

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

MARIE BANKHEAD OWEN, *Editor*

EMMETT KILPATRICK, *Co-Editor*



Published by the
State Department
of
Archives and History

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SPRING ISSUE

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EDITORIAL

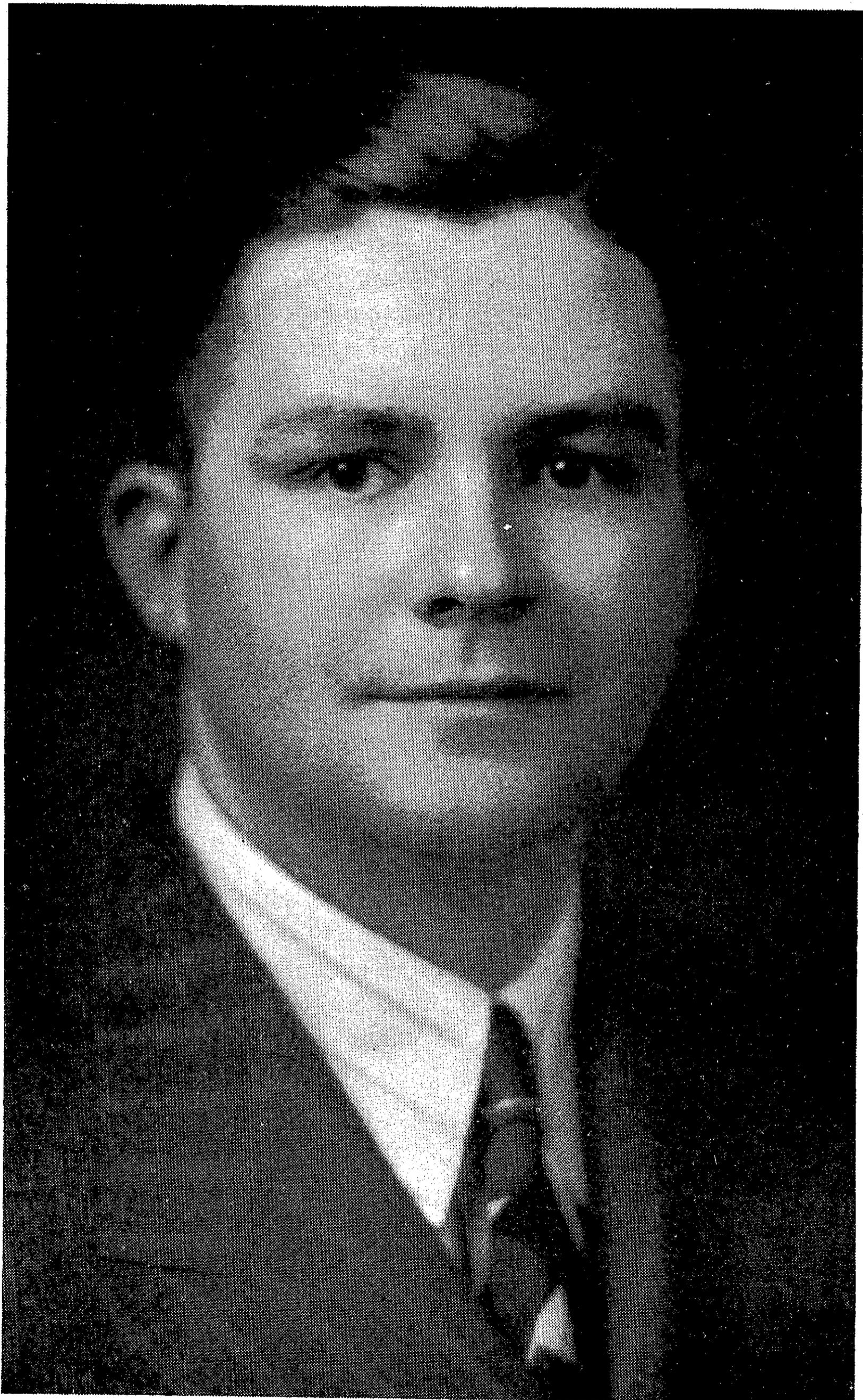
The contents of this issue of the Quarterly consists of a variety of subjects, all historical and informing to the reader. The Editor who was present at the commemoration of Wetumpka's Founders Day, was inspired with the hope that every County in the State would follow the example of Elmore and inform the present generation of its past history as well as its current opportunities. The luncheon attended by several hundred local leaders as well as celebrities from throughout the State had as the climax of its many brilliant addresses a speech by Thomas D. Russell of Alexander City which is presented in this magazine with the approval of those who heard it.

The article on "Historic Sites in Alabama" is a continuation of the subject from the last two Quarterlies and will be concluded in the next issue. The sketches of Miss Frances Nimoo Greene, of Montgomery and Birmingham, and Mrs. Belle Richardson Harrison, of Tuscaloosa, brilliant Alabama writers who are both now dead, inform the present generation of the work of those two celebrated women. Sketches of other women writers will follow in future issues of the Quarterly.

Those in Alabama and other States who are not familiar with the painful struggles of our people under Reconstruction, will be greatly enlightened by Mr. Cecil E. McNair's article. "Reconstruction in Bullock County," written in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts at the University of Alabama in 1931.

The first half of Mrs. Ella Christian's article "The Days that are No More" appeared in the last issue of the Quarterly and is concluded in this one and gives our younger readers an insight into the home life of a typically aristocratic family, surrounded by slaves and also shows the changes in that household following the end of the War Between the States.

Editor.



Merrill C. Wall, Mayor of Wetumpka, Ala.

MERRILL CRAWFORD WALL

Mr. Wall, Mayor of Wetumpka, was born October 30, 1912, at Wetumpka, Elmore County, and is the son of Thomas Crawford and Lovie I. (Bachelor) Wall, also of Wetumpka. His grandparents were E. Z. and Nancy Wall, of Eclectic, and John and Laura A. Bachelor, of near Wetumpka.

Mayor Wall was educated in the grammar school and graduated from Wetumpka High School, May 1930. He graduated at the University of Alabama with the B. S. degree in the School of Commerce and Business Administration, 1934, and in the Law Department of the University in 1937 and entered upon the practice of that profession in Wetumpka in September of the same year.

He was Special Agent, Counter Intelligence Corps, Military Intelligence, U. S. Third Army; also U. S. 12th Army Group, in France and Germany, 1942-1945; Sergeant in U. S. Air Corps, 1942. He was elected Mayor of Wetumpka, 1952, a position he holds at the present time. He is a Democrat and a Baptist.

Married: April 26, 1950, at Wetumpka, Marion Frances, daughter of Paul and Josephine M. Arant, of that town. Children: (1) Nancy Ann Wall.



WETUMPKA FOUNDERS DAY, FEBRUARY 13-14, 1953

By Marie Bankhead Owen

The enterprising people of Wetumpka celebrated its 119th birthday on February 13th and 14th, the occasion being another milestone in the history of one of Alabama's oldest communities. Wetumpka is the County seat of Elmore County and is located on the Coosa River at the head of navigation, twelve miles northeast of Montgomery. The County is rich in natural resources and was perhaps more densely peopled than any other section of the Creek Indian Nation. Practically all of its many village sites have been identified, their history written and many of them marked by the Alabama Anthropological Society and patriotic organizations.

DeSoto passed through the section on September 1, 1540, entering it near what is now Central and after visiting Ulibahali, crossed the river just below the former Wares Ferry. There are many large mound and town sites throughout the County. Four miles south of Wetumpka on the Coosa River the French when they occupied Alabama located a fort in 1714, named it Toulouse in honor of the son of Louis XIV, and head of the French Navy. The site was well chosen as it connected the Indians and the great trade routes from the Carolinas to the Louisiana country and was at the head of navigation of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers, the two great streams which form the Alabama River, for which the State itself is named. Another purpose the French had in building the fort was to check the military and commercial advances of the British.

The history of the fort was romantic although full of conflict. Marchand, who commanded the fort, married the Indian princess, Sehoi, by whom he became the father of a little girl who in later years married the Scotch trader, Lachlan McGillivray, and herself became the mother of the distinguished Alexander McGillivray.

Another Commandant, around whom is woven a romantic story, was D'Aubant, whom it is said was married to a Russian princess and that he brought her to the fort and built a cabin in a field near by that she might have more comfortable quarters.

After the Treaty of Paris, when France ceded all of Louisiana east of the Mississippi to the English, the French Commandant spiked the cannon and the fort finally fell into disuse and decay. However, in 1814, after General Andrew Jackson had defeated the Creek Indians, the fort

was repaired to some extent and there General Jackson on August 9, 1814, concluded a treaty of peace with the Creek leader, William Weatherford, "Red Eagle," who rode into the camp and begged General Jackson to let the old people and children who were dying in the swamps and woods to go to their homes. The site was marked by the Colonial Dames in 1911, and the State purchased a small acreage which is now under the Conservation Department.

Elmore County was created by the Legislature, February 15, 1866, its territory originally part of four other Counties. It was named in honor of John Archer Elmore, a native of Virginia, a soldier of the American Revolution in the Virginia Line, afterwards a member of the Legislature of South Carolina, an early settler of Alabama and a member of the Legislature and a General in the militia of the State. The family residence "Huntingdon," is a very handsome country home, still owned by members of the Elmore family. The family burying ground is on the place.

By an Act of the State Legislature the City of Wetumpka was incorporated in 1834. In addition to being an historical occasion, Founders Day was designed to bring to the attention of the industrialists and executives throughout the country the assets of Wetumpka. The idea was first advanced as a Trade Day by the Wetumpka Herald. However, after several conferences it was felt that "Founders Day" would be more fitting. Mr. Austin R. Martin was Chairman of the Founders Day Committee and Mr. Will Lacy, President of the Retail Merchants Association and his organization were sponsors of Founders Day. The Mayor of Wetumpka, Oklahoma, co-operated with the program and brought a number of citizens from that namesake town of Wetumpka to the celebration, including some Indians. The morning program was held in the open in front of the Court House and included speeches, choral music and a number of unique features. Mr. Merrill C. Wall, Mayor of Wetumpka, presided at these exercises.

Enthusiasm was aroused by the Wetumpka Herald which brought out an Extra carrying the programs and a great many historical items, among them the statement that Wetumpka was settled by white people in 1714, although of course, there were already many Indians in the community. It was incorporated in 1834, and the census of 1950 showed

a population of 3,813. In addition to historical articles the Herald had many sketches of men and organizations making history of the community at the present time .

In addition to Wetumpka there were sketches in the Herald of other Elmore County towns, including Tallassee, Eclectic, Elmore, Robinson Springs, Coosada and Millbrook among them. Emphasis was laid upon the fact that there is in the County an abundance of water power, natural gas, natural resources and fine agricultural land and that in addition to the agricultural crops the County is stressing livestock. It was also stated that the County of Elmore has a population of above 31,000 and that it has no bonded indebtedness. The assessed value of property is \$20,942,468, and there are 6,745 automobiles and vehicles of all types. One of the articles in the newspaper was a story of the interesting historic old homes of the town and community and Wetumpka's early churches. A luncheon was held at the Community House with several hundred people present, including visitors from other points as well as local business and professional leaders.

In the afternoon a parade was held in the business district, and the floats were historical and of great interest. That night there was gospel singing and the following day there was a basket ball game between visitors from Wetumpka, Oklahoma and local Wetumpka players. The program wound up with a square dance at the Community House on Saturday night.



Thomas Dameron Russell

THOMAS DAMERON RUSSELL

Mr. Russell was born October 12, 1903, at Alexander City, Tallapoosa County, Alabama, and now resides at that place. His parents were Benjamin and Roberta Bacon (McDonald) Russell, also of Alexander City, the former the President of Russell Manufacturing Company, also of the First National Bank of Alexander City and the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce. His grandparents were Benjamin Francis Commander and Elisabeth (Henderson) Russell, of Alexander City, and Joseph Bibb and Henrietta Alston (Bacon) McDonald, of Athens, Ala. Both grandfathers were soliders in the Confederate Army and the Grandfather McDonald was County Solicitor of Tallapoosa County. His great-great-grandfather William McDonald and his father, Joseph McDonald, fought in the Revolutionary War, as did his great-great-grandfather John Russell. Lt Bryan McDonald came to America in 1684 and settled in New Castle, Delaware. His great-grandfather Jessie Russell settled in Tallapoosa County, Alabama, in 1844. His great-great-great-grandfather James Russell, came to Charleston, S. C., in 1754 from England.

Mr. Thomas D. Russell was educated in the public schools of Alexander City and graduated with the degree of A.B. at the University of Alabama in 1925 where he was a member of the Chi Phi Fraternity and the Arch Club. He began his work with the Russell Manufacturing Company at Alexander City in 1925 and has occupied the positions of Purchasing Agent, Vice President in 1930, and President in 1945. He has also been Vice-President and President of Russell Foundry Company, Alexander City Manufacturing Company, Alexander City Grocery Company and Director and Chairman of the Board of the First National Bank of Alexander City. He has been President of the Alexander City Board of Education from 1948 to the present, also of the Planning Board from 1946 to the present and Chairman of the Governor's Committee on Aid to the Handicapped. He is at this time President of the State Chamber of Commerce; Director, American Cotton Manufacturers Institute, 1952 and member of its Executive Board, Vice-Chairman, Underwear Institute, 1952; Chairman of Board, George Washington Carver Foundation, 1949 to the present; a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, Howard College and Tuskegee Institute. He is

also a member of the Newcomen Society and the Sons of the American Revolution.

Married: in Attalla, March 7, 1929, Julia Antoinette, daughter of George Philips and Beatrice (Gentry) Walker, of Attalla. Her paternal grandparents were Dr. Virgil Homer and Antoinette (Walker) Walker; maternal grandparents were Rev. Robert David and Nancy Crawford (McLeod) Gentry. All four grandparents came from around Eastmas, Ga. The great-great-grandfather, George Walker, came to America in 1750 and served in the Revolutionary Army. Children: 1. Nancy Elisabeth, m. Eugene Cleveland Gwaltney, Jr., Alexander City; 2. Julia Walker, m. Robert Wilson Goree, Atlanta, Ga.; 3. Ann Roberta, m. William Gordon LeGrand, "Russwood," Alexander City.

ADDRESS HONORING FOUNDERS DAY OF WETUMPKA

*By Thomas D. Russell,
President Russell Manufacturing Company*

I am very flattered that you have selected me to make this address on the occasion of your 119th birthday. Certainly I am very much interested in Wetumpka and Elmore County. As a matter of fact, I am a part time citizen of your county, because I spend a lot of time in my cottage on Lake Martin, and our company owns a tract of land and pays taxes to Elmore County. So, therefore, I can rightfully speak as a native and not as a stranger among you.

119 years is a long time. Very few men have ever lived to reach that age—but a city is different from a man. At such an age a man has reached far beyond the ordinary span of life. His day has long since passed. His period of usefulness is already over. He is merely existing and that is all. A city, however, is a collection of men, as one generation passes on another takes its place and carries on without any apparent interruption. The older a city gets the stronger it grows. At 119 years Wetumpka is just beginning to reach its period of adolescence. Its era of progress and growth is by no means finished. As a matter of fact, it has only begun. You people have had a wonderful past, but the future is full of promise of bigger and better things yet to come. 119 years is indeed a long time in the life of a man, but it is only a short span in the life of a nation, a state, or a city. Cities are made up of people and people are mortal, they are born, they live and flourish for a time and then they are gone. But a city goes on and on building upon the ashes of the past, generation follows generation, each taking up where the other left off and constantly building better and better and growing larger and larger.

Such is the history of Wetumpka. Such is the history of most of the cities of our nation. But this is not always true. Cities have been known to stop growing and fall backward—thriving cities have ceased to prosper and have become ghost towns, either mere shadows of their former selves or abandoned entirely. This has happened in the past and can happen again. Why? Because their foundations were insecure—because their temporary prosperity was imaginary and not real. To be secure and to grow a city must be built on a firm foundation. It must

have substance and character and not fantasy and illusion. It's economy must be sound and it's resources must be sufficient to support its population. Those cities who faded and wasted away did not have the necessary attributes to continued prosperity and so they fall by the way.

Here in Wetumpka you have proven beyond any doubt that you possess all of the qualities that are necessary to make a fine substantial city. You are strategically located in a fine agricultural section with an extensive trade area. You have healthy, growing industries. You have an abundant water supply—you are almost surrounded by rivers and lakes and near at hand are giant hydroelectric plants. Your trade area is populous and prosperous. Your bank and business houses are sound and flourishing. What you want and what you need is only more of what you already have in order to become an even bigger and better city.

The question that arises in your mind is how can these things be accomplished. That same question is in everyone's mind all over the country. Big cities want to become bigger. Towns want to become cities. Small cities want to become big cities. Everyone wants to increase what they already have and this is a perfectly normal and creditable ambition. It is the American dream. Such ambitions create competition. Competition among cities as well as among individuals. Cities compete with each other in trying to persuade industries that their city is the best of all cities for that particular industry. They try to show that their city is the best possible city in which to live and thrive and be happy ever-after. As in individual competition, the law of supply and demand enters the picture. It seems that there are more towns and cities seeking new industry than there are industries seeking towns and cities. There are just not enough to go around.

So if you are not among the fortunate few where new industry is located you must face the problem of expanding what you already have or creating new industries through your own initiative. This certainly presents a difficult problem, but not an impossible one.

Big industries are nothing in the world except small plants which have grown into large ones. I hope you will not think that I am being boastful if I use our own company as an illustration of what I mean. During the past 50 years, and within the memory of many of you here, our plant grew from a small knitting mill employing a dozen people to

seven large mills employing nearly three thousand people. This growth was accomplished without the use of outside capital or help of any kind. Remember too that this was accomplished by local, home born, home bred people. My father who started and expanded this enterprise was born and grew up just a few miles north of the Elmore-Tallapoosa County line.

This story is but one example of many thousands of such stories that have happened all over the United States. Our industrial history is full of success stories.—A poor mechanic who built an empire and put the nation on wheels—a young telegraph operator who created miracles out of electricity and sound. Simple merchants who magnified their small stores into giant department stores serving millions, and I could go on and on relating to you stories of the giants of today who started crawling, and then walking, and then striding with seven league boots across the world.

Of course all of these things were created by men of exceptional courage and genius. But genius has been described by one of these men as being the quality of infinite patience and hard work. There are potential geniuses in every city and hamlet in America. Men who are capable of great deeds if they have the proper backing and are given the chance to go ahead. The qualities of leadership are in many people if they have the courage and will to make use of these qualities.

Cities are but a collection of people. If these people are civic minded, hard working, progressive, then a city will be prosperous. If they are lazy, indifferent, self-centered, then you will have a stagnant community. When a city becomes stagnant it begins to decay. Specifically it is dead and just waiting around for the funeral.

I mentioned before that you have a large prosperous agricultural area that you should be proud of. Here in Elmore County you have some of the most beautiful farmland that I have ever seen any where in this country. Your farmers are progressive and wide awake. The progress they have achieved is recognized all over Alabama. They are constantly improving their methods and increasing the productivity of their soil. During the past few years this progress has been nothing short of miraculous and the results are apparent on every hand.

The entire appearance of our rural landscape has undergone a radical change during the past 10 years. Everywhere you see well terraced, scientifically plowed fields, beautiful pasture lands covered with clover and grass, well fenced, and with ponds of water scattered all over. Fine cattle by the thousands. The old log cabin or the unpainted shack is almost a thing of the past. All over the country you find comfortable, well built homes, attractively designed and freshly painted. These homes have all of the modern conveniences that are available to city dwellers. You see brand new cars and trucks, tractors and other mechanical equipment. Neat barns and out buildings dot the landscape. Beautiful lawns and shrubbery have taken the place of the broom brushed, hard clay yards of yesterday. Paved roads have replaced the muddy trails of only a few years ago. The life of a farmer today is a far cry from the rugged existence that was taken for granted only a few years ago. The farmers income has increased manifold and his value as a customer for the things you make or sell has increased tremendously.

Before we take all of this too much for granted let us pause for a moment and consider the vast possibilities of the still untapped potential of our land. Have you gone about with your eyes wide open and noticed the many, many thousand of acres of idle-land, land growing nothing but weeds, brown sage and stove wood? Land covered with swamps who only inhabitants are bull frogs and water moccasins. Just think what could happen if this idle land were placed under cultivation or turned into pasture. It would provide employment and revenue which would be worth more to this city than half a dozen industries.

Another thought occurs to me at this time—Are we getting the best possible revenue from the soil. Could not other crops be raised that would bring in more revenue per acre. This brings up the question of a market for such crops. Does your city provide a ready cash market for the products of the farmer? No farmer is going to raise a crop that cannot be readily marketed at a nearby market. Does your city ship out all of these products to other cities to be processed and made ready for consumer use? Aren't you overlooking something very important in this field? I can visualize a very big source of income and employment with not a great deal of capital expenditure. Why let other cities reap the advantage of processing and packing the products grown by the farmers around Wetumpka? Here is only one example of what you can do locally if you have the proper planning and the will to do. In this way

you could establish a partnership between agriculture, industry and merchants that will benefit all of your people. As the people around you prosper so will Wetumpka.

Near Wetumpka you have two of the most beautiful lakes in the country. People over the state are just beginning to realize the availability of these lakes for vacation purposes. Nowhere in the United States will you find more beauty, better fishing, boating, swimming and all other water sports.

Our company is just starting out on a program to make the area around Kowaliga Bridge an ideal resort. We are building summer homes at a rapid pace. Recently we turned over an area to the State of Alabama to be used as a state park. Already the state has built roads, beaches, tables, barbecue pits, bathing houses, boat launching ramps. They are now in the process of building a cat walk on the side of the bridge so people can fish from it in safety. On week ends there are thousands of people who use this beautiful state park, and the state is now asking for more land to expand this park. We are also building a large store and dining hall and a number of cabins in connection with this project to take care of visitors who wish to come to Lake Martin. As time goes on we plan to continue to enlarge these facilities to take care of the demand. People from Alabama and many other areas will be using these lakes more and more. Wetumpka is certainly in a strategic spot to take advantage of this great influx of people who will be visiting these lakes in larger and larger numbers all of the time. Here is an opportunity to play up your tourist business and bring in a large amount of additional revenue into your city. And while we are on that subject do not minimize the attractions of the great hydroelectric power plants here in your county. They are certainly sights well worth seeing and are attracting thousands of visitors to your city. Then what about Jasmine Hill and historical Harrogate Springs, where can you find a lovelier spot? Do people from over the state know of all these things you have to offer? I don't believe they do. I don't believe that you yourselves realize what is here right under your nose. Perhaps you are already advertising your city and county but I don't believe you are doing it sufficiently. I believe you are being too modest and hiding your light under a bushel. The world will never realize what you have here unless you advertise what you have to offer and believe me you have plenty of sights to offer the travelling public.

Leaving your tourists attractions, I would like to suggest another source of income which can be developed with what you already have. I refer to your forests which have been depleted to an alarming extent. Forestry has, within the past few years, been developed into an almost exact science. Given the land which requires no cultivation, and comparatively cheap pine seedlings, anyone can start a forest and in an amazingly short time can start getting revenue from their investment. A tree farm if properly planted and properly managed, will not only bring in revenue within a few years but will continue to grow and produce throughout the years. With the advent of the huge paper mills, the demand for pulp wood is increasing all of the time, and the demand for timber is insatiable. Here indeed is a most profitable use for idle, poor lands not suitable for growing crops. Another indirect advantage is that these forests will hold and stabilize your watersheds and prevent the costly floods and erosion that are doing so much damage to our soil.

Looking toward the future. I can see great possibilities in the development of your waterways. Wetumpka could easily become one of the major ports along the Coosa-Alabama waterway system. It is absolutely certain that should this waterway be developed, it would give Wetumpka an added advantage of cheap water transportation and open up undreamed possibilities for the future. This is no idle dream but an actual possibility in the not too distant future.

Among the many advantages you have, do not forget the most important—the people of Wetumpka. You have here as fine a group as you will find anywhere on earth. Intelligent, native born, honest, hard working, respectable people. They are friendly people, they like each other and respect the rights of others—you have no classes or cliques. The merchants, the workers, the industrialist work together hand in hand. You have no hatreds or ill feelings among you. Here you have a healthy, friendly atmosphere and as long as you keep this spirit, life will be pleasant and you will continue to prosper and grow.

As in every city, you have to have leaders—men who are willing to devote their time and energy to the good of their city and their fellow men. Without such leaders, no city can prosper, no city can grow and no city will be a decent place in which to live and work. You are fortunate indeed in the calibre of your leaders—these are the men who head your civic clubs and who are always out in front in every community effort that is undertaken. These are the men who are responsible for

your excellent schools, your churches, your recreational facilities. Business and industry are important to a city but these things are but the body, not the soul of a community. As you see to your business interests be sure that you do not neglect your children, for they will be your leaders of tomorrow and they should be given every possible opportunity.

Here I would like to add a word of caution. Never get to the point where you are complacent and satisfied with things as they are. You can never have an ideal community—you can only approach that ideal. What is adequate today will be utterly inadequate tomorrow. You must keep constantly at the job, working, planning and scheming for tomorrow and the day after. That and that alone, can make the difference between an excellent city and just another dot on the oil company's map.

As president of the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce, I would like very briefly to call your attention to some of the things the state chamber is set up to do to help cities such as yours. It is our job to work with civic clubs and city and county officials to help you with your problems in every possible way. Our organization is divided into four major departments. Our industrial department is constantly seeking to attract new industry to Alabama. We work with industrial groups, civic groups, the power company, the railroads and all others interested in new industry. Our publicity department is busily engaged in advertising Alabama to the world. We send out letters, maps, pamphlets and all kinds of literature all over the country telling about Alabama and what Alabama offers.

Our agricultural department works with farmers, dairymen, cattlemen, extension services and every agency interested in the promotion of agriculture in our state.

Our research department is engaged in making detailed studies of our taxes, our laws, our educational system and all phases of state finances and laws as they effect business and the people of our state.

We do not work for any individual or minority group. We try as best we know how to represent all of the people of Alabama, justly and impartially—we are not the voice of big business as we are sometimes accused by people ignorant of the facts—we are and will continue to be

the voice of Alabama. Our services are free to everyone and we are always ready and eager to serve the people of our state and try as best we know how to build a greater Alabama.

Despite all of our progress in recent years—Alabama is still a poor state—our per capita income is one of the lowest in the nation. Our schools need more money, our highways are still inadequate. There is but one answer to our dilemma and that is more wealth, more state revenue, more people with more jobs, more people making more money. That is exactly what the state chamber wants and that is what the people of Wetumpka want. Perhaps you do not realize it, but every industry that is located in Alabama, regardless of where it is, benefits every citizen in Alabama. We all benefit, every single one of us. New industry brings in more tax revenue and we all share in that revenue. New revenue means more money for our schools, for our roads and all other governmental functions.

Here in Wetumpka you can use more industry. There are several ways in which this can be accomplished. First, persuade some industry to move or start up a plant in Wetumpka. I can warn you now that takes quite a lot of persuading. Industrialists are being courted and wooed by almost every city in the country. But it is being done and can be done if you are willing to work hard enough and sell your city and yourselves to an industry. Your state chamber of commerce will help you just as much as possible. We will advise you, we will help you contact prospects and show you how best to present your case to industry. You need not expect immediate results, it often takes years of work and constant hammering to get what you want but it is worth it in the end.

A second way to get more industries is to expand what you already have. This is usually a gradual and unspectacular process. Surprising as it may seem, the expansion of existing industry provides many, many more jobs and many times more revenue each year than new industry brings into the state. It is certainly worth giving a lot of thought and planning to see that your existing industries continue to grow.

Still a third way is to create your own industries. An individual or a group of individuals study the needs and resources of a city and decide that it is adapted for a certain industry. Then they start out, usually in a

modest way. If their scheme is properly thought out and well planned, if it is adequately financed and well run, the chances are very good that it will succeed and eventually expand from year to year.

I can give you some examples of small enterprises, started by local capital in other cities which have succeeded. They are food processing plants, garment factories, knitting mills, foundries, wood working plants. These are a few of the many small industries which have been put up with local capital all over the state.

Some of them have been very successful, others have fallen by the wayside. You must remember this; no one has ever succeeded in anything unless he was willing to take risks and try to create something that people want and need; whether it be a manufacturing plant, a store or some service which is needed. This is what has made America what it is today. Private enterprise, the willingness to invest your capital and your skill and knowledge with the prospect of making a profit and providing jobs for others.

In conclusion, I want to congratulate the people of Wetumpka on their 119th birthday. I want to congratulate you on living in such a fine city. I predict that the next 119 years will be greater than the past. I am quite sure that Wetumpka is on the verge of an era of prosperity undreamed of in the past. You have had a glorious past and I can only wish with all my heart, a brilliant future.

