

Rainsville Church Pew

*Celebrating 50 Years
of Service
and Family Tradition*

*Pictured is the
Chapel Of The Holy Cross
Allerenville, Alabama*



CELEBRATION OF FAMILY

50th Anniversary



Rainsville Church Pew Company



Oh what a difference 50 years can make. And, what a difference it doesn't make.

Sound confusing? Well, it certainly is not – especially when the conversation revolves around Rainsville Church Pew.

A small, family-owned business that grew and grew simply by word of mouth is now – 50 years later – one of the leading industries in DeKalb County. And, current owner Jamey Jones knows exactly why the business has grown to 40 employees and eight sales representatives across the southeastern United States.

“To be honest with you, the simple fact is Rainsville Church Pew is where it is today because of the determination and hard work of Glen Kilgore,” Jones said.

But how did it all start, some 50 years ago?

■ Continued on Page 3C

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50th Anniversary



Rainsville Church Pew Company



Glen Kilgore, according to current Rainsville Church Pew owner Jamey Jones, is the reason the company expanded to one of the leading companies in the United States.

The Beginning

In a normal, every-day cabinet shop in 1958, Ted Johnson began Rainsville Church Pew Company at the simple request of a customer. Johnson owned and operated a retail furniture stores in Rainsville, but his love was in woodworking – so much so, he operated a small cabinet shop in the back of his furniture store.

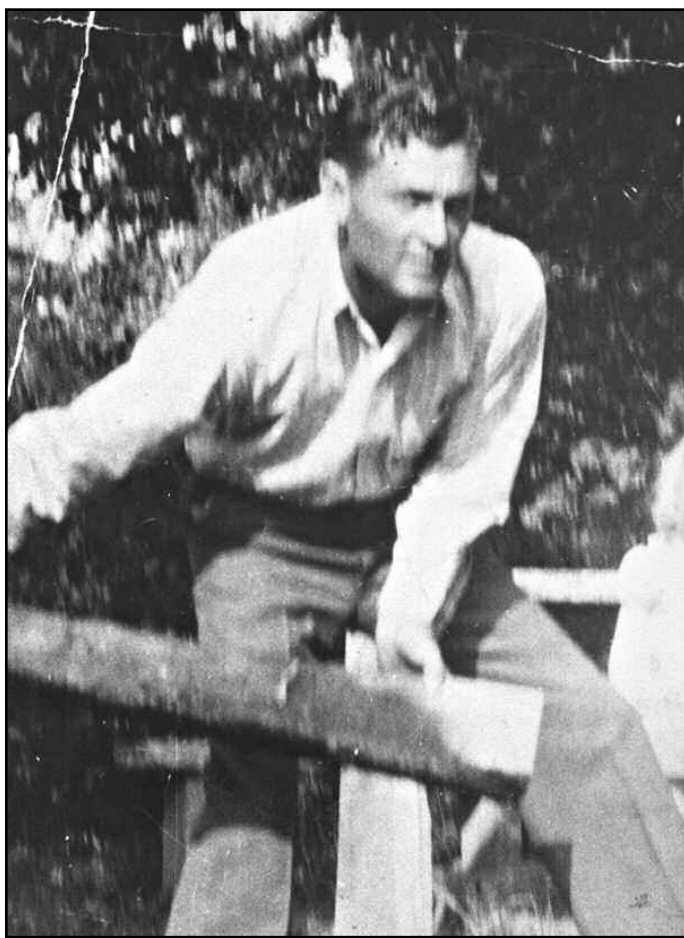
As often is the case with small business, it was a customer who changed Johnson's future. That customer needed church pews, and Johnson accepted the challenge.

Back then, Rainsville Church Pew operated on small orders, which came mostly from word of mouth. But it didn't take long for word to spread, and Johnson needed help.

Enter Glen Kilgore, Johnson's ambitious and hard-working son-in-law who saw the potential in the church pew business. Kilgore went to work for Ted Johnson in 1963. He worked hard and learned quickly. Not long after became a partner in the church pew business, and began to grow into the business it is today.

Kilgore bought half of Rainsville Church Pew in 1967, and operated it as a sole proprietorship until 1994. It was under Kilgore's leadership that Rainsville Church Pew grew and grew quickly.

■ Continued on Page 4C



Rainsville Church Pew Founder Ted Johnson

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50th Anniversary



Rainsville Church Pew Company

The Expansion

It didn't take long to figure out that one small shop in the back of a furniture store did not provide the room needed for such a successful and expanding business. True to form, Kilgore went to work and in 1970 Rainsville Church Pew moved into a new facility and employed approximately 20 people.

The new facility was a long way from the original shop. It was a block building and everything was accomplished on site. Lumber was stored in a shed. It entered the east side of the building, was sized, glued and sanded. Finishing was also done for a short time in the manufacturing building. And the business continued to grow.

In 1972, the new manufacturing building was only used for wood working, upholstering and gluing. At that time, no stains, topcoats or sealers were applied in the building. Finishing moved into a finishing room in 1972. Unfortunately, the building burned in 1975, but was rebuilt, just a little larger, on the same pad. Also in the early 1970s, two sheds were built to store foam, particleboard, lumber, pine and pressed board.

In 1973, the west end of the building was expanded, and a show room and office were added in 1984.

But 1982 the business had grown so much that the number of employees more than doubled to about 45, and more room was needed. So, in 1988 Rainsville Church Pew Company relocated to its present location at 1281 Main Street East in Rainsville.

How It's Done

The simple answer to how these high-quality pieces of furniture are produced is it's done very carefully. However, there is a little more to it.

Everything is hand-crafted and built to order at the plant, and it all starts with lumber.

■ Continued on Page 5C



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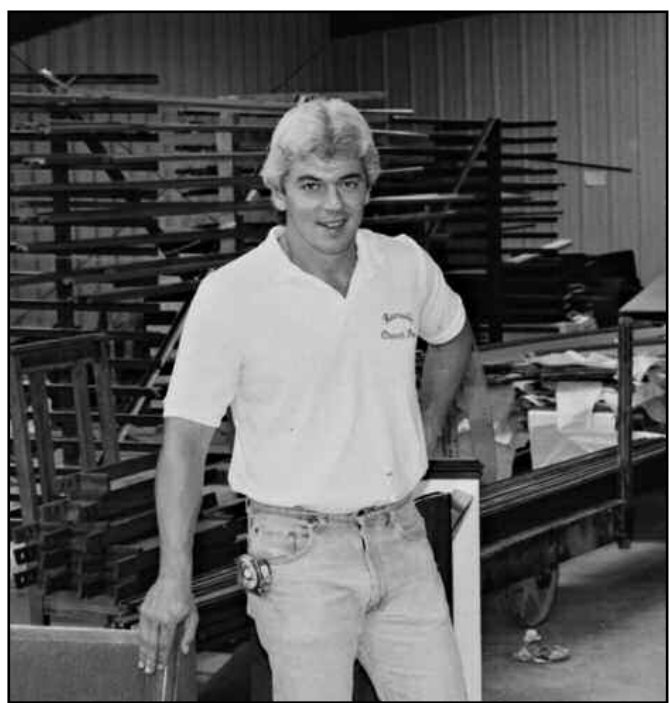
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Wishing Our Friends
at
Rainsville Church Pew
A Momentous
50th Anniversary

50th Anniversary



Rainsville Church Pew Company



Jamey Jones

Customers pick out the lumber, stain color, fabric color, amount of foam, size of the book rack for hymnals and the style. From there, the lumber is ripped and glued to specifications, depending on the style. It is then band-sawed and sanded. Everything is done in the plant, except assembly.

The furniture is transported to the church, where around three people assemble and install the pews. Installers can assemble and install around 40 pews in a day. From the time an order is placed until the time of installation is about 90 days. The average order is 25-30 pews.

Some of the larger jobs Rainsville Church Pew has tackled was an order for 200 pews in 1994 for a courtroom in the Courthouse in Atlanta. Also, Rainsville Church Pew produced 120 pews, 200 chairs and numerous wall screens for Huntsville's Trinity United Methodist Church, which was hit by a tornado.

"Many churches are misled by companies who say they build 'all-wood pews.'" Jamey Jones said in an interview back in 1994. "Particle board furniture is all-wood. But we build only solid wood furniture. They won't have a product worthy of being refinished."

A Family Affair

From Johnson to Kilgore, Rainsville Church Pew Company continues its family tradition today. Following in Kilgore's footsteps and under the expert guide of Kilgore, Jamey Jones became plant manager in 1989. Before that, he started with the business in 1982 and started the refinishing part of the business in 1985. Jones and his wife Shari, Glen Kilgore's daughter, eventually bought the business in 1994.

Rainsville Church Pew is now incorporated and employs about 40 people with eight sales representatives primarily in the southeastern United States. But that's not all. There are a half dozen architects and general contractors that help support the business.

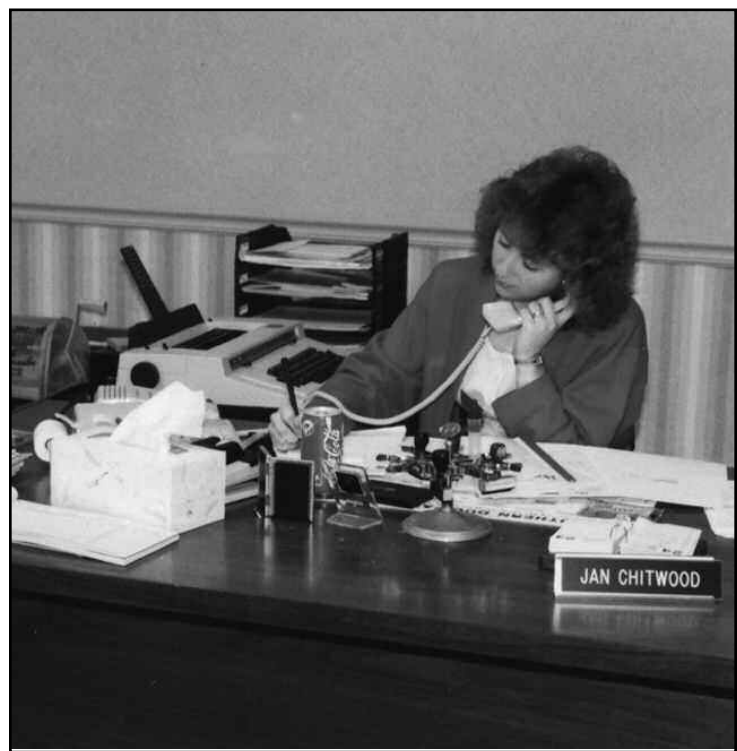
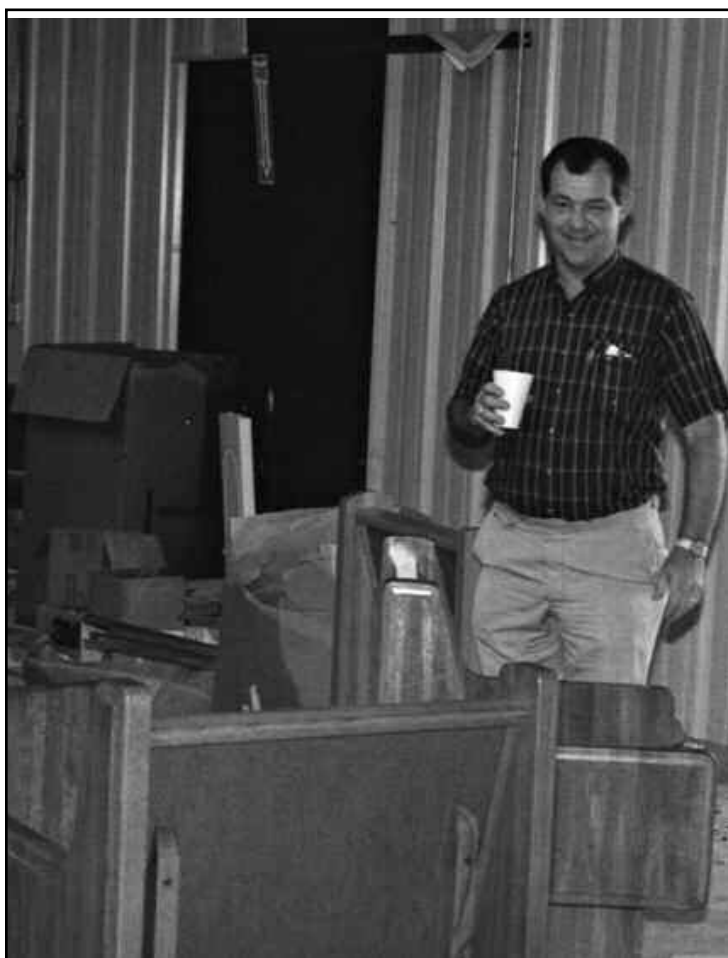
Most importantly, however, is the pride that began with a family business that continues to this day. Rainsville Church Pew is still operated by six members of founder Ted Johnson's family.

The Company

From its modest beginnings 50 years ago, Rainsville Church Pew has put furniture in funeral homes, state and federal courthouses and countless churches both locally and in far off places. Through four generations, Rainsville Church Pew has assembled and delivered products that are among the finest in the nation. It's known for producing only the highest quality solid wood products that can be found in some of the most beautiful churches in the eastern United States.

"I couldn't be prouder of our company, our employees and our reputation," owner Jamey Jones said.

And hundreds of thousands of those who attended churches throughout the eastern United States say the very same thing.



JAN CHITWOOD



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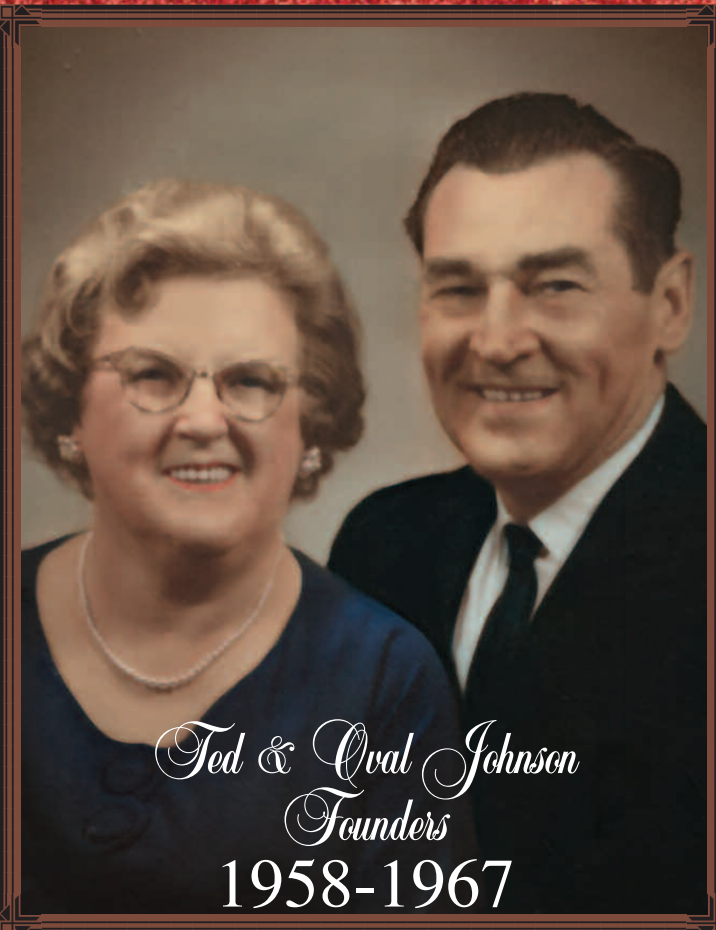

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 &
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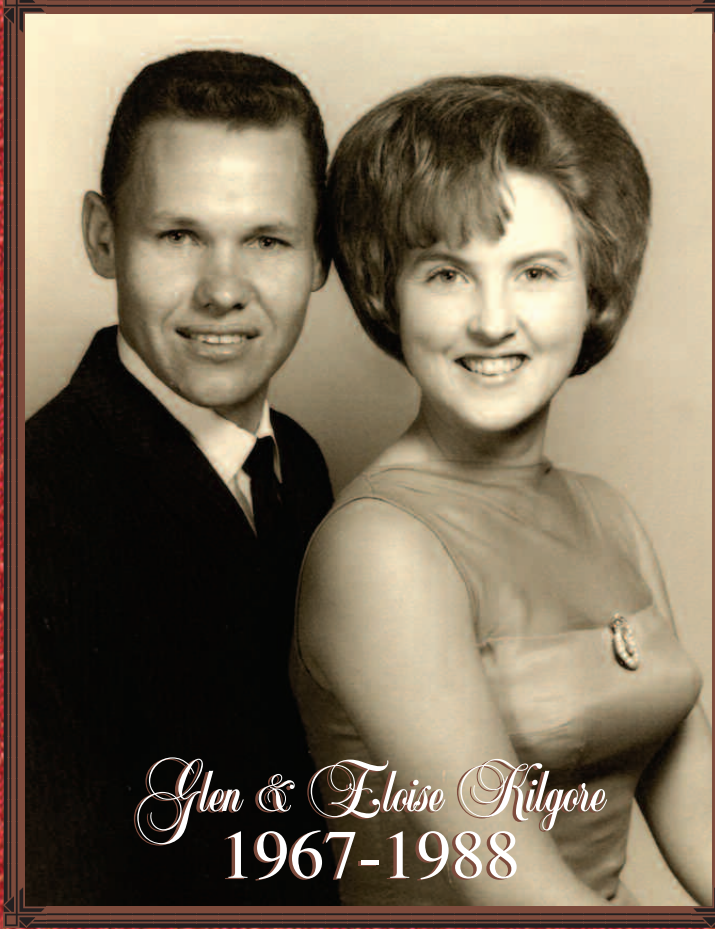
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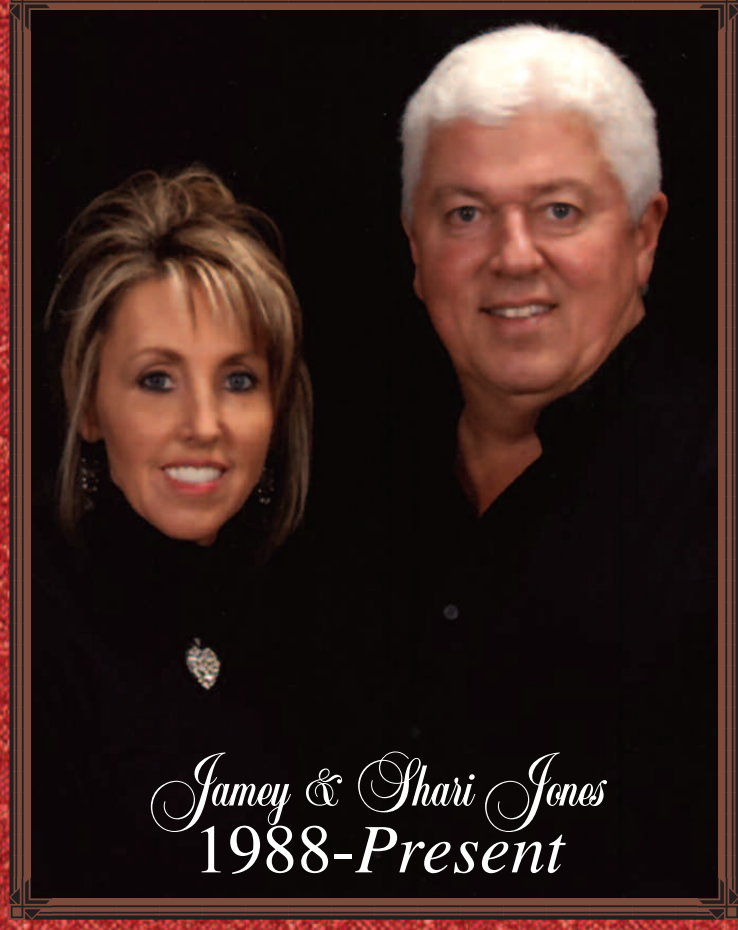
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