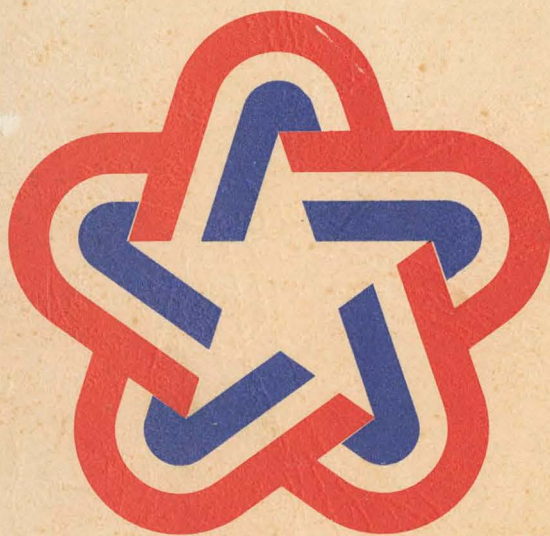


Elkin Bicentennial
Pictorial Quilt



Friends of the
Elkin Public Library
1976

975.6
E

gift given by Robert and Anna Merrett

The Elkin Bicentennial Pictorial Quilt

Sponsored by

The Friends of the Elkin Public Library

1976

Printed by

NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL LIBRARY

111 North Front Street
Elkin, North Carolina 28621

First Printing June 1976

PROPERTY OF
MUSEUM OF REGIONAL HISTORY
Mount Airy, N. C.

THE ELKIN BICENTENNIAL PICTORIAL QUILT

In March of 1975 the picture of a Bicentennial Quilt made by people in Contoocook, New Hampshire, was brought to the attention of the Friends of the Elkin Public Library. The quilt was made up of scenic squares depicting the small New England town as it appeared in 1774 (the year that the quilt was made) but with some squares which showed buildings from the past and landmarks of the area. The Friends thought that such a project would be a rewarding one for our own town, and a Quilt Committee was formed. It was decided that the Friends would sponsor the quilt as a community Bicentennial project.

Letters were written to the Friends group of the Contoocook Library to ask for advice about the procedure for such a quilt. Mrs. Joan Holmes, chairman of the New Hampshire group, gave many valuable suggestions as plans were made. The committee met formally for the first time in November of 1975. Committees were appointed -- a site and history committee, artistic and sewing advisors, and a telephone committee. The first public announcement of the planned Bicentennial Quilt was made right after Christmas, and a meeting at the library was set for January 19 to see how many people would be interested in the project.

Before all the Christmas decorations had been put away in the homes of the Committee members, the excitement of the project began to take hold. The Tribune gave excellent publicity prior to the January 19 meeting, and when that Monday arrived with a five degree temperature, the Committee members went to the library to wait for the crowd to appear. There were anxious comments -- "If nobody comes, it was a good idea." Much to the Committee's delighted surprise, the Multipurpose Room of the library was full to overflowing with ladies who caught the contagion of enthusiasm and who left with their sites selected and instructions to return in two weeks with a drawing of the square they planned to make. Members of the Committee were thrilled that additions had to be made to the list of sites to be made into squares.

On February 4, the needlewomen returned undaunted by the unexpected complications of the simple drawing of the selected sites; those who could not draw had the assistance of the "Artistic Advisory Committee" or gifted husbands, children or friends. The main reading room of the library was the scene of drawings being compared, fabrics being selected from what appeared to be bushels of scraps of every kind. There were snatches of conversation such as "Shall I make my sky of navy blue to be a night scene, or light blue for a day scene?", and "Do you think that tree would be pretty in red calico or in green calico?" Finally the selections were all made and the group began to make the tiny stitches that shaped the gingham and calico and even dimity into the pictures. The ladies sewed (and sometimes took out those stitches), and returned to the library for two check meetings. On the first day of April the squares were in. Now only one more task remained for each needlewoman - to write up a short history of the site portrayed in her square.

Construction of the finished quilt began; some people who had not made squares joined the group at the library, as many afternoons were spent putting in the countless tiny stitches which attached the squares to the base sheet. The group moved to Catherine Bridges' living room when the quilt was stretched on the frame for the quilting of the small dogwood blossoms between the squares, and then back to the library for the final stitches on the border. As the group worked they never ceased to find new details to admire in the squares; the creativity of each square seemed endless.

The Elkin Bicentennial Pictorial Quilt is made up of forty-eight squares depicting sites in Elkin; all except six of the buildings are standing today. The list of sites is divided into seven categories: churches, homes, schools, community services, outdoor scenes, businesses, and a small group of "other". Much thought and planning went into the making of the quilt, but most important of all was the large number of people who became interested in the project -- the women who made the individual squares of course, but in addition to these

fifty-five persons there were many others who helped to make the quilt a reality. There were those who helped to sew the quilt together, husbands who advised on details of the squares their wives made, children who made suggestions, people who gave information for the histories which each person wrote to go with her square. The quilt is indeed a real community project.

Since Elkin is a small town we were all neighbors before the quilt project, but as all worked together there came a realization of a new sense of community, and a sharpened awareness of the accomplishments of people here before. Perhaps most of all we have thought with gratitude of what our town has come to be.

Each square the squares are two inches wide, with a three-inch border around the entire quilt. Each person making a square first drew a sketch of the planned square, then cut patterns for the pieces in her design from the crumley, allowing a quarter inch turn under for each piece. Each square was made on a 15 inch base square of unbleached muslin. Finished squares were then basted to a cotton sheet which was 120" by 96". The two-inch framing strips were then blindstitched to the squares, attaching them to the base sheet. Small dogwood blossoms (the state flower of North Carolina) were quilted between the squares to attach the squares on the base sheet to the chintz back of the quilt. The three-inch border was then blindstitched on for the finish.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ELKIN BICENTENNIAL PICTORIAL QUILT

The quilt is 95 inches by 124 inches. The method of construction is applied applique; many different fabrics were used: lightweight cottons, silk, wool, velvet, linen, lace, and net. Details were done in crewel embroidery. The strips which frame the squares and the back of the quilt are made of cream colored chintz.

The individual squares are 13 inches by 13 inches; the strips which frame the squares are two inches wide, with a three-inch border around the entire quilt. Each person making a square first drew a sketch of the planned square, then cut patterns for the pieces in her design from the drawing, allowing a quarter inch turn under for each piece. Each square was made on a 15 inch base square of unbleached domestic. Finished squares were then basted to a cotton sheet which was 124" by 95". The two-inch framing strips were then blindstitched to the squares, attaching them to the base sheet. Small dogwood blossoms (the state flower of North Carolina) were quilted between the squares to attach the squares on the base sheet to the chintz back of the quilt. The three-inch border was then blindstitched on for the finish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

QUILT COMMITTEE

Claire Smith, Chairman
Catherine Bridges
Helen Caton
Barbara Chatham
Caroline Dillon
Kappi Getsinger
Laura Gwyn
Elizabeth Harris
Marion Hart
Virginia Hart
Margaret Hiers
Trish Holcomb

Rosy Holcomb
Jo Metz
Edna Neaves
Sallie Park
Carolyn Parker
Cissie Roth
Thorburn Sagar
Carrie Sale
Benji Spanski
Martha Vaughan
Jane Gray Weaver

Persons having no square but who helped with sewing the quilt together:

Louise Atkinson
Cathy Eldridge
Susie Page Allen Jones
Ella Orrell
Connie Triplette

The embroidery on the borders was done by Ray H. Smith and Virginia Hart.

An estimated 2500 hours were spent in making the 48 quilt squares, 350 hours in putting the quilt together.

Cissie Roth was chairman of preparation of the Quilt Booklet. The Northwestern Regional Library gave generous help with the printing of the booklet; Mary Norman was layout artist and typist; Jane McRae was official photographer.

The number of persons who contributed in various ways to the quilt -- advice on squares and construction of the entire quilt, fabric selection and preparation, is estimated to be upwards of 200.

The color photograph of the finished quilt was made by Randy Hedrick for The Tribune.

THE E&A BUILDING

by

By Collins
(Mrs. B. G.)



The original construction of the building was about 1870 when it served as an office building for the old Cotton Mill on Big Elkin Creek where the new library stands today.

After serving its time as the mill office, the building then became the first telephone office in Elkin. It later became the depot for the newly organized Elkin and Alleghany Railroad which proposed to connect Elkin and Sparta and eventually link up with the coal fields of West Virginia. However the line failed, and the building was deserted until Mrs. J. P. Ipock bought it to serve as an office for her coal yard.

Since the building had two small rooms, Mrs. Ipock allowed various women's groups to hold their meetings there. Among these groups were the American Legion Auxiliary and the Woman's Club. In 1938 the Woman's Club with the help of Federal funds from WPA, established the first library for Elkin in one of the rooms. Books were donated from the shelves of Elkin residents. The library grew and took over both rooms of the building. In 1942 the new YMCA provided space for the library. The E&A building then became headquarters for the American Red Cross during World War II.

The building now houses the license bureau for automobiles.

WATERFALL BACK OF LIBRARY

by

Laura Gwyn
(Mrs. Tom)



Little is known about this dam. It was probably built soon after the turn of the century for the purpose of providing water to generate electricity for a mill located just downstream. The present dam replaced an old wooden one situated slightly upstream. Many people reported that the creek bed in this area had large rocks providing a pleasant, cool place to picnic. Sometime in the 1930's the electrical turbines were removed and the dam's sole purpose since has been to serve as a water source for Chatham Manufacturing Company.

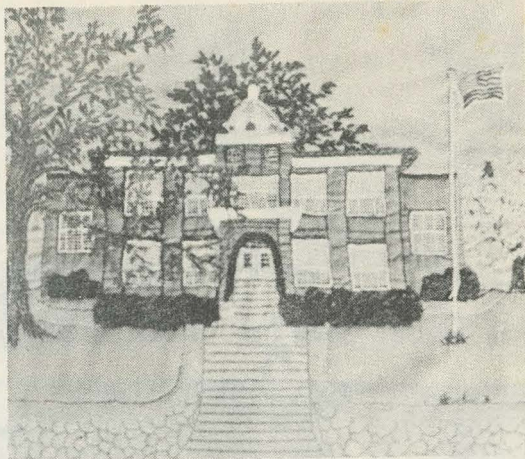
Although its historical data is sketchy, the dam is an outstanding landmark and provides a spectacular view from the Library window and adds to the beauty and character of Elkin Memorial Park.

(Mrs. Gwyn's three children and dog are represented in this square.)

THE OLD ELKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by

Elizabeth Hubbard Harris
(Mrs. Raymond W.)



At the top of the Church Street hill, on the site where the second church built by the Methodists was formerly located, the third schoolhouse in Elkin was erected in 1914-1915. When it was finished and in use, it was considered to be the LAST WORD in fine school facilities; and would serve all grades...first through eleventh...for generations to come!

This "model" school had eight classrooms, and only the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh grades had to share rooms. It had a big auditorium, with a stage, and "mirabile dictu", as Professor Dixon used to say. There were indoor restrooms and CENTRAL heat.

The population growth in comparatively few years proved that it was failing to meet the needs of the children and the community, even though more classrooms, a lunchroom, and library had been added. A High School and Grammar School had been built in other parts of town. In the summer of 1975, it was demolished, and the land was levelled and graded. A new Elementary School had been constructed further back on the hilltop to fill the needs of the "little folks".

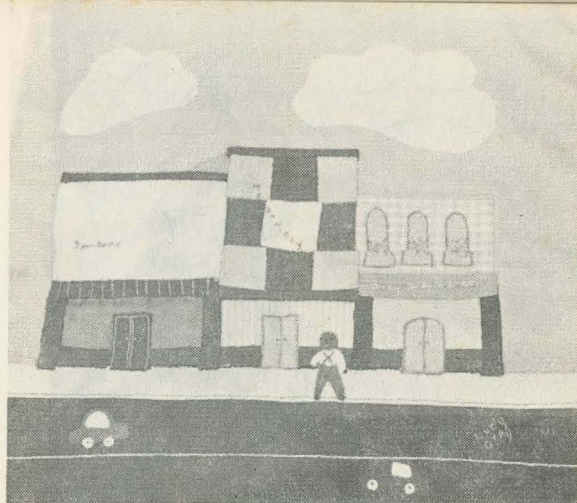
However, two relics remain...the lovely white cupola was saved, and is set on a concrete base, almost in the shade of the other relic...an oak tree which, for fifty-nine years, has stood in front of the school. The tree was planted by the thirteen members of the Class of 1917.

(Mrs. Harris, who made the square, is a member of that class. She has fond memories of this school as the "Dear school of our happy childhood, true friend of each youthful heart" - a quote of the last line of the song that was sung by her graduating class, May 11, 1917.)

SPAINHOUR'S-McDANIEL'S-SURRY HARDWARE

by

Lucy Gray



1. Spainhour's

This building was first built in the 1890's for Mr. A. G. Click by Mr. J. W. Gardner, who also made the brick for the building. The building was called Click and Company. The next owner was Charlie Gentry and the store was named the Elkin Mercantile Company and sold everything anyone needed. It was later purchased by S. H. Wilmoth, Will Poplin, and Ed Poindexter who operated it for a time before selling it to the Graham family. Spainhour's store was purchased from the Graham family in 1926.

2. McDaniel's

The building where McDaniel's store is now located was first owned and operated by Crater & Sales. Thurmond and Colhard were the next owners. T. Vern Cockerham and Woodson Cockerham operated a shoe store there for a short time. McDaniel's moved there from a short distance down the street in the early 1930's.

3. Surry Hardware Company

Surry Hardware Company was established by Frank Tharpe. J. R. Poindexter bought it in the early 1900's. It passed to his son, Turner Poindexter, who operated it for a short time before his untimely death. His son, James L. Poindexter, third in line of the Poindexters, is now owner and operator.

(Lucy Gray, who made this square, is the granddaughter of Ed Poindexter, who was part owner of the store that is now Spainhour's.)

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

by

Virginia Hart
(Mrs. Claude)
and
Marion Hart



The Arts Council of Elkin donated the lovely live pine tree (given by Mr. Steve Ball, president of the Arts Council) as a Community Christmas Tree for the Town of Elkin. Interested citizens paid for the lights on the tree at 25¢ a bulb. The star on the top of the tree was donated by Chatham Manufacturing Company, having been used in prior years on the lighted tree at the Chatham plant.

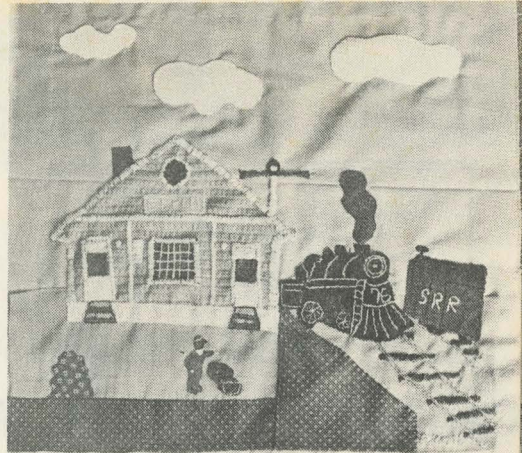
The Community Tree was first lighted at the culmination of the Christmas parade in 1975. The Community Chorus led the singing of Christmas carols at the lighting. It is hoped this will become an annual tradition in Elkin. The tree is located in the parking lot directly in front of the library on Standard Street.

(Mrs. Virginia Hart, who made this square, has served on the Friends of the Library Board for many years. Three of her children and dog are represented in the square.)

SOUTHERN RAILROAD DEPOT

by

Addie Kane
(Mrs. Roy)



The first railroad to reach Elkin was the Richmond and Danville in 1890. It went west as far as North Wilkesboro. The Richmond and Danville later became part of the Southern railroad.

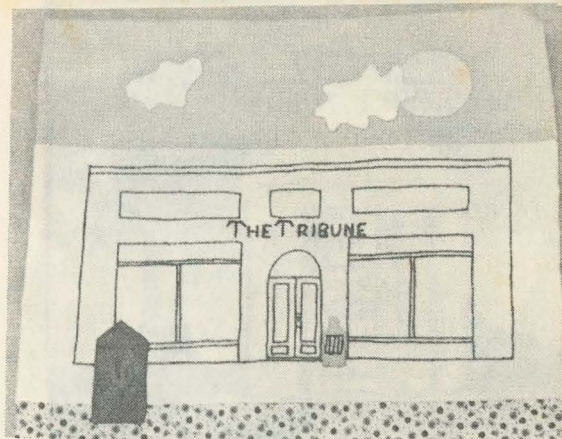
Mr. W. E. Paul came with the railway and was the first agent. He married Miss Etta Ophelia Ring, the daughter of Dr. Ring, Elkin's first doctor, and remained in Elkin, where his descendants still live.

(Mrs. Kane's father was one of the first trainmen to work along this line to Elkin.)

THE TRIBUNE

by

Clyde Powers
(Mrs. Eugene)



The first newspaper in this community was in 1853 and was located in Jonesville. It was called "The Jonesville Enterprise" and was owned by Mumford Bacon. In 1886 "The Mountain Range Outlook" made its appearance in Elkin. Its owner was H. Spencer. It has the distinction of being Elkin's first newspaper. On September 3, 1891, "The Courier" made its debut in Elkin. George W. Charlotte and son were editors. It was probably a non-resident enterprise as only the two inside pages bear Elkin news.

In the 1890's "The Elkin Times", owned by R. L. Hubbard and John S. Roth, became the weekly publication for Elkin. Will M. Bell and J. F. Hendren were the editors. "The Times" ownership changed hands several times until publication ceased around 1913.

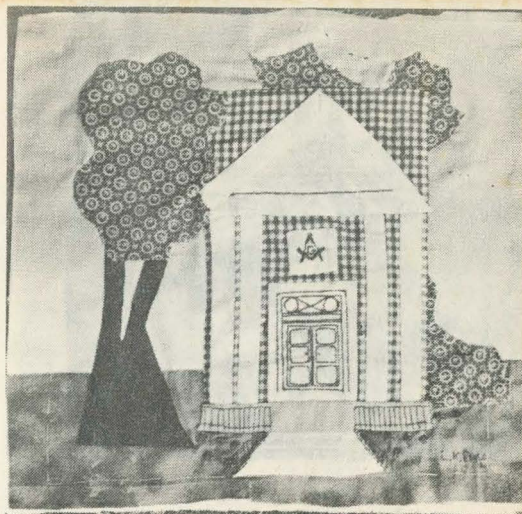
The current "Tribune" traces its beginnings to the latter part of 1911 when W. E. and Grady Nichols published a tabloid newspaper called "The Informer". A stock company was formed in 1912, and the paper was renamed "The Elkin Tribune". In 1920 the Nichols Brothers sold "The Elkin Tribune" to Joseph Carter of Mount Airy who moved to Elkin and changed the name of the paper to "The Renfro Record". Mr. Nichols bought back the newspaper from Mr. Carter and added Mr. Harvey Laffoon as a partner. In 1926 Mr. Laffoon acquired control of the paper, serving as editor and publisher until his retirement. At that time it was sold to Mr. Thomas J. Fleming and Associates, in 1968.

The "Elkin Tribune" was renamed "The Tribune" in June 1969, when its frequency of publication was changed from Monday and Thursday to Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mr. Rebel Good is the current editor.

THE MASONIC TEMPLE

by

Lillie Kate Day
(Mrs. R.M.)



Ground breaking was held on April 5, 1964. The brick building is located on the lot formerly occupied by the Home Hotel. The building was completed and occupied by Elkin Lodge #454 AF&AM in December of 1964. It has three floors, the top floor for the meetings of the Masonic Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star, the ground floor for the lobby and dining room, and a large basement.

The Mason's were organized in Elkin in the late 1880's by Mr. J. F. Bell.

Walter Cade Metz, a native of Charleston, S. C., came to Elkin in 1940 and was the first Catholic. The small group who came thereafter had services in Winston-Salem, North Wilkesboro, and later held services in the American Legion Hall while the church was being built. There are now about 100 parishioners in Elkin and the surrounding area.

(Mrs. Day is the wife of Walter Metz.)
(Mrs. Day is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.)

CATHOLIC CHURCH

by

Jo Metz
(Mrs. Walter)



St. Stephen's Catholic Church, named in honor of the first Christian martyr, is located on the corner of North Bridge Street and Hawthorne Road. Construction of the church was begun in the spring of 1955, and the first Mass was celebrated by Father Maurice Spillane on Sunday, October 30, 1955. It was dedicated on Sunday, January 29, 1956 by the Most Reverend Vincent Waters, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh.

The brick church, with a seating capacity of about 100, features seven windows of stained glass, depicting the seven sacraments of the Church. Father Spillane, pastor for several years and during the construction, made the unique iron and stained glass lighting fixtures for the interior.

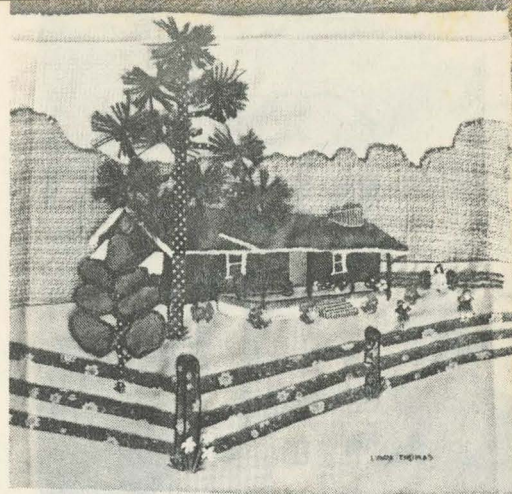
Walter Cade Metz, a native of Charleston, S. C., came to Elkin in 1940 and was the first Catholic. The small group who came thereafter had attended church in Winston-Salem, North Wilkesboro, and later held services in the American Legion Hut while the church was being built. There are now about 150 parishioners in Elkin and the surrounding area.

(Mrs. Metz is the wife of Walter Metz)

ELKIN GIRL SCOUT HUT

by

Linda Sale Thomas
(Mrs. Steve)



This modern 250,000 gallon tank was erected in 1960 to better serve the fast growing northern section of Elkin. Not only improving service to the residential area, the tank made possible the Elkin Village Shopping Center, the Industrial Park, the protection for North Elkin School, and the Girl Scout Hut.

The Girl Scout Hut, located on Memorial Park Drive in Elkin, was actually built by the Elkin Jaycees. The land was donated by Chatham Manufacturing Company. The hut took nine months to complete and was formally dedicated and declared ready for use on May 3, 1958.

Many interested individual citizens, as well as civic groups, donated furnishings, finances, plants, and time to the Hut.

Today the Hut still serves the area Girl Scouts and Brownies. In addition, the Feed the Elderly Program serves hot lunches at the Hut each day to area Senior Citizens.

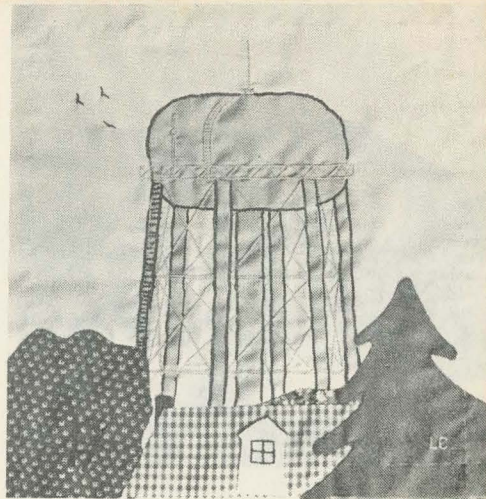
On Sundays, the Mormons, or Church of Latter Day Saints, use the building as their meeting place.

(Mrs. Thomas was a member of one of the first Brownie Troops to meet at the Hut.)

ELKIN WATER TANK

by

Louise Caudle
(Mrs. Herbert)



This modern 300,000 gallon tank was erected in 1960 to better serve the fast growing northern section of Elkin. Not only improving service to the residential area, the tank made possible the Elkin Village Shopping Center, the Industrial Park, fire protection for North Elkin School, and service to the new Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital site. New lines, some as large as fourteen inches, were installed to provide the additional service.

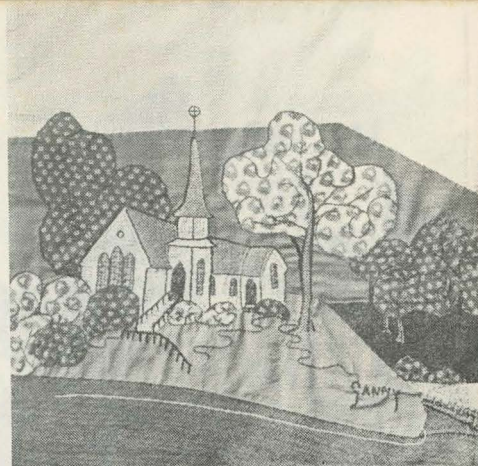
The old 25,000 gallon tank, which had been standing on this site, was moved to its present location behind the old abattoir near the Starmount Plaza Shopping Center in Jonesville.

(Mrs. Caudle has lived for many years on East Robin Road in the shadow of the water tank.)

GALLOWAY MEMORIAL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

by

Elsie Goodman
(Mrs. E. R.)



Three women communicants formed the nucleus of this church when on April 11, 1898 the cornerstone was laid, making this the oldest church building still in use for regular worship in Elkin. Those communicants were Mrs. Laura Foard Galloway, Miss Myrtle Hickerson and Mrs. D. W. Bailey.

Mrs. Galloway's great-great nephew is the current senior warden.

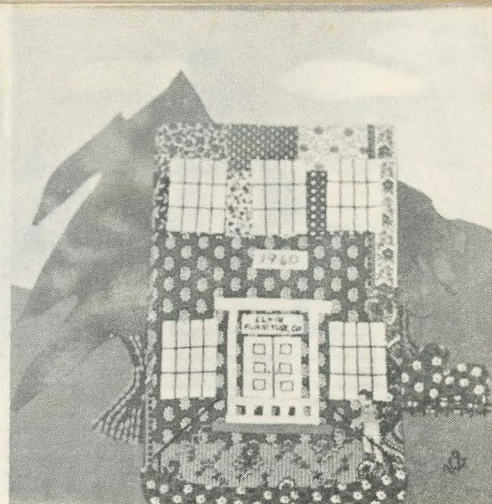
Few architectural changes have been made since the church was built, but it has been beautified through the years by gifts of stained glass windows, altar brasses, and needlepoint kneeling cushions.

The Galloway Memorial Church was built by Mrs. Laura Foard Galloway in loving memory of her husband, Alexander Brodnax Galloway, who died in 1897.

ELKIN FURNITURE COMPANY

by

Valma Shepherd
(Mrs. J. W.)



The Elkin Furniture Company was started around 1895 by Mr. J. F. Cooke, father of Dr. Ralph and Miss Emma Cooke. He worked alone in Jonesville, making coffins, caskets, and some beds. In 1905, he moved the business to Elkin and a corporation was formed of which Mr. Cooke was chief stockholder. The other stockholders were W. J. Boyles, S. M. Arnold and J. W. Arnold. The factory occupied a three-story building on the site of the present Yadkin Valley Bank parking lot, which had formerly housed the Greene and Gray Furniture Company.

The Furniture Company was moved to its present location in 1907, where sideboards and buffets were made, chiefly of oak. In the 1920's, Mr. W. S. Gough was president and Mr. R. L. Hubbard was secretary and general manager. Chiffonniers, washstands, bedroom suites, catalogue and filing cabinets were added to the line. When the first Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital was built, the chests of drawers and night tables for the rooms were made at the furniture factory. Native timber was used exclusively during these years.

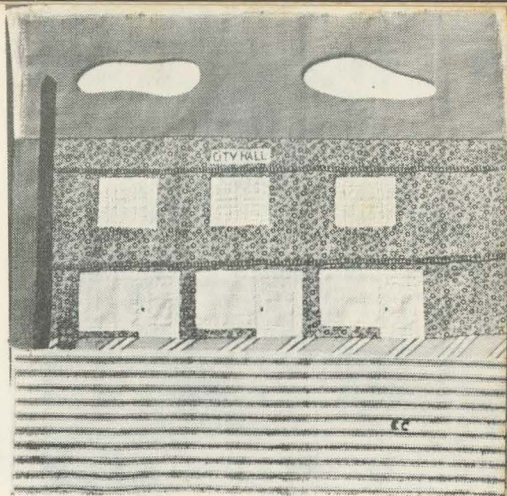
In 1916 a flood damaged the plant, as did three major fires over the years.

In 1962 the company merged with Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company. It is a part of a multi-million dollar operation and employs 250-275 people.

CITY HALL

by

Lib Callaway
(Mrs. Richard)



The present City Hall was built in 1938-39 by the Works Progress Administration of the Federal government during the time Mr. J. R. Poindexter was mayor. At that time the building housed Elkin's volunteer fire department, as well as offices for all the town's business. Space was also provided for meetings of the Elkin Town Board which consists of a mayor, five commissioners, and a clerk.

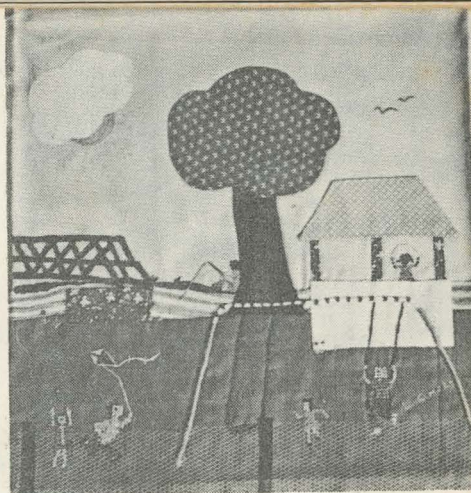
The town of Elkin was incorporated in 1889. The first town election was held on May 5, 1890. There were 25 votes for Mr. Alex Chatham, Sr., and he was declared elected. The first commissioners were: R. R. Gwyn, Thomas L. Gwyn, A. G. Click, G. T. Roth, and J. Edgar Ring. One of the first ordinances passed was one prohibiting loud noises and disorderly conduct. Offenders were to be fined \$5.00. It was declared that it would be unlawful to shoot a pistol without permission of the mayor. They also decided that a levy of 20¢ on \$100 would be adequate for the public needs.

Before 1938, the Town Board met in offices in the Greenwood Building (now Griffin's) and the old Elkin National Bank.

ELKIN MEMORIAL PARK

by

Lynn Kimrey
(Mrs. R. B., Jr.)



In 1949 the Elkin Junior Woman's Club took as their project the development of a park which began with two tennis courts. The city owned the property. Over the years several other organizations and private citizens have helped the Park progress. Various garden clubs have beautified it. It has been a source of pleasure for the youth of the community and also a gathering place for family reunions and picnic suppers.

Mr. Gagn's youngest son, Thomas L. Gagn, was born in the house in 1847, and inherited the home upon his mother's death in 1849. "Uncle Tom" Gagn thereafter sold the home to his nephew, Richard Gagn Franklin, who had been reared in the home after the death of his mother. All of R. G. Franklin's children were born in the home.

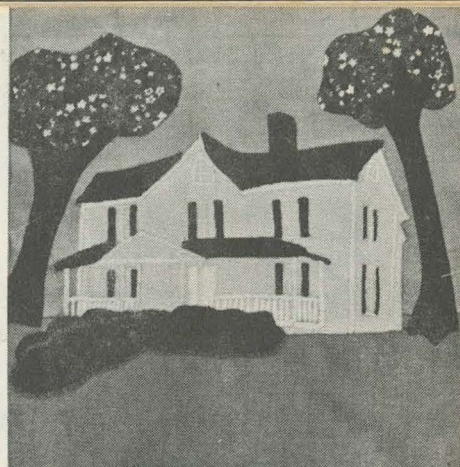
The home was continuously owned and occupied by the Gagn family from its construction until its sale to the present owners in 1925, by Mrs. Mary Franklin McFeely, daughter of R. G. Franklin, and granddaughter of Richard Gagn.

(Mrs. Kimrey's love for children was the incentive for making the pictorial square of the park. She is a Kindergarten teacher and her children have enjoyed playing in the park area.)

"CEDAR POINT"

by

Elizabeth Randleman
(Mrs. J. Michael)



Built during the early 1830's by Richard Gwyn who moved to the home from Jonesville, where he had been a merchant and the first postmaster of the Jonesville Post Office. During the mid-1800's, Mr. Gwyn acquired additional land holdings until the "Cedar Point" farm comprised several thousand acres, and encompassed most of the present town of Elkin.

Mr. Gwyn continued in the mercantile business in Elkin, and built the first school house in Elkin, which now houses the D.A.R. Museum, in order to provide educational facilities for his children.

Mr. Gwyn's youngest son, Thomas L. Gwyn, was born in the house in 1842, and inherited the home upon his father's death in 1881. "Uncle Tom" Gwyn thereafter sold the home to his nephew, Richard Gwyn Franklin, who had been reared in the home after the death of his mother. All of R. G. Franklin's children were born in the home.

The home was continuously owned and occupied by the Gwyn family from its construction until its sale to the present owners in 1975, by Mrs. Mary Franklin McNeely, daughter of R. G. Franklin, and granddaughter of Richard Gwyn.

(Mrs. Randleman and her husband are the present owners of "Cedar Point".)

HUGH CHATHAM MEMORIAL NURSING CENTER
(OLD HOSPITAL)

by

Cathy Reece
(Mrs. Leon)
and
Marie Johnson
(Mrs. Brent)



Prior to 1931 Elkin and a large neighboring area were without hospital facilities. The nearest non-profit hospital was in Winston-Salem.

The movement to obtain a hospital for Elkin was backed by the Rev. L.B. Abernethy, during his ministry here, and by the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church South.

Through the sponsorship of the Methodist Conference and the enthusiastic work of Mr. Abernethy, funds were raised (it was Duke-endowed) for the institution which became known as the Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital. The Methodist Church affiliation continued until the early 1970's. Mr. Abernethy was pastor of the Elkin Methodist Church for nine years and later became the superintendent of the hospital.

This was the first hospital for Elkin. The land was donated by the Chatham family and the hospital opened on April 19, 1931. It had beds for 70 patients, 16 bassinets, and a pediatric department. At that time \$600 would keep a patient in the hospital for a year.

Elkin's first surgeon was Dr. Harry L. Johnson. The first doctors were: Dr. Hugh Parks, Dr. M. A. Royall, Dr. H. C. Salmons, Dr. J. W. Ring, Dr. W. R. Wellborn, Dr. Ira S. Gambill, Dr. B. E. Pulliam, and Dr. B. T. Atkins.

The building was expanded in 1936, 1950, and in 1958. With the building of the new hospital, it was turned into the Hugh Chatham Memorial Nursing Center in July of 1973.

HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY

by

Lib Thompson
(Mrs. Harold)



The land in the oldest part of the cemetery was given to the Town of Elkin by Thomas Lenoir Gwyn, son of Richard Gwyn (1796-1881). The oldest grave is that of Mary Elizabeth Gwyn (1840-1875), wife of Alexander Chatham.

A second section of the cemetery was purchased from W. A. Neaves in 1934. Other sections of the cemetery were acquired from the Neaves family in 1957, 1967, and 1968.

In 1974 the American flag and flagpole were given by the American Legion Auxiliary and placed on a plot of ground given by the Town of Elkin to honor the war dead of all wars. There is a marker for George Gray at the base, the first and only soldier of Elkin killed in action in World War I.

As of May 1976, there are 541 graves in the cemetery.

ELKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

A. M. SMITH HOME

by

Catherine Bridges
(Mrs. J.G.)



This house on Gwyn Avenue was built by Alexander Martin Smith, founder of the Elkin Shoe Company, soon after the town was incorporated. In the early part of 1892, Mr. Smith married Miss Fan Gwyn, daughter of Richard Ransom Gwyn. Mr. Gwyn gave his daughter approximately six acres of land north of his own home, and it was on this property that the house was built. Construction began in late 1892 and was completed in 1895.

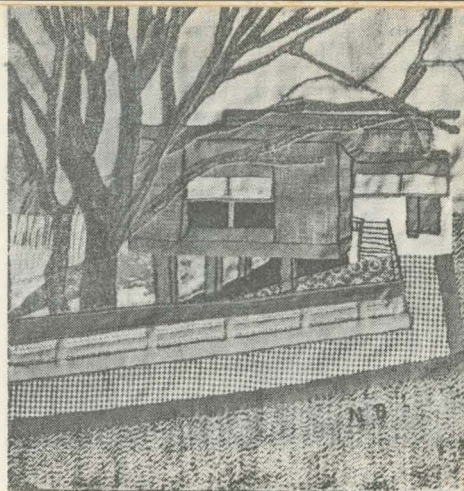
The architecture of the house is typical of the 1890's -- porches, towers, curved windows, elaborate and varied woodwork. Mr. Hugh G. Chatham also built a Victorian house of similar design about the same time on the site of the present First Baptist Church.

Mr. Smith lived in the house until his death in 1944. The house is now occupied by his grandson, A. M. Smith II and his family.

ELKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

by

Nola Brown
(Mrs. Raymond Brown)



The library building was completed in December of 1968. The opening date was March 10, 1969, with the formal dedication ceremony held on Sunday, April 20, 1969. Foster-Sturdivant of North Wilkesboro was the contractor and E. F. Harris, Jr. of Raleigh (Elkin native) was the architect.

The first library, established in the 1930's by Elkin Woman's Club with the aid of federal funds, was housed in the old E. & A. Railroad historical marker building on West Main Street where license plates are now sold. Miss Virginia Price was the first librarian. In 1942, the library was moved to the Gilvin Roth YMCA where it remained until moving into the present quarters.

The building site was given by Chatham Manufacturing Company. It was originally the site of the first cotton mill, the predecessor of Chatham Manufacturing Company.

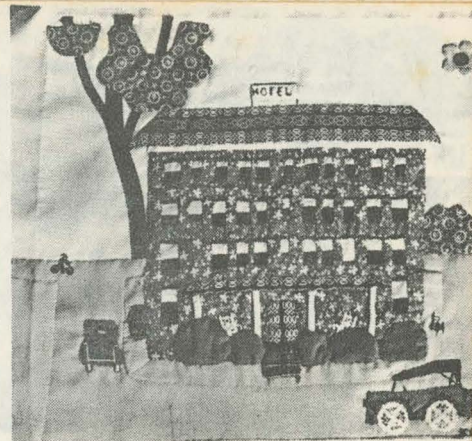
The second floor of the new library now houses the Northwestern Regional Library. Surry County Library became a part of the Northwestern Regional system July 1, 1949. Stokes, Yadkin and Alleghany counties are also a part of the region. Under the regional system, these counties pool their resources and receive state aid.

(Mrs. Brown's love of books prompted her to make the library square. She was Surry County Bookmobile librarian for many years.)

THE ELKIN HOTEL

by

Kappi Getsinger
(Mrs. Gordon)



In the early 1920's the Elkin Kiwanis Club initiated the interest in a need for a hotel in Elkin. A group of prominent business men took up the financing and the four-story brick structure was completed in 1924. It was first operated by Mr. Ralph Hartman until it was purchased by the Brewer Hotel Company. This company operated the hotel from 1926 through 1929. There was a brief interim until C. H. Brewer took over complete ownership in 1931 and operated it until 1939.

There was no YMCA or Country Club and the hotel served as a real social and civic center. The Kiwanis Club and Elkin Woman's Club held their regular meetings there and many social gatherings particularly New Year's Eve celebrations were held there. Young girls from the neighboring vicinity served as waitresses and maids and were the real favorites of the guests, particularly the "regulars" who had their homes there during the depression years.

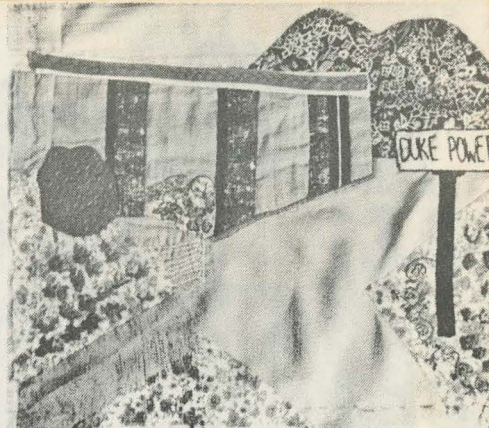
A large fireplace in the lobby gave forth warmth and cheer as the guests gathered around it in the evenings to discuss local and national events of interest.

At the close of 1939 it was sold again and as the years passed it changed hands many times due to the decline suffered by most small town hotels. It was torn down in 1969. It was located on the lot now occupied by the Yadkin Valley Bank parking lot, corner of Market and Bridge Streets.

DUKE POWER COMPANY

by

Alice Jenkins
(Mrs. Al)



In 1926 Elkin had a municipal electric system powered by Elkin Creek at the dam upstream from town. There were frequent breakdowns and interruptions. The town administration negotiated with Southern Public Utilities, which had lines reaching to Winston-Salem, and gave that company a franchise to serve Elkin. There were about 500 electric customers in Elkin and Jonesville at that time.

Duke Power Company acquired the SPU properties in 1935. The original Duke Power office was in the building currently occupied by Griffins at the corner of Market and Bridge Streets. The office was then moved to Main Street (the present Industrial Office Supply building). The present Duke Power facility at the corner of Church and Spring Streets was completed in 1962.

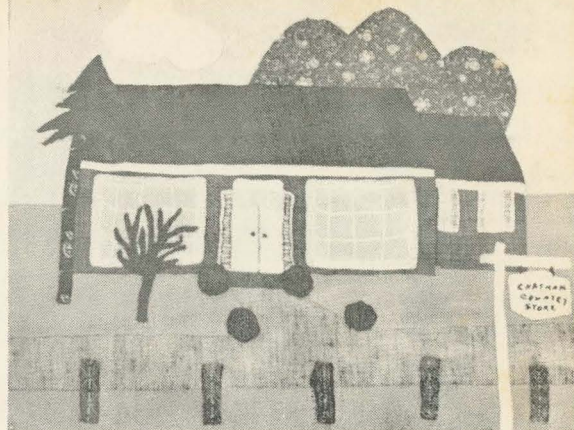
Originally Duke Power had two hydro-electric generating stations on the Elkin Creek. One was at the present library site and one at the Carter's Falls. These became obsolete and were abandoned in 1936 and 1969 respectively.

(Mrs. Jenkins is the wife of the present manager)

CHATHAM COUNTRY STORE

by

Hattybelle Eidson
(Mrs. Fred)



The Chatham Country Store was built by Sidden Construction Company and opened in February of 1956. It is an outlet for products of Chatham Manufacturing Company such as blankets, materials of many kinds, rug yarn and blanket binding. It has proven to be a great attraction for tourists.

During the summer months it operates a craft shop on the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Brinegar Cabin, where a century old loom is operated during the tourist season. Native crafts are sold there also.

Miss Erline Mayberry was the store's first manager.

(Mrs. Eidson, who made the square, was associated with the store from 1959-1970.)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

by

Geneva Stewart

(Mrs. Roy)

and

Effie Miller Cochrane

(Mrs. Herbert)



The First Baptist Church was organized on May 18, 1889. The first building was located on Elk Spur Street near the high school. Brother W. B. Woodruff was chosen as the first pastor of this church. The second church was located on Main Street across from the present post office and was completed in 1903. The present church building is located on the corner of Gwyn Avenue and Market Streets and was completed in 1955. The Reverend Howard J. Ford was pastor of the church at that time.

Among the items in the cornerstone are a Bible and the church history.

The sanctuary has a seating capacity of around 800 people. A chapel that can seat from 180 - 200 people was added in 1968. It contains the bell from the old church on Main Street.

A new pipe organ was installed in the sanctuary in December 1975.

The steeples of this large edifice are an inspiring site to many people approaching Elkin from Highway 67.

CENTRAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

by

Jane Lowe
(Mrs. J. L., Jr.)



Early telephone service in Elkin was handled by the Horton Telephone system, whose first office was in the E&A building. (See information on that square). The second location of the system was on the third floor of the bank building at Main and Bridge streets. One operator on each shift was enough to handle the calls on the exchange at that time.

The exchange and office were moved from the bank building to Market Street, next to the "Tribune". In the meantime the ownership of the system had been acquired by the Southeast Public Service Company. The Market Street office had a switchboard with connections requiring two operators. The holder of telephone number 1 was the E&D Metal Company; the bank number was 80; and the police department was 500. In 1935, Elkin had 550 subscribers.

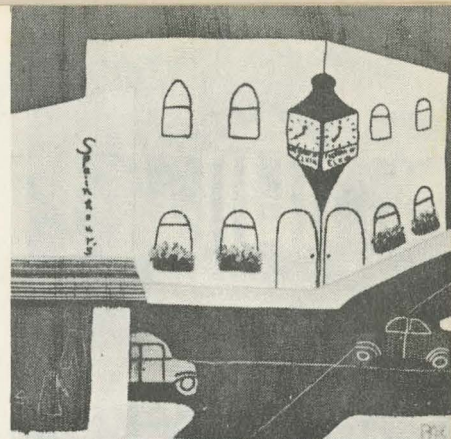
Central Telephone Company became the owner of the local system in 1931. The company moved to its new building on Bridge Street in 1960. A new addition was added in 1975. In 1976 there are 4707 customers on the Elkin exchange (phone numbers beginning with "835") and there are 56 operators. Elkin subscribers first heard the dial tone in 1960.

PROPERTY OF
MUSEUM OF REGIONAL HISTORY
Mount Airy, N. C.

GILVIN KENNEDY
NORTHWESTERN BANK AND CLOCK

by

Polly Kennedy
(Mrs. A. C.)



The Building was erected in 1901. Originally it housed the Elkin National Bank and at one time the post office. Upper floors have included both court offices, the telephone company, and others, as well as the Masonic Hall. At that time it was a three story building.

The Bank of Elkin was located here in 1937. In 1961 the Northwestern Bank acquired the building for its downtown location.

The clock was erected in 1951. Its musical chimes sound each quarter hour - a pleasant timely reminder!

A decline in interest caused the "TV" to be closed in 1972.

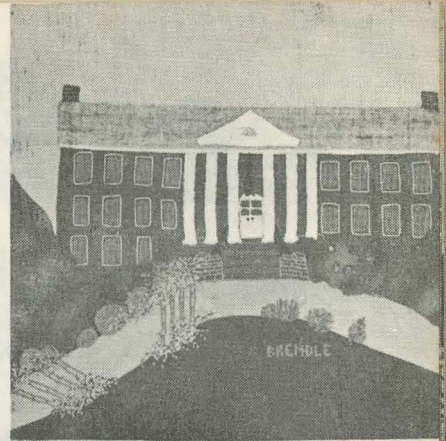
One of the designers of this square is Julia Halliday, a local woman, whose father, Mr. J. C. Halliday, was the first TNA secretary.

GILVIN ROTH YMCA

by

Pat Brendle
(Mrs. Harold)
and

Julia Alexander
(Mrs. Lewis)



May 2, 1942 marked, with appropriate services, the dedication of the Gilvin Roth YMCA. It was named in honor of Gilvin Theodore Roth, who came to Elkin in 1878. Mr. Roth was vice-president and one of the first superintendents of the Chatham Manufacturing Company.

The "Y" was located on the site of the home of Mr. Alex Chatham, Sr. It was planned and in a large part financed by the late Thurmond Chatham and the Chatham Manufacturing Company. It became the center of many activities in Elkin with its large gymnasium, swimming pool, a dining room, game rooms, bowling alleys, and staff offices. One front wing accommodated the Elkin Public Library. Parties and wedding receptions were held there. Assembly rooms provided for the regular meetings of 135 clubs, societies, and other organizations.

A decline in interest caused the "Y" to be closed in 1972.

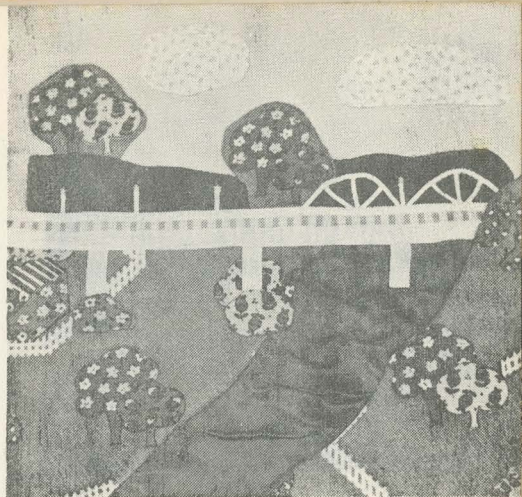
(One of the designers of this square is Julia McKnight Alexander, whose father, Mr. T. C. McKnight, was the first YMCA secretary.)

HUGH CHATHAM MEMORIAL BRIDGE

by

Thorburn Sagar
(Mrs. John)

(Mrs. David)



Built on Old Virginia Road on the same site of the first school in Ekin (see Richard Gwyn Museum square), the present school is a modern one-story building built around a main center. All classes have direct access to both the center and the outside. The school was financed by state and county bonds and cost a little less than \$1 million.

The bridge was a joint project of Yadkin and Surry counties, designated State Project No. 7960. It was built by the North Carolina State Highway Commission with federal aid in 1931. It was named in memory of Hugh Gwyn Chatham, the grandfather of the present Hugh G. Chatham II and Richard T. Chatham.

380 students were enrolled when the school first opened in August of 1938.

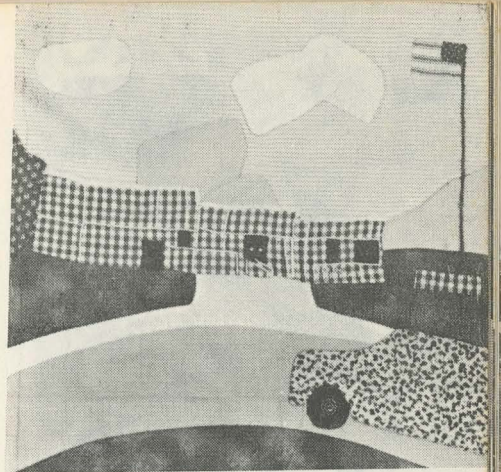
Hanging in the front hall is the clock from the old school. The main hall from the old school will be mounted in front of the school.

(Mrs. Sagar and her husband were VTA presidents of the Old and watched it being built.)

NEW ELKIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

by

Billie Aman
(Mrs. David)



Built on Old Virginia Road on the same site of the first school in Elkin (see Richard Gwyn Museum square), the present school is a modern one-story building built around a media center. All classes have direct access to both the center and the outside. The school was financed by state and county bonds and cost a little less than \$1 million.

Ground breaking ceremonies for the building was in May of 1974. The dedication of the completed building was held on October 5, 1975, with Dr. Craig Phillips, North Carolina Superintendent of Public Schools, present.

The school contains kindergarten through fourth grades. 380 students were enrolled when the school first opened in August of 1975.

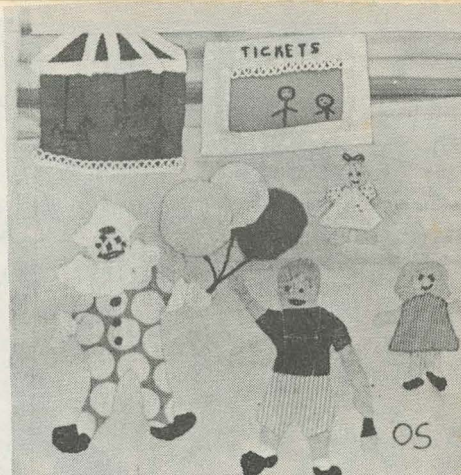
Hanging in the front hall is the clock from the old school. The iron bell from the old school will be mounted in front of the school.

(Mrs. Aman and her husband were PTA presidents of the old elementary school in 1974-75 during the time plans for the new school were made. Her children are now students in the new school.)

CARNIVAL

by

Omega Seaford
(Mrs. Jeff)



For over thirty years a carnival with rides was sponsored by the Eastern Star and Masons. It was held in the bottom land between the two bridges by the river. Williams Riding Devices was the name of the company that brought the rides. The carnival was stopped in the early 1970's because of the inclusion of side shows and gambling games which the Masons and Eastern Star members did not want to endorse.

For many years the children of Elkin looked forward to the Ferris wheel, the merry-go-round, miniature cars, popcorn, cotton candy and snowballs.

The church is of white brick of Georgian colonial architecture. The sanctuary has large colonial windows of German-made hand-blown antiqued glass slightly tinted. Five organs for the sanctuary and chapel, and chimes for the tower, were given as memorials - as were some of the furnishings to the sanctuary and class room.

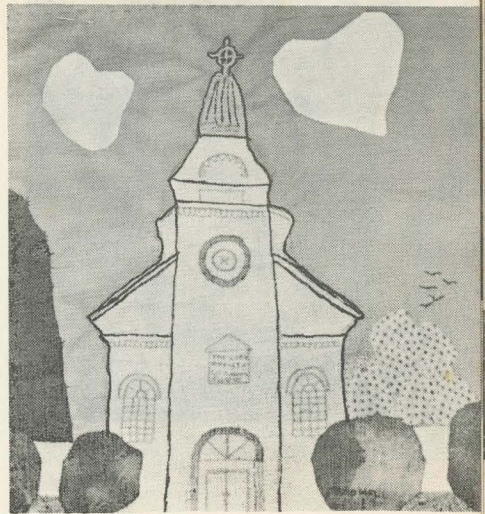
Mrs. Hall is a member of this church.

THE FORD HOME

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

by

Mano Hall
(Mrs. Clyde)



The first Methodist Church was built by Richard Gwyn on the property now used by the Elkin Primary School. This building also served as a school and for other church denominations in Elkin. (See Richard Gwyn Museum square)

The second Methodist Church was built in 1870 on the old elementary school site on Church Street. The third church was on Main Street, built in 1885, and the fourth was built in 1905 on Market Street.

On December 20, 1959, the cornerstone was laid for the present church on Hawthorne Road and was dedicated on October 31, 1965. Cornerstones have been moved from church to church and are imbedded in the narthex of the fifth church. Also the bell from the previous churches is located in the cupola of the chapel. The steeple is 120 feet high and when lighted at night is visible for many miles.

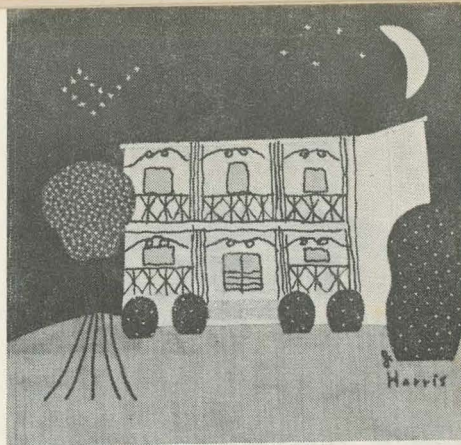
The church is of white brick of Georgian colonial architecture. The sanctuary has large colonial windows of German-made hand-blown antiqued glass slightly tinted. Pipe organs for the sanctuary and chapel, and chimes for the tower, were given as memorials - as were many of the furnishings in the sanctuary and class rooms.

(Mrs. Hall is a member of this church.)

THE FOARD HOME

by

Jean Harris
(Mrs. Robert)



The second oldest "mansion" in Elkin was the old Foard Home built in 1855. It was built by the Elkin Manufacturing Company for its superintendent.

It was built by skilled carpenters of that age, with heavy foundation timbers bound together with stout wooden pins.

It was occupied by Richard R. Gwyn in 1861. During the Civil War, General Stoneman, a Union officer, was an overnight guest in this home where the most gracious hospitality was at all times extended to friend and enemy alike. The cordiality and friendly hospitality (and mutual Mason affiliation) of the Gwyn family inspired the Yankee officer to extinguish a blaze which was started by his men in their work of destroying all mills and factories in the South. Another reason that has been given for his "staying the hand of destruction" was his host's name of Gwyn, for Miss Mary Gwyn of Baltimore was General Stoneman's fiancée. Doubtless she was a distant relative of this family of Welsh descent.

Mr. R. W. Foard, from Concord, bought the mill, store, and home from the Elkin Manufacturing Company (Mr. Richard Gwyn I) in 1866. Thus it became a private home and was called thereafter "The Foard Home".

ELKIN HIGH SCHOOL

by

Judy Holthouser
(Mrs. M. C.)



In September 1936, the students of Elkin High School moved into a new building on Elk Spur Street, the first wing of the present high school plant. It was a two-story brick building with concrete stairwells at each end. Downstairs there were two offices, two restrooms, and four classrooms. Upstairs there were the library, the home economics room, two restrooms and two classrooms. This building served a student body of approximately 150 in grades eight through eleven. The principal was Mr. Mark McAdams. The teachers were Miss Betty Anderson, Miss Mary Virginia Barker, Miss Rebecca Bohannon, Miss Emma Cooke, Miss Alice Dixon, Miss Mary McCragan, and Mr. Buck Newsome.

A four-story addition, including a cafeteria and a shop, was added to this building in 1951.

The Dixon auditorium (not visible in the square), also a part of the high school, was dedicated in the spring of 1963 in honor of Professor Zeno Hadley Dixon and his two daughters, Alice and Blanche, who devoted over 130 years to teaching in Elkin. Professor Dixon was the first principal of the old elementary school. At that time, 1915, there were 12 grades in the school.

The auditorium will seat 825 people and is used by the community for many different types of performances which include Foothills Theatre productions, beauty pageants and dance recitals.

(Mrs. Holthouser has been a history teacher at Elkin High School for many years.)

ELKIN ROLLER MILL

by

Ola Hendren
(Mrs. Linville)



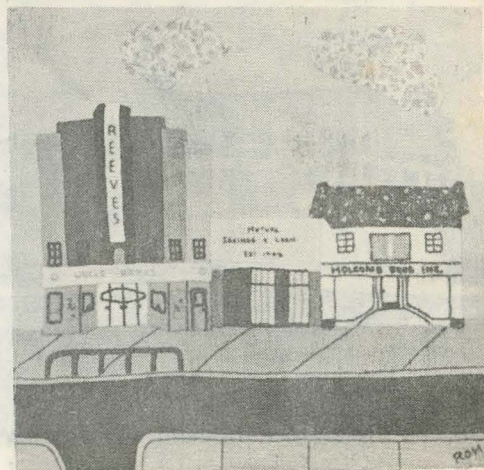
The Elkin Roller Mill stood directly behind the present Smithey's Department Store on the north side of the railroad tracks. It was built in 1895 by members of the Chatham family. Lacy Jasper Bray moved his family to Elkin and operated the mill for the Chatham family. Later Mr. Bray bought the mill and with his two sons, Abram and James, continued to operate it. Mr. Bray died in 1930. The Elkin Roller Mill was bought by N. B. Smithey who rented it to the following men successfully for the next 15 years: John K. Tharpe, C. C. Tharpe, J. Henderson Guyer, and Dwight Williams. The mill was torn down in the mid-forties.

(Mrs. Hendren is the granddaughter of Mr. Bray.)

REEVES THEATRE

by

Rosie Holcomb
(Mrs. Wally)



In 1937, the building on the far right, recently housing Holcomb Brothers, Inc., was the Elk Theatre, managed by Dr. W. B. Reeves, who was also a local optometrist. The new Reeves Theatre was under construction in 1941 and continues to operate at the present time (1976). It is Elkin's only indoor theatre. Dr. Reeves continued to operate the Theatre in the new building until January, 1974, when he sold it to Piedmont Theatres of Charlotte, North Carolina.

(Mrs. Holcomb is the wife of Wally Holcomb - one of the owners of Holcomb Brothers.)

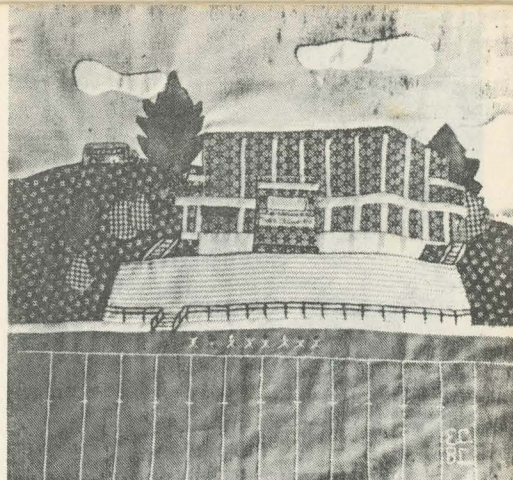
THE N. H. CARPENTER GYMNASIUM

by

Edith Carpenter
(Mrs. N. H.)

and

Barbara Collie
(Mrs. Ray)



Prior to 1937, Elkin did not have a high school gymnasium. A tobacco warehouse, which stood on Main Street, where the present Rose's store is now located, was used for basketball practice and games. When the W.P.A. projects were being built by the Federal government, Elkin was fortunate to get a gymnasium. Mr. J.O. Bivins spearheaded a drive to raise \$300 which was necessary for beginning the project. This building, a wooden structure, was used for over 25 years. When it was torn down, the same location was used for a new building, except the land was filled in so that the new structure stood above the athletic field.

The architect was E. F. (Abie) Harris, Jr., a former student of Elkin High School. The building was named in honor of Mr. Carpenter who served as superintendent of the Elkin School System from 1945 until 1974.

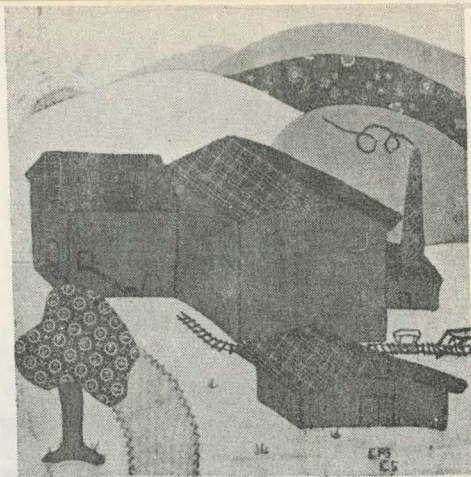
The dedication ceremony took place on December 1, 1964. On that night, Elkin played Jonesville and all the 1,870 seats in the gym were filled for the first basketball game.

(Mrs. Carpenter is the wife of Mr. Carpenter, and Mrs. Collie's daughter, Blair, is an EHS cheerleader.)

ELKIN SHOE COMPANY

by

Claire Smith
(Mrs. Alexander)
and
Clare Smith



The Elkin Shoe Company, founded in 1892 by A. M. Smith, started production in a wooden building located on the east bank of the Elkin Creek. The building was acquired from the Chatham Manufacturing Company which had vacated it about a year earlier.

The Elkin Shoe Company had a modest beginning; an investment of \$600 was made in second-hand machinery; six vats were used in the tan yard; and the initial work force consisted of eight men. The primary product was men's brogan work shoes. About twelve pairs of shoes were made each day; soles were fixed to the shoe uppers with wooden pegs.

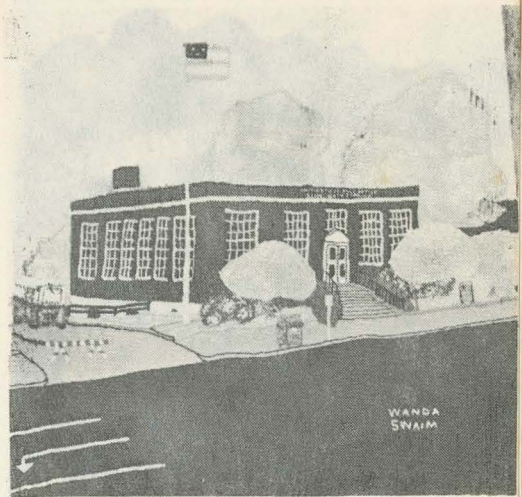
The business grew and in 1909 a larger brick plant depicted in the quilt square, was built on the west side of the Elkin creek on the site of the present water purification plant. The six million brick required for the construction were supplied by Mr. Bob Poindexter's brick plant located in the Yadkin River bottom a short distance east of Elkin. The primary product continued to be brogan work shoes. By 1914 the rate of production had reached 1200-1500 pairs per day. Approximately 225 people were employed. After World War I customers were much less interested in the stiff brogan shoes than previously, and business declined. In 1924 Mr. Smith sold the business.

(Miss Clare Smith is the great-granddaughter of Mr. A. M. Smith.)

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

by

Wanda Swaim
(Mrs. Ronald J.)



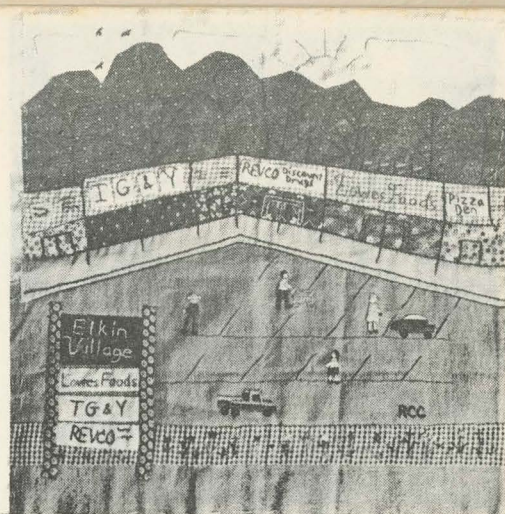
The Elkin North Carolina Post Office was established in 1856 and was first located in the commissary of the Elkin Cotton Mill. Richard R. Gwyn was the first postmaster, serving from 1856 until 1866. The post office has had many locations: South Standard Street; Main Street, where Royal Drug Company is now located; the old Holcomb Brothers Plumbing building on Main Street; Main Street at the Northwestern Bank location; and West Market Street.

In 1937 the post office was moved to the present building on West Main Street. This was the first building constructed exclusively for the post office. Linville Hendren was the first Elkin Postmaster to receive a lifetime appointment due to a change in political policy in 1950. Prior to his tenure in office, all other postmasters before him had served at the whim of politicians then in power.

ELKIN VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER

by

Becky Charles
(Mrs. John H., Jr.)



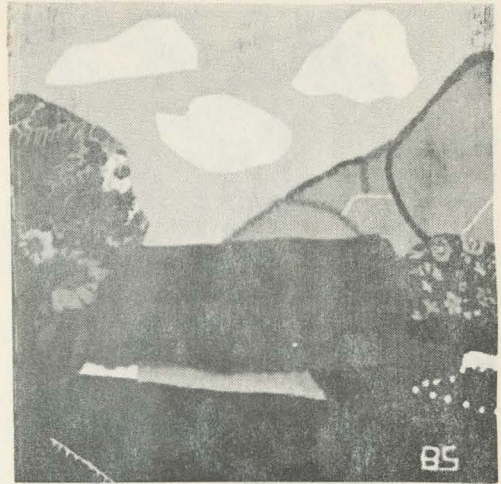
The Elkin Village Shopping Center officially opened May 22, 1975, when the TG&Y Store opened its doors for business. The new shopping center, the only one in Elkin, was built on a tract of land located in North Elkin, leased by owners Henry Dillon and A. Dan Hudspeth. The developing company was the Mitchell Company located in Raleigh, and managed by Mack Jones.

The TG&Y Store is the largest retail store in the tri-county area, having 30,000 square feet of floor space. Shortly after the opening of TG&Y, Revco Discount Drug Center opened. This store has 7000 square feet of floor space. Lowe's, the largest supermarket in the Elkin-Jonesville area, opened for business in June of 1975.

OLD WOODEN COVERED BRIDGE

by

Benji Spanski
(Mrs. Ed)



This old covered bridge spanned the Yadkin River between Elkin and Jonesville for 41 years until 1914. As far as can be ascertained, this bridge had the unique distinction of being the longest wooden suspension bridge in the world, the span between the abutments being 210 feet.

The bridge was built in the winter and spring of 1872 and opened in May of that year by a company of stockholders, among whom were R. R. Gwyn and Alexander Chatham. The work was done by a Mr. Lindsay from New England. The undertaking was a great one, and several times the floods carried away the trestles on which the bridge rested before it was finished. The bridge was just completed when a flood carried away the abutment on the Elkin side.

The material for the bridge, the sides of which were enclosed, was of the best variety and was sound. It was torn down after having served as a means of communication between Surry and Yadkin counties. The stone for the abutments was taken from the old stone quarry in the Brushy Mountains, three miles distant.

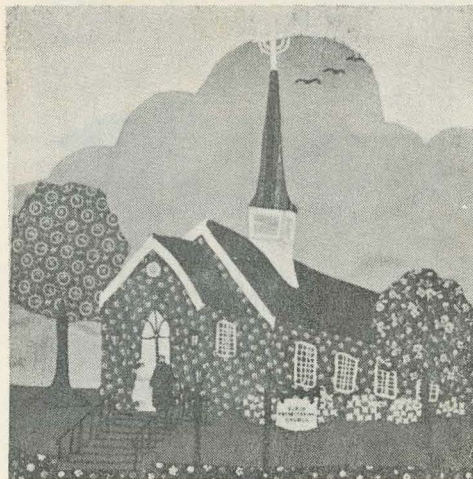
The bridge operated as a toll bridge until 1904 when Surry and Yadkin counties purchased it from the stock company and made passage over it free.

(Mrs. Spanski, whose husband is the executive secretary of the Surry County Bicentennial Commission, is very interested in historical structures.)

ELKIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

by

Jewell Brown
(Mrs. William)



The Elkin Presbyterian Church was organized on November 27, 1892 with ten charter members. Mrs. Katherine F. Noel organized the church and initiated the first church building. The congregation first met in a warehouse near the E. G. Click home. In 1895 a church was constructed at a site next to the present Masonic Temple on the corner of Church and Market Streets.

The present church building was built in 1937. An addition was made to the sanctuary and vestibule in 1955. At that time Mrs. Ralph Ritchie, widow of a former pastor, gave the chimes in memory of her husband. His untimely death in 1952 caused sadness throughout Elkin.

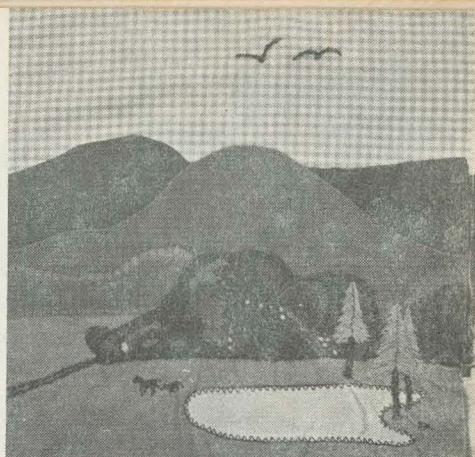
The present membership is 240.

(Mrs. Brown is the present minister's wife.)

VIEW OF THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

by

Trish Holcomb
(Mrs. Dan)



The town of Elkin is nestled at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the eastern ramparts of the Appalachian Mountains which reach from Maine to Georgia.

They are called the Blue Ridge because of their blue, hazy appearance on the horizon as you advance westward towards them.

These ancient rugged mountains are among the oldest in the world, dating before the Cambrian period of earth history, and at one time stood higher than the Alps, Rockies, and Sierras.

They provide a vista of loveliness as they are seen from North and West Elkin.

The mill was damaged by the flood in 1898, but was rebuilt the next year with additional space. In 1910 the tannin overflowed again and almost destroyed the mill. The new plant, completed in 1918, was built on a hillside - far away from the river.

The mill has continued to grow. Fabrics for automobile upholstery and wearing apparel are now produced in addition to hosiery and other products. Chatman has mills in Charlotte and Elkin, N. C. The Elkin plant covers 120 acres, contains a million and a half square feet of floor space, and employs 1,500 people. The Chatman plant has long been the backbone of Elkin's economy.

(Mrs. Holcomb lives outside Elkin on a farm that faces these mountains.)

CHATHAM MANUFACTURING COMPANY

by

Helen Caton
(Mrs. T. O.)



Chatham Manufacturing Company's beginnings go back to before the Civil War. In 1858, Alexander Chatham came to work at Mr. Richard Gwyn's cotton mill. He married Mary Elizabeth Gwyn in 1863 and continued to work at the mill until shortly after the Civil War. For several years, Mr. Chatham and his brother-in-law, Thomas L. Gwyn, operated a combination country store and grist mill on Big Elkin Creek about two miles north of the present site of Elkin. In 1877 Messrs. Chatham and Gwyn established the Elkin Woolen Mills with the addition of a carding machine, looms and other equipment.

The coming of the railroad promised to solve the transportation problem that had limited the firm's growth. A new plant was opened in 1893 near the railroad and was named Chatham Manufacturing Company. It produced fine wool blankets and woolen cloth of various kinds.

The mill was damaged by the flood in 1898, but was rebuilt the next year with additional space. In 1916 the Yadkin overflowed again and almost destroyed the mill. The new plant, completed in 1918, was built on a hillside - far away from the river.

The mill has continued to grow. Fabrics for automobile upholstery and wearing apparel are now produced in addition to blankets and other products. Chatham has mills in Charlotte and Eden, N. C. The Elkin plant covers 120 acres, contains a million and a half square feet of floor space, and employs 2,500 people. The Chatham plant has long been the bulwark of Elkin's economy.

(Mrs. Caton's husband has been head of dyeing operations in the mill for many years.)

HUGH CHATHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

by

Jane Gray Weaver
(Mrs. Charles)



This hospital is a three story, 100 private bed, private bath facility located on a 105 acre site. Provisions for future expansion have been made by designing the reinforced concrete structure for an additional patient floor on the fourth story.

The hospital opened on July 1, 1973. It cost \$3.5 million raised partially through a local fund-raising campaign. There is a staff of 15 physicians, including a fulltime pathologist and radiologist. The hospital offers modern surgical and laboratory facilities, including pathology and radiology departments and a pharmacy.

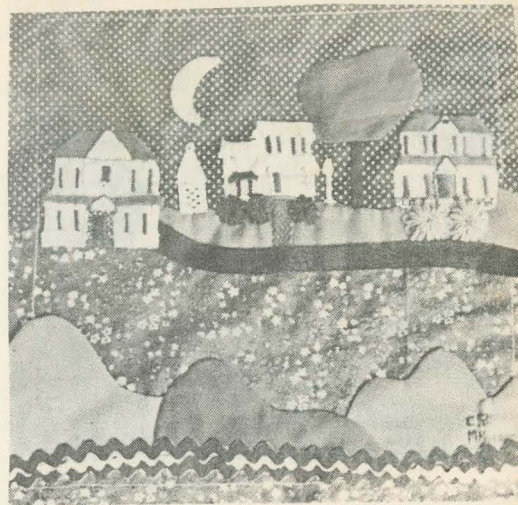
The new hospital provides modern up-to-date facilities to serve the community for years to come.

(Mrs. Weaver's husband was instrumental in obtaining the new hospital and has served on the Hospital Board for many years.)

TERRACE AVENUE - THREE HOMES

by

Margaret Hiers
(Mrs. John H.)
and
Cissie Roth
(Mrs. William C.)



1. Ring House

The Ring house was built in 1874 by Elkin's first doctor, Dr. J. W. Ring. He also served the town as mayor and commissioner at various times spanning a period of more than thirty years. When Elkin was incorporated in 1889, there were only five families on this side of town: The T. L. Gwyns, the Dick Gwyns, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Noah Foard and Mr. A. B. Galloway. The Ring family lived in the home until it was sold in the early 1940's.

2. Galloway House

The Galloway house was built soon after the Civil War. Colonel A. B. Galloway and his wife moved into the house in 1873. Since that date the house has been occupied by members of the Galloway family. The present owner is the great niece of Mrs. Galloway. Mrs. Galloway had one of the first private schools in Elkin in this house.

3. Roth House

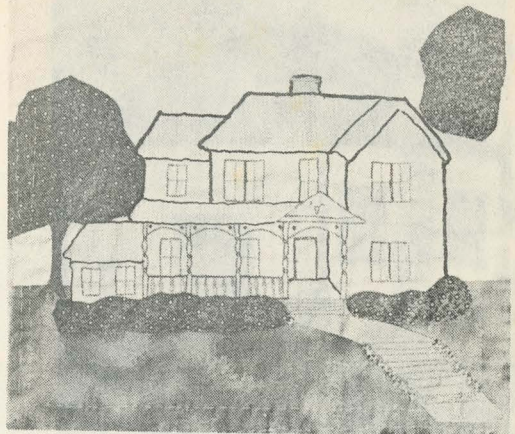
Originally planned for a tobacco factory, this house was purchased in 1879 by Captain G. T. Roth and made into a home for his mother, his sisters and brother. Many changes have been made in it through the years. Many of the original handmade brick are still used. The Roth family has lived in this house from the time it was built. It now houses the fifth generation.

(Mrs. Roth's husband is a grandson of Captain G. T. Roth.)

THE OLD ELK INN

by

Mildred Dixon
(Mrs. William G.)



Elkin's leading hotel was built in 1883 by Charles Hunt Gwyn, a son of Richard Ransome Gwyn. The hospitality and delicious food found at the hotel was known far and wide.

The small room on the left was called the sample room and was used by the salesmen to display their wares. Local merchants came here to select and place their orders.

The Inn burned on March 24, 1895, when most of the town burned, but was rebuilt soon after. The second structure was again destroyed by fire in the early 1930's.

The Inn was located on the corner of Main & Church streets.

The Inn was located on the corner of Main & Church streets.

Mrs. S. B. Barrell and Mrs. J. A. Barrell are both members of the Jonathan Hunt Chapter of the S.A.R.

RICHARD GWYN MUSEUM

by

Mattie R. Harrell

(Mrs. R. B.)

and

Barbara Harrell

(Mrs. J. A., Jr.)



This one-room frame cottage was originally built by Mr. Richard Gwyn (1796-1881) near his home as a church for the people nearby. Later it was used for a school house.

Thurmond Chatham conveyed the building to the Jonathan Hunt Chapter of the D.A.R. to assure its preservation. It was therefore moved across the street on Virginia Road.

There are many antiques on display in the museum. Some of the objects include a handloom over 150 years old, chairs, rugs, chest bench, a spinning wheel, a bed warmer, a collection of woodenware and iron items, and a pew that was in the building in its time as a church.

The Museum was formally opened with ceremonies in May 1956. In restoring the building, the D.A.R. has succeeded in putting the ceiling and floor in their original condition, and also regained possession of some of the original forest pine pews. Three of the pews were used to make a corner cupboard which was placed in the Museum in memory of Sally Gwyn Poindexter, a granddaughter of Richard Gwyn.

The Museum is opened at various times for different occasions, particularly for school groups and historical societies.

(Mrs. R. B. Harrell and Mrs. J. A. Harrell are both members of the Jonathan Hunt Chapter of the D.A.R.)

ELKIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Incorporated - 1889

HISTORICAL SKETCH

* * *

This section was inhabited by Iroquois Indians at an early date, and they have left their traces in the form of stone arrowheads, hatchets, pestles and mortises. They gave the name to the Yadkin River, which in their language means rest.

The name of Elkin was first applied to the creek which flows through the town into the Yadkin River. Tradition tells us that elk wandered down from the mountains and an Indian shot an elk which fell into the creek. He shouted, "elk-in", and this became their name for the creek; and quite naturally, the first settlement that grew around it.

The earliest authentic records to be found on this section is a grant to a Mr. Shores of 10,000 acres of land on the north side of the Yadkin River and included the mouth of the Elkin Creek, the only consideration being that he establish an iron forge. He secured this grant about the middle of the eighteenth century, living here and working his forge for about twenty years. Traces of this forge and lumps of slack plus rough bricks used in the furnace may still be seen on the west edge of the cotton mill pond, a few yards above the dam. Mr. Shores later moved on, looking for more elbow room.

The next record is of a grant of 360 acres of land on top of Brushy Mountain, four miles south of Elkin, to William Sparks, Jr. The grant was made by Governor Martin on October 24, 1782.

The second settler on this side of the Yadkin, so far as can be ascertained, was Matt Hughes, who came into possession of the land between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Yadkin River. Hughes was followed by a man named Hanes. He, like Shores, had a forge in this neighborhood. He tried several times, unsuccessfully, to put in dams across the Elkin Creek. Traces of his mortises and iron spikes in the rocks of the creek above the Cotton Mill pond can still be seen.

These men lived here between the years of 1750 and 1820, at a time when two families within three miles of each other were near neighbors and while Surry County contained all of what is now Alleghany, Iredell, Stokes, Yadkin, and Wilkes Counties. The county seat was then located about 12 miles west of Winston-Salem, near Bethania.

Mr. Richard Gwyn, known as "Old Man Dickie" Gwyn, moved from "Green Hill", the home of his father, James S. Gwyn, in Wilkes County, to Jonesville in 1817. Mr. Richard Gwyn moved to Elkin in 1840 and built a house on the Parks place where Senator Franklin's house, "Cedar Point", now stands.

Rev. James Minish, the first Methodist minister in this section, and his wife, known as "Granny Polly", with their five children, moved to Elkin in 1845 and occupied a house standing now near the C. H. Billings house, (Dr. Click). At that time Elkin consisted of a blacksmith shop, a grist mill, a sash saw mill, a small house just above where the cotton mill tank now stands, and on the opposite side of the creek lived Richard Gwyn with his family.

Messrs. Richard Gwyn, James Gwyn, Richard R. Gwyn, Lytle Hickerson, and Columbus Franklin organized the Elkin Manufacturing Company in 1847 and built the old Cotton Mill on the east side of the creek. Columbus Franklin had charge of the plant at first and later Richard R. Gwyn managed the business. James Linn came from Mocksville and was the first superintendent of the mill.

About this time the post office was first established at Elkin with "Little Dickie" (R.R.) Gwyn as first postmaster. Two or three years later the old Grist Mill was torn away and William Emerson, Henry Dent and William Gordon built a Merchant Mill to take its place. The first miller was the Reverend James Minish, who was also postmaster a short time after. His record days work was "kept the mill going all day, tended the post office as postmaster, caught 29 rats and married a couple."

The Elkin Manufacturing Company erected a store on the lot occupied by the E. & A. Railway survey office, in 1851, and carried on a general mercantile business. It was necessary to haul the goods through the county in wagons from Salisbury, the nearest railway point.

The first "mansion" in Elkin was erected in 1885 for "Little Dickie" (R. R.) Gwyn. (Later known as the Dr. Click house on Main Street). The residence now owned and occupied by Mrs. Joe Bivins (Ohna), was built by R. R. Gwyn in 1872 and faced what is now Main Street. It was moved further up the hill and turned to face Gwyn Avenue by Alex Chatham, Jr.

During the Civil War, General Stoneman with an army of several thousand men, passed through this section of the country raiding and burning mills, factories, etc. His army camped in and around Elkin. He made the residence of R. R. Gwyn (Dr. Click's house) his headquarters. (See information on Foard Home as to how Elkin was spared burning).

Alexander Chatham came to Elkin in 1858. He was employed by R. R. Gwyn and Company. He later married a daughter of Richard Gwyn, Mary Elizabeth, in 1863. In 1877 T. L. Gwyn and his brother-in-law, Alexander Chatham, built a woolen mill about a mile north of Elkin, along the Elkin Creek. This mill continued to grow and prosper for 16 years. At that time Alexander Chatham and his sons, Richard Martin and Hugh Gwyn, bought the interest of T. L. Gwyn, and Chatham Manufacturing Company was formed. Alexander Chatham's wife died in 1875.

He later married Alice Hickerson, daughter of Amelia Gwyn and Major Lytle Hickerson who lived at "Roundabout", Ronda, N. C.

Richard Gwyn divided his property among his four living children in 1868. He died in 1881. His children were Newton, T. L., R. R., and Mrs. Alexander Chatham.

J. S. Bell came to Elkin in 1869 and opened a mercantile business. Records show that he purchased a lot from R. R. Gwyn Land Company for \$200. Dr. J. W. Ring came to Elkin in 1873 and opened Elkin's first drug store.

In 1889 the community of Elkin had grown until there were about 200 people scattered over a territory about a mile square, the business part being on the street along the bank of the creek. The citizens petitioned the legislature for a charter and the Town of Elkin was incorporated March 5, 1889. Alexander Chatham became the first mayor.

The first train reached Elkin, April 9, 1890, bringing with it a great change in the condition of the little town. The people who had been engaged chiefly in farming and stock raising, commenced slowly to turn their attention to trading and manufacturing. The excellent water power, the abundance of raw material and land, were standing invitations to the far sighted trader and manufacturer.

Alexander M. Smith had come to Elkin about 1890 as a young shoe salesman and in 1892 he opened a small shoe factory a mile northwest of Elkin. The Elkin Shoe Company started with a capacity of 12 pairs of shoes a day. By 1914, the capacity was 400 pairs and the famous "Elkin Shoes" were known and worn all over North Carolina and in several other states.

In 1892, A. H. Eller of Winston-Salem secured an option on this land (500 acres between the Elkin creek and Gwyn Avenue, extending north for two miles) for the Elkin Land

Company, and purchased it for \$20,000. The land toward the river was cut into lots and streets, then sold. Soon business in Elkin began moving up Main Street. In 1898 a disastrous fire swept Main Street destroying practically all of the business part of town, but modern brick buildings were erected and business continued to grow.

Columbus Bernard Franklin came to Elkin from Mount Airy, and married a daughter of Richard Gwyn, Ann Amelie, in 1842. His son, Richard Franklin bought the Gwyn home place "Cedar Point" and lived there all his life. His daughter, Mrs. Fred McNeely, recently sold the home. (See quilt square on Cedar Point.)

The first bridge which spanned the Yadkin River between Jonesville and Elkin, was opened in May 1877. (See Old Covered Bridge square.)

Frank Tharpe came to Elkin in 1868 without enough money to pay his passage of five cents to cross the bridge. He became the first constable of Elkin and a substantial property owner.

The Elkin Furniture Company began operation in 1895 by four stockholders, J. F. Cook, W. J. Boyles, S. M. Arnold, and J. W. Arnold (See Elkin Furniture Company square.)

The first furniture store was started in June of 1900, by Whitaker and W. S. Reich. It was managed by Mr. Reich until 1905 when he organized and incorporated the Reich-Walsh Furniture Company, which later became Reich Furniture and was owned by W. S. Reich.

A. G. Click moved to Elkin about 1885 from Statesville. He, along with R. L. Hubbard, H. F. Gray, and W. E. Cooper, organized the Elkin Veneer and Manufacturing Company, one of the most successful industries in town.

J. S. Bell was postmaster for seven years under President Cleveland. He also organized the first order of Masons in

this community. One of Elkin's oldest, most substantial and intellectual citizens, was Senator R. G. Franklin. In 1868 he became principal of the Jonesville Academy.

James B. Bivins came to Elkin from Davie County about 1885. He was the pioneer plumbing contractor of the town. He also served as town policeman shortly after it was incorporated. He married Mary Lucy Chatham, daughter of James O. Chatham.

Elkin's leading hotel was built in 1883 by Charles Hunt Gwyn, a son of R. R. Gwyn. The hospitality and delicious food found at this hotel was known far and wide.

A map surveyed February 1857 by F. A. Harris, states: "This platt represents a survey made for Richard Gwyn and embraces several tracts of land. The external boundaries of which are only laid down, and include 2315 acres. Surry County, North Carolina".

INTERESTING INFORMATION GLEANED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

- **In 1891 there were 504 inhabitants of Elkin. The Mayor was Dr. Ring; commissioners were T. J. Lillard, J. P. Warren, N. W. Fowler, L. H. Carter, and R. G. Franklin.
- **In 1897 there were 511 children from ages 6-21. 235 were white males, and 227 were females.
- **In 1832 "Cedar Point" was built for Richard Gwyn I. He moved in 1872 to Ohna Bivins' present home on Gwyn Avenue.
- **March 5, 1889, the Town of Elkin was incorporated.
- **In 1845 Elkin consisted of a blacksmith shop, a grist mill, and a saw mill.
- **In 1892 Elkin had 1,100 population.
- **In 1886 Elkin had "200 residents whose homes were scattered over an area of about one square mile. Stores were all on the street which was located on the bank of the creek".
- **At Dew's Island on Currituck Sound, there is a map showing North and South Carolina with the rivers named. The Elkin River is shown. The map was done by Henry Mouzon and others, London. Printed for Bob Saver and J. Bennett, Map and print fellers No. 53 in Fleet Street. Published as the Act directs May 30, 1775.