

# CHIPLEY HISTORICAL CENTER

The Official Newsletter, Pine Mountain, Georgia



## Historical Center Grand Re-Opening



CHIPLEY HISTORICAL CENTER  
Pine Mountain, GA

*Announces*

Our Grand Re-opening!  
Saturday  
September 25  
10 AM – 4 PM

## Letter from the Chairman

We are excited! After lots of hard work by dedicated volunteers, our big day is finally here. We'll be reopening on Sat 9/25, the same day as Ole Chipley Day. Appropriate, don't you think?

Due to the larger than average crowd, masks will be required for the re-opening. We will have some available at the door.

After our re-opening we plan to resume regular hours 10-4 M-F and 10-1 on Saturday. We're always looking for new volunteers! Just send an email to [info@chipleyhistoriccenter.org](mailto:info@chipleyhistoriccenter.org) if you'd like to help.

**Sincerely,**  
**Lou Brackett**  
**Chairman and Lover of Dusty Old Things**



## Upcoming Programs

- Date and Time: October 10th, 2021 at 2:00  
" Horace King, a 19th Century Master Builder, Engineer and Former Slave"  
Speakers: Kaye Minchew and Cindy Bowden
- Date and Time: November 14th, 2021 at 2:00 (Rescheduled from Sept) "Trains, Plantations and Transportation, History of Railroads in West Georgia"  
Speaker: Cindy Bowden

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# Chipley, Phone Home!

By Martha Hartley

Do you remember when you were smarter than your phone?? Today, most folks have their “mobile device” with them at all times. Webster defines “device” as “a piece of equipment ... designed to serve a special purpose.” It should be more accurately said that we all have a mobile “thing” with us constantly. For our hand-held phones have numerous purposes from computers to flashlights and everything in between. Perhaps the greatest evidence of the popularity and influence of these phones is shown in “social media.” With them we keep up with family and friends, knowns and unknowns, worldwide.

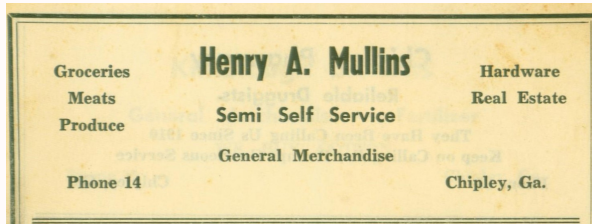
In days gone by, the telephone in Chipley was also a very real social medium. Cranking the little handle on the one purpose device, Miss Claud or Mrs. Skelton would answer the patient calling Dr. Ellis, “Well, honey, he’s not in the office. He just left to deliver Mrs. Johnson’s baby.” Another, a beau calling to ask a young lady out, would be told, “You know, she’s dating that boy from Hamilton now. Better try somebody else.” And a little girl, scraping her knuckles as she cranked, asked to talk to Grandma. The call was connected, and Grandma answered. (The first two incidents were related to this writer; the second she experienced herself.)

Folks in Chipley had another means of keeping abreast of what was happening in their little town – the party line. Several homes were on one telephone line, with each customer assigned a ring tone, if you will; not a favorite tune or an animal sound, but a series of actual rings, such as two shorts and then a long. Neighborly consideration and good manners required that ring be completed, perhaps twice, so that all customers would be sure whose home was being called. Further, if mistakenly(!), you picked up on a call not intended for you, it was a no-no to continue to listen. It was certainly a real temptation to continue to listen, especially if the conversation began, “Have you heard ...

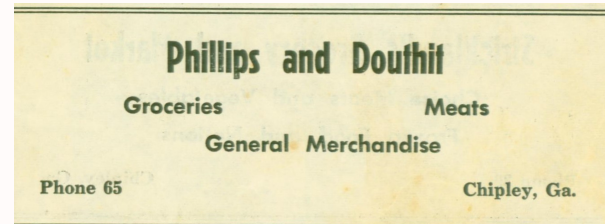
The Chipley Historical Center has several telephone directories, the earliest dated 1952. They provide a glimpse of a simpler time. There were very few subscribers, about two hundred homes and businesses, and many numbers were only two digits. Most likely even those numbers were unnecessary when calling. If the local operator recognized voices and knew locations, she surely knew numbers.

## Chipley, Phone Home! (cont.)

The directories are interesting reading to see the families, some with relatives still living in Pine Mountain, and the businesses. Regarding the businesses, especially telling is the fact that these shops and stores and services show a community which was self-supporting. A review of some of the advertisers reveals that Chipley had four grocery stores, including:



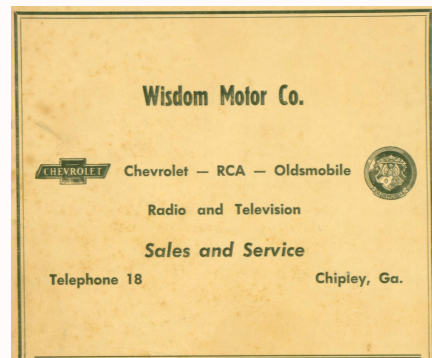
Present Day Location - Wells Fargo Bank



Present Day Location - The Emporium

The two other grocery stores were Patrick's Grocery, located where Chanticleer is today, and Strickland's Grocery and Market, where the Bistro 153 is now located.

There were three automobile dealerships in Chipley, including McGee Motors, where Chipley and Main is today; Sivell Motor Co., located at the corner of Chipley St. and US 27; and Wisdom Motor Co, that stood where the Circle K is today.



There was also a furniture store:

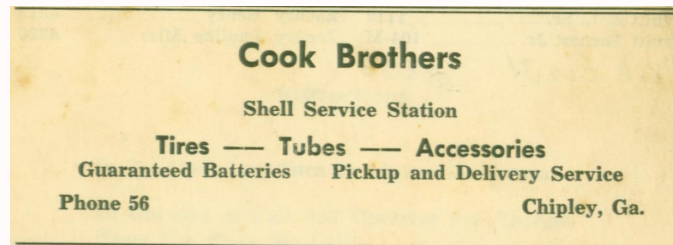


Present day location - UNIQUE EXPRESSIONS

## ChIPLEY, Phone Home! (cont.)

And a department store: BLIEDENS DEPARTMENT STORE: Outfitters for the Entire Family Featuring Nationally Advertised Brands. Present day location: Absolutely You.

Of course, these 1953 advertisers long ago ceased to do business in Chipley/Pine Mountain. However, one advertiser in business since 1948 is still a presence in our town:



Today, at the very same location on U.S. 27, Steve and Adam Cook, son, and grandson of one of the original brothers, continue to service cars, provide all sorts of automobile accessories, pick up and return your car. Gas is no longer pumped at Cook Brothers but lawn mowers awaiting repairs abound.

Returning to telephone service in Chipley, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company purchased L & B Telephone Company in the late 1950's, and progress came to town, along with new numbers. The present 663 prefix for the few existing land line phones was originally known as North, with the remainder of the number four digits, for example, North 2585. Area codes were added later.

### The Dial

The dial has ten openings and ten figures, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 0. One figure is associated with each dial opening. Some of the openings also have letters on the dial. The letters will always be found in groups of three, for example, the letters "ABC" are found associated with the second opening, and "DEF" with the third opening, etc. It is most important not to confuse the letter "O" and the figure "Zero". The letter "O" is found with the three letters "MNO", while the figure "Zero" is associated with the last dial opening and the word "Operator".

### Start With The Right Number



Be sure you obtain the correct number from the current issue of the telephone directory. If the number is not listed please dial "Operator" and ask for "Information." When she gives you the number, hang up the receiver for a few seconds before dialing the number.

### Remove Receiver — Listen For Dial Tone

Before dialing, remove the receiver from the hook and place it to your ear without "jiggling" the hook. Listen for the dial tone which is a steady "humming" sound usually heard within a few seconds after removing the receiver. The dial tone indicates that the equipment is ready to handle your call. Do not start to dial until you hear it.

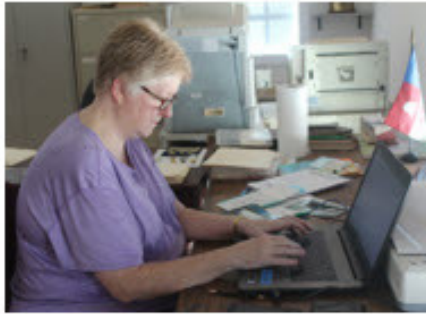
If the new system, which included new devices as well as rotary dial phones, was somewhat confusing, Southern Bell provided a handy guide, How to Use the Dial Telephone. A copy is available at the Center for those who may need a refresher should Great Aunt Susie still have this device when you visit her

Handheld things are indeed amazing and wonderful, and so is Walmart, but there was a lot of good about the good old, simpler days, especially life in Chipley.

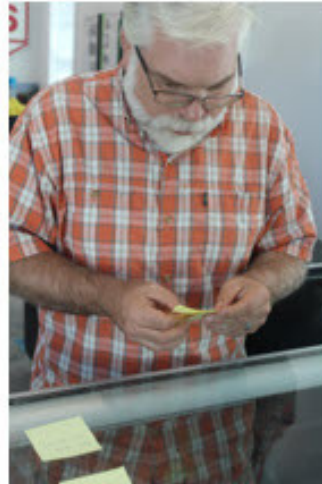
**Thank you one and all!**

We had the good fortune to have a wide variety of talented volunteers to help with the new exhibitions. These photographs are just a few of the people who helped last Saturday.

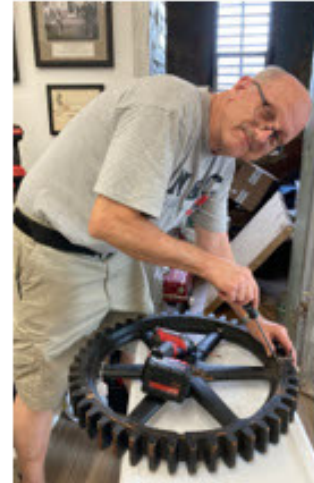
While we are pleased to say the exhibition is almost ready, we can still use your help after we open to help staff the museum, create new exhibitions, work with artifacts and all sorts of fun and fulfilling opportunities.



Lou Brackett



Patrick Severts



Robert Brackett



Nancy Williams



Mary Jo Cox and Geneva Elmore



Elizabeth Carrillo



Lorraine Berry

Not pictured include: Mary Ruth Mullins, Cindy Espinoza, Cindy Bowden, and Karla Perez Espinoza.

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## Where is this?

We need some help identifying where this picture was taken. If you know or even think you know please send your answer to:  
[info@chipleysthistoricalcenter.org](mailto:info@chipleysthistoricalcenter.org)



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Chipley Historical Center  
146 North McDougald Ave.  
Pine Mountain, GA 31822

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