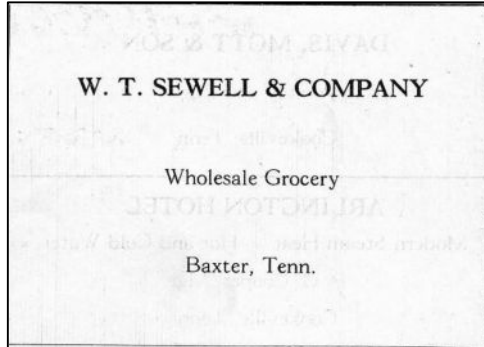


Recycling a Building

Jill Thomas
Herald-Citizen Staff

BAXTER -- The Baxter Mayor and Board of Aldermen bought a building this week that will house and protect city vehicles and equipment as well as provide office space for city employees.



"It's the old Sewell Wholesale Grocery Building," said Baxter Mayor Jeff Wilhite. "It's located right off the parking lot of city hall and it's something we've been looking at for several years."

The old 16,000 square-foot two-story building has had two additions over the years and those are the areas where city board members envision city vehicles sitting protected and dry.

"We need space for all our vehicles including tractors and back hoes," the mayor said. "There's so much the town can use the land for. It's probably worth more to us than to anyone else," Wilhite said.

The old brick building was built in the 1920s -- just in time for the Great Depression. **W.G. Anderson** built the **W.G. Anderson Mercantile Store** which provided hardware and incidentals to customers until 1933 when the bank holding the note on Anderson Mercantile went broke and the depression wiped out the store.

(William Grover Anderson Sr., s/o Lewis Monroe Anderson & Matilda Isabelle Wallace. He was the brother of my grandmother, Audra Camilla Anderson Denny; I loved to visit Uncle Grover when I was little.

A.J. Lambert.



"My grandfather, N.S. Maxwell and his friend William Tecumseh Sewell bought the building from an Ohio insurance company for \$3,500," Dan Maxwell said.

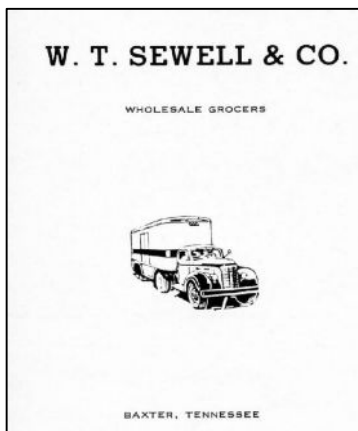
"They opened W.T. Sewell and Company, a wholesale grocery. In 1975 W.T. Sewell's son-in-law, James Austin, Sr. and his grandson Jim Ed Austin, Jr. along with N.S. Maxwell's grandson James Daniel Maxwell, bought the building and took over the company.

"It was all in the family," said Dan Maxwell.

In 1997 due to competition from companies like Wal-Mart and Kroger, the family-run business closed its doors and the old building became a temporary home to a number of smaller businesses.

"We sold our equipment and customer base to L. R. Shanks in Crossville. They offered jobs to all of our employees. That made it so much easier for us to close," Dan Maxwell said.

"We didn't have to put any people out of work," he said.



Then the building pretty much stayed empty.

"We tried to sell it, but there was no interest in this monstrosity in Baxter, Tenn.," Maxwell said. "We didn't even have a loading dock. We always did the things the hard way with fork lifts and strong backs."

The three owners of the building approached the city because city hall was so close.

"We didn't need the old building. And we thought we could do the city a service by making the old building both affordable and available," Maxwell said.

The owners agreed this week to sell the 90-year-old building to the City of Baxter for \$60,000 to be paid in ten annual installments of \$10,000 each. And there's no interest due.

"There's so much the city can do with the building. They could move the library to the new building. They could move their office spaces or give the senior center more room. The Baxter rural clinic is hard pressed for space and when the fire department moves some of its vehicles, that may open up space for the clinic."

Wilhite agreed.

"This is going to mean so much to the city," said the mayor. "We're growing now and this is going to help with that growth."

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The City of Baxter has agreed to purchase the old Sewell Wholesale Grocery building for city use. From left are Dan Maxwell, one of four former owners; Baxter Mayor Jeff Wilhite; and former owner Tom Austin.

*See Story of William Grover Anderson & family sheet at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>



William Grover Anderson, born in Boma, Tennessee, March 24, 1889. Married Miss Lillian Lee, July 21, 1915. Engaged in wholesale and retail hardware. He has built several large business houses at Baxter. Has been Mayor of Baxter. He is a member of the County Board of Education, a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Anderson is one of Baxter's most valuable citizens.

*A History of Putnam County, TN
by Walter S. McClain*

William Grover Anderson Dies
Herald – Citizen Newspaper, March 30, 1970

William Grover Anderson, 81, died Thursday at Master's Nursing Home on the Algood Road, following a long illness.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at 2:00 at the chapel of Hooper – Huddleston Funeral Home with Rev. Andrew Albert officiating. Burial was in the Cookeville City Cemetery.

Mr. Anderson was a native of Putnam County, the son of the late Lewis and Matilda Wallace Anderson and was reared in the Silver Point – Baxter area.

His wife whose death occurred several years ago was the former Lillian Lee also from Putnam County. Mr. Anderson was once a merchant of Baxter, was a chairman of the Putnam County School Board and for a number of years served as a trustee of Baxter Seminary.

He served as representative at large in the Tennessee Legislature for some years, and was instrumental in getting various appropriations for Tennessee Tech during its initial year. He also held the position as secretary of the Putnam Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Anderson was a Mason. The Excelsior Lodge of Baxter conducted a service in his memory Friday night at the funeral home.

Survivors are a son Joe Anderson, Washington D.C.; 4 sisters, Mrs. Addie Gill, Cookeville, Mrs. Audra Denny of Silver Point, Mrs. Floyd Shanks of Silver Point, and Mrs. Ollie Julian, Baxter, and a grandson, and 2 grandchildren.



William Thomas Sewell Baxter Civic Leader Dies

W. T. "Bill" Sewell longtime business and civic leader in Putnam County, died Friday in Cookeville General Hospital after an extended illness. He was 78.

At the time of his death, he was **president of the W. T. Sewell Wholesale & Supple Co. of Baxter**, the town in which he lived with his wife, **Winnie Maxwell Sewell**, who survives, and where he had severed a number of terms as mayor. (*William Thomas pictured left*).

A Masonic service will be held tonight, Saturday, at the Hooper & Huddleston Funeral Home in Cookeville at 8 o'clock.

The funeral will be conducted from the chapel of the funeral home Sunday at 2 p.m. with burial in the Odd Fellows Cemetery.

A native of Tennessee, Mr. Sewell was the **son the late Dr. William T. and Nancy Elizabeth Nixon Sewell**.

During the long and active life in the affairs of the county, Mr. Sewell had held many positions. Besides the leadership of the firm he headed at the time of his death, he was vice chairman of the board of directors of the Citizens Bank, where he also served as president, and was a member of the board of directors of the Cookeville Federal Savings and Loan Association.

In public service positions, Mr. Sewell had also served long and well. In addition to his terms as mayor of Baxter, he had served on the board of Baxter Seminary and on the board of the Cookeville Housing Authority. At one time he was chairman of the Putnam County school board.

He was a past president of the Cookeville Rotary Club. He was a member of the United Methodist Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Jim Austin of Baxter and Mrs. Robert Baldwin of Winchester, TN. He was the father of the late Tom Sewell.

Other survivors include a brother, James Nixon Sewell of Baxter, and seven sisters: Mrs. Falby Collier and Mrs. Mildred Hyder, both of Nashville; Mrs. Melinda Gordan, Mrs. Molly Vickers, Mrs. Alverta Chaffin, Mrs. Berta Randolph, Detroit, MI; and Mrs. Melissa Bradford, Ft. Worth, TX. There are seven grandchildren.

James Nixon Sewell Obt.

Funeral services for James Nixon Sewell, 79, will be conducted from Baxter Chapel of Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home Friday, January 6, at 2 p.m. with Ernest Abston officiating. Mr. Sewell, a resident of Baxter, died January 4 in a local nursing home. He was a native of DeKalb County, the son of the late Dr. W. T. and Elizabeth Nixon Sewell. He was a retired carpenter.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Cora Gentry Sewell, three sons, Clarence Sewell, Baxter, Wilburn Sewell, Chicago, IL, Freddie Sewell, Baxter, two daughters, Mrs. Eugene Billingsley, Algood, Mrs. Frank Ferronia, Detroit, MI, one grandson, 6 sisters, Mrs. Oscar Collier, Mrs. Mildred Hyder, Nashville, Mrs. Lizzie Bradford, TX, Mrs. Alberta Chaffin, Baxter, Mrs. Birdie Chaffin and Mrs. Mollie Vickers, Detroit, MI.

Pallbearers will be Jim Austin, Jim Ed Austin, Dan Maxwell, Joe Medley, Foil Jones, Captain Jones, Nelson Stewart. Burial will be in Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Cora (Gentry) Sewell Obt.

BAXTER – Funeral services for Cora Gentry Sewell, 89, of Baxter will be held Friday, January 24, at 1 p.m. in the Baxter chapel of Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home. Burial will be in Crest Lawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Sewell died Wednesday, January 22, 1992, at Masters Health Care Center.

A native of Jackson County, she was the daughter of the late Wesley and Susan Norris Gentry.

Her family includes two daughters, Jo Billingsley of Cookeville and Jean Ferrioria of Detroit, MI; two sons, Freddie and Clarence Sewell, both of Baxter; one sister, Amanda Palk of Nashville, and one grandson, Wayne Sewell.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Nixon Sewell, and a son, Wilbur Buster Sewell.

The family will receive friends after 5 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Bro. Ernest Abston will officiate at the services.

James Austin Obt.

BAXTER - Funeral services for **James Edward Austin**, 74, of Baxter will be held Friday, October 30, at 2 p.m. in the Baxter Chapel of Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Mr. Austin died Wednesday, October 28, 1992, at his home.

He was born September 30, 1918 in Putnam County to the late **Ernest Haskel and Mae Brown Austin**.

Mr. Austin was a retired First Lieutenant with the Army serving from 1939-1945 and a retired Lieutenant Colonel with the National Guard from 1945-1963. **He was co-owner of W. T. Sewell Company in Baxter** and served as mayor of Baxter for 16 years. He was a member of the Baxter United Methodist Church, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Shriners and a Mason. He attended Tennessee Tech university and was one of the original organizers of the Baxter Civitan Club.

His family includes his wife, **Wilma Sewell Austin** of Baxter, three sons and two daughters-in-law, Jim Ed and Janice Austin of Baxter, Dale and Tom and Donna Austin of Baxter; four sisters, Opal Brandford of Smithville, Anna Lee Perry of Kingston, Mable Joyce Moore of Sparta and Carlene Robinson of Cullman, Alabama; one brother, Ernest Haskel Austin Jr., of Fort Walton Beach, Florida; five grandchildren, Dris, Amanda, Brandee Dale, Thomas and Johnny Austin, and several nieces and nephews.

Active pallbearers will be Cris and Clay Austin, Ralph Bradford, Joe Ed Moore, Ralph Gentry, Dan and Larry Maxwell, Willard Johnson, Harold Bartlett and Goodwin Harding.

Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Baxter Western Squares.

The family will receive friends today from 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Mary Heard, 660 Main Street, Algood, Tennessee 38501.

Dr. Richard Diemer and Rev. Ernest Cashdollar will officiate at the services.

Ina Jewell (Maxwell) Lee Obt.

Funeral services for **Ina Jewell Maxwell (Sister) Lee**, 85, of Baxter will be conducted in the Baxter chapel of Hooper & Huddleston Funeral Home today, Sunday, August 18, at 3 p.m. Burial will be in the Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Mrs. Lee died Saturday, August 17, 1991, at Cookeville General Hospital.

A native of Baxter, she was the daughter of the late **Norman and Ida Gossage Maxwell** and the widow of **Hop T. Lee**.

Mrs. Lee has no immediate family except several nieces and nephews whom she has held a close relationship with.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Baxter.

She played an active part, along with her father and other members of the family and W. T. Sewell & Co. of Baxter, founded in 1923.

Active pallbearers will be Jim Ed Austin, Tom Austin, Larry Maxwell, Bob Dale Maxwell, Chris Austin and Dan Maxwell.

Dr. Richard D. Diemer will officiate at the services.

Lawrence Maxwell Obt.

BAXTER – Funeral services for **Lawrence Maxwell**, 83, of Baxter will be held Thursday, December 1 at 1 p.m. in the Baxter chapel of Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Mr. Maxwell died Tuesday, November 29, 1994 in Cookeville General Hospital.

Born June 12, 1911, in Putnam County, he was the son of the late **Joel Whitten and Eliza Harville Maxwell**.

Mr. Maxwell was a retired clerk with W. T. Sewell Wholesale Co. in Baxter. He also served as town Marshall of Baxter for over 40 years and was a Navy veteran of World War II.

His family includes two daughters and sons-in-law, Betty and Luke Hensley of Baxter and Jolene and Leonard Choate of Tampa, FL; one son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Donna Maxwell of Brentwood; two sisters, Cleo Minton of Rochester, MI, and Bonnie McKinney of Elmwood; one brother, Charlie Maxwell of Baxter; and four grandchildren, Steve Choate, Sherri Sins, Suzann Hensley and Seth Maxwell.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, **Eula Brown Maxwell**.

Pallbearers will be Troy Phillips, James Mahler, Clarence Smith, Foil Jones, Steve Chote and Michael Sins.

The family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. tonight at the funeral home.

Bro. Clyde Cunningham will officiate at the services.

Galen Glen Gentry Obt.

COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for **Galen Glen Gentry**, 65, of Cookeville, will be held at 2 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 1, from the Cookeville chapel of Hooper & Huddleston Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Algood City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-9 p.m. today, Thurs., Nov. 30, at the funeral home.

Mr. Gentry died on Tues., Nov. 28, 2000, at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

He was born on April 14, 1935, in Putnam County to the late Charles Littleton and Nannie Pearl Phy Gentry. Mr. Gentry was retired from the H.T. Hackney Company. **He was associated for many years with the W.T. Sewell Company.**

Mr. Gentry was an active member of Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church and a member of the Upper Room Sunday School Class. He was affectionately known as "The Candy Man" at church.

He was also a member of the Cookeville Masonic Lodge #266 F&AM; Al Menah Shrine Temple; and a member of Pleasers Coffee Group.

His family includes his wife of more than 47 years, Amy Cumby Gentry of Cookeville, whom he married on Feb. 22, 1953; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jan and Don Holloway, and Gayle and Ted Loftis, all of Cookeville; a sister, Faye Huddleston of Cookeville; four brothers, Bobby Gentry of Cookeville, Charles Gentry of Chattanooga, Jimmy Gentry of Indianapolis, Ind., and Garry Gentry of Atlanta, Ga.; and two grandchildren, Don Holloway III and Kelly Marie Holloway, both of Cookeville.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Bobby Glen Gentry.

Pallbearers will be Earl Nichols, J.D. Ellis, R.L. Highers, Jim Prince, Wallace Prescott, Bill and Taylor Bumbalough and Mitch Teeters.

Memorial donations may be made to the Building Fund at Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church or to Pippin Church of Christ.

Dr. Charles McClaskey and Dr. Wesley Henry will officiate at the service.

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Pearl Anderson (Herron) Obt.

BAXTER -- Funeral services for Lillian Pearl Anderson, 82, of Silver Point, will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 17 at Silver Point Church of Christ. Burial will be in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 4-8 p.m. today and from noon until time of services Friday at the church.

Mrs. Anderson died Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville.

She was born Oct. 31, 1923, in Putnam County to the late Emanuel Joseph and Maudie Viola Herren Thomas.

Mrs. Anderson was a retired bookkeeper with W.T. Sewell and Co. in Baxter with more than 30 years of service.

She was a member of Silver Point Church of Christ.

Her family includes a daughter and son-in-law, Vickie and Dennis Palmer; a son and daughter-in-law, Melvin and Debbie Anderson, all of Silver Point; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Gail and Brad Tucker of Silver Point and Reba Jo and Frank Medley of Cookeville; a brother and sister-in-law, David and Alene Thomas of Cookeville; two granddaughters and their spouse, Ameer and Jeff Hooper of Nashville and Lora Palmer and her fiancée Daniel Worsham of Silver Point.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by **her husband, Stanley R. Anderson**, and two brothers, Marvin and Arvin Thomas.

Bros. Johnny W. Fox and John Whitson will officiate the services.

Baxter Chapel of Hooper Huddleston and Horner Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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<http://www.ajlambert.com>