

EAR

the t
all ;
est

Imperial
Bakery

eral important branches. The line from Moorhead to Ruleville, built by another company in 1897, was acquired in July, 1900. This line was extended northward to Tutwiler and southward to Yazoo Junction, and through service between the two points was inaugurated in September, 1904. Further additions and extensions have been made from time to time to the main lines since then, until at the

present time the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad operates 1,380 miles of line, of which 1,148 miles are within the State of Mississippi. This is 26 per cent of the total railway mileage of the state. The combined mileage of the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad and the Illinois Central in Mississippi consists of approximately 40 per cent of the aggregate railway mileage in the state.



METHODIST CHURCH, CLEVELAND

Cleveland

The Metropolis of Bolivar County

CLEVELAND, Bolivar County, Mississippi, was founded by men of vision who dreamed of our present-day Imperial Bolivar and who set about the task of building therein a capital city from which would radiate those lights that guide the forces and harmonize the interests of agriculture and commerce, business man and farmer. The founders of the Metropolis of Imperial Bolivar were workers, and the wide-awake, progressive and cultured Cleveland that we know today—the child of their energies which now has reached the urban dignity—is by far the most important city of its size to be found in the Delta or any other section of Mississippi; and the high eminence that she enjoys today is appreciated best by those who have lived here, worked here, and seen here all that could be desired in the weaving of strong social and economic fabrics. Cleveland attracts those that seek metropolitan advantages in a town of three thousand people. This is no idle statement; it is a truthful statement that can and will be substantiated by an accurate portrayal of the character of her citizenry, and a true picture of the institutions wrought by their hands.

EARLY CLEVELAND

In the year 1869, Mr. W. L. Pearman, who passed to his reward only a few months ago, made a clearing on the bank of Jones Bayou in the northwest corner of the northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 22, Range 5

west, in Bolivar County, Mississippi, built a house and started farming. During the time he wasn't shooting deer and bear along the edge of his clearing he raised that famous Bolivar County long staple cotton and shipped it up the Mississippi River to Godfrey Frank & Co. of Memphis, Tenn. Along about the year 1884 a gang of section hands cut and dug their way from Vicksburg straight up the Delta, built a trestle across Jones Bayou two miles south of Col. Pearman's home, and when they had reached a point about opposite his dwelling, stopped, threw up a small shack, called it a depot, and christened the town Simms, although the postoffice was called Fontaine. As soon as some steel was laid a work train pulled up that far, the pay-car was set on a siding, and from that day until now this point has been a railroad division and the more than three hundred railroad men now employed here get their pay at the same place where first stood the depot shack. Immediately opposite the coal chute and watering tank, Col. T. B. Johnson, who is today one of Cleveland's most prominent citizens and business men, erected a small frame store, and thus was born what is now known as Cleveland. Three or four years later the Delta's greatest philanthropist, W. A. Dockery, settled in Cleveland and lived here seven or eight years, but finally settled five or six miles east of Cleveland on the Sunflower River, where he now lives. In 1886 Cleveland was incorporated, and from this date



MAIN STREET, CLEVELAND

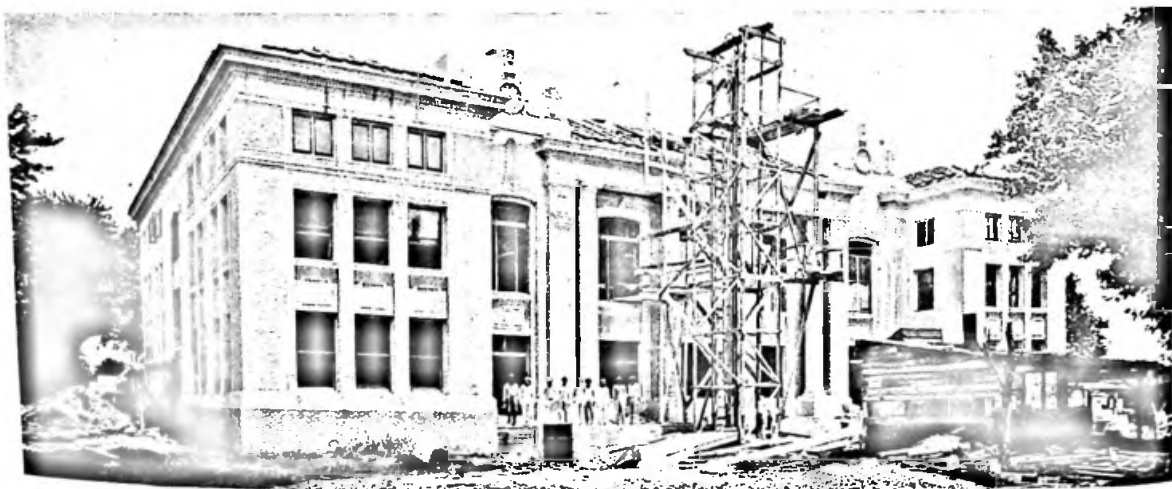
until 1901 her progress was hardly up to the expectations of her founders. From 1900 until today, 1923, Cleveland's growth may be well divided into three distinct periods.

COURT HOUSE ERECTED

In 1901 the court house was erected on the square donated by Mr. W. L. Pearman. During the years immediately following, Cleveland's population was more than trebled. Cleveland became the center of Bolivar County and by far the most important town between Clarksdale and Greenville. New churches were built; brick stores stood where frame dwellings served before; the school building was enlarged. Cleveland was coming into her own. But it was not until 1910, when she assumed the proportions of a thriving little city, that the steady, uninterrupted march began. Though she suffered a common setback in 1914, along with other agricultural communities, her resourcefulness in the years that followed the outbreak of the European catastrophe laid a stronger foundation for the years to come. Cleveland's growth since 1917 has been phenomenal, and the gratifying thing about it all is that her prosperity is a stable thing, an enduring strength. Should one who left Cleveland in 1917 return today he would not recognize his old home from its physical aspects. Cleveland's population has doubled since that time, and the residential sections of the town have been extended to include land taken up by cotton seven years ago. And today no town in the South can look forward with more assurance to an unprecedented growth and development.

IDEALLY LOCATED

The town of Cleveland is ideally located as a center of business, social and educational life. It is 114 miles south of Memphis and about the same distance north of Vicksburg, lying in the heart of the richest region on earth, on the main line of the Y. & M. V. Railroad. Lying midway between Memphis and Vicksburg, two of the most important railroad terminals in the South, it is natural that Cleveland should enjoy the privileges of a railroad division point, which advantage cannot be over-estimated. Cleveland also lies midway between Clarksdale and Greenville, and is by far the largest town and most important business center in the territory lying between the capitals of Coahoma, on the north, and Washington, on the south. In this connection it might be mentioned that in post-office receipts, bank clearings, cotton receipts and gross business clearings, Cleveland stands fourth in a list of real thriving, busy cities of the Delta. Cleveland is surpassed by only three cities—Clarksdale, Greenwood and Greenville—and the smallest of these Delta towns that outranks Cleveland in this respect has a population four times as great as our own. Cleveland is geographically the center of the great Yazoo and Mississippi Delta, and its trade territory is by far the largest and richest section of Mississippi that any one town can command. Cleveland's location makes it the logical educational center of the Delta, and with the establishment of the Delta Normal here next year, she will assume her proper place in that sphere. Cleveland's natural advantages are most evident to those



COUNTY COURT HOUSE AT CLEVELAND, IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION

who understand the fertility of the Delta soil and the stability of the Delta prosperity. Bear in mind that Bolivar County produces more cotton, and of a far better grade and staple, than all of the counties south of the A. & V. Railroad in Mississippi combined. By reference to your map you will find that the A. & V. Road, running from Vicksburg to Meridian, divides the state into practically two equal parts. In a word, Bolivar County, of which Cleveland is the most important and largest city, produces as much cotton as practically half of the entire state. Bolivar County is largest in area, largest in population, and largest in assessed valuation in the state. Great and promising indeed must be the future of her metropolis! Her growth is and will continue to be the natural development of a town so ideally situated, supplemented by the untiring energy and enterprise of those who are directing her energies to a bigger, better and brighter eminence among the important cities of the state.

CULTURAL ADVANTAGES

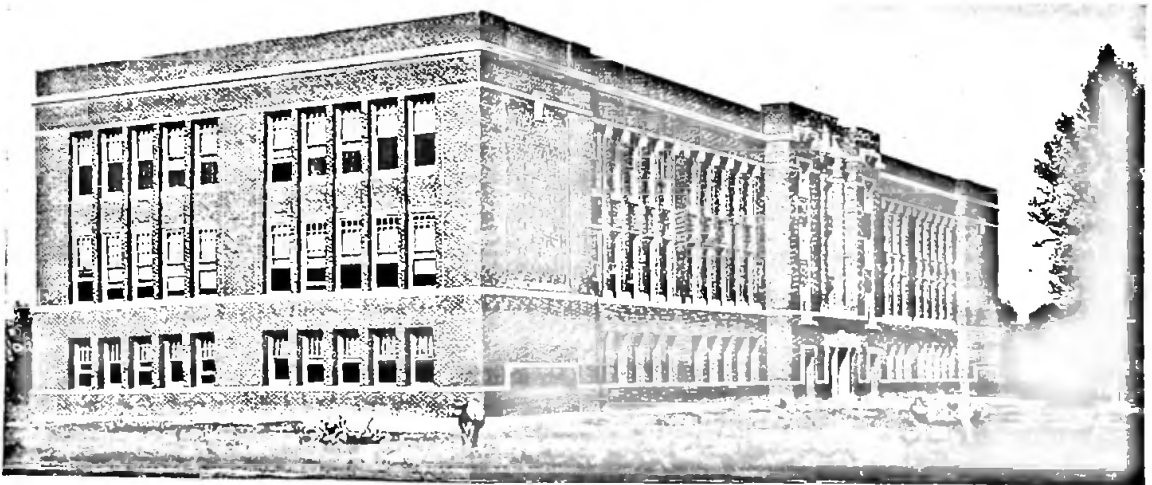
Cleveland has always taken pride in her churches, schools, women's clubs and other civic institutions, because her citizens know that without these things to inspire and direct, no prosperity can endure and no real happiness nor community spirit can be nourished to its highest fulfillment. There are more college graduates in the town of Cleveland than in any other town of like size in the country, with the exception of university centers, where the population is altogether made up of academic folks. This is a signifi-

cant fact, reflecting the character of the citizenry and giving a fair indication of the social and educational standards of the community. Cleveland is the home of cultured, refined and enterprising people, who are here to build for their children and their children's children. How well they have builded is attested in the edifices of worship that adorn her beauty and in the magnificence of her school, which is, by the way, the largest consolidated school in the world, according to the state superintendent of education, Hon. W. F. Bond.

SCHOOLS

The Cleveland Consolidated School District, which embraces the town of Cleveland and the territory within a five-mile radius, boasts of a school system, building, equipment and attendance without an equal anywhere. The magnificent Cleveland Consolidated School building, an illustration of which appears elsewhere, was built at a cost of \$200,000 two years ago and is a useful and enduring monument to the high appreciation of cultural values by those who had her destinies in hand. The school, like other schools in the county, was built for the future, and while the enrollment today is far greater than that of any other consolidated high school in the state, it is steadily increasing, and the physical equipment will, if necessary, take care of 1,500 students. The present enrollment is about 1,000 and is growing larger each month.

The Cleveland High School is on the accredited list of Southern schools and her graduates may enter the freshman class of any



CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL

college or university in the South without examination, and her certificates are accepted by the largest universities in the East. In other words, the academic standards are as high as any Southern preparatory school. The teachers in the high school departments are university graduates, and no teacher can qualify for any of the positions in the primary or grammar schools without at least two years of university training, and, with one or two exceptions, the present faculty is composed of full graduates. Pupils living over one-half mile from the school are transported to and from the school in motor conveyances, requiring the use of four large motor cars manned by capable, skilled and careful drivers. As an illustration of the care taken in the selection of the drivers for the school trucks, no man is employed in such a position who is not recognized as a man of character; usually a man of family is chosen, but under no circumstances is a man employed who will not sign a pledge to bring his truck to a full stop every time before crossing a railroad track. This precaution is but suggestive of the efficiency of the entire school system.

The members of the Board of Trustees when the present school system was planned and projected were: Hon. Audley W. Shands, prominent attorney; Hon. Ed J. Nott, successful hardware and lumber dealer; and Hon. J. C. Roberts, prominent member of the law firm of Clark, Roberts & Hallam. It was through their interest and work, supplemented by the almost unanimous support of the patrons and prospective patrons of the school, that the ambitious and worthy program was projected. Succeeding Mr. Shands at the expiration of his term was Hon. Jno. T. Smith, former superintendent of the school and at present the distinguished district attorney of this court district, who was alike imbued with the spirit of progress in educational affairs. Mr. Nott was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Myers, prominent planter and business man, who has contributed his practical business judgment, born of a broad vision and a large experience, to every forward community movement for the past twenty years.

The Board of Trustees is now composed of Hon. J. C. Roberts, chairman; Mart L. Thompson, secretary, and W. H. Myers. Mr. Thompson is the very capable president of the Valley Wholesale Grocery Company, and while a comparatively new citizen and patron, he is recognized as one of the most alert and progressive business men of the community,

who has proved a decided business and social asset to Cleveland since his arrival here three years ago.

SUPT. J. C. WINDHAM

While much credit is due the trustees and the patrons of the school for their generous interest and support, the Cleveland Consolidated School, as it stands today, in its academic excellence and capacity for broad service represents the work of one of Mississippi's most capable educators, Prof. J. C. Windham, who was attracted here four years ago upon the reorganization of the school district. He has organized a faculty of capable instructors and has given capable and intelligent direction to one of the most excellent and largest school systems in the state. Cleveland offers every opportunity along educational lines.

CHURCHES

There are four magnificent churches here and the character of the temples built is reflected in the men and women who congregate there. The Methodists take just pride in their splendid new brick church, which is perhaps the largest in the Delta. The Baptists, Presbyterians and Christians also boast of church buildings of beauty and utility. All are made of brick and stone and are commodious and beautiful in their appointments. The Episcopal congregation is now planning the erection of a suitable edifice, a lot having been purchased a few weeks ago. The churches are distributed over the city, thus adding to the attractiveness as well as the general beauty of the residential sections. Cleveland, like other towns in the county, is a church-going community, and the generous support her citizens give these institutions suggests the high culture and appreciation of the real, lasting things in life. Cleveland is proud that she is the home of churches and schools; she is glad to rejoice in her excellence there, because she knows that bank clearings and cotton receipts indicate nothing unless supported by these evidences of the real spirit.

GOVERNMENT

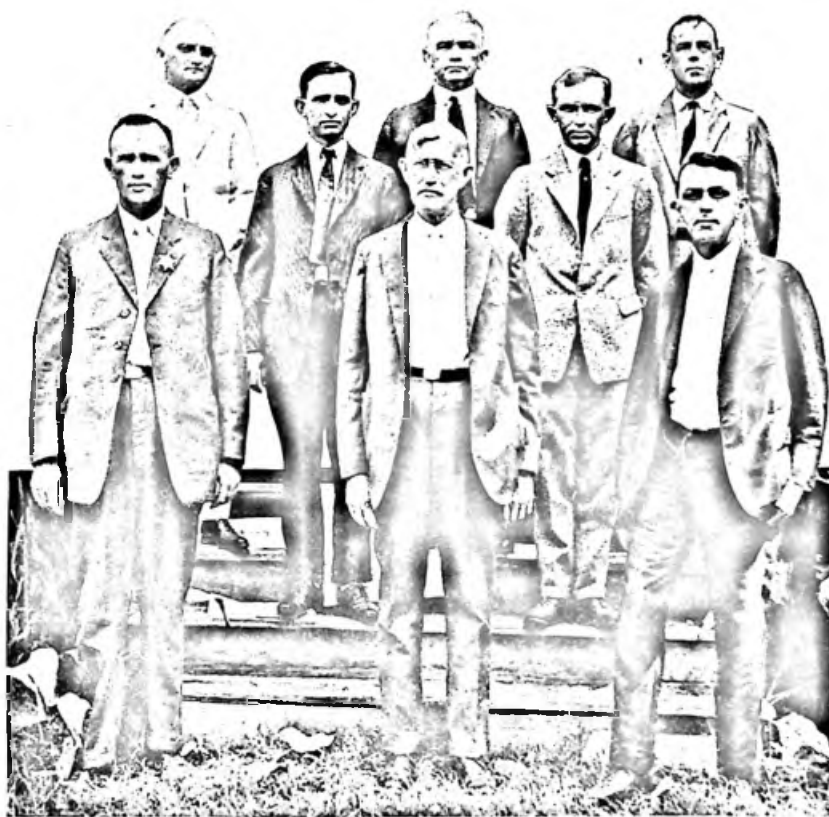
Cleveland has always been fortunate in the selection of her officials, having always chosen men of vision who have achieved success in the administering of their private affairs. It is not every town that can call to her aldermanic board two bank presidents, the most successful merchants, and planters who have an eye single to but one purpose—the building of a bigger and better town. In Cleve-

land the office seeks the man, and they are accustomed here to calling the best.

Cleveland's progress in the intimate municipal affairs started several years ago under the administrations of Messrs. Todd and Clark, and has continued through the three administrations that followed. Under Mayor Benefiel the waterworks were brought up to their present standard of efficiency and gravel streets were laid. It was also during his term that the volunteer fire department, which has reduced fire insurance rates 20%. was organized. Under his successors, Hon. L. Q. Strong, prominent and enterprising insurance man, and Hon. J. J. Houston, retired planter and successful business man, the town made its greatest strides, because they were capable leaders and the people were ready for progressive improvements. We now have six miles of asphalt streets, every street in the town being paved with an asphalt substance guaranteed for a period of twenty years; the volunteer fire department has been brought up to the highest standard of efficiency; we

have the best paved town in the state; a reasonable contract with the public utilities corporation, privately owned, for the supplying of light and power; and capable and honest law-enforcing officers. In municipal affairs, as in other movements, the success achieved has been made possible through harmonious, unselfish co-operation of every citizen and interest.

Cleveland's official family is composed of Hon. J. J. Houston, mayor; aldermen, R. B. Johnson, prominent hardware merchant and bank director; Jno. T. Davis, planter and automobile dealer; W. G. Lowery, a progressive and successful young merchant; W. T. Winston, president of the Cotton Exchange Bank and extensive planter; and Dr. W. T. Townsend, one of the most prominent men in his profession in the state; Hon. L. M. Guynes, planter and successful business man, city clerk; G. H. Ingraham, marshal; and J. L. Mathews, night marshal. This administration, which assumed the direction of affairs last January, is working in absolute



MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, CLEVELAND

Top Row—(Left to Right)—Dr. W. T. Townsend, W. G. Lowery, W. T. Winston, Aldermen.
Center Row—L. M. Guynes, City Clerk; John T. Davis, Alderman.
Bottom Row—City Marshal Ingram; J. J. Houston, Mayor; R. B. Johnson, Alderman.



J. L. SMITH



W. A. SPEAKES



J. W. YATES



L. E. EDWARDS



V. W. THOMAS

COUNTY SUPERVISORS

harmony with one another and with every other civic interest to the building of a Greater Cleveland.

CIVIC BODIES

It is a characteristic and significant thing about Cleveland that every organization of men and women throws itself into the service of the community, and consequently there are a number of organizations here that go beyond the usually circumscribed limits of such institutions in their desire to serve and the work they accomplish for the common welfare. The volunteer fire company has been something more than a fire-fighting machine. It is serving a needed place in the social relation, the city providing it with commodious club rooms which makes it the social and civic center of the community. And in this connection we should give credit to whom it is due in mentioning the name of C. C. Thweatt, who has served as chief of the department for four years, and without whose work and enthusiasm it could not have filled its high purpose in the social and civic relation.

The Rotary Club, recently organized

through the efforts of Hon. R. N. Somerville, is contributing its support to every community undertaking, and is taking its proper place among similar organizations in the South. At the last district convention of the International Association, Cleveland, although the youngest member, sent a 100% delegation, thereby winning the silver trophy offered for the largest percentage of membership in attendance at the gathering. The club, while new, is headed toward useful service and therein it cannot fail.

The American Legion has a post here named in honor of a Bolivar County boy, Glen Crosby, who gave his all in 1918. This association of war veterans, under the capable direction of Commander D. C. Roby, is co-operating with other agencies, such as the Rotary and the Firemen's Clubs.

The Parent-Teacher Association, an organization of teachers and patrons of the local school, has done splendid work in its field and has brought home and school into a closer union and understanding.

There are a number of women's clubs, religious, purely social and literary, which ap-

peal to refined, cultured and earnest women, and those clubs, democratic in their membership, are no mean asset to the community where the social amenities are observed as becomes Southern traditions.

COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES

Cleveland is so situated that she enjoys good business throughout the year. The railroad payroll here, which will soon be enormously increased by the building of division shops in Cleveland, and the fact that a number of planters in the immediate territory furnish cash, rather than supplies, to farm labor, brings a fairer balance of trade between retailer and wholesaler, and for that reason practically every business house in town is in a prosperous condition.

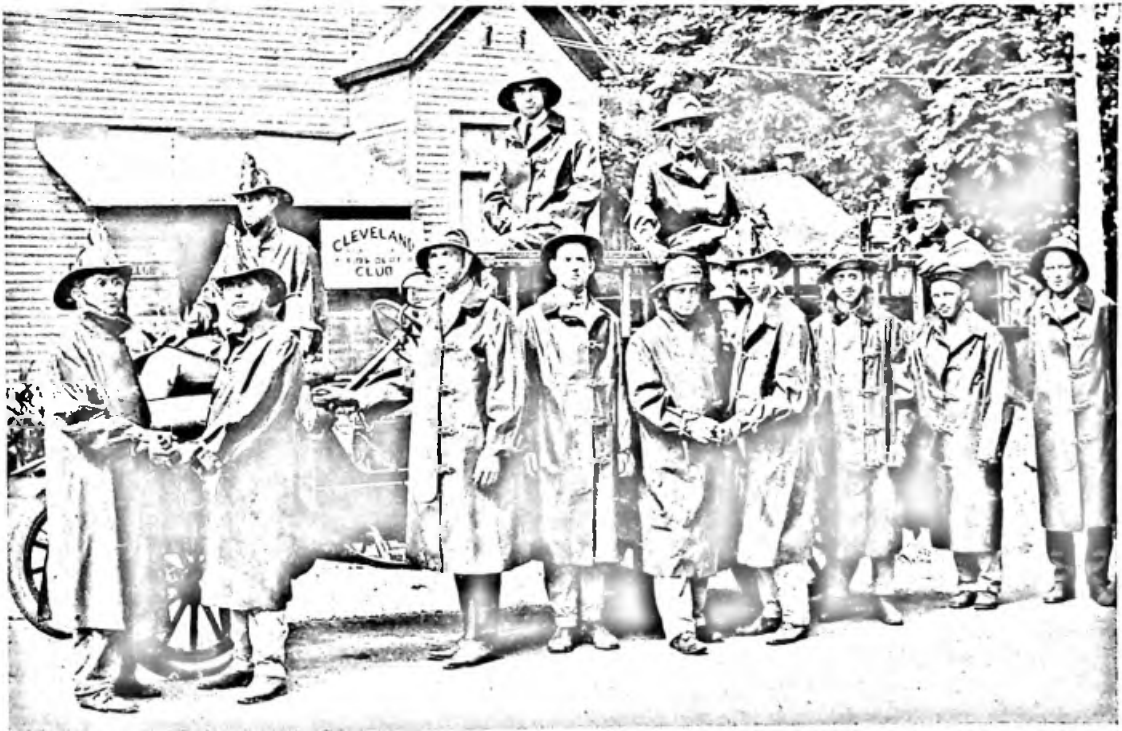
There are two banks here, each capitalized at \$100,000, with creditable surplus, which institutions take care of the interests of the business men and planters of the trade territory. The Bolivar Compress, one of the largest in the Delta, is located at Cleveland and is owned by local capital. There are about ten cotton firms, which keep their offices open throughout the year, and the district office of the Long Staple Cotton Growers' Association is located at Cleveland. Two

hotels and three restaurants are necessary to care for the trade that comes here, and two wholesale grocery establishments are in a flourishing condition. There are four drug stores, two large department stores, a bakery, and a picture show that is the source of much pride to the citizens. Practically every business is represented here, including three hardware stores, lumber and brick yards, two newspapers, five garages and automobile sales organizations, two well-equipped barber shops, a first-class jewelry establishment, a number of dry goods, grocery and variety stores.

Cleveland's gross business is far in excess of that of any other town of its size in the state, and counts among her professional men outstanding leaders of the state in law and medicine.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

During the year 1921, under the direction and in co-operation with U. S. Government sanitary engineers, Cleveland waged a war against the Delta's most worrisome pest, the mosquito, and whipped him to a frazzle. It cost the town something like \$2,500 and the Government a like sum, but Cleveland was rid of mosquitoes for the first time in its history. Provision has been made for the con-



VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, CLEVELAND

tinuation of this work, which eliminates almost entirely the danger from malaria. The cases of malaria in the community dropped 75% in 1921, and this affliction is the exception rather than the common malady in Bolivar County today. Cleveland is drained by Jones Bayou, which was only recently dredged and which will soon be covered with concrete culvert. The death rate here is far below the average and health conditions are all that could be desired. Bolivar County maintains here, in conjunction with the city, a health clinic which in its appointments and efficiency can, if necessary, serve as a hospital. A hospital capable of taking care of the needs of the county is being planned here and will be erected during the coming year.

Cleveland has a modern light and power plant giving service twenty-four hours each day, an ice plant, a steam laundry and three cotton gins. A local building and loan association is well capitalized and takes care of the need created by the town's unprecedented expansion.

Cleveland's municipal tax levy is only 12

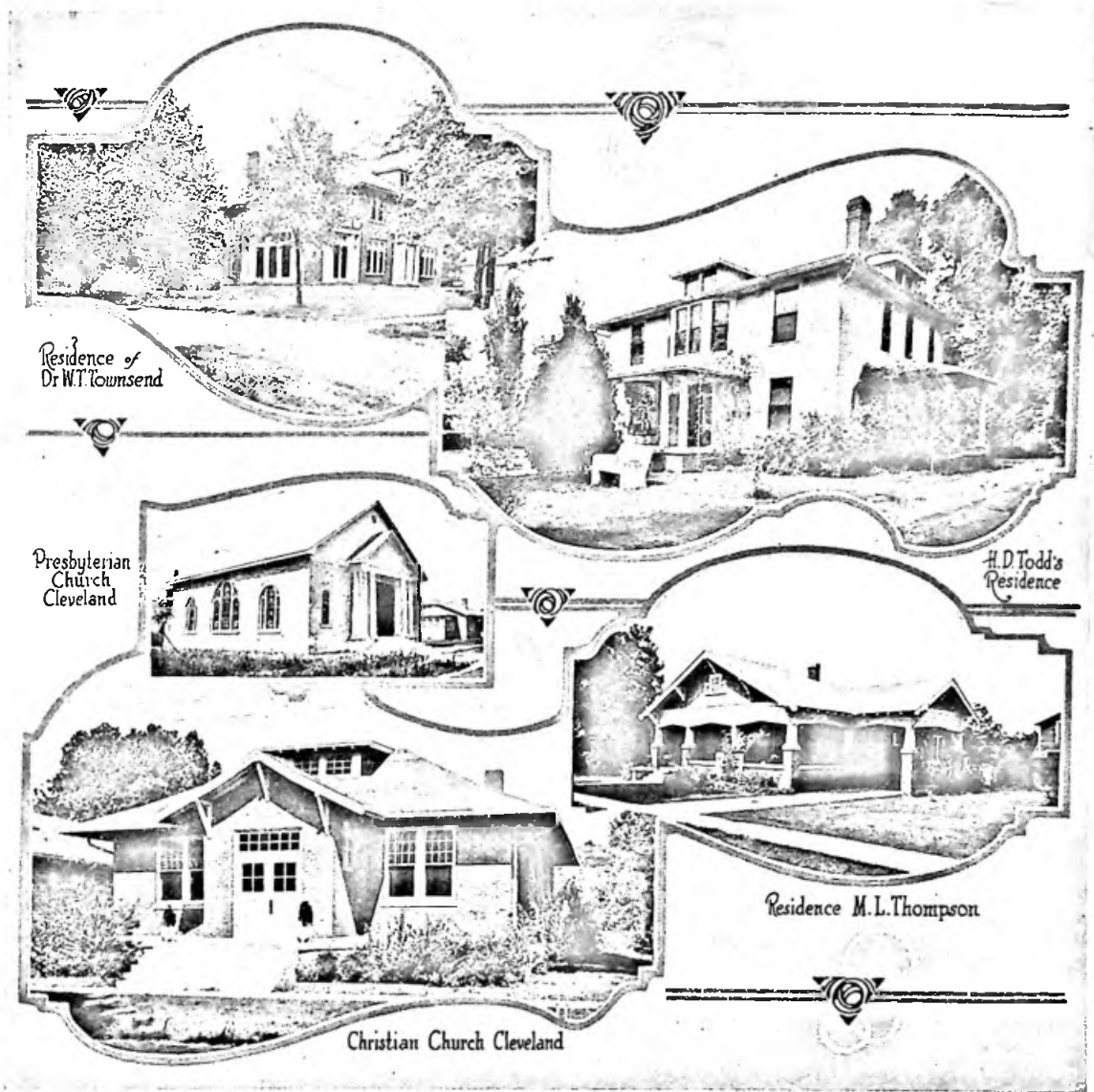
mills and is about as low as any town in the state, and its bonded indebtedness is comparatively small.

CLEVELAND HAS ARRIVED

Cleveland was once the coming town of the Delta; she is no longer coming, she has arrived. She has reached an eminence far beyond her original hopes, and, as stated before, she is the fourth most important town in the Delta, yielding only to Greenwood, Clarksdale and Greenville. There are more white farmers in the immediate vicinity of Cleveland than in any other section of the Delta, and more are coming every day. Next year Cleveland will exert every effort to have established here a state normal college, being ready now to offer to the state the buildings and grounds of the Agricultural High School, and the county and city will also contribute to the financial support of the college. Cleveland, the metropolis of Bolivar County, extends a welcome to those who seek the rewards of natural opportunities, applied energy and broad culture.



C. R. SMITH'S RESIDENCE, CLEVELAND



Residence of Dr. W.T. Townsend

H.D. Todd's Residence

Presbyterian Church Cleveland

Residence M.L. Thompson

Christian Church Cleveland

ED B. HILL

Among those who have played an important part in the progress and development of Bolivar County may be mentioned the name of Ed B. Hill, a pioneer merchant and leading spirit in all public enterprises. Mr. Hill established the first department store in the county and with a motto of "Large Sales and Small Profits," placed the necessities of life within reach of all. Perhaps no man in the Delta ever dispensed more charity, but so quiet and modest was he when making generous gifts that even his most intimate friends were often unaware of his many charitable acts. He was especially active in the estab-

lishment of a Cleveland Building & Loan Association, whereby those with small means might be enabled to build or buy a home. The establishment of an Agricultural High School for the county was another project in which he was deeply interested; in fact, he was a prime mover in all things pertaining to the betterment of the community and county, always prompted by a spirit of unselfishness.

Mr. Hill was a celebrity as a chess player, being at one time champion of three states, and winning many trophies for his skill in the royal game. His untimely death in December, 1915, cast a gloom over this entire territory, as in it the county lost one of her

leading citizens whose activities among men meant much toward the shaping and making of our Imperial Bolivar.

WM. G. HARDEE

William Guy Hardee, a pioneer in the development of Bolivar County and more especially Cleveland, was born at Lowryville, Chester County, South Carolina, on May 18, 1878. In 1904 he migrated to Bolivar County, where he entered the employ of Charles Scott, an eminent barrister, and while thus engaged studied law under this able scholar.

In 1907 Mr. Hardee was admitted to the bar and moved to Cleveland, associating himself with the firm of Moore & Clark. Upon the death of the latter he became a member of the firm of Moore, Jones & Hardee. Mr. Jones' retirement left Messrs. Hardee and Moore as partners until the death of Senator Moore, after which Mr. Hardee continued his practice alone and soon built one of the most lucrative law businesses in the state.

He became the husband of Miss Eugenia Dixon in 1909. This union was blessed with one daughter, Virginia Guy Hardee, who now resides in Cleveland with her mother, Mrs. Eugenia Dixon Townsend.

Far-sighted and broad-visioned, Mr. Hardee was ever a leader in enterprise and improvement, not for personal gain only, but for public utility as well. In him may be found the source of numerous movements beneficial to his home town, and the healthy growth of Cleveland in recent years should in large measure justly be accorded the outcome of

his clear-focussed inspiration. He was largely responsible for the location at Cleveland of the Bolivar County Agricultural High School and formed the stock company that bought land and incorporated it in Cleveland as the College Heights Addition.

Mr. Hardee's efforts along home-building lines bore remarkable fruit. By erecting dwelling houses and selling these to young married couples on exceptionally small payments, he enabled struggling young citizens to secure homes at a monthly expenditure little more than equivalent to rental. To further stimulate young people in the acquisition and ownership of their homes he organized in 1914 the Cleveland Building & Loan Association, which he served as president and general manager until his death. The material results of this Association were nearly one hundred new homes built or acquired, while the actual return to the municipality may only be reckoned in terms of value derived from the type of citizenry who own their homes.

Mr. Hardee's achievement as a public official was by no means mediocre. Elected one term as mayor of Cleveland, our splendid outlay of concrete sidewalks and the present system of water and sewer mains are results of his capable administration. Besides his participation in local affairs, Mr. Hardee evinced a lively interest in county and state politics. At the time of his death he was attorney for the Board of Supervisors of Bolivar County, a position which he had held for several years prior thereto in a highly satisfactory manner.

Rosedale

County Site of the First Judicial District

ROSEDALE, for years the center of the County, retains more of the romance and grandeur of ante-bellum days than any other town in the Mississippi Delta. The history of the county's progress may be read in the gradual and wholesome development of Rosedale. The social standards of Bolivar County find their strength and inspiration in Rosedale's loyalty to the ideals and traditions of the Old South, and therein lies her effective and lasting appeal to those who cannot forsake the standards of the earlier days for the "new" in the social relation. And a people thus determined in their fidelity to the things they know to be good are always the first to seize the new, if progress and improvement are her handmaidens.

This, perhaps more than anything else, reveals the charm and appeal of a town like Rosedale to an understanding and appreciative people. She remains steadfast to her faith in the social standards of yesterday, yet in industry, agriculture and business she is first to sense the need and grasp the opportunities offered in the progressive methods of today. Rosedale is, above everything else, a town of personality, which has wielded a strong and wholesome influence over the Delta, as well as the broad limits of her own county.

HISTORICAL

It is said that a man's personality represents the best that he has made of himself, and so it is with a community or a town. A man of unusual personality inspires study and contemplation. We would know whence he came and how he grew to such manly proportions. Let us then, for a moment, turn our thoughts to the early Rosedale, that we may appreciate the strong foundation upon which the superstructure has been built.

EARLY DAYS

The Federals burned the town of Prentiss in the summer of 1862, destroying every building, the courthouse and jail included. In 1865, in establishing the levee system of the Mississippi Levee District, Indian Point, the territory in which Prentiss was situated,

was left outside of the levee line, which necessitated the removal of the county site to some point within the new levee district. A point about the center of the county, where the present town of Beulah now stands, was selected. When the radicals and carpet-baggers got control of the county they concluded to remove the seat of government to some point on the river. J. H. Fields, who had recently moved from Columbus to Bolivar County, had built a two-story residence on the courthouse site in the present town of Rosedale. Florry, the leading carpet-bagger, entered into a negotiation with Fields for the purchase of his residence for a courthouse. This was done secretly, arrangements satisfactory with Florry having been made, in which he secured a number of lots in the town of Rosedale. He surreptitiously secured the passage of a bill by the Legislature of 1870, removing the courthouse from Beulah to its present site, naming the new town Florryville, in honor of the radical who engineered the project.

The first intimation that the people of Beulah had of the change came when they woke one morning to find that all of the records of the county had been moved in the night to the new county site of Florryville. The new county seat was located in a mudhole, a fit emblem of its sponsors. The streets were either dusty or muddy the year 'round. Its leading radical citizens were characteristically rotten, and all of her officials were habitually drunk. B. K. Bruce, the negro sheriff, was quite a respectable citizen compared with his associates. In 1874 Bruce was elected to the United States Senate, and on the overthrow of the carpet-bag rule in 1876 the Legislature changed the name of the town from Florryville to Rosedale.

In 1877 the courthouse was burned and the departing carpet-baggers were strongly suspected of burning it in order to destroy evidence of their rascality. The courthouse was rebuilt by the insurance company which held the policy on the building. In 1889 this old courthouse was sold for a town hall and removed to an adjoining lot, and a commodious brick building was built in its stead. This building was recently condemned and a new court house is now in course of construction

on the same old site where first was built the residence of J. H. Fields.

The first homes of the town were built by Judge Benj. F. Trimble, Col. F. M. Montgomery and John L. Gill. These residences are now standing and they are the only buildings of the early period remaining. Hon. Chas. Scott built a palatial home a few years later, but it was destroyed by fire.

THE BUILDERS

The Rosedale of today symbolizes the character of the men who overthrew the carpet-bagger and placed in his stead a standard of living and community spirit excelled nowhere under the sun. Her builders were men of character and they builded the "Town With a Personality." Hon. Chas. Scott, Governor Charles Clark and his son of the same name, Walter Sillers, Colonel Montgomery, General Nugent and others of equal prominence and strength of character—these are the men who laid the foundations of a good town, whose people have ever maintained the high standards set by their distinguished forebears.

THE ROSEDALE OF TODAY

The Rosedale of today is the fruit of that genius, nourished and strengthened by the influence of men of energy, industry and vision. Rosedale is a progressive town of the highest order. Its wide paved streets, shaded in the residential districts by overhanging oaks and elms that line the avenue, with a background of the beautiful colonial architecture, yield a refreshing Southern touch that finds perfect expression in the social life of the town.

Rosedale has a population of 2,500 and is one of the two largest towns in the county. It is the county site of the First Judicial District, which, together with its favorable location, makes it the natural business center of the Riverside district. A modern courthouse costing \$100,000 is now being erected to care for the needs of the people of the Second District. It is an architectural beauty and will add greatly to the attractiveness of the town. It will be completed about January 1, 1924, in time for the inauguration of the new county officers.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

There is nothing that reflects the character of a people more truthfully than her schools and churches. A community that gives generously to these institutions reflects not only the prosperity of its people, but their appre-

ciation of the finer things of life is interpreted in the useful monuments they erect. Rosedale has a new consolidated high school, being built three years ago at an approximate cost of over \$100,000. It is of Spanish Mission design and modern in every detail of its equipment. It may well be said that the architect conceived the beautiful and the builder has builded well, for there is not a more imposing and attractive school building in the entire state that can surpass it in efficiency of plan and beauty. It is a source of pride to the patrons of the Rosedale Consolidated School that within those walls is a corps of trained and efficient teachers which has brought the academic standards up to the requirements of Southern schools and colleges. A graduate of Rosedale High School may matriculate in any of the leading colleges and universities of the South without examination, which fact attests the high standard of efficiency in scholarship pursued throughout the several courses offered. The school boasted of an enrollment of 250 during the academic year 1922-1923, but the trustees of the school district have builded for the future and their school equipment can well take care of, comfortably, as many as 750 students.

On the campus there is a well-equipped playground with up-to-date features, which is utilized throughout the summer as well as during the scholastic year. During the summer months it is the civic center of the community.

Five denominations are represented by churches at Rosedale. Four of them—the Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic—have splendid edifices, while the Presbyterian Church is now under course of construction. Each has a large and representative membership, for the community, as suggested before, is composed of church-going men and women, and the perfect harmony and co-operation among the citizens in religious work is but another indication of the high quality of that citizenship.

Rosedale is the home of the only hospital in the county, the King's Daughters maintaining here a commodious and modern sanitarium. Its supervision is in the hands of capable men and women and it is a model institution of its kind. In addition to the King's Daughters' Hospital, there are two private hospitals, owned and conducted by Drs. Austin and Noble, respectively, both of whom rank high in their profession.



Alex Scott's
Residence



W.F. Wall's Residence



J.L. Wilson's Residence



High School - Rosedale



Street Scene
Rosedale



Courthouse
Rosedale

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

We have spoken of Rosedale's civic and social institutions as reflecting the spirit of your neighbors should you go there, so let us for a moment study the "Town With a Personality" from a practical or material standpoint.

As we have stated elsewhere, Bolivar County produces more long staple cotton than any other county in the world. Her production for the year 1922 was 97,000 bales, 25,000 of which were handled through Rosedale. It has been conservatively estimated that Rosedale's gross business for the year 1922 amounted to two and one-half million dollars—an almost fabulous figure when placed along the records of most any town of like size in the country.

Rosedale's pre-eminence along commercial lines may be attributed to a number of advantages, natural and otherwise. Rosedale is situated on the Mississippi River and the water traffic is growing increasingly large. Her advantageous freight rates, 25% less than any other town in the section, attract many customers and dollars. She is in the very center of the finest staple cotton country in the world and her immediate trade territory extends to a radius of ten miles, thus good trade and business is sustained throughout the year, even during what is commonly known as the dull season. Rosedale is the largest fresh water fish market in the country, which industry contributes no mean portion to the general prosperity of the section.

Rosedale has three banks, capitalized at \$100,000 each, which take care of the needs of the planters, merchants and their patrons generally throughout their trade territory. Their aggregate deposits total over \$3,000,000, and in considering these figures it will be well to bear in mind that there are fifteen other banks in Bolivar County, if the reader is to properly appreciate the volume of business transacted during the year in this Town of Romance. A wholesale grocery here has an annual turnover of approximately a million dollars, and there are any number of thriving mercantile establishments, such as drug stores, clothing houses, hardware stores, a bakery, dry goods establishments, two restaurants and a splendid hotel. The Bolivar County Democrat, ably edited by Mr. A. D. Linnell, is published here and will soon celebrate its fiftieth anniversary of service to the community. Rosedale's hotel facilities compare favorably with those of much larger towns, her main hostelry being housed in a large and beautiful brick structure. Though prac-

tically new, its architecture (colonial) is in harmony with the finest private homes.

TOWN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

In this day of government regulation, municipal improvements and necessity for public utilities, the administering of the public affairs of a growing town, where business suffers for the want of man-power, where the people are progressive yet business-like, and where the social and civic standards are so high as to require the best that is obtainable, it is refreshing, illuminating and encouraging to turn to Rosedale and there find a model system, supplemented by conscientious and capable officials, for administering the affairs of a growing municipality.

Rosedale's progress along this line has been most noteworthy during the past ten years. Twelve years ago, through indifference rather than incompetence, her municipal interests were not receiving their deserved attention. The town levy was unreasonably high and her public utilities, such as they were, were not functioning in keeping with their revenues. It was at this time that Hon. J. L. Wilson, cashier of the Valley Bank, was prevailed upon to accept the office of mayor, and it is due to his untiring efforts and the cooperation of every citizen, which he easily enlisted, that the program for municipal improvements was successfully engineered. Today Rosedale owns her own waterworks and electric light plant, having an appraised value of \$30,000, which utilities serve not only those who reside within the corporate limits, but the entire surrounding country as well. The city also owns and operates the municipal ice plant. The total bonded indebtedness of the town of Rosedale is only \$20,000, and in return the people have a complete system of gravel and oiled streets, concrete sidewalks on every avenue, and the public utilities, which constitute the real pride of those into whose hands fell the task of running the town's business along the lines pursued in their own. The town levy has been reduced to the minimum, 10 mills, with a prospect for a good surplus at the end of the year.

Hon. J. L. Wilson, prominent banker and planter, is mayor, which office he has held for the past ten years. The Board of Aldermen is composed of Messrs. E. R. Chaney, A. R. Shattuck, J. E. Dattel and L. P. Joest, all of whom are prominent in the business and social life of the community. Miss Louise Chaney is the very capable city clerk. An interesting and refreshing fact to be noted in

the services of the above named officials is that none receives any salary for performing his or her duties. It is this spirit that has built Rosedale, and it is just that kind of cooperation that is going to make her bigger, better and brighter in every business and social relation.

ROSEDALE AND TOMORROW

Rosedale, the "Town With a Personality," is not only full of achievement, but great promise. She welcomes those who would come

and live where standards are high and business good all the year 'round. Her door is wide open to those who seek enlightenment and success and the finer things of life that accompany them. She joins the other towns in the county in inviting to this rich alluvial land, where energy, intelligence and application will yield richer returns than anywhere else on the globe. Rosedale, the "Town With a Personality," the home of builders, seeks more builders for the future.

Honorable Charles Scott

Lawyer, Planter, Gentleman

In Charles Scott, Bolivar County has given to Mississippi a name that is honored wherever it is read or spoken, within the confines of the state or beyond, as illustrating the power of genius, joined with character, in private station, to attain an eminence that no public office could enhance or adorn. He was a typical product of the civilization of the Old South, which, despite its defects, produced the highest type of manhood that history has given to the world, measured by the standards that are universally accepted in fixing the stature of men in the human and divine relation; men distinguished for courage, for honor, for fortitude, for reverence and for usefulness.

The Civil War brought out many examples of these qualities, but they shone most resplendent in the struggles of reconstruction, where a civilization, builded out of the struggle and sacrifice of generations of white men, was menaced by a black horde, recently emerged, through servitude, from barbarism, led by a rapacious venality inspired by hate.

Charles Scott became a leader of men in this epochal struggle and retained that captaincy during all the subsequent work of rehabilitation and rebuilding of the social and material structure of the land that he loved. His genius was peculiarly constructive, and his conduct and counsel in every crisis were marked by a rare wisdom combined with a steadfast courage. Always earnest and purposeful, never relaxing effort in pursuit of any end, his temper was always even and

kindly, and tasks stern enough to harden the softest of natures never diminished the gentleness and kindness that were distinguish-



CHARLES SCOTT, ROSEDALE

ing characteristics of his social and personal relations. Nothing seemed ever to check the flow of the milk of human kindness that enriched his nature; strong, brave, brilliant and overwhelming in conflict, in the pleasant

paths of peace, which he loved, he was the gentlest of men. Men followed where he led, because they trusted him and loved him.

Fifteen years before his death, Mr. Scott, then the largest individual cotton planter in the world, foresaw what is now universally recognized—that the hope of the Delta lay in the breaking up of the big plantations into small farms and the encouragement of industrious and intelligent white farmers to enter in and possess them, either as tenants or owners, and devoted the last years of his life to the advocacy of this change in the agricultural system of Bolivar County, now being rapidly accomplished,

Born in Jackson, Miss., in 1846, the son of Chancellor Charles Scott of the Supreme Court of Chancery, Charles Scott came of distinguished colonial and revolutionary stock, his great-grandfather being a major in the revolutionary army and subsequently was appointed marshal of Virginia by Thomas Jefferson. A great-uncle was a brigadier-general in the same army, and afterwards became governor of Kentucky.

At the age of fifteen Charles Scott enlisted in the Confederate army, joining Forrest's cavalry, and was with that famous command in all of its extraordinary military achievements. Returning home, penniless, from the war, he found such employment as he could, running as express agent for a time and teaching school, while he read law in the office of Judge William Yerger at Rosedale. Admitted to the bar, he speedily came to the front and gained recognition as a profound lawyer and able advocate. As his practice became more lucrative, he engaged in cotton planting and became a leader of his people in the work of rehabilitation incident to the post-bellum period. He became president of a bank at Rosedale, but had nothing to do with its active management. When the bank failed, he and his devoted wife mortgaged all

of their property to secure funds to pay each depositor in full, although neither was legally liable for these losses.

In 1907, Mr. Scott became a candidate for governor, urged to this step by leading men in every part of the state. In no sense a politician, his candidacy appealed to the patriotic and forward-looking men of every county, and while defeated for the nomination by a narrow margin, he had reason to be very proud of the character of the men whose support he enlisted, leaders of every faction espousing his cause, and wherever he went upon this canvass he received an ovation. The politicians defeated him, but his fame outlives theirs.

Much of Mr. Scott's time, means and talents were devoted to the work of enlisting Federal co-operation in the building and maintenance of the levees, and the secure protection that the Delta enjoys today against overflow is largely due to his endeavors in this behalf.

Giving his later years exclusively to his planting interests, he became the largest individual cotton planter in the world. His vast estate is still kept intact and is being developed by his son, Alex Y. Scott of Rosedale, who inherits his father's genius for big undertakings.

Mr. Scott was a man of strong religious conviction, and the Episcopal Church at Rosedale is one of the monuments that endure to his memory in the social economy of Bolivar County.

A year or two previous to his death, which occurred in Memphis at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Max Henning, September 16, 1916, Mr. Scott went on a hunting expedition in Alaska, taking with him a skilled taxidermist, and the fruits of that chase adorn his beautiful home in Rosedale—one of the finest collections of skins of wild animals to be found in the United States.

Merigold

By FRANK WYNNE

MERIGOLD is on the main line of the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad, 107 miles south of Memphis and thirty miles south of Clarksdale. It is on two main trunk lines of gravel road running east and west and north and south. It is ideally located in the very heart of the long staple territory of the fertile Mississippi Delta. Fifteen minutes of reasonable driving will take you to the county seat.

The growth of Merigold and Merigold community has really developed in the past fifteen years. Prior to that time there was but little organization among the people residing in and near the town. There was a store here in 1888 doing a "general merchandise and saloon" business, and that store constituted the entire business element of what thirty years later is one of the most progressive and live-wire parts of the Delta. The stock of goods carried by Merigold's first store can be easily imagined from a page out of the records of the chancery clerk's office. In making an abstract of the lots in the town of Merigold several years ago the writer ran across a very interesting item which showed that in 1890 the sheriff of Bolivar County sold at a sheriff's sale the entire stock of goods of Merigold's first store to satisfy a judgment rendered in favor of the Tennessee Brewing Company for a shipment of keg and bottled beer, the sale showing that the amount of the bill was seventy-nine dollars. The writer remembers that at that time and for twenty years afterwards there were no roads in or near the town which were traversible for more than eight months in the year.

Merigold originated as a sawmill town. No one at that time thought of buying land for the purpose of cultivating it. Here and there a small parcel of land was open and settled mostly by people who were unable to get away and go to some other place. Bear and panthers were more frequent than rabbits are now, and mosquitoes were considered charter members of the community. Coons and cub bears were household pets, and the favorite target practice was shooting snakes along the bayous and borrow pits along the new railroad. A few people who didn't care to waste gunpowder raised chickens, but the larger per-

cent of the population supplied the table with squirrels, wild turkey, 'possums and other wild game, which was abundant.

About 1900 some of the more progressive citizens of Merigold secured a charter for the "Village of Merigold," the place at the time boasting, according to the petition filed with the governor of the state, of one hundred inhabitants. A mayor was elected, and it was quite a shock to some of the more liberal of the citizens of the "village" when a marshal was introduced. Wooden sidewalks were put down as one of the first moves on the part of the new mayor and board of aldermen, but when the first heavy rain came in the spring they were all washed away. Even at that time there were only a few stores and those of the cheap frame variety. Telephones, artesian water, electric lights and other conveniences enjoyed by towns outside of the Delta were unknown. School was held semi-occasionally in a one-room shack on the west side of the railroad. It was put on the west side because no one lived over there and it would be of no bother to any of the people. The attendance was "indifferent," usually about ten or twelve pupils.

Among the pioneers in the settlement of the town of Merigold may be mentioned A. M. Wynne, W. B. Parks, J. M. Goff, H. R. Park, J. R. Smith, Frank Thomason and Mrs. L. E. Gregory.

It was in 1912 that Merigold hit its stride and the people of the Merigold community opened their eyes to the great opportunity which lay within their reach. Land values even then were not great. Opened land could be purchased for \$40 per acre, and cut-over land could be bought for \$20. Land rented at from \$5 per acre to \$8 per acre for the very best.

MERIGOLD OF TODAY

At the present time the town of Merigold has a census population of 616, but Merigold proper and the Merigold community has the second largest population in Bolivar County. The town of Merigold itself covers a very small area, but the Merigold community—and the community is what counts in an agricultural country—is one largely populated by

white people. As a voting precinct the Merigold box casts the second largest vote in the county. The Merigold Consolidated School District is the second largest in the county and the *third* largest in the United States.

The Merigold community is made up of many small and average-size farms or plantations. We have none of the corporations or syndicates holding or owning land. There are not more than three plantations in the Merigold Separate Road District with an acreage of more than one thousand. The majority of the farms run from forty acres in size to 400 acres. Many white farmers own eighties and hundred and twenties. The soil is varied and very fertile. Some of our farmers like "buck shot" land and there is plenty of it. Some prefer sandy loam land and there is plenty of that. Poor land or run-down land is practically unknown. Of course our principal crop is cotton, but corn is raised in abundance. Alfalfa is being planted by most of our farmers. Cotton of many varieties is planted, although practically all of it is long or staple. Very little short cotton is produced in this section. Express (inch and three-sixteenths), Weber, Del-Fos, Saulsbury and many others of the noted long staple type are grown. The practice here is to save very little of your own seed for planting purposes. Most farmers every other year buy seed raised by seed specialists. The writer has been informed, however, that this practice is to be dropped and some of the best known of the planters in this community intend to engage in the seed raising industry, so that it will be possible for local farmers to buy the very best type of cotton seed at home without having to pay the exorbitant prices that have been in vogue for the past five or six years. While this is being written good cotton of the Express and Weber seed is being sold on the streets of Merigold for thirty-five cents per pound. Cotton seed is selling at the gins for \$50 per ton. A 500-pound bale of cotton will net its owner more than \$200.

Merigold has everything that a modern town can have. Our waterworks is modern and up-to-date in every phase. An artesian well of more than fourteen hundred feet in depth supplies the town with water. This water has been passed upon by the state board of health and is classed with the very best in the state. It is piped over the entire town and every house is supplied with good cool water. The surplus water from the well goes into a reservoir with a capacity of 30,000 gallons. In connection with the well is a water

tower which supports a tank 125 feet from the ground. This tank, with a high-powered electric motor, furnishes water for fire protection. The electric motor will pump water at the rate of 500 gallons per minute. By a happy arrangement, if the water in the tank and reservoir should be exhausted, a pipe can be turned into the bayou which adjoins the pumping station and water can be furnished to fight a fire until the bayou goes dry or until the electricity gives out. Destructive fires have been very scarce. Merigold has a live-wire fire company, purely volunteer.

Merigold has a sanitary septic tank sewerage system, the most modern and up-to-date of the sewerage systems. Every house in town is by ordinance forced to connect with and use the town sewerage system. Typhoid fever has been unknown since the installation of this system.

The electric light system furnishing the town of Merigold with lights and electricity is the last word in lighting efficiency. A powerful plant with two oil-burning engines assures the town of plenty of light and electricity at all times. This same plant furnishes the town with a fire-fighting motor, the wiring to the motor being so arranged that a fire within the limits of the town will in no instance affect the running of the motor. Every street corner is furnished with an arc light and likewise every railroad crossing in town.

The streets of Merigold are all graveled. Concrete walks cover the entire corporation. Most of the streets have storm sewerage, and all of them are close enough to storm sewerage to insure complete drainage. The storm sewerage is taken care of by Jones Bayou, which runs through the center of the town. This bayou, however, has been artificially arranged so as to be in dry weather a flowing stream of only about ten feet in width, but so dredged as to take care of the water from the heaviest rains.

All of the large business houses of the town of Merigold are brick in construction. There are thirty-one stores, all doing a flourishing business. Hotel accommodations are the very best. A three-story brick building, the largest between Clarksdale and Leland, built by John B. Thomas, gives to Merigold a hotel with accommodations suited to a town thrice its size. Hot and cold water, steam heat and all other modern conveniences are enjoyed by the patrons of Merigold's hotel. Two up-to-date drug stores and two hardware stores go to make Merigold a real town.

The Bank of Merigold is purely a home institution, being owned and operated by local capitalists and business men. It is one of the principal depositories for the county funds. Its president is W. B. Parks. Frank E. Jones, who enjoys the esteem and confidence of every man and woman in the Merigold community, is the cashier and active manager of the bank. He will accommodate in every way possible, but don't try to overdraw!

SCHOOLS

The Merigold Consolidated School District is the third largest consolidated school district in the world. Its school building in the town of Merigold is a pioneer in architecture. This magnificent structure is one-story; contains fifteen rooms and auditorium, with an actual seating capacity of 610 people; not merely able to hold 600 people, but with 600 opera chairs actually installed. The building is of brick, being faced with buff-colored face brick. The roofing is tile. Absolute protection from fire. Fire drills are unknown. Among the numerous advantages of this school building is a kindergarten room sixty feet in length by

forty feet wide. The kindergarten is a school within itself, having its own cloak room, lavatory, toilet room and private or separate playground. The corridors and passageways in this building are covered with sound-proof linoleum. The Babcock system of hot-air heating is used, giving a regular temperature of 70 degrees heat during the winter months. The auditorium is equipped with a Simplex moving picture machine. Three complete sets of scenery afford an opportunity for the students to stage almost any play they desire, one "drop" alone costing \$1,200. Electric fans are installed throughout the auditorium. A system of electric clocks places the entire school within easy touch of the superintendent, the clocks not only furnishing the time of day, but also, at a mere push of a button, conveying certain information to the teachers and to the classes.

The Merigold School is unique in this: It is one of the few schools in the world that not only owns the property upon which it is located, but it also owns the entire section upon which it is located. It owns 220 town lots in the town of Merigold; it owns three



RESIDENCE OF J. C. JONES, MERIGOLD
Reputed to be the finest dwelling in Bolivar County



MERIGOLD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL.
A Pioneer in School Building Architecture

gins; the building in which the Bank of Merigold does its business is the property of the Merigold School. The hotel, the drug store building and *one mile of the main line of the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad, with its depot*, belong to the Merigold School. The Merigold School is the richest public school in the world.

The Merigold School as it is organized today represents the consolidation of three original districts. The school building is located within the corporate limits of the town of Merigold, thus receiving the benefits of the Merigold water and sewerage systems. Numerous trucks and school wagons are maintained by the district, and every student residing outside of certain limits is brought to school each day without any expense to his or her parents. Only first grade and college graduate teachers are used, and the school is affiliated with the state colleges and the state university. If you are a farmer with four children, your chief trouble in giving them a good education in Merigold is to get them up and have them dressed in time to catch



HOME OF DR. A. M. WYNNE, MERIGOLD

the truck for school. The Merigold School is a pioneer in the proposition of consolidating country schools with town schools. This arrangement has worked out very satisfactorily. A country girl in the course of a few months easily becomes the most dashing flapper in the whole school. The trustees of the school have shown rare good judgment in selecting home-grown talent for the teachers. Fred W. Young of Tupelo is the superintendent; W. B. Saunders, a former A. & M. man, is his assistant, and the other members of the faculty are all good Mississippi-born citizens.

A. M. Wynne, Frank E. Jones, Frank Wynne, J. C. Jones, Joe Fink, W. B. Parks, A. B. Wiggins, G. C. Michie, W. W. Gilbert and H. R. Parks were men who took prominent parts in the consolidation of the Merigold schools and who deserve credit for the present excellent school system which the people of the Merigold school district have. The present trustees are A. M. Wynne, J. C. Jones and H. R. Parks.

The plans of the Merigold Public School building have been adopted by the towns of Rolling Fork in Sharkey County, by Rosedale in Bolivar County, and by towns in Alabama and Arkansas. The one-story idea of a school building has made a hit with other school districts. The picture of the Merigold School has appeared in various architectural magazines, in school magazines, and adorns the cover of the magazine gotten out by the agricultural demonstrator for Bolivar County, which magazine has been sent broadcast throughout the country.

CHURCHES

Merigold has been negligent in the past in one respect. That negligence has been cured. Our churches—Methodist and Baptist—have been housed in buildings which did not come up to the Merigold standard. However, there is now under process of building one of the finest structures that any church can boast of—it is being built by the Methodists. However, when it is said that the building is being built by Methodists, it is meant that the building is to be called the Methodist Church. As a matter of fact, Gentiles of all faiths and every Jew within the town of Merigold contributed to the building fund. This building, about one-third completed, will cost \$47,000.

The Baptist Church has let a contract on plans prepared by a Memphis architect for a new church building to cost about \$40,000. Work will be started on this building in the near future. The completion of the two

churches will give Merigold probably the two best averaged churches in the Delta.

The building committee of the Methodist Church is: H. B. Brooks, Frank Wynne and F. E. Jones. The Baptist committee: George D. Thomas, T. J. Davis and J. E. Taylor. The pastor of the Methodist Church is Rev. L. E. McKeown; of the Baptist Church, Rev. J. E. Kinsey.

There are two Bible classes in the town of Merigold, both of which have aided materially in the betterment of the town. The Big Brothers' Bible Class is a union class, having members from every denomination and from both Jews and Gentiles. This class was organized last year. The officers at the present time are: J. C. Jones, president; Mr. Harvey, vice-president; P. M. Connell, secretary, and James Thomas, treasurer. Instrumental in organizing the Big Brothers' Bible Class were Mrs. E. D. Rayner, J. S. Fincher, Dr. A. B. Wiggins, J. B. Lee and many others.

The Men's Bible Class of the Baptist Church has been a factor in the moral development of the town. W. W. Gilbert, E. M. Causey, S. P. Johnston and Mrs. Guy Waldrop are the prominent members of this class.

The Sunday school attendance in the town of Merigold averages about 500 each Sunday. The Big Brothers has a membership of over 100, with an attendance of about 60 per cent. The Men's Bible Class has a membership of sixty-three, with an attendance of 60 per cent.

The Catholic Church has a modest structure, which is one of the oldest church buildings in town. The priest in charge is Rev. Father Downing of Clarksdale.

Both the Methodist and Baptist Churches own their own parsonages.

ROADS

The town of Merigold is the business center of the Merigold Separate Road District, composed of sixty-three sections of land adjacent to the town of Merigold. In organizing the Merigold Separate Road District the promoters had in mind the organizing of a road district which would comprise such territory as Merigold drew its trade from. In other words, the road district might be called the Merigold trade territory. The commissioners are Frank E. Jones, A. J. Smith and B. S. Mount. The Merigold Road District has trunk line gravel roads leading from the town of Merigold in all directions. Main highways lead north, south, east and west. The roads are of good gravel, twelve to fourteen feet wide and from eight to twelve inches deep.



THE MERIGOLD HOTEL
Largest Hotel Between Clarksdale and Leland

You can go to Memphis, to Greenville, to Vicksburg, to Rosedale on the river, to Drew, and thence to any point east, and be on a highway as good as any built of gravel. Dirt roads are kept in good condition the year around, tractors, mules and good road machines being owned by the road district. The road tax in the Merigold Road District is one mill lower than in the other districts of the county.

HEALTH

Merigold is within fifteen minutes of the county board of health office. We have three of the best physicians in the entire Delta. They use Fords in their business calls and furnish their wives with automobiles to drive. If you think you are sick and don't care for a doctor, you can go to the board of health and have a blood test made without expense. For the past three years the mayor and board of aldermen have had on an anti-malaria drive. Under this system, inaugurated by Frank Wynne as mayor, an annual fight is made against the mosquito. All places in which the mosquito might breed are put un-



RESIDENCE OF JOHN B. THOMAS, MERIGOLD

der the ban, and water standing anywhere in the town for which there is no drainage is weekly treated with coal oil. The Rockefeller Foundation spent an entire year in Merigold and in Bolivar County experimenting on the anti-malaria proposition and as a result malaria is easily handled. The death rate in Merigold is practically nil compared to the earlier days when mosquitoes were rampant. Dr. J. P. Wiggins is at present in charge of the anti-malaria campaign.

TAXES

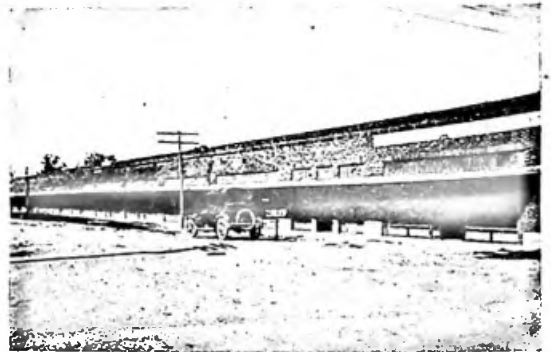
The tax rate in Merigold is the lowest in the Delta. Six mills cover the general tax, with four mills set for the waterworks and sewerage bonds. This rate is made on the assessment made by the tax assessor of the county. If you own a residence which is assessed at \$2,000, you can get fire protection, the benefits of water and sewerage, gravel roads and concrete sidewalks, for the sum of \$20. A residence assessed at \$2,000 in this county is usually worth about \$6,000. Your school tax is six mills. The lowest school tax in the other districts of the county is twelve. If you are a farmer with two mules and a wagon assessed at \$250 (which is approximate assessment of a man with two mules), and if you have four children going to school, the Merigold School will send a wagon each morning to your front door, take your four children to school, keep them there all day and return them to you in the evening, all for the magnificent sum of \$1.50. Each one of your children will cost you 37½ cents a year to receive an education as good as can be had in the land.

POLITICS

The town is normally Democratic. In the last election (held in August) we are glad to



T. E. PERRY STORE, MERIGOLD



NEW ROW OF STORES AT MERIGOLD
Just Completed by W. B. Parks

say that the town was still normal. We elected one of our fellow townsmen, A. B. Wiggins, supervisor. That gives us for the next four years the office which is of the most importance locally.

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

One of the photographs shown here represents the highest priced residence in Bolivar County. That residence is owned by a man that the writer was raised with. We went to the same one-room school; we were very often whipped with the same cane. We know him very well. Land of opportunity! The man that owns the highest priced house in Bolivar County started out less than twenty years ago as a rider on a plantation at a sum less than \$50 per month. Made it all in Merigold territory. I was talking to a man the other day who said that when he came here thirty years ago his ambition was to make \$10,000 and then go back to the hills. That man is a millionaire now, owning land in Mississippi, Louisiana, St. Louis and Chicago. Did he go back to the hills? Come over here and talk to him and you will stay in the Delta—and mighty close to Merigold.

Anyone interested in Merigold or in the Merigold territory is cordially invited to write to any of the following gentlemen, who will be glad to give them any information for which they might ask. The address of all is Merigold, Miss.:

W. B. Parks, Banker	H. H. Hightower, Druggist
F. E. Jones, Banker	F. D. Rayner, Hardware
S. F. Perry, Planter	V. L. Harrington, Mayor
A. B. Wiggins, Planter	J. S. Fincher, Clerk
Frank Wynne, Attorney	W. W. Gilbert, Merchant
J. P. Wiggins, Physician	W. H. Graves, Depot Agent
A. M. Wynne, Physician	J. C. Jones, Planter
Dr. Haggard, Physician	N. F. Kea'hofer, Drayman
Joe Fink, Merchant	James Thomas, Barber
T. J. Davis, Planter	W. C. Ryne, Restaurateur
T. E. Perry, Merchant	J. B. Thomas, Cotton Buyer
J. E. Michie, Planter	J. S. Borodofsky, Merchant
G. C. Michie, Planter	I. S. Borodofsky, Merchant
J. B. Lee, Planter	Foster's, Merchant
	Speakes Bros., Merchant

Shelby

By MRS. E. M. PEASE

THE story of Shelby's rise out of the wilderness reads like an epic poem, adventurous, heroic, romantic. Less than fifty years ago its present site was a tangle of marshy vegetation and forest trees, picturesque in its wildness, but of no service to man; the playground and lair of wild animals and game; bear and deer roamed at will; the scream of the panther and howl of the wolf wrought terror in the hearts of numberless smaller furred and feathered creatures.

Then came Man, the Conqueror, "herald of a higher race," and at once the germs of civilization were planted, whose roots clung tenaciously to an environment so fertile that growth was spontaneous and irresistible.

The wild creatures shrank farther back into the wilderness; many were luckless enough to serve for his food; from the woods of the forest came his habitation; a trail was blazed under greatest difficulties and beset with dangers to establish communication with the next habitation. Thus out of the wilderness was formed the nucleus around which has grown, gradually at first, then by leaps and bounds, one of the most prosperous and cultured commonwealths in a region favored by nature with beauty, productivity and climate, the like of which can be found nowhere else under the shining sun.

Dr. Tom Shelby was the first landowner of the section now known as Shelby. Later Mr. Godfrey Frank acquired a considerable part of it. Capt. Ike Shelby, father of Mrs. J. R. Murman, was owner of the largest farm and this was located on what is now known as the "Edwards Place," south of town. A Mr. Hume and his family lived on his farm of 150 acres, now called the "Thomas Place," south of town. Mrs. Clementine Evans owned a large place lying to the north and west. Mrs. Evans' daughter, Miss Emma, later married Dr. J. B. Pease of Concordia and Gunnison. W. H. Johnson, father of Mrs. P. L. Whitworth and W. H. Johnson of Shelby, owned a farm about one mile west of town, now the Ming Plantation. And Billie Steward owned what is now Scott Morrison's place, located about two miles east.

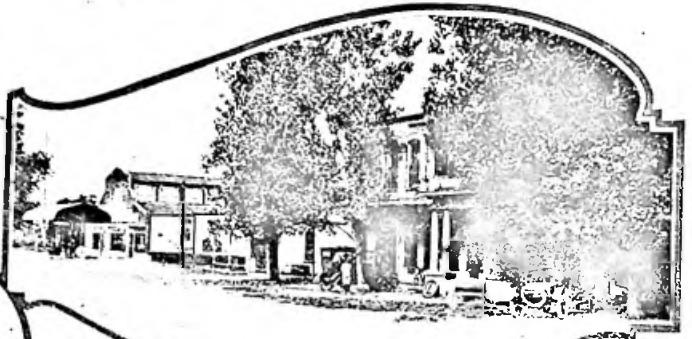
These were the earliest settlers and lived here prior to 1884, when the first railroad

was laid. Two gangs, one north and one south, were working towards each other constructing a railroad. Pat Lamb, levee and railroad contractor, had charge of the one on the north and he put up the first commissary in Shelby, a rude shack located near where now the Carter Hotel stands, which he used for a supply house for his railroad gang. These two gangs met in about August, 1884, on Mrs. Evans' place near where the Shelby Oil Mill stands, and celebrated the occasion with a gathering of settlers for a "big day" and by driving down a golden stake. On December 1, 1884, the first passenger train ran through from Vicksburg to Memphis, and the railroad was called then, as now, the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley. One of the first passengers on this road tells that one could reach one's hand out the window and pull as many switches as one wished! So much for the primitive methods of clearing and the speed of the first locomotives.

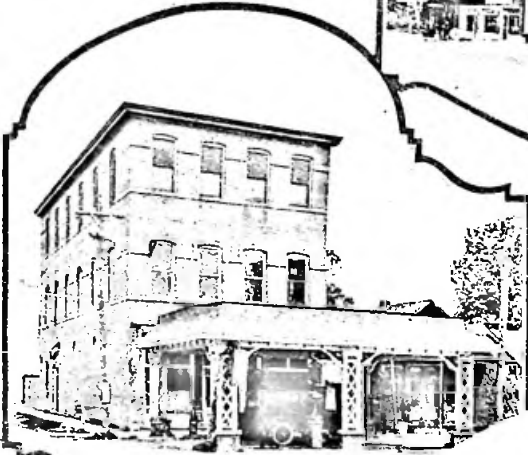
Soon afterwards, in the spring of 1885, Blanton & Postalwaite erected and opened up the first dry goods and supply store. Dr. A. P. Rose moved his family here November 15, 1885, and his was the first family to locate in Shelby. He bought out Blanton and Postalwaite and added some drugs to the stock. Dr. Rose was the first citizen, the first doctor, the first depot agent and the first postmaster in Shelby. Belle Floyd, a colored woman, opened up the first boarding house and later sold it to Mrs. A. P. Rose. These three buildings, the only ones of which the little settlement could boast, except Mr. Lamb's rude commissary, were burned on Sunday morning, June 6, 1886. Dr. Rose then built a two-room cottage on the lot where now the post-office stands, and Mr. Blanton rebuilt his store.

In January, 1887, William Connell and Dr. J. C. Brooks opened up a general merchandise store. About the same time Godfrey Frank and Joe Stafford, Sr., opened up a store of about the same description, which J. W. Thomas had charge of, later buying it out and building up a very prosperous business for himself. The first hotel was built and operated by Mr. Thomas.

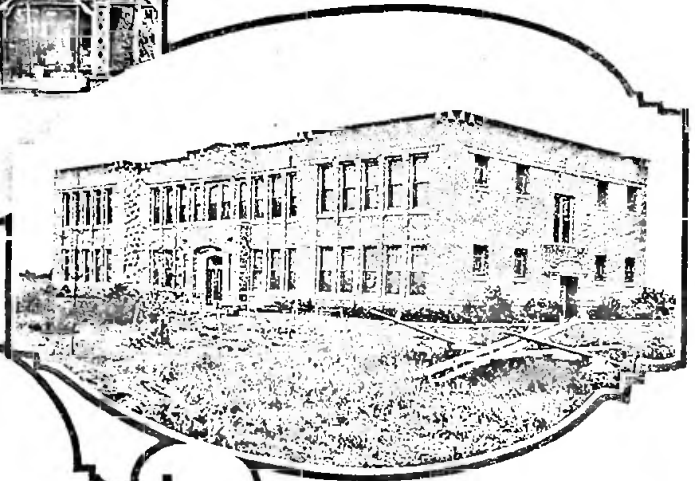
Among the first merchants of Shelby were



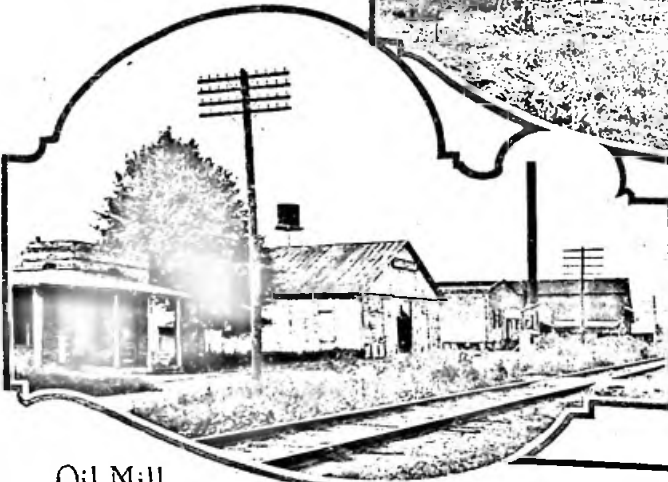
Shelby Hotel
and Rothrock-Carnes Service Station



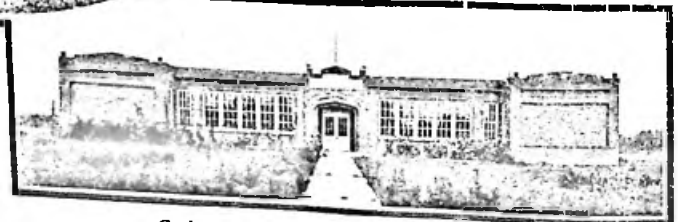
Masonic
Hall



High School - Shelby



Oil Mill



Colored School - Shelby

also A. M. Wooten, Hugo Cahn and A. M. Wynne. Dominic Camponova was one of the earliest planters and landowners.

Soon after the railroad was completed the Government officials put in a postoffice, which was called "Bellevue," because that was the name by which the original Tom Shelby plantation was known. Then the name was changed to "Shelby" by Mr. Geo. B. Shelby, Sr., who gave it that name in honor of the first landowner, Dr. Tom Shelby.

The first school was taught in the back of Dr. Rose's medical office, and the teacher was Miss Annie Luss, who roomed and boarded with Dr. Rose and wife. During the first year she had five pupils: John Overby, Walter Ming, Alice Rose, Fred Shelby and George Lombard.

The first sermon ever preached was preached by the Rev. Gladney, who was pastor of the Methodist Church at Concordia at that time, and he preached under the shade of an old oak tree near where the telephone exchange is now located. Then the next religious service was held in the back part of Dr. Rose's office, on account of the cold weather, and the sermon was preached by Rev. D. D. Milam, a Baptist minister. This was about 1887 or 1888.

The first church built was a small frame house on the lot where the Methodist Church now stands, and was recognized as a union church for about five years, when a Baptist Church was built.

To write the story of Shelby and not mention Godfrey Frank's generosity would be failing to extend honor where honor is due. Mr. Frank donated lots for the depot, the Methodist and Baptist churches, and one for the public school, on which a small frame house was built and used for years as a school, employing only one teacher.

The progress of Shelby up until about ten years ago was gradual, if steady, but since then has been almost phenomenal. Before that time there were no concrete sidewalks, stock ran at large, the school was small, with one teacher and no accredited standing, but there was a fine waterworks and sewerage system. About this time L. B. Wilkinson was elected mayor of the town. With the beginning of his administration and that of the Board of Aldermen serving with him the town grew rapidly. Concrete walks were laid; a stock law in corporate limits was passed; later, upon presentation of a petition to the Board of Supervisors, a separate district stock law was passed. In the second year of Mr.

Wilkinson's incumbency ten thousand dollars in bonds were issued for a larger school building and the number of teachers was increased to four. About three years ago a separate school district was formed, and Shelby, financed by her town board, erected a new two-story brick school building at a cost of \$85,000. This building is thoroughly modern and one of the best equipped schools in the county. It has a splendid new library, a fully-equipped domestic science room, an auditorium with a seating capacity of 500, and playground equipment complete. The school teaches a twelve-grade course and has the accredited standing which enables it to affiliate with all of the state colleges. There are thirteen teachers of the highest efficiency, culture and refinement. There is a surplus of from ten to fifteen thousand dollars in the school fund on hand at all times. Co-operating with the school is a live, wide-awake Parent-Teacher Association.

The colored school, of which J. M. Williamson is principal, is doing splendid work. Their building is a new one of brick, costing about \$30,000. The auditorium has a seating capacity of about three hundred, and most of the equipment was furnished by the Rosenwald and the Smith-Hughes Funds. The school teaches ten grades and there are six teachers employed.

After L. B. Wilkinson, Dr. Mayers served as mayor until his death, when J. R. Turney was appointed to succeed him and has served ever since, having been re-elected three times. He is a very capable and wide-awake official, and during his administration Shelby has continuously prospered and progressed. Supporting him as aldermen are five very splendid and prominent citizens: Messrs. W. H. Craven, W. W. Denton, R. L. Aarons, F. C. Bullock and Dr. J. R. Murnan.

Shelby has only a six-mill town tax for general purposes. The mayor and aldermen have so financed the town that this year they have been able to put down a new well at \$5,000 and gravel every street in the town without issuing any bonds or putting assessment on property owners. Graveled roads lead out from Shelby in every direction. We have one of the best waterworks systems in any Delta city. The average water capacity is 500 gallons a minute. Shelby has one of the finest electric light plants in the state, which produces 24-hour light, and serves Duncan, Hushpuckana, Mound Bayou and Merigold in addition to our own town.

Reports from the railroad show that Shelby

has received and shipped out more freight than any other town in the Delta except Clarksdale and Greenwood.

Shelby has in the Shelby-Citizens' Bank & Trust Company one of the best banking institutions in the state, with a capital of \$175,000 and surplus of \$100,000. The stockholders number one hundred people, all citizens of the Shelby community.

The farming land surrounding is second to none in the state or in the United States. Long staple cotton is produced, which brings a premium over short cotton of from five to ten cents per pound. While cotton is truly king, fine fields of corn, alfalfa and many other kinds of crops are raised in abundance. There is a fine pecan grove in cultivation just north of town which yields pecans whose size and flavor are unexcelled. The average number of bales of cotton ginned a year is 12,000. Shelby has five gins, two large cotton warehouses built of brick, and one oil mill. She has a large lumber yard, a wholesale grocery house, an up-to-date ice plant, and three fine, fully equipped distributing stations, one of which, the Ford Service Station, has just been completed at a cost of \$20,000 and is one of the finest in the whole state.

Of our church denominations there are three Protestant—Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist—and one Catholic, each of which

has an attractive residence for its pastor. There are two colored churches with large memberships—Baptist and Methodist. Each of the Protestant Churches has a Ladies' Missionary Society of full membership and doing a splendid service for both home and foreign missions. The Methodist Missionary Society for several years has led all other societies in this district of that denomination in the amount of service accomplished and funds raised, which has entitled it to a gold star each year on the Harvest Day Banner. The pastor of our Methodist Church is now spending a several months' vacation traveling in Europe, Egypt and the Holy Land.

As a record of achievement the story of Shelby is not unique. It is only a unit in a wonderful, splendid whole, all blending together to complete the beautiful story of the Genesis and the Exodus of the entire Mississippi Delta. Out of the wilderness into the richest, most beautiful and most productive land on the continent, where highways as smooth as floors extend in every direction; whose cities and towns exchange trade with foreign shores; whose churches and schools are unexcelled for service anywhere; and whose citizenship possesses that innate culture and refinement to which all attain who are conscious of having accomplished splendid things.

Duncan

The Best Little Town in the Mississippi Delta

SITUATED ninety-two miles south of Memphis, Tennessee, on the main line of the Y. & M. V. Railroad, sixteen miles south of Clarksdale, Mississippi, and twenty-one miles north of Cleveland, one of the county seats of Bolivar, it has a population of 500 people, 85% of which own their homes. It has a standard concrete walk to almost every home in the town, totaling nearly two miles of concrete walks; a complete sewer system constructed by expert engineers; a deep well flowing 225 gallons of water per minute, and which is piped to every home in the town; a complete and up-to-date electric lighting system, the current being brought from Shelby, Miss., twenty-four hour service at a nominal rate; graveled streets, and a good drainage system.

It has eighteen grocery and dry goods stores, two up-to-date drug stores, two feed stores, one department store, one hardware store, an up-to-date hotel where the best meals in the Delta are served, a nice restaurant, one of the liveliest little banks in the county, four modern gins, barber shops, cotton buyers and many other business enterprises that go to make up a good town. We boast of having the "Best Little Town in the Mississippi Delta."

The town owes only ten thousand dollars in bond issue, and sinking funds are created each year to take care of this issue when same falls due. Our taxes are only twelve mills, with a very low valuation. The expenses and obligations of the town are always kept within the resources derived from the taxes.

SCHOOLS

We have in the town one of the most up-to-date public schools in the state, employing four teachers, with an average attendance of eighty-five. A truck is maintained to convey the rural pupils to and from the school the entire nine months.

This school, as well as the other schools in this vicinity, including the colored schools, is supported by the state and county and from the proceeds of a section of school land east of town that is rented for \$8,500 per year. This enables us to carry on the school for full terms and to keep the building capacity in accord with the increase in attendance, which has been great within the last two years. We have planned a \$40,000 school building, to be paid for by the rent from the section of land mentioned above. We pay no school tax at all except that assessed by the state.

We have two large, up-to-date Rosenwald Schools for the colored pupils in this vicinity and are planning another to be built on the school section and to be used as an industrial school. We have at last awakened to the need of developing the educational possibilities of our section.

CHURCHES

We have one Baptist Church for white and two for colored, and one Methodist for white and one for colored in the town. All are awake to the present-day needs. There are but four people in the town who do not be-



TYPE OF THE RESIDENCES OF DUNCAN

long to some church. We have business men's prayer service every Thursday morning at 11:15 o'clock.

ROADS

We are about to complete forty miles of gravel roads with only a \$250,000 bond issue, all of which has not been spent. There is not a farmer in this district who cannot get to a gravel road within a half mile.

Our road tax is less than that of any other district in the county. We have better roads and more of them for the money than any other district in the county. *Our money from the bond issue went into the roads.*

DRAINAGE OF FARM LANDS

While almost the entire district has a natural drainage (Hushpuckana River and its tributaries running through same), we are about to complete twenty miles of drainage east of town, no one being taxed except those who are vitally benefited.

SOIL

The larger per cent of our land is composed

of high ridges and about 90 per cent of it is black loamy buckshot, the other being light sandy to sandy loam. It is adapted to any crop that can be grown anywhere. Gardens the year 'round. The Government comment on this soil near Duncan is that "It is the richest soil in the world, the Nile Valley not excepted." Our cotton is known the world over for its length and the good character of its hard, wiry staple.

HEALTH

Yes, we have no cemeteries. What could advertise healthful conditions of a community better than the absence of cemeteries?

RAILROAD FACILITIES

We have the largest depot and station from Clarksdale to Vicksburg. We have ten passenger trains (five each way) daily. We have excellent freight service, and the freight receipts at this place have been around \$75,000 during the past year.

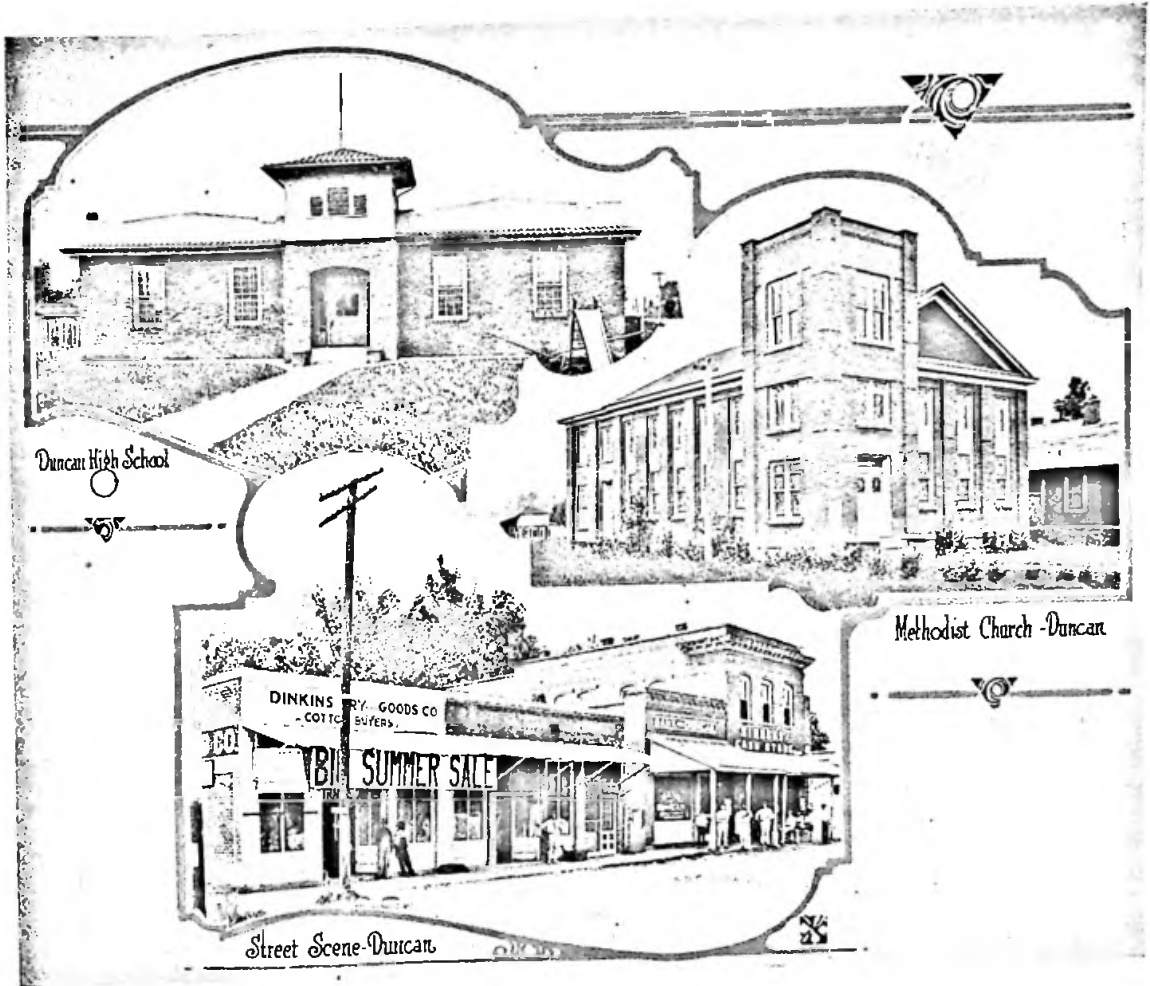
We always try to co-operate with the company to serve the public better.



THE MAYOR, BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND MARSHAL OF DUNCAN

Top Row—R. F. Smith, H. F. Simmons, A. L. Cade, Aldermen.

Bottom Row—W. C. Turner, J. H. Bochert, Aldermen; O. O. Wolfe, Jr., Mayor; I. T. Walker, Marshal.



Duncan High School

Methodist Church - Duncan

Street Scene - Duncan

Alligator

The Northern Gateway to Imperial Bolivar County

ALLIGATOR is located in the northern end of Bolivar County on the main line of the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad eighty-eight miles from Memphis, Tenn. Although a small town, it is noted for the large volume of business it handles, for the hospitality of its citizens, for the co-operation of its business and professional men, and for the universal good health of its people.

DRAINAGE OF THE SOIL

Alligator enjoys the distinction of being the highest town in the county. It is 162 feet above sea level and one of the best drained towns in the entire Mississippi Delta. It has one of the best systems of natural drainage of any town in the county, consisting of the following well-known lakes and bayous. Alligator Lake, from which the town derives its name, is a lake five to twenty feet deep, with banks fifteen to twenty feet above the water line. This lake furnishes ample drainage for our town and immediate territory, and empties into deep Hushpuckana River about one and one-half miles west of town. Howerton Lake, two miles south of Alligator, a lake with deep banks, furnishes an outlet for the

water that falls in this watershed. This water from these watersheds empties into the big Sunflower River. This network of lakes and bayous form almost a complete circle around our town at a distance of one to four miles



METHODIST CHURCH, ALLIGATOR

and furnish a system of natural drainage that can hardly be equalled. Added to this natural drainage system there is a number of well-placed dredge ditches and tile drainage that make the territory adjacent to Alligator one of the best agricultural districts in the South.

FERTILITY OF THE SOIL

The soil in this territory is as rich and fertile as can be found in the entire Delta, consisting of deep black sand, loamy buckshot and stiff buckshot—a variety of soils that will produce abundant crops of everything that grows in this latitude. The character of the soil is such that diversified farming should pay well, but so far cotton has been the principal crop grown in this territory in the past. This territory produces about 7,500 bales of cotton annually. This cotton, together with its seed, at the present price is worth well over one million dollars (\$1,000,000). All of this business is handled through our little town and is distributed through the ordinary business channels.

GOOD ROADS

Alligator has a splendid hard-surfaced road system. The thoroughfare from Memphis to



R. A. BUTLER'S RESIDENCE, ALLIGATOR

water that falls in this particular watershed. Harris Bayou and Alligator Bayou drain the territory east and northeast of the town. These bayous have well-defined deep channels and are of ample size to carry off all surplus

Vicksburg passes through our town and is a most excellent graveled road—a road that affords easy access by automobile or trucks to the larger cities. We have other gravel roads extending in all directions, affording the farmers and planters an easy way to haul crops to market. The roads in this district are of the foremost in the county and are kept in good condition by a special maintenance fund. Due to the excellent condition of these roads we have some of the conveniences of the city. Bread wagons, laundry wagons and ice wagons daily visit our homes from the nearby larger towns. A bus line runs through this town and carries our citizens to nearby towns for a small price and at convenient times of the day.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE TOWN

Artesian water, as well as good drainage and good roads, has played its part in the



M. KLINE'S STORE, ALLIGATOR

development of this country. Statistics for the past ten years will show that since the Delta has been using artesian water we have less malaria and a great deal less typhoid fever than the hill section of the state. The water supply of Alligator is furnished by a flowing artesian well 1,285 feet deep. The main well is located in the central part of town and furnishes an abundant supply of pure water for the customers and the stock brought in by them. From this main well water is piped over town and has sufficient pressure to force the water to the second story of all houses. This supply of pure water ever near is a great pleasure and convenience to the thrifty housewives of our community. Some of the plantations have had the water piped out to them, and several of the larger plantations have artesian wells of their own. This water has been analyzed and found to

be one of the best in the Delta. It is free from any bad taste or odor and is really softer than rain water, therefore it is excellent for baths and for laundry.

BUSINESS SECTION OF TOWN

Alligator is an incorporated town of 260 people. It has two schools, two churches, six-



PLANTERS MERCANTILE COMPANY GIN,
ALLIGATOR

teen brick store buildings, six frame store buildings, two blacksmith shops, two lumber yards, two doctors' offices and three modernly equipped gins.

SUMMARY

Only a brief statement of the many advantages possessed by Alligator has been attempted here. Located on high and dry land and surrounded by some of the most alluvial



GROWING COTTON, BURBRIDGE PLANTATION

farming lands in the world, it is looking forward toward further prosperity and development. The pure water supply flowing from the deep artesian wells is a strong factor in determining the health of its people. Its churches and schools, offering moral and in-

tellectual instruction, have also played their part in the development of a wide-awake town. Also the splendid gravel roads that connect the town with the farming country and with the other towns and cities furnish a means for quick and cheap transportation to the farmers of this district in moving their

produce to market. The excellent freight and passenger service furnished by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad offer quick transportation to all markets. Therefore the northern gateway to Imperial Bolivar County is a most excellent place for the man who desires health, prosperity and a happy home.



ALLIGATOR LAKE

Boyle

A Progressive Community in the Heart of the Virgin Farmland

BOYLE is a prosperous, thriving, progressive community of approximately a thousand people, situated at the junction of the main line and Peavine branch of the Y. & M. V. Railroad. In all of its characteristics it is typical of the great county of which it is an important part; the constructive motive and spirit prevailing here, as elsewhere, to build for a permanent excellence instead of for an ephemeral show. In all of the incidents of the town's growth and development that motive is conspicuous and is strikingly revealed in its social, no less than its business, institutions. It is reflected in its schools and churches no less than in the character of its business enterprises and the men who conduct them; several of the present-day notable figures in the constructive program of Imperial Bolivar being counted in its citizenship, names that are familiar throughout the Delta as builders in the current social and business development; not to know of Gaines and Thomas, of Crawford and Dakin, Dr. Shivers and Biles, not to speak of scores of other forward-looking men who make their homes here, is to argue oneself unknown in this part of Mississippi. They are each and all of them builders with vision, who know how to make their dreams come true, and the character of these men is reflected in the community of which they are both product and creators.

The occasion of the being of Boyle was the erection here in 1872 by L. V. Boyle & Co. of Obion, Tenn., in the heart of a wilderness, of a hardwood sawmill, which was gradually developed into the largest enterprise of its kind in the South, the wealth and variety of timber available for it being unsurpassed in any other region. As this business developed, an increasingly large number of men were required for its operation, and thus the nucleus of a village, named Boyle for its founder, was formed and incorporated as such, to be subsequently, in 1905, raised to the dignity of townhood.

With the coming of the Y. & M. V. Railroad in 1885, Boyle shared in the impetus given by this evangel of progress to the whole territory traversed by it. The rich lands made available for cultivation by the removal of the timber were rapidly converted into

fields of cotton and corn, and the town, becoming a community center, its interests were correspondingly broadened and other things than timber began to engage attention and enlist the activities of the men and women of the community. Adkins & Dockery established the first store soon after the building of the sawmill. Hawkins Bros. came next, and then others in succession followed the coming of the railroad. R. M. Dakin built the first brick store in 1904. In the meantime the sawmill had built, in 1898, a logging railroad to Kimball Lake, and this, having served its purpose, was acquired by the Y. & M. V. Railroad as the nucleus of what subsequently became the Peavine branch to the Riverside at Rosedale, opening up that territory and adding new impulse to the growth of the town. The first cotton gin was built in 1898 by F. J. Ward, followed by another in 1906 by Gaines & Dakin. The success of these enterprises and increasing cotton production in the surrounding territory shortly thereafter induced the erection of a third modern and well-equipped gin by C. S. Crawford, all of which are in operation today, turning out an aggregate of approximately five thousand bales of cotton annually.

With the passing of the sawmill and the coming of the cotton gin, the building of the railroad to the river side and increasing acreage given to the plow, Boyle continued to grow and prosper. Commercial undertakings were broadened and a civic spirit developed among its people to make their town an increasingly better place to live in, do business in, and raise children in. Animated by this spirit schools were established and churches built, the town boasting in its Methodist Church, erected in 1909, the first brick church built in the Delta outside of Greenville, and, with the Baptist Church, the first two brick churches in Bolivar County. No mean distinction when we count the great number of such edifices adorning the cities and towns of this rich region today. The first school, a private one, was established by six families in 1900, and the second by L. H. Gaines in 1905 on the site now occupied by the teachers' home of the splendid consolidated high school.

With substantial foundations thus laid, the era of more rapid progress and development

which began through the Delta in 1910 found Boyle's house in order for her legitimate share in that new growth and prosperity. The opportunities presented through the surrounding territory in rich virgin soils at reasonable prices brought hither many people who were soon thoroughly identified with the interests of the town and contributed to the creation of the splendid citizenship with its high moral and ethical standards which distinguishes Boyle today. A community spirit was developed that has contributed immensely to the common well-being in the social and business life, and "What is good for Boyle is good for me" is a slogan of universal acceptance. With the development of the agricultural interest came the demand for good roads, which were promptly built, and then soon followed the organization of drainage districts to promote a greater agricultural productiveness, which, in turn, meant a greater commercial activity. This meant a greater accretion of population demanding new houses to live in and do business in. Larger stores were established, and handsome residences, homes of culture and refinement, were built, and Boyle began to gain recognition as a community center of influence and importance in the county, while it boasted in its citizenry several of the recognized leaders of progress and improvement—men who were influential in all county affairs, civil and commercial. An era of prosperity ensued, one of the chief benefits derived from which was the establishment of the Boyle Consolidated High School, where approximately five hundred children of the town and surrounding territory are given the opportunity, not only of an elemental, but an advanced education, under the direction of Mr. W. Ford Bufkin, the superintendent, one of the best educators in

the state, and a very capable faculty. This school, with complete modern equipment and splendid corps of teachers, would be a credit to a town of 5,000 people, and Boyle is justly proud of it.

In its physical aspects and municipal equipment the town presents a fine example of the modern town of the better sort; every reasonable provision for the comfort, convenience and health of the citizen is here made in broad graveled streets that are kept smooth and in good repair, in concrete sidewalks, in a good drainage system that practically eliminates mosquitoes, in an abundant supply of pure artesian water for every purpose, in an electric light and power service of ample capacity for every purpose, covering day as well as night requirements, while a well-equipped and well-organized fire department assures ample protection of property against this universal menace of cities and towns. The business district is built entirely of brick and comprises the usual quota of mercantile establishments for a town of its size covering every community requirement conducted by live, progressive and substantial merchants, many of which carry stocks of goods that would be a credit to a much larger town; all do a thriving business, sustained and facilitated by one of the strongest banks in the county in the Bank of Commerce. Cotton is here the primary basis of all business, and a home market is made for it in the presence of several large cotton firms that maintain offices here throughout the season. Throughout the Boyle trade territory are a number of comparatively small farmers who own or rent farms of from 40 to 160 acres, and these constitute a constant and substantial support to the business of the town that is constantly growing and expanding.



DR. W. M. MERRITT'S RESIDENCE



S. C. CRAWFORD'S RESIDENCE

A just civic pride and loyalty to their town animates every citizen of Boyle and creates a community spirit and unity of action that counts immensely for the progress of the community, eliminating entirely the factional spirit that so frequently mars the harmony and impedes the growth of such communities. That the individual welfare is bound up in and inseparable from the common welfare is a conviction of this citizenry that is lived up to in every movement, civic, social or commercial, for the good of the town, and always enlists a hearty co-operation. A striking example of the effectiveness of this spirit in producing results was manifested during the late World War when the Liberty Bell train was scheduled for a stop there of a few hours in its tour of the South. Every citizen at once got busy to make the day a red letter one in the annals of the town, with the result that Boyle holds the record today for the largest gathering of people that was ever assembled at one time in the history of Bolivar County. Fully fifteen thousand were there that day, by their presence to testify their patriotism and loyalty to flag and country. None who witnessed it will ever forget that inspiring occasion.

Boyle is conspicuously a town of beautiful homes, where the inward motive of culture and refinement is reflected in a manifestation of outward beauty. From the modest cottage to the larger residence, in its well-kept lawn, in its flowers and shrubbery, in its noble shade trees, and in every environment is spoken the home love that is the hall-mark of the best in our civilization. The atmosphere produced by such environment has its lasting influence upon the spiritual development of the children blessed by its presence, and Boyle is rich in this priceless endowment, for it is a town of homes with happy children in them.

Supplementing the home influence, strengthening and elevating it, is the influence of the churches. Here it may be said that everybody attends church and Sunday school, and the logical fruit of that custom is realized here, as elsewhere that it prevails, in the maintenance of high moral and ethical standards, which create a sound and wholesome social and civil condition for the common benefaction. These standards are applied in the business as well as the social relation, and young men must conform to them or find other fields for the exercise of their laxities. The school and the church are positive influences that are constantly alive and active in this community to lend an increasingly finer



MARY EUDY BOOZER
Daughter of Mayor Geo. W. Boozer, Boyle

note to business and society and make Boyle a pleasant town to live in and do business in.

In addition to the usual church societies that contribute so much to the social unity in making people better acquainted with one another, Boyle boasts a Woman's Club, affiliated with the State Federation of Clubs, where the motive of a broader culture is strictly adhered to by its members and intellectual pursuits are stimulated and encouraged for the common social adornment. The women of Boyle are, therefore, distinguished more for their intelligence than for eminence in some of the lighter feminine pursuits, and this gives to the society of the town a fine note of dignity, which, supplementing other graces, elevates and strengthens the whole social estate.

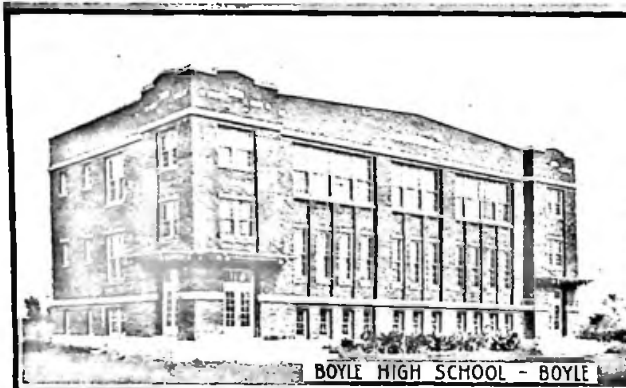
The usual quota of fraternal societies are formed here with good memberships, and

Boyle boasts one of the strongest Masonic lodges in the country, measured either by the membership rolls or the personnel that constitutes them. All of the collateral divisions of Masonry are well represented here in the leading citizens of the town.

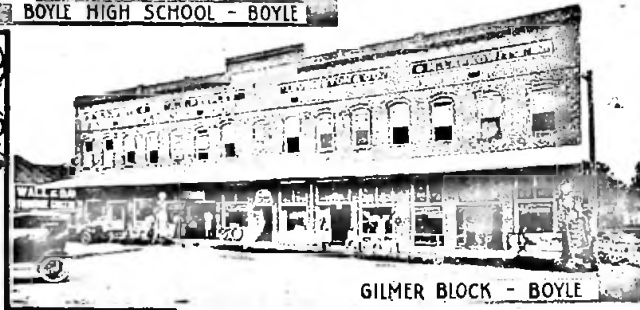
A strong Parent-Teacher Association here functions intelligently and perseveringly for the social and civic, no less than the educational, advantage, producing a fine spirit of co-operation between the school and the home for the inestimable benefit of the pupil and the fostering of a real interest in the school in every household. The personal relationship thus established between mother and teacher makes for a more perfect harmony between them, from which both profit, and the child is the signal beneficiary.

The present city government, in its personnel admirably reflecting the character of the town, is composed of Geo. W. Boozer, mayor; H. G. Smith, clerk; W. I. Hollowell, marshal; and W. A. McDill, W. M. Merritt, S. B. Farmer, C. S. Crawford and I. B. Kelly, aldermen, representative citizens and men of character, substance and business ability.

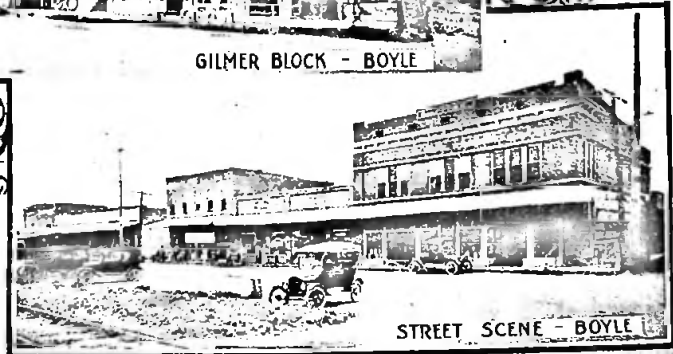
Thus briefly presenting the salient aspects of this Delta town of a thousand people, we see in its origin, its growth and development a typical picture of the potent influences that are building here in Bolivar County a splendid civilization based upon a firm and enduring economic foundation, animated by a constructive spirit that is nourished by high ideals, and sustained by sound moral and ethical standards.



BOYLE HIGH SCHOOL - BOYLE



GILMER BLOCK - BOYLE



STREET SCENE - BOYLE

Pace

By COURTNEY C. PACE

PACE, the Axis of Bolivar, the exact geographical center of the county, sitting on both banks of the Bogue Phalia, on the Y. & M. V. Railroad, midway between the two county seats, overlooking the broadest expanse of level, primeval Delta soil to be found anywhere in the state, is the most ideally located of any of the numerous Bolivar County towns. The township line which divides the county north and south, and the judicial district line which creates the eastern and western divisions, intersect within the corporate limits of Pace, rendering it near a compassed center.

It is the sole incorporated representative of the inland county. The logical trade center of this vast area. Located as it is, it is the most easily accessible town in Bolivar County. Cleveland and Rosedale, the two county seats, lie ten and twelve miles, respectively, east and west. These two towns formerly were the pivotal points in cross-country travel. Now, however, the hypotenuse roads, remarkably like the hypotenuse of a right triangle, running from Gunnison to Pace and from Beulah to Pace, have eliminated Rosedale in cross-country travel from points on its north and south. The direct roads from Pace to Shelby, from Pace to Renova, from Pace to Shaw, from Pace to Merigold, by virtue of shortened distance, have to a great measure eliminated Cleveland. Other than these roads there is the magnificent pike from Cleveland to Rosedale, connecting the two courthouses, running through Pace. In moving across the county it can be truly said that all roads lead to Pace. Also Pace is the most important town on the branch line of the Y. & M. V. Railroad, which also connects the two county seats as well as acting as the connecting link between the main line and the Riverside Division.

Pace has a population of 400 people. A live little town! With room to expand and an inherently wealthy territory to force expansion, progress is inevitable.

Commercially it is one of the leading towns in the county. It is a bustling business center, having fourteen live-wire merchants, an enterprising bank, a modern hotel, two cotton gins, a large consolidated school, artesian water and telephones centered in a trade ter-

ritory of 100 square miles of the purest alluvial Delta soil to be found anywhere in the Union. The business places are all built along a wide street and face the railroad. Across the railroad are most of the nice, neat residences. Just behind the business block flows the Bogue Phalia, a large river, furnishing the town with excellent drainage.

WATER SUPPLY

The 1,400-foot artesian well at Pace is one of the best in the entire state, flowing 250 gallons of clear, pure water a minute and sending it through its mains in a four-inch stream to homes nearly a mile away. This produces enough water for home consumption and garden irrigation.

THE TERRITORY OF THE FAMOUS BOGUE PHALIA

The Bogue Phalia is one of the most important rivers in the state. It is Bolivar County's greatest outlet and the hub of its wonderful drainage system. It handles the largest volume of water, according to the length of its course and the area of its territory, of possibly any river in the world. The Bogue Phalia is typically a Delta river, the only one which never moves beyond its boundaries.

The Bogue Phalia (Beautiful Stream) is the Nile of the Mississippi Delta. In the early formation of the Delta the Mississippi River, in the absence of its levees, would rise from its banks, spreading over and inundating the entire country. The Bogue Phalia, being the nearest river, rising only three miles from the present levee, would catch the largest volume of water, containing a fertile sediment, and would distribute this new land equally over its entire upper territory. In this way the strongest section of the Mississippi Delta was built up.

The famous Bogue Phalia territory, widely known for its long staple cotton, produces an excellent, strong fiber which has earned an enviable position in cotton circles. Many factors and cotton brokers have often admitted that for the length and strength of its staple it is in a class by itself, without a parallel anywhere in America. The market is greedy for this product, it always finding a sale at

more than an average long staple price. With average seasons it will yield three-quarters of a bale to the acre and mature early enough to successfully combat the boll weevil.

This exalted position which it enjoys is attributed to the black buckshot land on the Bogue Phalia, the richest, most fertile, level alluvial soil to be found anywhere in the Union. Up and down the banks of the Bogue Phalia, from its source to its mouth, for inherent fertility and productivity the land alongside cannot be surpassed. It is virgin soil, still new, with scattering signs of stumps yet to be uprooted. The country is as level as an imaginary line, stretching over a vast territory as far as the eye can see. Not a hill nor a roll obscures the vision, but in the distance one sees the restful green of woodland towering up into the horizon. Inoculated into this vast, level stretch is a wealth yet untouched and a capacity yet unknown.

Long staple cotton is the principal export crop, but the land will produce abundantly anything that land will produce. Corn, oats, wheat, potatoes, any leguminous crop and all hays seem here to find a natural habitat. The soil seems adjustable to fit the needs of any imported crop. Fruit, wild and cultivated, grows here in abundance. Except for the unquestioned superiority of long staple cotton over that produced on other lands this would be a section of diversified farming and varied interests.

DRAINAGE

In the beginning, the land is admirably naturally drained. There are no swamps nor lowlands that go untilled. Frequent bayous and drainage canals carry off all surplus water. The wealth of the lowlands is utilized by placing drainage canals of sufficient capacity in places of the greatest need.

ROADS

There is literally a network of public highways—highways good the year around regardless of season. Pace is approachable from any direction at any time. At one point in Pace five such roads form a juncture and move into the main thoroughfare. These roads are all graveled or under contract.

WOODLAND

Approximately three-quarters of the land is in a harvesting state of cultivation. The large portion of this land has been cleared in the last ten years. Things move swiftly here. During the month of August hundreds of acres of this land are put into cultivation.

HEALTH

Malaria has long ago been annihilated by the relentless campaign against the mosquito. Water is never given the opportunity of becoming stagnated. With his breeding place destroyed, it is seldom that a mosquito is seen.

EDUCATION

The autumn of 1920, when the Pace Consolidated School opened the doors for attendance, marks a new era in the town's development. One large consolidated school usurped the position formerly held by three scattered one-teacher schools, and replaced it with one larger, better and offering educational advantages which under the old system would have been impossible.

The building, as may be seen from the picture, is a large, commodious three-story structure, consisting of ten class rooms, a spacious auditorium, a gymnasium equipped with showers, capable as a whole of well caring for three hundred students, erected at the handsome cost of approximately \$50,000. It is a modern building with all facilities for a progressive public school. The building is lighted by electricity, well supplied with running water, sanitary fountains, heated by steam, a well-equipped stage and gymnasium.

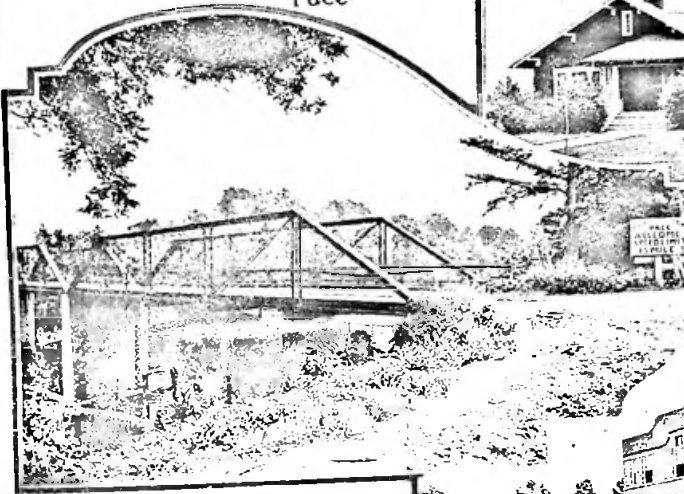
AUTOMOBILE TRUCKS CARRY CHILDREN TO AND FROM SCHOOL

The Pace Consolidated School district extends about five miles in each direction from town. This territory is covered each day, forenoon and afternoon, by five enclosed school trucks, driven by careful drivers, bringing to the doorway of the school two hundred children for their daily instruction. Every child in the district rides to school in comfort.

COURSE OF STUDY

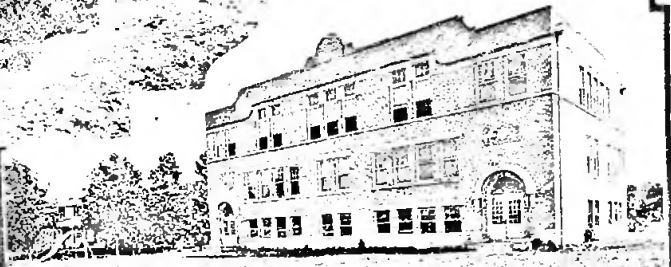
The course of study offered by the Pace Consolidated High School is a comprehensive one, embracing kindergarten, grammar grades and a high school, affiliated with all of the state colleges. The kindergarten is under the able supervision of three of the ten experienced teachers. The high school course covers all of the preliminary arts and sciences, giving practical instruction in agriculture and domestic science, though in no way derogating the value of the cultural arts, such as music, languages and expression. These are all taken as one, moulding a well-rounded, mentally-equipped graduate to assume positions in any college in the state. Music is especially stressed.

Bridge Across Bogue Phalia
Pace



Home of
J.T. Robinson

The Bond-Hyman Block



Pace Consolidated High School
Teachers' Home on Left



Home of
J.B. Bond



Bridge Across
Bogue Phalia-Pace



Home of
J.H. Pace



TEACHERS' HOME

Connected with the school is a Teachers' Home—a neat residence, adjacent to the school, where the faculty of ten members resides. This, too, has all modern conveniences, such as running water, heat, lights and telephones.

RESULTS

Pace now has a large graduating class annually, a thing which under the old system was impossible. Children of this community will every year be found enrolled in all state universities. It has accomplished wonders in creating a cultural atmosphere and educational enthusiasm, which is so essentially necessary to any great, enlightened progress. It has stimulated lethargic ambitions in the children. It has improved the town, it has improved the people, it has elevated ideas and broadened the vision of the entire community. It is the one important feature of the town. The good work that it has accomplished cannot be exaggerated, nor does its future value fall within the pale of estimation.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

There is no more graphic example of the unusual co-operative spirit and the harmonious relationship which exists among the people of Pace than that embodied in their one church. In name a Baptist Church! In reality a Union Church! A modest monument to God, erected in 1910 by and for the entire community; a center of social activities, a community gathering place, aiming at a higher and better town and country through unity and concentration of efforts, and dedicated to the common purpose of worshipping God, aided and assisted by a lively Sunday school, B. Y. P. U., Woman's Missionary Society and other similar organizations.

The time of using the church is allotted equally between the Baptists and the Methodists, the two major denominations, while the few extra Sundays which occur in each year are conserved and devoted to Presbyterian services. All of these assemblies are attended by the members of all of the various denominations, and utmost freedom and latitude are given to each of them. In a friendly and animated way these churches have always vied for superiority, but this natural rivalry has led neither to discord nor strife, but rather it has led to a broader attitude, which has been conducive to reverence and tolerance.

At the present time, in view of the startling changes of the last decade brought about by the wonderful development and progress,

the church has become too small to accommodate all of the people in the immediate territory, and it becomes evident that new and larger churches are needed to confront the late conditions. So, to facilitate religious progress, the churches mutually agreed to separate their interests and each to build a more spacious and better church.

The Methodists have already selected their site and in the course of a few months the church will be completed. Likewise the Baptists have been stimulating interest in a similar project and at the present time there is splendid promise of two better churches, working toward the same goal and able to care for a larger and progressive public.

No doubt that as the rapid growth continues more churches will be needed, and they may rest assured of a hearty welcome, co-operation and help. There will always be room in Pace for churches.

A SURVEY

Pace is a growing town. The basis for its prosperity is agriculture—the soundest, most practical basis for firm and constant progress. Enormous potential wealth in agricultural resources still lies undeveloped. Many acres of woods within a short radius of the town awaits the axe before it will unfold its bounty. All cultivated land is now yielding a wealthy harvest, but it calls for more intensive farming. More labor must be exerted, more waste utilized, more scientific methods employed before maximum production and the greatest prosperity is attained. Vast wealth demands more thorough assimilation.

At the present time the Bogue Phalia territory is under the plantation regime. Gradually, however, the influx of more stable people is being felt and the land is being sold in forty, eighty and 160-acre plots. Cottages and rural homes with flowers will soon usurp the whitewashed cabin. Herein lies the noblest promise of development.

More home builders can be used; more stable, enlightened citizens can here find prosperity. This territory is excellently adapted for rural life, with its unparalleled soil, its improved roads, its healthful climate and its consolidated school. Modern conveniences, coupled with a united and hospitable people, offer an opportunity not to be surpassed.

The greatest impetus to prosperity is in the total assimilation of resources, not in their partial absorption. In gleaning, not in reaping! Land now yielding three-quarters of a bale to the acre, or 750 bales to the 1,000

acres, under the present extensive system, can, with careful intensive farming and the utilization of science, be made to produce probably a bale and a half, or 60 bales on 40 acres. Every year, if surplus labor is not extremely plentiful, more cotton goes to waste on plantations around Pace than is produced on some of the poorer cotton lands in other regions.

This land may be either owned, rented or share cropped. Forty acres of this land, owned, well tilled and carefully supervised by a thrifty family, will produce enough by living at home and conserving the consolidated school opportunity to send all of the children through college. Forty acres of this

land may be bought and paid for in five or six years, with its inherent value constantly increasing. It may be rented for about fifteen dollars per acre, or it may be share cropped, where the landlord furnishes everything except board and labor and receives one-half of what is produced. Thrifty families on twenty acres, share cropping, can earn \$1,200 annually. It is a land where equal opportunity is given to all and anyone with ambition can rise.

Pace at present is a town of about 400 people. It is bound to grow. Its territory gives it a capacity of at least 1,000 inhabitants when it is well settled. It is a town with a future; a golden destiny yet to unfold!

Gunnison

Center of Early Development in Bolivar County

GUNNISON, a town of 600 people, ten miles north of Rosedale, the northernmost incorporated representative on the Riverside Division of the Y. & M. V. Railroad, founded within easy sight of the Mississippi River levee, possesses a keenly interesting history.

In the remote history of Bolivar there was located, two miles north of the present site of Gunnison, a thriving river town named Concordia. From the early fifties through the Civil War and extending up into the nineties, Concordia was an important harbor in river traffic, at that time the only means of transportation.

A penetrating novelist could find material in Concordia about which to weave many delightful romances. He could tell of floods; utter devastation and inundation; of immigrants moving south on the river in flatboats; of the early levee construction; of the ravages of the yellow fever scourge; of river piracy and outlawry; of vast wildernesses through which only winding trails pierced, with gigantic, impenetrable cane overlapping the top; of hardihood, fortitude and courage displayed by pioneers, unsurpassed by tales of all other frontiers; all combined with the luxuries of the old Southern plantations along a narrow strip fronting the river and gilded with ante-bellum romance.

Concordia was a thriving harbor up until the eighties, when it became very apparent that the Mississippi River was again exercising one of its vagarious whims and was changing its course by moving its deep channel further out into its bed. Soon the harbor began filling up, making it impossible for the steamboats to approach within one mile, so the freight and passengers were transported to the town in tugs.

Simultaneous with this process the new Riverside Division of the Y. & M. V. Railroad Company was under construction and moving two miles south, through what is now Gunnison, but then only a bare field. The depot was erected on the plantation of Mr. Gunnison, who has long since moved back to his New Hampshire home. Hence the name of Gunnison.

Their harbor lost and desiring to be on the

railroad, the entire population of Concordia moved to Gunnison in 1890 and started the town. The Methodist Church and the Masonic Lodge came. In the early days the lower part of the Masonic Lodge room was used as a school room, the tutoring system having long since disappeared.

Concordia today is a derelict town. A deserted village! Only a few weather-beaten and dilapidated shacks mark the site where once it stood. The landing where the magnificent river steamers anchored in the seventies is now rank woods. The river has moved. Annually, when the river is at low level, numerous log teams enter to the extent of two miles, bringing out thousands of feet of timber in huge virgin logs. The river has deviated three miles from the levee and filled the old course with the most fertile land known in the entire world.

It is such towns as Concordia and other river settlements of similar fate that make Bolivar County's history an intensely absorbing, legendary development. A more general history of the early river territory, of which old Concordia is but a part, will be found in the history of the county.

After the moving of Concordia the rise of Gunnison has been rapid and brief. Development moved swiftly. One year after its founding it was the home of a splendid county paper, the Gunnison Enterprise. It became a stable town, the center of the county's most progressive territory. Some of the chief figures prominent in the growth of the present Gunnison and the old Concordia are Blanchards, Rogeskey, Rothechild, Frank & Co., Dr. Pease, Gunnison, Wrenn, Seaton, Todd, Burts, Fitzgerald, Arnolds.

GUNNISON TODAY

Gunnison is prosperous and growing. A thriving town, centered in a flourishing territory, with seventeen stores, a sound bank (capitalized at \$15,000), a magnificent consolidated school, two churches, cool, wide, hard-surfaced streets, shaded with large Delta cottonwoods, laid off in blocks with a neat concrete walk to every door; equipped with every known modern convenience, such as telephones, running water in every home and

garden, and electric lights, wired to streets as well as the homes. It presents the most bustling atmosphere of any of the smaller towns of Bolivar County.

Located on the Riverside Division, only ten miles from Rosedale, and on the wide Clarksdale-Greenville highway, it is the most convenient northwestern approach to the county seat. From out of Gunnison rolls that magnificent cross-county pike to Shelby, a direct straight line. This pike makes every northeastern point in the county easily accessible, while the short cut from Gunnison to Malvina through Pace renders the southeastern points equally convenient. From north to south moves the Clarksdale-Greenville highway. So excellent roads put Gunnison in ready, direct touch with every county point, regardless of direction.

EIGHTY SQUARE MILES OF FERTILE, ALLUVIAL TERRITORY

The most flourishing territory in Bolivar County is that centered about Gunnison. It is that exceedingly high, level land formed by the inundation of the Mississippi River. Every year the Father of Waters would rise from its banks and roll out over the country. The country about Gunnison, fronting on the

river, would receive the fertile deposit of soil and annually it grew gradually higher and higher until the point about Gunnison is one of the highest in the county. It slopes gradually back from the levee eastward to the interior of the county, with a gentle fall to the network of bayous and drainage canals which immediately carry off all surplus water. Drainage is natural under such conditions.

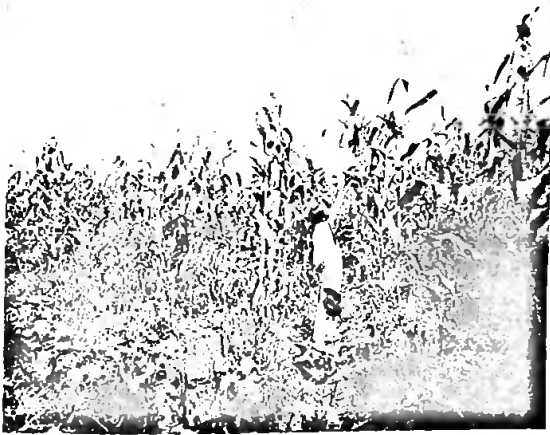
The Bogue Phalia, one of the Delta's most important rivers, rises north of Gunnison about six miles and within a short distance of the levee. This famous stream flows directly through the center of the territory within two miles of the town of Gunnison, furnishing a natural outlet for drainage for the entire surrounding country. As it slowly wends its way southward, frequent bayous and dredge ditches add their bit to its volume, forming a considerable stream by the time it reaches the heart of the local district.

The great value of the Bogue Phalia can not be exaggerated. In past ages, before there was any system of levees along the river, the Bogue Phalia served as an overflow outlet for the Mississippi. As each spring the floods would come, the channel of the Bogue Phalia would receive a large volume of water and, exactly duplicating the Mississippi,



HOME OF R. L. SLEDGE, NEAR GUNNISON

would distribute it over the country about, building up from the imported sediment a high black loam soil, the locally famous buckshot land. So between the Bogue Phalia and



JIM MCGEE IN CORN FIELD

the Mississippi, Gunnison has been extremely fortunate to gain an elevation equal to any in the county, and which is so essentially necessary to drainage.

The black buckshot lands along the Bogue Phalia from above Gunnison through the entire county cannot be duplicated anywhere in America. This land is widely known for inexhaustible virility and stamina. In the cotton world it is recognized as producing the strongest fiber of all of the Delta cotton. Cotton is the ranking crop, but exalting one crop is no disparagement of diversification.

This inherently fertile soil will produce anything. Glance at the pictures—all made about Gunnison just as they stand. See that drove of uniform Hampshire shoats, 15,000 pounds of meat in July, raised upon an alfalfa pasture just south of the picture, with a little addition of home-grown corn. Notice the field of corn in the illustration, forty acres, two to three ears of matured corn on every stalk, capable of seventy-five bushels to the acre without the addition of a pound of fertilizer, right upon the bank of the Bogue Phalia. A short distance from the Bogue Phalia is the orchard, a home orchard, about one acre of exuberant Concord grapes, bending peach trees intermingled with pears and apples—fruit with every season.

A town is as wealthy as its territory and as prosperous as its people, so Gunnison has refrained from showing any snapshots of the town itself, but has included the vast re-

sources of the territory. Words might describe a shaded town, but words can never picture the crops, orchards and live stock, all redolent of general prosperity.

The country about Gunnison is a country made up of large plantations, all ante-bellum. The glamored Old South is incarnated here. The ante-bellum mansion of the Sledge plantation, one of the oldest in the county, is but typical of the many homes scattered over the territory.

But the plantations do not monopolize the large territory. There are many of the small forty-acre farms, owned and tilled by small farmers—that firm, substantial, solid foundation so essential for stably established prosperity. A forty-acre farm that raises a money crop of long staple cotton, produces feedstuff for the stock, an alfalfa hog pasture, and makes a garden, keeps the family in comfort, with a tidy bank account secured, educates the children through college, is considered the greatest investment for the farmer, as well as the community, that can be made.

WATER SUPPLY

The water in rural Gunnison is as adequate as in the town itself. Within a radius of five miles of the town there are seven ever-flowing artesian wells that are now piped over the greater portion of the total territory. With



DR. H. L. COCHERHAM IN PEACH ORCHARD

a reasonable expense running water may be put into every home in the entire Gunnison community. Also within the same radius there are ten cotton gins, which are the greatest monuments to Delta prosperity.

Every plantation around Gunnison has a

gravel road running through it except two. This means a gravel road in every direction, which includes an approach to every acre of land.

Under such prosperous condition, with the greatest drainage in the world, health could be none other than the best. The high, well-drained land, the sanitary conditions thus afforded, combined with a consolidated school which lays especial stress upon hygiene, has gone far toward building up an ideal place to live.

UNDEVELOPED RESOURCES

Behind the levee lies thousands and thousands of acres of the richest land in the world, nowhere excepted. The main channel of the river is three miles from the levee. In this intervening strip is a vast stretch of woods. Except for a few hundred acres, this is all uncultivated. This land, from May to September, is many feet out of the water, and the vast fertility of it may easily be imagined, as every year the river comes out upon it and lays against the levee.

This land will some day be all utilized for summer crops. At present the few hundred acres in corn, which grows twenty feet high, producing enormously, is but a mere bagatelle to what shall some day be here produced.

THE IMPREGNABLE GUNNISON LEVEE

Gunnison is protected by a huge levee which follows the course of the river within sight of the town. A veritable bulwark, sodded with green Bermuda, protecting plantations from floods, homes from inundation, and the entire country from the devastating ravages of water, is the greatest asset Gunnison has or could have.

Spring after spring the muddy, turbulent waters of the Ohio and the Missouri have been loosed of their wild annual rampage southward to the gulf, heaving and boiling with the relentless pressure, and assaulting this immense dike, at times dashing and breaking its waves upon its crest, but for forty years it has stood there grimly, never trembling nor wavering, but with remorseless consistency has pushed this tremendous volume of water, miles across and many feet in depth, southward. Gunnison has never had a break in its levee and never shall.

It is a massive structure, made of millions of tons of dirt, bound and tied together by the tenacious roots of Bermuda. The cost of building this has been tremendous, but it is the one thing that has made this wonderful country possible. It is maintained by both the local Delta and the Federal Government.

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

When Gunnison was founded out of the citizenship of the previous Concordia the lower floor of the Masonic Hall was used as a school room. Later a neat little school was built, accommodating probably fifty pupils and two teachers. But as progress glided on with the development of the country it was soon evident that this school was inadequate for the town and community.

A school like this has many faults. In a school such as this there is no room for the development of the cultural arts, of which music and expression are the most conspicuous examples. Two teachers are handicapped in teaching all of the grades which are necessary even in a kindergarten and grammar school. But the greatest deficiency of this method of education is in the neglect of the



GUNNISON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

rural children who live beyond a comfortable distance from the town. With the changes of season, in the winter's cold and rain, it is impossible to expect children of tender years to tramp through the mud and slush three and four miles to school.

The people of the Gunnison School District realized this and sought some remedial improvement.

In the early part of 1922 the Consolidated School project was launched, enthusiastically advocated, and the building was soon under process of construction. The building, as may be seen from the picture, is a wide, low structure, consisting of six commodious class rooms, a large auditorium, a gymnasium equipped with steam heat, electric lights, running water, and all other facilities needed in a public school. The auditorium is capable of seating 300 persons, which, with an excellent stage and adequate scenery, is the center of much of the church and social activities.

The Consolidated School District consists of about seventy-five square miles. This territory is plowed in every direction, morning and night, by four enclosed trucks, driven by careful drivers, bringing to the door of the school all of the school children in their vicinity. These trucks are run on the expense of the school, costing the individuals not one cent except the proportional tax levy.

The building sits in the center of one of the most lovely groves in Bolivar County. Large, magnificent trees add a certain quiet attractiveness to the building, besides furnishing a cool, refreshing shade for both the class rooms and the playground. The playground is equipped with all facilities that attract and engage the attention of healthy pupils.

The course of study embraces as wide a range as any school in the county, including music and expression, varying from kindergarten through the high school graduation. The school is under the capable supervision of six efficient teachers. There is a special instructor in music and expression, and both of these are stressed through all of the grades. School recitals for these students at frequent intervals greatly accentuate the interest of the students in these two very important cultural branches. In the Gunnison Consolidated High School there is every facility which goes to make an up-to-date, modern, accredited high school.

The town of Gunnison and the surrounding country will now every year finish a high school graduating class and have entrants into every college or university in the state. In former times this has been impossible, for the schools only went to the eighth grade. From the eighth grade upward it was necessary to leave home to prepare for college. This system was not conducive to higher education.

The present school promises, in educating its boys and girls, town as well as rural, the grandest gift that can be bestowed upon any community. The education of the youth, enlarging his vision, dreams and ambition, will give progress an irresistible surge forward and place Gunnison in one of the leading places in the county.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

Both the Baptists and the Methodists are very creditably represented with each a nice church and a parsonage. These two churches are the center of all of the religious activities. The Methodist Church was moved from Concordia and the Baptists built a little later, so both are old and well established. The present majority of people subscribe to one of these two denominations, but the utmost deference and latitude are extended to members of all denominations.

Each of the churches is in every way modern, well furnished and lighted, with Sunday school rooms, erected at the present cost of about \$5,000 to \$7,000. The neat five and six-room parsonages provide comfortable, convenient quarters for each of the pastors, built next to the respective churches and providing all of the conveniences that Gunnison affords.

The pastors of each of the churches divide their time with a neighboring town, thus rendering a greater service to a wider field of activities. But the dates are always so arranged that there will be service at one of the churches while the other pastor is engaged in the other field. This forms a solidifying union between the two churches that greatly enhances their endeavors.

Gunnison, however, shall not cease to progress in a religious way; it shall continue to climb ever higher. All denominations among the people of the territory shall grow as the community grows, and all denominations shall have churches—the vital center of their functionings.

Short Biographies of Some of Imperial Bolivar's Outstanding Builders

GENERAL CHARLES CLARK, WAR GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI

CHARLES CLARK was a successful lawyer of Jefferson County when war was declared on Mexico. He went to the war as captain of the Jefferson County company and became colonel of the Second Mississippi Regiment. In 1852 he purchased a large tract of land on the Mississippi River just north of Prentiss, in Bolivar County, and moved his slaves and family to Bolivar County, where he cleared and put in cultivation a fine plantation. When the Civil War occurred it was one of the best improved plantations in the county. When the war between the states began, he raised a cavalry company, the Bolivar Troop, of which he was elected captain, but shortly afterwards, being appointed brigadier-general in the Confederate army, he was succeeded by Capt. F. A. Montgomery, afterwards colonel of the First Mississippi Cavalry. The following short sketch of his life is taken from "The Reminiscences of a Mississippian," by Col. F. A. Montgomery:

He served in the Legislature from both Jefferson and Bolivar counties. He was colonel of a Mississippi regiment in Mexico. He was early appointed by Mr. Davis a brigadier-general in the Confederate army, and commanded a division in the battle of Shiloh, where he was wounded in the shoulder, carrying the bullet with him to the grave.

He also commanded a division in the battle of Baton Rouge. In this battle he received a wound which shattered his thigh, and his horse, being shot from under him and falling on him, broke three of his ribs. Being considered by the Federals to be beyond recovery, Gen. Clark was allowed to be carried by his aide, young William Yerger, to New Orleans, where he was placed under the care of his old friend, Dr. Stone, an eminent surgeon of that day. After a struggle of many months he sufficiently recovered to be exchanged and returned to Mississippi. He was never able afterwards to walk without a crutch.

He was elected governor of Mississippi in 1863, and this trying position he held until forced by a Federal bayonet to yield. He was literally ejected from his office by force, refusing to give it up on demand, for he said

he had received it from the people of the state and to them alone would he surrender it. He was taken prisoner to Fort Pulaski, and there confined with other distinguished Southerners until finally released by orders of Federal authorities.

On his return home he resumed the practice of law in partnership with his son-in-law, Major W. E. Montgomery, continuing in the quiet pursuits of private life until the summer of 1875, when he took an active part in the redemption of the state from the blight of carpet-bag rule. The people of the state at this period had about lost hope, but, gathering courage from despair, a taxpayers' convention was called and held in Jackson during the summer of the year, and Gen. Clark, a delegate from Bolivar, was elected chairman. This was the entering wedge. The people rose in their might and white supremacy was restored forever in the state by the election in that year. Shortly afterwards, retiring from the practice, Gen. Clark was appointed chancellor of his district, which office he held until his death in December, 1877.

He sleeps his last sleep on a high mound built by some ancient unknown race, but as long as the history of his state is read his name and fame will live.

COL. F. A. MONTGOMERY was a planter in Jefferson County prior to 1855. He married Charlotte, a sister of Gen. Charles Clark, in 1848. He removed to Bolivar County in 1855 and opened a plantation on Indian Point. In 1858 he removed to the plantation he named "Beulah," where the present town of that name is situated. He was a public-spirited man and was soon made president of the Board of Police of Bolivar County. In 1861, when war between the states was declared, he enlisted in a cavalry company called "The Bolivar Troop," of which Charles Clark was captain. Upon the appointment of Capt. Clark, formerly a colonel in the Mexican War, as a general in the Confederate army, F. A. Montgomery was elected captain of the company. Later he was elected lieutenant-colonel of the First Mississippi Regiment, Armstrong's Mississippi Brigade, which position he held upon the close of the war. He was

captured in the last battle of the war, fought at Selma by Gen. Forrest, was paroled and returned to his home on Lake Beulah, named for his plantation home. He found his home and all buildings on the plantation except one negro cabin had been burned by the Federals. A skirmish occurred at his home; a party of reconnoitering Federals, occupying the premises, were surprised by a squadron of Confederates, resulting in a lively skirmish. Reinforcements from the Federal gunboats at hand forced the Confederates to withdraw. As a retaliation the home and all buildings were burned.

He rebuilt a rough but comfortable home, and with the help of many of the old slaves who returned to him, he began to build up his plantation. Being a comparatively young man, he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and soon built up a lucrative law practice. His home was one of the first buildings erected in Rosedale, and is still standing and occupied by his two daughters, Misses Matilda and Lottie Montgomery. He was active in the organization of the Democratic party of 1875, and was elected chairman of the first Democratic committee of the county. In 1879 he was elected as a member of the Legislature, in which he served three terms. He retired from the practice of law in 1896 when appointed judge of the Circuit Court of his judicial district. He celebrated his "golden wedding anniversary" in January, 1898.

Col. Montgomery died December 17, 1903, at his home in Rosedale, leaving surviving him seven children, Jefferson, Frank A., Jr., Mattie M. Moore, Hattie M. Dulaney, Annie M. Hull, Matilda and Lottie Montgomery. He was a man of kindly nature, of distinguished ability, public-spirited, and always took a leading part in matters of public interest. The last one of the Bolivar Troop, his old company, David Reinach, followed him to the Great Beyond in January, 1923.

FREDERICK CLARK, or, as he was known, "Fred" Clark, only son of Governor Charles Clark, inherited his father's talent for chancery law. He was a splendid lawyer, a high-class, honorable gentleman. He had the confidence of the people and the love of his friends. As a lawyer he was diligent in his office, fluent and logical as an advocate, and strong in the argument of legal questions. His firm of Moore & Clark built up one of the best law practices in the county. He married Margaret, youngest daughter of Judge Winchester of Natchez, Miss., one of

the loveliest girls in the state. Of this marriage, Charles, Fred and Dulaney, sons, and Fannie, Anna, Margaret and Louise, four daughters, were born. He was twice married,



FRED CLARK

his second wife being Miss Elizabeth Tony of Pine Bluff, Ark., who survives him. Of this marriage, Helen, a daughter, was born. He died at his home in Cleveland, Miss., in 1905.

MAJOR W. E. MONTGOMERY became a law partner of his father-in-law, Gen. Charles Clark, in Bolivar County, immediately after the war, the firm having one of the largest law practices in the state. In 1874 the firm was dissolved, Major Montgomery moving to California and Gen. Clark to Natchez, Miss.

During the Civil War he was a major in the Confederate army. He owned a fine colonial home on Bogue Phalia in Bolivar County, which was burned by the Federals in retaliation for the burning of a trading boat by his company upon which was found a captain of a gunboat conveying the trading boat.

Major Montgomery returned from California with his family to Natchez, Miss. His wife was Mary Adelia Clark, oldest daughter of Gen. Charles Clark, and fifteen children were born of this marriage, three sets of twins among them, one of the twins, Samuel, being a practicing lawyer at the Cleveland bar.

Subsequently he moved from Natchez to his

father's old homestead, "Locust," in Washington County, which he inherited.

He was elected secretary and treasurer of the Board of Mississippi Commissioners, which office he held for four years, dying soon after his term of office expired.

He was a man of fine character and public spirit.

(From Dunbar Rowland's "Biographical History.")

HONORABLE WALTER SILLERS of Rosedale, Bolivar County, is one of the leading members of the bar of that section of the state, an ex-member of the State Legislature and a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Mississippi. He was born on the home plantation near Fayette, Jefferson County. His grandfather, Walter Sillers, was of Scotch descent, born in North Carolina, and from that state came to Mississippi while it was a territory. His father was Joseph Sillers, who served under Jefferson Davis in the Mexican War, and also through the four years of the Civil War, dying in April, 1865, while a prisoner of war in Vicksburg, Miss. His mother, Matilda (Clark) Sillers, a sister of Gen. Charles Clark, a general in the Confederate service and governor of Mississippi during the war. Her father, James Clark, who moved to Ohio from Maryland, came to Mississippi from Lebanon, Ohio, in the early thirties with a large family, many of whose descendants are prominent in Mississippi history today. Just before the war Joseph and Matilda Sillers moved to Bolivar County from Jefferson County with three small children, James, Anna and Walter, and opened a plantation on Lake Beulah, where the subject of this sketch lived during his boyhood. He attended college at Oxford, Miss., and read law in the office of his uncle, Col. F. A. Montgomery, and was admitted to the bar in 1875. He organized the first Democratic Club organized in Bolivar County. He has established a reputation as one of the well-read and able attorneys and counsellors of the state. He has always been active and prominent in levee affairs and was attorney for the Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners for eight years. After the disastrous overflow of 1897 it was largely due to his efforts before that body that the United States River Commission greatly increased its appropriations to the levees of the Mississippi District. During his attorneyship for the levee board litigation for and against the

board was exceedingly heavy, involving intricate questions of law and thousands of dollars, which vast litigation he managed with exceptional ability and success. In the case of the Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners v. Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Company, in which Mr. Sillers was leading counsel, the board recovered \$125,000. He was afterwards, in 1915-1916, president of the Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners. He has always been an ardent Democrat and was a member of the Democratic executive committee of his county in 1880, and by his persistent efforts secured the adoption of what was known as the "Bond Resolutions" by that committee, pledging all Democrats not to go on the official bonds of negroes, radicals or bolters, which measure struck the death blow to radical rule in Bolivar County. He was for many years a member of the state executive committee and is a prominent figure in state and county politics and is influential in the councils of the Mississippi Democracy. He was married in 1880 to Ida Gayden, daughter of George L. and Martha Gayden of Bolivar County, Mississippi, who died in 1883. He was again married in 1887 to Florence Carson Warfield, daughter of Col. Elisha Warfield and Mary Carson Warfield of Kentucky. Their five living children are Walter, Mary Warfield, Florence, Evelyn and Lilian Burrill.

OSCAR G. MCGUIRE, youngest son of Judge Joseph McGuire, was admitted to the bar in the seventies and was a successful practitioner for a number of years.

He married Miss Pinkie Gerhart, who died without children.

He took an active part in the campaign of 1876, and was one of the leaders in the politics of the county for a long number of years, at one time being the district attorney for his district.

THOMAS SCOTT OWEN, son of James and Martha Scott Owen, grandson of Judge Thomas Scott of Louisiana, was born at "Glenwood," the plantation home on Lake Beulah, on November 5, 1870. Being left an orphan in early childhood and all of his family having died, he was reared in the home of his brother-in-law and guardian, Walter Sillers.

After his return from college he studied law in the office of Walter Sillers, was admitted to the bar and became his law partner.

Later the firm became Moore, Sillers & Owen, and after the death of Mr. Moore became Sillers, Owen & Sillers.

He married Miss Miriam Roby and had one daughter, Katherine. He died at his home in Cleveland, Miss., in November, 1918.

He was one of the most splendid men Bolivar County ever produced, one of the ablest and most successful lawyers in the county. He was public-spirited without being self-

seeking. His firm of Sillers, Owen & Sillers organized the first drainage district of the county, the work largely devolving upon him—a work in which he took great interest and to which he diligently applied himself.

He was always a leader in every public move for the good of his town, county and state. He was loved by most who knew him and respected by all. His influence for good in this county will long be felt.