Greeneville Sun. 1959. T. Elmer Cox History Museum.

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Groups Work Toward A Better Greeneville

By Gerogia Mae Farnsworth

The Negro population in the city it is properly analyzed.

Greeneville is growing fast. Many new industries have been At the present time, other enter-the ideas and ideals of Jesus' prises are being encouraged to Kingdom. The Church stands for locate here,

alt is hoped in the very near future that more jobs will be made available to Negroes. Many former Greenevillians, now living Greeneville if they were assured sponse to the needs of the indiviof employment.

an important part in the affairs of our city. The first Negro city policeman was Will Fowler. Will Clem was the first Negro Magistrate. A large grocery store was without the support of its civic Rev. Pugh and his family ren-wowned by Roy Olden. The store organizations. Greeneville has a dered invaluable service to this the Star Store is now located, tions of which she can be justly Will Briscoe also operated a proud. grocery store on East Depot The Patton Barber Shop was located.

Greeneville was done by these selves to the people of this com- names of some of the early minibrothers. They hauled the dead on munity for the valuable service sters are not avilable. a flat bottomed wagon covered they rendered during the years with straw, In those early days they lived here. They are deceasthere were no hearses.

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Dr. Hankal was a very promi-

Worth, J. L. Wood, and Crockette. Wesley Avenue and Henry Street. Bewley, Gallahar, and Rev. F. D. A community is usually proud. The Jones Memorial A.M.E.Zion Johnson.

of Greeneville is between 80% and of its churches, its schools, and Church was organized about 1870 Rev. R. B. Bewley was pastor 1000. This number is small as its civic organizations. The Church by Rev. Jones and a small but of Tate Chapel for thirteen compared to the population sever- is an inseparable part of the pros- interested group of members. The years. He did much for his church all years before World Wa. II. perity of each community. It is church was a frame structure lo- and the community during his Many families have found it necessary to leave Greeneville because of the Church to propose of the Church to propose of the jurpose of the church to propose of the church the purpose of the Church to propose of the church the purpose of the Church to propose of the church the purpose of the Church to propose of the church the purpose of the Church to propose of the church the purpose of the Church to propose of the church the purpose of the Church to propose of the Church to propose of the Church the purpose of the Church to propose of the purpose of the Church to propose of the church the purpose of the Church to propose of the church to propose of the purpose of the purpose of the purpose of the church to propose of the church to propose of the church to propose of the purpose of the church to propose of the purpose of the purp midst, constantly reminding people for what they stand, and pro-viding a meeting place for mem-bers where they concentrate on Morrissey, Carter, Huff, Rev. W. ple for what they stand, and proestablished here in recent years, bers where they concentrate on justice and fair play, and it will Rev. U. S. Byers, Wilson, Gudger, show people how to be friends and

in other states, would return to to develop their programs in reduals and the communities they Many years ago, Negroes played for life in a democratic society is George Clem School. Rev. Pugh a principal aim of most schools today.

A town cannot survive very long The cornerstone was laid in 1950. without the support of its civic was located on Depot Street where large number of these organiza-community. Rev. Pugh was prin-

The oldest Negro Church in the Street. P. R. Wilson operated a city is the Tabernacle Presbytercafe across the street from the ian Church, which was organized Olden Grocery. Kidwell Barnett about 1867. The first church was a Memorial Church from Lynch, Ky. "also operated a case on Depot brick structure located on Cutler During his stay here, the church that his congregation was growing, Street. Two cleaning and pressing Street near the Austin Tobacco has been redecorated, and a new clubs were operated on Depot Company. The first minister was heating system has been installed. Street by Andrew Montogmery a Rev. Carter who was pastor for Many other imporovements have

Rev. Fort pastored Tabernacle church. Patton purchased the shop from for more than forty years. He also Woodford. John Gass fan a board-taught school for many many Church was established about ing and rooming house on Depot years in the public school on Wesley Avenue, It is the Street near the location of the Railroad Street. His wife, Mrs. Electa Fort, taught school for a East Tennessee Conference. The The Vance brothers, Rufus and number of years in the city and first East Tenn. Annual Confer-Henry, operated a dray busi- the county. She was retired in ence was held in Tate Chapel ness. Practically all the hauling in 1935. This couple endeared them- Church in 1880. We regret that the ed.

College School on the third floor, thirteen years, the members have Other ministers who followed tion. His wife, Mrs. Ethel Boyd, Other doctors who practiced here constructed a beautiful sandstone Rev. Webber at Tate Chapel were taught at the George Clem School included Drs. Joyner, Alexander, rock church on the corner of S. A. Downs, Revs. Smith, Harris, while she resided here.

at this location included Revs. L. Robinson, who improved the church and made it much larger, Thomas, Griffin, Storrs, Mitchell, live in peace.

Schools play an important part Carpenter, Underwood, L. W. Howin the community. They attempt ard, J. C. Rhea, and E. T. Pugh. In 1948, the church property was sold, and the construction of a new church was begun on the and the members worked extremely hard to complete the edifice,

> Rev. Pugh and his family rencipal of the George Clem School for three years. He was succeeded at the church by Rev. Burton, Taylor, and Gaines.

Rev. D. A. Gaines came to Jones church. He was an energetic young and A. L. Hill. Sam Woodford more than twenty years. He was been made. A number of new operated a barber shop where the succeeded by Rev. H. J. Fort: members have been added to the

> Chapel Methodist The Tate

The church was renovated in 1922 while Rev. W. A. Webber

The present pastor is Rev. F.D. Johnson who is beginning his seventh year as pastor of Tate Chapel Church, Rev. Johnson is doing a fine job at his church. He is extremely proud of the Sabbath 12.00 School which has a membership of five times as great as it was when he first came to the church.

The Friendship Baptist Church was organized by Rev. C. W. Mc-Ghee. Services were conducted in 10.50) the Doughty-Stevens Warehouse on the corner of Depot and Railroad Street. Rev. McGhee was followed by Rev. Farmer.

The first church was a frame structure built in 1894 on Railroad Street during Rev. Farmer's pastorate. Other ministers who served at this church include Revs. Snow, Nathaniel Tolliver, A. R. and J. B. Thompson, H. J. Bail-ey, and W. H. Stokely,

Rev. Stokely came from Virginia 9.00) to Friendship as pastor of the man who immediately realized

and they needed a new church. The members of the church in 7.50) 1934, under the capable leadership of Rev. Stokely, built the 7.50) beautiful brick church that is located on the corner of Davis 7.50) and Floral Streets. Rev. Stokely worked day and night in the interest of the building program (It 7.50) can truthfully be said that no minister has made a greater sacrifice to the church than the Review Stokely did during the eighteen years he served at Friendship. Rev. Stokely is now pastor of the Central Baptist Church in .00)

Kingsport. When he comes to .00) Greeneville, he is always well .00) was pastor. Rev. Webber was a comed with outstretched arms by Dr. Hankal was a very prominent doctor in Greeneville for a number of years. He operated the Hankal Clinic, where he performed many operations. The clinic was located in the old Greeneville.

Rev. J. J. Shepperson served as tireless worker. He was an excels so many whose lives were touched hankal carpenter, and much of the by him when he labored here work was done by him. He built. Rev. G. Allen Boyd followed all the pews in the church. Rev. Under the leadership of Rev. Webber will long be remembered church program was successfully in Greeneville.

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Rev. W. C. Morrison came to Greeneville in 1951 and served as pastor of Friendship until 1955. The Church program continued to be successful under his leadership. Josephine Morrison began teaching at the George Clem School in 1953 and taught until the close of the 1959 school term when she resigned,

Rev. and Mrs. Morrison rendered invaluable service to the Friendthip Baptist Church and also to the community at large. They reside in Alcoa.

Rev. Addison was pastor Friendship for a short time.

The present pastor, Rev. C. C. Mills, accepted the call to Friendship in September, 1956. He and Mrs. Mills are doing a fine job at the church and also in the dommunity.

The Macedonia Baptist Church was organized in 1941 and soon the construction of a church was begun on Davis Street. The cornerstone of this church was laid in 1957 during the pastorate of the bresent pastor, Rev. C. Dorsey. The Church of Christ is located on Anderson Street. The Seven

Day Adventist Church is under construction on Henry Street. These churches have been organized only a short time.

The first school for Negroes was the old Academy School located on Church Street where the Municipal Building is under construction. The second school was a small two room brick building on Railroad Street which was condemned in 1921. Rev. J. H. Fort and Mrs. Adrian McGhee were teachers there for many vears.

The school known as Greeneville College was established in the late 1890's on the site where our present school is located. Greeneville College was strictly a church school. It was operated by the Educational Board of the General A.M.E.Zion Church. The first president was Prof. Chandler. He was followed by Prof. Taylor, and then Prof. J. W. Younge, Dean of Swift Memorial College at Rogersville, was called by the Church Board to serve as the third president of the boarding school. This took place about 1915.

College from many states. A new 1922. This school was recognized for Negroes since the other school tion. was no longer available. Greeneville College was especially known

for its fine music department. Pres. Younge remained at the school until 1932 when he accepted the position of General Financial Secretary of the A.M.E. Zion connection. He moved his family to Salisbury, N. C., where they made their home. He passed several vears ago.

In 1932, the boarding school was closed and the city of Greeneville. established a public school of junior high school level under the principalship of A. M. Gilbert. The school was now called Greeneville College High School.

George W. Clem became principal in 1935. In 1937, the transition from the two-year to the four-year type was begun. In 1938, the school became a four year accredited high school. The class of 1938, consisting of sixteen members, represented the first graduating class in the history of the school composed entirely of Greeneville residents.

In 1939, by order of the Mayor and City Board of Aldermen, the school was named George Clem School as a tribute to the late George W. Clem, former principal.

Mrs. Dorothy Clem, R. C. Martin and Rev. E. T. Pugh served as principals of the school until 1949.

The beautiful new George Clem School was completed in 1950. In the fall of that year, an enthusi-astic faculty with W. F. Taylor now forgotton by the past leadas principal, and an inspired ers, Mrs. Guy Shoun, Mrs. Fain group of students entered the Yost, and Mrs. Charles Brown new school.

Otis A. Peeler was the principal of the school until this year. William Jackson is the present is to develop mature integrated individuals. The George Clem es. School sends graduates forth imbued with the desire to serve where best they can

The Negro Women's Civic Club was organized June 11, 1950, with a charter membership of thirty-six. The slogan of the club is "A Better Greeneville". The club was organized with the following aims in mind: to help foster a recreational program for the youth in Greeneville; to encourage our youth to obtain an education and to become good citizens; to assist in all drives for the betterment of Greeneville; to aid our schools and our churches; and to lend

community. The club conceived the idea of Students attended Greeneville building a swimming pool to serve the community. This was a big block building was completed in project for a group of women to undertake. Ground was broken far and, wide as an excellent for the pool in July, 1951, but the school. This was the only school lack of funds delayed its comple-

assistance to the needy in our

The women never ceased to work toward their goal. Construction actually began on June 19, 1954. The pool was dedicated August 7, 1954. On that date a dream

Although the swimming pool An established two-week camp was the major project, other civic is at Sky-wa-mo, located outside the ventures were not to be neglected. Elizabethton. This camp is often The club has participated annually used for week-end troop camps, in the Red Cross Drive and the Polio Drive. The club gives a to all girls between the ages 7 to contribution yearly to the Crippled 17 and is at progressive progress.

keis of food and makes cash do-nations at Christmas time. The club has assisted the school and The program progresses in outthe churches on many occasions. reach as the girls get older and it. Each year the club awards a learn more skills and the way of \$50.00 scholarship to the highest life that builds fine character, inranking senior of the George Clem dependence, a love of the out-School who enters college in the doors, and the ability to care for fall to further his education.

As a result of the work of this club, a recreational program for our youth supervised by a recreation director was started. A picnic area is now in use adjacent to the pool.

Mrs. Lena B. Lee was the founder of the Negro Women's Civic Club, and the following women have served as president: Mrs. Carris Robinson, Mrs. Georgia B. Campbell, Mrs. Margaret Crum, Mrs. Florence Jones and Mrs. Mary Belle Carson, the present president.

The promise of what man is yet to do is not based on the things that man has done, but beyond all possible comparison will be the wonder of the things that man will do

started the first Girl Scout movement in Greene County.

Mrs. Guy Shoun headed the activity, and Mrs. Charles Brown principal. The aim of the school led a troop of Juniors, while Mrs. Fain Yost headed the Intermediat-

> Later Mrs. Margaret Bartlett had a troop for several years.
> The history of Girl Scouting in

> Greeneville seems to be blank pages until the 1947 date when the Youth Builders took over the effort.

The club as a whole took over and started three troops. The only aid given these troops was the financial and physical support of 181 adults. Youth Builder members.

Six years ago after meetings in Kingsport, Bristol, and Johnson City, the Area Girl Scout Council was organized. It has jurisdiction over ten East Tennessee counties.

The Area Girl Scout Council provides district directors who trained the volunteer adult workers.

The Girl Scouts have been provided with a district day camp, located on the Sam Saulsbury farm on the Newport Road.

This is a two-week camp, and the girls go four days a week by bus from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m."

At the camp, open to all registered Girl Scouts and Brownies. the girls learn outdoor lore, camp skills, and craftwork. The camp is staffed by volunteer workers.

contribution yearly to the Crippled 17, and is a progressive program. The Brownies are from ages 7 Children's Fund; it distributes bas-through 9, Intermediates are aged

> The program progresses in outthemselves in primitive surroundings.

The primary function of Senior scouting is "aid to others". Senior Scouts render hospital service and aid their younger counterparts, the Brownie Scouts.

They also participate in varied fields of service, including Civil Defense and a Red Cross home nursing program.

Open to Seniors is the chance to participate in the activities of International Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. This Association places an emphasis on the establishment of good international relations. It provides girls with an opportunity to have international experiences.

They may go to foreign countries to camp; another possibility is the exchange of adult scouts. Last year, the Juliette Lowe World Friendship Fund brought an adult scout from Athens, Greece, to this area

The Girl Scouts have an annual National Roundup, in which Scout representatives from 25 foreign countries and all the states of the Union are represented. The roundup will be held in Colorado this summer.

At Cuernavaca, Mexico, which is near Mexico City, the Girl Scouts have an international hostic named "Our Cabana", Girls all over the world raise money to finance the two-week stay at this hostle. Similar hostles are in different countries all over the

world. The Greeneville Girl Scouts have 19 troops, totaling 412 girls and

The Brownies number 216, there are 154 Intermediates, and 42 Senior Scouts

There are 43 adult leaders, 133 troop committee members, and three adults on the Appalachain Council Board.
The District 5 leader for the

Girl Scouts is Mrs. Dottie Carey. Greeneville is divided into "neighborhoods", with a chairman heading each neighborhood.

Mrs. Alvin Lee Hankins is chair-man of the Unaka neighborhood; Mrs. Fred Honeycutt, Trailblazer neighborhood; Mrs. Audrey Cates, Royalty neighborhood, and Mrs. H. S. Anderson, chairman of the Cherokee neighborhood at Tuscul-

um, Masheim helghbor

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