

**W . M. “Mack” Wyatt Digital Archives
at Carmichael Library**

**University of Montevallo
Montevallo, Alabama**

**Dedicated
October 17, 2014**

Dedication Statement and Photographs etc.,
Written and Compiled by Clay Nordan (grandson of W.M. Wyatt)
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Statement delivered at the dedication was shortened for brevity.
The statement here is presented in its entirety.

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I'm sure many of you are wondering about my motivation for establishing the W.M. "Mack" Wyatt Digital Archives here at the University of Montevallo's Carmichael Library.

William McDaniel Wyatt was my grandfather. I and my Wyatt cousins, many of whom are present here today, have idolized him since we were small children. "Pop", as we called him was only 5 feet, 5 inches tall, and was so small of frame that he looked like he might be blown away by a mere gust of wind. But he was a giant to us.

Let me give you an idea about who this man was and why he was so special to us.

Mack Wyatt was born in 1892 in rural Clanton County, Alabama near Clanton close to the Coosa River. He had two sisters, Alice and Edna, and a brother, Eugene, or "Gene" for short.

His father believed that his small stature would not make him suitable for farm work, so he encouraged Mack to find a trade in town. As a result, he began his working life in a local newspaper print shop at the age of 15. Following two years in the print shop and showing an aptitude for the work, his father sent him away to one of the few High Schools in Alabama at the time to become better educated.

In 1909 at age 17, Mack entered Cullman County High School, where he remained until graduation in 1913. While in Cullman he studied the classics, wrote poetry, and edited the school literary journal, *Le Debut*. He returned to Clanton and in 1914, at age 22, became half-owner and editor of the *Union Banner* newspaper.

His brother, T.E. "Gene" Wyatt, bought the remaining half of the paper in 1917 and the two brothers co-edited the *Union Banner* until 1935 when Mack moved to Montevallo as a re-

sult of his purchase of the *Montevallo Times*.

They were both conscripted into the U.S. Army in July of 1918 and were honorably discharged in December of the same year without ever leaving the states or seeing action in World War I. They returned to the newspaper in early 1919, and had the good fortune to have in their own backyard, as a subject for numerous articles and editorials, Alabama Power Company's fledgling but ambitious hydroelectric program that would modernize and change the state forever.

Lay Dam, a few miles northeast of Clanton on the Coosa River had begun generating electricity in 1914 and the construction of Mitchell Dam, a few miles downstream, began in 1920. The young editors were primed to observe the goings-on at these sites and became cheerleaders and occasional critics of both the Power Company and their fellow citizens for not appreciating the potential of the momentous events happening in their own community.

In his fine 1997 book, "Putting Loafing Streams to Work," a history of the early dams built by Alabama Power Co., professor Harvey Jackson often quotes what the Wyatt brothers were writing in the *Union Banner* in those days and in a specific reference to an unauthorized trip that one of the editors (probably Mack) made with some other townsmen to the future site of Mitchell Dam, he said that the account of the trip in the newspaper "was a tale in the best tradition of Old Southwest humor, full of overstatements and satire, written broadly for the biggest laugh, but containing within it insightful observations about what they saw and did not see.

It was just the sort of thing the Wyatt brothers had been writing for some time, and just the sort of thing their readers loved. Professor

Jackson observes at one point, “The *Union Banner* had ruffled some local feathers in the past and would ruffle some in the future.”

It appears that Gene Wyatt put down deeper roots with the *Union Banner* in Clanton in those years than Mack. Mack decided to get into politics and was elected in 1923 as a member of the State House of Representatives in the Alabama Legislature from Chilton County. He served in the Legislature for one term. Supporters tried to convince him to run for re-election, but his experience in politics at the state level disgusted him so that a family legend has it that he told them there was no way he would ever go back. He told them that during his one term in the legislature he “felt like a grain of rice in a barrel of rat turds.”

Cleansed of political ambition for a time, Mack now returned to his career as a newspaper editor, but he had itchy feet. He left the *Union Banner* for an unknown period of time to edit *The DeKalb Herald* in Ft. Payne, Alabama. Also, for a time during the early years of the Depression he spent time working at the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C.

Apparently, he maintained his financial interest in the *Union Banner* in Clanton until he relinquished this interest to his brother in 1935. Gene Wyatt then became sole owner, editor, and publisher of the Clanton paper until his death in 1974.

Mack Wyatt married the former Vedic Ruthford of Clanton, AL. They had a daughter and two sons. Theda, my mother, was born in 1921. Jimmy was born in 1922, and Pat was born in 1928. Mack died at age 74 in 1966. Vedic died in 1971 at age 71. Pat died in 1991 at age 62. Jimmy died in 2000 at age 77. And Theda is still with us, in good health, at the

ripe old age of 93½. Unfortunately, she’s just a bit too frail to travel from her Assisted Living home in Gardendale to be here with us today, but she definitely gets the award for longevity in this family.

As I said earlier, Mack Wyatt bought the *Montevallo Times* in 1935 from Mrs. Olive Harrison, who had started the paper in 1933, and moved his family from Clanton to Montevallo that same year. Right away he completely embraced his new home town and became one of its biggest boosters.

On June 7, 1935, in “A Statement From the Publisher of the *Montevallo Times*”, introducing himself to Montevallo, Mack Wyatt told his new readers that his 25 years in what he called the “country newspaper field” offered him the right to claim some knowledge of how to conduct such a business. He told them that it was not a new adventure to him and that his experience had taught him the many things that should be done and can be done by a newspaper as a constructive and progressive agency in the community.

Likewise, he said, he had learned by experience many things that should not be done or attempted by a newspaper. The most important of these, he said, was that his “conduct of the policies of the *Montevallo Times* will be without the color of politics.” He said, “I want to make this newspaper an institution devoted to and capable of properly and fully serving you as a constructive community institution. To do so I shall not be handicapped and shackled by political alignments.”

In 1908 and 1909, years when Mack was getting his start, Clanton had five newspapers being published at one time. Two of the papers were aligned with the Republican Party and local Populists and Progressives, which was rela-

tively unique in Alabama at the time. One paper was aligned with the dominant Democratic Party and supported its candidates. There was a paper espousing the interests of Prohibition, and, as strange as it sounds today, there was a paper called the *Socialist View*.

Mack had seen how these newspapers existed primarily to serve certain local politicians in their quests for power, and he wanted nothing to do with such shenanigans. Thus, he concluded this portion of his statement by saying, "If you are interested in politics, that is all right with me. We shall have no arguments about that. But, regardless of politics, every citizen should be ready and willing and able to render his just portion of faithfulness and devotion to the interests of his community. I hope to make the best newspaper this community is capable of supporting."

By 1939, after only 4 years as a resident of Montevallo and editor of the *Montevallo Times*, Mack Wyatt published as an editorial a meditation on Founders Day at Alabama College.

In the editorial he observes:

"Alabama College is Montevallo, and vice versa. The town is among the oldest in the State. It is among the best-known places in the State, which is true only because the founders of Alabama College chose to place the great institution here.

Montevallo owes everything to Alabama College. This day, of all days, we ought to close up our places of business, hang out the bunting, parade the band, go to the college and proclaim to the world our full and loyal appreciation of the day that set us apart as one of the very choice and treasured spots in all the land."

That same year, Mack was stricken with an illness that required his hospitalization at the Veterans Hospital in Tuscaloosa. While there, he got

to know a fellow vet, Horace L. Pratt of Shawmutt, AL near Lanett in east Alabama. After they both had recovered and returned to their respective homes, Mr. Pratt sent a very complimentary letter to the *Montevallo Times* that demonstrates how successful an advocate and ambassador for Montevallo Mack had become. In his letter, Mr. Pratt says:

"To really know a man one would have to observe him in his home. There most restraints are thrown aside and he can be seen as he really is. There are other occasions, however, where opportunities are sometimes given the outsider to judge a man's true character.

Such an opportunity has been afforded this writer, when as a patient at the Veterans Hospital at Tuscaloosa, he is sharing a ward with three other men, including the genial editor of the *Montevallo Times*, Mr. W.M. Wyatt.

We esteem it a rare privilege to have made the acquaintance of this man, who is so well known to you. Friendly, courteous, tolerant, clean in his conversation, thoroughly informed, a booster for Montevallo and surrounding territory – Mr. Wyatt is ably serving his community. A typical editor of a typical small-town newspaper, he exerts a tremendous influence for good in the Montevallo area."

The next few years were good for the *Montevallo Times*. The community appears to have supported the paper and advertising each week was robust. In addition to local goings-on, Mack also covered state, national, and world events that he thought were of interest to Montevallo readers. One randomly selected front page from 1942 included:

- Funeral and Wedding announcements
- Notice of upcoming sermon topics by local preachers
- A report on scrap iron collection in Shelby County
- Upcoming meetings of the Red Cross,

Civic Club, and DAR • A report that a local African American man had earned a degree in Physiotherapy in Chicago • The local Business and Professional Womens Club was seeking old furs to use to line clothing for the armed forces • The director of sales promotion for Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Co. would be heading the Alabama War Chest speakers bureau • An announcement that noted Alabama organist and composer, Claude Murphree, university organist at the University of Florida, would soon be giving a concert on Palmer Hall's famous Skinner organ • Notice that landlords who do not register their rental dwellings with the Office of Price Administration would be guilty of a Federal offense and subject to a heavy penalty • And finally, the paper recounted the visit back to his hometown of Montevallo by Mr. Walter McConaughy, second secretary to the American Embassy in Peking, China. He was interned in China following its occupation by Japan and had recently been released in an exchange of officials by the governments of the United States and Japan. He was quoted as saying, "home has never meant so much to me before as it has on this visit."

So you can see that the *Montevallo Times* was providing its readers with a broad variety of news and human interest stories each week. However, the success of the paper came to an abrupt halt that same year. On October 22, 1942, Mack Wyatt announced in an editorial that "Next Week May be the Last *Times*." He explained that his son, Jimmy, who was 20 years old and a key member of the *Times*' staff would be leaving for training as an aviation cadet the following week and his trusty Linotype operator, Travis Killingsworth, would most likely go into the Army within the next few weeks. He said there was no possibility of securing trained

men to take their place, so he had no alternative other than to curtail the operations of the paper so that he could get along without them.

He said that he would carry on his printing business, including printing Alabama College's student newspaper, *The Alabamian*. But, he concluded, "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."

Fortunately, the demise of the *Times* was not to be. Mack Wyatt suspended publication for the next 10 months but he was soon able to bring it back to life. In an announcement in the first restored issue, he wrote that "this renewal of publication is made possible by an association of W.M. Wyatt, the former publisher, with Owen Love, an able and aspiring young newspaper man of Birmingham." He also earnestly solicited the renewed support of the people of Montevallo and vicinity.

It appears that Mack Wyatt and Owen Love's association lasted about a year, but the paper regained its footing and returned to regular publication as a result. Love's name appears on the *Times*' masthead starting with the August 26, 1943 issue, but is no longer there by January 3, of 1946.

Interestingly, W.M. Wyatt was listed in the 1943-1944 Bulletin of Alabama College as "Acting Executive Secretary." His picture was also in the 1944 Alabama College yearbook, the *Montage*, with the same title. This position had traditionally been the title for the college's publicity officer and news bureau director. Either he was enlisted by the Administration to step in following a resignation or he sought it out as a way to supplement his income while the newspaper

was on hiatus. He may have split his time between the college and the renewed newspaper, but in any case, he stepped down at the end of 1944 and was succeeded for a year by his daughter, and my mother, Theda Wyatt Nordan.

Following the end of hostilities in World War II, Mack's son Jimmy, after having been wounded as a fighter pilot in the skies over Germany, returned to Montevallo and started raising a family.

By now, Mack's youngest son, Pat, was 17 years old and becoming an able printer, so the father and his two sons, with the help of their mother and several dedicated employees, not only were able to re-establish the *Montevallo Times'* former momentum as a vital local newspaper but also, by 1947, to evolve the Montevallo Times Print Shop into Times Printing Co. — a going commercial printing operation in Central Alabama.

They were located in the basement and first floor of the Masonic Lodge Temple at the corner of Main and Vine Streets, across from the Post Office in Montevallo. The building still stands and the Times' office was in the space occupied today by the attorney, Mitchell Spears. The composing room and letterpresses were located in the basement while the bindery and mailing operations were on the floor above behind the office.

As my earlier examples showed, Mack Wyatt developed a love affair with the town of Montevallo. Apparently, editing the community's weekly newspaper didn't provide him with enough involvement, so, at the encouragement of some of his friends and neighbors, he decided to run for mayor in 1948.

The election was held in September of that year and he was successful in defeating his good friend, Charlie Small. It was a close, but friendly

campaign, and Mack managed to eke out his win by only 7 votes. In a statement he published in the Times following his election, he said:

“I shall adhere faithfully to the one large and comprehensive purpose which I expressed in my letter to all voters before the election — that I will render, as your Mayor, that measure of service and devotion to duty which I honestly believe will contribute to our mutual and collective happiness, progress, and security.”

It would be more than fair to question the ethics of the mayor of a town owning and editing the local newspaper and it would also seem, in Mack's case, to be quite a paradox when he had pledged to his readers that political alignments would not influence the policies of his newspaper. But Mack Wyatt turned out to be a very benevolent mayor and was never questioned about wielding undue influence as a result of his position as editor of the *Montevallo Times*. There is no doubt that the newspaper was useful to him in communicating with his constituents, but there was never even a hint of abuse coming from this unique situation.

Who could have known in 1948, that he would parlay that 7 vote victory into 5 consecutive four-year terms. Obviously, the citizens of Montevallo were well pleased with the job he did as their mayor to retain him for so long. In fact, he never found another opponent to take him on, so he was re-elected four times without opposition. He won his fifth term in 1964 and died while still in office in 1966. That's 18 years of unbroken service as mayor to his adopted home town.

While mayor of Montevallo, Mack Wyatt worked diligently to maintain cooperative relations between the town and Alabama College through the administrations of four different Presidents. He and the City Council were suc-

cessful in partnering with the City of Calera to convince the Westinghouse Electric Co. to construct a major welding rod manufacturing plant on highway 25 between the two towns.

The plant opened and began operations in 1953 and created many good new jobs and resulted in an influx to the area of Westinghouse executives and supervisors who added much to the quality of local life through their involvement in the community. He also presided over major improvements to Montevallo's water, gas, and sewer services and paved, widened, and improved local streets and roads.

Mack Wyatt was interviewed by a newspaper reporter in 1964 and was asked to what did he attribute his long and successful political career. The reporter said that mayor Wyatt answered emphatically:

"I never promised anyone anything if and when I got in office and whatever I have accomplished, I've never bragged about (it)."

For years, the *Montevallo Times* had regularly published news from the nearby town of Calera. A Calera correspondent was stationed in an office in Calera and she collected news from the area for publication in the paper. In 1951, Mack Wyatt decided to launch a newspaper dedicated to the town of Calera in the same way the *Montevallo Times* had been for that city. The *Calera Herald* proved a success, but, for economic and production reasons, he made another decision to streamline his operations and consolidated the two papers into one paper devoted to news from the central and western portions of Shelby County.

Thus the birth of *The Shelby County Times Herald* in 1954. To make up for the loss of the *Calera Herald*, Mack published two separate editions of the *Times Herald*, one for Montevallo and one for Calera with emphasis on local news

for each respective town.

The *Times Herald* continued to serve Montevallo, Calera, and surrounding communities until 1959 when Mack came to the conclusion that, at age 67, he no longer had what it took to pull together a newspaper each week. His oldest son, Jimmy, had left Times Printing in 1956 to go to work in management at Birmingham Publishing Co. He went on to develop a fine career managing commercial printing companies in several major U.S. cities.

Mack's youngest son, Pat, was now the backbone of Times Printing Co, but he was not interested in becoming a newspaper editor. Mack prevailed on his daughter, Theda, to take over the editor's job for the *Times Herald*, but after a year, she also decided that the job was not for her. So, Mack approached the *Shelby County Reporter* about a purchase of the *Times Herald*, and a deal was soon worked out.

In his "Valedictory" message in the final issue of the *Shelby County Times Herald* on October 29, 1959, Mack Wyatt said farewell to his readers. He said: "I wish to express my sincere thanks to my friends for the support you have given me in the publication of my newspaper here for the past quarter of a century. It was your support that enabled me to make a success with it, and to enjoy the years I have tried to make it serve you and the interests of our community and our great county."

In this same message, he said that Times Printing Co. would continue to operate as usual, devoted to the field of commercial printing, and that it would be under the management of his son, Pat. He also said that "for the remainder of my active years I will revert to that still fascinating role of "printer's devil" where I started in 1907. I have not yet learned all there is to know about printing."

About the same time as *The Shelby County Times Herald* was sold, Times Printing Co. moved into a brand spanking new printing plant located in the basement of the new Whaley Shopping Center in downtown Montevallo. Montevallo's first true supermarket, the Food Center was their neighbor in the space above the printing plant. A substantial investment was made in new equipment so now the focus of the business shifted from that of a weekly newspaper to the challenges and variety of commercial printing.

Mack moved to the new plant, along with his equipment and employees and continued to contribute to daily operations, producing printed products of every description. In 1964, he decided that it was time to retire. He sold the business to Pat and his wife Betty, and settled into a new house in the Arden subdivision, right behind Pat and Betty, with his wife Vedic and his beloved chihuahua "Little Boy".

In retirement, he pursued his passion for reading and enjoyed the close proximity to his grandchildren. His health began to fail in late 1965 when he contracted Multiple Myeloma or cancer of the bone marrow. As the disease progressed, he regularly experienced severe fatigue, but was rejuvenated with frequent blood transfusions.

At the time, there was no effective treatment for this condition and he died at Shelby Memorial Hospital in Alabaster, AL on November 13, 1966.

The following month, the Montevallo City Council passed a resolution noting with deep regret the passing of William McDaniel Wyatt. By way of the resolution, the Council desired "to honor the memory of Mr. Wyatt, whose life of service, dedication, and loyalty to this municipality has earned him an honored place

within the hearts of the citizens of Montevallo."

Among those signing the resolution were two councilmen who would also have distinguished administrations as mayor of Montevallo – Dr. Milton Orr, Jr., Mack Wyatt's successor who served for 6 years, and Ralph Sears, who served for 24 years, breaking Mack's record of 18.

As I said before, Mack and Vedic Wyatt had three children. All three children raised families and produced 10 grandchildren. Theda and her husband Clayton Nordan had three, Jimmy and his wife Jane had three, and Pat and Betty had four. Those grandchildren have produced 18 great-grandchildren, and that generation has produced, so far, 15 great-great grandchildren. This last figure is dependent on three who should make their presence known very soon. In all to date, there have been 46 descendants from this one couple.

Following Mack's death, Times Printing Co. thrived in its new location and became the go-to source for printing for major customers such as The University of Montevallo, the Alabama Future Homemakers of America, Westinghouse, Abex, Brown Moulding and most other local industries and businesses in Shelby County. Local politicians kept them very busy during election times.

All of Pat and Betty's children, Danny, Patricia, Bobby, and Mary started working in the print shop at a young age and continued for varying lengths of time. They all would later carry their knowledge and experience to jobs elsewhere that were printing related.

I had been around the print shop all my life but it wasn't until I had graduated from Auburn in 1971 that I truly "worked" at Times Printing. Not being able to find a job following graduation, my mother asked Pat if he could

use me temporarily and he readily took me on. I worked there off and on for the next 5 years as I earned my Masters degree from the University of Montevallo, but printing and publishing became the career I wanted to pursue. My time at Times Printing afforded me the opportunity to go on to a satisfying 32 year career with Southern Living magazine.

In 1981, a fire that started in the grocery store above the printing plant made the space unfit for occupancy, so the business moved temporarily to unoccupied space in the former Alabama Power Co. office in the same building. By 1984, Pat and Betty, with the help of their children, had finished construction on a new, free-standing building located in the Montevallo Industrial Park on the east side of town just off highway 25.

The business did well in the new location until Pat developed stomach cancer and died in 1991 at age 62. Betty, with the help of Patricia and Mary tried to keep the business afloat following Pat's death, but she was forced to sell in 1995. The new owner was not successful, so Times Printing Co. and Mack Wyatt's legacy had come to an end.

Having heard this story, I think you can now see why I wanted to establish an appropriate and permanent way of acknowledging W. M. "Mack" Wyatt's life and his contributions to Montevallo. Within our family, we have three boys who have been named after him. Pat's son Danny's full name is William McDaniel Wyatt. Danny has a son named McDaniel, and one of Jimmy's grandsons is named Mac. I was supposed to be the first son named after him, but for inexplicable reasons, my mother thought Mack's middle name was McDonald, and by the time the birth certificate was filled out and

certified, it was too late. So my middle name is McDonald. I like to think that her heart was in the right place, at least.

So, we have honored him multiple times within the family, but there has not been any other more public and visible memorial to his life and contributions. As is customary, he could have at any time had a building, a park, a highway, or a bridge named after him, but as I have thought about what we are doing with this Digital Archive, it occurred to me that preserving Mack Wyatt's newspapers – in other words, his life's work – for posterity and making them available for study, information, and entertainment, and then naming the archive after him, couldn't be a more appropriate way to memorialize his legacy.

When you get a chance to go through these newspapers carefully online, you will appreciate that they not only kept the citizens of Montevallo informed about what was going on in their community each week, but they were also preserving, in minute detail, the history of the town.

Mack would have no idea what this expression means, but it is clear to me that the Montevallo Times was the FaceBook of the 1930's and 1940's. It seems that no occurrence in Montevallo and the small communities surrounding it such as Wilton, Spring Creek, Boothton, Aldrich, and Dogwood was too insignificant to not include as an item in the paper.

Let me read a few examples of what I'm talking about.

In the Montevallo Local News column of February 2, 1939 we find that:

- Master Ed Givhan is recovering from the flu. He is still unable to attend nursery school.
- Miss Edith Lindberg returned from New

York Saturday where she was called because of the death of her grandfather.

- Dr. Fred Pearson, Fred and Mary Pearson, Mrs. Lillian Ward, Julia Ward, and Myra Frost spent Saturday in Birmingham.

- Miss Marion Jones-Williams entertained Monday evening, January 30, with a bridge party honoring Miss Betty Perrin. Bridge was enjoyed until a late hour when a delicious salad plate was served to the following guests (list follows). Miss Charlotte Claybrooke won the high score prize and Miss Martha Allen second high score. Miss Perrin was presented with the honoree prize.

I must confess that this effort to preserve these newspapers and make them publicly available is partly selfish. I have wanted to investigate and uncover as much of my grandfather's writing as possible in order to get a sense of who he was and to uncover his beliefs and discover the subjects he chose to write about. I was 16 when he died, so I never knew him as an adult. Perhaps there is a book in all this, but I won't know until I find and read it all. Having 25 years of his newspapers at my fingertips will take me a long way in this quest.

But at the same time, anyone who has even a passing interest in how Montevallo got to where it is today will find these newspapers to be an invaluable resource. If you grew up in Montevallo or have a family connection or a connection to Alabama College, you will find something of value in these papers.

The town, in the days when these papers were published was still fairly isolated, so it had to be almost self-sustaining. Therefore, there were all kinds of businesses and services to meet the needs of residents, many of them catering to the College. These businesses ad-

vertised in the newspaper and the ads show a rich tapestry of the way life was lived in the early to mid 20th century.

As a for-instance: Klotzman's department store on Main Street had, in their big Pre-Easter sale in 1939, Men's Dress Sox for 5¢; Ladies Silk Dresses for \$1.98; Boys Overalls for 49¢; and 3 x 6 Washable Window Shades for 39¢. You could buy something called a Man's Wash Suit for \$4.95.

The grocery stores advertised many weekly specials; if you needed ice or a load of coal, the delivery man advertised his phone number; there were taxis you could call; you could see what's showing at the Strand Theatre; if Kent's dairy was short on bottles, they would advertise a request that customers return them; and if the circus was coming to town, there would be a big ad announcing it.

As Kathleen Lowe, director of the Carmichael Library told me, "You can just get lost looking through these old newspapers, they are so fascinating."

I have only looked carefully at a few years of the *Montevallo Times* and *Shelby County Times Herald* so far, with 1939 being the year I have studied the closest. But in that one year I have seen a story on how the mural in the Post Office came to be painted and installed there with detailed information about the artist. I have seen a story on the construction of the innovative viaduct leading out of town on Middle Street. I have seen a story on the more than welcome paving of Highway 25 from one end of the county to the other that summer. I have seen fascinating coverage of the "cyclone" that came through Montevallo that spring and an account of the destruction it wrought to Shelby Street and adjoining neighborhoods. Mack Wyatt even writes about he and his "devil" going out after

the storm had passed and rescuing a local man who was trapped in a collapsed chicken house.

But my favorite is a piece Mack wrote about an encounter he had while walking to work one day. At the time, he and his family lived a block-and-a-half from where we are today on Highland Street. He did not drive and often walked to work. As he was passing the college campus one day he observed construction underway on the east gate leading into the campus. It's the gate that you can see on your right just outside this building.

He happened to see that the work was being observed and supervised by Mr. W.M. Jones-Williams, a very capable Englishman who had been in charge of the buildings and grounds of Alabama College from its early years. What ensued was a pleasant conversation in which Mr. Jones-Williams revealed the history of the Alabama College gates and his complete dedication to getting two new ones constructed exactly according to the plans of the first one that had been built 23 years before.

I'm happy to announce that several years of the *Montevallo Times* have been posted recently to the Carmichael Library online archives. You can find 1935 and then most of the 1940's. Several other papers published in Montevallo and Shelby County from the late 1800's have also been posted and are available for viewing online.

I can't say enough about the work of Carey Heatherly to make the Carmichael Library online archives a rich and easy to use online resource. If you have not spent any time on this fantastic site, I urge you to do so. Much work has already been done to populate the site with all of the Bulletins and Yearbooks of Alabama College and the University of Montevallo.

In addition, you can find decades of the student newspaper, *The Alabamian*. The digital files in the archive display crisp and clean photographs, navigation is smooth and logical, and the user can save anything in pdf format. The archive, as it is today, is an enormous collection of historical materials pertaining to the town of Montevallo, Alabama College, and the University of Montevallo. Anyone interested in gaining a sense of what went on at any time in the town in the last 100+ years would do well to investigate this collection.

It is my hope that the creation of the W.M. "Mack" Wyatt Digital Archives and the addition of the *Montevallo Times*, the *Calera Herald*, and *The Shelby County Times Herald*, and other newspapers from the area will enhance the Carmichael Library's archived online holdings and propel it forward as a well-known and well-respected source for preservationists, historians, and a public that desires to learn about its past.

Montevallo Times
