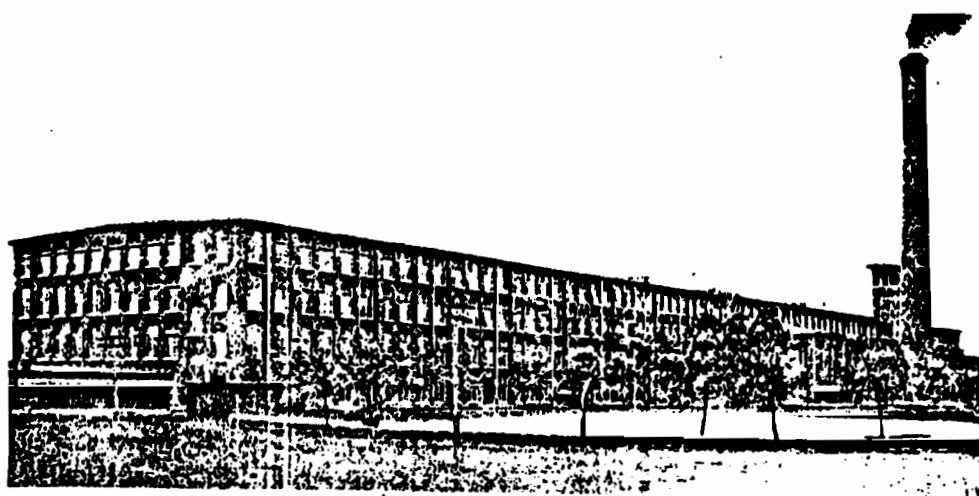


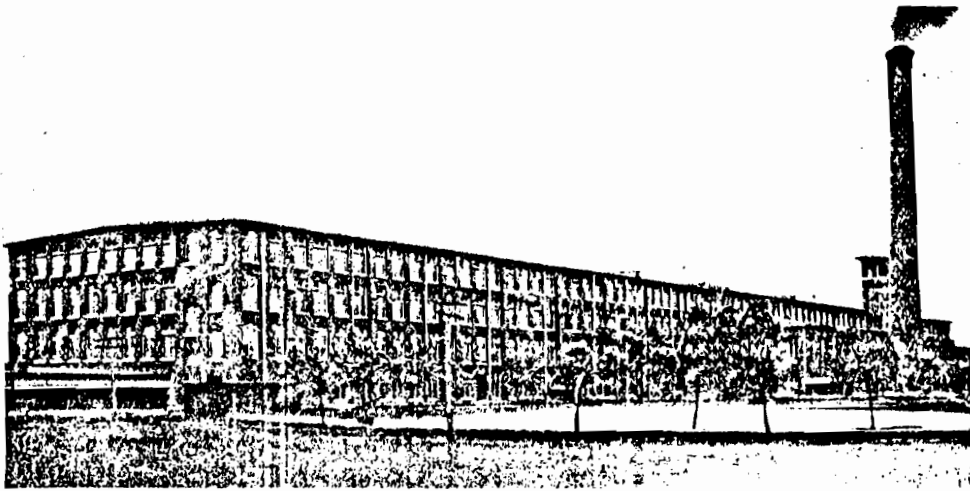
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LIFE IN A MILL VILLAGE



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ALABAMA HISTORY CLASS

NOVEMBER 12, 1995

HEATHER ALMAROAD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to my grandmother, Mildred Shrum, for her participation on my oral interview history project on Dwight Cotton Mill in Alabama City, Etowah County.

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

700 PELHAM ROAD N.

JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA 36265-9982

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

TELEPHONE: (205) 782-5632

Gift and Release Agreement:

We Mildred Shrum and Heather Almaroad
(Interviewee) (Interviewer)

Do hereby grant permission to Jacksonville State University to copy the tape of the interview conducted at #6 Peachtree St, Gadsden on the date(s) of November 9, 1995 for the oral history collection being compiled at Jacksonville State University.

This collection will be maintained by Jacksonville State University for research into the history of Northeast Alabama and the South. We further grant researchers permission to quote from the interview on this tape.

Mildred Shrum
(Interviewee's signature)

Date 11/9/95

6 Peachtree St.
(Address)

Gadsden, Al. 35904
(205) 546-2388
(Telephone)

Heather Almaroad
(Interviewer's signature)

Date 11/9/95

490 Pleasant Valley Rd.
(Address)

Jacksonville, Al 36265
(205) 435-8263
(Telephone)

Interviewee Background Information

Name: MILDRED EVELYN MANDERSON SHRUM
Address: #6 PEACHTREE STREET, GADSDSEN, ALABAMA
Phone Number(s): (205) 546-2388
Approximate age or date of birth: 11-15-21
Mother's name: NORA ANN SMITH MANDERSON
Father's name: SAMUAL RAYMOND MANDERSON
Places lived and when: ALABAMA CITY, ALABAMA 1921-1947
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 1947-1952 , ALABAMA CITY, ALABAMA 1952-present

Education: GRADUATED FROM EMMA SAMMON HIGH SCHOOL, 1939

Religion: BAPTIST

Business, political and social memberships (past and present): _____

Present occupation: RETIRED

Former occupation(s): VARIETY STORE

Special skills: _____

Major Accomplishments: _____

Local events in which you have participated: _____

State and/or regional events in which you have participated: _____

National events in which you have participated: _____

International events in which you have participated: _____

Natural born U.S. citizen? Yes/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which you emigrated: _____

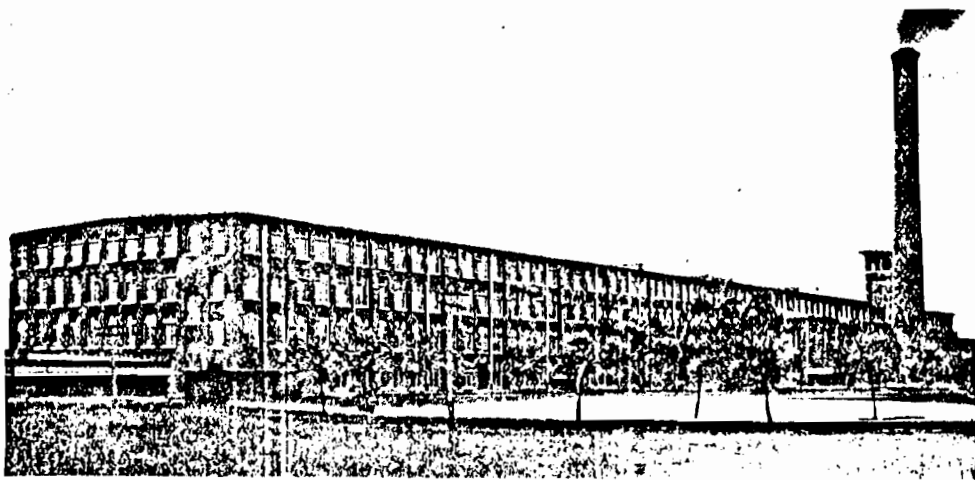
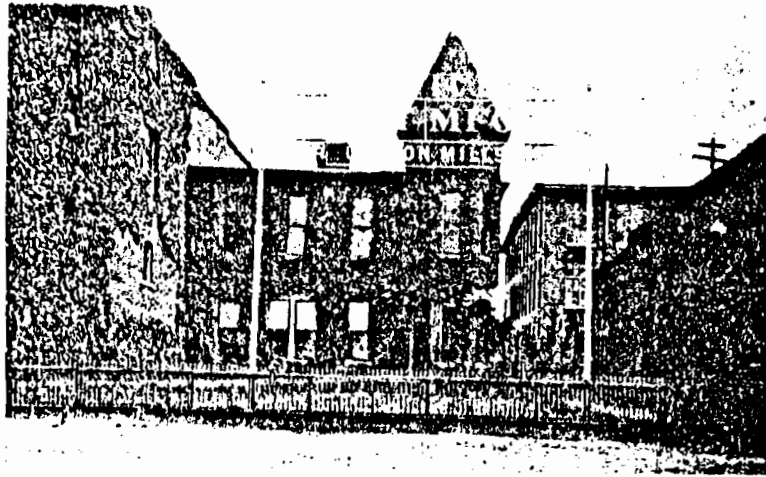
Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in your possession: _____

Individuals you recommend who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

PREFACE

I chose to do my Alabama History oral interview report on Mildred Shrum because she is my grandmother and has always lived in the Dwight Cotton Mill village. She worked for a short time in the Mill. I too can remember the mill before it was torn down. We both share special memories about the beautiful lakes and feeding the ducks.



Mildred Shrum had a wonderful childhood growing up in the mill village owned by Dwight Manufacturing Company. The Mill which was located in Alabama City (near Gadsden, Alabama) no longer is standing, but its memory remains. Mildred Shrum is one among many who grew up around the Mill. She not only grew up there; she worked there and today lives only a few blocks away from where the Mill once stood.

Construction on Dwight Mill began in 1895 with the first bale of cotton opening for production in 1876. The Alabama City mill was a part of Dwight Manufacturing Company out of Chicopee, Massachusetts. The Company was organized to produce "Cabot A" sheeting for trading in the Orient. The sheeting was stamped Dwight "Cabot A" in indigo ink, which eventually was sold at a higher price for the stamp yard. The "Cabot A" sheeting was the primary product at Dwight Mill at this time (Gadsden Times, 5-13-79).

Dwight Mill became the third largest industry in Gadsden. It employed over 2000 people and was a large contributor to Gadsden's economy. The Mill also bought supplies from local farmers and local stores (Gadsden Times, 7-7-57).

Workers for the Mill were recruited by a young man named Judge McCord. Mr McCord would travel by horse and buggy into rural areas



Operatives' Cottage, Rent \$3.00 per Month



Operatives' Cottage, Rent \$4.00 per Month

seeking out workers he perceived to have the qualified skills to work at the Mill (Gadsden Times, 5-13-79). It was on one of these recruiting trips to Cottdale, Alabama that Mildred's dad, Samual Manderson, was hired.

Samual was in his twenties when he began his career at the Mill. He became a second handman (today he would be called a supervisor) working the second shift. He went in at three A.M. and left at eleven P.M. He Provided his family with a comfortable living. His work was hard, but he never complained about it. The only time(s) he ever complained was when he occasionally had a problem with one of his workers. Samual stayed at the Mill throughout his work career and eventually retired from there.

The Mill was described by Mildred to be modern for its time. Based on my interview with Mildred and on reading about other mills I would have to agree. The Dwight Manufacturing Company built new homes consisting of three to six rooms. The houses rented for three to six dollars a month based on the number of rooms your house had. They were all different in design and were painted various colors so no two looked alike. Unlike the mill houses in North Carolina, the Dwight Mill houses had the appearance of individual homes. Mill houses in North Carolina were all painted uniform gray and all looked alike (Tippett, 109).



Operatives' Cottage, Rent \$5.00 per Month



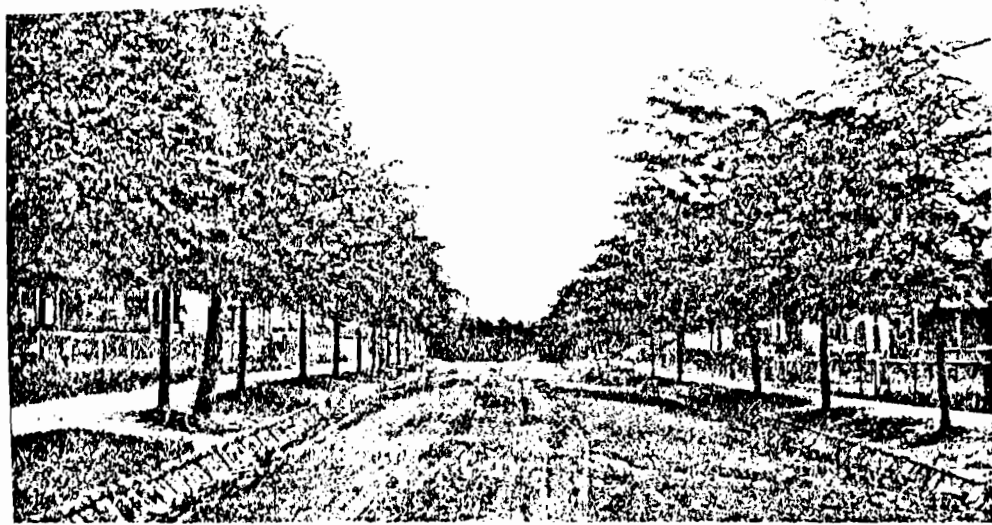
Operatives' Cottage, Rent \$6.00 per Month

Mildred was born in 1921. She describes the five room house she grew up in as comfortable. The boys shared a bedroom; the girls shared a bedroom, and her parents had the third bedroom. There was no indoor plumbing or electricity in the homes at that time.

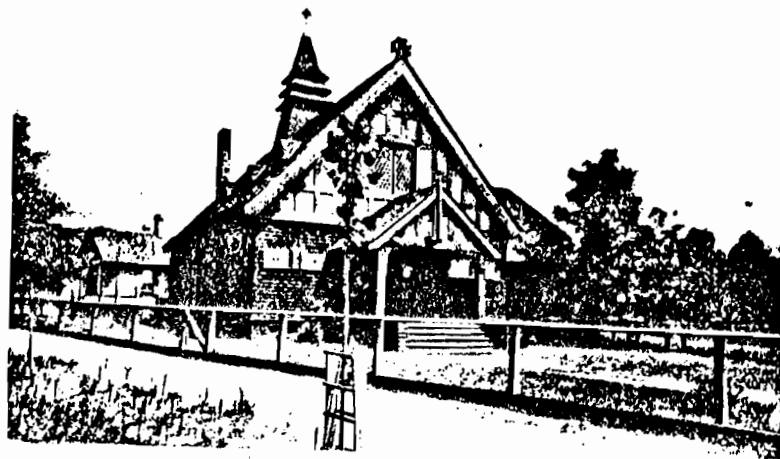
Every house had an outhouse. Baths consisted of sponging off every day and a tub bath on Saturday. This is how the "Saturday night Bath" saying came into existence. Mildred's mother had to work hard to make life comfortable for her family. She cooked on a wood stove; had to boil water for baths, and scrub clothes on a board by hand to get them clean.

The houses had what was called "morning heaters" and fireplaces for heating. The only air conditioner was an open window. Life was hard back then without all the modern conveniences of today, but the family was close. One of the things they enjoyed was sitting in front of the fireplace together and roasting marshmallows.

Each house had a yard for the children to play and a garden spot. Mildred's mother always had plenty of vegetables. She would can the vegetables in the summer to be used during the winter



Hinsdale Avenue



Baptist Church

months. They had a cow for fresh milk and always raised a pig each year for meat. The meat was put into a smokehouse and cured.

The roads and streets were dirt and the sidewalks were made of wood with trees lining both sides of the streets. Whenever it rained they became muddy. The Company eventually put in electricity and plumbing and even improved the roads. This made life easier for the people in the mill village.

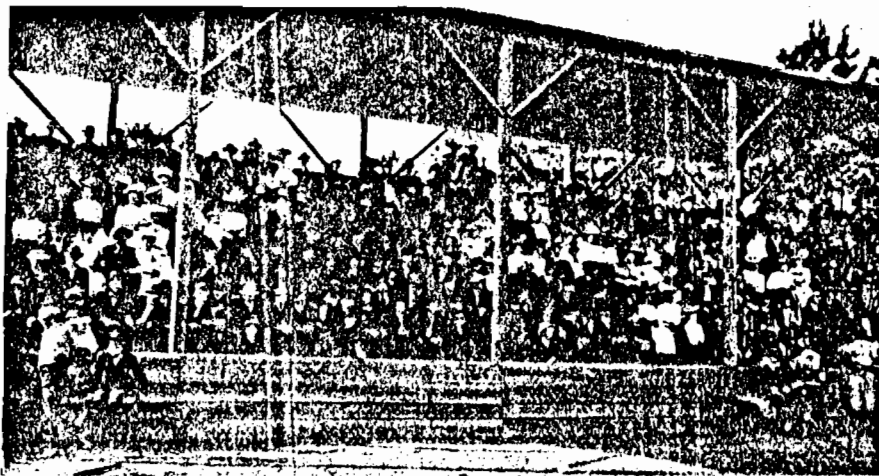
Mildred had seven brothers and sisters. All lived to adulthood except for one sister that died at an early age from measles. All the children in her family finished high school and she has a brother and sister that finished college which was a great accomplishment back in that era.

All of her family, except her baby brother worked at the mill. They did not work for a long period of time, but long enough to know what mill work was like. Her brothers eventually joined the National Guards.

Mildred and her family attended Dwight Baptist Church (named after the Manufacturing Company). The church provided entertainment and fellowship for the families of mill workers. A big event for the church and its member was Baptisms. Whenever



The "Dwights" in Action



Watching the Game

the church would Baptize new members, everyone would gather at the creek to watch the service. Dwight Manufacturing Company was a strong supporter of the Church and wanted all their employees to attend. In the beginning everyone attended services at the Mill in the card room. The company later built the Union Church for everyone to meet; they were mostly Methodist. Then the Baptist built their own church, the Dwight Baptist Church (Moody, 3-19-79).

Another form of entertainment was baseball. The Company built a large ball field complete with a covered grandstand that could hold up the 600 people. Mildred had a brother that played baseball for Dwight. Whenever he played, her whole family would be there to watch him. He was very good and even managed to win a baseball scholarship to play ball in South Alabama.

The neighborhood children all went to school and knew each other well. Swimming in the creek was a big summer pass time for the kids and a way to cool off. Mildred said, " they had a lot of fun in the creek."

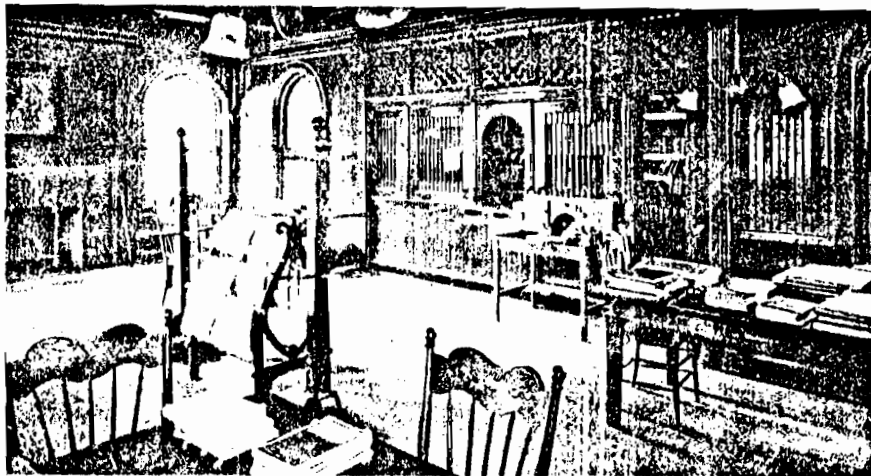
Mildred enjoyed going to the movies; usually a Cowboy movie. The movie theater would have a special which would allow them to get in for a can good. That was when the kids would go.



Drug Store — Dwight Hall — General Store — and Mill Office



Howard Gardner Nichols Memorial Library



Interior of Library

She also enjoyed the skate center and dances that were held over the Dwight Drugstore. Saturdays she would ride the streetcar to Gadsden to go shopping which was a big treat.

The Company provided several benefits for their employees. One such benefit was a store the company owned. It sold everything a person would need from food to shoes. You could buy what you needed and put it on credit. Payment was taken out of the employees pay role each week. But you did not have to buy everything there, you could go into Gadsden shopping if you wanted to .

The Company also had a library. It was the Nicholas Memorial Library, which is still standing today and is owned by the Etowah County Historical Society (Gadsden Times, 5-13-79). It was the first free library in the state which was something to be very proud of. The library had a large number of books, from educational to famous authors. Besides these were leading magazines and the local newspapers. Atlas Shrum, Mildred's future father-in-law who also worked at the Mill, worked as a librarian after his shift ended. Charles Shrum, Mildred's future husband, helped his dad in the library. He helped clean and start fires. They both took advantage of the library by reading a lot.

The Company maintained an infirmary which was used when the Mill had a lot of sickness. The Company provided a free doctor and nurse. They made house calls when a family member was sick. Mildred said there was not a lot of sickness that she could remember. The environment and the climate was good in Alabama City which helped prevent a lot of sickness. Mildred did say the measles were a problem, just like other childhood diseases.

The mill had a bell tower that was sounded at certain times, like our alarm clocks today. It rang to wake the village up, time to report to work, and at quitting time. Mildred said, " she can remember the bell ringing at the nine o'clock curfew and everyone had better be at home or they were in trouble." The nine o'clock curfew was to keep anyone from roaming around late at night. Sundays the bell would ring for church services to begin.

Mildred started working at Dwight Mill after high school in 1940 for average wages and forty hour work weeks. She only worked in the mill for a few years due to the working conditions. Mildred said, "it was dusty, cotton flying everywhere and your hair looked like a snowball; it was uncomfortable working there." This was why she quit the mill. Even though it was a fairly safe place to work (the machines were inspected regularly and kept up to standards) it

February, 1946

POLICY
DWIGHT EMPLOYEE'S ASSOCIATION
MUTUAL BENEFIT FUND

Name Charles Shrum
Beneficiary Evelyn Shrum
Relationship Wife
Number 677 Date new

Rates: 55c at time of joining and 55c when a member dies. (over)



The four Spinning Room men pictured have returned to work during January after serving with the Armed Forces. From left to right they are: James Surls, who served with the Marines and is back doffing filling; Homer McKinney, warp doffer, served with the Navy; Ray McGowan, warp doffer, served with the Army, and Charles Shrum, overhauler, who has returned from the Navy.

was hard work. You had to pay close attention to keep from having accidents and cutting off a finger.

She worked in the card room feeding roped cotton into a machine that turned it into smaller thread. The cotton went through six or so processes before it turned into the final sheeting product.

The final product was expanded from the Dwight "Cabot A" sheeting into drills, twills, sateens and industrial chafer. In 1933 all of Dwight operations were combined in Alabama City (Moody, 3-19-79).

Mildred worked in the mill during World War II. She said there were no more women at that time than men. Most of the young men were at war and the older men were still at the mill working. The hours were sometimes longer due to the mill having more demands for cloth.

Charles Shrum, her future husband worked in the spinning room and made machinery inspections. He left the mill to join the Navy in order to help the war. After the war he came back to work at the mill only to work a short time before he married Mildred and moved to Birmingham to go to Refrigerator School on the GI Bill.

In March 1951, Dwight Manufacturing merged with Cone Mill, Inc. out of Greensboro, North Carolina becoming the Dwight Division of the company. For nine more years the mill hummed alone.

Its payroll totaled \$7.5 million, representing 10,000 people who were affected by the Mill. These people were fed, clothed, and housed from their wages (Gadsden Times, 3-6-59). By this time the employees owned their own homes. They bought the homes from Dwight Manufacturing Company before the merger. Mildred said during the interview "that the houses were sold to do away with the enormous up keep and reasonability by the Mill because the Mill really kept the houses in good shape".

The mill also provided a strong economy for the Gadsden area. They purchased large quantities of cotton from local farmers; some 90,000 bales. The mill also bought local electricity, gas, coal and general supplies to operate the production of the mill (Gadsden Times, 3-6-59).

By this time, the Textile workers of America Union was established and the laborers at Dwight Mill were members. Charles Shrum was a member of the union but second handmen were not allowed to join the union. Therefore, Mildred's father was not part of the

union. Mildred said, "Charles was not for everything the union did but when they (meaning the union) went on strike he would have to come out." Mildred could only remember one strike and it was during her childhood. She can remember the strike being hard on the workers and their families. The Union would eventually be the downfall of Dwight Mill.

In March 1959, the workers walked out after a labor agreement could not be reached between the union and Cone Mill's management over terms of a new contract. The workers had no idea that day in March would be the last time on their job. Rumors began to circulate that the mill may be closed but the employees were optimistic. Never-the-less, on April 10, 1959, Cone Mills, Inc. announced the Dwight Division in Alabama City would not be reopened, but closed permanently (Gadsden Times, 7-6-75). Most people believed, including Mildred that Cone Mills, Inc. closed the Mill to breakup the union.

The employees and Etowah County was shocked. It was hard to believe that the industry that was such a vital part of Gadsden's economy and the income for some 2000 workers was no longer going to be open or provide the livelihood they were accustomed to.

Families were now without jobs and worried about loosing their

homes. The bread winners that could not find new jobs and were not skilled to do anything else had to move their families outside Alabama to other textile mills in order to feed them. Mildred said, " it was a sad time". At one point you saw empty houses and for sale signs in the neighborhood. Eventually new faces moved into the mill village and everything was different. At one time she knew all her neighbors and after the Mill closed she hardly knew anyone.

Gadsden and the mill village survived the closing of the Mill and life moved on. For the next twenty years Cone Mills, Inc. turned Dwight Mill into a cotton warehouse, the largest in the country. The warehouse covered twenty-five acres and stored some 40,000 bales of cotton to be shipped all over the country. The mill still employed some twenty-five people to oversee the warehouse operations (Gadsden Times, 7-6-75).

Dwight Warehouse Co. as it was then called, closed in 1978 and the property was sold to developers. In 1979 and 1980 the old historic cotton mill came down. People in Alabama City saw a piece of their heritage being destroyed. It was a sad time, but at the same time a move forward to bigger, better things.

The whole mill was made of brick and the bricks were sold to

builders to be reused. Mildred said, "she is not sure what happened to the bell, a friend of her's was trying to buy it but they were asking too much." The lakes were filled in to level the ground.

The mill still holds a lot of memories; both bad and good for Mildred and even myself. When I was a little girl we would take old bread and walk to the Mill's lakes (before they were filled in) to feed the ducks. To a little girl that was a grand time; something I looked forward to. Beside the lakes stood huge smokestacks. The smokestacks were made of brick and stood 200 feet in the air (Gadsden Times, 9-21-80). They were so tall that they could be seen a mile away. The stacks were the last thing to be torn down. For several weeks the demolition crew tried to bring them down without using dynamite. They were so well built that they could not bring them down without it. Finally dynamite was used. In September 1980, they finally were blown down (Gadsden Times, 9-21-80). There was so many people that showed up to see this event. People were parked all around the neighborhood mill property and up and down the streets to watch the smokestacks come down. Mildred said, "it was really a show to watch them come down".

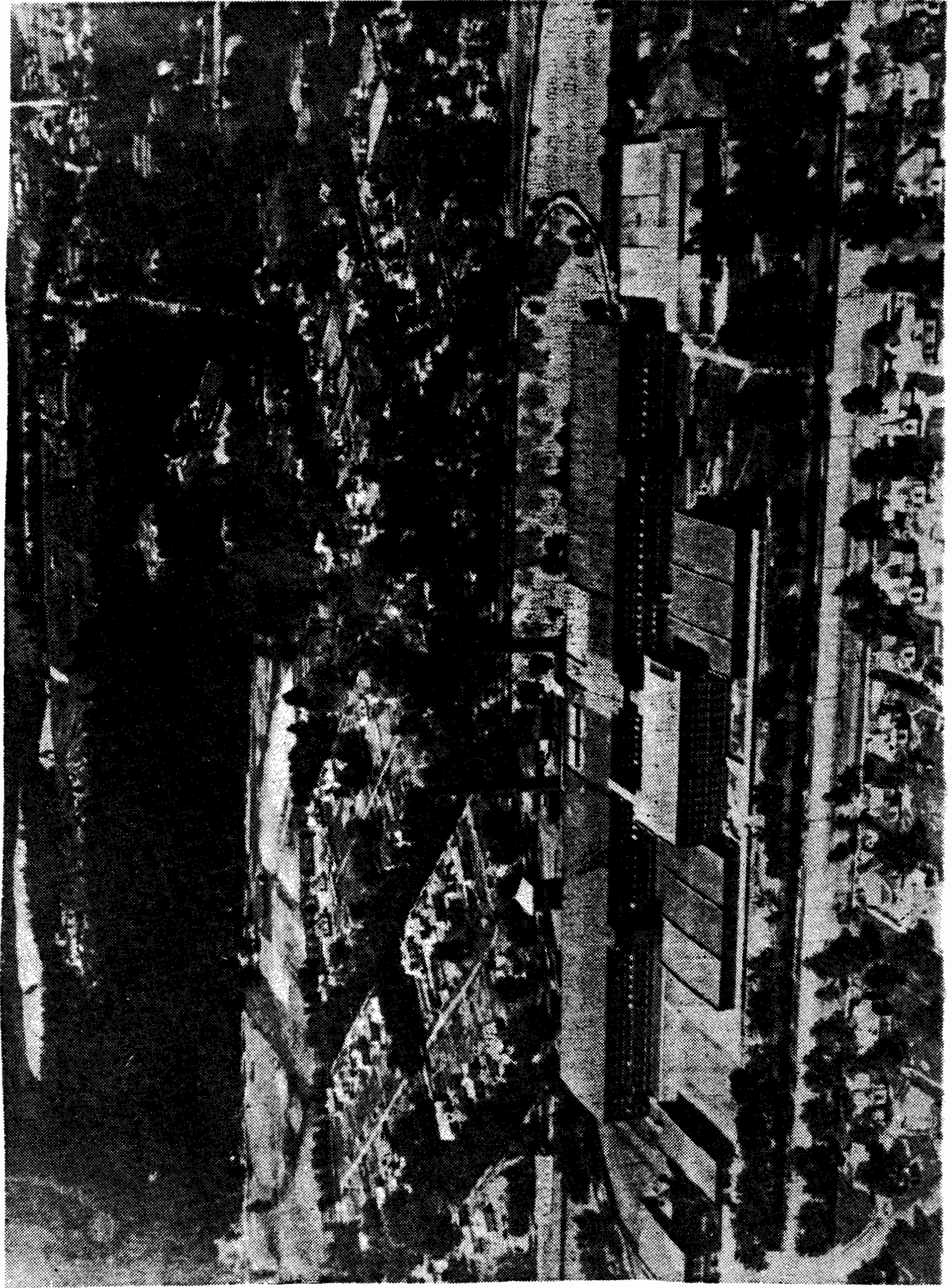
That day represented a part of history that was no longer and a turning point into the future. A shopping center was built where the Mill once stood. It has a grocery store and several variety stores. Alabama City was in need of some new stores and they also brought several jobs into the community.

The Mill came down fifteen years ago. Many of today's citizens who live in that area don't even know about it's existence, but it has not been forgotten by many. The older people that are there still remember it. Mildred is seventy-four years old and she still remembers the great impact the Mill had on her and her family. She stills lives in the Mill Village about two blocks from where the Mill once stood.

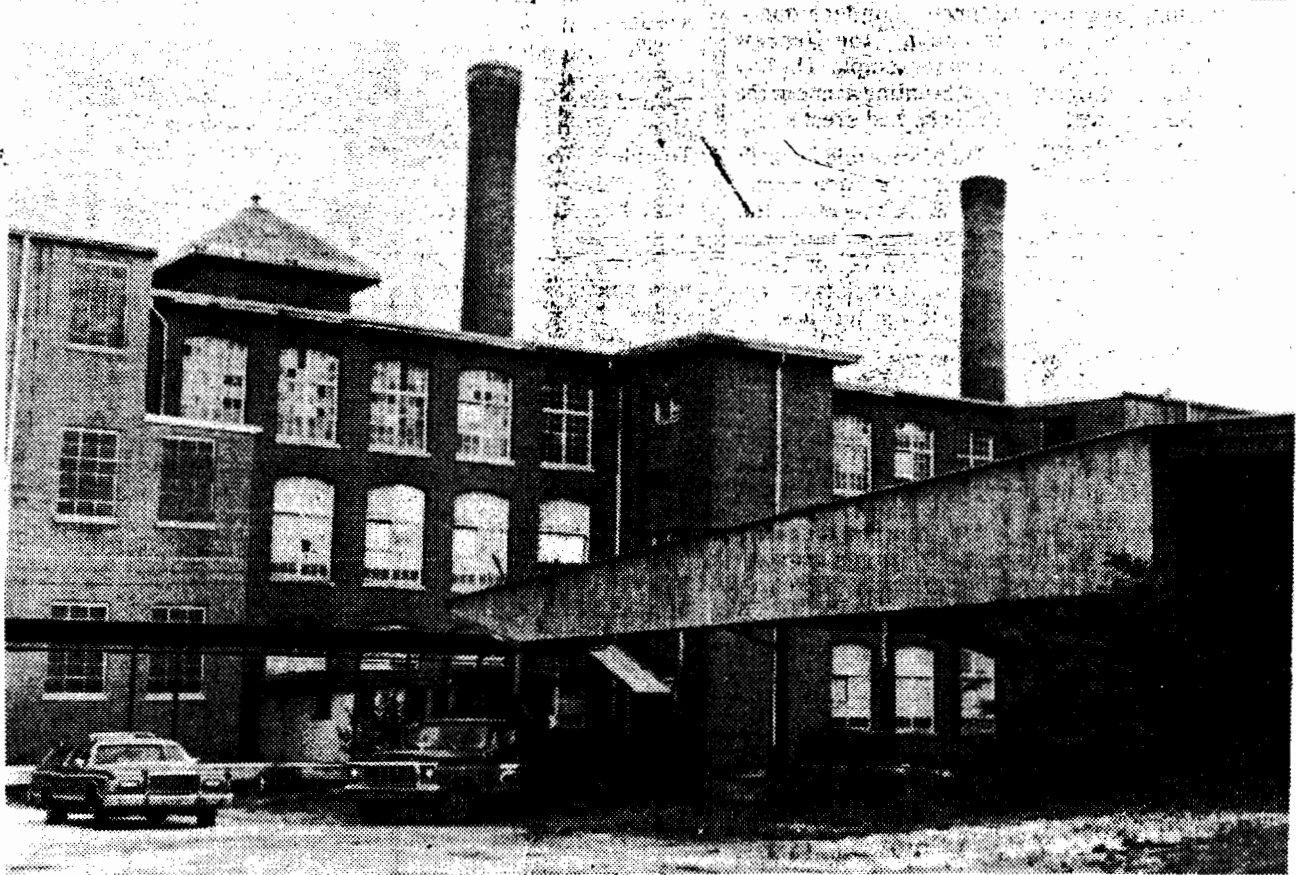
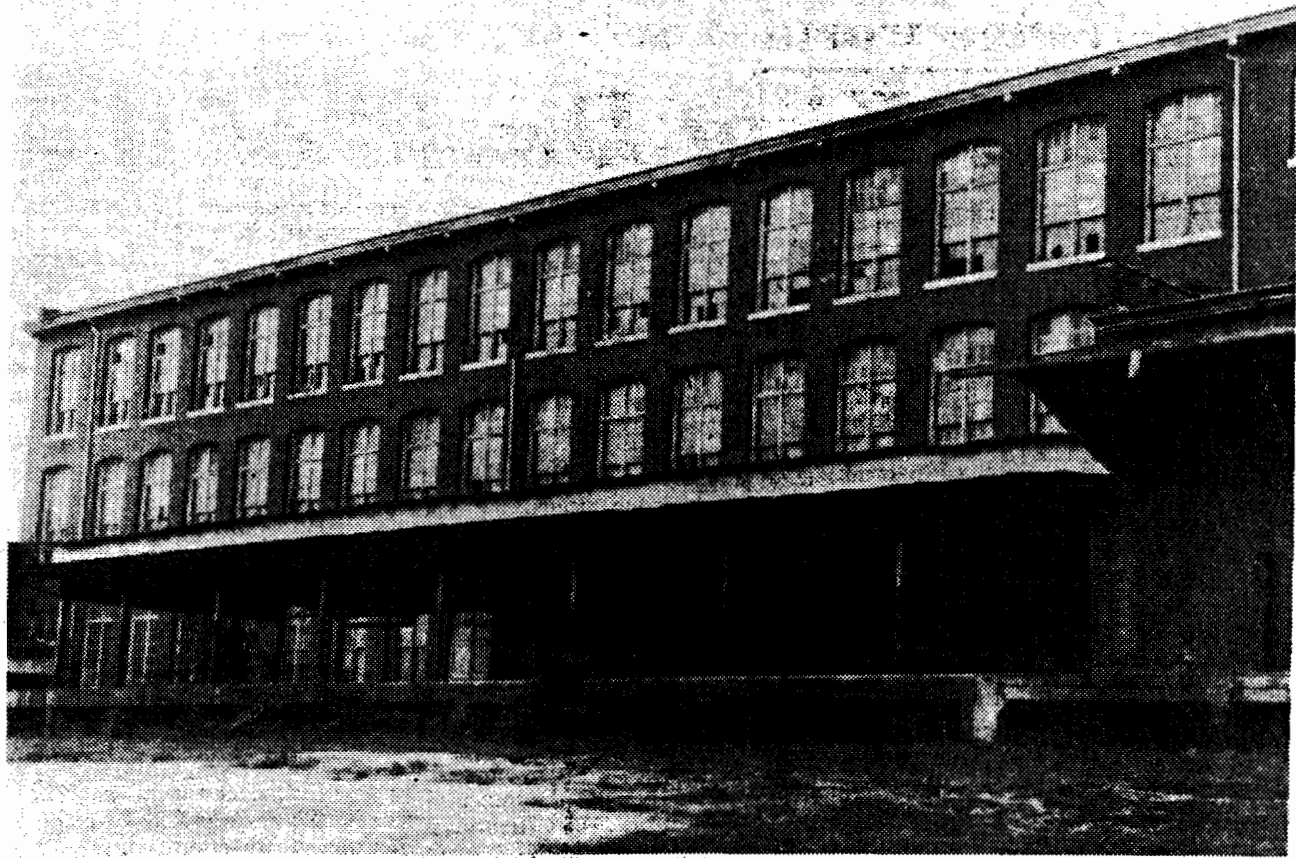
APPENDIX

Imagine when the lights were on and the looms hummed. Take a good look. In a few weeks the old red brick walls will tumble down...leaving only memories. And maybe a few tears.

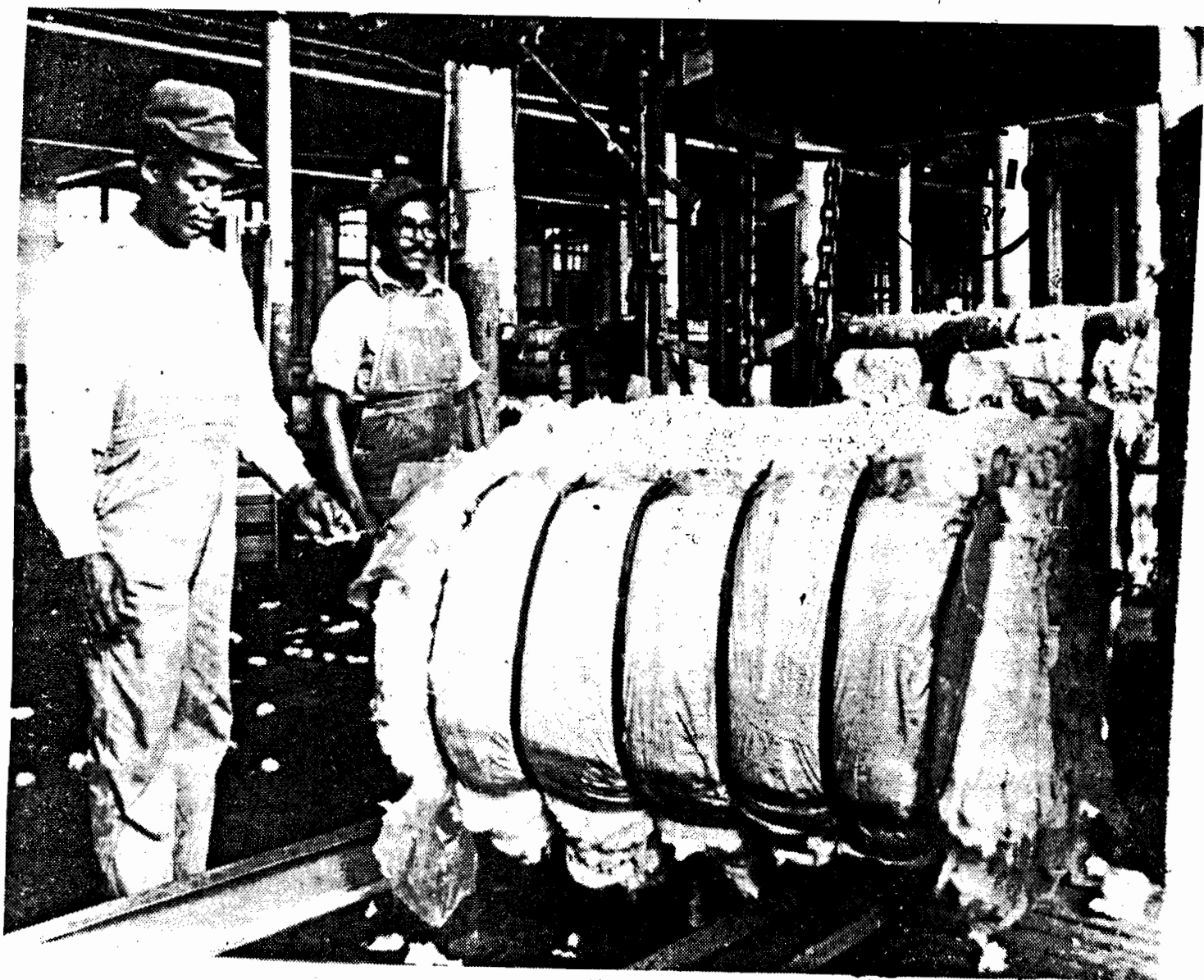
Aerial View of huge textile mill

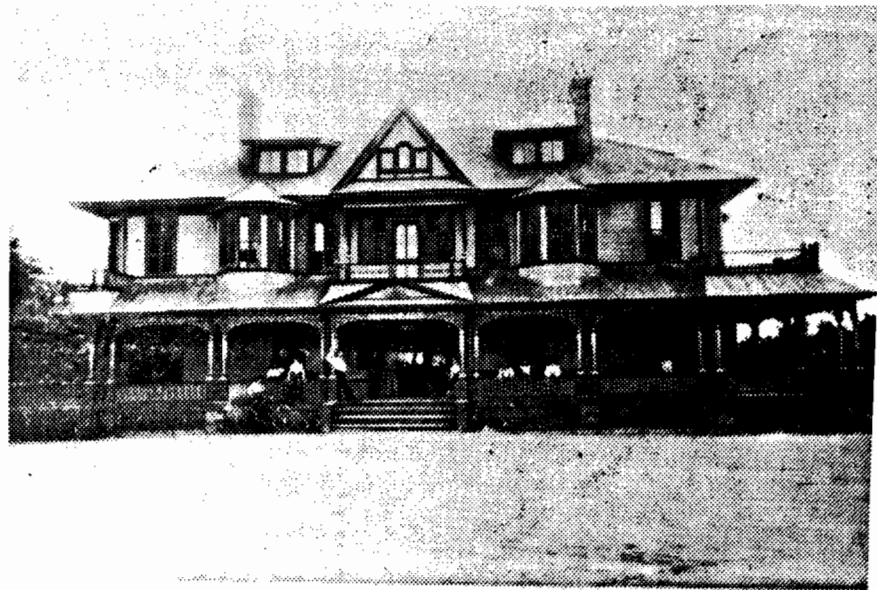


Gadsden - Industries - Textiles

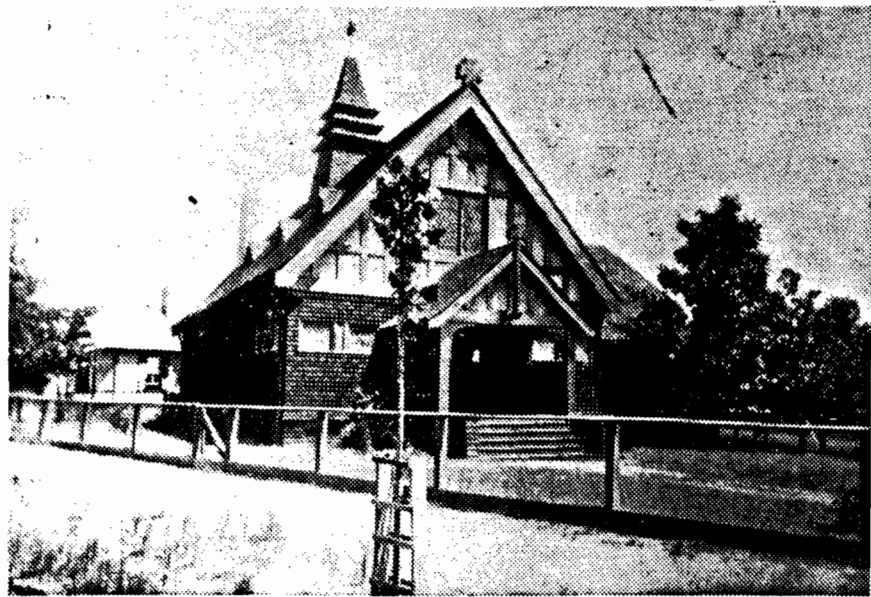


Times photos by George Butler





Dwight Inn, destroyed by fire



Union Church built for employees

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HISTORY CHRONOLOGY FROM 1920 TO 1970

- 1920
 - Jan 16 Prohibition became law
 - League of Women Voters organized
 - The year U.S. Women won suffrage
 - Thomas E. Kilby Governor of Alabama

- 1922
 - Alexander Graham Bell died (inventor of the telephone)
 - Radio for advertising medium
 - Warren Harding, U.S. President, died in office

- 1923
 - William W. Brandon "Plain Bill" Governor of Alabama

- 1924
 - Calvin Coolidge won presidential election for his own term

- 1926
 - University of Alabama Football team went to the Rose Bowl
 - They were the first southern team to play in this Bowl

- 1927
 - Bib Graves, Governor of Alabama
 - Charles Lindbergh flew the "Spirit of St. Louis" across the Atlantic

- 1928
 - Herbert Hoover won the Presidential election

- 1929
 - The Great Depression
 - Federal Farm Board Act was created
 - Twenty-four million cars

- 1932
 - Democratic President won--Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - New Deal platform, March 3 - June 16 for a hundred day plan

- 1933
 - Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was created
 - End of Prohibition
 - Agricultural Adjustment Act was created
 - Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) created to provide work relief for young men

- 1934 - Security Exchange Act was created to regulate the stock exchange
- 1935 - Resettlement Administration was created to help tenant farmers, sharecroppers and migrants
 - Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO) was created
- 1936 - Pres Franklin D. Roosevelt elected to his second term
- 1937 - Crash of the Hindenburg
 - John D. Rockefeller died, America's first billionaire and owner of Standard Oil
- 1938 - Fair Labor Standard Act - set minimum wages and maximum working hours
- 1939 - Hatch Act established
 - Works Projects Administration was established
 - World War II began on September 1st in Europe
- 1940 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to his third term promising to keep the U.S. out of the war
- 1941 - Manhattan Project started working on an atomic bomb
 - December 7th's attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese
 - America's entry into World War II
 - Redstone Arsenal was established near Huntsville, Alabama
- 1942 - Fort Rucker in Dothan was created
- 1943 - George Washington Carver died; he was famous for his work with the peanut
- 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to his fourth term
 - Battle of the Bulge; last German Counter Offense
 - D-Day, June 6, Allied invasion of France

- 1945 - United Nations established as victors of World War II
 - July 16, first atomic bomb exploded
 - August 6, first atomic bomb used in warfare on Hiroshima, Japan
 - September 2, end of World War II

- 1947 - Henry Ford died; pioneer of the automobile

- 1948 - GATT was established, it set rules for fair trading

- 1950 - Television expanded rapidly
 - June 25, Korean War

- 1951 - Amendment 22 prohibited any president from serving more than two terms

- 1953 - Dwight Eisenhower became the thirty-fourth President

- 1954 - Jonas Salk developed the polio vaccine
 - Desegregation of schools by the Brown v Board of Education of Topeka Case

- 1955 - James "Big Jim" Folsom, Governor of Alabama

- 1957 - President Eisenhower won his second term as President
 - Martin Luther King Jr. became involved in the Civil Rights Movement

- 1958 - Paul "Bear" Bryant became coach of the University of Alabama

- 1959 - Alaska joined the Union as the forty-ninth state
 - Hawaii joined the Union as the fiftieth state

- 1960 - Huntsville's Space Center was established

- 1961 - John F. Kennedy was elected President

- 1962 - February 20, first U.S. manned orbital flight
- October 22 - 28, Cuban Missile Crisis

- 1963 - November 22 President John F. Kennedy was assassinated
- George Wallace, Governor of Alabama
- Robert Lee Frost died; he was an American poet
- Vice-President Lyndon Johnson became President

- 1964 - President Johnson won the election
- The Beatles hit big in America

- 1965 - U.S. involvement in Vietnam
- Winston Churchill died; he was the British Prime Minister
- Medicare and Medicaid was created

- 1968 - April 4, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated
- 94% of American's households had at least one television
- June 6, Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated

- 1969 - President Richard Nixon served two terms
- July 16, Apollo 13 landed and the first men to walk on the moon

- 1971 - Amendment 24 lowered the voting age to 18
- Hugo Black died; he was the most significant figure in American Judicial history

- 1973 - January 23, end of U.S. involvement in Vietnam

CHRONOLOGY OF MILDRED EVELYN MANDERSON SHRUM

- 1921 - Born November 11, 1921; Delivered at home by Dr. Cantrell
- 1926 - Entered Dwight School
- 1927 - Entered Emma Sammon High School
- 1939 - Graduated from high school
- 1940 - Began working at Dwight Cotton Mill, Alabama City, Alabama
- 1941 - Mildred bought her first car and first time to drive
- 1946 - Married Charles Shrum after his discharge from the Navy in April 27, 1946
- 1947 - Moved to Birmingham, Alabama; Charles enrolled in Refrigerator Repair School
- 1948 - First child was born, Jennifer Lynn Shrum, May 17, 1948
- 1952 - Moved back to Alabama City, Alabama
- 1955 - Second child was born, Eric Charles Shrum
- 1959 - Bought first television; a second hand black and white
- 1960 - Charles went to work at Allis Chambers
- 1964 - Nora Ann Smith Manderson died, Mildred's mother; she was seventy years old and died from complication of surgery
- 1967 - Jennifer and Olen Graves married August 25, 1967
- 1968 - Charles and Mildred bought their first home; #6 Peachtree Street, Gadsden, Alabama
- 1968 - One of Mildred's brothers died of a heart attack at age 51.
- 1969 - Mildred's first grandchild was born December 7, Heather Marie Graves to Jennifer and Olen Graves
- 1976 - Mildred's sister Sylvia Wates died at age 63 from liver disease
- 1979 - Mildred's father, Samuel Raymond Manderson died from heart failure

- 1981 - Eric Shrum and Alison Lauber married October 27, 1981
- 1983 - Second grandchild was born October 11, Cameron Charles Shrum
- 1985 - Third grandchild was born October 8, Phillip Spencer Shrum
- 1987 - Charles Hershhal Shrum died January 3, from lung cancer
- 1992 - Mildred's son and his family moved to Alaska
- 1995 - Mildred's son and his family moved to Atlanta

QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW

1. What was his age your father's age when started working at the mill? Where was he from?
2. What did he do at the mill? How long was his hours? How long did he work at the mill?
3. Was he paid in cash or script?
4. Did he retire from the mill? When? Was it before the mill closed?
5. Did he belong to the union? Was the union big then?
6. What were the Mill houses like? (painted, nice, comfortable, have a yard, roads, etc...)
7. Did you have a garden, cows, pigs, to help supplement groceries?
8. How big was your house (number of rooms)? How much was rent?
9. Did your mother work at the mill?
10. How many was in your family?
11. Did you all go to school and graduate?
12. Did most children in the neighborhood go to school?
13. Tell me about growing up in the Mill village? (kids, church, schools, entertainment)
14. Do you remember the Mill's bell ringing? When did it ring?
15. Did Dwight Company run any stores? What kind? Did you have to shop there? Was it on a cash or credit system of payment?
16. What did you and your family do for entertainment ?
17. Do you remember the Company Library? Tell me about it?
18. Did your brother and sisters work at the Mill? Explain.
19. When did you start working at the Mill? How long and old were you?
20. What did you do at the Mill? Explain.

21. How much did you make? How long were the hours?
22. How were the working conditions of the Mill? (good, bad, dusty with cotton dust, hard to breathe, safe, clean)
23. Do you remember hearing about or seeing any accidents?
24. What was it like working in the Mill during WWII? (more women than men, pay the same, attitudes)
25. What was the effects of the war on production at the Mill?
26. What was your attitude about the mill when you worked there? (hard or easier, liked or disliked)
27. Did grandfather (Charles Shrum) work at the Mill? Explain. Why did he quit?
28. What was the primary product of the mill?
29. Cone Mills, Inc. out of Greensboro, North Carolina merged with Dwight Manufacturing Company. Do you remember this and did anything change at the mill? (pay, hours, managers)
30. Do you remember any strikes? Explain.
31. Dwight closed in 1959. Tell me about the closing of the mill?
32. What was going on in the Mill and the community during this time?
33. How did the closing of the Mill effect Gadsden? The employees and their families?
34. What was the Mill village like after the Mill closed?
35. Tell me about the Mill after it closed?
36. In 1980, Cone Mills, Inc. destroyed the Mill and sold the land to Real Estate developers. Tell me about the tearing down of the Mill, how the neighborhood felt, attitudes, and thoughts?
37. The smokestacks were the last thing to go. Tell me about the smokestacks and what happened to the area and the lakes?
38. What is at the old site of the Mill today? Explain.
39. Can you remember anything else that we have gone over or that you want to elaborate on more?

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