

MONTEVALLO Main Street *Memories*

The Plaza Grill Part 1

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Montevallo Historical Society

On the south side of Main Street, in the middle of the block next door to the Montevallo First Baptist Church stands a two story building whose lower level has been the home to a cafe or restaurant for as long as any native would remember. The current occupant in 2025 is the El Agave Mexican

Restaurant, but it's known predecessors extend back well into the 1930's, if not before.

Anyone who lived in Montevallo in the

mid-twentieth century remembers this as the location of the popular Plaza Grill, operated from 1938 until sometime in the 1960's by the Rotenberry family. Prior to the Plaza Grill, Jack Johnson's Dining Room was the occupant until a transition to the Plaza Dining Room took place in March

WHERE TO DINE?
Jack Johnson's
Dining Room

THE PLAZA DINING ROOM and GRILL

PHONE 25

Montevallo

PHONE 25

FORMERLY JOHNSON'S DINING ROOM

Announces Formal Opening

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th

THE DINING ROOM HAS BEEN COMPLETELY RENOVATED AND
NEW EQUIPMENT INSTALLED

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO INSPECT OUR PLACE ON
OPENING DAY. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FREE.
REGULAR MEALS—SANDWICHES AND SHORT ORDERS ANY HOUR.

Try a cup of our Delicious Dixie Club Coffee--Piping Hot

STEAKS and CHOPS

HOME COOKED PIES

Special Easter Dinner—Give Mother a Rest and
Dine With Us

March 1937

of 1937. Only a few months later, in September of the same year, new ownership took over the establishment and the name was now shortened to simply the Plaza Grill. This new management must not have been successful or ran into difficulties with the business, for Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Rotenberry, from nearby Six Mile in Bibb County, assumed ownership in May of 1938 and set to work making the cafe a landmark on Main Street known for good square meals and delicious homemade pies.

PLAZA GRILL OPENING

Saturday, Sep. 25

Under new management
of R. B. HICKS

Special Dinner, with
Dessert for Saturday **35c**

We will offer Special Rates
for Regular Meals by the Month

Mrs. J. H. Chapman
Manager

September 1937

The Best of Food and Everything To Eat

**Let Us Give Your
Stomach**

A Real Treat at the

PLAZA GRILL

Under new Management of

Mrs. F. W. Rotenberry

May 1938

Be Our Guest

Why not step out of the
kitchen into the role of guest
for your dinners? We're all
prepared to serve you with a
superb, appetizing meal. You
will enjoy every morsel of it.
We have special rates for
regulars by the month.

50c Dinner Served

Plaza Grill
MRS. F. W. ROTENBERRY
Proprietor

1938

Montevallo
Historical Society

Opening the Portals of Our Heritage

JOIN TODAY!

Download Application at
www.historicmontevallo.org

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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".