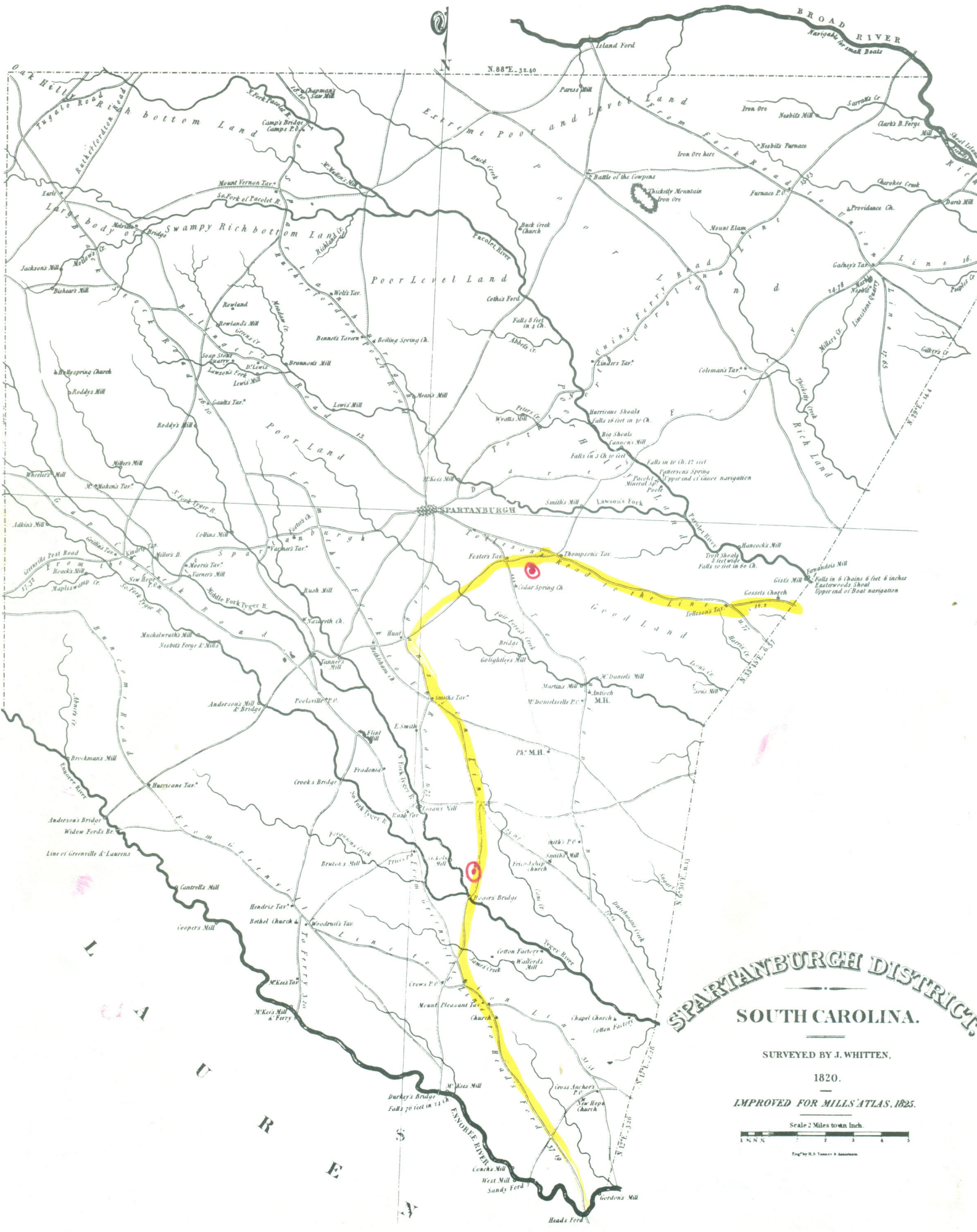


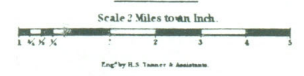
The History of Pacolet





SPARTANBURGH DISTRICT SOUTH CAROLINA.

SURVEYED BY J. WHITTEN,
1820.
IMPROVED FOR MILLS' ATLAS, 1825.



Eng'd by R.S. Tanner & Associates

Foreword

Due to the short notice received to write the History of Pacolet, it is with regret that at least two volumes will have to be printed. Our history and heritage is too full and too rich to try in this short period of time. This History Club will attempt in this volume to enlighten the youth, remind the present and hope to bring back some pleasant memories to the elder.

This volume will begin in the year 1743 and end with the 1982 Christmas Parade. We believe you will be intrigued as you read this volume and hope that you have that "I can't wait" feeling for the next one.

This volume of Pacolet Area history is being printed in cooperation with and consideration of the Pacolet Area Centennial. Any profit received from this printing will go to the Centennial Committee to be used for the upkeep and repairs to the old Pacolet Mills Elementary School grounds.

W.F.

Willie Fleming, Chairman

Mattie Mae O'Neil
Anne Blackwell

Iris Brown
David Smith

We would like to acknowledge the following for their contributions:

Helen Burdette
Miriam Henry
Leo Kirby
Peggy Goforth

The Pacolet *Neigh*
David Smith
Marcelle Linder
Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*

Front Cover: Victor Park Hotel at Pacolet Mills. It was used to house teachers and some Mill officials in the first half of this century. Later it became a boarding house and was torn down in the 1950s.

Back Cover: Pacolet High School, built in 1925 with additions as the school grew. Later used as the Pacolet Junior High School when School District Three built Broome High School in consolidation with Cowpens High School.

The First Settlers

The water was clearer and swifter than any in which he had cooled his feet for the past few days. The cool water relieved his aching feet as they hung over the flat rock where he was lying on his back resting from his journey over the Indian Trails that led from the Broad River that he had crossed just after sunrise the same day. With the soothingness of the water to his feet and as his tired body relaxed, he was almost asleep when a sudden splash of the water about two hundred feet downstream brought him quickly to his feet. Two young Indians had thrown a net made of vines into the shallow eddy water at the end of the shoals and were retrieving it with a long cane pole. The noise had startled him and had brought him fully awake. A few months earlier he might not have been so lucky. A peace treaty had been signed by Royal Governor James Glenn and the tribe to which the two young Indians belonged.

Another noise got his attention as he was about to sit down and put on his sandals. A doe deer had walked to the edge of the water. While she drank, a large buck stood just inside the woods.

The sun was beginning to set behind the huge trees, so it was time to prepare a place to bed down for the night. Not fully trusting the natives of the land he had now ventured into, he guessed that since the two natives were on the North side of the river, they probably had their teepee set on the high ridge overlooking the small island and the shoals. Darkness coming, a meal had to be prepared before bedding down for the night. Retreating to the high knoll he had crossed earlier in the afternoon, he built a small fire to roast a chunk of buffalo meat some settler had given him before he crossed the Broad River. Cutting a green branch from a sweetgum tree about 18 inches long, and two other forked prongs from the same tree, he placed them about 12 inches apart on two sides of the fire. He then ran the long branch through the buffalo meat and laid it into the two prongs over the fire.

While the meat was roasting, he began gathering leaves to place his bedding on. Sleep did not come easily, although his body was dead tired. The howl of wolves was near and far. Other noises he took to be bobcats were down near the river. The little fire had long since gone out before John Grindal finally fell asleep.

John Grindal had heard from the white traders who had done some trading with the Cherokees about the beautiful river and its shoals with fertile land along its banks. They had mentioned shoals not far from its mouth at Broad River where later a skull was found and since been known as Skull Shoals, now these beautiful shoals where he had made his fire tonight. He knew that a few miles northwest up the river other shoals could be forded. These would later be called Easterwood Ford, Trough Shoals and Hurricane Shoals.

Grindal decided to settle on the north side of the river and went back to Charleston to receive a grant of several hundred acres of land from King George of England. He being the first settler in the area, the Shoals were named after him. The time was 1743.

Soon after peace was made with the Cherokee and other tribes, settlers from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and the Low Country started settling on both sides of the river near Grindal Shoals. It was soon to become the biggest settlement in the Up Country. One of those first settlers was a Frenchman named Packolette. He also settled on the north side of the river about where what is now known as the White Hills. According to Mrs. Angelica Nott, who lived on the south side of the river, and who was a most noted woman of her time (Revolutionary War), the river was named after him. This writer prefers to give credence to the positive assertion of Mrs. Nott.

In my search for, and to document cemeteries of people who settled this area, I have found several graves of people who used as their first or middle names *Pacolet* or *Packolette*. Today, I know three people whose first or middle names are Pacolet.

The origin of the name, Pacolet, given to the river may not be so easy to determine. A former historian, Miss S.A. Sims, says: "How the little river got the name Pacolet has always been

a mystery to us. Pacolet in its origin is French, and is found in an old ballad written in the time of Pepin, familiar to us all as a nursery rhyme, *Valentia and Orson*. Pacolet means "swift messenger" and this was once a swift little stream. We well know that our old frontiersmen had no acquaintance with literature and it is yet unknown to us who named the river. It was called 'Pacolet' long before Walter Scott introduced 'Norma of the fitful Head,' and her dwarf attendant to the reading world." Another writer says: "In literature we find the name Pacolet generally associated with dwarfs, but our river means *swift horseman*, or *swift runner*." Some others contend that Pacolet is an Indian name. Mills in his *Statistics of South Carolina* says, "Pacolet is one of the few rivers in the up-country to retain its Indian name."

Most land grants given by the king were about 400 acres each, so it did not take long (as the settlers came down from the north and some from the low country and others straight from England) to fill the Pacolet Valley around Grindal Shoals and therefore forced new settlers up the river to Easterwood Ford (just below mill #3) and to Trough Shoals #5 (Pacolet Mills), and yet further up the valley to Hurricane Shoals (Converse-Clifton area).

All that area around Pacolet, Central Pacolet and Pacolet Mills and perhaps a half mile to either side of the town limits of each was probably settled by not more than 4 or 5 families. Two of the families, Browns and Tollesons, have descendants living here now. At one time, Major John Tolleson owned more than eight thousand acres in this area. Other settlers in the area were: Henry Bailey, John (Jack) Beckham, Mrs. Beckham, Maj. Zechariah Bullock, One Chesney, Col. Elijah Clark, John Chisholm, Christopher Coleman, Gen. Elijah Dawkins, Henry Fernandis, Lieut. Ellis Fowler, Mark Fowler, Wymac Fowler, Godfrey Fowler, Adam and Hannah Goudelock, Miss Sallie Goudelock, Samuel Gowdy, John Grindal, Wade Hampton, Gen. William Henderson, Maj. John Henderson, William (Commodore) Henderson, William Hodge, Samuel Hodge, Sherod James, Jessie (Buck) James, Gov. David Johnson, the Laniers, Charles Littlejohn, James (High-key) Mosely, Abram Nott, Mrs. Angelica Nott, John Nuckolls, Sr., John Nuckolls, Jr., William T. Nuckolls, Adam and Mrs. Potter, and Alexander Wood.

Most all these families fought on the side of the Colonies during the Revolutionary War with England. All are buried in this area where most of their tombstones can still be seen if one knows where to look.

The only transportation in those days being by horseback, wagon, sled or on foot, the fords and shoals were important places as crossings. The troops that controlled the crossings generally controlled the travel of its enemy.

General Daniel Morgan set up camp on the north side of the Pacolet at Grindal Shoals on Christmas Day of 1780 and on the 15th of January, 1781, broke camp and headed north toward Thickety Mountain. He rested overnight on Thickety Creek in the Goucher area. The next day on the 16th of January, 1781, he had set up west of Thickety Mountain in Hannah's Cow Pasture and engaged Col. Bannister Tarleton of the British Army on the 17th in the Battle of Cowpens. This battle is believed by many who studied that war to be the turning point of the Revolutionary War and our independence.

Col. Tarleton had crossed the Pacolet at Easterwood Ford (just below mill #3) but without resting his troops, he marched all night to the Cowpens where he was defeated.

After the war more land was settled by those who fought on the side of the Americans when the new government rewarded them with huge tracts of land, generally in the three to four hundred acre range.

Land was cleared and farming was the mainstay of the Up Country for the next 100 years. Cotton became the main crop and industry from the northern states began moving their mills to the south where swift rivers were plentiful for generation of power to run the mills. Grist and corn mills were built on almost every creek in the Up Country to grind flour and meal for the farmers. At least four foundations of these mills can still be seen in the Pacolet area. The easiest one to be seen and probably the least known to the general public, and probably the largest of them all is the old Hancock Grist Mill located just below the New Mill Dam on the north side of

the river. It washed away during the flood of 1903. Its foundation still remains and the wall that guided its water from the trough is still visible and runs under the dam. Others in the area are located on the Quarter Round Road, Kennedy Mill Creek and Foster Mill, on the Fairforest Creek and others.

While it is uncertain as to how Pacolet River got its name, from whom or what, it is certain that many places and things are named after it. Three corporate towns, one community, several churches, at least four streets in four different towns (Jonesville, Tryon (N.C.), Gaffney and Cowpens), dozens of businesses and another town, "Pacolet Park," that turned in its charter. The town of Pacolet was the first to charter and its name changed from Buzzard Roost to Pacolet Station in 1896. The town of Pacolet Mills changed from Trough Shoals in or about 1930. It received its charter in 1955. Central Pacolet received its charter in 1955 also; in the 1800's it had been generally known as the Bryantville Post Office.

Alexander Chesney, who settled just below the lower mill and chose to fight for the king in the Revolutionary War, escaped to Charleston and went back to Ireland. He built his home and gave it the name Pacolet. The house still stood as late as 1950 and perhaps is standing even today.

A Brief History of Pacolet, South Carolina

The Royal Governor of South Carolina in 1784 issued several grants of land to Major John Tolleson, who became the first settler in what is now the town of Pacolet. This information is recorded in the deeds at the Spartanburg County Court House. John Tolleson was licensed to operate a tavern and sell spirituous liquors. The tall log tavern was still standing over a hundred years later and was run as a bar room. Mills Atlas of 1824 locates this tavern on "Tolleson Road," the stagecoach road from Spartanburg to Columbia. As was often the case, Major Tolleson maintained this section of the road. This tavern stood a few hundred feet back of Mrs. Sara McDowell Williams' home, which is located on the corner of Church Street. Major Tolleson also had a store which was used as the voting precinct for the area through 1816. As the community grew it is reputed to have been a drinking, fighting and horse-racing place which became known as "Buzzard's Roost."

Other early settlers in the area were Stones, Gossetts, O'Neils, Harveys, Lees, Lewises and Kirbys. The need for churches and schools arose.

No history would be complete without mention of the area churches and their beginnings. Pacolet United Methodist Church was organized prior to 1810. The building was erected on one acre of land deeded by Richard Kirby. Stephen Kirby deeded one acre adjoining the church, possibly for a cemetery. This land was a part of the original grant to John Tolleson, who sold a large portion to Richard Kirby. The church was named Zion Methodist Church and stood on the Grindal Shoals Road where Salem Zion Baptist Church is today. In 1882, after the railroad had drawn the population around it, a lot was purchased on the Glenn Springs Road and a building erected on the present site of the church. The first pastor of this church was the Rev. W.D. Hutto; the Rev. John M. Williams, Jr. is its present pastor.

Brown's Chapel Baptist Church was organized in 1870 and built on land given by George Washington Brown. This church is located on the Pacolet Mills-Cowpens Road. The first two church buildings burned, and the present church was built in 1962, across the road from the first location. The first pastor of Brown's Chapel Baptist Church was the Rev. Lud Vaughn and the present pastor is Rev. James Henson.

Pacolet First Baptist Church was organized in 1871 as Pleasant Grove, which was located in the vicinity of Sunny Acres. Mr. Elijah Brown gave the land for this church. The first pastor was the Rev. John S. Ezell. Pleasant Grove Church was moved to Pacolet Station, its present location, in 1879. The pastor today is the Rev. Robert B. Glazner.

Montgomery Memorial United Methodist Church was organized in 1883 with its first pastor being the Rev. J.W. Ariel. In 1895 a church was built under the pastorate of Rev. G.M. Boyd. The church was enlarged and a new church auditorium was added in 1927. It was then named in memory of the late Captain John H. Montgomery. The present pastor is the Rev. Herbert Stephens.

Pacolet Mills Baptist Church was organized in 1884 with its first pastor being Rev. John E. Burgess. The present pastor is Dr. Donald Reams.

The Pacolet Presbyterian Church was organized in 1885 with the Rev. A.A. James as pastor. A new church building was erected in 1973 and at present the church is awaiting a new minister.

Salem Zion Baptist Church was organized in 1887 after the old Zion Methodist Church building was purchased. A new church was erected in 1938. The first pastor was the Rev. ——— Mills and serving as the present pastor is the Rev. E.B. Bailey.

Other churches in the area organized in this century and their pastors are:

Ashbury United Methodist Church, on Oak Street, was organized in 1903, according to some of the older members. The Rev. J.W. McGill is the present pastor.

Gethsemane Baptist Church - 1933

First Pastor: Rev. H.S. Gist

Present Pastor: Rev. Travis Smith

Montgomery Chapel Baptist Church - 1933. Named for Mr. J.B. Montgomery, Outside Supervisor at Pacolet Mills.

First Pastor: Rev. Myers Rice

Present Pastor: Rev. Charles Hames

Pacolet Mills Church of God - 1945

First Pastor: Rev. Horace Taylor

Present Pastor: Rev. T.J. Strickland

Tate Memorial Baptist Church - 1960. A mission of Pacolet Mills Baptist Church, it was named for the Rev. W.T. Tate.

First Pastor: Rev. Leroy Trammell

Present Pastor: Rev. Dennis Tessnier

Morning Star Baptist Church - 1967

First Pastor: Rev. C.W. Upton

Present Pastor: Rev. Andrew Carrigan

Two other churches in the Pacolet Area are Bryant Memorial Pentecostal Church, Pacolet Mills; and Mt. Sinai F.B. Holiness Church of God, located on the Jerusalem Road.

Most of the cemeteries are located in the church yards; however, the Methodist Cemetery is near the Primary School and Pacolet Memorial Gardens, owned by Floyd's Mortuary in Spartanburg, is situated behind the Pacolet Mortuary on Memorial Drive. It is a perpetual care cemetery. Pinckney Genological Society is publishing a book on Spartanburg County Cemeteries in which many old family cemeteries in the Pacolet area will be listed.

After many efforts in the early 1840's the Spartanburg Union Railroad was chartered and work was begun in 1850. It was not until November 25, 1859 that the first train came through Pacolet carrying the President of the railroad, Colonel John L. Young, and other dignitaries. The railroad became a focal point. Many excursions by train were met in Pacolet by horsedrawn hacks which transported the guests to the area mineral springs. Four daily passenger trains traveled through Pacolet until after the middle 1900's. Trains hauling freight still use the tracks which are a part of the Southern Railway System.

Property once a part of the old Tolleson plantation was sold in 1852 by Ruben Bryant, Jr. and Robert C. Quinn to the firm of James Wood, William Littlejohn and William Norris. This firm employed Squire J. F. Sloan to survey and lay off town lots of one to one and one half acres. They deeded to the railroad an eight acre plot which included the site for the depot.

In 1860, George W. Brown, Jr. bought several of these lots and built the first frame house in Pacolet. This later became known as the Miss Nannie Wood home. The house faced the Grindal Shoals Road and one large room on that side was used for a store by Mr. Brown. The family lived in rooms on the east side of the house. This was the real beginning of the Town of Pacolet. Around 1865, Mr. Brown built the large store which still stands. This continued as Brown's Store until the early 1940's, when the store was relocated in another building on the same street. This is the longest continuing business in Pacolet.

Mr. Wood continued to sell lots on which houses and other stores were built. Some of the first merchants along with Mr. Brown were Winfield Bryant, G.W. Whitman, Holman I. Thomson and Cicero Brown. Later came Charles and Samuel Littlejohn, Dr. C.M. Littlejohn's Drug Store, Perry Wood, W.E. Black and Albert C. Black. A cotton gin, flour mill and a coal business were operated by W.A. McDowell.

Schools

Prior to 1895, when the South Carolina Constitution provided public schools, most boys and girls were educated in the home or they went to private schools. In 1874, Dr. J.S. Thomason gave a lot and the Pacolet Academy was built. It was a small one room school on the corner of Glenn Springs Avenue and the Grindal Shoals Road (now called Jerusalem Road). Professor Lawson B. Haynes was the first principal. A second small school was built in 1890. By 1898, a three-room building was erected on the site. In 1915 a brick two-story school was built along the present Hwy. 176. This building burned in 1927, and a new school was built in 1929, to house eleven grades. Shortly after, a teacherage was erected near the school as a boarding place for teachers. An annex and a gymnasium were added to the school along with a cannery, potato house, shop and band room. When Spartanburg County was divided into seven school districts, Pacolet was consolidated with Cowpens and became known as District #3. In 1976 the two high schools were combined and the Gettys D. Broome High School was built to serve the district. Some administrators of Pacolet High School through the years have been Professor John G. Clinkscales, Rev. A.A. James, Mr. Ernest N. Littlejohn, Mr. Herbert Waters, Mr. Barney Haynes, Mr. Wilbur Hayes, Mr. L.F. Shealy, Mr. ——— DuBose, Mr. W.S. Parrish, Mr. H.T. Blackwell, Mr. V.M. Epting, and Mr. James Lambert.

An elementary school was built around 1955 on land adjacent to the Methodist Cemetery. As the population increased it became a primary school and B.E. Mayes School housed grades 4 through 6. A new elementary school is presently under construction.

A high school for Blacks was built in the mid 1950's and was named Benjamin E. Mays High School in honor of the noted Black leader. There were three principals who served this school: Professor Edward West Brown, Professor John D. Blanding, and Professor Leroy Meyers. In the 1960's, the two high schools in Pacolet were combined, and Mays became the Elementary School.

The Economy

In 1882, Pacolet's economy received a boost when the cotton mills were built at Trough Shoals, as the freight and passengers passed through the railroad station depot. A spur line was built to the mill, and an engine called the "Mill Engine" or the "Dummy" hauled freight cars loaded with cotton for the mill or cloth to the main line for distribution to distant places. Several livery stables did a good business with hack-lines also.

With the discovery of a good grade of granite on the farm of J. Madison Lee during this period, Pacolet's economy was further expanded. Mr. Lee was able to secure the interest of northern capital and in 1894 sold his farm to James C. Johnston from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. With the operation of the granite quarry the town's population doubled within a few months. Nearly every home was filled with boarders and new houses were built by men with families. This put new life into the community, as the beautifully carved granite columns, monuments and building

materials were shipped by railroad over the southeast. Some of this beautiful granite was used in the South Carolina State House in Columbia. Among new arrivals in Pacolet at this time were Samuel E. Miller, B.W. Rector, James and Joe Brockwell, Byron Nichols and others.

In 1946 sixteen acres were sold to S.F. Mize and E.T. Rousey to produce rock for building purposes. This tract and two others totaling 150 acres were purchased in 1949 by R.S. Campbell of Gaffney, South Carolina. This company, Campbell Limestone Company, continued to expand and in 1968 merged with Vulcan Materials of Birmingham, Alabama. The Pacolet Plant of Vulcan Materials is engaged in surface mining and the crushing of granite stone. The finished product has various uses: construction and maintenance of roads and airports, asphalt and concrete mix, erosion prevention, railroad track beds, as well as use in commercial and industrial buildings.

The second company based at the "Quarry" is the Sloan Construction Company with its paving material operation on land owned by Vulcan Materials Company. The operation is to buy crushed stone to be used in paving materials.

The third company was formed in 1957 as a group of investors purchased the tract with the old Thomas Brown home on it and started Paco Products. The old home is used as the office, and part of the house was built before the Revolutionary War. In 1962, Mr. Walter Montgomery of Spartanburg purchased Paco Products and changed the name to Spartan Minerals Corporation. In 1973 Lithium Corporation of America purchased the company from Mr. Montgomery and it became a division of Lithium Corporation. In 1981, Lithium reorganized and made Spartan Minerals a fully owned subsidiary with its own corporate charter. They process, sell and ship feldspaphic sand to ceramic and glass companies, and also grind and sell mica to filler markets. Approximately 100 people are employed in these three industries.

Pacolet was incorporated on May 6, 1896. The first intendant (mayor) was Major H.F. McDowell; wardens (councilmen) were B.B. James, Dr. B.R. Brown, W.H. Lane, and Gill Barnette; policeman was J.K. McMahan. The election managers were F.P. Yates, B.B. James, and W.F. Bryant. Some who have served as mayor since then are Judge Mahaffey, Lewis Barnett, R.C. Coleman, Cameron Littlejohn, Edward Darhman, Adam Motts, Bob Jones, Clark Foster, John Williams, Boyd Gosnell, George Cobb, John Henry and the present mayor, Jim Sexton.

Patriotism ran high when the War between the States began, and whole companies volunteered their services to the Confederacy. By 1862 they left Pacolet by train for training camps at Lightwood Knot Springs near Columbia and Adams Run near Charleston. From these camps they went to the many battlefields, some never to return. Among those who rose in the ranks were Captains A.K. Smith, Alfred Bryant, J.F. Sloan; Lieutenants H.F. McDowell and Moses Wood. In all wars since this time the honor roll of Pacolet men has been long and they have served their country well.

Two notable cultural events were held in Pacolet prior to the turn of the century. In August 1873, a Teachers' Convention was held at Zion Methodist Church. Participants were Rev. A.A. James, Professor Lawson Haynes, J.B. Williamson, and Peter J. Oeland. In 1883, a Scientific Convention was held, organized by Dr. J.S. Thomason, assisted by Moses Wood, W.F. Bryant, Dr. S.B. Smith, S.H. Littlejohn, J.F. Sloan and George W. Brown.

Civic Organizations

Beginning in the 1880's organizations that were of interest as well as beneficial to the many farmers were a National Grange Chapter and The Alliance, a farmer's political organization.

Organizations for the ladies included a Home Demonstration Club with Miss Kate Hooper as the County Agent in 1923. This was the first of these clubs to build its own club house. The attractive log cottage was erected on the school ground near the side of the teacherage. This club house was the center of many social activities in the community. The first officers were president, Mrs. Jeffcoat, wife of the Methodist minister; Mrs. A.H. Stowe (doctor's wife), secretary; and Mrs. Reuben Coleman was organizer.

A meaningful historical organization was the John Davis Jefferies Chapter United

Daughters of the Confederacy, chartered on March 10, 1924.

A Masonic lodge was active in Pacolet as early as 1870. It met upstairs in the W.E. Black store and later moved to the Lodge building behind the old Brown's Store.

Other active organizations at present in Pacolet are the Ruritan Club, the Lions' Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Communications

Pacolet had a telephone exchange in the late 1890's, located in W.E. Black's store. Miss Bessie Black (Mrs. Frank Littlejohn) was the operator. When the Spartanburg office of Southern Bell agreed to serve Pacolet in the early 1900's, three enterprising businessmen financed the setting of the telephone poles and stringing the lines. They were W.S. McDowell, M.W. Brown, and Dr. A.H. Stowe.

Two early post offices in the area were the one in the McBride home on the Union Road below Pacolet and the Bryantville post office in the home of Reuben Bryant on the Pacolet Mills Road. His descendants Joanna Bryant Manis and her husband, Fred, live here in this, one of the oldest houses in the area. In the town of Pacolet post offices have been located from the early one at the end of the porch of George W. Brown's store in the 1890's to the present new one on Main Street between the First Baptist Church and Brown's Store. Between the first and present locations the Pacolet Post Office has been housed in the old bank building and in a small building built by Jerome Bryant next to the Western Auto.

Health Care

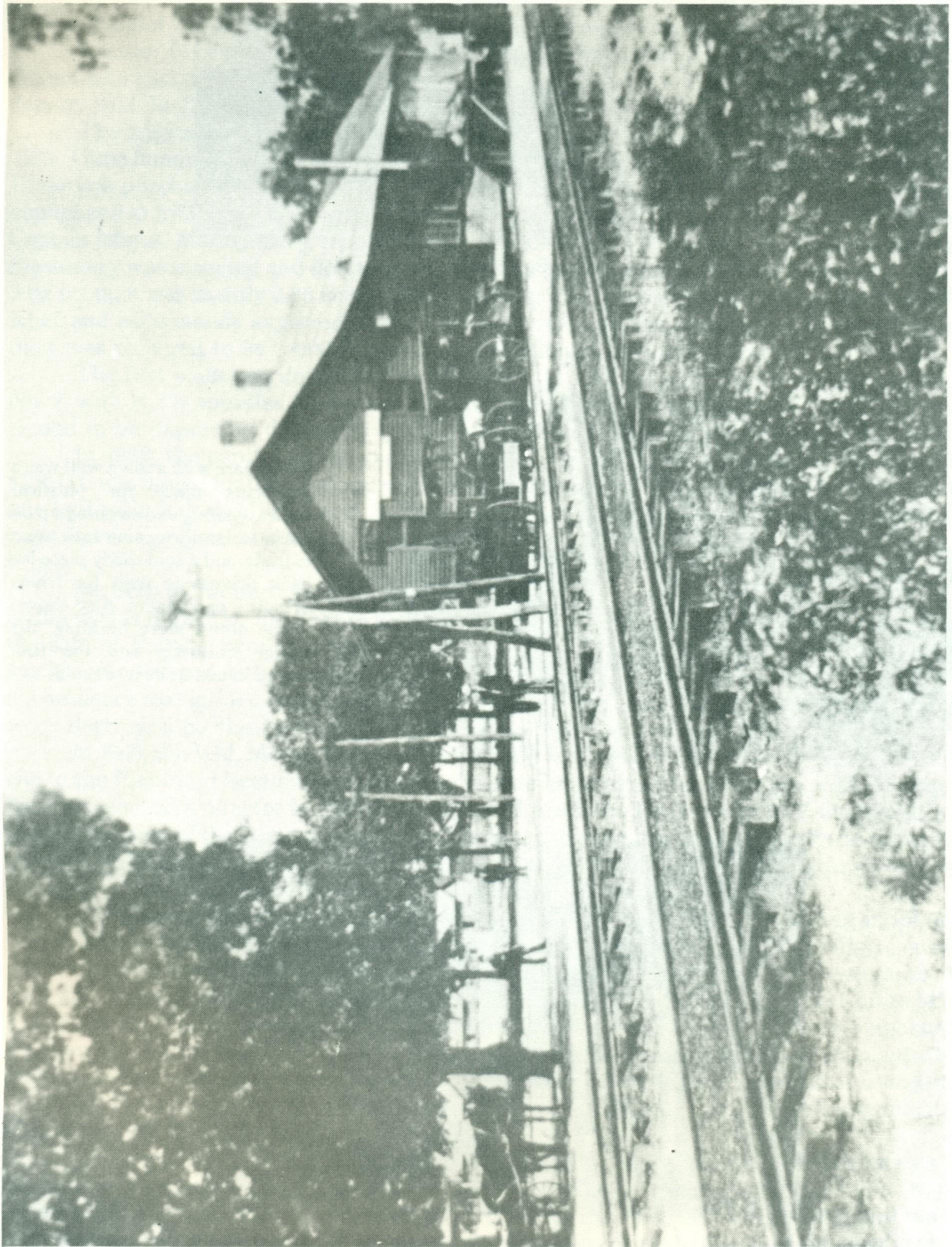
The Palmetto Health Care Center on the Glenn Springs Road and the T.W. Edwards Community Center on Sunset Drive are facilities which are of great benefit to the people of Pacolet. They were constructed with grants of Federal Money during Mayor George Cobb's term of office. The Palmetto Health Care Center is staffed by the following professional members: Dr. Richard B. Bannon and Dr. Milton D. Sarlin, M.D.'s; Family Nurse Practitioner Phyllis O. Hames; Pastoral Counselors, James N. Rentz and James W. Pruett; Family Dentist, Philip C. Morrow; Clinical Pharmacist, Stephen W. Wheeler; and Administrator, Ray Burns.

Activities at the T.W. Edwards Community Center are directed by Willie Fleming, USMC Ret. Ball fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and craft programs are under his supervision. The softball field is named The Willie Fleming Field in his honor.

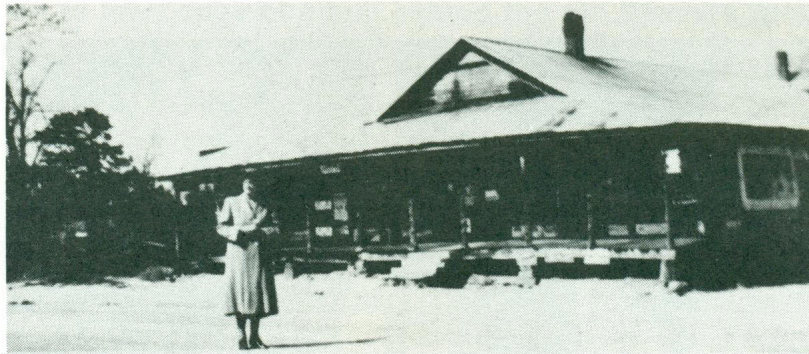
Through the years doctors have played a vital part in the life of the community. From the early 1900's some of the doctors serving the Pacolet area are Dr. W.L. Kirkpatrick, Dr. C.M. Moore, Dr. A.H. Stowe, Dr. R.D. Hill, Dr. James Brabham, Dr. Thomas Drake, Dr. James Umberhant, Dr. Richard B. Bannon and Dr. Milton Sarlin.

The Business Community

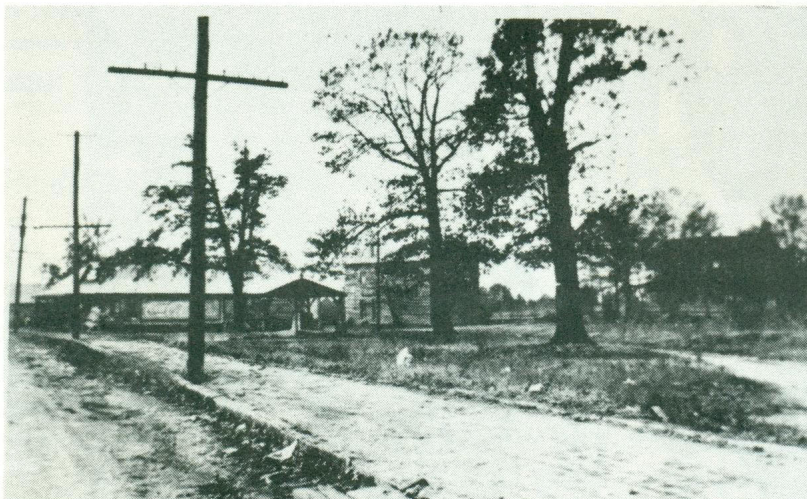
In 1983 the following stores and other places of business make up Pacolet's business community: Parker's Amoco Station, ABC Store, Spartan Grinding and Plating, Robinette's Hardware, First Citizens National Bank, Bantam Chef, Super Dollar, Rite-Aid Drug Store, Community Cash, Petroleum World, Pacolet Outlet, Pedro's Used Car Lot, Thornton's Florist, David Lee Used Cars, Berry's Gulf Station, Jenkins Exxon Station, Hart's Drive-In, Mack's Auto Parts, Coleman's Store, Western Auto, Nickols Pulp Wood, Inc., Brown's Store, Pacolet Industrial Supply, J.W. Lewis Vulcan Materials, Sloan Construction Co., Lithium Corporation, Floyd's Mortuary and Pacolet Memorial Gardens, Gist Funeral Home, Wilkins Texaco Station, Fleming Florists, Martin's Barber Shop, Minton's Garage, Lee's Car Cleaning Service, Harvey & Sons Construction Company, and several beauty shops.



Pacolet Depot 1900



Geo. W. Brown Store built soon after 1865.



The square with a town well was a gathering place for political rallies, visiting and catching up on news as families came into town to trade, and a cool shady place for hack drivers to wait for trains bringing passengers. Also shown is the oldest store building, the Lodge building, and the first frame house built in Pacolet.



Miss Ollie Brown Home

Pacolet Mills

In 1881, the firm of Walker and Fleming bought several hundred acres of land on both sides of the Pacolet River at Trough Shoals and the next year Pacolet Manufacturing was born.

Pacolet Mill was a unit of Pacolet Manufacturing Company from 1882 until Pacolet Manufacturing Company was merged with other textile corporations to form Pacolet Industries, Inc. in 1962. In 1967 Pacolet Industries, Inc. merged with Deering Milliken, Inc.

The original charter for the Company was obtained from the South Carolina Legislature in 1882. Three hundred and forty acres of land at what was known as "Trough Shoals" on the Pacolet River was purchased at a cost of \$15,000 for the site of the first Pacolet Mill. The company was capitalized at \$300,000. Construction began May 16, 1882 and on May 9, 1884, the first President, Captain John A. Montgomery, reported to the stockholders that the building was complete and all machinery was installed and in operation. The first mill contained 10,080 spindles and 312 looms. The product was mainly 2.85 Drills and Sheetings. The drills were sold under the "Buckshead" label, and were mainly exported. When the export market temporarily dulled, the principal product was changed to 36" 4.00 56x60, which continued in demand into the late 1950's.

The first plant was designated as Mill No. 1. In 1888, an extension was started called Mill No. 2, with 14,224 spindles. Some new fabric styles were started but the principal business continued to be exporting the heavy goods.

In 1888, the capital stock was increased to \$450,000, and 1891 was when an additional \$250,000 was issued for the purpose of building Mill No. 3 at the lower shoals of the Pacolet River, one-half mile below Mills 1 and 2. This mill began operating in 1891. Pacolet discontinued manufacturing operations here in the late 1950's, and it was occupied by Pacolet Yarns, Inc. for a time.

Mr. Seth M. Milliken became director of Pacolet Manufacturing Company in 1899. Mr. Seth Milliken was the senior member of the firm of Deering Milliken & Company, which had handled the sale of Pacolet Products from the beginning. His relationship with Pacolet was that of stockholder-director. As the controlling force in the firm of Deering Milliken and Company, it was his influence that guided in the restoration of the mills after the 1903 catastrophe when the plants were destroyed by the flood and storm.

In 1900, Mr. V.M. Montgomery, son of Captain Montgomery, was sent to Georgia to secure a site in the Piedmont Section for expanding the manufacturing facilities. Mr. V.M. Montgomery had been elected a director in 1895 and designated Assistant Treasurer in 1897. On March 14, 1900 a called meeting of the Directors was held. It was at this time that the President was authorized to proceed with the erection of a new mill of about 50,000 spindles capacity near Gainesville, Georgia.

The site was known locally as New Holland, a health resort, a large spring supplying the water. This spring still supplies the water for the present mill and surrounding village, never failing to meet the demands on it as a water supply. Work on the New Holland plant was completed in 1902 and it was designated as Mill No. 4. During the same period the Gainesville Cotton Mill was being erected. This was a separate corporation, but financed by many of the same stockholders. Captain Montgomery divided his time between the South Carolina and Georgia plants. He fell from a scaffold while inspecting the New Holland Mill, and died from his injuries October, 1902.

On December 5, 1902, the Directors of the Company elected Mr. V.M. Montgomery as the President and Treasurer to succeed his father.

Disaster struck in South Carolina on June 6, 1903. A cloudburst in the mountains above Spartanburg caused a tremendous flood on the Pacolet River. The rampaging river completely swept Mills No. 1 and 2 and badly damaged No. 3. The dam was also swept away and the lower dam was put out of operation. An account of the flood describes the banks of the river then as being strewn with bales of cotton and cloth, even down to and along the Broad River, into which

the Pacolet river flows. At that time, no flood insurance was available, so that all the loss was practically net, including that from interruption of operations.

That same week, a tornado struck New Holland. The mill wasn't badly damaged, but 100 homes in the village were destroyed, and 100 lives were lost. In the same storm, the Gainesville Cotton Mill was badly damaged, the entire top floor being blown off, wrecking all of the spinning machinery.

Mr. V.M. Montgomery, inexperienced in finance, but knowing that the money was the first essential, immediately after the disaster went to New York to ask the advice and help of Mr. S.M. Milliken. From Mr. Montgomery's account of the conversation, before he had finished speaking, Mr. Milliken said, "You can get money if you can sign your name."

The Directors met later in June, 1903, and recommended to the stockholders the issuance and sale of \$1,000,000 of preferred stock to be used for rebuilding the mill. The work of salvage and rebuilding began and Mills 3 and 4 were put back into operation. By December 1904, the Company had recovered sufficiently from the disaster for the directors to declare a dividend of \$4.00 per share on the common stock. In mid 1905, the Directors declared a dividend of \$3.00 per share. At the same meeting, the President was asked to proceed with the erection of Mill 5, to replace Mills 1 and 2. This mill began operation in 1907, continues to be the site of the present Pacolet Mill.

Mr. Seth M. Milliken, who had played the leading part in securing and providing financial support for the company after the disaster of 1903, died at his home in New York City March 5, 1920.

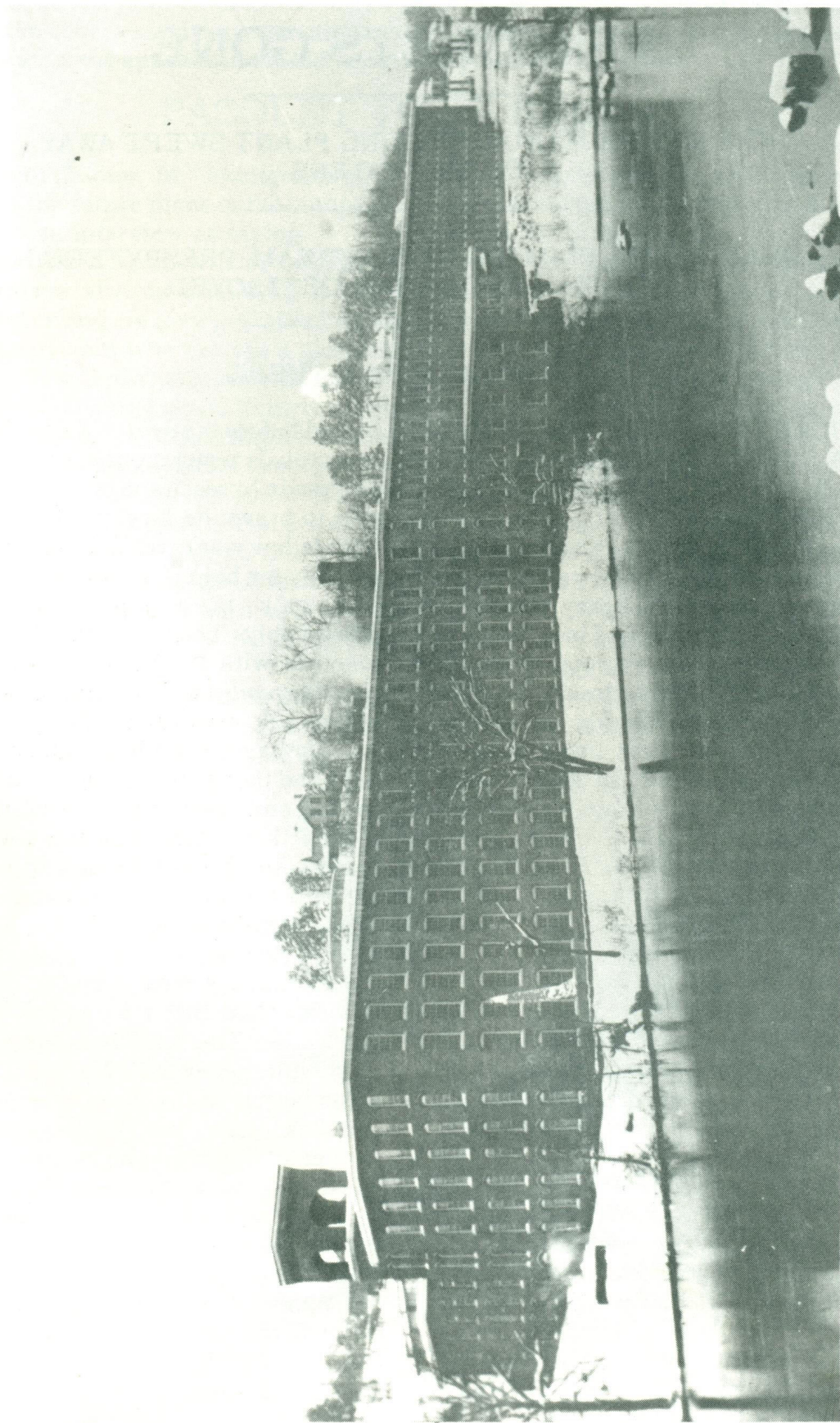
In 1943, Pacolet Manufacturing Company purchased the Gainesville Cotton Mill and this became Mill No. 6. The facilities included the original building and a major addition in 1929.

At a meeting held on November 5, 1947, the directors authorized the management to proceed with plans for the erection of a new rayon-weaving and twisting plant, to be erected as the additional unit of Pacolet Manufacturing Company. This is now Gerrish Milliken, located at Pendleton, South Carolina.

Mr. Victor M. Montgomery served as President and Treasurer of the company from 1902 until February 10, 1933. When he resigned because of ill health, he was succeeded by David M. Anderson, who had been General Manager of New Holland and the Gainesville Cotton Mill. He began work in the store near Pacolet, South Carolina when he finished High School in 1898. He soon decided there would be a better chance to advance in the mill, applied for and was given a job in the Opening Room. His overseer was Gene Gwaltney, the man who later developed the Gwaltney Spinning at Saco-Lowell. One day, the story goes, Mr. Gwaltney told Mr. Anderson that he was to advance for certain in the organization. Pleased and greatly flattered, Mr. Anderson inquired as to why he thought so. Mr. Gwaltney replied, "Because you couldn't go any lower than the job you now have." At any rate, Mr. Anderson did advance to the head of the company where he had made such a lowly beginning.

Mr. Anderson retired in 1946. Mr. G.H. Milliken was then elected President and Mr. M.C. Stone, Sr. was elected Treasurer. The Treasurer was the chief operating executive for the company. Mr. G.H. Milliken was the son of Mr. Seth Milliken. He continued as a Director and President until his death on June 11, 1947. His son, Mr. Roger Milliken, had been elected Director in 1944 and on August 5, 1947, was elected President to succeed his father. Mr. Stone served as Treasurer until his retirement in 1962. He was succeeded by Mr. Joseph Norton, who was formerly the Treasurer of the Gaffney Manufacturing Co. Mr. Norton continued in the Treasurer's position until the merger into Pacolet Industries, Inc. took place.

When the town of Pacolet Mills got its charter in 1955, David Smith became the first mayor. He was followed by Felix Seay, Dewey Cook, Jack Lemons, Charles "Buddy" Foster, Charles O'Dell, Robert "Jack" Schultz, and Patrick Steadman. Jimmy Hinson is the present mayor.



Pacolet Mills Number 1 and 2 at the turn of the century. On June 6th, 1903, the entire plant was washed away. The almost bare hill in the upper right corner is where the Pacolet Elementary School once stood and where its grounds now have been cleaned and repaired to be used to celebrate the centennial on August 6, 1983.

The Flood of 1903

(from The Spartanburg Journal, June 6, 1903)

3 PACOLETS GONE

THE ENTIRE MANUFACTURING PLANT SWEEP AWAY
BY THE WATERS

DEAD BODIES FLOATED BY IN STREAM, PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AMONG THE DESTROYED.

THOUSANDS IDLE THERE

MAGNIFICENT INDUSTRY WHICH HAS BEEN A MOST SUCCESSFUL ONE WASHED DOWN TORRENT OF PACOLET RIVER.

The worst damage so far reported was at Pacolet Mills. The water there had been rising for several days but the heavy downpour last night caused to be emptied into the river and its tributaries great volumes of water which rushed madly down stream, on their mission of destruction. The big three story mill, No. 1 at Pacolet went down about 9 o'clock this morning with an awful crash. Then the crowds of people about the spot and lining the high cliffs which overlook the mills, turned their attention to the large four-story mill No. 2, which stands adjoining No. 1 and which was even then half submerged in the angry waters. The crowd watched for an hour as the fate of the big mill hung in the balance, and then No. 2 went down with an awful, deafening crash and roar and within the short space of one hour or perhaps two hours a million dollars worth of property had been engulfed in the raging waters at Pacolet.

BODIES FLOATING DOWN STREAM

At Pacolet this morning while hundreds of people watched the work of destruction wrought by the waters they were horrified to see the body of a woman cold in death, being carried down stream by the torrent. Near the woman and clinging to the wreckage was a little boy who called loudly for help as he

passed before the eyes of the gazing but helpless crowds watching the flood. An attempt was made to reach the child, but no one was able to brave the fury of the waters and the little fellow was carried down stream calling pitifully for help. The woman, it is said, was clad only in a night gown and had presumably been caught by the flood together with the house in which she was sleeping and had been borne down stream before help could reach her.

The waters made a sudden turn to the right and then to the left again, splashing and roaring and bearing down everything before them. All over the sea of angry waters could be seen the projecting tops of trees buried beneath the flood, while plank, wood and debris of every imaginable description could be seen floating down stream on the waters.

A message from Pacolet Mills at 1:30 o'clock stated that Pacolet No. 3 had gone down also. This mill is located about one-fourth mile below mills No. 1 and No. 2 and it is the largest of the three, containing 32,000 spindles, and the corresponding complements of looms. The number of spindles in Nos. 1 and 2 combined was 28,000, this number being 4,000 less than the number of spindles in No. 3. The loss of property is thus seen to be appalling.

While it will not be impossible to estimate the loss for some days, it is probable that the Pacolet Manufacturing Company alone will lose between \$1,000,000 and \$1,200,000.

In June, 1903, some of Pacolet properties in South Carolina sustained terrific losses as a result of floods. On June 10, 1903, the following statement appeared from Pacolet's president, reflecting the courage and determination of the company's leaders in those days, as well as today. The statement appears in an old issue of the *Gainesville News*.

PACOLET TO BE REBUILT

President Victor M. Montgomery, in speaking of the future plans of the company, is quoted in an interview as saying:

"Pacolet Mill No. 3 will be rebuilt at once. We have already employed a large number of men and are giving all able-bodied people employment who can use a pick and clear debris. It will probably be three months until the mill is running again. Contracts will be signed at once for the completion and restoration of the mill. Pacolet is not near in such deplorable situation as Clifton. We lost mills No. 1 and 2 totally. Mill No. 3 was terribly damaged. But we lost no mill houses and none of the people suffered loss except that their opportunity to earn money has been destroyed until we get No. 3 running again.

"My plan is this: Instead of asking for cash contributions, which are really not now needed, we have asked all neighboring mills

to take our employees, pay their traveling expenses to their mills and give them employment for three months.

"I have asked all mills to consent to the scheme of aid rather than to make cash contributions, for you will at once see that it is better to get employment for idle people than to make them paupers by giving them money. There is absolutely no suffering at Pacolet at present.

"I believe employment is the keynote to the whole situation at Pacolet. Idleness is the working man's worst enemy. As soon as he is given work and realizes he is making money, he is happy and satisfied. While our loss is great in a financial way, I thank God that the loss of life is nothing like it was at Gainesville or at Clifton. We are face to face with a stern reality but we will meet it without delay or bitter complaint."



This scene taken with the photographer standing near where the present Rescue Squad building now stands. Hundreds of bales of cotton and cloth floated away with huge timber and machinery from Mills 1 and 2 during the flood of 1903. The bridge connecting both sides of the river went down also. The white painted stone cotton shed is the only building that stands today.

Mayesville Community

In 1921, Mr. Victor Montgomery, President and Treasurer of Pacolet Mills, started a new village and named it Marysville in honor of Mary Brown Knuckles. The houses were constructed by Fisk-Carter Construction Company, and the last one was ready for occupancy in 1923. Through the years the name Marysville became shortened to Mayesville. In this village lived people employed by the mill as painters, carpenters, and domestic help.

Marysville was first known as "Gilliam Town" because a man named Gad Gilliam first lived on the property, according to an interview with Capers Littlejohn.

Mary Knuckles was an outstanding citizen, who worked hard to start a school for her people. The first school was built in 1915 and Lula Littlejohn was the first principal. Two other women served as principals of this school, Daisy Lee Davis and Alberta Daniels. Mary Knuckles was born around 1880 and became very active in church work and as a community leader. She was in charge of the July 4th Barbeque each year, which was provided by Mr. Montgomery.

In the interview Mr. Littlejohn named several people who have made outstanding contributions to the Marysville community. They are Ella Gist, Mary Smith, Geneva Smith, Ella McGill and the Reverend Meek.

The History of Pacolet Mills School

May 29, 1914

The Pacolet Mills school was organized about the year 1883, in the "Old City Hall," a log structure which stood near the present site of the bridge over Pacolet River.

The school opened with twenty-five or thirty pupils, taught by one teacher.

Two years later, instead of the little pole house the basement of the union church building (which afterwards became the Presbyterian Church) was used as the school house.

In the fourth year of its existence, one assistant was employed, viz. Miss Lula Goodlett. That was in 1886. The school now enrolled about 60 pupils.

In 1888, the sixth year of its life, three assistants were employed. The corps of teachers consisted of Mr. A.B. Stallworth, Principal, and Miss Sallie Stallworth, Miss Lidie Goodlett and Miss Mamie Carmichael as assistants.

The school continued under this organization until 1896 or 1897, the only change being that Miss Elsie Montgomery took Miss Goodlett's place as assistant. Under Mr. Stallworth's management the school roll numbered about two hundred forty pupils.

The present building was erected in 1896 with Mr. F.W. Cummings as first principal and Miss Etta Lee, Miss Leila Anderson (now Mrs. Charles A. Moore) and Miss Mattie Hellams as assistants.

In 1898 Miss Phoebe Fuller was elected principal. Miss Fuller has since become a character of some note, being the author of *Shadows Cast Before*, an interesting work of fiction, which we now have in our school library.

Under Miss Fuller (1898-1900) the number of teachers increased to six. The school has never employed above that number.

The following is a complete list of the principals who have served the school, given in the order in which they came. Mr. Bonner, Miss Lizzie Thomas, Miss Lydia Greenleaf, Mr. Basil Manly, Mr. Wade Smith, Mr. Alex McGregor, Mr. A.B. Stallworth, Mr. T.W. Cummings, Miss Phoebe Fuller, Mr. F.B. Woodruff, Mr. Tom Moore, and Mr. E.R. Feckling.

Also, a complete list of the assistant teachers is as follows: Miss Lula Goodlett, Miss Lidie Goodlett, Miss Virgie Wilson, Miss Fannie Fowler, Miss Sallie Stallworth, Miss Mamie Car-

michael, Miss Elsie Montgomery, Miss Etta Lee, Miss Leila Anderson (now Mrs. C.A. Moore), Miss Mattie Hellams, Mrs. Robertson, Miss Alice Jones, Miss Minnie Lou Sams (now Mrs. Walton Brown), Miss Sallie Carson, Miss Eppie Blake, Miss Vallie Woodruff, Miss Ethel Colcock, Miss Annie Edwards, Miss Beulah Howerton, Miss Vinson, Mrs. Tom Moore, Miss Pickins, Miss Hallie Thompson, Mrs. Houston Poole, Mrs. F.W. Moore, Miss Ella Blackman (now Mrs. Sam Rogers), Miss Pitman, Miss Culberson (now Mrs. Dawsey), Rev. C.B. Dawsey, Miss Wyola Wallace, Miss Townsend, Miss Pregnall, Miss Berta Love, Miss Drusilla Means, Miss Gracee Routh, Miss Annie Green, Miss Lena Williams, Miss Helen Thompson (now Mrs. Leo Harbig), Miss Sue Kirby, Miss Nellie Ray, Miss Hazell Brooks, Miss Louise Cunningham, Miss Nellie Croucg, Miss Elizabeth Martin, Miss Lila Saratt, Miss Mary Taggart, and Miss Hazel Brooks.

The trustees of the school from its beginning to the present time served in the order named below: Mr. R.F. Montgomery, Mr. T.L. Bryant, Mr. J.Y. Goodlett, and Mr. C.A. Moore. Mr. J.Y. Goodlett enjoys the distinction of having longest been an official of the school, becoming a trustee in 1885 and continuing in that office to the present time.

In 1921 a new school was built and was called by many the Grand Old Lady.

Yes, a grand old lady . . .

All the regal splendor of the antebellum South once graced the top of a hill. For 50 years.

Not a long reign — not really a very old lady. Just long enough and old enough to have become a permanent and special part of the memories of almost every person between the ages of 6 and 60 in a little town known as Pacolet Mills.

In 1921, it was simply the "Pacolet Mills School." Housing grades 1-11, the white-columned brick and stone structure presented a picture of awesome stateliness as it stood above the mill community.

Inside, however, halls echoed with love and laughter and learning as children lived and grew.

The following year, a second structure was annexed to the rear of the school — to accommodate the ever-growing number of classes. A cafeteria, a gymnasium, a library and an auditorium all helped in providing more than just the "3-R's" for the generations that passed through the arched doorways.

Perhaps even more inspiring and memorable than the inner workings were the outer surroundings of the school. Broad, sloping stone stair- and walkways provided access in all directions; arbored pathways led down to wooded play areas.

Picturesque and reminiscent of the days when such a place would house a family instead of a flock of schoolchildren, the grounds included a large gazebo for picnicking, studying or just general relaxation.

Pathways trellised with ivy led to a tremendous amphitheatre where sporting and other events were held.

Even with all its spaciousness, it was not long before the student body again outgrew the facilities and high school classes had to be moved out, leaving the two-building complex strictly an elementary school.

In 1942, the property was deeded by Pacolet Mills to Spartanburg County School District 3 and the school became part of the statewide system.

Fond memories of an academic life amid the surroundings of the Old South — proud memories of scholastic achievement and sometimes fame.

Students passed through and on to institutions of higher learning. Every now and again word would come back of a boy or girl who'd made *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. An alumnus of Pacolet Mills.

In May, 1970, the children leaving the school for the summer must have looked no different from any of the hundreds that had come and gone before.

But there was a difference.

1970's children were to be the last. The State of South Carolina, in the person of a fire mar-

shal, had decreed the Pacolet Mills Elementary School to be closed and classified a condemned building.

Empty halls and classrooms gathered dust; silence echoed perhaps more loudly than the 50 years of child-voices.

Haunted by memories and plagued by live vandals now and then, the gracious lady still stood. Vines overgrew the paths and walkways, but the scene held all the more history for them.

October, 1971. A peaceful, lazy Sunday afternoon in autumn — the type that might once have encouraged strolls through the arbors up on the hill.

A wisp of smoke, a burst of flames.

Long hours of tireless firefighting, and it was over.

The Grand Old Lady, in a last burst of glory, had made her exit.



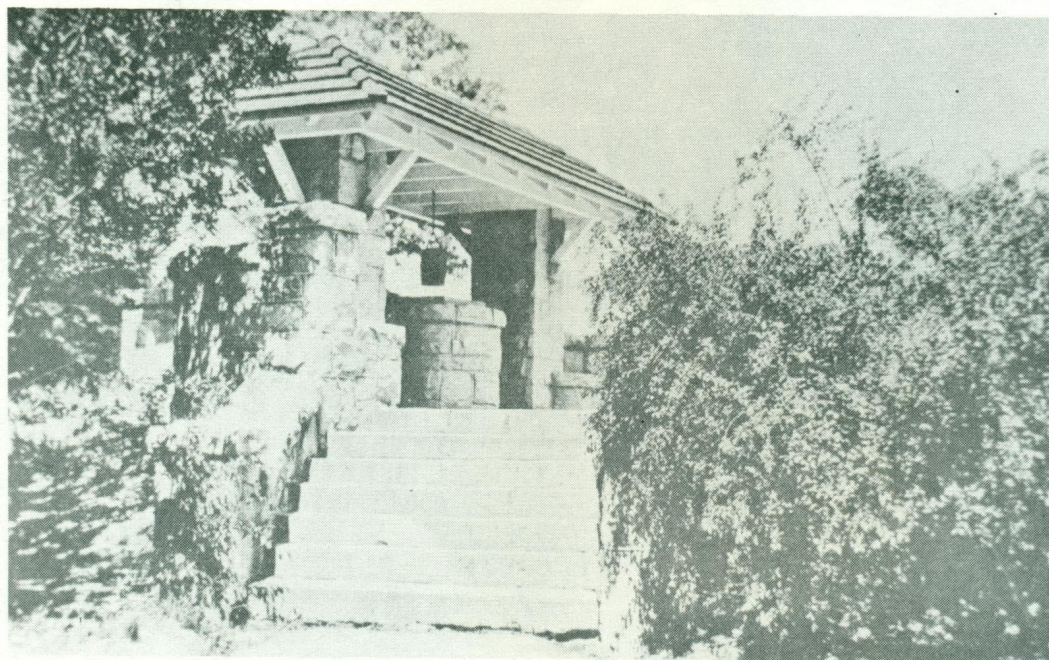
The pupils in the three-room school in 1901. They are: 1. Carl Vassey, 2. Frank Sanders, 3. John Angel Black, 4. Grant Rector, 5. ——— Scrogie, 6. Marie Jean Black, 7. ——— Scrogie, 8. Maggie Smith, 9. Kate Gladney, 10. Winnie Miller, 11. Elizabeth Johnson, 12. Mildred Rector, 13. Jackie Quinn, 14. Mary Barnett, 15. Vashti Caudle, 16. Evie Vaughn, 17. Anne Lipscomb, 18. Prof. Bryan, 19. Bessie Brown, 20. Edna Smith, 21. Florie Black, 22. Evie Genoble, 23. Hattie Lee, 24. Jim Scott, 25. Paul Gossett, 26. Russell Vaughan, 27. Frank Littlejohn, 28. Baxter Genoble, 29. Bertie Miller, 30. Lewis Barnett, 31. Ada Belle Black, 32. Maudie Miller, 33. Anna Barnett, 34. Bessie Black, 35. Cofer Gossett, 36. Alice Nettle, 37. Pearle Lee, 38. Bud Rector, 39. Boyce Quinn, 40. Anna Page, 41. Mack Quinn, 42. Cozley Black, 43. Mallie Gossett, 44. Miss Estelle O'Rouke, 45. Lena Stanton, 46. Blanche Sanders, 47. Ollie Vaughn, 48. Clyde Kirby, 49. Barney Haynes, 50. Ed Rector, 51. Lewis Scott, 52. Doug Smith, 53. Leslie Page, 54. Minnie Lee, 55. Mary Lipscomb.





May Festival Scene

From about the time the stadium was built in 1924 until about 1935 on May 1 or thereabouts, a May Festival was celebrated. Generally each class of the Pacolet Mills Elementary School had a part in the play. The costumes shown here were also used by the Marysville School.



The Old Oaken Bucket

This beautiful structure once stood directly across from the Victor Park Hotel and just behind an equally attractive water spout and pool.

While it is uncertain why it was torn down, it is certain that it was never used as a wishing well where a person throws in the well a copper penny and makes a wish. In the days of this well's popularity, a penny could be used for more enjoyable things — like buying an all day sucker (lollipop), a Hershey bar as big as the forty cent ones today, a wagon wheel cookie measuring almost five inches across, or up to five silver bells for those who had a sweet tooth.



This log cabin was located on the farm of Fulton Brown, between the Light House Fish Camp and overhead bridge, two miles above Pacolet. The tree (hemp) was twisted, as a sapling, by George Brown, grandfather of Mrs. Joe O'Neil.

Central Pacolet

Central Pacolet applied for and received a charter in 1955. Its town limit extends 800 feet to either side of S.C. Highway 150 and joins Pacolet Mills town limit on the north and Pacolet town limits on the south. Its population grew generally from the other two Pacolets when the offspring of the residents of those two towns had filled every available house. Up until just before World War II most of that land now where houses and businesses stand were under cultivation. Usually corn, cotton and vegetable gardens were the main crops. Probably not more than a dozen houses stood on the one mile stretch that now connects all three Pacolets.

At the corner of Poplar and Main Street (Highway 150) once stood a corn mill. It was owned and operated by the Robinettes. Fine cedar chests and other pieces of furniture were manufactured in this building. The building was destroyed in the past 4 or 5 years.

The Community Cash store was located in Central Pacolet until a new and larger one was built on Highway 176 in Pacolet. Several different type businesses have set up in the old Community Cash building but most closed after a short period of time.

A modern brick structure was built a few years back to house a doctor's clinic but now it is closed except for a practicing Chiropractor on a few days a week basis.

The oldest building now standing is the Manus home. Built in the 1800s and once called the Bryantville Post Office, it was made of logs but is now covered by weather board.

Since its charter in 1955, 4 mayors have served Central Pacolet. The first was Ralph Williams, followed by Bill Hughes and Ralph Chalk. The present Mayor is Leo Kirby.

Other established businesses in the Central Pacolet Town limit are Fred Smith's Garage, Motts, Lee, Lemon and Grant Service Stations, Pacolet Dry Cleaners, a washerette and Guyton's Barber Shop.

The town's operating fund is generally derived from revenue sharing, business licenses and beverage taxes.

It is one of the few incorporated towns where its home owners do not pay a city property tax.

Activity: "The Hall"

The Hall, as it was called by most people, provided the area with most of its inside activities. It was torn down in recent years. In its day, it was the envy of towns as large as Spartanburg. Not many, if any, one building in South Carolina had as many activities under one roof. A three story structure, it housed at one time or another, a basketball court, bowling alley, skating rink, post office, barber shop, pool hall and library. The mill sponsored baseball teams' dressing room, the girls club, the drug store and company store, a men's shower room, theater and a snack bar. Jim and Brownie Trent were managers of the pool hall and other parts of the hall. A Mr. Waters was head man at the store, Alfred Parker was the post master, Dr. Campbell the druggist and Paul Brown and Pug Guyton and others were barbers.

The steps up to the Hall were used by every politician ever to run for any office. It provided a platform for the speaker and generally a large crowd gathered around its base and under the trees that spread over the sidewalks, to listen to their promises. Used as an assembly point and dressing room for the mills baseball teams. These teams, for 30 or more years, dominated the fast Eastern Carolina League.

The Company Store

Need some nails, a pair of shoes, a couple pounds of beans, a bucket of beef, flour, soda, drugs, stationary, coal, firewood by the cord? Do you have any money to pay for these items? No? Well, you didn't need any -- that is, if you were employed by the company of Pacolet Mills. Just step up to the store office and request an amount against your wages. It came in the form of a coupon book, with different amounts of money that could be torn out to pay for your purchases. If you wanted to carry your purchases home yourself, that was okay. But if it was your weekly groceries and you didn't have a car to haul several bags, then the company delivered them for you -- by horse and wagon.

Generally a customer would have a list of items it would take to feed his family for a week. The list would be passed to one of several clerks. He would fill your order, with or without you, including the meat and vegetables which would be passed on to the next clerk. Later on in the day a wagon, pulled by two horses and driven by a black man named Allen Porter brought your groceries to your door and they were delivered into your home.

If you had a car and needed gas -- go to the filling station at the end of the bridge, using the same coupon book. And while you're there, have a hamburger and a coke while you are on the "flat," might as well pick up some ice at the ice house. The ice wagon ran about every other day. What was available in the company store then is generally found only in a Shopping Mall today.

Other Stores of those 1900-1950 Years

Not one road led out of Pacolet Mills that didn't have a grocery store at the town limits. On the North side there was Brown's, later Spakes store. In Kegtown there was Whitlocks', and Kirby's. In Can Hollow was Bonner's store. Going out of Pacolet on then Highway 18 and where Mogie's is now, was Thomas' store. Above the Pacolet Mills Elementary School was another -first Brown's, then later Spake's store. Yet another Brown's store sat at the end of Cleveland Street. Norman was his name. He also ran a dairy and delivered milk throughout the area. Ben Hodge was his helper.

Cafes were few but served fine hot dogs and hamburgers. The filling station where Orson Wells and Buddy Tate put together a fine grilled hamburger. Claude Scales made hot dogs and the chili he made himself made him famous throughout this area. Claude never revealed his recipe for his chili. Claude passed away just recently.

Hart's drive-in in Pacolet is known throughout the area for Ed's and Lucille's Hamburger steaks. Some prices in the early 1900's were: Hamburgers 5¢ and cokes or "dopes" (as they were called by most folks) 6¢, one pound cinnamon bun 5¢.

Other established businesses in the Pacolet Mills area are Perk Owens Shell Station, Jetts Shoe shop, Towel Outlet, Sunshine Restaurant, Pacolet Mills Drug Store and Shepherd's Barber Shop.

Pacolet Men and Women Answered the Call

Since the thirteen colonies decided to fight for their independence, men and women from this area have answered the call. Not all men during the Revolutionary War fought on the side of the Colonies nor for the British. Some chose to move further inland and not fight at all. A few did decide at first to side with the British but by the time the war was over just about all had sided with the Americans.

A Pacolet regiment left here to go north to fight in the Civil War, many never to return home. They lie buried from here to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

During the Spanish-American War a few again answered the call.

Again in World War I the call was answered with some not to return.

In World War II Pacolet men left by the hundreds, many to distinguish themselves in battle throughout the world. Several Pacolet area men didn't return. One Pacolet native went on to become the Commander of all troops who fought in Vietnam. He was General Williams Childs Westmoreland. His story and life history is told best in a book he authored called *A Soldier's Report*.

The Korean War saw more Pacolet men and women serving their country, some giving their lives.

During World War II in Europe a Pacolet native fought with such bravery and distinction that he was awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest. On May 24, 1945 Dewey C. Fowler won the Silver Star medal for action described below:

DEWEY E. FOWLER, 20 405 668, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "G", 15th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. In the afternoon of 19 March 1945, near Contwig, Germany, Private First Class FOWLER exposed himself to accurate sniper fire in order to get their locations and then tended to their liquidation, thus opening traffic between the company and Battalion CP that was forced to a temporary standstill. After 45 minutes thus exposed with sniper fire from no more than 200 yards away missing him by only narrow margins, Private First Class FOWLER killed four snipers with five shots and succeeded in erasing this traffic hazard. Residence: Pacolet, South Carolina.



Less than one week later he won the Bronze Star in another battle with the Germans. This medal is awarded for bravery in battle against the enemy.

DEWEY E. FOWLER, 20 405 668, Private First Class, Infantry, Company "G", 15th Infantry Regiment. For meritorious achievement in actual combat on 7 April 1945 near Frankenheim, Germany. Residence: Pacolet, South Carolina.

Fowler did not receive his medal until he was discharged and had returned to Pacolet. He was informed by letter that a group of Officers would arrive in Pacolet at a certain time and his medal would be pinned on in a ceremony before his hometown people. Dewey (Guinea, as most knew him) was not to be found when the detachment of officers arrived from Fort Jackson. He was located some time later about a mile over in Cherokee County at Pierce Robinson's Place. When informed that the officers were waiting on the "flat" to present him with his medals he sent word back that if he was to receive them the officers would have to bring them over there. Not wanting to decorate this hero in a beer joint, they asked if he would go across the road. It was there, with a few people looking on, that one of Pacolet's biggest heroes accepted his medals. Fowler was not showing disrespect for the medals and the officers who presented them, but in his own way telling the people of Pacolet that their native sons who had come home, the others still to come home, and most of all those who never would come home were also heroes and he did not want to be singled out.

Dewey E. Fowler, a true hero, is buried at Brown's Chapel Cemetery.

Another Pacolet native distinguished himself in battle with the enemy in Korea. Paul Padgett made the supreme sacrifice. He is buried in White Rose Cemetery.

Samuel Fleming decorated for his heroic action in Vietnam. The following account is taken from the Spartanburg Herald:

Spartan Saluted For Heroic Action In Face Of Enemy

By BILLY GREER

A Pacolet Mills serviceman who distinguished himself in combat in South Vietnam a year ago has been awarded special commendation in the form of the Bronze Star Medal.

Boatswain's Mate First Class Samuel L. Fleming, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie V. Fleming of 19 Limestone St., Pacolet Mills, was honored Aug. 21 in citation ceremonies at the U.S. Naval Station in Boston, Mass.

Fleming was cited for "heroic achievement in action while engaged in river assault operations against the Communist insurgent forces in South Vietnam."

The 27-year-old native of Spartanburg County was presented the medal by Captain B. W. Spore, Chief of Staff, Commander of Service Force Atlantic of Norfolk, Va., and the commendation was authorized by President Johnson through U. S. Navy Admiral John J. Hyland, Commander in Chief of the U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Fleming's heroic action came on Sept. 15, 1967, in the Cam Son Secret Zone in South Vietnam's Dinh Tuong Province. His family reports that during the maneuver Fleming suffered a broken arm, fractures to both legs, forehead lacerations, and other body wounds.

An account of the action as provided in the Naval citation reported:

"Units of River Assault Flotilla One were operating in support of the 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, conducting a combat riverine assault operation against the Viet Cong stronghold in the Cam Son Secret Zone.

"Petty Officer Fleming was assigned as Boat Captain aboard ATC 111-3, whose task it was to transport and land embarked Army troops, provide cover fire of the landing zone, as well as provide helicopter landing facilities for the evacuation of combat casualties."

Fleming and other Navy personnel headed up the Rach Ba Rai River toward the landing zone, but the assault units were immediately subjected to heavy enemy automatic weapons, recoilless rifle, and rocket fire from fortified positions on both sides of the river.

The local servicemen, operating in restricted waters and under heavy fire, coordinated and directed return fire with outstanding accuracy. An enemy RPG-2 rocket hit his boat, whereupon Fleming directed immediate repairs and retained the fighting capability and position of his craft.

"When it became necessary to evacuate casualties from other units," the citation continues "Petty Officer Fleming immediately prepared his craft to receive helicopters. As the first helicopter approached, his boat

began to receive sniper fire from the beach.

Petty Officer Fleming immediately exposed himself, waved off the approaching helicopter, and took the suspected sniper position under fire.

His courage under fire, outstanding professionalism, and selfless devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Fleming was later to be discharged from the

Navy because of wounds. (He still has a steel pin in his knees). The Navy said he could not go to sea again because the pitching and listing of the ships he might be serving on would be a hard-ship on his legs. This is somewhat ironic since Fleming is now a Captain of his own ship with a major Oil Company in Texas and hauls oil to almost every port on the East Coast. He makes his home in Tampa, Florida with his wife, Fran, and two children.

A Pacolet Legend: Miss Belle Fuller

This splendid lady is truly a legend. Nearly every person who ever lived in Pacolet Mills or that was treated by her for sickness or disease at one time or another. She will never be forgotten. Things were not always easy for her after she first arrived in Pacolet. But she tells the story best to the Pacolet Neigh in 1953. Here is her story:

Miss Belle Fuller Retires

A LONG LOOK BACK OVER THE YEARS

Since I am finishing my years of active work it seems that I might just write a bit of my experiences and work during the years I have spent with the good people of Pacolet Mills.

In 1916 after my work seemed ended in New York, I had planned to go to Kentucky and thought of mountain work there, but Dr. Westmoreland, who was resident physician at Riverside Hospital, suggested that I come to South Carolina. He said they had written him about a nurse and he was kind enough to say that of all the nurses in the hospital I was the only one he would think of recommending for the position. I immediately said yes, and after 37 years I find that my judgement was sound.

I came South in October and there was an epidemic of scarlet fever at the time. I think I was the pioneer Industrial Nurse in this part of the country.

I asked what I was to do and no one seemed to know... just look around and do everything I could to help the people. I found first of all that the people of Pacolet Mills weren't too eager to accept me. In the first place I was supposed to be a Yankee, which wasn't good; but they found out I came from Kansas, and that helped.

They were rather suspicious of just what I was here for, and we were building the new houses and some said I was just to see that they didn't abuse the new homes. Others even hinted that I might be a German spy.

Well, since I had to work it all out for myself I decided first thing I wouldn't go into any home unless they sent for me, but you know how human nature is. If that was the case, then they would just send for me.

NO IMPROVEMENTS

There were no sidewalks, no lights, and rain all

the time, and red, red mud to wade in all day long. When I visited the scarlet fever cases I told the mothers about the kidney trouble they could easily get if they were not taken care of properly, and to prove my point we had it. One of the first cases of Nephritis was James Bryant, so I went regularly to put him in hot packs and see that he got his medicine and proper food.

This epidemic was followed by measles, and we had, I believe, several hundred cases. Then an epidemic of infectious dysentery, and we lost ten babies in about so many days.

We had old houses, no screens, and outdoor toilets, and it didn't register when I insisted that all things used with the babies must be put at once into antiseptic solutions.

Finally I had so many visits to make and so much ground to cover that I asked for a horse. Mr. Westmoreland said I couldn't get around in a buggy on these hills any better than on foot, but I told him I did not want a buggy, only a horse, so Mr. Montgomery, who always did everything in the biggest possible way, purchased a Kentucky thoroughbred for me and that was a happy day for me and the entire village, for I think that everyone, and especially the small boys, delighted in the horse and it was a real sight to see a lady riding astride and going about the place.

When I stopped at a home the little boys came from every direction and the first one there could hold the horse while I made the visit.

Walter White said he always crawled on and sat on the horse while I was at his home, and felt as though he owned the world. Now, when my old friends reminisce about those days they just say two words, "That Horse," so I think the horse made me a great many friends among the small fry, and enabled me to

see many more families during the day.

NO STRICT HOURS

There wasn't any such thing as hours of work. I worked all day, usually had classes or clubwork at night and very few nights went by that I wasn't called out when the doctor wasn't available, and sometimes I think they didn't look very hard for him.

I soon found that the work I was doing wasn't nearly enough, so I began to teach classes in Home Nursing and First Aid, both in the village and for the colored people. I feel that this is about the most important single thing I did in those early days of my work, and had the most lasting effect on the health of our people.

We were trying to get the school children vaccinated and the parents, many of them, just didn't believe in vaccinating and had heard of some one who knew some one who had a story of some one else who lost an arm from vaccination, but I never caught up with the armless one.

Anyway, it wasn't long until we had the full cooperation of the parents and only had to say the children needed the various vaccines and they brought them in. Some one told me lately that when we had a whooping cough epidemic I used to go about with the vaccine for the children and would carry a pocket full of hard candy called "jaw breakers," and if the children didn't cry they got a jaw breaker, and of course they were all keen to get the vaccine, for candy wasn't nearly as plentiful then as it is now.

We had baby clinics and Dr. Lesesne Smith, Dr. C.W. Bailey and Dr. Westmoreland came out from town and gave their services to check the children and to talk to the mothers. It seemed then that the doctors always had time to help with our educational health programs and of course it was all volunteer work for our folks did not have much, but were so good to work with.

During the first World War years when so many of our men were in the service I felt that I should go too, and since I was a Red Cross Nurse I volunteered for duty and Mr. Montgomery heard about it and came down and really worked me over. He said with our men in the service it was more necessary than ever for me to carry on here, so I saw the light and decided it would be very foolish for me to leave the work I was doing so we all took it out in knitting sweaters, socks, helmets, etc., and doing other war work. We got such a kick out of knitting on Sunday, and feeling we were being patriotic.

Then we opened the Day Nursery to care for children while the mothers worked. I remember Mr. Montgomery asked me if I knew how to run a Day Nursery, and I told him no, but I knew how to run a baby hospital and that ought to do.

I think the most important thing we could possibly have done, so far as the health of our children was concerned, was to operate that Day Nursery. The children were really cared for as hospital children. They were bathed and fed regularly and their weight was checked and every child had his own bed and much against their inclinations, they had a daily nap. I think it would be conservative to say that a number of strong

healthy men and women today probably owe their lives to the care they received in the Day Nursery.

A NEW DAY AT PACOLET MILLS

Of course all of this time Pacolet Mills was growing. The old houses were done away with, and bright modern cottages replaced them. The streets were paved and street lights installed, and then one fine day I got a Ford Sedan to make my visits in. It was one of the first closed cars here and I think I was almost as much a curiosity driving in the glass showcase, as someone told me it looked like, as riding the horse, and how happy the kids that got a brief ride in the new car.

I have seen the new churches built, and taught one Mens' Class for eight years I believe.

I had charge of the Girls Club and used to supervise the Athletics, take the girls to ball games and on overnight hikes, and help them have their parties and entertainments.

I had a little Mothers' Club, and a Sewing Class and a Cooking Class. How I ever found time for it all I will never know, and it seems impossible now that I ever did all the things I did in those first years when it seemed that just everything needed doing at once.

With this rambling story of a lot of busy years, the thing I really want to say is that, if I had the last 37 years to go over I would still think the very best place to spend them would be in Pacolet Mills. The good friends I've made, the very real service I have been able to render, and the satisfaction in knowing that I have always tried to do my best for our people and that now they seem like my people and Pacolet Mills will be the only place that will really feel like home to me.

I want to thank the people for their kindness to me and their very wonderful response to everything I have ever asked of them, and the officials for their sympathetic cooperation in everything we tried to do for the health and well being of our people. Sometimes the ideas didn't work out as we expected them to, but we just switched to something else and went on.

There are so many things left unsaid in this short piece that when I read it over I think it falls far short of the real happenings, and that a book could be written of the last 40 years and would be most interesting to those of us who have lived them away.

While my active work will be over I still expect to live with and love the people of Pacolet Mills, and still find many ways to be of service and to do things that I haven't had time for with a full regular job.



Miss Belle Fuller making her rounds.

“They’re Raising the Gates”

From the time the dams were built at each mill and into the 1960’s the word would be passed from neighbor to neighbor: “They’re raising the gates at the lower mill or upper mill.” Soon one could see the menfolk and young boys heading to whichever dam the gates were being raised. Some had sticks, others dip nets made with baby chick wire, still others with frog gigs or maybe a long stick or board with long nails driven through them. For the next few days the aroma of catfish being fried over almost the entire community could be detected. Some took their catch to one of the many springs in the area that furnished cool water for cooking and drinking. Most sat on the ground to eat, but a few crude tables were made to hold the crackers, catsup, pickles and other ingredients that go into making a catfish stew. In many cases a few bottles of “White Lightning” were nearby for those who needed a tonic before the feast.

For those who came along in recent years or those who did not experience this memorable occasion it is necessary to explain what raising the gates did to provide the excitement of catching and pleasure of eating this fine fish that most go to fish camp restaurants to eat today.

The gates were raised for a purpose. Not to provide an easy and abundance of fish for the community, but to unclog the mud, sand and other sediments that filled the pond behind the dams. This was done to allow the river to retain its swiftness that turns the generator which supplied the energy to run the mill. As the water came through the gates, bringing with it the mud and debris, the water got thicker and thicker which made it hard for the fish to breathe. When the fish came to the top of the water to breathe and often remained for a minute or so, it was easy fishing for the next hour or more. All one had to do was merely place his net under the fish and lift him out of the water. The fish were then put into a burlap bag or strung on a line generally tied across the fisherman’s shoulder or tied to his belt. Often the bag would be filled to where not one more fish could be placed into it. Many times a fisherman caught more than he could carry home in one trip.

Still to this date these gates are raised for the same reason, but very few people get the word as to when and still fewer go to experience the excitement and food aplenty that we, the generation of the first half of this century, looked forward to.

The following story was compiled from news prints of newspapers throughout the U.S. by Mattie Mae O'neil.

Pacolet Marine Leads Charity March

In 1960, Willie Fleming organized and led the longest charity march ever attempted. It has been called the longest charity march in history.

After arriving in mid-afternoon from the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, S.C. two other marines, and Fleming, dressed in full combat gear, were greeted by the four mayors of the four Pacolets -- Arthur Goforth, David Smith, Robert Jones and Bill Hughes. Afterward the three marines and Dooley Womack (New York Yankee Pitcher) ate fried quail and stew with Fleming's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Fleming. That night a tent was pitched in Pacolet Park, where friends came by and made donations to the "New March of Dimes." Two Hundred Thirty dollars was raised at 5 a.m. the next morning, Mrs. Blanche Arnold had prepared a hearty breakfast for the marines in the Victor Park Hotel. At precisely 8 a.m., while several onlookers and 3 television stations plus several newspaper reporters watched, Gunnery Sgt. Fleming gave the command: Forward March.

As Fleming and his two marine comrades started toward Spartanburg, people along the route were making donations. Cars stopped and the drivers and passengers handed change and bills to the three marines. More than three hundred dollars was raised by the time they reached Spartanburg two and one-half hours later.

That pattern continued throughout the state. Before crossing the county line into the next county all monies collected were turned over to a March of Dimes representative of that county. A bus driver who had the route from Spartanburg to Charleston estimated approximately where the marching marines would be each day and he took up donations from his passengers and handed it over to the marines as he met them throughout the state.

Although schools were out for the Christmas holidays, more than ten High School bands met the tired marines at their respective city limits and led them into town.

Having a thirty-four mile march ahead of them as they neared the town of Branchville (in Orangeburg County) the Chief of police met the marines about five miles out at 3:30 in the morning and promised them a big breakfast and people waiting for them at 5 a.m. Indeed a big breakfast was waiting and several dozen people to greet them. The Chief had gone through the town with his siren wide open, waking the people. Two Hundred eighty dollars was donated while the marines enjoyed fresh country ham, eggs, grits and coffee.

Fleming was having trouble with his feet swelling--one more than the other. His left foot required a size twelve and his right a size eight and one-half size shoe. This meant two pairs of shoes were to be purchased as they wore out. Not one of the three merchants who supplied the two pairs of shoes charged one penny.

When the marines arrived in Beaufort, after a gruelling four hundred ten mile hike, they were greeted by dignitaries from all over the state: The Commanding Officers of the Marine Corps Air facilities and the Recruit Depot at Parris Island, Congressman L. Mendel Rivers, S.C. House Member Beantly Harvey and other March of Dimes officials announced that over thirty thousand dollars had been collected and more coming in.

Congressman L. Mendel Rivers made a two page speech in the U.S. Congress about the march and to honor the marines. The S.C. House passed a resolution honoring the marines. Fleming's two companions were Sgt. Dave Corbitt of Axson, Ga. and Cpt. Phillip Lassiter of Corinth, Miss.

The three marines appeared on a twenty-four hour telethon in Greenville, S.C. and Asheville, N.C. several times with movie and television stars. Eighty thousand dollars was raised from these telethons. The national television show "I've Got A Secret", with Garry Moore its star, invited the marines as guests of their show, stating that as contestants the marines would be too

easily recognized. Their pictures, during the march had been in about every newspaper and television station in the country for the past fifteen days.

After the three marines had soaked their aching feet in a tub of cool water, Fleming drove back into Beaufort to a telephone at a service station where he was to make a call to the WSPA Nightly News. He told the people in this area that he and his companions had completed their fifteen day march with much success. What he did not get to tell them was that he would be walking for the next twelve days. As he hung up the receiver and stepped out of the telephone booth, a runaway truck with its driver unconscious crashed into his car, knocking it into the phone booth. The car and booth were a total wreck.

Fleming and his wife make their home on the Glen Springs Road and he is employed by the City of Spartanburg as director of the T. W. Edwards Community Center in Pacolet. He is a retired veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, Past president of Pacolet Lions Club and Senior Vice Commander of the local VFW. He retired as a First Sergeant and fought in fourteen major battles in the Pacific and Far East. Governor Riley appointed him a State Constable in 1979. Corbitt, a veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam, is retired from the Marine Corps and now makes his home near Parris Island with his wife Isabelle and children. He is in the Construction field.

The third and youngest of the three marines who made the historic march from "the mountains to the sea" was an official with a Little Rock, Ark. television station when last heard from.



Willie Fleming

Pacolet Mills Rescue Squad

It started with a one hundred dollar cadillac without tires and a match box as a safety deposit box for the treasury and became one of the best rescue squads in South Carolina.

In 1960 a charter was granted to the Pacolet Mills Rescue Squad after a group of civic minded leaders saw the need for one in this community. An old model cadillac was purchased from a Blacksburg Mortuary for \$100.00. It had no tires. Floyd's Mortuary in Spartanburg donated a set of tires and the Squad was in business. Only one member of the Squad was qualified because of the first-aid requirement and he was Landi Crawford, the organizer of the Squad. Leo Kirby, the first treasurer, kept it's operation fund in a match box.

Afterwards, a second \$100.00 was well spent when another vehicle was purchased. A Buick Station wagon was converted by the Squad and was used as an ambulance.

Roy Newman, a squad captain, initiated the Jr. Rescue Squad with Gregg Tate as it's captain. Other charter members were Kenneth Sanders, the first captain, Lt. Walter (Billy) Smith, Secretary Kenneth Belue, Treasurer Leo Kirby, team leader Ernest Ellison. Other members were: Fred Kirby, Ernest Harris, Hubert Pannell, Ernest Millwood, Chadwick Messer, James Winstead, Thurl Chalk, Wallace Edwards and Thomas Rector.

What started out as a hundred dollar operation soon became a multi-thousand dollar operation when the Federal Government set the specifications for the type ambulance that could be used. The State government designated the type training and supplies the Squad used and the license and charter. The County Government pays for the training of the volunteers.

The operational cost and the purchase of new ambulance are derived from its users, fund raising events and donations. Each community (the three Pacolets) has put in their budget in recent years, a small amount to help defray the cost of operating this efficient squad which the entire area is proud of and depends on.

The Pacolet Mills Rescue Squad has gained statewide recognition by having competed annually in Southeastern competition with other squads, never coming in less than second place and winning first place 10 of 14 times.

The Squad, since its formation, has been under the capable hands of the following captains: James (Bud) Winstead, Roy Newman, Frank Mitchell, Dave Martin, Larry Parris, Dale Campbell, Gregg Tate, Randy Mathis, Billy Owens and Doug Jett.



One of our best loved black citizens of Pacolet was Corrie Cook Fernandez. Corrie was born October 8, 1916 and died November 26, 1978. At the age of 16, she started working for Dr. and Mrs. Robert Dennis Hill as a nurse to their children. Eventually, she became a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked for many years in Dr. Hill's office.

More Widely Known Native Sons

BRUCE LITTLEJOHN was born in Pacolet on July 22, 1913, the son of Cameron and Lady Sara Littlejohn. Judge Littlejohn got his education at Wofford College and the University of South Carolina. He went on to become an author, Soldier, Lawyer, a member of the House of Representatives, Speaker of the House, Circuit Court Judge and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of S.C.

After service he was assigned as one of the prosecutors in the Japanese War Criminals cases. Justice Littlejohn authored the book "Laugh With The Judge", getting his material from the notes written while serving as Circuit Court Judge in all the courtrooms throughout the states. Justice Littlejohn is a much sought after speaker and his down to earth humor is enjoyed by all who are fortunate enough to hear him.

The Littlejohns have two children, a daughter Inell Smith Littlejohn (Now Mrs. Dan L. Allan III) and a son, Cameron Bruce Littlejohn Jr.

Justice Littlejohn is expected by most to become the next Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court.

JUDGE JAMES B. STEPHEN

The son of James and Annie B. Stephen, graduated from Pacolet High School in 1942 and the University of South Carolina in 1945. Served in the U.S. Navy as an Ensign; retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves as a Lt. Commander. Got his LLB in 1949 at Duke University. Served in the South Carolina House from 1961-1968 and in the South Carolina Senate from 1969-1978. Sworn in as Judge in October 1979.

GEN. WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND

Son of James Ripley Westmoreland, Manager of Pacolet Manufacturing

Graduated West Point, 1936

Married Kitsy Van Deusen May 3, 1949

Children: Daughters, Katherine and Margaret; Son, Rip

Superintendent of West Point, 1960

Vietnam Field Commander, 1964 - 1968

Army Chief of Staff, 1968 - 1972

Addressed a Joint Session of Congress, November 1967

Author of *A Soldier's Report*



General William C. Westmoreland, Grand Marshall of the Pacolet Christmas Parade, 1982.

Highlights in Pacolet Area History

- 1743 *First settler at Grindal Shoals.*
- 1780 *Gen. Daniel Morgan set up camp at Grindal Shoals.*
- 1781 *Col. Bannister Tarleton crosses the Pacolet River at Easterwood Ford in pursuit of Morgan.*
- 1784 *Major John Tollison builds tavern at Buzzard's Roost (Pacolet).*
- 1816 *Dr. Thomas Handcock buys grist mill across from Trough Shoals.*
- 1859 *First train run through Pacolet from Columbia to Spartanburg.*
- 1881 *The firm of Fleming and Walker buys land at Trough Shoals.*
- 1882 *Pacolet Manufacturing starts building Mill No. 1.*
- 1884 *Pacolet Manufacturing starts production.*
- 1888 *Mill No. 2 added to Mill No. 1.*
- 1893 *Pacolet Manufacturing builds Mill No. 3.*
- 1903 *Pacolet Mills No. 1 and 2 destroyed by flood, bridge washed away.*
- 1903-1904 *Mill No. 5 built to replace Mills 1 and 2.*
- 1908 *Bridge at Pacolet washed away by flood.*
- 1917 *Pacolet area men off to fight in World War I.*
- 1921-1924 *New school and amphitheater built.*
- 1930 *Trough Shoals changes name to Pacolet Mills.*
- 1936 *Tornado strikes ball park. Stands destroyed, one killed, one injured.*
- 1941 *Ernie White wins 17 games for St. Louis Cardinals, shut out Yankees 2-0 in World Series.*
- 1941 *Pacolet National Guard activated. Hundreds leave to fight in World War II.*
- 1945-1946 *Hundreds of men and women return from WW II.*
- 1950-1952 *Pacolet area men fight in Korea, 3 killed.*
- 1955 *Pacolet Mills and Central Pacolet receive charters.*
- 1960 *Willie Fleming leads marines across South Carolina in longest charity march in history.*
- 1963 *George Bank hits 25 home runs for Dallas in Pacific Coast League. Hit 35 home runs for Portland 2 years later.*
- 1964 *Gen. William Westmoreland named Commander of all Forces in Vietnam.*
- 1965-1970 *Pacolet area men fight in Vietnam.*
- 1977 *Pacolet Park built by Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation.*
- 1978 *Pacolet recreation building and ball field completed, tennis courts added.*
- 1979 *Stephen and Robin Fleming of Pacolet pedal 10 speed bike from Pacolet to Pawleys Island in 20 hours and 20 minutes.*



