MONTEVALLO
Main Street
Memories

Ottis Bean Barber Shop – Part One

by Clay Nordan – Montevallo Historical Society

Ottis Bean got his start as a barber in a small shop on the outskirts of town at the intersection of Highway 25 and Highway 155 (The Jemison Cut-off). During World War II, Ottis served in the U.S. Navy as a barber aboard the U.S.S. Wisconsin, an "Iowa Class" battleship that was among the Navy's largest and fastest vessels of the type.

When he returned home from his time in the service he picked up where he left off and soon opened his Ottis Bean Barber Shop on Middle Street, just across the alley from Carpenter Brothers Garage. In partnership with fellow barber, Raymond Bearden, Bean's Barber Shop became a Montevallo institution and kept local men and boys looking their best for 59 years, from 1947 until 2006. As a conversation starter, Ottis mounted a scale model of the U.S.S. Wisconsin on a long shelf that ran along the wall opposite his barber chairs. Anyone getting a haircut couldn't miss this obvious salute to Ottis' time in the Navy.

One hallmark of Ottis Bean's shop was that throughout his entire run, he always opened at 5:00 a.m. in order to provide haircuts to working men who had to be on the job shortly after sunrise.

(L-R) Ottis Bean and Raymond Bearden taking it easy during a a lull in haircut action. Across Middle Street is Buddy Allen's Shell station.

Be sure to look for **Part – Two of "Ottis Bean Barber Shop"** in the October issue of Chamber Chatter to read about what it was like for male customers to patronize Ottis and Raymond on a typical summer Saturday in the 1950's and 1960's.

Photos by Clayton O. Nordan, 1984.

Ottis Bean never failed to look the part of the professional barber.

Bean's Barber Shop

Come to see us for your barber work

Bean and Bearden

Bean's Barber Shop

On the Montevallo – Jemison Cut-off

HAIR CUTS ..... 15¢

SHAVES..... 10¢

Veterans Wreaths will be laid this year at Montevallo City Cemetery on December 19, 2026. Order your wreaths now for $17 each at:

WWW.HISTORICMONTEVALLO.ORG

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".