

## **Architecture-Grand Avenue**

**Contents:** Documents featuring homes on Grand Avenue in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

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Payne-Seward-Moorhead House, Grand Ave. Yazoo City, MS

Fall

# Home Improvement

The Yazoo Herald

Saturday, September 26, 1998

Section B



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Christy G. Kiger

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By CHRISTY G. KIGER  
Staff Writer

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# New life, new lots for old homes

## Relocation and renovation a natural combination for some homeowners

By CHRISTY G. KIGER  
Staff Writer

A whim prompted one family to do it. Zoning regulations forced another into it. The lure of a return to country life was the deciding factor for a third.

Their common project? Moving an old home to a new location.

In the process, home improvement has taken on a whole new meaning for the Huff, Stafford and Brown families of Yazoo County.

After 20 years of raising two children in their historic home on Monroe Street in Yazoo City, Tweedie and Charles Huff followed through on an idea they'd had 20 years earlier for the three-story Wise home. The family has been preparing for months to move the home 10 miles away to a waterfront site on Eagle Lake off U.S. 49 near Como Fish Farms.

In the late 1970s, when the Huffs first pondered buying the then-70-year-old home, "we talked about moving it," said Mrs. Huff. "So we looked around and couldn't find anybody really that knew how to do it. It just didn't pan out. We just couldn't find anybody with the expertise to do it."

Nearly two decades later, "we came to a time when we could either put some more money into it and stay in town or move it out," she said.

The art of home moving had made many advances, so earlier this year the monstrous task of moving the old home began.

The Huff family packed up 20 years of memories and collectibles — and some actual pieces of the home, including the top of the stair railing — and moved out in May, making way for lengthy moving preparations.

"Initially, we had hoped to be in it by Christmas," Mrs. Huff said Wednesday afternoon. "We're behind schedule two or three months. Basically, the floor plan is going to stay the same. We're doing a totally new kitchen and den, driveway, small courtyard, a back gallery and a TV room, but everything will be rewired, re-plumbed, re-Sheetrocked and

repainted."

The home was purchased in the 1970s after Mrs. Huff saw it and showed it to her husband, who agreed to a coin flip on whether to buy it.

"We thought we would move it to Holly Bluff," she said of their childhood community. "We went home that day and talked and talked and talked about it, and finally we just looked at each other and just said, 'Flip a coin. Heads we buy; tails we don't.'"

"It came up heads, and we called (the Realtor) and we bought it."

Mrs. Huff was hopeful Wednesday that the home — built 94 years ago to replace the home in which the Great Fire of 1904 is said to have started — would begin being taken apart, literally, by the movers.

At least one piece of the home was to be "craned off" Thursday by Chipley House Moving and Leveling of Carthage.

The Huffs hope to begin remodeling by Christmas if not before at the new site so that they may actually be living in it by next summer.

Things aren't always as difficult in home moving as it has been for the Huffs.

Wes and Sherry Stafford had fewer problems moving their home, once a Jerry Clower Boulevard restaurant, to a lakefront lot in the county.

The old Livvy's had been on the market for about a year when the Staffords looked into buying it. Previously an upscale restaurant and bar, the structure was up for grabs. The property had been sold out from under it to make way for AutoZone, and the building had to be moved.

In June 1996, the Staffords moved the home in two pieces from the lot near the intersection of 20th Street and Jerry Clower Boulevard to a cleared lot at the end of Lake Shore Drive off Myrleville Road.

The 1½-hour trek cost the couple more than they paid for the home, but it was worth it, according to the Staffords.

"Because they had to move it in two

pieces, it cost us \$14,000," Wes Stafford said. "But we got the house cheaper than that, so that was a pretty good deal."

"They estimated how long it would take for us to move the house through town and how many people it would take, and we had to put up that much money up front."

There was "foundation work, coordinating with the city to get a permit and calling all the utility people — more to that involved than I realized," Stafford said. "They had to be available with their boom trucks to lift (utility) lines, and then there was a problem at the intersection of 20th Street. That was going to cost something like \$3,000 to add six more feet" of line to allow for the lines to be lifted and the home to be moved under them.

After the home was moved, the remaining problems were self-induced. There were walls to be moved, added and knocked down; windows to be moved, removed and replaced; and rooms to be restructured.

The Staffords knocked out a wall in the dining area to provide two entrances into the kitchen on either side of a fireplace. A wall was built in the dining area to partition off the master bedroom and to accommodate French doors. They opened up what was the restaurant's restroom facilities to create one large bathroom and dressing area. The former kitchen and bar were converted to children's bedrooms. Swinging saloon doors were taken out and replaced with French doors for a bedroom.

"That was one of the things when we were looking at house plans to build: We wanted the house to be open," Stafford said. "We didn't want a bunch of hallways — wasted space. I like this for the 10-foot ceilings for one thing, but all the rooms are open."

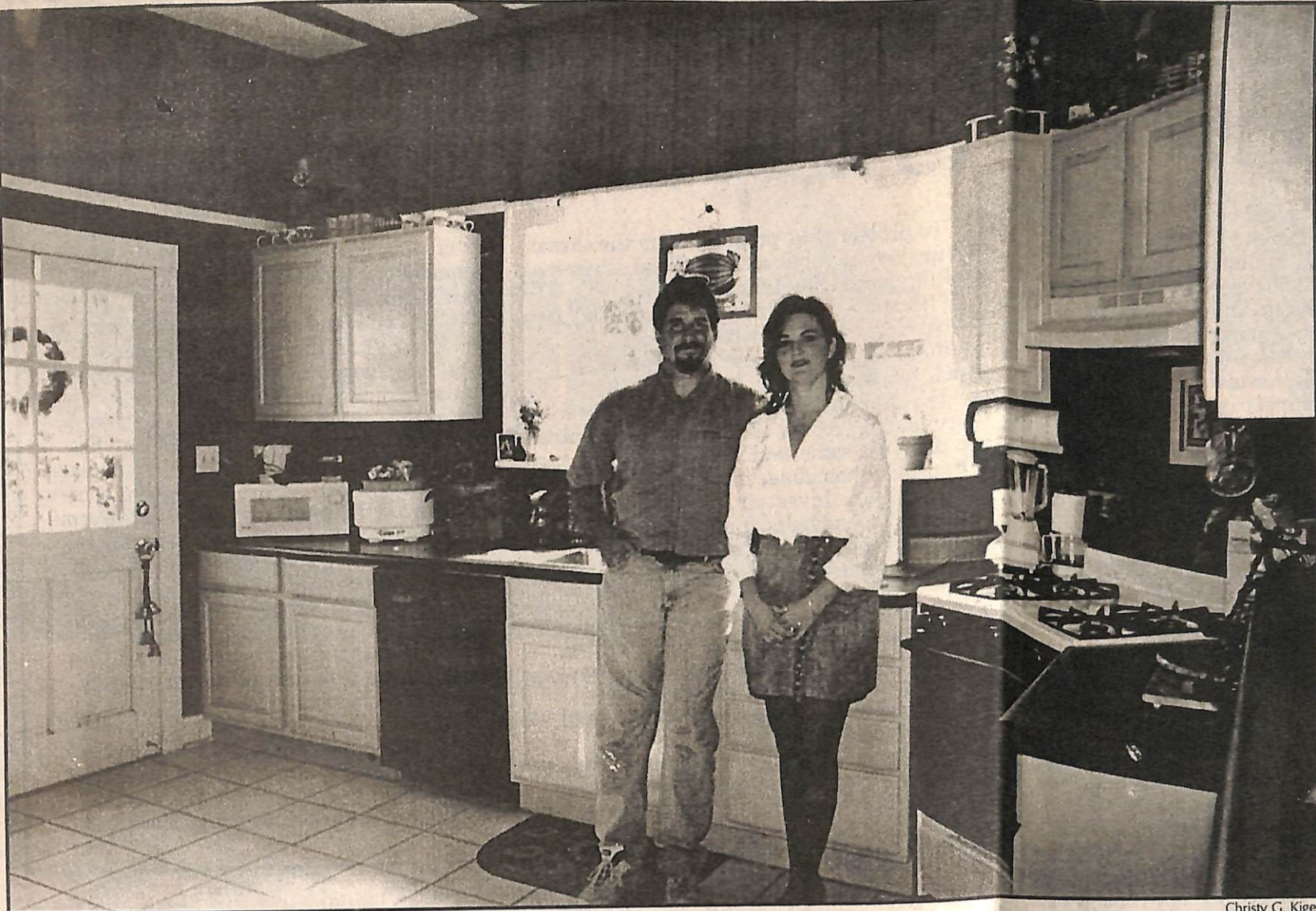
"It took about four months to remodel it," he said, pointing out that "the last 20 percent of a new house is everything we had to do here."

Continued on page 4B



Christy G. Kiger

TURNING AN ATTIC into 900 additional square feet of playroom and office space was one of the many challenges for the Billy Brown Jr. family, which moved the old Weber home at 15th Street and Grand Avenue a couple of blocks up Grand Avenue. Enjoying their spacious new quarters are Billy, his wife, Theresa, and daughters Callie and Courtney.



Christy G. Kiger

After relocation and major renovations, a former restaurant is giving Wes and Sherry Stafford the roomy living quarters they desired

## Home movers

Continued from page 1B

And so it was with the Browns. Theresa and Billy Brown Jr. had fallen in love with their renovated home on Grand Avenue and became accustomed to watching the world go by from their front porch.

But when a stranger breezed through town one afternoon and offered Mrs. Brown \$3,000 in earnest money toward the purchase of the home, they couldn't help but think of the possibilities.

So they sold it, purchased the old Weber house at 15th Street and Grand Avenue and moved it a quarter-mile north on Grand Avenue.

"The city really worked with us," Brown said of the move. "(Building Inspector) Obie (McClure) was good, and Danny Duggan (with the Public Service Commission) especially.

"The phone company, for them to hold one line up, I had to go down and pay them an \$800 certified check. Now they did reimburse us some money later, but actually they got to the point where they weren't going to raise the line any higher, and Mr. Bobo asked Danny if he could use his big truck and they raised it on up. He got up there and helped them. That's what I'm saying: The city worked with us. They

moved this pole for us and helped us with it. They were real accommodating. The cable company was real accommodating."

Moving the home in one piece proved a lot less menacing to the pocketbook than had it been moved in sections.

"If they can haul it in one piece, it's about a third of what it would cost to cut it in half and move it, according to the guy we used," Brown said. "Depending on what they have to do," the Browns estimate that it would cost someone \$10,000 to \$15,000 to move a home like theirs.

Mrs. Brown pointed out a disconcerting fact that many home movers aren't aware of.

"When you are transporting the house, there is no insurance on the house. Wood actually bends. You hear it. You could see it bending," Mrs. Brown said.

Luckily, the Browns' mover "did not break one single thing. They don't tape them or anything. It's the laws of nature or something like that."

But the laws of nature could not save the home's brick fireplaces or brick porch and columns.

"They took a sledge hammer and beat (the old chimneys in the living room and

the bedroom) out," said Brown.

Even though it only took three hours to move the home to the new site, it took about 10 months to get it back livable.

The Browns moved the house on Oct. 31, 1996, and moved in in June 1997.

"It made for some excitement on Halloween," Mrs. Brown recalled of moving day. Neighbors lined the street with lawn chairs and watched the "parade."

Once the house was in place, there were many things to be done.

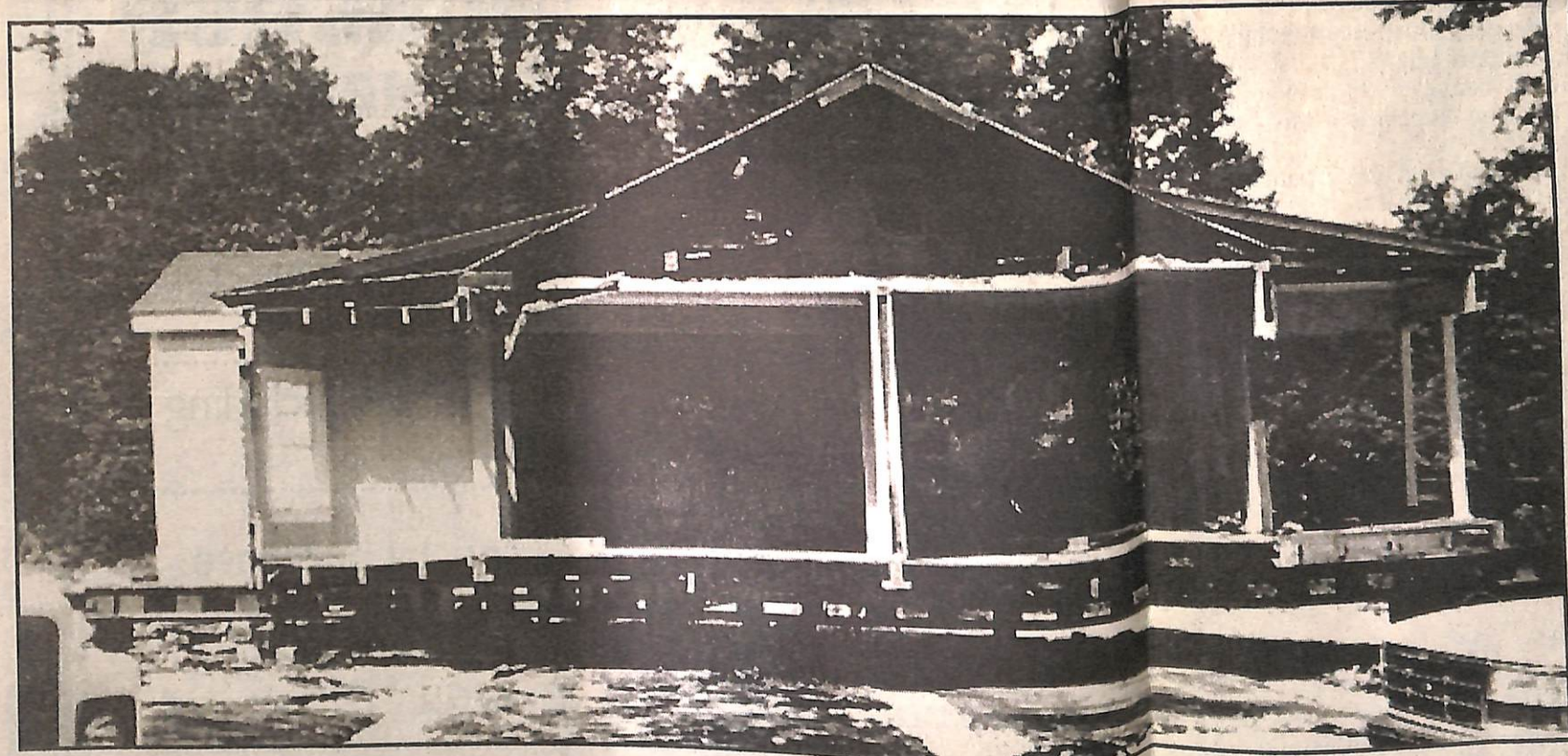
The Browns, working from magazine-inspired ideas, cut the living-room windows in half.

"They completely Sheetrocked the whole house, rewired the whole house, replumbed the whole house and redid the floors. We threw out the kitchen and started over," Mrs. Brown said. "It was really like building a house except we had the shell."

The couple also converted attic space into 900 additional square feet of playroom and office space.

Comfortable in their new quarters, the Browns don't expect to undertake any similar projects in the future.

"This hobby has gotten too expensive," Mrs. Brown laughed.



ABOVE IS PRE-RENOVATION view of Wes and Sherry Stafford's home, which was once Livvy's Restaurant. At left is the finished

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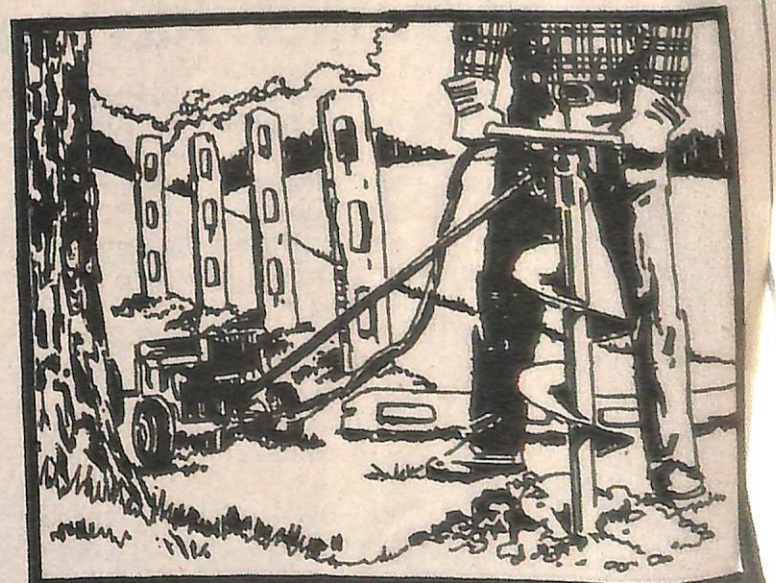
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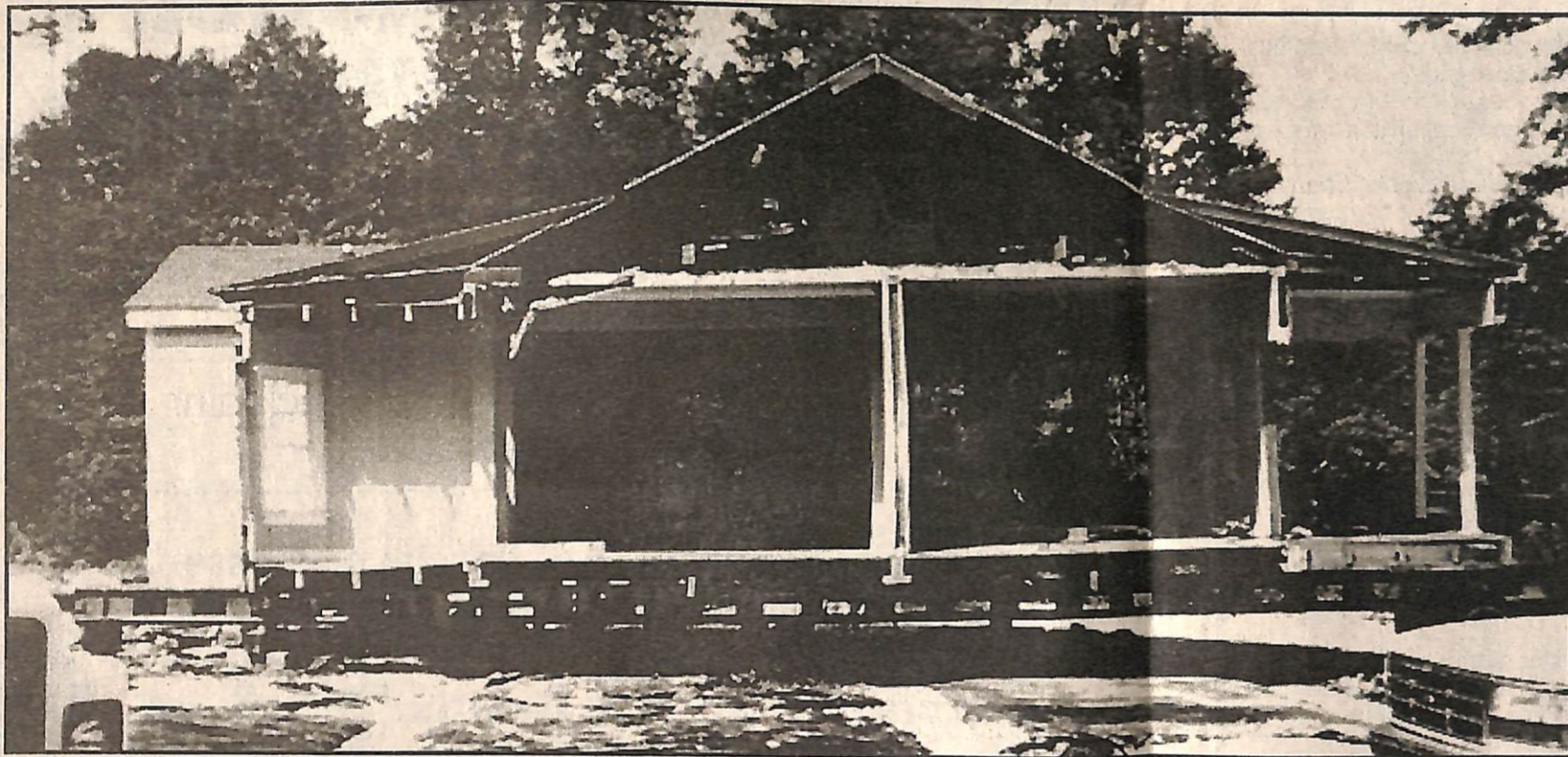
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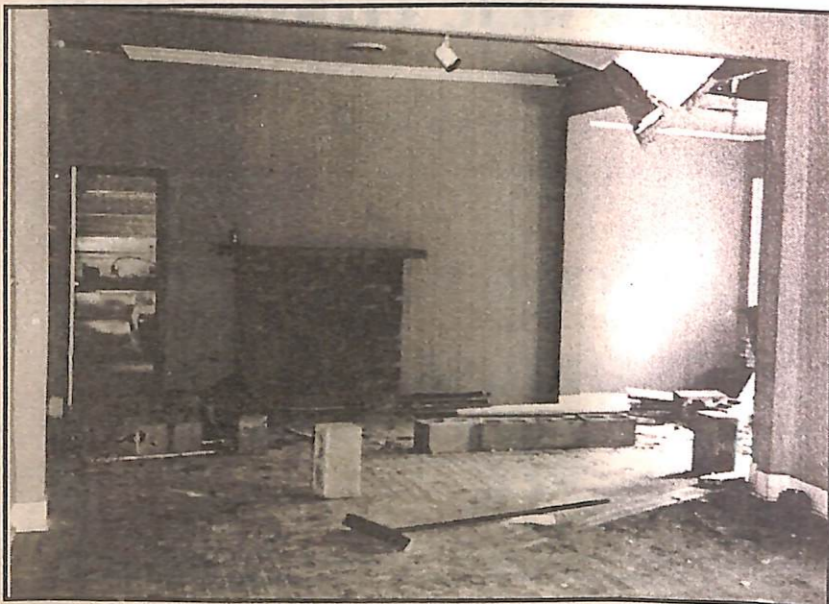
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ABOVE IS PRE-RENOVATION view of Wes and Sherry Stafford's home, which was once Livvy's Restaurant. At left is the finished product off Myrtleville Road.



MORE BEFORE AND AFTER: Single entrance into kitchen area, at left, gave the Staffords a cramped feeling. At right, doors on both sides of fireplace provide the roomy, open feel they enjoy.



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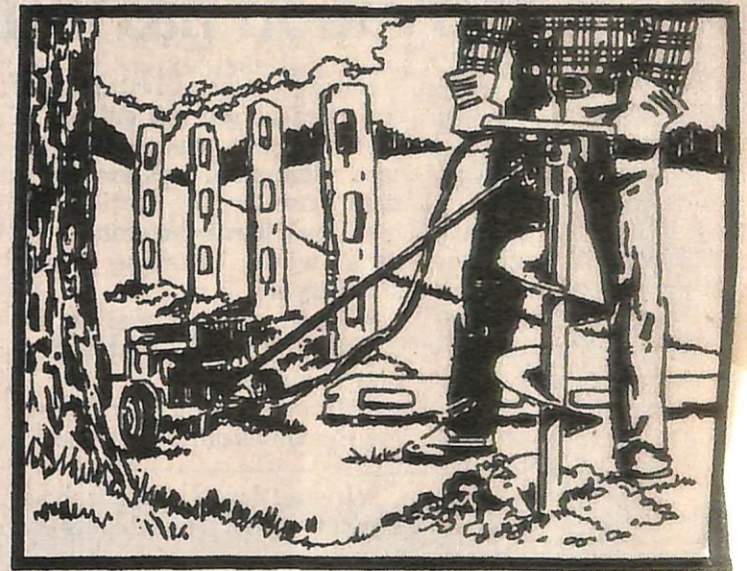
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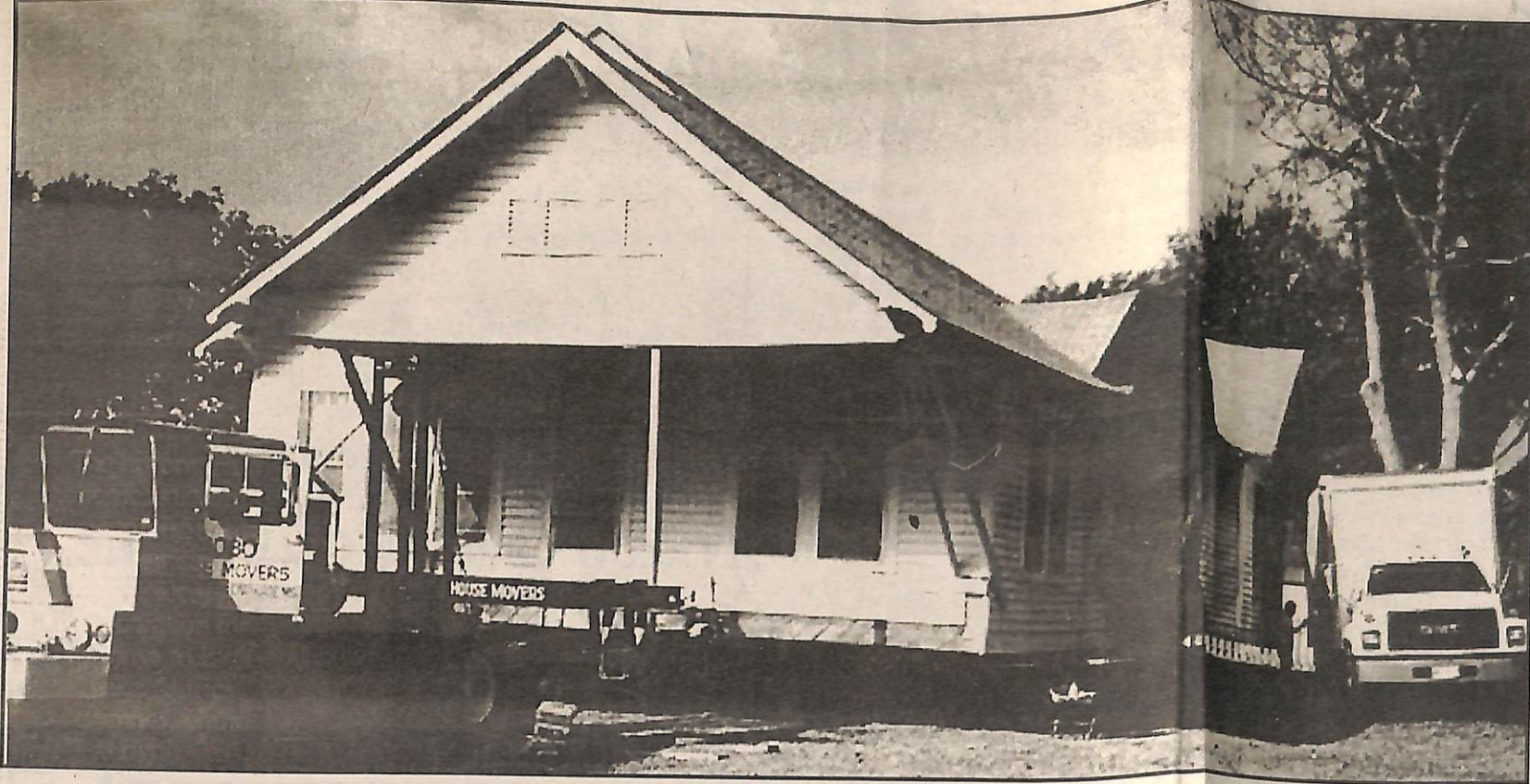


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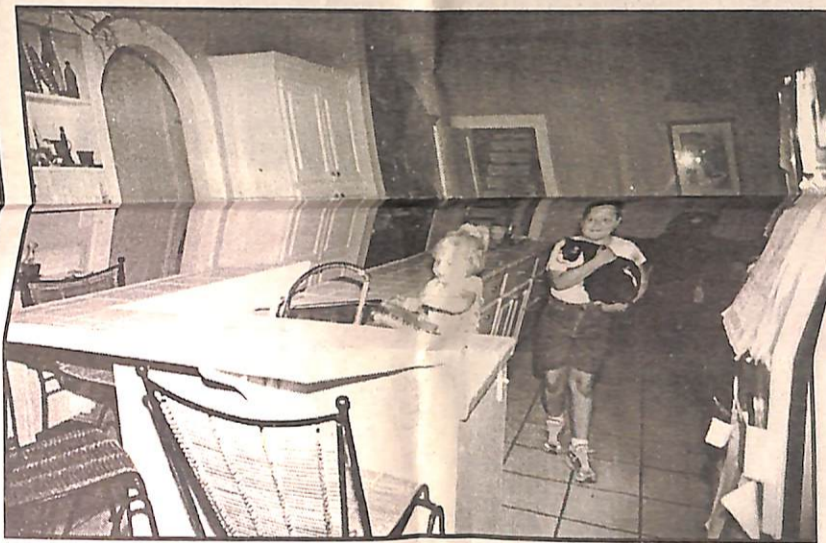
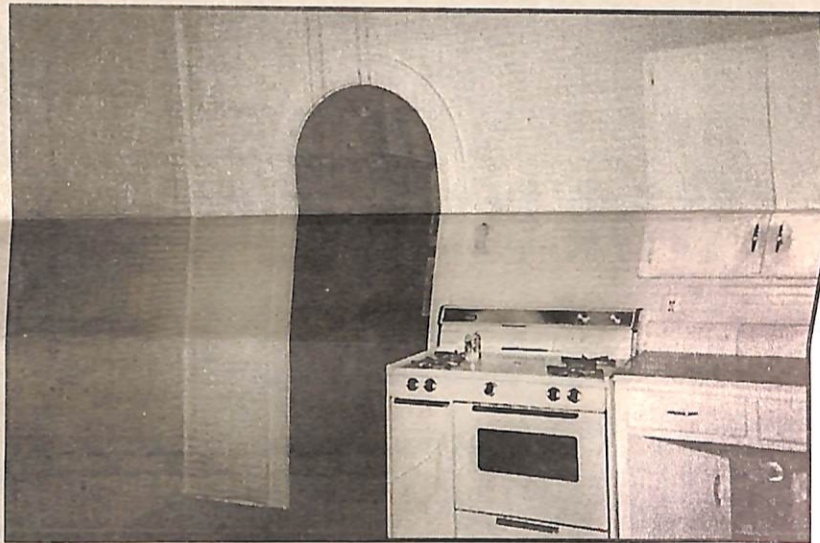
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The old Weber home begins short trek north on Grand Avenue in October 1996



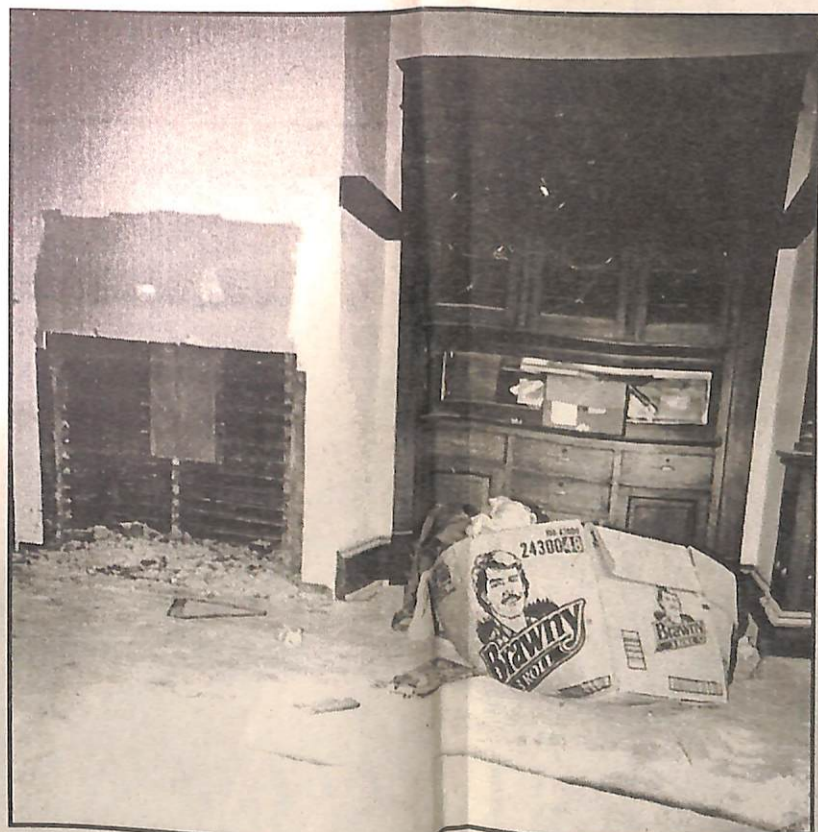
The Billy Brown Jr. home after extensive renovation and remodeling



The Brown family's kitchen, enjoyed by daughters Callie and Courtney at right, is a far cry from the old days



The historic Huff home on North Monroe Street



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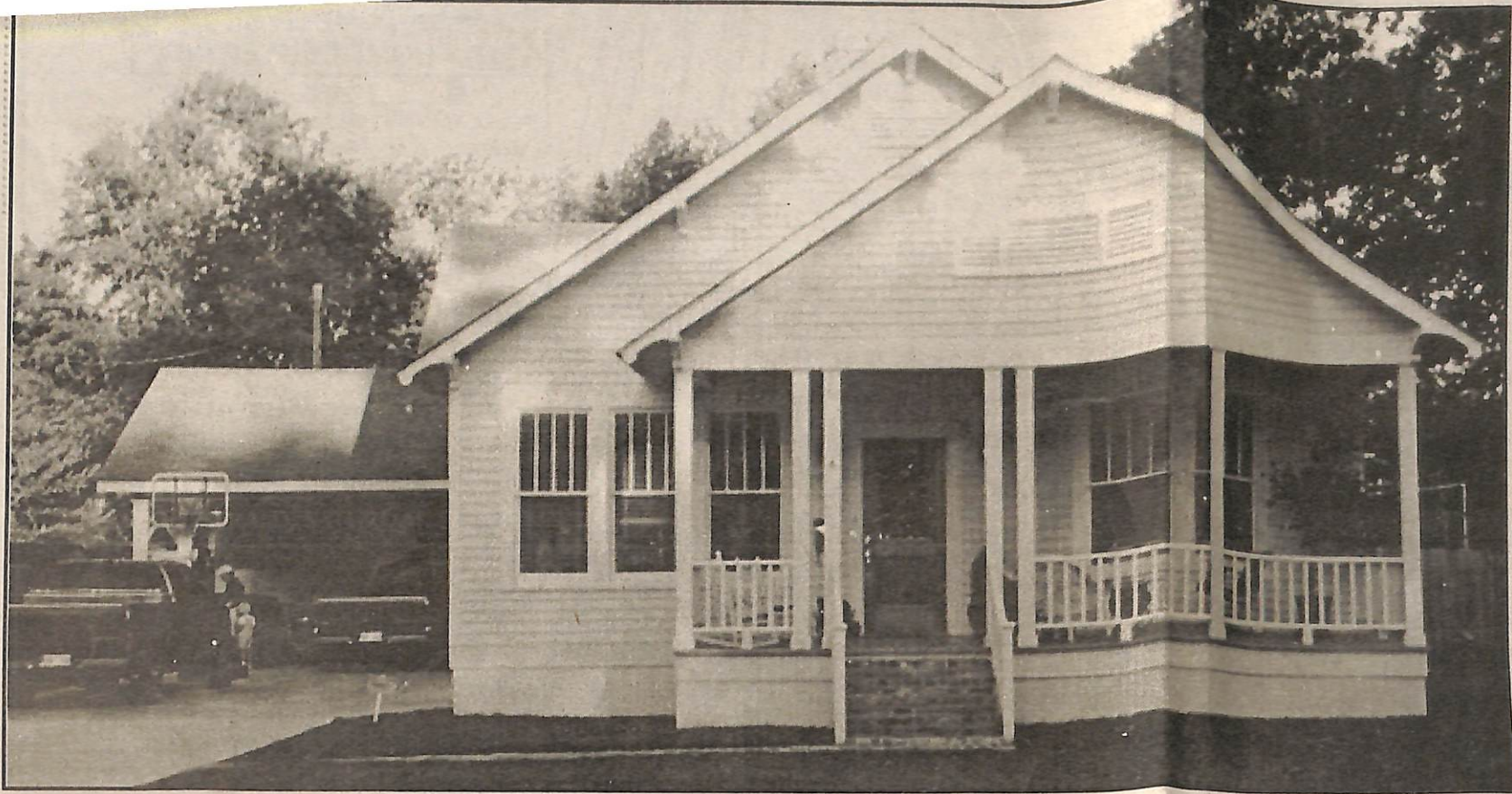
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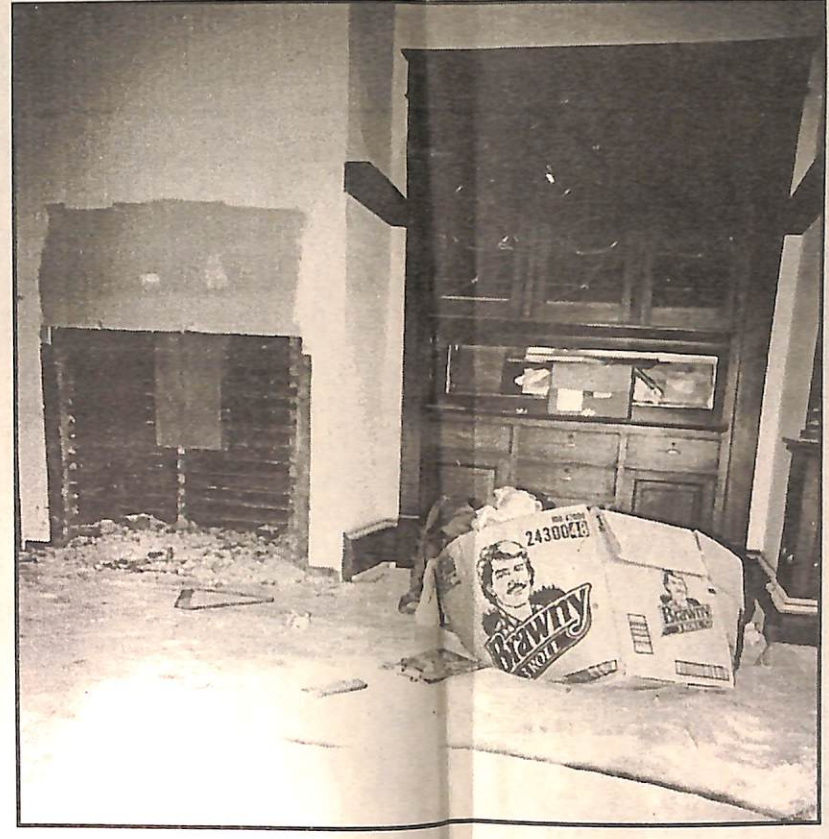
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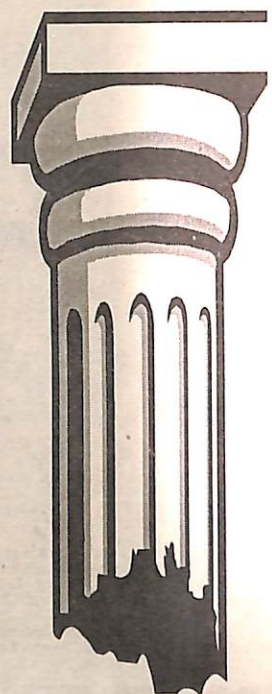
The Billy Brown Jr. home after extensive renovation and remodeling



The Brown family's kitchen, enjoyed by daughters Callie and Courtney at right, is a far cry from the old days



The historic Huff home on North Monroe Street has been cut into four pieces in preparation for its move to Eagle Lake. A brick chimney, photo at right, was knocked out before the move, while a built-in cabinet will make the ride intact.



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★ Mott Home To Be Razed By Feb. 1...

# Happy Days Recalled

Editor's Note—Demolition of the former Norman A. Mott home on Grand avenue under the supervision of D. L. Larson of Madison county is to be completed by Feb. 1.

The handsome structure, one of Mississippi's finest and most spacious homes, will soon be only a memory.

Built in 1903 by the late W. M. Morford for the L. G. Montgomery family, the dark red brick two-story house was an outstanding example of Georgian colonial architecture. From 1903 until 1936 it was occupied by the family of Mr. Montgomery.

By MARY L. MOTT

In November 1947 we took possession of it but it was 11 months earlier in January of that year that Norman and I bought it.

During the last 18 years the "big house" was home to us and our children, Louise, "Bubba," and Ann. Fenced within its red brick walls are many happy, happy days. During this long interval we also shared our home with my mother, the late Louise C. Luckett and with Norman's mother, Mrs. Sue W. Mott, who is still with me. Living out their last years with us were beloved "Aunt Molly," (the late Miss Molly Everett) "Nannie" (the late Miss Julia Luckett) and my "Uncle Joe" (the late Joseph A. Luckett). Both Norman and I were glad we could give all of them a true home with a family and all. With the exception of Norman's mother, they and Norman have answered God's summons for eternity. Also my children are all married with established homes for their own families.

It was my decision last October to accept the offer of \$50,000 from the congregation of the First Baptist church, who wanted the site for a new church. My home, which has been always close to my

heart will soon be no more; but, or its spacious grounds will be erected a structure dedicated to God.

I'm truly gratified that instead of my "dream house" becoming someday a make-shift apartment house or perhaps a commercial enterprise, it will give way to a place for worshipping our Creator.

It will perhaps be of interest to readers to know that the house was 48 feet wide and 67 feet deep—over 3200 square feet in the two main floors. The 12 foot veranda extended across the house and formed a large circular porch on the north side. Always delightfully cool even in the hottest of weather because of the protection of a huge pecan tree, the porch was frequently the setting for family gatherings.

In addition to a very spacious reception hall, the home contained a parlor, a 22 foot long dining room, a large breakfast room, kitchen, four and one-half baths, and eight bedrooms. The solid brick walls were 13 inches thick. All of the brick was made locally in the brickyard, owned by Mr. Montgomery. It's original roof was of slate, but in 1937 the roof was replaced with a green flat-tile shingle roof. The entire home was redecorated then and again in 1946 several of the rooms were redecorated. The Ceilings of the lower floor were 12 feet high and both the reception hall and dining room ceilings were beamed in quarter sawed oak. Both rooms featured a four-foot dado, also in oak. The stairway was exceptionally beautiful. Massive mirrored mantles with fluted column supports dominated the reception hall and dining room and framed the marble fireplaces. A floored attic and a ten foot deep basement were among the features of the home. The lumber used throughout the building was of heart pine. With the exception of the lower hall, par-

lor and dining room, which were in hardwood, all other floors were of edge grained pine.

The building was originally planned for steam heat, but it first occupants used open fireplaces. When natural gas became available, it was piped to the house and has been used since. Well weather-stripped, it was a house that was always warm in winter and delightfully cool during our hot summers.

It was home for over 18 years, "the dearest spot on earth." There my children grew to adulthood, there we laughed and played together, and there its doors swung wide in gracious welcome to our guests.

Feeling emotional pains too as the razing operations continue, I know, are the widow of the late L. J. Montgomery, Miss Zana, of this city, and his daughters, Annie and Mary (Mrs. T. H. and J. F. Phillips) of Holly Bluff.

Like me their memories will be forever green of the truly beautiful structure that we called "home" for so long.

## Library Officers Elected At Annual Association Meet

The Yazoo Library Association held its annual meeting at Rick's Memorial Library Jan. 16 at 7:30 p. m.

Officers for the current year were elected with Mrs. Gilruth Darrington, president; Miss Sally Barnwell, vice-president; Mrs. J. W. Woolwine, secretary; and Clifton Livingston, treasurer.

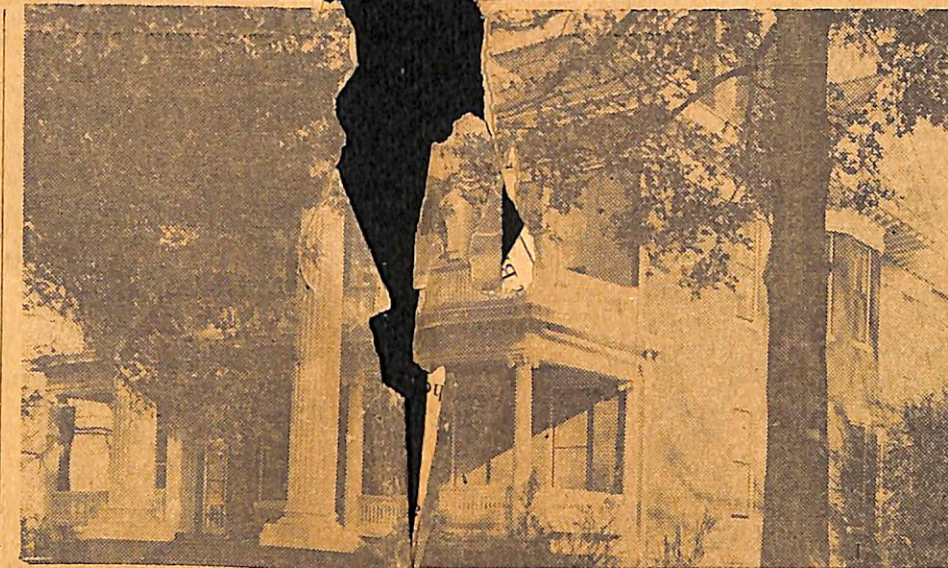
Re-elected to the Board of Control for three years were F. H. Hamel and W. F. Holmes Jr.

A resolution of respect for the late P. C. Williams and the Rev. E. R. Jones, former members of the board, was adopted. The report of the librarian and the treasurer's report were received.

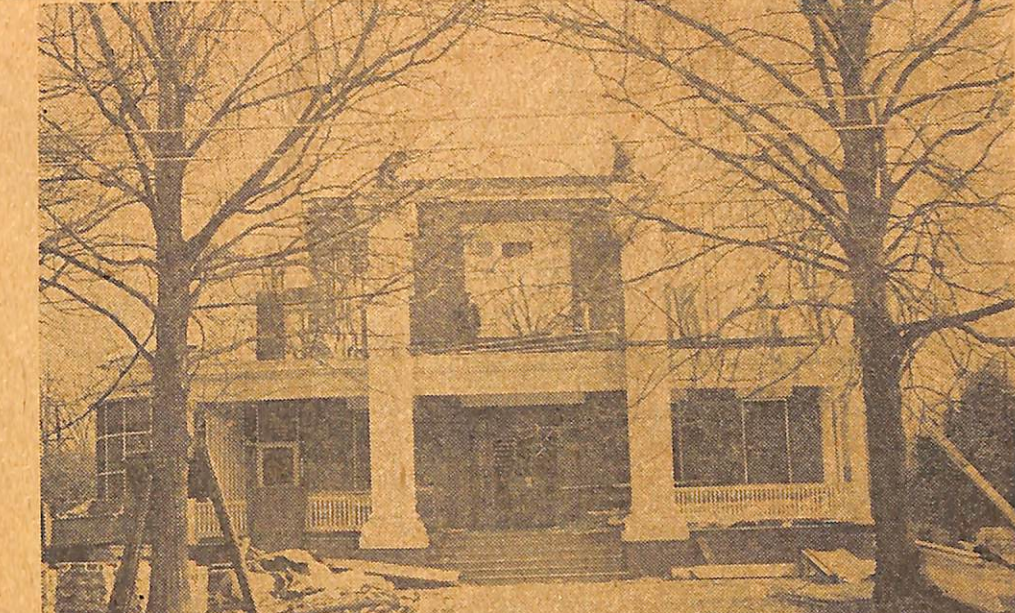
A meeting of the Board of Control was held following the association meeting. W. F. Holmes Jr. was elected chairman and Herman B. DeCell was elected secretary.

The board adopted an 8,000 budget for the current fiscal year.

The discussion groups are still meeting at the library and there are a few openings for anyone who would like to join one of the



ONCE A COMMUNITY LANDMARK—This is the former L. T. Montgomery and Norman A. Mott home, located at 37 Grand avenue. Built in 1903, it withstood weather for 52 years' magnificently. Walls six children of the Montgomery and Mott families grew to adulthood. Gay laughter rung throughout its halls as its doors swung open in welcome to all ages.



NOW NO MORE—All that was left last week of the former Norman A. Mott home. The 27 foot fluted Corinthian capped columns stand majestically in almost righteous indignation to the demolition that has been in progress since mid-December.

## Boswell Stevens Forsees Prosperous Era For Farmers

What lies ahead in 1956-'57-'58—or beyond for the Mississippi farmer?

Boswell Stevens president of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, believes that a prosperous era of good farming lies beyond the unknown agricultural horizon.

"There's little need for pessimism," exclaimed Stevens the other day when asked about the prospects ahead for the Mississippi farmer in particular. Stevens, who has been named outstanding Mississippi farmer for a number of years by various publications and who is the most widely traveled and best advised Mississippi farmer today as president of the state Farm Bureau Federation, believes that we are entering a period when good farmers will earn good incomes and inefficient farmers will fall by the wayside and enter some other profession.

Evidence that this trend already has begun, Stevens said, is the report of the 1954 census of agriculture which points out that since 1950 the number of Mississippi farms has shrunk by 35,432—or an average of 432 farms per county in Mississippi.

Many of these farm operators dropped out of the business, Stevens said, because of the fall in farm prices during the past several years. Post-war farmer-speculators or part-time farmers are getting out of the business now that the time of sure returns has

Right after World War II there was a flurry among businessmen who considered livestock farming the best route to a profitable sideline. This was true for a spell when prices started down as beef numbers increased. Many such investors bought into the business during high prices. Falling prices hurt them. They got out.

Most of the speculators are out now. Bonafide farmers now are carrying on a moderately prosperous beef program with their over-all farming operation. Current cat-cattle prices are fairly good. Even current low pork prices have failed to upset the beef business.

### Cotton—Problems to Solve

Despite the most critical cotton situation in history, Stevens believes the Mississippi farmer will reap cotton at the helm of this state's economy. Summarizing some of the ills of the industry, Stevens reports that U. S. cotton acreage has been cut back drastically already (lowest since 1883) and further acreage reductions to be applied in '56 and '57 will bring the total U. S. acreage to an even lower figure.

The '55 yield per acre of 431 pounds is the largest in history. Supply this season is an all-time high of 26 million bales or an all-time high carryover of 15 million bales. Worsening the situation is a lagging export situation and exports likely to be the lowest in 100 years except for war years. Low-cost synthetic fiber pro-

level reflect the average grade.

2. Study method of calculating parity for cotton.
3. Increase research for cotton.
4. Mandatory labeling of textile fiber products.
5. Textile imports subject to limitations.
6. Further reduction of production and CCC surplus stocks (the soil bank plan).

### Not Worried About Pork

Though pork prices are down and hog population is at a peak, Stevens believes the hog business is stable enough in Mississippi—for bonafide farmers, of course. Poultry enjoyed a fairly prosperous year in 1955 and prospects for '56 are encouraging. The timber situation, he maintains, is in a healthier position than it has been for many years with high lumber prices and more emphasis on profitable diversion of acres.

## Farmers Make Good Progress In Conservation

By J. D. GOODWIN

### Work Unit Conservationist

Yazoo County farmers made good progress during 1955 in laying the ground work for carrying out their soil conservation plans. The progress in establishing winter cover crops, mulching the soil with stalks from row crops, providing adequate drainage for crop land and the construction of ponds for livestock water has been especially good.

Lem Phillips of Holly Bluff has begun rotation on 45 acres with a crop of oats planted for a winter cover crop and for grazing. To complete the establishment of this rotation, he has only to grow lespedeza on the oat land this spring. Mr. Phillips will harvest a grain crop from these oats. He says that he can realize a greater profit by grazing the oats some during the early spring. He built a fence around the oats last week.

T. C. Guion of Phoenix is improving his soil by following a good crop residue management pro-

gram. He was ably assisted, especially in getting his corn stalks down, by his system of hogging off corn and bean crops. All that he didn't market in the form of meat has already been turned back to the soil to provide much needed humus and to foster the growth of beneficial bacteria in the soil. He also constructed two more ponds for convenience in grazing his forage crops.

Bill Noblin of the Evans community constructed over 1000 feet of drainage ditch using a bulldozer. The channels will provide much needed drainage for several acres of good bottom land.

L. L. Waller over at Holly Bluff started construction on a two-mile long dragline ditch last week. When completed this ditch will provide an outlet for surface water from 1000 acres of cultivated land.

Lester Barksdale and family of Houston, Texas, are visiting with his father, T. S. Barksdale, of Dover.

Smith Higdon of Hazlehurst was called here Thursday due to the serious illness of his sister, Mrs. Clara Newman.

Sister Teresa Maria, Sister Seanna and Sister Charles Benedict are ill at St. Clara's academy because of influenza.

Do it with a...

**LOW COST**

**FHA**

**TITLE ONE**

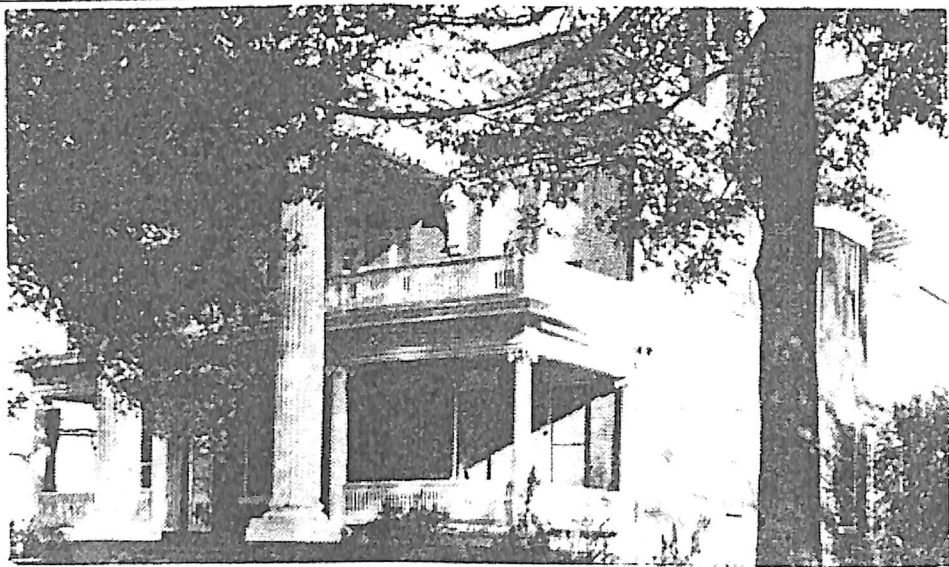
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**ONCE A COMMUNITY LANDMARK**—This is the former L. I. Montgomery and Norman A. Mott home, located at 322 Grand avenue. Built in 1903, it withstood weather for 52 years magnificently. Within its walls six children of the Montgomery and Mott families grew to adulthood. Gay laughter ring throughout its halls as its doors swung open in welcome to all ages.



**NOW NO MORE**—All that was left last week of the former Norman A. Mott home. The 27 foot fluted Corinthian capped columns stand majestically in almost righteous indignation to the demolition that has been in progress since mid-December.

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# Dewell Stevens Enjoys Farmers Make

gram. He was ably assisted, especially in getting his corn stalks

Mott Home To Be Razed By Feb. 1...

# Happy Days Recalled

**Editor's Note**—Demolition of former Norman A. Mott home on Grand avenue under supervision of D. L. Larson in Madison county is to be completed by Feb. 1.

The handsome structure, one of Mississippi's finest and most famous homes, will soon be a memory.

Built in 1903 by the late W. Montford for the L. G. Montgomery family, the dark red two-story house was an outstanding example of Georgian colonial architecture. From until 1936 it was occupied by the family of Mr. Montgomery.

By MARY L. MOTT

In November 1947 we took possession of it but it was 11 months earlier in January of that year that Norman and I bought it.

For the last 18 years the "big house" was home to us and our children, Louise, "Bubba," and "Nannie." Fenced within its red brick walls were many happy, happy days. During this long interval we also lived in our home with my mother, Louise C. Luckett and with my mother-in-law, Mrs. Sue W. Phillips, who is still with me. Living for the last years with us were "Aunt Molly," (the late Molly Everett) "Nannie" (the late Miss Julia Luckett) and my father, Joe (the late Joseph A. Phillips). Both Norman and I were able to give all of them a home with a family and all the exception of Norman's children, they and Norman have answered God's summons for eternity. So my children are all married with established homes for their own families.

It was my decision last October to accept the offer of \$50,000 from the congregation of the First Baptist church, who wanted the site for a new church. My home, which has been always close to my

heart will soon be no more; but, for its spacious grounds will be erected a structure dedicated to God.

I'm truly gratified that instead of my "dream house" becoming someday a make-shift apartment house or perhaps a commercial enterprise, it will give way to a place for worshipping our Creator.

It will perhaps be of interest to readers to know that the house was 48 feet wide and 67 feet deep—over 3200 square feet in the two main floors. The 12 foot veranda extended across the house and formed a large circular porch on the north side. Always delightfully cool even in the hottest of weather because of the protection of a huge pecan tree, the porch was frequently the setting for family gatherings.

In addition to a very spacious reception hall, the home contained a parlor, a 22 foot long dining room, a large breakfast room, kitchen, four and one-half baths, and eight bedrooms. The solid brick walls were 13 inches thick. All of the brick was made locally in the brickyard, owned by Mr. Montgomery. Its original roof was of slate, but in 1937 the roof was replaced with a green flat-tile shingle roof. The entire home was redecorated then and again in 1946 several of the rooms were redecorated. The ceilings of the lower floor were 12 feet high and both the reception hall and dining room ceilings were beamed in quarter sawed oak. Both rooms featured a four-foot dado, also in oak. The stairway was exceptionally beautiful. Massive mirrored mantles with fluted column supports dominated the reception hall and dining room and framed the marble fireplaces. A floored attic and a ten foot deep basement were among the features of the home. The lumber used throughout the building was of heart pine. With the exception of the lower hall, par-

lor and dining room, which were in hardwood, all other floors were of edge grained pine.

The building was originally planned for steam heat, but it first occupants used open fireplaces. When natural gas became available, it was piped to the house and has been used since. Well weather-stripped, it was a house that was always warm in winter and delightfully cool during our hot summers.

It was home for over 18 years, "the dearest spot on earth." There my children grew to adulthood, there we laughed and played together, and there its doors swung wide in gracious welcome to our guests.

Feeling emotional pains too as the razing operations continue, I know, are the widow of the late L. J. Montgomery, Miss Zana, of this city, and his daughters, Annie and Mary (Mrs. T. H. and J. F. Phillips) of Holly Bluff.

Like me their memories will be forever green of the truly beautiful structure that we called "home" for so long.

## Library Officers Elected At Annual Association Meet

The Yazoo Library Association held its annual meeting at Rick's Memorial Library Jan. 16 at 7:30 p. m.

Officers for the current year were elected with Mrs. Gilruth Darrington, president; Miss Sally Barnwell, vice-president; Mrs. J. W. Woolwine, secretary; and Clifton Livingston, treasurer.

Re-elected to the Board of Control for three years were F. H. Hamel and W. F. Holmes Jr.

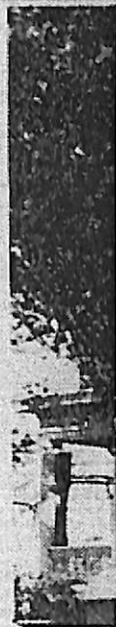
A resolution of respect for the late P. C. Williams and the Rev. E. R. Jones, former members of the board, was adopted. The report of the librarian and the treasurer's report were received.

A meeting of the Board of Control was held following the association meeting. W. F. Holmes Jr.

### DAUGHTER BORN IN ARMY HOSPITAL

Master Sgt. and Mrs. William J. Harris are receiving congratulations on the arrival of their first child, a daughter, born Jan. 21, at the Army Hospital in Augusta, Ga.

Do it with a...  
**LOW COST**  
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Norman A. Mott for 52 families open in...

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# Yazoo Cooperage Co.

*A. L. Morris house, Grand Ave. Y.C.*



## D. A. SWAYZE

One of the land marks in the commercial life of Yazoo City is the general store of D. A. Swayze, situated on the corner of Jefferson and Mound streets.

Mr. Swayze came to Yazoo City August 9, 1862 when a mere boy and for many years was partner of Luse & Shannon. During his connection with this firm he established himself with the people of the community by his honesty and fair dealing. When but a young man he was married to Miss Lillian Fromhertz, a daughter of one of Yazoo County's pioneer settlers.

Years ago Mr. Swayze entered business for himself and since that time has conducted a general store in Yazoo City. This business has shown a steady growth since its first organ-

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*Xazoo Herald May 25, 1988 p A-1*

# Hollowell House: perfect for movie

By DOTTIE HOGUE

Special To The Herald

Holly Hunter (as Carnelle), Mary Steenburgen (as Elaine), Alfre Woodard (as Popeye) and Tim Robbins (as Delmont) are soon to

make the Hollowell house their own. They have been rehearsing in a mock-up while the house on the corner of Grand Avenue and Lintonia Street is being made ready for shooting.

In the early 1900's, little did Susie Barbour Hollowell and her husband, Frederick Dickson Hollowell, dream the house they were building would be an important location for a movie  
Contd. on page A-3

# Hollowell House

Contd. from page A-1

some 78 years later.

"If my mother were alive today, she might be right in the middle of this movie," said Terry Hollowell, present owner of the house.

In "The Miss Firecracker Contest" this grand old house is to be the home of Beth Henley's heroine, Carnelle Scott.

The house has not known so much attention in a long time. It has been vacant for several years, fortunately for The Firecracker Company. Workers have been busy with hammers, paint brushes and wallpaper paste under the guidance of Kristie Zea, production designer.

The uncared-for condition of the house has been carefully preserved; it does not have the look of having been worked on at all.

The foyer and stairwell have been papered in period paper, bolder than the existing pastel which would not have photographed as well. The waterstain coursing down from the stained ceiling is as convincing a duplicate of the original as the real stains in the other rooms.

The kitchen has been rebuilt in its original room, new cabinets are being aged to perfection, an old window with its paint-scaling surface has been installed to look out onto the back porch where a swing now hangs. Two glass panels have been set into the original lattice work which encloses the porch.

The Hollowell house has high ceilings, an interesting staircase, and is quite large with fire places in each room. It was the work of Yazoo builder Morford, as Hollowell remembers. The Yazoo street car made a turn at that corner. During

the flood of 1927 it escaped damage because F. D. Hollowell sandbagged the ally behind it thus stopping the rising waters from Calhoun Street.

In 1940 Miss Susie moved the kitchen to the butler's pantry and also added a small kitchenette in the "trunk room" under the eaves upstairs in order to rent part of the house. Later the entire house was rented.

"When the tenant's children ran the upstairs bathtub over and ruined the dining room wallpaper, I gave up renting," said Hollowell.

"Vintage" furniture has been

collected by set decorator Debra Schutt from antique shops found locally and in Jackson as well as from individuals. In front of the house the wire fence and "old" gate call attention to the unmanicured yard. It has actually been fertilized to promote weed growth; a one-time happening in Yazoo City!

Some locations for the movie are: the old ice house site at the end of Mound Street where an actual fair will be held, the lower end of Main Street, a dress shop created in the Barrier Cotton Office, the pool hall and the Elks Club.

## HELP WANTED FOOD SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Experience preferred in preparation of special diets in accordance with accepted standards. High School education required or some college beneficial.

PLEASE SEND RESUME TO

925 Calhoun Ave.  
Yazoo City, Ms. 39194

E.O.E.

just play.

Yazoo Herald May 25, 1988 p A-1

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By DOTTIE HOGUE

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Yazoo City, Ms. 39194

E.O.E.

# Yazoo home offers a look into history

By SUE L. PATTERSON  
For The Herald

The 1890s, known as the Gay Nineties, began the reshaping of America from a primarily rural society dependent on farming to an industrial leader in the world.

This decade saw the end of the Old West and large Native American uprisings. The U.S. also went through an economic depression caused by the greed of the large corporations and banks. As a cure for depression, which set the example for the 20th Century Wars, the Spanish American War was fought in 1898.

The gas-powered automobile was introduced in the U.S. this decade; the zipper was patented; and Mississippi passed a new constitution. The World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago in 1893.

Today, it is hard to imagine how those national events affected Yazooans living at that time. Life was hard without all the modern amenities that we take for granted today.

In Mississippi the number of small farms increased in the last decade of the 19th Century rather than decrease, as the trend in the north was to move to cities.

According to *Yazoo Legends and Legacies*, Yazooans saw rapid growth and embraced new technology in their daily life in the 1890s

Mr. A.M. (Andrew Miller) Payne, the son of the owner of Koalunsa, a restored plantation today overlooking the Yazoo River, was certainly a man influenced by the culture and economies of the 1890s. In order to move to town, Mr. Payne bought three lots from the Lintonia Land Company, who took advan-



Photo by Stuart Johnson

**This beautiful home on the corner of Grand Avenue and Canal Street, presently owned by Steve and Denise Kaminski, is a unique part of Yazoo history.**

tage of the increasing population by subdividing the land north of Canal Street into residential lots.

Payne's lots bordered Grand Avenue, Jackson Avenue, Second Street and Canal Street. To design his house, built in 1891 and locally known as the Payne-Seward House or Moorhead House, he commissioned the greatest capitol builder of all time as the architect.

Elijah E. Myers, born in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1832, was a leading architect of public architecture in the latter half of 19th Century. He was the only architect to design the capitol buildings in three states - Michigan, Texas and Colorado. He became famous as the Architect of the "Million Dollar Courthouse" in Illinois. He was also involved with the design of the buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

He died in Detroit in 1909. The State of Michigan is planning a cel-

bration to mark the 100th anniversary of his death. Myers's designs favored Victorian Gothic and Neo-Classical Styles, but he worked in other styles as well.

The Payne-Seward House was designed in the Queen Anne Style, which was "the dominant style for fashionable residential houses in Mississippi" according to Richard J. Cawthon in his book, "Victorian Houses of Mississippi".

Mr. Payne fell on hard times and sold his home to Mrs. Mary Lockett in November 1898. Mrs. Lockett sold the house to Dr. Doyle Seward in 1921. Dr. Seward gave the home to his daughter, Miriam Seward Moorhead in 1941 after her marriage to Dr. R.J. Moorhead.

The Moorheads lived there until Mrs. Moorhead's death. Her son sold the house in 1990 to the Peoples, who sold to the Kirks in 1992. The Kirks sold the property in 2006 to

the current owners, Steve and Denise Kaminski, who are restoring other commercial and residential properties in Yazoo City. The Kaminskis have begun restoring the landscaped lawn and have plans for future renovations of their home.

Peeping through the wrought Iron fence surrounding the well-maintained home and lawn, the ghosts of past garden parties and croquet players are almost discernable.

This beautiful and stately house, which has not gotten the recognition as some of our other historical homes in Yazoo City, is one of the few remaining structures still standing that represent the works of Elijah E. Myers, who was a popular architect during the 1890s, a decade that helped moved America from a fledgling nation to a super power in the 20th Century.

• *John Ellzey and Sam Olden contributed to this report.*

## Winners: Local participants bring home numerous awards

bons in photography.

Amanda Hodge received 1 blue ribbon and 3 red ribbons in photography.

Madilyn Manor received 2 blue ribbons and 2 red ribbons in photography, and one blue ribbon in art.

Lauren Hilderbrand received 2 blue state qualifier ribbons in art. Lauren Hilderbrand received 2 blue state qualifier ribbons in art.

Thursday evening began

and Lindsey Twiner - 19th place.

Barrels 12-13: Callie Ruth Bridgforth - 4th place, Lakken McConnell - 10th place, Shelby Twiner - 12th place.

Barrels 14-15: Lauren "Frog" Sanders - 6th place, Kenny Passons - 16th place

Barrels 16-18: Ashton Beck - 3rd place, Joan Childress - 9th place

Pony Stakes: Anna Ryan

Reserve Champion Registered Quarter Gelding - Montana Miller

Grade Yearling, 2 & 3 yr old Mares: Lane Twiner - 1st place Grade 4 yr and older mares: Lane Twiner - 2nd place

Reserve Champion Grade Mare: Lane Twiner Grade 4 yr old and older Geldings: Lauren "Frog" Sanders - 4th place, Shelby Twiner - 5th place, Lindsey Twiner 6th place.

place  
Saddle Horse Pleasure 14 - 18: Florence Clements - 4th place

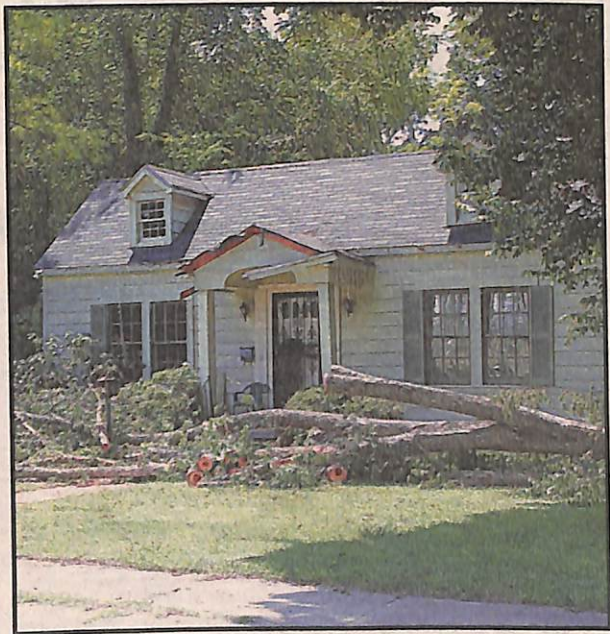
Racking Horse 8-13: Darby Damon - 1st place. Racking Horse 14-18: Florence Clements - 5th place

Hunter Under Saddle 8-11: Cayden Shirley - 3rd  
Hunt Seat Equitation 8-13: Cayden Shirley - 5th place, Darby Damon - 8th place



Grand Ave





Jamie Patterson

## ***Storm damages Willie Morris home***

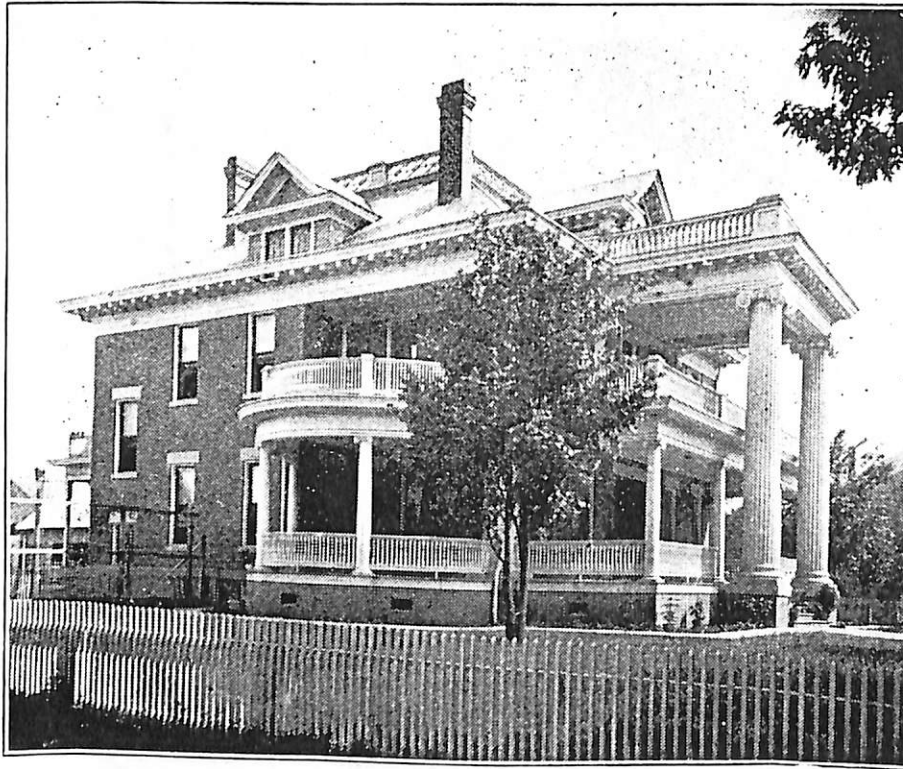
The childhood home of legendary Yazoo author Willie Morris on Grand Avenue received some damage at the front entrance when a large tree was toppled by high winds during storms this week.

any power outages



Elks' Club.

Photo by Johns.



Mr. L. G. Montgomery's Residence. Photo by McMurtray.

Grand Ave. ~~Franklin~~

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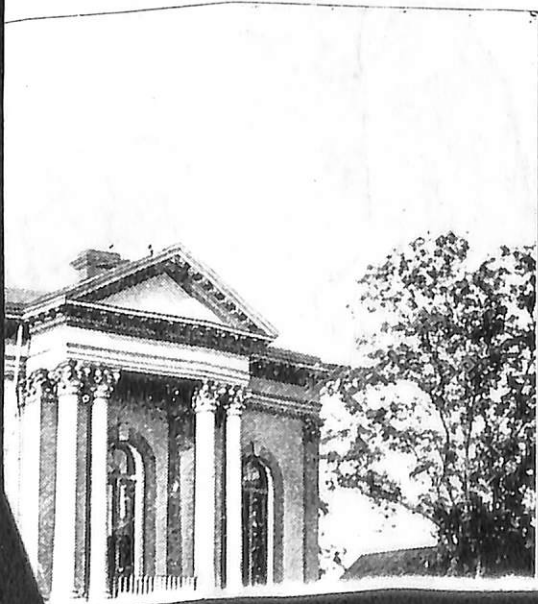
abortion of cows. Used in henneries,  
kills lice, or any vermin on fowls or  
animals. Used by blacksmiths to rid  
the shops of flies, so that horses be-  
ing shod will stand quietly. Truck-  
men, liverymen and all users of horses  
will find great relief in using "So-Bos-  
So Killfly" about the stable and on the  
horses. Sold in Yazoo City only by  
C. M. Franklin.

A force of seven people are kept  
constantly busy, and while enjoying  
a good city trade, the country trade is  
the larger portion of the business.

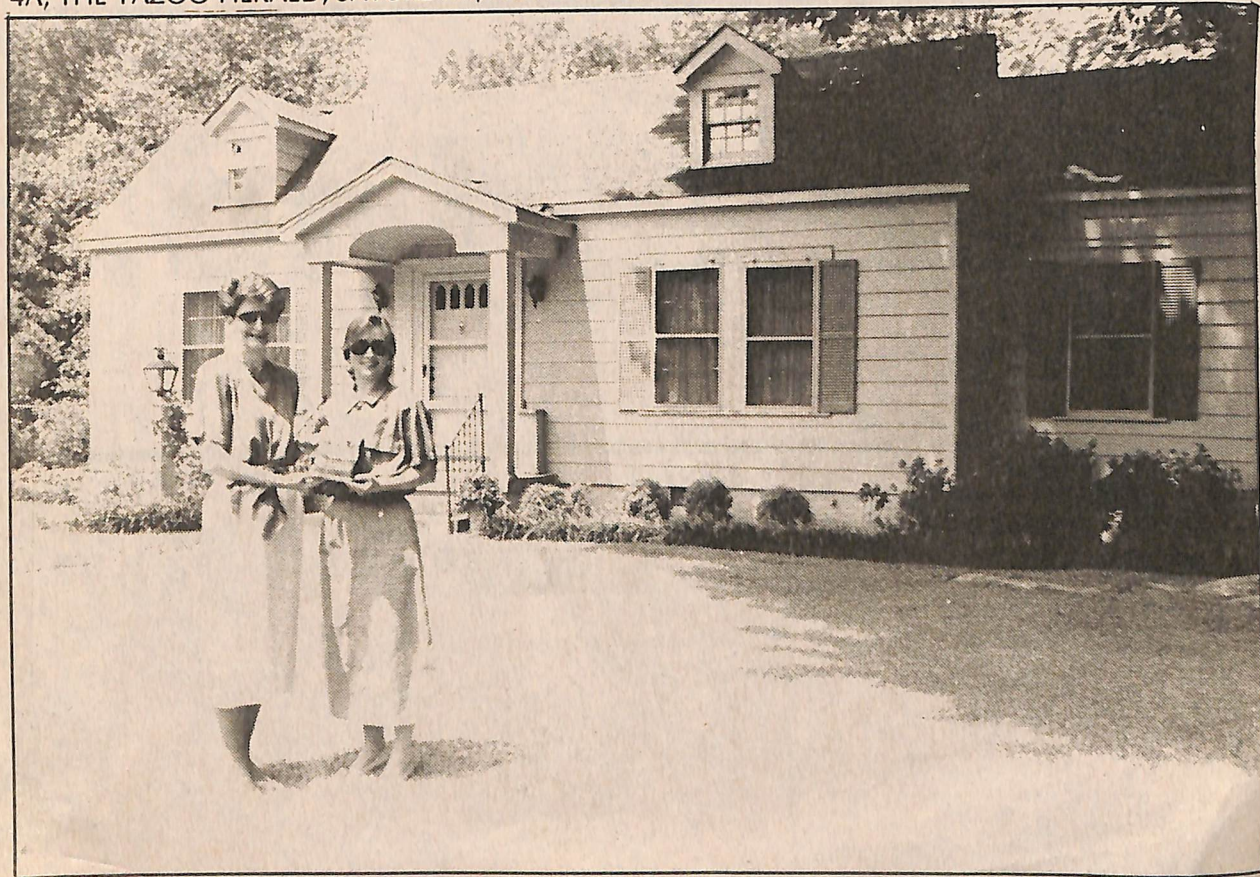
A cash business is conducted and  
every advantage offered by the cash  
system is given.

Plantation supplies are always ready  
for the planter and they will find  
things to their advantage by trading  
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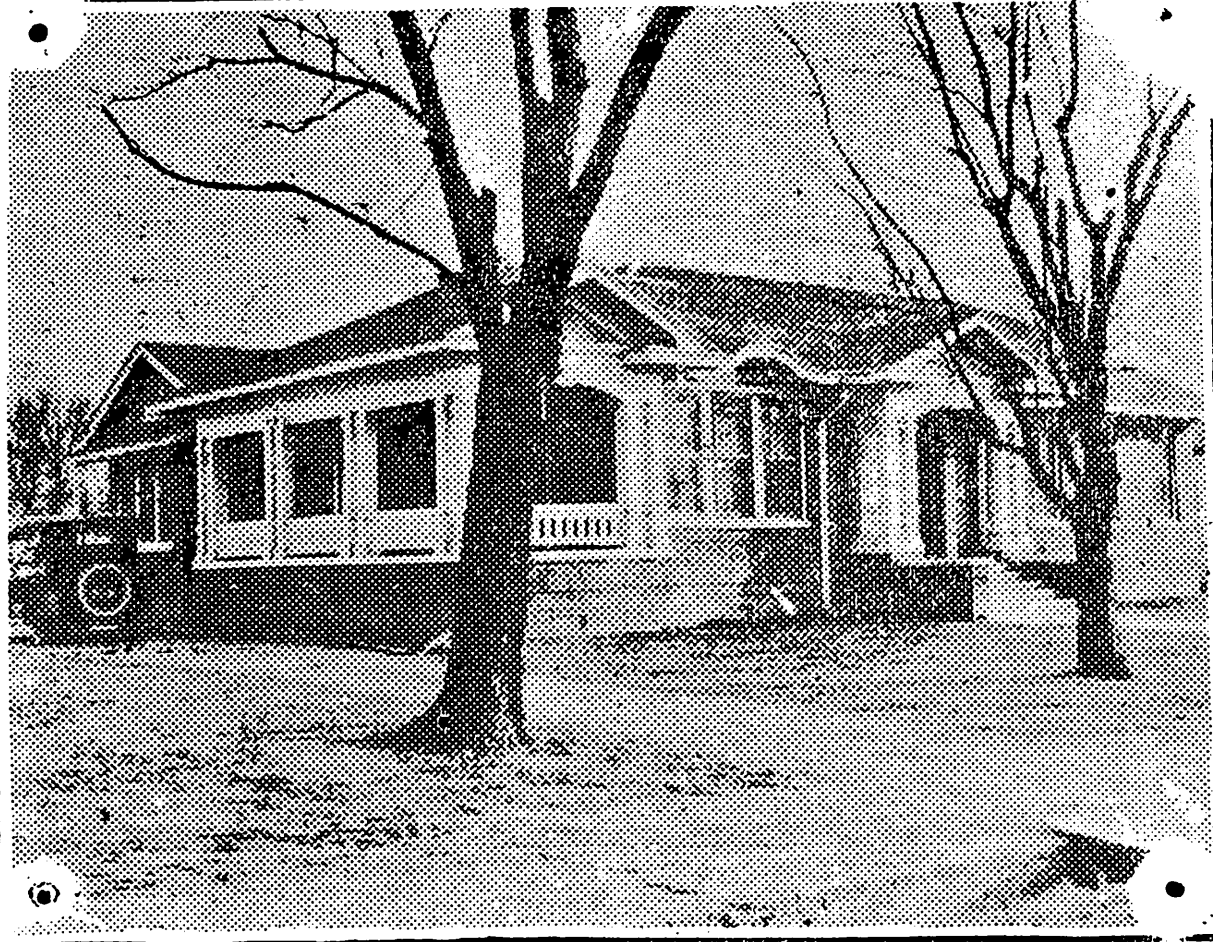
Mr. C. M. Franklin has been in  
Yazoo City for the past several years.



4A, THE YAZOO HERALD, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1993



**Betty Quinn, Emy Bullard in front of Willie Morris' former house on Grand Avenue  
They hope to incorporate it into a "Good Old Boy" tour of Yazoo County**



Residence of Mrs A.L. Morris

Grand Avenue

turn down in 2002 by  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



### Holiday Tour Is Friday

Mrs. Doug Hornback stands in the living room of her lovely Victorian home located at 207 Grand Ave., which will be a part of the 1987 Discover Yazoo Victorian Christmas Tour this Friday. The Hornback home was built in 1900 by Mrs. Hornback's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Lacey. The Victorian theme will be carried throughout the home, with special emphasis on the family Christmas tree. "Our

tree is a family tree—full of memories," explained Mrs. Hornback. Completing the touch for the festive season will be teddy bears. Also on tour is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Griffin while the holiday tea will take place at the home of Mrs. Owen Cooper. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at any local bank.



An Independent Agent  
Takes the Big Worries  
Out Of Insurance  
**"SEE A PRO"**



**OVER  
FIFTY YEARS  
OF SERVICE  
TO  
YAZOOANS!**

**LIVINGSTON  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

**William Carroll**

**746-3532**

**207 Grand Avenue**  
 Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194



**\$142,900**



**5 Bedroom / 3 Bath Antebellum Home**  
*located on large corner lot with charming wrap-around porch*  
*Built in 1900, modernized but retains authenticity*  
*and many original features*

- Stunning formal entry with stained glass side and above-door panels, leading to two story stairwell showcasing more stained glass windows and beautiful woodwork
- Formal dining room with wood floors, fireplace with gas heater, and beautiful chandelier
- Formal living room or parlor with view of staircase, wood floors, bay window seat, and fireplace
  - Family room with wood floors and fireplace
  - Updated kitchen and breakfast combo
    - Large butler's pantry
    - Back stairway
- Many original fireplace mantles and hardware
- Fenced backyard with deck and private patio
  - 2-car carport
- Approximately 3673 sq. ft.
- One-year Home Warranty



For more information, contact

**Melinda Dees**

662-571-1792 – Cell  
 601-956-2222 – Office  
 creechdees@yahoo.com  
 www.jacksonera.com





LOVE HOUSE 206 Grand Ave. Yazoo City, MS





LOVE HOUSE 306 Grand Ave. Yazoo City, MS



Photos by Jamie Patterson

## *Yazoo eyesore gets a cleaning from the city*

Yazoo City workers cleaned up one of the city's most noticeable eyesores this week by cleaning up the lawn of property owned by Harris McGraw on Grand Avenue. The property had long been neglected and weeds, vines, small trees and garbage had taken over the lawn in front of the dilapidated building. Sitting on a major thoroughfare and directly across from the well maintained Goose Egg Park, the property has long been considered by many Yazoo residents to be an eyesore. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen authorized cleanup Monday after McGraw failed to respond to a city notice. City workers cut the lawn and picked up the trash that had accumulated Thursday morning. McGraw will be charged for the city's work.



Jason Patterson

## ***Ingram House coming down***

A home that has stood on Grand Avenue for many years is gradually disappearing as the Ingram House is being razed. The house previously served as the Christian Services Center for First Baptist Church, but a new facility was needed due to severe termite damage.

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