

Montevallo's Losses

This is a re-creation of a letter published in the Birmingham News in 1942 regretting the suspension of publication by the Montevallo Times following its October 29, 1942 edition.

The suspension was a result of the publisher's inability to retain his work force, many of whom had left for military service in World War II.

The suspension lasted only 10 months when the paper resumed publication the week of August 26, 1943. Publication resumed with publisher W.M. Wyatt sharing leadership responsibilities with Owen Love, a newspaperman from Birmingham.

During this interval, Wyatt kept his Times Printing Co. going and served Alabama College as its Executive Secretary (Public Relations Director).

The co-publisher arrangement at the

newspaper lasted until sometime in 1945. By the first issue of 1946, Wyatt was listed as the sole publisher on the paper's masthead.

[The Hall Brothers referred to in the letter were southern journalists, one of whom, Grover Hall, was the Pulitzer prize winning editor of the Montgomery Advertiser in the 1920's and 1930's.]

This letter to the Birmingham News also pays tribute to Mr. Ike Nathews, owner of The Dollar Store, in Montevallo, whose business also succumbed to the trials of the war.

While it is apparent that the author of the letter, Edwina Cox of Fayette, AL, was more than familiar with the people and goings-on in Montevallo, her connection to the college and the town is unknown.

retail merchandising; established a rotating fund for the sociology department, then under the supervision of Miss Myrtle Brooks and Dr. John R. Steelman, for the students who were unable to finance their own education; sponsored all civic sports by seasonal donations of football wardrobe to the high school and was at all times a promoter of civic improvement. A man possessed of an unusual understanding of social and economic factors, he will long be remembered in his community.

It is not hard to understand that this war is a result of and a punishment to the selfish individuals who sacrificed everything for personal comfort, but it is unfortunate that men who spent their energies, talents and personal resources attempting to engender into the people of their community a theory of cooperative, intelligent living must also bear the brunt of the present chaos. However, since all must suffer for the evils of some, they quietly give up their sons and professions, willing to make sacrifices for a better day and a better world.

Fayette, Ala. EDWINA COX

To the Editor The News:

Having already lost some of its noted educators, Dr. O.C. Charmichael, Dr. John R. Steelman and of more recent date Dr. Gordon McClosky, Montevallo now suffers the loss of its journalist and editor, Mr. W. Wyatt.

Sharing with the Hall brothers the ability to substitute tolerance for prejudice, Mr. Wyatt in his paper always reflected a broad, liberal viewpoint. To those of us who knew him we recall a man

genuinely interested in education, sensitive to the needs of the less fortunate, and an untiring spokesman for civic interest.

We also hear of the duration retirement of Mr. Ike Nathews and remember that he gave to the people of Montevallo a complete, up-to-date merchandising center; established a shop that cooperated with the department of home economics of Alabama College in an attempt to give the students some experience in

Next Week May Be The Last “Times”

From present indications it appears that next week will be “the end of the Times” until after the war is over.

The most regrettable step on the part of the publisher seems unavoidable on account of the impossibility of replacements of workmen who have gone and will soon go into our country’s service.

This is Jim’s last week with us. He goes to Nashville next Monday to take up his training as aviation cadet. Travis will most likely go into the army within the next few weeks. There is no possibility of securing trained men to take their places, and there is, therefore,

no alternative other than to curtail our business operations so we can get along without them.

We will continue to carry on our printing business, which will include printing *The Alabamian*, the college newspaper, and various jobs which we do for the college and other customers.

We regret the necessity for this action but there is nothing else we can do. After the war is over if there are enough of us surviving, we shall hope to get back together and resume our normal function of producing a newspaper devoted to the interests of our community.

W. M. Wyatt,
Publisher.

(Jim, who is referred to in the story, was James Alexander Wyatt, W. M. Wyatt's oldest son. He became a fighter pilot flying P-47s for the U.S. Army Air Force and was wounded by German bullet fragments while in a dogfight over northern Germany in 1944. His plane was disabled by enemy fire and he lost his radio, but he was able to limp back to RAF Woodbridge Air Base that had a runway specially equipped for landing aircraft that had been damaged in air-to-air engagements. As a result of his valor in air combat and being wounded in action, Jim was awarded the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Purple Heart.

Montevallo Times

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A Statement By The Publisher

In conformity with my preliminary statement of last week, I most regretfully announce that this is the last issue of The Times for the duration of the war. I have had a newspaper for the past 30 years, during which time I have never missed an issue, this notwithstanding the other war in which I served in the Army in 1918.

I appreciate the many solicitations and earnest pleas from people of the community that the paper be kept going. As much as these expressions help my feelings, they do not help in finding trained workmen and the work necessary for them to do to make a continuation of the paper possible.

To those who have subscriptions paid in advance I offer either of the following plans of settlement of my financial obligation to you:

(1) If you desire cash refund for your unexpired time, I will give it to you. I will be ready to do this in a few days, when I have had time to go over my records and make the necessary calculations.

(2) By special arrangement with the Shelby County Democrat I will, if you choose, transfer your subscription to that paper and you will get it for the balance of the time your subscription to The Times is paid up.

(3) The Times subscription list

will be kept as is and all who do not otherwise instruct will be kept on the list to have their time finished out when publication is resumed.

As stated last week, our printing plant will continue in operation. We will print The Alabamian, the college newspaper, and other jobs which we customarily do for the college and our patrons in general.

I hope to be able after the war to reassemble some of my scattered force and resume publication of The Times. The following men, former employees of The Times, are now serving in the armed forces of our country somewhere:

Stewart Armstrong
Tom Gentry
Francis Killingsworth
Ralph Lemley
Carlos Wyatt
Jim Alex Wyatt

Goodbye and good luck. We will be with you again after the war—we hope. And let us not forget that in order to do this and many other things we would like to do, we must first win the war. The future, not only of our newspapers, but of every other cherished institution and ideal depends upon our winning this gigantic world struggle.

W. M. WYATT,
Publisher.

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DOLLAR STORE

— ON —

JANUARY 11, 1936

AT 3:00 P.M.

YOU MUST BE PRESENT

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ON OUR GREAT BARGAINS, AND AT THE SAME
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DISHES FREE.

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