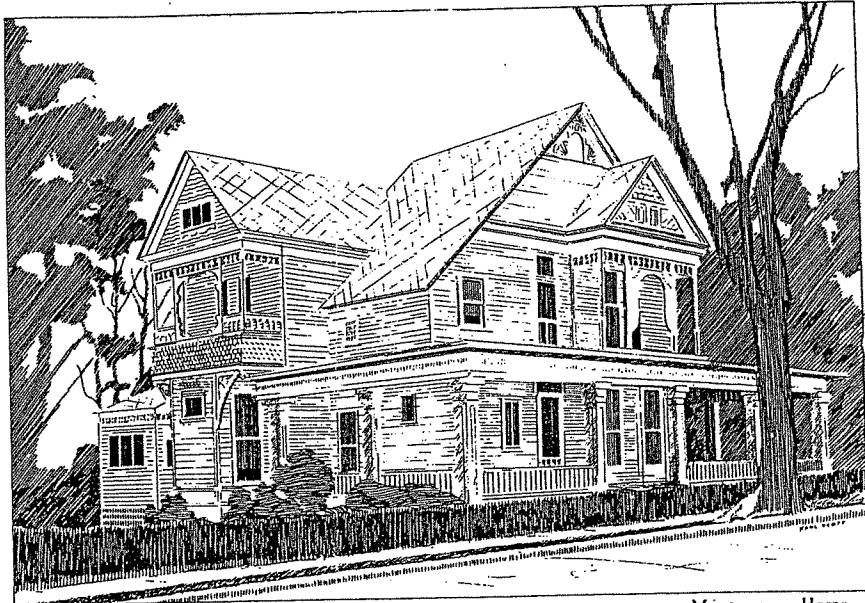
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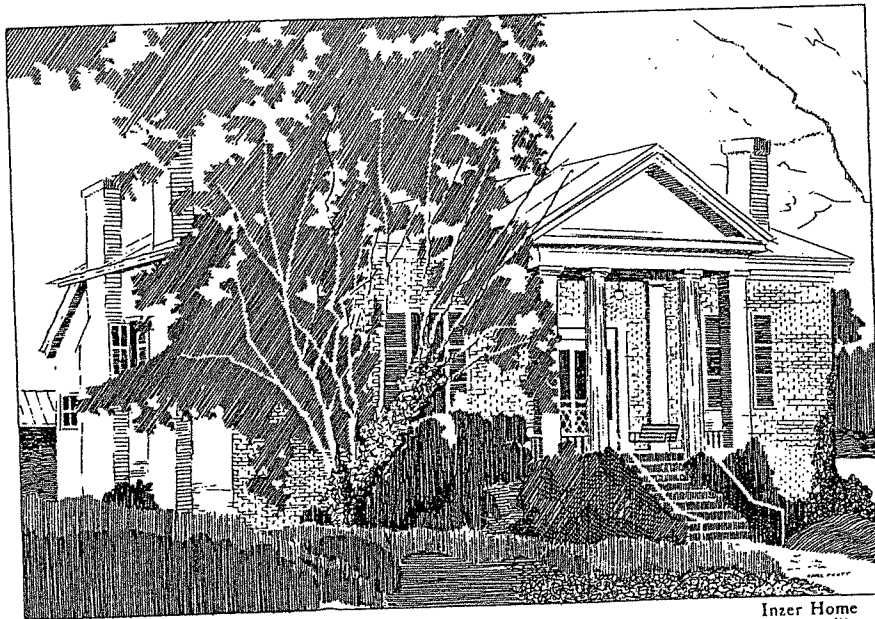
St. Clair Co. Courthouse
Ashville
1845



Davis Home
Ashtville
1832



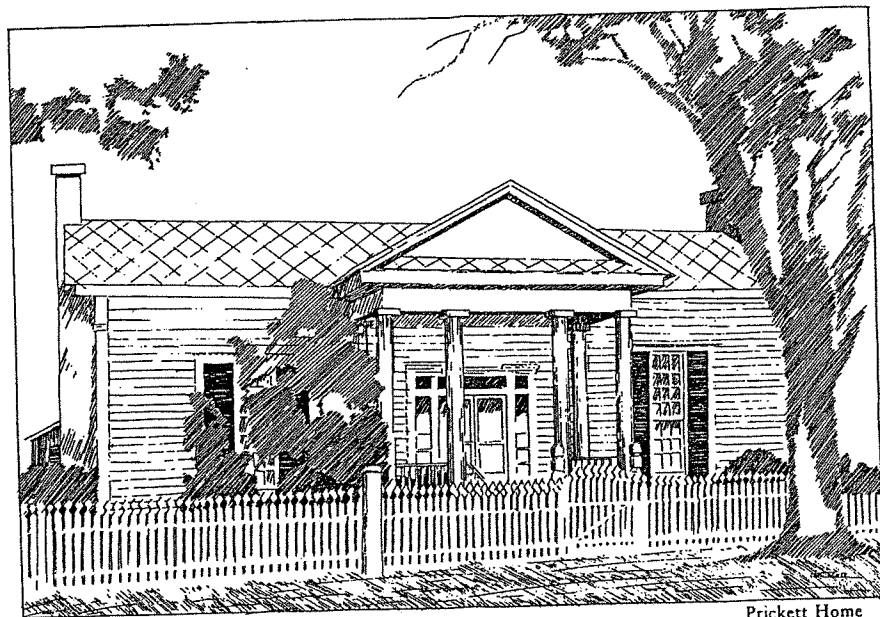
Montgomery Home
Ashtville
1890



Inzer Home
Ashville
1852



house
hville
1845



Prickett Home
Ashville
1835

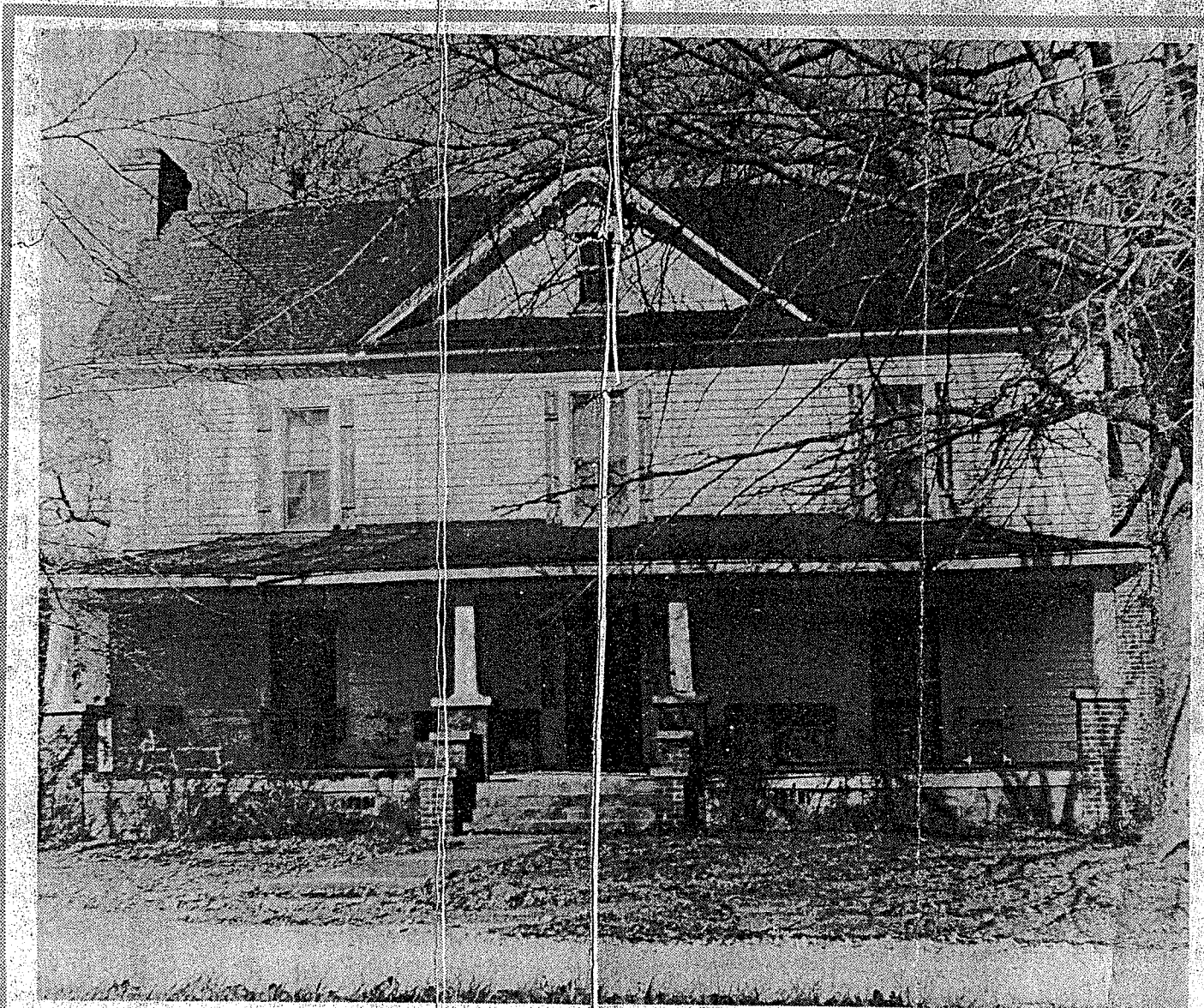
file
old homes

ST. CLAIR OBS

A Newspaper Dedicated to Commu

THIRTY-THREE

PELL CITY, ALABAMA— WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY



Historical Homes

The dignified old home above, steeped in history and Old-South tradition, is one of a number of historical homes you'll be seeing and reading about in coming issues of the Observer. This particular one, near Ashville, was built by John Ash in 1818, is now known as the "Rowan place." For more on this and other Ashville homes,

turn to our fotofeature page (Page 6) and read the delightfully nostalgic "Houses and History," compiled and written by Ashville's Mrs. Abner Crowe, with a photographic assist from the Observer's women's editor, Dorothy Floyd.



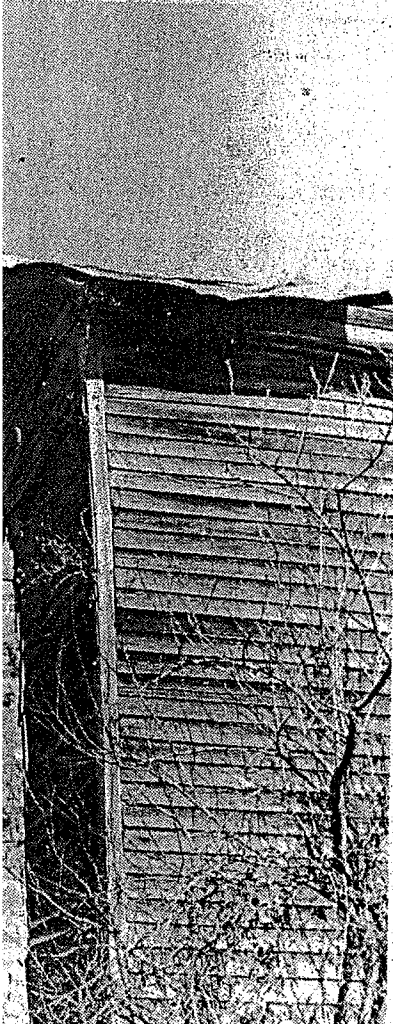
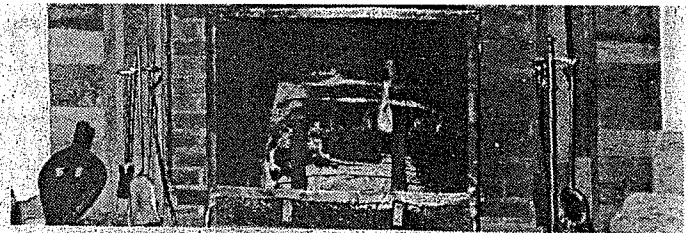
FIRST HOME built in Beaver Valley by John Ash and Thomas Newton, in 1817.



S

V

*Mandah Yarbrough who came here
gh in 1825. It was his son Littleton
our house at Ashville. The house is a
uare columns. Mr. and Mrs. John
there and they have kept the place
s antique furniture.
series on historical St. Clair County
home or other historical landmark,*



THE YARBROUGH home, built in 1825, reflects the stately beauty of construction by our pioneer forefathers.

and fireplace in each room —

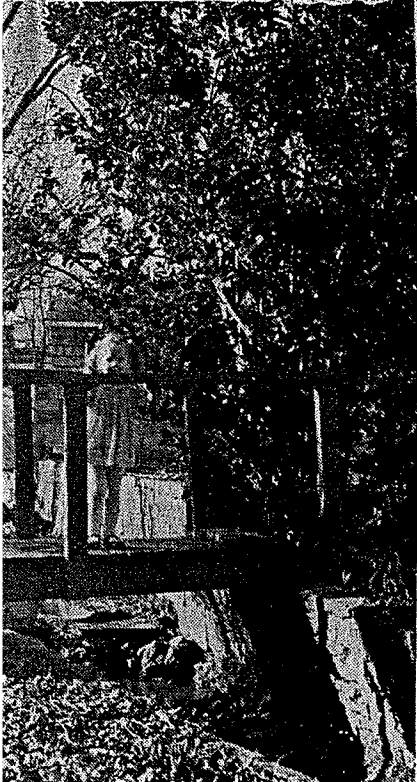
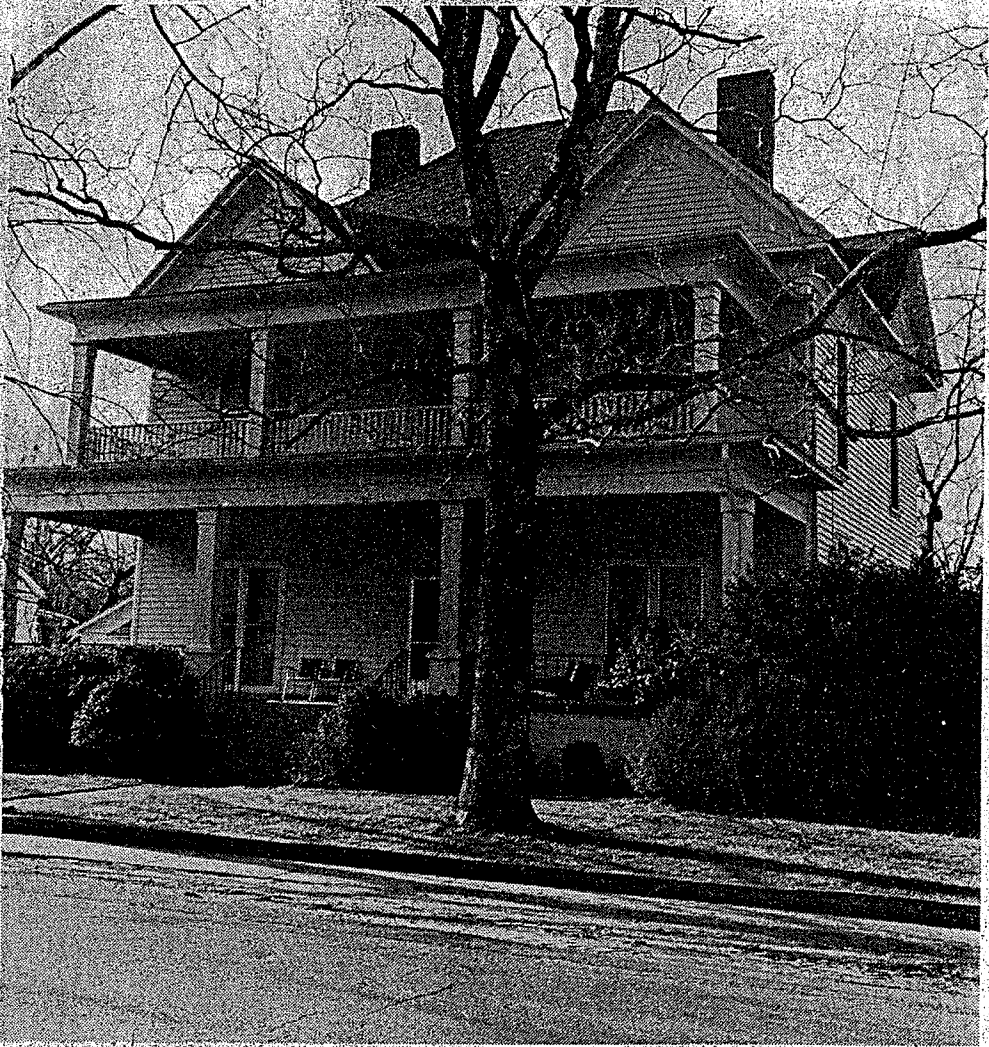
House is hospitable abode

They built a... ect their... of their... ended... with the... English... myrtle, forsythia, kle, daf... roses... and other... ing and... ts. Mrs. e flowers... and has... ave year... nstances... ville has... but the

changes have not bothered the Simmons family. The location makes Springville shops convenient, and the downtown location has never presented problems.

As to living in an historic district, Mrs. Simmons doesn't see that the fact alters her life very much. She thinks that the fact of the part of the town being in an historic district is interesting, but doesn't see that there will be much change.

The Simmons house is large and requires a lot of maintenance, but to the family it is all worth while — it's home, and a home they love.



The W. P. Simmons Home
Feature and Photos by
Jenna Whitehead

**ST. CLAIR
COUNTY HOSPITAL**
PELL CITY, ALABAMA



Patient Information

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

ASH HOUSE (ROWAN PLACE) - Ashville; 1818; two story frame.

ASHVILLE ACADEMY - Ashville; 1879; one story frame.

ASHVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST - Ashville; 1879; one story frame.

ASHVILLE MASONIC LODGE - Ashville; 1858; two story frame.

BYERS (ALAMETH) - Ashville; 1825; two story frame; doric portico.

BROKEN ARROW - Indian Village.

COGSWELL HOUSE - Pell City; c. 1892; two story frame; Victorian.

COURTHOUSE - Pell City; c. 1900; Italianate with cupola; two story.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE - Ashville; 1847; two story brick; Greek Revival; four Corinthian columns with two Corinthian pilasters in front; four Doric columns with square pilasters.

GREEN (JACOB) HOUSE - 12 miles from Ashville; c. 1820; two story frame.

HODGES HOUSE - Ashville; 1835; two story frame; mansion style; Greek Revival.

HARDIN HOUSE - Odensville; 1823; hand-hewn logs; rock chimney.

INZER HOUSE - Ashville; 1852; one story brick, Greek Revival.

LITAFATCHEE - aboriginal Upper Creek town 8 miles north of present Ashville; in 1813 entire village burned at order of Andrew Jackson.

MARTIN HOUSE - Ashville; 1896; rambling Victorian house with 9 gables; outbuilding contains smokehouse and servant's quarters.

MERRELL COTTAGE - St. Clair Springs; late 19th century; one story frame.

NEWTON HOME - Beaver Valley; 1817; one story log, dog-trot.

OTIPALIN - aboriginal Upper Creek town 4 miles west of Ohatchee in Calhoun County; name means "Ten Islands."

PHILLIPS (JACKSON) HOME - Beaver Valley; c. 1842; one story frame; Greek Revival.

PHILLIPS (JAMES) HOME - Beaver Valley; c. 1847 two story frame; Greek Revival.

PRICKETT HOUSE - Ashville; 1861; one story frame; Greek Revival cottage; kitchen originally separate building now connected by hallway.

RAY HOUSE - St. Clair Springs; late 19th century; one story frame.

ST. CLAIR INN - St. Clair Springs; 1902; one story frame.

FORT STROTHER - 4 miles west of Ohatchee in Calhoun County; erected under the direction of General Andrew Jackson in November, 1813, as a base for his campaign against the Creek Nation; site.

MONTGOMERY-SCOTT HOME - St. Clair Springs; 1880's, one story frame.

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MONTGOMERY-SCOTT HOME - St. Clair Springs; 1880's, one story frame.

RISER HOME - Pell City; 1891; two story frame.

TASQUI - aboriginal town on the Coosa River; visited by DeSoto on July 14, 1540 and mentioned in his chronicles.

WAID HOME - St. Clair Springs; late 19th century; two story frame

YARBROUGH HOME - Beaver Valley; 1825; three story frame; colonial style with columns; still owned by original family.

PELL CITY VIES WITH ASHVILLE AS ST. CLAIR COUNTY'S CHIEF CENTER

Avondale Mill School Has a Fine Building and Football Team

by Frank Willis Barnett

Pell City was first incorporated under the general laws in 1890 by the Pell City Land and Iron Co. and in 1901 the town site was acquired by the Pell City Manufacturing Co. and a charter under the general laws obtained in 1902. The town was named for George H. Pell, the original promoter.

It is in the southeastern part of St. Clair County, 25 miles east of Birmingham. It was established as an industrial town on account of the coal and iron mines in the district. It is on the Southern Railway, the Seaboard Airline Railway, and was on the Birmingham and Alabama Railroad which connected Pell City and Talladega and was abandoned. It is also on the Bankhead Highway.

St. Clair County has two divisions, Ashville being in the northern division and Pell City in the southern, with court houses in both places. The topography of the county and almost impassable roads made it exceedingly difficult for those living on opposite sides of the mountain ranges to get to one another, nearly all train lines being routed by Birmingham.

County Officers Split

For this reason some of the county officers live at Pell City and some at Ashville. The sheriff and the circuit clerk, however are required to keep offices in both towns. The tax collector and the tax assessor, however only keep offices at Ashville. The county superintendent of education also resides at Ashville while the county farm agent lives at Pell City. The judge of probate makes his home in Ashville while the circuit clerk lives in Pell City as does the sheriff. It's quite a mix up when it comes to the town in which the county officers have their residences.

The county officers are: C. G. Atkins, judge of probate, his chief clerk, James M. Garrett, the former an Ashvillian, the latter a Pell Citian or whatever you call a man who lives in the city of that name. Mack Davis, circuit clerk has a chief deputy at Ashville, Sheriff J. A. Honnicutt is on the job at Pell City;

while T. R. Waverly, chief deputy, has charge in Ashville; M. W. McKinney, tax collector lives at Ashville; and F. M. Morris, tax assessor, resides at Ragland; R. M. Reeves, county agent, lives at Pell City; while Carl Q. Baxter, county superintendent of education, resides at Ashville.

Commissioners Scattered

The Board of Commissioners are also scattered. Ed Love lives at Pell City; M. L. Baggett at Whitney; A. L. Box at Ragland and R. T. Ashley at Ragland. The Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, C. A. Steele and Woodson J. Martin both make Gadsden their home. A. T. Cox, president of the farm bureau lives at Ashville while W. Z. Smith, vice president, resides at Cropwell.

As we said before, it is a mix up and we are not sure that we haven't mixed them up a little more, but as a final say we say that if we lived in St. Clair County, we would hate to have a date with any of the county officers without first having our man tied definitely at Ashville or Pell City. Finding a county officer in St. Clair is like play the old game "Thimble, thimble, who's got the thimble?"

The court house at Pell City is built on the site once occupied by an old pioneer, Abner W. Lacy, grandfather of Lieut. Governor Davis, now seeking that high office, governor of Alabama. Among the other early settlers at Pell City were Green G. Evans, John Truitt, and Marion Hazelwood, while the early history of the towns industrial and business life was connected with the Pell City Manufacturing Co. established in 1902 with a capital of \$750,000 having 23,000 ring spindles, 118 cards, 720 narrow looms, four boilers dye finish making denims. It continued for years to be the chief industry of Pell City. A few years back it was taken over by the Avondale Mills and is today furnishing by far the largest payroll in the town.

The Avondale Mills of Pell City have, like the other mills of the same name located in Birmingham, Sylacauga, Sycamore, Alexander City along with the mills at Eufaula, furnished the employees with good homes, schools, playgrounds, hospitals, nurseries, and kindergardens. T. H. Rennie, vice president, lives at Pell City, as

does the superintendent, J. T. Edwards. The outdoor overseers are C. S. Deason, J. F. Adams, T. Mungall, L. R. Thornburg, J. C. Meehan, P. S. Spruiell and J. F. Harmon while the indoor overseers are V. M. Champion, W. A. Turner, and R. J. Carlisle. The mill at present has 25,000 spindles and 742 looms and uses annually between 13,000 and 14,000 bales of cotton in the manufacture of denims. The mill has 165 houses and about 500 employees.

The Avondale school is housed in an attractive building with a number of well lighted classrooms, offices and a large auditorium. We were delighted to find so many window boxes filled with flowers in bloom. In the front of the building is an athletic field, while in the rear is a playground which is well shaded with a most attractive outdoor pavillion. We thought we had seen every kind of play apparatus on the playgrounds of the town and city school grounds in the state, but at the Avondale Mill School we saw our first "jungle gym" which seems to offer great pleasure to the little ones. Superintendent J. T. Edmunds said that when Donald Comer sent it down to him it looked like a lot of pipe for a plumbing job but following the specifications, he was finally able to make a most curious looking structure out of the many pipe lengths.

Homelike Teacherage

The teacherage, kindergarden and nursery, a long one story building facing the park, for homelikeness can't be beat. We wish to commend Avondale Mills for making the teachers in the mill school comfortable. The dining room is most attractive and the living room handsomely furnished. The kindergarden room is large and airy, and the nursery with its cribs filled with babies is enough to warm any mother's heart.

Miss M. L. Gunter is in charge of the teacherage and Mrs. T. N. Earman and Mrs. J. B. Embry are the kindergarden teachers. Miss Odell Jones is in charge of the nursery.

The Gertrude Comer Hospital is well located on a hill. It has 25 beds, offices,

dining room and operating rooms. Dr. R. A. Martin is physician in charge, assisted by Dr. Stitt. The nurses being Misses Elsie L. Dunn, Ada Mae Tankersly, Lois Deason, Pauline Rogers and Margaret Carroll.

Miss Iola Roberts is principal of the Avondale Mills School and she is assisted by Misses Alma Robards, Vicie Heflin, Margaret Camp, Claudine Payne and Gladys Ingle. Up and through the seventh grade is taught while the enrollment is 267.

The Avondale Mills Band has about 50 members and it and the orchestra of eight pieces is directed by George Gunthrope.

Mrs. J. D. Locke is president of the Women's Club; Mrs. L. R. Thornburg is president of the Jolly Girls Club, while C. S. Deason is president of the Avondale Mill Athletic Club. The school goes in for basketball and baseball.

Hugh Black, Principal

Hugh Black is principal of the Pell City High and the grammar school, the two having around 400 enrolled. In the high school the teachers are Mrs. N. P. Shockley, Misses Ruth Mize and Myrtle Adams and the music director is Miss Smith. Edwin Young is coach, assisted by J. A. Baswell.

The football team is made up of the following players: Otis Golden, J. W. Smith, Charley Ragland, Homer Singleton, Emeris Sisson, Edgard Pepper, Forest Luker, Joe Bukacek, Thomas Coleman, Walter Layton and Lester Rowe, while substitutes are Sam Masters, George Stine, Ray Skelton, Robert Beavers, Buddy Love, Joe Kilgroe, Preston Wadsworth, Harmon Fraim, Cecil Reeves, Otis Lonergan, Louie Hesterly, Dalton Vaughan and Osmer Sims. The Pell City High is the only school in the county having a football team.

Gertrude Smith is president of the Live Wire Club and Margaret Johnson is secretary. Otis Golden is president of the 4 H club. J. L. Ragland is president of the board of trustees and Mrs. U. C. Martin, secretary.

The Rev. Claude Rogers is pastor, Baptist church; the Rev. R. E. Ellis, Methodist church; the Rev. C. Hinkle, Episcopal church; the Rev. D. F. Funderburg, Arbor Baptist church; the Rev. Mr. Hodges, Freewill Baptist church; and the Rev. F. H. Parr, Wesleyan Church. L. R. Thornburg is worshipful master of the Ben M. Jacobs Lodge of

Masons No. 642, J. W. Truitt, secretary, and Dr. U. C. Martin, treasurer.

Mayor Cogswell

Sumter Cogswell is mayor of Pell City, W. F. Smith is clerk; the policemen are Jim Renegar and R. C. Gravett. The board of aldermen are N. R. Shockely, Dr. U. C. Martin, W. L. Bramlett, Frank B. Embry and T. J. Abbott. Frank B. Embry is city attorney. The city owns its water works and the Alabama Power Company furnished light and power.

Here are the leading industries beside the Avondale Mills. The Coal City Cooperage Co., W. B. Lawley, president; the Walker County Lumber Co., R. G. Wilkins, manager, operating a planing mill, and the St. Clair Ice and Coal Co. There are a number of mills nearby bringing the lumber such as J. M. Florida, Barber Brothers, William Dixon, Arnold & Barber, J. T. Blackerby, Pruitt Lumber Co., London Gin Co. and J. T. Hazelwood, J. M. Savage and others. The Avondale Mills operate a gin and there are gins at Cropwell and Easonville.

Pell City has a number of up to date merchants carrying good stocks in well built and arranged stores.

Capital of \$35,000

The Union State Bank has a capital of \$35,000; surplus \$10,000 and undivided profits, \$4,244. T. H. Rennie is president; Pat Roberson, vice president; J. Fall Roberson, vice president; H. Vandevander, cashier; Adell Hardwick, assistant cashier, and Sumter Cogswell, Chairman of the board made up of the officers mentioned with the exception of Adell Hardwick, and the following: Frank B. Embry, McLane Tilton, Jr. C. B. Alverson and J. W. Moore.

The Pell City Bank and Trust Company has capital surplus and profits amounting to \$34,250 and deposits, \$163,661.18. The officers are O. L. Ekwurzel, president, Frank B. Embry and W. A. Savage, vice presidents; H. V. Jones, cashier and James B. Embry and Willie Jones, assistant cashiers. The directors being O. L. Ekwurzel, Frank B. Embry, W. A. Savage, T. J. Harmon, W. D. Carreker, E. L. Love, T. Mungall, W. T. Starnes, H. V. Jones and J. F. Carreker.

In thinking of Pell City, one must think of the district for Eden, Cropwell and

Easonville are all near by. There is a fine airport between it and Cropwell.

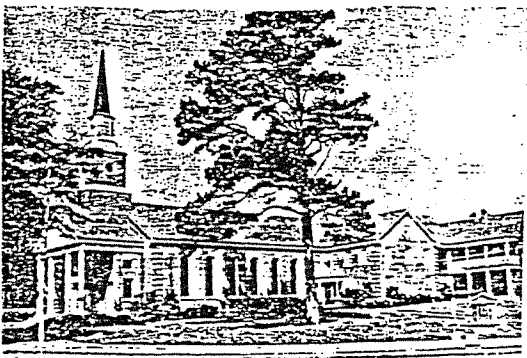
In thinking of Pell City we always think of Tom Rennie, the Rotarian who for many years has come into Birmingham to attend the meetings of the Birmingham Rotary Club. Then in thinking of Pell City it is hard to think about it without McLane Tilton, the picturesque personality who was known all over the state, a man of rare culture and travel and a delightful companion who for some years has been living at Charlottesville, Virginia, being the treasurer of the Alumni Association, University of Virginia, is greatly missed in Alabama in banking, political, social and literary circles as he wielded a facile and graceful pen as an editor.

Missed Frank Embry

We greatly missed seeing our good friend, Frank B. Embry, who was out of town as we wanted to get from him the last pronouncement of the wise old birds who sit in cases at "Wisdon Corner" a corner set apart for them on the courthouse lawn beneath the trees where politics, religion and business are discussed when the weather is good.

We also missed meeting our friend J. W. Moore formerly of Coal City whose hospital homeplace have often found pleasure and comfort but we did get to see our old Baptist "buddy" James M. Garrett, a man who has attended as many Baptist associations in St. Clair as any other living man and has attended and taken part in more all day singings than anybody in the county, dead or alive. He helped us on this story for which we give thanks. We called at the office of the Progress and found the force busy. This weekly was established more than a score of years ago. The thing however which we most missed was the state fox hunters convention which was just over. We got to see Pat Roberson for must a minute when we would like to have "visited" with him for a season for no one has ever been guest in a Roberson home will ever forget it.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
2309 Second Avenue North
Pell City, Alabama 35125



The First Baptist Church of Pell City was organized in April, 1903 with 18 charter members which included familiar names of Cameron, Fite, Cornett, Kilgroe, Smith, Nunnelley and Miller. The first pastor was Rev. Burns (Given name not available.) The first church building was constructed in 1904, a three room frame building with a steeple and bell tower. The front of the building was rather high off the ground and was not enclosed for some time. In fact, at a homecoming in the early 1920's, dinner tables had to be moved underneath the building when an untimely rain threatened to ruin the dinner on the grounds. Later the building was enclosed to form a basement which was used as a classroom by the first Baraca Class, whose members used to sing lustily to the accomplishment of Mr. Richard Wilkins playing an old pump organ.

The church was a member of the Coosa Valley Association until 1928 when it transferred to the St. Clair County Association. The first major expansion program was undertaken during the time that Brother Joe Bancroft was pastor (1937-39) and consisted of class rooms and more space in the sanctuary. The little white church was used until 1950 but a bigger building was planned long before that time with regular contributions to the building fund during World War II when building materials were not available. A plan was set up to purchase a bond a week so funds would be available when construction could begin. The pastorium was built in 1948. Through the years additional lots were added to the church property until in 1960, the final lot was obtained and the church owned the entire block. By 1963, the need for additional educational facilities was seen and the education building was added. The music and education programs were expanded in 1956 and have continued to be a successful part of

the church program. The program was expanded to include a youth program and the Silent Friends ministry. In 1970, the santuary was remodeled. Groundbreaking services were held on October 1, 1989 and construction began the following day on a new church ministries building. The three story building houses additional education space, pre-school, kindergarter, day-care and a multi-purpose room for basketball, volleyball, large dinners or banquets and a walking track. The building will also have an elevator making it accessible to the elderly and handicapped. The construction included re-modeling of parts of the education building to enlarge office space, make a commercial kitchen and re-do the fellowship hall.

The membership has grown to over 1,000 and church attendance and participation has continued to grow and develop through the years.



PASSING OF AN 80-YEAR-OLD COUNTY LANDMARK
L. B. Bowman Poses In Front Of Mineral Springs Church

L. B. Bowman is shown posing in front of the old Mineral Springs Baptist Church, shortly before it was torn down to make way for a modern new building.

Mr. Bowman, 80, the oldest member of the church, in terms of age, moved his letter from New Hope Baptist in 1937. He married a granddaughter of the late W. T.

Stewart, who donated the land for the 80-year - old church.

Construction began recently on the new church, which will be of modern brick construction.

St. Clair County: Log cabin capitol of Alabama counties

WITTEHEAD
re Editor

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Mrs. Mary
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— defending their mules.
"Their graves are back up on
the hillside," said Mrs. Banks.

Mr. and Mrs. Banks, from
Gadsden, purchased the
property in 1936 from a real
estate agent, along with a home
in St. Clair Springs, and the
Banks family never lived in the
cabinM

The location of the cabin was
chosen in all probability
because of the location of the
springs in the area — not just
outside the back door — but a
healthy walk away.

The stone chimney is still
standing in good condition, and
the hand hewn logs are still
sturdy, although sag has set in.
The of 12 inch wide boards heart
of pine which provide the ceiling
of the first floor and the
flooring of the large upstairs
room, is still in quite good
condition.

The fireplace in the down-
stairs main room is raised, with
a once-solid stone serving as the
top portion of the fireplace. The
stone now has a crack down the
middle.

"People working at the
sawmill (Banks Sawmill) used
to live in here from time to time,
and there was a family of
Williams who stayed here,"
said Mrs. Banks.

The cabin has been unoc-
cupied for years — with the
most frequent visitor being
Mrs. Banks grandson in his
younger days — a hideway
place to campout with friends.

Down the highway, if one
knows which dirt road to turn
onto, Barker Holler might be
found. Barker Holler is not an
ordinary place, or even the type
of place people find throughout
a lifetime.

It is accessible by driving a
piece, parking the car and
walking a rock infested weed
choked road. The once used
road lies beside a stream — a
stream which has a slight flow,
over and around the moss
covered rocks — which runs its
course down the incline through
hardwood trees.

with stone chimney for storage.

Persons who hold the
possession of log dwellings and
buildings generally feel
themselves lucky — especially
if the building has been around
for a long time and has tied up
in it the life and times of
generations.

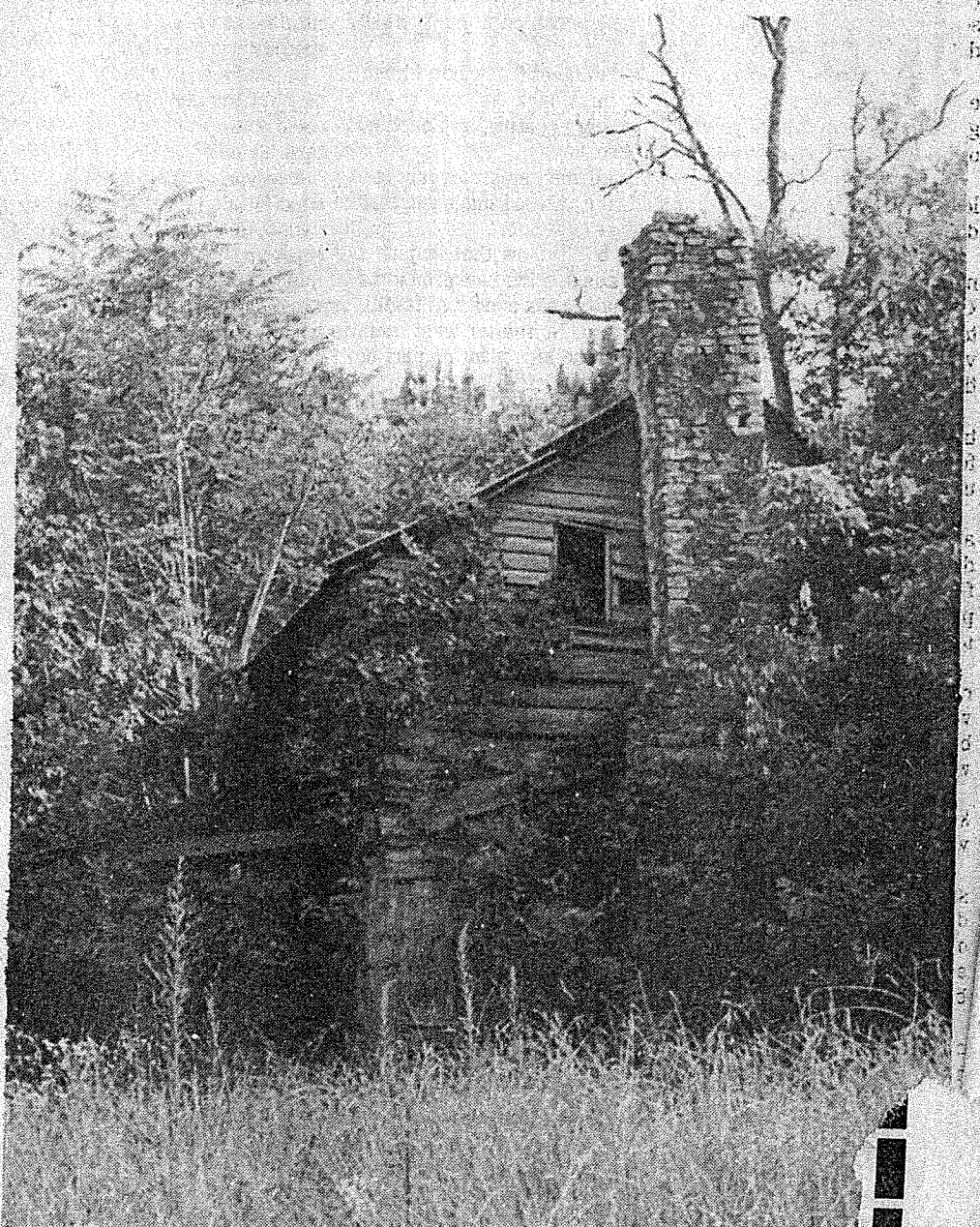
Unfortunately, some have
realized the value of log cabins

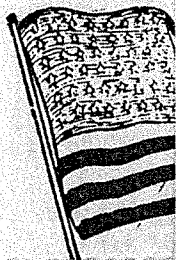
too late, and many have been
torn down, "because" as one
man said, "the space was
needed for something else."

Many, old and newer ones, do
exist in the county, and include
the Looney House, the Newton
House (John Ash's home at one-
time!), the Porter House, the
lodge at Camp Tekewitha; the
P.F. Self's home; the Baker

Blace in Odenville; and the
cabins at Chico Camp at Camp
Winnetaska.

St. Clair County may well be
the log cabin capitol of the state
— it's just a matter of unear-
thing the existing cabins in an
effort to both perserve the
history of the settlement of the
county, and to have on recor
the number of log buildings
which do exist here.

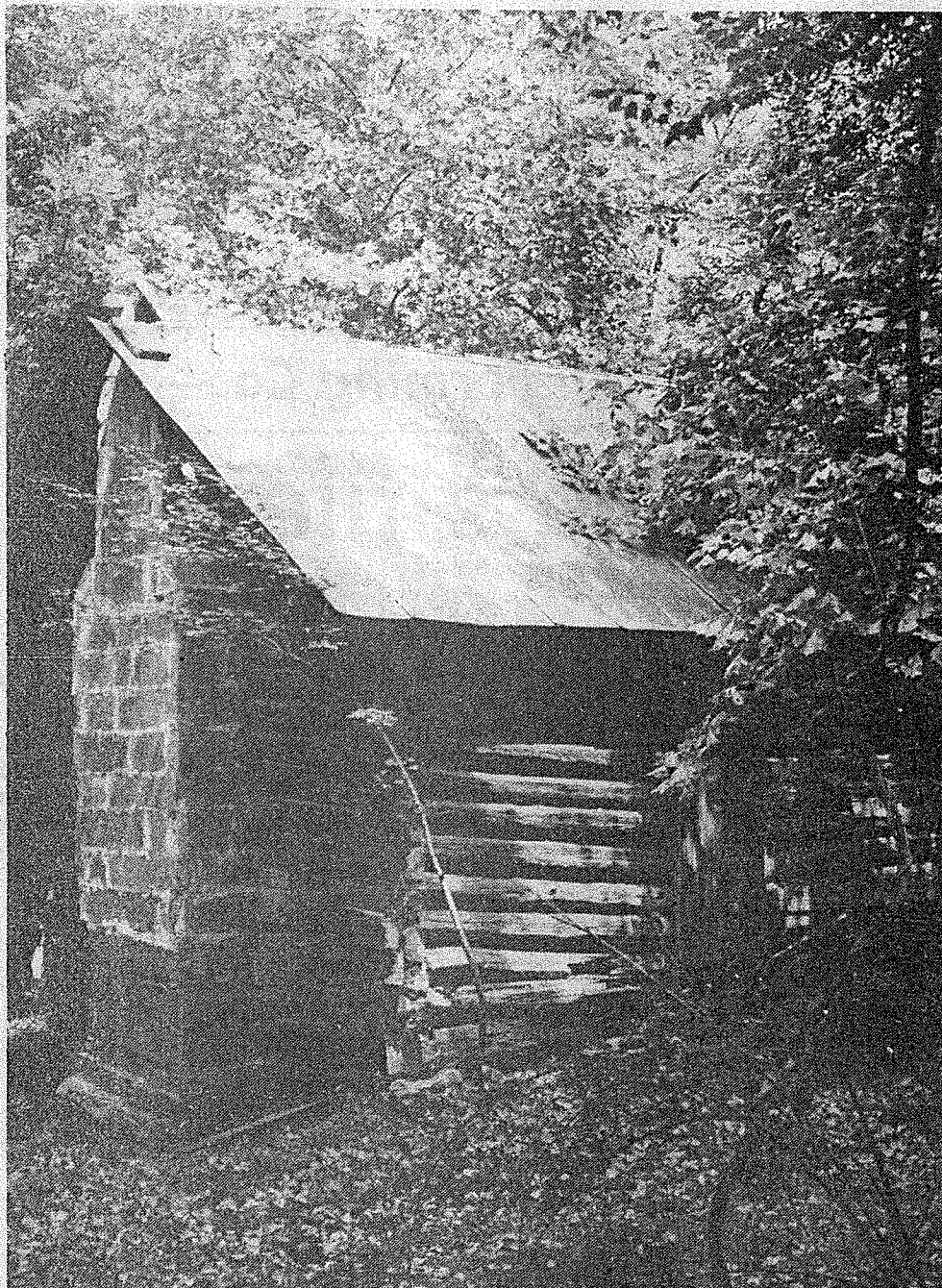




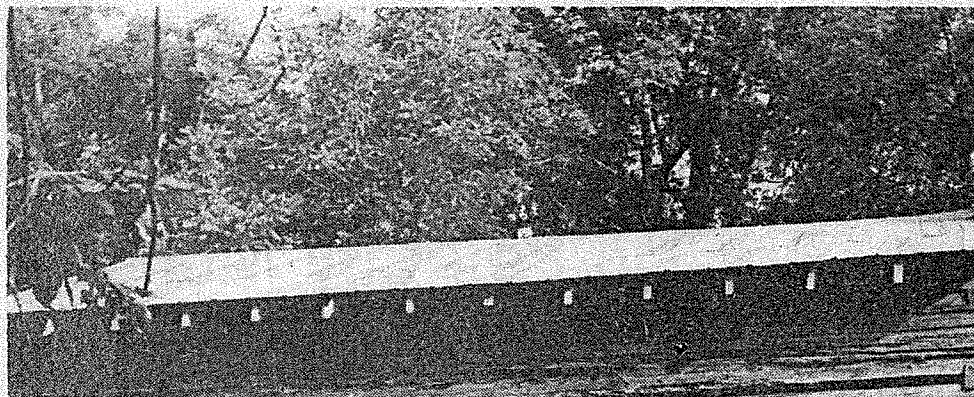
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Barker Cabin



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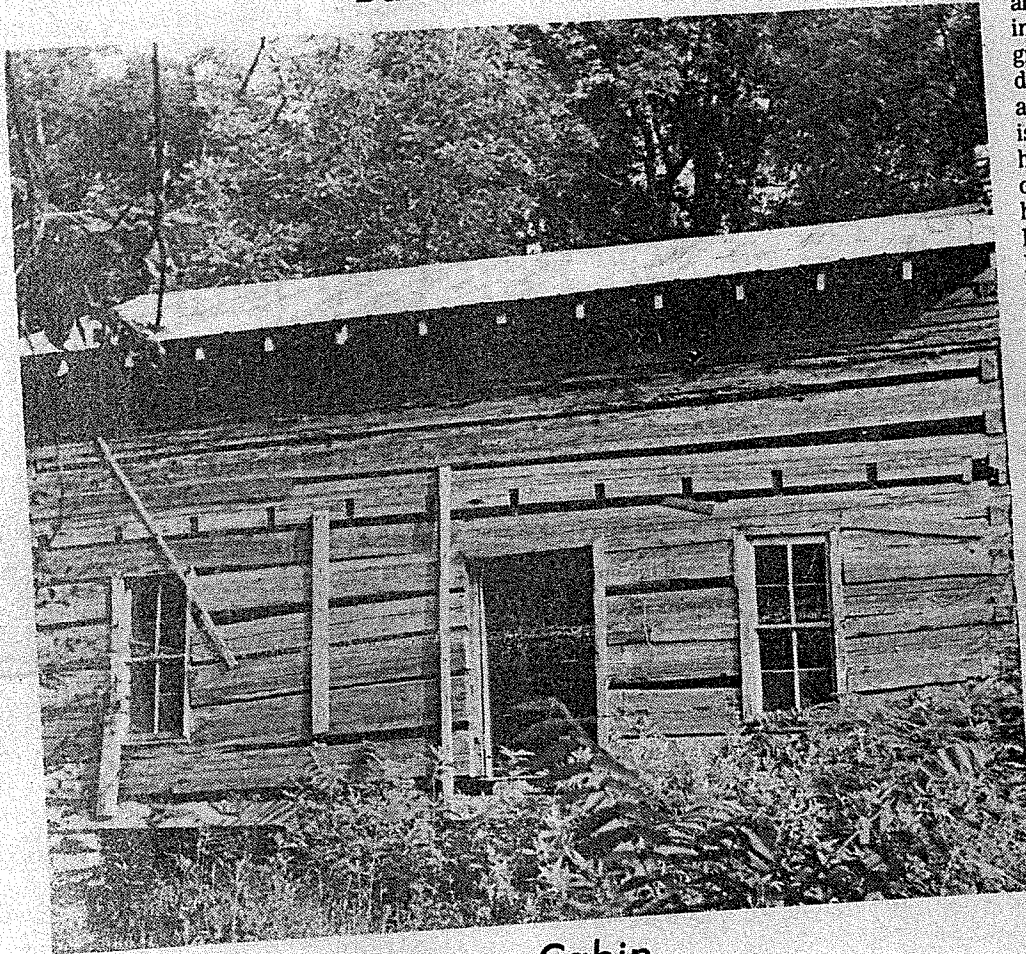
Charley Brann began working on in 1967 — cutting planing the logs — three sides and fourth — and strip with a hoe. He wanted a log cabir his out in his head room downstairs bedrooms ups fireplace is mad from the old Ra Yard — from company's first b of which weighed

Brannon finishe 1970, and is now extension. He is growing number o like log cabins, an build his own — cabins can be ord the mail — the s prefabricated dwe

Interest in living has been growir years, as has int serving the log ca forebearers. St. might well have cabins than any of Alabama — o Carolynne Scott, w a book on "Rustic beginning to believ

Mrs. Scott, who Clair Springs, has Highway 23 — stagecoach road Springville, St. C and Ashville — as v in between — n greater concentrat dwellings than any and is curious to fi is the actual case. has located sever clude Mrs. Duke C home built in the Logs, the home of Prentiss M. Rainey 1940's; Miss Oze home, completed Rogers in 1898; Rogers home, built

Barker Cabin



Ramsey Cabin

Midyear outlook in brief

By L.G. Pair, County Extension Chairman

General Economy: Significant upturns in production and real GNP are likely this fall. Consumer spending is expected to improve, but any new round of inflation could severely curtail prospects for improvement in economy. High unemployment continues to be a major negative feature of the economic outlook.

proving demand, prices should again begin to reflect tighter supplies.

Soybeans: Stocks are expected to continue to build. Alabama growers are predicted to grow 29 percent more than in 1974. Indications are that prices should range in the area of \$5.00 to \$5.50 per bushel during harvest with the normal upswing of prices after the first of the year.

continue to hold cattle off market, and project oversupply may exert downward pressure on prices. Most favorable itme is the estimated bumper grain crop. Before any profitable era can return to the cattle industry, profits must be made in the finishing of cattle.

Swine: Pork prices expected to continue to increase with fall prices for U.S. No. 1-3 hogs in the Southeast averaging around \$46.00 cwt. Feeder pig producers should see 1975 as one of the best years for profit, with

might well have more cabins than any other county in Alabama — or so Mrs. Carolynne Scott, who is writing a book on "Rustic Alabama", is beginning to believe.

Mrs. Scott, who lives in St. Clair Springs, has found that Highway 23 — the old stagecoach road connecting Springville, St. Clair Springs and Ashville — as well as points in between — may have a greater concentration of log dwellings than any other area, and is curious to find out if this is the actual case. Thus far she has located seven, which include Mrs. Duke C. Bradshaw's home built in the 1930's; Logs, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Prentiss M. Rainey, built in the 1940's; Miss Ozella Rogers' home, completed by Joseph Rogers in 1898; Mrs. M. Rogers home, built in the 1800's; the Tucker-Banks Cabin built before the Civil War; the Barker Cabin in Barker Cabin built before the Civil War; and the Ramsey Cabin, built by Alexander Ramsey before the Civil War. There are rumors of others.

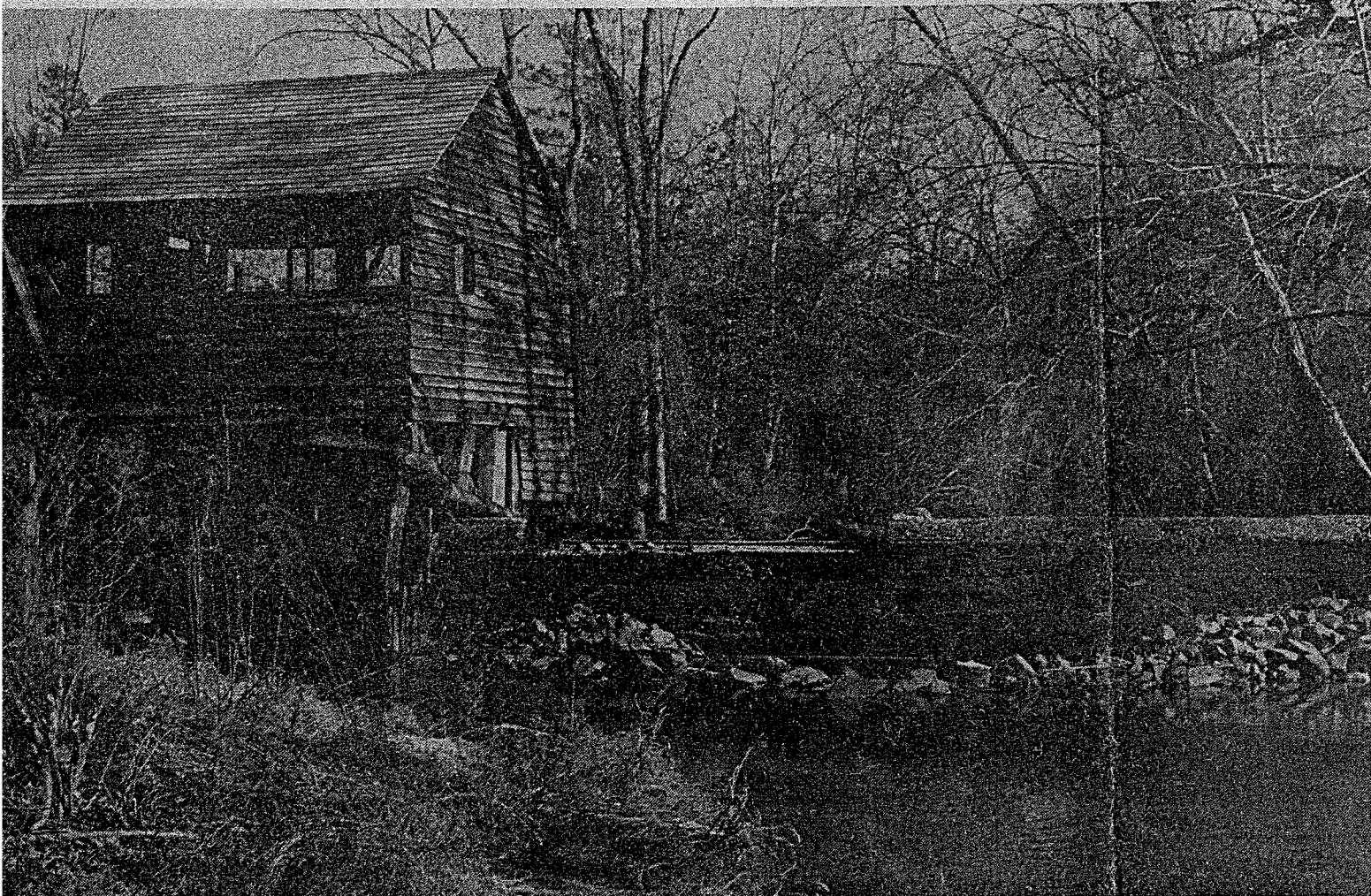
The Tucker Place, owned by Mrs. J.E. Banks since 1936, sits in isolated splendor — back from the noise of passing cars along Highway 23 — in a meadow which is in the process of growing good fodder for the Banks cattle. The two story wooden gate, there lies a rare sight — three log dwellings in a holler, which is somewhat weedy but fairly cleared out.

Barker Hollow, according to Mrs. Frank Walthall, present owner, was granted to the Barker family during James Buchanan's term in office — U.S. President from 1857-61.

The original log structure — one log room, with a raised fireplace and handhewn stone chimney — still stands. The log cabin is the third log structure in the complex — the one on an incline up from the other buildings.

Still attached, but pulling away from the original room, is the "new" room — a frame kitchen added in the 1920's, according to Mrs. George Barker, who came to Barker Valley as a bride in 1923.

Gone now, but once standing in front of the present log cabin, was another log room — added before Mrs. Barker's coming to



On The Register

The above scene on Shoal Creek, so tranquil one would expect to find it on a post card, is O'Donnel's Mill which was recently added to the Alabama Historical Commission's register of Landmarks and Heritage. The mill belongs to the St.

Clair County Historical Society and plans for the future include clearing the underbrush, installing picnic tables and opening the mill to the public including grinding corn meal. (News-Aegis photo by Mike Moser)

Too Often Forgotten—

St. Clair offers programs for senior citizens

ANNE CRITTENDEN
 News-Aegis News Editor

various segments of programs for the aging in St. Clair County. This article deals with what the programs are and who participates in them.)

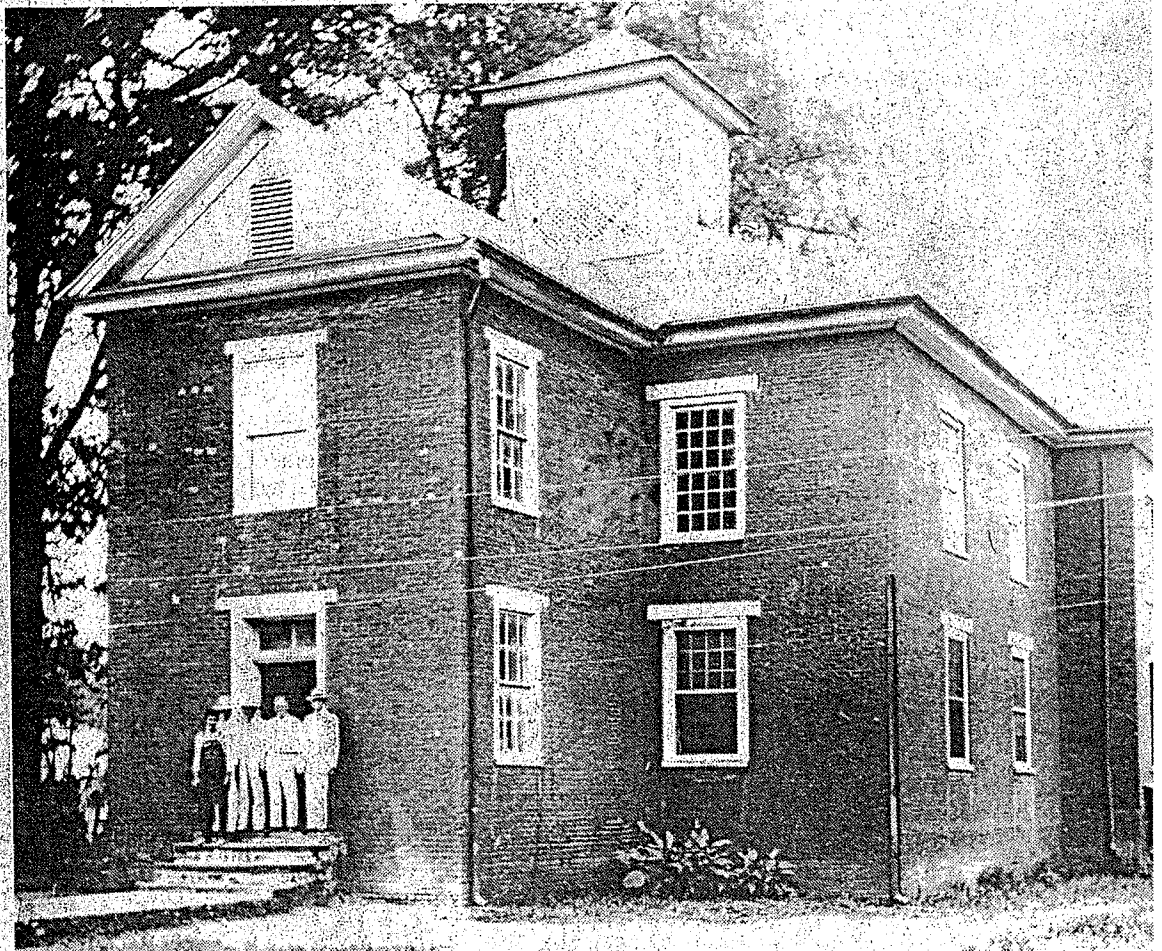
.. All too often the older people in a community will be forgotten as they are left to sit alone in their homes or apartment.
 .. But here in St. Clair County

ty there is no reason why, a person 60 years of age or older should have to be alone or have the feeling of being stranded. The reason for this...the county wide

.. Two vans operate in county...one in Ragland one in Odenville.
 .. Through the local services, if an elderly person in need of medical care

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of articles probing the

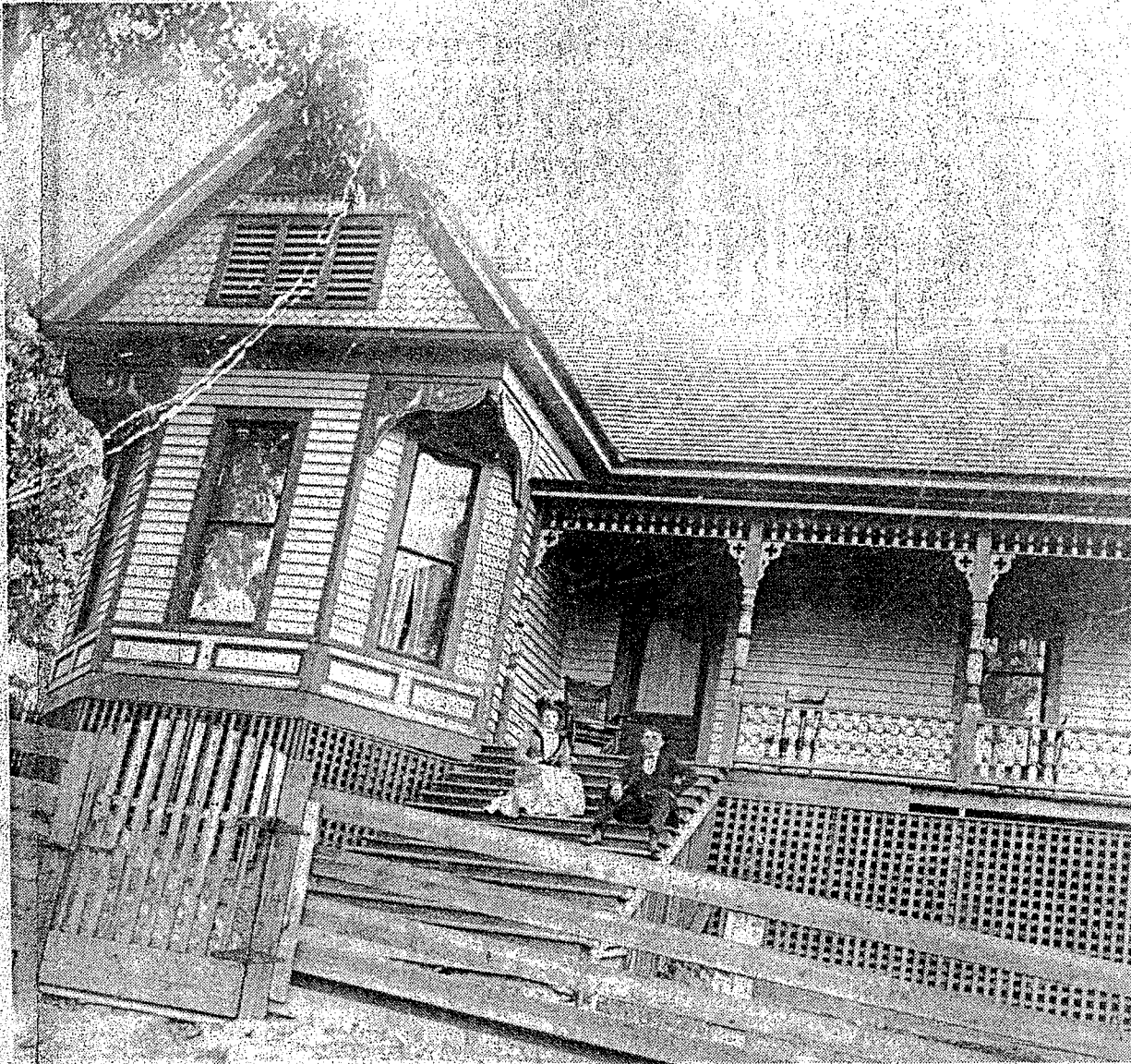
Historical Homes,



ASHVILLE COURTHOUSE—This picture of the Ashville Courthouse was taken in 1924. The courthouse remodeled several times through the years and now looks very different. The three men on the left are un- but the two men on the right are Sam High, who was probate judge at the time, and Jim Embry.



Buildings and Events



MR. AND MRS. FRANK SCOTT HOME—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott are pictured in front of their home on Robinson Street in Springville.

"THE ORIGINAL"
ONE DAY DENTURE SERVICE
JOSEPH SAWYER, D.M.D., P.A.
DAVID T. SAWYER, D.M.D.
HERBERT E. PAULY, D.M.D.





DOWN MEMORY LANE
 Ma Turners Boarding House
 in 1904

This one from our Memory Lane was made about 1904, according to Mrs. Jennie Mode who loaned the picture to the News-Aegis. First man on the porch from left is unidenti-

fied. Next man is John Mode and facing him then Miss Jennie Beley, later Mrs. John Mode. Next are Mr. and Mrs. Pangel. Sixth from left, Nona Turner, Sam Spear. Next to

be identified is Mr. and Mrs. Harvey. The two negro women are unidentified. The man with the baby who is Turner is on the mule. Next Mrs. Minnie Turner Rich. Next is Mrs. Betty Turner, and Aubrey Turner. The

two negro women are unidentified. The man with the baby who is Turner is on the mule. Next Mrs. Minnie Turner Rich. Next is Mrs. Betty Turner, and Aubrey Turner. The

three small boys are sons of Jimman. Mrs. Minnie Rich. The man in the middle on the bench is Ernest Turner. Mat Buckner. All others are unidentified.

9, 1989

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*elow: The Riser
appears today.*

