

MONTEVALLO
Main Street
Memories

McCULLEY'S FOOD STORE

by Clay Nordan
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Prior to 1960 when the first true supermarket came to Montevallo, there were five small grocery or mercantile stores on Main Street offering a varying selection of food products to local families. Several of these stores had butcher shops and offered fresh vegetables when in season. In those days, a grocery would not survive if they didn't deliver phoned-in grocery orders to the doorsteps of their customers. The deliveries were usually made by a teenage boy on a heavy-duty bicycle with an oversized basket to hold the grocery bags.

McCulley's Food Store moved into the space next door to Alabama Power Co. on Main Street in 1938. The newspaper announcement you see here ran in the *Montevallo Times* on March 24 of that year. The previous occupant had been a business called the "Dollar Store." Proprietor Teamon McCulley, moved his existing business from Shelby Street, near the railroad depot, and remained in this location until the store closed approximately 40 years later. McCulley's offered personalized service and the largest selection in town. And you could count on Mr. Tommy Latham, in his white apron over a dress shirt and tie, to be at the cash register taking care of every customer and making them feel right at home.

The Alabama Power Co. moved out of their corner location around 1960 into offices in the new Whaley Shopping Center next door to the recently completed Food Center supermarket. Soon after, Mr. McCulley expanded his store into the Alabama Power Co. space with the intention of meeting the competition anticipated from the Food Center. Almost overnight, the sleepy grocery scene in Montevallo bloomed into a food shopping paradise. Needless to say, the smaller, old-line businesses on Main Street were not long for this world.

McCulley's Store To Be Moved This Week

Teamon McCulley will move his grocery business this week to occupy the building next to Alabama Power Company, the former location of the Dollar Store. He will vacate the place he has occupied for the past four years near the Southern depot.

In his new store Mr. McCulley will have more space and will carry a greatly increased stock of groceries and food items. His plans are to make his store one of the most attractive in this section of the state. And of course, his service will be kept up to the highest point of efficiency.

The move will be made this weekend, after which it will require a few days to get everything in proper place. But there will be no interruption in the business.

Within a few weeks Mr. McCulley will invite the public to attend a formal opening of this new store.



This old store building on Shelby Street near the railroad tracks (which still stands as part of the WoodGrain wood products complex) housed Teamon McCulley's food store prior to his move to Main Street in 1938. Brown Trading Co. located here later.

MONTEVALLO TIMES, MONTEVALLO, ALABAMA

Phone 96 **McCULLEY'S** We Deliver
 Montevallo

OPENING SPECIALS

Introducing to our customers, our new Food Store—the finest of its kind in this section. We offer these Bargain Specials for

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, April 8 and 9

SUGAR In cloth bags Finest Granulated Limit 10-lbs to a Customer **10-lbs 48c**

Tomatoes 2 No. 2 cans **15c** | **SYRUP** Yellow Label gal. **75c**

COFFEE Royal Cup 1-lb. Bag **23c**

Pet Milk 6 small or 3 large **19c**

Dill Pickles Alabama Girl Full qt. **15c**

FLOUR Polly Rich Plain or Self-Rising **24-lb 88c**

LARD Pure 4-lb. ctn. **44c**

OLEOMARGARINE Hormels **lb. 15c**

Produce And Fruits
 Delicious Apples Doz. **10c**
 California 8c and 10c size Carrots bunch **5c**
 Fresh Ripe Tomatoes lb. **5c**
 New Irish Potatoes 3 lb **10c**

CHEESE A Full Cream Hoop Cheese **lb 18c**
HAM Sugar Cured Sliced **lb 29c**

Rinso Sinks, Cutlery, Wipers 3 for **25c**

Rice Flakes Heinz 15c Size for **12c**

Baking Powder Large 25c Size Clabber Girl can **18c**

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MONTEVALLO MAIN STREET MEMORIES is adapted from the series, THROWBACK THURSDAY, a Montevallo Historical Society and Montevallo Main Street partnership started in 2018. Each installment revisits commercial and residential life on Main Street and in the downtown area in the early to mid-twentieth century. The series remains available online and may be viewed at www.historicmontevallo.org under "Local History".