In the southwestern section of town is a place that was once howling grounds for two packs of wolves. The two packs, one from Yellow Water and one from Sandy Creek, made that area their nocturnal meeting area and made nights frightful to early settlers due to the hideous howling.

Before Jackson was created, the area where the downtown now stands was only two Indian trails that crossed where a 10' by 12' log cabin stood and was used as a post office.

The first hanging in Jackson took place before the city was created in the middle of what would become Third Street between the Furlow and Slaughter residences. Two White men were hanged there on an old chestnut tree and were buried in the backyard of the Furlow place.

1818

In 1818, the first church services were held in what would become the City of Jackson. They were conducted by a Methodist, Mrs. Mary Williams Buttrill, in a log house erected by her slaves at what is now the east entrance to the Jackson Cemetery. Buttrill died in 1830, but for years she took her own seven boys, three daughters, slaves and local children into this log house one afternoon a week to hold religious services using her Bible and prayer book.

1822

The Southern Railway was built through the area that would soon become Butts County in 1822. A Western Union telegraph service came to the area soon after that.

1825

Butts County was created by an act of the Georgia General Assembly on December 24, 1825. It was Georgia's 64th county.

At the same time Butts County was created on December 24, 1825, the General Assembly passed an act to incorporate the Butts County Academy. Justices of the Inferior Court were asked to select seven trustees for the school and identify a parcel of land for the school.

Schools at this time were not intended to educate the masses, but to cater to the children of the wealthier class. At first the academy was used only by those who lived nearby, could afford to board their children there, or afford transportation to and from the school.

The first court of Butts County was located under an oak tree on Wade Watkins' property.

1826

According to *Grier's Almanac* in 1826, Indians were scalping and skylarking wherever they liked, and games and whiskey were abundant in Butts County.

The first road created by the new county in February 1826 ran from Jackson to Simeon Lovejoy's in the Towaliga District. Five other county roads were ordered at the same time. Lovejoy was one of the first real estate agents in the county.

According to John W. McCord, who was interviewed at the age of 80 in the *Jackson News* in 1882, "it was on the 12th of April, 1826, that a few men gathered here one day to sell lots for the town of Jackson. My father was among the number, and I was then a young man." When asked who the founder of Jackson was, McCord answered: "A Mr. Bobinet. He sold the lots from his estate, expecting a lively town to spring up in after years, but we lacked facilities and the town has never amounted to a great deal. This was all Henry county in those days."

The City of Jackson was created on December 26, 1826, and named for James Jackson of Savannah, who was a fiery Revolutionary War hero with a lustrous career as governor, statesman, ambassador, and man of letters. *[Some have said that Jackson was named for General Andrew Jackson, who repulsed the British in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 and served as President of the United States from 1829 to 1837.]*

The city arose on a 303.75-acre tract of land the justices of the inferior court of the newly-formed county of Butts purchased for $1,000. The entire parcel was divided into squares, and each square was then subdivided into lots. The lots were bigger the further out from the town center.

The sale of these lots was advertised throughout the state in the Fall of 1826. The terms of the sale of these lots was that the buyer put down one-fourth of the purchase price, and then make three annual payments of the remaining balance.

The justices of the Inferior Court were instructed by the General Assembly to select a lot in the new town for the building of a Methodist church, one for a Baptist church, and one for a Presbyterian church. The Baptists are said to have been unhappy with their lot, and worked with the Presbyterians to build a church (likely in 1828) which the two denomination shared for many years. Another lot was also to be chosen as a place for public burial.

The General Assembly named Samuel Lovejoy, Edward Butler, William V. Barney, John Robinson and Henry Hatler as commissioners of Jackson with the power to pass all by-laws for the governance of the town.

Turman Walthall was already operating a business in Jackson, having opened in 1825.

The first minister of the gospel in Jackson was Remembrance Chamberlin, a Presbyterian. On August 4, 1826, he reported that a church had been organized in Jackson with 23 members. Chamberlin lived across the street from the current Methodist Church on East Third Street, and his body was buried in the yard there after he died. It was removed and re-interned in the city cemetery in the 1890s when work on the street necessitated the move.

Jackson had a newspaper called *The Republican* sometime between 1826 and 1840.

1827

The first courthouse of Butts County was built out of logs and situated on North Oak Street between Second and First streets where a city parking lot exists now. The cost of the building was $120. It was there in May 1827 that the first murder trial in the county took place: Ludwell Watts of Monroe County was on trial for the murder of Denton Daniel. Watts was found guilty based on circumstantial evidence and sentenced to hang on August 12 of that year. When the day came, he was hanged in the vicinity of the intersection of Third and Indian Springs streets. A large crowd gathered to witness the execution.

In 1882, John W. McCord was interviewed in the *Jackson News*. McCord was born in 1802, and was 80 at the time of the interview. He recalled that hanging, and added his memory of another man condemned to die that same day. "I remember when the first hanging occurred here in 182[7]. It was intended to be a double hanging, but one of the doomed men resisted in his cell and only one of them swung then. Lud Watts and Tom Leverett were the men, and they were hung right out there in that field before you" pointing to a field in front of his home [described as being on the route to Indian Springs]. "Both of them were murderers of the deepest type, but when the sheriff went for Watts, he made tight with weapons he had concealed in his cell, and it became so desperate and lasted so long that the legal hour passed, and he had to be re-sentenced by the Judge, who, by the way, was C. J. McDonald. Watts was hung the following Monday, and I believe that is the first man ever hung on any day but Friday in the United States."

In an annual report to the inferior court in August 1827, it was noted that $8,081 worth of lots had already been sold in Jackson.

The first person to buy a lot and record his deed was John D. Swift of Newton County on January 30, 1827.

Writing in the *State Gazetteer* in 1827, Adiel Sherwood said Butts County had not public buildings yet, and that Jackson consisted of five houses, four stores, and a Presbyterian Society with no house of worship.

One of the first businesses in Jackson was Bradley's Old Tavern, operated by William and Willard Bradley. It was located on the southeastern corner of the intersection of Third and Oak streets. Bradley's Old Tavern was the place strangers and prospectors in the new county sought food and rest and "the glass that cheers." After lumbering over muddy roads, travelers on stage coaches stopped at Bradley's to satisfy their hungers. Politicians met there and exchanged opinions and discussed topics of the day.

C. J. Simmons, son of Dr. C. J. Simmons, was born in 1827 soon after the town was laid off and created. He was credited with being the first person born in the City of Jackson. *[He died in 1891.]*

The Butts County Academy, the first public school building in the county, was built in 1827 and was 45' by 25', two stories tall, and erected (except for chimneys and plastering) for $475.

Isaac Nolen was the first sheriff of Butts County. He resigned on August 7, 1827, and Samuel Clay was appointed to take his place.

The post office at Jackson was officially established on November 6, 1827.

1828

The following year, in February 1828, the Gazetteer noted the progress made in the new town of Jackson: "there was in Jackson seventeen houses, nine stores, two doctors, nine mechanic shops, three law offices, houses of worship for Methodist and Presbyterian, a court house, jail, and an Academy." The first doctors in Jackson were Dr. Charles Bailey and his brother, Dr. Stephen Bailey.

In February 1828, a new courthouse was being built in the center of what would become the downtown square where the present courthouse stands. It was almost complete when a worker dropped a candle while working at night. The candle fell through the loose floor and ignited rubbish below. The structure was a complete loss, resulting in a loss of $4,000 to $5,000 for the contractor.

A month later in March 1828, the contractor was paid $4,235 to build a brick courthouse on the same spot. He was paid an additional $5,789 in January 1829. That courthouse featured several chimneys.

In March 1828, $50 was spent "for cleaning out the public square and spring." This spring is likely one that surfaced on the lot on South Oak Street where McIntosh State Bank now stands, and it provided water for the courthouse for seven years before a well was dug for the courthouse.

The road from Jackson to Indian Springs was opened on July 8, 1828.

1829

In January 1829, the three-story county jail was complete. It was built by William Hitchcock and Stokely Morgan at a cost of just over $1,400. The jail featured a "debtor's room," where citizens were held while making a complete showing of all his assets to clear his debts. This building was used until 1864, when General Sherman's men marched through Jackson burning many buildings.

On April 8, 1829, Howell Holly sold lot #1, square #12 to Robert Brown for $600. The lot is located at the southeastern corner of Third and Mulberry streets, and has been home to several banks over the last century. Holly had paid $420 for the property a year earlier. Brown then built and operated the first hotel in Jackson, the Brown Hotel, but the property and building were sold to highest bidder in April 1832. The high bidder at the sheriff's sale that day was

Hamlin Freeman. The lot was later bought by Robert Grier, a famed astronomer and author of *Grier's Almanac*, who made his home there until he retired to his country home in the Stark Community six miles away.

There were 24 male students, seven female students, and two teachers at the Jackson Academy of Butts County.

In 1829, Edward Butler, one of the founding commissioners of the Town of Jackson, was charged with fraud by two of his creditors. Butler apparently liked to wager on games of chance, and was said to have lost around $400 while gambling. However, Butler was exempted from serving jail time after he made full and fair disclosure of all his property.

1830

The Census of 1830 listed Butts County's population as 4,912.

Merchants in Jackson in 1830 included John Robinson, Smith & Combs, F. W. Cook, Pierpont Phillips, Summerlin & Moses, Case & Goodrich, Henry Hately and Joel Bailey.

Hitchen's Tavern, a hotel, was built in Jackson around 1830 on the southeast corner of the intersection of Third and Mulberry streets. It was the only public place where travelers through the city could find lodging prior to the War Between the States. It was demolished in 1906.

1831

On January 3, 1831, Justices of the Inferior Court of Butts County conveyed a lot on North Oak Street to the trustees of the Jackson Academy of Butts County.

1833

In 1833, new merchants in Jackson included Ermine Case, Eli Goodrich, and White & Gresham.

Fighting in the streets and in public places was common practice. There was also usually fighting in the courthouse during court week.

1835

In May 1835, John Goodman was paid $12.50 for digging a public well in the town of Jackson. It was located on the west side of the square.

In 1835, there were 34 male students and 14 female students at the Jackson Academy. The teacher, E. S. Kirksey, taught the rudiments of English Education as well as the Greek and Latin languages.

1836

In the wake of attacks on isolated farm houses by Creek Indians out of Alabama, Butts County formed a calvary on February 12, 1836 to protect it from the Indians, who numbered 5,000 in the state at that time. Records show there were 53 members of the Calvary, 54 horses, 50 saddles and bridles, 50 shotguns and 15 rifles.

There were 88 students at the Jackson Academy in 1836. The teacher, Mr. Kirksey, was teaching Latin, English Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic, and various other branches.

1837

On July 4, 1837, John McMichael won a contract to enclose the courthouse with oak posts and pine railings "square around the courthouse" 24 feet from the walls of the building. In addition, there were to be three sets of steps over the railings, "one fronting each door of the courthouse."

A separate contract with McMichael issued at the same time called for "paving with rock around the courthouse the west side and south end and the putting of solid stone steps to the courthouse doors." All work was to be completed by December 1, 1837, and McMichael was to be paid $15 for both contracts.

New merchants in town in 1837 were James Butler, Robert B. Saunders, and Robert R. Dicken.

1839

The county suffered a dry year and a corn famine in 1839, according to S. K. Smith, who compiled records for the county's centennial in 1925. It was so dry that all small streams dried up entirely and the Towaliga River at High Falls almost ceased to run.

1840

On November 20, 1840, James Cawthon deeded land to the commissioners of Jackson for use as a public burial site. The land appears to be the same area as the one currently being used as the Jackson City Cemetery. The amount of the purchase price for the land was $40.

The Census of 1840 showed 5,308 people living in Butts County.

In the 1840s, David Spencer ran a mercantile business on the south side of the town square.

1842

In 1842, the Jackson Academy was relocated and renamed the Jackson Male and Female Academy. It was a two-story building that faced south with two rooms on the lower level, and a large room on the second floor with chimneys and the east and west ends. Young men were taught in one of the rooms on the first floor, and children of both sexes were taught in the other room on the first floor. Young ladies who were boarding students occupied the upstairs room, and came downstairs for classes. On Friday afternoons, public exercises were held and audiences sat on long benches along the walls. Girls recited poems and speeches from a platform on the floor and boys were required to speak from their respective places. There were three teachers.

In December 1842, the Georgia General Assembly incorporated the Jackson Female Academy. The school was located on the northwestern corner of what today are Covington and East Third streets. Daughters of prominent families from surrounding counties attended the school.

1844

Hungerford & Company had a store in town that opened in 1844 and closed in 1846.

1845

In 1845 and continuing through the 1850s, Little & Andrews, merchants, had a store on the north side of the public square. The building was a wide, rambling, wooden structure with a low front porch across the front. Byars and Mallet conducted a mercantile business in this building in the 1870s and 1880s.

In October 1845, the Jackson Female Academy was closed and merged with the Jackson Male and Female Academy. The school later became known as the Jackson Academy. Trustees of the Female Academy sold an acre of land on East Third Street to the Methodists for the site of a new church.

On November 17, 1845 the justices of the inferior court noted that the streets in the southwest corner of town were worthless and were used only as a passageway to the graveyard. Two of the justices were ordered to sell the streets, and in July 1846 the commissioners were ordered to open a street to the graveyard which led from the main gate there past Lashe's shop.

1846

Following what must have been unwarranted usage of the county courthouse in 1846, the Justices of the Inferior Court ordered the clerk of the court to "procure good locks for each of the outside doors, and then deliver one of the keys to the clerk of the superior court, one to the sheriff, and retain one himself." Then in order to keep the courthouse from being a loafing place for idlers, it was ordered to be kept cleared "except when required for public business." It was further added that the "courthouse shall not be occupied except by officers of the court, no room in the courthouse to be occupied as a bed room."

In 1846, there was a law against vagrancy in Butts County, so anyone who roamed the county and did nothing was apprehended.

A new Methodist Church was built on East Third Street in 1846 at a cost of $1,000. The building faced west, and had two doors - one for women on the left and one for men on the right. Both Whites and Blacks attended the first service. Church records show that at that time there were 58 White male members, 88 White female members, 21 Negro male members and 88 Negro female members. Blacks remained members of the church until 1866.

Lewis Lawshe was proprietor of a shop in Jackson 1846.

1847

On January 19, 1847, Henry Hendrick paid $200 for a former two-story wooden grocery store on the southeast corner of the intersection of Second and Mulberry streets for use as St. John's Lodge, #45 of Free Masons. This building, which was left standing in 1864 by Union soldiers, was torn down in 1907.

On May 17, 1847, a destructive hail storm struck Jackson and Butts County.

1849

Jackson was home to the county courthouse and jail in 1849, as well as two churches, one academy for males and females, one tavern and three stores. The population was about 300. The amount of goods sold every year amounted to about $40,000.

On April 16, 1849, Jackson and Butts County was in a deep freeze and a frost killed off many crops.

1850

The Census of 1850 listed Butts County's population as 6,488.

Around 1850, Dr. Stephen Bailey built a house on what is now the intersection of McDonough and Second streets. The house was then bought by a schoolteacher, and later by

James Beck, who lived there for many years. The property included the land bordered by Third Street, McDonough Road and Brookwood Avenue. In 1891, it was bought and divided into 75 lots and the Beck home was moved down Second Street toward the square.

In the 1850s, Jackson had several doctors: H. W. Hill, William R. Mosely, Dr. Pitts, S. L. Saunders, Simeon E. Saunders, Charles H. Serhart, James McMichael, C. E. Clark and Sylvester B. Prentiss.

McCord's store was located on the west side of the square in the 1850s and early 1860s. It was burned by General Sherman's Union troops in November 1864.

Hunt's store was located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Oak and Second streets in the 1850s.

1851

The Jackson Baptist Church was constituted on November 27, 1851. By the Spring of 1852, a large frame building between Oak and Mulberry streets for the church was ready for painting. Baptists had been meeting in the Jackson Presbyterian Church prior to this. The new church was lit entirely by candles. Slaves were admitted membership in the church and a special committee was appointed "to hear and receive the experiences of black persons."

At this time, he Jackson Presbyterian Church was on the verge of disintegrating after a church was built in the western part of the county that attracted many of its old members.

1853

According to H. N. Byars, who sold goods at Indian Springs at the time, snow laid on the ground for 25 days on the north side of houses in town at one point during the year.

1860

The Census of 1860 showed Butts County with a population of 6,455.

In the 1860s, the average price of a burial was $25.

1861

On January 18, 1861, the State of Georgia seceded from the United States and joined the Confederacy.

Butts County sent about 900 soldiers to fight in the War Between the States. These soldiers fought in all major battles of the war, and some Butts County men surrendered with General Lee and the Confederacy at Appomattox on April 9, 1865 to end the war.

Georgia seceded from the United States on January 18, 1861. Soon after, hostilities began in April 1861. The first of eight organizations of Butts County soldiers was sent to battle. These were the "Butts County Volunteers." These soldiers rendezvoused in Atlanta on May 24, 1861, and were mustered into the Sixth Regiment, Company D. Two months later, another group of Butts County men answered the call to war, becoming the "Jeff Davis Rifles" on July 9, 1861. Next came the "Butts Invincibles," and then the "Bailey Volunteers." These were followed by the "Hunter Guards," which included men from Spalding County, the "Byars Volunteers," and the "Jeff Davis Riflemen."

At the beginning of the war, Dr. James H. Bryans was selected at a meeting of citizens to stay behind in Jackson and provide medical care for the women and children of the community. When smallpox broke out a few miles from Jackson, he had the afflicted quarantined in a special camp. Dr. Bryans was quarantined as well, meaning he could not go to Jackson for his store of medicine or see his family for fear of spreading the disease. Miss Mary Buttrill acted as a go-between, picking up a requisition letter from the doctor at a designated tree, and bringing supplies back to the tree for the doctor to pick up later.

1862

At a Baptist conference in August 1862, the Baptist Church at Jackson was listed as having 35 Whites and 44 Blacks.

1863

Soon after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, a group of devoted Christians in the Pepperton Community banded together and formed the Zion Baptist Church. The location of the first church cannot be determined, but its inception meetings were held in the homes of various charter members.

1864

According to B. F. Watkins, Sr., kerosene was scarce during the War Between the States. One gallon of kerosene was meant to last an entire year. The only lamps known, small brass ones, were lighted for only a short time during meals, after which they were extinguished until the next meal.

On November 16, 1864 came word from refugees that General Sherman's Union soldiers had begun their March to the Sea and would reach Jackson the following day. Citizens worked through the night to hide everything they could from the approaching marauders.

On the morning of November 17, 1864, the great rumbling of the Union soldiers could be heard. When the Union Calvary reached Jackson, it halted and formed a line across Third Street. A Confederate soldier named Taylor had recently returned home and mustered several other

locals to the southeast corner of the square to give the invaders a fight. When they saw the Union soldiers come around the corner of Oak and Second street, they realized there was no reason to stand against the great number of soldiers and fled eastward.

The Butts County Courthouse was burned. The building had been used for storing the tenth, or tithe, required of citizens to support the Confederate Army, so quantities of grain stored inside were also lost. When he heard the approach of the soldiers, Wiley Goodman, the crippled ordinary of the court, gathered the county's records and fled with them in a wagon. Union troops fired at him, grazing his forehead, but he escaped. He hid along with the documents in a swamp in Jasper County until the Union Army moved on toward Savannah.

Union troops also burned the jail to the ground and McCord's store at the corner of Mulberry and Second streets. The Byars and Mallet store was burned, but was extinguished by a lot of small boys after the Union troops moved on. The St. John's Masonic Lodge on the southeast corner of the intersection of Mulberry and Second streets was the only building on the square left standing by the Union Army. Masonic meetings were held on the second floor. [This building was demolished in 1912.]

It was said that General Sherman himself rode along Third Street as the courthouse burned.

Two columns of Union soldiers marched through Butts County that day. The one that came through Jackson camped near Sylvan Grove, the residence of Asa Buttrill, and destroyed everything he had. Buttrill, who was too old for military service, rode around the after the Union soldiers left the area to see what aide he could offer people. His wife remained safely in her room at Sylvan Grove, while General Blair and his staff took over the parlor.

All the furniture in the home was destroyed except for that in Mrs. Buttrill's room and the parlor. The barn, cotton houses, stables, cribs and fences were all burned. Those left behind had nothing to eat for 14 days save for scraps of potatoes picked up at Yankee camps.

Sherman's men spent only a day and a night in Butts County, but left behind the blackened remains of a number of flour mills, gin houses, barns, corn cribs, one cotton factory and thousands of dead horses, hogs and beef cattle. A number of old men and young boys were taken prisoner, and many of them died in custody or were never heard from again.

After the county courthouse was burned in 1864, the county's records were moved into the St. John's Masonic Lodge on the southeast corner of the intersection of Second and Mulberry streets. Court was held there until 1870, when the county bought the old Hitchens Hotel on the southeast corner of the intersection of Mulberry and Third streets for $600 and held court there until a new courthouse was built in 1873.

From the creation of Butts County in 1825 until the end of the War Between the States, records show about 25 free person "of colour" in the county.

1865

According to a Grand Jury finding in 1865, a tax should have been levied to allow all who were unable to pay for a sufficient education to at least be able to learn to read and write. It

was suggested that this tax be levied chiefly against those who were allowed to stay home and not on the families of soldiers who fought during the war.

It did not recommend the rebuilding of the courthouse or the jail. The county did receive $3,726 from the sale of iron from the ruins of the buildings.

The Grand Jury further recommended that in light of the suffering on the poor following Sherman's march through the county that a requisition of "a sufficient amount of the tithe corn be made available for bread for that class of our citizens."

The Grand Jury report went on: "Unquestionably, this is the darkest and gloomiest time of our national existence, if true to ourselves, yet there is no cause of despondency, united in feeling and determined in action, heartily sustaining the Government in its measure for public safety and defense we need only harmony to stand by our rights and our Government, discouraging any effort to engender disaffection and disinterest in the patriotism, statesmanship and ability of our Chief Magistrates and the Commander in Chief of our Armies we shall be yet invincible.

"The terms of peaces which the Federal Government dictates are alike degrading and ruinous. Reconstruction or submission to its rule, would be a surrender of all our rights, the loss of our cause and the dishonor and enslavery of our people."

1866

In April 1866, a movement to provide religious instruction to Negroes was begun by the First Methodist Church in Jackson. At the same time, Black men began pulling out of the church to form their own.

In 1866, Capt. J. W. McCord cut the heavy timbers for the city jail.

1867

E. E. Pound (who would later become mayor of Jackson) was the first person to own and ride a bicycle in the county.

1868

A Georgia Constitutional mandate in 1868 required the establishment of common schools, free to all children of the state.

Following the War Between the States, Blacks organized a church of their own and were granted use of the Baptist Church for their meetings.

1870

In the Census of 1870, Butts County's population was listed as 6,941.

1872

In March 1872, the grand jury appointed the first Board of Education for Butts County.

In October 1872, the Jackson Baptist Church was the first to assist Negroes financially for the building of a church of their own. The church was built on Oak Street. The building was of rough material covered with oak shingles rived from oak trees, without flooring, and with wooden shutters.

1873

In 1873, the third county courthouse was completed.

1875

On August 19, 1875, the Honorable Alex Jolly delivered an epic speech on education at the Bailey Institute. That afternoon, a baseball game was played between Jackson and Tussahaw. Playing for Jackson were: T. W. McCord, S. Bailey, M. V. McKibben, Z. T. Buttrill, G. Nutt, J. McKibben, J. T. Harkness, T. Harkness and J. Miller.

In 1875, the average life span was 37 years.

"I was reading court records from back in the 1860s and '70s," said former Clerk of Superior Court David Ridgeway in a 2008 interview. "Of course it was written in long hand. It was telling about a case that they was trying. They asked this guy who was a defendant, said, 'Did you whip this man as bad as you say you did.' And he said, 'I tried. And I'll tell you another thing: I would get up off the prettiest maiden I have ever seen just whip his ass.' And that was written in the book."

1879

From 1879 until his death in 1885, John J. Easton operated a "grocery" that was actually a saloon on the north side of the square between Hunt's and Andrew & Little. Despite serving in the Union Army in the War Between the States, Easton was held in high regard and had many friends in Butts County. He was known as a kind-hearted old bachelor from New Jersey.

It started raining in Butts County in October 1879 and hardly let up until February 1880. According to W. H. Bond, a native of Butts County, there were very few sunny days during that time, crops in the fields were lost to farmers and roads to market were impassable.

In 1879, Dr. J. M. Mapp set up practice in Jackson and stayed until 1888. Most doctors who came to Jackson in the 1880s left after one or two years.

According to Lois McMichael writing in History of Butts County Georgia:

"The old-time doctor, a general practitioner, occupied a unique and trusted position among the families in the community where he lived. To him were confided intimate affairs, and he was sympathetic in their problems for he had been at the birth of their children and had brought back many from death's shadow.

"His patients were his real friends. He did not hesitate to use homely remedies of red oak bark, mustard plasters, catnip tea or orange juice, if they could bring about desired results. He lived at a time when people believed that most physical ills were traceable to too much blood, and when it was thought necessary, he bled his patients.

"When springtime came with its attendant diseases, he advised that the children drink sassafras tea or be dosed with sulphur and molasses. In winter he urged the mothers to clothe their children in linsey and warm underwear. He jogged around the community in a gig or a buggy, or on horseback with his saddle-bags filled with first aid remedies.

"He was in no hurry to leave when visiting the sick. If sufficiently urged, he might spend the entire day discussing current events with the head of the family, yet he was not considered neglectful of his duties.

"He seldom accumulated wealth, but when finally old age and death ceased his labors, he left behind an honored name and a record of good deeds."

1880

In the Census of 1880, the population of Jackson was only 212, and the county's was 2,248. Jackson was listed as a village having 38 dwelling houses and 41 families.

The Census also listed 81 mortalities in Butts County that year. Causes of death listed included: cholera, dysentery, typhoid, pneumonia, croup, shot accident, diarrhea, child birth, consumption, teething, snake bite, child bed, smothered, dropsy, tree fell, cold, thrash, homicide, killed and old age.

The last frost of the year was felt on April 13, 1880.

At some point during the early 1880s, a hotel was built on South Oak Street by Asa Smith and managed by sister-in-law Mrs. Ezra Morrison. When Morrison died around 1890, the hotel was managed by her sister. It was called the Morrison House at this time in honor of Mrs. Morrison.

Two rooms were added to the original structure in the early-1890s, which were used as "sample rooms." Traveling salesmen of the day brought their wares to town in large trunks and spent a week displaying them to local merchants. These rooms allowed salesmen staying at the Morrison to set up their samples and invite Jackson businessmen in to see them.

In 1896, Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Buchanan took over the business and called it the Buchanan Hotel. Around 1900, the Buchanans added large wings on the right and left of the building. The complete hotel contained 42 rooms.

Over the years, the hotel was also called the Butts County Hotel and, finally, the Jackson Hotel. A bell was rung at the hotel everyday at noon to let all the businessmen know it was time for lunch.

Lewis Henderson worked at the hotel for nearly 50 years. He rang the noontime bell and drove the hotel's surrey with fringe on top to the train depot to pick up guests.

[In 1960, the hotel, which had fallen into disrepair, was torn down and a new bank, McIntosh State Bank, was built on the 425' by 425' lot on South Oak Street.]

1881

The last frost of the year was felt on April 5, 1881.

As 1881 began, the Jackson Post Office was located inside the store operated by J. A. McMichael. The post office itself was so small that in December the new postmaster at the time, W. E. Harp, moved it to the northwest side of the square in a wheelbarrow. He built a two-story house on the corner of Second and Oak streets and moved his family into the second floor. The first floor housed the post office and the Jackson News, the newspaper which Harp owned. The first issue was published in December 1881. This building caught fire and burned to the ground soon after, and the post office was moved into a brick building across the street. It remained there until 1902.

1882

The last frost of the year was felt on March 25, 1882.

In April 1882, the courthouse yard was walled in and enclosed with an iron fence.

The first railroad train officially entered Butts County on April 17, 1882. The Southern Railway passed through the area in the 1820s before the county was created.

"Ever since the war, Jackson has been progressing with little or no rapidity," wrote the *Jackson News* in April 1882. "Cut of from the outside world, with Griffin as the nearest railroad station, some twenty miles distance, she has dragged her slow length along quietly and silently, almost asleep. When the Griffin Monticello and Madison railroad was graded to Jackson, property looked up a little, but soon fell back to former values when the scheme fell through. Now however, the times have changed, and as the Brunswick extension passes right through the town the prospects are that the boom already started will continue. It is estimated that the population, which is now about 300, will triple itself within twelve months and as a consequence, property is going up at a board."

"Yes, you will be astonished," said Captain I. D. Watson, the clerk of the superior court, in the same article, "to know how things have changed here within a few months past. Fully $15,000 or $20,000 worth of property has changed hands since the new railroad was an assured thing. New houses are going up every day, and we think we see the light of day dawning at last."

"There isn't a single lot left on the square," Watson continued, "but lots that could be bought a few months ago for twenty five dollars are now selling for two hundred and fifty dollars. This will give you an idea of how the things is moving and I am sure the values are not increasing on an inflation basis. Colonel George W. Adair, of Atlanta, has bought a number of lots around the depot here, and will offer any one a bargain who desires to come here and invest."

"Colonel Van McKibben is one of ruling as well as the shining light of Jackson," wrote a visitor to Jackson in an article reprinted in the *Jackson News* in April 1882. "He is a property owner to a considerable extent, and is also building a number of houses. Colonel McKibben is a member of the legislature, and is one of the ablest men in this section of the state. His fame is a lawyer here about is second to none. He speaks hopefully of his town.

"Jackson's live young mayor, Mr. Y. A. Wright, is satisfied that the town will have 1,500 inhabitants in less than two years.

"Editor Harp, of the *Jackson News* is publishing a lively paper. He came here less than a year ago, and is working like a Trojan in the interest of Jackson. His newspaper office is an unique affair, and is also somewhat of a curiosity. I went in to see him and found him in a small cottage near the square. His pretty young wife was assisting to set type while he was doing a similar work with up rolled sleeves. The *News* has a good circulation I am glad to state.

"Land that was worth $20 per acre five years ago is worth $800 now. There is an ordinance recently enacted by the town council that no more frame stores are to be erected. Hereafter nothing but brick houses will be allowed."

The firm of Smith, Huddleston & Etheridge Company was organized in 1882 by Asa H. Smith, Hiram J. Huddleston and Frank S. Etheridge. In 1906, when Huddleston left the company, he was replaced by J. H. Carmichael and the firm was renamed Carmichael, Etheridge, Smith Company. Carmichael left the firm in 1917, and some years later the firm changed ownership to E. Lee Smith and R. N. Etheridge and became known as the Etheridge Smith Company. Throughout all of these changes, though, the business, which was located in a two-story brick building on the southeast corner of the intersection of Oak and Third streets, was known as the New York Store.

Andrew McClendon, a colored barber, came to Jackson from Griffin and began his business.

H. O. Benton opened the Benton House, a hotel in Jackson, in 1882.

Over the Summer of 1882, several county residents caught typhoid fever.

By the middle of 1882 construction was completed on a railroad line connecting Macon and Atlanta, and on the railroad depot in Jackson. On the fifth of May 1882 the first ever train whistle echoed through Jackson. F. M. Edwardly was named agent of the Jackson train depot in July 1882. That month - on July 1 - the first passenger train passed through town on the new line

from Dallas to Macon. Prior to the train's arrival, Jackson had about a half dozen active businesses, but a year after it's arrival there were 30 fully-stocked businesses in town, warehouses being built, and a home construction boom.

In September 1882, J. L. Wagner opened a tin shop in the rear of the Masonic Hall. Mr. Tisdell also opened a restaurant in the basement of the rock house in time for court week. Ben Watkins and his brothers sold a warehouse to Dempsey and Waters.

Mr. Benton was a real estate agent. Dr. Mapp was a physician. Mr. E. L. Henderson, a photographer, had a spot on the square. C. F. Waters was the proprietor of the Farmer's Warehouse.

In mid-September 1882, a powerful overnight storm brought strong winds and rain to Jackson. Shade trees were toppled or cracked, and by daybreak it was estimated that damages would run from $800 to $1,000 across the city. Two walls of John Land's brick store were destroyed, the front wall of Dr. Crum's brick store was also damaged, and portions of the front walls of Col. McKibben's new brick stores were also damaged.

The Jackson News of September 20, 1882 reprinted an article from the Greenback Cause published in Atlanta, written by "Traveler," which stated: "The building 'boom' in Jackson has opened up in good earnest. Twenty buildings are now in course of construction mostly business houses, and others anticipated, car loads of lumber and building material coming in every day, in fact, everything in Jackson is on a boom. Freight and passenger trains are running regularly. The population of Jackson is between 300 and 400 and rapidly filling up with new comers every day. The business men are live, energetic, moral, intelligent and progressive, and are doing all they can to build up the town. The young men are gallant, the young ladies beautiful. Upon the whole, Jackson is destined to be the business town between Atlanta and Macon.

"I can truly say I never found a more generous, social and hospitable people anywhere in the South, and parties looking for a location for business, health, good society and prosperity should by all means visit Jackson, while property can be got cheap. We predict a bright future for this beautiful town."

In the first week of October 1882, two men – Mr. Hill and Mr. W. J. Goss, both of Harmony Hill – got mad at one another while in town. Goss did not care to fight Hill, but both agreed to fight with buggy whips. After rules were established, new coach whips were produced, and the men commenced to lashing each other. With half the town looking on, each man made steady licks on the other without flinching until one got tired and called for the other to holdup. Then both men would rest, and then commence the duel again. The fight last three hours, during which whip cracks could be heard from several blocks away, and in the end both men were tired but not seriously injured.

Jackson stores were crowded from morning until night following Thanksgiving in 1882 with customers spending their money, exchanging their produce for goods and selling their cotton.

The sale by auction of 132 business, residential and manufacturing lots in Jackson was held on December 11, 1882.

1883

A masquerade ball was held on January 1, 1883.

In the annual city election in February 1883, Y. A. Wright was elected mayor with councilmen W. M. Mallet, J. J. Easton, Henry Land and G. W. Mann. J. M. McMichael was elected marshal.

The last frost of the year was felt on April 3, 1883.

The peach crop in the county failed in the Summer of 1883.

A large picnic was held at Indian Springs in July 1883. Young people from all over Butts County and surrounding counties attended and made the event a success.

Prices advertised in the *Middle Georgia Argus* in August 1883 included: eggs, 10 cents; butter, 20 cents; chickens, 10 and 15 cents; corn, 70 cents a bushel; peaches, 75 cents a bushel; and apples, 50 cents a bushel.

In 1883, the Dempsey House hotel opened in Jackson with T. B. Moore as proprietor.

The first private telephone line in Jackson became operative in November 1883. It ran from the telegraph office to the dwelling of W. T. Heflin 300 yards away. Heflin operated the telegraph office.

In October 1883, a great comet could be seen in the sky over Jackson. Scientists determined it was the same comet seen in the sky in 1813, and was due to return every 70 years.

On November 24, 1883, the *Middle Georgia Argus*, a newspaper in Indian Springs that began in 1873 as the *Indian Springs Echo*, moved its office to Jackson. Capt. William F. Smith was the owner at the time.

In December 1883 came news that Jackson would soon have a new post office.

The city council numbered and named all city streets in December 1883, though the editor of the *Middle Georgia Argus* felt some of the names chosen were inappropriate and should have been changed. It said the council failed to give a name to one of the most prominent streets in town – the one leading to the post office – and suggested it be named Broad, as it was only three feet wide.

On Christmas Day, 1883, the sound of fireworks, tooting tin horns and children shouting could be heard through the city. All at once, people began to come to town and in a short time the whole of the public square was a scene of living humanity. Business men of the town were hoisted onto the shoulders of revelers and carried to nearby barrooms, where set-ups were provided for all.

At 11 a.m., quite a number of young men dressed in brilliant, fantastic costumes appeared riding horses through the streets. They rode through the principal streets and dashed at breakneck speed around the square to the delight of children and concern of parents. Although to all appearances a great deal of whiskey was consumed, not a single man was seen drunk in the streets.

1884

On January 1, 1884, Y. A. Wright was elected mayor, and W. M. Mallet, D. J. Thaxton, J. W. Crum and T. J. Dempsey were elected as aldermen.

The Council soon set the license fee for the sale of spirituous liquors within the city as $10,000.

In the first week of January 1884, Jackson experienced what was likely the coldest weather it had felt since 1835. Thermometers in town registered five degrees below zero. Kerosene oil froze as did water in closed rooms where there had been hot fires until 9 p.m. On the second day of the winter storm, a heavy snow fell covering everything in town. The streams and ponds were frozen so thick that heavy men could walk on them.

At the start of 1884, there were four general merchandise stores in Jackson – Smith, Huddleston & Etheridge; G. F. Gignilliat; B. C. Manley; and Dempsey & Wynne. There were two grocery stores – W. F. Elder across from the Dempsey House, and J. T. Land on the east side of the square. J. N. Cheney ran a drug store on the east side of the square. H. O. Benton had a real estate office. J. W. Crum had an insurance office.

There were two saloons on the square J. H. Land had a bar and billiard tables on the southeast corner, and John J. Easton dealt in liquors, wines and brandies. There were two attorneys, M. W. Beck and J. M. Griggs, both with offices in the courthouse. Joseph L. Wagner was a tinsmith. Dr. Z. Sims was a dentist with an office one door south of the rock store.

There was also a skating rink.

A substantial water tank was erected in January 1884 at the train depot.

On February 1, 1884, the mayor and council set the street tax for the year at $3. Any person electing to pay that amount was exempt from working on the streets during the year. Those who did not pay were required to work six days during the year on the city streets.

In February 1884, Jackson High School had 125 pupils.

A great hail storm visited the area in February 1884 breaking nearly every window and causing leaky roofs in the Flovilla and Indian Springs areas. The hail stones were declared to be as large as hen eggs. The storm lasted only a minute or two.

There was not a single empty dwelling in town in February 1884, and there was demand for 25 to 30 more to rent. The sounds of hammer and saws could be heard all over town as new houses were being built as quickly as possible.

In early April 1884, a large number of ladies and gentlemen gathered at the academy to listen to the discussion of this question: "Should the standard of female education be equal to that of males?"

Twelve young ladies spoke for the affirmative, while 10 men opposed them. In the end, the judges announcement that the affirmative argument had won was met with loud applause and much clapping of hands.

The last frost of the year was felt on April 11, 1884.

In April 1884, timbers were delivered to the site of the new Methodist Church with hopes that construction would be complete by July. Under the direction of Mr. Fountain, the architect, construction progressed rapidly. The steeple was to be 90 feet high, and the bell from the old church was to be used in the new steeple. "Not a better one with a sweeter tone could be found," wrote the Middle Georgia Argus.

Two wandering Turks, who were accompanied by a woman, two babies, a dog, a pack pony, and two bears, visited Jackson in late April 1884. The ensemble created considerable amusement in the streets by singing, dancing and wrestling.

In May 1884, William Doster, a soap maker, opened a small soap manufacturing shop on Holly Street.

A foot race was held on May 13, 1884 between four men – Col. M. W. Beck, Dr. R. G. Bryans, J. H. Land and R. T. Watkins – for a purse of $7. The races began at the intersection of Mulberry and Main streets, then along Main to the culvert near Sheriff Beauchamp's, and back again. The first man to reach the purse was Dr. Bryans, which surprised many onlookers as he was so compactly made and carried so much flesh. The winning time was 8 minutes.

A few weeks later, a walking race was held between nine men and boys from Jackson to Indian Springs and back, a distance of about 10 miles. John Singley won the race by one minute with a time of one hour and 45 minutes. But Mayor Wright drove a buggy to the Springs using Dr. Bryan's fast horse, and some of the boys reached the Springs ahead of him.

In June 1884, a patented gate and wire rail fence had been installed around the county's courthouse.

In early June 1884, Jackson had four lemonade stands and Mr. D. F. Thaxton was prepared to furnish ice cream on short notice.

In early June 1884, the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad decided to establish an eating house for the Atlanta Division in Jackson. A contract for building the hotel was let to Mallet & Land to build the structure near the passenger depot. The facility with 10 rooms, dining halls, bathrooms and more was to be run by J. T. Land. It was to be the boarding place for all train hands and as many passengers as may wish meals there.

Handsome brick pavement was installed on the Tucker block in mid June 1884.

In July 1884, a half dozen businesses were being built around the square and near the train depot. Twice as many homes were also being constructed.

In 1884, Butts County got its first public telephone service when a line was erected from Hampton via McDonough to Jackson.

Capt. A. G. Hitchens opened a livestock business in town in October 1884.

During early October 1884, a band of wandering Mongolians "or some other filthy ilk of that nature," according to the newspaper, was tramping around town juggling, trading jewelry and begging.

A business directory in the *Jackson News* on November 12, 1884 listed the following businesses and professionals:

"Local attorneys were M. V. McKibben; Beck & Griggs; and Wright & Catchings.
Physicians were Dr. R. G. Bryan and Dr. J. T. Ellis
The town dentists were Smith & Key.
House painting was performed by Crawford & Brothers.
W. M. Higgins was a jeweler.
Mallet & land were manufacturers of sash, door, lumber, etc.
The Farmers Warehouse was run by W. H. Malone.
McArthur ran the harness shop.
J. W. Vaughn was an agent for fine wines and liquors.
J. F. Gignilliatt and George Russell each had a general merchandise store.
H. W. Husselkus owned the shore store.
McKinley & Shields sold buggies, wagons and carriages.
Smith, Huddleston and Etheridge owned the New York Store.
M. F. Brooks had a drug store.
Groceries were sold by W. F. Elder.
Crum & McKibben were Jackson's undertakers and furniture salesmen.
F. L. Sawyer operated a livery and feed stables.

J. L. Wagner owned a tin shop.
B. J. Lunguest was a watchmaker."

1885

The last frost of the year was felt on April 14, 1885.

There were 28 White public schools and 16 colored schools in Butts County in 1885. There were 1,152 White students, and 922 colored students. The average monthly cost of tuition per pupil was $1.65, with 78.5¢ paid by the state. Students studied orthography, reading, writing, English grammar, geography and arithmetic.

Just before midnight on November 30, 1885, a fire alarm was sounded, church bells tolled and all Jackson was thrown into a fever of excitement as the store of Mr. W. H. Sutton burned.

In a few minutes, 200 or 300 men were on the scene, but despite all efforts the entire north side of the square – except for Barfield & Turk's and Dempsey & Manley's – was reduced to ashes.

The wind was blowing from the northwest and the Masonic Lodge, Dr. Mann's dwelling and Mr. Harper's livery stables all caught on fire several times but a detachment of men were on the buildings while others carried them water and thus a large portion of town was saved.

1886

Salaries for city officials in 1886 were set as follows: mayor - $10; marshal - $365; secretary & treasurer - $30; tax collector & receiver - $20.

On January 18, 1886, the nightwatchman, Mr. Malone, discovered a man rushing out of the front door of D. M. Ponder's store on the Almand block. Malone found the store on fire, fired shots at the fleeing man in vain and raised the fire alarm. Citizens answered the call and stopped the flames from completely engulfing the building.

On February 2, 1886, the Jackson schoolhouse caught fire and burned. Those who gathered in the early morning hours to fight the fire could only remove about half of the furniture inside before the flames overtook the structure. The loss was estimated at $2,000 with no insurance. Professor Featherstone said the cause of the fire was a mystery as no fire had burned in the school since 3 p.m. the previous day, and then it was only some small pieces of wood burning in the fireplace upstairs.

School was temporarily held at the Baptist Church in an old Methodist Church building where local parents hired a teacher to teach their children. At the same time, other parents hired a teacher to conduct school for their children in an old skating rink in a storehouse on Third Street. This was known as the Methodist School.

In February 1886, Bob Land opened a pool room on the west side of the square, and Mrs. Nolen opened a music school on Third Street.

Col. E. P. Catchings was employed by the city council in April 1886 to compile a code of laws for Jackson.

The last frost of the year was felt on April 9, 1886.

In July 1886 came news that a railroad would be built between Griffin and Atlanta that would go through Jackson over the old G. M. & M. Railroad.

Even though almost every evening in the Summer of 1886, young men could be found practicing batting and catching, organizers failed to put together a baseball club in town.

After 9 p.m. on August 31, 1886 an earthquake struck the area just after dark. After several minutes of the ground shaking people came out of houses half-dressed, and gathered to discuss the event. The only damage sustained was broken plastering at H. J. Collins' dwelling, and a cracked chimney in Jenkinsburg. The earthquake was centered in Charleston, South Carolina, and registered between 6.6 and 7.3 in the Richter scale of intensity.

In September 1886, W. M. Mallet rented the Duke & Watkins warehouse and closed it up for the season. Thus, only two warehouses – Mallet's and Hendrick's – operated that season. Both weighed and shipped cotton at 25¢ per bale.

Sometime in October 1886, a young man and woman were tarred and feathered. According to reports, the young man had a wife and children, but had become so smitten with another young woman as to arouse gossip. Several men in the community took it upon themselves to go to the young woman's house, charge in and found the two together. The couple was marched out to the crossing near the bridge, made to remove all their clothes, and quickly covered head to toe in warm tar and feathers.

In October 1886, the *Middle Georgia Argus* listed the following as the greatest needs in Jackson: "a cotton seed mill to produce first-class fertilizer, a furniture manufacturer, a bank, and a new school house to replace the one that burned."

In November 1886, a shooting gallery opened in town.

During Christmas 1886, an unknown dog appeared in the yard at Tom Cole's home and began fighting with the family dog. One of Cole's children playing nearby took up a stick and went to fight off the intruder when it turned on the little boy and bit him severely about the face and neck.

The boy's wounds were dressed and the dog was killed, but a month later the boy fell ill. He suffered in great agony for three days before dying. Dr. Napp considered it a true case of death by hydrophobia caused by rabies.

In 1886, the average duration of life in Butts County was less than 20 years. The heaviest death rate was among children, 40 percent of whom died before age five. The oldest person in the county, Drewry S. Patterson, was 89 years old. *[He died in early 1887.]*

1887

The fourth annual hop given by the young men of Jackson was held January 1, 1887 at the Dempsey Hall. A string band played lively music and dancing continued until 1 a.m.

On January 3, 1887, the largest snow in 50 years fell on Jackson.

In January 1887, the old schoolhouse near the depot was converted into a skating rink.

A shoemaker named Bob Fish built a shop just east of Almond & Moon's in early January 1887.

In January 1887, a bell was installed for the night watchman to ring the hours.

On January 30, 1887, the Jackson Presbyterian Church reorganized with 10 members. They soon bought the property the church shared with the Jackson Baptists, and 10 years later began construction of a new church on the site between North Oak and North Mulberry streets where the church currently stands.

At the end of January 1887, the carriage-making firm of McKenley & Company was dissolved and its business taken over by J. R. Carmichael & Company. Carmichael's buggies were built with an ash and poplar body, large spoked wheels formed of hickory wood, a durable top, and a plush, comfortable seat. His factory became one of the largest carriage companies in the South, producing around 4,000 buggies annually.

Every citizen in Jackson was asked to meet at the courthouse at 7 p.m. on February 1, 1887 for the purpose of nominating a candidate for alderman from the first ward to fill a vacancy caused by the removal from town of W. J. Shields.

Citizens were also asked to vote for whiskey or no whiskey in Jackson. With 132 votes cast, R.F. Gilmore and no whiskey received 75 votes, and J.D. Thornton and whiskey garnered 57 votes.

In the last week of February 1887, a powerful storm brought heavy rain and strong winds to town. Before it even reached the city, the roaring could be heard causing a great deal of uneasiness among citizens who sought shelter immediately. A great deal of fencing and some

small houses were torn up, and a home two miles north of town was completely destroyed. Fortunately, no one was injured.

In early April 1887, someone broke into the store of Bryan and Williams and gained access to the safe there. City Treasurer W. M. Higgins had the city funds deposited there, which were no doubt the object of the thief. The crime was made more alarming since the thief must have had the combination to the safe, since the door opened without breaking the lock. Over $600 of the city's money was taken. Neither Marshall Fox nor McMichael who were on duty that night heard or saw anything suspicious.

The last frost of the year was felt on April 6, 1887.

The leading blacksmith at the J. R. Carmichael carriage factory was charged with bigamy in April 1887. He allegedly married a woman in Texas, then came to Georgia and married in Greene County. When the charge was made public, the blacksmith left town and was not heard from again.

For a total of $75, the city had a ravine near the train depot filled in during April 1887.

In May 1887, the city council voted to impose a one-half of one percent tax on all real and personal property in the town in order to pay for the annual expenses of the town.

In 1887, the Methodist and Baptist schools were combined into one and moved into an old "eating house" near the railroad depot where train employees once lived and ate.

In June 1887, there were two soda fountains and two lemonade stands open to keep citizens cool if they had a nickel to spend on a cool drink.

During the first week of July 1887, the idea of building a college in Jackson had taken hold of the population and nearly $5,000 had been raised in two days to build such a facility. The Jackson Institute Stock Company was formed to build the school, which was known as the Jackson Institute. A board of directors was elected and set about the construction of the college. Board members were: A. H. Smith, M. L. Hendrick, M. V. McKibben, J. F. Carmichael, Z. T. Buttrill, M. W. Beck, E. P. Catchings, R. W. Mays, A. G. Hutchins, and W. M. Mallet who served as president.

The college was built on the old college hill, situated in a two-acre grove of giant oak trees on College Street donated by Col. T. J. Dempsey. The property was to revert to the Dempsey family should it cease to be used as a school. The chapel was to have a seating capacity for 600 persons and be easily accessible to the public square.

In July 1887, materials were filling the streets around Watkins corner for the construction of his three-story building there. There was a basement and two other floors, with storerooms on the main floor and bedrooms and a law office upstairs.

In late September 1887, the planing mill of Gilmore & Plunket near the train depot caught fire and burned to the ground. Several hundred men arrived on the scene to fight the blaze, but there was so much combustible wood in the building that nothing but a few shingles could be saved.

In October 1887, a man visiting town on horse and buggy had a few drinks. As he was leaving town, he was held up by a train and decided to have one more drink. He tied his horse – with buggy attached – to what he thought was a hitching post beside the train tracks and wandered off to the nearest barroom. When the train had passed, the nightwatchman began raising the gate at the crossing. His back was to the gate, so he did not see that as he turned the crank of the windlass, he was also raising the horse and buggy. The rope tightened around the horse's neck so it could not utter a protest as it rose higher and higher.

The visitor returned and began to panic when he saw the position of the horse he borrowed and his buggy. He began yelling at the watchman, who was busy lowering the gate again. The watchman then set upon reviving the horse, which he was able to do.

P. H. Almand announced plans in October 1887 to build a fertilizer manufacturing plant near the train depot, but ended up using Meade Hendrick's warehouse as the site. By the end of November, Almand and his partner, Moon, were producing 200 tons of first-class fertilizer. Work was also continuing on the Jackson College.

In the Spring of 1887, the city purchased a number of hitching posts, but by the end of October, none had been put up for the country people to use.

Excitement was stirred up during the first week of November 1887, when news circulated that a barroom would open on the public square. The City Council, seeking to close the bar before it opened, took the swift action of setting the license fee at $500. But the city law was over-ridden and the new bar was opened the following week. Rumor was that the first quart of whiskey sold at the bar went to one of the dry councilmen.

At a meeting of the Jackson Institute directors in November 1887, J. E. Watts of North Carolina was chosen as principal of the institute.

In November 1887, J. W. Crum bought the entire stock of goods from G. W. Mann and became the sole proprietor of the Rock store.

G. W. Mann resigned as postmaster of Jackson in late November 1887, and W. R. Thaxton was appointed to fill the position. Miss Mattie-Lee Little of Atlanta was elected music teacher for the school.

1888

At the start of 1888, the city's officers were: Mayor M. W. Beck; Clerk & Treasurer F. S. Etheridge; Marshal W. H. Malone; Deputy Marshal J. M. McMichael; and councilmen J. O. Beauchamp, Z. T. Buttrill, E. P. Catchings and A. H. Smith.

In January 1888, Dr. Carmichael took occupation of the old Dryan & Williams stand on the south side of the square.

One of the few ante-bellum landmarks standing in Jackson at the start of 1888 was the old law office of Col. D. J. Bailey, which stood in its original form near the residence of Col. T. J. Dempsey. It was a small frame building with green window blinds. From that office, Bailey was elected three times to the Georgia legislature.

By February 1888, the city fathers had put up a number of hitching posts on vacant lots throughout town. The council also planted the courthouse square with elm trees.

A street from Third Street between the homes of M. L. Duke and Col. McKibben to the college was opened in February 1888.

There were more than 200 children attending school in Jackson at the end of February 1888.

The home of J. D. Thornton burned in early March 1888. No one was injured and most of the family's belongings were saved, though damaged, in the retrieval.

In March 1888, J. R. Carmichael purchased the entire carriage manufacturing business of J. R. Carmichael & Company.

A College Fair was held in March 1888 to raise funds. Booths were set up to sell flour, hams, sugar, wardrobes, bureaus, wagons, coffins, buggies, whips and every other item imaginable. A fishing pond, ice cream parlor and fruit stand were also operated during the event. The ice cream parlor was elegantly carpeted and had a fountain that played all day and night. The entire event raised over $500.

The last frost of the year was felt on March 23, 1888.

Hal Redman on first base, Jim Folds at second, Cornelius Moor at shortstop and Andrew McLendon formed the nucleus of what promised to be an excellent Negro baseball club in town in April 1888.

In early June 1888, Peek & Sullivan closed their livery business in town, and for the first time in years the city was without a livery stable.

There was a need in June 1888 for a buggy road connecting Jackson with Indian Springs.

In July 1888, the board of directors of the Jackson Institute elected Professor W. C. Wright of Eatonton as principal for the ensuing scholastic year. At the same time, Professor J. A. Saunders closed his writing school at the Jackson Institute with 28 scholars.

When the school year opened in August 1888, there were over 100 students, and by the end of the term there were 149 students. Several dozen of them lived in the county or in other counties, and boarded in the city. Tuition for the Institute's four-month Fall term was $4, for the Spring term of six months it was $6, and for music the cost was $3 per month. Maggie Martin was the teacher of music, and had 22 pupils.

L. L. Ray opened a law office in the courthouse on August 1, 1888.

In late August 1888, the livery stable of R. T. Watkins and the F. H. Weaver store burned to the ground. By hard work, all horses inside the stable were saved. The fire, which was believed to have been intentionally set, began in Weaver's store. Great efforts were required to save the two-story building on Watkins' corner, though a heavy rain had just fallen preventing the most destructive fire in the history of town. The neighboring store belonging to McCallum & Fennell caught fire several times but was doused by water carriers.

It was suggested that the City Council would not allow another wooden building to be built on the lot in the interest of protecting valuable property on adjacent lots.

Directors of the Jackson & Indian Springs Railroad met at the courthouse in late August 1888 and appointed a committee to locate and secure rights-of-way for a new train track linking the two communities.

In early September 1888, a group of citizens met at the courthouse in reference to establishing a bank in Jackson. It was to be known as Jackson National Bank. Stock was sold for $1.10 a share. The bank directors rented the law office of Col. McKibben and refitted it to suit the bank's needs. It opened for business on December 10, 1888 with a paid up capital of $25,000, and liabilities double that.

One morning in late September 1888, an alarm was sounded that a mad dog was loose on the streets. In no time, a hundred men were on the streets and a fusillade of pistol shots began. Andrew McClendon, the town barber, fired the fatal shot while both he and the dog were running at a rate of 20 miles per hour. The dog proved to be Col. Catching's pet shepherd, and it bit nearly every dog in town as well as several persons slightly. A little boy, a refugee from Florida, was wounded in the leg by a pistol shot.

In October 1888, an organizational meeting of the Order of Red Men was held in town. It was one of the leading secret institutions of the day with many noble traits. It was open only to the most upright of citizens, and was modeled after Native American rituals. In its constitution in 1886, membership was available as follows: "No person shall be entitled to adoption into the Order except a free white male of good moral character and standing, of the full age of twenty-

one great suns, who believes in the existence of a Great Spirit, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, and is possessed of some known reputable means of support." Dues were paid and invested, and members' families were paid a $100 death benefit.

In 1888, the Almand House hotel opened on Second Street in Jackson with Mrs. A. R. Wilkerson as proprietress. Mrs. T. B. Moore, whose husband built and operated the Dempsey House hotel in 1883, took over the Almand House in 1891. At the same time, Wilkerson took over operation of the Dempsey House.

It was estimated that 5,000 came to Jackson in the first week of December 1888 to visit Howe's Circus, the only circus to stop in town during the year.

1889

A report from F. S. Etheridge, treasurer of the city, showed that for the three quarters ending January 9, 1889 the city had receipts of $1,581.07 and disbursements of $964, leaving a cash balance of $617.67. Among the disbursements were several checks drawn in the amount of 10¢ each, apparently the going hourly wage at the time.

In February 1889, plans were moving forward to build and operate a $5,000 canning factory to can local fruits and vegetables. Local citizens had given $2,000 to Mr. Futral in hopes of advancing the cause. The plant opened in July, and owners themselves planted 15 acres of tomatoes.

Two inches of snow fell on the city on February 25, 1889.

In March 1889, the Jackson Institute required five teachers to manage the pupils.

During the last week of March 1889, Marshal J. M. McMichael had two young men in custody for being disorderly when he was struck on the back of the head by an unseen assailant. He fell to the ground, the suspects got away, and the marshal was treated for his wound at Dr. Carmichael's drug store. He was out of work for several days following the incident.

The last frost of the year was felt on April 8, 1889.

Col. Beck resigned the office of mayor, and an election was held on April 16, 1889 to replace him. T. J. Dempsey won the position of mayor and heard his first cases later that month.

J. R. Carmichael expanded his carriage factory in the Spring of 1889 due to an increased demand for his buggies.

The most popular hotel in Jackson in 1889 was the Almand House on Second Street.

In May 1889, some of the city's leading colored men arranged to organize a Lodge of Odd Fellows and began building a two-story lodge building on South Oak Street.

In 1889, the Jackson Banking Company was organized. It was located on the west side of the courthouse square between the Jackson Mercantile Company (the Star Store) and Slaton Drug Company. F. S. Etheridge was president, and A. H. Smith vice president. The bank closed in 1931 during the Great Depression.

In August 1889, the *Middle Georgia Argus* called attention to the need for a city cart to haul away trash, which was swept from stores and business houses daily.

The Jackson Institute opened for school at the end of August 1889 with 112 pupils, the biggest opening yet. Quite a number of students from other towns entered the school, which was called one of the finest in the state. Pupils at the Institute were said to not suffer from the heat of Summer nor the cold of Winter in the school building.

Miss Tommie Smith was new to the Institute that month. As the new music teacher, she came from Union Springs, Alabama and taught for a year at Wesleyan College and spent a year at the Boston Conservatory.

The school's president was W. C. Wright.

In August 1889 the city added a second hotel to its roster of businesses. A. E. Wilkerson, who had successfully run The Almand House for the previous year, leased the Dempsey House. It opened in September with 25 guests, and soon had a refrigerator to serve ice cold milk and water to guests. T. B. Moore was then in charge of The Almand House, and charged 25 cents for a meal.

In December 1889 the city council met and set the ad valorem tax at one-eighth of one percent, or 12.5 cents on the hundred dollars. This was by far the lowest taxes the people of Jackson had ever paid and spoke well for the management of the city.

Just before Christmas 1889, the new Baptist Church was dedicated in town. A total of $932 was collected during an offering, which paid off the indebtedness of the church. About 500 people attended the service, and all were comfortably seated. The land and the building, including the heating register and bell, cost about $3,500.

1890

During the annual election for mayor and aldermen on January 1, 1890 the following officers won a one-year term: J. O. Beauchamp, mayor; R. G. Bryans, W. S. Tennant, J. H. Carmichael and W. E. Tucker, aldermen. "Everyone seems satisfied with these gentlemen at the head of the city's affairs," wrote the Middle Georgia Argus. "They are all good business men and will do their whole duty."

One of the new council's first orders of business, according to the Argus, should have been to fill in all the old unused wells in town. Several good horses had been killed and crippled by falling into these death holes.

At a meeting of a number of citizens in January 1890, a petition was drawn up asking the governor's permission to organize a military company.

The idea of spending $15,000 for a dummy train line from the depot to the public square and down to Indian Springs was floated in January 1890. It was first brought up by the Farmers' Alliance as an idea of laying tracks from the depot to the Alliance warehouse and then to the public square. There would be no grading required, and the city promised the use of its streets for the project.

In January 1890, the City Council set 75 sawed post oak hitching posts on the vacant lots around town.

A new bell weighing 607 pounds was installed at the new First Baptist Church in January 1890. It reportedly had a sweet, melodious tone.

In February 1890 came the announcement that all persons in Jackson subject to road duty were required to pay their $3 street tax at once. Taxpayers had the option of working six days rather than pay the tax and had to report to the mayor's office for duty.

The Jackson Minnow Club was fully organized in March 1890 and ready for a two-week hunting and fishing trip. The group was well equipped with tents, boats, and fishing tackle.

In March 1890, the Jackson Carriage Factory was covered up with orders for its buggies and employed 15 men.

Eight large brick stores – 85 or 90 feet long - were being built on the public square in March 1890. Judge Harkness was building on the west side of the square and north of the jail on lots he bought earlier that month from Mr. Duke.

In mid-March 1890, the lock to the vault at the Jackson Banking Company became so unmanageable that officers could not reach the money drawers inside for a week. Two experts were called in and worked for 18 hours to force open the doors.

The last frost of the year was felt on March 17, 1890.

According to City Treasurer S. F. Etheridge, the City of Jackson had an income of $900.66 for the period of January through March 1890. The revenue came primarily from licenses and fines. During the same period, the city had expenses of $397.94, leaving a cash balance on April 1, 1890 of $602.72.

A new brick yard was being built in April 1890 to meet the demand for brick caused by the construction around town. In one day, the plant produced 30,000 bricks.

According to the *Middle Georgia Argus* in April of 1890, Jackson had:
"The largest population of any town between Atlanta and Macon.
The most beautiful stores of any town its size in the south.
The best lot of people within its limits in the world.
The best school for boys and girls in the south.
The finest churches of any town its size in Georgia.
The greatest number of fair women of any town of like population on the globe.
The finest carriage factory in the state.
Had, within four miles, the finest mineral springs in the United States.
Was the best town in Georgia.
Was the best town in the United States.
Was the best town in the world."

In April 1890, the City Council purchased a pump for one and an elevator bucket for the other of the two wells on the public square.

The Jackson Institute was in the process of building a gymnasium in April 1890.

In May 1890, Lose Bell opened a barber shop for colored men on Second Street.

A young colored man named Wade Yancy was killed by Sam Grier at the colored Baptist church in an area east of town called Pepperton about noon on a Sunday in May 1890. The weapon used was a pistol, and the ball went directly through the heart, producing death instantly.

According to the *Middle Georgia Argus*, a trivial dispute arose between a sister of Grier and Yancy, when Grier walked up and shot Yancy down without a word. An attempt was made to arrest the murdered by a posse of colored men and one of them, John Hardy, was shot in the shoulder. Grier was overpowered, however, and brought to town and turned over to Sheriff Beauchamp who placed him in jail. Grier was found guilty and sentenced to hang.

[Another account of the crime listed the assailant's name as Sam Greer and the victim's name as Monroe Yancey.]

The third commencement ceremonies of the Jackson Institute were held in late June 1890. The four-day affair including a commencement sermon, recitations, exhibitions, two plays, a commencement address and a musical concert.

Census numbers in July 1890 showed Jackson's population at between 1,000 and 1,100 people representing about 195 families. The county's population as a whole was put at 10,559. In 1880, the population of Jackson was only 212, and the county's was 2,248.

Professor W. C. Wright, president of the Jackson Institute, resigned in July 1890. A week later, the school's board of directors named Professor A. W. Lynch of Eatonton as the new president of the school. In August, the Board chose Professor W. G. Hix as the Institute's vice president.

The school year opened on August 19, 1890 with 95 pupils enrolled, and two weeks later the enrollment was 107. Every pupil was required to have a copy of The Bible to take part in morning exercises when students read about the lives of children of The Bible.

A new well was also needed, as the water in the old well could not be used.

A new county jail was completed by September 1, 1890 on the west side of North Oak Street between Second and First streets. in Jackson. The cost of construction was $4,696. The jail also included a residence for the sheriff's family. This jail was used for 47 years.

Citizens held a meeting in October 1890 to discuss the possibility to pitching together to build and operate a steam laundry. The funds needed were raised and construction of a building was begun.

In October 1890, the Jackson Banking Company moved into its new building on the west side of the square. The interior was finished in Georgia pine. The safe, which was two-feet-thick had a time lock on it, the absolute latest in technology for vaults.

After about five months of publication the *Jackson Vidette* newspaper, a successor to the Jackson News, closed it doors in October 1890.

Snow fell in Jackson on October 23, 1890.

There were 26 churches in Butts County in 1890.

A large bonfire was built on the square in early November 1890 to celebrate the Democratic victory in the general election. From seven to eleven o'clock the sounds of revelry and big guns firing could be heard.

An election was held in early December 1890 to fill the unexpired term of Mayor J. O. Beauchamp. The result was B. P. Bailey, 64 votes, and R. W. Mays, 3 votes.

1891

In January 1891, there were three guano factories running full blast in Jackson.

In January 1891, ground was broken for the grading of the Jackson and Indian Springs dummy line. About 20 men worked on the project. A sawmill was built at Watkin's Mill where the cross-ties and other needed lumber were cut. It was hoped that the line would be open by the Summer travel season and the opening of the new Wigwam Hotel at Indian Springs.

L. D. Watson, cashier of the Jackson Banking Company described Jackson in a letter in January 1891: "There is now in operation under the free school system a large $8,000 institute of 200 pupils - a regular faculty, together with music and painting departments. The Jackson Banking Company has been in operation for two years, has paid the stockholders handsomely, besides being largely instrumental in bringing 18,000 bales of cotton to town - an increase of 100 percent a year for the last two years. The business of the town has increased proportionately to its cotton receipts. Its merchants are enterprising, liberal and progressive."

There was not a vacant business house or residence in the city in 1891, although a large number had been built in the past year.

In February 1891, the Cornet Band sought permission to lay sod on the public square, lay walks and erect a bandstand from which music could fill the evening air.

The last legally licensed barroom in Butts County closed at the end of April 1891.

There were four secret orders in Jackson as of March 1891: the Masonic Alliance, the Red Men, the Knights of Honor (which formed the month before) and one other the Jackson Argus did not name, which was likely the Odd Fellows. All were reported to be in prosperous condition.

In March 1891, work began by Joe Wright, Frank Etheridge and other men on a large brick livery stable just south of the lot that would soon house the New York Store. They were then going to build one or two large brick buildings on the west side of the square adjoining the bank building.

The last frost of the year was felt on April 6, 1891.

After several months of practice, the band gave its first open air performance in April 1891. The band dissolved by the end of 1893.

It was said that Judge J. W. Harkness, who was 78 years old in 1891, was never confined to his bed a day in his life for sickness, always went clean shaven, and never used tobacco. He also attended every superior court held in the county up to that time.

In June 1891, the colored people of Jackson organized a brass band and were given over $200 in instruments.

Local businessmen formed the Jackson Oil Mill Company in June 1891. It required 400,000 bricks, 400 barrels of lime, and 140,000 feet of lumber to build the Jackson Oil Mill. The facility was completed by August, but the board of directors decided not to run the facility that season due to the low price of cotton and the stringency of money. A few weeks later, the

board reversed itself and ordered operations to begin immediately. By November 1891, the engine of the Oil Mill was running and grinding seed at a rate of 20 tons per day.

In 1891, the cornerstone was laid for the Israel Temple C.M.E. Church on First Street. This church sprung from the Jackson Methodist Church when, in 1867, a group of Black men pulled away from that church to form their own.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Etheridge planned to spend $1,000 to extend a Western Union telegraph line from McDonough to Jackson in July 1891. The line was installed quickly, and its terminus point was the Wigwam Hotel at Indian Springs.

In August 1891, the Carmichael Company, one of the largest firms in middle Georgia, began moving its immense stock of goods to the west side of the square where it occupied two rooms in the bank building, which had recently been occupied by the city's two druggists.

H. L. Johnson, a Negro attorney, was admitted to practice law in the Butts County Superior Court in August 1891. He said he would likely set up an office in Macon.

In the middle of September 1891, Dr. Hawley and a band of minstrels played on the courthouse square every night for a week and large crowds of both ladies and gentlemen attended the concerts. He was selling Pastner Germacide and extracting teeth without pain.

In September 1891, according to the newspaper, there were lots of twins in the City of Jackson: "two hotels, two warehouses, two livery stables, two newspapers, two telegraph offices, two furniture dealers, two dealers in buggies, two colored stores, two millinery stores, two male teachers, two female teachers, two marshals, two barbers, two jewelers, two widowed lawyers, two single lawyers, two butchers, two shoe shops, two blacksmith shops, two resident preachers, two public wells, two planning mills, two Baptist churches, two Methodist churches and two brass bands."

In the great bicycle races at Columbus in early September 1891, Dr. Fitzhugh Lee of Jackson won many prizes including first prize in the one-mile state championship, the gold medal in the two-mile safety wheel handicap race and first prize in the one-mile ordinary wheel handicap race. He also won first prize in races held in Augusta on July 4, 1891. His medals and prizes – gold medal worth $50, $10 diamond gold pen, shaving set, oxidized silver looking glass and 1,000 cigars – were displayed at the drug store of J. W. Lee & Son.

Bicycles had just undergone a major transformation from the dangerous high wheeled bicycles that had been the only style available for decades to a "safety bicycle" that featured two wheels the same size and a chain system for powering the back wheel. These changes broadened the bicycle's popularity around the world.

A house on Third Street occupied by Enoch Hooten and owned by Henry Collins burned to the ground in late September 1891.

Mr. C. J. Simmons, the first person ever born in the City of Jackson, died in town on October 1, 1891 on his way from his home in California to visit relatives in Hawkinsville.

In early October 1891, hundreds of shoppers and curiosity seekers attended the grand opening of the grand mercantile establishment known as the New York Store.

In November 1891, the U.S. Weather Bureau advised that Jackson had an opportunity to secure the same weather forecasts as large cities get. It would only cost $10 or $12 for the flags and a small sum to erect a flag staff. The reports would be telegraphed in every morning and the marshals would hoist the signal flags.

The flags were eventually purchased and put in use, but one local woman was quoted as saying the system lacked one flag: one signifying "I don't know," which should be flown at all times, she added.

City fathers were having the well on the south side of the square nicely covered like the well on the north side of the square in November 1891.

Cadets at the Jackson Institute started wearing military uniforms in November 1891 and looked like little soldiers.

As of December 1891, payments on the new county jail were complete at a total cost of $4,943.

Professor A. I. Branham, principal of the Jackson Institute, tendered his resignation to the board of directors in the middle of December 1891. Professor Franklin was promoted to the principal's position, and Henry Fletcher, one of the best educated men in the area, took Franklin's spot.

All merchants in town agreed to close their doors on Christmas Day 1891 and everyone was invited to join in religious services at the Methodist Church.

On Friday, October 16, 1891, a colored man named Sam Greer was hanged in Butts County. He had been found guilty of the murder of Monroe Yancy in the colored church at Pepperton in May 1890. His execution was public, drawing one of the largest crowds in the city's history. Greer was hung on Oak Street under the supervision of Sheriff J. O. Beauchamp. *[An earlier report of the crime listed the victim's name as Wade Yancey and the assailant's name as Sam Grier.]*

1892

In the annual city election in January 1892, E. E. Pound was elected mayor. Aldermen elected were: J. M. T. Mayor, first ward; J. R. Wright, second ward; R. L. Daughtry, third ward; and M. L. Duke, fourth ward.

They took office a week later and elected the following officers: J. M. McMichael, marshal; J. M. Holifield, deputy marshal; D. J. Thaxton, secretary and treasurer; and D. G. McMichael, tax receiver and collector.

Mayor Pound was also known as the first bicyclist in Butts County, having purchased and rode a bicycle in the county in 1867. He was also known for being able to knock the stuffing out of a football, and as an all-around athlete.

The Jackson Institute opened its Spring semester in January 1892 with 143 pupils, the largest enrollment yet.

In January 1892, the Morrison House hotel opened in Jackson, and was reported to be nearly as well equipped and beautiful as the Wigwam at Indian Springs. Located near the public square, the hotel had 14 rooms, an office and a parlor. Every room had grates, closets and carpets. It was finished in Georgia pine.

That month, the hotel hosted a Leap Year party in which young men in attendance dressed in wild homemade robes and dresses to entertain the young ladies in attendance. The hotel also hosted a Valentine party in February 1892.

In early February 1892, J. R. Carmichael bought the building on the north corner of the west side of the square to use as a carriage repository.

As of February 1892, Jackson had two dentists.

By the end of February 1892, boys at the Jackson Institute had organized a football club and ordered a ball.

The last frost of the year was felt on March 2, 1892.

In early May 1892, the Jackson Banking Company began erecting a two-room, two-story building on the west side of the square. It was planned to put two stores in on the ground floor, and offices and a theatrical hall on the second floor.

Baseball was in the air in early May 1892. Following a Jackson Institute team victory over the Jackson Stars, the town team, the following challenge was published in the *Middle Georgia Argus*:

"Capt. Charles Beauchamp, Institute Baseball Club:

You are hereby challenged to meet the Jackson Stars at Grove Park on Friday, May 20, to contest the local championship of Jackson. We have kind regards for you and your little children. We would invite the ladies out to see the game, but you and your little children would feel so

bad. But, Charles, can't you let the ladies come; they love children and though you will be badly whipped, the ladies will say the children need a little spanking.

If you accept this let me know at once. W. F. Lee, captain, Jackson Stars"

During a much-anticipated baseball game between the champions of Stark and Jackson on May 27, 1892, a large crowd gathered around the diamond. J. C. Jones of Stark was chosen as umpire and the game commenced at three o'clock. During the third inning, though, a Jackson player objected to the umpire's ruling and a promiscuous kick was the result. After quite a while of discussing rules, etc. the game was called. The score stood at Jackson – 2, Stark – 15.

A rematch was soon scheduled in hopes that the Jackson squad would "clean the Starks from the face of the earth," according to the Middle Georgia Argus.

In June 1892, Professor J. C. Blasingame was elected principal of the Jackson Institute by the school's board of directors. He was a graduate of the State University. H. M. Fletcher was retained as vice president, and Eva Sasnett, Rosa Thornton and Helen Rogers completed the faculty.

In early August 1892, W. B. Lee of Covington rode a bicycle from that town to Jackson in a time of four hours. No such records are kept, but it was believed to be the fastest time ever recorded on a free-wheeler between the two points.

Two months later, Dr. O. H. Cantrell, covered a distance of 11 miles in exactly 70 minutes. He did so over rough and hilly roads while carrying his daughter in a small seat attached to the front of his bicycle. The child weighed 25 to 30 pounds. Cantrell rode a Cleveland wheel, weighing approximately 50 pounds.

A merry go round, run by Captain Lloyd and Mr. Coggans, was moved close to the public square in September 1892.

In December 1892, word was that the building of a $100,000 cotton warehouse in Jackson was a sure thing. Some of the community's large capitalists were behind the project, and others from a neighboring city were throwing their weight behind it, too.

1893

As of January 1893, there were three lodges for secret orders in Jackson: Masonic, Red Men and Knights of Honor. The Knights of Honor was a fraternal beneficiary society founded about 1877.

In late January 1893, the heaviest snow that even the city's oldest residents had ever seen fell. At least six inches accumulated, and drifts were as high as several feet. The sound of jingle bells filled the air.

In February 1893, the city purchased a mule and cart for the purpose of going around town and picking up refuse and hauling it away before it accumulated.

The Jackson Bakery was run by J. E. Bankston in March 1893. It was located next to the post office, and a baker with 50 years of baking experience worked with a brick oven that had a 500-loaf capacity.

In the Spring of 1893, Jackson had no less than six millinery shops, providing enough hats for everyone.

In 1893, merchants agreed to close their doors at 6:30 p.m. from May 1 to September 1. Saturdays were the exception to this rule.

Results of a school census made public in May 1893 showed that in Jackson there were 183 White students and 298 colored. Countywide, there were 1,621 White students and 1,965 colored students.

The paving of sidewalks in front of J. R. Carmichael's carriage repository and other stores on the west side of the square, and of a walk leading from the street to the front door of the Baptist Church was done in July 1983 by the Atlanta Tile Company. It was said to be beautiful work, and rumored to last for a century or more.

In 1893, it was said that Jackson's colored baseball team beat every team that played it.

When the Jackson Institute opened for the Fall 1893 term, there were 147 pupils on the first day and several more added within the first week of classes.

A case of yellow fever passed through Jackson in September 1893 when the 4:50 a.m. passenger train rolled up to the depot. The conductor notified several parties to steer clear of the rear coach, as there was a case of the fever aboard it. The yellow fever had decimated the city of Brunswick, and people in Jackson had sent much aid to the people there.

A colt show was held on the courthouse square at the end of September 1893, with prizes given to the finest horses shown.

In September 1893, Mayor E. E. Pound spoke to railroad officials and persuaded them to make every northbound passenger train passing through Jackson stop at the depot to allow passengers to board. For some time, only one northbound train – a 4:50 a.m. – stopped in Jackson. Otherwise, residents had to travel to Flovilla to catch a train. By 1894, the town had three northbound and three southbound trains a day making stops at the depot.

The Star Store opened in early October 1893 with well-decorated display windows that rivaled any at stores in large cities. Facing the door was a representation of the Eiffel Tower

made of handsome underwear – warm woolen vests with silk finish, a full line of hosiery, and everything suitable for the approaching cold season. Joe Wright ran the grocery department. Hampton Daughtry was in charge of the men's department.

In the middle of the afternoon in the last week of October 1893, a fire was noticed emanating from the roof of the *Jackson News* building. A few buckets of water could have doused the flames, but it being on top of a high building nothing could be done. Instead, focus shifted to removing valuables from the building.

Within the building were family rooms, the post office, a restaurant, a bakery, a confectionary, a meat market and the entire printing operation of the *News*. Almost all of the furniture and type from the newspaper office and the postal records were saved.

The fire, however, quickly leaped to the large shops of the Jackson Carriage Factory, and despite the heroic efforts of hundreds of men with buckets of water, the whole establishment – consisting of four large buildings – burned to the ground.

The flames moved down the street, burning the old Bankston dwelling, but were stopped before they reached the new Robinson home.

J. R. Carmichael's new two-story brick repository did not catch fire.

There was no insurance on any of the buildings lost, and the fire hurt Mr. Carmichael financially – to the tune of $2,000 - and destroyed a lifetime of savings earned and invested by Mr. Harp. But Carmichael immediately improvised temporary forges and benches in his guano warehouse and his mechanics were back at work within a day.

Butts County Sheriff Beauchamp was shot during the first week of November 1893 while searching a darkened home for a cotton stealer. He found the suspect, but a fight ensued during which a shotgun was discharged. The sheriff was struck by one pellet above the left eyebrow. Beauchamp still managed to handcuff his suspect, and was treated for his injury.

At the end of November 1893, D. J. Thaxton, editor and owner of the *Middle Georgia Argus*, leased the paper to N. J. Harmon and J. G. McDonald for a period of 12 months. McDonald changed the name of the paper to the *Jackson Argus*. Thaxton soon began work for the Macon Telegraph.

Chestnut trees were common in Jackson until a blight decimated most of the trees in the latter years of the 19th Century.

1894

In January 1894, Jackson got a soda water factory, operated by J. W. Francis and located next to Almond, Moon and Company.

There was not an empty storeroom in Jackson at the end of January 1894, and only one vacant house – and it was being rented the following week.

In January 1894, the Council adopted an ordinance raising the business tax on local merchants. It was met with considerable opposition from those local merchants.

In February 1894, Ben Watkins was mayor of Pepper Town, with Mr. Weaver as councilman and Pitts Newton as marshal.

Professor Blasingame reported that as of February 1894, there were 250 students attending the Jackson Institute.

The wooden building on the northwest corner of the square caught fire on a Sunday morning near the end of February 1894. It burned for 20 minutes before it was noticed – as most people were in church at the time – and by the time help arrived the building was gone. The house was occupied by J. M. Bowdoin, who ran a jewelry repair shop in the front end, and J. B. Guthrie, who ran a photographic studio in the rear of the house. Most of the belongings were salvaged before the flames engulfed them.

Calls again went out for an organized fire department in the city.

Councilman T. J. Lane tendered his resignation at the end of February 1894, saying he wanted to live a peaceable life and he could see no good come from further service.

Jackson was inundated with a heavy rain on March 27, 1894. The next morning, there was four inches of ice covering much of the landscape. According to W. F. Duke, Sr., all peach and apple trees were in bloom and died. There was no fruit crop in the county that year. It did not rain again in the county until July 6.

The Farmers Union Warehouse was organized in 1894 to weigh cotton, and to handle cotton seed and fertilizer.

At 3:30 in the morning one Friday in April 1894, a train pulled into Jackson with a carload of cotton on fire. The car, containing 50 bales, had been hitched on at McDonough and was not found to be on fire until it reached Jackson. The car, all the cotton and the railroad below the car burned.

In the first week of April 1894, J. B. Guthrie and J. W. Goddard had a sparring match at Thornton and Hooten's livery stable, and Guthrie kicked Goddard out in the 25th round, while Charlie Gresham acted as timekeeper.

First round: some lively sparring on both sides, resulting in a victory for Goddard. From the second through 25th rounds, Goddard was having the decidedly best of it, when Guthrie let in to kicking like a Texas steer, wounding Goddard in the lower limbs.

There would have been some lively infighting, but the news was received that someone had opened up a keg of beer down near Flovilla, and the fight was declared a draw after the most terrific struggle ever witnessed in a Jackson prize ring. The purse, two old Glory cheroots, was divided evenly between the two contestants.

A mass meeting was held at the courthouse in the first week of May 1894 to determine whether or not Jackson was willing to give W. F. Smith the right to build a railroad from the depot to the public square. The plan was to complete another railroad connecting the depot with the road to Indian Springs, thus giving Jackson through connections to both Flovilla and Indian Springs.

Citizens granted Smith the right to build the line on any route preferable to him. Smith said he intended to complete the line during that month, and hoped to give citizens of Jackson a round trip fair of only 30 cents to Indian Springs.

Smith also had a diagram showing a plant on the South River, which, he said, could light Jackson, Flovilla and Indian Springs with enough electricity to run the cars on the dummy line and power a cotton factory, adding that he said he knew a man interested in spending $30,000 to built.

On May 19, 1894, it got so cold that trees froze and burst open. An overnight rainfall resulted in four inches of ice in places. All growing crops - such as peaches and apples - were killed. It did not rain again until July 6, 1894.

In May 1894, Mr. Etheridge built a windmill, the first one in town.

In June 1894, a Knights of Damon lodge was flourishing. It was an insurance order with its home in Atlanta, and began in Jackson with 24 members.

Jackson had never experienced a cyclone but came close to one in late August 1894. It came from the west, with wind howling at 50 miles per hour and a blinding rain. The tin roof was blown off the Bank Hall, and water damaged goods inside the building. Large trees were blown down in several places, and the Wash Ball home was blown off its pillars.

In September 1894, the Carmichael Company began using a free delivery wagon to bring goods to customers rain or shine.

In November 1894, Miss Fannie Blount had opened a school for the colored people on the parsonage lot in Jackson. She came to town after receiving her diploma from Atlanta University.

In late November 1894, M. V. McKibben publicly challenged seven local men to a bicycle race around the courthouse square on any day before Christmas.

1895

Two inches of snow fell in Jackson on January 1, 1895. And throughout the year, Jackson experienced frost in every month with the exception of July and August.

The people of Jackson gathered at the courthouse in the first week of January to elect a city council. Elected were: W. M. Mallet from the First Ward, H. L. Daughtry from the Second Ward, H. N Byars from the Third Ward, and A. H. Smith from the Fourth Ward.

G. M. Lattig had a 100-acre fruit farm valued at $5,000 in early 1895. He had all varieties of fruits and 10 to 15 acres of grapes. The farm lied partly in the city limits. He sold the farm in March 1895 for $7,000.

A meteor of gigantic proportions lit up the sky above Jackson one night in the first week of February 1895.

The Jackson Lodge of the Order of the Golden Chain was organized by Dr. Guinn in February 1895.

In February 1895, the residence of J. A. Burpee and family caught fire and burned. The roof of the dwelling collapsed five minutes after Mrs. Burpee and her two children got out of the house. The family lost everything they owned.

In March 1895, a train wrecked near Jackson sending four cars and an engine off the tracks and spilling debris and passengers all around in the darkness of 2 a.m. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured, and the two cars in the rear of the train remained on the track. The rear flagman did not even know there had been a wreck until he came forward and saw it.

Near the end of March 1895, E. E. Pound, who was the county school superintendent and mayor of Jackson, was attacked by a paralytic stroke that completely paralyzed his left side and his speech.

Pound was on his way to visit a school out in the county when the stroke occurred. His horse continued on to the school and came to a stop there. A teacher came out to greet Pound, but found him unconscious in his buggy. Pound was taken from the buggy and given attention, and though he improved he was utterly helpless. It was the second serious stroke he had experienced in 12 months.

He died not long after this.

As of April 1895, the Jackson Institute had a full-fledged cornet band. It was under the leadership of Miss Jessie Jones.

Traveling by bicycle in April 1895, one man rode from Griffin to Jackson in two hours and 20 minutes, and two Jackson men rode from the city to Atlanta in six hours.

The enthusiastic bicyclists of Jackson met at the end of May 1895 and organized the Jackson Cycle Club. Professor O. W. Lewis of the Jackson Institute was elected president. That week he rode his bicycle the five miles from Jackson to Indian Springs in only 18 minutes.

At the end of May 1895, there were 10 lawyers in Jackson with the prospect of six more coming soon.

Professor James T. Blasingame was elected in May 1895 to preside over the Jackson Institute for the third time. Professor Saunders continued teaching a class on penmanship. The school graduated seven people - only one of them a boy - in June 1895.

In June of 1895, the young men of Jackson interested in athletics held a field day. Handsome prizes were given to the winners of the following competitions: 120-yard hurdle race, five-mile bicycle race (for men only), one-mile bicycle race (for boys only), 100-yard dash, baseball throwing, standing broad jump, running broad jump, 100-yard bicycle race, mile walk, cake walk, and half-mile walk.

In August 1895, Beauregard Moore resigned as marshal of Jackson and was replaced by J. R. Lyons, and Marshal Holifield was having tall grass and weeds cut down on the edges of streets and sidewalks.

In late September 1895, the Jackson Institute had 200 pupils and was growing still.

Smith & Etheridge commenced work on a large brick building in October 1895. It was located just below Thornton's stable and was 35 feet wide and 125 feet long. It was to be occupied by Collins & Jinks as a carriage factory.

In October 1895, while the family of Elmer Andrews was at dinner, a small dog of his went mad and bit his little son, Charlie, on the cheek making a very severe wound. A few minutes afterwards, the dog began foaming at the mouth and otherwise showed signs of rabies and Andrews killed it.

The father secured mad stone to apply to the wound, but it did not take. So he took his boy to New York to have doctors there apply the Pasteur treatment to the wound in hopes of counteracting the poison.

The child was the fourth person in Butts County bitten by a mad dog in six years.

The streets and sidewalks of Jackson were unusually dusty in the Fall of 1895 causing homeowners and merchants much dismay.

All the merchants in Jackson signed a petition agreeing to close their businesses on Thanksgiving Day 1895.

In December 1895, Dr. W. L. Carmichael put on display a very pretty show window at his drugstore. It was a picturesque scene of a school of frogs frolicking around a glassy pool fringed with moss and vines. A large frog was seated on the bank instructing his pupils in a remedy to cure "a frog in the throat." Two little girls were shown in the background, one looking in the other's throat for a frog.

1896

A new mayor and council were sworn into office in the first week of January 1896. They were: B. P. Bailey, mayor; B. F. Moon, councilman and mayor pro tem; and H. L. Daughtry, Dr. Crum and J. W. Jones, councilmen.

The new council elected J. M. Hollifield, chief of police; Jas. L. Hooten, deputy chief of police; J. Jolly, clerk and treasurer; and E. C. Robison, tax collector and receiver.

At the start of 1896, the enterprising local hardware dealer, A. G. Hitchens, planned to convert the old Dempsey building into a carriage factory to manufacture carriages, buggies, wagons and do general repair work.

In January 1896, came the news that a cotton factory was to built in the suburbs of Jackson. Local men who were involved in its construction were: Smith, Etheridge, Wright, W. M. Mallet, T. J. Dempsey, C. G. Fennell, M. L. Hendrick, Z. T. Buttrill, J. B. Watkins, and W. S. Witham. The mill was to make clothe instead of spinning cotton into thread. Most small factories simply produced thread, but the further the cotton was taken in the manufacturing process the more profitable the enterprise was.

The mill was to have 5,000 spindles, and cost about $60,000. It was believed the factory would increase the city's population by 300 to 500 people, all of whom would spend their salaries with local merchants.

It was decided that the facility would be called Pepperton Cotton Mills, in honor of the area where the factory was to be built. It was built beside the railroad tracks in front of the Negro church in Pepperton. Railroad officials soon began work on a side track to serve the new site.

The two-story building was to be 50 feet wide and 280 feet long for a square footage of 28,000 square feet. It required about 1 million bricks and 1,000 barrels of cement to hold them in place.

Capital stock of $100,000 was raised, and the Pepperton Cotton Mill began operations on September 1, 1896 with 200 employees. Officers for the facility were: J. R. Wright, president; Joel B. Watkins, vice president; A. H. Smith, secretary-treasurer.

A literary club was organized at the home of Miss Agnes Carmichael in February 1896.

In February 1896, members of the colored M. E. Church were erecting a new school. The commodious, two-story building was situated near the church.

In the Summer of 1896, the boys of Jackson had an orchestra composed of several instruments that made splendid music on silvery nights.

Marshal Jim Hooten was promoted to mounted policeman in June 1896.

In early October 1896, the City Council had another well dug on the square.

In the middle of July 1896, the baseball team from Jenkinsburg came to Jackson to take on the local boys and came out winners 16-1.

The home of Ida Foster was almost destroyed by fire in the last week of July 1896. Someone set the fire, possibly the children who were left there by their parents. The structure was not a total loss, but the contents were ruined by water, smoke and rough handling.

A five-mile road race was held on July 29, 1896 and was a success from start to finish. Asa Buttrill was the hero of the event, taking first place with a time of 16:50 on a Columbia model 40.

During the last week of July 1896, about 30 Swedish men, women and children passed through Jacskon on their way to Michigan. Not a one of them was wearing shoes.

J. L. Asby was named permanent superintendent of the Pepperton Cotton Mills in August 1896. He was formerly with the Swift Manufacturing Company in Columbus. Rufus Smith was the bookkeeper of the plant.

Machinery was arriving at the new factory and being installed in preparation for 5,000 spindles to go to work. The plant's opening was delayed though due to problems with delivering the needed machinery.

However, the big engine was in place and tested. This ponderous machine of 180 horsepower had a fly wheel with a diameter of 16 feet and a belt surface of two-and-a-half feet. An efficient water system was installed that could flood the entire building at a moment's notice. The dynamo there powered 850 incandescent lights and there were 300 used for lighting the building, which gave a beautiful appearance at night.

Cottages erected for the employees were completed, and several were occupied by September 1896. The brick store was also opened under the management of T. M. Furlow. Property in the newly created mill town had increased to $200 to $400 per acre.

In August 1896, some citizens on Third Street complained about sanitary conditions in their neighborhood. Foul odors could be smelled at night when residents were trying to cool themselves on their verandas.

Fully 3,000 people were in Jackson on August 19, 1896, attracted by a program of public speaking, a ball game, bicycle races and a general desire to see the town. Never before had Jackson witnessed such a throng of people on her streets.

Two of Georgia's best orators - Bob Berser of Forsyth and George R. Brown of Canton - spoke on the courthouse lawn about their beliefs that pure democracy was the only hope for the people.

The ball game was a disappointment, though, as the Monticello team quit after the second inning due to some trivial excuse. The Jenkinsburg team was clearly the better of the two, and Monticello was not in the game ever.

The full crowd lined Third Street to watch the exciting boys' bicycle race, which was won by Master Faver of Atlanta.

In the three-mile handicap race, Mr. Johnson of Atlanta won with a time of 9:56. The race was marred by an accident when Mr. Allison and Asa Buttrill ran together at a turn. Both riders were thrown from their wheels, and Allison suffered a broken arm.

Johnson also won the five-mile handicap race with a time of 14:30.

In September 1896, you could buy seven pounds of coffee for $1 at Thompson Brothers, one pound of tobacco for 18 cents at Allen and Company, and Arrow Ties for $1.15 per bunch at the Globe Store.

In September 1896, it was suggested that a public shelter for farmers' animals be built in town to provide the animals with shelter from the rain or sun or snow when their owners came to town.

Extremely dry weather in September 1896 again called attention to the need for a new public well on the downtown square. The north well, the one most frequently used, often went dry when there was a crowd in town. The well on the southside of the square was generally not as good and its water not as pure as the north side well.

It was recommended that a new well be dug - at the county's expense - on the west side of the square as it would be more convenient to shoppers and store owners there. If the county did not take action, it was written in the Jackson Argus, then the City Council should step up.

It was also recommended - as nights got longer and darkness came earlier in the Winter - that the City Council put street lamps at every corner.

A water tank and pumping apparatus were installed at the railroad depot in September 1896 to provide water for passing trains.

Allen and Company were building a new 20' x 60' brick building in September 1896.

In 1896, the Cleveland House hotel opened in Jackson with J. L. Hooten as proprietor.

During the first week of October 1896, several bicycle tires were punctured at night by mischievous boys.

In November 1896, Dr. R. W. Mays was fitting out his old building known as May's Hall into a new opera house. It was located at the corner of Third and Holly streets. He had scenery put in, and raised the floor in the rear of the building and slanted it at a 45-degree angle. Places like it for amusement and entertainment in small towns were generally referred to as opera houses.

By November 1896, the city had installed street lamps at every cross street in town.

In late November 1896, an enthusiastic meeting was held in the courthouse on the subject of getting a system of water works for Jackson. Such a system, it was said, could help fight fires and give homes the convenience of running water.

Jackson got a healthy covering of snow in the first days of December 1896.

J. R. Carmichael reported in December 1896 that he had added helpers in the paint shop and another worker in the wood working department since he had never built as many Jackson Buggies as he did in 1896.

After an absence of eight years, Parry Lee returned to edit and publish the *Jackson Argus* in December 1896. R. L. Harper was also named publisher as editor, and owner, A. A. Rose, retired. J. G. McDonald, who had owned the *Argus* for three years started a new paper called the *Jackson Times*.

In early December 1896, J. R. Carmichael gathered about 50 children and babies, put them in a large wagon and hauled them all over town. They all had a great time.

1897

In 1897, the old county courthouse, which was built in 1873, was demolished to make way for a new courthouse.

In March 1897, the *Jackson Argus* printed an article titled "Jackson In Front," which listed the following positives about the city:

"Pepperton Cotton Mills - A hundred thousand dollar cotton factory is in full blast, with its products sold way ahead of its capacity.

Churches - The Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches are in flourishing condition.

Schools - Jackson Institute, with its 300 pupils, is the pride of the town. It is not denominational in any sense and has the unanimous and undivided support of our citizens.

Jackson Bank - This bank has proved to be of unspeakable benefit to our town and section. In the dark days of '93 the Jackson Bank did some work for our people that they will always remember with gratitude.

Planing Mills - Jackson has two who do good business and a very pretty new house in this section was prepared under their supervision. Mr. H. F. Gilmore has his mill on the town limit, while Mr. J. A. Plunkett is well up inside the incorporate line.

Oil Mill - The Jackson Cotton Seed Oil Mill has been worth thousands of dollars to our county. M. L. Hendrick and J. T. Goodman have been in charge of the business since its inception.

Ginneries - Jackson has two first class ginneries. The oil mill gin runs 240 saws and the Gate City gin 240. The Gate City is better known as Mallet's Gin. These 480 saws cannot gin the cotton as rapidly as the people bring it to this central point.

Warehouses - Three warehouses - Mallet's, the Farmer's Union and the Railroad - have as much as they can do to handle the cotton in the fall and the guano in the spring. The amount of guano sold at this point is enormous.

Livery Stables - Levi Spencer and Dr. R. W. Mays are friendly competitors in furnishing stylish turnouts. There are more mules sold here than one would think. J. H. McKibben & Company, M. L. Duke & Company, J. J. Thornton & Company, R. W. Mays sell over 500 mules in a good season.

New Court House - We are soon to have a new court house which will be a modern house in every respect.

Hotels - The Morrison House, with Mr. Buchanon, proprietor, and the Cleveland House, with Mrs. Pennie Hightower proprietress, are as good as hotels that can be found in any town the size of this. Both run free hacks to the depot.

Professions - The legal business of this section is looked after by as talented lot of gentlemen as could well be grouped together. Colonels Y. A. Wright, Mills & Bailey, T. J. Dempsey, M. V. McKibben, F. Z. Curry, Ray & Ray and J. D. Watkins are a whole lot of teams. Doctors J. Lee Bryon, R. G. Bryans, J. A. Jarrell, W C. Bryant, J. L. Mapp and our dentist, O. H. Cantrell, are a power for good in our community.

Merchants - We could not begin to mention all of our mercantile firms. The New York Store, the Star Store, and the Globe store are mammoth concerns and have no superiors in the larger cities. Our merchants really make Jackson what it is, the leading commercial center of this section of Georgia.

Cotton Buyers - A. H. Smith is known throughout the cotton world. W. W. Lumpkin is also one of our buyers. Besides the above famous buyers Mallet, Moon and Nutt conspire to make ours the best cotton market in Middle Georgia.

Carriage Factories - Jackson is a veritable buggy breeder. The Carriage Factory of J. R. Carmichael and that of A. G. Hitchens are enterprises which add greatly to our town."

During the first week of June 1897, ground was broken and work begun on the new building for the Farmers' Union Warehouse on Covington Street. The building, measuring 480' by 78', was by far the largest warehouse in middle Georgia and was built of brick. Bricks from the recently demolished county courthouse were reportedly used in the construction of the warehouse. Men behind the Farmers' Union at the time were J. Matt McMichael, S. C. McCandless and Jim King.

In 1897, the Standard Oil Company under the direction of Thomas A. Cole started serving Jackson, offering axle grease, harness oil, wax candles, and kerosene for lamps.

The Zion Baptist Church, which was founded in 1863 and located in Pepperton, established a new home on Benton Street in 1897.

Negro children of Jackson attended a school in a church in 1897. The school was presided over by Felix Rogers.

In October 1897, the clerk of superior court presented a petition from a number of citizens of the City of Jackson requesting the establishment of a public school in the city to be known as the Third Street School. The petition was refused, and the Butts County Institute was discontinued.

On November 22, 1897, a bill was passed by the state legislature that incorporated the Town of Pepperton. It took its name from a patch of red peppers from which a Negro village, Peppertown, took its name. In addition to the construction of the cotton mill there in 1896, a general mercantile store, a warehouse, 21 dwellings and a church had also been built. The church was reportedly the only one in Pepperton and was used by all faiths as a Union Church. It also served as the first school house in the mill village.

1898

The Jackson City Council elected the following officers in January 1898: E. C. Robison, tax receiver and collector; W. I. Collins, chief marshal; Lawrence Crawford, deputy marshal; Parry Lee, clerk and treasurer.

In January 1898, some scamp chopped down shade trees on Third Street near the homes of Dr. Carmichael and E. P. Ezell.

J. H. McKenzie, a noted contractor from Augusta, signed a contract in January 1898 for the building of a new county courthouse. The contract stated that the building was to be completed by August 1, 1898. Mr Bruce, an architect from Atlanta, came to town to assist McKenzie with the grade line for the new courthouse, and the excavation of the basement began in the middle of January 1898.

Fifty workmen were involved in the $25,000 project, which still serves as the county's courthouse today. The courthouse was designed with four entrances with a wide hall extending from each entrance entirely through the building. The tower fronts toward the southeast corner of the square and was built almost entirely of rock. An elegant clock with four large dials was placed in the tower. The estimated cost of the clock alone was $600 to $700.

John Stone, a native of France and supervisor with a national reputation, was sent to Jackson to be superintendent of the construction.

Sometime in 1898, Jackson residents voted for $20,000 in bonds to be used to build a water and light system in town. The need for both had been the topic of meetings and editorials for years. Prior to that a few homes were furnished with water from an elevated tank on McDonough Road owned by Joe Wagner, and some of the larger houses were lighted by acetylene gas, each home having its own generator. *[However, the proceeds from the bonds were not spent on a water and light system until 1905.]*

By March 1898, the streets of Pepperton were being opened up and otherwise improved by the Pepperton City Council. Mayor Asbell was seen as a first-class officer.

In March 1898, the Butts County Grand Jury found that the county's 46 schools - 22 White and 24 colored - were in good condition. Eighty-eight percent of the county's children were enrolled in school for a total of 3,176 students - 1,512 White and 1,664 colored.

A case of smallpox was confirmed in a Fincherville man, and a detention camp and hospital were set up at the county farm. Dr. W. C. Bryant was in charge. Citizens would be removed from their homes against their will as long as they are properly provided for and guarded at their own expense. It was advised that all persons be vaccinated against the disease.

In March 1898, came news that the City Council was to erect a building near the calaboose (or jail) in which to store a hook and ladder truck and the chemical appliances required to fight fires.

Charles Beardsley organized a lodge of the Home Forum, an insurance order, in Jackson in March 1898 with 23 charter members.

Jackson's Board of Health in March 1898 consisted of C. S. Maddox, C. G. Fennell and Dr. R. G. Bryans.

In an election held on March 3, 1898, prohibitionists won the vote to keep Butts County dry by 658 votes to 239 votes.

Jackson's first telephone exchange was in operation as of April 1, 1898. It was put together by Steven B. Kinard with his own capital and exertions, and had 46 subscribers to begin with in Jackson, Flovilla and Indian Springs. Miss Mamie Borders was in charge of the central office during the day, and Bryant Thompson manipulated the wires at night. It was reported that the most inaudible sounds were transported over the wires with ease. The telephone number of the *Jackson Argus* was 19. Kinard came to Jackson several years earlier and took a position with the Jackson Banking Company. His privately-owned telephone system was sold to Southern Bell in 1906, when Jackson had 106 phones.

J. H. Ham, enumerator, found that in April 1898, the population of Jackson was 1,457 and the population of Pepperton was 324.

A law enacted by the City Council in April 1898 prohibited the sale of cigarettes in the city for the rest of the year.

In early April 1898, a child on Second Street was reported to have smallpox. As a precaution, the City Council ordered the place quarantined and placed a guard over it. When the guard left his post, he placed a short barbed wire across the sidewalk to ward off pedestrians. J. H. McMallum, a salesman in the grocery section of the New York Store, was going home on his

bicycle when he struck the wire. He was thrown several feet into the air, sustaining painful, though not serious, injuries. The supposed case of smallpox proved to be nothing but mumps.

As of April 1898, it cost 50 cents to be caught riding a bicycle on the sidewalks of Jackson.

In April 1898, Dr. R. G. Bryans purchased a water tower for his lot on Second Street. The tank was 45 feet high, and gave the doctor sufficient pressure to water his vegetation and garden.

Businesses in Jackson closed on April 26, 1898 so that all could witness the salute to the Confederacy that was held in the Presbyterian grove that day.

On a Friday evening in late May 1898, the ladies of the Methodist Church held an ice cream festival in the Presbyterian grove, and realized $14 that was put toward the payment of a new organ for their church.

When commencement exercises were held at the Jackson Institute in May 1898, there were 11 seniors - five boys and six girls. Charles Luther Carter was the Valedictorian, and John Thomas was the Salutatorian.

A thunderstorm in late May 1898 burned out the telephones in Jackson.

In 1898, there was a Jackson tennis Club.

In June 1898, the mayor fined a man $2 for reckless driving in Jackson.

W. J. Allen opened a shoe repair shop directly behind the Star Store in the first week of July 1898.

In July 1898, Frank McKibben, a popular furniture dealer in Jackson, purchased the furniture and undertaking goods at Crum's Corner and added them to his already large stock. A month later, R. N. Etheridge severed his six-year-old ties with the New York Store and bought McKibben's business.

Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Carmichael's 12-room Victorian mansion was completed in July 1898 at the then-incredible cost of $16,000. The home is still standing on McDonough Road at Second Street and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Place.

In August 1898, the firm of Wright & Company opened in the old Crum's Corner location on the square. It's owners were W. W. Wright and R. S. Brown.

George Gilmore resigned as chief of police in August 1898 and took a job in the grocery room of the New York Store.

In 1898 the United States was at war with Spain in Cuba, and several soldiers from Jackson saw action and came home to tell about it.

Jackson's cemetery assumed its shape without any direction toward a system or order. But in early September 1898, the city cleared land adjacent to the old city cemetery, graded it, laid off streets and sidewalks and procured granite corner posts for marking and numbering all lots. It was the intention of the Council to sell all lots at the uniform prices of $10 per lot.

In September 1898, the Jackson Furniture Company began employing a man full-time to dig and cement graves as well as keeping a supply of cement and bricks on hand, thereby reducing burial costs to a minimum. The firm also had a canvas, which could be used to cover the grave during interment on a rainy day.

In late September 1898, the new county courthouse was completed and the keys turned over to Judge Carmichael. The building was dedicated in the first week of December 1898.

A movement began in September 1898 to make the girls at he Jackson Institute wear uniforms to school. There were 40 students boarding at the school.

Dr. O. H. Cantrell was considered the best dentist in Jackson in 1898.

In December 1898, Jackson was served by eight Southern Railroad passenger trains per day - four northbound to Atlanta, and four southbound to Macon.

During 1898, the Jackson Post office sold 120,000 stamps with gross receipts of $2,411.68, according to postmaster Harp. The population within one mile of the county courthouse was 2,200. There were 13 post offices in the county, and Harp's salary was fixed at $1,100 annually.

1899

During the second week of January 1899, the new Jackson City Council was sworn in. Members of the Council were: R. G. Bryans and C. G. Fennell, first ward; J. R. Carmichael and Z. T. Buttrill, second ward; B. P. Bailey and J. B. Settle, third ward; and A. G. Hitchins and O. H. Cantrell, fourth ward. Joseph Jolly was the clerk and treasurer for the city.

A week later, the Council elected its city police force: W. B. McMichael, chief, and L. M. Crawford, deputy. John Lyons was elected tax collector and receiver for the city at the same meeting.

An election was held in Pepperton in the middle of January 1899. W. B. Taylor and R. M. Tidwell were elected aldermen, W. M. Harper was elected mayor pro tem, and J. P. May was appointed marshal.

On the last day of January 1899, Jackson residents awoke to a thick blanket of snow covering their community. Snowballing was the order of the day for young and old alike.

On February 13, 1899 and continuing for several days afterward, the county suffered the coldest weather it would face for more than 100 years. The temperature plummeted to 11 degrees below zero - as measured on the thermometer on Dr. R. G. Bryan's north veranda - and the land was blanketed with several inches of snow for days. Birds froze.

"Georgia has had this week the coldest weather, perhaps in her history," wrote Parry Lee, editor of the Jackson Argus at the time. "It was a revelation in cold weather to our people. There was comparatively little human suffering, and when a case was reported, supplies were promptly furnished. Business was benumbed and practically at a standstill… Sleigh riding was a favorite pastime."

In fact, with three days of snow, numerous sleigh parties and outings were held throughout the county. The Jackson Institute was closed for two days.

In February 1899, the City Council sought bids for cleaning, filling, lighting and putting out street lamps in the town of Jackson. Bids were submitted to O. H. Cantrell.

Asa and Tom Buttrill opened a cigar factory on the east side of the square in March 1899. They had received a lot of tobacco stock, including some very fine Havana leaf. Judge Harkness smoked the first cigar produced there, and proclaimed it "most excellent."

In March 1899, Z. T. Buttrill resigned as a city alderman, requiring a special election to fill his seat. Within two weeks, Judge Robison was elected and sworn in as Buttrill's replacement.

L. L. Price of Atlanta opened a barbershop with two chairs in front of the Jackson Cigar Factory on the east side of the square in March 1899. He also made a speciality of shampoos for ladies at his home on Covington Street.

There were damage suits amounting to $25,000 filed against the city in 1899.

As of April 1899, the Jackson Institute had 806 pupils, by far the largest enrollment in the history of the school.

In May 1899, several local business leaders filed a petition for the incorporation of a mutual fire insurance company to be known as the Farmers' Cooperative Fire Insurance Company.

Lightning struck a home in Pepperton at the end of May 1899. Mr. & Mrs. Landcaster were on their back veranda when the bolt struck at about dark, and both were knocked senseless. Both had their shoes literally torn from their feet by the charge, and Mrs. Landcaster remained in

serious condition for several days afterward. Two children were also lying on the floor just indie the door and were insensible for some time.

At 6 o'clock one Friday evening at the end of May 1899, wagons filled with straw appeared on the square and were taken charge of by young men. They made the rounds of the city, picking up young women who waited on their front porches with filled baskets. The wagons then headed to Indian Springs for a moonlight picnic, strolling, and a cakewalk at the Wigwam hotel.

In June 1899, plans were announced to make improvements to the Southern Railway station at Jackson. The station was also described as being the best on the line between Atlanta and Brunswick with the exception of Macon.

J. R. Carmichael was erecting a guano house in Jackson in August 1899.

In September 1899, J. M. Sears of Griffin opened a branch of the Griffin Grocery Company in the stand vacated by Allen & Company when that firm moved down the square. Also that month, J. J. Thornton moved his business to the east side of the square, where he sold buggies, wagons, harness and farming implement. The Western Union Telegraph office moved into the room in the Commercial building formerly occupied by Andrew McLendon's barbershop that month as well.

On the first Monday in November 1899, voters in Jackson narrowly approved the issuance of $25,000 in school and water works bonds. The registered vote was the smallest ever known, and this left the matter somewhat in doubt. Only 147 voters were registered for the issue, and 98 were required to approve the bonds. An hour before the polls closed, when the fate of the bonds seemed to hang in the balance, some public-spirited young men went to work and got their friends to the polls. The final count showed that 102 votes had been cast for the bonds, four more votes over the two-thirds majority required.

One night in November 1899, Jesse Hanes was riding his bicycle home when he ran over a varmint on the sidewalk. He was surprised to learn the next morning that it was a mink he had hit.

The Pepperton Cotton Mill had 100 turkeys in December 1899, and gave one to each head of family in Pepperton at Christmas.

Over the holiday week, Drank S. Etheridge was called on to meet with the people of the village at the mill one afternoon. Etheridge could not imagine what the cause of the meeting was, and when he arrived at he mill found a crowd of several hundred. A Mr. Asbell came forward and presented Etheridge and Mr. Asa Smith with gold watches and chains the mill employees pooled their resources together to purchase. Witnesses said it was hard to tell which crowd had the most to be thankful for – the employer or the employees.

In another sign of the happy state of affairs in Pepperton Village at the turn of the century, the mill owners are building a meeting house, which will be turned over to the people for religious worship.

Figures from the Southern Railway showed the volume of business being done In Jackson equivalent to cities with a population of 5,000. In December 1899, the freight on merchandise shipped from Jackson via railroad was $3,000, and it was $8,000 on merchandise coming into the city on the rail line.

A two-year-old child was burned to death in his home in Pepperton one night in late December 1899 when he was playing close to a fireplace and his clothing caught fire.

At the end of 1899, the Jackson Institute Stock Company was broke and the school in debt. So the city issued $5,000 in bonds to pay off the school's debt and turned the Institute into the city's free public school. John L. Johnson of Mississippi was named Superintendent of the Jackson School System.

1900

The year 1900 began with a mass meeting at the courthouse to nominate a board of trustees for the Jackson Institute. The school's parent company, the Jackson Institute Stock Company, had fallen into receivership. The city issued $5,000 in bonds to pay of the school's indebtedness and merged it into the Public School. The city finally had what it had long needed: a free public school. Students that lived in the city limits paid a $1 entrance fee. Those who lived outside the city paid the entrance fee, plus $1 per month tuition.

W. M. Mallet had retired from the chairmanship of the Institute. The January meeting was called to order by F. S. Etheridge, chairman, and Jasper O. Beauchamp acted as secretary. Etheridge was re-elected chairman along with an eight-man board. Following impassioned speeches from Col. Y. A. Wright, Judge Bailey and Etheridge himself, calls went up from the crowd for "Beauchamp." C. O. Beauchamp, a young nominee for mayor, came forward and made his own enthusiastic speech in which he pledged himself to the general progress of the town, calling on the people to cooperate with him in an effort to make Jackson a better town than ever before.

In January 1900, Mayor Beauchamp began a war against vagrants in the city. All persons found loitering on the streets from then on had to show the mayor visible signs of means of support, or else they were given a job by the city working on the streets.

The Jackson Mercantile Company got two new stockholders in January 1900, when R. S. Brown and E. L. Adams bought stock from R. L. Daughtry. There was no immediate reorganization of the company, and J. B. Wright remained president.

In the dress goods and notions department, R. S. Brown became manager with able assistance from W. N. Brown and Mrs. Robert Mayo.

Scott Tennant was the head of the show department, and H. L. Daughtry had charge of the clothing, hats, and men's furnishings.

In the grocery department were J. R. Wright, J. B. Settle and S. O. Ham. E. L. Adams held the position of bookkeeper, and Mrs. Fretwell remained as assistant to the milliner. S. M. Pope was the general utility man, and was at home in any of the departments.

It was estimated that the company did $100,000 in business a year, and had sailed through seven years of turbulent commercial seas to become stronger in 1900 than ever before. It's future seemed rosy.

After he sold his stock in the Jackson Mercantile Company, R. L. Daughtry took charge of the W. W. Wright & Company dry goods business, and changed the name to R. L. Daughtry & Company. He was known previously as the manager of the Star Store.

R. S. Brown, long connected with the Carmichael Company, joined W. W. Wright in the establishment of a dry goods store. The new year found Brown in the dry goods department of the Star Store [aka the Jackson Mercantile Company]. Brown was known for buying goods in New York that people in Jackson were hungry for. It was said no man in Jackson was popular. "He had a face as bright and cheerful as a sunrise and heart that goes all the way up his throat," it was said of Brown.

In January 1900, The Racket Store was sold to S. A. Biles from C. A. Harwell. Biles will move his family to town from Flovilla.

J. A. Plunkett & Company began work in January 1900 on a flour mill on Lyons Street near the depot.

Lawyers in Jackson included M. P. Hall and J. T Moore, with an office in the Bank Hall, and M. M. Mills, with an office with T. J. Dempsey.

Doctors in Jackson included Dr. J. A. Jarrell, physician and surgeon with an office in the Almand Block, and O. H. Cantrell, doctor of dental surgery with an office in the Watkins Building.

Grocery stores included Allen & Company, and Edward's

Drug stores included Harris Drug Company and W. L. Carmichael & Company.

G. W. Kinsman, a blacksmith opposite the jail, had a prosperous year in 1899.

Parry Lee was editor and publisher of the *Jackson Argus*.

The firm of Wright Carter & Company added C. R. Gresham to its stockholders in January 1900. The firm was then composed of J. R. and W. W. Wright, J. S. Carter and Gresham. The firm sold vehicles, fertilizer, buggies, harnesses, and guano. In January 1900, the firm leased a well-fenced lot in front of its place of business for a wagon yard and hitching ground for their customers. This had been needed for a long time.

There were, in Jackson in 1900, some splendid business women. An example was Janie McKibben, who in addition to her household duties, attended to details of business. Another is Mrs. C. R. Greshem who owned and managed a prosperous millinery business.

The city election held Wednesday, January 3, 1900 was a quiet one, the matter practically being settled during the mass meeting at the courthouse on January 1.

Charley Beauchamp had no opposition for the position of mayor. One of the first graduates of the Jackson Institute, he was also a graduate of Emory College. He managed the Racket Store in Thomaston before returning to Jackson. With his election, Jackson had one of the youngest mayors in the state, but one focused on education and progress for the city.

The new City Councilmen – J. R. Wright, Dr. W. C. Bryant, R. H. Carmichael and W. P. Nutt - were also described as progressive. Councilmen served two-year terms.

It was the general consensus of the citizens of Jackson that it was the most harmonious state of affairs anyone could remember, and that it would move forward in the 20th Century.

Beauchamp appointed the following committees:

Street: Hitchins - chairman, Bryant and Robison.
Public Schools: Bryant – chairman, Bailey, Nutt
Sanitary: Bryans – chairman, Nutt, Bailey
Cemetery: Wright – chairman, Carmichael, Bryans
Police: Bailey – chairman, Bryans, Carmichael
Finance: Wright – chairman, Hitchins, Robison
Fire: Bryant – chairman, Carmichael, Robison
Public Buildings & Grounds: Carmichael – chairman, Nutts, Bryant
Ordinances: Robison – chairman, Bryans, Bailey
Waterworks: Bryans – chairman, Wright, Carmichael
Printing: Robison – chairman, Hitchins, Bryant
Taxes: Hitchins – chairman, Wright, Bryans
Salaries & Bonds: Nutt – chairman, Hitchins, Wright
Contested Claims & Litigations: Bailey – chairman, Hitchins, Nutt

G. Hitchins was elected Mayor Pro-Tem.

The City Council re-elected the same police officers: W. B. McMichael and L. M. Crawford.

O. H. Cantrell served as city clerk and treasurer.

Spring term of the Jackson Institute school began on January 9, 1900 with 190 students, and superintendent and professor John L. Johnson reminded parents to send 50 cents as an incidental fee which each student. The next week, there were 210 students. Improvements to the tune of $500 were to be made there in 1900, and in 1901 tuition was to be free to every child within the city.

Mayor Beauchamp went before the county commissioners on January 11, 1900 and secured their consent to place a rope on the courthouse bell to use as a fire alarm. The rope will extend downward from the outside.

The Council accepted the permit and the fire committee set the following: if a fire breaks out in the first ward, one stroke of the bell is given then an interval and so on for quite a while. If the fire is in the second ward, there would be two strokes bell, and so on for the third and fourth wards.

The city also placed a bell at the police headquarters for anyone to ring in case a policeman is needed and not readily available.

A prize fight scheduled for the middle of January 1900 at Mays Opera House was canceled by Mayor C. O. Beauchamp, who said his city would not be disgraced by such sport.

During their annual meeting in January 1900, stockholders of the Jackson Banking Company elected Z. T. Buttrill, J. R. Wright, Joel B. Watkins, A. H. Smith, W. S. Witham, J. R. Carmichael and F. S. Etheridge as directors.

The directors then elected F. S. Etheridge, president, and R. P. Sasnett, cashier.

The Jackson Library Association was formed in January 1900 by Miss Eva Sasnett and Professor Johnson. The object was to provide those who paid $1 membership fees with the latest books by the best authors.

The City of Jackson was in need of garbage ground in 1900, a new place to put its garbage as the land being used was resulting in considerable complaints.

A cold spell descended on all of the state in early February 1900. Those who had thermometers in Jackson reported temperatures as low as 6 degrees, though Dr. R. G. Bryans reported 11 below zero on his north veranda. Sleigh riding was a favorite pastime in the snow that fell and stuck for several days.

Mrs. C. R. Gresham purchased the millinery business of the C. G. Fennell Company, and an apartment prepared for this business. Mrs. Gresham left soon after for New York and Baltimore to purchase her Spring goods.

At its February 1900 meeting, the county commissioners voted to prohibit the city council from using the courthouse for its meetings and the mayor for city court. So the mayor and council took up space in the Masonic Hall on the Mulberry Street side of the square.

Over 300 people attended a night of entertainment by the Projectoscope & Comedy Company from Baltimore at the Mays Opera House.

A group of five or six men in Jackson proposed organizing a corporation for the purpose of building a town of which only stockholders can be members. Only members of the corporation will be employed to work in the city, and the company will provide all utilities, schools, transportation and other items. Everything farmed on the land will be used to feed the

citizens of the new town. Saloons and their accompanying allurements of vice will be excluded. For more details, citizens were asked to contact S. C. McCandles.

According to W. F. Smith, manager of the Flovilla and Indian Spring Railway Company and editor of the *Homeseeker*, the cooperative colony is to be created on the Southern Railway between Flovilla and Macon. Backers secured an option on over 600 acres of the Mitchell place, adjoining Grover's Plantation in Jones County, and included a seven foot shoal of the Ocmulgee River.

W. M. Mallet, president of the Board of Directors of the Jackson Institute, announced in February 1900 that uniforms would be required for all girls enrolled at the school. The description of allowable styles was quite specific, including fullness in front made by six tucks on each side of the girls' skirts, shirt cuffs had to be two-and-a-half inches wide for high school girls, and navy blue straw sailor hats for all the girls.

The school had 325 students during the Spring term. The rooms were full to overflowing, and primary grades were taught in the chapel.

A powerful thunderstorm swept through Jackson on the night of Saturday, March 4, 1900, which tore part of the roof off Moon's store, blew down trees and fences, and knocked over several outhouses. No one was reported injured, though the line of storms killed four people in other towns.

Webb Cardwell was jailed on March 6, 1900 on a charge of assault with intent to murder. He struck another Negro on the head with an ax.

The chief of the fire department, Joseph Leach, called members to report to the fire headquarters at the end of March 1900 for permanent organization and drill.

At the end of March 1900, city alderman Z. T. Buttrill resigned his position, and an election to fill the spot was called for. Two weeks later, Judge E. C. Robison was unanimously chosen as a candidate to replace him on the council from the second ward. He was elected and sworn in the following week.

Stores in Jackson opened with new merchandise recently purchased from New York and other faraway cities. Stores that opened during the Spring Openings were the new store of W. W. Wright & Company, the New York Store, The Star Store, The Globe Store, Gresham's millinery, and Moon's.

Many Jackson businesses also attracted shoppers from all over with Bargain Mondays. Lines were so long that many customers took their purchases without having them wrapped.

A seven-year-old boy in Pepperton had his leg broken in April 1900 when a Negro bicyclist ran over him. The Negro was remanded to jail in default of a $150 bond.

In April 1900, Contractor Bryan had completed two houses and planned to build two more by the ball ground. One home was already rented, as more housing was needed in the city.

"The frame houses of the 1880-to-1900 era, which served as home to many of today's senior citizens, was not designed for creature comfort," wrote Vincent Jones in a newspaper column in 1994. "Often built by family members, they stood as a testament that loving hands do not excellent craftsmen make.

"Houses with double floors were abodes for the affluent, of which there were not many," recalled Jones. "My brother and I were constantly losing marble through cracks in the single floor of our house, and on cold days, we often fed chickens through the knotholes that two rapscallions found was both removable and replaceable. Another inconvenience of the older home was the tendency to build them close to the ground, leaving little crawl space to repair busted water pipes, which occurred frequently after sudden temperature drops, or to retrieve eggs from the most remove corners without meeting an egg-loving snake face to face in uncomfortably close quarters.

"In those days before the luxury of piped heat, the small 12-inch coal burning fireplace was the only source of warmth and the family drew chairs around it, their feet comfortably cozy on the hearth while their backsides froze," Jones wrote.

"The town dweller had his barn, built for a buggy with the horse stall next door," Jones wrote in another newspaper column, "an outdoor comfort station, a wood shed, a wood pile, a chicken house and lot, a garden and an assortment of animals from a cow, pig, cat, dog and an occasional goat."

A petition was filed in April 1900 asking postal authorities to begin rural mail service to the county.

On Memorial Day 1900, business was brisk in Jackson, with stores reporting heavy sales. It was a sunny day, and many people gathered to pay tribute to the Confederate veterans who assembled at the call of a fife. The former soldiers marched in review to the sound of a drum, then went into the courthouse for a program.

In May 1900, there were 75 listings on the list of subscribers to the Jackson Telephone Exchange.

At about dark on Sunday, May 21, 1900, a cottage in Pepperton was struck by lightning. Mr. & Mrs. Landcaster were on their back veranda when the bolt struck. Both had their shoes blown off their feet and torn to shreds. Two children were lying on the floor just inside the door and were insensible for some time. Dr. Jarrell was called for, and the family came through eventually.

A party of locals had a delightful ride from the downtown square to Indian Springs for a moonlight picnic on May 26, 1900. Young men took charge of the straw-filled wagons when they

appeared on the square, and went around picking up the young ladies. Each of the girls was ready on her front porch with a loaded basket.

Pepperton had three deaths on Sunday, May 28, 1900, all at about the same time and all ladies – Mrs. Moore, Mrs. White and Mrs. Jenkins.

In June 1900, the city council purchased a road machine for use in working the streets.

In June 1900, the Southern Railway perfected plans to remodel the depot in Jackson, and many people already say Jackson has the best station between Atlanta and Brunswick.

The northbound passenger train which passed through Jackson at 8:20 wrecked at Camp Creek one mile north of McDonough on June 23, 1900. Thirty-three bodies were recovered, and at least seven more were never found. The train plunged 40 feet into a chasm where a culvert had been undermined by recent record rainfall. Among the dead were W. J. Pate, a carriage trimmer who worked in Jackson for J. R. Carmichael for several years, and his 13-year-old son, Jesse. In all 13 people got on that 8:20 train in Jackson that night. Five got off this side of the wreck, and the other eight were killed. Jackson's embalmers, Etheridge and Willis, were kept busy for two days working on the bodies of the deceased. It was said that the Towaliga River had never flowed higher than it did that week.

In the early 1900s, the Board of Education of Butts County met quarterly.

The opera "Faust" was presented at May's Opera House in 1900.

The *Jackson Argus* did not publish a paper on the week of July 4, 1899, an annual tradition at the paper. But it published an issue on July 6, 1900.

On July 7, 1900, Mayor Beauchamp went before the State Railroad Commission and secured a new depot for the city. The improvements will cost the Southern Railway Company about $2,000. When completed, the depot was 200 feet long, with 16'x20' waiting rooms, separate entrances for whites and coloreds, and updated freight area.

An abstract that Mayor Beauchamp made out upon which the city bonds were sold was so correctly fixed up that no hitch was found in the document. On August 10, 1900, the bonds were purchased by the First National Bank of Barnesville, Ohio in the amount of $5,087.50. The funds raised were used to improve the public school buildings, including construction of a large auditorium. The anticipated seating capacity was 1,600 people. In addition, the chapel was divided into two recitation rooms, and the entire house was recovered and repainted.

On July 21, 1900, a Southern Railway train was filled to capacity when it left Jackson bound for Macon. On the return trip, a lot of drunken hoodlums took possession of the train from Cork to Jackson. A fight erupted between Negroes and white men, with one white man badly cut.

From Flovilla to Jackson, drunken men were at nearly every window shooting their pistols and making the welkin ring.

On July 21, 1900, operatives and stockholders of Pepperton Cotton Mills enjoyed a barbecue together. Hundreds of men, women and children attended at a time when turmoil was erupting at other mills across the country.

In August 1900, the Pepperton Cotton Mills began erecting a brick warehouse near its milling plant, below the company store on the north side of the railroad. The new building was 400' by 75', costing $10,000 and able to store 10,000 bales of cotton, and equipped with a first class waterworks. It was able to store farmers' cotton at a very low rate of insurance, and advanced money to those farmers storing cotton there to allow them to reap the benefits of their crop.

At the same time, Pepperton Cotton Mills was building 50 new operative residences around the factory.

At the end of July 1900, J. H. Carmichael completed three new residences on Second Street, and made improvements to a property on First Street. He reported that he is able to find a renter for every home as soon as it is ready.

In 1900, it did not go without notice that since Mayor Beauchamp began heavily fining cases of disorderly conduct that there were fewer such cases than ever before in the history of Jackson. The mayor typically handed down fines of $30 and $50.

On August 22, 1900, Thomas Shoals on the Ocmulgee River were purchased from John B. Thomas by a stock company of which Capt. W. F. Smith of Flovilla was a promoter. The company intends to utilize the power of these shoals and furnish electricity to Jackson, Indian Springs, Flovilla. The property included 58 acres.

On October 31, 1900, a mass meeting of the citizens of Jackson was held in the city court room to discuss reducing the number of city councilmen from eight to four. It was the general consensus that the number should be reduced to for, and was joked that eight was just too many people for citizens to have to cuss.

On November 2, 1900, the mayor and council of Jackson adopted taxes for the year.

For the support of the town of Jackson, for the year 1900, to defray the expenses thereof, a tax of three-eights of one percent was levied on each $100 worth of real estate (or fractional part thereof) in the town, including merchandise, stock in hand, money and solvent debts held or owned within the city limits.

A tax of two-tenths of one percent of the value of all taxable property of the white people of Jackson was levied to support the white public schools of Jackson, and a similar tax was levied on all colored people in Jackson for the support of the colored public schools here.

And a tax of two-tenths of one percent of the value of all taxable property in the city was levied to pay the principal and interest on bonds issued by the city and due on May 1, 1901.

The Georgia State Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association Show was held during the Jackson Carnival on December 5, 6, and 9, 1900, and all the businesses and many residences decorated themselves to welcome visitors. The Gordon Institute Cadets and Cadet Band of Barnesville, 150 strong, were invited to drill and give a sham battle on Dempsey Avenue. Governor Candler delivered an address, and Beauchamp contracted with B.Z. Snake Eater and Lunnette Maid of the Air, who created a sensation at the Atlanta Fair that year. The Fifth Regiment Band was hired to furnish music during the carnival, and a merry-go-round and Ferris wheel were also set up. There were to be no immoral shows or gambling at the carnival, though the "little woman" and "the largest man in the world" were there as attractions.

Miss Rosebud Hitchins was selected as queen of the carnival, and Thomas H. Buttrill as its king.

At 10 a.m. on December 5, Mayor Beauchamp gave the keys to the city to King Thomas I, who ruled the city during the carnival. At 11 a.m., the Carnival began with a parade of school children and Confederate veterans, who followed the Gordon Cadets and Governor Candler's carriage.

General Clement A. Evans, who appeared in Confederate uniform, gave a speech on December 6. Both Governor Candler and General Evans delivered their speeches from a grandstand set up on Oak Street at Third Street in front of the Jackson Mercantile Company store.

The poultry show was held in the building formerly occupied by the Jackson Cigar Factory, and featured several thousand birds. The midway was open from 9 a.m. until midnight each day.

Under a black tent at the post office corner, carnival goers could witness the City of Galveston, Texas reproduced electrically as it appeared 24 hours after the storm that claimed over 6,000 lives. The reproduction was created by Thomas A. Edison. The tent also included an electric war show.

As the carnival concluded, the *Jackson Argus* noted that at least a dozen gambling stands had been running full steam on the midway robbing people of thousands of dollars that otherwise would have entered respectable business channels. It also heard from reliable men that one of the dancing establishments charged an extra fee on the last night of the carnival and featured "girls perfectly nude" doing "unmentionable dances… to an audience of white and Negro men." But this part turned out to be incorrect.

A boy named Aaron, who lived in Pepperton, was struck in the head by an iron rod while operating the Ferris wheel. He was treated by Dr. J. Lee Bryon, and the fee paid for by the owner of the wheel.

The Carnival Association, formed to put on the event, paid for nine extra policemen during the event.

In December 1900, Wright, Carter & Company partnered with J. C. Meredith to form the Jackson Implement Company.

On Saturday, December 15, 1900, William M. Mallet passed away after only a few days illness with a congestive chill. He served as chairman of the board of education and on the board of trustees of the Jackson Institute, and at the time of his death was chairman of the county commissioners.

In December 1900, Jackson Mayor C. O. Beauchamp announced his candidacy for re-election. He said he favored "economy in public expenditures, the holding of a county fair next fall, and you may put me down as favoring every enterprise that has for its object the upbuilding of Jackson."

He noted that people will remember "the establishment of a public school system, the purchase of school property at small cost, the erection of a large auditorium, the equipment of a good fire department with a fine fire alarm system, an order from the railroad commission requiring the building of a new depot, and a successful carnival.

"When this administration came in it found damaging lawsuits aggregating $45,000 against the town. Of these, we have defeated $25,000 and compromised one $10,000 case for $100 leaving only one case against us and we are ready for that when it comes up."

Beauchamp's competition for mayor was Colonel Y. A. Wright, saying he was for any healthful enterprise in the city.

The city charged a special tax of $50 on the sale of fireworks, which tended to discourage the general sale of them.

On December 19, 1900, "Uncle" John R. Respess passed away in his home on South Oak Street. At 88, he was the oldest citizen of Jackson by a few days.

At the end of December 1900, the Standard Oil Company was putting material on the ground in order to build a large tank near the depot. According to Mr. Kinard, the company's man in Jackson, Standard Oil intended to make Jackson a distribution point for the surrounding areas.

It took him a month of wrangling with county commissioners, but in the final week of 1900 Mayor Beauchamp had all the county convicts working to level and beautify the courthouse square. These improvements had been needed since the courthouse was completed in 1898. With the convicts at his disposal, the mayor had the square landscaped and ready for sodding at no cost to the city.

1901

The municipal ticket that passed on Tuesday, January 1, 1901 was: Mayor C. O. Beauchamp; councilmen S. B. Kinard from the First Ward, T. H. Buttrill from the Second Ward, J. B. Settle from the Third Ward, and J. M. Leach from the Fourth Ward.

Public school trustees were F. S. Etheridge, town trustee; L. J. Ball and J. A. McMichael from the First Ward; H. L. Daughtry from the Third Ward, C. C. Smith from the Third Ward, and F. Z. Curry from the Fourth Ward.

As 1901 dawned, the City of Jackson also had a new bank, the First National Bank of Jackson located at the corner of Oak and Second streets. Officers were R. F. Maddox, president; J. R. Carmichael, vice president; and J. F. Carmichael, cashier. The capital stock was $30,000. Maddox had years of experience in banking, and J. R. Carmichael, a prudent and enterprising businessman, managed the bank, and his carriage repository on the corner was transformed into a banking house known as the National Bank Building. Plans were to open the bank in February. *[In 1917, the bank merged with the First Farmers Bank to become the Farmers and Merchants Bank.]*

A Chinese man visited the city in January 1901 looking for a location for a laundry.

It was thought that some of the vacant lots on the square owned by the Mallet estate would be sold by administrator and improved by the construction of new businesses. W. P. Nutt applied for letters of administration.

Census figures for 1900 showed a county population of 12,805, an increase of 2,240 since 1890, and an increase of much more since the first census was taken in 1840 and Butts County had a population of 4,844. Jackson, according to the census, had 1,487 people, while Pepperton had 500, Flovilla 525, McIntosh 262, and Jenkinsburg 225.

W. M. Taylor purchased the *Georgia Poultry Herald* and moved its office of publication to his hometown of Jackson, where it was printed by the *Jackson Argus*.

Dr. J. A. Jarrell purchased the Almand property on Second Street, known as the Jackson Hotel, during the first week of 1901. The sale gave Dr. Jarrell possession of the entire block with the exception of the east room, which is owned by J. R. Wright and John Sams, and is used as an ice house and a printing office. The hotel was improved on following the sale.

Patrons of Rural Free Delivery Routes established at the start of 1901 in the county were asked to put up secure, weather proof mail boxes near the highway so carriers could easily reach them. T. O. Cawthon was the first rural mail carrier in Butts County, His service began on January 2, 1901. His route extended from Jackson to Stark, Worthville to Fincherville, served 100 patrons, and took eight hours to cover.

The city public school board held a meeting on January 4, 1901 and elected Chas. C. Smith of the Third Ward as secretary. Superintendent Bruce was authorized to secure a teacher of elocution, and a cabinet of instruments was purchased for $350.

Enrollment was shown to be over 350 students, and the new auditorium was scheduled to be completed by commencement in June 1901.

The stockholders of the Jackson Banking Company held their annual meeting at the bank on January 8, 1901 and elected the following directors: Joel B. Watkins, J. R. Wright, A. H. Smith, Z. T. Buttrill, W. P. Nutt, W. S. Witham and F. S. Etheridge, who also served as president. The bank had cash capital in the amount of $50,000, and $30,000 surplus and undivided profits. The bank was organized and chartered by the legislature in 1888.

The stockholders of the Pepperton Cotton Mills held their annual meeting on January 8, 1901 and elected the following directors: Joel B. Watkins, J. R. Wright, E. L. Smith, Z. T. Buttrill, W. S. Witham, A. H. Smith and F. S. Etheridge. Joel B. Wright served as president. The capacity of the mill at the start of 1901 was 15,000 spindles, and had a brand new 500 horsepower compound condensing engine. Additionally, new warehouses were being built to store cotton. It was believed the enterprise, which began with $60,000 in capital, had $150,000 at the beginning of 1901.

On January 10, 1901, a charter was issued for the Larkin D. Watson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Jackson. Watson was a Confederate soldier from Butts County who lost a leg in the war in 1862.

In January 1901, the street committee was putting up lamps on street not properly lighted.

The Standard Oil Company was erecting a large reservoir in January 1901 with the goal of making Jackson a bulk station.

On January 15, 1901, the new City Council was sworn into office. The following officers were elected: Clerk and Treasurer – E. S. Winn; Tax Collector and Receiver – E. C. Robison; Chief of Police – L. M. Crawford; Assistant – W. B. McMichael. Mayor Beauchamp also announced his committees for Streets, Public Schools, Sanitary, Printing, Police, Finance, Public Buildings and Grounds, Fire, Litigation Cemetery, Telegraph & Telephone, Ordinances, Taxes and Water Works.

Dr. Jarrell and J. M. Finley bought a vacant lot on the corner west of the Jackson Hotel at the end of January 1901.

On Monday, January 28, 1901, the Southern passenger train from Macon scheduled to pass Jackson at 8:20 at night, had quite an experience when it crossed the trestle over Yellow Water Creek about one mile north of Jackson. The train was 15 minutes late and traveling at a high rate of speed in order to arrive in Atlanta on time. When he rounded a curve, Engineer Pittman was horrified to see the approaching trestle engulfed in flames. He had no choice but to run the train through and hope for the best. The train and all 50 passengers made it over the bridge, and stopped so Pittman and others could go back and extinguish the flames. It was thought that the fire began from the coals of an engine passing the trestle sometime before.

In February 1901, J. M. Leach, chairman of the Jackson Fire Department, reported that in 1900, the city experienced $325 in losses to fire, and the department answered 10 calls. Defective flues, according to Leach, caused nearly all the fires.

Joseph W. Carmichael opened three streets through his valuable property on North Mulberry and First streets, and placed the property for sale as residential plats.

In mid February 1901, councilmen Dr. W. C. Bryant and J. M. Leach resigned, for reasons that were not publicly stated.

Mayor Beauchamp and the Southern railway company were having a spat about the erection of the new depot in February 1902. The mayor and City Attorney Mills have found several changes made to the depot plans that were approved by the State Railroad Commissioners. The state was notified and the changes returned to the original plan, but the depot's opening was delayed by 60 days.

The First National Bank opened on February 28, 1901. It furnished a fire-proof vault, burglar-proof safe with time lock, and insurance against loss by burglars by day or night. The Jackson Banking Company was marking its 13th year in business, and had capital amounting to $75,000.

An election to fill two council seats vacated recently was held March 1, 1901 at the mayor's office under the Masonic Hall.

On Sunday, March 10, 1901, the fire alarm sounded at 5 a.m. in Jackson. The fire was located in two railroad houses next to the new depot. It was reported that a passing locomotive must have set off the blaze, which consumed both buildings. Were it not for a still wind, the depot too would have been lost.

On March 10, 1901, severe winds damaged the steeple at the Methodist Church, and it was decided to remove the steeple and replace it.

In March 1901, Mayor Beauchamp vetoed an ordinance the council adopted that put school property under the power and control of the trustees. The mayor said he vetoed the ordinance because it lessens the powers of the mayor and council. However, the Council voted unanimously at its next meeting to pass the ordinance over the mayor's veto.

On April 5, 1901, the *Jackson Argus* changed hands. Parry Lee sold it to Addison H. Shaver. "I have matured no plans for the future – picked out no place to fall – just leaped out in the dark, because Mr. Shave wanted the paper worse than I did. That's all. Good bye. God bless you," wrote Lee that week.

Shavers called Jackson a progressive town with a bright future, and called for a mass meeting of citizens and electric lights throughout the city.

It was reported in April 1901 that every residence in the city - and every business house, too – were occupied. A call went out to fill every vacant lot with a house or business.

In April 1901, Thomas O. Cawthorn, the carrier for the Rural Free Delivery No. 1 in Butts County, reported that in March he handled 4,705 pieces of mail; collecting 649 pieces and delivering 4,056 pieces.

The Jackson community was shocked on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 10, 1901 when news of the death of 12-year-old Paul Jones from the accidental discharge of a gun. The gun belonged to Lamar Ethridge, a close friend of Paul's who described the incident:

On their way home from school, Lamar invited Paul to go hunting, and asked him to carry his gun. While Lamar went to invite others to go hunting, Paul stopped on the veranda of C. R. Gresham's home on Third Street to talk to Florence and Felicia Morrison and it was there that the shooting occurred. He leaned the loaded gun on the veranda, and at some point soon after the gun either fell or was kicked and unloaded a shell into Jones' back.

In April 1901, several citizens organized the Jackson Chautauqua Association with Mayor Charles O. Beauchamp as president. They are planned to hold a Chautauqua from Sunday, June 30 to Sunday, July 6, 1901. At the time the chautauqua movement was popular throughout the country. It promoted bringing culture and speakers to communities for the benefit of all who attended. Several prominent lecturers were secured for Jackson's chautauqua as was the famous Georgia State Band. The event was held in the new 1,600-seat auditorium.

Speakers included George R. Wendling, Thomas Dixon, J. R. Clarke, Mrs. Stonewall Jackson who presented medals to Confederate veterans, G. A. Gearheart, Ralph Bingham, May McAfee, and Edwin Barker. Musical performances were provided by The Cecilian Quartette and Baldwin's Military Band.

Merchants closed their businesses from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to give everyone a chance to attend events. A large barbecue was held on July 4, and anyone who bought a ticket to the Chautauqua event that day got 50 cents worth of sheep meat.

The city did its best to decorate its storefronts and yards, and clean up rubbish in alleys. Visitors were invited to stay in Indian Springs, which was a 30-minute drive away on a good road.

When it was all over, the Chautauqua Association spent $2,399.87 on the event, and brought in $2,228.80, for a loss of only $171.08.

In June 1901, the salary of the Jackson postmaster was increased from $1,200 to $1,300.

A passenger train bound for Atlanta one morning in June 1901 was hit by a switch engine north of Jackson, completely demolishing two passenger coaches, turning them over and killing three people.

In August 1901, the *Jackson Argus* called for the following in Jackson: a knitting mill, a guano factory, a steam laundry, a canning factory, a creamery, electric lights, electric ears, a big hotel, and dozens of smaller business. All would be possible, wrote the editor, Addison H. Shaver, if the city installed waterworks and electric lights.

On October 22, 1901, the Jackson City Council ordained that a tax of three-eighths of one percent be collected for each hundred dollars worth of real estate and merchandise held in town. For the schools, a tax of two-tenths of one percent of the value of all taxable property was collected with money from White properties going to the White schools, and money from the Colored properties going to the Colored schools.

As of December 21, 1901, a city ordinance prohibited the discharge of fire crackers or fire works on the streets of Jackson or within 300 yards of any building, unless it was being done on private property. Those guilty of violating the ordinance could be fined up to $20, or confined in the guard house for one to 20 days, or both. The ordinance was originally passed in December 1899.

1902

As 1902 began, B. P. Bailey was elected the new mayor of Jackson. Born in Jasper County in 1854, he worked on the family farm until he was 20. He was elected marshal of Monticello in 1975, then as a councilman there, while in the mercantile business. He served one year as judge of the county clerk in Jasper County, and moved to Flovilla in 1888. In September 1889, he was appointed judge of the Butts County court, which also made him the county commissioner. In 1891 he oversaw the building a new county jail. In 1895 he left the bench and began a law practice. He served two terms as mayor of Jackson and one as a councilman. He was 48 years old when elected mayor for a third time by a vote of 76 to 74 over T. H. Buttrill.

The voting was so close that friends of the ticket in the lead early rushed to the tax collectors office to pay back taxes of all those that had voted with them. The other side did not, and as a result 14 of their votes were disqualified.

Also elected were James H. Carmichael, Steven B. Kinard, William Monroe Taylor and Dr. J. Lee Byron to the city council.

After serving two successful terms, Mayor C. O. Beauchamp and all four aldermen retired in January 1902. The outgoing leaders were generally seen as some of the ablest in the city's history.

In the first days of 1902, officials had to put down the horse that was used to pull the hook and ladder truck. It had been badly injured, and could not recover. Another one was purchased in its place.

The Moon Mercantile Company was formed in early January 1902 by Ben F. Moon. It occupied a stand where Moon had previously conducted business on the square. Later that year it rented the ground floor of the First National Bank.

W. E. Jenkins retired from the city police force in January 1902 and was replaced by Cliff T. Beauchamp.

In January 1902 it was written that Jackson had more telephones per capita than any other town in the United States, with one phone for every 10 inhabitants.

Company A, also known as the "Jackson Rifles," was organized in 1902 as part of a unit known as the Georgia State Troops. The men received no pay and had no armory. Their meetings were held on the second floor of the First National Bank building at the southwest corner of Oak and Second streets. [The company became part of the National Guard in 1904.] At the end of January 1902, the City Council appropriated $150 to the Butts County Volunteers. The company already had 60 members and had secured the upstairs of the Hitchins Building as an armory, and were set to begin drilling. Dr. W. C. Bryant was elected captain of the company.

There were various estimates as to how much rain fell in the 24-hour period between noon of February 27 and noon of February 28. But it was generally conceded that it was the heaviest rainfall ever seen in such a brief period of time. Some measurements showed between 9 and 10.5 inches of rain that day. Many bridges, saw mills and outlying building were lost to the flood.

At the end of March 1902, the Postmaster Inspector ordered the lobby of the post office in Jackson be locked after the night mail has been posted. He said this order could be lifted if the City Council puts a light in the lobby and a clock register to be turned every half hour by the night policeman.

On March 28, 1902, the mayor and council passed an ordinance to fine $25 anyone found guilty of selling intoxicating liquor of any kind.

According to E. S. Winn, clerk and treasurer of Jackson, as of March 31, 1902, the city had spent $1,859.60, collected $1,000 in taxes, $725 from a bond issue, $34 from the cemetery and $78 in fines.

As of April 1902, Charley Lawrence kept a fish market and ice house in the room in the rear of the post office fronting Oak Street.

The McKibben Company bought from Smith & Etheridge the lot in the rear of the Jackson Argus office, extending from the Star Store to Dr. Byron's residence and running through from Second to Third streets. The several warehouses and business places on it were to be moved or torn down and it was to be entirely covered as follows:

Fifty feet running from Second Street to Third Street was occupied by the Carmichael Buggy Company; with a factory for their celebrated Jackson buggies; the rest was occupied by

the McKibben Company with a repository and salesrooms for their wagons, buggies, etc. fronting on Third Street, and a mule pen and sale stable fronting on Second Street.

On a Saturday afternoon in the middle of April 1902, gentlemen representing the Chautauqua Association, the Jackson Rifles, and several opposing elements met in the editorial room of the Jackson Argus to air differences and seek a common ground on which they all could stand.

After hearing from all those in attendance, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, that it is the sense of this body, representing the Jackson Chautauqua, the business interest of Jackson, the Jackson Rifles, and various heretofore conflicting and opposing political and other interests, that we, pledging our influence and effort to such an end, are now together, and will remain together, for any and every thing for the benefit of Jackson, its any and every interest, its every citizen or business; and in coming together mean to push Jackson onward and upward, first, last and all the time."

Ground was broken in the first week of May 1902 on a new factory for the Carmichael Buggy Company. It extended through the block from Second to Third streets. By the end of the month, the company had turned out the new bus for the Hotel Buchanan at Indian Springs. It was finished in black with gold letters, upholstered in leather with rubber tire wheels and the latest running gear. The cost of the fine buggy was between $400 and $500.

Jackson Chief of Police Lawrence Crawford accidentally shot himself in the leg in the middle of May 1902 while making an arrest. During the scuffle, his pistol dropped out of its scabbard and fired. The ball struck Crawford just above the left ankle, breaking the bone. He was out of the line of duty for several weeks afterward.

In May 1902, W. E. Harp was reappointed postmaster of Jackson for four more years, and his salary was increased fro, $1,300 a year to $1,400. His wife kept many flowers and shrubs in the post office, including a lemon tree.

As of June 10, 1902, anyone in the City of Jackson keeping a dog or dogs over four months old had to register the animals with the city's tax receiver and pay $1 for every male dog and $2 for every female dog.

The First National Bank erected a new bank building in the Summer of 1902 on the lot just across Second Street from its existing location. The vacant lot was on the corner next to the blacksmith shop of the Carmichael Buggy Company. It was constructed pressed book, with a front of granite and plate grass.

In 1902, there were 30 cotton ginning operations in Butts County, down from a peak of 40.

On the afternoon of July 1, 1902, a spark in the engine of the Jackson Roller Mills ignited the roof of the two-story residence of J. A. Plunket at the corner of Lyons and Benton streets. A fierce wind was blowing at the time, and the store of N. R. McCord across benton Street was soon ablaze. Two other homes were also engulfed in flames, though some contents were saved. For a while, it was said, it looked as if that entire section of town might go up in flames. But the valiant work of volunteer firemen and friends prevented a worse catastrophe.

In the first week of July 1902, R. P. Brown retired from the grocery business, and Joe Kinard and Rufe Clark purchased his business, which was opened by Raymond Carmichael. The new firm was known as Kinard & Clark, and Brown returned to work at the Ten Cent Store.

Dr. R. G. Bryan rented the Hotel Jackson to Mrs. Neberry of Albany, who opened it August 1, 1902.

The Cash Bank and Novelty Company opened a store in the middle of August 1902 between W. M. Taylor's and George S. Hane's. Robert T. Carmichael was in charge of the store.

Joel B. Watkins earned the title of graduate veterinarian in August 1902 and opened an office in Jackson.

Dr. Bob Ware opened on office in Jackson in August 1902 in the *Jackson Argus* building over Jackson Furniture Company.

Five times at the end of August 1902 a large and vicious bulldog attacked people on the streets of Jackson. As a result, the City Council passed an ordinance against the running at large of dogs. Marshals were instructed to kill all dogs that displayed aggressive behavior.

In early September 1902, J. B. Edwards & Son moved their meat market into the Watkins building recently vacated by J. S. Johnson & Company.

In September 1902, word came from Washington that the Jackson Post Office was moving from North Oak Street at Second Street to a new building next to the First National Bank building on Second Street. It remained there for 35 years.

The Moon Mercantile Company moved its dry goods and clothing departments into handsome new quarters on the First National Bank corner in September 1902. The grocery and hardware departments occupied the entirety of the old store space, with the undertaking establishment in the rear of it.

Dr. Walstein McCord opened his dentist office in Jackson in September 1902.

A new business opened on the square in September 1902. Jackson Drug Company made its home in the storeroom formerly occupied by G. S. Hanes and Allen & Company. F. M. Allen

was the manager of the new business. He was thrown from his bicycle a week later while riding home one night and a buggy ran over him immediately after leaving him senseless, bruising ribs, and injuring his back. He recovered at home for some time.

At the end of September 1902, the City Board of Education elected Professor Van Fletcher as assistant principal of the Jackson Institute to fill a vacancy caused by the promotion of Professor W. P. Thomas to the superintendency.

At the end of October 1902, W. A. Newton and Robert J. Carmichael bought out the hardware department of the Carmichael Company and began conducting business under the name Newton-Carmichael Hardware Company.

Superintendent Mears of the Pepperton Cotton Mill left Jackson at the end of October 1902 to accept a position in the cotton mill in Darlington, South Carolina.

W. A. Newton and R. J. Carmichael bought the hardware department of the Carmichael Company in October 1902 and began conducting business under the name Newton-Carmichael Hardware.

In early November 1902, the City Council began tearing down the old buildings on its property next to the jail - including the old jail, built in 1866 - in order to prepare to build a new calaboose, fire house, outhouse and city stable.

At the end of November 1902, W. M. Taylor moved his grocery business into the old post office building at the corner of Second and Oak streets. He featured an innovation in his new storeroom: a large, dark, air-tight banana room. He ordered bananas in 40-bunch lots and supplied the retail trade in the area.

In December 1902, George Carmichael was elected City Clerk and Treasurer to succeed E. S. Winn, who resigned. Carmichael's office was at the Book & Novelty Company on the north side of the square.

In 1902, Ransom Olds began mass producing affordable automobiles in Lansing, Michigan.

1903

As 1903 began, the Carmichael Company changed its name to Carmichael, Etheridge & Smith. Its owners were J. H. Carmichael, R. N. Etheridge, and E. L. Smith.

The Racket Store changed hands in January 1903 from S. A. Biles to W. F. Adams & Company. At the same time, Mrs. S. A. Biles bought the livery stables that belonged to Levi Spencer.

William Ellington Harp, age 49 and postmaster in Jackson since 1892, died at his home in the middle of January 1903. He came to Jackson from Covington in 1889, and published the Jackson News from 1891 to 1893 when it burned out.

The 5:45 passenger train en route to Macon had a head on collision with a northbound freight train between the Jackson depot and Pepperton in the first week of February 1903. No lives were lost, but a number of people were seriously injured. Many of the injured were treated at the Hotel Buchanan before they went home.

There was a new company being formed in Butts County in February 1903: the Butts County Telephone Company. The plan was to erect telephone lines from near Pittman's Ferry to Jackson via Stark. Several people along the route planned to take stock in the company, and said that anyone along the line who built his own line from the exchange line to his home or business would pay only pro rata for use of the exchange line.

A severe thunderstorm in Jackson in the first week of May 1903 caused extensive damager to the Methodist Church. Lightning struck the church twice about two hours after a large congregation left. It struck the bell tower and travelled to various parts of the building. Only two windows were left with panes intact, and a fire was extinguished quickly by Rev. W. R. Branham.

One afternoon in the first week of June 1903, an electric storm sent a lightning strike to the residence of the Bledsoes on Covington Street. Mrs. Bledsoe was home, along with her daughter, and a Mrs. Williamson. All were terribly shocked and suffered for several hours afterward. The chimney was struck first and torn to pieces, and everything on the mantel was torn into bits. A clock was torn into tiny fragments and pieces of it were found on the mantel in the opposite room. Several holes were made in the walls and everything knocked into the wildest disorder.

Mr. Williamson was in the yard hitching his horse to his buggy in preparation for going home when the bolt struck. He said it came like a large ball of fire and when it struck he knew no more. Both he and the horse were stunned.

In June 1903, Dr. John A. Pirkle purchased an elegant x-ray machine for his office, and it proved quite popular to drop by and see the machine's demonstrations.

Butts County had a tax rate of 10 mills in 1903, and the rate in Jackson was seven mills.

In September 1903, Andrew McClendon, Jackson's estimable colored barber, moved his place of business into the Brady residence.

When school began at the Jackson Institute in September 1903, there were 200 pupils.

At the start of November 1903, Dr. J. B. Hopkins arrived in town from Norcross to take over the dental office of Dr. W. W. McCord (who entered the ministry).

Dr. A. M. Jamison of Winder bought the Carmichael Drug Company from Dr. Cliff Carmichael in November 1903.

Dr. R. G. Bryans, who for many years ministered tot he suffering of all in the area, passed away in the middle of November 1903.

Jackson and Butts County resident awoke on the morning of the first Wednesday in December 1903 to find snow covering the ground and more falling from the sky.

1904

In January 1904, the Jackson Milling and Lumber Company was building a nice hall near the Little Bethel Church on North Oak Street for the colored Odd Fellows.

On March 27, 1904, Price Harris, a colored man living near the Southern Railroad depot, turned 110. He was born on March 27, 1795, and was reportedly in good health, with his sight and hearing intact, and still able to do light work around his yard.

The Thornton Furniture Company opened for business on April 1, 1904 on the southside of the square. S. H. Thornton was the manager. At first he sold groceries, but four years later, he reopened on North Mulberry Street in his building selling furniture. Thornton was also a licensed embalmer and undertaker.

In May 1904, C. R. Gresham opened a store stocked with a fine line of buggies, phaetons, and kindred supplies next to Dr. J. A. Jarrell on the east side of the courthouse square.

By the first week of July 1904, W. F. Bullard had moved his bicycle repair shop from the Jarrell building to Henderson's old stand next to Wagner's Tin Shop.

The city school board met during the first week of July 1904 and elected Professor H. E. Glass of Newnan as principal of the Jackson Public Schools.

In 1904, Company A, also known as the "Jackson Rifles," became part of the National Guard.

In September 1904, Jabe Holifield moved his restaurant into the Hitchins building. That same month, Kinard and Clark opened a neat stock of dry goods and notions in J. E. Bankston's old stand in the Fossett building. Also in September 1904, T. H. Buttrill fitted up the storeroom, vacated by Jackson Drug Company, for a cotton office and began buying cotton there in the Fall and Winter.

Farm land just outside the city limits was selling for between $25 and $40 an acre in September 1904.

In October 1904, C. R. Gresham and Company were fitting up a mule pen in the lot south and west of Wagner's Tin Shop where they would handle stock in the Winter and Spring.

A fire on a Saturday afternoon in early October 1904 destroyed two small dwellings near the Southern train depot that belonged to Dr. Mays. The weather had been particularly dry that season, and wells had gone dry at many homes.

Near the end of November 1904, the frame building known as Dr. Byron's office situated across the street west of F. S. Etheridge's dwelling, was burned. The rear rooms of the building were occupied by Jim Malone and his bottling works, but the front room was vacant. Another small structure between the office and the brick building occupied by Kinard & Clark, J. W. Jones and Dr. Byron, was also reduced to ashes. However, the stock of these firms was damaged when it was moved out in case the flames caught ahold of the building. The manly work of the bucket brigade saved the old Hitchins Building and others in the area. If the Hitchins Building had burned the greater business portion of town would have been doomed, as all the wells nearby had already been drawn dry.

1905

On January 1, 1905, W. W. Wilson became sheriff of Butts County, replacing J. M. Crawford. Wilson won the position in the November 1904 election. He named W. J. Bledsoe as his deputy.

J. B. Wall was elected mayor of Jackson in the first week of January 1905. W. P. Nutt, J. R. Carmichael, J. B. Settle and J. B. Carmichael were all named aldermen. Settle acted as mayor pro tem, and George Carmichael was secretary and treasurer. L. M. Crawford, C. T. Beauchamp and Payton Mayo were the city marshals.

Measles was present all over the county as 1905 began. And smallpox was present in the Hodges Mill neighborhood.

On a Sunday afternoon in the middle of January 1905, the McMichael Hotel, situated on the Almand block on Second Street, caught fire. Within a few minutes of the alarm being sounded, a large number of citizens had gathered and quickly realized that the entire block - including the Wright and Sams store - and a dwelling nearby occupied by F. M. Allen were doomed. Hundreds of people began moving the contents of the hotel and the dwelling. It was only through the heroic efforts of the people that the Wagner buildings and masonic hall across the street were saved. The wind was blowing almost directly from the north and these buildings caught fire several times, but were saved by persistent work by the bucket brigade. The first floor

of the masonic building was occupied by the Jackson Record, whose printing, furniture and office equipment were carried into the street. Also lost to the flames were the contents of a storeroom owned by the late Dr. Bryan, where artifacts from around the world and his old drugstore fixtures. The total loss to the fire amounted to $10,000, of which one-third was covered by insurance.

D. F. Thaxton moved into a new brick shop at the end of January 1905, and it was said he then had the best blacksmith repair shop ever seen in Jackson.

At the end of January 1905, the Grodzinsky Brothers moved into the store on the south side of the square that had recently been used by Smith, Etheridge and Buttrill as a cotton office.

As February 1905 began, Jackson was experiencing blizzard-like conditions with the mercury down around zero degrees. For almost a full week Jackson experienced a sleet storm the likes of which no one had ever witnessed before. At first, a slow, misty rain came from the northeast, and the icy wind caused the rain to freeze when it touched the ground or trees. By Sunday, three days later, the whole earth was coated and trees, telephone wires and poles snapped under the heavy weight of ice. By Tuesday night, all electric communication with the outside world was lost. By Thursday, a week after it began, the sleet began melting as the sun came out. A week later, the city was struck by another blizzard with temperatures dropping to four degrees below zero.

A mass meeting was called at the courthouse in the final days of March 1905 to determine citizens' sentiments regarding electric lights and water works in the city. Most speakers favored the idea, and the matter was referred to the City Council to obtain costs.

In early April 1905, D. J. Thaxton sold The Jackson Record to S. E. Andrews.

The Rotary Club was formed in Jackson in 1905.

In May 1905, Jackson Mayor J. B. Wall let a contract to Robinson & Humphrey of Atlanta for the $20,000 city bonds approved by voters in 1898 to be used to build a water and light system in town. The power house and water filter system were built on Yellow Water Creek. By April 1907, the waterworks was complete and Jackson got its first water.

In commencement exercises at the Jackson Public School in June 1905, Maggie Belle Thaxton was honored as Valedictorian and Robert Hardin as Salutatorian. There were 12 members of the Class of 1905.

The state legislature passed the McMichael Bill around 1905, which authorized county school systems and local districts to vote on a local tax to supplement the amount received from the state school fund. If a county so chose, it could also vote at that time to merge all schools into one county-wide system.

S. K. Smith served on the county board and lobbied hard to get the city's school board to merge with the county's. Judge T. S hammond was chairman of the county board at the time (and served in that position for 35 years), and Smith recalled him being a well-educated and progressive man. The judge was a member of the legislature that set up the free public school system, and was anxious to see the city and county merge their schools.

The truth was, according to Smith, the city had a much more efficient system with longer school terms and sounder financial footing that the county. The city's board was afraid to turn loose what they had for fear that their school interests might suffer. The city board promised to meet with the county board several times, but something always came up to prevent the meetings from taking place.

As of June 1905, Jackson had a first class amateur baseball team. The players were: Joseph Edwards, Van McKibben, Robert Lee Mays, Albert Finley, Lon Maddox, and others.

In July 1905, the Jackson Institute was painted outside for the first time in 15 years when it was painted by R. H. Calvert.

A new firm, Ham & Carter Company began occupying the famous Crum's Corner in July 1905.

At the end of August 1905, the Jackson Oil Mill was adding a 50' by 80' building to its plant in east Jackson for use as a seed house. At the same time, the Farmers Warehouse was adding a 120' by 250' extension to its brick warehouse on Crum Avenue to meet the increased demand by its patrons. Dr. Mays was rebuilding the brick store building on Second Street that was lost in the January 1905 fire. And the Carmichael Buggy Company was adding another story to the McKibben Company brick building adjoining its buggy factory, and planned to add another story to the firm's shop on Second Street. The improvements to the Carmichael properties totaled $3,000.

As of September 1, 1905, J. A. Kimbell, proprietor of the Jackson Buggy Company, had purchased the Cleveland Hose property on Second Street and planned to transform the three brick buildings into a large carriage factory. The increased demand of Kimbell's carriages necessitated the move.

School opened on September 4, 1905, and Professor W. P. Thomas said that students who did not pass at the close of the last term will be given another opportunity at the opening of the new term.

An election on the first Tuesday in September 1905 was one of the liveliest seen in Jackson in some time. On the ballot was the question of approving $41,000 in bonds for the erection of municipal water works and an electric light plant in the city. Proponents won with 250 votes cast in favor of water and lights, and only 25 against.

At the time, a young businessman was promising a 10-ton ice factory in operation in Jackson by the following Summer, one of the most prominent hotel men in the state was planning to build a mammoth hotel in the city, an electric railway was proposed linking Griffin and Indian Spring via Jackson, and capitalists from throughout the Eastern United States were proceeding with plans to build a power plant on the Ocmulgee River capable of generating 8,600 horsepower at a cost of $20 per horsepower. That was $8 less than the Pepperton Cotton Mill could produce electricity via its steam generators.

In the middle of September 1905, the Southern Bell Telephone Company had completed the installation of lines from Macon to Flovilla and was preparing to put up poles and lines from there to Jackson and then connecting with lines from Atlanta. The company also announced plans to build a telephone exchange in Jackson, and not in Pepperton as had been previously stated. The move, it was noted, would start a telephone war with the existing Jackson telephone exchange, and the rumor was that Southern Bell would install free phones in Jackson.

At about two o'clock in the morning on Tuesday at the end of September 1905, residents of the eastern portion of Jackson were awakened by cries of "fire." Sparks from a passing locomotive had ignited two bales of cotton on the platform at the Southern Railway depot. There being no water to the flames, volunteers took axes to the platform to cut it up and save 19 of the 50 bales stored there that night. The fire once again demonstrated the need for a water system in the city.

In the middle of October 1905, Jackson and its residents received the bad news: because the city already had $20,000 of water bonds validated, and the $41,000 in bonds approved by voters in September amounted to a total of $69,000, which exceeded seven percent of the taxable property in the city as shown by the tax digest, the city had to withdraw its petition to validate the new bonds and water and lights had to wait.

In October 1905, work began on the railway from Jackson to Indian Springs. The Jackson Street Railway was undertaking surveying of the rights-of-way for the proposed track that would link the city with one of the most popular health and pleasure resorts in Georgia.

The Carmichael Buggy Company won the prize for best buggy and best display at he state fair in Atlanta in October 1905.

A crowd of 1,500 people turned out in the first week of November 1905 to witness the Griswold's Railroad Pavilion perform "Ten Nights in a Barroom," a moral play. Bu the performance was marred by poor management and a boorish crowd.

At the end of November 1905, J. H. McNair joined the Jackson police force in place of C. P. Mayo, who resigned.

In late November 1905 came news that Dr. R. W. Mays planned to erect a brick structure on the old Byars and Mallet corner on the northwest corner of the square.

In the final week of November 1905, Mayor J. B. Wall signed a contract with an Atlanta firm to take over the sale of $20,000 worth of bonds that were approved by voters in 1898. The deal enabled the city to proceed with construction of the water and lights plant it so desperately needed.

1906

The Jackson Public School opened on January 8, 1906. An especially large enrollment was anticipated, and those desiring to go to school for the term had been urged to sign up early to secure a seat. Pupils living in the county were not charged for the public term, and $2.25 per month after the public term concluded. Those living outside the county were charged $1.25 per month during the public term, and $2.25 thereafter. Pupils over the school age were charged $2.25 per month during public and private terms. The school had a fine library and several literary and debating societies. All pupils were required to speak or debate every Friday afternoon.

In early January 1906, D. J. Thaxton bought the stock of goods at the Book and Novelty Company and planned to continue business at the same location.

On the first Wednesday in 1906 at about 11 o'clock in the morning, there was an exceedingly hot wave over the county causing much anxiety. The heat was so intense that people thought their houses were on fire. The period of extreme heat, which lasted only a brief period, was followed by a downpour of rain.

Bu the middle of January 1906, 306 pupils had enrolled in the Jackson Public School, and seating and floor space was taxed to the limit. Miss Kathleen Baker taught the 64 student in the fifth and sixth grades, and a new music teacher had been hired.

In 1906, Hampton Daughtry started school and began working at the Jackson Mercantile Company where he met David Settle. "Our dads were partners in the 'star store' as it was generally known, and both believed in work for every male member of their respective families," said Daughtry. "David was 10 and I was six. Due to the great differences in our ages I looked on him as my chief source of information. Thus began the formation of my great admiration for one of the finest individuals it has ever been my privilege to know."

"My grandfather [John Settle] had a department store on the corner where Big D's Drugstore is [the northwest corner of the intersection of Third and Oak streets]," said John Settle during a 2008 interview. "My father [Ezra Smith Settle] worked with him, as did several other prominent Jackson people. It was called the Jackson Mercantile Company, but it had this nickname of the 'Star Store.' Like Etheridge-Smith Company was called 'the New York Store,'

because they used to send buyers to New York to purchase clothing and hats. They were both similar type things: they had clothing and household goods and soft goods on one side, and on the other side they had four grocery departments. That included some cattle feed and chicken feed, so there was a bit of agriculture.

"And all these people had farms out in the county that they were running on the side," Settle continued. "But most of the people that managed these stores did stay with the stores, but they would go to see their farm hands on Sundays. I remember going out to the farm that's out on Brownlee Road about where the radio station is now and across the street but it's where the new [Jackson Elementary] school is. My father had a farm there and we would go out on Sundays and he and this old wizened fellow would come around trying to determine what they should do this coming week. And they would say 'well, we had so much rain' or 'we didn't have any rain' or we didn't have this or that or the other. And so then they'd come to an agreement for what they'd be doing for the next week. And then if anything special came up he could run out there and see about it rather easily. They weren't paved roads, but they were passable roads. The house is still there that the man had for his tenant house."

In January 1906, W. M. Taylor sold his stock of groceries and bought the flouring mill of the Jackson Milling and Lumber Company.

Will Wagner opened a machine shop near J. L. Wagner's shop in January 1906. He performed general repair, electrical and plumbing work.

The first snow of 1906 began falling on January 20 with an accumulation of three to four inches in Jackson.

The Jamerson Drug Company building received a new coat of paint in the first week of February 1906. And a month later it installed brass chairs in its store and ice cream parlor for the comfort of their customers and friends.

Hitchen's Tavern, a hotel built on the corner of the square before 1865, was purchased by Mr. Outhouse in February 1906.

In the middle of February 1906, nine of the local physicians met in the county courthouse and organized a county medical society. Dr. J. Lee Bryan was elected president. Two months later, the Butts County Medical Society adopted a minimum fee bill. Under it, an examination and prescription cost between $1 and $5, visits in town during the day cost $1.50, visits in town after 9 p.m. Cost $2, visits in the county during the day were 50 cents per mile traveled and $1 for prescribing, and visits in the county at night were $1 per mile plus $1 for prescribing.

The practice of midwifery - simple obstetrical case was $10, and instrumental labors were $25 to $100. No discounts were allowed to these prices.

Grocery prices in Jackson as of March 2, 1906: seven boxes of sardines for 25 cents, four cans of sausage for 25 cents, five pounds of Louisiana coffee for 80 cents, 20 pounds of sugar for $1, one pound of dried apples for eight cents.

Meeting in early March 1906, the Grand Jury asked that a ladies toilet be installed in the county courthouse and also at the railroad depot.

In March 1906, A. M. McElvany bought an interest in the Jackson Lumber Company and became partners in that business with James Warthen.

In the middle of March 1906, a new club was formed by the young people of West Jackson. The West End Club's president was Levi Carter, Minnie Bailey was vice president, and Bessie Thaxton was reporter.

The Brown Company rented the entire upper floor of the building they occupied in late March 1906. The area, formerly used by the Jackson Rifles as their armory, was outfitted for use as a millinery parlor.

In April 1906, the boys in Jackson enjoyed spinning top while the girls enjoyed jumping rope.

On May 3, 1906, the three-story grist and flour mill of W. M. Taylor near the depot burned to the ashes. The origin of the fire was unknown, but it was believed that shaftings on the ground floor caught fire. Heroic work by the bucket brigade and the providence of a favorable breeze saved other nearby buildings.

In an election in Jackson in May 1906, voters approved the issuance of $16,000 in bonds, of which $12,500 were to be used to erect an electric lighting plant, and $3,500 to supplement the $25,000 already in bond for the construction of a water works system for the city. The election and bonds settled forever the issue of water and lights for Jackson

At the commencement ceremony for the Jackson public school on May 25, 1906, Homer Lane was Valedictorian and Robert Daughtry was Salutatorian. The Class of 1906 was 10 members strong, and included: Lane, Daughtry, Exie Ham, Etta Lee Calvert, Maggie Gilmore, Lois Biles, Pauline Mallet, Wiley Wright, Clarence Thompson and Willie Banks. At the close of the school year, enrollment in Jackson had swollen to 400.

As of July 1906, the Jackson Telephone Exchange was sold to Bell Company, which took charge on September 1.

In August 1906, Mr. Outhouse sold the Hitchens block to H. Y. McCord. The old Hitchens tavern building still stood on the corner of Third and Mulberry streets, but had not been used for several years. It was soon demolished to make room for a new hotel.

Joe E. Edwards was preparing to open a bicycle repair shop in the rear of J. B. Edwards & Son meat market in August 1906.

When the Jackson school opened on September 3, 1906, the building had been enlarged and refurnished, and four additional teachers had been employed increasing the number of of faculty members to 12. The schools were absolutely free to all students in the city or the county during the public school term. Three hundred students began the school year that day. Professor W. P. Thomas was superintendent and principal of the high school, and had two other teachers at that level. In addition to the lower grade levels, there were also the School of Music, the School of Art, and the School of Expression. All textbooks used could be obtained at the Book & Novelty Company store on the square.

T. H. Buttrill & Company was the name of a new firm in September 1906 that bought cotton in the Fall and Winter.

In September 1906, the Empire Buggy Company broke ground for its new factory near the train depot. The firm was owned by J. H. Carmichael, J. H. McKibben, S. P. Nichols and R. J. Carmichael. The new facility was operating in the middle of October, and a new side track from the railroad was installed for added convenience.

The Jackson Sodawater & Fruit Company's fountain arrived in September 1906, and the firm began its business. And in late October, the company's store was wired for electric lights giving it "unsurpassed beauty," according to The Jackson Argus.

In late September 1906, the merchants of Jackson agreed to begin closing their places of business at six p.m. Except on Saturdays and Christmas Eve.

In October 1906, work was progressing on the water and light plant for the city. The brick work on the power house at the trestle was almost complete. The clear water well was excavated and the excavation of a large 750,000-gallon reservoir was proceeding rapidly. Water pipe and power poles were being delivered. Twenty-five men were working on the project, with more to be hired when the cotton harvest was completed.

A Negro Fair was held in Jackson from October 22 to 29, 1906. Its objective was the encouragement of industry and education. C. C. Neal, pastor of the C. M. E. Church and president of the Fair Association, was given credit for the work he did getting the fair together.

The county commissioners had iron fencing installed around the courthouse in the middle of November 1906. Tile walks were also laid from the gates to the courthouse doors.

In 1906, the Jackson Rifles were called to Atlanta for four days of riot control duty.

1907

On January 1, 1907, Parks Newton joined Newton-Carmichael Hardware Company as a partner. He had been with the First National Bank.

Dr. J. A. Jarrell was fitting up his building on the east side of the square in January 1907 in advance of opening a fully-equipped drug store there.

In January 1907, Judge E. J. Reagan ruled that the City of Jackson had the right to condemn private property in establishing a waterworks system.

A new buggy factory at the railroad depot was completed in February 1907 and called a credit to the town.

In 1907, the Standard Oil Company was the first local company to offer gasoline in Butts County, selling to Carmichael Buggy Company and the Empire Buggy Company for a gasoline engine used to pump water. The first Jackson business to sell gasoline for automobiles was W. T. Scarborough whose location was in Gresham's Mule Stable, which was in the alley behind the Gresham House, known in the 1960s as the Pittman Home on West Third Street. In 1909, gasoline sold wholesale for nine cents a gallon with no tax.

Electric lights were shining brightly in Jackson for the first time on February 19, 1907. There were some flaws with the system, as the lights tending to turn off during the night for extended periods of time.

As of February 22, 1907, the *Jackson Record* newspaper became the *Jacksonian*. It was managed by S. E. Andrews, who took over the paper a month earlier. The paper was the official legal organ of Butts County.

J. H. F. Reeves located his barbershop in in the Masonic building on the east side of the square next to the *Jacksonian* office in February 1907.

Ground was broken in the first week of March 1907 on Third Street for a new building that will house the *Jacksonian* newspaper. The building was 17' wide and 40' long. It was completed and occupied by April 1. Dr. Butner moved his office to the elegant front room of the building the following month. Judge F. Z. Curry occupied the upstairs of the building.

In early April 1907, came word that the Pepperton Cotton Mill was expanding to become a 20,000 spindle operation.

On April 12, 1907, Jackson got its first squirt of water when the local water system was completed. With the water tank complete, the new hose was attached by the fire company, which at the time seemed identical to the police force, and the water was turned on. After a practical

test, the flow was pronounced sufficiently strong to extinguish most house fires. Next up for the city, wrote the *Jacksonian*, was practical fire fighting equipment including a hook and ladder, a hose wagon, and an engine house covered by a city ordinance prohibiting any citizen, private or public, from converting it to a hay barn.

A fire broke out a week later at a home on Second Street and the hose wagon was on the scene quickly. But the fire had already been extinguished, so the new water service was not tested on actual flames.

Ground was broken in early April on a new building for the *Jackson Argus* newspaper. The new building was located near the new office housing the *Jacksonian*, three doctors, three lawyers and an undertaker. It was a desirable location since the new water tank allowed that side of town - the east side - plenty of water.

In early June 1907, The Brown Company merged into The J. E. Reeves Company. R. S. Brown, who was president of The Brown Company, controlled a large block of the $25,000 capital stock of The Reeve Company and managed the Jackson office. In all, there were four Reeves stores in Georgia.

Another story was added to the Fossett building in early June 1907. W. F. Adams and Company occupied the building at the time.

In mid-June 1907, C. B. Gunn was named superintendent of the Pepperton Cotton Mill.

Prince Harris, a colored man and possibly the oldest man in Georgia, died on June 30, 1907 in Jackson at the age of 111.

In late July and early August 1907, Jackson experienced some of the hottest weather it had seen in 30 years.

In the September 3, 1907 edition of the *Jacksonian*, S. E. Andrews, editor, wrote the following about an incident that occurred the previous Saturday:

"We had been acting on the principle that there was not a man in Jackson that would go so low in the scale of infamy as to slip up like a cat, armed with a stick large enough to kill an ox and make a murderous attempt to assassinate another, even though he were his enemy. But such a vile act was our mayor guilty Saturday afternoon. While the writer was coming across town reading a newspaper, the mayor stole a pitch fork handle from Ham & Carter Company and, after the manner of a highway robber and a midnight assassin, slipped up from behind and uttering an obscene oath struck a murderous blow across the head of the writer before he had time to even dodge.

"We believe that our mayor is the most contemptible and pusillanimous coward we have ever heard, a man who goes around in a peaceable community with a pistol stuck in his pocket knocking people in the head from behind with an iron bound stick. The time has come when the respectable members of the City Council must either demand the resignation of the mayor, or, in

case he refuses resign themselves for no person can be associated, either socially or politically with an assassin without disgrace deep and degrading."

With the November 1, 1907 issue, the *Jacksonian* newspaper was under the new ownership of Van Willite and had a new name: the *Butts County Progress*. The retiring editor, S. E. Andrews, did not announce plans for the future.

Mr. Politzer was the new superintendent of the water and light plant in Jackson in November 1907.

There was talk among Jackson businessmen in November 1907 of starting an ice plant and laundry, both to be run in conjunction with the other.

Joseph R. Wright passed away in the middle of November 1907. Wright was a member of the buggy and wagon firm of Wright, Carter & Company. He organized and for 12 years was president of the Jackson Mercantile Company, was a charter member of the Jackson Banking Company, and organized and was president at the time of his death of the Pepperton Cotton Mill. Joel R. Watkins was elected president of the mill the following month.

At the end of November 1907, the J. E. Reeves Company declared bankruptcy and closed its stores, including the Jackson location. J. E. Maynard had invested some $4,000 in the company's dry good store in Jackson, and the action proved costly to him

1908

On the first Wednesday of 1908, there was no opposition to those running for office in Jackson: Mayor S. O. Ham, and councilmen S. B. Kinard, J. R. Carmichael, J. H McKibben, and J. T. Fletcher. School trustees were: H. L. Daughtry, J. M. Currie, E. L. Smith, J. B Settle, and F. S. Etheridge.

In January 1908, the Jackson National Bank opened for business. Its first elected officers were Frank S. Etheridge, president, and R. P. Sasnett, cashier. This bank was acquired by C&S Bank in 1965.

A sleet storm struck the city in early February 1908 wreaking havoc with the electric lights, breaking wires and disabling the system all over town. Pedestrians had a hard time finding places on which to rest their slipping soles, and city fathers distributed cinders on the sidewalks and more slippery places.

J. R. Carmichael died in early February 1908. He had been a city councilman, banker, merchant and buggy manufacturer.

J. O. Beauchamp, who served as Butts County Sheriff for 20 years and for two terms as state representative, died in the middle of February 1908.

B. F. Moon and George Mallet were elected to the City Council in March 1908 to fill the vacancies caused by the death of J. R. Carmichael and the resignation of S. B. Kinard.

In the first week of March 1908, the Hitchens corner was purchased by the new National Bank of Jackson from H. Y. McCord. The lot was 30' by 100', and an architect had already drawn up plans for a two story building with offices on the second floor. Dirt was broken at the middle of May on the new bank building. Stock in the new bank could be purchased from R. P. Sasnett, cashier, or A. H. Smith or F. S. Etheridge.

In late April 1908, J. H Carmichael sold 20 acres in west Jackson to the American Land Company, which laid off lots, graded, planted shade trees, and improved the land for building lots.

A hastily called mass meeting brought a crowd of 300 to the courthouse in the middle of May 1908 to welcome officials from the Central Georgia Power Company. For several days, supplies and equipment to build a dam on the Ocmulgee River had been arriving in town, and the meeting was meant to make officials and laborers feel welcome.

A huge land sale was held in May 1908 to sell off lots in Parkland, a new suburb in West Jackson that is now the area around Brookwood Avenue. J. A. Kimbell built the first house there, a six-room structure.

Graduation exercises for the seniors of the Jackson Public School were held at the end of May 1908. Hugh Mallet delivered the valedictory address, and Ethel Thornton gave the salutatory address. There were 26 members of the Class of 1908.

On June 6, 1908 the Florida Blossoms, a minstrel show with 36 people and a big brass band, set up its large, waterproof tent on the old Hitchens lot to give a performance. An imposing street parade preceded the performance.

In June 1908, the Jackson baseball team won two out of three games against the team from Monticello. The team then won three straight against Barnesville. Andy Combs pitched a no-hitter in the second game for Jackson.

Dr. J. E. Hanna sold his drug business in early July 1908 to C. Whitehurst of Dublin.

Through the untiring efforts of J. C. Merideth, a ginnery, ice factory and coal yard opened in July 1908 east of the oil mill on the Hendrick property. The capital stock raised for the new endeavor amounted to $5,000.

In July 1908, Henry Slaton, of Washington, purchased the Jamerson Drug Company in Jackson. Slaton was already known in town since he had worked for the Harris Drug Company in Jackson some years before. L. P. Jamerson moved to Griffin to continue work in the drug business.

In early August 1908, S. H. Thornton sold his grocery business to Newton Carmichael Hardware Company, which bought it to get possession of the storeroom, which adjoins its existing building. The move gave Newton Carmichael room to expand. The following month, Thornton purchased the vacant lot on the square next to the Jarrell Drug Company on Mulberry Street from Dr. J. E. Hanna and began construction of a brick building with plate glass front from which he began selling furniture. Thornton's was the first glass store front in Jackson. It opened for business on January 1, 1909.

Automobiles were becoming common sights on the streets of Jackson in the Fall of 1908.

Sam Hendrick and Dave Duke bought the J. B. Edwards & Son meat market in Jackson in August 1908.

The Jackson Public School opened in early September 1908 with over 300 students.

In late September 1908, the Jackson Soda and Fruit Company was bought by Marshall Finley, and was turned over to James W. Finley to operate.

In November 1908, H. L. Jenkins and Joe Perry bought the A. F. Ericksen barbershop and began operating there.

In 1908, the Etheridge Seed Company was founded in Jackson. It remained in business until 1943, when it was bought by Carmichael Brothers.

1909

City officers at the start of 1909 were: S. O. Ham, mayor; G. E. Mallet, B. F. Moon, H. L. Daughtry and F. S. Etheridge, councilmen. City employees included H. R. Pollitzer, water and light department; A. T. Buttrill, clerk and treasurer; J. A. McMichael, tax collector; L. M. Crawford and J. E. McNair, policemen. Members of the Jackson School Trustees were: H. M. Fletcher, H. W. Copeland, T. H. Buttrill, J. B. Hopkins, and J. T. Wortham.

Members of the Jackson Bar - Y. A. Wright, W. E. Watkins, H. M. Fletcher, C. L. Redman, O. M. Duke and J. T. Moore - were entertained with a possum dinner in early January 1909.

Doctors in Jackson in 1909 were: W. F. Steele, J. A. Jarrell, H. W. Copeland, A. F. White, J. E. Wood and J. Lee Byron.

"The Fletcher family was involved in the law," said Bill Fletcher in 2009. "They were lawyers, but they also ran businesses. My granddaddy was school superintendent. A lot of them taught school. But a lot of them were also involved in industry. But education was one of the most important things to the Fletcher family. And the McKibben family. They almost seemed to be tied at the hip. The youngest of all the first cousins of my granddaddy - and you got to imagine there were almost 100 of them; that's a lot of cousins when you think about the McKibben and Fletcher families – the youngest was H. M. Fletcher. He was named for my grandfather's brother, Henry Maret Fletcher."

With the January 8, 1909 edition of the *Butts County Progress*, J. Doyle Jones was listed as editor for the first time. Alfred Akerman was listed as publisher.

The Slaton Drug Company changed hands in early January 1909. With H. R. Slaton retiring from the business, it was purchased by Dr. J. Mote Watts.

In the middle of January 1909, McKibben and Company moved their store from Third Street to the corner of Oak and Second streets, and remodeled it into one of the prettiest in town. The former McKibben store was then occupied by the Jackson Mercantile Company.

The Chamber of Commerce in Jackson was organized at a mass meeting in late January 1909. It immediately began asking its representatives in Washington for a post office in Jackson. T. H. Buttrill was the president, with Dr. J. A. Jarrell as first vice president, C. S. Maddox as second vice president, F. S. Etheridge as third vice president, J. D. Jones as secretary, and William T. Powers as treasurer.

In February 1909, the Jackson public schools had an incidental fee of $1 each for pupil for Fall and Spring terms to help defray expenses.

There were two bottling companies in Jackson in February 1909 - the Empire and the Jewel. The Jewel Bottling Works turned out an average of 600 cases of soft drinks per month, and the Empire Bottling Works produced 550 cases monthly for a total output of 27,600 bottles per month. The Jewel had the exclusive right to manufacture and sale Coca-Cola in the area. It was managed by D. F. Thaxton. J. W. Childs bought the Jewel from Thaxton in early August 1909, after he retired from the Jackson Lumber Company. The plant became the Jackson Coca-Cola Bottling Company in 1913. The Empire bottled and sold Budwine and Wisecola, as well as a popular ginger ale. It was managed by Walter Jones, who retired in July 1909. It was then taken over by J. J. Norsworthy and L. Norsworthy. There was a third bottling company in Jackson at about this time, too: the Chero-Cola Bottling Company.

At the end of February 1909, the Jackson Cotton Oil Mill closed for Summer repairs. It had experienced a very successful season with between three and four thousand tons of seed crushed. The mill was one of Jackson's most important industries and was a growing enterprise at the time.

In April 1909, several businesses changed hands around Jackson. Sasnett Crum purchased the Nutt and Settle interest in the Jackson Lumber Company, and became the secretary/treasurer of the company. S. J. Carmichael took possession of the Dixie Grocery Company by purchasing the interest held by F. M. Allen. W. M. Taylor purchased the livery, feed and sales stables of B. F. Watkins. J. L. Barnes and B. M. Barnes purchased the coal, wood and ice business of Giles and Brooks.

Ground was broken in late April 1909 for a modern brick building on Third Street near the Jackson National Bank and office of Dr. J. Lee Byron. It was being erected by J. S. Johnson and Company, and was occupied by the firm upon completion. The store was 100 feet long and 43 feet wide.

In March 1909, groceries prices in Jackson included ham for 13.5 cents per pound, 19 pounds of sugar for $1, and pie peaches for seven cents per can.

The City Council was considering sand-clay surfacing of Third Street in late March 1909.

Work began in the middle of April 1909 on a baseball park on East Third Street. Between $200 and $300 was spent enclosing the field and erecting grandstands. W. L. Etheridge managed the Jackson baseball team. Jackson's team consisted of: Thurston, catcher; Maddox, pitcher; Etheridge, first base; Edwards, second base; Patrick, shortstop; Finley, third base; Nutt, right field; Mallet, left field, and Biles, center field. The Central Georgia Power Company, at work on the dam on the Ocmulgee River at the time, also field a baseball team.

In May 1909, W. R. Lanier was re-elected as head of the Jackson schools, with W. H. Butler as principal and eight teachers.

In the middle of May 1909, ground was broken for a new brick building on the north side of the square. The 50' by 100' structure was built by A. H. (Homer) Carmichael and J. B. (Bluma) Carmichael, who had not determined whether the building would be one story or two. Soon after, Dr. R. W. Mays began construction of a two-story brick building on the corner lot of the north side of the square. The first floor was occupied by the Ham and Carter Company, and the second floor was used for offices.

J. E. Edwards purchased the jewelry business of George S. Hanes in the middle of May 1909.

Eight students graduated from Jackson High School ion May 25, 1909. Dave Spencer was Valedictorian, and Salutatorian honors were split by Charles Land and Elizabeth Sams.

In July 1909, J. T. Harris purchased The Racket Store from the W. F. Adams Company. On August 1, the stock of the store was moved into the building occupied by the J. S. Johnson Company, which at that time moved into a new building on Third Street.

In the first week of July 1909, the Jackson City Council granted a franchise to the Middle Georgia Interurban Railway to operate a trolley between the Indian Springs Holiness Campground and the city. The petition submitted by the company asked to run the rail line into the city near the existing railroad depot and run along Third Street to the western border of the city. The company was operated by Capt. W. F. Smith of Flovilla, who had dreams of extending the line to Griffin. With a franchise already agreed to with the Central Georgia Power Company, there was an adequate source of power in Jackson assured for the electric trolley line.

In July 1909, one of the largest department stores in Middle Georgia was organized in Jackson. The Carmichael-Mallet Company had J. H. Carmichael as its president, and G. E. Mallet as vice president with R. P. Newton as secretary-treasurer. In September, the company built a shed and hitching posts behind Thurston's shop to enable shoppers and farmers to protect their stock from the weather.

W. M. Bledsoe and R. F. Welch purchased the meat market and grocery business of S. T. Hendrick at the end of July 1909. A week later, W. M. Taylor purchased the grocery that belonged to Mack Goodwin, who in turn purchased the livery stables that Taylor owned. Also that week, F. B. Outhouse and Sasnett Crum purchased the interest of J. W. Childs in the Jackson Lumber Company, and Childs retired from the business.

In early August 1909, work began on a new two-story brick building on Third Street adjoining the Jackson National Bank and J. S. Johnson Store. It was to be occupied by a new hardware company organized recently in Jackson.

At the end of August 1909, a red hot mass meeting was held in the courthouse with local citizens and members of the Women Christian Temperance Union speaking out against the sale of near beer at a local saloon and demanding that the establishment be closed.

In early September 1909, Louis Henderson opened a cafe in the building formerly occupied by the J. S. Johnson Company as an undertaking establishment. The building was completely overhauled and presented an attractive appearance. The cafe was called the Butts County Restaurant. Henderson sold the restaurant in December to G. H. Martin and F. S. Kirby of Rome.

At a meeting between city officials and Southern Railway officials in September 1909, the local contingent asked for a new, modern depot in Jackson and the rail team pitched the idea of renovating the existing depot. It was pointed out that the depot, which was built in 1882, was nothing but a hull and that the front part of it was not weather proof.

The Thaxton Drug Company, with Clayton Thaxton as manager, opened on October 1, 1909 on the north side of the square.

The Jackson Mercantile Company and Etheridge-Smith Company erected nice hitching sheds on the Brady property for their customers and the public in general. The north side of the sheds belonged to the Jackson Mercantile Company, while the opposite side belonged to the Etheridge-Smith Company.

Emma J. Hurley was in Jackson in late October 1909 establishing a circulating library. She had set up similar libraries for Flovilla and Jenkinsburg already. The books, which could be seen at Slaton Drug Company, were new and a reasonable fee was charged for usage.

In early November 1909, Otis Ball was promoted to superintendent of the Pepperton Cotton Mills. He succeeded C. B. Gunn, who accepted a similar position in Walker County.

One Sunday at the end of November 1909, the Haag circus arrived in town, and gave two performances the following day. Crowds rolled into town with the rising sun on the day of the shows, and by the midday parade an immense throng filled the sidewalks and overflowed into the streets. It was the biggest crowd of the season in Jackson.

In early December 1909, J. A. Kimbell was fitting up a garage and automobile repair works at his shop on Second Street. He and Dr. J. B. Hopkins began selling the Maxwell cars to the Jackson area.

For four days beginning December 20, 1909, the Carolina Combination Amusement Company set up camp in Jackson for the benefit of the Jackson Rifles. The experience began with a balloon ascension, and also featured an electric show, ostrich farm, plantation show, crazy house, merry go round and other attractions. However, the week was marked by slush and cold and the carnival did poor business.

1910

H. M. Fletcher succeeded S. O. Ham as mayor of Jackson in January 1910. The city council elected the following city officers: A. T. Buttrill, clerk; I. J. Slaughter, tax receiver and collector; L. M. Crawford and D. M. Thornton, policemen; and S. O. Ham, bond commissioner.

In January and February, 1910, a new one-story brick building measuring 55’ by 100’ was being erected by J. B. Carmichael on Second Street. Two of the rooms were used for an automobile garage, two rooms for a blacksmith shop, and another for a store.

In addition, Dr. R. W. Mays was building a two-story building.

The Etheridge-Smith Company was spending $16,000 on improvements to its new two-story department store. The store was 75’ by 100’ on both floors, and totaled 15,000 square feet. The first floor held dress goods, notions, clothing, shoes, piece goods and offices. The second

floor was devoted to millinery, ladies' ready-to-wear, house furnishings, crockery, glass and tinware. The firm's owners, E. L. Smith and R. N. Etheridge, had been in business in Jackson for 20 years.

On the west side of the square, the Carmichael-Mallet Company was renovating its store.

J. E. McNair, a popular member of the Jackson Police Department, purchased the Book and Novelty Company from D. J. Thaxton in early January 1910. The business, which dealt in books, magazines, stationary and school books, was a popular place.

G. E. Mallet & Company, who secured the agency for Buick automobiles in the area, received a carload of these machines in the middle of January 1910 and stored them in the repository of the Carmichael Buggy Company.

As of January 1910, the Carmichael Buggy Company employed 20 to 30 men full-time and had an annual capacity of about 4,000 buggies. The firm initially made buggies for retail sale, but in 1901 began making buggies solely for wholesale. The company had two traveling representatives who sold its buggies on the road.

The Butts County Lumber Company was organized in late January 1910. With initial capital of $10,000, it conducted wholesale and retail business in lumber and building material. It was located just below the Jackson Oil Mill and train depot, and had a lumberyard in Jenkinsburg. Officers of the company were: J. S. Carter, president; W. G. Barnes, vice president; W. M. Settle, secretary; B. F. Watkins, Jr., secretary; and J. T. Warthen, general manager.

In February 1910, Jack Dempsey sold his grocery business to P. W. Nolen.

The newest building in Jackson at the end of February 1910 was a 55' by 100' one-story one on Holly Street. Built by J. Bluma Carmichael, it was divided into five equal 20' departments and fully rented upon completion. It fronted 100' on Holly street and backed up on the city water tower.

There were 42 schools in the county in 1910: 21 for Whites, and 21 for Blacks. Collections for the school fund that year were estimated at $12,646.

The road gang, convicts often chained together to perform physical labor, was engaged in building a 30-foot-wide ride from Jackson to Indian Springs in late March 1910.

Over two days in March 1910, openings were held at millineries around town and women were out in large numbers to see the latest hats.

The Southern Railway announced plans in March 1910 to build a $10,000 depot in Jackson for both freight and passengers. In August the state railroad commission ordered the company to build the depot, and authorized the Middle Georgia Urban Railway to issue

$100,000 in stock and $50,000 in bonds to build a trolley line from Indian Spring to Jackson and Griffin.

On April 1, 1910 came word that Jackson had obtained an electric fire alarm - an 18-inch gong - which would save time in cases of fire emergencies.

Billy Bennett's Famous Shows, five new shows combined, came to Jackson from April 4 through 6, 1910. Performances of drama, vaudeville, music and circus were given under monster tents at popular prices.

In April 1910, Dr. J. A. Jarrell and Marshall Finley issued a contract for a one-story brick building on the north side of the square on the corner of Second and Mulberry. The building, which adjoined the armory of the Jackson Rifles, measured 54' by 70'.

In the middle of April 1910 came word that the Griffin Laundry Company was opening a branch in Jackson.

Etheridge, Smith and Company announced plans to install a private telephone exchange in April 1910. Twelve phones were installed in the large department store, and callers could access the department of their choice in a short time. This was a progressive innovation. The Carmichael Mallet Company followed suit a few months later with eight phones connecting callers to departments in the store.

In April 1910, Butts County experience a snow storm that brought the coldest Spring temperatures since May 18, 1894. It actually snowed in town on Monday, April 25, a most unusual event so late in the year.

"I was boarding at the hotel (as I did for many years)," wrote a witness to that snow years later, "and that balmy Spring morning when it was too warm to stay indoors, was seated on the veranda with a number of others from the hotel. There were no fires in the house, and it was too warm for even a light wrap, and I was wearing what was then the fashion, a white tailored shirt waist.

"At nine o'clock, the 'bus' was ready to go to the station to meet the morning trains, from Macon and Atlanta, respectively, and acting on an impulse, I decided to ride down as far Mrs. Kinard's at the corner of Covington and Depot streets and visit a special friend of mine who had an apartment there," the writer continued. "My young son, about three years old, was playing on the lawn, clad in a 'Buster Brown' suit of light wash material. As I never went anywhere without him, I called to him and together we climbed in the 'bus' and rode, thoughtlessly as far as the weather was concerned, to make our visit.

"We found my friend giving a morning bath to the little 15-month-old daughter in a room without a fire, and when the little was dressed I held her in my lap as I sat by an open window, while her mother cleared up the room. This window was over the side porch looking south, and growing up the column or trellis or the porch and projecting up over the roof under the window, a beautiful rose vine, I think it was a Crimson Rambler, was covered with roses.

"In a little while it began to turn cooler and we pulled down the window. Clouds gathered and a wind arose, and the fire was lighted. By lunchtime, it was quite cold, and not having a wrap for either myself or my little boy, I decided to spend the day.

"In the middle of the afternoon, snow fell and we viewed the strange phenomenon of that rose vine with its shower of blossoms enveloped in a veil of snowflakes," recalled the writer. "I must, of course, admit that it did not last long and melted as it touched the ground, but it undoubtedly entitles the recording of a snow storm, simultaneously with blossom time, in our little city."

The first free mail delivery in Jackson took place on May 1, 1910.

M. L. King hired the Butts County lumber Company to begin construction of a two-story brick building on the corner of First and Oak streets. The dimensions of the building were 40' by 100'. The first floor was occupied by a garage, and the second floor by an armory. It was one of four brick buildings going up in the city, making it the largest building boom in the city's history. In addition, some 40 lots had just been sold in Carmichael Park and a number of residences were under construction there.

There were 10 members of the graduating class of Jackson High School on May 20, 1910: Annie Jones, Marguerite Fletcher, Rachel Arenson, Annie Arenson, Annie Hammond, Fannie M. Biles, Herschel Whitehurst, W. A. Watkins, Joel Mallet and McCord Shaver.

The chautauqua at Jackson from June 12 through 18, 1910 featured automobile races on Third Street. A crew worked on the road in advance to insure it was in first-class condition. The chautauqua also featured Bishop W. A. Candler, Hoke Smith, Dr. Thomas McClary, the Apollo Concert Company, the Dekoven Male Quartette, Walden the Great Magician, Edwin R. Weeks and Matthiessien's Band.

On July 26, 1910, an automobile race was held on Third Street that attracted a crowd of between 2,000 and 3,000. The Jackson Rifles patrolled the .8-mile route to keep bystanders out of the way. Six men entered their 1910 model automobiles. The race was held under the auspices of the Middle Georgia Automobile Association. The winning times in the automobile races on the 7-8 mile course were: Class B 1:1 3/4; Class C .58 2-5; and free for all .50 1/2.

Because of a "mad dog" scare in the community, Jackson policemen spent July 4, 1910 shooting and killing 11 dogs.

In early July 1910, D. F. Thaxton sold his store in Pepperton to Smith & Company and bought the Jewel Bottling Works from J. W. Childs. Childs then bought the Book and Novelty Company from J. E. McNair.

A train wreck at Pope's Ferry in the middle of July 191 resulted in nine freight cars falling into Tobler Creek and Jackson going without ice for several days as the wrecked cars were loaded with ice and peaches.

The Census of 1910 showed that the city's population was 1,862. It was 1,487 in 1900. The population of Butts County was set at 13,625, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, an increase of 820 over the 1900 Census population of 12,805.

Under a bill introduced in the General Assembly, Butts County was to have one county commissioner elected for a four-year term at a salary of $1,000 per year.

Jackson had taxable values of $985,425 in 1910 as opposed to $902,133 in 1909.

The Empire Bottling Works on Second Street was destroyed by fire in early September 1910. There evidence of incendiaries as the cause of the fire. The loss was figured at $1,500 with an insured value of $1,000.

The Jackson Drug Company was the name of the new firm in early September 1910 that succeeded Whitehurst Drug Company with Dr. J. Edgar Woods and Dr. E. A. Martin as owners.

After October 1, 1910 it was unlawful to provide a public drinking cup at public fountains.

A second opera house in Jackson, after May's Opera House, was known as King's Opera House. It was located in a two-story brick building on the corner of First and Oak streets. It held several performances until Bill Turner, a confessed murdered, was hanged there in December 1911. No performances were ever given in the Opera House after this event.

The City Council set the 1910 millage rate at 13.5 mills, a decrease from 15 mills in 1909. The city's tax digest for 1910 was $985,425, an increase of $83,292 over the previous year's digest. In 1908, the taxable property in Jackson amounted to $780,000.

The Jackson Public Schools had a staff of 13 when school opened in October 1910. George Mingledorf was principal of the high school department.

On October 29, 1910 a dusting of snow fell across Butts County, an unusually early occurrence for the winter weather.

After two years of construction the dam at the Ocmulgee River was completed in the middle of November 1910 and the reservoir behind it began filling in.

Lots in a new subdivision in Jackson, Harkness Heights located in west Jackson, were offered at auction in the middle of December 1910. Despite bitter cold, a crowd assembled at the courthouse, followed a band along Third Street to the site of the first lot. A total of 27 lots sold that day, totaling about $8,000.

A new railroad depot was assured for Jackson at the end of December 1910. The old station was moved out of the way for the new construction, a wooden structure with waterworks and electric lights. The contract for construction was believed to total $8,000.

1911

Elected on January 4, 1911 were H. M. Fletcher for mayor, and A. C. Finley, W. M. Taylor, J. H. McKibben and J. C. Jones as aldermen. It was reported that the combined weight of the mayor and Council was 1,144 pounds. The mayor weighed 210 pounds, and Councilman Finley was the heaviest at 244 pounds. Employees elected to serve the City of Jackson in January 1911 were: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; J. T. McLain, tax receiver and collector; W. D. Pope, chief of police; D. M. Thornton, assistant; Charles L. Redman, attorney; W. D. Nicholson, superintendent of the water and light department.

After the new mayor and council were sworn into office in late January 1911, they lowered monthly salaries by $10 for most employees: clerk and treasurer went from $50 to $40, tax receiver and collector went from $25 to $15, chief of police from $60 to $50, and assistant chief of police from $55 to $45. The Council raised the annual salary of the city attorney from $150 a year to $200.

A southbound Southern passenger train from Atlanta to Macon wrecked on the morning of January 10, 1911. The accident occurred between the intersection of Third Street and Indian Springs Street due to the spreading of the inner rails. No one was injured even though two passenger cars turned over and fell into the side of an embankment. The train was moving at less than 10 miles per hour at the time. It took 12 hours to get the wreckage cleared while a large crowd watched the wrecking train at work putting the overturned cars back on the tracks.

Work began in January 1911 on a new railroad station in Jackson. The offices of the old depot remained in place, but the rest of the facility was moved out of the way for the new construction.

Jackson had experienced its greatest period of growth in its history in the few years prior to 1911, and it was hoped that U.S. Census figures would reflect a population over 2,000 for the first time.

J. B. Guthrie moved his photography studio upstairs in the Harkness Building in early January 1911. The following month, Guthrie sold his old photo studio on South Mulberry Street to Mrs. A. B. Harp.

The new firm of Land & White, Willie Land and J. W. White, proprietors, opened its grocery store in early January 1911 in the Crum building.

In January 1911, machinery at the Georgia Power dam on the Ocmulgee River was being tested.

The cost of establishing the Butts County chain gang in February 1911 was $1,124.76. A crew of 16 men - 14 of them felons - stayed at a stockade and worked on modernizing county roads. The single Butts County Commissioner, J. O. Gaston, set up the chain gang, bringing the convicts to Butts County from Spalding County. He also appointed a warden and two guards to look after the men. The gang used 10 mules, four wagons and two scrapes to improve roads in the county.

W. P. Wall was planning to open a flour mill in February 1911.

The Grand Jury meeting in February 1911 recommended a city court for Jackson.

J. H. Carmichael donated three acres of land around Harkness Heights, embracing a spring known as Chilly Rock, for a park in February 1911. The city was required to raise the funds for grading and laying out the park. Over $400 was raised within a month of the donation, and the park was assured. It was suggested to name the facility Rose Park in honor of the donor, Mrs. Rose Carmichael.

"The location is ideal for a park," wrote the Jackson Progress-Argus at the time. "The tract takes in the springs known as Chilly Rock and a little work will make the place a pretty one."

In March 1911, W. R. Lanier was re-elected superintendent and George Mingledorff principal of the Jackson public schools.

In 1911, businesses had to follow the Sunday Law, which said they could not open on Sundays except in cases of emergency or charity.

The new Southern Railway Depot was completed in Jackson by the end of March 1911. Not only did it have larger waiting rooms and electric lights, but it made getting on and off trains much less dangerous then the old depot's arrangement.

A. B. Harp was again appointed postmaster of Jackson at the end of March 1911. He had served under three presidents: McKinley, Taft and Theodore Roosevelt.

In March 1911, Jackson businessmen petitioned the City Council to allow hitching posts to remain on the square. The Council's plan was to remove the posts around the square and put up hitching sheds in back of stores and in alleys. But merchants did not think this would appeal to their customers.

Following the rains of the Winter and the wearing of deep holes in the streets, work on city roads was badly needed - and begun by the street committee of the City Council - in April 1911.

In April 1911, Leach & Company bought the building fronting Oak Street that had been occupied by Carter & Watkins and the livery stable of Mack Goodwin. The firm also purchased a vacant lot on Mulberry Street.

"My grandfather, E. Z. Carter owned the livery stable where the Superior Cleaners is now [on South Oak and Byars streets]," said Wayne Phillp[s in 2009. "He sold mules to everyone. He was definitely a character and friends with everyone in town. He farmed the land where the old Henderson School was located."

The Confederate statue on the courthouse square was unveiled on Confederate Memorial Day April 26, 1911. The statue cost $1,940, and was erected by the Larkin D. Watson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Col. J. Threatt Moore addressed the crowd at its unveiling, and Watson's granddaughter attended the event. When construction began on the monument, Captain F. L. Walthall, a Confederate veteran of Butts County, placed a $10 Confederate bill under the statue. D. J. Thaxton placed one $100 bill, one $10 bill, one $5 bill, one $2 bill, one $1 bill, one 50 cent bill and one 25 cent bill - all in Confederate funds - under the statue as well.

Vincent Jones, in a column in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, recalled how in later years the United Daughters of the Confederacy always polished and decorated the statute for Confederate Memorial Day ceremonies every April 26.

In late April 1911, the city was extending water lines to serve Indian Springs Street, West Avenue and West Third Street to Parkland [Brookwood Avenue].

The Census Bureau announced results of the 1910 Census, which found that Jackson's population was 1,862. That amounted to a 25 percent increased from the 1900 population of 1,487. The county's population was placed at 13,624 in 1910, an increase of 820 over the 1900 Census. The results disappointed many in Jackson, who hoped to to find the city's population between 2,350 and 2,500.

There were 225 subscribers to Bell Telephone service in April of 1911.

There were six members of the Jackson High School graduating class in May 1911. They were: Sallie Hammond, Jessie Jones, Vera Jones, Mary Land, Morris Redman and Leland Smith.

On June 1, 1911, J. E. Edwards opened a new photo studio in the old studio that belonged to J. H. Guthrie.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter in Jackson sponsored a clean up week June 7 and 8, 1911.

Jackson's annual chautauqua was held June 11 through 17, 1911. WIlliam Jennings Bryan addressed a crowd one day, and entertainment was provided by the Lyric Glee Club, polyphonic imitator Tom Corwine, Marvin Williams - who reportedly won the most applause and laughter - and an 11-piece band. The chautauqua made a profit that year, and the funds leftover - some $17 - went to the school library. Overall, the chautauqua cost $1,000 to put on. Bryan's speech cost $300, and it was reported that the audience that attended was not big enough to recoup that fee.

Representatives of the Central Georgia Power Company met with city officials in June of 1911 in regards to a contract for providing electricity to the city. In August 1911, the City Council called a bond election for voters to decide whether or not the city should contract with the company for electricity. The amount of the proposed bond issue was $11,000, the amount estimated the city would need to complete the change.

A large quantity of steel rail had been delivered to Jackson at the end of June 1911 in preparation for the laying of rail from the depot to the courthouse by Capt. W. F. Smith and his company. The first spike was driven into the ground in late July.

Leach and Company was erecting a 65' x 210' brick building on South Mulberry Street in July of 1911. The site eventually became the Jackson Post Office. The company provided feed, livery and stables.

Rose Park on West Third Street was being improved in July 1911 with a driveway around it and other additions. A landscaper from Atlanta was in charge of the project.

In July 1911, the Commercial Loan & Trust Company awarded a contract to build a three-story brick building on the southeastern corner of North Mulberry and Second streets. The first floor was used for stores, the second for offices, and the third as a Masonic fraternity hall. The building also had a cellar. It was Jackson's first three-story building.

S. H. Thornton was adding another story onto his one-story building next to the Masonic lot on Mulberry Street in late July 1911.

Representative J. T. Moore introduced a bill in July 1911 to establish a city court in Butts County. C. L. Redman and W. E. Watkins announced as candidates for solicitor of the new court. Jackson Mayor H. M. Fletcher and T. J. Dempsey announced their candidacies for the position of judge. Fletcher and Redman won their respective contests. An annual salary of $1,000 was set for the judge and for the solicitor of the new court. The first session of the new city court was held in the middle of September 1911. A special election was held in the first week of October 1911 to elect a mayor to fill the unexpired term of Fletcher, who resigned in September 1911. W. E. Watkins won the race.

In early August 1911, Davis and J. C. Kinard rented a store room that had been occupied by a pool room and was outfitting it for a new dry goods store. The firm was known as Kinard & Kinard.

Mayor H. M. Fletcher filed suit against the Southern Railway in early August 1911 for $15,000 in damages resulting from injuries he sustained several months earlier on the railroad's tracks in Jenkinsburg. He was standing on or near the track at the time and an outgoing train concealed an incoming one, which struck the mayor. He was laid up for several weeks afterward with severe injuries to his back and knees. The amount sought was one of the largest ever sought in Butts County Superior Court at that time.

Oscar Hardy and Tom McMichael were added to the city police force in August 1911.

Dr. F. J. Inman, an eye specialist, had an office in the Harkness Building in August 1911.

On August 31, 1911, Jesse Singley, age 20, was fatally shot and J. R. Connor shot in the leg during an ambush near Indian Springs. A special term of the Butts County Superior Court was called for on October 30, 1911 to try Bill Turner, a Negro, and his three sons, George, Alonzo and J.C. In the fatal shooting of Singley. Bill Turner was found guilty of these crimes in Superior Court in November 1911 and was sentenced to hang on December 14 in Jackson. He reportedly confessed to the crime before the trap was sprung that day inside King's Opera House on the corner of First and Oak streets. The hanging was witnessed by officers of the law, relatives of the victim, newspaper reporters, physicians, and a few others. Hundreds of people were outside the building. The hanging received wide publicity, reportedly even making headlines in a paper in Paris, France. No other event was ever held in the opera house.

In early September 1911, the Paul Nolen & Company installed a costly and modern vending machine for the sale of iced drinks. The machine delivered either iced Coca-Cola, ginger ale or lemon soda.

The Jackson Argus was leased to E. W. Carroll of August in September 1911. This followed the death of Mrs. Shaver who had owned the paper after her husband passed away.

In September 1911, Jackson voters approved a $12,000 bond issue. It was divided as follows: $4,000 to extend the water works system, $2,000 to extend and improve the electric light system, and $6,000 to make necessary changes to convert from steam power to allow the Central Georgia Power Company to provide electricity to the city. The vote total was 148 to one. In the first week of October 1911, the city signed a contract with the Central Georgia Power Company to provide electric current to the city effective January 1, 1912. The city sold $12,000 worth of improvement bonds to First National Bank for $12,150 in November 1911. The new contract provided the city with power 24 hours a day, and permitted the city to sell power to small enterprises. The city's existing power plant was overloaded at the time.

Total tax returns for 1911 in the City of Jackson amounted to $1,114,944, an increase of $129,519 over 1910's total. It was the largest tax digest in the city's history. In 1908, the city's tax digest was $780,496, and topped $1 million in 1910.

The City Council set a tax millage rate of 15 mills in October 1911.

In early October 1911, the some 25 youths of Jackson enjoyed a tennis meet held under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church. The series was played on the courts belonging to: Mrs. J. R. Carmichael, Mrs. Ida Hendricks and Jimmy Lane Edwards.

At the end of October 1911, the St. John's Lodge let a contract to build a Masonic lodge room on the third floor of the Commercial Building on the corner of Second and Mulberry streets.

Prices around Jackson in early November 1911 included: men's sweaters for 25 cents to $1, thread for one cent per spool, boy's suits for $1.69, ladies' Sunday shoes for $1.24, and men's dress shoes for $1.49.

Fines in the city court for the November 1911 term amounted to over $1,000 for the county treasury.

The Butts County chain gang was established in 1911. J. T. McClure was warden, and the gang was sent throughout the county and to surrounding areas to do work.

In November 1911, work began on a substation near Bibb east of Jackson. The Central Georgia Power had ben contracted to provide power to both Jackson and Flovilla, and was to send power to the new station and then have new lines carry the power to each city. Jackson received 660 horse power from the company. The city also bought machinery to convert from steam power to electric power. W. D. Nicholson was superintendent of the Water and Light Plant.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy opened a library in a room tendered to them by Dr. R. W. Mays in early November 1911. A subscription list of 100 members had been secured, and there were 300 books available. Miss Mary Newton was the librarian.

In early December 1911, the Indian Spring and Flovilla Railroad was sold to the Middle Georgia Interurban Railway Company of Atlanta. Work on the short line from the courthouse to the Southern Railway depot resumed, and was guaranteed to be in operation within two weeks. A $17,000 gasoline freight and passenger car was in transit for use on this line. Rails were also ordered to complete the 4.5-mile line from Jackson to the Indian Springs Holiness Campground.

On December 14, 1911, Bill Turner was hanged at King's Opera House, a building on the corner of North Oak and First streets. Turner had been found guilty and confessed to the shooting death of Jesse Singley following an argument at Indian Springs. The county jail at the time was

too small for a gallows and it was feared that the wire fence around the jail yard would be torn down if the execution was carried out there, so the gallows were built at the larger opera house. The building was also used as the county stockade and was the designated place of execution by the Butts County Ordinary.

When press reports went out that the execution took place in the "opera house," papers in the North and in Europe took Butts County and Georgia to task for staging such a morbid event in front of an audience dressed in fine evening wear. However, the hanging was witnessed by about 75 people including officers of the law, relatives of Singley, newspaper reporters, 10 Negro preachers, physicians and a few others. Hundreds more waited outside the building.

Turner was hanged at 11:54 a.m., and pronounced dead five minutes later. Turner made no statement at the gallows, but confessed the day before to doing all the shooting, saying his boys - who were still in still charged with complicity in the crime - were innocent. He smoked a cigar as he was led from the jail to the opera house, and continued smoking it on the gallows as his hands and feet were tied together. It was reported that Turner remained cool and collected to the last.

Late one night in the middle of December 1911, the cotton warehouse belonging to Mallet & Nutt was destroyed by fire. It was located behind the Ham & Carter store on Mulberry Street. About 150 bales of cotton and 20 tons of seed were lost at an estimated value of $10,000.

At the end of 1911, Jackson was known as a secret order town with The Masons, Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows, Royal Arcanum and Woodmen of the World all flourishing in lodges.

1912

Officials in Jackson at the start of 1912 were: Wilson, mayor; J. H. McKibben, mayor pro tem and alderman; J. C. Jones and J. M Leach, aldermen; W. D. Pope, chief of police; D. M. Thornton, assistant; J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; W. H. Wilson, tax collector and receiver; and J. Threatt Moore, city attorney.

The Southern Cotton Oil Company completed its fertilizer plant in Jackson in January 1912.

Jackson had three banks in 1912: Jackson Banking Company, Jackson National and First National. A fourth bank, the First Farmers Bank, was organized in April 1912 with capital of $50,000. L. O Benton was president; Dr. J. A. Jarrell and G. P. Saunders were vice presidents; and J. B. Carmichael was cashier. First Farmers was located in the Commercial Building on the southeast corner of the intersection of Mulberry and Second streets. [It merged with the First National Bank in 1917.]

The area was hit by a cold wave and 11-degree temperatures and the second snow storm of the season in January 1912. Three inches of powder accumulated in the city.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church served dinner at the courthouse for two days during court week in February 1912. The menu included soup, three meats, three vegetables, salad, pickles, dessert, coffee, milk, bread and butter - all for 50 cents.

W. H. Key was teaching school in Butts County in 1912. He, more than anyone else, was responsible for the county-wide system of taxation for schools. Prior to his efforts, over 40 schools in the county imposed their own local taxes. When the McMichael, or county-wide, system was finally adopted, a campaign to consolidate schools followed. More than 20 White schools were merged into five junior high schools, with Jackson High School remaining as the sole senior high school for the county.

In March 1912, S. H. Thornton added undertaking to his furniture business.

Figures from an Agricultural Census released in March 1912 showed that Butts County had 1,734 farms. The county had a land value of $25.35 per acre, compared with $9.13 in 1900.

Judge H. M. Fletcher imposed a $1,000 fine against the Central Georgia Power Company in City Court in March 1912. The jury found the company guilty of maintaining a nuisance in connection with its power plant on the Ocmulgee River and the reservoir behind it. The company immediately set about seeking a new trial.

Captain W. F. Smith died at his home in Flovilla at the end of March 1912. Smith was a pioneer editor of Butts County newspapers and was long identified with the development of middle Georgia.

From Thursday afternoon to Friday morning at the end of March 1912, 4.25 inches of rain fell in Jackson, the second heaviest rainfall amount since observations were kept.

In April 1912, the city sold its old engine and boiler at the waterworks to Dr. J. G. Smith of McDonough.

W. R. Lanier was re-elected superintendent of the Jackson public schools in April 1912. He resigned two months later to take a job out of state, and 30 people applied for the vacant position. In the end, W. P. Martin of Lawrenceville was given the job.

In the Spring of 1912, Pepperton had a flourishing 12-piece brass band under the instruction of Elmer Jinks.

In April 1912, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company was completing a modern plant in Jackson.

There were 12 members of the 1912 senior class at Jackson High School - seven girls and five boys. Annie C. Crum was the valedictorian and C. W. Woodward was salutatorian.

As part of the celebration for Memorial Day 1912, the Jackson Rifles held a sham battle on the courthouse lawn. It was witnessed by several hundred people.

In May 1912, W. D. Nicholson resigned as superintendent of the Jackson water and light department. The City Council elected 20-year-old W. E. Merck as his replacement.

The Vendome Theater, with F. Gresham as manager, opened in May 1912 in the Watkins building on the square on the east side of the square. Gresham stated that "none but the very highest class of films will be secured and those who attend are sure of witnessing good clean pictures." The Vendome soon changed hands to J. Fred Ball, and then by W. J. Cornett of Atlanta in 1913. Cornett showed films daily and added vaudeville shows as well.

In June 1912, the City Council adopted an ordinance condemning all cesspools.

Out of a field of 30 applicants, W. P. Martin was chosen in June 1912 as superintendent of the Jackson School System. He was paid $1,500 a year.

Dr. E. C. Swanson of Fairburn opened a dental office in Jackson in June 1912. The following month, Dr. H. L. Parris of Alpharetta located his dental office in town in the old office of Dr. R. A. Franklin.

For several days in early July 1912, the City Council's street committee worked on city streets. They used a drag to smooth the streets, and a man with a hoe took care of weeds.

Arrangements were made in July 1912 to light to clock in the courthouse as well as the entire building. Prior to this work, night sessions were held by the dim light of lamps.

In July 1912, the city was extending its water and light system in accordance with a $6,000 bond issue voted for by citizens. When the work was completed, water protection was available to every citizen in the city. A petition was also being circulated asking the City Council to call for an election on issuing sewer bonds. It was signed by 150 property owners. At the time, the city was operating a sanitary wagon at a cost of $100 per month.

In 1912, the old St. John's Lodge building on the southeast corner of the intersection of Second and Mulberry streets was demolished. It was replaced by a large three-story brick building erected by the Commercial Loan and Trust Company. This building was consumed by fire in 1916 and replaced by a two-story brick building was still stands.

Scouting came to Butts County in 1912 under the leadership of Dr. Robert Van Deventer, pastor of the First Baptist Church.

The tax digest in September 1912 showed that Jackson had a total taxable value of $1,004,413. The city imposed a tax levy of 13 mills.

When the school year began in September 1912, Jackson public schools had 355 pupils.

The Cooperative Gin, Coal & Ice Company began operating its plant with electric power in September 1912.

During the September 1912 term of the Jackson city court, Judge H. M. Fletcher fined the Central Georgia Power Company $1,000 for maintaining a nuisance. The nuisance in question was the company's power plant on the Ocmulgee River. This ruling was overturned in February 1913 by a court of appeals. The city was using current from the company at the time.

Dr. O. Lee Chestnutt opened a dental office in Jackson in September 1912.

Feminine Jackson was agog in late September 1912 concerning a strange man seen around town. The White man wore overalls and a black cap, and said he was from Pepperton. But he was usually found hanging around local churches and when confronted would crawl under the building until he was drawn out by a group of men.

A Daughters of the American Revolution was being organized in jackson in October 1912.

Former Butts County Sheriff J. M. Crawford died at his home at Indian Springs in October 1912.

In October 1912, damage suits against the Central Georgia Power Company aggregating $80,000 were filed in the city court of Jackson.

H. R. Slaton, D. G. McMichael and G. B. Carreker applied for a charter for the Slaton Drug Company in October 1912.

In early November 1912, Dr. W. D. Sheridan of Charleston, South Carolina bought the Jackson Drug Company from Dr. J. E. Woods.

In November 1912, Dr. Robert Van Deventer declined a call to become pastor of a church in Burlington, North Carolina and remained pastor of the Jackson Baptist Church. The church was in the process of building a new church at the time.

In December 1912, J. H. Turner and T. A. Nutt bought the bankrupt Thaxton Drug Company and changed its name to the Owl Pharmacy.

In 1912, corporations paid $13,635 worth of taxes in Butts County - about one-third the total amount.

Several fights happened around Jackson on Christmas Day 1912. In one of them, two hackmen, Henry Bledsoe and Punk Thurman, got into an altercation at the depot. They used their molars with telling effect, the upper and lower lips of the antagonists being severely bitten. They were fined $20 each or 60 days in jail.

In the annual city primary held at the end of the year, W. E. Watkins was nominated for mayor, receiving 145 votes while his opposition, former alderman W. M. Taylor received 53 votes. Elected to the Council were: J. R. Thurston, C. M. Kimbell, J. H. McKibben and J. C. Jones. All were officially sworn in during January 1913.

1913

Effective the first of 1913, ownership of the *Butts County Progress* was vested solely in the hands of J. Doyle Jones. He had worked for the paper as editor and manager since 1908, and was congratulated on his success by the *Jackson Argus*. The *Progress* began publication in December 1881 as the *Jackson News* under the ownership of A. B. Harp. Over the years, it had been known as the *Jackson News, Jackson Times, Jackson Vidette*, the *Jacksonian*, the *Record* and the *Butts County Progress*.

The parcel post system was inaugurated around the country on January 1, 1913, which meant the post office began delivering packages for customers.

The J. S. Johnson Company, in business for 12 years, was being enlarged in January 1913 to take care of a larger volume of business. The firm dealt in furniture, crockery, builders' hardware, home furnishings and had an extensive undertaking business.

An official from the Secondary Education of the State University inspected the Jackson Public School in early January 1913 and recommended the schools be placed in Group 1, a higher classification than the Group 2 designation the schools had enjoyed. The improvement meant that graduates from Jackson had better chances of getting into colleges and universities. The condition of the school building and the heating apparatus were the only complaints found during the inspection.

Several awnings and signs were torn to pieces around the square as a result of a violent storm that struck the area in the first week of January 1913.

Two camps of the Camp Fire Girls were organized in early January 1913. The camps chose McIntosh Camp as their name.

The fence that surrounded the county courthouse was sold in early February 1913. So far as anybody was able to discover, the fence never served a useful purpose. It was put up at a cost of

$300. County Commissioner J. O. Gaston vowed to beautify the square by re-sodding the lawn, put a coping around the square, have walks paved and fine anyone who walked on the grass.

A sanitary drinking fountain was installed in early March 1912 at the Jackson Institute. A pipe, six or eight feet long, with eight openings was out in at the entrance of the building. When the water was turned on there was a flow several inches high at each opening. This improvement came about due to the banishing of drinking cups that were shared by all students. Such cups had been recently banned on trains and other public places.

In March of 1913, W. J. Wood offered the Baptists of Jackson a beautiful lot on the corner of Third and McKibben streets in exchange for the property where the church and pastorium were then located. The church, however, bought the corner lot next to the existing church in order to build a new sanctuary in 1914.

Dr. R. A. Franklin was organizing a new general merchandise store in the Land & White building in March 1913. It was known as R. A. Franklin & Company. W. N. Land and J. W. White were partners in the new business, and continued to operate their popular grocery store.

A fierce storm battered Jackson in the middle of March 1913, blowing down a shop owned by Albert Finley and tearing the roof off the waterworks plant.

Professor W. P. Martin was re-elected superintendent of the Jackson public schools in March 1913. His salary was also raised from $1,500 to $1,600 per year.

The city was consuming between 45,000 and 50,000 gallons of water per day in 1913. In April, the city purchased a new 14’ by 15’ filter for the water plant, which increased the plant’s capacity to 150,000 gallons per day.

In April 1913, Professor George Williams was elected principal of the Jackson High School. He also taught mathematics. Williams replaced George Mingledorf, who held the position for three yeas.

The Middle Georgia Interurban Railway obtained permission from the City Council in April 1913 to leave its present railroad track in the city intact with the agreement that it will be kept in good condition. The company planned to extend the lines and place electric cars on them.

The city purchased a street sprinkler in early May 1913. It had a capacity of 600 gallons, and was helpful in keeping the down the dust in the business section of the city.

In May 1913, the Pepperton Cotton Mill contracted with a New York firm so such a large quantity of fancy weave cloth that the mill added an additional 50 horsepower to its power capacity to meet the demand. All 100 of the jacquard looms were put to work day and night. It was the largest order for that type of cloth ever contracted by the mill at one time.

The William McIntosh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized on May 24, 1913 with 15 charter members. Mrs. J. D. Jones was selected as the initial regent. Over the years, the Chapter supported Red Cross programs, war bond programs, and blood drives. It also helped foster patriotism among the youth, and presented annual awards to outstanding young people in the community.

County Commissioner J. O. Gaston vowed to improve the courthouse lawn in May 1913. A detail of the county chain gang was put to work putting up coping around the lawn, grading it and laying off walks. Trees and flowers were planted, and a penalty was instituted for walking on the grass.

Results of a school census were released in early June 1913 showing 3,799 school-aged children - age 6 to 18 - in Butts County. Of that total, 1,679 were White, and 2,120 were Black.

The Vendome Theater re-opened in Jackson opened during the first week of July 1913 under the new ownership of W. J. Cornett. It had a fan-cooled hall, good pictures, and was said to be well worth the price of admission. It was managed by W. E. Merck and S. K. Ball.

June 9 and 10, 1913 were said to be the coldest in 20 years in Jackson. There were reports of snow falling, but melting before the flakes landed on the ground.

Efforts were underway to abolish the Jackson city court in June 1913. Local business men wanted to keep the court, however, because they said it cut down on crime by allowing for speedy trails. They also noted that city court was less expensive to run that the superior court.

On July 8, 1913, voters in the city approved $23,000 in bonds for a sewerage system by a tally of 121 for and one against. A large portion of the city already had private sewerage, and officials planned to buy that system as well.

Professor George L. Williams was named the new principal of Jackson public schools in July 1913. At 24 years of age, he came to Jackson from the Gwinnett County schools.

J. A. Joyner opened a fancy grocery store on early August 1913 in the old Jackson Hardware building on Third Street. The store was called The Ocmulgee.

In September 1913, Mrs. A. B. Harp announced her resignation as postmaster of Jackson due to ill health. She had been involved with the post office since 1883, and was named postmaster after her husband passed away. Her term was not to expire until 1915, and I. J. Slaughter was named as her replacement. The annual salary was $1,800.

On September 3, 1913, Butts County voters went the polls and voted to abolish the Jackson city court. A total of 453 voted against the court, and 231 voted in favor of it.

In 1913, the Farmers Union Warehouse was weighing 90 percent of the cotton in Butts County, and there was only one other warehouse carrying out such work. In 1907, there had been four cotton warehouses. When the Farmers Union Warehouse opened, farmers had to pay to have their cotton weighed. By 1913, the warehouses were paying farmers 10 cents per bale to weigh it and were able to store the cotton under a roof. The Farmers Union Warehouses faced Second Street and extended back to First Street. It was 51,120 square feet.

Enrollment in the Jackson schools in September 1913 was the largest in its history: 42 students in first grade, 43 in second grade, 32 in third grade, 46 in fourth grade, 27 in fifth grade, 22 in sixth grade, 29 in seventh grade, 38 in eighth grade, 37 in ninth grade, 30 in tenth grade, and eight in the eleventh grade.

On September 8, 1913, the city council set the tax rate at 11.3 mills, a decrease of 2.6 mills over the 1912 rate. The decrease was possible through the payment of all old indebtedness, the business administration of the preceding year and excellent tax returns. The value of property on the digest amounted to $1,098,267. Five mills were levied for school purposes, three mills to pay the general expenses of the town, and 3.3 mills for retiring bonded indebtedness of the city.

In early October 1913, City superintendent Merck was busy extending light lines and putting up street lights on McDonough Street, West Avenue and Walker Street. Lights also went up on the corner of Second and Covington streets.

1914

In January 1914, W. E. Watkins was elected mayor of Jackson, and members of the City Council were C. B. Kimbell, J. R. Thurston, J. H. McKibben and J. C. Jones. Fifteen voters took part in the election. W. E. Merck remained superintendent of the water and light department, W. D. Pope remained chief of police with D. M. Thornton as his assistant.

The Empire Buggy Company put on a barbecue on January 1, 1914 to celebrate the previous year's good business. Mayor Watkins spoke, and president J. H. Carmichael recounted the history of the firm, which was founded in 1906.

The Vendome Theater closed for a few months at the start of 1914 due to cold, disagreeable weather.

At an organizational meeting during the second week of January 1914, officers were selected to serve the newly-formed Butts County Chamber of Commerce.

On January 15, 1914, L. L. Bullington of Forsyth opened a dry cleaning, pressing, tailoring and altering business in the Fossett building.

In the middle of January 1914, the city sold $23,000 in sewer bonds to an Atlanta firm. The City Council awarded a contract to do engineering for a sewer system in Jackson to J. B. McCrary Company of Atlanta. By the end of the month, a contract for building the sewer system had been awarded to Sullivan, Long & Hagarty of Bessemer, Alabama on a bid of $13,400.55. The work began immediately near the school building and was completed in June 1914.

In the final week of January 1914, the building committee of the Jackson Baptist Church let a contract for $20,000 for a new church building. The church was to be built of white pressed brick. The first brick was placed by the pastor, Dr. Robert Van Deventer, in the middle of April.

The City Council increased the discount rate on bills paid by tenth of the month from 10 to 20 percent in February 1914. It was estimated that this would save customers $100 per year - if they paid on time. Power rates for commercial users remained the same, and the Carmichael Buggy Company had just switched from gasoline powered engines in its plant to electric.

In February 1914, W. P. Martin was re-elected to his third term as superintendent of the Jackson public schools.

The coldest weather of the Winter struck in early March 1914 when thermometers in Jackson dipped to 15 degrees and many water pipes burst.

An earthquake was felt for five to 15 seconds in Butts County at 3 p.m. on March 5, 1914. It was the first tremor felt in the area since the great earthquake of August 1886. Some bricks were shaken loose from chimneys, but no real damage was reported. According to the Butts County Progress, “The tremor caused excitement that almost amounted to consternation in some quarters.”

In March 1914, stock was being sold by E. S. Hunnicutt of Toccoa in order to put a motor car on the tracks leading from the Southern depot to the courthouse square. Once $2,000 was raised, he promised he could deliver goods from the railroad to the square for less money than merchants had been paying.

Gypsies set up a camp south of Pepperton at the end of March 1914 and remained there for many days. A wedding even took place among the oak trees at the camp site.

An election was set for April 17, 1914 on the question of organizing a county-wide school system. Voters adopted the idea by a vote of 697 to 219.

The eight members of the Jackson High School Class of 1914 were: Warren Furlow, Dewey White, Helen Ham, Fredna Allen, Florrie Mackey, Willie Harmon, Julie Andrews and Nettie Florence Moore.

The first brick of the new Baptist Church building was laid by Dr. Robert Van Deventer in the middle of April 1914. The first service in the new sanctuary was held on December 20, 1914.

L. M. Crawford was nominated as Butts County Sheriff in a primary in April 1914.

The Civic Improvement League was organized in Jackson in April 1914 with 60 women as members. The group set May 26, 1914 as clean up day in Jackson. Members of the League itself were to take on the courthouse square as part of the effort. The clean up week became an annual event for the League in the city. The Southern Railway donated land near the train depot to the city for use as a park, on condition that the Civic Improvement League keep the park up. The railroad later erected a water tower on the site.

In May 1914, W. P. Martin was re-elected superintendent of the Jackson public schools, and W. O. Perritt was renamed principal. The school year began on August 24, 1914 with a faculty of 11 teachers including one for art and one for music.

Jackson's sewerage system was completed in the middle of June 1914.

In June 1914, the city council adopted an ordinance regulating the use of city water. Spigots in businesses and homes were not allowed to be turned on between 8:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

The City Council adopted an ordinance effective June 15, 1914 that banned riding bicycles, motorcycles and other vehicles on sidewalks in Jackson. Violators were subject to a fine of at least $1 and as much as $100 dollars or sentenced to work on the streets of the city for not more than 60 days.

The Jackson Chero-Cola Bottling Company moved into its new brick building on Second Street in the first week of July 1914. The plant, equipped with new equipment, bottled not only Chero-Coloa but also soda water and ginger ale. The business was formed in February 1914 by T. B. McMichael, L. B. Thompson and V. W. Cole.

Dr. Charles R. Eitel moved from Atlanta to Jackson in July 1914 to open an office of osteopathy in the Harkness building. His practice followed that of Dr. A. H. Lillard, who was the first osteopath in Butts County, and worked in Jackson for two years.

On July 6, 1914, one of the worst rain and wind storms that he oldest citizens could remember visited Jackson and Butts County. Wind blew down trees and several houses were torn from their foundations. Lightning played havoc with the telephone system, and the lights went out in Jackson for the first part of the night. Bottom lands were considerably washed by the flood of water rushing through them.

In early July 1914, the Board of Education approved the installation of sewerage to the Jackson public school building. At a cost of $990, it was ready for operation in time for the Fall term of school.

In the middle of July 1914, fines totaling $695 were assessed in the city's police court by Mayor W. E. Watkins on 16 people convicted of being "blind tigers," which meant they kept liquor for the purpose of illegal sale.

World War I, centered at the time in Europe, began on July 28, 1914.

In 1914, a track from the Southern Railway depot along Third Street to within one block of the courthouse square was complete. A company incorporated under the name Middle Georgia Interurban Railway Company, initiated by Captain W. F. Smith, had been formed to operate a street car on this line. The company owned valuable rights of way and had been granted a franchise to operate a car system in Jackson.

At first the gasoline motor powered car hauled only passengers from the depot to the business district. It first rolled through Jackson in early August 1914. Later, it carried freight as well. Grading was later being done to extend the tracks to the Indian Springs Holiness Campground and to Griffin when business began to decline. The car, however, had to make at least one trip daily to hold the city franchise. Eventually, the car line was abandoned when the automobile arrived to furnish transportation.

At the end of August 1914, W. M. Taylor moved his grocery business into the Commercial Building on North Mulberry Street at Second Street. J. C. Kinard prepared to enter the grocery business in Taylor's old stand at the corner of Second and Oak streets. Kinard had previously run the grocery department at the New York Store.

When school opened in Jackson in the Fall of 1914, Domestic Science was a new branch of the curriculum. It was intended to elevate the standards of domestic work, to give practical knowledge of foods as well as their preparation and economics.

The Jackson Argus was leased by C. L. Carter, a Butts County native, from McCord Shaver in September 1914.

As of the end of September 1914, the Rex Theater was under the management of Mrs. W. E. Merck.

Jackson's tax levy for 1914 was 14 mills, and increase of nearly 3 mills over the previous years. The increase was needed due to the $23,000 bond issue approved for sewerage in the city. Butts County's tax levy was 13 mills, with another 3.5 mills from the Board of Education and 4.5 mills from the state.

In October 1914, in an effort to break away from an all-cotton policy, Butts County Sheriff L. M. Crawford offered a plan that rents could be accepted in grain and foodstuffs in 1915 instead of in cotton. The plan was adopted at a mass meeting in the Butts County Courthouse called to discuss the plight of cotton farmers. At the time, cotton was selling, if at all, for 10 cents.

The first annual Butts County Fair was held on November 18, 1914. It lasted a day, due to the war. A Georgia products dinner was served, and citizens of the city prepared home grown products for the basket dinners. A prize of $1 was awarded for the best cake, and six pairs of stocking were given to the girl who entered the best darned stockings. Charles Lee Redman, Jr. Won the Better Babies Contest at the fair. The livestock exhibit was held in the county stockade on Oak Street, and all other exhibits were inside the courthouse or on the public square.

In the December 1914 city primary, there were two separate tickets on the ballot. On the first ticket, W. E. Watkins was a candidate for mayor, with C. M. Kimbell, A. T. Buttrill, C. W. Buchanan and J. C. Jones for aldermen. The other ticket consisted of: J. H. McKibben for mayor and S. O. Ham, J. P. Etheridge, J. B. Settle and A. F. Whitney for aldermen.

The first service in the new Baptist Church was held on December 20, 1914. The Grecian-style building had steel in its roof from North Carolina, slate from Virginia and marble from Georgia. It was 109 feet long and 60 feet wide, with a loggia in front 35 feet wide supported by four stone columns. The new church was built at a cost of $25,000.

In the city election of December 22, 1914, W. E. Watkins was elected mayor. Aldermen elected to the Council were: S. O. Ham, A. T. Buttrill, J. B. Settle, and J. C. Jones. Named as school trustees were: J. H. Ham, S. H. Thornton, T. H. Buttrill, B. F. Watkins and J. T. Fletcher.

1915

City employees at the start of 1915 were: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; W. H. Wilson, tax receiver and collector; W. D. Pope, chief of police and D. M. Thornton, assistant; W. E. Merck, superintendent of the water and light department; and J. T. Moore, city attorney.

Ten pounds of lard was 90 cents and a peck of Irish potatoes was 25 cents in Jackson in January 1915.

The Parent-Teacher Association was organized in the Jackson public school by Mrs. L. L. O'Kelley, president, in February 1915.

In February 1915, W. P. Martin was elected Superintendent of the Jackson public schools for the fourth year. W. O. Perritt was principal.

Medical exams for school children were endorsed by the board of education in March 1915 and physicians and dentists in Jackson tendered their services without charge for the effort. Dr. H. W. Copeland checked lungs, heart and blood; Dr. J. E. Woods checked eyes, ears, noses and throats; Dr. R. Gunter looked for contagious diseases; Dr. C. R. Eitel, checked kidneys and nerves and physical development; Dr. C. D. Hoard looked for hookworm; and the three dentists - Chestnutt, Franklin and Hopkins - examined children's teeth.

The Fair Store, with J. Gelfman as proprietor, opened in Jackson in March 1915. It was located in the store formerly occupied by J. Groodginsky and was considered one of the best sites around the courthouse.

J. B. Thomas came to Jackson in April 1915 as successor to W. M. Taylor who swapped his Jackson grocery for a 1,200-acre orange grove in Lakeland, Florida.

Representatives of the International Harvester Company came to Jackson in the middle of April 1915 to demonstrate new tractors on behalf of the local dealer, B. F. Watkins & Company. Several hundred people witness the tractors at work on a farm between Jackson and Pepperton.

In April 1915, two-and-a-half-year-old Asa Williams of Jackson was bitten by a pet dog. The dog was killed and found to be rabid, so the child was given the Pasteur treatment and recovered well.

The baseball team of Jackson High split two games with the team from Monticello in April 1915. Professor W. O. Perritt, principal and mathematics teacher, was coaching the Jackson team.

There were 25 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1915, the largest class to graduate from the school since it was founded..

In late May 1915, it was announced that a route chosen for the Hoosier-to-Dixie Highway had been chosen and it went through Jackson and Indian Springs. A western route was also chose. But since the eastern route through McDonough, Jackson, Indian Springs and Forsyth offered more historic sites, it was believed that two-thirds of the traffic between Atlanta and Macon on the highway would come through Jackson as a result.

A chautauqua was held at the Jackson school auditorium from June 8 through 10, 1915.

The sale by H. Y. McCord, administrator for the estate of Mrs. Lula McCord Shaver, of the *Jackson Argus* to J. D. Jones, editor of the *Butts County Progress*, was announced in July 1915. For some time business people had been asking that the county's two weekly newspaper be consolidated. After 43 years of being published under different names, the two papers were consolidated under the name *Jackson Progress-Argus* that month. The *Progress* moved into the *Argus* office on South Mulberry Street, where the paper is still run today.

In August 1915, C. E. McMichael joined J. C. Kinard in business. The name of the firm was J. C. Kinard & Company. McMichael had been connected with the grocery department of Etheridge, Smith & Company.

A severe electrical storm struck Jackson in early August 1915. It burned out a number of transformers and telephone service was severely disrupted. W. E. Merck, superintendent of the municipal electric plant, was slightly injured when a lightning bolt struck nearby and ran along wires into the substation. Merck, who was sitting in a chair at the time was thrown to the floor, inuring his neck. The same bolt knocked down a mule at the Coca-Cola bottling plant.

In the middle of August 1915, L. H. Hurt and M. F. Thaxton purchased the barber shop belonging to C. C. Davenport. A month later, J. A. Leverett of Monticello purchased the barber shop that belonged to H. L. Jenkins.

The City of Jackson cleaned out the old well on the courthouse square in the middle of August 1915 and replaced it with a 60-gallon tank. The water was piped out and kept cool at all times.

The First National Bank was making extensive repairs to its building on the corner of Oak and Second streets in early August 1915.

At the end of August 1915, H. L. Williams of Eatonton purchased the Rex Theater in Jackson, and held a contest to give it a new name. The winner received a six-month pass to the movies. A month later, the contest was over and the business was renamed the Dixie Theater.

Jackson schools opened on September 6, 1915 with 425 students. Some of the girls at the school were part of a tennis team that played a team from Locust Grove.

The city tax digest showed a value of $1,122,457 in August 1915, an increase of $4,487 over the previous year's digest. The city tax rate was 13 mills, and the county's was 17 mills.

The Jackson Glee Club was formed during a meeting at the armory in early September 1915.

Joe Persons, a 14-year-old Negro convicted of criminal assault at the August term of Butts County Superior Court, was hanged on September 24, 1915.

J. R. Lyons carried out improvements to the courthouse lawn in early October 1915 by building a retaining wall around the square and cement walks to all entrances to the courthouse.

The second annual Butts County Fair opened on October 19, 1915. It began with a parade that began at the Jackson school building on East College Street, then proceeded along McKibben Street to Third Street and then down to McDonough. It made a right turn onto Second

Street and went to the First Farmers Bank where it turned and went around the courthouse, back to Second Street and then east to Covington Street. From there, it turned south back to Third Street and back to the courthouse where it was dismissed. The parade included (in order): a brass band, the Jackson Rifles, school children of the entire county, the Girls Canning Club, the Boys Corn Club, floats and automobiles with members of the Baby Show.

The fair itself was held in the stockade on Oak Street. Despite heavy rains, attendance was incredibly large and the fair was deemed a success.

In the first week of November 1915, the Great European Shows were in Jackson. The attractions consisted of Georgia Minstrels, the Hippodrome, the Beautiful Orient, Snake Show and balloon ascension daily at 3 p.m. The shows were located on the Bryans lot on Second Street.

In early December 1915, two men from the Kansas City Numbering Company were in Jackson platting the city and numbering the houses. After that task was completed, the men planned to place the names of streets on each corner.

The City Council voted in early December 1915 to further discount water and light bills by five percent, making a total discount to consumers of 25 percent. This meant that a resident received a bill for $1 for water and $1.50 for lights per month, he only had to pay 75 cents for water and $1.12 for lights.

Candidates for Mayor of Jackson in the December 18, 1915 primary were Threatt Moore and W. E. Watkins. Moore won the election.

The residence of Mack Goodwin on McDonough Street was destroyed by fire early one morning in late December 1915. All contents were lost, but no one was injured as the family had been called out of town for two days.

Fire destroyed the Mays Building at the train depot in late December 1915.

1916

A fire in early January 1916 destroyed J. R. Conner's barn and its contents on Indian Springs Street. The fire, it was believed, started with a tramp, several of whom had been reported sleeping in the barn recently. Conner managed to get all his livestock out of the barn.

Officers of the city assumed their duties in the middle of January 1916. J. T. Moore was mayor, with A. T. Buttrill as mayor pro tem. Other aldermen on the City Council were S. O. Ham, J. B. Settle and R. P. Sasnett.

They elected the following employees: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; J. W. Carmichael, tax receiver and collector; J. E. McNair, chief of police; J. W. McClure, assistant chief of police; W. E. Merck, superintendent of the water and light department; J. C. Meredith,

sexton of the city cemetery; H. D. Russell, city attorney. The salaries of the city employees remained the same: $45 per month for the clerk and treasurer, $40 per month for the tax receiver and collector, $60 per month for the policemen, and $200 per year for the city attorney.

McNair, however, did not immediately accept the position of police chief. He was employed as a guard at the state prison farm in Milledgeville, and would not accept the $60 per month police chief's salary offered. The following week, the Council elected McNair chief of police at a rate of $66.66 per month, or $800 per year.

In early February 1916, the ladies of the Civic League were busy improving the appearance of Jackson. They asked the county commissioner to plant suitable trees on the courthouse lawn, and the League planted grasses and flowers on the lawn. The ladies also focused their efforts on the city cemetery. A retaining wall was to be built on the southern part of the cemetery and water lines were laid. Cemetery lot owners were asked to contribute $1 toward these efforts. Other unsightly spots around town were also cleaned up.

A temporary organization, the Butts County Fair Association, was created in February 1916. Hugh Mallet was elected chairman. It was decided to sell stock in the association with each militia district asked to sell at least $1,000. Temporary buildings were built on the athletic fields at the Jackson school in advance of the fair.

In February 1916, the Jackson City Council banned slot machines in the city.

An earthquake was felt in Jackson one Monday in late February 1916, causing considerable excitement. The tremors lasted between 15 and 20 seconds. No damage was reported.

W. P. Martin was re-elected superintendent of Jackson public schools at the start of March 1916.

J. S. Davis became owner of the Chero-Cola Bottling Company in March 1916.

New officers elected to the Jackson Fire Department in March 1916 were: H. W. Turner, president; R. L. Carter, vice president; G. H. Carreker, secretary; and W. H. Merritt, treasurer. Captains of the reels were: W. H. Boring, J. L. Lockhart, and J. P. Etheridge.

Work began in March 1916 on a Colored Fair to be held in Jackson in the Fall of that year. P. C. Saunders was president of the Colored Fair Association, with P. G. Page as secretary and Alex Hunter as treasurer.

In the April 5, 1916 primary, L. M. Crawford was re-elected Sheriff of Butts County over George F. Gilmore, 924 votes to 503 votes.

The annual clean up campaign in the city was held during the first week of April 1916 and declared a big success. The theme was "Clean up, paint up."

The schools of Butts County held a field day on April 26, 1916 on the lawn of the county courthouse. It was the first ever such event held in the county. Events included: 100-yard-dash, 220-yard dash, chinning the pole, standing high jump, running broad jump, running high jump, sack race, relay race, cracker race and pillow tournament. Some 50 students took part.

On May 1, 1916, the State of Georgia went dry, as new prohibition laws took effect. The new laws left no loop holes and many saloons and clubs went out of business as a result. As a result, blind tigers caught selling booze in Jackson were given the sentence of 60 days working the streets by Mayor J. T. Moore.

In May 1916, a swimming pool in the Baptist Church opened offering the pleasure of bathing and swimming in clean, clear water. All boys and girls who contributed to the church building fund were able to obtain season passes from the pastor. Season tickets for others were $2 each, and a single swim, including shower bath, was 25 cents.

Twenty-two students graduated from the Jackson Public School on May 19, 1916. The class, one of the largest in the school's history at the time, consisted of 13 girls and nine boys.

Jackson businesses were to begin half-day closings on Wednesday, June 7, 1916 and continue until August 30, 1916. This was the first such instance of the half-holiday, a tradition that carries on today for many local businesses. The movement for a holiday during the week was spreading across the state at the time, and had been going on in larger cities for some years.

Members of the Jackson Rifles were mustered on June 27, 1916 for service in World War I with the Second Georgia Regiment. The Rifles had three officers - Captain H. D. Russell, 1st Lieutenant W. D. Pope and 2nd Lieutenant E. Smith Settle - and 59 enlisted men. The men went to Camp Harris and prepared to be sent to the Mexican border. It served there until March 20, 1917.

While these men were off serving their country, the members of the Butts County Medical Society - seven doctors - offered their services "to any other or wife residing in Butts County who is dependent on any private soldier who so nobly answered his country's call... free for as long as the ones upon whom [they were] dependent [were] away from home." These women were asked to preferably call during the day and the call the doctor nearest to their homes.

For several days in early July 1916, the county was inundated with seven to 10 inches of rain. The water over the Lloyd Shoals Dam was six to eight feet high, and many roads were badly washed away.

In July 1916, W. A. And R. P. Newton purchased the interest of R. J. Carmichael in the Newton-Carmichael Hardware Company. The firm had been in business since 1902. A month later, Carmichael opened his own hardware store in the Carmichael-Mallet grocery room.

The Commercial Loan and Trust Company building, a three-story brick structure on the east side of the square, was consumed by fire in 1916. It had been built in 1912.

In August 1916, the Buttrill Brothers purchased a brick building on Mulberry Street on the square formerly occupied by King's Garage. They tore the old structure down, and began erecting a modern two-story brick building for their automobile business. King moved his garage to the Bailey & Jones Company building on Third Street.

A rabid bird dog passed through Jackson in the middle of August 1916. It bit W. H. Wilson's dog and the pet belonging to W. A. Newton, who shot the rabid animal and sent its head to Atlanta for examination.

The young ladies in Jackson entertained at a Leap Year dance at the Armory in early August 1916.

In August 1916, the Grand Jury recommended that a toilet be placed in the little room outside the ordinary;s office in the county courthouse to be used as a ladies room. It also recommended the installation of a toilet in the solicitor's room for the convenience of the Grand Jury. It also urged citizens to not walk on the courthouse lawn, which it found in excellent condition.

In the Fall of 1916, there were 18 felony convicts in the Butts County convict camp. They were transported around the county to work on the roads in two cage cars pulled by mules. The mules were reported as "a little thin, but in good working order."

Enrollment in the Jackson Public Schools in September 1916 was 417 students. The school was free to all children of the city and county. W. O. Perritt was principal.

The Dodson Ten Cent Company opened in September 1916 in the Finley-Jarrell building on Second Street. The store offered tinware, notions, novelties, toys and millinery.

The third annual Butts County Fair opened on October 10, 1916. Space was provided for 22 exhibitors. Each was given a space 10 feet wide and eight feet deep. City electrician Merck installed an electric line to the fairgrounds to provide light. The fair was open for five days and was considered a success. Popular tickets on the midway were Almond's Vaudeville, Lange's Motordome and Plantation Show, Harrison's Dog and Pony Show, the Electric Show, fireworks every night and the "49" show.

The fair also marked the first time an airplane flight overhead had been arranged in the county, and a tremendous crowd attended to watch the Young Aeroplane Company make two flights over the fairgrounds. In the end, the pilot was only able to make four flights over the course of the fair.

The boll weevil was officially found in Butts County in October 1916, too late to do much material damage to the existing cotton crop, but farmers feared they would harvest only half their previous crops during the following season. The insect had already been found in Henry County and other parts of middle Georgia, but was late to arrive in Butts County.

"When the boll weevil hit, granddaddy [Lee Carmichael] lost the farm out in Towaliga," explained Walter Carmichael in 2009. "They went to my grandmother's farm in Henry County, and that's where my dad [Maurice Carmichael] was born. Then my grandmother moved back to town to Oak Street, and then she had a chance to buy that big house [on East Third Street] on the vacant lot in front of [what is now the Carmichael] Insurance office. [Years later,] Jimmy White bought it and suckered somebody into buying it, and it's still in the middle of a field somewhere over near Yatesville. They moved it over there and never did anything with it.

"But my grandmother and them had the boarding house," continued Carmichael. "If they got a lot of customers in there, my dad and his sisters would sleep out in the hall. They had one of those things – I forget what they are called – but it's kind of like a half-basement they used to keep things, and they'd sleep down there. Said it was cool during the Summer. Dad and his brothers would get up at four o'clock in the morning. Grandmother cooked with a wood stove, so they had to go out and cut the wood, get the fire started.

"My granddaddy, Lee Carmichael, was a sawmiller, and did anything," said Carmichael. "He cut the logs out of the lake, and used oxen to carry them out and cut up that lumber for them to use when they were forming up the Jackson dam. He could take an axe and build a house. He never used electric saws or anything like that. I remember he helped my dad build his house when he was 82 years old. I was four or five years old and remember granddaddy tripping on a string and falling on top of me. But he just got up, dusted himself off and kept working."

Dr. E. K. Rainey moved to Jackson in October 1916 to practice dentistry.

George McDonald, a 23-year-old from South Carolina, was killed on a Saturday night in late October 1916 when the Buick in which he was riding struck a telephone pole on a curve at the end of West Third Street. Speeding was believed to be the cause of the crash. McDonald had recently come to Jackson and was a member of the city baseball team.

Sam Lee advertised "first class city hand laundry" adjoining Joe Leach's stables in October 1916.

One of the largest cotton transaction in the history of Atlanta was recorded in late November 1916 when J. L. Bailey and J. B. Carmichael of Jackson sold 900 bales of spot cotton for 20 cents a pound. The price paid was $90,000.

At the end of November 1916, 14-year-old Taylor Buttrill Smith was bitten by a rabid Collie in Jackson and began the Pasteur treatment

There was something else besides rain running in the gutters of Jackson on a Tuesday at the end of November 1916. Aldermen S. O. Ham and R. P. Sassnett emptied all the confiscated whiskey at police headquarters - some several gallons - into the sewer that day. A number of stills had been raided in the city over the year, and liquor of every color, odor and description had been confiscated. Some of the liquor was said to have had a kick like a mule and could be smelled from several blocks away.

In December 1916, the Empire Buggy Company, one of Jackson's largest and most important industries, was bought by the Griffin Buggy Company. But it was announced that the firm would remain in operation in Jackson. S. P. Nichols remained manager of the Jackson branch.

The City Council passed an ordinance in December 1916 forbidding the shooting of firecrackers in the city. Violators could be fined not more than $100 or work the streets for not more than 60 days.

Candidates for mayor in the December 20, 1916 primary were J. T. Moore and H. M. Fletcher.

1917

At the start of 1917, city employees were: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; J. W. Carmichael, tax collector; W. E. Merck, superintendent of the water and light department; J. E. McNair, police chief; with C. E. Maddox, assistant. Howard Rooks was named superintendent of the waterworks plant. He succeeded D. D. Estes who accepted a position with the City of Atlanta after several years with Jackson.

Vanie Kimbell opened a garage in the Shaver building next to the *Jackson Progress-Argus* in early January 1917. Kimbell sold Dodge automobiles.

In late January 1917, businesses agreed to close for a mass meeting to discuss the construction of a new school building.

The New Macedonia Institute, a private church-affiliated high school for Blacks, began operating in 1917. It was located just north of the site of the Henderson School that was built on North Mulberry Street. The school was open until 1930.

The Commercial Loan & Trust Company building was gutted by fire in early February 1917, resulting in damages of $25,000. The fire was detected shortly before midnight and was soon out of control. As a result, the focus of the fire fighting effort was on preventing the flames from spreading. The contents of Dr. J. A. Jarrell's Drugstore and the Buttrill Brothers store were removed, as well as some of the contents of the Harkness building.

The fire occurred on one of the coldest nights of the year, with the thermometer reading between eight and 10 degrees. Volunteer firefighters battled the blaze with frozen overcoats, icicles on their hands and feet numbed by the cold. Yet the weather - specifically a thin coating of ice and snow on rooftops - prevented the fire from spreading throughout the town as sparks were blown hundreds of yards away and landed on homes on Dempsey Avenue and College Street.

The three-story brick building was built in 1911, and owned by 11 local businessmen who were members of the Commercial Loan & Trust Company. At the time of the fire, the Commercial Building was home to First Farmers Bank, J. A. Joyner's Grocery, the Allen Printing Company, and Dr. E. K. Rainey. The second floor had been used by the Jackson Rifles as an armory. The third floor was used by the various Masonic lodges of the city. Since the Masons lost their lodge room, they began meeting in the Knights of Pythias hall.

Wagner's Garage, S. H. Thornton's furniture store and Bailey & Jones Company store were considerably damaged by water.

A week after the disastrous fire, the owners of the Commercial Loan & Trust Company voted to rebuild on the lot at the corner of North Mulberry and Second streets and pulled down portions of the old walls that were still standing. In April, a contract was signed between the company and the St. John's Lodge giving the lodge a meeting hall measuring 45' by 65' on the second floor in consideration for a deed to the property.

The coldest weather since February 1899 hit Jackson during the first week of February 1917 with a temperature reading of zero to four degrees. String winds of 40 miles per hour brought sleet and snow to the city. Telephone lines were down and business was nearly paralyzed.

The Jackson City Council reduced water and light rates at the end of February 1917.

For the sixth time, W. P. Martin was re-elected head of the Jackson public schools in early March 1917. Under his leadership, the Jackson school ranked number one in Group I of Accredited High Schools in Georgia.

A fire in late March 1917 destroyed one building and partially destroyed the main building at the Cooperative Gin, Ice & Coal, Company. The firm, owned by Kimbell & Kinard, lost four gin stands, motors, 12 tons of fertilizer, cotton seed and other material. The loss was estimated at $4,000.

The First National Bank and First Farmers [and Merchants] Bank merged on March 31, 1917 with capital of $75,000 and deposits of $173,000. The consolidated bank was known as First National Bank of Jackson.

Four acres of the Dempsey tract were bought by the city in early April 1917 as the site for a new school building. The acreage was near the existing school site.

On April 6, 1917, the United States officially entered World War I.

By public subscriptions, funds were raised to place an American flag on the grounds of the courthouse in April 1917.

On April 13, 1917, 250 Colored children of Butts County under the direction of E. B. Barco staged a parade around the courthouse square and pledged loyalty to the government and its war effort.

Jackson High won its first baseball game of the season, 14-2, over McDonough in the middle of April 1917. Unable to schedule games with teams in adjoining towns in April 1917, Coach W. O. Perritt of Jackson High School's baseball team issued a challenge to all teams in the state.

Free delivery of mail in Jackson was begun on May 1, 1917 with George White serving as village carrier. He received $600 a year, and was required to work eight or nine hours a day. The city was required to number and mark the streets and build good sidewalks and crosswalks in all areas of town. Residents were required to post their house numbers and put up receptacles for the mail. The rate for drop letters increased that month from one cent to two cents.First class postage was two cents.

An attempt to burn down the Jackson public school failed in early May 1917 when the fire was detected and put out before much damage could occur. The would-be arsonists placed a bundle of paper and kindling on a sill under the auditorium and set fire to it. By the time the fire department arrived on the scene, however, the fire was under control.

The Jackson Rifles returned from duty on the Mexican border in early May 1917 and were presented with service medals purchased by the people of Butts County.

Joseph W. Lee of Greenville was elected principal of the Jackson High School In May 1917, and Miss Mary Haedon was elected as teacher.

In May 1917, passenger trains made eight daily stops in Jackson - four northbound and four southbound.

There were 35 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1917. John Childs was valedictorian and Ruth Reeves was salutatorian.

A $22,000 bond issue was approved by voters - 148-to-6 - in Jackson in May 1917. The funds were to be used for a new school building.

In May 1917, Mack Goodwin was elected chief of police in Jackson to succeed J. E. McNair, who had resigned.

Under the conscription act in 1917, 1,114 people in Butts County registered for service on June 5. Of that total, 467 were White, 630 were Colored, two were aliens and five were non-residents. Rolf H. Burford drew the number one in the selective service draft. The county was called on to provide 129 men under the selective conscription act. The first men chosen in September 1917 were: James W. Finely, Seaborn W. Maddox, and Victor H. Carmichael.

Jackson businesses began half-holiday closings on Wednesdays beginning June 6, 1917.

The tax digest of the City of Jackson in June 1917 showed total valuations of $1,155,296.

Plans for a new school building in Jackson were accepted in early June 1917.

In June 1917, S. A. Powell bought the Jackson Chero-Cola Bottling Company and planned to enlarge it.

There were 250 automobiles in Butts County in 1917. Of that total, 138 were Fords.

On June 25, 1917, a Red Cross chapter was organized in Butts County by Mrs. Jackie Curry and Mrs. L. L. O'Kelley. During World War I, the chapter knitted for soldiers, and even fifth grade girls learned how to use knitting needles through the Red Cross. The school girls were asked to knit eight-inch squares to make quilts for soldiers. The ladies of the Red Cross chapter also made bandages and aided the Belgians with clothing.

In June of 1917, Representative R. W. Mays introduced legislation to create a board of county commissioners for Butts County. The three commissioners were to be W. W. Wilson, chairman, and H. L. Gray and J. S. Carter. An election was set for September 12, 1917 to allow voters to have their say on the proposal. The three-man board concept failed in the referendum, and Mays brought the idea back to the Legislature the following year. In it, he named the three men to serve as commissioners. But in August 1918 the Mays Bill was killed in the Legislature.

In July 1917, the Dixie Theater on the square was acquired by C. A. Lindon and the name changed to the Grand. Admission was five cents and 10 cents. Showtimes were 3:30 p.m. And 7:30 p.m.

Hugh Mallet and H. O. Ball made plans in July 1917 to build a feed mill in Jackson.

The Jackson baseball team played two games on July 17 and 18, 1917 against the Nebraska Indians of Lincoln, Nebraska. The Indians, organized in 1897 and playing on the road ever since, were the only genuine Indian team playing at the time. The Indians won both games 1-0 by scoring runs in the first inning off Jackson errors.

Typhoid fever claimed the life of a woman in Pepperton in July 1917.

Jackson had four department stores in 1917.

About 1917, Asa Buttrill was made the first Gulf Oil distributor for Butts County. It eventually came to be known as the May & Carter Oil Company in 1972.

S. H. Thornton added a motor hearse to his funeral business in early August 1917. It enabled him to provide quicker, more efficient service.

William McClure and Leroy Settle were the first Butts County men to land with American troops on foreign soil in August 1917.

When the Jackson Public School opened on September 3, 1917, there were 430 students reporting for classes, an all-time high.

In September 1917, the City of Jackson imposed a tax rate of 11.5 mills.

W. W. Jamerson opened a grocery store in Jackson in late September 1917. It was located in the store formerly occupied by the Fair Store, and was regarded as a good one and popular with the public.

About the first of October 1917, R. J. Carmichael purchased the stock of the Dempsey Hardware Company and opened for business in the old Dempsey stand. Carmichael had been in charge of the hardware department of the Carmichael-Mallet Company, and the new business, Carmichael Hardware, merged the stock of the two firms.

The Jackson Rifles were mobilized for overseas duty on October 18, 1917, sailing from New York to Le Mans, France where its troops were divided and used as replacements in other divisions. The Rifles lost four men in Europe: James W. Finley to machine gun fire during action, Joe F. Watkins, who died on the battlefield in France, Homer G. Terry, who was run over by accident, and Homer Smith, who died of pneumonia and influenza.

The first quota of 12 Negro troops from Butts County left town in early October 1917.

I. J. Slaughter resigned as postmaster of Jackson in October 1917. The annual salary of the postmaster in Jackson was $1,800.

A new feed mill was opened in November 1917 by Hugh Mallet and H. O. Ball. A modern facility, it produced all kinds of feed by grinding roughage and adding molasses.

A strange animal was reported causing the death of many dogs in the Jackson area in early December 1917. The culprit turned out to be another dog, which was killed near the Central Georgia Power Company.

On the tail of 12-degree weather, an ice and sleet storm in December 1917 caught many citizens out shopping for the holidays and resulted in a big jam downtown. Despite the weather, merchants in town reported record-breaking holiday trade.

Re-elected without opposition as mayor in the city primary in late December 1917 was J. T. (Threatt) Moore. It was his third year-long term. Aldermen elected in the primary were: C. T. Beauchamp, W. H. Merritt, L. P. McKibben and J. C. Jones. The actual election was held on January 2, 1918, when 39 people cast ballots.

1918

Residents of the city were asked to turn off their water at night and drain pipes during freezing weather in order to conserve the city's water supply. According to Water Superintendent W. E. Merck, a scarcity of water was making pumping water to fight fires difficult.

The Harkness Building and other properties were severely damaged by a tornado that swept through the county in early January 1918. Winds reportedly reached 60 miles per hour. No injuries were reported.

Due to low water levels at Jackson Lake at the beginning of 1918 and a failure to get coal for the steam plant in Macon, the City of Jackson was low on power. Butts County was using wood to fire the courthouse furnace and businesses were turning to woodpiles to supplant coal. The federal government asked all industries to shut down for five days due to "the coal famine." Complying with the order from the National Food Administrator, all stores and manufacturing plants in Jackson and Butts County - except drug stores and grocery stores - began closing each Monday. Consumers were limited to buying 500 pounds of coal at the time according to permits available to them. Convicts were used to cut wood during the fuel shortage.

Employees in the City of Jackson in January 1918 were: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer with a salary of $50 per month; W. H. Wilson, tax receiver with a salary of $40 per month; W. E. Merck, superintendent of the water and light department with a salary of $125 per month; and D. M. Thornton, chief of police, and Mack Goodwin, policeman, with a salary of $75 per month each.

Standard Oil Company opened an automobile service station on Third Street across from the courthouse in January 1918. It sold gasoline and oil.

The Supreme Court of Georgia rendered a decision in late January 1918 reversing Judge W. E. H. Searcy's decision in the Jackson school bond case. Searcy had passed an order validating the issuance of school bonds, and the intervenors - J. B. Carmichael, Dr. R. W. Mays and W. J. Wood - carried the case up to the Supreme Court on the grounds that there should have been a special registration for the school bond election.

On January 19, 1918, George Carmichael, the former clerk and treasurer of Jackson, died in Atlanta.

On February 3, 1918, Charlie Turner, a soldier from Jackson, died at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. His body was sent back to Jackson for burial.

In early February 1918, Mallet & Nutt and Watkins & Settle took over the Butts Lumber Company and also consolidated their fertilizer interests. The lumber company had been in business since 1910.

W. E. Merck was president of the Jackson Fire Department in February 1918 with J. P. Etheridge, vice president, and Warren Furlow, secretary. At the time, the chief of police and assistant chief of police served the same roles in the fire department. The department asked the City Council to purchase a Ford fire truck, estimated to cost $7,500. The city placed an order for a one-ton Ford fire truck later that month. The department had a total of 1,400 feet of hose, all but 500 of which was placed on the truck when it arrived.

Miss Bessie Waldrop was nominated for postmaster of Jackson at the start of March 1918. Salaries for rural carriers at the Jackson Post Office increased in July 1918 from $124 to $132 per month.

F. D. and M. A. McDowell prepared to open a wholesale grocery store in Jackson in March 1918 called the McDowell Grocery Company. Two weeks later, J. H. Carmichael, F. S. Carmichael and W. W. Jamerson incorporated the Georgia Wholesale Company, a wholesale grocery business, in Jackson. The capital stock was $25,000. In September, the McDowell company moved to Madison.

In March 1918, W. P. Martin was re-elected to his sixth term as superintendent of the Jackson public schools and given a raise. L. D. Watson was principal of the Jackson schools. Teachers were: Misses Annie Lou McCord, Lois Biles, Clara McElroy, Lucy Goodman, Davie Fletcher, Jessie Wiggins, Jennie McElroy, Ruby Thompson and Mrs. R. L. Smith.

The house belonging to Henry Scott near the Southern depot was destroyed by fire one morning in the middle of March 1918.

In March 1918, the ladies of the Jackson Civic League were making improvements to the courthouse lawn. They set out flowers and shrubbery around the building, and requested that the entire lawn be re-sodded.

V. A Kimbell and Company bough the furniture stock of C. M. Wright and rented the building he occupied in March 1918. The building was then used as a showroom for Paige and Harroun cars, which were handled by the Kimbell agency. Kimbell continued to operate his garage next to the *Jackson Progress-Argus* office.

At the end of March 1918, the City Council passed an ordinance forbidding drug stores and garages from opening on Sundays, and stopped the sale of soft drinks, cigarettes and cigars on Sundays. Restaurants could open on Sundays, but could not serve these items.

In March 1918, T. J. Hammond rented the building that had been occupied by W. W. Jamerson as a grocer and opened a show room there for the lines of cars he sold: Dixie Flyer, Premier and Davis.

On March 30, 1918, a Liberty Bond rally was held in Jackson featuring speakers, a parade and the Jackson Rifles. Butts County's quota for the third Liberty Bond loan was $161,800. In April 1918, the City of Jackson invested $4,000 in Liberty Bonds.

The Butts County chain gang worked to improve the streets around the courthouse in the middle of April 1918. The gang also made improvements to Third Street.

O. B. Knowles was elected as a member of the Jackson police force in April 1918. He succeeded Mack Goodwin, who resigned several weeks earlier.

At the end of April 1918, all the schools in Butts County met on the fairgrounds in Jackson for literary and athletic competitions.

In May 1918, there were 28 seniors - 17 girls and 11 boys - in the Class of 1918 at Jackson High School. Anna Rosa White was Valedictorian.

A school census completed in June 1918, showed Butts County with 4,149 students, an increase of 340 from the school census of 1913. Jackson had 256 White students and 178 Black students. Pepperton had 97 White students and seven Black students. Both Jackson and Pepperton's totals were down from the 1913 totals.

In June 1918, all deliveries of ice were cut 25 percent in order to save ice for the shipping of peaches. A week later, deliveries were discontinued altogether. Like most small cities at the time, Jackson had no ice plant, and so families went without ice. The reason for the shortage was that ammonia, one of the key ingredients used for making ice, was being used for war munitions instead. The rationing of ice continued into August when Jackson encountered the hottest weather of the year, and that month stock sales began for the new Jackson ice factory.

Beginning in July 1918, Monday and Tuesday nights were "lightless nights" to help save fuel.

In early July 1918, the Board of Education set the school term at seven months and increased the salary of the school superintendent, Hugh Mallet, from $800 to $1,000 a year.

"My father [Hugh Mallet] had been married before," said Jane Anne Settle during a 2008 interview. "His first wife died during the flu epidemic of 1918. That fact that he was married and was a school superintendent accounted for the fact that he did not go to World War I, like his brothers George and Joel did."

An early morning fire in early July 1918 destroyed the grist mill of the Jackson Milling and Feed Company. The building, a wooden structure that joined the Shaver building where the *Jackson Progress-Argus* and Kimbells' Garage were located, was a total loss.

S. P. Nichols traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee in July 1918 to visit a coal mine and secure 100 tons of the product for the First Baptist Church and the Jackson public schools.

James W. Finley, the first Butts County soldier killed in action in France, was killed in the battle of the Marne on July 24, 1918. A memorial service was held for him in December 1918 at the Methodist Church in Jackson. Funeral services were held at the National Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia in August 1921. Finley was the first Butts County man called to serve in the war when he answered the call to colors on September 7, 1917.

Joe F. Watkins, son of J. B. Watkins of Jackson, was wounded in battle in France on July 28, 1918. News of his injury was the first such news to reach Jackson. He was a member of Company C, 151st Machine Gun Battalion, and served with the Jackson Rifles.

Plans for an ice factory for Jackson began to take shape in the first week of August 1918 when a representative of the Arctic Ice Machine Company visited town. The plant he envisioned would be an ice factory and cold storage facility for farmers to to store meats, fruits and vegetables. Several businessmen were interested in building the plant, and suggested selling stock at $100 per share with a limit of five shares per person.

Beginning August 1, 1918, the sugar ration was two pounds per person per month. Later that month, the federal fuel administration asked that the public east of the Mississippi River cease the use of all automobiles on Sundays as a gasoline conservation effort. By November, the sugar ration was increased from two to three pounds per person. As of December 1, the ration was upped to four pounds per person per month.

Dr. L. B. Hopkins returned to Jackson in August 1918 to work with his father, Dr. J. Hopkins. The two dentists had a three-room office in the new Commercial Building.

The Owl Pharmacy, with J. H. Turner as general manager, moved in late August 1918 from the old Thaxton stand on Second Street to the corner room of the new Commercial Building on Mulberry Street. An elegant new soda fountain and other improvements were added at the time.

A. H. Stephens was named as the new principal of Jackson High School in late August 1918.

The Butts County Fair was cancelled in the Fall of 1918 due to war conditions, scarcity of labor and the inability to secure shows for the event. Prizes were given to club members, though.

Beginning September 1, 1918, the City of Jackson began paying a higher rate for electricity from the Central Georgia Power Company. The old rate included a service charge of $225 per month, amounted to $516.66 per month. After the increase, the monthly bill came to $581. The city did not pass this increased cost on to citizens at first, but raised its own rates in October 1918.

Calvin Ridgeway, a 22-year-old selectman, was Butts County's first Negro casualty of World War I. He died of disease in France on September 20, 1918.

In September 1918, the Jackson Banking Company was admitted to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The two national banks in Jackson, First National and Jackson National, were already members. The Jackson Banking Company had capital of $50,000 and a surplus of $5,000 at the time.

On October 4, 1918, the United States House of Representatives passed a prohibition measure and the nation went dry from alcohol for the duration of the war.

As of October 10, 1918, cities served by the Central Georgia Power Company were required to turn off lights and power between 7 a.m. and 12 noon every day.

The Pepperton school closed in October 1918 due to an outbreak of Spanish influenza. The Jackson schools closed from October 17 to 28 in hopes of limiting the spread of the disease. Extra policemen were put on duty, and crowds were not permitted to stop on the streets or in buildings. The Butts County Draft Board even stopped registration due to the violent flu outbreak. By the start of November, all schools and churches resumed normal operations after the influenza epidemic eased. Nationwide, the flu epidemic killed an estimated 350,000.

By the first of November 1918, general rain had improved the power situation and Jackson industries were again operating full time.

News that armistice had been signed with Germany on November 11, 1918 resulted in a rousing and patriotic celebration in downtown Jackson. The bell in the courthouse tower rang for several hours. Throughout the day, factory whistles blew. Speeches by W. E. Watkins, Dr. Robert Van Deventer, C. L. Redman and Rev. S. R. England stirred a crowd to high pitches of enthusiasm. In addition, there was a parade of school children, an automobile parade, a fireworks display and a large bonfire on the courthouse lawn. Butts County had furnished 415 soldiers for the war. Eighty-two of them were volunteers.

When public schools opened on Monday following Thanksgiving 1918, pupils and teachers wore masks as protection against influenza. The epidemic killed over 300,000 people nationwide that Fall. Several Jackson residents died from the outbreak as well.

T. J. Singley was killed on December 10, 1918 when his mule-drawn wagon was struck by a south-bound train at Land's Crossing, which is now Covington Street. Singley was caught on the cow-catcher and his body dragged to the depot. The mule, who had cleared the tracks, was spared.

The new Baptist Church was dedicated on December 15, 1918.

After six years with the City of Jackson, W. E. Merck resigned as head of the water and light department at the end of December 1918 to accept a similar position in Monroe. He was succeeded by A. B. Lindsey.

Candidates for Mayor of Jackson in the December 28, 1918 primary were S. O. Ham and W. E. Watkins. Mayor J. T. Moore did not seek another term in office.

Around 1918, the Liberty Theater opened just off the square on the southeast corner of Third and South Mulberry streets. It was open only a few years.

1919

Officers for the City of Jackson in January 1919 were: W. E Watkins, mayor, and aldermen J. L. Bailey, J. B. Settle, C. M. Kimbell and W. H. Mallet.

In January 1919, two boys who had served in World War I, D. P. Settle and T. E. Robison, formed the firm known as Settle & Robison. It was initially located on the north side of the square.

The Jackson Women's Club was organized on May 20, 1919 with 19 members. Its purpose was mutual counsel among members and helpfulness in promoting civic, social, and moral development in the community. The first officers were: Mrs. J. B. Settle, president; Mrs. R. W. Mays, vice president; Miss Mary Newton, recording secretary; Mrs. L. L. O'Kelly, vice recording secretary; and Mrs. W. B. Thompson, treasurer.

W. F. Lavender was elected sheriff of Butts County in a special election on May 16, 1991 to fill the unexpired term of L. M. Crawford.

An application for a bank charter was filed in late June 1919 for the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Jackson. The amount of capital stock was $125,000.

As of July 1, 1919, the Jackson Post Office became a second class designation. That meant that mail would not be delivered on Sundays except to those with post office boxes, and the money order and stamp window opened at 7:30 a.m. and remained opened until 6 p.m.

With more than $5,000 raised in an hour one morning in early July 1919, the movement for an ice factory and cold storage plant in Jackson was assured. At a meeting in the Liberty Theater, committees were formed to secure a franchise, investigate building and operating costs, and sell stock (which was $10 a share, with a limit of 10 shares per person).

A small fire broke out in the Liberty Theater in July 1919 when a film overheated in the projection room. It was put out by a fire extinguisher before any real harm was done.

July 1919 went on record as the second wettest month in Butts County history up to that time. The rainfall total in July 1919 was 12.88 inches. In July 1916, the record of 13.40 inches was set. The highest temperature in July 1919 was 97 degrees and the lowest was 59 degrees.

"Jackson was a peaceful, tranquil little village" [in 1919], according to Vincent Jones in a column in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* published in the 1990s. "There was no pavement and the court square, as well as the major streets, were either alternately muddy or dusty. In the Summer, a water wagon sprinkled the streets infrequently, after several residents had lodged complaints. Although the city had a water and sewage system, privies outnumbered bathrooms at least 10 to one. The city's social and business life centered around the depot. There was little travel to adjacent cities other than by rail. A buggy ride to Covington, for instance, took all of the hours from milk-time to milk-time.

"Gasoline buggies had come to the city, but in very limited numbers," Jones wrote. "Hand-cranked engines produced countless broken wrists and the autos of that day, although superior to the horse and buggy, were nothing like the mechanical marvels of today. McKibben Buggy and Auto Company was advertising the Overland 4 auto for $845 and would sell you a Dodge if you wanted one. Claude Spencer was agent for the Franklin Barnesville Buggy, advertised as 'the best buggy on Earth.' The Buttrill Brothers were Ford dealers and A. A. Howell handled Studebaker cars, wagons and Norman buggies. V. A. Kimbell was operating an auto parts store and used car lot as well as being agent for Paige and Chevrolet automobiles. David Settle and Elwood Robison operated an insurance agency and their firm, Settle & Robison, was agent for Buick, Oakland and Dort automobiles.

"There were five banks in the county that year," he continued. "The Jackson National Bank, the Farmers and Merchants Bank and The Jackson Banking Company all in Jackson; the Bank of Flovilla and the Farmers Bank of Jenkinsburg. Leading grocers in town were the Paul Nolen Company, J. C. Kinard & Company, The Busy Corner and A. R. Conner. Popular mercantile establishments included Etheridge-Smith Company, The Jackson Mercantile Company, Carmichael-Mallet Company and J. Arenson's. Dodson's was the favorite 5- & 10-cent store.

"Talking pictures were unheard of, so movies were not for the illiterate, as all conversations were printed on the screen," according to Jones. "The Georgia Soap Company

opened shop in the old Empire Buggy Company building, making soap flakes, unpopular at the time, and costing local investors thousands. The Middle Georgia Oil & Gas Company, with promises to make everybody rich when oil was discovered in Butts County, clipped other investors.

The First National Bank of Jackson, established in 1901, liquidated its affairs and retired from business as of September 1, 1919. The Farmers and Merchants Bank, organized under state law, took over the assets and assumed the liabilities of First National beginning August 29. The Farmers and Merchants Bank had $125,000 in capital, by far the largest amount of any bank in Butts County at the time. Officers and directors of the new bank were the same as they were under the old bank: J. H. Carmichael, president; J. B. Carmichael and G. E. Mallet, vice presidents; C. T. Beauchamp, cashier; and W. H. Wilson and W. D. Lloyd, assistant cashiers.

Effective September 1, 1919, a Jackson ordinance prohibited the repair of automobiles on city streets or sidewalks. Violators could have been fined up to $100 or up to 60 days in jail.

In September 1919, Dr. O. B. Howell of Thomaston visited Jackson and decided to locate in the city for his practice of medicine.

R. L. Weaver, who had served with the Jackson police force since the beginning of the year, resigned in September 1919. J. H. Holifield filled the vacancy.

In October 1919, the City Council voted to extend Covington Street to the school property acquired from Col. T. J. Dempsey the year before. The street was opened through the property of Mrs. A. W. Lane.

Many citizens of Butts County had not seen a football game before Jackson High School played a game against Griffin High School during fair week in early November 1919. It was played at the fairgrounds in Jackson. In addition, soldiers who served in Europe during World War I were welcomed home by thousands of supporters. The fair also featured a parade, barbecue and oratory.

In late October 1919, the Jackson Ice Corporation was officially organized and officers elected. S. P. Nichols was named president, R. N. Etheridge was named vice president, Hugh Mallet was named secretary-treasurer, and W. E. Merck was elected as manager. A week later, the company purchased land adjoining the Southern Railway near the Co-operative Gin Company on what is now Lyons Street.

Mau's Greater Shows, one of the largest carnival companies around at the time, planned to entertain Jackson for week at the end of November 1919. The carnival set up shop near the telegraph office and brought shows, rides and free acts to town.

The Liberty Theater was purchased from the Kimbell brothers by J. B. McCarty of Columbus in November 1919. McCarty planned extensive repairs on the building, and closed the theater while they were underway. He also stated that he theater would be closed on Wednesday nights out of respect for prayer meetings.

In November 1919, there was not a single death in Butts County, according to S. H. Thornton. That compared to 24 funerals in November 1918 due to the influenza epidemic.

In early December 1919, Dr. J. R. Strickland opened his dental offices in the Mays building in Jackson.

A head-on collision between two freight trains near Lands Crossing on a Saturday morning in early December 1919 tied up traffic for some time while track was cleared. A southbound freight collided with a northbound freight, tearing up both engines considerably. The engineers of both trains were able to jump before the collision and no injuries were reported.

In late December 1919, Mayor W. E. Watkins was re-elected in the city primary. All Councilmen were also re-elected without opposition, except G. E. Mallet who was elected to the Council from the first ward to replace W. H. Mallet, who left the city.

In 1919, there were 747 licenses for auto tags issued in Butts County.

1920

In 1920, the Census Bureau put Jackson's population at 2,027, an increase from the 1910 Census figure of 1,862. Pepperton had a Census figure of 361, compared with 454 a decade earlier. The 1920 Census gave Butts County a population of 12, 237, a decrease from the 1910 Census figure of 13,624.

Butts County led the state in number of automobiles per capita at the start of January 1920. There were 747 automobiles, or one automobile for every 18 people locally.

The new Jackson Theater opened in late January 1920 with J. M. McCarthy as manager. "Checkers" was the first offering. Special music during "Checkers" was provided by the Barnesville Orchestra. Later that year, McCarthy installed a Typhoon cooling system to add to the comfort of his patrons. "Jackson residents must have the best regardless of the cost," he said.

The nationwide prohibition passed in the Summer of 1919 took effect on January 16, 1920.

The depot store, a grocery located at the Southern Railway depot, was purchased from W. R. Sandifer by Seaborn Maddox and C. C. Jinks in early February 1920.

An oyster supper was held at Tyler's Restaurant in February 1920 to honor the volunteers of the Jackson Fire Department. About 25 of the 40 volunteers attended, and Mayor W. E. Watkins and City Clerk J. A. McMichael made brief speeches praising the department for its efficiency and pledging more funds for better equipment.

In February 1920, the city purchased a Caterpillar tractor for use in working the streets. It also purchased a new scrape and three-way drag. The total cost of all the new equipment was in the neighborhood of $4,000. The city was the first in Georgia to purchase such a tractor for use on its roads.

In March of 1920, the home belonging to J. M. Crawford next to the Jackson school building was severely damaged by fire. It caught fire in the morning, and the flames were extinguished. But the fire rekindled that afternoon and did extensive damage.

A lodge of Odd Fellows was reorganized in Jackson in March 1920.

Mack Goodwin, a former chief of police for the City of Jackson, died in March 1920.

An epidemic of influenza halted all road work in March 1920. Nearly every home in Jackson had at least one member down the flu.

Six dogs believed to be rabid were killed in Pepperton in early March 1920.

A passing train set fire to 75 or 100 bales of cotton on the platform at the Jackson depot in late March 1920. It took several hours for the fire department to extinguish the early afternoon blaze.

L. D. Watson was re-elected superintendent of the Jackson schools in March 1920. Van Fletcher was named superintendent of Butts County schools that year.

The Aurora Borealis was seen in the night sky north of Jackson one Monday in late March 1920. The display was the most brilliant ever reported this far south. Telegraph and telephone service was cut off for several minutes at the height of the display.

Machinery began arriving in late March 1920 for the new Jackson Ice Corporation.

Flooding that took place in late March 1920 resulted in $10,000 worth of damages to county bridges, including 36 that were washed away. Several inches of rain fell within a few minutes, and accompanying hail damaged fruit crops.

The speed limit in Jackson in April 1920 was 10 miles per hour, and Police Chief Thornton was working hard to enforce it. It was a popular practice at the time for drivers to

"open up" and reach speeds of 40 to 60 miles per hour. Those charged with speeding in the city had to plead their cases in front of the mayor, who acted as municipal judge.

In April 1920, the City Council appointed a committee to fight the proposed rate increase from the Georgia Power Company. The committee appeared before the railway commission, which authorized the increase, to plead the city's case.

The price of a gallon of gas in Jackson in April 1940 was 33 cents.

The Jackson High baseball team won its first three games of the season in May 1920.

Twenty-one students graduated from Jackson High School on May 21, 1920. Members of the Class of 1920 were: Eloise Beauchamp, Grace Bankston, Lucy Bond, Lois Conner, Miriam Fletcher, Jewell Gilmore, Bernice Higgins, Lucile Jones, Bernice McMichael, Lucy Evelyn Nicholas, Maggie Joe O'Neal, Mattie Byrd O'Neal, Lucy Jane Stodghill, Annie Lee Wall, Nellie Williamson, Wade Hammond, Leonard Lyons, Carter Moore, Hardy Redman and Lamar Weaver.

The first funeral in Butts County for an overseas soldier was that of Sergeant Howard Lee Minter, who died at age 22 at Brest, France on September 25, 1918 of lobar pneumonia. It was held in May 1920.

On June 1, 1920, voters in Jackson approved bonds for the construction of a new school building. The following month, the old school building was partially dismantled to make room for the new construction.

The Jackson Ice Factory began turning out 10 tons of ice daily in early June 1920. Two horse-drawn delivery wagons made the rounds every day for customers.

"The old Jackson ice house, located just off Lyons Street, was built shortly after World War I and served the county for 40 years before refrigerators came into universal use and the demand for its product and services waned," Vincent Jones once wrote in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*.

"During its first years of operation," Jones continued, "deliveries were made on a mule-drawn wagon, its driver starting his daily round at sunrise, and, if lucky, ending by sunset. Housewives, in preparation for his coming, would put ice cards - furnished by the company - in their windows or hang them on the backyard fence requesting that 10, 25 or 50 pounds of ice be cut from the huge blocks for the ice box.

"Ice boxes for the most part were left on back porches, as most people in that era were honest, although there were some cautious ones who kept them in the kitchen or hallways," wrote Jones. "Ours was kept on the back porch and when the frigid north wind swirled around it in the Winter it was colder on the outside than it was on the inside. Often the ice man, bringing in with his tongs the amount ordered, had to remove cats, dogs and children from his path before opening the ice box and making his delivery.

"On hot Summer days," Jones continued, "a platoon of boys would follow the ice wagon on its rounds, picking up pieces of ice chipped from the huge blocks that were carefully covered with canvas between stops. A special treat for the barefoot brigade was admittance to the ice house itself on sweltering days and stepping inside to view the large freezing chambers where several vats of water were being frozen into 300-pound blocks of ice. At the rear of the building in the holding room, there were several tons of these blocks, during periods of peak demand, awaiting delivery or pick up."

In June 1920, the City Council began serious consideration of installing water meters as a means of controlling the use and waste of the city's water supply. At the time, the city was unable to filter and pump water fast enough to meet demands. Several times the entire city water tank was drained overnight. That month the city added 45,000 gallons per day to its drinking water capacity, but the new ice factory was using 11,000 gallons per day.

A movement was started in June 1920 to provide baseball in Jackson during the Summer months. Funds were sought to purchase suits, gloves, bats, masks and other equipment. The first game of the Summer season was one that pitted the "fats" against the "leans." The "leans" won the game 10-8.

Dirt was broken in the middle of July 1920 on a 87' by 90' modern brick building on Second Street next to Thurston's Shop. S. B. Kinard and J. B. Carmichael were responsible for the new building, and planned to divide it into two store rooms and a garage.

In one of the largest real estate deals in some time in Jackson, the firm of Carmichael-Mallet Company bought the Fossett property, a brick building facing the courthouse square, on West Oak Street in July 1920. The lot was 84' wide on Oak Street and 100'8" deep going back to an alley. The building contained the grocery department of the Carmichael-Mallet Company, the store room of the McKibben Buggy and Auto Company, the store occupied by Newton Hardware, and office space on the second floor that included the telephone exchange. The purchase gave the company possession of the entire block from Slaton Drug Company to the corner of Second Street.

At the end of July 1920, work began on the dismantling of the Jackson school house in preparation for a new school to be built. Voters had just approved a $35,000 bond issue to pay for the new facility.

In August 1920, H. J. Miller resigned as the manager of the Jackson Coca-Cola Bottling Company to take a similar job in Trenton, New Jersey.

When the Jackson public schools opened on September 13, 1920, classes were held in the courthouse while the school building was still under construction. That Fall, the high school at Flovilla was discontinued, and students there began attending Jackson High School. At the time, high school was only considered the 10th and 11th grades. There was no 12th grade.

In September 1920, a speed limit of eight miles per hour around the courthouse square was set by the City Council. This drop in speed was necessitated by the crowded conditions around the square since the courthouse was being used as a school until the new school building was completed. In other parts of town, the speed limit was 15 miles per hour.

The Stodghill, Webb & Company expanded its grocery business in September 1920 and discontinued the sale of ice. The firm was located on Second Street.

The recently organized Jackson Rifles was called to muster in September 1920 with E. S. Settle as captain, Kirk Biles as first lieutenant, and William McClure as second lieutenant. The company had disbanded during World War I. Its 65 members set up shop in a new armory above the Georgia Wholesale Company, where weekly drills were held.

In November 1920 came news that the Georgia Soap Company had acquired the building that was used by the Empire Buggy Company and would be used to manufacture Sunshine Soap.

On the first Tuesday in December 1920, a doll fair was held in the Allen Printing Company. All kinds of dolls dressed in plain and fancy styles were on sale.

The city's tax millage rate was set at 15 mills.

In December 1920, Mrs. Ruby Mays Compton was the first woman to register to vote in Butts County following passage of a national Constitutional amendment extending the vote to women. She voted in the Jackson district for Justice of Peace and Constable.

The Jackson High School football team defeated the Flovilla High School football team 51-0 in the first game of the season in early December 1920. The game was played on the lot near the Jackson Public School building.

Voters in the city went to the polls on December 21, 1920 to elect a mayor and council. At that time, a candidate for mayor ran along with a full slate of council members, so the entire political make up of the city could change with the vote. The election also marked the first time women could vote in a city election.

1921

W. D. Pope was sworn in as the new Sheriff of Butts County in January 1921.

"My grandfather, Walter Darden Pope kept [the office] until 1936," said Gene Pope in 2010. "Up until the mid-'60s, the [sheriff's] salary was not a salary, it was a per diem. You were given so much money for every arrest warrant you served, so much money for every civil paper you served, and for every person you arrested and housed, you got so much money. I've got an

expired check that was written to [my grandfather] by the county commissioners as his per diem. His monthly per diem was, like, $59 to run the sheriff's office. And that ran the sheriff's office. The budget process changed in the mid-'60s to where they got a salary, and then the sheriff's office actually had some kind of a budget to draw money from, to operate off of, and the sheriff got a salary. Up until then, he got all of that money and he had to deal it out the way he could, and live off it at the same time, and raise children at the same time."

On January 3, 1921, the Jackson public schools occupied a new building. The courthouse had been used for classes during the new facility's construction. The new building had 14 classrooms - seven upstairs and seven on the ground floor, a library, a superintendent's office and an office for the teachers. The facility was built thanks to a $35,00 bond issue approved by voters in June 1920. It was expected that the student enrollment would be 600. Tuition to the Jackson public schools was $3 per month for grammar school and $5 per month for high school. Tuition in both categories was dropped by $1 a few weeks later.

The Rogers School, a private grammar school for Blacks in Butts County operated during the 1920s.

The Georgia Supreme Court, in a decision handed down in January 1921, ruled in the case of A. M. Pace and others against the Butts County Board of Education that "money levied for school purposes in a district, municipality or county must be spent in the district in which it is levied."

In January 1921, local farmers met in the courthouse and decided not to plant more than seven acres of cotton each. Plans were also announced to build a 10,000-bushel sweet potato curing house for local farmers. Directors of the Butts County Products Company bought a lot on Covington Street to build this curing house. The plant, eventually with a capacity of 15,000 bushels, was completed by October 1921.

Employees elected to serve the City of Jackson for 1921 were: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; A. R. Conner, tax receiver and collector; A. B. Lindsey, superintendent of water and lights; C. T. Thornton, chief of police; W. F. Lavender and J. T. McMichael, policemen.

C. T. Thornton was also elected to serve as chief of the fire department along with W. E. Merck, president; W. F. Lavender, assistant chief; C. L. Thurston, second assistant chief; and J. D. Jones, secretary and treasurer. Several new members were also elected. Members of the fire department were exempt from paying the city's street tax.

Butts County got its first snow of the season at the end of January 1921.

The boys' basketball team at Jackson High School won five games in February 1921 over strong opponents: 19-17 over Locust Grove Institute, 8-1 over Flovilla, 10-8 over Forsyth, 20-10 over Forsyth, and 6-4 over Flovilla. The girls' team lost 9-0 to Flovilla.

One Saturday night in February 1921, the Klu Klux Klan put on a parade on the streets of Jackson.

On March 1, 1921, the workmen's compensation act became effective and the City of Jackson insured all of its employees.

The Jackson National Farm Loan Association, a federal farm loan bank, was organized in March 1921 with H. M. Fletcher as president and G. E. Rice as secretary.

L. D. Watson was re-elected superintendent of the Jackson public schools in early April 1921.

The city was hit with freezing temperatures, ice and frost in the middle of April 1921.

The Jackson Woman's Club sponsored a physical examination of pupils in the Jackson public schools in early April 1921.

Jackson's newly-organized baseball team lost its home opener, 7-5, to Locust Grove Institute in late April 1921. Col. J. T. Moore, a star player while at the University of Georgia, was coach of the team.

There were 917 automobiles registered in the county in May 1921.

In May 1921, the Jackson Post Office received several pistols, awarded by the postmaster general to prevent post office robberies.

Twenty-three students graduated from Jackson High School in early June of 1921 - 17 were girls.

In July 1921, the giant oak tree on the Wade Watkins property was toppled by strong winds. According to settlers, it was under that tree that court was first held in Butts County. The tree was mammoth in size, about six feet wide at its base.

In July 1921, the City of Jackson sought to amend its charter to provide for the increase of the school tax levy from six mills to 10 mills.

Funeral services were held at the National Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia in August 1921 for James W. Finley, the first Butts County soldier killed in action in France. He was killed in the battle of the Marne on July 24, 1918.

An anti-speeding crusade launched by police officers in Jackson was bearing fruit in early August 1921. According to Chief Thornton and Assistant Chief Lavender, 25 arrests had been

made, and Mayor Fletcher had levied fines of $2.50 or more on the violators. Fines were also imposed on those caught riding bicycles on city sidewalks.

"Those were the days when cars were as scarce as feathers on a fish and about as dependable as a boy's promise to clean his room," wrote *Jackson Progress-Argus* columnist Vincent Jones.

"The young organized biking expeditions to Indian Springs, Mallet's Springs, High Falls or dozens of other destinations short of, or beyond, such likely terminals," Jones recalled. "The unpaved streets and sidewalks of town were no different from cool country lanes and their surfaces were maintained in no better condition, so that biking whether in or out of the city limits had a sameness to it.

"Delivery boys from the town's grocery and drug stores made their appointed rounds on these steel steeds," he continued. "Their arrivals and departures were often greeted by whelps of delight or barks of disapproval by the dog populace, suddenly awakened from their cat naps. Happy was the youngster when called upon to use the bike for a special purpose, such as a run to the neighborhood grocery for a loaf of bread or to the ice house for the necessary ingredient in making a freezer of ice cream. A wire-mesh container affixed to the handlebars made the bicycle a dual-purpose vehicle of both commerce and pleasure."

"The most beloved possession of my youth was a 20-inch, red, battered bike that my parents bought for $5," Jones wrote. "For over six years, it took me everywhere I needed to go and some places that I shouldn't. To school, to fields of play, to explore farm roads that led to unknown lands, to engage in a thousand races, without a winner or loser, my bike and I grew up together in a wonderful time and place for such growth. We biked to our recreation sports: favorite fishing holes or shaded creeks deep enough for swimming, and country stores that had fascinating sweets for our few pennies."

Work on a sweet potato curing house on Covington Street was begun in early August 1921. The 40' by 94' building had a capacity of 15,000 bushels.

Fire caused by the explosion of a vulcanizing outfit destroyed Mathewson's garage on the southside of the square one afternoon in the middle of August 1921. The building was located between Paul Nolen & Company's Grocery and Carmichael Hardware Company. A Buick owned by J. L. Lyons was also destroyed by the fire. The flames would have devastated the entire block had it not been for the timely and heroic efforts of the fire fighters.

Tuition for the Jackson Public Schools was set in August 1921 at $2 per month for grammar grades and $4 per month for high school. The fee in the music department was set at $3 per month. A laboratory fee of $1.50 per month would charged to students taking physics and chemistry.

In August 1921, a cream station was established at the Jackson Ice Plant as dairying was started on a large scale in Butts County. There were 10 or 12 dairies at the time in Butts County, according to Mary Lee Martin.

In the early 1920s, Rolfe & Ruth Burford, Mary Lee Martin's parents, operated a dairy about eight miles out of town. "He was happy there," Martin said during an interview in 2009, "but this Colonel Mallet was trying to get into the dairy business and he knew just about as much about the dairy business as you do if you don't know anything about it. Well, he talked daddy into moving his herd of cows from out in the country and putting them in the dairy, where [Col. Mallet] would buy more cows and we'd still have an interest in the business. I remember so vividly those cows walking, like they do in the west, all the way from out there to town.

"And us moving into that house that was in such a wreck of a mess and we had a nice home out there where I was," Martin continued. "I know I was a very upset young lady at five years old. The only thing that would calm me down was there was a horse by the name of May. Well, they told me I could ride that horse. I rode that horse from the time when I was five years old until the time I was finished with college and then May laid down and died. Just an old plug horse, but I'm telling you we were good buddies.

The dairy farm was called Willow Valley Farm. The chocolate milk was kept cold overnight in the spring house. Ice was kept in another room where the bottled milk was stored. They bottled milk and delivered it to customers the next morning in a truck. The delivery man went from house to house leaving new bottles of fresh milk and collecting empty bottles from the day before. Those bottles were washed at the dairy and refilled and capped with paper caps. They did pints and quarts only. Even the school used bottles for the students' milk until the 1950s. The dairy also made butter and real cream and buttermilk. And at Christmas they would make egg nog. "I have made many pounds of butter," said Martin. "My daddy normally did it, but when he was busy I did it lots. It took me years for that salt and that butter for my fingers to not crack. I finally got old enough they don't crack."

There were seven families that lived in tenant houses on the dairy farm, because several crops were also grown there like corn, cotton and hay.

The famous Wigwam Hotel at Indian Springs and the Bryans House, a residence, were destroyed by fire at the end of August 1921.

A Jackson community chautauqua was held for six days in September 1921.

In September 1921, U. O. Jordan opened a grocery in the old Paul Nolen stand.

With an average temperature of 81.4 degrees, September 1921 was the hottest month on record since the Atlanta Weather Bureau was created.

The Jackson Ice Corporation cut the prices for ice - retail and wholesale - effective October 1, 1921. Ice at the plant was 50 cents for 100 pounds, and 60 cents delivered.

In November 1921, the City of Jackson sold an issue of $30,000 in school improvement bonds at the rate of 90 net.

In December 1921, a basketball league was formed by Jackson, Forsyth, Monticello, McDonough, Gray and Covington. In the 190s and early 1930s, Jackson High School played its basketball games in the old Carmichael Buggy Company building on West Third Street. It was small and had only one steep staircase as a means of entrance and exit.

E. C. Thurston acquired the grocery business of W. B. Hodges in December 1921.

J. T. McClure, who served as warden of the Butts County chain gang since it was established in 1911, resigned in December 1921.

Jackson's first Community Christmas Tree was held December 23, 1921. It was erected on the courthouse lawn near the Civil War monument and lighted brilliantly. Some 450 children - from the youngest tot to age 16 - gathered around the tree for the lighting and received a gift. Music was furnished by the Jackson Orchestra and Christmas carols were sung by the large crowd that gathered on the square. Three esteemed ministers of Jackson - Mack McKay, Robert Van Deventer and Jimmie Jordan - each received a shiny $5 gold piece as well.

1922

The Jackson Kiwanis Club organized on January 17, 1922 with 51 members. W. A. Dozier was named as the club's first president. It received its charter on February 7, 1922, and soon began a campaign to employ a marketing agent for Butts County. Jackson was the smallest city in the nation to affiliate with the national organization. At the time, there was also not a foot of paving in Butts County.

City officials at the start of 1922 were: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; A. R. Conner, tax receiver and collector; A. B. Lindsey, water and light department; C. L. Redman, city attorney; C. T. Thornton, chief of police; and W. F. Lavender, policeman.

Pepperton had the distinction in January 1922 of having the first model school in Butts County. The Pepperton Cotton Mills erected the building at a cost of $3,000, and the Butts County Board of Education furnished the equipment, desks, blackboards and heating system. The building had four rooms and an auditorium. Each room accommodated about 40 students, and the auditorium had a seating capacity of 300. Enrollment at the school was 127 at the time.

An athletic Association wad formed by the boys of the Jackson School in January 1922.

George H. Kimbell was manager of the Jackson Theater in January 1922. He announced that there would be movies shown three days and nights a week until weather improved.

Between 75 and 100 Butts County women voted for the first time in a February 15, 1922 bond election.

Police Chief C. T. Thornton issued a warning at the end of March 1922 that speeders in Jackson would be pinched.

During a city-wide revival in March 1922, 27 members were added to the Methodist church and 25 to the Baptist church.

There were nine applicants for the position of postmaster in Jackson in April 1922, and Congressman J. W. Wise was pushing for a post office building in Jackson. Miss Bessie Waldrop was the acting postmaster in town.

The fire department was called to extinguish a fire at Sam Lee's laundry on Mulberry Street in the middle of August 1922. No damage occurred.

A benefit concert was held in the Jackson school auditorium in the middle of April 1922 to raise funds for the newly formed Jackson High band. The band played a few selections, and music teacher Miss Edna Mae West and her students performed to a packed house. The band was directed by Carl Shockley.

In early May 1922, Professor W. Edward Monts was elected as superintendent for the Jackson public schools. At 35 years of age, he had been superintendent of the schools in Cochran. A few weeks later, Professor R. I. Knox was elected as the new superintendent for Jackson schools. At 30 years of age, he had 14 years of teaching experience and had been superintendent of schools in Boston (GA).

A reservoir, 30 feet in diameter and 9.5 feet deep, was completed in early May 1922 at the city water works. It gave Jackson a capacity of 60,000 gallons of water every 24 hours. The normal daily consumption of water in the city at the time was between 90,000 and 120,000 gallons per day. It was claimed that Jackson residents used more water than any city its same size in the nation. There were no water meters attached to homes and businesses at the time.

The Jim Finley Post of the American Legion was organized in Jackson in May 1922. A dozen former service men attended the first meeting and elected Mayor G. E. Mallet as post commander. The post was named in honor of James W. Finley, who was killed in action at the battle of Marne on July 24, 1918.

The price of a gallon of gasoline in May 1922 was 30 cents, which was lower than the 35-cent high it reached during World War I.

Jackson schools closed on May 19, 1922, and 36 seniors graduated. It was the largest class in the history of the school.

At the end of May, W. Morris Redman, a well-know Jackson businessman and former overseas soldier, was selected as the new postmaster for Jackson. A graduate of the Jackson city

schools and the University of Georgia, Redman taught school for several years before entering the business world.

A swarm of bees made a landing on a Ford vehicle that belonged to P. C. Long and was parked on the southside of the square in late May 1922. Policeman W. F. Lavender managed to get them into a hive after a while.

In the Spring of 1922, the reliable hackman, Punk Thurman, was advertising that he met all trains in Jackson.

The Carmichael-Mallet Company turned its grocery store into a self service grocery store and reopened the doors on July 22, 1922. Bread was five cents a loaf, 24 pounds of flour was 98 cents, and 24 pounds of sugar or a half-pound of coffee were $1.

In early September 1922 came word that Pomona Products Company of Griffin was looking to open a branch of its canning operation in Jackson. The company already had several thousand acres of pimiento peppers under contract in Butts, Monroe, Henry, Spalding, Lamar, Pike and Upson counties. The Kiwanis Club was leading the effort to secure the plant for Jackson.

The Jackson Board of Education elected Marvin M. Parks, Jr. as principal of the Jackson Public School in early September 1922. Parks taught science and mathematics and was in charge of the athletics program.

The Pepperton School opened in early September 1922 with 113 students.

Following a long period of idleness, the Empire Buggy Company began operating on a short term basis in late September 1922. Orders had picked up from the southern part of the state, it was said.

On a Tuesday morning in early october 1922, a fire began on the ground floor of the Harkness Building on the corner of Third and Mulberry streets. The flames and smoke did considerable damage to the stock of J. Arenson and the upstairs offices were badly damaged by water. The upstairs offices were occupied by T. J. Land's studio, Guthrie & Company's real estate and insurance office and by Dr. O. B. Howell. The building was owned by W. A. Newton & Company and was insured for $9,000.

The Jackson High School football team opened its 1922 season in October with a 18-0 win over Locust Grove Institute. Coach Parks fielded a fast, aggressive team, with Harry Howell's 80-yard run the highlight of the game.

The coldest October weather on record struck in 1922 with temperatures of 30 degrees.

Dr. Robert Van Deventer tendered his resignation as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jackson in early December 1922. The congregation, however, voted unanimously to table the resignation and grant Dr. Van Deventer a vacation of 12 months. He had been experiencing health problems at the time, and that was believed to have led to his resignation. Later that month, the pastor announced he would take a month-long sabbatical to try to regain his health. He officially resigned from the church on January 1, 1924.

In 1922, the Standard Oil Company in Jackson was given to Settle & Robison in the name of T. E. Robison. Sales for December 1922 were 8,090 gallons of kerosene and 860 gallons of gas.

In the city primary in late December 1922, Mayor H. M. Fletcher was re-elected along with aldermen J. R. Thurston and A. A. Howell. New members of the city council elected were Hugh Mallet and S. P. Nichols, who succeeded H. O. Ball and W. H. Merritt respectively.

1923

In January 1923, the Carmichael-Mallet Company announced the opening of a self-service grocery department.

Public schools in Jackson were carrying out fire drills in January 1923.

In January 1923, Jackson Methodists began a campaign to raise $40,000 to build a new church. At least $18,000 was pledged at the first campaign meeting. The money was raised in less than two months and the final service in the old church, which had been in use for 40 years, was held in the middle of March. While the new church was being built, Methodist services were held at the Presbyterian Church and in the courthouse.

A fire seriously damaged the Carter-Warthen Building on Third Street, which housed the Jackson Theater operated by the McCarty brothers and the office of Dr. O. B. Howell, in late January 1923. The Jackson fire department and volunteer fire fighters directed their efforts toward saving adjoining buildings, including the Jackson Nation Bank and Scarborough's Garage. Dr. Howell had just opened his new office after a fire cost him his previous office in the Harkness Building in 1922.

The mayor and Council named city employees for the year in late January 1923. Employees were: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; A. R. Conner, tax receiver and collector; A. B. Lindsey, superintendent of the water and light department; C. T. Thornton, chief of police; W. F. Lavender and J. T. McMichael, policemen; and C. L. Redman, city attorney. According to a report by McMichael, the city ended 1922 in good financial shape, with the water and light department claiming a balance of more than $3,000 at year's end.

The Newton Hardware Company, which for years had been located on the west side of the square, relocated to the Harkness Building on the east side of the square in March 1923. Considerable improvements had been made to the building following a fire there in 1922.

Tom Cole, a 76-year-old man with 56 years experience as a dray, was killed instantly when he was thrown to the ground by his frightened horse in March 1923. The accident occurred while Cole was loading flour at the train depot. Prior to the the construction of the Southern Railway through Jackson, Cole operated a dray between Jackson and Griffin, hauling goods for many of the merchants of that generation.

In March 1923, the Jackson Ice Corporation arranged to install a meat curing and cold storage plant. It also began installing a 10,000-egg capacity incubator.

R. I. Knox was re-elected superintendent of the Jackson public schools at the end of March 1923.

A fire destroyed the home of R. L. Bailey on Plum Street on the night of March 27, 1923. The family barely made it out of the house, saving only a few kitchen utensils.

In early April 1923, the sophomore class won the field day at the Jackson High School. Aldine Carmichael and Willie Knox won the wheelbarrow race, and Knox also won the pie eating contest. Harry Howell scored the most points of any student with 19.

In April 1923, M. M. Parks, Jr. was re-elected principal of Jackson High School.

The old Brady house on the corner of Oak and Third streets was razed in April 1923 to make way for a modern drive-in filling station. At the time, the house was probably the oldest in the city, having been built between 1826 and 1833. After the Civil War, the house was used as a garrison for federal troops who were stationed in Jackson, and was later used by the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Willie Frank Newman was Salutatorian and Joe Watkins was Valedictorian of the Jackson High School Class of 1923. There were 23 seniors graduating in late May that year.

In May 1923, the historic Brady House, believed to be the oldest house in Jackson, was torn down to make way for a filling station.

A school census completed in late May 1923 showed Jackson had a student population of 567, and increase from the 1918 school census figure of 434. The county as a whole showed a decrease between censuses from 4,177 in 1918 to 3,736 in 1923. The census was important, since the state issued $5 per year per student to local school systems.

In June 1923, Jackson High School was placed on the southern and state accredited list.

In the middle of July 1923, about 4,000 people attended the Sixth District Masonic Convention in Jackson.

C. A. Pittman was robbed and killed on July 20, 1923. He was reportedly lured from his farm to his store, robbed there by four men, and his body dumped in the Ocmulgee River. Evans McDowell, a 23-year-old from Jasper County, confessed to the crime and was sentenced to be hanged on November 2 in the Butts County jail yard. McDowell's brother-in-law, Flem Lynch, was also found guilty of Pittman's murder and sentenced to die on November 23. By law, the executions were private, with only guards, physicians and relatives and clergymen that the defendant desired be present. Canvas was erected around the jail yard to cut off public view, though a considerable crowd was attracted to town by the events.

The home of Dr. R. W. Mays on Covington Street was destroyed by fire in July 1923.

A 16' by 20' building was being built in August 1923 to house a 10,000-egg capacity incubator that was installed by the Jackson Ice Corporation.

In late August 1923, the Jackson Board of Education named T. J. Dempsey, Jr. as principal of Jackson High School. He also coached athletics.

As of September 1, 1923, I. P. Middlebrooks & Company moved to the old Paul Nolen stand, and Carmichael Hardware Company moved into the building that had been occupied by Middlebrooks & Company. At the same time, Settle & Robison moved from the north side of the square to the building that had been occupied by Carmichael Hardware.

When the Pepperton School opened in early September 1923, Asa Burford was the principal with Mrs. J. S. Davis, Miss Sara Smith and Miss Eloise Beauchamp was teachers.

Haisten Brothers opened an undertaking business in the Carter-Warthen building on September 15, 1923. They carried caskets, suits and robes.

A house belonging to the Ellis estate located in the triangle between South Oak and South Mulberry streets was destroyed by fire on September 21, 1923. The building had been vacant for some time.

In September 1923, Lanier High School of Macon defeated the Jackson High School football team 13-0.

A new two-cents-per-gallon tax took effect in October 1923 making the price of gasoline in Jackson 23 cents per gallon.

S. H. Odom opened a bakery in the Jarrell Building next to Maddox's Grocery at the end of October 1923.

At the end of October 1923, Jackson High School's football team held the GMC team off for a 6-0 win.

In early December 1923, the Butts County Board of Education voted to make Jackson High School the senior high school of the county.

N. E. Martin and Associates announced in December 1918 that they would build a pimento canning plant in Jackson.

1924

In early January 1924, the temperature dropped to zero degrees in parts of Butts County. It was the coldest weather in the area since February 1899.

"Johnny Leach," a dog that was known to practically every citizen of the community, went to the happy hunting grounds in the sky in late January 1924. Found as a puppy, he was taken in by Lewis and David Leach and, until the death of Mr. J. M Leach several years earlier, "Johnny" had a regular home at the Leach livery stables. Since that time, he was taken care of by the the owners of many downtown businesses. He was thought to be about 15 years when he passed, and was buried on February 1, 1924 on the courthouse square.

In February 1924, a Hawkes Library for Children was awarded to Jackson. The estate of the late A. K. Hawkes provided $6,000 for construction of a library, and $1,000 for books. Mrs. Andrew W. Lane of Macon donated the 80' by 100' site on College Street across from the Jackson public school for the new facility. The site was donated in honor of Lane's late father, Col. Van McKibben.

In March 1924, the Georgia Pimiento Canners, Inc. announced plans to operate a cannery in the Empire Buggy Company building on Lyons Street in Jackson. Its cans were sold under the Stone Mountain brand label. It began operation in August 1924 canning a brand called Stone Mountain that was sold across the nation. That year it shipped two carloads of pimiento peppers to California. The plant had a capacity of 200,000 cans per day. By the 1930s, the plant was known as the Jackson Pomona Products Company.

"Jackson had a canning factory, Pomona Products, down here [on Lyons Street at Bailey Street]," said Robert Pinckney in 2008. "That was first employment for a lot of local folks every Fall."

"They canned peppers and peaches," said David Ridgeway. "My sister had a job down there one time coring peppers."

"The story behind the pimiento peppers is - and I'm familiar with it because I grew up on a farm and my daddy had a group of pimiento peppers," said Merrell Price. "I think it was two or three acres, allotted to him. He would get the plants from Pomona Products. And we would put them in the ground, cultivate them and pick the peppers and deliver them down here. You were governed as to how much you could plant. It was seasonal, of course."

"You would contract with Pomona Products for so many acres, one acre or two acres," added Ridgeway. "You don't want to get too much of that stuff."

"Oh no," agreed Price.

Facing a smallpox epidemic in the community in April 1924, the City Council established a pest house at the fairgrounds. People with smallpox were either confined tot he pest house or quarantined in their homes.

The potato curing house of the Butts County Products Company was gutted by fire in late April 1924. Three rooms of the building and about 2,000 crates of potatoes were damaged by fire and water.

Professor R. I. Knox was re-elected superintendent of Jackson schools in late April 1924. T. J. Dempsey was named principal.

Surveying of streets began in early May 1924 in anticipation of paving Third Street to Indian Springs Street, Second Street from J. R. Carmichael's house to the courthouse square, the courthouse square, and Covington Street to the residence of Mrs. W. M. Mallet. The state was to pay for 50 percent of the cost of the paving.

In May 1924, the first ever annual of Jackson High School, titled "The Marionette," was published.

J. E. McNair was sworn in as county policeman in May 1924. His salary was paid for by private subscription.

Graduating from Jackson High School in May 1924 were: Lou Beauchamp, Winnie Brownlee, Aldine Carmichael, Lollie Carmichael, Marion Carmichael, Elizabeth Currie, Louise Henderson, Miriam Henderson, William Knox, Elizabeth Lewis, Margaret Maddox, Sara Maddox, Lois McMichael, Dorothy Pope, Allie Mae Scarbrough, Carolyn Smith, Willene Thornton, John Thurston, Martha Watts and Rogers Woodward.

In June 1924, members of the City Council sought to have the City Charter amended so that street paving might be done. Representative J. L. Lyons was asked to introduce a bill seeking as much. A survey of city streets was being completed at the time by an engineering firm.

An ordinance passed by the City Council in July 1924 fixed 10 minutes as the limit for parking an automobile in front of a store in Jackson.

In July 1924, the City Council fixed the speed limit of Southern Railway trains through the city limits of Jackson at six miles per hour. Many of the citizens supported the action. A month later, a federal court in Jacksonville, Florida prevented the Council from enforcing that speed limit.

W. M. Redman, postmaster of Jackson, passed the bar exam in July 1924 and was admitted to the practice of law.

A troop of Boy Scouts was organized in Jackson in July 1924 with P. H. Weaver as scoutmaster.

A fire in late July 1924 destroyed the A. A. Howell home on College Street.

Flem Linch, a Negro from Jasper County who was convicted of the murder of C. A. Pittman in Butts County, was hanged in the Butts County Jail yard in late July 1924.

B. R. McClendon was added to the Jackson police force in early August 1924 following the July 7 death of W. F. Lavender. Charles T. Thornton was the chief of police, with J. T. McMichael and McLendon as assistants.

In August 1924, the Jackson Methodists completed a building program, including church and parsonage, at a cost estimated at $58,000. The first service in the new sanctuary was held in July of that year.

The firm of Nutt & Bond was established in August 1924 as a partnership whose business was ginning cotton, mixing fertilizers, and selling coal. It leased the old Southern Cotton Oil Company property, and was incorporated in 1927 by T. A. Nutt and W. M. Bond. It was dissolved in 1976, ending one of the oldest businesses in the county, having begun in 1892 under the name of the Jackson Oil Mill Company, and in 1917 becoming the Southern Cotton Oil Company.

J. W. Carmichael, a pioneer buggy manufacturer of Jackson, died at his home in Atlanta at the end of August 1924.

In September 1924, voters throughout the county approved of the idea of forming a county police force 929 votes to 445 votes against. At the same time, voters approved of the idea of hiring a county extension agent.

In the Fall of 1924, movies were shown in the auditorium of the Jackson public school on weekend nights.

Jackson High School was designated the senior high school for all of Butts County in September 1924. There were two or three other schools in the county offering junior high school education at the time. After the designation, county students were no longer charged the $4 per month tuition to attend Jackson High School.

The tax rate in Jackson was set at 16 mills, the same as the previous rate, in October 1924. Six mills were levied in support of city schools, five in support of city government, and five mills for interest and the sinking fund.

The Ku Klux Klan held a parade in Jackson in the middle of October 1924.

The Jackson Pressing and Dry Cleaning Company began operation on November 1, 1924 in the building below the Carmichael Drug Company's store on Third Street. Under the management of W. H. Allen, the business offered four suits cleaned for $1 for a limited time.

The Butts County Jubilee and Club Fair was held for two days in early November 1924. Several thousand people attended and witnessed a parade, a concert by the Georgia Railway and Power Company band, a wedding of Miss Georgia Products to Mr. Samuel Butts to stress the importance of using home grown products, a fiddlers convention, the Jackson Orchestra and motion pictures. A majority of the schools in the county set up booths in the courthouse lawn to sell cold drinks, cakes and pies.

In late December 1924, the girls' basketball team at Jackson High School was declared champions of the northeastern group of the Sixth District.

"For a number of years in the 1920s and early '30s, the armory loft above the Spencer-Buchanan Ford agency on West Third Street was used as a basketball gym," wrote Vincent Jones in his newspaper column, "The Last Straw," in 1990. "Never suited for the task, it was miserly small and its steep, wooden stairway with only one exit made it a deathly trap in event of a fire.

"Spectators crowded into its narrow confines often served as safety nets for participants on out-of-bounds plays," Jones recalled. "The loft, however, was the Madison Square Garden of Jackson and prize fights were held there regularly until the building was deemed unfit.

"When the building was finally condemned for public gatherings and specifically for basketball, the Jackson basketball teams had no place to play except on the outdoor court on the east side of the school building," he continued. "There the teams practiced and played under

conditions both freezing and steaming. Dribbling was not a fine art on its sandy, rain-creased surface."

Games were eventually moved to the dance hall at Indian Springs in 1933, which was enclosed, but had a ceiling that was 12 feet high.

Construction began on December 26, 1924 on the Hawkes Library for Children on College Street with funds provided by Albert King Hawkes of Atlanta. It was one of six libraries built with funds left in Hawkes' will. The brick building, measuring 25' by 50', cost between $6,000 and $7,000 to build. The lot on which the library was built was donated by Mrs Hattie McKibben Lane of Macon as a tribute to her father, M. Van McKibben of Butts County. The library was completed in 1925 and turned over to a board of trustees.

1925

Several hundred dollars were stolen from the Southern Railway Company's safe at its Jackson office in early January 1925.

With the start of 1925, Butts County began preparations to celebrate its centennial. The Centennial Committee consisted of Miss Lucile Akin, chairman; S. J. Foster, vice chairman; and O. A. Pound, treasurer. The committee found that the oldest thing in the county was a Bible from Scotland brought to the area in 1727. It was in the possession of George Spencer.

In January 1925, Dr. R. L. Hammond relocated from the Crum building to the office formerly occupied by Dr. J. Lee Bryan on East Third Street.

"Dr. Hammond built that house on the corner of Covington and Third streets where the bank is," said Elizabeth O'Neal in 2009. "And I remember people saying, 'Dr. Hammond's building a brick house, and it's costing $5,000.' At that time, I don't think there were but two brick houses in Jackson."

There was not a single arrest in the City of Jackson in the month of January 1925.

Major Carson, an assistant mail carrier, who was charged with the embezzlement of breakfast bacon from the Jackson post office, was arrested in Chattanooga in late February 1925.

On March 8, 1925, a flag at the Pepperton school was dedicated. The flag was donated by the Ku Klux Klan, and it was stated that all schools in the county were to receive flags from the Klan.

In March 1925, the Georgia Pimento Canners plant in Jackson offered farmers $15 a ton for tomatoes grown locally and contracted for large acreage of the crop for the Summer.

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the lumber mill and planing plant of H. F. Gilmore early one night in late March 1925. The fire, one of the largest in the city;s history up to that point, consumed several cars and storage houses of lumber, shingles, paint, cement and threatened several nearby buildings. Storage tanks at the Standard Oil Company were endangered, but firemen were able to keep them cool.

In 1925, the average lifespan was 57 years.

In early April 1925, R. I. Knox, head of the Jackson schools for the past three years, was re-elected to that post along with all other school faculty members.

The first garden club in Butts County was the Jackson Garden Club organized in April 1925 by Mrs. Julia Curry Head.

Gasoline was 26 cents a gallon in the Spring of 1925.

When they graduated on May 22, there were 24 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1925. That year the school was also made the high school for all Butts County students in grades nine through 11.

"In the 1920s and 1930s," wrote Vincent Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, "a female high school graduate without a corsage of sweet peas was considered undressed. One reason for their universal appeal might have been their availability, for everybody grew sweet peas then."

Henry Thomaston, who worked as the janitor at the county courthouse for 18 years, died in May 1925.

A building on South Oak Street being built in May 1925 was to serve as maintenance headquarters for the state highway department in the fourth district.

On June 5, 1925, the Jeptha Chapter Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Jackson. It met in the St. John's Lodge #45.

In July 1925, the management of Pepperton Cotton Mill announced it would begin using electricity exclusively to run all of its machinery.

Damage to the Bibb substation from a storm in early July 1925 left Jackson without lights on a Monday night, and industries without power.

In early August 1925, the Georgia Grocery became the owner of the grocery department of the Carmichael-Mallet Company. The owners of the Georgia Grocery, which operated 17 stores, were J. H. Carmichael and F. S. Carmichael of Jackson.

In August 1925, city officials asked residents to conserve water on account of the drought in the area that began in April. The Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the use of water for washing cars, sprinkling lawns and gardens, and otherwise waste water. Rain finally arrived in mid-October 1925.

In August 1925, Vincent Jones was among the students starting in the first grade at the Jackson public school. His teacher that year was Miss Annie Lou McCord.

"Miss Annie Lou McCord [was] a lifelong friend of my mother and for several decades had introduced students to the educational process," Jones wrote in a newspaper column some years later. "Miss Annie Lou was an old maid but when we called her that it was done in a complimentary manner. Of rather stern countenance when giving out instruction or advice, she could break into a beatific smile when she saw her students blossoming into scholars. Learning under her was a breeze. Her lessons were kept simple for those who had so much to learn; she was patient and repetitive until every member of the class had absorbed the facts and the thoughts put forth.

"She tolerated no foolishness," Jones added. "She could become flinty-eyed when she saw a spitball in mid-air and no TV detective could equal her ability to discover the offending party who would dare to upset the learning process she had begun.

"She enjoyed recess and watching children at play, which she supervised," Jones recalled. "Watching boys play marbles, but not for 'keeps,' or girls engaging in games of tag or hopscotching, seemed to delight her but woe unto the bully who would take advantage of the smaller, more timid boy and throw him to the ground. In the classroom, she was a disciplinarian. Giggling would infuriate her and hair pulling or tripping or unauthorized talking would bring her to your desk with her despised ruler. After fingers were placed horizontally on your desk, she would whack across them one at a time with that ruler and if that didn't make an attentive student out of you, then you were a hopeless case.

"She was always a lady," Jones continued. "She had deep, abiding faith in her God and she was not ashamed to tell her class of it, either individually or collectively. She taught more lessons that were not in the book than were within, such as moral character, treatment of others, patriotism, faith in God and mankind, dignity, manners, good conduct, thankfulness, appreciation of parents, discipline and hundreds of Christly virtues."

In another column for the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, Jones wrote of the experience of walking into Miss McCord's on the first day of first grade.

"In the first grade, a teacher known for her sternness directed us to pair up with a buddy at a desk built for two," Jones wrote. "The desk-mate selection was not easy, considering that several had together frolicked and gamboled the Summer away, vying to see who could get involved in or create the most mischief. In the close, physical communion involved in such an accommodation, the choice of a desk-mate was an important one. There needed to be friendliness present, but with an instructor who tolerated no foolishness, there was no occasion for pinching, punching or enticement into any kind of deviltry.

"The year went by swiftly," Jones continued, "and there was no lasting memento of its passing, other than an occasional sore knuckle, bruised by the application of a ruler from an incensed taskmaster who thought playing marbles for keeps was closely akin to original sin."

Annie Lou McCord, the first grade teacher, had a brother who was a doctor in Jackson, Dr. McCord. She lived on North Benton Street, according to Mary Lee Martin.

McCord was Martin's first grade teacher, and was still teaching first grade when her daughter, Mary Ruth Watson, went to school. But by then there were two teachers for the first grade. "Everybody was afraid to be in [McCord's] room because they said she'd bend your hand back and pop your hand with a ruler," Watson said. "Everybody was scared to be in her room. And I was in Miss Velma Maddox's room and I was so relieved. I was saved."

In the middle of September 1925, the new Hawkes Library for Children was formally accepted by the Board of Trustees. The 25' by 50' building was built by Lacy Maddox of Jackson at a cost of $6,000.

The City Council set its tax rate in September 1925 at 18 mills, an increase of two mills.

In October 1925, H. L. Allen, a telegrapher with the Southern Railway System bought the S. W. Maddox grocery store located on the north side of the square. The new store was known as Allen's.

Butts County's Centennial celebration was held from October 29 and 30, 1925. The masters of ceremony were O. A. Pound, Major G. E. Mallet and J. D. Jones. The 22nd Infantry Band from Fort McPherson played, a Queen and Queen of the Centennial were crowned, and there was a parade of floats on the first day. That night, there were moving pictures in the courthouse and Mrs. W. E. Watkins wrote and staged a pageant called "The Gift of the Gods" at the celebration. The next day, Friday, there was another band concert, community singing, a speech by U. S. Senator Walter F. George, an old fiddlers' convention, and a barn dance in the courthouse. Fincherville won first place in the community exhibits at the event, and several former residents returned to Jackson to mark the occasion. It was estimated that as many as 15,000 people attended.

O. E. Smith became a real estate man in October 1925 after resigning from the Butts County Board of Tax Equalizers.

In November 1925, Settle & Robison bought the building adjoining the *Jackson Progress-Argus*.

On the night of November 23, 1925, County Policeman J. E. McNair was shot and killed a mile or two below Indian Springs. He was there to investigate a liquor still, and was struck in the head by a blast from a shotgun as he made his way to the site. Tom King, a Negro, was arrested and charged with the murder. At a trail in February 1926, he was found guilty and sentenced to die by electrocution. But a new trail was granted after an appeal. King was found guilty by a jury again in February 1927 and sentenced to die on March 18, 1927.

A. B. Lindsey resigned as head of the Water and Light Department in Jackson in December 1925 to take a job in Florida. He had held the position with the city for seven years. He was replaced that month by J. P. Manning of Atlanta

1926

In early January 1926, the Dodson Ten Cent Store, a fixture in Jackson for several years, was sold by W. H. Dodson to George H. White.

Butts County's first poultry show was held in Jackson in January 1926. It was billed as an effort to arouse greater interest in the poultry industry and make it a profitable source of income for Butts County farmers.

During union services at the First Baptist Church in early February 1926, five automobile tires were reported stolen. Three men from Spalding County were arrested and charged with the crimes.

In late February 1926, the Council voted to take up the old cross ties on Third Street and begin an extensive campaign of street improvements. The cross ties had been laid a number of years earlier by the old Jackson and Indian Springs Interurban Railway. With the advent of the automobile, the interurban project was never completed, but the cross ties had not been removed.

In early March 1926, Jackson was selected as the headquarters for the new electric signal of the Southern Railway System. A gang of 20 railroad men and the same number of signal men were stationed in town for the rest of the year. A storage house was erected, and half a million dollars worth of equipment was shipped in for the work. The new electric signal system installed was automatic and improved the speed of the trains. As the same time, 100-pound rail was laid between Macon and Atlanta to allow heavier locomotives capable of pulling 70 to 80 cars to use the route through Jackson.

"One of the joys denied the young folks of today is that of waiting at the depot for the arrival of passenger trains loaded with their precious cargoes of people, mail and express," Vincent Jones once wrote in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*.

"Pulled by powerful steam locomotives, the trains would shudder to a stop amid the hiss of escaping steam and the screech of steel upon steel," Jones wrote. "The fast, through trains would thunder past shaking the foundations of the station as the young marveled that anything so big could travel so swiftly. The iron-wheeled express wagon was brought to the dock by the express agent and quickly accumulated an assortment of boxes and crates causing speculation as to whom they were going and from whence they had come. Mail sacks were tossed out of the mail car to a postal employee who, in turn, would load his own sack of first class mail.

"Stepping from the stalled steel steed," he continued, "the conductor conveniently placed his platform beneath the passenger door exit and, with courtesy and dispatch, assisted the ladies and children into or out of the passenger coach. The station master, abandoning for a moment his

ticket office and the 'click-click' of his telegraphic machine, would step up to the cab and hand important looking messages to the engineer, a man who was revered by every boy as having achieved the pinnacle of success. Passengers who had traveled great distances would detrain to stretch their legs, the boy in his plus-fours, the father with his Homburg hat and the mother watching over both, her neck warmly enclosed in a luxuriant fox fur. The local yokels, clad in overalls, patched sweaters and woolen caps would stare aghast at such wealth and luxury.

"Watching the gasping giant engine take on water was always exciting as the fireman would climb the cowcatcher and swing the arm of the elevated water tank into position so the heaving monster slake its thirst for another 50-mile run," Jones wrote.

"The ultimate touch of elegance came in the Pullman cars with their fascinating names such as 'Presque Isle,' 'Pocohantas,' or 'Hiawath'," Jones recalled. "Only the truly rich rode there, it was felt, and no one dreamed that in a few years those who watched them flash by would be riding them free in defense of their country."

A Saturday morning fire in early March 1926 did considerable damage to the Woman's club room at the Carter-Warthen building. The blaze started in the first floor kitchen of the club rooms and burned a hole in the floor.

S. S. Copeland opened a wholesale grocery store in the building formerly used for storing sweet potatoes. He also handled livestock feeds.

A severe freeze, with thermometers reading 17 degrees, damaged fruit crops throughout Butts County in the middle of March 1926.

In March 1926, Professor R. I. Knox was named to head the Jackson public schools for the fifth consecutive year.

In March 1926, Representative J. L. Lyons amended the Jackson city charter to allow for street paving.

In the middle of April 1926, traffic posts were placed around the courthouse square, and "drive to the right" was the warning issued by city police officers. The posts were painted bright red and were easily seen by drivers.

In April 1926, the Pan American Petroleum Company opened a storage station in Jackson on the Southern Railway below the Gulf Refining Company. The company planned to construct several filling stations as outlet's for its products.

The City Council named W. T. Burke as assistant policeman in early May 1926. He replaced B. R. McLendon, who resigned.

In an election May 6, 1926, W. W. Carr and M. C. Johnson tied in the race for mayor of Pepperton. In a do-over election held two weeks later, W. W. Carr won the office by a tally of 60-to-53 votes. It was Carr's fourth term as mayor.

A powerful storm brought rain, hail and wind to Butts County in May 1926. Considerable damage was done to the city's light plant, and most of the city was dark throughout the night.

In May 1926, J. H. and F. S. Carmichael donated a lot on West Third Street to the Georgia Baptist Hospital as a memorial to Mrs. Rose E. Carmichael.

The City Council voted in May 1926 to hold an election to allow citizens to vote on a $13,000 bond issue for street paving around the courthouse and in the fire district. The election was held on June 29, 1926, and the vote was 220-to-19 against the bond issue.

Twenty-six members of the Jackson High School Class of 1926 graduated in June.

Joe White, a Negro about 30 or 35 years old, was instantly killed on June 20, 1926 when he tried to board a freight train at the Southern Depot. He was thrown from the train and his head severed from his body. He was the uncle of a young girl killed a few weeks earlier when she attempted to cross the tracks and was hit by a fast train.

On June 29, 1926, a $19,000 bond issue to be used to pave city streets won by a vote of 220 to 19. The plan was for the city to pay one-third, the county to pay one-third and property owners to pay one-third of the cost of paving around the courthouse square and one block off the square in all directions.

"I remember when it was paved around the square," said Elizabeth O'Neal in 2009. "That was the first paving in Butts County. I remember coming to town with Daddy and they were paving the inside part. And he said, 'Now when we come back again, it'll be paved all around the square.' It was nice. When we built up here on [North] Mulberry Street in 1946, [the street] was not paved."

A bill was passed in the General Assembly in July 1926 to abolish the one-man board for county government and implement a three-man board of county commissioners.

Locomotives on the Southern Railway were painted green and gold in the Summer of 1926, replacing the classic all-black look.

Miss Bessie Waldrop assumed her duties as postmaster of Jackson on August 1, 1926. She previously served as Jackson postmaster from 1918 to 1922, and taught in the Jackson public schools in the four years following her first retirement.

A branch of the Atlanta Business College opened in Jackson in the Fall of 1926. It held a five-month session for nine students, a lower enrollment than was hoped for.

Good boiling meat was 16 cents a pound and bread was eight cents a loaf in August 1926 in Jackson.

In the middle of August 1926, the firm of Settle & Robison bought from the Farmers and Merchant Bank the Scarbrough garage building on East Third Street near Byars Street and the old Coca-Cola Bottling Company plant behind the city's substation.

T. A. Nutt and W. M. Bond purchased the Southern Cotton Oil Company plant in Jackson in early August 1926. The property consisted of a ginnery, fertilizer factory, cotton oil mill, coal yard, buildings and equipment and three acres of land. The new owners bought and sold cotton seed meal and hulls, and operated the ginnery, fertilizer factory and coal business. The Southern Cotton Oil Company had been one of the largest industries in the county. It was established as the Jackson Oil Mill, and taken over as a branch of the Southern Cotton Oil Company. With the coming of the boll weevil and financial depression, the mill was not operated for some time. Nutt and Bond had been leasing and operating the plant for several years prior to the purchase.

"And at the first bale of cotton, my daddy would sell the seed of that bale of cotton and buy him some fresh mullet fish and a big hoop of cheese," recalled Harry Ridgeway during an interview in 2009. "The gin was in Jackson. We lived out on High Falls Road, so it's five miles. It was carried to the gin by wagon with mules. It took probably a couple of hours. My first opportunity to go to Jackson was along with daddy to carry a bale of cotton to the gin. We didn't have a automobile at that time. At Christmas, we finally had a bicycle between four boys. There were beginning to be a few automobiles about the time I graduated from high school - the T Model and the A Model Fords were the ones you'd see once in a while - but up until that time horse and buggy and mule wagon."

In September 1926, the Farmers and Merchants Bank sold four brick buildings on Second Street to G. P. Saunders. The stores included the Barnes Trading Company, E. H. Pace Transfer Company, and E. I. Rooks, contractor.

The City Council set the city tax rate at 18 mills in September 1926, the same rate as the previous year. The total value of property in the city was figured at $1,117,752.

On October 3, 1926, more than 50 chickens were stolen around the city by a chicken thief. The crimes were discovered by citizens returning from church, and the police notified. After a short stakeout, City Policeman W. T. Burke witnessed two White men return for the loot and arrested one of them. The man escaped however. Four months later, Officer Burke arrested Tom Vaughn in Atlanta and charged him with the thefts.

Eight lights were installed around the courthouse and 12 around the business district. They were turned on for the first time on Monday night, October 25, 1926, thus completing the "Jackson White Way."

The Butts County Harvest Festival was held on October 29, 1926 and featured a parade with 20 floats, a U. S. Army band, baby show, flower show, livestock and agricultural exhibits, crowning of the queen of the festival, fiddlers convention, street dance, speeches, movies, community exhibits and the work of young people's clubs. Miss Ruby Moore was crowned queen of the festival. The parade began at the intersection of McKibben Avenue and Third Street, and proved quite popular, as did the baby show and children's parade.

The retail price of gasoline was 21 cents per gallon in November 1926.

On December 3, 1926, the Farmers & Merchants Bank failed to open. A note on the door started that "on account of slow collections and steady withdrawals, we are forced (only temporarily, we hope) to close." It was signed by J. H. Carmichael, president of the bank. Later that day, a new note was posting stating that the affairs of the bank were in the hands of the State Banking Department. It was the first bank closing in the history of Butts County.

City officers as of the end of December 1926 were: O. A. Pound, mayor; and aldermen B. K. Carmichael, J. R. Thurston, L. P. McKibben and R. J. Carmichael. They were nominated without opposition.

1927

Walter Vickers, a self-confessed murderer of his father-in-law, escaped from the Butts County Jail during the first week of January 1927 by digging a hole in the jail walls. Another inmate, charged with a misdemeanor, also escaped. Vickers escaped from the jail in December 1926 using the same technique.

Paul Tyler & Company purchased the brick building on the corner of Second and Oak streets in early January 1927. The building had been recently vacated by the J. C. Kimbell Company, which moved its grocery to Benton Street near the railroad depot.

A contract was signed in early February 1927 for the county to do the grading and paving of the five miles of Highway 42 from Indian Springs to Jackson.

The greatest obstacle was the too-steep hill the overlooked the springs from its northern flank. Earth-moving equipment was in short supply then, especially in a poor rural county. The antiquated road grader could be used effectively only to move top soil. According to Vincent Jones, the clay base of the hill was attacked manually by convicts with pick axes who loosened it inch by inch. A mule-pulled tip-cart was drawn through the freed clay and its filled load carried to a dump site for hand loading onto a truck.

"Whips cracked sharply as the mules balked or strained against the unyielding clay and perspiration of men and animals dampened the soil as throughly as an August shower," said Jones.

In early February, 1927, Tom King, convicted of first degree murder in connection with the November 23, 1925 slaying of county policeman J. E. McNair, was sentenced to be electrocuted on March 18, 1927. It marked the end of the second trial on the same charges for King. He had been convicted in February 1926, and based on an appeal from King's attorneys the state supreme court called for a new trial.

County Policeman W. T. Burke, who was with McNair at the time of the raid, told the jury that he recognized King from the flash of the gun when it was fired at McNair. Another witness for the state, Oscar Whitehead, a Negro youth, changed his testimony from one trail to the second. During the first trial, Whitehead claimed he had seen King at the still. During the second trail, he said he had not seen King at the site of the murder. Whitehead was held for perjury relating to his change of testimony.

In early March 1927, Dr. J. A. Jarrell bought the Carmichael Drug Company and the Jackson Pressing Club buildings from Mrs. J. W. Crum of Atlanta for $9,000. The buildings, located on the south side of the square, were considered some of the most desirable in the city.

Professor R. I. Knox was re-elected superintendent of the Jackson public schools in April 1927. A month later, Knox accepted a position in Hartwell and D. V. Spencer, formerly principal of the schools at Marietta and Sandersville, was elected to replace him. T. J. Dempsey was the school's principal.

Grocery prices in April 1927 were: 30 cents for a pound of cream cheese, 75 cents for work shirts, and 95 cents for overalls.

On April 27, 1927, the body of J. H. Carmichael was found in the reservoir of the city waterworks. His overcoat, watch, spectacles, watch and knife were found by the side of the reservoir by City engineer Julian Rooks. It was thought Carmichael had been in the water for two hours, and his death by drowning was ruled a suicide by the coroner. Carmichael had served as an alderman for the city for several terms, and was president of the First National Bank before its merger with the Farmers Bank. He was also president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank when it closed in December 1926.

When the 32-member Jackson High School Class of 1927 graduated in May, Rose Ellen Carter was valedictorian and Virginia Smith was salutatorian.

A feed mill was installed in July 1927 at the Barnes Trading Company, and was used to grind Butts County grains for poultry. There had been a noticeable increase in the poultry business in Butts County over the preceding five years. The Barnes Trading Company was a large buyer of chicken, eggs and other farm products.

Taxable values in Butts County in 1927 showed a decreased of 492,300 over the previous year. The 1927 total digest amounted to $1,940,636. Of that total, White citizens in Jackson accounted for $1,176,400, while colored citizens in Jackson accounted for $41,144.

In July 1927, W. B. Powell wrote that the City of Jackson needed to get in step with the rest of the county as far as time keeping was concerned. He was lived in the county for one year at the time.

"While Jackson has adopted Central time," he wrote, "its business houses close at 5 p.m., which is not consistent with the vexation that its arbitrary Central time imposes upon the rest of the county, and the traveling public. It is a sad commentary that a small county like Butts has its time divided, and every announcement must be accompanied with a statement 'Atlanta time' or 'Macon time' or fast time or slow time, Eastern time or Central time.

"That Jackson is losing thousands of dollars yearly by its attitude of forcing this obnoxious and vexatious Atlanta-slow-Central time upon us is apparent daily," Powell concluded.

The closing of the Georgia Grocery store in Jackson was announced at the end of July 1927. It had operated a self-service store in Jackson for several years, and was in the process of centering its stores in Macon. The White Ten Cent Store moved into the Georgia Grocery building on the west side of the square.

On August 1, 1927, J. E. Reynolds opened a shoe repair business between the Jackson Pressing Club and Moore's Garage.

In early August 1927, twice-a-day bus service between Atlanta and Indian Springs began. The owner of the bus line, G. L. Donaldson, owned a seven-passenger Cadillac at the time.

J. L. Lyons began the practice of law in Jackson in August 1927.

Dr. J. A. Jarrell bought two buildings - Moore's Garage and Reynolds' shoe shop - on the south side of the courthouse square from Col. T. J. Dempsey in August 1927. The $9,000 purchase meant Dr. Jarell owned all of the south side of the square with the exception of the Ethereidge-Smith Company.

At the end of August 1927, H. W. Turner opened a cash store on the north side of the square in the building formerly occupied by Paul Tyler & Company.

In September 1927, Jackson's City Council set the tax rate at 18 mills, eight of which went to support the city schools. The county imposed its own 19 mill tax rate.

Weekly boxing bouts were held in the Jackson Rifles' armory on Monday nights in the Fall of 1927.

W. E. Copeland opened a cash-and-carry grocery in the old Owl Pharmacy in the Commercial Building in October 1927.

The Central Georgia Power Company offered the City of Jackson $50,000 for its electric light plant in October 1927. During the Fall of that year, several large power companies had purchased small electric plants across the state.

Results of a State Board of Health survey released in October 1927 showed that the average income per person in Jackson and Butts County was $175 annually, and the average per family was $745 annually.

The Barkoot Brothers Shows were playing in Jackson at the end of October 1927. The entertain, set up at the end of East Third Street, consisted of a dog that climbed a 70-foot ladder and jumped into a net; Ona, the living half-lady; a Hawaiian village, merchandise concessions, and a 10-piece jazz band.

In the city primary on December 28, 1927, Mayor A. O. Pound was re-elected without opposition. Aldermen chosen by the voters were: B. K. Carmichael, J. R. Thurston, L. P. McKibben, and H. M. Moore.

1928

Around 1927 or 1928, a new theater called the Lyric was built on the square in Jackson. It burned in early 1933.

In January 1928, M. C. Pinion succeeded M. P. Lane, Jr. As Southern Railway agent at Jackson.

On February 10, 1928, the Jackson Rifles paid $3,500 to purchase a building on West Third Street for use as an armory. *[This two-story building one block off the square was later known as the Farmer's Exchange Building.]*

D. V. Spencer was re-elected superintendent of the Jackson public schools in March 1928.

The Jackson Banking Company building was acquired by Dr. J. A. Jarrell in early April 1928.

The Jackson High School Class of 1928 had 34 members. The class motto was: "We came, we studied, we conquered."

On May 30, 1928, a contract was awarded for the paving of 5.73 miles of the Indian Springs Highway from Jackson to the bridge at Indian Springs. The road in question began on what is now Indian Springs Street. This was the first paving done in Butts County. The paving

was carried out in July 1928 by the Powell Paving Company. Children enjoyed skating on the area that is now Indian Springs Street in the cool evenings until their mothers called them in for dinner.

Prior to the paving, according to Vincent Jones, "Third Street ended, except for a narrow dirt road, at the BP station (on the corner of Park Avenue and Indian Springs streets), where Highway 42 traffic was thrown onto Indian Springs Street. The home at the curve was occupied by Dr. & Mrs. Slaton and great was the screeching of brakes and muttered curses of tourists who suddenly came upon the 90-degree turn for the first time.

"Franklin Street did not exist save for a dusty trail leading tot he home of the Grier family near where the National Guard building now stands," Jones wrote in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*.

"The acreage now in use as athletic fields, schools, parking lots and by the National Guard was either planted in cotton or used for pasturage," he recalled. "In the fall, barn-storming pilots in the biplanes bounced across the stubble to take the daring on an aerial view of the town.

"Beyond the present National Guard building," Jones continued, "there was no habitation for at least half a mile. Pastures and woodlands and two small branches made it an ideal recreation area for the boys and tomboys of Indian Springs Street.

"The space occupied by the Exchange Club fairgrounds and parking lot was a large swampy area on which one of the enterprising youths of the area once built a frog pond," Jones admitted.

"Adventurous young boys constructed a five-hole golf course, with the first tee at the intersection of what is now Fairground Road and Woodland Way," Jones wrote. "Part of the swampy area had been turned into pasture but there were still some treacherous holes across the bog and the sand greens were tiny and unforgiving of wayward shots."

"And we did play in the street, though we were not supposed to do that," recalled Jane Anne Settle of her childhood in the early 1930s in Jackson. "And McKibben Street between us and the Redmans was not paved. Their daughter was older than we were, and didn't play with us too much. But we played with Billy everyday. And then when he would get mad with us, one of his grand things was he would get a dead lightbulb and tie a threatening note to it - such as 'you have until twelve o'clock to get out' - and smash against the house. But he could always make up these imaginary games that we played. And his father built a swing that you could swing out over McKibben Street. In the Summer you called it playing out, because you'd play out until it was pitch black after supper - and sometimes we'd sit on her steps and Mrs. Redman would make up these stories that were supposed to scare us. She was wonderful at making up and telling stories.

"It almost sounds too good to be true and there were a lot of things about it that were not good, but the more I remember the more I think it was a pretty good place to grow up in," Settle continued. "There's was always something going on. There were places to play. We didn't go to Jackson Lake much because it wasn't that developed. It wasn't a recreation area. After World War II is when people in Jackson started having shacks or vacation houses where they might entertain on the lake. And they were very nice about inviting those of us who did not have a place on the lake."

"Well, there wasn't anybody else to invite," John Settle said.

"We had a pretty good life," recalled Jane Anne Settle. "For one thing, there were five of us. So there was always something going on: a ball game or something in our backyard because there were enough people to attract some more people. And even if they didn't want to play, we made them play. Eugene Barton had to play third base whether he wanted to or not. He'd play wherever we needed him because we made him. But when he got over there, he would sometimes sing out 'don't throw it to me!'

"There were different neighborhoods," Settle continued. "As little as Jackson was, you played with the children that lived closest to you. You could get up whatever it was that you were going to do. There were children over here on this side of the square [the west side] that were having just as much as we did [on the east side], but we only knew well the ones nearest us. Not that Jackson was so big, but isn't that strange? That you wouldn't know every child in town. I mean you knew they were there."

"There was a crowd of us that skated around the Methodist Church," said Mary Lee Martin in 2009. "In later years, Sara Bond's daddy built a tennis court back behind Nutt & Bond gin that was on Lyon Street. Other than school activities and church, 4-H was very popular. We all grew up in 4-H. It was quite different from what it is now. And all our courting was done at Indian Springs State Park. The bowling alley and swimming pool were the two main things I remember. I actually hiked it with a crowd down there. Riding May [the horse] was my recreation. I used to ride her out to Stark and all over."

On June 17, 1928, the handsome new Jackson Methodist Church wad formally dedicated. The total cost of the new church and parsonage was approximately $62,000, which was raised without a church supper, a speaking or a singing.

A contract was signed in the middle of June 1928 to extend water lines from Jackson to Pepperton. A six-inch main was laid down Indian Springs Street to the Pepperton Cotton Mills. The mill bought the pipe, and the city provided the labor.

In late June 1928, the trustees of the Hawkes Library named Miss Sarah Beauchamp, teacher of English at Jackson High School, as the librarian for the next school year. She succeeded Miss Janie Lee Hardy.

In June 1928, the City Council considered the paving of the streets in the downtown business district at a cost of $47,000. Knox Thomas, the city engineer, submitted a plan that called for paving of the courthouse square and one block in each direction from the square. Voters had approved a bond issue for street paving the year before. The City of Jackson let a contract in the amount of $43,193 for the paving of the business district in July 1928.

H. H. Harris of East Point planned to open a picture show in the Commercial Building between Thornton's and Copeland's Grocery on July 10, 1928. He operated several other movie houses in other cities in the area. The business was named the Jackson Theatre.

In August 1928, C. F. Echols of Atlanta opened a business in the old McKibben Company barn where he sold farm mules and horses.

In July 1928, the State Highway Board of Georgia chose Indian Springs Street as the route through the City of Jackson to be paved in connection with the paving of Highway 42 to Indian Springs. A lively rivalry was generated between residents of Indian Springs Street and East Third Street as to which of the two routes would be chosen. On occasion, the rivalry became mischievous with tacks being placed in driveways. Grading began at the end of August 1928 on Indian Springs Street in preparation for paving. Paving of the entire length was completed by the end of September 1928.

A tropical storm in August 1928 did heavy damage to crops and highways throughout Butts County.

Covington Street and West Second Street were included in paving under a baby bond plan in September 1928.

The Deraney Brothers, operators of stores in Griffin and Atlanta, opened a dry goods store in Jackson on October 5, 1928. The company rented the Jarrell Building on the corner of Second and Mulberry streets. It was known for its courteous service, quality merchandise and low prices.

At the start of October 1928, a Whippet agency was opened in Carter & Jackson's barn on Mulberry Street. The company, which was managed locally by B. T. McMichael, sold the popular Whippet automobile and operated a service station selling gasoline and oil.

The Jackson Beauty Shop opened in the Jackson Banking Building in the first week of October 1928. L. H. Hurt, a successful barber with many years of experienced focused on cutting hair for ladies and children.

In October 1928, H. M. Jones, principal of the colored school in Jackson, was soliciting funds to build a Rosenwald school in Jackson. Such buildings were partly funded by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was responsible for aiding the construction of one of every five Negro school houses in the south at the time. However, there is no indication that such a school was ever built in Jackson.

On a Thursday near the end of October 1928, the Georgia Pimiento Canners pant in Jackson set a new record for production with 56,000 cans of peppers produced in one day.

In late October 1928, the City Council offered to pave Second and Covington streets at a price of $1.90 per square yard to homeowners on those streets.

Professor Van Fletcher was honored on his retirement as school superintendent of Butts County in December 1928. He had held the position for eight years.

On its home court on December 12, 1928, Jackson won two games from McDonough. The girls' team won 9-0, and the boy's team won 32-27.

1929

City officials at the start of 1929 were: C. L. Redman, mayor; A. C. Finley, T. A. Nutt, L. P. McKibben and H. M. Moore, councilmen.

Residents of east and west Third Street asked for paving under the baby bond plan in January 1929. At the same time, the paving of the business district was nearing completion. In February 1929, traffic signs saying "stop" or "slow" were installed at intersection in the business district. Police Chief C. T. Thornton said that all cars had to obey the signs or face prosecution.

Dr. J. A. Jarrell, local capitalist, bought the entire issue of baby bonds for the paving of the business center. The issue was $16,364, with a winning bid on contract of $1.90 per square yard of paving. The total cost of the contracts to pave East and West Third streets was $9,889. THe work also eliminated a curve in the road in front of the home of Dr. O. B. Howell. When completed in April 1929, it gave Jackson three miles of paved road on Indian Springs and East Third streets, the business center around the square, Covington Street and West Third Street to the city limits. Oak and Mulberry streets were also paved in 1929.

In March 1929, the City Council was considering the purchase of a new and modern fire truck - namely a 500-gallon pump made by American LaFrance - to replace existing equipment. The new equipment, it was said, would bring about a 20 percent reduction in fire insurance costs.

Heavy rains hit Butts County in the first week of March 1929.

The Jackson Board of Education named D. V. Spencer as superintendent of Jackson Public Schools for a third term in March 1929.

The Rogers Store, a grocery chain, opened in the Jarrell Drug building on the east side of the square in late April 1929.

"At the old Roger's store on North Mulberry Street," recalled Vincent Jones, "a grocery list could be handed to a clerk to be filled."

McConnell's, a chain ten-cent store, opened in Jackson in the last week of April 1929. It was located next to the Busy Corner on the square.

Twenty-four-year-old E. C. Steel was named principal of Jackson High School in the first week of May 1929. He succeeded T. J. Dempsey who resigned to become superintendent of the county school system.

Sometime in the late 1920s, a Club Corporation was formed by the Jackson Women's Club, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The group purchased a lot on South Mulberry Street and in May of 1929 erected a common club house for each organization to use.

On May 31, 1929, L. H. Hurt and J. A. Leverett opened a barer shop in the Carmichael building. Both men had been connected with local barbershops for some time, and were recognized as skilled barbers.

In August 1929, the firm of Robison, Settle & Robison, Inc. built a thoroughly modern ginnery on a lot between First and Second streets facing Walnut Street.

The City Council contracted with a Washington firm in August 1929 to conduct an industrial survey of the city to determine what additional industries could be located to Jackson.

W. T. Burke was named a member of the Jackson Police Force in early September 1929. His position was created when Austin Mills resigned from the force.

The Pepperton School opened for the Fall term in the first week of September 1929 with an enrollment of 108. Eloise Beauchamp was principal with three teachers.

Jackson's tax levy in September 1929 was set at 18 mills, the same as the previous year's rate. The county's tax rate was 22 mills.

On September 26 and 27, 1929, the Lyric Theater in Jackson presented the first Vitaphone talking pictures ever seen in the city. According to the theater's manager, P. P. Stancil, the feature presentation was "Drag" starring Richard Barthelness. Stancil reported a good year for attendance at the movie theater. Conditions are not as bad as painted," he said, "and what this community needs is more boosting and less knocking."

"I went to the silent movies," said Elizabeth O'Neal in 2009. "The first talkie movie I ever saw, I couldn't understand how that film could talk. I always knew if there was a Will Rogers picture on, that we were going to the movies. That was the Dixie Theater. It was next to the [Commercial Building on Mulberry Street]."

Jackson Progress-Argus columnist Vincent Jones remembered going to the Lyric Theater at that time "once or twice a week with parents on a press pass during the Depression's height, there to watch happy-ending movies that lifted the spirits of adults who were enduring almost the unendurable."

"People say the Depression was hard," said Harry Ridgeway in 2009. "Yes, it was hard. But everyone around us was in the same condition. So we weren't any better or any worse than anyone else in the county. But during that time we were never hungry. Most of what we ate was on the farm. In fact, about the only thing that was bought was sugar and coffee. We had cows. We had hogs, chickens, you name it on the farm and that's what we ate. We lived a good life. We didn't argue about things that we didn't want eat. We ate.

"Back in those days, Butts County was a farming community," Ridgeway said. "Cotton and corn were the principal crops they had. We didn't have any tractors, big machinery. We had to plow with a mule, which I begin to do at seven years old."

Quimby Melton, editor of the *Griffin News*, said that in September 1929 the City of Jackson had a good Kiwanis Club that was "active in promoting the city. And when you go to Jackson, don't fail to stop at the house of Mr. & Mrs. Roper, that is if you are a lover of antique furniture. Bill and the Mrs. are collectors of antiques and their home is a paradise for those who love spool beds, highboys and other old-time furniture."

A hurricane swept across Georgia during the first week of October 1929, bringing over six inches of rainfall in a 24-hour period to Butts County. Traffic to and from the resort at Indian Springs was halted as the creek there swelled to a record level.

The Georgia Canners, Inc. Factory opened for the 1929 season on October 7. D. P. Settle, president of the firm, asked all growers to bring their peppers in early. It produced the Stone Mountain brand of pimiento peppers.

On October 24, 1929, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell sharply and continued falling over the following week. In all, investors lost $30 billion that week. The fall is now seen as the beginning of the Great Depression that would last 12 years.

A price of 22 cents per gallon of gasoline, three cents under the prevailing price, was announced in early November 1929 by Buttrill Brothers, well known dealers in Ford cars and automotive products. The firm had recently given up an 18-year connection with the Gulf Refining Company, and installed a 14,000-gallon storage facility to handle gasoline sales.

A demonstration in driving a car while blindfolded was presented in Jackson in the middle of November 1929. Madame Nemar successfully piloted a Model A Ford provided by Buttrill Brothers around the courthouse square several times and into residential areas for several blocks all while blindfolded. At times, she reached speeds of 35 to 40 miles per hour. A large crowd was on hand to watch, and several citizens tested her blindfold for its thoroughness.

A Girl Scout troop was organized in December 1929 at the Woman's Club House by Mrs. J. G. McDonald.

In late December 1929, Jackson got its first snow of any consequence since 1918. The storm knocked out the city's electric system for several hours over the weekend. But by Monday, the Winter wonderland was melting.

1930

In January 1930, the City Council elected the following employees for the coming year: J. A. McMichael, clerk and treasurer; Mrs. W. H. Mallet, tax receiver and collector; J. H. Rooks, superintendent of water and light department; C. T. Thornton, chief of police; W. T. Burke and J. T. McMichael, policemen; and H. M. Fletcher and J. B. Mallet, attorneys.

The State Prison Commission announced at the end of January 1930 that it refused to commute the sentence of Tom King, a Negro from Butts County, convicted of the slaying of county policeman J. E. McNair. Governor Hardman refused to commute the sentence as well. King faced death in the electric chair on March 14, 1930. His execution was postponed pending an order from the Supreme Court.

Seventeen night schools were being operated in the county in January 1930 to wipe out illiteracy in advance of that year's Census.

Work was started on the Jackson golf course near the campground in February 1930. It was completed in early April.

The Pepperton Cotton Mills installed electric lights for streets and residences in Pepperton in March 1930. The power was provided by Butts County's electric plant on the Ocmulgee River.

"We had street lights [in the 1930s], but not the kind we have today. You could see how to get through town," said M. L. Powell with a laugh during an interview in 2008.

"Walking, or running, the one-third mile from home to the downtown picture show on ill-lighted sidewalks, past several blocks of vacant, dark lots, was an experience designed to increase the heart rate," recalled Vincent Jones in a column in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "With all kinds of Frankensteins and Draculas lurking in the shadows, the thought was enough to keep a young boy busy with homework, unless and equally-frightened companion could be found for the treacherous journey."

"When I got into high school [in the 1950s], I knew Ben Garland, whose daddy was an attorney here, and Paul Beckham, whose daddy had the 10-cent store," said Luke Weaver during a 2009 interview. "I stayed with Ben in town one night and Paul came over and we played kick the can out in the street. This was the rich folks I was playing with. Wayne Byars, who was one of my best friends, lived down at the mill village down at Pep. And I got down there and they had lights strung up between house so we had a lighted baseball field in the mill village. And I

said, 'something just ain't right here.' These are supposed to be poor folks, and here we are playing kick the can with the rich folks.

"Pepperton had a city council and a mayor and all this," Weaver continued, "and the time was different down there than it was here. There was a few minutes difference in the time. The deal was it was based on the shift change at the mill. Wayne Byars, his birthday was actually a day off because of the difference in the Jackson time and the mill time."

"There was another difference in our town," said John Settle in 2008. "The people that lived in Pepperton were discriminated against because few of them finished school - of course they did as the war came along - but most of them just took a job in the mill."

"Pepperton was a little mill village," added his wife, Jane Anne Settle, "and you were required back then before World War II to go to school until you graduated or until you turned 14, which might get you through the seventh, maybe the eighth grade. But particularly if you lived in the mill village it meant oh boy you were through and you could go work in the mill and make money."

The Lyric Theater installed new sound equipment in April 1930.

C. E. Steele, principal of Jackson high school, resigned in April 1930 to go to work as head of the schools in Conyers. He was replaced by Professor C. O. Cooper.

The J. B. Mays home on Third Street was damaged by fire in April 1930.

There were 33 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1930 - 26 girls and seven boys.

The Census revealed Jackson had a population of 1,776 in 1930, compared with 2,027 in 1920. The Census Bureau announced that the population of Butts County was 9,345 in 1930 compared with 12,327 in the 1920 Census. The decreases in population were due to the depression and labor exodus. Census data also showed that Butts County's population was 52 percent White and 48 percent Colored. Exact totals were 4,878 Whites and 4,488 Colored.

"During the Depression, my first husband's parents ran a grocery store [on the square where Mesquite Restaurant is on Third Street]," said Elizabeth O'Neal during an interview in 2009. "They were about to go out of business, and so my future mother-in-law brought her stove and refrigerator and her kitchen table and her dining table and all the chairs she could get in and starting using up what groceries they had and turned it into a restaurant. She served three meals a day, and served a meal for 25 cents. It was called the Economy Grocery, and I guess she called it the Economy Cafe after that. Just before the war was over she sold it."

A night of boxing was held at the Jackson Armory on West Third Street on Friday night in June 1930. Paul (Jess) Willard of Jackson fought a man from Macon in the main event, and there were two other bouts and a battle royal on the card.

A whirlwind smashed a large plate glass window at the Jackson Mercantile Exchange on June 26, 1930.

Three houses on First Street were destroyed by fire on the last Saturday morning of June 1930. The houses burned belonged to Annie Williams, William Bailey and Mrs. J. H. Carmichael. There was no water main on First Street, so firefighters were hampered in their efforts to douse the flames.

"The year was 1930 and the Jackson club and its 37 members, eight years of service behind them, were hosts to the Georgia District of Kiwanis International," Vincent Jones wrote in a *Jackson Progress-Argus* column in the 1990s.

"Just a shaver myself at the time, still reaching for teen-hood, I remember Kiwanians from all over the state pouring into the city.

"The Elder and Foy hotels at Indian Springs housed most of the visitors, although many of the hosts opened up their homes to their guests in a display of Jackson hospitality.

"The convention was in session from 10 a.m. Monday until noon on Wednesday. Informal dances were held each evening at the Women's Clubhouse, with the Foy Hotel hosting the governor's ball on Tuesday evening.

"Each convention packet contained tickets for entertainment at various locations: the Lyric Theater in Jackson, Tyler-Dodson-Weaver Bowling and Roquemore's Bowling Alley in Jackson, Hoard's Bowling Alley at Indian Springs, swimming pool and midget golf courses at the Indian Springs Sate Park, and for the Jackson Golf Club, located halfway between the city and the springs.

"Located slightly below Fresh Air Barbecue and across the railroad tracks, the nine-hole course, carved out of pasturelands and pine thickets, was anchored by a modest clubhouse near the opening hole.

"Bordered by a dirt road on the right, the first hole was a perfect target for a duffer's slice. Beyond the road was a swampy area, the graveyard for many a ball.

"The finishing hole was bordered on the right by the railroad right-of-way and an impenetrable tangle of honeysuckle vines and briars.

"Sometime in the mid-1930s, the course was reclaimed again by broom sedge and scraggly pines. For a while, it remained popular as a parking, and sparking, spot for young lovers. One would hope the lovers enjoyed the course more than the golfers."

A bolt of lightning started a fire that destroyed a barn owned by the Pepperton Cotton Mill in the first week of August 1930.

In August 1930, the firm of Robison, Settle & Robison was erecting a 24' by 100' warehouse next to its ginnery on Second Street. The new building stored meal and hulls.

In September 1930, it was announced that convict labor, known as the chain gang, would be discontinued in Butts County. The 10 misdemeanor convicts were turned over to Monroe

County, and the 19 felony convicts were turned over to the state. All equipment, consisting of tractors, road scrapers, machinery, plows, tools and 14 mules, were kept intact. The county commissioners said the county roads would be maintained by tractors and road machinery in the future.

Jackson High School fielded a football team in September 1930 for the first time in several years. Fourteen boys showed up for practice, and games were scheduled against Covington, Gray, Forsyth, Monticello and two other schools. Jackson ended playing Forsyth twice that season, and Forsyth won both games, 13-0 and 14-0.

The City Council set the tax rate at 18 mills in September 1930. Eight of those mills went to support the city schools.

In early October 1930, the West Avenue home of Mrs. W. J. Woodward was swept up in flames. The family lost nearly everything it owned.

In the 1930s and 1940s, "corporal punishment - the right of a teacher or principal to punish a student for misdeeds - had not been taken from those authorized to administer it," wrote Vincent Jones years after he finished school. "The rule was simple, objective and impartially enforced - if you behave yourself, no one will bother you; if you misbehave, you will be punished.

"Students learned that rule early in the educational process," according to Jones. "In the first grade, rebellious students who would not stop talking when asked, threw spit balls or harassed a fellow student would be required to place their hands on the desk, while the teacher administered a few sharp whacks with her ruler. In Winter, when hands were nearly frozen anyway, one whack would make an obedient believer out of the most mischievous student. The embarrassment of being punished in front of the class just as much as the benumbed knuckles so it was a punishment not often administered. Seeing the victim resort to tears had a sobering effect on the entire class and many potential testers of the administration's policy were quickly converted to genial supporters.

"Those who persisted in disorderly conduct were taken from their seats to the principal's office, there to meet a fate that was more speculative than known," he continued. "Whether a spanking, or a warning, was given was a secret that the tight-lipped miscreant often kept to himself. There was a reason for this silence. Students, either beginners or their elderly peers, lived under the threat of a double spanking. If you get spanked at school, you'll get another when you get home was the rule almost universally applied by fathers of the time. And while the first spanking may not hurt much, that second one at home could be a lulu.

"There were two factors that set the tone for effective discipline in those days," Jones wrote," - sternness when it was needed and parental support of whatever corrective action was taken by school authorities."

J. L. Lyons opposed incumbent mayor C. L. Redman, for Mayor on December 23, 1930. Lyons won the election 191 votes to 157 votes.

1931

The Jackson Banking Company closed in January 1931. At the time of its closure, the bank had $108,000 in deposits. Three years later, depositors were paid 37 percent of the deposits they held at the time of the bank's closing.

The Jackson Hatchery, with a 10,000-egg capacity, began its season on February 23, 1931. Custom hatching was performed for the people of Butts County and adjoining counties at a price of $3 per tray of 100 eggs.

In February 1931, President Hoover appointed Miss Bessie Waldrop postmaster of Jackson.

Through the generosity of Mrs. T. B. Smith in March of 1931, a free kindergarten was established at the Jackson public schools.

The stock, furniture and fixtures of the Jackson Mercantile Company, which had recently been foreclosed on, were sold in early March 1931.

A Supreme Court decision granted a new trial to Tom King, a Butts County Negro, who was serving a death sentence for the November 1925 murder of county policeman J. E. McNair.

According to Vincent Jones, students in Miss Eva Compton's seventh grade class had to stay in class until they solved all the arithmetic problems she wrote on her blackboard.

On May 7, 1931, Jackson businesses began observing the half holiday, in which they closed their doors at noon on Wednesdays and reopened on Thursday mornings.

In May 1931, Jackson Mayor J. L. Lyons declared an annual clean up week.

In May 1931, nine boys and 20 girls graduated from Jackson High School. The Valedictorian of the Class of 1931 was Elise Barnes. Elizabeth Finley was named Salutatorian.

The plant and equipment of the Georgia Canner's Inc. was in liquidation and was sold in May 1931 by the Jackson Banking Company. Pomona Products of Griffin purchased the property for $1,550 and planned to operate the plant during the coming season.

In June 1931, the Butts County Board of Tax Equalizers granted a reduction in property assessments of 20 percent for all farm and town land. A petition had circulated requesting a 25 percent decrease. As a result of this move - and the liquidation of banks and shrinkage of stock - the 1931 tax digest showed a $363,538 drop over the previous year's total.

Gas was selling for 13 cents per gallon in Jackson in July 1931.

In July of 1931, the Georgia Public Service Commission voted to grant a franchise for the operation of a bus line from Thomaston to Griffin to Jackson and from Jackson to Atlanta along Highway 42. The E H. Pace Transfer Company was granted the franchise to operate a bus line from Atlanta to Macon along Highway 42. Two round trips were made daily with a 16-passenger bus.

Fire severely damaged the residence of W. H. Merritt on West Third Street in early August 1931. No one was inured by the flames.

In August 1931, G. P. Saunders purchased the two-story brick building adjoining the Jackson National Bank. The building, known as the Carter-Warthen building, fetched $2,500.

O. R. Cooper was principal of the Jackson school when it opened for the year on August 31, 1931. It also marked the first time that tenth and eleventh grade students in the county were given free tuition and transportation to Jackson High School, according to an agreement between the Butts County Board of Education and the Jackson Board of Education. The change meant that 30 or more pupils from junior high schools in the county enrolled at Jackson High. An extra teacher was hired to teach at the school to accommodate the new students.

"During the great depression young teenagers, who had everything but money and never discovered their poverty, found much joy and pleasure in the simple things," wrote Vincent Jones in a newspaper column. "Often the highlights of their association with the opposite sex was an old version of today's mating game known as the Prom Party. Friday nights were favorites for these affairs, usually held at the home of one of the more popular girls.

"Invitations were issued verbally or through notes passed at school," Jones remembered, "and couple paired off by geometric rather than romantic designs, so that the boy would not have to walk too far to escort his date to the prom. When the group had assembled in the parlor, prom cards were passed out to each boy and girl. It was assumed, and considered bad manners if not followed, that each boy would request the first and last prom from his date of the evening. Prom cards were filled out, with the popular girls getting the big rush while the wallflowers watched with hope in their hearts and with cards half-filled.

"Proms usually lasted five minutes," he continued, "long enough to walk hand-in-hand into the shadows of the lawn or sidewalk but not long enough to necessitate a personal chaperone. The ringing of a cowbell signaled the beginning and ending of a prom. It was not considered good taste or decorous behavior to fail to answer the bell's call.

"After the proms had broken the ice and everybody had gotten into the spirit of the evening, the innocent game of Post Office was engaged as a further ice breaker," wrote Jones. "There were many versions of the game, but the most popular one had the Post Master, selected by the group, occupying a chair in the center of the room which became the Post Office. Four or five from the group were selected to be his customers. As they approached the Post Office, they were advised that he was almost out of stamps and had only one left. This he would deliver to one of his customers only if the lights were turned out and all left the room except those who

were seeking stamps. This was done and then the Post Master would deliver his stamp, a kiss, as promised and the others would then return to guess who had purchased the stamp and gotten kissed.

"Many romances developed at these Post Office games," he claimed, "some lasted a lifetime."

"When we were like 10 years old, we had prom parties," remembered Elizabeth O'Neal in 2009. "You'd invite equal number of boys and girls. Katherine Thornton was one of my closest friends. She lived on Covington Street. Her daddy was the only funeral director in town and he had a furniture store where Brown's is, and upstairs he had caskets and an embalming room. She was always having a prom party. You'd give out prom cards, and the boys would go ask the girls for a prom and you'd walk up and down the street and they'd have chaperones sitting out you'd just walk and hold hands and they'd ring a bell when the prom was over and you'd go to the next prom."

"I remember when I was growing up, boys and girls my brother's age would have prom parties," recalled John Settle in 2008. "But he wouldn't go. So they invited me because they needed another boy. And I went to numerous prom parties with people like Erma King and Bitsy Redman -"

"Oh my goodness, they were four or five years older than you were," interjected Jane Anne Settle.

"I know it," continued John. "And I just walked along like I knew what I was doing. You'd have a little card and the girls would write down on that card all the boys' names and you had to go by those numbers. That was the purpose of having the prom party: everybody got to get together for a few minutes. One night we were at Olga Hammond's, Dr. Hammond's daughter, down at the corner of Covington Street and Third Street, and there was an automobile in the front and four of us got in the automobile. I was just sitting there like a regular person, and I don't know what they did. Didn't drive anywhere.

"Catherine Thornton was one of the few young people who had her own car," Settle continued. "It was a Model T and it had an air horn on it. And she would come to see my sister and she would turn at the old Baptist Church and come down Dempsey Avenue and as soon as she would turn she would start laying on that horn and would blow it all the way down the street."

In August 1931, Snow's Laundry & Dry Cleaning Company of Macon arranged for its truck to visit Jackson daily with the goal of returning cleaned laundry the day after it was picked up.

Twenty boys reported to Coach Cooper at the start of Jackson High School's football season in September 1931. "The vacancies left by Max Redman, Park Newton and Harry Bob Butner will be hard to fill as there are only six veterans returning," according to Doyle Jones, Jr. in a *Jackson Progress-Argus* article at the time.

"Where the football field is now, the county had bought from part of a farm where they raised cotton," said Harry Ridgeway, who played football there in the early 1930s. "When we had a time out, we picked up rocks and cotton stalks."

Gas was selling for 20 cents a gallon in September 1931.

In September 1931, the City Council voted for a 20 percent reduction in the value of real estate in the city, saving taxpayers $3,081 for the year. Real estate in the city was assessed at $856,090.

The Lyric Theater received a larger screen in late September 1931 just time to show "A Connecticut Yankee" starring Will Rogers.

Grading began in September 1931 on the Jackson-to-Jenkinsburg link of Highway 42.

A spectacular fire swept through the Standard Oil Company service station on a Saturday afternoon at the end of September 1931, killing W. H. Smith, a truck driver for Settle & Robison. The explosion that started the fire launched a cap from a tank car that was being unloaded a half mile into a cotton field where the National Guard Armory now stands on Franklin Street.

The flames also destroyed the H. F. Gilmore lumber mill and three homes owned by Mrs. Ida Hendrick. The entire northeast section of Jackson was threatened until the Jackson Fire Department, assisted by the Griffin Fire Department, saved adjacent property.

Negro schools in Butts County - 16 in number - opened for the Fall term on October 29, 1931.

At the end of October 1931, Highway 16 from Griffin to Jackson was opened to traffic following construction in which 10 miles of the road - from Griffin to the Butts County line - had been paved.

In early November 1931, the State Banking Department sold the Jackson Banking Property on the corner of Second and Oak streets to a McDonough man for $5,500. The property consisted of the post office, the old baking quarters and offices in the rear of the bank on Oak Street.

In the final game of the 1931 football season, Jackson was walloped by Griffin by a score of 62-0.

During the first week of December 1931, visibility around Jackson was limited to just a few feet as fog and smoke from an enormous forest fire in middle Georgia combined to blanket the city in a grey cloud.

1932

In January 1932, H. F. Gilmore, G. F. Gilmore and others brought a lawsuit against the Standard Oil Company for $50,000 in damages in connection with the fire and explosion at the Standard Oil Company plant in Jackson on September 19, 1931. In addition, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, mother of William Henry Smith who was killed in that explosion, entered her own lawsuit against Standard Oil Company for $50,000.

Early in 1932, the Georgia Supreme Court affirmed an earlier decision in a lower court on the case of Tom King, a Butts County Negro, convicted of killing county policeman J. E. McNair on November 23, 1925. In August 1932, King was sentenced by Judge Ogden Persons to be electrocuted for the crime.

In February 1932, the Larkin D. Watson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy secured permission from the Butts County Commissioners to plant a tree on the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn in memory of George Washington, whose bicentennial was celebrated throughout the country at that time. The tree was unveiled and dedicated on February 22. Later, two other trees were donated to balance the planting.

In early March 1932, Mary Smith and Roslyn Redman represented the music department of the Jackson public schools in a radio broadcast over WMAZ.

March 6, 1932 was the last day that the Jackson cold storage plant received meat for curing. Plant officials reported that 45,000 pounds of meat were handled during the season.

"When I was in fifth grade, the Iron Springs School burned," recalled Elizabeth O'Neal, who lived on Jackson Lake at the time of the fire. "My Daddy wanted me to come to town to school, so he bought a second car. There was a boy in the tenth grade that didn't live too far from us, but he walked to our house everyday and drove my little brother and I to school. We had to pay tuition to come. Jackson was an independent school system, and children when they came if they didn't live in the city they had to pay tuition. I went into the sixth grade, and that boy drove us when I was in the sixth and seventh grades and then he graduated. And there was nobody to drive us to school, but you didn't have to have a driver's license so my Daddy bought a Model A coupe with just one seat. So I started driving to school in town when I was 12 years old. And I drove that Model A all through high school.

"The roads [between my house and school] were dusty in fair weather and muddy and ruts in the bad weather," said O'Neal. "I had to have chains on the tires in the Winter. If I got stuck, I knew how to jack that car up and take the wheel off and put on the spare. If I got stuck, it was not developed along any route to town. People had big farms and there were trees close to the road. Sometimes I'd get out and chop some limbs off a tree and put them down into the ruts and mash it to the floor and get unstuck. I had to learn to be quite independent.

"I made a lot of friends with the town kids," she said, "and would spend the night with them in town quite often. And they loved to come out to visit me on the lake because back then

there was no development on the lake. And we always had a boat and a boat dock. My Daddy had the first privately-owned boat on the lake."

An election was held on June 8, 1932 to allow Jackson voters to decide whether or not the city school system should merge with the county's. The idea was rejected by a vote of 115 to 54.

There were 34 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1932.

According to state figures, there were 859 passenger cars and 80 trucks registered in Butts County in 1932.

The City Council voted in July 1932 to absorb a new tax on electricity, estimated to cost $300 per year.

The price of a gallon of gas in Jackson in the Summer of 1932 was 23 cents, up two cents from the Winter months.

"It was another day in the newsless days of the Great Depression," Vincent Jones wrote in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, "a sameness brought on by forlorn but oft-expressed hopes for better times, that desultory afternoon of August 12, 1932 when the news broke like a thunderclap that a great discovery had been made at Indian Springs.

"Workmen cleaning off a lot had uncovered the bodies of a woman and child, believed to be Indian mummies, and the scientific world was sent into a dither by the news," Jones wrote. "Excavated from a shallow grave not far from the paved highway, on a tract originally known as Elder's peach orchard, the bodies were said to be in a perfect state of preservation. The body of the woman was described as being four feet and four inches, with that of the infant, believed to be two or three years old, lying across her torso.

"On Sunday following the Friday discovery," Jones continued, "an estimated 15,000 people overflowed Indian Springs to get a glimpse of the bodies. Displayed in a glass covered box, the bodies were viewed by thousands who paid 10 cents for the privilege. Fascinated by the find, the state and national press made headline stories of the discovery at Indian Springs and, for a while, the quiet little spa became the cynosure of all eyes. [An estimated 40,000 traveled to Indian Springs to see the alleged mummies.] Scientists and archeologists from across the nation, and the world, found their way to the site to view the bodies and speculate on their origins.

"Forgotten temporarily in the excitement of the moment was the agony of economic malaise that had settled across the land," wrote Jones, "with one-fourth of all men unemployed and millions under-employed, with no minimum wage, at rates astronomically low.

"Further mystery was added to the enigma when, on Tuesday night following their discovery, the bodies of the mummies disappeared from the basement of the hotel in which they were displayed," he continued. "Sheriff Walter D. Pope discovered Wednesday morning that someone had entered the room in which the bodies were kept by breaking a window, had broken the glass covering them and stolen the bodies.

"The authenticity of the find was in question for many weeks afterwards," recalled Jones, "with the mummies alternately disappearing and reappearing while the public's curiosity reached a fever peak and thousands more came to Indian Springs to observe first hand this great discovery. Modern science finally solved the puzzle, however, as an x-ray machine revealed nails that had been used to hold together the lifelike material that had artfully been sculpted into human form. But for a few weeks the excitement had quieted talk of impoverishment, and the movie headliners at the Lyric Theater, such as Will Rogers, Charles Farrell, Janet Gaynor and Spencer Tracy, found themselves upstaged by a Butts County world premiere uniquely its own."

The principal of Jackson High School when classes began in September 1932 was J. P. Etheridge, Jr. Elizabeth Thompson and Miss Julia Botlin were named teachers at the school.

In September 1932, the city imposed a tax levy of 16 mills. The county's tax levy was 18.4 mills.

Veterans of the Spanish-American, Civil and World War met in Jackson in October 1932 to form an association. W. W. Carr was named president.

In early November 1932, G. H. Mathewson and Herbert Moore opened a garage in the Carmichael Buggy Company building.

The fourteenth Armistice Day was observed in Jackson in November 1932 with a sham battle, barbecue and address by Senator Thomas Heflin.

In December 1932, Jackson public schools closed early for the Christmas holidays due to an epidemic of influenza.

In the December 1932 election, J. L. Lyons was elected Mayor of Jackson over W. M. Redman by a vote of 175 to 126.

1933

At the beginning of 1933, county police work was discontinued.

Bus fare from Jackson to Macon or Atlanta was reduced from $1.80 to $1.00 in January 1933.

In January 1933, Tom King, a Butts County Negro under a death sentence for the killing of a policeman in November 1925, had his sentence commuted to life in prison by Governor R. B. Russell, who left soon after to become a member of the United States Senate.

The Deraney Department Store announced plans to expand in early February 1933. The Mays building was to be occupied by a general department store and a 10-cent store.

In February 1933, the Jackson Board of Education set salaries for its employees as follows: superintendent, $1,500 per year; principal, $810 per year; high school teachers, $70 per month; and grammar school teachers, $60 per month. These amounts were reductions for all, but were made necessary in order for the city to pay the school employees promptly.

In March 1933, the Jackson National Bank opened for restricted business, and was able to accept new deposits after a federally enforced holiday the President Franklin Roosevelt imposed on all banks that month. Jackson National and the Farmers Bank in Jenkinsburg were the only banks in the county allowed to open.

"It was quite an experience if you were going to Jackson National Bank to borrow money," recalled Luke Weaver during a 2009 interview. "There was only one bank in town and you had to put up your wife and children as collateral."

In later years, Weaver heard the following story: "There was an old Black guy named Isaiah Roddy, and Bill Garr was the head loan officer at the time. Everybody borrowed money in the Spring to plant the crops and in the Fall they'd go back and pay it back. So Isaiah, who was a good old man, went in one day to borrow money from Mr. Garr to get some cotton poison 'cause the boll weevils were eating his cotton up. And Mr. Garr got his book out and looked at his notes and everything, and he said, 'Well Isaiah, we got about all in this we want to put in it.' And Isaiah said, 'Yes sir, well I sure do appreciate it.' And he turned and started on his way out, and Mr. Garr said, 'Well, Isaiah, you don't seem disappointed.' And he said, 'Well, no sir, you got more in it than I have'."

"The land, you know, it's sort of like Scarlett O'Hara," explained Jane Anne Settle in 2008. "The land was built in to us. If you cross the railroad tracks on Covington Street, the Mallets owned both sides of that for quite a way. They raised more than just cotton. My father was particularly interested in experimenting in what would grow where. He owned very little land that was just his own. Originally, it was all Mallet property, but after my grandmother died it was divided up among her estate. Daddy did have just a little acreage down on what he called 'bottom land,' because it was very rich by a creek. And he would experiment with planting stuff down there.

"I have a letter my mother wrote to her sister in St. Louis in the 1930s. She said 'of course we need everything,' but then she went on to say what we were doing: 'playing outside, going down to Indian Springs. We need things, but life is good.' Then she said 'cotton is so cheap that Hugh [Mallet] won't sell last year's cotton because it won't bring what it cost to produce.' You had all these Black tenants that farmed the land, and even though it was really costing more to raise cotton than you could get for it - because it's about as labor-intensive as you can get. 'Hugh has made more money on this carrot patch that he has on his patch of land than cotton has brought.' I remember those carrots because we had carrots everyday, and she sent her sister recipes for carrots.

"When my sister, Mary, was in the first grade," Settle continued, "Miss Annie Lou McCord, who was the first grade teacher forever, wanted to us to fill out all these little card with

information like ‘what is your father’s occupation’ and all this. So Mary came home and she came home and asked what should she tell her teacher that her daddy was. And daddy told Mary to tell Miss Annie Lou that he was an agriculturist, and you spell that F-A-R-M-E-R. And I assume that’s what she put.

“But when times were so bad in the 1930s you couldn’t just stop growing cotton,” said Settle. “For one thing, you were responsible for those tenants who had families and where were they going? The great trek north for many Black people did begin after World War I, but the vast majority of them in Butts County were tenant families.

“John Head’s grandfather was one of a very few that actually owned his own land,” she said. “His mother was not only intelligent, she was responsible for so many things.”

Rates to ride the Southern Railway System were down in March 1933. The cost of a roundtrip ride from Jackson to Atlanta was 95 cents. A round trip ticket to Washington, D. C. was $13.70, and to New York City was $21.85.

Joe. F. Watkins, the first Butts County soldier to be wounded in World War I, was notified in February 1933 that he was to receive the Order of the Purple Heart. Clarence Moss of Indian Springs and George H. Norris also received a Purple Heart for their service in France in that war.

Bernard O’Neal, a salesman for Paul Tyler & Company, was bitten by a tarantula hidden in a box of bananas in April 1933.

On May 7, 1933, a powerful hail storm destroyed crops across middle Georgia including Butts County. The hardest hit area was west of the city, where roofs were torn off houses and hail stones the size of hen eggs were reported.

The Mimosa Garden Club was organized at the Hotel Buchanan in early May 1933 with 17 charter members.

On May 7, 1933, a hail and wind storm swept through central Georgia damaging crops from Milledgeville to Newnan. Many roofs were damaged beyond repair. The Red Cross mobilized to help Butts County families whose homes and crops were damaged by the massive storm.

In May 1933, grading of Highway 16 from Jackson to the Ocmulgee River was nearing completion.

Fifty-six members of the Jackson High School Class of 1933 received diplomas on May 26. It was the largest graduating class in the school’s history.

Following graduation and in the midst of the Great Depression, Maurice Carmichael went to work for Settle & Robison earning $1 a day for working from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturdays. “This was a reasonably good job for the

times," said Carmichael in a 1991 interview. "I really got my master's degree in business from T. E. Robison and D. P. Settle."

The title of Miss Butts County was awarded to Mary Carmichael of Jackson in early June 1933. There were 38 contestants and out-of-town judges for the pageant, which was held in the Jackson High School auditorium.

A fire of undetermined origin in June 1933 destroyed the buildings of the old Jackson Lumber Yard near the railroad depot.

"I remember my daddy talking about seeing them bring logs to town and loading them on a flat car with horses," recalled Luke Weaver when asked about the railroad depot during an interview in 2009. "They had a team of horses and they'd hook those logs and load them off the ground onto those box cars. I never saw it, but I'd loved to have seen it."

In June of 1933, the Pepperton Cotton Mill granted a 20 percent increase in wages. The facility was operating day and night shifts at the time.

Jackson was without a movie theater for many months in 1933 when Charlie Deraney bought the building that housed the former Lyric Theater. He opened a new theater on July 1, 1933.

The tax value of property in Butts County in 1933 was $1,461,605, a decrease of $57,424 over the previous year's figure. The county also reported five doctors, six lawyers, three dentists and one veterinarian.

"We had Dr. Woods and Dr. Hammond and Dr. Aikens, who lived at Jenkinsburg," recalled Mary Lee Martin in 2009. "They came to the homes. Dr. Woods and Dr. Aikens were earlier."

"Dr. Hammond even came to your house when I was little," said Mary Ruth Watson, who grew up in the 1950s. "He had a bag and he had pills in it, and he'd count you out so many pills and leave them with you. I remember when he came to see when my great grandmother was sick at my grandmother's house out there on the farm. It was late in the afternoon and it must have been cold because he had on a really big coat.

"And there was a chair right by the door and he told me to stand up in the chair and help him get his coat off, that that's what I needed to do because he was the doctor," said Watson. "And he went in and then came back out and he had a little brown envelope and he counted out so many pills and gave them to my grandmother and told her when for her to take them. And I stood back on the chair and helped him put his coat back on. Got his bag and handed it to him."

"Doctor Hammond was the doctor that delivered me. I was born on August 31, 1941.

"Doctors charged $3 for a home visit but were called in for only the most serious matters," according to Vincent Jones' remembrances of medical care in the 1930s, "such as child birth

(always at home), severe and chronic pain, broken bones, bad infections, extremely high fevers, etc. Most children reached adulthood without seeing the doctor make a house call to a sick family member more than three or four times. People then wanted the doctor to visit the patient, not the patient to visit the doctor, as many feared exposure to other diseases in the doctor's office. In many case, the doctor was limited as to what he could do. Often, his main role was to make the patient feel better rather than heal better.

"Mother was the chief physician in most families," Jones wrote in a column in the Jackson Progress-Argus. "She knew how to deal with may common ailments and how to practice preventative medicine. But she was powerless, as were the doctors, to slow the ravages of diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, pneumonia, infantile paralysis, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases that filled our older cemeteries with thousands of markers telling the story of short lives lost before the era of modern medicine.

"It was mother who knew that a deep cut from a broken soda bottle in a cow pasture should be soaked for several days in hot Lysol water to prevent infection," Jones recalled. "Mother prescribed castor oil when a persistent cough and cold stubbornly refused to leave. Taken in a warmed tablespoon to aid its passage down the throat, it was a dose to frighten even the most ornery cold germ. Tried in a Coke, where the oil swam on top, it was a concoction that frightened both the germ and the patient.

"In deep Winter, when bad colds were at their worst," continued Jones, "the prescription was a flannel rag worn around the neck, under the clothing, day and night until the cold broke. Soaked in turpentine, kerosene, Vicks rub, Penetro and assorted ointments, the smelly and scratchy cure was worn with embarrassment to school and great was the day when the announcement was made that it could come off."

Crops across Butts County were suffering, if not failing, in August 1933 because there had been little to no rain since the hail storm in early May.

In August 1933, W. E. Mann of Young Harris was named principal of the Jackson High School.

The Fall term of Jackson schools began on September 4, 1933. All senior high school pupils in the county attended Jackson High School, officially designated the county senior high school.

"Billy Redman was my age and we started in the first grade together," said Jane Anne Settle in 2008. "We started to school in September after they finished building the Redman's house [which is the Fears law firm office on East Third Street], and I remember scuffing up a pair of new leather patent shoes playing with him on a pile of brick for the foundation. That was the first house I remember being built. See that was the 1930s and nothing was being built. That house was built and the house on the corner that was Dr. Hammond's house. Those for years were the only two new houses.

"Covington Street wasn't paved. But on our side of the street there was a sidewalk," Settle explained. "There wasn't a school bus, and unless it was raining or something you walked to school. Everybody walked."

"And the Covington Street extension [south of Third Street] had not yet been built," added John Settle," so there was no way for people to cut through for people coming from the east. They had to go by Jane Anne's house."

"In fact," said Jane Anne, "when my youngest sister was born at home, my brother who was three at the time was very excited. I can remember it. My father told us bigger children that we had something really special. And we went upstairs and there was mother and my youngest sister, Marcia. And my brother thought it was just marvelous. That house has a balcony, and Hugh went out on the balcony - and see people were going to school - and he was able to announce it: 'come see what we've got! Come see our teeny weeny!' And several people - including some teachers who were also walking to school - did. They had an invitation. Jackson was so little, it was close knit."

"I was [living]out about where the Stark Elementary School is [on Stark Road], in a house back of there," said Mary Lee Martin during a 2009 interview. "That's where I grew up. And I walked from out there to where the library is [on College Street] to school. Anybody that lived outside of the city had to pay Jackson to go to school until the tenth and eleventh grade, which was free. That was the only high school. Where I lived I could have ridden a bus and gone out Highway 36 where those old chicken houses are. That's where I would have had to go to school. And I could walk from [home] to town, didn't have to leave near as early or near as late 'cause I could walk fast."

"During the mid-30s, there were only three or four parked cars in front of the old Jackson Public School, across College Street from the Hawkes Library," wrote Vincent Jones in his newspaper column, The Last Straw. "The Mallet home, which had built an enviable reputation for turning out beautiful, talented daughters and for housing school administrators, was one of the choice repositories of itinerate teachers. The Buchanan Hotel was another, both affording the advantage of a short walk to the classroom.

"Other teachers roomed with kinfolk or friends whose homes were conveniently located within Tom and Jerry (your own two feet, or walking) distance of the school," he continued. "For nearly 50 years, Annie Lou McCord walked the four or five blocks from her Benton Street home to her first grade classroom.

"Walks to school were once fun, too, whether in Winter's bitter wind or Spring's flowering rapture," Jones wrote. "It was on such strolls that romance often budded, never-dying friendships were forged and help could be sought and found for tomorrow's assignments. Tops were extracted from bottomless pockets and sent spinning into April's golden earth, date lists were made for Friday night's prom party and the meanness and kindness of various faculty members were studiously weighed."

"It was unheard of for a student to have a car, if indeed it was not illegal. In the '20s, a stable was maintained behind the auditorium to the rear of the school building. There, horses and

ponies were stabled during school hours and buggies awaited the sound of the last bell before making their return journey."

"There were from time to time little private kindergartens started in Jackson," said Jane Anne Settle. "There was no kindergarten in the public schools. Now my sister, Mary, she started school when she was just five years old. And she did that because Miss Annie Lou McCord, the first grade teacher, would walk by our house everyday and saw Mary playing in the yard. And she told my mother that Mary was plenty big to start school, and besides that she wanted another person in the first grade because that would make the class be 12."

"We had to take our lunch then," said Mary Lee Martin. "Didn't have a lunchroom. We didn't have that many students. In fact, that one building was for grades one through eleven. That one building was where the library is now, and the gym was also on that property. And we had basketball. I don't recall football. That was not my thing. But we had a good basketball team, and I played guard. You played on your end of the court. You didn't run all over the court like they do now. You didn't go from one end to the other. Monticello was our rival back then, definitely. If we beat Monticello, we were all right.

In September 1933, J. W. Carter and Rufus Sasnett opened a Plymouth car dealership in the building on the square on North Mulberry Street that would later be occupied by Coleman's Garage.

The old Jackson Banking Company building was turned over the the Jackson Post Office in September 1933 to afford larger quarters.

In September 1933, Dr. Roy B. Mowry, a chiropractor from Atlanta, opened an office in the Mays building in Jackson, and saw patients three days a week.

The Pepperton baseball team finished a successful season in late September 1933. It defeated several strong teams including Griffin and Milstead.

A boxing match between two men from the Jackson Civilian Conservation Corps camp was held at the armory in early October 1933. Five other matches were also scheduled, and the string band from the CCC camp also performed.

The Jackson National Bank was to reopen in October 1933 after several days of being closed under President Franklin Roosevelt's "banking holiday." The bank had been reorganized and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation had purchased $25,000 in bank stock.

The Jackson Woman's Club announced in October 1933 that the nandina had been chosen as the city flower.

The USS Macon, a 785-foot-long dirigible complete with two winged airplanes in its undercarriage, passed over Jackson one afternoon in October 1933.

Prices at the Rogers Store in October 1933 included a can of tomato soup for five cents, a pound of cheese for 15 cents and a pound of coffee for 20 cents.

In October 1933, an oak porch swing complete with chains was available for $1.98 at the Etheridge-Smith Company.

A person could ride anywhere on the Southern Railway System for one cent per mile in October 1933.

On a boxing card at the armory at the end of October 1933 was Buddy Pruitt, champion of the CCC camp, against Teeter Turner. Pruitt won the bout on a referee's decision. He was then challenged by Paul Willard.

In late October 1933, a shipment of 2,300 pounds of government meat was received by the Butts County Relief Committee. The meat became available when the government ordered four million head of hogs be killed to deal with over-production, and the meat was to be distributed to those on relief work.

Jackson High School's basketball season opened in early November 1933. The girls' team won its first game in Forsyth by a score of 16-5, while the boys' team lost to Forsyth 23-7. The teams played on an outdoor court in Jackson.

An employment office, run by the Civil Works Administration, opened in Jackson in December 1933.

George Campbell, who purchased the Lyric Theater after it burned in early 1933, announced a new theater would open in the middle December 1933. The opening of the Princess Theater was held on December 11, 1933. The Princess was later bought by H. Deraney, who operated it for two years. Deraney had sold Campbell the old Lyric Theater in November 1933.

Candidates for mayor of Jackson in December 1933 were P. H. Weaver and J. L. Lyons. Councilmen were T. A. Nutt, A. C. Finley, J. B. Settle, and H. M. Moore.

The Jackson National Bank reopened in late December 1933. It operated as "The Jackson National Bank" on March 4, 1933, but reopened as "Jackson National Bank." All depositors were paid in full, and no one lost a cent.

1934

In February 1934, the City Council began enforcing an ordinance against keeping places of business open on Sundays.

C. C. Jinks was elected chief of police by the City Council and C. H. Thonrton was named policeman in February 1934.

In late January 1934, Buddy Pruitt, the pride of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, fought Van Smith in the main event of a night of boxing at the Jackson Armory on West Third Street.

On February 1, 1934, Joe Morris and E. W. Standard opened a new grocery store and meat market on the west side of the courthouse square in the building formerly occupied by the Jackson Banking Company. Both men had been employed at local grocers for many years.

The City Council voted in February to enforce an ordinance against keeping a place of business open on Sunday. The law had been adopted several years earlier, but after numerous complaints about business being conducted on the Sabbath, the Council took action to strictly enforce the law.

On February 10, 1934, Allen's "Hom-ond" Foot Store opened on Second Street. Homer L. Allen was the store's owner.

Snow and sleet hit Jackson on February 10, 1934. Temperatures dropped to 13 degrees, but was soon replaced by warm weather. Several minor injuries were reported as a result of people slipping on ice.

In February 1934, the basketball team from Jackson High School was set to play the team from Spalding High in the Fourth District Tournament.

G. P. Saunders acquired the Tyler Building on the corner of Oak and Second streets in early March 1934 for a price of $1,700. Paul Tyler & Company continued to occupy the building.

"There was a man named Paul Tyler that had a grocery on the corner where Deraney's is [on Second Street]," recalled Elizabeth O'Neal during an interview in 2009. "We usually came into town and bought stuff there. And I remember before the war, if you came in and bought a chicken - well, Mr. Tyler kept a crate in the alley back behind his store, and people out in the country would bring in chickens and trade them for coffee and sugar and things, and he always had some live chickens, but there was no such thing as ordering a dressed chicken - so he'd tie the chicken's legs together with string and put it in a paper sack and cut a hole for the chicken's head to poke out. And you had to take it home and wring the chicken's neck and have a pot of boiling water going to put it in and loosen the feathers and pick them and cut it open and get the organs out and then cut up the chicken. With my mother dying young, I had to do a lot of the cooking. My father taught me how to dress a chicken when I was about 15 years old, I guess."

"The first grocery store that I remember was on Second Street right along where Robisons' is now," said Mary Lee Martin. "And the first meat market that I remember was [Paul] Tyler's meat market where Deraney's store is now on that corner [the northeast corner of Second and Oak streets]. The meat market had all the meats and canned fruit and vegetables. The meat market had a counter, and all the meat was in back."

In the 1930s, Butts County received approximately one-half of its income for taxes on corporations including the Georgia Power Company, Southern Railway, Western Union, Southeastern Express Company and the Southern Bell Telephone Company.

Pepperton had a baseball team, and in March 1934 it joined the Textile League, which featured teams from throughout central Georgia. The season was 20-games-long, and games were played on Saturday afternoons.

Van Smith of Jackson defeated Buddy Pruitt of the CCC Camp in a boxing match at the armory in early March 1934. He went on to defeat Battling Owens of Griffin in a match in late March 1934. Smith won by technical knockout midway through the first round.

In April 1934, M. L. Powell came to Jackson as the new County Extension Agent to replace B. M. Drake.

Powell finished at the University of Georgia the previous year. "That was during the Depression and there were no jobs," he said during an interview in 2008. "Everyone wanted a job, but there were no jobs. All the county agents were older people. I hoped to be a county agent someday, but I was only 25. There was a vacancy in Butts County and I got the job. Been here ever since."

"Agriculture was very important because the majority of the people were farmers and had very little," said M. L. Powell in 2008. "Everybody was raising cotton when I came to Butts County. Most of the farmers had little tenant houses on their farms. So they got to producing so much cotton trying to make a living that they overdid it. Cotton got so cheap they couldn't pay for it. Franklin Roosevelt was elected president and he started the Farm Program where they had to plow up some of their cotton. Mad, farmers were mad being told they got to plow up so many acres. They were mad at the county agent. They thought the county agent was responsible for it.

"I wasn't here," Powell continued, "but they thought he was responsible for it. About a month after I came to Jackson, he had a stack of applications this big from farmers to plow up their cotton. He hadn't signed them, and I signed every one of them. Got them off to Washington. In about two weeks, here come their checks - $51 an acre, I believe it was to plow it up. Happiest folks you ever saw. They thought I was on the ball - 'he's only been here two weeks and we got our checks'. I got the credit I didn't deserve."

"They started raising less cotton and prices came up a bit so they got more for their cotton and were able to buy a few more things," Powell said. "All the farmers still had gardens, though,

plenty to eat. Making 16 cents an hour on an eight-hour day you can see how much money they had and they had to live on that, buy clothes and groceries. But we made it.

"Saturday was a big day in town," said M. L. Powell in 2008. "All the farmers worked during the week. Sometimes during the week we wouldn't see anybody in town. I don't know how merchants lived."

"Saturday used to be the day you went to town," said Jane Anne Settle in 2008. "Now it's the really slow day. But the people from the county would come in in various things."

"The whole area across the street [from what is now Buddy's on the Corner] was vacant all the way down to the next paved street," said John Settle. "And that would fill up with wagons and mules. And of course around the square there was a watering tank for a number of years."

"Paul Tyler had a grocery and meat store. And the Allens had their store on the square and then moved off the square, and it had good meats of all kinds," recalled Janne Anne Settle. "I remember that on Saturdays my brother and sister and I would go to the picture show. It took 33 cents for all of us to go 'cause it was a dime and a penny. We would go right after lunch and you could see a cowboy picture and some kind of B picture and a serial and a cartoon. In other words, you could spend the afternoon there. That was quite something. Sometimes we would get our money - in the Fall in particular - we could get paid to pick cotton. It didn't take long to pick a dime's worth. And if we had a little more money, then we'd go next door to Roger's Grocery for candy - and this was the only store that had any affiliation outside the of the county - to Roger's. The movie was right on the square where Brown's is. Roger's became a Colonial store, but it was a locally owned franchise.

"There were two shoe repair men on the square," continued Jane Anne. "The dry cleaning place was off the square. There were several dress shops that were local, and a little millinery shop that didn't have anything but hats in the back of the Commercial Building. The Busy Corner was just a dress shop [on the corner of the intersection of Second and Oak streets]. There were a couple of hardware stores and drug stores.

"Newton Hardware was in the building [on the northeastern corner of the intersection of Third and Mulberry streets], and was where the Buttrill brothers formerly had a Buick dealership," she recalled. "That was also where Adams-Briscoe got started. At one time, Maurice Carmichael and his brother had a feed and seed. Dr. Wood's office was in the Commercial Building. You went in on the side. The dentist was back there, too. There was another dentist, Dr. Strickland, also on the square. And they were almost all locally owned."

"Dr. Strickland was the dentist," said Mary Lee Martin in 2008, "and his office was upstairs over where Frankie Willis has just remodeled [the old Western Auto building on the northeast corner of the intersection of Third and Mulberry streets]. I did have to go see him. It was horrible. Then Dr. Harrison came later."

"In 1934, the post office was over where the [Butts County] Water Authority is now [on the corner of Oak and Second streets]," said M. L. Powell, recalling the downtown square. "We had some lawyers. Charlie Redman was lawyer. Bill Watkins was a lawyer. They were all old.

"Dr. Howell lived right across the street from me on West Third Street," said Powell. "Dr. Hammond lived in a house on the corner. We had a colored doctor. But we didn't have too many doctors. Didn't need too many. People didn't get sick. All the farmers working on the farms had planted gardens and didn't go to the doctor too much. The county nurse was a Mrs. Ham. He was a good one, too. I don't even think she had an office. Her husband was a barber, B. W. Ham."

"Third Street was a pretty, pretty street back then," said Jane Anne Settle. "Big oaks and elms met over the street. And where all these ugly fast foods are now was completely residential. The houses were all different and well kept and all of them had front porches. If you were a housewife it was your job to get your housework done in the mornings, and then in the afternoons you did something pleasant including visiting with your neighbors on the front porch. You also did that after supper in the Summer time. Everybody was pretty well connected.

"They were too late making any zoning rules because there wasn't really any excuse for Third Street becoming as ugly as it is," she said in 2008. "It used to be a really pretty street. And it is ugly now. I refer to all the development of Third Street as the uglification of Third Street. It's really ugly. That's the best you can say about it. It was a beautiful town. And it still is, but you've got to go look for it.

"But I guess I have to take some responsibility for it," admitted Jane Anne, "or my mother has to because my grandmother owned that whole block where the [Methodist] church property ends to Covington Street and on the other side then beyond where the Covington Street extension was built. She owned that. And that was not sold until after her death in 1948. Grandmother had seven children and there was no way to divide it except to sell it. My mother was the only one interested in the land and took her part in land. Then she sold the property where the Burger King is now. She was told that a house was going to built there, but that didn't happen. And for a while it was a used car lot. That was really bad. And then mother sold where the Moelchert house was on the corner and some across Covington Street extension down to where Robert and Liz Carmichael Jones live. But it was very useful because my mother, who was left a widow at age 42, had five children between five and 15 years of age and managed to have all five of us graduate from college and also earn a graduate degree before she died."

A cannon secured from the government by the American Legion arrived at the courthouse in early April 1934. It was placed on the southwest corner of the square.

In May 1934, the 41 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1934 graduated. David Estes was named Valedictorian of the class. Ruby Mae Cooper was named Salutatorian.

"Bob Lyons," a 27-year-old horse owned by J. L. Lyons of the Southeastern Express Company in Jackson, died. The horse had pulled the express wagon through the streets of Jackson for 19 years.

Barnes Radio Sales and Service opened on the north side of the square in May 1934. Owners W. H. Barnes and J. S. Barnes sold the Grunow line of radios and refrigerators.

In June 1934, Greyhound buses began serving Jackson twice a day making trips to Atlanta and Macon on Highway 42. The city was still served by Pace Bus Line as well.

In early July 1934, W. E. Mann resigned as principal of Jackson High School.

Under the auspices of the Kiwanis Club, a Scout troop was organized in jackson in July 1934. The troop, Troop #19, met every Tuesday night in the Jackson armory.

On a Tuesday afternoon in the middle of July 1934, a filling station at Land's Crossing (Covington Street) operated by Willis Duke was destroyed by fire. It was believed the fire began with a air compressor.

J. L. Hutchinson of Newnan acquired the Princess Theater in Jackson from George Campbell and P. G. George in late July 1934.

As August 1934 began, the Jackson plant of Pomona Products Company began canning pimiento peppers. Farmers in Butts County were growing 600 acres of pimientos on contract with the firm.

A fire gutted the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Mote Watts on Covington Street in the middle of August 1934. The family was away when the blaze began, and lost all the contents of their home.

"In the 1930s there was no pavement, only a little strip of pavement on Highway 36 through the square," M. L. Powell said during a 2008 interview. "That was the only pavement in Butts County. All the roads were rough, muddy, or dry and dusty. The road to Atlanta wasn't paved. The road to Macon wasn't paved."

"Back in 1933 and 1934, the government used to pay the farmers to work on the roads," he added. "We had no money. Lot of us you'd think they were starving, but they were in bad shape. They got paid 16 cents an hour to work on roads. It made them a living 'cause everything was cheap."

In August 1934, work began on paving the highway between Jackson and McDonough. By the end of September, the six miles of highway between Jackson and Henry County were completely paved.

"Did you ever hear how Highway 42 was paved?" asked Merrell Price during a 2008 interview. "You remember Mr. Walter Moore? He was big friends with Gene Talmadge."

"Oh man yeah," agreed David Ridgeway in the same interview.

"And he had all that advertisement for Gene out there on his barn," continued Price. "Walter is the uncle to my sister's husband, so this is pretty straight information. Mr. Walter went up there to the governor's office and said, 'Gene, I want my road paved.' He said, 'Just a minute,

Walter,' and picked up the phone to call the Department of Transportation. He said, 'Go down there and pave Mr. Walter Moore's road.' And that's how 42 got paved from Jackson to Locust Grove."

Georgia Governor "Gene Talmadge paved the road from Jackson to Atlanta," said M. L. Powell during a 2008 interview in his home. "One of our clients, Mr. Walter Moore, always kept Gene's picture on his barn there near the highway near Jenkinsburg. And Gene liked that. He liked publicity. Gene's wife went to Atlanta one day and said 'Gene, I want you to pave Walter Moore's road. It's dusty, muddy.' So he got on the phone right then, called a contractor and said 'go down there and pave Walter Moore's road.' And he did. Didn't have a contract or anything."

"That was the good ol' boy network at work," said Robert Pinckney in 2008. "And it still works."

The Spencer Motor Company moved into the old Carmichael Buggy Company building on West Third Street during the first week of September 1934. The company was the designated agent for the Ford Motor Company, Firestone Tires and a number of Allied automotive accessories. The firm also changed its named that month to Spencer-Buchanan, Inc. As James Buchanan of Macon became co-owner with longtime owner L. M. Spencer.

In the middle of September 1934, members of the Jackson Rifles, Company A of the 121st Infantry, Georgia National Guard, were called to perform strike duty in Aragon near Cartersville. A textile strike in that city had led to civil disorder and the members of the Guard were called to restore order.

A City of Jackson work crew was grading the outdoor basketball court on the east side of Jackson High School in late September 1934 in preparation for the coming season. The previous year, all home games had to be played on the court at Indian Springs.

G. H, Mathewson opened the Standard Service Station at the intersection of Oak and Third streets in October 1934. The station sold Standard Oil products, batteries, and also did repair work. Mathewson was also an electrician and plumber.

In October 1934, the City Council set the city's tax rate at 15 mills, down one mill from the 1933 tax levy. The cut was made to the funding of schools, down from six mills to five mills.

Grocery prices in Jackson in November 1934 included: coffee at 18 cents per pound, sausage at 25 cents per pound, sugar at five cents per pound, tomatoes at eight cents per can, flour at four cents per pound, and steak at 20 cents per pound.

In November 1934, the city signed a two-year lease with Ida Hendrick for her property on East Third Street just outside the city limits. The field was used then at an airplane landing strip

1,400-feet-long and 200-feet-wide. A week later, a mail plane was forced to use the landing strip before it was completely finished after the plane blew a cylinder head.

Mayor P. H. Weaver and his wife entertained the members of the City Council and their wives and the heads of the city departments at a dinner in late November 1934.

"Pliny Weaver was mayor when I came here in 1934," said M. L. Powell. "He was a good man, I never heard any complaints about him. He was my neighbor for many years. We used to rabbit hunt and bird hunt. He had bird dogs. We fished together. He was one of my best friends."

Three businesses on the square were burglarized one Sunday night in early December 1934.

The Butts County office of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration began a new project in December 1934: painting the inside and outside of the Jackson public school building. The cost of the project was estimated at $975.

In the middle of December 1934, G. P. Saunders bought the Busy Corner department store building in Jackson. The property was located on the west side of the square on the corner of Oak and Second streets. The amount paid was $3,600.

Mrs. J. E. Roquemore opened a sandwich shop in late December 1934 in the old Bailey and Jones company building adjoining Moore's Garage. She had operated the Depot Store for several months following the death of her husband.

P. H. Weaver was re-elected mayor of Jackson in late December 1934 over S. H. Eisman by a vote of 191 to 91.

1935

The Atlanta-Macon Motor Express, Inc. was chartered in the middle of January 1935 to do general freight and transfer. Incorporators were D. P. Settle and T. E. Robison.

The Jackson high school offered three sports in 1935: basketball, track and tennis. Basketball games were played outdoors on a court, and in late January 1935 the Jackson boys beat the Griffin boys 27-26 in the Fourth District tournament. It was considered a huge upset. "Basketball was a different game then," wrote Vincent Jones, who played guard on that team. "It was truly a non-contact sport. There was none of this pushing and shoving and fighting for position. Any kind of contact resulted in a foul. After each basket, there was a tip-off at center court and with [center] John L. Coleman's height, we won more than our share of them. The emphasis then was on defense, not offense, and the primary objective was the keep the other fellow from scoring." The Jackson players were given the following day off from school by Superintendent Dave Spencer.

In March 1935, Police Chief C. T. Thornton announced that traffic regulations would be rigidly enforced.

For the eighth year, D. V. Spencer was re-elected to head the Jackson public schools.

In a local bill passed by the General Assembly in March 1935, the city was given the power to consolidate the offices of city clerk and treasurer, tax collector and tax receiver.

The American Oil Company was erecting a drive-in filling station on the Brady lot on West Third Street across from the Spencer-Buchanan, Inc. in late March 1935. The station was constructed of brick, had three electric pumps, a cement approach, wash racks and other conveniences.

State Representative Smith Settle of Jackson sponsored legislation in the General Assembly that would have provided state financial aid to the construction of a highway from Atlanta to Macon long the Southern Railway System line, which ran through Jackson.

The CCC Camp at Jackson was closed in the first week of April 1935. The men there completed many projects at Indian Springs State Park, including an Indian museum, a new casino and pavilion, stone bridge over the Big Sandy Creek, new nature trails and improvements to the grounds. It had been in operation nearly three years.

According to a law adopted by the General Assembly in the Spring of 1935, all muscular-powered vehicles - such as bicycles and horse- or mule-drawn wagons - were required to one light or reflector in the front and another in the rear of the vehicle when operated at night.

Four of Jackson's best boxers were heading to Griffin for bouts in April 1935. The combatants were Doodle Ross, Van Smith, Johnny Thurston and Bearcat Kelley.

In early May 1935, Vera Jones Edwards of Jackson High School was named state champion in music at a literary meet in Athens. The award came with a $500 scholarship to Bernau College in Gainesvile.

The building near the *Progress-Argus* and the city water tower was to be used by the Butts County Community Canning Plant in May 1935. Operations there began on July 5, 1935. Otho Morgan was supervisor of the plant. Individuals were required to furnish their own cans. A charge of $1.5 cents per can was charged for canning fruits, vegetables and meats.

Nettie Rose O'Neal was Valedictorian of Jackson High School in May 1935, and James Hilley was Salutatorian. There were 46 seniors graduating that month.

In May 1935, the City Council refused to license beer dealers. In a statewide referendum earlier that month, voters had approved the continued ban of the sale of liquor in Georgia, but approved the sale of beer and wine.

The firm of Settle & Robison purchased four lots on McDonough Street in May 1935, and planned to build a Standard Oil filling station there.

A thunderstorm in the middle of June 1935 knocked out lights in Jackson for a night, and lightning inflicted damage to the Carmichael House.

In June 1935, W. C. Lowe was elected athletic director and basketball coach of Jackson High School. He resigned in January 1936.

In August 1935, M. O. McCord suggested a central county high school for the whole county. But in a vote held in the city in October 1935, voters defeated the proposal of combining the city schools with the county schools by a margin of 20 for to 204 against.

Elementary students had one teacher in the same classroom all day long "until we got into high school, but then we stayed in the same room and different teachers for different subjects would come to that room," explained Elizabeth O'Neal. "At that time, the county schools went through the ninth grade and then the county paid the tuition for the tenth and eleventh grade children in the country to come to school in town. The ones that had been in [the city school] all the time were put in 10A, and the ones from the country were put in 10B.

"At recess, boys and girls couldn't see each other or talk to each other," she said. "There was a fence at the back, and a walk in the front. The boys were over on the side where Liz and Robert Jones live, and the girls were on the other side. So there could be no contact between boys and girls at recess."

"Those of us that got through the ninth grade,"explained Harry Ridgeway, who grew up in Towaliga, "we still went to the Towaliga School to be picked up by bus and taken in to Jackson. That's where we went for the tenth and eleventh grades. It was some adjustment, but not really much. They had a A and B classification. The A was usually the students that lived within the City of Jackson, and the B was what came out of the county. But we on the B didn't back up to any of them, because we had the basics. But we had good teachers. They taught us what we came there for. And we did not talk back to them. I won't say I was a good student, but I didn't flunk out on anything. I had some As, and some Bs, and every once in a while some Cs. Where the library is now is where the high school building was at that time. It was a two-story brick building."

In August 1935, the city council approved a new school auditorium project for Jackson.

In September 1935, about 50 couples enjoyed the first dance at The Wigwam, a new dancing pavilion on West Third Street. W. H. Barnes and Saunders Barnes were owners of the establishment.

"When I was in high school, someone built a place called The Wigwam on the corner of Harkness Street and Wesley Drive," Elizabeth O'Neal recalled in 2009. "It that was shaped like an octagon and had a big fireplace in it. They had a juke box and we'd go out there and dance. They had booths and you could get sandwiches and hot dogs and hamburgers and Cokes and things. They moved it somewhere. It didn't last but a few years. But we used to go out there after school. And if you had dates - like when we were 15 and 16 - that's where we'd go and dance. We had a good time going out there. It was when Tommy Dorsey and the big band era was in, those records, Benny Goodman. That was a great time."

The City Council adopted a tax rate of 15 mills in late September 1935, the same rate in effect in 1934. Five mills went to the operation of the city schools, five for the support of city government, and five for the sinking fund to retire debt.

As the Pomona Products Company plant opened for the season in late September 1935, there were some 125 tons of choice peppers on hand from local growers.

S. H. Thornton added a new hearse to his undertaking and embalming business in September 1935.

Under a government-run sewing operation in September 1935, Colored women in Jackson were making sheets to be distributed to families locally and across the state in need. White women in Flovilla were making dresses under the same program. The government furnished the materials used.

In a city election held in October 1935, voters turned down the notion of consolidating the city schools with the county schools. The totals were 204 against the merger and 22 in favor of the proposal. In a similar vote held in June 1932, the vote was 115 against consolidation and 54 in favor of it.

A Halloween Carnival was held in late October 1935 at the Jackson school auditorium. Students sold candy, sandwiches, cold drinks and popcorn, and there were fortune telling, bingo, a cake walk, fish pong, country store and a dungeon of horrors.

In late October 1935, the site for the new Jackson Post Office was chosen. The property, bounded by South Mulberry and Byars streets, was offered for $5,000 and embraced the Carter feed stables, and part of the Etheridge-Smith Company warehouse.

Mayor Pliny H. Weaver [*pronounced PLEH-knee*] declared November 29, 1935 as a holiday for the homecoming celebration in honor of President Roosevelt.

J. L. Lyons announced his candidacy for Mayor of Jackson In late November 1935. He faced P. H. Weaver and S. H. Eisman in the December election.

On December 1, 1935, Victor H. Carmichael assumed the duties as postmaster of Jackson. Miss Bessie Waldrop retired from the post after 17 years.

Work on a new $12,000 school auditorium began December 20, 1935. The facility, which had a seating capacity of between 400 and 500 and featured two classrooms, was approved for the the city by the federal WPA program.

The city and county were blanketed with an inch of snow on December 21 and 22, 1935. A few days later, an ice storm paralyzed the area, downing trees and power lines. Highway traffic was at a standstill, and Jackson was cut off from communication with the outside world for a day. The storm was augmented by bitterly cold temperatures that hung around Jackson for 10 days.

Mrs. W. D. Ham was named Public Health Nurse for Butts County on December 26, 1935.

The old Jackson Banking Company building and a building housing Morris & Standard grocers were destroyed by fire on December 29, 1935. The buildings on the west side of the square were home to the R. N. Etheridge Seed Company, Eiseman's Department Store and Morris & Standard Grocers. The flames also threatened the Slaton Drug Company and the Jackson Rifles headquarters, which were saved only by the heroic efforts of the Jackson Fire Department. The loss was estimated at between $30,000 and $50,00, making it the most expensive fire in the city since the Commercial building burned in February 1917. The Morris & Standard building, measuring 18' by 100', was rebuilt beginning the in January 1936. The old banking building had been located on the corner, was once the home of the Star Store and was owned by J. A. Jarrell, who also planned to rebuild on the site. The Etheridge Seed Company set up shop in the Buttrill Building on the east side of the square in January 1936.

"And where Danny Hoard's drugstore is [on the northwest corner of the intersection of Third and Oak streets] was the Star Store, which was a department store," said Elizabeth O'Neal in 2009. "And on that block was Carmichael-Mallet. They had a grocery room and also a clothing store."

In 1935, despite being in operation only six months, the Butts County Community Canning Plant processed 5,822 cans of fruits, vegetables and meat.

1936

In early January 1936, the Pace Bus Line, operated by E. H. Pace of Jackson, filed paperwork to begin a route from Jackson to Athens via Monticello and Madison. Pace already ran buses from jackson to Atlanta, Griffin, Monticello and Macon.

Sworn into office in January 1936 were Mayor P. H. Weaver and aldermen J. W. O'Neal, E. H. Pace, J. B. Settle and H. M. Moore. Employees chosen to serve the city that month were: Mrs. W. H. Mallet, clerk, treasurer and tax collector; J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department, with F. C. Rossey as assistant; W. E. Maddox, engineer of the water station; C. T. Thornton, chief of police, with Tom McDonald and L. J. McMichael as policemen; and W. E. Watkins, attorney.

"City Hall was in a little building," recalled M. L. Powell in an 2008 interview. "Miss Jane Mallet was City Clerk, and she had an assistant by the name of Mary Downs. And they ran the city business. Jane Mallet was a sweet girl. I don't think she'd ever been married. She was gray headed and very business-like. Did a good job with the city. In fact she looked after the city. She was just about the city."

"Mr. Bocie Rooks was an electrician," Powell continued. "He looked after the electric department and was good at it. He knew everything about electricity, where everything was pertaining to electricity. He thought he owned the town. He didn't have much education, but he knew his job which meant a whole lot. He had an assistant who fell off of a light pole one day. Almost killed himself."

"The city workforce was small because there wasn't too much business like we have now," said Powell. "One or two men could handle it."

According to Vincent Jones, "'Bosie' Rooks loved the town of Jackson and knew its history better than anyone else."

The wage school for construction workers on Jackson's new post office was 15 cents per hour for unskilled labor up to $2,50 an hour for skilled labor.

It snowed in Jackson a total of seven inches during the last week of January 1936. The entire county was paralyzed as a result of the heaviest snowfall in years. Butts County and Jackson schools were forced to close at the start of February 1936 on account of the bad weather and bad roads.

The new Standard Oil Station on the corner of West Third Street and McDonough Road opened on February 1, 1936. The station, owned by Settle & Robison, was operated by J. B. White.

Judge J. A. McMichael, for many years clerk and treasurer of Jackson, died at his home in early March 1936 at the age of 88.

In March 1936, Professor D. V. Spencer was named superintendent of the Jackson Public Schools for the ninth year in a row.

On March 17, 1936, snow fell in Jackson for the tenth time that Winter, the most frequent period of snow falls in town anyone could remember.

A contract was awarded at the end of March 1936 to pave the 7.5 miles of highway from Jackson to the Ocmulgee River.

Under a requirement made by state law covering two-story school buildings, tubular fire escapes were installed from the second floor at the Jackson school building in early April 1936.

"Fire drills were condoned as necessary evils by school administrators of yesteryear for the hazards of hurriedly evacuating several hundred students from old two-story buildings made such a regimen imperative," wrote Vincent Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "As flash fires do not adhere to a pre-determined schedule, neither did the drills, conducted at random and coming at the most unexpected, and inopportune, times. Sure to come, however, would be one during the early Fall season when the boiler, located in the basement under the third grade classroom, would give a tornadic shake to the room and its terrified inhabitants, all the while huffing, puffing and grumbling like thunder over the Andes.

"The fire drill bell was answered one such day by a flurry of frenzied excitement, as giggly, blushing girls tugged at their dresses to be sure they would be form concealing," remembered Jones. "This just-turned-teen boy savored the scene excitedly, envisioning glimpses of shapely thighs sliding down the long rounded tube. More practical heads prevailed, however, and the girls were dispatched first to the crooked-neck chute with two senior girls awaiting their arrival at the far end. The smaller children had already evacuated the building from their floor rooms and were at play on the school ground.

"Standing with his peers in the long hall awaiting their turn, the conversation centered on the exotic scene that must be visible at ground level with the girls sliding down the tubes, their dresses awry, their feet pawing for ground," Jones continued. "As the hall emptied fast, so did the brief reverie. The boy and one of his favorite buddies were asked to step aside. There they were approached unashamedly by their female teacher of considerable girth who explained that they had been chosen to go to the chute's end and there await in a gentlemanly fashion her exit.

"She made it perfectly clear that they had been chosen as young gentlemen and that she was confident that neither would take advantage of the situation were her exit to be of an embarrassing nature," wrote Jones. "She also wanted the area cleared of other boys so that no one was to witness at close range her exit except these two trusted knights. Following directions to the letter, the area was cleared and development awaited.

"The 40-foot tube had a gentle slope to it that would accelerate with ease a 100-pound object," he continued. "But a body twice that size might experience some difficulty in building up momentum within its narrow crooked confines. Her departure was announced with a pronounced bump that shook the entire chute and an occasional grunt and moan as head and feet must have flailed helplessly against the badly strained tube. This was followed by a period of deathly silence and then a weak shout for help. The boy was dispatched up the tube by his more cowardly companion.

"About ten feet from the exit," Jones recalled, "he encountered this hopelessly-wedged beloved teacher, with more pulchritude on display than ever his wildest dreams could conjure. So intent was he on trying to help this pitiable creature that he forgot the charms of the moment and began thinking about his grades of tomorrow. Finally, he got her unwedged and helped pulled her down the chute, her dress riding high and into the waiting hands of her two knights, one of whom was slightly battle-scarred.

"After that," Jones concluded, "fire drills lost a lot of fascination for me."

"Miss Sarah Bond was our favorite [teacher]," according to Gwen Mitchell in 2009. "She was wonderful. She was very strict, too. When she spoke you knew she meant business. And you respected her. Back in our days, we had to respect our teachers. You didn't talk back to them 'cause back in them days you could get a spanking in school. But when you got home you got another one."

Effective April 25, 1936, the Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Jackson was abolished. During the camp's stay in town, much work was done at Indian Springs State Park, including a new highway bridge over Sandy Creek, an Indian museum, a new casino-pavillion, new trails, a foot bridge over Sandy Creek and thousands of shrubs and trees planted.

Because the school auditorium was not completed, graduation exercises for the 53-member senior class of Jackson High School were held in local churches in May 1936. Vera Jones Edwards was Valedictorian, and Nelle Taylor was Salutatorian. The $20,000 auditorium project, funded by the City of Jackson and the WPA, was completed in time for the Fall term to begin. It seated 700 and had two classrooms.

On May 22, 1936, the A & P Food Stores opened its new store in Jackson in the old Jackson Mercantile Company building. Opening day specials included one pound of American cheese for 18 cents, Eight O'Clock coffee for 18 cents per pound, and grandmother's pan bread at five cents a loaf.

Colonel Benjamin B. Garland passed the bar exam at the end of May 1936 and opened his law practice in the Fossett Building.

In early June 1936, businesses on the south side of the square were making improvements: Bud's Place was given a new front, attractive display windows were added at the Etheridge-Smith Company, which was Butts County's oldest department store, and a new floor and a new streamlined soda fountain were installed at the Carmichael Drug Company. Double dip ice cream sodas were 10 cents, and banana splits were on special at two for 15 cents.

"The structure at the corner of Third and Mulberry streets is still known by many as the Carmichael Drug Company," Vincent Jones wrote in 1990. "There were two drugstores in the town in its early days, but no other store, pharmaceutical or otherwise, could lay legitimate claim to being the social center of the city.

"From its lengthy marble fountain were dispensed the finest Cokes, ice creams and sodas south of Atlanta," Jones recalled. "The creme de la creme of Jackson society parked their Studebaker, DeSoto or Hudson, with their wooden spoke wheels dazzling in the sunlight, at its curb and honked impatiently for curb service. Filled promptly were their orders for banana splits, soft drinks, chocolate-topped ice creams or sodas covered with sinfully-fattening daubs of whipped cream, decorated with a cherry.

"At its magazine rack to the right of the entrance stood the drugstore cowboys, searching for copies of Wings or Aces, their pages filled with the heroic exploits of American and Allied aviators fighting air duels with the Boche in 1917-18 over the entrenched foot soldiers below. Equally engrossing were those magazines that dealt with the wild West, adventure or mystery," Jones wrote. "A movie magazine would on occasion feature enough cheesecake to titillate the imagination of the young bucks and result in either elbow-nudging or a faked sophistication of disinterest. Once a month as issues became out of date, covers were ripped off ad all magazines were free to the first comer.

"Behind the magazine stand was the ladies' counter, with its Coty, Elizabeth Arden, Djer Kiss, Andrew Jergens, Cheramy and dozens of other exotic and enticing soaps, lotions and perfumes," remembered Jones.

The drug store was also "the official book station for the county, shelf space was made available each August for the hundreds of new textbooks being used that Fall in the county's schools," he wrote. "There never seemed to be any rush to buy new books, as hand-me-downs were used by the vast majority of students, each student then being responsible for procuring his own books.

"A pharmacist was always on hand to fill prescriptions from the hundreds of bottles and compounds that were crowded into the rear of the store," Jones continued.

"The side door opening onto Mulberry Street was used as an exit/entrance by scores of customers as a short cut and, although their route either in or out carried them in close proximity to the pharmacist, they were always warmly greeted," wrote Jones.

"One election nights, the store was the center of attention," Jones continued. "Painted on its huge windows were the names of candidates and election districts, with returns penciled in as they became available. On occasion, hundreds of people gathered in front of the store to see how their favorite was running in the Coody or Dublin district.

"The other drug store, while offering carefully-compounded prescriptions and speedy delivery service, never quite attained the popularity of the store on the corner," Jones wrote. "In the minds, and hearts, of many, Carmichael Drug Company, will always be Jackson's dear old store."

The Carmichael Drug Store was "one of the places that everybody gathered," said Mary Lee Martin in 2009. "They had the old fountain Cokes and had the stools to sit on and tables that would seat four," said Martin. It was on the southwest corner of Third and Mulberry streets.

In June 1936, C. J. Grigs opened Grigg's Cafe on East Third Street adjoining Moore's Garage.

A seven-acre tract on McDonough Road was purchased in June 1936 for $675.

Work began in July 1936 on a filling station at the corner of McDonough Road and West Third Street which was leased to The Texas Company. The lot was owned by B. K. Carmichael.

Heavy rains in the middle of July 1936 broke a serious three-and-a-half-month drought in Butts County. It was so dry over that period, that the county qualified for federal aid.

H. G. Drake of Barnesville opened the Jackson Ice Cream and Candy Shop in the in Fuqua building on the north side of the courthouse square in July 1936.

In August 1936, W. M. Bond acquired the interest of T. A. Nutt in the firm of Nutt & Bond, Inc., which specialized in ginning, coal and fertilizers. The partnership of Nutt & Bond was formed in 1924, when the two men leased the old Southern Cotton Oil Company for two years. In 1926, the partners bought the cotton oil business and incorporated in 1927.

"Daddy was a farmer and grew cotton," Gwen Mitchell said in 2009. "He'd carry it to the gin house to get baled. And extra cotton, my sister and I could have it and used it to go shopping. If we had a quarter, we could go to the movie and get popcorn. [The movie theater] was a nice place to go, and your parents could feel safe about you going. They knew how long the movie was going to last, and they'd come pick us up.

"Most of the time I was riding a buggy with a horse," Mitchell said. "And that was fun. There were hitching posts in the middle of the square. There were lots of them. You didn't feel bad because everybody else was either riding one or walking. You could ride a horse into town and get out and sit on the square. They had benches for you to sit on. It was just good times. There were no paved streets. No radio. No telephone. You'd just go visit other people and sit on the porch and talk. You didn't think about locking the house. If you wanted to walk, just get out and walk."

Extensive repairs were being made to four buildings on the north side of the square in August 1936. These included the City Barber Shop, Jackson Cafe, Davis Millinery and the store formerly occupied by W. A. Smith. On September, the firm of J. H. Goldstein of Atlanta, operators of a chain of 10-cent stores, took a lease on two of the buildings on the north side of the square - Davis Millinery and the adjoining unit. Plans were to open a Sims 5- and 10-cent Store on October 30. Also in September, O. B. Willis opened a furniture and undertaking business in the brick store occupied by R. L. Crawford.

Spot, a little white dog owned by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Moore and a favorite of all city residents, was killed by an automobile in August 1936. The little dog had a loyalty to his master, who walked with the aid of crutches, that was inspiring to see.

The new auditorium to serve the Jackson public schools was completed in August 1936. The facility, built by the city and WPA, cost $20,000. The building was 60' by 124', and had a seating capacity of 750.

The Board of Commissioners put up signs on the courthouse lawn in September 1936 notifying all that a fine of $5 would be levied against anyone caught mutilating the walls of the courthouse. Offenses included striking a match on the wall, pencil marks, tacking up signs or propping heels against the wall.

Work began at the end of September 1936 on the new post office and federal building. Construction costs were estimated at $52,000, and 210 working days were scheduled to complete the project. It was to be located on the northwest corner of the intersection of South Mulberry and Byars streets, where an old livery stable had been located. The post office opened in this new building in July 1937.

In September 1936, the City of Jackson had a tax rate of 16 mills, and the county had a similar rate of 16 mills.

The Pepperton Mills baseball team won the championship of the Dixie Industrial League in September 1936.

In early October 1936, the Greyhound Buss Lines took over the Pace Bus Lines' Jackson-to-Atlanta route. Pace's owner, E. H. Pace, retained his routes fro Griffin to Jackson to Eatonton and another from Monticello to Madison.

The Dixie Amusement Company of Swainsboro bought the Princess Theater from J. L. Hutchison in October 1936. Hutchison had owned the theater for two years. New cushion seats were installed, the interior was painted, new light fixtures were installed, and the name of the theater was changed to the Dixie Theater.

The Dixie Theater "was a long, narrow building as all small-town theaters were, with entrance and exit doors at the front, and an emergency exit door to the right of the screen," wrote Vincent Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "There were three shows on week nights, with the Wednesday feature having only one showing, but on Saturday there was often double features, with comedy or the ever-popular serial, which ran for 10 or 12 consecutive weeks. Admission was 10 cents and 25 cents on week nights and for the daily matinee at 2:45 p.m., and 10 cents and 20 cents on Saturday.

"Patronage was limited on week nights," Jones continued, "either good or poor depending upon the pulling power of the stars and the attractiveness of the of the movie. But on Saturdays the crowd came early and stayed late. Almost without exception you could count on seeing a Western. But the serials might have been the biggest draw of all. For all the sheer suspense and pathos they have never been equaled. The young uns would make a bee line for the front rows at the one o'clock opening and occasionally a wisp of smoke could be seen silhouetted against the

dark screen which would bring the manager scurrying to threaten eviction to anyone caught with a cigarette."

Prices for the new line of Chevrolets in town in the Fall of 1936 ranged between $585 and $660.

The first freeze of the season hit Butts County on November 15, 1936.

A community Christmas tree, without presents, was planned for the courthouse square in December 1936.

1937

A truck carrying a detachment of the Jackson Rifles, Company A, 121st Infantry, Georgia National Guard, overturned one morning in the first week of January 1937 near Jenkinsburg. Killed in the wreck were Julian Evans, 24, and Ferrell Maddox, 24. Eight others were seriously injured. The troops were on their way to the inauguration of Governor E. D. Rivers.

Mrs. Leonard Hodges shot and killed an alligator at her home in Parkland (West Jackson) in the first week of January 1937. Just how the animal happened to be in that neighborhood was not known.

In early January 1937, William M. Towles opened an electrical shop in the Carmichael Hardware Company building.

Bowling was one of Jackson's favorite Winter sports and there was a City League with businesses sponsoring three-member teams. In January 1937, Harold Barnes of the Economy Grocery team had the highest individual game score of 135 pins.

Coffee was 12 cents a pound at Morris & Standard in January 1937. T-bone steak was 30 cents a pound, and pure pork homemade sausage was 25 cents a pound.

All county schools were ordered closed for four days in January 1937 due to impassable roads after torrential rains, but Jackson schools remained open. However, attendance was off sharply, as many students rode buses in to the city schools from the county.

The Cherokee Garden Club was formed on January 24, 1937 by Mrs. W. E. Watkins with 12 members.

A survey to determine if residents and businessmen were in favor of street and sidewalk paving in Jackson was begun in late January 1937.

In early February 1937, E. H. Pace, operator of the Pace Bus lines, acquired the Jarrell-Finley building at the corner of Second and Mulberry streets.

The Pace Beauty Shoppe moved from the southern side of the courthouse square to the Commercial Building in February 1937.

In February 1937, plans were announced to pave East Lyons, Second, College and Benton streets and McKibben Avenue as well as six miles of sidewalks in Jackson. The cost was estimated at $100,000.

The horse and buggy used by the sanitary department was retired in February 1937 and replaced by motorized equipment.

The City Council enacted new speed limits in town following several accidents at the intersection of Indian Springs and East Third streets.

In March 1937, Jackson was named as the headquarters of the Central Georgia Electric Membership Corporation. It applied for a charter in April 1917. That charter was granted in June 1917, and a loan of $202,000 was then approved for the company to construct 202 miles of electric lines to serve 852 farm families.

J. R. Thurston, a former alderman in Jackson, died in March 1937.

The average cost of a funeral in 1937 was $400.

In March 1937, a contract was awarded for the construction of a new county jail on a lot across from the old jail on North Oak Street. The 95-foot wide lot extended back to North Mulberry Street. It was completed in October that year at a cost of slightly over $27,000. It included a residence for the sheriff. Sheriff G. T. Thurston was the first to occupy those quarters that year.

At the end of March 1937, Mrs. J. L. Carmichael began construction on a two-story, 16-room apartment building on Dempsey Avenue. It was the first apartment house in the city. Mrs. Carmichael said the increased demand for rooms led her to the decision to build the apartments.

"My grandmother had built that little apartment building there," said Walter Carmichael in 2009. "$2,500, four apartments, turnkey job by E. I. Rooks."

In April 1937, the Mimosa Garden Club had as its special mission the removal of all unsightly buildings in Jackson. The city supported the club's effort.

A severe wind storm struck Jackson early in April 1937. It tore part of the roof off the Jackson school auditorium, blew down the garage of R. P. Sasnett, and uprooted several trees on the O'Neal property.

Solid ice and frost were reported throughout Butts County on Monday, April 12, 1937.

Grocery prices in Jackson in April 1937 were as follows: 5 cents for a loaf of bread, 21 cents for a pound of cheese, $2.03 for 48 pounds of flour, and 31 cents for two pounds of pure lard.

Sidewalk paving on Second Street from the post office to McDonough Road began in late April 1937. Others sidewalks to be paved were on Dempsey Avenue from Third Street to College Street, and Third Street from McKibben Avenue to the Carmichael house at Dempsey Avenue. Nearly $29,000 in WAP funds were allocated for paving Jackson streets and sidewalks in that month.

In late April 1937, D. V. Spencer was re-elected head of the Jackson public schools, with H. D. Roberts as principal.

The City of Jackson adopted daylight savings time at midnight on May 8, 1937. Prior to that, the city was on Central Standard Time.

"Butts County had a National Guard unit called the Jackson Rifles," explained Harry Ridgeway in an interview in 2009. "They would meet every Monday night for training, learning how to march, and how to handle a firearm and whatever. Of course, the country boys wanted to be in the National Guard because they gave you a dollar every Monday night for training. And then in the Summer, we were sent to different camps for training for two weeks. That was called Summer camp. We didn't have an armory at that time. We met in the two-story building [on West Third Street] behind Danny [Hoard]'s pharmacy. That was headquarters. We trained around the courthouse square and the grounds at the courthouse. It was closed off at the time, and there was very little traffic anyway.

"So I joined the National Guard in May of 1937," said Ridgeway. "We were given a physical as such. We had to be of good character and physically fit.

The Jackson High School Class of 1937 was the first to wear caps and gowns to graduation. The Jackson Board of Education had passed a resolution the year before requiring such attire. Sara Evalyn Compton was the class Valedictorian, and Annie Lou Wyatt was Salutatorian. There were 31 members of the Class of 1937.

The Butts County Historical and Archeological Society was formed in May 1937. Its first order of business was to collect artifacts for the Indian Museum at Indian Springs State Park.

Dr. R. A. Franklin resumed his dental practice over the Carmichael Drug Company in Jackson in early May 1937. He had been in practice in Jackson since 1900.

The Summer half-holiday closing schedule for businesses in Jackson began on May 13, 1937 and continued until August 19.

In early June 1937, Mayor W. M. Redman and Police Chief C. T. Thornton mapped plans for curbing speeding in Jackson.

Butts County voters went to the polls in the first week of June 1937 and voted 481 to 188 against a statewide referendum that would have allowed the sale of liquor throughout the state.

It was announced in June 1937 that the delivery of mail on Sundays would be discontinued by the Jackson post office. But those with post office boxes would continue to receive mail on Sundays.

The Jackson Post Office was officially dedicated on Saturday, July 3, 1937. The building was heated by coal. Five trains a day stopped in Jackson to deliver and pick up mail. There were five rural routes and one city route at the time. H. K. Smith was in charge of the city route and walked 16 miles each day to cover it. He earned 50 cents per day. Duvall Patrick started working as a clerk at the post office that year and earned 65 cents an hour. He said later that postal jobs were considered some of the best in town at the time. Other postal workers at the time were: Victor H. Carmichael, postmaster, and Mrs. J. G. McDonald, clerk.

Later that month, F. C. Rossey, assistant superintendent with the city's water and light department, was named as an auxiliary clerk at the post office. At the same time, Lamar Thurston began carrying mail from the depot to the post office. Air mail also began delivery twice a day at the Jackson airport located in Hammondtown, west of the city.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 people were expected in Jackson on July 11, 1937 for the State Singing Convention at Jackson Auditorium.

A fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the S. H. Eiseman home on West Avenue in early July 1937 while the family was away.

In July 1937, the city signed a five-year contract with the Georgia Power Company to provide the city with electricity.

In the middle of July 1937, the City Council sliced light and power rates to save customers an estimated $1,400 per year.

In early August 1937, Porter Ham purchased Bud's Place on the south side of the square from M. H. "Bud" Pace. It became a popular pool room and hamburger joint for the men of Jackson.

"Bud Pace operated a pool room on the square," recalled Mary Lee Martin in 2009. "It was on the same side as Carmichael Drug Store on Third Street about in the middle of the block

where the Clerk of Court's office is now. That thing went back a long time. That was the gathering place for all the men. I don't remember ever being allowed to go in there. He had hot dogs and short order foods and the pool room."

A commerce department was added to the Jackson public schools in August 1937 and Miss Emmy Kirkley was elected as teacher.

A Woco Pep Station opened on East Third Street in August 1937. Built by the Wofford Oil Company and operated by W. M. Redman and E. P. Sams, the business sold gas and oil and had a service department to see after all makes of automobiles.

Mayor W. M. Redman announced that the city, which had been operating on daylight savings time for several months, would go back to central standard, or "slow," time as of August 29, 1937.

In August 1937, the City of Jackson sold 15 lots and houses and a store building, located mainly on Benton and Mallet streets across from the Southern Railway Depot, to H. Deraney. The city had acquired the property a year or two earlier through a tax sale.

Neal Greer, drayman for Economy Grocery, developed a new plan for battling roaches in August of 1937. Greer left a small quantity of syrup in a soft drink bottle and overnight the bottle was filled to the top with roaches.

The opening of Jackson schools was postponed from August 30, 1937 to September 6, due to the delay by the state department of education in sending out textbooks. County schools were scheduled to open September 20 for an eight-month term.

In early September 1937, Miss Pauline Mallet, librarian, announced that the Hawkes Library was to be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. during the school year.

Property values in the city increased by $20,615 between 1936 and 1937. According to the city's tax digest, completed by City Tax Collector Mrs. W. H. Mallet in early September 1937, the city's valuations amounted to $817,310.

The tax levy for Butts County was set in September 1937 at 15 mills, one less than the millage rate for 1936. School county school levy was five mills and the state collected five mills for a total millage in the county of 25 mills. Citizens in Jackson were charged 16 mills from the city, five mills from the state and 15 mills from the county for a total millage of 36 mills.

In early September 1937, the Butts County Board of Commissioners obtained a contract from the State Highway Board to grade 0.885 miles of Highway 42 through Parkland (West

Jackson). The work, begun near Watson Creek, straightened out the road and eliminated a dangerous curve on McDonough Road.

The Jackson Milling Company completed installation of a new and modern corn mill in the Saunders Building on Second Street in September 1937. Prior to its opening, corner farmers had to carry their crops to neighboring counties to have the corn milled.

The Pomona Products Company, operator of the pimiento canning plant in Jackson, purchased vacant lots fronting on Benton and Lyons streets in September 1937 to be used as parking lots for its employees.

The Pace Style Shop opened in the middle of September 1937 in the building formerly occupied by the Butts County Supply on the west side of the square. The store was owned by M. H. Pace, who formerly owned Bud's Place, and managed by Miss Helen Thornton and Mrs. M. H. Pace.

Street and sidewalk paving in Jackson was temporarily suspended in September 1937 so that those employed on the WPA project could assist farmers with the cotton harvest.

John B. Settle, a Jackson alderman and prominent business leader, died in the middle of September 1937.

An independent gas station opened on West Third Street in early October 1937. It offered free water glasses to anyone buying five gallons or more. The station was managed by Ernest Brooks.

At the A&P store in October 1937, sugar was $1.35 for 25 pounds, four pounds of rice was 17 cents, coffee was 53 cents for three pounds, and cigarettes were 15 cents per pack.

Sheriff G. T. Thurston moved into the first floor of the new county jail on North Oak Street in the middle of October 1937. The total cost of the new facility was $27,056.24, with the county paying $11,250 of that total.

The Gordon College band as part of the parade was the highlight of the Butts County Fair in late October 1937.

The first freeze of the season was recorded on October 23, 1937.

Western Auto Supply Company opened a store in Jackson in the Fall of 1937. It was located in the building formerly occupied by the Butts Supply Company. J. O. Cole was manager of the new store.

The Smith Price home on East Third Street was destroyed by fire at two o'clock in the morning one day in late October 1937. A spark on the roof was believed to have caused the blaze.

In November 1937, a drive to retire the indebtedness of the Jackson clubhouse ended successfully. Built in 1929, the clubhouse was the joint property of the Jackson Women's Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. A note burning ceremony was held later in 1929.

1938

The Dixie Theater changed hands in early January 1938 as L. J. Brown of Alabama purchased the movie house from the Dixie Amusement Company.

In January 1938, the City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting skating on the streets. Skating was permitted in certain restricted zones approved by the Council.

A new street opened in Jackson in January 1938 connecting East Third Street with Highway 42 near the Pepperton Cotton Mill at Indian Springs Street. It was called Hendricks Street since it ran through the Ida Hendricks property. At the same time, the city extended water lines down East Third Street from Benton Street to the Gilmore Lumber Company and also from the Wright home to the pepper plant.

On February 1, 1938, Jackson had a new restaurant. Lere's Restaurant opened on the south side of the courthouse square in the Jarrell Building. It advertised regular dinners for 50 cents' plate lunches for 35 cents with drink and dessert; and a merchants lunch for 25 cents.

A new Sinclair Oil Station was opened in Jackson in early February 1938 on the corner of Oak and West Third streets. It was managed by William W. Wright.

In February 1938, the firm of Robison, Settle & Robison purchased a brick two-story building on the corner of Second Street just below the Thurston blacksmith shop. The firm dealt in wood, coal and seeds, and remodeled the building for use as a seed house.

The record for slaughter of black widow spiders was claimed in late February 1938 when Mrs. E. S. McKenzie and Mrs. J. W. Vaughn killed 38 of them while planting shrubbery and cleaning a rock wall on McDonough Road.

After 25 years at the corner of Second and Oak streets, the Busy Corner Department Store moved to the south side of the square in February 1938. Its new location was adjacent to the Etheridge-Smith Company. A month later, the Deraney Department Store moved into the space vacated by The Busy Corner in the Saunders Building. For years, the Deraney store had occupied the Mansour building at the corner of Second and Oak streets.

Work began in late March 1938 on three tennis courts and a softball diamond at the Jackson athletic field adjacent to the Jackson public school building.

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, stopped in Jackson briefly one Tuesday morning in March 1938 en route to a speech in Monroe.

Guy Bailey opened a barbershop and Wilbur Austin a dry cleaning plant in the East Third Street building adjoining Moore's Garage at the end of March 1938. The Austin Dry Cleaning Shop was opened at the same time in the same building.

The assets of the Jackson Banking Company, in liquidation, were bought in April 1938 for around $20,000. The bank, which closed in January 1931, had assets involving notes receivable and real estate.

A long drought was broken by torrential rains, hail and strong winds in early April 1938. The rainfall was estimated at between four and five inches.

The City Council banned a carnival in late April 1938 that had refused to pay a license for a week's run, and also refused a permit to a Macon soft drink company to market a four percent apple cider in Jackson.

A School Patrol was instituted at Jackson High School by the state patrol in April 1938. T. A. Nutt, Jr., Smith Settle, Jr., Stuart Head and Bobbie Reynolds were commissioned as School Patrolmen.

On April 24, 1938, Jackson switched to Eastern Standard Time, though portions of the county remained on Central Standard Time.

Jackson businesses observed half-holidays on Wednesdays from May 4 to August 31, 1938.

On May 24, 1938, the 40-member Class of 1938 graduated from Jackson High School. Roslyn Redman was named Valedictorian, and Marion Minter was named Salutatorian.

At the end of June 1938, H. S. Brumbaugh, who had been elected as principal of Jackson High School earlier that month, resigned to take a more favorable position elsewhere. James Cain, Jr. was named principal of Jackson High School in August 1938.

Homer Capps, portly left-handed pitcher of Pepperton's baseball nine, hurled a brilliant no-hit game against Juliette in the middle of July 1938. Capps mixed a tantalizing slow ball with his baffling curve and his "hard, hard un" to whiff 18 Juliette batters. Only three men reached base - two on walks and one on an error - but no one reached second base. It was the first no-hit game in Butts County in several years.

The Jackson plant of Pomona Products Company began canning pimiento peppers in the last week of July 1938. According to J. M. McMichael, the plant had five applicants for every one job opening.

The paving of Second Street from the Thurston Shop to Covington Street - a distance of about 1,000 feet - was underway in August 1938. The city furnished all materials and the WPA provided the labor.

In August 1938, Mayor W. M. Redman announced that Jackson would switch to Central Standard Time beginning September 3. During the Summer months, Eastern Standard Time was observed in the city. The estimated cost of the concrete work was $400.

The Pace Bus Line resumed service from Jackson to Griffin, Monticello, Eatonton and Madison in late August 1938. The routes had been suspended while construction on Highway 16 was carried out.

Walter Pope, former sheriff of Butts County, died in late August 1938. He served as sheriff from 1920 to 1936, and prior to that was police chief of Jackson.

Jackson schools opened for the Fall 1938 term on September 5.

In 1937, the town began construction of a new Negro school with six classrooms and an auditorium. It opened in 1938 with five teachers and A. T. Berryhill as the first principal. The school cost $3,000 to build, and house grades one through 11. The school's colors were red and white, and its mascot was the panther. It was named Jackson Negro High School.

The school was soon renamed Henderson High School after Fannie B. Henderson, who began teaching in Jackson in the late 1890s and died in 1939.

"The majority of the teachers were at the elementary level because it was a combination from at first, from first through eleventh, they didn't have twelfth grade. And then when Mr. [A. T.] Berryhill came, he added the twelfth grade," Mamie Maddox Davenport recalled during a 2010 interview. "It was a lot of fun. We didn't have football, but we always had basketball, and they had Spring festivals where you participated in potato races, high jump, and other kinds of games.

"In the Spring of the year we would be getting ready because all of the other schools in the county would come together and we would compete against each other. And they had prizes for us," she continued. "And I remember very clearly my thing was the spelling bee. And I was always singled out to be one of the spellers for the spelling bee. The other thing for me was high jump. So, that's what [Henderson School] was like at the elementary level."

The City Council set a tax rate of 17 mills in September 1938. It amounted to an increase of one mill.

The upstairs of the Mays Building on the corner of Mulberry and Second streets was being remodeled and converted into an 18-room rooming house in September 1938.

The Butts County Circulating Library moved on October 1, 1938 into the jury room of the Butts County Courthouse.

Early on a Tuesday night, October 2, 1938, Jackson Police Chief C. T. Thornton was killed when questioning several Negroes suspected of recent robberies. A special term of court was held on November 7 to try the men accused of the crime during which Jim Henry Williams, Charlie Rucker and Raymond Carter were convicted of the crime. All three confessed to it, and on November 10 Judge Persons sentenced them to die in the electric chair on December 8, 1938. Lucius Adkins was given a life sentence for his involvement in the crime. L. J. McMichael was named acting chief of police to succeed Thornton. T. O. McDonald was named assistant chief and E. A. Godsey was named patrolman.

A fire broke out at the Mallet home on Covington Street in October 1938. Volunteer workers and the fire department fought the blaze for several hours, and most of the contents of the home were removed.

Kinard Nurseries of Jackson got a contract to plant shrubbery on the new post office lot in October 1938. Small cedars and hawthorne were used in front of the building, and pecan trees were set on the south side of the lot.

A law that took effect in the Fall of 1938 required a 25-cents-per-hour minimum wage and a 44-hour work week.

The Butts County Traveling Library, with Lucile Patrick in charge, made 17 stops throughout the county from Monday to Thursday each week in November 1938.

Paving began in late November 1938 on Lyons, Benton and Bailey streets through a joint program between city and county governments, the WPA and homeowners. The program had just completed the paving of Second Street from downtown to the Covington Highway.

The Butts County Board of Commissioners and the Mimosa Garden Club agreed to put up Christmas lights around the square, the courthouse and the business district in general in December 1938. The three living trees on the courthouse lawn were lighted. In each window of the courthouse was placed a light of a different shade.

The home belonging to Morris Morgan just off First Street was destroyed by fire on a Saturday afternoon in early December 1938.

The city and county were experiencing such a drought in the Fall of 1938, that wells were running dry. It rained on August 28, 1938, but did not rain again until around Thanksgiving, and again on the day after Christmas.

The Rogers Store on North Mulberry Street was completely renovated over the Christmas holidays at the end of 1938.

1939

In 1939, important streets in Jackson were paved curb-to-curb, the extensions on routes 16 and 42 was also paved, as were the sidewalks in the city. A contract was also warded to pave route 16 from Jackson to the Spalding County line. Lyons Street was paved as a WPA project in late January 1939.

E. H. Pace sold his Pace Bus Line from Griffin, Jackson, Monticello and Eatonton in January 1939 to Bass Bus Lines of Athens.

In January 1939, the City Council was considering extending Covington Street through the Mallet property to connect with College Street near the Jackson school building.

In early February 1939, a volunteer fire department was formed in Jackson with L. J. McMichael, chief of police, as chief. Manning the motor equipment were: C. W. Thurston, captain; Gus Carmichael and J. D. Pope, drivers; Eugene Rooks and Tom Thurston, charged with pumps.

J. B. White was named a distributor for the Middle Georgia Oil Company in early February 1939. He operated the Woco Pep Service Station on East Third Street.

In February 1939, a traffic light was installed at West Third Street and King Street and the blinking light that had been in that intersection was reinstalled at Second Street and Mulberry Street.

The home of Mayor W. M. Redman was seriously damaged by fire in the middle of February 1939. No one was home when the blaze started, and the fire alarm was sounded by a delivery boy.

“Everybody liked [Mayor Redman],” said Elizabeth O’Neal in 2009. “I think accommodating is the word I would use. He was known to help people and not even charge them for things. When I first remember him, [his family] lived in a brick house on North Mulberry Street. Then they built a house in the early 1930s [on East Third Street where Dan Fears has a law firm].”

"Mr. Redman was mayor of Jackson for many years and he got a preposterous salary," recalled Jane Anne Settle. "I understood he made something like $20 a month. He was a very nice man, and a lawyer. He was very good to us after my father died, an especially good neighbor. One time my brother got up in a pecan tree and he got up so high it was higher than he could get down. My mother, of course, couldn't get him down. This wasn't the only time that Mr. Redman came to his rescue. And Hugh [Mallet, Jr.] told him, 'I sure am glad you came over here 'cause I'm the only boy my mother's got'."

Prices around Jackson in March 1939 included: syrup for 55 cents a gallon, breakfast bacon for 15 cents per pound, men's overalls for 98 cents a pair, boys overalls for 39 cents a pair, and rayon or cotton hose for 10 cents a pair.

For the 12th consecutive year, the Jackson Board of Education named Professor D. V. Spencer to head the Jackson Public Schools in late March 1939.

Filling stations in Jackson agreed in April 1939 to begin closing during Sunday morning church services.

The City Council voted in April 1939 to put Daylight Savings Time in effect from May 1 through September 23. The city operated under Central Time the rest of the year.

J. W. Carter was designated as the Dodge and Plymouth agent for Butts County in April 1939. His showroom was located in the building on the east side of the square formerly occupied by the Jim Smith garage.

The Western Union Telegraph closed its office adjoining the Jackson National Bank on May 15, 1939, and installed a teleprinter service inside the Carmichael Drug Store.

During commencement exercises on May 23, Ellen James Sams was Valedictorian of the 44-member Jackson High School Class of 1939. Jewellene Cawthon was named Salutatorian.

In the Spring of 1939, the first class to graduate from the new Henderson School was all-female: Vivian Simpson, Helen Lawrence, Mamie Crochett, Gladys Smith and Sarah Foster. Graduation exercises were held in the new school's auditorium. Such ceremonies had previously been held at Israel C. M. E. Church. Diplomas noted the school's name as "Jackson Negro High School."

Improvements to the Fuqua building, on the corner of Mulberry and Third streets and long known as the Crum building, were underway in late May 1939. The Carmichael Drug Company, which occupied the building at the time, was putting in an entirely new glass front.

In June 1939, Governor E. D. Rivers allotted $205,000 for the paving of West Third Street, extensions through Parkland (West Jackson) and Hendricks property, and to complete

Highway 16 to the Spalding County line. There were fears among residents that many shade trees would be lost to the new paving and sidewalks, but most trees remained when the work was over.

On June 2, 1939, a new drug store opened on the downtown square. It was called Jackson Drug Store, and was operated by Dr. C. R. Cannon.

The Dixie Theater installed two large fans behind the movie screen that changed the air in the entire theater every 64 seconds.

The Central Georgia Livestock Association was formed in 1939.

The dial system for telephones was introduced in Jackson on June 29, 1939. Callers no longer dialed "central" to have the woman there call up the number desired.

"In Jackson, the *Progress-Argus* number was 166. The numbers, of course, were not dialed," wrote Vincent Jones of the early days of telephone service in Jackson. "They were relayed to 'central,' a courteous, soothing and melodious voice who would connect you to the number given her. Chances were excellent if you could not reach the person called, that 'central' might be able to tell you where they might be found, either from having tapped previous conversations or from a vantage point overlooking the town square."

In early July 1939, Dr. W. E. Barfield, a highly-respected physician and surgeon from Atlanta, located his medical practice in Jackson.

Jackson received $1,057 in July 1939 to help pay past due salaries of its teachers. At the time, the state guaranteed teachers' salaries for seven months at common schools, but that year could only guarantee four months of pay for them. The Butts County Board of Education stepped in and paid for two-thirds of the teachers' unpaid salaries since Jackson High School served as the senior high school for county students as well.

Lightning struck the home of Dr. & Mrs. O. B. Howell on West Third Street in the middle of July 1939. Considerable damage was done to the chimney.

"Dr. Howell's office [was] where the County Administration building is now," said Luke Weaver, who was born at Dr. Howell's in 1943. "He had a basement and lived upstairs. His office was downstairs, and he had a nurse Miss Stodghill, I think, and she would come in and stay with the mothers when they were having babies there."

J. L. Roberts was named principal of Jackson High School in August 1939, succeeding J. R. Cain, Jr.

The City of Jackson's business offices were relocated on September 1, 1939 to the building recently vacated by the Western Union Telegraph Company in the rear of the Jackson National Bank building facing Mulberry Street. Prior to that the offices of the city tax collector and treasurer were located on West Second Street below the old post office.

Threatt Moore, Jr. became operator of the Standard Oil filling station on Second Street below Thurston's shop in September 1939, and Charles Gifford began operating the Sinclair Service Station at the intersection of Third and Oak streets.

Gasoline in Jackson was 22.5 cents per gallon in September 1939.

The City Council raised its tax millage rate in September 1939 from 17 mills to 18 mills.

A tennis court at the Jackson High School athletic field was planned in September 1939 with Principal J. L. Roberts superintending construction.

The Excelsior Laundry of Atlanta planned to open an office in Jackson in September 1939 in the Curry building on East Third Street, which was undergoing repairs.

Renovation work on the old Bailey & Jones storeroom on East Third Street, adjoining Bailey's barber shop, began at the end of September 1939 by the Moore brothers, owners of the property which adjoined their garage.

The building was to be used by the Butts County 4-H Club Fair for displaying exhibits. The fair was held from October 23 through 28, and featured entertainment and rides from the Alrico Dare Devils and Fun Rides. It featured Dare Devil Dante and his sensational 100-foot dive into five feet of water.

The Butts County Board of Commissioners raised the county's millage rate by seven mills to 23 mills in September 1939. With the exception of 1930 and 1931, that was the highest tax levy in the history of the county as far as records at the time showed.

H. M. Fletcher was promoted to superintendent of the Pepperton Cotton Mill in October 1939. He replaced H. O. Ball, who served in that position 30 years.

"H. M. was a graduate of Georgia Tech," said Bill Fletcher during an interview in 2009. "He had a boy and a girl. H. M. Fletcher himself ran the Indian Spring Mill, which later became Avondale Mills. He ran that plant for the Watkins family. He had minor ownership in it and stock. He was a key player in the community mainly because that was the main mill in the county and employed so many people.

"Now I think the thing I want to make sure people understand is: when we were kids growing up here, there really was not a large class distinction in the community," said Fletcher, who was born in 1951. "People ask me all the time about the rich people, and say they're rich

because they have land or some company. Well, all of the value has come about in the last couple of years."

Jackson High School kicked off its basketball season in October 1939. The boys and girls teams played their home games in the gym at Indian Springs.

Although enrollment at the new Henderson High School was small, the school fielded boys and girls basketball teams. The boys' team was coached by Principal A. T. Berryhill, and Mrs. B. D. Lummus coached the girls' squad. School enrollment was not always an eligibility requirement for the team, and many non-students played.

City officers re-elected without opposition in October 1939 were: Mayor W. M. Redman, and councilmen Avon Gaston, E. I. Rooks, E. H. Pace, and J. W. O'Neal.

On October 7, 1939, Palmer Duke of Newborn opened a Western Auto Associate Store on the west side of the square between the Slaton and Jackson Drug companies.

At the end of October 1939, the state highway department agreed to pave South Mulberry Street from the square to College Street, and to pave West Third Street.

In an election held in October 1939, C. E. McDonald was named a member of the City Board of Education to succeed the late Hugh Mallet. Dr. R. A. Franklin was chairman of the Board at the time.

In early November 1939, Maurice Carmichael assumed charge of the Standard Service Station at the corner of West Third Street and McDonough Road. He had been employed with Settle & Robison and the University Chevrolet Company in Athens.

At the end of November 1939, the city's four garden clubs - Jackson, Mimosa, Cherokee and Hawthorne - would sponsor a citywide Christmas beautification contest with a $5 prize to the winner.

An ordinance passed in 1939 required residents and businesses to provide receptacles for the removal of trash until they trash could be removed by the sanitary department.

Petitions began circulating in late December 1939 seeking an election in the city to determine if the independent Jackson school system should merge with the county's.

The drought in Jackson in the Fall of 1939 was said by old-timers to be the worst since 1925. It was broken over the last weekend of the year by several days of steady rain.

A fire of undetermined origin damaged the Pepperton Store, commissary of the Pepperton Cotton Mills, on December 29, 1939. The fire was discovered in the grocery department in the

back of the building, and the Pepperton Fire Department and Jackson Police Department answered the call. Grocery and dry goods were damaged by smoke and water, but the building was saved.

Within a few hours, the store was again serving customers. The Pepperton Store serviced employees of the mill, and also had a large trade in produce and livestock and was one of the most profitable businesses in the county.

1940

At a meeting on January 1, 1940, the City Council named all existing city employees for further service. Mrs. W. H. Mallet was named city tax receiver, collector and treasurer; Mary Downs was named as her assistant. J. H. Rooks was named superintendent of the water and light departments; Saunders Barnes was named as his assistant. L. J. McMichael was named chief of police with E. A. Godsey and T. O. McDonald as policemen. W. E. Maddox was named engineer of the pumping station.

H. O. Ball was re-elected as a member of the bond commission to serve with R. P. Newton and Dr. H. R. Slaton. All employees were sworn in by Judge W. M. Andrews, justice of peace for the Jackson district.

Also at the meeting, alderman E. H. Pace was elected as mayor pro tem.

In January 1940, the city paid $4,000 to reduce its bonded indebtedness to $41,000. The payment included $3,000 on water and light bonds issued in 1911, which retired that issue in full, and $1,000 school bonds issued in 1921. Bond issues outstanding included $12,000 in sewer bonds issued in 1914, $13,000 in street paving bonds issued in 1927, and $16,000 in school bonds.

On January 8, 1940, the City Council named J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department, as chief of the Jackson Fire Department. J. D. Pope was named as assistant chief.

On January 9, 1940, W. G. Smith of Atlanta bought the Jackson Drug Company from Dr. C. R. Cannon. The firm was started by Dr. Cannon and C. N. Jones. The business was located on the west side of the square.

The women's athletic club in Jackson organized a basketball team in January 1940, which played areas teams on the court at Indian Springs. Members of the team were: Myrtie Lee McGoogan, Mary Carter, LuNette Pope, Sara Bearden, Johnsie Settle, Marion Thurston, Sara Carter, Louise Powell and Virginia Derrick. There was already a boys' basketball team for Jackson.

In the middle of January 1940, John Dozier (J. D.) Pope announced that he intended to seek the office of county sheriff in the primary on April 5. Pope was the son of Walter D. Pope, the late sheriff of Butts County. Walter Pope held the office for 16 years. At the time, J. D. Pope

operated Bud Pope's garage, was a machinist of recognized ability, and was known throughout the community. His father, it was said, was one of the most popular law enforcement officers the county had ever had.

Also announcing for sheriff that week was W. W. Wilson, who served as county sheriff from 1904 to 1910. Wilson, who served three terms as sheriff and came from old and prominent county families, was known as an avid singer. He took part in all musical conventions held in middle Georgia.

The current sheriff, G. T. Thurston, sought reelection in that primary. When he was elected in 1936, there were 19 prisoners in the jail at the end of the year. At the end of 1939, there were no prisoners in the jail. He also said he would not name a deputy on the ticket.

Noah A. Powell, a well-known business man, also sought the office of sheriff that year.

Charles H. Smith, a veteran of the American Expeditionary Force and a member of the county police force, also threw his hat in the ring for the sheriff's race.

Pope won the election, held on April 5, 1940 by 362 votes over his next closest opponent, Thurston.

Joe Cash, a negro, was shot and killed on January 12, 1940 near the train depot. A coroner's jury called by Coroner J. M. D. Bond found the shooting was justifiable. Bose Strickland came upon Cash trying to steal an automobile tire and shot him twice with a pistol - once in the left leg and once in the right side of the back.

"Closed until better weather" was the notice posted January 23, 1940 by Jackson and Butts County schools. The closings came after a heavy snow storm hit the day before, dumping six inches of powder on the ground, shutting down schools and businesses across Georgia and disrupting train and bus service. It was the biggest snow to hit Jackson since 1936, and brought the coldest temperatures felt locally since 1928. Temperatures dropped to 6 degrees Fahrenheit. The freeze damaged many grain crops, but also killed off boll weevils.

The post office, however, maintained its schedule of delivering the mail throughout the bad weather.

Many streets were frozen several inches deep, but Jackson streets were kept clear by the county force and state highway maintenance crews, which scraped paths in the middle of all streets. WPA workers resumed work on local roads after the roads began thawing out.

Schools reopened a week after closing, and the lost time was made up at the end of the school year. But attendance was low for a week after the snow left due to the worst road conditions in years as frozen dirt roads turned to deep muddy paths.

J. L. Roberts, principal of Jackson High School, announced that new tennis courts built near the school would be ready for play by the end of February 1940.

The city lowered its electric rates effective with the March 1940 billing. The city slightly raised water rates at the same time, due to the installation of new water meters.

The electric rates in the city were revised and reduced with the idea of benefiting all customers. Under a government plan, electric appliances could be purchased on installment

payments. These payments were collected by city officials and turned over to the Electric Home and Farm Authority, which was later taken over by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

The city was also studying a program of cooperation with Georgia Power Company for a cooking school and campaign to increase the use of electricity throughout the city. The cooking school was held in April that year, and was sponsored by women's civic groups including the Jackson Woman's Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Cherokee, Mimosa and Hawthorn garden clubs, and the Jeptha Chapter O. E. S. Over 300 men and women attended the three classes.

Since the Parkland extension was paved in west Jackson, W. B. Hodges reported that his neighborhood suddenly had "one of the best speedways in the county." In early March 1940, a small red fox was killed on the street in front of Hodges' house when it was hit by a speeding automobile.

At a meeting on March 7, 1940, the Jackson board of education re-elected D. V. Spencer as superintendent for another year. He had already served several years in that capacity. A committee on athletics was also instructed to report on the status of building a gymnasium for the Jackson school.

At its March 11, 1940 meeting, the City Council voted to sponsor a campaign by the Orkin Exterminating Company of Macon to wipe out rats, roaches and other vermin in the city.

Henry Merritt Fletcher died on March 12, 1940. He was born on January 24, 1869 to a distinguished middle Georgia family. After finishing college, he taught at the Oak Grove school near his birth place in Butts County, at the Jackson Institute, and later at Gordon Institute in Barnesville. He quit teaching to study law, and practiced in Jackson in the early 20th Century. He served as mayor of Jackson for several years, and then as judge of city court, and also as a state senator.

The first objective of the Jackson Woman's Club, as announced at its March 15, 1940 meeting, was to serve school lunches at the Jackson school.

All dog owners in the city were required to bring their pets to the city jail on March 18 or 25, 1940 to be inoculated by virtue of a city ordinance requiring all dogs be inoculated and properly tagged. Any stray dog found without proper tag after that was to be killed.

At its March 25, 1940 meeting, the Jackson City Council voted to lend financial support to the effort to secure a county health nurse for the community. The Grand Jury recommended a public health nurse for the county when it convened in February, and the county commissioners had already signed on to support the position. Various civic groups also pledged financial support. The county had a nurse for some time, but had not had one for several years.

Effective June 21, 1940, the county and city had their Health Nurse: Miss Ethel Smith, who took an office at the courthouse. She was born in Butts County, and looked forward to returning home to serve the community.

In March and April 1940, the City Council allowed anyone age 21 or over to vote on what kind of time the city should keep during the Summer. A book was kept in city hall for votes either for central standard time or eastern standard time.

In 1939, the Council polled local businesses and observed eastern standard time as a result. But there were complaints that housewives had not been consulted on the matter.

When the votes were counted in April 1940, central standard time won 203 votes to 165 for eastern standard time so there would be no daylight savings time that year in Jackson.

Threatt Moore died on April 23, 1940 at his home on McDonough Road. He was born November 3, 1876 and moved to Butts County as a boy. At the University of Georgia, he was star baseball player and halfback for the football team in the 1890s. He played on the Red and Black team that defeated the University of Pennsylvania 4-0. Foregoing a promising baseball career, he returned to Jackson and practiced law. He was elected mayor of Jackson, and twice represented Butts County in the lower house of the General Assembly.

<u>JACKSON BOYS BASKETBALL</u>
[This was the team of the Jackson Athletic Club.]
JACKSON - 39, Griffin - 25
Jackson - 38, GRIFFIN - 55
Jackson - 21, FORSYTH - 35
JACKSON - 32, Mansfield - 23
Jackson - 15, PIKE COUNTY - 19

<u>JACKSON GIRLS BASKETBALL 1940</u>
[This was the newly-formed team of the Jackson Athletic Club.]
JACKSON - 29, Griffin - 21
Jackson - 20, GRIFFIN - 29
Jackson - 10, FORSYTH - 27
JACKSON - 29, Griffin - 21
JACKSON - 18, Forsyth - 12

The Jackson colored baseball team, with manager Howard Beck and captain Jimmie Lee Bell, sought public support in May 1940 to secure balls, bats and other needed equipment for the team's Summer season. The team planned to play every Wednesday during the Summer.

In early May 1940, all the grocery stores in Jackson agreed to close at 6 p.m. during the Summer season.

On Sunday, May 26, 1940, the 37 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1940 graduated. But first they were treated to a barbecue at Indian Springs put on by the school's junior class. The Valedictorian of the Class of 1940 was Louise Hardy. Hilda Edwards was the Salutatorian.

The Class of 1940 at the newly re-named Henderson High School was five members strong. Their diplomas noted the school's new name "F. B. Henderson High." Principal Berryhill left the school at the end of the year, and was replaced by Carl Dixon.

The Census of 1940 showed Jackson had a population of 1,918, an increase of 73 over the 1930 figure of 1,776. According to the 1920 Census, the city's population was 2,027. The slump from 1920 to 1930 was due to the depression and labor exodus. The county's population in 1940 was 9,192, a decrease of 153 over the 1930 Census total.

"In these growing up years - in the 1930s and 1940s - the population of the town didn't vary but by four or five people a year," recounted Jane Anne Settle in 2008. "It stayed right at about 2,000 people. But the square was the size it is now."

Herschel R. Merritt was elected principal of the Jackson High School by the Jackson board of education on June 7, 1940. He also acted as coach of athletics.

At a City Council meeting on June 10, 1940 civic leaders discussed with the Council plans to build a gymnasium at the Jackson high school. Under the plan, both the city and county shared the expense for the project. Long needed in the community, the gymnasium was to serve primarily as a basketball facility, but a kitchen and banquet room and large floor space would make it popular as a community hall or reception hall for visiting celebrities. E. I. Rooks, Jackson architect and contractor, figured the cost of the building would range between $3,500 and $3,750. The site for the gym had not been chosen yet, but it was likely to be built on land adjoining the Hawkes Library or on the existing school grounds.

In June, Mayor W. M. Redman announced that stop lights in Jackson would be speeded up to aide traffic. When the lights were first installed several years earlier, the mayor explained, their timing was set at what traffic conditions at that time required. But many complaints were received that the lights were too slow to change, and city officials took steps in the Summer of 1940 to change that.

Alice White confessed to the fatal stabbing of Pete Tolen on June 6, 1940. According to evidence developed by city policemen T. O. McDonald and L. J. McMichael and Sheriff G. T. Thurston, the trio of Tolen, White and another woman were walking across the field near the Davis Filling Station when a dispute arose. White claimed Tolen knocked her down three time and was coming at her with a knife when she stabbed him in the heart. White was charged with murder for the act, but was acquitted in August.

On July 6, 1940, Ralph. W. Carr opened a radio and refrigerator business in the Commercial Building on North Mulberry Street,

On July 8, 1940, the City Council passed an ordinance requiring a physical examination for all those handling food and milk and other food products, and for all domestic servants, nurses, midwives and launderers. The exams were given for free by Ethel Smith, County Health Nurse, in her office. The ordinance, it was felt, would raise the health standards throughout the community.

Farmers of the county invited businessmen of the city to a barbecue at Indian Springs on July 17, 1940 in order to bring about a better understanding between the two groups and solve mutual problems. The farmers footed the bill for the meal, estimated to cost 50 cents a plate. It was the first meeting of its kind, and attracted over 200 people.

"My parents were tenant farmers for Mr. Carter, Charles Carter's grandfather," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "The Carters, as I understand it, rented land and in turn subleased it to tenant farmers. They also ran a livery stable. It was located where Superior Cleaners is now. The advantage of working for the Carters was two-fold because you always had a good mule. It made your work on the farm easier. In addition, since they had the mules anyways, they bought a cotton dusting machine. They'd rent it out, or dust cotton for other people at so much per acre. My daddy and a gentleman by the name of Wiley Burge operated the cotton dusting machine of the Carters. My daddy, George Gaye, had the nickname for a while of The Boll Weevil 'cause they would dust the cotton.

"Neither of my parents probably went as far as the fifth grade," he continued. "My mother sewed for people. My daddy was just a real hard worker. He'd work you to death. I don't know if he ever weighed 150 pounds, but you couldn't work with him. He was a real intelligent guy. They were both church people because that was a place where you expressed yourself - in church.

"They stayed there [at the Carter farm] until I was about three years old," said Gaye. Then "they moved to the McCord place. The McCord place is all up and down Highway 16 West. The McCords owned basically both sides of the highway from Jackson to where the [Middle Georgia Auction] sale barn is now. And they owned property on [Highway] 42. I say they owned, but basically it was one man, a bachelor by the name of Hughie McCord. Mr. McCord was related to Mr. Daughtry's family, which was related to a family out of Henry County, the Barclays. Mr. McCord was a nephew and this was his to run down here. He was never married. He lived in a house that would be a few hundred yards down from Ingles, back towards Jackson, near the lodge hall. Around his house there were what would normally be called quarters, but there were smaller houses that Black people lived in. Basically that was who took care of him. He had a cook named Miss Lee Upshaw. And he had day laborers and all that.

"The important thing about Mr. McCord," he continued, "was that he paid his day laborers pretty good, and the other thing is he wasn't pressed to make money. I don't think it bothered him whether he made any money or not. So the one unique thing about him was he encouraged my daddy and other people to send their kids to school. Where other people might encourage you

to keep your kids out, he wanted you to try to make arrangements to send your kids to school. He was also part owner of a freezer locker that was built where the McIntosh State Bank services building is now [on South Oak Street].

"We lived there until 1950," said Gaye. "I had farm experiences there. Part of our cotton field is where First Baptist Church is. It extended back to where Jackson High School is now. Mr. McCord owned all of that. I got in on the plowing right at the end. Mr. McCord died in 1950 and that was a big event in the county. Not in the sense that he was celebrated as someone great or anything. But it was a big event in that nobody was able to buy all of the land that he had. As a matter of fact, since then no one has owned that entire tract of land. The house that we lived in was right behind [Mr. Briscoe's old brick house on Highway 16 West]."

Following several weeks of prolonged rain, the city cemetery had become unsightly with tall grass and weeds in early August 1940. But city officials quickly got on the problem and cleared every lots of unsightly overgrowth in Jackson's city of the dead.

Work began in August 1940 on a playground for the young and old in a field near the Jackson High school. A playground committee, chaired by Van Greene, had ordered one sliding board 10 feet long, one four-board see saw, one four-swing swing-set with box seats for small children, one giant stride, a softball field and horseshoes and stakes to make five horseshoe courts. There was to be a sand pile in one corner of the playground for "the little fellows." Materials were also order to light to tennis court and playground. The county was charged with the grading of the field.

"The committee wishes to thank the City of Jackson for its splendid cooperation and donation as well as the county for its generous contribution of labor and machinery to grade the field," said Greene at the time.

The playground officially opened August 28, 1940. Two men were named supervisors of the playground.

In the Fall of 1940, the state began painting center lines on roads so motorists knew which side of the ride was theirs. On dangerous curves, a yellow stripe parallel to the centerline was painted on the driver's side to alert him that it was unsafe to pass.

Jackson schools opened on September 2, 1940 with over 300 students. Compulsory vaccination for smallpox, in accordance with city ordinance was required for all pupils. Ethel Smith, the new Public Health Nurse, was present to give the free vaccinations. She also gave a typhoid vaccine and Schick test for diphtheria, if desired. The city board of education had also arranged for a woodshop to be built for use in vocational training at the high school. The Pepperton School opened on the same day, but county schools opened two weeks later.

At a meeting of the City Council on September 13, 1940 the tax rate was kept at the same rate as 1909 - 18 mills, divided as follows: seven mills for support of the city schools, five mills for general government, and six mills for sinking fund and interest.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt summoned 60,000 National Guardsmen to a year's federal military service starting September 16, 1940. Included in that call-up was the 105th quartermasters regiment of Jackson.

In addition, the Jackson Rifles, a unit of the 121st Infantry, was called up and reported to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The quota for enlistments in the Rifles was 129 men, and officials had so many applications that filling that quota seemed easy.

Members of the Jackson Rifles and 105th Quartermasters Regiment bivouacked at the old fair grounds for 10 days before leaving for Fort Jackson. The City Council provided water and lights for the troops. The tents set up around the fair grounds was reminiscent of 1917 and 1918 when millions of men trained for overseas service.

The Rifles were commanded by Captain William B. Bryant of Dublin. The second in command was a local man, Sgt. Lindsay A. Maddox, who was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of the Jackson Rifles at this time.

Ninety-six men boarded a train on September 23 bound for Fort Jackson, and several officers and men traveled by automobile. A large crowd was present when the train pulled out at 5 a.m. that morning.

"That was the National Guard until the time we were called into federal service," Harry Ridgeway said in 2009. "The unit here was called into to federal service on September 16, 1940. We were sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. There we trained for about a year. We had been called into federal service supposedly just for one year. But before the year was up, the rumor was that the war was heating up in Italy."

On October 16, 1940 all men in Georgia between the ages of 21 and 35 were required to register for armed service in accordance with President Roosevelt's proclamation and the selective service draft law passed by Congress. In Jackson, men went to the schools to register. A total of 946 registered that day - 494 White and 452 Negro.

Governor E. D. Rivers appointed five men to serve as Butts County's draft board. The members were: Dr. O. B. Howell, medical advisor; Col. C. L. Redman, legal advisor; and W. J. Bankston, John D. Pope and E. R. Edwards. The board checked registrants and placed them in the proper classes: those available for immediate military service, those deferred because of the nature of their work, those having dependents, and those deferred by terms of the registration act.

Aubrey D. Maddox was the first named from Butts County pulled in the national draft on October 29, 1940. The second was Willie P. Brooks and the third was John Henry Johnson.

The Georgia Home Guard had already been formed so members of it could assist peace officers in enforcing law and order when the National Guard was called to duty. W. M. Redman was captain of the local Home Guard (and the mayor of Jackson and the president of the Kiwanis Club and a veteran of World War I).

In the first week of October 1940, the 8.499-mile link on Highway 16 from Jackson to the Spalding County line was completed and opened for traffic. The asphalt surface gave travelers an all-weather road. At the same time, city streets were being paved by the state.

On October 6, 1940 Ruby Mayfield and her two small children were roused from their home, which was destroyed by flames shortly after. They lost all their possessions, but were unharmed by the blaze. The home was located near the Southern depot.

On November 28, 1940 the announcement was made that the U.S. War Department had approved the expenditure of $40 to $50 million for a network of improved military highways. One of these highways was to come near Jackson. The improvements, mainly widening to 42 feet and strengthening and building new bridges, sought to connect vital industrial areas ad troop concentration centers. Jackson was included in a secondary route that ran from Chattanooga to Atlanta and then to Macon, Perry , Cordele, Tifton, Valdosta and the Florida state line.

The Jackson High basketball team continued to be plagued by a lack of an indoor court, as both boys and girls teams lost to Monticello in late November 1940.

In the first week of December 1940, Christmas lights and a lighted Christmas tree went up around the downtown square, thanks to J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department, and his assistants.

On Monday, December 9, 1940, the street from Tyler's Store to the end of paving on North Oak Street was roped off to allow street skating as part of the Jackson Recreation Board's program for expanded recreation.

1941

With a payment of $4,000 on the first of January 1941, the city sliced its indebtedness. Still outstanding were $9,000 in sewer bonds, $15,000 in school bonds, and $13,000 in paving bonds.

As of the first of January 1941, one of the county's oldest business firms, Nutt & Bond, Inc., had new owners. V. H. Ham and J. B. White purchased the fertilizer and coal business from the estate of W. M. Bond. The company also operated a gin plant. The firm was originally owned by the Southern Cotton Oil Company, and was purchased by T. A. Nutt and W. M. Bond about 1921.

Butts County's first registrants were to report to Fort McPherson on January 7, 1941, and it was suggested the city give the men a rousing sendoff as was done during World War I. The registered men called to duty were: Adicus Andrew St. John, John Curry Cawthon, James Elwood Singley and James Oliver Beauchamp. There were two volunteers as well: Paul Erasmus King and William Ardell James. A Negro, Albert Porter, was also called to duty, and left on January 20 for Fort Benning. They were to serve a year of training under the national defense program.

These men were given an ovation at exercises held at the courthouse with city and county officials as well as members of local civic and patriotic organizations taking part.

According to figures released by the Census Bureau in January 1941, the population of Butts County was placed at 9,182 in 1940, compared with 9,345 in 1930. Jackson had a population of 1,917 in 1940, compared with 1,776 in 1930. Pepperton increased from 525 people in 1930 to 585 in 1940.

Sarah Jean (Taylor) Henderson was born in Pepperton in 1937. Her father, Troy Taylor, was employed at the mill, one of a handful of Blacks who had jobs there. "Daddy worked at the Pepperton Cotton Mill," she said in a 2009 interview. "He loaded cotton on the truck and carried it from one place to the other. It wasn't a far distance. He wasn't a truck driver on the road. It was just from one building to another.

"Mother was a housewife," Henderson said of her mother, Essie (Watkins) Taylor. "She took in washing and ironing from the people that lived there in the village. She cooked for some of the ladies that were there in the village. She raised some of the children in the village. I had the opportunity to meet some of them. They loved my mother. It was wonderful to see what mother had done, and to know that the children were crazy about her.

"I went to school here at Henderson High School," Henderson said. "Pepperton had a school, but it was just for the other race. We were separated then, and I've always hated that. The Pepperton School wasn't far from the mill. And they had a church in that community, and we weren't allowed to go to that church either. I just wonder why did there have to be so much separation when they depended on each other so much in a sense. I couldn't see the segregation part of it. I don't know whether I didn't want to see it, or… but I just couldn't imagine people being separated. I guess that's why I pushed it out of my mind."

Under an ordinance adopted January 20, 1941, the keeping of hogs within the corporate limits of Jackson was not permitted after March 1, 1941. The ordinance was adopted by the City Council in the interest of sanitation and health. At the same time, the Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the sale or shooting of fireworks in the city.

Two cars were destroyed by fire of undetermined origin in a West Avenue garage at the end of January 1941.

In the first week of February 1941, Dr. William M. Harris opened a chiropractic office in the Commercial Building above the Dixie Theater.

On February 14, 1941, the Jackson Board of Education re-elected D. V. Spencer as superintendent of the Jackson public schools. It was the 14th year that Spencer had been named to head the schools. Not only was he an educator, but he also wrote textbooks.

Surveying began in early March 1941 prior to a large street paving program that was to embrace most of the streets in Jackson. Mayor W. M. Redman said the WPA would cooperate with the city to get the job done. Sidewalks were also being planned for the streets. Street paving

with asphalt could be done for 30 cents per foot. Property owners on College Street had petitioned for their street to be paved and would foot most of the bill.

The city and county cooperated to furnish materials and equipment, while the WPA provided the labor. A similar arrangement was used to paved Lyons and Second streets previously.

In March 1941, the schools in Jackson were serving 225 lunches per day. At the colored school, there were 375 lunches being served daily.

Under legislation sponsored by Representative J. Avon Gaston, the old Board of Commissioners for Butts County was abolished. Voters went to the polls on March 28, 1941 to elect a new three-member board. Commissioners were to be paid $300 per year. The new Board was also required to advertise for bid any project over $300; fill vacancies on the Board by way of elections; audit the county books every two years; and publish a monthly statement of receipts and disbursements. Winners of the election were: B. H. Hodges, E. D. Patrick and Pratt Smith.

The Kiwanis Club had made the building of a new gymnasium in Jackson one of its priorities for 1941. In March, the City Council met with the county board of education to finalize plans for just such a facility. The plan was to spend $4,000 on a wooden building that would house a modern gymnasium and two classrooms for vocational studies. The gymnasium itself measured 72’ by 97’, with a basement, two dressing rooms and showers. It had a seating capacity of 800. Steam heat was installed to warm the building in Winter. The basketball court, with hardwood floor, measured 40’ by 70’. It was built directly behind the existing jackson school building on land the city had purchased the year before. Construction began in the middle of April. The total cost of the facility was $11,591, with the city paying $8,591 of that amount.

Materials for lighting the athletic field in Jackson were being obtained in late March 1941 to allow for softball games and other contests at night during the Summer months. The city advanced a committee the funds to light the field, and was paid back through charges for the athletic contests. The first night game was played on April 18, 1941 between the “fats” and the “leans.” Team members were chosen from local businesses and from among the county;s leading citizens.

On March 21, 1941, the governor signed into law a new Eastern Time Law, at which time all of Georgia began observing Eastern time. Prior to that, the western third of the state observed Central time. The clock on the county courthouse was advanced one hour as soon as the governor signed the law, and other clocks soon followed suit to the new time.

At the end of March 19141, Smith’s Walgreen Agency Drugs, formerly Jackson Drug Company, opened on the square. W. G. Smith had renovated and modernized the store, and said “our slogan shall be in Jackson we are never knowingly undersold.”

The half holiday schedule began April 1, 1941 and ran through August 27, 1941. With it, the majority of businesses in Jackson closed at noon on Wednesdays to allow more time for recreation.

Severe wind, rain and hail struck Butts County on April 3, 1941 resulting in hail drifts to a depth of two and three feet around buildings. It was the most severe hail storm to hit the area since the disastrous storm of May 7, 1933. The hail was small in size, rather than the large pellets that tore roofs to shreds in 1933. No injuries or major damage was reported.

In early April 1941, officials with the Pepperton Cotton Mill announced plans to build a 67' by 103' cloth room on the east wing of the plant. The new room was used to expedite shipping facilities and was where employees wrapped, bailed and shipped cotton goods. During the year, according to E. L. Smith, secretary of the facility, the mill was expected to consume almost 10,000 bales of cotton, its heaviest consumption ever.

On April 14, 1941, the City Council passed an ordinance forbidding anyone from soliciting for funds in the city without a permit from the city clerk. It was passed in response to a general demand by business firms for protection against a variety of schemes for obtaining funds for charitable and other purposes.

The State Fiddlers Contest was held at the Butts County Courthouse on April 26, 1941.

Barbara Lavendar was named Valedictorian of the Jackson High School Class of 1941. Margaret Taylor was named Salutatorian. There were 32 members of the class.

John's Variety Store opened on the square in the Spring of 1941.

The Valedictorian of the Henderson High School in 1941 was Nadine Smith. There were eight members of the graduating class.

At the end of May 1941, the mayor and Council asked residents to conserve electricity and water. "The national defense program calls for an all-time high in production," the letter addressed to citizens stated. "These defense activities require a great volume of power.

"We are therefore appealing to all customers to do anything and everything in order to conserve electrical energy during this emergency. This is being asked as a patriotic duty so long as the emergency lasts."

The city turned off street lights in residential areas at midnight, and the Dixie Theater cut back two shows in order to save electricity.

People were also asked to collect aluminum for national defense.

In June 1941, work began on extended the paving on Covington Street to Stark Road, a distance of several hundred feet.

In the first week of June 1941, three stores on the north side of the square occupied by Sim's 5 & 10 store, John's Variety Store and the City Barber Shop were sold by N. D. Eubanks of Atlanta to H. Deraney of Jackson for $6,250. The properties were originally owned by Judge T. J. Dempsey, and were then acquired by Eubanks. The three buildings rent for $100 per month.

Non-defense industries throughout the southeast were required to curtail their consumption of electric power by one-third beginning June 16, 1941. The Pepperton Cotton Mill was the hardest hit local industry. The reason for the rationing was due to a prolonged drought that had hydro-electric plants operating well below capacity.

The City of Jackson, through Mayor W. M. Redman and J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department, asked commercial and domestic consumers to discontinue exterior and show window lighting by 100 percent, reduce interior lighting to safety levels, discontinue decorative and sign lighting by 100 percent, conserve as much motor power as possible, and conserve as much water as possible.

The limitations on power usage were lifted in early July 1941 following rainfall amounting to several inches in the span of a few weeks.

At the end July 1941, approximately 300 people went to work at the Pomona Products Company canning plant in Jackson to can the areas peach crop. The plant employed men and women, Blacks and Whites. New machinery had been installed to enable the facility to process about 3,000 bushels of peaches per day. The peaches were to be used by the government at its military camps and also sold under the Pomona label.

Once canning began, the plant operated two shifts - each with 300 workers - 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Employees canned an average of 6,000 bushels of peaches a day. The weekly payroll was between $6,000 and $8,000. Peaches were also brought in from Tennessee and the Carolinas.

The opening of the Jackson public schools was postponed from September 1 to September 15, 1941 by the Jackson Board of Education. This was due to a recent outbreak of infantile paralysis, which claimed the life of one four-year-old boy in Jackson. Jackson High School served as the senior high for all county students, who completed the tenth and eleventh grades there after attending elementary and junior high in the county.

Speaking at the opening of the Jackson schools, Colonel B. B. Garland said, it was "time to declare war not against Hitler, Mussolini, or others, but against ignorance - the cannons are books and pencils and the captains and generals are the teachers. Persons unequipped for the battle of life are doomed to defeat; it is the duty of parents to train their children for the future positions of prominence in the world."

On September 2, 1941 Joel Crane spotted a rattlesnake on Watkins Park and Pool Road. He ran over it, and continued to run over it until he was sure it was dead. Crane then brought it to town to show off. The snake measured 53 inches in length and had seven rattles. It was the first snake of its kind found in the county according to records kept on such things.

The tax levy for the City of Jackson was fixed at 18 mills for the year 1941, the same as the amount the previous year. Of those 18 mills, five went to general purposes, seven for support of the Jackson schools, and six mills for interest and the sinking fund. When a new gymnasium was completed for the Jackson school, a project the city and county were sharing the costs for, the Council predicted the school portion of the tax levy would decrease.

In the last week of September 1941 came the announcement that the Rogers Store in Jackson had installed a modern and sanitary meat market. L. S. Wilkes was the manager of the market department at the store.

The Jackson Board of Education elected J. F. Thompson of Griffin as the new principal of the Jackson high school and coach of the school's athletic teams on September 26, 1941. His predecessor, H. R. Merritt, served only one year as principal before resigning.

On October 30, 1941, the first of two columns of troops and vehicles of the Second Armored Division based at Fort Benning made its way through Jackson. The 1,500 vehicles and 4,000 troops were on their way to maneuvers in North Carolina.

The new gymnasium at Jackson high school was completed in November 1941. The best gum floor attainable was installed and sanded, locker rooms and showers for the players were finished, an intricate plumbing system completed, and the dedication of the building was held on December 5, 1941. The seating capacity of the gym was between 600 and 700, with standing room for many more. Players interested in being part of the Jackson Athletic basketball team were asked to see coach Judson Hearn. The cost of the gym was estimated at $11,600.

David Ridgeway was in the tenth grade at the time the gymnasium was completed. "E. I. Rooks' son built that gym," he recalled in 2008. "During the war, we played basketball in the gym. We'd get up a squad and another grade would get up a squad, and we'd play at lunchtime. And we didn't have but one off game when we played Eatonton. Our coach put this one player in the game. It was tied up 34-to-34. And that player got the ball and ran the wrong way and rung the goal for them. He beat us. He didn't come to school for a week. He didn't play much. And up until we got the gym built, we had to play out there on the dirt."

In a surprise strike on December 7, 1941, Japanese fighter planes attacked the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The assault killed 2,402 people.

Following the United States' declaration of war against Japan on December 8, 1941, it was reported that there were no Japanese - and few foreign-born persons - living in Butts County. In fact, there were only 31 Japanese in the entire State of Georgia, according to Census figures. Federal soldiers were stationed at the Lloyd Shoals power plant and dam.

"All able-bodied persons in Jackson must go to work, fight or go to jail," according to Jackson Mayor W. M. Redman in directing attention to the opening of a registration office in Jackson for Civilian Defense in the middle of December 1941. There were openings in public

works, such as repair squads, road and sewer and water work, and street repairs, as well as first aid courses and a need for nurses' aides. The fact that there had been a considerable amount of loafing in the community, according to the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, at a time when every able-bodied person should have been busy irked city and county authorities.

Miss Lucile Akin and members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughters of the American Revolution and other organizations were put in charge of the registration office in the Moore building on East Third Street. The Butts County Council of Defense - with Mayor Redman as chairman - collected and assembled information about all able-bodied men who could serve in a time of national emergency.

"After Pearl Harbor, we knew then that it was serious," said Harry Ridgeway, who was stationed at Fort Jackson at the time. "When Pearl Harbor hit, they shut the gates [of the base] on us. We weren't going anywhere. From then on there was dilly-dallying around. It was serious business. And then in January 1942, recruits started coming in and by that time we had become a training unit.

Members of the Jackson Rifles did not stay together. "And it was a good thing it didn't," said Ridgeway. "I can understand afterwards. At the time, we wanted to stay together. But during the war if we had stayed in the same unit when we went across the channel to Normandy you could have had all the members of a community killed or wounded or wiped out. I can remember some of our unit that left here that left here ended up in the 77th infantry division, 80th, 95th, 106th. So we were scattered here and yonder."

In the last week of December 1941, ground was broken for a Greyhound bus depot and Shell Oil station on East Third Street across from the Carmichael House. The depot faced an alley that was to be paved by the city, and the service station faced Third Street. For several years prior to this, the bus depot had been located at the Jarrell-Finley building on the corner of Second and North Mulberry streets.

By the end of 1941, the city had outstanding bonds in the amount of $45,000. Water and lights accounted for $3,000 of that total; sewer bonds totaled $13,000; public schools (issued in 1921) accounted for $17,000; street paving totaled $13,000.

In December 1941, the city planned to make improvements to its water supply system, but due to the declaration of World War II restrictions were placed on municipalities and it was impossible to carry out these plans. No electric line extensions were allowed, only maintenance of existing lines. And public lighting was drastically reduced.

The city was desperately in need of a fire truck, and after much pleading and actual begging with the OPA, the city was allowed to buy a new fire truck and get it equipped for fighting fires. The price tag was $3,576.

On December 31, 1941, 10-year-old Loyd Wilson, who lived with her parents on Watkins Park & Pool Road, died of rabies. He had been bitten on the nose two weeks earlier by a mad dog.

1942

Soldiers from Fort Jackson who were home for the holidays were given a New Year's Eve party at the new gymnasium by the Jackson community. Music was provided by a group of county fiddlers.

Elected officials in Jackson, who were all re-elected without opposition in November 1941, were: Mayor W. M. Redman, and aldermen J. Avon Gaston, E. I. Rooks, E. H. Pace, and J. W. O'Neal.

At its January 1, 1942 meeting, the Council elected all the same employees from the previous year, with the exception of C. H. Smith, who was promoted from policeman to chief of police, and T. O. McDonald who went from chief to patrolman. G. H. Turner was the third member of the police department.

Mrs. W. H. Mallet was re-elected as clerk and treasurer, and Miss Mary Downs continued as her assistant. J. H. Rooks was renamed superintendent of the water and light department, with Tom Bond as assistant. W. E. Maddox was again named superintendent of the water station.

An increase of salary was granted to all employees. The salary of the superintendent of the water and light department increased from $135 to $155 per month, and the salary of the chief of police was raised $10 a month to $100 per month.

The city began 1942 by arranging to pay off $4,000 worth of bonds, leaving a bonded indebtedness of $33,000. Of the amount paid, $3,000 went to retire sewer bonds, and $1,000 retired public school bonds.

On January 4, 1942, a mass meeting was held in the courthouse to outline defense plans and shore up public support for all efforts to win the war. It was the largest such meeting since the signing of the armistice ending World War I on December 18, 1918.

Rev. B. F. Mosely was appointed to head the colored division of Civilian Defense in Butts County. He headed a similar meeting that afternoon at Henderson High School.

Similar meetings were held in all 159 counties in Georgia that day. Savings bonds and stamps were bought in large numbers to support the war effort. The Jackson Kiwanis Club led the effort to promote the sale of Defense Stamps and Bonds in the community.

In January 1942, the city council invested what savings it could in U.S. Defense Bonds until wartime restrictions were lifted and the city was able to build a new filter plant for the Water Works. From then until 1947, $55,500 was invested in Series F Defense Bonds. Accrued interest on the bonds at that time amounted to $2,205.

In January 1942, a rigid program of tire rationing was announced for the state. A local board was suet up to oversee the the sale of tires. New tires were allotted to a preferred class including physicians, nurses, buses, and trucks. The sale of new automobiles was forbidden under federal law. In the first month, the local board approved applications for 39 tires and 37

tubes. Citizens were asked to notify the Board if they saw anyone with new tires whose name did not appear in the newspaper as being approved for new tires.

A national law regulating automobiles stay below 35 miles per hour in order to conserve gasoline and rubber for tires was roundly being ignored by most drivers, according to an observation at the time.

In addition, as of February 1942, all automobiles were required to have a national defense sticker on their windshields. At a cost of $2 each (and $5 each after July 1), the national tax was expected to raise considerable revenue.

The city passed an ordinance requiring that all dogs in the city be inoculated against rabies by January 19, 1942. The action followed the death of a 10-year-old boy just outside the city limits. Dr. J. B. Watkins, veterinarian, treated well over 100 dogs at a clinic in the middle of the month.

The Jackson Style Shop, with Elizabeth K. Leach as owner, opened on the south side of the square in January 1942. The business had been operated as The Busy Corner by Ida Moss until her death in 1941.

According to Census figures released at the end of January 1942, Butts County's population in 1940 was 53 percent White and 47 percent Colored. There was a total population of 9,182.

February 1942 saw the largest single quota for Butts County since the Selective Service became law: 12 Whites and seven colored men were told to report for duty.

On February 16, 1942, 430 men between the ages of 20 and 45 registered, bringing the total man power in the county subject to call for military service 1,454. On April 27, 1942, men between the ages of 45 and 64 were asked to register as well and possibly serve in non-combat roles in defense of the nation.

The deadline for daylight savings time to take effect was February 9, 1942, though many people in Jackson did not like the idea. Most locals said they would abide by the law, but did so generally by going to work an hour later. Banking hours were to be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and most other businesses in the city chose to open an hour later than normal. Churches, however, had not yet decided when services would be held.

The 4-H Club and area farmers collected 50 tons of scrap metal in the first week of February 1942. In the first week of March, an additional 22 tons were collected. The metal was to be used in the war effort. The 4-H Clubs of Butts County had over 300 members at the time - a high water mark for the club up to that time - and stressed the coordination of the head, heart, hand, and health in its members.

A powerful hail storm swept through the county on February 6, 1942. No one was injured, but hail stones the size of turkey eggs were reported north of Jackson. It was said to have

been the most powerful hail storm to hit the area since the storm that destroyed crops across middle Georgia on May 7, 1933.

At a meeting of the Jackson Board of Education in early March 1942, D. V. Spencer was re-elected as superintendent of the Jackson school system. It was the fifteenth year that Spencer served in that capacity. The high school had a teaching staff of six people with J. F. Thomspon as principal and coach. At the Jackson grammar school, there were seven teachers - one for each grade, first through seventh - and one truant officer, Miss Annie Lou McCord.

To assist with the national defense training effort, the Jackson schools were to soon add vocational classes and equipped boys and girls for lives of service.

By order of the War Production Board, gasoline deliveries to filling stations in the eastern seaboard and Pacific northwest were cut by 20 percent as of March 19, 1942.

As of the first of April 1942, businesses in Jackson agreed to close every Wednesday through the end of August at 1 p.m. for a half holiday. The half-holiday plan had been in place for several years, but in 1941 businesses lengthened the schedule by started in April rather than in May. The action was taken to give all employees some time off.

In April 1942, the family of Gus Gray was notified that he was missing and feared dead in the Pacific Ocean. Gray, who was born and raised in Jackson, had been in the Navy for 12 years and was known as a first-class torpedo gunner. He was stationed aboard the USS Peary, a destroyer which was sunk by a Japanese attack off the coast of Australia.

His family was notified in July 1942 that Gray had died February 20, 1942 as a result of burns. He was buried at sea the next day. Augustus Henderson Gray was the first Butts County casualty of World War II. Several local soldiers had been at Pearl Harbor, but escaped with minor injuries.

On April 23, 1942, Jackson was to be visited by 153 trucks from Atlanta, Macon and Griffin making a test run in the interest of Civilian Defense. Each of the nine fleets of trucks contained 17 vehicles: 10 cargo-carrying vessels, two tank trucks, two service trucks, two panel trucks, and one high-powered car. Trucks that made the run were borrowed from transportation companies, wholesale concerns, department stores and from other sources that would have trucks immediately available in case of emergency.

Approximately 500 people were to visit Jackson in association with the test run, and local officials planned to have over 1,000 sandwiches, many pounds of coffee and plenty of ice water available to them.

At one time, trucks stretched for 10 miles on the highway, and those coming from Atlanta made it to Jackson in an hour and a half. A total of 171 truck ended up taking part in the evacuation test. Officials declared it a success, noting that an entire population of a community could be moved in the event of an air raid or enemy bombing.

On Friday, April 24, 1942, a field day was held at Henderson High School with students from all the colored schools of the county coming to take part in the events. The Henderson team won the spelling bee, and Henderson students won all but two of the athletic competitions.

At the end of April 1942, a new local rationing board was added to the war effort. This one was to govern the rationing of sugar, gasoline and other products.

On May 4 and 5, 1942, thousands of residents concerned about their sugar supply for the immediate future jammed local schools to register under the federal rationing system. There were 7,651 registrants for sugar books on May 4, and 7,919 registrants on May 5. It was the greatest popular demonstration of concern over a vital household need seen in a decade.

The following week, hundreds of people flocked to the schools to sign up for gas ration cards on the first day they were available. In the end, 1,019 passenger cars were registered for gas ration cards. Cards were issued with a letter-number assignment that allowed the holder a certain amount of gasoline. Trucks and tractors were not required to sign up for the cards, but obtained them at filling stations after owners told attendants what they were using the gas for.

Once gas rationing took effect in the middle of May, gas sales dried up in 17 eastern states, including Georgia. Some stations in Jackson reported no sales for entire days. In the wake of the rationing, there was less traffic on the highways, fewer visitors to Indian Springs State Park, and parking spaces available on the courthouse square.

Gasoline rationing had the dual purpose of saving gasoline for the war effort and saving rubber, which many viewed as more important to the effort than gasoline.

"Food was rationed," said Elizabeth O'Neal in 2009. "You had to have a book with stamps for food. Shoes were rationed. But nobody complained. Everybody was really - this country was probably as united during World War II as it's ever been.

"In the courthouse, they had a ration board that issued your book with stamps and so forth," she said. "People didn't mind it at all. We had stamps that were worth so much and for change you got back little round things - red ones for meat and blue ones for canned goods. And you could give those along with a coupon. A good many Jackson boys were killed, especially on D-Day."

On May 9, 1942 a fire of undetermined origin gutted the old county jail building on North Oak Street. Only scrap paper and some oil were stored in the building, which had been out of use as a jail since a new jail had been built across the street.

School ended in Jackson on June 1, 1942 with 28 members of the senior class at Jackson High School. Virginia Ball was valedictorian of the class. Salutatorian honors went to Gladelle Moss.

A new Greyhound Bus Depot opened on East Third Street on June 1, 1942. Mrs. L. J. McMichael was the depot's manager.

During closing exercises at Henderson High School in May 1942, Laura Ridley gave the valedictory address and Baby Ruth Holland gave the salutatory address.

As part of a clean up effort throughout the city, city streets were being cleaned of weeds and grass that had been allowed to grow up, and of paper and other trash. Citizens were also encouraged to clean up vacant lots, and their own yards in the interest of public health.

On August 1, 1942, a sudden and furious fire burned three trucks, one automobile, a considerable quantity of oil, and office equipment at the Standard Oil Company station between highways 16 and 42. The three trucks were the property of Settle and Robison. The Jackson Fire Department and a chemical company from Griffin prevented the flames from spreading. Valves to gasoline storage tanks were cut off in time to prevent a disastrous explosion.

By the end of August 1942, more than 60,000 pounds of junk had been collected and sold in Butts County, according to the firm of Robison, Settle, and Robison, authorized junk dealer. The price paid was 40 cents per 100 pounds of old metal delivered to county depots, and 50 cents per 100 pounds delivered to the Jackson junkyard.

As school began in Jackson on August 31, 1942, Miss Sarah Beauchamp was named principal of the high school. The school day began at 9:30 a.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m. Allegra Price Willis was principal of the Henderson High School, and 170 students reported for the first day of school.

The Butts County Fair was cancelled in September 1942 due to the war. The federal government had requested that all fairs be cancelled for the duration of the war to save tires and gasoline.

At its September 21, 1942 meeting, the City Council adopted a tax rate of 18 mills, the same rate as was imposed in 1941. The levy was divided into three divisions: five mills for support of the city government, six mills for interest and the sinking fund to retire bonded indebtedness, and seven mills for the support and maintenance of the city's public schools. The Butts County tax levy was 23 mills, a decrease of two mills over the 1941 rate.

With no rainfall for weeks in the watershed above Jackson, city officials asked residents to conserve water at the end of September 1942. There was no immediate danger of running out of water, but J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department, said a prolonged drought could cause serious problems. At the time, the pumping station was pumping 500 gallons of water per minute. One of the largest users of water, the Pomona pepper canning plant, was using up to 3 million gallons of water per day.

Heavy rainfalls the weekend following the conservation request filled the city reservoir, so no conserving was needed for the time being.

September 30, 1942 was declared a "cotton picking holiday" in Butts County by Mayor W. M. Redman of Jackson so that all businesses, civic groups, Boy Scouts, school children and others could help with the cotton harvest. Because of the scarcity of labor at the time, everyone was asked to pitch in and harvest the cotton before bad weather set in. Everyone was asked to meet at the courthouse at 8 a.m. and be assigned a field to work by the county extension agent.

The business group of pickers collected 5,501 pounds of cotton that day. The Jackson public school group picked 8,704 pounds. The Pepperton School picked 2,473 pounds. The Jackson colored schools picked 3,834 pounds.

Effective October 1, 1942, Ethel Smith resigned as Public Health Nurse for Butts County. She had served in that position for two years when it was first created. Mrs. W. D. Ham was named County health Nurse in December 1942.

New equipment installed at the Jackson Fire Department in early October 1942 at a cost of $3,600 was hoped to help the city obtain a lower insurance rating for its residents. The new equipment included a new Ford chassis, a fire truck with 200-gallon booster tank, hose reels, nozzles and fire extinguishers. The pump had a capacity of 500 gallons of water per minute with 120 pounds of pressure. City officials were also studying ways of keeping a full-time fire crew on te job.

There was no opposition for elected officials in Jackson for the October 1942 primary, so all were re-elected. These men were: Mayor W. M. Redman, and aldermen J. A. Gaston, E. I. Rooks, E. H. Pace and J. W. O'Neal.

In the middle of October 1942, a 7,500-pound cannon that stood on the courthouse lawn for several years was sold to a junk dealer so it could be turned into equipment to fight the nation's current enemies. The cannon had been obtained several years earlier by Congressman E. M. Owens for the American Legion.

As of November 1, 1942, a nationwide gas rationing effort asked drivers to reduce speeds to 35 miles per hour. Such a move, it was said, would prolong the life of tires by 40 percent.

On Friday, November 13, 1942, White persons 21 years of age and older who were residents of the city were asked to vote on the idea of showing movies on Sunday as a way means of recreation. A petition had been circulated asking the Council to approve such an idea in a time of gasoline and tire rationing. If movies were to be shown, they were not to interfere with established church hours. A campaign was also launched against the idea, reminding citizens that Sunday was the day set aside for God. In the end, voters rejected the idea of Sunday movies by a vote of 264 to 33.

On the night of Friday, November 20, 1942 danger signals were flashed to volunteer firemen and policemen, and air raid wardens. Very quickly street lights went out and most homes were darkened. When the siren sounded for the blackout, this first practice blackout was made

more realistic by the sound of a plane flying over the city.W. M. Redman, chairman of the Civilian Defense Committee, declared the test a success.

Writing in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, J. D. Jones hoped the test blackout would make those who had neglected civilian defense training and instruction realize that "it could happen here."

"It's hard to people today to believe that Butts County citizens were worried about being bombed by the Germans or Japanese, but they were," Aubrey Rooks told the Progress-Argus in 2001. "You have to remember we had just gotten our butts kicked at Pearl Harbor and a wave of paranoia swept through the land.

"The air raid warden was Dan Ham who worked as a barber with Roy Prosser," said Rooks. Ham's wife, Ethel, worked as the county nurse in later years. "The air raid warning was a five-minute blast from the siren. Ham and his crew would go from house to house making sure everyone had their lights out. If you weren't at home and left a light on, they would break into your house if they had to turn them off. Even the cars back then had to have special covers over the tops of headlights to be used on the roads at night. There was a real fear of being bombed."

Rooks also said he believed that his father, Howard "Bosie" Rooks, purchased the siren in the 1930s when he was chief of the volunteer fire department.

When Frank Scarbrough Etheridge died in November 1942, J. D. Jones wrote in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* that Etheridge was "the last of a group of men who helped build Jackson and Butts County forty and fifty years ago. Coming to Jackson as a young man he entered actively upon a business career that was marked by brilliant success. The county at that time was feeling renewed life as a result of the building of the Southern Railway System from Atlanta to Brunswick and a period of remarkable growth and development followed."

Etheridge was involved in banking activities across the state, was one of the founders of the Pepperton Cotton Mill, and was active at the Baptist Church. In 1923, he gave $100,000 to to Mercer University.

Jones went on to list other men who, along with Etheridge, helped make Jackson and Butts County the place it was by the middle of the 20th Century: Asa H. Smith, J. R. Wright, Joel B. Watkins, J. H. McCallum, J. H. Carmichael, E. C. Robison, J. H. McKibben, Joseph Jolly, Dr. R. W. Mays, Dr. J. A. Jarrell, W. P. Nutt, Z. T. Buttrill, T. M. Furlow, A. J. Roberts, C. R. Gresham, J. T. Goodman, J. B. Settle, H. L. Daughtry, T. H. Nolen, T. J. Dempsey, Sr., L. J. Ball, Dr. J. Lee Byron, W. F. Huddleston, W. F. Smith, W. M. Mallet, A. H. Ogletree, A. M. Watkins, Captain J. W. McCord, S. B. Kinard, I. J. Slaughter, S. H. Mays, W. M. Barkley, J. L. Barkley, C. H. Thornton, C. W. Buchanan and others.

On December 28, 1942, a fire of undetermined origin ruined the Dixie Theater and seriously damaged the Thornton Furniture Company, Carr Electric Company, the dental office of Dr. J. B. Hopkins, and the Masonic lodge room on the third floor of the Commercial Building. These businesses were located on Mulberry Street on the downtown square.

When the fire was spotted at about 3 a.m., the flames were shooting out the front of the Dixie Theater. L. J. Brown, Jr. Had operated the theater for the previous five years. The Thornton

Furniture Store next door suffered heavy water and smoke damage. The Carr Electric Company, housed in the corner of the Commercial Building, also had smoke and water damage. The Masonic Lodge on the top floor of the Commercial Building suffered heavy losses.

Mrs. L. J. Brown, Jr. supervised the rebuilding of the Dixie Theater, reportedly watching every nail being driven in place by the two crews at work.

1943

On January 1, 1943 the City of Jackson retired $4,000 worth of outstanding bonds, whittling the bonded debt down to $29,000. The city continued to operate on a cash basis.

At a meeting that same day, the City Council hired all the same employees for 1943 with one change: T. O. McDonald was named Chief of Police, replacing C. H. Smith, who was named to the position a year earlier. A slight increase in the salary scale was made to partially offset the new victory tax.

The Full list of employees was: Mrs. W. H. Mallet, tax receiver, collector, treasurer and clerk; Miss Mary Downs, assistant; J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department; S. S. Pace, engineer at the waterworks station; T. O. McDonald, chief of police; C. H. Smith, assistant chief of police; G. P. Turner, policeman.

W. M. Redman was mayor of the city with J. Avon Gaston as Mayor Pro Tem and councilman, and councilmen E. I. Rooks, E. H. Pace, and J. W. O'Neal.

In January 1943, the city bought from the Jackson National Bank the G. H. Kimbell lot south of the *Jackson Progress-Argus* office and near the water tank and substation. The property was used to house the new fire truck.

Jane Mallet, as city clerk, took notes for the mayor and Council and city employees. In late January 1943, Mallet received a phone call from a resident telling her a dead cat was high up in a tree on North Mulberry Street with its teeth clenching an electric line. Mallet was interrupted several times as she was making note of this, so the note read: "Get dead… in tree… on Mulberry Street."

When the electricians came in and read the message, they reportedly could not figure out who Mallet wanted dead in a tree on Mulberry Street. When she came in to city hall, she explained the note and needless to say the cat had lost all nine of its lives.

"Butts County schools and Jackson schools were separate school systems," said David Ridgeway who was 18 in 1943. "Well, the people from out in the county like us had to pay a commercial fee, a typing fee is what we called it. We'd have to go by [city hall] once a month and pay the city a dollar so we could take typing. Miss Jane Mallet would be the one to take the money."

Beginning February 1, 1943, all school in Butts County and Jackson began opening at 9 a.m. to conform to a new time law enacted by the General Assembly. Previously, schools began at 9:30 a.m. under Eastern War Time. The post office and other federal agencies continued to

operate under Eastern War Time. Rural Carriers left the post office at 8:45 a.m., and mail to be delivered that day was to be deposited by 8:15 a.m.

Beginning February 9, 1943, everyone in the nation was rationed to just three pairs of shoes per year. Shoes included in the rationing program were any that contained leather or rubberized soles. Essentially, every member of a household was allowed to buy one pair of shoes every four months.

And on April 1, 1943 a ban on farmers selling their meats without first obtaining permits to do so began.

At the same time, Mayor Redman asked citizens to keep telephone conversations brief whether long distance or local calls. The Jackson telephone exchange was not equipped to handle more than 16 calls at one time. The are effort's use of the telephone system was to have first priority, said Redman.

On March 8, 1943 the City Council adopted a parking ordinance that prohibited vehicles from parking for a period of more than six hours between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on the courthouse square. Violators were to be fined at the discretion of the mayor.

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed a six-room house in Pepperton on March 16, 1943. The Jackson Fire Department assisted Pepperton firefighters for several hours to prevent the flames from spreading to other dwellings. No one was injured, but only a few pieces of furniture were saved by the family that occupied the house

Beginning March 22, 1943, the people of Jackson were asked to pause at noon to offer a minute of prayer for victory for the United States and its Allies in the global war underway. Mayor Redman said the city's siren would blow at noon as a signal for prayer. The same was being done in other cities.

Aubrey Rooks told the *Jackson Progress-Argus* in 2001 that he remembered when the noon time siren blast was designated as a time to pause for prayer for servicemen. "People stopped where they were on the streets at the sound of the siren to pray for their loved ones so far away," he said.

He added that at the time there was a billboard behind the Confederate statue on the courthouse square. His father, "Bosie" Rooks was tasked with printing the names of Butts County servicemen on that sign. "There were a lot of them," Aubrey Rooks recalled. "I can still remember the looks of sadness on my father's face and the faces of others when he would appear with his brush and a can of red paint. When citizens saw my father paint a red star next to a name they knew another Butts County native had been lost in action."

According to Neil Earnhart, the siren was located inside the police station on the southeast corner of the courthouse lawn. It was operated by the push of a button, which policemen sometimes allowed a young boys in town to push at noon. Later, the siren was moved - along with the police station - to East Byars Street where it is still sounded everyday at noon.

At the end of March 1943, Professor D. V. Spencer was renamed superintendent of the Jackson public schools by the Jackson Board of Education. It was the 16th year he served in that capacity.

On April 11, 1943, the first Catholic Mass was said in Jackson. It happened in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Deraney. For several years afterward, Mass was said every other Sunday in the Deraney home.

During the last week of April 1943, the Deraney Department Store moved from the old Busy Corner building on Oak and Second streets to a Second Street location on the square. The Sim's 5 and 10 store moved into the old Deraney location on June 1, 1943.

The first recorded meeting of what would become the Daughtry Foundation took place on May 4, 1943. At the time, the foundation was known as The Van Deventer Foundation, in honor of Dr. Robert Van Deventer, who served as for 16 years pastor of the Jackson Baptist Church and created the first Boy Scout troop in Butts County in 1910. Present at that meeting were L. M. Spencer, H. O. Ball, D. P. Settle, R. P. Newton, J. D. Jones and T. A. Nutt. Pliny H. Weaver was named a trustee later that year.

Hampton Lamar Daughtry founded the Van Deventer Foundation in 1943. Daughtry was a member of the church, was in Van Deventer's Boy Scout Troop and knew Dr. Van Deventer well. The foundation changed its name in April 1977 to the Daughtry Foundation.

On May 9, 1943 a wind and hail storm struck the county causing serious damage to crops. Lightning also did considerable damage to transformers and part of the city was without power all night. Many citizens said the storm reminded them of the massive hail storm that pelted middle Georgia on May 7, 1933.

The only graduating senior at Henderson High School received her diploma on May 21, 1943. Mrs. Allegra Price Willis was principal at Henderson that year, but left following graduation.

Thirty-seven seniors from Jackson High School were awarded diplomas on May 24, 1943. Verona Vaughn was named Salutatorian and Jane Anne Mallet was named Valedictorian.

In the final week of May 1943, the City Council named C. H. Smith as Chief of Police to replace T. O. McDonald who resigned after several months in that position. Dale Cook was made Assistant Chief, and Frank Flynt was named as Auxiliary Policeman. McDonald passed away in January 1944.

City officials called for an election on June 15, 1943 in response to a petition signed by more than one-fourth of registered voters in the city asking that the city's independent school system be abolished and merged with the county's school system. According to state officials, if

the two systems merged, the county school system would receive an additional $5,000 annually from the state. The question of consolidation, which had been agitated for months, was brought about by the wartime conditions.

On the day of the vote, 155 citizens cast ballots in favor of consolidation, while 68 voted against. As a result, the Jackson school system ceased to exist and joined the Butts County school system, which included consolidated schools at Jenkinsburg, Indian Springs, Tussahaw, Towaliga and Pepperton.

Originally known as the Jackson Institute in the 1880s, the city school became known as the Jackson public schools in 1900. Since then, the school system operated independently as its own district, supported by city taxes. Separate school systems in the county merged into a single system between 1912 and 1914. For several years, Jackson High School had functioned as the senior high school - tenth and eleventh grades - for all students in Butts County.

"Most of the people we talked with believe the merger will work to the advantage of all concerned," wrote J. D. Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "It will break down any suspicion, if any existed, that there was one school in Jackson for town people and other schools in the county for rural dwellers. Hereafter in matters of education people should think as a unit."

The Butts County Board of Education voted in early July 1943 to send all pupils in the county and city above the seventh grade to the Jackson school. The school system also added a teacher of vocational agriculture and home economics. At the time, Butts County was one of three counties in the entire state that did not have a vocational education class in its schools. A movement also began to enact a six-day school week allowing students to get out of school earlier in the Spring to help with farm labor.

Instead, the Board of Education approved a schedule that opened White schools on September 6, 1943, which was later than usual, so students could help with the harvest. The last day of classes was December 23. In doing so, said William G. Preston, who was superintendent of the Butts County School System at the time, it was possible to get in four months of school time during the Fall term. Colored schools would open at the same time and get in two-and-a-half months of classes before the Christmas holidays. The county was in need of 500 workers during harvest time that year.

D. Foster was named principal of the Jackson High School. He had previously served as principal of the Indian Springs school. Eight teachers taught at the high school that year.

Allegra Price Willis remained principal at the Henderson school. Teachers there were: Hattie Mosely, June J. Tate, Doris Mayfield, Rosa May Banks, Gertrude Simpson and Lizzie Newby. When the Henderson school opened on September 6, 1943 enrollment was pegged at 146 students.

"I went [to Henderson School] because I liked to go to school," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "I started when I was five. There as really no regulations back then, you just could go when you wanted to go. I wanted to go and once I got started I decided I didn't. My father was sympathetic towards me, you know, I wasn't really old enough. He'd say, 'OK, let's let him stay here.' But my mother wouldn't agree because they had bought me some school clothes and didn't want them wasted. So I got started a year ahead of everybody.

"I went to school where what is now Sims Funeral Home [is on McKibben Street]," Gaye said, "until we moved into the new school in 1955. The school down there was originally a six-room school. It was designed to have more than one class per room. And some of the time I went down there to school you did have more than one class in a room. I remember in fourth and fifth grades, you had more than one class in a room. I was in fourth grade and Ernest Battle was in fifth grade. Again in the sixth and seventh grade, it was the same way. They were able to elminate that some by supplementing that school with some Army barracks. They brought some old Army barracks and made about three or four classrooms out of that."

Gaye's first grade teacher, Ms. Lummus, made $46 per month in 1945. The principal, Mr. Walker, was making $155 per month.

"Until 1949, we didn't have buses," Gaye went on. "So first you had to get there. There would be big groups you'd see walking. You had kids walking from al the way up beyond the [Middle Georgia Auction] sale barn [on Highway 16 West] and the crowd would get larger as you got closer to school. And if it was Winter, somebody would have to get [to school] and make a fire. And sometimes you might have to go out and find wood to make the fire with. We didn't always get the coal shipment on time, and if you did it might not have lasted the whole month. It might take a little while to get the place warm. Each school had its own heater. It was without plumbing. The price on it was, I think, $6,000. The city built the school. It was not a state school thing. There was no heating or plumbing at all.

"Up until probably about eighth grade, you had just one teacher all day long," he said. "You had Math and Science, and books. We didn't have any science equipment. The school never had a microscope, for instance. When we studied about microscopes in Biology under Mr. Joe Davis, what we did was we learned the parts of a microscope, we could draw it, but we could never look in one. There was no lunch, no school lunches. There was starting in '46, a Home Economics department. There was a lady named Miss Tate who was the home ec teacher. But she moved on, and we didn't have homemaking after that. There was never a shop at that school. So it was basically what you could get from the textbooks, history, math, English, some kind of science."

"I used to walk to school - cold mornings, hot mornings," recalled Shelby Henderson who lived in Pepperton, but walked to the Henderson School on North McKibben Street. She was "a little girl, but we were grouped. It wasn't dangerous like it is now. We had freedom. We didn't have to be afraid. Our mothers just said, 'go to school.'

The Henderson School "was a fun place, but we were very educated there as far as discipline was concerned, as far as growing to have respect for our teachers and each other and God," Henderson said. "And always God first because when we went to school we would line up at the door before we went into the building and we would have our prayer and a scripture. And after that we'd be dismissed to go to our classrooms. We had first, second and third graders together. Back then we had primer. We didn't call it head start. We did primer, and then kindergarten and then to first grade. But you see we didn't move from one room to another. We stayed in the room, and were just given a higher book to read. I used to like to see the classes go from one to another because that meant that they had grown a bit more and matured in their learning.

"It was so much fun," Henderson said of her time at the school. "And during recess, we didn't have very much. We didn't have any gym sets or any kind of things that we could play on. We would always have to make our own playing. I remember the boys never did chase me. The boys chased the girls. That's the kind of fun we had. But the boys never did chase me. I never did get chased. But that's about the only activity we had. We didn't have jump ropes or anything like. Older boys and girls would sit on the side and talk.

"And during our lesson time, we would all be there in our classrooms with our teachers and we would do rope teaching," Henderson explained. "We would have to say our multiplication tables. Our readings, our books, the books that we got we got from the Pepperton School. When they finished Sally, Dick and Jane - we got those. That's how we got our books. We used to have stacks and stacks of books to carry home. And we had homework to do. We would get whipping because we didn't do our lessons. We would stay after school if we misbehaved. I had very few friends. I didn't really have a close person to be with. I never did have any girls to go home with me. But we had good times.

"We could go home for lunch," Henderson said of her time in elementary school at Henderson. "I used to like to go home for lunch. From McKibben Street, past where the luggage factory used to be, past Webb's, and then to the first house on the left where I was born. Mother used to have butter beans and stewed tomatoes that she used to make and big round biscuits. But we had to be back at a certain time. And then we would have a large gathering in the chapel. The chapel of that building [Sims Funeral Home] that was the auditorium. That's where all of the children gathered. And Mr. Walker - he was the principal at that time - and I remember Mr. Berryhill, but he passed when I was very young. But Mr. Walker talked with us about various things. He would separate the boys from the girls. The girls would be with one of the lady teachers, they would talk to us. And the male teachers would talk with the boys. And after that we got ready to go home. But it was a beautiful time."

In 2010, Mamie Maddox Davenport recounted what it was like to eat - or not eat - lunch at Henderson School. "This Home Economics teacher planned the lunch some," she said. "We had more wholesome lunches then than we have now. In her classroom room were tables set up, and we had one lady who came in and the Home Ec. teacher helped her prepare lunch for the children. But everybody didn't eat because you had to pay. And everybody didn't have money to pay. And so I seldom ate. Maybe I ate once a week. You know, my parents were like this: if you couldn't do it all of the way, they would make sure you experienced it so you wouldn't be completely left out. So, with the seven of us, we ate once a week, sometimes twice a week. But we always carried a prepared lunch. I'm from a family of good cooks. [Sherry Carr Henderson's] mom always worked for the, well, I would say maybe what was the top White folk in Butts County. And they had children. So, whatever she prepared for their children, then she knew how to do it for us.

"So we always had a lunch. Although sometimes I would eat my lunch between the house and the school," she added with a laugh. "I would eat my lunch between the house and the school! But see, at that time it hadn't gotten into me what [Henderson Principal] Mr. Berryhill said - and my mom was the same way too: 'Get up and get out! Get up and eat!' She would

always say, 'Don't let the sun catch you in the bed!' And I guess that's in me now. I can't sleep for nothing in the world!"

"On Sunday afternoons one of the [Henderson School] teachers would hold a group for girls, and the principal would hold a group for men, to discuss things that were important to young people at the time," said Mamie Maddox Davenport in 2010. "I forgot what they called that. We would go on Sunday afternoon back to the school, and sometimes it would be 10 or 12 of us, sometimes it would be less. But we would have discussions. I could tell you some of them were: how to dress, social graces, stuff like that. And the other thing that the principal made sure we did every morning before class started: we had to talk about current events. That was one thing that he made sure of. We didn't have television then, you know? I don't think televisions were maybe in then, but we didn't have them anyway. We listened to the radio, read the paper - I guess that's why I keep doing it now."

"I like the part where they had an opportunity to meet with the students outside of the regular school day," added Sherry Carr Henderson. "Schools could benefit from that kind of thing now."

"I went to Tussahaw School the first six years, then transferred in to Jackson," said Gwen Mitchell in 2009. "That was when the school's were combined." A school bus picked her up at home and took her to school, both at Tussahaw and Jackson.

"It was a lot of people and it was big compared to Tussahaw," Mitchell said of her first impressions of the Jackson school. "At Tussahaw, you had 15 maybe 18 people per class, and you just had six classes. You had all the county schools coming in to Jackson [in the seventh grade]. I think there was two classes [of seventh graders]. We had a blackboard and little small desks with a place underneath for you to place your books, and we had windows on one side so it wasn't completely closed off.

"We had lunch at school," she said. "There was a lunchroom. Seemed like we'd take a dollar a week and could eat all week and had money left over for extra milk or ice cream. And you had a good, hot lunch. We had recesses after lunch - you either went to recess or physical education. I played basketball, and the ones that played football or basketball had a 45 minute break for what we called activities. The gym was behind the school building. It was one huge building with bleachers on both sides. It was fun [to play basketball]. It was good exercise. We didn't travel to play that much, maybe to Locust Grove and Monticello. I think Indian Springs and Tussahaw still had schools at that point, too."

At the end of June 1943, brothers Aldene and Maurice Carmichael purchased the R. N. Etheridge Seed Store, which first opened in 1908. The business, named Carmichael Brothers, operated on a wholesale level in 10 states, and also had a lucrative retail business in seed, feed and groceries.

In late July 1943, the City Council urged property owners to clean their premises of weeds as a means of promoting sanitation, keeping down mosquitoes and other insect pest and preventing hay fever. If the request was not heeded, the Council stated, stronger methods of

urging clean ups would be used in the future. The city had the cemetery cleaned to do its part, and used some women to do some of the work due to the labor shortage. The city was also cutting weeds and grass on city streets.

In early August 1943, Paul Tyler completed a modern abattoir to meet state regulations for the slaughter of animals for meat. Tyler owned a grocery store on the square in Jackson, and the abattoir was constructed on McDonough Road. Meat animals could no longer be slaughtered on premises. Tyler said his new facility was open to public use as well for a fee. Prior to Tyler's abattoir, Butts County residents were taking their animals to Griffin for slaughter.

In August 1943, the Community Cannery was described as a kind of old time quilting party. "While the women folks are catching up on their canning they're also catching up on their chatting," wrote Martha Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "Nobody can talk about anybody else because everybody is there." The cannery was only open during the season when local residents were growing crops to be canned.

"During World War II a cannery was built so people could go in and can vegetables," recalled Mary Lee Martin during a 2008 interview. "Next door to McIntosh [State Bank on South Oak Street where McLaurin Graphics once stood] is where the cannery was built. It operated for years. Vegetables or meat were put in metal cans and processed there, and when you left you had your cans to take home. You had to take your vegetables and have them ready to be processed. My mother had a lot of stuff canned from the garden. I don't know how many years it lasted, but it was very popular then. You couldn't keep [food] otherwise, a lot of it. Canning was very popular."

The voting age was lowered from age 21 to age 18 in the Summer of 1943, and the Georgia Attorney General ruled that those who were now suddenly able to vote as a result would not be required to pay a poll tax. But as of August 14, not a single 18-year-old had registered with the Butts County Tax Collector. The law at the time provided that all male persons between 21 and 60 years of age and all females who registered to vote pay a poll tax. The money collected from the poll tax went into the state school fund.

On August 14, 1943 the most intense electrical storm in years struck the county. Some residents called it the most vivid seen in Jackson in 50 years. Power was lost in the city for the night.

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Tingle took over ownership of the Economy Cafe on the square.

Property owners in Jackson got a four-mill reduction in the 1943 advalorem tax result as a result of the City Council's fixed the tax levy at 14 mills. The biggest cut was to the school levy, set at seven mills in 1942 and dropped to three-and-a-half mills. That levy was required by the cost of operating the city schools in the Spring of 1943. There was no county school levy for citizens in Jackson in 1943, but city dwellers would pay it in 1944.

In the middle of September 1943, Professor S. W. Causey assumed the position of principal of Jackson High School. Causey came to Jackson from LaGrange where he taught science and coached the basketball team.

On October 19, 1943, the school lunch program began in Jackson schools. The state paid nine cents daily and students were asked to pay 10 cents daily in order to pay operating expenses to purchase food. Mrs. R. R. Edwards supervised the cooking and serving. Meals were served in the lunch room built and equipped by the city earlier in the year. It was estimated that 75 pupils could be seated at a time, with an estimated 350 students receiving lunches through the new program. Other schools in the county were not yet serving lunch to students.

The colored Parent-Teacher group with Queenie Horne as president raised $200 to begin a school lunch project at the colored school on November 15, 1943. Principal Allegra Price Willis said nothing increased attendance by students like the serving of lunches.

The city primary held on October 20, 1943 attracted 33 voters probably because there were no contested races. Nominated were: Mayor W. M. Redman; aldermen J. Avon Gaston, E. I. Rooks, E. H. Pace and J. W. O'Neal. Members of the executive committee re-elected were: R. J. Carmichael, H. O. Ball, H. S. Downs, R. P. Newton and W. B. Thompson. Since the city's school system had been merged with the county's system, no members of the city board of education were nominated.

Effective November 1, 1943, the city and county commissioners withdrew financial support for the library in the courthouse. This came as the Jackson public schools library merged with the Hawkes Library for Children. Miss Pauline Mallet continued to serve as librarian at the Hawkes Library. Mrs. J. Will Carter, librarian at the courthouse library, began serving as assistant librarian at the Hawkes facility. The library was then open six days a week to all citizens of the city and county.

When Nancy Ann Robison, cunning little daughter of Sing and Elizabeth Robison, was asked who taught her to dance and shuffle she readily answered "a Presbyterian preacher." [Robison went on to open her own long-running dance studio in Jackson.]

On November 22, 1943, Mrs. John L. Coleman opened Rebecca's Beauty Shop at her home on McDonough Road.

"My mother [Rebecca Brittain Coleman] was a professional beautician," recalled R. Scott Coleman during an interview in 2009. "When I was young, she had her beauty shop in the home on McDonough Road. But she moved to town and I as glad because that meant my brother and I got our very own bedroom when the beauty shop moved out. It was called Rebecca's Beauty Shop. She moved to the west side of the square and had about six employees. And then she moved to the east side of the square right next to my father's garage in the third building. She

retired while I was still in college after she had an accident and hurt her ankle so she couldn't stand."

On December 10, 1943, Company A - the Jackson Rifles - departed for overseas combat after a period of intensive training around the United States. The men arrived in Belfast, Ireland on Christmas Eve.

1944

March 3, 1944 was set as the day to inoculate all dogs in the city against rabies. At that time, Dr. J. B. Watkins, veterinarian, was stationed at the city jail to treat dogs. Under a city ordinance, all dogs in Jackson were required to have this treatment. Dogs not treated that day were to be destroyed.

On March 15, 1944, Jackson business firms agreed to close at 12 noon each Wednesday until August 30 in order to observe a half holiday each week.

Four dwelling owned by the Pepperton Cotton Mill were burned on March 11, 1944 by a fire of undetermined origin. No one was injured, but few personal items were saved by tenants in the homes.

Clouds roaring out of the southwest on March 19, 1944 brought 4.65 inches of rain to Butts County. Jackson Lake rose five-and-a-half feet in a few hours, and Indian Springs reported a record rainfall amount of 11 inches in 12 hours.

This and other rains left ditches filled with rubbish along the streets and roads of the community. Citizens were urged to clean up this debris before hot weather arrived and brought with it the usual infestation of flies, mosquitoes and other insects.

Incumbent J. D. Pope won election as Sheriff of Butts County in the March 24, 1944 primary with 1,021 votes to 959 votes for A. A. White.

In April 1944, S. H. Thornton celebrated his 40th anniversary in business on the square in Jackson.

Born and reared in Butts County, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Thornton, he was educated in the public schools. In March 1904, he purchased the grocery business of Kinard & Clark, and on April 1, 1904 opened a fancy grocery business. He operated it successfully until 1908 when he sold it to the Newton-Carmichael Company.

In the Fall of 1908, Thornton bought a vacant lot on the east side of the square from Dr. J. E. Hanna and erected a building there that had the first glass store front in the City of Jackson. On the first of January 1909, he opened a furniture store in that spot.

On January 15, 1912, Thornton purchased the undertaking business of the People Furniture Company and began studying for a career as an embalmer. He passed the required examinations that year and began operating a funeral business.

"Soon after I opened for business, there was a panic and soap wrappers were used for money," Thornton recalled in April of 1944. "Then came the first World War and the boll weevil, and after that the panic. But we have managed to stay in business, and if not rich in material things believe that I do possess the confidence and good will of a loyal clientele."

"Harkness Thornton whistled a merry tune as he walked, Coke in hand, from his furniture-funeral home business on Mulberry Street past Rogers and Newton Hardware on his way to the old Jackson National Bank," recalled columnist Vincent Jones of the old funeral director's daily habit.

"Fellow by the name of Thornton had the store where Brown's is on Mulberry Street," M. L. Powell recalled. "He was an undertaker. He had the funeral business for years and years. He could take a Coca-Cola bottle - back then all Cokes came in bottles - he could open one, pop it, turn it up and never quit 'til it was all gone. That's one reason I could remember him: how he could drink a Coca-Cola."

In April 1944, a contract was awarded to resurface the 4.9 miles of the Jackson-Forsyth Highway from Indian Springs to the city limits of Jackson. The road had a concrete base and was to be resurfaced with asphalt. At the time, the road was heavily damaged with potholes and cracks due to weather and heavy traffic.

In a speech to the Kiwanis Club on May 2, 1944, Butts County School Superintendent S. W. Causey outlined plans for Summer recreation countywide to combat the evils of juvenile delinquency. A number of games - including checkers, Chinese checkers, badminton, shuffleboard and table tennis - had been purchased to be used in the Jackson gymnasium. These games were to be offered at least twice a month. Softball would also be played twice a month at the softball field. The new games took the place of play night, which had previously been held at the gymnasium.

"Unless clean and wholesome amusement and recreation are provided under supervision of directors, youth with seek its amusement elsewhere," said Causey.

On the first night of the Summer recreation program, May 12, 1944 - about 200 people showed up to take part in musical games and then broke into groups to play the various other games. It was determined then that more equipment was needed.

In May 1944, Spec Brooks took over operation of the Shell Service Station next to the Greyhound Bus Depot.

There were no Negroes registered to vote in Butts County for the primary of July 1944. The Supreme Court of the United States had recently ruled on a case from Texas that Negroes were eligible to vote in state primaries.

In May 1944, the Butts County Board of Education proposed an additional three mills of tax to pay for increased teacher salaries and a new school building in Jackson. The Board was

already levying five mills. The proposal was rejected by voters in a special election on July 14, 1944. A two-thirds majority was required to increase the levy, but only 58 percent of the 455 votes cast favored the increase.

On May 19, 1944, graduation exercises were held for Jackson High School. There were 34 members of the Class of 1944. Graduation exercises at Henderson High School was held on the same night with a large attendance.

The Larkin D. Watson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy became inactive in 1944. Formed in 1901, it was briefly reactivated in 1953, but became inactive again the following year.

On July 4, 1944, the men of Company A, the Jackson Rifles, crossed the English Channel onboard the USS Raven, and landed at Omaha Beach. Three days later they went into combat for the first time.

On August 14, 1944, Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Moore purchased Superior Cleaners from C. T. Gibson and moved to Butts County to operate the Jackson business.

In late August 1944, A. A. Thrasher moved to Jackson and opened the City Electric Shop in the Moore Building on the courthouse square.

On August 24, 1944, E. H. Pace, who had served on the City Council for eight years, passed away. A special election to fill his seat was held on September 12, 1924. Jackson businessman J. S. Ball won that election and began serving the unexpired term of Pace. Ball was Butts County;s tax collector and a farmer. He was a veteran of World War I, a member of the Kiwanis Club and the American Legion.

Schools in Butts County and Jackson opened September 4, 1944 with shorter hours - 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - for the first six weeks to allow students to aid in harvesting crops. Enrollment in Jackson was pegged at 381 students, larger than in 1943. The senior class had an enrollment of 45 seniors.

A. T. Berryhill returned as principal of Henderson High School in 1944. His faculty consisted of seven teachers, and he was paid $109 per month. The average teacher salary at Henderson was $54.90.

“When my sister that I’m next to was a senior in high school, [Henderson Principal] Mr. Berryhill had left,” said Sherry Carr Henderson in a 2010 interview. “He came to Jackson twice. He came once when my older sister was in school. And then the school just went so far down they asked him to come back and he came back. So, the school was not accredited at one time. When he left and the school was not accredited, those students who were seniors, it was said they weren’t going to be able to get into college from a school that was not accredited. So the children

left. There wasn't but about five or six in the senior class who had come back anyway. But my sister went to Henry County Training School. Gwendolyn Barbara West went to Forsyth. James Woodard went to Detroit. A lot of children lived out in the country and they had gone on to [school in] McDonough anyway.

"Ms. Allegra Price was a little lady who they made principal [after Berryhill left] and people just didn't want their children under her," said Mamie Maddox Davenport. "And I'll tell you where she lived. Do you know where Asa Funeral Home was before he moved? On First Street across from the church? It was a white house right on that corner, just opposite the church. She lived right there. So they made her principal right behind her. But people didn't want her to be there."

Due to economic concerns, the Butts County Commissioners voted to end county extension agent work on October 1, 1944. M. L. Powell had served in the position for 11 years. Powell, however, resigned from the position effective September 1, 1944 to go into business in Jackson. On September 15, 1944, he opened the Jackson Hardware Company in a building on the north side of the square between Paul Tyler & Company and John's Variety Store.

"I enjoyed being county agent, enjoyed working with the boys and girls," said M. L. Powell in 2008. "And the dads and mommas, we had a real good relationship.

"After I left the Extension Service I started Jackson Hardware with a partner, and we had the store for 20 years," said Powell. "I sold my interest to my partner, and I've enjoyed living ever since. It was on Second Street where Jackson Drug is. We started it from scratch. We had nothing."

"Paul Tyler had a grocery store where Deraney's is on Second Street," Powell remembered. "Mr. Homer Allen had a grocery store in the old Fuqua building before you get to Jackson Drug. The Brown girls were little girls.

"Newton-Etheredge had the store on the corner of Mulberry and Third streets," Powell said of the landscape of the downtown square. "Carmichael Hardware had the store on Oak Street right next to Danny Hoard's drugstore. And Etheridge-Smith - Mr. Bob Etheridge was an older single man - he had a seed store next to the drug store. And the fellow that ran the drug store was a Carmichael. J. C. Beckham had a store on the end. He was here a good while."

On September 11, 1944, the City Council voted to reduce the city's tax levy by four mills to 10 mills. This was due primarily to the merging of the independent Jackson school system with the county's school system. Of the 10 mill levy, eight mills went to the support and maintenance of the general city government, and two mills were used for interest and the sinking fund.

In September 1944, the Jackson Garden Club spruced up the triangular park on Dempsey Avenue.

A fire of undetermined origin in the Smith Drug Company early on the morning of October 31, 1944 almost completely ruined the stock and fixtures in the store. Smoke also

damaged the Jackson Style Shop next door and the A & P Tea Company. Dr. W. G. Smith, owner of the drug store, estimated the damage at over $10,000. The store was also the agent of Western Union Telegraph Company in Jackson.

Ocie Owen Huddleton, a 42-year-old employee of the Pepperton Cotton Mill, was killed on the night of November 5, 1944 when he was struck by a northbound train near the mill.

In the general election on November 7, 1944, Frank C. Hearn was elected superintendent of the Butts County School System. The election was called when Aldene Carmichael, the superintendent-elect, refused to accept the post. Hearn was head of the vocation department of the Butts County schools and manager of the Butts County canning plant.

Morris Redman was re-elected as Mayor of Jackson on November 7, 1944. He had one opponent, but received nearly unanimous support in the vote.

"During a service of several years in this post, Mr. Redman has given close attention to the affairs of the city and community and has enabled the city to its tax rate and bonded indebtedness," wrote J. D. Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* at the time. "He is genuinely concerned with the progress and growth of his city and area and is probably the county;s hardest working citizen.

"In addition to his duties as mayor and county treasurer," Jones continued, "he finds time to head the various war bond drives, is active in the American Legion, the Methodist church, the Kiwanis Club, the Butts County Planning Board and maybe a dozen other agencies. To all of these he gives his earnest attention and best efforts. Voters like to reward a public spirited citizen who works harder for the public welfare than he does for himself. So his thundering majority last week was not surprising."

"Morris Redman followed [Pliny Weaver] for several years as mayor of town," said M. L. Powell. "He got the city by. His daddy was a lawyer, Colonel Charlie Redman."

"Morris Redman was mayor for about 25 years," said David Ridgeway during a 2008 interview. "He was a lawyer who could have been a rich man, but he did most of his work free."

Redman "never had a law degree," added Merrell Price.

"A straight shooter," said Robert Pinckney. "You could count on what he said."

"He was a fine man," agreed Ridgeway. "And he would conduct city court. I think it was every Monday. And old Son Tank used to get locked in the little old jail. He went by there for some reason and didn't get locked up. He looked in the window there and there was a Black man laying the bed where he usually was. He knocked on the door and that man looked up at him and he said, 'What in the Hell are you doing in my bed!' It was one of the few times he wasn't locked

up. Later, a policeman shot him about three times, and he said, 'Don't be doing that. That hurts.' He was a card. They called him Son Tank. I don't know what his real name was."

"Things were so much easier back then," said Pinckney.

"Oh yeah. You could work things out," Ridgeway said. "They'd have disagreements and have fights even a cutting or something. But they'd get together and work things out and dismiss the case."

"Now you got all these laws on the books and the lawyers have screwed up everything," Pinckney lamented. "It's so complicated."

As of the first of November 1944, the following Butts County citizens had been killed in action in World War II: Harold Evans, Charlie A. Hardy, Clarence L. Pippin, Augustus H. Gray, Weldon Pippin, Harold T. Gilmore, Lamar S. Hardy, Edwin W. Cook, Jr., C. Bryan Harris, Jr., Robert C. Reynolds, Edward Pike, J. L. O'Kelley, Parks Nelson, Copeland Cook, James B. Singley, Morris Faulkner, Charles T. Thornton, Fred C. Moore, Judson Burford, George T. James, J. Millard Hamlin and Luther Ussury, the only Black soldier in the list.

On December 1, 1944, William Thomas Dickerson, a 44-year-old White resident of Pepperton, mysteriously disappeared from his home. His wife said he was in bed when she left to work at 9 p.m., and he was reportedly seen later that night in Flovilla. Two months later, his body was found in a cotton field near Bibb Station Road.

Santa Claus was scheduled to parade around the business district in Jackson on December 22, 1944. Parents were encouraged to bring children out for the free event, which was organized by the Kiwanis Club.

After Christmas 1944, Mayor W. M. Redman issued a proclamation asking the support of the public in curbing inflation.

In 1944, the city purchased several vacant lots around the city cemetery for a total of $1,500. Prior to that, the city had very little jurisdiction over the cemetery and surrounding area. Two additional acres on the south side of the cemetery were donated to the city in 1945. The donors requested that any proceeds from the sale of the lots be allocated for the cleaning and maintenance of the cemetery.

1945

The City Council held an organizational meeting on the night of January 1, 1945 to appoint all the same officers to serve the city in the coming with the exception of the police department. Mrs. W. H. Mallet was named clerk, treasurer and tax collector with Mary Downs as her

assistant. J. H. Rooks was named superintendent of the water and light department with Ballard Perdue as his assistant. S. S. Pace was named engineer at the city water plant.

C. H. Smith was named Chief of Police with B. R. McClendon as assistant chief and B. F. Mitchell, Sr. as marshal.

Also at the start of the year, the city retired a $1,000 school bond, leaving a total bonded indebtedness of $24,000.

F. C. Hearn became school superintendent in Butts County on January 1, 1945 was allowed to continue his duties as head of vocational education at Jackson High School.

In January 1945, the city reminded electric consumers in the city that certain uses were prohibited by the federal War Production Board including: outdoor advertising and outdoor promotional lighting; outdoor decorative and ornamental lighting; white way street lighting in excess of the amount determined by local authority; and marquee lighting in excess of 60 watts. At the same time, all consumers were asked to conserve electricity by turning off lights when not needed.

The Jackson Style Shoppe, owned by Mrs. Arthur Stodghill, opened in February 1945, as did Ruby's Cafe in the back of Paul Tyler & Company's tore. It was managed by Mrs. Ernest Pelt.

On the night of Saturday, March 10, 1945, the city police made eight arrests for drunkenness, fighting or disorderly conduct. Police Chief C. H. Smith said this was not a record for one night's work because that number was often exceeded when officers flushed a crap game. All the defendants were brought before Mayor Redman in city court the following Monday morning and fined.

Two cars were stolen in Jackson during the last week of March 1945. Both were later recovered.

A one-acre lot on South Oak Street was donated to the Jim Finley American Legion Post by Clayton W. Buchanan for use as the site of a war memorial center to honor Butts County men in the armed services. It was located near the Jackson Clubhouse.

In the Spring of 1945, the county farm was no longer being used. It had served as a way to grow food to feed the poor, aged, convicts and livestock, but recent government programs began assisting the elderly and poor with food.

A movement to build a freezer locker in Jackson gained momentum in April 1945. Practically every business owner and elected official came out in favor of the idea.

"The modern way to save food is freezer lockers," wrote J. D. Jones in his weekly column in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* that month. "Georgians are raising a lot of food but are not saving

enough of it. At seasons of plenty a way should be provided to store this food against a time when supplies will be scarce."

Following a meeting in the courthouse on April 16, 1945, R. N. Etheridge was appointed chairman of an organization tasked with building a freezer plant in Jackson. He estimated that a freezer could be built with 300 to 500 individual lockers costing $80 to $90 per locker. Shares of stock in the freezer company were offered at $10 each, with a goal of raising $35,000.

Victory in Europe was declared on May 8, 1945. All businesses in Jackson closed from noon to 1 p.m. so owners and employees and other citizens could attend a service at the Methodist Church. The church was filled to capacity as Mayor W. M. Redman, a veteran of World War I, complimented the people of the entire county for their patriotic contribution, for keeping up morale and encouraging the fighting forces and for the never flagging zeal in the whole war effort.

Thirty-five members of the Jackson High School Class of 1945 received their diplomas on May 18.

"I was a reader," said Mamie Maddox Davenport in 2010. "I read, that was my primary thing I did for fun. I read or I slept. And my mom would always make sure that we kept the house clean. So we did cleaning chores. And the other thing we did for fun, [my family is] musically inclined. My sister started playing piano when she was three. We would sing. We had our own programs. We always had an organ or a piano in the home. And somebody could always play. As a matter of fact, all of us could tune up something. But all of it wasn't music, just some knew music.

"So, what we did, we had our own programs. I would mostly be the chairman," said Davenport with a laugh. "We would have our programs at night. And my daddy was a reader of history books and the Bible and the newspaper. So, in our house [on East First Street], there was a big hall down the middle, the living room's on this side, their bedroom is the first room on that side. So what we would do every night, just about, we'd have a program. And my daddy would have a newspaper in his hand, and he'd come and sit in the hall like this, just listening. And my mom would be over in the room, sewing or doing something like that with the door open. And so we would play, and some of us would give different poems, and act out different characters or what have you. Some would sing solos, and have instrumentals, we'd do that until about 10 or later.

"And sometimes," Davenport said, "we didn't even know it, people would be in our yard just standing there listening to us. We'd have an audience in the yard. And after we were finished singing we knew it was time for us to stop and go to bed. my daddy [would say], 'Wait, one more. One more. Don't play the piano. I want you to sing this without the music.' He wanted my sister to start singing 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus' in a hymnal kind of way. So that would be our closer, the hymn 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.' Every time, he would want that song at the end."

From August 6 through August 9, 1945 the city and the State Board of Health launched a campaign to destroy all the rats in Jackson. The campaign, with the slogan "Death to Rats," was designed to improve health conditions by preventing the spread of typhus fever, stop the waste of valuable food needed for the war effort and clean up rubbish and trash. Poison was distributed to every home on the city. The deadly rat poison was mixed with meat, and citizens were asked to clean up any exposed food so that the rats would be hungry when the poison was distributed. In 1939, 44 people in Georgia died from typhus fever.

On August 7, 1945, voters in Georgia approved a Constitution of the State of Georgia in which it was written that "separate schools shall be provided for the white and colored races."

With the surrender of the Japanese in the middle of August 1945, World War II came to an end. Butts County suffered 31 casualties during the conflict, due in large part to the fact that the Jackson Rifles were thrown into the thick of the battle of Normandy. Local casualties from the Army were: Harold T. Gilmore, C. Bryan Harris, James B. Singley, Edward Pike, J. L. O'Kelley, Parks Nelson, Copeland Cook, J. Millard Hamlin, Charles T. Thornton, Millard Faulkner, Charlie Gilmore, Gwyndel Brooks, Judson Burford, George R. James, Fred C. Moore, Hugh Harrison, Robert Letson, J. C. Maddox, Walter King, Otis Smith, and A. J. Grier. Local Naval casualties were: Harold Evans, Charlie A. Hardy, Clarence L. Pippin, Weldon Pippin, Edwin F. Cook, Jr., and Luther Ussury. The only Air Corps casualty in Butts County was Robert C. Reynolds.

"The thing about World War II," said Harry Ridgeway in 2009, "it was a united effort. People at home did everything in the world that could be done to supply what we needed. They had hardships because there were times that things were rationed as far as food - wheat, sugar. The home front sacrificed. Yes, we [soldiers] had hardships. But the home front did their work. It was as much involved as we were. We knew why we there: Hitler had decided he was going to be king of the world, including the United States. Yes, I was fortunate in the service. [I] went through all of the three campaigns of the European theater. I was wounded on the 27th of December, 1944. But, thankfully, it was shrapnel in the leg and no bones broken. They pieced me up at the field hospital, and told me to go back out there. God must have had a plan for me."

At the end of August 1945, the firm of Robison, Settle, & Robison, Inc. opened a new store in the Saunders building on Second Street where all types of International Harvester farm equipment were sold. The building was 50' by 90'. The firm had handled the International brand in Jackson since 1921. Members of the firm were David Pascal Settle and T. E. Robison. It also operated a large ginnery in Jackson, and a coal and wood yard.

"The war is over and happy days are here again," said T. E. Robison on the occasion of the store's opening. "Within the near future there is bound to be an increase in the demand for farm machinery and more and more power machinery will be utilized to meet changing conditions. We have grown with the community for the past 25 years and are planning now for the expansion that is soon to come."

In the middle of August 1945, Jackson High School Principal S. W. Causey announced the hiring of O. L. Parker as coach of athletics for the school. Parker had served as athletic director of the Florida Naval Academy the previous year. Football practice began at Jackson High School on August 30, 1945. All boys interested in playing were invited to come to the meeting and bring shorts for the first few days of practice. It was the first time the school had a football team in over 12 years. After a few days of practice, the team went to Griffin to play its first game at Spalding High School on September 21, 1945. Jackson lost 47-0.

"Jackson playing her first season of football, did remarkably well," wrote the *Griffin Daily News*. "She was outclassed all the way but the inexperienced boys from Butts played hard. Jackson some of these days is going to be heard of in football circles. Last night's opening for the visitors may have been disappointing to their followers but even in defeat they looked good."

When school began on September 16, 1945, 340 students were served lunch in Jackson schools. The menu on the first day was meat balls and sauce, creamed potatoes, peaches, bread, butter and milk. "It would not be possible to serve this many people for so little cost to the child if the federal government did not help to finance the program. The cost to each child is 10 cents a day," said Principal Causey.

For the second year in a row, Jackson taxpayers got a tax rate of 10 mills from the city. General government absorbed eight of those mills, and the interest and sinking fund required two mills.

"Good management has enabled the city to reduce its ad valorem taxes and at the same time lay aside a large sum for waterworks expansion," wrote the *Jackson Progress-Argus* in September 1945. "During the last few years Jackson was able to build a new Negro school, build and equip one of the best gymnasiums in middle Georgia and pay the bills out of current receipts. At the same time the bonded indebtedness is being materially reduced each year."

In the final week of September 1945, the Butts County Board of Education outlined the greatest building program in the history of education in the county. The Board bought a 50-acre tract of land, known as the Dempsey lands, to provide for either a grammar school or a high school building, new vocational education facility and enlargement of the recreation grounds. The land was located next to the existing athletic field and near the existing school buildings. The Board took possession of the land on January 1, 1946.

The need to build larger, modern school facilities was illustrated the following week when the Music Department teacher at the Jackson school resigned after less than a month on the job. She cited the crowded conditions of the school as her reason for leaving. It was thought that at some time in the neat future that all children of the county would be brought to Jackson for schooling.

At the end of September 1945, construction was in progress for a new brick building measuring 110' by 43' on West Third Street to serve as garage and showroom for a John W. Carter Dodge and Plymouth dealership.

In a postwar program that took shape in late September 1945, the City of Jackson planned to expand and improve its waterworks at a cost of between $60,000 and $70,000. A survey was being conducted to determine how best to increase the city's water supply and modernize its plant. The city was also ordering pipe to bring adequate water supply to under-served sections of the city. Sewerage lines were also being extended down some streets, and water lines being laid to the athletic field.

"New industries use a tremendous amount of water," wrote J. D. Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* after the expansion plans were announced. "They will not locate in a community that is unable to furnish this water. The normal growth will call for greater consumption. It is important that the city provide now for future needs. Many parts of the city are without sewerage and water mains. This is a health hazard and also makes for higher insurance rates."

On October 12, 1945, Jackson High School played its first home football game when Forsyth came to the athletic field and played under the floodlights there. The home team lost 46-0.

In October 1945, the Harris Manufacturing Company of Atlanta purchased a lot fronting 175 feet on East Third Street and extending back 175 feet along the Covington Street extension. The company planned to build a modern tourist home with 12 modern cottages. All of the units were furnished and rented to tourists "of the better class."

In the annual city primary held on October 25, 1945, Mayor W. M. Redman won renomination by a vote of 229 to 68 for R. J. Carmcichael. J. A. Dodson was elected alderman from the Second Ward by a vote of 154 to 145 over E. I. Rooks. J. Hall Turner was nominated for alderman in the first ward and succeeded J. Avon Gaston who did not seek re-election. J. S. Ball, Jr. and J. W. O'Neal were re-elected without opposition in the third and fourth wards respectively.

A new company, chartered as the Jackson Manufacturing Company, was to turn out pants from a 156' by 75' building on the old Griffin Road. Construction on the facility began in early November 1945. The annual payroll was estimated at between $150,000 and $200,000, making the new company one of the largest in the county.

In early November 1945, the Jeffries-McElrath Lumber Company of Macon purchase 10 acres at the end of Oak Street and began construction of a plant. The firm planned to purchase $35,000 worth of lumber from the county annually and build wooden boxes. The county commissioners built a highway to the new plant, and the Southern Railroad added sidetracks for the company. Seventy-five people were to be employed in the sawmill and planing mill. The company was incorporated as the Jackson Box and Lumber Company.

On November 16, 1945, the Jackson football team finished its first season with a 21-0 win over Monticello in front of a home crowd. Most of the Jackson players had never taken part in

the game before practice began a few days before their first game, and it was literally true that some of the players had never handled a football before.

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 1945
Jackson - 0, SPALDING - 47
Jackson - 0, MANCHESTER - 40
Jackson - 0, FORSYTH - 46
Jackson, CARROLTON
Jackson - 0, MONTICELLO - 21
Jackson - 0, FORSYTH - 51
Jackson - 0, MANCHESTER - 41
JACKSON - 21, Monticello - 0

On December 19, 1945, schools in Butts County closed one day earlier than scheduled for the Christmas holiday on account of sleet, snow and rain.

For the first time since December 1940, Christmas lights were strung around the courthouse square and turned on. The work was done by J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department, and his assistants. A large star was also lit in front of the courthouse on Third Street. The work was done by the city despite a scarcity of materials, bad weather and other handicaps.

Tire rationing ended nationwide on December 31, 1945. The only item left on the ration list at that time was sugar.

1946

At an organizational meeting on January 1, 1946, the City Council welcomed two new members - J. Hall Turner and J. A. Dodson - who replaced aldermen J. Avon Gaston and E. I Rooks respectively. The mayor and Council elected all the same employees for the city for the year 1946 with the exception of the police department. Turner was named Mayor Pro Tem.

Mrs. W. H. Mallet continued her service as clerk and treasurer, tax receiver and collector, with Miss Mary Downs continuing as her assistant. J. H. Rooks continued as superintendent of the water and light department, and was to name his assistants at a later date. In the police department, C. H. Smith was named chief of police, with W. H. Polk as assistant chief and W. Frank Flynt as marshal. S. S. Pace was renamed superintendent of the waterworks plant.

Wade H. Watkins and W. H. Phinazee were named tax assessors. W. O. Ball was named to the Bond Commission to succeed his father, H. O . Ball. Other members were R. P. Newton and D. P. Settle.

Council meetings were held on the second and fourth Monday nights of each month.

At the same time, the city retired $1,000 of its bonded indebtedness, reducing its indebtedness to $23,000. Of that total, $13,000 was for paving bonds and $10,000 was for

schools bonds. While the city was reducing its bonded indebtedness, it was also investing $40,000 in government securities.

There was a critical housing shortage at the beginning of 1946 in Jackson - and in cities all across the United States. Most of Butts County's 600 servicemen and women had yet to return home - and many of them were bringing new wives and children, and new industries locating in Jackson required new housing for the workers they needed. Homeowners were encouraged to make use of every unused room by allowing people to rent them out.

On January 28, 1946, Paul Tyler & Company grocery store was sold to W. E. McCarty of Jackson and William Sasser of Macon. The previous owner, Paul Tyler, had ben involved in the business for 29 years, affiliated at first with his father, W. F. Tyler, and taking over sole ownership at the time of his father's passing. McCarty came to Jackson in 1943 in connection with the Roger Store.

"You used to go the grocery store with a list," recalled David Ridgeway in a 2008 interview, "and you'd say, 'I want a half dozen bananas,' and they'd go get them and lay them down on the counter. 'I want a loaf of bread.' They'd go get the loaf of bread and lay it down on the counter. You didn't go pick up anything, and the people who were waiting on you went through the store maybe a half dozen times waiting on you. That's the way you went grocery shopping."

"Paul Tyler's was a meat market," said Robert Pinckney. "It was located on the [northeast] corner [of the intersection of North Mulberry and Second street]. It was interesting operation. They had a Black man that worked there."

"Luke Walker," added Merrell Price. "He was the delivery man. You could call and place your order, and they'd deliver it to your house."

"He's dead," Ridgeway said of Luke Walker. "We was in court when they were fixing to bury him, and they stopped right at the north side of the courthouse and took him out and let him lay there for a few minutes because everybody around here thought so much of him."

"You used to go to the grocery store and know everybody in there," Pinckney said. "Now you don't hardly know anybody."

"You don't even know the cashiers," added Price.

"And we had milk delivery in town," Pinckney recalled. "He delivered eggs, too. Mr. Estes from Jenkinsburg used to deliver milk and eggs around here. It was just terrific."

"Mr. Bill Browning, Sr. used to have a dairy," said Price. "He would deliver milk in Jackson, and he used to deliver milk to our house on McDonough Road, and then go up to

deliver in Jenkinsburg. And he'd ask our two little girls if they wanted to ride to Jenkinsburg with him, and in the Summer time they'd ride up to Jenkinsburg with him and then come back and he'd give each of them a little bottle of orange juice."

"The building that McIntosh State Bank just moved into [on the northwest corner of the intersection of South Oak and Byars streets] that used to be the freezer locker," explained Ridgeway. "The community would come in and they would have lockers in the building throughout."

"We used to have an ice factory and Fleet Duffey used to deliver the ice on a regular basis," said Pinckney.

"Just about anything you wanted delivered - all you had to do was call," said Ridgeway.

"Those were good days," Pinckney said.

"They sure were," Price. "And back in those days, if you weren't going to be at home and owed the milk man money, you'd put the money in an empty bottle and set it out. He'd pick up the empty bottles and leave milk for you. It might sit there an hour or two, but it wouldn't spoil. I don't know why, but it wouldn't spoil."

"Of course, you didn't buy [groceries]," said Harold "Doc" McMichael of growing up in the country in the 1940s. "You'd buy sugar, and maybe a little syrup—of course, we grew syrup, we had our own syrup mill. But, salt, pepper, and sugar, and I'm not sure maybe what else you'd buy, but very few groceries that you would buy from town. You grew most of your stuff."

At the end of January 1946, the Jewel Box, a wholesale and retail jewelry firm owned by C. T. Gibson, opened in the Copeland warehouse on Covington Street.

According to figures released in January 1946, Jackson's water supply carried a 13.1 percent bacteria content. Anything over 10 percent was considered dangerous. Seventy-seven others cities in Georgia had water supplies that fell in the dangerous category.

The Butts County Post Number 5374 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was formally organized on January 31, 1946 at a meeting in the Masonic Hall in Jackson. Ben Garland, Jackson attorney and a veteran of World War I, was elected commander of the post.

In the middle of February 1946 came word that since Dr. W. E. Barfield's military service was coming to a close, he would reopen his medical practice in Jackson. His office was located above the Newton Hardware Company. He had served the Jackson area for several years before answering the call to serve his country in the war.

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL 1946

JACKSON - 40, Zebulon - 28
Jackson - 16, FOREST PARK - 20
Jackson - 26, GRIFFIN - 37
JACKSON - 42, Spalding - 13
JACKSON - 24, Forsyth - 8
JACKSON - 20, Monticello - 18
Jackson - 19, ROBERT E. LEE (THOMASTON) - 28
Jackson - 7, GRIFFIN - 58
JACKSON - 37, Fayetteville - 7
JACKSON - 81, McDonough - 14
JACKSON - 49, Spalding - 34
JACKSON - 26, Monticello- 12
JACKSON - 17, LaGrange - 16
Jackson - 26, CARROLTON - 35

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL 1946
JACKSON - 25, Zebulon - 22
JACKSON - 30, Forest Park - 22
Jackson - 26, GRIFFIN - 37
JACKSON - 25, Spalding - 8
Jackson - 18, FORSYTH - 27
JACKSON - 40, Monticello - 31
JACKSON - 28, Robert E. Lee (Thomaston) 27
JACKSON 19, Griffin - 17
JACKSON - 30, Fayetteville - 8
JACKSON - 35, McDonough - 22
JACKSON - 28, Spalding - 13
JACKSON - 27, Monticello - 26
JACKSON - 20, McDonough - 18
JACKSON - 20, Newnan - 18
JACKSON - 20, Griffin - 18

With the March 1, 1946 win over Griffin, the Red and Black of Jackson won the Fourth District Championship in front of a home crowd estimated 1,200 in the Jackson gymnasium. The team was coached by S. W. Causey, the school principal. The team finished the regular season with an 11-4 record, winning eight straight to close the season.

"There was general bedlam of whooping, hollering, hand shaking and back slapping in the gym Friday night," wrote Vincent Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* the next week. "That was as it should have been. For many old timers had waited, loyal throughout the years, for just such a moment. It was a time for revelry, for congratulations, for rejoicing upon a great victory.

"It is a good thing the suits of our girls are red," he continued. "It is symbolic. But they are not red enough. You could dye them to match the most brilliant hues of the setting sun and they would still not match the raw, red courage of the wearers."

"When I was in high school [at Henderson], I became one of the better basketball players," said Mamie Lee (Maddox) Davenport in 2010. "For some reason, [Principal A. T. Berryhill] got us all together and we caught the Greyhound Bus and went to Savannah. That was my first experience on a college campus. We went to play in a tournament at Savannah State. That was the first tournament for Henderson. That was probably in about '45 or '46 because I finished in '47. Now, the coach for the girls' basketball team was a lady out of the elementary department. Her name was Doris Lee Loomis. Okay, Ms. Loomis coached, and she had never played basketball, but we won a lot of times in the district. And then finally when she stopped coaching, the principal's wife coached, and he coached the boys."

"We played on a dirt court," Sherry Carr Henderson remembered during the same interview. "We didn't have a gym. Jackson didn't have a gym for Black kids until they built the new school on Mulberry. So we had the dirt court. So we would always have to go to Griffin, that was the closest gym, you know. … And it was funny how we transitioned from the dirt to the floor -"

"And won!" interjected Davenport.

"- and won," Henderson continued. "But you know, I figured it out: we had to play harder on that dirt court.
So when we got to the [wooden] floor it was pretty easy."

Principal Berryhill "taught the boys, the older boys, how to draw a [basketball] court and mark it off with a line," said Davenport. "And sometimes it would be sleeting, and we would have on those little shorts on out there playing. And we wanted to play, too. The first gym I ever played in was in Griffin. Griffin had an old raggedy gym and that's where the tournament was held around this area, was in Griffin."

In early March 1946, H. M. Moore and C. E. McMichael acquired all the stock in the firm of Etheridge-Smith Company. Moore had long been associated with the store. McMichael had managed the Pepperton Store since 1919. Organized in 1882, the firm of Etheridge-Smith Company was one of the oldest mercantile establishments in the area. It was commonly referred to as The New York Store by customers.

"Back in those days," said Harold "Doc" McMichael in a 2009 interview, "the New York Store was half-owned by my uncle Edgar McMichael. Mr. Morris Moore was the other owner of that business. And Mr. Horace Bankston, he was manager of the furniture department, which was on the corner. Then on the other side was Mr. Joe Moore, he managed the men's clothing and shoe department. And then, I can't remember the lady's name that managed where they sold sewing materials and thread and buttons and things like that. And then upstairs they had ladies' clothing. Ladies could buy their hats - it was customary for ladies to wear hats to church on Sundays then. And then they had the little dresses and everything you could buy."

"There were two entrances [to the New York Store] - one near the corner and then another one," recalled Elizabeth O'Neal in 2009. "The entrance nearer the inside over the right was piece goods all the way down. To the left they sold women's hose and underwear. And over to the left they had a shoe department with men's, women's and children's shoes. And then further back

they had men's suits and shirts and so forth. And there was a stairway that had one flight of stairs going up to a platform and then it split in two directions.

"Over to the left was the women's department and women wore hats all the time back then," said O'Neal. "You wouldn't go shopping or to church or anywhere without a hat on. Way back when I was little, some stores hired what they called a milliner. They'd buy hats that were just plain, and then they'd have all kinds of ribbons and flowers and things that could be decorated on the hats. And they had women's dressed and coats and little girls' things.

"And upstairs to the right was the furniture department," she continued, "and they sold a lot of furniture. And then the thing near the corner was a grocery store. So you could get most anything at the New York Store. Mr. Etheridge and Mr. Smith started it, and they would go to New York and buy goods. But that was the store."

"They had a cotton buyer in there," said David Ridgeway, remembering his visits to The New York Store. "They had a grocery store inside. And on the other side was men's suits. And women's wear was on the right. And upstairs they had furniture. In later years, they closed the grocery store. That was a store that you could go to and find just about anything you wanted except automobiles."

"I remember Eiseman dry goods store, which was the first store that I remember getting clothes from," said Mary Lee Martin, "and Etheridge-Smith Company, where Mr. Downs had a ladder that he had to get on 'cause they had shelves of shoes all the way up the ceiling on the [east] side, that whole side was shoes. The shelves had just enough room for a box of shoes to go in, all the way from the front to the back. He had a rolling ladder that he'd get on - he was a small fellow anyway - and he'd go down and get the size shoe you need."

"I even remember the ladder and the shoes," said Mary Ruth Watson. "It was here when I was little. So it lasted a long time into the '50s."

"And on the other side was dress materials, bolts of material," Martin continued. "They had all the thread and everything. And then upstairs one side was strictly furniture and the other side was ready-made dresses and hats. They had somebody up there that really knew and worked on hats for women. Women wore hats. They had to have their hats."

"In the early years of my life, and even in the grown days, we didn't have any shopping but Jackson," said Harry Ridgeway in 2009. "We didn't go out of Butts County into Henry County or very seldom did we go into Griffin. The shops around the square: that's where our clothes were bought, our shoes were bought. In fact, everything we had was bought in Butts County. The Jackson merchants furnished what we needed."

Because of the war and the scarcity of labor it caused, conditions in the city cemetery were bad and caused frequent apologies from city council members. In March 1946, the city hired a sexton, Walter E. Watkins, to look after the cemetery and by April conditions were greatly improved. The city also announced plans to enlarge the cemetery and add a pavilion. Professor A. T. Berryhill led an effort to clean up the Colored section of the cemetery as well.

Jackson Police Chief C. H. Smith suffered severe head injuries as the result of being attacked on the afternoon of April 9, 1946 while locking up two Negroes on a charge of drunken driving. The two men, both returning veterans of the war, were arrested at the intersection of Black and McDonough streets. While closing the door to their cell, the two men lunged at the door, knocking the chief to the floor in a state of semi-consciousness and were then said to take the chief billy jack and beat him over the head. One of the men, believing they had killed the police chief, went to the Buts County Jail and turned himself into the sheriff's wife, Mrs. W. D. Pope, for protection. The sheriff was out of town on business.

During the last week of April 1946, applicants were interviewed by C. H. Addison, manager of the new Jackson Manufacturing Company. Up to 250 people would be employed there - all White except for the janitor. At the same time, the Jackson Box and Lumber Company began partial operations at its new Jackson facility.

The Jackson Grays, Jackson's colored baseball team, was causing quite a stir among fans of both races in the Spring of 1946. The Grays, who played on a baseball diamond located at the old CCC Camp across from the Southern Railroad depot, had won several games against teams from Jonesboro and Forsyth and Macon. Larry Connelly was the team's manager with L. C. Johnson as assistant manager. Games were played at 3 p.m.

"The Jackson Grays were good," said Ernest Battle during an interview in 2009. "Some of them could have been in the pros. They were just that good. They had built some bleachers and they had put up what we used to call punchings. They were scarp lumber. There used to be a lumber yard up there [on Highway 42 North], and when they'd take a tree and cut the bark off those strips were scrap. And they put them up around the field so people couldn't look in there. They sold barbecue and soda pops, and everybody was just having fun. The police would come down. Watch the game for a little while, then get back in their car and leave. And the way I used to get in there was when they foul tipped a ball, I'd chase the ball. If I turned a ball in, I could get in the ball game. I don't think they charged but a dollar to come in. One of those guys from Flovilla, Kenny Waits, used to play with them down there. You weren't going to mess with Kenny. Kenny was pitching. After the game, Kenny would sit around and act just as Black as the other kids.

Larry Conley "used to live where Charles Carter has his building now," recalled Battle. "He walked on crutches. He had an artificial leg. And he had a son named L. C. who was one of the better first base men to ever come around here."

The fence around the Pepperton Cotton Mill was overflowing with red roses in the Spring of 1946. The roses had been planted many years before and turned the fence into a "red riot," according to Doyle Jones, Jr.

Dr. R. P. Harrison, who served in the Dental Corps of the U. S. Army during the war, returned to Jackson and reopened his office in the Commercial Building in early May 1946.

Surveying began in the middle of May 1946 on the center line of Highway 36 from Jackson to Covington. Once the road was built and paved, attention was to turn to the Jackson-to-Barnesville portion of the road.

"You know where in that little strip, where Robison's is, down there at the end [on East Second Street]?" asked Mamie Maddox Davenport during an interview in 2010 when asked about Black-owned businesses in Jackson. "Okay, starting there at the traffic light [on Mulberry Street], [there] used to be a funeral home. Abe Trimier [was the owner]. And beside Trimier, Jim Woodard owned a tailoring shop. They call them pressing clubs then. Because I don't know how much he cleaned, he just pressed! He owned that. He did alterations. And he would always sell pressed men's suits.

"Next to that was a restaurant, the Barnes', which was my daddy's cousin, Gertrude Barnes," Davenport continued. "They ran a restaurant. What do you call the gun shop, which repair guns? Not a pawn shop. They repaired the guns. [It was owned by my] cousin Buddy Barnes. They were a sister and a brother. He did a watch making shop, too. Then next to that was the funeral home. So those were the four or five businesses Black people had right there downtown, one right beside the other. And then finally, after cousin Buddy's gun shop and his watch repair got big, his sister moved out, and moved across the street right on the corner. It's an alley, used to be an alley that goes up from Second Street over to Third. She moved in there and had a restaurant. So those were the Black businesses.

"And then there was a Black business down in Darktown, near that church," said Davenport. "That was Mr. Conley's. He ran something like a general store. Ernest [Battle] grew up down there, so he knows about that. And then across town, over on Cemetery Line, was a store right on the corner of College Street and I don't know what that little street that runs down there. Rufus Head had a place. And so those were about the Black businesses around town."

"Then we had a funeral home," added Sherry Carr Henderson, "another funeral home in Jackson: the Harold Howard Funeral Home."

Following a Supreme Court ruling, Negroes were allowed to vote in the Georgia primary in July 1946 for the first time in many years. The local Democratic Executive Committee set up separate polling places for Whites and Blacks to as to avoid any unneeded problems the new law might cause. All Negroes registered to vote in the Jackson militia district were to cast ballots in the county courthouse.

One week prior to the primary, two Butts County citizens - H. F. Washington and J. B. Stodghill - challenged the rights of several Negroes to cast ballots. The challenges were based on three contentions: that the registrants were not person of good character, could not correctly read any paragraph of the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Georgia or write any such paragraph when it was read to him, and that they could not give reasonable interpretations of any such paragraph when read to them.

But the primary on July 17 passed without incident in the county.

"I can remember basically the Black businesses that were up on the square,"" said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "My dad took me to the barbershop up on the square and I screamed about it. I

saw them shave somebody and I thought they were going to shave me. So my dad ultimately bought clippers and cut my hair from then on. I can remember the man that was the tailor and the funeral home being up there on Second Street. The barbershop was where the consignment store is on Second Street right on the corner next to the old Western Auto service store. That block down there is where the Black businesses used to be. The funeral home was there. There was a cafe over there. Mr. Jim Wooden's tailor shop used to be over there. He used to lived over in Crosstown and moved his store over there.

"But in retrospect," added Gaye, "when I look back on it, that happened at exactly the same time that Black folk were starting to try to vote. The Democratic Party up until that time was the only party so the primary election was the real election. So if you didn't vote in the primary there wasn't anybody to vote for. So the Democratic Primary became known as the White primary. And the way that came about in the first place was accidently a court had ruled that a primary was not an election. It was something that was run by a party and the party was a private organization and the party could do whatever it wanted, according to the case. So the primaries were totally White. You had a series of cases in the 1940s that had attacked that. So Blacks were just about to start voting some. And the move from Uptown was about the same time. I just believe that some of that was the result of some interaction. The whole area [of Black-owned businesses on East Second Street] was gone in like a year."

The Jackson High School Class of 1946 graduated on May 31 with 40 members.

"Both my brothers moved to Detroit," said Curtis Gaye during an interview in 2009. "My oldest brother graduated from Henderson [High School] in 1946. There were seven people in the class. He was the only boy. He was the top of his class. He had a lot of mechanical skills. He went to Detroit when he was about 17. My middle brother went to Detroit, too, after service in the Korean War."

Spalding Knitting Mills announced plans to open a division in Jackson in June 1946 and began training women to work there. The plant was located in the Fossett Building on the west side of the courthouse square. It was one of three new industries locating in Jackson in 1946.

A. C. Freeman, a well-known lumber dealer and producer, was erecting a planing mill across from the railroad at East Third Street in June 1946.

In the Summer of 1946, Mayor Redman announced a plan to pave the sidewalk in front of the county jail on North Oak Street to ascertain the cost of paving sidewalks in the city.

In July 1946, war trophies in the form of one N-5 light tank (weighing 35,000 pounds), one 155-mm howitzer and one 57-mm gun were secured for Butts County by the local American Legion. The pieces were displayed on the courthouse square and on the lot between Oak and Mulberry streets where the proposed memorial building was to be constructed. Previously, the courthouse lawn was home to a German gun from World War I, which was shipped off and melted down due to a shortage of steel during the recent war.

The new war trophies were put on display in the first week of August 1946, and a patriotic rally to mark the dedication of the items was held on August 14.

"I worked in the Veterans' Administration office up in the courthouse in a little room off of the jury box," explained Mary Lee Martin in 2009. "That's the first time I ever saw the Brown brothers [C. B. and Joe]. They had been out on the lake and come in here straight from the lake. I was up there by myself and I did not feel good about myself when those two boys came in dressed like that. They hadn't shaved. But they certainly changed.

"I knew all the veterans back then," Martin said. "I handled all of the discharge, helped them get their benefits. Most of them when they came in they had shaved and looked like they had gone to church. I know [the Brown brothers] started courting the Deraney sisters, and they married. From then on they were in business in Jackson.

"The Browns came from Columbus [Georgia]," said David Ridgeway in 2009. "They were Auburn [Alabama] people. C. B. and Joe were inseparable, and they were altogether different."

"My dad [C. B. Brown, Jr.] was born in Columbus, Georgia," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "He moved to Jackson after [World War II]. He was in the Navy Seabees. He moved here and ran a marina out at Jackson Lake. Then he started selling insurance."

"I think it was in 1946 when my dad [Hugh Glidewell, Sr.] came to Jackson, Georgia," said his son, Billy Glidewell, in 2010. "[He] came from Mobile, Alabama and had, I think - Patsy, Barbara Ann, Sissy, Cindy - I think he had four daughters at that time. And then Janice and Becky were born in McDonough, I think. And then Tommy, Hugh, myself, and my little sister Mary, we were all born in Griffin. And you know, we're not Butts County people. We've only been here for 50 years, 60 years," Glidewell added with a laugh. "I don't duck my head with it or anything, it's just a fact. So many people around here, I see them, and I know that they're 200-year Butts County people. They go way back from the conception of the county. Not that we intruded or anything, but just that we're not really Butts County people. My pop was from Florida, and my mother was from Wisconsin, as a matter of fact."

When Hugh Glidewell, Sr. arrived in Jackson, he opened a restaurant named Glidewell's on Highway 42 North. But, said Billy Glidewell, "people called it 'T & H.' And, although some people thought that meant 'top of the hill,' it actually was the name of the partners that owned it before: Tyler & Henderson. But my father bought it and ran it from from 1946 to 1961.

The restaurant "had double oak swinging doors up front," Glidewell recalled. "It had like an overhang awning over the top of it, and actually a couple of double swinging doors on the right side, it seemed like, that were never opened up. But as you walked in, there was a cash register there and then a row of counter space, probably around six or eight chairs on bar stools. The guy running [it], who was my father most of the time or one of my sisters, operated that counter service. Then one of those little wall openings to the kitchen back there, to the cook."

Obie Johnson, "the first job he ever had was for my father," said Glidewell. "And why he got that job was because his mother was the cook at the restaurant, Jessie Johnson. They're a

well-respected family, the whole group of them. But Jessie was back there cooking, and to the right was the dining room with about five or six booths up against the windows, tables down the center, probably about three booths on the left side there. And then, that being the main dining room, and then to the left of that was a private dining room, which is where the local civic groups met. The Exchange Club met there, Kiwanis Club, private parties. And that was about it. It was probably around 3,000 square feet, probably around 80 feet long.

"The building got pushed over," Glidewell said. "It stood [a] little bit in front of where that movie theater is, where James's Garage is and all right back there behind that convenience store [at the top of the hill on Highway 42 North]. It was a little bit further back than the convenience store, and not as far back as the movie theater."

At a meeting on August 13, 1946, the Jackson City Council spent most of its time discussing the paving of streets and sidewalks in the city to keep in line with developments taking place at the time. The Council decided to pave any street or sidewalk when the property owners paid for the materials. The city would provide the labor. It was estimated tat the cost of paving a sidewalk was 30 per foot, and the cost of paving a street was between $1.25 and $1.50 per foot. Benton and Holly streets were projects considered for paving, but no action was taken on these two streets at the time.

When Jackson High School opened for classes on September 9, 1946 the school had its largest enrollment in history: 256 students.

In September 1946, it was announced that the city's tax levy would remain at 10 mills - seven mills for support of the city government and three mills for the interest and sinking fund. The tax rate for the county was set at 21 mills, with 10 for local schools and five for the state.

C. T. Gibson, the largest wholesale jewelry dealer in the area, donated a public address system to Jackson High School in September 1946. It was used to give spectators a play-by-play broadcast of the Jackson-Sandersville football game on September 27, 1946.

A fire on the morning of September 30, 1946 caused considerable damage to the home of J. L. Lyons on Covington Street. Most of the fire damage was to the roof, and many furnishings were rescued from the flames, smoke and water.

In October 1946, Vincent Jones wrote in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* that "there was a time, not so many years ago, when Jackson businessmen would have pooled all of their resources to build a toothpick factory for our city. Business was caught in the doldrums between two world wars and, although it received a shot in the arm from the New Deal, there was a definite awareness of our need for additional payrolls but no concerted effort was made to obtain them.

"Today, the situation is reversed," Jones continued in his column, The Last Straw. "Hardly a day passes but that inquiries are received by this office, the mayor or other city officials asking for information regarding existent vacant buildings, building sites, homes, etc. in Jackson. Some of these letters come from young men who are anxious to come to Jackson to establish a show

store, or a filling station, or a movie house. Others are from some of the largest industrial firms in the nation with years of prestige and tradition-making service behind them.

"The amount of consideration given these proposals by Jackson businessmen is pathetic," wrote Jones. "A few men who believe in a Jackson of 5,000 people in five years are working themselves to the bone but to little avail. There is an inevitable clash between those men with ideals and those who are satisfied and reluctant to change. There is the usual diverting, but weak, argument that we must maintain a balance of industry and agriculture. It may be difficult to convince ex-GIs walking our streets of the soundness of that theory.

"We must prepare in good times for the bad times that will follow, even as night does day. That preparation should take concrete form in an organization whose sole purpose would be the enticing, establishing and placing of several large industrial concerns in our city. Such a step would bring millions into our county and could be accomplished with a minimum expenditure of income and energy.

"Are we satisfied with Jackson as it is, or do we wish to see it twice as big, three times as big, or 10 times as big? We can make it as big as we wish but the time to act is now. Such golden opportunities as we now have may never come our way again."

Jackson had 480 telephones as of October 1946. Forty persons were waiting to obtain telephone service.

The Jackson freezer locker opened to the public in the middle of October 1946. Those renting lockers could take meat to the facility and place it and a lock on their rented locker. It was expected that the operation of the freezer locker would play a vital role in enabling families to save food, enjoy good living and other benefits.

In a primary devoid of interest due to the absence of opposition, Jackson voters renominated the mayor and four alderman on October 17, 1946. Chosen again to run the city were: Mayor W. M. Redman and aldermen: J. H. Turner, J. A. Dodson, J. S. Ball, Sr., and J. W. O'Neal.

Beginning in November 1946, residents of Jackson were asked whether or not they would support natural gas service to their home. In two weeks' time, 240 people expressed their support for natural gas, and only one - "ish Kabbible" - was opposed to the idea.

In the middle of November 1946, Rufus Adams, assistant state manager of the Farmer's Home Administration, and Everett Briscoe of Covington acquired the Carmichael Brothers, Inc. feed and seed store, retail and wholesale, and the Kaizer-Frazier agency for farm implements. The business, one of the oldest seed firms in middle Georgia, was started as the R. N. Etheridge Seed Company, and was operated by the Carmichael's - Maurice and Aldene - for several years.

"Before the war, my father [Maurice Carmichael] and my uncle, Aldene, started Carmichael Brothers," said Walter Carmichael in a 2009 interview. "When the war broke out, my dad went into the Navy. After the war, Uncle Aldene left Carmichael Brothers and went back to

Jasper County to be a principal. He was later principal at Sparta and Woodbury, then he worked for the state in Atlanta, and then he came up with the driver education program for the state. And then whoever was the head of Negro education wanted out, and they asked Uncle Aldene to come over and abolish the separate department. He was the last head of the Department of Negro Education for the State of Georgia.

"In fact," Carmichael continued, "he took that job to abolish it. It was probably back in the '60s. When full integration came about he turned in his keys, said he had nothing else to do and came home. He became the county surveyor and walked all over Butts county well into his senior years. He did a great job. But when all that happened, they sold [Carmichael Brothers] to Adams-Briscoe. It's still called Carmichael Brothers, but it's doing business as Adams-Briscoe Feed & Supply."

"After my uncle [Rufus Adams] got out of college and was working full-time with the USDA, he came to Jackson and actually rented a room from Mr. M. L. [Powell], and his wife, to stay here," said Jimmy Adams during a 2009 interview. "My uncle's position with the USDA was with the old AAA, which had to do with measuring cotton land primarily at that time, and doing surveys. And Mr. M. L. was his supervisor. Now, the county agent supervised the USDA employees in the county at that time. That's when my uncle really became familiar with Jackson. He was raised in Forsyth, which is just down the road anyway. And, he wanted to come back here.

"The business that we now operate started out as Etheridge Seed Company," said Adams. "Mr. Bob Etheridge started the business after the Depression. And Mr. Otis Stephens, Bobby's daddy, worked for Mr. Etheridge for a number of years, helped him open up the business and run it. And then the Carmichael brothers - T. Aldene Carmichael, Maurice Carmichael, and Gus Carmichael - those three brothers bought the business from Mr. Etheridge and operated it for a few years. And then they decided to sell out, and my uncle had expressed an interest.

"When they called him up to buy the business, or to offer it to him, my uncle got to looking around, and he wanted a partner," said Adams. "Someone suggested he talk to Mr. [Everette] Briscoe, who also worked for USDA. He was working with the USDA over in the Eatonton area, I think. And so they partnered up and bought the business. And actually, being unsure whether the business would support both families, Mr. Briscoe moved to Jackson and operated the business for one year, while my uncle kept his job in Athens, and worked out of Athens, until they could settle in here. For a year he would come and work on the weekends, just to be sure they could make a go of it, and it worked very successfully for them.

"Their personalities complemented each other very well," said Adams. "Mr. Briscoe was a very outgoing, likable fellow. And my uncle was a little more quiet in nature. But both had some strong qualities. Mr. Briscoe was very mechanical, and, for a man without an engineering degree, did quite a good job. He installed the seed-cleaners, and all the elevators, and designed the systems that were necessary to put the seed cleaning plant in place, as well as the feed mill next door that they operated for a number of years. And my uncle had some strong political ties and a lot of contacts that helped the business get business and grow."

"The original store was located on the square where City Pharmacy is now," Adams continued. "They had a calf in the front window. That was Purina's advertising. They would raise

up a calf, they would put a little pen up front, and raise one from a bottle—you know, not ‘til it got big, but just to advertise the milk replacers and the starter rations, and things like that. It would get people to stop in. I remember when we had baby chickens, and even if no one was buying a chicken, the mothers would bring the little children in to look at the baby chicks, just to show ‘em.

The old brick warehouse on West Second Street where Adams-Briscoe is still located “was built to house a seed cleaner, and at that time there was a tremendous amount of growth for our agriculture here, small grain, oats, wheat, rye, soybeans, and corn,” said Adams. “We had a feed mill and a seed cleaner, and took grain and actually bagged it for seed and then also processed it for hog feed and dairy feed, cattle feed. One of my first jobs as a teenager, when I got a drivers license, was to keep the feed rooms in the little small dairies filled with feed. I would grind the dairy feed, and would drive around to put it in the feed rooms bagged.”

“So when my dad (Maurice Carmichael] got back [from Naval service in World War II], they had some government program that helped farmers spread lime and fertilizer,” Walter Carmichael said. “And dad came back and built his own spreader trucks that would throw the fertilizer way out in the fields. He took a Model A transmission and if you wanted to throw it far, you put it in first gear, and if you wanted it not so far you put it in second gear or something like that. He built that into a very successful business.

“About the time he was looking to get out of it, he became a rural mail carrier,” Carmichael continued. “I think his main goal there was to have good hospitalization insurance for his wife and his kid and retirement for himself. He retired after 20 years along with Harry Ridgeway and a bunch of other good people up there at the post office. At that time, there wasn’t that much mail so dad would normally get done around noon time. Of course it didn’t pay very much, but he did get benefits. And it was a pretty good salary for around here at the time in the early ‘50s.”

Also in the middle of November 1946, the Coggins Furniture Company opened in the Deraney building on Second Street. C. M. Coggins came to Jackson from South Carolina and Atlanta, and had 18 years experience in the furniture business.

<u>JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 1946</u>
Jackson - 6, SPALDING - 60
Jackson - 7, MONROE - 12
Jackson - 13, SANDERSVILLE - 19
Jackson - 0, MONTICELLO - 14
Jackson - 0, FORSYTH - 26
Jackson - 0, CARROLLTON - 56
Jackson - 12, GRAY - 13
Jackson - 6, Monticello - 6
Jackson - 6, JONESBORO - 12
JACKSON - 21, Manchester - 18

The campus of the Henderson school was enlarged in the Fall of 1946 with the addition of several old Army barracks. The larger building, which was referred to as "the shack," housed three classrooms. A smaller building housed one class.

"And we didn't have enough room in the school for what [Henderson Principal A. T. Berryhill] was trying to do," Davenport remembered during an interview in 2010. "He went down to Warner Robbins and arranged it somehow and bought barracks. And they added some rooms - about four I believe - outside of the school building proper. So that's how it was growing up.

"And [Berryhill] was a person who would punish you for coming late," she said. "You didn't come to his school late. And the other thing you didn't do: you didn't walk off the campus. You didn't walk off the campus. You stayed on that school campus. And, he would put his hands behind him and walk to [where your parents were staying] and talk to the parents and let them know what their children were doing. I don't ever think he joined a church in Jackson, but he was at church on Sundays, especially Sunday nights. [Berryhill] was a graduate of Clark Atlanta University. He got his Masters from Atlanta University, too. So, that's how it was growing up."

A new vocational education building was almost completed by the end of November 1946 thanks to a shipment of scarce materials. The building, a concrete block structure measuring 100 feet by 42 feet, had a shop, class room and supply room.

At the start of December 1946, the Pepperton Cotton Mills were drilling a deep well near the mill yard prior to installing a complete water and sewage system. The goal was to have the well furnish 50 gallons of water per minute, and store the water in a 60,000-gallon water tank. It was likely that the well would be 450 feet deep when complete. The total cost of the improvements planned was estimated at $150,000.

The mill had been anxious for some time to obtain water from the city, but the city could not or did not furnish the desired water. By making its own improvements, Pepperton was to have a modern mill village and greater comforts and conveniences for its workers and their families.

"Dad [Maurice Carmichael] and Uncle Aldene [Carmichael] had a well-drilling business," explained Walter Carmichael in 2009. Maurice "was always getting into things. Dad was the kind of guy who once he got something started he got bored with it. It was a challenge to him to get something rolling. I won't say he lost interest, but he would start looking for other things. He and Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Starr started the Cash and Carry. They ended up selling that to Charles Carter, and that became Carter Building Supply today. He was always working hard.

"For a long time he was the industrial development authority," Carmichael continued, "and a founding director of McIntosh State Bank."

"Uncle Gus [Carmichael] worked with them drilling wells and he also helped them in the seed business," Carmichael said. "Gus was a great guy who could do anything and would do anything for anybody. The only thing he couldn't do was stay away from whiskey. During [World War II] he served on submarines in the Pacific running the engine rooms. He loved to tell

the story about the time they were finishing up a mission when the captain spotted enemy ships. The captain gave the old 'fire torpedo one' command and nothing happened. Uncle Gus and his buddies had drained the alcohol out of the torpedos, filtered it through bread and had a party."

According to Butts County's Public Health Nurse, Ethel Ham, 1946 was a busy one for public health initiatives. All workers in the school lunch rooms and all eating places were given food handler tests. There were three cases of diphtheria, and all were quarantined. There was one case of typhoid fever in 1946 in Butts County. There were 87 people under supervision through the Veneral Disease clinic, and most were dismissed after a short time. A weekly clinic was held for expectant mothers. A monthly clinic was held to examine White children. They were given malaria, hemoglobin and intestinal parasite tests.

1947

In January 1947, students at Henderson High School began publishing a school paper, The Henderson Panther, which was issued five times during the school year. Eddie Lee Thomas was the editor and Mamie Lee Maddox and Maggie Barlow were associate editors. The first issue was 12 mimeographed pages of school news, editorials, gossip columns, and sports news.

"The principal [at Henderson], Mr. [A. T.] Berryhill, had gone to Clark College and their mascot is the Panthers," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "At this time, everything relating to our school was the Panther. The colors were red and black, just like Clark's. He left after '47, he was here twice. When Mr. [N. E.] Walker came here in 1948, we became the Tigers."

"Now in high school, we didn't have but about three or four teachers," Mamie Maddox Davenport recounted in 2010. "Three for the most part. The principal taught English, Biology, and History. His wife taught Math. And then Ms. Tate, Juanita Tate, who had finished Florida A&M, she taught Home Economics. That's what we had.

"[Henderson School Principal] A.T. Berryhill knew English and Biology," she said. "He also carried us. We couldn't ride the school busses or anything, and we couldn't even use them to go out of town. But he borrowed some Black man's old truck. So he used to put us on the back of this truck, and put a canvas over it, and put a pole in the middle. And we would sit back there, and he would carry us to different featured places.

"When he was teaching history and geography, he would tell us about different places, then he would put us on this truck and try to carry us so we could see them first-hand," Davenport said in 2010. "I had never been to Warm Springs. He carried us over so we could see the little White House. He carried us down to Macon so that we could see the [Etowah] Indian mounds. He carried us to *Atlanta Daily World*, the newspaper. He carried us to High Falls. Some children had never been to High Falls, which is right there. He carried us to Indian Springs, every little place around. First he started with the immediate vicinity, and then he sort of extended it where parents could scrounge up a few dollars to help buy the gas."

G. Tom Thurston, a former sheriff of Butts County, died on January 5, 1947. Thurston was born and reared in Jackson where he played catcher on the Jackson baseball team as a young man. In 1936, he was elected sheriff to succeed Walter D. Pope, and in 1940 he was succeeded by J. D. Pope, son of the former sheriff.

In an election held January 23, 1947, workers rejected by a vote of 33-to-9 efforts of the United Construction Workers to organize a union at the Jackson Box & Lumber Company. All indications were that it was the first such election in the history of Butts County.

Superior Court was closed early during the first week of February 1947 due to frigid weather and the failure of the courthouse's heating system.

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL 1947
JACKSON - 44, Spalding - 18
JACKSON - 59, Milner - 12
JACKSON - 51, Yatesville - 13
JACKSON - 39, Forsyth - 24
JACKSON - 56, McDonough - 22
Jackson - 13, R. E. LEE (Thomaston) - 27
Jackson - 15 , SPALDING - 23
JACKSON - 37, Griffin - 17
JACKSON - 37, Monticello - 22
Jackson - 13, R. E. LEE - 33
JACKSON - 51, Milner - 27
JACKSON - 33, Forsyth - 11
JACKSON - 64, McDonough - 23
Jackson - 17, MONTICELLO - 20
Jackson - 33, HOGANSVILLE - 35

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL 1947
JACKSON - 22, Spalding - 13
Jackson - 36, MILNER - 41
JACKSON - 18, Yatesville - 16
Jackson - 43, Forsyth - 43
JACKSON - 33, McDonough - 14
JACKSON - 25, R. E. Lee (Thomaston) - 22
JACKSON - 25, Spalding - 17
Jackson - 27, GRIFFIN - 40
Jackson - 27, MONTICELLO - 32
Jackson - 23, R. E. LEE - 30
JACKSON - 27, Milner - 23
Jackson - 29, FORSYTH - 30
JACKSON - 39, McDonough - 14

Jackson - 20, MONTICELLO - 22
JACKSON - 27, Griffin - 25
JACKSON - 26, Milner - 24
Jackson - 20, THOMASTON - 29

During the last week of March 1947, the Jackson Jewel Box opened on the north side of the square in the building formerly occupied by the Lynda Joyce Cafe. The shop, the retail branch of C. T. Gibson's wholesale jewelry operation, was originally located in the old potato house on Covington Street. The second floor of the new store held Gibson's offices for his rapidly expanding wholesale business.

Installation of a sewerage system in Pepperton was nearing completion at the start of April 1947. During the last week of March 1947, the Pepperton Cotton Mill dug a deep well and obtained a water flow from it of 258 gallons per minute, sufficient to supply the entire mill village of 126 houses.

During the first week of April 1947, the Butts County Board of Education voted to allow twelfth grade work for students wishing to return for such. Several students had indicated their desire to complete twelve grades, but the new grade level was optional, according to school superintendent Frank Hearn.

On April 4, 1947, Butts County voters approved a $150,000 bond issue for school improvement by a vote of 488 to 263. The purpose of the bond was to build a central high school to serve all of the county, to improve grammar school buildings, to enlarge vocational education department, improve the commercial department, provide for domestic science and public school music.

The National Guard reorganized Company A, 121st Infantry Regiment - the Jackson Rifles - on April 14, 1947 under the command of Harry W. Ball. The unit had disbanded after World War II ended.

In April 1947, the Butts County Freezer Locker added equipment necessary for making ice cream, malted milk, custards and other dairy products.

"We used to have a great ice plant," said R. Scott Coleman in 2009. "I remember as a kid after church mom would take us to the ice plant, buy a big chunk of ice, go home, break it up, and put it in the ice cream churn and make ice cream. Peach ice cream was my favorite. We made a ton of peach of ice cream.

"Mr. Castellow was running the ice plant, and he'd let you go into the lockers where all the ice was being stored," said Coleman. "My brother and I just loved being in there. It was like going to Antarctica or something. Just a minute was all we could stand."

C. O. Beauchamp, former mayor of Jackson, died on April 15, 1947 in Shreveport, Louisiana. His father, J. O. Beauchamp, had served as Butts County Sheriff, and C. O. Beauchamp held the distinction of being the youngest mayor ever to serve in Georgia at the time of his election.

A survey was completed in early May 1947 for the new highway from Jackson to Newton County. It followed Covington Street to the city limits and then two miles out into the county. A previous survey followed North Mulberry out of town and crossed the railroad tracks near the Jackson Box & Lumber Company, but the railroad refused to allow an easement and an overpass was deemed too expensive.

A volunteer firemen's group organized in Jackson in May 1947 with eight or 10 men cooperating affectively. They met Wednesday nights and received instructions from members of the Griffin fire department on how to fight fires with the equipment available to them.

The Jackson High School Class of 1947 had 65 members and received their diplomas on May 26. It was the largest class in the history of the school, and included 57 students and eight ex-servicemen and veterans who qualified on service record of G.E.D. Test. Henderson High School held graduation exercises on May 29, 1947 with 20 students receiving high school diplomas.

"I was the valedictorian of my class," said Mamie Maddox Davenport, who graduated from Henderson High School in 1947. "Of course there wasn't but a handful in there, weren't none but about 15 or 20 of us."

In late May 1947, S. H. Thornton, funeral director and furniture salesman, bought property at the corner of Second and Covington streets for the purpose of building a modern funeral home with a chapel. Previously, the funeral parlor was located in Thornton's furniture business on North Mulberry Street.

"We didn't get a funeral home until after Wold War II," said Elizabeth O'Neal in 2009. "Before that, they brought bodies home and had the funeral services in living rooms. That's what everybody did back then."

"I can remember when my granny passed away, and you would sit up all night," recalled Gwen Mitchell in 2009. "The body would be picked up and embalmed and put in a coffin and brought back to the house. Mr. Thornton picked up granny. People would sit up all night. I remember sitting up with my granny. And there was a lot of my school friends come out and we just sat around in the room where she was at and have cookies and something to drink. The casket was open. The body stayed in the house overnight and then have the funeral the next day."

In June 1947 came word that A. C. Freeman, sawmill and planing mill operator, was building a grist mill on Second Street below the Robison, Settle & Robison gin on an acre of land.

"In the 50s I worked in town at the Robison Settle & Robison gin and also at the International place," said David Ridgeway in a 2008 interview. "It was two different organizations. One of them was Robison Settle & Robison and the other was Settle & Robison. Settle & Robison was D. P. Settle and Elwood Robison, and they had the Chevrolet place and Standard Oil place. And then Mr. Settle ran Atlanta-Macon Motor Express, which was later sold to Overnight Express. And Robison Settle & Robison, Sing Robison was in with that. He was the one that I really worked for. I kept books over at the gin. They had the gin and a fertilizer place, and sold coal, and had the International place that sold tractors and different implements. And when I wasn't busy down at the gin, I go help Herman Apple put harrows together and most anything that needed to be done. I didn't like just sitting around down at the gin when there wasn't anything to be done.

"I was about 18 or 19," Ridgeway recalled. "I had a truck. I was hauling different things for different people. And I broke my finger, just crushed it. Had a ring on it. Dr. Strickland cut that ring out. And Dr. Barfield fixed it up for me. But while I couldn't drive my truck, Sing Robison came and asked me if I wanted to work for him. So I did, and after that I worked for the National Guard. The National Guard at that time was reorganized on April 11, 1947 over at the Farmer's Exchange [on the north side of West Third Street]. I went to work over there in 1949. I was one of the first ones to enlist in 1947."

"Sing Robison - he was killed by a shotgun wasn't he?," Merrell Price asked Ridgeway.

"He was hunting," said Ridgeway. "And he wasn't matured too good. One of his arms was smaller than the other, and one of his legs was smaller and he walked with a bad limp. He was bird hunting by himself one day and nobody told me exactly what happened. But I think what happened is he would open the door with his small hand and take his gun by the end of the barrel and swing it around to put it the car. My opinion is that when he swung that gun around, it hit the door and it went off and shot him and killed him.

"I don't know if that's really what happened or not," Ridgeway continued, "but they never did really decide just how it happened. That's just my opinion, but I had seen him many times do that, and I had told him many times, 'Sing you better mind how you sling that gun around and put it in the car like that. That thing can go off.' And he said, 'I got the safety off'."

"After he returned from the Navy, my father [Lamar Phillips] went to work for Settle & Robison," recalled Wayne Phillips during an interview in 2009. "They had a furniture repair shop and then he opened his own shop where Bearden's Auto was and Rental Solutions is now [on West Second Street]. Then he ran the upholstery repair shop for General Motors in Lakewood. My mother worked at the sewing plants - at Carters in Forsyth and Kym Company [in Jackson].

A preliminary organization meeting was held on June 26, 1947 at the Hotel Buchanan for the formation of a Jackson chapter of the National Exchange Club. A minimum of 20 members were required before the club's charter was issued. J. W. Carter was elected president of the new chapter. The Club received its charter on July 24, 1947.

In June 1947, Jackson Mayor W. M. Redman announced a major street paving plan approved by the city council. Residents of College Street had already signed up for the paving, agreeing to pay for the 55-cents-per-square-yard fee. Agreements were also being circulated to homeowners along McKibben Avenue, Dempsey Avenue, Mulberry Street, Oak Street, Holly Street, Watkins Street and Benton Street. A sidewalk paving project was also underway on Indian Springs Street, though a shortage of labor had hampered the project's schedule.

Third Street, Indian Springs Street, Second Street, Atlanta Street and McDonough Road were already paved as highway projects.

The first streets paved under the new plan at the end of July 1947 were: College Street, West Avenue, North Mulberry Street, Benton Street, Dempsey Avenue, Holly Street from Third to Second streets, Bailey Avenue from East Third to Lyons streets, and Byars Avenue from Oak to Holly streets.

In early July 1947, the Central Georgia Electrical Membership Corporation obtained a lot on North Mulberry Street. The company planned to build a $70,000 permanent headquarters for its operations there.

In the first week of August 1947, Paul Tyler was named manager of the Butts County Freezer Locker Company, replacing J. K. Sitton, who resigned due to his advanced age and the strenuous nature of the job. Tyler had been in the Jackson business community for 30 years, having disposed of his grocery business a year or two earlier. Sitton continued to serve as president and treasurer of the freezer company.

Extensive repairs to the buildings on East Second Street, owned by Mrs. T. E. Robison and Robison, Settle & Robison, began in the middle of August 1947. The building formerly used as a seed storage house was converted into a garage for IHC service. The old Jackson Milling Company building, formerly occupied by J. A. Dodson, was remodeled and outfitted as an IHC showroom. The vacant lot between the mill building and Deraney's grocery was converted into a show lot for IHC implements. The firm of Robison, Settle, & Robison had converted one building on the block several months earlier into an IHC parts store. The only exception to the repair work was the old Thurston blacksmith lot, which was owned by J. B. White at the time.

All children entering school in the Fall of 1947 were required to have a certificate for typhoid, smallpox and diphtheria immunizations. This included all White and Colored children entering the first grade. The Butts County Health Department issued the certificates.

On September 8, 1947, the City Council set the tax millage rate at 13 mills - 10 mills for the operation of the city government and three mills for interest and the sinking fund. The rate

represented an increase of three mill over the 1946 rate and was brought about by the increased costs of labor, materials and supplies.

"Because of additional demands it was found necessary to fix the tax rate for the city in the amount of 13 mills," wrote Mayor W. M. Redman to the citizens. "In order to give the public the necessary sanitation and maintenance of streets, police protection, the city, because of higher wages and increased cost of materials, believes that the public would rather pay the increase in taxes than to curtail the services. The city is now endeavoring to extend sewerage and water mains as well as erect a water plant which is needed to serve the public adequately. During inflated times a public dollar cannot do the work as in normal times."

In the city primary on October 24, 1947, M. G. McCrary and V. H. Ham won election to the City Council in the first and fourth wards respectively. McCrary defeated J. Hall Turner 251-to-197. Ham defeated J. W. O'Neal 246-to-202.

Effective November 10, 1947, all 470 workers at the Pepperton Cotton Mill received a nine percent increase in wages. The move was in line with what other textile mills around the south were doing at the time.

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 1947
Jackson - 6, FORT VALLEY - 38
Jackson - 0, MONROE - 19
[It was in reporting on this game that the Jackson Progress-Argus first described the team as the Jackson Red Devils and mentioned its crimson uniforms.]
Jackson - 0, SANDERSVILLE - 26
Jackson - 6, MONTICELLO - 26
JACKSON - 12, Forsyth - 0
Jackson - 13, WEST POINT - 26
JACKSON - 18, Gray - 6
Jackson - 0, MONTICELLO - 46
Jackson - 0, JONESBORO - 20
Jackson - 13, MANCHESTER - 30
JACKSON - 39, Eatonton - 0

On November 24, 1947, Hunter A. Strickland began teaching mathematics and coaching football and basketball at Jackson High School. A graduate of the University of Georgia, Strickland had coached at Royston High School successfully before being called to military duty in World War II.

At a meeting on November 24, 1947, the Jackson City Council awarded a contract in the amount of $84,890 for the construction of a new and modern waterworks system. Construction was to begin by the end of the year and be complete by August 1948. The new plant was built at the site of the existing plant and had two coagulation and filter units with a capacity of 500,000 gallons every 24 hours. The building for housing filters, pumps, and laboratory equipment was a

new two-story brick structure. A new 38-foot enclosed reinforced concrete reservoir was also added .

The existing plant, it was determined, was wholly inadequate to furnish an adequate water supply and was unsuitable for enlargement or repair. As such, it was to be abandoned upon completion of the new plant.

During the last week of December 1947, water was being chlorinated and filling up the new water tank in Pepperton for use in the homes there. Plumbers were rapidly installing the needed fixtures in the 126 houses in the mill village.

1948

As of January 1, 1948 the mayor and City Council of Jackson required every home or apartment in the city to have a garbage can with a top, and keep it in such a place that it is accessible to the driver of the sanitary truck. Only garbage in the cans was picked up. Those failing to adhere to this ordinance were called before the mayor to show why they are not.

In January 1948, work was underway on the extension of water supply lines to cover four parts of the city. The Darktown project to serve the area beyond the Southern Railway tracks cost $2,655. An extension in the area of the Farmers Union Warehouse was a $932 project. The Walker Street extension to serve a large portion of that part of town called for $1,848. An extension on McDonough Road was listed at $1,625, and another extension near the school building totaled $3,059. These extensions not only provided water in parts of town without it before, but also aided in fire protection and increased property values there.

"I lived the first 27 years of my life I lived in the area we call Darktown on [North] Benton Street," said Ernest Battle, who was born in 1936. "My childhood was the type of childhood that we need today. We had an extended family in my neighborhood. Like they say it takes a village to raise a child, and this is what I grew up in 'cause everybody had concern for each other's kids in the neighborhood. And I had a couple of families that took me under their wings. My mother was a domestic worker and she worked at night for a long period of time. So the people in the community helped raise me.

"One family was named Bell, we used to call him Pardner Dude Bell, he's the grandaddy of Eldrin Bell," Battle said. "They took me under their wings and helped mold me into manhood. And there was another family, Sam and Ruth Ford, that took me under their wings and helped me to become a man because they wouldn't fool with me if I was being disobedient. I was blessed to have a whole lot of extended family to help me. If somebody in the neighborhood saw you doing something you weren't supposed, they'd get after you about it.

"They didn't have no street lights down there," continued Battle. "It wasn't even paved. And it wasn't until '52 or '53 that they put annexes on the houses on Benton Street for toilets. Before that everybody had outhouses.

"The thing about it was: we were all poor, but we didn't know it," Battle said with a laugh. "It wasn't nothing for the lady next door to come over to our house to get something, or for me

to go over there to get something for my mama. That was the kind of thing people did. We knew everybody. We played ball in the streets and we shot marbles. I can remember we used to get these metal rings, and we used to take a clothes hanger and take it out and stretch it, and push that round wheel up and down the road with the clothes hanger. Kids don't do that now. When kids are out of school, you don't even see them in the streets.

"Early on, we used to have kerosene lamps in the house," Battle remembered. "I bought my mother her first kerosene stove in 1956, 'cause she was cooking with a wood stove. And I bought her her first electric refrigerator in '56. We used to have an icebox, and I used to go across the tracks to buy ice and lug it back. And it'd get my leg all wet. And we'd wrap it up in newspaper to make it last longer. We used to have chickens, and I remember my mama telling me to go outside and catch a chicken and wring its neck. Two or three people had cows in the neighborhood. But I never could learn how to milk a cow. I tried and I tried and I tried, but I never could get the milk to flow. But in all those years growing up, I never had a key to the house. We didn't lock the doors.

"In our neighborhood, we might be sent to town to get something," Battle recalled. "We had two or three grocers. But in our neighborhood, we had about three stores. So we could buy two-for-a-penny cookies down there, and five cents and six cents for a big old Double Cola to drink. They just sold canned goods and pops and cookies and that kind of stuff. Those were the guys that I always wanted to be like. I looked at those guys as entrepreneurs. I didn't know what an entrepreneur was back then, but that's what they were. They had their own place. They supported their family. They had their own homes. I always said I wanted to be able to have a house and a car 'cause that's what I saw those guys doing with their resources.

"Right there as you come across the tracks [to the southern side] there used to be a juke joint there," said Battle. "It was a brick building they tore down a few years ago. They had a cafe and pool room in the back. I think it was called the Rib Shack. Most of us kids would go up there and peak through the holes in the wall and watch the grownups dancing. There was always something going on in that neighborhood.

"And the area over here [around North Oak and North Mulberry streets] was called Bethel Flats," Battles explained, "and they had the area over by the cemetery that was called Crosstown. Those were the three areas that Blacks lived in."

"That was right across from where the train station was," Mamie Maddox Davenport recalled of the Rib Shack juke joint Battle mentioned. "I don't know who owned that, because it was first one and then the other. How I know about it, because we always went to that church right down in the next block. That's where we went to Sunday School, Old Zion Baptist. So we had to pass right by. But it was what they call a juke joint.

"Now, that's what was around in Jackson proper. Down at the Indian Springs were all kinds of juke joints," she added. "And that's where we went to the park, the school would carry us once a year in the springtime to the park there. And I used to always want to go in one of those juke joints, but we would be warned before leaving: 'Don't go there!' And so we would sit in the park, and just look at the children going and coming, and we'd be swinging our feet."

"And to be very honest," said Sherry Carr Henderson during the same interview in 2010, "my husband's mother had a little store down there too, at the Indian Springs."

"And our cousin, too," Davenport said. "Lord, he had a big-time juke joint down there. Charlie Jack Holder. He had a big-time juke joint."

"And my mother in law's name was Sallie Mae Henderson," said Henderson, "she had one. It was almost across the road."

"Yeah, there were some things for Black people down there [at Indian Springs]," agreed Davenport. "But now, they had the nice things over there around the lake and around the highway on each side. They had the bowling alleys. They had all sorts of little things for Whites. But the Black people, they built us some shacks over there in the woods. We used to go down there and play in the water, though, in the creek [where there are] all those rocks."

"Over there across by that bridge was where the bowling alley and all of that was," said Henderson. "Now, we could work over there, but we couldn't go there, say, to bowl -"

"Or socialize," added Davenport.

"I heard my husband say they would set up pins," said Henderson, "You used to have to set the [bowling] pins up. [Blacks] did all of that."

"Yeah, so we had about three or four juke joints over there [on Cenie Road] that I never got a chance to go in, but had wanted to," said Davenport.

"Because that was more adult style living," Henderson added. "Just like what? New Orleans?"

"Yeah, it was like," began Davenport, "What's the street in New Orleans where it stays open all night? Bourbon Street. It was like Bourbon. Yeah, they were there, especially on the weekends. That was Bourbon Street."

Improvements being made to the Dixie Theater in January 1948 by owners Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Brown, Jr. included 225 new and comfortable seats, an entirely new sound system, and refurnishing of the walls.

Heavy rains at the end of January 1948 turned county highways into quagmires and forced schools to close for four days. The entire state, it was reported, was getting its worst mud bath in years.

Results of a straw poll held on January 28, 1948 showed county voters opposed to the idea of continuing to issue beer licenses. As a result, the Butts County Board of Commissioners did not renew beer licenses in the first week of February.

<u>JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL 1948</u>
JACKSON - 39, Milner - 17
JACKSON - 42, Hampton - 32
Jackson - 17, GRIFFIN - 34
Jackson - 29, MONTICELLO - 42
Jackson - 17, NEWNAN - 43
JACKSON - 31, McDonough - 30
Jackson - 22, THOMASTON - 50
JACKSON - 43, Monticello - 42

Jackson - 16, GRIFFIN - 58
Jackson - 16, MILNER - 39
Jackson - 25, FORSYTH - 49
Jackson - 20, NEWNAN - 37
Jackson - 25, FAYETTEVILLE - 44

On February 29, 1948 a fire that threatened the Wofford Oil Company plant was extinguished by chemicals the city obtained with its new fire truck a year or two before. The fire, started by boys who were burning off grass, destroyed the pump station and spread to storage tanks. With flames leaping high in the air and most people taking to their heels for fear of an explosion, J. H. Rooks, his son, Hugh, and Hesper Stephens of the city water and light department soon brought the fire under control. These men took risks beyond the call of duty to stop the fire. It was the first time such chemicals had been used to suppress a fire in Jackson.

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL 1948
JACKSON - 28, Milner - 14
JACKSON - 43, Hampton - 25
JACKSON - 26, Griffin - 17
JACKSON - 33, Monticello - 24
JACKSON - 42, Newnan - 33
JACKSON - 47, McDonough - 34
Jackson - 23, THOMASTON - 31
Jackson - 15, MONTICELLO - 21
Jackson - 30, GRIFFIN - 40
JACKSON - 30, Milner - 20
JACKSON - 29, Forsyth - 21
JACKSON - 24, Newnan - 15
JACKSON - 20, Bowden - 4
JACKSON - 22, Villa Rica - 12
Jackson - 22, GRIFFIN - 34

Following action by city officials, there was no masked parade in Jackson on the eve of the primary on March 26, 1948. Acting on a hint that a masked band, supposed to be the Ku Klux Klan, might stage a parade that evening, the City Council passed an ordinance forbidding parades or demonstrations by groups of two or more persons with a permit. There were reports from across the state that such parades had been held and crosses burned presumably in hopes of scaring Negroes away from casting ballots. Mayor Redman said extra policemen would be hired if an effort to stage such a parade developed in Jackson.

In the county primary on March 26, 1948, Sheriff J. D. Pope won re-election over Obie Watkins by a tally of 1,508 votes to 1,229.

When Spring clean up began in early April 1948, the shade trees on the courthouse lawn gave way to azalea bushes. Some merchants said the trees obstructed the view and obscured store fronts. A protest was made to Mayor Redman, who in turn took the issue to the county commissioners. The fight over the look of the courthouse lawn reminded some old timers of the day the hitching posts were removed from the courthouse square. The Mimosa Garden Club formally protested the removal of the trees and shrubs, pointed out that they had been charged with caring for the shrubbery and that once they were removed the white-washed windows of the bathrooms in the courthouse were visible.

"When I was working at Robison, Settle & Robison, I came to work one morning and I always got to the office a little before seven o'clock," recounted David Ridgeway in 2008. "And the county employees were out there cutting the trees on the courthouse square. They were cutting them down. I was wondering why they were up there so early, but boy in a few minutes I walked out the door and I heard the biggest commotion uptown you ever heard. Those women had found out that those trees had been cut down, and they were all gathering around the courthouse square. If they'd have got ahold of the commissioner at that time, we'd have been without a commissioner 'cause they would have hanged him. They cut those four trees down, one on each corner."

On April 15, 1948, Otis Stephens bought out the stock of Homer Allen at 18 West Second Street, and changed the name of the store to Stephens Grocery and Feed.

"Dad ran [Allen's grocery] from April 1946 until November of 1948, and then dad borrowed the money and purchased the business from Mr. Allen," recalled Otis's son, Robert "Bobby" Stephens, in a 2010 interview. "It became Stephens Grocery & Feed Company. At that time there were a lot of farmers and daddy had a lot of feed, seed, fertilizer, hardware. We sold a lot of that in the store. Not a lot of groceries, just staples and stuff. In 1950, he brought me to town as a 10-year-old boy and put me to work in his store. I learned the business. At that time, we had to wait on [customers]. We had no self-service like today. A customer came in walked up to the counter and told you what they wanted and you went and got the merchandise, bring it to the counter, then they wanted something right back where you came from, go get it, bring it to the counter. Stuff was cheap then, reasonable. You could buy $20 worth of groceries and it'd take a truck to carry it home. Now, you tote that under one arm.

"When I was 11 years old, daddy had me bring my bicycle to town," Bobby recalled. "He put a basket on the front of it to deliver small orders around town. At that time, the Carmichael House on the end of Second Street was an apartment building with three floors. There was one elderly lady that lived on the top floor. She called the store and wanted a loaf of bread delivered. At that time, bread was 19 cents a loaf. Here I go on my bicycle, and carry it up to her. I got back to the store, daddy said, 'Bob, she called back. She wants a quart of milk.' At that time, milk was 17 cents a quart. I had to ride back the same route to carry a quart of milk where I had just carried a loaf of bread. About three hours later, she called in a grocery order for one pound of black-eyed peas dried, a head of cabbage, and a two-pound bag of meal, which was less than a dollar all together. And I had to carry it back up there, too. It was a lot of fun when you look back

on it, but it wasn't fun at the time. We sent new boys all over town to hunt for a bag stretcher, and a sky hook, or a pound of wheelbarrow seed from Adams-Briscoe.

"Dad delivered groceries all weekend in his truck," Stephens added. "He'd put $5 worth of gas in, and it'd run all weekend."

Former Jackson Mayor Charles Lee Redman died on April 25, 1948 following several days of critical illness. Redman was born on July 30, 1871 in Stark, and studied law at night. He was one of the organizers of the Flint Circuit Bar Association. He served as mayor of Jackson and as a State Senator from the 26th District. One of his sons, Morris, was the current mayor of Jackson at the time.

In 1948, the Exchange Club of Jackson took on as its project for the year the establishment of a band at Jackson High School. Citizens were urged to donate instruments they were not using to the cause, and fundraisers were held to raise money for the purchase of new instruments. At the end of May 1948, about 20 instruments - both new and donated - were displayed in the window of the Etheridge-Smith Company.

In May 1948, Vincent Jones wrote in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* about the deplorable condition of the Jackson High School auditorium. It is "a disgrace to our town and county and would be a disgrace to a town with one-half our population. The auditorium seat, which were used but serviceable when purchased, have been man-handled and pupil-handled until now only about one in five is serviceable.

"What child whose clothing is torn by the jagged edge of an abandoned seat or who becomes the butt of a joke with the sudden collapse of an unstable seat will not pause to wonder if he has not been forsaken by his own parents and by the people of his county?"

The 41 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1948 received their diplomas on May 31, 1948. Four former servicemen also received diplomas at the graduation exercises.

"From 1938 to 1948, that's 10 years, that the [Henderson] school was in existence," said Curtis Gaye in 2009, "I will bet you there was fewer than 125 graduates combined. And males - maybe only 10 or 15. My brother was only male in the Class of 1946. The Class of 1947 had maybe four or five males. The Class of 1948 had about four or five [males]. And before that they never had more than two [male graduates]. And when I graduated in 1957, there had never been a Henderson graduate male who finished college. I'm not talking about 1857, this was 1957. They were dropping out to work on the farms or the saw mills or wherever."

"To most of us back then [graduation] was sad because most of us were going on to further education and some of us wasn't able to go to further our education," said Gwen Mitchell in 2009. She belonged to the Jackson High School Class of 1948. "And then we started getting together. Billy Leverette decided we ought to have a reunion. I think the first one was five years, and then 10 years, and Billy decided that was too far apart so we started meeting every year."

A contract for paving all the streets in the Pepperton mill village and sidewalk paving on two main streets was awarded in late May 1948. Approximately two miles of paving was done.

After graduation, Gwen Mitchell "stayed home and worked at the pepper plant, Pomona Products, where Fashion Pillows went. Some pimento peppers were grown in Butts County, but I'm not sure where most of them came from. There were conveyor belts and they put the peppers on them and we'd separate the pepper. It had to be washed and come down and separate the sizes. It was processed there, canned there and everything in Jackson. I'd say there were three dozen [workers]. We made 30 cents an hour. It was just seasonal. I worked there until the pepper season went out.

"Then Annie Lois Hardy and I went to Atlanta and worked at Sears and we lived in the girls home there," Mitchell continued. "I was working in the shipping department and it was very interesting to see the different people from Butts County that was ordering from Sears. I asked my boss one time if I could write a little note on a package if I knew someone, and he said yes. That's how I kept in contact with people. I worked for two weeks and brought home $98 and thought I was rich.

"You could ride [the Greyhound bus] from Jackson to Atlanta for 30 cents," she said. "I came home about every two weeks."

The following streets were to be paved in the Summer of 1948: Watkins Street, Covington Street extension, First Street, McKibben Avenue, Oak Street, Weed Street, West Avenue, Walker Street, Mimosa Street and possibly others. Several alleys were also scheduled to be paved.

S. W. Causey, principal of Jackson High School, resigned at the first of June 1948. A. B. Duncan was named as the school's new principal the following week. He came to Jackson from the schools in Bartow County, and was widely recognized as an instructor, disciplinarian, executive and basketball coach. He was to also coach the girl's basketball team.

On June 12, 1948, the City Council adopted an ordinance regulating all eating and drinking establishments in accordance with the standard set by the State Board of Health. This was recommended by the sanitary engineer of a tri-county heath unit that covered Butts, Monroe and Henry counties.

"In June 1948, there was a rural carrier position open in Jackson," recalled Harry Ridgeway in 2009. "I took the test, and out of 26 others I became a rural mail carrier. I was a rural mail carrier for 28 years. I enjoyed it because I began to know the people and they began to know me. And they'd do anything in the world for you. [Highway] 36 was not even blacktop from Jackson to Barnesville, and [Highway 16] had just begun to be paved. And all the country roads were not hard top. My route was everything west of Jackson. I came out [Highway] 16 to the Spalding County line, and went back south to everything on the other side of the Towaliga River to the edge of Lamar County, and then from there to Monroe County and High Falls. When I retired [in 1976] I had 109 miles daily. I enjoyed it. I'm a people person. It didn't matter who they were or what color they were or anything - they all got the same service, and they knew it.

They'd do anything in the world for, and I'd do anything for them. I couldn't have picked a better occupation that I would have enjoyed any more. My first year's salary was $2,460. Of course, I used my own vehicle, and at that time they gave us five cents a mile. But we made a living on it.

"There were four rural carriers and one and half city carriers at that time," Ridgeway explained. "We all worked on the same floor. In the beginning, our mail was brought by rail and thrown out down at the railroad depot and brought up from there to the post office. It was dumped in, and we separated it. We had desks there - pigeon holes, we called them - we worked out of that, and then would go out. We were not restricted at that time about the hours. They gave us a classification, and they knew what we were supposed to do. We used to come in about 6 or 6:30 in the morning, and work up what had been brought in after we left the day before. Then they'd bring in the other mail. And we were out of there by 8:30. I usually got back there by 3 or 3:30 in the afternoon."

In early July 1948, Jack Shuler, a former member of the Bulldog band at the University of Georgia and a graduate of the Julliard School of Music in New York, was hired as the first band instructor for Jackson High School. The Exchange Club of Jackson had recently donated 24 instruments to the cause of starting a band at the high school, and there was much excitement about the new group and instructor.

In the middle of July 1948, two of the three White physicians in Butts County were ill, leading to increased talk of the need for a county-wide health clinic to attract new doctors. Soon after, announcement was made that Dr. W. G. Hicks, a graduate of the University of Georgia and the University Medical School in Augusta, would take over the Dr. O. B. Howell Clinic and move to Jackson in early August 1948.

Construction began in late July 1948 on the War Memorial Building on a lot between South Oak and South Mulberry streets. Designed to honor veterans of World War II and serve as a community center for veterans and their families, the 28-by-62 building had a brick foundation, asbestos siding with an assembly hall, kitchen and assembly room for the American Legion Auxiliary. The projected cost of the building was $14,500, of which $9,400 had already been raised. The land for the building was donated by Clayton Buchanan of Macon. The building was completed November 1, 1948, but had to be mortgaged during construction in order to raise the final funds needed.

The Pepperton Cotton Mill closed for two weeks in late July 1948 in order that new pick room machinery be installed. The new equipment, it was said, would lead to greater efficiency. While the plant was closed, operatives were paid for a two-week vacation, and most of the employees were members of the National Guard so they spent the time at Fort Jackson. They were among the 86 enlisted members of Company A of the 121st Infantry Georgia National Guard based in Jackson.

As part of the city's participation in the Better Town contest in July 1948, the Council called upon citizens to cooperate for a cleaner town as a health measure and also for the impression it would make on tourists. An ordinance passed in 1939 was re-published to remind everyone that residents and businesses were required to provide receptacles for the removal of trash until they trash could be removed by the sanitary department. Additionally, the recently adopted sanitary codes for eating and drinking establishments was re-published.

Also as part of the city's efforts in the Better Town contest, sponsored by Georgia Power, Mayor W. M. Redman proclaimed September 1, 1948 as clean up day in the city. A committee from the Kiwanis Club was asked to oversee activities that day, and asked that every citizen cooperate by cleaning premises, cutting weeds, and otherwise making homes and businesses as inviting as possible.

"With the new waterworks plant being completed, street paving in progress, building of the war memorial building, sewer line extensions and other improvements being made in the community, Jackson feels it has a good chance to win first prize in the power company contest," wrote the *Jackson Progress-Argus*.

Registration for the Selective Service began on August 30, 1948. Under the new federal law, men over the age of 18 were required to register with newly created local draft boards.

As for the principals at Henderson, Davenport remembered many of them. "They had Ms. Fanny Henderson, Mr. [A. T.] Berryhill, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Mosely - Reverend Mosely, Ms. [Alegra] Price, and then they had Mr. Berryhill back. And then Mr. [N. E.] Walker. So, when Mr. Berryhill came back the second time, he started children going to college. And after that, when Mr. Walker came, he actually turned it around. You got more Black children going to school now out of families I never thought - they hadn't even finished high school when I came along. But you got principals down there now, and their families had never finished high school. Mr. Walker turned that around.

"I don't care what they say or how they say it," Davenport continued. "I know who turned things around: Eddie Walker. And he needs credit for it. You know what? I often wonder, why did they name the street after Mr. [George] Tate, when Mr. Walker was the one? He not only worked in the schools, he worked in the community. He carried children to church, he would ask parents to tell [their children] what church meant to them. He taught Sunday school. He was a deacon. He was just all over the place, all over the place. They would laugh at him, but he was just all over the place. And I laughed some, too. But I know, I'm old enough to know who turned things around for us. He was a real doer, he was.

"Did he start the first Boy Scouts?" asked Sherry Carr Henderson.

"I'm getting to that now!" replied Davenport. "Not only did he start boys into Boy Scouting, he had us [as] den mothers. He would ask faculty to be den mothers. And so, we went to the Boy Scout meetings along with the men—he had men then, he had Mr. Woodson, Mr. Miller. And then when people came from World War II, veterans who had not finished high school - he taught them at night. And his wife, [Happy Walker], taught one group, those who was at the elementary level, and he taught the high school, Mr. Walker did."

"Not only that," added Henderson, "they had adult education, too. Because my mom attended."

"And sometimes they didn't really get paid for all of this," said Davenport.

"Most of the time!" corrected Henderson.

"When they did it was minimal," said Davenport finally. "When Happy, Mr. Walker's wife, became pregnant with that first child, and while she was on maternity leave, I filled in for her. So that's how I taught these older men."

N. E. Walker, a graduate of Fort Valley State College, became principal of Henderson High School in 1948. His starting salary was $155 per month, roughly half what the principal at Jackson High School was earning at the time. The principal of Jackson High School was earning twice that amount. The average teacher salary was $128 per month.

During his tenure at Henderson, Walker introduced the tiger as the schools mascot, and initiated football, chorus, Boy Scouts, business education, dramatics, the homecoming observance and physical education at the school.

"We had teachers that had genuine concern for the students," said Ernest Battle of the Negro school in Jackson. "We had a principal that was a no nonsense principal, N. E. Walker. He expected teachers to live here in the county. And he stayed on them, and stayed on the students as well. He used to always tell us that we needed to get as much in our heads as we could get because back then during segregation times he'd say whatever you get in your head - they can't take that away from you. Learn all you can. That was one thing he stressed."

At a meeting on September 13, 1948, the Jackson City Council set the city's 1948 tax rate at 13 mills, the same rate as in 1947. Butts County set a rate of 25 mills, the Board of Education set a rate of 19 mills, and the state collected five mills itself. That meant Jackson residents paid a total of 62 mills of tax.

The 500,000-gallon filter plant was completed on September 24, 1948 at a cost of $84,890 cash, which was done at a large savings to the city as most projects of that size were built for $125,000 once interest was added. The new plant doubled Jackson's water supply. The city also contracted with J. B. McCrary Company to build sewers on Mallet's pasture for $10,000, and on McDonough Road and the Atlanta Highway for $15,000, and on Franklin Avenue and College Street for $3,000. All this work was done with cash, and no interest paid.

On September 25, 1948, the Jackson Manufacturing Company reopened and began manufacturing Hollywood slacks for men, employing 300 to 350 people. Jaco Pants, Inc. of Atlanta purchased a large interest in the firm earlier that month, and all former employees were to be rehired. Previously, the Jackson plant had turned out 500 dozen boys pants per week with 78 employees at its peak.

In October 1948, it was reported that the City of Jackson had lower rates for electricity and water than many other nearby Georgia cities. Jackson's minimum domestic charge for

electricity was 90 cents, while Barnesville, Covington, Griffin and Thomaston charged $1.00. Georgia Power charged a minimum of 75 cents, and the Central Georgia Electric Membership Corporation charged $1. One hundred kilowatts of power in Jackson at the time was $3.96, while in Griffin it was $4.60 and in Thomaston it was $4.50. Georgia Power charged $3.10, and the EMC charged $4.75.

The water department's rates were below the state average at the time. The cost of 5,000 gallons of water was $1.50, a whole dollar less than any other area city. The minimum charge for water usage in Jackson was $1.00 per month, while Monticello charged $1.67 and Barnesville charged $1.50.

Dan Fears opened his law practice in Jackson in early October 1948.

In Jackson's annual primary on October 26, 1948, Harold Barnes, a World War II veteran, was nominated for city council over incumbent J. A. Dodson by a vote of 214 to 131. Nominated without opposition was Mayor W. M. Redman and J. S. Ball as councilman from the Third Ward.

In early November 1948, M. L. Powell and Lou W. Moelchert, owners of Jackson Hardware Company, bought the Firestone stock and equipment from Central Supply Company and took over operations of the Firestone store. However, the new owners would not carry the Firestone products in the future, it was announced. The hardware store moved out of the Deraney building and into the old Firestone store at the start of 1949.

A contract for the building of a new high school building was awarded by the Board of Education on November 19, 1948. The estimated cost of the new facility was $114,500. It was to be a one story building with 12 classrooms, a commercial department, science laboratory, library, music room, clinic and hot water heat was to be used. Once complete, the building was to be used solely by the high school and the existing school became the grammar school.

At the same time, Colored citizens of Butts County, under the leadership of Principal N. E. Walker, were seeking to raise $3,000 for sanitary flush toilets at the Colored schools of the county. At the time, there were more than 20 schools for Colored children in Butts County.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILL FOOTBALL 1948</u>
Jackson - 0, NEWNAN - 33
Jackson - 0, DALLAS - 27
Jackson - 13, GRAY - 19
Jackson - 6, Monticello - 6

Many fans proclaimed this the greatest game Jackson had played since football was resurrected at the school four years earlier. Monticello was a 30-point favorite, and only managed to tie the game near the end after a long pass play and two 15-yard penalties against the Red Devils.

Jackson - 0, WEST POINT - 56

The week after the Monticello tie, the Red Devils of West Point managed a state record by scoring five touchdowns the first five times they touched the ball against Jackson: three offensive plays, a pass interception and a punt return.
Jackson - 0, COVINGTON - 13
Jackson - 12, Hogansville - 12
JACKSON - 20, Villa Rica - 0

The game marked the first ever appearance of the Jackson High School marching band, which played several marches during the pre-game slot and during halftime.
Jackson - 0, MANCHESTER - 46
Jackson - 6, EATONTON - 25

Rainfall in Butts County from November 22 to November 28 reached 8.92 inches, probably an all-time record for a six-day period. Water at the Lloyd Shoals dam was 8.3 feet feet over the concrete spillway. The only times it had been higher was in 1925 and 1937 when the level reached 9.5 feet over the spillway.

Butts County suffered damage to several bridges, yet school buses marshaled on and schools remained open. Rural mail carriers had a hard time of it, but got letters delivered nonetheless.

At a meeting on December 14, 1948, the City Council voted to approve a petition to change the name of Second Street from the intersection of Covington Street to the Southern Railway depot to Lyons Street. This street had previously been called Lyons Street for 65 years. It was named after the Lyons family who donated the right of way to create the street.

1949

The Jackson City Council met on Saturday night, January 1, 1949 and named W. H. Polk a chief of police. He replaced Charles H. Smith, who had held the position for several years. Other police officers were: William S. Thurston, assistant chief; M. W. Pope, marshal, and W. Lynn Thaxton, supply policeman.

Other employees named at start 1949 were: J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department, with E. B. Perdue, operator at the water filter plant; Mrs. W. H. Mallet, clerk and treasurer, with Miss Mary Downs, assistant.

Also at the meeting, the paid off $2,000 worth of school bonds, whittling its bonded indebtedness down to $17,000.

Harold Barnes was also sworn in as the new councilmember from the Second Ward. Council meetings were held on the second and fourth Monday nights.

On January 10, 1949, the City Council repealed a March 28, 1943 ordinance that allowed the keeping of hogs in the city. Following the action, hogs were no longer allowed in the city limits after March 1, 1949.

"I lived down the street on West Third Street," said M. L. Powell. "I had hogs in my back yard. I raised pigs for my 4-H Club boys. I had some left over, and I just turned them loose in my backyard and raised them in town. I heard that Bantam hens could hatch quail eggs, and I had two Bantam hens. So I ordered some quail eggs, and they hatched every egg I bought. I had some of the prettiest birds I ever saw. Then one morning I went out there and I didn't have a bird left. Some dog had ate them all."

"Jackson as it exists today, minus some frills and sophistication of its big neighbor cities, is a fine place in which to live," wrote Vincent Jones in February 1949 in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "What it lacks in the way of physical equipment, its fine people supply in extra effort. And what its neighboring cities lack in the way of friendliness, it supplies in abundance with its homey cordiality, its neighborly sympathy.

"It is a city distinguished by and proud of its beautiful churches. People by right-thinking folks who consider church-going a privilege, the city bears the indelible stamp of one well schooled in the spiritual values of life.

"It is a city whose people believe unitedly in religious freedom and religious tolerance," Jones continued. "Thus Catholic, Protestant and Jew see God in their own way according to the traditions and doctrine of their own faith, without hindrance or criticism from their neighbor.

"It is a city in which remarkably few long-range grudges are being held, despite the strong convictions its people hold on controversial political, social and religious matters. This reflects the influence of the church and its genuine-ness of its people.

"It is a city of clean stores, whose owners have mastered the delicate art of making profits while holding friends.

"It is a city of pure water whose waterworks system is second to no town its size in the state.

"It is a city in whose school system in September, with the new building completed, will be rated at the very top.

"It is a city which has made tremendous strides in the recreational field within the past few years," wrote Jones. "From a bump outdoor court where frozen cagers - and we speak from experience - once played basketball with goose pimples, to the best and most modern gymnasium in the district is quite a leap. But Jackson made it. And thanks to an economy minded mayor and council, it was done without incurring any additional indebtedness.

"We owe much to those mayors, councilmen, businessmen and civic leaders who have made Jackson what it is today - one of the finest small towns in Georgia."

At a meeting on January 24, 1949, the Board of Education voted to add an auditorium to the new high school being built. The contract for the additional work totaled $24,900. The auditorium was 100' by 24'.

<u>JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL 1949</u>
JACKSON - 25, Milner - 21
JACKSON - 26, Eatonton - 19
Jackson - 28, MONTICELLO - 51

JACKSON - 30, McDonough - 12
Jackson - 15, GRIFFIN - 26
Jackson - 26, NEWNAN - 27
Jackson - 24, MONTICELLO - 35
Jackson - 24, THOMASTON - 38
Jackson - 23, GRIFFIN - 29
JACKSON - 27, Social Circle - 26
Jackson - 17, HAMPTON - 24
Jackson - 13, FORSYTH - 26
JACKSON - 27, McDonough - 11
JACKSON - 23, Social Circle - 19
JACKSON - 43, Milner - 22
Jackson - 23, FORSYTH - 27
JACKSON - 29, Eatonton - 27
JACKSON - 32, Thomaston - 27
Jackson - 15, NEWNAN - 29

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL 1949
Jackson - 25, MILNER - 30
JACKSON - 41, Eatonton - 37
JACKSON - 28, Monticelo - 24
Jackson - 37, GRIFFIN - 50
JACKSON - 46, McDonough - 33
JACKSON - 20, NEWNAN - 33
JACKSON - 28, Monticello - 27
Jackson - 30, THOMASTON - 32
Jackson - 16, GRIFFIN - 42
Jackson - 30, SOCIAL CIRCLE - 37
JACKSON - 44, Hampton - 16
Jackson - 20, FORSYTH - 40
JACKSON - 39, McDonough - 25
Jackson - 29, SOCIAL CIRCLE - 38
Jackson - 25, MILNER - 27
JACKSON - 29, Forsyth - 28
Jackson - 29, EATONTON - 60
Jackson - 30, THOMASTON - 43
JACKSON - 34, Milner - 29
Jackson - 34, MANCHESTER - 54

By the first week of April 1949, C. W. Bryant, sanitarian of Butts County, had finished inspecting every eating and drinking establishment in the county to determine if they received a satisfactory sanitary rating. A number of places inspected could not qualify for a passing grade. These restaurant operators were encouraged to consult their inspection sheet and correct existing

violations. A formal grading inspection was to take place at every establishment on May 18, 1949.

The Jackson High School Band won first place in Class D at the State Music Festival in Milledgeville in early April 1949. Th band had previously won superior ratings at the Fourth District meet. The honors meant the Jackson band was one of the best first-year bands in the state.

Thirty-eight seniors graduated from Jackson High School on May 18, 1948. Ruth Hardy was the class Valedictorian, and Barbara Finney was the salutatorian.

L. C. Moelchert acquired the Tour-O-Tel tourist court on East Third Street at the end of May 1949. The Tour-O-Tell was one of some 50 such establishments in Georgia that had met all standards of sanitation, cleanliness and health.

In June 1949, J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department in Jackson, reminded residents with sanitary sewers that certain items did not belong in the sewer system. Rooks and city had recently worked to unclog several sewer lines and had found the following items in the lines: dish clothes, small towels, old shirts, glass jar tops, milk bottle caps, hair combs, old bills or statements, chicken intestines, bones, etc. “Things of this kind should be placed in garbage cans and not in sewer lines,” said Rooks. “Please be more careful what you flush into sewer lines.”

A warehouse to serve the Company A, 121st Infantry of the Georgia National Guard was approved for construction in June 1949. The total cost of the project was estimated to be $12,688. The building was erected on property deeded to the National Guard by the Board of Education near the athletic field and new high school. Plans to someday build a National Guard armory were also announced.

A storm on June 28, 1949 brought several inches of rain to the county. J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department, said the water levels at the Jackson water station were the highest they had been in 30 years.

The paving of two miles worth of streets in the Pepperton mill village was completed by the end of June 1949. The new drainage system got its first test during the heavy rainfall on June 28.

In late August 1949, S. H. Thornton sold his funeral business to Haisten Brothers, Inc. of Griffin. Thornton had operated his undertaking business in Jackson since 1912, and was one of the oldest such entities in the state. Thornton continued to operate his furniture business on the square.

"So far as ambulance service is concerned," said Harold "Doc" McMichael in 2009, "Haisten Funeral Home was located there at the corner of Covington Street and Second Street where the post office is now. And, basically, his hearse was our ambulance service. We did not have an ambulance service as we have today. And, I remember he had a little red light that he could sit up on the dash of the hearse there if it was an emergency. And he turned that red light on to go to an automobile accident, or sickness, or whatever it may be. But that was the ambulance service at the Haisten Funeral Home.

In 1949, of the 59 pupils that entered the eighth grade in Jackson. Nineteen of them failed to finish the twelfth grade.

"The Towaliga School closed the year I started school," said Luke Weaver during a 2009 interview. So the young man started coming to Jackson to school on East College Street. "And when I did start here it was an old two-story brick building that had a big fire escape on the side of it, a cylinder type thing probably 48 inches in diameter. Sliding down that chute was always quite an adventure. But there was never a fire [at the school]."

"They had fire escapes in that building," said Harold "Doc" McMichael during a separate interview, "and they were these big round pipes, probably at least three feet in diameter that, from upstairs, you slid, the fire escape slid down the pipe. And, of course, the little girls, didn't wear pants to school, I mean long pants, they wore dresses. And of course, us boys would try to get in the fire escape when we'd have a drill, and we'd try to go down there first and watch the little girls come down the fire escape. And, of course, obviously those dresses would fly up over their head and everything—we got a kick out of that."

"The first and second and third grade was downstairs in that building and then the fourth and fifth grades was upstairs," he recalled. "Ms. Comer was my third grade teacher. And so, the fourth grade, I moved upstairs and Ms. Sarah Caldwell, I believe, was my fourth grade teacher. And then Ms. Jessie Session, she was a wonderful little teacher, everybody loved Ms. Jessie. She was my fifth grade teacher.

"The same teacher taught reading, and writing, and arithmetic," said McMichael.

"One of the unusual things I remember about starting school," Luke Weaver said, "was growing up in the country there wasn't a whole lot of White children around me then, but there was a big family of Blacks that lived on our place with the last name of Sydney. And there was a boy named McArthur who was six months older than me. We played together all the time, and hunted and fished and did everything else and one of the most aggravating and disappointing days of my life was the day I started school and we couldn't go to school together. That was before integration."

"I experienced the same thing," said Harold "Doc" McMichael. "On my dad's farm there was three Black boys that were about my age. And we played ball, I mean, we played any kind of game we played. We had a pretty nice stream of water that came through my dad's farm there, and we would go down there and build a little dam across that little stream, and went swimming

- skinny dipping. And when we wasn't doing that we was going down there with a little old fishing pole, and catching grasshoppers for the bait, and fishing and catching the little fish. We called 'em 'hornet heads', little old fish, they was probably four or five inches long, and we'd take 'em home, and clean 'em, and my mother would cook 'em for us. And you cook 'em to the point that you can just eat the bones and all.

"Really," said McMichael, "I was born and raised on the opposite side of the county from Luke [Weaver]. I was born and raised in what they called the Stark community and Luke was born and raised in the Towaliga community. And, I didn't know what that side of the county looked like!

"We was fortunate just to come to town," he continued. "And at that time, it was a dirt road during most of that time. They paved Highway 36 in the late '40s, I don't remember, '47, '48, somewhere along in there. But in my early days, it was a dirt road all the way to town.

"Miss Mary Fletcher, she was a pretty serious disciplinarian," Luke Weaver recalled. "Children didn't have quite the rights they do toady. You could get your butt torn up pretty quick. It left a pretty good impression on me. Usually I rode to school with Aunt Jane Weaver, and then I'd ride the school bus home after school. And when I got old enough to play football practice, and then somebody would have to come pick me up or sometimes I'd have to walk home. And Mr. Harve Smith drove about 15 miles an hour, so you could see him coming. That was slow. He lived about halfway to my house, but he'd carry me home so I was always glad to see him. It was a little over five miles from Jackson home, so it was a pretty good little walk."

"In '49, we got the first buses" at the Henderson School, said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "And the reason we got them is because in '49 the county opened up some satellite schools, like Tussahaw and Indian Springs. These were former White schools that had been closed up. I don't know if they were opened to relieve crowding at Henderson or not, but it was part of consolidation. There were a number of church schools, as many as 15 or 20 maybe. This allowed them to bring in church schools. In order to get the students to Tussahaw and Indian Springs, you had to have some buses. It was too far for some people to walk. So we had four or five buses. These were the types with bench seats that ran the length of the bus down each side and in the middle there were two with a common back. Not very comfortable, plus when the bus stopped you had to hold on with everybody sliding around.

"But I didn't ride the bus," added Gaye. "By that time, we had moved to [Highway] 36 [near Stark Road]. I could have caught the bus and gone to Tussahaw, or I could continue to come to Henderson. I was in like sixth or seventh grade. So I continued to come to Henderson. When the new school was built in 1955, all of the old schools were consolidated, were closed."

In September 1949, the City Council set Jackson's tax rate at 13 mills, the same rate as the previous year. When combined with county and state taxes, city residents paid a total of 58 mills in taxes.

In September 1949, the Butts County Board of Education purchased 10 acres of land in the Bethel Flat area of Jackson known as the old fair grounds. It planned to build a new Negro high school on the site.

The Covington Manufacturing Company leased the building formerly occupied by the Jackson Manufacturing Company and began manufacturing pants there on November 1, 1949. The new company planned to begin operations with between 50 and 60 workers.

A car stalled on the tracks at the Covington Street railroad crossing - also known as Land's Crossing - late at night on Saturday, September 24, 1949. No one was injured.

During the last week of September 1949, the Jackson Merchants Association was formed by a majority of local businesses. Officers elected were: L. M. Spencer as president, E. S. Settle, as vice president, and M. L. Powell as secretary and treasurer. Among the objectives outlined by the new group were settling problems such as what holidays the stores would close, having the association approve all requests of merchants for donations, and to develop a system of credit so that the names of those who do not pay their debts could be made known to other merchants. But the primary goal of the Association was to promote trade days in Jackson each week and offer special prizes to shoppers on those days.

"Saturday everybody came to town," recalled Robert Pinckney in 2008.

"You couldn't find a parking place," added David Ridgeway. "Mr. & Mrs. Lamb used to get their car and park about five or six parking spaces beyond Third Street on Oak Street so they could sit there in the afternoon and watch the people. It was just like that in the afternoons. You couldn't hardly walk along the sidewalks 'cause of the people. Most of them would come just to visit."

"The city was more or less a farm city," said Merrell Price. "Agriculture was big here in the county. And that's when they could come into town. After they closed up shops on Friday afternoons, they took Saturdays off and people came to town. That's when they visited with their friends."

"Everybody came to town on Saturday," said Wayne Phillips of the downtown square in the late 1940s and 1950s. "The Square would be full on Saturday afternoons. It was a much simpler time. The town was neat then. It was lively. It was like the old movies you see on TV. There was very little crime and if anything bad happened, it was the talk of the town. If anybody went out of town to buy anything, they went to Griffin. Griffin was it. It was like making a trip to the big city."

"It was. You seldom went to Atlanta to shop," added Barbara Phillips. "Actually, we didn't shop then like we do now. My mom made a great deal of my clothes."

"I can remember when I was little coming on a wagon to town with a bale of cotton to get it ginned," said David Ridgeway. "We'd go down there to Robison, Settle & Robison and gin it. I'd watch them take that cotton off with that thing that'd suck it right on up. That was just amazing to me."

"Butts County was considered an agricultural county," said Harold "Doc" McMichael in a 2009 interview. "My father grew a lot of cotton. He had about 50 acres of cotton every year which, in today's terms, that doesn't sound like a lot, but when you hand-pick it all, that's a good bit of cotton. You just pulled it out of the burrs. But, I wasn't a very good cotton picker. Probably 150 pounds a day would be a big day for me.

"And you'd load it on the wagon, take it to town," McMichael continued. "It would take about 1,400 or 1,500 pounds of cotton with the seed and everything in it to make up a bale of cotton, which, when you run it through the cotton gin, they took the seed out of it and everything. And they would make it into a bale that would weigh about 500 pounds. If you think about an acre of cotton making a bale an acre, that's where you're looking at about 500 pounds of ginned cotton.

"The actual gins didn't [make cottonseed oil]," he explained. "They sold [the seeds] to somebody else that processed them to the point of getting the oil from them and so forth. Then after they got the oil from the seed, they would take the seed and then grind them up and made what they call cottonseed meal. And that was used to feed back to the cows, the old milk cow that we had and all.

"What they call the Farmers' Union Warehouse was there on Second Street [at McKibben Street]," said McMichael. "That's where they stored the cotton after it was ginned, and baled, and all. That's where the farmers stored their cotton, and then, as it became available, they would sell the cotton to the various cotton mills and all. I remember that [baled] cotton was bringing something like 40 or 45 cents a pound. A bale of cotton would bring you somewhere around $200, a little more."

"We very seldom came into town in the Summer any other time except on Saturday," recalled Luke Weaver, who lived with his family in the Towaliga area. "But I didn't come into town on Saturday. I loved the country, and I stayed out in the country. MacArthur [Sydney] and I, in the Summer time we'd dam up a branch near the house in the morning and go swimming in the afternoon. It'd wash out over the night, and you'd start over in the morning. We rode horse and swung from limbs across ditches. There was no trouble to get into and no danger.

"The big deal out there [in Towaliga] instead of going into town was going to the store," Weaver said during a 2009 interview. "Mr. Lee Maddox had a store out there and that's where you went to get your Coca-Colas, chewing tobacco and your Payday candy bars, and your cigarettes. Most of your farmers would meet there and ask about the rain and tell tales. That was the social place in the county. Mr. Lee Maddox had a store, and also Mr. Pettigrew had a store at High Falls Road that wasn't nearly as big as Mr. Maddox's store. And then Mr. Dean Patrick had one on Highway 16 that was sort of like the Wal-Mart of stores. He had tin tubs. They all had mule harnesses and plow equipment and stuff.

"And they all sold sugar and shorts [for moonshine] - that was a big industry," said Weaver. "There was a family near us with 11 or 12 kids. I love them all to death, and their daddy was one of the best men I ever knew. But that's the way he raised them - by making moonshine. Usually if the revenuers were coming, the sheriff knew about it and he'd let the bootlegger know so they wouldn't go to the still. They had to break one up every once in a while to make him look good."

"When they would find a moonshine still out in the county, the sheriff would gather up all the hooch and bring it to the square and smash all the bottles on the square," said R. Scott Coleman during an interview in 2009. "It may have been by law that you had to destroy all the illegal liquor in a public place. I was told that it was like a river running into the drainage and people crying around it. There was a lot of it around here. Everybody was making it. I have seen some and tasted some as late as the '60s so people were still making it then."

"My father was a farmer," said Harold "Doc" McMichael during a 2009 interview. "And he did some public work, working with Pomona Products Company, and the Farmer's Union Warehouse, where they took in the cotton and so forth. But his primary source of income was the farm. We lived six miles out of Jackson, and the country folks came to town once a week then. Saturday afternoon was the time to come to town.

"A lot of people don't believe this," McMichael, who was born in 1941, continued, "but back in those days you didn't bathe every day like we think we have to bathe today. So, Saturday morning was the bath time. And in my early days we did not have a bathroom. And my dad, he engineered a little facility out in the back yard for the males of the family. He put up three cedar posts with a big 50-gallon barrel on top of it. And early Saturday morning he would fill it with water. And in the summertime, of course, by Saturday afternoon, when we get ready for our baths, that's where the males, my brother and father and myself, we took a shower in the back yard.

"But of course, as the years rocked along, I think I was probably around 12 years old when we did get a bathroom, an indoor bathroom we called it. So we had baths and came to town."

"Now Saturday afternoons, you couldn't stir this town with a stick. It was that thick," said Bobby Stephens of the square in Jackson in the early 1950s. At the time, he worked in his father's grocery store on Second Street. "All the farmers, during the week they were on the farm working. Saturday they all came to town. We could not wait on them. You could hardly walk from the square down to Cook's Lunchroom. They were reminiscing, talking about all they had been doing.

"Blacks and Whites were on the square together," he recalled. "But very few Blacks worked for White men, sweeping up. They could come into the stores. Our doors were open to anybody."

"Some Saturdays, while my mother was doing her little shopping around and everything, we would have an opportunity to go to the movie," said Harold "Doc" McMichael in 2009. "The theater was was located right about where Brown's Furniture [was on North Mulberry Street].

We could take a quarter, which was a lot of money to a child in those days, and it was 12 cents to get into the theater for the movie. You could get a Coca-Cola and a bag of popcorn or a piece of candy for 5 cents apiece, so that made 22 cents, and then that left you three pennies to get three pieces of bubble gum. So, that was our highlight of the week to get to go to the movie and get a Coca-Cola and a piece of candy or popcorn and three pieces of bubble gum.

"It was just the children went to the theater," McMichael explained, "my mother and them didn't go to the theater. Money was pretty tight. And, like I say, we didn't have that quarter every week to go. Sometimes we'd have a dime to get an ice cream at the drugstore. So it was a little extra-special to get to go to the theater on occasions.

"It wasn't a so-called dress-up affair," he continued, "just casual clothes because the kids had the little blue jeans or whatever. We had what we called Sunday clothes, and we didn't wear the Sunday clothes to town on Saturday afternoon, just the school clothes, more or less.

"Back in those days, A&P grocery store was located where the present Big D pharmacy is now [on the northwest corner of the intersection of Third and Oak streets]," said McMichael. That was my mother's favorite grocery store, she liked A&P. And then, along that side of the square, next to that was Redman's Feed & Seed. He sold all types of feed, livestock feed and seed and so forth. And then Beckman's 5 & 10 store was there [on the corner].

"And there was a drugstore there, right next to the Redman's Feed & Seed," he said. "I think it was actually between Redman's Feed & Seed and A&P. Dr. Smith was the pharmacist. They had the soda fountain then. And if we didn't go to the movie, we could take our little money we had and go to the drugstore and get a dip of ice cream or two dips of ice cream for a dime, and that was a pretty big highlight. You couldn't believe today that Saturday afternoon was really very busy around the square. That was the highlight of the week, to get to come to town on Saturday afternoon and to see what was going on. And sometimes we'd just visit and all, so it was somewhat of a social outing."

Robert "Bobby" Stephens was 10 years old in 1950 when he began working at his father's grocery and feed store on the downtown square in Jackson. In 2010, Stephens made a clockwise journey around the square from memories of that year.

On Second Street, said Stephens, there was "Jackson Hardware (now Jackson Drugs), Brown's Furniture & Jewelry (where Radio Shack is now), Stephen's Grocery, Turner's Shoe Store (where the pawn shop is now), City Barbershop run by Roy Prosser, and John Yarbrough ran John's Variety, which sold a little of this and a little of that, then you had Deraney's, which was real small then, and on the corner was Sasser & McCarty Groceries. Luke Walker, a Black guy, delivered for them on a bicycle."

On Oak Street, said Stephens, "on the corner was Beckham's, and then McConnell's 5 & 10, and then the Busy Corner, which was ladies wear, and the middle three store there was a seed company and another one and a hardware store. Later on, M. L. Hodges bought all three buildings and combined with Hodges Hardware. Later, he moved down to where Aaron's is now [on East Third Street]. Then we had a lady, Mrs. Black, had a cafeteria, then Denny O'Neal ran O'Neal's Sporting Goods, then Smith Drug Company, which Dr. Parrish bought out in 1956, and on the corner was the A&P [grocery store].

"Lot of folks my age will remember Dr. Smith, the pharmacist who owned Smith Drug Company," said Stephens, who was born in 1939. "It had a soda fountain, booths to sit in with your girl, a jukebox to listen to. Could spend the afternoon in there after school. You were supposed to be studying, but you weren't studying but one thing: being with your girl. Dr. Smith also opened a go-cart track in Jenkinsburg, and had races up there every Friday night."

On West Third Street, Stephens continued, "the Sinclair Service Station was on the [southwest corner of the intersection of Third and Oak streets]. When I first came to town there was a little building that was Brown's when I first came to town. Before that though, there was a grassy area there with a fence around and I remember there being a circus in it one time. The whole block was open with a fence around it. At that time, the Jackson Hotel was where McIntosh [State Bank] is now.

"Rufus Head had a three story building on the street that goes to the cemetery," said Stephens. "That was one of the biggest fires we had in this city. That was in the 1960s.

On the Third Street side of the square, according to Stephens, "we had the New York Store, there was a flower shop and a jewelry store, then we had Bud Pope's Cafe - our sheriff had a cafe. Then the [Porter Ham] pool room, Grady Jackson had a Western Auto [where Rita's Beaute Rama is now], and on the corner - how many businesses have tried to make it on that corner! - you had Carmichael Drugs, a furniture store, a cafe, a lot of businesses.

"On the [southeastern] corner [of the intersection of Third and Mulberry streets] was Jackson National Bank, said Stephens. "Beside them was the Atlanta-Macon Motor Express Company [which was bought by Overnite trucking company and the building then housed ABW Chevrolet], and then a doctor's building, a jewelry store and the Little Gulf Station.

On the Mulberry Street side of the square, Stephens recalled, "was a furniture store on the corner, and then Coleman's Garage, then we had Adams-Briscoe Seed Company. When they moved out to the building on First Street, Dr. Goff opened City Pharmacy and Denny O'Neal tried another sporting goods place and men's wear. On down further was Roger's Grocery Store, which later became Colonial, and then we had Mr. Thornton's. He had furniture on the first floor, and a funeral home on the second floor. They used a dumb waiter or elevator to transport bodies or furniture up and down. Then we had a walk-in theater where J. C. Screenprinting once was. On the corner was Ralph Carr's daddy with an electronic repair shop. Upstairs was the Masonic Hall until Dan Fears bought the whole building. [This building was known as the Commercial Building.]

"On the northeastern corner of the intersection of Mulberry and Second streets was Paul Tyler's," said Stephens. "He had a grocery store - staple stuff, not fresh - in the middle was furniture and apparel wear, and on this side was a counter where he sold hamburgers or whatever. He got out of that later, and then Carl Finney, Gerald Davis and Jim Robertson - who was in a lot of businesses around here - opened a men's haberdashery. It wasn't long before they moved of there to where Buckner's is now [off I-75 and Highway 36]. Then Johnny Deraney, Debe's brother, opened a retail clothing store in there.

"T. E. Robison owned all the buildings on [East] Second Street, including a used car lot," said Stephens. "Cook's [Lunchroom] was there then and still is.

"Webb's didn't have a grocery store," said Stephens of the store on East Third Street. "It was just a service station, grease rack and a hamburger counter."

In addition to a stable on Third Street, Stephens recalled another. "There was another stable [off North Oak Street] where the city parking lot is now. You used to come to town in a mule wagon. Guess what would be piled in the street?

"Back then, you could buy a mule for $40 or $50," he said. "Now, you know how much you pay for a mule? Three thousand dollars. That's if you can find one. You see horses. You don't see mules. They just died out. They didn't have no use for them anymore. They're gone with the times. Like there used to be cotton fields and farms now its homes and subdivisions and factories."

As for car dealerships, Stephens remembered several of them in Jackson through the years. "At one time we had Robison, Settle & Robison Chevrolet, and they sold out to [Rufus] Adams, [Everett] Briscoe and [Candler] Webb and it became ABW Chevrolet," he said. "Milton Daniel had the Ford dealership in the building [on the north side of West Third Street a block off the square]. Across the street was the Plymouth dealer. J. W. Carter had that. J. B. White had the Pontiac dealership in town."

Porter Ham's Pool Room "had so much smoke in it you couldn't see," recalled Stephens. "There was no women, and it was all White. We called the hamburgers 'smokeys,' because 'Smokey' Castellow always had a cigar in his mouth. You could never tell if you got ashes in your burger."

"I remember Mr. Porter Ham had a pool room on that [south] side of the square," said Harold "Doc" McMichael. "I didn't [go to the pool room] as a child, because children didn't go in a pool room then. But as I grew up and became a teenager, or maybe late 'teens, I would go in there on occasion and shoot some pool. They had three regular pool tables and then another table they called 'snooker.' We shot some snooker. But I wasn't one of the better ones. Some of them was really good pool players, and all. But we used to shoot what they called nine ball some, and whatever, but they used to make the best hamburgers there.

"Even after Dottie and I married—of course, obviously she wouldn't go in there—but on occasion, when we were living in the Ham house [on East Third Street], she'd say, 'Why don't you go in the pool room and get us a hamburger?' I forgot what we paid for them then, probably 50 cents, something like that," McMichael continued. "But on occasions that I wasn't up there to get us a hamburger, I'd be in there shooting pool, and I'd go home and she said, 'I know where you been. You smell just like the pool room.' [It was due to the] smoking. And, like I said, the cooking on the grills and a lot of cigarette smoking going on too, so it was kind of foggy in there, so to speak. We carried the odor in our clothes home with us."

On the east side of the square, recalled Harold "Doc" McMichael, "there was Newton's Hardware, right there where Frankie Willis' building is now [on the northeast corner of Third and Mulberry streets]. There was Newton Hardware there, and then right next to that John L. Coleman ran a garage, right next to that. Upstairs in that building was a dentist's office. Dr. Strickland was the family dentist at that time. And I remember my mother taking me up there on a number of occasions, and he did not have the modern facilities, to say the least. And if you had a cavity, it was pretty painful to grind it out. Oh boy, it was really a hard walk up those stairs."

In Jackson's annual fall primary on Tuesday, October 25, 1949, V. H. Ham won re-election to the City Council in the fourth ward over C. F. Singley by four votes - 207 to 203. Ralph Carr, Sr. Was elected to the Council seat from the first ward over M. G. McCrary by a vote of 225 to 184. Councilmen served two-year terms at the time.

Jackson conducted a second citywide rat poisoning on November 15 and 16, 1949.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1949
JACKSON -12, Eatonton - 6
Jackson - 0, DALLAS - 40
JACKSON - 13, Gray - 6
JACKSON - 19, Monticello - 6
JACKSON - 26, Griffin B team - 7
During this game, five majorettes were added to the mix when they led the team onto the field.
Jackson - 0, NEWTON COUNTY - 14
Jackson - 12, HOGANSVILLE - 14
JACKSON - 34, Villa Rica - 14
Jackson - 16, MANCHESTER - 26
Jackson - 13, FORSYTH - 19

On December 12, 1949, the Covington Manufacturing Company began the manufacture of pants in the Howell building on West Third Street. The facility had been built specifically for the manufacture of pants several years earlier by Dr. O. B. Howell, and was formerly home to the Jackson Manufacturing Company. R. L. Erwin was the general superintendent of the new plant.

In December 1949, a giant illuminated star was suspended over Highway 42 in Jackson. There was a lighted Christmas tree on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn, and bright lights strung between the white-way posts in town.

"Around Christmas," recalled Bobby Stephens of the early 1950s in Jackson, "Debe Deraney put a bale of cotton out in front of his store and he sold tickets on it. Whoever won the drawing got to cash in the bale."

Two young ladies named Sadie and Sara Deraney worked in Deraney's, their father's department store, according to a 2010 article by Diane Glidewell in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. They met two brothers named C.B. "Charlie" and Joe Brown, who had come to Butts County from the Columbus, Georgia area.

The Deraneys were a large and close family with a tradition of carefully arranging their marital unions, according to the article. When Sadie and C.B. and Sara and Joe crossed the state line into Alabama and eloped on December 31, 1949, it was one of the most talked about scandals the Jackson square had ever discussed.

When Sadie later became ill with pneumonia, wrote Glidewell, the two couples came home to welcoming arms of family and friends in Jackson and became an integral and vibrant part of the business, political, social, religious, and sports life of the community.

"The story is that Mr. Deraney didn't want his girls to marry out of the faith," recounted Walter Carmichael in 2009. "They were Catholic. In fact, the Catholic church was held in the Deraney basement for years and years and years. When Mr. Derany heard that they married these Protestant folks, he never spoke to them again.

"Some people treated the Deraneys like foreigners," he said. "Because they were in the clothing business and Debe always drove a nice Cadillac, some people called them Jews. But nothing was further from the truth. They were Christian Lebanese. But they caught a lot of crap. Old man Deraney, Charlie was his name, came here as a peddler. But that might be why they had more sympathy for the Black people."

"There was the big scandal where my mom and dad ran off and got married with my aunt and uncle because in those days the Lebanese ladies were not supposed to marry outside of the Lebanese," explained Charlie Brown in 2010. "Their parents fixed them up, and didn't want them marrying my father and my uncle because they were Americans. So they ran off and got married December 31, 1949.

"It caused quite a stir, quite a scandal in town," Brown admitted. "They ended up living in Alabama for a few years. They came back to Georgia in the early 1950s when my mom got sick with pneumonia and almost died.

"When they first came back to Jackson, the two families lived in one apartment on Indian Springs Street," said Brown. "Then they built two houses on [South] Benton Street next door to one another. They're both identical, except that they are different colors. There's one driveway in the middle that both families shared. It was like having two mommas and two daddies as I grew up, which sometimes was a good thing and sometimes was a bad thing.

"My mom stayed at home, and my dad sold insurance for Independent Life & Accident," he said. "Then they opened Brown's Jewelry & Appliance Company. Their first location was on Oak Street, behind 105 West Third Street. Then they moved into the building where Radio Shack is now [on Second Street on the square]. Then they moved to their location on Mulberry [Street, which was formerly Thornton's funeral home]. They were there from 1952 until 2009 when they closed the business."

1950

As of January 1, 1950, the City of Jackson had only $15,000 in bonded debt. Mrs. W. H. Mallet, city clerk and tax collector, reported that collections for 1949 were better than ever. The city's tax rate in 1949 was 13 mills: 10 mills for support and operation of the city government, and three mills to pay interest on the bonded debt.

At the same time, Ralph Carr, Sr. was sworn in as a councilman, succeeding M. G. McCrary in the first ward.

All other officers and employees remained the same: J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department and fire chief; E. B. Perdue, engineer at the water filter plant; W. H. Polk, chief of police; M. W. Pope, marshal, Walter E. Watkins, extra and supply policeman. Tax assessors and registrars were: T. G. Willis, W. H. Merritt, and H. P. Bailey. Miss Mary Downs assisted Mrs. Mallet with clerking duties.

Total fines assessed at the Jackson Police court for the year 1949 amounted to $9,386.75, a record total. A considerable amount of the fines were assessed on person from out of town for drunken driving and speeding. Mayor W. M. Redman presided over the court. "The police force is a good one and is doing full duty to suppress and stamp out crime," said the mayor.

Alert police officers arrested four men from Williamson as they drove a complete still outfit through Jackson on January 22, 1950. The arrest took place in front of the First Baptist Church.

As of the first of February 1950, the Jackson High School band had new uniforms courtesy of the Exchange Club and public-spirited individuals and firms. The 36 uniforms cost a total of $1,200. Plans were to parade the band through the business district of the city to show off the new uniforms and thank those who made them possible. Sheriff Bud Pope and J. T. Beckham led the effort.

"I was born on June 8, 1948, and my daddy was sheriff at the time," said Gene Pope in 2010. "He got elected in 1940, took office in '41. And we lived [in] a little house where Byrd Garland's office is [on the northwest corner of the intersection of West Third Street and Brookwood Avenue] for a short period of time. Then we moved into the jail itself [on North Oak Street] where we lived downstairs in the living quarters up until around the mid-1960s.

"My living time in the jail - it was interesting, because we had one small little office where all the inmates and all the troopers and the policemen would bring people in to be arrested or incarcerated," Pope recalled. "And the front of the building across the front was a porch. And then inside on the right was a dining room, on the left was a living room, and there was a door in the middle. And the door in the middle was a hallway that ran the full length of the building. On the right after you went through that first doorway was the kitchen. On the left was a little hallway that ran over to the office.

"The desk that's in my office now was the desk that sat there as the entire record-keeping system for the Sheriff's office," he continued. "When I took office in '93, I found it in the basement, in pieces. And I carried it to Mr. Blankenship down in Flovilla, and he restored it and put it back together for me. And it sits in my office. It's a nice, big oak roll-top desk. Has a ink-stain where the inkwell fell over on [its] top.

"We lived in the jail for many years, and my mother did the cooking and cleaning of the entire jail," Pope explained in 2010. "Upstairs where the cells were, it housed 20 people, I believe. There were two large cells and three small cells. Both men and women were housed in the same building, but not in the same cell, of course. The small cells were used for women and the two large cells were used for men. Of course, nowadays you have classifications, and you

didn't have that back then, so that everybody was lumped together. You may have a guy in jail for murder and a guy in there for trespassing, in the same room. If a person got real rowdy or whatever, then he would be put into one of the individual cells.

"Growing up in the jail itself… I don't know if you'd say it was entertainment, 'cause we would hear them hollering and screaming upstairs," said Pope. "And I remember one time, my brother and I were in the front yard playing and, we didn't have much of a yard, but it was there on Oak Street. And we were looking up, and standing in the window of one of the individual cells was a black lady, naked, screaming and hollering. And we just standing there staring, we were little, you know. And my daddy came out and said, 'Get in the house,' and he went up and had to make her put on [clothes]. She was, you know, a little crazy; had to take her off to a hospital."

"When I lived in the jail, the courthouse was my playground," said Gene Pope during an interview in 2010. "We'd come up and ride our bicycles around the sidewalks on the courthouse, and play hide-and-seek in the bushes, and climb on the statue, you know, climb all the way up to the top of that statue. We got run off several times by the local police, you know. But that was [a] playground. We went around town. You could ride bicycles all around the square. It was an easier time, there was less people on the street.

"People say, 'Oh, that was a … simpler time.' It was a simpler time; it was less people! Peoples' attitude was different," Pope continued. "My mother would call up to the Deraney's Department Store, and say, 'Send me four pairs of blue jeans for my son.' That's all she'd say. They knew what I wore! And they'd have a Black guy go out the back door, walk across the alleyway, and hand my mother the jeans! And the barbershop was on the square, and I would go to the barbershop. As a child, five or six years old, I was allowed to walk all over town. You don't let a five- or six-year-old walk around town anymore! It would be child endangerment, or somebody would get you.

"But, me and my brother were able to walk all over town, half the time in my underwear," he said. "I remember sucking a bottle 'til I was six. People say, 'What are you sucking on?' I said, 'I invented the sports bottle!' I had milkshakes in it, you know, a Coca-Cola. To me it was like a sports bottle now, it was an easy way to carry something to drink. If you dropped it, it wouldn't spill! I should have [patented it]. I'd be a rich man.

"On Saturday mornings my daddy would give us 50 cents," Pope continued. "We'd walk uptown, we'd go over there to get a hamburger and a milkshake for 15 cents, we'd go over there and we'd pay a dime to get in the movie, and we had 25 cents for candy. For 50 cents we could entertain ourselves all day on Saturday."

"Helen Black used to have a little restaurant and a telegraph," said Gwen Mitchell in 2009. "And I worked sending messages. I learned how to do that. It was fun and very interesting. We had a little snack bar where people could come in and eat. She was in the front and in the back was some kind of little store. It was the building next to Danny Hoard's drugstore [on Oak Street]. Most of the messages were business stuff."

In February 1950, the Pepperton Cotton Mills awarded a contract to build an additional 130,000 square feet of space at the mill in Jackson. On the north side of the existing building, a two-story building was added, and a one-story building extended the slasher room. The mill had recently installed 114 new looms resulting in greater production. The mill employed some 500 people, who had a good relationship with the management and never experienced labor trouble.

"My daddy started working in the Pepperton Cotton Mill in the Winter of 1950," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "Of course, that was a desirable job then. There were Black positions that were set aside for Black folk. The yard crew was Black. The only people that worked inside the mill worked in the opening room, which was where you brought the cotton when it first came in. And it was dusty, it was hot, and it was loud. It was the least desirable part [of the mill]. They had a Black lady that cleaned up, and that was the extent of Black people working on the inside of the mill. It was a killer job. A lot of his co-workers didn't live very long after they retired.

Also in 1950, "my mother started working at Jackson High in the lunchroom," Gaye continued. "She was a cook's assistant. She worked there until maybe 1964.

"So in the mornings we would drop my mother off over there because my mother never learned how to drive a car," said Gaye. "We'd drop her off at Jackson High, and they'd drop me off at Henderson [School]. It was a sort of strange situation. Everybody [at Jackson High School] was eating my mother's food, her hands in it, but I guess I would have contaminated it if I had went to school there. But you didn't think about it like that back then. That was where she worked and where I went to school."

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL BASKETBALL 1950</u>
Jackson - 42, ROBERTA - 45
JACKSON - 36, McDonough - 22
Jackson - 33, MONTICELLO - 36
Jackson - 26, EATONTON - 30
Jackson - 24, MILNER - 30
JACKSON - 44, Zebulon - 30
Jackson - 19, NEWNAN – 55
JACKSON - 39, Monticello - 29
JACKSON – 30, Milner – 26
Jackson – 33, EATONTON – 34
Jackson – 33, FORSYTH – 37
Jackson – 25, SOCIAL CIRCLE – 34
Jackson – 30, COVINGTON – 35
JACKSON – 33, Roberta – 31
JACKSON – 48, McDonough – 33
JACKSON – 38, Forsyth – 17
Jackson – 29, NEWTON COUNTY – 49
Jackson – 23, MILNER - 32
JACKSON – 55, McDonough – 31
JACKSON – 36, Forest Park – 22

JACKSON – 41, Milner – 30
Jackson – 44, MANCHESTER – 50

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1950
Jackson - 30, Roberta - 30
JACKSON - 43, McDonough - 18
Jackson - 20, MONTICELLO - 26
Jackson - 23, EATONTON - 30
Jackson - 14, MILNER - 50
Jackson - 30, Zebulon - 30
JACKSON - 20, Newnan - 15
Jackson – 30, MONTICELLO - 32
Jackson – 19, MILNER – 32
JACKSON – 47, Eatonton – 30
Jackson – 23, FORSYTH – 39
Jackson – 23, SOCIAL CIRCLE – 33
Jackson – 15, COVINGTON - 35
JACKSON – 40, Roberta – 13
JACKSON – 47, McDonough – 15
Jackson – 20, FORSYTH – 31
Jackson – 24, NEWTON COUNTY – 27
JACKSON – 28, Zebulon – 24
Jackson 23, MILNER – 32

Effective with the March 1950 billing, electric rates for residents in the city decreased. It was estimated that the reduction would save domestic customers a total of $5,500 a year. With the new rates, 25 kilowatts was $1.30, 100 kilowatts was $3.33, and 500 kilowatts was $8.95 net.

By the end of March 1950, the REA had completed its move from its original headquarters at the corner of Oak and Second streets to its new building between Mulberry and Oak streets. It held an open house on May 21.

A blast of buckshot fired from a single barrel shotgun snuffed out the life of Rufus McClendon on April 8, 1950. Eddie Lee Watson was charged with the murder, which took place in an alley in back of the Rufus Head Café.

On May 22, 1950, Jackson High School graduated 55 seniors.

Henderson High School had 33 graduates in 1950. Joyce Mayfield was valedictorian and Laurette Newby was salutatorian.

On June 1, 1950, the Greyhound Bus line began operation along the Jackson Short Route. The line originated in Atlanta and went to Macon. The bus went to Macon in the morning and returned in the afternoon.

"The bus station used to be right over in that little building right directly out in front of Cook's [Lunchroom on East Second Street]," said Jimmy Adams during a 2009 interview. "I think Mr. Bobby Mackey used to run the bus station and the grocery store where the bus stopped. I remember on occasion, when we had a vehicle at ABW Chevrolet being repaired, and they would call us and say, 'Your truck's ready.' I'd have to hop a Greyhound bus in Forsyth and ride the Greyhound bus to Jackson to pick up the truck to take it back to Forsyth. The bus service used to stop in every little town. You rarely see a passenger bus unless it's a charter now."

According to the 1950 Census, made public in early June 1950, Jackson had a population of 2,043, an increase over the 1940 Census figure of 1,918. The population of the county as a whole decrease from the 1940 Census figure of 9,282 to 9,088.

On July 8, 1950, a man came to Carter's Barn in the city to inoculate dogs against rabies. The mayor and council asked all dog owners in the city to inoculate their dogs that day because after that day any dog without a tag and collar was to be disposed of.

In August 1950, the first Butts County youth called up under the Selective Service were Jim Henry Jenkins, Olin Edward Kelly, James Key Leverett, Howell Lunsford, Thomas Elwood Robison, Jr., John George Smith, Tommie Joe Smith and Albert Alice Taylor – four Whites and four Blacks.

The Selective Service Act, passed in 1948, required any man born after August 1922 to register. Young men had until their 19th birthday to register or face immediate induction.

After several years of being held in a tent on the school grounds, the Butts County Fair got organized in the Fall of 1950. The Butts County Fair Association was incorporated, and a building program was commenced. The fair was still held under a tent in 1950 with seven community exhibits from Butts County's communities: Flovilla, Towaliga, West Butts, Stark, North Butts, Iron Springs and Jenkinsburg.

"My mom [Juanita Carmichael] was a stay-at-home mom – and with three kids you can imagine," said Walter Carmichael during a 2009 interview. "She said one of the biggest days of her life was when she looked out on the clothesline and there weren't any diapers out there. She was like my dad in that she could do anything. Back then, women used to go to the New York Store, buy patterns and come back home and make clothes. Mother made clothes, covers for the bed, curtains for the bedrooms, anything she wanted to make with a sewing machine. When the children got older, she went back to teaching and retired as an elementary school teacher."

At the suggestion of the ladies of the First Baptist Church Missionary Society, the mayor and council of the city voted to begin ringing the bell in the courthouse on September 25, 1950

and each day thereafter at 9 a.m. until further notice. The sound of the bell was to remind people to pause and offer their prayers for world peace and for the men serving and preparing to serve under the flag of the United Nations in the Korean War.

In the city primary held October 24, 1950, Howard Bailey won the third ward seat on the city council with 105 votes to 50 votes for Wade Watkins. Morris Redman was reelected mayor without opposition, and Harold Barnes was reelected to the council from the second ward without opposition.

Richard Eugene Bunn, 21, who enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946, was killed in action in Korea in October 1950. He was born and raised in Jackson.

On November 5, 1950, James K. McClendon, veteran of World War II and operator of Mack's Taxi, was killed at The Mecca, and his brother-in-law, J. C. Earnhart, was charged in the shooting but was held blameless by Judge Frank Willingham.

According to witnesses, McClendon began arguing with his sister, Mrs. Earnhart, in the restaurant. She slapped him, and a scuffle ensued. McClendon exited the building, went to his car, got a pistol and came back in shooting. Mr. Earnhart, who was ducked behind a counter, fired a shot through his body that killed McClendon instantly.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1950
JACKSON – 12, Eatonton – 0
JACKSON – 7, Jonesboro – 6
JACKSON – , opponent – 0
JACKSON – 27, Monticello – 0
JACKSON – 14, Austell – 0
Jackson – 6, COVINGTON – 13
JACKSON – 44, Hawkinsville – 20
JACKSON - 19, Tucker – 7
JACKSON – 25, Manchester – 7
JACKSON – 37, Forsyth – 6
At 9-1-0, it was the best record the school had ever had. Though because of an insufficient number of region games, the Red Devils did not figure in the playoffs and did not get the region title. Jackson was widely considered to be among the top 10 Class B teams in the state that year.

1951

On January 1, 1951, the Jackson City Council held an organizational meting in which the same officers were reappointed to the positions they held in 1950 with the exception of the police force. W. H. Polk was named chief of police; M. W. Pope, assistant chief; Lynn Thaxton, marshal; Walter E. Watkins, supply.

Howard Bailey was inducted as the new councilman from the Third Ward.

According to financial reports, Jackson had reduced its bonded debt to the lowest point in its history. On the first of the year, $2,000 in school bonds was retired, leaving only $13,000 in general obligation bonds fro street paving to be retired.

According to A. T. Ross, Griffin district manager of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, the number of phones in Jackson doubled in five years. In January 1946, there were 432 phones in the city. As of January 1951, there were 840.

"Southern Bell was where Tillie's was [on the north side of West Second Street]," said Bobby Stephens during an interview in 2010. "It's where you went to pay your bill, and in the back they had the switchboard or whatever."

"Speaking of telephones," said Harold "Doc" McMichael in 2009, "we did not have a telephone in the country until I was… I'm not sure how old I was. But when we finally got a phone system in the country, we had eight people, eight houses on the same line. And you had to share that line, so to speak. And if my parents wanted to make a phone call, they had to wait until the Jones family got off of the line to use it. That was an eight-party line, then they got it down to a four-party line, then down to a two-party line, and now everybody has their individual [phone]. "

As of February 1, 1951, 35 men from Jackson – 30 White and 5 Colored – had joined the armed services since the outbreak of trouble in Korea in June 1950. Of the total, 14 were inducted and the remainder volunteered.

On February 12, 1951, Lt. Carl Kelly died in Korea. A veteran with 11 years of service, Kelly had been in Korea since August 1950, and had been wounded there twice. He had been a member of the Jackson Rifles, having shipped out with them in 1940 and was wounded in Germany. Kelly was regarded as a capable military leader. His wife resided in the Deraney apartments in Jackson at the time of his passing. The couple had two sons.

Lt. Kelly was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in Korea. The citation read in part: "Intense enemy fire was preventing the withdrawal of a field artillery battalion. Lt. Kelly reconnoitered the enemy positions and organized the artillerymen into fighting groups. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lt. Kelly repeated aggressive actions, wiping out enemy forces and weapons. Besides instilling confidence in the artillerymen, the conspicuous actions of him served to center the fire of the enemy upon him. Although enemy fire became more intense and deadly, Lt. Kelly continued to expose himself in leading the assaults. Finally he was struck by enemy fire and fell mortally wounded."

"I feel my father is a forgotten hero from Butts County," wrote Kelly's son, Cary Kelly, in 2003. "From all the records I can find, he was the most-decorated soldier from Butts County. He was also the only military man to serve in both World War II and the Korean Conflict who was killed in action.

"To me," Kelly continued, "this is not a bad resume for a young man from the Pepperton Cotton Mill Village who started out in the Jackson National Guard and died a hero at the ripe old age of 32."

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1951
JACKSON – 39, McDonough – 14
Jackson – 23, MILNER – 28
JACKSON – 58, Monticello – 35
JACKSON – 32, Social Circle – 29
JACKSON – 46, Zebulon – 25
Jackson – 29, COVINGTON – 37
JACKSON – 17, Spalding County – 15
JACKSON – 48, Monticello – 25
Jackson – 22, FORSYTH – 26
JACKSON – 41, Roberta – 38
Jackson – 17, MILNER – 51
JACKSON – 31, Spalding County – 15
JACKSON – 47, Eatonton – 22
JACKSON – 45, McDonough – 24
Jackson – 33, HAMPTON – 69
JACKSON – 45, Roberta – 37
JACKSON – 35, Zebulon – 15
Jackson – 26, FORSYTH – 61
Jackson – 24, COVINGTON – 44
JACKSON – 35, Eatonton – 26
JACKSON – 46, Jonesboro – 16
JACKSON – 24, Forest Park – 16
Jackson – 23, MILNER – 34

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1951
JACKSON – 44, McDonough – 19
Jackson – 30, MILNER - 36
JACKSON – 56, Monticello – 45
JACKSON – 33, Social Circle – 31
Jackson – 35, ZEBULON – 56
Jackson – 35, COVINGTON – 37
Jackson – 46, SPALDING COUNTY – 62
JACKSON – 51, Monticello – 30
JACKSON – 38, Forsyth – 25
JACKSON – 48, Roberta – 45
Jackson – 46, MILNER – 51
JACKSON – 52, Spalding County – 37
Jackson – 35, EATONTON – 52

JACKSON – 52, McDonough – 12
JACKSON – 51, Hampton – 18
Jackson – 32, ROBERTA – 39
JACKSON – 56, Zebulon – 37
Jackson – 44, FORSYTH – 55
Jackson – 36, COVINGTON – 42
Jackson – 27, EATONTON – 35
JACKSON – 29, Forest Park – 26
JACKSON, Zebulon
JACKSON, Jonesboro
Jackson – 32, BOWDEN – 41

"We had basketball," said Ernest Battle of his Henderson School, "and we were one of the powerhouses in our region in basketball. I never knew what it was to sit on the bench. I was a starter in basketball for five years - eighth grade through twelfth grade. We played outdoors. We were a team so that if we payed you on our court we were going to beat you. And if we went to your house, we were going to beat you. Back then, the only schools that had gyms were in Griffin and LaGrange. We even traveled all the way to West Point and Carrollton. They eventually let us start having a bus. I think they only had about five or six buses that were assigned to us. We had two bus drivers. But we played just as well indoors as we did outdoors."

"We had a band and majorettes [at the Henderson School]," said Shelby Henderson during a 2009 interview. "I tried to participate on the basketball team and I was there at the Tri-Hi-Y Club, dramatics club, Glee Club. I got a certificate for best all-around student. That may have been eighth grade. I also won as best soloist in our Glee Club. The dramatics is something I will never forget. I had to wear a red dress. I hated it because it made me look like an old maid. And I said, 'Shoot 'em out. It's even worse than that. Shoot two out. Shoot three out!' But we carried that all the way to Atlanta to the civic center. We also carried it to local schools, West Point, Carrolton, all the surrounding schools."

On March 3, 1951, State Veterinarian Charlie Carlisle paid a visit to Jackson to inoculate dogs. Dog owners were requested to have their dogs inoculated, or face a penalty under a city ordinance.

In March 1951, a new subdivision was under construction stretching from Indian Springs Street to the new Jackson High School. The project was carried out by Robert and Hiram Franklin, and the new street was named Franklin Street. With the addition of the new school and athletic fields and the National Guard Armory, the area was the most valuable civic center in the city. Only two houses were first proposed, but more were likely due to a housing shortage in the city.

It was suggested at the time that a road be built from the school to connect with Highway 42 near the Pepperton Cotton Mill, and that another road be built connecting the armory with High Falls road.

In May 1951, the Jackson High School track team won the Fourth District meet held in Griffin. Byrd O'Neal and Johnson Funderburk led the way with first place finishes in the sprint and hurdles respectively.

On May 14, 1951, the Jackson City Council elected Clem Thaxton as assistant police chief to succeed M. W. Pope, who passed away the week before. As assistant chief, Thaxton worked the night shift.

From May 16 through 18, 1951, the mayor and City Council funded a rat poisoning campaign for the city. The poison was distributed door to door, and killed rodents since they can not vomit.

On May 18, 1951, Henderson High School graduated 16 seniors.

Under state mandate, all high schools went from 11 grades to 12 in 1951. As a result, there were only three graduates from Jackson High School on May 22, 1951. They were: Howard Couch, Mary Sue Castellaw and Joyce Coleman.

"I often kid the children today," said Harry Ridgeway in 2009, "because it only took us 11 grades to learn what it takes them 12 to learn."

Dr. Robert H. Pinkney, an optometrist, opened his office at 111 Oak Street at the end of May 1951.

"We picked Jackson because it was a small town in Georgia," said Dr. Robert Pinckney in 2008, "and it was a great place to live. And it still is. I'm still practicing at my office at 336 East Third Street. Why, I don't know. I guess it's to keep my wheels rolling upstairs. But I still enjoy it, have problems to solve. I never thought I'd live near this age. But I still square dance twice a year at the Master 4-H Camp. My wife is a master 4-H'er. So is David [Ridgeway]. They've got a club there at Camp Wahsega in Dahlonega. We meet there and at Jekyll Island. It's really enjoyable."

"Even before we were married, we were dating and we'd go to Indian Springs," said Merrell Price, who moved to Jackson in 1949 with his wife, Charlotte. "So we'd pass through Jackson. So it was familiar territory. Surprisingly, Charlotte's oldest sister's husband worked for Settle & Robision in the refrigeration business. M. L. Powell will tell you that he knew her when she was a little girl. Her father was a druggist at Locust Grove, and they would put her on the train at Locust Grove and her oldest sister would pick her up at the depot down here and she'd spend a few days down here. So we were familiar with Jackson, and knew we would like Jackson, which we have all these years. We just love living in Jackson. Our friends are here and this is home."

"Back in those days we didn't have to lock the doors," said Merrell Price.

"I didn't even know where the keys were to our house," added David Ridgeway.

"Cars either," said Robert Pinckney. "You could leave your windows down and keys in the car."

"When we first came to Jackson," added Price, "you'd come in and there'd be a canopy of trees over the street. It started out here beyond the Westside Baptist Church. And there'd be a canopy of trees, and you'd drive all the way through here. The ladies of the town, they were hesitant to let any of them be cut, too."

In June 1951, School Superintendent F. C. Hearn announced that the Indian Springs elementary school was merged with the Jackson school for the coming school year. The plant of the existing Indian Springs school was used as a Negro consolidated elementary school. At one time, Butts County had more than 20 White schools and about the same number of Negro schools.

Butts County held a Healthfest from July 5 to 11, 1951. Ethel Ham, public health official for the county, reported that 3,826 people took part. Testing stations were set up throughout the county with tests for four afflictions available. Test results showed 656 citizens who took part in the Healthfest needed follow-up treatment for maladies discovered by the tests.

On July 9, 1951, the Jackson City Council voted to install parking meters in the downtown business district on a six-month trial basis. Due to a shortage in steel, reported Mayor Redman, the meters would not be installed in October. The need for such meters had been discussed for weeks, and the vote was the first official action taken on the subject.

At a called meeting a week later, the City Council voted to rescind the ordinance providing for parking meters in the Jackson. The initial action stirred up so much opposition that a petition was circulated, and a large number of signatures were presented to the Council.

"Mother [Mary Lee Martin] operated out of her house for a number of years hand painting porcelain," explained Mary Ruth Watson, her daughter. "That was done through the Extension Service. They came here in the early 50s and had a lady that went all over the state. Women painted sets of china from Germany. The county home demonstration agent had it shipped in here and all the ladies in the Extension and in the clubs would come here and pick up their china. When you go up the steps inside the courthouse, there's an office on the right. That is where the original kiln was kept where mother used to fire all the china for the ladies that they had painted."

"It was so heavy that I couldn't lift the lid," recalled Mary Lee. "And Ralph Carr, Sr. put me a pulley in to help me lift the lid. I bought the kiln from the club later. So we painted china as the Jackson Home Demonstration Club and donated money to the hospital for one of the rooms

out there. And we made money by selling lunches out at the sale barn [the Middle Georgia Cattle Auction barn]."

Throughout the Summer of 1951, the city was engaged in a clean up effort that cut back grass and weeds on all streets and sidewalks and vacant lots were being tended to. The effort was part of the city's entrance in the Better Home Towns contest and an effort to improve health conditions.

At the end of August 1951, city authorities asked residents to help conserve water and refrain from watering "lawns, flowers, gardens, streets, etc."

On September 10, 1951, the City Council set the tax rate at 13 mills, the same amount as in 1950. Of that amount, 10 mills were targeted for the operation of the city, and three mills for interest and the sinking fund to retire debt.

With the merger of the Pepperton elementary school with Jackson's school, consolidation of Butts County's White schools was completed on September 17, 1951. The move by the Board of Education solved two problems: giving three more teachers to Jackson, and low enrollment at Pepperton. The move to consolidate schools began in the late 1920s and more than 20 schools were merged into five junior high schools and one elementary school.

"Country boys, you know, we used to have marbles," said Harold "Doc" McMichael in 2009. "We shot marbles. And 99 percent of the things I do are left-handed, but I always shot marbles right-handed, and was pretty decent at it. But you'd have what they call 'snake eye' or something like that, shooting marbles and knocking them off the thing, and all. And then you'd take an old shoebox, and you'd cut out a little hole in the end of the box there down on the floor part, and you'd have people to shoot at your hole. And if they rang the hole with their marble then you would promise to give them five marbles or whatever. But if it didn't ring that hole, then you got to keep their marble. So, that was one game that we played down there.

"And, of course, I think, the teachers finally decided that that wasn't permissible," he said, "so they stopped us from doing that. I guess you'd say in one sense it was a form of gambling, I suppose, but we didn't do it—you know, try to harm anybody.

As of October 1951, Selective Service laws were amended nationally so that childless, married men ages 18 to 26 were eligible for the draft.

Results of the 1950 Census released in October 1951 showed that the population of Jackson increased from 1,917 in 1940 to 2,053 in 1950, an increase of 7.1 percent. Overall, Butts County's population decreased from 9,282 in 1940 to 9,079 in 1950.

Billy Boyd Roberts, age 15, was killed on October 19, 1951 when the bicycle he was riding cut in front of a Jackson Hardware delivery truck on Cemetery Street.

In a quiet primary on October 26, 1951, Bill Sasser was chosen as a member of the City Council from the Fourth Ward over his opponent, V. H. Ham. Ralph Carr, Sr. was nominated without opposition in the First Ward.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1951
JACKSON - 25, Eatonton – 6
JACKSON – 19, Jonesboro – 13
JACKSON – 33, Fayetteville – 0
JACKSON – 21, Monticello – 0
JACKSON – 33, Austell – 6
Jackson – 6, NEWTON COUNTY 19
JACKSON – 34, Forsyth – 7
JACKSON – 12, Tucker – 7
JACKSON – 19, Manchester – 7
JACKSON – 52, McDonough – 0

JHS Head Coach Hunter "Strickland knew blocking, tackling and conditioning," said Jimmy Evans, who played for Strickland for four years, in an article in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "We were in better condition than anyone we played."

"We had hard practices with no water," recalled Maurice Biles, who played halfback for the 1951 team, in the same article. "After practice, we ran 20 laps around the football field, that was everyday. We weren't big, the line only averaged 145 pounds, but we could run all day."

"Coach Strickland believed in the single wing formation," said Henry Collins, who played fullback on Jackson's team in 1950 and 1951. "All the other teams ran the popular 'T' formation. The single wing is a power formation with the attitude: 'this back has the ball, you stop him.' There was no finesse or trickery involved in most plays. To minimize the possibility of fumbles, the ball was usually snapped directly to the back that carried the ball."

Coach Strickland "was a big man in good shape," Biles continued. "He used to block and tackle us with no pads. He didn't believe in smoking, drinking or cussing. If you did something he didn't like, he would pinch you just below the ribs while he talked with you. This helped him hold your attention. I had more respect for him than anyone but my daddy."

"Back then you didn't have a region or state playoff system," said Evans. "When the season was over, that was it. I feel those teams [of 1950 and 1951] could have been state champs."

"And if [Coach Hunter Strickland] caught you doing it [sucking water from a towel during practice], you took laps," said Bobby Stephens in 2010. "Back then, we didn't have the stadium like we have now. There was just an old wooden fence around the field. There was a guide wire running down the sidelines to keep the fans off the field."

Tink Head, age 65, and his 42-year-old daughter, Bertha Greer, were killed on November 23, 1951 when the car they were riding in was hit by the Southern Railway's crack Royal Palm at the depot crossing in Jackson.

In December 1951, the city introduced a charter amendment for the 1952 General Assembly that sought to allow the city take in additional territory and thereby add population.

In December 1951, the city purchased a Pontiac Police Special, the same car used by the State Patrol, to be used by the Jackson Police Department in 1952.

The city also purchased a ditching machine at a cost of $4,300 to solve the problem of cutting ditches by hand.

As the city's electric service outgrew the switchboard in the sub station in 1951 new indoor electric switches were installed for approximately $3,500.

On Christmas Eve 1951, an assailant in Darktown shot Jackson Police Officer Clem Thaxton. According to reports, Thaxton and his fellow officer, Lynn Thaxton, were making a regular patrol of the area when they spotted John T. Streetman walking. When asked what he was doing, Streetman responded briefly then pulled a gun and fired hitting Thaxton in the right side and the right arm. Lynn Thaxton fired back, wounding Streetman. The assailant was later picked up in Monroe County and was held in jail, while Thaxton recovered in the Griffin-Spalding County Hospital.

In the course of the year 1951, 141 telephones were added to Jackson, bringing the city's total to 976.

1952

Announcement was made in January 1952 that the Spalding Manufacturing Company would operate the garment factory formerly conducted by Covington Manufacturing Company on West Third Street. Workers numbering 150 began making men's and boy's trousers that month. Robert Zerman was manager of the plant.

The building was an outgrowth of the Jackson Manufacturing Company several years earlier, and was liquidated and taken over by the Covington firm soon after.

On January 11, 1952, an organizational meeting was held by the city council. Bill Sasser was inducted from the fourth ward, and the same employees were elected for the coming year, except that Reuben Bennett was named as supply policeman in place of Walter E. Watkins. All salaries were increased 15 percent to help take care of the cost of living.

Mrs. W. H. Mallet was tax receiver and collector and treasurer; Mary Downs was her assistant. J. H. Rooks was superintendent of the water and light department, and E. B. Perdue was the filter plant operator. The Chief of Police was W. H. Polk, with Clem Thaxton and Lynn Thaxton as assistant policemen and Reuben Bennett as supply policeman. Tax assessors were T. G. Willis, W. H. Merritt and J. K. Sitton.

The mayor was W. M. Redman with councilmen William Sasser, Harold Barnes, Howard Bailey, and R. W. Carr, Sr.

In January 1952, the Butts County Board of Education purchased 25 acres of land between Bethel Flats and the Jackson Box & Lumber Company for use as a consolidated Negro high school.

On September 16, 1952, the State Board of Education approved $717,401.85 for Butts County's BOE to build new school facilities. According to School Superintendent F. C. Hearn, a new elementary school with 19 rooms for White students would be built next to the existing high school. A new Negro school building with 32 rooms for elementary and high school students, was to be built on the Bethel Flats property. [That school was not completed until the Fall of 1955.] The county was required to add $49,000 in local funds for the projects.

"When they started building the new school that we moved into in 1955, probably the [landmark Supreme Court case] Brown versus Board of Education had already been decided," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "There was a series of cases leading up to it, so the handwriting was on the wall. That was a year of big school building in Georgia. Everywhere around here moved into new school sometime during that period. Maybe they thought that [desegregation] would not happen.

"Up until November of 1955, our school was down there where the [Lewis Sims] funeral home is," said Ernest Battle in a 2009 interview. "And the area where they park now between the church and his place, that's where our basketball court was. They had a row of Army barracks that we used that had about four or five classrooms in them. They were old wooden military buildings that had been torn down and hauled in there. Then they had another building that sat in the middle of where the basketball court was, and that was a classroom. And we played between that building and the road."

"There was always basketball" at the Henderson School, said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "It was what they called groundhog teams. They played on the ground. It was really just the courtyard there at the school."

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL BASKETBALL 1952</u>
JACKSON –51, Covington – 40
Jackson – 43, ROBERTA – 62
JACKSON – 53, Monticello – 42
JACKSON – 51, McDonough – 38
JACKSON – 45, Milner – 38
Jackson – 36, MONTICELLO – 53
JACKSON – 40, Forsyth – 38
JACKSON – 51, McDonough – 33
Jackson – 38, ROBERTA – 45
Jackson – 33, SPALDING COUNTY – 48
JACKSON – 39, Milner – 38
JACKSON – 33, Forest Park – 26
Jackson – 30, JONEBSORO – 43

Jackson – 30, EATONTON – 38
JACKSON – 40, Forsyth – 38
JACKSON – 37, Griffin – 31
Jackson – 27, SPALDING – 32
Jackson – 33, EATONTON – 49
JACKSON – 33, Griffin – 28
Jackson – 34, MILNER – 42

JACKSON LADY DEVIL BASKETBALL 1952
JACKSON – 36, Eatonton – 20
JACKSON – 32, Forsyth – 31
JACKSON – 31, Griffin –22
JACKSON – 22, Spalding – 11
JACKSON – 34, Eatonton – 10
JACKSON – 18, Griffin – 11
Jackson – 31, MILNER – 51
Jackson – 20, COVINGTON – 34
Jackson – 32, ROBERTA – 54
JACKSON – 35, Monticello – 30
JACKSON – 39, McDonough – 23
Jackson – 23, MILNER – 35
JACKSON – 52, Monticello – 33
Jackson – 30, Forsyth – 30
JACKSON – 59, McDonough – 18
Jackson – 26, ROBERTA – 31
JACKSON – 21, Spalding County – 11
JACKSON – 49, Jonesboro – 15
JACKSON – 30, North Clayton – 19
JACKSON – 30, Milner – 27
JACKSON – 38, Villa Rica – 34
The Lady Devils won the Fourth District Class B championship with the win over unbeaten Villa Rica in a packed Jackson gym. The team finished with a 11-6-1 record

The Jackson Business & Professional Women's Club was formed in 1952 at a charter dinner meeting held on March 31 at the Women's Clubhouse. Helen Spencer was president, with Jane Powell as vice president, Mary Sasser as corresponding secretary, Marie Bobo as recording secretary and a treasurer. The organization started with 66 members. Its colors were green and gold.

Mary Lee Martin was a charter member of the Jackson Business & Professional Womens' Club in Jackson. "Jane Powell and Helen Spencer were the first presidents. Then Mary Sasser, on down the line. At that time it was all people who was working in some business were members. We had speakers from different places that were supposed to be enlightening to the business

world. We got up to 60 regular members. Meetings were every fourth Monday of the month. It was a national organization. We co-hosted an annual picnic down at Indian Springs with the other clubs in this district. Had big crowds as a rule. We went to district meetings, and to the state meetings. Had some that went to the national meetings back then.

"Helen came in here from the north and married one of the Spencer boys," Martin continued, "and the Spencers of course had been here through the years, the family goes way back. She taught school and when we had plays she would be the director. She was a very smart lady Later she went in to head the welfare department. Jane was a Brownlee, a local girl. Both of them were married, neither of them had any children. They were very close and active in anything that came up. They were just two delightful people.

Roy Lee McElhaney of Short Alley just off Lyons Street, was charged with murder in the March 31, 1952 beating death of Mary Alice Ridley. According to Sheriff J. D. Pope, McElhaney admitted to beating the 22-year-old woman with his fists because he lost "his head." After the incident, McElhaney walked to the jail and asked to be locked up. He was given a life sentence in jail in August 1952.

In April 1952, the city applied to the Federal Power Commission for permission to install natural gas lines in the city. Mayor W. M. Redman reported that a survey had been conducted in Jackson to determine the consumption possibilities for natural gas. A 13-mile-long would have to be installed to connect with the main gas line in Griffin.

On April 18, 1952, the Red Devils of Jackson High School won its second consecutive district track championship. The flying legs of Bird O'Neal, Jr., a double winner the past two years in the 100- and 220-yard dashes, paced the team. Going to the state track meet were: O'Neal (100, 220), Johnson Funderburk and Pat Dunn (high hurdles), Pete Cook (discus, low hurdles), Jackie Cook (mile run), Donald Leverette (high jump), and Aubrey Rooks, Bud Davis, Frank McMichael and Funderburk (relay).

On April 25, 1952, city voters approved legislation enacted in February by the General Assembly to create a new charter for the City of Jackson and extend the city limits. The bill, introduced by State Senator Vincent Jones, remedied a defect in the existing charter, which did not meet the required provisions as to local advertising, and incorporated into the city the area between the old and new McDonough Roads.

Jackson High School held graduation for the 49 members of the Class of 1952 on May 26. Nancy Gerrick was the valedictorian and Johnson Funderburk was the salutatorian. It was reported that 29 of the 77 pupils that had enrolled in Jackson High School in the eighth grade did not graduate from the twelfth grade.

In 1952, the four Browns - C. B. & Sadie Brown and Joe & Sara Brown - opened Brown's Jewelry and Appliance Store in the little building on South Oak Street just off next to where the offices of McIntosh Financial Services is now located, according to a 2010 article by

Diane Glidewell in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. A year or so later they moved into the building on the square which now houses Radio Shack [on Second Street]. After another year or so they purchased the building at 30 North Mulberry Street, which became the long-term home of Brown's, subsequently incorporated as Brown's Furniture & Appliance Company.

"We sold Bulova, Elgin, Keepsake diamonds -- beautiful diamonds," said Sadie in the article. "We sold couples jewelry to get married and then sold them furniture [to set up housekeeping]."

The four partners each brought what they did best to the business, according to Glidewell's article. Big Joe understood appliances from refrigerators to washers and especially the newly introduced television. "Big Joe" was able to install and repair any appliance Brown's sold. C.B. kept the books for the business and was a salesman. But over the years, it became apparent that Sara (who was usually known as "Baby," as the youngest child in the big Deraney family or "Big Mama," as mother to her own children, nieces, nephews, and hordes of other Jackson youth) was the Super Salesperson of the group.

"People came in with no intention of buying or intending to buy only one thing, and watch out," said Ernest Battle, who began working at Brown's while the store was still in its first little building.

"Big Mama just loved to sell, even if she didn't make a dime," said Mayor of Jackson Charlie Brown, son of C.B. and Sadie, in the article.

Sadie handled paperwork and customers and helped keep everyone organized and the business moving along from day to day.

The Browns had one employee who started with them in 1952, a young man named Ernest Battle. "We call him PeeWee because he was so young when he began working," said Sadie in the article. "He was still riding his bicycle to school when he started."

One of Battle's duties was to drive Big Mama to wherever she needed to go, wrote Glidewell. She was only known to have made the short drive from her home to the store once, and that drive was the talk around town for a while.

The Browns not only sold at the best prices in town, she wrote, they also quietly offered credit on an honor system that charged no interest. Customers would buy an item and pay on it as they were able, with the record being kept on 3x5 cards in a green metal box near the register. When one item was paid off, they would often purchase something else and begin paying on it.

"When someone would ask Big Mama, 'Why are you selling so cheap?' she would answer, 'We're not here to make money; we're here to make friends," said Joe & Sara's daughter, Debra Brown, in the 2010 article.

"Joe and I did the work piping houses, putting in pipes for appliances when natural gas came to town, working under houses" recalled Battle in 2010. "For $200, we would bring you a TV and put the antenna up. We had to put stuff together with just the instructions included. Big Joe taught me to use critical thinking. Being around him was an education."

Former *Progress-Argus* editor Vincent Jones was known to stop by Brown's on a regular basis to gather news, and many community leaders, including Dr. Robert Pinckney, Willie Avery Cook, Dr. Roy Goff and Milt Daniel, had special days of the week when they would come by Brown's to chat and listen for a while, Glidewell wrote. There were rocking chairs just inside the

store windows where the visitors, potential customers, and staff who were not busy would sit and watch the Jackson square as they exchanged news and opinions.

This store front meeting spot continued to be an important part of the community until the death of Sara Brown on July 3, 2009, wrote Glidewell. When Sara's voice was no longer heard saying, "Taxes included," a sign was placed in the store which read, "Big Mama is not selling today; she's gone home."

"My dad and my Uncle Joe were exact opposites," said Charlie Brown in an interview in 2010. "Other than the fact that they were in the same family, you'd never know they were brothers. My dad [C. B. Brown, Jr.] actually wore a suit and tie everyday of his life. He liked to dress up and he was all about business. He didn't care anything about sports or about watching anybody play.

"Now my Uncle Joe [Brown], he dressed in his khaki pants and shirt everyday," said Brown. He was actually the repairman at the store for the televisions and appliances. But they used to kid him because they said he never ever missed a practice. Regardless of what sporting event it was, he never missed a practice. He loved sports.

"Back in the old days when televisions first came out, when you changed the channels there was a little fine tuner behind it where you could fine tune your picture," Brown continued. "Well, the little old ladies in the community would turn the knob and their picture would go away. So they'd call my uncle in the middle of the night, and he'd go and repair it. But he never would charge them for it. And my dad, being the businessman, would get angry at my uncle saying if he charged people then we could eat. But he never would charge people. Money was the least consideration ever in his entire life.

On June 13, 1952, Isaac Travis Crane was killed instantly when he was struck by a northbound freight engine at the Pepperton crossing. Crane, 55, was employed by the Pepperton Cotton Mill and was described as somewhat deaf and may not have the approaching train's whistle.

Work began on July 9, 1952 on the Butts County Health Center on South Mulberry Street. The facility was to be built at a cost of $42,304.

Dr. James C. Howell, a graduate of Jackson High School, located his medical practice in Jackson in July 1952. His office was located on West Third Street at the Howell Clinic, which was established by his father, the late Dr. Olin B. Howell. Dr. Joseph H. Pritchett also worked out of the office, providing Butts County with its two physicians.

"About 1952, my uncle Marion had gotten into the insurance business," said Walter Carmichael during a 2009 interview, "and he told dad, 'you know, Maucie, this might be a good idea for you.' So [Maurice Carmichael] looked into it and he opened Carmichael Insurance Agency there in the [Carmichael] boarding house on Third Street – not for long – because we moved to a house on Woodland Way and he put the office down in the basement of the house and kept it there until I got out of college, I think it was 1972 or '73.

"We built the Carmichael Insurance building there [on Dempsey Avenue]," said Carmichael. "Dad had purchased [the two-story Carmichael apartment building] from my Aunt Betty. We did not own the Carmichael [boarding] house lot at that time, but there was enough room between the apartment house and where the boarding house property was to put that office. We squeezed it in there."

When the Butts County schools opened on August 28, 1952, 106 students started the first grade. It was the largest such enrollment in the county's history. Before the schools were consolidated, Miss Annie Lou McCord, who taught two or three generations of first graders, cared for all the tots. She had two other teachers helping her in 1952.

"I spent two years in the first grade with Miss Annie Lou McCord," said R. Scott Coleman with a smile. "It took her that long to tame me for me to start learning. I was deathly afraid of her. But I got revenge: I have her house a now!" [Years later, Coleman and his wife bought McCord's old house and moved it from North Benton Street to Fox Hollow].

"But," Coleman, a professional artist now, added, "she also helped me get my start in art when she entered some piece that I had done in a statewide art contest and I won a ribbon and a certificate that was signed by Lamar Dodd, who was head of the University of Georgia Art Department. Subsequently, I went to the University of Georgia and Mr. Dodd was my major professor."

W. A. James, operator of a filling station on Highway 42 below the Pepperton Cotton Mill, was elected as a member of the Jackson Police force by the City Council on September 22, 1952. He replaced Charles M. Lewis, who resigned.

"We had these families that lived there on the farm with us," recalled Harold "Doc" McMichael in 2009. "We called them tenant farmers, and they farmed on shares. We would take out all the expenses of the year, he would give them half of the profit. And he always had another area that me and my brother and sister and mother basically gathered the crops, and we had to do the cotton chopping and stuff like that while he was working at the warehouse where they ginned the cotton. In the afternoons coming home from school, we didn't sit around and watch TVs, and play with computers and stuff like that, we worked in the fields.

"We got a television along about '52 or '53, somewhere along in there," he said. "It was a Philco television, black and white, of course, 17-inch screen. And it was $300, which was lots of money in those days. But our parents were very good to us children. And some of the other kids that lived in the neighborhood used to come up and watch *Howdy Doody* and stuff like that on in the afternoon when we get home from school, when we wasn't working in the fields."

There was no opposition for incumbents in the November 1952 city election, so Mayor W. M. Redman, and councilmen Harold Barnes and Howard Bailey were reelected to two-year terms.

In 1952, Dr. Roy Goff began publishing results of elections on the front windows of City Pharmacy. "That was before radio and television broadcast results," he said in a 2001 interview with the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "There would be hundreds of people on the square. I was always working in the store, but I heard rumors that sometimes fights would break out among supporters of the different candidates."

"Another interesting time of year was election time," recalled Luke Weaver in a 2009 interview. "Dr. Goff had City Pharmacy, and on the front window of the pharmacy at night he'd put up who was running and the number of votes. And there would just be hundreds of people there to see it. I know you couldn't buy liquor on election day, but somebody was getting it from somewhere 'cause there'd be a bunch of drunks up there - a lot of fights, a lot of controversy around the election. Each precinct would come into town and tell them who was winning, and they'd put it up on the window."

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1952
JACKSON – 20, Greensboro – 6
Jackson – 0, HOGANSVILLE – 21
Jackson – 6, WEST POINT – 12
Jackson – 6, JONESBORO - 13
Jackson – 6, FORSYTH – 34
JACKSON – 23, Fayetteville – 6
JACKSON – 26, Forest Park – 12
Jackson – 7, MANCHESTER – 35
JACKSON – 26, McDonough – 7
JACKSON – 27, GA School for the Deaf – 18

The Butts County Health Center was formally dedicated on December 31, 1952 with Governor Herman Talmadge and state health officials speaking during the ceremony. The 12-room facility was built for approximately $50,000 on the corner of South Mulberry and Byars streets. Ethel Ham, the County Health Nurse for the previous decade, was delighted to open the new building.

1953

At an organizational meeting on January 1, 1953, M. E. Wade and Edgar H. Polk were named to the city police force.

Also on the first of the year, the city retired a $2,000 bond, leaving it with only $9,000 in bonded debt. Profits from the electricity distribution plant enabled the city to carry on with only a small ad valorem tax.

The city had a Bond Commission consisting of three people. Interest and sinking funds were paid to the chairman of this commission each December, and he retires the bonds in turn. In 1953, the chairman was R. P. Newton. He had been chairman for several years and received no compensation for the duties he performed.

The city's electric load had increased 60 percent since 1940.
At this time, the city had installed 9,000 linear feet of sewer lines at a cost of $22,381.

On January 10, 1953, Butts County got its first heavy snow in several years. Precipitation was estimated at two inches, though it did not stay long and no accidents or outages were reported.

In January 1953, Mrs. Roy Prosser and Mrs. R. H. Pinckney, representing the Butts County Parent-Teacher Association, came to the trustees of the Van Deventer Memorial Foundation asking for help establishing a youth center. The PTA was concerned about young people not having a place to gather of fun and recreation. The foundation's board voted in favor of the idea, and offered the bank building on the northwest corner of the downtown square for use as the new youth center.

On February 1, 1953, the Van Deventer Youth Center opened on the northwest corner of Oak and Second streets in the old Jackson Banking Company Building, which later served as the REA office building. The building was purchased, repaired and renovated with funds made available by the Van Deventer Memorial Foundation, a trust fund established in memory of a former pastor of the Jackson Baptist Church.

All White youths in Butts County between the ages of 13 and 17 were automatically enrolled as members. Visitors were admitted when accompanied by a member. The center was open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday afternoons and nights, and Sunday afternoons.

The center came into being through the tireless efforts of the Butts County PTA, who adopted the project as its sole undertaking for the year. The center was equipped with sofas, card tables, games, table tennis, television, reading, dancing, billiards, a jukebox and a concession stand.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1953</u>
Jackson – 30, MILNER – 42
Jackson – 44, ROBERTA – 49
Jackson – 49, SPALDING – 50
JACKSON – 61, Hampton – 44
Jackson – 48, ROBERTA - 62
Jackson – 43, MILNER – 73
Jackson – 39, HAMPTON – 50
Jackson – 43, McDONOUGH – 46
Jackson – 35, GRIFFIN – 41
Jackson – 24, NEWTON COUNTY – 40
JACKSON – 57, Monticello – 37
JACKSON – 47, Morgan County – 41
Jackson – 33, NEWTON COUNTY – 52
JACKSON – 34, McDonough – 33
Jackson – 45, COVINGTON – 50

Jackson – 39, GRIFFIN – 68
JACKSON – 67, Monticello – 54
JACKSON – 65, Jonesboro – 49
JACKSON – 44, Zebulon – 42
JACKSON – 45, Milner – 40
Jackson – 34, HOGANSVILLE – 62

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1953
Jackson – 26, MILNER - 28
JACKSON – 51, Roberta – 26
JACKSON – 29, Spalding – 26
Jackson – 33, HAMPTON – 60
JACKSON – 51, Roberta – 44
Jackson – 28, MILNER – 47
Jackson – 26, HAMPTON – 63
JACKSON – 41, McDonough – 34
Jackson – 34, GRIFFIN – 41
Jackson – 30, NEWTON COUNTY – 32
JACKSON – 31, Monticello – 29
JACKSON – 31, Monroe County – 25
Jackson – 37, NEWTON COUNTY – 56
JACKSON – 41, McDonough – 29
Jackson – 30, COVINGTON – 43
Jackson – 27, GRIFFIN – 34
JACKSON – 57, Monticello – 26
JACKSON – 38, Fayetteville – 13
Jackson – 25, HAMPTON – 38

On March 24, 1953, the city council unanimously approved an election to permit citizens of Jackson to ratify or reject the installation of natural gas in the city. It was proposed to issue $440,000 in revenue certificates for the purpose of installing gas lines to serve the community.

On April 7, 1953, the city invited all citizens to attend a meeting to discuss the natural gas options for Jackson. By a show of hands, a wide majority of those in attendance favored natural gas service for the city.

"Man, you talking about some partying going on out there," said Billy Glidewell in 2010, while thinking about his father's restaurant, Glidewell's, on Highway 42 North. "I've got some pretty vivid memories of the kids that would pull up in there every Friday and Saturday night, you know, *every* Friday and Saturday night. It was just the major gathering place for that community, from probably the early '50s to the early '60s, about 10 years it went on. But it also had much acceptance and respect as a nice dining facility for the county.

During the daytime, businessmen and families could go there, then after the sun went down the teenagers came to hang out. "It was amazing how it seemed to work so beautifully,"

said Glidewell. "And of course, as the kids grew older, they were there before the sun went down. I would say anyone from 60 years old up from Butts County would have a very vivid recollection of the T & H or Glidewell's Restaurant.

"It was called the Sunset Restaurant, by the way," he added, "that was the name of the restaurant on the sign. It was called the Sunset Motel & Restaurant. And he had three [cabins behind it] that were livable. It could have been four duplex units. And he rented those. They were all to the left between the restaurant and where Mike Hodges has that lawn service shop back there. You know that guy keeps that car lot right there with those utility buildings there? That was Brac Hodges's, that was kind of a unique place too, since I'm recollecting back there. Brac Hodges probably had one of the first - they call them 'salvage yards' now - it was called a junkyard when I was coming up.

"You kind of tend to exaggerate things the older you get," Glidewell admitted, "but in my mind's eye it seems like there must have been about 500 cars back there. And truth be told, there probably were more than 300 cars back there. I mean, they were just scattered everywhere back there - no rhyme nor reason to it. And because he stayed in business for so long - I would say 25 years, maybe 30 years, maybe longer - but he started to get a little more reason to it. He had the cars lined up and I'm sure he had some kind of idea of: Fords were here, and Chevrolets were here, or whatever. But I remember people coming from out of state to have the opportunity to buy those parts. That was kind of a unique business at that time.

"My oldest sisters Patsy, Barbara Ann, Sissy, and Cindy, and I think maybe even Janice all were waitresses there for after school or whatnot," he said. "Had an all-girl wait staff. And there were a couple of women, I know Ms. Mackie was a waitress out there. I can't remember her name now, but she still lives just down there on the left. And there were always some folks from downtown that helped him."

Fate decreed that the crest of the hill on Highway 42 North several yards outside the city limits was the scene of Georgia's most deadly passenger car crash just before midnight on April 18, 1953. Eight people were killed when two cars collided head-on, killing five of the passengers instantly. The other three died en route to or at the Spalding County Hospital.

A northbound car carrying six residents of Henry and Butts counties attempted to pass another northbound vehicle, and collided with a southbound vehicle carrying seven passengers from Montezuma and Decatur. Sheriff J. D. Pope described the wreck as the worst accident in the history of Butts County, and the Georgia State Patrol confirmed it as the worst passenger car wreck in the state's history.

A ninth passenger died on May 24, 1953 at an Augusta hospital.

Dr. Wright Hicks opened a new medical office on McDonough Road on May 12, 1953. Dr. & Mrs. Hicks moved to Jackson in 1948 and moved away in 1952, but returned to open a new office.

The newly constructed home of Mr. & Mrs. Marcus L. Hardy on Park Avenue was completely destroyed by fire on May 19, 1953. No one was injured, but everything in the home and the structure itself were a total loss.

On May 22, 1953, Henderson High School graduated 18 seniors. N. E. Walker was the school's principal.

On May 26, 1953, Jackson High School graduated 42 seniors evenly divided between boys and girls. John Pettigrew was named Valedictorian, and Janice Brooks as Salutatorian.

A house across the railroad tracks at Third Street occupied by James Berry and family was destroyed by fire on May 29, 1953. The Jackson Fire Department was late in reaching the scene because a Southern Railway train had all crossings blocked. Firefighters went to Bibb Station Road to cross the tracks, but by the time they arrived the fire had taken hold and could not be extinguished. No one was injured, but the family lost everything.

On June 27, 1953, Butts County's School Superintendent Frank C. Hearn died at his home after a sudden illness. His illness was noted at about six o'clock and he expired soon after the arrival of a physician. He had served as superintendent since 1944. He had thrown himself into the idea of consolidating all White schools together and all Negro schools together, and was keen to build a new high school for colored students.

A.B. Duncan, principal of Jackson High School since 1948, was named by the Board of Education as the new school superintendent. A. L. James was named as the new principal of Jackson High School.

Jimmy Lee Clark was charged with the July 6, 1953 shooting of his wife across from the southern deport on Benton Street. Reports were that he fired a shotgun at her from a distance of four, hitting her in the stomach. She was sent to the Griffin hospital for treatment.

On July 3, 1953, Richard Watkins was named chairman of the Butts County Library Board.

"I met Sam Henderson at Sunday School," said Shelby Henderson of her future husband. "We were very nice people. We knew how to show respect. We would be glad to see each other in Sunday School because that was our courting time. This was before we were 16. At 16, the girls could receive company, and that's all. You would not go out until you were 17. He could come over and we could sit and talk - not on the porch - but inside. That was just about all of the parents' rule. During that time, parents would raise each other's children. And we better be on our Ps and Qs when we go out, due some other parents see you - especially doing something wrong - because they were going to tell your momma and daddy."

In order to make the city more appealing to visitors and sanitary for residents, the mayor and council proclaimed August 1953 as "Clean Up and Paint Up" Month. It was part of an effort to show well in the Home Town Contest the city had entered.

A Committee on Municipal Development reported in August 1953 as part of a series of reports on various aspects of life in the city. The reports were to prepare the city to enter the statewide Hometown Contest. The committee members were Ralph Carr, Sr., Vincent Jones, Horace O'Neal, T.E. Robison, Jr., and Chairman Richard W. Watkins, Jr. Their objective was to urge and to aid the City Council to accomplish certain goals which would make Jackson the best town of its population class in Georgia.

It's stated goals were: for the city to acquire and to develop an adequate raw water supply; extend water mains to Mallet Street and to the housing developing in the Fairground section; extend sewerage into the so called Buchanan and Bethel Flats sections and to repair sewer pipe to the Parkland section of West Jackson; build several small parks in the city to provide children a place to play; build two new swimming pools; bring natural gas into the city for residents; build an elementary school for White children and a high school for Colored children; synchronize the clocks on the courthouse tower; pave the sidewalk on the Covington Street extension; provide sidewalks along unpaved streets; and remove old water mains and replace with new ones.

As schools opened in Butts County at the end of August 1953, saw a large increase in student population, which, according to Superintendent A. B. Duncan, was due to the crop of "war babies." In the White elementary school, 139 students started class, an increase of 33 from 1952 and requiring five teachers instead of three. Total enrollment in the White schools was 997. It was believed that when all students reported to school following harvests, the county's student population would top 2,000. There were 40 White teachers employed and 31 employed in the Negro schools.

On September 14, 1953, the City Council set the ad valorem tax levy at 13 mills, the same rate as in 1952. Of the total levy, 11.5 mills are for the support of the city, and 1.5 mills are for interest and the sinking fund. Taxes were due between December 1 and 20.

On October 1, 1953, Mayor Redman and the City Council announced that natural gas was available for homes and industry in Jackson. The final step, they said, was for voters to approve the natural gas program in the November election.

To insure an adequate water supply, the City of Jackson completed the building of a new plant that nearly doubled the existing water supply. The facility was built on eight or 10 acres of land obtained from Franklin Cawthon and Lewis Cawthon, and an earthen dam 400 feet long and eight feet high was built to impound water on Old Bethel Creek.

The one-acre lake and a six-inch line from it to the plant were built at a cash price of $16,000. The capacity of the filter plant, built at a cost of $90,000, was 500,000 gallons every 24 hours.

The city also built heavier electric lines on East and West Third Street for $21,600 cash. Both projects were done in cash without paying any interest.

In October 1953, street markers went up around the city thanks to the combined efforts of the garden clubs and the City of Jackson. No recent civic improvement drew more commendation and praise from a grateful public. Some formerly unrecognized names were showing up as a result of the signs, such as Park Avenue, Peachtree Road and College Avenue. The cost of the project was $500.

In Jackson's annual city primary on October 30, 1953 voters selected Avon Gaston to serve on the city council from the first ward and V.H. Ham as councilman from the fourth ward. Both men served on the council previously. Gaston won 174 to 128 over Charles M. Lewis. In the fourth ward, Ham won 155 to 146 over Bill Sasser.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1953
Jackson – 7, GREENSBORO – 14
Jackson – 6, HOGANSVILLE – 14
Jackson – 0, WEST POINT – 27
Jackson – 6, JONESBORO – 40
Jackson – 0, FORSYTH – 33
JACKSON – 40, North Clayton – 6
Jackson – 7, FOREST PARK – 41
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 53
Jackson – 6, McDONOUGH – 12 *(it was McDonough's first win over Jackson)*
Jackson – 7, GA School for the Deaf – 7

"I played tackles, both tackles," said Bobby Stephens in 2010 of his time playing as a Jackson Red Devil. "Sometimes I played linebacker. In junior high, [Coach Strickland] had me playing fullback. So when I got to high school and he put me on the line, I said, 'Why?' 'I was developing your speed. I knew you'd get bigger.' Back then, if a boy weighed 170, 180 pounds - he was big. Now, a lot of them push 300.

"We did weight training. We had a few weights, but not many. Three hundred seventy-five [pounds] was all I ever got to bench press. That's all the weights they had. Back on the farm, we had a 90-pound anvil that we used to sharpen plows on. I started with it and finally got to where I could push it over my head and do squats with it and come up."

HENDERSON TIGER FOOTBALL 1953

The Henderson High School Tigers played the first high school Negro football game in Jackson's history on October 3, 1953 on their newly constructed field at Mallet's Park, which is where the Jackson Grey's played baseball. There was a small drainage ditch that ran along the 30 yard line. Coaches Miller and Bush led the team against McDonough. Ernest "Battle-axe" Battle was fullback, linebacker and punter for the team. "He was our best player," said Curtis Gaye, who kept stats for the team.
Henderson -, Newnan
Henderson - 6, McDONOUGH – 19

"We didn't have football until 1953," said Curtis Gaye during an interview in 2009. "Football was played down at the site of the projects in Darktown. That was Mallet park and football field. Really what it was, the city's Black baseball team played there, the Jackson Greys. When we got a football team, we played there. They marked it off, but there was still hard places in the infield. The coaches went out and made goal posts from pine posts and hardware stores donated iron bars to go across them. But nobody was going to kick a field goal or an extra point anyway. That was the football field until we moved over into the new school in '56 or '57 when we developed the field up on the hill from Henderson."

"We had the first football team when [Principal N. E.] Walker came," said Sherry Carr Henderson in 2010. "Somebody gave Mr. Walker the uniforms for the football players. And they didn't know how to put them on! It's interesting how we would make things happen, you know? We didn't have band, but we just got together. And I remember I was a cheerleader. We just made a grand occasion when they played their first game. And it was down near Darktown [on] Mallet Field. Mr. Walker knew how to improvise. He would go and find things so that the children would get the true experiences that they needed.

"Like she said," added Davenport, "we didn't have a band or anything, but we would have more cheering going on. We'd even make up our cheers. We hadn't been anywhere to hear cheerleaders, and nobody had brought us any books or anything. We made up our own cheers. See today you can look on television and get a lot of stuff [off of it], but we didn't have that then."

"Or the internet," added Henderson.

"Right," agreed Davenport. "We just made up our own cheers. And we'd let the person with the big volume voice be the leader, and we would get behind them."

"During the last three years of my schooling, football was instituted at Henderson High School," said Ernest "Battle-axe" Battle. "We played on the field in Darktown where the projects are now. The Jackson Grays had it, it was their field. But they allowed us to play football down there. When I got ready to graduate, we had just learned how to play football. I played fullback and linebacker. We ran from the wing and the 'T,' and we had two or three passing plays. And what Coach Joe Davis used to do was make each of us put in a dime before the game. And Curtis [Gaye] was the statistician, and the one that made the most tackles got the pot. I got it most of the time. After three years, we were ready, we were there."

An injunction was filed in late November to halt the election to determine the question of natural gas for the city. The injunction was withdrawn in early December, and a new election scheduled for February 16, 1954.

In a special election December 8, 1953 to name a councilman from the third ward to fill the unexpired term of Howard Bailey, Gordon Bankston was the winner with 177 votes. J.S. Ball received 87 votes in the balloting.

In 1953, stability finally came to Jackson's pants manufacturing plant on Harkness Street, which had been owned by five different firms over the course of eight years. Thirty-eight-year-old Harold Maisel purchased the facility and renamed it The Kym Company. Maisel brought with him from Maine years of experience in the manufacture of pants, and soon expanded his workforce from 50 to 250 employees. The company got its name from the first customers who did not live in Butts County.

"The Kym Company employed quite a few ladies down there," said Robert Pinckney in a 2008 interview. "And it was a going concern for quite a while, it and Pepperton Cotton Mill were about the only two industries."

"The Kym started off here where Dr. Howell's office was [on Harkness Road]," added David Ridgeway. "That's where they started out, and then they moved down there [to Alabama Boulevard]."

"Right next to Dr. Fortson's office is where Dr. Jim Howell's office was, and just beyond that is where the Kym Company was," explained Merrell Price. "It manufactured men's pants."

1954

At the city's organization meeting held January 1, 1954, the following employees were named.

Mrs. W. H. Mallet, clerk; Mary Downs, assistant; Clem Thaxton, chief of police; M. E. Wade and E. H. Polk, policemen; J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the water and light department and fire chief; E. B. Perdue, filter operator and waterworks plant; R. P. Newton, chairman; W. O. Ball and J. D. Jones, members of the bond commission.

J. Avon Gaston and V. H. Ham were inducted to the city council, and Mayor W. M. Redman and councilmen Harold Barnes and Gordon Bankston were hold over members. Bankston from the third ward was named mayor pro tem.

Mallet reported that the city retired $3,000 worth of 5.5% street paving bonds on the first of the year. This reduced he city's bonded debt to $6,000.

On January 3, 1954, 16-year-old Clarence Byars, Jr. was arrested and charged with making indecent phone calls to Jackson women. The break in the case came after weeks of suspense in which many Jackson women had been called and subjected to the caller's obscene and indecent language. According to Sheriff J. D. (Bud) Pope, the case broke when young Byars called a Jackson matron who recognized his voice and engaged him in a prolonged conversation while friends sought police assistance.

In early January 1954, Jackson was practically assured a $110,000 National Guard Armory to serve Company A 121st Infantry. Federal funds were available, and all that was required was a pledge of local support. The city and county were required to pay only $35,000 of the cost.

"When they built that National Guard armory [on Franklin Street] it cost almost $100,000," said David Ridgeway in 2008. "We, the county, were supposed to get up $15,000 of it. I was working full time for the Guard at the time. Me and Dick Pope were working for the Guard, and we got a letter that said they were going to put up so many new armories in Georgia and the first one that could get up the money would be where the armory would go. So we had to come up with $15,000. So me and Dick got together, and I said, 'Dick, where can we get $15,000?' He said, 'I don't know. Let's me and you go to the city.' So we went to the city, and asked them for $5,000. And they said if we could get the other $10,000, they'd give us $5,000. We called Mr. Hamp Daughtry, and Mr. Daughtry said, 'If you can get the county and the city to come up with $10,000, I'll furnish $5,000.'

"And so we went to the county [commissioners] - Ralph Evans and Dean Patrick and I've forgotten the other one," Ridgeway continued. "And they said they just couldn't do it. Ralph Evans was the main one we had to go through for some reason. So we were about to give up. On the last day, we went back up there and told Ralph, 'We've got to have $5,000. We're going to lose the whole deal if y'all don't come through with $5,000.' And we had to have the notice back into the Department of Defense at five o'clock that evening. And me and Dick sat up there and we talked to him and talked to him, and finally Ralph says, 'OK, we'll go $5,000.' I looked at my watch, and told Dick we had 15 minutes. Smith's Drug Store had the Western Union, so me and him took off to the drug store. And the next morning they let us know we were getting the armory.

"But then we didn't have the land to put it on," Ridgeway explained. "So we had to go through that. And Leroy O'Neal died just hating my guts over that. I had the Board of Education meet over there in the middle of the road and I showed them what we needed. We needed three acres where that armory is now. And they agreed to it. Well, Leroy was principal over there [at Jackson High School] and when he found out about it he hit the ceiling. From then on, he let me know that I should not have talked those old folks into giving up that land. But we got it, and that's the main thing. The youth used it as a youth center and come and play ball. James Wallace was in charge of the recreation, and he used to come over there and there'd be children all over that place."

"We used the armory also in the Jaycees," added Merrell Price, "to hold wrestling matches as money makers."

"We got one of those old cargo 'chutes and me and Bubba Price and somebody else put that thing up," said Ridgeway. "What we'd do it get a rock and tie a string around it, pull it up for the acoustics and it worked great."

Gordon Harold Barnes, 37, died on January 24, 1954 after a long illness that resulted from a rare disease from which he had sought relief in leading hospitals across the nation. Barnes had served on the Jackson City Council for several years, established a successful lumber company and was active in the First Baptist Church. A special election was set for February 12,

1954 to fill his unexpired term from the second ward. Albert W. Newton won that election 171 votes to 111 for Butler J. Smith.

JACKSON RED DEVIL BASKETBALL 1954
Jackson – 40, HAMPTON – 52
Jackson – 34, McDONOUGH – 46
JACKSON – 47, Forest Park – 40
JACKSON – 66, North Clayton – 27
JACKSON – 66, Monticello – 32
Jackson – 54, ROBERTA – 68
Jackson – 33, MILNER – 75
Jackson – 40, NEWTON COUNTY – 49
JACKSON – 47, McDonough – 46
JACKSON – 83, Forest Park – 52
Jackson – 63, JONESBORO – 67
Jackson – 47, COVINGTON – 53
JACKSON – 75, Hampton – 69
JACKSON – 74, Monticello – 68
Jackson – 39, ZEUBULON – 43
JACKSON – 48, Eatonton – 44
Jackson – 41, MILNER – 82
JACKSON – 73, Jonesboro – 69
Jackson – 51, ZEBULON – 59
Jackson – 53, NORTH CLAYTON – 57
Jackson – 49, EATONTON – 66
Jackson – 36, ZEBULON – 41

J. Stilwell Ball, Sr., 60, died on February 13, 1954 at his home after an illness of several weeks. He served as Butts County Tax Collector and as a city councilman from the third ward. He was also known as a progressive farmer.

On February 13, 1954, Hugh Howard Rooks, 22, sustained fatal injuries when his car went out of control and overturned on McDonough Road. He died en route to the hospital in Griffin. He was remembered as a star athlete for the Jackson High School football team.

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1954
JACKSON – 41, Hampton – 30
JACKSON – 32, McDonough – 25
JACKSON – 54, Forest Park – 22
Jackson – 27, NORTH CLAYTON – 36
JACKSON – 59, Monticello – 21
JACKSON – 52, Roberta – 29
JACKSON – 49, Milner – 38

JACKSON – 43, Newton County – 27
JACKSON – 37, McDonough – 30
JACKSON – 65, Forest Park – 30
JACKSON – 43, Jonesboro – 15
JACKSON – 36, Covington – 24
JACKSON – 39, Hampton – 37
JACKSON – 46, Monticello – 15
JACKSON – 32, Zebulon – 30
JACKSON – 57, Eatonton – 39
Jackson – 46, MILNER – 53
JACKSON – 51, Jonesboro – 21
JACKSON – 55, Zebulon – 27
JACKSON – 36, North Clayton – 31
JACKSON – 48, Eatonton – 37
Twenty wins in 22 games was the best record ever by a Jackson High School girls' team.
JACKSON – 36, Hampton – 34
Jackson – 27, NORTH CLAYTON – 35
JACKSON – 35, Zebulon – 27

Voters approved a natural gas system for the city on March 26, 1954 by 400 votes to 19. The question submitted was whether or not the voters would approve the issuance of $400,000 in revenue certificates to install such a system. The vote was the largest recorded in a Jackson election. Total voter registration at the time was 643.

In the end, only $350,000 worth of revenue anticipation certificates were sold, which were to be paid off by taxpayers from revenue from the new gas system.

In a surprise move on March 31, 1954, Jackson attorney Ben Garland resigned as solicitor general and announced his intention to seek the office of governor. The main planks in the Garland platform were a "bone dry" law and a bonus for veterans. He successfully closed down unlawful roadhouses and gambling places, and numerous church officials throughout the state and the United Temperance League supported him. There was a sign on Highway 42 that read "70 miles to the Next Beer," which was how wide Garland's circuit was when he served as solicitor general. He was the first person from Butts County to ever declare for statewide office.

In September 1954, he received 338 votes in Butts County during the statewide primary, which put him in fourth place in the county's voting for governor.

"In tenth or eleventh grade, we had a music teacher named Miss Walton and our principal was strong about music," recalled Ernest Battle about his time at Henderson High School in the mid-1950s. "We had one of the best glee clubs. And that used to be the only time that Blacks could sit downstairs at the courtroom. Each year we used to have a concert up there. And the White people that would always attend would be the Settles. There'd be about 15 or 20 of them. And they'd just applaud. Man, we used to put on a heck of a concert.

"We'd start at three and maybe sing until five," Battle continued. "The teachers would sing as a group, and then a girls' ensemble and a boys' ensemble, and then the whole group. We had, I'd say, 50 members from all grades. We'd sing Bach, Beethoven, classic songs. And being in the glee club was a privilege, man. Everybody wanted to be in the glee club. You couldn't act up and expect to sing in the glee club. You couldn't just get up there and start singing, Everybody had parts, and you had to learn your parts."

"I think we had the first music program during my time there at Henderson," said Sherry Carr Henderson, who graduated in 1954. "We would get a music teacher here and there, but they never would stay. Then we had a graduate of Spelman named Ms. Samuel Walton Juniors. Mr. [N. E.] Walker brought her there. And she really put together a very good program. Now before she came, Ms. George would teach us little songs. But as far as putting together a real glee club and music program, where you were really taught parts of music and what have you, Ms. Juniors did it. And we had concerts. Those were done every year on a Sunday afternoon in the courthouse. The boys wore tuxedoes, and the girls wore evening dresses. Oh, man. The school would not hold them, so Mr. Walker had arranged for the annual concert in the courthouse. People would be upstairs and downstairs. It would be full. Now that was one of the high points."

Mamie Maddox Davenport was quick to add that Sherry Carr Henderson was "one of the leading soloists" in the Henderson Glee Club.

"When [Adams-Briscoe Seed Company] first opened up," Jimmy Adams recalled during a 2009 interview, "the community was very much involved. I mean, almost everyone had an agricultural background of some sort except the merchants in the city. We actually had laying hens inside the store downtown, and raised eggs. Feed was a big part of our business. We had been a Purina dealer since 1946. Even the city people back in the '50s would have chickens in their back yard for their eggs. So it was not uncommon to have livestock in town. It's not within code now, but the lot next to us used to have cows on it.

"Happy Ham - that used to be a sheriff here - owned the building where the cotton gin was over here on Holly Street, right behind Cook's Lunchroom," Adams explained. "And the back field behind it, after they ceased to operate the cotton gin, to keep it from growing up they fenced it in and raised the cows. And he would actually feed out steers next door right here in town."

"When the business was on the square," Adams continued, "our seed cleaners originally were down on Mallet Street across from the railroad depot. The company owned a piece of land, just right across, catty-cornered across from the railroad depot where the seed cleaners and warehouse used to be. Trying to get things closer, in '54 they built this building [the brick warehouse on West Second Street] so that it was closer to the store on the square. And then, I want to say about '56 they built the [building] in front that they eventually moved from the square into. Just consolidating everything.

"We sold everything from feed, seed, fertilizer to gasoline back in those days," Adams said. "You know the old saying, 'anything for a dollar?' 'Anything for a dime?' Well, we were running a lot of trucks and needed fuel here anyway, so why not just buy gasoline and provide it out to the public for sale as well. Not that a lot of people filled up their cars here, but we did have

customers when it was convenient. But you didn't have all the service stations, and almost all the service stations were full service back then."

On May 10, 1954 the city council signed a contract with Dual Parking Meter Company of Ohio to install parking meters in Jackson's business center. The meters were installed around the courthouse square and one block in each direction off the square. The fee was one cent for 12 minutes, and five cents for one hour of parking. Special permits were to be worked out to allow for longer parking.

The Council explained that the meters were required to relive the parking problems in the downtown area. The order from the city called for 250 meters on a six-month trial basis. The meters remained the possession of Dual Parking, but the city had the right to purchase them if the plan worked.

On June 1, 1954, the council voted to return the meters before they were ever installed. The council had voted 3-1 in favor of the meters, but local business owners worried the meters would hurt business and circulated a petition to halt the program.

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court handed down a unanimous decision in the Brown vs. Board of Education case that determined that separate educational facilities for different races is "inherently unequal."

Fifty seniors were awarded diplomas from Jackson High School during graduation exercises on May 24, 1950. Jimmy Knowles gave the valedictorian address, and Tommie Jo May the salutatorian. With few exceptions, the class left a few days later for the annual class pilgrimage to Washington, D.C.

"I think there were either 13 or 16 people in my class, and that was in '54," said Sherry Carr Henderson, a graduate of Henderson High School. "I graduated in 1954."

"Another thing about growing up: [Sheriff J. D. 'Bud' Pope and his family] were in the old jail at that time over on Oak Street," said Walter Carmichael in 2009. "Mrs. Pope was the cook there. When Gene [Pope] and I were kids, we used to go over there and play in that jail. If they didn't have any inmates, we'd lock ourselves in the cells and just play around. It was just a different world back then."

"Back when I was younger and still in high school we could go up and down McDonough Road on roller skates, bicycles, motor scooters all the time very rarely meeting any traffic at all," said R. Scott Coleman of Jackson in the early 1950s. "That's how we went to school until we started sneaking to drive at age 15. My dad [John L. Coleman] made sure we had a car, like a '46 Ford or something. But before then we were riding bikes and motor scooters. All of us in town - Leslie Colwell, Barry Jones, Denny O'Neal, Pat Franklin, Darryl Pippin - all of us had motor scooters. And we would ride around, and we thought we were The Wild Ones. And we could pretty well do that without any danger of anybody getting killed any number of ways that you could get killed now."

"We had bikes. I grew up in the Baptist Church, and we would go to the parsonage for GA meetings. And then we'd walk from there to the drug store for our banana splits. Susan Powell and I played together a lot because they also lived on Third Street. We used to skate down the sidewalk. They were the skates with the keys you could put on your tennis shoes and tighten them up. And we would ride bikes. The boys more than the girls went to the Indian Springs. It was a big thing before my time. When we were old enough to go it had pretty much died down. The pool was still there, but it was as popular then. Julie Watkins Collins and I used to get together and play cards. We had a wonderful time. The pace was just different."

"I came along right before they organized sports for the youth," said Wayne Phillips during the same interview. "But Tom Armstrong lived next to me and next to him was a vacant lot and we used to go over there and play baseball or football. Sometimes we'd go to the baseball field to play. It was in our backyard, too."

A comprehensive Summer recreational program for Butts Countians of all ages began on June 7, 1954 with the cooperation of the Van Deventer Memorial Foundation, city and county authorities. Joe Bell, Troop 80 scoutmaster and Jackson High School athletic coach-teacher, as director of activities. The program included water safety for boys and girls, basketball, adult softball, volleyball, ping pong, horseshoes, badminton, shuffleboard and tennis. The Van Deventer Memorial Foundation donated $300 to the cause.

In June 1954, the city awarded a contract for building a connecting line and a distribution system for natural gas to Howard T. Barry of Houston, Texas. The amount of the bid, according to Mayor Redman, was $248,000. The city sold $350,000 worth of revenue anticipation certificates to pay for the work.

A deposit of $5 was asked for from every citizen who intended to use natural gas. It was the only charge to run 75 feet from their property lines to their meters.

In December 1954, the city formally accepted possession of the natural gas system from the contractor. At that time, there were 329 customers receiving bills for gas use.

Color television made its first appearance in Jackson on July 1, 1954 when Brown Jewelry & Appliance Company showcased a new Zenith unit. The program viewed was the *Dave Garroway Show*.

"The first time I watched a color TV, Susan [Powell] had a slumber party on a Friday night and there were six or eight of us at her home," said Barbara Phillips in 2009. "Her dad, M. L. Powell, and Mr. Lou Molchert owned Jackson Hardware and they sold appliances, too. While we girls we asleep that Saturday morning, he came from the store with a color television and surprised us. This probably would have been 1956 or 1957 and he brought it for us to watch Rough & Ready cartoons. And we thought it was so neat that he would go through all that trouble for us and then took it back to the store."

At the end of June 1954, final approval was given by the State School Building Authority for a new 31-classroom elementary and high school building for Negroes and a new elementary school for Whites. According to School Superintendent A.B. Duncan, the projects were estimated to cost $698,000.

The elementary school for White students was to cost $287,000 and provide 18 classrooms near the existing high school. The sum of $411,000 was to be spent providing modern facilities for Negroes on a 25-acre tract on Bethel Flats. It included 31 classrooms, agricultural shop, home economics department, library, commercial department, and a combined lunchroom and auditorium. It was considered an effective answer to the segregation question.

In October 1954 it was announced that bids for the buildings came in under budget, and with $101,000 remaining, that four new classrooms were added to the elementary school for White students, and six rooms added to the schools for Colored students. Ground was broken on both projects in early November 1954.

"Before we moved there [to the new Henderson school] we had a county fair every year and I had the opportunity to be in a beauty contest in 1954," said Shelby Henderson in 2009. "And I won first place in that. And after we went to the new school, that's when I gave a concert. I was the first Black from Butts County to be on TV on WLWA in Atlanta. That was around '55."

"When we first moved to Jackson, we lived on North Oak Street down from the Presbyterian Church," Wayne Phillips said in 2009. "Then we bought a house on Indian Springs Street when I was six years old [in 1949]. It was a great street to grow up on. We had a bunch of kids my age that grew up together and played in everyone's yards. We never locked our house. We walked to school because the school was directly behind us. I went to the old school down where the library is now, then they built the new school in the '50s. Some of my friends and I sold Kool-Aid to the workers that were building the new school. It was just a great time to grow up. We played at all the houses and our parents never had to worry about us because all the parents looked after everyone."

"We wouldn't even close the doors," added Barbara Phillips during the same interview thinking about the early 1950s in Jackson. "We would have the screen doors at night that weren't latched."

"No one had air conditioning," said Wayne. "We played fox and the hounds all through the streets and in the woods where Nelson Street is now. We'd camp out in the summer. Sometimes there would be 10 or 12 boys. It was a time of innocence.

"I was lucky to have a car," he continued. "After my father went to work for General Motors, he opened an upholstery shop in our backyard. He was a work-a-holic and worked all of the time. He would buy a car that needed work. I would do some of the body work on it and had an uncle that would paint it. My father would redo the interior, and I'd do the mechanical work on it. Then I could drive it for a while, and them we'd sell it. So by the time I was 18, I'd probably had eight or 10 cars and that was not the norm. So we'd ride around and everybody would pitch in quarters to buy gas because gas was about 20 cents a gallon."

"We were fortunate in a small town to have so many people that were dedicated to the youth and kids," said Charlie Brown in 2010. Brown grew up on South Benton Street in the 1950s and 1960s. "It was like everybody looked after everybody's kids. It was one big family. That's what made it so much fun growing up."

"There wasn't much to do back then," Brown added. "They had the youth center [beginning in 1955] that you could go to on Friday and Saturday nights and watch TV and shoot pool if you wanted to. But other than playing sports, there wasn't much to do. Of course, we rode skateboards and bicycles. Mainly we just got together and played ball. I grew up in a neighborhood that had Jimmy 'Red' Autry, J. B White, Walter Carmichael, Wayne Phillips and all of them. We were all like within a block-and-a-half of each other. But nobody messed with Jimmy 'Red' Autry because he could run faster than anyone."

"I came along just before they had organized sports for the youth," said Wayne Phillips. "But Tom Armstrong lived next door to me and next to him was a vacant lot where we played baseball or football. Sometimes we'd go to the school baseball field to play. It was in our backyard, too."

"It was great," said Walter Carmichael of his childhood growing up on Woodland Way in the 1950s and 1960s. "I can't imagine growing up in a better place. Mainly it was over there on Woodland Way. I went to the old school where the library is now [on College Street]. I think we went halfway through the second grade, and then we moved to the new elementary school which was right across the street. I went to high school there, played football and baseball and little league – all that stuff was right there next to the house.

"Then when I joined the service in 1966 to beat the draft, I ended up in the Jackson National Guard and that was just another 100 yards up the way," said Carmichael. "So a lot of my life was taken up in that one block area. We had a great neighborhood. Kids all over the place. We were outside playing something every day. We rode bicycles everywhere. We never thought of not taking bicycles wherever we were going day or night."

In July 1954 the city was engaged in extended sewer lines in Parkland and the old McDonough Road and Highway 42 areas. The cost of the project was between $18,000 and $19,000. The city also approved a new sewer line through Bethel Flats to serve the new Negro consolidated school. The cost of the line was estimated at $25,000.

At the beginning of August 1954, the final sections of the highway connecting Barnesville with Covington were completed in Jackson.

Highway 36 was paved "about 1954 'cause I sold them soil to build up the road," said David Ridgeway in a 2008 interview.

"It was a dirt road when I came here," added Robert Pinckney, "and I remember Kathleen [Pinckney] getting stuck out there with the two kids in the car."

"That was rough riding out there, up what they call Buck Carter hill," said Ridgeway. "If you didn't know what you was doing, you could get stuck on that hill anytime."

"I travelled that road on my insurance route," said Merrell Price. "I had bought a 1952 Ford, and I got stuck out there right in front of Evelyn Taylor's house at Cooper Road. And I made my decision right then and there to buy a new car and I did the next day. I bought a 1940 Ford, and that's what I used on the muddy roads out there."

In early August 1954, the city council elected Andy Holston as engineer of the gas department. He served under J. H. Rooks, city engineer for all utilities.

For the first time in Butts County's history, women's names went into the box for jury duty in August 1954. Under a state law approved that year, women could opt out of duty if they so chose. The women considered had to be property owners and their names had to appear on the tax digest.

A small twister struck Pepperton and East Jackson on August 16, 1954. It blew down trees, tore roofs off houses, broke a telephone cable and smashed television antennas. A torrential downpour that did not reach the western city limits accompanied the brief storm.

In September 1954, the city council set its millage rate at 13 mills, the same rate as in 1953. Five mills were used to support the city government; 6.5 mills were used for street upkeep and sanitation; one mill for the city cemetery; and interest and the sinking fund took one-half a mill. Taxes were due from October 1 to December 20.

On September 22, 1954, the recently-formed Butts County Jaycees sponsored Industrial Day in Jackson. The all-day event featured speeches, a beauty pageant, a parade, three bands and a dance. It was planned as a time to celebrate existing industries in the county, and hope for future industries as well. Miss Barbara Mitchell of Barnesville won the beauty competition.

Initial officers of the Jaycees were: Dr. Robert H. Pinckney, president, and C. B. Brown, Jr., vice president.

"Dr. Pinckney was the first president of the Jaycees," said Merrell Price during an interview in 2008. "I was the vice president. Wade Bell was the treasurer and C. B. Brown was the secretary."

"Doyle Jones, Jr. was head of the Prog-Arg at that time," recalled Robert Pinckney during the same interview. "He talked to me one day. He said, 'Bob, we've got to do something about this economy. We can't live this way. We've got to get some industry.' This was 1952 or '53. So we got a list together of people and sent out letters and had an organizational meeting of the Butts County Jaycees at the DAR clubhouse. That got us sort of started.

"We formed an industrial committee," Pinckney continued. "At that time, the Chamber of Commerce was a one-man operation, M. L. McCord. So we got some of the older men like Pliny Weaver and J. T. Beckham and Bob Armstrong. We got a real Chamber of Commerce going, and from then on the older people helped us get this industry in. That started it. And then Joe Brown, Sr. I think he was the brainchild of Industrial Day. So we had an Industrial Day in September 1954 here to emphasize Butts County and get us statewide publicity. We had people come in and make speeches and publicized it widely and it was a great success. We had a dance afterward - a street dance and a dance at the armory and also at the gym. And every year we had this repeated, another Industrial Day. It went on for years. It evolved finally into the Fall Festival, which is today."

"We had beauty pageants with girls from as afar away as Walton County," said David Ridgeway. "And we'd sometimes have five or six high school bands here. Back then we didn't have commercial floats. People made their own floats."

"We had a concession stand, too," added Price. "The Jaycettes,who were the wives of the Jaycees, they would make all the goodies and Coca-Cola would bring their wagon over here and leave it with us. We sold a lot of things. That's how we paid for everything."

"That got the ball rolling for industry in this county," said Pinckney. "But I think the Jaycees were the spark plug that got the whole thing going. That was the purpose of the Jaycees: to get some industry in here, and give everyone a better income."

"And Vincent Jones was a big help on industry," Ridgeway said. "He had connections with the state. He was a sate senator at one time. He also worked with the Secretary of State's office and the Department of Commerce."

"The Jaycees were instrumental in the Gateway Luggage Company coming to Jackson," said Price. "Pliny Weaver and Andy Holston went out to Oklahoma visit them. The Jaycees sponsored a survey and got all that material together about what kind of employment Jackson could offer. Andy Holston was in the Jaycees and he was out in Oklahoma meeting with them. He pulled it out of his suitcase and shows them and the other members of the committee didn't know he had it. They looked it at - the officials did - and said, 'We're going to Jackson.' The only industry in here was the cotton mill."

"And the Kym Company," added Pinckney. "Those two."

"And a lot of the older heads, especially the Kiwanians, they would call us little upstarts," recalled Ridgeway.

"I was in the Kiwanis Club at that time," Pinckney said, "and I had to get out of it so I could be president of the Jaycees."

"And if you were past 36, you couldn't be a voting member of the Jaycees," said Price.

"So I had to exit the next year," said Pinckney with a laugh. "And Doyle Jones, once we got organized, he said, 'Bob, I'm a little too old for this.' So he got out of it. One of our big projects in the Jaycees: in Glenn Potts basement, we had the first empty stocking fund workshop to repair toys. We got the empty stocking fund here. That was in 1954 probably."

"We would take bicycles and tricycles that needed repair," explained Price, "we'd carry them up to Glenn's basement at his home. If they needed repairing, we repaired them. If they needed painting, we'd paint them."

"And we got publicity on that, and got people to sign up who needed that sort of thing," Pinckney said. "Of course it's a big thing today, but the Jaycees were the ones who got that started."

"We need to give a lot of credit to Pliny Weaver, J. T. Beckham, Bob Armstrong and some of the older guys," added Pinckney. "If it hadn't of been for them, we couldn't have gotten off the ground. Bob Armstrong was with the REA [now the Central Georgia EMC], and Beckham had a five and 10 store on the corner, and Pliny was in insurance. And he knew everybody everywhere."

"And [Pliny Weaver] was mayor for several years," Ridgeway recalled.

Throughout 1954, Jackson and Butts County experienced the driest weather on record since 1925. Parts of Jackson Lake's shoreline had receded as much as 100 feet. In October, the Jackson City Council asked citizens to save as much water as possible as the city's supply was running short. The council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the use of water for washing cars, sprinkling streets, watering flowers and shrubbery. According to J. H. Rooks, head of the city's water and light department, Jackson was fairing better than other cities when it came to water supply, but wells were running dry. The water level at the city's new water supply lake on Old Bethel Branch was dropping at a rate of 1.5 inches per day.

In November, Rooks reported that the reservoir's level was out of the critical stage, and the city relaxed bans on watering, though it continued to urge conservation.

On October 19, 1954, the city held an election to determine whether or not $105,000 in General Obligation bonds should be issued to modernize and expand the city's sewer system. The issue passed 278 to 9.

Up to that point, the city was disposing of its sewerage in local creeks. The funds approved were to be used to build a modern sewer treatment plant and run new sewer lines to Bethel Flats, which was without sewerage service.

The sewer bonds carried interest of 2.5 to 2.75 percent.

In October 1954, Mayor W. M. Redman and councilmen A. Whit Newton and Gordon Bankston were unopposed in city elections, and thus were re-nominated to serve another term.

Work began in the middle of November 1954 on paving Brownlee Road from Jackson to the Monroe County line, a distance of seven miles.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1954
JACKSON – 14, Greensboro –0
Jackson – 0, HOGANSVILLE – 13
Jackson – 6, WEST POINT – 26
JACKSON – 14, Fort Valley – 7
Jackson – 0, JONESBORO – 40
Jackson – 6, PUTNAM COUNTY – 7
Jackson – 7, McDONOUGH – 13
JACKSON 21, FORSYTH – 20
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 13
Jackson – 13, FOREST PARK – 34

"In 1954, we went to Mary Persons down in Forsyth," said Bobby Stephens, who played for the Red Devils that year. "In the first half, they was running all over us and were leading 20 to nothing. At the halftime break, Coach [Hunter] Strickland: 'I don't care if you boys come back and beat these boys, when the game is over keep your uniforms on and get on the bus. We're going to Jackson still in our uniforms.' We wondered what he was up to. Some way or another, we came and beat them 21-20. Carey Dunn scored all three touchdowns on short runs.

"We got back to Jackson," Stephens continued, "and [Coach Strickland] said, 'Five on the field.' He hit the switch and turned the lights on. 'We're going to scrimmage.' Around midnight, parents were over there in cars wanting to know what was going on. We were all wondering what he was fixing to do with us. When I got home, daddy said, 'Just sleep in the morning, son. I'll go to the store and come back and get you about dinner time.' That was the downfall of Coach Strickland. Wasn't too long after that he was gone. But he stuck to his word. He made a statement and stuck with it."

At a meeting of Jackson business firms on November 16, 1954, it was decided that stores would remain open all day on Wednesday, November 24 and Wednesday, December 22, and close all other Wednesday afternoons during the month of December. Prior to that decision, businesses remained opened all day long on Wednesdays in December.

At the beginning of December 1954, announcement was made that W. D. Freeman of Jackson had purchased 100 acres known as the old Lane homesite adjacent to the National Guard Armory. Plans were to develop the property as demand warranted, with 16 homes in the initial plans.

The extension of Franklin Street past the armory afforded the development its main street. It was to be extended to the High Falls Road near the Homer Caldwell place, and also to the Indian Springs highway near Pepperton Cotton Mills. A small branch on the property

provided water for a lake built on the property's eastern boundary. The property was outside the city limits, but water and electricity were made available by the city.

1955

At the first meeting of 1955, the Jackson City Council on January 4 named all city employees for another year except T. R. Bennett who was elected as a policeman to replace Lynn Thaxton. The three city councilmen were named by Mayor Redman to various committees including: Building, Ordinance, Library, Cemetery, Police, Streets, Finance, Printing, Water & lights, Fire, Sanitary and Gas.

According to City Treasurer W. M. Mallet, on January 1, 1955, the city sliced its bonded debt in half to a mere $3,000. It was anticipated that the city would pay off the final amount in 1956, and wiped out an amount that once totaled $75,000.

According to a Dun & Bradstreet survey, Jackson had 112 businesses at the beginning of 1955, a six percent increase since 1952.

On January 27, 1955, Joe Bell, Jackson High School instructor, coach, Boy Scout Leader and active civic and religious leader, was named Man of the Year by the Butts County Jaycees. It was the first time the Jaycees awarded such an honor.

In the winter of 1954, the number of young people wanting to use the Van Deventer Youth Center was so great that a new, larger space was sought. The Veterans of Butts County, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, who owned a building on College Street, came to the rescue, according to J. Harry Ridgeway's history of the youth recreation programs in Butts County, "Lest We Forget." That building was donated to the Van Deventer Memorial Foundation as a recreational center for the youth.

The doors of the new Van Deventer Youth Center opened on February 1, 1955. Prior to this center's opening, all youth activities were confined indoors. Florigene Moore was inside activities director at the old youth center and continued at the new center until Doris Ridgeway took that position.

"Our youth center was on the corner [of Second and Oak streets] where the [Butts County Et Al Water & Sewer Authority] is now," said Bobby Stephens in 2010. "That's where the youth hung out, danced. They had a jukebox and a pool table. That was in the middle '50s."

In February 1955, women served on the Butts County traverse jury for the first time in history. Two women, LaRue Turner and Mrs. W. D. Pope, Jr. served with men on the 12-person jury.

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1955
JACKSON – 56, Eatonton – 53
Jackson – 47, FORSYTH – 70

JACKSON – 57, Forest Park – 54
Jackson - 31, McDONOUGH - 51
Jackson – 64, MONTICELLO – 78
Jackson – 36, NORTH CLAYTON – 56
JACKSON – 66, Zebulon 45
JACKSON – 44, Milner – 42
Jackson – 47, JONESBORO – 56
Jackson – 57, COVINGTON – 68
Jackson – 51, JONESBORO – 52
JACKSON – 57, Zebulon – 35
Jackson – 46, MILNER – 68
Jackson – 45, MONTICELLO – 68
Jackson – 32, EATONTON – 59
Jackson
Jackson
Jackson – 30, NORTH CLAYTON – 45
JACKSON – 55, North Clayton – 34
JACKSON – 77, Forest Park – 54
Jackson – 48, HENRY COUNTY – 79
Jackson – 36, HOGANSVILLE – 63

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1955
JACKSON – 54, Eatonton – 25
JACKSON – 48, Forsyth – 46
JACKSON – 80, Forest Park – 12
JACKSON – 52, McDonough – 24
JACKSON – 66, Monticello – 32
JACKSON – 53, North Clayton – 33
JACKSON – 36, Zebulon – 29
JACKSON - 51, Milner – 39
JACKSON – 56, Jonesboro – 33
JACKSON – 48, Covington – 36
JACKSON
Jackson
JACKSON – 57, Jonesboro – 29
Jackson – 33, ZEBULON – 35
JACKSON – 53, Milner – 44
JACKSON – 43, Monticello – 25
JACKSON – 70, Eatonton – 20
JACKSON – 59, North Clayton – 27
JACKSON – 54, Jonesboro – 32
JACKSON – 52, Fayetteville – 25
JACKSON – 59, McDonough – 28

JACKSON – 43, Heard County 39
The Lady Devils, coached by Joe Bell, won the Fourth District Championship with this victory. Ann Pettigrew had 26 points. It was the team's and Bell's second district championship in three years.
Jackson – 42, GLENVILLE – 53

As of passage of an ordinance in March 1955, anyone beginning construction of any type of building or making material improvements or remodeling to any existing buildings in the city limits was subject to a $50 fine if they did so without a city-issued permit.

J. D. Jones, Sr., longtime editor and publisher of the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, died on March 17, 1955 in his sleep at his home on Indian Springs Street. Jones purchased the *Butts County Progress* in 1908, and combined it with the *Jackson Argus* a few years later. To show respect for Jones' contributions to Jackson, all businesses closed during his funeral on a Friday afternoon.

"Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Jones, Sr. were real good friends of mine," recalled M. L. Powell in 2008. "And they were really interested in agriculture, too. They had a farm between Jackson and Stark, about 200 acres, I think. He was a slender fellow. Very fine man. He owned the *Progress-Argus*. Tallie was his wife's name. She edited the paper. They were very community-concerned. They tried to do everything they could for Butts County, and especially my work. They boosted my worked terribly."

Local merchants met on March 29, 1955 to form the Jackson Merchants' Association. Roy Goff was named chairman, with a group of eight directors. The group's goals were to promote the commercial, industrial and civic interests of Butts County.

"When I turned 15, daddy turned all the buying and the pricing [at Stephens Grocery] over to me," said Bobby Stephens in 2010. His father, Otis Stephens, "went back home everyday to farm with the tractor. We had gotten rid of the mules. That's when I learned my business in grocery and retail. In 1954, there was a store down in the Pepperton village where the mill was. He was going out of business and daddy bought all his furnishings. We put a self service store in where the Jarrell-Fuqua building is now in the middle of the square [on Second Street]. It was one of the first independent self-serve stores.

"At the time," said Stephens, "we had an A&P [grocery store], which is where Big D's [Drugs] is now [on the northwest corner of the intersection of Third and Oak street], and a Colonial [grocery store], which is where McIntosh State Bank's branch is [on the northwest corner of the intersection of Oak and Byars streets]. That was the biggest grocery in town at that time. Mr. Allen was down [on the north side of West Second Street]. Then he sold it to his nephew, Bob Jackson, in 1970, the same year daddy sold Stephens Grocery to me. He didn't give it me. I had to pay him for it, which was the right thing to do. It wound up costing me $39,000 for the grocery business. Wound up being worth $300,000 when I sold it.

"We used to draw a crowd," recalled Bobby Stephens of the customers at his store. "You know, if you treat people right - I don't care what color they are - it's the best advertisement in the world. Treat everyone alike and treat them with respect, and they'll come back."

A spectacular fire on April 15, 1955 destroyed the four-unit apartment building on Byron Street. Four Negro families occupied the apartments, owned by Rufus Head, though no one was home at the time. The first started on the second floor, and the only item of value saved from the flames was a chair.

In May 1955, volunteers were sought to assist with plane spotting duties at the local Ground Observation Post. Overseen by Clyde Walker and John Hunt, the volunteers were tasked with watching the skies over Jackson in the event of an attack. The time it takes to complete this duty was very negligible, it was reported, compared with the damage and destruction that could b wrought by enemy aircraft dropping atomic weapons.

Graduation for Jackson High School was held on May 30, 1955, 48 members of the Class of '55 received diplomas. Carolyn Barber was named Valedictorian, while Ruth Bohannon was named Salutatorian.

In June 1955, the largest housing development in the history of Butts County was announced. The 24-unit subdivision east of Jackson on Highway 16 was announced by A. Dan Fears, attorney for A. C. Freeman, prominent lumberman and industrialist, who owned the property. Lots had 100 feet of frontage and were 200 feet deep. The houses, planned for the $7,000 to $8,000 price range, consisted of two and three bedrooms.

On June 6, 1955, N. F. Lang was named principal of Jackson High School. He succeeded A. L. James, who was principal of the school for two years.

To assure its gas customers the maximum in safety and service, the City of Jackson installed a three-way radio contact system in June of 1955. Mobile units were installed in the city gas truck and police car and can receive and transmit.

In July 1955 came word that the Van Deventer Memorial Foundation, which made a youth center available to White youth earlier in the year, planned to open a second, larger center for White youth at the Veterans Building in Jackson and a center for Negro youth at the Negro high school.

After operating the Dixie Theater for 17 years, L. J. Brown sold the business on the east side of the square in 1955 to Colonel Wendell B. McCoy, who changed its name to Town Theater.

When schools opened their doors in Butts County in August 1955, 2,018 were enrolled. The Jackson Grammar School had 520, the largest population in its history. Jackson High School

reported 518 students for a total White enrollment of 1,038. There were 980 Negro students enrolled in the county's colored schools, which had just merged into one new campus with an elementary and high school. N. E. Walker was the principal of both schools.

"The first school I went to was where the library sits [on East College Street]," said Gene Pope in 2009. "It was a two-story, old wooden building. I think it was first through the fifth grade. I remember it had a big auditorium, and it had those big round metal tubes that went out the second floor and you slid down, the fire escapes. We used to slide down that thing, go to recess - it was a lot of fun. But, halfway through the second grade we moved up to the [former] Jackson Elementary School building [on Woodland Way].

James Wallace was hired on August 25, 1955 by the Van Deventer Memorial Foundation as the foundation's manager, which meant he also was full time youth, recreation and activities director. At the time, there was only baseball offered to young people, and only four teams available sponsored by four churches: Jenkinsburg, Macedonia, Pepperton and Towaliga. These teams played one another on the field that is now Wallace Field on Franklin Street.

"James Wallace lived near the edge of Spalding County," recalled Harry Ridgeway in 2009. "Mr. Hamp Daughtry had set up a foundation, and Mr. Wallace was hired as director of the foundation activities. And to begin with there was only inside activities: ping pong and looking at a T.V. and inside activities. No activities outside. So this is when the four churches - Towaliga, Jenkinsburg, Macedonia and Pepperton - we had church youth baseball. And at that time, James Wise and I - James had Pepperton and I had Towaliga - were playing for the championship down at the high school baseball field. And that's when Mr. Hamp who was in town at the time, and Mr. Wallace and Mr. Pliny Weaver were showing Mr. Hamp around the area and the possibilities.

"We were playing for the championship and they came by and Mr. Hamp asked Wallace: 'Who are those fellows?' He told them we were church youth groups playing ball," Ridgeway said. "They stayed there until we finished the game, and then they called James Wise and myself over and asked us to explain to Mr. Hamp what we were doing. And we did. And I can see Mr. Hamp now. He says, 'Wallace, how come we can't have a program in Butts County where every boy in Butts County would be able to play baseball?' And so, Mr. Wallace said 'Well, we just haven't had the opportunity, but we'll look into.'

"And so James Wallace, myself and Buster Duke contacted Bill Beck who was the director of the [little league] program over there [in Spalding County]," Ridgeway continued. "He came over and talked to us. So we all organized the little league program, and little league put us on probation for a year to see if we were serious enough and then they gave a charter. And that was 1955 and 1956. And after that it began to branch out into girls' softball and basketball and there's a swimming pool at Indian Springs and we entered into that program. And it mushroomed from there."

"We played with Mr. [Jim] Wallace," said Barbara Philips during an interview in 2009. "He had basketball and softball for the girls. He took us one time to a ping pong tournament in Barnesville. He was a wonderful man. He used to run up and down the basketball court with us

when we practiced and you could hear all these keys rattling on his chain. He was wide open. He had a big station wagon and would take us to neighboring counties to play, and it was just recreation. And parents didn't go. They weren't invited to. Most of our parents were working, and it was Saturday mornings so they could have gone but they didn't.

"I'm 58," said Bill Fletcher in 2009. "When I was playing baseball in high school and elementary school when the Van Deventer Foundation ran it, there were two equal programs in the county. One was for the Black community, and one was for the White community. We had two different community centers. It was amazing. No other community that I know of in the area had it. You might have a center that was just for the Whites, and that would be it. But he treated everyone equally.

"He loaned gloves," Fletcher said of Mr. Daughtry. "I have one of those gloves at home I bought from him. It means as much as anything to me. I played catch with my kids in that glove. It was a military surplus glove, and James Wallace somehow bought a bunch of them. He always had a pile of them in the back of his station wagon and he loaned them to kids that didn't have them. And if you wanted to buy one, you could go through the pile and find one that fit your hand and buy it for like five bucks. It was a lot nicer than you could buy anywhere 'cause they really were nice gloves. I'm sure it will outlive me."

"The people who had the most time to coach us and work with us growing up was the mill workers, because the mill workers went in early and got off early," explained Bill Fletcher in 2009. "So they were ones that coached us. They were first cousins and uncles of some of the farm boys or some of the boys whose daddies owned a business uptown. It was just a community that was all kin to one another. I have cousins that are very wealthy and I have cousins that are very poor.

"What I'm trying to say basically is that it's a community that is a mix of people," Fletcher continued. "You have all types of people in a family. That's the type of community we grew up in. We all accept them because they are part of our families. There was very little class distinction back then. There were very few people that were extremely wealthy, and land was not bringing a great deal of money back when we were kids. Even if you had a lot of land, you didn't have a lot of wealth in that land. The people who had a tremendous amount of land still did not have a tremendous amount of wealth. It was those that supplied the gasoline and supplied the food and the fertilizer and ginned the cotton or had the trucking companies. They were the ones that made the money. They were the ones that were the wealthy people.

"It wasn't until World War II that people became wealthy off land," Fletcher said. "And that's because people could buy a piece of property and cut the timber off of it. They could buy the land for nothing, and then cut the timber off of it and then have the land and have it re-grown. That was because at the time there was such a demand for timber. And people at that time also did not have the ability to hang on to the land because all their help was gone, off in the service. So the community started changing after World War II. That's what my dad said. Farming became more modern. There was less need for manual labor, too.

Jackson's new $105,000 sewer treatment was completed and operating in September of 1955. Using the most modern equipment available, the plant treated raw sewage and released a pure and harmless product. Ballard Perdue was the filter plant operator. In addition to the plant, the city built two pumping stations – at a cost of $20,000 each - to lift sewage to the main line running to the plant.

In September 1955 came news that taxpayers in the city would pay an extra 4.5 mills of tax – for a total of 17.5 mills – in order to begin paying off the $105,000 sewer bond debt. The 1995 tax digest showed $1,734,785 in real estate and personal property, and increase of $41,000 over the 1954 digest.

The bullet-pierced bodies of David and Clovis Lawson were discovered September 26, 1955 in their car on Highway 42 near Locust Grove. Authorities believe Clovis shot and killed her husband and then turned the gun on her self. The couple resided on Crum Avenue in Jackson and left behind seven children.

At the end of September 1955 a pet poisoner struck again in Jackson killing scores of dogs and cats with strychnine-laced food. Dr. E. H. Gilchrist, Butts County veterinarian, treated and saved several animals.

"The tall, skinny building [on North Oak Street] was the city jail [until 1958]," said Bobby Stephens in a 2010 interview. "The prisoners were upstairs. There wasn't no way to get out from up there. The police department was the booth on the square. They kept one on duty at the jail at all time, too."

In October 1955, Marshall Mackfall of Atlanta escaped from the Jackson city jail by removing heavy wire from a second floor window and letting himself down to the ground on a rope made from blankets. Mackfall had served six days of a 60-day sentence for drunken driving in the city limits.

Under reorganization and re-designation of Army National Guard units in Georgia in October 1955, Jackson became headquarters for Headquarters and Service Company, 48th Reconnaissance Battalion. Capt. E. M. McCord served as commanding officer of the local company.

On October 20, 1955, the Board of Education voted to rename the Jackson Negro Schools, and began calling the schools Henderson High and Henderson Elementary schools in honor of Fannie B. Henderson, who served as principal of the Negro school in Jackson from 1929 to 1938.

In the October 21, 1955 primary election, Jackson voters polled the highest vote in the city's history and nominated a woman to the city council for the first time. A total of 606 voters cast ballots and tapped Mrs. Marlin Spencer from the first ward and J. Horace O'Neal from the

fourth ward. Spencer won her nomination, which is equivalent to an election, over two young men. In a close race for the fourth ward seat, O'Neal edged C. B. Brown, Jr. by a 26-vote margin, 314 to 288.

An open house for the new Henderson High and Elementary schools for Negroes was held on November 6, 1955. The paving of North Mulberry and Oak streets to the new school was not yet complete though.

"From McKibben Street, we moved over [to Henderson High School] in November of 1955," said Ernest Battle. "It was wild. It was exciting. Down there, when the coal truck arrived everybody used to have to run out there and haul the coal, hide coal in the closets, had that big old coal heater. At one point in time, we used to have an outhouse. And I can remember as a small kid they wouldn't let me in there. Bigger guys would go in there and they used to allow them to smoke on campus. So the bigger guys would go in there and smoke, and you could just smoke coming out of the cracks in that old building. And lo and behold one day the floor fell in. You're talking about guys that were telling the principal they needed to go home and change clothes and take a bath after they fell in that mess.

"And then coming over her we had hot lunch," Battle recalled. "You see, down there we didn't have lunches. You either brought your lunch or - they didn't want you to go up to the store in front of the church - so you just suffered it out until you got out of school. And then when we got here [to Henderson] we had hot lunch everyday. This school came with a lunchroom and everything. And my last year we still played basketball outdoors where the gym is now. We moved in '55, and that gym wasn't built until '65.

"It was something that we didn't think would ever - it was something exciting for us because we had been in that building all our little lives," said Shelby Henderson of the move from the old school building on McKibben Street to the new Henderson High School. "We were the first class to finish at the new school. It was great. It was great.

"I graduated in 1956," she continued. "We had 29 students to graduate. The graduation ceremony was exciting, but we didn't have many people there. We had our teachers to march down in the caps and the gowns. That was exciting. But we didn't have many to come out. It was more parents than anything to come to graduation. We wore white caps and gowns. That was beautiful. I was the first to graduate from my family."

"We never had typewriters," said Mamie Maddox Davenport of her time at Henderson School. She graduated in 1947. "So, when I became a counselor, I had to learn how to do my own little typing for confidential reports and things of that sort. I had a secretary, but I couldn't share it with her. And although it may look like it was really difficult for us, in a sense it brought out the creativity and all the skills that God had ordained us with. Because when we went to college, we would be sitting in class with students who knew shorthand and everything. And they could take down notes in shorthand. We had to take our notes longhand, because we never had any shorthand. Maybe some students had never learned to write. I had never been to the library before I went to college.

"Neither had I," added Sherry Carr Henderson, though she did have typewriters at Henderson School by the time she graduated in 1954 thanks to the work of Principal N. E. Walker.

"Oh no, there was no library [at Henderson School]," said Davenport. "No library. Not even extra books. There wasn't quite enough textbooks for all of us."

"Our textbooks came from the other school [Jackson High School]," said Henderson. "And, whatever textbook came, however it was, that's what you got. And suddenly if we were reading, and you get to a page that had been ripped out? Well, that was just your tough luck. This is the way it was."

Ida Wise Compton worked as a kindergarten teacher at Henderson Elementary School in the 1950s. "They were smart children and easy to teach," Compton said in a 1992 interview. Under her tutelage, many students skipped the first grade and went right into the second grade.

In November 1955, it was announced that the Board of Directors of the Jackson Merchants Association had agreed to observe the Wednesday afternoon closing practice throughout the year with the exception of the Wednesday preceding Christmas. The vote was not binding on all members of the JMA, but it was assumed that most would go along with the decision. Prior to the vote, merchants followed their own dictates as to closing on Wednesday afternoons, which often left shoppers confused.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1955</u>
JACKSON 13, Greensboro – 6
Jackson – 0, HOGANSVILLE – 33
JACKSON – 20, West Point – 12
Jackson – 0, FORT VALLEY – 33
JACKSON – 7, Jonesboro – 0
Jackson – 14, EATONTON – 19
Jackson – 7, McDONOUGH – 25
Jackson – 13, FORSYTH – 20
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 48
Jackson – 7, FOREST PARK – 27

At least 160 children from 50 families had brighter holidays at the close of 1955 thanks to the Empty Stocking Fund sponsored by the Jaycees. Used toys were collected by the Boy Scouts and turned over to the Jaycees for repair.

In December 1955, it was reported that the city's gas system completed its first full year with a net operating profit of $19,386. The system started in 1954 with 224 customers, and closed the year with 529 customers.

In late 1955, Oscar Scott King, well-known well digger, was killed in a traffic accident at the intersection of Third and Benton streets.

1956

At a meeting on January 2, 1956, the Jackson City Council renamed all city employees to their posts with the exception of E. H. Polk, who was replaced on the police force by Watson Vaughn.

The full list of employees included: Mrs. W. H. Mallet, city clerk and treasurer; Mary Downs, assistant; Lucile J. Patrick, clerk of the gas department. J. H. Rooks was superintendent of utilities; Andy Holston, gas engineer; Ballard Perdue, engineer of the water and sewer treatment plant. Clem Thaxton was chief of police with M. E. Wade, T. R. Bennett and Watson Vaughn as police officers.

Vincent Jones was named to the Bond Commission for a three-year term. Other members were Park Newton and W. O. Ball.

Also at the meeting, Mrs. Marlin Spencer, from the first ward, and J. Horace O'Neal, from the fourth ward, assumed their posts on the Council.

The city also retired the last $3,000 block of street paving bonds there were issued in 1927. The remaining bonded debt was the $105,000 general obligation bonds issued in 1955 for the construction of a modern sewer treatment plant.

In January 1956, the Jackson Kiwanis Club announced it would support the drive to bring industry to the county, work for the enactment of stiff zoning regulations in the city, and begin a push for fluoridation of the city's water.

City streets that would receive hard surfacing under a state contract issued in January 1956 were: Franklin Avenue from Indian Springs Street to the intersection of the High Falls road, the extension of College Street from the end of existing paving to Franklin Avenue, Park Avenue from Third Street to College Street, Fair Street from Franklin to the corner of the new school property, and Oak Street to the new Negro school there.

On January 8, 1956, Fannie Mae (Shug) Burford, a 45-year-old resident of Black Street, was burned to death in the flaming ruins of her home. John Frank Webb, 55 of Cemetery Street, later confessed to hitting the victim with a piece of coal after she threw a kerosene lamp at him.

According to Webb's confession, obtained by Sheriff Bud Pope and a GBI agent, Webb and Burford argued over a trip to the store for a can of salmon. It was then that Burford threw the lamp, starting the fire, and he hit her on the head with the coal. He saw blood coming from her head, and ran from the house. Several witnesses put him at the home during the day, and Webb was charged with murder.

An argument between two men on January 21, 1956 resulted in a shooting fray that left one of the men dead. Floyd Cash, 25, died as a result of gunshot wounds received from Leroy White, 18, following an argument behind Cowan's Store on Highway 42 near the Pepperton Cotton Mill. According to reports, Cash chased White with an axe, and Cash darted into a house and came out with a shotgun.

In the final week of January 1956 came news that Butts County Sheriff J. D. (Bud) Pope and County Ordinary George D. Head had been indicted by a Butts County Grand Jury on charges that they "did conspire and agree to cheat and defraud and illegal obtain from Butts County the sum of $15,000 since February 12, 1954."

According to the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, the charges grew out of alleged irregularities in the handling of traffic fines in the ordinary's court. Traffic fine and bond forfeitures for 1954 and through November 3, 1955 totaled $30,303, the jury said. But it said that only $1,420.50 was paid into the county treasury, leaving $28,882.50 which was absorbed in court costs by the Court of the Ordinary.

Sheriff Pope had held office since January 1, 1941. Ordinary Head had held his office since January 1, 1933. Both officials were arrested by County Coroner Joel Crane, and then released under $1,500 bonds.

"My daddy [Maurice Carmichael] was the foreman of the grand jury when some probate judge got Sheriff [Bud] Pope into a jam," said Walter Carmichael in 2009. "After the grand jury true billed the case, daddy said he ran into Mr. Bud when he was leaving the courthouse, and he said, 'Bud, I'm sorry. I just had a job to do.' And do you know what he said? He said, 'You did a damn good job, Mossy.' Of course, Bud got all that squared away, ran again, and of course everybody went back and voted for him and he ended up being sheriff again."

At the time of his indictment, Sheriff Pope's only comment was that the whole deal was "politics."

Ordinary Head was more outspoken, saying via the *Jackson Progress-Argus* that the charges were "politics, cheap politics" because some members of the Grand Jury wanted "to run for office," one of them against him. Head went on to say that *Jackson Progress-Argus* Editor Vincent Jones "wants to run for Senate. I'm thinking about running for that office myself." He added that V. R. Ham "wants to run for sheriff," and Richard W. Watkins "wants to run for ordinary. Put that in the paper."

In truth, Jones was not a member of the Grand Jury and had announced he would not seek re-election to the State Senate. He had been elected to a two-year term in 1950. Neither Ham nor Watkins had made any political aspirations known at the time, though both worked in one capacity or another with the Grand Jury that handed out the indictments. Two weeks later, Ham announced his candidacy for sheriff, and Watkins announced his candidacy for county ordinary.

A week later, the Grand Jury returned six more charges against Pope and Head.

Pope was also charged with two counts of extortion and three for embezzlement. Head was further charged with malpractice in office on a total of 111 counts. Those 111 counts were broken down into eight categories: took money in one case and applied it to other falsely-charged cases, took jurisdiction of cases not in his jurisdiction such as public drunkenness, assumed jurisdiction over matters not covered under Georgia law, falsified public documents, failed to obtain a waiver of jury trial in specific cases, dismissed certain traffic cases without regard to guilt or innocence, and assessed fines less than those required by law.

Two of Butts County's three commissioners had instituted a civil suit against Pope and Head to recover money owed the county.

After a four-day trial in February 1956, both men were found not guilty of all charges by a Butts County jury.

Head ended up facing only 70 charges, and the all-male jury deliberated two hours. He told jurors he "always tried to do the best I could in serving the people of Butts County and I am going to continue as long as I can." He added that he tried to keep teenagers' names off the criminal docket and "not make criminals out of young boys," and that he tried to help out truck drivers and other persons who used their cars in their lines of work to keep them from losing their licenses.

Sheriff Pope's attorney argued that since his client was not legally authorized to accept cash bonds in traffic cases, any such money he collected did not belong to the county anyway. The extortion charge against Pope dealt with a case listed as "settled by sheriff" in court records. In it, Deen Lunsford was charged with assault with intent to murder Grady Craig. Pope said he witnessed payment by Lunsford to Craig of $71 for medical bills, and received $12.50 himself as a fee, although he told both men he had no authority to settle the case out of court.

Pope said the two men wanted to settle the case without a court trial and "if that's what they wanted to do, that's what I wanted to do." The sheriff's attorney argued that such a practice was a "common one" in the Flint Circuit.

At the end of January 1956, there were 1,315 telephones in Jackson.

Miss Annie Lou McCord was named Butts County Teacher of the Year at a meeting of the Butts County Jaycees on February 15, 1956. McCord had taught elementary school for 53 years. Forty-three of those years were spent in Butts County schools.

<u>JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1956</u>
JACKSON – 58, Forsyth – 34
Jackson – 38, MILNER – 57
JACKSON – 67, North Clayton – 46
JACKSON – 51, Covington – 46
Jackson - 31, HENRY COUNTY – 41
JACKSON – 77, DeKalb – 41
JACKSON – 46, Forsyth – 36
Jackson – 38, MILNER – 41
JACKSON – 49, Zebulon – 38
JACKSON – 47, North Clayton – 37
JACKSON – 89, Monticello – 51
JACKSON – 69, McDonough – 34
Jackson – 48, CONVINGTON – 56
JACKSON – 76, Monticello – 42
JACKSON – 72, Zebulon – 37
JACKSON – 61, Pike County 46

JACKSON – 56, Milner – 54
JACKSON – 51, Henry County 44
JACKSON – 37, Heard County – 26
The Lady Devils repeated as Fourth District Basketball Champions under Coach Hunter Strickland.
JACKSON – 46, Sandersville – 43
Jackson – 56, FORSYTH COUNTY – 76
Jan Raven was named to the Atlanta Constitution's all-state Class B team for her play in the state tournament. She scored 40 points in two games there.

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1956
JACKSON – 72, Forsyth – 57
JACKSON – 52, Milner – 42
JACKSON – 68, North Clayton – 44
Jackson – 51, COVINGTON – 53
JACKSON – 63, Henry County –45
Jackson – 45, DeKALB – 69
JACKSON – 57, Forsyth – 53
JACKSON – 71, Milner – 23
JACKSON – 65, Zebulon – 40
JACKSON – 68, North Clayton – 49
JACKSON – 73, Monticello – 43
JACKSON – 57, Spalding County – 15
Jackson – 58, McDONOUGH – 67
Jackson – 49, COVINGTON – 89
JACKSON – 95, Monticello – 43
JACKSON – 84, Zebulon – 66
JACKSON – 79, Forest Park – 23
JACKSON – 71, Henry County – 57
Jackson – 62, HARRIS COUNTY – 74

In March 1956, the City Council passed a curfew ordinance outlawing loitering on the streets of Jackson by children under the age of 16. Loitering on the streets by persons over 16 was banned after midnight. The curfew allowed police to better patrol the city's business district, and immediately put under suspicion those found loitering after the legal hours.

In the county primary held April 6, 1956, a record number of 3,625 voters went to the polls. V. H. Ham was elected sheriff by a vote of 1,884 to 1,735 over incumbent J. D. Pope. Richard Watkins was elected County Ordinary. Former Ordinary George Head did not seek re-election. Billy Sutton defeated Jackson Mayor W. M. Redman, who had served as county treasurer since 1941.

It was reported that 747 Negroes voted in the primary.

"I never saw Mr. Ham doing anything other than sitting in the back, smoking his cigar, keeping an eye on everybody," recalled R. Scott Coleman in 2009.

Law enforcement "was a whole lot different from what you have today," according to Luke Weaver. "You had one sheriff and maybe one deputy. They had two cars. Mr. Bud Pope was sheriff for years and years and years. And then one term, maybe two terms, 'Happy' Ham was sheriff. Mr. 'Hap' and I were real good friends.

"We had some local policemen that were really characters," Weaver continued. "One night they were chasing this car - this must have been back in the 50s - and I don't remember who the policemen were but they had a siren sitting up on the front of the car. So they were chasing this car and it wouldn't stop. So one of the policemen told other one to shoot his back tire. So he leans out and shoots the siren off the police car. And he told him, 'stop the damn car, he's shooting back at us!'

"And another time they stopped a wrestler up on Highway 42 right north of town, and the policemen were going to put him in the police car," Weaver said. "And he didn't want to go, so they called for back up and Mr. 'Happy' ham went out there. I don't know that Mr. 'Hap' ever actually carried a gun. And he got out there and asked the fellow, 'what's the problem?' 'Well, they said they were going to put me in the back seat of that car, and I don't think they can do it.' Mr. 'Hap' said, 'well, I don't think I could put you in there, but how 'bout you get in my car and ride to town with me?' And he said, 'all right,' and got in the car with Mr. 'Hap' and went to town. It was different.

"We had a local bootlegger that Mr. 'Hap' told the night after he got elected, said, 'OK, this county's not big enough for you and me both.' And he said, 'Well, I'll see you later.' And he moved to Monroe County right across the line," Weaver said laughing. "It was different. A D.U.I. ticket was bad, but nothing like it is today. You could get things taken care of a whole lot better. There was ways of getting tickets taken care of that you just can't do today. But we didn't have a drug problem. The biggest problem we had was alcohol. When I graduated from high school, I didn't have any idea what marijuana was and didn't know anybody that did use it. When those kids came back from Vietnam, that's when marijuana really became prevalent."

On May 11, 1956, 74 students at Jackson High School staged a boycott presumably to protest because the School Board did not reelect Mildred T. Raven, a popular high school English instructor. Student unease with that decision had been brewing for some weeks it was reported. And on May 13, 1956, 14 bullets were fired into the high school office, library and classrooms.

The main target was the window of Principal N. F. Lang's office. Lang had not recommended Raven for reelection charging she was disloyal to his program and to her fellow teachers. Both Raven and JHS athletic coach Hunter Strickland were actually reelected, but with the stipulation that they both resign by a certain date. Both, however, refused to resign by that date.

Several hearings, both public and private, were held on the matter, but the Board and Lang refused to yield to public opinion, which favored retaining Raven on the school's staff.

The following week, catsup was smeared around the inside of the school and several items broken.

Two teenage boys confessed to the vandalism, saying they let the air out of three of Lang's tires and then shot at the school's windows. The day after the shooting, one of the boys said, Raven told them she appreciated what they had done and asked them to come to her house with some gloves.

Once there, she gave them catsup, a school key and instructions on how to get into the school. Once inside the school, she asked them to destroy the flowers in Miss Rumsey's room, and put the catsup in the register books of Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Duncan and Mrs. Spencer. Then they were to break a window and knock over things of a desk to make it look like they had broken into the school. After they had done that, the boy said, they went back to Raven's house and had coffee.

According to the confession, she also asked them to get some dynamite to throw in the schoolyard or principal's office. But, the boy wrote, they could not obtain any dynamite.

Raven was charged with "willfully and maliciously destroying public property." She said she was "shocked beyond expression" by the students' accusations, and was fired by the Board of Education immediately. The two boys who vandalized the school were placed in the protective custody of the sheriff for the remainder of the school year.

A jury later found Raven not guilty of all charges. No charges were ever brought against the two boys.

On May 15, 1956 the Foy Hotel at Indian Springs burned to the ground. The structure, built in 1898, was one of the largest wooden buildings in the state. The fire was believed to have started in faulty wiring in the upstairs meter room. Firefighters from Jackson, Butts County Forestry and Monroe County responded to the call. The Foy originated as an eight-room hotel, and was expanded to 55 rooms in 1921 after the Wigwam hotel was destroyed by fire.

A straw vote held on May 25, 1956 to determine citizen's interest in installing parking meters in downtown Jackson, but the result was a 58-58 tie. City officials determined not enough people cared about the topic to voice an opinion and took no action on the results.

Bennis Fletcher was named valedictorian of the Jackson High School Class of 1956. Peggy Patrick was named Salutatorian of the 53-member class.

"My class, we started off the eighth grade in '51," said Ernest Battle. "We had about 125 kids, about three or four sections of eighth graders. But when we graduated [in May 1956], there were 32 of us that graduated. They dropped out. Back then kids had to work or help with families or farming or whatever.

"I played [football for] three years and was captain," Battle said. "I played so well that I was told that I was the first African-American to receive a football scholarship here in Butts County. A classmate of mine, Adolphus Solomon, was the first to get a scholarship in basketball. He and I were supposed to go to Fort Valley College. I had high hopes of going to college, but

for some reason about a month or so before time to report I decided I wanted to go into the Army. That was 1956."

In June 1956, traffic began using the Macon short route, which opened to alleviate congestion on Highway 41. The route intersected with Highway 42 in front of the Indian Springs school house and passed by Flovilla and Cork on its way to Dames Ferry and finally Macon. Its opening was expected to boost the value of land along the new road.

Henry Powers was named as the new coach of the Jackson Red Devil football team in June of 1956. He played halfback on the University of Georgia's first bowl team. He replaced Hunter Strickland, who became JHS head coach in 1949.

The Jackson City Council approved an ordinance on June 25, 1956 requiring owners of every dog in the city to register their pets at city hall by August 1 and provide collars for the dogs. No dogs were allowed on city streets unless they were on a leach either.

"We lived in the Hoard-Mullis swimming pool [at Indian Springs] and beside the swimming pool at Indian Springs State Park]," said R. Scott Coleman, who graduated from Jackson High School in 1958. "My mother would take us and some friends down there in the morning and drop of us off, and then come back and pick us up after work. So we spent the whole day down there. And the jukebox went all day. I think you could play it for like a nickel.

"Joe Bell was a basketball coach and he taught swimming down there," Coleman continued. "And everybody took swimming classes whether you could swim or not because everyone wanted to be with the crowd."

"Indian Springs was our hang out place, recalled Robert "Bobby" Stephens in 2010. He was a junior at Jackson High School in 1956. "It had a bowling alley, a skating rink, three casinos we could go dancing in. They was no gambling, just big rooms. We called them casinos. You could bowl for 25 cents a game at Mr. Pitts'. And every Friday and Saturday night there'd be a fist fight. Out of town boys messing with local girls. We had to defend our territory. During the week or daylight, anybody could go down there. But on Friday night and Saturday night, it was our territory. We used to run boys all the way to the county line.

"We ruled Indian Springs back then," said Stephens smiling. "Had one incident with this boy from Covington who kept daring us to do something to him. He kept talking to different ones of our girls. One Friday night, it all came to a head. About 12 of them came down there to take over. When it all started out on the main street, 50 Butts County boys came out from nowhere. Somehow or another this [Covington] boy's tire went flat. Nobody knew how it happened. But he jacked it up and took the tire off, and somebody in the crowd pushed it off the jack. And then the jack disappeared. When it came to a head down there, it was knuckle popping chin like crazy. And when they heard the siren coming, they all disappeared. Nobody was on the street when the cops got there. That boy's car sat there for over a week on its hubs.

"It was all fisticuffs and slapping," he said. "Somebody might bring out a tire tool, but somebody else would take it away from him. We didn't want to go that far. How we survived, I don't know.

"This casino would be playing Little Richard's 'Long Tall Sally.' This one over here would be playing 'You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog' by Elvis Presley. That one over there would be playing The Platters. Jerry Lee Lewis would be playing from somewhere else," recalled Stephens. "And all that would blend together out in that night air.

"It was segregated," said Stephens of Indian Springs in the 1950s. "And when they started integration, they closed everything down to avoid troubles. [Mr. Hoard] filled up his pool, did away with his carnival that was down there, and put it on the road."

When schools opened in September 1956, there were 1,028 students at Jackson Elementary School and Jackson High School, a drop of 14 over the previous year. There were 1,080 students at Henderson Elementary School and Henderson High School, a drop of 71 students from 1955.

Figures released in September 1956 showed the city's tax digest amounting to $1,685,651, an increase of $50,119 in one year. This was due mostly from an increase in automobile registration. The Jackson City Council voted to keep the city's tax rate unchanged at 17.5 mills.

In what was believed to be a record for rainfall, Hurricane Flossy brought 6.75 inches of rain in a 60-hour period to Butts County in late September 1956.

In the city primary held October 26, 1956, voters reelected Mayor W. M. Redman over his challenger Dan Fears by a vote of 405 to 240. In the second ward, incumbent A. White Newton won reelection over Dr. R. H. Pinckney by 379 votes to 268. Gordon Bankston was unopposed for the Council seat from the third ward.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1956</u>
Jackson – 6, MONTICELLO – 39
Jackson – 6, Manchester – 6
Jackson – 18, WEST POINT – 27
Jackson – 0, FORT VALLEY – 52
JACKSON – 14, Troup County – 13
Jackson – 20, HOGANSVILLE – 45
Jackson – 19, HENRY COUNTY – 52
Jackson – 0, FORSYTH – 24
Jackson – 7, OGLETHORPE COUNTY – 34

On December 1, 1956, 17-year-old Ruth Collier fatally stabbed Dorothy Ann Griffin in an altercation over a mutual boyfriend. The slaying took place outside the Three Minute Grill on Cemetery Street. She was later sentenced to one-to-three years by a Butts County jury.

Byron Haynes, 25 of Flovilla, lost his left hand on December 10, 1956 in an accident at the Pepperton Cotton Mill. A belt slipped from the card machine he was working at, and thinking the machine was off he placed his hand in it where it was mangled.

Butts County's National Guard Armory was officially dedicated on December 12, 1956. The facility was built for a total of $93,500, of which the federal government paid 75 percent, the state paid 12.5 percent, and city, county and an anonymous donor paid the remaining 12.5 percent.

On December 20, 1956, 32-year-old Charles Preston Chamber fatally shot and killed his wife. He was later acquitted of the murder by reason on insanity and sentenced to the state mental hospital in Milledgeville.

"I ran in [December] 1956 for City Council, said Robert Pinckney in a 2008 interview. "Ran against Whit Newton, and went all over town. These older people said yeah, you're gonna win this race.' But, by golly, they voted the old town guy. Mr. Nutt said afterwards, said, 'Son, you know why you lost that election? You hadn't lived here long enough.' I wasn't one of the old crowd. I was a newcomer."

1957

Jackson began 1957 with the same slate of elected officials it began 1956 with. Mayor W. M. Redman, second ward councilman A. White Newton and third ward councilman Gordon Bankston all won reelection to another two-year term in October 1956. Holdover council members were Mrs. Helen Spencer from the first ward and J. Horace O'Neal in the fourth.

Mrs. W. H. Mallet was city clerk and treasurer, with Mary Downs as her assistant. Lucile J. Patrick served as clerk of the gas department. J. H. Rooks was superintendent of utilities. Andy Holston was gas engineer. Ballard Perdue worked as engineer of the waterworks and sewer treatment plant. Clem Thaxton was chief of police with M. E. Wade, T. R. Bennett and Watson Vaughn as policemen.

The city's only bonded indebtedness was $105,000 in general obligation bonds issued in 1955 for the construction of a new sewer treatment plant. These were to be retired by 1975.

Members of the bond commissioner were Vincent Jones, W. O. Ball and Park Newton.

In January 1957, Jackson High School was named an accredited school by the South Colleges and Secondary Schools. The school's principal was N. F. Lang.

The Butts County School System's budget for 1957 was $365,051, an increase of nearly $10,000 from the previous year.

On January 29, 1957 a straw poll was held to determine whether citizens favored installing parking meters in downtown Jackson. The result was 158-144 in favor, though the City

Council was not legally bound by the results. Two weeks later, the Council voted to table the issue of parking meters indefinitely.

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKEBTALL 1957
Jackson – 36, MILNER – 53
JACKSON – 53, Pike County – 46
JACKSON – 60, Social Circle – 36
Jackson – 35, HENRY COUNTY – 49
JACKSON – 63, Monticello – 36
JACKSON – 78, Dudley Hughes – 16
JACKSON – 54, Lithonia – 32
Jackson – 44, FORSYTH – 46
Jackson – 61, FORSYTH – 71
JACKSON – 83, Macon Vocational – 9
Jackson – 36, HENRY COUNTY – 54
JACKSON – 74, Pike County – 44
Jackson – 50, MILNER – 51
JACKSON – 63, Eatonton – 38
JACKSON – 79, Lithonia – 51
JACKSON – 63, Monticello – 39
JACKSON – 57, Eatonton – 37
JACKSON – 59, Fayette County – 25
Jackson – 42, MILNER – 62
JACKSON – 77, Villa Rica – 39

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1957
Jackson – 37, MILNER – 52
Jackson – 57, PIKE COUNTY – 58
JACKSON – 60, Social Circle – 45
Jackson – 46, HENRY COUNTY – 58
JACKSON – 63, Monticello – 45
Jackson – 51, DUDLEY HUGHES – 60
JACKSON – 69, Lithonia – 51
JACKSON – 48, Forsyth – 39
JACKSON – 64, Forsyth – 56
Jackson – 39, MACON VOCATIONAL – 64
Jackson – 50, HENRY COUNTY – 64
Jackson – 44, PIKE COUNTY – 59
Jackson – 52, MILNER – 78
JACKSON – 73, Eatonton – 60
JACKSON – 60, Lithonia – 58
Jackson – 58, MONTICELLO – 65
JACKSON – 44, Eatonton – 37

Jackson – 45, PIKE COUNTY – 55
JACKSON – 72, Fayette County – 64
Jackson – 36, PIKE COUNTY – 76

Butts County schools were closed on March 11, 1957 for a week on the recommendation of three local physicians as a virus-type infection reached epidemic stages in both the White and Negro schools. The upper-respiratory infection had struck 25 percent of the student population, and there were 620 absences from school on March 8. Most patients were able to shake off the infection after a few days.

Attracting much attention on the streets of Jackson in March 1957 was the city's new garbage truck. The white truck, of the latest design, had a power compressor that packed the trash into a smaller space. This reduced the number of trips to the city dump from eight to 10 trips per day to one or two. The truck cost approximately $8,000.

"They used to have car dealerships [in Jackson]," recalled Gene Pope on 2010. "And they would have cars on display, you know, the new cars. Everybody talked about them. And when they got there, they'd cover them up with tarps, and they wouldn't let you look at them! And they'd have these big opening days where they'd have barrels of apples and free yardsticks. And we would go around town, and - oh, man, we'd stand there and look in the window - couldn't wait for the new car! And then finally the new car come on, and we'd be standing there looking in the window, and they'd drag them covers off and 'Ahhhhh!'

"And we'd go in and they'd give you free apples and free yardsticks and get all this free stuff," he said. "And we'd go running back home, and get the little books, and some pictures of the [cars]. I thought that was so great. The Coca-Cola machines had either the slot or they had the big crank. If you crank it and turn the handle around a drink would fall at the bottom, and you'd pull that little short glass bottle of Coke out. And it would be a nickel, or it would be a dime. Now it's 10 times that."

At the end of March 1957, the city filed an application for a federal housing project for 50 Negro and 35 White housing units. The units were to be rented to low-income families with minimum incomes who could not otherwise secure adequate housing. As a first step toward securing the federal funds, the Council appointed a Municipal Housing Authority and a Housing Committee.

The city's application was approved in July, and work began on 50 unites for Negroes and 30 for Whites.

"Over here on the hill on Carter Avenue, the projects, and the ones down on Mallet Street, the apartments - all of that stuff was built in in the mid-'50s," said Curtis Gaye in 2009 from his home on Chestnut Drive. "Freeman Circle was built in the early '60s. This subdivision was built in the '60s. The first brick houses were late-'50s and '60s, that was [Dr.] Bush's house, the McCormick house. Before that there had been only one brick house that had ever been built in Jackson that was built by Black folk. That was the building on Benton Street where the old Zion

Church is. The building right across from it. That building had been built by a man that was a brick mason. He brought brick and mortar home from work with him. He'd throw a few bricks in, a little mortar in, and finally he had enough to build this building. His name was Mr. Plimosty [sp?]. That was the first building, and it must have been built in the '20s or '30s.

"But all those years the housing was little shanties and what have you in Jackson itself," Gaye continued. "First Street was a residential district. That was Black middle class housing then. You had Crosstown [near the Jackson City Cemetery]. You had this Bethel Flats community and you had Darktown [north of the railroad tracks on Benton Street]. But none of them, really, had brick homes. So this, the projects and all, as really a big upgrade in housing for Black people. That made a big impact on Jackson.

As May 1957 began, Jackson's phantom pet poisoner put in his annual appearance a little earlier than usual. Scores of the city's dogs and cats fell victim to strychnine-tainted meat left around town. Some families lost as many as three dogs or cats.

Fifty-three seniors graduated from Jackson High School on May 27. Natalie Lang was the class Valedictorian, and Nancy Singley served as Salutatorian.

Bobby Stephens was in the Class of 1957 at Jackson High School.

"They didn't have but two city cops, and us boys knew their schedule," said Stephens in 2010. "When they weren't around the police booth or the square, we'd dare each other to come through there as fast as we could. We'd drag in the wee hours of the morning when no one else was around. We were around when they first came out with the muscle cars - '55, '56, '57. The Pontiacs, the Chevrolets and the Oldsmobile. The Plymouth V8 Savoy stick shift."

"Here's a quote the Rev. Aruthur L. 'Bubba' Price made to me," said Stephens in 2010. "He was a sergeant who stayed in the orderly room with the National Guard back then. We were all in the National Guard together. I joined in 1959, and got out in 1965. He said, 'Bobby, you know, there wasn't a group like y'all before you, and there hasn't ben one like y'all since.' I asked him what he meant. He said, 'Y'all was just devilish, mischievous. You didn't hurt nobody, but you would do more stuff overboard or under the counter than anybody ever has.' Is that a compliment, or what?"

Curtis Gaye was named Valedictorian of the Henderson High School Class of 1957.

"Mr. Bush ran a barber shop," recalled Curtis Gaye during an interview in 2009. "He asked me one day if I wanted to shine shoes. I said, 'Sure.' I didn't know anything about shining shoes, but anyway he became my mentor. When I graduated from high school, he gave me a pair of clippers. He said all of the time I should go to college, that I should go to Morehouse. That's where he went. Keep in mind we didn't have a school counselor. So we didn't have anybody who said, 'Here's this catalog and here's what you need to do to get into school.' I must have gotten an application from somewhere. That Summer, Morehouse had a program. I got accepted."

Dobson Stone Works, Inc, of Macon, purchased nine acres and buildings from the Jackson Box & Lumber Company in May 1957. It set up its concrete and stone operation in the northwest corner of the city, and employed over two dozen people.

The city was assured by the State Highway Department of two miles of paving during 1957. The city spent $3,000 grading and soiling in preparation for the paving. Streets covered under the state pledge were: Cemetery Street, West College Street, South Peachtree Street, South Mimosa Lane, Holly Street, Oak Street (to the Negro picture show), Gym Street. Other streets previously approved for paving were: Watson Street, Orchard Street, Harkness Street, Hill Street and Forrest Avenue.

Mary Davis came to Jackson on July 15, 1957. Her husband, Gerald Davis, worked at Polk Tire. "He worked for Jim Robertson," said Davis in a 2009 interview. "He worked in the retail with B. F. Goodrich on tires and General Electric appliances. He worked there for 19 years where Jimmy's is now [on South Mulberry Street].

"I knew it was a little town by the Georgia road map," Davis recalled. "And on the way down here I asked Gerald, 'Has this little town grown any from that little spot on the map?' He said, 'No.' So we had always lived in a big town, and this was my first shot at a little town. But I'm telling you when we got here, Mildred Weaver took us under her wing and made us love this town. And we were ever grateful. She checked on us. She just made us and me love this town. She was the welcoming committee, and she continued her support."

"I went to work immediately at Kym Company [in 1957], and met all the best friends," recalled Mary Davis. "It took me a long time to make production. I sewed the back pockets. Production was 625 pairs a day. I didn't make it until I learned from Dee Freeman, that's Ham Freeman's wife, she taught me to use the snips. Then I made production. But all the people around me were just delightful. Fleddie Hardy, she lived on West Avenue. And I met Sue Hardy. That's Lem Hardy's oldest child. Her husband was Raymond Hardy. There was Preston Bridges, who's a preacher now. He was a bag boy who brought stuff to your desk so you didn't have to get up.

"It ran 8 to 5," Davis said of the Kym Company. "Their largest customer was Sears Roebuck. We just made pants. Everybody had a different job to make those pants. We got 45 minutes for lunch. Everyone could take lunch whenever they wanted. Sometimes four or five or six women would gather at one of the tables and just jabber."

"We moved to Jackson in 1956 when my dad was employed by the KYM Company," said Barbara Phillips, during an interview in 2010. "He had a friend who worked there and said Jackson was a great, friendly town. A large percentage of the workforce in Jackson worked there at that time. He was hired as the head mechanic and was promoted over the years to manager of the company. We lived on Third Street in a large house which is no longer there. It was a brown house with rock columns, and has been torn down as have many of the beautiful homes on West Third Street. When we moved there, Sheriff Bud Pope lived across from us and Otis & Ruth Ball lived where Rivers Insurance is now. That house eventually was divided into two apartments,

and I lived in one of them years later when Wayne and I married. I guess the old house kept calling me, and then they tore it down. One of the things I truly hate about Third Street is when I think back of all the beautiful homes that are gone now."

In July 1957, the state's first county-wide traffic school opened. Butts County Ordinary Richard Watkins, Jr. was administrator, originator and promulgator of the school, which provided a 10-hour course to traffic offenders "sentenced" to the school by Watkins or Mayor W. M. Redman. But the school's course was also open to anyone interested in improving their driving skills.

At the end of August 1957 came word that the Gateway Luggage Company would establish a plant in Jackson. Pliny H. Weaver, president of the Butts County Industrial Development Board, L. C. Webb, treasurer, W. A. Holston, trustee, and Councilman Gordon Bankston made a trip to the company's headquarters in Kansas City to sign the paperwork by which Gateway leased two buildings from the Board. Butts Countians were required to erect a 40,000- and 8,000-square-foot buildings on property purchased by the Board. The total cost of the buildings was estimated at $150,000. The firm would employ around 100 people to start out, it was reported.

Stocks were sold in hopes of raising $70,000 to aide in the building. Three local organizations – the Butts County Junior Chamber of Commerce, the newly organized Butts County Chamber of Commerce, Inc. and the Butts County Industrial Development Board – canvassed the county in search of buyers. The Butts County Development Company was chartered to handle such real estate deals for the community.

In December 1957, a contract that would bring the industry to Jackson was finalized between Gateway and the Butts County officials.

"The first job I worked after I got married [in 1957] was Gateway Luggage," recalled Shelby Henderson. "It was hard work. We were making $3 an hour. And we had to work, there was no time for you to be talking or having any type of fun. Women had to work just like the men. They had to pick up those heavy lockers and put them where they were supposed to be. But the people were good."

"And after Gateway Luggage, I went to the school system," Henderson continued. "That was in '67. I worked with the school system up until '82. I started out as an aide, and ended up as a para-professional. I was very, very surprised to be terminated. It was all well and good, because it had gotten to the point where you had to be careful how you looked at a child, what you said to a child and how you said it. I'm glad now. It was good for that to happen. See during that time all we had to do was look at a child. Say there are two boys over there carrying on. All you had to do was look at them and they would stop. I want to be able to look at the child and let him know that I mean it and that I have love for that child. Most of the time, that child is going to see that love in a person. It can be done. After the school system, I went to day care. After day care, I went to Head Start. After that I went to the department store, and after that to Smead Manufacturing. After that I went to the nursing home. And after that I ended up at the Salvation Army.

Attendance at all Butts County schools was up when classes started in September 1957. There were 1,061 students enrolled at the two White schools, an increase of 33 from the previous year. At the two Negro schools, the increase was greater, from 1,080 in 1956 to 1,183 in 1957.

Senator Herman Talmadge, a beauty contest, a dance and parade were all scheduled to be part of the fourth annual Butts County Industrial Day sponsored by the Butts County Junior Chamber on September 18, 1957. But Talmadge was unable to attend, and the skies poured rain.

In the city primary held October 25, 1957, C. B. Brown, Jr. defeated incumbent J. Horace O'Neal for the fourth ward seat on the City Council. The vote was 329 to 213. Wendell B. McCoy was unopposed for the first ward seat on the Council.

A near record of 542 of 789 registered voters took part in the primary. The record for turnout of 606 voters was set in 1955 when Brown and McCoy squared off the first time.

"Jackson being a small town even then, you had to live here 100 years to be considered a local," said C. B. Brown, Jr.'s son, Charlie Brown, in 2010. "My dad was an outsider. How he ever got elected to start with I'll never know. But he won, which is amazing because when he went on [the City Council] he served with nothing but people who had lived here their entire lives. Most of them were well-established business people. My dad was in business, but he had only been here seven or eight years."

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1957</u>
Jackson – 0, MONTICELLO – 27
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 33
Jackson – 6, WEST POINT – 20
Jackson – 0, FORT VALLEY – 21
Jackson – 0, TROUP COUNTY – 26
Jackson – 7, HOGANSVILLE – 20
JACKSON – 14, Henry County – 7
Jackson – 0, FORSYTH – 20
Jackson – 0, OGLETHORPE COUNTY – 26

"When I was in high school," recalled Harold "Doc" Michael, "all the sport activities' practice time was the last two hours of school. [The school day started at 8 a.m. and went until 3 p.m.] I played football, what they called junior football, now they call it junior high or whatever, in the eighth, ninth, and tenth grade. The uniforms that we had were this old hard leather-type helmets and shoulder pads, and they did furnish shoes, but they were the old high-top shoes. If kids had to wear today what we wore then, they probably wouldn't play.

"And then, when I was going into the eleventh grade, they stopped having any practices during that normal school day," McMichael continued. "You had to practice after school. So, my dad gave me a choice, that I could take the pickup truck that he had and drive it to school for either football or baseball. And I chose baseball, and didn't play football my junior and senior

year, I played baseball—old left-handed pitcher. And Doug Cobb was our coach. And the uniforms that we had were—well, actually, I don't think we had any uniforms. But he was able to acquire some somehow through army surplus. And they were old white, wool uniforms, just to say we had a uniform, I guess. If you put that on a kid today and say he had to wear it, he'd just say, 'I'm just not going to play.' But, we were pretty good back in those days. We played because we loved to play.

"We had a dirt infield for the baseball, it was not grass," said McMichael. "The backstop was made out of what we called chicken wire. It wasn't as fancy as it is today, by no means. The athletic facilities have greatly improved since those days. Of course, this was in the late '50s. The bleachers over on the football field were boards, I mean, like a 2-by-12, and that's what you sat on. And they were fairly loose, and they would slide off of the frame. Recently, we've had to do a lot of improvements to our football stadium because of, I think, OSHA got involved in it and said that our stands weren't safe enough and we had to spend a lot of money to get 'em safe. If they'd have come down in those days, when we was there playing ball, they would have been disturbed.

"[The first press box] was pretty shaky," he said. "It was on what is now the visitors' side. And it was actually four utility poles put in the ground and then they built a little building up on top of it up there. And if you get a half-a-dozen people up there, it was pretty shaky. It was pretty shaky. It was."

In November 1957, grading work began on a new football field at Henderson High School. Up until then, the Henderson football team played ball on an improvised field in Mallet's pasture. The Henderson Tigers won several of their games during the 1957 season.

As the year 1957 came to a close, it was reported that the county experienced no deaths on its roads or its lake during the year. Officials said these statistics were due to increased caution on the roads and on the water, and luck. Sheriff Pope also reported no murders in the county during the year.

1958

At an organizational meeting on January 1, 1958, Mayor W. M. Redman and the City Council approved raises for all city employees not covered by recent wage increases and made one change in the police force. Willis McElhany, who had been in charge of the city's sanitation department and served as an auxiliary policeman, was replaced as auxiliary police officer by Van Jones.

C. B. Brown, Jr. and W. B. McCoy were attending their first meeting as councilmen. Brown defeated incumbent J. Horace O'Neal and McCoy was elected without opposition, succeeding Mrs. Helen Spencer, who did not seek reelection in 1957.

A new industrial committee was formed with C. B. Brown, Jr. as chairman.

Effective in January 1958, the city increased its garbage collection schedule from once a week to twice a week. Those who had limbs or other items too large for garbage cans were asked

by Councilman C. B. Brown, Jr., chairman of the city's sanitary committee, to place them in a conspicuous place and city workers collected them on Wednesdays. Citizens were asked to obtain suitable trash cans to speed this service.

In February 1958, Mrs. Florence Jean Moore was named director of the Van Deventer Youth Center. James Wallace remained the executive director and business manager for the trustees of the Van Deventer Foundation. The center also doubled its hours of operation and began new activities for the local youth.

"We spent a lot of time at the youth center, which Hamp Daughtry started," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. "They had pool tables and ping pong tables. They didn't have a jukebox, but had a record player so we could play the old 45 records on it. James Wallace was the director and Florigene Moore managed the facility. Her husband had Moore's Garage, which was located where the city parking lot is now on East Third Street. But she ran the youth center and kept control of us."

"It was a great place for teenagers," added Barbara Phillips. "Many times we girls would walk there after school and then go to Parrish Drugs on the square. Dr. Ben Parrish had a drug store next to the A&P on the corner [of Third and Oak streets]. They had a soda fountain with booths where we would eat banana splits and just laugh and have fun. It was an old fashioned soda fountain that created great memories."

"We'd drink limeade or lemon sours," said Wayne of the boys' preferences at Parrish Drugs' soda fountain.

"I grew up in the Baptist Church and we would walk to the parsonage after school for GA meetings," Barbara Phillips recalled. "Then we would walk from there to the drug store for our banana splits. Susan Powell Braswell and I played together a lot because they also lived on Third Street. We used to skate down the sidewalk on skates that you attached to your shoes with keys. We also rode our bikes a everywhere. Julie Watkins Collins and I played together a great deal as she also lived close by. We had a wonderful time. The pace was just different.

"We played recreation basketball and softball with Mr. James Wallace," she continued. "He took us to a ping pong tournament in Barnesville one time. Actually, he was always driving us in his station wagon to neighboring counties to compete in various sports. He was a wonderful man who took such an interest in youth. He used to run up and down the basketball court with us when we practiced and you could hear all the keys rattling on the key chain in his pockets – good memories. Parents didn't go then – it was so different from present days.

"Mr. Wallace did it solely by himself," she added. "He touched so many people in a positive way."

"Mr. James Wallace, we haven't had anybody like him in a long time," said Gene Pope in 2010. "As a child growing up, he would come around in the summertime. He'd call your house, and he'd say, 'I'm going to play ball, you want to go?' 'Nah!' He'd just show up at your house

and just drag you out of the house, 'Come on, you're going.' Drag you out of the house, your momma and daddy said, 'Yeah, take him, Mr. Wallace, take him!' And he'd load up his station wagon with eight or 10 kids - no seat belt, no booster seat, none of that stuff - carry us over to the ball field where they play ball now" - called Wallace Field in honor of the man - "and take us out there and spread us out and teach us how to play baseball. He'd teach us how to throw, how to catch, he'd hit the ball to us. And when it was over he'd pick you up and he'd take you home, one at a time like a little bus. Every Saturday morning he'd come get you, and take you to play ball. And that's how we learned how to play ball back then.

"He worked for [the Van Deventer foundation]," said Pope, "but that was something he did on his own that they allowed him to do. But he was paid by them. That's something he did because he loved kids. And he would come get you, and take you down there and play ball. And if you didn't want to go, he'd call your parents and say, 'He said he didn't want to go.' 'Well, come get him, Mr. Wallace.' And he'd come in the house and snatch you out of your bed - 'Get your clothes on, come on!' [He] was just a great man."

"Another thing that was great about growing up here was the Van Deventer Youth Center," said Walter Carmichael in a 2009 interview. "Mr. James Wallace, when I was coming through as a kid he started baseball – little league, minor league, every kind of baseball league you could think of – and was a great guy. But he let us go to Brown's [store] to buy rock 'n' roll records. They had a great stereo there [at the Youth Center], a pool table, TV set, and you could go up the Youth Center and hang out, dance with the girls. I remember that as one of the things that made Jackson great. Miss Moore looked after it at night, and Doris Ridgeway looked after it for part of the time when I was there. It was just a great thing.

"You could go in the Youth Center and check out bows and arrows," Carmichael added. "No supervision whatsoever. Go out in the backyard, shoot them straight up in the air, and try to dodge them when they came down. I remember Jimmy White missed his mark and shot an arrow through a lady's window on Oak Street. It went through her window, through her parakeet cage. When we get down there to apologize, that parakeet is going "dee-dee-dee-dee-dee,' having a nervous breakdown. It went through the window, through the lady's bird cage and was sticking in the wall. So we go down there and apologize, go up to Jackson Hardware, get a window pane and fix the lady's window just hoping she wouldn't tell anybody. The current [Butts County Parks &] Recreation Director, Jim Herbert, was one of us, but I guarantee you nobody checks out bows and arrows from him."

The coldest weather in 63 years gripped Butts County at the end of February 1958. Temperatures dropped to single digits – and two-below in Indian Springs. Older residents pointed to cold spells in 1950, 1937, 1899 and 1895, but were nearly unanimous that the Winter of 1958 was the winner for protracted, bone-chilling cold. Two inches of snow fell on February 15. A shortage of natural gas forced the closing of schools in Butts County, and many businesses and industries closed as well until there was a break in the weather.

In February 1958, the Girl Scouts of Butts County was chartered and organized by four interested mothers.

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1958
JACKSON – 60, Fayette County – 29
JACKSON – 47, Monroe – 35
Jackson – 46, GRAY – 49
JACKSON – 42, Forsyth – 30
Jackson – 47, MILNER – 64
Jackson – 25, HENRY COUNTY – 35
JACKSON – 54, Pike County – 46
JACKSON – 69, Monticello –31
Jackson – 38, FORSYTH – 51
JACKSON – 48, Milner – 47
Jackson – 28, HENRY COUNTY – 33
JACKSON – 48, Monticello –26
JACKSON – 63, Pike County – 55
JACKSON – 47, Fayette County – 29
Jackson – 34, HARRIS COUNTY – 41

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1958
JACKSON – 55, Fayette County – 33
Jackson – 20, MONROE – 37
JACKSON – 55, Gray – 30
JACKSON – 52, Forsyth – 32
Jackson – 58, MILNER – 63
Jackson – 34, HENRY COUNTY – 50
Jackson – 57, PIKE COUNTY – 64
JACKSON –78, Monticello – 35
JACKSON – 61, Forsyth – 46
Jackson – 46, DUDLEY HUGHES – 62
Jackson – 39, MILNER – 72
Jackson – 48, HENRY COUNTY – 61
JACKSON – 70, Monticello – 52
Jackson – 57, DUDLEY – 70
Jackson – 29, PIKE COUNTY – 58
JACKSON – 61, Hogansville – 37
Jackson – 32, MANCHESTER – 64

In March 1958, the city's house numbering system was completed by W. A. Holsten, city gas engineer. The new system was a tremendous aid to postal workers and visitors. There no ordinance requiring numbers be posted, but the Butts County Jaycees sold and installed numbers for $1.25 per house.

Using the Butts County Courthouse as a starting point, Holsten designated the four streets surrounding it as the 100 blocks. The streets on the courthouse square were given numbers below 100.

Bids were opened on April 15, 1958 for the construction of a new city hall. According to Mayor W. M. Redman, the facility was to be built using surplus utility funds accumulated in previous years. No bonds were issued to finance the project. The building gave city employees more room, and served as the new city jail with eight cells. It was erected on a lot next to the Jackson Progress-Argus on South Mulberry Street. The city owned the lot for years, but it was used for storage by automobile dealers. The city's fire equipment was kept behind a door facing Byars Street.

At the end of April 1958, work was underway for the construction of two new industrial facilities in Jackson. A 40,000-square-foot building was built for the Gateway Luggage Company, and a 9,000-square-foot building for an allied business that processed plywood products. The land was part of 75 acres purchased by the Butts County Development Company in the eastern section of Jackson, and 10 acres were leased to these two companies. The firms were expected to employ between 75 and 100 people and increase that number as production increased.

By August work on the buildings was complete and 400 White applicants were being screened for work at the two plants. No Negro applicants were screened.

"I remember I wanted to work at the Gateway Luggage Company in the worst way," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "I went to fill out an application and it asked what foreign language do you speak. Well, nobody down there spoke a foreign language. But if push came to shove, here was a qualification that I didn't meet."

As of May 1, 1958, Jackson residents and other natural gas users throughout the state started paying 10 percent more for the gas. The amount represented part of an 18-percent increase, of which the city absorbed eight percent. At the time, the city had 659 gas customers.

In May 1958, the Red Devils of Jackson High School won the Region 3-B East baseball title by defeating Milner 10-1. Harold McMichael hurled the Jackson team to the trophy by limiting Milner to one hit. The team had a 9-3 record overall.

At the end of May 1958, a mammoth 40-foot-tall shaving pile near the county's prime industrial site caught fire and burned for more than two weeks. Georgia's Civil Defense force came to help extinguish the blaze, which covered an estimated three acres. Water to fight the fire was pumped from the lake at Pepperton. The fire was within 100 yards of the Gateway Luggage plant, which was under construction at the time.

The fire rekindled itself on June 7, and was again put out by Jackson's volunteer firefighters under the direction of C. E. Rooks. A week later, earth movers organized by the city, county and state harrowed the pile into the ground to the delight of local residents. In the end, the

shavings were scattered from a pile 50 feet high covering two acres to one-foot-high covering an estimated 35 acres owned by the Butts County Industrial Development Board.

"There used to be a huge sawdust pile where Carter's Building Supply and Harry Lewis are now [on the corner of Highway 16 East and Alabama Boulevard]. It caught fire and just kept burning and smelling," said Mary Lee Martin about the sawdust pile fire. "Seems like it burned for years."

"It was awful," added her daughter, Mary Ruth Watson. "It would blaze up during the night. It was burning way down internally, so they had to be careful in getting Caterpillars and things like that to move the sawdust out because they knew it could cave in and just blaze up. So they would move a little bit and leave it alone, and move a little bit. I don't remember how long that thing burned, but it was a very long time. You would think 'oh, it's rained a lot,' and then all of a sudden it'd blaze up again. And it just went on and on and on forever.

"Oh my, it was something, and did it smell terrible," Watson continued. "The wood, especially after it's wet, just gets a heavy smokey feeling where it hurts to even breathe the air. The clouds and all from it, it was just really hard to breathe. And you could go out on the front porch at night and you'd see the fire. It was scary as a small child going 'when is this gonna stop?'"

"Jimmy White's dad used to have the planing mill," said Ernest Battle when asked about the sawdust pile and subsequent fire. "And I still have a scar on my back from playing on the sawdust pile there. Luckily we didn't get sucked in and suffocated from falling in the shavings. We used to go up on that shaving pile and whatever we could get to slide down it. And I had a piece of tin one day, and I came down and lost my balance and it cut my back.

"And also down there where the city barn is now," Battle continued, "they used to have the fairgrounds there. First time I ever saw somebody shot out of a cannon was down there. It was amazing. And see that was the only entertainment we had was when the fair came to town. Most folks couldn't go to Atlanta."

In describing the location of the sawdust fire, Merrell Price said it was "right there where Harry Lewis has the automobile place [on Alabama Boulevard]. Back towards the street. It burned for weeks."

"A.C. [Arthur] Freeman's place," added David Ridgeway, referring to the man who built the planing mill in 1946. "Mr. Clint [Freeman, Arthur's father]] went to Atlanta back about that time. He was country. Nothing else to describe it, just country. He kept his money in an old cotton book in his pocket. I used to haul lumber for him. He sat down in a Cadillac up there one day and a salesman came up and said , 'Mister, I wish you wouldn't sit in that car. That's an expensive car.' Mr. Clint said, 'Well, how much is it?' He said, 'That car is $5,500.' He reached back and got his cotton book and counted him up $5,500 and hand it to him and said, 'Can I sit in it now?' And he drove that thing home."

During graduation exercises for Jackson High School on June 2, 1958, Bill Garland was named Valedictorian and John Watkins was named Salutatorian. There were 56 members of the Class of 1958.

Jackson's most spectacular and costly fire in years gutted a 15,000-square-foot storeroom of the Farmers Union Warehouse Company and destroyed an adjacent home on June 15, 1958. The loss of cotton and feed was estimated near $100,000. Flames shot 50 feet into the air, and volunteer fireman with the city worked hard to douse the flames and save several nearby homes. No cause of the fire was determined.

A record of 347,320 man hours without incident at Pepperton Cotton Mill was ended on August 7, 1958 when Lonnie Rawls, a foreman in the card room, slipped and plunged his right foot through a glass window inflicting a severe cut. According to Levi Ball, director and executive of the mill, it was the second most serious accident in the long history of the cotton mill. Several years earlier, an employee lost a hand when it was caught in some machinery.

"I came to Jackson in 1958, and started teaching fifth grade at Henderson Elementary and High School," said Samuel L. Johnson during a 2009 interview. "You taught them a little of everything: English, math, science, social studies, and we had to teach health education at that time. You had the same students all day long. They called it homeroom. They came in in the morning, I called roll, and started the class. I did a lot of writing on the blackboard and a lot of talking and got children to copy it off the board."

"We had a regular recess time that they could go outside for about 30 minutes," continued Johnson. "Normally, you had a little extra time in the afternoon you could take them outside to play games or get a little exercise. It wasn't real structured as a class during that particular time. You could take them outside if you wanted to. School began at 8:30 and ended about 2:30 or 3:00."

"The principal when I came was Mr. N. E. Walker," Johnson recalled. "He was very nice to work with. I enjoyed my first teaching experience with him. I had him there to help me get through it, and some of the older teachers helped me get through it: Mrs. Lummus and Miss Taylor helped me get started. They had been teaching for quite a while. Jackson was my first teaching job. After I got here I had an offer to teach at another school, but I decided to stay. I think that was probably the best decision I made: to stay here. After I was here a few years, the people was real friendly, easy to work with and the parents were very cooperative with the teachers. I didn't think I was going to find a better situation at the time.

"I was renting a room on McKibben Street, living with Mrs. Glover, a nice lady," Johnson said. "Most of the teachers did that. The principal would find them a place where somebody would open up a room to rent to them. And my wife moved here from Albany in 1959, and we rented another room from Mrs. Glover that we turned into a kitchen. McKibben Street was just a regular street. It wasn't paved, and just had regular people that lived up and down it. They were all very friendly. There were no stores or restaurants in the neighborhood. There was a small place on Oak Street where you could go to buy a sandwich if you wanted."

The Butts County Jaycee's fifth Industrial Day was held September 24, 1958. It featured a beauty pageant, dance at the armory, and a parade with 34 floats and five bands. Seventy-five guests were invited to a buffet at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Brown on Benton Street.

Following scattered outbreaks of rabies across the state, City of Jackson officials announced in October 1958 that all ordinances regarding the tagging, registration and inoculation of dogs in the city would be enforced immediately. In 1942, the city passed an ordinance providing that all dogs must be inoculated annually, tagged and registered at city hall. In 1956, a similar ordinance was adopted that also required owners to provide a collar for the dogs with the name of the owner printed on each. Any dog found without a collar or tag would be destroyed immediately, officials warned.

At the end of October 1958, there were 685 customers on the city's natural gas system, and increase of 33 since the beginning of the year and an increase of 121 since 1954 when the system was approved by voters and installed.

In the city primary on October 24, 1958, voters reelected A. White Newton as Councilman from the Second Ward. He won his third two-year term over Butler Smith by a tally of 322 votes to 237. Mayor W. M. Redman and Third Ward Councilman Gordon Bankston were reelected without opposition.

On November 4, 1958, the Butts County Athletic Club was formed with 120 members. The group planned to give aid and encouragement to the athletic programs at the high school. Dr. W. G. Hicks led the group originally as president, with Max Polk as vice president.

Jackson's new city hall was dedicated on November 9, 1958. Traffic flow outside the building was halted during the ceremony. City officials listed the overall cost of the building at $55,260. That cost was borne entirely by surplus funds from the water and light funds, so it was built debt-free. The building held the city's administrative office space and jail with a total floor space of the building was 3,900 square feet. The exterior walls were black Italian marble, light faced brick and glass. Terrazzo tiles floors were used throughout the interior, and some of the walls featured wainscoting. The entire facility was air-conditioned.

For its 1958 homecoming game, Henderson High School beat Trinity High of Decatur 21-7. The Henderson homecoming parade on November 1, 1958 featured five bands and numerous imaginative floats.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1958</u>
Jackson – 0, MONTICELLO – 34
Jackson – 7, MANCHESTER – 27
Jackson – 6, FORT VALLEY – 28
JACKSON – 26, Lithonia – 6
Jackson – 12, HOGANSVILLE – 40

JACKSON – 12, Henry County – 0
Jackson – 0, MARY PERSONS – 7
Jackson – 6, HARRIS COUNTY – 28
JACKSON – 9, Jones County – 7

"The best [Jackson High School football] game I remember was a year after I graduated," said Bobby Stephens during an interview in 2010. "Leslie Colwell was the senior quarterback. They were playing Jones County on Red Devil Hill. In the first quarter, a fellow named Stump Collins caught one of their backs in the end-zone for a safety. That was all the scoring in the first half. Well, Jones County drove down the field and scored to take the lead in the third quarter, 7-2. Well, in the fourth quarter, Jones County was about to score again. Stump Collins hit the quarterback and the ball popped up in the air. Leslie Colwell intercepted it in the air and ran 90 yards - unmolested - for the winning score. It was 9-7."

In December 1958 came news that the Kym Company, which had manufactured men's pants in Jackson since 1954, had outgrown its original building and had contracted to build a new 25,000-square-foot factory. E. D. Briscoe, president of Butts County Industries, Inc., a stock company formed to build the new building, made the announcement. The building was projected to cost nearly $100,000, and stock in the new company was offered at $100 a share.

1959

The city began 1959 with Mayor W. M. Redman and councilmen Gordon Bankston, C. B. Brown, Jr., W. B. McCoy, Sr., and A. Whit Newton at the helm.

City employees were: Mrs. W. H. Mallet, city clerk and treasurer; Mary Downs, assistant clerk; Mrs. L. A. Brooks, Jr., clerk of the gas department; J. H. Rooks, superintendent of utilities; W. Andy Holston, gas engineer; Ballard Perdue, engineer at the water and sewer treatment plant; Watson Vaughn, chief of police; and M. E. Wade, R. T. Bennett, Curtis Kelly and Oscar Cook as policemen.

A meeting was held on January 17, 1959 to discuss plans to extend the city limits of Jackson. Most impacted by the proposed change were the Griffin Road section, the new residential subdivision south of the National Guard Armory, and the industrial lot on which the Gateway Luggage and Kym Company buildings were located.

About 40 citizens turned out for the meeting and were so steadfast in their opposition to the proposed extension along the Griffin Road that the mayor postponed the plan. However, plans to incorporate the industrial area, the old C.C.C. Camp on Mallet Street where new low cost housing was being built, and the residential lots south of the armory into the city went ahead.

On January 28, 1959, the city passed an ordinance stipulating that any dog found running loose in the city limits would be picked up and taken to a pound for three days and destroyed if not claimed by an owner in that time. The action was taken, according to Mayor W. M. Redman,

to combat the packs of dogs that infested portions of the city. Several pet cats had been killed by stray dogs in recent months and a cow in the city was attacked and injured by a pack.

"I don't remember any problem we had with rats and stray dogs," said M. L. Powell in 2008, "but I'm sure we had 'em."

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1959
Jackson – 17, FORSYTH – 30
JACKSON – 42, Putnam County – 39
Jackson – 32, MILNER – 33
Jackson – 25, HENRY COUNTY – 34
Jackson – 34, PUTNAM COUNTY – 39
JACKSON – 46, Fayette County – 42
JACKSON – 43, Monticello – 18
Jackson – 37, FORSYTH – 42
Jackson – 36, PIKE COUNTY – 37
JACKSON – 48, Milner – 45
JACKSON – 49, Fayette County – 27
Jackson – 37, GRIFFIN – 42
Jackson – 24, HENRY COUNTY – 38
JACKSON – 36, Griffin – 29
JACKSON – 46, Monticello – 17
Jackson – 38, MARY PERSON – 41

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1959
JACKSON – 43, Forsyth – 42
Jackson – 60, EATONTON – 65
Jackson – 48, MILNER – 67
Jackson – 41, HENRY COUNTY – 58
JACKSON – 66, Putnam County – 57
JACKSON – 66, Fayette County – 50
JACKSON – 59, Monticello – 34
Jackson – 37, FORSYTH – 44
Jackson – 29, PIKE COUNTY – 52
Jackson – 46, MILNER – 61
Jackson – 51, DUDLEY HUGHES – 74
JACKSON – 62, Fayette County – 41
Jackson – 31, GRIFFIN – 73
Jackson – 40, HENRY COUNTY – 42
Jackson – 45, GRIFFIN – 65
JACKSON – 44, Monticello – 38
Jackson – 29, ROBERTA – 35
Jackson – 39, FORT VALLEY – 55

Announcement was made in February 1959 that Singletary & Nye Construction Company of North Carolina planned to build an office and steel fabricating plant in Jackson's new industrial area. The firm was already building a facility for the Kym Company.

In early 1959, seven low rent housing united for Whites were to be constructed on land off Watson Street. The 29 units for Negroes were to be built on what was known as Mallet's Field.

At a band competition in Barnesville in March 1959, the Henderson High School Band under the direction of G. R. Holland won a rating of superior and first place. The band had become one of the best Negro bands in the state, it was reported.

During the annual Jaycee Awards Night banquet on April 2, 1959, Beverly Ingram was named STAR Student of Jackson High School, and she in turn named N. F. Land as her STAR Teacher. W. Andy Holston was named Young man of the Year.

In April 1959, it was announced that a lighted baseball field for the local Little League was to be built in time for Summer games. The field had six light poles, and was constructed on the old baseball field south of the high school. The first game under the lights was played on June 26, 1959.

In April 1959, the city threatened to crack down on loud mufflers in local cars. The city had long had an ordinance outlawing such noisy mufflers, but vowed to enforce it in the wake of recent complaints.

On May 1, 1959, Doug Bryant won first place in the mile race at the state track meet with a time of 4:50.4. As far as anyone knew, he was the first Jackson student to win an event at the state track meet.

On May 5, 1959 came news that the Central Georgia EMC had received a federal loan of $460,000 to bring power to 500 new customers and make system improvements.

Forty-five seniors received diplomas from Jackson High School on June 1, 1959.

The Kym Company, second only to the Pepperton Cotton Mill in number of people employed in Butts County, moved into its new 26,000-square-foot facility at the beginning of June 1959. For the previous six or seven years, the company had been located in a building off the old Griffin Road.

A major disaster was narrowly averted on July 13, 1959 after a gasoline storage tank at the Hi-Fi Service Station on Indian Spring Road caught fire. It was extinguished by a timely

rainstorm and prompt action from the Jackson Fire Department. Flames at one times shot as high as 30 feet into the air.

At an August 1, 1959 meeting of the Butts County Board of Education, C. B. Littlefield was elected principal of Jackson High School. D. V. Spencer, Butts County School Superintendent, also announced that Littlefield's wife had been appointed librarian of the high school.

During a meeting of the Jackson Kiwanis Club on August 11, 1959, Dr. R. C. Williams of Atlanta outlined how the county could qualify for a 25-bed Hill-Burton Hospital. Under the Hill-Burton act, the federal government would allocate two-thirds of the cost of building such a hospital if local sources funded the other third and a hospital authority was formed.

When schools opened in Butts County at the start of September 1959, there were 2,256 students enrolled. Jackson Elementary School, with grades one through six, had 631 students. Jackson High School had 472 students. Henderson High and Elementary schools had a total of 1,156 students.

At a meeting on September 18, 1959 of the trustees of the authority, J. T. Beckham, prominent Jackson businessman and civic leader and president of the Butts County Chamber of Commerce, was elected chairman of the Butts County Hospital Authority. The authority's members passed a resolution stating that: "there is urgent need for the creation of a hospital authority for the county of Butts, and that by reason of existence of the need for hospital facilities to serve the citizens of the county of Butts."

In the city primary on October 23, 1959, councilmen C. B. Brown, Jr. and Wendell B. McCoy, Sr. were unopposed for their seats on the City Council. At the same time, J. Avon Gaston succeeded T. A. Nutt, Sr. as chairman of the city's executive committee. Richard Watkins, Jr. succeeded Vincent Jones as secretary of the committee.

At a meeting held October 27, 1959, the planning commissions from the county and the city met for the first time as one board. Members elected M. L. Powell as chairman. The commission learned that night that it would be three years before Hill-Burton funds would be available for a Butts County hospital.

"Richard Watkins, Mary Lee Martin and I were the first zoning committee," recalled M. L. Powell during an interview in 2008. "That was the beginning of the zoning committee. We didn't have any zones in town, and we felt like we just needed a little change. So we organized that and got started. We formed it on our own without the city. That was very unusual, but we did.

"We didn't get so deep into it that we established rules for building houses," he said. "David Settle's wife had always wanted a zoning board, so we just decided we'd organize one. We wrote up a few little things, but we didn't do a whole lot really. There was nothing legal about it. But that got it started. We were just concerned citizens."

As of November 1959, there were 1,746 phones operating in the Jackson exchange, according to Charles E. Martin, manager of the Jonesboro district for Southern Bell. The company entered the local phone market in 1906 when it bought a locally owned telephone system from $6,500. At that time, there were 109 phones in the county.

A fire of undetermined origin struck the moat house and its combustible waste products at the gin of the Farmers Service, Inc. on Lyons Street on November 10, 1959. The business owner, Dawson Bryant, estimated the losses at $1,000.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1959
Jackson – 0, MONTICELLO – 7
Jackson – 21, MANCHESTER – 21
Jackson – 0, FORT VALLEY – 13
Jackson – 12, Lithonia – 12
Jackson – 0, HOGANSVILLE – 20
JACKSON – 21, Henry County – 6
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS – 19
Jackson – 13, Harris County –13
JACKSON – 13, Jones County – 6

"When I was a senior in high school," said Luke Weaver, "we played football until the season was over and then if you didn't play basketball you had the last two periods in the afternoon you had study hall or P.E., which you really didn't do a whole lot.

"So, the football season's over around the middle of November, and quail season just happened to come in around the middle of November," Weaver continued. "So Sandra Thompson who was in my class was the secretary in the office, and I'd write myself a note every afternoon saying, 'please excuse Luke from the last two periods of the day. He need to work on the farm.' And I'd sign my daddy's name to it. I'd give it to her, and she'd approve it.

Weaver went on: "Mr. Littlefield, who was the principal then, came in one day and looked at that and said, 'come into my office.' So I went in, and he says, 'what are you doing every afternoon?' And I said, 'going bird hunting.' He said, 'do you hunt on Saturdays?' I said, 'yes sir.' He said, 'can I go with you?' I said, 'you sure can.' So he and I got to where we bird hunted nearly every Saturday afternoon.

"So Ms. Lawrence, who was another great teacher, taught me typing," Weaver said. "And I was the only senior in that class. The rest were juniors. And we got along the best in the world. Well, Ms. Lawrence got pregnant and had a baby, and Ms. Singleton came in to finish the year. Well for some reason - and I wasn't a bad kid, I was a pretty good kid - she decided that I was a trouble maker. So she carried me to the office and said she was going to have me expelled. Man, I knew that was going to be some sad singing and slow walking if that happened.

"So I went in and she told Mr. Littlefield what I'd done, and he said, 'let me handle it. You go on out. Let me talk to him.' So he asked me what I'd done, and I told him exactly what I'd done - which was not too bad," according to Weaver, "nothing I ought to get expelled for - so he

said, 'OK' and he reached into his desk and pulled out a paddle. And he said, 'now I'm going to hit this desk three times, and every time I hit it you scream like I'm killing you. When you walk out that door, I want tears in your eyes.' So he did, and I hollered every time, and when I went out I was crying, you know. He told, 'the next time, it's going to be for real.' But we hunted every Saturday, and occasionally he'd take off during the week and go with me, too. I was glad to have an ally there."

City of Jackson natural gas consumers got good news in the last week of November 1959. According to W. Andy Holston, city gas engineer, a recent gas rate increased granted the Southern Natural Gas Company was not going to be reflected in customers' bills. This was because of an increase in the number of residential and commercial gas users helping to absorb the cost.

A fire, believed to have started in a defective flue, totally destroyed the interior and contents of the brick building known as Conley's Store on Benton Street on December 1, 1959. Damages were estimated at $2,500.

On December 4, 1959, 25-year-old Josie Newby became Butts County's fourth traffic fatality of the year when she was struck by a car on Highway 16 near the Pepperton cemetery. According to reports, she and her husband and their four-year-old daughter, Rosa Lee, were attempting to cross the highway after visiting relatives. Millard Tomlin, owner of Riverside Barbecue, was driving the car that struck and killed Newby and seriously injured her daughter.

For the 1959 Empty Stocking Fund, the Butts County Jaycees raised funds by giving away a Shetland pony on Christmas Eve. The Jaycees also located the most needy families in the county for Christmas gifts by relying on public school teachers and churches, rather than applications from families. The drive sought useable toys, which could be given to needy children in the community.

Over $185 was raised locally for the Muscular Dystrophy Drive in December 1959.

On Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve during the late 1950s, some local teenagers reportedly lined up their cars in the parking lot outside Glidewell's Restaurant on Highway 42 North and proceeded to shoot fireworks at one another. "Oh yeah, I'm sure there's some guys here that actually participated in that," said Billy Glidewell through a wide smile in 2010. "I can see it in my mind's eye, you know? There'd be five, six cars on that right side of that lot, and some on the left side, and there was probably 70 or 80 yards between them. And [this] was when firecrackers were legal. You know those roman candles and rockets and everything? Oh man, I can remember my father [Hugh Glidewell, Sr.] just flipping out. You know Rudy Mangum? I remember him being down there. And Albert Smith, who was a little bit young, but he's Hugh [Glidwell, Jr.]'s age.

"One of [Albert Smith's older brothers, Roscoe Smith,] was a famous race car driver," Glidewell continued, "and there was a story about that involved that restaurant. He dropped one

of those race cars off a trailer out there and he drove it through town 100 miles an hour, or something like that. It was one of those legendary things that you hear but you never did know whether to believe or not, you know? But that group of people, that age group that I'm describing, those were the guys that would be doing that firecracker throwing, and lining up and all back there.

"My father ran a pretty tight ship out there," said Billy of Hugh Glidewell, Sr. "He didn't rubber stamp that fireworks cockfight, they were just - it was a kind of in-your-face type thing, you know, and I'm sure he had put an end to it. It was just one of those things that sprang up, you know? Kind of like - and no comparison at all, but you know kind of like how Freaknik started out as some kind of cultural thing, and then all of the sudden it turned into a disaster. But everybody, for about four or five years until they managed to stomp it out - it happened, whether they planned it or not. It just started popping up at Christmastime between these guys. But I'm sure that because they all kind of had a respect or fear, whatever you want to call it, of my father, that it was dissipated. But at the same time, he was always accepting of stuff like that, having teenage kids his own self, you know, he just knew that was just kids being kids."

"There was a great parking place just right across the street there [from Glidewell's Restaurant], which was a big hang out to go neck and carry on," acknowledged R. Scott Coleman during an interview in 2009. "And Watkins Park & Pool Road was another. My dad had his wrecker service, but he never said a word about who called him to come get them in the middle of the night or how many people he found down on Watkins Park & Pool Road stuck with somebody they shouldn't have been stuck with. A lot of that. You'd ask him about, and he'd just shake his head. But there were no paved roads outside of town back then. So you took your chances going out of town to park."

"Back then the girls our age dated only the older boys," said Wayne Phillips, who graduated from Jackson High School in 1961. "So we were friends with the girls three years younger than us. Barbara [Phillips] and I have been dating since we were 15 and 18. We've been together quite some time. We'd go to the youth center or the drug store."

"We dated but we spent more time as a group," added Barbara Phillips during the same interview in 2009. "We'd go up to T&H, which was Glidewells, on the top of the hill. It was a good place to go for french fries and Cokes and fellowship."

"It started out as Turner and something," continued Wayne Phillips. "And it was a tour-o-tel, and had little cabins in the back. Hugh Glidewell bought it and had a restaurant there, and all his girls were running it. They were around our age. They had quarters they would mark with red finger nail polish, and the man that came around to collect the money from the jukebox would give those back to them. So we were playing records for free because none of had any money really. The boys would go up there at night and that was just a place that we'd hang out.

"Then there was always Webb's on the weekend," he said. "We would go where Webb's Grocery is currently located. The truck stop was on the left end of the store and had a hamburger grill. Mr. Castellow ran it and he always had a cigar in his mouth and you'd tell him you wanted

a hamburger but to hold the ashes. The girls didn't go there, just the boys. The Tastee Freeze was across the street where the Chinese restaurant is now, and that was all that was there at that intersection [of Highway 16 West and Macon Avenue]. Everybody would meet there and on Friday and Saturday nights the whole parking lot would be filled with 50 or 60 people just shooting the bull."

"They'd take their dates home and couldn't wait to get to Webb's," added Barbara Phillips with a smile. "Curfew for me was 11 o'clock. For most of my friends it was 11:30, and some even midnight. But mine remained 11:00."

1960

At the start of 1960, the Jackson-Butts County Planning Commission, headed by M. L. Powell, received word that the federal government renewed Jackson's certification as having a workable housing program for preventing and eliminating slums and blight.

The Commission had recently completed an exhaustive survey titled, "The Economy and Population of Jackson and Butts County."

A newly lighted baseball field promised the year's Little League season would be better than last year, when the All-Star team won the sub-district tournament. M. L. Hodges, Jr. was in charge of the League here.

When the season kicked off, a board of directors was elected. Lee Roy O'Neal, principal of the Jackson Elementary School, was appointed president of the Van Deventer Little League. Plans were made to build two dug outs and a concession stand at the ball field, and Richard Watkins donated the material for one dug out.

By the end of March 1960, funds had been secured to build both dug outs and a snack bar. The canteen was built with funds from the Little Gulf Station, L. W. May Gulf Oil distributor and Marine Equipment. The second dug out was built with funds from Parrish Drug Company and its owner Dr. B. F. Parrish.

The Little League season opened May 2, 1960, with four teams competing on the improved field: Standard Oil Company, City Pharmacy, Polk Tire Company, and Pepperton Cotton Mills.

"Butts County has always been geared towards the youth," noted Gene Pope in 2010, "because where the gymnasium sits [now on Franklin Street], was a little baseball stadium. It had bleachers, and a cover over the bleachers, and that's where I learned to play, that's where we played little league baseball. They've since tore it down."

There were 137 manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers in this area in 1960.

Quik-Kurb, a self service grocery store between Second and Third streets, opened in early 1960.

As for Black-owned restaurants in Jackson, Ernest Battle recalled "there was one in Crosstown called the Three Minute Grill. And one across from Israel Church over on First Street. Miss Daisy Andrews used to have that place right in front of the church. And there was a rib shack in Darktown.

"And then down at Webb's had a little area in the back where Blacks used to go to order out of the window," Battle said. "And then up at Cook's Lunchroom they had a little area back there on the ground with wood shavings that Blacks could order from."

"I worked for Candler Webb for 40 years, and I started this [Mary Lee's China & Gifts store] part time," said Mary Lee Martin during an interview in 2009. "And when Candler died, I retired. Candler came to Jackson and worked in a laundry, and then he got a Gulf station." Webb's filling station was located on East Third Street at the intersection of Holley Street [where the Chamber of Commerce office was]. "Then he moved down to Webb's current location where he continued with a filling station and also got into electrical [items], and then into groceries."

Henry Wise, a well know Negro carpenter who lived on Buchanan Street, was killed instantly on January 10, 1960 during an argument over a can of tobacco. According to Sheriff V. H. Ham, Charlie Watts shot Wise with a pistol in a home on Brownlee Road.

The home of Mr. & Mrs. J. W. O'Neal on East College Street was almost completely destroyed by fire on January 11, 1960. It was one of the most stubborn fires in Jackson history, keeping the volunteers of the Jackson Fire Department busy from 8:50 p.m. until 5 a.m. when the last truck left.

According to Fire Chief C. E. Rooks, between 75,000 and 80,000 gallons of water were used to douse the flames. No one was injured, and the home was covered by insurance, though numerous antiques and heirlooms belonging to both the O'Neal's families were lost in the fire.

A week later, J. W. O'Neal, a senior banker and civic leader, was named U.S. Savings Bond Chairman for Butts County. In 1959, citizens in Butts County place $114,000 in Savings Bonds.

Scott Tillery, a 13-year-old Jackson boy, suffered a broken leg in front of his home on Brookwood Avenue on January 13, 1960 when he slipped and fell under a school bus that he had just gotten off of. The bus, which certain Jackson residents furnish for private transportation for their children, ran over him with one wheel before a nearby motorist stopped the bus driver.

A fire of unknown origin ruined patterns on four machines in the Jacquard room of the Pepperton Cotton Mill on January 14, 1960. The blaze set off the sprinkler system, which put out the fire. Coming so soon on the heels of the O'Neal home fire and a conflagration that completely destroyed the Fellowship Presbyterian Church on Christmas Eve, people in Jackson were worried. Not even a songbook was left at the 125-year-old church.

On January 22, 1960, a fire destroyed Trimier Funeral Home, the Negro mortuary at 321 East First Street. Chief Rooks said the fire alarm sounded at 5:30 a.m. and volunteers fought the flames in sub-freezing weather. There was insurance on the building, but not the contents.

A proposed 25-bed Hill-Burton Hospital was sought for Jackson. Two thirds of the $500,000 cost would be provided by the federal government, with local residents responsible for the remaining third.

Jackson Mayor W. M. Redman announced the following committee assignments for 1960:

Building: A. W. Newton – chairman, Gordon Bankston, C. B. Brown, Jr.
Cemetery: W. B. McCoy – chairman, C. B. Brown, Jr., A. W. Newton
Gas: A. W. Newton – chairman, C. B. Brown, Jr., Gordon Bankston
Police: C. B. Brown, Jr. – chairman, Gordon Bankston, A. W. Newton
Ordinance: Gordon Bankston – chairman, C. B. Brown, Jr., A. W. Newton
Streets: C. B. Brown, Jr. – chairman, A. W. Newton, Gordon Bankston
Finance: A. W. Newton – chairman, C. B. Brown, Jr., Gordon Bankston
Fire: C. B. Brown, Jr. – chairman, A. W. Newton, Gordon Bankston
Library: W. B. McCoy – chairman, Gordon Bankston, C. B. Brown, Jr.
Printing: W. B. McCoy – chairman, Gordon Bankston, C. B. Brown, Jr.
Water and Lights: Gordon Bankston – chairman, C. B. Brown, Jr., A. W. Newton
Sanitary: C. B. Brown, Jr. – chairman, W. B. McCoy, Gordon Bankston
Industrial: C. B. Brown, Jr. – chairman, A. W. Newton, Gordon Bankston, W. B. McCoy

In early February 1960, Mayor W. M. Redman and the City Council voted to install parking meters around the downtown square for a trial period of six months. The meters will also be installed one block off the square on Third, Second, Mulberry and Oak streets. At the end of the trial, citizens will be able to express their like or dislike of the meters at the ballot box.

Several years before, a similar poll actually tied between those who wanted parking meters and those that did not.

On March 7, 1960, 250 parking meters took effect. Meters in front of the post office, city hall and the front of the Jackson National Bank had 12-minute time limits. All others had two hour limits, with 12 minutes for a penny or five cents for an hour. Parking permits could also be purchased for $2.50, which allowed unlimited parking when displayed in an automobile.

City officials and Police Chief Watson Vaughn assigned policeman M. E. Wade the task of checking the meters. At the same time, the City Council elected C. M. Polk to be night policeman.

"Had parking meters two or three times," said M. L. Powell of the devices placed around the square numerous times by city officials. "People didn't like that so the City Council would dig them up."

In early 1960, homes were being built in Jackson at a rapid rate, and it looked as though the year was on pace to set a record for number of new homes constructed.

After a meeting between Mayor Redman and the City Council with the Jackson-Butts County Planning Commission, a public hearing was to be set to allow citizens a chance to air their views of a proposed subdivision regulation ordinance. The proposal would regulate the lot size, street width, size of blocks, requirements of street improvements, etc. According to M. L. Powell, chairman of the Planning Commission, mistakes were made in the past when subdivisions were created. These problems included streets too narrow, blocks too small, and lots too small.

Severe winds struck the Kym Company on Thursday, February 4, 1960. Part of the building's roof was torn away, and employees inside – though panicked - worked quickly to minimize damage to the inside. Small limbs were down throughout the city, but no one was injured and electric power was not lost.

During a Business and Professional Women's Club meeting on February 22, 1960, Councilman C. B. Brown, Jr. outlined plans to add parking space on the square by reducing the size of the courthouse lawn.

Also during the meeting, Richard W. Watkins, Jr., a member of the Jackson-Butts County Planning Commission, said the city needed to take steps to make Jackson a more attractive agricultural trading center, continue its aggressive search for high priority industries, make the residential areas more attractive, and realize that the function and character of the downtown commercial area will change in the future to meet the competition of nearby shopping areas.

Also on display at the meeting were maps and drawings created by Andy Holston. Officially, Holston was the City Gas Engineer, but unofficially he was everything else – engineer, mechanic, surveyor, draftsman, map maker, lieutenant in the National Guard, club president, campaign director, and lay leader in his church.

Walter Askin and his family were left destitute on February 19, 1960 after a fire ravaged their home off the Jackson-Jenkinsburg Road. There were five children in the family, and calls went out to the community for clothing, bedding and furniture.

In January and February 1960, Jackson received 13.2 inches of rain, five inches more than the same period in 1959.

On the night of Wednesday, March 2, 1960, Jackson was hit hard by an ice storm that snapped pine trees, felled limbs on oak and pecan trees, and blacked out the entire city by 12:35 a.m. on Thursday, March 3. City workers worked feverishly keeping the streets clear of limbs and hot power lines.

Additionally, the city was cut off from communication with the outside world as all 12 of its long distance circuits were knocked out. Residents with gas in their homes opened their doors to neighbors to heat themselves and cook food.

Bird and Florrie O'Neal, who lost heir home to fire in January, turned their new home on College Street into a kind of hostel for the neighborhood. The house was heated by gas, and the range was fueled by gas as well, so they were able to provide warm food in a warm environment to many families.

M. L. Hodges reported selling 75 lanterns at Hodges Hardware.

Estimates were anywhere from 48 to 72 hours before service could be resumed, but thanks to a superhuman effort by J. H. Rooks, Superintendent of the Water and Light Department, and his crew, other city workers, National Guardsmen and citizen volunteers, power was restored by 4 p.m. that afternoon.

The temperature sank to 10 degrees on Friday and Saturday, and it was Sunday, March 6 before the mercury rose above freezing and the ice began to melt.

Once every 24 years is enough, some said.

"It was in 1960 that we had a storm that took our electricity for three days," said Mary Davis. "The neighbors came to our house because we were at the bottom of the hill and had a leak in our bathroom faucet, and we had water. So the pressure kept pushing the water out. And you know when you're young you invite them all in. And another snow storm we didn't have heat. Well, we did have gas logs in the fireplace. So we just sat out here and looked at the fire. And I said, When this thing's over, we're not going to turn on television on again 'cause we liked looking at that fire. But guess what?"

In March 1960, the Butts County Jaycees named Harvey (Butch) Bohannon STAR Student in Butts County, and he named Mrs. V. L. Bryant as STAR Teacher.

The first mass in the beautiful new Catholic Church on the corner of Lyons and Covington streets was said on March 20, 1960. The church was officially dedicated on April 20, 1960.

<u>JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1960</u>
JACKSON – 38, Lithonia – 16
JACKSON – 55, Pike County – 52
Jackson – 28, GRIFFIN – 33
JACKSON – 42, Fayette County – 25
JACKSON – 39, Mary Persons – 38
JACKSON – 35, Newton County – 34
Jackson – 17, HENRY COUNTY – 35
Jackson – 48, Lithonia - 19
Mary Persons – 28, Jackson - 25
Jackson – 37, Fayette – 28
Jackson – 43, Monticello - 21
Jackson – 32, Henry County –33
Jackson – 40, Newton County – 51
Jackson – 20, Griffin – 27
Jackson – 34, Pike County – 30

Jackson – 62, Gordon – 36
Jackson – 18, Mary Persons – 25

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1960
JACKSON – 39, Lithonia – 36
Jackson – 28, PIKE COUNTY – 50
Jackson – 21, GRIFFIN – 60
JACKSON – 46, Fayette County – 27
JACKSON – 52, Mary Persons – 35
Jackson – 36, NEWTON COUNTY – 67
Jackson – 36, HENRY COUNTY – 40
Jackson – 51, Lithonia - 37
Jackson – 52, Mary Persons - 36
Jackson – 32, Gordon – 35
Jackson – 34, Fayette – 37
Jackson – 52, Monticello – 44
Jackson – 33, Henry County – 46
Jackson – 47, Newton County – 59
Jackson – 53, Griffin – 63
Jackson – 40, Pike County – 65
Jackson – 40, Gordon – 15
Jackson – 42, Fort Valley – 51

On April 8, 1960, county voters overwhelmingly approved a $200,000 bond issue to build a Hill-Burton Hospital in Jackson. Two weeks later, an offer from the Board of Directors of Pepperton Mills to the Butts County Hospital Authority was made public, in which Pepperton Mills offered 10 acres of land north of Highway 16 for the hospital site.

In May 1960, City Pharmacy and its owner Dr. Roy Goff offered the Hospital Authority 10 acres of land for the hospital on Highway 16.

In June 1960, a 12-acre site on McDonough Road was selected as the site for the hospital. The land was donated by Mrs. Anna Dawn Watson Edwards. The hospital was named Sylvan Grove, the same name given by Asa and Lucy Buttrill to their homeplace. Asa was given the land for his service in the Revolutionary War, and it remained in the family for six generation and was primarily virgin forest until it was cleared for the hospital.

"I'm just a school teacher who loves her home, her community and especially the children and young people of my hometown," said Edwards of her gift at the time.

"Miss Anna Dawn Edwards was teaching at the school," said Merrell Price. "She owned that property out there and she gave it, and that's the reason the name is Sylvan Grove because her home was named Sylvan Grove. That was the property name. That was her understanding with the board that the hospital would be named that when she gave the property."

"When they got ready to build the doctors' building, I was on the hospital authority then along with Stanley Maddox and Buster Duke," added David Ridgeway. "We went to Miss Anna Dawn, and she up and gave that [land], too."

In April 1960, the Jackson Police Department received a Traffic Safety Award from the Georgia Department of Public Safety for its outstanding traffic safety record of no deaths in the past five years. Police Chief Watson Vaughn accepted the award.

Jackson High School placed nine boys in the state track meet on April 29 and 30, 1960. They were: Douglas Bryant, Pete Gilbert, Phillip Bryant, Smokey Dukes, Ben Garland, Johnny Floyd, Perry Jones, Tommy Harper, and Larry Deraney.

Douglas Bryant won the Class B mile run title with a time of 4:47. Ben Garland placed fourth in the 100-yard dash.

During a donkey baseball game sponsored by the Jaycees in May 1960, Denny O'Neal reportedly spent more time in the air and on the ground than on top of his ill-tempered donkey. One spill over the donkey's head actually left Denny out of commission for several minutes, but he managed to keep his ever-present smile.

Forty-nine seniors received diplomas from Jackson High School during graduation ceremonies on May 31, 1960 at the Jackson Methodist Church. C. B. Littlefield was principal of the school.

In May 1960 the Jackson City Council proposed zoning ordinances to facilitate a more rapid and orderly growth for the city.

"We cannot control the price of houses, but we can control the size of lots," said M. L. Powell, chairman of the Planning Commission and an employee of Jackson Hardware.

The meat of the zoning ordinance is that a residence destroyed or demolished in a business district cannot be rebuilt as a residence, and a business destroyed or demolished in a residential district cannot be rebuilt as a business. In light of this, three neighborhood business districts were proposed: Bethel Flat, on Cemetery Street, and in the area between Mallett and Benton streets. Most of the area along the rail lines was reserved for industrial growth. In low density area, all lots must be 100 feet wide, and in the medium density area lots must be a minimum of 60 feet wide.

Preliminary figures released by James N. Price, Census District Supervisor, indicated that Jackson's population in 1960 was 2,536, a gain of 493 over the 1950 figure of 2,043. The county shows a loss of 157 residents during that 10-year span, with an estimated population in 1960 of 8,922.

The Van Deventer Babe Ruth Baseball League opened its 1960 season in May with two Butts County teams, the Jaycees and the Youth Center. The league was for teenage boys and

included several graduates of the Little League program. The Babe Ruth teams, first chartered in Butts County in 1958, were sponsored by the Van Deventer Memorial Foundation.

"I knew several baseball players who could hit the ball from home plate to the old bus shop, which is a pretty far ways," said Luke Weaver of his days playing baseball for Jackson High School in the late 1950s and early 1960s. "Wayne Byars was one of them."

On June 13, 1960, Mrs. R. M. King killed a 6'4" black snake on her lawn on Forrest Avenue.

Work began on June 20, 1960 on the new retail building on the lot south of City Hall. It housed A&P and Polk Tire & Service. The A&P grocery store had been located on the square at the northwestern corner of the intersection of Third and Oak streets.

The City of Jackson launched a campaign at the end of June 1960 to rid the town of its population of stray dogs. The police caught as many dogs without inoculation tags as they could, euthanized those obviously stray, and held for three days those that might have been pets to allow owners to contact the city as to their dogs' whereabouts. The goal of the campaign was to lessen the chance of rabies as hot weather approached. M. L. Powell, former county extension agent, provided rabies shots to pet owners for $1.50 during a rabies clinic on June 24, 1960.

Pepperton Cotton Mills took its annual vacation from Saturday, June 18 to Monday, June 27, 1960. And, as it had done since 1945, paid out vacation bonuses to workers.

Newly installed lights on the Jackson High School baseball field were formally dedicated on July 4, 1960 with a Connie Mack league baseball game, barbecue chicken dinner, and live music. The Central Georgia EMC, City of Jackson, D. W. Bailey Construction Company and Georgia Power Company contributed to the new lights. The field was used for night games by Jackson High School, the Babe Ruth League (ages 13-15), the Connie Mack League (ages 16-18), and ladies and men's softball leagues.

A grand opening was held June 23, 1960 for the Butts County Veterinary Hospital, with Dr. E. H. Blackburn as veterinarian. The office was located on Indian Springs Road in the building formerly occupied by Fuqua Radio and Television Shop.

Due to complaints from citizens, ordinances on loud mufflers, speeders and drag racers will be strictly enforced by the Jackson Police Department. In July 1960, loud mufflers in particular were a nuisance to residents.

A month later, the crackdown was a success because complaints had dropped off, according to Police Chief Watson Vaughn.

On July 20, 1960 five-year-old Howard Rossey was bitten by a copperhead moccasin while playing in his yard on Covington Street. The snake was killed by a neighbor, and Rossey was treated with a swollen arm.

Fashion Pillows celebrated its first anniversary during July 1960. It relocated from Griffin where it produced decorative pillows. W. H. Shapard was president of the company, with George Tharpe, Jr. as superintendent.

"I worked there in the office at Fashion Pillows," said Mary Davis during an interview in 2009. "I wasn't there long when [someone] just made me mad, so I called Betty Peek and said, 'Can I come back to work for you?' That's at Kym [Company], and she said yes, so I went back to work doing the same thing. When I got over [being mad] I went back to work for [Fashion Pillows] and worked there for 11 years.

"They made box cushions, knife edges, just a different variety of pillows," Davis recalled. "Of course, the production department is the meat of any manufacturing business. It's like Billy Shapard told us one time, and it's true. I worked in the office, in the lesser of the two evils. We just did the book work."

During the first week of August 1960, the Jackson Hotel was demolished to make way for a modern shopping center. Originally built in the late 1880s by Asa Smith for his sister-in-law, Ezra Morrison. It became known as the Morrison House after she passed away and her sister, Mrs. C. R. Gresham, took it over.

Traveling salesmen used the hotel and its two sample rooms to display their goods for local merchants.

Around 1900, the hotel was purchased by the Buchanans, and it became known as the Buchanan Hotel. The Buchanans added two wings to the hotel at that time and the structure had 42 rooms. It later became known as the Butts County Hotel, and finally as the Jackson Hotel.

Lewis Henderson worked at the hotel for nearly 50 years, ringing the hotel bell every day at noon to let businessmen know it was time for lunch. He also picked up guests at the railroad station in a fringe-topped surrey drawn by a sorrel horse. Tom and Mamie Bailey worked at the hotel for over 40 years.

The Buchanans sold the hotel in 1954 to the Berry Realty Company of Atlanta. David Deraney purchased the lot and following demolition of the hotel planned to build a modern shopping center four to five stories tall with 96 parking space and no parking meters.

"Beckham's 10-cent store," said Mary Ruth Watson. "Now that was a treat. If you needed something - a hair net, candy, you name it - Mr. Beckham had everything. If the New York Store didn't have it when I was growing up, Beckham's had it. If you needed it for your 4-H project, you could go in there and find it."

"Shopping at Beckhams [on the southwest corner of Second and Oak streets], that was where they sold needle and thread and everything else," Davis recalled. "Little dishes, silverware and toys. Nothing in town sells thread now. That's unfortunate. Beckham's was around for lots of

years, and lots of local girls worked there. You could go and get anything you wanted. And then Deraney's was always there. And Brown's furniture company, and everything in there except the drug store changed hands. But when we first came to town before Brown's was here, a man ran a theater. We went there lots 'cause we were young. You had to go upstairs to it. Everybody was quiet. They had the drive-in [on Highway 42 North]. There's a church there now, but you can still see the humps. We went there lots of times. Then there was the theater at the top of the hill. And we went there more than any. Now you have to go to Griffin, and you shouldn't have to."

"Where Mesquite Mexican restaurant is now, a lady whose name started with an H ran a superb restaurant there," said Mary Davis. "You sat down to order and it was delicious. There was C&S [restaurant] on East Third Street and it was delicious. And recently on Second Street right off the square on Second Street just down from the water authority with the brick front. That was Mary Ellen and her husband, Roger, ran a restaurant [Tillie's] that sold every kind of food. It was good."

Two new stores opened the week of August 7, 1960, both on Third Street. Gilbert's Furniture, located at 125 East Third Street, run by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Lee Gilbert offered new furniture, refinishing and upholstery. The Watch Hospital, located across the street from Gilbert's, is run by John Pray and will offer watch repair and jewelry.

On August 22, 1960, the City Council approved a $30,000 contract for a lift and pump and force main for the purpose of pumping the sewage from the south side of Jackson and Garden Hills over to the sewage treatment plant.

The lift pump was installed just east of Freeman Street near Town Creek for the purpose of clearing up that stream, which flows to Indian Springs. Also included is the rebuilding of the sewer outfall located between First Street and the Negro school.

The contractor, J. B. McCrary and Company of Atlanta, have done all the sewer work in Jackson beginning in 1914 with the original sewer system.

In August 1960, some local merchants had joined together to oppose the parking meters around downtown Jackson. They ran ads in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* urging citizens to vote out the meters during a September referendum because the meters kept out of town shoppers from coming to Jackson, play into the hands of stores that have free parking, and that the town is too small to have the meters.

City officials countered that the city tried in the past to prevent all-day parking around the square by enforcing five-hour and two-hour limits on parking in spaces. The meters were, five months in, generating $400 a month in revenue, half of which went to pay for the meters themselves. In four years, officials said, the city would own the meters and additional revenue will be available to the city then. Revenue from the meters was already being used to improve streets and sidewalk, and the Mayor and City Council were considering using part of it to build a new police booth on the square.

Lightning struck and set fire to the home of Jonas "Man" Taylor on August 30, 1960. The house, just off Highway 16 East burned to the ground, though no one was injured.

In 1960, there were 27 teachers at Jackson Elementary and 14 at Jackson High School. There were 25 teachers at Henderson Elementary and 13 at Henderson High School. When classes began at 8:40 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6, there were 2,281 boys and girls, white and colored in school, and decrease from 2,259 students when the 1959 school year began.

"After teaching fifth grade about two years, I moved up to sixth grade," said Samuel L. Johnson during a 2009 interview. "Then I moved up to junior high school. The subject I taught was seventh grade science, which was very interesting. We had what they called a portable lab that could go around for demonstrations. I had one boy that was working on an electricity project and he stuck a gym clip in a socket. I saw him get shocked, but he was all right." Johnson retired from teaching in 1986.

In September 1960, the Central Georgia Electric Membership Corporation received a $965,000 grant from the Rural Electrification Administration for the purpose of constructing 60 miles of distribution lines to bring power to up to 1,000 new homes in the area. Manager R. F. Armstrong predicted that by 1970, the EMC would have 10,000 new customers.

In the primary of September 20, 1960, Butts County business and civic leader Bailey Woodward was elected to the House of Representatives. Voters in the City of Jackson also voiced their approval for parking meters by a vote of 1,623 to 734.

James Woodward, a 23-year-old Negro, was burned to death early in the morning on Sunday, September 25, 1960 when a fire of undetermined causes destroyed his small frame house on Mallet Street. Woodward, an employee of the Standard Service Station in Jackson, was thought to have been awakened by the flames but succumbed to smoke inhalation.

The seventh annual Industrial Day was held September 28, 1960, and was sponsored by the Jaycees. A talent show kicked off the celebration on September 27 at the school auditorium. Industrial Day kicked off with opening remarks from Mayor Redman and Jaycee President Jim Robertson on the courthouse square.

These were followed by a beauty contest featuring candidates from all surrounding counties, culminating in the crowning of Miss Industry 1961. Judy Apple, a blue-eyed brunette senior at Jackson High School possessing a 37-23-38 figure, won the coveted crown from a field of 28 lovelies from six counties. She was the first Butts County girl to win the beauty contest in the event's seven-year history.

A parade followed featuring 30 civic club floats and the Jackson High School, Griffin High School, McDonough High School and Gordon College Cadet bands, and a big dance was held that night in the high school gymnasium.

In 1960, gasoline sold for 28.8 cents a gallon wholesale, of which 10.5 cents went to pay taxes on the fuel.

The first season of the Negro Little League baseball team of Jackson came to a close in September 1960. The team, coached by John Watkins and assistants S. L. Johnson and W. H. Powell, earned a record of 18-8. Bradley Freeman, a pitcher, ended with a perfect 5-0 record.

The Butts County Fair was held for six days, October 17 through 22, 1960, and was sponsored by the Jackson Exchange Club. Mrs. Homer L. Allen, Sr. was named Woman of the Year and presented with a silver goblet from the Exchange Club. She was a founding member of the Jackson Business and Professional Women's Club and a stalwart of the First Baptist Church. Judy Apple was named Miss Butts County.

In the flower show, sweepstakes ribbons were awarded to Mrs. Lou W. Moelchert and Mrs. David Settle, for receiving the most points in the show. Mrs. Odell Cook and Miss Delia Watkins won tri-color ribbons for the best arrangements.

In the October 21, 1960 city primary, C. Milton Daniel, Jr. won the race for Second Ward Councilman over incumbent A. Whit Newton by a tally of 330-327, one of the closest races in the city's history and a near record voter turnout. Mayor W. M. Redman, mayor since 1936, was reelected without opposition. Councilman John Gordon Bankston won reelection in the Third Ward without opposition.

Parents and teachers interested in improving the county's schools met on October 27, 1960 to organize the Parent-Teacher Planning Group.

J. H. Stewart, a well-known farmer in the Jackson district, dug up a 17-pound potato on October 27, 1960.

On Saturday, October 29, 1960, John Leonard Lyons, a former mayor of Jackson and prominent citizen, passed away at the age of 92 after a prolonged illness. He served two terms as mayor, and one term in the General Assembly representing Butts County. Several years earlier during an ice storm, he fell in his yard and broke his hip from which he never fully recovered.

In November 1960, plans were announced by J. W. Fletcher, manager, that the Colonial Store on Oak Street would be remodeled and enlarged. Twenty feet of additional space was added to the front of the building, and the parking lots on both sides were paved.

"Mr. Fletcher, Larry Fletcher's daddy, ran the Colonial [grocery] store. That's where I worked as a sack boy making 75 cents an hour, and got a raise to dollar and thought I was rich," said Gene Pope in 2010. Working at Colonial was not without its risk of pranks though. "Oh yeah, they told me, 'Get me a bag stretcher. These bags ain't big enough. Need a bag stretcher.' They're paper bags! Yeah, that and a sky hook. And I remember one guy saying, 'Go down there to so-and-so, and get me a bucket of steam, five-gallon bucket of steam. Bring it back, we're going to clean these floors.' 'Okay.' And I'd go over there and I'd ask someone, and he'd say, 'Man, get your ass out of here!' You know, just all these little tricks that they would send rookies to get. We didn't know. We were immature. But that was it, you know, you worked at the grocery

stores, and people would come in there, and everybody knew each other, it was a small town atmosphere."

On November 7, 1960, the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare approved a $251,020 Hill-Burton Grant to the Butts County Hospital Authority toward the $570,500 cost of the new 28-bed Sylvan Grove Hospital.

JHS RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1960
Jackson 7, MONTICELLO 25
JACKSON 13, Manchester 6
Jackson 7, FORT VALLEY 12
Jackson 0, MORGAN COUNTY 20
Jackson 7, PUTNAM COUNTY 26
Jackson 0, HOGANSVILLE 38
JACKSON 13, Henry County 6
Jackson 6, MARY PERSONS 7
JACKSON 7, Harris County 6
JACKSON 44, Jones County 0

A young girl and an infant were injured on December 7, 1960 when the automobile they were riding in was struck by a train on the Pepperton crossing.

On Thursday, December 8, 1960, a ribbon was cut opening the new retail buildings for A&P and Polk Tire and Service Company located on a lot between College and Byars streets. The A&P building covered nearly 8,000 square feet and had 100 parking spaces. The Polk Tire building was 64' x 80', and was two stories high in the back.

"Probably the thing that made the square change so much," according to Luke Weaver in a 2009 interview, "was A&P moved off the square over to where Bill's Smokin' Barbecue is now [on the east side of South Mulberry Street]. That was one thing that got them off the square. Then you had a little later on the other grocery store - the Piggly Wiggly - and then you had places like Griffin. People who used to buy their clothes in Jackson, transportation was better so you could go to Griffin to buy clothes and then your bigger Wal-Marts and malls and this sort of thing."

Another nail in the coffin of the life of the square "was the cotton gin," said Weaver. "There was a cotton gin here and you'd bring your cotton to town on Saturdays. They'd bring it in on mules and wagons, and then got to where they'd bring it in on trucks. That was one reason you came to town was to bring your cotton. That was big draw back in the 50s. Who had the first bale of cotton. Mr. Harvey Hodges out of Fincherville had the first bale of cotton every year. But it was quite interesting. You'd get on the wagon and bring the cotton into town and sit down there and wait your turn with all the mules lined up in lines and your cotton. We went to Nutt & Bond on Lyons Street."

"The farms played out," said Bobby Stephens when asked why Saturdays on the square began to lose their importance for the community. "In the 1960s, integration really came into play. And the Black tenant farmers that were farming on the halves and so forth, they were able to get their own job and income. Then they could come to town anytime, whenever they got ready. They had their own job and their own income. They didn't have to stay on the farm everyday to make a living. And a lot of this technology stopped a lot of this, and eventually it died away. It got to the point where little grocery men like me couldn't compete with Giant Mart and then Piggly Wiggly and Wal-Mart started growing."

In 2010, Stephens, who ran a family grocery store on the square for decades, recalled a conversation he had about those large stores. "I had a lady ask me why I couldn't sell stuff for the same price that Wal-Mart does. I said, 'Let me tell you something: Wal-Mart can buy 10 train car loads of merchandise, spread it out to every store they got. How many stores do they have?' She said, 'Hundred.' I said, 'How many Stephens Groceries do we have?' 'Just you.' I said, 'I can't buy 10 car loads of stuff.' She hadn't thought of it that way."

The final population count for the 1960 Census was announced at the end of December 1960. Butts County had a population of 8,976, and Jackson had a population of 2,545.

The Granart Company, owned by R. D. Burnsed, moved to Jackson in 1960. It was one of only two companies in the country that produced multi-color granite blocks for use in banks, city halls and other decorative buildings. It employed 20 people when it opened in the old box factory.

By the end of December 1960, the sewage lift station on the south side of Jackson and the discharge lines leading from the lift station to the sewer treatment plant were in operation. The station lifted all sewage on the south side of the city, and assured that the creeks and streams in that section of Jackson remained free of sewage. The total cost of the project was approximately $30,000.

On Friday, December 23, 1960, four-year-old Jesse Scott, a Negro living on Mimosa Lane, was killed when his clothing caught fire in his home.

The four garden clubs in Jackson did not sponsor a lighting contest for homes over the holidays.

1961

At its January 2, 1961 meeting, the Jackson City Council and Mayor W. M. Redman released the following list of employees.

Chief of Police: Watson Vaughn

Policemen: M. E. Wade, Reuben T. Bennett, Oscar Lee Cook, Max Polk, and Hugh Polk.

Superintendent of Water & Light Department: J. H. Rooks

Gas Engineer: W. A. Holston

Assistant to Gas Engineer: Ray E. O'Neal
Filter Operator and Operator Sewer Treatment Plant: E. B. Perdue
Clerk: Mrs. W. H. Mallet (for six months)
Assistant Clerk: Mrs. Mary Jo Brooks
Clerical Work: Miss Mary Downs
Collector in the Gas Department: Mrs. Charlotte Price
Foreman, Sanitary Department: Willis McElhaney
Fire Chief: Edwin Rooks
The City Council included: Gordon C. Bankston, Milton Daniel, and Wendell B. McCoy, Sr.

According to statistics from Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., there were 137 businesses listed at the beginning of 1960, and 136 at the beginning of 1961.

According to the State Chamber of Commerce, retail sales in Butts County totaled $8,842,316 in 1960, an increase over $8,081,074 in 1959.

On January 12, 1961, the Mimosa Garden Club planted eight dogwood trees at Jackson Elementary School in honor of members who passed away since the club was formed in 1933.

Jackson got its second snowfall of the year on Saturday, January 20, 1961, when snow covered the ground and the mercury hit 10 degrees.

On Thursday, January 26, 1961, the city was hit with an ice storm. Rain that fell the night before froze over night, making early morning travel difficult. But most roads were soon passable, and only a few pine tree limbs were lost in the storm.

The second annual Middle Georgia Science Fair was held in Jackson on January 25, 1961 at the Jackson gymnasium. Twenty-two schools participated. Reggie Comer, son of Mr. & Mrs. J. M. L. Comer of Jackson, won first place overall with his prospect on spectroscopy. More than 1,400 people viewed the exhibits.

Longtime resident of Jackson Mrs. J. H. McKibben quietly celebrated her 101st birthday on January 25, 1961 with her family members at her bedside.

On Sunday, January 29, 1961, an argument over a missing top coat resulted in the stabbing death of Robert Lee Wilkes, a Negro, in the Buttrill district café of Eva Watson. Tommy Taylor, Jr. admitted to stabbing Wilkes in the heart because he knew Wilkes had a pistol in his pocket.

Eighteen prospective players met on January 29, 1961 to formulate plans for a Jackson men's baseball team. The meeting was presided over by James Wallace, Van Deventer Youth director.

Dawson Bryant drove to the Athletic Association banquet on Friday, February 10, 1961 in his Plymouth station wagon, but not away from it. His car was taken by professional auto thieves, believed to be from out of state, according to Jackson Police Chief Watson Vaughn.

Over the February 17 and 18, 1961 weekend, the county received seven inches of rains, which was believed to be a record. But it kept falling. A total of 12.13 inches of rain fell on the county between Saturday morning, February 18 and Saturday morning, February 25. The rainfall washed out a culvert on McCord Street, which closed the street until repairs were made.

JHS RED DEVIL BASKETBALL
Jackson 21, MARY PERSONS 31
JACKSON 32, Monticello 28
Jackson 23, HENRY COUNTY 46
Jackson 22, MILNER 44
JACKSON 45, Fayette County 28
JACKSON 42, Jones County 33
JACKSON 44, Pike County 23
JACKSON 42, Fayette County 29
Jackson 29, MILNER 38
Jackson 36, PUTNAM COUNTY 41
JACKSON 48, Pike County 32
JACKSON 44, Monticello 32
Jackson 26, NEWTON COUNTY 55
Jackson 34, GRIFFIN 40
Jackson 40, MARY PERSONS 61

JHS LADY DEVIL BASKETBALL
Jackson 26, MARY PERSONS 69
JACKSON 36, Monticello 34
Jackson 30, HENRY COUNTY 47
JACKSON 33, Fayette County 32
Jackson 30, JONES COUNTY 59
Jackson 32, PIKE COUNTY 48
Jackson 31, FAYETTE COUNTY 41
JACKSON 31, Milner 29
Jackson 36, PUTNAM COUNTY 39
Jackson 21, PIKE COUNTY 29
JACKSON 50, Monticello 30
Jackson 23, NEWTON COUNTY 37
Jackson 31, GRIFFIN 45
JACKSON 23, Fort Valley 22
Jackson 14, MARY PERSONS 21

As March 1961 began, Jackson Police Chief Watson Vaughn declared war on vandals, believed to be teenagers, who are destroying stop signs in the city. Signs have been pulled loose and removed or rammed with automobiles.

At the annual Jaycee Award Night banquet on March 7, 1961, Phillip Bryant was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. Bryant chose Jessie Sessions, a fifth grade teacher at Jackson Elementary School, as his STAR Teacher. Young Man of the Year went to Joe Brown, young Jackson businessman.

"He was a big supporter of the athletic department of the school," Merrell Price said of Joe Brown, Sr. "His brother was C. B. Brown, and he was the mayor. And they owned Brown's Appliance. For years, they were I business together there. Joe would be the service man, and C. B. would be the one to do the selling."

"They started out in the jewelry business," said David Ridgeway.

"They had a little building right beside McIntosh State Bank where McLaurin Graphics used to be [on South Oak Street at Byars Street]," said Price. "But Joe was a big supporter and booster of the athletic program in the county and the school."

"And he never was a put on," added Robert Pinckney. "He was just Joe whenever you saw him."

"He was your friend," said Price of Joe Brown, Sr.

Jackson's new police station at the southeast corner of the courthouse square was ready for occupancy at the start of April 1961. The 250-square-foot facility was built of concrete block with a brick veneer and California redwood trim. It contained a locker room, first aid room and radio room. There was a rotary phone inside for reports from citizens, and a radio to allow communication with the police car, fire truck and other city vehicles.

The station replaced the outdated police booth at the intersection of Mulberry and Third streets. When that booth was erected, the city had only two policemen, but had six in 1960.

"They had a little brick building right on the [southeast] corner [of the courthouse lawn] where that statue is," explained David Ridgeway. "That's where the police hung out."

The police booth was manned all day and all night, and from it the officer on duty could blow a siren to indicate the time was noon, or to indicate a fire emergency.

"Before they had the siren," Ridgeway continued, "they had to run over to the cable [that hung down from the bell in the courthouse clock tower] and ring that so everyone would know there was something going on."

"Then they got to the point they'd blow the siren," added Merrell Price. "If [the fire] was in Ward 4, they'd blow it four times. If Ward 2, two times. They'd be long blasts."

"Whatever the ward it was in," said Ridgeway, "that's how many times they'd blow it. And you'd see volunteer fireman coming from everywhere."

It was announced on March 28, 1961 that Pepperton Cotton Mills, Inc., the county's largest and oldest industry and one of Georgia's fast dwindling number of independently owned textile mills, was sold to Avondale Mills of Sylacauga, Alabama.

The mill was founded in 1896, and was the backbone of the county's industrial base for six decades at the time of the sale. The mill had 17,000 spindles and 500 looms that manufactured drapery material, table cloths, napkins and other specialties.

W. O. Ball and L. J. Ball, previous owners, planned to continue their association with Pepperton, and the new owners planned to stabilize and expand the operation. At the time, the mill had between 450 and 500 employees and an annual payroll of over $1 million.

"There weren't too many Blacks that worked down there [at the Pepperton Cotton Mill] until Avondale Mills bought it," recalled Ernest Battle. "They hired more minorities down there. It was what they said it was: a mill village, and they didn't want Blacks down in there. Sometimes I'd ride with the guy on the ice truck making deliveries down there, or I'd ride with the milk truck 'cause they let me drink all the chocolate milk I wanted."

"I can remember when I was a child my dad would buy a watermelon and take it to the ice plant to cool for a few hours before bringing it home to slice," recalled Barbara Phillips in 2009.

"They would cool people's watermelons," agreed her husband, Wayne Phillips, during the same interview.

A Civil War Centennial Ball was held on April 29, 1961 in the National Guard Armory. Mayor Redman asked that "every male citizen capable of growing a beard is bound to produce one on or before that memorable or else be held subject to demand of a fee unless a bona-fide excuse is rendered." The ball was sponsored by the Jackson Business & Professional Women's Club.

In April 1961, Chief Watson Vaughn and the Jackson Police Department received a letter from the Georgia Department of Public Safety commending them on the splendid traffic record compiled by the city in 1960.

In the first week of May 1961, the City of Jackson was installing mercury vapor light fixtures on Third Street and at some of the other main intersections in the city. According to J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the Water and Light Department, the old fixtures will be put up in sections of the city where light is needed.

The Little League baseball season opened Friday May 19, 1961 with a game between City Pharmacy and Standard Oil Company. There were two other teams of 12-year-olds and younger boys, Pepperton Mills and Polk Tire Company.

An early morning fire on May 12, 1961 did $1,500 worth of damage at the Polk Tire Company's recap shop. The fire started when an employee knocked over a can of gasoline-thinned paint that spread to a burner.

Eddie Deraney of Eatonton and John Deraney of Jackson purchased the Town Theater from Wendell B. McCoy, Jr. in May 1961. McCoy sold the facility to focus more attention on his insurance business. The new owners made renovations and opened the theater on a daily basis. Admission was 20 cents for children, and 50 cents for adults.

Forty-eight seniors graduated from Jackson High School on June 1, 1961 at the Jackson gymnasium.

Work began on Monday, May 29, 1961 on the Sylvan Grove Hospital. The construction contract was awarded to United Builders of Decatur who submitted the low bid of $469,000. The hospital was first suggested in September 1959 in a speech to the Jackson Kiwanis Club.

In late June 1961 came news that American Mills of Griffin was building a new plant on Highway 36 just outside the city limits. According to American Mills president R. P. Shapard, Jr., the plant would employ 200 people and manufacture knit underwear for children for national chain stores. Shapard said the success of Fashion Pillows, an affiliated company owned by W. H. "Billy" Shapard, in Jackson and the cooperation of local officials helped him make the decision to open a plant in Jackson. The city provided utilities to the new facility.

On Tuesday, June 20, 1961, a final agreement was reached that brought a branch of the Ready-Mixed Concrete Company of Griffin to Jackson. The new plant will be built on property located on Alabama Boulevard and First Avenue. The company supplied concrete to the construction of Sylvan Grove Hospital. It employed an operator and two or three truck drivers.

"Miss Jane Mallet she was city clerk for years and years and years," said David Ridgeway in a 2008 interview. "She was clerk when I was in high school."

Merrell Price added: "You've heard the expression: 'When E. F. Hutton talks, people listen?' Well, when Miss Jane spoke, people listened."

"She knew what she was talking about," said David Ridgeway.

"She sure did," agreed Merrell Price.

"She didn't beat around the bush," added Robert Pinckney.

"Miss Mary Downs was in there, too," said Merrell Price. "And Miss Jane never married, so they were two old maids in there, doing good. And they stayed there for years and years."

Mrs. W. H. (Jane) Mallet retired on July 1, 1961 as Tax Collector of Jackson. She held that position since 1925, and was appointed City Clerk and Treasurer of the city in 1936. Most customers knew her as "Miss Jane." Her duties were assumed by Mrs. L. A. (Mary) Brooks, Jr.

"It is doubtful that any city ever had a more devoted employee," wrote Doyle Jones, Jr. in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "To Miss Jane, getting the job done was the important thing… hours and time were secondary. It was commonplace to see her still working away at her desk in Jackson's new city hall long after all the others had left. Her entire life was wrapped around her services to her beloved city. She gave a measure of devotion and fidelity to her duties that others would do well to emulate."

"I worked [at the National Guard Armory] for 12 years," said David Ridgeway in a 2008 interview, "and then ran for the clerk of court [in 1961]."

"Against my wife," said Merrell Price during the same interview.

"She was as honest an individual as I have ever seen," added Ridgeway. "She never said one word against me or anything. We just had a great time running. I think there were 212 votes difference. [Charlotte Price] and I ran against each other, and we never kept from being friends. We were friends before and friends after."

"When I was running for office," recalled Ridgeway, "I'd go down there at the change of shifts and see people. In fact, the morning of the election, I was down there at six o'clock as they were changing shifts, talking to people. That's where a lot of your elections were won and lost."

"When David ran, they had a voters list here [in Jackson] and had the same voters list in Pepperton," Price explained. "They let people know it was against the law to vote here and then go down there and vote there, too. If you were caught, then they would prosecute you. I don't know if they ever had any of them though."

"I think the year I ran was the last year they counted the Black vote separately," said Ridgeway. "In that last office in the courthouse on the left [on the north side] was where they counted the Black vote. I'd go down there that night and they'd say, "Price. Price. Price Price. Ridgeway. Price. Price. Price.' I didn't stay long."

"Mr. Gordon Bankston on the day of the election saw her and said if you happen not to win this election, you got a job over at city hall as gas clerk," said Merrell Price. "And she went to work at city hall as the gas clerk. And Miss Jane Mallet, who was the city clerk, was retiring. Mary Joe Brooks, who was the gas clerk, stepped up to be the city clerk, and Charlotte became the gas clerk."

"You'd be surprised the difference between the politics back then and now," said David Ridgeway. "But everybody got along. We had a one party system - the Democratic Party - but they'd go after one another just like they never had been in the same party. When I ran for office, I couldn't run as a Republican, because there was no Republican Committee [in Butts County]. So when they had the primary, that was the equivalent of being elected. It didn't matter what happened after that. You were already elected. So the whole time I was in office, I was a Democrat supposedly. But I always voted for whoever I thought was the best man."

"I served on the Democratic Committee," added Robert Pinckney. "Doyle Jones was chairman and he asked me to serve. I served as long as I could take it, and then I couldn't vote Democratic anymore. Richard Watkins and Roy Goff were on there, too. Richard ran it for a long long time, and Gilmer Morris got on it. And then Gilmer couldn't take Democrats anymore, so he got off."

"You know what [Doyle Jones] made me do?," asked David Ridgeway. "Every time I didn't have opposition, I had to pay double the entrance fee. That stuck in my craw for years. I asked him, I said, 'All right. Will you guarantee me next time I run, that I won't have opposition? Then I'll be glad to pay that, if you can guarantee me won't nobody run against me.' He said, 'Oh no, I can't do that.' I said, 'Well, why charge me double entrance fee?' But they charged me double all the way up until the time the state took over."

At 1:30 a.m. on July 2, 1961, pranksters sounded the fire alarm siren in the new Jackson Police station, which brought many people scrambling to the station in hastily assembled wardrobes. The siren was sounded while officers were out on patrol.

The boys were caught, lectured, fined and placed on probation.

In July 1961, James Wallace, director of the Van Deventer Youth Center, announced that Jackson teams would participate in two new sports over the Summer: golf and track.

High Falls Lake was presented to the state for public recreation by the Bowaters Southern Paper Corporation on July 25, 1961. The 650-acre lake on the Towaliga River and another 80 acres of land were presented to Governor Ernest Vandiver and developed the Georgia Game and Fish Commission as a state park.

The lake was created in 1905, and was a Georgia Power Company reservoir from 1930 to 1959, when it was purchased by Bowaters.

Ralph Cooper returned to Jackson High School to be principal for the 1961-1962 school year. Cooper served as principal at JHS for the 1958-1959 school year.

The Jackson Connie Mack baseball team won the championship of the Van Deventer Connie Mack League by defeating Griffin in a five-game series, which ended July 23, 1961 with

an 8-1 win in the fifth and deciding game. Hurling ace Joe Patterson was credited with all three Jackson wins.

During a mass meeting on July 26, 1961, W. A. Turner, vice president of Avondale Mills, told employees of the mill that the company planned to sell most of the homes in Pepperton. Current residents got first-buying option for their homes. In the case of two-family residence, the family living there longest had first option. Houses were only sold to employees or retired employees of the mill.

In order to buy a house, residents had to pay 10 percent of the appraised value down, and then make payments with five percent interest for 12 years. Avondale Mills agreed to pay taxes and insurance on the houses during the purchase period. According to Turner, many of the homes in other communities where Avondale operated appraised at $500 per room with bathrooms and lots included free.

Turner added that prospects for the mill looked good, and a six-day work week would be implemented soon.

In August 1961, the City of Jackson launched a campaign to have all dogs in the city inoculated, tagged and registered by September 1. The goal, said Police Chief Watson Vaughn, was not to be hard on dog owners, but to protect dogs and their owners from rabies. Unregistered dogs found loose after September 1 were held for three days, then killed in a gas chamber if not claimed by their owners.

The pepper crop was so good in 1961 that the Pomona Products Company in Jackson was operating for full work weeks and overtime instead of three days a week, according to Claude Lovin, who was in charge of the Jackson facility. After the pepper crop is process, Levin said, the plant would can sweet potatoes for the first time.

When Pomona Products came to Jackson, the Ridgeway family in Towaliga began growing pimiento peppers for the canning plant. “One of the Pomona plants was set up here,” recalled Harry Ridgeway in 2009, “but it began to fade out because Griffin was the center of Pomona Products. And as far as being a money crop for farmers, peppers began to be not worth so much. It was a supplement for part of our income for several years. They closed the plant and moved it to Griffin, and that’s one thing that stopped the raising of peppers in Butts County. It wouldn’t pay you to go to Griffin to deliver your peppers.”

Jackson was a city bowed in grief following an August 25, 1961 head-on car crash on Highway 42 South that killed seven young men. At 11:35 that Saturday night, Ray Bankston, James Ronald Hardy, and Rufus Oscar Knowles, all 22 years old of Jackson, were leaving Indian Springs heading north in a Chevrolet, while a Mercury containing Jesse C. Butler, 18, James Otis Butler, 23, Joe Lewis Talmadge, 25, and Clifford Head, 22, all living in Indian Springs, were traveling south on the highway.

According to a State Patrol car, that ironically was searching for the Mercury, which reported weaving on the roadway, the Mercury had all four tires in the northbound lane when the car collided with the Plymouth. All seven young men were killed instantly.

Hundreds of people quickly heard the news and came to view the scene and the mangled cars. It brought to mind the April 18, 1953 wreck on Highway 42 North which killed nine people, and was still the worst passenger car wreck in state history.

"One of the most tragic accidents that happened was in the early '60s," said Harold "Doc" McMichael. "Three of my friends were coming from Indian Springs toward Jackson, and they were in a '57 Chevrolet. And there was another car going the other direction. And actually this other car was running from the law. And it went around that curve right below Fresh Air Bar-B-Q, and this car running from the law lost control and came over on the opposite side of the road and met [claps hands]—I mean, they met as directly head-on as they could have, I suppose. All seven of them were fatally injured. I got there within five minutes of when it happened. It upset the whole teenage community. Everybody in Butts County was upset about that. It was a sad day, a sad night for the teenage people that knew these guys that was fatally injured. I remember seeing that car just like it happened almost yesterday."

In those days, the wrecked cars would be towed to Coleman's Garage on the east side of the square. "And then he would move it down there on First Street where he eventually moved his garage to," said McMichael. "He had a little storage area down there where he put the wrecked cars."

R. Scott Coleman's father, John L. Coleman, "worked for the Ford dealership in Jackson. He had a brother named Alton Coleman who was a mechanic also. They formed a partnership and opened Coleman's Garage," explained Coleman in 2009. "The garage was on the square in the second building on the southeast side of the square [on Mulberry Street]. He did mechanical work. It was there until I was in college, and that's when he built his office on Second Street and moved off the square and got into the parts business as well as the mechanical. I think the City Council and mayor and a lot of other people were happy to see it go. It was a mess: cars parked with their hoods up all over the place, sometimes wrecked cars out there, his tow truck. There was a lot of hubbub about that. But he continued the garage until he retired.

"My uncle, Alton, who had been in business with my father was killed while on a wrecker call just south of Jackson toward Indian Spring," said Coleman. "My dad normally ran the wrecker service. But my dad and mom had gone somewhere that night, so he was on call. And while he was between the tow truck and the vehicle hitching it up a driver that was intoxicated came around the curb and crashed into the back of the car that was disabled. Subsequently my uncle was caught in between and didn't survive."

At the end of August 1961, the City of Jackson was extending the city cemetery to include 1776 new graves, according to W. Andy Holston, City Gas Engineer, who is in charge of the project. The land, which covers 156,000 square feet, was purchased in October 1959. A sprinkler system was also installed in the new section to provide an inch of water every four hours when activated.

With the new lots, Mayor Redman reminded citizens that no copings were allowed on graves, and corner posts would mark the grave boundaries. A permit had to be obtained for a cost of 50 cents before a marker could be placed on any grave.

"I bought my house in 1961," said Samuel L. Johnson in 2009. "The road had not been named yet. They paved it about a year later and named it Chestnut [Drive]."

Beginning with the October 1961 billing, City of Jackson water customers' bills were figured on a new increased rate. For the first 3,000 gallons in the city was $2, and out of the city was $2.50.

The eighth annual Industrial Day Celebration was held Wednesday, September 27, 1961, and was sponsored by the Butts County Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees), the Jackson Kiwanis Club, the Jackson Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Butts County Chamber of Commerce.

Sixteen-year-old Lydia Moore, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Moore of Jackson and a junior at JHS, was crowned Miss Industry in front of 3,000 spectators and 38 other contestants. Two weeks later, she was crowned Pimiento Festival Queen in Woodbury.

The contest was followed by a parade, and announcement of the winners from the talent show held the night before.

At the Butts County Fair, held October 4, 1961, 17-year-old Amelia Deraney was named Miss Butts County. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. David Deraney of Jackson.

In the October 20, 1961 primary in Jackson, C. B. Brown, Jr. won reelection to the city council post in the Fourth Ward over former councilman J. Horace O'Neal. In the three-man race for the First Ward council seat, Bill Sasser and Dr. Charles H. Johnson headed to a run off since no candidate got a majority of votes. Incumbent councilman W. B. McCoy, Sr. came in third place.

In the runoff election held October 27, Bill Sasser, former councilman and salesman for a meat firm, defeated Dr. Johnson.

<u>JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 1961</u>
JACKSON 20, Monticello 0
Jackson 6, MANCHESTER 20
Jackson 7, FORT VALLEY 28
Jackson 12, MORGAN COUNTY 32
Jackson 13, Putnam County 13
JACKSON 13, Hogansville 12
JACKSON 48, Henry County 0
JACKSON 20, Mary Persons 13
JACKSON 39, Harris County 6
Jackson 21, Jones County 21

"One interesting thing I remember about football is Coach Doug Cobb was our History teacher," said Luke Weaver during a 2009 interview. "I think I was in the eleventh grade, and for some reason Jimmy Hardy, who is a year older than me, we were in the same History class. At the end of the first six weeks, you had to be passing in order to play football. I had a 40 average and Jimmy had a 30. Coach Cobb called us up after class. He said, 'y'all realize you aren't going to be able to play football if you don't get these grades up.' We said, 'yes, sir.' And he said to meet him at the gym after school.

"So we went down there and he said, 'I'll tell you what I'll do. For every lick you take, I'll put 10 points on your grade.' Well, I knew I was going to get a whipping when I got home, so I said this is a good deal," said Weaver. "So he said, 'How many licks do you want?' And I said, 'well, 70's passing, isn't it? So I'll take three.' I didn't realize he had a paddle down there. He was a big man. He had hands twice as big as mine, and I weighed about 218 when I graduated from high school. The steps, these seats [at the gym] were about 30 inches high and 30 inches back. He picked my feet up off the floor three times. Jimmy Hardy said, 'I flunked History.' And he said, 'no you didn't' and grabbed him by the back of the shirt. And Jimmy passed with an 80 'cause [Coach Cobb] gave him five licks.

"When we started the season, we may have had 30 players out," Weaver continued, "but by the end of the season some had dropped out so one side of the line was scrimmaging the other. You [played] both ways. We'd pass some, but it was mostly running plays. We had some good athletes back then. Danny Blue, he was our quarterback when I was a senior. And he went on to, I think, Chattanooga State. And Billy Turner. He was our fullback. He was a junior when I was a senior. He went to Furman. And Joe Sellers went to Clemson. And Harry Cook, who was younger than me, he could fly. He wasn't very big, but he could run. And Bruce Rowe, Tommy Harper and Billy Crider. There was a bunch of them. All good ball players.

"And our coach was Jim Tom Tabb, and he was the meanest coach that's ever been," said Weaver. "He couldn't coach today. Kids wouldn't stay out there with what he put them through. It was tough, but he made a man out of you. You hear of kids today passing out because of the heat? We'd come out of the field from hauling hay and go to football practice. And instead of having a water fountain or buckets of water, you had a bucket of water and after you did some practicing you had a bucket with a towel in it. And the first man to get to it would wipe his face with that towel and throw it back in the bucket, and then the next man would get it. I don't see why we all didn't die of ptomaine poisoning.

"They didn't take near as good of care of you as they do today. It was filthy," he said. "But I guess it made you tough. I think that's one of the reasons you have so many problems with kids in the heat is they come out of air conditioning to go practice football. See, we didn't have air conditioning. You haul hay all day and then you get out on a football field - you're playing then.

"One of the biggest rivalries we had was with Forsyth," according to Weaver. "There'd be a fight during or after that game every time. I'll always remember they played the Notre Dame fight song and a record of [Notre Dame Coach] Newt Rockne they played before the games."

At the end of November 1961, approximately two miles of city streets were being paved state Highway Maintenance men. The streets resurfaced were al of First Street, Mulberry Street

from First Street to Slaughter Street, Oak Street from the county jail to Plum Street, Second Street from Haisten Funeral Home to Jackson City Cleaners, Oak from Superior Cleaners to Mulberry Street, and all of College Street.

On November 27, 1961 a fire completely destroyed the building housing the blowing machine and a large quantity of finished pillows at the Fashion Pillows. It was believed that an electrical switch blew up and started the blaze.

Work began in early December 1961 laying water mains from Mulberry Street to the new Shapard Industries, Inc. plant, including a new automatic control 350 gallon per minute pump to be installed at the city filter plant. The pump kept the water level high in the city tank and maintain good pressure throughout the city despite the extra mains.

At the same time, sewer mains were run from behind the new Shapard plant to the lift station on the south side of the city.

The city also installed new sewer mains to the Garden Hill subdivision and Bethel Flats, and water and sewer lines to the new Carter Subdivision.

"We got married in 1960, and we were looking for housing," recalled Curtis Gaye in 2009. "We lived in a little house that had had the bathroom added on after the ordinance saying you couldn't have outdoor toilets. We actually tried to get a project. We looked into getting a house on Freeman Circle. Because all of those would have been upgrades from where we were. And then in the late '50s and early '60s, Charles Carter was the first to venture out and actually build a subdivision of homes for Black people. I always give him credit. My family used to farm for his family, so I've known him a long time. But that was a big deal. He arranged for financing. Newton Federal came in and financed housing. Some of these houses, he was selling for $6,000 or $6,500. You could get a three-bedroom brick house with hardwood floors, which was a tremendous upgrade for people.

"The area that's over in front of the cemetery," Gaye added, "that was an area that was built by the Barnes Lumber Company. That was basically veterans that lived over in that area. Grover Arline and Eddie Lee Clark and Limp Fitch lived over in that area. They were veterans. Grady Smith lived over there, Tommy Hunter. They all got to be homeowners."

"We bought [the Jackson Style Shoppe] in December of 1961," said Merrell Price of he and his wife, Charlotte, "and took possession in January 1962."

"I shopped at one particular store on the square, the [Jackson] Style Shoppe," recalled Diane Rosser in 2008 about shopping on the square in the 1960s. "Mr. & Mrs. Price owned it. They sold Bobbie Brooks and we loved going there. It was just women and children's clothing. And Deraney's, you could go in there and shop for anyone in your family. My husband would go buy clothes at O'Neal's."

To end the year 1961, W. Otis Ball, manager of the Avondale Mills in Jackson, announced expenditures of $318,250 to provide better lighting for the old mill, and 54 new 60-inch looms.

1962

Mayor W. M. Redman began his 26th year as city official on January 1, 1962. Councilman that year were: Bill Sasser, C. M. Daniel, Jr., Gordon Bankston, and C. B. Brown, Jr. It was the first term for both Sasser and Brown.

The Hawkes Library for Children received the latest type of fluorescent lighting, according to librarian Miss Pauline Mallet in early January 1962. The work was done by the Light Department of the City of Jackson, with J. H. Rooks as superintendent.

On January 10, 1962, the city awoke to find temperatures in the mid-teens and a light blanket of snow on the ground. There was no loss of electric or gas service, though, and no traffic accidents were reported.

Clyde Cross, an employee of the Gateway Luggage of Georgia plant in Jackson, lost his left hand in an accident at the plant on January 24, 1962.

In January 1962, the city began stricter enforcement of its ordinance requiring each person or family keeping a house in Jackson to keep and maintain a closed receptacle for the disposal of garbage. Violators were subject to a fine, though Police Chief Watson Vaughn and Sanitary Department workers inspected each home's receptacle first and issued warnings for any found to be substandard.

Paul Anderson, billed as the world's strongest man, appeared in Jackson on January 31, 1962 at the Butts County Athletic Club. The Olympic weightlifting champion performed a weightlifting demonstration to raise funds for equipment and uniforms for Jackson High athletes.

One day in late January, little Otis Ball parked his car in front of the post office to collect his mail. He left the motor running, and soon after he hopped out the car's gears engaged. It moved onto busy Mulberry Street and made two complete turns with one door open and Otis in hot pursuit. He soon hopped in and brought the car under control with no one injured.

During the 1960s, the Butts County Courthouse "was a sort of gathering place, and it was laid back," according to David Ridgeway, who worked there as the Clerk of Superior Court. "People would come in from out in the country and sometimes they'd come in my office and sit down and talk for an hour. Of course, I'd have to entertain them. But it was just casual, laid back and all of us had fun up there. It was a good place to work. Everything's too tense now. I'm glad I'm not in office. We were always pulling jokes on one another back them."

"It was like a family," added Robert Pinckney during the same interview.

Mary Lee Martin, who worked in the welfare office inside the courthouse, agreed. "Yes, because you had all those offices filled with different things," she said. "The welfare office, it was over on one corner upstairs. Mary Ann Leverette, bless her heart. She was one of the younger employees there. When she graduated from high school she went to work there. And Jane Powell and Helen Spencer worked there, too."

"I also filled the Coke machine in the courthouse," said Martin. "The American Legion got all the profits from that. We didn't have anything to drink over [in the courthouse]. And I asked the commissioners and they let me do it as a money-maker for the American Legion Auxiliary.

David Ridgeway remembered that during the 1960s county officials "put in new doors up there. They took out these wooden doors and put in these glass doors. And Mr. Luther Washington's daughter worked for him over there, Brenda Butler, and she would come in in the mornings and unlock the doors and come in. So I got to where I'd put a piece of tape over the keyhole. I sat where I could see her from my desk. And she'd come and try to stick it in there, she couldn't get it, and she'd come over and say, 'David, can you see if you can unlock my door?' I'd go over there and pull that little piece of tape off and stick it in there. And she'd say, 'Oh, OK. Thank you.' But she never did catch on for about a year, I guess.

"Mary Dell Ridgeway was working for Richard Watkins," Ridgeway continued. "She came over to the office one day and of course we had all the windows up 'cause there was no air conditioning. The cable to the fire alarm, which was the same thing as the clock, was right outside my window and you could reach out there and make the clock strike. So one day about 20 minutes to 12, Mary Dell came over there and she said, 'Man, I wish that clock would hurry up and strike. I'm ready to go home.' I said, 'Is that all you're waiting on?' She said, 'Yeah.' I reached out there and Bong! Bong! Bong! Did it 12 times. And the police booth was right there on the corner and they reached up and punched the siren. And what really got me was when Merrell and Charlotte [Price] came out of their door [at the Jackson Style Shoppe] and locked the door and somebody had seen what time it was, and Merrell looked at Charlotte, and Charlotte looked at Merrell and they looked back up at the [clock tower]."

"That was on a Wednesday," said Merrell Price smiling. "Everything shut down at noon on Wednesdays. That started back during the war [World War II]. One other thing that was started during the war was they'd blow the siren at noon."

In February 1962, Linda Harrison was named STAR Student at Jackson High School by the Butts County Jaycees. Harrison was a senior at JHS and the daughter of Mrs. R. P. Harrison and the late Dr. Harrison. She named Mrs. J. Blackman Settle, who teaches senior and junior English and Speech, as her STAR Teacher.

On February 14, 1962, the Beta Club and Jackson B&PW Club crowned Miss Carol Adams, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Adams, as Miss Jackson. The beauty pageant also included first runner-up, Miss Linda Turner, and second runner-up, Miss Becky Peek. Miss Terry Cooper was named Little Miss Jackson at the pageant.

The following week, Adams was chosen as Sweetheart of Jackson High by her fellow students.

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL
JACKSON 40, Putnam County 33
Jackson 23, HENRY COUNTY 44
JACKSON 62, Monticello 29
JACKSON 36, Mary Persons 34
Jackson 46, PIKE COUNTY 58
JACKSON 47, Milner 39
Jackson 47, GRIFFIN 54
Jackson – 63, PIKE - 67
JACKSON – 45, Griffin – 32
Jackson – 31, FORT VALLEY – 57
JACKSON – 57, Henry County – 48
JACKSON – 59, Mary Persons - 46
Jackson – 55, NEWTON COUNTY - 67
JACKSON – 68, Milner - 30
JACKSON – 62, Monticello - 42

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL
Jackson 24, PUTNAM COUNTY 27
Jackson 19, HENRY COUNTY 33
JACKSON 42, Monticello 32
Jackson 29, MARY PERSONS 40
Jackson 15, PIKE COUNTY 34
Jackson 27, MILNER 38
JACKSON 49, Griffin 39
Jackson –30, PIKE – 40
Jackson – 26, GRIFFIN – 29
JACKSON – 46, Fort Valley – 31
JACKSON – 47, Henry County – 36
Jackson – 26, MARY PERSONS – 55
Jackson – 20, NEWTON COUNTY - 41
Jackson – 25, MILNER - 38
JACKSON – 45, Monticello – 41

On February 23, 1962, the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department answered a call to a house fire on Benton Street. Quick work by the volunteers and a sudden downpour kept the fire from spreading, but the house, rented by Lizzie Pye, was nearly destroyed.

A torrential rain storm at the end of February dumped 4.54 inches of rain on Butts County.

In March 1962, the city installed five new mercury lights on McDonough Road, where, according to citizens, they were desperately needed.

The city also informed citizens that electric power would be cut off for half an hour at 1 p.m. on March 14, 1962 in order to energize the new electric equipment.

In March 1962, the four garden clubs in Jackson – Cherokee, Hawthorne, Jackson and Mimosa - and the Jenkinsburg Garden Club began planning for a tour of homes that raised funds for the soon-to-be-open Sylvan Grove Hospital.

The tour was held on May 16, 1962 and featured the homes of Mr. & Mrs. Candler Webb, Austin-Watkins, Mr. & Mrs. D. P. Settle, and Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Barnes. It raised $700 for the hospital.

During a March 22, 1962 meeting organized by the Jackson Business & Professional Women's Club, a vote was taken to organize an auxiliary for the new Sylvan Grove Hospital. The auxiliary would help with fund raising, volunteer in the hospital, and carry out public relations for the hospital in the community.

The Henderson High School Chorus, under the direction of C. W. Douglas, received a fine rating at the State Music Festival held in Macon on March 24, 1962.

On April 3, 1962, W. Andy Holston, City Gas Engineer, addressed the Jackson Kiwanis Club to discuss the city's growth and future expansion.

He termed Jackson's recent acquisition of several new industries as a "dream come true" that would present merchants and churches with new opportunities. He reminded the club that the decision by the mayor and council to extend utilities well beyond existing city limits was chiefly responsible for one of those new industries locating in Jackson. Holston also noted that utilities had been extended to the Garden Hills residential area in the city's southeastern corner.

By the end of 1962, Holston said, five miles of city streets would be paved or repaired.

Holston said officials planned to add modern traffic signals, and that an automatic water feed had been installed on the city's water tank that automatically turned off or on when a one-foot change in the tank's water level was detected.

Thirty-one Jackson merchants and one supporting firm aligned together as the Jackson Merchants Association to bring Appreciation Day each Saturday, which kicked off on April 7, 1962. An award was made each Saturday afternoon to a customer who shopped downtown that day.

"One thing the merchant association came up with was if you spent so much in a store, you got your name put on a strip of paper," said Bobby Stephens in 2010. "And these strips with into a big tumbler, and every Saturday they had a drawing. And if they pulled your name, you'd win whatever was on there. Like it might have been $100 to spend at Stephens' Grocery or one of the drug stores or Deraney's. That was the Community Treasure Chest."

During his career in groceries, Bobby Stephens also learned the importance of marketing. "I had some pork and beans that sat on the shelf in cans for 29 cents a can," he said during a 2010 interview. "It wasn't moving, collecting dust. I had a brainstorm. I bought 10 cases and stacked them in the floor marked 'three for a dollar.' I couldn't keep them from then on."

In April 1962, opposition from Spalding County for the proposed route of Interstate 75 dwindled when state highway officials announced plans to four-lane Highway 41 between Griffin and Barnesville. Five other area counties approved the "Alternate Plan Two" route for the interstate. The original route planned followed Highway 41. In May the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads gave its approval to the "Alternate Plan Two" route.

In April 1962, sixth grade Henderson Elementary School students of Mrs. Exie Holder Randlen honored her for 38 years of teaching in the Butts County School System.

On April 19, 1962, Butts County Sheriff V. H. Ham was sentenced to five years probation and fined $7,500 in a United States District Court in Macon for forging a signature on a soil bank form.

On May 12, 1962 a Creek Indian Museum opened at Indian Springs State Park. It featured small carved models of Creek Indians engaged in hunting, agriculture and crafts, as well as artifacts and historic documents.

At the start of May 1962, Jackson Police Chief Watson Vaughn served notice that offenders had seven days to change their noisy mufflers or have cases made against them. This action follows numerous complaints from citizens being awakened by the loudmouth cars. Vaughn also said cases would be made against drivers failing to stop at stop signs.

According to figures released in May 1962, Jackson Lake had a population of 1,000 people on just the Butts County portion. Of these, 600 represented cottage owners, and 400 lot owners. Ninety-five percent of these were considered non-residents of Butts County, but paid property taxes here.

Work began in May 1962 on paving Highway 16 from the Butts County line to Griffin. At the same time, Highway 36 was being resurfaced from Barnesville to the south city limits of Jackson. A portion of Highway 42 in the city was also to be resurfaced.

Sixty seniors graduated from Jackson High School in May 1962.

"I think it was 1962 that I met James Wallace," recalled Samuel L. Johnson. "He was in charge of the Van Deventer Foundation recreation department. And the old Henderson building - where I lived on McKibben Street - the Van Deventer Foundation bought that building and turned it into a youth center. I got lucky enough to get the job running it after school and during

the Summer. The main thing, I think, was they bought us a pool table. And you know how that attracts boys. And we had ping pong tables, and whatever they thought we needed. They bought it for us.

"We started out with a membership card," Johnson recalled. "We said 13 [years] or older, we'd accept them. But we had smaller ones come in, too. We had a process by which they had to sign in when they got there and sign out when they leave so the parents know they are no longer there. We were responsible for them when they were there, but not when they left. But it worked out real fine. It went for a number of years, and then we got into Summer programs with softball and baseball. With the baseball team, we got to where we had four little league baseball teams and four girls' softball teams. They played on the field at Henderson. We had one traveling team we called the pointer league, 13- and 14-year-old boys. It went on for a number of years until everything was put together when integration came about. The youth center closed in 1970 or '71, after school integration. We closed down after that because there wasn't a need for two separate places."

James Wallace "was a very nice man," said Johnson. "He believed in children and helping doing all he could for children. He believed you should have some kind of activity, some kind of recreation for them to be involved in which would make them a better person. Through the Van Deventer Foundation he bought us all our sports equipment and uniforms. He got people to sponsor our football teams that bought uniforms for us. All that came about because of his interest and Mr. Hamp Daughtry was willing to give us the money. It brought about a lot of coming together, the communities and children learning how to play and get along together.

"I see a lot of children who were involved in those programs who come by and sit down and talk about it, the times we had," Johnson said. "It was good for me. I got to know a lot of children, and I hope I helped a lot of them. I received a lot of plaques for the work I did from the Butts Men of Action, and from the Boy Scouts. It was a great honor for me to settle in this community and get cooperation from the people and get to work with the children."

Five Jackson area residents were killed in a head on crash on the night of July 6, 1962. High speed and loose gravel were reported the causes when the two vehicles hit on Halls Bridge Road. Killed were Arthur Louis Besley, 19; Mrs. Lillie Ruth McClendon, 24; George Edward Barlow, 19; Eddy Joe Barber, 19; and Johnny Johnson, 20. A sixth victim, R. L. Davis, 33, died several days later from injuries sustained in the crash. It was the third worst vehicle wreck in the county's history.

On Sunday, July 29, 1962, 1,200 to 1,500 people gathered for the dedication and tour of the new Sylvan Grove Hospital. J. T. Beckham, chairman of the Hospital Authority, presided over the ceremony, and Congressman John Flynt gave the address.

One of the highlights was the unveiling of a bronze plaque, which tells the history of Sylvan Grove, on a 30-ton boulder in front of the hospital. The rock was moved from the creek beside the highway at Indian Spring State Park by county equipment and trucks.

The 28-bed hospital opened to patients on August 13, 1962. James Mallory of Lloyd Shoals was its first patient at 6:35 a.m., 25 minutes earlier than it planned to open.

On August 16, 1962, the hospital had its first baby: Sylvan Dexter Mayfield, son of George and Bertha Mayfield.

"Pliny Weaver and Bob Armstrong and J. T. Beckham had a lot to do with that," said Robert Pinckney of the planning and construction of the new hospital. "They did a lot of good. They sure helped us all out."

"They were the ones really responsible for that," agreed David Ridgeway.

"McDonough Road was the main road into town," said Mary Lee Martin in 2009. "Sylvan Grove Hospital was built in a wooded area out there at the time they built that. The hospital was a community project that the county furnished. Every organization and different clubs that have their names on the doors out there they were contributing in order to get it because so much money had to be raised locally. The Home Demonstration Club paid for one room with the money that we made from the china painting."

Mrs. Hugh Mallet, Sr. was named librarian at the Hawkes Library for Children in August 1962 following the death of Miss Pauline Mallet.

On August 14, 1962, fire of undetermined caused did considerable damage to the Walker Street home of J. Dawson Bryant. The fire department had the flames under control in an hour, but the kitchen was heavily damaged.

W. O. Ball, Vice President and Superintendent of the Pepperton Cotton Mills Division of Avondale Mills, in August 1962. L. J. Ball, secretary, resigned effective October 1, 1962. Both men were connected with the mill since they graduated from Georgia Tech. Their father was president of the mill soon after it was founded and until it was purchased by Avondale Mills in 1961.

William D. Windsor was appointed as the new superintendent of the mill.

While celebrating his 40th anniversary with the Etheridge-Smith Company in August 1962, Horace Bankston recounted the ways in which the city had changed over four decades.

In his years in business on the square, all dirt streets around the courthouse gave way to paved streets. Watering troughs for mules and horses were replaced by parking meters and street lights, and the mules and horses replaced by cars and trucks.

With the paving of streets, dust from dirt roads was no longer a problem and the horse-drawn water sprinkler made of wood was a thing of the past.

When Butts County schools opened August 31, 1962, there were 2,393 pupils enrolled, 29 less than the year before, according to Superintendent Lee Roy O'Neal. Jackson High School had 419 students, and Jackson Elementary had 692. Henderson High School had 360 students, and Henderson Elementary School had 922.

It was the first time the Henderson schools had been considered separate entities - with first through sixth grades for the elementary school, and seventh through twelfth grades for the high school. Both were still housed in the same facility on North Mulberry Street. N. E. Walker served as principal of the high school, and W. L. Miller served as principal of the elementary school.

At the ninth annual Industry Day on September 19, 1962, Miss Judy Anne Atkins of Monticello was crowned Miss Industry 1963. The Henry County Band was judged best band of the parade, and the Butts County Sportsmen's Club's float named best float. Following the parade, a buffet dinner was held at a Jackson Lake lodge.

On September 23, 1962, seven-year-old Randy Wilks, of Collins, fell into an old well in the yard of Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Knowles and drowned. The well had been covered by a piece of tin and anchored by rocks, but a quick search for the boy when he did not appear for the drive home found the tin ajar and his body at the bottom of the well.

Members of the Butts County Civil Defense Unit began a campaign the next week to cover or fill in abandoned wells.

In late September 1962, Jackson Mayor W. M. Redman announced he would not seek reelection to the office he held for 26 years. He cited reasons of health and personal business affairs as factors in his decision.

Two well-known Jackson business and political figures entered the race to replace Redman: C. B. Brown, Jr., councilman from the Fourth Ward, and Gordon Bankston, councilman from the Third Ward.

At the same time, Rufus Head, a Negro, entered the race for the city council seat from the Third Ward. Head qualified on Monday, September 24, 1962 with Secretary of the Democratic Executive Committee Richard W. Watkins, Jr. It was the first time since Reconstruction, if then, that a Negro entered a political race in Jackson or Butts County. Head operated a grocery store on College Street.

Head's opponent was W. O. Ball, retired executive of Pepperton Cotton Mill.

On September 28, 1962, an open house was held at the new field house at Red Devil Hill. The Butts County Athletic and Band Club built the cinder block building for $14,000.

On October 6, 1962, Dr. Bailey Crockarell opened a general dentistry practice in Jackson. The office had been occupied by Dr. C. H. Johnson who moved to Macon earlier in the year.

The new American Mills plant was dedicated on October 17, 1962. The plant was an air-conditioned 50,000 square foot facility on 27 acres on Highway 36 west. The facility opened on April 2, 1962 and already employed 200 people, primarily women, in the manufacture of infant and children's underwear.

"I worked at American Mills as an inspector," said Diane Rosser, who came to Jackson in 1967. "We made little children's clothes, and we just had to make sure they were sewn to the right measurements. [The clothes] were made for Sears and Penny's."

In 2008, Rosser recalled that in the 1960s American Mills had "very much a female workforce, mostly White. I met some very nice people, some older women," she said. "I knew nothing about cooking. You'd be doing your work and they'd be talking about what they were fixing and how to fix it and what to do. It was just a very nice group of people.

"I'm sure it was really hard work," Rosser continued. "They just sat at those sewing machines and worked all day long. Over and over and over. You had to do so many, so you had to keep busy. I think back then minimum wage was like $1.60 an hour, so people didn't make much."

Miss Martha Saunders, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. G. Ray Saunders, was named Miss Butts County Fair on October 17, 1962.

In the city primary on October 26, 1962, C. B. Brown, Jr. was nominated mayor of Jackson by a vote of 427 to 399 over Gordon Bankston. The vote was the heaviest in the city's history with 829 casting ballots out of a registration of just over 1,000.

In the Third Ward, W. Otis Ball won the council seat over Rufus Head by 656 to 156 votes.

John L. Coleman won the Fourth Ward council seat left vacant by Brown's election as mayor.

Voters also approved refinancing of $308,000 of Gas Revenue Certificates, which saved the city $45,000.

"When Mayor Redman decided he didn't want to run anymore and would retire, that's when my dad decided to run for mayor," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "He was elected. Back then they had two-year terms. He served in office about 29 years in all on the Council and as Mayor, but he actually got elected more times than anyone in the history of the county because he got elected 15 times."

In November 1962, Jackson Postmaster John P. Hunt announced that a contract had been awarded to air condition, repaint and repair the federal building in Jackson.

Efforts were underway in November 1962 to restore the Jackson Club House, which was built by the Club Corporation, which included the Woman's Club, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Daughters of the Revolution. The DAR was the only one of these clubs still active and using the meeting house on South Mulberry Street in 1962.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1962</u>
JACKSON - 35, Fayette County – 6
Jackson – 20, Monticello – 20
Jackson – 14, FORT VALLEY – 34

JACKSON – 52, Macon County - 0
JACKSON – 52, Gordon - 6
JACKSON – 13, Manchester - 6
JACKSON – 68, Henry County - 0
JACKSON – 26, Mary Persons - 7
JACKSON – 61, Harris County - 0
JACKSON – 14, Putnam County – 0

The team finished 8-1-1, the best record in 11 years at Jackson High and the fourth best record overall for a Class B team in the state, but the region championship was awarded to Manchester by virtue of having played more B teams outside the region.

With 355 points scored, it was the highest scoring team in the state in any classification.

The renaissance of the team was led by new head coach Fred Bowers and line coach Don Crump, with senior backs Jimmy Mallory and Danny Blue, junior halfback Harry Cook and tackle David Kilgo.

HENDERSON TIGER FOOTBALL 1962
HENDERSON – 40, Barnesville – 12

Miss Lois Biles, retired school teacher, led a one-woman campaign to have a memorial marker placed at the home of Robert Grier, and in the closing months of 1962 got her wish.

In 1962, the Town Theater on the east side of the square closed. It was the last remaining theater in downtown Jackson, and had been known under many names: Lyric, Princess, and Dixie.

On December 3, 1962, Governor Ernest Vandiver appointed Richard Watkins, Jr. to a five-year term on the State Board of Corrections.

At the end of 1962, Andy Holston, the city's Gas Engineer since 1954, left the city to enroll at Mercer University to prepare for the Baptist Seminary.

"[Andy] had a brother, Dr. Holston, who was in with Dr. Newman for a long time," said Robert Pinckney during a 2008 interview. They "were quite an asset for this county. They'd make house calls."

"Andy and I worked together at the National Guard for several years," said David Ridgeway during the same interview. "He got to be a lieutenant in the National Guard. He was one of these kind of people that could do anything. His mind, I think, just kept working all the time. He developed this housing numbering system and all that kind of stuff. Then he took over the gas department when that came in."

"He was really a tremendous help in that situation," Pinckney added. "He put my first heating unit, my furnace, in when gas came to the city."

"He was a good surveyor," Ridgeway said. "He wasn't a certified surveyor, but if you wanted something marked off - he could do it. He lived out in west Butts, and he lives in Kentucky now."

"He used to design filling stations," said Pinckney.

"That's how he got in with the oil company," Ridgeway added. "He designed the one by the Methodist Church here."

"He was also a Baptist preacher," said Merrell Price.

"He was a missionary in Brazil for two or three years," Ridgeway said. "He was one of these who's not happy unless he's doing something not like ordinary people could do."

"He was a visionary," Pinckney stated.

"He was," agreed Ridgeway. "That's a good way to describe him."

A series of Christmas parties, one for each shift, was planned at Pepperton Cotton Mills on December 20, 1962. The annual tradition will offer 425 Christmas baskets filled with apples, nuts, oranges and candy for employees. Employees were also given a break for donuts, coffee or cold drinks anytime during the day.

"When the children were babies, I might carry them to mother and daddy's to stay," said Shelby Henderson during a 2009 interview. "At that time, we had house parties. I might would give a party one time. Ernest [Battle] would give one. We would go to one another's houses. After a while, when the children got older, we might go to Macon and sit and listen to the jazz bands. We used to like to dance. I used to love to do the jitterbug. I was never much of a drinker. And it tickled me to see some of them get too much to drink. I used to like to look at that."

"We used to get together with other people and have parties at one another's houses," said Ernest Batle of the social scene in and around Chestnut Drive. "At Christmas time, I got together the people I wanted to associate with and the guys would furnish the money for the refreshments and the women would get together and furnish the food. And we used to have dances at the youth center where the [Lewis Sims] funeral home is. And we used to go up to Atlanta on the weekends to Auburn Avenue to the Pink Pussycat and the Peacock. But after we got married, my wife stopped me from hanging around the juke joints."

1963

On January 7, 1963, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. called a meeting with the city council and city employees to discuss what is expected of the employees under the new administration.

Brown emphasized that the city belongs to the people and any business transacted by the employees of the city is open for public record.

In the days preceding the meeting, the mayor and council toured all city properties so the men could see all equipment that the employees operate.

Projects Mayor Brown said he plans to undertake in 1963 include street lights around the downtown square and on Third Street, and five modern traffic lights to replace outdated ones.

City employees as the year 1963 began were:

Mary Jo Brooks, City Clerk and Treasurer; Elizabeth Robison, Assistant Clerk; J. Howard Rooks, Superintendent, Water and Light Department; E. B. Perdue, Filter and Sewer Treatment Plant operator; Russell Price, Sylvester Lunsford, Hesper Stephens, electricians.

W. L. Vaughn, Foreman Street; W. D. Heath and J. D. Pope, Sr., street helpers; Tommie McDaniel, Willie Goodrum, Jr. and Neal Taylor, laborers.

Willis McElhaney, Sanitary Foreman; Luther Ball and Tommie Joe Jester, laborers.

W. A. Holston, Gas Engineer; Ray E. O'Neal, Assistant Gas Engineer; Charlotte M. Price, Gas Clerk; William Eusery, helper.

Policemen were listed as Watson Vaughn, Chief of Police; M. E. Wade, Parking Meters; Hugh Polk, Max Polk, Reuben T. Bennett and J. S. Ball.

At a Kiwanis Club meeting on January 15, 1963, members learned of the new telephone dialing system coming to Butts County in 1964. Prior to the start of the direct distance dialing, which would allow callers to place a call to California in 13 seconds, all local phone numbers will become seven digits. For the Jackson area, all numbers will have the new prefix 775. This change is scheduled to take place in July 1963.

The Walker Street home occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Julius Batchelor, was heavily damaged by fire on January 19, 1963. The Batchelors and a roomer were home at the time, and were awakened by Danny Blue and Rusty Duke who were passing the house and noticed the flames. The fire was believed to have start with faulty wiring.

In January 1963, W. L. (Cotton) Vaughn was appointed Fire Chief of Jackson. He had been an employee of the city for several years, recently serving as foreman of the Street Department. Vaughn worked the 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift at the police booth on the square.

"In this way," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr., "someone will be in the police booth to answer all telephone calls and dispatch these calls to the policemen in the car. Having the fire chief near easy access to the fire department equipment will simplify and speed the truck to the fire designation faster and will eliminate the confusion on who to call for the citizen reporting the fire."

Mayor Brown also praised the work done by Volunteer Fire Chief Charles Rooks, Jr. since 1956 when he became chief, saying Rooks and his men have saved many thousands of dollars in property and asked for very little in return.

Fire Chief Cotton Vaughn reported that a January 21, 1963 fire at Pearl Grier's home on Slaughter Street probably began in the chimney. Bitter cold and frigid winds hampered efforts to control the blaze, and few contents of the house were saved.

On January 24, 1963, the coldest temperatures of the century were recorded in Jackson as thermometers dipped to two degrees below zero. Mercury fell to six degrees below zero in parts of Butts County. There were no major problems associated with the frigid temperatures, though, and schools carried on as usual. The day before, thermometers had been at 62 degrees. Several elders in the community remembered a similar arctic blast in February 1899, but did not recall the temperature dropping as quickly as it did on January 24, 1963.

Ruby Kate Barlow was charged with slaying Vester Lee (Buster) Grier with a single pistol shot on February 2, 1963 after he attempted to stab her husband in their home.

Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. proclaimed February 1963 as City Government Month, and urged all citizens and officials to devote their active interest and support toward programs to protect and strengthen municipal government.

Joyce Morgan, a senior at Jackson High School, was named Butts County STAR Student during a banquet on February 25, 1963. She named Mrs. Robert C. Edwards, a science teacher at Jackson High School, as her STAR Teacher.

The Henderson Elementary and High schools chose Rev. Gaines Warren Culpepper as Teacher of the Year. He taught typing and served as a counselor.

The fourth annual Central Georgia Science Fair was held in Jackson at he end of February 1963, and 18 Jackson High School students won ribbons. Nine of them qualified to go on to the state science fair in Athens.

On March 1, 1963, Fred Raney, owner of the Western Auto franchise in Jackson, purchased Newton Hardware from R. P. Newton. Newton Hardware opened in 1902, and was the oldest store in Jackson under continuous management.

"Newton Hardware has become synonymous with Jackson," wrote Doyle Jones, Jr. in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "With its going, it is like saying goodbye to an old and treasured friend. Without Newton Hardware, Jackson will never quite look the same."

Voters approved $250,000 in school bonds for the purpose of building an auditorium at Jackson High School and a gymnasium-auditorium at Henderson High School. The tally of the March 1, 1963 vote was 903 for and 182 against.

The Butts County School Board also received funds from the state to build four new classrooms at Jackson Elementary School and four at Henderson Elementary School.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL BASKETBALL 1963</u>
JACKSON – 43, Putnam County – 35

JACKSON – 45, Monticello – 33
Jackson – 34, MILNER - 60
Jackson – 33, NEWTON COUNTY – 48
JACKSON – 70, Fayette County - 29
Jackson – 46, PIKE COUNTY - 69
JACKSON – 63, Greenville – 48
JACKSON – 59, Henry County – 51
JACKSON – 48, Mary Persons – 46
Jackson – 43, PIKE COUNTY - 72
Jackson – 35, HENRY COUNTY – 53
JACKSON – 52, Putnam County - 49
JACKSON – 50, Milner – 49
JACKSON – 58, Monticello – 45
Jackson – 51, FAYETTE COUNTY - 53
Jackson – 41, GRIFFIN - 56
Jackson – 31, MARY PERSONS - 37

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1963
Jackson – 50, PUTNAM COUNTY – 52
JACKSON – 59, Monticello – 16
Jackson – 33, Milner – 57
Jackson – 36, NEWTON COUNTY – 59
JACKSON – 45, Fayette County – 27
JACKSON – 28, Pike County - 27
Jackson – 40, GREENVILLE – 45
Jackson – 30, HENRY COUNTY – 47
JACKSON – 36, Mary Persons – 33
Jackson – 14, PIKE COUNTY - 20
Jackson – 23, HENRY COUNTY – 49
JACKSON – 42, Putnam County 36
Jackson 35, MILNER – 41
JACKSON – 41, Monticello – 28
JACKSON – 32, Fayette County – 7
Jackson – 35, NEWTON COUNTY – 36
JACKSON – 40, Griffin – 36
JACKSON – 42, Griffin – 32
JACKSON – 43, Fort Valley – 27

The team won the Region 3-B title with a win over Fort Valley during the sub-region tournament held in Jackson. Glenda Gray's 25 points led the effort. It placed fourth in the region tournament.

JACKSON – 27, Manchester – 15
Jackson - 31, HEARD COUNTY – 47
Jackson – 27, PIKE COUNTY – 33

On March 7 and 8, 1963, the Jackson Fire Department's 12,050-gallon pumper truck responded to five grass fire calls. The fires occurred in Jenkinsburg, Flovilla and around Jackson. According to Fire Chief Cotton Vaughn, the truck was available to any county resident who needed it so long as it was not tied up fighting a fire in the city.

On March 25, 1963, fire engulfed the entire railroad trestle in Jackson and sent black smoke billowing hundreds of feet in the air. The Jackson Fire Department used every piece of equipment it had, and the proximity of a fire hydrant provided the water pressure needed to fight the blaze. Railroad crews worked quickly to repair the trestle, and it reopened to rail traffic on March 26.

On March 29, 1963, Mrs. Ethel H. Ham retired after 30 years with the State of Georgia, and 21 years as Butts County Public Health Nurse.

Clear View, the newest subdivision in Jackson, opened to buyers on April 6, 1963. Built by Floyd Moore and Charles Carter, the development was located a half mile southwest of Jackson on Highway 36. Every home had three bedrooms, one or one-and-a-half bathrooms, and brick exteriors.

Moore and Carter also built Green Acres, a development of large shaded lots, off Harkness Street one half mile north of Jackson.

In April 1963, the City of Jackson was scheduled to receive more paving and resurfacing from the State Highway Board. In all, 1 mile of paving and 1.3 miles of resurfacing were to be completed by Summer. The paving covered the dirt extension of North Oak Street to the waterworks and Chestnut Drive from Slaughter to Valley Road.

During the first three months of 1963, 14 building permits were issued in Jackson for 13 homes and one business. In 1962, the city issued only 13 building permits, all for private homes.

Just before warm weather descended upon Jackson at the end of April 1963, the city council cranked out a drive to have citizens replace old garbage receptacles with new galvanized steel container with lids and handles. Councilman Bill Sasser, chairman of the Sanitary Department, said old cans that were rusted out were breeding grounds for pests, and encouraged residents to follow city ordinances regarding proper trash receptacles.

One of the meanest storms in years hit Butts County and the City of Jackson on April 30, 1963. It dropped golf ball size hail, which destroyed cotton crops and battered flower gardens.

The storm did one act of kindness though. A cameo brooch circled in gold that was lost for 10 years was found by its owner, Miss Annie Lou McCord, in the ground in front of her home. The brooch was familiar to several generations of first grade students, as Miss McCord wore it to school every day while she was a teacher in Jackson.

The Jackson High School track team won the Region 3-B championship at Carrollton on May 3, 1963, and qualified seven members for competition in the state meet. According to coach Fred Bowers, the following won first place honors and will go on to the state meet in Macon: Harry Cook, the Jackson jet, in the 100 and 220 yard dashes; Bobby Greer in the 440 yard race; Tommy Carmichael in the pole vault; the 440 yard relay team of Danny Blue, Bruce Comer, Bobby Greer and Harry Cook; and the mile relay team of Harry Cook, Tony Standard, Bruce Rowe and Bobby Greer.

At the state meet, Carmichael placed second in the pole vault.

The Red Devil baseball team of Jackson High School won the sub-region title after beating Fayette County. It then lost a best-of-three games series to the eventual state winner, Heard County.

Avondale Mills held the first ever open house at the Pepperton Cotton Mill on May 13, 1963, which allowed hundreds of visitors to see the improvements made at the facility.

Mrs. Exie H. Randlen retired in May 1963 after 40 years of teaching in Butts County. She taught students at Indian Springs, Towaliga, Tussahaw and Henderson schools.

Fifty-six seniors graduated from Henderson High School on May 26, 1963.

Forty-two seniors graduated from Jackson High School on May 30, 1963.

The Jackson Police Department received a traffic safety award from the State of Georgia in June 1963 in recognition of going eight years without a traffic fatality in the city.

On June 12, 1963, 11-year-old Phillip Lunceford decided to visit his grandparents at Jackson Lake. So he got on his red bicycle and rode down from Forest Park. Atlanta radio stations broadcast information about the boy after he went missing, but he made it all the way to A. G. Cowan's home in the Stark Community. The 40-mile trip without a mishap was impressive, but even more so since Phillip could neither hear nor speak.

At the end of June 1963, Police Chief Watson Vaughn announced that the city's youth curfew ordinance would be strictly enforced. The curfew meant anyone under the age of 16 was not allowed on the streets after 10:30 p.m., and that no person over the age of 16 would be allowed on the streets after 12 midnight. The ordinance was originally adopted April 26, 1956.

A financial statement for the year 1962 showed that the City of Jackson took in receipts of $97,267.59, of which ad valorem taxes amounted to $38,264. The remaining 61 percent came from business licenses, fines and forfeitures, garbage fees, parking meters and contribution from the gas and electric departments.

Expenses for the year amounted to $96,699, with the Sanitary and Street Departments and the Police Department requiring $73,465 of that.

Principal city expansions and expenditures in 1962 included four subdivisions, extension of city limits and new vapor lights. The city expanded from 1.58 square miles in 1959 to 2.238 square miles in 1962, an increase of 42 percent. The city's population increased 10 percent since the 1960 Census.

The postal code in Jackson became 30233 on July 1, 1963 when the Postal Service's ZIP Code program went into effect nationwide.

All Jackson telephone numbers added "775" to the front of their numbers on July 21, 1963, New numbers were mailed to all telephone users, and they were asked to stick it over the old numbers on their dials.

In August 1963 copies of The Gamma Rays' 45 rpm record arrived in Jackson. The local combo, featuring Mack Fannin (the band instructor at Jackson High School), Pat Fannin, Larry Lofton, Rusty Duke and Carl Thompson recorded two original songs for the release: "Infinity" and "I Don't Need A String Along."

In August 1963, the Jaycees voted to forgo sponsorship of the annual Industrial Day celebration. The event was first held in 1953, and was sponsored by the Jaycees ever since with little to no support from other clubs.

"Industrial Day was the event in Butts County," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. "The Jaycees started it in the 1950s. There would be a huge parade and a beauty pageant. Then that night they had a big dance in the National Guard Armory. It was a big event for Jackson and the surrounding communities. It was always very well attended. It lasted for years until we lost most of the industries around here."

On August 14, 1963 stockholders of Avondale Mills voted to merge Pepperton Cotton Mills, purchased in 1961, into Avondale and become part of Avondale the same as other plants effective September 1. The Pepperton mill had been operated as a separate company before the vote, and employees were able to keep their years of service with Pepperton.

On the afternoon of August 20, 1963, bad weather forced an Army helicopter to land in the backyard of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rooks, Jr. on Indian Springs Street.

Causes of students dropping out of high school were listed as being: two boys and 46 girls for getting married, 102 boys and 42 girls for age or indifference, and 44 boys for economic reasons. To curb the drop out rate, Jackson began a DCT program in September 1963 to train students who did not plan to attend college. Also new was Algebra in the eighth grade and a new English course.

When school began in 1963, there were 2,424 students in county schools. Jackson Elementary had 653 students, while Jackson High School had 441. Henderson Elementary had 938 students, while Henderson High School had 392.

"I taught school in Jackson from '63 to '68, five years," said Sherry Carr Henderson. "And I taught at Henderson. The one thing that I remember most is the fact that we had to visit every child in our class. My first class was a sixth grade class and I had 44 students in that class. Just me, no para-pro, as they say, no aide or nothing. There were 44 students in that class. Reverend R. L. Henderson, he was one of my students. But I enjoyed the fact that we had to visit their homes. I think that was one of the good things about getting to know these families.

"I've always said, and I use it now," Henderson said, "if you really want to rear a child, keep them between the home, the church and the school. A triangle. Okay? If you do that, you're not going to have a lot of problems. The home, the church, and the school. Okay? And that's how we grew up. There was fun and play in our family. But there were things that were pertinent to the values in our family, at home, church and school. It was never, 'Are you going to church today?' It was just a matter of: 'you just get ready, we're going'."

"For me, being in school at that time it was a lot different," said Theodore Patterson, who was born in 1951 and attended school at Henderson. "Most of the kids were in school, and if you weren't in school they had a truant officer - what they called a visiting teacher - he would be out. And if he saw you out, he picked you up. You got in big trouble. Not to say that some didn't do it - you always had kids trying to cut class and skip school - but there were consequences if you got caught. For me, school back then was more structured. What I mean by that is the laws that they have now for child abuse, to me it hinders the effectiveness that parents, teachers and educators have as far as disciplining students.

"When I was in school, whatever you did teachers didn't have to get parents' permission to spank you or give you a whipping," he explained. "All teachers had either a board or a leather strap in their desk, or some form of punishing stick in their desk. And if you got out of line, you would get three whippings: the teacher would whip you all the way to the office, then the principal would whip you, and then the principal would call home or send a note home and when you got home you got another whipping. Kids were afraid to disrespect anybody of authority because at any given time a teacher could go in their desk and just wear you out.

"Not to say it made kids better, but it made them more respectful," said Patterson in 2010. "I think it made being able to do the things you wanted to do in school, it made it a lot more desirable and a lot more fun because you didn't have to worry about anybody disrespecting you or the teacher or getting out of hand. Teachers back then - they didn't care how big you were. We had some kids that looked like they should have been out of school, but [the teacher] would just wear them out. But now if teachers look at you wrong or say the wrong thing or even just lay their hands on you, kids will holler child abuse. Kids nowadays know the law better than we do. They'll tell you: 'If you hit me, I'm going to call [the Department of Family and Children Services] and file child abuse charges on you.'"

In September 1963, a spotted collie took up home with the Jackson Police Department and made the rounds with officers. A week after he was mentioned in the newspaper, the black and white dog was struck by a car and was clinging to life.

Mayor C. B. Brown reminded citizens in September 1963 that the city had zoning ordinances and that they would be enforced. He urged citizens to check zoning maps before purchasing property, and to obtain a proper building permit before beginning any construction.

Fire of undetermined causes totally destroyed the home of Ernest Gilbert at 139 North Benton Street on September 18, 1963. Gilbert received minor burns, and was the only person home when the flames began after midnight.

At the annual Butts County Fair, 14-year-old Claudia Potts was crowned Queen of the Butts County Fair. A ninth grader at Jackson High School, she had already appeared four times on the Freddy Miller Show, and narrowly missed a chance to appear on the Ted Mack Amateur Show doing a dance routine.

"After we moved over here [to the new Henderson school campus on North Mulberry Street], [Head Football] Coach Joe Davis talked us into doing a booster club," said Ernest Battle during a 2009 interview. "They made me president of the booster club. So we set out to raise money to light the football field up here. The Board of Education at that time they prepared the place to play football, but there wasn't no lights. We had to play during daytime.

"I was in charge of talking to the merchants downtown because at that time growing up and all the way through high school I worked making deliveries for Brown Furniture Store," Battle explained. "I started working for them in '51, when [C. B. Brown, Jr.] was still writing insurance and had just opened the store. I'd get out of school, and after practice I'd go to work. And then I'd work on Saturdays. And every game that I played - the five years I played football and basketball - they came to every game. Joe Brown and C. B. Brown came to all our games.

"So I was in charge of raising money," Battle recalled. "And the EMC, what we called the REA back then, had a manager name of Bob Armstrong. And he told us that if we raised enough money to buy the material that the REA would put those lights up for nothing. We needed about $7,000 to buy the poles and the lights. So I started going around asking merchants to help us with it and everything. They would give me something like $5 or $10.

"And I'll never forget," he continued, "I went over to Mr. Pliny Weaver's office to talk to him about it, and he asked me what kind of response was I getting. And I showed him the list with people giving $5, $10, $15. He said, 'This is just a shame. Give me your list.' And I gave him my list, and, man, he brought in a ton of money. And we lit that field.

"We lit that field in '63," Battle continued. "I started work at General Motors in September of '63. I worked at General Motors two weeks, and we went on strike. And we had just moved into this house [on Chestnut Drive] on October 1, 1963. So I'm worried. I got a house note coming due in November. How am I gonna get the money to pay it?

"The first football game that was played on a Friday night under those lights," said Battle, "I had too much pride because I was broke and I didn't want to go over there and ask them to let

me in ‘cause I was booster club chair and all that. I stood out here in the yard and the lights just lit up the field. I couldn’t even afford to go to the first football game that was played on that hill under those lights.”

“When we bought this house [on Chestnut Drive] in 1963,” said Ernest Battle, “the only other house on the street was that one next door, [Samuel Johnson’s].”

“We live on Chestnut Drive,” said Shelby Henderson. “It used to be a cow pasture. That’s why there’s so many pretty trees there. I wondered why they called it Chestnut Drive because we have so many dogwood trees and they are so pretty. I love trees.”

Anne Adams, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Adams of Jackson, was selected as Homecoming Queen at Jackson High School in November 1963.

A five percent raise was granted to approximately 300 employees at Avondale Mills’ Pepperton Plant on November 18, 1963. It amounted to a $50,000 annul increase to the plant’s payroll. Work was also scheduled to begin soon on air conditioning the plant.

In November 1963, city workers took up two sections of old flagstone sidewalks downtown and replaced them with smooth concrete. The merchants and the city split the cost. Only a few yards of the flagstone, which could trip the unwary, remained. The flagstones were not destroyed, but were taken to Sylvan Grove Hospital and use for a walkway around the right side of the building to the emergency room.

Workers also installed modern mercury lights on Brookwood Avenue, meaning the new lights shone brightly there and on the square, most of Third Street, and parts of McDonough Road.

On Saturday, November 23, 1963, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. asked that all business close from 12 noon to 12:30 p.m. to allow all citizens to pay respects to President John Kennedy, who had been assassinated the day before. All churches in the community also opened to allow citizens to pray and meditate.

“My pop’s laundromat… it was so unique,” recalled Billy Glidewell in 2010 about Hugh Glidewell, Sr.’s laundromat that opened on East Second Street in 1961. “There was literally a White side and a Black side in the laundromat. And I remember helping my pop tear the wall down in the center of it. Seems like it was right after [President John] Kennedy got assassinated, around ‘63, ‘64. It had become - unnecessary is not exactly the right word - but the Blacks were coming around to the front. But it was also kind of ironic how for 15 or 20 years [after the wall came down] a lot of the Blacks stayed back on the back side. But it was exactly like two separate businesses in that one building over there.”

“In 1964, there were still White and Colored signs on the water coolers,” said Curtis Gaye in 2009. “The stuff was so very, very silly. There was a guy, Roy Lee McElhaney, he died

recently, and his mother used to cook for somebody. She'd go to work in the morning, go in the back door, first thing she'd do is go through the front door and sweep off the front porch. You could come through the front door from the inside, but not the outside. But that was just the institution. But it was pretty effective in defining your place for you. You knew your place whether or not it was something that was spoken or not. It colored your behavior. You didn't think about it, that it didn't make any since."

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1963

JACKSON – 56, Central – 0

Harry Cook had three touchdowns, Allen Byars two TDs, Jimmy Autry two, and Tommy Carmichael kicked eight point after attempts.

JACKSON – 19, Fayette County – 0

David Polk, Harry Cook and Bruce Rowe each scored a touchdown and Tommy Carmichael added on extra point.

JACKSON – 34, Monticello – 0

Quarterback David Polk scored three touchdowns, and Harry Cook and Allen Byars each had one. Tommy Carmichael kicked four extra points.

JACKSON – 28, Fort Valley – 7

Harry Cook ran for one touchdown and caught a TD pass from David Polk, who also ran one in for a touchdown. Allen Byars had a 76-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, and Tommy Carmichael added four extra points.

JACKSON – 51, Gordon – 0

Harry Cook ran for two touchdowns, and Jimmy Kersey ran for one and caught a TD pass from David Polk. Donny Pelt caught two Polk throws for touchdowns. Allen Byars ran one in, as did Jimmy Autry. Tommy Carmichael kicked three extra points.

JACKSON – 20, Manchester – 7

David Polk ran for a touchdown and also caught a TD pass from Harry Cook that fooled the defense. Cook also ran for one. Tommy Carmichael added two extra point kicks. The team was ranked second in the state in Class B.

Jackson – 7, HENRY COUNTY – 12

Jimmy Autry scored the team's only touchdown on a three-yard plunge, and Tommy Carmichael added the extra point.

JACKSON – 20, Mary Persons – 19

David Polk dove for a one-yard touchdown. Harry Cook ran in a TD from two yards out. Bruce Rower and Larry Norsworthy shared in the recovery of a MP fumble in the endzone with time running out to tie the game. Tommy Carmichael kicked two extra points, including the game winner. The win gave the Red Devil their first 3-B title.

JACKSON – 41, Harris County – 0

Harry Cook scored three touchdowns, and Jimmy Autry, Jimmy Kersey and Larry Mathias each scored one. Tommy Carmichael kicked five extra points.

JACKSON – 47, Putnam County - 13

Harry Cook and David Polk ran for two touchdowns each. Jimmy Autry ran for another, and Donny Pelt caught a TD pass from Polk. Tommy Carmichael added five extra points.

The season was Jackson's most successful in 12 years, with a 9-1-0 record, and a shot at the North Georgia Class B state title.

Jackson – 13, WASHINGTON-WILKES – 19

Harry Cook ran for two touchdowns, and Tommy Carmichael added one extra point.

Bruce Rowe was named Lineman of the Year by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and Harry Cook joined Rowe in being named to the Class B All-State Team. Rowe signed a four-year grant-in-aid scholarship to play football at the University of Tennessee the following year.

"All of the football games were good back when Harry Cook was a tailback," said Bobby Stephens, a 1957 graduate of Jackson High School. "That team that year [1963] came very close to winning the state championship, and there wasn't but 19 on the squad. All their games were good because they were all lopsided. We outscored everybody."

"When we won the region in '63 – that was the first year I lettered - I think 13 people played," said Walter Carmichael during an interview in 2009. "There was 20 people on the whole team, and I played very little that year. I think maybe they changed out one person when they changed offense and defense. I played very little that year when the game was on the line. But since the first string was beating up on teams so badly, I had no trouble getting enough playing time to letter.

"My cousin, Tommy [Carmichael], was the field goal kicker," he continued. "He walked on at Georgia Tech, got a four-year scholarship at Georgia Tech for the last years of Bobby Dodd. And then our quarterback, two years later, David Polk, who was Tommy's holder on extra points at high school, he went to Tech and he ended up with a scholarship as a linebacker and held for Tommy on extra points and field goals.

"Fred Bowers was the coach in '63, then Rudy 'Doc' White took over," Carmichael said. "Nice guy. He played semi-pro in Canada. All the coaches back then came from the 'Bear' Bryant kind of thing, you know? Which – I don't know why they couldn't figure this out – back then you weren't allowed to have water. So you go out there in the Summer heat, and by the end of the first hour everybody needed water. And you know when you get dehydrated the first that goes is your mind. So there in practice everybody's making mistakes. Well, it's because they're about to have a heat stroke. Now, they make them drink water whether they want it or not. We had several people to have sun strokes during practice.

"And then," Carmichael added smiling, "what was a great idea: we won't give you any water, but we'll give you salt tablets. So that of course induced vomiting. I took one of those at practice and got sick as a dog. But every once in a while a wet towel would appear, and we would fight over it. Of course by the time tenth graders got to it, there was nothing left but the saliva of the seniors on the team. We didn't care. If it got dropped in a mud hole, we'd be fighting to get our hands on that thing. Just suck that towel dry."

"When we played football back then we didn't have water the way they have today, didn't have water bottles," said Gene Pope during a 2010 interview. "We had a five-gallon bucket of water with a towel in it. And they'd bring the towel out there and set it in the middle of the huddle and everybody would pick the towel up and suck the water out of the towel, wipe

their face off, throw it back in the bucket. By the fourth quarter, that bucket was slime! And you still sucking the water out of it. That was the water boy. You'd pick up two or three small towels, and you'd reach in and grab a towel and you'd suck the water out of it, squeeze it out over your head like that, wipe your face off, throw it back in the bucket. And they'd [walk off] with the bucket, then they'd bring it back out [during a time out], set it down, you do it again. That's how we got water.

"It's disgusting!" Pope continued with a laugh. "And, by the fourth quarter, that bucket was - yecch! - all it was was backwash, just spit. But, we were tired, we were hot, and we needed it, and we sucked on the towel. We'd pass the towel around. Young and invincible. Didn't have the diseases we have today or the viruses we have today. Thank God."

The Butts County Lions Club was formed in 1963 with 20 charter members.

In addition to the six people killed by accidents in 1963, several Negro men were believed to have died from poison moonshine. Names of these individuals were not released by the Sheriff's Department.

1964

A sleet storm of unprecedented proportion struck Jackson on January 7, 1964, bringing up to three inches of ice to the landscape. The most damage done by the heavy ice was to the modern flat awnings recently installed in front of businesses downtown. No traffic accidents or emergencies were reported, though the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department spent the night in city hall in case of emergency.

In the first weeks of January 1964, students had moved into new classrooms built at Jackson Elementary and Henderson Elementary. The construction was made possible by $250,000 in bonds approved by voters in March 1963. Still under construction was an auditorium for Jackson Elementary and High schools and a gymnasium for Henderson Elementary and High schools.

"When they built the gym, that was one of the glaring things," recalled Curtis Gaye in 2009. "Henderson didn't have a gym, and Jackson High had a gym, even though it was a barn building, a terrible gym that, incidentally, was state of the art when they built it. That was one of the considerations: if they built the gym [at Henderson] would that delay or stave off desegregation. This was 1963 , '64. I was an adult. I was back here teaching. People actually talked to me about that, saying if we build a gym do you think this or that [in regards to slowing the tide of desegregation]. So it was a consideration."

Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. and members of the city council presented the annual State of the City message to the Jackson Kiwanis Club on January 28. Mayor Brown said the city has grown from 1.59 square miles in 1959 to 2.25 square miles in 1963. The growth included annexation of four subdivisions in two years.

Despite nearly doubling in size, Brown reported the city still operates on a cash basis and had a $21,569.50 balance as of January 1, 1964. That compared to $14,000 at the beginning of 1963. Revenue for 1963 amounted to $219,000, with only $37,000 derived from taxes.

He added that new traffic lights were ordered for Third Street and expected to be installed within three months. The Street and Sanitary departments had outgrown their headquarters at the old jail on North Oak Street, and a new headquarters was being built on the city's industrial site near The Kym Company.

Mayor Pro Tem C. M. Daniel, Jr. said the city had 20 miles of paved roads. In 1962, the city issued 270 business licenses for revenues of $6,862. But in 1963, the city issued 291 business permits for revenues of $8,569. The assessed property tax digest of the city had grown from $1,900,000 in 1961 to $2,110,000 in 1963 and an estimated $2,500,000 in 1964.

Otis Ball, chairman of the Water and Light committees, said the number of customers increased from 950 in 1961 to 1175 in 1963, and that the city had revenues of $136,418 from sale of electricity in 1963.

John L. Coleman, chairman of the Cemetery, Gas and Building committees reported that the number of gas customers had increased from 758 in 1961 to 821 at the end of 1963. He also noted the sizable increase in building permits issued in the city. In 1961, there were 19 building permits issued totaling $185,570. In 1962, there were 18 permits issued totaling $1165,400. In 1963, the city issued 65 building permits totaling $470,290.

Bill Sasser, chairman of the Sanitary Committee, reported that the one dollar service fee addition for garbage collection was necessary, and commended the job done by Willis McElhaney and his two helpers. The department operated with only a $40 deficit in 1963.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL BASKETBALL 1963-1964</u>
Jackson – 53, PIKE COUNTY – 73
JACKSON – 68, Mary Persons – 42
Jackson – 37, MILNER – 59
Jackson – 48, GREENVILLE - 54
Jackson – 54, MONTICELLO - 61
Jackson – 46, HENRY COUNTY - 64
Jackson – 27, NEWTON COUNTY - 75
Jackson – 54, GREENVILLE - 62
Jackson – 36, GRIFFIN - 49
JACKSON – 58, Mary Persons - 56
Jackson – 65, PIKE COUNTY - 94
Jackson – 42, HENRY COUNTY – 65
Jackson – 49, MILNER - 63
Jackson – 30, NEWTON COUNTY – 67
Jackson – 54, GRIFFIN – 61
JACKSON – 57, Monticello - 53
Jackson – 35, FORT VALLEY - 49

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL BASKETBALL 1963-1964</u>

Jackson – 37, PIKE COUNTY – 51
Jackson – 45, MARY PERSONS - 56
Jackson – 26, MILNER - 54
Jackson – 34, GREENVILLE - 42
JACKSON – 98, Monticello - 25
JACKSON – 48, Henry County - 35
Jackson – 35, NEWTON COUNTY - 53
Jackson – 44, GREENVILLE – 51
JACKSON – 41, Griffin – 40
JACKSON – 47, Mary Persons – 45
JACKSON – 37, Pike County – 34
Jackson – 24, HENRY COUNTY – 27
Jackson – 37, MILNER - 64
Jackson – 27, NEWTON COUNTY - 46
Jackson – 42, GRIFFIN – 44
JACKSON – 65, Monticello - 26
JACKSON – 33, Fort Valley – 30
Jackson – 33, MARY PERSONS – 50
JACKSON – 53, Heard County – 43
Jackson – 38, HARRIS COUNTY – 40
Jackson 45, CENTRAL CARROLLTON – 46

The Lady Devilettes took fourth place in the region tournament, losing to Harris County in the final three seconds a game that would have sent them to the state playoffs.

A master plan for the beautification of Jackson urged every resident purchase at least one dogwood tree in February 1964.

On February 24, 1964 Butts County Sheriff V. H. (Happy) Ham announced he would not seek re-election due to health reasons. Three others had qualified in the race and began a fight for contender status. They were: J. D. (Bud) Pope, former sheriff; Hugh Polk, former deputy sheriff; and Calvin Johnson, filling station owner.

The Butts County Ministerial Association mailed a questionnaire to each asking their stance on beer sales in a dry county. As Doyle Jones, Jr. wrote in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* soon after: "The public has a right to know. Voters, becoming more sophisticated and concerned, are looking more and more at a candidate's qualifications rather than his family tree."

In the April 3 primary, Pope won election as sheriff, after an eight-year absence from the post.

At the March 3, 1964 STAR Student Banquet, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Newton Etheridge was named STAR Student. He, in turn, named Mrs. R. C. Edwards, a science teacher at Jackson High School, as STAR Teacher.

It was announced on March 9, 1964 that 1.89 miles of street in Jackson would soon be resurfaced and paved. The streets covered included Glenn Street, North McKibben Street and Pine Street. Glenn Street was the new street running the back of the Bethel Flats area that connected North Mulberry to Pine Street and then on to Covington Street. The funds to do the work came from the state and were secured by city officials and State Representative Bailey Woodward.

In March 1964, the city purchased a used garbage truck to facilitate the duties of the sanitation department.

In March 1964, the charter of a new bank, McIntosh State Bank, was approved by the State Banking Department. Work began soon thereafter on its new $50,000 building on South Oak Street on the lot formerly occupied by the Buchanan Hotel. Officers of the bank were W. H. Shapard, president; H. Wayne Barnes, chairman of the board; and Henry Asbury, executive vice president and cashier. Members of the Board of Directors were: Rufus Adams, Maurice W. Carmichael, G. W. Caston, Doyle Jones, Jr., E. M. McCord, and L. C. Webb.

On March 18, 1964, a 14-year-old Negro boy, Eulus Thurman, collapsed while playing softball on the Henderson school field. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Sylvan Grove Hospital. Witnesses report he was not struck with a ball or bat, but fell to the ground after throwing the ball.

A frame duplex on Benton Street was badly damaged by fire on March 22, 1964. No one was injured, though one tenant lost many of her belongings.

In March 1964, a black and white mongrel pooch – most likely part collie - who had chased cars for years on McDonough Road finally met his match when he was struck by a car and died.

In early April 1964, Richard W. Watkins, Jr., Chairman of the State Board of Corrections, announced that the state planned to construct a new prison complex somewhere between Atlanta and Macon. The Butts County Chamber of Commerce, Inc. had secured options on several sites in Butts County, which were to be reviewed by the Board.

Volunteers from the four garden clubs in Butts County planted 22 dogwood trees on the lawn of the courthouse on April 10, 1964.

Traffic signals with yellow caution lights were installed at three intersections in Jackson on April 17, 1964. The intersections are Third and Oak, Third and Mulberry and Covington and Third. All could be controlled from the police booth on the courthouse lawn should emergency vehicles need to pass quickly through town.

The first recount in the history of Butts County politics was held on April 1964. Incumbent coroner Doyal J. Bennett received 1,588 votes to challenger Dr. Jack R. Newman's 1,592 votes. Bennett asked for and received a recount. The result was a difference of three votes, but the same outcome: Newman 1,593, Bennett 1,586.

The Jackson High School track team amassed 117 points in the Class B region meet to take first place for the second year in a row, and placing eight boys in the state meet. The golden boy for the Red Devils was Harry Cook, who won five gold medals and 50 points for his team. He won the 100 and 220 yard dashes, the broad jump and anchored the first place 440- and mile-relay teams.

At the state meet, Jackson placed second. Tommy Carmichael tied for first place in the pole vault at 11'8". Harry Cook placed second in the 100- and 220-yard races.

The city rented new uniforms for male employees in May 1964. Supervisor's uniforms are white shirts with khaki pants with an insignia showing their department and first name, while other employees have regular uniforms with department's insignia.

In May 1964, the city completed several improvements to the city cemetery, including a chain link fence around the entire cemetery with gates that were locked each evening and opened each morning. The cemetery also boasted new paved roads and improved landscaping.

It wasn't until July 1964 that someone was locked in the cemetery. It happened to Hugh R. Bailey, of North Carolina, who was visiting the cemetery late one afternoon. He had to climb the fence and inform authorities that his car was locked in.

On May 25, 1964, the city announced a new ordinance that required each person owning real estate in the city to keep their property "free of wild and abundant growth of vines, weeds, etc. to the extent that said property will not become unwholesome, unhealthy or a nuisance." Those not complying with the ordinance were fined.

Henderson High School graduated 41 seniors on May 22, 1964. Geraldine Smith won the highest honor and a $1,000 scholarship to Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Ted Head was the salutatorian.

In June 1964, the city purchased a second prowl car for the police department. Before that, speeders watched for the lone patrol car to pass, and then used city streets for drag racing knowing the officer was not around. The additional car led to a crackdown on speeding, and a number of driver's licenses were confiscated.

Eddie James Griffin, six-and-a-half-year-old son of Robert Griffin of Buchanan Street, received fatal injuries on June 13, 1964 when he ran across First Street without looking. The boy was struck and killed by a car that could not avoid him, and he became the first traffic fatality in the city in almost nine years.

Two weeks later on June 28, 1964, Willie James Mayfield, an 18-month-old child, was killed on Benton Street when a car backed over him. Witnesses say the child walked into the car's path, and the accident was unavoidable.

By July 1, 1964, an estimated $334,300 was spent on new residences, businesses and garages in the city. The figure represents 26 homes, one small shop, one room addition, one bank building, a three-car garage and a service station.

On July 4, 1964, Missouri Goolsby became the third traffic fatality in a month when she stepped in front of an approaching car on Highway 23/42 in front of Cowan's Supermarket. The 32-year-old victim died at Sylvan Grove Hospital and the accident was determined to be unavoidable.

On July 17, 1964, Dr. W. G. Smith opened a nine-hole golf course on Highway 42 four miles north of Jackson. It was the county's first course since the mid-1930s. The course was 2,373 yards, and par was 36.

William Morris Redman, Sr., age 71 and principal architect of Jackson's progress while serving as mayor for 26 years, died July 19, 1964 following an apparent heart attack. Under his leadership, city hall was built for over $50,000, and the city was operated on a pay-as-you-go basis and became a model for other cities.

Redman was born in Butts County, graduated from the University of Georgia in 1915, and was a veteran of World War I. Following his service he practiced law. At the time of his death, he served as clerk to the Butts County Commissioners and as city and county attorney.

Businesses in the city closed for an hour during his funeral, and an overflow crowd attended the service.

"I got a chance to work with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts," said Samuel L. Johnson during a 2009 interview. "My biggest experience there was in 1964 or '65, I took my Boy Scout troop to the World's Fair in New York. We spent two weeks up there. That was a good experiences for me and the boys. We joined with a troop out of Thomaston. We carried 14 boys in two cars and drove all the way up there. It was their first time outside of Georgia."

In the middle of August 1964, Richard W. Watkins, Jr., chairman of the State Board of Corrections, announced that a 938-acre site adjacent to I-75 was selected as the location of the state's new $8 million prison facility. The facility will classify newly convicted criminals. "The facility will put us a long step down the road on a real rehabilitation program," said Watkins. "Those convicted of crime will be checked into the facility for examination by doctors and psychologists. On the basis of these and other tests, prisoners will be assigned to other prison units and their talents put to best usage."

About 200 prisoners could be checked and classified at one time. Adjoining the classification center would be a maximum security prison with a capacity of between 400 and 600.

"Lot of people don't know this about Richard, but Richard had a big heart," said Loy Hutcheson of his friend, Richard W. Watkins, in 2009. "I've seen him take people into his office and spend two hours with them, And when they start leaving they ask how much they owe, and he'd say, 'Ten dollars.'"

"Richard was hard to get to know," Hutcheson admitted. "He had a personality that was kind of standoff-ish. I worked with him for probably five years. I got to know him good because I used his office to work in, that's where I was based. Some people would disagree with this, but that's because they don't know the heart of the man: Richard was very generous. He appeared to be very to people that didn't know him. But he was very humble. I've seen him help people that didn't have any money. I have a lot of respect for Richard. He did a lot of good for this county. He brought the prison here, which a lot of people were opposed to, but its ended up being our largest employer. At the time, it was all about, 'We're all going to get robbed and killed by these people.' But it didn't turn out that way."

"Richard was very persistent," Hutcheson said. "He really had a passion for helping the community and society. He wanted to contribute. That's why he took on a lot of these projects. I don't think it was to get his name out there. I've seen him do too many things for no recognition at all."

On August 30, 1964, Butts County's first serious incident with racial overtones occurred when a group of Negro youths stopped and attacked two vehicles containing White passengers at the intersection of Fincherville Road and Highway 36. The melee ended with Andrew James Miller, 19 of Jackson, shot and killed by John Lo Whitaker of Jenkinsburg. A coroner's jury absolved Whitaker of blame and ruled the shooting justifiable.

According to Sheriff V. H. Ham, Negroes forced an automobile occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Howell Pritchett and daughter to stop. Whitaker, who was following the Pritchetts, was compelled to stop as well. Using rocks as principal weapons, the windows of the Pritchett vehicle were smashed.

Whitaker fired two shots from a 45 caliber automatic at Miller who was attempting to open the door of his pickup truck. The deceased was struck in the heart and died instantly. Whitaker raced to Covington with the Negroes in close pursuit and asked for protection from the Covington police.

The Pritchetts and Whitaker had attended a party in Worthville and were on their way home when the incident occurred.

According to statements by Negro passengers in the vehicles involved, word was received at a Negro tavern in the Worthville area that some White boys had blocked Fincherville Road. Several Negro youth pulled away from the gathering place to check the report.

Sheriff Ham said Miller had been beaten up the night before in a fight between Negroes and Whites.

Following the shooting, Miller was taken to Sylvan Grove Hospital and pronounced dead on the arrival. Soon after, a crowd of 125 to 150 Negroes gathered at the hospital. The crowd was orderly and dispersed when told that Whitaker was in jail and the matter was handled by law enforcement. He was released later that day following the coroner's jury's findings.

Jackson Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. put 20-25 "special deputies" on "standby alert" following the gathering at the hospital. A 10:30 p.m. curfew for those 16 and under was placed in effect and a midnight curfew for adults was enforced.

Mayor Brown described Jackson's race relations as "cordial and good" and said "we will do everything possible to keep them that way."

"And back then, by me working up at Brown's, everybody knew me and I knew everybody," said Ernest Battle. "So I may not have suffered some of the discrimination that some of the other minority folks may have because of who I was associated with and everything. Everybody knew I worked for the mayor, and nobody bothered me. I can remember there were several old guys that used to hang around up town that used to use the 'N' word loosely. I guess it was something that had been a part of their vocabulary over the years, and they used it. But I never had any real problem."

A large storage barn belonging to V. H. Ham, on the lot where the Nutt and Bond office is located on Second Street, was destroyed by fire on August 31, 1964. The barn contained about 75 tons of hay, cotton seed and fertilizer. Members of the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department were on hand to prevent the fire from spreading.

"We moved [to Wesley Drive on] September 15, 1964," said Mary Davis. "The area was a pecan orchard. We were next door to the Baptist Church parsonage. Charles Carter was in charge of all the building here. Mary Jo Brooks and L. A. Brooks were the first house on this street, and Charles Carter was the second. We were the fourth."

On September 18, 1964, McIntosh State Bank opened on South Oak Street. It featured a large parking lot, drive-in window, and night depository.

In the October 16, 1964 primary, no one opposed Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. for his second term, or councilmen W. O. Ball or C. M. Daniel, Jr.

Butts County had 26 churches, with one more being built, in 1964.

In 1964, the state was spending $315,000 on improvements to the Indian Springs State Park. It led all other state parks in attendance with 536,710 visitors between July 1, 1963 and June 30, 1964, an increase of over 88,000 from the previous year.

At the Butts County Fair in October 1964, Mrs. Flora Price of Jenkinsburg was named Woman of the Year. Miss Cathy Blue, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Blue, was crowned Miss Butts County Fair.

"The fair was a week of a lot of entertainment. I showed cattle with the 4-H and the FFA," said Luke Weaver in 2009. "The biggest entertainment on the weekend once you got old enough drive was Indian Springs. There was all kinds of things going on there. There were four hotels

there and a lot of entertainment around them, but that was before my day. When I was growing up, Mr. Hoard had an amusement center on one side of the creek where he had a ferris wheel and rides and all that, and they had a bowling alley and a swimming pool over there. And then Pitts', which was back toward Jackson had a bowling alley and a skating rink and little dance hall.

"Right next to Pitts' was a place called 77 Moonset Strip that I really enjoyed as I got older," Weaver continued. "They had a dance there every Friday and Saturday night. Somebody'd get cut or shot, but we all had a good time. Perry Jones and Gary Hoard and Tommy Harper were all about my age, and if they couldn't find anybody to fight - they'd fight each other. And then if someone tried to separate them, it was on with them."

"Of course, another great thing was Indian Springs," said Walter Carmichael in 2009, recalling the glory days of his youth in Butts County. "The Hoard family, Dan Hoard and his boys, that was Summer time. We used to go down there and hang out all day long – Swim, play on the rocks. But see that was another thing: when integration came along, Mr. Dan closed the swimming pool.

"At night, we would camp out on the hill where the old Elder Hotel used to be," continued Carmichael. "We'd walk up there after dark and just wait for the fights. This was strictly a White thing. These guys would hang out on the bridge that's still there. Teenagers came from all over – Forsyth, Newton County, Henry County, Griffin, Spalding County, all these kids. There'd be dances, and the older guys would be on the bridge drinking bootleg beer. But sooner or later somebody would say something, and this big fight would start. But not like today. Nobody had automatic nine millimeters, pistols, anything like that. If you had to use a gun you were a coward. You might could get away with using a tire iron or something like that. But no heavy violence. It was just fist fights. I remember one guy got thrown off the bridge, but he landed in the kudzu so he wasn't hurt very bad."

"What a unique place that Indian Springs State Park was, too," said Billy Glidewell during an interview in 2010. "I remember it when there was a bowling alley down there, a standing ferris wheel, merry-go-round type deal. Every Friday and Saturday night Danny Hoard had a dance down there, live music and everything, kids coming from two or three counties away. Not too many fights down there, but had enough of them too, you know? But, like you say, there weren't any guns out, you know?

"My brother Tommy [Glidewell] got really messed up down there, beat up pretty bad one time," said Glidewell, "and tried to tell my mama that he fell on the rocks, had his hands in his pockets. And his face was just all messed up. I think she just accepted [the excuse], but she knew better. She was wise in her ways by that time, man."

Mattie Clark was named Miss Henderson High during homecoming festivities in October 1964. Her court included Vivian Bridges and Shirley Willis. The homecoming parade featured five bands from area high schools.

In the general election held November 4, 1964, only 47 voters cast ballots in the City of Jackson. C. B. Brown, Jr. was reelected to a second term as mayor; Milton Daniel to the Council in the Second Ward; and W. Otis Ball to the Council in the Third Ward. All were unopposed.

In a speech to combined shifts at Avondale Mill in Pepperton on November 4, 1964, J. Craig Smith, president and treasurer of the company, told employees that Avondale Mills had spent $761,000 on improving the facility since it purchased the plant. But for the year ending August 31, 1963, the facility actually lost $38,000. He said 259 members of the Jackson plant received checks of $532 from a profit sharing plan with the company, and that none of that money was made here and other employees in the firm's Alabama mills were upset about that. "I would be less than frank with you if I did not tell you we are very unhappy with the financial results we have had up to now," said Smith.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1964

JACKSON – 25, Fort Valley – 7

David Polk and Allen Byars each scored two rushing touchdowns.

JACKSON – 6, Washington-Wilkes – 0

Jimmy Autry scored a touchdown from three yards out to give his team a victory over the defending state champions.

Jackson – 0, WEST POINT – 27

Jackson – 6, HOGANSVILLE – 20

JACKSON – 19, Gordon Military – 0

David Garr, Terry Kitchens and Jimmy Autry scored touchdowns.

Jackson – 0, MARY PERSONS – 14

Jackson – 13, MANCHESTER – 26

David Polk and Jimmy Autry each scored touchdowns, and Polk added an extra point kick.

JACKSON – 23, Pacelli – 14

Butch Miller, Ricky Johnson, and David Polk scored touchdowns, and Terry Kitchens picked up two points with a safety.

JACKSON – 26, Harris County – 13

David Polk ran for two touchdowns and kicked two extra points, Jimmy Autry ran an interception back for a TD, and Ricky Johnson added another Jackson touchdown.

Jackson – 7, MONTICELLO – 20

Jimmy Autry scored a touchdown when he scooped up a fumble and ran it 35 yards.

"In November [1964,] I started at the Central Georgia EMC in the bookkeeping department," said Mary Davis. "They put me under Jane Burford. It was down on Mulberry Street where the board of Education is now. And in October of '71 they moved out there [to Highway 36]. I worked there for 24 years, and retired at 62. Mr. [Bob] Armstrong was manager. He was great. At that time, he retired before the energy crisis and the financial crisis."

At the end of November 1964, the Jackson Police Department was sporting a new 1965 Ford, which joined a Chevrolet already in service. Both are radio dispatched, and feature emergency lights and police department markings.

The city also hired two colored policemen. They only worked on Friday night, Saturday afternoon and night, and Sunday afternoon and night, and only in the colored section of the city. The men, James Berry and William Powell, patrolled in a radio- dispatched car. Only in times of emergency did they patrol outside the colored section. Such hiring had been contemplated for months after the City of McDonough reported the success of similar police hires.

"Soon after we bought our house - it may have been in early '64 - my wife came in the bedroom and told me the chief of police, Watson Vaughn, wanted to see me," said Ernest Battle during an interview in 2009. "I was in bed 'cause I was working at night. And I said to tell him to come on back 'cause I was tired and didn't want to get up. So he came back there and told me that the mayor wanted him to come tell me to take a police job. And [my wife,] Charlotte [Battle,] shouted, 'No! No! No! No!'

Of the city's colored policemen, Battle recalled that James Henry Powell and William Berry had a patrol car. "They was good guys and they tried to get along with everybody," he said. "And I remember one night at one of the juke joints a guy named Charlie was over there just raising holy cane. And James Henry and William came over and said 'OK, you got to go. Let's go. Get on the car.' But he wouldn't get in the car. So they wouldn't fight with him. So they got on the radio and called one of the White officers. The White officer came in there and said, 'OK, Charlie, get in the car.' And he got in the car."

Fifty families and 200 children signed up for the Empty Stocking Fund, which was sponsored by the Jaycees. The fund provided each child with a new article of clothing and a good used toy.

The new gymnasium at Henderson High School was dedicated on December 13, 1964.

On December 16, 1964, two Jackson students were killed in a fiery automobile wreck north of Locust Grove. Killed were Charles Anthony (Bobby) Deraney, 18, and Franklin Wayne Cawthon, 18. Both boys were extremely popular. Deraney's car lost control and veered into another vehicle, which hit another vehicle. Two of the cars burst into flames, and quick work by two passers-by saved lives by pulling everyone from the cars.

A four-year-old Negro child died after the car his father was driving was struck by a train on the Bibb Station Road crossing on December 20, 1964. His father, Charlie Lee Cash, was hospitalized but survived.

1965

In February 1965, Karen Garr was named STAR Student at Jackson High School by the Butts County Jaycees. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Garr. She named her mother as STAR Teacher for the county.

On February 10, 1965, James H. Wallace, Sr. was killed at the Van Deventer Youth Center in Jackson where he worked. He and two women were cleaning the floors when the highly flammable solution they were using spilled and was ignited by a pilot light. Wallace suffered burns to 90 percent of his body, and died at DeKalb General Hospital.

"We were having court, and just about lunchtime we took a break and that's when the fire broke," remembered David Ridgeway. "He had been cleaning floors and when those fumes got to the stove over in the corner - whew! - It just burned him."

"Mr. Daughtry went to all expense to try to help that man," noted Merrell Price. "He even flew him out to Texas to a burn center out there."

James Wallace "was a top notch individual," said Ridgeway. "He never saw a stranger. Always meeting and talking to you."

"If mom and dad were up in the stands and the child was playing ball and he did something, it didn't matter that mom and dad were there - he got corrected" by Wallace, said Price.

"He believed in discipline," agreed Ridgeway. "He was over there at the armory one morning when I was working there, and he got after a little boy from out in Worthville about doing something and the boy sort of mouthed back at James. And he said, 'Let me tell you something, boy.' And about that time, James picked up a broom, and the boy was going out the door, and just about the time he got to the door, James popped him in the back end with that broom. I never will forget that."

"You could take care of stuff like that then, but you sure can't now," said Robert Pinckney.

Wallace came to Jackson in 1955 when he was named Executive Secretary of the Van Deventer Youth Foundation, and was influential in the creation of the Connie Mack League for young baseball players. At the time of his death, he was Executive Director of the Van Deventer Association, president and national director of the Georgia Connie Mack League, and president of the Jackson Kiwanis Club.

"I was in the office the day that [James Wallace] died," said Luke Weaver in 2009. "Mr. Wallace was a good man. In fact, Uncle Pliny and Mr. Hamp hired Mr. James to run the Van Deventer Foundation. And then when he was killed, they hired Mack Davis [in 1967] to come down and do that."

Nearly 1,500 attended James Wallace's funeral on Valentine's Day 1965 at the National Guard Armory on Franklin Street.

"People gathered at the armory for a funeral, not a game," remembered Walter Carmichael in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "They had to use the armory because no church could hold the flowers, much less the people. And the building didn't hold the people, as many stood outside in the cold. There were Black and White, rich and poor, and, of course, the children that loved [Wallace] so much.

"I am sure that people from out of town must have driven by that day and wondered who this man was," Carmichael continued. "They must have thought it was the funeral of a great industrialist, a rich man in the community, perhaps a local politician who had gone on to national fame. That day the funeral rites were said over a farmer who raised kids for a crop, whose smile was the sun, whose tears were the rain.

"He was a winner," wrote Carmichael. "He loved to win but he taught that sometimes even the greatest teams don't always win. In baseball, as in life, God controls the way the ball bounces. The winners respect those bounces good or bad; they play all out with everything they have. They play cleanly and fairly. They win no matter what the scoreboard says."

During a 2009 interview, Walter Carmichael added these thoughts on the death of James Wallace: "The first real integrated thing I ever went to was [James Wallace's] funeral. They couldn't hold it in a church. They held it in the National Guard Armory and it was packed. There must have been 200 or 300 Black people at his funeral. Nobody could believe it had happened. It was hard to believe that someone like him would be taken from us because he wanted a clean floor at the youth center. He always tried to look after the black kids through the Henderson Youth Center."

In February 1965, the City of Jackson added two new employees. Mrs. Denny O'Neal began working in the Light and Water Department. Mrs. Sammy Coleman worked in the Gas Department. The vacancies were caused by the resignation of Mrs. Merrill Price in the Gas Department and Mrs. J. S. Robison in the Water and Light Department.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1964-1965</u>
Jackson – 50, GRIFFIN – 84
JACKSON – 57, Gordon - 55
Jackson – 41, MARY PERSONS - 57
Jackson – 38, GREENSBORO - 45
Jackson – 44, MILNER - 94
Jackson – 42, SOCIAL CIRCLE – 57
Jackson – 46, NEWTON COUNTY – 62
Jackson – 57, EVERGREEN - 64
Jackson – 38, MARY PERSONS - 49

<u>JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1964-1965</u>

JACKSON – 54, Griffin – 45
JACKSON – 48, Gordon - 18
JACKSON – 53, Mary Persons – 47
JACKSON – 61, Loganville – 43
Jackson – 46, Rockdale County - 53
JACKSON – 38, Milner – 32
Jackson – 37, NEWTON COUNTY – 66
JACKSON – 40, Social Circle - 29
Jackson – 23, PIKE COUNTY – 45

On March 8, 1965, a Negro woman believed to be in her forties, Jewel O'Neal, dropped dead while walking on Benton Street. She was known to have a heart condition, according to Jackson Police Chief Watson Vaughn.

A wild shooting spree broke the calm on Elm Street on March 13, 1965 as Billy (Charlie) White and Nacoma Benton argued over a gas bill then started shooting at one another from a distance of between 100 and 200 yards using a rifle and a 410 shotgun. Both were arrested and no one was injured.

A bill to amend the city charter of Jackson was approved in March 1965. It allowed the city to employ a recorder, raise the salaries of the mayor and council and allow them to increase fines if they choose to. Mayor C. B. Brown said the recorder would be hired at a rate of $50 per month. At the time of the bill's passage, the mayor's salary was $600 per year, and council members received $300 annually.

According to an announcement made March 15, 1965 by J. Craig Smith, president of the Avondale Mills, the Pepperton Cotton Mill had been renamed Indian Springs Mill. The plant had been producing napkins and the like, but was being changed to a new line. The company had sought suggestions from the community for the new name, and Craig reported that most people he spoke with in Jackson approved of the new name.

Ida E. Byars, a third grade teacher, was named Teacher of the Year at Henderson Elementary School on April 1965. She was born and raised in Butts County.

Jackson High School's track team inaugurated its new track on April 28, 1965 with a win over three teams.

Benjamin B. Garland was named Recorder of the City of Jackson to handle court matters. Previously, the court was presided over by the mayor. But as the city grew, the city council saw a need for a new position to oversee court matters. Recorders Court was held every Saturday and Monday.

In response to complaints about teenagers drinking beer on public streets, the Jackson City Council passed an ordinance in April 1965 prohibiting the consumption of any alcohol on a public street or within 100 feet of a public street. Another new ordinance prohibited the sale of firearms to persons under age 21. Several teenagers had been found to in possession of small firearms when they were apprehended for other charges, and the new ordinance was proposed to reduce the risk of other dangerous crimes.

On May 1, 1965, stockholders of the Jackson Ice Company received checks for the final liquidation of the business. Begun in 1920 when ice was hard to come by, the Jackson Ice Company was no longer needed due to the availability of electric ice-makers in new refrigerators. The company stopped making ice in 1964.

In May 1965, Kay Street, Fay Street, Rosalind Lane and Hillcrest Drive were paved by the City of Jackson.

On May 24, 1965, the 138-year-old Macedonia Baptist Church burned to the ground as the result of a fire that started with a lightning strike. At the time, the church had 450 members.

On June 4, 1965, 63 seniors graduated from Henderson High School. Frederick Watkins received the Highest Honor. Ninety seniors graduated from Jackson High School on June 7, 1965.

Bids for the construction of Interstate 75 in Butts County were sought in June of 1965. State officials expected the interstate to open by 1969.

A spectacular, flaming collision involving three vehicles on Brookwood Avenue killed two people and critically injured two others on July 24, 1965. Killed were Franklin Eugene Harris, 44 of Jackson, and Linda Kay Phillips, 19 of Columbus. Two weeks after the accident nine-year-old Jerry Lynn Harris died as a result of his injuries.

In August 1965, the Citizen and Southern National Bank purchased a five percent interest in the Jackson National Bank. The action meant C&S customers could used Jackson National, and Jackson National customers had access to C&S services not previously available.

"Debt used to mean something," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "You never wanted to be in debt. One of the biggest favors anyone ever did for me was Mr. Bill Garr up at the [Jackson National] bank. You went to see Mr. Garr about loans. This might have been the first year I was working, and I was just going to get a signature loan for some extra money for Christmas, just $150 or $200. 'No! No! You don't need no extra money,' he said. Made me so angry, but it made me realize I never wanted more money than I had. It set an attitude for me. Jackson National used to pay no interest. You'd put your money and and they'd say, 'thank you.' And the local banks wouldn't loan you any money. If Mr. [Charles] Carter had not been connected with Newton Federal, we probably couldn't have gotten a mortgage for this house."

A record enrollment of 2,522 students started school in Butts County at the end of August 1965. There were 1,382 students at Henderson High and Elementary schools, and 1,140 students at Jackson High and Elementary schools. Four Negro students enrolled at Jackson High: two in the eighth grade, one in the ninth, and one in the twelfth.

At the annual Butts County Fair in October 1965, Mrs. A. W. "Gus" Cook was named Butts County Woman of the Year. She serves as secretary to Butts County's county agent and works closely with the 4-H program.

J. Dawson Bryant, widely known Jackson businessman and First Baptist Church layman, was nominated for the City Council seat from the first ward during a primary on October 15, 1965. His margin of victory over physician Dr. Francis M. Holston was 10 votes, 191 to 181. It was the fewest number to vote in a contested primary in many years. John L. Coleman, incumbent from the fourth ward, was nominated without opposition.

Jackson Police Chief Watson Vaughn and Milton Daniel, chairman of the Aldermanic Police Committee, appealed to parents to help them put an end to egg throwing incidents that left the home of Evans Acree, Jackson High School principal, spattered with eggs on October 22, 1965. It was believed that the eggs were hurled in retaliation for an announcement made by Acree on the school's public address system at the request of Jackson city officials.

At about the same time, Jackson postmaster John P. Hunt reported a rash of destroyed and damaged mailboxes. Some of the boxes were rocked with heavy stones, others had firecrackers lit and placed inside, and one had its back blown out presumably by a shotgun.

In November 1965 it was announced that the City of Jackson would erect a new 300,000-gallon water tank and add new water main extensions. The measures improved fire protection, water quality, and circulation throughout the city's water system. The cost of the improvements, according to Councilman W. O. Ball, was $150,000, which was to be paid without an increase in taxes.

A study conducted by Robert and Company Associates of Atlanta estimated the water consumption of the city at 325,000 gallons per day, and that at peak times the usage could be as high as 650,000 gallons a day.

The principal source for the city's water was Yellow Water Creek, which is joined by Watson Creek immediately above the water plant. An auxiliary source for water was Cawthon Lake, a privately-owned two-acre impoundment north of the water plant which the city leased water rights to.

At the time, the city's water distribution system consisted of a 10-inch main from the water plant through the center of town to the southern edge of Jackson; a short run of eight-inch pipe on East Third Street; and a network of six-inch and smaller pipes throughout the rest of the city. A 75,000-gallon elevated tank located two blocks southeast of the courthouse square floats on the system.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1965
Jackson – 0, FORT VALLEY – 7
Jackson – 0, WASHINGTON-WILKES – 27
Jackson – 0, WEST POINT – 28
Jackson – 13, HOGANSVILLE – 21
Jackson – 7, GORDON – 13
Jackson – 0, MARY PERSONS – 6
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 34
Jackson – 0, PACELLI – 14
JACKSON – 21, Harris County – 13
Jackson – 13, MONTICELLO – 21

The committee in charge of raising funds to purchase a piano for Jackson Elementary School reported in November 1965 that it needed $275 more to reach its goal. Every student was asked to bring 50 cents or $1 to school during the week of November 21.

Christmas lights and decorations went up throughout Jackson on November 26, 1965, the day after Thanksgiving, which was earlier than usual for the city. Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said that day traditionally marked the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.

On Thanksgiving eve 1965, the safe at the Colonial Store on Oak Street was blown from its concrete mooring and taken away by vehicle. The robbers pried a double lock off a door facing Byars Street, and made off with an undisclosed amount of cash and checks.

According to the American Cancer Society, between 1960 and 1965, 70 Butts County residents died from cancer. Cancer of the colon-rectum, breast and uterus, three of the most curable forms of the disease when detected early, resulted in 17 of those deaths.

During the 1965 Christmas Lighting Contest, Mrs. Guy Bearden was judged to have the best lighted door, and Miss Elizabeth Finley the best overall decorations.

1966

As 1966 began, the Jackson City Council welcomed its newest member, Dawson Bryant, and rehired all city employees.

Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. also announced the intention to introduce legislation that would dissolve the corporate charter of the Town of Pepperton and amend the City of Jackson charter to allow it to incorporate the mill town. The legislation also created a fifth ward, which included Pepperton, and called for the election of a new council member to represent that area. John Robert Pulliam as mayor of Pepperton at the time.

On April 1, 1966, the area of Pepperton was incorporated in the City of Jackson. The city's population went from just over 3,400 to nearly 4,000.

On January 30, 1966, Jackson and Butts County was hit by subzero temperatures, though no snow or ice accumulated. Thermometers generally registered zero or slightly below in town, while Indian Springs was the county's icebox at four below. Nearly 200 homes reported broken pipes as a result of the deep freeze.

Schools were closed on Monday, January 31, 1966 as a result, too.

A major break in a water main on February 2, 1966 left most of the city without water service, and those with water service had very little water pressure when they turned on faucets. A pumper truck from Griffin was called on to assist the city in the event of a fire. Schools were closed as a result of the emergency. The problem was found to be caused by all those homes with broken pipes and a frozen water tank.

At the annual STAR Student banquet, held on February 8, 1966 by the Butts County Jaycees, Larry Morgan was named STAR Student. He named Mrs. M. R. Singleton as his STAR Teacher.

Winds reaching up to 100 miles per hour lashed Jackson and Butts County on February 13, 1966. No injuries were reported, but the storm broke glass at some businesses and tore awnings off buildings Roofs throughout the county also suffered damage. The storm also dropped three inches of rain, which flooded the basement of the Jackson Presbyterian Church, curtailing Sunday School and worship service there.

On February 23, 1966, 78-year-old Charlie S. White of Park Avenue was charged with murder in the shotgun death of his wife, Ollie Mae White.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1966</u>
JACKSON - 38, Social Circle – 30
JACKSON – 48, Woodbury - 46
Jackson – 32, MARY PERSONS - 43
Jackson – 43, HENRY COUNTY – 69
Jackson – 32, LITHONIA - 45
Jackson – 55, WOODBURY – 64
Jackson – 30, HENRY COUNTY - 42
Jackson – 50, GORDON – 61
Jackson – 55, PIKE COUNTY - 74
Jackson – 40, MARY PERSONS - 49
Jackson – 44, MILNER - 71
JACKSON – 58, Gordon - 57
JACKSON – 62, Social Circle – 55
Seabie Maddox scored 32 points,

<u>JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1966</u>
Jackson – 12, SOCIAL CIRCLE – 30

Jackson – 22, WOODBURY – 43
Jackson – 19, MARY PERSONS - 47
Jackson – 22, HENRY COUNTY – 35
Jackson – 13, LITHONIA – 44
Jackson – 25, WOODBURY - 67
Jackson – 30, HENRY COUNTY – 46
JACKSON – 63, Gordon – 34
Jackson – 32, PIKE COUNTY - 47
Jackson – 22, MARY PERSONS - 55
Jackson – 16, MILNER – 48
JACKSON – 45, Gordon - 34
Jackson – 24, SOCIAL CIRCLE – 42

In a speech to the Jackson Kiwanis Club on March 1, 1966, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. outlined four areas in which the city should take action.

He suggested the formation of a welcoming committee to visit new families that move into the city and make them feel at home.

Also, he called for a brochure to be created touting all the city has to offer.

Downtown parking remained a vexing problem, and plans were to shrink the size of the lawn around the courthouse to allow for more parking spaces.

And finally, Mayor Brown said there needs to be quality employment available locally to keep high school and college graduates in Jackson.

Samuel L. Johnson was named Henderson High and Elementary School's Teacher of the Year, and was honored on March 20, 1966 at the annual Teacher of the Year program. Johnson taught fifth grade and was director of the Henderson Youth Center, which opened in the early 1960s on North McKibben Street.

"It was a struggle in the early '60s because we didn't have much to work with," said Johnson of the early days of the youth center during an interview in 1990. "But if you could use what you had wisely, you could see some progress."

The first Summer of the youth center, Johnson had a little league baseball team that played teams from Griffin, Barnesville, Thomaston, and Forsyth. Later, he developed a Pony League team for 13- to 15-year-olds. Eventually, the youth league for Blacks also developed a girls' softball team, basketball team and a football team. At the time, merchants from downtown Jackson helped support the teams.

Seeing that first baseball team in action made Johnson feel very good, he said. Black youths "never had the opportunity to play organized ball."

In March 1966, announcement was made that Sgt. Clarence A. Whitehead of Flovilla was killed in Vietnam when he stepped on an enemy mine. He was the first Butts County casualty of the conflict. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. Levi Whitehead, were presented with the Purple Heart on May 31, 1966.

"Another interesting thing about that is it was a totally segregated time," recalled Walter Carmichael during an interview in 2009. "My class – I graduated from Jackson High School in 1966 – that was the first integrated class. George Holder graduated in that class, and Alton Jester was over there, too. I think there was a girl over there, too. I don't know why they did. The main problem they had was nobody talked to them. I was lucky to be around back then because there was so much change going on. A time of integration, so much paranoia and fear about that that it was going to totally ruin everything – and none of that ever happened. Integration would have happened anyway just because of the economy. Sooner or later, people would have said, 'Hey, we can't afford two school systems. Who cares? We got to cut the budget in half.'

"But I think Dr. [Martin Luther] King did the right thing," Carmichael continued. "It had been long enough. See I would have had more fun if I'd transferred over to Henderson. That first group: people weren't really that mean to them, they just didn't have anything to do with them. The Ball brothers, mostly Eugene and William, always helped my dad with all kinds of projects when they got off at the mill. Eugene, had a couple of sons, so working with them in the Summer I kind of got to know them. But you just didn't hang out Black people on the street or after school or whatever.

"I went to work for Alan Brittain when I was 12 or 13 at the Little Gulf filling station - that my grandmother built right there next to the old apartment house [on East Third Street] – but that was a great experience," said Carmichael. "There was only like three or four stations in town, and that's where people came to get cigarettes, Coca-Cola and candy – you know, convenience store kinds of things. Through that deal, running the cash register behind the counter, well, you had to deal with whatever came through the door. So I got to know some of the Black citizens of the county through working there. I taught the first swimming lessons for the Henderson Youth Center at Indian Springs State Park. One week it was all Black kids. The next week, it was all White kids. But like I said, when I graduated from high school I knew nothing about 99 percent of the Black citizens of the county. Later in years, I met a lot of them at my age.

"The most Christian of people at that time were the Black people, 'cause they were like the Jews in Egypt," Carmichael continued, discussing race relations in the 1950s and early 1960s. "I'm not saying they were beaten or were slaves, but they were treated that way. They were not allowed use public restrooms. They were not allowed to drink out of a public water fountain. At the Little Gulf [station] they were not allowed to drink out of our water fountain. So they had a right to be more upset, but I think they took of a Christian attitude of non-violence. All this talk of violence was always all around, and if they did do something out of line they could meet with violent circumstances.

"That's another thing, too," Carmichael added. "I don't think it was as bad as they say, and I think a lot of the Black citizens around here today would say that there were a lot of White citizens that did a lot to help with the integration thing, that didn't like the way the Black population was treated. So I think a lot of that change came about because of Black people standing up for themselves and doing it in that non-violent way. But there were also a lot of White citizens that took up for the Black neighbors – especially out in the country, like [former President] Jimmy Carter talks about. Out in the country, working on the farm, they really were much closer to those people than we were in town. After school, we could go back to our little

neighborhoods. I always said the White neighborhood kind of was north and south on Third Street, the Black crew was going east-west. So we kind of crossed there at Third Street and Mulberry."

"I feel privileged to have been involved in it," said Billy Glidewell of the time when segregation ended. "I saw the whole thing. My father [Hugh Glidewell, Sr.] ran a business [a laundromat on East Second Street] that had a White side and a Black side. Not being a racist himself, it was just facts of life.

"I remember him sneaking - I say 'sneaking' - I remember him entertaining Blacks at the [Glidewell's] restaurant in that private dining room," remembered Glidewell. "They even had a side door that they'd all come around. I'd say that probably didn't happen five times. But, you know, he knew they had a right to eat. [Blacks were not usually allowed to eat in the restaurant.] They probably could have, but they wouldn't. They just didn't. I don't recall there being a sign up because there wasn't a question. There wasn't going to be any Blacks coming in the restaurant then.

"That was pre-1961," said Glidewell. "And I remember there being Black and White water fountains at the courthouse. My father, he had occasion to go down to the courthouse, and I'd just tag along. I just remember there being a 'colored' fountain sign, and thinking how odd that was at the time. Same damn water. Come out of the same pipes, you know? [laughing]. I am not the most unique and I'm not the most accepting person in the world, but I just wasn't raised as racist. And I just thought it was cruel and unusual even at the time, even when I was just old enough to recognize that something is not right about that. But, I knew how to keep my mouth shut, too. That's the way it was. You didn't rock the boat. But it was time for change, man. I won't say it was too late coming, because it was a natural maturing process, you know?"

"I have to admit that the Black schools did not get the same materials and supplies that the White schools got even here," said Loy Hutcheson in 2009. "We used to buy new books and send our old books over to that school. You look back and that's not right, but that was the way they did things back then."

"That was another interesting thing about going into the [National] Guard," Walter Carmichael said in 2009. "In 1966, I joined the lily White Georgia National Guard. And I think what kept us out of Vietnam – of course they'd never say this officially – but we were kept home to be the White guard. All we did - every drill – was riot control. I got so tired of riot control. That's all we did: riot control, riot control. At that time, we were not ready to go to war: old World War II Jeeps, World War II tanks, everything was old, worn out, broken, nothing you would go to combat in. But I'll give the Civil Rights Movement credit, probably, for keeping me out of Vietnam.

"I remember when Dr. [Martin Luther] King died," he said, "we were mobilized so if the riots broke out we could go right into town. The Guard at that time actually was integrated, but I never saw any Blacks until we went to Summer camp. Every year at Summer camp there'd be a few Black soldiers in Georgia National Guard uniforms. You know who they were? They were

Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta Braves trying to dodge the draft, too, and play baseball or football. That was it. Of course, all the officers loved them."

"I was lucky I missed the draft, because my number was 366," said Gene Pope in 2010. "I don't know if you know understand how the draft lottery worked. They draw a birthday out, and everybody with that birthday gets drafted into the army. Well, they pull out your birthday, and then they put it on a list, pull another birthday - it's all randomly selected. My birthday was the last one drawn. June 8, at that time, was number 366. So I didn't have to go join. Because they draft people according to that list, and they were only going to draft probably 200. Why, they'd have to get everybody in the country before they get me! So, I was lucky in that respect. I didn't have to go into the Vietnam War. I had already been talking to the Navy about going to Navy flight school and had already taken some tests, and they arranged for me to come back and sign some papers. And then when they had the draft lottery and I looked at it, I didn't go back and sign the papers. And the guy asked me, said, 'How come you didn't come back?' I said, 'My number was 366.' He says, 'Ah, I see. Okay.' He understood."

At the end of March 1966, the Board of Education released its school desegregation guidelines to eliminate the racial segregation of students, in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Throughout the month of April 1966, parents were required to choose which school they wanted their children to attend the following school year. Once a choice was made and submitted, it could not be changed. This policy came to be known as "freedom of choice."

While both Henderson and Jackson elementary schools offered the same programs, there were differences in the courses offered at the two high schools. At Henderson High School, Art Appreciation, Music Appreciation, French III, Psychology, Civics and Chorus were offered, but were not offered at Jackson High School. Jackson High offered Speech, Spanish I, Mechanical Drawing, World Geography and Mathematics V, but were not offered at Henderson.

At the same time, according to the BOE, all school-connected activities, sports, and facilities were to be open to all on a desegregated basis. School-sponsored transportation was also to be desegregated.

"One thing that changed here drastically was when the civil rights laws were passed. That changed everything," said Bill Fletcher in 2009. "We started integrating schools. My daddy was on the school board at the time, William Lovett Fletcher, Sr. At one time, I asked my daddy - because he was not an integrationist, he was a segregationist just like probably every White male in the south - I asked him why he was supporting the integration of the schools. And he said very simply, 'It's the law of the land, son. And without obedience to the law of the land we would not have a country.' He told me he had taken several oaths over his lifetime to serve the Constitution and to protect the Constitution. And he said, 'I can not in good faith break that oath. I may not like it, but I will support it.'

"A lot of the reason that we got to do what we got to do in this community was because [then-Governor] Herman Talmadge and Rufus Adams were such good friends," said Fletcher. "Rufus went to Herman and asked Herman could he delay integration in Butts County for a year to give Butts County an opportunity to come up with a reasonable plan. Could he get the

Department of Education to delay for a year, because they wanted to immediately enforce it. At the time, a lot of schools were having a terrible time. They were being forced to integrate totally, immediately. We were one of the few ones that got freedom of choice. If it hadn't been for Herman Talmadge we probably wouldn't have gotten it. With his support, we were able to get freedom of choice. We were also able to delay it for one more year because we had to write the plans for it. So Rufus and them were pretty slick. All he was trying to do was to slow it down so the community would accept it. He was mistreated pretty badly at times for it. Some pretty bad things were said about him and Lee Roy O'Neal because of integration, and the other members of the Board, including my father. I got in some fights about it.

"When they integrated schools, when they gave freedom of choice and we had some kids to go over," Ernest Battle said of local Black children who then moved by choice to Jackson's formerly all-White schools. "The only person I heard saying anything negative about going over to Jackson High on the freedom of choice was Alton Jester. He claimed that Whites were just outright cruel to him. But them I found out from Bill Nelson that Alton wanted to play basketball, but he didn't practice good personal hygiene. So the coach had them take in there and give him a G.I. bath. That's how come he had that bitterness in him."

"Fred Head was one of the first Black students to go to Jackson High School under the integration program," said Luke Weaver during a 2009 interview. "It was not forced integration, but it was integration by choice. And Carol [Weaver, who taught bookkeeping,] said he was just super good and a super good student."

"When I was in eighth grade, which was in 1967, was when they had freedom of choice so you could choose which school you wanted to," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "The Whites could go to the Black school, and the Blacks could go to the White school. It's funny because that's when I met my friend, Fred Head. Fred came over and went to Jackson High School. There were probably 10 or 15 that came over from Henderson in our class."

"In the beginning of the school year in 1967, and maybe even to '66 - I can even almost name you all these people," recalled Billy Glidewell in 2010 about the introduction of "school choice" in Jackson. "Fred Head being one of them. Charles Watts, he was one of these guys. Mr. [Arthur] Lawson, God rest his soul, he was a good man, too. Ernest Battle. The people that made those decisions then sent us the best they had from Henderson. I'm talking about the best they had behavior-wise, academic-wise. I don't know how they came up with the ones they selected to send over but we had integration in 1966.

"But, so many [transfered students from Henderson High School] were making better grades than a whole bunch of folks [already at Jackson High School]," Glidewell said. "It was obvious in the classroom discussion that these folks had more sense than most of us do. And so, there was that resentful acknowledgment of the fact that these folks is as good as we are. It was just wonderful the way it played out - because before that 1970 forced integration occurred, we had already integrated. And we had also come to acknowledge that they are just as talented as we are.

"Athletically—Lee Fambro, man, I'm talking [he was] built just like [college and professional running back] Bo Jackson," said Glidewell. "Looked like he had been pumping weights since the day he knew what one was, you know? And he was a fullback and ran like Bo Jackson. Hell of a good athlete. Shot baskets the same way.

"It was just a wonderful thing that we managed to accomplish here in Jackson, Butts County, as far as integration goes," Glidewell said in 2010. "So much of it had to do with the quality of the Blacks that did the integration."

"The first kids who came over [from Henderson High School] came over under what they called 'freedom of choice.' It was before integration was absolutely mandated," explained Loy Hutcheson during an interview in 2009. "They were good kids looking for a good education. They were the fore runners, I guess you'd say, for what we knew was coming the next year. They were ambitious: Fred Head, Lee Fambro, Robert Henderson. They didn't have a problem with integration. The community was more of a problem because the community had to adjust to it, too."

"They started freedom of choice when I was a freshman in high school," said Bill Fletcher in 2009. "In my grade, we had John Head. We had Lurlene Watts, who works at city hall now, and Veronica Head, who works at the police department. What I remember most was the Black boys talked to us, the Black girls sort of stayed together. They didn't have much to do with us. I knew a couple of them, but I also knew some of them could be trouble if you weren't careful. I had known them long enough to know that. The Jester boys: Roosevelt and Alton. They lived out on the farm and I knew them well enough. I knew we could have some real trouble with them if we weren't careful. But we also got Lee Fambro, John Head, Carey Arline, some super good boys. We got the cream of the crop. We had a few smart alecks and trouble makers, but as a whole we didn't have much of them. Most of the guys that I came in contact with were pretty good people.

"I remember an instance when we were down there practicing basketball in tenth grade. Cline Carson was our coach. He was a big old guy. We had just gotten our floor resurfaced. This was at the old gym, so basically they just stripped it down and put a new coat of shellac on it. Cline said, 'I don't want to see the first shoe or boot on my floor.' Well, this Morris boy came out there and he was sort of a blow hard, big mouth, wearing his boots, scuffing the floor. John Head walked up to him and said, 'Please. Our coach asked us not to walk on this floor.' And [Morris] said three or four real strong words to John and shoved him.

"Well, John didn't get a chance to take care of him," said Fletcher. "I admit I was there, too. The White basketball players that were John's age, we got to [Morris] before anybody else got to him. He fell down so many times, he couldn't help himself. He was black and blue. He went home and told his daddy, and Cline swore him never saw him down there. His basketball players wouldn't do anything like that. The coach had said, if it was a problem with a White person, let the White players take care of it. And we did a good job, too."

In early April 1966, a panel of five local teenagers told the PTA and Kiwanis Clubs about the need for organized recreational activities for older teenagers. Mary Ruth Martin reported on

the results of a survey given to 359 high school students. To the question "what is the main type of recreation that you feel that the teenager of your age needs?" the answers were dances (70%), skating (23%) and bowling (21%). For Summer activities, the answers were water sports (64%), drag racing (22%), and dancing (14%).

The Henderson High School Tiger Band, under the direction of Andrew J. Buggs, Jr., tied for first place during a band festival held at the school on April 15, 1966.

A fire on April 18, 1966 destroyed the old Van Fretwell home on North Mulberry Street just north of the square. Volunteers with the Jackson Fire Department fought the blaze. The house had been unoccupied for some time, and was owned by the Jackson Hardware Company.

On April 19, 1966, word was received that the Avondale Mills plants was awarded a Defense Supply Agency contract for 2,000,000 yards of wind-resistant cloth, at a value of $1.3 million.

John R. Pulliam was unopposed in an April 29, 1966 special election for the newly created Fifth Ward seat on the Jackson City Council. Pulliam was the former mayor of Pepperton, the area included in the new ward.

During a dedication ceremony on May 4, 1966, the city dedicated two buildings to two long-serving employees. The Maintenance Building was dedicated to Mrs. W. H. (Jane) Mallet, city clerk for many years until her retirement in 1961. The Water and Light Building was dedicated to J. H. (Howard) Rooks, who had been affiliated with the department since 1927 as superintendent. Both buildings were located on an industrial plot off Highway 16 near the railroad tracks.

Sixty-nine seniors received diplomas during Jackson High School's graduation exercises on June 6, 1966. George Weaver was named Valedictorian, and Emily McKibben named Salutatorian.

"I graduated [from Jackson High School] in 1961," said Luke Weaver in a 2009 interview. "I went to [Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College], and really enjoyed it down there. Then I went to the University of Georgia and I was like a worm in hot ashes. It was too big for me. I came back to Jackson and started working for State Farm in October of 1966 and I've been there ever since - 43 years.

"I worked in the office with my uncle, Pliny [*pronounced PLEH-knee*] Weaver. He and my mother worked there together," said Weaver. "Uncle Pliny worked until he was about 85, and then I took over. I had an agency and I took over his agency. He was a hustler. He was one of the best sales people I ever saw in my life. He was about five-foot-eight maybe and weighed 150 pounds. He wore a coat and tie most of the time. He'd cut his grass with a coat and tie on. He'd go fishing with a coat and tie on. And everywhere he went he walked real fast. He was a big

instigator in getting the new First Baptist Church built, getting money for that. He and Mr. Hamp Daughtry were real good friends.

Two new cells were added to the city jail in June 1966, which were used for females and juveniles. A small courtroom and utility room were also added to the facility.

On June 20, 1966, a stubborn blaze seriously damaged the building and contents of the Gateway Luggage Plant in the east Jackson industrial area. It was believed that the fire started in scraps near the loading dock, and flames sucked inside by fans. The loss was heavy and the plant was closed for an indefinite period. The plant employed 111 people who were asked to report every Friday to apply for unemployment.

According to Hal A. Summers, superintendent of the Indian Springs Avondale Mills plant, by July 1966 the company spent $2.5 million on improvements to the facility since it purchased it. At the time, the plant mostly produced poplin for soldiers in Vietnam.

"We had guys that had vans that used to charge a dollar a day to drive us to work in Atlanta," said Ernest Battle of his working days in the late 1960s. "When I worked for GM, we tried to divide it up where we'd have three or four to a car. In my carpool, we had four so we rotated daily. I'd drive every fourth day. And that didn't put a strain on nobody. That worked out real good."

A four-room frame dwelling on North Oak Street was seriously damaged by fire on July 26, 1966. No one was injured in the blaze.

On July 25, 1966, the mayor and City Council adopted a disorderly conduct ordinance for the city. It made it unlawful to use vulgar or profane language; discharge a firearm; disturb the peace and tranquility of other persons; refuse to remove oneself from a private or public premises when asked to do so by the owner or occupant; hide weapons including knifes with blades in excess of three inches in a car; be drunk or intoxicated; accelerate the speed of a motor vehicle so that the tires "scratch off;" loiter on private property without the owners consent; possess drugs known as LSD, pep pills, home brew or beer in excess of 400 fluid ounces; toss or drop bottles, cans or other litter on streets, public places, or private property; engage in any act of indecency or exposure of private parts offensive to the sensibilities of others; or engage in fighting.

On September 12, 1966, the mayor and council added several acts that the city would also deem disorderly conduct: driving nay motor vehicle ahead of fire apparatus so as to block its way; driving nay vehicle within 500 feet behind a fire apparatus; driving any vehicle over a fire hose when it is laid out and being used to fight a fire; or to be in a drunken or intoxicated state from any cause whatsoever.

"You carried a pocketknife with you [to school]," said Billy Glidewell about the difference between growing up in Jackson in the 1960s and growing up there now. "If you was a country boy, you just carried a pocketknife with you. They'd take you to jail in handcuffs now."

"Living in Stark was totally different than living in town," recalled Theodore Patterson, who was born in 1951 in Stark. "I remember my dad loading us up at Christmas time and coming to town because Santa Claus would be up on the square. We'd go and tell Santa what we wanted, and he'd bring us back. And that was about it until they moved to town in 1966. We didn't go to town a whole lot. I didn't know about Crosstown. I didn't know about Darktown. I didn't know about the city square because it was kind of like going to Alaska. I lived in the country, and everything I dealt with was out in the rural area. Going to school was a premium because you saw all your friends. And a lot of my friends didn't have telephones, so it wasn't like you could pick up the phone and call them. And you didn't have e-mail or cell phones. So you didn't talk to anybody or see anybody, so you were in your own little world. So moving to town: I thought I had hit the jackpot. I was able to go here and go there and see everybody. It was a unique transition for me."

"I went to work at the Standard dairy, milking cows down there," said Patterson in an interview in 2010. "Milking cows is a unique experience. We had to get up at one o'clock in the morning, get down to the dairy farm, go out in the pasture in the woods when it's black dark, herd them up, get them back to the barn, milk them, and then clean up all the cow mess in the stalls. I was making $18 a week. That was a 365-day-a-year job. And I had to do it twice a day. Somehow my cousin and I worked it out so we were able to leave school everyday at one o'clock so we could be at the dairy farm to start at two o'clock. We did that from the ninth grade up until my senior year.

"And I said, 'I'm not going to miss my senior year milking the cows,'" recalled Patterson. "I wanted to be in the band. So I started staying all day at school. But that taught me the basic principles of work and earning my own money, knowing how to manage things, how to be disciplined."

When school opened in August 1966, there were 686 students at Jackson Elementary School, an all-time high for grades one through seven, and 517 at Jackson High School. Henderson Elementary School had 854 in grades one through six, and Henderson High School held 550 students.

W. L. Miller was named principal of Henderson High School to start the 1966-1967 school year. He replaced N. E. Walker, who had served in that capacity for the previous 18 years. The two men worked closely together during their tenures at Henderson.

Mark Kapiloff, vice president of The Kym Company, announced in early September 1966 that all employees at the company would receive a 10 percent raise. Kapiloff said the increase is partly due to the fine efforts of the employees and also to management's desire to share the cost of living. Kapiloff said The Kym Company planned to be a pace setter for wage levels in the area.

In the first week of September 1966, the City of Flovilla received notice that it had received a loan of $120,000 and a grant of $46,500 for the purpose of building a water system to service the city, the area around Indian Springs, and the Indian Springs Holiness Campground. In all 174 families were to be served by the system.

A month later in October 1966, the Town of Jenkinsburg received a Farmers Home Administration loan of $53,000 and a grant of $37,300 to construct a central water system to serve 80 families.

When the September 24, 1966 deadline passed for qualifying for the city primary, there was no opposition to Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr., or councilmen C. M. Daniel, Jr. or W. Otis Ball. It was the third term for Brown and Ball and the fourth term for Daniel.

At the Butts County Fair on October 10, 1966, Ethel Smith was named Woman of the Year by the Exchange Club. Miss Ethel, as she was known, was the county's first public health nurse.

"We used to drive through here before the expressway and said, 'Man, this is a pretty little town,'" recalled Loy Hutcheson in 2009. "Then the trees overlapped Third Street, before the commercial stuff came. And pretty houses.

"Jackson was a football town," he said. "I stopped at Deraney's and asked them who the football coach was, and at the time they had just let Rudy White go. They said they wanted a Christian coach because he had been pretty bad with cussing and stuff. They had a guy here named Carl Peacester who had been here as an assistant, and they were going to hire him because he was a Christian.

"And two weeks later, I called back and found out they did hire him," Hutcheson said, "but they had an opening as a DCT coordinator, which paid much more than coaching. I looked into it and said that it looked pretty good. And I ended up coming here and coaching for nothing the first year because the coach found out I had experience and I ended up coaching for nothing that year."

RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1966

Jackson – 7, FAYETTE COUNTY – 13
Jackson – 0, MONTICELLO - 47
JACKSON – 34, Henry County – 0
Jackson – 7, WEST POINT – 33
JACKSON – 13, Hogansville – 6
Jackson – 14, GORDON MILITARY – 40
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS – 33
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 27
Jackson – 0, PACELLI – 27
JACKSON – 40, Harris County – 0

After that season, Coach Peacester "left because it really got down to nothing," said Loy Hutcheson. "I took it the next year and we had 18 boys out for football, and half of them were ninth graders. When you don't have the numbers it's hard to even have practice. In the fourth year, we had 65 people out.

"Wilson Bush was my assistant coach and I coached him in Dodge County," Hutcheson said. "I wanted to go into education and be a football coach to help kids like my coach and teachers helped me. I think we brought not only competition, but also character. We tried to be role models for the people we wanted [the players] to be. We were disciplined."

At a hearing on November 21, 1966, the Jackson-Butts County Planning Commission approved the rezoning of property along south Mulberry Street and on College Street from residential to commercial. No one spoke in opposition to the request from property owners Richard W. Watkins, Jr. and James L. Robertson.

On December 7, 1966, the Jackson National Bank officially opened at its new location on the corner of Third Street and Mulberry Street. The bank had been in a temporary location below the Town House Restaurant since March 1966.

During the first week of December 1966, a new parking lot owned by the city opened on North Mulberry Street. Free parking was offered during the month of December on the lot, which was bought and cleared by the Jackson Hardware Company. Business owners and employees were urged to use this lot and save spaces around the square for customers.

Two ingenious city employees, Bill Mitchell and Homer Capps, built a leaf machine for a cost of about $250 in December 1966. The two had seen a professional leaf machine demonstrated just three weeks earlier, which was offered to the city at a price of $3,500.

The body of Jeanelle Stewart Perry, a Negro woman in her early 20s, was found savagely beaten and stabbed in her home on Benton Street on December 20, 1966. The body was found in a bed under an electric blanket by a neighbor who stopped by for a visit. According to Police Chief Watson Vaughn, an autopsy revealed she had been stabbed 27 times in the heart with a long blade pocket knife and severely beaten about the head with a brick.

Billy Thurman was arrested and charged with the crime, which he confessed to, though no motive was established.

On December 28, 1966, a Marietta man named Ray Terrell Reed, age 38, was found dead as the result of a self-inflicted gunshot on the floor of his room at the Heart of Jackson Motel. Reed had been employed as a construction worker at the new diagnostic prison, and was reportedly despondent in the days before his suicide.

1967

On January 2, 1967 a domestic tiff between a married couple resulted in the wife, Lucile McLendon, being shot by the husband, Roger McClendon, on Buchanan Street in front of eyewitnesses. It was reported that the couple had been nagging each other that evening, and that Lucile was shot three times. Death was instantaneous according to Police Chief Watson Vaughn.

According to Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., an international business information agency, there were 110 businesses in Butts County at the start of 1967.

During a "State of the City" address to the Kiwanis Club on January 23, 1967, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said the city took in 54 acres in 1966, and was operating under the same amount of revenue save for a $1 service fee for garbage service and property taxes on new homes. Revenues in 1966 totaled $557,638, the first time over the half million dollar mark.

Also in 1966, the city issued $547,000 in new building permits including a new bank, new apartment building, and 21 new homes. There were only three empty buildings on the square, said Brown, as opposed to nine of them in 1962.

The mayor estimated the city's population at 3,750. He added that in 1954 when the natural gas system was installed, there were 334 customers, which grew to 943 by the end of 1966. The addition of a 300,000-gallon water tank and new six-inch mains had also improved water pressure.

Brown also asked for the club's help in establishing a welcoming committee for new residents to the city, and the printing of a brochure lauding the city's high points.

In early February 1967, Jackson was blanketed by one inch of snow that came unpredicted by weathermen. At the end of the month, the coldest temperatures of the Winter were recorded: nine degrees.

Mack Davis was hired on February 6, 1967 to be director of the Van Deventer Foundation.

"My battalion commander told me about the Van Deventer Foundation here in Jackson," recalled Mack Davis during an interview in 2010. "They were looking for a director. I was on my home after being discharged from the Army and I was going to become a park director in Tennessee. My undergraduate degree was in parks and recreation and I had taken the state exam and I was qualified to do it. But my major suggested I come by and talk with Mr. Pliny Weaver and Mr. [Hamp] Daughtry about this opening here at the Van Deventer Foundation. I met at Mr. Pliny's State Farm office and that was 1967. I had the interview with them, then went on to Tennessee and they called me the next day and offered me the job. So I came back three days later and have been unable to find a job anywhere else ever since.

"I think it offered an opportunity to make a positive influence on some people's lives, and an opportunity to do some things that may be of benefit to the community and the region, the state," Davis said. "It didn't pay much money, but it wasn't a boring job. The way they described it, everyday was different. At that time, we operated all of the recreation programs, all of the summer and fall recreation was under the Van Deventer Foundation. And Harry Ridgeway and

Buster Duke were doing it on a part-time basis. They were both mail carriers, and they were ready to give it up. So they were looking for a director. And I liked the community. I was from a small town, so we just stayed here.

Weaver and Daughtry "were business-like, very professional and to the point," said Davis. "They let you do a lot of the talking and they evaluated you as you talked."

"The impressive thing about Jackson in 1967 was the beautiful trees that covered Third Street and the homes were all still there," he recalled. "It had a thriving square. All the stores were filled. It was shaded all over on Third Street before the cut it down and put in Burger King and McDonalds and Taco Bell and that kind of stuff."

"After James Wallace got killed," said Harry Ridgeway in 2009, "Mr. [Hampton] Daughtry put me and Buster Duke as co-directors of the [Daughtry] foundation. In addition, we were in our mail routes. Buster was city and I was rural. But we directed the activities for two years. That's when I told them I thought they'd had enough time to get a director. That's when Mack Davis was brought in. So it has thrived and it has thrived. The county has done well. We don't back off for anybody as far as the facilities we got. It's just been amazing. And I'm proud of it myself. It shows what can be done if a community wants to do."

Mack Davis "has done a good job [as director of the Daughtry Foundation]," said Luke Weaver in 2009. "He's different from Mr. James [Wallace]. Mr. James was a hands-on baseball coach, and it got too big for that. Mr. James probably couldn't have handled it as it got a whole lot bigger. But it changed, and Mack's done a good job of keeping records and seeing that we need everything we need as far as meetings. He's a good organizer. He's much more of a manager than Mr. James was."

"We ran all the sports programs, and of course we registered all the ball players, conducted all the drafts, drew all the schedules, maintained the fields, issued uniforms," said Mack Davis of the Van Deventer Foundation's responsibilities in the middle and late 1960s. "We had two youth centers that we operated then. In '67 there were separate [recreation facilities]. Henderson had a separate program for Blacks. But all the towns were like that.

"One of the ball fields was where the present gym is sitting at the old high school (on Franklin Street)," said Davis. "That was the little league field. And we played on the still existing high school field. Later on we obtained a lease on the property where the apartments are across from the Second Baptist Church. That was lighted. We had a football field and baseball fields there. And then we got the Avondale Mill property and started that development down there.

"We needed space for more ball fields and found that land when we walked in from Highway 16 down a little road there," he explained. "We found that land. Mr. [Hampton] Daughtry was a friend of Mr. Comer who was president of Avondale Mills. And Avondale Mills donated that land to the city. Mr. Daughtry got him to donate it. And we got a grant from the state to build the first phase of the park down there. We built tennis courts and ball fields down there. We christened those tennis courts with a bottle of Indian Springs water. We broke it across the center court post holding up the net.

"We had a string band instructor that came here every week," Davis added. "We had the Van Deventer Choir. A man from Tift College came here and taught that. We sponsored 4-H projects, scouting groups, things like that – youth-related activities in the county."

On February 21, 1967, Leon Cook was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. Cook named Mrs. Roy Prosser as his STAR Teacher.

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1967
Jackson – 44, MACON COUNTY - 59
JACKSON – 55, Fayette County – 37
Jackson – 29, PIKE COUNTY – 49
JACKSON – 61, Manchester - 41
JACKSON – 55, Gordon Military – 47
Jackson – 35, HENRY COUNTY - 43
JACKSON – 45, Stockbridge - 29
JACKSON – 48, Monticello - 44
JACKSON – 43, Monticello - 41
JACKSON – 41, Fayette County – 31
Jackson – 37, MILNER - 55
JACKSON – 56, Stockbridge – 42
Jackson – 31, SOCIAL CIRCLE - 50
JACKSON – 40, Gordon Military - 37
Jackson – 28, PIKE COUNTY – 49
Jackson – 39, MARY PERSONS – 47
Jackson – 50, MARY PERSONS – 62
Jackson 33, HENRY COUNTY - 51
Jackson – 41, SOCIAL CIRCLE - 47
Jackson – 29, MILNER - 49
Jackson – 45, GORDON MILITARY – 48

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1967
JACKSON – 68, Fayette County – 42
Jackson – 32, PIKE COUNTY – 66
JACKSON – 55, Manchester – 48
JACKSON – 57, Gordon Military - 45
Jackson – 51, HENRY COUNTY – 53
JACKSON – 65, Stockbridge – 45
JACKSON – 43, Monticello - 35
JACKSON – 44, Monticello – 40
JACKSON – 57, Fayette County - 52
JACKSON – 39, Milner – 37
JACKSON – 54, Stockbridge - 52
Jackson – 42, SOCIAL CIRCLE – 43

Jackson – 24, GORDON MILITARY – 27
Jackson – 43, PIKE COUNTY - 57
Jackson – 30, MARY PERSONS – 57
Jackson – 49, MARY PERSONS - 59
JACKSON – 47, Henry County – 46
JACKSON – 63, Social Circle – 59
Jackson – 49, MILNER - 76
Jackson – 45, TAYLOR COUNTY – 49

On March 2, 1966, the City of Jackson was awarded a 10-year contract to serve the new diagnostic prison with natural gas. It beat out Atlanta Gas Light Company for the contract. Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. estimated revenue from the contract could reach $40,000 per year.

Starting in mid-March 1967, traffic was channeled from I-75, which was still under construction in places, to Highway 23 through Jackson. By one count, 1,000 vehicles passed within 40 minutes heading north from Forsyth to McDonough where the interstate begins again. Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. reported between 10 and 15 calls per day complaining about the increase in traffic through town, and called the state asking for solutions. Jackson police spent most of their weekends directing traffic at major intersections.

"[I-]75 coming through was the biggie," said Walter Carmichael of the change in traffic patterns in Jackson through the years. "We were still pretty sleepy. Then 75 came through and we started growing. Of course in the last decade we've been through a real boom and bust."

Highway 42 was one of the main north-south corridors, so Jackson had traffic coming through it "big time. Big Time. Yankees. That's when Fresh Air [Barbecue] really boomed, when they had to come up 42. Now they get off 75, run by to get some Fresh Air Barbecue. You wouldn't believe the traffic back then. As soon as 75 opened, it all disappeared. It was gone."

"I bet Fresh Air Barbecue made more money in that time than anything else around here," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. "They limited the amount of barbecue you could buy because they would run out of it every time. They rerouted all that traffic through town for months and months. It was a constant flow of traffic through town."

"I used to work with people who used to take Highway 42 to Florida and they remembered Fresh Air.," said Barbara Phillips.

"It was the most direct route from Atlanta to Florida," added Wayne Phillips. "Then they built 19/41 and they took away some of the traffic through here, and then the interstate just dried it up."

"On the weekends, we'd go out to eat at Fresh Air Barbecue," said Diane Rosser during a interview in 2008. "Or there was a Tastee Freez where the Mandarin Garden is [on East Third Street]. Or there was a wonderful barbecue place in Jenkinsburg, too. Arthur Stodghill ran it.

That barbecue sauce was really good. It was just a little small place with wooden benches and things.

"The weirdest thing was behind the New York Store," Rosser said, referring to the area behind the stores that front Third Street on the square. "It was this big empty lot and it looked like a small trailer there. And you drove up and it was a small restaurant. The Heaths, Dawson Heath's mother and daddy, ran it. And what you loved about it was every Wednesday a Black woman who worked there made homemade fried peach pies and everybody would just go crazy and try to get there before they were gone. And it was very good food, very good food."

The city purchased a new 22-cubic-foot, $9,700 garbage truck in early April 1967. Willis McElhaney, superintendent of the Sanitation Department, said it was the city's aim to collect residential garbage twice a week, and business garbage three times a week.

The Henderson High School Band was given superior ratings at the District III Band Festival in LaGrange on April 14, 1967. Andrew Buggs, Jr. directed the band.

On April 24, 1967, Jackson's first radio station, WJGA, began broadcasting.

Albert Smith, a student at Jackson High School, set a new State Class B record in the pole vault during a meet on May 2, 1967. His effort, which bested the old record by three inches, was 12'6".

Eighty-one senior received diplomas from Jackson High School on June 5, 1967. The Valedictorian was Jennifer Coleman, and the Salutatorian was Leon Cook. Henderson High School graduated 54 seniors during ceremonies on May 31. Willie Watson was named Valedictorian, and Van Johnson as Salutatorian.

By the middle of June 1967, the city had replaced all its incandescent street and alley lights with modern Mercury Vapor fixtures that turn themselves off and on when the sun comes up and goes down. At the time, Jackson had 375 lights up, and more to be posted. J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the Electric Department, said Jackson is the first city its size to have such lighting throughout the city.

The city's first electric street lighting was carbon arc type fed from the city's steam generating plant, located where the filter plant was located in the 1960s. On moonlit nights, the lights were turned off to save electricity. In 1912, when the city received current from the Central Georgia Hydro Electric Company, it installed incandescent lights to which current was left on through the day.

On June 11, 1967, Sam Slaton, age 34, shot and killed George Wyche, 29, both of Jackson. The shooting occurred in front of the Three Minute Grill shortly after 11 p.m. Wyche was a former employee of the Jackson Sanitation Department and Slaton was still employed by the department. According to witnesses, Slaton walked up to within 10 feet of Wyche and shot

him four times with a 38-caliber revolver, and then fled the scene. He turned himself in to police several hours later.

On June 15, 1967, all 219 employees of the Indian Springs Avondale Mill plant received checks for their portion of over $35,000 in vacation. It was the highest amount of vacation pay ever paid by the mill, which closed from Jun 17 until June 26, as it did every year.

On July 28, 1967, the Van Deventer Little League All-Star team won the District 4 championship trophy by defeating the team from Griffin by a score of 10-6. Members of the Van Deventer team were: Harry Reeves, Larry Biles, Russ Crumbley, Darrell Kitchens, Don McKibben, Auze Dover, Dennis King, Andy Crumbley, Jerry Greer, Al Gilbert, Johnny Edwards, Ted McMichael, Jeff English, Terry Moore, and coaches Luke Weaver and Joe Brown.

"I played recreation league football as a Jackson Drug and then McIntosh State Bank Chiefs," recalled Mike Riley during an interview in 2009. "I played little league baseball. The little league field is where the high school gymnasium sits now. It was what I considered a very nice facility because it had covered bleachers. You had to go for tryouts on that field. Mr. Luke Weaver was my little league coach for Avondale Mills. There were four teams at that age limit: Polk Tire Company, Avondale Mills, American Mills and City Pharmacy.

"We played recreation football on the high school field," he continued. "Our regular field was where Brookepoint Apartments are now across from the Second Baptist Church in Pep, or East Jackson. Etheridge-Smith Company sponsored a team. It was different age groups and different sponsors for each level. I was on the McIntosh State Bank Chiefs.

"The Van Deventer Foundation had tennis courts behind their building [on College Street]," Riley explained. "And inside they had activities. In later years when my brother and I would come to town to do laundry at the laundromat, which was the newest one in town at the time, we would go over there and play tennis. It beat watching the clothes spin around.

Two tennis courts opened for play in August 1967 at the Van Deventer Youth Center. The courts were open to members from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. everyday, according to Mack Davis, director of the Van Deventer Foundation.

"One night or late in the afternoon, Saralyn [Ridgeway] and I were watching them play tennis [at the Daughtry Foundation] and we decided to walk up to the post office," recalled David Ridgeway in 2008. "So we walked up to the post office and just as we got even - the jail was located across from the post office out back of city hall, and I looked and saw smoke coming out. And Saralyn said, 'Look yonder at that smoke coming out.' I said, 'Yeah.' So we ran up to the police booth and told them there was something going, there was smoke coming out of the jail. So they ran down there and sure enough it was a fire going on in there. A man had set a mattress afire, and that man died in the fire. And that was one big mess."

Two prisoners in the City Jail suffocated to death in a smoldering fire on August 28, 1967 that state fire safety commissioner said was started by one of the inmates. Killed in the smoke-

filled jail were Billy Williams, a 24-year-old Jackson Negro, and James W. Tingle, a 29-year-old Jackson White. Tingle had been arrested for drunkenness and reportedly told police he had nothing to live for. Officials believe he may have set fire to a mattress stored in the corner of his cell. Fire Chief W. L. "Cotton" Vaughn was hospitalized overnight for smoke inhalation suffered while fighting the blaze.

Three incumbent councilmen, Dawson Bryant, John L. Coleman and John Robert Pulliam, were re-nominated without opposition in the city primary on October 13, 1967. One hundred voters, or one out of 11 registered voters, turned out for the election. Only 54 voters turned out for the general election in November.

During a homecoming pep rally at Henderson High School on November 3, 1967, a 38 caliber shell exploded in the bonfire and lodged in the eye of 17-year-old senior John Alton McClendon. His eye was removed later at the Atlanta Eye Clinic.

"Kids back then looked forward to coming to [Henderson High] school because that's where all their friends would be, that's where all the activities would be," recalled Theodore Patterson in 2010. "I was in the band, and homecoming was a real high point because you had bands coming in from other cities and the square would just be lined up with people. The band would leave Henderson school and march all the way up Mulberry Street, and turn on Second Street, and go all the way around the square and make their way back down Mulberry Street. People would be on the square cheering and screaming and hollering. That was an opportunity for us to shine because you'd get to a certain point on the square and then we'd stop and we'd break out one of our amazing songs. I played percussion, and the drummers would do our thing, and the majorettes would be doing their thing. We just put on a show. It was one of the most looked-forward-to highlights of the year at Henderson.

"And we'd get back to the campus and everybody would be at a high moment and then we'd go up and take the football field for the homecoming game," said Patterson. "And folks would be just all over, lined all around the field. And the guys [on the football team] would get out there and just play their hearts out. And at halftime, it was time for [the band] to go out there and strut our stuff. And Andrew Buggs was our band director. He attended [Florida A&M University], and a lot of the stuff he brought from FAMU he incorporated in his band. We would get out there and perform and do all these formations. It was just amazing. Those were just very enjoyable times."

On November 4, 1967 several residents near Jackson reported seeing an unidentified flying object in the sky. Senoia Price described the object as appearing like the bottom of a mercury vapor light and being gray in color. It hovered in position despite brisk winds at what Price estimated was an altitude of 12,000 feet, since a commercial jet passed under it at about 7,000 feet. After watching it for several minutes, the object departed "so fast my eyes could hardly see it," said Price.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1967</u>

Jackson – 0, Fayette County – 0
Jackson – 6, MONTICELLO – 13
JACKSON – 6, Henry County – 0
Jackson – 12, WEST POINT - 44
Jackson – 7, HOGANSVILLE - 30
Jackson – 0, GORDON MILITARY - 37
Jackson – 19, MARY PERSONS - 48
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER - 40
Jackson – 0, PACELLI - 14
JACKSON – 33, Harris County - 13

HENDERSON TIGER FOOTBALL 1967
Henderson – 6, FAIRMONT – 18
HENDERSON – 13, Booker - 0
HENDERSON – 51, Thomaston – 0
HENDERSON – 14, Montezuma - 12
HENDERSON – 18, Forsyth – 0
HENDERSON – 19, Forest Park – 0
Henderson – 6, Gainesville - 6
Henderson – 19, Westside – 19

The team won the sub-region championship for the first time in the school's history.

In late November 1967, Mr. & Mrs. John W. Hobbs of Benton Street received notice that their son, Master Sergeant John A. Hobbs, was slightly wounded in Vietnam on Thanksgiving Day as a result of hostile action. He was in a helicopter struck by enemy fire and suffered a broken shoulder and lacerations when it crashed. He had been in Vietnam for one year, and in the Army since 1948.

What could have been the most destructive fire in the county's history was averted on December 6, 1967 when a raging blaze destroyed three cottages at the Indian Springs Holiness Campground and seriously threatened other homes there. Quick action by the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department coupled with the fact that the camp's water system was installed earlier in the year prevented the blaze from spreading further. The fire was started, according to Jackson Fire Chief W. L. "Cotton" Vaughn, by a resident's careless burning of trash.

1968

Butts County Schools were closed on January 11 and 12, 1968 due to illness, which resulted in high absenteeism already, and cold weather and icy conditions in recent days.

The Winter weather continued, resulting in numerous traffic accidents, and one fatality when David Gilbert of Flovilla skidded off icy pavement on Highway 23 south of Jackson and crashed. On Friday night, January 12, all roads were closed in the county. By January 14, most roads were again open for safe travel.

On February 13, 1968, Julian Wells, son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wells of Jenkinsburg, was chosen as STAR Student for Jackson High School by the Butts County Jaycees. He named Mrs. Roy Prosser as his STAR Teacher, a mathematics teacher who also was named STAR Teacher in 1967.

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1968
JACKSON – 57, Gordon –28
JACKSON – 27, Henry County - 24
Jackson – 5, MANCHESTER – 53
Jackson – 34, MONTICELLO – 42
Jackson – 26, PUTNAM COUNTY - 36
Jackson – 38, SOCIAL CIRCLE - 43
Jackson – 46, MILNER - 59
JACKSON – 64, Gordon - 47
Jackson – 28, PUTNAM COUNTY – 53
Jackson – 37, PIKE COUNTY - 49
JACKSON – 53, Stockbridge - 49
Jackson – 43, MARY PERSONS - 54
Jackson – 41, STOCKBRIDGE - 46
Jackson – 32, MONTICELLO - 44
Jackson – 34, HENRY COUNTY – 41
Jackson – 40, MARY PERSONS – 56
JACKSON – 57, Manchester - 43
Jackson – 40, SOCIAL CIRCLE – 45
Jackson – 27, PIKE COUNTY - 43

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1968
Jackson – 41, GORDON – 55
JACKSON – 57, Henry County – 52
JACKSON – 55, Manchester - 46
JACKSON – 46, Putnam County – 45
JACKSON – 58, Social Circle - 50
JACKSON – 82, Monticello – 63
Jackson – 50, MILNER – 66
Jackson – 46, GORDON - 52
Jackson – 55, PUTNAM COUNTY - 64
Jackson – 48, PIKE COUNTY – 73
Jackson – 78, STOCKBRIDGE – 89
Jackson – 56, MARY PERSONS - 70
JACKSON – 79, Stockbridge – 63
Jackson – 44, MONTICELLO – 59
Jackson – 55, HENRY COUNTY - 71

Jackson – 53, HENRY COUNTY - 56
JACKSON – 91, Manchester – 61
Jackson – 46, SOCIAL CIRCLE - 59
Jackson – 66, PIKE COUNTY – 97

The wife and children of James Wallace Tingle, who died in a fire at the Jackson City Jail on August 28, 1967, filed four lawsuits against the Jackson City Council and the Jackson Police Department. The total sought in the four suits was $400,000.

Elizabeth Foster, a second grade teacher at Henderson Elementary School, was elected Teacher of the Year for 1967-1968 from Region II. A native of Butts County, she began teaching in 1956. She was honored for her achievements at a March 13, 1968 banquet.

In April 1968, work had begun on revamping the city's electric system that increased primary voltage from 2,400 to 4,100 volts. J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the Jackson Electric Department, said the project would cost $32,000 (which was paid with cash on hand) and take 30 days to complete.

A fire on May 22, 1968 damaged a storage room at Henderson Elementary School. Volunteer firefighters fought the stubborn flames for an hour. Principal Joseph Ash reported that most of the contents of the room – books, ice cream box, milk box and other material – were destroyed.

A second fire broke out five days later on May 27 that damaged the agriculture classroom, another storage room, and damaged hallways with thick black smoke. School Superintendent Lee Roy O'Neal said old band uniforms and a mattress were destroyed. Investigators from the state fire marshal's office were in town to investigate both fires, the origins of which were undetermined.

On May 28, 1968, word was received that Sgt. Phillip Gerald Turner of Route 3, Jackson was killed in action in Vietnam on May 24. His body was returned to Jackson for burial. Turner had worked at American Mills before entering the service in September 1967.

Julian Wells was named Valedictorian of the Class of 1968 at Jackson High School, and Ann Cawthon received the Salutatorian honor. On June 3, 1968, the school graduated 74 seniors.

On June 4, 1968, Henderson High School graduated 67 seniors. Patricia Benton was named Valedictorian of the class, and Mamie Crawford as Salutatorian.

"[My wife, Dot, and I] lived in what we called the old 'Happy' Ham house, which was there adjacent to what was the Chamber of Commerce office there [on the southside of East Third Street next to Dempsey Avenue]," said Harold "Doc" Michael during a 2009 interview. The house had once belonged to Mrs. J. L. Carmichael, who used it as a boarding house for many years. "They've since moved that house over to somewhere in Lamar County or

somewhere in that general area. But we lived upstairs in that old house right there, paid $30 a month rent.

"And we built our house in 1968 and we've been here ever since," McMichael said. "I believe we were the fifth house built on Wesley Drive. The first house built here was the first one on the right, as you're coming up Wesley Drive. And then, L.A. Brooks, our next-door neighbor, he and Mary Jo's was built. And then Jim Robinson built, and Gerald Davis, and Charles Carter. And actually, I believe Billy Hoard built the house two houses down here from us. And then I believe we were the next one.

"Compared to the cost of housing today, this house at that time had 1,512 square feet of living area," he said. "And Bobby Whitaker built our house for $10 a square foot for the living area and then $7 a square foot for the carport area, which is a 20 by 20 area. And it cost us a grand total of $17,000. And our house payments were going from $30 a month rent to $120.16 a month. And, at that time that was a pretty exaggerated demand on our finances. But we were able to do it, and of course, fortunately over the period of years this house has been paid off. And this is our home and we plan to stay here, I guess, the rest of our lives. This is where we'll die."

On June 12, 1968, one of the largest and most spectacular fires in years struck the large brick and wood warehouse on Lyons Street that formerly housed the Nutt & Bond gin. The building, one of the largest in the city, was being used by Fashion Pillows as a storage facility. It took the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department several hours to bring the blaze under control.

A referendum on the question of whether the City of Jackson will or will not legalize beer sales was held on July 9, 1968. An overflow crowd attended the June meeting of the City Council when the referendum was placed on the ballot. Following two weeks of intense debate, the referendum passed by a vote of 578 to 315. It was believed to be the highest turn out ever for a vote in the city.

In early July 1968, Avondale Mills announced that its Indian Springs plant in Jackson would begin manufacturing carpet yarn as soon as machinery was available. The expense of converting the plant was estimated at $2.5 million. "We fell that this move will result in a much more stable and profitable operation and will prove in the best interest of all concerned," said J. Craig Smith, president and treasurer of the company.

A planned power outage was staged in Jackson on July 14, 1968 as the city modernized its electric system at a cost of just over $30,000. J. H. Rooks, superintendent of the Light Department, said the outage would begin at 8 a.m. and likely continue throughout the day as the system was transferred to new lines. Growth in the city had necessitated the switch from 2,400 volts to 4,160 volts, which increased the carrying capacity of the electric lines by 45 percent.

On July 22, 1968, the first contingent of prisoners – 12 of them – arrived at the new Georgia Diagnostic & Classification Prison, according to Warden Walter Matthews.

A five-and-three-quarters-pound canon ball, believed to be a relic of the Civil War, was uncovered on in August 1968 when B. F. Pelt was working in his father-in-law's yard on South Harkness Street.

In August 1968, the school auditorium that stood behind Jackson Elementary and High schools on East College Street, was demolished.

On September 4, 1968, the city held a Clean-Up Day in conjunction with county officials and the City of Flovilla. Lots were cleared, dilapidated houses reported, trash cans for litter distributed throughout the city, and some homes and businesses received fresh coats of paint.

The retirement of Dr. Jack Newman on September 14, 1968 left only one doctor, Jim Howell, to care for the county's 10,000-plus residents.

"I bet he gave 50,000 Penicillin shots," said Mack Davis of Dr. Howell. "Every time you went into his office, you got a Penicillin shot. That was his standard treatment. He was a good diagnostician though. Everybody will tell you that. He could tell you what's wrong with you real quick and send you on to a specialist."

"Dr. Howell was a very good doctor," said Gwen Mitchell in 2009. "He could pinpoint just about anything just by you talking to him and him talking to you. He could almost tell you then what was wrong. And he would make home calls.

"My momma got real sick and he came out and gave her a penicillin shot that she was allergic to," Mitchell said, "and he stayed with her for three days. He thought she was gone and he did not leave her bed. You don't find a doctor that can stay more than 15 minutes these days."

Just over 3,540 voters cast ballots in the September 11, 1968 county primary. Winners included Bill Jones, a local school teacher, who ousted incumbent School Superintendent Lee Roy O'Neal by 2,250 votes to 1,277. John Sherrell was elected County Coroner. A run-off was scheduled to decide the race for Butts County Sheriff between incumbent J. D. (Bud) Pope and former deputy sheriff Curtis Kelley, which Pope won 1,705 to 1,261.

Eighty-five voters cast ballots in the city primary on October 11, 1968 and re-elected all incumbents: C. B. Brown, Jr. as mayor, and Milton Daniel and W. O. Ball as councilmen.

In October, the city was in the midst of the most massive clean-up operation in its history as it prepared for a visit from seven out-of-state judges on October 19, 1968. The judges and the clean up were part of the Stay and See Georgia Contest, of which Jackson was a semifinalist in. Jackson was vying against Toccoa in the Class I (Newcomers) Division.

On October 28, 1968, it was announced that Jackson won the contest. Henry L. Asbury, chairman of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, said there were 144 entrants in the Class I contest. "It is my hope that Butts County will be the show place of Georgia and though the

county may be small in area, we have much to offer not only to our own people but to the thousands of people who annually pass through Butts County," said Asbury.

The Butts County effort included setting up a welcome center manned with local volunteers and the initiation of a once-a-week "tourist arrest." New signs advertising High Falls, Indian Springs State Park and Jackson Lake and the cooperation of local media were determining factors in the win.

The earliest snowstorm to hit Georgia in 55 years blanketed much of Jackson on November 11, 1968.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1968</u>
Jackson – 7, PACELLI – 13
Jackson – 7, FAYETTE COUNTY - 14
Jackson – 6, WEST POINT - 13
Jackson – 13, STOCKBRIDGE – 14
JACKSON – 6, Henry County – 4
JACKSON – 13, Monticello – 7
JACKSON – 12, Gordon – 7
Jackson – 13, MANCHESTER – 33
Jackson – 12, HOGANSVILLE – 14
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS - 34

"We had a situation after integration," said Loy Hutcheson in 2009. "I only had eight players from that [Henderson High School] team come over the first year. I played a boy on second string that was playing first string at Henderson. The Black community got upset and said I was discriminating against him. So none of [the Black players] came out for practice that afternoon. So I called for them the next morning. I said, 'All Black football players meet me in the library.' And they did. And I asked them what was going on. And they said that some people didn't think it was fair that [this player] was playing first string at Henderson and second string at the new school. I told them that day, 'I don't care when you take your uniform off if you're Black or White. I'm looking for the best people to play. I'm out there at practice with you everyday, and I feel like I know what your talent is for this team. This is not the same team you came from.'

"I said, 'I want y'all to make a decision: are you going to listen to the community who knows nothing about your talent, nothing about how you fit in the team, nothing about our system, and are not out here everyday at practice and are only looking at one thing - and that's color? I don't play those games," Hutcheson said. "Anyone who is not at practice this afternoon will have your uniform taken up.' And everyone of them was there that afternoon. They're some of my best friends now. Robert Henderson, the preacher, is one of them. We had five guys from that team become preachers. We had some standards. We prayed before every game, and we had some good leadership among the kids. We just had to build that unity, I guess you'd say.

"The first kids who came over [from Henderson High School] came over under what they called 'freedom of choice.' It was before integration was absolutely mandated," Hutcheson said.

"They were good kids looking for a good education. They were the fore runners, I guess you'd say, for what we knew was coming the next year. They were ambitious: Fred Head, Lee Fambro, Robert Henderson. They didn't have a problem with integration. The community was more of a problem because the community had to adjust to it, too.

"I think integration - even though it cost [School Superintendent] Lee Roy O'Neal his job because he did it before he had to and the White community didn't like that - but Lee Roy was paving the way," said Hutcheson. "He was trying to do was to send a message back to the other students at the schools that it was going to be all right. It's not going to be a battle. It's not going to be a Black-White war. There were 38 kids that came over that first year. Eight of them were football players. And the next year there was more, and the next year everybody came. I think, contrary to what the community thought at the time, that it made the transition to integration smoother than a lot of schools experienced. If you all come over at the same time, then you're grouped up, this one against that one. But the Whites really tried to make it work. There were so few Blacks, there were no threats to the Whites as far as power so to speak. They accepted them."

"As far as integration was concerned, there wasn't much going on in 1968 and 1969," recalled Theodore Patterson in 2010. "It was kind of on a voluntary basis. I think about five of my classmates chose to go to Jackson High during their senior year. To hear them tell it was unique, because even though Martin Luther King had done all these marches and speeches and had been assassinated, and Blacks had freedom of this and freedom of that, there was still a lot of racial hatred among Whites and Blacks. A lot of my classmates would tell the story of sitting in the cafeteria [at Jackson High School] and would get these odd looks and get hateful comments. They would say things and do things that would make it very uncomfortable to be in that setting. But they stayed because that was their choice. But based on the stories they would tell to the ones that didn't go over, that were still at Henderson, it made it less desirable to want to go over to Jackson High School. But Fred Head said he didn't recall any bad experiences while he was over there [at Jackson High School]. So I guess it depending on what you were involved in and where you were.

"I can recall being in class in 1968 when they sent a memo out saying that next year you will have the choice to choose whether you want to go to Jackson High or come back to Henderson High," Patterson continued. "And I can recall a lot of us talking and saying, 'What are you going to do?' 'I don't know, man.' 'I don't know if I want to go over there or not.' You have to keep in mind, back then there was still a lot of racial tension. The Ku Klux Klan was not totally active, but still semi-active. Blacks still weren't able to go into a lot of different places. A classic example was Cook's Lunchroom. Webb's had a hamburger joint that was the same way. Blacks had to go to the back of the building to be served."

"During that time they did integrate some of the restaurants," recalled Curtis Gaye in 2009. "Cook's was called 'hamburger heaven,' that was the popular name for it. The side building there, the shed, that was the Black folks' part of it. You could go in there and buy your food and leave. That was still segregated well up into the 1960s. There was a city restaurant that was up in the square, I think it was behind the old Western Auto where the parking lot is now. But I

remember some guys - Tom Roberts and those - one Saturday got together and went to those places to eat. There was a plaque that had all their names on it. I tried to put things out so if somebody's looking for things in the future they can find some of this stuff. They sat down and started eating in these places."

"My class, the Class of '69, there was four guys that started a movement to refuse to go in the side door [at Cook's Lunchroom]," Theodore Patterson said. "If I remember, it was Prentice Henderson, William Tanner, Willie Morgan and Alton Johnson. There might have been one other - Ed Calhoun. Any protesting or disturbance that was going to take place, those guys were going to be the ring leaders. They would stir up something in a heartbeat, but they would do it in a constructive manner.

"They told us at school: 'Hey, we ain't going through the back door. We're going through the front door.' And they did," said Patterson. "They went through the front door [of Cook's Lunchroom]. They tried to refuse to serve them, and tell them that Blacks were served over on the side. And they refused to leave. I know they didn't get locked up, but I don't remember what the outcome was. But it started a movement. Some of the places where Blacks weren't allowed to go in the front door, a group of guys in my class took it upon their selves to say: 'We're not going in the back door anymore. We're going in the front door.'

"It caused a slight ruckus, but they took that stance," he said. "And they did it. I can't say as a result of what they did it changed the way things were and Blacks were allowed to go in the front door everywhere. But I do know back in '69 they made that stand and that started the movement of things from the way they were to way they are now.

"I look at it now, and even though I had the choice my senior year, I stayed at Henderson," Paterson said in 2010. "And one of the reasons is I was so in touch with the band. Andrew Buggs had his band and it was one of the top notch bands in the state, and I did not want to leave that. I so enjoyed being under his leadership that I didn't want to miss out. This was my last year to shine, and I was going to stay right there and shine in a Henderson High School Tiger marching band uniform."

The link on I-75 between Forsyth and McDonough was officially opened on November 18, 1968. Local officials predicted the opening of the route would mean a drop of 3,500 cars a day through Jackson. At peak holiday times and during the summer, traffic was frequently backed up from the traffic lights downtown all the way to the Avondale Mills plant.

"Traffic was a lot less of a problem," said Jimmy Adams, who came to work in Jackson in 1974. "They had just opened up I-75 from Forsyth on into Atlanta just a few years earlier. So a lot of the traffic that used to come through here - people going to Florida, and that sort of thing - that traffic had decreased some.

"[Highway] 41 went through Forsyth, and 42 came through Jackson, and they pretty much carried the burden of the north-south traffic," said Adams. "As a matter of fact, while they were working on I-75, they put a lot of the northbound traffic on Highway 42 and the southbound traffic on Highway 41, to divide the load up. The detour signs would take you on those routes just to try to carry the load. And there were a number of little small service stations

that popped up to service that temporary traffic flow. The need was not there after the traffic changed."

"When they were building this stretch of I-75, I'll bet Fresh Air Barbecue made more money in that time than anything else around here," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. "They limited the amount of barbecue you could buy because they would run out of it every day. They rerouted all that traffic through town for months and months. It was a constant flow of traffic through town.

"It was the most direct route from Atlanta to Florida," said Phillips. "Then they built 19/41 and they took away some of the traffic through here, but when I-75 was completed all the long distance traffic went away."

"I started work for the state in 1964 before I-75 was even completed," said Barbara Phillips during the same interview. "We used to go up Highway 42. Then we started going up to McDonough and then take 155 to I-20 and went to the capitol from there. It was about an hour. I always car-pooled. I-75 was completed in 1970, and we started going I-75. But I will tell you I hated it when they were doing the HOV lanes until they completed them and then I loved it."

"The commute to Atlanta changed for the worse," added Wayne Phillips. "I worked for General Motors for seven years and then I went to work for the state, so I have commuted my whole career. Barbara and I rode together for a number of years after I went to work for the state. The GM Plant where I worked downsized and I enrolled in Griffin Technical College. I was intrigued by computers and felt it was something I had a knack for. After completing Griffin Tech, I was called back by General Motors. I was placed in a management course at GM and had almost completed it when they told me that I would either have to move to Detroit or Shreveport, Louisiana. I decided I didn't want to move so I left General Motors and took a programmer/analyst job with the state. Bob Long had just bought the Chevrolet dealership and I went to work for him (as a second job) keeping the dealership open at night which was something unheard of at that time.

"We could leave Jackson and I could be in my office in 50 minutes," Phillips continued. "We went in early, and missed a lot of the rush hour traffic. Well, I started having to go in earlier and earlier. That 50 minute trip turned into an hour and then to an hour and 15 or 20 minutes. That was everyday except Friday afternoons which took two hours. The last six years of my career, we set up a whole new agency, Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety which incorporated driver licensing, vehicle registration, commercial vehicle registration and enforcement. Our new headquarters was in Conyers. Boy, I had died and gone to heaven. I'd drive toward Covington and cut through the back roads and it only took me about 35 minutes. It was a great drive without the interstate."

On December 11, 1968, the city purchased a new fire truck and equipment for it at a price of $20,911.59. It was paid for in cash. The truck is a Pirsch 750 GPM Triple Combination Pumping Engine, and was assembled in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The truck was delivered to the city in early 1969.

As the 1968 Christmas shopping season hit full stride, city officials asked merchants and their employees to use the city's parking lot on North Mulberry Street in order to free up spaces for customers.

A letter received by the Butts County Board of Education on December 17, 1968 from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare stated that the board's plan for eliminating dual schools for Blacks and Whites was not complete enough to be acceptable.

Lee Roy O'Neal, outgoing school superintendent, had submitted that plans for desegregating the schools at the secondary level were complete, but plans for desegregating the elementary schools would not be available until the new school superintendent, Bill Jones, took office in January 1969.

As a result of HEW's finding, the Butts County case was forwarded to the federal HEW office in Washington, D.C. for enforcement.

"I told Mrs. [Elizabeth] O'Neal," said Ernest Battle in 2009, "and I may have told Mr. O'Neal because he was superintendent at the time: Butts County had one of the smoothest transition to integration of any school system around here."

Burglars pried their way into Hodges Hardware on December 20, 1968 and made off with 10 television sets, six guns, five rifles and a shotgun.

1969

In January 1969, a lawsuit was filed by the Butts County Board of Education and two county citizens alleging that newly elected school superintendent, Bill Jones, 26, did not meet the qualifications needed to serve in that office. The suit alleged Jones did not have three years of teaching experience or a five-year degree from an accredited college as required by law.

On February 6, 1969, Judge Hugh D. Sosebee ruled that Jones could keep his job as school superintendent because the state laws were too vague.

Advertisements were running in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* for those interested in starting a private Christian school for Jackson. Advantages of such a school were listed as: a faculty whose first allegiance is to Jesus Christ, limited enrollment (20-25 per class), Bible study, regular chapel, and no racial integration.

Following a public meeting about the school project, and a board of directors formed that included David McClendon, Kenneth Thurston, Dawson Bryant, Pete Cook, John Sherrell, Ralph Cook, Walter Barnes, Vess Lunsford and Preston Bridges.

In January 1969, Dr. F. M. Holston returned to practice in Jackson after several years in Louisiana, and in February 1969 Dr. Gerald Ross opened a general practice in town.

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1969

JACKSON – 48, Henry County – 32
Jackson – 47, MARY PERSONS – 49
JACKSON – 47, Monticello – 43
JACKSON – 43, Newton County – 34
JACKSON – 52, Gordon - 22
Jackson – 38, MILNER – 41
JACKSON – 42, Mary Persons - 41
Jackson – 29, STOCKBRIDGE - 33
Jackson – 33, MILNER – 45

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1969
JACKSON – 74, Henry County – 62
JACKSON – 53, Mary Persons – 48
JACKSON – 70, Jasper County - 35
JACKSON – 77, Gordon – 34
JACKSON – 64, Milner - 53
Jackson – 54, PACELLI – 62
JACKSON – 55, Mary Persons - 53
JACKSON – 66, Stockbridge - 58
JACKSON – 82, Milner – 77
JACKSON – 68, Manchester – 53
JACKSON – 68, Hogansville - 61
JACKSON – 50, Harris County – 48
To win the sub-region title on a last second shot by Lee Fambro.
JACKSON – 63, Maine (Rome) – 50
Jackson – 62, HARRIS COUNTY - 67

On February 17, 1969, the Jackson-Butts County Planning Commission denied a request of James O'Neal, Jr. to rezone from industrial to neighborhood commercial the strip of land on the north side of East Third Street between Benton Street and the Tastee Freez. Six of the eight property owners impacted by the application were opposed to it.

Ken Barnes was named STAR Student of Jackson High School by the Buts County Jaycees on February 18, 1969. Barnes named Mrs. Roy Prosser as his STAR Teacher.

Mathematics teacher Miss Ruby Solomon was named Teacher of the Year at Henderson High School on February 24, 1969.

John Dozier (Bud) Pope, sheriff of Butts County for 21 years, died on the morning of February 28, 1969 after a lengthy illness. He was the son of Walter D. Pope, who also served at Butts County Sheriff for many years. In tribute to the sheriff, county offices and businesses were closed for the funeral.

"My father died two months into his sixth term," said his son, Gene Pope, in 2010. "And so, because, at the time, it was up to the judge, the probate judge or the coroner's office - there was some law back then that said that the coroner automatically took over. But John Sherrell was coroner, and he told the judge, 'No, I don't want it, let Mary Pope have it,' - my mother - 'Let her run it. She's down there running it anyway. The deputies can continue to do the law enforcement and she can run the day-to-day operation in the jail' - which she did anyway - 'and let her be sheriff until they have a special election.' Which she did, and she was sworn in and was sheriff for 55 days. Her name was Mary Claude Mackey Pope, Mackey being her maiden name."

During the month of March 1969, four Negro children – ages three months to three years – were found dead in their beds. No foul play was suspected.

A special election for a new sheriff was called for April 3, 1969, and six candidates qualified for it. They included: Billy Leverette, Barney Wilder, Hugh C. Polk, Russell Crumbley, William J. (Billy) Greer, and John T. Parks, a Negro and veteran of Vietnam who became the first person of his race to seek the Butts County Sheriff's office.

In the election, Wilder and Polk got enough votes to move on to a run-off scheduled for April 17, 1969.

Hugh C. Polk won that run-off by 1,374 votes to 1,225 votes, and was sworn into office on April 24, 1969.

My mother "ran [the sheriff's office and jail] for 55 days, and then they had a special election, which, they had to have a runoff because there was several people running," said Gene Pope during an interview in 2010. "And a guy named Hugh Polk got elected. His brother Max Polk was a city policeman. He died of a heart attack in what used to be a police booth sitting on the courthouse square. Sitting on the grass out there was a big concrete block building which was a city police booth back in the '60s. [He] was in the office and had a heart attack and fell out of the chair and then died."

Gwen Mitchell's father worked in the Pepperton Cotton Mill. "I went in there several times," she said in 2009. "You couldn't hear nothing in there. I could go in there and talk to daddy, and daddy could read my lips. He toted thread on spindles and took it to the weavers.

"He was killed there," Mitchell added. "He had retired and they asked him to come back to work and he said he'd go back and work for a while. On Easter Sunday, he told my husband and Roy Mitchell that something bad was going to happen at that place in very short time if they didn't get the elevator fixed 'cause the cable was about to break in tow and you could see the raw wires. And daddy had to ride the elevator up and down carrying all this thread. And when he put a bunch of stuff on there, it was heavy. He went to work that Monday morning [April 16, 1969] at six o'clock and he was supposed to get off at 2:00, and at 10 minutes to 2:00 the cable broke and hit him in the stomach.

"And when he came through, sirens was going off, and I was working at Netty Edwards' [clothing and show] store [on the west side of the square]," Mitchell continued. "And I went out on the sidewalk, and when the ambulance went by I told Netty, 'My daddy's in that

ambulance.' She said, 'How do you know?' I said, 'I see my daddy's hat. That's daddy's hat. That's daddy right there in the ambulance.' Within five minutes, the telephone was ringing. Billy Leverette was calling me and telling me I needed to come to the hospital. Well, Netty closed up the store. When I went out there, Billy Leverette was standing there at the door and I went flying by him. And I went in there and saw my daddy. He still had his overalls on. And he caught hold of my hand and said, 'I'm going to be all right.' They took him to Macon, but he didn't make it."

On April 17 and 18, 1969, Jackson and Butts County were deluged with four inches of rain. No damage was reported.

As of May 1, 1969, Jackson National Bank changed its name to The Citizens and Southern Bank.

Statistics released by the Georgia Department of Veterans Service in May 1969 showed the three Butts County men had been killed in the war in Vietnam since 1961.

By a vote of 566 to 422, in a May 22, 1969 referendum, county voters decided to keep the long-standing method of selected members of the Board of Education and the School Superintendent. BOE members were appointed by the Grand Jury, and Superintendents elected by voters.

In May 1969, Jackson High School Principal Donald Sams announced that Pam Cawthon was Valedictorian of the Class of 1969, and Ken Barnes was Salutatorian. And on June 2, 1969, the largest senior class ever at JHS – 96 students – received diplomas during graduation exercises. Two weeks later, M. C. Paget was named as the new principal of JHS.

At Henderson High School, 66 seniors graduated on June 5, 1969. Darnel Stodghill was named Valedictorian, and Juanita Barron was named Salutatorian.

For 10 or 12 hours on August 3, 1969, the city was without water thanks to pranksters who opened a fire hydrant in the southwestern part of the city and drained all 375,000 gallons from both water tanks in Jackson. The city offered a $100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators.

Early in August 1969, Southern Bell announced it would build a 7,500-square-foot $1,114,000 central office on East College Street.

Schools opened on August 27, 1969 with a record enrollment of 2,780 students.

"You didn't start changing classes until you got to sixth grade," said Mike Riley during a 2009 interview, "and then you were on one hall. At that time, elementary, middle school and high school were all at that campus. So all you did was move from one section of the building to another [each year].

"Back then, you all rode the same bus no matter what grade you were in," he added. "You could be on the bus with high school students with their class rings and letter jackets. And that was big stuff for an elementary student.

"Going to the [Butts County] fair was something they let you do during school back then," Riley continued. "We would walk from the school to the fair grounds for the afternoon. It was very seldom that your parents brought you back at night to the fair. It was different when you were a teenager and had your own money and your own transportation."

"Before I became a teenager, you could go to Indian Springs and do lots because Pitts' had slot car racing, and the bowling alley, and a skating rink out back," Mike Riley said. "And of course Hoard's was across the road. We went swimming there. Of course we also went swimming in the creek a lot.

"We did a lot of roller skating," said Mike Riley of those times. "I'm an accomplished roller skater. It's not something I still do, but I can do it. It's kind of like riding a bicycle: once you learn, you never forget.

"Early on, we went to Pitts' at Indian Springs," said Riley. "Wooden floor, old tin building. That's where you skated. Then Joel Cawthon opened his with a concrete floor. Everybody was leery of it - 'it's going to be harder than the wood,' you know. Anyway, it opened where Joshua's Place is now [on Stark Road]. And that became the new skating rink.

Joel's "had a big mirror ball in the middle," Riley recalled during a 2009 interview. "He had a concession stand where you could buy popcorn, pickles and peanuts. He had an office, and if you were a fairly good skater sometimes you got to be the official, the referee to blow the whistle if someone had fallen down so they wouldn't get run over. And you had access to music in the office area. So I did that some. Your biggest qualification was that Joel had to like you, and you had to be a good enough skater to turn and stop to keep people from falling over someone. Got to call couples' skate, backwards skate. They used to have races. As business started to slow down he used to do hockey. Older boys could go out there on Sunday and play roller hockey with sticks and nets and a rubber ball."

"By the time I was driving age," he continued, "Mr. & Mrs. Pitts had retired. So we migrated to town and Joel's Roller Rink became the place. Of course we had the drive-in on Highway 42 that we went to. There was one screen. Most of the drive-in is still there. It's now a church right before you get to what they call Lane's crossing. The screen was beside the road. You paid per person. That was back in the day when some people would hide in the trunk of the car to get in without paying. So I've been told. And when the drive-in closed, Mr. Neal Baker, who had run the drive-in, opened the walk-in theater at the top of the hill [off Highway 42 North]. And it went for a few years."

"When I was a teenager, of course, we had the drive-in movie theater, up there across from Old Bethel [Road where it] comes out on Wolf Creek Road," said Gene Pope in 2010. "We would take a blanket and go up to the drive-in. If you parked on the front row you could lay it down on the grass because there was nobody in front of you. Or you could just put it on the hood, and get up on the hood.

"But it was a simpler time," he continued, "it was just like it is in the movies: [we] had your drive-ins and the Tastee Freez. People would go up and they'd drive around the Tastee Freez, and they'd pull out, and when they'd pull out of Tastee Freez and take a right, like coming to town [on Third Street], they'd always pull out - [imitates sound of screeching tires] - spin rubber. This one I remember was, Bob Woodard – he's dead now - pulled out, and turned right, and [sound of gunning engine], he got to fishtailing, bam! Hit a tree about 100 yards up on the side of the road. Everybody went running up there, 'You all right? You all right?' 'Yeah, I'm going to make it.' We didn't wear seatbelts back then."

"I guess the most popular place in town was the Tastee Freez for the teenagers," said Charlie Brown, who graduated from Jackson High School in 1971. "That's where they would all gather. Your mom and dad always told you: 'Don't get caught at the Tastee Freez.' You'd just go and park and sit and talk, and that's about all there was to it. If you had a car and you could circle the Tastee Freez, you were in the in-crowd."

"We had the run of the town," said Gene Pope. "As a young man growing up, we'd run all over town. As a teenager, everybody knew everybody. But, see, the policemen knew everybody, too."

"We couldn't afford to go out to eat, and there really wasn't anywhere to go out to eat in Jackson," said Barbara Phillps in 2009, recalling Jackson in the late 1960s and early 1970s. "Occasionally we would go to Griffin to eat."

"Sometimes we would go to a pizza parlor or a Shoney's in Macon on Riverside Drive," added Wayne Phillips during the same interview. "When we were younger, money was scarce with us and all of our friends. We were the first ones to have a child. Our house has always been a focal point for our friends. The kids in our neighborhood always played at our house. Our friends also came over almost every weekend. We used to play Rook. We would also play poker, and since money was scarce everyone would play with two dollars worth of chips all night. Everyone would bring chips and dip and their own drinks. They would bring their children with them because no one could afford babysitters. Later we joined the Moose Club in Griffin. They had great food, a nice restaurant, and they'd always have a band on Saturday nights. Everything was also very reasonably priced. Sometimes there would be over 100 people from Jackson at the Moose Club on a Saturday night."

"It was the late '60s and early early '70s," continued Barbara Phillips. "And mostly what we did those days we did at home. And we'd go to the drive-in, taking the kids in their pajamas and pillows in the back seat to sleep. We just didn't do that much, but we always had fun. We always had something going on, and then Wayne joined the Jaycees."

"Billy Leverette asked me to join the Jaycees," said Wayne Phillips. "He was a good friend of mine. It was the civic club for anyone that really wanted to be active in the community. We started the STAR Student Banquet and the Empty Stocking Fund. All of the activities that needed

labor in it, legs and feet and hands, the Jaycees did it. We had many fund raisers to raise the money needed for the many projects. We'd have square dances all over the county. We also had chicken-ques, circuses and wrestling matches.

"On one occasion, a guy in Griffin named Happy Humphry, who was once a professional wrestler decided to start a wrestling organization on his own," he continued. "He came and asked us if we would sponsor him in Jackson, and we decided to have it in the old school gymnasium. They had ordered a new ring, but it hadn't been delivered yet. So they had a make-shift one that was made out of wood, with a plywood floor and canvas on top of it. We did quite a bit of advertising. As a promo, two of the 'big name' wrestlers came to a restaurant on the square in Jackson and started a fight with each other. The police chief just happened to be seated in the restaurant and broke up the fight. This was the talk of the town with the wrestling fans, so the night of the match we had an overflow crowd. We had to hire off duty police as guards because of all the animosity toward the 'bad guys.'

"There were people everywhere, that gym was packed," Phillips recalled. "In the first match, one of the wrestlers was throwing the other down and Larry Pickett who was next to me said, 'I heard the floor crack.' Every time one of the wrestlers hit the floor, it cracked. In the second match, a guy was thrown to the floor and just disappeared through the floor. It was awful. We had to give everyone their money back."

In a city primary on October 10, 1969, two incumbents were returned to the city council: John L. Coleman in the Fourth Ward and John Robert Pulliam in the Fifth Ward. Harold E. Martin defeated incumbent J. Dawson Bryant in the contest for the First Ward seat. They were elected for two-year terms.

On Saturday, October 18, 1969, the Van Deventer Youth Center on College Street closed its doors for the last time. It was no longer utilized by a significant number of young people to justify the expense of keeping the center open. For several years, the center had become less and less of a place to hang out for teenage boys and girls.

On October 25, 1969, the city held an open house for the public to inspect a new police and fire building. The new building adjoined the city courtroom and cells added to the jail several years earlier, and contained a High Band radio allowing the police to contact other area police departments, chief of police and fire chief offices, and fire headquarters in case firemen needed to stand by all day or night in extreme weather conditions.

In October 1969 came the announcement that Jackson and Butts County had once again been named semi-finalists in the Stay & See Georgia contest. A gala luncheon was held for out of town judges on October 22, 1969. The city was up against Toccoa – again – this time in the Class II (one year participants) category.

On October 30, 1969 came the announcement that Jackson had once again been named winner of the Stay & See Georgia contest. The local effort was led by the Butts County Chamber of Commerce with Robert L. Williams as chairman.

Judges were "very impressed with the way Jackson had succeeded in keeping young, active men in the community and the cooperation they inspired on the part of students and small children. This was truly a case of total community involvement."

"Winning the Stay and See Georgia Program for the second consecutive year is a great accomplishment for the people of Butts County," said Williams. "It truly indicates that regardless of the odds, Butts County and its citizens are destined for greatness."

Working in Jackson in the late 1960s and early 1970s was "a lot like it is today," said Luke Weaver in 2009. "You knew everybody. If somebody told you something, you could take it to the bank. People put a lot more weight into telling the truth than they do now. Then, the only competition I had was Jackson National [Bank] had an insurance agency, Mr. Maurice Carmichael ran a mail route and had an agency he ran out of his house in the afternoons. There wasn't much competition." The square was busy "during the week, but on the weekends when they shut the doors they might as well have rolled the sidewalks up. There was a place out on Highway 16 called The Dinner Bell. People ate lunch out there a good bit. There was the Jackson Grill where the pool room used to be [on the south side of the square]. But very few people ate out. More wives cooked at home, than ate out in those days."

"The Hams, 'Happy' Ham and his wife, Helen, lived downstairs," said Harold "Doc" Michael of the time he and his wife, Dottie, spent living in the Ham's boarding house on East Third Street in the late 1960s. "But we lived upstairs. It was three rooms. I remember it was 18 steps from the ground to our kitchen floor, walked up [a staircase] outside. And we walked into the kitchen, and then we had what we called the living room, and then the bedroom was on the front. Actually, didn't have a shower in the bathroom, but it was right there on the front, right next to Third Street. And you could run your bath water there and look out the window to Third Street. I mean, you was right there on the front. And I thought that was kind of unusual, to have your bath right up there looking out the window just to the traffic. But that was where we lived for five years.

"It was nice for $30 a month," McMichael continued. "When we lived in Griffin, we lived in a partial furnished apartment over there, it had the stove and refrigerator furnished, and we paid $57.50 a month rent over there. And then when we moved back to Jackson there was nothing furnished in this apartment so we went and bought us a used stove and refrigerator from Sonny Robison. And I don't remember what we paid for it, but it wasn't very [much]. 'Cause we didn't have any money, we were poor folks. And we had to buy used appliances to get by."

<u>HENDERSON TIGER FOOTBALL 1969</u>
Henderson – 0, Fairmont – 0
Henderson – 6, LAGRANGE - 8
HENDERSON – 20, Thomaston - 0
HENDERSON – 24, Monticello - 14
HENDERSON – 14, Jeffersonville - 6
HENDERSON – 22, Forsyth - 0
Henderson – 12, Booker - 12

HENDERSON – 13, Westside - 6

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1969
JACKSON – 22, Pacelli – 0
JACKSON – 30, Fayette County – 6
JACKSON – 20, West Point - 14
JACKSON – 30, Stockbridge – 14
Jackson – 12, MCDONOUGH – 33
JACKSON – 24, Monticello - 12
Jackson – 6, GORDON - 26
Jackson – 14, MANCHESTER - 50
Jackson – 0, HOGANSVILLE - 26
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS – 33

Lee "Fambro was an excellent player," said Bill Fletcher, who went to school and played ball with Fambro in the 1960s. "He was probably the best all around athlete I've ever seen. He was a great running back."

Lee Fambro "was a good person, a good student," said Loy Hutcheson, who coached Fambro at Jackson High School, in 2009. "Everybody liked Lee. He was not a showboat, so to speak. He was there because of his talent. He was quick and he had big strong legs. He was hard to tackle. He was just a coach's dream of a halfback. He made a difference in a lot of our games whether we won or not. I relied on him a lot.

"We had him and Bruce Hicks in the same backfield one year," recalled Hutcheson. "We were 5-0 and playing Henry County, and they were 5-0. We were young. This was in the second year that I coached. We went up to Henry County and jumped out ahead 13-0. They came back and it was 13-12 at the half. I had five starters hurt at halftime, and I had to put five freshmen in. They started running linebackers in, and in the end they beat us 33-13. We just didn't have the depth. The last game of the year at Mary Persons the first year I coached, we had one boy on the sideline. Twelve kids. It wasn't fun, but it's what we had to work with. But it got better."

Also in the Fall of 1969, the eighth grade Jackson Junior High School Red Devils football team completed its second undefeated season in a row. The team was coached by Jimmy Hardy and Bub Ridgway.

Hampton L. Daughtry, Jr., prominent Atlanta businessman and founder of the Van Deventer Memorial Scout Foundation, was named as the Jackson Kiwanis Club's first ever Man of the Year on December 9, 1969. The foundation operated youth programs for over 900 children of both races in Butts County.

"Hamp Daughtry was a short fellow with a deep voice," according to M L. Powell. "He was kind of quiet, but when he said something you could tell it was business. In other words, he didn't talk around and gab gab stuff. He was all business."

"Mr. Hamp Daughtry had been bird hunting with Mr. Pliny Weaver and they started back to Jackson," recalled David Ridgeway during a 2008 interview. "And he got up there to this side of McDonough and his car broke down. He decided he'd go up there to the Oldsmobile place, Carmichael Oldsmobile, and buy him another one and the salesman wouldn't even talk to him. He had on his hunting clothes. So he went on home and bought him a new car there. He was just just a common ordinary person that had made good. And he brought his money back to Butts County."

"He was very generous," noted Robert Pinckney.

"Hamp Daughtry was a member of the First Baptist Church. Dr. Van Deventer was the pastor," added Merrell Price. "This was years ago. And Hamp was one of the first Boy Scouts in Butts County, and Dr. Van Deventer was the first Scout master. He made a big impression on Hamp Daughtry. Hamp went on to finish high school and went on to Georgia Tech and went to work at the Coca-Cola Company. And he accumulated stock. And so he wanted to give something back to Butts County, to the children of Butts County. And that's the way it all came about. He and his wife never had any children, but that's what he was interested in was children."

"He was the one responsible for us having this recreation park down here, too," Ridgeway said.

"Dauset Trails is spelled D-A-U-S-E-T. The D-A-U is for [Hampton] Daughtry and the S-E-T is for [David] Settle," Price explained. "They are the ones that gave the property and all of that.

By the end of 1969, the Butts County Board of Commissioners had completed a $17,000 renovation to the county courthouse. The most notable improvement was the improvement of the basement into 2,700 square feet of office space complete with two new restrooms.

1970

"Back then we had a lottery [to draft young men into service for the war in Vietnam], and my number was 192," said Ben Dover in 2010. "They were taking up to like 240 or 250. So I knew I was going to get drafted, so I went ahead and joined [the Army]. I flew to Fort Polk Louisiana on January 1, 1970 for basic training.

Winter weather flung its arsenal of misery – zero-degree cold, rain, ice, freezing rain, snow and sleet – at Butts County from January 5 to 12, 1970. Schools were closed for a day mainly due to low gas pressure, which was suffered by many other Georgia communities due to high demand. Some churches cancelled services due to hazardous driving conditions, but no major accidents were reported.

At a meeting held on January 26, 1969 at the group camp at Indian Springs State Park, plans were furthered and a board of trustees elected for a new private school in Butts County. The name chosen for the school was Indian Springs Academy. The meeting was presided over by Harold Martin, local businessman and recently elected member of the Jackson City Council.

Tuition was set at $360 per year, and the school planned to offer classes for grades kindergarten through eighth. Plans were to purchase and renovate the old Indian Springs Consolidated School on Highway 42 and 87.

For the third time in recent years, the Nathaniel McClendon house off Oak Street caught fire. But on January 30, 1970, the fire department could not save it. The fire that gutted the home was believed to have started with a kerosene lamp. No one was home when the fire broke out.

In January 1970, the Butts County Board of Education receive notice from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools that both Jackson High School and Henderson High School had lost their accreditation because the school superintendent, William Jones, did not hold a master's degree from an approved institution. This violation, the board was informed, resulted in the automatic loss of accreditation.

<u>HENDERSON TIGER BASKETBALL 1970</u>
Henderson – 59, WOODBURY - 64
HENDERSON – 64, Greenville - 55
HENDERSON – 59, Thomaston – 54
Henderson – 54, MONTICELLO – 56 (their seventh defeat)
HENDERSON – 64, Roberta – 58
HENDERSON – 57, Woodbury - 56
Henderson, BARNESVILLE
Henderson – 61, MANCHESTER - 78
HENDERSON – 72, Greenville - 67
Henderson – 57, BARNESVILLE - 65

<u>HENDERSON LADY TIGER BASKETBALL 1970</u>
HENDERSON – 47, Woodbury - 40
Henderson – 43, THOMASTON - 44
HENDERSON – 60, Greenville – 18
HENDERSON – 54, Monticello - 38
HENDERSON – 41, Roberta – 34
HENDERSON – 46, Woodbury – 36
HENDERSON 37, Barnesville- 26
HENDERSON – 66, Manchester – 64
HENDERSON – 52, Greenville – 14
Henderson – 50, THOMASTON - 60

Arson was strongly suspected in a fire that destroyed the old Indian Springs Consolidated School on February 15, 1970. The site was supposed to house the newly formed Indian Springs Academy private school.

During his annual State of the City address to the Kiwanis Club on February 17, 1970, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. stated that the city payroll in 1969 amounted to $201,046, and that income was $642,012. Income from the sale of beer alone was $26,145.

Income from the gas department in 1966 was $106,000, he said, and by 1969 amounted to $248,790. The gas department had 1,009 customers, and the electric department had 1,182.

Building permits in he city in 1969 amounted to $538,744, and the city's tax digest had increased from $2,498,517 in 1965 to $4,088,325 in 1969, yet the city's millage rate had decreased from 17 to 15.5.

In 1969, the city purchased a new fire truck, a sanitary truck, a tractor, water/gas line truck, constructed a new police and fire building and paid all costs in cash. The building was dedicated to former mayor W. M. Redman. The police now had an operator on duty 24 hours a day, with the ability to break into phone lines that were busy.

At the end of February 1970, the Butts County Board of Education filed its plan for desegregation as ordered by United States District Court.

"The Butts County Board of Education has no alternative but to implement the order of the court," read the letter provided to the *Jackson Progress-Argus* by the Board. "This plan calls for the housing of all students in grades 1-3 in the present Jackson Elementary School, all students in grades 4-6 in the present Henderson Elementary School, grades 7-8 in the present Henderson High School, and all high schools students, grades 9-12, in the present Jackson High School facility. As far as possible the schools will be staffed by the existing faculties.

"These changes are being made to maintain and improve the quality of education in Butts County. The cooperation of all parents and citizens of Butts County is needed in the interest of the young people of our county."

"When it came to the integration deal, personally I always thought it came about at a time when Henderson was on the rise," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "Mr. [W. L.] Miller was principal. We had gotten accreditation. I didn't see at that time where there was going to be a great advantage for Black folk to go to Jackson High. My opinion was that they were as culturally deprived as we were. It wasn't like we were going where some heavy stuff was going to rub off. And to be frank with you, I looked at it as the other folk were getting a break by getting me to teach them. I guess that's arrogance or whatever. But the way I looked at it, anyone getting a chance to come to my class - they're the ones getting the benefit. I felt like I had something to offer.

"I think what integration did was it might have leveled some playing fields as far as some opportunities," said Gaye. "But it comes down to individually you either have it or you don't. But like I say, we don't have a big gap between cultures in a small town. A lot of people may have thought that there were folks who had things a whole lot better, but they didn't. I guess the biggest impact initially was that you could smoke over at Jackson High. Students had a smoking

area. Our kids didn't have that. So they loved it going over there. Can you imagine that? They let kids smoke in school then.

"I thought one of the biggest things out of integration was beforehand, your kids could go to Henderson and he could wear a jacket that somebody had given his mother, and it'd be fine," Gaye explained. "But he couldn't do that at Jackson High because the kid might be sitting next to him whose jacket it was. That was a difference. It raised the level of expectations. It made you more conscious that there was something you didn't have.

And "in a segregated setting, you could raise hell about something that maybe you wouldn't raise hell about otherwise," he said. "You could call out a student and challenge him and tell him you expect more out of him.

"The only thing that bothered me about total integration was that Black parents lost control of their children," recalled Ernest Battle during an interview in 2009. "There was such distrust between Blacks and Whites as to how their kids were going to be treated in the school system. Blacks thought Whites were going to mistreat their kids, and vice versa. That part of it bothered me. And Black people will tell you today that we had more control over our kids back when we were segregated. Separate but equal might have gone if people had been fair minded back then. I think what pushed them to build this gym [at Henderson High School] in '65 was Mr. Rufus Head, the NAACP guy, told them that if they didn't build us a gym, 'we're coming up to your gym to play.' And that's how the [Rufus Adams] auditorium came about. They were scared to float a bond referendum just to build a gym over here for us. So they built a gym and an auditorium."

"Integration went smoothly," said Samuel L. Johnson in 2009. "There's always a little friction here and there, but I don't think there were any major problems. It was difficult for some of the children because of the close connections they had over here [at Henderson]. But I think it worked out well. We didn't have any conflicts. Parents misunderstood a lot of things. But it went smoothly because the school system, we had prepared. Our teachers would go over to their schools, or their teachers would come over to our school. An eighth grade teacher came over and sat in on my class one day, and then I'd go over there and sit with their eighth grade class one day. So they knew some of the students before the students got there. So it wouldn't be a straight stranger situation. But in a small town you knew most everybody anyway. I knew most of the teachers that were there, and I knew several students that were there through activities. When they played their little league games, I'd go over there. And when we payed our games, they'd come over and watch our games. So there was a lot of knowing before they got there, and that made it easier.

"I was in the Army when it integrated and people said there was going to be problems, but there weren't any problems," said Johnson. "People will be people in any situation if you let them be. Most of them will treat you fair. Therefore, you won't have a problem unless someone just wants to make a problem. See, most children can work out their own problems, if the adults stay out of it and don't bring any outside stuff in. I think because of the sports at the high school - football, basketball and softball, that the children really learned to play together."

"I remember some of the Blacks talking about rioting one night and the business owners being in the buildings with shotguns," recalled Luke Weaver in 2009, "but I wasn't involved in any of that. We've always had pretty doggone good relationships. I mean, there's been some flare ups but not bad. During integration days, those White kids and those Black kids that integrated were like the ones that I grew up with. We'd been buddies and friends and played together. He's eaten at my house. I've eaten at his house. So you knew them. They were your friends. And I'm not sure the Blacks were any more ready for the forced integration than the Whites were."

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1970
Jackson – 84, ROCKDALE COUTY - 89
JACKSON – 72, Loganville - 33
JACKSON – 73, Mary Persons - 36
JACKSON – 77, Gordon - 47
JACKSON – 79, Monticello - 38
JACKSON – 93, Manchester - 56
Jackson – 53, PIKE COUNTY - 79
JACKSON, Stockbridge
JACKSON – 93, Loganville - 57
Jackson – 61, ROCKDALE COUNTY - 68
Jackson – 72, PIKE COUNTY - 78
JACKSON – 87, Henry County – 68
JACKSON – 78, Gordon - 70
JACKSON – 85, Stockbridge – 76
Jackson – 51, NEWTON COUNTY - 74
Jackson – 62, MANCHESTER - 65

On March 1, 1970, flames engulfed a five room dwelling in Pepperton. The fire department responded to the call on a street known as "Honey Hole," but were unable to stop the blaze before it destroyed the home. No one was injured.

Pamela Kay Anderson was named STAR Student of the Butts County School System at the annual Jaycees honor night. She named Paul Stockhammer as her STAR Teacher.

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1970
Jackson – 38, ROCKDALE COUNTY - 41
JACKSON – 42, Loganville - 31
JACKSON – 61, Mary Persons - 39
JACKSON – 63, Gordon - 26
JACKSON – 65, Monticello - 30
JACKSON – 46, Manchester 40
Jackson – 33, PIKE COUNTY - 45
Jackson – 26, STOCKBRIDGE - 50
JACKSON – 53, Loganville - 35

JACKSON – 44, Rockdale County - 35
Jackson – 42, PIKE COUNTY – 55
JACKSON – 31, Henry County - 28
JACKSON – 51, Gordon - 22
Jackson – 39, STOCKBRIDGE – 50
Jackson – 36, NEWTON COUNTY - 39
JACKSON – 60, Manchester - 39
JACKSON – 67, Gordon – 39
JACKSON – 63, Mary Persons – 51
JACKSON – 48, West Point – 33
JACKSON – 50, Harris County - 48
Jackson – 44, WEST POINT – 55
Jackson – 38, HARRIS COUNTY – 45
Ended season with a 14-12 record.

On March 20 and 21, 1970, Henderson High School's chorus and band, each directed by Andrew Buggs, Jr., were awarded superior ratings at the annual Chorus Festival in Barnesville and Band Festival in West Point.

Work began in April 1970 on a park at the old site of the Pepperton Baseball Field was converted into the James H. Wallace Memorial Park. The land was donated by the Avondale Mills Indian Springs Plant. When completed, the park had a men's softball field, a Ty Cobb baseball field, a Little League baseball field, and a Hampton Daughtry and Pee Wee football field. The property was developed by the Jackson Men's Softball League, the Van Deventer Foundation, and the Van Deventer Little League. It cost was estimated at $20,000.

In early May 1970, the Jackson High School baseball team finished its regular season as sub-region champions with a 6-1 record in the region, and a 7-6 record overall. According to the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, Charlie Brown owned "right field. Charlie hasn't been able to hit the ball well this year but does have the ability to get on base. He batted .311 in 1969, and .210 this season."

The Henderson Tiger baseball team ended its season a week later with a 3-5 record.

"I don't know of anyone in Jackson who could have done what C. B. Brown accomplished in the years that he was here," said David Ridgeway during an interview in 2008. "He worked the financial part where they didn't have to collect property tax in the city. And he was responsible for that. He was a top notch individual. On election day, he could almost tell you ho many votes he'd get. He could tell you who was going to vote for who and who was going to vote for the other man. He was just amazing to me to watch him operate, him and Joe.

"He was one who could calm almost any controversy," Ridgeway continued. "He was a peacemaker. I think that's the reason he was in office for so long. He was the kind of guy who could handle almost any type of situation."

"He was very familiar with everybody in the city and the county because he was in business," added Merrell Price during the same interview. "Prior to being mayor, he was an insurance agent just like I was and he dealt with the Blacks and the Whites, like I did. So they knew him and he knew how to reason with them. He was very instrumental in calming the riot that we had."

An argument between two Negro brothers at Ronnie's Pure Oil Station on May 24, 1970 led to three consecutive nights of racial disorder in Jackson. According to reports in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, Ronnie Howard, owner of the station, came to aid of one if his employees who was arguing with his brother. Howard struck the other brother in the head with a pipe.

In a short time, a crowd of between 50 and 75 Negro youths gathered and began throwing rocks at the station's windows. The crowd soon swelled to 200, who roamed the city breaking windows of many business establishments.

That night, at least two fires were attempted in the business district, but were quickly extinguished. A barn in Jenkinsburg was also burned on the A. C. Freeman property.

Local officials asked for and received help from the Georgia State Patrol, which sent a riot squad to Jackson. The disturbance was quelled by midnight, with a few arrests made.

"It was one of these things that was just over nothing really," recalled Walter Carmichael. "Most of the damage was done over around Second Street, Settle & Robison. There was some property damage, but just windows broken out. That kind of stuff."

"That started because of Ronnie Howard and a guy named Roosevelt Williams," said Ernest Battle in 2009 of the incident that sparked the unrest. "Roosevelt was an intimidator. A little guy. I remember one night over at the basketball game, he grabbed Coach Davis, who was a big, healthy guy back then. And they had to kick him out of the basketball game. But he could just walk through that courthouse and just intimidate folks.

"My whole family that Sunday afternoon," Battle continued, "we were down at Indian Springs playing on the rocks, and for some reason or another when we left the park that Sunday evening I didn't come through town. I turned and went down Covington Street, down First Street to Mulberry Street and came on home. And just as soon as I walked into my home, my telephone rings. It was Mayor Brown, telling me to 'come up town, come up town quick! Come to the corner by Ronnie Howard's place. All Hell done broke loose up there.'

"And when I get up there," said Battle, "I'm standing there talking to Mayor Brown and Watson Vaughn, the chief of police, and somebody threw a rock at us. Come to find out, Roosevelt had been up there messing with Ronnie and him and Ronnie got into a fight. And Roosevelt went to Crosstown and told everybody that Ronnie Howard had mistreated him and everything. And everybody knew Roosevelt. I don't know how in the world did he get that many people to follow him to tear up town that night. Man, it was terrible up there that night."

"There had been an incident at a service station in town and a group had gathered up on the courthouse lawn," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "Of course, my father was mayor when that took place. As I look back on it, I didn't realize what a young person he was. But I'll never forget the

night that it happened, they had state patrol cars coming in from everywhere. They put on their riots helmets and you could hear them cocking their shotguns."

At noon on Monday, May 25, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. and Butts County Sheriff Hugh Polk met with about 100 Negroes in the court room of the Butts County Courthouse to discuss actions taken the previous night and listen to grievances from the Black community. After an hour, leaders of the Negro group proposed a committee to meet with city officials and Mayor Brown agreed to meet that committee anytime.

That night about 40 Negroes marched through the city, smashing more windows. They were confronted by the riot squad. Many were arrested and charged by the state with rioting and by the city for disorderly conduct.

"I went to work that Monday," said Ernest Battle, "and as soon as I got home, the mayor had called me again talking about, 'Man, they was raising holy Hell again.' And I was standing there in front of city hall, and they had brought the [state] troopers in then. And Roosevelt was up there just a screaming and hollering. And I heard one of the troopers ask the sheriff what he wanted them to do. And the sheriff said, 'Lock 'em up.' And the guy that started everything, Roosevelt Wiliams, was the first guy the troopers hit with a billy club. And they just started locking folks up. And my neighbor up on the other side of the street was a preacher. He was up there with me trying to calm the situation. And I had riot gear on, and he didn't have riot gear on. And a trooper ran up and hit him in the back with a rifle, and I said, 'Hey! Don't do that! He's trying to help calm the crowd!' He said, 'He'd better put a helmet on then.' So we got the rev a helmet. But that went on and they locked everybody up."

On Tuesday night, May 26, a fire was discovered in the Redman warehouse at the intersection of Covington and First streets. The flames were extinguished, and arson was suspected.

"When we lived there with the Hams [in a boarding house on East Third Street], this was when integration was big, and there was some integration problems that happened in the county," said Harold "Doc" McMichael during a 2009 interview. "And, of course, Ham was the Sheriff and he owned one of the cotton gins. It was not being used anymore, but it was there right behind where Cook's Lunchroom is. And it burned. It was a big building there that burned one night. We were a little bit afraid that it was arson. And, I had a shotgun that belonged to my uncle, and I kept it loaded right beside my bed for a while. Because we did not know whether they were doing it as revenge to the sheriff or what was taking place, so we was pretty concerned there for a while.

"During that period of time Watson Vaughn was the police chief, and they asked some of us young tough boys to serve as volunteer policemen to help in times of problems," said McMichael. "And one night they did call us out, and there was some problems going on. And they didn't arm us with any kind of weapons, of course. The only weapon we had was a stick about that long [indicating two feet in length]. Matter of fact, it's back there in my closet now. And, they did give us a little helmet to wear. One night there was some people that was

protesting pretty heavily, and we thought we was going to have to try to stop 'em. About that time the State Patrol came up and stopped 'em. Anyway, that was some pretty trying times there for a couple of years."

"They were throwing trash cans through plate glass windows downtown," recalled Billy Glidewell of the nights of unrest in 1970. "And there were people standing in front of their stores - I remember Bill Johnson did it, I don't know if he's still here - I saw him sitting in front of his store with a shotgun, ready to kill anybody who wanted to do anything to his business. His store was where the BP station on Peachtree Street is. I saw him sitting in front of the store with a shotgun in a chair.

"It was kind of scary, you know," said Glidewell in 2010. "Couldn't help but be kind of scared. Violence hadn't really erupted in 1961 and '62, and whatnot, and people could have firework battles and parents could handle it and all. But it was after November of '62 that [President John] Kennedy got killed, and Martin Luther [King, Jr.] got killed in '68, and Robert Kennedy right around that same time. So see, things had gotten to the point where people were starting to get fearful, because we weren't just throwing fisticuffs anymore, we were breaking out the firearms and killing people, man, you know, national tragedies that affected so many people.

"You couldn't help but be a little bit aware of the violence that had started to occur in the country by then," he continued. "It had become such a national tragedy, what was going on. You know, it was [when] the civil rights demands were being made - and rightly so - and were being acquired. It was just a real troubling time for the country."

On Wednesday, May 27, Mayor C. B. Brown said, "everything humanly possible that could be done has been done and I feel optimistic the worst is over." It was also reported members of the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were on hand to report on the disorders.

In his column, "It's This Way," after the disturbances *Jackson Progress-Argus* publisher Doyle Jones, Jr. reminded readers that Jackson was one of the first towns of its size to employ Negro policemen, and actually had a Negro woman on its police payroll at the time. The county as a whole had a one of the heaviest Negro voter registrations in the state, and that the minority voted often and heavily. Butts County was one of the first counties to certify Negroes for jury and grand jury duty. A Negro served on the Butts County Board of Education at the time, and the Van Deventer Foundation provided funds for athletic programs for both races on an impartial basis.

"They finally tried old Roosevelt," recalled David Ridgeway. "I don't know whether it was over this or something else, but I had to go get his personal history down at the jail. I got down there and went upstairs to get it and he didn't have on a stitch a clothes. And I said, 'Where are your clothes?' He said, 'They took 'em off of me.' So I got his personal history, all he would let me have, which wasn't much, and he said, 'Let me tell you something Mr. Ridgeway. When I come back from prison, I'm going to be riding in a Cadillac. And I'm going to have a pocket full of money.' I said, 'Well, how about letting me have some of it when you get back.'

"And I had to go see his mother and she wouldn't agree to do what we were planning on having done to him," Ridgeway said. "So we sent him on through the regular system. Well, he came back to Jackson - he was riding in a Cadillac in the back of a hearse. But I never did know how much money he had in his pocket. Those folks down at Reidsville [State Prison], they killed that guy. He didn't last but about two weeks down there. He was trying to be cocky like he was that night up here when he started that riot. They didn't go for that."

Henderson High School graduated 58 seniors on May 31, 1970. Patricia C. Barlow was named Valedictorian and Ruby Nell Roberts named Salutatorian. It was the last graduation exercise at Henderson High School.

For Jackson High School's commencement ceremony on June 1, 1970, Antoinette Brownlee was named Valedictorian of the Class of 1970, and Cynthia Gail Cochran named Salutatorian.

Preliminary Census figures released in June 1970 showed that Butts County had gained 1,328 residents since 1960, an increase from 8,976 to 10,304.

On June 1, 1970, the mayor and city council took up a list of grievances presented to them by a Grievance Committee, made up of appointed representatives of the local Black community.

The Council was asked to "drop all charges on Blacks arrested during the disturbance," but replied that it did not have the authority to drop charges.

The Council was asked to investigate "those reported beatings," but replied that it had not received any reports of beatings by city policemen during the disturbances or other times.

The Council was asked to hire Black men and women working in City Hall as clerks and secretaries. "The policy of the present administration is and has been that as openings occur applications will be considered n the basis of experience, ability and aptitude without regard to race," wrote the council. At the present time no openings exist at City Hall. The city presently has 51 employees, of which 28 are white and 23 are Black."

The Council was asked to hire a full-time Black policeman, but responded that would happen "when an application is received from a qualified person and an opening occurs. This will result in the abolishment of part-time policemen."

The Council was asked for better streets and sidewalks in the Black community. The council responded that the city had no money to pave sidewalks in any part of town, and attached a list of streets to be paved or resurfaced "if state money is sufficient."

They were asked for integrated police teams, and replied that such a program was already underway "to some degree."

The Grievance Committee also asked for "another black man on the Board of Education," "blacks on the county hospital authority," and "blacks working in the county courthouse as clerks and secretaries." The Mayor and Council responded that these were matters they had no authority over.

They were also asked to check police brutality, but responded that they had received no reports of any beatings by city policemen at any time.

And finally, the committee asked for a Black and White jury during the trial of Ronnie Howard, to which the city responded that it had no authority over jury selection.

On June 5 and 6, 1970, two days of peaceful picketing by predominantly young Negroes were followed by talks between city officials, local Negro leaders, and representatives of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

A Jackson chapter of the SCLC had been chartered with Ronnie Bell, a local insurance agent, as president.

"When you had the 1970s and the surge of Black nationalism again, you had Black businesses that sprung up again" in Jackson, said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "The Little Gulf Station across from the Wing [Depot] place [on West Third Street]. A Black was running that service station. Jay's Diner at Crosstown opened up. That's when I built my shop across from where it is now. So you had a little spring up of stuff. The laundromat across the tracks from the depot. It's been torn down now. Mr. Miller had a laundromat and a record shop there for a while. I had a little clothing shop for a while. It was one of the worst things I ever did. That was the early 1970s. The 'I'm Black and I'm proud' era."

On June 20, 1970, the James H. Wallace Park was dedicated in Pepperton. Several hundred people attended and eight baseball games were played.

On June 22, 1970, ground was broken for a new headquarters for the Central Georgia Electric Membership Corporation off Highway 36 South. The cost of the facility was estimated at $601,000. George C. Bell, president of the EMC, presided over the ceremony.

According to Electric Department Superintendent J. Howard Rooks, the electricity in Jackson was turned off from 1 to 1:45 p.m. on August 12, 1970 so the Georgia Power Company could replace the transformers at the city's substation with larger ones with higher capacity to take care of the continued increase in the growth of the electric system.

In August 1970, W. L. Miller resigned as principal of Henderson Junior High to take a job with the DeKalb County School System. He was also a former principal of Henderson High School, and had been with the Butts County School System since 1949.

By a three-to-one margin on August 18, 1970, voters rejected a referendum for $500,000 in bonds for the Butts County School System. The funds would have been used for school improvement. Only 1,377 of the county more than 5,000 voters cast ballots.

In September 1970, Butts County schools opened with 2,551 students enrolled. "The first day of school went as well as could be expected when one considers that 1,180 students were

assigned to new campuses and surroundings with which they were unfamiliar," said School Superintendent William B. Jones in the *Jackson Progress-Argus* at the time.

"In 1971 we had total integration, which was my senior year," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "It was very interesting because my dad was mayor. I'll never forget that first day of school because all the parents thought there was going to be riots and burning and all this kind of stuff. My dad left early that morning. And they actually had what they called special police back then. They call them riot police now, but they were special police back then. And they all went to the school and hid in the auditorium, waiting for all the riots to break out. But fortunately, nothing happened. And neither did anything happen throughout the school year.

"But it was very interesting getting together," said Brown. "We had to re-write the school's alma mater. Our colors used to be red and black. Henderson's used to be blue and white. So we ended up with red, white and blue. We had two of everything. We had two class presidents, two class vice presidents, two homecoming queens. Even when we changed classes, they rang the bell and the girls would change and then they'd ring the bell and the boys would change. They wouldn't let us change classes at the same time. But it merged real well. I think we had 133 graduate that year. The kids got along fine. The parents were very apprehensive."

"I was in the first [totally] integrated class," said Billy Glidewell, who graduated from Jackson High School in 1971. "In September of 1970, they closed Henderson High School, and [Jackson High School] went from a 3B school to a AA school overnight. And I don't have anything but positive memories of it. Matter of fact, one of the national news bureaus came down to Jackson High School in my class, the class of '71, showing how it was being so easily accomplished. For instance, we had a Black and a White class president. Fred Head was a class co-president and Charlene Brownlee was another class co-president. And yet, you know, we operated as one. We had an integrated junior/senior prom. It worked out beautifully, really. I was always proud of how easily our integration went here."

"I was coaching girls basketball [at Henderson High School]," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. When total integration took place "they had to match up everything since you had football coaches over there and football coaches over here and whatever you had there you had the counterpart here. So you had to weigh those things out. So they asked me, 'Uh, Mr. Gaye, would you like to be assistant girls basketball coach?' I said, 'I don't want to be assistant nothing.' And that was always my attitude.

"But integration went smoothly," Gaye added. "Much of the Henderson culture was lost in it, and that's as much our fault as anybody's. I, myself, there were things that I could have gotten and saved that I didn't. I thought that some of that stuff might have been preserved somewhere. But all the stuff like the trophies and great big composite photos of classes - all that stuff got pitched somewhere. Yearbooks in the library got pitched. And also Henderson just sort of died into Jackson High School. They had had committees from both schools get together before hand and try to work through writing school hymns and how they were going to adopt things and the school colors and all of that. Henderson was the Tigers and were blue and white. And Jackson was the Red Devils and red and white and black. And the colors were going to be red, white and

blue. But when it was time to do all of that, it was too expensive to buy new uniforms, so everything just went right along and people fell in with the Jackson High stuff.

"The band was a strong program at Henderson," Gaye continued. "Well, we went to Jackson High and for homecoming, Jackson High would have a sound truck playing John Phillips Sousa and that would head up the parade. And we had a band and at homecoming the streets would be full of folks. So those types of things suffered. Football was king at Jackson High. I never will forget the first year we were there, the band was needing to practice on the field and football team needed to practice on the field. The band was out practicing one day and the coach had players just run through band members, just knocking them out of the way. We were playing I believe Carrolton, which was the powerhouse at the time. We lost the game 6-to-0. We had the ball first-and-goal inside the 10, closer to the one. We ran the little halfback, Bruce Hicks, into the line four times straight and they stopped us. Of course we had Robert Henderson and Robert Griffin, they had some other backs. But they ran Hicks at the line four times straight and they stopped us, and they blamed that on the band playing too loud. Coach ran down the sidelines hollering for the band to be quiet.

"I think the band program has never taken off there 'cause of a lack of emphasis. Shortly after that, one day, Mr. Padgett was the principal and called [Andrew] Buggs in. He was the band director. He told Buggs that we decided not to have a band anymore and he needed to go and become a social science teacher. So I went into Mr. Padgett's office and said, 'I bet you a fat man and nine skinny women that we have a White band director next year.' 'Oh, no, no, no, Curtis!' So the next year came in and they hired this old guy. He had been a band director for a circus. They brought him in and the band went from about 40 members to five in a year or so. I remember one year for the Christmas concert they played John Phillips Sousa. They didn't play not one Christmas song. They gave a standing ovation. I said, 'Where are these screwballs from?' So that didn't work well, because the band was perceived as being a Black organization. White kids didn't gravitate to the band like that. But other than that, things went pretty well."

In the Fall of 1970, the City of Jackson raised its gas rates for the first time since 1963. The increase was due, according to Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr., to an accompanying increase in price from its gas supplier, Southern Natural Gas Company. The increase, said the mayor, amounted to a 29.89% increase in cost to the city.

During a talk with members of the Butts County Lions Club on September 8, 1970, W. L. (Cotton) Vaughn of the Jackson Police Department and also Chief of the Jackson Fire Department described the system used to notify volunteers of a fire in the city. He said if a member of the department or a member of his family was talking on the phone when a call went out from the fire department, that person heard a series of beeps that notified them to hang up the phone. When they picked it back up, the fire department was on the line. If no one was on the phone, the phone rang continuously until someone picked it up or the fire department stopped the call.

The department was made up entirely of volunteers, who attend training on their own time. There were three fire trucks in the department, the newest was a 1969 model with a pumper equipped to pump 750 gallons per minute. A second pumper could pump 500 gallons per minute.

There was also a third truck with a 1,200 gallon capacity, which fought fires until the other trucks arrived on scene.

In September, a state court ruled in favor of the Butts County Board of Education over the Board of Commissioners. The court ruled that the BOE can set its own millage rate for the operation and maintenance of the county schools, and that the BOC could not refuse to put the BOE's tax levy in effect. A provision in the state's Constitution mandates that the BOE's tax levy may not exceed 20 mills.

Due to a lack of rainfall, the mayor and city council enacted a watering restriction at the end of September 1970. Residents were prohibited from watering lawns, shrubbery, and flowers, and from washing their cars.

In the city primary of October 2, 1970, the most voters ever polled in a primary came out and all the incumbents won. Winners included: C. B. Brown, Jr. for mayor with 672 votes to Harold Martin's 432 votes; and C. M. Daniel and W. O . Ball for the city council.

Work was to begin in October 1970 on 52 low rent housing units in Jackson. According to Levi J. Ball, chairman of the City of Jackson Housing Authority, the low bid of $722,000 came from Lake McDonald of Vidalia. The new units were to extend from the existing housing project on Oakland Circle.

On October 24, 1970, Ernest Lee Sims of Buchanan Street was killed in a hail of bullets fired from an automatic pistol. Charged with the murder was Walter Gay, formerly of Jackson who was also formerly married to Sims's wife. A jury found him guilty and sentenced him to life in prison.

On October 29, 1970, Adolphus Solomon of Cherry Street was killed by a single gunshot after an argument over one dollar during a pool game. Charlie Frank White of Elm Street was charged with the murder. The incident occurred at the Three Minute Grill at the intersection of Cemetery and Barlow streets. White was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison.

On November 1, 1970 the Progressive Men's Club was organized with 10 charter members. The purpose of this organization was to secure benefits for its members.

In November 1970, the Butts County Board of Education adopted regulations concerning student dress and appearance in school. Males were not allowed to have beards, mustaches could not extend beyond the corners of the mouth, and sideburns could not be below the earlobe. For females, jeans and dungarees were not allowed, only pants loose enough so as not to see any body crevices were allowed, pants with torn legs were not permitted, no shorts or pedal pushers were allowed, and form fitting sweaters were also banned.

On November 13, 1970, Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell announced that a site in Henry County had been chosen for a new airport by the Board of Atlanta Aldermen. It was noted that the site would extend the airport into Butts County in four places. However, this airport was never built.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1970
JACKSON - 19, Harris County – 0
JACKSON – 42, Fayette County – 29
Jackson – 0, WOODWARD – 6
Jackson – 0, EAST POINT – 29
Jackson – 13, BRIARWOOD – 38
JACKSON – 21, Henry County – 2
JACKSON – 26, Morgan County - 3
JACKSON – 22, Rockdale County – 0
JACKSON – 47, Lamar County – 8
Jackson - , RUSSELL HIGH

"We went from B classification - and we were 5-and-5, we won five games and lost five games - to the AA classification in one football season," said Billy Glidewell about the Red Devils following total integration. "The teams that remained on our schedule - the Fayette Counties, the Henry Counties, Lamar County - we beat every one of them. And the four teams that we picked up, which was Headland, Briarwood, Russell, and Woodward, we lost every one of them.

"Loy Hutcheson was the head coach then, and we couldn't help but be a little resentful of the fact that we had come in at a time when we had lost our classification," he said. "We were all seniors: Bruce Hicks, myself, and Randy Freeman, Tommy Fletcher and Steve Bennett - we just had a good squad. And we knew we were going to be good. But we got a couple of good athletes [from Henderson High School]: Johnny Varner, Robert Henderson - he's now a County Commissioner. It's kind of ironic that we lost every game to the teams that we were promoted to, and all the teams that we would have stayed in classification with, we beat every one of them.

"But the team chemistry and all - just like we never missed a beat," Glidewell continued. "We were all happy to help. It was really a damn magical period, really. I'm telling you, it was really a magical period for around here. Our little old town was ripe for doing exactly what was required. People were open-minded enough, and accepting enough, and sophisticated enough with what was going on, to accept that.

"And I don't want to put myself on any pedestal and sure don't suggest that I am," Glidewell added, "but being Catholic, we had had Blacks in our church for, well, since I could remember. It was just something that I was always taught to accept - people's color didn't have anything to do with it. So, personally, for me, it didn't take a whole lot of change. But certainly - and I wouldn't call any names or anything - certainly it was a little more difficult for some, you know. I mean, I'm sure I heard the n-word a few times in mixed company."

In December 1970 came news that both Henderson Junior High School and Jackson High School had been reaccredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Park Newton, one of the community's most outstanding citizens, was named the second Man of the Year by the Jackson Kiwanis Club on December 8, 1970. The 87-year-old Newton operated Newton Hardware for many years before his retirement.

As of December 27, 1970, it was necessary for citizens to dial all seven numbers of a phone number to make a call. This change from dialing just five numbers for a local call coincided with the cut-over of a new central office for Southern Bell in Jackson on College Street.

On December 28, 1970, a badly wounded young Floridian stumbled out of the woods in northern Butts County to seek help from anyone he could find, and two days later the body of his companion from Virginia was found. The two had been shot and stabbed off Woodward Road, and Donald Scott, 23 of Tampa, Florida, staggered nearly a mile to seek help wearing only his pants in 30-degree weather. His companion, 23-year-old George Bruce Gwynn of Manassas, Virginia, had been killed instantly by a bullet fired to the center of his head. There was additional evidence that he had been beaten and tortured.

According to Scott, he and Gwynn and two others were on their way from Virginia to Florida and stopped in Atlanta to visit the city's hippie district. It was there that they met members of the Outlaw motorcycle gang, who are charged with kidnapping, robbery, torture and shooting of three of the visitors and the killing of the fourth. Scott and Gwynn's two other companions escaped from the suspects on December 28 and called police. Henry County police soon arrested three 22-year-old Atlanta men and charged them with the crimes.

1971

During a joint meeting between the county commissioners and the mayor and city council on January 4, 1971, a deal was brokered to provide a sanitary landfill for all residents. The deal meant the city would pay the county $500 a month and the county would accept all city garbage brought to the county landfill. The county had 100 acres available for use as a landfill. As a result, the city raised its garbage fees from $1 to $2 for residences, and from $2 to $4 and $5 for businesses.

The arrangement came on the heels of new state regulations that prohibited the of burning of trash at the county dump, and the failure of the county to secure federal funds to establish a sanitary landfill.

As of 1970, according to Albert Harrell, Southern Bell manager in Jackson, there were 3,993 phones in the city.

George Tate was named principal of Henderson Junior High School. He had been a chemistry and science teacher there for many years.

On January 28, 1971, a cash box containing $1,300 in cash was stolen from Bill Maddox's Service Station on West Third Street.

During his annual "State of the City" speech to the Jackson Kiwanis Club, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said even though the city operates on a cash basis, fees for services were going up. In addition to garbage fees increasing, a sewer tax was soon to be imposed and water and electric rates would be raised as of July 1971.

Brown said the federal government had given the city two years to upgrade and enlarge the city's sewer system due to unlawful discharges of untreated water into local streams. The electric system served 1,230 customers and the city boasts the lowest electric rates in the state. An increase in electric rates for citizens was necessitated by an increase in fees from Georgia Power, which the city purchases electricity from.

The water department served 1,140 customers, and the gas department served 1,061 customers.

The city payroll for 1970 was $255,000. In 1960, the total income for the city was $315,000, which increased to $861,000 in 1970. Over $36,000 in revenue was raised by the sell of beer.

Building permits in 1965 totaled $363,000, while in 1970 they were $1,443,227. In 1965, the city's tax digest was $2.5 million, while in 1970 it was over $5 million. In 1960, the population of Jackson was 2,545, while in 1970 it was 3,774.

Mayor Brown also told Kiwanians that drugs had been found in the city, and that their use might become more widespread. In 1970, he said, the police department made 454 cases, of which 169 were for DUI and 135 were tried in city court.

On February 21, 1970, a family argument on Cherry Street ended in the death of Robert Junior Head, when his brother-in-law fired a shotgun at his wife. She dropped to the ground and the blast struck Head. Charged with the murder was Charles L. Respress, age 22.

On March 2, 1971, a Butts County jury found Joe Sorsby, 22, guilty of the murder of George Bruce Gwynn, and sentenced to life in prison. Three fellow members of The Outlaws motorcycle gang pled guilty and were sentenced to 10 years for aggravated assault and life for the murder.

According to Gwynn three companions, they arrived in Atlanta's 10th Street district on December 28, 1970 and were invited by two members of The Outlaws to an 11th Street apartment. They testified that things got rowdy soon after they arrived, and they were searched at gunpoint with all items of value taken from them including their motel key.

Gang members took one of the visitors to the motel where other items were stolen. He managed to escape from the car at a well-lighted intersection and called police at a nearby service station with a borrowed dime. When the gang members returned to the apartment, another visitor escaped during an unguarded moment.

Donald Scott testified that he and Gwynn were brought to Butts County in a station wagon while the gang members talked about "how to do away with us." Once on Woodward

Road, he and Gwynn were told to take off their shoes and shirts and get out of the car. Scott said Sorsby then stabbed both of them in the stomachs, and then wrapped a pistol in Scott's shirt and shot both of them. Scott was dragged off the road, and took an opportunity to flee. As he ran, he said he heard another gun shot.

At its annual banquet on March 2, 1971, the Butts County Jaycees named Patsy Maddox as STAR Student, and she named Wilson Bush as her STAR Teacher.

During the first week of March 1971, Butts County suffered considerably from torrential rains that flooded area streams and rivers. A record 8.4 inches of water fell over a two-day period. Several small bridges were flooded and dozens of dirt roads suffered wash outs. At High Falls State Park, 50 new campsites were underwater, boat docks floated over the dam, and picnic tables and garbage cans floated down river.

JACKSON RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1971
JACKSON - 52, Mary Persons – 49

JACKSON LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1971
JACKSON – 59, Mary Persons - 24
Jackson – 18, HENRY COUNTY – 34
Jackson – 24, NEWTON COUNTY – 45
JACKSON – 41, Pike County – 37
JACKSON – 43, Lamar County – 30
JACKSON – 50, Pike County – 39
Jackson – 44, RUSSELL – 48
Jackson – 36, HARRIS COUNTY – 48
JACKSON – 30, College Park – 29
JACKSON 58, Briarwood – 34
JACKSON – 33, Newton County 24
JACKSON – 35, Henry County – 32
JACKSON 40, Woodward Academy – 20
JACKSON – 37, Headland – 15
JACKSON – 30, Henry County 28
Ended season with a 20-5 record.

At the Board of Education's meeting in March 1971, it voted to decline renewal of coaching contracts for Loy Hutcheson, Jackson High School head football coach, and Wilson Bush, baseball, basketball and assistant football coach. The actions caused a storm of controversy among students who twice marched from Jackson High School to downtown Jackson to air their grievances to School Superintendent William B. (Bill) Jones.

Both Hutcheson and Bush issued statements saying they were not given any reason for their dismissal from their coaching positions despite improving all their teams' performances.

"Our football coach got fired and the students got upset and they marched to town," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "They decided they were coming to town to demonstrate. Billy Glidewell decided he was going to lead the thing. So they all came out and they marched to downtown Jackson. I stayed at the school because I knew my dad [then-Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr.] would not like that very well. About 12 of us stayed in school. So they marched up to town to the courthouse, and they wanted their coach back. My dad had to come to school and threatened to put us in jail."

In April 1971 the nine airlines serving Atlanta unanimously rejected the idea of developing a major airport in Henry County, which would have brought thousands of new jobs and residents to the Butts County area.

Jackson High School held commencement on May 31, 1971 with the largest class of seniors in the school's history. Ellen Pinckney was named Valedictorian, and Charlene Brownlee named Salutatorian.

In June 1971, seven widely known Jackson citizens were named to a newly created Industrial Development Authority. Members were: P. H. Weaver, M. W. Carmichael, Doyle Jones, Jr., M. L. Hodges, Jr., Richard W. Watkins, Jr., Dr. Tom O'Dell and Charles Carter.

The purpose of the authority, according to Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr., was to develop and promote the general welfare, trade, commerce, industrial and employment opportunities in Jackson for the public's good and to engage in making long range plans for such development and expansion. "We expect members of the authority to officially represent the City of Jackson in any negotiations with industries seeking to locate in the city. They will be the group who puts the city's best foot forward," said the mayor.

The Butts County Water Authority was created in June 1971 with five members appointed by the three Butts County Commissioners.

Announcement was made on June 29, 1971 that Poloron Homes of Georgia, Inc. would begin construction of a $350,000 53,000 square foot building in Jackson's industrial park on the eastern side of the city. The company produced medium-priced mobile homes and employed 40 people to start its operation in Jackson.

It was announced in August 1971 that the City of Jackson's official census population jumped 48.4 percent from the 1960 figure of 2,545 to 3,778 in the 1970 census.

Construction began in the middle of August 1971 on a new $400,000 store building for Hodges Hardware and Furniture Company. The facility was located at the intersection of Highway 16 and 42. M. L. Hodges, Jr. said the building would be 32,000 square feet, employ 20 people and carry a full line of hardware, furniture, appliances, televisions, stereos, housewares and sporting goods.

In August 1971, the Jackson City Council voted to keep the city's tax millage rate at 15 mills. According to City Clerk M. L. Powell, four mills went to the support of the city government, 10.5 mills for upkeep, street improvements and sanitation, and half a mill for the upkeep of the city cemetery.

Butts County schools opened for the year on August 26, 1971 with a total enrollment of 2,520.

The Magnolia Garden Club was organized in September 1971 by Mrs. Lena Carter with a membership of 11.

"I went to work for Parrish Drug Company and Dr. Parrish in about 1971," said Diane Rosser in 2008. "He was a very nice man. Had two little old women that handled the front and had been there forever. Then in the back were the drugs. Just like it is today [in the same building]. People came in and charged their stuff and you just kept up with it every month.

"The square was active at the time," said Rosser. "There was a really nice restaurant, the Bonnie Restaurant, where the Mexican restaurant was. I could go get a complete meal, like a blue plate special - meat, vegetables, bread and drink - for like $2.25. It was very good. I liked going in there."

On October 5, 1971, just 469 voters made their ways to the polls to elect J. Dawson Bryant, a former councilman from the First Ward, to that same office over incumbent Harold E. Martin. The vote total was 278 to 183. John L. Coleman and John Robert Pulliam were each reelected to their council seats without opposition.

On October 21, 1971 a spark from a switchbox ignited a fire in the Fashion Pillow plant on Lyons Street in Jackson. Though the fire was extinguished quickly, smoke and water damage was extensive.

Fire struck on October 23, 1971 at the home of Mrs. R. L. Fears on East Third Street. The flames, accidentally set by her grandchildren playing with matches near hanging clothes in a closet, gutted the front section of the house.

The Jackson City Council voted on November 4, 1971 to end volunteer fire calls outside the city limits. Councilman Milton Daniel explained that faulty equipment – particularly an outdated tank truck - and lack of insurance outside the city limits were two main reasons for the cutback. At that time, the truck had broken down en route to two calls in the county in a row. County Clerk Billy Sutton explained that an old and unchanged ruling in the county's charter forbade the creation of a county firefighting force without a vote from the state legislature.

A wayward deer hunter blasted an electrical insulator in Jasper County on November 6, 1971 causing an hour-and-a-half blackout in Forsyth, Monticello and Jackson.

In November 1971, Jackson Police Chief Watson Vaughn announced that cases would be brought against all persons loitering on or around the county courthouse square after midnight. He reported there had been excessive drinking and general harassment by juveniles. The curfew extended to those parked in cars as well.

1971 JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL RED DEVIL FOOTBALL
JACKSON – 25, Harris County – 0
JACKSON – 25, Fayette County – 12
Jackson – 6, WOODWARD – 35
JACKSON – 32, Headland – 12
Jackson – 13, BRIARWOOD – 26
JACKSON – 13, Henry County – 6
JACKSON – 9, Morgan County - 7
Jackson – 16, ROCKDALE COUNTY – 34
JACKSON – 36, Lamar County - 0
Jackson – 0, RUSSELL - 21

1972

In February 1972, Glenn Usry of Warner Robbins, a former member of the Pinkerton Detective Agency, was added to the Jackson Police Department as a patrolman.

On February 17, 1972, the home of Mrs. Ardelle James at 443 South Mulberry Street was totally destroyed by fire probably caused by a short circuit in electrical wiring. The blaze raged out of control for two hours, burning the house to its foundations.

In February 1972, a Butts County Grand Jury recommended the county hire two Negroes to work as county policemen, and although they would work under the Butts County Sheriff, create an entirely new enforcement agency in Butts County. The new officers, the grand jury stated, could eventually become sheriff's deputies if the General Assembly approved the increase in the number of deputies from two to four (which it did in March 1972).

In his "State of the City" address to the Kiwanis Club on February 22, 1972, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. explained that increases in electric, gas and water rates, plus the addition of a sewer tax, was necessary to help the city pay for its enlarged and modernized sewerage system, which cost $1,325,000, of which the city's share was $787,300.

The increase in the electric and gas rates was necessitated through increases in prices to the city from Georgia Power Company and Southern Natural Gas Company.

The mayor told the club that operation of the city had become big business, saying the city's income in 1965 was $452,847 and in 1971 it was $935,487.

The electric department served 1,250 customers with approximately 25 miles of new line installed in the past year. The water department served 1,161 customers with 25 new customers

in the last year. The gas department served 1,063 customers with 32 new customers added in the past year.

The city's payroll in 1971 amounted to $267,493. The city's millage rate was 15 mills, the same it was in 1969. The tax digest for the city in 1971 was $5,502,327, more than double what it was in 1965. The city's population had grown from 2,545 in 1960 to 3,778 in 1970. Twenty new homes were constructed in the city in 1971, and 7.13 acres had been annexed.

The Jackson Police Department made 522 arrests during 1971, and 135 cases were heard in City Court.

In 1971, the city purchased a new car for the police department, radios and walkie talkies, a tractor for the water and gas department, a chipper for the street department, and a truck for the gas department.

1972 JHS RED DEVILS BASKETBALL
JACKSON – 46, Troup County - 40
JACKSON – 54, Mary Persons – 38
JACKSON – 59, Pike County – 48
JACKSON – 63, Henry County - 60
JACKSON – 76, Mary Persons – 50
JACKSON – 83, Sandy Springs – 72
Jackson
Jackson
Jackson – 46, HARRIS COUNTY - 46
Jackson – 56, COLLEGE PARK - 86
Jackson – 53, BRIARWOOD – 54
JACKSON – 64, Woodward – 59
JACKSON – 67, Rockdale County – 65
JACKSON – 91, Headland – 74
JACKSON 64, Henry County – 62
JACKSON – 85, Morrow – 83
Jackson – 55, LAKESHORE – 79
JACKSON – 90, Lamar County – 89
JACKSON – 79, Troup County - 58
Jackson – 37, RUSSELL – 102

On the night of Sunday, February 26, 1972, three calls within two minutes to night duty policemen warned of a bomb scheduled to blow up Jackson High School at 10 a.m. the next morning. No such device was found in the barricaded school the next day. Officials said they did not believe the threat was directly related to a statewide anti-busing boycott that took place in a number of Georgia cities that Monday.

During the STAR Student Banquet on February 28, 1972, Glen Maddox was named STAR Student by the Butts County Jaycees. Maddox named Nancy Houghtaling, head of the English Department as Jackson High School, as his STAR Teacher.

In February 1972, the Addison-Rudesal Corporation began production of sash and doors in Jackson in the former Gateway Luggage Plant. It employed 25 men and produced 350 doors and 100 windows a day.

1972 JHS LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL
Jackson – 33, LAMAR COUNTY – 34
Jackson – 38, LAMAR COUNTY – 39
JACKSON – 58, Greenville - 20
JACKSON – 71, Mary Persons – 21
JACKSON – 55, Pike County – 34
JACKSON – 44, Henry County - 38
JACKSON – 53, Mary Persons – 30
Jackson – 29, HARRIS COUNTY – 38
JACKSON – 74, Briarwood – 10
JACKSON – 40, College Park 36
JACKSON – 42, Pike County – 38
JACKSON – 52, Woodward – 17
JACKSON, Henry County
Jackson – 33, NEWTON COUNTY - 37
JACKSON – 55, Rockdale County - 34
JACKSON – 63, Headland – 31
JACKSON – 49, Henry County - 33
JACKSON – 53, Morrow - 38
JACKSON – 50, Lamar County – 41
The Devilettes won the region title with this victory.
JACKSON – 61, Rockdale - 39
JACKSON – 51, Russell – 49

As of March 1972, all residents in the City of Jackson were required to separate their trash from their garbage. A new city ordinance stating as much was adopted that month to adhere to new state regulations. All garbage, paper, cans, bottles and kitchen waste were to be placed in covered garbage containers to be picked up by city workers. All wood, leaves, metal, trees, appliances, rocks and limbs were to be carried to a dump in Flovilla by separate trucks.

As of May 1, 1972, the city only issued one parking permit for parking on the square for each business or office located on the square. But they were not allowed to park in front of a business unless they were loading or unloading. Other employees were asked to park on side streets. Free parking was available to anyone in the city's parking lot on North Mulberry Street.

On May 1, 1972 the Butts County Hospital Authority approved an agreement with five Atlanta doctors to provide coverage for the emergency room at Sylvan Grove Hospital seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The doctors were paid $20 an hour for their service

plus transportation costs. The hospital's two local doctors, Dr. James C. Howell and Dr. Gerald Ross, staffed the emergency room prior to 5:30 p.m.

During commencement exercises for Jackson High School on May 31, 1972, Cindy Lee Cook was named Valedictorian of the Class of 1972 and Saralyn Ridgeway was named Salutatorian.

The home of Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Head on Chestnut Drive was heavily damaged by fire on May 28, 1972. The volunteers of the Jackson Fire Department managed to save the structure, though the interior suffered smoke and water damage. The cause of the fire was believed to have been a stove left on high.

When the final statement of revenue and expenses for 1971 was released by the City of Jackson in July 1972, it proved that running the city had indeed become "big business," according to Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. For the first time in the city's history, the income topped $1 million.

According to the mayor, the city still operated on a cash basis, having only three outstanding bond issues: one from 1959 for sanitary sewage, one from 1961 for water and sewerage, and one from 1965 for water and sewerage.

On June 28, 1972, the Avondale Mills' Indian Springs plant delivered a 10,000,000-pound lot of spun polyester carpet to Salem Carpet in Ringgold. According to G. W. Haynes, president of the Avondale Mills plant, this had never been done by carpet yarn spinners. While the employees of the mill were producing that lot without a break, the mill was simultaneously producing 14 other kinds of polyester blends and yarns.

In the early 1970s, Mike Riley worked at Red & White grocery store on the northwest corner of the intersection of Oak and Byars streets. "It had been Colonial years ago," he explained during a 2009 interview, "and then it became Red & White. It was run by John Leuken and Bob Jackson. John did the front of the store, and Bob did the meat market.

"When you went to work in the grocery store business around here as a new bag boy - that's what you title was because that's what you did mostly - they had a tradition that you would have to go after the bag stretcher," Riley recalled with a smile. "The bag stretcher was a device that was used to hold the bags open so that you could get more groceries in them. Paper bags is what we were using back then. So at the Red & White, they would say, 'You need to go get our bag stretcher.' 'Where is it?' 'Well, we loaned it to A&P.' Well, then you would go in the A&P asking for the bag stretcher. And A&P would say, 'Yeah, we had it, but we let Webb's have it.' So then you would go to Webb's. And they sent you all over town in search of the mythical bag stretcher. Sooner or later you would run into someone who would go, 'Huh? Man, I think they're messing with you.' So you'd high tail it on back and, of course, they would all have a big laugh on the new guy. Working in a grocery store was fun when you were a teenager back then, I'm telling you."

In August 1972, the city purchased a bucket truck to assist in the repair of electrical lines and trimming of trees. The total price of $13,600 was paid in cash. At the time, the city had been paying a contractor $4,000 per cutting to trim trees throughout the city.

In the primary on August 8, 1972, voters couldn't decide between Barney L. Wilder and incumbent Hugh C. Polk for Butts County Sheriff.

A stubborn blaze on August 17, 1972 severely damaged two bedrooms and the kitchen at the Will Watts residence at 180 Slaughter Avenue. No one was injured.

In August 1972, the city hired Tony Hinton solely for the purpose of reading meters for water, light and gas bills and equipped him with a motorcycle to do that job. It was believed that Jackson was the first municipality in the country to hire such an employee. Hinton used a small Honda motorcycle, which he could ride across yard without damaging lawns.

On August 21, 1972, the governments of the City of Jackson and Butts County organized a comprehensive recreation commission that sought federal and state funds for the construction of athletic and recreational facilities in the community. Called the Butts County-Jackson Recreation Commission, it featured Denny O'Neal as Chairman, Joe Davis as Vice Chairman, and Bailey Crockarell as Secretary-Treasurer.

In August 1972, the city began an effort to arrest drug pushers when it launched a program called TIP, or Turn In Pushers. Officials set up a phone line that residents could call anonymously to report anyone using, selling or handling illegal drugs in any way. Callers were given a code number, and when they heard that the suspect they reported was arrested they could call back and give that code to have reward money placed anywhere they liked.

Enrollment in Butts County Schools was listed at 2,592 students as of August 31, 1972.

In a run-off election held August 29, 1972 Barney Wilder was elected sheriff over incumbent Hugh Polk by a vote of 1,519 to 1,511.

"Barney Wilder was another great public servant," said Walter Carmichael in 2009. "He served as s sheriff and did a great job. He had a sixth sense for law enforcement. He would just show up when something was getting robbed. Talk about public service: when he got out of the sheriff's office, they got him in the road department. He was great at anything he did. And if he had to take a shovel out and clean up a ditch, he had no problem with that. He was a real public servant."

"Barney Wilder was my buddy," said Bobby Stephens in 2010. "He would do anything for you, but don't cross him. He was short in stature, but he was tough as nails. And if you wanted to outrun him [in a car] - forget it. You think [Sheriff] Gene Pope's a bad driver? He ain't even in the class with Barney Wilder."

In September 1972, Dr. Robert L. Culpepper moved into an office on North Oak Street to practice medicine.

David Paschael Settle passed away on September 17, 1972 at Piedmont Hospital. In his will, Settle bequeathed $200,000 to the Van Deventer Memorial Scout Foundation. The gift was a result of Settle's longstanding affection and regard for the youth of Butts County, and his friendship with Hampton L. Daughtry, who originated the Van Deventer Foundation.

"Although he was never lavish in his expression on most subjects, he did take a deep interest in the Youth Program and looked on it with much favor," said Daughtry after the passing of his friend. "Never did I realize to just what an extent until I was informed of his most bountiful generosity in contributing to the capital structure in the Van Deventer Foundation. It is a great tribute to the people of Jackson and Butts County and will be reflected in future generations down through the years.

"We all have hopes that in some way we may leave our footprints in the sands of time when the one great scorer comes to write beside our name," Daughtry continued. "This he has done in full measure. Jackson has lost a great citizen with the passing of David Settle."

In the city primary held October 6, 1972, Bobby Mackey defeated incumbent Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. by 31 votes, 544 to 513. In the race for the Second Ward seat on the Council, W. D. (Dick) Pope defeated incumbent C. M. Daniel, Jr. by 604 votes to 425 votes. W. O. Ball won reelection to the Council by 537 votes to 465 votes over Gerald E. Davis. These winners officially won office after the November 1 election in which only 71 people voted.

"Of course that was the same time you had the school merger and the little civil unrest that you had here, little demonstrations and the boycott," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "The boycott was what put Bobby Mackey in office as mayor. He became mayor with the Black support. He was running the little convenience store where the bus station was. Bobby was one of the stores that donated to the boycott cause. That sort of crystalized his support when he ran for mayor."

Shots were fired on October 13, 1972 between O. C. Stodghill and Jimmy Lee Jester, though no one was injured. The shooting took place at a West Third Street service station, and both men were charged with discharging firearms in the city.

On October 16, 1972, the mayor and council adopted an ordinance pertaining to structures deemed to be nuisances. In order to be declared a nuisance, the structure had to be abandoned for as long as three months without occupancy, or left standing in a rotting or decaying condition without any visible attempt to recondition or repair, or having uncut grass or weeds, or certified by the Jackson Fire Chief as unsafe and constituting a fire trap, or certified by the County Sanitarian as constituting a health hazard. If, after proper notification of any of these violations, the problem is not fixed the ordinance allowed the city to demolish the structure at the owner's expense.

Arson was suspected in at least one of the two fires that struck Jackson on November 1, 1972. A vacant structure at 345 North McKibben Street caught fire and suffered minor damage, but firefighters reported smelling the heavy odor of gasoline when they arrived on the scene just after 9:30 p.m. A few minutes later another fire was set in an old car seat on the lot of Coleman Garage not far away.

JHS RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1972
JACKSON – 19, Rockdale – 7
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS – 7
JACKSON – 18, Henry County – 0
Jackson – 0, PUTNAM COUNTY – 13
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 17
JACKSON – 26, Lamar County – 0
Jackson – 18, CARROLLTON – 33
JACKSON – 6, Morrow – 3
Jackson – 6, CENTRAL CARROLLTON – 18
JACKSON – 14, Stone Mountain – 12

Lorene Brown, a 69-year-old woman, was killed when the home she was staying in on West College Street caught fire. Her husband, Ben Brown, an amputee, was pulled from the home by Coach Joe Davis, who was one of the first people to arrive on the scene that morning. Fire Chief W. L. (Cotton) Vaughn said he believed the fire began on a sofa in the living rooms, and that the couple's nephew – who was in the house at the time – spotted the flames first and raised the alarm.

Beginning at the end of November 1972, American Mills switched to three-day work weeks, which meant employees worked three 12-hour shifts during the week. The shifts each employee worked rotated. Employees still received the pay they received previously for 40 hours of work. The plan also provided one week's paid vacation every two months, or six weeks per year.

"During the Summer times I worked at American Mills," said Ben Dover during an interview in 2010. "They had a work to school program there. So me and a bunch of guys such as Joe Brown and Hugh Bond and Hugh Glidewell and the Duke boys worked together in the shipping department of American Mills. They made women's and children's underwear for Sears & Roebuck, J. C. Penny and F. W. Woolworth's. Some of them went on to work with American Mills once they got out [of college]."

The fabric storage room at American Mills was struck by a two-and-a-half hour fire on December 1, 1972 that destroyed 250,000 pounds of finished fabric. Fire fighting equipment from Griffin and Barnesville also responded to the blaze, which struck at about noon. Work resumed as normal on Monday, December 4, 1972.

At the end of December 1972 a new city parking lot was being prepared on a vacant lot on North Oak Street. Gravel was put down, and parking was free.

City Clerk M. L. Powell reported that in the year 1972, the city issued 18 building permits for new homes, a decrease from 19 new homes in 1971.

1973

Two young men from Flovilla, Ronnie Philip Preston and Daniel Lamar Thorn, were charged with the murder of Grady T. Smith and the aggravated assault of Jason Coleman. The incidents occurred on December 26, 1972 after the four men went drinking in the woods near Flovilla. It is believed that an argument between the two older and two younger men developed, which led Preston and Thorn to burn and beat the two older men. Both victims were found in a blood spattered car parked at the Preston home early the next morning. Smith was a resident of Oakland Circle in Jackson.

The cause of Smith's death was labeled as "aspiration of stomach contents," meaning he choked on his own vomit, according to the Georgia State Crime Lab. Preston and Thorn admitted to "roughing up" the two men, but said on the drive back to Preston's home, Smith became sick and had to get out of the car where he vomited. As a result, Judge Donald Montgomery reduced the charge from murder to voluntary manslaughter.

Due to increased regulations on ambulance providers across the State of Georgia, three funeral homes in Jackson – Haisten, Howard and Trimier – announced that as of January 1, 1973 they would no longer offer ambulance services. Only Sherrell Funeral Home, operated by Butts County Coroner John A. Sherrell vowed to continue its ambulance operation.

On January 1, 1973, the three-member Butts County Board of Commissioners approved a zoning ordinance for unincorporated Butts County. It adopted a comprehensive zoning plan and map for the county on February 3, 1973. One month later, the Board appointed Kenneth Welch as Zoning Administrator and created a five-member Board of Zoning Appeals.

Lisa Browning was named STAR Student of Jackson High School by the Butts County Jaycees during a banquet on January 30, 1973. Browning named Nancy Houghtaling as her STAR Teacher. The Jaycees also named Harold "Doc" McMichael as its Young Man of the Year.

JHS RED DEVILS BASKETBALL 1973
Jackson – 60, GREENVILLE - 60
Jackson – 61, BIBB TECH – 76
Jackson
Jackson
Jackson
Jackson
Jackson

Jackson – 54, CENTRAL TALBOTTON – 95
Jackson, LAMAR COUNTY
Jackson – 55, HARRIS COUNTY – 72
JACKSON – 57, Henry County – 53
Jackson – 46, ROCKDALE COUNTY – 84
Jackson – 62, HARRIS COUNTY – 68
JACKSON – 85, Morgan County – 74
Jackson – 56, MORGAN COUNTY – 75

An argument over the Joe Quarry-Ron Lyle heavyweight fight on February 9, 1973 led to the shooting death of Walter Stodghill of McKibben Street. The local fight took place in the year of a house on Glenn Street and resulted in Stodghill being shot in the chest with a .38 caliber pistol by Kelly Price of Newton County.

On February 9 and 10, 1973, Butts County received a record snowfall of seven to eight inches. Many residents recalled the snowfalls of January 1936 and January 1940, but those totals fell two and three inches below the storm of 1973. Even as far back as 1899, a record snowfall in this community was approximately four inches.

The snow began falling at 10:30 a.m. on February 9 and did not stop until noon on February 10. Many businesses did not open on February 10, and some 1,400 cars were stranded when I-75 shut down.

Early on the morning of February 16, 1973, two armed men robbed McIntosh State Bank of an undisclosed sum of money. The crime began when a cashier, Ronnie Wells, was the first person to arrive at the bank. A man with a gun approached and ordered him to open the bank's door. Once inside the robber asked Wells questions about bank employees and procedures. When the second bank employee, Mary Ann Stevenson, arrived a second armed man joined the robbery and forced all subsequent arriving employees into the lounge. Due to the nature of the questions asked by the men, officials believe they had cased the bank for a month. One of the robbers was disguised as a woman in wig and skirt – despite a full beard – and the other wore a white plastic mask.

When Joe B. Taylor, Executive Vice President of the bank, arrived, he was forced to write the combination of the vault. Wells was then forced to open the vault where the robbers helped themselves to large sums of currency. The robbers then locked the 12 employees in the vault and left the scene. The next employee to arrive, Martha Pulliam, realized something was wrong and called police. Chief W. L. "Cotton" Vaughn arrived quickly and helped Pulliam open the vault and let the prisoners out after 15 minutes inside.

The entire robbery took from 8:03 to 8:50 a.m.

The Azalea Garden Club was formed on March 12, 1973. Charter members were: Marjory O'Quinn, Linda Dunn, Betty Fay Singley, Jan Black, Ruth Mitchell, Betty Lewis, Elizabeth Carter, Susannah Deaver, Ethel Ault and Mary Nell Robertson.

JHS LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1973
Jackson, GREENVILLE
Jackson – 49, BIBB TECH – 53
JACKSON - 58, Henry County - 29
JACKSON - 69, Monticello – 32
Jackson – 54, BIBB TECH – 55
JACKSON – 66, Central Talbotton – 58
JACKSON – 51, Lamar County - 40
JACKSON
JACKSON
JACKSON
JACKSON – 48, Harris County – 22
JACKSON - 44, Monticello - 32
JACKSON - 44, Lamar County - 40
JACKSON - 78, Newnan – 56
JACKSON – 39, Henry County – 30
JACKSON – 42, Rockdale County - 21
JACKSON – 67, Morgan County – 60
JACKSON – 45, Harris County – 23
Jackson – 61, MORGAN COUNTY – 71
JACKSON – 45, Rockmart – 35
Jackson – 47, HARALSON – 64
Jackson – 22, BERRIEN COUNTY – 71

The team won the sub-region title, and advanced to the state playoffs, which Haralson won over Berrien County.

During his State of the City address on April 3, 1973, Jackson Mayor Bobby Mackey announced that the city and county had agreed on a county-wide water system. He also said two new sewer plants – the Southern Plant located approximately two miles south of Jackson just west of Watkins Park & Pool Road and the North Plant located one mile northeast of the city – were being built at a cost of about $900,000. Of that amount $658,000 was paid for with a grant. Each site was 23 acres in size.

A new water plant and water system was also proposed for 23 acres of land near the Georgia Diagnostic & Classification Center. The city was to provide water to the center with this plant, and county lines were to be allowed to tap onto city lines to extend water service to the unincorporated county. The city was to provide and install such lines, and the county was to maintain them. The city would in turn charge new customers whatever rates it set.

Mayor Mackey added that the city would float $800,000 in bonds to cover the cost of these projects, and a 12-acre storage plant.

Mackey also announced the formation of a county-wide fire protection service agreed upon by the city and county. Both governments were to split the cost of a new $14,000 tank truck, which would respond to calls in the city and in the county.

On Sunday, April 22, 1973, members of the First Baptist Church of Jackson broke ground on their new $800,000 church building on Highway 16 West. At the same time, the Jackson United Methodist Church was in the midst of a $250,000 renovation to its building with a new rook, sanctuary and Gothic front.

"Aunt Mildred [Weaver] was one of the best people in the world," said Luke Weaver in 2009. "I've heard Tom Webb tell the story that when the Baptist Church was being built that Uncle Pliny [Weaver] wrote down that he'd be able to give a certain amount of dollars to First Baptist. Mildred said, 'well, you know you're going to need to give that much to the Methodist Church, too.' She went to the Methodist Church. He was Baptist. She was Methodist. But it was share and share alike. Whatever he gave to the Baptist Church went to the Methodist Church, too."

"I was chairman of the building committee that built the new First Baptist," recalled Merrell Price in a 2008 interview. "We were going to build first stage would be the fellowship hall and the educational part and leave off the sanctuary. Well, through Pliny Weaver he [Hamp Daughtry] heard about it and how it was going to cost $325,000. He told Pliny to tell the church that he would put in half of it if the church would put in the other half. That's what happened. He payed for half of the sanctuary, and put in a $60,000 organ also. So he has done a lot for the people of Butts County."

The body of Henry Galloway, a 21-year-old parachute instructor employed for only a few days at the Greene County Parachute Center on County Line Road in Butts County, fell some 4,000 feet and landed only a few feet from the County Line Baptist Church's cemetery. The instructor's primary and secondary chutes failed to open, and the impact killed him. The parachute center opened earlier in 1973 off Highway 23 near Jenkinsburg.

The Jackson High School Red Devil baseball team won the Region 5-A championship in May 1973 when it swept Carrollton in a best two out of three game series. Greg Allen and Andy Crumbley were the winning pitchers.

"I went to Gordon Military College [in 1971] and was working at [WJGA] radio station and making a dollar an hour, and that was actually a lot of money back then," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "I didn't think I could afford to go off and lose my job. I was doing play-by-play for sports. It actually worked out pretty well for me because my second year at Gordon my name came up number 25 in the draft lottery in the midst of the Vietnam War. They were only taking 75 people that year. The only deferment they were giving back then was if you were in military school, so I actually got a deferment. A young man in town shared my birthday and they actually stopped the draft a week before he was supposed to be called. So I got lucky and didn't have to go to Vietnam.

"After I finished at Gordon [Military College in 1973], I was offered a four-year scholarship to go to a four-year military college," said Brown. "But I turned it down because of my job. The Shapards had sold the station to Slim Williamson from Royston. He offered to make

me manager of the radio station, and I was making more money than I could have made with a four-year college education. I stayed there until 1973, and that's when I went into the insurance business."

A second fire within four hours completely gutted the home of Mr. & Mrs. Alven Watts at 206 Valley Road on May 26, 1973. The first fire started soon after midnight from unattended grease on a stove, and was extinguished by volunteer firemen. The second fire erupted a few hours later, and by the time firefighters arrived the house was engulfed in flames. No one was injured in the blazes.

On May 28, 1973, Indian Spring Academy held its graduation ceremony with 14 seniors. Maria Todd was Valedictorian and Brenda Jenkins was Salutatorian.

On May 31, 1973, 129 seniors graduated from Jackson High School. Don McKibben was named Valedictorian, and Diane Wells was named Salutatorian.

Richard W. Watkins, Jr. announced his resignation as chairman of the Jackson-Butts County Zoning Board effective June 1, 1973. His cited the increased need for studying zoning issues as a reason for his leaving the Board, which he served on since it was created in 1960.

In June 1973, city electric users found out their rates were going up. According to J. H. Rooks, Electric Superintendent of the City, the increased was required following a 26 percent rate increase in the city's wholesale rates from the Georgia Power Company. Rooks said the increase passed on to customers would be between 10 and 12 percent depending on usage.

On June 18, 1973, the City of Jackson and the Butts County Water Authority signed a contract to provide water to and beyond I-75 at the Highway 36 interchange, including a tunnel under the interstate so water could be delivered to customers on the west side of the road.

On June 27, 1973, a controlled burn leveled the old Jackson Ice Corporation building, a landmark in the city since it opened in 1920. During its long history, the facility had provided millions of pounds of ice to help citizens keep food from spoiling before the invention of the electric refrigerator, and was also used by farmers as a place to store meat during warm Winters. The building had stood vacant since the company closed, and was burned to make room for the expansion of local industry.

The Carmichael House, reported to be the finest Victorian home between Atlanta and Miami, was opened to the public on June 28, 1973 following its restoration by Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Carmichael. The home was built in 1897-1898. Tours were sponsored by the Jackson Garden Club, which was formed in 1925 as an offshoot of a sewing club.

In July 1973, the city purchased a new 1,250-gallon tanker for the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department at a cost of $13,000. The Ford vehicle was equipped with a 390 engine, air brakes,

and was all white with aluminum reflectors. The cost of the truck was split between the county and the city, as the truck was to be used for answering calls throughout Butts County and the city, but Fire Chief W. L. "Cotton" Vaughn asked residents not to call the department about forest fires unless a house was in imminent danger. At the time there were 20 members of the fire department.

John L. Coleman, prominent businessman and City Councilman from the Fourth Ward, was badly injured on July 29, 1973 when a car he was working on fell off the jack, pinning him underneath until it could be removed. He was reported to be in fair condition at Piedmont Hospital afterwards.

A city ordinance adopted on August 6, 1973 made it unlawful to loiter between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. on the Butts County Courthouse square or on the streets within one block thereof.

As students returned to Butts County schools in September 1973, School Superintendent Bill Jones reported a student population of 2,617 across the four schools, an increase of five students over the previous year.

In September 1973, the Butts County Board of Education took an option on the REA building on the corner of North Mulberry and First streets. The total cost of the building and property was $75,000, of which $10,000 was paid for through an earmark from Governor Jimmy Carter. Superintendent Bill Jones said the BOE planned to use the facility as a kindergarten for 150-160 students.

Between September 16 and 17, 1973 the Jackson Police Department and Butts County Sheriff's Office worked together to carry out raids on numerous residences that resulted in several arrests on drug charges. The raids were made possible by the undercover work of JPD Assistant Chief Wendell Cook, who was supposedly fired for using drugs. Between his "firing" on August 15 and September 17, Cook made drug purchases from eight individuals.

Samuel L. Johnson was named Butts County Teacher of the Year on September 20, 1973. Johnson came to Jackson to teach in 1958, and taught seventh grade science.

At its October 1, 1973 meeting, the Jackson City Council reduced its ad valorem tax rate by five mills from 15 to 10 mills. Jackson used 40 percent of the appraised value of property compared to 30 percent in the past in determining an owner's assessment. Mayor Bobby Mackey said that although the mill rate was reduced, it was expected that the amount of taxes collected would be about the same due to the new appraisal rate.

A freak accident on October 6, 1973 severely injured several local youths and left Andy Crumbley, a senior tailback for the Red Devils who had set a single game rushing record of 262 yards the night before, paralyzed. According to School Superintendent Bill Jones, Crumbley's uncle, six young men from Jackson were traveling south on I-75 behind a truck carrying Army

freight. When the truck came to the Central Avenue bridge, the freight struck the overpass and was knocked into the path of the approaching car. The resulting accident demolished the front portion of the car and sent the passengers to various Atlanta hospitals.

In the city Democratic primary on October 12, 1973, all three incumbent councilmen were re-nominated: John L. Coleman, John Robert Pulliam and J. Dawson Bryant. The men all won re-election during the October general election.

"It was because of the Jaycees [that I ran for office]," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. "I became involved in Jaycees' politics on the local, regional and statewide level. Our club was active in all the regional and statewide offices and we would work on their campaigns. We just loved politics and the excitement of the campaign. In 1973, I ran for City Council against the incumbent, John L. Coleman and lost. It was an enlightening experience. We didn't have a clue what we were doing. You had to live in your district, but people all over the city could vote for you. So you had to campaign city-wide."

Phillips would seek election again in 1985.

On November 1, 1973, Mayor Bobby Mackey announced that the city had completed six miles worth of paving city streets. He said $30,000 in local funds and $24,000 in state funds were expended paving parts of Brownlee Road, Park Avenue, Woodland Way, Fairground Street, Watson Street, Curry Street, Seventh Street, Pittman Street, and North Oak Street.

Mayor Mackey said Alabama Boulevard was also about to be extended 1.5 miles to Stark Road to accommodate a new industry locating in the city soon.

On November 2, 1973, ground was broken on a new Holcombe Armature Company plant, which would employ between 20 and 25 people to rebuild automotive armatures for generators and starters and related components. Jackson Mayor Bobby Mackey and Maurice Carmichael, chairman of the Development Authority of Jackson, made announcement of the new industry. The 8,000-square-fot building was slated to open in 1974.

A destructive fire on November 8, 1973 severely damaged the home of Rev. & Mrs. B. F. McKibben at 826 Chestnut Drive. According to Chief W. L. "Cotton" Vaughn, the home was 75 burned, and the fire probably started in the kitchen. No one was injured during the fire. Vaughn asked residents to stay away from fires as onlookers and parked cars made it difficult for fireman and their trucks to reach house fires.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1973</u>
Jackson – 12, ROCKDALE COUNTY – 26
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS – 13
JACKSON – 16, Henry County - 6
Jackson – 12, PUTNAM COUNTY – 39
JACKSON – 38, Manchester – 14
Jackson – 8, LAMAR COUNTY – 21

Jackson – 7, CARROLLTON – 30
Jackson – 0, MORROW – 21
Jackson – 19, CENTRAL OF CARROLLTON – 21
Jackson – 6, STONE MOUNTAIN – 7

In an effort to conserve energy at a time of nationwide crisis in November 1973, the mayor and council of Jackson said in order to continue picking up trash receptacles twice a week, residents were asked to take the receptacles to the street for faster, easier collection by city workers. Taking the cans to the curb would be mandated beginning in 1974, said Mayor Bobby Mackey. The following week, he announced he was rescinding that request due to unfavorable responses, and the city would continue twice a week pick up as long as possible. The mayor also reset the hours for city hall to 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. instead of opening at 830 a.m.

In addition, the annual Christmas lighting contest, sponsored by the Garden Club Council and the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, was cancelled in order to conserve electricity. The city only lit its holiday street lights from 7 to 9 p.m. each night.

At the same time, Mackey announced that the city had changed the city ordinance on speeding so that fines for speeding became a flat $35 plus $1 per mile over the speed limit up to 60 miles per hour.

Announcement was made on November 26, 1973 that the city would be forced to raise it electric rates again due to increases in the amount the city was charged at the wholesale level. He increase of approximately 30 percent took effect on December 12, 1973. The mayor – as well as Governor Carter and President Nixon – advised citizens to turn off unnecessary lights, reduce the temperature of their hot water heaters, and use smaller wattage bulbs.

Maurice W. Carmichael, Jackson insurance executive and widely known civic and religious leader, was named Butts County's Man of the Year for 1973 at a Jackson Kiwanis Club banquet held on December 11, 1973. The award had previously been presented to Hampton L. Daughtry (1969), the late Robert Park Newton (1970), P. H. Weaver (1971), and Doyle Jones, Jr. (1972).

After 51 years as its agent, T. E. Robison retired on December 31, 1973 and the Jackson Standard Oil Plant was closed.

1974

To start off 1974, the Jackson Police broke up a bicycle theft ring that had been active for months in the city when they arrested five boys ages nine to 11. They were stealing bikes, stripping them, repainting them and put new wheels on old frames to elude identification.

During the meeting of the City Council on January 7, 1974, Garland and Garland was chosen as the City Attorneys, and Franklin Freeman was named City Recorder. City employees were also given a five percent cost of living increase to their salaries.

The mayor's annual salary was $2,000 plus $1,000 for expenses and a utility discount of up to $30 per month. Councilmen received $1,000 per year in salary, $500 for expenses, and up to a $30 utility discount per month.

A Cessna airplane crashed in a field off Highway 36 East near Four Points Road, killing three members of a South Carolina family. A three-year-old in the plane was seriously injured and pulled from the burning wreckage by 17-year-old Jackson High School student Joe Ingram.

Larry Brownlee was named STAR Student at Jackson High School by the Butts County Jaycees during a banquet on January 29, 1974. Brownlee named Mrs. Roy Prosser as his STAR Teacher, the fourth time she had been so honored.

Starting with bills received in February 1974, electric customers in the City of Jackson were paying a higher rate for their power. According to Mayor Robert F. Mackey and W. D. Pope, Jr., chairman of the Jackson Electric Department, the increase was necessary in the wake of an increased rate from Georgia Power, from which the city purchased its power. The minimum charge for residential use increased from $2 per month to $2.50.

On February 8, 1974, three Jackson policemen – Fred Moore, Bill Taylor, and Eddie James Berry - presented written resignations to Mayor Robert Mackey at his place of business, stating they could no longer work with Officer Michael Kanes for "more or less personal reasons." The Mayor and Council met with all four police officers individually and offered Kanes a chance to resign or be fired. Kanes resigned on the spot, and the other three men returned to work.

JHS LADY DEVILS BASKETBALL 1974

The team finished the season with a record of 19 wins and 3 losses, a record-breaking season according to Coach Iwana McGee. The team scored the most points ever in a single game with 95, and Regina Lawson tied the record for most points scored in a game with 35. They also won the South 5A sub-regional title.

A stubborn blaze on March 9, 1974 did considerable damage to the Henderson Youth Center where Head Start was being held on McKibben Street. There were 33 children and staff members present when the fire broke out, but none were injured. The building and its contents were damaged by smoke and water, and were considered total losses. The center depended on funds provided by the Van Deventer Foundation.

Powerful winds struck Butts County on March 21, 1974 doing damage to every part of the community. Clocked at 80 miles per hour, the winds knocked out power to the City of Jackson, smashed plate glass windows in businesses downtown, and uprooted trees. One of the largest trees in the city – an oak tree on the J. T. Beckham property on West Third Street – was toppled by the storm. The press box and concession stand at the James Wallace Memorial Park

were blown away. Falling trees also damaged several cabins on Jackson Lake, and power was out throughout the county for as long as a day.

During his State of the City speech to the Jackson Kiwanis Club on April 16, 1974, Mayor Robert F. (Bobby) Mackey suggested that the consolidation of the city and county governments should be considered. He indicated that three city councilmen and three county commissioners already supported the idea of consolidation, which surprised the audience. The mayor said it would be beneficial to eliminate duplication of services, and that a consolidated government might qualify for more federal funds.

Mackey also said the city's new water treatment plant was large enough to supply water to the entire county. The plant cost an estimated $1.24 million, with $800,000 paid for with a bond, and the rest from city savings. He also noted that the city purchased 47 acres of land for the new plant and two new sewage treatment plants to be built.

In 1973, permits were issued for 45 new homes in the city, said the mayor.

The city's electric department was in the process of upping its voltage from 4200 KVA to 7200 KVA, made necessary by the addition of the Jackson Industrial Park.

Mackey also revealed that over the previous 15 months, all city employees had received a 25 to 30 percent salary increase. "I feel the city is getting more and better work done and has a smaller turnover in good personnel because of the increase in salary," he said.

On May 4, 1974, more than 1,000 people participated in the Walk for Mankind, a 20-mile route from Jackson High School to Indian Springs and up Brownlee Road. The event, sponsored by the Jackson Kiwanis Club, raised money to help the needy.

In May 1974, the Georgia Department of Natural resources voted to pay $54,000 for the historic Varner House, also known as the Indian Spring Hotel, and to spend another $150,000 on renovations to the property.

The Jackson High School Golf Team won the 5-A state title in May 7, 1974. It was the school's first such honor in golf. Members of the team competing in Jonesboro that day were: Keith Daniel, Billy Duke, Terry Duke and Johnny Morris. Joe Davis coached the team.

Three brothers died on May 8, 1974 when their car left Highway 36 and rolled down an embankment into the Tussahaw Creek. Killed were Aaron Conley, the driver who was age 19, and passengers Raymond Conley, age 8, and Craig Conley, age 3. Douglas Frost, a 26-year-old former resident of Worthville, saved a fourth boy, three-year-old Carlton Brewer. According to witnesses, all four made it out of the car after it hit the water, and were seen bobbing in the murky, yellow water before disappearing below the surface.

On May 30, 1974, Jackson High School graduated 130 seniors. Larry Brownlee was the class valedictorian, and Sharon Bankston was the salutatorian.

Indian Springs Academy held its graduation on May 30, 1974 with Valedictorian Cynthia Kay Mangham and Salutatorian Sallye Martin.

"I came to Jackson with my uncle [Rufus Adams] here at this store [the Adams-Briscoe Seed Company, in 1974]," said Jimmy Adams in 2009 in his office at the seed company on East Second Street. "When I came to work for him, it was understood that I would eventually buy him out or take over his interest in the business, which was the incentive for me to come over here. And Uncle Rufus was trying to plan for the future, he wanted someone to work toward taking over when he retired.

"Mr. [Everette] Briscoe and my uncle were still partners here and [Briscoe's son] Douglas [Briscoe] came back briefly and worked in the business for a short period of time," Adams continued, "but then decided that there was something he was more interested in doing. So he left the business, and once Douglas Briscoe ceased to be a part of the business, or ceased to have interest in the business, Mr. Briscoe decided to sell his interest out to my uncle [in about 1982]. And that's when I bought in and then became partners with my uncle here at this location."

In the middle 1970s, Mike Riley worked at Fashion Pillows and Fashion Wicker. "Fashion Wicker was across the street from Fashion Pillows [on Lyons Street]," he said in 2009. "Fashion Industries started importing wicker furniture from Yugoslavia. Came in on rail cars here. It was a different division. They sold it to Sears stores. The pillow factory made the cushions for the wicker furniture. Across the street, we painted it. It would come in natural, and we would either paint it white or put clear lacquer on it so it would stay natural. We had a paint shop in there.

"We had two Yugoslavians there," according to Riley. "They came and lived here. Fashion Industries put them up in an apartment. They spoke a little English. Their job was to repair the broken furniture that came in on the rail cars. They had wooden reeds and would sit there weaving it in to replace it."

In the Summer of 1974, the Holcombe Armature Plant on the Stark Post Road in Jackson began reassembling rotors shipped here from all across the country.

In 1974, George Tate was named principal of Jackson High School. He had been principal of Henderson Middle School for the past three years.

On August 26, 1974, Mayor Robert F. (Bobby) Mackey and Councilman W. O. Ball announced they would not seek reelection in the October 4 city primary. Ben B. Garland and Richard W. Watkins, Jr. qualified to run for the mayor's office, and speculation was rampant that former mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. would enter the race as well. Mackey said he would not run again due to "the financial strain and time consuming job the office of mayor requires."

On behalf of the Jackson-Butts County Recreation Commission, the city accepted a deed for 30 acres owned by Avondale Mills in September 1974. The site was to be used as a park and recreation area. At the same time, the company renewed a four-year lease for the Wallace Memorial Park.

On December 13, 1974, ground was broken on the new park, with plans for three new athletic fields and four tennis courts.

In September 1974, work was nearing completion on the Jackson-Butts County Day Care Center located in an old house at 167 McKibben Street. The facility was to provide childcare and education to children of welfare mothers who are working or continuing their education. The city provided gravel and widened the street leading to the facility. The center's first year budget of $64,000 was to come from 75 percent federal funds, 12.5 state funds, and 12.5 percent from local contributions.

The Rev. B. F. James of Zion Baptist Church put up $8,000 of his own money to get the project started, and saw his four-year-old dream come true when the center opened in the middle of December 1974. It served 30 children.

"I would like for the community as a whole to become concerned enough to know what this center is all about," said Rev. James.

In the city primary on October 4, 1974, former mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. defeated local attorney Ben B. Garland 602 votes to 388 votes to return as the city's chief executive officer. Allen T. Byars won the Second Ward seat on the City Council, and Roy D. Goff won the Third Ward seat on the Council. Slightly over 50 percent of the city's registered voters cast ballots. Only 123 people cast ballots in the general election on November 6.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1974</u>
JACKSON – 36, Stockbridge – 0
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS – 14
Jackson – 12, MONTICELLO – 14
JACKSON – 13, Manchester – 0
Jackson – 3, MORGAN COUNTY - 7
Jackson – 16, CARROLLTON – 35
JACKSON – 27, Lamar County – 8
JACKSON – 34, Harris County – 20
Jackson – 14, HENRY COUNTY – 20
Jackson – 20, UPSON COUNTY – 33

Jerry Andrews, an 18-year-old from Jackson, was killed when his car was struck by a Norfolk-Southern freight train on the tracks by the Jackson depot on November 16, 1974.

Jackson got a light dusting of snow on December 1, 1974, but no accidents or outages were reported.

On December 3, 1974, the city's new water treatment plant on Kinard Mill Road went online. The land for the facility was donated by the State Board of Corrections, and the city ran a line from the plant to the nearby Diagnostic & Classification Prison.

The plant was operated 24 hours a day by Gerald "Buck" Stewart and a staff of four – Theodore Patterson, John Allen, Travis Harper and Wright Hicks. The facility pumped water from the Towaliga River into a settling pond that doubled as a reservoir.

"This river has never been low enough so that we would not be able to get enough to supply us," said M. L. Powell, City Clerk and Treasurer.

Powell said most people do not realize that he city had been dumping raw sewage into small creeks in the county for years. "The EPA has been fussing at us for several years to do something about this," he explained. "In 1972, when W. O. Ball was on the city council, we applied for a grant from H.U.D. We already had some savings set aside. Then Nixon trimmed the funds for HUD, and we had to float a bond issue." Some $800,000 in bonds were issued at the time.

"Some people are going to fuss about Jackson spending this much money to get these new plants," Powell said, "but EPA requires us to do something about this. When we got a 75 percent grant from EPA, all the city had to do was raise 25 percent of the funds."

The funds were used to build the new water treatment plant and two sewer treatment plants. The latter two were located on McCaskill Drive on the southside of the city and off Alabama Boulevard on the north side of the city. Once complete, the city would do away with its sewage pumping station as the wastewater would flow by gravity to the new facilities.

The Jackson Kiwanis Club named David P. Ridgeway, Sr. its Man of the Year on December 17, 1974.

1975

Two new members of the Jackson City Council and a new mayor took their seats on January 1, 1975. Back in the mayor's office was C. B. Brown, Jr., who helped guide the city in its greatest period of prosperity and growth in a 10-year consecutive tenure as mayor. Councilmen Allen Byars and Dr. Roy Goff were also inducted for two-year terms. Neither man had held office before.

"We literally did not have enough money to pay our bills," said Roy Goff of the city's financial situation when he joined the City Council in 1975. "Those were some tough times on the Jackson City Council. It took a concentrated effort by the Council to get us out of a deficit budget. We were able to reduce [our] debt service and save $1 million over the lifetime of the debt. This [was] a real savings."

Schools opened two days later than planned from the Christmas vacation on January 6, 1975 due to a mild flu epidemic in the area.

Due to the general economic condition, the mayor and Council sought ways to cut city expenses in January 1975. At a meeting with city employees that month, M. L. Powell, the city's Clerk & Treasurer, announced he would retire on March 1, 1975. Powell had served in that capacity for six years. The mayor and Council also announced that several employees' service

with the city would be terminated in the hopes that the economic outlook would improve and they could be rehired.

By the end of January 1975, the City of Jackson was using one million gallons of water per day, a sure sign of growth. This was in part due to the city's new water treatment plant beside the Towaliga River.

According to Water Plant Superintendent Gerald "Buck" Stewart, the city's old water plant near Box Factory Hill, could never meet the needs of the city in the early 1970s. "When they first built that plant out there, the city probably wasn't using 50,000 gallons of water a day," he said. "Most people had wells then. Many industries also had not been built at that time."

At the Jaycee's annual STAR Student Banquet on February 11, 1975, Kenny Norsworthy was named STAR Student. Norsworthy named mathematics teacher Geraldine Wright as his STAR Teacher.

During a State of the City speech to the Kiwanis Club on February 18, 1975, Councilman Roy Goff said the greatest number of complaints the city got at the time was for increases in electric bills. The increases were due, he said, to add-on charges granted to producers of electricity for the increased cost of producing electricity. This fee had increase from 85 cents per 1,000-kilowatt hours in January 1974 to $4.85 per 1000-kilowatt hours in December 1974.

For his part of the State of the City speech, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. was subdued. He explained that the city experienced a $91,402.85 deficit at the close of 1974, with an income of $1,259,239 and expenses of $1,350,642.

In the good news category, Mayor Brown pointed out that the gas system indebtedness was paid off, that a peak shaving plant was constructed, sewer lines were finished, water lines out Highway 36 had been laid to I-75, and that a joint City-County Recreation Park had been started.

Brown also noted that two new industries – Delta Tank Corporation and Holcomb Armature Company – had decided to locate in Jackson within the last 18 months.

The city had borrowed $1,300,000 for water and sewer projects, and was making payments of $11,000 per month on that amount.

Still, the mayor said, the city's budget for 1975 had been cut by $150,000 to $175,000. Payroll cuts totaled $70,000, with more cuts to come, he said.

On February 28, 1975, Delta Tank Corporation formally closed on a $900,000 loan from the Farmers Home Administration. The funds were to be used to build a new plant in Jackson's Industrial Park that would employee up to 200 males. The Butts County Chamber of Commerce hosted a luncheon at the Central Georgia EMC auditorium at which Maurice Carmichael, chairman of the Development Authority of Jackson, received the check from the FHA.

Construction of the 800,000-square-foot plant had begun several months earlier, and was nearly complete when the check arrived. The new plant was made necessary by a fire that destroyed the company's plant in Macon.

Jim Steward, vice president of the firm, said one of the reasons Delta chose to locate in Jackson was the tremendous interest in promoting industry evidenced by the Development Authority of Jackson, as well as the cooperation of city and county officials. Additionally, Jackson had "better availability of manpower, a good location due to the proximity of the railroad, plus the fine cooperation of the people of the community."

In February 1975, plans were announced for a sesquicentennial celebration in the county from June 30 through July 5. Dick O'Hara was named chairman of the centennial committee. Plans were to have skydiving, a parade, a street dance, greased pig chase, auction, ball, art show and handicraft exhibits. The men of the county were asked to grow beards for the occasion.

In March 1975, the mayor and county passed an ordinance restricting the use of parking spaces around the downtown square. The new rules, which took effect on May 1, 1975, allowed unrestricted parking on Sundays, holidays and from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. in spaces outfitted with parking meters. Otherwise, the parking meters had to be used. Parking permits were available at a cost of $2.50 per month for those that qualified for them.

In the 1970s, "the buildings [on the square] were full," recalled Jimmy Adams during a 2009 interview. "Now, as far as restaurants, people didn't eat out as much back then." He noted one exception: Cook's Lunchroom on East Second Street. Cook's "was always interesting," Adams said. "Mr. R.A. Cook – Al Cook's dad - he served. They worked long hours. They served breakfast, lunch and dinner there back in the old days. And we'd come in [to Adams-Briscoe Seed Company next door] early and go over there and get a bacon and egg sandwich or something for breakfast. About 10:30, Mr. Cook would start cleaning the grill off from breakfast so he could start cooking lunch.

"And I can remember now that he would, he must have used minced onions or something to clean his grill off, because his exhaust fan was blowing towards the warehouse, and the smell of cooking onions would just absolutely fill the air," Adams said with a smile. "And by eleven o'clock I couldn't stand it. I had to go get my lunch. We'd been loading trucks all day, and so it was time to go get something to eat. We would have to go get us a cheeseburger or some fries or a hot dog, chili cheese dog or something. He had those. We didn't have Burger King or McDonald's. I mean, that was the closest thing to fast food around here. I ate many a lunch there because it was handy."

"The largest grocery store in town was A&P, which was over near where Jimmy's Steakout is, in that area," said Adams. "And I really enjoyed shopping with Mr. Herbert there. He operated a good little small town grocery store. He operated a good business there for years. Webb's was on the other side of town. It was a little bit smaller grocery store than the A&P. What Piggly Wiggly is now was Giant Mart. But it had not been built back then. It was built later [in 1981]. And it was larger than the A&P, actually, when it went in."

As of April 1, 1975, electric customers in the city saw their bills increase 26 to 27 percent. This was the result of a new wholesale rate charged to the city by Georgia Power. Councilman Roy Goff asked citizens to try to use less power to lower their bills.

On April 2, 1975, Jackson and Butts County were deluged with nearly five inches of rainfall. Parts of Indian Springs State Park flooded, and many old timers could not remember a greater rainfall in such a short time.

In May 1975, the Jackson Red Devil baseball team won the Region 4-A title with a win over Chattanooga Valley.

The jobless rate in Butts County in May 1975 was 13.5 percent. There were 693 people unemployed out of a workforce of 5,135.

Janet Robison was named Valedictorian of the Jackson High School Class of 1975, and Patty O'Neal its Salutatorian. On May 30, 1975, 106 seniors graduated from JHS.

On June 3, 1975, the telephone marked its 100th birthday, and there were 5,656 of them in Jackson.

A juvenile was arrested and charged with calling in six bomb threats to Henderson Junior High School and four to Jackson High School from May 23 to May 27, 1975.

On July 5, 1975 the largest parade since the county's 100th anniversary in 1925 was held in Jackson. Many out-of-towners came to enjoy the festivities all day and night on the downtown square. The older generation of the county was impressed that the entire sesquicentennial celebration was planned and carried out by mostly a group of young men and women under age 30. Harry Lewis and Gail McLaurin served as co-chairmen of the celebration, and Dick O'Hara as general chairman. Gigi Leverette was the assistant chairman. Charlie Brown handled publicity, and Walter Carmichael and Charles Starr were in charge of the entertainment. Doug Briscoe chaired the arts and crafts show. Johnny Carter served as club chairman, and Kathy Morgan headed the poster committee.

"All the men grew beards," recalled Mack Davis. "They locked you up if you didn't grow a beard. It was a lot of fun. You dressed up in old costumes."

"Dick O'Hara probably deserves most of the credit for that," said Walter Carmichael of the sesquicentennial celebration. "He was the one who got it together. Harry Lewis was in on that and Gigi Leverette Hoard. Me and Harry and Dick went to Pennsylvania to pick up the fireworks. Dick almost didn't go to the fireworks because he didn't think many were going to show up. It took us 30 hours in my van, drove straight up there and straight back. We got pulled over in West Virginia when Dick was driving. He showed the officer a letter from Mayor [C. B.] Brown.

"Dick almost didn't go over there the first night," said Carmichael. "There was a thousand people over there [at the recreation department]. They had a good band up on the square that night. I think everybody had quite a good time. I had a good time.

"Before us," he continued, "Mr. Joe Brown, Sr., C. B. [Brown] and my cousin-in-law, Robert Jones, they were all were in the JCs. Lot of the people here in this community were a big part of the JCs. And back in the fifties they did what they called an Industrial Day. They brought a lot of people into town, had a big beauty pageant, dances. So when we got there in the '70s, it was kind of like we took over that thing."

On July 27, 1975 the congregation of the First Baptist Church held its first service in its new facility on Highway 16 West. The total cost of the building, not including furnishings, was $1,136,500.

When schools opened in Butts County in September 1975, enrollment was up, according to School Superintendent William Jones. The student population was 2,751 compared to 2,714 in 1974. Enrollment was up at Jackson High School and Henderson Junior High School, and down at Henderson Elementary School and Jackson Primary School.

During the city primary on October 3, 1975, three councilmen were unopposed for reelection. They were: J. Dawson Bryant in the First Ward, John L. Coleman of the Fourth Ward, and John Robert Pulliam of the Fifth Ward.

On October 5, 1975 the new Zion Baptist Church opened for services on the corner of Brownlee Road and Highway 36 West. The congregation had raised $27,000 for the building of this new facility, and moved from the old church on Benton Street.

At the end of October 1975 came word that the Poloron, a former manufacturer of mobile home manufacturer, had sold its old lot and buildings in the Jackson-Butts County Industrial Park to Fabral, which manufactured metal roofs and siding. In making the announcement, the firm said it expected to employee 20 people at its new Jackson plant.

On November 1, 1975, the home of Willie Crawford on Watkins Street burned to the ground. His five children were away attending church services when the fire broke out, and no one was injured.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1975</u>
JACKSON - 28, Stockbridge – 6
JACKSON – 9, Mary Persons – 7
JACKSON – 21, Monticello – 0
JACKSON – 23, Manchester – 0
JACKSON – 10, Morgan County – 0
Jackson – 0, CARROLLTON – 7
JACKSON – 14, Harris County – 6

JACKSON – 31, Henry County – 0
JACKSON – 31, Upson County – 7

At some point during 1975, the city purchased a sub-station from Georgia Power, which reduced the demand and cost of electricity to the city's customers. The city also joined the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, which supplied bulk electric power to participating cities.

"We were able to purchase electricity at a much less expensive rate," said Roy Goff of the city's participation in MEAG.

1976

As the year 1975 began, the mayor and Council felt the need to explain recent actions regarding city taxes. The millage rate for 1975 remained the same as it was in 1974, but the tax base changed as a result of the county's re-evaluation. In the city, the total 40 percent tax base figure for 1974 was $10,373,937. In 1975, that 40 percent figure grew to $11,382,206 due to the re-evaluation. For the year 1974, the Council reported, the city collected $103,729 in taxes. For 1975, it was projected to collect $113,822.

During his State of the City speech to the Jackson Kiwanis Club on February 3, 1975, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said the city was again operating in the black and even enjoyed a small surplus. He credited the five members of the city council with these accomplishments.

Income for the city in 1975 was $1,409,006, and the 1976 budget was set at $1,678,850. The cost of running the city in 1975 was $3,186 per day. In 1976, the projected cost per day was $4,599.

In 1975, the mayor said, the city purchased a new garbage truck and new police cars. It added 47 new electric customers. The city bought and installed 800 feet of two-inch water main, five miles of electric main, over 3,000 feet of six-inch water main, and 3,000 feet of two-inch gas main.

Mayor Brown also said there were 139 major crimes in the city during 1975, a 4,000 to 5,000 percent increase over the previous year. The police department also made 660 traffic cases and 139 DUI cases, and reported 131 traffic accidents during the year. Denny O'Neal, who was an employee of the police department, was going through detective training and would soon be made City Detective.

The mayor also announced the installation of a full time fire department for the city. Three full time firemen had been hired, and at least one of them manned the fire station 24 hours a day. Mayor Brown indicated that residents' home insurance rates should drop about 15 percent due to this change.

During 1975, the city also issued 49 building permits, and collected $94,271 in beer and wine taxes.

The mayor also announced that a bill was making its way through the General Assembly that would change the city's charter to basically make the mayor more responsible to the council. The measure was hoped, said Brown, to prevent such occurrences as have transpired in the past.

"I actually worked for the city in 1976," said Theodore Patterson in 2010. "I was working in Morrow and this position came open in the city and I never will forget my uncle, whose name was Oscar Watkins, was telling me about it. He said, 'If you could get on with the city, it may not pay you much to start out but you'd have good benefits and as time goes on you can work your way up.' So he talked me into, and I started working as a water treatment plant operator. At that time, the treatment plant was down Valley Road so I could almost walk to work. I worked 12-hour shifts from six o'clock in the evening and leave at six o'clock in the morning. I worked there until they built the new one off Highway 16. I worked there from 1974 until '77 or '78. I was still struggling money-wise, but the job was easy at the city. Basically once I filled the tanks up at night, I could just sit there. You could sleep if you wanted to as long as those tanks didn't go dry. I was getting enough rest that the supervisor at the plant I had been working at [in Morrow] asked me if I could come work part time. So I did.

"The city was good to me," Patterson recalled. "Buck Stewart was my supervisor and taught me a lot. I learned a lot, and thoroughly enjoyed it. I'd probably still be working for the city. The benefits were good, but the money was slow. So I had to find something else."

At the annual STAR Student banquet held on February 17, 1976, the Jackson Jaycees named Robert Merritt the STAR Student at Jackson High School. Merritt named Howard Janke his STAR Teacher.

In March 1976, the city and county organized the Jackson-Butts County Rescue Squad to handle emergency situations. At the same time, the city and county divorced themselves from the State Civil Defense effort due to the amount of paperwork required. The new rescue unit was to respond as a unit to missing persons, drownings, local disasters and any other time they are required. A 1,200-gallon tanker truck used by the county was refurbished to suit the squad's needs.

At the end of March 1976, the Butts County Board of Education released a new code governing the dress and personal grooming of students. Students were not allowed to wear emblems or symbols that disrupted or interfered with schooling or distracted other students. School staff was to determine if an individual student's appearance or manner of dress presented a clear and present danger to the student's health and safety, or disrupted class, or created classroom disorder. Also included in the list of prohibited clothing and grooming styles was that "a profuse growth of hair on the chin, below the lower lip and below each earlobe, which was not neatly trimmed," was prohibited.

In April 1976, the Cooperative Extension Service polled all downtown merchants to determine if there was sufficient interest among them in a revitalization program for the downtown area.

A five-year-old from Jackson named Donovan Sullivan was killed on April 27, 1976 when he stepped from a school bus and ran into the path of an oncoming truck on Brookwood Avenue. The driver of the Head Start program's bus was cited for driving with defective equipment – the flashing red lights on the bus were not working – and for driving with an invalid driver's license. The driver of the truck was not charged.

Faced with a 35 percent increase in the wholesale cost of electric energy, the City of Jackson passed on a 20 percent electric rate increase to its retail customers in May 1976. The City Council also began studying whether or not larger industrial and commercial customers should be charged a demand rate for power.

On May 11, 1976, the Jackson High School track team won its second sub-region championship in a row with an upset victory over Carrollton at Carrollton.

On May 31, 1976, all 135 members of the Jackson High School class of 1976 held their graduation ceremony. Julia Ann Ridgeway was named Valedictorian, and Robert Douglas Merritt was named Salutatorian.

At the end of May 1976, Avondale Mills gave an eight-acre tract of land to Butts County to be the site of a training center for the mentally handicapped.

"Gerald [Davis] was a salesman at Polk Tire for 19 years from 1957 until 1976," said his wife, Mary Davis, in 2008. "And things were changing there. He could see the writing on the wall. So then, he and "Nub" Cook wanted to rent Whitaker's building where they first made boats on [Highway] 36 just across the railroad. They were sure the Small Business Administration would loan them the money to get started. And Gerald would come home very elated about things [Polk Tire manager] Jim [Robertson] promised him, standing in the middle of the woods, very elated. And there I was standing outside the woods. I said, 'It'll never happen.' And I knew it. I could see the woods for the trees, but he couldn't.

"Well, Jim found out about "Nub" and Gerald and made it rough," Davis continued. "And Gerald being the honest man he was, he worked two week's notice. I said, 'Gerald, don't do it.' Well, anyway it worked out. He left and I think he always had a leaning toward law enforcement. He wanted like rip to be in the FBI. But his age had taken him a little more elevated than he should have been for trying to get in. And he never got to finish high school. So he got his GED later.

"So he went to work for Billy Leverette, who was sheriff at the time," said Davis. "They made him an investigator and he did a good job at that. One incident that I think the GBI came to investigate. And they gave him particulars, and he said, 'Oh, that sounds like so-and-so.' You know? Because he knows all the people. So sure enough, that was the man that they were looking for. A small town. It was smaller then. And I did not worry about him. He had a cool head, would never do anything that would mess him up. And he didn't."

On July 4, 1976, a crowd of thousands came to the Jackson High School athletic field for a fireworks display to celebrate the nation's 200th birthday. There was also an all-day competition at the Avondale Park, a golf tournament, a play, and arts and crafts exhibit. A sky diving exhibition was cancelled due to inclement weather.

At the end of July 1976, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. announced the appointment of Lewis M. Freeman as City Administrator, city a need for more efficiency in the administration of the city's government.

"The City of Jackson has grown into a $1,600,000 annual business and the Council and I felt that it was time we adopted a professional approach to city government by hiring a qualified and experienced administrator," said Mayor Brown. Freeman, a 30-year resident of Jackson, had previously worked at the Pepperton Cotton Mills, Fashion Pillows and the State of Georgia Crime Commission.

The county implemented a new one-percent local option sales tax in April 1976. In July, the city's LOST brought in $9,505, and in August it brought in $9,920.

On September 15, 1976, the city's official fire insurance classification dropped from an 8 to a 7. The improvement came after a prolonged effort to improve the city's fire fighting capability. The change was expected to save homeowners anywhere from five to 15 percent on their insurance.

In the city primary on October 5, 1976, voters re-elected Allen Byars as city councilman from the Second Ward. He defeated J. K. (Red) Godwin by a total of 1,448 votes to 742. Returned to office without opposition were Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. and Third Ward Councilman Roy Goff.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1976</u>
JACKSON – 7, Jones County – 0
Jackson – 8, HOGANSVILE – 41
JACKSON – 29, Monticello – 0
JACKSON – 22, Henry County – 0
Jackson – 7, MORGAN COUNTY – 13
Jackson – 0, Manchester – 0
JACKSON – 31, Lamar County – 21
Jackson – 0, HARRIS COUNTY – 19
JACKSON – 38, Pike County – 14
Jackson – 12, MARY PERSONS – 21

The city's 15-year-old curfew law received statewide notoriety in November 1976 when the *Atlanta Constitution* ran an article about it. Under the law, no one is permitted to be out on city streets after midnight.

"Back when this ordinance was passed," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr., "not only youth but older people would congregate around the square to drink beer and so forth, and we felt that whatever a person wanted to do could be done before midnight."

Brown said this type of ordinance gives the city control over situations before they arise and "since those who would probably be out this time of night are now using pot and pills, in addition to beer, we feel this law does aid in reducing the potential for committing crime."

In November 1976, Butts County was awarded the top prize in a statewide Beautification Contest sponsored by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District. The county's beautification committee won a total of $600 for the effort. Judges sited the work done at Avondale Park and the "total involvement" of the youth, as well as the hospitality of the people of Butts County.

On December 3, 1976, Dennis Strickland, a 16-year-old student at Jackson High School, was shot in the leg in the parking lot of the school auditorium while a school dance was underway inside. Police arrested Wayne Jester and charged him with aggravated assault and carrying a pistol without a license.

In 1976, the city purchased an asphalt spreader to resurface and pave city streets instead of just patching streets or hiring out of town contractors. That year, two-and-a-half miles of city streets were resurfaced.

1977

In the middle of January 1977, the city's natural gas supply was dangerously low when the thermometer plunged to two degrees Fahrenheit. Facing a critical situation, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. met with the city's consultants and local school authorities. The decision was made to close schools on January 25 for an indefinite period of time. Also, all public meetings that week were cancelled, and the mayor asked all businesses not engaged in essential services to close all day on Wednesdays until the natural gas situation improved.

The Southern Natural Gas Company, the city's supplier of natural gas, limited the sale of gas to residences and small commercial users. The mayor and council had no authority in determining this allocation, so al gas to the city's industrial users was suspended.

The city's propane gas supply, with a storage capacity of 30,000 gallons, was down to less than 10,000 gallons. The propane could be mixed with natural gas to supply gas in am emergency.

The mayor also requested that residents turn their home thermostats down to 55 degrees or lower at night. Other cities in the areas were experiencing similar gas shortages, and relief was several weeks away.

The city got two inches of snow on January 25, and the gas shortage forced plants like the General Motors and McDonough Power Equipment, which employed many Butts Countians, were forced to shut down operations. Of the local industries, only Avondale Mill remained open due to its standby supply of heating oil.

Butts County schools remained opened however, the only system in the 15-county metro area to do so. Schools eventually closed for three days in January.

As the area experienced more snow the following, more bad news about the gas supply was received.

On January 28, the city received a telegram from the Southern Natural Gas Company outlining emergency preparedness plans the city should develop immediately, including the "curtailment of shopping centers, businesses, and other community gathering places, including schools," in order to reserve as much gas for absolute essential residential use.

Mayor Brown asked business owners to look for other means of heating their buildings, or consider closing them early each day. Emergency shelters were prepared in case gas was curtailed to private homes.

But by the end of February, the gas shortage was gone, leaving many to wonder if the shortage was planned in order to raise prices for natural gas.

At the peak of the gas shortage, the city was only receiving 850 MCF per day, compared to its usual allotment of 2,050 MCF per day. The school system used approximately 200 MCF per day to heat its facilities.

On January 20, 1977, the announcement was made that the city's ad valorem tax rate for 1976 had been set at 5 mills, a 50 percent decrease from the 1975 levy of 10 mills. City officials explained that they were able to offset the $72,000 loss in revenue through the county's new one percent local options sales tax. The city's annual share of that tax was allocated at $100,000.

The city had no control over its tax digest, but accepted the county's tax digest as approved by the state. The city's tax digest for 1976 was $1,948,319 less than the 1975 digest, reflecting reduced assessments at the county level.

On February 10, 1977 came the announcement that the city had received a $117,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration to be applied to the improvement of the city's sewage system. The funds enabled the city to replace older sewer lines, and install new lines to the new industrial area between Jackson and Monticello.

During the annual STAR Student Banquet on March 1, 1977, Morris Crockarell was named Jackson High School's STAR Student. He named science teacher Marian Sanders as his STAR Teacher.

On April 30, 1977, the Addison-Rudesal, Inc. plant closed its operation in Jackson. The local plant produced doors, windows and gable louvers for five years employing on average 20 people. Manager Dick O'Hara said the plant was closing due to the consolidation of the company's five factories.

The Red Devils of Jackson High School won Georgia's Class A southern baseball championship on May 17, 1977 with a double-header win over Harlem. Behind by four runs at the end of four innings, the Red Devils exploded in the fifth for six runs and went on to a 8-7 win in the first game. Jackson won the second game 7-4 before one of the largest crowds ever to

witness a Jackson baseball game. The team lost to Pepperell a week later in the overall state final. The season ended with a 22-5 record.

Under an agreement reached in May 1977 between the Jackson City Council and the Butts County Board of Commissioners, the Butts County Zoning and Inspection Department began enforcing all building regulations in the city. Under the agreement, contractors and subcontractors had to be licensed, and permits were required on projects of $500 or more.

"The name Van Deventer Foundation was changed to the Daughtry Foundation in 1977," said the Foundation's long-time director, Mack Davis, in 2010. "And the Van Deventer name was retained, and a separate foundation was established out there and that was named the Van Deventer Fund. Mr. Daughtry also established it. And the trustees changed this to the Daughtry Foundation then.

"The county formed a Butts County Recreation Commission, which they needed to do to get state grants," said Daughtry Foundation Director Mack Davis in 2010. "I think Frank McMichael may have been chairman of the commission then. Coach Joe Davis, Denny O'Neal, Freddy Dodson, Bailey Crockarell, and there may have been some others. And I was on that. When they formed the recreation commission, it was eventually turned over to them in about '77. And that's when we started the development of Dauset Trails.

Hampton Daughtry "had owned these 400 acres on Mount Vernon Church Road for many years," said Davis. "He bought it in the '50s. As a boy, he was raised at Indian Springs, and he always roamed those woods down there and wanted to preserve that area as an environmental education place for people to come and enjoy nature and walk in the woods. So when this opportunity came, he donated the land to the foundation. And Mrs. D. P. Settle donated an adjacent 400 acres, and we acquired more land from Georgia Pacific, and Kyle McMichael donated about 70 acres to us down there. So now it's about 1,350 acres all together.

"Originally, when we got the 400 acres, the trustees tried to get the state to build a golf course on it for the state park," Davis said. "Of course, the state was broke back then, and they couldn't take that land to do that. So then we tried to give it to the Audubon Society and see if they would develop it. But they would not guarantee that they would retain the land. They said we'll accept the land, but we may sell it. But their consultant at that time was Dr. Frank McCamy, and he told us he had been instrumental in developing nature centers all over the United States and I'll draw you up a plan and see if you want to consider it. About a year he worked on that. And the first phase was the lake and the cabin and the roads according to the plans he developed. Dauset Trails opened in 1977.

"We probably have an average of a hundred thousand [visitors] a year," Davis said of Dauset Trails' popularity in 2010. "We have bike trails and hiking trails, lakes, picnic areas, day camps, family reunions, camping areas for scouts and organized groups. The biggest thing we do is teach environmental education classes every day. We have environmentalists out there that teach the classes. We do a big festival each year, the Bluebirds & Bluegrass Festival, and we do one in the Fall. And now we do outdoor movies. A theater company brings out a 40-foot pop-up screen, and hundreds of people come to that in the big field."

On June 2, 1977, 139 seniors received diplomas from Jackson High School. Ricky Long was named Valedictorian of the class, and Charlie Robison was named Salutatorian.

In early June 1977, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. asked for citizens' cooperation during an electricity shortage. "Due to the unseasonably hot weather and some technical difficulties at two of the generating plants supplying the City of Jackson, the city asks that until further notice everyone voluntarily reduce your electrical requirements in order to avoid a possible serious shortage of electricity and possibly mandatory restrictions," said Brown. "Please set your air condition thermostat at 80 degrees and avoid any unnecessary use of electricity until 10 p.m."

Electricity in the city was turned off for two-and-a-half hours on June 19, 1977 for repairs to be made at a substation.

In May there were several days when the mercury topped 90 degrees, and in late June the city's electric department advised customers to make plans to reduce their use of electricity during the Summer. The city was a member of the newly formed Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, which meant the city owned some electric generating and transmission facilities. But the city was still required to purchase wholesale power from other sources when more power was required than it could produce.

The first week of July 1977 was named Butts County Week and featured a fireworks display, horseshoe contest, bicycle rodeo, arm wrestling contest, parade through downtown Jackson, street dance, and a Golden Oldies Disco Party. There was also a motorcycle jump over cars, and a concert in the National Guard Armory. The events were enjoyed by hundreds of people who braved 100-degree temperatures.

"Billy Leverette got me in the Jaycees," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. "He was a good friend of mine. We had a great time. It was *the* civic club. We started the STAR Student and the Empty Stocking Fund. All of the activities that needed labor in it, legs and feet and hands, the Jaycees did it. We'd have square dances all over the county. We'd bring wrestlers in.

"One time," Phillips recalled with a smile, "there was a guy in Griffin named Happy Humphry. He was huge and had been a wrestler, and he was starting a wrestling organization on his own. He came and asked us if we'd have, and we had it in the old school gymnasium. They had ordered a new ring, but it hadn't been delivered yet. So they had a make-do one that was made out of 2x4, with a plywood floor and canvas on top of it. And we advertised this real big. There was a restaurant up on the square and we had this set up: Watson Vaughn was the police chief, and he was supposed to be in the restaurant, and two of the big wrestlers were to come in and get in a fight and Watson broke it up.

"Well, we had to put guards in because the people were booing the bad guys," he continued. "There were people everywhere, that gym was packed. And in the first match, one was throwing one down and Larry Pickett was next to me and he said, 'I heard the floor crack.' You could hear the floor cracking. And in the second match, a guy was thrown to the floor and disappeared. It was awful. We had to give everyone their money back."

In July 1977, the interior of Jackson City Hall was undergoing its first renovation since 1958. The work was accomplished with federal funds, at no cost to local taxpayers.

In July 1977, plans were announced to build a doctor's office building at Sylvan Grove Hospital in order to attract additional physicians. The estimated cost of the new building, according to James C. Shaw, administrator of the hospital, was $174,387. The new complex featured three office suites.

At the beginning of August 1977, the City of Jackson received final approval from state and federal regulators to sell its natural gas distribution system to the Atlanta Gas Light Company. Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said the city was to receive $375,000 for the system itself and an additional $41,000 for parts, meters and tools. Atlanta Gas Light hoped to take over the city's system by October 1, 1977 and open an office in Jackson. The sale was prompted by the gas shortage the city found itself in the previous Winter, and opinions of commercial and residential users favored the change.

Many customers received rebates for deposits they paid to the city when they signed up for gas service, and in late October many of them also got rebates due to a rate reduction ordered by the federal government against Southern Natural Gas for a rate increase in 1975.

City officials were notified in August 1977 that a grant in the amount of $160,000 had been made to the city from the Economic Development Administration for water system improvements. Included in these improvements were a new 200,000-gallon elevated water tank and the removal of the old tank by the city jail, which was constructed in 1905.

On August 25, 1977 Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. and members of the City Council announced that the city would not levy ad valorem taxes on property in the city limits for 1977. The action, unprecedented in Jackson's history, was made possible by the recently enacted one-percent local options sales tax and the management practices of the city government and employees.

"It is our hope that we can continue to operate the city on its current income," said Mayor Brown, "without the necessity of levying property taxes at some later date, but there are many variables that have to be considered, primarily the inflation rate and the state of the economy. And although it is our intention at the present time to continue a policy of no ad valorem taxes in Jackson, we can not guarantee this is a permanent policy, but will have to review the situation on a year-to-year basis."

Abolition of the tax, which brought in approximately $120,000 in 1975 and $60,000 in 1976, was expected to have a beneficial effect on retail sales locally as taxpayers would have more disposable income to spend.

Of equal importance was the positive effect the action was likely to have on the efforts of the City and County Development Authorities to attract new industry to Jackson.

When schools opened in August 1977, there were 2.563 students enrolled in grades one through twelve, an increase of the 1976 opening enrollment of 2,532.

In the October 4, 1977 city primary, three city councilmen were unopposed for re-election. They were: Dawson Bryant in the first ward, John L. Coleman in the fourth ward, and John Robert Pulliam in the fifth ward. The qualifying fee was $100.

According to projections made in October 1977, the county's population in 2010 would be 24,000, a 93.75 percent increase from its population in 1976. In 1977, the county was the 17th fastest growing county in the state.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1977
Jackson – 6, Jones County – 6
JACKSON – 16, Hogansville – 0
JACKSON – 7, Monticello – 0
Jackson – 14, HENRY COUNTY – 23
Jackson – 7, MORGAN COUNTY – 25
Jackson – 6, MANCHESTER – 28
Jackson – 28, LAMAR COUNTY – 37
Jackson – 0, HARRIS COUNTY – 13
JACKSON – 21, Pike County – 0
Jackson – 0, MARY PERSONS – 27

In 1977, the city purchased a bucket truck for the electric department.

1978

A storm system that moved through the county on January 31 and February 1, 1978 dumped four inches of rain on the area and caused considerable damage with winds measuring up to 75 miles per hour. A warehouse at Carters Builders Supply was flattened, and two plate glass windows were blown out at the A& P store and Polk Tire Company. The roof was torn off the press box at Jackson High School's baseball field, and the awning blown away at the Western Auto store on the square.

On January 31, 1978, the 19-0 Jackson High School Lady Devils basketball team set a new school record and buried the Mary Persons Bulldogettes in the process. Led by 5'7" shooting star Sylvia Sims, Jackson coasted to a 137-35 victory. The 137 points was definitely a school record for either boys or girls basketball, and might have been a state record for most points ever scored by a high school girls basketball team.

For her part, Sims broke the school record for most points scored in a single game when she drained 25 free throws and 15 lay-ups to end the night with 65 points. Her coach, Iwana McGee also had an impressive record of 222 wins and just over 50 losses in eight years with Jackson.

The Lady Devils ended the 1978 season with a perfect 22-0 record. They made it 24-0 before losing in the region tournament to Bleckley County.

In February 1978, two former employees filed suit against the city seeking reinstatement to their positions and damages totaling $100,000 for violations of their personal, constitutional and civil rights. Travis Harper and Horace Stewart, both former employees with the city's water and wastewater department, were fired by the city for allegedly violating a requirement by the city that forbid employees to wear beards.

Both were fired in October 1977. The reason given on the termination notices was "employee refused to shave beard." The city's regulation pertaining to appearance and dress code was addressed to all city employees earlier in the month.

Within a week, the lawsuit had been settled out of court and both Harper and Stewart had been reinstated to their positions and awarded back wages, and the city's regulation against bearded employees was rescinded as well.

At the annual STAR Student Banquet, sponsored by the Jackson Jaycees, Karen Cavender was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. She named Nancy Houghtaling as her STAR Teacher.

At the March 14, 1978 meeting of the Jackson Kiwanis Club, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. was named Man of the Year by the club. The honor, given annually since 1969, was for the person who rendered the most selfless and dedicated service to the community.

Brown attended West Georgia College and Auburn University, and served with the Seabee during World War II. When he came to Jackson, he operated Jackson Lake Inn and an insurance agency before opening a furniture and appliance business in 1952.

Introducing the mayor, Vincent Jones saluted him for his "distinguished service to the City of Jackson, much of which was accomplished with a devotion that disregarded his personal well being so that when the history of this city is written 100 or 1,000 years from now, the name of C. B. Brown, Jr. will still be hailed as one of the greatest leaders and architects of its progress."

In March 1978 the Butts County Beautification Committee planted 43 gingko and Bradford pear trees were planted in the yards of residences and businesses along Third Street. The city, the county and the beautification committee financed the project.

"Jackson was a sleepy little town," said Jimmy Adams of the city during the 1970s. "What is now Third Street, instead of being lined with businesses, there were a lot of beautiful homes - older, large homes. And I think the word 'older' may be the key thing there. Because of age, instead of repairing them, people built new homes, and that part of the city became more attractive to business because it was on the highway, which [contributes] to the traffic situation we have there. But that's okay."

On March 20, 1978, the city council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the keeping, pasturing and confinement of horses, mules, burros, donkeys, ponies, cows, calves, sheep and goats in the city.

"Out on Brownlee Road where the learning center is and the old Indian Springs Academy, the old James Moore home, a big two-story home - that's not in the city limits, but around it in the city limits," explained Merrell Price. "And the reason it's not in the city limits is back when they were putting that area into the city limits animals were not allowed in the city - horse and cows and so forth. And the Moores had horses, and so they asked not to be included into the city because of the horses."

"There's another house down there on Brownlee where a Heath fellow used to live - it's not in the city either 'cause of practically the same thing," added David Ridgeway.

In May 1978, the Jackson Red Devils baseball team won its second straight region championship by defeating Hawkinsville.

One hundred thirty seniors graduated from Jackson High School on May 31, 1978. Lynne Duke was the Valedictorian of the class of '78, and Rhonda Hutcheson was the Salutatorian.

In June 1978, Family Dollar Stores, Inc. opened its 291st store on East Third Street in Jackson.

On June 1, 1978 came word from executives that Seitzinger's, Inc., an Atlanta-based smelter, refiner and fabricator of metals, was moving ahead with plans to buy an 86-acre tract east of Jackson and begin construction on a new plant that would employ over 200 people.

The city council voted to call in all outstanding water and sewage revenue bonds and float a new issue on June 12, 1978. The action, it was reported, saved the city $1,000,000 in interest over the life of the new bonds. Bonds retired were the Series of 1961, 1965, 1973 and 1974. Revenue from the city's sale of its gas system to Atlanta Gas Light Company permitted the council to retire large amounts of this bonded indebtedness.

In July 1978, Butts County Commission Chairman Mac Collins announced that construction was to begin soon on extended water lines from Jackson to the communities of Flovilla and Jenkinsburg. The Flovilla line was built first with local financing and that line also served an 86-acre industrial tract east of Jackson.

McIntosh State Bank installed the city's first illuminated sign that provided time and temperature alternately throughout the day and night. According to Executive Vice President Pete Malone, the sign on South Oak Street showed the time or temperature every four seconds allowing for 21,600 readings everyday.

A softball marathon sponsored by the Jackson-Butts County Recreation Department on July 29, 1978 was marred by violence, though most of the physical damage was done to automobiles. Following some heated words, a car's windows were bashed in with a baseball bat, and two other cars suffered bullet holes. Three men were arrested and charged in the incident.

At the end of August 1978, the mayor and council announced that for the second year in a row the city would not collect property taxes.

"While the local sales tax has proven to be a good and dependable source of revenue," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr., "it is still a tribute to the Council and our employees that they can continue to operate the city without property tax revenue when you consider the high rate of inflation still prevailing."

During 1978, the city exercised an option on the purchase of five acres of land to expand the city cemetery. This followed the purchase in 1976 of five adjoining acres for the same purpose.

As of September 1978, the parking meters installed around the downtown square were no longer collecting change. The move by the mayor and council to place hoods over the meters followed a survey by the Chamber of Commerce that found most merchants favored free parking. In place of the meters, parking restrictions were imposed that limited vehicles to just two hours in a space weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Parking permits were also available for purchase.

In 1978, the mayor's salary was listed at $3,000 annually, plus $6,000 for expenses and a utility discount of $900 annually (or $75 per month). Council members received $1,500 a year in salary, plus $1,500 for expenses and a utility discount of $900 annually.

In the primary on October 3, 1978, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. won re-election by a 39-vote margin over attorney Ben Garland in a rematch of the 1974 mayoral race. The vote tally was 406 for Brown, and 367 for Garland.

Also re-elected without opposition were councilmen Allen Byars and Roy D. Goff.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1978</u>
JACKSON – 47, Upson County – 20
JACKSON – 21, Stockbridge – 7
Jackson – 0, HENRY COUNTY – 22
Jackson – 7, TAYLOR COUNTY – 20
JACKSON – 6, Bass – 0
Jackson – 6, MANCHESTER – 34
JACKSON – 34, Pike County – 6
Jackson – 12, R. E. LEE – 28
JACKSON – 14, Mary Person – 13
JACKSON – 39, Lamar County – 16

In the final week of December 1978 came word that Tatrcorp, Inc. of Atlanta, formerly Seitzingers, Inc., purchased an 86-acre industrial tract east of Jackson it held an option to

purchase. Construction was expected to begin in 1979 on an industrial complex that would eventually cost in excess of $10 million.

1979

A fire of undetermined origin on February 1, 1979 destroyed the Sammy Denson home at 149 Ash Street.

The Henderson Junior High School Tigerettes basketball team won the region title on February 9, 1979. The team defeated Booth and Fayette County in the region tournament.

A major sleet storm pelted the city and county on February 17 and 18, 1979. At times, there were accumulations of ice up to six inches high. Church services were called off, funerals postponed and most citizens chose to remain indoors for the weekend. Schools were closed on February 19 and 20, and several awnings and roofs over porches fell victim to the heavy ice.

On February 20, 1979, the Butts County Jaycees honored 17-year-old Cary Maddox as the STAR Student of Jackson High School. Maddox named Carol Ridgeway as his STAR Teacher. Two weeks later, Maddox was named a National Merit Finalist, the first in the history of Jackson High School. Maddox placed second in the statewide STAR Student competition.

"I worked in the bleachery department at American Mills," said Mike Riley during a 2009 interview. "And American Mills made underwear for K-Mart, Sears, Penny's. They knit their own cloth. When it was made, then it had to be bleached white, or sometimes dyed. And then it had to be dried and pressed to a certain size so it could be sent out to the mill and cut and sewed into underwear. So the bleachery department did the bleaching, the rinsing, the drying and the pressing. My job was bleaching and dying on the second shift. I worked there for three years [from 1977 to 1979] and had made third shift supervisor.

"I got moved to the third shift and made supervisor of the bleachery when Rankin Cook, who at that time had gone to work for Sheriff Billy Leverette, came driving up to the mill in his patrol car," Riley recalled. "He said, 'I'm fixing to leave the sheriff's office and go to work for the city.' So he said, 'If you want to get in law enforcement and want a job, you need to go see Sheriff Leverette.' So I did. I started with the Butts County Sheriff's Office on April 1, 1979. I had turned 21 in October [1978]."

Sheriff Billy Leverette "put me in a car with Gerald Davis," Riley explained. "Two to 10:00 was the shift back then. They had three shifts: 6:00 to 2:00, 2:00 to 10:00, 10:00 to 6:00. I showed up to walk and didn't have a uniform. The sheriff himself had to take you to Command Uniforms in Atlanta to get your uniforms. And he had hired me and Bobby Jones, and Bobby was scheduled to start on April 4 and [Sheriff Leverette] was going to take us both at the same time. So I didn't have uniforms, a gun, nothing. So I came to work in a pair of blue jeans and a shirt.

"But Gerald showed me all the things about the patrol car because back then they were sneaky," Riley continued. "They had a button where you could turn a headlight off so people

wouldn't think it was the police coming up behind them. You could turn your brake lights off so when you met a car and were going to turn around on him, when you put on brakes they didn't see your brake lights to know that you were turning around on them so they wouldn't try to run away from you. One of the little tricks was - 'cause it wasn't very safe to drive around without your brake lights working - if you flipped the switch to turn your brake lights off, then your cigarette lighter in the car wouldn't work. Gerald was a smoker, and I guess I was too back then. So when he went to light a cigarette, then he might realize that the brake lights weren't on and flip the switch.

"Troopers did the same thing," said Riley. "When I was 16, I got the first ticket I ever received from Don Halstead of the State Patrol. Ended up working with him later at the sheriff's office. He came running up behind me with one headlight out, kind of pushed me along. As a teenager, you knew what the headlights and park lights on a police car looked like, all law enforcement vehicles because they all drove the same kind pretty much. If you saw that behind you, whether you saw a blue light on top or not, you pretty much figured that was law."

"Matter of fact, when I was a deputy," said Gene Pope during an interview in 2010, "[at] the corner of Oak and Second Street - right where the Water Authority's at - there was a switch on the pole there. At midnight, as a deputy, I had to flip that switch and turn that light into flashing. It used to be red and green, that was it. And we'd turn it on, and it would flash: caution on Oak and red on Second. And then at six o'clock in the morning whoever was working would come in and flip the switch again. We'd have to lock the gates down at Indian Springs. We had to lock the gates at [the] Georgia Power plant. Those were the jobs that we did back then. You don't have that any more."

"Back then we didn't even have investigators," explained Mike Riley in 2009. "When I started [at the Butts County Sheriff's Office], we only had patrol officers. The GBI was used to work any major crime or case that happened. The sheriff's office didn't put on an investigator until Howell Freeman was murdered down on Highway 42. I was a patrol officer then. The GBI came down, brought in their mobile crime unit, and did all they could do. But that's when the commissioners agreed to let the sheriff have an investigator. So the first investigator under Billy Leverette was Gerald Davis. I think Barney Wilder had had an investigator during his tenure [as sheriff]. And Gerald Davis may have been an investigator before the Howell Freeman case, but shortly after that is when they hired a second investigator, Richard Garrison, a former GBI agent. He was a New Yorker and a heck of an investigator. When Gerald came [to the Jackson Police Department] to be chief, that's when I got promoted from patrol to investigations. So I trained under Richard Garrison how to dust for fingerprints and file case work. I went to homicide investigations training in Atlanta. And when he left the sheriff's office, that's when Kenny Morgan came in."

As of May 1979, the Jackson Police Department had purchased a radar unit for enforcing the speed limit in the city limits. As a result, speed limits in all city streets were raised from 25 to 30 miles per hour, with the exception of Franklins Street near the high school and North

Mulberry near the junior high. New signs were posted showing the new speed limits, and that radar enforcement was in use on certain streets.

In its first year of existence, the Jackson High School girls' track team won the region 3AA championship on May 2, 1979. A week later, the boys' team won their region track meet. AT the state track meet in Jefferson a week later, three Red Devils won their events. Wally Cawthon won the discus, and set a new state record of 167'11". Tony Stodghill won the shot put with a throw of 54'9.75". Ernest Lawrence won the 880-yard run with a time of 1:57.9.

Under an agreement announced in May 1979, the state planned to pay for the resurfacing of 4.115 miles of city streets during the year. Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said it was probably the largest resurfacing project in the city's history.

On June 5, 1979, 119 seniors graduated from Jackson High School. Randall Morgan was named Valedictorian, and Cary Maddox was named Salutatorian.

Rachel Besley was charged with a June 9, 1979 shooting at 381 McKibben Street where Eddie Standifer was hit in the left shoulder and right elbow. The incident followed an argument between the two, and after Besley was removed from the house she fired a revolver through the front door hitting Standifer.

The new local option sales tax adopted in Butts County – and by counties across the state – was the subject of a lawsuit in 1979 seeking to rescind the law that created the tax. In the end, cities and counties were allowed to keep the LOST as long as city and county leaders could agree on the distribution of the tax. In July 1979, Butts County and its three cities reached an agreement: the county would receive 57.87 percent, Jackson 35.78 percent, Jenkinsburg 3.62 percent, and Flovilla 2.74 percent.

After her children were born and in school, Diane Rosser needed to go work in 1979. "I heard someone talking about a lawyer that needed somebody," she said in 2008. "They couldn't remember his name, but it was a weird name. It started with a G. So I just started looking through the phone book and found him - Hugh Glidewell. He was a very nice man. He had just opened up his office in what used to be a gas station [on the corner of East Third and Holley streets], and he turned it into a little tiny law office. I worked there from 1979 until he passed away in like 1986 or 1987."

In September 1979, a new operating room opened at Sylvan Grove Hospital. Dr. Gus Escalera was the hospital's surgeon at the time. He also had an office in the new doctors' complex next to the hospital.

In the city primary held October 2, 1979, John L. Coleman was re-elected to the city council from the fourth ward over Denny O'Neal by 412 votes to 317. Dawson Bryant and John

Robert Pulliam were re-elected without opposition. Councilmen and the mayor served two-year terms.

On the night before the October 26, 1979 football game between Jackson and Mary Persons at Jackson, the school's granite monument and a Volkswagen left parked by the school were vandalized. According to Police Chief Rusty Cook, it was obvious that students from Mary Persons were involved in the incident. "We found some writing on the field house having to do with the game between Mary Persons and Jackson. I definitely believe it's connected with the rivalry," he said.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1979
JACKSON – 26, Upson County – 8
JACKSON – 42, Stockbridge – 10
JACKSON – 20, Henry County – 8
JACKSON – 40, Crawford County – 0
JACKSON – 35, Taylor County – 0
Jackson – 2, BASS – 15
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 28
JACKSON – 12, Pike County – 7
Jackson – 6, ROBERT E. LEE – 26
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS – 35
JACKSON, Lamar County

In 1979, the city received a total of $74,080 in federal revenue sharing funds.

1980

In January 1980, it was announced that he city had enough money to pay for the new $68,000 fire station on Holley Street behind the existing fire station. "The building we're using now just doesn't suit our needs," said Fire Chief Cotton Vaughn. "It's too compact and uncomfortable." The existing station could only house two of the four trucks the city and county had at the time.

"We've outgrown our present facilities," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. "We don't have room for the fire trucks or the firemen. Often they have to sleep in the jail."

The proposed station would have a radio room, a dormitory for six to 10 people, a kitchen and two restrooms.

Plans were announced in January 1980 to build a new public library for Butts County. The existing Hawkes Library, built in 1925, was only 1,450 square feet serving a population of 12,500. The plan for the new library was to build an 11,000 square foot facility and have the state pay for two-thirds of the cost. The county and city were being asked to pay the remaining $117,000. Richard Watkins, chairman of the board of trustees for the library, said this was the first time the state had allowed a two-for-one match in funds.

On February 6, 1980, the city and county were covered with one to three inches of snow. It remained on the ground and in trees for a day before melting away, and no accidents or outages were reported.

During Mayor C. B Brown, Jr.'s State of the City address to the Kiwanis Club on February 19, 1980, he outlined several plans for the future, including installing new lights along Third Street to brighten the road, and build a new fire station on Holly Street.

He said 1979 was a "rough year" financially due to the temporary loss of the local option sales tax and cutbacks in the CETA program. The mayor described the city as a $2,000,000-a-year business. "I am especially proud that with the inflation rate up nearly 50 percent in the last four years, that Jackson has not had to levy a property tax during that time," said Brown.

At the annual STAR Student banquet on February 19, 1980, Marie Ross was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. She chose Nancy Houghtaling as her STAR Teacher.

According to a survey conducted by the Georgia Public Service Commission, the City of Jackson had the fourth lowest electric rate of any municipally-owned electric provider in the state. The results of the survey, released in March 1980, found that residents of Jackson could buy 1,000 kilowatt-hours for $28.81.

Jackson patrolman Rankin Cook broad-sided another vehicle with his patrol while in pursuit of another car on March 29, 1980. He was pursuing a car for following a sheriff's car, which was traveling at a high rate of speed to answer a call. The suspect ran a stop sign at the intersection of Highway 42 and Highway 16, and Cook's car hit a van that was pulling out from Harkness Street. Cook was found to be at fault for the accident. His patrol car could not be repaired, so a 1979 Chrysler was purchased for $5,757 from Carter Motor Company.

On April 3, 1980, Police Chief Watson Vaughn suspended three night duty police officers for one week without pay. The action came, according to Vaughn, because the men "neglected their duties" on April 2 when several break ins occurred in town. Vaughn added that the officers "failed to check doors and the break-ins and things like that." The officers names were not released.

In late April 1980, the girls' track team from Jackson High School won its second sub-region championship. It was only the second year the team had existed. A week later, the boys' team won the sub-region track title as well. And on May 7, 1980 the boys' team won the overall region track title. Ernest Lawrence set the Georgia state record in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:53.09. That record stood for six years.

In May 1980 came word that the state's electric chair was being relocated to the Georgia Diagnostic Center, and that the state might carry out its first execution since 1964.

"It will have some long term effects on the county," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. of the relocation of the electric chair to the county. "Back in 1958, we were losing 98.5 percent of our high school graduates. Back then, young people had very few places to work so they were leaving."

The mayor was concerned that the presence of the electric chair in "Jackson" would deter future industries from locating in the area. Specifically, he was concerned because reporters from outside the county always signed off their reports from the prison and executions as being from "Jackson."

"The diagnostic center is not in Jackson," said Brown. "And some of them refer to it as the Jackson Diagnostic Center. It's the Georgia Diagnostic Center.

"I'm against the fact that the chair was relocated here without one public official ever being consulted," he continued. "I was in office when the Diagnostic Center was built and they told us a few years back that it was going to be simply a facility to bring inmates in and then ship them right back out. Then, later, they said it was going to be a maximum security prison. No one mentioned anything about a chair, and now they've put it here."

Brown also said that he felt the death penalty was needed. Attorney Richard Milam, who had been in Jackson since 1974, disagreed with the death penalty, but agreed that the presence of the electric chair would not bode well for the city.

"It hangs above our head like a grotesque cloud. It's going to keep people from moving here," he said. "That prison is like a tick on the side of the county. It doesn't pay taxes. It is stifling us. No one wants to build next to a prison."

Pete Malone, president of McIntosh State Bank, was in agreement with many other citizens that the prison is located in the community of Bucksnort and should be referred to that way by the media.

"It's my personal pride," said Malone. "I'm proud of the city and county and I just don't want them to be thought of in a negative way."

On June 1, 1980, 136 seniors graduated from Jackson High School. The class Valedictorian was Marie Ross, and the Salutatorian was Susan Henry.

On July 2, 1980, Butts County School Superintendent J.M.L. Comer resigned for "personal reasons." He appointed M. C. Paget, Jr. to fill the remainder of his term.

"Mr. Comer wore every boy out," said Luke Weaver of his school days in Jackson. "If you ask anyone who went to this school system who was the most respected male teacher was, they'll say it was Mr. Comer. And 99 percent of them got whipped by him."

In early July 1980 came word that the county's jail failed to meet minimum health standards established by the American Medical Association.

In July 1980, members of the Jackson High School athletic staff and community volunteers took it upon themselves to renovate Red Devil Hill. They painted the field house tan with a brown stripe (as opposed to the red and blue colors it had been), and installed aluminum

bleachers on the home side. The older bleachers were moved to the visitors side where 600 could be seated., and with the help of inmate labor permanent bleachers were also added to the visitors' side. When they were done the stadium seated 1,215 people.

Just down the street, the high school's gym was in bad shape.

It had a fire permit signed off on in 1948, and with only one accessible exit the 9,477-square-foot wooden facility was a potential death trap, according to some local residents. Other exits were boarded up or located down narrow corridors in the back, and there was only one fire extinguisher visible from the court. Live electric wires were visible inside and out, and light fixtures were unprotected.

The grand jury that convened in August 1980 found the gym "inadequate, unsafe, and unsanitary," and recommended the Board of Education take action to improve the school's physical education facility.

"There's no question we need a new P.E. facility, for a number of reasons," said State Representative and former School Superintendent Bill Jones. "It's 40 years old, it's a fire trap, and it's located away from the main campus so it causes problems during inclement weather."

According to Buck Stewart, water superintendent for the City of Jackson, the city's Towaliga water plant had about 1,500 customers in the city and county who used about 800,000 gallons of water per day in July 1980. The plant had been in operation since 1974 when it replaced the Yellow Water Creek waterworks as the city's main source of drinking water.

Eighteen-year-old Michele Donna Young died on August 5, 1980 from injuries she sustained when she stepped in front of a Southern Railway train on Railroad Avenue. According to Coroner John Sherrell, she was walking with a group of friends when the accident occurred.

On August 4, 1980, the city council voted to make Harkness Street north of Brookwood Avenue a one-way street going north. The action came at the request of the Department of Transportation, which referred to the intersection of Harkness and West Third Street as a very serious traffic hazard.

In the August 5, 1980 primary, Sheriff Billy Leverette won re-election over former sheriff Barney Wilder by 185 votes, 2,048 votes to 1,865 votes.

Billy Leverette "was wonderful," said Gwen Mitchell in 2009. "To me he was one of the best. He meant a lot to me and he helped me a lot. And tell me different things I needed to do. You listen to friends sometimes more than you do family. And Billy was just a mascot for me. It was hard for him to keep a car in those days. He would come pick up sick people and take them to hospitals, and things like that."

Despite a rain shower that struck just before the parade was to begin, the Fall Festival was well-attended and enjoyed by many citizens in early September 1980. The celebration also included a dance, arts and crafts vendors, and another installment of Butts County's Gong Show.

A fire broke out on September 10, 1980 in the cutting room at Fashion Pillows. No one was injured in the blaze, but firemen were treated for smoke inhalation and plant workers worked well into the next day cleaning up the debris.

When qualifying ended on September 19, 1980, no one had announced to run against the three incumbents so Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. and councilmen Allen T. Byars and Roy Goff were automatically re-elected.

According to the 1980 Bureau of the Census report released in October 1980, the city had a population of 4,043. The city had contested an earlier, lower count by the Bureau. The 1980 report listed a total of 1,499 housing units in the city. In 1970, the Census counted 3,774 people in the city.

In the month of October 1980, three building permits were issued in the city for single family homes totaling $138,800. In addition, a permit was issued for a new fire house totaling $85,000.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1980
JACKSON – 16, Henry County – 6
JACKSON – 22, Bass – 19
Jackson – 7, JONES COUNTY – 15
Jackson – 6, JOHNSON COUNTY – 22
JACKSON – 7, Lamar County – 6
Jackson – 7, PIKE COUNTY – 20
Jackson – 9, ROBERT E LEE – 31
JACKSON – 13, Upson County – 12
Jackson – 0, MARY PERSONS – 34

For the year 1980, the city received $153, 528 from the one-percent local option sales tax.

1981

In January 1981 came word that Seitzinger's would not build a lead smelting plant in Jackson. The news came after a three-year courtship of the company by the Butts County Development Authority. Company officials cited "economic conditions" as a reason for not coming to Jackson.

Effective February 1, 1981, the monthly fee for residential garbage collection increased to $4. While inflation played a role in the move, the price of gasoline had quadrupled since the last increase in the fee in 1971. Industries and businesses felt a small increase in the fee in 1980.

Shortly after midnight on February 2, 1981, the old frame gymnasium at Jackson High School burned to the ground in a matter of half an hour. Lt. Fireman Mark Cook said the

structure, built in 1941, caught fire due to faulty wiring connecting the scoreboard with the main breaker.

"I went in in January, and on the first day of February the gym burned down," said Loy Hutcheson in 2009. "I had promised them a new gym within four years, and somebody said you work real fast. Jackie [Hutcheson] and I had been out of town, and we got a call [at home] about 11:45 and someone told us there was a fire in the gym. I said I'd be right there and opened the door. We lived about a mile-and-a-half out town on Halls Bridge Road, and when I opened my door the sky was red over Jackson. It took 38 minutes for it to burn completely down because it was made of the finest stuff hauled in from Mississippi in long wagons. I had to do a history, even down to the number of nails and size of the rafters in it, because it was a replacement cost [insurance policy]. What would it cost to replace it?

"I talked to people like Max Perdue and his dad and some of the older guys that knew something about the building of that old building," said Hutcheson. "We had some 30-foot beams in it because it didn't have posts in it like a lot of the old gyms. The whole thing was just one timber across it.

"We had a night watchman, and I had given him this clock," he said. "And every time he came through, he had a key that would make a certain punch on the clock to tell what time he had been there. He had been there at 11:30, and hadn't seen anything. At a quarter to 12, the back end was on fire. And it took 38 minutes from the time it was reported until it was just ashes on the ground, coals. It was in the back part, and when it hit the [gym] floor it just" - he shoots his hand from right to left - "took off because of all that oil and stuff that was on the gym floor. If you'd have been in there, you'd have never outrun it.

"They found out we had built a concrete wall and they had pulled the old Coca-Cola clock over the wall, the cable, and it was very tight," Hutcheson explained. "They said it looked like the chord was frayed either from rats eating it or from being against the concrete like that, and that was the source of the fire."

"I found out how it burned," said Gene Pope of the old gym in 2010. "That's G-14 classified. The guy that supposedly set fire to it no longer lives in Butts County, lives in another state. Supposedly the commissioners at the time and the Board of Education didn't want to build a new gym - and this was a death trap. This was wooden, it had lacquered floors, it had leaks in it. The back dressing rooms underneath was rat-infested, it needed to be torn down but you had resistance from the commissioners about spending the money. And I understand that. But this thing was terrible! It was there when I graduated. You know, we didn't have the new gym, always had that piece of junk. The football team dressed in it and walked up the hill to the ball field, you know, that's where we got dressed every day, is down in that gym. And the dressing room was about this big. And you had all those players in there with stuff laying all over the floor and jock straps everywhere, and it stunk.

"I was told - don't know exactly if it's true or not, but this is the story I got - that the person who burned it got [the information about] how to burn it from someone else," Pope continued. "And he went down, and he tied a cord with a gallon of gasoline at the end of it. And he set a candle on the floor and lit it. And he took the gallon of gasoline, put it under it, and

pushed it and made it swing. And he ran away. And then, several hours later, when that thing finally stopped - pow! And once the floor caught, it went up like kindling - it was like kindling! You couldn't have stopped it if you'd have been sitting there with a fire truck when it started! Especially with our fire trucks we had back then. It burned up, and so they decided to get the money and build the new gym, which was fine, but it's not even big enough either, as you can tell from the people that show up at ball games."

"We had to renovate all the buildings," said Loy Hutcheson of his time as school superintendent. "We put air conditioning in all the buildings. Every Summer we were doing renovations, so my construction background came in good. I built a new bus shop. I built a new track. Had to build a new gym And of course we needed up building a new high school. Those were things that for the time, I came in when it was a goal of mine to get the school facilities in some decent shape. We did all this, and had only one bond issue for $450,000, and that was to do the gym. And the gym ended up costing $675,000. But the money that I was able to prove out of that replacement cost for the old gym, I was able to get $235,000, and we put that with the bond money and built the new gym.

"Jimmy White built it for $675,000 when the other bids were over $1 million," said Hutcheson. "He did it because it was his first commercial property, and he wanted to do something for the schools. He said he used to play basketball himself there and it was a contribution he wanted to make. But it was also a way for him to get in on the commercial end of things and he was willing not to make any money on it. And he did a good job on it. That was in 1981. This is 2009 and they're going to tear down the old high school except for the Rufus Adams auditorium, the new library on the front and the old gym. So the gym is still standing and it's still in good shape.

On March 17, 1981, Grace Farrell shot Kenneth Griffin at Benny's convenience store on East Third Street. Farrell, a clerk at the store, had confronted Griffin, a customer, about a previous shoplifting of crackers. Griffin leaned over the counter and called Farrell obscene names when she pulled a gun a shot him. She was found not guilty of assault charges three months later.

In April 1981, city officials and Butts County Jaycees undertook an effort to number all houses and businesses in the city. City Manager Lewis Freeman said the project would help "the postman or the police, fire and EMS personnel locate the source of an emergency call." The city's growth made such designation almost mandatory. "In former days," said Freeman, "everyone knew where everybody else lived but that is not the case today and those having to answer emergency calls are often confused by the directions given."

In early April 1981, voters approved a bond referendum to build a new physical education and music building for Jackson High School. The bonds totaled $475,000. School Superintendent Loy Hutcheson called it "one of the best investment opportunities for the county." At the same time, voters denied bonds for a new county library.

In the first week of April 1981, the Indian Springs Plant of Avondale Mills deeded its water storage tank to the city. Superintendent Bob Betts made the official presentation to Jackson Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. The tank had a 60,000-gallon capacity and was built for the Pepperton Cotton Mills in 1947. The tank and tower reach a height of 75 feet, and was once filled by an artesian well.

In the first quarter of 1981, the city received $33,713 from the local option sales tax.

Shield's Jewelry was robbed at gunpoint on April 10, 1981. Police Chief Watson Vaughn reported that the thief demanded money from the safe and also took several pieces of jewelry before he left.

One week later on April 17, 1981, the Jones Food Market on Macon Avenue was robbed at gunpoint. The robber demanded money from a store attendant, and fled after he got some.

According to Police Chief Watson Vaughn in April 1981, a law prohibiting the use of alcoholic beverages at Avondale Park was to be strictly enforced. Recreation Director Ernest Biles said his department had received numerous complaints about drinking at the park.

The annual meeting of the industrial leaders of the city was held on April 22, 1981.

On May 1, 1981, the Red Devils of Jackson High clinched the sub region baseball championship with a perfect 11-0 sub region record. The team won the 3AA region championship on May 13, 1981 with two wins over Bleckley County in a best of three series.

A sidewalk on College Street was completed in May, 1981.

The largest class in Jackson High School's history – 152 seniors – graduated on June 2, 1981. Lisa Clark was named Valedictorian, and Dennis Hart named Salutatorian.

In June 1981 came news that the Jackson Shopping Center on East Third Street would expand. Included in the expansion: Giant Mart grew by 4,400 square feet, Service Discount Drugs also grew its floor space, Hodges rearranged its display and warehouse areas, an electronic service center moved in, another new business was added, and over 80 new parking spaces appeared.

"Ronnie Howard's mother had a C&S Restaurant across the [East Third Street] from the C&S Bank," said Gwen Mitchell in 2009. "In 1981, Ronnie wanted me to take the restaurant, so I rented the restaurant and my sister, Betty, stayed with the B&G Bakery [we owned]. Then Ronnie decided he wanted to sell [the restaurant], so Martha and Horace Stewart bought it and opened a furniture store. And I went back to the bakery [which had been open since 1978].

"The bakery was called B&G," Mitchell said. "We had homemade bread and donuts and cookies. And everybody wanted us to start having breakfast and lunch, so we started having breakfast and lunch. And then Billy Leverette wanted us to bid on having food for the prisoners.

And I bid that and we won that. We fed the Butts County Jail and the City Jail for five years, three meals a day, seven days a week, besides my walk-in business. We were located next to Deraney's. I can meet people now that were in jail when I was feeding them, and they say, 'Hey, Miss Bakery'. Most of the time we had 70 to 75 prisoners. Breakfast and lunch they had to have hot, but supper they could have sandwiches and cookies and chips.

"And then when I had the bakery they was doing the all-day parades and dances on the square, and we'd stay open until 12 or one o'clock [in the morning] and you didn't think nothing about it," she said. "I was selling Kennett's ice cream and I just moved my ice cream box out on the sidewalk and we'd sell out of ice cream and pack up and come home. Everybody was just having a good time. The street dances were the last thing that went on. Some of the stores would close when the dances were going on, but you could stay open as long as you wanted. I was the only restaurant that stayed open, and we'd served sandwiches, cold plates and things like that. I enjoyed it."

Butts County's local one cent sales tax brought in $267,712 during the first six months of 1981. Jackson share, 30 percent of the total, was $80,313.

Al Reaves became the new head coach of Jackson High School's football team in July 1981. "There is a lot of potential for a good season this year," he said. "But we still have a lot of work to do."

At its July 6, 1981 meeting, the Jackson City Council approved an ordinance forbidding parking on Holly Street between Third Street and Byars Street.

Due to prolonged drought in the Summer of 1981, the city was keeping a close eye on its water supply. For the month of June, the average amount of water pumped per day was 1,017,000 gallons, up from 799,000 gallons in June of 1980. Water Superintendent Buck Stewart said the Towaliga River, the city's main source of drinking water, was "way down." The city was also using its Yellow Water Creek water plant several hours a day to meet demand caused by watering of lawns, washing of cars and extra showers citizens were taking to deal with the heat and humidity.

By the end of July 1981, the city had declared a water emergency and prohibited the watering of lawns and gardens and the washing of cars. Violators were warned the first time and fined for any subsequent offense. City officials also asked major industries in the city to conserve water. The two biggest industries in Jackson used approximately 200,000 gallons of water per day.

"Use common sense because we're all in this together and it is now a very serious situation," said Mayor C. B. Brown.

According to Mayor Brown the Towaliga River had dried up so much that only 500,000 to 700,000 gallons could be pumped there daily, whereas the city was pumping 1,000,000 gallons a day just the week before. Temperatures in town had hit the 106-degree mark.

The lack of rainfall also played havoc with the power-generating ability of S.E.P.A., from whom the city purchased its electricity. As a result, the city's wholesale purchase price for power was going to increase on October 1, 1981.

At is August 3, 1981 meeting, the Jackson City Council voted to apply for $6,000 in emergency funds from the state to improve the raw water intake at the Towaliga River Plant. Recent rains though had helped ease the emergency water supply situation.

George Tate returned to Henderson Junior High School as principal in 1981 after serving seven years as principal of Jackson High School.

On August 30, 1981 an open house was held at the city's new fire station. The 3,200-square-foot building was constructed at a cost of $85,000.

On the night of September 5, 1981, professional burglars entered the Jackson Drug Company through a boarded-up window on the second floor, bored several holes in the floor there to gain access to the main floor, and proceeded to clean the store of all its narcotics.

On September 9, 1981, it was announced that the City of Jackson would not levy an ad valorem tax, marking the fifth consecutive tax-free year in the city. Its share of the one-cent local sales tax made the difference, according to city officials, with $153,528 coming in during 1980.

"A great deal of credit for the city's excellent financial condition is due to the dedication of a hard-working Council and to the cooperation of all city employees," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. "I am delighted that we are able to forgo the levying of ad valorem taxes this year."

In September 1981, three members of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed a federal lawsuit against the city for alleged violations committed in annexing property and carrying out elections. The basis of the suit alleged that the city failed to obtain pre-clearance from the Department of Justice before annexing certain areas into the city limits in 1966 and 1975. In addition, the suit claimed that this annexation increased the number of members on the City Council and that the city made changes in voting standards, practices or procedures without obtaining pre-clearance from the DOJ.

The plaintiffs, Rev. W. T. Brown, Jr., Prentice W. Henderson and Sandra W. McCrary, also filed a motion for the removal of John Robert Pulliam from the Council seat in Ward 5, one of the two contested areas that were annexed, and that elections be held for all five Council seats and the position of mayor. One of the areas annexed that was contested by the suit was the Pepperton community.

The city's October 6 primary was cancelled by a judge's order, and entrance fees for the three incumbents who had qualified were returned.

In late September 1981, the city's Democratic Executive Committee, which conducted primaries for many years, was dissolved. The decision was unanimous and recommended by its member-attorney Hugh W. Glidewell, Jr. The Butts County Democratic Executive Committee was legally in charge of conducting primaries in the city.

At the September 1981 meeting of the Jackson City Council, a truck for the Sanitary and Street Departments was purchased from Collins Chevrolet for $115,308. The Council also voted to replace the old Christmas decorations the city hangs from light poles in December.

On October 16, 1981, U.S. District Judge Wilbur G. Owens ordered the city to hold its election on December 2 to name members to three City Council seats. The judge ruled that a plurality of votes would be sufficient to elect a candidate and that voting for the three posts should be carried out citywide. Candidates for a particular seat had to reside in that ward, and voters throughout the city could cast only one vote for any candidate in any of the three races. The plaintiffs, it was determined, had no sufficient evidence that the Department of Justice would object to any previous annexation. The city was also required to present the DOJ the 1975 act that annexed Pepperton into the city and all documents relating to annexations in the city since the November 1, 1964.

When qualifying ended for the December 2 election, two incumbents – John L. Coleman and John Robert Pulliam – had qualified with no opposition. Dawson Bryant, the incumbent in the first ward, had an opponent in Johnny Lee Smith, Jr., a Jackson businessman seeking his first elected office.

Bryant won the election 393 votes to 98 for Smith.

During his State of the City speech to the Kiwanis Club on October 20, 1981, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. focused much of the group's attention on the water crisis. "The recent rains have helped some and if we can locate some pipe for emergency use and if our people will continue to conserve water, we can lick this problem together," he said.

"Your city now spends about $2,000,000 a year of your money," Mayor Brown continued. "And I would encourage each of you to take a very active interest in seeing that you get the best value for your dollar."

Citing the cost of operating a city government, he said a police car purchased recently cost $10,000; a garbage truck $20,000; the fire station $100,000; installing new streetlights and rebuilding electric lines $300,000; and 12 more hydrants and improvement in the water system cost $32,000.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1981</u>
JACKSON – 26, Henry County – 6
JACKSON – 24, Bass High School – 0
Jackson – 0, JONES COUNTY – 14
JACKSON – 34, Johnson County – 7
JACKSON – 28, Lamar County – 12
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 20
JACKSON – 17, Pike County – 0
Jackson – 19, ROBERT E. LEE – 42
Jackson – 6, UPSON COUNTY – 31
Jackson – 6, MARY PERSONS - 28

1982

In January 1982, the city adopted a resolution creating a Downtown Development Authority. Roy Goff was named chairman of the seven-member board, which including Pete Malone, Richard Milam, Jerry McLaurin, Grover Arline, James McCormick and Benny Dover. The authority's mission was to promote and further develop trade, commerce, industry and employment opportunities," and had the power to issue tax-exempt revenue bonds and notes.

What was reported as the coldest weather of the Twentieth Century gripped the city in early January 1982. Johnny Smolka, the weatherman for the Progress-Argus who had been reporting weather from Hickory Hills Golf Course since February 1968, said his thermometer hit zero. The previous lowest reading was one degree. Fortunately, the frigid air was not mixed with precipitation and no problems – besides broken water pipes – were reported.

Then the snow came. Over the course of three days – January 12, 13, and 14, 1982 – five inches accumulated around the city and county. Most retails stores, banks and county offices were closed for two days, and schools closed for three days. No mail was delivered on January 13. In the city, residents experienced power outages lasting up to two hours at one time or another throughout the storm, but in the McCaskill neighborhood the power was out for 36 hours, according to Ves Lunsford, supervisor of the city's electric department. There were no major accidents reported, as most people stayed off the roads.

At the annual STAR Student banquet on February 16, 1982, Jon Ross was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. He named Nancy Houghtaling, chairperson of the school's English department, as his STAR Teacher.

On April 4, 1982, approximately 300 visitors came out for the opening of the new intensive care unit at Sylvan Grove Hospital. The ICU, built at a cost of $55,000 was outfitted with four beds designed to meet the needs of patients suffering from heart attack or stroke, post operation, or respiratory difficulties.

"This is the first time this level of service has been available at Sylvan Grove, and we are delighted and encouraged by the interest the public has shown," said Roger Bolton, hospital administrator.

In May 1982, it was reported that conditions were so deplorable at the county's four-cell jail on North Oak Street that Sheriff Billy Leverette and the county commissioners were considering asking the voters to approve a bond referendum to build a new jail. The jail was built in 1937 and in 1982 had many problems. "The plumbing is shot, the wiring is shot; and because of cuts in federal and state grants, we've no place to go for money to build a new one," said Sheriff Leverette. In addition, many of the lock mechanisms on the cell doors did not work, forcing the county to house dangerous offenders in the city jail or in neighboring counties.

On May 14, 1982, two inmates at the county jail filed suit in federal court in Macon against the county claiming that conditions in the jail were "cruel, unusual, uncivilized and

unlawful" and violated rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The suit asked the court to give the county 60 days to submit plans for improvements to the jail.

Among the problems cited by the plaintiffs were: small cells that allowed for very little movement by inmates, malfunctioning commodes, a shower stall covered in mold and mildew in which trash cans were also cleaned, no blankets were provided to inmates, there was no outdoor recreation or indoor recreation programs so inmates spent virtually all day and night in their cells, there was no cleaning of cells except by inmates and no cleaning supplies were provided, the jail had its fair share of rats, mice, cockroaches, mosquitoes and spiders.

In May 1982, the Butts County Board of Education received word that all schools in the county system had received "accreditation with quality" status from the Georgia Accrediting Commission, the first time the schools had received the honor. The system was on of 27 out of 189 systems across the state to be so honored.

The Jackson High School Red Devil baseball team won the Region 3AA championship by sweeping two games from Wilkinson County in May 1982. It was the sixth straight year the team won the title.

One hundred forty-five seniors graduated from Jackson High School on May 30, 1982. Esther O'Dell was named Valedictorian, and Jon Ross was named Salutatorian.

An audit released by the city in June 1982 showed that the city had revenues of $2,125,525 in 1981 and expenses of $2,071,820. "For a number of years, the City of Jackson has operated without an ad valorem tax and it is our hope that this policy can be continued but there is no assurance this will be the case," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. "Our experience last year shows just how close we are coming in balancing expenditures against revenues."

On June 3, 1982, Charlie Barber died instantly when his car and a truck collided on McDonough Road. The driver of the truck was charged in the incident because witnesses reported he was speeding and weaving.

Following the drought of the Summer if 1981 – when the city "came within one day of having to shut people off," according to Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. – the city took action in the Summer of 1982 to protect its water supply. Mayor Brown said that Cawthon's Lake, from which water is pumped to the old water treatment plant, was enlarged as was the reservoir on Valley Road. In addition, a water line connecting Butts and Henry counties was being laid at a cost of $32,000 to provide 225,000 gallons of water a day in an extreme emergency. The city paid for half that cost of the line in cash, and the other half came from a state grant.

The city was also planning a five-acre reservoir at the main water treatment plant off the Barnesville Highway. The projected cost was $35,000.

In July 1982, plans were announced to build a training center for the mentally retarded to be located near the Avondale Recreation Park.

At its July 19, 1982 meeting, the Jackson City Council was asked to consider allowing beer-pouring permits for businesses in the city. The Council, however, declined to allow such permits.

In August 1982, work was underway on a 1,400-square-foot expansion of the Hawkes Library. The Library Association and city and county governments funded the project.

In September 1982, the United States Justice Department sent election examiners to the county in an effort to increase the registration of Black voters. Officials charged the county with declining to expand Black voter registration opportunities. The charges claimed the county maintained no regular hours for voting registration, provided limited registration locations, and refused to appoint deputy registrars.

Rev. W. T. Brown, president of the Jackson chapter of the NAACP, said the investigation came about as a result of a "drastic drop in the number of Blacks on the voting list of Butts County." The county's population was 40 percent Black at the time, and only 25 percent of eligible Black voters were registered to vote, compared with 73 percent of the White population in the county.

In the end, 15 voters were added to the voters' list.

The new physical education-music-art building at Jackson High School opened on September 26, 1982. The cost of the facility was $679,000.

In early October 1982, a U. S. District Judge signed a consent order brought about by a lawsuit filed by two former inmates against the Butts County Sheriff and the county jail. According to the order, the county had 60 days to put all plumbing and sanitary facilities in working order; provide clean drinking water for inmates; provide personal hygiene items to inmates; provide coveralls to inmates serving time; remove a steel plate covering a window to allow light and ventilation; provide a locked complaint box for inmates' suggestions and problems; provide sanitation supplies to inmates so they could keep the jail area clean; begin inspecting the jail area at least every four hours; correct fire hazards as reported by the Fire Marshal; post rules governing inmate conduct and an evacuation plan; install fire extinguishers; and a recreation area must be provided for the inmates.

For the sixth consecutive year, city residents paid no property taxes thanks to a vote by the city council. "It is a splendid tribute to the type of leadership the council and every city employee have rendered that we have been able to operate for another year without placing any further burden on the taxpayers," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr.

During the filming of "A Murder in Coweta County" in Butts County on October 20, 1982, the movie's stars Johnny Cash, June Carter-Cash and Andy Griffith came to the county for several scenes.

Due to a recession, the Indian Springs Plant of Avondale Mills was operating on a three-shift, five-day basis. Although there had been layoffs, the plant still employed 235 people.

On November 3, 1982, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. was reelected without opposition. Councilman Roy Goff won reelection over Jesse Duffey, 430 votes to 210. And Bill Fletcher won the Council's Ward 2 seat left vacant by Allen Byars.

Jackson Police Officer Robyn Patton was injured on November 4, 1982 when she was struck by a car while directing traffic as new signals were being installed. Patton was treated and released from Sylvan Grove Hospital.

In the middle of November 1982 came the announcement that Toga Manufacturing, Inc., a national fabricator of stainless steel food service equipment, would build a plant on Highway 42 South. The 20,000-square-foot facility was scheduled to open at the start of 1983 and employee 15 people initially. The Butts County Development Authority and Butts County Chamber of Commerce worked together to bring the company to Jackson.

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1982
JACKSON – 41, Henry County – 7
JACKSON – 25, Jones County – 6
JACKSON – 28, Lamar County – 21
JACKSON – 12, Pike County – 7
Jackson – 7, ROBERT E. LEE – 48
Jackson – 7, MARY PERSONS – 24
Jackson – 7, MANCHESTER – 28
JACKSON – 34, Taylor County – 18
Jackson – 27, HAWKINSVILLE – 28
JACKSON – 28, Bleckley County – 14
Jackson – 7, ROBERT E. LEE – 42

On December 15, 1982 the announcement was made that the Avondale Mills plant would close, leaving 220 employees without jobs and removing a $2 million annual payroll from the local economy. John Loving, company president, said the closing was "due primarily to lack of demand in the marketplace for the company's products. The outdated processes have kept the plant in a continuing unprofitable position."

Bob Betts, manager of the plant in Jackson since 1975, said full-time employees would receive severance pay and be offered employment at other Avondale plants as positions became available. In addition, employees were placed on "no work available" status enabling them to continue their insurance coverage.

Local leaders held a strategy session to "set up a game plan for dealing with the situation," according to Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. "Losing Avondale was terrible, but we're going to do our best to fill the vacuum as soon as possible."

When the Avondale Mills plant closed in 1982 "people just didn't know what they were going to do," according to Luke Weaver. "I think people saw the writing on the wall [before it closed]. And if it hadn't been for American Mills and Fashion Pillows and a luggage plant, they'd have really been in bad shape. Mr. Maurice Carmichael was real instrumental with the Industrial Authority that helped get some industry in here."

"We were simply running out of land, and this is a step to conserve," explained Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. The crypt housed 80 spaces, but only took up the square footage of 15 to 20 ordinary graves sites.

At the end of 1982, the police department was installing a Burroughs TC 5100 – the latest in computer technology. The machine was linked to the Georgia Crime Information Center in Atlanta by telephone lines and allowed the department to access any previous records of people they arrest. It could also be used to check the status of vehicles by typing in tag numbers.

During 1982, Butts County collected a total of $578,506 from the local option sales tax. Of that amount, Jackson's portion was $173,552. Under a new distribution plan to take effect in 1983, Jackson's share would be 30.25 percent of the total, a reduction of one-quarter of a percent. The 1980 Census showed the city's population at 4,133.

The city also collected $74,388 in beer taxes.

1983

As 1983 began, a traffic light went into operation at the intersection of West Third and Peachtree streets. The intersection had long been congested and the scene of many accidents.

At the January 3, 1983, Councilman John L. Coleman was elected Mayor Pro Tem.

On January 20, 1983 a snowstorm blew through Jackson, depositing one to three inches of snow, sleet and ice. Schools and stores were closed for two days. The city experienced four or five brief power outages, according to Ves Lunsford, superintendent of the city's electric department.

During his annual State of the City address to the Kiwanis Club on January 25, 1983, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said the city was in excellent financial condition during its seventh year without property taxes.

"Although many feel that Jackson's share of the one-cent local sales tax has brought this about, it goes much deeper than that," said Brown. "For while Jackson obtained $173,551 from the sales tax in 1982, it also required $108,000 just to operate garbage trucks for the same period."

Add to that the loss of federal funds in CETA and other programs, plus federal revenue-sharing funds and a cumulative inflation rate of 35-to-50 percent in the past seven years and

Mayor Brown termed the city's ability to operate without property taxes as bordering on a miracle.

Brown cited the addition of new traffic lights, purchase of a new computer, new equipment for testing the intoxication level of drinking drivers, a new mausoleum and extensions to the city cemetery as recent improvements in the city.

Following the closing of the Avondale Mill, the county's unemployment rate jumped 5.7 percent from 9.8 percent in December 1982 to 15.5 percent in January 1983. In January, 6,347 residents were employed, while 1,167 were jobless. In January 1982, the county had an unemployment rate of 13 percent with 919 people jobless.

On February 1, 1983, a burglar broke into Service Discount Drugs through a skylight and lowered himself into the pharmacy with a rope. He then made off with "everything as far as the drugs [were] concerned," according to pharmacist Sam Standard. A month later, the pharmacy was again burglarized and again the thief entered through the roof.

On February 7, 1983, the mayor and Council were informed that the city's wastewater treatment plant was able to process an additional 100,000 gallons of water per day. The Council also adopted a 1983 budget totaling $2,114,822.

Lora Lee Cheves was named STAR Student of Jackson High School on February 15, 1983 at the annual STAR Student Banquet, sponsored by the Exchange Club. Cheves named her English teacher, Nancy Houghtaling, as her STAR Teacher.

On February 19, 1983, police officer observed that of the 200 or so young people attending what was billed as a fundraising party for the Jackson High School golf team at the National Guard Armory "the majority of them were drunk." JHS Principal Donny James said he had no knowledge of the event, and that it was not sanctioned by the school. Only one arrest was made when a 17-year-old was charged with DUI and spinning his tires in the parking lot of the Armory.

At the February 21, 1983 meeting of the Jackson City Council, prices for crypts at the new 80-crypt mausoleum were set at $1,600 for a ground-level, second or third level spot and $1,500 for spots on the fourth or top level. Non-city residents would be charged $2,400 and $2,250 respectively for the same crypts. Cemetery plots in the new section of the city cemetery were set at $200 for residents of the city and $300 for residents outside the city.

At the March 7, 1983 meeting of the Jackson City Council it was decided to extend a six-inch water line on Highway 36 to a new truckstop being built at the I-75 interchange.

A Spring snowstorm brought some accumulation to the city on March 24, 1983. Schools were closed for a day, but there were no power outages or serious accidents in town.

The per capita income for Butts County in March 1983 was $6,117, making it the 78th highest in the state. In 1969, the per capita income in the county was $2,346.

Jackson City Administrator Lewis Freeman retired on April 15, 1983 after almost seven years in the position. "The mayor and council have certainly enjoyed working with him," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. of Freeman's retirement.

In April 1983, the Office of Planning and Budget predicted that Butts County would have a population of 19,000 by the year 2000 and would be ranked 84th among the 159 counties in the state as far as population was concerned.

In April 1983, the city pumped 19,666,100 gallons of water, with a maximum daily output of 917,000 gallons.

Watson Vaughn, who served almost 30 years with the Jackson Police Department, retired on June 19, 1983. "I think I've been here long enough," he said.

Vaughn began working for the city as a street foreman and joined the police department in 1954. In 1958, he was named police chief and held that title for 25 years.

"I'm proud to have worked for the city of Jackson for this long," said Vaughn. "You may not understand what a nerve-racking job it is until you're in it, but everyone in the city limits has been nice to me. I especially thank my wife for putting up with me and the job."

Twenty-seven applications were received for the chief's position. On June 6, 1983, the City Council hired Hugh Dorsey Evans, Jr. of Barnesville as the new police chief of Jackson.

"When I first got in law enforcement, Chief Vaughn was still chief here," said Mike Riley during an interview in his office at the Jackson Police Department in 2009. "He is still the measure that everyone who holds this job must measure up to. I don't care where I see him today, I call him chief. He always will be chief. When I took this position I knew I had big shoes to fill. Not from the man I took over from, but from Gerald Davis and Watson Vaughn. They went through some stuff.

"Captain Rusty Cook had gotten some years on him, but that man was sharp as a tack," said Riley. "He had a little notepad that he carried in his pocket with notes he had written about different crimes in the city. And he could pull that notepad out if you were on a scene with and he could tell you, 'Yeah, we had this, this and this.'

Riley recalled other policemen who stood out in his mind: "Eddie James Berry. Fred Moore. These were the different ones that were police officers when I was growing up. Of course, I was a teenager, and you messed with them.

"When I was a teenager they had a curfew in the city at 12 o'clock," Riley explained. "We used to gather at the Pure Oil station across from where the Chamber of Commerce was [on West Third Street]. Well, the police would come by and say, 'Y'all gotta leave.' We'd say, 'OK.' And we'd hang out a little longer. And they'd come by again. 'Y'all got to move on.'"

Wanda Sims of Jackson High School qualified to run the hurdles at the state track meet in May 1983. Her qualifying time was 16.31 seconds, set at the region meet.

The Red Devils of Jackson High School won their seventh consecutive region baseball title on May 10, 1983 with a win over Pike County. Pitcher Joey Maddox drove in the winning run in the seventh inning with a hit to center field tat scored T. Byrd O'Neal from third base and Stan Maddox from second.

At its May 16, 1983 meeting, the City Council hired Rita Durrett as City Clerk and Judy Kelly as Assistant Clerk. It was also reported that spraying for mosquitoes would begin soon, the first year this was done in Jackson.

Mary Lynn Palmer was named Valedictorian of the Jackson High School Class of 1983, and gave a speech during commencement on May 31, 1983. Linda Ann Parrish was named Salutatorian of the class. One hundred twenty-eight seniors graduated.

On June 15, 1983, the Butts County Metal Retardation Service Center moved into its permanent home on Kennedy Drive. The building was the project of the Butts County Developmental Disabilities Boosters, a volunteer organization. The center had been located on Third Street.

The street in front of the new mausoleum was paved on July 11, 1983, and the Council approved a bid from Barnes Fence Company to put up a fence around the cemetery.

Sylvan Grove Hospital held a health fair for all city employees at the fire station on July 27, 1983.

Dorsey Evans, the new police chief of Jackson, spoke to the Kiwanis Club on July 19, 1983 and outlined plans for the department. At the time, he had 10 officers on patrol, four radio operators and three patrol cars. He said 320 calls came into the department on the night shift during the month of June.

Evans also planned to introduce new jail procedures, install a more responsible bonding system and publish new rules and regulations for all personnel.

Facing a lengthening drought at the end of July 1983, the city asked its citizens to voluntarily conserve their water usage.

The city was also contacting landowners about securing rights of way for an emergency water line to High Falls Lake. The project was estimated to cost $295,000 to $325,000. A grant in the amount of $166,046 was approved for the city by the state.

The received a sales tax check from the state in the amount of $18,111 for the month of June 1983.

In 1983, George L. Weaver was named General Manager of the Central Georgia Electric Membership Corporation.

George L. Weaver "is president and CEO [of the Central Georgia EMC] and he is brilliant," according to Mary Davis, who retired from the EMC in 1994. "He doesn't condescend to you. And he is what's needed now because there for a while the EMCs faced merging in the financial crunch and the energy crunch about '74. And he has carried this EMC forward. They all got on the ball and did what was necessary to survive."

In the final week of August 1983, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. and the City Council asked residents "to curtail the unnecessary use of water." The city was using an average of almost 2 million gallons of water per day, and schools were about to open for the year. The schools used approximately 23,000 gallons of water per day.

Mayor Brown said both the Towaliga River and Yellow Water Creek were low, but not as low as they were in the drought of 1981.

Since that drought, the city had enlarged two reservoirs – at Towaliga River water plant and the Yellow Water Creek plant – and Cawthon's Lake, from which water was pumped to the Yellow Water Creek plant, was also enlarged. A reverse water line had also been installed connecting the city to a Henry County water line and could be used for drinking water only if the city ran completely out of water.

At its August 15, 1983 meeting, the City Council decided recently enacted pricing for mausoleum crypts for residents living in the county were too high and lowered them. The new prices adopted were: $1,600 and $1,500 for city residents, and $2,000 and $1,875 for county residents. For residents living outside the county, the rates were $2,400 and $2,250.

At the end of August 1983, clients and staff moved into the new Butts County Training Center for the Mentally Retarded off Alabama Boulevard. "Everyone is proud of the building," said Hugh Fanin, director of the facility. The building resembled other industrial buildings in the area. "Clients feel like they're going to work instead of to the center," said Fanin. "Some of the MR stigma has been taken away." The center served 41 clients at the time.

In September 1983 came word that two men purchased the recently closed Avondale Mills plant and planned to reopen it as a carpet yarn production business. Bishop F. Smith, Jr. and Hoyt L. Grace, both of South Carolina, said they would employ 200 people when the plant was at full operation. It was to be known as the Indian Springs Spinning Plant.

Smith and Grace said they would invest about $3 million in the facility, and were independent with no parent company. It was to manufacture nylon carpet yarn, basically the same product Avondale had been turning out at the plant before it closed.

The plant was up and running in February 1984 with three shifts a day turning out nylon yarn.

The City Council annexed 64.53 acres around Hickory Ridge Road into the city on September 6, 1983.

At its September 19, 1983 meeting, the City Council learned that the permitting of parades and solicitors had been moved from city hall to the police department since that was where most complaints were received.

On October 20, 1983 the Lady Devils' softball team of Jackson High School won the State AA championship with a 10-0 win over Oconee County. "I feel honored to be a coach here at Jackson and work with these girls," said second-year coach Jenny Vogt. "They're great athletes as well as young citizens."

The team earned a season record of 26 wins and one loss – to former state champions, Pike County. In the final game, Christy Rutledge and Linda Sims led off the game with back-to-back homeruns. Brenda Sims hit a homerun later in the game. On defense, the Lady Devils turned five double plays.

Former Jackson assistant police chief Glenn Usry filed suit against the city in the U.S. District Court in Macon in early November 1983. In it, Usry, who was fired due to comments he made in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*, claimed the firing violated his right to free speech guaranteed in the First and Fourteenth amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

In an interview with the *Progress-Argus*, Usry said that the city police department did not have enough officers to adequately enforce DUI laws. Usry received a letter of reprimand from Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr., Police Chief Dorsey Evans and Police Committee Chairman John L. Coleman. He was fired following a meeting of the Police Committee, which Usry had requested and then refused to attend.

The suit was settled out of court in February 1984. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

In the election of November 2, 1983, First Ward Councilman Dawson Bryant defeated Lewis Sims 385 votes to 347. In the Fifth Ward race, Councilman John R. Pulliam was reelected by 395 by 271 over R. E. Mitchell. Fourth Ward Councilman John L. Coleman had no opposition and was reelected for another term.

Sims asked for a recount of the votes in the First Ward race, but since the margin of victory was over two percent, state law stipulated that no recount was required.

<u>JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1983</u>
JACKSON 14, Henry County – 7
JACKSON 20, Jones County – 12
Jackson – 6, LAMAR COUNTY – 14
Jackson – 7, PIKE COUNTY – 21
Jackson – 8, ROBERT E. LEE – 41
Jackson – 7, MARY PERSONS – 44
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 35
Jackson – 7, TAYLOR COUNTY – 13
JACKSON – 14, Hawkinsville – 7

Jackson – 0, BLECKLEY COUNTY – 41

A lawsuit against the city for alleged violation of voting rights was dismissed in November 1983 by a federal judge. According to one of the plaintiffs, Rev. W. T. Brown, Jr., the dismissal was requested by lawyers for the plaintiffs "due to information not previously known to us" and that a new suit would be filed. The suit was first filed in September 1981, alleging that the city failed to obtain pre-clearance from the Justice Department before annexing Pepperton and the Baker Subdivision into the city.

In November 1983, the Public Service Commission granted Greyhound Bus Line's request to cancel service to the City of Jackson. But two weeks later, on November 21, Gray Line of Atlanta announced that it would begin serving the city with bus service to and from Atlanta on weekdays. The bus would leave Jackson at 6:30 a.m. and arrive in Atlanta after stops Locust Grove, McDonough and Stockbridge. The afternoon bus was to leave Atlanta at 5:30 p.m. and return to Jackson by 6:55 p.m.

A fire on December 23, 1982 heavily damaged a house on Nelson Street and killed its owner, Imogene Fears, age 60. The house burned for 30 to 45 minutes before a neighbor saw it and notified the fire department. Fire Chief Cotton Vaughn said Fears died of smoke inhalation, and the cause of the fire was either a cigarette or gas heater.

On December 24, 1983, a frigid blast of Winter descended on Butts County bringing record subfreezing temperatures as the arctic-like winds produced wind chill factors of 20 to 50 degrees below zero. The major casualties were water pipes, ill-prepared for such cold weather in middle Georgia.

It was the coldest Christmas on record, as temperatures remained in the teens during the day, and dropped to zero at night. Sleet and snow began falling on December 27, causing hazardous driving conditions. No deaths or serious injuries were reported though.

1984

Charles James was fired from his job as a radio dispatcher for the Jackson Police Department on January 3, 1984 for allegedly sleeping while on duty. Police Chief Dorsey Evans allegedly found James asleep at his post at 4 a.m. on December 31. James was allowed to work the remainder of his shift and two more days, and claimed he was only "nodding."

James said he planned to file a lawsuit against the city.

At its January 3, 1984 meeting, the Jackson City Council elected John L. Coleman as mayor pro tem. Franklin Freeman was reappointed as court recorder. The Council also voted to continue giving $100 per month in support of the National Guard Armory in the city, and $516 a month in support of the Hawkes Library. The Council also agreed to continue sending $2,000 a month to the Butts County Recreation Department.

Furthermore, the Council voted to donate $1,000 to the operation of the McIntosh Trail Early Childhood Development Council, another $1,000 to the Butts County Developmental Disabilities Boosters, Inc., and $375 per quarter to the Jackson-Butts County Child Development Foundation.

The city also donated $20 per month off the utility bill at the CAR clubhouse.

The Council also charged off $5,008 in past due utility accounts for 1983.

In January 1984, Joe Louis Bland of Jackson filed suit against the city seeking $350,000 in damages for an incident that allegedly took place on April 3, 1983. On that date, Bland alleged, he was "severely beaten by (police officer) Jimmy Spence and another individual who was not and is not a city of Jackson police officer."

Bland was arrested on April 3, 1983 for DUI and operating a motor vehicle after being declared a habitual violator. Bland was taken to the city jail and was later removed from his cell. It is then that the alleged beating took place.

The city and county were awarded a $199,000 grant from the state Community Development Block Grant program in January 1984. The money was used to run a sewer line from the city to the industrial park located between Highway 16 and Highway 87 east of town. It was hoped the line would attract new industry.

In January 1984, the Hospital Authority began looking into leasing Sylvan Grove Hospital to a private investor. The hospital was well-equipped and well-staffed, but was in bad shape financially. Its biggest problem was a low patient count. In 1983, the average was 11 patients per day, and it required 15 per day to break even.

The hospital had 26 beds and five general practitioners on staff and five specialists who could be called in.

"We do not want to sell the hospital, but we have to do something to make operating it economically feasible," said Rufus Adams, chairman of the Authority, adding that if the facility was leased that some local supervision would be retained.

A man was robbed in broad daylight in the parking lot of the Red & White store on January 27, 1984. John Maddox had just emerged from the store with a bag of groceries when he was pushed into his car by a White man who demanded money. Maddox said the assailant explained that he was out of work and needed to buy food for his family. Maddox tried to give the man money, but the robber wanted all his money – about $40. Maddox was not injured, and the assailant ran away.

In February 1984 came news that the U.S. Justice Department had cleared the annexation of 14 acres into the city, which encompassed the Fox Hollow neighborhood.

The Indian Springs Spinning Corporation reduced its workforce from 235 to 160 in February 1984. Owner Bishop Smith said the reduction was due to "softness in the carpet industry caused by a higher than normal yarn inventory and a reduced business climate."

In March 1984, the city raised its rates for garbage collection. The fee for city residential pick up increased to $6 from $4 a month, and the rate for rural residential increased from $8 to $12 a month.

At a meeting on February 28, 1984, the Butts County Hospital Authority approved steps to be taken for the leasing of the hospital. Leasing the facility, said Rufus Adams, chairman of the Authority, would relieve taxpayers while making it more possible to expand services at the hospital. No lessee was named at the meeting.

Later that month, the Authority agreed to lease the hospital to Healthcare Management Group, Inc. of Birmingham, Alabama. Under the agreement, Healthcare would pay the Authority an annual rental fee, assume complete responsibility for indigent care, and assumed all existing liabilities.

At the annual STAR Student Banquet on March 6, 198, Chris Howell was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. He chose Finley McLaurin as his STAR Teacher. The event, sponsored by the Exchange Club, was held at the Mason Jar Restaurant.

At its March 5, 1984 meeting the City Council voted to increase its monthly support of the Hawkes Library from $516 to $770, provided that the county matched the increase when its new fiscal year began in July.

Following weeks of illness, Joe Brown, Sr. died on March 20, 1984. He was co-owner of Brown's Furniture for 31 years, a charter member of the Butts County Jaycees, was selected as Butts County's Young Man of the Year in 1960, was a founder of the Jackson Softball League, served on the board of the Van Deventer Foundation, was a volunteer fireman with the city for 25 years, and was instrumental in bringing the Avondale Recreation Park to the city.

"Big" Joe Brown was known for his big heart, his love of Butts County sports, and his ability to install and repair any household appliance, according to a 2010 article by Diane Glidewell in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. Televisions were new to family homes when Brown's began selling Raytheon TVs for $199. Brown's may well have sold more televisions than any other business in Georgia. Big Joe delivered them, installed the antenna, and adjusted the reception. He sold and installed the first color television in the county. Many evenings, he answered the call of a senior citizen to adjust reception. Many times he made out no bills for his service calls. Big Joe fulfilled Brown's slogan of "We service what we sell."

"Joe [Brown, Sr.] was the audio-visual guy," recalled Walter Carmichael in 2009. "The first double-tube stereo amplifier I got, I got from Joe. That's what I sued all through college, and it was the greatest sound. Joe was just a great guy. Always at the football games, and helped build a new field house. We were lucky to get those guys [Joe and C. B. Brown] in here. C. B. turned out to be a great mayor, and of course provided us with Charlie."

C. B. Brown, Jr. was "a lot like Charlie," said Luke Weaver in a 2009 interview. "He was not too outspoken, not too much in the limelight, but got a lot done. And Joe Brown, his brother, was real responsible for the recreation department we have now. They were a pretty good team."

Joe Brown "probably did more for starting sports than anybody in the community besides Mr. [Hampton] Daughtry and Mr. [James] Wallace," said Charlie Brown in 2010, "because back in those days when the football team or some team went to a playoff game and they needed money he went went around town collecting money. He coached little league baseball. He started the first men's softball team in Jackson called Brown's Clowns. It actually said that on their uniforms. They used to play softball on Wallace Field next to the football stadium. They had only one team so they played people from out of town.

"He actually headed up an organization that built ball fields in Pepperton when the Daughtry Foundation went out of youth programs in the '70s," he said. "They built softball fields and little league baseball fields down there that he ran and oversaw. [The fields were located next to the Second Baptist Church off Highway 16 East.] And then in 1975 when the county got into recreation they gave the county all those facilities. They took the lights, dug outs, press boxes and moved it over to the county complex."

Figures released by the Georgia Press Association in April 1984 showed that Butts County's population was 14,500, there were 4,540 households, and 7,030 motor vehicles here. The average household in the county took in income of $17,881 annually, compared with $14,699 per household in 1982.

On April 18, 1984 the announcement was made that American Woodmark would build an 88,000-square-foot assembly and warehousing plant in Jackson's industrial park east of the city. The plant, which was scheduled to begin operation by November, was to employ 23 supervisory and clerical employees and 146 production employees. The company's products included wood kitchen and bath cabinets.

The decision ended months of negotiations between company executives, members of the Development Authority of Butts County and city and county officials. Key factors in Woodmark's decision making process, according to William F. Brandt, president of the company, was the city's proximity to Atlanta and the major interstate connecting with Florida, the recent passage of a Freeport Tax Option by the county, and "the positive attitude exhibited by members of the Development Authority and city and county officials toward location of a woodworking facility in Jackson."

At the time, American Woodmark was the third largest manufacturer of wood kitchen and bath products in the United States.

"We are extremely pleased to have this fine company become an industrial citizen of Butts County," said Vincent Jones, chairman of the Development Authority. "It is a dynamic company with young, aggressive leadership that was interested in a community in which it could grow and that would grow with it. We believe this blending of company and community will be mutually beneficial."

In April 1984, the mayor and Council revisited the city's zoning ordinance, which was adopted in 1960. Officials felt many aspects of the document were outdated and needed updating. Attention was paid to definitions of lot, boarding or rooming house, and mobile homes. The Council also reworked the section governing requests for variances.

"Zoning laws are necessary," said Councilman Roy Goff, "because they are enacted under the police power of a community to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people."

The Jackson Fire Department fought an intense fire at Dudley's Restaurant on Macon Avenue on May 8, 1984. The fire was discovered at 4 a.m. by a Jackson police officer, and 12 firemen worked the flames for almost three hours in order to save the building. It was determined that the fire started in a trash can and arson as well as burglary were suspected. The owner, Dudley McEachin, had no insurance to cover his losses.

In May 1984, three residents of Jackson and Butts County filed suit in federal court against the city and county for alleged violations of the constitutional rights of Black voters. The plaintiffs, Rev. William T. Brown, Jesse Duffey and Lewis Sims, argued that the city and county's process of holding elections at-large for county commission and city council diluted the voting strength of Black citizens. In addition, the suit claimed that the use of numbered posts, majority vote requirements, and the failure to require ward or district residence for candidates for county commission "further dilutes the voting strength of Black electors and enhances the opportunity for discrimination against Blacks."

"What prompted [my eventual run for a seat on the city council] was a lawsuit against the county and the city by the justice department," said Theodore Patterson in 2010. "Me, myself, I never had any desire or notion to run for any political office. But there were several Blacks in the community - John Lee Smith, for one - that had run at-large for a city position. Every time there was an election, all of them were held at-large. There weren't districts, so everybody voted for who they wanted to vote for. Nobody Black that ran ever stood a chance of winning an election. The late Rev. W. T. Brown, Lewis Sims and Jesse Duffey filed the suit."

The Valedictorian of the Jackson High School Class of 1984 was Holly Brown, and the Salutatorian was Chris Howell. Graduation was held on June 4, 1984.

Since the drought of 1981, the city had taken several steps by the middle of 1984 to insure water for its residents and businesses. It had added a 2 million gallon reservoir next to the water plant, built a line connecting Jackson with Henry County's water supply, and dredged the Towaliga River.

Jackson's withdrawal permit from the state allowed it to draw 1.5 million gallons a day from the Towaliga River, but a large percentage of that was lost due to holes in old lines reducing the amount that actually made it to homes and businesses to about 1.2 million gallons per day.

In all, the city's two water plants could provide 1.6 million gallons per day, which was more than enough at the time. The average amount used per day was 1 million gallons.

A plan to build a line to High Falls Lake stopped when the city could not secure all the easements needed from landowners.

On July 24, 1984, Dorsey Evans resigned as police chief of Jackson, a position he held for 13 months. Evans said he "enjoyed his tour in Jackson and the people have been great." Neither he nor the mayor and Council made any comment as to the motivation or reason behind the resignation. Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said simply that the city was "going to take our time finding a replacement."

In August 1984, Indian Springs Spinning Corporation's plant manager Skip Rykard said the facility was not closing, but that the company was "just in a period of curtailment." He said a slow down in the carpet industry was to blame, which was blamed on a slow down in the home building industry.

At its August 20, 1984 meeting, the City Council voted to impose no property taxes for the eighth consecutive year. "We are very proud of the fact that Jackson is one of the few cities in Georgia or in the United States without property taxes," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr.

On the night of August 21, 1984, 34-year-old Memphis Watts drowned in the pond on College Street belonging to T. A. Carmichael, Sr. Watts had been employed by the Carmichaels, and was found to be very drunk when the drowning occurred. No evidence of foul play was found or expected.

In a runoff held on September 4, 1984, Billy Leverette won a third term as Sheriff of Butts County with a 1,979 to 1,693 win over challenger Gene Pope.

Charlie Frank White of Jackson was charged with the September 20, 1984 shooting of two women at the Econ-O-Way Laundry on South Mulberry Street. According to Sheriff Leverette, the women, Essie Mae Johnson and her daughter, Janet Johnson, were shot following an argument with White. Both women were treated in Atlanta and released, though the daughter was 12 weeks pregnant at the time of the shooting and lost the child. White was on parole for a murder committed in the mid-1970s in Butts County.

The qualifying fee to run for Mayor of Jackson in the Fall of 1984 was $180, and $100 to run for a seat on the Council.

"I qualified for county commissioner in 1984, and I didn't tell anyone I had done it," said Charlie Brown during an interview in 2010. "I was actually scared to tell my dad [the-Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr.]. My dad had always told me he didn't want me to get involved in politics. But as I look back, I think since I was the age of two my dad instead of encouraging me to be in sports, I think he was training me to be in politics. But he heard [I qualified] on the radio, and we worked in the same insurance office. He came back from lunch and said, 'Do you have something you want to tell me?' I said, 'No.' He said, 'Sit down.' I said, 'Yes sir.' He said, 'What exactly were

you thinking?' I said, 'Well, I'm not really sure.' He said, 'Well, let me give you some advice.' So he gave me some advice, and since then I've been in office except for a three-year period when I didn't participate.

"I tell people the best the city and county government ever got along was when my dad was mayor and I was chairman of the county commissioners," Brown added with a smile. "We got along, or I got whipped."

At its October 15, 1984 meeting, the Jackson City Council appointed Gerald Davis as the city's new police chief. Davis, an investigator with the Butts County Sheriff's Office, had been in law enforcement for eight years.

"He stayed there [at the Butts County Sheriff's Office] for seven years, from '77 to '84," said Mary Davis of her husband, Gerald. "And they asked him to be police chief, and of course he took them up on it. I was so proud of him, so very proud of him. He was police chief for several years."

On October 26, 1984, the Lady Devils of Jackson High School won their second state softball championship in a row. The team beat Turner High and then took two games from Northwest High School. The Lady Devils played well on defense, but it was their bats that got the job done in the end – 21-0 in the final game.

"The difference in an average and a great athlete is the willingness to burn the body and endure pain," said Head Coach Jenny Vogt. "There was a great deal of pressure on the girls to win again. They handled it well and I'm proud of them."

Team members included Linda Sims, Paula Wise, Christy Rutledge, Jennifer McLendon, Tijuana Usher, Sonya Wise, Brenda Sims, Audrey Dodson and Kim Jones.

<u>JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1984</u>
Jackson – 14, HENRY COUNTY – 21
JACKSON – 16, Monticello – 13
Jackson – 7, JONES COUNTY – 20
Jackson – 0, MANCHESTER – 41
Jackson – 0, ROBERT E. LEE – 21
Jackson – 7, LAMAR COUNTY – 28
JACKSON – 35, Harris County – 6
Jackson – 11, PIKE COUNTY – 25
Jackson – 3, MARY PERSONS – 35
Jackson – 9, CRAWFORD COUNTY – 13

The American Woodmark plant in Jackson opened on November 14, 1984. Ken Darnell, the plant manager, acted as emcee for the event. The facility was 87,500 square feet, and was making 120 cabinets a day at first. A reception at the Mason Jar Restaurant followed the ribbon cutting ceremony.

1985

At its January 7, 1985 meeting, the Jackson City Council elected John L. Coleman as Mayor Pro Tem. Franklin Freeman was reappointed as court recorder for the city, and Richard Milam was renamed city attorney.

The Council also approved vacation and sick leave policies for employees: one to three years of service, one week of vacation; after three years of service, two weeks of vacation. As for the sick leave policy, during their first year of service, employees earned one day of leave per month with no anticipating. After one year of service, employees got 15 sick days per year.

On January 21, 1985 an arctic storm, dubbed the Alberta Clipper by meteorologists, blasted its way into Butts County bringing the coldest weather of the century. The temperature in Jackson fell to five degrees below zero with a windchill factor of 38 degrees below zero. No deaths or serious injuries were reported, but residents had to deal with frozen pipes, disabled vehicles and rapidly diminishing fuel supplies.

Schools were closed on Monday the 21st and Tuesday the 22nd because, according to School Superintendent Loy Hutcheson, "it was just common sense."

The Jackson Fire Department offered free water to those with broken pipes, shelter in its engine bays for anyone needing, but received not a single call during the severe weather according to Fire Chief Cotton Vaughn.

At its January 25, 1985 meeting, the City Council voted to fund the Hawkes Library with $770.42 per month, the county recreation department with $2,000 per month, the Jackson-Butts County Child Development Center with $375 quarterly, the McIntosh Trail Early Childhood Development Program with $1,000 annually, the Butts County Developmental Disabilities Boosters, Inc. with $1,000 annually, the nutrition program of the McIntosh Trail Council on Aging with $250 quarterly.

The Council also voted to donate $500 to the Butts County Historical Society for the restoration of the McIntosh House at Indian Springs, and to donate up to $25 per month toward the electric bill of R. T. Bennett "in appreciation for his many years of service to the city."

The City Council adopted its annual budget on February 4, 1985. The budget totaled $2,169,203, an increase of 6.5 percent, or $157,824, over the previous year's budget. There were no new large items in the new budget. According to Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr., the increase was due to increases in salaries for city workers and higher prices for materials and maintenance.

Brown expressed concern that federal revenue sharing with local governments would be cut if President Reagan's budget was adopted. "We are in better shape than many cities, because we did like the federal government people said," Brown pointed out. "We didn't start any new programs that we will have to continue to fund."

Also at the meeting, the Council voted to use DUI offenders on city work details. Under a state law adopted recently, offenders could be sentenced to community service rather than jail time. Mayor Brown hoped to use these offenders in a variety of ways, but in particular to clean up the cemetery.

Brown said the cemetery was so littered "it made me sick when I saw it."

On February 23, 1985, the Lady Devils of Jackson High School won the Region 3AA basketball championship by defeating Wilkinson County 61-53. Brenda Sims had 17 points in the final game, and her sister, Linda Sims, had 16.

In March 1985, three doctors were added to the staff of Sylvan Grove Hospital: Dr. Sanjeeva Rao, specializing in internal medicine and critical care medicine; Dr. Steven R. Whitworth, specialist in general and vascular surgery; and Dr. Frank E. Davis, another specialist in general and vascular surgery.

Firemen fought a fire for four hours on March 20, 1985 at the Cimmarron Marine plant. The fire started that afternoon when a short in an extension cord used on a portable screw gun caused arcing. A worker's clothing caught fire and he was helped by his co-workers, but the cord continued to arc setting fire to highly flammable fiberglass resin, which was, according to employee Mark Dentler, "all over the place." Dentler was the son of Don Dentler, the owner of Cimmarron.

"In 15 to 20 minutes the building was engulfed in flames," said Dentler. "In 45 minutes the roof had caved in. We've spent eight years getting this operation going, and it just went so quickly."

The Dentlers estimated their loss at $150,000, but employees were back at work the next day.

In his annual State of the City speech to the Jackson Kiwanis Club on April 15, 1985, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. Told his audience the city's financial condition was good. "Jackson operates strictly on a cash basis," he told them, "with all of the improvements to the police, sanitary, water and light departments being paid in cash."

With income of $2,654,863 in 1984, the city derived $231,000 from the county's one-cent sales tax and $42,092 from revenue sharing which, he added, might be lost under the new federal budget.

Brown believed a redistricting plan recently submitted to the federal government would be approved and would divide the cit into five wards - as it was at the time - but that residents would vote only on the candidates in the ward in which they reside.

The mayor said trafficking in drugs was one of the most persistent problems facing city officials and called on all citizens to be observant and report any suspicious activity relating to drug sales.

In the Spring of 1985, residents of Indian Springs Street were so fed up with speeders using their residential street as a drag strip that at least one resident, Michael Browning, chased down a speeding driver and swore out a warrant against him for reckless driving. Browning later confronted the driver, Mark Potts, at his residence, and Potts and his mother then swore out warrants on Browning for simple battery and criminal trespass.

On May 8, 1985, the Jackson Red Devils defeated the Pike County Pirates, 9-6, to win their eighth Region 3AA baseball championship in nine years. Pitcher Kenny Sims was credited with the win, giving up eight hits, walking two, and striking out five.

Four Jackson High School Lady Devils competed in the state track meet in May 1985: Michelle Thornton in the 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs, Rose Mary Collins in the discus, Jennifer McCravy in the 3200-meter run, and Shirley Burns in the 100-meter low hurdles.

Twenty-eight merchants who operate on or near the downtown square formed a Downtown Merchants Association in May 1985 to "eliminate common problems, improve business and to make shopping easier for customers."

Jerry McLaurin, owner of McLaurin Graphics, and a director of the DMA, said the association was not formed because of any disagreements with the Butts County Chamber of Commerce. He and others in the Association did not want to see the square "die" as so many others had in other cities that went through periods of growth.

The merchants' biggest competition at the time was coming from Southlake Mall in Clayton County. "Businesses in Southlake use loss leader to attract customers," said McLaurin. "Nobody on the square in Jackson uses a loss leader. What we use is service to our customer. Everything sold in the businesses on the square is guaranteed. Rich's and Davison's don't have to do that. A lot of merchants in that mall will exchange items if, and only if, everything is in perfect order. Here in Jackson if a merchant on the square asked one of his customers for a receipt or sales tag from an item he wanted to exchange, the customer would be highly insulted."

Justin Waits was named Valedictorian of the Jackson High School Class of 1985. When commencement exercises were held on June 3, 1985, Paula Wise was the Salutatorian.

Complaints of racial discrimination in the Butts County School System filed in June 1985 resulted in an investigation by the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Justice Department. The investigation sought to determine whether or not racial discrimination affected student class assignments, testing and placements. Investigators also looked into whether race and sex discrimination occurred in hirings, promotions and assignments in the school system. Six months later, the OCR announced that it found the allegations could not be proved.

On June 3, 1985, the city council adopted ordinances against noise, disorderly conduct and loitering. The laws were designed to stop "annoying" noises and prevent destruction of property. Many youths were upset over the new laws since they prevented them from gathering on the square after business hours. The square was long a favorite haunt of the younger generation, but it was also where most acts of vandalism occurred.

Merchants accused youngsters of breaking flower boxes, urinating on store windows, throwing bark from planters all over the street and leaving cans and trash on the sidewalks. Jackson Police Chief Gerald Davis said the youth were starting to "get into a lot of fights, shouting obscenities at passing motorists, and even standing in the middle of streets and not allowing traffic to pass."

"The youngsters themselves finally forced the mayor and Council to act," said Jackson Street Supervisor Glen Smith. "It wasn't all the youngsters. Probably only a handful, but the law doesn't make concessions for the few."

"I don't hang out on the square because my parents won't allow me to, and their reasons for not allowing me to go up there are right so I'm not complaining about that," said 17-year-old Dawn Boan. "I just don't think it's fair that they can pull me over and give me a ticket for blowing my horn at someone I know or fine me and my friends if we pull over to talk."

Pliny Hall Weaver, a former mayor of Jackson, died June 20, 1985 following an illness of three months. He was a founder of the Butts County Development Authority, served on the board of Sylvan Grove Hospital, was a former member of the Butts County Board of Education, and chairman of the Van Deventer Foundation.

"That's the amazing thing about Butts County," said Ernest Battle. "You take Mr. [Samuel] Johnson, Hamp Daughtry, Pliny Weaver. They lived their lifetimes helping other folks' kids. And I think Mr. Daughtry's wife had a kid, but he never did. But these men spent their lives helping kids. Mr. Johnson doesn't have any kids. Mr. Pliny didn't have any kids. And they just had genuine concern for the kids. When they had the freshman game between Georgia and Georgia Tech, Mr. Daughtry paid the way for all us kids to go up to Grant Field."

In July 1985, Butts County had the highest unemployment rate in the State of Georgia at 17.3 percent.

In an address to the Jackson Kiwanis Club on August 6, 1985, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. talked about the city's fiscal shape. It was the eighth year in a row the city levied no property taxes on its residents. "While income from the sales tax - $231,000 last year - has helped to keep our tax base at zero, the city spent $181,000 just to pick up garbage, leaving just $50,000 to operate the city on," he said. "It takes intelligent, dedicated management, which our council member have given, to operate any city without a burden to the property owners."

Citing some personal experiences, Mayor Brown said that he learned early in his political career that "you just don't mess with people's land or children."

In a special election held on August 20, 1985, Butts County elected its first Blacks to local governing positions, which signaled the end of controversial at-large elections in the county. That August, Frederick J. Head and Eddie Travis were elected to the Board of Commissioners bringing the total number of commissioners to five.

In District 4, which was 72 percent Black, Head received 381 votes to 223 for Harold Miller. Travis carried District 5 with 238 votes to 168 for Gilmer Morris and 39 for Jayne Holton.

The special election was the result of a federal lawsuit which was settled out of court. The judge in the case ordered redistricting of the county and that commissioners be elected from the districts in which they live not county-wide

In August 1985, a new state law allowed judges to offer violators a chance to perform community service instead of going to jail. Jackson Police Chief Gerald Davis reported that Jackson was one city that was utilizing that law, adding that about half the violators in the city - most of whom were sentenced to traffic or DUI charges - elected to do community service. The community service was scheduled for weekend, and included such tasks as cleaning streets and sidewalks and cutting grass. The city had three to five people doing service each week, according to Davis.

A clerk at the Lemon Tree convenience store on Macon Avenue was robbed at gunpoint on the night of September 2, 1985. An undisclosed amount of money was taken by the two men wearing ski masks. Burglaries had also been reported at the Mason Jar Restaurant and Fabral Alcan Building in that part of town.

In September 1985 came the news that a four-acre tract on West Third Street at Harkness Street was being developed for a Piggly Wiggly grocery store and a Revco drugstore. The developer, Jimmy White, said the grocery store would be 22,700 square feet. The pharmacy was to be 8,450 square feet. White also built eight single-story condominiums adjacent to five townhomes he recently constructed there.

At a called meeting on September 20, 1985, the City Council declared the Ward 2 post, held by Bill Fletcher, vacant. Fletcher had moved to Ward 4, and per the city charter a councilman could not serve a district if he did not live in it.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve the people of Jackson in two terms," said Fletcher, who did not contest the action. "And I am glad to have had the opportunity to work with city officials and employees."

At the same time, and as a result of a federal lawsuit against the city, the Council - on advice from City Attorney Richard Milam - declared the seat from Ward 1 vacant. The seat was held by Dawson Bryant.

In September 1985, the city was finally notified that a discrimination complaint filed against it in 1980 was finally dismissed. The complaint, filed a the U.S. Office of Revenue Sharing, alleged discrimination against Blacks in hiring and employment practices. The federal office conducted its investigation in September 1982, and three years later the city was told the evidence obtained did not support the complaint.

The investigation found that the City of Jackson had a workforce of 53 employees, including 18 Blacks. That was a 34 percent ration of Black workers to White workers. According to the U.S. Census of 1980, Blacks comprised 35.6 percent of the workforce in Jackson. It was undisputed, however, that all department heads and clerical staff in city hall were White and that Blacks compromised the majority of workers in the Sanitation Department. No department heads or clerical staff had been hired in six years however.

Blacks had also been appointed to various city boards since 1976, and several had been reappointed in the following years. The percentage of Black representation on these boards mirrored the Black population of the city at the time.

Investigators also found no basis to claims that the city paved and repaired streets in White neighborhoods faster and more often than it did in Black neighborhoods. City officials noted that the city sends a list of paving priorities to the Georgia Department of Transportation and that it in turn determines which streets were to be resurfaced.

The investigation also found that a chain link fence separated the White section of the city cemetery from the Black section of the cemetery. The fence was removed in 1983, though.

Shortly after noon on September 27, 1985, Jackson Assistant Fire Chief Mark Cook received an emergency call on his beeper. He responded to the call and arrived in a pasture in Jenkinsburg where a plane had just crashed.

The plane, which took off from the Westwind Sky Diving Club in Jenkinsburg, had gone down shortly after take off killing all 17 people aboard.

"A few people were already in the pasture when I arrived," said Cook. "Me and another member of the rescue squad ran to the plane and started checking the vital signs of everyone we could reach inside the wreckage. There was no one alive. They were all killed on impact."

Most of the victims, who were preparing for a free-fall parachute jump, were from Atlanta.

Two Flovilla men were charged with kidnapping and rape of a 14-year-old Jackson girl on October 2, 1985. Anthony Watts, 19, and Melvin Bland, 22, were charged with kidnapping the girl from her home on Hickory Street and taking her to a residence on Old Griffin Road where the assault was allegedly took place.

At the City Council meeting on October 7, 1985, several downtown merchants discussed the lack of parking on the square with the Council and mayor. City officials promised to look into it.

The Jackson High School Lady Devils softball team came from behind to capture the Region 3-AA championship for the third year in a row on October 8, 1985. The Lady Devils were seeded third going into the tournament, and lost their first game. But won the next three to claim the crown.

"In the past, Jackson has depended on the long ball," said Coach Deborah Tolar. "We didn't have any big guns this year; all we had was spirit and team effort. The girls gave more than 100 percent this season. It was more like 200 percent. I guess you could say they did it the hard way."

The team eventually were runners-up in the state tournament.

Seven years after it was created, the Butts County Industrial Park on Highway 42 South was thriving in October 1985. Three industries had located on 39 of the original 86 acres purchased by the Butts County Development Authority in 1978. The three industries doing business there in 1985 were: Cimarron Marine, TOGA Manufacturing, and American Woodmark.

"These are good solid companies who pay a decent wage, treat their employees fairly, and they stay," said John Coleman, Chairman of the Development Authority. "By this I mean they won't be here for six months and leave putting people out of work."

Coleman added that Butts County had nothing more than raw land and promises when it lured American Woodmark to the park in 1984. "We promised we would pave the road leading to the plant, provide a sewage line to the plant, build a rail spur to the plant, and pass a freeport amendment," said Coleman. "We were able to make good on every promise we made to them and as far as I know they are completely satisfied."

The primary reason Butts County was able to deliver on its promises, added Coleman, was due to the cooperation between city, county and state officials.

"Our first year has been very successful," said Ken Darnell, Plant Manager at American Woodmark. "We're ahead of all expectations and targets. Our target was to produce 1,400 cabinets a day by September 1985 and our actual production was 1,550. The employees gained the confidence of the officers at the corporate level to such a degree they have given us the green light to accelerate production."

Darnell attributed the high rate of production to the work ethic of the people in the area.

On October 21, 1985, the City Council adopted a parking ordinance governing the 220 spaces around downtown Jackson. The action came following a group of downtown merchants pleased with the mayor and council for assistance in making more parking available to customers.

Parking was a premium when court was in session, on Friday afternoons and during the holiday shopping season.

Under the new ordinance, a two-hour limit was put on parking during business hours, one parking permit was issued for each firm or office downtown to allow one employee free parking all day. Violators were fined $2, and $4 if it was not paid within seven days.

Wayne Phillips defeated 23-year incumbent Councilman John L. Coleman and former Councilman Bill Fletcher in the November 6, 1985 election for the council seat from Ward 4. Phillips received 288 votes to 245 for Coleman and 76 for Fletcher.

"The election renews my faith in the City of Jackson," said Phillips at the time. "This is a time for Jackson to move ahead, to progress."

Unopposed in the election, both Dawson Bryant and John R. Pulliam won re-election to seat in Ward 1 and Ward 5 respectively.

"I ran [for City Council] again in 1985 and we visited every house in the city," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. Phillips ran for council unsuccessfully in 1973. "I didn't visit each one personally, but someone from my family did. Barbara, her mother and my mother helped in the visiting. The four of us would fan out and go door to door. It was completely foreign to Barbara's mother, she was very shy and quiet. But my mother loved it. John L. [Coleman] was the incumbent. Bill Fletcher was on the council but had to resign his seat because he had moved to our district and was running for this seat also. So I was really running against two incumbents.

"To win this election a candidate had to have a majority of the votes - 50% plus one," Phillips explained. "On the night of the election, we were up in city hall where they were counting votes, and we knew how many people had voted. And when we got to that magic number (50% plus one), we went crazy. All the other people were saying, 'what are you celebrating for?' And I said, 'We just won.' It was a very humbling experience for us. I've only had opposition one time. It's been a great run. I feel like we've accomplished a lot on the City Council over the years."

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1985
Jackson - 0, HENRY COUNTY - 41
JACKSON - 7, Monticello - 0
JACKSON - 7, Jones County - 0
Jackson - 0, MANCHESTER - 38
JACKSON - 13, Robert E. Lee - 10
Jackson - 0, LAMAR COUNTY - 35
Jackson - 13, HARRIS COUNTY - 14
Jackson - 0, PIKE COUNTY - 49
Jackson - 0, MARY PERSONS - 28
JACKSON - 26, Crawford County - 19

The Jackson High School boys and girls cross country teams, coached by Charles Garrard, won first place in the Region 3-AA cross country championship held November 7, 1985. It was the boys' second region crown in a row.

Willie Ethel Carter, age 39 of Glen Street, died in a car wreck on Highway 16 East near the Second Baptist Church. The accident occurred on November 16, 1985 when Carter lost control of her car and overturned following a chase that began at Four Points Road when her husband began pursuing her car into Jackson. The husband, Leonard Carter, was charged with voluntary manslaughter.

Fire destroyed the Mallet Street residence of Delores Drewery in the early hours of December 6, 1985. There were no injuries in the blaze, which destroyed the three-bedroom home. The fire was believed to have started from a space heater.

On December 16, 1985, the City Council adopted a new Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Regulations. The previous documents, passed in 1960, were found to be outdated.

A Jackson man died on December 18, 1985 as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Claude Lamar Webb, 24, died after his car drove straight into a rock wall at the intersection of Second and Covington streets.

1986

According to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in 1986, Jackson had a population of 4,133, ranking the city 98th out of 556 municipalities in the state. There were 16,200 people in all of Butts County at that time.

On January 13, 1986, an agreement was filed in U.S. District Court in Macon settling the lawsuit filed in 1984 contesting the method of electing city council representatives in Jackson. The plaintiffs were: William T. Brown, Jr., Jesse L. Duffey, and Lewis Sims. The defendants were the mayor and Council of Jackson. Under the agreement an election system utilizing five single-member districts was adopted, and all candidates for the five district positions must reside in the district from which they are elected. In addition, Dawson Bryant from District 1 agreed to resign if necessary to avoid further legal action and submit to a special election to fill his seat, and a special election was called in District 2 to fill the seat vacated by Bill Fletcher, who had moved out of the district in 1985.

At its January 20, 1986 meeting, the Jackson City Council adopted a budget of $2.7 million.

At the annual STAR Student Banquet on February 13, 1986, David O'Dell was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. O'Dell named science teacher Charles Fells as his STAR Teacher.

The Butts County Et Al Water and Sewer Authority was created by an act of legislation during the General Assembly in 1986.

In the Spring of 1986, the area was feeling the effects of a drought. Gerald Stewart with the Jackson Water Department said the Towaliga River, which provided the city's water, was about 50 percent lower than normal. The city pumped an average of 1.5 million gallons of water a day out of the Towaliga River to serve about 1,750 customers.

"The county was discussing forming a water authority," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. "It had been tried a few times over the years and failed. But this time everyone was concerned because of the ongoing drought and many wells going dry. I was appointed as the city's representative on the authority. We passed the one percent sales tax to pay for it the start up costs, and I think we got around 89 percent yes votes. It was unheard of in the state for anybody to get high of a yes vote. But people wanted something done. We began work immediately. The first site we wanted to withdraw water was directly from Jackson Lake. We were going to withdraw from the Tussahaw River where it comes into Jackson Lake. That water was the cleanest coming into Jackson Lake. We were going to build a pick up point at that part of the lake, but the state turned us down. Little did we know that they would later approve Henry County for that same site. They told us we had to go below the dam. So we went there, located a site and purchased the land.

"We set some guidelines when we first started," said Phillips. "We said we would never do political favors. We would always determine where to run the lines based on the results of

surveys that denoted the highest number of residents per mile of road that replied that they would connect to our lines. Our philosophy was that the more customers added would generate more revenue that could be used to run more lines and that would be the best use of the money. There's never been any property tax used. It's all been sales tax. And the lines are over 90% of the county, and done without using any property tax."

At its meeting on May 5, 1986, the City Council adopted an ordinance that stated the city cemetery opened at 8 a.m. and closed at sundown. Violators of this ordinance could be fined $100 or 30 days in jail.

On May 6, 1986, the Jackson High School Red Devil baseball team won the Region 3-AA title with two straight wins over the Robert E. Lee Rebels. Students were released from school to watch the game, and the stands at Wallace Field were packed. Kenny Sims was on the mound that day striking out 12 batters and allowing just four hits. The team made it to the state semi-finals on May 20, where it lost the South Georgia championship to Harlem.

After graduation, Sims signed a one-year contract with the Cincinnati Reds and played for the organization;s rookie team in Sarasota, Florida. Sims batted .405 and hit 14 home runs during his senior year.

"Back then the Grand Jury appointed school board members two five-year terms," recalled Ernest Battle of his beginnings on the Butts County Board of Education. "Larry Smith got appointed, got involved in something else and resigned. So the Board of Education appointed Clemmie Ward to serve out the remaining time of Larry Smith's [term]. And after several months, it was more than Clemmie wanted to do. So Clemmie resigned. So the four Board members interviewed four or five of us and asked me if I wanted to serve. I said sure. This was 1986. Then the Grand Jury appointed me to a new five-year term.

"Right after I was appointed, a suit was filed to redistrict so you'd have two minority members on the Board of Education," Battle said in 2009. "And the Justice Department told me I could only serve four of the five years, and then after that I'd have to get into the cycle of running for the office. But I didn't have no opposition, and I got to liking it. I've had opposition twice since I came onboard in 1986. This is my 23rd year on the board, and I've been chairman since 1991. I am the first African American chairman of the Board of Education."

The Butts County Board of Education approved a new high school and a general reorganization of grades at its May 1986 meeting. Under the new grade system, schools will be divided into K-5 elementary, 6-8 middle and 9-12 high school. "The Quality Basic Education Act requires that schools follow certain organizational patterns in order to be eligible for new capital outlay funds," said School Superintendent Loy Hutcheson. The new high school was set to be completed by 1989. The total cost of the new school and the renovation of existing facilities was projected to be $4.5 million.

"Loy Hutchison was superintendent back then," said Ernest Battle, "and what he was proposing was to put the new school out there on the Jackson High baseball field. But the

building wouldn't fit there, so we started looking for some land. Byrd [Garland] knew what was going on with property in Butts County, and he started communicating with the people that owned the land [off Harkness Street]. And we bought the land from them and that's where we built the school.

"Loy believed in saving money," according to Battle. "When Loy left and Dennis Fordham came onboard, he left Dennis in good shape money-wise. Back then, we did what we called advance funding. And that school didn't cost no more than $5 million. I think we had to go into our ending balance something like a $1.5 million to pay for that school. And when you draw from your advance funding, money that you would earn each year for capital outlay and growth, the state keeps it until it's all paid back. That's how we built the high school on advance funding and about $1.5 in local money. The rest of the schools have been built with the SPLOST."

After discussing several recent complaints about the subject, the Jackson City Council adopted two ordinances on May 20, 1986 that prohibited the riding of bicycles or horses on city sidewalks. Violators could be fined $50 or $100 respectively, or serve 30 days in jail.

Commencement exercises for Jackson High School's Class of 1986 were held on June 2. Felicia Adele Mitchell was named Valedictorian, and Laura Kaye Mangham was named Salutatorian.

On June 10, 1986, fire destroyed the home of Eugene McLeod on Joy Street.

On June 23, 1986, Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. asked residents of Jackson to use water sparingly, and only water outdoors in the morning. Citizens were also asked to check for and repair any water leaks. A prolonged drought had reduced the available water supply to the city and the county.

Stray dogs were a nuisance in Jackson in 1986, but Mayor C. B. Brown. Jr. said that to build and operate a dog pound in the city would cost $150,000. The city once had a gas chamber for nuisance dogs, the mayor recalled, and strays were not much of a problem then. But state and federal laws enacted since then required that strays dogs be put in a pound.

At its July 7, 1986 meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution requesting that Butts County political party committees conduct all city primaries beginning in the Fall of 1986.

The water crisis in Butts County was upgraded to critical status in late July 1986. "Due to the severe drought the city has declared a water emergency," said Mayor C. B. Brown Jr. All outside watering was banned, including lawns, gardens and car washing. The restrictions applied to all city and county users on the city's water system. First time violators were to be fined $100. A ban was also enforced on outside burning in Jackson.

Prior to the drought, the city pumped 1.2 million gallons of water per day out of the Yellow Water Creek and Towaliga River. When the water emergency was declared, the city was pumping between 400,000 and 500,000 gallons per day. Henry County had a reservoir on the

upper Towaliga River it was not using, and allowed Butts County to tap into it as a source of water.

A month later, Mayor Brown was able to temporarily lift the ban on outdoor watering following recent rains.

In a special election held on July 29, 1986, Theodore Patterson won the District 1 seat on the City Council with 82 votes over 27 votes for incumbent Dawson Bryant. As a newcomer to politics, Patterson described himself as a person who has "always enjoyed helping people in the community, which is essential when running for a political office." Bryant had served on the Council for 17 years.

Lewis Sims was unopposed in the District 2 race. Both men became the first Blacks to serve on the Jackson City Council. The special election was the result of a redistricting plan that established five one-councilmember districts, which was brought about by a lawsuit filed against the city.

One of the first actions Patterson and Sims undertook was getting 300 households in one area of Jackson to sign a petition asking for a federal block grant for a new sewer system in the area.

"I had no desire to be in any political arena," admitted Theodore Patterson during an interview in 2010. "Mine was kind of forced on me. Not in a bad way, but after the lawsuit [over voting discrimination in the city and county] took place they called for a special election and it came down to qualifying. Fred Head and Eddie Travis were already on [the Butts County Board of Commissioners]. They were trying to find somebody in the Black community that was in the district I was in to run for that position on the City Council because they did not get anybody, then Dawson Bryant, who was already holding the seat, would have been re-elected unopposed. They had exhausted all their resources. Everybody they went to either wasn't eligible or couldn't run.

"So at the last minute, Fred Head called me," Patterson continued. "He said, "Thee, I want to talk to you about something. We need you to run for this office on City Council.' I said, 'Are you crazy? Why me?' He said, 'Thee, you're our last hope.' I said, 'Why do I have to be your last hope? There's go to be somebody else.' He said, 'No. You're it. If you don't run, all of this will have been in vain.' I said, 'Man, I'm just a normal plain everyday guy. I know nothing about politics. I know nothing about protocol or parliamentary procedure. I just don't think I'm the one that needs to be up there.' He kept on, and said, 'Nobody knows everything. It's a learning curve. You just got one vote. Just listen to what's being said. If it sounds OK and you think it's the right thing to do, then you vote for it. If not, then you don't.'

"So I sat there after Fred finished talking to me, and I talked to my wife," Patterson said. "She was totally against it. I looked at it, and I called Fred back the next day. And I said, 'So if I don't run, we lose?' And Fred said, 'Thee, if you don't run, we lose.' I said, 'What if I lose?' He said, 'We'll help you. Everybody likes you. You'll win.'

"That was probably one of the most difficult decisions of my life," he admitted. "That's how I got into the political realm. I was just tossed in there as a last ditch effort because they couldn't find anyone else to run. I'll be honest: I was terrified. I was petrified. This was

something that was totally out of my character, something that I had never dealt with before - politics. But I knew I had more to lose by not running, than I had to lose by running. So I campaigned, and I won. My district was something like 78 percent Black, so if half of the people in my district voted for me I shouldn't have had any trouble winning.

"Lewis [Sims] and I came in and we had our first [council] meeting, and were very well received and accepted," said Patterson. "We didn't have any negative attitudes towards us that I recall. It was a real unique experience. Charlie's dad [C. B. Brown, Jr.] was mayor at the time. He brought us in and tried to give us a quick education on how things operate, how things run. Lewis and I asked questions and got positive responses. And as issues came before us, if it was something we thought was good for the city, good for the people we represented, we cast a yea vote. If it wasn't, we voted against it. After being in there for a while, a lot of the anxieties that I had subsided. There was a lot of support and help as well. Judy Kelly was in city hall at that time. Gail Bush and Shirlyn Whiten were there, too. All of those ladies really helped us a lot. If there was anything we didn't understand or weren't sure about, they would come to us and explain things. They were really helpful, and I think about them all the time. I really appreciate the help and the concern and compassion they showed Mr. Sims and I when we came on board."

In 1986, signs welcoming drivers to the City of Jackson were installed on the sides of Highway 42 North and Highway 16 West. The signs - chain-link fence structures that featured the emblems of several local organizations such as the Jackson Kiwanis Club, the National Exchange Club, the Garden Club of Georgia, American Legion Finley Clay Post 102, Butts County Jaycees, Business & Professional Women's Club, American Association of Retired Persons and Rotary Club of Jackson/Butts County - were paid for with funds raised locally. The signs were maintained by the Azalea Garden Club.

On August 26, 1986, Piggly Wiggly Southern opened its 87th store at 625 West Third Street in Jackson. The 24,719-square-foot building housed a deli-bakery and seafood market. McIntosh State Bank also opened a branch office inside the store. A Big B Drugstore also opened in the new shopping center.

"We're not going to have any city property taxes this year," said Mayor C. B Brown, Jr. in September 1986. "This is the tenth year we were able not to have taxes." The City Council had voted unanimously at its first meeting that month not to levy ad valorem taxes.

In an effort to combat a worsening traffic situation in Jackson in September 1986, State Representative Larry Smith and Councilman Wayne Phillips floated the idea of building a truck by-pass around the city. Three major highways converge in downtown Jackson, and that resulted in almost non-stop tractor trailer truck traffic that often held up other traffic while the long trucks made close turns. Smith made a formal request to the Georgia Department of Transportation for consideration of such a by-pass.

In December, the DOT responded to the request saying it could not recommend or justify a truck by-pass to ease the traffic problem in Jackson. It said the number of vehicles on Highway

23 through the city each day averaged 10,000 to 12,000, and that the truck traffic was not unusually high for a town the size of Jackson.

In an election on September 17, 1986, Lewis Sims retained the District 2 seat he had won earlier in the year with 86 votes to William Henry Freeman's 61 votes. "I feel good about the election," said Sims. "It was a good, clean race, but tough. I knew it was going to be close." Sims' victory in a special election in July allowed him to serve out the remaining term vacated by Bill Fletcher, who had moved out of the city. Sims was a funeral director at Jackson Funeral Services.

The Lady Devil softball team of Jackson High School won the region championship in October 1986 with wins over Upson County. Tijuana Usher hit an inside-the-park home run in the eighth inning of the final game to break a tie and give Jackson the crown. The team went on to place second in the state tournament. It was the third consecutive year the Lady Devils finished runner-up at state.

"You probably won't find a dry eye among them," said Coach Carol Watts after her team received the second-place trophy. "They were really hoping and wanting to win, especially my three seniors."

At its October 20, 1986 meeting, the City Council discussed the results of a Department of Transportation study that determined Third Street should be widened from two lanes to three lanes in the city. Side parking would no longer be allowed under this plan. The Council felt the recommendation made sense to combat Jackson's traffic woes, and passed an ordinance banning side parking on Third Street.

Two weeks later, the Council asked the DOT to postpone the additional lane on Third Street until after January 1, 1987. The delay came about after several local businessmen attended the next Council meeting and protested the loss of 10 parking spaces that would be the result of the new lane. Mayor Brown encourage the businessmen to urge their counterparts and employees to park in the city parking lot on North Oak Street in order to free up more parking spaces on the square during business hours.

East Third Street "was beautiful," recalled R. Scott Coleman during an interview in 2009. "I think they were all turn of the century homes. And the trees that lined the street made a canopy over the street. And there used to be on street parking on both sides of the street. And of course the Methodist Church and the Baptist Church were there and in pristine condition. The Methodist Church still is, but the [former] yellow brick Baptist Church is really quite sad. And the Pittman house, which was not even one block off the square was one of the oldest houses in Butts County and was moved off Highway 16 by Paul and Maxine Kana. It was just a very pretty house. And Keith Fortson rescued another house that was on Third Street. It was a street that I never thought would change, or that anybody ever thought would change. But then without you really knowing, you'd wake up one morning and something would be gone, one little thing at a time. And it still is going on with the clearing of three major houses on [West] Third Street in the last couple of years."

"Jackson was a town that was geared for progress, and that progress came and with it came a lot of destruction," Coleman said. "Monticello didn't have that progress, and they still have their same main street. I don't know when the fatal blow came, when the planning and zoning, if there was any, decided that all of Third Street was going to be commercial. But that was the nail in the coffin."

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1986
JACKSON - 27, Stockbridge - 7
Jackson - 0, MONTICELLO - 3
Jackson - 7, JONES COUNTY - 21
JACKSON - 6, Harris County - 0
JACKSON - 42, Pike County - 6
JACKSON - 27, Lamar County - 0
Jackson - 0, MARY PERSONS - 14
Jackson - 14, UPSON COUNTY - 26
Jackson - 7, ROBERT E. LEE - 35
Jackson - 7, MANCHESTER - 50

At its meeting on November 17, 1986, the City Council lifted its ban on outdoor watering in Jackson. "We've got water now," said Mayor C. B. Brown. Jr. following several weeks of rainy weather. "That's the only reason it was lifted."

On the first of December 1986, the city announced that electric rates would increase 8.5 percent effective January 1987. In October, the city received word from the Municipal Electric Association of Georgia that the rate it charged the city for power would be increasing. It was third such increase in a year, though previous increases had been absorbed by the city and not passed on to consumers.

Throughout 1986, the City of Jackson received $256,628 in sales tax revenue from the Georgia Department of Revenue. The city's total income for the year amounted to $2,917,758.

1987

At its January 5, 1987 meeting, the City Council voted to continue to match its $2,000 monthly donation with the county to the Jackson-Butts County Recreation Department, and to continue another matching monthly donation to the Hawkes Library in the amount of s$986. It was also at this meeting that the Council was informed that the city's fire insurance classification was lowered to a Class 6, which meant a savings on insurance for homeowners and business owners in town.

A fire on January 18, 1987 did serious damage to the Red & White Grocery on Oak Street. Mark Cook, assistant fire chief of the Jackson Fire Department, said the blaze was a result of arson. Evidence showed the store was also burglarized. Owner Jerry Brooks estimated the losses

at $40,000. Brooks had already announced that the store was closing January 17, and he was moving stock to the Best Buy Grocery, which he had recently purchased. In August, a grand jury indicted Brooks with two counts of arson as a result of the fire. Two other Jackson men were also charged, both of whom were already in jail - one for another arson charge, the other for a burglary charge.

Snowfall on January 22, 1987 left a two-inch blanket of powder across Butts County. Schools were closed for the day, and many businesses opened later in the day when road conditions improved. In the city, residents on Covington Street were without power for about an hour. The snow melted by mid-afternoon, but temperatures then dropped into the 20s for several days.

The City Council adopted a budget of $2,911,855 at its February 2, 1987 meeting. It represented a $200,000 increase over the 1986 budget.

At the February 24, 1987 STAR Student Banquet, Jackson High School senior Joni James was named STAR Student by the Exchange Club. James named Cheryl Hilderbrand as her STAR Teacher.

Plans were announced in March 1987 for Georgia Box, Inc. of Atlanta to build a 137,000 square foot warehouse and 8,320 square foot office building. The project was the first time in the county's history that a building was projected to cost $1 million. The company, which designed, developed and manufactured containers, already had a manufacturing plant off Highway 42 north of Jackson that was built in 1985.

In March 1987, Firestone Company opened a regional service center at the Edsol Reclamation building on East Third Street. Edsol, which had been in business in Jackson since 1975, had a tire shredder and gave Firestone permission to use it. The Environmental Protection Agency had begun cracking down on illegal tire dumping, and shredding tires was seen as away to reduce the product's impact on landfill.

Work began on March 15, 1987 on a two-way left turn lane on Third Street running from the Piggly Wiggly at the intersection of Highway 42 to Pittman Street, and from Mulberry Street to the Giant Mart where Highway 16 split from Highway 42. These sections were designated for no on-street parking.

On March 20, 1987 came word that the General Assembly had approved $3.5 million toward to the cost of a new $3.9 million high school in Jackson. The new facility was planned to be 80,000 square feet, and constructed over the course of two years.

The City of Jackson received a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of $260,000 on April 14, 1987. "I'm just overjoyed we received this grant because this saves the citizens of Jackson $260,000," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. "This is what comes from hard work,

dedicated officials and a lot of prayer." The money was used to make repairs to the city's sewer system and to dredge a stream on Chestnutt Drive. Brown said 7,700 feet of sewer lines were replaced in the Valley Road, First Street and Chestnut Drive area. Those were the oldest lines in the city and caused the most problems at the time. The city had to match the grant with $10,00 of its own money.

Improvements to the Butts County Jail on North Oak Street were complete in the middle of April 1987. The outside of the jail was given a new coat of paint, and repairs were made to the roof. Inside, broken window panes were replaced, and exit and security lights installed. The five bathrooms were also remodeled.

In April 1987, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources approved the Butts County Et Al Water and Sewer Authority's plan to build a four million gallon capacity water treatment plant on Jackson Lake. According to Authority Chairman Bill Jones, officials were considering placing the plant on the Ocmulgee River just below the Lloyd Shoals Dam.

At the end of April 1987, the city began notifying property owners that they were responsible for cleaning up vacant lots and uncontrolled vegetation on other lots. Mayor Brown said the problem of unkempt lots is an annual one once vegetation begins growing in Spring. "There are many vacant lots around town," he said, "so we give warning to the owners that they must keep them neat if we are going to maintain the appearance of the city." In 1960, the city adopted an ordinance governing the upkeep of lots.

Hundreds of people turned out on Saturday, May 2, 1987 to watch as Hampton Daughtry threw out the first balls of a new recreation baseball season in a park that had just been renamed for him. The park had previously been called Avondale Recreation Park, and was changed to honor the man who started the Summer youth recreation program in Butts County nearly 30 years earlier.

Jim Westbury, administrator of the Westbury Medical Care Home in Jenkinsburg, announced in the first week of May 1987 that a $2.7 million dollar nursing home was going to built in Jackson next to Sylvan Grove Hospital. "We have purchased the property adjacent to the hospital to build the new facility," said Westbury at the time. "Looking at the needs of Butts County in the next century, we can better meet those needs in Jackson." The 28-year-old Westbury home in Jenkinsburg had 98 beds, and the new facility in Jackson was slated to have 196 beds.

The Red Devil baseball team of Jackson High School won the Region 3-AA championship in May 1987 after defeating Thomaston in a best-of-three series. Henry Hilderbrand hit his only homerun of the season to give his team a 1-0 win over Thomaston in the final game.

The team won the South Georgia Championship by defeating Fitzgerald in a best-of-three series in Fitzgerald. In the final game, Jackson came from behind to win 5-2. Charlie Biles

caught the final pop-up, and the team celebrated in the center of the field. The Red Devils received a hero's welcome in Jackson, and paraded through the streets with a police escort.

The team came up short of the state championship, losing both games of a double-header to Shiloh High of Gwinnett County at Wallace Field in Jackson on May 27. Still, it was the team's most successful season.

The JHS Red Devil track team won the 3-AA crown in May 1987, and sent 10 athletes to the Georgia Olympics. But only Freddie McDowell qualified for the state finals in the 400-meter dash. His qualifying time was 50.43 seconds. He came in fourth place at the state meet with a time of 49.99.

A former Jackson Police Officer, Johnny Fredrick, went before the mayor and Council on May 18, 1987 to express his concern that new hires are not properly screened and on-the-street training of new officers is not sufficient. He said background checks and aptitude tests should be required of all new hires. Frederick said he rode with a veteran officer for about two weeks in order to learn the city, and was then "cut loose. Two weeks of training and a .357 magnum is life or death in your hands," he said.

Several stores in Jackson had their beer and wine license suspended by the City Council in May 1987 after they all made alcohol sales to underaged customers.

The body of Luke Walker, an elderly Jackson man, was found at his residence on June 2, 1987 at his residence on the corner of First and Oak streets. His death, by gunshot to the chest, was believed to have been a murder tied to a break-in at his residence. Walker was a familiar face around the square and at church every Sunday, and when he did not show up on Sunday or Monday or Tuesday, some downtown merchants notified police.

Commencement for the Jackson High School Class of 1987 was held on June 6 with 122 members receiving diplomas. Joni James was Valedictorian of the class, and Valeria McIntyre was Salutatorian.

At its June 15, 1987 meeting, the City Council approved an agreement to provide water to residents on Paul Wells Road, effectively tying the city's water system into the system operated by Jenkinsburg. The agreement was entered into "for the mutual interests and the general good of the citizens of Butts County, Jackson and Jenkinsburg."

In 1987, Debbie Thompson of the Jackson Police Department began walking around downtown Jackson several times everyday with a piece of chalk to mark the tires of parked vehicles. If she found a vehicle still parked in a spot more than two hours later, she issued the driver a $2 parking ticket. She continued this practice for at least four years.

"This city has a drug problem and a crime problem that may get worse before it gets better," Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. told the Kiwanis Club at its July 7, 1987 meeting. He cited a

recent murder and vicious assault as "probably drug related," and warned citizens to be on their guard because "Jackson is no longer the little crime-free town it once was."

According to figures released in July 1987 by the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Butts County grew by 1,835, or 13.5 percent, from April 1980 to July 1986. The population of the county was pegged at 15,500, up from 13,665 in 1980.

At about 4 p.m. on July 12, 1987, one of the oldest buildings standing in Jackson toppled over. Once known as King's Opera House, the two-story brick structure at the corner of First and Oak streets collapsed, taking power lines with it. The building was the site of the execution of Bill Turner. It was later used by E. I. Rooks & Sons Lumber Company, and as an automotive repair shop.

At the end of July 1987, the mayor and City Council rejected a Department of Transportation proposal to route truck traffic around the square via College and Mimosa streets. They requested a more extensive study be done to determine a route that would not disrupt quiet neighborhoods. The DOT's proposal would have had trucks leaving West Third Street onto Mimosa, then to College across Oak and Mulberry streets, and then east on College to reconnect with East Third Street. It proposed cost was $347,000.

At its August 3, 1987 meeting, the City Council voted not to impose property taxes on its citizens. It was the eleventh year in a row that no such taxes were levied by the city, and "continued good management" was cited as the reason.

On August 7, 1987, Wayne Barnes, Jr. announced that he had sold Barnes Lumber Company to Stringer Wholesale Lumber & Supply Company. The Barnes firm had been in business on South Mulberry Street in Jackson for 40 years, when it was established by Harold, Gordon and Burt Barnes. The Stringer company opened a location in the old Avondale Mill building at the same time. Barnes and his employees began working at Stringer when it opened.

An East Jackson man, 39-year-old Bobby Watts, was struck by a Southern Railway train on August 21, 1987 when, the conductor said, he stepped in front of the oncoming locomotive. Watts succumbed to his injuries two weeks later. According to the police report, Watts was picking up aluminum cans at the time of the accident.

In mid-September 1987, the city began work on a six-and-one-half-acre water reservoir next to its Towaliga Water Treatment Plant. Total cost of the construction was estimated at $40,000, all of which came out of city funds. Jackson acquired 25 acres of land from the Department of Corrections for the reservoir. The new holding pond had a capacity of 25 million gallons, and was next to another reservoir already in use by the city.

"This additional reservoir will help us out in times of drought like we experienced last year," said Councilman Wayne Phillips at the time in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "It won't

solve the problems with water, but it will be a tremendous increase in the water storage capacity."

"When I was elected to City Council [in 1985], we were having some water shortages and that was a big concern to me," said Wayne Phillips during an interview in 2009. "We made a big effort to correct the problem. The city reservoir and water treatment plant is out at the Towaliga River. The city was getting water out of the creek there, and every once in a while a textile mill in Griffin would contaminate the Cabin Creek with dye from their mill. The city's pick up point from the Towaliga River was above the site where Cabin Creek flowed into the Towaliga. But at low stream flow, Cabin Creek would back up into the Towaliga and the pollution would back up into our pick up point. The city built a dam to prevent the back up, and that solved that dilemma.

"But we still had to ration water because Henry County was withdrawing most of the water from the Towaliga," he said. "Since we didn't have a holding pond to even out our water supply, we decided that was the solution. I had some connections at the state, and was lucky enough to get some land for the city adjacent to our treatment plant. We used that land to construct a reservoir so we would have a supply of water when the flow in the Towaliga was low. That solved our storage problem at that time."

Rodney Tuten, age 22, was shot and killed in his grandmother's home on South Mulberry Street on October 1, 1987. Larry Usher of Indian Springs was arrested for the murder. Tuten, who worked across the street at the Big Chic restaurant, went to the house after he was alerted that a prowler had been seen entering it. Usher was sentenced to life in prison in August 1988 after a jury found him guilty on all counts with which he was charged.

The Jackson High School Lady Devils softball team won the Region 3AA championship at the end of September 1987 with a 12-0 record in the region and a 14-2 record overall. The team went to to win the state softball crown on October 24 in Tifton by defeating North Gwinnett in the final game of the state playoffs. It was the fifth year in a row the Lady Devils finished among the top four teams in the state, and the third time they won the state title. [They won in 1983 and 1984.]

"They had a chemistry that can't be defined," said Head Coach Carol Watts of her champions. "Heart won it, and desire. They showed more hear than I've ever seen."

Charlene Mayfield pitched every game of the tournament, and Watts singled out Rachelle Pye for making some "terrific stops, which seemed almost impossible."

Butts County joined the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta in October 1987, and kicked off the first fundraising campaign in the county with a goal of $15,000. The Metro Atlanta agency pledged to provide two dollars for every dollar raised locally, and that all the money raised would be used in Butts County. "We want to improve the quality of life in Butts County," said Pete Malone, chairman of the Butts County United Way Advisory Committee. "We want this to be a better place to live, raise our children and be even prouder of where we live."

In a special election on November 10, 1987, voters overwhelmingly approved a one-cent sale tax to finance a county-wide water system. The new tax was projected to raised almost $5 million over five years. “It’s the greatest thing the people of Jackson and Butts County could have ever done,” said Wayne Phillips, a city councilmen in Jackson. “We’re on the threshold of great growth, and this vote is the people’s decision not to become a bedroom community. It’s a statement that we’re going to vie for new industry and more jobs.”

At the same time, voters approved a proposal to elect members of the Butts County Board of Education, and to appoint a superintendent of education. “It’s a positive move because it will put within the reach of everybody the means to choose the people who will decide the future of our schools,” said Bill Jones, a former school superintendent. “We’ve had a lot of good people to serve on the school board over the years, and the current method of selecting board members has served us well.”

After a house on the corner of East Third and Benton streets was demolished, a Pizza Hut was built on the lot and opened for business in November 1987.

Kathryn Haisten retired as the head nurse of the Butts County Health Department on November 30, 1987 after 23 years in that position. “When you work 23 years, you have quite an investment and you don’t want to leave without knowing that someone who shares you values and concerns is taking over,” she said. Knowing that [Frankie Knowles] will be in this position makes me feel better about leaving.” In the year before Haisten retired, the center had 15,000 visits. Under her leadership, the center added family planning and birth control clinics as well as a screening and diagnosis treatment for children from birth through age 21. The center had also outgrown its physical location

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1987
JACKSON - 6, Stockbridge - 2
Jackson - 7, MONTICELLO - 12
Jackson - 6, JONES COUNTY - 12
JACKSON - 7, Harris County - 6
JACKSON - 34, Pike County - 7
JACKSON - 35, Lamar County - 6
Jackson - 0, MARY PERSONS - 21
JACKSON - 21, Upson County - 20
Jackson - 7, ROBERT E. LEE - 24
Jackson - 18, MANCHESTER - 20
Jackson - 0, ROBERT E. LEE - 43

Virginia Tribble, 59 of Jackson, died in an automobile wreck on Brownlee Road on December 17, 1987. The accident occurred about 4 p.m. When Tribble’s car reported crossed the center line and struck an oncoming vehicle. Tribble was the wife of Rev. Mack Tribble of the Jackson United Methodist Church.

1988

Evelyn Tanner's home at 517 North Mulberry Street was gutted by fire on January 4, 1988. She was not home when the blaze began in the home's electrical wiring.

Sleet driven by hard northeast winds arrived in Jackson on January 7, 1988 and ice quickly built up on roads, sidewalks and driveways. Schools opened the following day, but classes were dismissed at 9:30 a.m. The sleet continued all day and accumulated three to four inches of ice in places. Officials tied 11 traffic accidents to the icy conditions, though no one was seriously injured. Residents and businesses in Jackson did not lose power during the ice storm that lasted three days.

The ice storm did cut off the city's ability to communicate with outside world. "That's not so long ago," recalled Jimmy Adams in 2009, "when they were converting telephone line over to fiber optics. For a while we only had one main line that serviced Jackson [and] connected us to the outside world. And if it got cut at any point going north - I think it went up Highway 42 - if there became a break in that, there would be no telephone service, no long-distance service. You could make local calls through the local switchboard, through the local service. But you couldn't get out of town.

"And I remember at one time we had a segregated line that was an outgoing WATTS line," Adams continued. "Not WATTS line of the toll-free numbers, 800 numbers, but it was a dedicated outgoing line. We couldn't receive incoming calls on that line, but we could make national and state, outside the county calls. And there were a number of times that that was the only line you could call out of Butts County with when the [other] line would get cut. For some reason, it was routed through a different means, probably went through the microwave tower, you know, digitally or something. But that was the only link we would have sometimes to the outside world. It usually would only take a day, but sometimes it would take a little longer - depended on how bad the cut was. That [was] a different day and age."

On January 29, 1988, 72-year-old Rufus (Peter) O'Neal died at a hospital in Atlanta after he was severely beaten in his home on Railroad Street the day before. O'Neal was found by a neighbor in the front room of his house. The state crime lab said he died as a result of blunt forced trauma to the head. Robbery was believed to be the motive, as O'Neal's wallet was not found. The following week, Winston Wilson, age 28 of Benton Street, was charged with O'Neal's murder. Wilson was sentenced to life in prison on May after he pled guilty to the crime.

The A&P Food Store closed on January 30, 1988 after more than 50 years serving customers in Jackson.

"I hate the A&P left," said Mary Davis. "It was right next to Polk Tire [on the east side of South Mulberry Street]."

The Red Devils of Jackson High School won the regular season region basketball championship in February 1988 with a 10-4 record. The team beat Robert E. Lee High School on February 19 to win the Region 3-AA crown outright.

Tom Porter was named STAR Student of Jackson High School by the Exchange Club in February 1988. Porter chose Sandra Brooks, an instructor in the business department at the school, as his STAR Teacher.

With a 4-1 vote on March 7, 1988, the City Council opted not to lift a moratorium on tap-ons to the city's water system and prohibiting the laying of new water pipe. The moratorium had been initiated prior to the drought of the Summer of 1987.

"Without water we, in essence, are shutting off any construction here," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. prior to the vote, though he never stated his support for lifting the moratorium. "There's not a right or a wrong in this situation, but I would hate to see us shut down growth." In 1987, there were five houses built in the city, and only four houses built in 1986.

At the next Council meeting, on March 21, the Council voted to lift the moratorium. The reversal came after the city got word it could purchase water from henry County at a much lower rate than had been quoted two years earlier.

While manning a road block on Highway 42 south of the Mason Jar on the morning of March 12, 1988, Jackson Police officers observed a car approaching the city turn around on the highway. Officers gave chase, and the driver turned around again and headed back to Jackson. One officer attempted to pass the driver's car to get in front of him, but was forced off the road and struck a utility pole. The driver crashed into a parked car at the Park Avenue C Store on East Third Street and was arrested on multiple charges.

An apartment building on Elm Street was gutted by fire on the morning of April 5, 1988. No one was home in the two-story building when the fire broke out in an upstairs apartment. Most of the roof collapsed as a result. Fire officials determined that faulty wiring caused the blaze.

The low bid of $4.12 million for the construction of a new high school was accepted by the Butts County Board of Education at its meeting on April 7, 1988.

The Jackson High School Lady Devils track team won the region title in April 1988. "I didn't expect winning the region at the beginning of the season," said Coach Rick Dorminy, "but as the season progressed I knew we had a chance." Eight of the girls also qualified for the state championship meet.

Two weeks later, the Red Devil boys team won the region track title, edging out Mary Persons for the honor. "The meet was like a roller-coaster ride where we would do well in one event and Mary Persons would come back and do well in the next," said Coach Terry Turner.

The JHS Red Devil baseball team claimed the region 3-AA championship during the first week of May 1988. In the final game of the region playoff at Wallace Field, Jackson pitchers Kyle Maddox and Terry Head combined for a no-hitter. The Red Devils managed to win in the bottom of the seventh inning when Jeremy Hilderbrand scored John Burns on a pinch hit.

Jackson Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. gave a state of the city address to the Kiwanis Club during the first week of May 1988. "Jackson is now operating on a cash basis with all bills being paid when due from cash reserves," he said. "We are now entering our thirteenth year without having to levy property taxes, and hopefully we can continue that record, although there are some big ticket items on the agenda including an $875,000 tab to renovate our sewer system, which the federal government has mandated must be done.

"The city is concerned about the dog population but lacks the $250,000 needed to build, maintain and operate a dog pound," Brown continued. "Our police department has been busy, answering 1,016 calls to date this year."

At a meeting on May 25, 1988, the Butts County Board of Education set its Fiscal Year 1989 budget at $8,085,916, with $1,959,246 of that total coming from local sources. The total budget amounted to a 4.5 percent increase over the previous year, according to School Superintendent Loy Hutcheson.

Jackson High School had its largest graduating class ever on June 4, 1988 when 150 diplomas were awarded. Candiluz Moreno was the class Valedictorian, and Tim Porter was the Salutatorian.

On instruction from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in June 1988, the City of Jackson imposed a ban on outdoor water usage between 5 and 11 p.m. everyday.

A fire on August 7, 1988 gutted the East First Street home occupied by Fannie Kate Smith. She was home when the fire started, but was not injured. The fire was believed to have started near the stove in the kitchen.

At its first meeting in August 1988, the Jackson City Council voted to not levy property tax for the 12th consecutive year. Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. said city officials and employees were responsible for the decision. "We won't need property taxes due to the good management of city officials and employees keeping expenses down," he said.

At the end of August 1988, the City Council sought bids for the construction of two mausoleums at the city cemetery to "get ahead of demand for crypts," said Mayor C. B. Brown, Jr. An 80-crypt mausoleum had been built in the cemetery several years earlier, and was already half-full.

Billy Leverette won a fourth term as sheriff of Butts County by defeating Gene Pope in a runoff election on August 30, 1988. The results were 2,039 votes for Leverette, and 1,993 for Pope.

Dr. Vickie James opened a practice in Jackson in early September 1988. "I wanted to work in a small town where I don't have to worry about traffic or crime," she said at the time. "A general practitioner, her office was located in the Jackson Family Practice Center next to Sylvan Grove Hospital.

At its meeting on September 19, 1988, the City Council voted to lift the restrictions on outdoor watering in the city. The decision was based on the amount of rain experienced in the area over the previous month, which left the water system much improved.

The Lady Devils of Jackson High School captured the Region 4AA softball championship for the sixth consecutive year in the first week of October 1988. A win over Harris County gave the team the crown, and left it with only one loss in the region.

In an election on November 7, 1988, Jackson attorney Wilson Bush defeated C. B. Brown, Jr. for the office of Mayor of Jackson. Bush received 506, while Brown garnered 404. Brown served 12 terms as mayor. At the same election, Roy Goff won re-election to the City Council from District 3 over his rival, Jesse Duffey. Goff had 149 votes, while Duffey got 84 votes.

George Samuel Standard, the owner of Service Discount Drugs in Jackson, was arrested on November 7, 1988 and charged with eight counts of selling illegal prescription drugs.

The Jackson High School Red Devil Cross Country team won the Region 4AA title for the fifth consecutive year with a solid finish at the region meet on November 1, 1988.

Marty Ray Mangham, a 20-year-old Butts County resident, shot and killed two Jackson men and dumped their bodies on the side of I-75 in Henry County on November 1, 1988. Killed were Bobby Reid, also 20, and Ronald Dupree, age 26. The three men had been extras in a television movie filmed in Jackson and had just gotten paid for the work when they drove to an Atlanta nightclub. On the return trip, they stopped in Henry County. When the victims began taunting Mangham about "being a sissy," he shot both of them twice with one of the victim's guns. Mangham pled guilty to the crimes in August 1989 and was sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison.

<u>JHS RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1988</u>
JACKSON 17, Jones County - 14
Jackson - 15, MONTICELLO - 25
JACKSON - 20, Morgan County - 7
JACKSON - 22, Harris County - 7
Jackson - 21, ROBERT E. LEE - 28

JACKSON - 47, Pike County - 6
JACKSON - 20, Lamar County - 7
JACKSON - 21, Perry - 6
Jackson - 28, MARY PERSONS - 6
JACKSON - 17, Manchester - 0
Jackson - 7, MARY PERSONS - 14

"The growth of our city is inevitable," Mayor-elect Wilson Bush told the Kiwanis Club on December 6, 1988. "Sandwiched as we are between the growth corridors of both Atlanta and Macon, it is incumbent upon us to plan for and use this growth in a positive manner, rather than be overwhelmed by it." High on Bush's priority list was the expansion of the southside sewage plant, which was operating at capacity and limited further industrial and commercial growth on that side of town. Bush also hoped to improve morale at the Jackson Police Department, correct traffic problems, and purchase badly-needed equipment for the water and street departments.

1989

At the first City Council meeting of 1989, newly sworn-in Mayor Wilson Bush appointed each of the five councilmen to head one of five committees and to serve on two others. The committees were the result of 17 previous committees being combined into five new committees: Administrative (formerly the Building, Finance, Personnel, Printing, Ordinances and Zoning, and Planning and Development committees), Community Services (formerly Cemetery, Library, Recreation, Sanitation and Street committees), Electric, Public Safety (formerly the Fire and Police committees), and Water/Sewer Maintenance and Plants Committee (formerly Water/Sewer Maintenance and Water/Sewer Plants committees). "I intend to use these committees a lot," Mayor Bush said at the meeting.

Other changes in the works included establishing written personnel policies for city employees, creating a pay scale for employees, and establishing a sick leave policy that allowed employees to carry unused sick days over to the next year. Bush also recommended a new charter for the city.

On Wednesday, January 4, 1989, a prison work crew began clearing a five- to six-acre patch of wood near the intersection of North Mulberry and Glenn streets where drug dealers and users had enjoyed their illegal activities unchecked for a long time. "This is one of the first steps to slow down drug traffic in this area," said Mayor Wilson Bush. The area was a few hundred feet from the Henderson Middle School, and the mayor and councilmen had received numerous complaints about children having to walk near the "drug den."

At its January 17, 1989 meeting, the City Council voted unanimously to give all city employees a five-percent raise, to send a new charter to the General Assembly for approval, and to adopt new sick leave and holiday policies.

A 19-year-old Jackson man, Bert Greer, was shot five times during what may have been an attempted robbery on January 19, 1989 at the intersection of Covington and Pine streets. Four teenagers from Atlanta were all arrested and charged with the crime.

At its February 6, 1989 meeting, the City Council voted to stop work on the 32-crypt mausoleum at the city cemetery, but to continue work on the 48-crypt mausoleum.

Two prisoners escaped from the city jail on February 13, 1989. They were allowed outside the jail to exercise. One was caught the following day.

The Henderson Middle School Tigers basketball team went undefeated in its 1989 regular season and won the East Region championship in February.

At the STAR Student banquet on February 28, 1989, Sharon Duty was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. She named Linda Arthur as her STAR Teacher.

At its March 6, 1989 meeting, the City Council adopted a budget of $3.3 million

At its March 20, 1989 meeting, the City Council named Shirlyn Whiten as city clerk, replacing Judy Kelly who was no longer with the city. The Council also voted to allow the employees at City Hall to close from 12:30 to 1:30 everyday for lunch.

At its April 3, 1989 meeting, the City Council voted unanimously to deny the Ku Klux Klan a permit to rally and march in Jackson later that month. The Klan filed a complaint against the city in federal court over the denial. Mayor Wilson Bush said the Council's action was based on the "strong likelihood of violence" if the Klan were allowed to march in Jackson. Keith Smith, imperial klaliff of the KKK in Stockbridge, told the Council the Klan wanted to march in an effort to stop drug trafficking and believed that the presence of the KKK would reduce crime. The Klan planned to assemble in the parking lot across from the county jail and march from North Mulberry Street to First Street to McDonough Road and then down Second Street back to the parking lot.

On April 15, the day of the proposed rally, approximately two dozen Klan members showed up at the city parking lot on North Oak Street. A federal court order allowed the group to carry out its rally. Leaders spoke out against gun control, defamed Blacks, Jews and other minorities; and belittled Whites who did not support the Klan's cause. No acts of violence were observed in part due to the large presence of law enforcement officials from the Jackson Police Department, the Butts County Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol, and Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The extra force did not cost the City of Jackson any money, according to Police Chief Gerald Davis. "I'm very proud of the citizens of Jackson and Butts County because they did stay away and there were no problems," said Davis.

At its April 3, 1989 meeting, the City Council voted to annex 123 acres between Stark Road and Recreation Drive as R-15.

A severe thunderstorm lashed Jackson on the afternoon of April 4, 1989. Two children and an instructor at the Robison School of Dance on East Second Street sustained minor injuries when a large tree fell on the building. There were several other trees toppled and downed power lines in the city, as well.

The Lady Devils track team of Jackson High School won the region track meet on April 22, 1989. It was the second year in a row for the honor for the team.

At its May 1, 1989 meeting, the City Council voted to increase the fee charged for housing county inmates in the city jail from $5 per day to $15 per day. The Council also voted to purchase a new garbage truck in the amount of $51,018.

A storm with tornado-like winds ripped through Jackson on the afternoon of May 5, 1989. Huge trees were torn from the ground, and some toppled onto nearby houses. Signs were ripped from businesses, and two large plate glass windows at the Bi-More Grocery Store on South Mulberry Street were shattered. Most houses in Jackson were without power until 11 p.m. that night.

At a called meeting of the City Council on May 8, 1989, the Council voted 3-1 to commit $75,000 toward building a new county library.

Construction began on May 22, 1989 at the county's $1.9 million water treatment plant on the Ocmulgee River. The work was financed with a special one percent sales tax enacted on April 1, 1988.

Jackson High School held its graduation ceremony on June 3, 1989 with 155 seniors receiving diplomas. Jorge Moreno was named Valedictorian of the Class of 1989, and Steve Henderson was named Salutatorian.

The Butts County Board of Education named Dennis Fordham as the new Superintendent of Schools on June 5, 1989. He was the first superintendent appointed by the Board, as previous superintendents had been elected by voters countywide.

The Butts County Board of Commissioners announced plans to adopt a $3.4 million budget in June 1989. The amount was a $400,000 increase over the previous year's budget, and increased property taxes in the county and city. The millage rate was set at 20.623, an increase of slightly less than one mill over the previous year's millage rate, which was the lowest in the county since 1971.

Improvement to the stadium at Red Devil Hill over the Summer of 1989 increased the seating capacity to 2,200. Improvements to the stadium's lighting were also made.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on August 6, 1989 for the new Jackson High School on Harkness Street. The $4.2 million facility had 102,000 square feet with a capacity for 750 students and room for expansion. Loy Hutcheson, assistant superintendent, presented tot he new school to the large crowd that assemble for the event. It was under Hutcheson's leadership that plans for the high school, which was built primarily with state money, was implement.

In a referendum on August 8, 1989, voters of the county and city rejected a proposal to build a new county jail. The issue failed by a tally of 746 votes against to 581 votes in favor. A major objection to the new jail plan was the increase in property taxes that would have been required to pay for the $4.45 million facility. The county jail on North Oak Street was built in 1937 to house 12 prisoners, and at the time of the vote was housing double to triple that amount.

Contributions and pledges of money to build a new library for Jackson and Butts County exceeded the goal of $64,5000 at the end of August 1898. The amount pledged enabled the Library Board to obtain state money to build the new, larger facility on College Street across the street from the Hawkes Library. "There are, despite the bond issue previously being defeated, still many people who are interested in the cultural life of the community and are willing to back it financially without hesitation," said Richard Watkins, chairman of the Library Board. "Plainly and simply stated, they've supported the drive, which in actuality was remarkably short, to raise the amount of money needed."

At its August 21, 1989 meeting, the City Council voted to allow the Maple Ridge subdivision into the city.

At its September 5, 1989 meeting, the City Council voted to name the city's new substation to V. S. Lunsford for his 40 years of faithful, uninterrupted service to Jackson.

"When I came back home [in the late 1980s] there wasn't much farming going on anymore," said Mary Ruth Watson during a 2009 interview. "Growing up, everybody had a farm. When we had the fair, everybody showed cows. But now when you ask the children where tomatoes come from they say, 'a can.' Where do you get milk from? 'The jug at the store.' And I told momma that we needed to do something. This was sad. So the Butts County Farm Bureau got with it and started collecting up the animals and different things. Also about the same time McIntosh [State Bank] was coming into the schools and reading to the children.

"The Butts County Farm Bureau had the first [Farm Days] at the [Jackson Elementary] school," said Watson. "They brought the animals to the school."

"We liked to lost a pig because it got too hot," added her mother, Mary Lee Martin.

"He didn't have any mud to crawl in," Watson continue. "We did it at the school for a couple of years. Then later on, McIntosh got involved and said let's do it all together because they were doing a picnic at the end of the school for the children, and of course had a nice shady spot for the pig made a difference. And as the school split into North Mulberry and Jackson it made it more convenient for everybody to come to one central location rather than moving animals from one school to another."

"We just had the one school when I started," said Martin. "That was when I started in 1989."

"But the children didn't know," said Watson. "They'd never seen a tractor up close, never petted any animals. That's how it got started. Even though there were farms here, there was no connection. Everything was automated, and came out of stores. We didn't go to the grocery store when I was little. We ate out of the garden."

Beverly Denise Smith, 27, died on September 24, 1989 after being shot in her Valley Drive home by a 16-gauge shotgun. Charles Sidney, who lived with Smith, was arrested at the scene and charged with her murder.

With a win over Perry on October 2, 1989, the Jackson High School Lady Devils softball team captured its seventh consecutive Region 4AA championship. The Lady Devils lost the first of the three-game series, and snatched a win from Perry in the seventh inning of the second game. In the final game, Perry scored three runs in the first inning, but Jackson held them there and scored 10 runs of their own to win the title. "This was the sweetest victory we've ever had," said Head Coach Carol Watts.

In a state of the city address to the Kiwanis Club on October 30, 1989, Mayor Wilson Bush said that Third Street would be three-laned throughout the city and that efforts were being made to accomplish that before the end of the year. New electrical equipment was being installed to modernize the city's system and decrease the number of power outages experienced in Jackson. The city police department was fully staffed with certified officers, and salaries there had ben raised, said Bush, in hopes of attracting and holding onto professional personnel.

"Jackson has no bigger problem immediately than that of sewage disposal with our three treatment plants running at or beyond capacity at peak periods," said the mayor. He estimated it would take $1.5 million to expand the city's plants to take care of future growth.

Lee Roy O'Neal, who served as Butts County School Superintendent from 1961 to 1969, passed away at his home on Hemlock Street on November 4, 1989.

In the city election held on November 7, 1989, Liz Carmichael Jones won the District 5 seat on the City Council. She won 118 votes, while her opponent Jim Brewer received 37 votes. John Robert Pulliam, who served 40 years on the Council, did not seek re-election. Wayne Phillips and Theodore Patterson each won uncontested races and new two-year terms.

In early November 1989, Jackson High School senior Robert Shannon signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Auburn University. Shannon said he chose Auburn because he liked the coaching staff there, and he didn't want "to get too far from home."

<u>JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 1989</u>
Jackson - 0, JONES COUNTY - 21
JACKSON - 26, Monticello - 21

JACKSON - 15, Morgan County - 14
JACKSON - 41, Harris County - 6
JACKSON - 24, Robert E. Lee - 21
JACKSON - 42, Pike County - 12
JACKSON - 37, Lamar County - 6
JACKSON - 19, Perry - 14
Jackson - 14, MARY PERSONS - 17
Jackson - 7, MANCHESTER - 27
Jackson - 14, MARY PERSONS - 31

At its November 20, 1989 meeting, the City Council voted unanimously to not impose property tax on city residents.

While 50 or so inmates were being housed in the Butts County Jail on the night of December 7, 1989, a minor disturbance escalating into a near-riot. The jail was flooded, air conditioning ducts were torn down, and a smoke alarm was destroyed during the overnight fracas. No one - prisoners or guards - was injured. The jail had a capacity for 20 prisoners, and was holding nine state prisoners at the time. Following the riot, the state inmates were sent to the Georgia Diagnostic & Classification Prison, and 15 county inmates were housed in the city jail. That left 40 county inmates still in the county jail. Some of the county inmates had been held since November 7 on drug charges, but no bail bond had been set for them. The county began considering using mobile units without wheels to house inmates at the overflowing jail.

Ground was broken on December 12, 1989 on a new $339,000 health center for Butts County. The facility, located on what was then Kennedy Drive (and is now Ernest Biles Road), was built thanks to a $400,000 Community Development Block Grant obtained by the county. The land for the center was donated by the Butts County Developmental Boosters.

1990

The sale of American Mills to Dundee Mills, Inc., both located in Griffin, was announced on January 2, 1990. The sale also involved the American Mills plant in Jackson where children's clothing was manufactured. The plant continued to operate as usual.

At its January 2, 1990 meeting, Councilman Theodore Patterson was elected Mayor Pro Tem of Jackson.

At its February 19, 1990 meeting, the Jackson City Council voted to hire an independent firm to review a controversial water rate increase that had recently taken effect. The Council had heard from several business owners and industrial leaders who felt they were bearing the brunt of the increase. The biggest increase was, in fact, being absorbed by businesses in the rural part of the county that were tied onto the city's water system.

On February 24, 1990, the Jackson Red Devils defeated the Mary Persons Bulldogs 52-43 to take the region basketball championship. Robert Shannon had 31 points in the victory in Forsyth. It was the second region crown for the team in three years.

Dan Zant was named STAR Student of Jackson High School at the annual Exchange Club STAR Student Banquet on February 27, 1990. The senior with the highest Scholastic Aptitude Test score qualified for the honor each year, and was asked to name his own STAR Teacher. Zant named football coach Kenny Moore as his STAR Teacher.

A study made public in March 1990, showed that the city was paying $1.78 per 1,000 gallons of water it produced, and that the rates it charged customers only covered that expense. "The report shows we're just about at the break-even point," said Mayor Wilson Bush. "We don't want to make money off the water. We just want to break even. I'm not going to recommend changes in the rates." This followed a rate increase for water usage that several industrial users protested. Buck Stewart, an employee with the city's water department, had estimated that the city's cost for water production was $1.74 per 1,000 gallons.

William Otis Ball passed away on April 13, 1990. He served on the city council from 1962 to 1974, was former vice president and superintendent of the Pepperton Cotton Mills, and a director of C&S Bank in Jackson.

On April 24, 1990, the Lady Devils' track team of Jackson High School won the Region 4AA track championship. Kenya Henderson of JHS was awarded the High point Trophy for her performance at the region track meet.

At its first meeting in May 1990, the City Council voted to annex the new high school property on Harkness Street into the city.

In May 1990, the city set up recycling bins at the maintenance barn on Alabama Boulevard for citizens to use. Citizens could also get free mulch for use at home from the barn as the city mulched limbs and grass clippings it picked up each week.

Emily Jan Ham Mallet died on May 14, 1990. "Miss Jane," as she was known around town, served as the City Clerk and Treasurer for many years until her retirement at age 78.

Graduation ceremonies of the Jackson High School Class of 1990 were held June 1 at Red Devil Hill. Terri Thomas was named Valedictorian, and Dan Zant named Salutatorian.

The city began spraying for mosquitoes in the city during the first week of June 1990. The spraying program, which had been carried out since 1983, involved a city truck cruising through the city for five hours twice a week in the late afternoon. From the bed of the truck, a sprayer pumped a cloud of malathion into the air. The chemical was not harmful to humans, but deadly for mosquitos. Glenn Smith, head of the Jackson maintenance department, was in charge of the

program. Residents were charged $1.50 on their utility bills during the months of July, August, September and October for this service.

Taxes for Butts County residents - including those in the City of Jackson - increased 11.2 percent in July 1990 following the adoption of the county and school budgets.

Facing a June 30, 1990 shutdown of the emergency room at Sylvan Grove Hospital due to a lack of funding, the Butts County Board of Commissioners voted to provide the funds necessary to keep the hospital open.

In July 1990, the City Council voted to begin strictly enforcing ordinances prohibiting loud noises, parking on the wrong side of the street, and littering. The fine for loud music was $65 for a first offense. Littering could cost anywhere from $66 to $440.

On July 12, 1990, the Butts County Water Authority began pumping treated water from the Ocmulgee River into lines that fed into residents' homes. The Authority had 495 customers at the time, who were being served by the City of Jackson water system until the new water plant was fully operational.

On the night of July 24, 1990, 32 inmates rioted at the Butts County Jail. There were 41 prisoners in the jail at the time of the insurrection. "We discovered that they were trying to dig through the brick wall," said Sheriff Billy Leverette. "The noise from the riot was to cover up the sounds. Inmates used a short piece of pipe to knock holes in the walls." It was estimated that $15,000 in damage was sustained by the old jail facility.

At its August 6, 1990 meeting, the City Council voted to not levy any property tax. "The city is in good shape," said Mayor Wilson Bush, "I don't see a need to have an ad valorem tax this year."

When Butts County schools opened at the end of August 1990, there were 2,699 students reporting for class: 703 at Jackson High School, 601 at Henderson Middle School, and 1,395 at Jackson Elementary School.

In September 1990, the house that once served as the Carmichael boarding house on East Third Street was dismantled and moved out of the county. It had been stripped of all of its original details, and sold several times such it operated as a boarding house.

"As a matter of fact," said Diane Rosser, who once worked next to the house at Hugh Glidewell's law office, "I think it was a Wednesday afternoon - and everything used to close at noon on Wednesdays, so you had a nice quiet afternoon to take care of things and not get interrupted - and Jimmy White was riding down the road eating an apple and he saw a bunch of people standing over there. So he got out and bid like this ridiculous low price for that house. He was just driving down the road and bought it.

"Some woman had bought it and painted it a hideous purple color," Rosser continued. "I like purple, but that was not very attractive. And what's sad is the ornate metal fence and all the stained glass was gone. It used to have apartments in it a long time ago because Wilson Bush told me when he got married they had an apartment there. A lot of people in town did."

On October 15, 1990, the City Council voted to approve a maintenance plan for its four water tanks. Utility Service of Perry was tapped to clean, paint and annually inspect the tanks, which held 800,000 gallons of water. The cost of the plant was $2,700 per month, whereas the cost of replacing the tanks entirely was estimated at $808,000.

"It is the right decision," said Roy Goff announcing his decision to to seek re-election to the City Council in October 1990. "I think 16 years is long enough for someone to devote their time." Two men, Jesse Duffey and Harold Duke sought to replace Goff on the Council.

"The next time people here are sitting back dry when there's a storm out, they should remember we can't quit on account of weather condition," said Electric Department Supervisor Ryland Smith of his team in October 1990. "We'll be out there working to get their lights back on." Smith had been the department supervisor for a year, and had worked in the department for 22 years. He was joined in the department by Chris Mercer and Kerry Conkle. "I've got two men I can depend on, two of the best men working for the City of Jackson. They don't mind getting the job done."

At the time, the city bought its power from Georgia Power Company. A new substation was built by the city on Brownlee Road in about 1987, and that was where the electricity came into the city from the Georgia Power lines. There were 1,700 electric meters and about 60 miles of electric line in Jackson in 1990.

Jackson Fire Chief Cotton Vaughn started with the city as a volunteer firefighter in 1954 and became chief in 1960. In 1990, his department consisted of three full-time firefighters and 21 volunteers. The full-timers worked one at a time for 24 hours, and then got 48 hours off. The volunteers were divided into three blocks of nine men each who were on-call in three shifts. They met twice a month at the fire station for training. At the time, the city owned two fire engines and shared another with the county. The city also owned a 1,500-gallon tanker truck

When a fire call came in to the station, the fireman on duty summoned the appropriate number of men by punching in their block code on an encoder, which then sent the message to the volunteers' beepers.

In the November 6, 1990 election, Harold Duke won election to the City Council's District 3 seat. Duke won 114 votes, while challenger Jesse Duffey won 61 votes.

A large portion of Jackson was plunged into darkness on November 9, 1990 when a logging truck hit a utility pole near Webb's Thriftown on East Third Street. All power was restored by 6:30 that evening, thanks to the non-stop efforts of the Jackson Electrical Department.

JHS RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1990
JACKSON - 28, Jones County - 0
JACKSON - 34, Tri-County - 14
JACKSON - 7, Mary Persons - 0
[This was the first time JHS beat them at Forsyth in 15 years and the first win over MP since October 1978. Since 1971, the Bulldogs had won 17 games with Jackson, while Jackson had only won 3 over MP.]
Jackson - 7, AMERICUS - 13
JACKSON - 37, Lamar County - 6
JACKSON - 28, East Coweta - 14
Jackson - 7, MANCHESTER - 28
JACKSON - 31, Sumter County - 8
JACKSON - 12, Perry - 0
JACKSON - 14, Upson County - 7
Jackson - 14, EAST COWETA - 23

The 148th Forward Support Battalion of the Georgia National Guard based in Jackson was mobilized on December 2, 1990 for duty in the Persian Gulf War. Soldiers departed Jackson and were stationed at Fort Stewart

The December 3, 1990 meeting of the Butts County Board of Commissioners was the last one Charlie Brown attended as a commissioner representing District 3. He had decided not to seek re-election in November, and was replaced by Wesley Haley. “In 1985, I thought that our county had come to a standstill,” said Brown upon leaving office. “I thought there was something I could do. In the last six years, we have made more progress than in the previous 19 or 20 years.”

1991

The city began 1991 in good shape, according to Mayor Wilson Bush. In an interview with the Jackson Progress-Argus, he said the proposed budget would likely “not be a whole lot more than” 1989’s operating budget of $3.5 million. “Jackson is in good financial shape. We have money in the bank and can operate the city on a business-like basis. If we need certain equipment items, we could get it, if we need it,” said Bush. He added that the city was not even “contemplating any type of city tax during 1991.”

The 1991 budget was approved at a total of $3,956,806.

Some of the goals the city was working to achieve in 1991 was the expansion of the city sewer treatment plants. “We have hired Hofstadter and Wood (an engineering firm) to look at our three treatment plants,” Bush said. “At this time, all of them [the Yellow Water Plant, the Northeast Plant and the Southside Plant] are at or near capacity. Improvements to these facilities is something we will have to give immediate attention to during 1991.”

The city jail had been fixed through revenue generated by fines. “We raised the fines and have used this money to repair the jail,” the mayor said.

Preliminary Census figures released in early January 1991 showed Butts County with a population of 15,027, a 10 percent increase over the 1980 Census figure of 13,665. The City of Jackson had a 1990 population of 4,076, a decrease of 57 people since the 1980 Census.

On January 7, 1991, the City Council voted to deny a rezoning for a 30-room “family oriented” motel on Third Street. The application was turned down due to concerns over the city’s ability to treat water and “hodge podge development” along Third Street.

The Piggly Wiggly branch of McIntosh State Bank was robbed on an undisclosed amount of money on January 17, 1991. A man entered the store wearing a Halloween mask, purple gloves and carrying what tellers thought was a bomb. A bomb squad was called in from Atlanta, but the bomb turned out to be painted wooden sticks. The robber got away.

At its February 4, 1991 meeting, the City Council voted to begin meeting only once a month instead of twice a month beginning in March. The meeting time remained 7 p.m.

Donnie James, principal of Jackson High School since July 1981, announced he would resign at the end of the school year. “I felt it was time to look in other directions,” James told the Progress-Argus at the time of his announcement. “We have made a lot of progress here. We have moved into a new facility and made progress with our educational program.”

Johnnie Thompson was hired as the new JHS principal in April 1991.

Vanessa Whitehurst was named STAR Student of Jackson High School by the Exchange Club at a banquet on February 26, 1990. She named Mark Alling as her STAR Teacher.

At its March 4, 1991 meeting, the City Council increased the amount residents had to deposit prior to turning on utilities. Previously, deposits of $50 for electricity and $15 for water service were required, but following the Council’s vote the deposits were increased to $125 for electricity and $50 for water.

Chris Mercer was named department head for the Jackson Electric Department at the March 4, 1991 meeting of the City Council.

In March 1991, the city purchased three re-closure switches for its power system at a cost of $34,000. These devices helped prevent power from going out all over town when power was lost in one section of town.

Ground was broken on March 8, 1991 on the new library on East College Street.

National Guard troops returned to Jackson from the Persian Gulf on April 6, 1991. The convoy of 25 to 30 Guard vehicles paraded around town to cheering crowds and a sea of yellow ribbons and handmade signs. They were reunited with their families at the Armory.

In early April 1991, two inmates in the Butts County Jail filed a civil lawsuit in federal court alleging that their civil rights were being violated. The lawyer represented the men said the jail was overcrowded, unsafe, the food service was bad, and the medical attention inadequate. The lawsuit asked that the jail be closed until improvements could be made. Butts County's jail was one of about 40 jails in the state facing similar lawsuits at the time.

The Butts County Board of Commissioners voted in April 1991 to give the Butts County Hospital Authority two mills of tax, amounting to about $400,000, to be used for the operating costs of Sylvan Grove Hospital. The hospital had recently opened a 24-hour emergency room, and the new funds would cover the cost of staffing a physician seven days a week in the emergency room.

"I am proud to be a citizen of Butts County," said Authority Chairman Pete Malone at a ribbon cutting unveiling the new funding and emergency room, "when human issues, such as health care, are funded and considered one of the top priorities in a year when there are many needs."

Twenty-six members signed up for the new Jackson Rotary Club in April 1991, meeting membership qualifications set by Rotary International. Roger Waldrop was president of the local club.

At the end of April 1991, the Lady Devils Track Team of Jackson High School won the region meet for the second year in a row. "This is what we've been working towards all year long," said Coach Price Jones. "The girls really exceeded all my expectations." The team did not lose a meet all season.

At its May 6, 1991 meeting, the City Council voted to relieve Police Chief Gerald Davis of his duties. Fred Brown served as acting chief while applications were sought.

"I can't remember all of it," admitted Mary Davis, wife of Gerald Davis, when asked about the climate in city hall that led to her husband's firing by the city. "But this man wanted Gerald's job. This man would go where the prisoners were and turn up the heat and cook 'em. And then Gerald or whoever would get it straight. But just to do things that would embarrass Gerald to get him out of the office. But he still kept his cool, and I don't understand how he did it. But he wanted Gerald embarrassed at every angle, but he didn't get Gerald's job. C. B. Brown, Jr. and Roy Goff made his life miserable. They stayed on him about everything, and he'd come home and live his life and not let it get to him. If it was me, I'd have blown up. He was mister cool.

"When he left the office – they wanted him to," Davis continued. "They cited things that they wanted him to do. But he was so level he didn't push to get this done or that done. See he carried

out his job just fine as far as the police chief job. It was just the other things that they would have liked for him to push him to do.

At its May 1991 meeting, the Butts County School Board approved a budget of $10.4 million, a slight decrease from the previous year's budget of $10.5 million. Local taxpayers contributed about $2.6 million to that total, with $7 million coming from the state, and the remainder from federal grants and a beginning balance.

"It used to puzzle me: the lack of concern folks had," said Ernest Battle about parental involvement with the Butts County Board of Education. "You don't hear nothing from them until little Susie or little John gets into some trouble, and then they want you to bend the rules for their kid. But you've got to be consistent. You can't be bending the rules here and there or you're going to have problems."

During the state track meet in early May 1991, Jackson Red Devil competitors won three first places medals, and the team finished third overall - the highest finish at the state level since 1979. Junior athlete Coswell Sims won the triple jump, topping his personal record, with a leap of 46'4.5". He also won the long jump with a distance of 22'1.75". He scored his third first-place medal of the day with a personal best time of 11.08 seconds in the high hurdles.

On May 23, 1991, the City Council named James E. Warren, Sr. as the new chief of police for Jackson. Warren had served with the Jackson Police Department for three years, and before that spent 23 years with the DeKalb County Police Department. "We are glad to have a person of Warren's caliber in the position of Chief of Police for Jackson," said Mayor Wilson Bush. "We feel that he will do the job that needs to be done and we are looking forward to working with him."

At graduation exercises for the Jackson High School Class of 1991 on June 4, Vanessa Whitehurst was named Valedictorian and Angie Smith was named Salutatorian. There were 155 seniors in the class.

John L. Coleman died on June 10, 1991. He served 22 years on the Jackson City Council, and five decades as the owner of Coleman's Garage and Wrecker Service, which for a time was the only wrecker service in the county.

Hampton Daughtry, the man credited with founding and funding youth recreation in Butts County through the Van Deventer Foundation, passed away in 1991. Daughtry "was a very humble person, very generous, belonged to everything, and knew a lot of people," said Mack Davis in 2010. "He gave away everything he had, drove an old ragged car - like a '62 station wagon - and wore old ragged clothes. You'd never know he was a multi-quizillionaire. Of course, when he died he left his estate to the Daughtry Foundation to maintain Dauset Trails. He wanted it to go on 100 years."

At its August 1991 meeting, the City Council voted to increase the rate charged to residential customers for electricity used over 400 kilowatts. The rate adjusted from .0305 to . 0350. It was the first increase in electric rates since April 1, 1988. It was estimated that residents would notice an increase of less than $1 on their monthly bills. “We wanted to do something that would be fair to our senior citizens on fixed incomes,” said Mayor Wilson Bush. “That is why we chose the 400 kilowatt figure.”

As school began in Butts County in September 1991, there were 2,812 students enrolled in kindergarten through the 12th grade. It was an increase over the 2,749 student population that began the 1990-1991 school year.

The City Council approved an upgrade plan for its wastewater treatment system at the end of September 1991. The cost of the project, which would create a new 700,000-gallon treatment plant at the Yellow Water Creek site, was estimated to cost $2.8 to $3 million. The city was forced to adopt the improvements as a result of antiquated lines at the existing Yellow Water Creek plant, which had been fined by the Environmental Protection Division. “We will look at every way to finance this without property tax,” said Mayor WIlson Bush at the time.

In the city election held on November 5, 1991, voters returned Wayne Phillips to the City Council to represent District 4. Phillips received 107 votes, while challenger Allen Byars received 78 votes. Liz Jones and Theodore Patterson were unopposed in their races and won new four-year terms as well.

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 1991
JACKSON - 22, Jones County - 19
JACKSON - 12, Tri-County - 0
Jackson - 0, MARY PERSONS - 9
JACKSON - 21, Americus - 12
JACKSON - 7, Lamar County - 6
Jackson - 7, EAST COWETA - 22
Jackson - 6, MANCHESTER - 21
JACKSON - 28, Sumter County - 13
JACKSON - 6, Perry - 3
JACKSON - 14, Upson County - 0
Jackson - 32, MANCHESTER - 43

David Ridgeway retired as Clerk of Superior Court on December 31, 1991. He had served in that position since January 1, 1961.

1992

“I guess [the sewer plant] is the 500-pound gorilla,” said Mayor Wilson Bush at the start of 1992. “We will have to look into building a new plant in 1992.”

The mayor also said the city had a tremendous infiltration problem at the treatment plant, especially when it rained. “We are having a lot of rainwater leak into our sewer system,” he told the Progress-Argus. “We hope during the coming year we will be able to replace some of the pipes, especially along Short Street and Brookwood Avenue. We fell this is where we are having the most problems.”

On January 9, 1992, the body of Jean Rodda, a 50-year-old mother of six, was found dead lying face down with pantyhose wrapped around her neck in her North Oak Street home.

At a meeting on January 13, 1992, the City Council approved a new district plan for the city that changed the boundary lines between the five districts in the city. There was no opposition to the new plan.

Snow began falling in Jackson on Saturday, January 18, 1992 and did not stop until there were eight inches of powder on the ground in places. It was deep enough to build snow huts and snowman tall enough to look in the eye. The sun came out, though, and melted the Winter wonderland in time for business and school on Monday.

Sheriff Billy Leverette asked the Board of Commissioners for a new jail during a January 20, 1992 meeting. “Jail is a nasty word to many,” said the sheriff, “but it is something we desperately need.” He recalled that a bond referendum to build a new jail that was held in 1987 failed by 160 votes. “Today it would cost $5 million plus to build a new jail,” Leverette told the commissioners. “We need to get down to brass tacks here. We need a new jail. If a judge ever orders us to build a new facility, they will tell us how to build it, what to put in it, and give us a deadline to complete construction. They [the judges] don’t care how you have to pay for it. They just order it be done. Our luck may be running out.”

In January 1992, the Butts County Board of Commissioners voted to buy the old Hawkes Library building on East College Street. It also paid $100,000 for two buildings on the south side of the square - the Jackson Style Shoppe and Paces Flower Shop. THese buildings were to be used for office space as needed in the future.

C. B. Brown, Jr., one of the chief architects of Jackson’s and Butts County’s progress for 40 years, died at his South Benton Street home on January 27, 1992. He was 66 years old.

Brown moved to Jackson from Alabama in the late 1940s, and plunged into the political arena. He was first elected to the City Council in 1958 and first elected mayor in 1963. He was known for his total dedication to Jackson, working long hours to familiarize himself with the most minute details of its operation, despite health problems that continued to plague him.

Dr. Roy Goff, who served with Brown in Jackson government noted that, “fourteen of the sixteen years that I served as a councilman was under the able leadership of C. B. Brown, Jr. He devoted most of his adult life [29 years] serving this city, which he dearly loved, as councilman and mayor. C. B. knew more about city government than any person that I know. Not only will his family and friends suffer the loss of this man, so will the entire city.”

Along with his brother, Joe, and their wives, C. B. Brown owned and operated a furniture and appliance store on the east side of the square and later opened an insurance business with his son, Charlie.

C. B. Brown, Jr. "and his brother, Joe, were great guys," said Ernest Battle in a 2009 interview. "They took me under their wings, And they still call me family up there. He used to always tell me that I took a job from him. I kept going by there asking for a job. He kept telling me he didn't need anybody. And he said I came in there one day, got the broom and started sweeping. But we used to talk all the time. And I told him he needed to take the fence down at the cemetery. I said there ain't no sense in segregating dead folks. So eventually that fence came down."

C. B. Brown, Jr. "was a very good mayor. He ran the city very efficiently. He knew what was going on," said Daughtry Foundation Director Mack Davis in 2010. "He was very supportive of the youth activities of the city. Matter of fact, when they put in parking meters uptown they gave some of the proceeds to the youth centers for their operation. Most people don't know that. I think they used to charge you a quarter if you over-parked. He was very supportive of all of the activities and programs. He was very humble, low key."

C. B. Brown, Jr. "really looked after the city," recalled Theodore Patterson, who worked with Brown when he first took a seat on the City Council. "Charlie [Brown] and his dad are so similar when it comes to the city. He hated to spend a dime on anything. He looked after the city's finance and assets just like they were his own. He helped with anything that I needed help with, or went to him for. He always was agreeable to everything. Issues that came up that might be kind of controversial, he might call us before a meeting and kind of school us on what to expect. He really watched out for us and kept us from getting blindsided."

On February 10, 1992, the City Council approved a budget of $3,965,797

Jennifer Crawford was named STAR Student of Jackson High School on February 17, 1992. She named Cheryl Hildebrand as her STAR Teacher. The annual award and accompanying banquet were sponsored by the Jackson Exchange Club.

Over 320 Butts County residents converged on the campus of Henderson Middle School on February 22, 1992 for the first Black Heritage Festival. The event not only celebrated the history of African Americans in the United States, but also recognized the accomplishments of Blacks in the county. Curtis Gaye and a committee of over 30 people organized the event.

On February 26, 1992, workers at American Woodmark voted down a bid to unionize under the United Steelworkers Union. The official tally was 120 against and 54 in favor.

On March 3, 1992, voters approved the continuation of a one percent sales tax, which was estimated to bring in $6.5 million over the course of five years. A total of 2,219 voted in favor of

the tax, while 592 voted against it. A portion of the tax revenue was used to build a senior citizens' center in Jackson, and helped offset the cost of the city's improvements to its water treatment plant.

Early on the morning of April 4, 1992, Scot Crane, a 17-year-old student at Jackson High School, was killed in a single vehicle car wreck on Stark Road inside the city limits of Jackson. A memorial scholarship in Crane's name at JHS was announced the following week.

The new Jackson-Butts County Public Library opened to the public on April 5, 1992.

In April 1992, the city began issuing a total of $3.7 million in bonds for renovation work on the water treatment plants.

At the end of April 1992, Butts County Sheriff Billy Leverette announced he would not seek re-election. He had served for 16 years in the office. "I have tried over the years to be a good and honest sheriff," he said at the time. "I have been conscious of my duties and loyal to the people in my county."

On May 11, 1992, the City Council approved a nuisance ordinance aimed at cleaning up the city. Violators of the law could be fined up to $500 and have liens levied against their property if they did not adhere to the code. At the same meeting, the Council adopted a fire ordinance that allowed the city to inspect buildings in the city and issue citations if items did not meet specifications. The Council also increased the price of cemetery lots to $300 for residents of the city and $500 for non-residents.

On June 3, 1992, the 118 members of the Class of 1992 graduated from Jackson High School. Beth Knight was named Valedictorian, and Michele Carmichael was named Salutatorian.

Jackson Fire Chief Cotton Vaughn retired on July 1, 1992. He began his career with the city on the street department before serving 12 or 13 years as a policeman. He was named as the city's first full-time fire chief on November 4, 1974.

Beginning in early July 1992, a Jackson police officer was back on the square marking tires and issuing $2 tickets to anyone parked for over two hours in one spot. A certain number of permits were available for $5 a month that allowed the owner to park anywhere for as long as needed. Officer Tom Holton patrolled the square on a bicycle, and was the first officer to patrol the entire city on the bike so as not to alert someone that an officer was near. "People usually do not pay that much attention to someone on a bike," he said.

Residents on Benton Street and the other streets in the area surrounding the BFI Tire Recycling Company complained in July 1992 that something was chewing on them. Most likely, the culprits were mosquitoes, which bred in the stagnant water of the tires on BFI's lot off Covington Highway. The company began paying the city to spray their lot with the mosquito

repellent that was being sprayed around the city. At the same time, the company was trying to get a handle on the tires that were stacked all around its building. “Once this is cleaned up,” James Maust, the head of BFI in Jackson, said at the time, “the tires brought into the lot with be immediately chipped, unless our equipment breaks down.”

Beginning August 1, 1992, the minimum rate charged to customers for water service in the city rose from $4 to $6. The Council also voted to increase water rates two percent every three months for the following year. “This will help pay for the [sewer treatment plant] bonds we will have,” said Mayor Wilson Bush. “It will also help to pay for some of the sewer treatment lines we are having to run now.”

The City Council agreed in the middle of August 1992 to replace three benches it had ordered taken up around the courthouse square. The initial action was taken to prevent loitering at night, but senior citizens complained they missed the benches. The three were reinstalled in front of Parrish Drugs, Stephens Grocery and Deraney’s. No loitering signs were soon put up around the city.

When school began in Butts County in August 1992, 2,915 students reported for class.

In September 1992, Mark Cook was named as the new fire chief of Jackson. He began his career with the department in April 1976. The department had 23 certified firefighters, 19 of them were unpaid volunteers. To become a volunteer firefighter required 60 hours of basic training.

In October 1992, the city received a $10,000 grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission to plant trees around the courthouse square.

As of October 26, 1992, the fine for parking over two hours in a spot on the square without a parking permit increased from $2 to $10. In the face of ongoing complaints about parking around the square, Mayor Wilson Bush recommended people park in the lot the city rented across from the Sheriff’s office on North Oak Street.

At a called meeting in November 1992, the City Council voted to charge utility customers a flat fee of $9 per month to pay for bonds issued for the construction of two water treatment plants at Yellow Water Creek and the Southside location. When completed, the plants will be able to treat 750,000 and 700,000 gallons of water per day respectively. The fees began in January 1993. The cost of the bond issue was $4.1 million and it was estimated that it would take 30 years to pay them off.

“We don’t have a choice,” said Mayor Wilson Bush at the time. “This is a problem that has not been taken care of in 15 years. It is a case of pay now or pay later. [The later] has caught up with us and we are having to pay for it.”

Gene Pope was elected Sheriff of Butts County on November 3, 1992. He received 3,830 votes, while Frank Jordan received 1,217 votes.

Gene Pope "was kind of clumsy like until he got to be in the tenth or eleventh grade," said lifelong friend Walter Carmichael. "And then all of a sudden, it was a different Gene Pope, He was great on a trampoline. He was a great swimmer, diver. Nobody you wanted to get in a fight with. He was quick. He was strong.

"Billy [Leverette] was a great guy, and I loved him," added Carmichael. "Everybody loved him. But, you know, sometimes there's just a change in the guard. Gene was just from our age group."

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1992
Jackson - 14, Jones County - 14
JACKSON - 20, Morgan County - 14
Jackson - 6, GREENE-TALIAFERRO - 26
Jackson - 7, LINCOLN COUNTY - 16
Jackson - 3, WASHINGTON COUNTY - 20
JACKSON - 34, Pike County - 0
JACKSON - 12, Harris County - 7
Jackson - 7, MARY PERSONS - 13
JACKSON - 28, Houston County - 27
Jackson - 14, MANCHESTER - 17
Jackson - 7, HOUSTON COUNTY - 26

1993

Walter Darden (Dick) Pope, Jr. passed away on January 10, 1993. He had served on the City Council, and as president of the Kiwanis Club.

During an annual dinner sponsored by the Exchange Club, James Sibley was named STAR Student of Jackson High School on February 16, 1993. He named Melba Joswiak as his STAR Teacher.

James Warren resigned as Jackson Police Chief on February 27, 1993 for medical reasons. Warren underwent heart bypass surgery in 1992. The City Council appointed Mike Riley as acting chief. Riley worked for the Butts County Sheriff's Office for 14 years prior to coming to the JPD. Riley was named permanent Chief of Police two weeks later, and Kenny Morgan was named assistant chief. They were sworn in on April 12, 1993.

"I was an investigator for the sheriff's office when Don Halstead came driving up to my house one evening," Riley remembered during an interview in 2009. "By this time, Sheriff Leverette had retired, and Sheriff Pope had been elected and I was working for him. He took

office in January 1993. I had only ever worked for Sheriff Leverette. So you were nervous, you know, a new boss. But things were going OK. Some people think I went to work for the city because I had a problem with Gene, but that was not the case. I had known Gene, and he had run for sheriff himself many times of the course of the years. I had always tried to make it a practice, as best I could, to stay out of the politicking because I knew Sheriff Leverette could lose and Sheriff Pope could come and say you politicked for Billy and you need to find a new job. Well, I didn't want a new job. I was happy with the one I had. If I did my job and did it right and made Sheriff Leverette look good and people voted for him because of that - I couldn't help that. I was just doing my job. And if Sheriff Pope got elected, I would do the same for him. I was just doing my job. I wanted to keep my job, regardless of who had that job.

"So we were going through that transition, and it was early on," said Riley. "And Wilson Bush was mayor of the city then. Apparently he had run into Don Halstead somewhere, I don't know. All I know is Don Halstead was still with the State Patrol, and he came driving up to my house. And he said, 'Have you talked to the mayor.' And I said, 'No.' And he said, 'Well, he wants to see you. He's looking for you. You need to go see him.' So that was on Thursday night, On Friday, I went to see Mayor Bush at his law office, where he and Larry Smith were law partners. I said, 'Mayor, are you looking for me?' He said, 'Yeah. I want to talk to you. Do you think you want to be chief of the city.' I said, 'Yeah, I think I might want to do that.' As far as I was concerned, that was a promotion, a step up. He said, 'Well, we're having a meeting in the morning [on Saturday]. A special meeting. If everything goes OK, I'll call you.' I said, 'OK.'

"Well," Riley continued, "Saturday morning he calls me and says, 'Can you come to city hall.' I said, 'Yes sir.' Well, I wasn't ready. I took the quickest shower and put on a suit and tie and I came to city hall. The whole Council was there. They asked me a few questions, and I told them a few things like that if I came I wanted to bring my secretary who had been my secretary at the sheriff's office for years, and I wanted to bring Kenny Morgan as my assistant chief. They didn't have a problem with that. They wanted to know if I could start Monday. And I said, 'Well, I would need to give the sheriff notice.' And they said, "We would like for you to start Monday.'

"Well, then I had to track the sheriff down and tell him that I was leaving and that they wanted me to start Monday, which he had already heard," Riley said. "He was a little upset that I was leaving. Kenny did stay over there and work his notice, but I didn't have time. They wanted me Monday morning. So Monday morning at eight o'clock I walked in at the Jackson Police Department, the other chief was there, and I walked in as acting-chief because they had to go through the hiring process. I took over March 1, 1993.

"I knew all these people, the local officers," said Riley. "I was greeted warmly because most of the employees were the ones that had become disgruntled with the chief that had been there. They wanted new. Matter of fact, one of the officers came to my house on Sunday and wanted to know if I was going to be their new chief. And I started changing things right away. One of the first job duties I had to perform was one of the officers that was working here for that chief, and I don't remember whether he was a reserve officer or was an actual employee officer because that chief had started a reserve program. He had officers coming down here volunteering their time from other departments. They would come down here and patrol, and most of them were from departments around metro Atlanta. One of them, when he came to work that day, I had to place him under arrest for armed robbery where he had been charged in Forest Park with

armed robbery. He had allegedly pulled a gun on someone at a bar and taken his wallet and they filed charges against him. He came walking in he back door, and I met him there, and placed him under arrest. I transported him to the Forest Park PD, and I got my uniform back from him then.

"It had been said that the main reason they would come down here was because they would get to do things that they couldn't do in their own departments," Riley said. "They got to mess with people. That was one of the first programs I abolished. I didn't want people volunteering here. In other words, if you worked here, I wanted you to be an employee.

"And a few days after we had the blizzard of '93," he recalled. "Most of the officers here did not even have a pair of boots because they were not allocated money to get boots. And I sent them all to Deraney's Department Store to buy a pair of boots so that they would have them to wear in the snow. That was like two days I didn't even go home. It was a grand initiation to chief: hauling nurses to the hospital, checking on people if their power was out, answering alarm calls."

"That's something that I implemented when I became chief," said Mike Riley of the police department's practice of opening locked cars for citizens. "The chief they had before I came along, he wasn't here long and he had come from a larger department. Much larger. And he tried to do things in Jackson the way they did things in the larger department. In other words, they wouldn't unlock a car for you because of potential liability. Well, yeah, there's some potential liability if you mess someone's car door up. They might get upset even though you're providing a free service to them and trying to help them. So they wouldn't do that. They said, 'That's a locksmith's job.' Well, Jackson doesn't have a locksmith that is dedicated to doing that, sitting around and if you need him he'll come fix your car. They wouldn't jump vehicles off. That's all helping people.

"So I put a set of jumper cables in every patrol car we had," said Riley. "I bought unlocking kits in every cars and books that detail how to unlock many, many models of cars. We unlock cars. And, yeah, occasionally, we have messed up some doors. But I'll ask them to take their cars down to the maintenance shop and Troy [Smith] will take the door panel off, put the rod back and put the door panel back on."

Over the weekend of March 13 and 14, 1993, a winter hurricane dumped four to six inches of snow on Butts County. Drifts of snow and ice piled as high as three feet in places. Some customers in Jackson were without power for 16 hours after a transformer blew on March 13. The three-man crew of the Jackson Electric Department - Chris Mercer, Ryland Smith and Greg Mattison - were assisted by Mike Peters and worked for 18 hours straight to restore electricity. Five people spent the night in the National Guard Armory and a dozen ate dinner there while power was being restored. Schools were closed on March 15 and 16 due to poor road conditions.

"Gerald [Davis] had just built our porch," said his wife, Mary Davis, recalling the 1993 snowstorm in a 2009 interview. "We said if the porch was still standing after that, it'd be here forever. And it's still here."

In March 1993, the City Council adopted a budget totaling $4.2 million, an increase of $300,000 over the 1992 budget.

In May 1993, three of the five Spring sports teams at Jackson High School won their region championships: the Red Devil baseball team, the Red Devil track team and the Lady Devil track team.

In June 1992, the City Council approved the annexation of 363 acres along Highway 16 West into the city. Owned by Mrs. C. A. Simpson, it was to be developed into a commercial shopping center and possibly a light manufacturing center.

At graduation exercises for the Jackson High School Class of 1993 on June 4, Rebecca Taylor was honored as Valedictorian and Ceason Johnson was honored as Salutatorian.

In September 1993, Mayor Wilson Bush announced that he would not seek re-election to the office. A week later, Charlie Brown announced his candidacy for the office. There were no other candidates for the office, so Brown won the mayor's office without opposition.

"I stayed in office [on the Butts County Board of Commissioners] for six years, and I said that if I ever stopped having fun I'd get out," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "The last two years was total persecution. It's no secret. The landfill left a bad taste in my mouth. So I got out for about three years. I wanted to get back into politics, but I couldn't figure out what I wanted to do. I knew I didn't want to be county commissioner. I guess I look back at how much my dad enjoyed being mayor. And he did. He loved being mayor, and he loved the community. So I said that's a job I would like to try because if I could enjoy it half as much as he did it'd be a great thing to do and to be able to serve. I understand why he enjoyed being mayor and being on the Council because it's a just entirely different atmosphere than any other job I've ever had.

"When I got elected to the county commissioners I went back and read minutes for like 50 years 'cause I wanted to see what had happened," said Brown. "It's funny because back then they'd write things about peoples dogs and this and that. And I did the same thing when I was elected mayor. I read minutes going way back. It's funny how problems they had then are actually problems we have now, just to a little bit different degree. We still have dog problems, but we don't have water shortages and that's because we got together and went out and put together the [Butts County Et Al] Water [and Sewer] Authority when I was a commissioner and my dad was mayor."

Effective September 13, 1993, law breakers in Jackson began paying the same fines as law breakers in Butts County. The increase in fines was requested by Police Chief Mile Riley, who said that people who violate the same laws in Jackson and the county ought to pay the same fines. Though many of the fines remained the same, some saw large increases. The fine for using abusive or obscene language went from $66 to $300. Carrying a concealed weapon began costing violators $300 instead of $165.

With a pair of wins over Houston County in early October 1993, the Lady Devils softball team won the Region 4-AA championship for Jackson High School for the second year in a row.

The Red Regiment Marching Band of Jackson High School was awarded a "superior" rating at the Phenix Invitational Marching Competition in Phenix City, Alabama in October 1993. It was the highest rating awarded, and all units of the band received it. "I'm very, very proud of what our students have accomplished at this competition," said band director Jim Bagley.

In October 1993, the Georgia Department of Transportation performed an engineering and traffic investigation within the city limits of Jackson. Based on its findings, the DOT mandated that speed limits be changed on some city streets: Brookwood Avenue, West Third Street and Covington Street were changed from 55 m.p.h. to 45 m.p.h. at the city limits, and lowered further to 35 m.p.h. closer to the city's center.

The Henderson Middle School Tigers played their first football season in the Fall of 1993 and ended with a 3-3 record.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1993
JACKSON - 33, Jones County - 28
JACKSON - 34, Morgan County - 6
Jackson - 12, GREENE COUNTY 22
Jackson - 7, LINCOLN COUNTY - 20
Jackson - 7, WASHINGTON COUNTY - 17
JACKSON - 20, Pike County - 14
JACKSON - 34, Harris County - 15
Jackson - 3, MARY PERSONS - 17
Jackson - 7, HOUSTON COUNTY - 34
JACKSON - 21, Manchester - 0
Jackson - 12, HOUSTON COUNTY - 42

Fights broke out in the stands of the Jackson High School-Henry County High School basketball game on December 3, 1993. Not quite one quarter had been played on the court, when the game was cancelled due to fisticuffs that continued between fans.

A fire broke out at the BFI recycling plant in Jackson on December 5, 1993. The quick work of the Butts County Fire Department, with Mark Cook as chief, put out the flames before a major catastrophe occurred. The facility recycled tires, and two or three tons of rubber was burning at one point.

The Salvation Army broke ground on a new service center on North Benton Street on December 13, 1993. The 4,800-square-foot facility housed a thrift store, clothes closet, food pantry and social service area.

In December 1993, a site on the northwest corner of the intersection of Second and Covington streets was chosen as the site for a new post office in Jackson.

By a 4-0 vote on December 13, 1993, the City Council approved the creation of a Historical Preservation Commission, which would be tasked with designating an area of historic homes as a historic district.

Snow fell and stuck around for a day on December 22, 1993. No traffic accidents or power outages were reported.

1994

Beginning in January 1994, residents could dial 911 in case of emergency in Butts County. The Jackson Police Department was not participating in the new system, but callers could be connected to the JPD if they wished when they called 911. The Board of County Commissioners had asked the city to pay a portion of the cost of the new communication system, but the City Council felt that city residents were already paying a 911 fee like county residents and to pay additional costs would be unfair to city residents. In 1992, telephone customers in the city and county began paying $1.50 per month for the 911 fee.

At a called meeting on January 4, 1994, Charlie Brown was sworn in as mayor of Jackson. Harold Duke and Lewis Sims renewed their oaths of office to serve on the City Council. The City Council also voted to change its meeting date from the second Monday of each month to the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

The Council also voted to name the city's fire station in honor of W. L. "Cotton" Vaughn, the former fire chief, and to name city hall after former mayor C. B. Brown, Jr.

"People want the service and they deserve the services, but there are very few citizens unfortunately that take the time to really understand the problems and the issues that go on," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "That's what makes it so tough when you're in office. You can do something and then a few weeks later there's a group of people that want to know why you did it. And you've had all these meetings and studied things and then you have a group of people out there that unfortunately have selfish motives and don't have the best of the city or the county at heart. They want what's best for them and not the community. That causes you headaches. But I have been fortunate to serve with some great people.

"When I came in here, I served with five incumbents on the Council," said Brown. "I was the new kid on the block, and I was the youngest. The first meeting was kind of scary. But I stressed to the Council: this is just a job. The people elect you to do this, and they can take you out of office. It doesn't make you any better than anybody else that's out there. You can say whatever you want to. I'll never stop you, or try to tell you what to say or what to do. But whatever decisions we make, when we leave the room, we're still friends. The job's over. And that's the way it's been for the last 17 years.

"I don't think I could have served with better people these 17 years," Brown continued. "They all have the city's best interest at heart, which makes the job easier. I tell the job is tough enough even when you like each other, but if you get a board where you don't like each other it makes it that much more difficult."

"Mayor Charlie Brown was a friend of mine throughout the time I was at the sheriff's office and he was county commissioner," said Jackson police Chief Mike Riley in 2009. "A lot of times I would go to him for something and he would approve it or tell me he couldn't approve it. We had a working relationship at the county before he came to the city. So he kept me own. As you know, a lot of times when there's a new mayor, they want a new police chief. There again: when I take a job, I need a job. I want to keep it."

Mayor Charlie Brown and the City Council invited city merchants and industries to meet with him on January 18 to discuss any problems they had or to offer any suggestions they had. "We're hear to listen to what you have to say," Brown told the audience at the start of the meeting. "We can't solve your problems if we don't know what they are."

Several attendees suggested that high utility deposit fees for new businesses was keeping some buildings on the square vacant. One cited the use of prime retail space on Third Street for county office space as a bad move. Merchants agreed that two buildings on the square were eyesores and health hazards. Many merchants said they were also fed up with parking restrictions - in particular a two-hour time limit on the square - and vehicles that were parking on the square for all-day court business.

"Jackson is going to be a ghost town if we don't get it turned around," said Stanley Maddox of Western Auto with regards to the parking problems on the square.

Following the meeting, a Jackson Square Merchants' Association was formed at the urging of Mayor Brown.

George Owen Brown, a 39-year-old Jackson resident, was charged with murder at the end of January 1994. The charge followed the death of a Flovilla man who fought with Brown on Taylor Street. Following the fight, the Flovillan went to the hospital complaining of pain. He died that night.

The Henderson Middle School Tigers completed a perfect 15-0 basketball season in February 1994. The team won both the region title and the Middle Georgia Junior High Athletic League District Tournament.

Michael Johnson was named STAR Student of Jackson High School during the annual STAR Student Banquet on February 22, 1994. He named Lynn Ridgeway as his STAR Teacher.

The Lady Devils of Jackson High School won the Region 4-AA basketball championship on February 26, 1994 with a 45-30 win over Mary Persons.

The City Council adopted a $4.4 million budget in early March 1994. It was two months late, and included reductions in the amounts provided to the Jackson-Butts County Public Library and the Butts County Parks and Recreation Department.

By a vote of 1,260 to 566, a referendum to approve $9.6 million in bonds to build a new middle school and make improvement to Jackson Elementary School failed on March 15, 1994.

The city purchased a new four-door fire truck for $134,543 in March 1994. Prior to the vote to purchase, there was heated discussion about the need for such a truck and the bids received.

A downtown cleanup day, co-sponsored by the City of Jackson and the Jackson Merchants' Association, was held on March 23, 1994 to coincide with the first Dogwood Festival on the square.

The City of Jackson was de-certified by the Department of Community Affairs in March 1994, making it ineligible for state grants. The action came in light of the city's comprehensive plan, which did not follow DCA procedures.

In April 1994, the Downtown Development Authority began fundraising for its downtown revitalization project. Richard Kapiloff estimated that the plan might cost as much as $750,000 to carry out. It included new lighting, trees and brick sidewalks. "The shopping centers are here, they are going to open, and I have nothing against them," said Kapiloff in 1994. "But history will repeat itself right here in Jackson - merchants will move out unless you give them some reason to stay."

"I had the privilege of serving on the Downtown Development Authority for several years and when we did the renovation of the square we visited other communities and Madison was one of the communities we visited with its streetscapes," recalled Mack davis during an interview in 2010. "One of the things we wanted to do was put in trees so that you could give a park atmosphere and give people a shaded area. Of course the city council cut all the trees down and destroyed it and replaced it those $900 trees with Crepe Myrtles because some of the merchants didn't want them covering up their signs. I thought that was a big mistake but I didn't have the authority to stop it. We spent a lot of months and years doing that, and then they cut them down at night. That was a bad deal. Since they've done that about 50 percent of the stores around the square have closed up. That's my soap box.

"We had the vision of modeling it somewhat after Madison, having small shops, coffee shops, bookstores, small gift shops because the large multi-purpose stores were taking over all the small town businesses," said Davis. "In order to do that, you had to have a downtown that was attractive for people to come to and visit and stroll along the streets. That was the initial vision with the sidewalks and the planters and the trees. We were just trying to make it a destination location. Richard Kapiloff, Linda Sullivan, Suzanne Earnhart and myself."

On April 18, 1994, the Red Devils of Jackson High School clinched the Region 4-AA baseball title with a win over Houston County.

A Creek Indian tomahawk and a Revolutionary-era sword representing Samuel Jackson were part of the new city logo adopted by the Council in April 1994. It was designed by Councilmember Liz Carmichael Jones.

In May 1994, the city issued notices to property owners on North Mulberry Street between Dugan and Glenn streets that they had 30 days to clean up their properties or face possible condemnation. The action came in the wake of a resolution adopted by the Butts County Board of Education asking that the city clean up the area because it was overgrown with weeds and unsafe for children to walk by on their way to school.

For the second consecutive year, the Jackson High School Red Devils track team won the Region 4-AA title. The team claimed the top spot on the track at the region meet held in Forsyth on May 4, 1994.

In May 1994, Jackson High School junior Liz Daniel won the Region 4-AA singles tennis title. At the same time, she captured the state record for most consecutive wins - 37. She was undefeated in three years of regular season and region matches.

Three unmarked graves were found at the City Cemetery in late May 1994. When the owner of an eight-grave plot hired a man to install a headstone, the worker located three concrete vaults by using a depth pole. He determined the vaults to be the size used for infants. The city gave the plot's owner a new eight-grave plot and decided used the remaining graves in the other plot as pauper graves.

There were 90 graduates in the Jackson High School Class of 1994. Danny Smith was named Valedictorian and Charlie Ridgeway was named Salutatorian of the class.

In 1994, "the legislature gave cities the ability to privatize their probation services," said Mary Davis during an 2009 interview. The city gave the right to serve Jackson's probation needs to Davis and her husband, Gerald. "We set it up, and took their fees for the length of time it took them to pay their probation. And once a month, we would meet at the Daughtry Foundation with a judge and these people would be sentenced according to the book. Those citizens would meet with Gerald and set up a schedule of how they wanted to pay, and we'd come home and set up the books. It was a big job. I balanced it every day. They didn't come to your home. We would go up to the Daughtry Foundation once a month and they'd come pay us. Their fees were $30 a month at that time, and we made very good. But let me tell you what Gerald wanted to do with the money: we gave to this and that and other. That's what he wanted to do with his money that he made. Give it away. We gave away about $7,000.

"But he gave it up after two years," said Mary. "I turned it in balanced to the cent to the city to give to the next person. [Gerald] worked for a while for the city in the probation service,

taking the fees until he retired. It's a good thing that he gave it up in July 1996, because I had a stroke in July 1997."

On June 21, 1994, the City Council adopted a noise ordinance aimed at addressing complaints about excessive noise from car stereo systems and external speakers at some local businesses.

"When I first came back into office in '94, I remembered a lot of things we used to do when I was a kid," said Charlie Brown in 2010. "We used to shoot fireworks and do things like that. So I started implementing things that tried to make Jackson feel like a community again, to try to bring the community back in. The first thing we did was start shooting fireworks again. We used to shoot them at the baseball field. Then we had Halloween on Second Street. It started out just on Second Street, but it has turned into an event that brings out thousands of kids. Until we did it, I never ever thought about how kids in the county used to trick or treat. Back then there weren't a lot of subdivisions, so they didn't have anywhere to go. Then we brought in the Can-a-thon, and started having it with the Salvation Army. It doesn't cost the city a lot of money, but it gives people the sense - I think - of community pride. It shows them that the city cares about these different things."

"Charlie is the best mayor that we've ever had," said Wayne Phillips in 2009. "His father, C. B. Brown, did a great job but my time with him on the council was limited and I am not as familiar with him. Charlie knows how to hold on to money and the get the best deals for the city. He doesn't toot his own horn, and doesn't get out and do things for the general public to see. He is very astute knows how to get things done."

"When he comes up with things, he has the city's best interest at heart," added Barbara Phillips during the same interview. "He doesn't do it for himself. It's the city's welfare that he's trying to get you to see."

For the first time in 11 years, the City of Jackson planned to host a fireworks show on July 4, 1994. Fire Chief Mark Cook, who had been in charge of fireworks displays in 1976 and 1983, estimated the cost of the show at $2,500. The display was to be held held at the school sports complex on Franklin Street. Instead, Tropical Storm Alberto dumped over five inches of rain over the holiday period, closing some roads and flooding 120 homes in Butts County. In the city, only two streets - McCaskill and Alabama Boulevard - were washed out. Mayor Charlie Brown praised the work of city employees, and after spending time with Water Department Superintendent Buck Stewart referred to him as the "smartest man I know."

In August 1994, the City Council voted unanimously to not levy any property taxes on city residents. The city had not levied such taxes since 1975.

When Butts County schools opened in ate August 1994, a record enrollment of 2,948 students showed up for classes. The increase in students led to two additional portable classroom trailers being used. There were 269 students in kindergarten.

The Ingles grocery store on West Third Street opened on September 11, 1994.

"I remember going to a meeting in Atlanta with my uncle, and Mr. Bob Ingles was there," said Jimmy Adams in 2009. "And this was when they were first building Ingles. And my uncle asked him why he was building so far out of town. And I remember Mr. Ingles saying, 'Mr. Adams, I hope in five years you don't have to ask me that question.' So they've done a tremendous business out there."

The Jackson Police Department got seven new Ford Crown Victoria patrol cars in September 1994. The department had been driving Chevrolet Impalas that were five, six and eight years old - and they had all been purchased used. According to one police officer, the city had only purchased one new car for the department since 1981.

The Lady Devils of Jackson High School won the Region 3-AA softball championship on October 6, 1994. The Lady Devils defeated Dodge County in a best-of-three-games series by winning the second game and coming from behind to win the third and decisive game. "We're the few," said Head Coach Carol Watts of her 11 players, "but we're the strong and we've come a long way."

On the evening of October 21, 1994, Darwin Henderson and Exzavier Tanner met on the corner of Cemetery and Elm streets. Their girlfriends waited in nearby cars as the two 19-year-olds discussed a $50 debt owed to Henderson by Tanner. After a heated discussion, Henderson turned and walked back to his car. According to witnesses, Tanner pulled a .22 caliber revolver out of his pants and fired two shots in the air. Henderson kept walking to his car, and Tanner walked up behind him and shot him four times. Henderson was pronounced dead at Sylvan Grove Hospital. Tanner was charged with the murder.

The Jackson Merchants and Business People Association organized a Halloween festival on October 31, 1994. The event was held on the downtown square and along Second Street to the Carmichael House. Booths were set up all along the streets for businesses and organizations to hand out treats to costumed children. Despite drizzle that dampened the streets, several hundred costumed children took part in the event.

"I was involved in the forming of the Halloween on Second Street," said Bobby Stephens in 2010. "It was one of the best things this city ever came up with. It kept people from getting hurt out on the streets after dark."

"The Halloween on Second Street really started with then-county Commissioner Brown and I at the sheriff's office," explained Mike Riley during a 2009 interview. "I came up with the

idea of giving out candy at the sheriff's office, a safe place where you knew it wasn't going to be tampered with. That was in the day of razor blades in the apples and all. So we decorated the front porch of the old county jail - which was spooky enough as it was. And we put hay bales out. A lot of the church groups would do hay rides, and they'd come by the sheriff's office and get off and come get candy. We had Safety Pup out there in costume, and played Safety Pup songs.

"Well, the first year we did it," Riley continued, "we really didn't have any money to get the candy. So Sheriff Leverette went around to the businesses asking for money for the candy. And I won't say where it came from, but we ended up with some Valentine candy. It was leftover Valentine candy that we were given to give out. County Commissioner Brown and his wife, Wendy, came driving up while one of the hayrides was there. And I went up and talked with him about what we were doing, and he then allocated money every year in our budget for candy.

"Then when I came over here [to the city], I was going to continue it here at the police department," said Riley. "And when Mayor Brown came over here as mayor, it turned into Halloween on Second Street as way for businesses to get involved and generate interest in downtown. And people come from surrounding areas. It's a big night. We give away a lot of candy.

"Back when we started doing it, a bag of candy was all one kind of candy," said Riley. "This one was all M&Ms and this one was all Snickers and so on. So we had to mix it all. And we mixed it in this office floor. There's a picture somewhere of Jeanette sitting in a pile of candy about as high as this desk where we had to dump it all out, mix it and carry it to Second Street to be handed out. She and Kay and Ms. Jackie would do that, and I would tear open the bags."

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1994
Jackson - 7, JONES COUNTY - 12
JACKSON - 25, Henry County - 19
JACKSON - 15, Harris County - 12
JACKSON - 49, Pike County 7
Jackson - 14, PERRY - 21
Jackson - 10, WEST LAURENS - 13
Jackson - 6, DODGE COUNTY - 7
JACKSON - 35, Houston County - 12
Jackson - 7, MARY PERSONS - 35
Jackson - 7, BLECKLEY COUNTY - 28

On November 16, 1994, Dr. Jack Newman announced he was phasing out his medical practice due to health considerations. Newman and his family moved to Jackson in 1962, and served as a physician for a large number of Butts County families for four decades. Dr. Shashi Madan took over Newman's office and patient medical records on January 1, 1995.

At its December 6, 1994 meeting, the City Council adopted a Youth Curfew and Loitering ordinance that took effect on January 2, 1995. Under the new law, people under age 18 had to be off the streets between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 12:30 a.m. to 6

a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The law also forbade people from loitering "in a place at a time or in a manner not usual for law-abiding individuals."

The City Council approved a new Occupation Tax in December 1994 that replaced the city's Business License. The change came about due to a change in state law. Under the new tax, businesses were charged a yearly administrative fee of $50, and $15 for each of the first 10 employees, $14 for each of the next 10 employees, and $13 for each of the next 10 employees, and then less and less for additional employees.

The City Council adopted a budget of $4,547,222 at its December 20, 1994 meeting.

"In 1994, we took on a remodeling project," said Mike Riley of the police department and jail facility. "We got permission from Mayor Brown to do some remodeling. We had a very small radio area. Our offices were not complete. This office had a wall of glass from where it used to be the fire department. This is where they used to park fire trucks. When it quit being the fire department, they just put glass in this side. And the police department investigators had come in and studded up walls, but the walls were not complete. So we came in and basically gutted it. The booking room had three desks in it. Well, we had more officers than that. So we changed that, and each officer had his own locking file cabinet so he could have a work station.

"We painted the cell area, but the paint didn't hold up very well back there," said Riley. "[The prisoners] were bad about scratching their names into it. Stuff like that. The last thing I did was have a guy come in and put bedliner color in, he sprayed it. It's almost indestructible now. It looks good. They can't do anything to it.

"There are four two-man cells," he said, "and then there's one isolation cell. That side is male side. Then on the other side are two four-bed cells, and those have always been used for females. There is a 16-bed capacity here. On an average, there are normally two to three people [in the city jail].

"The isolation cell doesn't have anything in it but a hole in the floor," Riley explained. "It's just a box. It doesn't have a light in it. We haven't used that in years. When I took over, they were using it for storage. It had tires in it. That was back when the police department was responsible for its own vehicle maintenance. Now we've turned all that over to vehicle maintenance, and Troy [Smith] and them look after that. But that isolation cell is a nice word for it. But it's a real attitude breaker. It worked really well for one what was rowdy, tearing things up, you could put them in there for a while and then they'd agree to come out and behave themselves. There's nothing in there. It's pitch black dark. But, like I say, it's something we haven't had to use in quite some time.

"When it gets close to the holidays, I try, if there's anyway possible, to get them out," said Riley of the people he holds in the city jail. "I don't like having people in jail over the holidays. That's just a personal thing. You can't really do that at the county jail 'cause a lot of those charges won't really allow it. The charges here are usually traffic violations or DUIs. Or a fine they can't pay. And sometimes the family can get that up and pay it around the holidays. But even if they can't, I'll let them go home Christmas day, and then they have to come back. And

over the years, I have to say" - as he knocked his wooden desk top - "they've all come back. They're not facing serious charges anyway."

1995

At its January 3, 1995 meeting, the City Council elected Lewis Sims as Mayor Pro Tem. Jeanene Fitzgerald was reappointed as City Clerk, and Gail Bush was named Assistant Clerk for another year.

The first ever game played by the Jackson High School soccer team was held on February 24, 1995. The team was co-ed as there were not enough players to form separate teams for boys and girls.

On March 1, 1995, a new three percent hotel/motel tax took effect in Jackson. The City Council had approved the new tax in January 1995. Proceeds of the tax were used for tourism and to promote the city. At the time, only the Heart of Jackson Motel on Third Street and the Carmichael House bed and breakfast on McDonough Road were impacted by the new tax.

"Soon after I became chief, a man staying at the Heart of Jackson Motel climbed up on the roof," said Mike Riley in a 2009 interview. "And from there, he climbed up on the top of the billboard and was going to commit suicide. That was a big stir in Jackson. So I got the call, and I was able to talk him down from the billboard. I was able to get him help. I still see him today. For a long time, every time I saw, he thanked me for what I did for him that day."

"I have always said that I got into law enforcement to help people," said Police Chief Mike Riley. "And I think I'm still able to help people occasionally. As I told somebody: if I get to a point in my career where, for whatever reason, I don't feel like I'm helping people anymore, I'll get out. But when I interview officers, potential officers, one of my questions is: why do you want to become a police officer? And if they tell me, 'Well, I want to get drugs off the street.' No. That's a noble goal, but realistically it's not really going to happen. If they tell me that they want to help people, then they're a good candidate in my book. Because to me that's what this job is all about. Even if you have to lock somebody up, sometimes that's the best help you can give them. I have had, over the years, people come back to me after getting out of prison and say, 'You saved my life because that's what I needed. I was heading down a road, and if you hadn't caught me I'd probably be dead by now.' That's why you do this. Those moments. You're not going to save them all, but if you save one then it's worth it."

Brian Scott Whitaker was named STAR Student of Jackson High School in early March 1995. He named Mark Alling as his STAR Teacher. The awards came during an annual dinner sponsored by the Exchange Club of Jackson.

In March 1995, the Butts County Board of Education hired Keith Cowne as the new principal of Jackson High School. He replaced Johnnie Thompson on July 1 of that year.

Dr. Jack R. Newman passed away on March 14, 1995. City and county flags were flown at half-mast, and businesses closed for an hour in honor of the community's long-serving physician.

"Dr. Newman had an office down there where Dr. Madan's office is," said Mack Davis in 2010. "Funny guy. He was an old Marine, went to med school in Louisiana, and then set up practice here. And even though he was a rough, tough Marine, he was very compassionate and would not charge people. He didn't charge hardly anything, give people medicine. I bet when he died he had no telling how much on the books that people never paid him. But that's just the way he was. He'd treat you whether you had money or not."

The Jackson Red Devils won the Region 3-AA baseball championship on May 5, 1995 by defeating Pike County 3-2. The score was tied 2-2 in extra innings when Jim Malone stole home on a passed ball. It was the third straight year the Red Devils won the region title.

The Butts County Community Center opened on May 7, 1995. The 27,000-square-foot facility, located on Ernest Biles Drive, featured a Senior Citizen Center, a Youth Center and two multi-purpose basketball courts. The total cost of the construction of the facility was $1.4 million, which was financed primarily through a $400,000 Community Development Block Grant and the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

In May 1995, the City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting skateboarding, bicycling, loitering, loud noises and gathering in large groups for reasons other than a funeral in the city cemetery.

The Jackson-Butts County Council for the Arts held the first Fine Arts Festival at the historic Carmichael House on McDonough Street in 1995. "The Fine Arts Festival was really the seed of Linda Herdina, when she and John [Herdina] bought the [Carmichael] house," explained local artist R. Scott Coleman in 2009. "Not long after they bought it, I called them and asked them if I could use the out building in the back for an art studio. And she said yes right there on the spot. So I set up my studio there. I was there for a year or so, and they were doing weddings at the house and opened it for different receptions and things.

"And one day she said, 'You know, I would love to sometime have art in the garden, have people painting and showing in the garden.' I told her I knew a lot of artists, and could see if they'd be interested in coming down to Jackson to show in the garden," Coleman continued. "And they were, and we said why not make it an art show. It just sort of evolved. Then we got on the arts council idea, and next thing I knew she took the ball and ran with it. We were forming an arts council. And we decided we needed some capital, and we went to McIntosh State Bank and asked [bank president] Pete Malone if they'd like to get in on this. Pete was energetic and supportive from the get go. So they became a co-sponsor of the festival from the very beginning."

Lauren Hope Smith was named Valedictorian of the Jackson High School Class of 1995, and Sheila Michelle Hughes was named Salutatorian.

In June 1995, the Butts County Board of Commissioners adopted a budget of $7,434,000, a 1.5 percent increase over the previous year's budget. That resulted in a 3.897 increase in the county millage rate, 0.8 of which came from the Board of Education and its budget.

The City of Jackson and the Jackson Merchants Association sponsored a fireworks display on July 4, 1995. It was the first such display in 12 years in the city.

On July 1, 1995, electric rates in the city increased by a unanimous vote of the City Council. The Council also voted to increase the water rates, but postponed that increase until August 1, 1995. The three percent electric rate increase was required after the city's electric supplier, the Municipal Electric Association of Georgia, increased the rate it charged the city for power. The water rate increase coincided with a switch from a four-tier system of charging for water to a two-tier system. Most customers saw a $1 increase per month for usage less than 2,000 gallons.

In September 1995, the City Council approved a bid from Browning-Ferris Industries to handle the city's solid waste. The vote came after months of negotiations. BFI offered once-a-week curbside pick up of garbage for $8.50 per month per resident for five years. The solid waste rate had been $6 per month, and the city had been losing $100,000 by collecting garbage itself and dumping it in the county landfill. The new service took effect on january 1, 1996.

The city was struck by strong winds from Hurricane Opal on October 5, 1995. Power was knocked out to 1,500 customers in Jackson for several hours that morning. Over 4,000 residents in the county went without power for a time after power lines were knocked down by the storm.

In October 1995 came news that Greenman Technologies, a company that chopped up already shredded rubber from tires, was considering opening a plant in Jackson. According to Chris Mercer, superintendent of the city's electric department, the company would use twice as much power as any other company in the city. The following month, the City Council gave its OK to move ahead with the construction of power lines to serve the new industry.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1995
Jackson - 26, JONES COUNTY - 28
Jackson - 7, HENRY COUNTY - 35
Jackson - 14, HARRIS COUNTY - 27
JACKSON - 22, Pike County - 8
JACKSON - 17, Perry - 9
Jackson - 7, WEST LAURENS - 38
Jackson - 19, DODGE COUNTY - 57
Jackson - 7, HOUSTON COUNTY - 14

Jackson - 7, MARY PERSONS - 26
Jackson - 14, BLECKLEY COUNTY - 21

At its November 21, 1995 meeting, the City Council voted to rescind the ordinance that created the Jackson's Historic District. In 1993, the Council appointed a committee to develop the original ordinance, which created a Historic District and a Historical Preservation Committee. According to initial plans, the Historic District was to be restricted to the downtown square and property east of the square along West Avenue.

1996

Jackson's new garbage service, provided by Browning Ferris Industries, began on January 2, 1996. Residential garbage was picked up once per week from 95-gallon plastic containers that were wheeled to the street for collection. Those who lived north of Third Street, including the area of Pepperton, had garbage collected on Mondays, while those on the south side of the city had Thursday as garbage day.

"I've been a lot of place, but I'm always glad to come back to Jackson," said Ernest Battle in a 2009 interview. "I wish that now there were more places to work. I guess that could be said for all over the country now. But it used to be that you couldn't attain middle class status working in Jackson. And now, young people that come along today, they're not going to have the privilege that we had of being able to go to general Motors and Ford. Those places are gone for them, and I don't know what's going to happen. I worked for 30 years at General Motors. After I worked 10 years, I came up under guaranteed income that the union had bargained for the workers. But all them days are gone and past now.

"I remember when the city used to have three or four guys coming around on the garbage truck to pick up garbage," Battle recalled. "When the city went out of the garbage business, I saw one guy came by here in a truck with an arm on it that reached out and grabbed the cans and dumped them. So technology is hurting a lot of folks. It's hard for me when I see these guys standing on the corner with their pants hanging down off their behinds, thinking they're being cool - what are they going to do? They don't have no marketing skills, no eduction. That's sad. They're living off mama and daddy now, but mama and daddy aren't going to be there always. They can't see the value of an education. And like our principal, Mr. Walker, said: 'Get knowledge in your head. They can't take away what you got in your head.' And my homeroom teacher for many years. Dr. W. R. Bush, he used to tell us all the time - and I still tell people - he used to say, 'He who starts behind shall forever remain behind unless he runs faster than the person ahead of him'."

Tommy Raney was sworn in as the newest member of the City Council on January 2, 1996. He replaced Liz Carmichael Jones, who did not seek another term in office.

In January 1996, Mike Parris was named head coach of the Jackson High School Red Devils football team. He came to Jackson from Forest Park, where he amassed a winning tradition and coached future NFL star and Super Bowl MVP Hines Ward.

At its annual banquet in late January 1996, the Butts County Chamber of Commerce honored Jackson Mayor Charlie Brown as its Citizen of the Year. He was praised for his work with the Can-A-Thon, the Jackson Merchants Association, the Jackson City Council, the Downtown Revitalization Committee and other organizations. In accepting the award, Brown said he felt he had been very fortunate in his life, especially because of two people - his father, C. B. Brown, Jr., and his uncle, Joe Brown, Sr. Brown said his uncle loved kids and his father loved politics, and that he hoped he learned the best from both of them.

In February 1996, Fire Chief Mark Cook began work on a fire safety code that would enable the city to carry out inspections of commercial buildings in the city. It was approved by the City Council in May 1996, and required that buildings the public had access to be equipped with safe staircases, safe electrical outlets, lighted exit signs, and other safety equipment. It also provided for the city to name an inspector to check buildings for these features.

On March 5, 1996, Joe Rapaport was named STAR Student of Jackson High School by the Exchange Club. He named Lynn Ridgeway as his STAR Teacher.

The new Butts County Law Enforcement and Detention Center was formally opened and dedicated to the late Sheriff J. D. “Bud” Pope in March 1996.

In early April 1996, Richard Kapiloff, the new president of The Kym Company, announced that the industry would remain open. The announcement was a 180-degree turn around from a statement made by his father, Mark Kapiloff, who had been president of the company and remained Chief Executive Officer. Commitments made by both The Kym Company’s customer and employees led to the decision to keep the plant open, according to the younger Kapiloff. With 100 employees and an annual payroll of $1.5 million, The Kym Company had called Jackson home since 1953.

The Butts County Board of Education proposed a $13,661,000 budget in May 1996, an increase of 4.62 percent over the previous year’s budget. The Board of Commissioners proposed and adopted a $7,999,780 budget.

The Red Devils of Jackson High School hosted the boys’ region track meet in early May 1996. Jackson senior Wesley Brewer won the long jump, 100-meter race and 200-meter race, qualifying him for the state track meet in all three events. Fellow JHS senior Michael Head qualified for the state meet in the one-mile and two-mile races.

On May 31, 1996, 115 seniors received diplomas from Jackson High School. Michael Haisten was named Valedictorian, and Marcie Glidewell was named Salutatorian.

In September 1996, voters approved a new round of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for Butts County. Jackson's share of the one-percent tax was figured at $2 million. Of that, $1 million was to go toward a general obligation bond to pay off debt on the wastewater system, $750,000 went to roads, streets and bridges (with $500,000 going to downtown renovations), and $250,000 for an upgrade to the water and sewer system.

Sarah Lou Taylor of Jackson was named Georgia's Older Worker of the Year for 1996 during a luncheon in Savannah on September 18. Taylor was hired as a nursing aid three weeks before Sylvan Grove Hospital opened in 1962. In the 34 years since, she held a number of job titles, but always remained a part of the hospital. At the time of her award, she was head cook, preparing meals for every patient in the hospital.

In October 1996, Dr. Dennis Fordham announced his resignation as Superintendent of Schools for Butts County effective December 31, 1996. He had been with the county since 1989, and left to take the same position with Hall County.

In early November 1996, the City Council submitted a bid of $135,000 for the old Post Office building on South Mulberry Street. The building, which is on the National Register of Historic Buildings, had been vacant since the post office moved into its new building on Second Street in July 1995. The Council completed the purchase of the building, and began to turn the building into to the Jackson Municipal Court. Funds for the purchase came from the city's portion of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1996
Jackson - 8, HENRY COUNTY - 36
Jackson - 0, WEST LAURENS - 33
JACKSON - 21, Perry - 17
Jackson - 13, DODGE COUNTY - 46
JACKSON - 19, Lamar County - 6
JACKSON - 46, Pike County - 6
Jackson - 14, EAST LAURENS - 28
Jackson - 19, MARY PERSONS - 28
Jackson - 0, BLECKLEY COUNTY - 35
Jackson - 20, HARRIS COUNTY - 21

In November 1996, the city completed work on a Code of Ordinances, a book that compiled every ordinance in place in the city up until July 16, 1996. Any ordinance not included in the Code was rescinded. Mayor Charlie Brown called the Code book the "greatest thing this city has done in the last three years."

In December 1996, the City Council voted to rescind an offer to the youth of the city for the use of the city parking lot on North Oak Street as a hang out. While the arrangement worked

out well earlier in the year, providing teens with a place to park and talk, recent complaints from citizens and reports of altercations proved enough to force the Council to act.

Jackson High School had a wrestling team for the first time in many years in December 1996.

The annual Can-a-Thon and the first annual Christmas Stocking Fund, sponsored by the City of Jackson and BFI Tire Recyclers, brought in $8,300 in cash, more than 100 new toys and more than 8,000 cans of food in December 1996. The new toys and the money donated, which was used to buy more new toys, were distributed to 250 children via the Salvation Army and Department of Family and Children Services.

At its December 17, 1996 meeting, the City Council approved a budget totaling $4,999,667, approximately $80,000 less than the previous year's budget.

In December 1996, American Woodmark announced that it would double the size of its assembly plant in Jackson. The plant was to be expanded from 122,500 square feet to 184,375. "The new expansion not only gives us an opportunity to grow," said Mark Goodall, plant manager at Jackson, "but gives us an opportunity to create new jobs in the community."

1997

In January 1997, the city filed six lawsuits against property owners who refused to clean up lots that were deemed fire or health hazards. "We need to show them that we're serious," said Mayor Charlie Brown.

At a meeting on January 21, 1997, the City Council and the Downtown Revitalization Committee discussed plans for the improvement of the city's square. "It's a once in a lifetime chance for us to promote our downtown," said Mayor Charlie Brown.

Richard Kapiloff, Chairman of the Committee, told the mayor and Council that the primary objective was to redo the sidewalks on and around the square. The city had $500,000 in Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax fund to pay for the downtown project, and was working with the Georgia Department of Transportation to make improvements to the intersections on Third Street with Oak and Mulberry streets.

In February 1997, two members of Jackson High School's Red Regiment Band were named to the All-State Band. Leah Ahlstrom and Jonathan Bagley, both ninth graders, were the first Jackson students to receive that honor since 1972.

"The fact that these students made All-State as ninth graders is a tribute to the quality of training they have received before reaching Jackson High School, said Band Director Jim Bagley.

On March 1, 1997, Dr. Alan E. White became the superintendent of Butts County Schools. "I feel that the communities of Butts County are places where people value education and want to support the schools," he wrote at the time. "This support of home and community matches my own training, experience, leadership style and my native Georgia background."

Emily Leuken was named STAR Student of Jackson High School at an Exchange Club-sponsored banquet in March 1997. Leuken named Marsha Williams as her STAR Teacher.

During a march 1, 1997 referendum, voters of Butts County approved a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for school construction. The one percent tax was expected to bring in $8.5 million over a span of five years. In doing so, Butts County became one of the first counties in the state to begin collecting the new tax.

Powerful winds on March 29, 1997 tore the roof off a building at Patterson Security Storage on Highway 36 East.

The Jackson Red Devils clinched the 3-AA sub-region crown at the close of the regular baseball season in April 1997. The team was ranked fifth in the state.

The 4x100 relay team for the Jackson High School Red Devils qualified for the state meet in May, 1997. Members of the team were: Jamarcus Johnson, Rufus Logan, Polanski Morgan and Andrell White.

The City of Jackson held an Industry Appreciation Luncheon in May 1997. Representatives of over 50 local business and industries attended the event at which Mayor Charlie Brown thanked them all for employing the people of Jackson and making the city strong.

One hundred seven seniors accepted diplomas from Jackson High School in June 1997. Valedictorian of the class was Liem Thanh Huynh, and Salutatorian was Shannon KImberly Davis. Rather than the traditional recessional off the field at the end of the ceremony, Thanh led the class in a rush off the field.

As of July 1, 1997, the operation of Sylvan Grove Hospital was turned over to Texas-based Tenet Hospital System. The facility had been operated by the Sylvan Grove Hospital Corporation for the previous 13 years. Soon, Tenet had installed air conditioners in eight patient rooms and new equipment for the laboratory.

Rather than disband the organization in July 1997 - as had been the announced plan - the Jackson Merchants' Association elected new officers and began planning that year's Halloween on second Street event.

For several hours on a Thursday in the middle of July 1997, Jackson and the rest of Butts County was cut off from telephone communication with the outside world. A construction accident in Henry County severed the main fiber optic line to the county.

On July 15, 1997, the City Council voted not to impose property taxes on residents of the city. It marked the 22nd year in a row that the city did not collect property taxes. At the same meeting, the Council adopted a budget totaling $5,107,467.

On July 23, 1997, the Exchange Club of Jackson celebrated its 50th anniversary with a repeat of its charter event in 1947 - a barbecue dinner at Indian Springs. Two of the Club's charter members, Rufus Adams and Gervin Lewis, were present for the occasion.

In July 1997, the city began forming its own Planning & Zoning Commission. Up to that point, it appointed two members to the five-member Butts County Planning Commission, which handled all planning and zoning matters in the county and city.

A Jackson man was shot in the lower back on August 18, 1997 as he stood in front of an apartment building on North Oak Street. Marlon Bridges, age 23, was hospitalized for a day after being shot in his lower back. The Jackson Police Department issued arrest warrants for two Jackson teenagers connected to the crime, and they were arrested a day later.

As schools opened in Butts County in late August 1997, 2,971 students were reporting for classes. That represented an increase of 56 students from the previous year.

On September 2, 1997, the City Council adopted a restrictive sign ordinance that prohibited any flashing lights on signs, signs that imply emergency, signs that prevent exiting or entering through a door or window, portable signs and any future billboards.

Ground was broken and blessed in early September 1997 for the new St. Mary's Catholic Church on Old Griffin Road.

During qualifying for city elections in September 1997, only Harold "Doc" McMichael signed up for the District 3 seat on the Council. Harold Duke, who had held that post for seven years, was stepping down from politics. McMichael was sworn into office in January 1998. Mayor Charlie Brown and Councilman Lewis Sims were unopposed for re-election.

"I was retired," recalled Harold "Doc" McMichael in 2009, "and I had always thought I might like to be somewhat of a public servant, for a number of years. And I spoke with [former city councilman] Harold Duke one day at the golf course. At that time, he was the councilman for this district. I said, 'Harold, I will never run against you for the council position, but,' I said, 'if and when you decide that you don't want to serve anymore, I'd be interested in it, and if you'd let me know, I'd like to qualify for it.'

"So, when that particular term expired, which was 12 years ago this year," McMichael said, "he called me and he said, 'Doc, I've decided that I'm not going to run for Council, and if you would like to run, I'll support you a hundred percent.' So, I qualified, and, thank the Lord, didn't have any opposition. And, of course, Harold said he would support me, which I thought was a benefit, [because] Harold was a good man."

First Georgia Community Bank opened its doors on September 27, 1997. The bank was located on Covington Street.

In October 1997, the City Council voted to begin a chipping and mulching program. City employees began collecting limbs and leaves at residential curbsides, turning it all into mulch at the city's public works building, and offering the mulch free to residents.

On October 26, 1997, the congregation of the Jackson Presbyterian Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of it sanctuary on North Oak Street

The Red Regiment Marching Band of Jackson High School brought home the Best Band in Class AAA from the East Georgia Marching Championships in Statesboro in October 1997.

The November 4, 1997 City Council meeting began with a prayer delivered by Councilman Theodore Patterson. For years, Council meetings began with a prayer, but it had fallen out of practice for several years. Patterson had asked the mayor and Council earlier if he could be permitted to open each meeting with a prayer.

JACKSON RED DEVILS FOOTBALL 1997
JACKSON 21, Henry County - 20
JACKSON - 27, West Laurens - 13
Jackson - 12, PERRY - 16
Jackson - 12, DODGE COUNTY - 18
JACKSON - 21, Lamar County - 0
JACKSON - 44, Pike County - 0
JACKSON - 32, East Laurens - 14
JACKSON - 31, Mary Persons - 7
JACKSON - 31, Bleckley County - 6
JACKSON - 14, Harris County - 13
Jackson - 26, TOOMBS COUNTY - 29

At a meeting on December 1, 1997, the Butts County Board of Education approved a $1.395 million contract for the construction of nine new classrooms at Jackson High School. The funds came from the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax for Education approved by voters.

The Budweiser Clydesdale horses and wagon were part of the annual Christmas Parade through downtown Jackson in early December 1997.

On December 23, 1997, city and county officials met with representatives of the Georgia Department of Transportation to discuss plans for a proposed truck by-pass around the southern side of Jackson. The idea was to connect Highway 16 east and west of the city, and cross over Highway 36 below Jackson. The proposed road would be two lanes with a 250-foot right-of-way.

"We need to bring traffic out of Jackson," said State Representative Larry Smith, "but if a truck by-pass is built - cars will use it, too. Anytime you by-pass a community, a lot of people won't go through your town.

On Mill Street on the afternoon of December 29, 1997, an 11-year-old boy who was playing with his father's gun shot a nine-year-old boy. The older boy thought he had unloaded all the bullets from the handgun and took it out into the neighborhood. But one bullet was left in the chamber and when he pointed the gun at his friend and pulled the trigger, the bullet struck the younger child in the neck. The victim's wound healed after being treated in a hospital, and the older boy was sent to a youth detention center and charged with aggravated assault.

1998

Beginning January 1, 1998, callers in Jackson were required to dial 10 digits to make a phone call. The addition of the three-digit area code to telephone calls had previously only been necessary to make long distance calls.

After more than a year of verbal and written notifications, the City of Jackson began forcing Johnny Lee Smith to tear down eight homes on North Mulberry Street in January of 1998. Following a physical inspection of the houses by City Attorney Richard Milam, a county building inspector, a representative of the Butts County Health Department and the Jackson Police Department, all eight were found to be in poor condition. Only two of the structures were occupied at the time. Smith was given 30 days to tear down the houses.

On January 18, 1998, a northbound train struck a car that attempted to cross the Eighth Street railroad crossing in front of the approaching locomotive. The driver, 41-year-old Cathy Reeves realized too late that she could not safely cross the tracks and stopped her vehicle. However, it was too close to the tracks and the train struck her car on the driver's side, killing Reeves. At the time, the Eighth Street crossing had no crossing arm or flashing lights warning motorists of oncoming trains.

On January 19, 1998, Tom Turner pulled his truck out of a line of cars waiting for a train to pass the Highway 16 railroad crossing. When there were still several freight cars left to pass the crossing, Turner drove his truck straight into the train. His vehicle was dragged 100 feet down the line and Turner was thrown from the truck. He was flown to an Atlanta hospital and listed in critical condition. It was believed that Turner may have suffered an epileptic seizure at the time of the incident.

On January 22 and 26, 1998, two Jackson convenience stores were robbed at gun point. No one was injured, and a teenager from Griffin was later charged with the crimes.

A Jackson man was killed on February 8, 1998 on Highway 16 West when he pulled his car out in front of an approaching truck. The victim, B. Y. Lunceford, was pronounced dead on the scene.

In early February 1998, shrubbery, Dogwood trees and Bradford Pear trees around the courthouse were removed. The 100-year-old building was undergoing a restoration, and, according to the architect in charge of the project, "the courthouse was quite open well into the 20th Century. The magnolias were there, and everyone agreed we weren't going to fool with those." The dogwood trees were actually causing damage to the courthouse before they were removed by county employees.

Giant Mart became Piggly Wiggly in February 1998. The change in names of the grocery store happened after Giant Mart's owners acquired the middle Georgia franchise for the Piggly Wiggly chain. That meant Jackson had, for a time, two Piggly Wiggly stores - one on West Third Street and one on East Third Street.

The Jackson Red Devil basketball team finished its season in February 1998 with a record of 11-15. The Lady Devils' ended their season with a 6-19 record.

In Early March 1998, came word that Jackson's downtown revitalization project - initially planned to redo sidewalks and vegetation around the courthouse square and estimated to cost $503,000 - had blossomed into a larger project involved Department of Transportation-mandated changes to the streets and intersections around the square. According to landscape architect Mike Browning, the cost had grown to $821,000. However, the DOT also promised $375,000 toward the cost of improving the streets and intersections.

Work began in April 1998 on the streetscape around the square, including planting Chinese Elms trees, and installing brick sidewalks.

At the annual STAR Student Banquet at Jackson High School, Annette Wilson was named STAR Student. Wilson chose Betty Bearden as her STAR Teacher. The event was sponsored by the Exchange Club of Jackson.

The Butts County Board of Education voted in April 1998 to require students at Jackson Elementary School and Henderson Middle School to wear uniforms to school beginning in August of 1998. Students in third through eighth grades were required to wear white, navy blue or khaki clothing, which was on sale at many local merchants.

"There's plenty of time of individuality after school," said School Superintendent Dr. Alan White.

Former Butts County Sheriff Billy Leverette passed away on April 11, 1998. He served 16 years as sheriff, and also operated a Standard Oil service station and Jackson Automotive Parts.

Billy Leverette "was a great man," according to Mike Riley. "He was fair, firm. He enjoyed life. He loved helping people. He truly cared about the people of Butts County. He ran for sheriff many times before he ever got it. I'll put it this way: there were many times Sheriff Leverette could have fired me and I wouldn't be sitting here today. But because he was caring and understanding and realized, I guess, that I was young he got me through."

On April 25, 1998, 50-year-old Mildred Johnson was found dead in her home on T. W. Leverette Road. She suffered from two gunshot wounds. Her husband, Cecil Johnson, was also in the home with a gunshot wound to his chin.

The Henderson Middle School track team won the Georgia Middle School Athletic League Championship in late June 1998. It was the first time in many years the team claimed that crown.

In May 1998, the City Council discussed resuming spraying the city for mosquito control. The city abandoned the practice years earlier, deeming it too expensive and not effective at controlling the mosquito population. One week's worth of spray was estimated to cost $8,000, and the city needed to buy a truck to use. The Council opted to poll residents on their next utility bills about resuming mosquito spraying in the city.

The Butts County Board of Education adopted a $16,659,548 budget in June 1998. The amount represented a $1 million increase from the previous year's budget. The budget did not bring an accompanying tax increase, but the Board did raise the price of lunches at schools in Butts County.

The Butts County Board of Commissioners adopted a $10,479,657 budget in June 1998. The budget represented an increase of $1.4 million over the previous budget, but did not require a tax increase on property owners. The overall millage rate in the county remained 36.830 mills.

One hundred forty-nine students graduated from Jackson High School in June 1998. Phong Huynh was named Valedictorian of the Class of 1998. Annette Wilson was named Salutatorian.

Isaiah Stewart was killed on June 13, 1998 when he drove his car around a railroad crossing guard arm at the crossing on North Benton Street. A northbound train struck his 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass and dragged the car and its driver several hundred yards before coming to a stop. Stewart was pronounced dead at the scene.

On June 14, 1998, the Mayor and City Council hosted an open house to welcome the public into the newly remodeled Municipal Court Building on South Mulberry Street.

The City Council adopted an ordinance in June 1998 stating that all awnings on stores around the courthouse square that extend more than five feet from the attached building had to be removed by October 1, 1998. The move was part of the revitalization of the square.

In July 1998, a new dress code was announced for students attending Jackson High School. Most notably, the rules applied to the length of skirts, dresses and shorts, and stipulated that all shirt be tucked in. Flip-flops and slide sandals were outlawed.

The City Council voted in July 1998 to forward all emergency phone calls to the city to the county's 911 emergency communications center. The Council also purchased a new fire truck for $165,973. The truck was housed in the city fire department, but the county made payments to the city to purchase it and the truck was manned by county personnel.

At the end of July 1998, a helipad was opened at Sylvan Grove Hospital. Thanks to the efforts of the Butts County EMTs, several local businesses and individual, Jackson's hospital was able to accommodate helicopters to take off or land with trauma patients. Prior to the opening of the helipad, emergency personnel had to clear cars out of the hospital's parking lot for landing space.

On August 3, 1998, ground was broken for the new Henderson Middle School. The facility, paid for with voter-approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funds, was located south of the existing Jackson High School. A new road, named George Tate Road in honor of the school's former principal, was built to link the new school with Harkness Road and Highway 36 West.

An altercation in the Pepperton district of Jackson on August 18 1998 led to a death and a charge of murder. Morgan Strickland was stabbed in the back and died at Sylvan Grove Hospital shortly after a fight with Lisa Barlow Armstrong on W. W. Carr Avenue. She was charged with murder, but found not guilty in March 1999 by a jury.

As a new school year dawned in Butts County on August 24, 1998, a reported 3,237 students reported for class. In 1997, the school system had 3,110 students, in 1996 it had 3,050 students, and in 1995 the total student population was 2,938. Due to overcrowding, the system was using 19 mobile classrooms at the time, four of them were new that week.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1998
Jackson - 7, HOUSTON COUNTY - 30
JACKSON - 21, Bleckley County - 15
JACKSON - 27, Lamar County - 8
Jackson - 22, DODGE COUNTY - 33
JACKSON - 7, Perry - 0
JACKSON - 21, Manchester - 16
Jackson - 14, MARY PERSONS - 28
JACKSON - 37, Southeast Macon - 14

JACKSON - 22, Harris County - 14
Jackson - 21, MACON COUNTY - 34
Jackson - 17, SCREVEN COUNTY - 28

Tavarus Morgan, who played both quarterback and defensive back, was named to the AA All-State Team at the defensive back position. Morgan made a verbal commitment to play for the University of Georgia following graduation.

As of November 19, 1998, the City of Jackson turned all criminal investigations in the city over to the Butts County Sheriff's Office. Prior to the shift, the city maintained it own investigation division and employed two detectives.

In early December 1998, the Butts County Board of Education voted to transform its primary and elementary schools into kindergarten-through-fifth-grade schools. The move came as the Board looked at enrollment at the two schools and looked to the system's future growth. The following month, the Board began drawing school district lines to indicate which school a child would attend based on where he lived in the county. Prior to this, all students in kindergarten through third grade attended Jackson Primary School, and students in third, fourth and fifth grades attended Jackson Elementary School.

On December 15, 1998, the City Council adopted a 1999 budget in the amount of $5,356,864, an increase of $120,000 over the previous year's budget.

In late December 1998, members of the Red Regiment Marching Band left to England where they performed in the New Year's Day Parade in London. The band was directed by Jim Bagley.

1999

In a January 29, 1999 article, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* named Wing Depot's chicken wings the best in Atlanta. The writers credited the Jackson eatery for its sturdy plastic containers that kept the wings hot and for its inexpensive price.

Two Jackson High School wrestlers - Sadarius McDaniel and Bill Hamby - headed to the state tournament in the middle of February 1999.

In late February 1999, the Jackson High School Red Devil basketball team advanced to the second round of the state playoffs by defeating Richmond Hill by a score of 80 to 68. The team lost to Randolph Clay in the second round of the playoffs in Macon.

On February 23, 1999, Dallas Cowne was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. Cowne named Willie Colvin as his STAR Teacher. The honors came during the annual STAR Student Banquet put on by The Exchange Club of Jackson.

Cable rates in Jackson were on the rise in March 1999. Charter Communication had recently spent $1 million upgrading the Jackson cable system with fiber optic lines to improve picture quality and expand the number of channels available. As a result, though, customers of the company's Expanded Basic package started paying $27.40 per month for 49 channels. Basic service customers continued paying $7.95 per month for 16 channels.

Henderson Middle School fielded its first baseball team in March 1999. The team posted a 10-2 record and won the middle school tournament. Earlier in the year, the school fielded its first wrestling team. A girls' softball team was organized for the school in 1998.

In April 1999, the Butts County Board of Education approved attendance zones for the county's two elementary schools. With the construction of a new Henderson Middle School, the old school's campus was being converted into North Mulberry Elementary School. Under the approved attendance plant, students living north of Highway 16 West and Stark Road would attend North Mulberry Elementary, while students on the southside of that line would attend Jackson Elementary School.

"We did not draw the line arbitrarily," said Superintendent Dr. Alan White at the time. "We want both student bodies to be as similar as possible, and we believe we have done that."

On April 21, the Lady Devils' tennis team won the Region 4-AA championship with a win over Bleckley County. It was only the second time in Jackson High School history that the team won the region crown.

Beginning May 1, 1999, customers of Jackson's electricity began paying more for that power. Residential customers began paying $10 for the first 40 kilowatts used each month, an increase of $2. The commercial base rate for the same usage increased from $11 to $12.

New parking rules governing the downtown area took effect on May 1, 1999. Under the rules, adopted by the City Council in April, vehicles were limited to two hours of parking during business hours. Parking in the city's lot on North Oak Street was free and had no time limit attached. The Chief of Police was also authorized to issue parking permits for official business at the discretion of the chief. First-time violators of the new parking rules were fined $15.

Tavarus Morgan qualified for the state track meet the long jump during competition at the region track meet on April 26, 1999. Representing the Lady Devils at the state meet were: Lawanda Ball in the 100-meter race, Komisha Patterson in the high jump, and Shante' Wise in the triple jump.

On June 4, 1999, the 145 members of the Jackson High School Class of 1999 graduated. Tiffany Grammar was named Valedictorian of the class, and LaShawndra Chambliss was named Salutatorian.

Former City Councilman Charles Milton Daniel passed away on June 12, 1999. He served on the Council from 1961 to 1973, and was Mayor Pro Tem for a number of those years.

On June 22, 1999, a squirrel was electrocuted on a power line in the city, knocking power out to 700 homes.

In late June 1999, the City Council voted to get into the natural gas business. As part of gas deregulation that was underway at the time, the city partnered with Peachtree Natural Optimum Energy of Atlanta to market and distribute gas in Jackson. For each new customer that signed up, the city received $5, and then received $2 per month from that customer.

In July 1999, the city and county came to an agreement to initiate an animal control department that was overseen by the county, but enforced laws in the city as well. The city contributed $5,000 toward the cost of the construction of the animal control facility. The city and county also agreed to allow the county zoning department head up all zoning matters in the city as well. The moves came as a result of a state law requiring cities and counties to find any overlapping services each provided and combine them as a means of saving taxpayers' money.

Using $7,500 from Governor Roy Barnes' discretionary fund, the City of Jackson purchased an electric cart in July 1999. The vehicle was used by the police department to patrol alleys and sidewalks and the recreation department.

The Towaliga Judicial Circuit was created in July 1999 and included Butts, Lamar and Monroe counties. Richard Milam, Jackson attorney, was named district attorney. Milam had served at city attorney, and was replaced the following month with local attorney Bill Fears. Byron Smith was named Superior Court Judge for the new district.

The City Council adopted a mid-year budget of $5,438,250 in July 1999. The amount was an $82,000 increase over the proposed 1999 budget amount.

In late July 1999, the City Council voted to annex 98 acres in the A. M. Watkins, Sr. Subdivision in southeast Jackson. The land, owned by Alfred D. Fears and Councilman Wayne Phillips, was zoned R30. The owners planned to develop a subdivision of 2,300-square-foot homes. The city was not obligated to extend water or sewer lines to the property.

On July 20, 1999, the City Council voted to pay Horace & Martha Stewart $160,000 for their lot on the north side of East Third Street. The sale was finalized in January 2000. The aging two-story building was demolished, and a new city parking lot was built on the site to alleviate concerns about parking on the square. The city used a $200,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant to pay for the property.

St. Mary's Catholic Church held a dedication and open house for its new church on August 1, 1999. The church, located on Old Griffin Road, had previously been located on Covington Street at Second Street.

At its August 3, 1999 meeting, the City Council voted to impose no property taxes on residents. It marked the 23rd year in a row that the city collected no tax.

In August 1999, the NationsBank in Jackson became Bank of America.

When the doors opened at Butts County schools in late August 1999, a total of 3,054 students showed up for an education.

Long-time Butts County resident Jean Dodson was named Associate Administrator and Director of Nursing at Sylvan Grove Hospital in late August 1999. "I am excited to be coming home to work," Dodson said at the time. "I hope my years of study, training and expertise will be beneficial to the people of Butts County."

In late August 1999 came word that the State Department of Transportation was going to widen Harkness Street from 18-feet-wide to 22-feet-wide. The work was needed in light of the January 2000 opening of the new Henderson Middle School next to Jackson High School on Harkness Street.

In September 1999, the Daughtry Foundation donated 35 acres of land off Shiloh Road to the Butts County Board of Education for a future elementary school. The school was named Daughtry Elementary School when it was built in honor of Hamp Daughtry, who started the foundation and was a lifelong supporter of the youth of Butts County.

In early October 1999, Bernice Foster was walking near Slaughter Avenue and North Oak Street when she was attacked by a pack of stray dogs. Six dogs were involved in the attack and Foster received 12 bites. Workers at a nearby house came to her rescue to beat the dogs off of her.

The Red Regiment Marching Band of Jackson High School brought home the Best in Class award from the Southern Invitational Music Festival on October 16, 1999.

In late October 1999, warning signals were installed at the railroad crossing on Eighth Street. The $98,300 cost of installing the flashing lights, gates and bell were split between the federal government, the Georgia Department of Transportation and Norfolk Southern Railway.

In November 1999, three councilmen - Theodore Patterson, Tommy Raney and Wayne Phillips - were re-elected without opposition.

The Council voted in early November 1999 to annex 2.6 acres of land at the northeast corner of the intersection of Highway 36 and Stark Road. The owner, William B. Jones, built a convenience store on the property.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 1999
Jackson - 3, HOUSTON COUNTY - 13
JACKSON - 40, Bleckley County - 20
Jackson - 21, LAMAR COUNTY - 39
Jackson - 9, DODGE COUNTY - 28
Jackson - 32, PERRY - 33
Jackson - 11, MANCHESTER - 14
JACKSON - 7, MARY PERSONS - 0
Jackson - 6, SOUTHEAST MACON - 7
JACKSON - 7, Harris County - 0
Jackson - 14, MACON COUNTY - 18

On November 16, 1999, the City Council voted to spend $6,900 building a sidewalk along the north side of Second Street from Cook's Lunchroom to the post office.

The annual Can-A-Thon and Empty Stocking Fund, sponsored by the City of Jackson, the Salvation Army and Greenman Technologies, brought in $13,428 and 107 toys as well as 16,338 cans of food. The food stocked the Salvation Army's foot pantry for the coming year, and the money was used to buy more toys for needy children in Butts County.

In December 1999, the City Council adopted a $5,533,509 budget, an increase of $177,159 over the previous year's budget.

On December 27, 1999, Michael Anthony Webb, a 40-year-old Jackson resident, was killed by a shotgun blast to the chest. He was shot on the corner of Chestnut and Cindy streets. Forty-one-year-old Oliver Cloid Loadholt called the 911 system to turn himself in after the crime.

To mark the city's 175th birthday in 2000, the City Council approved commemorative pins that were available for 50 cents in City Hall.

2000

On Monday, January 3, 2000, students began attending the new Henderson Middle School on George Tate Drive.

On January 4, 2000, the City Council approved a 60-day moratorium on residential rezoning in the city. The vote came after officials in Henry County enacted a similar moratorium to slow growth, and city leaders felt developers would look to Jackson for new construction.

In January 2000, a severe weather alert siren was installed at the fire station in Jackson. The siren was able to emit alarms rated at 100 decibels at a range of one mile away and rotated 360 degrees to alert the surrounding community in the vent of severe weather.

On January 25, 2000, the Red Devil basketball team defeated the Lamar County Trojans to win the 4-AA subregion championship. Two weeks later, the Jackson team claimed the 4-AA region crown with a 67-66 win at home over the Dodge County Indians, who were ranked #5 in the state at the time. It was the team's first region title in 10 years. "This is a culmination of four years," said Head Coach Greg Freeman. "Winning breeds winning. It's contagious." Senior Franklin White had scored over 1,700 points in his four-year career at JHS, and senior Arthur Pye had scored over 1,000 points.

In the first round of the state playoffs on February 18, 2000, the Red Devils defeated Pierce County 56-54 to advance to the second round of the playoffs held in the Macon Coliseum. Pye had 29 points in the win, including five three-point shots. The Red Devils lost, 70-63. To Americus in the second round. White was named Region 4-AA Player of the Year, and Freeman named Region 4-AA Coach of the Year.

Pye and White received full scholarships to play basketball at Coastal Georgia Community College.

At the end of January 2000, Jackson received three days of freezing temperatures, rain and sleet. "He most [homes] we had out of service at one time was 300," said Chris Mercer, superintendent of the Electric Department. The average outage time was one hour.

On February 8, 2000, Wayne Phillips resigned from the Butts County Et Al Water & Sewer Authority. He had served on the Authority's board since it was created 13 years earlier. Later that month, the City Council appointed Jimmy White as its representative on the Authority board.

In February 2000, Jackson High School fielded its first ever all-female soccer team. Previously, boys and girls had played on the same team.

On February 29, 2000, Ken Sanvidge was named STAR Student of Jackson High School at The Exchange Club of Jackson's annual banquet. Sanvidge named Mark Alling as his STAR Teacher.

The Jackson United Methodist Church broke ground on March 12, 2000 for a 12,500-square-foot addition. The church, located on East Third Street, was adding classrooms, a kitchen and a gym that could be used for large events. According to Building Committee Chairman Larry Fletcher, the construction showed "that our church has made a commitment for quality growth to our current membership and the new members that are coming everyday."

Former Jackson city councilman John Robert Pulliam passed away on March 30, 2000. He worked in the Pepperton Cotton Mill for 37 years, and then worked at American Mills. He served as mayor of Pepperton at the time that town was annexed into the City of Jackson. Pulliam was

also Street Department Superintendent in Jackson for many years until the law was changed so that councilmen could not be employed by the city.

At 8:45 p.m. on April 3, 2000, severe weather warning sirens sounded in Jackson and Jenkinsburg. A funnel cloud was reported moving toward the county from Spalding County. No tornado struck, but the city was pounded by a heavy rain and strong winds.

At a meeting on April 4, 2000, the City Council adopted an animal control ordinance that took effect immediately. It defined nuisance animals and set up penalties for pet owners found in violation of the ordinance. The county's Animal Control Department was charged with enforcing the new law.

The former Henderson Middle School on North Mulberry Street reopened on April 10, 2000 as North Mulberry Elementary School. Rich Autry was principal of the school. The school had no mobile classrooms in trailers and two empty classrooms to accommodate new students.

On April 18, 2000, the Lady Devils' tennis team of Jackson High School successfully defended its Region 4-AA championship with a win over Bleckley County. Terri Watts and Erin Crumbley each won their singles matches, and the doubles team of Stacey Wells and Julie Mangham won giving Jackson the points it needed for a repeat championship season. "It is very hard to win a region championship of any kind," said Head Coach Carol Watts. "You have to earn it through hard work and dedication to the sport."

The Lady Devils advanced all the way to the final four teams in the state tournament, a first for the Lady Devils.

On May 2, 2000, the City Council and Mayor Charlie Brown received a plaque recognizing Jackson as a certified City of Ethics by the Georgia Municipal Association.

On May 25, 2000, the Butts County Board of Commissioners voted to purchase 42 acres of land in order to expand the Daughtry Recreation Park. The Daughtry Foundation offered $100,000 toward the $337,000 purchase price. The deal was closed in July of that year.

On June 2, 2000 came the announcement that the Springs Industries plant in Jackson was closing. The plant, which manufactured baby apparel, lost 120 jobs. The Jackson facility - and the Springs plant in Griffin with 270 jobs - began phasing out production in August of that year. One year earlier, spring cut 30 jobs from the Jackson plant.

The closing of the Jackson plant also robbed the City of Jackson of its largest water and sewer customer. Springs was spending $100,000 per year on the city's utilities. As a result of the loss, the City Council voted later that month to raise its water and sewer rates. The average family using 10,000 gallons of water a month paid an addition $2.40 per month.

The Jackson High School Class of 2000 had 151 members during the graduation ceremony on June 2. Chastity Moore was named Valedictorian, and Jill Patterson was named Salutatorian.

In the first two weeks of June 2000, the city experienced 17 squirrel-related power outages. Chris Mercer, superintendent of the Electric Department, said squirrels love chewing on electrical lines. The city used covers to protect the lines, but the persistent rodents chewed through them constantly.

In July 2000, the welcome signs on Highway 42 and Highway 16 were refurbished with new signage. Fabral donated the metal for the new "Welcome to Jackson" portion of the signs, and Henry Kitchens donated his skills to make the new signs. The Butts County Rotary Club also installed a new, cleaner emblem of its own o the sign.

On July 6, 2000, the Butts County Board of Commissioners adopted a millage rate of 14.15 mills and the Board of Education's rate of 17.12 mills for a total millage rate of 31.27. The total reflected a 2.81-mill decrease over the previous year's rate. The Board of Commissioners' budget amounted to $12,805,497.

In July 2000, the Jackson-Butts County Public Library received four new computers from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Lady Devil softball team of Jackson High School began competing in fast pitch softball in the Fall of 2000. Previously, the team was competing in slow pitch play. 'We have had such a successful program over the years in slow pitch it was a tough decision to make the change," said Head Coach Carol Watts.

In August 2000, the City Council voted to adopt a mid-year budget that increased expenditures by $160,000 to $5,517,700. Mayor Charlie Brown said the price of gasoline had doubled since the beginning of the year and that he city was losing its water and sewer revenue from the closing of the Springs Industry plant. But, he added, the city was experiencing some additional income, so the city would be able to cover the increase. At the same time, the Council voted to impose no property tax on residents and business owners. It was the 23rd year in a row the city was without property tax.

Prior to the opening of schools on August 7, 2000, Martha Jo McMahon was named Teacher of the Year. McMahon taught music at Jackson Elementary School.

In August 2000, Dr. Jorge Moreno, Sr. Welcomed his son, Jorge Moreno, Jr., to his medical practice in Jackson.

Trucks, Inc. was named Business of the Year by the Butts County Chamber of Commerce in August 2000. Suzanne Jarman, safety director for the trucking company, was named Employee of the Year.

Dr. Rev. Roy Hardy was honored with the Book of Golden Deeds award by the Exchange Club of Jackson in late August 2000. Dr. Hardy had been in Jackson for six years, providing food, clothing and furniture to those in need.

On September 1, 2000, the city and Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting to open the new city parking lot on East Third Street. The lot, which was constructed largely by city employees, had 24 free parking spaces.

On September 30, 2000, the Georgia Box facility on Highway 42 North closed.

The Henderson Middle School softball team finished in first place in its subregion in early October 2000. It was the first season the team played fast-pitch softball.

In October 2000, came news that Salad Time, LLC had closed a deal to purchase nearly 20 acres from the Butts County Industrial Development Authority at the Riverview Business Park on Highway 36 West. When constructed and operational, company officials estimated the facility would employ up to 225 people with wages in the $10 per hour range.

Around noon on October 6, 2000, a man walking on the tracks near Railroad Street was struck by a freight train. Seventy-two-year-old Carroll Dickerson of Blount was well known by many in the area for his habit of walking the 11 miles from his home to Jackson almost everyday. Dickerson walked along the side of Highway 42 South and Brownlee Road.

"He'd been coming here 20 years," said Bobby Mackey, owner of the Mason Jar restaurant. 'But he'd been walking up and down the road as long as I knew him. He was a good friend to all of us."

After his lunch there that day, Dickerson walked across the street onto the tracks and began walking south. He reportedly never saw or heard the train coming.

On October 28, 2000, the Red Regiment Marching Band of Jackson High School was named Grand Champion of the Silver Division at the Southern Open Marching Competition in Valdosta. The band was under the direction of Jim Bagley.

As of November 1, 2000, new tennis courts were open for play at the Daughtry Recreation Park. The project was funded by the Board of Education, the Board of Commissioners and the Daughtry Foundation.

Election Day on November 7, 2000, saw voters returning Gene Pope to the Butts County Sheriff's Office. In Jackson, the issue of allowing liquor-by-the-drink to be served in restaurants was approved by a tally of 229 votes to 108 votes. "I'm pleased with it," said Salvador Leon, manager of Bronco's Mexican Restaurant on the square in Jackson. "I think everybody who owns a restaurant is. I think it will benefit everybody."

In November 2000, Stephens Grocery closed after 52 years in business on West Second Street.

"When my wife was diagnosed with cancer, I couldn't do it anymore," recalled Bobby Stephens of the decision to close his family's grocery store on Second Street. "And it was a losing battle. I had already been thinking about closing it up or selling it. My mom and dad were still helping, but they were getting on up in age. My children were old enough to get involved, but their heart wasn't in it. So I put it on the market.

"When daddy bought out that store [in Pepperton] in '54 we put in a little meat case. It was six-foot wide," Stephens said. "And when I sold the store, I had two freezers and four cases in there. I imagine 50 percent of my business was cut meat. I was a butcher for 45 years. No training except my own. I got hanging meat and cut it down. Now most of the stores get boxes meat. It's not as good."

Shortly after the annual Christmas Parade through downtown Jackson, two armed robbers held up Logan's Pizza on Second Street on November 30, 2000. A small amount of cash was taken, and the restaurant closed its doors the following day.

At a meeting in early December 2000, the Butts County Board of Education voted to drop the school uniform policy for students in kindergarten through fifth grades, and adopted a dress code for those students and a separate dress code for older students. The move came after numerous parents expressed their displeasure with the uniform program.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 2000
JACKSON - 24, Lamar County - 0
JACKSON - 33, Morgan County - 10
JACKSON - 27, Greene-Taliaferro - 12
JACKSON - 40, Carrollton - 7
JACKSON - 28, Mary Persons - 0
JACKSON - 38, Southwest Macon - 13
JACKSON - 35, Northeast Macon - 8
JACKSON - 31, Central Macon - 7
JACKSON - 31, Harris County - 0
Jackson - 0, LaGRANGE - 28
JACKSON - 21, Westside-Augusta - 0

This was the first state playoff football victory for Jackson High School, and its first to host at Red Devil Hill.

JACKSON - 35, Screven County - 14
JACKSON - 21, Cedartown - 7
Jackson - 16, Fitzgerald - 28

Schools closed at noon on Friday, December 8, 2000, and many business were left with tiny workforces as the City of Jackson headed north to the Georgia Dome in Atlanta for this Final Four matchup. Senior quarterback John Grier went 10-for-21 passing for 99 yards, rushed

for 87 yards and caught a 71-yard pass for a touchdown. Robert Williams and Jack Gilroy were named Defensive Players of the Game. The 12-2 record for the season was the most games won by any Jackson football team in history.

"We played a long way," said Head Coach Mike Parris after the loss. "These seniors will keep these memories for the rest of their lives, and the younger players have something to build on. It's something very special."

The Red Devils ended the year at #3 in the statewide poll, and John Grier and Carlos Morgan were named to the All-State Team.

In the middle of December 2000, Jackson Mayor Charlie Brown announced that 16,803 cans of food had been collected through the annual Can-A-Thon and that $17,468 and 451 toys were collected through the annual Empty Stocking Fund. The drives were sponsored by the City of Jackson and Greenman Technologies.

Jackson got a dusting of snow in the middle of December 2000.

At its December 19, 2000 meeting, the City Council adopted a calendar year budget for 2001 in the amount of $5,737,418. At the same meeting, the Council approved a new Alcoholic Beverage License Ordinance that cleared the way for liquor-by-the-drink in the city.

On December 22, 2000, Ryland Smith retired from the city after 32 years. He served all that time in the electric department. "When I came to work with the city [in 1968]," said Smith, "I worked under the legendary J. Howard 'Bosie' Rooks. I learned a lot from that old man. When Bosie left, Ves Lunsford took over. We were all the best of friends and we got the job done."

2001

On January 2, 2001, the City Council approved a rezoning that brought 20,500 square feet of professional office space to McDonough Road. The developer planned to build enough room for 20 offices, seeking medical professionals as the property was close to Sylvan Grove Hospital.

The Lady Tigers of Henderson Middle School won the subregion basketball title in late January 2001. The team claimed the region championship on February 10 with a 33-27 win over Manchester in the tournament. The team finished with a 14-1 record. Kendra Appling was named Offensive Player of the Game, and Kasheda Mann was named Defensive Player of the Game by third-year coach Monica Kelley.

"My returning girls knew how it felt to come in second," Kelley said of her players who were on the previous season's region runner-up team. "And they had the determination and heart to get what they wanted this season."

Two Jackson High School wrestlers - David Horwath, Jr. and Kevin Brown - competed in the state wrestling tournament in February 2001.

On February 6, 2001, the City Council approved the rezoning of 4.2 acres on Henderson Street for an 80-unit apartment complex.

Larry Hodges retired from the City of Jackson in February 2001 after 33 years of service.

Effective March 1, 2001, electric rates for residential customers decreased 2.5 percent, thanks to action by the City Council. "It's a good bit of money we're giving up," said Mayor Charlie Brown at the time, "but we've built up enough money to give some back."

The Jackson Red Devil baseball team played its first home games under new lights at Wallace Field in March 2001. The lights were purchased and installed thanks to the Athletic Booster Club and donations from numerous local businesses.

At the annual STAR Student Banquet at Jackson High School on March 6, 2001, Clint Patrick was named STAR Student by the Exchange Club of Jackson. Patrick named Christa Miller as his STAR Teacher.

In March 2001, a Deodar Cedar tree in front of the Days Inn motel on East Third Street was named the state champion tree of that species by the Georgia Forestry Commission. Along with the honor, the 76-foot-tall tree was placed on the National Register of Big Trees maintained in Washington, D.C.

Figures from the 2000 Census released in March 2001 showed that Butts County's population had grown 27 percent in 10 years. The new population total put Butts County at 19,522 people, up from 15,326 in 1990. In 1980, the Census put the county's population at 13,665.

The 200 Census also put the county's White population at 69.2 percent, and its Black population at 28.8 percent of the total population.

On March 20, 2001, fewer than 1,000 voters went to the polls to vote on the continuation of the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax for Schools in Butts County. The issue passed 818 to 104.

Mayor Charlie Brown promised during a March 20, 2001 meeting of the City Council that a dilapidated house on Cemetery Street would be torn down by April 18 or "somebody is going to jail." Local resident Eddie Allen told the mayor and Council that the house had been vacant for years and had become infested with rats.

"This street did not have street signs for a long time," said Elizabeth O'Neal in her home on Hemlock Street in 2009. "After I had surgery, they had a group of nurses that came to check my blood pressure and such. But when they first started, they called me and said, 'Where is Hemlock Street? We've driven all around and can't find it.' And I couldn't drive for two months, so I had different friends that came and took me out to eat. And I was out eating and saw Charlie

Brown the mayor, and I told him the problem, and he said, 'That's about the easiest request I've had lately.' By that afternoon, he had Hemlock Street signs put there."

At the Butts County Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet on March 30, 2001, Sylvan Grove Hospital Administrator Jean Dodson was honored as the Chamber's Citizen of the Year. Rev. Dr. Roy Hardy was inducted in the Chamber's Butts County Hall of Fame.

During an operation conducted by the Georgia Department of Revenue, Alcohol & Tobacco in April 2001, underaged people went into numerous local stores to attempt to purchase alcohol. Eight stores in Jackson sold to the underaged buyer.

In April 2001, the City Council voted 3-2 to ban smoking on city property. The two dissenting votes came from the two councilmen who smoked - Lewis Sims and Harold "Doc" McMichael.

At a meeting on May 1, 2001, the City Council agreed to furnish sewerage treatment for the new Daughtry Elementary School located on Shiloh Road - outside the city limits. No one else was allowed to tap onto the line.

In May 2001, Jim Bagley announced that he had accepted a position as Director of Bands for Henry County High School, and would be leaving Jackson High School at the end of the school year. Bagley had served as Band Director at Jackson for 10 years and brought the program numerous awards. "We've worked together, laughed together, cried together and grown up together," Bagley said of the students he taught. "That's something I'll always cherish."

The Lady Tigers of Henderson Middle School won the region track championship in May 2001.

On May 7, 2001, the Butts County Board of Education voted to hire Duane Kline as principal of Jackson High School. The former assistant principal at Eagles Landing Middle School was chosen from 19 applicants.

The Jackson High School Class of 2001 graduated on May 18. Of the 158 seniors graduating, Jessica Ann Bessell was named Valedictorian and Clint Patrick was named Salutatorian.

In early June 2001 came word that every student at Henderson Middle School would get a laptop computer at the start of the school year in August. The school was one of eight across the state that were chosen for the pilot program. All the computers were wirelessly connected to a main server at school, and were given to student and teachers free of charge. The machines, however, remained the property of the school.

Fines for loud music from cars and houses went up in June 2001. According to Police Chief Mike Riley, the fine for a first time offense was $330, and the fine for a second offense was $500. Fines could be levied if music could be heard 100 feet from a vehicle or 50 feet from a house.

A Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps was formed at Jackson High School on July 1, 2001.

On July 19, 2001, the Board of Commissioners approved a millage rate of 16.12. The Board of Education adopted a millage rate of 17.104, a very slight reduction over the previous year's amount.

At a system-wide pre-planning meeting on August 3, 2001, Obie Johnson was named Butts County Teacher of the Year. Johnson taught and coached at Henderson Middle School.

On August 7, 2001, the Jackson City Council voted unanimously to impose no city property tax. The city had not collected such a tax since 1976. At the same meeting, the Council adopted a mid-year budget of $5,855,918.

City Pharmacy marked 50 years of business on the square on September 1, 2001. When Roy Goff opened the drugstore in 1949 in the former Roger's Store location, which was next to its current location on North Mulberry Street. City Pharmacy was the first business in Jackson to have air conditioning. It also featured a soda fountain and counters, which were popular with children before the Saturday matinee movie at the theater down the block. Prescriptions and other orders were delivered around town by Arthur Lee Travis on a bicycle.

Goff purchased the pharmacy's current location in 1957 for $8,000, and spent $12,000 renovating it.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists flew two passenger airplanes into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and another passenger plane into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A third plane crashed before it could reach its intended target. The resulting destruction killed nearly 3,000 people, brought air traffic across the country to a stop, and impacted life in every corner of the nation. That week's Jackson High School football game was cancelled, as were games across the state.

On September 18, 2001, voters approved the continuation of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in Butts County. The one-percent sales tax was estimated to bring the cities and county a total of $18.5 million over five years.

In early October 2001 came word that The Kym Company was closing its doors in Jackson. The final 25 employees were notified of the decision by owners Richard Kapiloff and Donny Benton. The company manufactured pants, including those for the Disney corporation.

"Twenty years ago, just on State Route 16, there were pants factories in Newnan, Griffin, Jackson, Monticello, Eatonton, Warrington and three in Thompson. We're the last one," said long time owner and president Mark Kapiloff in a 2001 interview in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. "We don't own anything but the equipment. Our customers furnish the material and patterns. We do the assembly. Anything that is assembly [now] is moving to Mexico thanks to the [North American Free Trade Agreement]. At one time we had 250 employees."

"I've worked here two lifetimes," said long-time employee Dickie Britton soon after the announcement was made, "mine and Mark's."

In response to horse-and-carriage rides that had been going on in the city for a short time, the City Council approved permits for upcoming rides in October 2001. The presence of a horse in Jackson violated a city ordinance, and the Council required that the carriage be better lighted and that the horse pulling the carriage wear some type of diaper.

JHS RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 2001
Jackson - 7, LAMAR COUNTY - 13
JACKSON - 19, Morgan County - 7
Jackson - 7, CENTRAL CARROLLTON - 48
Jackson - 14, MARY PERSONS - 28
Jackson - 13, SOUTHWEST MACON - 18
Jackson - 7, NORTHEAST MACON - 14
JACKSON - 21, Central Macon - 6
JACKSON - 38, Harris County - 14
Jackson - 0, LAGRANGE - 40
JACKSON - 34, Greene County - 6

On December 18, 2001, the City Council set its 2002 Calender Year budget in the amount of $5,955,023, an increase of almost $100,000 over the mid-year 2001 budget.

2002

Jackson was blanketed with several inches of snow on January 3, 2002. Many businesses did not open, but for those that did members of the Jackson Electrical Department and employees of Jackson Drug and City Pharmacy had a snowball fight for them to watch.

The Harlem Wizards came to Jackson on May 11, 2002 to play an entertaining basketball game against representatives of Jackson Elementary School's staff and parents and friends. The game took place in the high school gym on Franklin Street.

In July 2002, the Board of Commissioners adopted a millage rate of 18.24 mills, and a budget of $14,915,937.

Aimee Freeman was named Teacher of the Year by the Butts County School System in August 2002. Freeman was a science teacher at Henderson Middle School.

For the 27th year in a row, the City Council voted to impose no property taxes on residents of the city. The vote came in August 2002, after the Council approved a mid-year budget of $6,046,004.

In August 2002, the Butts County Board of Education voted to name the recently renovated auditorium at Jackson Elementary School on Woodland Way in honor of Rufus Adams. Adams served on the Board from 1953 until 1978, and was its chairman from 1958 until 1978.

The City Council approved spending almost $10,000 on a thermal imaging camera for the Jackson Fire Department. The camera allowed its user to see thermal images of people through walls or in the woods.

The Red Regiment Marching Band of Jackson High School brought home nine trophies from the Greater Atlanta Area Marching Festival on October 12, including Grand Champion Drum Line and Second Place Overall.

At 11 a.m. on October 19, 2002, an estimated 200 local residents organized by a group called Concerned Citizens of Butts County marched in protest of the Butts County Sheriff's Office. Several complaints were lodged alleging violations of civil rights during arrests by Sheriff's deputies. The group begin the march at the intersection of North Mulberry and Glenn streets, and walked to the eastern steps of the courthouse. Following a number of speakers, the crowded dispersed quietly at 1 p.m.

In November 2002, the City Council approved increased fines for speeding in the city limits. New fines were: $25 for 5 to 10 miles per hour over the posted limit, $85 for 11 to 14 miles per hour over the limit, $110 for 15 to 24 miles per hour over, $355 for 25 to 30 miles per hour over, and up from there.

JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 2002
JACKSON - 34, Union Grove - 24
JACKSON - 27, Mary Persons - 20
JACKSON - 34, Greenville - 0
Jackson - 6, LAMAR COUNTY - 10
JACKSON - 35, Southeast Macon - 21
JACKSON - 31, Manchester - 8
JACKSON - 27, Callaway - 14
JACKSON - 42, Crawford County - 0
JACKSON - 43, Tri-County - 15
JACKSON - 21, Macon County - 7
Jackson - 10, MITCHELL-BAKER - 10

At its December 17, 2002 meeting, the City Council adopted a budget in the amount of $6,140,300, an increase of $145,000 over the previous year's budget.

Christa Miller, an English teacher at Jackson High School, became the first Butts County educator to earn the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards' certification. The honor came in December 2002.

The 2002 Can-A-Thon and Christmas Stocking Fund brought in almost 22,000 cans of food items, 355 toys and $15,084 in cash contributions. The annual drive was sponsored by the City of Jackson and Salvation Army.

At a meeting on December 20, 2002, the Butts County Board of Education approved a contract to spend $1.1 million on a new field house at the high school football field and renovate the old field house. The funds for the project came from the Board's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax proceeds.

At the end of 2002, three city employees - each with 30 years of service to the city - retired. Shirlyn Whiten came to work for Jackson in 1972. Gail Bush started working for the city in 1974, but had worked for it during the 1960s as well. Both women worked in city hall. And Buck Stewart began working with the city's Water and Sewer Department in 1971.

"They've been excellent employees," said Mayor Charlie Brown at the time. "We can replace their positions, but we can't replace the knowledge they have of how the city works. I hate to see them go."

On December 31, 2002, the city officially renamed its Towaliga Water Treatment Plant to the Gerald L. "Buck" Stewart Water Treatment Plant.

2003

In January 2003, Michael Cash and Taj Newby were named to the Georgia AA All-State football team. Cash was selected as a linebacker, and Newby as a kick returner on special teams. Cash had been Jackson High School's captain and team leader, according to Head Coach Mike Parris.

Jackson natives Rae Johnston and David Haisten opened their own accounting firm, Haisten and Johnston PC, in January 2003. Their office is located on Harkness Street.

At the first City Council meeting of 2003, Mayor Charlie Brown announced that the city had reserve fund of approximately $8 million.

A newborn baby was found in the women's restroom at the McDonald's on East Third Street on January 23, 2003. The little girl was clothed in a pink outfit and hat, and wrapped in a

blanket. The Department of Family and Children's Services was called to take the baby to a hospital for a check up and was reported to be healthy.

The Jackson High School Red Devil cheerleaders won the Region 4AA Competition Cheerleading championship at the end of January 2003. It was the squad's third year in existence at the school.

At its annual awards banquet in February 2003, the Butts County Chamber of Commerce inducted Sheriff Gene Pope into the Butts County Hall of Fame and named Don Earnhart its Citizen of the Year for 2002.

Two Jackson High School wrestlers - Jake Hiett and Kenny Hooper - competed in the state wrestling tournament in February 2003.

At the February 25, 2003 STAR Student Banquet, Angela Adams was named STAR Student of Jackson High School by the Exchange Club of Jackson. Adams named Christa Miller as her STAR Teacher.

In March 2003, the Butts County Board of Education received a check I the amount of $16,200 from Pittsburgh Steeler football player Hines Ward - who played his high school football under Coach Mike Parris - to be used to purchase two complete sets of uniforms for the Red Devil football team.

The Butts County Parks & Recreation 2003 Girls All-Star basketball team brought home the state championship trophy in March 2003 from a tournament in Dahlonega.

It was announced in March 2003 that, based on figures from the 2000 Census, Butts County was the center of the state's population. A bronze marker was installed near the Lloyd Shoals Dam at Jackson Lake to mark the exact center - or near it, since the exact center was a heavily wooded area.

At its March 18, 2003 meeting, the City Council voted to annex 7.3 acres of land on Stark Road into the city. The land, owned by Robert Whitaker, was the site of Whitaker's Building Supply and the planned site of a new skating rink called Skate Galaxy.

No taxpayer funds were used to build a skate park area at the Daughtry Recreation Park in early 2003. The site, which was open to skateboarders and in-line skaters, was located on unused tennis courts and featured several ramps and obstacles on which users could perform tricks.

The Henderson Middle School Lady Tiger track team claimed the region championship in April 2003. The team was coached by Jackie Padgett.

In April 2003, the Jackson High School Red Devil tennis team won the Region 4-AA championship. It was the team's first-ever region title. The team was coached by Greg Crawford.

Trina Wise won the Region 4-AA championship in the 100-meter race and the long jump at the region track meet on April 24, 2003. It was the second year in a row Wise won the 100-meter race, and she logged a time of 12.4 seconds. Wise was also part of the 4x100 meter race team from Jackson High School that went to the state track meet in May 2003. Other members of the relay team were: Kasheda Mann, Marquitta Stodghill and Keida James. Rosie Glidewell also qualified for the state meet in te 800-meter race.

The 141-member Class of 2003 graduated from Jackson High School on May 23, 2003. Loren Buckner was named Valedictorian and Kaedy Cawthon was named Salutatorian.

According to figures released in May 2003 by the United States Census Bureau, the population of Butts County increased by 909 people between July 1, 2002 and July 1, 2002, an increase of 4.4 percent. At the time, Jackson was home to nearly 400 new units of housing, mostly in the form of multi-family units at apartment complexes, townhouse developments or duplexes.

The following month, in June 2003, the City Council approved a rezoning that added a 104-house development off Covington Street and another that added 40 apartments on Brownlee Road.

On June 1, 2003, Fashion Pillows closed its plant in Jackson. The 80 employees there began working at the company's Griffin location of American Mills, Inc., so jobs were lost as a result of the closure. Employees at the Jackson facility did cutting, sewing and distribution of the company's decorative pillows.

However, the loss of jobs in Jackson hurt the local economy, according to Mayor Charlie Brown, since those 80 people no longer bought lunch or gas in the city during their lunch break.

The 166th Maintenance Unit of the Georgia National Guard, based in Jackson, was activated for duty on June 2, 2003. The 195-member unit served as part of Operation Noble Eagle, a domestic operation, in which it provided maintenance support for military vehicles. Members of the unit came from all across the state, but many were from Butts County.

Both the Butts County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education planned to hold their millage rates steady in June 2003, but property assessments across the county meant most residents' taxes increased as a result of rising property values.

In June 2003, Herman Cawthon and Vincent Jones retired from the *Jackson Progress-Argus*. Cawthon began working for the newspaper in March 1948, and remained with the paper through many changes. He became the weekly paper's publisher in January of 1982 and remained in that position until his retirement. Jones joined the paper even earlier, as his father, J. D. Jones. Sr., owned it. In February of 1940, Vincent Jones began writing his weekly column,

called “Looking at Life.” He left the paper in 1955 - “to dabble in politics,” he said at the time - and returned in 1975 when brother, Doyle Jones, Jr. passed away.

Mac Collins announced his candidacy for the United States Senate in June 2003. A rally held at the new Daughtry Elementary School raised nearly $100,000 for the bid.

On July 1, 2003 the City Council imposed a moratorium on annexation requests. At the same meeting, the Council turned down two requests for annexations.

The Board of Education adopted a millage rate of 17 mills in July 2003.

Skate Galaxy, a roller skating rink, opened on Stark Road in July 2003. It was the first such rink in Jackson in many years, and answered requests from many young people and parents to build such a facility.

In July 2003, a campaign was started to change the name of the county from Butts to anything else. Tired of being the source of many jokes, Don Earnhart of WJGA Radio launched the idea. The named was named after Samuel Butts, who Earnhart said was involved in the mercantile business in Jasper County and fought in the War of 1812. “We’re closing in on 200 years of honoring this man, and I say enough is enough,” said Earnhart. He dubbed the campaign “Kick Butts.”

Earnhart dropped the campaign the following month, citing opposition to the idea. He apologized to the public at a Board of Commissioners meeting, saying “a rose by any other name would smell like a rose. A butts by any other name would smell… well, let’s not go there.” The campaign to change the county’s name did bring the county publicity around the world as the story was picked up by the Associated Press and featured in newspapers throughout the country and in a few cities in Europe.

An early morning fire destroyed a vacant home on College Street on July 25, 2003.

A heavy thunderstorm on August 3, 2003 knocked over several trees in the city blocking roads and knocking out power to homes. A canopy over gas pumps at the Shell Food Mart on Brookwood Avenue was also damaged. Another storm rolled through the city two days later bringing four inches of rain in one hour. Several city streets were blocked by flooding following that downpour.

In August 2003, Pam Chandler was named Teacher of the Year by the Butts County Board of Education.

At a meeting on August 5, 2003, the City Council approved a mid-year budget adjustment totaling $6,287,300, an increase of $185,296 from the original 2003 budget. The Council also voted to continue imposing no property taxes.

In August 2003, the Margaret Louise Simpson Estate requested the rezoning of 430 acres off Highway 16 West. The proposed development was said to include a commercial center, hospital and 300 homes.

Jackson attorney Bill Fears was named a Superior Judge for the Towaliga Judicial Circuit on August 28, 3003. In making the appointment, Governor Sonny Perdue gave Butts County its first native Superior Court Judge. "I was very pleasantly surprised," said Fears of the governor's decision. "And the fact that I am the first superior court judge ever to come out of Butts County makes it something special, not only for my family, but also for the people of the county."

One bright spot for the local industrial community in September 2003 was American Woodmark. While many other industries had closed their doors in recent years, the cabinet and countertop producer was going strong. In fact, company officials announced that month that the Jackson plant was turning out an average of 5,000 cabinets a day. "It is a credit to the people that work here," said Clyde Newman, Plant Manager at American Woodmark." The target production plan was to build 4,000 cabinets a dat. Our employees knew they could do more, accepted the challenge and have set the pace."

In September 2003, the Butts County Chamber of Commerce honored Betty Winzeler of Jones Petroleum as its Employee of the Year. The organization also honored Deraney's Department Store for 75 years of business.

A new "Welcome to Jackson, GA" sign was installed on Highway 16 West in September 2003. The new brick sign replaced an older chain link sign, that was relocated to Highway 36 South.

The Lady Tiger softball team of Henderson Middle School won the region title in October 2003. It was the first time in the team's history that it had won both the regular season title and the region playoff title. Charlie Biles was the team's coach.

The Lady Devils cross country team of Jackson High School, composed entirely of freshmen and sophomores, won the region crown in October 2003. Rosey Glidewell claimed the individual region title with a time of 22:24.

With a vote on November 4, 2003, the City Council approved a rezoning for 7.32 acres that were slated for 44 condominiums for senior citizens on Covington Street.

<u>JACKSON RED DEVIL FOOTBALL 2003</u>
JACKSON - 28, Union Grove - 7
Jackson - 8, MARY PERSONS - 14
JACKSON - 42, Greenville - 25
Jackson - 17, LAMAR COUNTY - 26
JACKSON - 48, Rutland - 13

JACKSON - 38, Manchester - 19
JACKSON - 21, Callaway - 13
JACKSON - 56, Crawford County - 20
JACKSON - 49, Tri-County - 10
JACKSON - 7, Macon County - 6

With this victory, the Red Devils won the Region 4-AA title for the first time in 40 years. "All of [my region titles] are good," said Head Coach Mike Parris at the time. "But this one is especially sweet. It's been so long, and the community support has been outstanding." Jackson quarterback Melvin Greer scored his team's only touchdown, and the Red Devil defense held off Macon County's repeated drives toward the endzone. With six seconds left in the game, with victory and a 40-year championship drought in the balance, Macon County attempted a 43-yard field goal. The ball missed by one yard and the Red Devils ran onto the field in victory.

JACKSON - 26, Randolph-Clay - 21
Jackson - 14, COOK COUNTY - 17

On November 28, 2003, a 51-year-old lifelong resident of Butts County, Jackie Norsworthy, was killed when his car was struck by a train as it crossed the tracks at Bibb Station Road.

Following a three-week trial period, a police officer hired to patrol the halls of Jackson High School had made several arrests. The Board of Education voted on December 1, 2003 to work with the City of Jackson to provide a school resource officer full-time at Jackson High and Henderson Middle School.

2004

In January 2004, Jackson High School running back Cornelius Watts was named to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* All-State AA high school football team. Mel Wise was an honorable mention on the defensive side.

At its annual banquet in January 2004, the Butts County Chamber of Commerce inducted Frankie Willis of Trucks, Inc. into the Butts County Hall of Fame. Ralph Wilson was named Citizen of the Year.

For the second year in a row, the Competition Cheerleading Squad of Jackson High School was crowned champion of Region 4-AA in February 2004.

A 16-year old who was trespassing at Jackson High School attacked a student, resulting in minor injuries and charges filed against the assailant.

Members of the Jackson Police Department and Butts County Sheriff's Office were called upon in February 2004 to break up a disturbance involving nearly 150 people in the parking lot of the Huddle House on West Third Street.

After 56 years operating Western Auto on the downtown square, STANANCO relocated in March 2004 to a free-standing building at the corner of Stark Road and Highway 36.

The Butts County Parks & Recreation Department inducted Tommy Carmichael, Bailey Crockarell and Arthur White into its Hall of Fame during an awards ceremony in March 2004.

At the annual STAR Student banquet in March 2004, Jason Miller was named STAR Student of Jackson High School. He named Mark Alling as his STAR Teacher.

The Jackson High School Symphonic Band received "superior" ratings at the district evaluation in March 2004. The band was under the direction of Jim Little.

O'Hara Bowling Center opened for business in late March 2004 on Brookwood Avenue. The business, which featured over a dozen bowling lanes, video games and a bar, was opened in response to public outcry for a bowling alley in the Jackson area.

In April 2004, the Butts County Hospital Authority voted to begin renovating the building next to Sylvan Grove Hospital to make room for a new doctor's office.

Both the Red Devils and Lady Devils of Jackson High School won their respective Region 4-AA tennis titles in April 2004.

At the end of April 2004, the Lady Devil track team of Jackson High School won the Region 4-AA championship.

The Lady Devil golf team won its first ever Region 4-AA championship for Jackson High School in early May 2004.

In May 2004, the Butts County Board of Commissioners purchased the former Piggly Wiggly property on West Third Street for $1.6 million. The Board's plan was to convert the old grocery store building into a county administration building.

The Henderson Middle School Tiger baseball team won the region title in May 2004.

A heavy - but brief - rain shower dampened graduation ceremonies of Jackson High School in early June 2004, but it did not dampen the spirits of the graduates or their supporters.

The Board of Commissioners adopted a budget totaling $8,798,895 and the Board of Education adopted a budget amounting to $8,087,164 in June 2004.

In July 2004 came word that Williams Bros. Lumber Company would open a truss plant in the old Georgia Box plant on Highway 42 North and employ about 150 people.

In a county-wide primary on July 20, 2004, voters approved liquor-by-the-drink in the county.

A single-car accident on Brownlee Road on July 27, 2004 claimed the life of Jackson football star Cornelius Watts. “I can’t say that Cornelius Watts’ number five will ever be worn on [Red Devil] Hill again,” said Head Football Coach Mike Parris at the time, “but I can tell you that it will never be worn again while I’m here.”

In August 2004, Sherryl George was named Butts County Teacher of Year. Charles Martin was named Support Person of the Year.

On August 6, 2004, a flames gutted a residential house on Regal Road. No one was injured in the blaze.

In August 2004, the City Council approved the annexation of 46 acres on Highway 36 West, and rezoned it to allow 252 homes. The land was bordered by a mobile home park, a closed landfill and the Central Georgia EMC. The same development company was also building 194 homes off Harkness Street.

Glen Goens was named Fire Chief of Jackson in August 2004, replacing Mark Cook.

Remnants of Hurricane Frances brought sustained winds and rains to Butts County in September 2004. Trees were toppled, roads blocked by flooding and schools were closed for a day.

At its annual picnic in September, the Butts County Chamber of Commerce honored McIntosh State Bank and First Georgia Community Bank as its Co-Businesses of the Year for 2004.

In October 2004, the Henderson Middle School Tiger football team completed its first ever undefeated season and claimed the region championship. The team was led by first-year coach Vincent Turpin.

For the second year in a row, the Henderson Lady Tiger softball team won the region championship in October 2004.

Gene Pope was re-elected Sheriff of Butts County in November 2004.A record turnout of 77 percent was recorded at the polls.

For the second year in a row, the Jackson High School Lady Devil cross country team won the Region 4-AA championship.

In late November 2004, the Red Regiment Marching Band of Jackson High School won first place at the Old South Marching Band Competition.

In December 2004, the annual Can-A-Thon and Christmas Stocking Fund brought in over $16,000 in cash to help local families purchase toys during the holidays.

In December 2004, the City Council approved a 150-home subdivision on 42 acres off Oakland Circle.

2005

In January 2005, the City Council spent $4,082,950 for 220.7 acres of land off Brownlee Road as a means of protecting the city's sewerage system in the future. The dilemma the city faced was that all three of its wastewater treatment plants discharged treated water into local creeks. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division had turned down several of the city's applications for permits to expand its discharge amounts. The acreage purchased borders the city's Southside Treatment Plant, and could be used as a spray field for future sewerage expansion.

"If we annexed [this land]," said Mayor Charlie Brown in the Jackson Progress-Argus after the purchase, "it would have been developed by someone, and we'd be landlocked at the Southside Plant. Somebody was going to buy it. So we either had to take a chance or protect ourselves down the road. We chose to protect ourselves."

Throughout the early part of 2005, citizens, businesses and organizations in Jackson and Butts County pulled together to raise $532,700 toward the construction of a satellite campus for Griffin Technical College. The facility's classroom was to be used to help local residents obtain new skills and training for future employment. The campus was built on Highway 16 West, just outside the city limits.

On April 22, 2005, the roof on Wright's Pawn & Jewelry collapsed. The business, run by Rhonda Wright, had been operated on the southwest corner of the intersection of Oak and Second streets for 11 years. But the roof falling and the subsequent damage to her inventory left her with little choice but to close on two months later.

On May 27, 2005, 148 seniors graduated from Jackson High School. Kayla Cook was named Valedictorian, and Chelcie Rowell was named Salutatorian.

After 27 years of service, the Mason Jar restaurant closed its doors on May 28, 2005. Owned and operated by Bobby & Peggy Mackey, the Mason Jar "transcended traditional business status and crossed over into something a great deal more familial," wrote Stewart Voegtlin in the *Jackson Progress-Argus*.

In June 2005, the Butts County Board of Education approved a budget totaling $23,561,406. Of that amount, $9,728,079 was collected through local taxes. The remainder came from the state. "We spend $2,200 per child in the Butts County school system," said School Superintendent Alan White.

At its June 21, 2005 meeting, the mayor and Council heard from residents of East Jackson who were concerned and fed up with illegal drug-related activities in their neighborhood. "There is a push underway now to threaten and intimidate the elderly and the sick in my neighborhood," said James Williamson.

The City Council voted on August 2, 2005 to levy no property taxes on residents or businesses in the city. "We operate the city like a business, so we don't have to tax people's property," said Mayor Charlie Brown at the meeting. The city had not levied property taxes for three decades.

Sohmer Collins of Jackson Elementary School was named Butts County Teacher of the Year on August 3, 2005. Dot Goodman, a custodian at JES, was named Support Employee of the Year.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the coastal region of the Gulf of Mexico, gas prices shot up over $3.00 a gallon in Jackson on September 3, 2005. "What happened? Butts County panicked, that's what happened," said Maurice Biles, owner of Biles Tire Center on East Third Street. Prices stabilized the next day to an average of $2.93 per gallon.

Mina Torbett, who served as librarian for 34 years at the Hawkes Library and then the Jackson-Butts County Public Library, retired in September 2005. "I don't recall her missing a day of work in all her years with the library," said Richard Watkins, Jr., chairman of the Butts County Library Board of the woman he hired in 1971. "That's quite a remarkable record. There's a lot more to that job than people think."

After over a decade of silence, the city's Towaliga River Water Treatment Plant was put in operation again in the Fall of 2005. The city had a permit to withdraw one million gallons per day from the river, and with the help of Butts County Et Al Water & Sewer Authority employees turned the pumps back on.

In October 2005, Elijah Carroll, a 2002 graduate of Jackson High School and STAR Student, was wounded in action in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated by his vehicle. He underwent rehabilitation for injuries to his leg. Christopher Weldon, also of Jackson, was injured in the same incident. Both men were the first Jackson residents to be injured in combat since the Vietnam War.

District Two Councilman Lewis Sims, District Three Councilman Harold "Doc" McMichael and Mayor Charlie Brown were all re-elected in November 2005 without opposition.

On November 6, 2005, 20-year-old John Anthony Lee of Jackson was stabbed to death. Kenneth R. Cook, also of Jackson, was charged with his murder.

At the end of November 2005, the Butts County Et Al Water & Sewer Authority received notification that its application to increase its daily withdrawal of water from the Ocmulgee River to 9.7 million gallons was approved. "This is the best thing that could happen to people that use water in Butts County," said General Manager Marcie Seleb at the time. "This has insured the county's water supply for 20 years."

When the annual Can-A-Thon was over in December 2005, a total of 19,589 cans of food had been donated by area residents to stock the local Salvation Army's food pantry for the coming year. In addition, 471 new toys and $20,101 to purchase more toys was collected to be distributed to needy families in the area. The charity drive was sponsored by the City of Jackson, Trucks, Inc. and Harry Lewis Chrysler-Dodge.

"That is the most money we've ever raised," said Mayor Charlie Brown. "We appreciate all the donations, and thank everyone who made this year's effort such a success."

"Debra Brown is the city's volunteer," said Mike Riley during a 2009 interview. "When it comes to the Can-A-Thon and the Salvation Army, she does all of that and doesn't get paid a cent. That's rare."

On December 27, 2007, the City of Jackson purchased 25 acres on Brownlee Road. The following month, the city sold the property to the Butts County Board of Education for $556,250, or $22,250 per acre. The site was to be used for a new Jackson Elementary School.

2006

The new Butts County Administration Facility opened to the public on March 13, 2006. Located on West Third Street, the new facility housed offices for the tax commissioner, tax assessor, board of election and county commissioners. The county purchased the land and an existing building for $1.6 million, and renovated the building for $1.2 million.

Artaeus Jamal Jones, an 18-year-old senior at Jackson High School, was arrested on March 24, 2006 for bringing a handgun to school. The gun was not loaded, and there was no indication that Jones had any plans to use the gun. "There is no excuse for bringing a gun to school, and as a result we must prosecute to the fullest extent the law allows," said School Superintendent Dr. Alan White at the time.

"Bringing a real gun to school is about as bad a thing as a school kid can do," added District Attorney Richard Milam. "If I have anything to say about it, if you do that, you're going to jail."

On March 27, 2006, Butts County voters approved renewal of the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax for Education. The one-percent sales tax was to bring in enough funds over five years to build a new Jackson Elementary School.

Chinese Elm trees planted around the downtown square in 1997 were cut down on May 17, 2006 after a unanimous vote to do so by the City Council. The trees were part of the city's downtown revitalization efforts in the 1990s. Reaction around the square was mixed, with some people missing the look and shade of the trees, and others enjoying seeing Jackson's downtown buildings and signs more clearly.

Graduation ceremonies were held on June 5 for the 154 members of the Jackson High School class of 2006. Chris Washington was named Valedictorian and Haley Staples was named Salutatorian.

In June 2006, the Butts County Board of Education approved a budget of $27,282,208, almost $2 million more than the previous year's budget. Local taxes were to contribute $10,850,661 to that total.

On June 30, 2006, ground was broken for the new Griffin Technical College satellite campus on Highway 16 West. The Simpson Foundation donated 23 acres for use as the campus.

Four local juveniles were arrested on August 6, 2006 as they attempted to break in to the Brownlee Road Texaco. The children were also charged with breaking into the school bus barn, damaging 24 buses, burglarizing the concession stand at Red Devil Hill, the National Guard Armory, the Central Georgia EMC building, and the Dot Shop on Brownlee Road. "There's the potential for something between 75 and 100 felonies between the four juveniles," said Sheriff Gene Pope.

In August 2006, Patrick Varallo, an art teacher at Jackson High School, was named Butts County's Teacher of the Year.

The Butts County Board of Education broke ground on the new Stark Elementary School on November 20, 2006. The facility on Stark Road was designed to take the place of the aging North Mulberry Elementary School.

In December 2006, the 109-year-old Jackson Presbyterian Church broke ground on an addition to the building to make room for its growing congregation and allow easier access to the sanctuary for its older members.

2007

2008

"Unfortunately," said Robert Pinckney in late 2008, "the Kiwanis Club is being dissolved. We don't have many members. We have five or six."

"We used to have 60 to 80 members," said Merrell Price during the same interview.

"I felt it was an honor and responsibility to be a member," Pinckney said. "But now we just can't get anybody interested. It's a sign of the times all around with any other club, too. So many things have gone by the wayside. Even church attendance is down. We had to close down the SAR [Sons of the American Revolution], too. People just don't participate today. Sad but true.

"The Exchange Club established the [Butts County] fair and has held it for years," he added. "The Exchange Club has done a lot of good."

The reason people today don't get involved like they did a generation or two ago, according to David Ridgeway in the same interview, is "civic pride."

"You might say we were hungry," said Pinckney. "We wanted more and that was the drive. We weren't satisfied with the status quo. We wanted to make something of this county, to make progress."

"We also had the attitude that we wanted to give," added Price.

"We were proud of our county and wanted everyone else to know it was the best place in the world to live," said Ridgeway.

"You didn't hear statements being made like: 'We don't have nothing to do. What can we do?' Our children had plenty to do," said Price. "They had swimming down at Indian Springs. Different activities for the children, and we participated in them ourselves."

"And our parents taught us to respect what we had, and to respect our surroundings," Ridgeway explained. "It's just not true today. I blame a lot of it on parents back in the late '60s and early '70s."

"Discipline just went out the window," added Pinckney.

"That's right," agreed Ridgeway.

"And the Supreme Court is largely to blame, too," Pinckney continued. "Stopping corporal punishment. I taught school for two years and sometimes that was the only way you could get to them [the students]. They never gave you anymore trouble after that. That took care of it. My parents said you go to school to learn. I don't want to hear anything from your teachers. That's your responsibility."

"We told our two girls: we expect the best out of you, and that's all we expect," Price explained. "If it's a C or a B and that's your best, that's what we expect. Fortunately they were a little bit better than that."

"Back then you could depend on somebody's word," said Pinckney. "They'd follow through. You could shake hands and that was the agreement. So different from today. Everything's got to be in writing today."

"Back then if a man told you something, that was it," added Ridgeway. "If he told you he was going to whip your fanny, you better be getting ready."

2009

In 2009, Luke Weaver said Jackson has changed for better because "we've got a whole lot more services than we did back then. Your electrical system's good. You got county-wide water.

You got gas. You got better roads. You got more schools. I don't know that you got any better schools, but you got more schools, newer schools. We got a heck of a debt that we're going to have a heck of a problem with in the future. I don't think that's good. We've got a lot of overhead that takes a lot of tax money to keep going. But I don't know if all that's good."

"People start expecting larger and larger, and I guess with our growing population even that's become almost inadequate at times, said Jimmy Adams in 2009. "It's interesting that people move to little towns like Jackson because of the lifestyle, and immediately start wanting to change the environment, because they want those things they've left behind. And that in turn changes the quality of life in a small town."

"I liked it like it was," Luke Weaver admitted. "You don't know anybody today. Like I said, in 1961, I could go to town and I knew everybody was. I knew who their momma was. I knew who their daddy was. I knew who their sister and brother was. And you don't know anybody anymore. We've got an influx of people that moved in here. They're good people, but you just don't know them anymore. You live here, but you work in Atlanta. When you go out to eat, you go to Griffin or Atlanta or McDonough, somewhere like that. You just don't have the tight community life that you used to have. And I don't think that's good. Kids respected old people more, and old people respected kids more then than they do now. It's a different world. I guess it's the same way everywhere."

"We don't know everybody," said Mary Davis in 2009. "We used to know everybody. People on Jackson Lake come in now and get groceries and leave."

"Jackson has always been peaceful," said Shelby Henderson in 2009. "Jackson has been a place where everybody knew everybody. Black and White - everybody knew each other. Now, it's growing so. It's a change. So many new people are coming that it's changing gradually. We used to could sit on the porch. We used to could leave the houses unlocked because like I said everybody knew each other and everybody trusted each other."

"I liked the old days when people were people and would gather together," said Gwen Mitchell in 2008. "You weren't scared to walk across the road and walk down the street and take your kids fishing and stuff like that. They say history repeats itself, and I wish it would."

"It's changed over the years because some of the original people have sold their houses, and there's this different generation of young people moving in," said Samuel Johnson in 2009 when asked about how his neighborhood has changed over the years. "It used to be very quiet. But it's not quiet anymore. You never used to hear people walking up and down the road at night. We've got so many cars running through. And motorcycles. And I guess that's because the styles of the people that have moved in there are different, they've changed from what it was when we moved in there."

"When I first came to this [registrar's] office, we was up in the courthouse," said Johnson. "Well, I knew everybody in there. Now, you don't know them. I guess that's the way it is everywhere. Communities are developing real fast everywhere."

"It got to the point where you could go into the grocery store and if you saw someone you didn't know you'd think, 'oh, the fair's in town'," said Diane Rosser in 2009. "But now it's like that all the time. Used to you just saw everybody you knew, and then it started changing. And there's no stopping it. No turning back."

People in Jackson used to know one another "is pretty much a true statement, especially those that ran a business," said Jimmy Adams in 2009. "And then, the community - man, that's one thing that I miss - is that in those days the roads weren't as good, the vehicles weren't as fast. People traded locally. And so if you operated a business, you knew almost every family in the community, because at some point in time they had to trade with you on some level. I miss that. There are few communities in Georgia that have that claim. You have to get in some more isolated areas of South Georgia, probably now, to have that same environment that we enjoyed back then. Of course, as much as anybody, I like going to a place where I've got more choices to spend money, but there again, I should try to spend my money more locally because at least the tax money stays here. And the payrolls stay here."

"Something that we did have [many years ago that Jackson does not have now] being young [people] of the Black race - we had Black men that we could depend on and look up to and go to for advice and they could help us," said Shelby Henderson in 2009. "Now, we don't have anybody. And that is so sad. We talk about this among ourselves. We used to have Mr. Abe Trimier. We used to have Mr. Tom Taylor. Crosstown, Bethel Flats, Darktown - each one of those sections had somebody that we could call for help. But now we don't have anybody. We really don't.

"Mr. Taylor [a distant relative] was a farmer," said Henderson. "He believed in accomplishing something. He had homes that he rented out. He was a person that wanted to be somebody. When a farmer is growing a crop, he wants the best crop he can have and he works hard, tending to it and planning it and when it's time for it to come in he's going to see about. But they're not interested in that now. There's so many young men now I aided in school and they're smart, but they're just throwing it away. And they've had chances just like anybody else.

"But I don't know the answer," Henderson acknowledged. "Because you see what's happening is they're not interested in having a stand in life. They're not interested in anybody looking up to them. That's not doing anything but hurting the younger generation. Children don't have anyone to imitate. They do, but it's not someone good to imitate. It's so hurting. It really is. One thing about it: you can teach your children, but they have to get with those that haven't been taught."

"Generally, I think Jackson is a much more civil place," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "I think there is really much more respect for people as people. I see things that you never would see. You hold the door for people - Black, White, whatever. And referring to people as Mr. or Mrs. White kids are especially good about it. They don't necessarily have to be kids either. I'll give you an example. When I started teaching at Jackson High, I had a little girl in my class. She knew my grandmother who was 70 years old then. She said, 'Mr. Gaye I just love Carrie.' I was 29. My grandmother was 70. But she was 'Carrie' to her, although she was well old enough to be her grandmother. That type thinking is just different. I think people see more value in people as people. I think they've learned that. And I think Jackson is different in that way."

"We had traffic then [in the 1960s and 1970s], but we didn't have near the congestion that we have now," said Luke Weaver in 2009. "I can even remember when you could go from Ingles to Fresh Air Barbecue in five minutes. Now, it'd take you 15 minutes, sometimes 20 minutes to go from Ingles to Fresh Air Barbecue. We've got to have a by-pass. The truck scales are in

Forsyth, so if [the tractor trailer trucks are] overloaded they want to hit those scales and be nearly out of fuel. When they weigh them, they weigh the fuel, too. But that's why so many trucks come through here is dodging those scales in Forsyth. And then, there's no easy way to get to Covington and that area. But a lot of them are dodging the scales. I can remember one of the worst times and the worst smells was when the brought the gut truck through here. They'd haul tankage to Augusta or somewhere from some of these packing houses, and they'd make that turn up there at Third Street and run up on that curb. It'd be terrible. You knew if it'd been there."

"Traffic has gotten worse," said Mike Riley in 2009. "I tell a story quite often when they get to talking about traffic. I can remember working the day shift at the sheriff's office on patrol and leaving the old county jail and coming up to the traffic light and turning left on Third Street and not seeing a vehicle as far as I could see at like 10 o'clock in the morning. Back then, you were somewhere during those hours, at work or at school. Of course, when I started at the sheriff's office, I-75 was two lanes on each side. And you could get out there at three o'clock in the morning and traffic was scarce because truckers used to pull into truck stops if they could, and people pulled into motels and traffic dried up. The OK station at Highway 16 and I-75 was the only thing open 24 hours in the county. There wasn't anything at Highway 36 and I-75.

"We have a unique situation for whatever reason," said Riley. "We have several major state highways that converge right in the middle of downtown. You got Highway 36, Highway 16, Highway 42 and 87 - they run together and then come into town. And they all converge on the square, right in the middle of town. So people from anywhere east of us, to get to I-75, they come through Jackson on Highway 16. So we have a lot of back-and-forth traffic from one side of the state to the other. All roads lead to Jackson.

"But that's what I hear most people complain about is the traffic," Riley admitted. "And most locals know a way around. When an accident shuts down the interstate and traffic is diverted through town, a local can still get where they're going.

"I think that the DOT, the mayor and Council have worked with together to improve our traffic lights and rearrange some intersection," he added. "Third and Covington streets is working much better than it has in years."

"I think probably the traffic congestion downtown and the lack of industrial development 'cause all the mills closed and nothing replaced them except for American Woodmark and Salad Time," said Mack Davis in 2009 when asked about ways the city has changed for the worse over the years. "Of course, they've torn down all the houses on Third Street and that's all become commercial."

"I don't know why it is, why Jackson has a problem for the downtown area to be thriving," said Gene Pope in 2009. "One thing is the parking stinks. And there's no off-square parking, other than the city parking lot. That's not that much. I remember when Western Auto was on the square. And all these little stores. The prices kept people coming. Now, they can't compete with Wal-Mart, they can't compete with Sam's, and Costco, and things like that, and people buy in bulk, and economics is what causes that. But, if you put something on the square that's unique, that you can't get at Costco, and you can't get at Wal-Mart… So, they may have to just change what downtown's for. You know, at one time, I thought we was going to get a pharmacy or a auto parts place on every corner. And a chicken place."

"What makes the downtown area change is the people, not the buildings - the buildings [are] still there," said Pope. "Location's still there. Parking's still the same it's always been, but the population's growing and growing."

"In a lot of ways [Jackson] hasn't changed, because so much requires economic change," said Curtis Gaye in 2009. "And we aren't growing in that way. In a lot of ways I'm disappointed because people who are doing well aren't too concerned about dragging the people who aren't doing along with them. The people who are able to employee people here their employment is still overwhelmingly White. That might be a natural consequence. I don't feel like I have that many contacts today that I can call to say, 'Hey, are you looking for someone to work? I know this guy right here who is A-number-one. Let me send him to you.' It may be just a case of everyone looking out for themselves. I'm not always willing to assign evil motives to everything. But I know that a lot of folks are struggling. All of these guys walking around looking bad, emaciated - it's not totally by choice.

"If I was 20 years old in Jackson today: on Monday I had to go out and look for a job, where would I go?" asked Gaye. "Where would I go?"

"This started with the industrial revolution," he continued. "Every time you make a technological improvement, man goes by the wayside. There are some problems that there are no solutions to. You can't dumb down the computers to say OK we're going to bring five guys back to work. When I went to work for the office of the Solicitor, we had a whole room to house one computer. And every time you eliminate one of those folks, you may retrain - but that's an oxymoron. What are you going to do? Train them to do something that there's already too many people doing? You can't create jobs unless there is a demand for something.

"People think they have an inherent right to live a middle class life. People that know and look at things realistically will know that the prosperity has been a borrowed prosperity. People say, 'we sold pretty houses,' but you sold them to people who can't afford to pay for them. It was a false situation to start with. I can remember when I was in college, my political science professor talked about Vance Packard and the concept of planned obsolescence, when they started advertising and building stuff in so things became old. The Henry Ford concept was make [his cars] all the same every year and you'll be able to reduce the price. In the 1950s, for instance, when I got big enough to know something about cars and models the car models stayed in for three years - '49, '50 '51 Fords they all basically look alike. Then after that, they changed every two years, and then every year. In the mid-60s, they started having half-models like a '63-and-a-half Ford. It was all designed to make what you had seem old and want to get rid of it. Men's fashion - blue, black brown, gray - that was it. Get your blacks shoes and brown shoes and that was it. The concept of styles for men - no purpose at all other than for 'what I have is out of style, so let me go get another one.' That's all built on a false demand that can fall apart at anytime. I think there are jobs that are gone and will never come back. I think there are some ways of thinking that will change, too. People who bought things they don't need. I don't think they'll be snookered again."

"I would like to see the downtown area get more like some of these other cities like Madison," said Wayne Phillips in 2010. "It would be great to see shops, more restaurants and little boutiques filling some of our vacant buildings. I'd like to see that atmosphere come back

where people are comfortable walking downtown and parking. I would like to see more people concentrating on the downtown area instead of going out of town to eat and shop.

"It concerns me that our industries are leaving," said Phillips. "We were a textile manufacturing center, but all that's being done overseas now. Those jobs are gone and they're not coming back. That's the reason our county taxes are so high: there's no industrial tax base. So the burden is on property owners to pay for all the services.

"The city is at the limits of our electrical service territory. There was a territorial act that was passed by the state legislature in the 1970s that defined the service territory of EMCs, Georgia Power and MEAG [Jackson's provider]. Since we are at the area limits where we can provide electricity, it is cost prohibitive to expand our city limits. We would have to provide water, sewerage, police and fire protection and none of these are fund producers and only cost money. So it makes no sense for us to annex any more land, because it's only going to cost our citizens money. So we're kind of boxed in.

"Years ago, we had electrical outages all over the city constantly when a squirrel or limb would get on a wire and knock the circuit out. Chris Mercer, our electrical superintendent, replaced all the bad circuits around the city, installed a bypass system and keeps the limbs cut back. So, we don't have the outages that we once experienced. Our water system has been greatly improved. We have diminished low pressure areas by replacing lines and reengineering the system. The sewerage system has seen many upgrades and the decades old lines have been replaced. So we've improved quite a few things around the city. The brick sidewalks, streetscape and three city parking lots are improving the downtown area."

"We've got great employees in the city. They do an excellent job and keep costs down. Many cities have a high turnover, but we have very few employees leaving. We try to treat them right, and our folks enjoy working here."

"When I first came on the City Council [in 1986]," said Theodore Patterson during an interview in 2010, "we didn't have any Black department heads in the city. All the department heads were White. Over the course of time, we've now got several Black department heads. It shows that change is taking place, that the city is moving in a more positive direction. Back when we first came on, I thought it would be out voted to have a Black over one of the departments. It just wasn't to be. But over the course of years, we now have several Black department heads. And when [Lewis Sims and I] first came on board, there were no Blacks in city hall. Now Lurlene [Watts] is there sitting behind the counter. That shows that you are making progress. When a person of color comes in and can see a Black face to associate with it gives them a form of identity, of connection.

"It shows that the city's mindset and the mindset of the people running the city's character is changing," Patterson said. "You didn't have that many Black officers, much less assistant chiefs. When Chief [Mike] Riley came over, he wanted to bring Kenny Morgan as his assistant chief. That was the first time the city had had a Black assistant chief. Right now, Stephon [Daniel] is the second in command to Chief Riley. Those are significant changes that I've seen take place in the city for the better."

"Under the leadership of the Browns - father and son - the city has been run in such a way that it can always stay afloat and not suffer some of the hardships that other cities endure," continued Patterson. "Last year [2009] was the first year since I've been on the Council that we

didn't give city employees a raise. But we've never had a cutback or layoff. All our employees are treated very well. We've got good employees. We got good department heads. All of them tend to watch their budgets. I feel like we're in a unique standing the way the city is run."

"One of the things I'm most excited about now is we're very, very close to acquiring the little triangle [on Dempsey Avenue]," said Charlie Brown during an interview in early 2010. "We have wanted to build a veterans' memorial park since I came into office in 1994. Before I go out of office, we're going to build one. It's not real big, but we want it to be a focal point when you come through Jackson. If that happens, I would say that would be my greatest accomplishment.

"But we've done a lot of things, upgraded a lot of facilities," said the mayor. "We had what they used to call the city barn - and believe me, it was a barn. It had a dirt floor where they fixed the cars and things. We upgraded, so I think we've got a nice place for our people to work. We've got nice facilities to be proud of. We renovated downtown and still have a way to go with that project. We've acquired land for parking lots and remodeled and built and contributed."

"I think it's very important that we find a way to always keep our downtown," said Brown. "I feel like downtown is the center point of any town. It shows your history. In 2014, the city's looking to work with the Department of Transportation on putting in a one-way pair to go through downtown to hopefully preserve our downtown. I think that would help our downtown and actually enlarge our downtown.

"We're out of debt, and have secured water and electricity for the future," said Brown. "So it's time to let it happen and see where it takes us. And hope the next generation loves the city as much as we did. One of the most important things is to remember where you came from, and I hope Jackson will always remember that."

"We're members of the Methodist Church and you know how Methodists move their ministers around," said Barbara Phillips in 2010. "Well most of the ministers coming to Jackson talk about what a unique place it is and how friendly and caring the people are. They always seem to have a connection and come back and visit. That does say a lot about this town.

"I think the location is fabulous," she added. "We have access to anything you want in Atlanta or Macon. We've got the state parks and Jackson Lake. The beach is close and so are the mountains."

"You make a lot of friends here," said Mack Davis in 2009. "You get to know a lot of people. You're in a perfect location here: you between two major cities, have access to every activity you want to go to in Atlanta or Macon, movies, sports, theater, anything you want to have is within an hour distance, excellent medical access to Atlanta and Macon, the climate is perfect here year-round if you average it out, we don't flood, we don't have hurricane, not many tornadoes, we don't have earthquakes. It's just an ideal location to live. You're within three hours of the coast. You're within three hours of the mountains. Within an hour of the big cities. Where else would you want to live?"

"The people and the friends that I have made – that's why I will never leave Jackson because the people and my friends," said Mary Davis in 2009. "They helped us through every sickness that we had.

"When Gerald [Davis] died," she continued, "my brother was asked by his son, 'Do you think Mary will ever move back to Spartanburg?' And his father said, 'No, they found a home

there.' They saw all the wonderful response from the people, and they were amazed. I worked here and made so many friends. Like Jerry Greer says to me, 'If you want anything done, you call me.' Well, I never had to call him 'cause I do all my own mowing."