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Rosedale's Economic Development *Commercial Aspects*

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Although Rosedale's economic existence was, and is, predominantly dependent on agriculture, the community has also experienced notable commercial growth and development in its first one hundred years. Even during its formative years, when cotton was the undisputed king of Rosedale's economic life, significant commercial activity was evident in a variety of areas.

Newspapers

Rosedale's first newspaper was the Floreyville *Star*. Established in 1873, it was edited by a man named Ward. The *Bolivar County Democrat* began publication in 1888 with Charles Hull as editor. In the 1890's it and the newly developed Rosedale *Journal* were rivals. During the numerous heated political campaigns of that time, these newspapers contained sarcastic, unsigned editorials that everyone knew were written by the opposing politicians themselves.

A. D. Linnell published the *Democrat* from 1902 until his death in 1928. His wife, Mrs. Lois McBroom Linnell, succeeded him as

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publisher. Then, she sold the newspaper to George R. Shaddock in 1939. In 1967, Shaddock in turn sold the paper to the Leland *Progress*. When the Delta Press Publishing Company of Clarksdale began publishing the *Democrat* in 1968, Mrs. Estelle Fox White served as local news editor and business representative. In February 1969 the *Bolivar Democrat* was sold to the *Bolivar Commercial* of Cleveland and was consolidated into that substantially larger publication, giving Bolivar County a single newspaper serving the entire area.

Railroads

Rosedale depended upon steamboats for the transportation of freight, mail, and passengers until 1889 when the Louisville, New Orleans and Texas Railroad began to serve the town. In 1899 Rosedale was connected with Boyle by the railroad known as the "Peavine." For many years T. H. Lawrence and A. C. Henry were its conductors.

A center of much activity during Rosedale's early years was its attractive depot. Besides freight trains, there were four passenger trains each day. The Peavine arrived from Cleveland at eight o'clock in the morning, the Southbound from Memphis at one or one-thirty o'clock in the morning, the Northbound from Vicksburg at twelve-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, and the Peavine from Greenville at four o'clock in the afternoon. There was a thriving restaurant at the depot called "The Eating House." The two midday trains stopped in Rosedale long enough for a meal to be eaten, and passengers were glad to be able to dine at "The Eating House."

Later a train named "The Owl" began to serve Rosedale. It acquired its name because it arrived from Greenville en route to Memphis before daylight and came back from Memphis en route to Greenville after dark.

Because of competition from the automobile and the bus, north and south train service was discontinued in the 1930's. In 1942 the Peavine track going east and west was torn up and the road abandoned. Today Rosedale has no passenger service and has only north-south freight service.

Banks

The Bank of Rosedale, Bolivar County's first bank, was founded in 1888 by Charles Scott, who was its president. When the bank failed in 1898, it was reorganized with no loss to its depositors. The bank survived the scourge of the boll weevil, several panics, and other crises before becoming in 1922 a fatal victim of the recession which followed World War I.

Presently, the Valley Bank is the oldest such establishment in Bolivar County. Established in 1898, its original stockholders included W. B. Roberts, Dave Reinach, Godfrey Frank, J. L. Wilson, and a number of employes of Frank's Memphis office. For many years Roberts was president of the Valley Bank, and Wilson was cashier. At times the bank paid dividends as high as 250 per cent. In 1916 the deposits of the Valley Bank were approximately \$650,000. The capital of the bank at that time was only \$10,000, although the amount was backed up by a surplus of equal amount. In 1917 the officers of the Valley Bank were Roberts, president; Wilson, cashier and vice president; and Ed Chaney, assistant cashier. These men, along with L. B. Austin and Walter Sillers, Jr., served as the bank's board of directors.

In 1975, the total assets of the Valley Bank were listed as \$7,713,632.05. Its officers today are Clyde W. Aycock, president; J. E. Bobo, Lyndle Bullard, and George W. Green, vice presidents; Bernice G. Ferguson, assistant vice president and cashier; Doris C. Garner, assistant vice president; and Jean G. Gaia and Roselyn S. Moody, assistant cashiers. The board of directors includes William A. Wiltshire, Dr. John K. Abide, William S. Adams, Aycock, Bobo, Bullard, Van Fenstermaker, Will Gourlay, Green, John L. Pearson, Dominic P. Rizzo, William P. Skelton, Richard D. Shelby, Brother Wilson, and Alyce Richardson.

The First National Bank of Rosedale was organized in 1898 by James Robertshaw and W. H. Fitzgerald. By 1917 it had a capital of \$25,000 and a surplus of \$2,500. The deposits were then over a quarter of a million dollars. At its 1916 meeting the bank declared a substantial dividend and transferred ten per cent to its surplus. The

officers of the First National Bank of Rosedale were then D. S. Farrar, president; S. E. Reid, vice president; and W. F. Wall, cashier. W. M. Dossett, P. Joest, J. E. Wall, and R. C. Farrar served with the officers to comprise the board of directors. This bank failed during the 1920's.

The current First National Bank of Rosedale began its business career on March 13, 1907, when Governor James K. Vardaman granted a charter to W. T. Cassity, W. E. Courson, J. B. Bond, J. B. Walton, and F. C. Jones to organize and incorporate the Bank of Beulah at Beulah, Mississippi. The initial capital stock of the bank was \$ 10,000 with \$5,000 surplus. W. T. Cassity was elected president and served in this capacity until his death in 1938. Albert Delery was elected to serve as the first cashier. He was later succeeded by R. L. Ammons as cashier in 1915. Carl Black served as cashier for two years and Henry E. McCaslin was elected cashier in 1937. McCaslin served in this position under the following presidents: Mrs. W. T. Cassity, 1938 to 1944; H. H. McGowen, 1944 to 1950; and G. H. Lenoir, 1950 to 1958.

In 1958 McCaslin was elected president and cashier of what is now the First National Bank and served in that capacity until April, 1967, when he was joined by his son, Henry McCaslin, Jr., as cashier. The present officers are W. Dixon Dossett, chairman of the board; H. E. McCaslin, president and chief executive officer; Henry McCaslin, Jr., vice president and cashier; H. H. Lawler, vice president; Mrs. Delta Baldwin, assistant cashier; Mrs. Lois Hale, assistant cashier; and Mrs. Virginia McGahey, assistant cashier.

In 1941, the Bank of Beulah increased its capital stock to \$20,000 and became affiliated with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In July, 1970, an application was placed with the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D.C., to convert the bank to a national bank and to move its headquarters to Rosedale. The bank in Beulah would be retained as a branch bank. The application was approved, and on January 2, 1971, the bank changed its name to the First National Bank of Rosedale and opened its business there. Plans were made for a new building in Rosedale, and it was constructed between June, 1971, and June, 1972. The \$200,000 banking complex is owned by 114 stockholders with ninety-five per cent of them residing in Bolivar County.

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The First National Bank of Rosedale has enjoyed a period of growth and expansion during the last decade, and at present its total assets exceed \$4,800,000. The present capital stock of the bank is \$150,000 and its surplus is \$170,000 with undivided profits of \$10,000. The bank serves the western part of Bolivar County and specializes in farm loans, consumer loans, and personal loans. Its slogan is "Owned by the Community—Serving the Community."

Rosedale Compress

The Rosedale Compress, which was built in 1901, is the oldest in the county. The firm was organized by Albert G. Caldwell, H. T. Caldwell, P. W. Harris, A. W. Benoit, J. E. Hutchinson, and Charles Scott. It had a capital stock of \$5,500. H. T. Caldwell served as the first president of the compress and was succeeded by Charles Scott. In 1908 Scott had the compress wrap a number of bales of cotton in red, white, and blue satin and in turn had these shipped to the World's Fair in St. Louis. This cotton, which had been grown in specially prepared fields on Scott's plantation and carefully picked by the ablest hands, won first place in the King Cotton display at the fair.

In 1909 W. M. Priestley became manager of the compress. By 1917 the compress was handling over 30,000 bales of cotton per annum. It employed approximately sixty men for this work and had a payroll of about \$600 per week during the harvest season. Before and during most of Priestley's tenure as manager, a Mr. Jacobi and "Rusty" Roselle were employed at the compress. In the mid-1920's the compress burned but was rebuilt without delay. Priestley specified that the compress whistle have the same tone as that of the steamer "Kate Adams." The St. Louis company commissioned to do the work sent a representative to Memphis to listen to the whistle of the "Kate Adams" in order to reproduce its sound. Today, as a result, when the compress whistle blows to call the work force to duty, the people of Rosedale hear a good imitation of the old "Kate Adams" whistle.

The Rosedale Compress became a part of the Union Compress and Warehouse Company in 1926. Many improvements were made in the facility and N.E. Simmons became its superintendent. In the 1940's and 1950's it was handling an average of 27,000 bales of cotton. In 1973 a group of farmers bought half interest in the compress.

Currently, C. D. Long is president and the compress is operated as a cooperative.

Merchants

Rosedale has always attracted a wide variety of merchants due to its location on the River. Among the first to operate businesses in the community were H. D. Chaney, W. H. Fitzgerald, G. P. Rice, Rosa and Mollie Oberst, Reed Washington, Tony Lapresto, A. R. Shattuck, Lewis Myers, and Dave Reinach.

A colorful Jewish peddler named Rosenfield acquired the nickname "Cheap Jesus" because he sold Bibles to blacks. He accumulated a substantial amount of money as a result. When he died with no known heirs, something of a contest was provoked in reference to his estate. This was a remembered event in early Rosedale history.

Rosedale's first brick store was the two-story building that long dominated Court Street. Called the Bank Store, it was originally owned by Charles Scott. By the time the railroads began to serve Rosedale, the Bank Store had been converted into a hotel. Salesmen would spend days there while they worked in the surrounding areas. For many years it was operated and licensed as a first-rate hotel, and it was the temporary home for many newcomers.

A fire in 1905 destroyed the entire downtown section of Rosedale except for the Bank Store, later known as the Colonial Inn. For a time Mrs. Rosa Belle Shelby leased it as a hotel; then, in 1916 it was bought by Hugo Trapp. As late as 1951 some of the Trapp family still operated the Colonial Inn as a hotel and had a jewelry repair shop in the lobby. In 1956 the Trapp family sold the hotel to A. J. Daniel, who in turn sold it to George Shaddock in 1964. Shaddock moved the *Bolivar County Democrat* presses into the first floor of the building and converted the second story into a rooming house. He sold the Colonial Inn to Brother Wilson in 1973. In December, 1975, Rosedale lost this cherished landmark when fire destroyed in toto the complex.

In 1896 two sisters, Rosa and Mollie Oberst, arrived in Rosedale from Memphis to operate a millinery and dressmaking business. Of their impact on the ladies of Rosedale, Florence Sillers Ogden wrote:

In the early days the Misses Obersts' spring opening was the most talked of event of the year for the ladies. On opening day, long before the

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appointed hour, the more ambitious of the sex would gather before the closed doors of the establishment to await the moment they would swing open, that they might have the first choice of lovely spring hats. The spring opening has passed into history along with the Merry Widow hats and the hobble skirts, for now the ladies buy their spring hats in January and discard them in June, but Miss Rosa and Miss Mollie served a very pressing need in their day.

In 1946 Rosa Oberst died and Miss Mollie sold the business.

H. D. Chaney arrived in Rosedale in the 1890's to open a drug-store. He soon ingratiated himself with the children of the town by having "Free Soda Water Day" when he opened the fountain each spring. Chaney sold the first Coca Cola in Rosedale around 1903.

In 1914, L. C. Brown also opened a drugstore in Rosedale. His establishment played a major role in a 1916 campaign to stimulate the production of vegetables in and around the town. Bushels of vegetable seed were distributed at a low cost to help keep the Delta from becoming dependent on other areas for its vegetables.

Tony Lapresto initially owned a grocery store and later operated a restaurant in Rosedale. This facility was noted for its oyster loaves. Significantly, Lapresto was Rosedale's first Italian-American citizen. Another restaurant that was widely known was the one owned and operated by Bevo and Toby Michael. It was opened in 1932 and immediately attracted people from many miles around to eat steaks and seafood. The restaurant burned in 1966.

Presently there is still a great variety of stores in Rosedale. These include Michael's Super Market, owned by Toby Michael. Chinese merchants have operated businesses in Rosedale for years and currently own Chow's Grocery, Wong's Food Market, Wong Buck Grocery, and Charlie Sang Grocery. The Lewis Drugstore has served Rosedale since 1922. Its proprietor is John Lewis. Automobile supplies can be purchased at Western Auto, B & T Tractor and Auto Parts, and Firestone Home and Auto Supply. Clothing may be purchased at Michael's Department Store, in operation for about fifty years, at Cutcher's Used Dry Goods, at Larry's Discount Store, and at Dattel's Department Store. Glassware and other items for special occasions can be purchased at Rose's Gift and Tot Shop. Furniture is sold in Rosedale at McKay's Furniture and Appliances and at Moore's Furniture. Hardware items are available at K & M Hardware, which is owned by David Kendrick and C. B. Medders.

Fish Marketing

During the early part of this century, Rosedale was one of the most important fish markets on the Mississippi River. By 1917 approximately \$170,000 worth of fish were shipped from Bolivar County each year. Most of it came from Rosedale. Practically all of the fish were caught on the Arkansas, White, and Mississippi Rivers.

Catfish and buffalo fish composed the greatest part of the shipments, as many as three express carloads per day. Most of the fish were sold in Chicago, although some were shipped to places as far away as New York. Rosedale's importance as a fish marketing center ended during the 1930's.

Lumber Companies

In 1895 the Boyle Lumber Company bought a section of land in Rosedale and erected a large sawmill. In addition, a number of attractive cottages were constructed for its employes. L. V. Boyle, the owner, lived in this complex for a time with his family. In the early 1900's a Mr. Lofton and a Mr. Gaskell also had lumber companies in Rosedale.

In 1916 the Gardner Lumber Company was established by G. C. Gardner. Soon, it was one of the best stocked lumber yards in the Delta. Gardner Lumber Company distributed long leaf yellow pine lumber as well as the hardwood found in the adjacent territory. The firm did a thriving business throughout Bolivar County and specialized in contract work. In 1917, it employed fifteen men in its yards. Gardner Lumber Company, which later became Gardner-Thompson, failed during the depression of the 1930's.

After Gardner-Thompson Lumber Company closed, W. M. Priestley established a lumber company. He and his brother continued the business for several years. Then, after his brother's death Priestley sold his company to the Virden Lumber Company in Greenville. Virden subsequently established the Riverside Lumber Company and took over the stock and facilities of the Priestley firm.

In the 1940's W. E. and J. F. Jackson opened the Jackson Lumber Company on the site of the old Gardner Lumber Company. It did a thriving business for about fifteen or twenty years, then declined. Today the Riverside Lumber Company is Rosedale's only lumber yard.

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Telephones

The first telephones installed in Rosedale were operating by 1896. Apparently the town owned the system until the Southern Bell Telephone Company began its operation in 1905. At that time Southern Bell made an arrangement with the town giving it permission to use the town's poles for its wires. Thus, in time Southern Bell came to control Rosedale's telephone operations. Initially, only twenty-five telephones were in service. There were no numbers; a caller simply stated the name of the person with whom he wished to speak. Indeed, Rosedale did not have dial service until September 21, 1969. Interestingly enough, many townspeople opposed the new system, for over the years the telephone operators had performed many useful services in addition to making telephone connections.

Cottonseed Oil Mill

Charles Scott was largely responsible for the construction of the first cottonseed oil mill in Bolivar County. While the mill was being built, it was acquired by the Refuge Cotton Oil Company. The mill's first president was E. M. Burhain of Vicksburg, and its first manager was W. A. Stone. J. A. Eddins, one of the experienced mill operators in the South, served as manager from 1904 until 1935. By 1917 the mill was operating on an average of nine months a year. It crushed approximately 12,000 tons of seed per season. In addition to producing cottonseed goods, the Refuge Mill also operated a three-stand gin. The Refuge Mill employed a double shift and was regarded as Rosedale's most valuable enterprise in 1917.

Prior to World War I, the Refuge Mill engaged in an extensive export business. Although this business was temporarily lost after the war, the domestic trade sufficed to keep the company operating on a profitable basis.

H. D. Chaney succeeded Eddins as manager of the mill in 1935. By 1948, the mill was crushing ninety tons of seed per day and was valued at \$500,000. After Chaney's death, E. W. Wilson became manager of the mill. A short time later the mill stopped crushing beans and other products and just bought them. The mill recently closed.,

Motion Pictures

Rosedale's first movie theater was opened by W. M. Priestley in 1910. He and J. B. Powers established an open-air theater in partnership in 1914. In time, they dissolved their partnership, had rival theaters, and both lost money. Following a lively competition, Priestley bought out Powers. Then, in 1916 John V. Lobdell purchased Priestley's theater.

After buying his theater, Lobdell named it the "Talisman" after Sir Walter Scott's famous novel. Miss Lillian Lobdell operated the theater for her father. **In** 1922 another daughter, Anne Lobdell, became the manager. She enlarged the theater and improved and modernized it. **In** 1930 sound equipment was installed at a cost of \$10,000. Upon the death of Lobdell in 1933, Anne became the owner as well as the manager.

The "Talisman" was confronted with a rival in 1936 when outside interests built the Rosedale Theater. Miss Lobdell eventually bought out the owners and established the "Talisman" in the newer, more modern building.

When Miss Anne Lobdell died in 1940, Miss Ethel Lobdell became the owner and operator of the "Talisman." Upon her death in 1958, the property of the Lobdells went to Mrs. Coralie Coppedge Staples. She sold the "Talisman" in 1975, and it is no longer operational.

Ice Plant

In the early years of this century, Rosedale had one of the most modern ice plants in the Delta. Owned by B. Isenberg of Greenville, it serviced a wide area and produced approximately twenty-five tons of ice per day. The ice was made of pure distilled water drawn from artesian wells, and was used for the shipping of fish.

The payroll of the ice plant in 1917 was from \$100 to \$150 a week. The early office manager was Mrs. M. E. Littleton. Shelby H. Goza directed the operations of the ice plant until it closed.

Shingle Factory

By 1917 one of Rosedale's busiest industries was the shingle factory. It employed about twenty men and had a payroll of \$300 a week. The plant manufactured approximately 60,000 shingles each

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day. As a result of their good quality and workmanship, the shingles were usually sold long before they were produced. The shingle factory is no longer in operation.

Piano Strap House

A unique industry in Rosedale during the depression of the 1930's was the Piano Strap House. T. J. Malcolm obtained a patent for the manufacture of the piano bridle strap and his daughter, Mrs. Malcolm Hardy, did this work using the name of Miss Nora Malcolm. During the time the piano straps were manufactured in the decade of the 1930's, Mrs. Hardy employed two or three workers to assist her. The work was done in her home. Using material imported from Spain and Australia, cork and sheepskin, respectively, Mrs. Hardy produced a strap which was a vast improvement on the old style bridle strap, which took piano tuners about eight hours to replace. The strap perfected and manufactured by Mrs. Hardy required only about forty-five minutes to replace.

Mrs. Hardy distributed the finished product, through jobbers, in all major cities of the United States. During the depression she sold about five hundred sets per month. Each set consisted of ninety-three bridle straps. After the depression, the Piano Strap House ceased its operations.

Alabama Metal Products Company, Incorporated

One of Rosedale's most important industries at present is Alabama Metal Products Company, Incorporated. It is owned by the family and heirs of Mr. Joe Morris, Sr. M. E. Neyman is president of the company, and George Childress is vice president.

Alabama Metal Products Company was established in Rosedale twenty-two years ago and now employs about 350 people. It manufactures steel kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities.

Motor Companies

Today Rosedale has two motor companies, McGahey-Chennault Chevrolet and the Rosedale Motor Company. The latter was first owned by Brooks and McPhetters. These two men built and occupied the building in which is currently located Larry's Discount Store. When they went out of business, the property was bought by J. L.

Wilson, Jr., and his brother Bob. They operated a Chrysler-Plymouth agency and the Allis Chalmers tractor agency, as well as a wholesale gas and oil business. Later, they opened Wilson Brothers Company in Cleveland, with a division of the business resulting in Bob's keeping the Rosedale agency. The building in which is located the Ford agency originally was the office of Charles Scott. In 1929 Planters Equipment Company of Cleveland bought the building and opened a tractor and implement business, selling International Harvester equipment. They closed in 1931. The building then was purchased by W. A. Welshans, Sr., and he operated an automobile agency, selling Kaiser products. Later he acquired the Ford franchise.

McGahey-Chennault Chevrolet is owned by C. C. McGahey, Henry McCaslin, Jr., Gary Chennault, Billy J. Harmon, and Stanley W. Gordon. Prior to World War II, Chevrolets were sold in Rosedale by Leslie P. Joest Chevrolet. Joest had a thriving business.

Services

Several businesses in Rosedale provide for the special needs of its citizens. J. B. Cox has lived in Rosedale for approximately forty years. He is the proprietor of Cox's Shoe Shop.

Estes Plumbing and Supply is owned by R. L. Estes, Jr., who has made Rosedale his home for some twenty-seven years. Television repairs are made by Fowler TV and Appliance and by Stellar's TV Service. George's Body Shop does automobile repair work.

Hospitals

The Virginia McGuire Memorial Circle of the King's Daughters was organized in 1897 by Miss Matilda Montgomery shortly after Bolivar County experienced a disastrous flood. Because of its location on the River, Rosedale attracted many shanty-boat dwellers, who were less than well-to-do. The King's Daughters ministered to these unfortunate people and to other poor and sick residents of Rosedale and the county.

The sick at first were cared for in a tent set up in a pasture, but this facility proved inadequate. Consequently, an old "poor house" was loaned to the King's Daughters by the county Board of Supervisors. Fixtures for the house were provided by members of the Circle, who also volunteered to help nurse and feed the patients. All

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medicines were donated by H. D. Chaney, and Dr. H. L. Sutherland offered free medical care.

The ladies of the Circle soon realized that a hospital was needed. Despite many obstacles, they were able to bring about the construction of a hospital in six months. The roof for the structure was donated by Charles Scott; the Lowrance brothers graded the lot for the building; Mrs. E. H. Moore supplied the foundation; W. H. Fitzgerald donated a part of the roof with Scott; and G. P. Rice volunteered the first year's coal supply. With the aid of these people and with financial contributions from others, the ladies were able to dedicate the hospital on April 24, 1904.

The original King's Daughters Hospital was a frame building consisting of four rooms containing four beds. Its only income was a monthly allowance from the county. Occasionally a patient paid for his care, but there were probably twenty charity patients for every one who could pay. People flocked to the hospital and word of its services spread up and down the River. Rosedale provided free care for the sick!

In 1912, Bolivar County suffered another severe flood, and the Rosedale hospital bustled with activity. After this flood receded, clothing and other miscellaneous articles were given to the Circle members, who sold these items to raise \$760. This sum, plus \$90 from the flood relief fund, enabled the ladies to add a six-bed charity ward to the hospital.

In 1922 State Representative Walter Sillers, Jr., secured a state appropriation for the hospital. During the flood of 1927, the King's Daughters successfully conducted a campaign to purchase a sterilizer.

When the national depression crippled Rosedale in the early 1930's, the town had to withdraw its support of the hospital. Because there was no money to pay a superintendent, the closing of the hospital seemed imminent. At this point Mrs. Rosa Belle Shelby volunteered her services and kept the hospital functioning until the state appropriation was allotted. Thus, the hospital resumed normal operations.

In 1935 the Work Projects Administration offered Rosedale the opportunity to build a modern hospital. Dr. E. R. Nobles conducted the campaign to secure funds for the hospital. He was aided by the mayor and city council and by many citizens of

Rosedale. Walter Sillers secured the passage of legislation authorizing the state, Bolivar County, and Rosedale to help build and equip a hospital. The community of Rosedale contributed \$10,000 and the WPA allocated \$25,000 with which the hospital was built and equipped.

The Rosedale-Bolivar County Hospital was the first municipally owned hospital of its kind to be built in Mississippi. Those patients who could not pay their entire bill were charged according to their ability to pay; those who could pay no part of their bill were treated with no charge.

The first board of trustees for the hospital was composed of Mrs. Lena R. Sillers, Miss Anne Lobdell, Frank G. Paden, and J. L. Wilson, Jr. Mayor Wilson served as chairman of the board. The first superintendent of the hospital was Miss Julia Stout, who came to Rosedale from the nursing staff of the state hospital at Vicksburg.

In 1948 the Rosedale-Bolivar County Hospital had a capacity of twenty beds. The King's Daughters of Rosedale donated their old hospital building and all its contents to the new facility. The old building and the lot on which it was located were sold and the proceeds used to help construct an operating room. After the construction of the hospital, a nurses' home, costing \$10,000, was added. The hospital was supported by contributions from county, city, and state governments and from funds collected from paying patients. The Rosedale-Bolivar County Hospital was closed on May 1, 1972, because there were not enough doctors and staff personnel to continue its work.

Doctors

Among Rosedale's first doctors were Alex Reeves, J. W. Dulaney, and T. A. Harris. When Dr. Dulaney moved to Greenwood after the 1897 flood, Dr. H. L. Sutherland took over his practice. In 1904-1905, a Dr. Sanderfer was associated with Dr. Sutherland, and in 1907 Dr. W. B. Johnson was his partner. Dr. Johnson lived in Rosedale for five years, moving in 1911 or 1912 to Greenville. Dr. Sutherland retired in 1912 after buying a plantation near Benoit.

Dr. Charles Patterson came to Rosedale in 1909, moving from Red Lick, Mississippi. In 1911 Dr. L. B. Austin left Vicksburg to

inaugurate his practice in Rosedale. He brought his Buick automobile and his horse and buggy by steamboat to Rosedale. Dr. Austin was forced to make his first winter's rounds on foot, for high water and mud necessitated his jacking up the Buick on Dr. Sutherland's front porch and putting his horse in a livery stable.

In 1913, Dr. E. R. Nobles began his practice in Rosedale. Both Dr. Austin and Dr. Nobles operated hospitals for their black patients. After World War II, Dr. Nobles brought Dr. John Beard and Dr. Martin Harthcock into his clinic. Dr. Harthcock remained approximately a year, while Dr. Beard practiced in Rosedale for four years before moving to Memphis. Shortly after Dr. Beard's departure, Dr. Wallace Moore came to Rosedale and formed a partnership with Dr. Nobles. After Dr. Nobles' death in 1955, Dr. Moore purchased the Nobles Clinic and later formed a partnership with Dr. John Williams. However, this arrangement did not work and Dr. Williams moved to Greenville. Dr. Moore remained in Rosedale until his death in April, 1970. Shortly after Dr. Moore's death, Dr. John W. Parker initiated his practice in Rosedale. He moved away in 1971. In the fall of 1974, Dr. Bill King administered to patients in Rosedale, but he died shortly after beginning this work. In July, 1975, Dr. Ed O'Brien moved to the city, and Dr. James G. Adams implemented his practice in the summer of 1976.

Dr. H. D. Vardaman was Rosedale's first dentist. Before his arrival from Hermanville, Mississippi, traveling dentists or local doctors did their best to serve the dental needs of the community. Dr. Vardaman remained in Rosedale until his death in 1944. In 1948, Dr. J. W. Parker was the only dentist in Rosedale. Today, there is no dentist in the city.

W. H. Ramsey was the first undertaker in Rosedale. He arrived in the town in the early 1900's and began to conduct funerals. Before his arrival and the implementation of his professional services, coffins were purchased at the general stores. Later undertakers were G. P. Rice and Dr. C. McMillan, both of whom died in the 1930's. Currently, there is no funeral home for whites in Rosedale. Century Funeral Home serves the needs of the black community.

Lawyers

As the county seat of Bolivar County, the young city of Rosedale attracted a large number of lawyers. Among the first arrivals were Colonel Frank A. Montgomery, Walter Sillers, Sr., Charles Scott, Fred Clark, O. G. McGuire, E. H. Moore, F. M. Scott, E. H. Woods, Neville Scott, Thomas S. Owens, and Fontaine Jones. In particular did Charles Scott eventually make a name for himself in Rosedale and Bolivar County, as was the case also with Walter Sillers, Sr.

The Sillers law firm, established in 1884, is the oldest law firm in the county and is Rosedale's oldest business institution. In 1948 Rosedale's lawyers were Walter Sillers, Jr., who even today is best remembered simply as "Mr. Speaker"; W. B. Roberts; M. L. Kaufman; and A. F. Valentine. Today's lawyers are Jack Land and the partners in the old Sillers firm, Joe Eddins and John Pearson, Jr.

The history of Rosedale would not be complete without noting that two of these lawyers, Walter Sillers, Jr., and W. B. Roberts, became in turn two of the most prominent and influential legislators in Mississippi. Roberts served as President pro tempore of the Mississippi Senate and Sillers, his son-in-law, served as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1944 to 1966. Without doubt no other small Mississippi town produced such outstanding and influential state officials as was this case.

Worth noting also is that Scott, who sold a large tract of farm land at present-day Scott, Mississippi, to English interests to raise their own cotton, and who owned most of the vacant lots in Rosedale, was a serious candidate for governor in 1907. Although unsuccessful in his gubernatorial bid, Scott won quite a number of votes. He canvassed the state on and came to be remembered for his fine horse with its silver bridle.