### Big Fish Causes Excitment At Park Lake Resort

This is frankly a fish tale.

Out at Park Lake cottagers heard a scream from the end of the lake.

"Help! Help!"

Men rushed down the shore. Women screamed and followed suit. Children dropped what they were doing and ran. Every had visions of some boy going down for the last time.

It was Bill Battson. Bill hat gone fishing and had hooked a big one, so big that he was unable to land it himself. He yelled for help. When the crowd reached him he was hanging on for dear life, his feet braced as he played the fish, his pole bent almost double. With the laid of his brother he got it to shore— a six pound bass, one of the largest ever caught at Park Lake.

Bill did no more fishing that day. The head is now mounted in Jack Helwig's window.



Bettsons Drug Store 1938 (Hartley Battson, Owner)

Me Soda fountein and Lunch counter in Phackground

with Luanch Tables in The foreground vendent a

UIUID MOREHEAD MEMORY.

From The Collection Of: Dr. Jack D. Ellis 552 W. Sun St. Morehead, KY 40351 606-784-7473



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# Battson Pharmacy Opened In 1920

Battson's Pharmacy, located on Main Street in Morehead, opened as a new business in 1920. The store has frequently expanded in size and service and is presently planning a new expansion that will afford additional floor space and a more modern lay-out.

The owner, W. Hartley Battson, first came to Morehead to visit his parents who were employed at the Morehead Normal School. He is a former secretary-treasurer of the Commercial Club, first organization of its kind in this area.

Mr. Battson has been a leader in many civic enterprises and has held almost every office in the Masonic Lodge. He has for years been one of Morehead's progressive leaders



Hartley Battson



Battsons Drag Store 1922. (L.-mr.+mrs. Battson)
Notice the medicine bottles
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Base ment.



## Battson Drugs Closes

Battson Drugs, a landmark business in Morehead for some 58 years, closed its doors last Friday.

Battson Drugs, Inc., a subsidiary of the James R. Robinson Company, Inc., and along with other Robinson related companies, were named in a lawsuit filed last week in Rowan Circuit Court by The Citizens Bank.

Also named in the suit were Elliott County Drug Store, Inc.; James R. Robinson and wife, Frances Robinson; and McKesson and Robbins Drug Company, a division of Foremost-McKesson, Inc.

The suit claims the defendants, Battson Drugs, Inc.; Elliott County Drug Store, Inc.; and the Robinsons are in default in the payment of a promissory note which was due and payable in full on February 6, 1978.

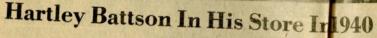
The closing of Battson Drugs, located at the corner of Main Street and University Boulevard, also means a disruption in the Greyhound bus service to the Morehead area. Battsons served as the passenger pickup station and ticket outlet for the Greyhound service.

Greyhound district representative Kent Hewitt said from his Louisville office Monday he'd already visited Morehead in search of a new passenger and ticket outlet.

Hewitt said the service is in no danger of being even temporarily discontinued and assured that a site would be secured in the next few days.

Not only did Greyhound provide Morehead with a main passenger transportation outlet but was also extensively used as a parcel service. It's reported Battson Drugs quit accepting parcels for delivery last Thursday.





# **Battson Drugs**

Battson Drugs—it's been a part of the Morehead scene for more than half a century, 58 years. Its closing will strike a note of pathos in the hearts of many Moreheadians, Morehead State University alumni, and especially in the heart of Mrs. Jewell Battson, wife of the late Hartley Battson, founder and owner of Battson Drugs for 45 years.

News that Battson Drugs was closing its doors has brought a flood of memories to Mrs. Battson who began working in Battson Drugs only one month after it opened in 1920.

She was then Miss Jewell Waltz. Four years later she became Mrs. Hartley Battson. She continued to work in the drug store along side her husband until ill

ealth forced him to sell the store and tire in 1964.

"I always found the basement of the ore interesting," Mrs. Battson said.

She explained, "the drug store is ctually constructed over the basement of former building — the Galt House, and he supporting beams are huge sawed

In addition to the unique feature in the basement, the building, which also housed The Cozy Theater and was sometimes referred to as the Cozy Building, is built out of sawed brick made

**Memories Will Linger, Despite Its Closing** 

from stone.

Mrs. Battson recalls a comment made
by Woody Hinton in his "Crackerbarrel
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Hartley Battson was not a native of Morehead. He grew up in Van Couver, (Continued On Page 2)



Mrs. Jewell Battson

British Columbia, where he attended pharmaceutical school, graduating in 1915. His parents, who were both teachers, came to Morehead to join the

staff of the Morehead Normal School.
"When he came to visit them," Mrs.
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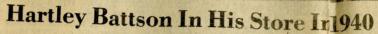
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## **Battson Drugs** Memories Will Linger, Despite Its Closing

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They made such items as aftershave lction, corn cure, face lotion, barber's hair tonic, jewelry cleaner, croup and whooping cough remedies and many others.

Mrs. Battson says that her husband regarded Morehead as his home and never had a desire to return to an urban environment such as the one in which he was reared.

He became a staunch member of the community - was an elder in the First Christian Church for a number of years, was active in the Masonic Lodge, and was a strong supporter of Morehead State College.

#### **COLLEGE HANGOUT**

The close proximity of his store to the college campus and the fact they the Battson's made a point to stock their store with school and educational supplies made it a favorite hangout for college students for a good number of years.

The passing of Battson Drugs is the passing of a business that has been a landmark For Morehead for half a century and one that will remain so in the memories of countless people.

# MOREHEAD MEMORIES PEOPLE 4ND PLACES BATTSON'S DRUG STORE

"Cherry Cokes and Comic Books"

by

Jack D. Ellis

Battson's Drug Store remains a warm memory in the minds of many Moreheadians. But it would never have happened had Hartley Battson decided to ride his motorcycle back to his native Vancouver British Columbia instead of coming to Morehead.

W. Hartley Battson was the grandson of a Missionary to New Zealand who emigrated from that British Colony back to Canada. Hartley's mother was born in 1868 aboard ship on that long dangerous voyage to Canada. The family settled in Vancouver, where Hartley was born in 1892. He grew up in that city attended the public schools and was a member of their World's Championship La Crosse Team. (Now we know where his sons Donald and Bill got their athletic ability). La Crosse was their equivalent of our basketball in terms of fan interest in Canada.

Mr. Battson attended Pharmacy College in his native city. It was an 18 month program in those days. After graduating in 1915 he came to the U.S. where he was employed as a chemist in a munitions factory in Steubenville, Ohio. After WWI (1918) he bought a motorcycle and planned to return to Vancouver. But in the meantime his father and mother had moved to Morehead and were teaching in the Morehead Normal School. So he decided to come by and visit them before returning home. While in Morehead he recalled pitching horseshoes with a group of men on unpaved Main Street. Mr.

Battson's La Crosse experience lended itself well to the game of horseshoes and he soon became one to the best in Morehead. Hartley Battson was so impressed with Morehead and its people and its potential, he decided to remain here and open a drugstore.

He never went back to Canada, in fact his family said he never even had any desire to return, and always regarded Morehead as his home. He was an elder in the First Christian Church, a member of the Masonic Lodge, Commercial Club of Morehead, and a member of the first organized fire department in Morehead in 1922. The Battson's had two sons, Donald, a resident of Morehead, and William, now deceased.

Battson Drug Store opened its doors on the corner of Main Street and West College Blvd. in the new cozy building in August, 1920. It was called the Cozy Building because of the movie theater of that name was housed in a part of the building. The building was built by Bert Willett out of sawed stone and the size of brick.

There is only one other building like this in the world. The first prescription filled was for Evelyn Royalty, a teacher at the MNS, and the business was an immediate success. Soon it became apparent that Hartley had to have help. So after one month in business, a young lady from Farmers, Kentucky by the name of Jewell Waltz enrolled in the Morehead Normal School and was hired by Hartley to help in the business. They became lifetime partners in marriage and in business.

Jewell was just what her name implies, a "jewell" in the business, and was friendly, efficient, and hard working. She recalled in the early days most prescriptions, and non-prescription

products were compounded in the basement of the building. Such items were shaving lotion, face cream, corn cure, hair tonic, jewelry cleaner, croup medicine, whooping cough medicine, and many others. Mrs Battson still had the recipe book used for these prescriptions when they sold the business in 1964. (Since then the business has changed hands many times, but Battson's Drug Store is still doing business in Morehead on East Main Street).

The basement of the drug store was actually the basement of the old Gault House that was torn down before the new building was constructed. Mrs. Battson said she always enjoyed working in the basement where the giant oak beams joined to form the foundation of the old Gault House. This old hotel was the headquarters for one of the feuding factions in the Rowan County War in 1884-1887. The fueders frequently poked their guns out from between these beams of the old Gault House and took pot shots at their enemies. The Gault House also was where the bodies of the men that were killed June 22, 1887, the final day of the Rowan County War were laid out for burial.

It was in this very same basement where men had waged war against people, that Hartley and Jewell Battson waged war against disease.

Battson's Drug Store expanded many times in the many years they were in Morehead, offering many different products and services. There was Battson's Beauty Bar, offering a wide variety of cosmetics, creams, and lotions. They offered Richard Nudnutt, Yardley, and Evening in Paris products for the ladies.

In the 1930's, soda fountain, lunch counter, magazine, and

comic book sections services were added. Among their specialities were delicious cherry cokes, lemon cokes and pineapple sundaes. The lunch counter proudly presented prepared on site: grilled ham salad, egg salad, pimento cheese and olive nut sandwiches. writer can remember he had 15 cents for lunch and he bought a pimento cheese sandwich for 10 cents and a coke for 5 cents. (Later on however, these prices increased). But they were delicious! (This was certainly a mouth watering Morehead Memory). After placing your order at the counter, you would sit down at one of the small white tables (usually with a flower and a vase on top) in one of the white triangular shaped chairs, waiting for your order to be filled. These tables just happened to be adjacent to the comic (funny books) section. There, while waiting for your order to be filled you could enter into another world. The world of Superman, Batman, Archie, Tarzan, Zorro, Spider Man, Blondie, and Sheena of the Jungle. When your name (they knew you by name and not number) was called and your order was ready, you would pick it up at the lunch counter and return to your own private comic book world. There you would nibble on your sandwich, sip your coke, and linger as long as possible in the fantasy of a make believe world.

Many of the older editions of these comic books are extremely rare and valuable today. They are now collectors items. Don Battson tells me that when these comic books were not sold, they burned them, and got credit from the company. He says he has burned up a fortune in first editions of comic books.

The late Mr. & Mrs. Battson were always patient with young

people without any money coming into the store, and not buying anything. These youngsters would sit down on the floor and read the comic books. Should they notice a child sitting on the floor and just looking at the pictures they would tell them. "Its OK for you to examine the comic books, but don't just look at the pictures, read them.

In the days when there were no lunchrooms in the schools, and on those rare occasions when we did not bring out lunch or go home for lunch, but were give 15 cents we headed for Battson's. (This writer's wife, Janis Ruth tells me they had a charge account there that she sometimes abused.)

The delightful aroma of perfumes and powders by the comics, and the smell of real butter as it sizzled on the grill remain a vivid memory. It seems all five senses were stimulated in the little drug store on the corner. Many times while sitting in school our thought were thinking of getting out of there and heading for Battson's, especially on a cold winter day where it was a warm refuge. Also, those delicious grilled home-made pimento cheese sandwiches, cherry cokes, and comic books remain a "Morehead Memory" at Battson's Drug Store.

# Morehead Memories (People and Places)

## Cherry Cokes and Comic Books

By Jack D. Ellis

(Editor's Note: This is one in a series of articles about local history entitled Morehead Memories: People and Places. The articles deal with those business and professional people that helped Morehead grow and pros-

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From Canada to a

Kentucky home

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The family settled in Vancouver, where Hartley was born in 1892. He grew up in that city, attended the public schools and was a member of their World's Championship La Crosse Team. (Now we know where his sons Donald and Bill got their athletic ability). La Crosse was their



About the author

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Community involvement important

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A corner drugstore opens in Morehead

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housed in a part of the building.
The building was built by Bert Willett out of sawed stone the size of brick. John Knapp and his son-in-law, Bert Willett, came to Morehead in the early 1900s. They operated the stone quarry at Bluestone where the stone was sawed for the building. Mr. Knapp and Mr. Willett also owned property in Rosenbuilding (a drug store) in Rosen-berg, Texas (suburb of Houston).

The family owned this build-

ing until 1955. These are the only buildings of this type of construction in the world, because brick was so much cheaper than sawed stone. Mrs. Maude Clay, a niece of Mr. Willett, still owns this beautiful historic building.

First prescription filled

The first prescription filled in the new drug store was for Evelyn Royalty, a teacher at the Morehead Normal School, and the business was an immediate success. Soon it became apparent that Hartley had to have

help.
So after one month in the business, a young lady from Farmers, by the name of Jewell Waltz enrolled in the MNS and was hired by Hartley to help in the business. They became lifetime partners in marriage and in business.

A real 'Jewel'
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Drug store 'basement' history

The basement of the drug store was actually the basement of the Old Gault House that was torn down before the new building was constructed. Mrs. Battson said she always enjoyed working in the basement where the giant oak beams joined to form the foundation of the old Gault House.

This old hotel was the headquarters for one of the feuding factions in the Rowan County War in 1884-1887. The feuders frequently poked their guns out from between these beams of the old Gault House and took pot shots at their enemies. The Gault House also was where the bodies of the men that were killed June 22, 1887, the final day of the Rowan County War, were laid out for burial.

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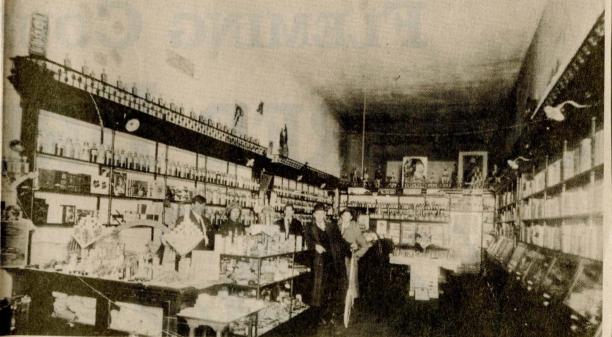
No school lunchrooms bring kids to Battson's

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Battson Drug Store, 1922. (Left - Mr. and Mrs. Battson). Notice the medicine bottles around the walls containing medicine compounded in the basement.



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Expansion brings Cokes, comics, and kids

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Battson Drug Store 1945. Jewell Battson, left, demonstrates Beauty Aid to Professor Ello O. Wilkes Morehead State College geography professor.



Battson Drug Store 1938. (Hartley Battson, owner). The soda fountain and lunch counter in the background with lunch tables in the foreground remain a vivid Morehead Memory.