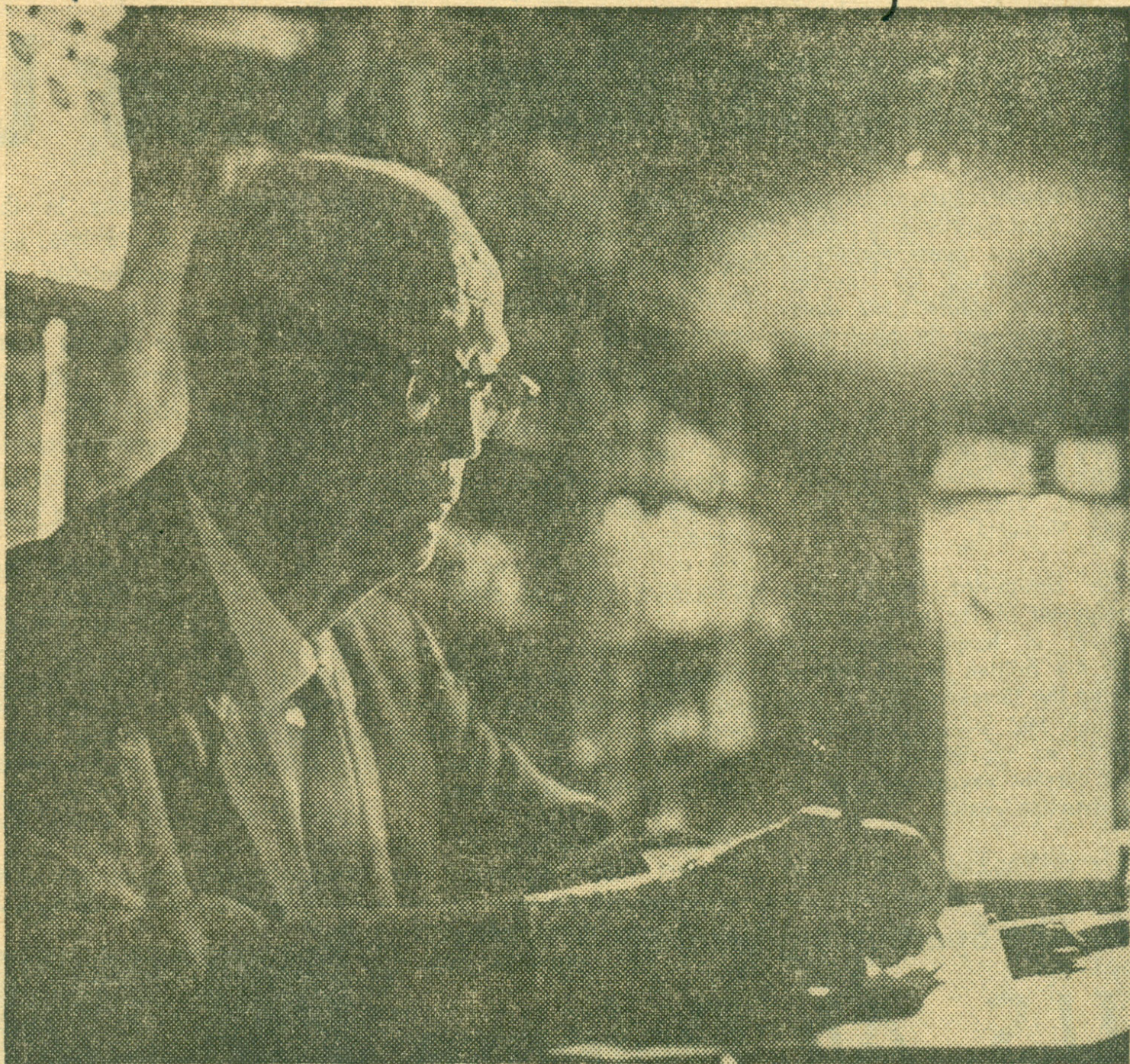


HERALD JOURNAL - APRIL 25, 1968



JOTTING 'EM DOWN is R. R. Brown, 90-year-old merchant who has worked in the same store for 70 years.



Jot 'Em Down Store Run By 90-Year-Old Merchant

By **CARL MAY**
Journal Staff Writer

PACOLET MILLS — "I've got the only jot 'em down store in Cherokee County," Roland R. Brown said while weighing up okra seed for a customer.

Tall, erect Brown, who will be 91 on Sept. 24, has been at the same location for almost 70 years.

"I started to work with my brother, Moses Wilkins Brown, now deceased, when I was 21," Brown added as he reached for the end of a string from a ball of twine near the ceiling of the country store.

Brown has been working the store all the time since. When his brother died, he bought out the stock of goods.

"I made a little money during World War II. I could sell almost anything the drummers left with me," he added.

Brown reached from a top shelf and added, "I'm going to give you something". It was a can of mussels left over from World War II when sardines were difficult to secure. Brown said the mussels didn't take on. The 30 cents price probably discouraged the buyer. The label on the can was yellowed with age and the can had started to rust.

Most of the stock of goods was about the same one would find in any country store. Brown's Store is located on Highway 150 about a mile from the mill village.

Brown carries a line of work clothing and some hardware, including chicken wire and plowline or well rope.

An old spring - style scale was hanging from the ceiling. He weighs vegetables in it.

Brown is a bachelor. "I never had time to court," he said with a smile.

Brown runs the store alone except for a handyman who delivers to customers. His is one of the few stores around that carries charge accounts. Many of his customers have had accounts at the store for many years.

The elderly storekeeper has a cheese cutter and a salt pork

box where he stores fatback.

He sells cut plug tobacco which now comes ready cut. His old tobacco cutter is in a storeroom and several antique collectors have tried to buy it, Brown stated.

A delivery man tried to buy an old wall - type telephone that Brown once used. He had a line that ran from the store to his home, located a mile and half up Highway 150 toward Gaffney.

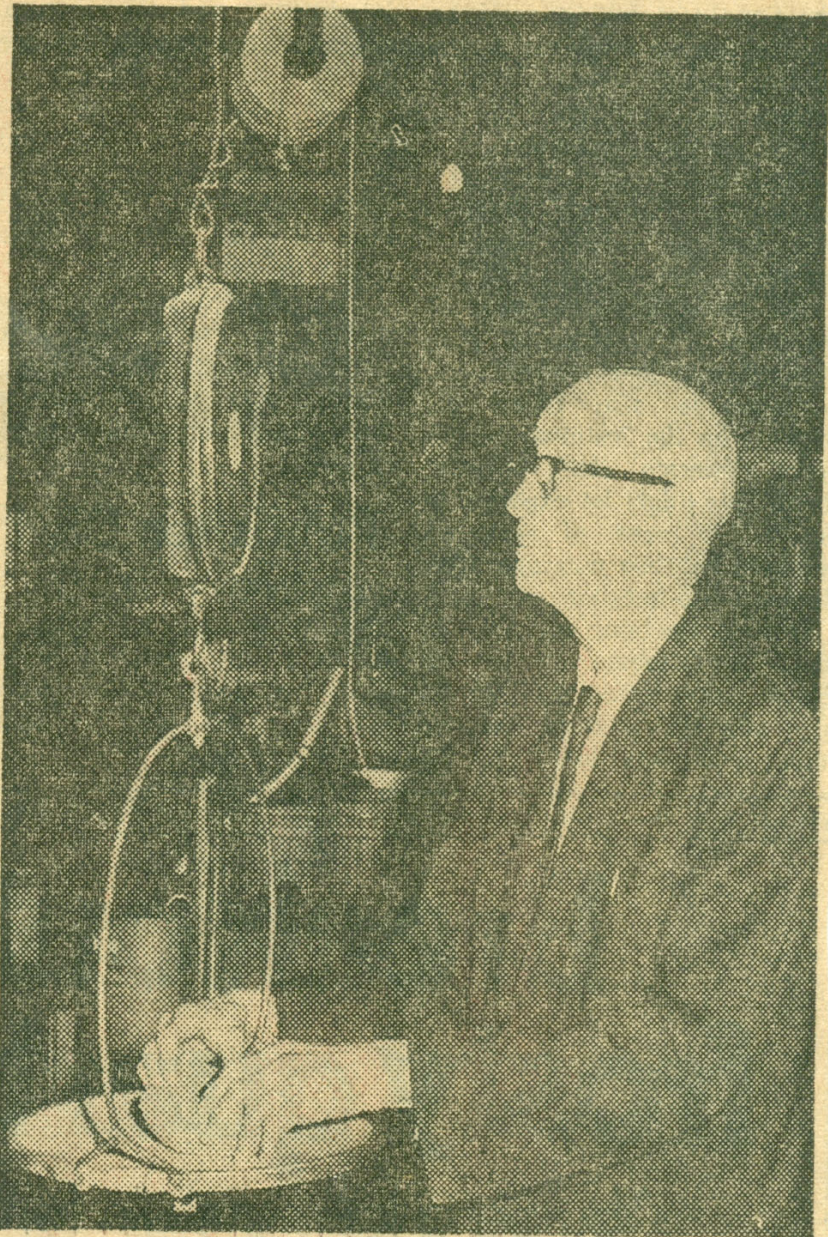
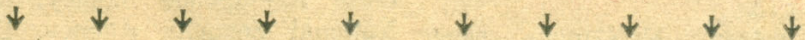
Brown's brother built the frame store, which has weather boards nailed vertically on the outside. It is ceiled with pine on the inside.

Brown is one of 14 children

of the late J. B. and Caroline Goforth Brown. He resides in the family residence with his sister, Miss Ella Brown. His only surviving brother, David Brown, is a patient at General Hospital.

"You won't find many men my age that work like I do," Brown said with a twinkle in his eyes. We admitted that we hand't met many men his age who were not invalids.

Brown has the distinction of being the oldest member of Goucher Baptist Church, oldest man in White Plains community and the oldest merchant in Cherokee County.



MR. BROWN weighs some vegetables. (Journal Photos By B&B Studio.)