

MONTEVALLO Main Street *Memories*

The Mitchell Building

by Clay Nordan
Montevallo Historical Society



The building that was home to Garrett's Dollar Saver was actually called the Mitchell Building, named for its owner, Dr. W. J. Mitchell, who had a dental practice in the front portion of the second floor. A staircase led to the upper floor from the street.

Dr. Mitchell was a dentist of the "old school", favoring tooth extractions over the more modern fillings, crowns, and restorations so

familiar today. He worked in a time before high-speed drills and improved techniques for minimizing patient pain when in the dentist's chair. It was dentists such as Dr. Mitchell who engendered fear and dread in severe toothache sufferers of the time who viewed enduring their uncomfortable ordeal as more tolerable than a visit to the dentist.

Also on the second floor was a photography studio. Kenneth Land opened the studio in 1947 and was succeeded in the same location by another photographer, Otha Rakes, in the early 1950's. Rakes Studio, which remained until the late 1960's enjoyed considerable success making photos and portraits for Montevallo's young families as well

ANNOUNCING

The Opening of

Montevallo's New PORTRAIT STUDIO

In the Mitchell Building
PORTRAIT and COMMERCIAL WORK

Hours: 9 to 6, except Wednesdays, 9 to 12

KENNETH LAND • Photographer
Mitchell Building Montevallo

No phone yet - Come by for appointments



Macie May (later Simpson) 1949.



Emma Dean Huston (later Nathews) 1950.



Sons of Jane and Jimmie Wyatt (Bill, Gordon, Jimbo) 1953.

as college students, faculty, and professional people. The tradition for high quality studio portrait photographs began with the invention of the photographic process in the nineteenth century and became particularly popular during the mid-twentieth century. Rakes made baby photos, formal photos of young children and families, high school and college beauty shots, and portraits of adult men and women. These pictures were important milestones in the lives of many residents of Montevallo that presented them looking their very best for posterity while documenting their likenesses at various stages of life.

DON'T WAIT--

until the war is over to have those
new teeth made. The war may last

TEN YEARS

W. J. Mitchell

Dentist • •
Montevallo

W. J. MITCHELL

Dentist
Montevallo, Ala.

I specialize in Plate Work
and Extractions



Otha Rakes

Photographer

Commercial — Finishing

and
for Better Pictures

Phone 8671

P.O. Box 61

Montevallo
Historical Society

Opening the Portals of Our Heritage

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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".