

A Step Back in Time

By Bobbie Sue Shelton

C.C. PUCKETT'S STORE - ROVER

Charles Caswell (Charlie) and William Washington Puckett, sons of James Nathaniel Puckett, came to Rover in 1900 and went into partnership in a general merchandise store. Later Mr. Charlie bought out Mr. Will Puckett's interest and the store became C. C. Puckett's General Merchandise Store.

Mr. Charlie Puckett was a single man when he bought the store and he slept in the side room and took his meals with Dr. and Mrs. Robert Garrett and later with Mrs. Deannie Lamb. He married Elizabeth Arnold, the younger sister of Mrs. Deannie Lamb. They had 4 sons: Clyde Russell, Charles Arnold, James Nathaniel and Robert Earl who died as an infant.

Located at the corner of Old Rover Road and Kingdom Road, hardware, dry goods, groceries, shoes, machinery, and every thing from a needle to a threshing machine was sold in this general store. Mr. Sam B. Blanton clerked for C. C. Puckett for eight years. After Mr. Puckett's death, Mrs. Puckett asked Sam to stay and help her sons run the store. Sam remained for a while, and then bought land across the road in the 1930's and open up his own store. The Puckett's continued to operate the store until the late 1940s.

Other than general merchandise being sold in Puckett's Store, several different people and organizations have used the building or part of it over the years. Mrs. Lizzie Puckett had a millinery shop in one part of the store. Later in 1913 Miss Locky Lytle and in 1918 Miss Ruth Elmore also made, decorated and sold hats in C. C. Puckett's Store. (Miss Lytle later moved her business to E L. Williams's store in Eagleville). In the second story of the store, the Odd Fellows and the Rover 4-H Club held their meetings. In the early 1950s Mrs. Ruth Carlton rented the old store and sold groceries and feed for livestock. She later added a lunch counter and served food in the old store. Since Rover had three stores at the time, she and her husband Jim decided to close their business in Rover and open a store in Versailles.

The store stood in a run-down condition until November of 1998 when it was completely torn down. Some of the other general stores in Rover area over the



C.C. PUCKETT'S STORE – ROVER 1912 - L to R: Desmoine McClain, Jim Brown (on Horse), Tom Johnson Sr. K. V. Lamb (directly behind Tom Johnson), Tom Johnson C. C. Puckett (owner), Guy Bumpus, Mrs. Deanie Arnold Lamb, G. V. Arnold, Mrs. Tom Gentry, Alma Arnold, Jacie B. Gentry, Mrs. C. C. Puckett and Arnold Puckett in her arms, Russell Puckett (on pony), Frank Ray

years were Blanton's Store, Osteen's General Store, Effingham Community Store and Harville's Store.

Mr. Will Puckett, brother to C. C. and J. N. Puckett, their father, owned and operated the J. N. Puckett & Son, General Merchandise Store at Puckett Tennessee, (located between Eagleville and Rockvale, Tn.) for approximately 50 years. This store building is still standing and is used as a veteran's outpatient facility.