

HISTORY OF PELL CITY

1890. On a blustery March day in 1890 a young man about 29 years of age, chanced to be en route to Talladega and was to change trains at a place known as Pell City. The name of Pell City is one of great honor and distinction coming from the widely known and distinguished Pell family of New York City. The Mr. Pell was a New York financier. The young man was a guest at the Cornett House operated by J. C. Cornett, the father of Pat and Hardy. Looking out of his window the next morning the young man was so impressed with the natural beauty of the countryside and it reminded him so much of the "Blue Grass" county of Kentucky that he was interested. The young man was Sumter Cogswell. From that first morning impression was born the idea of building a town which has been nurtured for over 46 years and which has become increasingly interesting and dear to the builder of this city from its swaddling clothes to its present place of importance and value to St. Clair County.

Three railroads met in Pell City during that period. There were the Georgia Pacific, now the Southern Railway System; the E & W, now the Seaboard Air Line, and a line called the Coosa Valley Railroad, with a line between Pell City and Talladega, Ala. Cogswell went to Talladega to call on A. J. Savery. When he reached Talladega, he called on Thomas S. Plowman, president of the First National Bank who seemed to be in knowledge of the facts about the place. Plowman refused the eager youngster an option on the property which he was informed could be bought for \$70,000, and which consisted in the original survey of 400 acres of the choice land.

1897. The first definite step was taken towards building a town of all North Alabama was booming. It was a matter of comparative ease to interest investors in Alabama properties and soon the buyers of the first 400 acres organized the Pell City Iron and Land Co. This concern built the first soil pipe plant in the Southeast. The plant sprawled all over what is now the principal business area of Pell City. It built houses and started manufacturing but the panic of 1897 came along and it was not a great while until the little community was in the throes of a desperate battle for its very life.

1901. After negotiating with Mr. Plowman again the Pell City Land Co. holdings were acquired by Mr. Cogswell for \$3,000 which consisted of the principal acreage on which Pell City has been built. With his bride and her two children the budding city builder reached his future home, Pell City, on September 7, 1901, practically ten years to the day from the time he first gazed out the window from the Cornett House on what has become a community of delight to its population. The new owners stayed at the Cornett House No. 2, the first hotel having been burned, which was located near the intersection of the three railroads. That second hotel is now the premises occupied by Lee's furniture store. There was one grocery store in Pell City but Mr. and Mrs. Cogswell, taking no chances, brought with them perhaps a greater amount of groceries than the entire stock of the small store. At that time there was no highways, the principal artery of travel being the road from Eden to Cropwell to Talladega and Anniston. Subsequently the leg was straightened out and the highway now provides motorists with a straight line from Eden to Pell City to Anniston.

1902. Losing no time Mr. Cogswell started out to put something over. The Constitutional Convention provided for the establishment of a court house on the south side of the mountain in order to accommodate citizens of this section and eliminate the long trip to Ashville. Pell City, through the efforts of its residents, and others, won the location by 600 votes. Mr. Cogswell donated to the county Block 26 of the city for the court house and it was built in 1902 remaining as originally constructed until a Federal grant coupled with

funds from St. Clair County resulted in the complete rebuilding and modernization of that structure. At that time the population of Pell City was precisely 42 persons of whom seven left.

As the court house was being built the Pell City Manufacturing Co. was started. George W. Pratt came here and he was in touch with the Draper and Howard Bulloch interests in New England. Pratt was a man of great sales ability and after some months of negotiations he succeeded in getting the Draper auto-loom interests and the Howard Bullocks together. And there was begun the construction of the first saw tooth cotton mill in the South. This was in August, 1902. Mr. Pratt was in charge and Sumter Cogswell as one of the directors. In the interests of the town, Mr. Cogswell donated a site of 150 acres to the company containing a spring with a flow of over 2,000,000 gallons of fine water per day and that supply is still being used.

The mill brought the first substantial influx of new residents. The company built homes and started off well. The mill was then and continues to be a big asset to Pell City and is truly appreciated as a good citizen and neighbor. The mill was quite successful for in 1917 approximately \$750,000 in excess profit taxes were paid; in 1918 we paid \$1,000,000 in excess profit taxes and in 1919 \$1,125,000 was paid in excess profit taxes which may be considered a very substantial tax donation to Uncle Sam. The plant was capitalized for \$500,000 but its earnings were far, far in excess of its capital but in the fall of 1919, the property was sold to the Avondale Mills which are the owners at this time. In 1907, to revert a bit, it was found expedient to secure the services of a man skilled in the manufacturing business for while Mr. Pratt was in many respects a genius, his greatest ability was that of a salesman.

The man selected was Thomas Henry Rennie, who came here in 1907 and remained here until March, 1936, during which term of office he made an outstanding success of the Pell City mill as testified to by the best textile experts in this country and by the earnings cited in the foregoing paragraph. The reputation of denims made here was soon nationwide and little trouble was subsequently encountered in selling the local products.

LOCAL BANK FORMED

Realizing the vital part banking facilities play in a growing town, Mr. Cogswell was interested in founding a bank and it came to pass that the bank of St. Clair County was organized with Mr. Cogswell as president. The bank was the first successful bank founded in St. Clair County and was located where the Old Ten Cent Store used to be. The first directors aside from Mr. Cogswell were: McLane Tilton, E. J. Mouny, Arthur Draper, J. Fall Roberson, J. H. Moore of Coal City, Frank Holland Lathrop of Riverside, and L. Cooke. In 1912 Mr. Cogswell was succeeded by McLane Tilton during which year the present building was begun and completed. Tilton was president when the name was changed to the First National and later due to the disinclination of local officials to obey resented instructions from John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of Currency, the name was changed to the Union State Bank of which Pat Roberson is now president with Mr. Cogswell remaining as chairman. This bank has weathered every financial storm that has developed during its more than 35 years of existence. Not one penny has ever been lost by a depositor, no run has ever been experienced and the bank has always met every obligation and is naturally a source of consuming pride to Mr. Cogswell and his younger associates.

The first boom of Pell City was in 1888 by a Mr. Pell a New York Financier. The City was named for him. He built a pipe shop where the swimming pool is now, but later had to move because of the lack of water. He wanted to build on the river, but the owner wouldn't sell. So he moved to Anniston.

The second boom occurred around 1902, with the building of the Pell City Manufacturing Co. This was organized by A. J. Draper from Mass. He lived where Mr. I. O. Roberts lives now. Mr. G. W. Pratt was president from 1902 till 1909. In 1909 T. H. Rennie became president. Around 1919, Comer bought out the Pell City Manufacturing Co. The name was then changed to Avondale Mills.

The first hospital was at Avondale Mills. Then it was moved to town, up over the Rexall Drug Store. Later Dr. R. A. Martin founded the hospital which is in the same location. Dr. R. A. Martin came here as a young man in 1903 and has been here since.

AVONDALE

Avondale Mills School was built in 1901. It was located at the end of Mulberry Street. Miss Ware was principal at that time. It burnt down in 1923. It was rebuilt in 1924 where it now stands. Miss Roberts is principal now. John Pratt was foreman carpenter of the building of the Avondale Mills School.

Avondale Mills was built in 1901. C. E. Riley and Company built it first as the Pell City Manufacturing Company. It was bought out by Comer in 1919.

George W. Pratt was president at the time for the company. Then Mr. T. H. Rennie. Now Mr. Clark is agent for the company.

The mill started manufacturing in July 5, 1902. The Avondale Mills houses started going up in 1901.

At this time three railroads ran through there. The Southern and the East and West.

PELL CITY NOW IN 1936

Pell City today is continuing its conservation march towards greater achievement lying 37 miles east of Birmingham and 28 miles from Anniston. It is traversed by the main line of the Southern Railway System which operated eight passenger trains daily east and west through the city with connecting service over the Seaboard Air Line. The City is near the main 22 inch transmission line of the Southern Natural Gas Company which carried natural gas from Monroe, La., to Atlanta. This fuel is available for use in Pell City for manufacturing purposes when and if needed. The city has also transmission lines of the Alabama Power Co. which reach out in every direction from Pell City with rural lines with an abundance of cheap electric energy. There is nearby the Roberson landing field for airplanes, while hunting and fishing is close by in abundance.

Recreational advantages are numerous and extensive while the city surrounded with agricultural interests which feed into Pell City an increasing large volume of farm income.

Over 10,000 bales of cotton are produced annually within ten miles of Pell City, while the county's coal, iron, wood and farm products serve to protect Pell City from any serious effects of depression years which has proved so devastating to other less fortunately situated communities. Situated on a river which is

SEWERAGE

Late development in which Mr. Cogswell took his usual leading part was the construction of a modern sewerage system which was built during the Spring of 1936 and was accepted by the Mayor at a meeting of the city council, Monday night, June 1st. This modern system which provides sewerage facilities for the entire city north of the railroad was built with a Federal grant and part financed by the city. It was expected that the debt would be liquidated over a short period of time from funds secured from a small service fee which is apparently agreeable to every citizen of Pell City.

WATER SYSTEM

Cogswell
During ~~Col. N. B. Spears~~ administration beginning 1926 a water system was constructed by the city costing \$56,000. The supply came from Dunlap Spring and was rated 100% in purity by the Health Dept. Everyone was examined and that was 3 or 4 times every year. The water rates to domestic manufacturing consumers is very low, yet the city has been able to liquidate all its bonds when due and the water system is held to be in excellent financial shape. The water system was built in 1927.

FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM

The coach of the first football team was Mr. Vester Garrett. He was just out from the University of Alabama. He wasn't a teacher nor coach but he took the job anyway. He was from Pell City.

The players were Mr. Paul Ellington, Lloyd Stone, Handy Fant, Claud Deason, Charles Harrington, Marvin Turner, Albert Harvey, Earl Stine, Mannie Stine, Orr Starnes, Mr. Ed Blair and Mr. Whit Starnes.

The first football game was played in 1922-23 against Talladega in Boy Scout uniforms. They lost their first game 61-0. The next game was lost against Talladega also. The score was 7-0.

The football field was located between where the Pan-Am Service Station and Highway 78 is now.

rare in Ala. for an industrial city, this community possesses that among natural advantages and it is confidently believed with coming of inevitable river improvements that the proximity of the Coosa River will be of special value to this city.

SOME OF THE STORES IN PELL CITY AROUND 1925

Kilgroe Gro. owned by S. D. Kilgroe was located where the New 5 & 10¢ Store is now.

Mays and Jones.

Bramlett Furniture Co. owned by the Bramlett brothers and was located on the way to the Post Office.

Pell City Grammar School (same location)

Rexall Drug Store (same location)

Pell City Bank & Trust owned by a bunch of stock holders but the head was a Mr. Cooke. The bank was located in Mays & Jones Store.

Seaboard Air Line located where the V.F.W. hall is today.

Southern Railway where the depot is now.

Post Office located where C & H Co. is now.

Court House

Abbott General Merchandise was where the Moore & Smith and Harmon Hardware Stores are today.

Pell City Hardware Co.

Mitnick Clothing Store

Ford Place owned by the King Motor Co. in Anniston.

Willingham Funeral Home where Cohen's is now.

Willingham Furniture Store and Willingham Grocery were located where Roberson's is now.

Fowler's Grocery where the Lewis Grocery and Drug Store are now. It began in 1920 and was bought out by Mr. Lewis in 1941.

Shockley Grocery where the Jefferson Home Furniture Co. is.

Saylor's Grocery where the Lee Furniture Co. is now.

Theater was where the old Ten Cent Store is.

Service Station and Cafe began in 1933.

The information about the years of the growth of Pell City was gained from the book "Pen Sketch of Pell City" by Sumter Cogswell in the Pell City Library. It was written in 1936.

Also the information about the local bank, sewerage and water system was gained from the same book. The Avondale report by Jack Walker was received from people working for the Avondale Mills and Miss Roberts. The report on the first football team was received from Mr. Whit Starnes. Stores in Pell City in 1925 and their owners were given to us by our parents.

Mary Mays
Sara Brown
Joan Wilcox
Jimmie Scott
Daphene Gray
Ray Layton
Tessie Hand
Garland Davis
Jack Walker
Martha Bryant
Gene Castleberry
Rosie Lee Todd
James Hannah

PELL CITY

Pell City is situated in the southeastern part of St. Clair County among the beautiful mountains and the fertile Coosa Valley. The present town of Pell City is due to the building of three railroads that met in the center of what is now the business section of the town; and 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 and his energy toward the promotion of a modern city.

The May 4, 1887, issue of the Southern Aegis carried an item in the local news--"Pell City is the name of the new town east of Eden." The June 4, issue of the same paper reported that "on June 1st, Articles of Incorporation for the Pell City Land Company were filed in the office of the probate judge." "A History of Pell City" states that the first town charter of Pell City 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. Savery, 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 in Block 43. The East and West Railroad later sold to the famous New York family of Pells. This is where Pell City derives its name. Later this railroad became the Seaboard Air Line Railway. This Seaboard line to Pell City from Coal is in existence no longer. The Talladega and Coosa Valley Railroad Company was extended from Renfro to Pell City in 1887 making the length 26.9 miles. The first 8 miles of road were built by Rogers and Franks, lumber dealers and it was managed by D. M. Rogers for years.

On October 1, 1890, it was merged into the Birmingham and Atlantic Railroad Company. Between 1886 and 1899 many short branches were built to ore beds. The short road was built primarily for the hauling of lumber, but when the Talladega Furnace was erected, it became the road most used for hauling iron ore.

The late Mr. John Fant of Cropwell would often enjoy telling about the train falling in the Coosa River. The railroad crossed the river at Stemley on a wooden bridge, which at one time collapsed under a loaded train, and would have proved a horrible tragedy if a colored porter, Jordan Cranford, and the conductor, Mr. Harry Fleetwood had not saved the lives of the passengers. Jordan Cranford dived under the water and pulled out every passenger, handing them to Mr. Fleetwood and his brother, Julian, who stood on the top of the car, which was not submerged.

The bridge was repaired, but not considered safe for some time. For months, the engineer, Henry Sims, put on only enough steam to transport the train across the bridge; he and the passengers would walk across the bridge, and the fireman would start the engine, jump off, and the engineer would catch it as it reached the other side. On one occasion, the engineer failed to catch the engine and it proceeded for some miles on its own. A new bridge was built and transportation became safe again.

After the lumber mills at Renfroe and the furnaces in Talladega ceased operations, the road was no longer needed, and the right of way was sold in individuals.

This little road was the most convenient mode of travel from Talladega to Birmingham and Atlanta, since it made connection with the A.G.S. at Pell City.

General John B. Gordon was made President of a prospective railroad, The Georgia Pacific, which was to extend from Atlanta, Ga. to Texarkanna, Ark. in 1881. It was finally built from Atlanta with a terminus at Greenville, Miss. The road was thrown into bankruptcy and was purchased August 18, 1884, at foreclosure, by the Southern Railway Company. This is the only railway that touches Pell City at the present time (1972).

Mr. Leroy Truitt was often told that the first freight this railroad brought out from Birmingham was his Mother's and Father's wedding furniture. It was bought from M. H. B. Guy who had a large department store located at Eden. Mr. Leroy's parents were Elijah and Lula Hindsman Truitt.

At the time the railroad station was built in Pell City, the only other building in town was the Cornett Hotel, located where the old home of R. C. Gravette now

stands. The hotel was operated by Mr. J. C. Cornett, father of Hardy, Pat, Dill and G. P. Cornett. This hotel later burned.

All of the first incorporators of Pell City lived in Talladega at the time of the first charter except John Postell and Judge John W. Inzer.

JOHN B. KNOX was born in Talladega on February 16th, 1857. He studied law in the office of Judge John T. Heflin, and was admitted to the Bar in Talladega in 1878. He first practiced law in partnership with Frank W. Bowden, but moved to Anniston in December, 1888. However, he continued his legal connection in Talladega until he died.

THOMAS S. PLOWMAN was the son of George Paris Plowman who was born on July 8th, 1808 in Brunscome Co., N. C. and moved to Talladega in 1833, where he served as Judge of Probate two terms. He had two sons who became prominently connected with civic affairs of Talladega. George H. Plowman, served as mayor, at some time during the war, but later moved to Texas. Thomas S. Plowman lived in Talladega all of his life. In 1889 he was Sales Agent for the Loan and Improvement Co. of Talladega. At one time he was president of the Bank of Talladega and served the district one term in the United States House of Representatives, 1897-99.

D. M. ROGERS was manager of the Coosa Valley Railroad Company.

A. J. SAVARY. In 1886, Mr. Savary established a new wagon-yard in Talladega. This was the most commodious and convenient wagon-yard which had been established in Talladega. He built a handsome home in Talladega in 1886. In 1888, The First National Bank of Talladega was established and Mr. Savary was on the Board of Directors along with T. S. Plowman and John B. Knox. Mr. Savary was the gentleman Mr. Cogswell was going to call on when he made his first trip through Pell City.

JUDGE JOHN WASHINGTON INZER, who along with John Postell is credited with having named Pell City after George H. Pell. He was attorney for the East and West Railroad and was one of the most outstanding men that St. Clair County has ever known. He will be discussed in other parts of this book.

JOHN POSTELL was a Captain in the Confederate Army and a very close friend of Judge John W. Inzer. He was a railroad builder and was chief engineer who built a large part of the Flager Railroad system of Florida. He was general manager for the East and West railroad when it was built in Pell City in 1887. He was married to the former Lucinda Katherine Hudson who was very talented and distinguished person. She traveled extensively in this county and in Europe and was presented at the Court of St. James. Thirty-six years after Pell City was named -- Katie Hudson Postell's name sake came to reside in Pell City. In January, 1923, Katie Hudson Miller Eatman, with her two daughters, joined her husband, Thomas N. Eatman, who was cotton grader and buyer for Avondale Mills. Mrs. Eatmen was kindergarten teacher for Avondale Mills for fourteen years and was active in school, church and welfare work in Pell City.

In March, 1890, Mr. Sumter Cogswell, at the age of 29, chanced to be en route to Talladega and was to change trains in Pell City. He was a guest at the Cornett House for the night. Looking out of his window the next morning he was so impressed with the natural beauty of the countryside, which reminded him so much of the "Blue Grass" country of Kentucky, that he was interested in the place. At this time, Mr. Cogswell was in the employment of the Home Life Insurance Company as General Agent, and was on his way to Talladega to call on A. J. Savery and establish an agency for the company there.

Being so impressed with the location of Pell City, for a town site, he asked who the town belonged to and was told that he was to see Mr. Tom Plowman in Talladega. Mr. Plowman informed him that the town belonged to Pell City Land Company, of which he, Mr. Plowman, was president. Mr. Cogswell secured the property 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 incorporated. They paid \$50,000 for 400 acres of land. The Pell City Iron and Land Company had the town re-surveyed, streets laid out and several houses built.

The earliest records that can be found to date are the Probate Minutes that begin in 1884, which indicate that the Town of Pell City was officially incorporated

on May 6, 1891. A year earlier, in 1890, Sumter Cogswell had been instrumental in The Pell City Land and Iron Company acquiring the holdings of the Pell City Land Company. Also from the "Report of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Alabama during the November Term, 1908-1909" by Lawrence H. Lee, Supreme Court Reporter, Vol, 157, printed in Montgomery, Alabama by The Brown Printing Co., Printers and Binders, 1909. It states "The town was organized on the 6th day of May, 1891, under title 14, c.1 of the Code of 1886...

The Pell City Iron and Land Company was instrumental in bringing to Pell City, the Hercules Pipe Company, the first soil pipe plant to be erected in the South.

W. L. Singleton, early citizen of Pell City, worked for this pipe shop soon after it was removed to Anniston. Mr. Singleton was a carpenter on the Pell City Manufacturing Co. when it was being built in 1902. He was married to the former Lucy Hindsman. Three of their daughters, Eva Singleton Harvey, Arvilla S. Mungall and Savannah S. Williams are life long residents of the town.

At this time, the young city seemed to be on a prosperity basis. W. G. Evans was elected the first mayor. A store was being operated by a Mr. Lindsey on the corner of 20th Street and First Avenue South. Later when Pell City was quite young, Jesse Williamson ran a blacksmith shop on this same spot. Mr. Williamson was married to the former Elsie Sides of Cropwell. Their daughter Jesse Williamson Armstrong related when she was a little girl she would ride the B & A train to Cropwell to spend the weekend with her Grandmother and Grandfather Sides. The fare to Cropwell cost her a "nickel". The Post Office was located at the rear of where the Pell City Drug Company now stands. A Mr. Flanders was the proprietor of a saloon.

On February 27, 1900, Sumter Cogswell married Mrs. Lydia Elizabeth DeGaris of Memphis, Tenn. She had two small sons, Jack and Julian, by her former husband. In the spring of 1900, the Cogswells moved to Atlanta, Ga.

Over the past ten years, Mr. Cogswell had heard of the growth of Pell City but did not know how disastrously the panic had affects 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 had had sold ten years before.

He was surprised to see the town, for in the panic of 1893-94-95, the Pell City Iron and Land Company was forced into receivership as was the Hercules Pipe Co. The pipe shop was removed to Anniston, Alabama, which city now enjoys the reputation of being the largest center for soil pipe manufacturing in the world.

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 misfortune and its ups and downs, and also said the town was for sale. Mr. Cogswell decided to buy. The price being arranged upon, \$3,000, the deeds were sent to the Atlanta National Bank for examination to title. Before payment, M. M. 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 holdings of the Hercules Pipe Company which included 50 acres of land, for which a young lawyer named Louis J. Brandies of Boston was trustee. Mr. Brandies later became an Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. Later in 1902, Mr. Cogswell purchased from Justice Brandies the 50 acres of the Hercules holdings.

Quotes from "Memories of Pell City Early Days" by a Pioneer Citizen:

Reading the PEN PICTURES OF PELL CITY brings to/^{me,} memories of years gone by. I went to Pell City in March 1901 as night operator, my first job, to say I was scared and nervous don't explain my feelings at all. I got \$40.00 per month for 30 and 31 nights. I got board at the Cornett and Hazelwood Hotel for \$10.00 per month and it was good grub and a fine room in the northwest corner of what was known as the Maxwell Building.

Mrs. Cameron ran a boarding house in same building up stairs. At that time, Mrs. Spears had the Post Office in a room down stairs. Mr. W. W. Zellner had a small grocery store in building now known as Pell City Grocery Co. operated by James Ingram. That was the entire business of Pell City when I went there in 1901. I will now give the population of Pell City in 1901:

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Cornett
Mr. and Mrs. J. Z. Hazelwood
Mrs. Cameron and daughter Lizzie
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Zellner
Col. and Mrs. Spears, three daughters, Misses Hortense, Ellen and Pratt. They were the only young ladies of the city.
Mr. S. D. Kilgroe, Agent Southern, E & W, and B & A Railroads and his family,

(Including Randall who was a small but smart kid. He could telegraph when just tall enough to stand at table and reach the key.)
Joe H. Willingham, Clerk for the 3 railroads, and one of my best friends.

In those days, salesmen could come to Pell City with large trunks and work the county in hacks. Cornett and Hazelwood operated a livery stable. Lawsey Stuart and Austin Hazelwood were their drivers. Now I will give you the list of colored that I knew.

Sam Hamby was employed as porter at depot
Bibb Castleberry was flunky at hotel
Allen _____ can't remember his name was cook at hotel.

I think that is all of our colored that was at Pell City when I went there.

I think I am correct as to names of people there in 1901. If not, just lay it to my memory or to an old man 71; as you will learn as years go by, you forget. I shall never forget the day Mr. Cogswell moved to Pell City. Life was very dull to me as I worked and slept days, would get up about 2:00 P.M., no place to go, only to depot, and hand out until supper time. All we got to see was the E & W and B & A come in with their passengers, then the Southern trains. The day Mr. Cogswell unloaded his household goods, it was a sight to me. They unloaded one bay horse, one surry, which amused me very much as it was the first buggy I had ever seen with fringe around the top and the first one to come to this country, one bird dog, white and brown, named Jack or Dan, I can't recall which, and several loads of household goods. Jack and Julian were small boys, I remember, a boy Slator(sic) (Mr. Cogswell's son was named Righter).....

There are many things happened in Pell while I worked there that comes to me at times though think I have stated enough.

This is for Elizabeth Cogswell Starnes, of my past days while working at Pell City. I hope she will enjoy reading when her mature days come.

Tom S. Coleman, Sept. 8th, 1950.

Mr. Colemans' home was at Riverside. He and Mrs. Coleman were parents of Charles, Mildred, Thomas and W. A. (Bill) Coleman.

After the Cogswells moved to Pell City they had three daughters, Isabelle, who married Dean Davis of Lincoln, Ala., Elizabeth, who married Orr Starnes, and Mary, who married Charles Balor.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wooster Zellner had a daughter, Dorothy, who died in her teens. After Mr. Zellner's death, "Aunt Edie" ran a boarding house, and if you had never eaten at Aunt Edie's you had missed a treat for she served sumptuous meals. She was a second mother to her many nieces and nephews.

Soloman Davis Kilgroe, 1861-1931, was a charter member of the First Baptist Church, a Democrat and a leader in business and political affairs, a city councilman, farmer, school teacher, railroad agent, bank director, cotton buyer and general merchandise merchant, specializing in furnishing farmers there supplies to enable them to make a crop. At the time of his death he owned and operated 19 small farms. He was a leader in this area in encouraging people to own their own homes. His strong feeling in this prompted him to build each of his daughters (6) a home and give each of his sons (3) business property. His son, J. W. Kilgroe and grand sons, S. E. Kilgroe and Sol Mongold are present citizens of Pell City.

Joe Willingham was a brother of Mrs. Kilgroe and lived in the Kilgroe home at this time (1901). He was married to the former Cannelia Johnson and their children were Joseph H., William R., Wasson S., Martha C. and Kathryn A.

287 N. E. 96th Street
Miami Shores, Florida
February 16, 1972

Dear Mrs. Gray:

Your letter of February 9th, asking for information about my father, to include in Mrs. Crow's chapter on Pell City, has been received. I am happy to furnish the following information as your requested:

COLONEL NAPOLEON BONAPARTE SPEARS

Born at Pickville, Tennessee, December 6, 1848. Son of General James Gallant Spears. Educated at Emory and Henry College at Emory, Virginia. Admitted to the bar in Tennessee at the age of 21 and at the same age was elected to the Tennessee legislature. Moved in Alabama in 1889 (approx.) Practiced law in Alabama until several years before his death on June 29, 1928. Member of the Alabama Legislature for several terms and was a member of the Constitutional Convention which adopted Alabama's present constitution. During his service in the Alabama legislature

he introduced the legislation which provided for the establishment of a county courthouse in Pell City.

Colonel Spears' father, James Gallant Spears, was a General in the United States Army and a lawyer. Colonel Spears married Florence Eugenia Mitchell.

I know nothing about a log cabin. I, myself, was born in the house where the Cogswells lived. We moved from that house to the south part of town.

Colonel Spears also served as Mayor of Pell City but I don't remember the dates. I am sure this information is available in the records.

You mention that your father-in-law was Mr. C. D. Gray. My father held him in the highest regard and we all thought so much of all of the Grays.

Sincerely yours,
(Miss) Pratt Spears
(Sister of the late
Hortense Spears)

Mr. Clyde W. Ennis, in his "A Pen Picture of Pell City and Sumter Cogswell", (June 1936) states that when Mr. Cogswell moved his family to Pell City on September 7, 1901, the population of Pell City was 42 persons of whom seven left. Mr. Cogswell and his family made five so the net loss was only two persons making the census figure definitely 40 persons. At that time the town had grown up in weeds and shrubbery. There was not a county 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. (Mr. Ennis was the publisher of the St. Clair Times in the 1930s)

The Pell City News published an article in their January 25, 1951 issue which the following is quoted from:

EARLY LIFE OF PELL CITY AS TOLD BY A PIONEER by Bays D. Cather, Sr. (Editor's Explanation .. the following is a fine description and histroical sketch of the early life of Pell City. It was written by Bays D. Cather, Sr., a real pioneer of our town. Mr. Cather is at present publisher of the Dania Press, Dania, Florida. He married here during the early part of the century, his entire family was born here and most of them lived out their early lives here. He was for many years

publisher of The Pell City News, (also known by the names of the Coosa Valleyan and The Pell City Progress) was postmaster for two terms, was in the mercantile business and at one time owned and operated the local theatre.)

Anything that has to do with Pell City interests me very much even if I have no further financial interests in the fine community. Mrs. Cather (the former Daisy Kilgroe of Sedden) and I moved to Pell City about the same time -- January 1902, and in January Pell City was the remains of the old boom of the early 1890s.

The first newspaper in Pell City was the Pell City Echo, started by W. S. Griffith. I think the old Pell City Land Company must have had some interest in the Echo because it ran a few page advertisements in which it referred to Pell City as the "Hub of the South." The three railroads were here then and they must have gotten that idea of the "Hub" from that fact...

1902 was a dry year ... Farmers were very much worried. Some of them sold out and moved to Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Pell City Court House and the Cotton Mill were built during that year.

Spending nearly a million dollars for labor and material such a dry time as 1902 seemed like manna falling from heaven to many people. The main stockholders in the mill originally built were C. E. Riley & Co., of Boston and the Drapers of Boston and Pawtucket. Draper looms were installed in the weave room. C. E. Riley & Company were Boston brokers and shippers of cotton goods to most all parts of the world.

But in the late summer of 1902 the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, having purchased the East & West Railroad, tied it into Atlanta and Coal City and Ragland it was extended to Birmingham. It pierced the Black Creek Coal fields near Margaret and Acmar, and somewhere between Coal City and Odenville a tunnel was being drilled through the mountain that made two court houses necessary in St. Clair County in those days.

There were many contractors in charge of different sections of the new railroad, but the John Blair Macafee Company of Philadelphia, had the contract for the tunnel. They shipped much of their material to Cook Springs and had it hauled in

wagons across the Bald Rock Mountain and other hills to the site of the tunnel. I remember watching them move several "dinkey" engines across those mountains. There were also some drag lines. All these were too heavy for the roads of that day, so the dinkeys and other heavy rolling machinery were tracked over. That is, small sections of track with steel rails were laid and when the machinery reached the end of the laid track, men were taking up the back end of the track and re-laying it in front of the moving machines. Thus this slow method was being used on several engines and shovels.

Some of the high explosives used in blasting were shipped to Pell City Southern depot and transferred in wagons to the new railroad right-of-way. Those were busy days. Building a cotton mill, a new court house and a new railroad all the same year.

One day in November the depot had a large shipment of dynamite and several kegs of powder for the contractors on the railroad. That night the depot caught fire after midnight and then it happened! Many people did not know about the explosives until one of the railroad men yelled out that there were sixty cases of dynamite inside.

Jack Hall, who owned a "hop fack" stand in town didn't hear the warning. He was trying to move a new sewing machine out when the explosion followed. He was instantly killed.

Tom Whitefield, a black mason who was working on the walls of the new mill, was near the fire and was instantly killed. He was a resident of Cedartown, Georgia.

A railroad engine was on the track and had just moved some freight cars from near the fire. One of the crew was struck by a piece of timber end-wise and it went nearly through his chest. I do not remember if he lived. The Railroad Company took him to their hospital in Birmingham. Col. N. B. Spears was struck by a piece of crockery and spent several weeks in a hospital. (Mr. Tom Coleman wrote "I shall never forget the remark Col. Spears made, he had one of his arms broken, said a jug of whiskey hit him. He said he had quit whiskey several years ago and now whiskey would not let him alone.")

Doc Crowley who was running a drug store at the time, was injured in the chest and came near dying. But he partly recovered but never regained full strength.

(Joe Willingham was asleep in his bed several blocks away. It knocked all of the plaster on the ceiling down on him and woke him up. All of the canned goods was knocked off the shelves in S. D. Kilgroe's store.)

The Cornett Hotel was partly wrecked.

Most of the glass windows in the old Maxwell brick building were blown out. The Old Maxwell Building was one of the relics of the first boom in the early nineties. There were several of these old buildings left and some of the others may still be standing. The two story building across from the Dycus home is the old Green Evans Home. (Said to be the oldest house in Pell City located at the corner of 21st Street and 2nd Avenue North. Is now owned by Mrs. Ann Riser, was also known as the Ragland and later the Eatman home.) It is said that part of town was once a part of a farm that Evans lived on. He was the father of Mrs. Ella Miller whose daughter is Mrs. Willie Mae Yarbrough now living in the old Miller home which was another left over building from the nineties. The Dycus home was also left over from the old boom. (Old residences of Pell City know this as the Aunt Jane Jordan house.)

There was a hole big enough to hid the court house in, on the depot site after this explosion. Flying burning timbers were falling all over the town and several houses caught fire on their roofs. These were quickly extinguished, however.

One of the railroad engines backed up to Seddon depot and the crew tried to get Dr. Crump to come down and treat the wounded. Dr. Crump was out on a case and could not be reached. However, Dr. J. T. Brown of Riverside, Dr. Turner of Cropwell, Dr. Laney of Eden and a few others whose names I cannot now recall, were soon on the grounds and later the railroad doctors came up from Birmingham to help out the wounded.

Dr. R. A. Martin came to Pell City in 1902 or 1903. He was the family doctor for each of my four children.

With regards and good wishes for you, the Pell City News and to all the people of St. Clair County, I am

Yours sincerely

Bays D. Cather, Sr.

COURT HOUSE

A branch county set was created in Pell City under Ordinance of the Constitutional Convention of Alabama held in Montgomery in the year 1901. The Ordinance No. 390 provided for the erection of a courthouse and jail. An election was held on January 6, 1902, to determine whether the courthouse should be located in Pell City, Eden, Coal City, or Riverside; and after a heated campaign, Pell City won by about 600 majority. The 1906 edition of "Maury's Manual of Geography" gives the census of these towns in 1900 as: Pell City 98, Eden 177, Coal City 509, and Riverside 300. On January 22, 1902 this site, Block 26, was secured from the Pell City Realty Company. The home of Probate Judge Abner Lacey was located on this present court house site. It is said was a log house. On February 13, 1902, the Court of County Commissioners voted to issue bonds in the amount of \$10,000. However, on August 13, 1902, this order was revoked and W. S. Forman, Judge of Probate at that time, was authorized to borrow money himself in the amount of \$9,000, the rate of interest to be 6%. Then on September 30, 1902, Judge Forman borrowed \$9,000.00 from the following individuals in the county: Mrs. Bert McLaughlin Forney \$2,200.00; Miss Bertie Lee McClendon (later Mrs. Pat Roberson) \$1,300.00; Mr. J. L. Herring \$2,500.00; and J. P. Phillips \$3,000.00.

The total cost of the old courthouse and jail was \$9,038.12 and W. S. Forman as Probate Judge filed a claim with the Commissioners Court for the \$38.12 which he paid out in excess of the original planned cost of the courthouse.

The architect was W. Chamberlain and Company and they were paid for their service a total of \$321.84. The contractor on the building was Robert P. Manley. The building was accepted by the County on the 13th day of March, 1903.

The first Grand Jury in the Southern Judicial Division of St. Clair County at Pell City, Alabama was organized shortly after the courthouse was finished. Names

of the Jurors were:

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. Frank Harmon
R. A. Greene
L. A. Bradford
D. R. Griffith
W. C. Alverson
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D. R. Griffith
W. C. Alverson
J. E. North, Baliff

Soon after 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 charged that it was unconstitutional to have two sets of court in one county. Some of the citizens of 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 State 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 abolishment of the court here 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 of their pioneering ancestors, the people of the southern section of the county set to work to have the sessions of the circuit and county court re-established at Pell City. The campaign waxed warm. 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, although the docket was so crowded that 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 trip over the mountain (Backbond 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 branch court at Pell City would be legal. Ed Hamner of Attalla, Alabama, announced himself as a candidate for the State Senate on the same platform. The election was held in November 1906, and John W. Moore and Ed 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.

In the early 1950's, it became evident that the old court house at Pell City was inadequate and had deteriorated to such an extent that a new building became necessary. Martin J. Lide of Birmingham, Alabama, was the architect. He was permitted to use the best design and the finest materials obtainable. Bids were received in September, 1954, and R. P. Henderson and Son of Pell City, Alabama, were low bidders and the contract was awarded in December 1954.

The cost of the building together with the allied improvements was approximately \$625,000. The building was financed locally without any government or state aid and without increasing any existing taxes.

The courthouse was dedicated March 3, 1956. The Court of County Commissioners of St. Clair County at this time were:

M. W. Forman, Judge of Probate
E. N. Peace
W. H. Hess
W. A. Coleman
W. D. Wilkings
Virginia B. Luker, Clerk

Master of Ceremonies at the dedicatory program was Pat Roberson. Circuit Judge Frank B. Embry introduced the main speaker, Governor James E. Folsom.

In 1902, Mr. Cogswell donated 150 acres of land and a spring to the Pell City Manufacturing Company and with the assistance of George W. Pratt, who was in touch

with Draper auto-loom interests and Howard Bullock in New England, succeeded in getting them together. Construction of the first saw-tooth cotton mill in the South was begun with the cornerstone of the mill being laid in August, 1902. Upon its completion in 1903, about 1,500 more inhabitants moved to town.

The town was now coming into its own. The first school was taught in a building located in the block where the present city hall is located. It is said the school house was made of logs. Miss Dadie Griffith was the teacher. Col. N. B. Spears, Mayor of Pell City, re-organized the council by election of aldermen. He was followed in 1902 by W. J. Purdy, who served until 1903, and in turn, Mr. Purdy was followed by Sumter Cogswell who served in 1903-1904. Other mayors of Pell City were as follows: T. S. Milsap, George W. Pratt, W. A. Starnes, Charlie P. Pratt in that order until 1914. We then had the following:

E. A. Thompson	1914-1920
Frank B. Embry	1920-1922
Dr. J. O. Gray	1922-1924
Frank B. Embry	1924-1926
Sumter Cogswell	1926-1944
W. T. Starnes	1944-1952
Joe Kilgroe	1952-1960
Sam F. Burt	1960-1964
Otis Perry	1964-August 10, 1970
Joe W. Kilgroe	Aug. 10, 1970 - August 27, 1971
Raymond F. Cox	August 27, 1971

In 1903 Sumter Cogswell, E. J. Mautz and McLane Tilton realizing the vital part a bank plays in the development of a community were interested in the founding of a bank in Pell City. As a result, the Bank of St. Clair County was organized. It was the first bank to be established in St. Clair County. Sumter Cogswell, McLane Tilton, E. J. Mautz, Arthur Draper, J. Fall Roberson, Sr., J. H. Moore, Frank H. Lathrop and L. Cook were its original directors. The officers for the bank were: Sumter Cogswell, President; Frank H. Lathrop, Vice-President; McLane Tilton and J. Mantz, chasiers. In 1910, a charter was obtained and the bank became the First National Bank of Pell City. In 1918 the name of the bank was changed to the Union State Bank and has operated under that name until the present day.

The Union StateBank has weathered every financial storm that has developed

since its beginning including the disastrous financial collapse of 1929 to 1932.

In 1910, Mr. R. L. Cook built the Pell City Bank and Trust Building, located on the southwest corner of Cogswell Avenue and 19th Street, and established the Pell City Bank and Trust. This bank was not as lucky as the Union State Bank for when the financial collapse came the bank had to close its doors.

In 1903, Dr. R. A. Martin, a young physician, came to Pell City to make his home and begin the general practice of medicine. Dr. Martin was instrumental in the promotion of several sub-divisions and was one of Pell City's most public spirited and leading citizens, contributing much to the welfare and the upbuilding of the town. He established the Pell City Infirmary and the Pell City Drug Company. The drug store is now being operated by his daughter, Mrs. Ben Kincaid. Dr. R. A. and "Miss Mary" were the parents of two children John and Mary Ruth.

Soon after Dr. R. A. Martin came to Pell City his younger brother, Claude, finished dental school and joined him here. Dr. Claude was also a public spirited citizen and contributed much to the growth of the town; for many years he was on the city council and an active Mason. Dr. Claude and "Miss Prezzie" had two daughters Madeline and Louise.

The June 5, 1904 issue of the Birmingham Age-Herald states these facts about Pell City:

"The city government consists of T. S. Milsap, mayor, and Councilmen A. T. LeFils, H. A. Cornett, Sumter Cogswell, S. D. Kilgroe and W. A. Starnes.

"The town enjoys an excellent school system, free nine months in the year. Prof. R. E. Cooley is the superintendent and the trustees are T. S. Milsap, president; George W. Pratt, Van Walker, McClain Tilton and Junius L. North. Besides this public school the cotton mill company furnish and sustain a splendid school on the hill near the mill.

"George W. Pratt, president of the mill, is deeply interested, not only in the industrial development of the state, but in the political affairs of the nation. A South Carolinian by birth and educated, he is thorough democrat, and has just been

elected as a delegate from the Seventh Congressional District to the national democratic convention. He is a man of conviction and of experience in politics, and henceforth must be regarded a factor in all affairs of this state.

"Only two churches grace Pell City at this time -- Methodist and Baptist, but more will come to meet the growing demand.

"The trustees are soon to begin the erection of a handsome new brick school house.

"Two hotels care for the transients -- The Cornett house, by that prince of good fellow H. A. Cornett, who has been here since the town began, and the Brick hotel."

Mr. Bays D. Cather, Sr. gave the following information to Mrs. Ella Miller who wrote to him asking for information about the First Methodist Church of Pell City:

"If you remember correctly, my printing establishment was at first located in a building that stood back of the present Pell City Drug Company building.

"The first Sunday School was a Union Sunday School and was organized by Mrs. Carol Alverson, and myself, and we had help from Mr. W. H. Miller, Mr. Fred Miller and from many others of the population of Pell City at that time. We arranged nail kegs and boxes for seats. Afterwards we started holding church services in the same building on Sunday night.

"Later we organized a Methodist Sunday School with the help of the Presiding Elder who was then stationed at Gadsden. I believe his name was Robinson, but I am not so sure now. Later the people of Pell City with the help of Sumter Cogswell, W. H. Miller and many others, built a little school house, the little building which in later years became the Episopal Church (the Church of St. Mary theVirgin) is the name the congregation gave it when they took the building over and Bishop Beckwith of the Alabama Diocese would come there and hold services. Dr. Blacklock of Anniston was chosen Rector of that church.

"In the meantime the Methodist congregation was organized by the Millers, the Alversons, and myself, and a Methodist church building was erected where the present

new church building stands. I was church clerk, a steward and secretary of the Sunday School, then appointed by the quarterly conference. We chose A. E. Ledyard as our choice for superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School and later I was appointed superintendent. I think my name is among the first names on the old Church register of members.

"E. E. Emerson was our first pastor sent by the North Alabama Conference. He was a pioneer and Pell City was in the Eden Circuit at first, being pastor at Eden as well as Pell City. He also had at that time the old Fishing Creek Church at Seddon, and I believe he held services at Riverside"(On December 1, 1902, Rev. E. E. Emerson became the first pastor; the membership consisted of 14 members. Among the first members were Bays D. Cather and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Miller. In the fall of 1903, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Walker and five other members were added. (Mr. and Mrs. Walker were the parents of Henry, Newman, J. B., Mary Frances and Martha Walker.) It is noted that the first marriage in the church was performed by Rev. Emerson, May 3, 1903, at which time Mr. J. F. Miller married Miss Eddie Rowland. They were the parents of Mary and Frank Miller.

Later the Baptist organized a Pell City congregation and built their building where the new beautiful church building now stands. (The first church building was built 1904. Charter members were Mrs. John Cameron, Mrs. B. A. Fite, Mrs. Martha Camerson, Miss Nell Fite, H. A. Cornett, S. D. Kilgroe, Mrs. L. C. Kilgroe, Mrs. H. A. Cornett, Miss Dixie Kilgroe, M. M. Smith, Mrs. M. M. Smith, Charles Nunnelley, Mrs. Charles Nunnelley, Mr. Sank Miller, Mrs. Sank Miller, Miss Jessie Miller, Mrs. T. J. Kilgroe and Miss Daisy Kilgroe. The Trustees were M. J. Smith, a Mr. Mitchell and J. H. Phillips. The first pastor was Rev. Burns.)

Prominent lawyers came to Pell City to make their hom. W. A. Starnes, who was married to the former Selma Eaton, and was among the first and one of the best. His oldest son, Thurston, attended law school and returned to Pell City to practice. Mr. and Mrs. Starnes other children were Orr, C. W. (Whitson) Gaston and Catherine.

Among the first lawyers was M. M. Smith who moved his family from Ashville to Pell City in 1903. He had a son, Victor, who practiced law also. Another young

lawyer who came from Ashville was Frank B. Embry. Charlie P. Pratt finished college, returned to Pell City and opened a law office. Captain Gardner Green, who later led Company C in World War I was among these first attorneys. Also McLane Tilton.

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. C. O. Lacey bought the business in 1966. Mr. Lacey is the great-great grandson of Judge Abner W. Lacey who was one of Pell City's pioneers who lived in "Lacey Mill" in a log house where the courthouse now stands.

The old brick school house, where the city hall now stands, was built in 1905. Professor P. M. Matthews was the first principal and at one time Mr. Matthews practiced law in Bessemer. Judge Handy Ellis was principal of this school in 1907 and 1908.

Around 1905 James L. Garrett and his wife Sally Hindsman Garrett and their children moved to Pell City. He was a great politician -- he became a Populist, and when the Populist party died he did not return to the Democratic party but became a Republican. He served three terms, 18 years, as the Circuit Clerk of St. Clair County. Mr. Garrett was also a great Baptist lay leader. He loved all day singings and singing conventions - especially the sacred harp singings. He also went around the county and conducted singing schools. His daughter Eula Garrett Vincent would go along and play the piano for him. Mrs. Vincent is now 86 and makes her home in Pell City.

Mr. Garrett's son, James Lloyd and wife Myrtie Ragland Garrett, have been life long residents of the town. She is the daughter of Pell City's Uncle Jim Ragland, who is probably Pell City's oldest citizen. Mr. Ragland like Mr. Garrett loves to sing. I'm sure he is the "singiest" person that has ever lived in Pell City. In years gone by, Jim Ragland, Leroy Truitt, Austin Hazelwood and Lester Smith sang together as a quartet. They were known for miles around for their beautiful singing of sacred music.

In 1907, it was found expedient to secure the services of a man skilled in the manufacturing business for while Mr. Pratt was in many respects a genius, his greatest ability was that of a salesman. The man selected was Thomas Henry Rennie, who came here in 1907 and remained until March, 1936, during which term of office he made an

outstanding success of the Pell City mill. Mr. Rennie was a great Rotarian -- every Wednesday, he would have George Simpkins, and later Archie Pemberton, drive him into Birmingham for the Rotary Club meetings.

Mr. E. A. Thompson was superintendent of the Mill at this time.

Thomas J. (Uncle Tom) Abbott was best known in Pell City for operating a taxi and a leader of the First Baptist Church. In 1908, he started what is now known as the Kilgroe Funeral Home. The only requirement, at this time to direct funerals, was a stock of caskets, a horse drawn hearse, a bier and a pair of hand straps to lower the casket into the grave. Uncle Tom was most enthusiastic about this new venture; however, after directing his first funeral at Eden, Alabama, he came to the conclusion that this was not for him. He paced the floor, washed his hands about a dozen times and finally said to his brother-in-law, J. H. Willingham and to his wife, Aunt Matt Abbott (they were already doing business as a partnership), "If you want this undertaking business, you can have it." They accepted and operated the funeral home as a partnership until the death of J. H. Willingham in 1937. Aunt Matt sold her half interest to a nephew, Joe W. Kilgroe, in 1938. He and the widow of J. H. Willingham, Cornellia Johnson Willingham, operated as a partnership until 1941 as Kilgroe and Willingham. Joe Kilgroe bought the interest of Mrs. Willingham and operated the Kilgroe Funeral Home until 1968. His son, S. E. (Sonny) Kilgroe came into the business as a full partner. Joe W. Kilgroe' wife is the former Josephine Bukacek of Riverside. Her parents were Eugene and Kate Liggon Bukacek.

Aunt Matt Abbott was best known for her work and devotion to the Baptist Church. Upon her death in 1939, she willed her property to the Coosa Valley Baptist Church. She was Sunday School teacher for many years of the young married couples class of the First Baptist Church. One of the most impressive services ever held at the church in Pell City was the presentation by this class of a loving cup to Aunt Matt, in appreciation for her devotion and leadership to the church.

At the time of Uncle Tom's and Aunt Matt's marriage, they farmed in the Easonville community. In 1902, Uncle Tom drove a cow to Birmingham, sold her, and with part of the proceeds bought Aunt Matt a small colorful mug with her name and date painted on it.

One of Pell City's set-backs came in 1908 when the "State, ex rel. Roberson v. The Town of Pell City." Their complaint was that the town of Pell City had not been properly incorporated. It seemed as if Sam Roberson wanted to desolve the municipal corporation of Pell City. Victor H. Smith and Charles P. Pratt were lawyers for the appellant. M. M. Smith and McLane Tilton, Jr. were the lawyers for the appellee. The case was first heard before the St. Clair County Circuit Court. Judge John W. Inzer ruled in favor of the Town of Pell City. His ruling was appealed and the case was taken to the Supreme Court of Alabama. They ruled -- It was the opinion of the court, "As the people of Pell City organized themselves under color of law, at least, into a municipal corporation more than 16 years before the filing of this information, and have gone on, year after year, during that time, exercising the usual franchise, and as the corporation has been distinctly and unequivocally recognized by the legislative department of the State, no inquiry should be permitted, looking to the undoing of their corporate existence Let the judgement of the Circuit Court, denying relief to the petitioners, be affirmed--Affirmed." So Sam Roberson lost his case.

Smith and Tilton contended that it was shown by the record that the State has, by legislative enactment, recognized Pell City as a municipal corporation by an act entitled, "An Act to establish, maintain, and regulate a dispensary in the town of Pell City," Act., approved February 28, 1903. This act may have helped Smith and Tilton win their case, but by having a dispensary in Pell City, it may have cost the town the county high school. It has been said that when a system of county high schools were established by the Alabama Legislature in 1907, the act provided for a state supported high school in each county. Governor B. B. Comer came to Pell City, thinking he would establish a High School for St. Clair County here, but he found a dispensary in the middle of town and he decided to erect the high school at Odenville.

After the joint depot station was destroyed, the Southern Railroad and the Seaboard Railroad built separate stations before 1913; during this time, Mr. O. L. Eckwurzel moved his family to Pell City and was agent for the Southern Railway, until

his death in the 1940s. Mr. Eckwurzel had a colored man working as porter for the depot by the name of Bud Hamby. Could this have been the son of Sam Hamby who was porter for the joint depot in 1901? Mr. and Mrs. Eckwurzel were the parents of Elouise, Sarah, Otto and Anna.

In early 1914, Mr. W. F. (Seaborad) Smith moved his wife and two small children, Sarah and James W. (J.W .) to Pell City, They stayed in the Old Brick Hotel (Cameron House) when they first arrived. Mr. Smith came to Pell City to be agent for the Seaboard Railroad and held this position until the railroad was discontinued in the early 1940s. Mr. Smith was also City Clerk for the Town of Pell City for many years, Children born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith after they moved to Pell City were Watkins, Grafton, Frances and Kitty Jean.

The Post Office was moved to brick building in the center of the business section of town on the north side of Cogswell Avenue around 1913. The Post Masters of Pell City, that we have any record on have been:

Mrs. N. B. Spears	1897-1905
Miss Hortense Spears	1905-1913
W. L. Millner	1913-1917
Bays D. Cather	1917-1923
J. L. Ragland	1923-1936
C. B. Alverson	Acting Postmaster 3 months
Mrs. Blair Jones	Acting Postmaster 10 months
N. R. Shockley	1937-1952
T. C. Alexander	Acting Postmaster 1952-53
E. L. Love, Sr.	Acting Postmaster 1953 - 3 months
L. C. Smith, Sr.	Acting Postmaster 1954-1957
Roy Banks	1957 -

In the Spring of 1914, there was a smallpox epidemic in Pell City and vicinity. The Mt. Pisgah Church did not hold services that Spring as a result of the epidemic. Several old residences remember this epidemic very clearly. When Reuben Roe was asked about it, he stated that he had never been as sick in his life, but he only had three "pox"-- two in the palm of one hand and one in the palm of the other.

There was an earthquake in the Pell City area in 1916 -- On October 18, 1916 "This shock was felt most strongly in northeastern Alabama, apparently most strongly in Easonville, Near the epicenter frame buildings were badly shaken, windows were broken and chimneys thrown down. Fairly hard shock at Birmingham and Montgomery."

During World War I, only one other town in the United States furnished more soldiers and subscribed for more Liberty Bonds, in proportion to population, than Pell City. It was from St. Clair County that Captain Gardner Green and fifty men went forth with "Company C" of Alabama's famous 167th Infantry Regiment as a unit of the Rainbow Division in France. Of the 263 men in "Company C", only 51 returned. Captain Green did not return nor did many another of St. Clair's citizen soldiers.

There was another war too, in which the men of St. Clair fought and died as part of a "Company C". That was the War Between the States in which they formed a "Company C" of the 58th Alabama Regiment which their own Col. John W. Inzer commanded. They carried a company flag sewed for them by Mrs. E. E. Willingham, and it is a matter tēnder statistics to note that the "Company C" of 1917 included twenty-nine direct descendants of this same Mrs. Willingham whose patriotic needle served the "Company C" of 1861.

Eliza E. Hardwick Willingham was a typical Southern lady held in deep respect by her family as well as other citizens of the area. She was married to Randal D. Willingham, November 10, 1861. He was a farmer. Their farm was located near the present Coosa Valley Baptist Church in the southern section of Pell City in the Lake area. Randal Willingham was a member of "Company C". He was wounded in Virginia during the Civil War and never fully recuperated from his wound.

Mrs. Willingham presented the flag she had made for "Company C" at Cropwell, Alabama, prior to their leaving for the War. Ladies of this period in our history rarely participated in public gatherings. She was so nervous about this public appearance, that a rider was sent to Talladega to get her a bottle of Nerve Tonic.

She was one of the leaders in woman suffrage. The first time that she voted she sent word to the voting officials at the courthouse that due to her age, she would be unable to get to the voting place at the time set to open the poll and requested them not to allow anyone to vote until she arrived to cast the first vote ---her request was granted.

Mr. and Mrs. Willingham were the parents of ten children. Among the early

citizens of Pell City were these children: Lelah Carrie and Lurie Bell Willingham, wives of S. D. Kilgroe, Mary Francies (Aunt Matt) Willingham Abbott, Joseph H. Willingham, and R. Wasson Willingham.

On July 4, 1937, Pell City held their second "Good Neighbor Day." The feature of the day was the unveiling of a granite monument to the memory of those St. Clair County soldiers who lost their lives in the World War I and Spanish-American Wars. Miss Mary Ashley Greene, the only daughter of Capt. Gardner Greene, who recruited the Pell City war unit, lifted the veil which disclosed the memorial. The monument is adorned by a bas relief in bronze of an American doughboy and along the front panel the following names are engraved:

Capt. Gradner Greene
Lieut. A. G. Teague
Lieut. Joseph Cornett
Sergt. Jessie Scoggins
Corp. Austin Patterson
Russell Bowlin
Fred Chambers
H. L. Elliott
James I. Ragland
James C. Farley
Grady Graham
Berry Higgenbotham
Claud W. Jones
Ewing Jones
Oscar Jones
Guernsey McLaughlin
Austin Myers
Theo E. Sims
Harrison C. Wade
William Mize
William T. Braden
Fred S. Moncrief.

The two latter of the Spanish-American War.

When Pell City's new city hall was completed in 1957, this monument was moved to the front lawn on First Avenue North. The city government in 1957 consisted of J. W. Kilgroe, Mayor, Council E. L. Love, Jr., J. H. Stokes, A. E. Nixon, Earl Bowman and Bettie Scott, Clerk.

The Pell City Manufacturing Company was sold to Avondale Mills in the fall of 1919. (Avondale Mills was established in 1897 in Birmingham with the late Governor B. B. Comer as its founder and first president.) The Pell City plant was the sixth Avondale Mill to be bought or built. Arrangements for buying its facility were

culminated in 1919. Avondale's management, remembering Governor Comer's keen interest in the Pell City plant, spent a million dollars in 1938-39 in order to make this plant a thoroughly modern denim mill. On October 21, 1954, Pell City observed "Denim Day." The next year they had "Denim Week." The last yard of denim was run at Avondale Mills at 3:45 P.M. on January 12, 1962. The Pell City plant now makes a material called greige.

Pell City's first hospital was the Gertrude Comer Hospital and was sustained by Avondale Mills. It began operation soon after the mill was bought by the Comers. There were 25 beds in the hospital. Dr. R. A. Martin was its doctor and Miss Elsie Dunn was head nurse. Miss Ruby Zachie, long time St. Clair County Health Nurse, received her training from this first hospital. The building that was made into a hospital was once the boarding house of James and Cameliars Francis Sullivan Turner. They moved to Pell City around the time the mill was being built and opened the boarding house. In addition to this large building, they rented three other houses to sleep their boarders. They later moved out of the village and into a house in town. Mr. Turner was killed by a freight train September 9, 1918. After his death, "Brandma" Turner continued to keep boarders for many years. They had seven children. Two of their sons, Ernest (Sissors) and Aubrey were on Pell City's famous baseball team which included such players as Vester Garrett, Douglas (Blue) Mungall, A. T. Winkler, "Iron" Rowe, Wheeler Harris and Ab Crow.

On April 23, 1956, two neighboring towns, Eden and Oak Ridge, merged with Pell City. Eden was an old municipality which flourished in the 1880's when it was the "railhead" for track workers along the Southern Railroad and Oak Ridge was a new town incorporated in 1947 through the efforts of E. J. Doby. This merger made the population of the town 3,644. A third area, the Avondale Mill Village, also became a part of the municipality in September 1956. From the beginning of the town, the mill village was never within the Pell City city limits, although the mill has always been situated in Pell City. Chestnut Street, which is now 4th Avenue North, divided the mill village from Pell City. This street, up until the late 1920's, was also the Pell City-Seddon and Riverside public road. The 1960 census gave the population of Pell City as 4,165.

EDEN

The little village of Eden, which today is within the city limits of Pell City, was first called Manchester until the Eden postoffice was established on December 17, 1872. The pastmasters, up through 1929, have been:

Richard G. Strickland	December 17, 1872
Isaac W. Lewis	November 15, 1880
Miss Dadie C. Griffith	May 18, 1889
Amos S. Griffith	January 10, 1893
William P. Cowan	May 5, 1893
George W. Kendrick	September 21, 1897
William B. Robertson	June 17, 1907
Rozelle Cowan	July 8, 1919
(name changed by married to Mrs. Rozelle Hardy on January 26, 1924)	
Mrs. Florence L. Butterworth	October 26, 1925
(acting)	
David R. Wyatt	April 7, 1926
(successor appointed after 1929)	

For many years, the girls who attended Camp Winnataska, some seven miles distance, were delighted to have their letters postmarked "Eden".

Elias Patterson and Noah Sweat were among the first to make their home in Eden. Others were the Lanyes, Cowans, Cates, Truitts, Lewis, Robertsons, Stevens, Hindsman and Ginns. Dr. J. O. Gray practiced medicine in Eden before he moved his family to Pell City.

The Benjamin H. Windsman family moved to Eden from Georgia around the Civil War period. They settled on a farm at the old Hindman's Spring, now called Dunlap Springs, where Pell City gets its water supply. Mr. Hindsman fought in the Civil War. He was married to the former Ann Stevens.

The earliest settler of the Eden community, that we have any record on, is Jesse Ginn, Revolutionary Soldier. Jesse Ginn married twice and had nine children by each wife. In 1824, he married Tabith Brewer who was 24 years old when she married. She was Jesse Ginn's second wife. His first wife having died many years before. All of his children by his first wife were grown when he married his second wife. The tradition is, that he devided his ppproperty among his first wife's children, keeping a child's part for himself, before he married Tabitha Brewer. She was born in 1800 in South Carolina and the daughter of William Benjamin Brewer.

Jesse and Tabitha Brewer Ginn lived in South Carolina for some time after they

were married, later moving to Tennessee on the Duck River for awhile, then between 1830 and 1833 went back up into Virginia for two or three years, where they had lived once before. In 1836, Jesse Ginn and a grand son-in-law, Joe Noah or Noe (Joe Noah had married a grand daughter by Jesse Ginn's first wife) came down into Alabama in St. Clair County near Eden, and bought some land. This land is about two miles below Eden on Wolf Creek.

Family tradition about Jesse Ginn's Revolutionary war record is this: he was a drummer boy, a petty officer, a minute man, was in service of his country the seven years of the war, or the entire time, was under General Francis Marion for some time, and was in the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Another interesting thing about Jesse Ginn was or is, an old blue military Surtout coat, that has come down in the family. It is now at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, in Montgomery, Alabama. This coat is hand-made and the material it is made from is beautiful blue broadcloth.

On November 14, 1971, the Broken Arrow Chapter of the D.A.R. of Pell City marked Jesse Ginn's grave with a bronze marker.

An article from the September 5, 1963, issue of the St. Clair News-Aegis, by Ed Blair, editor of the Pell City News and later the St. Clair News Aegis, tells us about the early school at Eden-- The building stood about where they have the New Hope Baptist Church's pastors home at present. The school never used the upper story, but long before I started to school there, I think, was a Masonic Lodge that held their meetings on the second floor, and it seems to me, I believe the Odd Fellows held meetings there also--- It was a two teacher school. Mr. Holloday was the principal of the first school I entered. His wife was the other teacher.

I remember lots of things about the school. Two that stand out are the light earthquake we had. I don't remember the year, but it shook the school building for a few short seconds and I do remember teacher was scared. I remember the two part holiday we got at the end of World War I. There was a false report of an armistice on November 7, 1918. They turned the pupils out to rejoice. But the report proved false. We went back to school the next day with sad hearts. Four days later, on November 11,

another report of an armistice. But the teachers refused to believe it and would not budge. I remember that Mr. Sam Robertson, an Eden merchant, was a school trustee. Mr. Robertson came to the school house and verified the new report and on his word, the principal turned us out again to whoop and rejoice with everyone else. It was one of the very happiest occasions of my life. "

In 1965, Pell City extended their city limits to include Cropwell. In 1969, parts of old Seddon were incorporated in Pell City, The town population is now 5,602.

SEDDON

Seddon Shores is the part of old Seddon that was annexed by Pell City. This includes the old West's residence; the grounds where the old Fishing Creek Methodist Church once stood, overlooking the creek; the old cemetery, and the old home place of Dr. John Roberson, who succeeded Dr. Crump as doctor for the Seddon community for over fifth years.

Seddon was settled in 1880 when the Georgia Pacific Railroad was built. It was incorporated that year with a population of five hundred. It is located three miles west of Pell City and twentytwo miles south of Ashville, It was at first a lumber community and the mills were owned by Empire Lumber Company. The first citizens came from Truss's Ferry (Ferryville) one mile below on the Coosa River. The town was named for Thomas Seddon who was Secretary of War for the Confederate States under Jefferson Davis. The first merchant was J.K.P. Lacy. Dr. Henry Green Crump was the first doctor. Other pioneer settler were Jake Maddox, W. H. and W. N. Roberson and Harvey Bell. When the timber supply was exhausted, the mills moved away. Today part of the tiny village stands dismally amid dreams of the past.

CROPWELL

In the year of 1815, a group of relatives in South Carolina banded together and started out for St. Clair County, Alabama to settle and make new homes there. They were the John Roberson, Williamson, Truss, Coleman, and Jeremiah Collins families. All of them except the Collins family had a covered wagon in which to travel. Mr. Collins could not afford a wagon so he made a crude "slide" on which to transport a

few belongs and his family rode in the wagons with the relatives. The Collins family was from Virginia but had come on down to South Carolina to join in the trek to Alabama. This group of kins-people settled in the vicinity of what is now Cropwell and they were the first white people to settle there.

Later on another family came and settled at Cropwell. This was the Walkers. Mr. Walker was traveling through the state with Andrew Jackson and liked the country so well that he decided to move here.

Other later families were the Buchanan, Jones, Fennel, Castleberry, Bowden, Allen, Brewster, Alexander, Turner, Laney, Roland, Heaslett, Coley, M^oncrief, Murchisen, Mays, Scotts, Hardwicks, Sides and Funderburgs.

One of Cropwell's outstanding citizens was J. Fall Roberson, Sr. He was the son of James R. and Addie Jones Roberson. He graduated from Cropwell High School in 1891, and attended Howard College for three years. While he was there, he was a member of the Franklin Society, Sigma Nu and on the baseball team. He was a State Representative of St. Clair County in 1911, and a delegate to the Democratic Convention for Underwood, and above all he was a friend to the farmers of the community. He was married to the former Nellie Drew Thompson. Mr. "Fall" had a younger brother, Pat Roberson, who has been a leader in church and civic work in the community. He is a former president of the Union State Bank of Pell City.

Cropwell was named after the Cropwell family who were early settlers.

On July 24, 1833, a postoffice was established as Coosa at Cropwell. It was located about a mile from Truss' Ferry. On November 15, 1834, the name was changed to Diana. The name was changed from Diana to Cropwell on October 29, 1837. The Cropwell postoffice was discontinued on July 25, 1866, but was re-established on June 10, 1867. The present location of the postoffice is 2.08 miles Southwest of the Southern Railroad tracks at Pell City. The names of the postmasters and the dates of their appointments are as follows:

James Roberson	November 24, 1833
R. H. Castleberry	February 19, 1835
John D. Fennel	October 20, 1837
Russel I. Allen	November 6, 1840
John Collins	September 29, 1843

John W. Jones	January 7, 1854
Amasa L. Bowden	April 10, 1860
T. I. Fowler	June 10, 1867
Mattison Hendricks	August 5, 1867
James R. Roberson	January 23, 1873
W.L. Dollar	January 20, 1898
William G. Sides	February 14, 1899
Hardie Jones	October 25, 1901
James P. Turner	March 20, 1907
Albert R. Jones	August 15, 1914
John B. Shurbet	October 20, 1915
Amanda C. Funderburg	December 13, 1928

Another little postoffice on what is now Cropwell, Route, was established on September 26, 1900, and discontinued in 1908. It was Fountainrun and was located in the Harmon settlement two miles west of the Coosa River and five miles north of Kelly Creek. Mr. James O. M. Hardwick was the only postmaster to serve this little postoffice.

Most of the early people of Cropwell were Baptist. They attended the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church which was established in 1828. The Coosa Valley Baptist Church was established in 1840 and the Seddon Baptist Church was organized before the Civil War. Later, in 1888, the Cropwell Baptist Church was organized. Long before the Cropwell Baptist Church was organized and built, the community had its own Sunday School which was held in the Masonic building.

The very early settlers of Cropwell provided a school of some kind for their children. At first, the schools were taught in dwellings. The parents paid the teacher's salary and provided firewood for fuel. After Coosa Valley Church was built, it served as a schoolhouse. Mr. Owen Hardwick was one of the early teachers in that church. He taught in the late 1840's. A Mr. Brickhouse was teaching in the Coosa Valley Church during the Civil War when the Wilson Raiders came galloping up the valley road. One of the Yankees who rode ahead of the main band of raiders, pulled on his reins and stopped long enough to warn Mr. Brickhouse and to have him to dismiss school and hurry the children off home. In 1889, Cropwell built their own school. It was a two-story building located about a half mile from the middle of Cropwell. It was to this school that Mr. Roy Gibson came as principal in 1915. In 1918, a new school was built at Cropwell. Mr. Gibson remained in Cropwell until 1926. He had a well disciplined and orderly high school and was the most beloved principal that Cropwell ever had.

Cropwell has always been an agricultural community. Cotton has always been the principal crop. The Colemans, as early as the Civil War years, owned a steam gin. Part of Cropwell's cotton was ginned there. Part of it was ginned at Drake's Mill at Easonville and part of it was ginned at the old Laney horse-drawn gin. The Robersons began to operate a steam gin at Cropwell in 1888.

In 1840, John W. Jones, who came from Petersburg, Va. began to operate a business at Cropwell. This store later operated under the name of James R. Roberson Sons. Another successful business of Cropwell was a store operated before the Civil War by William T. Smith. It fell into decline after he left to fight in the Confederate army where he became a Colonel.

During the Civil War some of the Cropwell men served with distinction in the Confederate Army. In 1861, the Company of 10th Alabama Infantry Regiment was organized at Cropwell with Major J. O. Truss as it's captain. William T. Smith, a member of the outfit, won many promotions and rose to the rank of Colonel of the 10th Alabama Infantry Regiment. This regiment was engaged in about twenty-four battles during the Civil War.

The first United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter in St. Clair County was organized at Cropwell on July 20, 1914. It was called the John W. Jones Chapter.

One would be negligent in writing a history of Pell City and vicinity if the pioneer, Ira Harmon was left out. Ira Harmon was born among the western foothills of the Great Smokey Mountains in Green County, Tennessee in 1826. When a child of six years, his parents, Lucinda Gann and Jacob Harmon moved to Talladega County, Alabama. Pioneer methods of travel are illustrated by a description of the move. The elder Harmons placed their family on a flat boat on the Nolichucky River, floated down this stream to the Holston River, and continued from the Holston to the Tennessee River. The latter stream was followed to a point near Chattanooga. From this point, the family was carried overland across the "divide" to the headwaters of the Oostanaula River. Another boat was built here and they floated down to Rome, Georgia, and thence down the Coosa River to Talladega County, where the Harmons settled and where Ira Harmon was reared. When quite a young man, he moved across the Coosa River into South St. Clair County, bought land, married Samira A. Payne and raised a family.

The Coosa Valley was rich in agricultural products before the days of railroads in this section. Ira Harmon gained his experience as a river pilot while floating these products down the Coosa River to market. When asked the date of his first trip, he could not remember but stated that on this trip when his boat was twelve miles north of Wetumpka at the "Devil's Stair Case" Miller's comet made its appearance, causing alarm among the crew, and on reaching Wetumpka the next day, the town was in commotion and excitement caused by the appearance of the comet. To those who have seen the Coosa River above Wetumpka, it is evident that no small degrees of courage and judgment were required to conduct loaded boats with safety over these shoals. There are jutting cliffs projecting into the channel at many of the abrupt bends in the river, and if the boats were not steered clear of these menacing rocks, it meant destruction to craft and freight and perhaps the crew. These same projecting rocks produced giant whirlpools whose circling vortexes swallowed up everything that entered them. What was most dangerous of all were the hidden rocks in the channel of the stream whose location must be known to be avoided.

During the War of Session, coal from mines in St. Clair County was supplied to the

Confederate Arsenal at Selma. Most of this coal was mined by Ragland and Sims at a place now called Ragland, two miles west of the Coosa River. Part of it was mined by Crandle and Anderson at a place one mile west of Ragland. From these mines the coal was hauled to the river on wagons and there loaded on flat boats. Some of these boats were floated down the river to Yellow Leaf, now Wilsonville, and there the coal was transferred to railroad cars and shipped over the Selma, Dalton and Rome railroad to Selma. The greater number of the boats were floated down the Coosa River to the Alabama River and thence by Montgomery to Selma. Ira Harmon acted as pilot for these boats. It was in the face of difficulties that he supplied coal to the Confederate arsenal at Selma.

The mine operated by Ragland and Sims from 1861 to 1865 was not under the control of the Confederate government but their coal was sold at Montgomery and Selma. During the latter part of the war, Crandle and Anderson operated their mine under the supervision and control of the Confederate government. The labor at both mines was done chiefly by negro slaves, many of whom had been recently brought to that section as refugees from Kentucky and Tennessee. Negroes also constituted the crews for the boats which were made of sawed lumber and were fifty feet long, eighteen feet wide and thirty inches in depth. The amount of coal carried on each boat was from twenty to fifty-two tons. The trip down the river could be made only when the stream was swollen. On a trip down the river from two to eight boats were carried at the same time -- usually about five. Five men were required for each boat. Under favorable conditions, the trip from Ragland to Montgomery could be made in three days. Mr. Harmon stated that he had made the trip from Ragland to Wetumpka in a day and night. Sometimes it would require two weeks for the same trip. If weather conditions were unfavorable, the boats were tied up to the bank at night, and if there was wind or fog on the river, it was sometimes necessary to remain tied up several days. Winds gave much trouble especially if the boats were loaded with cotton. The time to go from Montgomery to Selma was two days and nights. On delivering the coal, the boats were sold and the return trip made from Selma back to the Coosa River by railroad. If the coal was sold in Montgomery,

the crews went on down the river to Selma to return from there by railroad. The price received for coal in Montgomery from 1861 to 1865 was one hundred to one hundred twenty-five dollars per ton. The price paid a pilot for his services on each trip during the war was one hundred dollars in Confederate money. The price paid before and after the war was as much as fifty dollars.

Ira Harmon's old home was at Fountainrun. Some of his direct descendants living in Pell City at the present time (1972) are J. N. Harmon, Wasson Harmon, Kenneth Tucker, Cecil P. Gray, Jr., Harmon Gray, James V. Gray, Elaine Gray Goodgame, Mary Gray Litty, and Martha Smith Lonergan.

This is just a chapter on the history of Pell City. Due to time for research, and space, so many things about the early citizens and history of our town have been left out. I apologize for this. We are obligated to Joe W. Kilgroe and Bettie Scott for their cooperation and help in compiling and writing this chapter.

History of Pell City and the surrounding area compiled by Mrs. James V. Gray in 1972 for the use of Mrs. Mattie Lou Crowe who is writing a history of St. Clair County.

St. Clair Living

Gone...and nearly forgotten

By Rob Strickland
St. Clair Times editor

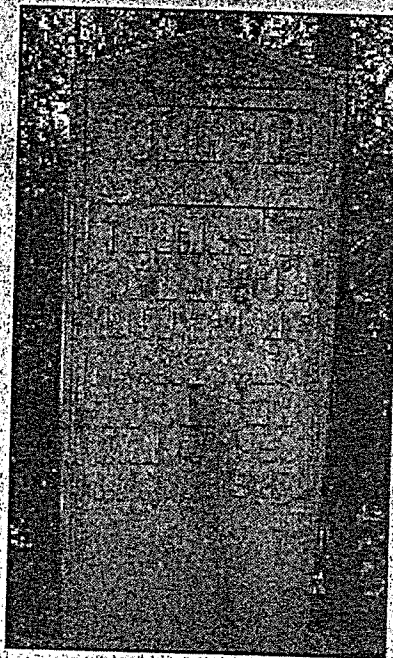
There are few uses of land more permanent than a cemetery. Regarded as a final resting place, graveyards become and remain part of an area's landmarks, a place where generations come together in the hereafter.

Cemeteries can fall victim to changing times and habits. A hundred years and indifferent maintenance can allow them to slip into the past, letting the land take it back eventually.

One such place is in Pell City and it's not even off the beaten path. It's noticeable only after a patch of unremarkable woods gives way to towering privet, overgrown daffodils and rosebushes gone wild. After a walk up a gentle slope, a stone enclosure and a few conspicuous marble markers are visible, sheltered by a mature post oak and shortleaf pine tree.

It would come as no surprise if such a place were in the middle of nowhere. But it's on 19th Street South near Bruce Etheredge Drive, where hundreds of motorists pass by each day. The most recent grave is dated 1935. It contains scores of graves from the city's early residents, most of which are marked only by rocks, and many others are recognizable only by sunken spots in the ground. Only a few have markers with inscriptions.

Pell City businessman David Tims owns land adjacent to the cemetery but knows little of the site other than its existence. He said it was mentioned several years ago when he and the owners of the cemetery site considered selling



DeGaris said, "came in from off the farm" to the town primarily to work at the cotton mill around which the community was centered at the time.

Though no records are known to exist about who was buried at the cemetery on 19th Street, she said it's almost a certainty that the families of those buried there were connected with the mill. Established as Pell City Manufacturing Co., it later became known as Avondale Mill.

"The Cogswell family bought the city in 1900, and moved here in September 1901," DeGaris said. "People from all over the area, such as Cropwell, Easonville, Seddon and Eden came to Pell City to work there."

"I remember when I was young, hearing from my husband's aunt,



dren to die at a very early age from diseases such as that."

There is little in Alabama law addressing cemeteries, although part of the state's 1940 code does provide for relatives to have access to graves.

Where a cemetery or graveyard has been used by the public as a place for burying the dead for 20 years or more and no part of said cemetery or graveyard is adjacent or contiguous to any public road or highway, any person who has, or any persons who have, relatives or relations buried in said cemetery or graveyard shall have the right to acquire and may acquire a convenient right-of-way, not exceeding in width 15 feet, over the lands intervening and lying between such cemetery or graveyard or body of land on which the same is situated

been the location of the new Walter M. Kennedy Elementary School.

"They (the Pell City Board of Education) looked at my property and the land where the cemetery is," Tims said. "It came up that if the land was ever sold, it (the cemetery) would have to be preserved. But that's about all I know about it. I've never been up there."

Longtime Pell Citian Kate DeGaris, whose family owns the land where the cemetery is located, knows about the cemetery as part of her encyclopedic knowledge of early Pell City history.

The early residents of Pell City,

allowed people to be use that cemetery," she said. "It's very, very old. And as I understand it, both black and white people are buried there."

The relatively large number of children's graves at the cemetery can be attributed to health conditions of the early 1900s, she said.

"It is known that periodically, epidemics would come through the area, such as diphtheria, typhoid and smallpox," she said. "So I'm not surprised that a lot of children are buried there, because at that time it was very common for chil-

(Acts 1927, No. 475, p. 526; Code 1940, T. 19, §59.)

The marked graves visible at the cemetery include those of:

Ronnie L., Daughter of T&R Boone Sept. 10, 1918—July 14, 1919

Lucy C., Daughter of L.L. and N.F. Wynne Sept. 20, 1905—July 1, 1906

Infant daughter of L.B. and H.P. Owens Aug. 14, 1915

Rubie B., Daughter of T.C. and A.M. Mitchell Nov. 9, 1914—Nov. 23, 1915

'In America' a winner from author Susan Sontag

Readers have come to expect much from Susan Sontag, a prolific writer of essays, novels and short stories.

Once again, those high expectations are met in Sontag's novel "In America" (FSG, \$26).

Set in the 19th century, "In America" tells the story of a Polish actress who is bored with her life. Although she has fans, a husband, a doting lover and an entourage of friends, she feels she must flee Poland's confines for someplace new.

But instead of heading for Paris or another European capital where she could still live like a queen,

Maryna chooses a rustic life in America.

"I admit that from the beginning I never played anything but principal roles," Maryna says early in the book. "But it doesn't help. It's astonishing how quickly one becomes accustomed to applause."

Although Maryna struggles with the increasing boredom of her theatrical genius, she is never whiny or annoying. Readers can empathize with her thirst for a new life because she wants to improve herself at a time when her career seems to be at its peak. Maryna's biggest problem is convincing others that her intuition is correct — that she must

leave the stage to be truly happy.

Once in America, Maryna and her party head west, where they settle on a farm in Southern California. Here, the story's focus shifts from Maryna's personal struggles to the trials of immigrants starting over. Sontag's flair for rich character development shines, as each of the principal players explores his own motives for coming to a new land.

Sontag uses these characters also to shift the story's point of view from omniscient to first person and back again. A less-skilled writer might not have taken the risk, but Sontag pulls it off seamlessly and without confusing the reader.



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Rob Strickland/St. Clair Times

Little is known about those buried in an overgrown cemetery on 19th St. S. in Pell City. Kate Harris, whose family owns the site, says it was likely used by families of early mill workers in the area.


- Sanders Feb. 16, 1853—
9, 1900
- Thomas L. Sanders Aug. 15,
—Aug. 30, 1905
- Isabella E. Green Feb. 19,
—Mar. 24, 1931
- William R. Green Aug. 28,
—Sept. 23, 1935
- May Tollison July 8, 1910—
J. 1929
- W. Causey Feb. 18,
—May 1, 1928

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MEMORIES OF PELL CITY'S EARLY DAYS

By: A Pioneer Citizen

Reading the PEN PICTURE of Pell City it brings to me memories of years gone by.

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Tom S. Coleman, Sep 8th 1950

S/ Tom S. Coleman

*Original loaned to Blair Jones by
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Municipal Corporation; Dissolution; Irregularities in Organization.---

Where the people of a locality had organized themselves into a municipal organization, under color of law at least, and had continuously for fifteen years exercised all the functions of a duly organized municipal corporation, and where the legislature of the state had during that time by several acts recognized it as an existing municipal corporation, a proceeding by the state on the relation of one of its citizens to dissolve it for an irregularity in its organization, in that the petition for incorporation alleged the petitioners to be residents of legal age, instead of adult male inhabitants, will not be entertained because of laches and of the discretion of the court to refuse judgment of ouster, where, in its opinion, the interest of the public do not require such judgment to be entered.

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Roberson v. The Town of Pell City.]

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The Judgment of the court is affirmed.

THE COURT, by HARRISON, J. J., concur.

State, *ex rel.* Roberson v. The Town of Pell City.

Quo Warranto.

(Decided June 30, 1888. 17 South 246.)

Municipal Corporations; Dissolution; Irregularities in Organization. Where the people of a locality had organized themselves into a municipal organization, under color of law at least, and had continued for several years exercised all the functions of a duly organized municipal corporation, and where the legislature of the state had during that time by several acts recognized the existing municipal corporation, a proceeding by the state on the petition of one of its citizens to dissolve it for an irregularity in its organization, in that the petition for incorporation alleged the petitioners to be residents of legal age, instead of adult male inhabitants, will not be entertained because of laches and of the discretion of the court to refuse judgment of ouster, where, in its opinion, the interest of the public do not require such judgment to be entered.

APPEAL FROM ST. CLAIR CIRCUIT COURT.

Heard before HON. JOHN W. INZER.

Petition by the state on the relation of Sam Roberson against the town of Pell City, and its board of mayor and aldermen, in the nature of a quo warranto for ouster.

[State, ex rel. Roberson v. The Town of Pell City.]

ter, and to annul the incorporation. From a judgment denying the petition, relator appeals. Affirmed.

VICTOR H. SMITH, and CHARLES P. PRATT, for appellant. Quo warranto is the proper remedy.—*West End v. The State, ex rel.*, 138 Ala. 295; Sec. 3420, Code 1896. The petition did not show that it was signed by twenty or more adult male inhabitants.—Sec. 1486, Code 1886. It must affirmatively appear that all jurisdictional facts are present and in the record where the court has limited statutory jurisdiction—*Talley v. Cryder*, 66 Ala. 119; *Savage v. Woolf*, 69 Ala. 569; *Matter v. Jones*, 80 Ala. 98.

M. M. SMITH, and McLANE TILTON, JR., for appellee. The duties of a probate judge in incorporating municipalities are purely ministerial and directory.—*West End v. The State, ex rel.* 138 Ala 295 By prescription and by implication—*Abbott on Muncie, Corp. Vol. I*, pp. 30-1; *Dillingham v. Snow*, 5 Mass. 547; *State v. Leatherman*, 38 Ark. 81; *Pidgin v. McCarty*, 82 Ind. 321.

DENSON, J. This is an action in the nature of quo warranto, commenced under subdivision 3 of section 3420 of the Code of 1896 (section 5453, Code of 1907), to dissolve the municipal corporation of Pell City, in St. Clair county. The action is in the name of the state, on the information of SAM Roberson, and is against the corporate entity and the attendant and councilmen. The town was organized on the 6th day of May, 1891, under title 14, c. 1, of the Code of 1886, and so far as the petition in this case shows the proceedings in respect to the organization or creation of the corporation were regular with the exception that in the petition filed with the

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[State ex rel. Roberson v. The Town of Pell City.]

judge of probate, seeking to incorporate said town, the petitioners were alleged to be "residents of Pell City, Ala., of legal age," whereas the statute provided that such petitions should be "signed by twenty or more of the adult male inhabitants." Upon the irregularity pointed out is based the alleged legal right to have the corporation dissolved and the intendant and *Councilmen* excluded from office.

In the view we take of the case it is not necessary to discuss the validity *vel non* of the proceedings had before the probate judge; for upon well-settled principles of law, which we shall advert to, it might even be *ceded that the alleged irregularity occurred and for that reason that the corporation was not legally organized, and that the state, on timely application, could have had the proceedings annulled, and yet the judgment here appealed from should be affirmed.* The record discloses that the order of incorporation was made on May 6, 1891, and that the corporation has been in the continued and uninterrupted exercise of the rights and franchises, and in the discharge of all municipal obligations and duties, under the laws of the state, since that date. It is further shown by the record that the state has more than once, by legislative enactment, recognized Pell City as a municipal corporation. We refer to two of these enactments specifically. The first was "An act to constitute the town of Pell City a separate school district" etc., approved February 21, 1893, and therein—after in providing that it shall receive each year its proportionate share of the school fund going to St. Clair county—it is provided that there shall be a board of education for said district, to be composed of the mayor or intendant of said town and four other persons, bona fide residents of said town; and the second is an act entitled "An act

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to establish, maintain and regulate a dispensary in the town of Pell City," etc., approved February 28, 1903. By the eleventh section of the latter act it is made the duty of the "mayor and city council of Pell City, in St. Clair county," to pass ordinances to carry out the provisions of the act and to provide suitable penalties for the violation of any of the provisions of the act.

Thus, as by these facts disclosed, it is made to appear without any dispute that at the time this information was filed (1910) and been recognized by the public and by the legislative department of the state from time to time, as a municipal corporation, and as a governmental agency or instrumentality of the state it had been exercising, continuously, all the functions possessed by municipal corporations regularly organized under the Code, for a period of more than 16 years. In 2 Spelling, Extraordinary Relief, p. 1468, § 1803, the principle of acquiescence by the state and consequent loss of right to dissolve a municipal corporation is asserted in this language: "Aside from the rule of public policy which prevails in this country against the forfeiture of the charter of a municipal corporation, it is held that the state may, by long acquiescence in the existence and acting as such by a municipality, become barred from proceeding against it through its officers to forfeit its franchises, although its original organization may have been irregular and not in accordance with the general laws of the state." The author, in support of the text, cites the case of *State v. Leatherman*, 38 Ark. 81, which, we find upon investigation, is a well-considered case and a leading one on the subject in hand. The case was a proceeding by the Attorney General, by quo warranto, to annul the charter of a defacto corporation of eight years standing, and in it the Supreme Court of Arkansas held "that the state may by long acquiescence and continued recognition of a municipal corporation, through her officers, be precluded from any information

[State, ex rel. *Robertson v. The Town of Pell City.*]

to deprive it of franchises long exercised in accordance with the general law." We shall not quote from the case further, but remark in passing that the reasons for applying the doctrine of acquiescence against the state are in the opinion of the court forcefully and lucidly set forth.

In the case of *Jameson v. People*, 16 Ill. 257, 63 Am. Dec. 304, which was a proceeding by quo warranto to inquire into the organization of a municipal corporation, instituted four years after the town was incorporated, the Legislature had enacted laws concerning the town and the public had recognized it as a municipal corporation. The court held that because of laches on the part of the state it was deprived of the right of inquiring into the validity of the corporation. The court, in part, said: "Municipal corporations are created for the public good, are demanded by the wants of the community, and the law, after long-continued use of corporate powers and the public acquiescence, will indulge in presumptions in favor of their legal existence. The law will incline to sustain, rather than to defeat, them. It would seem incompatible with good faith and against public policy, although irregularities may have intervened in the organization of the town, now to hold that it is not a body corporate." The case of *State v. Town of Westport*, 116 Mo. 582, 22 S. W. 888, was one by quo warranto to annul the charter of a city on account of irregularities that had intervened in the organization proceedings had under the general laws of Illinois. In it the court discussed and followed the cases of *State v. Leatherman*, *supra*, and *Jameson v. People*, *supra*. In the opinion is found this reasoning: "If there is to be no limit to such proceedings, and if at any period of time, however remote from the time of the organization of a municipality, a proceeding by quo warranto can be resorted to, and such municipality and its officers ousted of their franchises because of irregularity in its organi-

[State, ex rel. Roberson v. The Town of Pell City.]

ization, it would effectually destroy the credit of municipalities generally to such an extent as to render it impossible to grade and improve their streets, or to construct any kind of improvements promotive of the health, welfare, and convenience of their inhabitants, and issue bonds or tax bills in payment thereof. People would be unwilling to labor for such cities, and capitalists to invest in their bonds, for fear of their disorganization." Notwithstanding only 12 years had elapsed from the irregular organization until the filing of the information the court held that the state was deprived of the right to dissolve the corporation on the grounds of laches.

On the foregoing authorities, as well as in view of our own cases, which fully recognize the doctrine that the courts are vested with a discretion and may refuse a judgment of ouster if, in their opinion, the interests of the public do not require such judgment, the court is of the opinion that, as the people of Pell City organized themselves under color of law, at least, into a municipal corporation more than 16 years before the filing of this information, and have gone on, year after year, during that time, exercising the usual franchise, and as the corporation has been distinctly and unequivocally recognized by the legislative department of the state, no inquiry should be now permitted, looking to the undoing of their corporate existence.—*Capital City Water Co. v. Macdonald*, 105 Ala. 425, 426, 18 South. 62, 29 L. R. A. 743; *State v. United States, etc., Co.*, 140 Ala. 610, 37 South. 442, 103 Am. St. Rep. 60.

Let the judgment of the circuit court, denying relief to the petitioners, be affirmed.

Affirmed.

TYSON, C. J., and HARALSON and SIMPSON, JJ., concur.

MEMORIES OF PELL CITY'S EARLY DAYS

By: A Pioneer Citizen

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The Judgment of the court is affirmed.

THE COURT. J. J. concur.

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(Decided June 30, 1908. 47 South, 240.)

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DENSON, J. This is an action in the nature of quo warranto, commenced under subdivision 3 of section 3420 of the Code of 1896 (section 5453, Code of 1907), to dissolve the municipal corporation of Pell City, in St. Clair county. The action is in the name of the state, on the information of SAM Roberson, and is against the corporate entity and the intendant and councilmen. The town was organized on the 6th day of May, 1891, under title 14, c. 1, of the Code of 1886, and so far as the petition in this case shows the proceedings in respect to the organization or creation of the corporation were regular with the exception that in the petition filed with the

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[State, ex rel. Roberson v. The Town of Pell City.]

to establish, maintain and regulate a dispensary in the town of Pell City," etc., approved February 28, 1903. By the eleventh section of the latter act it is made the duty of the "mayor and city council of Pell City, in St. Clair county," to pass ordinances to carry out the provisions of the act and to provide suitable penalties for the violation of any of the provisions of the act.

Thus, as by these facts disclosed, it is made to appear without any dispute that at the time this information was filed Pell City had been recognized by the public and by the legislative department of the state from time to time, as a municipal corporation, and as a governmental agency or instrumentality of the state it had been exercising, continuously, all the functions possessed by municipal corporations regularly organized under the Code, for a period of more than 16 years. In 2 Spelling, Extraordinary Relief, p. 1468, § 1803, the principle of acquiescence by the state and consequent loss of right to dissolve a municipal corporation is asserted in this language: "Aside from the rule of public policy which prevails in this country against the forfeiture of the charter of a municipal corporation, it is held that the state may, by long acquiescence in the existence and acting as such by a municipality, become barred from proceeding against it through its officers to forfeit its franchises, although its original organization may have been irregular and not in accordance with the general laws of the state." The author, in support of the text, cites the case of *State v. Leatherman*, 38 Ark 81, which, we find upon investigation, is a well-considered case and a leading one on the subject in hand. The case was a proceeding by the Attorney General, by quo warranto, to annul the charter of a defacto corporation of eight years standing, and in it the Supreme Court of Arkansas held "that the state may by long acquiescence and continued recognition of a municipal corporation, through her officers, be precluded from any information

[*State ex rel. Robertson v. The Town of Pell City.*]

to deprive it of franchises long exercised in accordance with the general law." We shall not quote from the case further, but remark in passing that the reasons for applying the doctrine of acquiescence against the state are in the opinion of the court forcefully and lucidly set forth.

In the case of *Jameson v. People*, 16 Ill. 257, 63 Am. Dec. 304, which was a proceeding by quo warranto to inquire into the organization of a municipal corporation, instituted four years after the town was incorporated, the Legislature had enacted laws concerning the town and the public had recognized it as a municipal corporation. The court held that because of laches on the part of the state it was deprived of the right of inquiring into the validity of the corporation. The court, in part, said: "Municipal corporations are created for the public good, are demanded by the wants of the community, and the law, after long-continued use of corporate powers and the public acquiescence, will indulge in presumptions in favor of their legal existence. The law will incline to sustain, rather than to defeat, them. It would seem incompatible with good faith and against public policy, although irregularities may have intervened in the organization of the town, now to hold that it is not a body corporate." The case of *State v. Town of Westport*, 116 Mo. 582, 22 S. W. 888, was one by quo warranto to annul the charter of a city on account of irregularities that had intervened in the organization proceedings had under the general laws of Illinois. In it the court discussed and followed the cases of *State v. Leatherman*, *supra*, and *Jameson v. People*, *supra*. In the opinion is found this reasoning: "If there is to be no limit to such proceedings, and if at any period of time, however remote from the time of the organization of a municipality, a proceeding by quo warranto can be resorted to, and such municipality and its officers ousted of their franchises because of irregularity in its organi-

[State, ex rel. Roberson v. The Town of Pell City.]

zation, it would effectually destroy the credit of municipalities generally to such an extent as to render it impossible to grade and improve their streets, or to construct any kind of improvements promotive of the health, welfare, and convenience of their inhabitants, and issue bonds or tax bills in payment thereof. People would be unwilling to labor for such cities, and capitalists to invest in their bonds, for fear of their disorganization." Notwithstanding only 12 years had elapsed from the irregular organization until the giving of the information the court held that the state was deprived of the right to dissolve the corporation on the grounds of laches.

On the foregoing authorities, as well as in view of our own cases, which fully recognize the doctrine that the courts are vested with a discretion and may refuse a judgment of ouster if, in their opinion, the interests of the public do not require such judgment, the court is of the opinion that, as the people of Pell City organized themselves under color of law, at least, into a municipal corporation more than 16 years before the giving of this information, and have gone on, year after year, during that time, exercising the usual franchise, and as the corporation has been distinctly and unequivocally recognized by the legislative department of the state, no inquiry should be now permitted, looking to the undoing of their corporate existence.—*Capital City Water Co. v. Macdonald*, 105 Ala. 425, 426, 18 South. 62, 29 L. R. A. 743; *State v. United States, etc., Co.*, 140 Ala. 610, 37 South. 442, 103 Am. St. Rep. 60.

Let the judgment of the circuit court, denying relief to the petitioners, be affirmed.

Affirmed.

TYSON, C. J., and HARALSON and SIMPSON, JJ., concur.



*City Hall Dedication
May 5, 2002*

in ~~1965/1966~~ *Pell City, Ala*

Know Your City Councilmen -

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To better acquaint citizens of Pell City with the responsibilities of their five-man City Council, Mayor Otis Perry this week released for publication a breakdown of the city's departments and committees.

The five members of the council are Wallace Shoemaker, James Smith, Dill Nixon, Dr. Raymond Cox and Dr. Horace Clayton.

They were appointed to committees by the Mayor as follows:

STREET DEPARTMENT AND SHOP - Smith (chmn.) Nixon

and Clayton.
UTILITIES - Nixon (chmn.) Shoemaker, and Clayton.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - Cox (chmn.), Shoemaker and Smith.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - Nixon (chmn.), Clayton and Shoemaker.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Cox (chmn.), Shoemaker and Smith.

JUDICIARY - Clayton (chmn.), Cox and Shoemaker.

Councilman Shoemaker also serves as Mayor Pro-Tem.

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Daily Home 10/6/93

Lifestyles

Rotary International governor speaks to Pell City club

By Cindy Warner

Home staff writer

Dale Wallace, District 6860 Governor for Rotary International was guest speaker at the Pell City Rotary Club meeting Tuesday.

Wallace, a member of the Birmingham East Rotary Club, spoke to the Pell City club on what he feels is the top four reasons for being in Rotary.

The top reason is because of the outstanding fellowship Rotary provides its members among each other and with the community.

The second is because of the tremendous impact Rotary has on the community with projects such as its statewide literacy campaign and through sponsorships of programs such as Camp ASCCA (Alabama Special Camp for Children and Adults).

Third is the international scope that Rotary provides its members for service causes.

Rotary International is established in 187 countries. There are 502 districts worldwide and more than one million members, Wallace said.

Clubs across the world have the opportunity to help each other with

projects both big and small, he said.

And the most important reason for being in Rotary is because of the principles for which the club stands.

All Rotary members are encouraged to live by themes such as the international theme for 1993-1994, "Believe In What You Do, Do What You Believe In."

Wallace said District 6860 covers the whole northern half of the state of Alabama.

Wallace is a native of Birmingham and is a partner and founding member of the law firm Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff, Byers and

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Bravo®
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with on-board attachments

\$79⁹⁹

REMA 123PAC1

Subdivision residents petition Pell City Council for annexation

Daily Home 10-12-93

By Cindy Warner
Home staff writer

Residents of Sunset Strip subdivision told the Pell City Council that the main reason they want to be annexed into the city limits is because they desperately need a water system.

The residents said they all have to depend on well water for their water source and sometimes the water is contaminated and isn't suitable for drinking.

The water also contains a lot of iron, they said. That means that most of their laundry has to be taken into a local laundromat because the iron stains clothes.

The residents came before the council Monday night with signed petitions from homeowners in the area asking the city to consider them for annexation.

The Sunset Strip subdivision is in between two subdivisions that the city recently did vote to approve for annexation, Mays Bend and Eagle Points.

Councilman George Williams said the Eagle Point subdivision has been officially annexed and the Mays Bend area is slated to be annexed soon.

The council explained to the residents of Sunset Strip that those areas were allowed to annex only because they agreed to put in their own water

systems.

When the city was first approached about the Eagle Point/Mays Bend annexation, the city was not in a financial position to finance a major water project, Williams said.

So, a plan was presented where Don Raughton, developer of the Eagle Point area, would pay to put the water system in for both subdivisions, Williams said.

The city agreed to take the system over upon its completion, pay the money back interest free, and provide the water service.

The city has one year after the system is completed before it has to start paying the money back, Councilman Mack Abercrombie said. After that, the city has five years to pay it back completely.

The city will repay the system from the fees it will charge the residents to tap on to receive the water service, Williams said.

Council members told the Sunset Strip residents that they would need to come out with city engineer Charles Tucke, to inspect the area before they could recommend what would need to be done about getting water to that area.

Mayor Lawrence Fields did mention that Commissioner Paul Manning had agreed to help get the roads in that area resurfaced to bring them up to city specifications in order to be

brought in.

Also Monday, the council:
□ Tabled action on a petition to vacate certain parts of Chase Street, Virginia Avenue and all blocks 53 and 54.

□ Approved a sign variance request from Captain D's seafood restaurant to erect a sign that is 35 feet high. The city ordinance currently states signs be restricted to 26 feet in height.

The council also approved a request from Gil Edge for a sign variance that would allow him to construct a high rise advertisement 20 feet high.

Edge said the advertisement would be located on I-20 near Old Coal Road. The council had to approve the variance because the sign's placement would violate the city's ordinance that the signs be set back 20 feet from the right of way.

Edge said his sign would be 150 feet from Old Coal City and about 10 feet from the interstate.

□ Discussed a sewerage relocation project to upgrade city's sewer lines and also to extend the sewer line behind Highway 78 and Pe Steakhouse.

Fields said the rehab project being mandated by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to help prevent storm drainage from flooding the city's sewerage system.

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staff writer

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Glenn City residents demand s

By DAVID HAYNES

PELL CITY — Residents of the Glenn City section of town came to Monday's city council meeting saying they had been put off too many times and demanded that their area be hooked onto sanitary sewers.

Mayor Hugh Williamson and council members told the group the only way new sewers could be built is for a majority of the property owners to agree to pay for them.

Both the Rev. Ronnie Beavers of the First Baptist Church in Glenn City and Prentice Fomby, who has appeared at other meetings to speak on behalf of the black community, exchanged words with the council.

"We requested city sewerage over a year ago and we've been put off time and time again," said Beavers. "I'm not here to make a request now. I'm here to make a demand that something be done."

He said there will soon be a serious sanitation problem if his church is not hooked onto the sewerage system.

Beavers presented the council a petition he said contained over 100 names of church members who want the church hooked on.

Williamson said that no additional customers can be added to city sewerage until after a new sewage treatment facility is built. However, he said work on the treatment plant is expected to begin in four or five months and that when work begins it is likely more customers can be added.

Councilman Charles Lockridge told the group that the only way sewers would ever be built in the area is for property owners to pay for it. He said he had to pay for his at a cost of \$700.

Fomby said he could foresee no problems in getting property owners to agree to pay for the extension of sewers, but reminded council members that at a previous meeting they had said they had a federal grant to pay for 484 feet of sewer extension.

Williamson and other council members denied the existence of the grant and Williamson had Clerk Bettie Scott bring out and read minutes of that meeting pertaining to sewers.

Council members told Fomby and Beavers that they should bring back a petition signed by at least 51 percent of the property owners who would be hooked on stating they would pay the assessment.

City Attorney William Church warned that if a poor person happened to live along the sewer route and couldn't pay, the city would have to take the land.

Williamson said he would like to see everyone on sanitary sewers. "I wish I had them," he said, adding that there is none where he lives.

Fomby asked the mayor why he had not given the Glenn City residents an estimated price per home for sewer hookup. Fomby said Williamson had promised to check with the engineer on the price and get back with him.

Williamson said he had not talked with the engineer since that meeting, but promised to call him on Tuesday to get an estimate of the per-landowner cost.

The mayor said much of the engineering has already been done for a sewer extension project into the Glenn City area, which should facilitate the project.

Council members suggested that Fomby come back to the council meeting after getting signatures of the property owners.

Immediately following that discussion, a public hearing was held

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to give residents affected by a recent sewer extension into Eden a chance to protest the \$500 assessment. No one spoke up at the hearing for or against the assessment.

The three incumbent council members, Lockridge, Forest Walls and Paul Turner, and Williamson said goodbye to 20-year Place 1 incumbent Dr. Raymond F. "Bam" Cox and Place 3 Councilman Dr. Joe C. Sawyer.

It was the last council session for each man's term. Cox lost his reelection bid and Sawyer was defeated in the race for mayor against Williamson.

New Place 1 Councilman Keith Porter and incoming Place 3 member Barnett Lawley were in attendance and were cordially recognized by the present council.

Williamson announced that an organizational meeting for the new council will be held at 6 p.m. Oct. 6, in council chambers.

At the close of the regular business meeting, Police Chief Ruble Bowlin dropped a bombshell. When he stood up and announced his intention to retire Sept. 30, all the council members were caught off guard. (see related story in today's paper)

Hospice *Daily Home 10-20-93* has new director

By Cindy Warner
Home staff writer

The board of directors of Hospice Care in Pell City have named Wayne Melvin executive director following the retirement of Janice Miller.

Mrs. Miller has been executive director since the Oct. 18, 1992, death of her husband, Dr. Alex Miller, who founded Hospice in 1990.

Melvin said Mrs. Miller, whose retirement was effective Oct. 1, has plans to pursue personal interests.

"Janice stayed on long enough for us to get on our feet," Melvin said. "She wants to pursue some other things and rest."

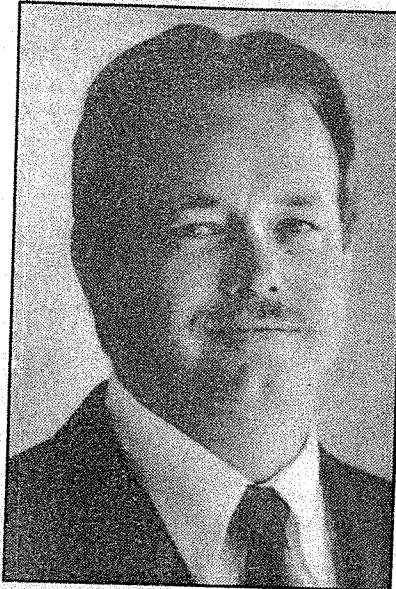
The board named Phyllis Brown to fill Melvin's former position as assistant director.

Mrs. Brown will continue with her previous responsibilities as volunteer coordinator and will also fill the remainder of Mrs. Miller's term as secretary on the board of directors.

Mrs. Miller is not the only well-known Hospice employee to retire, Melvin said.

Sylvia Darnall, the administrative assistant in charge of marketing and public relations, also retired on Oct. 1.

Mrs. Darnall's retirement was due to her relocation to the Birmingham



Wayne Melvin



Phyllis Brown

area, Melvin said.

Melvin said the job responsibilities left by the two positions are being assumed by the Hospice care staff.

"The day-to-day operations haven't changed," Melvin said. "We have just taken on the extra responsibilities."

Nancy Odom, patient care coordinator, said a few changes in policy have been made, but they are changes she thinks will be for the better.

"We have made some changes in our patient care policy," she said. "We have eliminated a lot of the paperwork, and it will give us more quality time with the patients."

Mrs. Odom said Hospice is also continuing to work on establishing a closer relationship with its patients' personal physicians.

Hospice Care provides terminally

ill patients with health care to help make their last days as pain-free as possible.

Mrs. Odom said a lot of the changes have been made by Dr. William Dunham, Hospice Care's medical director since Jan. 1.

"He has made quite a few changes to ensure our patients are receiving better care," she said.

Patient demand has increased lately with more and more patients coming from the Blount County area, Melvin said.

Hospice Care provides service to St. Clair, Blount and southern Talladega counties, Melvin said.

The new directors said they are excited about the future, including plans for National Hospice Month in November and a spring walkathon fund-raiser.

Daily Home 10-28-93

Lifestyles



Cindy Warner/Home staff photo

Fall beautification award

The Pell City Garden Club presented the fall beautification award for a school or business to the St. Clair County Head Start at Coal City. The flowers in the front yard of the school were planted by the children who attend head start and Mr. Walter Kennedy. Pictured, front row, from left, are Robert Martin, Feleshia Williams, Cornisha Singleton, and Demarcus Jones. Second row, from left, Holly McCombs, Christo-

pher Clough, Darcell Jordan, Brett Burke, and Courtney Beavers. Third row, from left, Justin Byers, Tiffany Lowder, Megan Majors, Melanie Posey and Lamar Pickett. Back row, from left, Polly Warren, Elsie McGowan, Lynn Erwin, and Mary Olson. Mrs. McGowan accepted the award for Kennedy who was unable to be there due to illness.

PELL CITY PAYS TRIBUTE TO WAR VETERANS

Press News 7/14/37

H.C. Lewis



A granite monument (left) was unveiled at Pell City Saturday by Miss Mary Ashley Greene, whose father, Capt. Gardner Greene, recruited and commanded the Pell City war men, in whose honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars erected the monument. In the group are former members of the overseas unit. Wesson Herndon, commander of the local V. F. W. post, is on the extreme right.

The unveiling was witnessed by Mrs. Maggie Axley Greene, widow of Capt. Greene (left) and the mother of Miss Greene, who is on the extreme right. The young lady was born on the Mexican border while her father was helping chase Villa. She was 11 months old when her father sailed for France and 22 months old when he fell in the Argonne.

Thousands Pack City For Second Annual "Good Neighbor Day"

BY DEVERAUX ENNIS

PELL CITY, Ala., Aug. 14.—A gathering of 10,000 people, packed the streets of Pell City Saturday for the second annual "Good Neighbor Day" celebration sponsored by the business and professional men of Pell City.

The celebration opened with a parade of floats and bands, followed by a picnic and a baseball game. The event was a success, with many people enjoying the day.

The parade featured floats from local schools and organizations, along with bands from the area. The picnic was held in a large park, and the baseball game was a highlight of the day.

The celebration was a great success, with many people enjoying the day. It was a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate.

guardmen. Miss Mary Ashley Greene, the only daughter of Capt. Gardner Greene, who recruited the Pell City war men, unveiled the monument.

The monument is a tribute to the men of the Pell City Overseas Unit, who served in the Argonne during World War I. It is a granite structure that stands as a reminder of their sacrifice.

The unveiling ceremony was a significant event for the community. It brought together many people who had a personal connection to the war and its veterans.

The monument is a testament to the bravery and sacrifice of the Pell City war men. It is a place where the community can remember and honor their service.

The unveiling was witnessed by Mrs. Maggie Axley Greene, widow of Capt. Greene, and the mother of Miss Greene. The young lady was born on the Mexican border while her father was helping chase Villa.

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History of Pell City, Alabama

The Pell City Iron and Land Company had the town site re-surveyed, lots laid out and several houses built. This company was instrumental in bringing to Pell City the Hercules Pipe Company, the first soil pipe plant ever erected in the South. At this time the young city seemed to be on a prosperity basis. W.C. Evans was the first lawyer. A store was being operated by Mr. Lindsey, where Jess Williamson's blacksmith shop now stands. The Post-office 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 removed to Anniston, Alabama, which City now enjoys the reputation of being the largest center for soil pipe manufacturing in the ~~South~~ 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 surprised 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 town he communicated with Mr. Flawman, and asked what was the matter with the town? Mr. Flawman, replied, telling him of the town's 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 Atlanta National bank for examination to title. Before payment, H.M. Smith and J.C. Herring of Asheville, 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.

History of Pell City, Alabama

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 this time the town had grown up in woods and shrubbery. There was not a county road leading into or out of the town in any direction. There was nothing for the new owner to do, except ~~try~~ 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 over the way for the erection of giant plants, utilizing the raw metals and ores found in native hills of ~~the~~ Alabama. Thus bringing an influx of population and capital from all parts of country.

Mr. Cogswell Incorporated the Pell City Realty Company, donating to it 130 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 ~~fact~~ 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.

History of Pell City Alabama

The town was now coming into its own. The first school was taught in a building in front of where Dr. Cloud Martin's house now stands. Miss Daddie Criggith was the teacher. Zac Hazlewood operated a store where Steeds Market now stands. Col. M.E. Spears Mayor of Pell City, reorganized the council by elections of Aldermen. He was followed in 1902, by W.J. Purdy, who served until 1903, and in turn, Mr. Purdy was followed by Sumter Cogswell, 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 one 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 28, for the erection of the courthouse and jail. County court is held here each month, Judge H.W. Forman of Ashville being the presiding officer of the County at the present time. A term of Circuit court is held here twice each year. Judge Rayburn of Gadsden and Judge Dieque of Gadsden, being the present Judges of this Circuit. The Peace officers of the county at the present time are; Ira Davis, Sherriff, R.F. 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

History of Pell City, Alabama

Frank B. Babry, W. F. Starnes and W. A. Weaver.

As the town thrived more stores continued to locate 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~~ 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. They also donated land for the site 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, charged that it was unconstitutional to have two sets of court in one county. Some of the citizens of 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. I. North was Sheriff. The abolishment of the court here 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

History of Pell City, Alabama

people of the southern section of the county, set to work to have the sessions of the circuit and county court re-established at Pell City. The campaign waxed warm. 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 this 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 branch court at Pell City would be legal. Ed D. Hamner of Attalla, Ala announced himself as a candidate for the State Senate on the same platform. The election was held in November, 1906 and John W. Moore and Ed 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

History of Pell City, Alabama

who moved his family from Asheville to Pell City in 1903. In 1904, the Pell City Hardware Company was organized, its officers being John W. Moore, president, R.W. Alverson, Claude B. Alverson and Harrie A. Cornett. The need for a bank was keenly felt. Sumter Cogswell, Melane Tilton, and others organized the Bank of 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, Melane Tilton, J. Wanta, Cashier, Pickens Pearson, assistant cashier. The Banks 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. Herrins, A.J. Draper, S.J. Mautz and Melane Tilton Jr. Dr. R.A. Martin, established the Pell City Drug Company ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~. The Griffis and Saylor's 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.

History of Pell City, Alabama.

Comfortable homes have been erected for the employees, where rest, 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 and etc, was encouraged by the officials of the company.

With the advent of the automobile, old roads were built repaired and new ones built. The Principal one, known as the Pell City ^{Short Line} ~~of the Northeast Highway~~ ^{to the State}, ~~from Pell City, to Anniston~~ was built. Before this road was built, to go from Pell City to Anniston, the traveller had to go by the way of Tallapoosa. The road from Pell City to Birmingham, by the way of Leeds was built. The first automobile garage was started in 1915. R. D. Love was the proprietor, and he ~~had~~ ^{had} some business where Tom's junk yard now stands. His Garage was quickly followed by a more modern one, built by Claude Hays, Julian DeFaria and John Wade in the building where Alexander's garage is operating at the present time. Insurance agencies were established. The Post Office was moved to its present location. The school here was 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 City Realty company continued in active promotion of the town. They ~~gave~~ ^{gave} ~~direct~~ ^{direct} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~irrevocable~~ ^{irrevocable} 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 are established

agencies here. ^{II} 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 ~~west~~ one end to the other. Men and capital ~~was~~ mobilized. Everywhere young men rushed to the colors. In Pella 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 Pella City and St. Clair County. This company became a part of the famous ~~'Fourth Alabama Regiment'~~ *Company C 167th* 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 Austin Patterson, ~~and~~ made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefield.

The St. Clair county chapter of the American Red Cross, with Sumner Cogwell as the local chairman went over the top on every occasion ~~called~~ *OK*. In the several Liberty Loan drives to raise funds to carry on the war, Pella City and St. Clair ~~county~~ county, always contributed more than ~~their share.~~ *and J. H. Green*

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.

History of Vell City, Alabama.

be one of the main arteries of traffic from all parts of the country, ~~merchandise and property owners along the route of the highway will derive benefit from them.~~

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~~ eastern states, have led to 'Booms' and land settlements ~~at~~ 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 Vell City, and running west by the way of Eden, to Cooks Springs. However, nothing much was done about this until 1929. Mr. J. D. Linthicum, a geologist from Atlanta, Georgia, made an extensive survey over this county. In his report, he states that all the geological formations of the Appalachian range exist here. In the ~~Appalachian~~ Appalachian province, ~~is~~ are ~~located~~ 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 seepage in many parts of the county that ~~points~~ points to the presence of oil and gas. Additional findings in the survey also showed the presence of all the minerals that are to be found where oil and gas is ~~found~~ found ~~in the~~ ground, such as, Boxite, Kaolin, ~~Marble~~ Marble, 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 the 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} ~~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, ~~calling for~~ ^{calling for} an election to be held in the town of Pell City, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the town, ~~for their determination~~ by ballot, whether or not they will authorize the Mayor and Town Council to issue bonds of the town to the extent of ~~six thousand dollars,~~ \$5000.00 for the purpose of erecting ~~and maintaining~~ waterworks ~~to supply water to the municipal corporations or inhabitants thereof, and~~ ~~or the purpose of repairing, extending and maintaining the water works system and for the purpose of purchasing, or the right of way~~ necessary ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~the~~ improvement. This ~~ordinance~~ ^{ordinance} was unanimously adopted

~~by the Mayor and Council of Pell City. A special election was held~~ ^{and} ~~on~~ ^{on} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~21st~~ ^{21st} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~month~~ ^{month} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~May~~ ^{May} ~~1926.~~ ^{1926.} The election showed the forward spirit of the inhabitants of Pell City. 139 ballots were cast in favor of the waterworks, while only ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~cast~~ ^{cast} ~~against~~ ^{against} it.

History of Pell City, Alabama.

Mr. Robert L. Totten, a consulting engineer was employed by ~~the town of~~ ^{sources} Pell City, and after a careful survey of all the available ~~sources~~ of water supply, recommended Dunlap Springs, about one and one half (1½) miles (Airline) from Pell City, as the ~~only~~ logical ~~available~~ source of water supply, ~~from a standpoint of the best water available.~~ ~~erecting~~ erection and operation of a water works system. 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, ~~sanitary~~ municipally owned water works system and ~~a modern sewerage system~~ became a thing of reality in ~~Pell City.~~

As the years progress, we find in 1953, that through the vision and foresight of a few dauntless men, that Pell City, the country hamlet forty ~~six~~ six years ago, is now a modern city in every respect, ~~inhabited by people who realize and appreciate the~~ ^{Changes} ~~wonderful manufacturing, as well as agricultural section, and the~~ ^{the} health giving climate, and ~~at least~~ at least, the natural scenic beauty of the ~~place in which they live.~~

History of Pell City, Alabama.

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 has every 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 on 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 raised 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 ⁶ 6 miles distant. The six coal mines are on the Seaboard Air Line Railway, which has its terminus at Pell City. St. Clair County, in which Pell City is located has a population of over 20,000, 80% 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,

St. Clair auxiliary holds 'successful' ca

The St. Clair Regional Hospital Auxiliary held its fifth annual Card Party, and it appears that this year's event was another success.

According to auxiliary volunteer Mary Olson, there were about 100 players that turned out to play bridge at the Pell City Civic Center.

The total figure of how much money was raised from the event hasn't been determined yet, but that money will once again be used by the auxiliary to buy needed hospital equipment.

Mrs. Olson and Polly Warren, who is also a member of the hospital's volunteer organization, said the group will use the money to purchase a trauma stretcher and a new Dynamap monitor.

Last year the group used the money from their various fund-raising activities to purchase two trauma stretchers, stainless steel table for the kitchen and a new microscope for the lab, Mrs. Olson said.

The next fund-raiser for the auxiliary will be the annual Tree of Lights.

Each year, a huge Christmas tree is placed in front of the hospital, and lights can be bought in memory or in honor of someone. An honor roll with the names listed on it is placed in the lobby of the hospital.

Tickets for this year's tree will go on sale Nov. 1, and the tree will be lit near Christmas.



Daily Home 10-13-93.

Enjoying the card party, from left, are: Kay Mickle; Irene Sexton, chairman; Frances Wright, co-chairman Polly Warren and Libby Mull.

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Auxiliary holds 'successful' card party

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Daily Home 10-13-93

Carol Pappas/Home staff photo

Enjoying the card party, from left, are: Kay Mickle; Irene Sexton, chairman; Frances Wright, co-chairman Polly Warren, Beverly Patterson and Libby Mull.

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 vi 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, 1867, 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 1867 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 employment 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. E. Barr, T. S. Plowman, G. M. Henderson and General Wilder incorporators. \$50,000 for 400 acres of land. 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

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the holdings of the Hercules Pipe Company. Louis J. Brandeis 50 ^{acres} and Boston Associate Justice of the U. S. 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 that time the town had grown up in weeds and shrubbery. There was not a county road leading into or out of the town in any direction. There was ~~at~~ nothing for the new owner to do, except promote some industry, which was the Pell City Manufacturing Company, now the Avondale Mills. 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 way for the south, boom times were in evidence in all sections of Dixie, particularly in Alabama, and in Birmingham, and the county 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 engeneers and chemists were pointingores 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 the country. (Pell City Manufacturing Company was 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. It 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 Mr. Claud Martin's house now stands. Miss Daddie Griffith was the teacher. Zac Hazelwood operated a store where Steeds Market now stands. Col. H. B. Spears, Mayor of Pell City, reorganized the council by elections of aldermen. He was followed in 1902 by W. J. Purdy, who served until 1903, and in turn, Mr. Purdy was followed by Sumter Cogswell who served in 1903 and in 1904. The other mayors of Pell City were as follows: W. A. Starnes, Charlie P. Pratt in that order until 1914. We then had the following:

E. A. Thompson	1914-1920
Frank Embry	1920-1922
Dr. J. O. Gray	1922-1924
Frank Embry	1924-1926
Sumter Cogswell	1926-1944
W. T. Starnes	1944-1952
Joe Kilgroe	1952-to present time

In 1903, Dr. H. A. Martin, a young physician came to Pell City to make his home and began the general practice of medicine. Dr. Martin was instrumental in the promotion of several sub-divisions, and was one of its most public spirited and leading citizens, contributing much to the welfare and the up building 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 faction. In the election, held November 6, 1901, Pell City won by about 600 majority over all, Sumter Cogswell then donated block 26, for the ~~location of the courthouse and 443 County court is held here each~~

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As the town thrived more stores continued to locate 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 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. Also land for church sites to the colored denominations. Now other churches, The Church of the Advent and the Church of Christ have been organized. Mr. Bays D. Cather, Sr. gave the following information to Mrs. Ella Miller who wrote to him asking for this information for the First Methodist Church here.

"When I moved to Pell City in January 1902 there was no church or Sunday School.

If you remember correctly, my printing establishment was at first located in a building that stood back of the present Pell City Drug Co., building.

The first Sunday School was a Union Sunday School and was organized by Mrs. Carol Alverson, and myself, and we had help from Mr. W. H. Miller, Mr. Fred Miller and from many other of the population of Pell City at that time. We arranged nail kegs and boxes in the print shop and held services in there, using the kegs and boxes for seats. Afterwards we started holding church services in the same building on Sunday night.

Later we organized a Methodist Sunday School with the help of the presiding Elder who was then stationed at Gadsden. I believe his name was Robinson, but I am not so sure now. Later the people of Pell City with the help of Sumter Cogswell, W. H. Miller and many others, built a little school house, the little building which in later years became the Episcopal Church (the Church of St. Mary the Virgin is the name the congregation gave it when they took the building over) and Bishop Beckwith of the Alabama Diocese would come there and hold services. Dr. Blacklock, of Anniston was chosen as Rector of that church.

In the meantime the Methodist congregation was organized by the Millers, the Alversons, and myself, and a Methodist church building was erected where the present new church building stands. I was church clerk, a steward and secretary of the Sunday School, then appointed by the Quarterly conference. We chose A. E. Ledyard as our choice for superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School, and later I was appointed by the conference as superintendent. I think my name is among the first names on the old Church register of members.

E. E. Emerson was our first pastor sent by the North Alabama Conference. He was a pioneer, and Pell City was in the Eden Circuit at first, being pastor at Eden as well as Pell City. He also had at that time the old Fishing Creek Church at Sedden, and I believe he held services at Riverside.

I was very much interested in the church and along with all you good folks we had some fine experiences.

Later the Baptist organized a Pell City congregation and built their building where the new beautiful church building now stands.

I would be very neglectful if I failed to mention the fact that the Pell City Manufacturing Co., owners of the textile mills in Pell City, contributed in many ways to the financial assistance of all the churches, and that the people in Mill made up a good part of the congregations.

Pell City had the reputation of being the "friendly city" in that section and this friendly and helpful spirit paid-off in bringing some of the best people in the world to settle in your town."

Land was donated for the site to the present High School Building and Negro School. The old schoolhouse, which is now being torn down to make for a new and modern city hall, was built in 1905. Professor F. M. Matthews was principal at that time.

A new High School building was built in 1930. The continued growth of Pell City, the consolidation of schools, which brought pupils to Pell

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A new High School building was built in 1930. The continued growth of Pell City, the consolidation of schools, which brought pupils to Pell City High School from other schools in South St. Clair, created a crowded condition that only new school rooms could take care of.

The County School Board proposed to appropriate \$25,000, if and when patrons of the school raised \$15,000. A committee of three, composed of Mack Davis, C. D. Gray and J. L. Hagland was selected to raise the money. In a few weeks the required amount was raised.

With county appropriation and state aid a nice high school building was built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Sumpter Cogswell located on West Cogswell Avenue.

The building burned down in Dec. 1945, and very soon afterwards the more modern present high school was erected.

The first P. T. A. in Pell City was founded in 1924. Mrs. John W. Moore was president. Mrs. T. H. Estman, and Mr. J. L. Hagland are two of the living charter members.

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 charged that it was unconstitutional to have two sets of court in one county. Some of the citizens of 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 abolishment of the court here 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 of their pioneering ancestors, the people of the southern section of the county set to work to have the sessions of the circuit and county court re-established at Pell City. The campaign waxed warm. 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 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 Branch Court at Pell City would be legal. Ed D. Hamner of Attalla, Alabama announced himself as a candidate for the State Senate on the same platform. The election was held in November, 1906 and John W. Moore and Ed 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. He led this group in France during the World War and was killed in action "over there". M. M. Smith who moved his family from Ashville to Pell City in 1903 was another prominent attorney. In 1904 The Pell City Hardware Company was organized. Its officers being John W. More, 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 of 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. Mautz Cashier; Pickens Person, Assistant Cashier. The Bank 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 Saylor General Merchandise Store was located here in 1906. Leroy Truitt operated the first furniture store in the building where Chhen'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.

As the automobile industry progressed, and competition between manufacturers 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 the 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.

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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 way of Eden to Cook 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 appalichian range exist here. In the appalichian 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 gass seepage in many parts of the county that points to the presence of oil and gas. 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 boxite, 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 the conhy ran high. Several major oil companies were interested and contemplated moving in machinery and drilling here. 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.

WATER

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. Fotten, 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 miles (airline) from Pell City, as the logical source of water supply. Mayor Embry was authorized by the town council to start whatever legal preceding 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 county 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 east or south. Pell City is a good cotton market

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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, barbershops, shoe shops, places of recreation, athletic activities, baseball basketball, etc, was 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 4 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 Talladega. The road from Pell City to ~~Riverside~~ Birmingham by way of Leeds was built. 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 where Alexander's Garage is operating at the present time. Insurance agencies were also established. The Post Office was moved to its present location along about this time. The Postmasters of Pell City have been as follows :

Mrs. N. B. Spears	1897-1905
Miss Hortense Spears	1905-1913
W. L. Millner	1913-1917
Days D. Cather	1917-1923
J. L. Ragland	1923-1936
C. B. Alverson	Acting Postmaster 3 Month
Mrs. Blair Jones	" " 10 "
H. R. Shockley	1937-1952
T. C. Alexander	Acting Postmaster 1952-19 ⁵³
E. L. Love Sr.	" " 1953-3 ^{mont}
L. C. Smith Sr.	" " 1954-19 ⁵⁷
Roy Banks	Acting Postmaster 1957-

The school was 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 City 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. 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

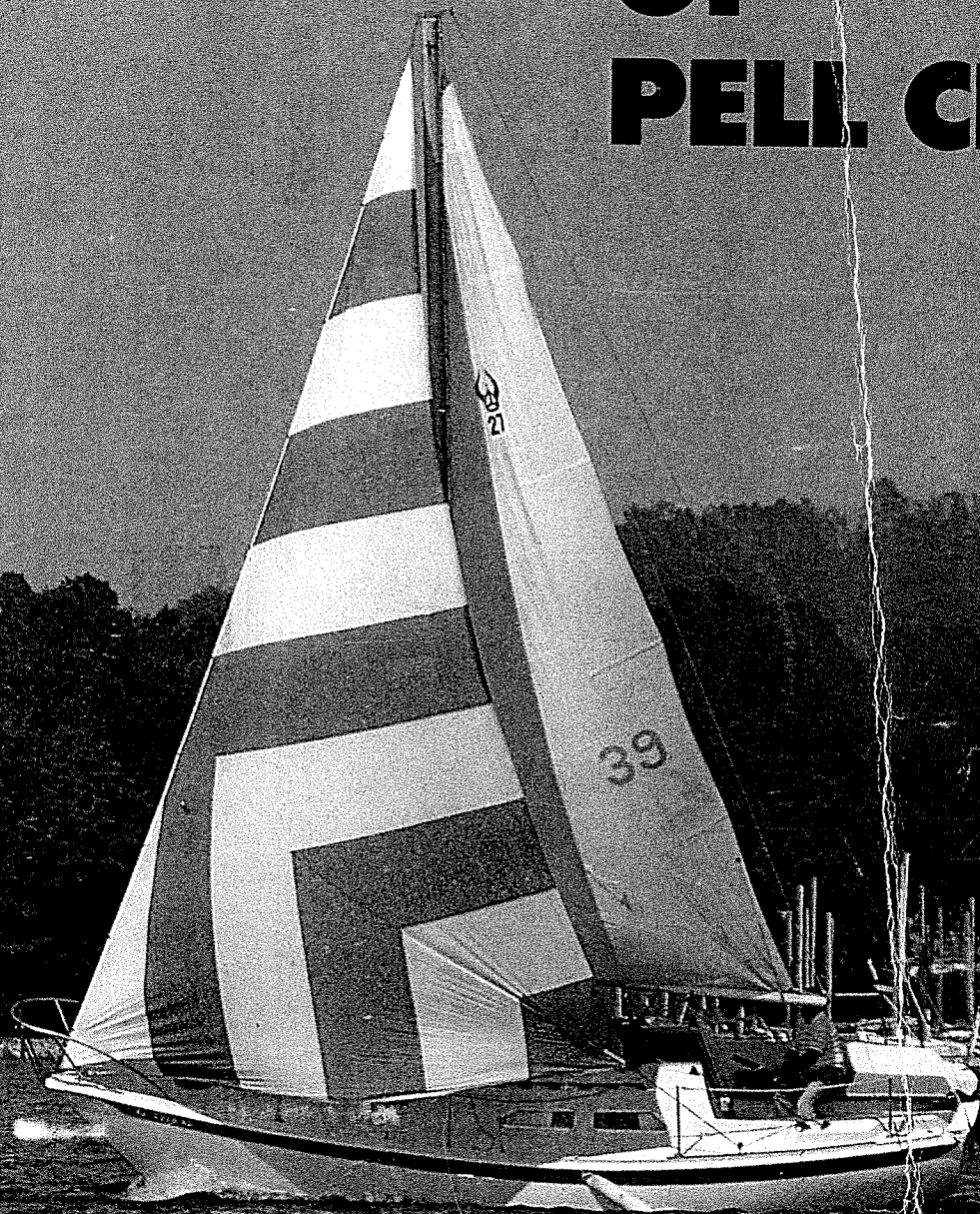
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THE POWER OF PELL CITY





General Signal, Benjamin Moore, Sandy Hill, Verdyol Alabama and more than a dozen other U.S. and foreign firms have chosen Pell City, Alabama as a site for their new manufacturing operations.

Pell City is the crossroad of The South, adjacent to Birmingham and Atlanta and near other key southern cities. We're also within 600 miles of

Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and other major cities where most of the country's heavy industry is located.

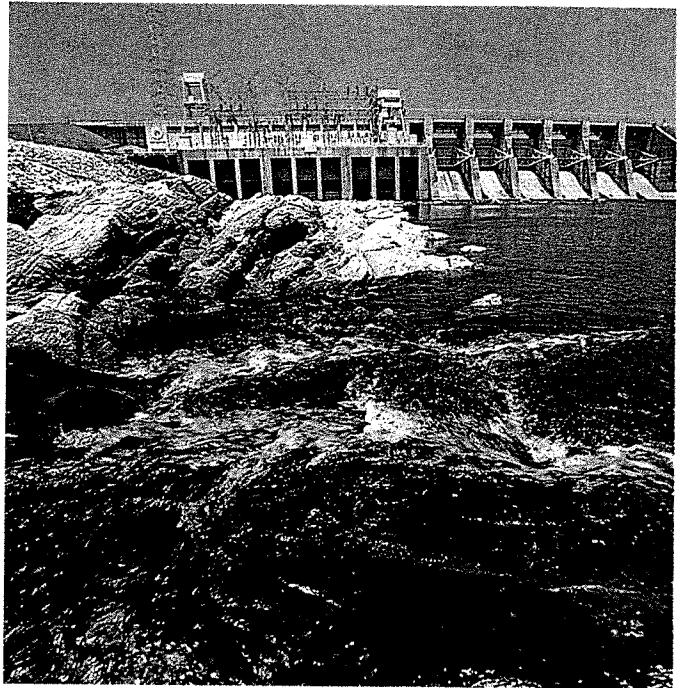
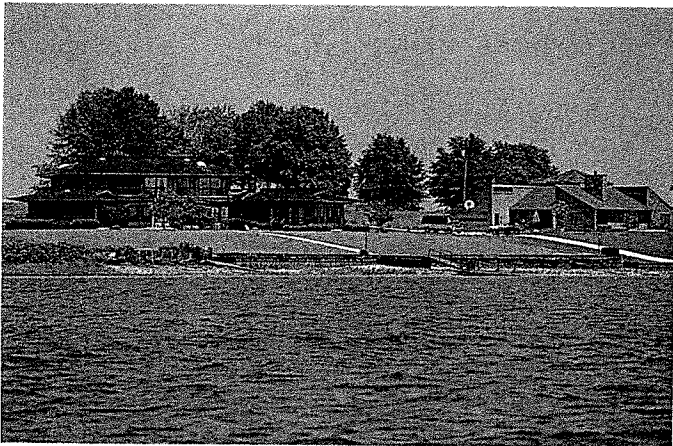
From paints and plastic products to transformers and material handling equipment, these major corporations recognized the fact that Pell City means Profits!

A Great Place To Be

There is a power in Pell City. It manifests itself in many different ways. Power in the energies generated by natural and man-made resources . . . the river, the wind among the tall natural Pines, the force of the huge turbines at the Lake Logan Martin Dam. This mix of natural energy and hydro power combined with the sheer energy generated by the citizens of this small town with the heart and determination of a big city.

Pell City is a home town with metropolitan advantages. Located only 32 miles from the state's largest city, Pell City is also easily accessible to any city in the Southeast. Studies show that 35% of the United States population is within 600 miles of Pell City. With Interstate 20 and US 231 surrounding the city, we have the advantages of a major metropolis yet none of the drawbacks.

Interstate transportation is but one of the modes for quick access to Pell City. Many of our industries have their own planes housed in the city's airport. Others keep jets at the Birmingham Municipal Airport. Rail lines surround Pell City, with Norfolk Southern Corporation, and piggy-back services available.



Leisure time activities are important in any city. Lake Logan Martin is the focal point for water sports for a six county area. Built in 1964 by the Alabama Power Company as a waterway development on the Coosa River, Logan Martin has 350 miles of shoreline.

The town's Civic Center provides residents with tennis courts, a gym, jogging track, 93 acre park, conference and banquet rooms. Pell City also has two private country clubs.

The arts are a leisure-time concern for Pell City also. There is a civic chorus, theater, children's theater, and an active art association. All the advantages of Birmingham's, the state's largest city, arts happenings are less than an hour away.

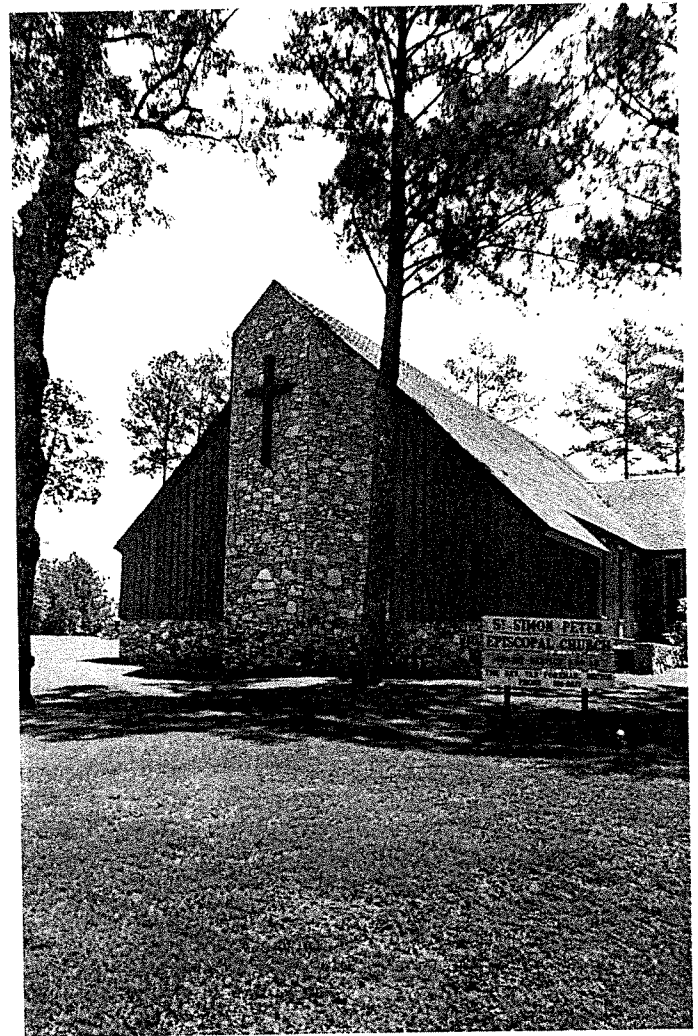
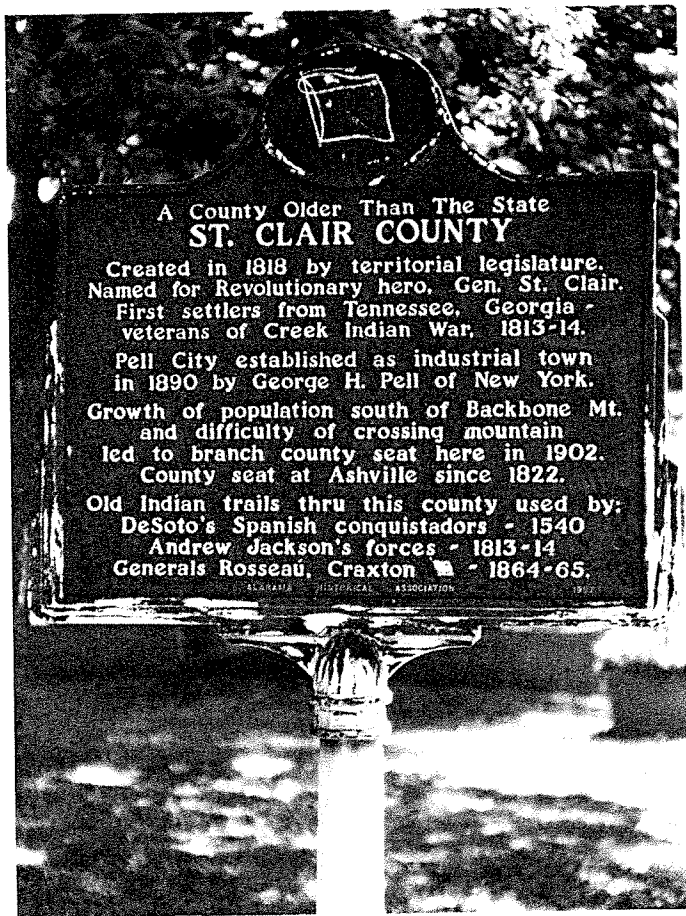
Industry is second nature to Pell City. With an attractive tax base, natural resources, support industries and a township willing to go the extra mile to attract and keep industry, Pell City aims to continue being a haven for new business opportunities.



A Great Place To Grow

Pell City residents today maintain the same sense of pride as did the Creek and Cherokee Indians who once occupied the area. The lakes, streams, abundant forests, rich soil and ideal climate which attracted the Indians remain a settling point today.

St. Clair County came into being as an official county on November 20, 1818 during the Second Territorial Legislature. Pell City is the county seat and the largest city.



The opportunities for personal growth in Pell City outnumber those to be found in most big cities in the Southeast. Because the city fathers think futuristically; they act futuristically.

Pell City has a variety of lifestyles. From casual lake living, to farms to in-town homes. In 1980, the median cost of a new, lakefront home was \$72,000 while off-lake properties sold for about \$52,000.

Schools and churches are priority items in Pell City. The city school system operates six schools with an enrollment of more than 3,000 students and over 160 teachers. The public school system includes special education facilities. There are two private schools in Pell City.

The 25 churches in Pell City represent most denominations.

Our hospital is a full-service health care facility priding itself on a medical staff which represents a range of services from emergency medicine to general surgery. An 82-bed facility, it was built in 1970 and employs more than 200.

Police and fire protection; downtown shopping and local convenience centers; local Civic Center and ball playing fields all blend together to make Pell City a complete town.



A Great Place To Work

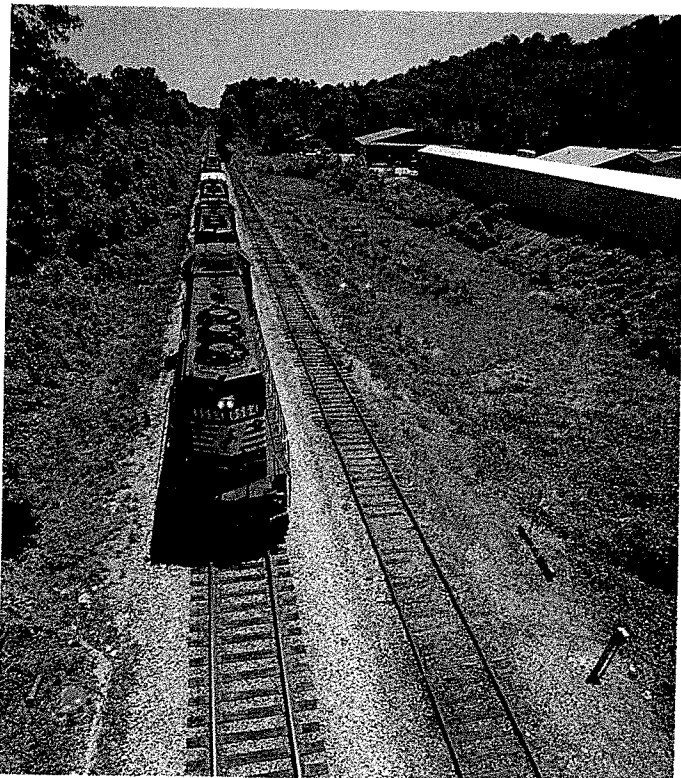
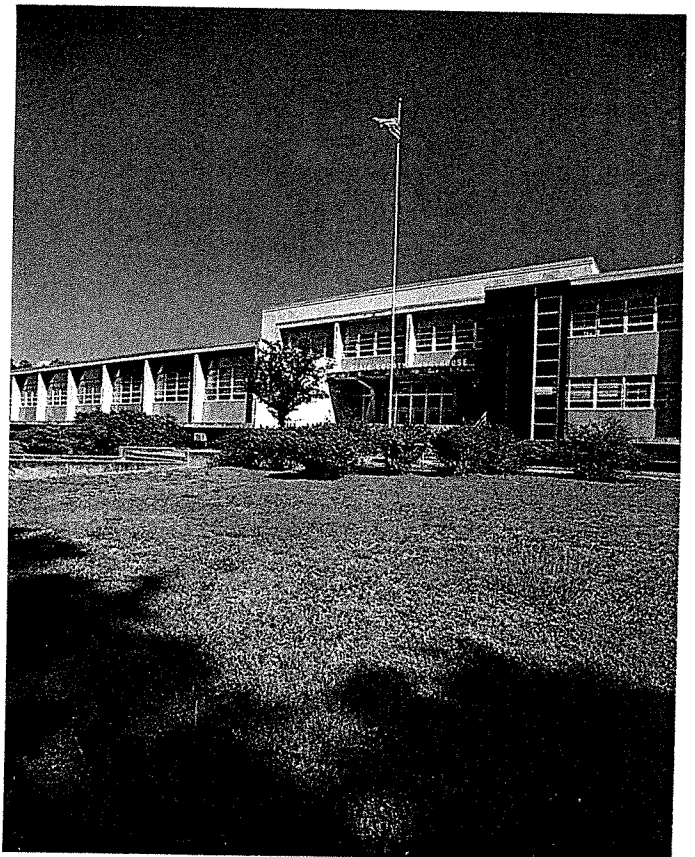
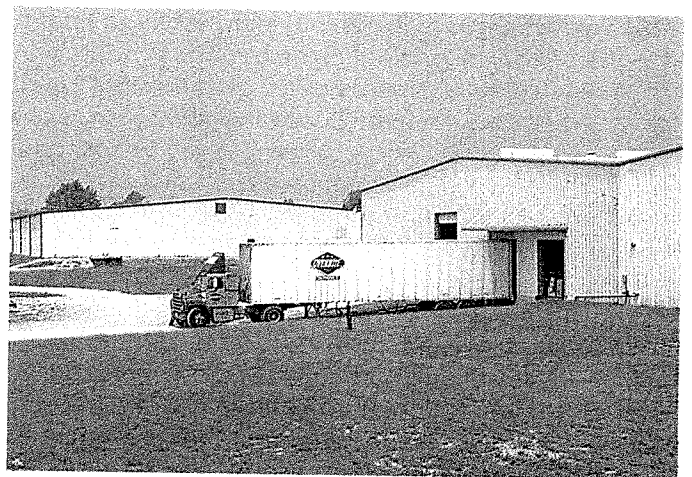
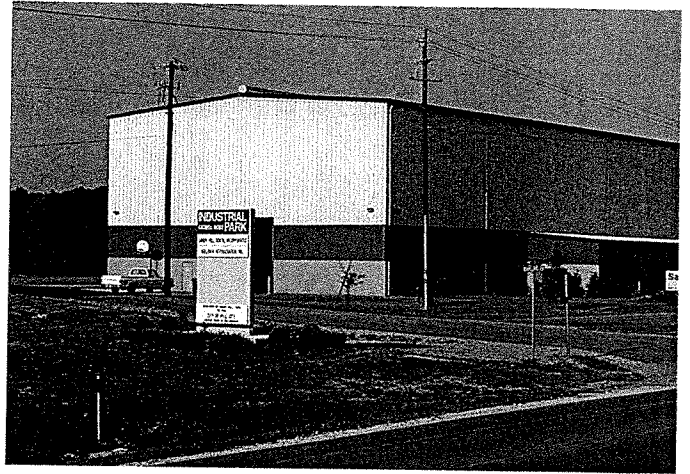
Pell City was made for business. In addition to its natural resources and its convenient location, Pell City has all of the other elements which businesses are looking for: exemptions; income tax breaks; low taxes, and Industrial Revenue bond financing.

We are a busy town. There are two Industrial Parks totaling more than 400 acres of competitively priced property for companies looking for an ideal location. The parks are served by all utilities and have direct highway access. One of the parks is serviced by rail.

With a population of more than 43,000, St. Clair County has a work force of more than 17,000. The unemployment rate for St. Clair County was 7.2% in 1985.

City services are generous. The Mayor and City Council members are active working members of the community. The city police force includes 16 full-time officers. A Class 4 fire rating for the city is insured by the 13 full-time firefighters.

Banking assets in Pell City are in excess of \$160,000,000 with two full service banks and one savings and loan association.



PELL CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM
BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Billy Pack
Board of Education
25 12th Street South
Pell City, AL 35125
884-4440

BOARD MEMBERS

Tommy Turner, Chairman
10 1st Avenue North
Pell City, AL 35125

Earnest White
P.O. Box 42
Pell City, AL 35125

Mary Ann Robinson
2800 Abbott Drive
Pell City, AL 35125

Samuel Smith
P.O. Box 445
Pell City, AL 35125

Hugh Williamson
P.O. Box 115
Pell City, AL 35125

**PELL CITY SCHOOLS
"STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE"**

At no time in recent history has the nation's attention focused more on public education than today. The citizens of Pell City take great pride in knowing that while the President's National Commission on Excellence in Education was issuing its scathing indictment of education, we had already decided to improve our schools through the establishment of the Pell City School System. When we decided to push for a city school system, the driving thought behind it was to improve education and strive toward excellence. Though still considered in our infancy, our school system is showing evidence that we were right. We are one to two years ahead of the State Plan of Excellence in Education in many areas and the local INDICATORS OF EXCELLENCE looks great.

The Pell City School System was organized in 1982 to become the 128th school system in Alabama. The school system currently operates 6 schools: Coosa Valley Elementary, grades K-5; Eden School, special education; Iola Roberts Elementary School, grades K-2; Walter M. Kennedy, grades 3-5; Duran Middle School, grades 6-8; and Pell City High School, grades 9-12.

Total enrollment in the school system is approximately 3300, including approximately 1650 students who live outside Pell City city limits and who are transported into the school system under an agreement with the St. Clair County School System.

An additional 34 acre site has been purchased adjacent to the middle school and high school for a facility to meet the growth needs of a progressive city.

SINCE 1982:

PELL CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

- Requires 23 credits for graduation in either the Advanced Academic, General or Vocational Curriculum whereas the State Board only requires 22 credits.
- Has increased in an enrollment of 2757 in 1982-83 to an enrollment of 3305 in 1990-91 - an increase of 17% or 548 students.
- Computer labs, teachers and/or aides are provided for each school - aiming to make all children "computer literate!"
- Alabama Graduation Exam percentages have raised significantly. Now higher than the State average.

"Striving for Excellence"

Page 2

- Kindergarten space is provided for every five-year old child in Pell City.
- Parent involvement at "open house" has been increased by 200 per cent.
- Out of local funds, 10 new teacher units, 12 new teacher aides, and 4 new special education units have been added.
- Three new Special Education Aides have been added, along with 2 new Elementary Counselors and 1 Psychometrist.
- A Drug Free Schools Coordinator is on hand.
- Ten new school buses and two new handicapped buses have been purchased.
- Curriculum alignment is under way -- creating curriculum guides that lead to teaching what is to be tested and to test what is taught. We are systematically working to develop student test-taking skills.
- A Community Education Program has been established.
- Programs being implemented are: An Adopt-A-School program which is a partnership between businesses and schools, a Volunteers in Public Schools (VIP) program, and the Middle School concept.
- Through the Parents and Learning (PAL) program, parents are getting more involved in the learning process.
- School facilities are made available for junior college classes in the evenings.
- Emphasis is being placed on the selection, placement, and career development of personnel assimilated into the system.
- Position descriptions and an evaluation instrument on all personnel are provided.
- The number of teachers with advanced degrees is now up to 50% plus.
- Student enrollment in Advanced Mathematics has increased to 28.5 per cent and in Advanced Science to 23.4 per cent.
- The number of students taking 2 or more years of the same Foreign Language has increased to 102.3%.

- Advanced Foreign Language enrollment has increased to 11.3%
- Advanced Diploma Program enrollment has increased to 38.3%, increasing it's number of graduates to 18.2 per cent.
- Student enrollment in the Advanced Placement Program is now up to 150.
- Students taking Algebra I prior to the 10th grade has increased to 36.2 per cent.
- 68.2% of Vocational students continue education or go into related jobs.
- All schools provide self-serve breakfast and lunch programs.

COOSA VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Coosa Valley Elementary School is located on a 19 acre site approximately 3 miles south of the central business district of Pell City. The original structure was built in 1964 of masonry and steel. The building as it presently exists contains 11 classrooms; a library containing 4163 books and 287 other media material; and 4 portable classrooms. There is an outdoor play facility for physical education classes. Coosa Valley has 13 regular teachers, 1 special education teacher, 2 teacher aides, 1.5 other certificated personnel, and 1 administrator/principal - Thelma Jones. It has a student per teacher ratio of 17.9/1. The percentage of personnel with advanced degrees in 49.4. There are 3 micro computers at Coosa Valley. The address is Route 1, Box 110, Cropwell, Alabama 35054 and the telephone number is 338-7713.

- Writing labs and a citizenship program have been established.
- Students now have a Music Program.
- Volunteer Programs for Art and Spanish have been established.
- All grades now have Chapter I Instructional Reading.

EDEN SCHOOL

The Eden School site is approximately 7 acres. It is located about 2.5 miles west of the central business district. The school consists of 1 steel frame and masonry block building constructed in 1949. It contains 5 special education classrooms, 6 East Alabama Skill Center classrooms, 2 bookrooms, 2 Alternative Education classrooms, 1 administrative office, and a maintenance room. The Eden School has 2 special education teachers and 1 speech/language teacher.

- Services available for 0-3 year olds - making this system one of the first to do so across the state for the 1990-91 school year.
- Already has an active pre-school program - which is not a requirement by the State under P.L. 99-457 until the 1991-1992 school year.

IOLA ROBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Iola Roberts Elementary School is located on a 10 acre site .5 miles from the central business district. The main building is a two-story frame and masonry block building constructed in 1954. It presently contains 21 main classrooms, 10 portable classrooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, and a library containing 9000 books. Iola Roberts has 34 regular teachers, 1 speech/language teacher, 3 teacher aides, 1 counselor, and 1 administrator/principal - Andrew Wright. The student per teacher ratio of Iola Roberts is 22/1. The address is 810 Martin Street South, Pell City, Alabama 35125 and the telephone number is 338-7312.

- A developmentally appropriate whole language instructional program was instituted in 1988.
- There is cooperative planning between teachers and cooperative learning within the student sector in the academic program that has proven useful.
- Has a group faculty who travel to other schools to teach the cooperative learning/teaching methods and whole language instruction.

WALTER M. KENNEDY SCHOOL

The Walter M. Kennedy School is located on a 14 acre tract .5 miles from the central business district. It is composed of a multi-storied classroom building and a cafeteria building built in 3 different phases beginning in 1949. The final construction in 1964 provided the site a total of 23 classrooms; 2 portable classrooms; a gymnasium; a library containing 8500 books and 200 other media materials; a cafeteria; and a basement. The student population at Kennedy is 650. There are 26 regular teachers, 2 special education teachers, 3 teacher aides, 1 counselor, 2 administrators/principal/assistant principal - Troy Taylor/Sherry Pate. The address is 813 16th Street South, Pell City, Alabama 35125 and the telephone number is 338-7896.

- A telephone homework line has been established for each teacher.
- Enough Apple Computers for an entire class are made use of on a weekly basis by each student.
- Students are rewarded for academic excellence through a VISA program.
- The Gotcha program rewards students who are found doing good things for others.

O.D. DURAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The O.D. Duran Middle School is located approximately 1 mile from the central business district. This 3 level building was built in 1966 with annexes built in 1970 and 1974. It now has a new roof and elevator. Currently a multi-purpose asphalt pad is being built, as well as the grading of excess acreage, both for future use by the physical education department. It contains 31 classrooms, 5 portables (that house 8 classes), a gymnasium, a cafeteria, a library containing 13,330 items (books and other media material) and 800 computer programs, a counselor's office, and restrooms. The field house/shop has been converted to the "Special Programs Building." Duran Middle School has 35 regular teachers, 5 special education teachers, 4 teacher aides, 2 counselors, and 2 administrators/principal/assistant principal - Robert Hand/Margaret Scott. The address is 309 12th Street South, Pell City, Alabama 35125 and the telephone number is 338-2825 or 338-3749.

- Has instituted a Science Fair and participation in Career Days and Geography Bees.
- All honor students are given recognition on Honors Day.

- Has acquired Southern Association Accreditation.
- Lunch programs, office, and library media center have been automated.
- Established accelerated English, Social Studies, and Algebra in 7th and 8th grades.
- A communication class has been developed to teach desk top publishing, public speaking, word processing, research skills, and tele-communications.

PELL CITY HIGH SCHOOL

The 25 acre site of the Pell City High School is approximately 1 mile from the central business district. It is a new complex. Phase I of the new high school was completed in 1983 and contains 22 classrooms, a library containing 10,405 books and other media materials, and a cafeteria. Phase II was completed in 1988 and contains 20 classrooms, 2 bus ports, 1 choral room, 1 band hall, 1 vocational agricultural department, 1 administrative office, 1 home economics department and 1 art room. The campus also includes a gymnasium, stadium, and a new fieldhouse that was completed in 1987.

- The 1988-89 State Beta Club President, Mitch Brown, is a P.C.H.S. graduate.
- In 1991 won the State talent trophy at State Beta Club Convention.
- Sponsored a Math Meet for the past 3 years.
- 1990-91 Merit Finalist for academics was Bryan Crowe.
- VISA students are recognized at an Academic Breakfast.
- In 1987-88 finished second in both the Jefferson State and Hanceville Academic Decathlon Tournaments - also finished second in 1988-89 in Hanceville A.D.T.
- Finished 4th in 1987-88 District Academic Decathlon, finished 2nd in 1988-89 and 3rd in 1989-90.
- Received 1st place in Alabama Power Energy Bowl for the Academic Decathlon in 1988-89.

"Striving for Excellence"

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- State Academic Tournament 4th place winners in 1988-89.
- In top 10 in 1988-89 for Knowledge Bowl for Academic Decathlon and in the top 15 in 1989-90.
- Placed 3rd in both 1989-90 Birmingham Academic Decathlon and Alabama School Academic Decathlon Tournaments.
- One of top finishers in 1989-90 Global Challenge Academic Decathlon.
- Made 5A Football semi-finals in 1986, made quarter finals in 1987, made Area 10 champs and quarter finals in 1990.
- Won 5A Girls Basketball title in 1987 and 1991 - won 2nd place in 1988.
- At Florida State University's UCA Camp P.C.H.S. cheerleaders won 1st place Overall Camp Champion.
- During the years 1988-89 and 1989-90, four P.C.H.S. cheerleaders were chosen to go to London, England as USA Allstars.
- Cheerleaders also won 1st place Grand Champions in 1988 at South Alabama State Fair Competition.
- Placed 5th in 1988 at Southern Regionals Competition and placed 3rd in 1990, for cheerleading.
- In 1989 the cheerleaders won Camp Co-Champions at the University of West Florida.
- Won 2nd place in Alabama State Cheerleader Competition in 1989 and placed 2nd in 1990.
- Birmingham's 1990 Channel 6 Spirit Sound-off was won by the cheerleaders, a \$2000 computer system, and presented to the High School.

St. CLAIR COUNTY EDUCATION

	<u># SCHOOLS</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO</u>
Elementary	6	2862	21.1
Middle	2	762	24.1
Sr. High	5	2198	21.1

- (A) Annual number of high school graduates: 1990 - 338
- (B) Annual % of high school graduates seeking higher level of education: 1990 - 37%
- (C) Average SAT scores among high school seniors in 1989-1990 term: 18.2%

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL AND GIFTED CHILDREN

St. Clair County Special Education meets the needs of each exceptional student through specifically designed instruction, ages 5 to 21, where implementation through the regular programs is not possible.

Gifted students may participate in a specifically designed program with a gifted teacher at both elementary and secondary levels. Gifted students may also choose to participate in advanced classes on the high school level.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

COOSA VALLEY ACADEMY Established in 1970 to provide an alternative education for academically oriented students in grades K-12. Along with the college preparatory emphasis, CVA is dedicated to assisting students in growth of character with Christian emphasis.

Coosa Valley Academy is a non-profit independent school that attempts to institute a program of instruction that best suits its students needs from Pre-Kindergarten through the 12th grade. Primarily this program is designed with college preparation, Christian concepts, and moral principles in mind. Coosa Valley has a favorably low student teacher ratio and is accredited by The Alabama Private Schools Association and the Alabama Accreditation Association. It is governed by Coosa Valley Academy, Inc. (all parents) through a Board of Directors elected by the Foundation, who in turn, are responsible for the governance and finances of the school.

For more information write or call: Coosa Valley Academy, P.O. Box 98, Chancellor Ferry Road, Harpersville, Alabama 35078 - 672-7326.

PELL CITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY An application may be obtained at the business office Monday through Friday during regular business hours. An Interview may then be arranged for the parents, the child and the administration.

Pell City Christian Academy uses ABEKA curriculum, which is the most widely used curriculum in Christian schools today. Students learn to read with solid phonics approach and most 5 year old kindergartners are reading by mid-term. The students progress through a sound academic program which prepares them for college and careers. The Bible is taught at every grade level and is a required subject in high school.

PCCA admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

ACTIVITIES include: National Beta Club, Yearbook, Class Officers, Student Government Association, District Spelling Bee, Science Fair, History Fair, Math Competition, Concert Bands (5th-12th Grades), and Field Trips. ATHLETICS include: Boys Football, Basketball, Baseball and Track. Girls Basketball, Volleyball, Softball and Cheerleading.

For more information write or call: Pell City Christian Academy, P.O. Box 794, Highway 231 South, Pell City, Alabama 35125 -- 338-2901.

SCHOOLS - NURSERY & KINDERGARTEN

Bible Methodist Christian Schools
Chula Vista, AL
338-3012

First Baptist Church
Kindergarten - Day Care
2309 2nd Avenue
Pell City, AL 35125
338-3439

The Playhouse
401 22nd Street South
Pell City, AL 35125
338-3690

Wee Wonderland Day Nursery
& Kindergarten
406 4th Street North
Pell City, AL 35125
338-7292

Young Citizens Day Care
& Kindergarten
316 1st Avenue North
Pell City, AL 35125
338-2984

PELL CITY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

I. DAILY SCHEDULE

- A. JAZZERCIZE - Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 6:15 p.m.- 7:15 p.m.
Sunday 4:00 p.m.
- B. WEIGHT WATCHERS - Monday 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- C. TOLE PAINTING - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- D. YOUTH WRESTLING - Thursday 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- E. BODY RECALL - Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- F. GYMNASTICS - Monday 3:15 - 8:15 p.m.
- G. TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY - Thursday 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

II. SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

- A. BASEBALL - BOYS AND GIRLS - AGES 5 - 15
REGISTRATION - JANUARY - FEBRUARY
SEASON - APRIL - JUNE
- B. GIRLS SOFTBALL - GIRLS AGES 7 - 14
REGISTRATION - MARCH
SEASON - MAY - JUNE \$25. PER GIRL
- C. ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

MEN'S OPEN AND CHURCH LEAGUES
WOMEN'S OPEN AND CHURCH LEAGUES
MEN'S INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE
CO-ED LEAGUE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS - MID MARCH
LEAGUE DATES - APRIL - JULY
FALL LEAGUE - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
FEES \$13.00 PER GAME
- D. SWIMMING POOL

FEES: \$1.00 UNDER 12 SEASON PASS: INDIVIDUAL \$35.00
\$1.25 OVER 12 FAMILY \$50.00
HOURS: 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. MONDAY - SUNDAY
SWIMMING LESSONS FOR CHILDREN
- E. FOOTBALL - BOYS AGES 7 - 12 YEARS OLD
REGISTRATION - JULY
SEASON - AUGUST - OCTOBER
\$20.00 PER PLAYER

- F. BASKETBALL - ADULT LEAGUE
 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS - OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
 SEASON - DECEMBER - JANUARY

 YOUTH LEAGUE
 DECEMBER - FEBRUARY
 AGES 7 - 13
- G. VOLLEYBALL - ADULT LEAGUES - MEN AND WOMEN
 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS - JANUARY
 SEASON - FEBRUARY - APRIL
 \$6.00 PER GAME

III. SPECIAL EVENTS

- A. NUMEROUS PAGEANTS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS OF ALL AGES.
- B. AUTUMN LAKE FEST (OCTOBER) - SPONSORED BY THE PELL CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. INCLUDES ARTS AND CRAFTS, ART COMPETITION, SKYDIVING SHOWS, WILD WEST GUNFIGHTER SHOW, CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS CAMP & CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT, MILITARY EXHIBITS, MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT & FOOD BOOTHS.
- C. BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS (JULY) HONORS RACE WINNERS OF THE PREVIOUS TALLADEGA DIEHARD 500 & WINSTON 500.
- D. SENIOR DAY (MARCH) ALL DAY ENTERTAINMENT FOR LOCAL SENIORS AND THOSE FROM SURROUNDING COUNTIES.
- E. HORSESHOW (JUNE) WALKING AND RACING COMPETITION.

IV. FACILITIES

- A. CIVIC CENTER

	MEMBERSHIP FEES:
a. BANQUET ROOM - \$75.00	PELL CITY RESIDENTS
b. GYMNASIUM-\$150.00 plus 10% gate	INDIVIDUAL \$40.00
c. WEIGHT ROOM	FAMILY \$55.00
d. SHOWER ROOM/LOCKER ROOM	
e. GAMES/CONCESSION ROOM	OUTSIDE PELL CITY
f. CONFERENCE ROOM I & II	INDIVIDUAL \$50.00
g. INDOOR JOGGING TRACK	FAMILY \$65.00
h. STAGE	NON-MEMBER \$2. @ VISIT
- B. 4 FIELD SOFTBALL COMPLEX
- C. HORSESHOW ARENA
- D. TWO COURT TENNIS COMPLEX
- E. PICNIC PAVILIONS - 20 x 36
- F. 20 PICNIC TABLES WITH GRILLS
- G. ADJOINING 65 ACRE PARK (PELL CITY LAKESIDE PARK)

- a. 30 x 70 PAVILION WITH 20 TABLES
- b. 2 COMFORT STATIONS
- c. 3/4 MILE GRAVEL WALKING TRAIL
- d. BOAT LAUNCH
- e. BOAT DOCKS
- f. FISHING PIER
- g. 25 OUTSIDE PICNIC TABLES WITH GRILLS

H. SWIMMING POOL

I. 5 FIELD BASEBALL COMPLEX

V. SURROUNDING ACTIVITIES

A. PELL CITY COUNTRY CLUB - 9 HOLE COURSE

- a. MEMBERSHIP - \$500.00 INITIATION - \$30.00 MONTHLY DUES
- b. DAILY GREEN FEES - 9 HOLES \$7.00 - 18 HOLES \$10.00
- c. CARTS - 9 HOLES \$6.00 - 18 HOLES \$12.00
- d. PRO SHOP AND SNACK BAR AVAILABLE

B. PINE HARBOR GOLF AND RACQUET CLUB (MEMBERS ONLY)

- a. MEMBERSHIPS
 - SENIOR (32 YEARS OLD & UP)
 - \$500.00 INITIATION - \$70.00 MONTHLY DUES
 - JUNIOR (31 YEARS OLD & UNDER)
 - \$300.00 INITIATION - \$27.50 MONTHLY DUES
- b. PRO SHOP
- c. SNACK BAR AVAILABLE

C. SKY DIVING CLUBS - AIRPORT 884-9932

D. MOUNT CHEAHA STATE PARK - APPROXIMATELY 45 MILES EAST
 CABINS - MOTEL SWIMMING
 CONVENTION FACILITIES HIKING
 RESTAURANT - CAMPING

E. BIRMINGHAM-JEFFERSON CIVIC CENTER - APPROX. 45 MILES WEST
 THEATRE - CONVENTION HALL - COLISEUM
 ALABAMA HALL OF FAME MUSEUM

F. TALLADEGA SUPER SPEEDWAY - APPROX. 20 MILES EAST
 HOME OF TALLADEGA DIEHARD 500 & WINSTON 500

G. ALABAMA MOTOR SPORTS HALL OF FAME - ADJACENT TO SPEEDWAY
 OPEN DAILY - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

H. CAMPGROUNDS - ST. CLAIR COUNTY

BIG BULL CAMPGROUNDS	884-4748
GENERAL LEE CAMPGROUNDS	525-5115
KNOX LANDING CAMPGROUNDS	338-3403
POWELL'S CAMPGROUNDS	338-4946

TALLADEGA COUNTY	
BLUE EYE CAMPGROUNDS	763-7085
CLEAR SPRINGS CAMPGROUNDS	763-2085
FAITH OUTREACH CAMPGROUNDS	763-2599
NEELY HENRY PARK	763-7085

I. MARINA'S

1. AQUALAND MARINA - 338-7726
 LOCATED ON BLUE SPRINGS ROAD APPROXIMATELY
 ONE MILE EAST OF U.S. HIGHWAY 231

 WET SLIP RENTALS - \$55.00 AND UP
 DRY SHED - \$40.00 AND UP
 LAUNCH - \$2.00
 SHIP'S STORE - SNACKS
2. COOSA ISLAND MARINA - 525-5521
 LOCATED JUST OFF COUNTY ROAD 54 APPROXIMATELY
 TWO MILES EAST OF U.S. HIGHWAY 231

 WET STORAGE - \$65.00 PER MONTH
 DRY STORAGE - \$40.00 PER MONTH
 RESTAURANT/LOUNGE (J.R.'s)
 3 LAUNCHES - \$2.00
 BAIT/TACKLE - MOTOR REPAIRS
 CONVENIENCE STORE - GAS - SNACKS
3. FRANKIE'S MARINA - 525-5357

 WET AND DRY BOAT DOCKING
 PIER FISHING
4. RABBIT BRANCH MARINA - 525-5562
 LOCATED ON RABBIT BRANCH ROAD APPROXIMATELY
 ONE MILE OFF U.S. HIGHWAY 231 SOUTH

 WET AND DRY BOAT STORAGE - \$45.00 AND UP
 SAND BEACH - SWIMMING - \$1.00
 RESTAURANT - SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
5. RIVERSIDE MARINA - 338-2291

 WET AND DRY STORAGE
 SALES AND SERVICE ALL TYPE BOATS
 LAUNCH \$2.00
 STORE - GAS - SNACKS
6. ST. CLAIR SHORES MARINA - 525-5761
 LOCATED JUST OFF COUNTY ROAD 70

 WET AND DRY STORAGE
 PICNIC AREA - SWIMMING

CAMPGROUND
BOATING - FISHING
STORE - SNACKS

7. SHELTER COVE MARINA - 338-7664

WET AND DRY STORAGE
PICNIC ISLAND FOR PRIVATE PARTIES

8. SURFSIDE MARINA - 525-5533
LOCATED ON RABBIT BRANCH ROAD APPROXIMATELY
TWO MILES OFF U.S. HIGHWAY 231

WET STORAGE-\$45.00/MONTH - DRY STORAGE-\$45.00/MONTH
CAMPGROUND - \$85.00 PER MONTH
(NOVEMBER - JANUARY \$45.00/MONTH - \$10.00/DAY)
BOAT AND MOTOR SALES

8. UNIVERSITY MARINA - 884-2628
LOCATED ON FRAIM DRIVE (PINE HARBOR AREA) APPROX.
TWO MILES OFF HIGHWAY 34.

RENTAL SAIL BOATS - 19 - 27 FOOT
SAIL BOATS - WET AND DRY STORAGE
BOAT LAUNCH - \$5.00
HOME OF PINE HARBOR YACHT CLUB

PELL CITY RESTAURANTS & THEIR SPECIALIES

<p>Ark Restaurant, The Highway 78 East P.O. Box 58 Riverside, AL 35135 Bob & Sylvia Cornett 338-7420 Seafood</p>	<p>Dominos Pizza 306 Martin Street South Pell City, AL 35125 Chuck Terrell 338-4780 Italian</p>	<p>Pasquales 405 Martin Street South Pell City, AL 35125 Linda Carpenter 884-4072 Italian</p>
<p>Best Western Highway 78 East Rt. 1 Box 182 Pell City, AL 35125 338-3381 American</p>	<p>Frank's Blue Eye Rt. 1 Box 202 T Lincoln, AL 35096 Frank Johnson 763-7195 Seafood</p>	<p>Paul Manning's Barbeque Highway 231 North Jct. 144 & 231 Coal City, AL 884-2760 Barbeque</p>
<p>Big Bull Restaurant Highway 231 South P.O. Box 147 Cropwell, AL 35054 Jesse Atkinson 338-7172 Beef & Seafood</p>	<p>Hardee's 2421 Hospital Drive Pell City, AL 35125 Lou Ann Forman 884-3700 Fast Food</p>	<p>Pell City Steak House 212 24th Street North Pell City, AL 35125 Joe Wheeler 338-7714 Steak & Seafood</p>
<p>Burger King 1215 Martin Street North Pell City, AL 35125 338-4303 Fast Food</p>	<p>J.J.'s Pizza & Sub Shop 2401 3rd Avenue North Pell City, AL 35125 Paul Story 884-3296 Pizza & Sandwiches</p>	<p>Pine Harbor Restaurant 2407 Pine Harbor Road Pell City, AL 35125 William Bass/Frances Cheney 884-3045 Steak & Seafood</p>
<p>Chardaddy's II 215 Cogswell Avenue Pell City, AL 35125 Sandra Schaeffer 338-7871 Seafood</p>	<p>Jack's Hamburgers 305 Martin Street North Pell City, AL 35125 Wayne & Katie Reeves 338-3040 Fast Food</p>	<p>Pizza Hut 2201 7th Avenue North Pell City, AL 35125 Peggy Payne 338-2211 Italian</p>
<p>Charlie's Country Catfish Hwy. 78 & Hardwick Road Pell City, AL 35125 Charles & Phyllis Bearden 884-3474 Steak & Seafood</p>	<p>Jill's Drive-Inn 600 Martin Street North Pell City, AL 35125 Faye Harmon 338-7186 Fast Food</p>	<p>Rexall Soda Fountain 1901 Cogswell Avenue Pell City, AL 35125 Judy Seals Sandwiches</p>
<p>Coosa Island Marina Rt. 1 Box 659 Cropwell, AL 35054 Mike Morris 525-5521 Mexican-American</p>	<p>Kentucky Fried Chicken 701 Martin Street North P.O. Box 723 Pell City, AL 35125 Wayne Warren 338-3221 Chicken</p>	<p>Sister's Restaurant 1309 South Martin Street Pell City, AL 35125 Sue Rhode/Doris Pfeiffer 338-4959 Steak & Seafood</p>
<p>Dairy Queen 502 Martin Street South Pell City, AL 35125 Richard Ely 884-2445 Sandwiches & Ice Cream</p>	<p>The Little Dipper Rt. 1 Box 642-D Cropwell, AL 35054 Emily Smith 525-5783 Ice Cream & Restaurant</p>	<p>Stemley Station Restaurant Stemley Bridge Road Just across the bridge in Talladega Co. William Huffaker 268-2835 Steak & Seafood</p>

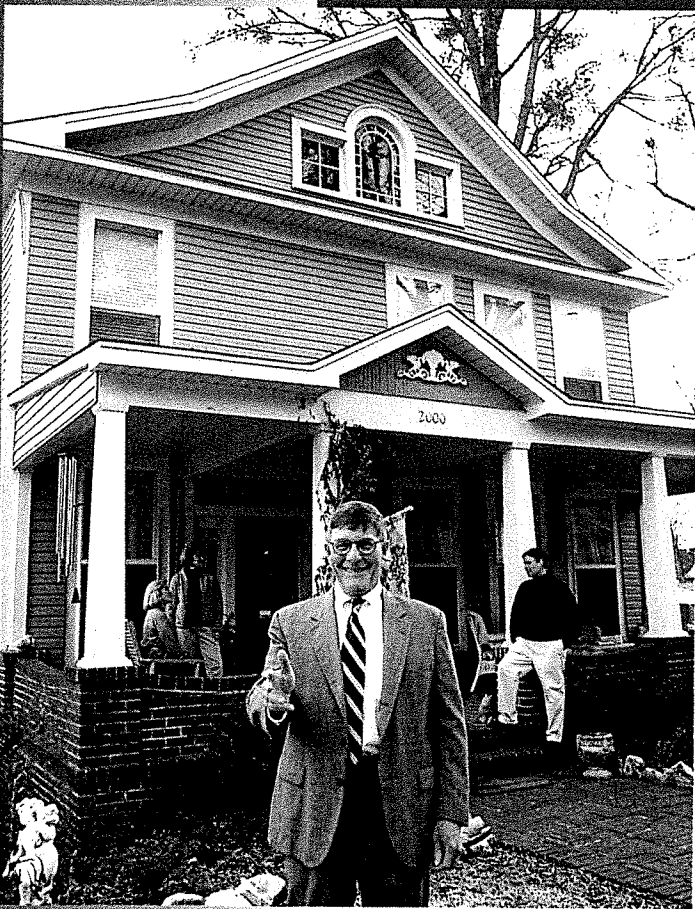
3-B Warehouse Deli-Restaurant
2210 Cogswell Avenue
P.O. Box 480
Pell City, AL 35125
Archie Black/Ronnie Baker
338-3636
338-3399 (office)
Deli

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Welcome to
Pell City

Alabama's Pleasant Surprise!



The Honorable Bill Hereford, Circuit Court Judge of St. Clair County:

Judge Hereford is pictured above visiting at the beautifully restored 3rd Avenue home of his neighbor, Warren Smith. According to Judge Hereford, "We love living in town where you meet the nicest neighbors while walking down the street. Or, you can simply enjoy a friendly chat on the front porch. Pell City is a great place to raise a family and become involved in community living. Our churches, civic clubs and Chamber of Commerce give newcomers an immediate way to become active and involved. Pell City provides all of the positive virtues of small town living while being conveniently located within easy driving range of the big city attractions of Birmingham and Atlanta."

Alabama's Pleasant Surprise!

Quality Growth – A Pell City Tradition

"Quality growth is the key to our future", stated Guin Robinson, Mayor of Pell City. Growth, growth and more growth. That's the word you hear all over Pell City, from the tree-shaded downtown district, to outlying shopping centers to the brand new mansions on Logan Martin Lake. From historic Avondale Mills, the town's oldest and still largest industry, to the expanding Benjamin Moore Company, producing high tech coatings. Growth. No wonder since this is the third fastest growing area in the state of Alabama. In less than ten years the population has doubled. It is predicted to double again in the next ten. From nearby urban areas, from out of state, from far-ranging locales they came and they are still coming. There are many reasons—location, lake, small town friendliness, plenty of jobs—or there could be just one reason. As a newcomer explains, "Everybody wants to live in a town where you can walk the streets at night and not be afraid."

In the first place, it is so easy to get here, to this east central Alabama town located south of the main artery between Birmingham and Atlanta. "Just slip south from I-20," says one citizen, "and you will find a welcome here." Pell City, in southeastern St. Clair County, seems to be just what more and more people are looking for. A small town, close to but not part of the urban bustle, in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains that form a blue scallop on the northern horizon and ringed on the southern and eastern borders by a sparkling 18,000 acre lake for homes, water sports and world famous fishing. To paraphrase a favorite patriotic song, 'From the mountains to the river...My home, sweet home.'

The features that attract people to Pell City today are the same features that fired the imagination of Sumter Cogswell, an insurance agent traveling through in 1890. He was enchanted with what he found: an infant village composed of a depot built by the three railroads that met here and one hotel for the train travelers. Cogswell was so impressed with the natural beauty of Pell City he immediately saw the possibility of a thriving town. Near the river. Looking into the hills. Close to two major markets, Birmingham and Anniston and the three railroads. He organized the Pell City Iron and Land Company which bought the 400 acres for \$50,000 and incorporated the town on May 6, 1891.

A few years later, in 1901 Cogswell again passed through town and found that the panic of 1893-94 had left it virtually a ghost town of only 40 people. This time Mr. Cogswell himself bought the town. No wonder that the main street bears his name. He became a one man industry hunter, donating acreage to bring a textile mill to town. 1,500 people followed. For many years, "the mill was the town, operating the school and the hospital," according to a local historian. That established a lasting legacy of industry and town supporting each other. Retail thrived when the Pell City Drug Co. was founded in 1902 and is still the center of town. In the early 1900's all roads, it seemed, led through Pell City. The famed Washington to the Pacific Coast highway was routed through town. The Bankhead Highway

"River boats transported cotton down the Coosa River in the early days."

from Birmingham to Atlanta was completed in 1933.

During World War I, only one other town in the United States furnished more soldiers and subscribed more for liberty bonds in proportion to population than Pell City.

In 1956 there was more growth when neighboring towns, Eden and Oak Ridge, merged with Pell City. The town experienced steady growth but still, says one resident, "We were kind of a hidden treasure and the lake was kind of a kick-off."

A Hidden Treasure Discovered

The Coosa River winding south of Pell City transported river boats and cotton in the early days. After the steam boat era it was known mostly to fishermen. In 1982, all that changed when Logan Martin Dam was built forming a lake with 275 miles of shoreline, so beautifully curved that it was christened 'The Lake of a Thousand Coves.' This, along with the discovery of a friendly town so close to the city yet so far removed in tranquillity caused a population boom. In 1989 there were 8500 citizens. Less than ten years later, the population reached 16,000. And the results of the very latest 2000 census are expected to reflect that the population is nearing the 17,000+ mark.

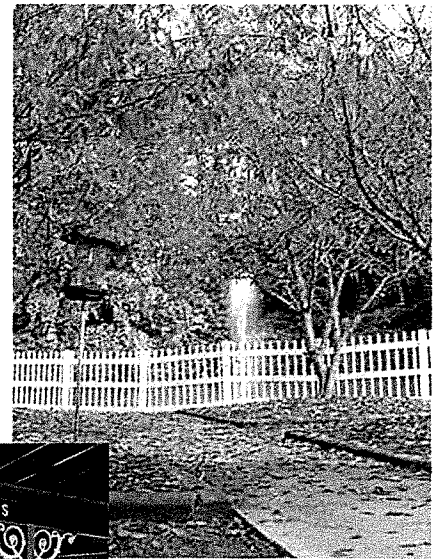


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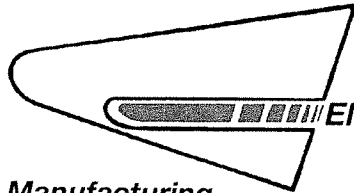
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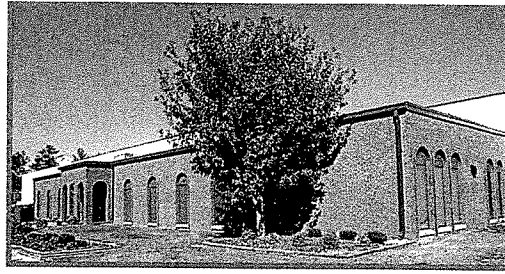
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Yet all this growth has only added to the community's spirit. "You go to the grocery store and you don't know everybody now," explains one long time resident, "but all you have to do is speak and pretty soon you'll know them." Growth is an opportunity for every citizen to benefit. "We're not going to be able to keep it as small so we might as well grow with it." Another old timer says with a smile, "Most are good people and when we draw those who are not, I think we kind of reform 'em."

The mayor and city council, a combination of long time citizens and new residents, is an example of the blending of old and new in this city described by one as, "popping at the seams. If we are going to grow the city must take a major role in controlling its destiny. We believe that while Pell City is in a period of substantial

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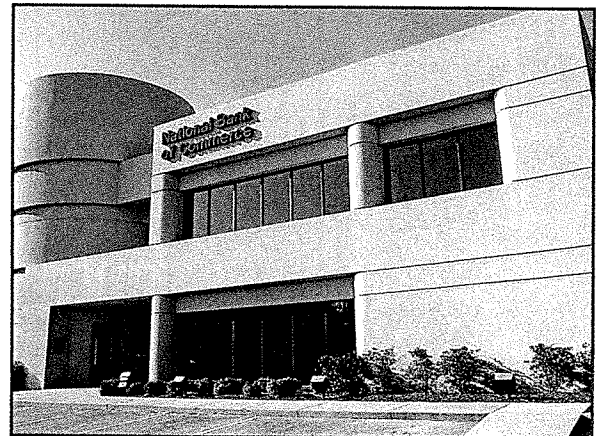
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WHAT GOES INTO THE MIND
COMES OUT IN A LIFE

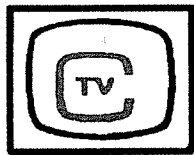
growth, we were elected to see that we maintain a high quality of life while guiding the growth."

Artists, crafters and potters are drawn here, finding in this tranquil atmosphere a setting for creativity. They are welcomed by Pell City native and internationally-known watercolorist, Wayne Spradley.

Churches

"I would say if you want to find friends, find a church," advises a long time resident. The town's first Sunday School was held in the building which stood behind Pell City Drug Company. Small kegs and wooden boxes were used for seats. The Cogswell family donated land for church sites to a number of denominations. From that beginning the town's religious life has grown to 30 churches in the city representing eight denominations with dozens more in the surrounding area. Even with such diversity of denominations, when the community has needs these churches often work together, supporting such efforts as the "Love Pantry" which supplies food for those with special needs.

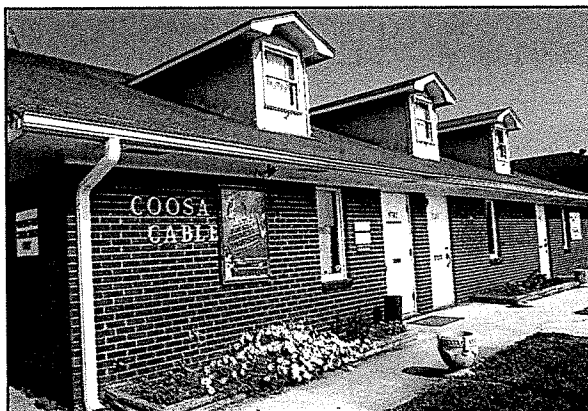
Industry is finding in Pell City, with interstate access, two industrial parks, a county airport and impressive medical facilities, a nurturing environment. There is a rich pool of loyal skilled employees to encourage success. Executives are delighted to transfer to this idyllic spot, some choosing to live within walking distance of downtown, others choosing Logan Martin Lake and all finding a climate that varies just enough, "but no extremes," to keep everybody happy. In the summertime, average July temperature is 82 degrees while January's average is 39 degrees.



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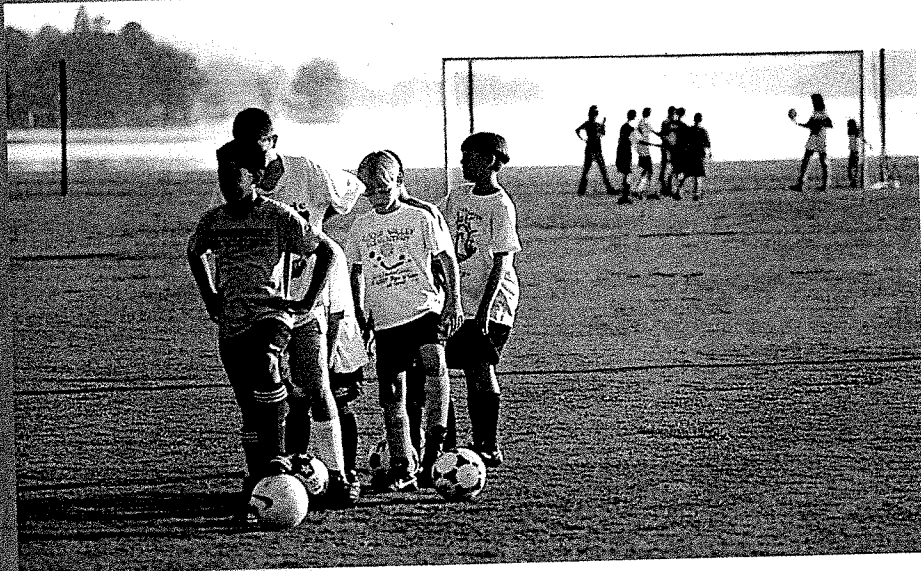
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***Guin Robinson,
The Honorable Mayor of Pell City:***

"We live in an exciting time for Pell City where we're experiencing the most dramatic changes in our history. As our population reaches near the 17,000+ mark, our goal is to make certain our city is run professionally with policies and procedures in place, with benefits to our employees. We must embrace newcomers and new ideas while making sure we encounter smart growth. We are blessed with over 100 dedicated city employees and our budget exceeds \$10 million. Two of our council members have served for over 20 years while two others are currently in their second term of service. We have an outstanding team of leaders working together for the benefit of all citizens. Our community boasts some of the finest recreational programs and facilities in the Southeast, good schools and balanced industrial and commercial growth. Our position on Logan Martin Lake is certainly a major asset as is our prime location on the interstate between the major cities of Birmingham and Atlanta."

Alabama's Pleasant Surprise!

Testimonials to the Good Life!

Perhaps one newcomer says it best: "When we moved here from a larger metropolitan area, we expected a quiet, easy going lifestyle. And we found it. But we were also blown away by the large number of year-round recreational pleasures. From fishing and skiing on the lake to an amazing array of activities at the recreation department, if you're looking for action you can find it here. Our family loves living in Pell City!"

In the famous children's classic, "The Town Mouse, the Country Mouse, the lesson was clear: you can enjoy living in one setting or the other but not both." Obviously, the author never lived in Pell City, where you can have the advantages of both town and country; where there is a small town courtesy and security, quiet lakeside living, and family fun. Yet, 30 miles away on I-20 are the bright lights of Birmingham with plays, concerts and museums or drive 90 minutes east and enjoy the metropolitan Atlanta area. You'll enjoy venturing to the city just because it's so nice to come home to Pell City.

Civic Center - A Haven for Activity

One of the town's favorite gathering spots is the Civic Center on highway 34, adjacent to Logan Martin Lake. Find an indoor gym, classrooms, banquet facilities and a walking track. Built in 1973 and opened a year later, the Civic Center is certainly the focal point of activity for the Parks & Recreation Department. In a recent year, 500 boys played baseball, 400 adults played softball, 200 girls played softball, 200 boys and girls participated in basketball on the new rubberized mondo courts, 150 girls were cheerleaders, 200 boys played football, 250 boys and girls enjoyed the fast-growing soccer program, and 150 adults played volleyball. The impressive inventory lists five lighted baseball fields, four lighted softball fields, a lighted football field, a lighted soccer field, and one multi-purpose field. Tennis has always been a major sport in Pell City, as more than 300 adults and youth play on the excellent courts with tournaments held throughout the year.

As if there weren't enough to do inside the building, surrounding it there is a 65 acre lakeside park with picnicking facilities, pavilions and individual tables, playground for the kids, walking trails, fishing and boat launching. You can see why churches, family reunions, corporations, even wedding parties seek out these delightful facilities. And imagine the community fun when adult teams of softball,

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volleyball and baseball show off their skills for the cheering crowds.

You can see folks walking and jogging along the paved trail beside the lake on any given day. The facilities in Pell City are so impressive they were utilized for training purposes by the Bosnia Olympic team as training facilities for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

According to Tim Sweezy, the director of Parks & Recreation, "We invite newcomers to get involved by calling 338-9713 to get a complete roster of current activities."

Hook, Line & Sinker

If you're hooked on fishing, several local marinas provide all the information you will need to enjoy beautiful Logan Martin Lake, heralded as "the lake of 1,000 coves,"— the perfect hide-away for trophy bass, crappie and other varieties. There's even a boat ramp at the Civic Center grounds which can be your entrance to explore the more than 18,000 aquatic acres. Review the other section regarding "lake living" in this magazine for more information which begins on page 24.

Senior Citizens Center

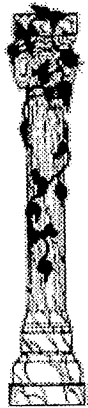
Crafts, games and fellowship opportunities are designed especially for Pell City's most revered citizens. Phone 205/338-6589.

Two Golf Courses

In this year round golf climate, you can tee off twelve months a year on one of two choices for area golfers, Pine Harbor and the Pell City Golf Course.

Arts

Of all its citizens, perhaps the most famous is a native, Wayne Spradley, called by one critic, "the finest water color artist of the times." His paintings are in major corporate, private, and museum collections all over the world. He accepts commissions but also generously shares



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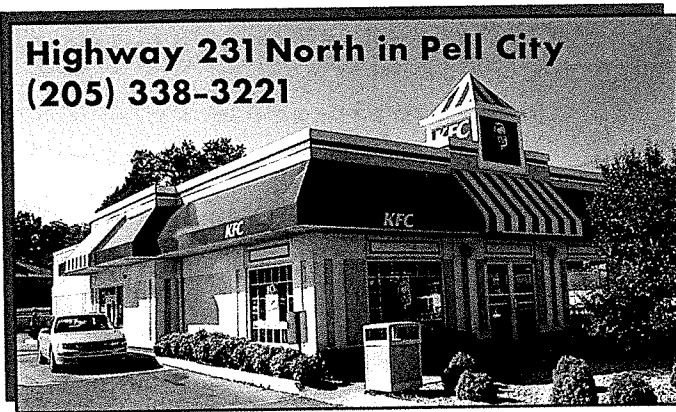


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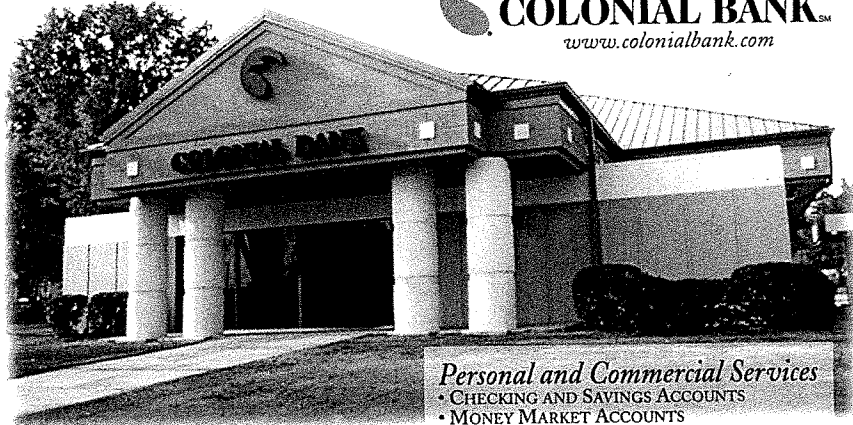


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FINANCIAL STRENGTH IN LOCAL HANDS

his work with the community.

Old Saint Nick Arrives

The second Thursday in December is appropriately circled in red on everyone's calendar in Pell City. That's because it's time for the annual Christmas parade. Months of planning go into this heralded event when Santa Claus comes to town accompanied by bands, floats and other seasonal parties.

Interesting Day Trips

If you can tear yourself away from lake living and plenty of good wholesome fun in town, you might be tempted to visit some of the nearby sites like:

• **Anniston Museum of Natural History:** Travel through the ages as you visit galleries and exhibits revealing the mysteries of nature through incredibly lifelike exhibits. Each hall

FAMILY HERITAGE A LIFESTYLE INVESTMENT

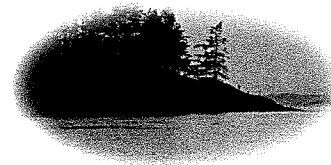


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• **Talladega Super Speedway and International Motor Sports Hall of Fame:** The mecca for NASCAR fans. Besides the two fastest stock car races in the world here, there are over 100 racing vehicles and memorabilia on display. Phone 205/362-5002.

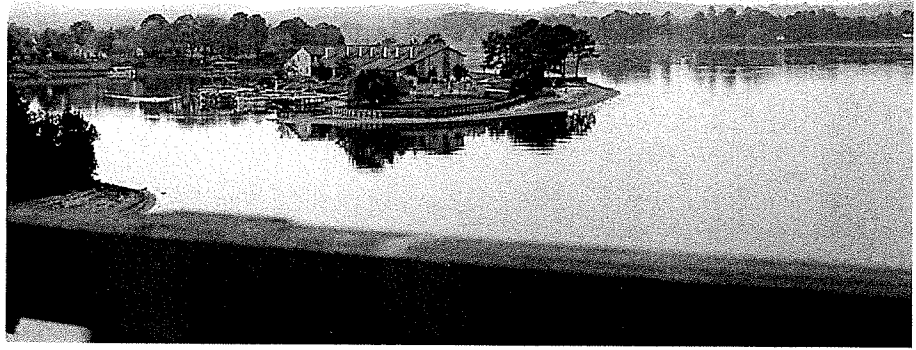
• **Cheaha State Park:** Cheaha State Park is the highest point in Alabama, with breathtaking views, camping, lodge, restaurant and motel. 205/488-5115.

• **John Henry Looney House:** A rare architectural treat is this 1820's double dogtrot style home. Also, there is a museum operated by the St. Clair County Historical Society. Take Greensport Road southeast of Ashville. Open Sat. & Sun. 12-5.

• **De Soto Caverns Park:** See spectacular caves that served as pre-historic Indian habitat and Confederate gunpowder mining center. Also a spectacular laser and light show can be viewed inside the great onyx cathedral. Camping available with full or partial hook ups. Hwy. 75, 5 miles east of Childersburg. Phone 205/378-7252.

• **Birmingham:** Begin by visiting Vulcan, the famous man of iron statue high atop Red Mountain. Try the Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama Theater, Birmingham Zoo and Botanical Gardens, events at the Birmingham Civic Center and sports at Legion Field. At day's end there is plenty of food, nightlife and music.

• **Atlanta:** Big league sports and cultural attractions make "Hot Lanta" a popular destination. Recreational parks such as Six Flags Over Georgia and Stone Mountain Park enthrall visitor. The High Museum of Fine Arts offers world-class exhibitions on a regular basis.



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Logan Martin Lake: A River Runs Through It

Robert Redford's acclaimed film seemed to be an appropriate title for this article since the Coosa River and Logan Martin Lake converge on the outskirts of Pell City to form an impressive combination of waterways, much to the delight of local residents. In fact, there are 47 miles of shoreline within the city limits of Pell City!

Logan Martin Lake's 47 miles is one of Pell City's most exciting features. "It's two lakes really," explains a conservation officer familiar with the area. There is

continued on page 26



June Brascho and her son, Brad Brascho regarding the merits of lake living:

"We have raised six children and 10 grandchildren on Logan Martin Lake and it has been a very worthwhile and enjoyable endeavor," remarked June. According to her son Brad, now a successful businessman and community leader with a family of his own, "We grew up as little water bugs. Every morning my brothers and I would put on a water vest and head to the water." After Brad grew up, he attended college at the University of Alabama, where he became co-captain of the cheerleading squad and also president of the highly competitive university water ski team. After graduation, he continued to set his sights on becoming a national water ski champion. He became one in 1993. Since that time, he has maintained a top-five national ranking in the nation for his age group. He added, "the joys of family living are certainly enhanced living on the lake. And now we are raising our own set of water bugs."



Brad Brascho exhibits his championship form.

the broad lake with many homes, like a big subdivision with plenty of area for water sports. When the Coosa River narrows, the scene changes to a wild and scenic setting where eagles and ospreys soar and deer come to the shore for a drink, trees bend shading branches into the lake, and there is a place for solitude and communing with nature.

Two hundred seventy-five miles of shoreline offers hundreds of coves to fit every mood and activity. Take your choice of shady, sunny, fishing, skiing, or wading. There are sailing clubs and several ski clubs. The shoreline is dotted with marinas, bait shops, boat and motor rentals and nearby there are marine stores, motels and restaurants conveniently located.

Full time residents are a large part of the lake's population living in a variety of homes from cabins to magnificent estate homes and everything in between. Many are professional people

who must work in an urban area but prefer to make the short drive and see the sun set over the lake. In winter they relish the quiet, the cry of a loon, migrating ducks, or the solitary blue heron fishing. During the summer, visitors and vacationers transform the lake into a resort. As soon as school is out, the population soars and the lake sizzles with water skiers and boating fun. Retirees have also discovered this lake and find that with the services, shopping and medical facilities in Pell City close by, this 'country living in the city limits' is the perfect retirement area.

Fishing and Hunting: This is a sportsman's paradise with 18,000 acres for fishing. Fishermen learn that there are actually two different lakes. During summertime's full pool there is plenty of deep cool water where the prize winning bass swim. In winter a five foot draw-down reveals islands and shoreline creating a whole new fishing challenge.

Duck, quail, dove and deer are found on several thousand acres of open permit land for hunting. Numerous private hunting clubs have a place for just about any aspiring hunter.

Bass Master Classic: You know the fishing is excellent when the world's best choose to gather here. This "Super Bowl" of fishing has selected Logan Martin on three occasions—the finest compliment a fishing area can receive.

Pell City's Lakeside Park makes the lake accessible for every citizen, resident or not. Tennis courts and ball fields are cooled by the lake breezes.

In many towns you might hear someone say, "Let's drive to the lake for the weekend!" In Pell City you might hear, "Let's go to the lake for a few minutes, for our lunch break, for the afternoon." It's right around the corner.



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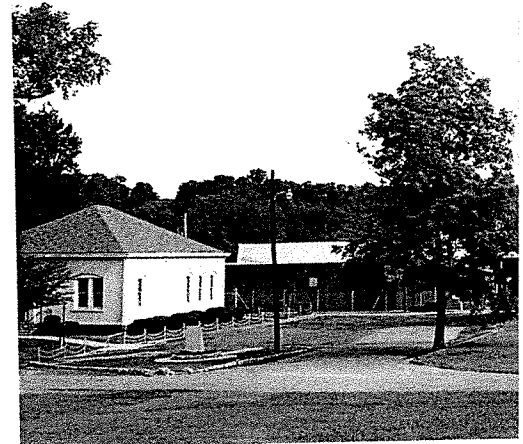
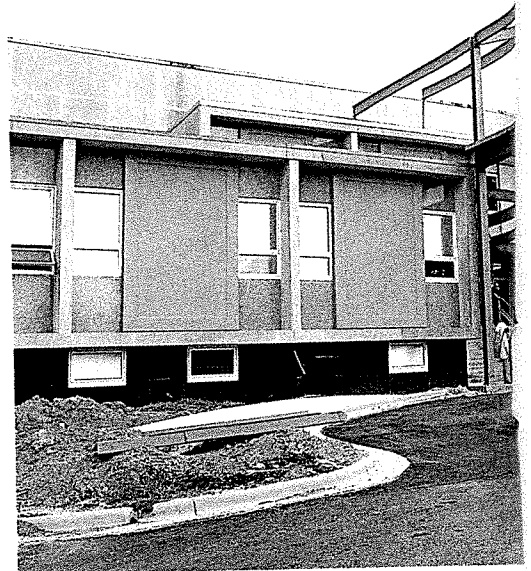


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Brad Brascho & Ed Gardner, Economic Development Leaders in Pell City and St. Clair County:

According to Brad Brascho (left), Chairman of the Pell City Industrial Board, "Our main objective is to locate solid business partners who are right for our community. We manage city-owned property and assist in economic development coordination. We are interested in creating jobs, not selling real estate. We will be more than happy to assist serious prospects and we work closely with the St. Clair Economic Development Council and Chamber of Commerce in marketing our community."

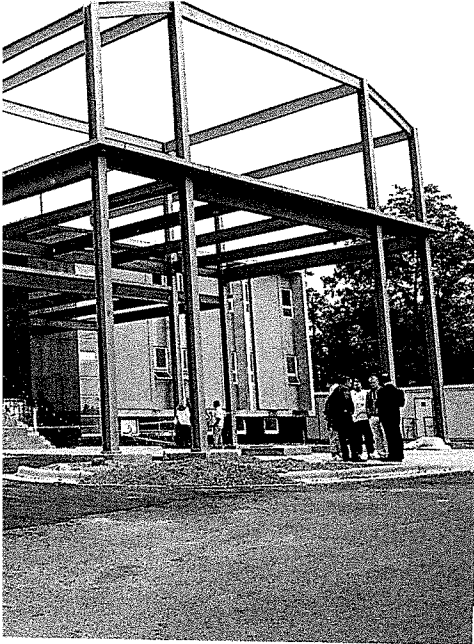
Ed Gardner (right), the Executive Director of the St. Clair County Economic Development Council had this to say about ongoing economic development efforts:

"The Pell City area is poised to take full advantage of the economic impact resulting from Honda Manufacturing locating in the adjoining county. With a fully-developed 400+ acre industrial park within 15 minutes of the facility, Pell City is sure to acquire a number of Honda's service providers. Our most attractive asset is a strong, dedicated work force willing to give a 100% effort. With one of the highest percentage of work-related commuting in the state, citizens are extremely excited about the possibility of working near their home in the Greater Pell City area."

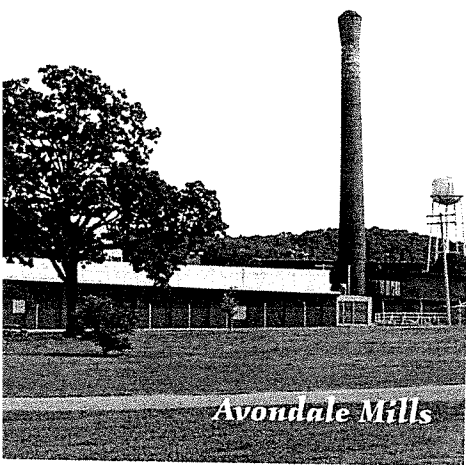
He added, "When industries or individuals select Pell City for their home, they not only enjoy the highest possible quality of life, they also secure the commitment for sustaining this lifestyle by a fully dedicated mayor, city council and county commission. It is impossible to find a political structure with more vision than that of this area."

Alabama's Pleasant Surprise!

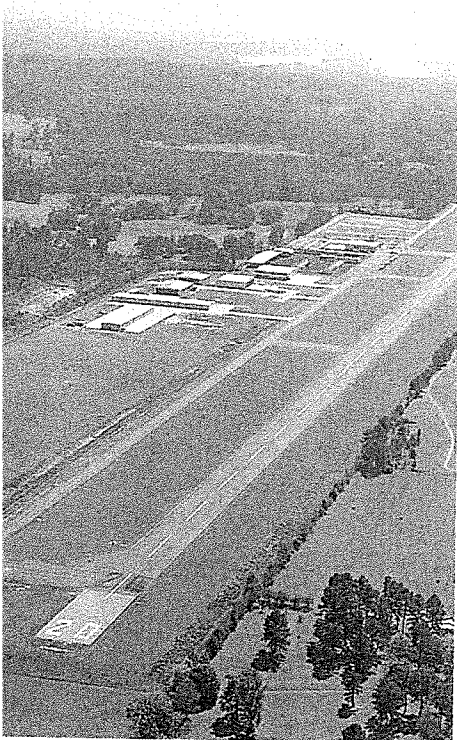
A New Century of Economic Growth



Pell City is poised for new economic growth and prosperity, a trend which carries over from the past decade of steady progress. Existing industries continue to expand. And new interest has been generated in this area of Alabama with the establishment of two nearby manufacturing plants for Mercedes and Honda, creating thousands of new jobs and opportunities for auxiliary services. "With our excellent quality of life and qualified work force, we are in position to be a major player with economic development opportunities," stated a local official.



"An economic hot spot in the Southeast." That is the way the Wall Street Journal described Pell City. "Location, location, location," sums up the reasons for industry's attraction to this mushrooming area. Pell City is adjacent to interstate 20, with two other major highways, 231 and 78 through town, and is situated between the major metropolitan areas of Birmingham and Atlanta, with a major airport 30 minutes away. Add in overnight truck services to and from half the population of the United States and rail service in the industrial park. Combine these with a quality work force drawn from a large area, and it is easy to see why new industries are moving in and equally as important, why existing industries are expanding. One of the lowest unemployment rates in the state is the result, 2%.



When industries arrive in Pell City they see a good thing and stick with it. The oldest industry, Avondale Mills, is the second largest privately held company in the state. "This location has the lowest turnover in our division. That speaks volumes about the quality of what you're hiring. Pell City is a good place to live and raise a family," comments an Avondale executive.

Good news seems to get out and as other industries followed, a tradition of working together developed. Another executive says, "Our relationship with other industries is excellent. There is great camaraderie, a feeling that all the industries in this community are in it together."

This is part of the Pell City plan. A member of the Industrial Development Board explains, "We're looking for people who are going to be good corporate citizens. Our industries are all heavily involved in the community. Many years ago Avondale Mills set the precedent. There is no way Pell City could ever repay Avondale. The industry has touched every aspect of life. Avondale Field was leased to the city for recreation, and the industry still pays for the lights.



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Avondale donated property for the city's senior center. " For its own part, the Industrial Development Board works to anticipate the needs of potential industry and looks for opportunities to strengthen existing industry.

Two industrial parks house 30+ industries. Pell City Park, the oldest, is full. Cogswell Avenue Industrial Park has 400 acres of available property, paved streets, water and sewer, is served by Southern Railway with good neighbors already there. Neighbors who have come close to doubling in size. Benjamin Moore has expanded four times since opening in 1986 and moved its southern regional office to Pell City. Energy Absorption is another neighbor that has doubled its existing facility. Gorbel is a company which manufactures work station cranes. "Accessibility to Birmingham and Atlanta and the ability and quality of the labor in Pell City were major advantages," states a Gorbel company official



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The Chamber of Commerce president believes, "Industries will find this community very open and accepting. It's fun, because the size means there are a number of ways you can get involved, and you tend to run into the same people often, forming wonderful friendships."

Look at this check list for modern industry:

- **St. Clair County Airport:** The airport offers a 5000 ft. lighted runway and around the clock red carpet treatment for pilots and passengers. Flight training and planning, storage facilities, rental aircraft and a courtesy car are also available.

- **Trucking firms:** Companies, both local and in nearby urban areas, provide a wealth of transportation options.

- **Telecommunications:** Verizon, the third largest non-Bell operating telephone company in the nation, serves the area.

- **Media:** Three local newspapers, St. Clair News-Aegis, The Daily Home, and St. Clair Times; radio station WFHK; and the local cable TV channel 12, assure good communications.

- **Transportation access** to nearby Birmingham available with five major railroads, major airlines, seven river barge lines, and 100 trucking firms. Atlanta is our other major market easily accessible by I-20. Highways 78 and 231 make this a crossroads accessible to north-south and east-west.

- **Six major financial institutions.**

- **Industrial Development Board,** an arm of the city, is prepared to nurture new industries with bonds for building and equipment, aid in site preparation and the ability to set up recruiting, screening and training no matter the size of the industry.

Retail Expansion

As the area grows, one of the greatest advantages to our residents is the exciting retail development that is springing up to meet more diverse needs. Downtown, the main street with an eclectic mixture of historic and new stores, is the anchor of retail, retaining

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the sidewalk friendliness that only small town merchants know how to create. This attitude radiates out from this core into modern shopping areas which sought out this healthy retail market plus a myriad of clothing and specialty shops. There is a gift shop in an old log cabin, antique stores, and interior design shops, even sky-diving lessons. "This community supports its own," says one retailer. "We have contact with sales people all over the U.S. and we are told that in our area, retailing has held its own, that in fact our area is above average in retail activity." She continues, "Add to the full-time residents many visitors who are drawn here by the lake. At least one-third of our customers are from out of town." Grocery stores, restaurants for every palate, catering firms, with the broad spectrum of retail shops, thrive in this customer base, a natural result of low unemployment, lake visitors, residents and a growing population of retirees.

Pell City Chamber of Commerce

In a town where changes occur daily, the business leaders must communicate daily and plan together to keep abreast of business evolution. That is the reason the Pell City Chamber of Commerce is the hub of this energetic town. The Chamber keeps in touch with members through informative meetings, vital committees and social functions, plus a monthly newsletter. The office answers thousands of inquiries and researches and mails information packets to potential businesses and industries.

Whatever it takes to keep business rolling, this Chamber will find a way. An innovative move was made when the Chamber and Health Partners of Alabama announced open enrollment for medical coverage for qualifying Chamber member businesses. Dental coverage is also available. (Dental is not through The Oath.) Phone the Chamber at 205/338-3377.

Reaching out into the wider com-

munity, the Chamber sponsors activities around the year. **Business After Hours** is one of the Chamber's most popular functions. It is an informal gathering of members and a chance for local business and industry to spotlight their services.

The **Christmas Parade** each year draws thousands to downtown to kick-off the season. Ol' Santa, bands, floats and costumed marchers create a seasonal spirit that can't be imagined unless you have seen Pell City put on a parade!

The **Citizen of the Year** annual banquet reflects on the true quality of life and recognizes those who give hours and energy to make it possible.

The Pell City Chamber takes a proactive approach in sponsoring several other programs geared to enhance the advancement of local businesses and existing industry.

Leadership Pell City is a program for leaders and potential leaders, and interested citizens of the area, to gain insight into education, health care, industry, local and state government, and other quality of life factors available in the community. This group meets once a month for nine months.

Retail Exchange is a group of locally-owned specialty shops whose owners meet on a regular basis to promote shopping in Pell City.

The **Industrial Improvement Association** meets monthly for the purpose of local industrial leaders to discuss and share ideas for improvements, motivation, and advancement in the greater Pell City area.

Another way local businesses are spotlighted is at **Chamber Coffees**. This is an informal gathering of Chamber members taking place at various businesses during the morning hours.

Business and Industry of the Year Awards salutes the ongoing contributions of corporations and other businesses by serving up an evening that is fun for all.

Small Business Administration: A representative is here regularly to assist new and developing businesses.

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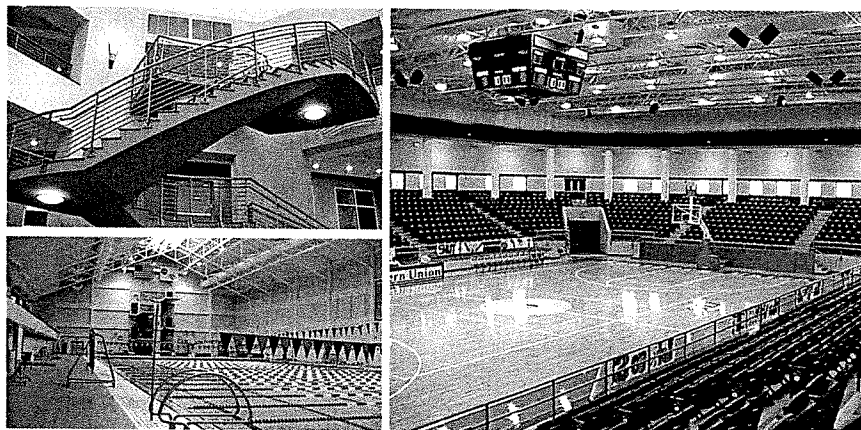
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***Superintendent of Pell City Schools,
Donna Nicholson, Ed D.***

"Pell City Schools are dynamic, child-centered and growing. The system has six schools including four elementary (K-5), one middle and one high school. Our system is on the move and has adopted the slogan "Tomorrow's Promise" as its vision for students. Our schools perform well on national and state exams and has set an ambitious goal of having all schools designated National Schools of Excellence within the next three to five years. The school board and staff believe that our children are living messages we send to a time we will not see."




***Elise McGowan, Director of the St.
Clair County Head Start Program***

"Pell City is a perfect place to live! It is a city that recognizes the true spirit and worth of its citizens...Pell City presents many opportunities for all of us to get involved in various forms of service to others...We also take care of our youngsters by providing them a playful and resourceful environment in which to learn. We also take care of our working class adults, by providing them a thriving industrial locale in which to make a living, and our senior citizens are a vibrant part of our growing community."

Alabama's Pleasant Surprise!

Educating Tomorrow's Leaders



Education is a community priority and always has been since the Pell City School System was created from the St. Clair County System in 1981. Today, the system serves more than 3,800+ students at four elementary schools (K-5), one junior high and a comprehensive high school. The Pell City Panthers compete favorably in state competition and the school is also extremely proud of its excellent band and choral programs. Academic performance is best stated by the large number of graduates who go on to major colleges and universities throughout the United States.

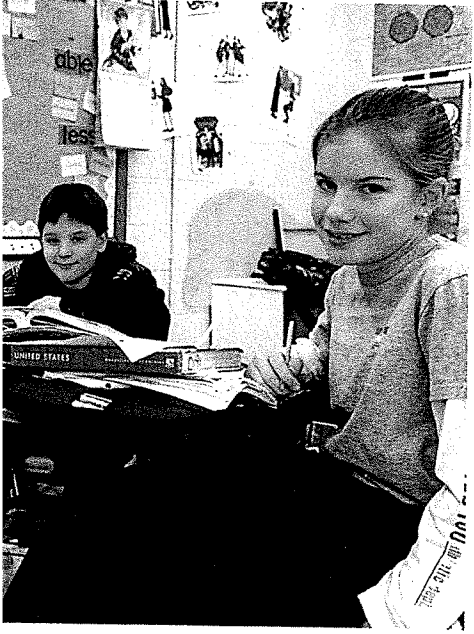
An overview of the system statistics shows that buses transport over 2,100 students daily on a fleet of 35 buses. The System has an operating budget of more than \$24 million per year, with a large number of that budget devoted to building new schools or renovating many of the the older ones.

The Pell City School System has adopted an aggressive emphasis of basic skills at the K-5 level while still providing extra activities such as art, music and physical education.

The Junior High program also emphasizes basic skills, coupled with technologically advanced teaching methods.

The high school features comprehensive programs including advanced placement studies, honors classes, and career/technology classes. Some students attend classes at the John Pope Eden Vocational School, a short bus drive away in St. Clair County.

For more information about the Pell City School System phone 205-884-4440.



Building A Firm Foundation

Believing that the foundation of every community is the education of its youth, the Pell City Schools Foundation was created in 1992 by leaders in business, education and community development. They envisioned a partnership with the schools that would promote excellence in education at all levels of achievement. The business community joins with private citizens in a partnership directed to enrich the educational experience through the use of grants. The funds are awarded to foster creative learning experiences.

The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation and donations are tax deductible. For as little as \$25 or as much as several thousand dollars, citizens or businesses can get involved in "making a difference".

Private Schools

VICTORY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: Kindergarten-4 through twelfth grade, is a private school which takes pride in its academic program with 75% of the graduates going to college. All major sports are also offered. Phone 205/338-2901.

BIBLE METHODIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: 170 students kindergarten through high school, of all denominations, attend classes numbering 12 to 15, occasionally up to 20, and an ABEKA curriculum. A discount is offered for families. Phone 205-338-3012.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST JUNIOR ACADEMY: Serving grades K-8, this Christian-based academy is located off Hwy. 78.

HIGHER EDUCATION: After high school graduation, the world of higher education is readily available, and all within a 50 mile radius. Students can select from 11 colleges

and universities and 7 vocational-technical schools. Armed with strong academic backgrounds, academic and subject scholarships for those who want or require assistance, our students can excel in classroom and leadership roles.

Pell City Library

PELL CITY LIBRARY: plays an increasingly large role in this exciting community. New members come in the door almost daily, becoming a part of many activities. The core, of course, is a growing collection of books which library patrons enjoy from story collections to technical volumes, from children's literature to large print editions. The library is also the center for activities such as a summer reading program. Puppets, clowns, magicians and imaginative crafts are incorporated to teach the younger patrons the joys of reading. Adults can par-

ticipate in learning workshops on a variety of subjects, for example the popular Hummingbird Workshop.

THE LIBRARY GUILD AND LIBRARY FOUNDATION are ways for the community to be involved and support library activities. Thousands of dollars are raised annually through activities such as art auctions and a dinner theater. Library hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9-6; Sat. 9-1. Phone 205/884-1015

PELL CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Central Office

25 12th Street South
Pell City, Alabama 35125
205-884-4440

Coosa Valley Elementary School

3609 Martin Street South
Cropwell, Alabama 35054
205-338-7713

Eden Elementary School

412 Wolf Creek Road North
Pell City, Alabama 35125
205-338-6930

Iola Roberts Elementary School

810 Martin Street North
Pell City, Alabama 35125
205-338-7312

Walter M. Kennedy Elementary School

250 Otis Perry Drive
Pell City, Alabama 35128
205-338-7896

Duran Junior High School

309 12th Street South
Pell City, Alabama 35125
205-338-2825

Duran Junior High School-South Campus

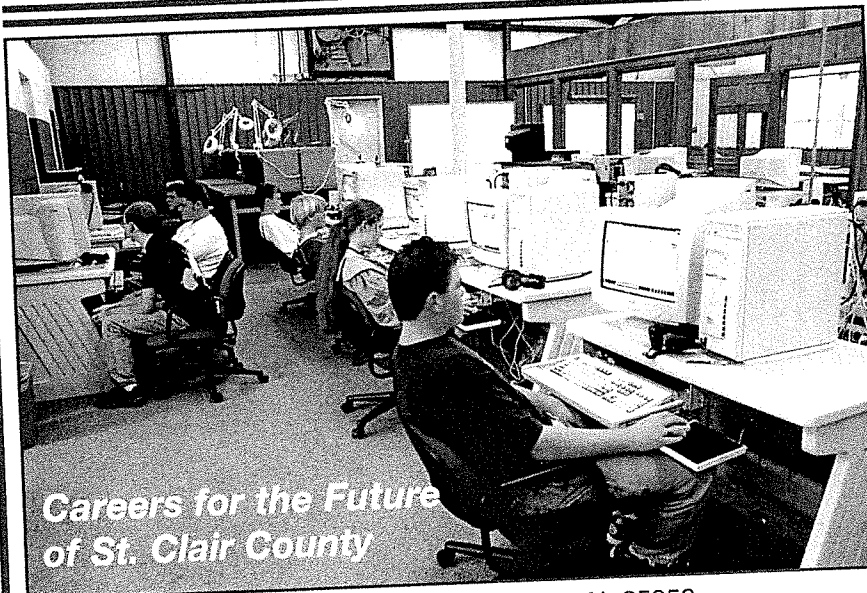
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Tomorrow's Promise. . .

The Pell City School System is dynamic, child centered, and growing. The system has five schools – four elementary, one middle and one high school.

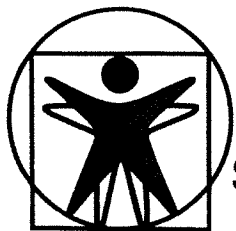
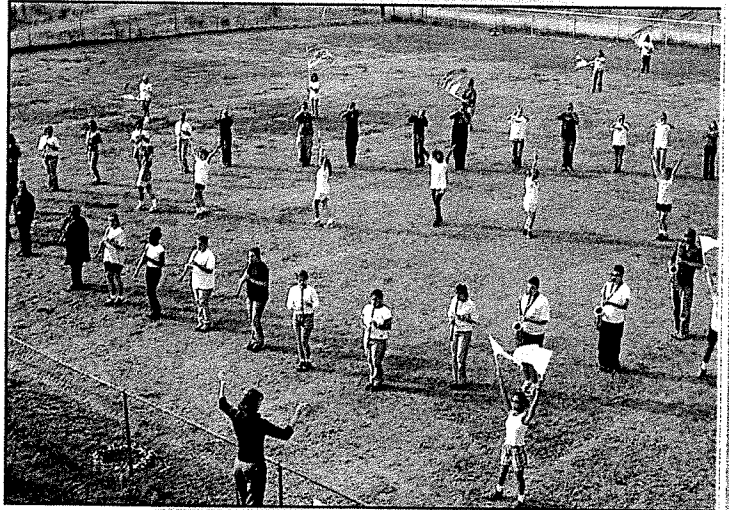
It is located in a beautiful setting on Lake Logan Martin, an area fast becoming a professional bedroom community for Birmingham; a quick twenty-five miles east on Interstate 20.

The community has a proud tradition of rural family values and friendly hometown people. The school system performs well on national and state exams and has set an ambitious goal of having all schools designated national schools of excellence within the next three-to-five years.

The system believes in the concept of teamwork between the staff, parents, and community. A teacher leadership program– the Academic Coordination Team (ACT)–works with administration and staff to focus on academic improvement. Each spring the school system host a Senior Citizens Advisory Day. The System provides transportation on school buses to participants; lunch is provided as well as student performances. The Senior Citizens are given the opportunity to provide written input to the school system concerning its programs and operations.

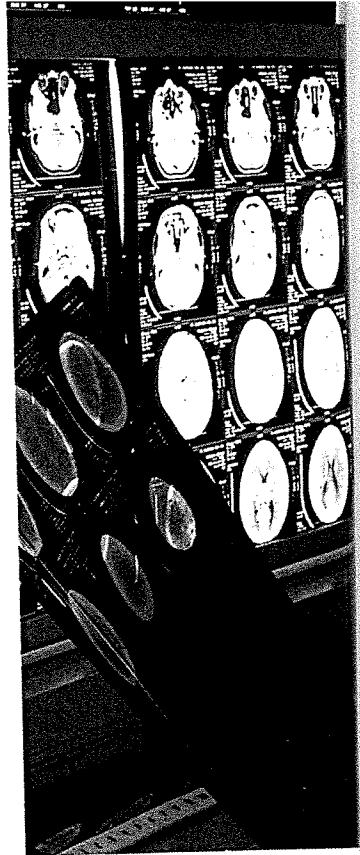
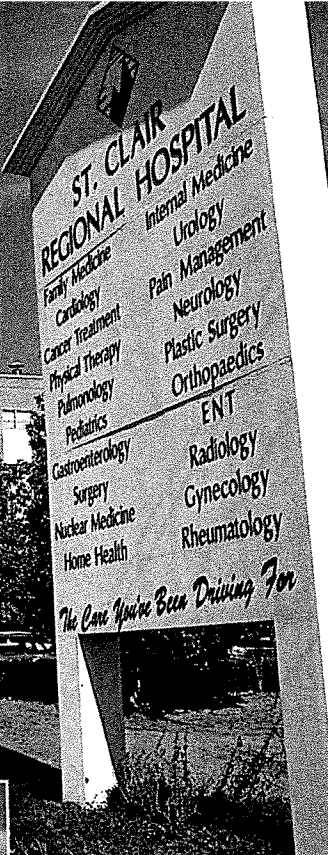
The Pell City School system is on the move and has adopted the slogan "Tomorrow's Promise" as its vision for students.

The school board and staff believe that "children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."



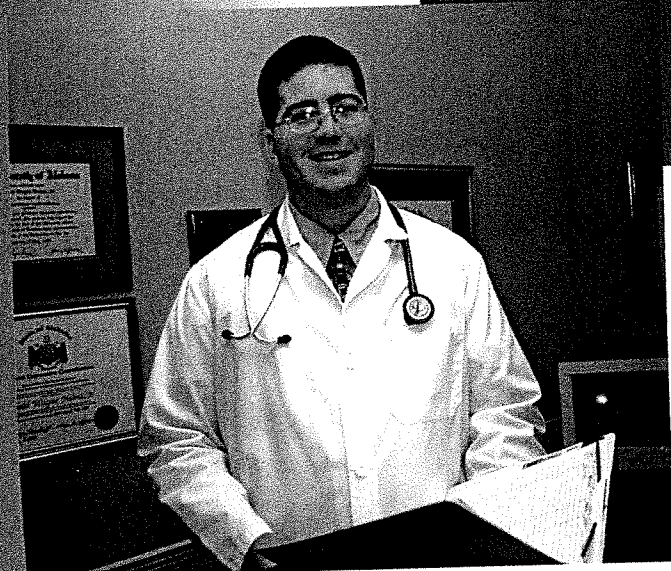
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SCHOOL SYSTEM

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BOE@pell.k12.al.us



Ralph Clark, Hospital Administrator of St. Clair Regional Hospital

"St. Clair Regional Hospital is dedicated to meeting the growing health care needs of our patient and community with skill, professionalism, caring and compassion." Last year alone, more than 1,700 surgeries were performed and the emergency department served over 15,000 patients. St. Clair Regional Hospital has served Pell City for more than three decades.



Ronald ("Rock") Helms, M.D, a prime example of a young professional returning to live in Pell City:

"It seemed natural for my wife and I to return to Pell City. We enjoyed growing up in a small town and we want our kids to have the same kind of memories we experienced living in Pell City. The community is truly a great place to work and raise a family. As a young professional in family practice, I am proud to be part of the Pell City medical community."

Alabama's Pleasant Surprise!

Progressive Public Services for all Citizens

Elected city officials have the vision and foresight to ensure citizens live in a safe, caring community. City Hall is undergoing a \$1.8 million renovation to more efficiently serve the growing needs of the community. In addition, health care facilities and other medical specialists provide ultramodern services to one and all.

City Government: Pell City's Mayor and five council members elected by district, are a prime example of what makes the town work along with the fast growth. City Hall is a combination of long time residents and newcomers who, feel that change is going to bring positive results as adjustments are made to absorb the growth. Presently the city is in good financial shape with every intention of keeping it that way. A ten year plan to deal with the city's phenomenal future growth is a major item on the agenda. Over 100 City of Pell City employees maintain a high level of service to residents. The annual budget exceeds \$10 million.

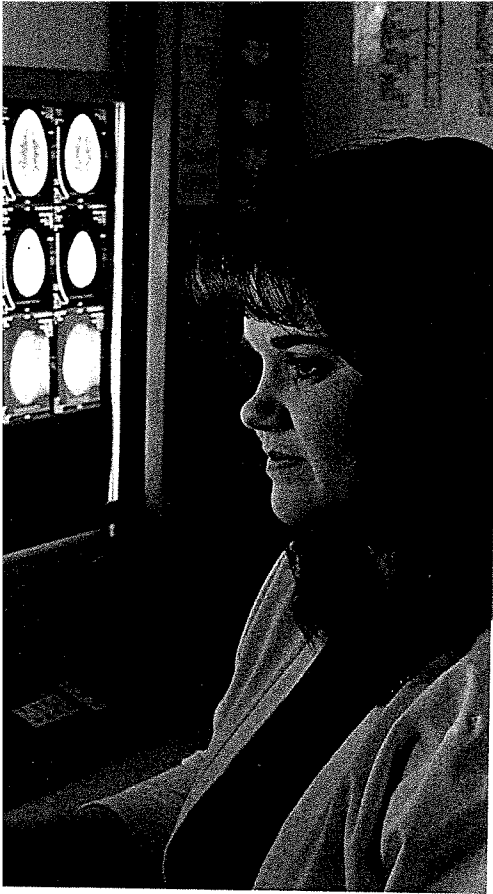
Fire Department: Pell City has had and is still having tremendous growth observes the Fire Chief. He and 36 other employees are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assure that growth is safe. A fourth fire station opened recently in the Eden area, because of additional annexation toward the interstate and revising Eden Elementary School, along with new construction in that area. Firefighters, all state certified, are supported by four pumper trucks, a quint ladder truck, two rescue units and a service truck to furnish an on-site supply of oxygen along with a fire rescue boat stationed at the lake.

Of the 14 paramedics the chief says, "I would put my fire medics against any medic in the state.

Fire prevention is still a major emphasis along with the "life safety codes" for all construction within the city limits. The department has added a new Haz-mat and trench rescue special unit to their resources in the year 2000.

Fire Academy: Training "Alabama's Bravest" is the motto of the fire academy located in Pell City and under the jurisdiction of the city's fire chief. One reason the city's fire department is privy to the latest technology and training methods is this, the only accredited fire academy in northeast Alabama.

Police Department: The Pell City Police Department is the largest city force in the county. With 33 employees, 30 sworn officers and 3 civilian per-



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sonnel, the department strives for citizens to enjoy a safe and peaceful community environment.

The police department makes the community's youth a priority with two D.A.R.E. officers who double as School Resource Officers. This provides the high school and junior high students a mentor relationship within the schools. Officers keep the community involved with a Citizens Police Academy, where citizens learn about the law enforcement process. A Community Relations Officer makes sure that Pell City streets and neighborhoods are kept problem free. He also assists in Neighborhood Watch programs.

The department works closely with the Emergency management Association providing a liaison officer to assist the Emergency Operations Center should the need arise. Citizens can e-mail the department at pellcitypolice@pell.net with any non-emergency inquiries.

To aid the officers in their jobs, the department has a volunteer chaplain, computer aided composite drawing program, a Field Training Officer program, radar trailer, tactical bus, ten-member Special Response Team, a computerized message board to keep them current, two trained hostage negotiators and a certified polygraph examiner.

The Pell City Police Department is a charter member of the 30th Judicial Drug Task Force, which covers St. Clair and Blount Counties. They have 100 percent membership in the Alabama Police Officer Association, and the majority of the officers are members of either the Fraternal Order of Police or the Police Benevolent Association. The department is constantly striving to keep Pell City a safe place to live and work. City officials, recognizing the

vital part they play in orderly growth, give both fire and police departments consistent support.

Citizen Involvement: There is a strong vein of caring that runs throughout Pell City involving thousands of citizens. United Way campaign is highly successful. Habitat for Humanity uses hands on skills. Love Pantry supplies food for those in need. Bridge Builders, a unique program begun by a small group of Pell City residents to plan children's summer activities, has grown to encompass the entire year and the entire town. They are located in the same newly constructed building with the Boys and Girls Club.

Civic Clubs and Interest Groups: Civic clubs and interests groups abound, fun for everyone and a great way to meet people. Rotary, Civitan, Kiwanis, Lions, Business & Professional Women, Daughters of the American Revolution, Garden Clubs, Alumni groups, Square Dance Clubs, Elks, Masons, Veterans' organizations and Animal Shelter are just a few of the diverse groups.

St. Clair Regional Hospital

For more than thirty years, St. Clair Regional Hospital has met the health care needs of Pell City residents. SCRH is a comprehensive medical center offering inpatient care, full outpatient services, diagnostic services, home health care, primary care physician clinics and a multi-specialty physician facility. The highly-qualified medical staff at St. Clair Regional Hospital includes board-certified physicians experienced in the most vital and demanding specialties. Enhanced technological capabilities are evidenced in Radiology Services, with CT scanning and Nuclear Medicine; in the sophisticated Pulmonary Function Laboratory; the state-of-the-art Dialysis Center and Gastrointestinal Laboratory, and the

The Children's Clinic



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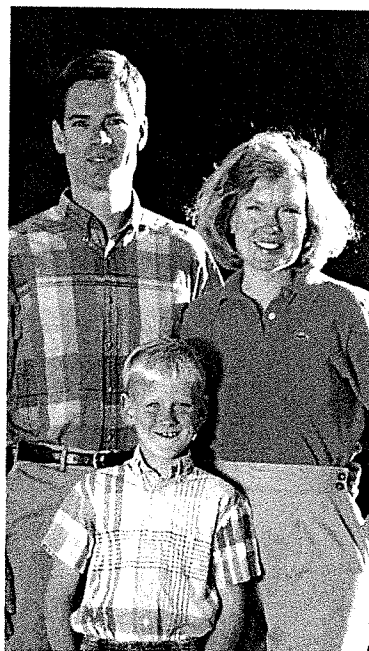
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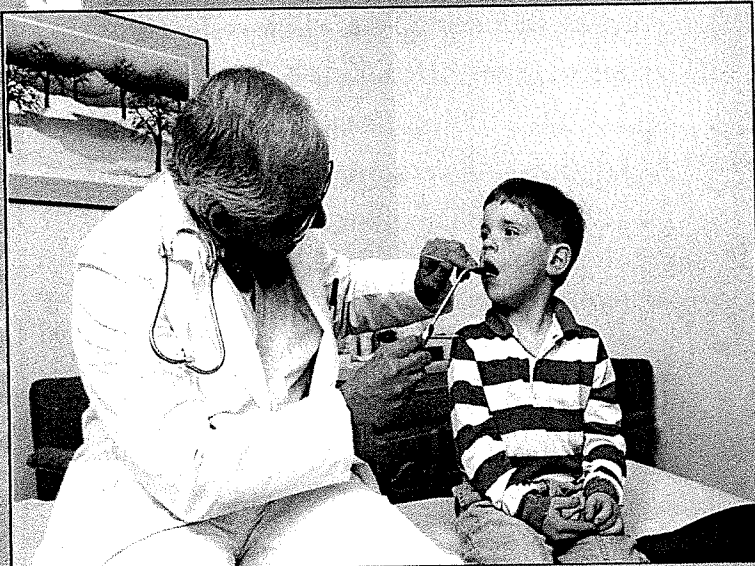


St. Clair Regional Hospital

In 1968, St. Clair Regional Hospital opened its doors and began the mission of providing quality healthcare to Pell City and surrounding communities. Today, as part of an integrated healthcare delivery system, St. Clair Regional is a comprehensive medical center offering inpatient hospitalization, full outpatient services, diagnostic services, home health care, primary care physician clinics and a multi-speciality physician outpatient clinic.

St. Clair Regional has continued to provide the latest healthcare technology to patients including computerized tomography scans, bone densitometry, echocardiograms, mammography, nuclear medicine, and vascular studies.

ST. CLAIR REGIONAL HOSPITAL



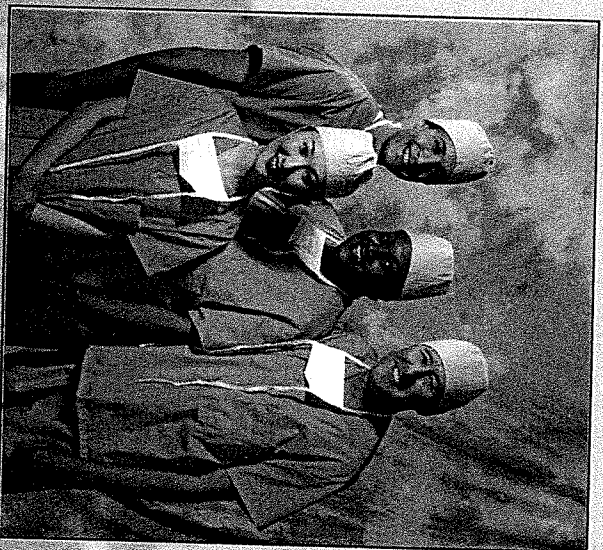
Using today's technologies, many surgeries can be performed without a lengthy hospital stay. Outpatient surgery procedures at St. Clair Regional include orthopaedics, gynecology, gastroenterology, otolaryngology (ENT), urology and pain management.

In 1995, following its mission to enhance the health and well-being of the community through expanded services, St. Clair Regional partnered with Birmingham's Medical Center East and Brookwood Medical Center.

The highly qualified medical staff of St. Clair Regional Hospital includes physicians certified and experienced in the most vital and demanding specialties:

anesthesiology, cardiology, emergency medicine, family practice, gastroenterology, general surgery, gynecology, internal medicine, nephrology, neurology, obstetrics, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, otolaryngology (ENT), pain management, pathology, pediatrics, pulmonology, radiology, rheumatology and urology.

These doctors teamed with a dedicated professional staff of nurses, therapists, technologists, technicians, pharmacists and counselors provide an unsurpassed level of care to every patient.



St. Clair Regional offers a commitment to continued excellence.

It is dedicated to meeting the growing healthcare needs of its patients and its community with skill, professionalism, caring and compassion.

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St. Clair Regional Hospital

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PELL CITY

MAGAZINE

2013 - 2014

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community

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Facility setting the
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BEYOND TODAY

Chamber developing a new vision for its city

Story by Carol Pappas
Photos by Jerry Martin

Erica Grieve is an advocate. As executive director of the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce, she sees it as her role and her job but more important, she sees it as the mission of the organization she represents.

"We are an advocate for small business for the community," she says. "We really want to focus on not just PR and events, the Chamber has to focus on small business — increasing business, money and jobs."

Since coming on board in 2012, Grieve's first order of business was increasing membership for the Chamber, strengthening the base from which it operates.

With an impressive gain of more than 125 new members added in the past 12 months, Grieve's success is becoming legendary in the city. She credits the soaring membership roster to building relationships and communicating with people throughout the community it represents.

"When you join the Chamber and write out that check, by the end of the first year, I want you to feel like that was worth joining the Chamber and that you are proud to be a member of the Chamber," she says.

President Randy Mason agrees with Grieve's approach. "Everybody is pleased with how much she gets out in the community, not with just new businesses but existing business leaders." She has brought a new excitement to the Chamber, Mason says, and it's coming not only from board members who are already involved, but people, in general, throughout the community.

Connecting with the entire community on all levels is strengthening the Chamber's message.

A variety of methods to build a Chamber success story is being employed. Business-to-business discounts are offered through the Chamber's membership. Monthly networking events are held to give businesses the opportunity to build relationships. Quarterly luncheons hosted by businesses in the community and featuring top-notch speakers add to a greater sense of involvement. And a newly developed welcome packet now greets new businesses and residents, giving them the information they need about their newfound home.

But the enhancements don't stop there. Weekly electronic newsletters translate into more communication with members, keeping them informed not only of what is going on inside the Chamber but across the community as well.



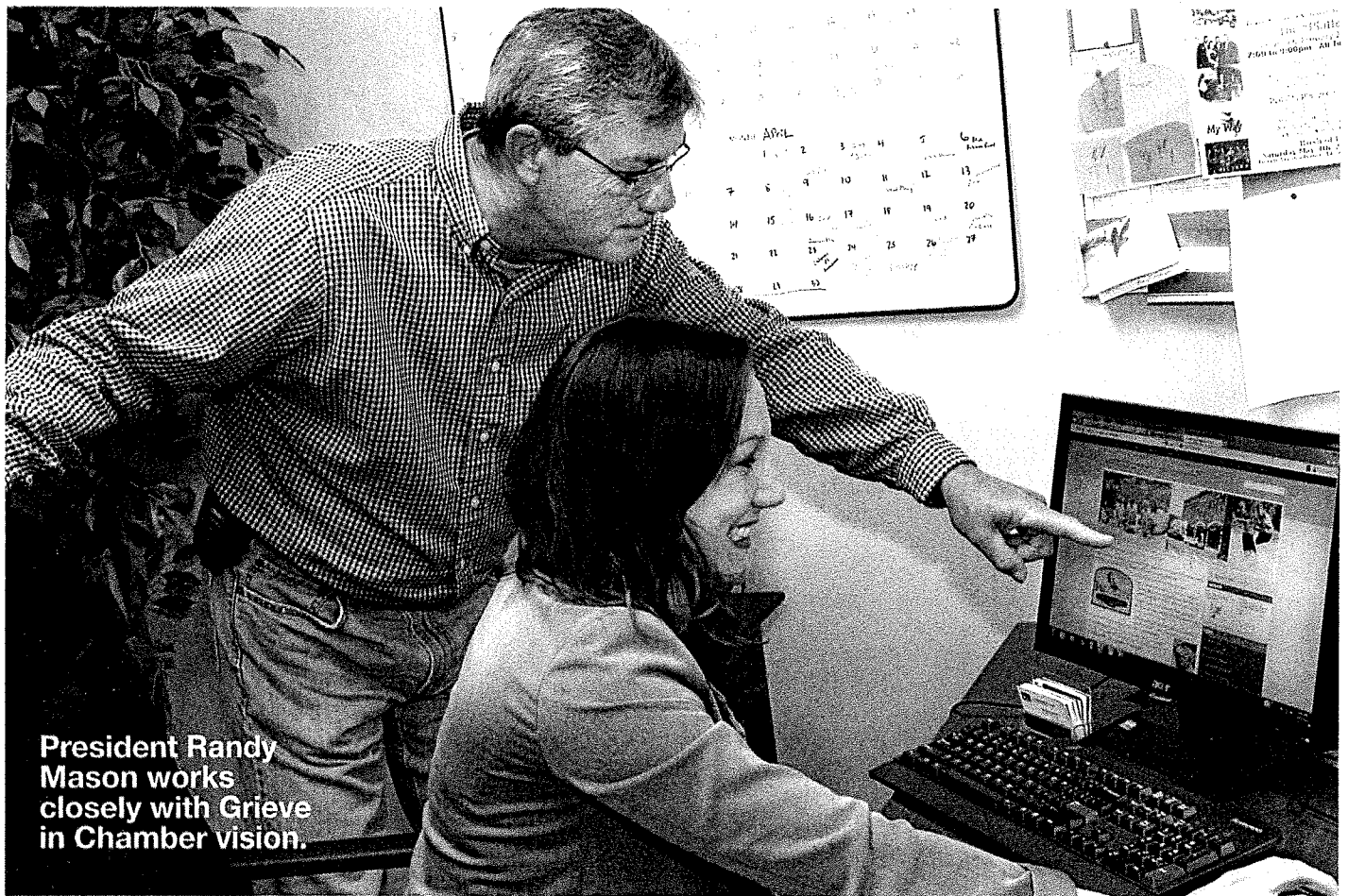
**THE GREATER
PELL CITY
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

338-3377

**OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00am - 4:00pm**



Director builds relationships with members like Tommy Barrows, Pell City Coffee Co.



President Randy Mason works closely with Grieve in Chamber vision.

The Chamber's website is being improved to better serve members and promote the city, a site that already draws more than 6,500 page views per month.

A new 40-page tourism brochure to promote what Pell City has to offer is being produced for use as a marketing tool, a portion of which will be placed in welcome centers around the state. It's centerpiece is a series of fold-out maps of the city, Logan Martin Lake and downtown.

A full color, glossy magazine produced every two years touts the quality of life found in Pell City, and it, too, is being used to market the city.

Long known for its work in citywide events, like the Hometown Block Party and Christmas Parade, the Chamber is building on those successes, recognizing they are an integral part of Pell City's quality of life.

The Block Party annually draws 15,000 people to downtown Pell City for a free, outdoor music festival and myriad activities for the entire family. And the Christmas Parade continues to be the highlight of the Christmas season.

But beyond those events, the Chamber is widening its focus. It is working with Team Magic to bring a regional biking and running event to Lakeside Park in the fall, which will be a boon to tourism.

A "Shop Local" campaign is being launched for the city parallel to a regional effort — chaired by Grieve — to promote local shopping in Talladega, Calhoun, Etowah, Cleburne, St. Clair, Randolph and Cherokee counties. Grieve talks of the unique shops located throughout the region, and fellow Chamber directors are working together to promote them in an effort called, "Connecting Our Greater Communities."

Other plans for Pell City are for a regular special event

to draw more people to downtown and a home and garden business expo.

A newcomer herself, Grieve says she tries to be a part of organizations, activities and events as much as possible so that she can learn how one entity may be able to help another in the city. She calls it "connecting," putting people together who can benefit from those mutual relationships. "If we are working together, we can accomplish so much more."

And that seems to be the theme from one end of this progressive Chamber to the other.

"We work closely with the city and appreciate all it does for us," Grieve says. "They are very supportive of the Chamber."

Administrative assistant Chrystal Womack is "key to the success of our daily operation. She has really added a lot to the Chamber," she notes.

And Mason and Grieve both talk of a dedicated board of directors who are "very involved." Members put in an abundance of volunteer hours for the good of the Chamber and the city. "We are very blessed," says Grieve.

It centers on giving back to the community, moving it forward and promoting it. Why? A hint lies at the end of each email from the Chamber — a quote from poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that begins, "I have an affection for a great city ..."

Judging by the progress already made and the vision being developed for the future on Pell City's behalf, the sentiment from that quote perfectly underscores the motivation behind the Chamber's mission as its unwavering advocate

To learn more about the Chamber, go to www.pellcitychamber.com.

GROWTH

CONSTRUCTION BOOM SPURS OPTIMISM ABOUT FUTURE



Story by Carol Pappas
Photos by Jerry Martin

If you need a sign of growth for Pell City, just look in virtually every direction, and that's exactly what you will see.

To the north, St. Vincent's St. Clair celebrated its first year in this new state-of-the-art hospital. Following it just a few months later just across the street was the new Col. Robert L. Howard Veterans Home, a state veterans home on 27 acres that is a model for the nation.

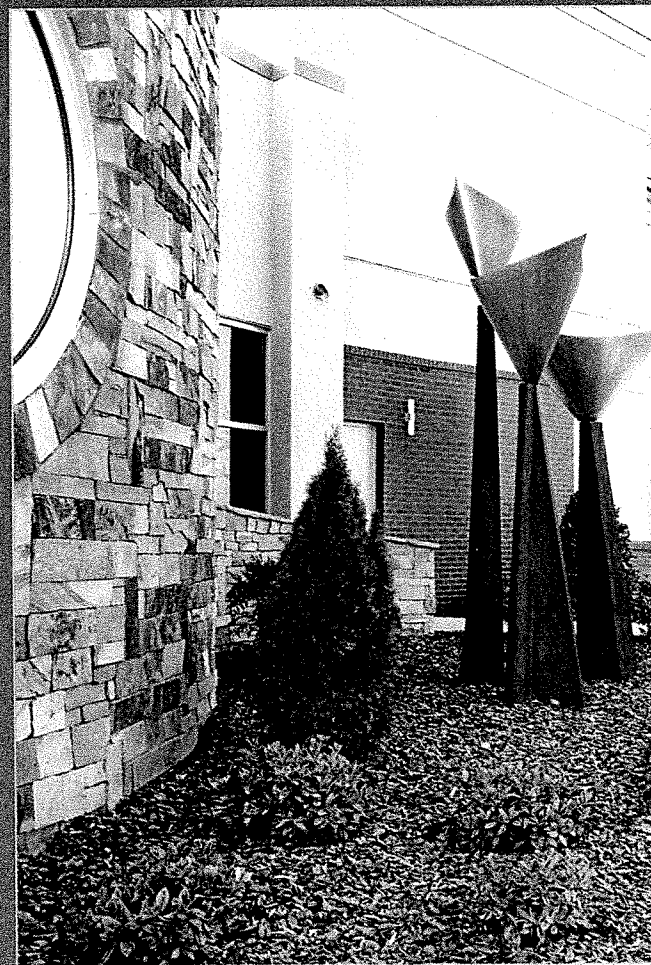
Just down the road a bit, American Family Care, an urgent care medical clinic and Chick-fil-A have opened their doors.

Cross the interstate bridge, and Northside Medical Associates has doubled the size of its facility, adding new specialists, Northside Apothecary and more space to meet the needs of its growing patient list.

The new Department of Human Resources is going up across the road from Northside, doubling the size of the agency's presence in Pell City.

The once vacant Food World building has become home to Goody's, Burke's Outlet, Badcock Furniture and Alabama Anesthesiology and Pain Consultants.

New shops and offices are opening downtown, including Benchmark Construction, Lily Designs, J. Cobb Jewelry and Doodlebugs. Anchoring growth in the downtown area, too, is The Garry House Café, an upscale restaurant built in the restored version of the city's second oldest home.





Head south on US 231 and welcome Bender's Fitness, Hancock Chiropractic, Publix and an adjoining shopping center and Town and Country Marathon.

More than 125 businesses have become new Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce members. And new construction as well as expansions to existing facilities is evident in virtually every corner of the city.

All the growth has put an understandable smile on the face of Mayor Joe Funderburg, who took office in November 2012. "Pell City sells itself," he said. "I said it during the campaign, and I say it even more now. It's a great place to raise a family. It's a great place to enjoy life."



St. Vincent's St. Clair

Bringing
new light to
health care

Story by Carol Pappas
Photos by Jerry Martin

Like a beacon shining brightly in the nighttime sky, St. Vincent's St. Clair is lighting the way for a new era in health care for not only the city, but the region all around it.

Opening its doors in 2011, the new state-of-the-art hospital anchors what St. Clair County Economic Development Council Executive Director Don Smith has called a "mini medical mecca."

Sitting on a hilltop overlooking Interstate 20, the hospital and Physicians Plaza complex has not only been impressing passersby but more important, those who take advantage of its offerings.

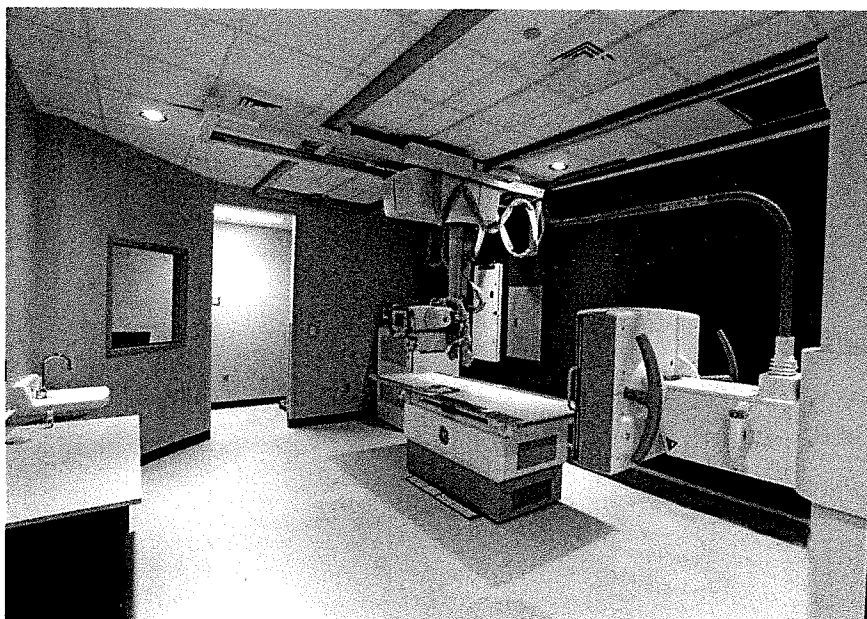
No longer do residents have to travel to Birmingham or other large cities to get quality health care. It is squarely in their own backyard.

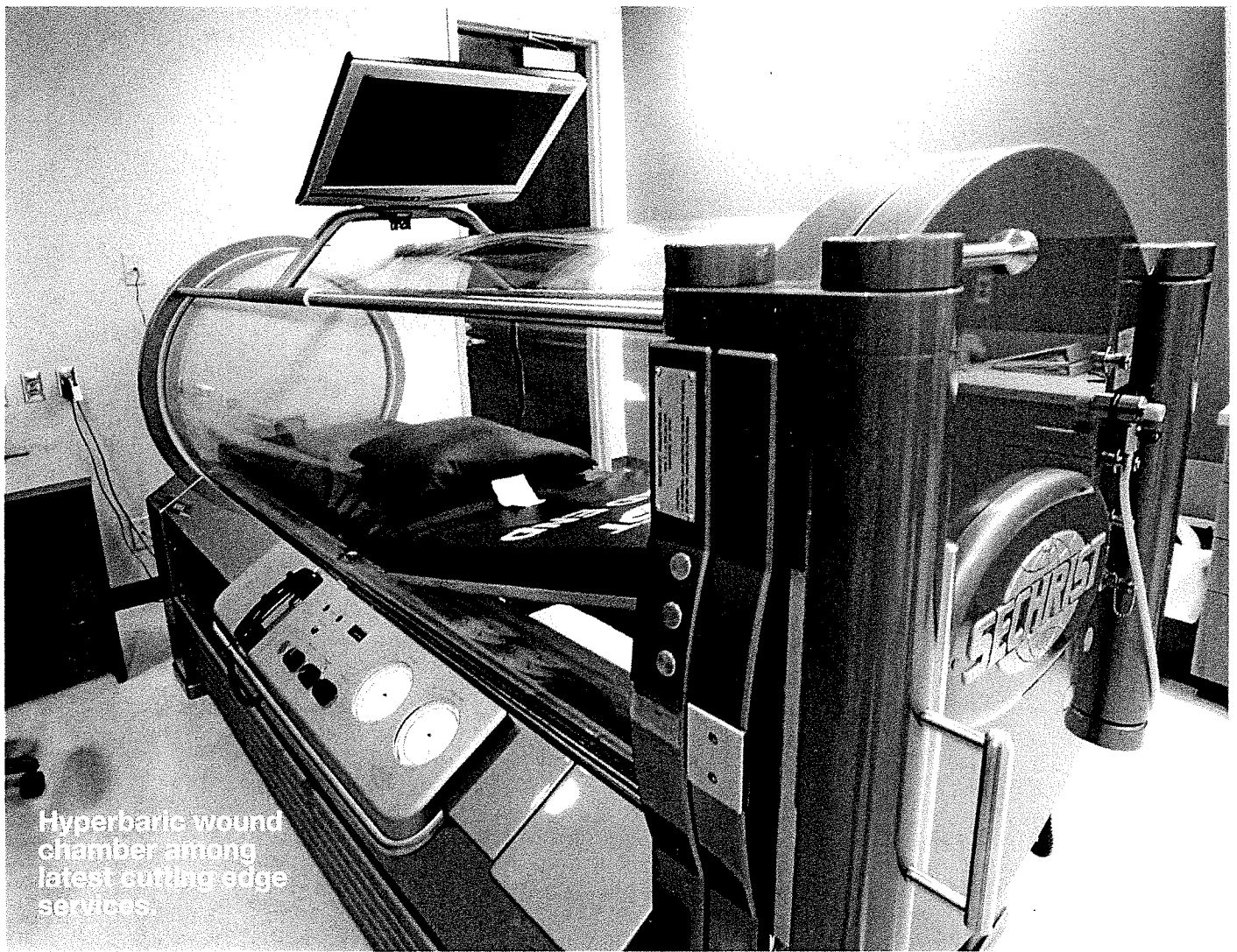
There is no more fighting traffic, traveling long distances or searching for a parking place. The convenience of having tests and outpatient surgery is just a few minutes away.

Technology is cutting edge with digital imaging, electronic medical records, wireless connectivity, computerized order entry for physicians and bar coded medicine administration.

Endocrinology, Ear, Nose and Throat, gastroenterology, general surgery, nephrology, neurology, obstetrics/gynecology and ophthalmology are all a part of the offerings.

New specialists and services are being added to a solid base of doctors who practice there, and the beneficiary of this





Hyperbaric wound chamber among latest cutting edge services.

growing hospital is a growing city. And the numbers bear it out. On the hospital's first anniversary in December, the indicators of success were pointing straight up: Usage of the Emergency Department, up 30 percent; in-patient discharges, 47 percent; surgeries, 25 percent; and outpatient services, 20 percent.

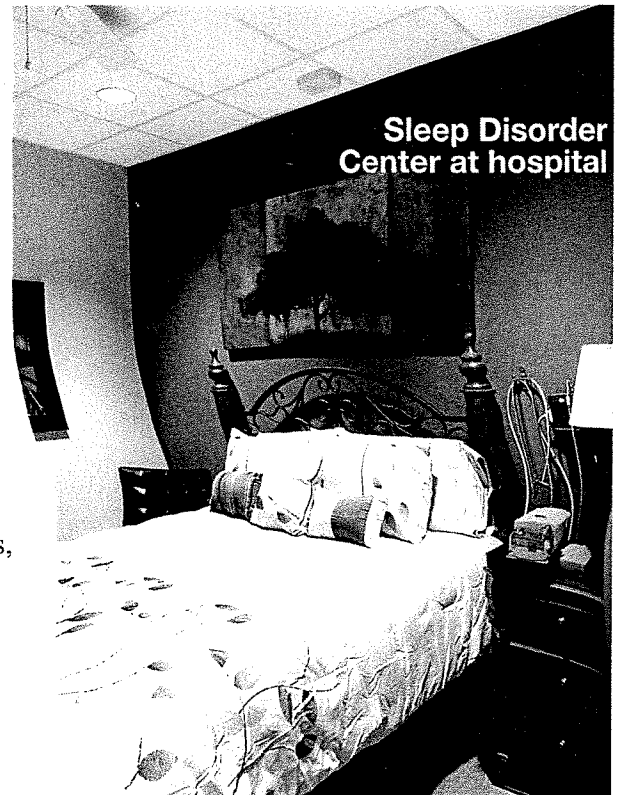
An advanced wound center, sleep diagnostic center and durable medical equipment services have opened their doors inside, enhancing the comprehensive services offered by the hospital.

In 2013, plans call for an occupational health clinic opened to handle medical needs emerging from the growth of the manufacturing sector.

On the heels of St. Vincent's St. Clair opening, the new Col. Robert L. Howard Veterans Home opened just across the street from the hospital. And St. Vincent's staff directs medical needs there.

Its reach into the community has gone well beyond typical services. Staff are manning health fairs from Anniston to Lincoln to Talladega and at home in St. Clair County. The hospital is attracting the community inside with "Heart Day" screenings, a health fair on campus, a small business health care seminar, mammography specials and mammograms on Saturday by appointment for the convenience of its patients.

All have a central theme: Put the patient first. And as President and Chief Operating Officer of Rural Hospital Operations Evan Ray says, "It's not just a new building. It's all top notch. There is no service that we offer here that can be surpassed by any hospital in the region."

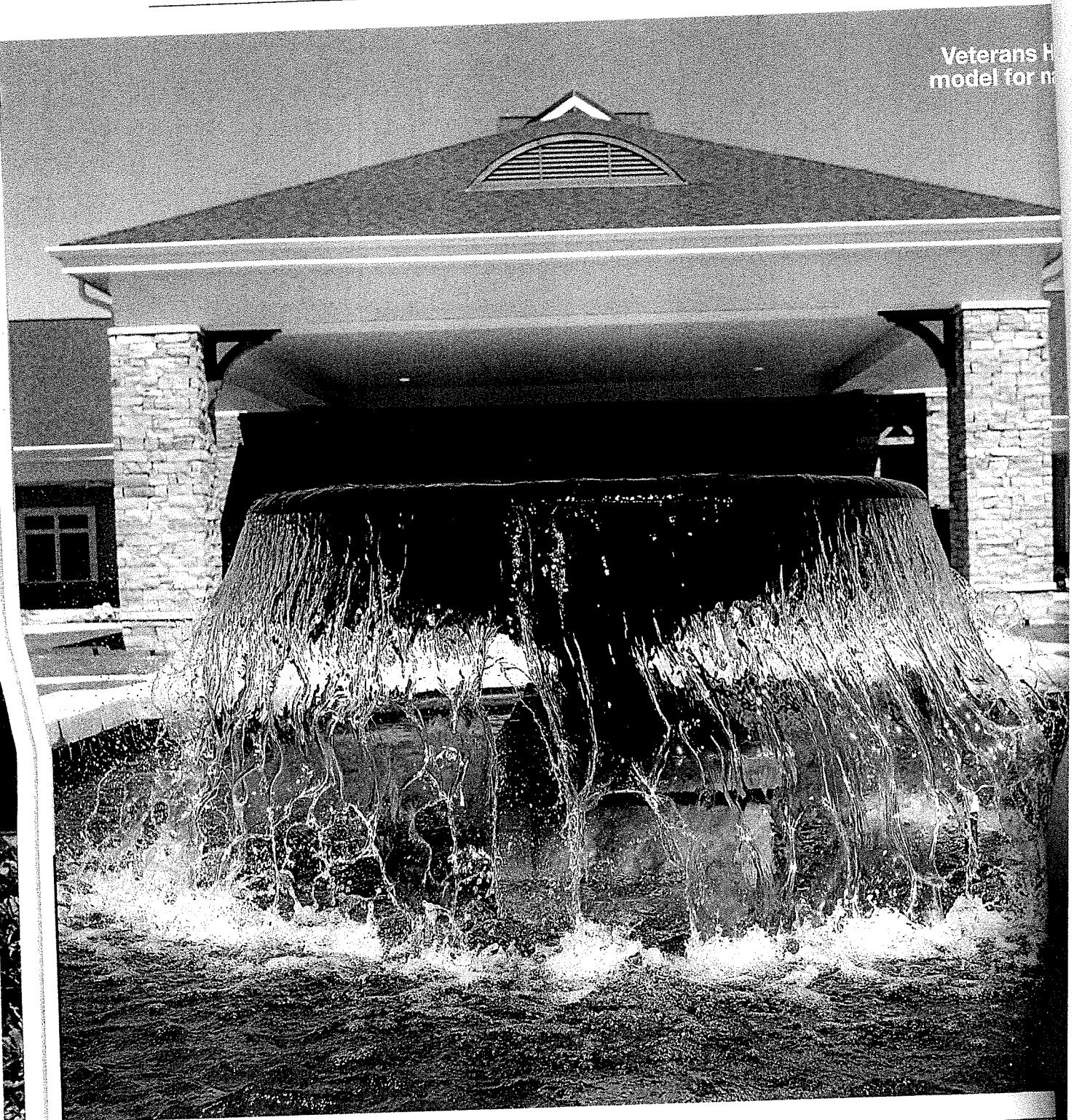


Sleep Disorder Center at hospital

Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE (THIS) HOME

Veterans Home
model for n



Story by Elaine Hobson Miller
Photos by Jerry Martin

The buttery smell of popcorn wafts down one hallway, while strains of “Under the Boardwalk” drift down another. Following the sound instead of the smell, a visitor peeks into a glass-enclosed room to see couples slow-dancing to the music of the Drifters, while men in wheelchairs and on sofas watch and smile. A woman sings along karaoke-style with a portable sound system, and everyone appears to be having a rollicking good time.

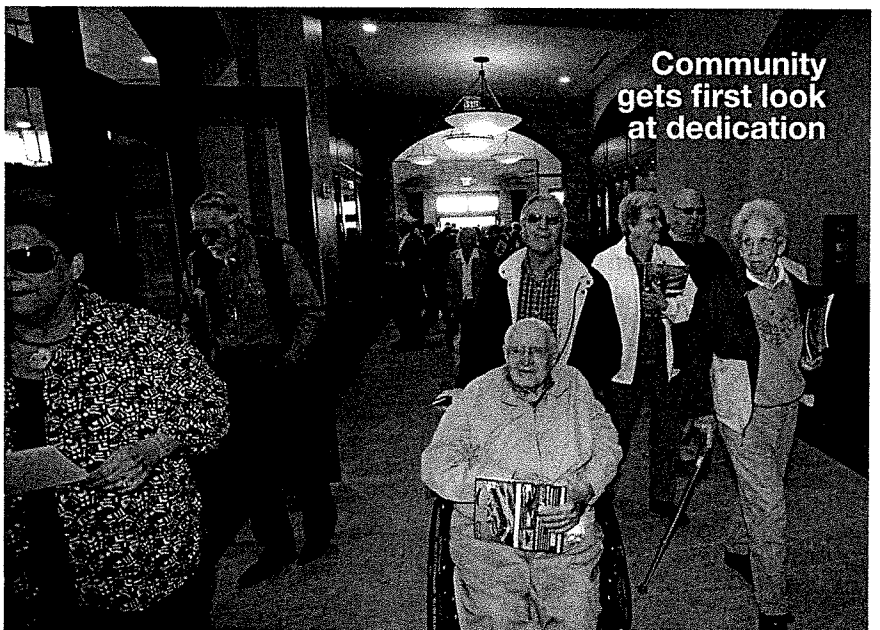
Wait a minute. Are we in the right place? Isn't this supposed to be a nursing home for veterans, a place where retired military men and women quietly live out their elder years? With its Main Street shops, Town Center, neighborhoods and homes all under one roof, with its back-porches and rocking chairs overlooking courtyard gardens, the new-state-of-the-art Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home is about as far from the traditional concept of the nursing home as a horse is from a motorcycle. Yes, residents get skilled nursing care here, but they also get a sense of community and camaraderie. It's just one of many aspects that make this facility a home instead of an institution.

“If you ask veterans where they would rather be, their answer would be, ‘I'd rather be at home,’” says Rear Adm. Clyde Marsh, commissioner of the Alabama Veterans Administration. “We tried to create a home they would like to go to and enjoy. We think the veterans will be happy here.”

There are no hospital-like rooms lining the hallways here, no dark corridors where the only light comes from an occasional window or door. Step inside, and you think you are in a mall or a quaint little village. Stroll down Main Street, and you'll see vintage-style signs hanging from the tops of storefronts enclosed mainly in glass. A barber shop, pharmacy, beauty shop, library, chapel and Stars and Stripes Cafe line the stone-tiled corridor, beckoning strollers to come inside.

Filling all of its 27 acres just north of Interstate 20, this sprawling “town” comes together in a Town Center, a large room with a towering stone fireplace that lifts the eye upward toward the skylight and pine cathedral ceiling. From the Town Center extend three neighborhoods named Victory Way, Liberty Lane and Patriot Place. Monthly activity calendars are posted on the walls in each neighborhood, including the regular popcorn social that lures you in with its movie-theater aroma.

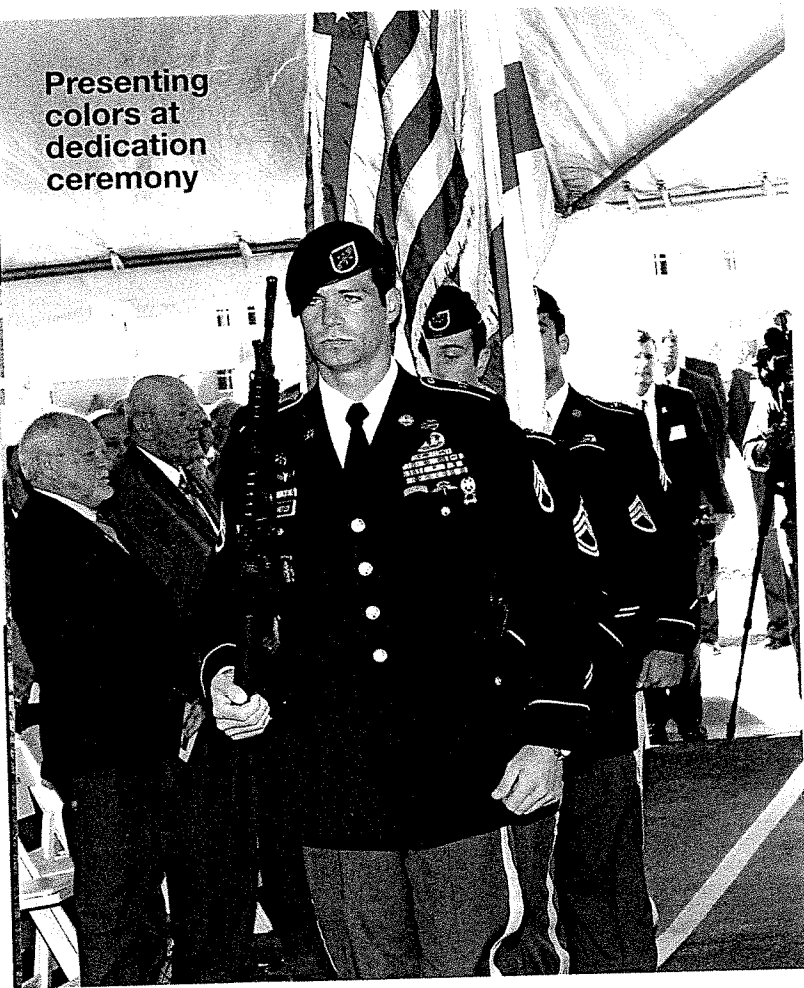
Each neighborhood has three homes divided into single-occupancy rooms, each room furnished with a bed, wardrobe, large shelving unit and flat-screen television monitors, with wi-fi access for those who want to keep up with grandchildren and friends via the internet. Residents can bring their own computers, or use one of the two laptops provided in the library. The total



Volunteers knit quilts for every veteran in the home.



Presenting colors at dedication ceremony



number of rooms includes a domiciliary for independent living for 80 and two Alzheimer's/Dementia neighborhoods. The facility is expected to employ 300 people when it reaches full occupancy.

"Putting it in perspective, it's a new design concept for state nursing homes for veterans," says Marsh. Williams Blackstock Architects of Birmingham designed "from the ground up," with no blueprint or model, just an admiral's order to create a home worthy of veteran service and sacrifice.

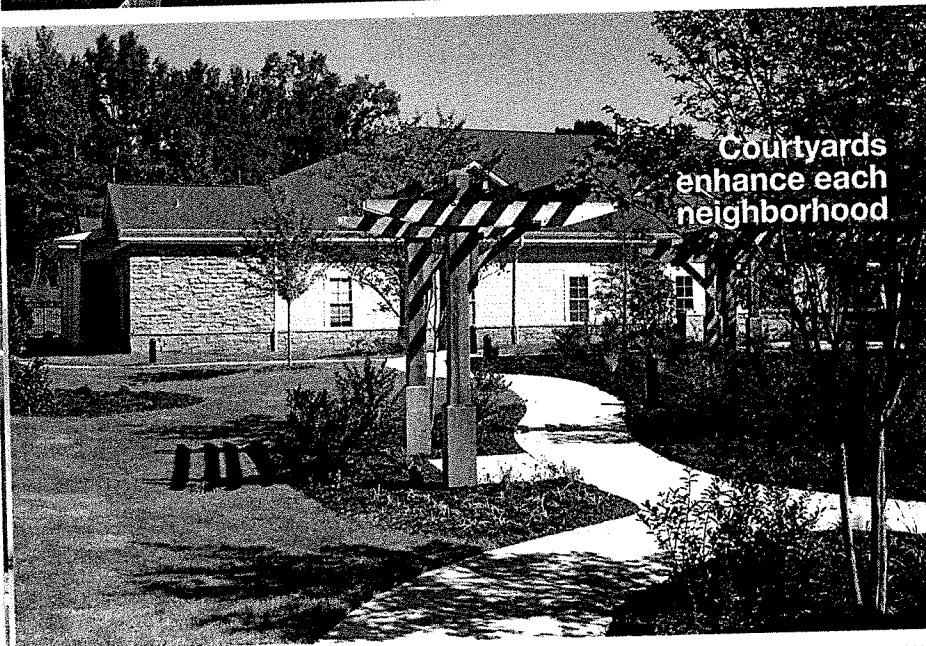
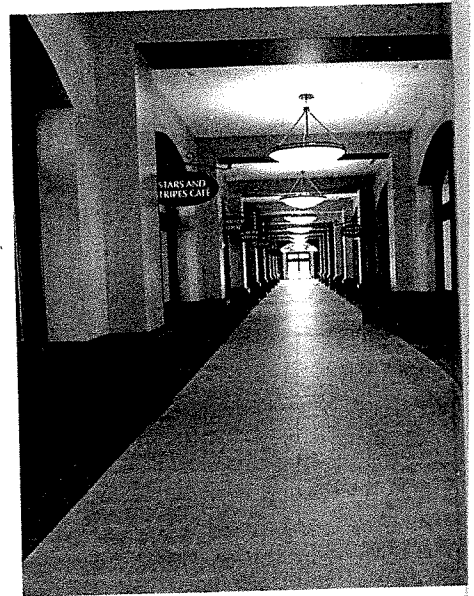
The 238,000 square-foot-home can house 254 veterans, and less than six months after its November 2011 opening, it was well on its way to that number. "We're on target, maybe early, to fill up the place," says administrator Derrick Williams, who works for HMR, the independent contractors responsible for the day-to-day operations of the home. "We have 103 residents to date (April 1, 2013)." Three of the residents are females, including Mary Barbieri, 91, from Fairfield, Alabama, who spent 20 years in Army administration before becoming a school teacher. Mrs. Barbieri lives in the domiciliary, where many residents have their own care.

Williams says community reaction to and support of the home has been awesome. "It's unbelievable what the city has done," he says. "They've opened up their pockets, volunteering and welcoming the staff. The business community has been great as well. The hospital has played a key role, giving us lots of insight into the community and providing a lot of services for us. The Economic Development Council does a lot for us, too. Pell City really stands behind the veterans of this city."

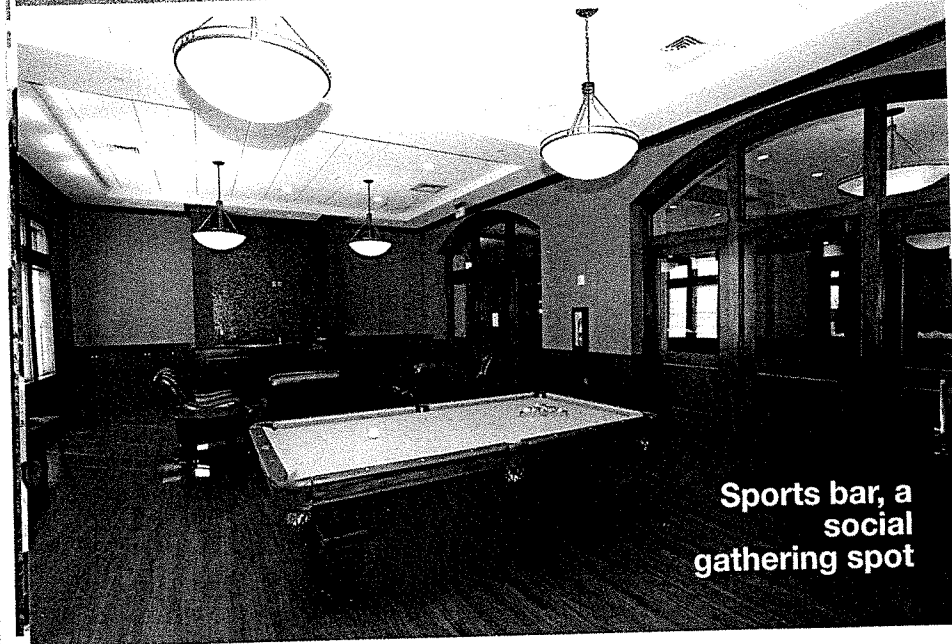
The hospital to which Williams refers, St. Vincent



A dining room in one of homes



Courtyards enhance each neighborhood



Sports bar, a social gathering spot

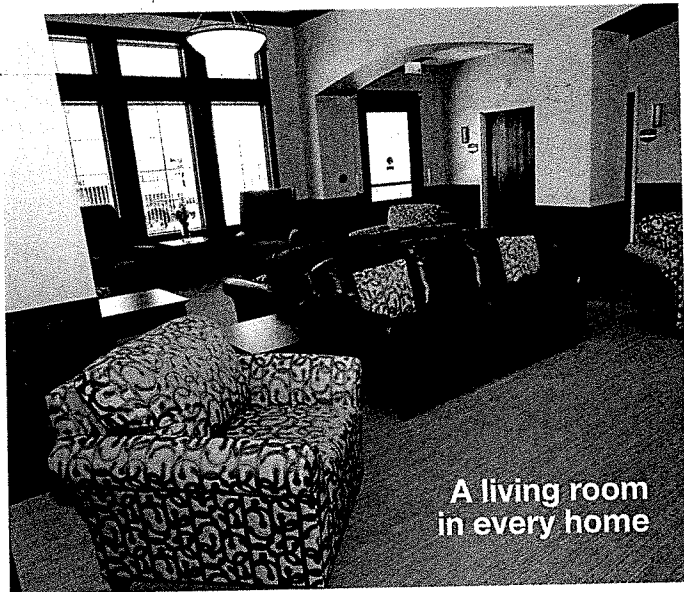
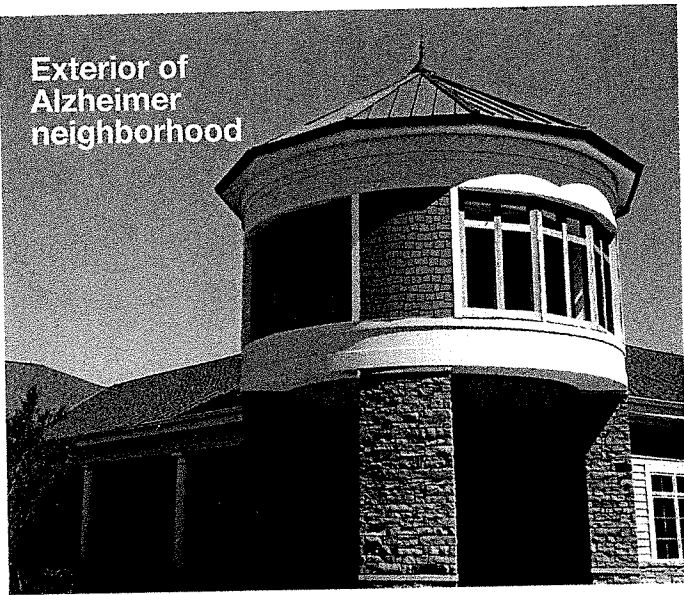
St. Clair, is just across the street from the veterans home. Jefferson State Community College, known for its nursing program just down the block on the same campus three have become partners in a win-win situation that benefits them and the residents. Specialists from the hospital can be utilized by the home. If a veteran needs hospitalization or emergency care, the proximity and the resources immeasurable. Plans for Jefferson State nursing students to do some of their rotations at the home, with there will be opportunities for internships, volunteering and employment for them.

Named in honor of the nation's most decorated soldier and an Alabama native, the million Col. Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home was funded 65 percent by a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and 35 percent by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs. A glass display case into the wall on Main Street is dedicated to Howard's life as a soldier. Five more cases line both sides of the broad boulevard case representing a branch of the Armed Services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard.

Individual and organizational volunteers show up at the home almost every day. Teresa Carden brings a group from L. L. Hospice to entertain residents two Fridays each month with karaoke music. Mary Wood of Jefferson County usually dances with some of the residents when she visits her husband, Raymond W. Wood, 94, an Army veteran. "It's not always 60s rock but it's always danceable," Carden says. Some of the residents are wheelchair-bound but hospice volunteers and nurses help them dance while they "chair dance" in time to the beat.

Gerald and Mary Margaret Hoyle, a nearby New London volunteer so far that they fill two sign-in sheets per

Exterior of Alzheimer neighborhood



A living room in every home

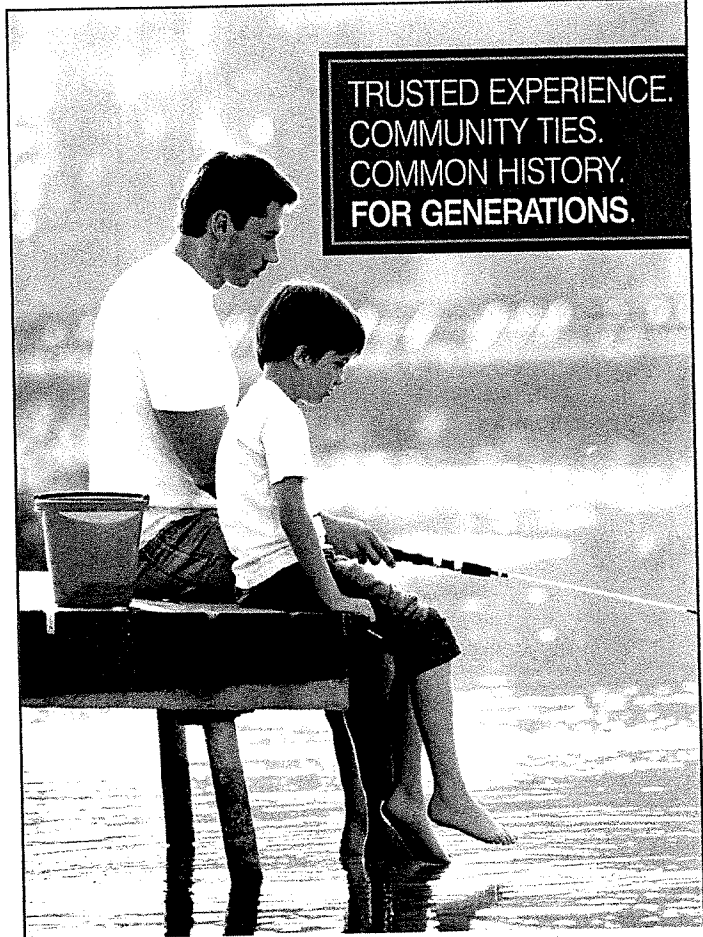
Mary Margaret plays piano while Gerald rounds up residents for Bible classes and chapel services. Gerald spends several hours a week playing checkers with a resident who doesn't want to leave his room, playing dominoes with a stroke victim and visiting others who are confined to bed. An arrowhead maker and collector, he frequently takes his collection to show residents, and has made arrowhead necklaces for about 80 percent of them.

"I'm a veteran (Air Force) and I have something in common with those men," Hoyle explains when asked why he volunteers so much. "I'm younger than most of them — I'm 68 — but I enjoy being in their company."

The home needs more volunteers, and Gerald believes that anybody with people skills would love visiting the men and women who live there. "It just makes me feel good to go there," says the pastor of Mount Olive Freewill Baptist Church in Dunnivant. "It's a blessing."

Steve Howard, Col. Howard's younger brother, visits the home almost every day. He often brings small gifts for residents and always brings his lap dog, Cash, who has become the home's unofficial mascot. "I followed Robert all my life," Howard says. "We had a special bond. I feel a special bond for this home, too. I know someday I'll be living here." ●

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A new form of government brings change for better

Story by Carol Pappas
Photos by Jerry Martin

With the inauguration of a new administration for the city in 2012 came a new form of government and a new way of doing the business of the city.

Once governed by a full-time mayor and a part-time council, Pell City changed its government to city manager form because the state Constitution mandated it because of its burgeoning population. Once it topped the 12,000-mark, it had to move to a government involving a city manager, a mayor and a council president.

The move has proved to be a more progressive form of government, enhancing efficiency and improving the day-to-day operation.

The Council now has a city manager, Patrick Draper, who is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the day-to-day operation. He acts much like CEO of the city, responsible for professional management of the city. Council President James McGowan sets the agenda and presides over the meetings of the Council, and Mayor Joe Funderburg helps develop a vision for the city, and he and Draper make recommendations to city officials on the direction in which the city should move. New CFO Paige Myrick oversees the finances of the city. And while Funderburg does not have a vote, he does have veto power in this form of government.

How is it working? So far, it is getting a thumbs up from all involved. They were quick to point out that previous administrations had done yeoman jobs in juggling all the duties expected of the mayor. But the move to a new form of government has enabled officials to build on the foundations laid by those previous administrations.

"We're moving in the right direction," Funderburg said. Prior to the change, the mayor's role was very demanding. "It eliminates the mayor's plate being so full. It distributes responsibility a little more equally."

He, Draper and McGowan arrived at the same phrase in describing Pell City's governance today: "team work."

"It's really working out well," said Draper. "It's really a simple concept, it's just new to our city." Pell City became only the 14th government in Alabama to go to a manager type of government, although it is more common in other states.

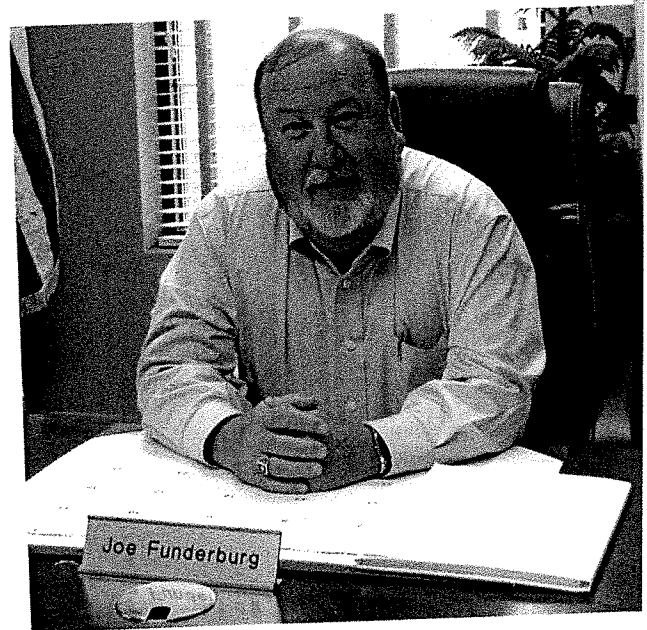
As a professional manager, he oversees the day-to-day operation of the city and develops the budget. The mayor is more public relations — the face and voice of the city.

It allows Funderburg the time to "get Pell City's name out there," he said, noting that he works on recruiting businesses and other services the city needs. His role also is what he calls "ambassador" for the city, working directly with the people.

He talks of transparency in government. "Everything we do needs to be visible to the public. We do not want any perception of backdoor politics. We make the public aware. If they have any questions, all they have to do is ask."



Patrick Draper



Joe Funderburg

McGowan has a unique vantage point after more than two decades in office. "I've been on both sides," he says. "So far, everything has been very positive. It seems like everything is going very, very well. If we all strive for the same goal, it will work great."

And that, he said, is "the main objective — we all work together." ●

Positive

Students learn
by serving
others

Teaching

Story by Carol Pappas
Photos by Jerry Martin

Even though his degrees and training go well beyond the Pell City High School diploma that hangs on Superintendent Michael Barber's office wall, it is no less important.

It is quite the opposite. It is central to his thinking, planning and vision. "I think about the positive experience I had through the school system," he said, noting the pride he feels in earning that diploma 30 years ago. And it's the kind of pride he wants the next generations of students to look back and feel.

He wants students to "learn how to serve their communities and be good citizens," and the school system's role in teaching that lesson is to "give them skills to build on and give them character to go with it. We want to educate and develop the whole child," giving them a sense of ownership and a reason to say with pride: "That's my school system."

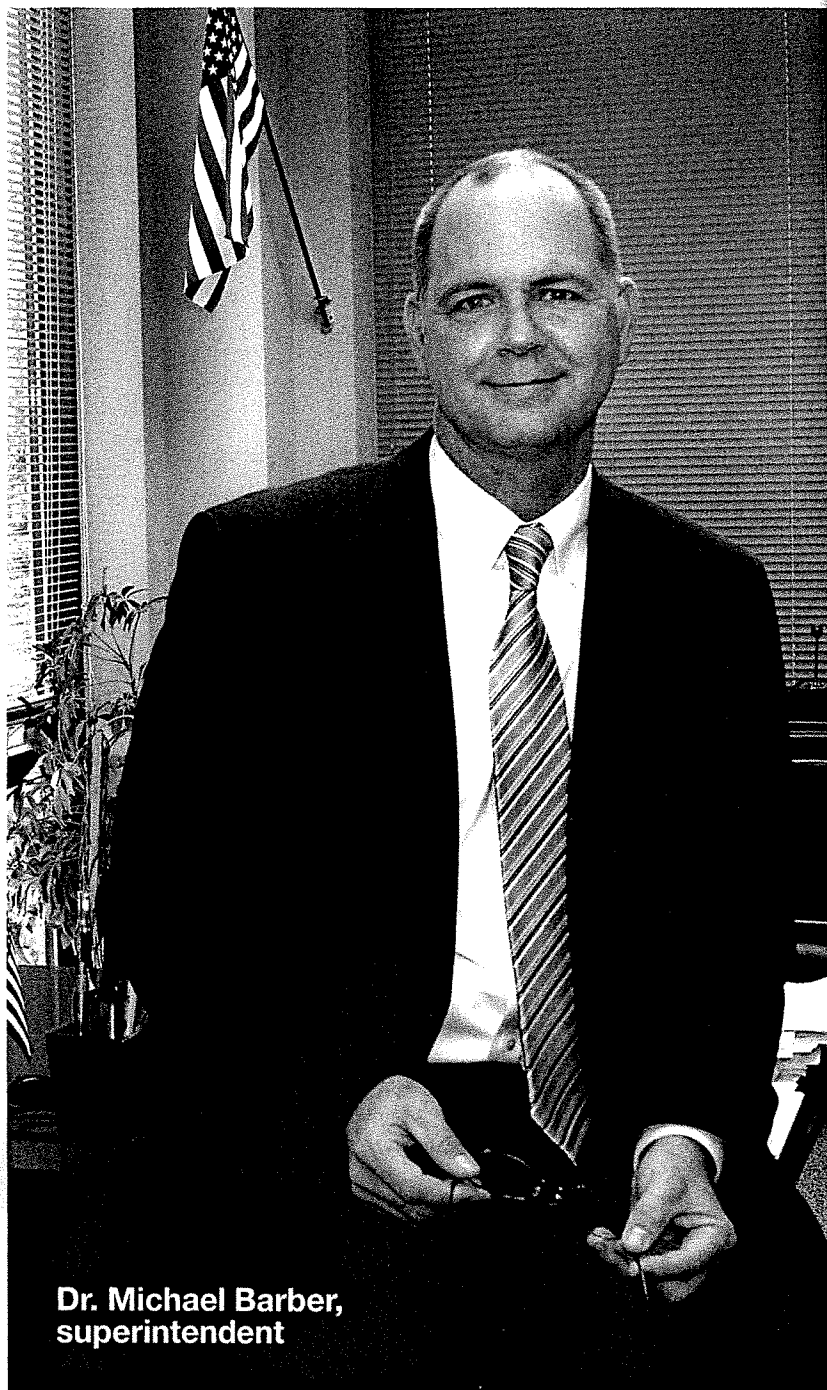
The lesson of community service is apparently being learned quite well throughout the school system. At each of the system's eight schools, the list of service projects performed by students grows longer and longer.

At Coosa Valley School, students held a food drive for the Christian Love Pantry, wrote letters to soldiers and adopted needy families at Christmas.

Jimmie Hale Mission now has new placemats courtesy of the work Iola Roberts students did. They have been involved in meals for homeless, a cancer fundraiser and Operation Christmas Child.

Walter M. Kennedy School saw its children collect tabs for Ronald McDonald House charities, send Christmas cards to soldiers and seniors and get involved in the Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive.

Whether it was collecting money for Luke-mia, Toys for Children, Cystic Fibrosis or Muscular Dystrophy, Williams Intermediate students



Dr. Michael Barber,
superintendent

Ernest White Community Center

Glenn City Recreation Hall name a fitting honor



By Elaine Hobson Miller
Photos by Jerry Martin

Ernest White always had a smile on his face, and the former Glenn City Recreation Hall that now bears his name puts a smile on people's faces, too, through the events held there. It seemed fitting that the Pell City Council would rename the hall after the man who personified its purpose.

The Ernest White Community Center was officially dedicated on March 12, 2013, four months after the November 2012 death of its namesake. About 60 people watched city officials unveil the new sign that now hangs high in front of the building.

"Mr. White was extensively involved in numerous civic organizations in the city of Pell City, and was known for his dedication to public service," a resolution passed by the City Council states. "His love, leadership and dedication touched so many lives in our community. He will be greatly missed."

Known for his cheerful disposition, his dedication to the city and a little strut in his walk, Ernest White was the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2000 and the Lion's Club Lion of the Year for 1999-2000. He was the first African-American to serve on the city's Board of Education, when the school system was first established in 1982. He also served on various city and church boards, and was a long-time member



**Quilters meet
at the Community
Center in Pell City.**

of the city's Planning and Zoning Board.

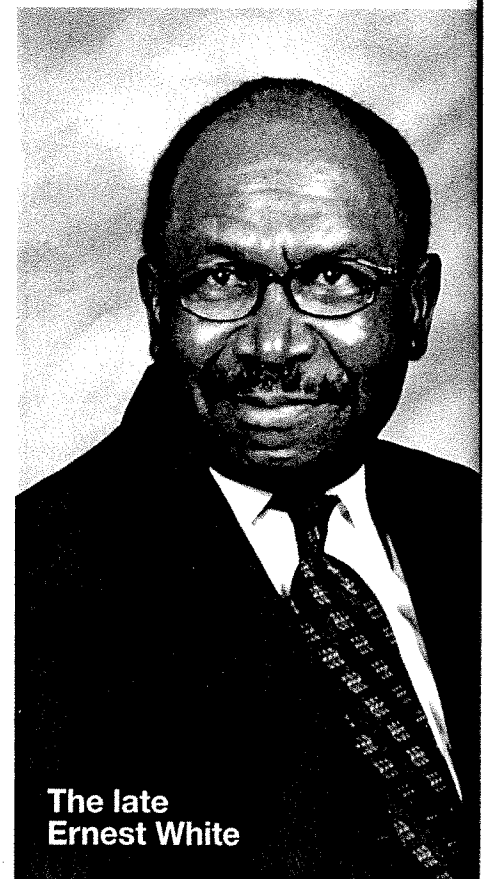
"He was a level-headed guy, and he would talk about any issues," Schools Superintendent Dr. Bobby Hathcock says. "He made a difference in the lives of a lot of people in this community."

James McGowan, city council president and the man instrumental in getting the hall named for White, was friends with him for many years. "I knew Mr. White all my life, but got to know him more personally during the years he was on the Planning and Zoning Board and the Beautification Council. We were in the Lions Club together, too," McGowan says.

White moved to Pell City when he was seven years old. He worked for the old Food Center grocery store for 20 years, then had his own store, the Sanitary Market, in Glenn City for 15 years. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 25 years, primarily as a mail carrier. He walked City Route 1, which encompassed the downtown area,



**Council President
James McGowan**



**The late
Ernest White**

until his retirement in August 2008.

"He dropped by to see me after he retired and I said, 'Why don't you come work for us,'" says Nancy Crow, Civic Center coordinator. "He worked part time until his death at the age of 77. He wouldn't tell anybody how sick he was, but when he got sick, he worked when he felt like it. Even though I was his supervisor, we were good friends."

The Ernest White Community Center, located at 405 19th Street South, has hosted weddings and wedding receptions, birthday parties, family reunions and various civic meetings since it was built during the 1960s. Part of the Pell City Community Center complex, it has a full kitchen and accommodates 100 people.

It's also used by garden clubs, the VFW and other groups when there is an overflow at the Civic Center, which is about two miles away. The Friendship Quilters Guild meets there every Thursday and the second Saturday of each month, bringing in members from Pell City, Odenville, Moody, Anniston, Talladega and Birmingham. "The building is used almost daily," says Crow.

A police substation occupies the back portion of the building, which has undergone several renovations since it was built. The most recent was about four years ago. In addition, the weekend before it was dedicated in memory of Ernest White, the city put down a tile floor instead of repainting the concrete floor. Workers also revamped all the flower beds around the building. At the ceremony, Assistant Schools Superintendent Michael Barber called White an "investor," because he invested in the homes he bought, renovated and sold, as well as in the schools, the school system, the city and his church, First Baptist-South. "He is definitely worthy of this," Barber said at the dedication. "He had an influence on my life."

Pell City Mayor Joe Funderburg told the crowd gathered for the ceremony that White was "Pell City through and through," while city councilwoman Sharon Thomas called him a "kind and gentle spirit."

Frank Seals, who worked with White at the post office, says he was always smiling, always happy. "He looked for the positive side of life," says Seals, who was a mail clerk. Even though their families were good friends, Seals didn't know White had cancer, because White didn't talk about it much. "He was always looking to a better day," Seals says. "He didn't dwell on looking backward."

Ofes Forman is another of White's lifetime friends. A deacon at White's Church, First Baptist-South, Forman says he started going by White's house when Forman became a deacon in 1993. "He was someone I could go to," Forman says. "He had plenty of good advice for me." For several years, Forman helped White remodel the houses the latter purchased for investment.

Despite their closeness, Forman says White was very private about his health. "He didn't complain much," he says. "He always said something positive. He had a good sense of humor, too, and made people laugh. He was a straight-forward guy who said what he thought, but got along with people even when he disagreed with them. He planted a good garden, too, and took vegetables by and left them on people's porches when they weren't at home."

Preston Howard, who grew up with and went to school with White, says White had a good name. "There are two types of names people remember, good names and bad names," Howard says. "Mr. White was on the positive side." ☼


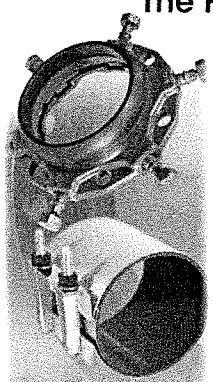
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ON THE MARKET

Expanding real estate
sales pushing
Pell City growth



Story by Tina Tidmore
Photos by Jerry Martin

Due to the increasing activity in the residential real estate market, Pell City's Realtors are already experiencing a much busier buying and selling season this year. The number of single-family home sales in Pell City has increased 21 percent in the past 12 months over the previous 12 months, according to the St. Clair Association of Realtors.

"We're excited; we can see the light at the end of the tunnel," said Sharon Thomas, a Realtor and city councilwoman.

Similarly, the National Association of Realtors reported that the number of residential homes sold nationwide was 10.8 percent higher in March 2013 than in March 2012. While most all areas of the country are seeing increased activity, Pell City's real estate market is different.

"Our local real estate market follows the trend of the national real estate market with the changes affecting our area shortly after the other areas," said Diana White, president of the St. Clair Association of Realtors. "The great thing about this is that we can watch the effects nationally and prepare for them."

Pell City's quality of life and its proximity to Birmingham and Atlanta are attracting people from other areas. With Logan Martin Lake in its backyard, public and private education facilities as well as a community college and four-year degree opportunities, Pell City is a prime choice for location.

Karen Bain, a Realtor with Fields-Gossett Realty, said the civic center's recreation facilities and the new hospital is attractive to new residents as well. "I tell people that once you live in Pell City, you'll never want to leave," Bain said.

The Pell City Chamber of Commerce declares the city as "the gateway to living the good life." And judging by its jump in population to more than 12,000 in the 2010 census, that declaration seems on target.

Thomas, who is with Re/Max Hometown Properties, said Logan Martin Lake continues to attract retirees and some who are in their 30s looking for a primary or secondary home. The property tax rate, sewer rates and Pell City's conveniences are causing many to leave Jefferson County. "I'm hearing that a lot," said Thomas.

According to IndexMundi, St. Clair County's population grew at a rate of 29.1 percent between 2000 and 2010, faster than all other Alabama counties except Shelby and Baldwin. Neighboring Blount County's population grew by 12.3 percent and Jefferson County lost 5 percent of its population.

Bill King is one of those who moved to Pell City from a neighboring county. For years, he lived in his Gardendale home in Jefferson County, and three years ago he acquired a home on the Logan Martin Lake. After retiring and spending more time at his lake home, King became involved in a local church and decided to move away from Gardendale.

When he compared costs, he decided a lake home in Pell City was a better investment.

"Why go spend money, if you don't have to," King said of his decision to be in St. Clair County where he can also continue living on the lake. "I have better



convenience and no health insurance costs." He knows the price for the same house is a little bit higher in Pell City, yet in the long run, he expects to come out better financially and with the amenities.

Realty Executives' Nancy Locklar said she notices different areas of the state are affected differently as the real estate market goes up or down. "Locally, Anniston, Oxford and Jefferson were hit hard," Locklar said of the 2008 real estate bust. "But Huntsville wasn't affected as much." She said from her experience, the impact in Pell City was about in the middle compared to other cities in the state.

Now, Locklar reports new rural development, less inventory and people moving by choice and not only due to necessity. "We're seeing lots move now," she said. The change started in July of last year, she said.

She attributes some of the upward trend to the very low mortgage interest rates. The Wall Street Journal reported on April 18 that the average 30-year fixed-rate for a mortgage was 3.41 percent, close to a record low.



This was also a decline from the average rate in the previous week.

As the inventory is decreasing, the prices are increasing. "If someone is considering buying a house in the Pell City area, they need to realize that the buyer's market is trending out," White said. Homewood and Mountain Brook and the homes around Logan Martin Lake are feeling these effects, she said.

The National Realtors Association reported in March, the median residential price is up 10.8 percent from March 2012 while Pell City's median housing price increased 6 percent over last year.

Along with the big-city conveniences and small-town atmosphere, Pell City is also attracting some who commute to work in other cities. Locklar said some like being 35 minutes to the Birmingham airport and two hours from the Atlanta airport. For those who work in Birmingham and like the smaller town and the lake, but occasionally need to fly for their work, Pell City provides all that is needed. ●