

MAYORS OF THE CITY OF PELL CITY

Greenberry Garrett Evans	1887-1891
N. B. Spears	1891-1903
William Jackson Purdy	1903
Sumpter Cogswell	1903-1904
T. S. Milsap	1904-1906
W. A. Starnes	1906
G. W. Pratt	1906-1908
Charles P. Pratt	1908-1911
E. A. Thompson	1911-1920
Frank Embry	1920-1922
Dr. J. O. Gray	1922-1924
Frank Embry	1924-1926
Sumpter Cogswell	1926-1941
Joe W. Kilgroe	1941-1944
W. T. Starnes	1944-1952
Joe W. Kilgroe	1952-1960
Sam F. Burt	1960-1964
-Otis Perry	1964-1970
Joe W. Kilgroe	1970-1971
Raymond F. Cox	1971-1972
A. E. Nixon	1972-1978
Paul Turner	1976 -]
Hugh H. Williamson	1976-1984
Harvey C. Watson	1984-1988
Lawerence Fields	1988-1996
Mack Abercrombie	1996-1999
Guin Robinson	1999- 2004
Adam Stecks	2004-

on frame 1964 to 1972 this is incorrect

elect 1972 - 1976

on frame C. middle initial this is incorrect. 10/76

Roger Wayne

814 - 9104

David Coshatt. for picture committee

525-4652 -

gave Coshatt's daughter O. Perry 3/01

called 6/13/01 LM

called 6/20/01 LM

" 7/11/01 LM

" 7/17/01

" 7/30/01

62 Riverway Circle
Coxwell, AL 35054

Pell City's first black official: To serve all

By Lou Ann Ray
News correspondent

PELL CITY — It was not the black vote that caused James McGowan to be the first black in this city's history to serve on the city council. It was the votes of both the black and white communities that got him elected and those are the people he is going to serve, he said.

"I promised to be honest and I promised to be fair," McGowan, 35, said. "My aim is to serve the citizens of Pell City in a fair and equal manner with respect and consideration to all."

McGowan won the seat over incumbent Barnett Lawley by having a majority of the votes in all beats but one, he said.

The Pell City native and telecommunications instructor at Eden Area Vocational Center in Ashville said he decided to run because there were things he saw that could be done to make the city a better place. "You can't really do anything about it until you get into a position where you have a voice," he said.

McGowan is only one of six new faces on the council. Three of the new councilmen beat incumbents while two other incumbents chose not to run again. Incumbent Mayor Hugh Hardy Williamson lost to Harvey Watson.

Councilman Joe Wheeler said "blacks will have representation they've never had before" with

McGowan on the council.

Wheeler added that having a black on the council also will help in acquiring grants for the city.

Watson said the black community will "feel better" by having a black on the council. Of the 8,000-plus in Pell City, about 14 to 18 percent are black, Watson said.

When asked whether having a black on the council will make a difference, Councilman Sonny Kilgroe said "it's hard to say. I don't think of James as being black."

Kilgroe said McGowan "thinks things out and does not make rash decisions," something that McGowan is not hesitant to say about himself.

"When serving, I will deliberate long and hard before making any decision," he said. "But having once made it, and I feel like it is the right decision for our town and our people, I will try never to go back on a decision."

McGowan's wife, Elsie, is assistant principal at Moody Elementary. They have two children, Kenneth Eugene, 6, and LaCindra Denae, 7.

McGowan has a Rank-II certificate in vocational education from Alabama A&M University and has studied at Tennessee State Vocational Technical School.

Politics may play a part in McGowan's future, he said. "In four years, if I feel like I've accomplished what I set out to do, I'll probably run for mayor."

*St Clair News Aegis
July 31, 1988*

Pell City Council hears from people who want in

BY KELLY BRYAN
News-Aegis Writer

A petition was presented to the Pell City Council last week from a group of people who want to be included in the city limit.

Doug Smith, one of the residents in the area along Hwy. 34 down past Rita's Kitchen and all the way to the cut-off road to Mays Bend, made it clear that water and fire protection were the things the petitioners were after in their request to Pell City officials.

"We don't expect to get water tomorrow," assured Smith in his presentation to the council. And, Smith also made sure the council knew the citizens listed on the petition were agreeable to help subsidize the cost of extending the water line to their area.

Joe Dorrough said later the reason he wants to be inside the city limits

is to get fire protection. "I have good well water, and plenty of it. But, the city water is necessary in order to get fire protection, and we need that. And, I could use the city water as a backup if it ever become necessary."

Martha Etheredge also wants fire protection. This is not the first time she and her husband, Bruce, the chairman of the St. Clair County Commission, have tried to get inside the city limits.

"We tried to get in years ago. Fortunately, we haven't had any real serious problems yet, but we have an electrical fire in the basement. I was able to turn the power off before the fire spread and it was no problem," said Etheredge, who is aware she may not be at home when another fire breakd out.

And, the Etheredges are not as blessed with their well water as Dorrough is. "I save water like some

people save money. During the drought, we have been pumping up sand. Water is just a necessity and I live in fear that the next time I turn on the faucet, nothing will come out."

Mayor Harvey Watson told the group that while there were "no real objections" to taking the area into the city, there was some information that needed to be gathered—such as the cost of the needed water lines and the determination if the fire station were in the needed range.

Councilman Joe Wheeler also pointed out that the city had been advised not to take in any more land into the city limits, until the redistricting plans have been finalized with the 1988 municipal elections and the judge's approval.

The council also told the group that other areas had expressed their desire to be in the city earlier.

Mayor; Councilman hold showdown over judiciary

CLARENCE CO
1905 1ST AVE
PELL CITY ALA
3-1

By LARRY CAMP
NEWS Editor

The use of out-of-town police officers to make four cases of selling beer on Sunday against local businesses and their subsequent fine of \$25 each has led to a showdown between Pell City Mayor Aubrey "Dill" Nixon and council member Harvey Watson who serves as chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

During the regular meeting of

the council Monday night, Watson told fellow members of the council he would like to see certain standards set up regarding the judiciary department.

"In the past, following arrest by the Police Dept. there have been many times where cases were not handled right... certain persons have never been to court because influence was exerted," Watson stated.

"I would just like to see

certain ground rules laid out where everyone would be treated equally and fairly," Watson said.

Mayor Nixon, in answer to Watson'

request, said the judiciary committee was to be concerned only with the city business license schedule.

"The judiciary committee is responsible only for the city licence schedule... the judge is

(See Mayor Page 7-A)

(Continued from Page 1)

responsible to me and me only," Nixon stated.

"This is the way it has been for as long as I can remember. The judge works directly with the Mayor and, in his absence, I can no pross or handle cases anyway I see fit," Nixon said.

According to sources, the episode began when several persons approached Watson on enforcement of the "no beer sales on Sunday" law.

Watson, according to the source, contacted Police Chief Ruble Bowlin and asked him how the city could enforce the law.

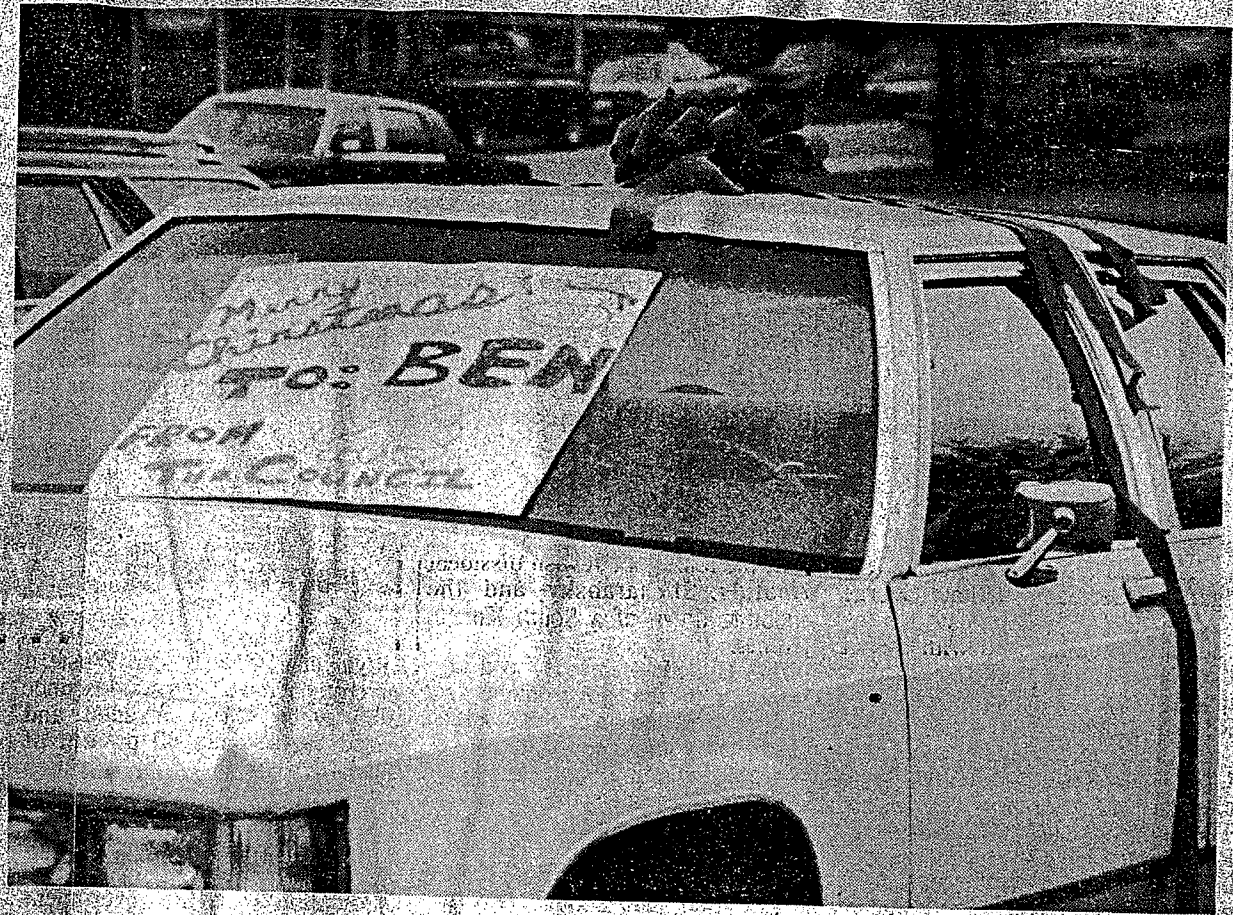
The source said Bowlin told Watson the only way to enforce the law was to bring in undercover officers because all the local businesses knew his officers and would not sell beer when they were around.

Councilman Raymond "Bam" Cox was then contacted by Bowlin and agreed to use the undercover officers.

While here, Sunday, March 17, the officers tried to purchase beer from some 15 local businesses and were successful in four instances.

Later in the week, the mayor was contacted about the arrests and according to the source, he

"I didn't know you had to hold meetings to decide when to enforce the law," Watson said. "I guess I just had some false assumptions about the judiciary committee. Since I have no say so, and the Mayor does, then I won't say anything more about it," Watson concluded.



WHILE AN UNSUSPECTING Pell City Mayor Harvey Watson was holding his weekly meeting with department heads Thursday morning, his car was being neatly wrapped for Christmas by an unknown prankster we'll call "Santa's helper." The only problem was, it was wrapped as a gift to the fire chief — apparently stemming from last

week's attempt by the Council to take the mayor's city car away and assign it to Fire Chief Ben Windsor. The identity and whereabouts of Santa's helper were still unknown at press time, and sources close to the pending investigation say the only clue left behind was the "ho, ho, ho!" echoing through city hall. (Bob Crisp photo)

DAILY HOME, Talladega-Sylacauga-Pell City, Ala., Friday, Dec. 19, 1986

Will issue statement later—

Thursday, May 29, 1975. . . . ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS

Councilman decides not to ink resignation

Pell City Councilman Charles Lockridge did not submit his resignation as head of the Street Department at Monday's meeting of the City Council as he said he would last week.

Lockridge said he would make a statement at a later date on the matter.

The Pell City Council, meeting Monday in City Hall, heard a report from Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon that the city would begin receiving close to \$323,000 in federal aid for street repairs, blacktopping, repairing of traffic lights and utilities.

The city had applied for \$350,000 in aid after a tornado on Jan. 10 destroyed several businesses and residences in the city. The aid was asked for after President Gerald R. Ford declared St. Clair and 22 other counties major disaster areas and eligible for federal aid under the federal Disaster Act.

Nixon said that the biggest part of the money (\$170,000) would go for blacktopping; \$38,000 for repair of traffic lights; \$49,000 for utilities; and \$12,760 for cleanup. Nixon ex-

plained that work would not be contracted but done on an hourly basis so that jobs could be done one at a time.

The mayor added that the first project to be done with the money would be the cleaning up of old houses and the rest of the debris left by the tornado.

The council, for the second meeting in succession, also discussed the possibility of extending water outside the city limits. The discussion came after a business requested water for its chicken house business it hopes to locate on Highway 34. Nixon said that the business should have water until the council decides its policy on extending water outside the limits.

Councilman Harvey Watson disagreed saying, "We told others we couldn't do it. We are not obligated to people outside the city limits."

Nixon said this situation was different. He explained that the business could tie on to a water line owned by Boots Weldon and pay him for the use of the water. Other residents in the area are doing this, he said.

The businessman said he had talked to Weldon. "He told us

that he would work with us on it but he also told us that he would want us to pay 85 per cent of the water bill," he stated.

The council was asked about the possibility of purchasing a meter and putting it there and they said he could do it at his own expense.

The council said they should work with Weldon on working out the possibility of them tying into his line.

In other other action, the council:

—Heard a request from Dr. Culver Lee that the council consider a proposal by certain Pell City businessmen

for a recreation complex before land adjoining the Civic Center site is leased;

—Announced that a report by City Engineer Charles Tucker on the Eden Sewage project was not ready;

—Heard a report from Nixon, who said the state would lower the speed limit on U.S. 231 South but must do a traffic study before putting a street light;

—Agreed to wait until the fall before doing work on the tennis courts;

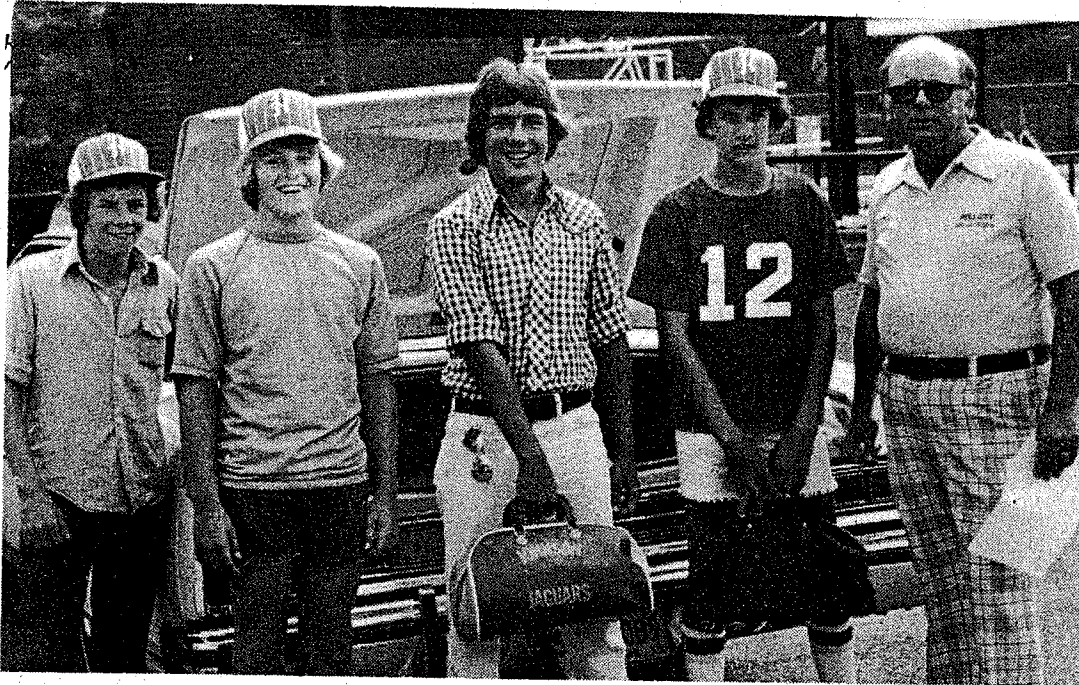
—Voted to begin receiving bids on two front-end loaders.



Mayor Harvey Watson - Al Murray
New Parks and Recreation Director

- Dec 1984

OBSERVER SHOPPER JULY 30, 1975

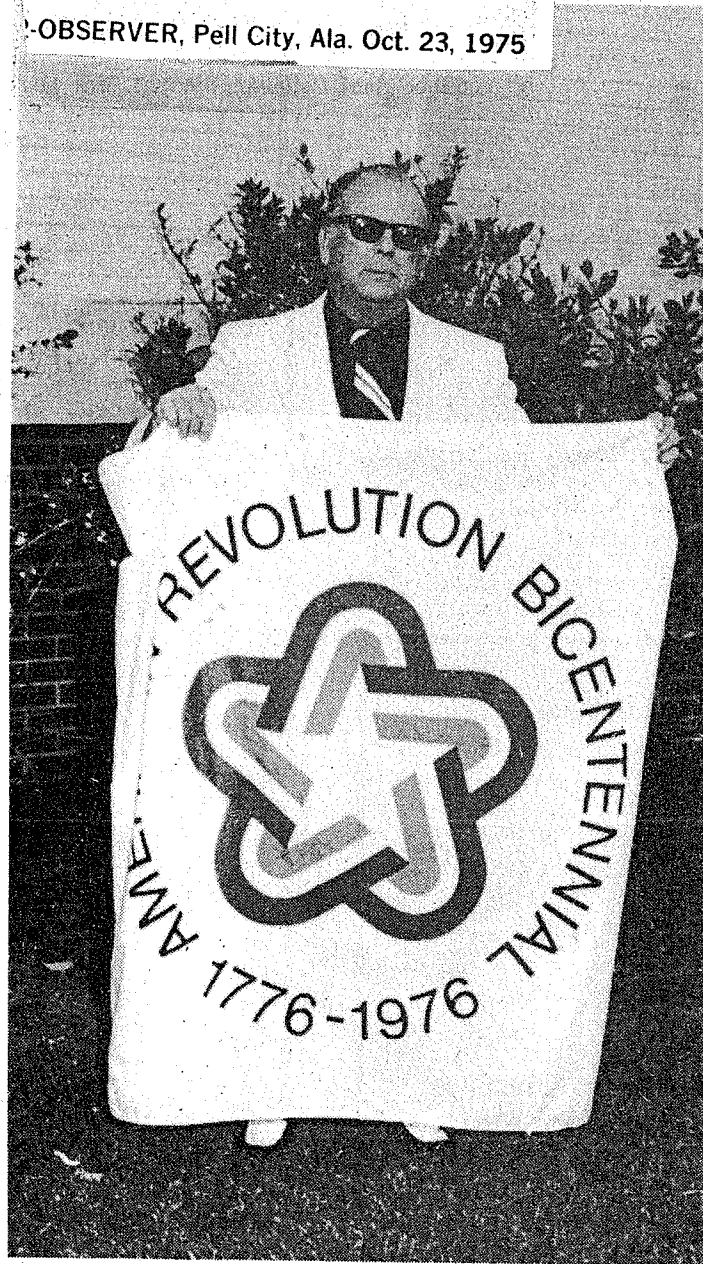


Mayor Is 'Foster Parent'

Pell City Mayor A. E. "Dill" Nixon became a foster parent (temporarily) Sunday when he and dozens of other Pell City parents met at the Pell City Recreation Hall as youngsters from around the state arrived in town for the opening of the State Jr. Babe Ruth League Tournament, which is being hosted for the first time at Pell City. Pictured with Nixon are Greg O'Rear, Maxie

Burleson, Kevin Cassaday and Sammy Huffstetter, all representing the Huntsville Southwest team. Other teams joining in the competition, which began Monday at Avondale Field, include Atmore, Huntsville County, Tuscaloosa County, Tallassee, Mobile and Pell City. All participants will be the guests of local families during their stay. (Photo By August Lehe)

OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. Oct. 23, 1975



Mayor Kicks Off Bicentennial

Pell City Mayor Dill Nixon displays Pell City's Bicentennial Flag which was presented to the City by Congressman Tom Beville and officially declared Saturday, October 25, as the Kick-off Day for Pell City's Bicentennial Celebration. The first of many events planned for the year-long celebration will be Saturday's First Annual Coosa Arts and Craft Show at the Pell City Armory, and Pell City merchants and businesses are helping in the Big Day offering special incentives for shopping Pell City on Saturday, October 25. (See Section B)



Mayor Signs Proclamation

Pell City Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon is shown with Joy Morrison looking over a proclamation declaring this week National Business Women's Week in Pell City. The week honors the working women of America and is sponsored by the National Business and Professional Women's Clubs. (NEWS Photo By Louis Muro)

Council Welcomes New Mayor, Council Member

BY AUGUST LEHE

In a spirit of harmony and unity, Pell City Interim Mayor Paul Turner and incumbent council members Bam Cox, Charles Lockridge and Forrest Walls Monday night welcomed Mayor-elect Hugh Williamson and council member-elect Joe Sawyer to Monday night's regular session of the city governing body.

Williamson and Sawyer, who

officially do not take office until the Oct. 11 council meeting, were present Monday night as council observers.

In other business, the council confirmed the Sept. 15 canvass of the results of the Sept. 14 municipal runoff election.

The council also voted unanimsly to participate in the new "DWI Counterattack" program, which is being set up

state-wide to permit first arrest driving while intoxicated offenders to save their drivers licenses by agreeing to attend a special course at the direction of the presiding judge.

Presenting the program to the council Monday night was Mrs. Ruth Follett, program director of the Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair Mental Health Authority. Mrs. Follett also asked that the city continue its participation in the authority when the city budget for the upcoming fiscal year is adopted.

The council, in other discussions:

--Declined to issue an on-premises beverage license to Duck's Tavern on Old Coal City Rd., after a delegation of protesters appeared before the council.

--Voted to permit the Pell City Jaycees to host the King Brothers Circus on Friday, Nov. 5.

--Voted to adopt a resolution commending Harvey Watson for his service to the City during the past four years.

--Announced that the city has been informed by Alabama Gas Co. that it cannot extend its lines to serve persons on Hwy 34 seeking gas service.

--Heard a request that a water line be run to James Hayes' Subdivision. No action was taken.

Rites today for former PC mayor

PELL CITY - Longtime funeral director, former Pell City mayor and civic leader Joe Willingham Kilgroe, 68, died Jan. 14 at the local hospital.

Kilgroe served as mayor of Pell City from 1941-44, 1952-60, and 1970-71. He was appointed to the city council in 1967 after the resignation of Wallace Shoemaker, and reelected in 1968.

Under his leadership, street name markers and house numbers were installed in 1954, bringing about city mail delivery; a football stadium was built in cooperation with St. Clair County; the city contributed land for a National Guard Armory; a public swimming pool was built; the volunteer fire department was reorganized; Eden and Oakridge became a part of the city; the Avondale Mill Village was annexed; and a new city hall was built.

Pell City Mayor Hugh Williamson said, "Joe Kilgroe is one of three or four people who has really influenced me in the things I have done as mayor. I have gone to him for advice and he was always willing to give it when he



JOE W. KILGROE

thought he could help. I think we have lost one of our finest citizens. He served his county and his city well throughout his life."

City Clerk Bettie Scott said, "Joe Kilgroe was mayor when I was appointed clerk. He worked well with all the people and with all city employees. He was such a fine person. There are no words to express how much he meant to the city and how much he will be missed."

Kilgroe became a partner in Kilgroe Funeral Home in 1937. It was then a partnership of Kilgroe and Cornelia Johnson Willingham until 1941. His son, Sonny, supervises the funeral home today.

The Kilgroes own and operate an antique shop in Pell City. Both are considered authorities on antiques and their store — which is an authentic reproduction of an old Williamsburg shop — has patrons from throughout the United States.

Kilgroe was a member of the board of directors of Union State Bank, St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association, and the Pell City Civic Chorus.

Active in community affairs, he was the first president of the Pell City Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Sons of the American Revolution; a member of the Democratic Executive Committee; and past president of the Alabama Funeral Directors Association.

Kilgroe also served on the board of directors of the National Antiques Dealers Association, and two terms on the St. Clair County Board of

Education.

He was a member of Pell City First Baptist Church and served as chairman of the St. Clair County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Kilgroe Funeral Home with the Rev. A. L. Courtney and the Rev. Douglas Ford officiating. Burial will be in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Josephine Bukacek Kilgroe; one son, S. E. (Sonny) Kilgroe; one sister, Mrs. Janie Jones of California, and several nieces and nephews.



FORMER PELL CITY Administrator Con Coupland, who has been serving as mayor's assistant since the new administration took office, has retired from that post. On

his final day on the job, City Hall workers and former officials honored him with a retirement party. Coupland said his retirement

will enable him to travel, and he is shown here cutting his "Happy Traveling" cake. (Carol Pappas photo)



Mayor Hugh H. Williamson signed final papers for a \$6 million application for the sewerage treatment plant in Pell City Wednesday afternoon. It is to

be funded jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency on a 75 percent federal — 25 percent local basis. From left are Bob Lowe of

Tucker Consulting Engineers, Inc., Williamson and City Councilman Keith Porter.

Sanje. was among those the funeral of Mrs. Stuart, ing with the mines at San- 15 men at work and that as usual.

as in the City Saturday. had health for several report that he is improv- work as soon as the sap sets received.

ene returned Friday night, State Capitol. Gardner is e Law and Equity Court ll is passed it will be large- y and preservative.

Company have opened up d drug store stand adjoin- Bank. This enterprising drugs by express two days their beautiful store on the

as started rebuilding on his use corner. His building r ahead of the property terial is already ordered ll be rushed through to possible.

& Co., the great mail order la have issued their 1911 Catalogue. It is a beauty. card request. The writer for years and always finds te and ready to grow.

ther last week was the fore- ring—we hope. However, appreciation. In answer to y sunny day after a seige of wind, one will say it won't I am afraid its a sign of a warm for the time of year. Why can we not enjoy the l make the best of the other h grumbling?

was in Pell City Saturday ds. Theo is an old Pell City den now. He reports that streets and otherwise spread- is right. The county is y to build and maintain its all the little towns should to harmony with the roads. of the streets in St. Clair's ublic roads of flatwoods be- id by the bond commission.

to the public expense when occasion may demand the clerk must provide his deputies and assistants at his private expense. There is no justice in this and we see no reason why the local bill providing a remedy should not be passed.

—Rev. G. G. Evans died at his home 3 miles north west of Pell City at 11 o'clock a. m. Tuesday. Bro. Evans was about 70 years of age and had lived a life of usefulness to his county. About twenty years ago he was Mayor of Pell City and owned and lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. M. A. Greene. Bro. Evans would attend court at Ashville starting out at 6 p. m. on foot and walking the distance 20 miles by eleven o'clock. He is the father of a large family. Those whom we have the pleasure of knowing are Mrs. W. H. Miller of Pell City, Mr. Will Evans of Eden and Mr. Evans, Mrs. Tebo of Anniston. The late Mrs. Ben Ray was also a daughter. Bro. Evans was a Methodist local minister and faithful, and true to his convictions. To all the members of his family Progress extends its sincerest sympathies.

—Fred Walker, son of J. C. Walker, of Woodlawn, died at North Birmingham, at 6 o'clock Monday afternoon. The deceased had been sick for more than 12 months and at one time it was thought that he would recover. He was 21 years old and had a large number of friends and acquaintances. Fred learned to be a telegraph operator at Pell City when quite a little fellow and applied himself well to the work, mastering it in a very short time. He saved his money and invested in real estate in Woodlawn when going there to accept a position in a telegraph office. He was a boy of steady habits and destined to successful attainments if he had lived. The remains arrived at 10:30 a. m. Wednesday morning and were interred at Coosa Valley cemetery at 1 o'clock p. m. A large number of relatives and friends from Birmingham and other points were in attendance. Progress extends its deepest sympathies to all the bereaved relatives and especially the father and mother of the deceased.

NOTICE OF LOCAL ACT:

To all of whom it may concern: Notice is hereby given that a bill, will be introduced at the present session of the legislature of Alabama entitled an act, the caption of which is as follows:

AN ACT

To allow the Clerk of the Circuit Court of St. Clair County, one assistant during the days the Circuit Court is in session at Ashville, and Pell City, define his duties and fix his compensation, and to repeal conflicting laws.

- N. B. Spears,
Victor H. Smith
M. M. Smith
W. A. Starnes
Frank B. Emley

Former Mayor

NO. 9506

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF The First National Bank of Pell City, At Pell City, in the State of Alabama, at the Close of Business Jan. 7, 1911.

RESOURCES
Loans and discounts \$ 57297.60
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured 761.25
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation 25000.00
Premiums on U. S. Bonds 188.87
Bonds, Securities, etc. 10800.00
Banking house, Furniture and Fixtures 3700.00
Due from National Banks (not reserve agents) 25063.73
Due from State and Private Banks and Bankers, Trust Companies and Savings Banks 21554.76
Due from approved reserve agents 12118.68
Checks and other Cash Items 1115.36
Notes of other National Banks 661.00
Fractional Paper Currency, Nickels and Cents 69.20
Lawful Money Reserve in Bank, viz:
Special 18888.25
Legal Tender Notes 1600.00 15388.25
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (6 per cent of circulation) 1250.00
Total 174944.68
LIABILITIES
Capital Stock Paid in 25000.00
Surplus Fund 750.00
Undivided Profits, Less Expenses and Taxes Paid 1729.12
National Bank Notes Outstanding 20100.00
Due to State and Private Banks and Bankers 729.30
Individual Deposits subject to check 82122.85
Demand Certificates of Deposit 41327.47
Cashiers Checks outstanding 3185.94
Total 174944.68

State of Alabama, County of St. Clair, ss: I, McLane Tilton, Jr., Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

McLANE TILTON, Jr., Cashier,
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of Jan. 1911. CHAS. P. PRATT, Notary Public.
CORRECT—Attest: McLANE TILTON, Jr., T. H. RENNIE, SUMNER COGSWELL, Directors.

Former Mayor

Handwritten signature and scribbles at top right.

Former Mayor

It will be the guests... Gunter has accepted... Chapman entertained... Cards and games... Miss Chapman... Lola Miller, Pea... Tatum and Vani... Ullman, Turner... DeGaris, Ludfo... Smith and G... Smith will leave... Kate Johnson was... last Saturday nig... retained some of h... ally. The evening... in playing gam... after which dan... were served. The... Hated Smith, Ann... McGro, Willie, Cob... n Smith, Pope, Co... Annesley, DeGar... and Ullman, Turne... with Cathar of Woodl... for her parents here... an automobile consist... g. Henderson arrived... from the City of Bir... of the Bir... Co. J. H. Henders... of Alexander Cit... at the Smith... of P... to pilot them... way of Talladega... from Pell City to Salac... a distance of 38 mile... M. F. just purcha... Henderson, front... Garage Co., Mrs. And... of the car and... before to...

Handwritten signature or mark at bottom center.

Mayor W. Green Evans

June 18, 1964

Alumni Office
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Gentlemen:

The City of Pell City, Alabama, is making an effort to obtain pictures of all of the former Mayors. We have been unable to secure any picture of Jesse Olonzo Gray, a graduate of your Medical College, 1893. We have noted that most doctors have a picture of the members of their graduating class and we wondered if you have a picture or if you know of any member of that class who might have such a picture. We would like to have an 8 x 10 black and white picture and will be happy to pay any costs involved. Any help you can give us will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Bettie Scott, Clerk
City of Pell City

1964 Charles P. Pratt Prominent Bell City Man Dies

from 1908-1911 was Mayor of Bell City
said to be youngest Mayor of Bell City

was State Director of American Red Cross 1918-1925

A native of Walhalla, S.C. came to P.C. in 1907

His father George Pratt - first President of P.C. Manufacturing Company

Helped to secure the
Bell City Manufacturing
Company

Dorrell Pratt → his father was George W. Pratt
an early resident of Bell City



"Calling Pell City"

Pell City Mayor Hugh H. Williamson, a radio operator during his stay with the U.S. Air Force, uses a familiar means to proclaim National Guard Week in the Pell City Area. Warrant Officer Paul Vaughn is holding the radio. National Guard Week is March 30-April 6. (NEWS-AEGIS Photo by Joey Kennedy)

Thursday, March 30, 1978... THE ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS

RETIREMENT & APPRECIATION PROGRAM

HONORING

JAMES OLIVER McGOWAN

Telecommunications & Cisco Networking Instructor
John Pope Eden Career Technical Center
St. Clair County Board of Education



Pell City Civic Center
Pell City, Alabama

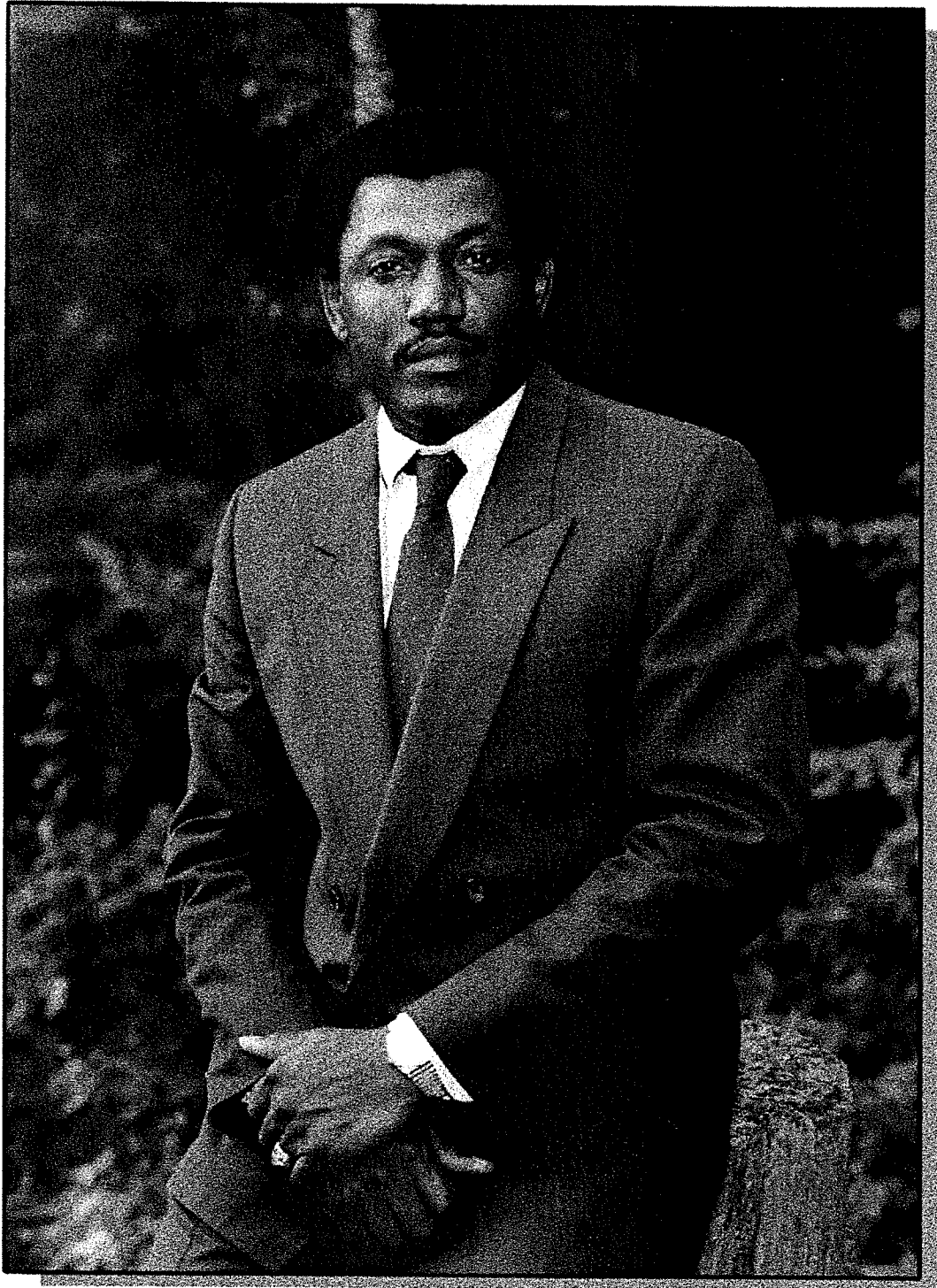
June 19, 2003
6:00 P.M.

Welcome

Friends and colleagues of
James O. McGowan
take this opportunity to
welcome you with pleasure and enthusiasm
to this retirement celebration
for such an
honorable educator.

We congratulate him for
the excellent service rendered
to the educational system.

It is with pride that we
salute him on this
special occasion as we
bid him farewell!



James Oliver McGowan

The Life of James O. McGowan

Mr. McGowan began his career in education as a telecommunications instructor at the John Pope Eden Career Technical Center in the St. Clair County School System. During those years, he taught basic installation and repair, installation of telephone systems, pole climbing and outside plant construction. As technology changed and communications advanced into the new millennium, his curriculum changed to meet the new challenges of the computer age. His last assignment was teaching Cisco Computer Networking and Aries A-Plus Certification in order to meet those challenges.

During his years as a teacher, Mr. McGowan made a decision to run for public office in June of 1984. He won the majority vote in every beat except one and took office in October as Pell City's first black city councilman. He continues to serve the citizens of Pell City as councilman and Mayor Pro-Tem.

After a year into his term as councilman, he was appointed by the mayor as chairperson of a committee to oversee the Pell City Police Department. Mr. McGowan began to attend classes at Jacksonville State University on weekends, at his own expense. He completed the class with 280 hours of law enforcement training—the equivalent of a full-time police officer.

Mr. McGowan served as sponsor and co-sponsor of the VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) for several alternating years. He also served as a member of the St. Clair County Education Association, Alabama Education Association, National Education Association, Alabama-Mississippi Independent Telephone Association, State Vocational Education Association and National Vocational Education Association.

Throughout his career, Mr. McGowan has taught numerous students who have gone on to make careers out of their training. Some of his students are in management positions for large companies and some are in big business for themselves.

Mr. McGowan is married to Elsie Henderson McGowan, Director of the St. Clair County Head Start Program. They have two children and one grandson, Jaylond. Their son, Kenneth, served in the U.S. Navy and is now an officer at the St. Clair County Correctional Facility. Their daughter, LaCindra, is a pre-law student at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

BIOGRAPHICAL JOURNEY OF JAMES MCGOWAN

Mission:

To train students so that they will be able to find a challenging and responsible position where skills, education, expertise and practical experience as a telecommunications specialist will be effectively utilized.

Experience: Twenty-seven years in telecommunications. Advanced from entry level to planning, instructing and management; installation, service and repair of electronic key systems, data switching equipment and data circuitry, reading schematics and diagrams. Also, familiar with test equipment.

Education: Rank II/BS Degree in Vocational Education from Alabama A & M University; Telecommunications Certificate from Tennessee State Vocational School; Certified Teacher in Telecommunications from the State of Alabama; Certified with ITT, TIE and Mitel for Electronic Key Systems, PBS EPABX; Cisco Systems Computer Network Certification and Aries Technology.

Work History: Instructor at Eden Career Technical Center in Telecommunications, 1976 to present; Cisco Computer Networking and Aries Technology Instructor, 2000 to present.

Community/Civic Activities: 5-term member of the City Council of Pell City; Member of Local, State and National Education Associations; Graduate of the Certified Municipal Officer's Training Program; Past Executive Board Member of the St. Clair County Dept of Human Resources; Co-Advisor of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America; Graduate of the Northeast Alabama Police Academy at Jacksonville State University; served as Mayor Pro-Tempore for past 4 years; served as Chairman of Police, Fire, Park & Recreation, Street & Sanitation and Finance Committees; member of the Pell City Planning Board; Alabama-Mississippi Independent Telephone Association; Outstanding Young Men of America 1982-83.

PROGRAM

Prelude/Music.....Zache Horton

Welcome/Occasion.....Guin Robinson
Mayor, City of Pell City

Invocation.....Rev. A. L. Courtney, Ret.
First Baptist Church, Pell City, Alabama

Dinner
(Power Point Presentation by Tim Sweezey
Director, Pell City Parks & Recreation)

Music.....Zache Horton

Roasters..... Judge Bill Hereford
Mayor Guin Robinson
Attorney Billy Church

Dedicatory Song.....LaCindra McGowan

Expressions of Appreciation & Presentations.....Friends,
Co-workers & Students

Unveiling of Portrait.....Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Spradley

Remarks.....Honoree, James O. McGowan

CONTRIBUTORS/SUPPORTERS/SPONSORS

Mr. Greg Bain
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Boddie
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Bowers
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Hon. Guin Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Seay
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Shepherd
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Smith
Mr. & Mrs. William Trussell
Union State Bank
Mr. Larry Ward
Hon. & Mrs. Randy Wood

Program Committee

Paula Hereford
Penny Isbell
Jim King
Marie Manning
Guin Robinson
Phil Seay
Cathy Smith
Tim Sweezey

Photographer

Ed Tyler

On behalf of the family
and program committee,
we gratefully acknowledge and appreciate
your friendship and support
at this momentous occasion
honoring our friend and colleague,

James Oliver McGowan.



St. Clair News-Aegis June 3, 1993

Photo by Cindy Warner

THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE MARINES—For the first time in Pell City's History, the commanding officers of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), The American Legion and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) are all Marines. The three men were all present for Memorial Day Services at the St. Clair County Courthouse in Pell City Monday. Pictured are VFW Commander Jim Elzey, American Legion Commander Bill Hereford and DAV Commander Richard Gilbert.

Former Mayor Elected To City Council In Pell City

Joe Kilgroe was elected a member of the City Council at the regular meeting of the Council Monday night. He will succeed Wallace Shoemaker who resigned his place on the city governing body when he moved his home from Pell City to Childersburg. Mayor Otis Perry made the announcement after the council meeting Monday night.

The new member of the council is not new in experience in serving his city. With the exception of the late Mayor Sumter Cogswell, Kilgroe has possibly been a member of the City Governing Body longer than any other person. During his lifetime Mayor Cogswell was for many years either mayor or a member of the council.

When first elected a member of the council Kilgroe, as mayor pro-tem, served a good part of his first term as mayor because of the illness of Mayor Cogswell. He was elected a member of the council for a second term and was later

_____ **elected mayor for two consecutive terms.**

Kilgroe has long-time experience in the affairs of municipal government, carried the highest respect of city and municipal officials of Alabama and other states during his terms of office.

Under Alabama law, replacements on the city council are to be made at the first regular meeting after the vacancy occurs. Mayor Perry said the new councilman was elected by unanimous vote. "We feel that we are lucky to have a man of the experience and caliber of Mr. Kilgroe to serve on our city council", Mayor Perry said in commenting on the action of the council.

The Mayor also expressed regret that Shoemaker's business took him from Pell City, where he had served as mayor pro-tem since his election in 1964, when he polled more votes than any other candidate.

"I have never worked with anyone more cooperative or more conscientious than Wallace," said the Mayor, "and I sincerely regretted seeing him leave Pell City."

Shoemaker, a personable young pharmacist who took an active hand in local civic and political affairs, recently moved to Childersburg, where he is now part-owner in a drug store.

Shoemaker Says Thanks

Wallace Shoemaker, former mayor pro-tem who resigned recently from the City Council, issued a statement to the News-Aegis this week expressing appreciation to the people of Pell City and regret at having to make a decision to leave.

Shoemaker, a pharmacist formerly employed by Citizens Drug Co., purchased an interest in a drug store in Childersburg recently.

"I want to let the people of Pell City know," he said in his statement, "how very much I appreciated the tremendous vote I received when I was elected to the City Council in 1964.

"Moving away was a tough decision for me to make, and I sincerely miss all the fine people of Pell

77029 25, 1964

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"Moving away was a tough decision for me to make, and I sincerely miss all the fine people of Pell City. I very much enjoyed my association with the Mayor and City Councilmen and it was with much regret that I tendered my resignation."

CLAIR NEWS-

ALABAMA'S BIG WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Mrs. W. P. McGlawn

PELL CITY, ALABAMA

HEARTLAND Box 72

LATER

New Mayor And Council Take Over At City Hall

A brand new mayor, two hold-over council members and three newcomers to city government took over Pell City's municipal reins at a short inaugural ceremony at a special called meeting at City Hall Monday night.

Otis Perry was sworn in as mayor to succeed Sam F. Burt who declined to run for a second term. Mayor Perry comes to the city's top job with 12 years experience in municipal affairs as a member of the city council.

The new mayor said "I have we can make as much forward progress for this city in the next four years as Mayor Burt and the council did in the past term. We will make every effort to carry forward the work that has been started and do everything possible to bring new industries and a new payrolls and a good life for the people of this community".

The new mayor said he was well pleased with the personnel of all city employees. "We made temporary appointments at our organizational meeting Monday night, but we expect to make permanent appointments at the next regular council meeting".

Hold-over members of the council are J. R. Lowery and Dr. Raymond Cox. New members are Dr. Horace Clayton, Wallace Shoemaker and James Smith.

On passing over the reins of city government to Mayor Perry, Mayor Burt issued the following statement detailing Mayor Burt's statement follows;

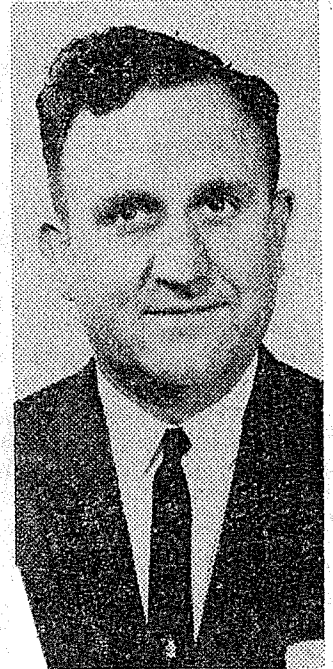
In as much as this will be the last meeting for this administration, I would like to take this occasion to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the council for their unselfish efforts. We are

of water per month.

With the money from the bond issue and the government grant, the city added approximately six miles of 6" water mains and 38 fire hydrants and made numerous corrections in the old water mains in the Eden and Oak Ridge systems. We have two deep wells now in the last stages of development. Producing water from deep wells required a capital outlay of \$201,000 and a cost of 3.3c per 1000 gallons to produce against an estimated cost of \$573,000 for a filtering plant and production costs of 10.4c per 1000 gallons. The drilling contractor and city engineer have reported to us that Well No. 1 should have a permanent pumping capacity of 450 gallons per minute and Well No. 2 should pump 300 gallons per minute. This is in excess of 32 million gallons per month which is 1½ times the city's present consumption and should furnish water for more than 300 additional families for city growth. When this project is complete the city will be in a position to have a full time fireman and will benefit in lower insurance rates.

The city has refinanced the Oak Ridge Water and Gas system at a considerable savings and at the same time adjusted the Oak Ridge Water and gas rates downward to the same as Pell City rates. This program will eliminate some work on the part of the city

There has been approximately ten miles of new hard surface streets built in the past four years and most of this was done on a property assessment basis. Some three miles of streets have been resurfaced at city expense. The Park and Recreation Board has constructed and



OTIS PERRY
.. New P. C. Mayor

Dr. Raymond Cox. New members are Dr. Horace Clayton, Wallace Shoemaker and James Smith.

On passing over the reins of city government to Mayor Perry, Mayor Burt issued the following statement detailing in brief some of the accomplishments of the past administration.

Mayor Burt's statements follows;

In as much as this will be the last meeting for this administration, I would like to take this occasion to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the council for their unselfish efforts. We are finishing four years of an interesting and, I believe, progressive period of the City and I would like to outline a brief resume of what has been accomplished.

In the beginning we had a difficult period covering several months trying to get the new sewer line and disposal plants in operation. There was also some concern in the beginning about the city financing and I believe every member of the council and city official put forth an extra effort to overcome these difficulties.

The previous administration had entered into an agreement with Avondale Mills to buy the water and sewer system in the village and also assume the responsibility of the streets. We found it necessary to rebuild the water system and a part of the sewer system and install meters to all the houses. This proved to be a very costly undertaking and it is estimated that we spent more than \$10,000. The city, of course, needs to own and control the Avondale village utilities but this will prove to be uneconomical for several years.

We had a program from the beginning to try to improve the city water system and fire protection and to do this we sold city bonds in the amount of \$102,000 and had a \$99,000 government grant. The indebtedness resulting from the bond issue will be liquidated by the saving effected in producing our own water instead of the purchase of approximately eight million gallons

Oak Ridge Water and Gas system at a considerable savings and at the same time adjusted the Oak Ridge Water and gas rates downward to the same as Pell City rates. This program will eliminate some work on the part of the city and means a much simpler accounting system.

Addition of 56 street lights should make our city safer.

There has been approximately ten miles of new hard surface streets built in the past four years and most of this was done on a property assessment basis. Some three miles of streets have been resurfaced at city expense.

The Park and Recreation Board has constructed and equipped the recreation building and swimming pool and installed playground equipment at the St. Clair County Training School.

The city furnished the site for the new health center and is now furnishing the home for the St. Clair County Rescue Squad and also furnishes oil and gas for the trucks and motor boats owned by the squad.

The city has installed a gas pump and a maintenance shop for city equipment and this has proven very economical. We also have a fully equipped water meter repair shop and the plans are to eventually include gas meters in this repair program. We have installed a fire and emergency siren on the city hall. The city has a well equipped fire department including a new and modern truck and a completely reworked fire truck.

A warning signal and light has been placed at the railroad crossing at 19th Street and is hoped that further warning systems will be placed on other railroad crossings in the city.

We have contributed to the surplus food program in the county and are contributing to the library program. The city pays 90% of the gas, water and sewer bill for the local National Guard Armory and the Park and Recreation Board has the use of this building for a part of its program. The city continues to

CONT'D TO BACK PAGE
FIRST SECTION

New Council Sets-Up City Organization

New Mayor Otis Perry and the recently elected City Council held their organizational meeting Monday night.

Standing committees were appointed and Mayor Perry announced the re-hiring of the heads of all city departments.

Committee appointments were as follows; J. R. Lowery was appointed chairman of the street committee, a post he held during the past administration and those appointed to serve with him were James Smith and Dr. Horace Clayton. James Smith was named head of the Utilities committee and Wallace Shoemaker and Dr. Clayton will serve with him. Dr. Ray Cox was again appointed to head the Police committee and Lowery and Smith will serve with him.

J. R. Lowery will head the

fire department committee and Dr. Clayton and Shoemaker will be on the committee with him. Dr. Cox will head the finance committee and Shoemaker and Smith will also be on this committee. Dr. Clayton was appointed chairman of the judiciary committee and Dr. Cox and Shoemaker will also be members of the finance committee.

The mayor is Ex-officio member of all committees.

Miss Bettie Scott, veteran city clerk, was again appointed to this place. Rehired was Jerry Seales, chief of police, James Tyus, superintendent of utilities, Ed Holladay, city attorney, F. O. Whitten Jr., city recorder, Pete Fambrough, chief of the volunteer fire department, and Homer Banister, street superintendent.



THE CITY OF PELL CITY
Investiture
Mayor, City Council and
Board of Education

NOVEMBER 3, 2008
at 6:30 p.m.

The Pell City Center
For
Education and Performing
Arts

Mayor

William E. Hereford

Council Members

Greg Gossett

Donnie Guinn

James McGowan

Donnie D. Todd, Jr.

Dot Wood

Board of Education

Cecil Fomby

Eric Hicks

David Murphy

Michael Price

Norman Wilder

Officers Administering Oath

Stanley D. Batemon, Commission Chairman

Hugh E. Holladay, Attorney at Law

Charles E. Robinson, Presiding Circuit Judge

D. Guin Robinson, former Mayor of Pell City

Philip K. Seay, District Judge

Welcome Judge Philip K. Seay
Master of Ceremonies

Invocation Rev. A. L. Courtney

Presentation of Colors Color Guard
Pell City High School
Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Pledge of Allegiance Joshua R. Kendrick
United States Marine Corps

National Anthem Marian Frazier

OATH OF OFFICE

Charge to Council Mayor Adam Stocks

Organizational Meeting of City Council

Benediction Rev. Maurice Keller

Reception

City of Pell City



OCTOBER 4, 2004
7:00 P. M.

City of Pell City
Inauguration Ceremonies



Mayor	Mr. Adam Stocks
Councilman District 1	Mr. Greg Gossett
Councilman District 2	Mr. J.T. Carter
Councilman District 3	Mr. Ed Pennington
Councilman District 4	Mr. Donnie Todd, Jr.
Councilman District 5	Mr. Gaston Williamson
School Board District 1	Mr. David Murphy
School Board District 2	Mr. Cecil Fomby
School Board District 3	Dr. Eric Hicks
School Board District 4	Mr. Michael Price
School Board District 5	Mr. Norman Wilder

Invocation Rev. Paul Brasher

Pledge Allegiance To The Flag Mr. Earnest White

God Bless America Eden Elementary School Choir

Oath of Office William Hereford, Judge
Guin Robinson, Mayor

Charge to the Council Guin Robinson, Mayor

Organizational Session of the Pell City Council

- Call the meeting to order.
- Elect a Mayor Pro Tempore of the Council to act in place of the Mayor in his absence.
- Adopt a motion setting the time and place for regular council meetings.
- Mayor's appointment of councilmembers to Department Committees:

Finance	Parks & Recreation
Police	Utilities
Streets	Fire
Library	
- Adopt a motion to designate the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and Finance Committee Chairman to sign checks along with the City Clerk.
- Adopt a motion to continue the use of our present depositories.
- Adopt a motion providing that all administrative officers and employees of the City continue temporarily in their respective duties, pending such time as the council shall make permanent appointments.
- Motion to recess subject to the call of the Mayor.

The Region

Sewerage plan would profit co

AEC says conflict of interest exists for Pell City official

By CHRISTOPHER SMITH
Star Staff Writer

PELL CITY — Councilman Joe Wheeler's efforts to get a city sewerage project in an area where he and his family members own property presents a conflict of interest, a state Ethics Commission official said.

But Wheeler, who is running for St. Clair County circuit clerk, said he would not benefit from the project because he has no plans to develop the property. He promised that he will continue to work for the sewerage project, known as the Cropwell project, because it is in the best interest of the city.

"This project is the most important thing you'll ever see in Pell City," said



Wheeler

who chairs the sewerage committee.

The proposed path of the sewer lines is between the Civic Center and just south of the Water Tank Hill area on U.S. 231 and 19th Street. The council hopes commercial retailers will be attracted to the area if the project goes through.

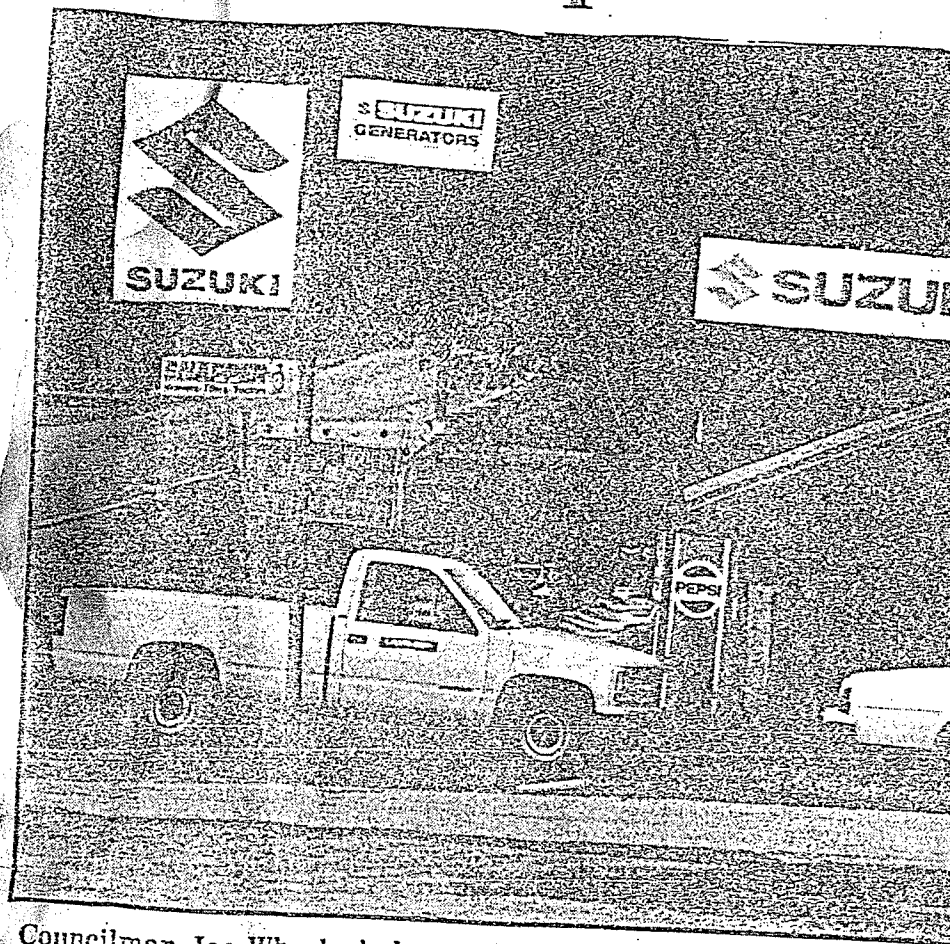
Records in the St. Clair County Probate and Tax Assessor's office show Wheeler owns several pieces of property under his and his mother's name in the Pine Orchard subdivision, all near the proposed project's path.

MOREOVER, Wheeler's brother David owns the Suzuki shop on the corner of 15th Avenue South, directly in the proposed path.

"Wheeler's actions appear to be in violation of many . . . of our advisory opinions," said Danny Myrick, an investigator with the state Ethics Commission. "No public official should ever vote on a matter which he or his family stands to make direct personal financial gain."

Because Wheeler has yet to receive any financial gain from his action, Myrick said the councilman has not broken any laws.

Wheeler said some of his Pine Orchard



Councilman Joe Wheeler's brother owns a Suzuki shop directly in t

subdivision property already has septic tanks and will not be connected to the sewerage. Wheeler said two undeveloped lots in his mother's name, which Wheeler volunteered he actually owns, probably will use septic tanks as well.

"I'm doing this for the city," Wheeler said. "I had thought it might affect my brother's lot and so I was thinking about abstaining from the vote on the actual project."

The council expects property values in the area will increase significantly if the project is built.

"That's true to a certain extent," Wheeler said.

But Wheeler said he has no plans to sell any of his holdings in the area.

He would not speculate whether if he sold

the land, the new owner would seek to operate on a septic system or attach to the sewer trunk line.

Each Pell City councilman has gone on record favoring the Cropwell project. But disagreement over how it should be financed has stalled the work.

AT THE APRIL 11 council meeting, Wheeler made a motion that city engineering consultant Charles Tucker be allowed to draw up plans for the project.

Wheeler said that before the vote he had not mentioned his ownership of the property in question to anyone on the council.

The motion was defeated 3-2. Watson and council members Roy Holladay and Ricky Staples voted against it, saying they want the

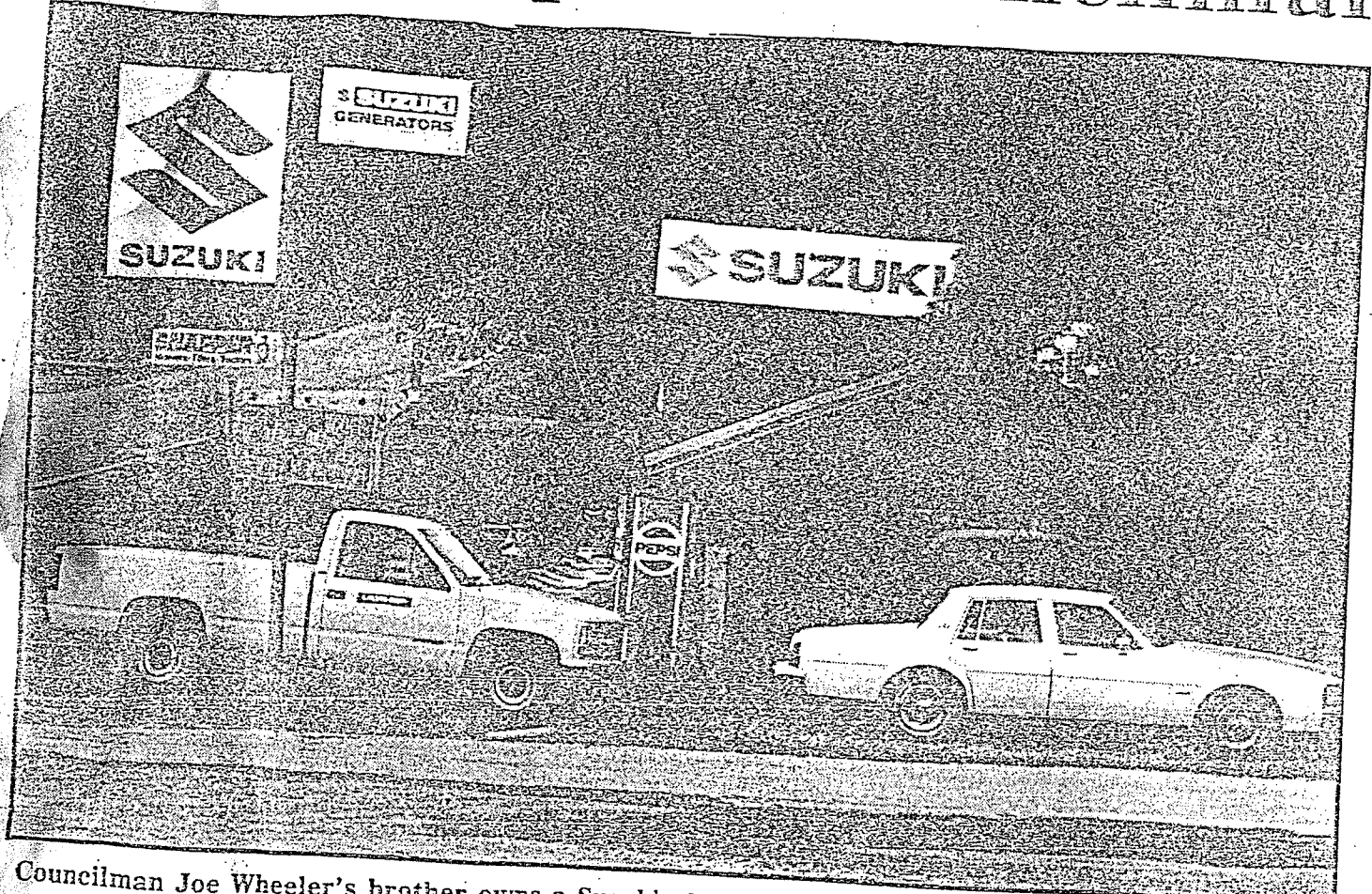
Goodyear, union reach proposed

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Thursday, April 21, 1988

plan would profit councilman



Councilman Joe Wheeler's brother owns a Suzuki shop directly in the proposed path of sewer lines

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property owners benefiting from the project to make a 25 percent contribution to its cost.

"He (Wheeler) should not be involved in trying to get such a project through," said Myrick. "He should not vote at all, but he should at least come up before the council and admit he might stand to make a profit."

Wheeler said the project will pay for itself in five years with increased revenue from sales tax.

"We've got a \$20 million industrial payroll and no place to shop," Wheeler said.

"People always ask when we're going to get a Wal-Mart. When we get this sewerage, we'll get a Wal-Mart," he added.

Wheeler said it was he and Ed Ash, Pell City's director of economic development, who began discussing the project.

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First Official Meeting—

City Fathers Leap Into Work With Brisk, Lengthy Session

BY ANNE MILAM

The newly elected mayor and city council of Pell City waded briskly through a busy two and a half hour session Monday night in its first official business meeting since the group recently took the oath of office.

And the business developed as follows:

Robert L. Ginn asked the Council for information on development of a mobile home park with approximately 40 lots on property on Highway 78 West near WPHK.

Mayor Nixon told Mr. Ginn that the city limits extend to a point just East of the radio station at the present time and that he would advise an engineering survey on the feasibility of the property as a mobile home park. He commented that the percolation for septic tanks in the area was extremely low. The Council referred the matter to the Utilities Committee for study.

Bill Nuckolls, one of the developers of the Logan Martin Pine Subdivision at St. Clair Shores came before the Council to ask the possibility of the City's extension of water service into the property.

Mayor Nixon explained that present plans call for extension of water lines as far as the city limits go down Highway 231 South which is down to Jack Tucker's property. At the

present time, the water lines are extended about half way from the Big Bull Restaurant and Town & Country Food Mart.

Mr. Nuckolls said that the development consisted of some 33 lots, but all of them would not be sold this year.

The mayor and council discussed the availability of water in the area and the Mayor told Mr. Nuckolls that the Council would discuss the situation and let him know something in a couple of weeks. The matter was referred to Forrest Walls' committee.

Councilman Walls was unanimously elected to the vacancy on the Park and Recreation Board formerly held by Dr. Horace Clayton.

Mayor Nixon discussed the solid waste disposal problems facing the City under the State laws and told the Council that the garbage trucks which had been ordered should be delivered in the next few days. He said that under the present temporary arrangement with Urban Sanitation on the garbage deliveries to the land fill, the cost is running approximately \$300 to \$350 per week. The original estimate of the cost of taking the garbage to the landfill was \$150 per week and the increased cost is caused primarily by the large loads of boxes from the major businesses in Pell City.

The Council unanimously

City Fathers—

Continued From Page 1
way 78 East. He said that he went to the business last Saturday night after 12:00 p.m. and found the doors open and the parking lots full of cars. He said he returned to the Police Station and discussed the situation with Officer Bob Rowe. He told the Council that he was treated very rudely by Officer Rowe and was finally asked, "What business is it of yours?" Watson said that he was concerned with the treatment he received in the police station as well as the situation existing at the restaurant.

City attorney Edwin Holladay informed the Council that Title 29 of the Code of Alabama prohibits the sale, giving away or drinking of alcoholic beverages in a lunch room, restaurant, cafe or public place after 12:00 on Saturday night and that violators are guilty of a misdemeanor with fines from \$10.00 to \$100.00 or not more than three months jail sentence.

After discussion, the Council unanimously requested Police Chief Bowlin to strictly enforce the law as quoted by the at-

cleaning up the city and beautification plan. He noted particularly the deplorable condition of street corners, street and avenue signs, and of buildings and vacant properties.

A motion was carried unanimously that the City request Embury Oil Company to clean up property located across from Avondale Mills on Highway 78 East.

Councilman Walls discussed the need for a city manager and the Council voiced the agreement that some administrative assistance was badly needed to implement funding of programs, federal grants, and other duties. Mayor Nixon said that a survey presently being made by the Regional Planning Commission and this feature was involved in the survey. He said that so much action could probably be taken by the first of the year.

Councilman Watson suggested to the Council that an advisory board of interested and capable people in Pell City might be used on a voluntary basis to meet some of the needs. He commented that there were many citizens in

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Continued From Page 1

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Lockridge also stated that he wished to join with Mr. Turner in an all our campaign to clean up and beautify the city. He reported to the Council on the condition of his equipment in the Streets Department. He was commended by the Council on the work accomplished since he took office shortly less than a month ago.

Mr. Lockridge said that he felt the city should be run as a business and that he was attempting to put his department in that kind of order. The Council approved Mr. Lockridge's request to take bids on a new bush hog and tractor for grass cutting and asked him to get the necessary specifications ready.

City Clerk Bettie Scott told the Council that an error had been made in the computation of a recent increase in the pay of the firemen and the Council approved the correction bringing the salary from \$385 per month to \$395.

Miss Scott also presented the Council a proposed budget for the 1972-73 fiscal year and the Council took the proposal under consideration for action at the next meeting.

The meeting ended with a question from city attorney Edwin Holladay, "What is the greatest need right now in Pell City?"

The Council unanimously agreed that the number one need is money. Adequate sewerage facilities (which, of

time, the water lines ended about half way Big Bull Restaurant n & Country Food Mart. Nuckolls said that the ment consisted of some ut all of them would not this year.

mayor and council d the availability of the area and the Mayor Nuckolls that the would discuss the and let him know ng in a couple of weeks. tter was referred to Walls' committee.

ilman Walls was ously elected to the y on the Park and ion Board formerly held Horace Clayton.

Nixon discussed the aste disposal problems he City under the State d told the Council that bage trucks which had ordered should be d in the next few days.

that under the present ary arrangement with Sanitation on the gar- liveries to the land fill, ost is running apately \$300 to \$350 per The original estimate of of taking the garbage to dfill was \$150 per week increased cost is caused ily by the large loads of from the major ses in Pell City.

Council unanimously ed a requirement that all

businesses collapse pasteboard boxes before putting them out for pickup. Letters were to be mailed to the businesses informing them of this action.

Mayor Nixon told the Council that Donald Richey began work on Monday covering the old garbage dump in compliance with the new laws.

Emphasis was placed on the necessity of enforcing laws stopping residents from using the dump and from dumping garbage at other unauthorized places. Mayor Nixon said that residents should go by the office of Urban Sanitation and get a work order allowing them to take the garbage to the landfill.

The Council approved the hiring of Mrs. Brownie Drummonds on a permanent basis, and passed a resolution in favor of the Act returning Sheriff Roe's salary to \$13,000.

Councilman Harvey Watson reported to the Council that he had had numerous complaints regarding Ed's Lounge on High-

Continued on Page 3

business establishments affected.

Paul Turner, Chairman of the Finance Committee for the city, expressed his desire to see a long range program for

City who are in development and planning work probably would be willing to donate their time for such an advisory board.

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money was available) was
considered the city's greatest
need, according to the members
of the council.

Continued on Page 3

Thurs. Oct. 5, 1978

1E ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS

City administrator position is justified

The Pell City council has recently come under fire from citizens in what the News-Aegis feels is a misunderstanding of a chain of events and we would like to attempt to clear the air.

Council has been criticized for its recent discussions concerning the prospect of hiring a city administrator which was unfortunately discussed in the same meeting that a gas hike was approved, reluctantly, by council.

The two events were totally unrelated.

Council has since late spring been kicking around the idea of hiring a city administrator and the News-Aegis supports this plan whole-heartedly.

It is a wise move on the city council's part and will deeply benefit the city if the right person is employed and supported by the city fathers.

A city administrator will serve under the direction of mayor and council and the purpose of the position, according to the ordinance which was recently approved by City Attorney Billy Church, is to provide centralization of the administrative responsibilities of the city.

It is a huge job and one that will not only benefit the mayor, council, city staff, but more importantly, the entire Pell City community. An example of this

is the fact that a city administrator can spend more time persuing grants than can a part time mayor.

The recent gas rate hike which was approved by the city affected other communities. Steele, which is serviced by the same supplier of natural gas, was also faced with the same increase.

Council did not act on increasing rates, which took a big jump, until two months billing dates had passed and since the action was not retro-active, Pell City citizens really enjoyed the former rate while the city absorbed the difference of the new rate over the old rate for the months of August and September.

Council did not want to pass the new rate hike but had little choice. If it had not, then citizens wld have had something to really to complain about because Pell City could not operate long, absorbing the rate increase.

That would not be smart buisness.
Rate increases are always unpopular and we don't like them any more than the next fellow. But we felt the record should be set straight because we know for a fact that the rate increase and the possible hiring of a city administrator are totally unrelated.
(Mike Moser, editor)

Billy Church appointed to city post

Pell City attorney Billy L. Church Monday night was appointed by the Pell City Council to fill the city attorney's slot vacated recently by H. Edwin Holladay.

Holladay, who was sworn in Friday as the 30th Judicial Circuit Court Judge for St. Clair and Blount Counties, was appointed by Gov. George C. Wallace to that post last week.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon appointed councilmen Paul Turner and Dr. Barn Cox to come up with a fitting activity to honor Holladay for his service to the city.

Also, the council agreed to purchase ten acres of land from Charnel Hannah to be used as the site for the new sewer disposal plant.

Nixon reported that Hannah's property was the site selected by Bill Manasco of the Water Improvement Commission.

Manasco said that Hannah would only sell ten acres of the land, and suggested that the

city purchase as much of it as possible. Cost of the land will be \$500 per acre.

Ed Ash approached the council and asserted that the

(See Appointed Page 7A)

linued from Page 1)

Industrial Development Board has an industrial Development Board has an industrial prospect interested in land West of the pipe shop.

Ash said the industry needs sufficient water for a sprinkler system since they make corrugated boxes.

City Engineer Charles Tucker said that an eight-inch PVC line can be used and he estimated the cost of extending the line from the water tank at \$13,000 or \$14,000 as the line would have to be bored under the highway and railroad and then encased.

Tucker added the cost would be lower if the city did the work instead of contracting the project. However, the council felt that a contractor would have to be used for for the boring under the highway and railroad.

Ash asked the council if the city would help pay for the cost, and how much the city would pay. Nixon turned the request over to the Utility Department to see if it would be feasible and asked for an answer at the end of this week.

Bids were taken for plumbing at the shop. They included Joe Gardner, \$3,698; Tucker Plumbing Co., \$3,660 and Graham Plumbing Co., bid with

city furnishing material—not acceptable. Drawings on the plumbing will be compared for the

Bids were taken for plumbing at the shop. They included Joe Gardner, \$3,698; Tucker Plumbing Co., \$3,660 and Graham Plumbing Co., bid with city furnishing material—not acceptable. Drawings on the plumbing will be compared for the bid is awarded.

In addition, bids were solicited for electrical work for the shop. They included: Rich Electrical Service, \$2,593.41 and Royce Carroll, \$2,350. The bid from Carroll will be asked to include a welding plug.

Bids for a police car were let. They included bids from Ben Coker Ford, Pell City Dodge and Sutherlin Dodge. The bids were turned over to the police committee with the power to act.

The council approved a taxi license application for Milton Shepard.

An application for a liquor license for Mrs. Thlia Darby of the Sugar Shack was okayed by aldermen.

In addition, the council approved a resolution that would close a portion of Fourth Ave. N. before adjourning.

Pell City mayor looks for growth

Becoming familiar with the operation of a city can be a long and complicated process, but Mayor Lawrence Fields has settled into his new job comfortably, and has been observing how things work.

Now he is beginning to slowly move into areas where improvements can be made.

"I'm still excited," he said in a recent interview. "Pell City is on the threshold of really growing, and with team effort, we can get it going down the path of growth."

He sees retail development a key to that growth, and the new sewerline extension projects coming up will spur that retail growth.

"The industrial development board has done an excellent job of recruiting industries," he said, "but if we don't offer the retail variety needed, then those new people will go elsewhere to do their shopping."

He reported that the state had contacted him about putting lights up on Interstate 20 at the Hwy. 231 exchange. They will put up the street lights with the federal government paying 90 percent of the costs and the state paying 10 percent if the city will pay the monthly electric bill for them.

"I've talked to the council and we like the idea. Having the freeway lit up at Pell City will bring in a lot more retail traffic, we feel, and the increase in sales taxes will offset the cost of paying the electric bill," Mayor Fields commented. He mentioned how the fast food places and the service stations on Hwy. 231

feels.

Cleaning up the downtown area is another effort in that retail development, insuring that the city takes care what it already has and utilize the downtown area as much as possible, he explained.

Mayor Fields is particularly concerned with the "trashy" appearance of the highways leading into town. "That first impression people get when they drive into town is important, and we only get one chance at that," he said.

Last year, the town sold off its gas system to Alabama Gas and while it happened before he took office, Fields knows that it was a good move. "It was a tremendous expense to the city, and we couldn't always put in a new gas line to serve new customers when they wanted it. Now with Alabama Gas handling it, people can usually get gas when they ask for it," he explained.

His top priority is to get water supplied to everyone in the city who needs it. "There are a lot of people in the city limits who still don't have city water," he said.

The coming \$800,000 sewer extension project down Hwy. 231 will do a lot to unleash retail development along that stretch of highway, he said, and Fields met with a highway engineer Wednesday morning to discuss where the sewer lines should go.

The four-laning of Hwy. 231 in that area is a distinct possibility soon, and care is to be taken to coordinate the sewerage project so as not to

office.

In examining the structure and procedures of his city departments, Mayor Fields has been talking to various city employees and taking input from committee chairman as to possible new policies. "We will be able to streamline some department procedures," he said, looking forward to the new computer system which will further enhance the productivity and efficiency of city hall operations.

"While I'm satisfied at this point with the way things are done, we will be able to use the new computer to its fullest capacity to help streamline some areas," the mayor said.

He hopes to make it possible for some departments to buy their supplies in quantity and thus save money. "As it is now, we buy things in dabs and that isn't the best way to do it," he explained.

A system of inventory control is also needed, as mentioned in the recent audit. He has already ordered identification tags for every piece of city owned equipment so the city can keep track of what it owns.

"That will improve our accountability," he said. "When we buy tires, we will know exactly what vehicle they went on. It's a lot of work to implement a control system like that, but once it is in place, it's easier to keep track of it as we go along."

He was pleased with the audit overall, saying the city was in good financial shape and "if we can live

input. "Our employees know what to expect," he said, mentioning how important it was to praise them for doing a good job.

"We now all have a common goal at city hall," he went on to say. "While in some areas of town, there are problems with drainage, he said he was not yet familiar with all the problems and he was seeking additional information on that subject."

particularly mentioned

cost of paying the electric bill," Mayor Fields commented. He mentioned how the fast food places and the service stations on Hwy. 231 would benefit from having the street lights on the interstate.

A lot of retail development hinges on where Contel decides to put its regional headquarters, he said. They have narrowed it down to two sites, and once that decision is made, then many developers and retail businesses will start making their decisions to locate near it, he

The four-laning of Hwy. 231 in that area is a distinct possibility soon, and care is to be taken to coordinate the sewerage project so as not to interfere with the highway widening project. The state has already given the go-ahead that the preliminary engineering for the widening project be done, Fields said.

He is to meet with highway department officials on January 17 to further the effort to get the four-laning project underway, with the help of Congressman A.J. Blake's

along."

He was pleased with the audit overall, saying the city was in good financial shape and "if we can live within our budget, we will continue to be in good financial shape," he said.

"There are a lot of things we (the council) would like to do, but we know we can't because we don't have the money for it," Mayor Fields went on to say.

He was especially pleased with the response of city employees to some of his ideas and their willingness to

was not yet familiar with all the problems and he was seeking additional information on that project.

He particularly mentioned a problem with the sewerage lines in an area where video cameras have yet pinpointed water infiltration spots. Efforts will be made to correct that problem, since it could be a health hazard.

That's one area that we will have to concentrate on," he admitted.

When asked about the problem with the water purity health reports, he said that the water really wasn't

a problem. He felt that the procedures and bottles used in obtaining water samples were the problem, and efforts will be made to improve those procedures.

A forthcoming asset to the community will be the new city park facilities down on the lake near the civic center. Bids are to be let on January 17 for the construction of comfort stations, two pavilions, a boat launch, piers and bar-be-ques, he said. The estimated \$400,000 in park improvements are being built with matching funds from RC&D and the project has been in the works for some time, with the county involved at first (although later pulled out), the mayor explained. "We hope the park will be open by mid-summer," he said.

The zoning laws are outdated for the town, and one of his projects will be to oversee the revision of zoning regulations and the completion of a new zoning map.

"Pell City excites me," he said, "the new growth and new job will mean a lot."

With the acceptance of the budget, another controversial point in the financial operation of the city was averted, at least temporarily. Commitments to the Industrial Development Board for \$10,000 and the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce for \$10,800 were included in the budget. Some of the council, namely Kilgroe, Staples and Holladay had voiced their beliefs the city allotments be cut, in light of the loss of revenue sharing funds and the needed tightening of city fiscal belts.

Immediately Holladay said he wanted the council to start to work to rearrange the finance committee (which includes Kilgroe as chairman, Watson and Wheeler). "I don't want to go through what we have just been through again. I cannot cope with the fact that some have an attitude that we should not give pay increases."

Routine business matters allowed a brief cooling of tempers, but then Wheeler explained his addition to the agenda for the night—the hiring of Watson as a full-time utility superintendent.

"I want to make a motion that this council take action to hire the Mayor Watson full-time as the city's utility superintendent with the state-allowed pay of \$1,200 a month to be added to his current pay of \$400 a month as mayor," said Wheeler.

"I feel if we can pay others, then we should be able to pay our Mayor, who has proven himself to be a full-time worker. He has made this city the money many times over," he added.

"Mayor Watson has gotten a lot of money for this city. And this would not be a new practice, a mayor of Pell City has been paid in the past," said Wheeler.

Holladay pointed out, "The only person who has appointed the Mayor as a full-time worker is the mayor."

Kilgroe responded, "We all know what we were in for when we were campaigning for this job. Now, we could consider raising the salary for the next mayor who would come into office..."

Wheeler again repeated his motion. And, Holladay asked Wheeler how he could rationalize the motion when he had just said the city could not afford employee pay raises. "If we can pay the others, surely you can pay this man," answered Wheeler.

"You are talking about paying the man more than four times what he is currently making. It would total \$1,600 a month," said Holladay.

Holladay then said that the money the city was saving without a city administrator, which he implied was the campaign promise of both Wheeler and Watson, was about to be spent on Watson, himself.

Kilgroe said he was not surprised at Wheeler's motion, "since ya'll asked about it the night after we were elected."

Spirits of angry accusations and statements continued.

"We didn't get elected to make money. We got elected to do a job for the people of Pell City," said Holladay.

Holladay and Kilgroe both pointed out the motion was still without a second. And, Watson, who had kept quiet during the hullabaloo, said, "There is no second, the motion dies."

Holladay then shot back, "Since we are talking about paying the Mayor, I would like to bring up the fact that I don't remember voting on a car for his use. And, the Mayor's wife has a city radio in her personal car. I'm not so sure we shouldn't take some action on these matters tonight."

Watson told Holladay to have the matter put on the agenda for the next council meeting.

But, Holladay continued. "I established the premise for it as time mayor. The car you are talking about you hadn't gotten out of hand and Watson abruptly told Holladay ten out of hand."

The two continued to argue. The motion made by Holladay to take away the car was made at the meeting.

"I'm in charge of this meeting," said Holladay.

"You're not in charge of me," said Kilgroe.

"There will not be a vote," said Holladay.

"I don't think the Mayor should have that agenda," said Kilgroe.

And, then, McGowan seconded the motion. "It is worth, we'll vote on it," and called for a vote, as Holladay asked before acclaiming his own "aye."

A brief lull in the meeting was followed by a council meeting, falling during Christmas.

McGowan spoke up and said he would like to see the meeting in December.

Holladay was able to get in another motion. "I just want to make sure the council discussion on cancelling the next meeting is on the agenda."

The meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting, Holladay said he would like to see the meeting in December.

Holladay said he would like to see the meeting in December.

Holladay and Kilgroe both said they would like to see the meeting in December.

more than \$400 a month. He has a secretary.

Describing Watson's attitude as "I can cope with this."

In a Tuesday interview, Watson said he would like to see the meeting in December.

ment on Joe's (Wheeler) motion that the council were presented with a package of Municipalities when we took office recognizing the need to pay a mayor a decent salary.

"In reality a mayor does not have a full-time job, but the state legislature has established the premise for it as time mayor and there were no avenues left open."

"I didn't have the topic on the agenda and I'm not here during the next four years up to the discretion of the council."

But, Watson does support the motion for a selfish reason. "I have supplemented my personal monies to the tune of \$50,000 and I can survive. But, in order to work full time, as is necessary, to support the growth of this area, a decent salary is needed."

Watson said he would like to see the meeting in December.

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Watson said he would like to see the meeting in December.



Holladay continued. "I think we can take this up tonight. We have finished the premise for it with the discussion of paying the Mayor as a full-mayor. The car you are using, Mayor, could be used by the fire chief if it hadn't gotten out of hand and seized it."

Watson abruptly told Holladay to "file some charges if you think I have gotten out of hand."

The two continued to argue about the car and whether or not the motion by Holladay to take away the city car used by Watson could be handled at the meeting.

Watson, in charge of this meeting. And, your motion is out of order," said Watson.

"You're not in charge of me," fired back Holladay.

"There will not be a vote," cautioned Watson. Kilgrove stepped in and said, "I don't think the Mayor should have the car, but I do think it should be on the agenda."

Then, McGowan seconded Holladay's motion. Watson said, "For what purpose, we'll vote on it," and then told Holladay he (Holladay) could not have a vote, as Holladay asked aloud who all was in favor of the motion.

Watson, acclaiming his own "aye" vote.

The full in the meeting was interrupted when Watson suggested the next meeting, falling during Christmas week, be cancelled.

McGowan spoke up and said he thought a second meeting should be held in January.

Holladay was able to get in another shot with: "Is that matter on the agenda? We want to make sure that we are playing by the same rules." The motion on cancelling the next council meeting was, in fact, not on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned.

At the meeting, Holladay said, "If he (Watson) has the power that I saw in there tonight, we've got a big problem. I attempted to fulfill my duties as a legislator, and I couldn't due to his action."

Holladay and Kilgrove both said Pell Citizens should know Watson is getting paid \$400 a month. He has a municipal car he is using, he has a radio in it as a secretary.

Regarding Watson's attitude as "Boss Hog," Holladay reiterated, "I cannot do anything about this."

In a Tuesday interview, Watson said, "In reality, I guess I shouldn't comment on Joe's (Wheeler) motion to hire me as a utility supervisor. But, we were presented with a packet of information from the League of Municipalities when we took office which included that option for small cities regarding the need to pay a mayor to work full time for the future of the city."

Watson said a mayor does not have to work to earn the base pay of \$400 a month at the state legislature realized the predicament if a mayor did work full time, there were no avenues left open to pay him."

"I don't have the topic on the agenda and I haven't pressed the point. It is at the discretion of the council to act on this as they want. I will definitely be there during the next four years," added Watson.

Watson does support the move, and he explained that it was not for a salary. "I have supplemented my pay of \$400 a month here out of my own monies to the tune of \$500 to \$1,000 each month. I have lived with it to survive. But, in order to see a qualified man run for this office and to do the job, as is necessary, to make sure that Pell City is not ignored in this area, a decent salary must be paid."

"There is the possibility of hiring a city manager, but I think a city manager is to some degree a political pawn. His job depends on his relationship with the council. A mayor doesn't have to worry about that, because the majority of the voters elected him, and he can't be gotten rid of," said Watson.

"People don't work for nothing anymore. Anybody is entitled to get paid for their work. But, again, I haven't asked for a dime."

Taking the route of utility supervisor, Watson said it left an opening for the council to deal with a mayor who was not earning his pay working full-time. The council can simply vote to take away the position. This safeguards a group, said Watson, above simply increasing the mayoral pay and then being locked into it when a new mayor is elected, who might not continue the tradition of hard work.

On Holladay's motion to take away the municipal car, Watson said, "To have that kind of thing, that kind of resentment of a mayor driving a worn out car, is a slam at the position to start with. If I had been abused this position, I might could understand it."

He told of the excessive traveling necessary to keep Pell City abreast of what is happening in the area and state. "I feel I should be in a position to know what is going on in the event of an emergency."

"If a mayor is not worth anything more to a city than an old car, then there is something wrong somewhere," emphasized Watson, who then outlined the strides made in Pell City.

Achievements have been made in Pell City, according to Watson, due to the simple reason he has been on hand each and every day to keep in constant touch with the department heads and working with them to operate more efficiently.

Wheeler agrees. He told of several trips Watson and himself have made to Montgomery to secure money for projects which would otherwise be dead ends, such as the Park Hill project, currently underway, and the completion of softball fields.

"I am not surprised at the reaction to my motion. But, I feel that he should be paid and I wanted it on record," said Wheeler.

Turner wins by landslide —

BY MIKE MOSER
News-Aegis Editor

It's official! Councilman Paul Turner who has served Pell City for ten years was the first councilman certified as a winner in the current city elections.

Paul 'Landslide' Turner was the only incumbent unopposed in this summer's municipal elections and Monday night at the regular council meeting, fellow councilmen certified his victory.

This action came since write-in candidates for office are not allowed in municipal elections.

After the deadline for qualifying passed and it became obvious Turner would have no opposition, he told the News-Aegis, "I am really pleased and honored that the people have shown faith in me. I really consider this an honor and would like to thank the citizens for this show of support."

In other business, council met in executive session following the regular meeting to discuss the recent firing of firefighter Frank Ogle, who requested a public hearing. Details of that session were not available but no action was taken.

Council also:

-HEARD a complaint from

Elizabeth Singleton and Prentice Fomby appeared before council armed with a petition bearing over 60 names of Glenn City residents requesting installation of speedbreakers to slow down traffic. Problem areas included 7th, 9th and 10th avenues and 16th Street.

-APPROVED an on-premise beer and liquor license for Robert Posey and Billy Frazier for the Hotsie Totsie Club.

-DISCUSSED adopting an updated license schedule for liquor and beer as well as including table wine when the later becomes legal this fall.

-DISCUSSED sewage problems and drainage problems in the Glenn City area and also on 6th Street near Arbor Church. The Plaza Shopping Center drainage problem was also touched on.

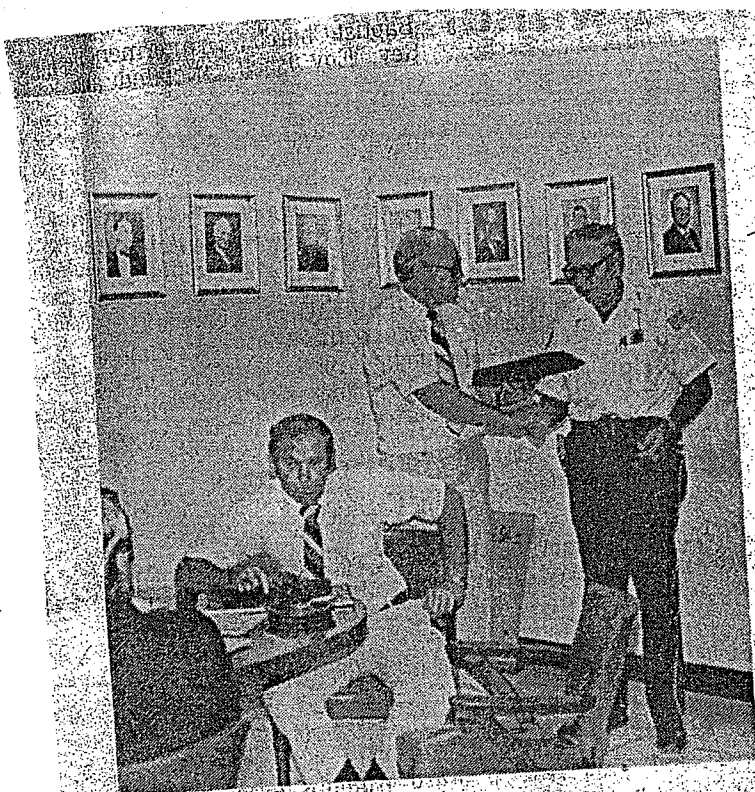
-DISCUSSED enforcement of the no bicycles on the sidewalks in the business district ordinance.

-APPROVED a resolution that will abolish side street parking meters throughout the city on recommendation of councilman Charles Lockridge and heard a request for a pedestrian crossing in the middle of the block behind the courthouse.

-REAPPOINTED Dennis Abbott as city recorder.



Paul Turner



Chief Honored

Monday night, Pell City Mayor Hugh Williamson presented Police Chief Ruble Bowlin a plaque for his participation in the children's safety program on behalf of the Police Safety International Annual Safety Award. The city has participated in the program for several years.

Thursday, June 12, 1980

ST. CLAIR NEWS AEGIS

In 1937—

Joe Kilgroe B.

Continued From Page 10

operated the funeral home as a partnership until the death of Willingham in 1937, when Mrs. Abbott sold her half-interest in the business to Joe W. Kilgroe. It was then a partnership of Mr. Kilgroe and Cornelia Johnson Willingham until 1941. Joe Kilgroe's son, S.E. (Sonny), supervises the funeral home today. Mr. Kilgroe and his wife, Josephine Bukacke, now own and operate a very unique antique business in Pell City. They are both considered authorities on antiques, and their place, which is an authentic reproduction of an old Williamsburg shop, has patrons from throughout the United States.

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

It is not possible to write of all the memorable people who make the Pell City story one of universal interest. Some distinguished, good solid citizens must of necessity be left out. The story would indeed be incomplete, however, without mention of Colonel Napoleon Bonaparte Spears, for he was one of Pell City's most colorful citizens. He was born in Tennessee in 1848 and was educated at Emory and Henry College, in Emory, Virginia. When he was twenty-one, he was admitted to the Tennessee bar and elected to the Tennessee legislature. He came to St. Clair County around 1889 and practiced law here until his death in 1922. He was a member

introduced by Circuit Judge Frank B. Embry.

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

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

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

The town of Cropwell now is also a part of Pell City. Soon after the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, a group of friends and relatives from the Laurens and Abbeville districts of South Carolina came seeking a new home in the wilderness. They were the John Roberson, Williamson, Truss, Coleman, and Collins families. They homesteaded near the Coosa River on land where today Cropwell and Pine Harbor stand. Soon other families joined them: Buchanans, Bryants, Joneses, Fennels, Kilgroes, Castleberrys, Bowdens, Allens, Brewsters, Alexanders, Walkers, Turners, Laneys, Rolands, Heasletts, Coleys, Mays, Moncriefs, and Murchinsons. These people secured the finest farm and timber land in the valley for a dollar an acre and prospered on it. Jeremiah Collins, who could not afford a wagon and had brought all his worldly goods on a crude "slide," soon owned hundreds of acres of fine land, a good home, and more slaves than he could call by name. These pioneers cleared land, established roads and mail routes, and built churches and schools. They operated stores, grist mills, distilleries, and tanneries. Their entertainment consisted of fox hunting and horse racing.

In 1833 a post office was established about a mile from Truss's Ferry. It was first called Coosa, but was changed to Diana, and, in 1837, to Cropwell. James Roberson was the first postmaster. There was another Fountainrun. J.O.N. Hardwick served as postmaster there.

People of the Baptist faith attended church at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, which had been established in 1828, or at Coosa Valley Baptist Church which was founded in 1840. The few Methodists, including the McRaes and the Laneys, went to Easonville Methodist Church. In 1888 the Cropwell Baptist Church was organized, and today it is one of St. Clair County's most active churches.

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Captain Gardner Green and fifty men went with Company C of Alabama's famous 167th Infantry Regiment as a unit of the Rainbow Division. Of the 263 men in Company C, only 51 returned. Captain Greene was one of those who were killed. On July 4, 1937, at "Good Neighbor Day," a granite monument honoring St. Clair County's soldiers who fought in World War I and the Spanish-American War, was unveiled. Miss Mary Ashley Greene, only child of Gardner Greene, unveiled the memorial.

It is not possible to write of all the memorable people who make the Pell City story one of universal interest. Some distinguished, good solid citizens must of necessity be left out. The story would indeed be incomplete, however, without mention of Colonel Napoleon Bonaparte Spears, for he was one of Pell City's most colorful citizens. He was born in Tennessee in 1848 and was educated at Emory and Henry College, in Emory, Virginia. When he was twenty-one, he was admitted to the Tennessee bar and elected to the Tennessee legislature. He came to St. Clair County around 1889 and practiced law here until his death in 1928. He was a member of the Alabama legislature, representing this county from 1898-1901. It was he who, as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1901, had the ordinance approved—which was later declared unconstitutional—for the establishment of a branch county seat in Pell City. He was also at one time mayor of the town. Colonel Spears was married to Florence Eugenia Mitchell, and they were the parents of three daughters: Hortense, Eugenia, and Pratt Spears.

Another unforgettable pioneer was James L. Garrett. He came with his wife, Sally Hindsman Garrett, to Pell City in 1905. He was a great politician. He was a Populist, and when that party ceased to exist, he did not return to the Democratic Party, but became

War veteran. In 1836 he brought his family to St. Clair County and settled on Wolf Creek two miles below Eden. On November 14, 1971, the Broken Arrow Chapter of DAR marked Jesse Ginn's grave with a bronze plaque. Other early families were the Pattersons, Sweats, Laney's, Cowans, Cates, Truitts, Lewises, Robertsons, Stevens, and Hindsmans.

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Cropwell

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The farm land in Cropwell area was very productive cotton land. Cotton gins did a thriving business. The first ones were owned by the Colemans, the Lacey's, and the Robersons.

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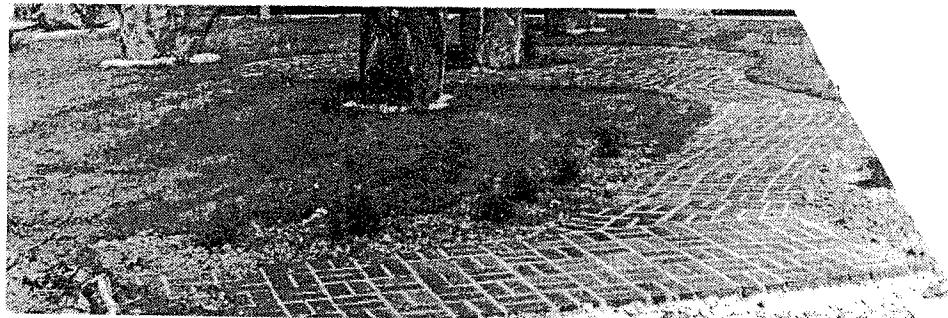
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Cropwell Historical Marker

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Pell City Council and mayor take oaths

By CAROL PAPPAS

PELL CITY — With about 200 onlookers, the new Pell City Council and mayor were sworn in Monday night by Presiding Circuit Court Judge Edwin Holladay.

It was the first time in anyone's memory that a completely new city council and mayor took the oath.

Just after being sworn into office, the new governing body took their seats and began their first official duties.

Mayor Harvey Watson named committee heads and members, and Councilman Joe Wheeler was elected mayor pro tempore.

Heading the Finance Committee will be Sonny Kilgroe with Wheeler and Councilman Roy Holladay as members of that committee.

Chairing the Streets and Utilities Committee will be Wheeler, flanked by Holladay and Councilman James McGowan.

McGowan will chair the Fire

Department Committee, and Kilgroe and Councilman Rickey Staples will serve as committee members.

Chairman of the Police Department Committee will be Staples, supported by Wheeler and McGowan.

Holladay will head the Parks and Recreation Committee, and Staples and Kilgroe will serve on that committee.

In other organizational action, the Council named Peoples Bank, Union State Bank and St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association as the city's depositories.

The Council also re-hired "all administrative officers and employees . . . temporarily pending such time as the Council shall make permanent their appointments."



A completely new governing body for Pell City took the oath of office Monday night. The oath was administered by Presiding Circuit Court Judge Edwin Holladay. From

left are: Roy Holladay, Sonny Kilgroe, Rickey Staples, Joe Wheeler, Mayor Harvey Watson and James McGowan. Two incumbents did not run, and the new councilmen

and mayor made a clean sweep of offices formerly held by other incumbents. The Council's regular meeting will be Monday p.m. (Carol Pappas photo)

ST. CLAIR NEWS

Councilman to after city equip



Just Another Load

A city of Pell City dump truck unloads another of between 20-40 loads of dirt which were hauled to a private, vacant lot in Pell City during the past two weeks. This photo was taken Friday, May 16, between 1:15 and 1:45 p.m. near the

City Councilman Charles Lockridge has said he intends to resign his duties as head of the street dept. because of the alleged illegal use of city equipment. See story for details. (NEWS Photo by Jenna Whitehead)

A Pell City Councilman to resign his duties because, as he stated,

In a brief statement, Charles Lockridge announced his decision to resign from the council of his duties. He pointed out he only his duties as a

His actions caused THE NEWS into a haul dirt to a private

On May 9, 1975, trucks were observed on a vacant lot on Ave. N. and 21st.

Again, on Friday, p.m. more city trucks on the vacant lot by

According to records in Pell City, the vacant lot, Block 112, was transferred to the City on October 2

According to Lockridge, dirt were dumped of the councilman about it," Lockridge

WS—AEGIS

16 PAGES

to resign duties equipment misused

Pell City Councilman Tuesday said he "intended resign his duties" as head of the Street Dept. use, as he termed it, "I have no control over it." a brief statement to THE NEWS, Councilman Charles Lockridge said he intended to inform the council of his decision at their next regular session. He pointed out he would not resign from the council, but his duties as head of the street department. His actions came following an investigation by THE NEWS into alleged misuse of city equipment to dump dirt to a private lot in the city limits. On May 9, 1975, city employees driving city dump trucks were observed hauling chert or "dirt" to a vacant lot . . . near the intersection of 4th St. N. and 21st. St. N. Again, on Friday, May 16th, between 1:15 and 1:45 more city trucks were noted dumping dirt on vacant lot by NEWS staffer Jenna Whitehead. According to records at the Probate Judge's office in Pell City, the vacant lot in question, Lot One in block 112, was transferred to James Smith of Pell City on October 27, 1972. According to Lockridge, some "30 to 40 loads" of dirt were dumped on the lot owned by Smith. "None of the councilmen I had talked to knew anything about it," Lockridge stated. "But, this is not the first

complaint we have had. And, since I don't seem to have any control over it, I am not going to be responsible for the actions of the street dept. anymore."

Councilman Harvey Watson, when asked if the city "sold" chert, said, "We do not sell chert or dirt"

Watson said he had Pete Martin, supervisor of city street dept., "tell me there were not going to be any more loads of chert pushed up or loaded out to private individuals . . . and then there were orders given to do just that."

"This has been a problem for some time," Watson added. "But, when it gets to the point where the city is hauling dirt to a vacant lot for a private individual, then it has gone too far," the councilman said.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said Tuesday he was "aware the chert or dirt was being hauled, but he was not aware of how much." He said he thought some 20 loads had been hauled to the vacant lot.

"We had some top soil that was not good for use on the roads which we were going to give away," Nixon stated. "Mr. Smith had heard this would do for fill dirt and he asked if the city would load a private

(See Misused Page 6A)

to his lot or dumping it somewhere else where it wouldn't do anybody any good," the mayor added.

"There aren't many people in this town that we

"Since this is the first I have heard of this problem, I could not comment on it at this time," Robinson said. "I will investigate the matter, however," he concluded

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NEWS Wednesday

(Continued from Page 1)

Misused

truck owned by Buddy Tucker to haul it to his lot. I agreed to this," Nixon said.

The mayor said that, at the time, it was raining. "Pete (Martin) said that since we had this dirt which needed to be gotten out of the way, and since it was raining, why didn't we just go ahead and haul it over there with city trucks and that was the last thing I heard about it," Nixon commented.

"If this had been chert we could have used on the roads, Smith would not have gotten any of it. But, I do not see what was wrong with hauling the dirt over to his lot or dumping it somewhere else where it wouldn't do anybody any good," the mayor added.

"There aren't many people in this town that we haven't hauled a load of chert to at one time or

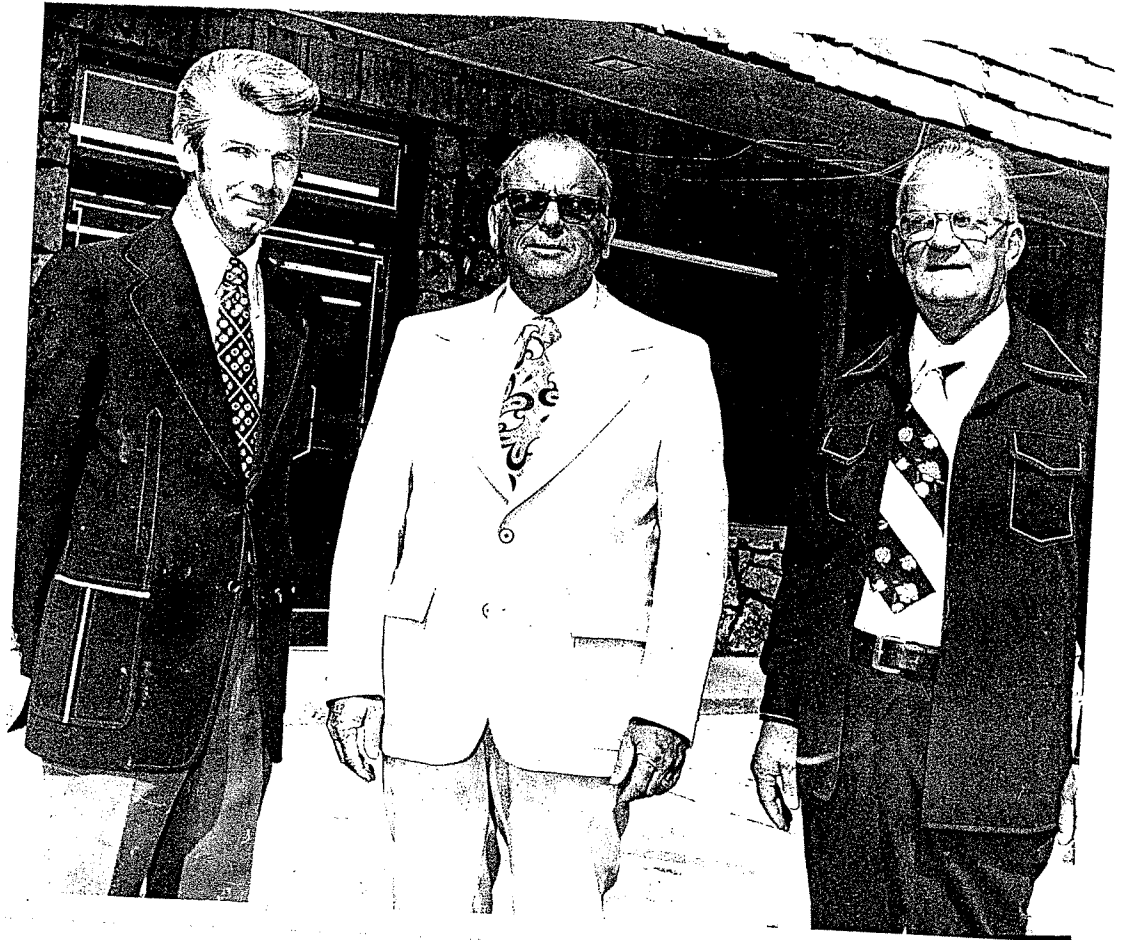
another," he concluded. Smith, owner of Pell City Wood Products, said he did not ask them to use city trucks to haul the dirt.

"I called Dill (Nixon) and asked if they would use Buddy Tucker's truck. He called back later and they had some of this dirt they couldn't use and they would go ahead and haul it to my lot. I ask them to do it," Smith stated.

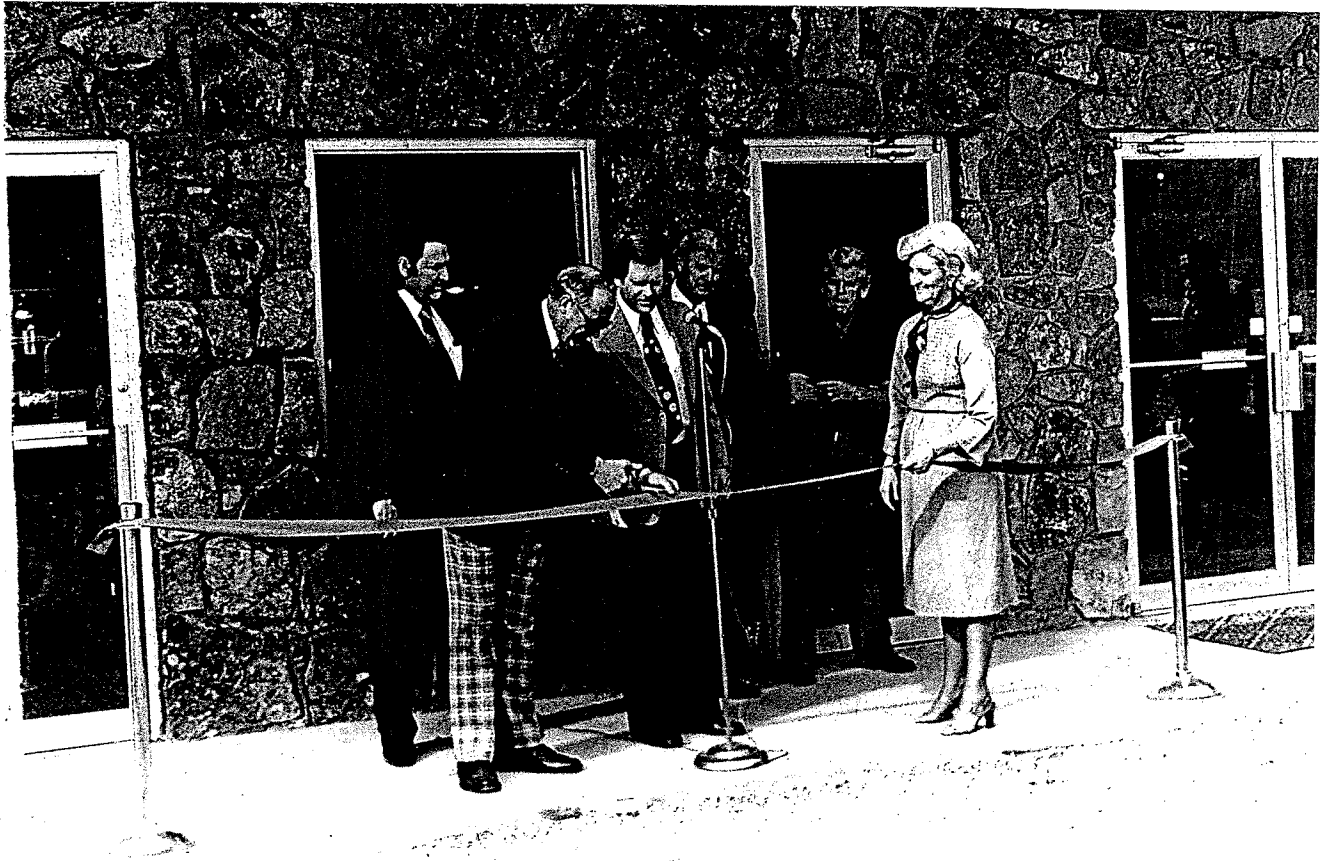
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—Cite Cost Increase—

Council hikes gas rates

Citing an increase of rates charged by Southern Natural Gas, the Pell City Council voted unanimously Monday night to pass on that rate hike to city gas customers.

Mayor Paul Turner said Southern Natural Gas had increased the cost of gas to the city and recommended that it be passed on to the customers. The council agreed to use the suggested rate schedule from Control, Inc., for the rate increase. The council said they had no choice in the action and voted unanimously to raise the rates.

The rate hike does not affect the minimum rate or the rate for the next 700 cubic feet. The

rates for 300 cubic feet (minimum) and 1,000 cubic feet are the same but the rate hike takes effect on the next level. For the next 1700 cubic feet, the rate is raised from \$1.85 to \$1.90; the next 17,000 cubic feet sees a raise from \$1.75 to \$1.80; and the biggest raise takes place on the next 20,000 cubic feet from \$1.46 to \$1.70. Gas rates for industries have also been raised from \$1.40 to \$1.70 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The council also heard from a delegation from the St. Clair County Fire Ant Committee, asking that the money pledged from Pell City several months ago be paid in order to help finance the spraying of the

Turner appointed mayor of Pell City; Cox mayor protem

Councilman Paul Turner was appointed Monday night to fill the unexpired term of the late Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon by unanimous vote of the council members.

Turner, who had served as Mayor Protempore since his election to the council in 1972, opened the meeting by saying that it was the duty of the council to elect a mayor to fill out the term. The motion to appoint Turner was made by councilman Dr. Raymond F. Cox and seconded by councilman Forest Walls. The motion passed unanimously.

The appointment of Turner leaves a vacancy on the council that will be filled in the upcoming city elections.

Nixon, who had served as mayor since 1972, died of a heart attack early Friday morning in St. Clair County Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday.

In other appointments, the council voted in favor of a

motion by councilman Charles Lockridge to appoint Dr. Cox the new Mayor Protempore. The motion to appoint Cox, a former mayor, to the post was seconded by Forest Walls.

Also, the council voted to give councilman Harvey Watson the power to cosign checks along with the mayor.

After being appointed Mayor, Turner said, "We all who served with Dill Nixon know and appreciate the efforts he made in building a progressive city. He had a lot of dreams and a lot of accomplishments. And some of the plans he had for the city hopefully will be realized."

Turner told the council was Nixon actually a full-time mayor but that he could not be because of his job situation. "We'll have to shoulder the load and work as a team," he said. "A man like Dill Nixon can't be replaced but we can utilize the talents we have. Pell City has unlimited potential."

county on August 25. Les Pair,

county extension agent, and J.B. Reaves, member of the Fire Ant Committee, explained to the council the history of the program and why it has been delayed. (See details elsewhere) The council agreed to pay the \$2,128 (20 cents per acre) that had been pledged to the program.

Ted Campbell and Jim Ruple from the Pell City Chamber of Commerce were at the meeting to discuss with the council a proposed project to paint seven fire hydrants red, white and blue for the Bicentennial. Campbell said the project was a joint effort of the Chamber, the Rotary Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW). He said some 14 high school students have expressed interest in entering a contest, the with the winner receiving a cash prize. Campbell said the Chamber would buy the paint and noted that it would involve seven fire hydrants in the city. The council agreed to allow the civic groups to pursue the project. Campbell also asked the council about the possibility of painting a star on the street intersection of Cogswell Avenue and 19th Street. The council said they could and to work it out with the police chief on the best possible time to do it.

Campbell told the council of a planned fireworks display for the July 4 celebration. He said he had already contacted the State Fire Marshall and was told the rules and regulations concerning such a display. Campbell noted that the display would last 45 minutes and would be sponsored by the Chamber

and the Pell City Jaycees. He said the cost of the project would be close to \$1,000 and asked the council to pay a share of the cost. The council voted to pay one-third of the cost of the project.

In other action, the council:

—Heard a report from Charles Myers on the Spanish Garden subdivision that is seeking admission into the city limits. Myers requested that one section of the original plan remain outside the limits.

—Heard from a delegation complaining about construction of a shop off Comer Avenue in Pell City. They complained that workers left garbage out close to their home and that their working was interfering with their electricity. The council agreed to look into the matter.

—Agreed to have the police chief draw up specifications and ask for bids on two police cars and a pickup truck;

—Agreed to hold the Civic Center opening on June 27. (See details elsewhere);

—Approved an off-premise beer license for James Howard of The Country Store; and

—Agreed to begin looking for someone to fill the vacancy on the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority.

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Turner Named Interim Mayor

BY AUGUST LEHE

The Pell City Council Monday night unanimously confirmed Paul Turner as interim mayor and selected Dr. R. F. "Bam" Cox to succeed Turner as mayor pro tempore, following a brief address in which Turner called upon citizens to help Pell City realize the dreams of deceased Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon, who died last week following a heart attack.

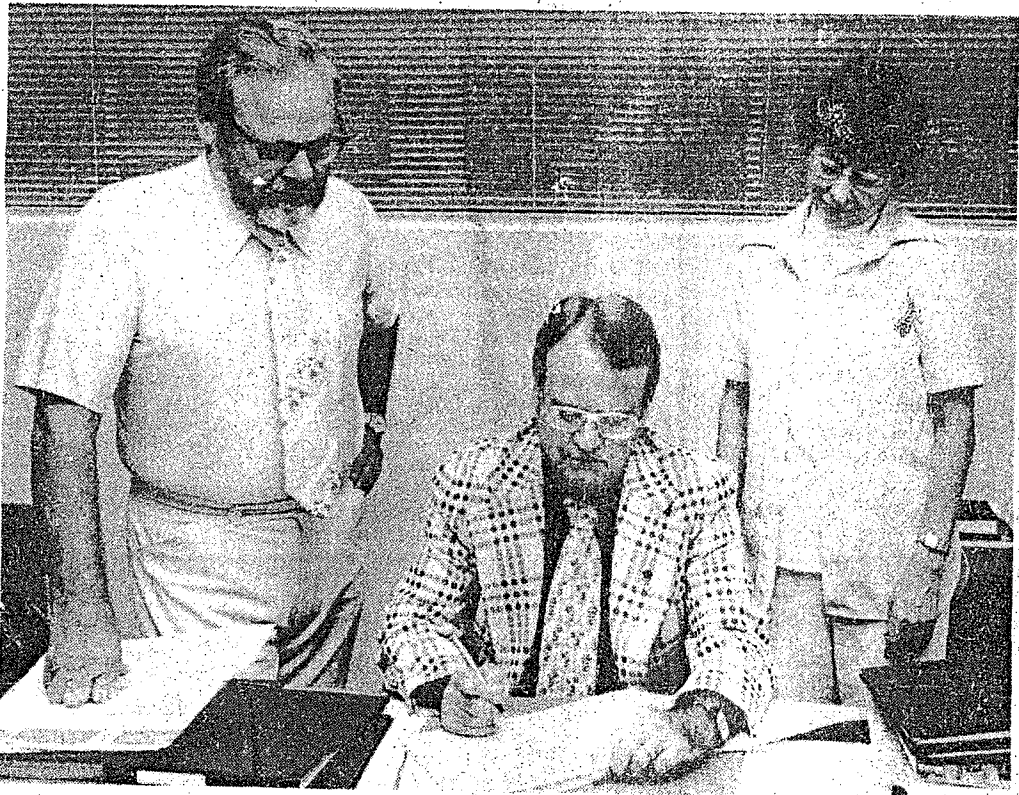
Turner eulogized Nixon as a man of vision and dedication, who worked tirelessly on behalf of all Pell City citizens.

"He (Nixon) cannot be replaced. All we can do is re-dedicate our talents to the betterment of our community and pray, with God's help, that we can summon the strength to carry on Dill Nixon's work," Turner told the Council. Mayor Turner then asked the council to observe a moment of silent prayer before proceeding on to the official business of the night.

Later in the evening, the Council voted unanimously, on a motion by Cox, seconded by Councilman Forrest Walls, to officially dedicate the new Pell City Civic Center in honor of the former mayor. The motion called for the dedication service to coincide with the official opening of the Center on Sunday, June 27. The council agreed that a plaque paying tribute to the late mayor be erected "in a prominent area" of the Center.

In other business Monday night, the Council:

--Voted to raise rates to city gas customers after protesting rate increases passed on to the city by its supplier of natural gas—the Southern Natural Gas Company—on May 14. Mayor Turner said the increase would



Taking Over City Reins

City officials, still shaken by the sudden death of Mayor Dill Nixon, went about the sad task of realignment this week. City Clerk Bettie Scott looks on as Paul Turner (seated) performs his first official duties as interim mayor. Dr. Raymond "Bam" Cox (left) was elected Mayor Pro Tem by the Council.

not affect minimum rates or the second 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas used by the city's customers. Turner said the increase, which would only partially offset Southern Natural rate hikes, would mainly affect heavy commercial users of city gas who use quantities in excess of 20,000 cubic feet.

Voted to pay \$2,128 (as previously agreed upon in Oct. 1974) as the city share of the St. Clair County Fire Ant Straving

--Voted to co-sponsor a special Fourth of July celebration and fireworks display set for Sunday, July 4, at 9 p.m., in cooperation with the Pell City Chamber of Commerce and local Jaycees.

--Voted to permit the decoration of seven fireplugs in the downtown area of Pell City by local art students. Pell City Chamber of Commerce President Ted Campbell said the

--Agreed to assist Mrs. Donald Smith in problems allegedly arising from a dispute with an adjoining commercial property owner.

--Voted unanimously to grant an off-premises beer license to James Howard, submitted on behalf of "The Country Store" located on Hwy 231 in Cropwell.

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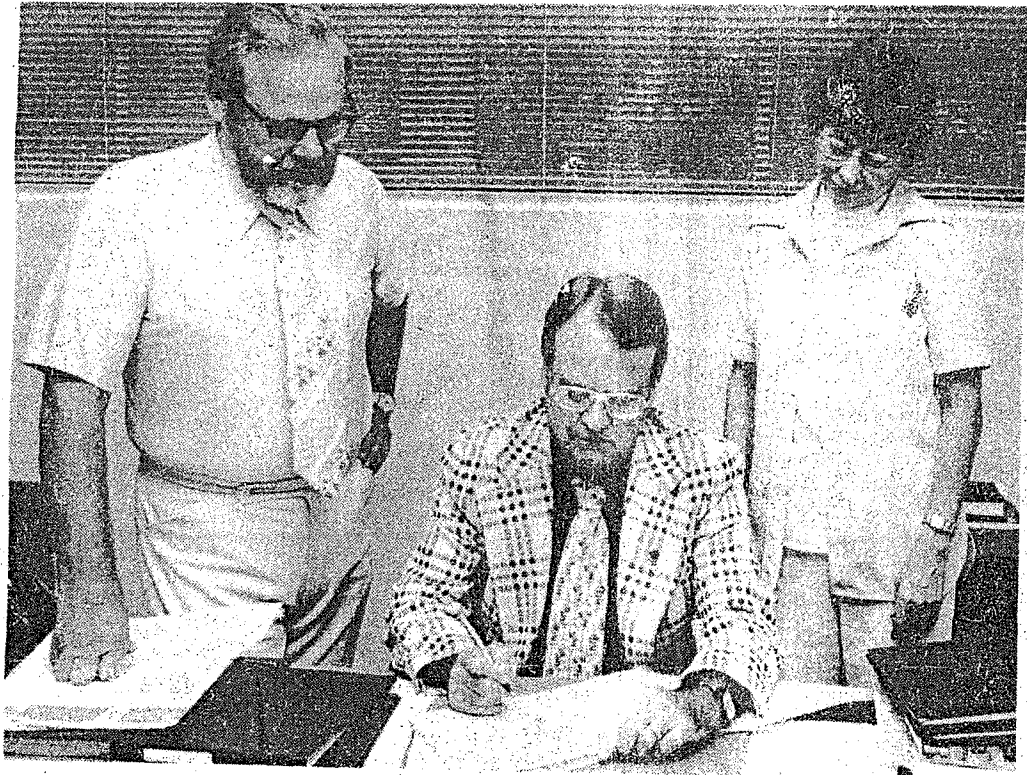
--Voted to raise rates to city gas customers after protesting rate increases passed on to the city by its supplier of natural gas-the Southern Natural Gas Company-on May 14. Mayor Turner said the increase would

Continued On Page 2

not affect minimum rates or the second 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas used by the city's customers. Turner said the increase, which would only partially offset Southern Natural rate hikes, would mainly affect heavy commercial users of city gas who use quantities in excess of 20,000 cubic feet.

Voted to pay \$2,128 (as previously agreed upon in Oct. 1974) as the city share of the St. Clair County Fire Ant Spraying Program. Appearing before the council were County Extension Chairman Les Pair and St. Clair Fire Ant Committee Chairman J. B. Reeves. Reeves and Pair informed the council that Aug. 25, 1976, has been formally set as the date for the county spraying-provided the fire ant committee could raise the necessary matching funds. The two also called upon the council to use its influence to encourage large corporate landowners to join the program and contribute a "fair share" to the effort.

--Voted to "amend" a proposed resolution of incorporation for an area adjoining Spanish Gardens Rd. to eliminate the property of any landowner who does not desire to be brought within the city's corporate limits.



Taking Over City Reins

City officials, still shaken by the sudden death of Mayor Dill Nixon, went about the sad task of realignment this week. City Clerk Bettie Scott looks on as Paul Turner (seated) performs his first official duties as interim mayor. Dr. Raymond "Bam" Cox (left) was elected Mayor Pro Tem by the Council.

--Voted to co-sponsor a special Fourth of July celebration and fireworks display set for Sunday, July 4, at 9 p.m., in cooperation with the Pell City Chamber of Commerce and local Jaycees.

--Voted to permit the decoration of seven fireplugs in the downtown area of Pell City by local art students. Pell City Chamber of Commerce President Ted Campbell said the project was being jointly sponsored by the Chamber and the Pell City Business and Professional Women's Club, which had volunteered to award a \$25 savings bond to the best effort.

--Agreed to send out bids for the purchase of two new police patrol cars and for one new pickup truck for the street department. On the recommendation of Police Chief Ruble Bowlin, the council agreed that the city specify the smaller, compact-type police cruisers that have been used successfully in other communities. Bowlin said the smaller vehicles would not only cost less initially, but would give improved gas mileage.

--Named Councilman Harvey Watson as a new city check co-signer.

--Agreed to assist Mrs. Donald Smith in problems allegedly arising from a dispute with an adjoining commercial property owner.

--Voted unanimously to grant an off-premises beer license to James Howard, submitted on behalf of "The Country Store" located on Hwy 231 in Cropwell.



Former Mayor

As a former mayor of Pell City Joe Kilgroe contributed many years to service to his city both in the mayor's seat, as a councilman and through community activities. This photograph hangs in its place among those of other Pell City mayors.

Kilgroe dies - part of a Pell City ins

BY WAYNE RUPLE
News-Aegis Staffwriter

Joe Kilgroe, the moving force behind what has become one of Pell City's major institutions, died Wednesday, January 14 in the St. Clair County Hospital at the age of 68.

Kilgroe was owner of Kilgroe Funeral Home which he started in 1937. Since that time the home has served Pell City and St. Clair County well.

Friday, the insititution which he and his son Sonny built helped place Joe in his final resting place at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Services were held in the Kilgroe Chapel with the Reverends A.L. Courtney and Douglas Ford officiating.

Joe is survived by his wife Josephine, his son and one sister, Mrs. Janie Jones of California and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his funeral home business Kilgroe served his city and community in many other ways and will long be remembered for the work he did.

He was elected to the Pell City Council in 1940 and served as mayor protem from August 1941 to

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Kilgroe dies - part of a Pell City institution

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He was elected to the Pell City Council in 1940 and served as mayor protem from August 1941 to

September 1944. He was elected mayor in 1952.

He was appointed to the council again in 1967 and elected mayor in 1968.

Kilgroe was again appointed mayor in August 1970 after Mayor Perry resigned and he held that position until his own resignation in 1971.

In serving the community Kilgroe was on the board of directors of Union State Bank, St. Clair Savings and Loan and the Pell City Civic Chorus.

He was a member of the Pell City First Baptist Church and the Sons of the American Revolution. He was also a Chamber of Commerce member and had served as the first president of the Chamber.

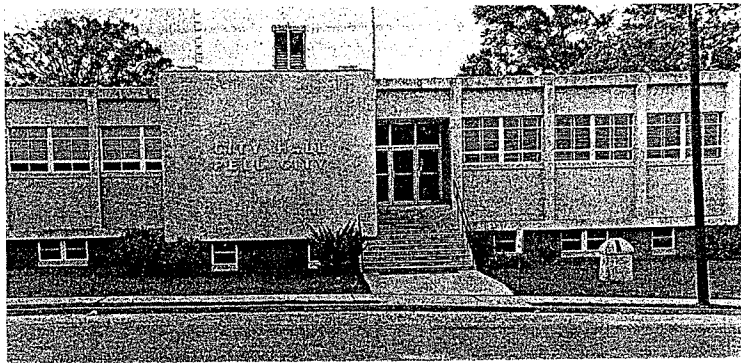
Kilgroe was past president of the Alabama Funeral Directors Association and had served on the board of directors of the National Antique Dealers Association. He was also owner of the Kilgroe Antique Shop.

He had served two terms on the St. Clair County Board of Education and as chairman of the St. Clair County Chapter of the American Red Cross.



Former Mayor

Joe Kilgroe contributed many years to service to the city of Pell City, as a councilman and through community activities. His place among those of other Pell City mayors.



MAYOR OTIS PERRY

The MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL



*you're
invited...*

to enjoy all the advantages of friendly

DETROIT CITY



*A Growth Sustained by a
well-rounded development program*



DR. H. C. CLAYTON
Councilman



DR. R. F. COX
Councilman



JAMES S. SMITH
Councilman



A. E. (Dill) NIXON
Councilman



JOE W. KILGROE
Councilman

Welcome Legionnaires to PELL CITY

Welcome Legionnaires



PELL CITY
FOOD CENTER

Visit our City

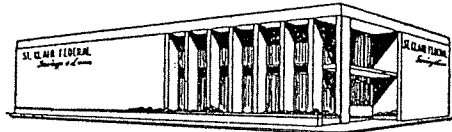
PELL CITY'S OUTSTANDING
FOOD STORE

LEE'S
MOTEL

Economical Rates

220 - 24th Street
PELL CITY

Greetings Legionnaires

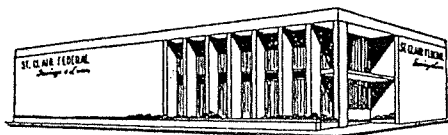


Union State Bank

Each depositor insured to \$15,000

FOOD STORE

Greetings Legionnaires



**SAINT CLAIR
FEDERAL**
*Savings and Loan
Association*

1920 1st AVENUE NO. — PELL CITY

Union State Bank



Founded 1903

PELL CITY, ALABAMA





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V O T E

ON NOVEMBER 8

FOR

A. E. (DILL) NIXON



CANDIDATE FOR YOUR

TAX ASSESSOR

St. Clair County

(Paid Political Adv. by Friends of A. E. Nixon)



OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. SEPTEMBER 25, 1975



City Presented Award

Pell City Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon (at right) and James Tyus, city superintendent of utilities (left) accept an award presented to the city by

Control Inc. of Oneonta, which recognizes Pell City for "continuing efforts in the public interest

to operate and maintain a safe natural gas system. The concern and awareness of public servants is shown by their actions," George Reid, manager, leakage control division of Control Inc., said in making the presentation of a plaque to the city.

Sunday, March 16, 1975... ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS



Visitors To Washington

Aubrey Watson (left), mayor of Ragland, and Pell City councilman Paul Turner (right) were recent visitors to the Nation's Capitol. During

their stay they visited Congressman Tom Beville and are shown with him here on the Capitol steps.





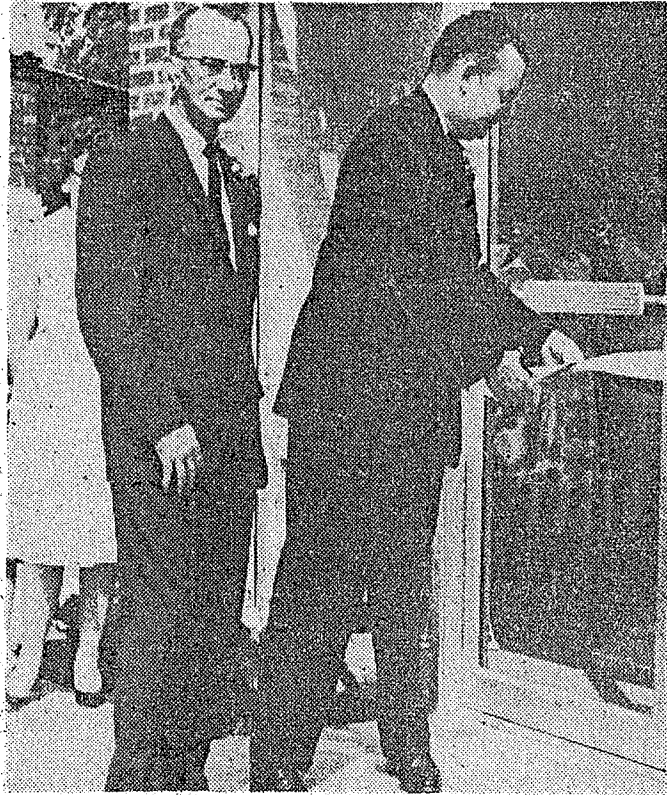
Book: Frank Embury

Betty Scott

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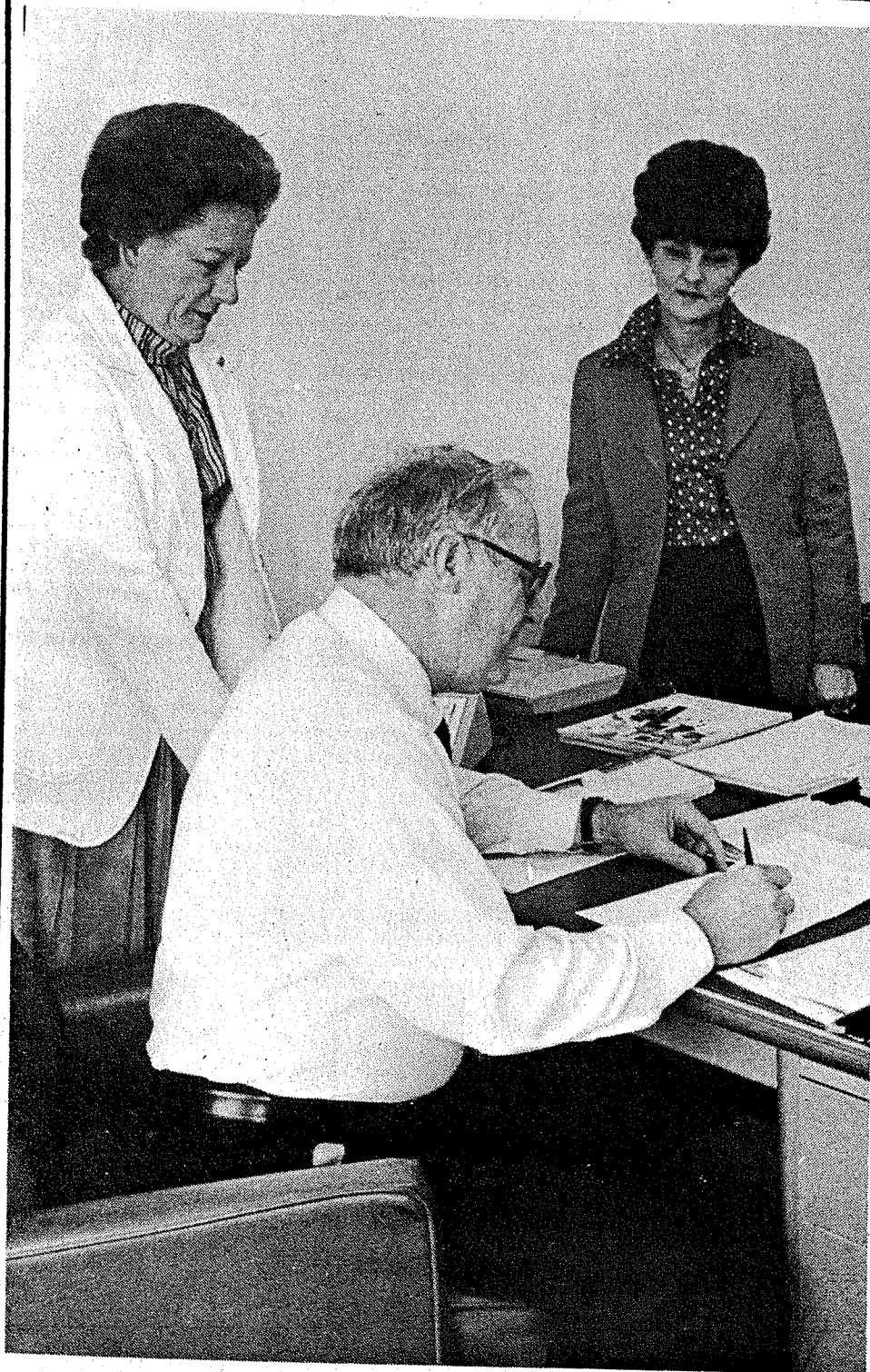
1905 1st Ave. No.

Roll City, Md. 21235



PELL CITY BANK OPENS—Pell City Mayor Joe W. Kilgroe cuts a ribbon to officially open the new





Proclaims BW Week

Joyce Rhoton (left), president of the Pell City chapter, Business and Professional Women's Club, and Mary Alice Sullivan (right), treasurer, watch as Pell City Mayor High Williamson signs the proclamation naming Oct. 21-Oct. 27 National Business Women's Week. Williamson followed the national trend in recognizing this week in saluting working women in the United States for their professional and business achievements and contributions to our economic, civic and cultural purposes.

October 24, 1963

Mrs. Ellen S. Harris
Miami Realty Company
Suite 1034, DuPont Bldg.
Miami 32, Florida

Dear Mrs. Harris:

We are attempting to secure pictures of all of the former Mayors of the City of Pell City. It is our understanding that your Father, Mr. N. W. Spears was Mayor about 1900 and we would like to have a picture of him. We are attempting to get an 8 x 10 picture of each Mayor, however, if you do not have one this size which you would send us, we would like to have one that we would have enlarged to that size. We would appreciate your cooperation.

Yours truly,

Bettie Scott, Clerk
City of Pell City

December 5, 1963

Mrs. Emrys C. Harris
287 Northeast 96th Street
Miami Shores, Florida

Dear Mrs. Harris:

Thank you so very much for the picture of your father. It was received several days ago but I have been trying to secure more information about him. Unfortunately, the earliest minutes I have been able to locate begin in 1915. So far as we have been able to ascertain, Mr. N. B. Spears served as Mayor from 1900 to 1902. Information we have found states that "Colonel N. B. Spears, Mayor of Pell City, reorganized the council by election of aldermen and he was followed in 1902 by Mr. W. J. Purdy."

We also have information that Mrs. Spears served as post-mistress from 1897 to 1905 and that her daughter, Hortense, served from 1905 to 1913. I believe this was your Mother and your Sister.

One of our older citizens remembers your Father coming to Easonville to make a speech and eating the evening meal at his home. This was at the home of Mr. Charlie Gray.

We appreciate your calling our attention to the incorrect middle initial. The list of Mayors that I had was copied from a monument which stands in front of the city hall and which I believe was erected by the V.F.W. The initial is incorrect on the monument and I am trying to get it corrected. Since I began trying to get pictures of the former Mayors, I have had another mistake called to my attention and we do appreciate it.

We will continue to work on the historic information about our city and if we find additional items of interest to you, we will send them to you.

Thanks again so very much for the picture of Colonel Spears.

Yours truly,

September 17, 1964

Mrs. Emrys C. Harris
287 Northeast 96th Street
Miami Shores 38, Florida

Dear Mrs. Harris,

I am continuing to accumulate pictures and data on early Pell City. It is a project that I just work on as I have time and there has been very little time this summer. However, I have succeeded in getting pictures of all the former mayor's with the exception of Dr. J. O. Gray and I am still trying there. They have not been hung yet as we are trying to get the dates each mayor served and I just don't have it for several of the early ones. We wanted the name and the dates they served on each picture.

In going through some old papers, I found the enclosed articles which I copied as I thought you might enjoy having them.

Mr. Charlie Pratt showed me a picture that he had of some Avondale Mills (Pell City Manufacturing Co.) officials and the secretary was your sister - was it Hortense? It was a real good picture of her, I'm sure. However, Mr. Pratt died a couple of weeks ago. Perhaps you remember him.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this project and intend to do more work as I have time. I am particularly interested in going through some old newspapers that they have at Ashville but they remodeled the court house over there this year and while the work was being done, these papers were stored in another building and the last time I checked, they had not been moved back into the court house.

Yours truly,

Bettie Scott, Clerk
City of Pell City

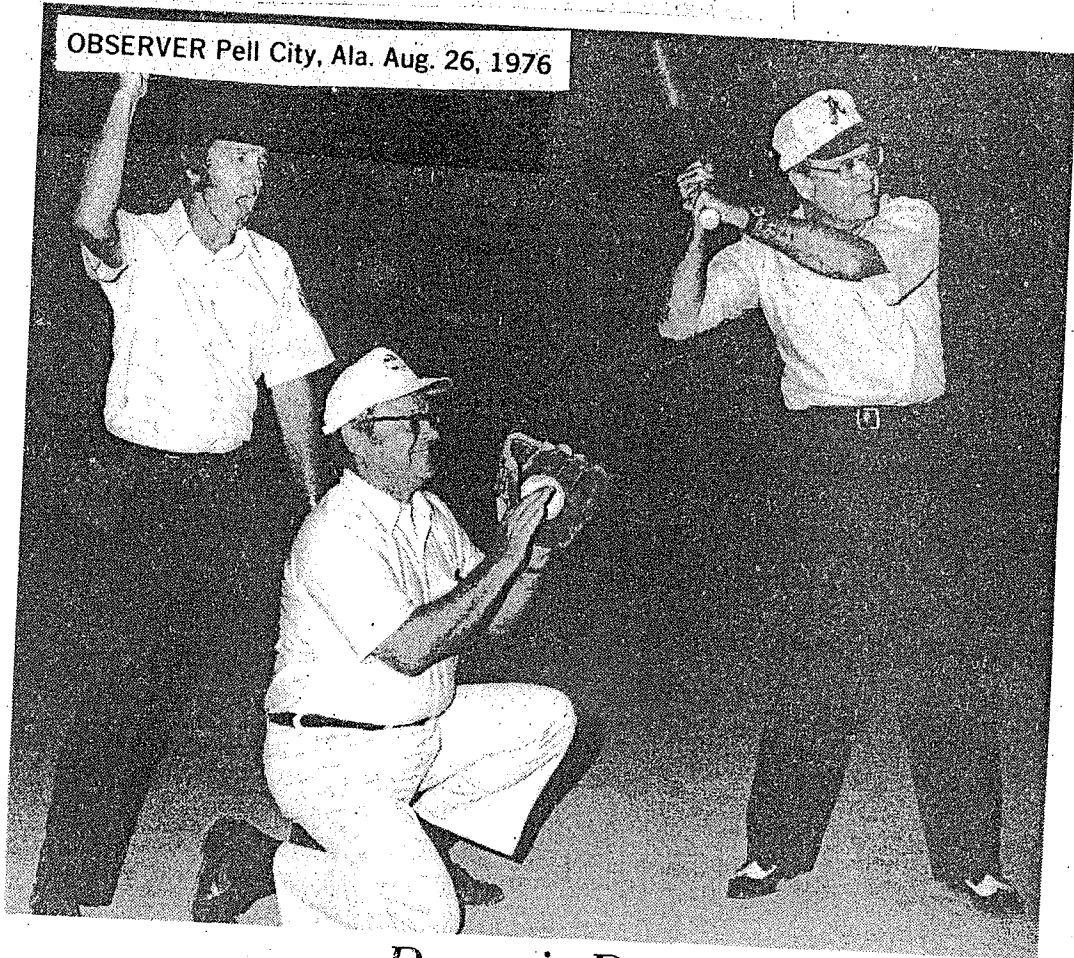


James Tyus
(See Story On Page 1)

National Heart Week Feb 1977
Mayor Williamson
Virginia Seals



OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. Aug. 26, 1976



Dynamic Duo

Pell City Interim Mayor Paul "Ty Cobb" Turner, at bat, and Councilman Bam "Johnny Bench" Cox were on hand to officially kick off the start of the Pell City Men's Slow Pitch Post-Season Softball Tournament, which begins Thursday night, Aug. 26 (tonight) at Avondale Field. Rumor has it that American and National Baseball League officials were on the scene to warn Mayor Turner and Cox to stay out of professional baseball. "We've got enough problems as it is," an unreliable source quoted Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn as saying. In the meantime, softball fans are expected to pack the stands beginning Thursday night in anticipation of an exciting men's softball tourney. (Photo by August Lehe)

Another Strikeout

Mayor Paul Turner and city councilman Dr. R.F. Cox play a little softball during a brief time out from governmental duties. The officials were on hand Monday night to officially kick off the Men's Softball League Tournament, which

begins tonight at Avondale Park. The tournament involves 13 teams and persons interested in seeing good softball action should come out. (NEWS Photo)

Pell City mayor looks for growth

Becoming familiar with the operation of a city can be a long and complicated process, but Mayor Lawrence Fields has settled into his new job comfortably, and has been observing how things work.

Now he is beginning to slowly move into areas where improvements can be made.

"I'm still excited," he said in a recent interview. "Pell City is on the threshold of really growing, and with team effort, we can get it going down the path of growth."

He sees retail development a key to that growth, and the new sewerline extension projects coming up will spur that retail growth.

"The industrial development board has done an excellent job of recruiting industries," he said, "but if we don't offer the retail variety needed, then those new people will go elsewhere to do their shopping."

He reported that the state had contacted him about putting lights up on Interstate 20 at the Hwy. 231 exchange. They will put up the street lights with the federal government paying 90 percent of the costs and the state paying 10 percent if the city will pay the monthly electric bill for

feels.

Cleaning up the downtown area is another effort in that retail development, insuring that the city takes care what it already has and utilize the downtown area as much as possible, he explained.

Mayor Fields is particularly concerned with the "trashy" appearance of the highways leading into town. "That first impression people get when they drive into town is important, and we only get one chance at that," he said.

Last year, the town sold off its gas system to Alabama Gas and while it happened before he took office, Fields knows that it was a good move. "It was a tremendous expense to the city, and we couldn't always put in a new gas line to serve new customers when they wanted it. Now with Alabama Gas handling it, people can usually get gas when they ask for it," he explained.

His top priority is to get water supplied to everyone in the city who needs it. "There are a lot of people in the city limits who still don't have city water," he said.

The coming \$800,000 sewer extension project down Hwy. 231 will

office.

In examining the structure and procedures of his city departments, Mayor Fields has been talking to various city employees and taking input from committee chairman as to possible new policies. "We will be able to streamline some department procedures," he said, looking forward to the new computer system which will further enhance the productivity and efficiency of city hall operations.

"While I'm satisfied at this point with the way things are done, we will be able to use the new computer to its fullest capacity to help streamline some areas," the mayor said.

He hopes to make it possible for some departments to buy their supplies in quantity and thus save money. "As it is now, we buy things in dabs and that isn't the best way to do it," he explained.

A system of inventory control is also needed, as mentioned in the recent audit. He has already ordered identification tags for every piece of city owned equipment so the city can keep track of what it owns.

"That will improve our

input. "Our employees know to expect," he said, mentioning

like the idea. Having the freeway lit up at Pell City will bring in a lot more retail traffic, we feel, and the increase in sales taxes will offset the cost of paying the electric bill," Mayor Fields commented. He mentioned how the fast food places and the service stations on Hwy. 231 would benefit from having the street lights on the interstate.

A lot of retail development hinges on where Contel decides to put its regional headquarters, he said. They have narrowed it down to two sites, and once that decision is made, then many developers and retail businesses will start making their decisions to locate near it, he

highway, he said, and Fields met with a highway engineer Wednesday morning to discuss where the sewer lines should go.

The four-laning of Hwy. 231 in that area is a distinct possibility soon, and care is to be taken to coordinate the sewerage project so as not to interfere with the highway widening project. The state has already given the go-ahead that the preliminary engineering for the widening project be done, Fields said.

He is to meet with highway department officials on January 17 to further the effort to get the four-laning project underway, with the help of Congressman A.J. Blake's

vehicle they went on. It's a lot of work to implement a control system like that, but once it is in place, it's easier to keep track of it as we go along."

He was pleased with the audit overall, saying the city was in good financial shape and "if we can live within our budget, we will continue to be in good financial shape," he said.

"There are a lot of things we (the council) would like to do, but we know we can't because we don't have the money for it," Mayor Fields went on to say.

He was especially pleased with the response of city employees to some of his ideas and their willingness to

We now all have a common goal at city hall," he went on to say. While in some areas of town, there are problems with drainage, he said, he was not yet familiar with all the problems and he was seeking additional information on that subject.

He particularly mentioned a problem with the sewerage lines in an area where video cameras have yet pinpointed water infiltration points. Efforts will be made to correct that problem, since it could be a health hazard.

That's one area that we will have to concentrate on," he admitted.

When asked about the problem with the water purity health reports, he said that the water really wasn't

a problem. He felt that the procedures and bottles used in obtaining water samples were the problem, and efforts will be made to improve those procedures.

A forthcoming asset to the community will be the new city park facilities down on the lake near the civic center. Bids are to be let January 17 for the construction of comfort stations, two pavilions, a boat launch, piers and bar-be-que pits, he said. The estimated \$400,000 in park improvements are being built with matching funds from RC&D and the project has been in the works for some time, with the county involved at first (although it later pulled out), the mayor explained. "We hope the park will be open by mid-summer," he said.

The zoning laws are outdated for the town, and one of his projects will be to oversee the revision of zoning regulations and the completion of a new zoning map.

"Pell City excites me," he said, "the new growth and new jobs will mean a lot."

City administrator position is justified

The Pell City council has recently come under fire from citizens in what the News-Aegis feels is a misunderstanding of a chain of events and we would like to attempt to clear the air.

Council has been criticized for its recent discussions concerning the prospect of hiring a city administrator which was unfortunately discussed in the same meeting that a gas hike was approved, reluctantly, by council.

The two events were totally unrelated.

Council has since late spring been kicking around the idea of hiring a city administrator and the News-Aegis supports this plan wholeheartedly.

It is a wise move on the city council's part and will deeply benefit the city if the right person is employed and supported by the city fathers.

A city administrator will serve under the direction of mayor and council and the purpose of the position, according to the ordinance which was recently approved by City Attorney Billy Church, is to provide centralization of the administrative responsibilities of the city.

It is a huge job and one that will not only benefit the mayor, council, city staff, but more importantly, the entire Pell City community. An example of this

is the fact that a city administrator can spend more time pursuing grants than can a part time mayor.

The recent gas rate hike which was approved by the city affected other communities. Steele, which is serviced by the same supplier of natural gas, was also faced with the same increase.

Council did not act on increasing rates, which took a big jump, until two months billing dates had passed and since the action was not retro-active, Pell City citizens really enjoyed the former rate while the city absorbed the difference of the new rate over the old rate for the months of August and September.

Council did not want to pass the new rate hike but had little choice. If it had not, then citizens would have had something to really complain about because Pell City could not operate long, absorbing the rate increase.

That would not be smart business.

Rate increases are always unpopular and we don't like them any more than the next fellow. But we felt the record should be set straight because we know for a fact that the rate increase and the possible hiring of a city administrator are totally unrelated. (Mike Moser, editor)

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ty Park Project Given At Pell City Meeting

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. Sept. 1, 1977

City of Pell City officials and the St. Clair County Commission signed a project agreement with the Soil Conservation Service Tuesday night which will allow the hiring of an architectural firm to draw up engineering and design plans for a proposed water-based City-County park to be behind the Pell City Civic Center at Cropwell.

Planning for the park actually began in June of 1975, when the project plan was presented to the City and County at a joint meeting by Ron Burdette of the Coosa Resource Conservation and Development Committee (CRC&D).

At that time, it was projected as a half-million dollar project with the City paying one-fourth, the County paying one-fourth and the CRC&D paying one-half of the cost.

Rod Goode of the Soil Conservation Service office in Pell City said the project is now expected to cost in excess of \$600,000 due to the increased building costs since the original planning.

The City and County expect the largest portion of their participation to be "in-kind services" rather than actual cash outlay.

Goode said the next step will be the immediate negotiation of a contract with an architectural firm for the design and engineering. When the contract is let and the plans are finally approved, the project will go forward, probably in three phases, depending on the financial

situation of the city and county.

Goode said Soil Conservation Service funds have been approved for the engineering work.

He said he anticipates that construction on the park could begin in 1978, depending on the availability of funds and the completion of the engineering work.

The proposed park will contain nature trails, comfort stations, a group shelter with ten wooden tables and fireplace, concrete walks, paved parking, security lights, water fountain, campfire circle with flagpole and concrete seats, primitive campsite, multipurpose recreation court with two basketball goals, double tennis court, group shelter with 22 wooden tables and fireplace.

Also featured will be a play area with special surface treatment and playground equipment, concrete picnic table with metal grill, fishing pier, double boat ramp, boat dock with 15 slips, nature study pier with walk and covered observation area, double lane paved roads, chain link fence, entrance gate and sign, embayment improvement, control booth, and barbed wire fencing on the back areas of the park.

At the time the park was originally proposed, County Commission Chairman Shirley Satterfield asked whether the public would be expected to pay for any of the services at the park and was told that a nominal fee, perhaps as low as 25 cents is charged by similar parks throughout the State.

New Pell City mayor promises 'positive 4 years'

By CAROL PAPPAS

PELL CITY — Moments after being sworn into office as mayor Monday night, Lawrence Fields promised a more than 200 member audience a "positive four years."

Attorney and Notary Public Charles Robinson, Fields' longtime friend, administered the oath of office to the new mayor.

Circuit Judge Edwin Holladay administered the oath to the five members of the Council: District 1, Betty Turner; District 2, James McGowan; District 3, Johnnie DeGaris; District 4, Mike Hudson and District 5, Dale Richey.

All but McGowan are newcomers to the Council.

In its first official act, the Council unanimously named McGowan mayor pro-tem. The Council also changed its meeting time from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Fields then established committees, naming chairmen and mem-

bers.

Chairman of the Finance Committee is Mike Hudson; and DeGaris and Fields are members of that committee.

Turner was named chairwoman of the Recreation Committee with Richey and Fields as members.

Chairman of the Police Committee is McGowan, who previously served in that capacity, with Hudson and DeGaris as members.

DeGaris serves as chairman of the Fire Committee with McGowan and Hudson as members.

Fields heads the Utility Committee, and Richey and Turner are serving as members.

Chairman of the Street Committee is Richey with McGowan and Turner as members.

The Council also renamed all banks as city depositories, and re-hired all city employees in their same positions pending permanent appointment at a later meeting date. re



(Bob Crisp photo)

Lawrence Fields (right) becomes Mayor Lawrence Fields as he takes the oath of office from

Charles Robinson. Fields said he is looking forward to a positive four years.

ME, Talladega-Sylacauga-Pell City, Ala., Wednesday, Oct. 5, 1982



Pell City's leaders for the next four years took the oath of office Monday night. They are, from left: Councilwoman Betty Turner, District 1; Councilman Johnnie DeGaris, District 3; Councilman

Dale Richey, District 5; Mayor Lawrence Fields; Councilman James McGowan, District 2; and Councilman Mike Hudson, District 4. (Bob Crisp photo)

McGowan is proud to

By MARIE WEST CROMER

PELL CITY — Winds of political change which swept the presidential candidacy of Jesse Jackson into a third place slot in the National Democratic Party and saw the election of the first woman as a running mate to candidate Walter Mondale roared through Pell City on July 10.

George Oliver McGowan will be sworn into office in October as Pell City's first black city councilman. It will culminate his first race for public office which began in May with a door-to-door campaign.

McGowan won majority votes in every beat except one over his incumbent opponent. The final vote was 963 to 828.

"I campaigned on two promises," McGowan stated. "I promised to be fair and I promised to be honest."

"When I filed my qualifying papers for the Place 3 spot, I was asked by many people why I chose

that particular spot. It was not the one I had in mind when I decided to run. I knew I would be up against a man I knew, greatly admired and respected, and frankly, I did not expect to win," he said.

"I never thought of myself as running 'against' anyone. I was just running 'for' myself, and I never said anything against any of the candidates in the race," he stated.

"As for being the first black elected to the city council, I'm proud of course, but I wish some of the others who had run before had won," he said.

"I DECIDED TO run for some public office some years ago. I began my campaign for Place 3 on the city council in late May. I talked with people from door-to-door and before the summer was over I had doubled back and talked to many of them the second time," he said.

McGowan, a local businessman



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to be the first black on Pell City Council

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George and Elsie McGowan's involvement in education, civic, community and church work have won them many awards and honors.

Elsie believes that "Acquiring a good education means earning a good living which leads to living a good life. I am only happy when I am involved and busy. When I run out of something to do, I literally climb the walls."

SHE IS THE daughter of Franklin and Ronnie Henderson of Riverside. Her father was recently elected to Place 5 on the Riverside City Council.

George is the son of Clara and the late Huston McGowan of Pell City. He is still haunted by the tragic accident which claimed the life of his father several years ago. "Because of what happened to my father I tell anyone going into the woods to cut wood to do two things — never go alone and always let

someone know where you are going. A chain saw accident resulted in my father bleeding to death. It was the next morning before we found him."

McGowan would like to see more blacks become involved in the political process and vote. "We have approximately 425 registered black voters in Pell City," he said.

He sees two important issues facing Pell City in the next four years — an outstanding school system and more industry for the area.

"Industry looks at the schools before deciding whether to locate," he said. "We lost out on securing a very large chain restaurant in Pell City several years ago because we did not have an adequate sewerage system. I credit Food World locating in Pell City due to the system's upgrading. The people were very upset with the dramatic jump in their rates. It was too much all at once. Since it has been lowered some

and they see the benefits, they have come to accept it," he said.

"I know I will not be able to everyone, but I promise to very best for the best interest of Pell City. We have some good here and this is a great town. I see how Pell City has gone forward and I wouldn't want to see it go back to the way it was 10 or 15 years ago," he said.

"When I begin serving on the council in October I will deliberate long and hard before making a decision. But having once made a decision and I feel it is the right decision for our town and our people, I will never go back on a decision. I will work for all our people, black and white, for I see only people," he said.

"I've always been a person who believed that if people strive to work hard for something they want, it will be successful," he added. (j)

The first black on Pell City Council

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"I know I will not be able to please everyone, but I promise to do my very best for the best interests of Pell City. We have some good people here and this is a great town. I can see how Pell City has gone forward and I wouldn't want to see it go back to the way it was 10 or 15 years ago," he said.

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By MARIE WEST CROMER

PELL CITY — Winds of political change which swept the presidential candidacy of Jesse Jackson into a third place slot in the National Democratic Party and saw the election of the first woman as a running mate to candidate Walter Mondale roared through Pell City on July 10.

George Oliver McGowan will be sworn into office in October as Pell City's first black city councilman. It will culminate his first race for public office which began in May with a door-to-door campaign.

McGowan won majority votes in every beat except one over his incumbent opponent. The final vote was 963 to 828.

"I campaigned on two promises," McGowan stated. "I promised to be fair and I promised to be honest."

"When I filed my qualifying papers for the Place 3 spot, I was asked by many people why I chose

that particular spot. It was not the one I had in mind when I decided to run. I knew I would be up against a man I knew, greatly admired and respected, and frankly, I did not expect to win," he said.

"I never thought of myself as running 'against' anyone. I was just running 'for' myself, and I never said anything against any of the candidates in the race," he stated.

"As for being the first black elected to the city council, I'm proud of course, but I wish some of the others who had run before had won," he said.

"I DECIDED TO run for some public office some years ago. I began my campaign for Place 3 on the city council in late May. I talked with people from door-to-door and before the summer was over I had doubled back and talked to many of them the second time," he said.

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(owner of a local communications), and his wife, Elsie, are both educators. "I was not very visible during his campaign," his wife said. "I do my work at home and try to stay in the background, but I support him all the way. I've already been told that I will become a 'political widow' come October."

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Elsie was named "Favorite Teacher" at St. Clair County High in Odenville for four consecutive years, and has served as yearbook, newspaper, and Future Business Leaders sponsor. She is often called upon to serve as a judge in beauty pageants over the state. She has served as AEA delegate representative for 10 years, NEA delegate representative for two years, and was former president of the St. Clair County Educational Association, is a member of the St. Clair Bi-racial Committee, Textbook Committee, and chairperson of the SCCEA Membership Committee.

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George O. McGowan, Pell City's first elected black councilman, Place 3, prepares to assume his duties of public office in October, with the support of his behind-the-

scene, low profile wife, Elsie. "I have already been warned that come October I will become a 'political widow'," she stated. (Marie Cromer photo)