

# I Remember Old Tuscaloosa

By Fred Maxwell

Did you ever notice the small 2 x 3 foot wooden box mounted on top of a post about seven feet high and located in the middle of 23rd Ave. near 5th or University Blvd? The box was well made, painted white, and had louvers on all four sides. A four-inch metal cup was outside the box that was placed just above the roof. There was an elevated step in front of the installation. It remained there from about 1900 to 1940 when it was moved to the Oliver Lock and Dam site.

This box housed the weather instruments belonging to the U.S. Engineers who had offices on the second floor of the old First National Bank Building (now Adrian's) and later in the Tuscaloosa Post Office (now the

City Hall).

By placing a box on top of the step, as a small boy I could peep through the louvers. The two thermometers on the inside recorded the maximum and minimum temperatures which were read by an attendant daily. The four inch metal cup registered the rainfall. This was recorded daily by the U.S. Engineers.

Many Tuscaloosa residents saw this elevated box and wondered why it was left standing in the middle of a downtown avenue.

GRAPHIC June 10, 1971