

Christmas Eve Mass Celebrated at Church of the Purification in Sha-



Christmas was celebrated at the historic Church of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Sharon with a Christmas Eve mass. There were about 100 people in attendance from all over the region. On the church calendar, the “twelve Days of Christmas” began on December 25 and concluded with the Epiphany of the Lord on January 6.



Musicians Stan Coe, Rose Weser and Lerna Sunga sing Christmas Carols at Church of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

PERSONALITIES!

Social News from the Washington area.

Please call or see Susan Pope -- 678-2330

or email: society@news-reporter.com

DAR presents American flag to WW Elementary School



Peggy Jones, Kettle Creek Chapter Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is shown presenting an American flag to Principal Angela McGill of WW Elementary School. One of DAR's goals is to promote patriotism and another is to promote education. In donating a flag to a local school, DAR is promoting both goals on a local level.

Evan Harper graduates AIT training



Evan Harper

Evan Kain Harper graduated from Advance Individual Training (AIT) on December 9 at Fort Benning. A family day was held on December 8. Visiting for the special occasion were Wendi Wolfe, Ryan David Harper, Mack Chafin, and Kayli Young. Evan graduated from Basic Training on September 11, but family and friends were not allowed to attend due to covid restrictions. Evan is now stationed at Fort Lewis located in the state of Washington.

Vintage Photo of the Week



David Toburen instructing a computer class for teachers. Seated (l to r) Carolyn Gammon, Dawn Saggus Standing (l to r) Laura Toburen, Janet Hill, Mary Lou McPherson, Mary Elizabeth Burdette, Amethyst Wynn.

Email your news for Personalities to society@news-reporter.com

Recalling the Square-The Office Cat: January 2, 1997 by Jane Newsome

One of the best parts about working at The News-Reporter is getting to look back on previous editions. This article gives an interesting perspective on life around The Square starting as far back as the 1930s. We hope this brings back fond memories for many and causes others to look at the downtown area and try to locate some of the businesses and imagine what it much have looked like.

The developments that have come to light in recent weeks about various closings of stores around The Square and heartening information about purchases of buildings by individuals who plan to restore them, reminded me of a time in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s (and even some into the later years) when The Square was prosperous and lively and crowded with people. Stores stayed open until near midnight on Saturdays and Christmas Eve was the biggest night of the year with stores so packed with people, even until midnight, that it was difficult to make your way down the street and through the stores. . . I remember one Christmas Eve as a college student when I worked at McConnell's during the Christmas holidays and the manager had mercy on some of us younger ones and let us off at 11:30 p.m.

During those days I can recall at

least seven grocery stores: Jimmy and Austin Meadows on the west side of the Square; and across the alley was their sister Jo and her husband Frank Jackson (Master's Wildlife Building). Newt and Charlie Armour (now Georgia Realty) had their store on the east side, and around the corner on Robert Toombs (which was Main Street then) was Ledbetter's Market. On the south side was A&P Tea Co., and A. A. Marshall's Washington Market (building currently owned by Jon Waldorf); and just up the street was Rogers (currently Poss Hardware) which later became Colonial.

There were three "10-cent stores". Until recent years, there was always one on the corner in the Absolute Fitness building. (Pop-Lahr Possibilities). Miss Emogene Hill was a favorite clerk there. Down near Ledbetter's Market was the store owned by the Krongolds (Suburban Propane) (the Verizon Building side entrance), and on the east side of The Square was McConnell's... Three drug stores, all with soda fountains, were favorite places to gather. They were even open on Sunday afternoons, and you could get curb service. You drove up, tooted your car horn and somebody (usually a teenager) came out to take



Movie theater on Robert Toombs Avenue next to Wilkes Loan

your order. Remember the trays that fit into the window of your car? The stores were Green's (E-Z-Pawn) (currently Pieces), Allen's Pharmacy (Another Thyme) (now Al's), and Corry-Wynne (McMichael's)(now American Pest Control).

There were at least three barber shops with George Ward and Luke Poss in their fancy one next to Krongold's (across from Poss Hardware); and Ben Jones up the street where Franklin Insurance offices are now located. Jimmie Huss was around the corner on Spring Street along where Perry's Barber Shop (right hand entrance of Glo Spa) is now. I think Duck Davis had one around on Jefferson Street (or maybe he had a café about where the city parking lot is located. and Somebody Tutt had one across from the Old Jail.

There were three furniture stores: Clark Gresham (now Big Bee's), Charlie Clary and Bentley Brothers (currently Wilkes Eye Center); two dentists: Dr. C. J. May and Dr. Ed Logan, both in the upstairs offices on Main Street; Dr. H. T. Harris, eye, ear, nose, and throat, was over Allen's Pharmacy. Dr. W.C. Branan came in the very early '50's or maybe even late '40's, and was upstairs over the Pumpkin Patch (Washington Collective). There were several beauty shops; several lawyers; and The News-Reporter.

We had NINE doctors in the Downtown area. Dr. Rob Simpson and Dr. Robert G. Stephens were in the building which now housed the Wilkes County Farm Bureau (now home to Steve Albertson, CPA). Next door in a big house (presently Terry's IGA) were Dr. C. E. Wills Sr. and Dr. A. W. Simpson Sr. who were joined by their sons, Dr. Charles Wills and Dr. Addison Simpson Jr.; and eventually by Dr. Dan Duggan and Dr. M.C. Adair. Around the corner on Jefferson Street was Dr. Sessoms. . . There were two banks: Washington Loan and Banking Co. and Farmers and

Merchants Bank which came along about 1949 or 1950. There were two jewelry stores: Ellington's (now Sisters Two) and Lucas'.

Mr. E.B. Morris had a bicycle shop; and Herbert Spratlin and Walter Shelverton, general merchandise stores. In the 1930s, Nick Creedy had a café on the north corner of Main and Jefferson; and the Boyds had a bakery.

At various times, there were three "picture-shows," or movie theaters: the Joy, the Strand, and the Wilkes. The Joy and the Strand were located on the corner next to Wilhoit Gas (the parking lot next to the Chamber of Commerce) and the Wilkes was where the parking lot is between Petal Pushers (H&R Block) and Dr. Holes' office. Jacque and Claude Johnson lived upstairs over the Wilkes and Claude was the manager. . . There were two dry cleaners and a laundry (Shine's); the Ford Place and bus station (now the sight of Royal Food Store/China One Restaurant) . . . And there were two busy hotels – The Fitzpatrick, which I remember as the Washington Hotel and Hotel Johnson which was on the corner where Allied Bank (Regions Bank) now stands. And both had eating facilities with a coffee shop in the Johnson, run by (among others) Joe and Ruby David; and a cafeteria on the second floor of the Fitzpatrick, ably run by Mrs. Crawford Cooper (and others).

Belk's (Young Fashion), Blum's (The Art Gallery) and Blackmons' were on The Square and W. Frank Lee's (Poss-Ace Hardware) was the place to buy something real special. Mrs. Ruth Dent and Mrs. Rachel Powell presided over this establishment for many years. And you could get anything you needed from Johnson's department store on the south corner of Main and Jefferson.

Families lived in apartments upstairs in the buildings around The Square and on Main Street. Mary and Boyd Russell and their children Gladys, Doris, and Harris, lived up-

stairs in the Young Fashion Building; the Harvey Jacksons lived upstairs over Earl George's Barber Shop; The Rives family – Charlie, Bertha, Donald, Nell and Rosalyn – lived over Kettle Creek Sporting Goods. The Huss and Swope families lived upstairs over Moore's Office Supplies on Spring Street; and others among them, Cornelia Cofer, lived upstairs where Dave's TV is located on Court Street, which at that time was the automotive repair shop of Mr. Henry Hill. The Flynts lived over Master's Wildlife and Mrs. Flynt was an expert seamstress who did alterations for Downtown stores.

Happy new year to all of you! (We would like to thank Skeet Willingham for helping identify the location of some of the businesses. If you have any additional information or stories you would like to share, we would love to hear about it! Contact us at online@news-reporter.com.)

Personal Mentions

On December 19, Barbara and Virgil Wolter celebrated Christmas in Senoia, with Kim and Jeana Moss, Lynn Gioia of Alpharetta, Johnny and Tiffany Reed, Jake Reed, Haley Thompson, Brantley and Bella of Senoia, Rachel Alberts, Olivia, Alaina and Alice of Fayetteville.

Barbara and Virgil Wolter celebrated Christmas Day in Alpharetta with Lynn Gioia, Alexis, Jacob Beck, Jordan Truitt of Alpharetta, Jarrett Truitt of Vidalia, and Tracy McAvoy of Conyers.

On December 31, Jeana Moss of Senoia, Rachel Alberts, Olivia, Alaina and Alice of Fayetteville, visited with Virgil and Barbara Wolter. In the afternoon, they toured the Washington Museum and the Marry Willis Library.

Myra Blackmon flew to Colorado on December 24 for Christmas with Richard, Sarah, Amelia and Scarlett Johnson. They also had a family outing and lunch in Pueblo to celebrate Amelia's 15 Birthday. She returned on the 28.

Jeffery Blackmon arrived in Washington on the 24 for Christmas Eve with Becky Stover and family and spent the Christmas weekend with his parents Steve and Eleanor Blackmon. He left on the 28.



Gresham Furniture in the current Big Bee's Soul Food restaurant

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