

## **'MINE LICK' NOW THRIVING TOWN OF BAXTER; INCORPORATE 1915**

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Located just twelve miles from Center Hill Dam (only three miles from the fishing territory) is the third most highly populated town in Putnam County, with a present population of 1500. Previous to 1902 it was know as Mine Lick, but at that time was changed to Baxter in honor of Jere Baxter.

The Little town was incorporated in 1915, with J. E. Oliver as its first mayor. W. T. Sewell, present mayor, is serving his eighth term. Other officials include W. G. hale, recorder; four aldermen, Lawrence Grace, Charles Ligon, Charles Nunnally, Harold Vickers; and Lawrence Maxwell, town marshal. Charlie Maxwell was recently appointed water commissioner.

The present government operates on the "pay as you go" system. When Mayor Sewell was first elected, fourteen years ago, \$69 in cash was turned over to him together with an indebtedness of \$2600. To date they can boast of no bonded indebtedness except on their water system and they have the money to pay this. (Water works were installed in 1939). The Mayor states that their freedom from debt was accomplished in large part by cooperation with county and state. Tax rate is still a dollar on the hundred; yet the town is thriving. With three miles of streets oiled enough money is available to oil another mile. A street program has made possible the widening, grading, and rocking of those streets that could not be oiled. Another feature has been the installation of street lights and the laying of two miles of sidewalk.

By far the greatest asset of the town is its Seminary, known far and wide for its Christian teaching. Mayor Sewell recalls that when his father first came to Baxter, incidentally because of the school, it was not an uncommon thing to hear gun shots any hour of the night as well as in the daytime. He attributes the present orderliness and quietness of the community to the influence of the school. Putnam Countians, as well as Baxterians, should be proud to claim such a great institution for their own.

Having given more than a quarter of a century in promoting the Seminary Dr. and Mrs. Harry L. Upperman have made it what it is today. The one school of its kind in this section of the country, much stress is being placed on Christian activities, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., literary society, and work of the varied clubs. In addition to sponsoring a radio program each Thursday afternoon, the students have rated very highly in forensics and debates for the fiscal year 1948-49, winning many firsts in both district and State meets.

A tour of the campus would include Pfeiffer Hall (academic), the Trade School, a Science Building under construction, a gymnasium, eight dwelling houses, D.A.R. Health House with a new addition known as the Practical Nurse Training Department, Ward Hall (for boys), Ivy Hall (for girls), the President's home, two barns, (cows, mules, and chickens) a new recreation hall for boys, football field, and the playground.

With an enrollment of 325, eighteen faculty members, and four staff members the Seminary is undergoing vast improvements. Practically all building and repairing is done by students under faculty direction. Dr. Upperman states that during the current year they have completely rebuilt the library and have additional rooms added on to be used when needed, and are re-working the commercial department, enlarging rooms; the chapel has been given an entirely new platform, curtains and side decoration; also, they are building a new trophy case and are reconditioning plumbing, heating and lighting systems. Provision is being made for a lighted football field and are expecting to remodel gymnasium, inside and out. A new cafeteria set-up is being installed with new kitchens; plan to have a new dining room, a very fine recreation room for girls, and a new series of apartment additions for the girls' hall. In addition the entire campus is to be landscaped and reconditioned farming, terracing, and soil erosion projects are to be introduced.

The most recent addition to the campus is its Veterans' School with twenty-two instructors and four staff members. It was set up with the understanding with the Veterans Administration that the courses would be taught at their request as follows: to veterans at this time; the curriculum would be composed of seven courses; namely, General Electricity, Cabinet Making, Auto Mechanics, Radio Servicing, Auto Body Work, Masonry, and Carpentry. There are two buildings which have been erected for the Veterans school along with their own shop, class rooms, and offices.

The Trade School for boys, known as the John W. Lowe Trade School, teaches general building trades, woodwork, blueprinting, cabinet work and related courses such as English, Science, and Mathematics.

Serving the town, via employer and employee, is the W. T. Sewell Grocery, the Seminary, Robert Lowe Lumber Co., Taylor Dunavin's Block Plant, a Wholesale Produce run by the Scarlett Bros., V. D. Nunnally's Drug, the four general stores of H. N. Campbell & Sons, F. D. Scarlett & Sons, Knight & Maxwell, and Dow Gentry & Co.; Charles Nunnally's Dry Cleaning establishment; two beauty shoppes, known as the Baxter Beauty Parlor and Selma's Beauty Parlor; two grocery stores operated by Nash & Barr and Ambros Dyer; two hardware's, S. N. Barr & Sons, and Maxwell & Hale; two cafes: the Baxter Café and Baxter Coffee Shoppe; and two garages. In addition, hundreds of cars of paper and acid wood are loaded here every year.

\*Read more history of Baxter, Putnam Co., TN and surrounding areas at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>