



Around 'n' About

By Tom Conner

Architect had impact on capital

If dinner conversation lags to an embarrassing stall, there's always a sure fire starter to crank things off again. Just say "I'm not sure, but I believe that was a Lockwood house."

That'll usually do it, and you'll inevitably learn more than you want to about the architect of English parents who was born in 1865 in New Jersey and spent most of his youth in New York City. His father came to this country as engineer for the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Young Frank Lockwood graduated from Princeton, did post graduate work at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and went to work for an architectural firm that sent him almost immediately to Anniston, where he designed Grace Episcopal Church. Then, for two years, he lived in Columbus, Ga., before settling in Montgomery in 1894.

His talents were immediately obvious to discerning Montgomerians, and his name became synonymous with the best of his profession.

His talent in the field of music probably would have led to an equally significant career had his mother not pushed toward architecture. (In Montgomery he was choir director at the Holy Comforter).

Before he left New York he had established an enviable reputation as a singer in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and was offered a contract with the Metropolitan Opera.

Arriving here just before the turn of the century with his wife, Marguerite, Lockwood began his 41-year career in Montgomery, designing such memorable landmarks as the old Post Office at Dexter and Lawrence, wings for the state Capitol, Baldwin Junior High School, the Greystone Hotel, The Standard Club, the old Memorial Hospital on High

Street, a major addition to the First National Bank, and several buildings on Huntingdon's campus.

Lockwood inspired and helped establish several young architects in the city. Among them were **Raymond Sizemore**, whose widow, **Louise**, and their daughter, **Tonia Darby**, still live in Montgomery; and **Ben Dawson**, father of Montgomery businessman **Taylor Dawson**.

During Lockwood's long career he designed scores of residences in the city, including the **Algernon Blair** home (now home of the **Spears Rhodes**) on Felder Avenue, the **John Blue** home (now the **Porter McCollisters**) on Felder.

The **John T. Clark** home on Thomas Avenue is now home to the **Truman Hobbs Jr.** The **L.B. Whitfield** mansion on Perry Street is now the **McGregors'**; **Emma Jean** and **Chet Brown** live in the **Ralph Quisenberry** house on Woodley Road; and the **Lucian Loeb** house on Gilmer Avenue is the residence of the **Billy Williamsons**.

The **Adolph Weil** home on Perry Street is home to the **Bob Bowns**; the **George Wilders** live in the **Leonel Weil** house at Hull Street and Fairview Avenue. **Mary Walton Upchurch** has the **John Tilley** home on Thomas, the **Kirby Smiths** live in the **Hayes** house down the street on Thomas; and the **Capt. W.J. Oates** house, **Belvoir**, on Thomas is now the **Arthur Joe Grant** residence.

On **LeGrand Place**, the **LeGrand** house is now the home of the **Tommy Thaggards**. The **Rod Nachman** home on Thomas, and the **Bob Steiners'** on Gilmer Avenue are still occupied by the original owners.

Montgomery owes a lot to this man, who was a cousin of the personal physician to Queen Victoria, and cousin of noted author **Rudyard Kipling**.

Mr. Lockwood came to our city and liked it enough to take root, raise a family, and leave his mark in such splendid ways, all over our town. Mr. Lockwood died in 1935 at his home on Adams Avenue.

He never had to resort to an idea projected by his famous colleague **Frank Lloyd Wright**, who said, "The doctor can bury his mistakes, but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines."

This column appears every Wednesday in The Advertiser.