

Clanton Barber Shops

By Derric Scott

From newspaper research and other sources.

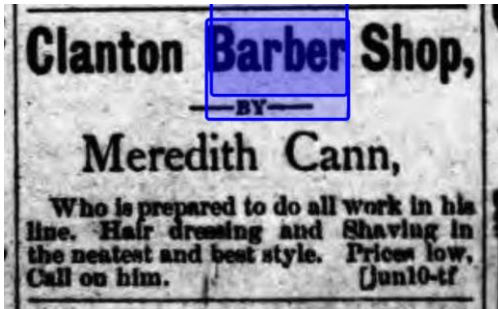
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Clanton – Barber Shops

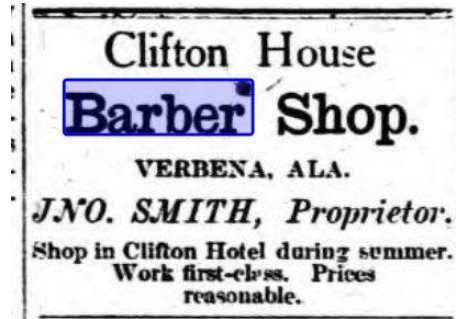
By Derric Scott

It seems quite natural that barber shops would be among the oldest businesses in town. The Dec 1, 1881 Chilton View mentions that Verbena has a barber shop (as well as 3 stores, a restaurant and a blacksmith shop). The Jan 19, 1882 Chilton View where it is noted that "Clanton now has a new barber shop and he should be sustained." Apparently good barbers are hard to keep as it is noted in 1883 that Clanton again needs a good barber.

In 1886 Dr. J. S. Johnson built a small building to house a barber beside the store of Mr. S. T. Nelson in Clanton. The barber is probably Meredith Cann who has advertisements in some of the June newspapers and his shop lasted / advertised for several more years. The Verbena shop is advertised in Jun 1886 as the "Clifton House Barber Shop," John Smith proprietor. A competing barber shop is opened in Clanton by July 1 1886.



Jun 17, 1886 Chilton View



Jun 24, 1886 Chilton View

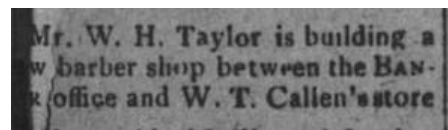
Nov 1888, CV – John Smith from Verbena has moved to Clanton and opened his barber shop in the Wilson Store. Also Pratt Saw Mill in Verbena has a barber.

Henry Williamson advertised a shop in early 1889 briefly, and then from August of 1889 through May of 1892 Mr. H. Alex Logan ran ads for his barber shop. At first Logan's was in the Farmer's Alliance Building but was later over the Allen store. In May of 1892 Logan stopped running ads and W. H. Taylor begins on May 12, 1892 (perhaps Logan retired and/or Taylor took over).

A few years later (January 1895), there is a newspaper ad for the Clanton Barber Shop run by W. H. Taylor, located in the new Merritt Building. Later, in 1898, Mr. Taylor moves into his new building between the Union Banner office and W. T. Callen's store on Main Street (2nd Avenue North). Last ad found was Aug 13, 1903.



Jan 24, 1895 UB



Jul 21, 1898 UB

The editor of the Union Banner confirms that "Bill" Taylor was one of the very first barbers in Clanton when he reminisces in a 1945 column and then expands on it in the next issue. He says that Bill Taylor and Alex Logan were probably the first barbers in town and then Sanford and Wagoner.

Clanton – Barber Shops

I noticed that familiar face of Walter Sanford in Clanton recently; says he is in Columbus, Miss., now-a-days, still singing those old barber shop blues. When I see Walter Sanford I am reminded of the days of Bill Taylor, probably the first barber that ever put up in Clanton; the next shop was run by Sanford and Wagoner, which was the main center of information for years and years. Back in those days, when they wanted to hear the news and did not want to wait until Thursday when The Banner came out, they went to Sanford's and Wagoner's shop and sat in on the conversations an hour or so. And they got informed all right. Barber shops are still pretty well clearing houses for community news and gossip. I have often wondered if beauty shops are not somewhat this way too. I hear that men are getting facials right along now; if this keeps up, won't it be a sight?

May 24, 1945 UB

I have been reminded of an omission of a famous barber in Clanton during the early days. The first one was Bill Taylor all right, but he was followed by Alex Logan, according to Uncle John Farley who has known Clanton from away back. Ed Wagoner and Walter Sanford came along about the time Alex Logan began to taper off.

May 31, 1945 UB

Some competition comes to town in 1900 and 1901 when Dock Parrish (north Main Street) and then A. J. Neugent (upstairs in the Clanton Drug Store, probably south side of 2nd Avenue North between 6th & 7th Streets) open new barber shops.

Mr. Dock Parrish's new barber shop is situated on North Main st.

Sep 13, 1900 UB

BARBER SHOP—New barber shop opened up next Clanton drug store upstairs. Call and see me. A. J. NEUGENT, Proprietor.

Apr 11, 1901 UB – new shops in town.

At the turn of the 20th Century, the clientele of barber shops, like most businesses, was segregated by race. However the barbers themselves likely were not. For example, John Smith above was clearly African-American. At the end of March 1904 a new “white” barber shop was opened by B. A. Thomas, which apparently referred to both the barbers and the clientele.

BARBER SHOP—Try the new white barber for a clean shave or hair cut. Razor honing a specialty. B. A. THOMAS, Proprietor.

Mar 31, 1904 UB

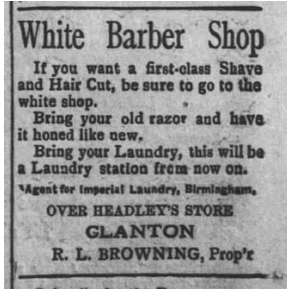
In December of 1907 C. R. Mullins moved his insurance and machine office into the second floor of the Tipton Mullins building (“second door to the right”) and he was going to put a new barber shop and bath into his old building. This was apparently an expansion of both businesses.

C. R. Mullins has moved his insurance and machine office to second door to the right entering hall, second story Tipton Mullins building. He will put in another barber, bath room and open up first class barber shop at his old stand. His business in both lines increasing calls for this change.

Dec 6, 1906 UB

By October 1907 Mr. R. L. Browning is running the “White Barber Shop” and is expanding with the purchase of a second hydraulic chair! He is located next door to the Clanton Post Office. In 1907 the Clanton Post Office was likely near the railroad on 2nd Avenue North and probably in the Headley Building or next door. In fact, in 1908 his advertisement says he is upstairs in Headley's store. But in that very same newspaper, an advertisement is published by a new competitor, W. P. Quinn as barber, next door to the Post Office as well and apparently combined with the Undertaker, Mr. Marsh.

Clanton – Barber Shops

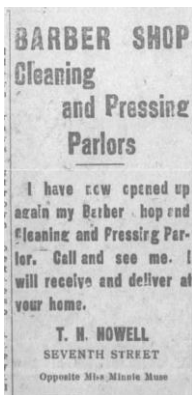


Aug 20, 1908 UB



Aug 20, 1908 UB

The barber T. H. Howell closes and tries to sell his barber shop in December of 1910... but my March of 1911 he reopens his shop on the east side of 7th Street, opposite Miss Minnie Muse's Millinery shop (just a bit north of 2nd Avenue North).



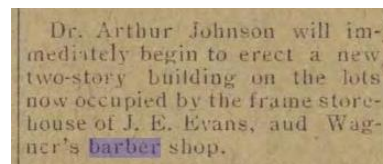
Mar 16, 1911 UB

Feb 1914, an undesignated barber shop is moved to the back room and J. T. Tunnell opens a cash grocery store in the former barber shop spot.

March 1914 – first mention of the Sanford and Wagoner Barber Shop and they're giving away five haircuts. By May, Wagoner's shop (in the same building as J. E. Evans' store) is replaced by a new two-story building built by Dr. Arthur Johnson.

30. J. W. Mitchell, Maplesville, six pair Hose	-	1.50
31. Sanford & Wagoner Barber Shop, Clanton, five hair cuts	-	1.25
32. R. M. Hubbard & Co., Jamison, cash	-	1.00

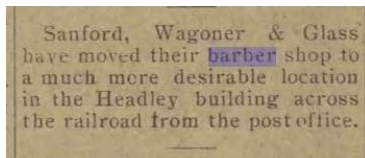
Mar 26, 1914 UB



May 28, 1914 UB

In July 1914 a new barber shop has opened in the Headley Building by the railroad. It is likely the Sanford, Wagoner, and Glass Barber Shop because it was mentioned in a September article that this shop had recently moved into the Headley building. Also in 1914 another shop is operating, Dailey and Wesson – run by C. D. Dailey and J. D. Wesson. It is located beside the Kemp Brothers. This may well be the location of the current "City Barber Shop" on the north side of 2nd Avenue North near the railroad.

Clanton – Barber Shops



Sep 17, 1914 UB



Oct 8, 1914



Nov 5, 1914 UB

C. W. Glass of Jemison moved to Clanton in 1915 and opened the Sims and Glass Barber Shop. It is located across the street from the store of Harry Kanjutzky, long-time Clanton merchant. In 1915, Kanjutzky's store was on 2nd Avenue North

In 1916 the Clanton Dry Cleaning Company advertises a new press. They mention that they are in the rear of "the Sanitary Barber Shop" in the Johnson Building. This is the first mention of the name "Sanitary Barber Shop" and it appears to be in the location where Wagoner's Barber Shop was and where Dr. Johnson built his new store (noted above). This makes it quite clear that the Sanford, Wagoner, and Glass Barber Shop was also known as Wagoner's Barber Shop and it became the "Sanitary Barber Shop" in the 1916 timeframe. This barber shop was in the same location for about the rest of the 20th Century on 2nd Avenue North. Sims and Glass is still advertising in the same 1916 paper.



Jan 20, 1916 UB

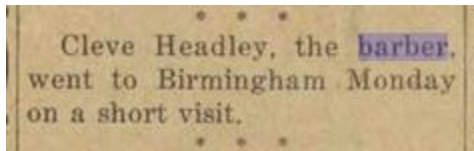


Jan 27, 1916 UB

February 7, 1918 Mr. A. J. Neugent died in a Birmingham hospital. It was noted he was a barber in Thorsby. He was also a barber in Clanton and Jemison.

Clanton – Barber Shops

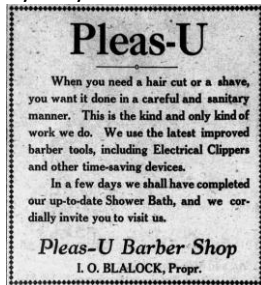
Another long-time Clanton barber family name is mentioned for the first time in the February 1919 Union Banner. Cleve Headley was already a barber by that time and it is noted that he is visiting Birmingham.



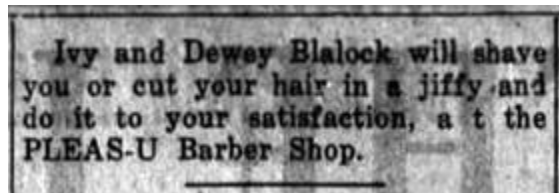
Feb 20, 1919 UB

October 16, 1919 Ed Wagoner is back in Clanton after living in Montgomery for a short time. He is back working at the Sanitary Barber Shop.

By May 1920 the Blalock brothers, Ivy (I. O.) and Dewey, have opened the "Pleas-U Barber Shop."



May 6, 1920, UB



May 20, 1920

Dr. Arthur Johnson opened a new drug store in 1920 in his building and called it the Johnson Drug Company. He hired Mr. Leonard Farley to run it. Mr. Farley would later run many other drug stores in town. The ad notes that the Johnson Drug Co. is the former Marion Gore Feed Store and is beside Wagoner's Barber Shop.

Nov 18, 1920 Newt A. Gray is working at the Pleas-U Barber Shop.

August 1922 it is noted again that Ed Wagoner is at the Sanitary Barber Shop.

A couple other long-time barber men are mentioned in a 1923 ad for the first time ... Jesse Jones and George Wyatt. They have a new barber shop across 7th Street from the Exchange Hotel, the Just Right Barber Shop. It is later noted that this space is "in the corner of the Chilton County News office."

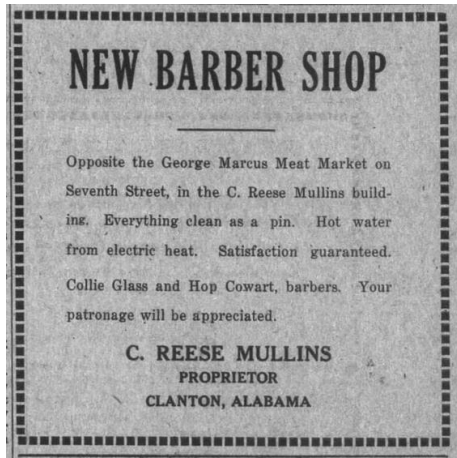


Clanton – Barber Shops

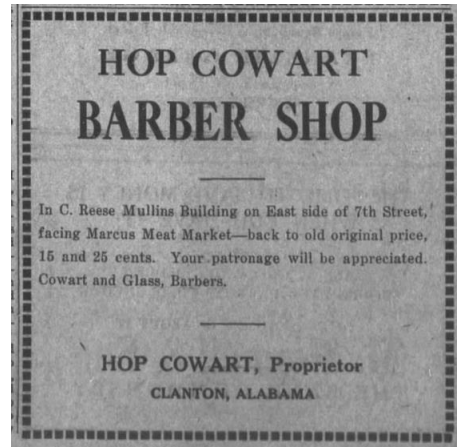
Apr 26, 1923 UB

A barber shop owned by E. T. Weldon is moved in May of 1924 because he sold his drug store to Dr. J. P. Hayes. The barber shop will continue and will be run out of the “old Wolfe shoe shop stand” by Newt A. Gray. This will later become the Service Barber Shop.

C. Reese Mullins opens a new barber shop in his building on 7th Street in May of 1924. The barbers will be Collie Glass and Hop Cowart. Remember that C. R. Mullins had a barber shop in his original building back in 1907 and probably before.

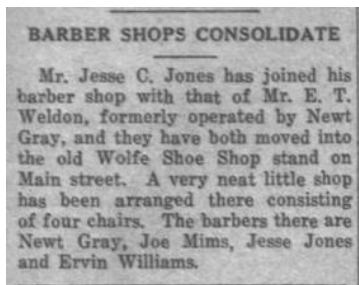


May 8, 1924 UB

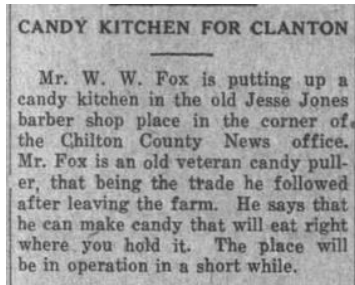


May 29, 1924 UB

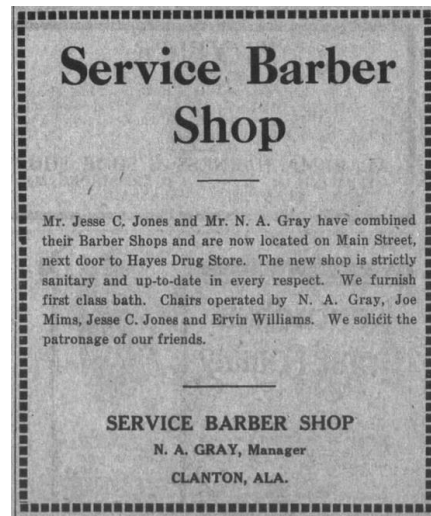
A major business merger in Clanton happens in May of 1924 when Jesse C. Jones and E. T. Weldon merge their barber shops. The new concern will continue to operate in the location of Weldon's shop in the “old Wolfe Shoe Shop” building on “Main Street” which is next to Hayes Drug Store. In the new business there will be four barbers: Newt Gray, Joe Mims, Jesse Jones, and Ervin Williams. The former Jesse Jones space won't go to waste, however... it is promptly filled by Mr. W. W. Fox with a new candy kitchen. The new combined barber shop will be called the “Service Barber Shop.”



May 22, 1924 UB



May 22, 1924 UB

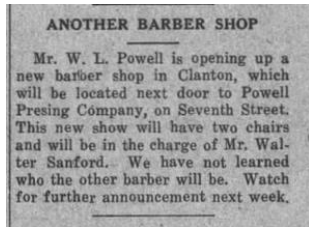


May 29, 1924 UB

Also in May 1924 another barber shop opened up “The New Barber Shop” ... it is owned by W. L. Powell and located beside the Powell Pressing Company on 7th Street. It is operated by veteran barber Walter Sanford. It had two chairs. The second chair will be George Wyatt. Walter Sanford was previously at the Sanitary Barber Shop.

Clanton – Barber Shops

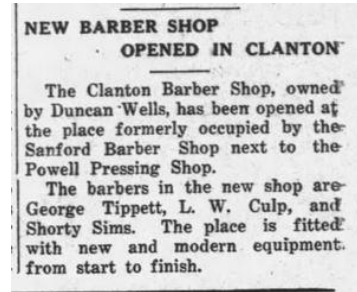
This shop was often called Sanford's Barber Shop, but only lasted about 5 years and was replaced with a second version of "the Clanton Barber Shop" in May 1929, run by C. Duncan Wells with barbers George "Dudley" Tippet, L. W. Culp, and "Shorty" Sims. A note: the Powell Pressing Co. and this barber shop were in the Walker Building, which is near, if not the same location as the later Bill Hayes Barber Shop. There is still a barber shop active in this spot. The Walker Building was built on the site of the former Miss Minnie Muse Millinery business, on 7th Street just north of "Watsons."



May 29, 1924 UB



Jun 5, 1924 UB



May 23, 1929 UB

June 5, 1924 – Sanitary Barber Shop ad appeared with Wagoner and Headley proprietors.

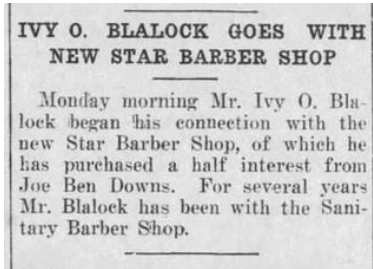
May 1925 - the Gray and Mims Barber Shop was advertised. This is the Service Barber Shop run by Newt Gray and Joe Mims.



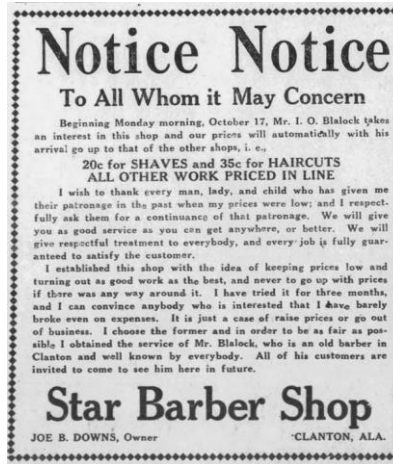
May 7, 1925 UB

In early 1927 Jesse Jones moves to Selma and works there at the Hobbies Barber Shop. By November 1927 he had returned to Clanton and was at the Sanitary Barber Shop.

Ivy O. Blalock was at the Sanitary Barber Shop for several years. In October 1927 he became a partner and moved to the Star Barber Shop, which was being run by Joe B. Downs. Back at Sanitary Barber Shop, Dewey Eubanks moved up to Ivy Blalock's chair from the rear chair and the rear chair space was filled by Claudy Wyatt.



Oct 20, 1927 UB

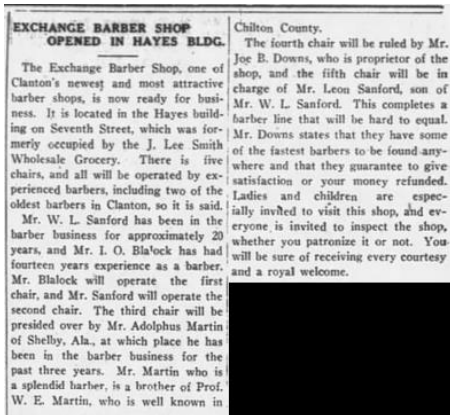


Oct 20, 1927 UB

December 1927, Grier Culver, from Birmingham, is to have a chair at the Sanitary Barber Shop.

In early 1928 the Service Barber Shop expands in size and remodels. It will now have six chairs with the barbers Newt Gray, Jesse Jones, Willie Bean, Joe Mims, Enoch Mims, and J. D. Adams. In June George Wyatt joins them, coming from the Sanford Barber Shop (The New Barber Shop?).

The Exchange Barber Shop was started in June of 1928. It was run by Joe B. Downs and includes as barbers W. L. Sanford, I. O. Blalock, Adolphus Martin, and Leon Sanford. It was, naturally, in the Hayes Building with the Exchange Hotel. In February of 1929 it is purchased from Joe Downs by Willie Bean and George Wyatt, both of whom had previously been at Gray's shop (Service Barber Shop). In January 1933 it moves to the Walker Building in the spot of the former Dixie Barber Shop.



Jun 28, 1928 UB

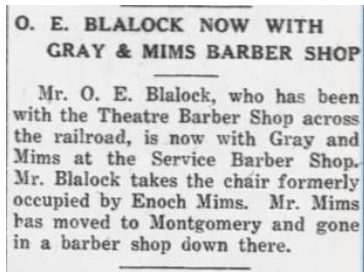


Jan 5, 1933 UB

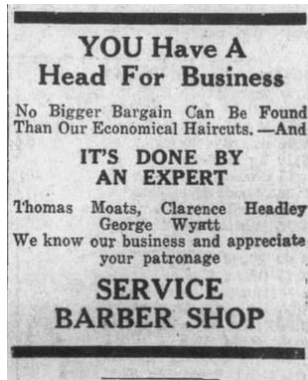
To complicate who's where, in February 1929, Ivy Blalock moves from the Sanford Barber Shop (the Exchange Barber Shop) to Newt Gray's Barber Shop (Service Barber Shop) and Leon Sanford swaps the other way, from Service Barber Shop to Sanford Barber Shop (the Exchange Barber Shop).

In November 1928 the Theatre Barber Shop is mentioned for the first time and has barbers Leonard Culp and George Tippet. In November 1929 a new name was mentioned, O. E. Blalock and he moved from the Theatre Barber Shop, on the west side of the railroad, to the Service Barber Shop. He replaced Enoch Mims who moved to Montgomery. Other new mentions were Thomas Moats, Clarence Headley, and George Wyatt at the Service Barber Shop.

Clanton – Barber Shops



Nov 21, 1929 UB

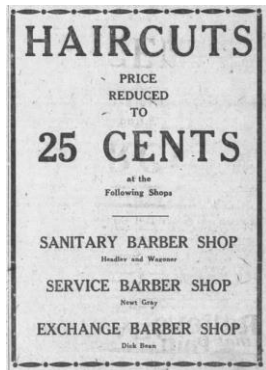


Dec 19, 1929 UB

Ollie Blalock must be back at the Theatre Barber Shop in June of 1930 because he is advertised at the assistant manager to the manager Henry Teel. The Theatre Barber Shop is owned by Mr. Wade. By January of 1931 Ollie E. Blalock and Reuben F. Mims have bought out Henry Teel and are running the business.

Also in 1930, Joe B. Downs is at Sanitary Barber Shop – remember him as co-owner of the Star Barber Shop with Ivy Blalock back in 1927. Dewey Blalock joins his brother Ollie in working at the Theatre Barber Shop.

In 1931 a consolidated ad for three barber shops is run with synchronized prices ... Sanitary Barber Shop run by Headley and Wagoner, Service Barber Shop run by Newt Gray, and Exchange Barber Shop run by Dick Bean. This brings up an interesting point ... in those early days apparently there were no “monopoly” laws to run afoul of ... there are numerous ads depicting most of the barber shops in town and showing the same price.



Mar 6, 1931 UB



Aug 3, 1933 UB

Miss Eloyse Jones runs a beauty parlor out of the Service Barber Shop in 1934. Also around 1934 it seems the Theatre Barber Shop closed because barbers George and Claudy Wyatt started a new one named the Theater Barber Shop (slightly different spelling?) and Ollie Blalock moved to the Service Barber Shop, taking the place of Carl Bean. Winston Mims, brother of Joe, joins Service Barber Shop in 1935. Three years later, in June 1938, Commodore D. Messer of Verbena joins Service Barber Shop but is only there a few months, then joins Mr. T. J. Posey next to Mims Café (in the Theater Barber Shop?) and Claudy Wyatt moves to Service Barber Shop.

The Ideal Barber Shop is mentioned in Sep 1941.

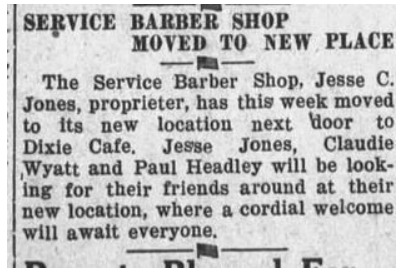
In June 1942 the Service Barber Shop is wholly owned by Jesse Jones. Other barbers there are Claudy Wyatt and Curtis Haye.

In late 1942 Bob Evans bought the two buildings known as the “old Bill Wright property” in which the Service Barber Shop was located (and Southern Seed and Plant C. in the other one). By January of 1944 the Service Barber Shop had moved to 7th Street beside Dixie Café, where it would remain for the rest of the 20th Century. The barbers at this time are Jesse Jones, Claudy Wyatt, and Paul Headley.

Clanton – Barber Shops

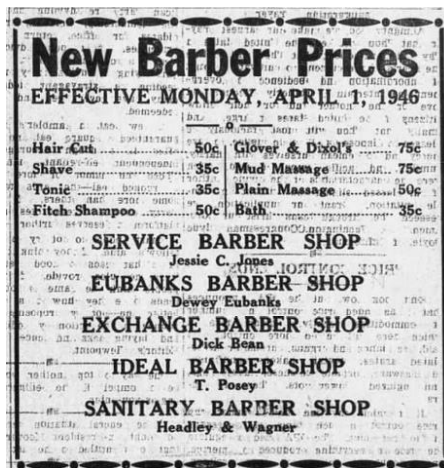


Sep 2, 1943 UB

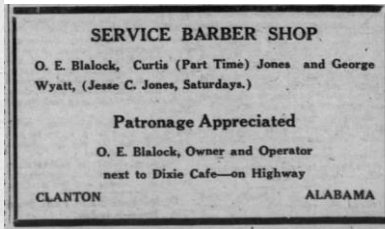


Jan 6, 1944 UB

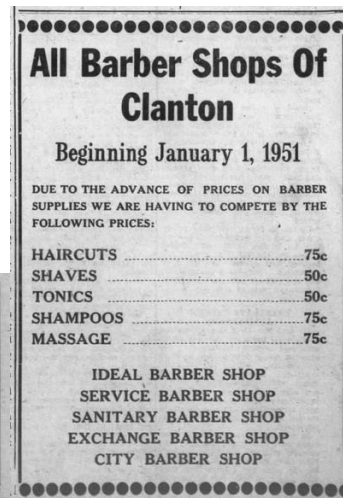
In 1945 the Ideal Barber Shop is listed with manager T. Posey and a new Eubanks Barber Shop is mentioned with manager Dewey Eubanks. By 1949 Ollie Blalock has bought the Service Barber Shop and other barbers are Curtis Jones, George Wyatt, and Jesse C. Jones. In August 1954 Ollie Blalock sold the Service Barber Shop to Emmett C. Smith and Thomas A. Moats.



Mar 28, 1945 UB



Nov 17, 1949 UB



Jan 4, 1951 UB

In November of 1948 Jim Wade built new buildings on his property near the railroad on the north side of 2nd Avenue North. Part of that was a new barber shop – the City Barber Shop.

The first ad of the South Clanton Barber Shop appeared in August of 1951 saying it was on south 7th Street in the Studebaker Building. Ads soon mention barbers James Coburn, J. D. Wesson “King of Barbers,” and Oliver Glenn “The Boy That Don’t Talk.” Later, in 1954, Odis Headley is named as a barber there. By 1957 Odis Headley and G. C. Jones have taken on management of the business. In the last ad found online at this time it is mentioned that Winston Mims has started there, in 1962.

The Service Barber Shop was bought by Harvey Cleckler and Auklee Baker in 1958 and barbers in 1959 were Thomas Moats, Clarence Headley, and Georgy Wyatt.

Ed Wagoner died April 25, 1960. Ivy Blalock died June 6, 1963.

Clanton Barber Shop

A Clanton Barber Shop was perhaps the first in town (ca1886) and was run by Meredith Cann. The name isn't mentioned anymore for several years. Then W. H. Taylor ran ads as early as 1892 for his shop and by 1895 was calling it the Clanton Barber Shop. He advertised services as the Clanton Barber Shop from at least 1895 through August 1903. He was one of the first barbers in Clanton. They were first advertised as in the new Merritt Building and later moved to a new building between the Union Banner office and W. T. Callen's store on 2nd Avenue North. This seems very close to the later location of the Sanitary Barber Shop... perhaps it was the predecessor?

Sanford, Wagoner, and Glass Barber Shop

Wagoner Barber Shop

Wagoner and Sanford Barber Shop

Sanitary Barber Shop

Sanford, Wagoner, and Glass Barber Shop was first mentioned in 1914 and in May it was said that the Wagoner Barber Shop was in the Dr. Johnson old building and he was going to build a new building in that place. In July the Sanford and Wagoner Barber Shop moved to the Headley Building. So it seems feasible that they were originally located in the Johnson old building and moved to the Headley building, perhaps while the new Johnson building was being built. Wagoner Barber Shop early references likely were to the Sanford, Wagoner, and Glass Barber Shop and later references to it were to the Sanitary Barber Shop. There is one mention of the Wagoner and Sanford Barber Shop and it certainly referred to the Sanitary Barber Shop. The first mention of the Sanitary Barber Shop is in 1916 when it is in the Johnson Building. This location was on 2nd Avenue North between 6th and 7th Streets, beside what would later be known as Chicago Sales. It remained in the same location.

Just Right Barber Shop

Weldon Barber Shop

Gray and Mims Barber Shop

Service Barber Shop

In April of 1923 Jesse C. Jones and George Wyatt open a new barber shop across 7th Street from the Exchange Hotel: the Just Right Barber Shop.

<<<Weldon Drug Store – photo? Anything else? >>>

In May of 1924, an existing barber shop (of unknown name) owned by E. T. Weldon is moved because he sold his drug store to Dr. J. P. Hayes. The barber shop will continue and will move to the "old Wolfe Shoe Shop stand" (note, this location is what many would recognize as being in the vicinity of "Bell Hardware.") and be run by Newt A. Gray. During this move, however, Jesse C. Jones and E. T. Weldon merge their barber shops. The new concern will operate in the intended new location of Weldon's shop in the "old Wolfe Shoe Shop" building on the south side of 2nd Avenue North, next to Hayes Drug Store. In the new business there will be four barbers: Newt Gray, Joe Mims, Jesse Jones, and Ervin Williams. The new combined barber shop was called the Service Barber Shop. There is an occasional reference to it as the Gray and Mims Barber Shop. Service Barber Shop moved to 7th Street beside the Dixie Café in January 1944, a few months after the old building was bought by Robert "Bob" Evans.

Dixie Barber Shop

The first mention of the Dixie Barber Shop was December 1929 with George T. Tippet manager. It went out of business in 1933 and the location taken over by the Exchange Barber Shop. Webb Parrish was working at Dixie and remained as part of the Exchange Barber Shop team.

Exchange Barber Shop

The Exchange Barber Shop was started in June of 1928. It was run by Joe B. Downs and includes as barbers W. L. Sanford, I. O. Blalock, Adolphus Martin, and Leon Sanford. It was, naturally, in the Hayes Building with the Exchange Hotel. In February of 1929 it is purchased from Joe Downs by Willie Bean and George Wyatt, both of whom had previously been at Gray's shop (Service Barber Shop).

Clanton – Barber Shops

In January 1933 the Exchange Barber Shop moves to the Walker Building in the spot of the former Dixie Barber Shop. In 1953 it is owned by Mrs. Dick Bean and son and has barbers Thomas Moats, Dock Martin, Billy Hayes, and Jack Bean.

The New Barber Shop

Opened by Powell beside his Pressing Shop, this business was run by veteran barber Walter Sanford, from the Sanitary Barber Shop. << *I think this location would be on the west side of 7th Street perhaps beside or in the Minnie Muse building???* Perhaps this is the original business in what becomes Bill Hayes' Barber Shop?? >>

Theatre Barber Shop

The Theatre Barber Shop is first mentioned in November 1929 and was run by Henry Tell for Mr. Wade. Ollie Blalock was assistant manager by 1930; and in 1931, along with Reuben F. Mims, they bought out Henry Teel. Ollie also hired his brother Dewey. Around 1934 it seemed the Theatre Barber Shop closed because barbers George and Claudy Wyatt started a new one named the Theater Barber Shop (note the slightly different spelling) and Ollie Blalock moved to the Service Barber Shop, taking the place of Carl Bean.

Theater Barber Shop

Ideal Barber Shop

There is one mention of the Theater Barber Shop spelled this way when it was started in 1935 by George and Claudy Wyatt and located in the Hayes Building. It seems that later T. J. Posey ran this barber shop. The Ideal Barber Shop was first seen in 1941 and may be the same as this Theater Barber Shop. The same barbers mentioned at the Theater Barber Shop are later mentioned at the Ideal Barber Shop.

Eubanks Barber Shop

First and only mention in 1945 and run by Dewey Eubanks.

Dailey and Wesson Barber Shop

First seen November 1914 and said to be next door to the Kemp brothers. It is run by C. D. Dailey and J. D. Wesson.

City Barber Shop

In November of 1948 Jim Wade built new buildings on his property near the railroad on the north side of 2nd Avenue North. Part of that was a new barber shop – the City Barber Shop.

South Clanton Barber Shop

The first ad of the South Clanton Barber Shop appeared in August of 1951 saying it was on south 7th Street in the Studebaker Building. It may be that this was the Chilton Motors' location which was still selling Studebakers at this time. Ads soon mentioned barbers James Coburn, J. D. Wesson "King of Barbers," and Oliver Glenn "The Boy That Don't Talk." Later, in 1954, Odis Headley was named as a barber there. By 1957 Odis Headley and G. C. Jones had taken on management of the business. In 1962, the last ad was found online at this time, it was mentioned that Winston Mims had started there.

Bill Hayes Barber Shop

References

Facebook groups *“U know u lived in CLANTON as a kid,” “WE GREW UP IN CLANTON, ALABAMA”* and others.

Union Banner: