

Latham &
Hendrick
Druggists
NEXT TO POST OFFICE

MONTEVALLO
Main Street
Memories

MERCHANTS &
PLANTERS BANK
OF MONTEVALLO,
ALABAMA



Original photograph: courtesy of Karen Pendleton, Montevallo.

(Above) More than 100 members of the Men's Bible Study class of the Montevallo First Baptist Church gathered in their Sunday best for this impressive panoramic photo sometime in the 1920's in front of the same store buildings that are still standing near the corner of Main and Shelby Streets. Most of the Montevallo citizens in the photo haven't been identified, but we do know that

in the picture are: (1) Alabama College president, Oliver Cromwell Carmichael (1926 - 1935); (2) local jeweler, P.D.D. Pendleton; (3) mortician and businessman, F. W. Rogan; (4) prominent merchant George Kroell; (5) his son, Pat Kroell; youths (6) Earl McGaughy and (7) Stanley M. "Red" Mahan, Sr. Two unidentified ladies (8) & (9), possibly class administrative assistants, are also pictured.

MAIN STREET PANORAMA

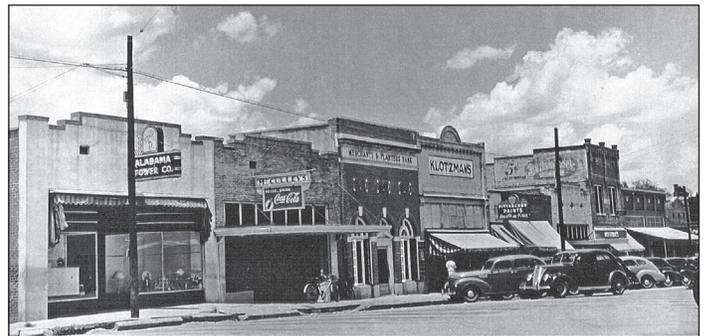
by Clay Nordan
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The historic group photo shown above from the mid-1920's is a treasure trove of Montevallo's most prominent male Baptists of that period. But it also provides us with considerable evidence to confirm which business houses occupied the buildings on the north side of Main Street. It seems obvious from the photo that the U.S. Post Office took up the entirety of its building between the drug store and the bank. By 1937, the P. O. had moved two blocks to the east to the elegant and much larger new structure that the Federal government saw fit to put up for the town in the middle of the depression. But there are multiple instances from the *Montevallo Times* that show a business known as "The Dollar Store" probably shared space for a time with the old Post Office before the big move. The Dollar Store claimed in their ads in the mid-1930's that they were next to the Post Office. Then, after the Post Office vacated their portion of the Main Street storefront, the Dollar Store began to include this line in their advertising: "Next to Alabama Power Co." If this is true, then a 1938 newspaper article confirms it announcing the move of Teamon McCulley's grocery from its location near the Southern Railway Depot and J.A. Brown Sr.'s ice house to the former Dollar Store next to Alabama Power.

Before Alabama Power, the previous occupant of the build-

ing on the corner was Latham & Hendrick's drug store. A close inspection of the exterior of the drug store at the far left of the photo reveals that Dr. Edgar Givhan maintained an office within the drug store where patients could seek professional treatment from him for sprains, broken bones, burns, cuts and scrapes, and whatever else might ail them.

At right, painted lettering reading "Merchants & Planters Bank" adorns the plate glass facade of that building. The bank, once known as Shelby County Bank, had operated from this location for many years and over time saw neighboring buildings spring up on either side. Adjacent to the bank, is Meroney's, soon to become Sam and Joe Klotzman's store.



(Above) The group of buildings on the north side of Main Street as they looked in the 1940's. Most are still in use and are easily recognizable today, 80 years later.

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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".