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# Quitman Businesses and Street Scenes

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*Quitman  
Businesses  
And  
Street Scenes*

# Jail and Jailers



# Brooks Jail Now 100

By RICHARD SELLERS  
Times Staff Writer

QUITMAN — In 1884, Brooks County was in dire need of a new jail.

Four years earlier the old wooden building used to house inmates had been burned by a fire, reportedly originating from one of the upper cells.

The structure wasn't insured and this left the local sheriff at the time, William A McNeil, without a place to keep his lawbreakers.

On January 8, 1884 the Brooks commissioners contracted with Simeon Remington to build a new fire-proof jail by that November on what is now South Madison Street.

The place was made of brick and concrete and carried a price tag of \$3,870. The county added steel cells for an additional \$2,000.

Now the jail, 100 years old this year, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a reminder of days when prisoners were confined in rudimentary structures without many privileges.

John Horton, president of the Brooks Historical Society, explained how the jail was operated: "At one time the jailer wasn't at the jail all the time and would lock the prisoners in at night. He came to feed them their meals, probably grits and cabbage or something like that."

"If someone came to visit one of the prisoners and the jailer wasn't around, they would hang notes and other things on the fence outside. The jailer would eventually return and collect them and take the articles to the people inside."

Horton said when the weather was cold it wasn't unusual to find jackets or blankets that people had brought hanging on the fence during the days when the jail was in operation.

He said thick, steel mesh wire had to be placed over the windows later because people on the outside would use fishing poles to slip inmates contraband over the fence into the jail while the jailer was away.

The front section of the old jail has two cells formerly used to hold female prisoners and an office once occupied by the sheriff and jailer when the job became a full-time task.

Horton said the office was once a cell used to house more



## History Evident Inside Old Brooks Jail

"sophisticated" prisoners.

In the back section is eight more cells stacked four-on-four. Each cell has a two-prisoner capacity, making the total jail's capacity 20.

"Space was limited in here," Horton said. "I don't think anyone would want to be locked up in a place like this. You'd get tired of other inmates fast."

Also located in the rear portion of the building, next to the cells, are what used to be an indoor gallows area. After being sentenced to death, prisoners would return to the building to be hanged. A steel landing and a wooden hinged trap door is all that remains of the gallows.

The interior was heated by fireplaces located in the corners of each room.

Horton said officials once used coal and wood, then switched to modern gas heaters.

"As far as ventilation, they didn't worry about that much, but when electricity was installed they did use electric fans," he added.

The jail was in use until 1980 but was closed after being condemned.



**OLD BROOKS COUNTY JAIL**  
Built in 1884 at a price of \$3,787.00. County bought steel cells and installed them at a cost of \$2,000.00. Some alterations and modernizing have been done by the Brooks County Historical Society.



**BROOKS COUNTY JAIL - BUILT 1884 - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE AND OULTMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**

## Sheriffs from 1881 to 1982

William A. McNeil	1881-1889
C. D. McRae	1889-1891 (Resigned)
J. P. Wade	1891 (Appointed)
J, W. Thrasher	1891-1895
A. J. Conoly	1895-1905
John H. Mashburn	1905-1909
J. B. Newsom	1909-1913
J. B. Wade	1913-1921
C. E. Clanton	1921-1945
R. W. Jones	1945-1971 (Resigned)
E. Ramsey Renfroe, Sr.	1971-1976 <sup>6-17-76</sup> 12-31-76
Hiram Benbry	1977 <sup>1-1-77</sup>

Free Press 2-14-1880 The picket fence around the jail has been completed.

Free Press 6-19-1880 Burning of jail (6-17-1880). Was a wooden structure built of double hewed logs 10 inches square, two stories high with four cells above and two larger rooms for jailers family below at a cost of \$6,000.00

The present jail was built in 1884. It was condemned.

After the jail was destroyed by fire 6-17-1880 a temporary log structure was used until 1884 when County Commissioners contracted with S. A. Remington to build a new fire proof jail of brick and concrete at a price of \$3,870.00 and the county bought the steel cells and installed them at a cost of \$2,000.00. Some alterations and modernizing since that time has been done. With its ogive windows and exterior trim highlighted in contrasting shades it is picturesque and provokes much interest. Mesh had to be put over the windows to keep people on the outside with fishing poles from slipping things through the bars to the prisoners.

## Brooks County History 1858-1948

Brooks County had no jail until 1866. Prisoners were kept in the Thomas Co. jail. The Grand Jury at the June term 1866 recommended a jail be built. Building committee appointed at August term 1866. Mssrs. Samuel W. Brooks, James Hilliard, D. U. McNeil, Wm. Jones and William Hudson. Plans and specifications adopted. Jail to be 28 X 32 feet in size, two

stories high with two rooms for jailers' quarters on the first floor and two cell rooms on the 2nd floor commonly called debtors rooms and also two cells or dungeons. The building was to be built on brick foundation. Lower rooms to be ceiled and grooved, ceilings while upper rooms were to be rough ceiling. Contract let August 22, 1866 to John DeLanney for \$4900.00.

About sunrise, June 17, 1880 the county jail was discovered on fire, in one of the upper cells. No insurance.

Judge E. R. Harden of the County Court had a calaboose built of sawed logs 16 X 18 feet in size, 12 feet high. Misdemeanor prisoners kept here. Felony prisoners taken to Valdosta. This arrangement continued 4 years.

On January 8, 1884 Commissioners contracted with Simeon Remington to build a new fire proof jail, brick and concrete with slate roof, price \$3870.00, job to be completed Nov. 1, 1884. The county bought steel cells and installed them at a cost of \$2,000.00 additional.



BROOKS COUNTY JAIL - BUILT 1884 - NATIONAL REGISTER OF  
HISTORIC PLACE AND QUITMAN NATIONAL - HISTORIC DISTRICT

LEE  
STREET

LEE STREET.  
QUITMAN, GA.



Looking North

Lee Street from South, Quitman, Ga.



Lee Street looking north  
From 200th Block

↑  
Post Office



# PRESBYTERIAN HOME & RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

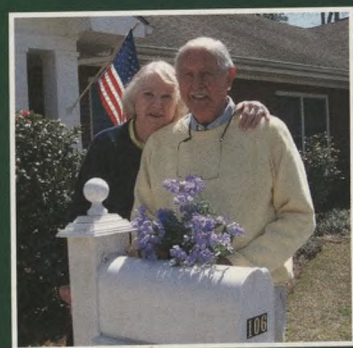
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1901 W. Screven Street • Quitman, GA



**PRESBYTERIAN HOME AND  
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**  
a ministry of PRESBYTERIAN HOMES OF GEORGIA

Corporate Office of Presbyterian Homes of Georgia Since 2000  
301 East Screven Street, Quitman, Georgia

Originally constructed in 1910 by

Southern Railroad – owned & occupied top 2 floors

First National Bank – owned & occupied bottom 2 floors (later became People's National Bank)

Enjoyed the modern convenience of electric lights and an elevator rising 11 ft. between floors but the 1<sup>st</sup> floor has a 16 ft. height so steps were necessary to enter the elevator before rising to the upper 3 floors. Not handicapped accessible!

Less than confident reliance upon electricity, every room, including interior rooms without an exterior window were constructed to allow sunlight to illuminate the space.

Exterior walls were four bricks thick and the floors between the upper 3 floors were poured with 6in. thick reinforced concrete.

Under the 6 in. slab on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor are railroad tracks about 2 inches apart for extra support and to resist bank floor breaks.

The 1<sup>st</sup> floor bank room vault has 4 doors segregating the contents from safety deposit boxes, records, cash, and teller drawers.

The 1<sup>st</sup> floor banking room offered a half-dozen teller windows and office space for the bank president and loan officers.

A Screven Street corner entrance also included a night deposit drop but 4 steps must be climbed to access. Depositors had a key to open the drop door.

The 1<sup>st</sup> floor was re-configured by PHGA to provide a conference room and work/storage space. *The added walls utilize the leaded glass that once surrounded the teller "cages" or windows.*

In 2000, PHGA installed a new elevator capable of rising to various heights to accommodate handicapped access to all floors. The building was completely rewired with the latest technology including fiberoptic computer cabling.

The original coal-fired heating system served all four floors and coal entered the basement through a chute at the rear "alley" side of the building.

To protect the vault from access through the basement, the floor under the vault was solid concrete to the bottom of the basement at 12 feet thick.



The dream began in 1942 when a church member at First Presbyterian Church in Quitman asked the pastor Rev. Frank McElroy if the church had a facility to care for aging members. The dream came to fruition in 1949, when the Home was opened here in Quitman with only three residents. The seven intervening years were spent in selling the idea and in raising the necessary funds to buy land , and to construct Unit One. By 1950, the number of residents had reached eleven. They often helped each other and helped out in the kitchen. Farmers often left produce at the door and the community provided many caring volunteers.

Today, in 2007, the Presbyterian Home in Quitman has grown not only in size but in reputation. The facility has five Units, a Retirement Center, and Assisted Living cottages.

The Home is known throughout the region and its residents come from throughout the state. Because of its benevolent care and, thus, its credibility, it now has the support of Foundations, individuals and churches.

In 1987, this organization became the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia with the opening of Presbyterian Village in Austell, Ga.

Even though the Home has expanded, Quitman is still its headquarters with the corporate office being housed in the old Citizens National Bank building on Screven Street and with its Director being a Quitman native and the son of its founder.

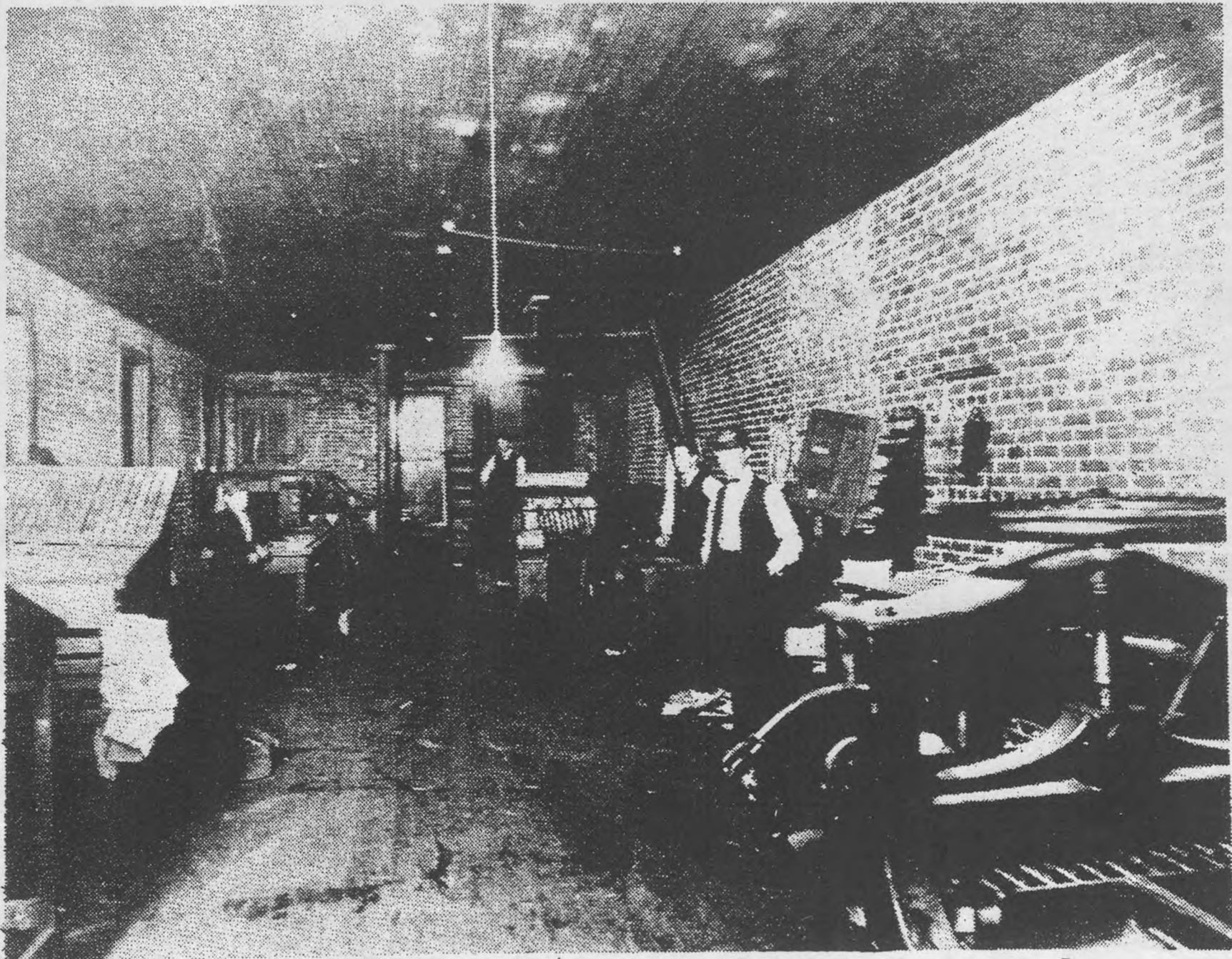


The **Cook Patrick Furniture** business began in 1914 at an unknown location. The building shown here was built c1920 and had become Patrick Furniture. In the 1930's W. W. Patrick's son-in-law, Benjamin H. Romine joined the business and successfully up-dated the business.





**THE QUITMAN FREE PRESS, established in 1877, moved to this location at 112 North Lee Street some time around the turn of the century , no later than 1912. It was first located on the ground floor of the building at 202 East Screven Street. It was located briefly in other buildings[on Forsyth Street behind the-old Bank of Quitman and in one of the buildings on East Screven] before settling in at the present location , nearly one hundred years ago.**



Quitman Free Press 1904.

3-04 17:15:51



Quitman Free-Press 1876

08.03.2004

04 17:15:51



08.03.2004

1904.

# Former Press Editor Recalled Early Business Life In Quitman

Brooks County Centennial Edition

1859-1959

(From Brooks County Centennial Edition).

By The Late  
JOHN CAIN

I arrived in Quitman early on the morning of February 11th, 1899 to take charge of The Quitman Free Press, which my father, J.W. Cain, had shortly before leased from the Free Press Publishing Co., Mr. R.C. McIntosh, Sr., being president of the company. My sister, Edna Cain, arrived in May following and we two operated the paper until my father and younger sister came down about a year later.

The Free Press had been published for some time previously by Wade & McCall, W.C. Wade and B.B. McCall, Mr. Wade, however, who was serving as a member of the legislature, died in Atlanta, the previous fall. The Cain family, in 1901, acquired the stock of the paper and it was published continuously by all or some member of the family until Feb. 1957 when Mrs. Edna Cain Daniel passed away.

At the time the office was in the building now occupied by the Country Store, the building at that time only extending back about half way the lot. Several years later it was moved to one of the buildings back of the present Bank of Quitman building which it occupied until 1909 when Mr. Z.W. Oglesby had erected the present building the paper occupies.

Before the Free Press was started in 1876 Quitman had several newspapers, the most notable, according to old timers was Major Gallagher's Independent who, according to all accounts hewed to the line and let the chips fall where they might. Some two or three papers were established after the Free Press, but were later sold or discontinued.

In 1899 the population of the town was about 2,000 maybe a few hundred more. There was no street paving and from Washington Street to the courthouse was a row of horse racks in the middle of the street where farmers hitched their teams when they came to town to trade. A few stores had brick paving in front of the places of business and practically all of

them had wooden or sheet metal awnings over the front entrance.

The Marie Hotel was located where the present Quitman Hotel now is and was owned and operated by J.W. Hopson. It was a wooden building of about 50 rooms and by the standards of that day, was a splendid hostelry, serving excellent meals and the rates were \$2.50 and \$3.00 per day, including three meals.

Across the street where the Pure Oil station now is, was the W.W. Walker Mercantile Co., next was The Merchants and Farmers Bank, then the Free Press office. H.E. Dekle was in the next building with a jewelry repair and musical instruments, along with C.H. Remington who had a stock of caskets and was the undertaker, but he did not furnish any \$10,000 or \$20,000 hearse with the casket. People if they were able, hired a hack from the livery stables, along with other rigs to convey the funeral party to the cemetery. I have forgotten who occupied the other stores, except the corner where Lee's Drug Store is, was occupied by N.C. Hendry & Co., a general merchandise store.

Across the street, of course, was the present city hall building, the upstairs of which was fitted up as an opera house, where such road shows and vaudeville acts as came to town furnished amusement and entertainment to the people. Next was J.W. Hopson with a general merchandise store. Where the Wilson Auto parts store now is, had been used as a saloon or barroom, as a lot of people called them, but this had closed Jan. 1st, due to a recent wet and dry election.

Next was the City Barber Shop whose genial owner and proprietor was the late James H. Mathis. If my memory is not at fault W.J. Powell operated a grocery store next with a meat market in the adjoining store with M.H. Eason & Co., owners. Capt. J.B. Finch ran a store next with Capt. J.R. Barnes with a watch repair shop in one corner.

Capt. J.G. McCall had a law office in a small wooden building back of Holwell & Holwell's real estate office.

On the south side of Screven Street across from the Marie Hotel L.S. Price had a general merchandise store in a brick building and between it and the Methodist church was two residences one of which was occupied by the John R. Avera family. Where Glausier's store now is, Geo. R. Lilly had what I believe was then called a Ladies' piece goods store, as ready made dresses, as we know them, were unheard of at that time. The ladies bought the kind of cloth that struck their fancy and complexion and had their dresses made to measure by their favorite dress maker. And I think Mr. Lilly had a lady milliner come down from Baltimore usually in the spring and fall to trim ladies hats with whatever kind of feathers and ribbons as might suit the fancy of the particular lady. I remember Powers & Co., and the C.S. Hawks store did.

Where Carmichael's store is, Brice & Oelsner, had a men's clothing store, then Miss Munger with a millinery shop. Jos. Mabett & Co., had a general merchandise store where Priest's store is now, with Buford Mabett who operated a grocery store and next was G.W. Averett with a plumbing and tin shop. J.M. Tyler had a grocery store. Hopson and Bowman had a clothing store where the Quitman Jewelry Co. is now located. C.M. Powers & Co. had a large general merchandise store on the corner. The Powers store at that time could be classed as a department store as it catered to all classes.

Back of the Powers store on Lee Street was a one story brick building with two stores, one of which was occupied by a saloon which did not close on account of the election previously mentioned because the license did not expire until April 1st. In the next block about where Patrick Furniture Co., warehouse is now located Olin and Ben Stewart had a livery stable and across Lee Street Fuller Groover had a sale stable where the sold horses and mules, mostly mules. Up the street where the Walker Building is now located was a cotton warehouse operated by Mr. Taylor Dukes and next to it

was a small building occupied by the Bank of Quitman.

On the corner facing Screven Street was John R. Avera's Drug Store and then came C.S. Hawks & Co., with a ladies' piece goods store, including millinery and of course, corsets, high top shoes and all the accessories that the ladies owned in those far gone days. Next to Hawk's was a narrow store operated by J.S. Collins with a miscellaneous stock of goods. Then came the Quarterman & Jelks Drug Store owned by C.M. Quarterman and E.B. Jelks. There might have been a store between the drug store and the R.C. McIntosh hardware and heavy grocery store, but I am not sure. J.O. Lewis had a store with hardware and groceries and next was the John Tillman hardware store where the Miller store is at present. Brice & Williams, (Ade Williams and M. Brice), ran a grocery store where P. Lazarus & Son are now. L.T. Creech & Co., had a store next. Mr. Creech also sold fertilizers. The next place I recall was the Rountree & Co., general merchandise store and the corner building was occupied by the J.B. Rountrees who sold furniture, buggies and wagons.

Where the John Grubbs store is at present had been a saloon, but was vacant at the time and below it was the Alliance Warehouse operated by Capt. J.M. Shearer. Somewhere on the same lot was the city jail, commonly called in those days, calaboose or just lock-up where those who imbibed too much were placed to sober up.

Below that was the city water and electric plant in the building now occupied by a paint and body shop. About where the Standard filling station is now was a cotton gin which was then or had been owned by Mr. Cicero Williams, grandfather of the present editor of the Free Press. Gus McAfee, colored, had a blacksmith shop somewhere in that neighborhood and Mr. Geo. Badger had a smith shop but the location I have forgotten. There were two or three wooden store buildings down about the A.C.L. Depot and there might have been other small stores scattered around town, but the

comprises the main business establishments at that time, except there was a livery stable on the lot where the Motor Co. building is. It had been owned and operated by J.W. Hopson.

The city was governed by a board of six councilmen, S.S. Nett, was mayor, S.S. Stree, G.W. Averett, J.R. Davis, Russell Davis were four of the councilmen, M.C. Wade, city clerk and treasurer, M.C. Wade, Marshal and John Nett, night policeman. M.C. Wade was chief of a volunteer fire department and had all the equipment they had was a two wheel cart with a driving cylinder and the fire was rolled around this. The cart was pulled by firemen.

When they answered a fire in the residential section the fire was usually given by the neighbors getting out their guns and pistols and firing at the same time hollering at the top of their voices and some of them grabbed all the tools handy and rushed to the building and they carried water in the buckets from the wells to pour on the fire.

The county government was comprised of the following: S.S. Nett, Ordinary, Geo. D. Nett, clerk of court, A.J. Nett, sheriff, J.N. Gibson tax collector, J.W. Phillips tax collector, E.D. Ponder, coroner, R. O'Neal surveyor. The board of County Commissioners, then as now, was composed of five men with S.S. Nett as chairman but I do not recall the names of the others.

George W.B. Bennet, grandfather of Miss Louise, Mildred Nett, and Paul Bennett, was one of the county court with Edmondson solicitor.

George Augustus H. Hansell of Nashville, was judge of the Superior Court with Judge W.E. Nett as of Valdosta solicitor. The postoffice was in the building now occupied by the Morgan Insurance Agency. S.M. Griffin postmaster. Griffin was the grandfather of Governor Marvin Griffin. Griffin and Mrs. Griffin also owned the Central Hotel which was located on the lot where the S.A. Wilson building now stands.

The South Georgia Railroad was originally built from Heartpine to Quitman that being where the Oglesby Bros. lumber plant was located. Heartpine was about three miles south of Adel. When the Oglesbys moved their lumber operations to Quitman, the northern terminus of the road was changed to Adel. Several years later the railroad was extended to Perry, Fla.

The Methodist church was located on the site of the present building and a number of years later was remodeled and enlarged.

The Baptist church was a wooden building standing on the site of the present home of A.E. Williams. When this denomination erected the present house of worship the old building was sold and moved to the corner on south Washington street north of the Quitman Laundry and was used off and on as a store. Peter, the Greek, who was killed by a negro man, some years ago, I understand owned it at the time of his death.

The Presbyterian church building was where the present Colonial Store is located. It was a rather small wooden building and after the present church was erected, was sold and I understand was dismantled.

In the late 1890's North Court street did not seem to be as popular as a residential street as it later became. This may have been due to the reason that the men who owned or worked in the business houses preferred being as near their place of business as possible as they usually walked to and from home to their place of business, this being long before the day of the automobile and then people did not seem to be in such a hurry and rush around, most of them going nowhere, as they are in this day and time of sputniks and jet planes. Of course a good many people owned a horse and buggy or carriage, but these were usually used for trips to the country or Sunday afternoon rides.

S.H. Remington and family occupied the home where the Presbyterian church now stands. Mr. Remington was a builder and contractor and when he sold the lot to the

church the residence was moved just north of the church, where it now stands. North of it in the next lot was the present home which I understand is occupied by Mrs. Hewett.

Where the present Dr. H.A. Wasden home is located was an old time brick residence, the home of Judge Joseph Tillman and family. The judge was quite a writer and booster and at one time edited a paper in Waycross. I do not recall whether there was a residence on the site of the H.W. Stubbs' home, but I do not think there was.

Mr. M.C. Wade, Sr., and family owned and lived in the residence now the property of Mrs. E.L. Jelks. Practically all the homes then had some kind of fence around them to keep the cows from destroying the flowers and shrubbery but so far as I have noticed in later years, Mrs. Jelks is the only one that still maintains the neat paling fence.

Mrs. A.L. Miller owned a residence, which I believe is the one just north of the C.O. Terry home. Mrs. Miller was the daughter of Col. E.C. Wade, whose home was the present Maxwell-Eason Funeral parlor and it was at that time in the middle of the street, with a fence surrounding and trees or woods all around.

On the east side of the street coming towards town was the beloved Dr. E.A. Jelks home, now the Magnolia Apartment building. The only other residence I remember on that side of the street, was the Judge Creech home of brick, on the site of the Lawton Lee home.

Quitman did not have any restaurants in those days, as we know them now. There were several boarding houses that would furnish transients meals for 25c and took in regular boarders for \$12.50 and \$25 a couple per month for room and meals and then you could always get a meal at the Marie Hotel.

The Quitman Telephone Co., was a locally owned one and the central office and exchange was housed upstairs in the building where Lawton Lee's drug store is at present. The telephones were fastened on a convenient spot on the wall of home or office and when a subscriber wanted to talk to some one they turned a crank and told the central operator the number and she would plug in and turn another crank. If the telephone desired happened to be busy the operator would call and tell you. The number of telephone subscribers numbered some 200 or 300 and the rates were \$1.50 for residence and \$2.00 for business telephones.

Screen doors and windows were unheard of then so far as Quitman was concerned and those who could afford them had mosquito tents over their beds to keep from being bothered with mosquitos at night and there were plenty of mosquitos, thousands of them. Russell pond near the A.C.L. depot was said to be the breeding place for them.

The Quitman  
Free Press,



*SOUTH LEE STREET LOOKING NORTH - South Lee Street after 1908 but prior to 1921. Note livery stables on each side of the street.*



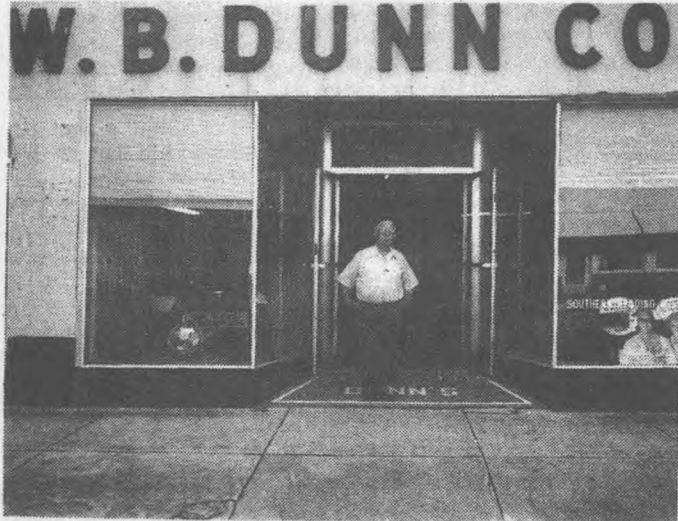
# "All In The Family"

## A Success Story

The 4th in a series of Business Histories compiled by the Brooks Co. Historical Society.

Walter Buron Dunn began his merchandising career in 1921 as a door-to-door salesman selling bedspreads, his territory covering twenty counties in South Georgia and North Florida. Aspiring to higher goals in the business world, he consistently saved his earnings in a cookie jar until he had enough to open a permanent business of his very own. His first venture was in 1935 when he opened a furniture and bedding store at 111 East Screven Street in Quitman, a part of the old Joseph D. Wilson Building, presently occupied by Dunn's Fabric Store. This he operated with his wife Anne Holton Dunn and his son, W.B., Jr.

During World War II when the military had priority over all businesses, it became almost impossible to obtain stock for his store. It was then that Mrs. Dunn grew more interested in obtaining fabrics of any kind when she realized the urgent need people had for them. The Dunn's had a friend connected with a textile mill in North Carolina who shipped them various kinds of cloth. Soon the fabrics were crowding out the furniture and bedding, so in 1943, Mr. Dunn moved this stock to 216 South Lee Street, the previous home of Price Chevrolet, leaving Mrs. Dunn to operate Quitman's first "Fabric Shop".



A Proudful Owner



In the July 25 - 30th, 1977 History Week Merchants' Display Contest, W.B. Dunn Co. won third place in window display.

Mr. Dunn's new establishment on South Lee Street was known as "Southern Bedding Company". His original personnel staff included such well known salesmen as J.C. Etheridge, Odell Taylor, Jodie and Roy Renfro, Harrison Hines, Riley Jordan, and M.J. Holton, as well as his son, W.B., Jr.

Three years later, his business prospering, his thoughts turned to expanding. It was then that he opened a similar store in Monticello, Fla. with W.B. Dunn, Jr. and his wife, Eugenia Porter Dunn, managing it. Then in 1957, still another satellite store was opened in Thomasville. This business outgrew its downtown location and in March, 1977 moved to new modern quarters on the outskirts of the city under the name of "Dunn's Carriage Manor", and under the management of his grandson, W.B. Dunn, III, a granddaughter, Beverly DeMott, and her husband Maurice DeMott. This continues the Dunn family tradition of family ownership and management. This is another third-generation business that Quitman and Brooks County can be proud of.

At the present age of 79, Mr. Dunn having survived his wife Annie, who passed away in 1969, and his son, W.B. Jr., who died in 1974, is still a very active business man. He not only operates the W.B. Dunn Company, (which by the way is adding more and more furniture to its original stock of bedding and accessories), Dunn's Fabric Shop, but also a large farm on Route 4, Quitman, where he and his present wife, the former Jewell Bostic of Bainbridge, reside.

Hard work resulting in ultimate success is a family tradition for the Dunns. Evolving from a door-to-door blanket salesman fifty years ago to the present ownership of four prospering businesses, Dunn's is living proof that the American dream of success through hard work, dedication, and imaginative planning is not dead. Quitman salutes you W.B. Dunn for your contribution to our town and county.

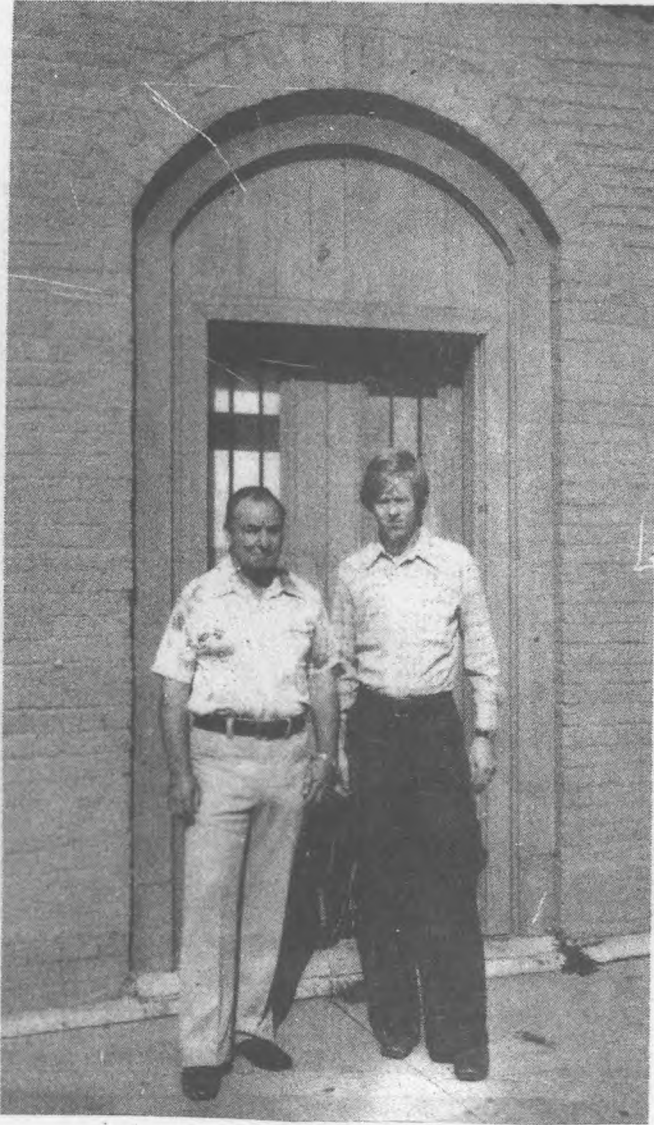
# Hogan's Jewelry Store - Serving Quitman 32 Years

This is the Eighth in a series of Business Histories of the members of the Brooks County Historical Society.

In October 1945 Jimmy Hogan and his wife, Kathryn, came to Quitman from Fitzgerald, Georgia and opened a very small jewelry store in the back of what was then Terry's Drug Store, facing Lee Street. This was during the war years when merchandise was very hard to get, especially for a new store with no established record or credit rating. After the close of business at eleven o'clock on Saturday nights they spent many Sundays searching Atlanta for merchandise to sell the following week.

This family enterprise suffered many ups and downs, but determination and hard work paid off and after three years they moved across the street next door to the old picture show. Quarters were shared there for a time with a beauty parlor which was run by Mrs. Carlos Lester.

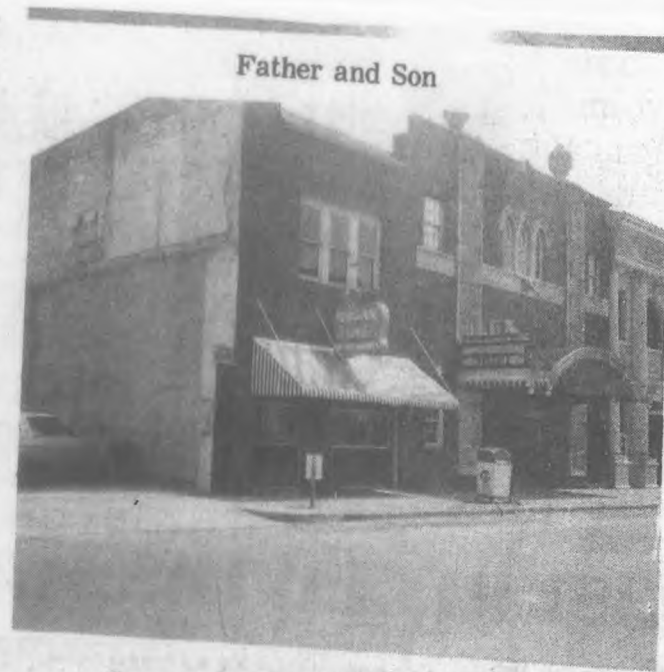
Around 1955 the Hogans' expanded business compelled them to use all of the building space and to do much remodeling and decorating. This was enlarged again in 1958 to its present size and still later redecorated into the attractive store it is today.



The Hogan family also grew during this time with the addition of two sons, Ancel born in March 1950, and Mike in December 1951. Ancel, after finishing high school, went to the University of Georgia and then to Valdosta State College where he received a degree in Marketing. He is at present working with Webb Tobacco Company and follows the markets throughout the Southeast.

Mike always had an interest in the jewelry business, and after he completed high school and served six months in the National Guard, he studied jewelry repair and diamond setting in Selma, Alabama. He then spent a year working with a wholesale diamond jewelry manufacturing company in Jacksonville, Florida, and while working there he took courses in diamond setting, electro-plating and jewelry repair. At North Georgia Technical and Vocational School, he spent a year studying watch repairing, while at the same time he taught a course in diamond setting and jewelry

repair. He now serves on the board of directors for that school. He has since then completed a course in Tampa, Florida which qualifies him as a certified Accutron technician. He is now sole owner and operator of the store which is well equipped to meet any of your jewelry needs. His store has maintained a Bridal Registry since 1940, keeping a date of their marriage and their selection of patterns in silver, china and crystal. Future bridegrooms also find a won-



Father and Son  
Present Location of Jewelry Store



Hogan's Jewelry Store in 1977. The store opened in 1945.  
Mike Hogan is behind the counter.



*Wade - Avera Drug Store and Soda Fountain - Quitman*



LEE STREET. LOOKING SOUTH, QUITMAN, GA.

# Three Pairs Of Brothers —

## A Local Phenomenon

John and James  
Will and Oscar  
Bill and Jim

This is the Sixth in a series of Local Business Histories Compiled by the Brooks County Historical Society.

What an illustrious past the southwest corner of Screven and Lee Streets has had! Can anyone remember when there wasn't a drugstore there? Almost 90 years of continuous drug service has been offered in this portion of the old Sweat Building. Today it is known as Maddox Drug Store and a very interesting heritage it has. Some of the elder citizens have provided bits and pieces of it's early history.

As far back as January 1889 there was a drugstore there by the name of the Avera Brothers Drugstore operated by John and James Avera. The name "AVERA" can be seen imprinted in the front sidewalk. From the balcony upstairs one could visit his dentist, Dr. Lawton Donaldson; physician, Dr. G.D. Dorough, or attorney and State Senator Morton Turner in their offices. Around the year 1915 A.J. Pert of Athens, Georgia purchased the business. In the roaring twenties it became somewhat of a gathering place for the young folks. Remember when the young boys that hung around the drugstores after school and on Saturdays were called "Drugstore Cowboys"? Many of the high school boys were lucky enough to land a job as "Soda Jerks". From these early experiences some have gone on to making a profession in the pharmacy business. For example, Jason Kennon, successful pharmacist in Live Oak, Florida, had his early beginnings here. Remember the old marble soda fountain and the wrought iron ice cream table and chairs? What a treat it was to come in on a hot afternoon for a cone or dish of delicious ice



It was Avera Bros. Drug Store back in 1889.



Maddox Drug Store today.

cream - cones 5c, dish 10c. The present day famous "31 flavors" is a sharp contrast to the choice of Chocolate, Vanilla or Strawberry. Children nowadays would find it quite amusing to hear that their parents would sometimes spend their entire weekly allowance on an ice cream soda (15c).

So many changes have taken place in the Drug Business over the years. Such great strides in medicine have been made. Remember when Black Draught or a dose of Calomel could cure you if you felt "billious"? - or a baby's tummy ache could be eased with a few drops of paragaric (which then could be bought across the counter - no questions asked)? - and rheumatism always felt better after a rub-down with Sloan's Linament? And don't forget the little bag of Asafetida that Mom tied around your neck to ward off everything from colds to warts, and the bottle of citronella in the summer time to keep the gnats away from the eyes and a possible case of sore eyes. But in case you were unlucky there was always the bottle of Dr. Strozier's Eyewater on the shelf. One of Dr. Avera's own specialties was his Tetter Ointment guaranteed to cure "Tetter" when all others failed. Over the local radio station each day one can hear the "Old Timer", sponsored by Maddox Drugs, recall some of yesteryears home remedies. Compared to his modern establishment with all of the latest in miracle drugs and antibiotics one wonders how any of the old timers ever survived.

## Continued from previous page

The changing times brought about a change of ownership for in 1929 another pair of brothers, Oscar and Will Terry purchased the Pert Drug Store and renamed it "Terry Brothers Drug Store". Several years later Mr. Will moved to Thomasville and opened his own business but Mr. Oscar remained in Quitman and became one of its most beloved citizens. It continued to be the gathering place for the young before and after the movies and particularly on Saturdays.

Another change occurred in 1965 when still another set of brothers, Bill and Jim Maddox bought the business under the name of Terry's Drug Store until January of this year. The building was remodeled in 1967 and again in 1971 when the adjoining building, formerly Eason's Dress Shop, was acquired thus doubling the size of the store. It was then that a

lunch counter and coffee shop was added. It is a hub of activity in the early morning as the regular "Breakfast Clubbers" gather to rehash the latest news over a second cup of coffee, and again at noon if you are not early, there's standing room only. In addition to the lunch counter the remodelling included a cosmetic bar, baby section, toys and games and a splendid gift and stationery department. Their pharmaceutical department had also been greatly improved keeping up with latest in medicines, supplies and equipment, all at competitive prices. In recent weeks additional sundries have been added to his stock with special promotional sales in order to give local residents the opportunity to trade at home.

The Maddox brothers hailed from Andalusia, Alabama, Bill being the youngest of eight children. While Bill was in the School of Pharmacy at Auburn University his brother Jim was working with NCR in this area. In the course of his travels he learned of the availability of Terry's Drug store. This seemed like a golden opportunity for the two to combine talents and venture into what looked like a very promising career. And indeed it was. Young Bill Maddox full of dreams and ambition arrived in Quitman and began his work under the guidance of Dr. Terry. He recalls with a chuckle the first trip he made to Quitman from Alabama over the old Highway 84, full of hazardous curves, pot holes, and narrow

bridges. He truly thought he was heading for the "jumping off place." it didn't take him long to change his mind, for he now considers Quitman the "Capital of the World."

He married the lovely Annie Laurie McElroy in October 1966. They have a daughter, Laurie, age nine. Though he has little time for hobbies, he enjoys tennis and is an avid Auburn football fan. He is a deacon in the First Baptist Church and both he and Annie Laurie sing in the choir there. Bill and his family live on Rountree Street in the Bennett Woods Subdivision in their lovely home which they built in 1968.

Jim Maddox, although he resides in Valdosta, is yet a definite part of Quitman's business life since he owns and manages the Burger Barn.

What started out on a small scale with only four employees (Frank Smith and Evolyne Williams, among those first four are still an important part of their present day staff) has developed into an ever expanding enterprise with ten employees. Their policy of providing service to the community includes the Distributive Education Program, and several pharmacy students have interned here.

You may be an Alabamian, Bill, but you have endeared yourself to our hearts with your gentleness, your unassuming nature and your dedication to your profession and service to your fellowman. We adopt you as a "Native Son".

# Brooks Historical Society Compiling History On Business Houses

The Brooks County Historical Society is compiling a history of all business houses in Quitman and the county and plans to run one of these records in each issue of the Free Press.

First in the series is a history of Mitchell's Thrifty Food Store:

In 1942 R.J. Mitchell, a native of Brooks County from the Rock Hill area, purchased a small grocery store from Wilson Rowe. The store was located on Railroad Street, and is now occupied by Weeks Textile Co. R.J. moved his business in 1943 to the Pure Oil Service Station on the corner of Highland and Screven Streets. The Chamber of Commerce is located on this site today.

Construction of the present store was begun on East Screven Street in 1945. Grand Opening festivities were held in the fall of that year for "East End Super Market". The business carried a complete line of groceries and meats. Tom Taylor, well known local meat-cutter, headed the meat department when it opened and is still serving in that position today. Others who worked in the business when it first began were Joe Hooker, who delivered groceries, and the late W.M. English, who was the bookkeeper. Mrs. Esther Wall and Mrs. Alene Johnson Fleetwood were the cashiers. R.J.'s wife, Virginia, served as a cashier and assistant manager.



Mitchell's Thrifty Food Store in 1945 with Pure Oil Service Station, also owned by Mitchell, in 1945.



R.J. Mitchell's Rolling Store which visited every section of Brooks County offering door to door service in groceries and feeds.

A rolling store service was also provided for Brooks Countians. Alan Parrott, Charles Johnson, and Ed Mullinax operated the rolling stores at various times for R.J.

A complete line of Purina feeds and other products were provided customers for 15 years. These were sold from the warehouse at the rear of the store. Ultimately the business became a grocery, meat and food store. R.J. says that his Thrifty Food Store is the oldest home owned grocery store in Brooks County today.

Aside from his store, R.J. operates a 300 acre farm on which he and Virginia live. Their home, incidently, is the old Pure Oil Station which he moved to the farm after completion of his new store building, and converted the old station into an attractive residence.

R.J. was the first breeder of Brangus Cattle in the State of Georgia. In addition to his own farm which is a part of the old Stanley Place, he rents additional land on which to grow grass for hay and pasture for his cattle.

We salute the Mitchell's for being the first to come forward with a bit of recorded history of their business to be preserved by the Brooks County Historical Society.

# Retiree Recalls <sup>8/27/83</sup> His Rollin' Stores

By TERESA A. SAMPSON  
Times Staff Writer

QUITMAN — After 45 years of operating grocery store and feed stores, R.J. Mitchell and his wife, Virginia retired two years ago to enjoy the good things in life.

Mitchell opened the first store, known as the East End Store, in Quitman in 1942 in the same house that he and his wife lived in. They started a rolling store the next year, and later moved the store into a new building in the country and also moved the house. They sold the corner lot on which the first store was opened to Standard Oil.

Popular in the first half of the century, rolling stores were trucks with little porches and a window and a step on the back. Customers went to the window and requested items. "We had drivers who drove through the country in Lowndes and Brooks counties to serve customers," Mitchell said. "We drove from house to house." They sold items ranging from fresh meats and fish, which were kept in dry ice boxes, to grains and vegetables.

"Sometimes when customers didn't have enough money, they'd barter items such as chickens, corn and beef, and I'd resell it. I had a lot of the corn ground into meal and then sold it, and I shipped a lot of chickens to Jacksonville to be sold," he said.

Mitchell said the way things were done back then is very different from the way they are now. "We met a lot of people and made a lot of friends. Our customers were not just another number. And our drivers were like family. We'd take them on trips with us. Now you can work with or for someone for years and not know anything about them. Things are so impersonal now."

It took Mitchell several years to build a fleet of five rolling stores. To make the stores, he bought trucks and took them to Chipley, Fla.,

where they were converted into rolling stores. "As long as I could, I bought new trucks, but when the war (World War II) started, all I could get was old trucks because my business wasn't classified as necessary."

Mitchell said he discontinued the rolling stores around 1955 because so many people had moved to town and there were not as many customers in the country. The warehouse that had been used for grocery storage was converted into a feedstore, and Mitchell sold Purina feed there for 15 years. He continued to operate the East End store that was in the front half of the old warehouse building until 1987.

Mitchell's wife worked with him all those years in the store. "We couldn't have done all the things we did without each other and the good men we had working with us," he said. "She was the clerk and handled the money end of things while I was also busy farming, selling feed and raising cattle in addition to the store."

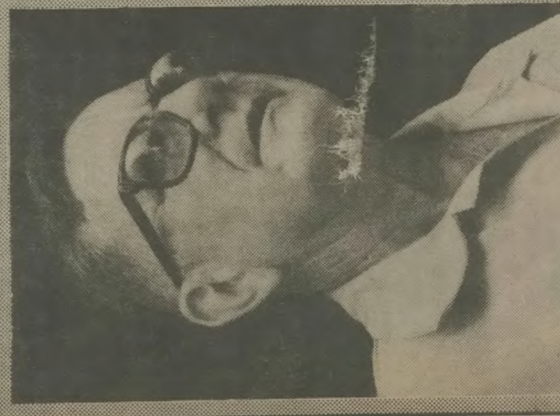
The Mitchells were so busy that they never had any children of their own. "We're just known as Uncle R.J. and Aunt Virginia to all the children around, whether or not they're kin." Mitchell said that because of other children, he and his wife never lacked the love of children.

When asked if he missed the store, Mitchell replied, "I miss the people and I enjoy seeing them when I come across them. But I realize I can't operate a business anymore; you just get tired and want to make a change."

Since retiring, the Mitchells travel and enjoy doing leisurely things. Even though he doesn't farm anymore, Mitchell likes "to keep the place looking nice," and he also enjoys fishing. They've vacationed in the Florida Keys and Tennessee, and recently returned from a trip to Mississippi.

Sunday, August 27, 1989 5-B

The Valdosta Daily Times



1940s. Allen Parrott of Morven is standing next to truck number three which he operated. — Photo Special

Retired Quitman Grocer R.J. Mitchell, far left, looks toward photo above of one of his fleet of five rolling stores in the

# Theater: 30 Years Of Cinema

# Quitman's Ilex

The touching and humorous incidents outnumber the sad ones though according to Taylor.

"A boy came in one day and said, 'I want to borrow your flashlight.'

"Why?" I said.

'I lost my tooth.'

The child was concerned the tooth fairy would not realize his tooth had been lost and there would be nothing under his pillow the next morning.

Taylor told the boy to go home and tell his mother of the problem and when he left, Taylor called the child's mother.

"Tell him the tooth fairy checks in with the theater," he told her.

As with most single theaters, even in larger towns, the cost of operations became too much. By 1967, Taylor sold the theater. It remained open about another year.

Since then the condition of the building has continued to deteriorate. It was designed by Valdosta Architect Lloyd Greer. The style is described as Neo-Moorish.

The roof has let the rain and pigeons in for years. Although the front of the building appears sturdy, there is so much damage to the walls, floors and stage, it is considered beyond repair by many.

At this point, it is set for demolition along with an adjacent store that now houses Hogan's Jewelry in order to provide more downtown parking near Lee Street.



*No More Long Lines In Front*

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Mar. 17, 1985-8-A-

## Points Of Interest

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY MARDY JACKSON  
Times Staff Writer

QUITMAN — It was 1929 and the movie was "Our Darling Daughter," the first showing for the brand new Ilex Theater here.

"I can recall vividly when you went to the picture show for 10 cents," said Henry Taylor of

Quitman. His first interest in the theater was as a customer.

"We called it the 'picture show.' Above the old city hall we had a picture show before the Ilex. I'd have 15 cents. I'd get five Johnny Crackers. My friend would buy an hunk of cheese with his nickel.

"Then we watched the

serials...Tom Mix. The trouble with the serials is just before the guy was stabbed, they'd end it."

Taylor became the theater's owner in 1962. He said his interest in purchasing the theater came from his children and those of his friend Floyd McAllister. "I had two daughters. He had two sons. We were active in recreation. My children suggested the show.

"I have a lot of happy memories there. One of the best things in the world was to hear about 400 children laughing.

"We had a price for a

child of 25 cents...a bag of popcorn for a dime, a coke for a dime and a candy bar, five cents.

A bicycle rack in front of the theater would be jammed with two-wheelers on Saturday. The lines extended down the block in both directions, whites buying their tickets at one window, blacks buying theirs at the other then taking their seats in the balcony.

The favorite movies of the day? "Elvis Presley would outdraw anybody," Taylor said. "John Wayne would be next. After John Wayne, the Disney pictures."

It was not always easy to be only a businessman when running the theater. Taylor relates one incident in which he caught a boy who had been cutting the theater seats.

He took the child into the office, bent on punishing him severely and, of course, calling the child's father in to help. "It was the saddest thing," Taylor said. "I don't have a daddy," he told me "He left us."

Still, the deed could not go unpunished, so Taylor looked at the boy and said, "You can't come to this picture show for one week."



Q.F. Press 10.13.99

## *Back When*



### **Remember the Ilex**

The Ilex was one of Quitman's movie theaters "back when." Unfortunately it fell into disrepair and was torn down some years ago.

THURSDAY - FRIDAY, OCT. 24 - 25

FIRST NATIONAL TALKING PICTURE

# Alice WHITE - BROADWAY BABIES



Syncopated melodies that inspire the rhapsody in you. Gay quips and banter by Adorable Alice. Dance spectacles and night club scenes. Insistent drums. Moaning saxophones. And that's only the background of this stirring melodydrama.

ALSO—TECHNICOLOR CLASSIC—SERIAL

MATINEE, 15c-30c — EVENING, 15c-40c

A decorative rectangular frame with ornate scrollwork. At the top, two women are seated at a table, possibly in a cafe or restaurant setting. The text is centered within the frame.

Ilex Theatre  
Quitman, Ga.  
"The Ham Home's Handsome Happiness House"

PROGRAM WEEK OF OCTOBER 19

## Something For Nothing

Every day this week we will post five numbers in the lobby. If you have program with number corresponding to one posted, you will be admitted free. Numbers will be changed daily. Come every day with your program. Maybe this is your lucky week.

This program is No.

No. 124

SATURDAY - MONDAY, OCT. 19 - 21

Chaney is here! Follow the crowds to the screen of mystery and adventure. Flaming tropic romance!

Lon, as always, a surprise you can never guess!

THE MAN OF 1000 FACES IN A FILM  
OF 1001 NEW THRILLS!

# LON CHANEY

IN  
**WHERE  
EAST  
IS EAST**

A Metro-Goldwyn-  
Mayer PICTURE



with LUPE VELEZ—ESTELLE TAYLOR

SYNCHRONIZED WITH SOUND AND EFFECTS

Also Comedy, "Hubby's Latest Alibi"

Saturday Only—"BLACK BOOK" No. 4

Monday Only—PATHE NEWS

MATINEE, 10c-20c — EVENING, 15c-30c

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22-23

A  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer  
**ALL TALKING**  
PICTURE

Accused of murder! What's  
the answer to the mystery?  
Hear and see every thrilling  
second of it in the  
greatest all-talking picture  
ever made!



The  
Trial of **MARY  
DUGAN**



with  
Norma Shearer  
H. B. Warner  
Lewis Stone  
Raymond Hackett

Also—News—Comedy—Sound Review

ADMISSION

MATINEE, 15c-40c — EVENING, 15c-50c

# The Torrential Rains In Georgia and Florida

For the past two weeks means stagnant water for mosquito breeding. We are going to have them billions strong. They transmit Malaria; in fact it is transmitted only by them. Don't let these pesky germs undermine you by destroying the red corpuscles in your blood. They cant and wont live in your system with *No. 101 Tonic*. This Tonic contains Iron which keeps the blood rich and pure and it contains Quinine which is deadly to the Malaria germ. This *No. 101 Toni* also contains Magnesia which keeps the liver and bowels in order and rids them of all impurities.

At drug stores.

**THE G. B. WILLIAMS COMPANY,**

*Sole Manufacturers*

**QUITMAN,**

**GEORGIA**

## IN MEMORY OF MISS JANIE YOUNG SOLDIER HOME McLEOD SMITH. MOTHER IS HAPPY

We read the words that tolled our loss  
We read but scarce believed,  
But oh when fully understood,  
How sore our hearts were grieved.

And still we say, O, can it be  
That God has called her home;  
Shall we that dear kind face no more  
Behold this side the tomb?

So young and yet so brave and strong  
To speak the pure true words,  
So wise beyond her years so glad  
To stand forth for her lord.

Last Monday Mrs. F. M. Lane, a widow who lives in the Nankin district, was made wonderfully happy when her boy, J. R. Lane, who has been in France with the army nearly a year walked in unexpectedly. She had already been notified of his safe arrival in New York March 8th but he had written her that it was scarcely probable that he would be able to get a furlough soon and not to be disappointed if he did not get home right away.

He was luckier than he thought however, and after going to Fort Oglethorpe he got a furlough and hur-

## We Have Received

for the past two weeks some of the latest designs in up-to-date merchandise, such as ladies' and gents' furnishings.

# CITY'S BUSINESS HEART MOVES OUT LEE STREET TOWARDS COAST LINE

## JONES AND CONOLY PLAN BIG BUILDING FOR LEASE

### New Building Will Occupy Site of Griffin and Stewart Stable—Leases Desired.

The heart of the business center of Quitman is moving south down Lee street towards the Atlantic Coast Line railroad.

Only a short time ago Scriven street was the main street of the city with the bulk of business transacted over a radius of a few blocks, but recently the movement of the city has begun down Lee street.

Lee street is prominently in the business track for several reasons and the future of this street, south from Scriven to the railroad, is very bright. Three banks are now on Lee street, some of the largest business houses in the city and new buildings are contemplated.

Last year the Cook-Patrick building was erected, which is one of the largest and best arranged business houses in the city. Immediately after its erection, the Griffin Building was purchased from Mr. R. A. Griffin by Mr. J. E. Cook.

Now comes the announcement that W. A. Jones and A. J. Conoly have purchased the property formerly occupied by Stewart & Griffin, as a livery stable, and this building will be torn down and a modern two-story brick, plate-glass front building will be erected to suit long-term tenants. Plans are now being drawn and the building will be started within a few days. The owners of the property are carrying a half-page advertise-

be erected to suit long-term tenants. Plans are now being drawn and the building will be started within a few days. The owners of the property are carrying a half-page advertisement in this issue inviting tenants to see the plans with a view of leasing the buildings to be erected.

#### Ideal Business Location.

The building will be ideal for business purposes. It is to be located just south of the building which is now occupied by the postoffice. When the postoffice is moved to the new government building the old quarters will be completely renovated and arranged for business houses.

Mr. Cook, who now owns the Griffin Building, will remodel the building as soon as the present leases expire. It is understood that Mr. Fuller Groover, owner of the Kentucky Stables, on the west side of the street, in the same block, will rebuild the present building to suit a long-term tenant.

Mr. W. A. Jones, joint owner of the property adjoining the postoffice, said yesterday, in discussing his plans, that he and Mr. A. J. Conoly were firm in their belief that South Lee street was destined to be one of the busiest streets in the city.

"We bought the property because we believe it has a great future. Now that we own it, we are planning to improve it and, of course, we would like to get a long lease on the contemplated building before we even start work on it, as the tenant might want it arranged a certain way and, after a building is completed, it is generally a very expensive proposition to change it.

"Our building will be sixty feet front in the clear and will run back ninety-five feet to a twenty-foot alley, giving a front and rear entrance. It will be two-storied and will be modern in every way. On the second floor we plan to build suites of offices in the front, with large plate windows opening on the street, with lavatories and toilet rooms on that floor. There will be the same conveniences down stairs, with a rear and front stairway and an elevator for freight.

#### Will Discuss Leases.

"We are now inviting people to discuss the plans with us with an eye to leasing the building. We can have two stores thirty feet wide or one large room, sixty by ninety-five, an ideal place for a garage or other building where light and room and central location are desired.

"We feel sure we are making a good investment and believe there will be no difficulty in leasing the property. Our reason for inviting leases at the present time is to be able, if possible, to erect the building to suit the future tenant or tenants."

Work will be started within a few days dismantling the old livery stable and then the new building will go up.



# NORTH COURT STREET



*Early picture of North Court Street prior to street paving*

SCREVEN  
STREET

Seaven St. looking East from Courthouse





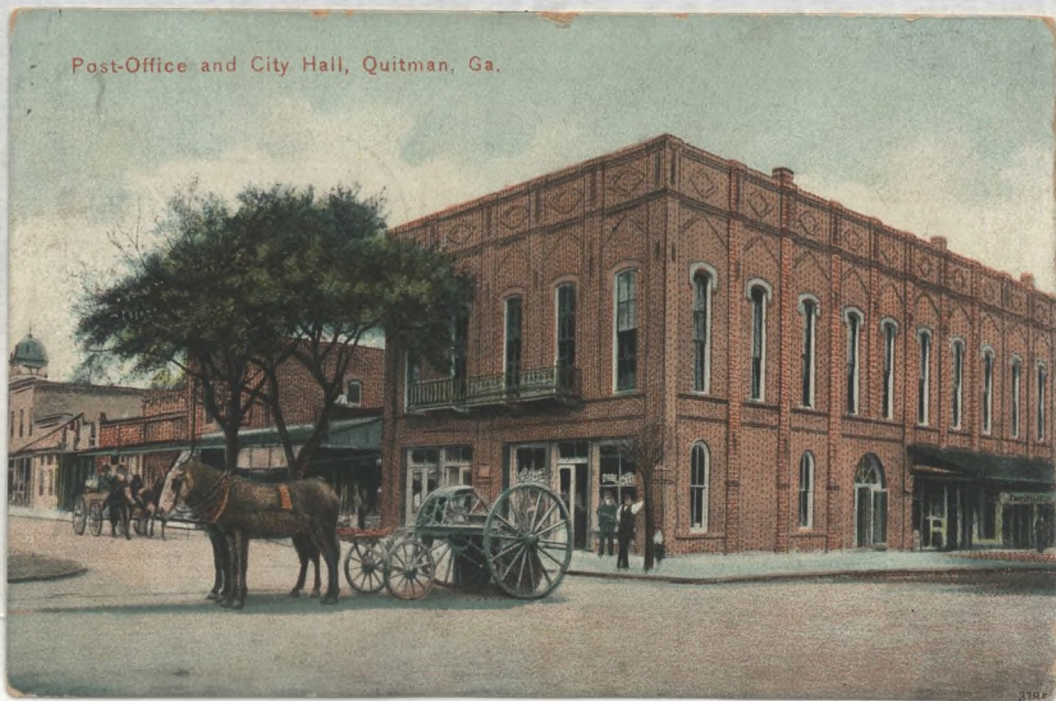


Early view of the 200 Block of East Screven Street North Side

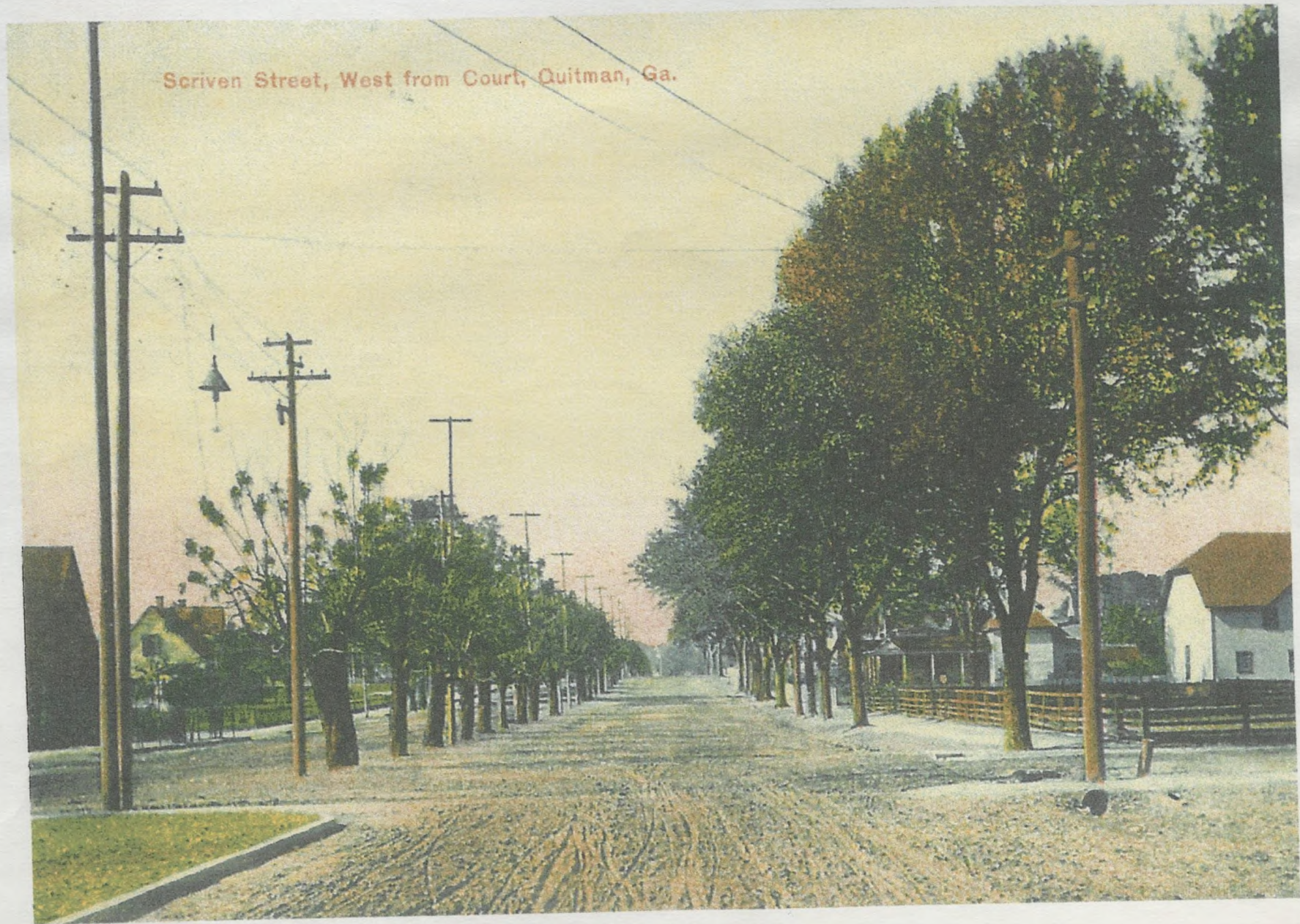
Post-Office and City Hall, Quitman, Ga. from 1908 postcard



Post-Office and City Hall, Quitman, Ga.



Scriven Street, West from Court, Quitman, Ga.





An Early View of Quitman's Downtown Business Section looking East on 300 Block Of Screven Street.

NORTH SIDE

07-31-04 16:38:23



07.31.2004



*Quitman Post Office breaks ground - December 3, 1915*

EARLY QUITMAN DOWNTOWN DISTRICT  
LOOKING EAST FROM COURTHOUSE ON  
SCREVEN STREET

Seventh Street.

QUIPMAN, Ga.



J.B. ROAN & Co.

HAND-COLORED

*Quitman Post Office breaks ground - December 3, 1915*

EARLY QUITMAN DOWNTOWN DISTRICT  
LOOKING EAST FROM COURTHOUSE ON  
SCREVEN STREET





**Mr. B. Taylor** – *the traveling salesman*. This picture shows Mr. Taylor soon after he came to Brooks County in 1911; he is with his wagon or wares at the commissary in Barney, Ga., where he went to sell his merchandise. Before selling from his wagon, he sold from a backpack as he walked along the back roads, calling on small stores and residences. This immigrant from Lithuania came to America speaking Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, and Yiddish. He learned English, and, with courage and perseverance, established a successful business on Screven St. where he fulfilled his American Dream. After his death in 1968, his son Henry continued the business until the late 1990's.



38062 West Scriyan Street, Quitman, Ga.

110. 50

*Quitman Post Office breaks ground - December 3, 1915*



*Making lots of progress - May 3, 1916*



*Ready to open - July 5, 1916*





Quitman, Ga. 2/3/16.

**Mailroom of Post Office. Area at top of stairs with four square windows is Secret Security Inspector's Box. Employees never know when Inspector is in the box, observing their work.**





Excavation and foundation of Post Office under construction.  
This area was planned for a safety shelter.

*From Elmdale Post Office  
before the  
excavation*



*T. J. Powers - 209 E. Screven Street (notice the punched tile ceiling)*





**M. A. Brantley** operated a jewelry store in the front of this building.....He sold fertilizer out of the back.

QUITMAN JEWELRY CO.

FOUNDED IN 1912

"GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS"

QUITMAN, GEORGIA 31643

July 26, 2007  
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Ms. Williams,

My "research" is from old check books and I think fairly accurate. We sold the store around August 1983 to the two Girardin sons of Valdosta and they operated it until February 1984 when it was closed. At that point I had the showcases stored in Valdosta until Emory University could arrange to have them transported to Atlanta. They are now mainly used at Emory at Oxford, Ga.

As you can see above it was founded in 1912 by my grandfather, his brother-in-law and another business man from Dothan, Ala. They later acquired another jewelry store in Moultrie, Ga. After the changes as result of "the depression" my grandfather ended up with the stores in Quitman, managed by his wife and later my Dad and the one in Moultrie managed by his older son, Welly Brantley.

Of course my Aunt, Elizabeth Brantley, worked there for years and those who remember their walks on Seven street will surely recall her sitting on her stool in the window.

As a youngster I was often in the store and the highlight of the day was when Mr. Pat Panner and other men would make their morning rounds and I would get to overhear the gentlemanly, morning conversations concerning the happenings of our town and country. I feel truly blessed to have been able to live my early life in such a community.

Best of luck to you in your endeavor and will be glad to help in any other way possible.

Sincerely,  
Marvin A Brantley

# USED BUT NOT ABUSED CARS

We offer for immediate delivery:

4. 5-passenger Dodge Brothers automobiles and we can truthfully say the above four cars are the best bargains that we have ever offered. Each car is equipped with five tires, good top and are in first class mechanical condition and the prices are right.

We will either trade or sell these cars. We also have one Ford that is just like a singing cat for looks and also for running.

A Studebaker Six.

List your cars with us and we will sure sell them provided your prices are right.

Quitman, Ga.,

MAY 23 1910

M JC Underwood

To **QUITMAN FURNITURE & VEHICLE CO.,**

INCORPORATED

Furniture, Buggies, Wagons, And Cook Stoves.

COFFINS AND CASKETS.

Bills Due When Presented.

Interest Charged on Accounts Past Due

May 16.	1 Casket	25.00
21	Pg Reams Hackman	1.50
	Groover Whipple Livery	14.00
		<u>40.50</u>

Paid

MAY 23 1910

J. C. Underwood



BOOK 'EM! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW FOR A CHICKEN  
TO CROSS THE ROAD IN THIS TOWN



*Above photo, made in 1940, shows Eva Eason in front of West End Restaurant, Quitman's largest café at that time. It was here that she fed 400 soldiers in a convoy three meals while camped here overnight during World War II.*



## **H.W. MYRICK and WEST MILLING CO.**

Quitman leaders said at the time of Howell Myrick's death " he had developed more businesses contributing to the City's and County's economy than anyone else in Quitman's history."His family moved to Quitman in 1910.

His first known business ,located on a corner across from the old high school , was a small store and "filling station"as gas stations were called then. He then acquired a small station on West Screven St. across from the cemetery. In 1924 , he began grinding grits and meal , using for power an old Ford tractor rigged up behind the station. Thus began a business—West End Milling Co.—that is still in operation today.

Having established this business, he continued to develop the "west end" of the town . During the 1930's. at the intersection of Screven and Webster , he built a"Tourist Court", a freezer locker , an ice plant , a restaurant , a large pool, fronted by a building with dressing rooms , a picnic area , a small bowling ally ; and upstairs , a dance pavilion with a juke box.

Howell Myrick started the Brooks County Packing Co. on North Highland St. , A business that continued to further the reputation of Brooks County Hams and other pork products. It provided a good market for local farmers. Buyers went out to Brooks County farmers and to others in the surrounding areas to purchase livestock.

The West End Restaurant built in the late 30's was the first restaurant built outside of the downtown business district , and offered the first "drive-in" food service ; workers took orders at the "curb".

The ice plant was a very necessary service to the town before refrigeration became commonplace and certainly in the rural areas before REA brought electricity to the county. Ice was delivered to customers in the country. The overflow from the ice plant was diverted to the swimming pool as well as big blocks of ice were put in the pool , making the water cold and refreshing.

With vision and hard work , Howell Myrick made an impact on the economy of Quitman and Brooks County.

08-04-04 12:24:56



07-30-04 12:23:49



BARBER SHOP

SHOLTO  
MUSIC LINE  
40823

POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

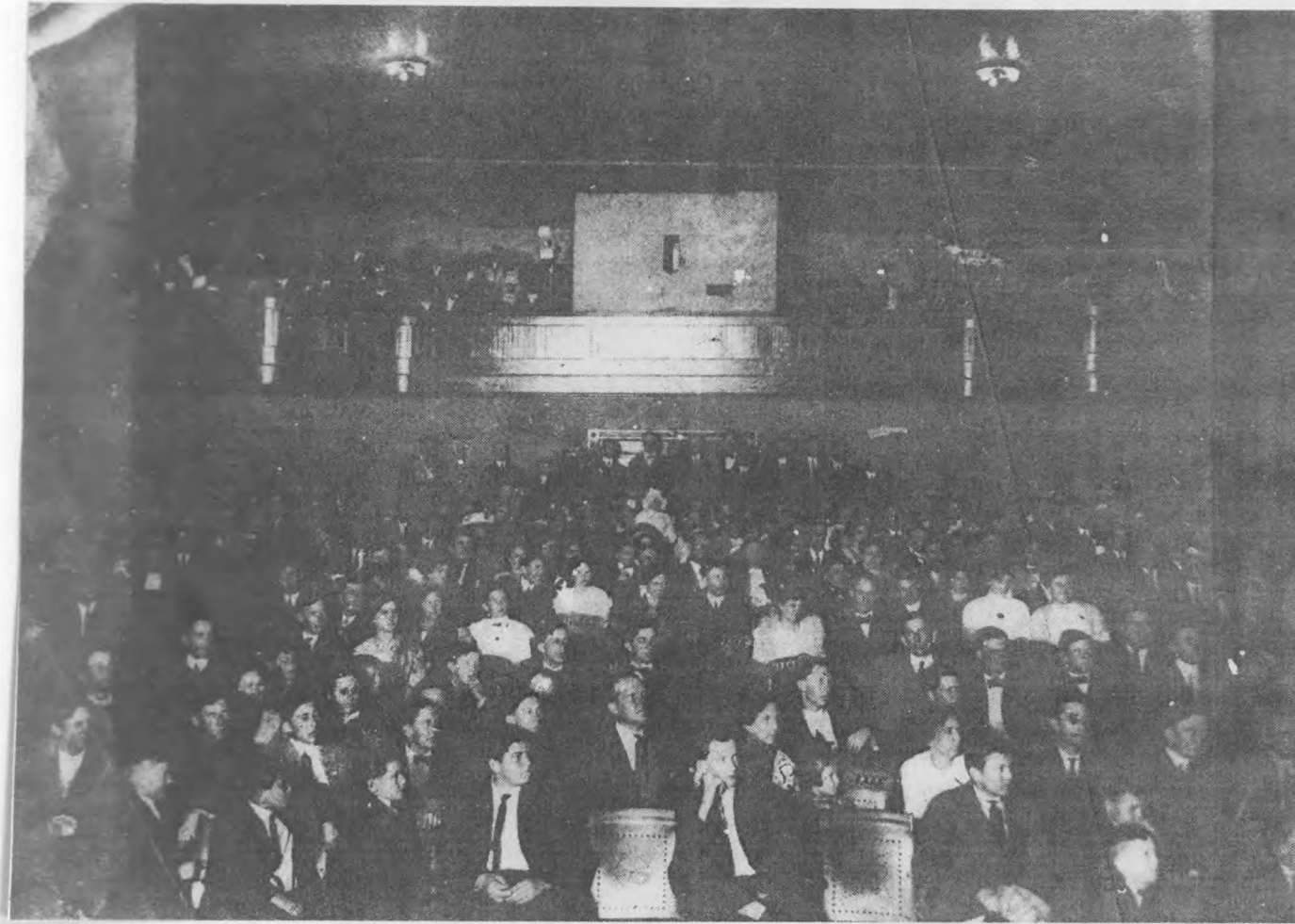
SEVENTH





**Post Office and City Hall in this photo.....Opera House was upstairs and in the early 2000's Police Station & Regional Development Office and then retail store.**

## OPERA HOUSE



The "Opera House" was located upstairs in the former city hall building on East Screven Street until the Ilex Theater opened in the 20's. Silent movies were shown there as well as a variety of other entertaining and cultural events.