

Phillips Drug Co. Centennial Issue Opened In 1905

Herald, May 3, '52

Phillips' Drug Store used to have what this country needs—"a good nickel cigar." It was founded in 1905 and at the time told its customers that it stocked not only the best 5c cigar on the market, but they could get the whole nickel back if they weren't satisfied.

In the early years of the 20th Century, it also sold, in the tobacco line, pipes that were glamorized by such names as the Hippodrome, Golf, Polo, the Runabout. Paint was dispensed, the kind that goes on houses and also the kind that later caused such comment on the faces of the young flappers of Rock Hill.

And through the years the firm has maintained a first-class prescription department. Their remarks in 1908 hold true today: "Prescriptions compounded with care, accuracy and promptness. Only the best and purest drugs are used."

The modern fountain also lives up to the early advertisements: "If you want nice, refreshing drinks we can please you. Cleanliness is our motto. Courteous and polite clerks await you."

Co-owner with J. L. Phillips who was president and treasurer of the company were, J. B. Johnson, vice president, and Dr. W. G. Stevens.

In 1927 the firm was wiped out by fire. It was reorganized with Phillips as president-manager; J. E. Putnam, secretary-treasurer; and vice presidents J. L. Phillips Jr., and W. R. Sims.

Sims became manager after the death of J. L. Phillips, Sr., in 1945. He is well known not only as a pharmacist but for his unselfish work as chairman of the board of trustees of the York County Hospital.

In 1947 J. B. Barron joined the staff. All three pharmacists, Putnam, Barron and Sims are graduates of the South Carolina Medical College, Department of Pharmacy.

Phillips' on Main Street was extensively remodeled in 1948 and is one of the prettiest drug stores in the Carolinas.

The staff is composed of the three pharmacists, Mrs. G. E. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. C. W. F. Spencer, Sr., Mrs. Billie S. Tate and Heyward Lee Robinson.

Ratterree's Is Built On Bed Of Rock From Whence City Is Named

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If you asked for Rock Hill flint rock in Ratterree's Drug Store on East Main, the clerks may think you're slightly off the beam, but they've got it, although not exactly in stock. They'd usher you past the fountain, lunch counter, prescription department and through the kitchen and out the back door. Once in the back yard a little scrounging around would bring to light flint rock — whence came the city's name.

It's not legend, it's a fact that flint rock, an immense quantity of it, was imbedded in the hill where the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta railroad now a part of the Southern Railway System, proposed to make a road bed. Railroad men referred to the spot as the rock hill—and it was a hill, the highest point between Augusta and Charlotte.

This stratum of flint rock had to be blasted with black powder (no dynamite in those days) in order to make the correct grade at the Main Street crossing, and some of it can be seen today in the rear of the Ratterree building which is at the corner of Main and Trade streets near the railroad.

Back then, there was no drug store on the spot; however, the parents of the late A. E. Ratterree had a home on the property which would now be in the vicinity of the rear of the present store.

And so the property, if not the store, is tied up with Rock Hill history since its beginning.

The history of Ratterree's Drug Store goes back to March, 1921 when A. E. Ratterree started the business. On his death in 1933 Hilton W. Ratterree became the sole owner.

Ratterree Oakland Drug Store was added to the corporation in 1950. Located at 617 York Avenue, it is designed to serve the Western part of the city with emphasis on Oakland Avenue, Winthrop College and the Rock Hill Homes

section. This store is open from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily. It is also, like the Main Street store, a Walgreen agency.

The Main Street store was expanded in 1947 and now occupies what was formerly two store rooms at 102-104 Main. At this time the luncheonette and fountain were added with hours of operation from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m.

The two stores are now staffed by 26 employees.

Many Machines Needed To Run Modern Farms

Centennial Edition

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Most city dwellers have no idea of the big outlay in money for farm equipment necessary to operate a modern farm.

But if you ride by Rock Hill Farm and Equipment Company at 338 North Trade Street and see the display of farm machinery, you will get some idea of what farming costs the farmer.

John T. Roddey and C. S. Carpenter established the Rock Hill Farm Equipment Company in November 1944 and have operated the company since as a corporation.

The five employees hired at the start have increased to 10.

The present officers and other employees are John T. Roddey, president; C. S. Carpenter, vice president and secretary; R. G. Bryant, J. B. Douglas, Sam E. Giles, Jr., W. M. Hollis, W. T. Hollis, James Parker, John P. Strait, W. M. Williford and Johnny Ingram.

The company sells and services tractors, and all kinds of farm machinery and refrigerators, and is the agency for International Harvester Co.

Record Printing, Office Supply Co. Has Quadrupled In 10 Years

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Rock Hill's semi-weekly newspaper, the Record, was published from 1914 until 1930. For two months before its suspension in 1930 it was published as a daily.

The news and printing office were first located on Elk Avenue and later moved to the former First Baptist Church building on Hampton Street.

The company was founded by O. K. Williams and C. K. Schwrar, two of Rock Hill's most enterprising and highly respected citizens. Later it was owned by H. H. Brown and Schwrar.

When the Record suspended in 1930 the properties were bought by A. W. Huckle and the paper merged with the Rock Hill Evening Herald.

The Record now handles print-

ing and office supplies only. The firm moved to its present location at 109 Hampton Street in 1936.

The Record and Office Supply Company has quadrupled its business within the past 10 years. Salesmen now have a five-county territory.

Mr. Huckle is president of the company; L. L. Ardrey who became associated with the firm as stockholder in 1941 is now secretary.

Other employees are Mrs. Raymond Hutchinson, Mrs. U. A. Rodden, Mrs. Wilbur Roddey, Walter Hinson, Fred Wyndham, Leonard Sienkiewisz, Bobby Allen, Don Reynolds, York Harris, Green Williams, James Williams and Dudley Seagraves.

Gas Company In Rock Hill First Issued Charter Centennial Issue Summer Of 1913

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The Rock Hill Gas Company came into being with the issuance of its charter by the Secretary of State on June 28, 1913. A franchise for serving the city with gas had been granted by the city to the original incorporators, A. M. Worstall, Joseph W. Lynch and C. K. Chreitzberg.

The incorporators subscribed to \$40,000 of the capital stock of the company and at the first meeting held by the board of directors a mortgage was authorized in the amount of \$160,000, of which \$120,000 was sold to the public. This \$160,000 constituted the initial amount necessary for the construction of the water gas plant and the gas distribution system.

The land on which the plant now stands was purchased from J. C. Cauthen, the deed of which was more or less intertwined with one of A. H. White, Harris Manufacturing Company and Sylecau Manufacturing Company.

The gas plant and distribution system were constructed with the specific understanding that all construction would be completed and the plant in operation within one year from the date thereof.

The company had many hardships during the first years of its operation and continually lost money. The first profit as recorded on the books was made in the year 1921 and amounted to \$182.00 for that year. In addition to losing money for the first six years of operation, the company also had to invest an additional \$50,000 for a larger storage holder and plant expansion.

During these years gas was used not only for cooking but a great many installations were made in both homes and business houses for lighting, using the old incandescent lights.

The Gas Company has changed hands a number of times since it was first organized. The present owners, the Pennsylvania and Southern Gas Company, acquired control in September, 1945.

In 1946 the plant was rehabilitated and the type of gas was changed from manufactured water gas to propane-air, which made for a more economical operation. As a comparison, at the time that the plant was first operated in 1913 the company paid 3 and one-half cents per gallon for gas oil, whereas in 1946 at the time of the change-over the company was paying 13 and one-half cents for gas oil. Gas-coal in 1913 was being laid down at the plant for \$4.25 per ton as compared with \$10.40 in 1946.

Therefore, these high costs together, of course, with increased labor costs, if the Company were to continue in business on the same basis, would have meant a substantial increase in rates. The Board of Directors thus at that time decided that in order to give a more complete service and maintain the rates in effect it was necessary to change the type of gas from manufactured gas to propane-air.

The present officers of the Company are H. Emerson Thomas, president; Eric E. Tinner, vice president; George R. Williams, secretary and treasurer; Willard P. Baldwin, assistant secretary and treasurer, and G. L. Jenks, manager.

The downtown office is located on Hampton Street.

Presently employed by the company in Rock Hill are Mrs. Ellie B. Stroupe, Mrs. Faye D. Currence, W. C. Coley, Lynn A. Mathews, Phillip Dabose, J. O. Massey and Charles McDaniel.