

CITY OFFICIAL OF THE WEEK

Mayor W. M. Wyatt

This column will be devoted to various members of our local officials who serve in Shelby County. This month we were most fortunate to have interviewed one of Shelby's most colorful and possibly most beloved citizens. He is Mr. W. M. Wyatt, mayor of Montevallo for the past 20 years. Mr. Wyatt and his wife, Vedic, live at 13 Meadow Rd. in the Arden Subdivision.

Mr. Wyatt began his first term in October of 1948 after coming to Montevallo from Clanton in 1935. During his years of public life he has seen many vast improvements in local industry such as the building of Westinghouse, United Chemical Company, Lawler Manufacturing Company, and Brown Molding Company.

RESIDENTIAL CHANGES

There have also been tremendous changes taking place in the residential areas with the advent of new subdivisions in most every direction. Streets and hi-ways have been widened and improved. In just the past two years Montevallo has completed a new elementary school, a high school gynasium, and for the second time in the past 16 years they have enlarged and improved the local water system making it possible to serve local industry as well as adjacent areas around the city.

CAMPAIGN OF 1948

Mr Wyatt said he decided to run for mayor in 1948 after many of his friends and neighbors had urged him to do so. His opposition at that time was his good friend, Mr. Charlie Small. As he says, "Neither Charlie nor I cared much about running but both of us had a kind of urge to try because of our friends insistance, so we just decided to get in the race and see how it came

out." Mr. Wyatt defeated his friend by seven votes and since that time has never found an opponent willing to take him on.

POPULATION CHANGES

In the 1940 census the population of Montevallo was listed at 1400. The last census in 1960 gave the population of 2775. The total population covered by police jurisdiction is approximately 6,000; this covers one-and-a-half miles in each direction beyond the city limits as well as it covers Montevallo proper.

Mr. Wyatt says the city has never had any diciplinary problems in relation to Alabama College. He says that his life has been one of complete satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment. He is presently 72 years young and, at the present time, does not think he will run again. However, the citizens of Montevallo may have other ideas.

MAGIC FORMULA

When we asked him what he attributed his long and successful political career to he answered very emphatically:

"I NEVER PROMISED ANYONE ANYTHING IF AND WHEN I GOT IN OFFICE AND WHATEVER I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED, I'VE NEVER BRAGGED ABOUT."

Certainly this is a statement that few men of Mr. Wyatt's years can make, and his record is one any politician could envy.

It was a delight and a pleasure to meet this witty, as well as sage, "young" man.
