



*Commemorative Album*

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

# Commemorative Album

*Celebrating our City's  
Sesquicentennial of Progress*



H U N T S V I L L E , A L A B A M A

# FOREWORD

By JAMES E. TAYLOR

*General Chairman, Huntsville Sesquicentennial*

This commemorative album was written especially for the purpose of enlightening the reader in regard to our City of Huntsville, Alabama. The compilation of this work has been accomplished through the collective effort of literally hundreds of our citizens.

More than five hundred persons from all walks of life have cooperated with the Sesquicentennial Book Committee and the Editors of this Album to bring it into reality. They have manifested their devotion by painstakingly gathering material from many diverse sources, by giving generously of their time and talents in securing advertising to finance the book, and by their encouragement and help given to Editors James Record and Tom McDonald as they organized this material into attractive form and developed the layout and continuity of the work. I sincerely believe that our readers will find this narrative to be an interesting story and I am sure that the wealth of photographic illustration included herein will greatly aid in the interpretation of the material.

In behalf of the Book Committee I would like to point out that this publication is not intended to be a definitive and absolutely complete history of Huntsville. On the contrary, it is an attempt rather, to give the historical highlights of the community and a cross sectional view of Huntsville as it is today.

While the Committee made its intense effort to assemble the material, it became apparent that many of our local organizations did not possess complete and accurate records. A great deal of the material was difficult to authenticate. A large number of these groups possess histories of great importance and which merit preservation. If the writing of this commemorative album has shown these groups the necessity of such preservation for future needs then the committee feels that this is gratifying. If any organizations were omitted from this work we are extremely sorry, but the editors of this book were forced to work under considerable pressure, on a very strict schedule, and within a very limited period of time.

In six weeks, Editors Record and McDonald, assisted by an excellent committee, began from scratch and brought to completion this entire Album. It was a job which required them to work constantly on the project, including nights and week ends. The result

is a book which is more complete, better written, and more informative than the great majority of similar works which we have examined which were in a period of preparation from six to twelve months.

This is the first book of its kind published in Alabama which is as great in scope, and of this quality. The Sesquicentennial Committee firmly believes that this work will give the City of Huntsville new historical recognition and emphasis as one of Alabama's most colorful and progressive cities.

The Sesquicentennial Committee is grateful that we were able to find within our own city two men with the literary talent, journalistic experience, and organizational and leadership ability needed to edit this work. The book, like "Topsy" did not "just grow", but was planned and executed in an adept and commendable manner. For this, we owe the Editors and the Entire Sesquicentennial Book Committee our profound thanks.

These Editors have wide and diverse literary backgrounds. Both are natives of Huntsville. Mr. Record is the Madison County Auditor and Mr. McDonald is an Attorney at Law here.

Mr. Record has contributed to such periodicals as the *National County Officer*, *Scenic South*, *Governmental News*, *The Elks Magazine*, *Birmingham News*, and the *Alabama County Officer*. His writing has also appeared in the *Reader's Digest*. In 1951 he wrote *A Report On Madison County: Its History, Operation and Finances*, and in 1953, in collaboration with John McCormick he published the still popular, *Rocket City, U. S. A.* an outstanding pamphlet about Huntsville which has been well received throughout the nation, and which was primarily responsible for Huntsville being advertised nationally as "The Rocket City". In addition to his literary endeavors Mr. Record is president of Record Service Office Supply Company and has also handled publicity and public relations for a number of local organizations. He attended the University of Alabama Center, receiving their Accounting Certificate.

Mr. McDonald, although a lawyer by profession, has had varied literary and journalistic experience, having worked in practically every capacity on a newspaper in such diverse areas as printing, art, advertising, and editorial departments. He attended Vanderbilt University and George Peabody College

for Teachers in Nashville and holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Peabody. While in college he served as associate editor of *The Peabody Reflector* (the college Alumni magazine) and worked in the printing department of *The Peabody Press*. He also wrote articles and short stories for the Baptist Publishing Company of Nashville, his work appearing in *The Ambassador* and *Sentinel* Magazines.

While teaching English in High School in Asheville, N. C. in 1940-41 his original play "The Moth and the Star", was produced by the Asheville Theatre Guild. During World War II he served with the publications section of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. assisting in the preparation of Infantry Field Manuals and Training Bulletins. In addition he worked with the Fort Benning Public Relations

department and conducted a regular column in *The Fort Benning Bayonet* the post newspaper, for more than two years. His feature articles, cartoons, and short stories appeared in *Our Army* magazine, *Pic Magazine*, *The Author & Journalist*, *The Industrial Index* and in one book, an *Anthology of War Humor*.

During 1945 and 1946 he worked as a reporter and cartoonist for the *Columbus Ledger-Inquirer* doing general assignment reporting, editorials, political and sport cartoons and feature articles. He has been practicing law in Huntsville since graduating from the University of Alabama Law School in 1948 and for the past three years has served as Huntsville Correspondent for the *Birmingham Post Herald* and editor of the Huntsville Lion's Club Bulletin "*The Lion's Roar*".

Aerial Photograph of the business district of Huntsville





Left to right: Ralph Jennings, Jesse Anderson, Herman Taylor, Jr., Joyce Jones, Thomas McDonald, James Record.  
(Not shown in picture are Mrs. William Esslinger, Jr. and J. W. Green)

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## EDITORS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book was printed at Nashville, Tennessee during the months of August and September of 1955 by the Benson Printing Company.

The editors are deeply grateful to the numerous citizens of our city who furnished photographs, historical data, and other information for this Album. We regret that space limitations do not allow us to list each of these persons by name in this part of the book. However in Chapter X we have endeavored to give a complete roster of the Sesquicentennial Organization which will also include the Historical Book Committee.

We have taken special care to avoid mistakes and errors in the listing of names and organizations. We hope that our efforts to do so have been successful. However, if any mistakes have occurred, we apologize and assure the reader that such were errors of the head and not of the heart.

To the many business firms who have responded so generously with advertising for this book, we thank you for your generosity and encouragement. We deeply appreciate the effort which you have made to give complete firm histories and explanations of the business in which you engage. We feel that the best and most progressive firms of our community are represented here and that many interesting facts concerning their activity will be brought to the reader's attention. Within the space limitations allowed we have tried with utmost diligence to treat each firm's advertisement fairly, accurately and with due concern for the advertising and printing layouts requested.

It must be further noted, that through the generosity and courtesy of many of our advertisers we have been able to include a great deal more historical and current pictorial illustrations which give more depth and interest to this work.

Where possible we have attempted to include these courtesy pictures adjacent to or as a part of the donating firm's advertisement.

In conclusion, let us again say, that we thank each and every one of our many friends whose contributions made this commemorative album possible.

JAMES RECORD

TOM McDONALD  
*Editors and Co-Chairmen of the  
Historical Book Committee*

*COMMEMORATIVE POEM*

THINE LIGHT BEHOLDS

*Slowly . . . the moon rises  
Above the mountain . . .  
Towering over the city  
In the Valley below . . .  
And downward casts  
Its stately gleams on  
Souls turned heavenward  
Committed to its magic  
And its glory.*

—TOM McDONALD

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HERE WE ARE  
IN  
OUR PRE-CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES



# CHAPTER ONE

## HUNTSVILLE FROM 1805 TO 1955

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### ITS HISTORY BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

By James Record

**H**untsville, Alabama, the second oldest city in the boundaries of the territory now constituting Alabama, is the oldest English settlement in Alabama, and celebrates 150 years of stirring history in this year of 1955, with which few cities can compare.

Its early beginning dates back to the year 1805, when John Hunt, a Revolutionary War soldier who was commissioned a captain in the Tennessee State Militia at Hawkins County, Tennessee, in 1790, settled here with his family near Huntsville's Big Spring. Hunt was a man of wonderful courage and endurance and has been described as a man near six feet tall, robust and compactly built, weighing about 180 pounds. His dwelling, a two-room log house, is said to have been located about where the present City-County Curb Market now stands. Very little other personal information is known about Hunt. Neither his birthdate nor birthplace, date of marriage, place and date of burial are known.

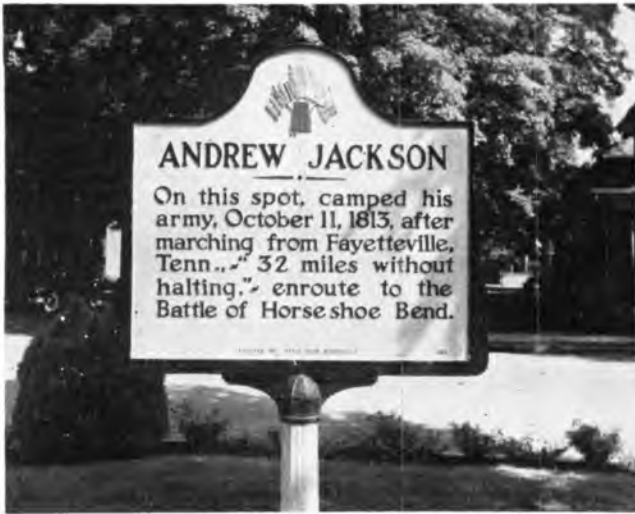
Hunt reportedly assisted in the land survey completed December, 1807, which set up the Huntsville Meridian, from which all land in North Alabama is measured.

The period 1806-1808 marked the arrival of many settlers at "Hunt's Spring," as our Big Spring was known for several years. The settlers, spurred on by reports of a wonderful territory and pleasant climate adaptable for the new way of life desired by these hardy pioneers, began arriving almost daily to begin their new civilization. This rapid influx resulted in an early formation of a representative government. Robert Williams, Governor of the Mississippi Territory, of which the area was a part, created Madison

County by proclamation on December 13, 1808, and extended the laws of the territory to the County shortly thereafter, in 1809. During this year, one of the most important in Huntsville's history, it is recorded that there were about 300 persons in Huntsville. Other events of the year reflect that the first will and the first marriage were recorded officially, and that many families were forced to move from their first locations, just outside the first county boundaries, due to their being on the places in violation of the U.S.-Cherokee-Chickasaw Indian Treaties. Lands went on sale on August 7, 1808, at the U.S. Land Office at Nashville, Tennessee, and LeRoy Pope purchased the quarter section of land upon which the Big Spring is located at about \$23 per acre, outbidding John Hunt, who, of course, desired to retain the land upon which he had settled. Hunt did buy, however, land around Brahan Spring, but later lost it through his supposed inability to pay for it. Also in 1810, the town was laid out by LeRoy Pope and associates into about 60 acres with 4½ acre lots set up in each square. The town was bounded on the north by Holmes Street, on the east by Lincoln, south by Williams, and on the west by Gallatin. LeRoy Pope sold the town most of its property, for about \$25 per acre, and donated some, too.

Thus began the real town in 1810. On December 23, 1809, Commissioners had been given authority by the Mississippi Territory Legislature to select a county seat for Madison County, and the official town name was designated as Twickenham, probably through LeRoy Pope and friends influencing the legislature, because of Pope's fondness for the English poet, Alexander Pope, whose home in England was named Twickenham.

During 1810, the first courts opened and suffrage was given the citizenry provided they were a freeholder with a town lot value of \$100. During the



next decade, some of the wealthier residents built expensive, luxurious homes we refer to today as antebellum homes, many of which are still in excellent condition. These homes were built mainly with slave labor, and very often from brick made on the premises.

The year 1811 saw the creation of what is the

oldest Masonic Lodge in Alabama, with John Hunt, a charter member, and Andrew Jackson a frequent visitor. The land office moved from Nashville to Huntsville this year due to the growing importance of the area, and in this year, the town was incorporated with the name of Huntsville, in honor of John Hunt, its founder. This was also done due to growing animosities between England and America, resulting in the war of 1812, in which a number of Huntsvillians volunteered to serve. During this year only 10 residents of the town declared themselves as aliens, giving rise to the late claims of Huntsville being nearly 100 per cent nativeborn Americans. On May, 1812, The Madison Gazette, said to be the second newspaper in the territory, was organized, and Green Academy, the second major institution of learning in the State, was chartered. This school was located where East Clinton School is now, and was later used by Federal Army troops, during their occupation of Huntsville, as a hospital. The troops burned the institution upon their removal from the city.

On October 11, 1813, General Andrew Jackson and his army came to Huntsville and camped at the intersection of Lincoln and East Holmes Streets.

The Famous Green Bottom Inn of Andrew Jackson's time. It was located where Normal A. and M. Institute now is.



While they were here, four companies were recruited, and the army continued on to the "Creek War" at Horseshoe Bend. David Crockett, the legendary hero of Indian fights and the Alamo, accompanied the army, as did John Hunt, reportedly.

During the period 1814 to 1820, the town growth continued steadily. Cotton land was producing \$100 income per acre; the first city tax on property was levied; Green Bottom Inn—where Andrew Jackson visited frequently and raced his famous horses—was built; the first public owned courthouse was started in 1816 to replace a log house used temporarily; the first bank was organized; and the town was the meeting place for many "musters," where militia companies met, drilled, played, and prepared a place where voting was held. These mustering places were the predecessors of our present precincts. In 1817, the

town had a smallpox scare, and in August 1818, more spirited public land sales were held, with land in other North Alabama counties also being sold in this second land boom. Also, in 1818, LeRoy Pope, at this time fondly called "the Father of Huntsville," due to his civic mindedness, donated land to the town for use as a public burial place. The earliest public burial place was in a cemetery located on Greene Street near the location of the present Red Cross building. It was replaced by Maple Hill Cemetery, and all graves were relocated.

Between 1818 and 1835, the Presbyterian, Methodist, Cumberland Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches were built, Roman Catholicism made its appearance, and the town attained a religious atmosphere which exists to this day. In the year 1819, far-reaching events occurred which mark this year

Tombstones situated in the old section of Maple Hill Cemetery.

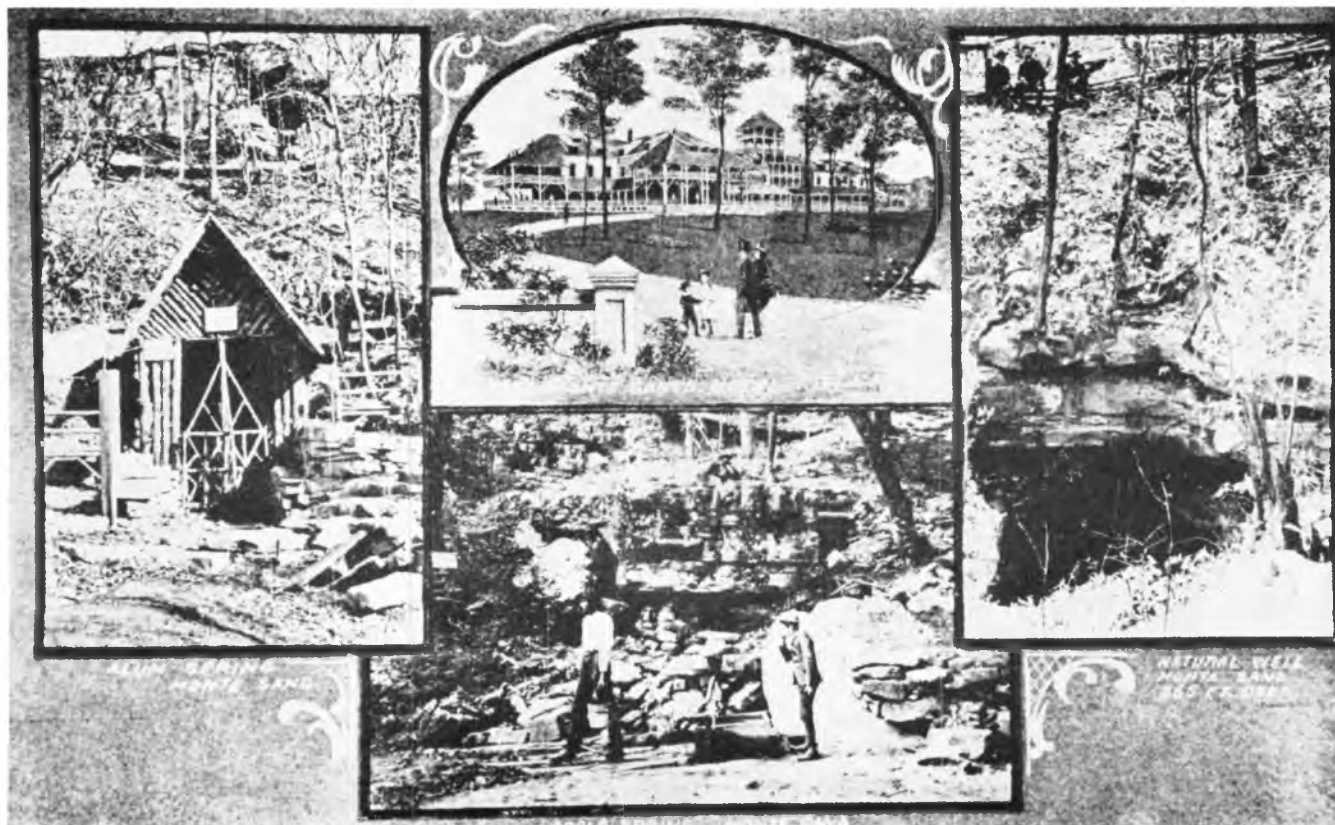




as perhaps the most important in the town's history. President James Monroe arrived unexpectedly on June 1, and was feted by Huntsville with one of the greatest displays of Southern hospitality President Monroe had witnessed. His visit was the forerunner of great things, as during the year the Alabama Constitutional Convention convened, Alabama entered the union at a spot located about where I. Schiffman and Company is now located, Alabama's first governor, William Wyatt Bibb, was inaugurated at Huntsville, the first Alabama Legislature met at Huntsville's Convention Hall, and Huntsville served as the first Capitol (temporary) of Alabama, while Cahaba, designated as the first permanent capitol, was being readied. This year disclosed that Huntsville had mastery and domination over the commercial and political life of the State of Alabama, not only because of its preponderance of population, but because it had more than its share of brilliant statesmen, financiers and successful businessmen.

The years 1822 to 1830 saw continued governmental growth and consolidations. The first Fire Company organized, a waterworks was constructed in 1823 reputedly being the first public waterworks in the Southland, the first theater was organized, and a

Scenes on Monte Sano Mountain



navigation company was created. The city population in 1822 was 1,306, in 1825 it was 1,512, and by 1828 had grown to 1,774. The town limits were expanded to within one mile of the Square in each direction, and the mayor-alderman form of city government was installed, replacing the original governmental form of elected trustees. Revenues were raised by the city government in different ways from those of today. In 1828, an act was passed which authorized the city to raise \$2,500 by lottery to build a free school, with excess revenue earmarked to purchase a town clock. A similar act had been passed in 1822 which allowed a lottery to raise \$3,000 to aid in completing construction of a Masonic Lodge building.

In the year of 1833, Monte Sano Mountain began to take an important place in the affairs of the community, with formation of the town of Viduta. Prior to that time nothing more than a few log houses and Rowe's Female College were reported in existence. Monte Sano, the "Mountain of Health," has continued to play an important part in the plans of Huntsville. From being called "The Mecca for Sick Babies" by the World's Congress of Climatologists to being declared in 1898 by the U.S. Surgeon Gen-

eral to be the second healthiest place in the United States while Spanish-American War soldiers were hospitalized there, the mountain has continued with its reputation as a healthy resort area. Many mineral springs abound on the mountain, including alum, sulphur, limestone, freestone, and chalybeate. The mountain is about 2,000 feet above sea level, and its air is exhilarating. Today, many year-round residents live there, and a land boom is presently noted.

Perhaps the best indication of the resort qualifications of Monte Sano, however, is the story of famous Monte Sano Hotel, which was opened on June 1, 1887, with 136 rooms, all with different furniture, and which rapidly became the "only place to go" for hundreds of visitors from far and wide. The lavish hospitality bestowed upon its customers, and the varied hotel attractions brought many famous guests to the hotel. Its last full season was in 1900, and this beautiful place was torn down about 1946, with only a few traces of its existence left.

From 1830 to Civil War days, prosperity and interest in education were much in evidence in Huntsville, and dancing was the vogue of the day. The Huntsville Female Seminary, one of the schools most popular for the ladies, was chartered in 1832. It

The Monte Sano Hotel





The Huntsville Female College

## COMPLIMENTARY BALL.

*The pleasure of your company is requested at a COMPLIMENTARY BALL, to be given to Capt. WM. ROBINSON, and the MADISON VOLUNTEERS, at the Madison Springs, on Thursday the 15th inst.*

BENJAMIN COYLE,  
T. FLYNT,  
JOHN R. McCURLEY,  
JOHN BIDDLE,  
WM. ROBINSON,  
A. LANIER,  
THOMAS MOSELY,

*Managers.*

L. H. JONES,  
DR. DAVEY,  
W. H. CHILDRESS,  
R. J. CLOFTON,  
WM. H. JONES,  
L. D. BRANDON,  
J. M. MOORE,

SEPTEMBER 1, 1836.



Madison County's second courthouse

was located where the old Booth home presently stands on Randolph Street, and later was utilized by Federal Army soldiers for 18 months during the Civil War. Due to financial difficulties it was sold in 1874. The Huntsville Female College, another popular institution, was organized in 1851, being opposite the present Dillard home on Randolph Street. It burned in 1895. The First National Bank building was constructed in 1835 by George Steele, a Huntsville architect whose work is found in evidence at several places in the city. In 1834 it is noted that the aldermen elected the mayor.

During this period, the Episcopal Church was organized; the first train came to Huntsville; a new city charter was issued in 1844; the second courthouse was completed in 1838; toll gates were in evidence; and a thirty foot marble monument was constructed in Maple Hill cemetery about 1840 by Richard W. Anderson to perpetuate the Huntsville Meridian at that point, as well as to perpetuate the names of his deceased relatives. Also, during the period the old water wheel at Big Spring was discarded and a steam plant was erected on the South bank of the Spring. Ten years later in 1850, the town census was 2,863, and the last ten years had seen organization of several churches, continued

political domination of the State by Madison Countians, and a prosperous economic period.

During the decade preceding the Civil War, the Madison County Rifles, long to be the military stalwarts of Huntsville, were organized, and in 1858 the noted Huntsville Hotel was built, reportedly on the spot where the old Bell Tavern had stood, and where the Henderson National Bank now is. The hotel was built to be a luxurious stopping off place for the stage coach passengers of the day, and for use as a community gathering place for the elite of the town. The hotel burned in 1910.

In 1860 the town population was 3,634, and it had begun to gear for war. Town limits were extended to three quarters of a mile from the Square, and secession talk was heard, pro and con, on every street corner. The Baptist church, formed in 1808 outside the city limits at Enon, came to Huntsville in 1861.

## THE CIVIL WAR IN HUNTSVILLE

By Halsey Townes

In common with many other great cities and towns of the Confederacy the impact of the struggle between the States on Huntsville was far reaching and of momentous impact.

Lincoln was elected on December 5, 1860. The election of delegates to the secession convention was held December 24, 1860 and all political parties in Alabama participated in this election. The Secession Convention met January 7, 1861 in Montgomery.

The Ordinance of Secession, as finally drawn up, simply states that Alabama withdrew from the Union and that her people resumed the powers delegated by the Constitution to the Federal Government. A co-operationist amendment expressed the desire of the people to form with the other Southern States

The Old Huntsville Hotel





a permanent government, and invited a convention of the states to meet in Montgomery on February 4, 1861 for consultation in regard to the common safety.

On January 11, 1861 the Ordinance of Secession was passed 69 to 31 with every member voting.

The Constitution of the Confederate States was ratified March 21, 1861, at Montgomery, and Huntsville began to gird for war.

"In the northern part of the state the attachment for the Union was very warm, and in the short interval between the Ordinance of Secession adopted January 11 and the Proclamation of War by Lincoln of April 15, the proposition to detach the northern counties and erect them into a new state was openly discussed in the Tennessee Valley. The name of "Nickajack" was decided upon for the proposed state, but the rapidly coursing stream of events quickly dispelled the idea, and probably saved Alabama from the fate of Virginia, where West Virginia was separated from it."

#### WAR

On March 28, 1861, George W. Lane of Huntsville was appointed a Federal Judge by Abraham Lincoln. Lane never recognized secession, and was an outstanding unionist from the beginning. When the union forces moved into Huntsville in 1862 Judge Lane's faded United States flag still flew from the staff he had nailed it to at the beginning of the war. General O. M. Mitchell of the Union Forces in May, 1862 recommended that when a military Government was established in Alabama, George W. Lane, the United States District judge, be appointed Military Governor.

Of the men of position and influence who were found in the ranks of the opposition to the Confederate government after 1861, Judge Lane is the only one whose course can command respect. He was faithful to the Union from first to last, while the others were erratic persons who changed sides because of personal spites and disappointments.

The people of Huntsville and North Alabama were individualists with strong opinions. Jeremiah Clemens of Huntsville and D. P. Lewis of Huntsville were both members of the secession convention as members of the cooperationists.

In the secession convention Clemens declared that he "walked deliberately into rebellion" and was prepared for all its consequences. He first opposed, then voted for, the Ordinance of Secession, and afterward accepted the office of Commander of the Alabama Militia as a Major General. For a year Clemens was

loyal to the "rebellion," but in 1862 after Huntsville was occupied by Union Troops he gave up his command as Major General of Alabama Militia and returned to Huntsville and the protection of the Union Forces. Before the War, Clemens had been a United States Senator from Alabama, a colonel in the Mexican War, an author of several books, and was a relative of Mark Twain.

David P. Lewis of Huntsville voted against secession but signed the Ordinance, and was elected to the provisional Congress. In 1863 he was appointed a Circuit judge by the Governor of Alabama. This position he held for a few months, and then deserted to the Federals.

These men have been mentioned to show that the feelings in Huntsville during the War were divided. There was not a unanimous feeling in Huntsville for or against secession.

#### OCCUPATION OF HUNTSVILLE

There was very little actual fighting in Alabama until 1864 and 1865, except North of the Tennessee River.

From the Regimental historian of the 24th Illinois volunteers, the following account is recorded about the capture of Huntsville. This account is substantially corroborated in the Diary of Mrs. W. D. Chadwick.

"Mitchell's Division of Buels Army having been assigned to the task of penetrating the enemy's country to Huntsville, Alabama, and by occupying that place severing the main line of communication between the Rebel armies in the East and in the West, the command moved to Murphreesboro remaining there until April 4, 1862, building bridges, repairing roads, and making ready for the coming campaign. Huntsville, Alabama was a railroad center of vital importance to the Confederates. Colonel Turchin got permission from General Mitchell to advance with his brigade, and if possible to surprise and capture the city before the enemy was prepared for defense.

"On the morning of April 10th, 1862 the expedition marched from Fayetteville, Tennessee. Turchin's Brigade which consisted of the 19th and 24th Illinois, 18th Ohio, 37th Indiana, and 4th Ohio Cavalry, and Simonson's Battery, was followed by the other two Brigades of the Division at a little distance.

"Their progress was slow, and exceedingly laborious, owing to the terrible condition of the roads, which led through swamps and forest, or over high and precipitous hills up which mules could hardly drag the wagons.

"About 6:00 A.M. on the morning of the 11th of April, 1862, Kennetts Cavalry, which was in the lead, came in sight of the town. A section of Simonson's Battery was placed in position on Meridianville road, which with a few well directed shots succeeded in capturing a locomotive with train, which was steaming out of Huntsville towards Stephenson. The train was carrying 150 Confederate soldiers who then became prisoners of war. As the infantry came up, Colonel Mihalotzy sent a detachment of the 24th to tear up track and prevent the escape of any trains.

"The troops meanwhile entered Huntsville taking the town completely by surprise, and captured the Confederate soldiers garrisoning the place without a blow being struck. Captured also were 17 locomotives, 150 cars, and an immense amount of railroad and war material."

After the capture of Huntsville in April, 1862 the Union troops remained until August 31st, 1862. They returned again in July of 1863 and stayed for the remainder of the war.

During the occupation of Huntsville by Union troops the welfare of the citizens was dependent on the character of the commanding officer.

The first commanding officers were Colonel Turchin of General Mitchell's command, and indignities were heaped on the defenseless people.

Colonel Turchin was arrested by General Buell, on account of disorders committed by his troops at Athens, Alabama. He was to be court martialled but before the sentence of dismissal from the Army as Colonel of the 19th Illinois had been pronounced, he was commissioned by President Abraham Lincoln a Brigadier General and returned to Chicago to assume a new command.

General Mitchell, Colonel Turchin and other officers of the Union armies brought their families to Huntsville to live with them. They confiscated the homes of Confederate soldiers who were away at war, and commandeered rooms in the homes of Confederate sympathizers, who had sons and husbands in the Confederate army.

All mail going out of Huntsville had to be censored, and passes had to be obtained by all citizens to leave town.

Homes were searched for arms and concealed soldiers. The Negroes gave information which implicated their masters.

An order was issued that the stockholders of the Huntsville Hotel had to take an oath of allegiance to the United States or the hotel would be confiscated, also no one could bring provisions to town or leave town until the oath was taken.

With these things taking place in Huntsville a number of Confederate soldiers resigned their positions in the Confederate Army and returned to Huntsville to look after their families.

General Mitchell complained that his officers were not being taken into the social circle of Huntsville. On June 28th General Buell replaced General Mitchell with General Smith and conditions improved somewhat for the people of Huntsville. Passes were granted again to leave the Union lines.

One of the most disgraceful things done by the Union troops in Huntsville was their treatment of former Governors C. C. Clay and Rueben Chapman, who were now old men and unable physically to take part on either side, but whose sentiments were all with the Confederacy. They were constantly brought in for questioning, and Governor Chapman's home was burned by the Federal troops. Governor Chapman was forced to leave the Union lines for safety. Governor Clay was arrested and taken to Nashville when the Federal troops left in August of 1862.

During the year the Union troops were away from Huntsville, conditions improved somewhat for those with Confederate sympathies. The soldiers returned to visit their families, and to make what provisions for them as they could.

When the Federal troops left in August of 1862 a troop of Confederate cavalry under Captain Gurley immediately occupied the town.

The return of the Union troops in July, 1863 was so sudden some of the Confederate officers and men stationed in Huntsville had a hard time escaping. Among them was Colonel W. D. Chadwick, who was assisted by Nicholas Davis who had given up his commission in the Confederate Army and returned to Huntsville to live.

The new troops in Huntsville were under the command of General David S. Stanley.

By this time most of the Negroes had left their masters, and were arrested by the Union forces and put into labor battalions to build fortifications.

In November of 1863 Abolitionists preachers began to arrive in Huntsville from the north and more trouble began for the Union forces and the citizens.

In December of 1863 Doctor Bannister, the Episcopal minister, was prevented from preaching until he would agree to pray for Lincoln. Doctor Bannister would not agree and could not preach again until February 5, 1864.

All during the period of occupation by Union forces the officers brought their *families* to Huntsville to live with them.

Daughters of many prominent Huntsville people

married men from the Union Army and moved North to live.

By 1864 it was difficult for Confederate sympathizers in Huntsville to get food and clothes. Beef was \$1.00 per pound and sugar \$3.00 per pound in Confederate money.

Union troops sold and gave their rations to Confederate sympathizers. Mrs. W. D. Chadwick tells of buying a barrel of flour from a Union soldier for \$11.00 in greenbacks.

A history of Huntsville would not be complete without mention of natives of Huntsville who played a prominent part in Confederate affairs even though they were not stationed in Huntsville during the war.

C. C. Clay was United States Senator from Alabama at the time Alabama seceded. He was the son of former Governor Clay, who was so mistreated by the Union forces in Huntsville. In Senator Clay's last speech in the United States Senate he said: "It has been 42 years since Alabama entered the Union amidst scenes of excitement and violence caused by the hostility of the North against the institution of slavery in the South (referring to the conflict over Missouri). In the churches, Southern Christians were denied communion because of what the North styled the 'Leprosy of Slavery'."

Senator Clay was elected a member of the first Confederate Senate and served until 1863 when he was appointed by Jefferson Davis to go to Canada as one of three commissioners on a secret mission for the Confederacy. The function of this commission was primarily espionage, and sabotage. They were implicated in the attempted burning of New York City, the capture and destruction of boats on the Great Lakes, the robbing of banks in St. Albans, Vermont, and the Copperhead movement in the Midwest.

At the close of the War Senator Clay surrendered to Union troops in Georgia and was imprisoned for 12 months with Jefferson Davis. The picture of C. C. Clay appeared on \$1.00 Confederate bills.

Leroy Pope Walker of Huntsville was appointed by Jefferson Davis as Secretary in his cabinet. In 1862 he resigned from the cabinet and took a commission as Brigadier General and was in command of troops in Mobile for a while. The next year he was appointed judge of a military court and served until the end of the war. When the Union troops first occupied Huntsville, Mr. Walker was there and barely escaped across the river.

General John Hunt Morgan was born in Huntsville and spent some of his youth in Huntsville, but at the time of the war he was living in Kentucky.

He won fame for himself as a cavalry leader. When General Mitchell was stationed in Huntsville as commanding officer, General Morgan's men captured his son near Pulaski, Tennessee. General Morgan sent the son on parole to his father in Huntsville in exchange for General Morgan's brother who had been captured by Mitchell.

General Joe Wheeler, though not a resident of Huntsville, was the first Colonel of the 19th Alabama regiment organized in Huntsville in 1861. After the battle of Shiloh, Colonel Wheeler was transferred to Cavalry, promoted to General, and finally became the Senior Cavalry General in the Confederate Army. General Wheeler was the only Confederate General to attain the rank of General in the United States Army after the Civil War. He served with distinction in the Spanish American War.

## RECONSTRUCTION

The surrender of the Military Department of Alabama was a part which took place on May 4, 1865. This caused a cessation of active operations in the state.

The Washington Government did not recognize the Civil Administration of the state, and for a short while there was no authority save that of the sword.

The people of Huntsville by this time were impoverished, and the fields were barren. The capital in Montgomery was occupied by the foe.

On June 21, 1865, Louis E. Parsons was appointed provisional governor. He went about the task of bringing order out of chaos, and provided for the election of state officials in November.

The convention provided for by Governor Parsons met in Montgomery September 12, 1865. Three ordinances of importance were passed. They were (1) to abolish slavery, (2) to annul the ordinance of secession, and (3) to annul all ordinances of the convention of 1861 in conflict with the constitution of the United States. The effect of these ordinances was to legalize the facts accomplished by the results of the war.

In November Robert M. Patton was elected Governor and at the same time a General assembly was elected.

The General Assembly, as was the custom in those days, elected the Senators and Representatives to the Congress of the United States, but on their arrival in Washington they were refused recognition.

Two years after the cessation of hostilities, on March 2, 1867, a bill was passed, over President Johnson's veto, by which Alabama was renamed to the status of a conquered province. A General was

placed in charge whose authority superceeded the Civil and Judicial tribunals. The act further provided for the time when this military status should cease. It was to be when a convention of the people of the state should frame a constitution recognizing Negro suffrage, and otherwise acceptable to the Federal Congress, and when the proposed XIV amendment to the Constitution of the United States should be ratified by the Legislature. This Constitution was to be framed by delegates elected by the votes of all male citizens of legal age, save the numerous classes it was proposed to disfranchise by the so called XIV amendment. The effect of these provisions was to give a vote to the Negro and take the vote away from the Whites. It accomplished this purpose, and conditions in Alabama and Huntsville became worse than they had been during the War.

There was an influx into Huntsville as into other parts of the state of unscrupulous people from the North who acted like vultures preying on a defeated foe. The people became known as Carpet Baggers.

There was also an influx of Abolitionist preachers and teachers who came down to look after the Negroes.

Then there were the Scalawags who were Southerners who joined forces with the Carpet Baggers and Abolitionists.

Besides these general groups there was the Union League, a political organization sponsored by northern republicans who worked towards the regimentation of Negroes for the purpose of voting them in blocks to assure the Carpet Bag rub.

Then there was the Freedman's Bureau sent down by the Federal Government to take care of the Negro, see to his education, and guarantee his political freedom. This Freedman's Bureau collected the freed Negroes into camps near large towns. The Bureau confiscated the plantation of ex-Governor Rueben Chapman of Huntsville for use as a camp for Negroes. Starvation was terrible among the Negroes as well as the Whites. The Freedman's Bureau actually fed more Whites than they did Negroes.

One of the greatest blows to Huntsville at the end of the war was that the regular army men who had been stationed there during the war were mustered out and returned home. A new type of officer and enlisted man took their places. These new soldiers were known as volunteers. Their attitude seemed to be that this was conquered territory and to the victor belonged the spoils. Marauding bands of Union soldiers or groups disguised as Union soldiers preyed on citizens of Huntsville, and Madison County. Women were insulted and kept in constant

fear. The streets of Huntsville were crowded with drunken soldiers, lewd women, and Negroes.

Another problem was the Negro. He had not asked for freedom, and was not prepared for freedom when it came. His conception of what freedom meant and the responsibilities it carried were vague. When freedom came he felt he should own a rifle, a dog, and go fishing. The Negro men felt that they should also be free from their wives married in slavery and thousands left them.

The Freedman's Bureau set up contracts which White people had to sign before they could get a Negro to work for them. These contracts called for payment of wages in greenbacks. There were no greenbacks in the South with which to pay, so the Negro couldn't work.

With no government and conditions as shown above there seemed to be little help for Huntsville until the organization of the Ku Klux Klan. This organization, formed by a group of Confederate veterans in Pulaski, Tennessee, soon had an organization in Huntsville. The principles of the original Klan were high and its members lived up to these principles. It accomplished much in bringing order out of chaos. The Klan was a secret organization and its members wore hoods as disguises. These disguises scared the superstitious Negroes into line and put a check on the Carpet Baggers and Scalawags.

At the beginning the disguises were an asset to the members of the Klan but by 1868 the Carpet Baggers were dressing as Klansmen and committing atrocities which were attributed to the Klan. About 1868 the official Klan stopped wearing disguises and went into the field of politics to regain for the South a government of their own. With reconstruction accomplished the original Klan ceased to exist in 1877.

## HUNTSVILLE SINCE RECONSTRUCTION DAYS

By James Record

As the reconstruction period tapered off into the 1880's and the gay 90's, bitterness of the aftermath of the Civil War began to wane and as the city started to grow and expand, our citizens were revealing a high degree of interest in the life and culture of the times.

The year of 1869 saw resumption of the town's delayed building progress. In this year the McGee Hotel, located where the present State National Bank Building now is, was built.

On March 31, 1870, a new town charter was received, and the census population consisted of 4,907 persons, 2,532 of which were white. In 1873 a cholera epidemic was experienced, and in 1876, on February 25, the city limits were reduced to 1½ miles in each direction from the Square.

The 1880 census showed a population of 4,977; a telephone exchange was built in 1883; the first baseball game on record was played in 1883; and the celebrated Frank James, brother of Jesse James, was tried in Federal Court at the old Calhoun building, located on the spot where the present Atlantic and Pacific store now does business. James was acquitted, probably due to his activities for the Confederate Army during the war, and reportedly later met the jury which had acquitted him and thanked them. This meeting was reportedly in the lobby of the old Stegall hotel.

In 1887, the Huntsville Electric Company, a pri-

vate concern which had been organized in 1882, was granted rights to erect poles and string wires, and out went the hand lighted gas lamps in July, being replaced by suspended arc lamps. The electric era was thus ushered into Huntsville. The Randolph Street Church of Christ opened in this year, and the Jewish church was built in 1898. In 1899 the city's coldest weather was reported, with temperatures dropping as low as 15 degrees below zero.

The gay '90's were just that in Huntsville. This was an era of great change, with the ideals of the Old South caught on the crest of a rising industrialism. The greatest industrial growth in Huntsville's history was experienced in this period with much Northern capital and capitalists combining with local enterprise to launch an unbelievably fast industrial growth, brought about in part by a great amount of money being spent in advertising the town. Concerns locating in Huntsville during this time include

The Old McGhee Hotel





All Aboard for a "Tally-Ho" ride





First Federal Postoffice building

Chase Brothers Nursery; Huntsville Wholesale Nursery; Dallas Mills; Huntsville Cotton Mills; Merrimack Manufacturing Company; Huntsville Fertilizer and Milling Company; The Spoke and Handle Factory; Boyd's Flouring Mills; the Farmers' Alliance; a canning factory; the Lownes Mills; Mazza's Candy Factory; and the Huntsville Furniture Factory.

Recreation of the period included opera, theater, card playing, buggy, surrey, sulkies, cab, tally-ho, wagon and runabout excursions, dances, Germans,

and many types of community gatherings. Gentility was, as is the history of most of the South, held above riches, and the town residents obviously enjoyed themselves immensely. Saloons were closed, and the swinging doors never re-appeared. The dispensary system replaced them, and residents were required to go to the one location for their beverages.

Historical events of the period included moving of the U.S. Postoffice into a newly constructed building at the corner of Greene and Eustis Streets in 1890. This building was torn down during 1954 and most of the property is presently being used for a downtown parking lot. Shelta caverns on Pulaski Pike opened during this period and many dancing and boating parties were held in the caverns. It is not now open to the public. Noteworthy in 1880 was election of two Negroes to the City Council, while in 1883 still another church was organized, the Epworth Methodist.

The Pullman Company, showing the growth of Monte Sano as a resort area, named one of their cars "Monte Sano," during the 90's.

Political affairs were well attended, too, during the last twenty years of the 19th century. In 1886, 800 Democrats gathered at a political meeting, and political speeches about the issues of the day flew thick and fast. In 1882 Democrats had also attended a

A Baptism in the Big Spring branch



large political gathering on the Square, and were welcomed by three bands playing Dixie, while forty-four beautiful girls were on hand representing the states of the Union at that time. Baptisms in the Big Spring branch became common occurrences, too.

During the 90's the North Alabama Improvement Company, one of the area's greatest boosters, entered into one of the largest real estate deals on record with the Northwestern Land Association of Pierre, South Dakota, involving about one million dollars, and including the Monte Sano Hotel and the Huntsville Hotel, along with other property. This transaction was responsible for bringing many Northern capitalists into Huntsville. Also in the 90's the celebrated axe-swinging Carrie Nation came and tried to get the saloons to close up.

The year 1892 saw free delivery of mail come to pass, and witnessed the famous reception for Lily Flagg, world champion butterfat producer, given by General Samuel Moore at his home on Adams Avenue, now the Milton K. Cummings home. Needless to say, milk was the beverage of the party.

In 1895, a city hospital was opened on Mill Street in a rented house, and in 1896 another city charter was granted. A serious measles scare was experienced in this year, and the first long distance telephone call was made from Huntsville. Mayor W. T. Hutchens phoned greetings to New York, and during the day

phoned other cities, with more than a thousand persons witnessing the calls, among whom was R. A. Moore, manager of Southern Bell Telephone Company, and who had been the first Associated Press representative in Huntsville. Thirty-two names had been recorded in the first Huntsville telephone directory, which was hand written.

The Spanish-American War broke out in 1898 and Huntsville was successful in obtaining an encampment of about 15,000 soldiers. General Joseph Wheeler visited Huntsville several times, and was presented a fine horse by grateful Huntsvillians. The soldiers left their mark indelibly on Huntsville, and many memories linger among the older residents about their stay. They were camped primarily around the Brahan Spring and East Huntsville areas, with their headquarters being at the old Steele (now Jeff Darwin) home on 14th Street. It is chronicled that in March 1899 when the 16th Infantry left that Huntsville appeared a deserted town.

Also in 1898-1899, the improvement of the Big Spring area was spurred by existence of the soldiers. The present pump house was constructed in 1899, the present dam was built, the stream channel was concreted, and the spring fountain was erected. In 1898, too, the only recorded Courthouse fire was brought about by several drunken soldiers being imprisoned in its basement. These soldiers set fire to

Spanish-American War parade







The Elks' building

some papers, but the fire was extinguished before a great many papers were burned. No appreciable damage was done to the building.

On May 1, 1900, the second U.S. President to

come through Huntsville, President William McKinley, was greeted at his train by an estimated 8,000 persons. This year the census reported a city population of 8,068, and saw a Confederate monument erected on the Courthouse Square.

In 1901, the Elks' Lodge No. 698, predecessor of the present Elks' Lodge on Franklin Street, was organized, and in 1906 completed the Elks' Building on Eustis Street, including the Theater. This Theater rapidly became the town's favorite place for vaudeville, concerts, minstrels, lectures and community gatherings. Among the lecturers was William Jennings Bryan, the "Silver Tongued Orator." The Elks' Lodge disbanded about 1917, due to financial reverses, and the Garth estate assumed ownership of the building, later selling it to Madison County for \$20,000, for use as a Courthouse Annex.

During the period 1900 to 1910, train and boat excursions were fashionable, autos were causing excitement on the streets of Huntsville, and horse and mule trading was a common sight on the Courthouse Square, as were hundreds of loaded cotton wagons.

Dedication of the Confederate monument on the courthouse square



**N. B.—FOLLOW THE MARSHAL.  
KEEP IN LINE**

**PROGRAMME**  
NASHVILLE AUTOMOBILE  
CLUB  
RUN TO  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.  
JULY 29, 1910  
GUESTS OF  
HUNTSVILLE BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB.

NOON.

Reception Committee meet visitors at Fisk, Ala.  
(The Governor of N. C.'s address to the Governor of S. C.)

17 miles of Alabama Goods Roads and Scenery.

12:30 P. M.

**HUNTSVILLE, ALA.**

"The One Best Bet"

ALABAMA BRASS BAND

"A Hot Time in the Good Town Today"

Auto-Promenade

(Follow the Marshal.)

1:00 P. M.  
BRAHAN SPRINGS.

Chicken Barbecue  
Trimnings

Gasoline \_\_\_\_\_ Dope \_\_\_\_\_

We have Natural Gas

Pure Air \_\_\_\_\_ Hot Air \_\_\_\_\_

**ORATORY**

Address of Welcome.....Dr. J. D. Humphrey  
Pres. Business Men's Club.

Response .....

Good Roads.....Judge Wm. Richardson, M. C.

Response .....

Address.....W. S. Frost, Sect'y Y. M. C. A.

Response .....

Inter-State Commerce...Hon. J. Sykes Gilbert  
of Ala.-Tenn.

R. S. V. P. ....

No "Git a Horse" advice welcomed here





STREET SCENE IN HUNTSVILLE DURING COTTON SEASON

The Street Car comes to Huntsville (East Side of Square)



The population in 1900 was 8,068 and in 1910 was 7,611. On February 27, 1901, the first streetcar made its run with the mayor and alderman as its first passengers. The year 1907 saw the adoption of the present form of city government, and the first president of the city council was elected. The year 1910 saw the beginning of construction on the Central Y.M.C.A. located at the corner of Randolph and Greene Streets.

One of Huntsville's largest fires, the disastrous Huntsville Hotel fire, occurred in 1910, and was followed in 1911 by another disastrous fire in the same block, with the Huntsville Hotel annex and Opera House burning. Several business establishments were destroyed, having an estimated value of \$300,000.

During 1911, the Alabama Power Company bought out the Huntsville Railway, Light and Power Company, successor to the Huntsville Electric Company.

The year 1912 saw Pinhook Creek and the Big Spring Branch flood, causing widespread damage, the first of any significance since 1870. The first city whiteway electric system was installed by the Alabama Power Company in 1913, and parcel post delivery was begun by the Postoffice. In 1914, the city installed chlorine in its water system, forestalling a typhoid epidemic. The year of 1914 was also the public cemeteries big year, as local groups were successful in getting the City Council to begin a maintenance program which has resulted today in one of the better kept cemeteries in Alabama. Perhaps one of the reasons lies behind the fact that several Alabama governors and other widely known figures lie buried at Maple Hill Cemetery. In 1914, too, the present Courthouse was completed for occupancy, and Dallas Mills built the Dallas Y.M.C.A., now the home of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. In this year, also, the city bought the city hall property and converted an old house on the premises into the present city hall.

The next year, 1915, saw completion of the Twickenham Hotel, and advertisement by the Alabama Power Company to the effect that they would wire a five-room house for \$8.75, with 83 cents cash to be paid down, and 72 cents per month to be paid for 11 months. Virginia McCormick Memorial Association, known now popularly as the West Huntsville Y.M.C.A., was also opened in 1915.

The present form of city government, which had been voted out in 1911 to be replaced by the City Commission form, was voted back in 1916, following an intensive campaign. Other attempts have been made to change back to the commission form since that time, but have been unsuccessful. The year 1916 saw one of the most publicized murders in the



State National Bank building

area. Probate Judge Lawler was murdered and his body found in a creek near the Tennessee River, but his murderer was quickly brought to justice. The year 1917 saw organization of the Huntsville Times, the only daily newspaper in Madison County. Preceding the Times had been about twenty other newspapers including the Huntsville Democrat, Daily Independent and different Mercury publications.

World War I arrived and many Huntsvillians volunteered. The city geared for a war economy and many new business concerns were begun. Two Armistice parades celebrated the war's end.

The picture of a town flexing its muscles to overcome obstacles incurred from the war years and consolidating the gains it had experienced economically, was the story of Huntsville from 1918 to 1930. New Chevrolets were advertised for \$835 in 1919, and the Madison County Fair Association was organized in 1920. The population grew to 8,018 in 1920 and to 11,554 in 1930. Thousands attended Monte Sano real estate promotions during 1920 and subsequent years. In the year 1924 henna and peroxide had their day, and hobble skirts and hoop skirts came and went. The Bobbed hair craze kept the ladies visiting the beauty shops. Following the burning of the McGee



The Times building

Hotel in 1925, the present State National Bank building was built in 1926, and was first known as the Tennessee Valley Bank building. The present Hospital was also built in 1926. In 1927, construction of The Times building was begun, and in 1928, Huntsville's first Aviation Field was dedicated; the contract was let for the \$500,000 Russel Erskine Hotel building; and shortly thereafter, in 1931, Huntsville's first permanent radio station was opened. The latter part of the decade saw the advent of talking pictures at the Lyric Theater, and an addition of .25 square miles to the city limits, bringing it to a total of 2.50 square miles. Cotton was selling for about 17 cents per pound during this time.

The decade from 1930 to 1940 saw Huntsville survive its worst depression, along with the rest of the country. Shaves were 10 cents, haircuts 15 cents, milk was 10 cents per quart, and permanent waves were advertised at \$3.50 during 1930. Local banks opened on March 9, 1933, with provisions for unlimited deposits, but restrictions to only 5 per cent withdrawals.

Crippling textile strikes occurred during this period, and cotton sold for 18 cents per pound. The town got a new Federal Post Office in 1936, experienced a major fire on Washington Street's east side between Clinton and Holmes Streets in 1935, and voted to legalize liquor and beer in 1937. Merchants were troubled during this year of 1937 with collection of Sales Tax Tokens. The Fairgrounds also suffered a \$200,000 fire in this year.

On March 15, 1938, local citizens had a chance to show their "hospitality". Eighteen army pursuit planes had become lost at night, and hundreds of cars rushed to the air field, located in the vicinity of the present Mayfair subdivision, turned on their lights, and enabled the planes to land. This year also saw construction of the National Guard Armory.

August 25, 1936, was a red letter day for Huntsville. On this day, Monte Sano State Park was dedicated, the occasion being accompanied by a large celebration, including a pageant held on Monte Sano titled "Huntsville Marches Onward". The park was begun in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, after Madison County had purchased 2,000 acres and given it to the State for construction of a state park.

A banner year for city government was experienced in 1940. During this year the city swimming pool was built, W.P.A. projects included building of many improvements by about 900 workers, airport property was bought jointly by the city and county, and the city bought the Alabama Power Company for a sum in excess of 1½ million dollars. This investment was proven to be one of the wisest investments ever made by the city. The City Electric System today has the only county-wide system in Alabama free from debt and giving complete area coverage. The entire electric supply is purchased from the Tennessee Valley Authority and now has a capacity of nearly 60,000 K.V.A. Plans for 1955 include a new building to be built on the site of the Huntsville Ice and Coal Company on Canal Street. The population of Huntsville in this year of 1940 was 13,050, and 2,466 telephones were listed.

Beautification of the city was a project of 1940. Planting of thousands of dogwood trees, which display an unparalleled beauty in early spring, resulted in bringing many visitors to see their beauty, and a subsequent titling of the city as "The Dogwood City". This year also saw organization of the Home Guard, after the local National Guard had been called into Federal Service in preparation and anticipation of World War II. In this year 1940, part of the North side of the Courthouse Square was torn up and old hollow logs were excavated in a remarkable state

of preservation. These logs had formed part of the town's early water system, and are now on display in Smithsonian Institute.

The World War II years, although ones of prosperity for Huntsville, were ones of heartbreak for the families and friends of the many killed, maimed and wounded. Six thousand from Madison County served in this war, and two local residents, Paul Bolden and Cecil (Bushy) Bolton, received the nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. Other noteworthy events during the period 1940 to 1950 saw the city's primary water system, the Big Spring, reach its top recorded flow of 40,000,000 gallons of water in one day. This spring later dropped down to an alarmingly low flow and the city called in the U. S. Geological Survey. Today, through their combined efforts, the water system is assured of an almost unlimited water supply, with the city

now considering embarking on a 3½ million dollar program to get the new water system completely up to date.

The Madison County Boat Harbor was built during this period and offers boating and allied recreational facilities on the Tennessee River, a navigable river located about 12 miles south of Huntsville.

The year 1941 was one of Huntsville's most important, as that year construction was begun on Huntsville and Redstone Arsenals, later to be merged into one, as Redstone Arsenal. No true figures can be ascertained, but it appears certain that much more than \$250,000,000 has gone into construction and land purchases for these military installations. Around 40,000 acres are occupied by Redstone Arsenal today, and with its annual payroll of millions of dollars, its effect on the economic growth of Huntsville has been of incalculable value. Many of the

Federal Postoffice building



world's top rocket and guided missile experts are located here, resulting in Huntsville becoming known as the largest guided missile and rocket research center in the world. The influx of a large number of highly skilled, trained and educated engineers, draftsmen and scientists has changed the social habits of a century of Old South social pastimes.

Huntsville children were the main benefactors of an important 1945 decision. In this year the city began its parks and playgrounds program, utilizing the present Big Spring Park area south of Canal Street, and about 14 other smaller park locations in various parts of the city. Part of the Big Spring Park had formerly been a commercial swimming pool, Burnam's Pool.

The county had "gone dry" in 1942, during the war years, but in 1946, it voted "wet" again.

On August 25 and 26, 1947, one of the largest community undertakings was held, "The Homecoming Celebrations". Successful efforts were made to bring back former Huntsvillians, and the undertaking was marked by many gay affairs, including a horse show, swimming meet, field day, barbecue, parade and many dances and parties.

The year 1947 also saw use of voting machines at an annexation election for East Huntsville. Machines had been voted by the residents in 1946, and Madison County had purchased a large number of machines, making them available to the city government when needed. Additions to the city since its last expansion were 1.72 square miles in South Huntsville and .10 square miles in East Huntsville. The year 1947 closed with the city having an area of 4.32 square miles. In the 1952 general election, one of Huntsville's resi-

Entrance to Monte Sano State Park.





Voting machine used in city and county elections

dents, Senator John J. Sparkman, was the Democratic Vice Presidential nominee.

A flood occurred in 1949 that is still a topic of conversation. The Big Spring Branch area flooded, and persons standing at the top of the stairway leading from the West Side of the Square to the Big Spring could see water far to the west and south. This flood was termed a "flash flood" caused by excessive rain. Engineers had to dynamite along Pinhook Creek to alleviate the situation, which lasted only a few hours. Since that time, the city and county have jointly completed drainage work, which according to best engineering advice, will prevent such a situation again.

Water and natural gas came in for mention in 1949. During this year the Huntsville Manufacturing Company donated Brahan Springs to the city, the city purchased the propane gas system of the Alabama Gas Corporation, and in 1950 began construction of a natural gas distribution system which is supplied gas by the Alabama Tennessee Natural Gas Company, under contract to the city. In 1950, also, the city built the present city hall annex.

Population of the city had grown to 16,437 in 1950, with Ward One having 5,267; Ward Two 2,812; Ward Three 2,701; Ward Four 3,638 and Ward Five 2,019 inhabitants. The urban population census





showed 21,765, giving Huntsville a metropolitan population of more than 38,000. Cotton sold for 42 cents per pound this year. During this year, the first of about 120 German scientists and engineers arrived at Redstone Arsenal under sponsorship of the United States Army, and began work on the Army Guided Missile and Rocket Research and Development program. Most of these Germans have since elected to become naturalized American citizens, and have taken their places in the community and civic life of the city. One hundred and nine persons were naturalized at Huntsville High School on April 14, 1955, at a ceremony attended by more than a thousand persons. The year 1950 ended with the city having increased to an area of 4.795 square miles, having taken in .067 square miles in the Wells Avenue area, and .407 in the Terry Heights section. In 1951 the American Association of University Women began their annual home pilgrimage program.

The Airport Administration building, built jointly by the city and county, became a reality in 1952, as did the \$150,000 city-county Health Center on Eustis Street land donated by Dr. W. H. Burritt, and Huntsville came in for its part of the "flying saucer" stories. During this year two Huntsvillians reported that they had seen a white, glowing, circular shaped, solid object in the sky nearby. This year also evidenced by its general election the influx of many new persons, as the registered vote included 2,568 Democrats and 883 Republicans, as compared to the 1948 election in which 291 Republicans and 1,011 Democrats voted. A ten-year-old youth was cited for growing 157.25 bushels of corn per acre during this year.

The real beginnings of a historic marker program came in 1953. Since that year, many of the famous landmarks of Huntsville have been marked by the Huntsville Historical Society and civic clubs. Huntsville began to receive recognition nationally as "The Rocket City" with publication by the Chamber of Commerce of a brochure boosting Huntsville as such, and with distribution of 14,000 copies of a publication titled "Huntsville, Alabama; Rocket City, U.S.A."

Signs of the times in 1953 also included landing of the first jet airplane at the municipal airport, and the first public display ever made of an American-made guided missile. The "Hermes" was displayed on the Courthouse Square on Armed Forces Day May 14, 1953. Noteworthy during this year also was the retirement of the City Electric Bonded indebtedness seven years ahead of schedule. The courthouse again came in for recognition during this year, as its exterior was lighted to display its classic lines.

In 1954 the assessed valuation of personal and real property in the corporate limits was over fifteen million dollars. On December 18, 1954, a much awaited service was given Huntsville, when the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company instituted a telephone dial system.

As 1955 becomes history, a few of its accomplishments are recorded here. An intensive drive for industry has been undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce and the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee. These organizations, aided by close cooperation with city and county governments, have been successful in bringing several industries to

City-County Municipal Airport





Huntsville, including two industrial giants, the Norton Company, and P. R. Mallory Company.

The year has also seen the completion of the City Public Golf Course, located adjacent to the municipal air port and willing of the Dr. Burritt home to the city for use as a museum.

This year has been a convention year for Huntsville, as it is one of the few towns in Alabama which can accommodate a large convention. Conventions already held include the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Alabama Historical Association.

Showing the rapid residential growth during the last few years are the records of the City Water Department. In 1941 there were 3,465 water customers,

and in 1955 they exceed 10,000. Homes are building up right and left, and no end is seen. The period might be called a "Steady Boom." A super highway, called "The Parkway," is now being constructed on the west side of Huntsville, and running North and South for a distance of about ten miles. Evidencing growth of city government, the 1954 budget for the city is close to a million dollars.

This 150 years of history, told briefly here, is surpassed by few cities in America, and Huntsvillians are predicting even greater things for the new 150 years. Those reading this book will not be here, but their descendants will be, and this book will be utilized by them to learn more about their ancestors' way of life.

Possibly one of the most interesting pastimes being engaged in now by Huntsvillians are their attempts to predict the future of the city which now seems to have unlimited possibilities.

They predict that by the end of this century Huntsville will have a population of 100,000, and will encompass an area of thirty square miles. Docking facilities are supposed to become a reality on the Tennessee River within the next ten years, according to these prophets, and Huntsville will be recognized as one of the South's largest industrial centers within the next twenty years. The city residential area will cover the surrounding mountains also within the next twenty years, and Huntsvillians working at Redstone Arsenal will help bring to pass launching of a space satellite within the next ten years, and may even have a hand in that ultimate trip to the moon within the next fifty years.

View of multi-million dollar Parkway now under construction



# CHAPTER TWO

## OUR GREAT ARSENAL AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

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### THE HISTORY OF REDSTONE ARSENAL

By Mary T. Cagle  
Arsenal Historian

In 1941, after the President of the United States issued the Emergency Proclamation, it became clear to the Ordnance Department that, in the interest of national security, expansion of Ordnance facilities would be necessary in order to assure adequate production of ammunition to meet the time-objective requirements of the General Staff. Included in the initial plans was construction of a chemical assembly plant and related facilities.

Meanwhile, it had become apparent to the Chemical Warfare Service that the existing chemical manufacturing plants were not adequate to provide for any potential emergency. Thus, in its expansion program, the Chemical Warfare Service selected a site just outside of Huntsville, Alabama, on which was built a chemical manufacturing plant known as the Huntsville Arsenal.

Realizing the economy factors involved with a shell-loading plant located near such an arsenal, the Chief of Ordnance dispatched a member of his staff, Major Myron Leedy, to conduct a survey of available sites in the same vicinity. Based on Major Leedy's recommendations, the Chief of Ordnance decided to

Redstone Arsenal Post Headquarters, containing about 40,000 square feet. The famous "Hermes" guided missile is shown in the right foreground.



erect a shell-loading plant on the property adjacent to that of the Huntsville Arsenal.

Early in September 1941, a general plan for the shell-loading plant was prepared and a few weeks later construction funds were approved.

October 6, 1941 saw the arrival of Major Carroll D. Hudson, who had been selected to head the new Ordnance plant. After consulting with the Area Engineer; representatives of the architects, Whitman, Requaardt and Smith; and the prime contractor, Kershaw-Butler, Engineers, Ltd., Major Hudson commenced the final plans for construction of what was to be known as the Redstone Ordnance Plant—named because of the preponderance of red soil.

Upon examining the plant site, Major Hudson found a tract of land consisting of approximately 4,000 acres, located ten miles south of Huntsville, Alabama, and adjacent to an extremity of the Huntsville Arsenal. It was a rolling terrain, which had been used for production of cotton, corn, peanuts, and other farm products, as well as grazing land for livestock. There were no roads except for the scraggy trails which served the farmers. The nearest highway was more than two miles from the eastern boundary of the reservation. The closest power facilities and water supply were located at the Huntsville Arsenal. The closest rail transportation at that time was at Farley, Alabama, one and one-half miles from the reservation.

The primary mission of the plant, as established by the Chief of Ordnance, included the loading and assembly of 75mm chemical shells, 81mm chemical mortar shells, 30-pound chemical bombs, and 105mm chemical shells, together with the loading and assembly of burster charges for this ammunition. Accordingly, the layout of original plans called for the construction of two burster-loading and assembly lines; two shell-loading and assembly lines; 24 inert storage warehouses; 30 igloos; 35 finished ammunition magazines; administration and utility buildings; and all necessary utilities.

The first staff officer, Lieutenant William H. Stevens, arrived on October 30, 1941, and was assigned primary duty as Adjutant. The balance of a complement of 14 officers reported over a period of several months, and it was not until the summer of 1942 that the entire quota was filled.

The first building was completed and ready for occupancy on November 11, 1941. This building, a two-story, barracks-type structure, served as temporary Redstone headquarters and was later designated as bachelor officer quarters.

Early in 1942, Major Hudson began to formulate

a long-range plan for the employment of women on the ammunition production lines, in the event that manpower should become scarce. The Civil Service Commission in Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and within a short time examinations were announced for jobs known as "female trainees." At that time, the use of women in such jobs was definitely frowned upon; however, in light of subsequent events and the invaluable contribution that these female trainees made to the all-out war effort, there was no need for Major Hudson to justify his belief or defend his actions. By December 1942, about 40 per cent of the personnel working on the ammunition production lines were women.

Meanwhile, the construction program was encountering severe setbacks. The original estimates and appropriations for plant construction had been made prior to selection of the building site, and therefore, all figures were based on the supposition that the terrain would be level. The overall cost of construction increased almost two million dollars over the original estimate because of the rolling nature of the terrain, much of which was entirely unsuitable for road construction. In addition, construction work was slowed down and often completely stopped during the winter months because of extremely cold and rainy weather. Temperatures ranging from 2 to 27 degrees above zero made it impossible to pour concrete and generally retarded other construction activity. Until access roads were graveled, heavy rains would stop all traffic and therefore all construction work. These were only a few of the hardships experienced by construction crews throughout the winter of 1941-42.

Then came Pearl Harbor. At this time, the ammunition production lines had not been completed, arsenal administrators were still in the process of establishing a workable organization, and the total arsenal strength was less than nine civilians and three officers.

Construction work was immediately placed on a 24-hour basis instead of the former one-shift operation, and the personnel recruitment program was greatly accelerated as well as all other phases of organizational development. It was a race against time; a race between the grim determination of a group of loyal men and women, and the greatest demand for production of war equipment the country had ever known.

The Redstone Ordnance Plant was officially activated by War Department orders on February 5, 1942. During the same month, the commanding



Redstone's oldest building—originally constructed for use as Bachelors Quarters, but initially used as a temporary headquarters building.

officer of the plant, Major Carroll D. Hudson, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

By March 28, 1942, when the first production line was ready for operation, the civilian strength had climbed to a total of 269. With a production quota of 50,000 ammunition units facing the plant for the month of March 1942, Line No. 1 began operation on March 28, and during the three remaining days produced 55,202 units.

The project as originally planned was substantially complete in the summer of 1942. By the end of December 1942, most of the ammunition production lines were in operation, the organization was functioning smoothly, and the number of civilian employees had grown from 269 to 1,666.

On February 26, 1943, the Redstone Ordnance Plant was redesignated as Redstone Arsenal. In February of the following year, Lieutenant Colonel Carroll D. Hudson received his promotion to the rank of colonel.

During the years of World War II, ending in September 1945, Colonel Hudson directed the arsenal's development into one of the best-equipped Ordnance manufacturing centers in the nation. At the height of production operations, arsenal personnel including construction workers approximated 7500. In spite of the dangerous and complicated nature of its mission, Redstone Arsenal maintained one of the highest safety records in industry and never failed to meet a production quota.

For their outstanding services and high achievements in the manufacture of war equipment, Redstone employees received the coveted Army-Navy "E" Production Award five times. These awards were

not easily won, nor were they lightly bestowed, and to this day they are regarded with deep pride by the gallant men and women who earned them.

Work at Redstone Arsenal during the war years included the manufacture and loading of high explosive bursters for chemically filled artillery shells and bombs; manufacture of demolition blocks for combat engineers and paratroopers; loading and assembly of medium and major caliber artillery ammunition and rifle grenades. Colored smoke rifle grenades and artillery projectiles, up to and including 155mm, were regular items of production. The technique of mass production of tetrytol was perfected at Redstone Arsenal. Tetrytol, a high explosive binary mix, was used in the loading of certain bursters, boosters and demolition blocks.

At the end of the war, Redstone Arsenal was one of the few remaining industrial arsenals being operated with Government personnel.

Following the cessation of hostilities early in August, 1945, activities at both the Huntsville Arsenal and Redstone Arsenal were greatly curtailed. At Redstone, all ammunition schedules were cancelled and production ceased on August 17, 1945.

The demobilization and readjustment activities were set in motion immediately following V-J Day, September 2, 1945. The operating buildings and equipment on all production lines were placed in standby condition; contracts amounting to more than four and a half million dollars were cancelled; public property not required for normal standby operations was declared surplus; and large quantities of ammunition were placed in long-term storage.

By early 1946, the reduction in force and primary

readjustment of arsenal activities to a peacetime basis had been accomplished. The standby organization consisted of from three to six officers and from 200 to 250 civilian employees.

The arsenal's main task during the standby period was the reconditioning of Ordnance chemical ammunition returned from overseas. About half of the peacetime crew was engaged in the administration, protection and maintenance of the arsenal as a standby facility, so that it could be put into full capacity production in the shortest possible time, if necessary.

Colonel Carroll D. Hudson remained in command of Redstone Arsenal until March 15, 1946. Major Edwin J. Grayson served as interim commander from March 15, 1946 to April 23, 1946.

Colonel Duncan G. McGregor assumed command of the arsenal on April 23, 1946 and served in this capacity until July 28, 1947. Captain Louie Miller, Jr. was in temporary command until August 4, 1947.

Lieutenant Colonel James O. Branch assumed command of the arsenal on August 4, 1947 and was relieved of this assignment on September 11, 1948. Captain Vernon W. Morgan served as interim commander until return of Colonel Carroll D. Hudson in November 1948.

During the post-war years prior to 1949, when the Army Ordnance guided missile program was still being conducted from the Pentagon, the rocket program had progressed to a point where a permanent field establishment was needed. During the summer of 1948, an extensive survey was made of all available Ordnance installations, including Redstone Arsenal which was then in standby status. From this survey, it was determined that Redstone Arsenal had suitable land and facilities to permit activation for rocket research and development at an earlier date and at less cost than any other available facility.

Colonel Carroll D. Hudson was relieved of his overseas assignment with the Ryukyus Command and returned to Redstone Arsenal on November 30, 1948 to begin his second tour as arsenal commander.

Early in December 1948, the Chief of Ordnance, Major General E. S. Hughes, officially designated Redstone Arsenal as a center for Ordnance Department research and development activities pertaining to rockets and related items.

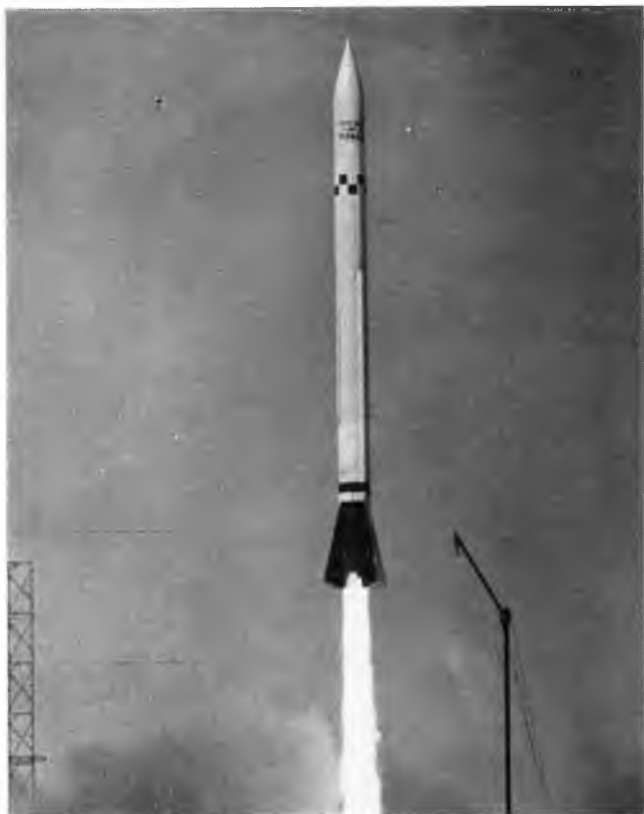
Redstone Arsenal officially came back to life on June 1, 1949, when it was once again declared an active arsenal. The new mission was established in Ordnance Department orders dated July 18, 1949. Briefly, the mission included operation of facilities for the research and development of rockets and related items; maintenance of the chemical ammunition loading plant in a standby condition; and operation of facilities for the storage, maintenance and handling of ammunition items.

For about one year, or until November 1, 1949, the command responsibility for the arsenal rested with the Commanding General, Third Army. It was during this period that the initial technical staff of the Ordnance Rocket Center was formed. (This activity is now known as the Rocket Development Division of the Ordnance Missile Laboratories.)

The Thiokol Corporation, under contract with the Ordnance Department to perform research and development work on rocket propellants, was moved from Elkton, Maryland, to Redstone Arsenal. The facilities of Line 1, formerly used for assembly of chemical ammunition, were remodeled and turned over to this activity, which is now known as the Redstone Division of the Thiokol Chemical Corporation. The Thiokol administration building, a brick-veneer structure costing approximately \$170,000, was completed and ready for occupancy in October 1951.

Meanwhile, a contract was negotiated with the Rohm & Haas Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the performance of research and development work in the field of solid propellants. Lines

A Guided Missile in action.



3 and 4 were remodeled for use by this activity, which is now known as the Redstone Arsenal Research Division of the Rohm & Haas Company. The Josiah Gorgas Laboratory, constructed by the Government for use by the Rohm & Haas Company, was completed in February 1952. This million dollar research laboratory, one of the most modern in the entire south, was named in honor of Josiah Gorgas, the Confederate brigadier general who achieved Civil War production miracles as chief of ordnance.

Late in 1948, the Chemical Corps decided to abandon its facilities at the Huntsville Arsenal and the property was advertised for lease. Late in 1949, however, decision was made to consolidate the Huntsville Arsenal area with that of Redstone Arsenal, to be used as an Ordnance Guided Missile Center, which was then being considered as an additional Redstone mission. The consolidation of the two arsenals was made official on April 1, 1950, at which time the Redstone reservation was expanded to include a ten- by twelve-mile area, comprising about 40,000 acres.

In September 1949, it was decided that, in the interest of economy and efficiency, the Ordnance Research and Development Division Suboffice (Rocket) should be moved from Fort Bliss, Texas

to Redstone Arsenal. The Secretary of the Army gave official approval on October 28, 1949 and the movement directive was issued by the General Staff on March 21, 1950. Shortly after this, Major James P. Hamill, officer-in-charge of the activity at Fort Bliss, arrived with an advance detachment and on April 15, 1950, the Ordnance Guided Missile Center was officially established. (This activity is now known as the Guided Missile Development Division of the Ordnance Missile Laboratories.)

The movement of this activity from Fort Bliss, Texas involved the transfer of general supplies and extensive scientific laboratory equipment, as well as an operating staff of 500 military personnel, 130 German-born scientists, 180 General Electric Company contractor employees, and about 120 Civil Service employees. The primary mission of the Ordnance Guided Missile Center was to serve as the Ordnance center for research and development of guided missiles, including component and systems development in the fields of aerodynamics, guidance and control, propulsion, assembly techniques, transport, test and launching.

During the summer of 1950, work was started on a four million dollar construction program, which

Dr. W. Sieber (Left) and Ernest Seiler, Scientists, along with I. G. Gaol, Electronics Engineer, checking the intricate instrument panel used in recording the reaction of a model guided missile under various amounts of pressure.



was to provide the initial research and development requirements for the expanded arsenal mission.

Early in 1951, the Ordnance Corps began a training program for personnel in the guided missile field, and decision was made to establish a service school for this purpose at Redstone Arsenal. The Provisional Redstone Ordnance School was officially established on March 3, 1952. In December of the same year, this activity was redesignated as the Ordnance Guided Missile School, a Class II Activity located at Redstone Arsenal and operated under jurisdiction of the Chief of Ordnance. On August 11, 1953, the school was placed under jurisdiction of The Ordnance Training Command.

In August 1951, the Field Service Division and National Procurement Division (now Industrial Division) were activated at Redstone Arsenal. These national mission agencies were assigned responsibility for field service and procurement activities in connection with guided missiles and rockets on a nationwide basis.

Colonel Carroll D. Hudson concluded his second tour as arsenal commander on May 7, 1952. From May 8 to June 15, 1952, the arsenal was under temporary command of the ranking officer present for duty.

Brigadier General Thomas K. Vincent, the first general officer ever to be in command of Redstone Arsenal, assumed duties as commanding general on June 16, 1952.

The mushrooming expansion from a standby ammunition plant to a permanent arsenal engaged in a radically new field, created many new and complex problems for the arsenal. Some of these problems concerned adequate housing for incoming military and civilian personnel; wage stabilization; adequate research and development facilities; recruitment of clerical, technical and professional personnel; and the establishment of adequate support facilities to provide for troop morale and welfare.

When Colonel Hudson began his second tour as commanding officer on November 30, 1948, he found the arsenal much the same as he had left it in March 1946. The installation was still in standby status, with only 215 civilian and less than 10 military personnel on the rolls. In order to carry out the complex assignments of the new mission, it was necessary to establish a new organization with a staff of clerical and administrative personnel, in addition to a special staff of physicists, chemists, metallurgists, mathematicians, and other technical and professional personnel in about fifteen different engineering fields. By the end of 1949, the arsenal had been completely reorgan-

ized and the operating strength had climbed to a total of 698 civilian and 312 military personnel. During the next several years the arsenal strength continued to expand as the assigned mission broadened in scope. During the calendar year 1954, the average arsenal strength reached an all-time high of 7,087 military and civilian personnel, excluding contractor employees.

The Redstone Arsenal payroll for the calendar year 1954 totaled more than \$3 million dollars, an increase of more than four million dollars over that of the previous year. The total gross pay to all personnel in 1954 was about \$33,878,637. This included pay to Civil Service and contractor employees and military personnel.

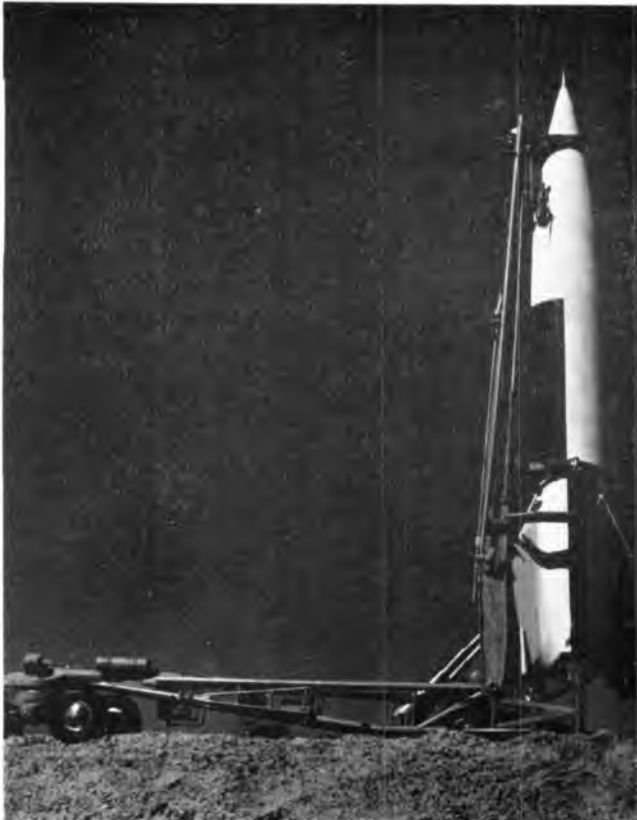
The close of the calendar year found Redstone Arsenal in the middle of its biggest construction boom since the early days of World War II. Construction work amounting to approximately \$23,250,000 was either started, in progress, or completed during 1954. Construction projects in progress during the current year include new buildings for the Ordnance Guided Missile School; a research and development engineering building, which will cost approximately \$3,637,000 and have a floor area of about 200,000 square feet; a guidance and control building for the Guided Missile Development Division, which will cost approximately \$2,000,000; and many other facilities smaller in size, but nevertheless important to the arsenal mission.

The year 1954 brought the sixth and most recent change in arsenal commanders. Brigadier General H. N. Toftoy assumed command of Redstone Arsenal on September 1, 1954. He succeeded Brigadier General Thomas K. Vincent, who retired from the Army on August 31, 1954.

General Toftoy has been a key figure in the Army's rocket and guided missile program since its inception. He became interested in rocketry during World War II, and after being ordered to the Pentagon to take charge of the development of rockets and guided missiles, he personally carried the load of "selling" the Army on the idea of a progressive guided missile program and sparking the development of these revolutionary new weapons. This has earned him the title of "Mr. Missile" throughout the Army.

Under General Toftoy's direction, the super bazooka, Nike, Corporal, Honest John, and other rocket weapons were developed. He was also responsible for a number of experimental rockets including the two-stage Bumper launched at White Sands Proving Ground, N. M., which in 1949 flew outside the earth's atmosphere and set altitude and velocity rec-





ords which still stand. In addition, he obtained authority to select and bring to the United States a group of outstanding German scientists to contribute their experience to the missile program. The majority of these former German V-2 scientists are still engaged in important work at Redstone Arsenal.

General Toftoy came to Redstone as a colonel in May 1952, and was appointed director of the Ordnance Missile Laboratories, remaining this assignment until shortly before assuming command of the arsenal. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on November 1, 1952, and had the distinction of being the first officer to be appointed to such rank while serving at Redstone. His appointment marked still another first for Redstone, as it was the first time in arsenal history that two general officers had been stationed here.

As the Commodity Arsenal for rockets and guided missiles, Redstone's primary objective is to control and supervise the research, development, and production of rockets and guided missiles for the entire Army. In addition, Redstone is responsible for the storage, issue, and maintenance of these new weapons, and the training of Ordnance specialists which accompany and support the using troops in the field. The magnitude and intricate nature of the operations

of the Army's guided missile and rocket control and coordination center necessitates expenditure of millions of dollars annually throughout the nation.

Redstone Arsenal now has five national mission agencies, including the recently established Research and Development Division. The primary objective of this new mission agency is to control and supervise rocket and guided missile projects under contract for development by major industrial firms throughout the country. The other national mission agencies are the Field Service Division, Industrial Division, Ordnance Missile Laboratories, and Ordnance Guided Missile School.

Although Redstone Arsenal is now mainly in the rocket and guided missile business, the Ammunition Division production lines are still contributing heavily to the country's defense program. The ammunition lines have been in operation since the beginning of World War II; however, between 1945 and 1950, most of the work consisted of reconditioning Ordnance ammunition returned from overseas. Production of new explosive items got under way again when the Korean conflict broke out in June 1950. Among the major items now being produced are mortar shells, 3.5-inch rockets, 105 and 155mm shells, and 81mm illuminating shells.

Another important mission agency located here is the Redstone Depot. This activity receives, stores, and ships a large volume of ammunition, Ordnance general supply items, industrial reserve machine tools, and strategic and critical raw materials.

Today, Redstone Arsenal is the nerve center not only for the research and development of rockets and guided missiles, but also for the procurement, storage, and repair of the entire family of Army Ordnance missiles. Redstone Arsenal is one of eight permanent Ordnance Corps arsenals, and is the only one devoted almost exclusively to the guided missile program. From the scientists and technicians at Redstone, decisions affecting the missile program are sent daily to all parts of the country, and policies are determined which will affect the development and production of rockets and missiles for years to come.

## REDSTONE CHAPTER NUMBER 353 NATIONAL SOJOURNERS

By Capt. Joseph F. Hosemann

The initial meeting of this group was held on May 5, 1952 at the conference hall at Redstone Arsenal. Brother A. G. Johanning presided as temporary president and secretary-treasurer.

At this meeting the following officers were elected: Woodrow W. Crum, President; Robert L. Clary, Vice President; Joe W. Burnett, Secretary-Treasurer; and Albert T. Tovey, Chaplain.

On October 13, 1952, on notification from John W. N. Schultz, National Chairman for the Committee on Americanism, the President appointed Brother Vincent as Chairman of the local committee. One of the principal aims of the National Sojourners is the promotion of Americanism.

On December 9, 1952, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Redstone Chapter were officially adopted. Its purpose as set out was "The Chapter shall be to organize Commissioned Officers and Warrant Officers, both past and present, of the Uniformed Forces of the United States, as hereinafter provided for, who are Master Masons, into a Chapter for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals, for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true patriotism and Americanism throughout the Nation, for bringing together representatives of the Uniformed Forces of the United States in a united effort to further the military needs of National Defense and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the National Security."

On December 17, 1952, Brother Stuart was appointed Marshal and Brother Cobb, color bearer. On

April 16, 1953, the following officers were elected: Joe W. Burnett, President; Theodore H. Ebbert, Vice President; John E. Simpson, Chaplain; and Frank L. Patton, Secretary-Treasurer.

On January 14, 1954, these officers succeeded them: Robert C. Bailey, President; Harold B. Carpenter, Vice President; William M. Stackhouse, Chaplain; James B. Goodwin, Secretary; and Theodore H. Ebbert, Historian.

On October 8, 1954, A. L. Ferranti was appointed Chaplain to succeed William M. Stackhouse who was transferred from the Arsenal.

The present officers of the group elected January 6, 1955, are: W. A. Cobb, President; J. G. Goodwin, Vice President; A. G. Pinkham, Secretary-Treasurer; Percy Matter, Chaplain; T. H. Ebbert, Historian; J. F. Hosemann, Jr., Marshal; and Arno L. Dixon, Color Bearer. On February 9, 1955, Jack G. Enocks was appointed color bearer to succeed Arno L. Dixon, who was transferred.

## HUNTSVILLE UNITS OF THE ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD

By Oliver Johnson

The present units, located in Huntsville, Alabama, are the 1169th Engineer Group (Combat); 179th AAA Gun Battalion (90mm); 142nd Band; and the 1169th Engineer Group (Combat), Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Huntsville Armory (Fort Raymond Jones)



The 1169th Engineer Group (Combat) has a history originating in Huntsville on the 27th day of July, 1922. Company D, 133rd Engineer Regiment (General Service) was activated on July 27, 1922, and was mustered in on Franklin Street at the Southeast corner of the square. The officers of this unit at activation were: Captain Raymond W. Jones, First Lieutenant Edwin W. Jones, and Second Lieutenant William H. Blanton. Captain Raymond W. Jones is now deceased. The other two still reside in Huntsville.

First housing for the 133rd Engineer Regiment was in the Deutler Building on Eustis Street. After a short time this unit was housed in the Lodge section on the second floor of the Struve Building.

On June 1, 1922, Company A of the 133rd unit was redesignated and became Company A of the 127th Engineer Squadron. About the time of the redesignation, the unit moved to new quarters on Jefferson Street, which is now the Union Hall. On April 1, 1936, it was again redesignated as the 127th Squadron (motorized) Corps of Engineers. The Headquarters and Service Company of the 127th Squadron was activated May 5, 1936, and was housed in the basement of the Elks' Building on Eustis Street.

On July 13, 1936, all units of the 127th Squadron (motorized) Corps of Engineers were redesignated the 127th Engineer Squadron. These units were expanded and redesignated 151st Engineer Regiment (Combat) on November 1, 1940.

The 151st Engineer Regiment (Combat) was inducted into Federal Service on January 27, 1941 under the command of Colonel Edwin W. Jones and moved to Camp Shelby, Mississippi on the fourth of February, 1941. It then was moved to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, on April 14, 1941.

The First Battalion of the 151st Engineer Regiment (Combat) departed from Camp Claiborne on August 1, 1941 for Alaska. On September 12, 1942 the unit was redesignated the 151st Engineer Combat Regiment. The 151st Engineer Combat Regiment, less the first battalion, departed from Camp Claiborne for Alaska on December 24, 1941.

The unit was outstanding in combat in Alaska, having many of their enlisted personnel commissioned as officers. Officers inducted with the unit into Federal Service held responsible positions of leadership.

The Regiment was broken up on the 11th of July, 1944, and the Huntsville units were redesignated as Headquarters and Service Company, 1169th Engineer Combat Group. The first Battalion was redesignated as the 151st Engineer Combat Battalion. The Head-

quarters and Headquarters Company of the 1169th Engineer Combat Group was inactivated on the third of November, 1945, at Camp Cooke, California, after outstanding service in the European Theater during the latter part of 1944 and the first of 1945.

The 1169th Engineer Combat Group was reorganized and federally recognized on January 15, 1947, at Huntsville, Alabama, with Colonel Carl T. Jones commanding. The Unit was ordered into Federal service on August 14, 1950, at Huntsville, Alabama, with Lieutenant Colonel James O. Johnson commanding, and moved to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, on August 28, 1950.

The Headquarters and Service Company of the 151st Engineer Combat Battalion was reorganized and federally recognized at Huntsville, Alabama, on February 16, 1947, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James O. Johnson. Company A of the 151st Engineer Combat Battalion was reorganized and federally recognized in Huntsville on February 17, 1947.

The 1169th Engineer Combat Group (N.G.U.S.) was a companion unit organized and federally recognized August 29, 1952, at Huntsville with Lieutenant Colonel James O. Johnson in command. The parent unit was relieved in Korea in January, 1955, and the 1169th Engineer Combat Group (N.G.U.S.) was deactivated and the 1169th Engineer Combat Group was reorganized and federally recognized on January 21, 1955.

During the Korean service the 1169th Engineer Combat Group and 151st Engineer Combat Battalion served in seven Combat offensives.

The 1169th now carries the following campaign streamers to their colors: World War II, Aleutian Islands, European Theater; Korea, First V. N. Counter-offensive, C. C. F. Spring Offensive, V. N. Fall Offensive, Second Korean winter, Korea summer-fall 1952, third Korean winter, Korea summer-fall 1953.

The 279th AAA Gun Battalion (99mm) was organized in Huntsville, Alabama, February 19, 1951. This unit contained in Huntsville the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Medical Detachment. Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Balch commands the Battalion.

Also organized on February 19, 1951, was the 157th Signal Detachment, R.M.U. The 279th was redesignated in June, 1951, as the 179th AAA Battalion (automatic weapons).

On the first of April, 1953, A and B Batteries of the 179th were reorganized and on the 11th of April,

1955, D Battery of 279th was reorganized in Huntsville, Alabama.

The 142nd Army Band was organized and federally recognized September 13, 1954, in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Units now number 2 Headquarters, 6 company size units and 2 detachment size units or a total of approximately 50 officers and 700 members.

Housing for National Guard units of Huntsville, Alabama, is located at Howe and Patton Streets.

The Armory buildings are of native sandstone structure.

The building was built in two phases. The first being built by W.P.A. during 1937-1938. The city donated the lot and the W.P.A. furnished the labor. G. W. Jones and Sons donated the engineering work. The second phase was built in 1941-42.

The building contains approximately 25,000 square feet of office and drill space, and is one of the finest armories in this section of the state.

## THE AIR FORCE RESERVE

By Archie W. Hill, Jr.

The Air Force Reserve of Huntsville was organized in January of 1950.

The first Commander was Colonel John S. Scott, who commanded the unit until November, 1954. The

unit became Flight "F" of the 9920th Air Reserve Squadron.

The second and present Commander is Colonel Archie W. Hill, Jr., who assumed command in November, 1954.

On July 20th, 1955, the 9920th Air Reserve Squadron was transferred to Huntsville, Colonel Archie W. Hill, Jr., Commanding. In addition to Flights E, F, and G. in Huntsville, the Squadron has Flights in Decatur, Alabama; Cullman, Alabama; Gadsden, Alabama; Anniston, Alabama, and its area covers most of North Alabama.

The Reserve Flights are of two types in Huntsville. The specialized training in operations and administration have twenty-four pay periods a year plus two weeks active duty. The non-specialized training consists of regularly scheduled meetings and lectures but no pay nor active duty.

The Air Force Reserve is available to both Officers and Enlisted personnel. It meets each Thursday at 7:00 P.M. in the Huntsville Armory.

During the last five years many men from the Air Force Reserve have had a record tour of duty in the Korean War and other areas.

The personnel has grown from a meager 16 men to 75 in Huntsville alone. The Squadron has personnel of some 400 men.

U. S. Naval Reserve Building



## THE U.S. NAVAL RESERVE TRAINING CENTER

By J. B. Walker, L.C.D.R.

On April 25, 1947, a meeting was held at the Huntsville Y.M.C.A. to discuss the organization of an Organized Surface Division. The meeting was convened by Lieutenant G. A. Martin, U.S.N.R., with approximately 12 commissioned officers and 73 enlisted men, all reserves, interested in forming the Division.

Wheels were put in motion and on June 3, 1947, Lieutenant Martin received orders assigning him the duties of Commanding Officer of the Organized Surface Division 8-72 and temporary Inspector-Instructor, Huntsville, Alabama. On June 4, 1947, the OSD 8-72 was commissioned. Arrangements were immediately made with Redstone Arsenal Officials for the use of Building No. 155 as a temporary headquarters and meeting place.

Several things happened during the next year. First of all Lt. Martin was relieved of his Inspector-Instructor duties by Lt. Commander C. W. Briggs in March, 1948. In 1948 the Division was redesignated as OSD 6-59. The personnel and officer strength had increased to over 180 enlisted men and over 15 officers in the Division and six Regular Navy men were assigned active duty here as stationkeepers and instructors.

With the crowded conditions at Building No. 155 at Redstone Arsenal continually becoming inadequate and lacking space for equipment, it was decided that the Naval Reserve needed a place of its own. Leases and contracts were executed. The site picked for the U.S.N.R.T.C. was at the foot of Big Spring Park at Canal and Barnett Streets. Finally, 13 months from the time the Division formed, work was started on its new home, about July 1, 1948.

Equipment was stored at Redstone Arsenal until it could be moved into the new building. The equipment was to be the equivalent of that aboard a U.S. Navy Heavy Cruiser.

Work was completed ahead of schedule and equipment was moved in. In March, 1949, the U.S. Naval Reserve Training Center was opened to the public for inspection. The building inside and out was proclaimed one of the most beautiful structures in Huntsville.

In May, 1949, the building was commissioned officially as a Navy Installation for training of Naval Reserves.

The total cost of the structure alone was \$165,000 and of equipment installed about \$175,000.

The building consists of three military-type butler buildings, 40 feet by 120 feet each and was constructed primarily of metal. The fourth part of the structure is constructed of bricks, cinder block and asbestos shingling and all tile deck or flooring.

The butler buildings house the shops, radio rooms, radar rooms and classrooms. The other building wings contain office spaces, sick bay, drill hall, wardroom, lounges, galley and a snack bar. All of the buildings are inter-connected by two passageways.

The purpose of this training center is to train Naval Reserves in specific jobs so that in time of a national emergency they will be of value to the Navy.

This training center is equipped to train men as radio operators, radar operators, electronics technicians, machinists, electricians, boilermen and above all to train men in good seamanship. In all of these ratings or occupations there is a dual purpose: First the Navy in time of emergency; Second, a young man of high school age can learn a valuable trade that can be used every day as a civilian to earn a living. Getting back to the first reason and then thinking back to World War II we must remember that if it had not been for Naval Reservists our cause may have been lost, as statistics show that the Navy in World War II operated with about 92 per cent reserves. It is thus easy to understand the reason we maintain such a large Naval Reserve Program.

Since the Naval Reserve in Huntsville was organized in 1947 until now, officers and enlisted men have changed quite a bit. Out of all the "plank owners" or "original members" there are three left in the Division, due to moving away from the area or other reasons. The three men are Commander G. A. MARTIN, Chief Hospital Corpsman Dennis CONDRA, and Metalsmith First Class Luther BLAIR.

Since the beginning of the local Division there have been five U.S.N.R.T.C. Commanding Officers: L.C.D.R. C. W. BRIGGS, LT. K. H. KALMBACH, LT. J. P. WHITE, L.C.D.R. G. P. HALL, and LT. C. E. PRICE. All have done a good job and an important one. Some of the Division Commanding Officers have been: C.D.R. (ex-LT.) G. A. MARTIN, LT. LOYD LITTLE, LT. H. W. ESSLINGER, JR. The present Commanding Officer of the Organized Surface Division 6-59, which has recently been redesignated as Naval Reserve Surface Division 6-59 (from OSD 6-59 to NRSD 6-59), is L.C.D.R. C. H. MEISER, JR., with LT. J. G. GOODWIN presently serving as Executive Officer.

The present station force consists of L.C.D.R. J. B. WALKER, U.S.N.R.T.C. Commanding Officer and the following enlisted staff: Yeoman First Class R. R. PEDEN, Administration; Yeoman Second Class R. D.

TROUPE, Personnel; Storekeeper Second Class W. E. DORAN, Supply; Radioman Second Class R. G. HILF, Radio; Electrician's Mate First Class P. OPPENHEIMER, Electrical; Chief Hospital Corpsman C. McCORMICK, Medical; and Electronics Technician Second Class J. L. WELCH, Electronics. These men maintain administrative, service and health records; perform routine maintenance and repair work; and numerous other services required in maintaining and operating a Naval Reserve Training Center. Then on drill nights they double as instructors.

Training and instruction are held one night a week, scheduled for Mondays at 7 P.M. and lasting until 9:30 P.M. Every reservist may go on two weeks training to numerous ships or naval stations where he will be taught how to operate the very latest equipment. The reservists receive a full day's pay for each 2½ hour drill attended and for each day of active training duty performed. Uniforms are furnished the new reservists.

The Naval Reserve is an organization that must be supported by all of Huntsville and the United States as a means of keeping our country well protected against foreign aggression.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

By Eugenia Smith

The first efforts to organize an auxiliary unit to the Madison County Post American Legion Post 37 were made in February, 1928, when approximately twenty-two members served to form the group, with Mrs. W. T. Eatson as temporary president, and Mrs. Dan Stevenson temporary secretary.

On March 13th, 1928, following an inspiring and constructive visit from Department President, Mrs. R. W. Waldrop and Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Barnett, the unit was formally organized, with a membership of eighty-two. Chaplain Drury Davis, representing the Legion, called the meeting to order in the local Y.M.C.A.

The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. W. T. Eatson; first vice-president, Mrs. E. V. Caldwell; second vice-president, Mrs. Raymond Jones; recording secretary, Mrs. Forrest Fleming; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Marcus Pender; treasurer, Mrs. Carl Blessing; historian, Mrs. M. U. Griffin; chaplain, Mrs. Ella Lane; sergeant-at-arms, Mrs. Bruce Smith.

The Unit was presented with a department citation, and a charter was applied for on April 3rd and was granted on May 4th. This charter application, with

enrollment of 106 members, was sent by special delivery to Birmingham during a board meeting of the executive officials, presided over by Mrs. Walbridge, National President.

The first names on the charter were: Mrs. W. T. Watson, Mrs. C. Y. Blessing, Mrs. Raymond Jones, Mrs. Marcus Pender, Mrs. B. T. Smith, Mrs. L. W. L. White, Miss Anna T. Watts, Mrs. Berry Pierce, Mrs. Forrest Fleming, Mrs. E. V. Caldwell, Mrs. Ella Lane, Mrs. M. U. Griffin, Mrs. A. W. McAllister, Mrs. F. J. Schick, Miss Arvie Pierce and Mrs. John J. Sparkman.

Under the able leadership of the president, Mrs. W. T. Watson, the unit became active at once, and much was accomplished in the brief interval between its organization and the annual State Convention held in Huntsville in August of 1928. This, the sixth department convention was the largest in the history of the Alabama Department. Over three hundred were registered. Two Auxiliary Department officers were elected president, and Mrs. E. V. Caldwell Second District Director.

"In Peace as in War We Serve" has been demonstrated every day in relief, rehabilitation, child-welfare and community service, making it possible for some of the less fortunate to enjoy some of the necessities of life.

The Auxiliary has grown in strength and membership, and at the present time there are 310 members, the largest unit in the department.

## MADISON COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION POST 37 INC.

By Lee D. Harless, Sr.

This article for the Commemorative Album is prepared from material taken from A History of Madison County American Legion Post from 1920 to August, 1955, which is now in the Huntsville Public Library as a permanent record of the organization for this period. This volume was respectfully dedicated to all past officers and loyal members of the post, who, through their love and devotion for their fellow service men, have kept this Post of the American Legion active and ever devoted to the service of the ex-service men, their families and their widows and orphans.

As a result of organizational efforts by Captain Edward C. Betts and S. W. Harris, a temporary charter was issued to the post on June 25, 1920. Initially the Post was named the Peter Crump Post. George M. Mahoney and Cecil V. Fain served as Commander and Adjutant of this first post prior to



American Legion Post No. 37.

1924. In that year the Post was re-organized and its name changed to Madison County Post 37 with O. H. Koonce as Commander and Roger P. Williams as Adjutant. Drury M. Davis succeeded Koonce as Commander. During 1927 Dr. B. F. Austin was Commander and R. Dan Stevens, Adjutant.

Senator John Sparkman became Adjutant in 1928 and F. J. Schick served as Commander. During this year the post achieved a record membership of 201 members. During this administration a voiture of the Forty and Eight was organized and a unit of the Legion Auxiliary was chartered. The post assumed a position of importance in civic affairs. The year ended with Huntsville being host to the Department convention which was an outstanding success.

In 1929 the Post undertook the promotion of boxing bouts and in that year grossed approximately \$7,800. Thomas M. Owen, Jr., was in charge of this project.

Forest W. Fleming was elected Commander in 1930 and John Sparkman Adjutant again. In 1931 Sparkman became Commander with Willis L. Latham as his Adjutant. This administration was followed by Luke Tucker as Commander and Felix Newman as Adjutant in 1932.

John McCaleb was Commander for a short period in 1933 but was succeeded by J. E. Thompson who was First Vice Commander. Dr. Fred Steele was Adjutant. Cecil Fain was Commander in 1935 succeeding M. U. Griffin the 1934 Commander. C. M. Cornelison was Adjutant under Fain.

George Mahoney again served as Commander in 1935. There are no minutes available for the Post from January 1, 1937, through December, 1937, but Owen's History of the Alabama Department of the American Legion reveals that Ben Giles held the office of Commander during this period. Drury Davis was adjutant.

Following the 1938 Department convention C. M. Cox was installed as Commander with Bob Pitts, First Vice Commander, Bob Troupe, Second Vice Commander, F. W. Fleming, Adjutant, Slim Robinson, Sergeant-at-Arms, and John Roach, Chaplain. Post committees were very active during this administration and funds were raised from a number of worthwhile community projects. The Post met at the Boy's Club during this period.

John Roach was Commander in 1939 with F. W. Fleming as Adjutant. In 1940, Ben Giles again became Commander. In 1941 the following boys were

sent to Boy's State: Clyde Hicks, L. J. Steakley, Malvern Griffin, Sammie Burkett, Jack Dickey, Charles Hopper, Kelly McGee, Felix Fleming, Lonnie Whitt, Percy Keel and Alton Miller. The Department convention was again held in Huntsville in July.

Willis Latham was the new Commander of the Post and in 1942 he was succeeded by Edward McGregor with W. E. Kerr serving as Adjutant. In 1943 Abe Goldstein became Commander with F. A. McKinney as First Vice Commander and Kerr as Adjutant. During the war bond drive of that year Judge S. H. Richardson served as Chairman for the Post in this important project. Before assuming the office of Circuit Judge, Mr. Richardson had served as Second Vice Commander of the Post.

Newly elected Commander Frank Rice opened the regular meeting of August 3, 1944. James A. Lane served as Adjutant until he resigned in October of that year. During 1945 Commander Rice was appointed as the New Madison County Service Officer. At the regular 1945 election he was succeeded by James A. Lane as Commander.

A. L. Smith, present Chef de Gare of the Forty and Eight, served as First Vice Commander. During the regular meeting of April, 1946, Commander Smith reported a membership of 1138.

Robert K. Bell succeeded Lane as Commander with Carl T. Jones succeeding Smith as First Vice Commander in July of 1946. In 1947, A. L. Smith became Commander with Roy Blair as First Vice Commander. W. E. Kerr continued to serve as Adjutant. Carl Moring, Jr., became First Vice Commander when Blair resigned to accept the office of Madison County Tax Assessor. Under the rules of the Legion a member cannot hold elective public office and a Legion office at the same time.

During the year 1947 James A. Lane was elected Department Commander of the American Legion for Alabama. He later became a National Vice Commander of the American Legion.

The new post officers for 1948-49 were: Joe Foster, Commander; J. B. Hill and W. F. Eigenbrod, Vice-Commanders; James Record, Adjutant; Abe Goldstein, Finance Officer; Lee Harless, Historian; F. H. Heidelberg, Chaplain; and Bob Pitts, Sergeant-at-Arms. The outgoing administration of Commander A. L. Smith showed a profit of \$6,500 for the year. Carl Moring, Jr., served as District Vice Commander during 1948-49.

During 1949 the present Post Home Auditorium was completed with Comrade James I. McKee supervising the construction and serving as Chairman of the building committee.

For the year 1949-50 Commander Foster was re-elected Commander with Phillip Brocato and Tom McDonald as Vice Commanders. James Record continued to serve as Adjutant. In February of 1950 Commander Foster and Vice Commander McDonald resigned in order to become candidates for the State Legislature. Phillip Brocato succeeded Foster as Commander. During this year Earle Cocke, National Commander of the Legion in 1950-51, visited the post and addressed the membership.

During these years from 1945-1951 the post Junior Baseball, Boys State Oratorical Contest, Welfare and other committees were very active. In 1950 the Post again secured the Department Convention for Huntsville and it proved to be one of the most outstanding. A record attendance was accommodated.

New officers installed in July, 1950, by Department Vice Commander John Drinkard were James Record, Commander; William L. Russell, Jr., Homer Chase, and Woodrow McNeese, Vice Commanders; Thomas D. McDonald, Adjutant; Abe Goldstein, Finance Officer; F. H. Heidelberg, Chaplain; Burns Matthews, Historian; and Bill Locke, Sergeant-at-Arms. This administration recognized the growing importance of serving the veterans stationed at Redstone Arsenal and created a Junior Vice Commandership for that area. Harry Baron was elected to this office.

Burns Matthews was later called to active duty with the Navy and Lee Harless was appointed to fill out his unexpired term as Historian.

The 1950-1951 budget showed the post allotting \$21,135 as its annual budget. Among the projects this money was used for were: national education week, flags, boy scouts, girl scouts, junior baseball, oratorical contests, school plaques and trophies, memorial plaques, safety campaign, child welfare, public relations, veteran's relief, historic markers, organized charities (\$600) service men's center and Joint V.F.W. and Legion Memorial at the cemetery (\$1750). Few organizations in our city surpass the civic and charitable work of American Legion Post 37.

A Post Past Commanders Club was organized on February 2, 1951, by James Record with some twenty past commanders in attendance at the organization dinner.

Throughout the years the post history shows that the Huntsville Times has most generously and thoroughly publicized the activities of Post 37. Editor Reese T. Amis, a member of the Post, has given considerable time and help to the promotion of American Legion ideals and objectives.





Post B7 Color Guard at Football Game

During the meeting of October 16, 1950, life memberships were awarded to Madison County's two Congressional Medal of Honor Winners, Paul Bolden and Cecil Bolton. These memberships are paid for by the Post from year to year.

Officers of the Post for 1951-1952 were Harvey Eslick, Commander; Bill Locke, Jack Ivey, Henry Wagner, and J. G. Reynolds, Vice Commanders; Tom Faulk, Chaplain; Joe Snyder, Adjutant; Lennie Taylor, Finance Officer; and Phillip Brocato, Sergeant-at-Arms. A. L. Smith, Macon Weaver and Abe Goldstein were elected trustees.

For 1952-1953 Earl Tate was elected Commander; William G. Squire, Macon Weaver, Vice Commanders; W. E. Kerr, Adjutant; Henry Turner, Jr., Historian; Monce Taylor, Chaplain; and Edgar Clift, Finance Officer.

Early in 1953 Commander Tate resigned due to illness and W. L. Russell, Jr., succeeded him as Commander. Anderson Douglas was elected First Vice Commander. In July Russell and Douglas were re-elected for 1953-54 and other officers were Dean Steele, Junior Vice Commander; Abe Goldstein, Finance Officer; Mac Atkins, Adjutant; Rev. Harry Wade, Chaplain; John McCormick, Historian; and Lonnie Davidson, Sergeant-at-Arms. Harris Sharp was elected Trustee for one year.

During this year Harry Pennington was elected District Commander of the Second District (North Alabama). Tom Faulk succeeded Douglas as First Vice Commander following his resignation.

In July of 1954 Joe Foster was installed as Commander for his third term. Other 1954-55 officers were: Tom Faulk and Harry Pennington, Vice Commanders; Bobby Baites, Finance Officer; Mac Atkins, Adjutant; Money Taylor, Chaplain; James Record, Historian; Robert Raines, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Trustees, Joe Adams and Harris Sharp.

Present Legion Post 37 Officers, reading from left to right. Front row—Dean Steele, Thomas McDonald, Joe S. Foster, Jr., Earl Frazier. Second row, Harry Pennington, W. E. Kerr, Sherman Satterfield, Dr. Fred Steele, Louis Poole, Bobby Ba'tes and Mac Atkins.



The present officers of the Post were installed in July of this year (1955) following the department convention which was again held in Huntsville. They are: Thomas D. McDonald, Commander; Earl Frazier, First Vice Commander; Mac Atkins, Second Vice Commander; W. E. Kerr, Historian; Sherman Satterfield, Adjutant; Bobby M. Bailes, Finance Officer; Harry L. Pennington, Judge-Advocate; Dr. Fred Steele, Trustee; Dean Steele, Chaplain; and Louis Poole, Sergeant-at-Arms.

## TENNESSEE VALLEY VOITURE

No. 1012

## LA SOCIETE DES 40 HOMMES

## ET 8 CHEVAUX

By William Squire

The Tennessee Valley Voiture 1012 of the Societe des forty et eight was organized in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1947. The meeting place of this voiture was in the American Legion home of Post Number 37, of Huntsville.

The Charter members of the group were: David Baucom, J. B. Hill, O. H. Koonce, Frank Rice, Louis

Tumminello, Phil Brocato, James Lane, Perry Harned, R. E. Ledbetter, Robert K. Bell, Harold Carpenter, Roy E. Blair, Cecil H. Bolton, O. J. Brooks, Wm. A. Brown, O. L. Dunn, Abe Goldstein, Thomas W. Holder, Jr., Carl T. Jones, J. I. McKee, L. H. Pinkston, A. L. Smith, Jr., C. M. Cornelison, J. Y. Keith, W. E. Kerr, and Robert Limbaugh.

A School-Bus Chassis (new) was purchased from the Hill Chevrolet Company in February 1948. This was made possible through the sales of tickets on a new 1947 Chevrolet automobile which the 40 et 8 donated for this project.

The stripped down Chassis was driven to Birmingham, Alabama, by W. L. Thompson, to be converted into a "Parade Locomotive." The "Locomotive" was designed by J. B. Hill, Louis Tumminello, and Dave Baucom with the help of an Engineer at the iron works in Birmingham.

The completed Locomotive was driven back to Huntsville that summer. At a huge celebration at the Big Spring, it was "christened" by Mrs. Snow (a native of Paris, France), wife of Captain Snow, then stationed at Huntsville Arsenal.

Voyageur J. B. Hill, past Grande Chef de Gare of Alabama, and twice elected Chef de Gare of this Voiture, was the first Chef of this Voiture.

40 & 8 Locomotive



The Voiture in its early days carried children from playground to playground in the summer months for the ride in the Locomotive. Later on they carried grammar school children on their annual picnics (a practice which is still in effect).

Since Christmas Day of 1949 the Locomotive has run a "Cracker-Jack" run every X'mas Day, which is participated in by both Voyageurs and Legionaires. It has also helped the Huntsville Lions Club in their Annual Broom Sales, the Red Cross in their drive, and the March of Dimes locally for the past 6 years. The Voiture has used the Locomotive and toured the State of Alabama for the March of Dimes one year in 1954. In addition, it has helped with the Cancer Drive, Pee-Wee Baseball, Kleen-Drive, Highway Holiday, Boys State, Underprivileged Children's Christmas Day in Hartselle, Alabama, Christmas Parade in Huntsville and the Armed Forces Day Parade. It has attended the following National Conventions of the American Legion: Miami, Florida (twice); Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York City; St. Louis, Missouri; and Washington, D. C. The group has also attended several Dixie-land Conventions.

One of the Voiture's finest projects was realized when they sent a boy to Morgan School in Tennessee.

It has also paid for fuel, coal, and food for needy families, after investigation by their Welfare Committee. Each Christmas Day baskets of food, candy, meat, vegetables, and fruit are given out to needy families regardless of color, race, or creed.

The Grande Promenade of Alabama has been held twice here in Huntsville, in 1950 and 1955, both times being a huge success.

That familiar Locomotive on the streets of Huntsville is something every boy and girl loves to see and to ride in when they are given the opportunity. The vehicle is fully insured and the Voiture endeavors to furnish drivers of highest caliber to insure safety.

La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux is a civilian organization without rank or distinction. It is non-political and secret. Its objectives are to support, maintain, and defend the American Legion. To honor through membership, members of the American Legion who have proved themselves worthy of such honor. The Forty et Eight provides fun and frolic within the Legion so there will be no reason or excuse for any meeting of the Legion to be other than dignified and services in keeping with its traditions.

Voyager A. L. Smith is now Chef de Gare of the Voiture and Tom McDonald, Chef de Gare Passe' is a member of the Grand Cheminot (Board of Direct-

40 & 8 Present Officers, reading from left to right: Front row—Lester Collins, Roland Moon, Tom Faulk. Second row, W. E. Kerr, William Squire, Robert Raines, A. L. Smith, Thomas McDonald, J. B. Hill, Harry Pennington.



ors of the State Organization), Bobby Baites is Correspondent (secretary) and William G. Squire is Commissaire Intendant (treasurer). The name Forty et Eight is derived from World War I military service in remembrance of forty mules and eight men in one box car during those hectic days in France.

## HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER 26 DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Huntsville Chapter #26, Disabled American Veterans, was granted its charter on July 1, 1948 with 91 Charter members to start its career.

The Chapter is proud of its membership record for a town of this size. Its highest attained membership has been 397. At the end of June 1955 they had membership of 170 members with ten of these being life members of the Disabled American Veterans.

This Chapter first met in offices of the membership and then in the different Churches of the city before renting a home on Oak Avenue for a period of time and then in the Times building. The Chapter has just recently purchased a parcel of land to be their future home. This property is located on Fifth Avenue and Brooks Street.

The Disabled American Veterans is chartered by the Congress of the United States and is one of the few organizations that go before the Congress of the United States or any of its Committees without a lobbyist. The Disabled American Veterans has its own director of Legislation, pertaining to all veterans of all wars, whose office is located in Washington, D. C.

The Local Chapter has its own service officer who will assist any veteran in need of filing a claim of service or non-service connection. He also will assist any widow or orphan in this same manner. This service is free of charge, for this is an organization set up for the benefit of veterans, especially Disabled Veterans, their widows and orphans. This Chapter has successfully filed hundreds of claims for veterans of this and surrounding counties.

The chapter also has two National Service Officers located in Montgomery, Alabama to assist the local Chapter Service Officer in presenting all claims before the rating board, this service is given without charge to all veterans.

The Huntsville Chapter has furnished the State Department of Alabama with two State Commanders, Dr. Moody Walker and Vance Thornton and two State Adjutants, Vance Thornton and Rampy Collinsworth. This chapter has also furnished the State Department of Alabama with one State Treasurer

who has already served two terms and is now serving his third, John K. Clark. In addition, two Northern Area Commanders from Huntsville, Rampy Collinsworth and Toney B. Hughey have served. The Chapter has in addition furnished national headquarters of the Disabled American Veterans with a Sixth District National Committeeman (representing 4 states), Vance Thornton. Mr. Thornton has also served on the State of Alabama Veterans Committee.

A charter was granted to the Auxiliary of Huntsville Chapter 26 Disabled American Veterans on November 20, 1952, with twelve charter members. This is a vital part of the organization of the Disabled American Veterans and they play a most helpful part. They have furnished food and clothing to needy veterans and their families, and have assisted the Chapter with the distribution of Christmas baskets to the needy. They perform a most worthwhile service to the community without want of any publicity. The Auxiliary has furnished the State Auxiliary with one Northern Area Commander, Mrs. Stella Clark; with one State Treasurer, Mrs. Stella Clark; and with one Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Lois Barnes. The Auxiliary has a membership of 28 persons.

## GNENTRY-ISOM POST NUMBER 2702 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

By Jack Ivy

This post was chartered on June 5, 1945, in Huntsville with a membership of seventy-five veterans with overseas service. The first meeting took place at the Twickenham Hotel.

The organization has now grown to more than 1,250 members. The post owns a beautiful two story home located on Dallas Avenue, and has a very active Auxiliary. This building was formerly the Dallas Y.M.C.A.

Recreation facilities include bowling, ping pong, shuffle board, and dancing. A regular orchestra plays every Saturday night.

The Gentry-Isom Post is the second largest V.F.W. post in the state of Alabama and ranks among the top posts in community service projects.

The group sponsors an annual boys camp for underprivileged youngsters and a fatality cross program in the county. Each year a fine Christmas program is staged for underprivileged children. Last year this was enjoyed by more than 300 children. Gifts included new shoes, stockings, ice cream, cakes, milk and other refreshments which were distributed to the youngsters at the party.



V.F.W. Post No. 2702

Present V.F.W. Officers, reading from left to right. Joe Davis, Jack Calder, Howard Tipton, James W. Baker, Jack Ivy and Stanley Stephens.



The present officers of the post are: Jack Calder, Commander; James Baker, Senior Vice Commander; Macon Weaver, Junior Vice Commander; Stanley Stephens, Quartermaster; Bill Watson, Adjutant; Lee Harless, Chaplain; Earl Cloud, Judge Advocate; Roger Nance, Surgeon; Howard Tipton, Trustee; Jack Ivy, Trustee; and Joe Davis, Trustee.

The past Commanders of the post are: Joe Davis, Jack Ivy, Leon Towery, Alvin Blackwell, Henry P. Turner, Sr., Johnson Wyatt, Oliver Johnson, Robert K. Bell, J. R. Cole, and A. B. Smith, Jr.

Among the most cherished decorations at the post home is a picture of Herman Gentry, and a picture of Luther Isom for whom the post was named. Mr. Gentry was the first Madison County soldier killed in World War I and Mr. Isom, a sailor, was the first killed in World War II from our county.

### THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)

By Tom McDonald

In Huntsville the headquarters of the "G-Men," as they are popularly known, is located in the Federal Building, more commonly referred to as the present Huntsville Post Office Building.

Like all branches of the FBI, our local office is a smooth, efficient component of this great federal agency which is so vitally concerned with law enforcement. Although their fame is world-wide, their work is seldom publicized and the public is often unaware of the fine protection it receives through its local bureau within its sphere of authority.

The local office is a resident agency under the Birmingham office. Their FBI agents are assigned to Madison County and, besides our county, their territory includes the seven surrounding counties.

The office, which was first established here in 1941, is housed in Room 301 of the Federal Building. Their phones are listed in the local directory.

Our city and surrounding territory receives great benefit from having this office of the bureau so conveniently located.

### THE HUNTSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

By Hammond Carpenter

This group of ambitious hobbyist's were organized in June of 1952 and the club was chartered on September 26, 1952. The charter members were: Grover Tucker W4WJT, Marion Gibson W4LHR, John Garrison W4FOG, Sig Loeb W4WOH, John Douma

Members of Huntsville Amateur Radio Club.





New and retiring officers of Huntsville Radio Amateur Club, reading from left to right. Front row, W. W. Varnadoe, David Culver, Sig Loeb. Second Row, Bull Durham, Bill Owens, Hammond Carpenter and Hal Ballew.

W4NKK, Bill Aycock W4BSG, H. B. Overton W4WOF, Al Aycock W4WLS, and Bob Brandon W4AQB.

The group states its general objective as follows: "We the undersigned, being desirous to secure for ourselves the pleasure and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, furthering better cooperation among its members, develop individual efficiency, furthering the interest of radio in the general community, do hereby constitute ourselves the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club and do enact this Constitution."

Its specific objectives as: 1. Equip a trailer for emergency and disaster communication; 2. Make club services available for parades; 3. Locate and correct Television interference caused by amateurs in Huntsville; 4. Conduct classes in radio fundamentals.

The present officers of the club are: Hal Ballew W4GEQ, President; John Douma W4NKK, Vice President; Ham Carpenter K4BFT, secretary-treasurer; Bill Owens W4YXW, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; and Bull Durham W4HHU, Activities Chairman.

# CHAPTER THREE

## OUR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

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### HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA CULTURAL ATMOSPHERE SPANS TWO CENTURIES

By Tom McDonald

Our city of Huntsville, Alabama—first capital of the state, is filled with beautiful, historic homes on tree lined streets: century old churches and interesting public buildings which link this thriving, small metropolis with the culture that flourished in the Old South.

However, though the citizens of Huntsville are proud of the relics that tie it in with an era noted for its gracious living, they are equally proud of the facilities offered today in a community whose rocket research makes it as modern as tomorrow.

At some time during the year, residents of Huntsville are offered almost every type of activity for entertainment or intellectual advancement, and Huntsville has many fine churches.

Although the city is 100 miles from the nearest telecasting station, reception on local TV sets is generally excellent over channels 6 and 13 from Birmingham.

There are four drive-in theaters within a few minutes drive from town. And five movie houses are scattered through the business districts to offer the best in motion picture entertainment.

The Huntsville Little Theater is composed of an active, amateur theatrical group which produces three or four dramas each season.

The Community Concert Association has done a splendid job of bringing outstanding artists to our community.

A recently formed Chamber Music Guild offers periodic recitals for the public given either by local musicians or those brought in from nearby cities.

The two excellent Negro Schools, Oakwood College

and A & M Institute, not only offer recitals prepared by their own music students, but include in their year's program concerts by outstanding artists such as Marian Anderson and Percy Grainger. The public is invited to all such affairs.

Both a community band and a community chorus gives the opportunity for musical expression to those interested in actual participation.

There are two adult music clubs in the city, The Huntsville Music Study Club for women, and the Music Appreciation Group for both men and women.

Huntsville boasts an excellent library with a well managed reading room for children. The children are encouraged to read all year and are particularly urged to enjoy books in the summer. Also in the summer there is a scheduled story hour for young listeners.

The town is serviced with complete news coverage by our local daily, THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES. And in addition to this paper, due to fast delivery, readers look over THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES, THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS and THE BIRMINGHAM POST HERALD at the same time that these periodicals are read in their home cities.

Huntsville has three radio stations which connect listeners with both the Mutual and the American Broadcasting systems.

For the casual on-looker, the yards in Huntsville offer a display of exquisite flowers. And for those interested in active gardening, a dozen or more garden clubs for women offer a year round schedule of programs and study with the climax of an annual flower show each spring sponsored by the Madison County Horticultural Society.

The community offers a wide variety of civic clubs with which incoming members may affiliate while participating in a pleasant round of activities.

Among our many social and cultural groups are the following:





Members of Blossomwood Garden Club

### BLOSSOMWOOD GARDEN CLUB

The Blossomwood Garden Club was organized on June 30, 1952 at the invitation of Mrs. Inez Adams and Mrs. Louise Marsh, who were interested in the beautification of the Blossomwood sub-division. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Marsh with Mrs. Adams as co-hostess.

Mrs. R. G. Moore of the Chevy Chase Garden Club, who is also state treasurer, had been asked to organize the club. At this meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Lamar Adcock; Vice-President, Mrs. W. T. Adams; Treasurer, Mrs. G. W. Nevels; Secretary, Mrs. Martin Marsh. There were 12 charter members. The present membership is now 35.

The project selected was landscaping and improvements of Blossomwood. The flower chosen was the red bud, and the fact-finding project will be the iris. Other fact-finding projects have been roses and daffodils. The primary project of the club now is the beautification of Peter Fagan Creek at the California entrance.

The club participates in all civic and charitable drives, and at Christmas time 25 baskets of fruit, nuts, and candies were given to needy and aged Negroes.

The present officers of the group are: President, Mrs. Jack Burts; Vice-President, Mrs. Martin Marsh; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Sam Burt; Secretary, Mrs. W. E. Courtney; Treasurer, Mrs. William Badgley; Parliamentarian, Mrs. Roy Watts.

### BOYS' MacDOWELL MUSIC CLUB

By Mrs. W. E. Spragins

The Boys' MacDowell Music Club was organized and federated on March 21, 1951. The Club takes its name from the distinguished American composer, Edward MacDowell.

Officers elected at the first meeting were: Frank Wilson, Jr., president; Joe Prince, vice-president; David Lay, secretary; Richard Jones, treasurer; Hartmut Schilling, historian.

Other charter members were: Owen Bennett, Jimmy Fanning, Joe Allen Kedd, Mike Seltan, Lewis Drummond, Lewis Warner, Brice Dill, Harry Johnston, Bert Parsons, Perry Westbrook, and Redge Swing.

MacDowell Boys Music Club, reading left to right: Lyndon Faulkenberry, Bryce Dill, Billy Leach, Mrs. W. E. Spragins (Counselor); Standing, Tony Firestone, David McNutt, Bert Parsons, Joe Prince, Barry Johnston, Owen Bennett, Hartmeert Schilling, Ivan Faulkenberry. Seated end of table: Mrs. Hilda Faulkenberry, Tom Gay, Dick Van Valkenburg, Ridge Swing.



The life and work of Edward MacDowell are given emphasis and funds are sent each year to Mrs. MacDowell for use at the MacDowell Colony in Petersboro, New Hampshire.

Program and social meetings are held once a month by the club in the homes of the boys.

Members from this club play every spring in the District Music Festival.

Prior to this, a musical skit from light opera "Pinafore" was presented by the boys at the Junior Convention which met in Gadsden in 1953 and a radio program is regularly presented each May.

This club is sponsored by Music Appreciation Group with Mrs. W. E. Spragins as counsellor.

## BOYS' MUSIC CLUB OF HUNTSVILLE

By Mrs. W. E. Spragins

Our city begins early to foster a love of music among its youths. An example is the Boys' Music Club of Huntsville which was organized and federated in February, 1947. It is composed of boys from ages thirteen to eighteen years.

Past presidents of the group are: Newell Maughn, Edmund Duffey, Joe Ross Pullen, John Clary, Mack Vann, Milton Frank, Jr., John Sullivan, Edward Miller, and Randall Holmes.

Once a month business and program meetings with a social hour following are held in homes of the members and contributions are made to the National Federation.

Edward Miller, a member of this group, is State President of the Junior Federation.

Many boys from this club have gained distinction in Junior Music Festivals which are held in the state every year. Pianists every spring are rated superior which is the highest rating given. Other members play instruments in the school band or sing.

Each year Music Week is observed with a radio program.

This club is sponsored by the Music Appreciation Group and Mrs. W. E. Spragins is counsellor.

## THE CHEVY CHASE GARDEN CLUB

By Mrs. S. R. Moore

On May 4, 1948, a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. R. G. Moore, for the purpose of organizing a Garden Club under the auspices of the Whitesburg Drive Garden Club with Mrs. R. G. Moore, president; Mrs. John DeArmond, vice-president; Mrs. D. S. Vaughn, secretary; Mrs. W. O. Sisco, treasurer. Plans were made to form a Garden Club on 241 Highway and adjacent territory with the following

Boys Music Club, reading left to right: Front row, Jimmy Wat's, Jr., Edmond Duffey, Jr., Newell Maughn, Jim Dilworth, Dea Thomas, Royal Jean. Second Row, Bobby Moorman, Mack Vann, Ray Reid, Jimmy Wall, Jr., Joe Ross Pullen, Jon Anderson, Allan Forbes, Bob Dilworth, David Stoner. Kneeling by piano, Billy Tidwell, Dan Monroe.





Marker Dedication by Chevy Chase Garden Club.

as Charter members: Mrs. Edward Rolfe, Mrs. George Bennett, Mrs. W. P. Curtis, Mrs. W. A. Butner, Mrs. Oscar Underwood, Mrs. Coyle Ray, Mrs. Herbert Ray, Mrs. Roy Swain, Mrs. W. R. Gill, Miss Clara Fraker and the late Mrs. Lawrence Nicholson as Regional chairman of the Garden Club of Alabama. Officers were elected as follows: Mrs. Edward Rolfe, president; Mrs. Herbert Ray, vice-president; Mrs. Roy Swain, secretary; Mrs. Oscar Underwood, treasurer.

It was voted to name the Club Chevy Chase Garden Club and to meet the second Wednesday in each month. The club became federated with the Garden Club of Alabama and the National Council of State Garden Clubs. The Club was very fortunate in having one of the charter members a life member of the Garden Club of Alabama, also a state chairman with this background. The first project and objective which was Highway Beautification, removing of bill boards and unsightly things, was accomplished. This club won two state awards for their efforts the first year.

The second year started with the following officers: Mrs. R. G. Moore, president; Miss Clara Fraker, vice-president; Mrs. W. R. Gill, secretary; Mrs. W.

M. Preston, treasurer. A lovely spot of ground with two giant oaks was given to the club by Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Moore at the entrance of their drive on 241 Highway, now known as 431, for a roadside park for tourists to stop and enjoy. The plot was cleared and planted with shrubs and bulbs which were given by Chase Nursery Company, the ladies doing the landscaping themselves. A table and some benches were provided for the convenience of the tourist. A grill, a gift of the American Legion Auxiliary, was also placed there realizing this park to be of real service to humanity. It was decided to dedicate it to all service men and women of the Armed Forces who served in World War II, and it was named "Duncan Memorial Park," in memory of Lieutenant Richard Duncan and Staff Sergeant Jimmie Duncan, the only two brothers killed in the war from Madison County.

A Bronze Marker was purchased and erected on the park and on September 25, 1949, a beautiful Dedication Ceremony was held, with several hundred visitors and special guests and guest speakers. Joe Foster, Commander of American Legion Post No. 37, called the honor guard, which opened the ceremonies. The Reverend F. H. Heidelberg gave the invocation and Judge Elbert Parson led the group in singing

America. The welcome was given by Mrs. Moore who introduced her club members and Mayor A. W. McAllister, who spoke briefly.

Thomas D. McDonald, Vice Commander of the Post, was master of ceremonies. He introduced Mr. Roy L. Stone, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, whose topic was, Highway Beautification. Carl Moring, Jr., State Legislative Representative, and Herman Nelson, State Highway Engineer, spoke on Wayside Parks as Havens of Rest for Tourists. Mr. McDonald recited the poem, "Flanders Field," by special request. Dr. M. M. Duncan was presented and his special guests introduced. They were Maurice Duncan, Mrs. Brownie Ann Davoren, Mrs. Whitehead, Lieutenant Raines and Mrs. H. Holmberg. Other special guests were Alvin Blackwell, Vice Commander of V.F.W., Mrs. J. I. McKee, American Legion Auxiliary, and Col. Carl Jones, National Guard.

After the dedication address, Miss Mary Catherine Rolfe unveiled the Marker. Louis Tumminello blew taps and Reverend Heidleberg pronounced the benediction.

This was the only Wayside Park in North Alabama at that time. Special State recognition was awarded the Club for its outstanding service. Another table and benches, together with a bird bath have been added, thus again expanding our contribution to Highway Beautification.

By proclamation from Washington, Highway No. 31 was designated as the National Memorial Highway, honoring all veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict. A Blue Star Memorial Marker was erected and dedicated with appropriate Military Ceremonies on Highway 31, just south of Athens.

The Club has organized several Garden Clubs, sponsored one City wide flower show, and cooperated with the Madison County Fair Association winning first place once; cooperated with the A.A.U.W. in the recent Historical Pilgrimage; helped with the mentally retarded children; Home for Aged; Flint Sanatorium; Huntsville Hospital; Fifth Avenue Hospital; for a part in Garden Therapy, one of the State's objectives. Assisted the State Forest Rangers is securing one hundred acres for more adequate protection for Forest Conservation.

Contributions have been made to "Garden of Memory" and "Horticulture Scholarship Fund" at Auburn, Alabama. Also, the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Incorporated, for a permanent home and are a member of the Horticulture Society.

The 1955-56 officers of the Club are as follows: President, Mrs. E. A. Kelly; Vice-President, Mrs. Louise Esslinger; Secretary, Miss Lynn McDonald;

Treasurer, Mrs. Coyle Ray; Parliamentarian, Mrs. George Bennett. During the present regime it was voted to organize a Chapter of the Sisters of the Swish, in cooperation with the Huntsville Sesquicentennial Incorporated, in its historical celebration.

## CULTURE CLUB

By Mrs. Beulah Johnston

The Literary Club known as the Culture Club was organized in Huntsville in 1911 at the home of the founder, Mrs. Lucie Dillard, with twelve members present. This number was increased to eighteen members when the first year book was printed (1912) and later increased to 25.

The purpose of the club was purely a literary club for the pleasure of the members. A nominal fee of \$2 per year was charged to defray expenses, which was later reduced to \$1.00.

For a short time the Culture Club was a member of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, the Federation having met here in October, 1921; later the club withdrew from the Federation.

From the books preserved through the years the names of a large number of women are shown, who have been members of the club, many of them members of the city school faculties.

Interesting programs are presented at each monthly meeting with the custom adopted of closing the year's activities with a banquet at the Hotel. The meetings in the first few years of the club were held semi-monthly, but are now once each month and are held in the homes of the members with the exception of the final meeting of the season.

Charter members of the club include: Mrs. Henry Certain, Mrs. Rosalie Chapman, Mrs. Lucie Dillard, Mrs. E. C. Dillon, Mrs. Jennie Hosmer Garner, Mrs. S. O. Holmes, Mrs. R. C. Johnston, Mrs. R. L. Kendall, Mrs. Jere Murphy, Mrs. M. E. Leary, Mrs. Charles Orr, Mrs. J. D. Rice, Mrs. Robert Sessions, Mrs. L. C. Sugg, Mrs. John R. Turner, Mrs. R. O. Shreve, Mrs. William Wall, Mrs. Inzer Wyatt.

Miss Jessie Hopper, a former teacher and principal, is the Junior Past President; Mrs. J. B. Woodall, also former teacher and principal, is the present president; Mrs. Walter J. Byrne, secretary; Mrs. Roberts, treasurer; Mrs. Burke Tiske, parliamentarian.

## HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE GOLDEN WEDDING FESTIVAL

In 1946, a search began in Madison County by Charles R. Williams for married couples who had been married 50 years or more with the idea to

recognize and show tribute to those who had kept their vows in matrimony for half a century. With the cooperation of the Huntsville Times and Radio Station WHBS, the idea soon expanded into one of the greatest Human Interest Organizations in the nation.

Since its origin, more than three hundred people have joined the movement and participated in celebrating with each other their joys and experiences of married happiness. Each year the Chamber of Commerce sponsors the "Golden Wedding Festival" and is supported by other organizations, merchants and individuals.

Many interesting experiences are related at the gatherings as well as the forming of strong friendships among the group. Many of the couples attending are celebrating the anniversaries in the sixties. Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Woody of New Hope are approaching their 65th Anniversary. Mr. Charles R. Williams, originator, and Mrs. Williams will celebrate their 62nd in September. At a recent festival, 24 of the 129 Golden Wedding guests present were in their 80's. Seven of the couples present had been married more than 60 years.

A radio program has been developed and sponsored by local merchants over Huntsville stations and the

natural and informative manner in which these lovable old people appear and relate their happy married life has a great appeal. Life's Story has been often told yet in the drama of happiness displayed by these Golden Wedding members comes a life-long example for younger married couples. Tribute to those "Golden Wedders" who have been so devoted to each other throughout the years is a natural antidote.

## THE GREENWYCKE GARDEN CLUB

By Mrs. Clark Hereford

The Greenwycke Garden Club, a garden club organized for young married women of Huntsville, was organized in November, 1949, under the sponsorship of the Mayfair Garden Club. Meeting in the home of Mrs. J. E. Roberts were the fourteen charter members of the new club with Mrs. Oscar Grosser, President of the Mayfair Garden Club, Mrs. C. M. Grace and Mrs. R. G. Moore of the Huntsville Garden Club; and the hostess, Mrs. Roberts of the Mayfair Club.

At this meeting the regular meeting date, the first Saturday in each month, was agreed upon. Elected to serve as officers for the first year were: Mrs. H. A.

Golden Wedding Day Ceremonies.



Wilmer, President; Mrs. William Davoren, Vice President; Mrs. Sam Yarbrough, Secretary; Mrs. Jack Jackson, Treasurer.

Serving as officers for the following years have been the following: 1950-1951, Mrs. William Davoren, President; Mrs. Robert Martin, Vice President; Mrs. Douglas Bates, Secretary; and Mrs. Peyton Drake, Treasurer. 1951-1952, Mrs. Lewis Hubbard, President; Mrs. Peyton Drake, Vice President; Mrs. Donald Tyson, Secretary; and Mrs. Fred G. Sanders, Jr., Treasurer. 1952-1953, Mrs. Whitson Walker, President; Mrs. George Rodgers, Vice President; Mrs. B. J. Pearsall, Secretary; and Mrs. Harvey Meier, Treasurer. 1953-1954, Mrs. Robert J. Johnson, President; Mrs. Charles H. Cummings, Jr., Vice President; Mrs. Carl Morring, Jr., Secretary; and Mrs. I. B. Miller, Treasurer. 1954-1955, Mrs. Lewis Hubbard, President; Mrs. Peyton Drake, Vice President; Mrs. Glenn Sanders, Secretary; and Mrs. James Striplin, Treasurer. 1955-1956, Mrs. Clark Hereford, President; Mrs. B. J. Pearsall, Vice President; Mrs. John Chandler, Secretary; and Mrs. James Striplin.

The fourteen charter members were as follows: Mrs. Whitson Walker, Mrs. Jack Jackson, Mrs. Robert Martin, Mrs. I. B. Miller, Mrs. M. W. Frank, Mrs. Mortie Weil, Jr., Mrs. H. A. Wilmer, Mrs. William Davoren, Mrs. Douglas Bates, Mrs. William Rodgers, Miss Rosa Clay Schild, Mrs. Peyton Drake, Mrs. Donald Tyson, and Mrs. Sam Yarbrough.

The first civic project was landscaping work at Huntsville High School. The money provided for this project was used for iris and flowering shrubs to be planted on the grounds of the school. This project ran for two years. Following this, the club project was the planting of shrubs at the entrances to the Maple Hill Cemetery and this past year by planting a tree on the grounds of the new Huntsville High School. This year the club is planning to contribute to the landscaping of the new Crippled Children's Clinic.

Each year the club has made contributions to special causes—collecting bundles for the needy to be distributed by the Welfare Department; making corsages for hospital trays; donation of rakes to the Forestry Service Rangers; and financial contributions to agencies such as Red Cross, Heart Fund, Community Chest, Tuberculosis Association and March of Dimes.

The club has entered exhibits in the Madison County Fair along with other garden clubs of the city and county.

For several years a spring flower show and tea was given by the club.

Greenwycke Garden Club was one of the charter members of the Madison County Horticultural Society.

As a member of the Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs, financial contributions have been made to the scholarship funds and other causes as outlined by the Federation.

## HISTORY OF HELION CHAPTER No. 203 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

By Mrs. Beulah Johnston

Helion Chapter was organized under dispensation on August 9, 1916, by Mrs. Elizabeth Salter, the first Worthy Grand Matron of Alabama.

On November 14, 1916, the chapter received its charter at the session of Grand Chapter.

Mrs. Rena Leary O'iver was the first Worthy Matron and Mr. Henry C. Pollard the first Worthy Patron.

The Charter members included: Judge J. H. Balentine, Judge R. C. Brickell, Ed Hummell, G. H. Heyman, Messrs. A. P. Beane, Robert N. Farris, J. Goldstein, William Henchcliffe, W. P. Hooker, A. F. Kendall, J. L. Kendall, William Leary, Mrs. J. Goldstein, Mrs. Hannah Henchcliffe, Mrs. Etta Heyman, Mrs. Alice Hummell, Mrs. Bird Kendall, Mrs. Lucy Leary, and Mrs. Mary Wise.

The chapter, which is a benevolent organization based on the Bible, has for its major purposes to provide for the welfare of the wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and sisters of Master Masons and any others in need of assistance; to promote the kingdom of Him whose star guides all mankind.

In order to promote these beneficent purposes, the chapter has contributed, not only thousands of dollars to the welfare of humanity through the many worthwhile causes sponsored locally and nationally, but its members have contributed innumerable hours of their time and service. For many years the chapter had a serving club and held all day servings to make garments for the ladies and children of the Masonic Home and others. It also sent Christmas and Easter gifts, assisted in the maintenance of the Home, and in furnishings.

One of the outstanding projects of this chapter and all chapters in the state is the providing scholarships for college educations for the daughters and sons of Eastern Stars. In addition to the many such scholarships, that of the Education of Youth for Christian Service was added the past year, all of

which have enabled numbers of boys and girls to receive benefits of which they would have otherwise been deprived.

The following are the Matrons and Patrons who guided the destiny of the chapter: Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Kendall, Mrs. Hummell, Mrs. How, Mrs. McCown, Mrs. Walter J. Byrne, Mrs. Jennie Strong, Mrs. Curtis Carter, Mrs. Agnes Leatherwood, Mrs. Robert L. Gunn, Mrs. Kittie Porter Champion, Mrs. Edgar Mitchell, Mrs. Irene Jones, Mrs. John T. Jones, Mrs. Percy Underwood, Mrs. Margaret McCord, Mrs. Edith Rogers, Mrs. Charles C. Berry, Mrs. E. H. Buckner, Mrs. W. B. Patterson, Mrs. Ora Weiler, Mrs. Tom Sanford, Mrs. Lorrell M. Jones, Mrs. Shelby Hastings, Miss Ora Wilson, Mrs. G. W. Papot, Mrs. E. Y. Wilson, Mrs. Herbert Ray, Mrs. Carrie Hayden, Mrs. Mary Mann, Mrs. Lawrence Nickolson, Mrs. A. L. Logel Fuch, Mrs. Kenneth Buford, Mrs. Aurelia Vines, Mrs. Beulah Johnston, Mrs. Jodie Lemond, Mrs. Guin O. McKinney, Mrs. Frank Brown, Mrs. Shelby Vaughn; Mrs. L. L. Baucom is the present Matron.

Worthy Patrons were: Mr. Pollard, Mr. Sam C. Alexander, Mr. Curtis Carter, Mr. G. L. Long, Mr. Luther Lehman, T. Pickens Gates, Mr. A. L. Hipp, Judge Walter J. Price, Rodman Martin, Mr. E. H. Buckner, Mr. John W. Walker, Mr. Coyle Ray, Mr. G. O. McKinney, Mr. R. P. Starkey, Mr. W. R. Newton, Jr., Mr. L. L. Baucom is the present Patron.

Helion Chapter has the distinction of having had

the following Grand Officers: Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Carter, past Grand Patron and Matron; Mrs. Alice Hummell, Mrs. Jennie Strong, Mrs. Kittie Porter Champion, Mrs. Percy Underwood, appointive Grand officers, and Mrs. Tom Sanford, elected Grand Conductress.

## HELION LODGE No. 1, F.& A.M.

By G. O. McKinney

Helion Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M. was chartered on August 29, 1811, under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. Marmaduke Williams of Huntsville was the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge. On the lot in the corner of Williams and Lincoln Street, where the present Lodge building now stands, the original building was started in 1820 and completed in 1823. The old original building collapsed from age on March 15, 1920.

The north wall of the present building is a part of the old original building. Huntsville, Alabama, and Helion Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M. are accorded the honor of being the birthplace of Free Masonry in Alabama. D. Shelby Vaughn is the present Worshipful Master.

The officers for Helion Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M. for the year 1955-56 are: D. Shelby Vaughn, Worshipful Master; Doyle Ealy, Senior Warden; William A. Cobb, Junior Warden; Louis Miller, Treasurer; Guin O. McKinney, Secretary; Lessie S. Mathis, Chaplain; Daniel L. Warden, Senior Deacon; J. D. Harris, Junior Deacon; J. E. Quick, Senior Steward; W. L. Guthrie, Junior Steward; and Fred Cope, Tiler.

## THE HILLANDALE GARDEN CLUB

By Mrs. James Collins

The Hillandale Garden Club was organized August 4, 1952, by the Town and Country Garden Club, Huntsville, Alabama. Three members from the Town and Country Garden Club were present to help with the first meeting. They were Mrs. George Henderson, Mrs. Karl Sendler and Mrs. Robert Warden. The members voted to name the club the Hillandale Garden Club with the membership to consist of residents of Hillandale and to be limited to 25 members. The club voted to have the Crepe Myrtle as the club flower. Officers were then elected as follows: President, Mrs. J. C. Cox; Vice-President, Mrs. C. C. Lee; Recording Secretary, Mrs. H. L. Dillan; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. L. L. Clevenger; and Treasurer, Mrs. W. N. Allen.

After accepting a proposed constitution, the club



voted to become affiliated with the Madison County Horticulture Society and the State Garden Club organization.

The club project for the first year consisted of a clean-up project for the Hillandale area and with much cooperation from the city of Huntsville, the club members had all the high grass in the vacant lot areas and in back of the houses cut down and the land cleaned up. The club cooperated with various civic drives and worked with the Madison County Horticulture Society on their numerous affairs. The members planted Crepe Myrtle bushes in front of their homes and in as many places in Hillandale as they could.

In January, 1953, the club made hot water and ice bag covers for the hospital and at the monthly meeting discussed annual and perennial borders.

The club voted to hold a benefit bridge in March to get funds for the club project which was to plant trees in the playground area of Hillandale. The club also took part in the Horticulture Society Flower Show and red and white ribbons were won by two members.

In April of 1953, the 1953 and 1954 officers were elected, and the results were as follows: President, Mrs. C. C. Lee; Vice-President, Mrs. J. Beuel Bennette; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Albert Bryan; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Samuel Huffman; and Treasurer, Mrs. Harvey Miller.

The new president was sent to the State Garden Club convention at Auburn, Alabama, June 4 through June 6, 1953.

The following months several outside speakers were included in the programs. Some of the topics spoken on were "Your Green Thumb," "An Open Forum on House Plants," etc. Members furnished arrangements for the Moore Crabtree rest home and fresh flowers were kept there all the time.

In October of 1953 the club participated in the Horticulture Department of the State Fair and had a booth there. A Hat Show was held at the October meeting with members decorating hats with real flowers, etc.

The annual Christmas dinner was held and in January the club began making plans for its first Flower Show and Tea, to be held at the home of Mrs. Robert Martin. The show was judged and then guests called between the hours of three and five o'clock.

The Madison County Horticulture Society held their annual Spring Flower show and many of the Hillandale Garden Club members took an active part. Several ribbons were won by members.

Officers were elected in April for the year 1954 and 1955. They were: President, Mrs. Albert Bryan; Vice-President, Mrs. Robert Martin; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Osmond Gardner; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Willie Byars; and Treasurer, Mrs. John Goodloe.

On return of the president from the State Garden Club Convention in Auburn, Alabama, the project for the following year was decided upon. The Parkway in front of Hillandale running parallel with West Holmes Street was planted with Crepe Myrtle, Fitzers and other shrubbery, and a wrought iron pole and sign were put up at the corner of Fairway Drive and West Holmes Street denoting the entrance to Hillandale. Verbena and small shrubs were planted around the sign.

In October of 1954 the Club prepared a booth for the fair and several club members won ribbons on individual entries.

The October meeting was held at the Electric System and was a joint meeting of the Green Thumb Garden Club, a new club sponsored by the Hillandale Garden Club, and the Hillandale arden Club. A Workshop-Flower Show combination was held with Mrs. Jack Lucas, of the Blossomwood Garden Club, holding a demonstration.

The Club's second annual flower show and tea was held March 10, 1955, at the Methodist Church Annex between the hours of three and five P.M. The theme of the Flower Show being "prelude to spring." Numerous entries were entered in each class and the Horticulture group had a very impressive flower show.

During April, 1955, the officers for the year 1955 and 1956 were elected as follows: President, Mrs. James Collins, Jr.; Vice-President, Mrs. Francis Marsh; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Robert Martin; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Truman Daniel; and Treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Sims.

The club plans to start on a new project in the near future, and to take part in the annual State and Horticulture Club affairs. Three of the charter members are left in the club. Two of them being past presidents. These members are: Mrs. C. C. Lee, Mrs. Albert Bryan, and Mrs. W. N. Allen.

## THE HUNTSVILLE CHAMBER MUSIC GUILD

By Alvin Dreger

The Huntsville Chamber Music Guild was organized in 1952 by eight persons deeply interested in playing and presenting chamber music programs.



The guild has always welcomed players whether amateur or professional, at semiprivate musicals in members' homes.

It is the purpose of this group to promote recitals in which artists are presented in works of the classical masters. Ancient strings, trios, quartets, and quintets have appeared in public performances during the past three years.

From the very first concert, in which the University of Alabama string quartet was featured, the local audience has grown until Huntsville now has one of the largest chamber music audiences in the entire South.

Each ticket holder is entitled to membership in this group, and may suggest music to be performed on future programs. The last concert committee was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bauschinger, Alvin Dreger, Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Reisig and Dr. and Mrs. Pat Hamm, Col. and Mrs. John O. Lawrence, Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Mebane, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Rist, Mr. Philipp Zettler-Seidel, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Sandler, Mr. John J. Sweeney, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Emil Tolonen, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Vowe, Mr. James Palmer Wade and Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Weber.

The Huntsville Chamber Music Guild is a non-profit organization devoted to making the finest in chamber music available to all.

## THE HUNTSVILLE CIVIC ORCHESTRA

This great cultural enterprise first approached reality a few days after Christmas, 1954, when Dr. Arthur Fraser of Howard College Music Department,

Birmingham, Alabama, called on Mr. Alvin Dreger and made the following statement: "Let's organize a symphony orchestra in Huntsville." It was as simple as that. Mr. Dreger later called together an interim committee composed of our three band directors, Vincent Bria, William Myers, George Page and ourselves. Invitations were sent to 75 possible players announcing the first rehearsal on February 16, 1955, in the Butler School Band room. Forty players were in attendance and the group has had a continual increase since that time.

The oldest orchestra in this country, the New York Philharmonic, was founded in 1842 with just 16 players. So our orchestra actually got off to a better start than this world famed group.

After just three months work under Dr. Fraser, the orchestra gave its first open rehearsal for the public in May with fine results.

The orchestra's present Board of Directors is composed of Miss Dorothy Adair, Dr. Pat Hamm, Reverend George Hart, Mrs. William Mebane, Mrs. Harry Miller, Mr. Matthew Weber, Dr. Arthur Fraser, conductor, and Alvin Dreger, general manager.

Included in the orchestra's personnel are accountants, architects, band directors, chemist, cotton dealers, electronics experts, engineers, soldiers, housewives, mathematicians, physicists, postmen, students, and teachers.

It has taken Huntsville 150 years to yield an ensemble of this size, and during this sesquicentennial year the orchestra group is planning three programs, one of these will feature a composition by an Alabama resident, Dr. Charles Bryant, in honor of the celebration.

Community Chorus



Given time and support, the Huntsville Civic Orchestra will grow into a cultural asset of which Huntsville may boast with pride. We of Huntsville are proud of our fine orchestra and its most fitting motto, "Music self-played, is happiness, self-made."

## THE HUNTSVILLE COMMUNITY CHORUS

By Norman P. Harberger

The Huntsville Community Chorus is unique in that its members pay for the privilege of singing; likewise its director, officers and accompanist serve without pay. The organization is supported solely by the dues of its members and the free-will offerings of those who enjoy its performances. The group has grown considerably over the past few years and its most recent performance of Handel's *Messiah* was presented by a chorus of eighty voices.

The Huntsville Community Chorus originated from a group directed by Miss Nell Esslinger and sponsored by the Music Appreciation Club, which, in December, 1946, presented excerpts from *The Messiah* at the First Presbyterian Church. In the years that followed the group continued to perform, adopting the name "Trichoral"—representing the union of three choral groups: The Music Study Club, The Music Appreciation Club, and The Huntsville Men's Chorus. *The Messiah* performances became an annual affair with Miss Esslinger continuing as director until the Fall of 1950. During this period, also, a number of other concerts were presented by the group.

Upon Miss Esslinger's resignation, Mr. Clair Hardenstine, then Minister of Music at the First Methodist Church, became Director and the group adopted its present name. Mr. Hardenstine directed for three years, during which time performances included Handel's *Messiah*, Faure's *Requiem Mass*, Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ* and a Choral Festival in which various church choirs and other groups participated.

When Mr. Hardenstine resigned in 1953, Mrs. Pat Hamm, who had served the group as organist during the entire preceding period, became Director. Since that time the Chorus has presented, in addition to *The Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and a miscellaneous concert which for the first time included secular selections. Also, another Choral Festival was sponsored.

With very few exceptions residents of Huntsville have served in all necessary solo roles for the group; likewise all accompanists have come from this com-

munity. During the period since 1950, accompanists have been: Mrs. Pat Hamm, Miss Jacqueline Mitzner, Mr. Joe Morrow, Miss Wilhelmina Rist, Mrs. A. K. Thiel, Mr. Kenneth Turvey, Mrs. Clarence Westbrook.

Soloists, during this same period, have been: Soprano: Mrs. Nancy Harper (now Mrs. Seth Wilson Poole of Birmingham), Mrs. William Myers, Mrs. William Schwarz, Mrs. Jack Hendrix, Miss Nita Flowers (now Mrs. Gene Arant), Mrs. Jean Nichols Galanos.

Alto: Miss Margaret Porter, Miss Marjorie Townsend (now Mrs. Lloyd Walter).

Tenor: Mr. Vernon Morris, Lt. Gene Arant, Mr. Norman P. Harberger.

Bass: Mr. Fred Steele, Jr., Mr. William K. Highbaugh, Mr. Cyrus A. Bryant, Mr. R. H. Woodward Waesche, Mr. Ramon Kyser.

Persons who have served as President of the chorus have been: Dr. Moody Walker, Dr. Stanley Dort, Mrs. J. E. Frew, Mrs. G. A. Goodwin, Mr. Sam Broyles, Mr. Norman P. Harberger.

## THE HUNTSVILLE GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

One of Alabama's more interesting and unusual organizations, the Huntsville Speological Grotto, has been conducting field trips in Northern Alabama during recent months, mapping many of the larger and lesser known underground formations of this area. The group is comprised of both military and civilian personnel who are interested in underground explorations.

On April 4, 1955, a group of citizens interested in the exploration of caves met and formed a club known as The Huntsville Grotto.

The main objectives of the group are to do extensive mapping of caves in this area; organize search and rescue groups and conserve the natural beauty of the underground caverns.

The local group explores all types of subterranean phenomena, observes the flora and fauna appearing in caves, locates and maps caves appearing in the general locale for use in the future, and is devoted in general to the pleasure of cave observation. At present more than 45 caves have been indexed, and an equal number, awaiting charting, are known to exist. Landowners who know of caves on their property and who have heard of the group frequently contact the Grotto, inviting its members to explore their caves. The mapping is done by either the estimated



Local Speologists, reading left to right: Louise Thomas, Tom Hooper, D. J. Hall, Bill Lynch and Chuck Lundquist.

distance method or by chain measure, and many caves are found to have been never before entered.

An active index of equipment in the area is maintained. Rope ladders, ropes, winches, scaling equipment, special lighting devices, cave camera equipment, power generators, and field telephones are only a few of the specialized items available to the members of the group.

A Safety Committee within the group is making a special study of safety in caves, hoping eventually to put into operation an Emergency Rescue Group for use in any emergency. Elaborate systems of safety are used on all trips, and the whereabouts of the members are known at all times.

Members are also interested in substantiating certain legends such as the one concerning the Union soldiers trapped by Confederates in what is now known as Shelta Caverns; and the oft told tale that Fagan Hollow was the scene of an attack by Indians and buried treasure.

Club members feel that much of the natural beauty of the caverns has already been lost through such practices as initial carving on cave walls. The group

will attempt to prevent such action in the future.

Membership is not limited to people interested in caves alone, but is also open to those who follow such fields as subterranean photography and structure of underground formations.

In addition to regularly scheduled business meetings, the club takes frequent field trips.

The present officers are: W. W. Varnedoc, president; Jim Wade, vice-president; Paul Kane, secretary-treasurer; and Tom Hooper, property custodian.

## HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ITS BRIEF HISTORY PURPOSE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Charles D. Lyle

The society was organized at a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Chase, Adams Avenue, on Sunday, November 21, 1951. Mr. Chase was elected our first president and re-elected at our next meeting a year later, thus serving two years. No other officers were elected at this meeting but a nominating

committee was appointed to make up a slate of officers, board of governors, and the various committees to be voted on at our next meeting.

The idea for a historical society for Huntsville, originated with Mrs. Bessie Russell, assistant librarian, Huntsville Public Library, in the early part of 1951. She enlisted the support of Miss Frances Roberts who studied history at the University of Alabama and is at present a teacher of history at University of Alabama Center, Huntsville, Alabama.

They outlined a procedure for organization, interviewing a number of Huntsville's literary minded men and women, and from whom they selected a list of citizens who they thought would be interested. Invitations were then sent out by mail and phone. One of the first approached on the subject was Mr. Henry B. Chase who was much enthused over the idea and graciously offered his well known antebellum home on Adams Avenue for the first meeting.

Mr. Chase then proceeded to get things moving. He invited Mr. Rucker Agee of Birmingham, a past president of Alabama Historical Association, to be our guest speaker. Mr. Agee was one of the pioneer members of the state group and he is reputed to

know more Alabama History than any living person. He gave us some very valuable pointers on objectives and welcomed us into the state group. He pointed out that Madison County had more historical background than perhaps any county in the state.

The next meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Watts on Echols Hill on December 9, 1951. A more appropriate place for a Huntsville Historical meeting could not have been selected since this fine old home was first occupied by Leroy Pope whom history records as the "Father" of Huntsville. The home is presently occupied by the fifth generation of Mr. Pope's descendants and has been continuously occupied by the same since it was built in 1815.

At this meeting Judge Thomas W. Jones was elected vice-president; Felix Newman, secretary-treasurer and the following board of Governors elected: Mr. Reese Amis, H. M. Rhett, Jr., Edwin Burrell, Joe Falt, Josh Kelly, and D. C. Monroe.

The Huntsville Public Library was designated as our regular meeting place, subject to meeting in private homes by invitation, meetings to be held every three months on the second Sunday at 3:00 P.M.

Only one other meeting was held in a private home. Mrs. B. A. Stockton was hostess to our meeting on June 13, 1954, at what was formerly the old Neal home on Franklin Street, now owned by Mrs. Stockton. This house was famous in early history as the home of John Hunt Morgan who won fame during the war between the states with his famous Morgan Raiders. At this meeting Judge Thomas W. Jones was elected president of the society succeeding former president F. H. Heidelberg who served for only six months because of leaving Huntsville to make his home in Memphis, Tennessee.

During our four year history we have had as speakers some of the outstanding literary men of the state, including Mr. Frank L. Ousley, Head of the Department of History, University of Alabama, author of numerous books and an authority on Alabama and Southern History, Dr. George Stuart of Birmingham Southern and immediate past president Alabama Historical Association, Dr. Ralph Draughn, president of Auburn Polytechnic Institute, Mr. William C. Brantley of Birmingham, an authority on Alabama history, also one of the ex-presidents of the Alabama History Association, Dr. J. Stanley Hoole, department of history University of Alabama, Dr. Frank Sodary of Decatur, a well known authority on Archaeology.

Up to this point I have tried to give a brief resume of the most important meetings and names of our out-of-town speakers. I have saved the best for the



last, referring of course to the papers read by the speakers. In my opinion the most interesting of all the papers read was the one read at our meeting of June 14, 1953, by a former Huntsvillian, Miss Elizabeth Chapman, who has for the past several years resided in Birmingham. Miss Chapman's subject was Huntsville in the gay nineties. This was also the subject of her thesis given at Columbia University while a student there. A bound copy was presented to our society and is available at the Huntsville Library. I recommend it to any citizen who is interested in Huntsville's history, particularly those who remember the "Gay Nineties," perhaps the most colorful period in our entire history. It will certainly give you a thrill to recall the events both social and commercial of that most interesting period.

In her thesis Miss Chapman mentions an organization, known only to our very oldest citizens, and only a few of them are now living. It was known as the North Alabama Improvement Company organized in the 1880's. A pioneer organization similar to our present Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Charles H. Halsey was its General Manager and his associates were Colonel Milton Humes, Colonel R. B. Rhett, Mr. Sam Cruse, Mr. Oscar Goldsmith, Mr. W. Newman (father of the present Mr. W. W. Newman now living). There may have been others but these are the only ones whose names I now recall.

To this pioneer organization Huntsville is indebted for its first impetus towards an expansion that has never let up, even to the present.

It was this group of men who interested Capitalists from the North to move South and help us with the development of Huntsville and Monte Sano. Prominent among these new comers and perhaps the wealthiest was Major James F. O'Shaughnessey of New York, who developed Monte Sano and built the first Cotton Seed Oil Mill in the State here. This mill has been running continuously ever since, but has changed management several times. It is now known as The Southern Cotton Oil Company.

To Mr. Halsey, Huntsville is indebted for her first large cotton mill. The Dallas Mills, and also The Chase Nursery Company, formerly The Alabama Nursery Company.

Some few years later, a group of bankers, manufacturers and other business men moved in from the Dakotas. Any of our old citizens recall the names of these men's names, synonymous with the growth of Huntsville.

This period of history is a very important period in the life of Huntsville, it explains the purpose of our organization, which is "To afford an Agency for

expression among those having a common interest in collecting and preserving information about any past phase of community life in Huntsville and in recording the history of the section of which Madison County is a part."

The impact of this aggressive group from the North on the habits and customs of our old time Southerners is well told in Miss Chapman's thesis. She depicts a scene reminiscent of the times where a carriage drives up to the curb in front of the banking house of W. R. Rison. The coachman dressed in livery, gets off the box and helps the lady out of the carriage. She enters the bank and after a short stay she emerges on the arm of one of the bank officials who helps her into her carriage in a leisurely manner, usually engaging her in conversation.

These old customs were short lived after the arrival of the Westerners who had no time for such dilatory actions.

To those who hold for charm rather than progress, it might be said that they were able to delay progress for a period extending from right after the Civil War to the early nineties, as it is a matter of record that Huntsville turned down an opportunity to have Vanderbilt University located here as well as the L. & N. Railroad Company shortly after the Civil War.

Among the outstanding accomplishments of the Historical Society are the erecting of markers commemorating historical events in the life of Huntsville and Madison County. Five have already been erected and one is now in process. They are located at the following places: Huntsville Library, Madison County Court House, First National Bank, Masonic Temple and at the old John Hunt Home on Franklin Street. The one to be erected later will be located on the grounds of East Clinton Street Grammar School commemorating Green Academy, the first institution of its kind in the state.

A review of our Historical Society would not be complete without the names of its charter members. They are as follows: Mrs. D. C. Adams, Mrs. C. H. Russell, Miss Helen Petty, Mrs. R. J. Lowe, Mrs. Elizabeth Beamguard, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Falt, R. L. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Gates, Mrs. Joe E. Cooper, Miss Mary Irby Mastin, Mrs. Eugene R. Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Josh Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Reese Amis, Mrs. Raphael Semmes, Mrs. James F. Watts, Mrs. Vassar Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Watts, Miss Dorothy Sandlin, James Wade, H. M. Rhett, Jr., Miss Frances Jones, Miss Frances Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Heidelberg, Robert K. Bell, Judge Thomas W. Jones, James Record, D. C. Monroe, Alvin Dregger, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Kelly, Joseph L. Askins, Mr. and Mrs.

H. B. Chase, Mrs. B. A. Stockton, E. D. Burrell, Sr., Felix L. Newman, and Charles D. Lyle.

The crowning achievement was being host to the State Historical Association Convention April 23 and 24, 1955.

State officers and guests of the State Association were loud in their praise of Huntsville, stating that this was the largest attended and most enjoyable in the Association's history. They were particularly delighted with the ante-bellum homes tour and with the booklet concerning the homes given them.

## HISTORY OF THE HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Mrs. C. H. Russell and Mrs. Claude Herrin

Many of the early settlers of Huntsville were highly cultured, wealthy, plantation owners, lawyers, doctors, and men of letters. They did not focus all their attention upon business affairs and political caucuses. They also thought of the cultural life of the growing community. So we find that even before Alabama became a state, a library had been established. We know that on December 10, 1818, one William Atwood purchased two shares of stock in the Huntsville Library Company. These certificates are signed by Thomas G. Percy as president and Robert Fearn as treasurer of the company. This is the earliest record, not only of the Huntsville Library but of any library in Alabama.

In 1819, during the Assembly called to form the State of Alabama, James G. Birney gave notice that

he would ask leave to incorporate the Huntsville Library Company. In 1823 this corporation was granted a charter. Members of the company were: Thomas Fearn, Samuel Hazard, John Boardman, James G. Birney, George Fearn, Miles S. Watkins, Henry Minor and Thomas Brandon.

Very little is known about this first library, called the Huntsville Library, except that it was located in the court house. An old book plate in one of the books from this first library tells us that "This book may be retained three weeks; penalty of eighteen and three-fourths cents for the first day over and the like sum for each succeeding week."

The next library was known as the Hermathenian Library. No dates of this library have been found but we do know by the book plates that they used many of the same books that were in the Huntsville Library.

At this time we also find the library of The Clio-sophic Society of the Green Academy. This school was in operation from 1821 until it was burned by the northern soldiers during the War Between the States.

The first library after the war was the library of the Huntsville Literary Debating Society. It was organized March 1, 1870. This library used some of the books which had belonged to the old Huntsville Library and the Hermathenian Library. One book still contains the three book plates.

The Y.M.C.A. had also established a library for the men of the town. Mrs. Anthony, widow of Dr. LeRoy Anthony, gave his large and valuable library to this organization. A Reverend J. T. Thompson also do-

Huntsville Public Library (Carnegie) at Bookmobile Dedication. Reading left to right, Mrs. Claude Davis, Jimmy Davis, Elizabeth Parks Beamgard and Roy L. Stone.



nated many valuable books. In about June, 1891, the Huntsville Circulating library was started. This was first established in the corner of Murray & Smith's Book Store. Mrs. V. A. Betts was the librarian. In August of 1891, the library was moved to the Y. M. C. A. on Eustis Street. The Weekly Mercury of August, 1891, published a letter from Mrs. Betts thanking each member of the firm of Murray & Smith for their "unexceptional deportment" during the three months the library was housed there. She also thanked Mr. Daniel, the engraver, for "such delicate courtesies as only a refined man knows how to show a woman".

The candidates for librarian in 1893 were Mrs. M. V. Doublas, Miss Etta Matthews, Miss Meneese Pattison, and Miss Virginia Clay. Miss Matthews was appointed and Mr. Conrad O'Shaughnessy was elected secretary and treasurer of the governing body.

The librarian was in the library from three to five twice a week to check loans, collect dues, order new books, and repair old ones.

The library was maintained by a charge of \$1.00 a year for membership, fines paid for over-due books and occasional benefits given by the members. The first books were procured by private subscriptions collected by the librarian and her co-workers. The addition of the private collection of the Y. M. C. A. made a definite increase in the number of books available for public use. On April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1895, a benefit ball was held at the Huntsville Hotel. A band was employed and a large crowd danced in the hotel dining room each night until dawn. In the opinion of the staid members of the community, this was a "scandalous thing to do" but it was done, nevertheless, and the money was raised for more books which even the staid members of the community enjoyed reading.

In 1895 the library was moved from the Y. M. C. A. to the Gordon Building on Franklin Street. It was now open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, but by 1897 the circulation had increased to such an extent that it was necessary to open it every afternoon to take care of the public. The hours were also changed from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M. At the election of Huntsville Library Association in 1897, Miss Emma Wells was chosen president, Mrs. Felix Baldrige, vice-president, and Miss Etta Matthews was re-elected librarian. Mrs. Henry Dillard was elected in Mr. O'Shaughnessy's place as secretary-treasurer.

Patrons were asked to contribute books and the board began a series of entertainments which were to

be held twice a year as a means of securing money for new books and needed equipment.

In about 1899 or 1900 the library was carried to a room over the Fire Hall, which was then located in the old City Hall-Market House building where the Twickenham Hotel now stands. Miss Emma Wells and Mrs. Arthur Owen Wilson acted as librarians without remunerations.

From there it was moved to an upstairs room in the Hundley Building on the East Side of the Square. Mrs. Wilson continued as librarian. Rabbi Jacobs and Miss Nora Davis were very interested in a library for Huntsville and did much to help it in its early struggles. The library remained at that site until it was moved to the Carnegie Building which it now occupies.

Prior to November 7, 1913, a Carnegie Library Board had been formed. Minutes of a meeting of the Board on that date, state that the Board met to consider the investment of \$210.85, deposited to its account in the Huntsville Bank & Trust Company. The Board voted to invest the money in the purchase of such books as the purchasing committee of the Y. M. C. A. and a committee from the Carnegie Library Board might select. Mr. R. E. Spragins and Mrs. Felix Baldrige were placed on this committee. The books bought were to be placed in charge of the Y. M. C. A. for use in the Y. M. C. A. library. Should a Carnegie Library be established, the books would be withdrawn and placed in the Carnegie Library. One stipulation made by the Carnegie Library Board was that women as well as men be allowed to use the books of the Y. M. C. A. Library.

The officers of the Library Board were: Mr. W. T. Hutchens, President, Mrs. Felix Baldrige, Secretary, David A. Grayson, Treasurer. Mr. R. E. Spragins was the only other board member mentioned.

On November 11, 1913, the Board appeared before the City Commissioners to ask that they make an appropriation, for the support of a Carnegie Library. It was found that the City Commissioners had already agreed to the usual conditions of supplying a suitable site for the library building and appropriating 10% of the cost of the building per annum for maintenance. The Carnegie Fund had donated \$15,000.00 for the building and the City Commissioners had appropriated \$1,500.00. The same amount was to be paid each year. All that had to be done now was the selection and purchase of a centrally located lot.

In the early part of 1914 the city bought the Russell property on Madison Street. That portion of the property which was on the corner of Gates and Madison was considered the best location for the library.

The building was completed by the end of November, 1915, and on December 3rd, 1915, the governing board of the Carnegie Library met at the office of Mr. David Grayson and accompanied by the architect, Mr. E. L. Love, went to inspect the new building.

The Board at this time, was composed of Rev. Francis Tappey, Mr. R. E. Spragins, Mrs. James Mayhew, Mrs. Felix Baldrige, Mrs. David Grayson, Mrs. Milton Humes, Mrs. Amelia Dillard and Mrs. Paul Speake. In the March minutes, Mrs. E. D. Johnston is also mentioned as being a member.

This committee was untiring in its efforts to get the library ready for public use. The city donated \$150.00 for furniture. Three tables and ten chairs were bought.

On February 29, 1916, the Huntsville Carnegie Library was formally opened to the public. Miss Caroline Burke was the first librarian and the library was to remain open from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon, and from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and on Tuesday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

In March, 1916, Mayor Lanier promised to secure from the commissioners, full control of the Library for the Library Board. Mr. Tappey reported that Dr. Humphrey had promised the commissioners would uphold the Library Board and that he had informed the librarian she was directly under the control of the Board.

At this time the Children's Library was located in the north east corner of the main reading room. A Story Hour for children was started with Mrs. Milton Humes, Chairman, of this committee. Mrs. R. C. Brickell offered her services. Later Mrs. Johnston reported that Miss Nona Allen had been engaged for three weeks for the children's hour, Miss Frances Jones, for three weeks and Miss Chapman for three weeks.

Funds for books and materials for both adult and children's departments were raised by public subscription. "BOOK DAYS" were held when house to house calls were made and books collected.

In 1917 Mrs. Bolling and Mr. M. U. Griffin became members of the Board. Mrs. Mattie Darwin became librarian in the summer of 1917 and under her capable guidance the library grew not only in books and equipment but in services rendered to the public. Mrs. Darwin started the Historical Collection of the Library and secured many of its most valuable documents.

The Library had grown so rapidly that the hours were changed. It was voted by the Board to remain

open to the public from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. each week day.

In June, 1921, the first branch library was established in Maysville, with Mrs. Layman as librarian.

During the following years several new members served on the Board. Among these were: Mrs. Henry Chase, Mrs. Louise Garth, Miss Jean Humphrey, Mrs. Ed. Johnston, Mrs. M. H. May, Mrs. John Mastin, Mrs. Tom Patton, Mrs. Charles Pulley, Mrs. Schiffman, Mrs. Harry Rhett, Sr., Mrs. E. T. Terry, Miss Grace Walker, Mrs. James Watts, Mr. Addison Whate, Mrs. A. W. White, Mrs. Shelby White and Miss Sunie White. Mrs. E. T. Terry is still an active member of the Board. Mrs. Henry Chase, who became a member of the board in 1917, was elected president of the Board in 1923, and remained in that responsible position until her resignation in 1939. Mrs. Claude Davis was elected to fill this vacancy and is still serving in that capacity. It was greatly due to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Chase that the children's room is now so well equipped. She was so enthused over the work that she carried the window seats from her own home and had them installed in the children's room. Mrs. Chase is now an Honorary Life Member of the Library Board.

The children's section of the library became so popular that in 1928 it was thought best to place it in a room of its own. A room in the basement was outfitted and with Mrs. Martha Merritt as librarian, it was opened March 18, 1929. In 1937 Mrs. Merritt resigned and Miss Frances Jones was appointed to fill the vacancy. At this time the Qui Vive Club chose the Children's Room as its project and appointed Mrs. Addison White, Mrs. J. S. McDonnell and Mrs. J. L. Walker to serve on a Library Committee. Under Miss Jones' able direction the department has grown very rapidly. A story hour is held each Saturday and a Vacation Reading Club is held each summer. Over 1,400 books were read by members this summer. Since the new registration books were opened in 1950 in the Children's Room, 3,166 children have become members.

In 1942 a contest was held to choose a name for the children's room. Essays were written suggesting names and giving reason for suggestion. One-hundred ninety-one essays were turned in. The essay written by James Holliman, Jr. was considered the best and the name chosen was the "Longfellow Room". The circulation for June, 1955, in the Longfellow Room was 3,603 books.

In 1939 when Guntersville Dam was being built, the T.V.A. asked the Library to cooperate in serving its workers. Through Mrs. Chase's influence, a con-



tract was made between the T.V.A., the Huntsville Library Board and Madison, Jackson, and Marshall counties. Mr. Hoyt Galvin served as Director of Regional Service until 1940, when Mr. Horace Moses became director of the entire Regional Library Program, administered from the Huntsville Library. T.V.A. funds were withdrawn in 1940, upon completion of the dam, and the Regional Library Service of Huntsville Public Library became a self-sustaining organization, supported by the city and the participating counties.

In 1952 the Library returned to a one-county basis and today the Huntsville-Madison County Library serves the entire urban and rural areas by means of a bookmobile which supplies the nineteen following stations with books that are housed in the same headquarters building which was opened in 1916: Meridianville, Union Grove, New Market, Hazel Green, Skinnum, New Sharon, Walnut Grove, Maysville, Hurricane, Gurley, Cave Springs, Big Cove, Toney Harvest, Madison, Farley, Hobbs Island, New Hope, and Triana which is a colored station.

The Library has enlarged from a simple Adult and Children's Department to the Adult, Children's, and Extension Departments, located in the main building, with branches at Grace and McCormick Centers, Redstone Park, and the Negro Library Branch, the Dulcina DeBerry Library. One of the valuable collections is the small but still growing Historical Department which even contains eight of the original books in use by the Library in 1818. The Historical Department has been of invaluable help to the people of the community and to historians of other states as well.

In spite of inadequate facilities, the library has been recognized nationally by the American Library Association and the National Education Association in two recent surveys showing the place of the library in the American community; Adult Education services and degree of adequacy of a Public Library's service to its community.

Among the special gifts and memorials, the most outstanding is the Young Adult Reading corner, established by the Acme Club in 1946, as a continuing memorial to those of Madison County and Huntsville, lost in the service of their country, during and since World War II. A book with an Acmean memorial plate represents the name of each youth lost in service.

The library now offers several special services: a telephone reference service, art exhibits, a collection of phonograph records, and art works that may be borrowed on approximately the same basis as books,

program planning for study clubs or special interest groups and interloan library service. Space is also furnished the City Board of Education for its collection of professional books and films. The Genealogical collections of The Daughters of the American Revolution and Daughters of American Colonists are kept in the library. The library is also used by the public for conferences, committee meetings, civic clubs and study groups.

As of July 1, 1955, the holdings of the Huntsville Public Library included 45,620 volumes available for circulation and a large collection of reference material. The total count of circulation for the period from October 1st, 1954, through June 30th, 1955, is 69,227. The library subscribes to 108 periodicals, twenty of which are gift subscriptions. All except the current issues are available for circulation. Due to lack of space in the main library, Madison County furnishes a storage room for the back issues of periodicals. This room is located in the Elks Building.

Among the most valuable assets of the Library is its collection of Huntsville newspapers which extend intermittently from 1827. In addition to our local paper the library subscribes to three out-of-town papers and receives several valued gift subscriptions. There are at present 321 musical recordings in the record collection. Also many of our most valuable books have been given by various individuals in memory of friends.

Since 1944, 17,434 people have registered in the adult department of the Library. Due to this increased membership the library has for the past several years, remained open from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. each week day.

The Library is supported by funds appropriated by the Huntsville City Council and the Madison Board of Commissioners plus fines collected at desk and gifts from friends of the Library.

The Alabama Public Library Service Division also appropriates an allotment for the purchase of books each year.

The Library Committee of the City Council is now composed of the following: Mr. Houston Goodson, Chairman; Mr. Vance Thornton; and Mr. John Rodenhauser. These men are untiring in their efforts to promote the interests of the library.

The staff of the library has grown from one librarian in 1916 to seven regular staff members at the present time, who are as follows:

Mrs. Elizabeth Parks Beamguard, Director, employed since 1944.

Miss Dorothy Webb, Acting Director, employed since 1954.



Ladies active for Library

Mrs. Claude Herrin, Business Manager, employed since 1950.

Mrs. Calista D. Haney, Circulation Librarian, employed since 1945.

Mrs. C. H. Russell, Night Librarian, employed since 1947.

Miss Frances Jones, Children's Librarian, employed since 1937.

James D. Ballew, Extension librarian and bookmobile driver, employed in 1955.

The present Library Board which is elected by the City Council, is composed of:

Mrs. Claude H. Davis, Chairman; Mrs. E. T. Terry, Mrs. Robert J. Lowe, Mrs. Reese T. Amis, Mrs. Tom Dark, and Mrs. Henry Chase (Honorary Member).

To these and former board members who have given so untiringly of their time and effort, and to the City Council and Madison County Board of Commissioners, and the many individuals who have made valued contributions, we owe our present library and its facilities for public use.

## THE HUNTSVILLE MUSIC STUDY CLUB

The desire for and dream of a musical organization of some kind had long been in the hearts of Hunts-

ville women. Several attempts had been made with this object in view but it was not until the spring of 1920 that a permanent organization was effected.

On June 29, 1920, Mrs. U. I. Thompson called together at her home a small gathering of musical women and others interested in music.

Miss Marguerite Cartwright, who is now Mrs. Hugh Hawthorne of New York City, presented a lovely musical program. Before the afternoon was over, with Mrs. Thompson lending a helping hand, the organization known as the Huntsville Music Study Club came into existence.

The charter membership numbered 24 and Mrs. Frank Ware was elected its first president.

The club soon joined the Alabama Federation of Women's Club and in 1923 became federated with the National Federation of Music Clubs by joining the Alabama Federation of Music Clubs.

Within a few months after the club was organized a Knobe Grand Piano was purchased and for the first 3 years every effort was bent toward paying off this debt.

Elizabeth Gay Jones, a young Alabama artist, gave a lovely recital on the new piano. One of the outstanding events was the musical comedy "Spring-Time", which the club put on at the Elks Theater in November, 1921 under the direction of the John B. Rogers Producing Company.

Many artists were presented by the club, notably our young local artists including Francis and Nell Eslinger, Elizabeth Brooks, Mrs. Neida Pratt and Orville Erwin.

In 1924 the club organized a Junior and Juvenile Club and the Huntsville Music Study Club are still sponsors to these organizations.

During 1928 when Mrs. Emory Pierce was president, the Huntsville Music Study Club bought instruments for the newly organized band of Huntsville High School. They also paid \$100 a month for the director of the band for one school year. The membership at this time included 53 active members.

Mrs. H. E. Miller, one of the Huntsville Music Study Club members, has been president of the Alabama Federation of Music Clubs. She served during 1953-54. Mrs. Miller is now a National Board member of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

A list of past presidents is as follows: Mrs. Frank Ware, Mrs. F. B. Wilson, Mrs. Burns Kelly, Mrs. Walter Blrue, Mrs. J. E. Pierce; Mrs. Kyle Elliot; Mrs. Irene Jones; Mrs. John Hereford; Mrs. Carl Moring, Sr., Mrs. John Nelson, Mrs. W. L. Hunter, Mrs. J. F. Dunn, Mrs. H. E. Miller, Mrs. J. P. Vin-

zetta, Mrs. Herman Vann, Mrs. Thomas Sanford, and Mrs. Fred Steele.

The present officers are as follows: President, Mrs. R. P. Van Valkenburgh; 1st Vice President, Mrs. R. R. Scott; 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Frank Morring; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Robert Hubbard; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. William Dole; Treasurer, Mrs. Roy Buchanan; Parliamentarian, Mrs. H. E. Miller; Historian, Mrs. W. D. Haney; Junior Leader, Miss Veda Proctor, and Juvenile Leader, Mrs. R. R. Scott.

The future of this fine musical organization is bright and promising.

## THE JAZZ AGE TO NOW

By Raymond "Booley" Monroe

The Jazz age came into being following World War I when our war weary people expressed their relief by frolicing to the tunes of jazz music which originated in New Orleans by the Dixieland Five.

Prior to the war music as known to our Huntsville populace was made (except for the phonograph) by D. C. Monroe's brass band which gave weekly evening concerts on the court house lawn and an occasional concert given before a select few at Kildare, then the southern home of our wealthiest family. This was music of the "long-haired" variety rendered by the McCormick trio consisting of violin, chello and piano. Occasionally the W. C. Fields Minstrel would come to town for a night's performance and during the

afternoon their celebrated brass band would play several numbers on our main street which attracted large crowds of listeners.

Music for dancing was little known except for that which was furnished by colored string bands, the most popular instruments being mandolin, guitar and fiddle. One outfit, I recall, had a bass player whose instrument was a lead pipe about four feet long and two inches in diameter. Blowing into this through his thick lips he came up with a keen bass.

Between the years of 1915 and 1925 a dance trio from Nashville known as the Vito Trio would make an occasional appearance in Huntsville at the Twickenham Hotel and play for private or script dances. Their instruments were a three string banjo, xylophone, and piano. Several times too, our present Mayor "Speck" Searcy engaged Jan Garber to come over from Atlanta to the tune of two hundred dollars to play dances at the Twickenham. "Speck" charged \$5.00 per couple to attend and *usually filled* the hall with dance lovers from Huntsville, Decatur, Fayetteville and some more distant towns. Once, due to a washed-out bridge, the orchestra did not show up until 11:30 P.M. This was "Speck's" first unprofitable venture.

Returning from Valparaiso University (Indiana) in 1920, Booley Monroe organized the first Jazz Band in Huntsville, having gotten his inspiration from listening to the then unknown Wayne King who played for dances on a lake front near the University. This local outfit consisted of Miss Gretchen Strong, piano;



Paul Williams, saxophone; Booley Monroe, banjo and violin; and "Speck" Searcy, drums. They played for several dances and were known as "The Knickerbockers"—I believe that name came from one of the outfit having a checkered suit.

A little later on Elmer Overton, a local pianist, agreed to furnish a renovated Cadillac automobile for traveling over the country and to pay each member a weekly salary if they would join him which they did. Thus coming into existence Overton's Orchestra who traveled over Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi for a period of about two years. Jimmie Dill took Searcy's place as drummer while Searcy acted as advance agent seeking engagements. German Harris and John O'Neal with saxophone and violin joined the original foursome.

Later another local organization became quite popular, playing mostly for dances at the old country club. They were called the "Alabama Harmony Boys", consisting of Jimmy Dill, Booley Monroe, Sylvan Davis, Alex Davis and Paul Williams.

Music of today is furnished locally by Hilding Holmberg, Glenn Slayton, "Slim" Lay, Charlie Lyle and their bands.

## THE JUDGE DAVID CAMPBELL CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN COLONISTS

By Helen Petty

The Judge David Campbell Chapter, Daughters of the American Colonists, was organized on Wednesday, November 15, 1944, at the home of Mr. Oscar Mason with 28 Founding members and the Chapter was confirmed on Saturday, November 18, 1944, during the annual Assembly of the Alabama Society Daughters of the American Colonists which met in the Blue Room of the Russel Erskine Hotel.

This Chapter was the first Daughters of the American Colonists chapter in the state, and Mrs. John P. Moore was its founder and first Regent.

According to custom, Mrs. Moore chose the officers for the first year as follows: first vice-regent, Miss Helen Petty; second vice-regent, Mrs. Preston G. Browning; chaplain, Mrs. T. Pickens Gates; recording secretary, Mrs. W. M. Quick; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Henry M. McKelvie; treasurer, Mrs. Charles G. Dillard; registrar, Mrs. Oscar Mason; historian, Miss Idella M. Chunn; librarian, Miss Rebecca Larkin. These officers were installed by Mrs. Henry Grady Jacobs of Scottsboro who was State Regent and founder of the Alabama Society.

The following are the names of the 28 founding members: Mrs. John P. Moore, Miss Helen Petty, Mrs. Preston G. Browning, Mrs. T. Pickens Gates, Mrs. William M. Quick, Mrs. Henry M. McKelvie, Mrs. Charles G. Dillard, Mrs. Oscar Mason, Miss Idella M. Chunn, Lacey Springs, Alabama, Miss Rebecca Larkin, Mrs. Ophelia Mitcham, Mrs. John W. Newman, Decatur, Alabama, Mrs. Harrison T. Gill, Decatur, Alabama; Mrs. H. Grady Jacobs, Scottsboro, Alabama, Miss Elizabeth Jacobs, Scottsboro, Alabama, Mrs. Rice A. Jacobs, Scottsboro, Alabama, Mrs. Ben Hunt, Scottsboro, Alabama, Miss Mary Cotten, Scottsboro, Alabama, Mrs. John C. Jacobs, Guntersville, Alabama, Miss Annic Wheeler, Wheeler, Alabama, Mrs. James C. Bonner, Birmingham, Alabama, Mrs. Walter F. Turnipseed, Eufaula, Alabama, Miss Carrie Dent Moseley, Miss Edith Mason, Miss Virginia White, Miss Ruth McKelvie, Miss Margaret "Peggy" Jones, Miss Mary Virginia Jamison.

The first elected officers who served a regular term of three years were: regent, Miss Helen Petty; first vice-regent, Mrs. William M. Quick; second vice-regent, Mrs. Ophelia L. Mitcham; chaplain, Mrs. Charles G. Dillard; Recording secretary, Miss Rebecca Larkin; corresponding secretary, Mrs. T. Pickens Gates; treasurer, Miss Idella M. Chunn; registrar, Mrs. Oscar Mason; historian, Mrs. Ben Hunt; librarian, Mrs. Harrison T. Gill.

The objects of the chapter are patriotic, historical, and educational.

The chapter has had the privilege of having as guests two National presidents, Mrs. William F. Stone, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, and Mrs. Loren Edgar Rex, Wichita, Kansas.

The first chapter of the Children of the Colonists to be organized in the United States was organized by the Judge David Campbell Chapter just two months after the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists voted to sponsor chapters for children. It was given the name of the Captain Thomas Jamison Chapter.

Amelia Ervin Hixon, who transferred from the Children of the Colonists Chapter to Judge David Campbell Chapter, was the first member of the Daughters of the American Colonists to enter the service of our country as a WAVE in World War II.

On Sunday afternoon, May 22, 1949, the Chapter erected a bronze marker on the Big Spring Bluff in honor of John Hunt for whom Huntsville is named, and whose cabin was built near the southwest corner of Oak Avenue and Bank Street about the year 1805.

A fitting program was given with Miss Helen Petty

as Chairman. A patriotic and historical address was delivered by Mrs. Patrick Richardson.

The tablet was unveiled by William B. Hunt of Scottsboro and Barrett Shelton of Decatur, both Hunt descendants. These two boys and Eugene Emfinger, also a descendant, distributed the programs.

Mrs. W. E. Crawford of Decatur, a descendant of John Hunt, displayed a daguerreotype of Mary Jane Hunt, who was a granddaughter of John Hunt. Other visiting descendants were Mrs. Marie Hunt Porter of Sheffield, a great-granddaughter; Mrs. Rosa Hunt Stewart and William Hunt of Scottsboro; John Hunt Stewart, J. Wyatt Stewart, Clay Carter Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Shelton and son, Barrett, Jr., and daughter, Susanne; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Jones, all of Decatur; Mr. and Mrs. Summerfield Williams, Mrs. Henry W. Bonner and Mrs. C. G. Renegar of Huntland, Tennessee, which was also founded by John Hunt.

Huntsville descendants attending the ceremonies included Mr. G. R. Larkin and daughters, Miss Rebecca Larkin and Mrs. Ophelia Mitcham; Mrs. Theo Tyler, Miss Regina Tyler, Miss Harriett Bell; Mrs. Charles Townes, Mrs. John C. Lane, Jr., and children; Mrs. E. N. Womack, Mrs. John Cambron, Herman Taylor and daughter, Mrs. A. L. Adams and Herman Taylor, Jr.

Several Daughters of the American Colonists State Officers from Birmingham, Scottsboro and Sweetwater, Tennessee were present.

The present Chapter officers are: Regent, Mrs. Patrick Pruitt; first vice-regent, Miss Lucy McCrary; second vice-regent, Mrs. Ben Hunt; chaplain, Mrs. Oscar Horton; recording secretary, Mrs. J. N. Jacobs; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Hall B. Bryant; treasurer, Miss Idella M. Chunn; registrar, Miss Helen Petty; historian, Mrs. H. G. Jacobs; librarian, Mrs. Harrison T. Gill.

## THE JUNIOR GRACE CLUB

When the Grace Club of Huntsville wanted a social club for its teen-age daughters, they organized the Junior Grace Club. They also wanted to train the girls in civic obligations.

The club was organized November 3, 1934 at the home of Mrs. E. V. Caldwell. Eight girls attended this meeting. Officers were elected and plans were made for the future. Alice Elizabeth Mims, now Mrs. Alec Mitchell was the first president, Cora Geron Walker, first vice-president; Jane Laxson Adams, second vice-president; Helen Yarbrough Porter, secretary; Dorothy Gillam, corresponding secretary and

Katherine Thornton Wallace, treasurer, with Mrs. Walter Laxson and Mrs. E. V. Caldwell as sponsors.

The membership of the club is limited to twenty five. Girls other than the daughters of Grace Club members can be invited to be in the club. Today the girls are very active in work at the Grace Center. They help with the special holiday parties and are there each Monday to participate in the story hour. The club follows the same traditions of the Grace Club. It is the oldest teen-age club in the city.

## MADISON COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

By Franklin Bryson and Harold C. Davies

The Madison County Art Association was formed in 1947 by a group of Huntsville people who believed that the community needed an organization that could make it possible to give a community character to the individual efforts of persons interested in one or more aspects of the visual arts. This group believed that the individual would be benefited also. Mrs. J. Blount Clopton served as the first President.

The community, like almost all others of a similar population was without museums, schools or exhibition facilities. So far as the visual arts were concerned

The famous "Spider Web" paintings of Mrs. J. B. Clopton



Madison County was Menken's "Sahara of the Bozart". However inadequate, there were libraries and schools concerned with the non-visual components of culture.

The Association instituted yearly "non-jury" exhibitions of the work of amateur painters, sculptors, draughtsmen and workers in allied forms. These exhibitions were held in 1947, 1948 and 1949 in the old Parish House of the Church of the Nativity. More than five hundred items were shown in each of these shows. Paintings in all mediums constituted the greatest part of the submissions, but drawings, carvings, prints and photographs were to be seen. Childrens work received special consideration, the schools cooperating. The character of the work ranged from examples of "professional" quality to that of beginners. *Everyone* sufficiently interested in any phase of the visual arts had here an opportunity to see his work hung beside that of his neighbors.

The Association recognized that, important as the local showing was, if the cultural needs of our community were to be met, there should be a chance for our citizens to see work of high standard of accomplishment. This means bringing exhibitions of such work to Huntsville. In 1949 Huntsville had, under the auspices of the Association, an exhibition of work lent by the Alabama Water Color Society. The work itself was not of compelling character, the place of showing, the assembly hall of the Utilities, was not easy of access. The attendance was poor. Nevertheless, some good was accomplished. Absence of funds made it difficult to plan any further shows of this nature.

More than anything else Huntsville needed a school. The visual arts were not taught in the public schools. The Association sought to find some way of providing instruction to the people who wanted to learn. No answer suggested itself. To provide such instruction requires instructors and space. Since the association became inactive the need has been met in some measure by the University Center of the University of Alabama.

Within the last year the Huntsville Library has exhibited the work of local painters and has brought to Huntsville a show of the work of the faculty and selected students of the Art Department of the University of Alabama. The response has been gratifying.

The Madison County Art Association has been inactive for several years, to be succeeded, it is hoped by other groups, which, with the growth of our community, should succeed in making effective at least part of the program.

## MADISON COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Mrs. W. B. England

The Madison County Horticultural Society was organized in 1952 with the following federated garden clubs in Huntsville and Madison County as charter members: Monte Sano, Town and Country, Huntsville, Whitesburg Drive, Buttercup, Greenwycke, Monte Vista, Mayfair, Hillandale, and Spade and Trowel. The first officers, who served from March, 1952, to June, 1952, were as follows: president, Mrs. James Kendall; first vice-president, Mrs. Robert Baugh; secretary, Mrs. Douglas Bates; treasurer, Mrs. James Johnston; publicity, Mrs. Shelby Vaughn.

The purpose of the organization of the Society was to study in all its aspects the fine art of gardening and the conservation of natural resources and wild life, the preservation of scenic and historic localities, the inauguration and management of flower shows and lectures, and to bring in closer relation the garden clubs of Madison County. The Society does not seek to direct the administrative activities of the local clubs or control their policies. The meetings, which are held quarterly on the first Wednesday of June, September, December and March, are attended by the retiring president, who is automatically an officer in the Society, and the incoming president of each garden club. Each incoming president is the club representative in the Society.

During the few years that the society has been in existence it has presented Dorothy Biddle in "Holiday Decorations," sponsored lighting of the Christmas tree in the Court House yard on December 12, 1952, and again in December of 1953. In 1953 the Society arranged for the Butler High School Chorus to sing during the lighting of the tree. Interest in a film on "Rose Culture" was fostered by the Society in 1953, and they held the first annual flower show at the First Methodist Church Annex on May 6-7, 1953. The society has also sponsored two other flower shows, "A Festival of Flowers" on May 12 and 13, 1954, and "Spring in Dixie" on May 25 and 26, 1955. These two shows were also held at the First Methodist Church Annex. Each month one garden club is responsible for placing flower arrangements in the Huntsville Public Library and in 1954 the society promoted the planting of 256 Dogwood trees in Madison County. Through the leadership of the society practically all member clubs provide exhibits at the Madison County Fair. This is done on a competitive basis. Each year the society has brought to



Huntsville outstanding speakers on flower arrangements and Christmas decorations. During a meeting of the Alabama Historical Association, which was held in April of 1955, the member clubs made arrangements for the ante-bellum homes, which were open for inspection under the auspices of the A.A.U.W.

On June 1, 1955, eighteen garden clubs in Madison County were members of the society. They are as follows: Monte Vista, Monte Sano, Mountain, Blossomwood, Chevy Chase, Huntsville, Mayfair, Spade and Trowel, Hillandale, Garden Study, Greenwycke, Buttercup, Green Thumb, Magnolia, Westlawn, Town and Country, Whitesburg Drive and Thornton Acres. The officers serving for the year June, 1955, to June, 1956, are as follows: president, Mrs. Carl T. Jones; first vice-president, Mrs. S. P. Giles; second vice-president, Mrs. Louis Hubbard; third vice-president, Mrs. W. B. England; recording secretary, Mrs. B. M. Thompson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Albert Bryan; treasurer, Mrs. Kenyon Stevenson; publicity, Mrs. Frank Reed; parliamentarian, Mrs. Norman Harberger; officer-at-large, Mrs. S. R. Milner; advisory board, Mrs. Eugene Davis, Mrs. A. J. Hobbs, Mrs. W. K. Mayfield, Mrs. W. A. Estes, Mrs. Jack Lucas, Mrs. W. B. Allen, Mrs. Bartow Monroe and Mrs. Wilton Pollard.

## THE MAYFAIR GARDEN CLUB

The Mayfair Garden Club of Huntsville was organized on July 2, 1947.

It is located in the area of south Huntsville known as Mayfair which was partially developed prior to World War II, but it was not until after VJ-Day and the men came home that the people as a whole became "garden minded." As new homes became completed in Mayfair a group of ladies from this area met at the home of Mrs. Edward Branch with Mrs. R. G. Moore, Mrs. J. D. Thornton, and Mrs. Lawrence Nicholson from the Whitesburg Drive Garden Club in the hope of organizing a Garden Club to help make this area more beautiful.

On that hot afternoon they chose their officers. Mrs. Edward Branch was first president. Prior to the next meeting the group had adopted a constitution. Their first project undertaken was to contact the City Council concerning markers on our city streets. This was accomplished in a few weeks.

The president in 1948 was Mrs. J. E. Roberts, and it was during her administration that the City purchased the land for the Mayfair Playground. The Club adopted the Playground for its project that year, and since then have made it a continuous project. Each year they plant trees, shrubs, and flowers. In addition they have purchased water fountains, and picnic tables.

The Club's membership is limited to twenty-five members, all living in South Huntsville. Usually on hand is a full quota and a waiting list. The group belongs to the Madison County Horticulture Society, participates in the Annual City Wide Flower Show, and always has a booth at the Madison County Fair. Another fine attraction is the Club's own Club Flower show each year.

The present President is Mrs. J. W. Cloud. She is planning a great year for the Club. The Mayfair Garden Clubbers are doing their bit to make Huntsville the most wonderful city in Alabama, and as the members phrase it, "or for that matter the whole wide world."

## MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

The Music Appreciation Group of Huntsville was organized and federated April 11, 1934.

Mrs. Robert Moorman was elected to serve as first President of the group; Miss Elizabeth Gamble, first vice-president; Miss Nancy Pierce, second vice-president; Walter Winston, recording secretary; Frank Wilson, corresponding secretary; Miss Sarah Moor-



Music Appreciation Group, reading left to right: Standing, Mrs. W. L. Brandon, Mrs. L. D. Bounds, Mrs. W. M. Mebane, Miss Dorothy Adair, Mrs. Harry Wade, Mrs. W. E. Spragins, Mrs. W. S. Woolsey, Mrs. H. E. Miller, Mrs. E. T. Perry. Seated, Mrs. Harvey Nelson and Mrs. Chris Hauer.

man, treasurer; Alvin Dreger, parliamentarian; and Miss Mary Elizabeth Weeden, historian.

Other charter members are: Misses Celeste Coleman, Martha Almon, Sarah Erwin, Alice Caldwell, Annie Beryl Fancett, Ernestine Stone, Mrs. Jac Countess, Judge Elbert Parsons, Thomas Thompson, and Halsey Townes.

This group was organized by Miss Ruth Elizabeth Pettus (now Mrs. W. E. Spragins) who is still a member. The first meeting was held on the Mezzanine of the Russel Erskine Hotel and later meetings were held in homes of members which custom still prevails.

In the fall of that same year an artist series of four concerts was sponsored by the group. This series was so successful that by the next year the club membership had increased and a more ambitious series was undertaken.

Serving on committees for the concerts were: Stage Committee—Walter Winston, Jr., Elbert Parsons, Alice Kirkpatrick, Sophye Lowe Young; Distribution of Tickets—Susie Mae Hopper; Printing of Tickets—Will Ed Butler and Alvin Dreger; Publicity in

Schools—Mrs. Foster Ruch, Mrs. Clarence Watts, Mrs. J. B. Woodall, Miss Jessie Hopper; Publicity in Homes—Mrs. James Morris, Miss Sarah Erwin, Mrs. Jac Countess; Hotel Arrangements—Walter E. Winston, Jr.; Auditorium—Mrs. Jac Countess, Miss Ann Kingsbury, Miss Jessie Wilbur, Miss Ruth Watkins, Miss Margaret Watts and Clarence Watts, Jr.

Every year since then, the group has been sponsor or co-sponsor for concerts in Huntsville.

Contributions are made regularly to National Federation projects. Business and program meetings are held once a month.

This club has won the silver cup in the district four times for extension.

This group as an organization co-operates with the State and National Federation in actively promoting good music and helping to award scholarships to worthy music students.

Individual members are making contributions through service to the Music Federation and to the local community.

Mrs. H. E. Miller, a member of this group, has served as president of the Alabama Federation of



Music Clubs and is now a member of the National Federation Board of Directors.

Mrs. Pat Hamm, another member, is director of the Community Chorus, a large Civic Choral Group.

Many members of Music Appreciation Group sing in this Chorus. Other individuals are Choir Directors and Organists in the city.

The present enrollment is about sixty members.

The following is a list of officers for 1955-56: Mrs. Eckford T. Perry, President; Mrs. Cammack Ricks, Vice-President; Mrs. H. E. Miller, Second Vice-President; Miss Magda de Beek, Recording Secretary; Miss Mary Eleanor Mazza, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. A. M. Taylor, Treasurer; Mrs. Stanley Veatch, Historian; and Miss Gene Duffey, Parliamentarian.

### GRAND CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF ALABAMA

The motto of the chapter is: "A haven Fair, where we may lay by for an hour, our load of care."

The Past Matrons Club was organized in November, 1946, at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Nicholson, who was at that time Worthy Matron of Helion Chapter No. 203, Order of the Eastern Star, and a Past Worthy Matron of Thula Rice Chapter of New Hope. Mrs. Tom Sanford, who is now Grand Conductress of the State of Alabama Grand Chapter, was elected and installed as the first president.

To be eligible for membership one must have served as Worthy Matron of an Eastern Star Chapter and must now be a member of Helion Chapter.

Those succeeding Mrs. Sanford as president were: Mrs. Curtiss Carter, past Grand Matron of Alabama; Mrs. A. L. Hipp, past Matron of Bridgeport Chapter; Mrs. Irene Jones, Mrs. Shelby Hastings, Mrs. Herbert Ray, Mrs. Maggie M. Underwood, Mrs. Cora Chapman, past Matron of Ider Chapter; Mrs. Blanche Berry, Mrs. Jodie Lemond, Miss Ora Wilson and at the last meeting of the club held at the home of Mrs. A. L. Hipp, Mrs. Beulah Johnston was elected president.

Other members are: Mrs. Delia Martin, past Matron of Thula Rice Chapter at New Hope; Mrs. Lowell Jones, Mrs. Bessie Buckner, Mrs. Mary Mann, Mrs. Margaret McCord, Mrs. Guin McKinney, Mrs. Ann Brown, Mrs. Shelby Vaughn, Mrs. Horace Hayden, Mrs. Kenneth Buford, and Mrs. Leona Husch.

### THE ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

The Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Huntsville Assembly Number 27, is an organization sponsored by the Masonic bodies and Helion Chapter Number 203, Order of the Eastern Star.

The local group was formed May 28, 1947, at the Masonic Temple here in Huntsville. This temple is the oldest Masonic building in the State of Alabama.

The Rainbow Order is composed of girls from ages 13 to 18. Membership is restricted to approximately 50. Meetings are held twice a month at the Masonic Temple. Officers are elected quarterly.

The aims of the Order are to build Christian character; to encourage the spirit of patriotism in connection with good citizenship; and to foster by both thought and deed the honoring of fathers and mothers.

The first Mother Advisor was Mrs. Kenneth Buford. Mrs. Annie Hendon Taylor was the first Worthy Advisor.

Past Mother Advisors who have served are: Mrs. J. P. Vinzetti, Mrs. Lucille Jones, Mrs. Shelby Hastings, Mrs. Guin O. McKinney, Mrs. Aurelia Papot, Mrs. Frank Brown, Mrs. LeVina Stewart, Mrs. William Squire and Mrs. John Noe, Jr.

Grand Officers who have represented Chapter No. 27 are: Mrs. Annie Hendon Taylor, Mrs. Francis Stover Roberts, Miss Joyce Sullivan and the present Grand Hope, Miss Roberta Clary.

Mrs. Charles L. Morris is the present Mother Advisor. Miss Louise Wall is the contemporary Worthy Advisor.

### THE STUDY CIRCLE

By Joyce Jones

The Study Circle, which is a literary club, was organized in September, 1909, in the parlors of the old McGee Hotel.

The charter members were: Mrs. David Grayson, Mrs. Robert Brickell, Mrs. Sally Pynchon, Mrs. Gypsy Terry, Mrs. Harry Rhett, Mrs. A. L. Rison, Mrs. Margaret Bolling, Miss Nettie Campbell, Miss Bell Campbell, Mrs. Alberta Taylor, Mrs. Milton Lanier, Mrs. Louise Garth, Mrs. James Pride, Mrs. Newsom, Mrs. Felix Baldrige, Miss Elizabeth Chapman, Mrs. Earle Pettus and Mrs. Walter Kranz.

The purpose of the club was set for self-improvement, and the first study was made from the Bayview books and magazines.

Soon membership grew to twenty-five, and has

been maintained at this number to the present day.

The club since its organization has met every Friday afternoon from the first of October to the first of May. Meetings are held in the homes of members.

The Study Circle is still primarily interested in the presentation of cultural and timely subjects. Three strictly social events take place each year in the form of Christmas and spring luncheons, and a summer picnic.

Dues are a dollar per member to cover yearly club expenses. If any money is left from this fund, it is given to the Huntsville Public Library.

Mrs. Harry Rhett, Sr., is the only charter member still residing in Huntsville. Two other charter members, Mrs. Louise Garth and Mrs. David Grayson who are now living elsewhere retain associate memberships in the club.

Officers for the Study Circle for the year 1955-1956 are: Mrs. E. V. Caldwell, President; Mrs. Sally Gill, Vice-President; Mrs. Quincy Love, Secretary; and Mrs. Robert Bell, Treasurer.

## THE ROCKET CITY ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

By Conrad Swanson

In the fall and winter of 1954 and early spring of 1955, a number of Redstone Arsenal Scientists, Huntsville business people, teen-agers and others interested in Astronomy, met at the home of Dr. Martin Schilling for the purpose of discussing their mutual interest, astronomy. From those early informal meetings came the decision to organize a club and to purchase a large telescope.

With money donated by members of that original group, the club purchased, in March of 1955, a professional type 16½ inch reflecting telescope and made plans for its erection in an observatory to be built by the members on Monte Sano Mountain near Huntsville. On April 4, 1955, at a meeting held in the new Huntsville High School, the club elected the first officers and board of directors, approved its own constitution and adopted the name "Rocket City Astronomical Association."

The club chose Dr. Wernher von Braun as president, Billy S. Isbell, vice-president; Samuel F. Pruitt, secretary; and Erwin W. Priddy, treasurer. To serve with officers on the board of directors, Dr. Ernest Stuhlinger, Conrad D. Swanson, Dean Bresseale, Charles T. Paludin and Gerd Schilling were elected.

Organization of the club was completed with the appointment of the committee chairmen including



Observatory to be built on Monte Sano by the Rocket City Astronomical Association.

Dr. Martin Schilling (Astronomical Research), Dr. Ernest Stuhlinger (Real Estate and Planning), Wilhelm Angele (Observatory Construction), William Escher (Technical Instrumentation), Billy S. Isbell (Constitution and By-Laws), J. Robert Maulsby (Program), and George A. Ferrell (Publicity).

The Rocket City Astronomical Association was incorporated in May, 1955, as an educational, scientific and non-profit association. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at the new Huntsville High School. Membership is open to anyone interested. Annual dues are \$4.00, life dues \$100.00, both include a subscription to the "Journal of the Rocket City Astronomical Association," a publication prepared by members of the club for the dissemination of news and information about astronomy and astronautics.

## THE THEATRICAL HISTORY OF HUNTSVILLE

By Dr. Tom Smith

The first evidence of organized theatre in Huntsville is a copy of a program in a newspaper which reads as follows:

"Theatre—the public is respectfully informed that

on Saturday evening, November 4, 1820, will be presented the moral, instructive and effective Tragedy of the Gaulester, after which a comic farce, in one act called Blue Devils. Admission one dollar. Performance to commence at seven o'clock precisely."

This theatre was destroyed by fire in 1821.

The next evidence of Theatre here is a Certificate of Stock in the Huntsville Theatre, dated 1823, to be located at the corner of Lincoln and Clinton Streets. A deed to the Huntsville Theatre to the Huntsville Thespian Society is dated 1825. This property was given by Leroy Pope. This theatre was rented out to traveling players.

This theatre remained in operation until around the time of the Civil War, when it was probably destroyed. There seemed to be no organized theatre here from that time until around 1890, when programs show that there was an Opera House located at the corner of Jefferson and Clinton Streets. Traveling groups presented such shows there as Hamlet, The Gondolier, and Charley's Aunt.

A historical item of note is that the balcony of this theatre was divided into three sections, one for poor whites, one for Negroes, and one for harlots. A division which present authorities might term segregation in triplicate.

This brings us to the construction of the Elks Theatre, in the early part of this century. Here also came traveling shows, and vaudeville. Different act-

ing families lived there and presented different plays each week. The Elks' was one of the most famous showplaces in this section, and is mentioned in various novels having settings in North Alabama and Tennessee.

A local community theatre was organized here in the Thirties and presented several plays, including "Craig's Wife." These were presented on the stage where the Grand Theatre is now located.

The present Huntsville Little Theatre was organized in 1950. There were five charter members, Clair Hardenstine, Martha Byrd Gates, Nancilee Mitchell, Christine Beiard, and Dr. Tom Smith. Last year more than 100 persons worked in some capacity during the season, with this group.

The shows which they have presented have been: 1950-51, "Dear Ruth" and "The Bat"; 1951-52, "John Loves Mary," "An Inspector Calls," and "Anna Christie"; 1952-53, "Gold in the Hills," "Portrait in Black," and "Blythe Spirit"; 1953-54, "Lily, the Felon's Daughter," "The Gioconda Smile," and "You Can't Take It With You"; 1954-55, "Two Blind Mice," "The Wizard of Oz," Three One-act plays, and "Night of January 16th."

The group has tried to include a play for every taste each season, so the usual series contains a comedy, a drama, and a mystery. Last year a children's play was added and proved to be so popular with children and grown-ups alike that it will probably be continued.

Future plans and hopes of the Little Theatre include construction of their own building, sponsoring a children's theatre, work in radio and possibly television. They will continue to experiment with various types of presentation, such as the "in-the-round" play of last year.

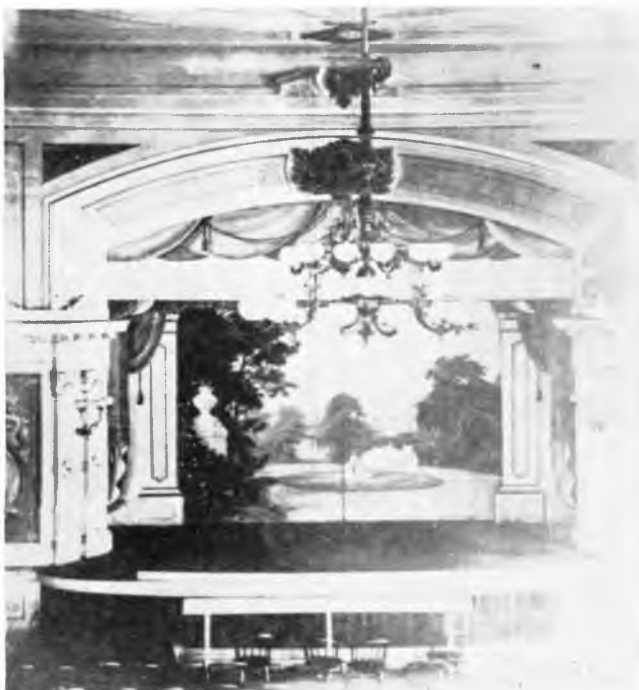
Officers for the coming season are: president, Jack Hendrix; vice-president, Miss Nancilee Mitchell; secretary, Mrs. Charles Northrop; and treasurer, Paul McLendon. Members of the board of directors are: Tom Yarbrough, Mrs. Robert Hubbard, and Dr. Tom Smith.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

During August, 1951, a group of ladies organized the Town and Country Garden Club for residents of Southeast Huntsville. Mrs. R. G. Moore of the Chevy Chase Garden Club sponsored the new club. The pink dogwood was chosen to be the club flower.

Officers elected were Mrs. George Henderson, President; Mrs. R. G. Allison, Vice-President; Mrs. Eugene Varin, Secretary; and Mrs. Charles O. Parker,

Interior view of old Opera House.



Treasurer. Other charter members were Mrs. J. W. Stutts, Jr., Mrs. Gordon Warden, Mrs. Robert Ross, Mrs. Robert Warden, Mrs. Clarence Waite, and Mrs. Robert Williams. The club was federated in 1951.

Mrs. George Henderson was general chairman of the Flower Show sponsored by the Garden Clubs of Huntsville in May, 1952. The Town and Country Garden Club won third place in the niche class.

In 1953 the club won second place in the niche class. Mrs. Henderson won the tri-color ribbon for the outstanding arrangement in the entire show.

The Town and Country Garden Club sponsored the Hillandale and Spade and Trowel Garden Clubs in 1952 and the Redstone Garden Club in 1954.

The Madison County Horticultural Society was organized in 1952 and the Town and Country Garden Club President was appointed first Vice-President. The following year the Town and Country President automatically became President according to the Horticultural Society constitution.

Mrs. Henry M. Shuey was the Town and Country Garden Club president and the Madison County Horticultural Society President from 1953-54. During this year the Town and Country Garden Club's constitution was amended so that persons eligible for membership need not reside in any specific location. A By-Law also limited the membership to twenty-five members.

Each year the Town and Country Garden Club has held a flower show and tea. At Christmas time a luncheon is held and each member brings wrapped gifts for the children at Child Haven, an orphanage at Cullman, Ala. Stockings are also filled with fruit, candy and nuts.

The Town and Country Garden Club has had a booth at the Madison County Fair each year. In 1953 the club won third place with its replica of the Big Spring complete with running water, flower beds, park benches, stone wall flanking the park and black and white drawings of the First National Bank and backs of buildings on the west side of the Square above the spring.

Mrs. Norman Harberger was President of the Town and Country Garden Club from 1954 to the spring of 1955.

The Town and Country Garden Club won first place in the niche class at the Annual Flower Show in the spring of 1954. The prize of 24 rose bushes was donated to the Crippled Children's Center, to be used in the landscaping.

Christmas decorations were made by the members and sold during the holiday season to raise funds for

the club's project—landscaping the proposed Crippled Children's Center.

Mrs. Richard Ely was elected President of the Town and Country Garden Club for the year 1955-56. Other officers elected were: Mrs. Gregory Moshkoff, Vice President; Mrs. M. K. Fowler, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Lowell Edmondson, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. John Hyndman, Treasurer; Mrs. Carver H. Dyess, Historian; and Mrs. George Henderson, Parliamentarian.

The third Annual Flower Show of the Madison County Horticultural Society was called "Spring in Dixie." The Town and Country Garden Club served as general chairman.

## HISTORY OF TWICKENHAM AUTO CLUB

By Webster K. Mayfield

This club is dedicated to the safe enjoyment of the all but lost pleasures of motorsporting, as derived from the operation and ownership of vehicles designed primarily for that purpose, and forced to seek these cars from sources outside the country which, in the memory of many alive today, once produced such noble machines as the Stutz Bearcat, the Mercer Raceabout, the Apperson Jack-rabbit, Stanley Steamers, Cords and Deussenbergs—there still exist some among us who refuse to forego these pleasures at the "Boudoir directed" whims of cost and Babbitt conscious designers. And these advocates of safety and motor sport enjoyment, unable to obtain from or modify the products of Detroit to their exacting standards are the owners of the cosmopolitan cars which have caused more than one Huntsvillian to take a second look in passing.

In fact, the chirpy MG's and powerful Jaguars have become rather familiar sights. But the rear engined German Porsches and Volkswagens and the sleek Italian Maserati and Alfa-Romeo are still enough to attract second glances. And so it was with the owners of the sports cars. After eyeing each other for a while, they started stopping to talk, and to exchange yarns of performance and maintenance of their respective vehicles. The outgrowth, inevitably was the organization of a sports car club in Huntsville.

When it came to voting on a name for the group the English contingent of owners won out—and so, with a nod to the History of Huntsville and the

British lion, the group christened itself the Twickenham Auto Club. At present the membership is composed largely of Redstone Arsenal personnel and numbers about thirty. The first President, Mr. Leith Potter, was elected at the inaugural meeting in November of 1954. In turn the office has been held by Lieutenant George Horsfall and Lieutenant John Foley. Activities chairman, Messers Lloyd Walters, Corbet Cornelison, and Tom Klingberg, under the guidance of the president and with the support of the club as a whole, have planned and accomplished rallies, gymkhanas, the showing of free movies in the public interest, and interclub participation in regionally sanctioned Sports Car Club of America events (such as hill climbs and airport races) in Birmingham, Nashville, New Orleans, Chattanooga, and Lawrenceville, Illinois. It is not at this writing a matter of accomplished history, but it should be noted that the Twickenham Auto Club, in conjunction with the Birmingham Region of SCCA is to hold an airport race at Cortlandt Air Force Base near Decatur, Alabama. This will be held on Labor Day (September 5, 1955) under the sponsorship of the Athens Alabama Lions Club. It is to be stressed that the proceeds obtained by such activity are utilized by the sponsoring agencies for charitable and civic enterprises. As a matter of policy, in keeping with the spirit of pleasure and enjoyment of motorsporting previously referred to, it is pointed out that no financial remuneration or reward is sought after, offered, or received by the membership of TAC or any of its affiliated or associated clubs.

It is a very new organization in Huntsville and for that reason is limited in its record of contributions to the history of the City. However it is believed that in the years to come, the enthusiastic spirit of TAC will be shown in the records as having contributed more than a small share in bringing about long needed revisions in automotive laws, design, and practices currently in vogue.

### THE TWICKENHAM STUDY CLUB

It was on November 12th, 1924, that a group of young mothers were organized into a club for the Study of Child Training under the leadership of Mrs. M. M. Duncan, Mrs. J. W. Caldwell and Mrs. George M. Davenport. This club was called the Child Conservation League and was active for nine years. One of their special projects was helping to furnish the Children's room at the Huntsville Library, and holding a story hour there each Friday afternoon. As an outgrowth of this organization,

when it was discontinued, some twenty-two of its members re-organized themselves into a Book Club, and it was named the Twickenham Study Club. This Club began on June 15, 1933, with the following charter members: Mrs. Grattan Brittan, Mrs. E. H. Buckner, Mrs. Drufy Davis, Mrs. Edgar Davis, Mrs. Claude Davis, Mrs. Sylvan Davis, Mrs. E. F. DuBose, Mrs. M. M. Duncan, Mrs. R. H. Gilliam, Mrs. C. M. Gillespie, Mrs. G. G. Grimwood, Mrs. L. D. Hall, Mrs. F. W. Karthaus, Mrs. H. F. Landman, Mrs. R. F. McFarlin, Mrs. Claude Phillips, Mrs. C. H. Russell, Mrs. J. R. Smith, Mrs. Ernest Sandlin, Mrs. J. E. Walker, Mrs. Ernest White and Mrs. Arthur Wikle.

This group has met, and still meets, twice each month from October through May each year, for Fellowship and Study and recreation. Their programs, for the most part, are reviews of good books. Sometimes it is the current best-sellers; and sometimes the old classics. A number of splendid reviewers have been developed among the members of this group, and many interesting speakers both from Huntsville and from out-of-town have been enjoyed at their annual open meetings.

The club membership is now limited to 20 and about half of this number have been in the club since its beginning.

This is the present membership roll: Mrs. Sam W. Caldwell, Mrs. E. F. DuBose, Mrs. Thomas S. Gibson, Mrs. C. M. Gillespie, Mrs. G. G. Grimwood, Mrs. L. D. Hall, Mrs. W. D. Haney, Mrs. V. W. Hammer, Mrs. Shelby McCullough, Mrs. Harry Nance, Mrs. Harry Davis, Mrs. Joe Burgess, Mrs. Patrick Pruitt, Mrs. Ernest Sandlin, Mrs. Rudolph Scott, Mrs. Fred Steele, Mrs. J. E. Walker, Mrs. Ernest White, Mrs. Carl Woodall, Mrs. Ernest Wright.

Honorary members are: Mrs. R. H. Gilliam, Mrs. Harry Adams, Mrs. C. H. Russell, Mrs. H. F. Landman.

The present officers are: Mrs. Fred Steele, president; Mrs. V. W. Hammer, vice-president; Mrs. Patrick Pruitt, secretary; Mrs. Shelby McCullough, treasurer; and Mrs. C. M. Gillespie, parliamentarian.

### TWICKENHAM TOWN CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Twickenham Town Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Huntsville, Alabama, was organized on the 19th of May, 1908. Mrs. Francis Tappey was organizer and first Regent. Officers serving with Mrs. Tappey were: Vice Regent, Miss John

Nathalie Matthews; secretary, Mrs. David Allison Grayson; treasurer, Mrs. R. Earl Smith; registrar, Mrs. Winston Garth; historian, Mrs. Margaret Walker Bolling; and chaplain, Mrs. Tancred Betts.

The charter members were 36 in number: Mrs. Charles C. Anderson, Mrs. John Bolling, Mrs. Robert C. Brickell, Mrs. Tancred Betts, Mrs. James H. Pride, Mrs. William Harvey Donegan, Mrs. David A. Grayson, Mrs. Winston F. Garth, Miss Alice Dashiell Garth, Mrs. Milton Humes, Mrs. A. Erskine Mastin, Miss Henrietta Austin Matthews, Miss Johnnie Nathalie Matthews, Miss Alice Reed Murray, Miss Mary Lee Murray, Miss Eugenia Nance, Mrs. A. W. Newsom, Mrs. J. Robbins, Mrs. R. Earl Smith, Mrs. Francis Tappay, Mrs. Frank W. Webster, Miss Mary Irby Mastin, Miss Sallie Crutcher Mastin, Miss Jane Humes White, Mrs. Charles F. Chase, Mrs. Henry B. Chase, Miss Edna Claire Rodgers, Miss Mary Holding Rodgers. They have served the chapter well through Chapman Clanton, Mrs. William R. Hutton, Mrs. Horace Van DeVoort, Mrs. Florence Miller Jameson, Mrs. Richard Walker, Mrs. Lizzie Bankhead Hotchkiss and Mrs. Lawson Sykes.

Three of the charter members are active in the chapter at the present time: Miss Mary Irby Mastin, Mrs. Sallie Mastin Gill, and Miss Minnie Augusta Rodgers. They have served the chapter well through the years, holding important offices and committee assignments.

The objects of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution are: To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence by the acquisition and protection of historical spots and the erection of monuments; by the preservation of documents and relics and records of individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and by the celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries; to promote institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge, to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

The National Society owns an entire city block in one of the most beautiful sections of Washington, D. C. Three splendid buildings now occupy this block, which is the largest group of buildings in the world built and financed entirely by a woman's organization.

The first projects of the Twickenham Town Chapter were the placing of a marker at the corner of Gates and Franklin Streets, on the site where Alabama entered the Union of States in 1819; financing

a young boy's education at the Martha Berry School in Georgia; locating the graves of all Revolutionary soldiers buried in Madison County and erecting a memorial to them at the North entrance of the Court-house lawn. Markers were placed on the graves of Lieutenant Colonel Albert Russel and Colonel LeRoy Pope, two Revolutionary soldiers buried in Maple Hill Cemetery.

Historical markers were placed on the home of Miss Howard Weeden, Huntsville's artist-poetess, and the J. F. Watts home on Echols Hill, which was the home of Colonel LeRoy Pope, the Father of Huntsville.

In 1935 Mrs. John P. Moore organized the Lieutenant Colonel Albert Russel Chapter, Children of the American Revolution, with 35 charter members. This chapter is now disbanded but many of the members have joined the Twickenham Town Chapter.

Twelve schools are financially aided, and two schools in the Southern mountains are owned and operated by the Daughters of the American Revolution. These two schools are Tamasee School, Tamasee, South Carolina, and Kate Duncan Smith School, Grant, Alabama.

In 1924 the Kate Duncan Smith School, located on the very top of Gunter Mountain, was started by the Alabama Daughters. This school for mountain children was established with only one small building made of cut stone. Today it is the pride of Alabama's Daughters of the American Revolution, with many useful buildings and an enrollment of more than 600 pupils. The local Daughters of the American Revolution group was one of the first chapter organizations to make a direct contribution to the erection of the first building. This chapter continues to contribute financial aid and support in all projects for Kate Duncan Smith School.

Every year a Good Citizenship pin is awarded by this chapter to a girl graduating from each of the Madison County High Schools. She is chosen for the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. A History medal is awarded the senior in Huntsville High making the highest grade in United States History.

Twickenham Town Chapter gives financial aid toward the support of three Indian Schools: St. Mary's, in Springfield, South Dakota, for girls; Bacone College, Bacone, Oklahoma, for boys and girls; and the Indian school in Alabama located at Atmore.

Four times the State Daughters of the American Revolution Conference has been held in Huntsville.

The first Conference was in 1915, again in 1919, 1937, and in 1951. Five members of this chapter have held State Offices: Mrs. Eugene Gill was State Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. F. Garth was state reader of official reports, Mrs. W. E. Pettus was state treasurer, Mrs. J. E. Walker was state librarian, and Mrs. R. P. Geron was elected state Registrar for three years in June, 1955.

The Twickenham Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has ten regular meetings each year. The programs are historic, educational and patriotic. The chapter motto is "God, Country, Liberty." The chapter flower is the rose. Constitution Day, Alabama Day, Washington's Birthday, Flag Day and other patriotic holidays are appropriately observed with special programs. A program on Americanism is given each year, and one full program is devoted to American Music. There are 84 members. Those who have served the chapter as Regents are: Mrs. Francis Tappey, Mrs. John M. Bolling, Mrs. Henry Chase, Mrs. Erskine Mastin, Mrs. Winston F. Garth, Mrs. R. O. Shreve, Mrs. Frank Ficklin, Mrs. Frank Webster, Miss Edna Rodgers, Mrs. Frank Williams, Mrs. Frank Mastin, Mrs. Clarendon Davis, Mrs. John P. Moore, Mrs. Eugene Gill, Mrs. Kelly Burwell, Mrs. W. E. Pettus, Mrs. Vassar Allen, Mrs. R. P. Geron.

The Genealogical Committee headed by Miss Martha Lou Houston and Miss Minnie Rodgers, compiled from the Madison County Courthouse records a complete Index of Wills of Madison County from 1808 to 1870. They also copied the Marriage Records of Madison County from Books 3 and 4. Copies of these records were sent to National and State Daughters of the American Revolution Genealogical Records Committee and a copy of the marriage records was bound and placed in the Huntsville Library.

In April, 1955, on New Citizens Day in Huntsville, at the naturalization ceremony, members of this chapter presented a small American Flag and literature on Americanism to each of the 109 new citizens. Following this ceremony, Mrs. R. P. Geron, chapter regent, gave one of the addresses welcoming these new citizens. In her talk she brought out the fact that since 1920, the Daughters of the American Revolution *Manual for Citizenship* has been used in Naturalization classes throughout the United States.

A copy of the Daughters of American Revolution Magazine is sent to the Huntsville Library each month, where it is filed for historical reference.

Twickenham Town Chapter has many projects. A

few of the recent ones were: contributing to a fund for transportation of spastic children; furnishing fruit and flowers to the hospital and visiting the out-of-town patients; presenting an American Flag and flag codes to the Junior American Citizens; distributing Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Manuals to the naturalization classes at the University Center. Each year this chapter has been 100 per cent on the National Honor Roll for special projects.

The officers elected in June, 1955, for three years are: Regent, Mrs. Carl Moring, Sr.; first vice regent, Mrs. H. E. Miller; second vice regent, Mrs. W. A. Estes; chaplain, Mrs. M. U. Griffin; recording secretary, Mrs. James Lutz; corresponding secretary, Mrs. R. Taylor Moore, Jr.; treasurer, Mrs. J. B. Pullen; historian, Miss Helen Petty; registrar, Mrs. E. A. Kelly; librarian, Mrs. Quincy Love; and parliamentarian, Mrs. Walter Eigenbrod.

## HISTORY OF VIRGINIA CLAY CLOPTON CHAPTER 1107 UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

By Beulah Johnston

Prior to the organization of the Virginia Clay Clopton Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy in May, 1905, twelve Huntsville ladies met at the "Grove" which was the ante-bellum home of Miss Sarah Lowe, and organized "The Ladies Memorial Society," with Mrs. Virginia Clay Clopton as president and Miss Sarah Lowe, treasurer. Their motto is: "To those who value the records of the past is entrusted the message of the future."

In February, 1898, this society was federated and known as the Huntsville Chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy No. 195 with the mountain laurel as the official flower and objectives as follows: Memorial, Benevolence, Historical, Educational and Social.

The charter was signed by the following ladies: Mrs. Virginia Clay Clopton, Mrs. Annie Southern Tardy, Mrs. E. C. Humes, Mrs. J. C. Clanton, Mrs. S. Dox, Mrs. J. B. Laughlin, Miss Sarah Lowe, Miss Floren Lyle, Mrs. James Matthews, Mrs. Sallie Pynchon. In 1902 all the minutes of this chapter were burned, hence little more of its history is recorded.

In May, 1905, at the regular meeting of the chapter, Mrs. Mac made a motion that the chapter be named for some favorite citizen associated with the Confederate cause or with the foundation of the



chapter, hence the name of Virginia Clay Clopton, the chapter receiving its charter on October 4, 1907, which was signed by: Mrs. Margaret Bolling, Mrs. G. Brickell, Mrs. A. E. Caldwell, Mrs. Juliet Clanton, Mrs. B. B. Daniel, Mrs. Kate Donegan, Mrs. Madge Dox, Mrs. Annie C. Dyas, Mrs. H. H. Frazar, Mrs. Mittie Gayle, Mrs. S. L. Garner, Mrs. Lila B. Greet, Miss Bertie Hampton, Miss Sarah Lowe, Miss Jonnie Matthews, Miss Mollie Miller, Mrs. Clopton, Mrs. Lucie Dillard, Miss Mary T. Clanton, Mrs. Humes, Mrs. Laughlin, Mrs. Alice N. McCravey, Mrs. Louise S. Mastin, Mrs. S. P. Metcalf, Mrs. Mattie Mullins, Mrs. Annie B. Newman, Miss Eloise Otey, Mrs. Kate Pride, Mrs. Pinchon, Mrs. Mary S. Pleasants, Mrs. A. D. Rodgers, Miss Edna Rodgers, Mrs. Addie W. Weakley, Mrs. Juliet W. Grayson, Mrs. Annie B. Robertson, Miss Susie Robertson, Miss Carrie Robertson, Mrs. Earl Smith, Mrs. James Strong, Mrs. Floyd Strong, Mrs. D. B. Sanford, Mrs. Albert Taylor, Mrs. Gippie T. Terry, Mrs. W. I. Thompson, Mrs. Etta Turner, Mrs. Frances Tappy, Mrs. C. N. Vaught, Mrs. J. B. Walker, Mrs. W. F. Webster, Miss Kate Weeden.

The chapter in its earlier history had varied activities with which to raise funds for its objectives which were benevolent and patriotic; among the actives featured were street fairs, tournaments, rummage sales, picture shows, plays, lectures, "The Ole District Skule," masked balls, fiddlers' contests, bazaars, markets, quilt and baby shows. The only fund raising activity at present is the Confederate Flag Day Sale towards the erection of a Memorial

building in Richmond, Virginia, to the Confederate women; it contributes the scholarship fund in which the State has reached \$90.00 from which several Madison County students have benefitted. Also to the widows of Confederate Veterans and other causes, local, state and national.

During World War I the chapter knitted 100 sweaters for the boys of Madison County who were in the armed forces. One member, Mrs. Annie Robertson, used the same knitting needle that was used to knit for the Confederate soldiers.

In observance of General Robert E. Lee's birthday anniversary in 1909, the chapter presented a picture of General Lee to the Huntsville High School, also one of President Jefferson Davis. Other pictures and many books have also been presented the school and library.

In 1909 the chapter decided to form a Children's Chapter, Mrs. S. P. Metcalf was appointed director, and formed a chapter with forty-three members; they assisted in the entertainment of the first convention held here, and contributed \$80 to the Virginia Clay Clopton scholarship fund; it disbanded some years later and was followed by the "Alberta Taylor" C. of C. which also disbanded in a few months, Mrs. Webster was director of this chapter.

Before the chapter became Virginia Clay Clopton Chapter all activities were directed towards the erection of a Confederate Monument on the Court House lawn; various entertainments were featured until the desired sum of \$25.00 was realized and November 21, 1905, the monument was erected with many notables in attendance including Governor William D. Jelks, former Governor Joseph F. Johnston, and Major General George Harrison.

Mrs. Clopton lifted the veil with most inspiring remarks; others participating in the impressive ceremonies were Ephriam Foster, Governor Jelks, Judge Thomas Lawler, Mayor Earl Smith, ex-Governor Johnston, General J. N. Thompson, Brig. General of Alabama Division UCV, Captain Dan Turner, Commander of Egbert J. Jones Camp, sons of Confederate Veterans, Major General George P. Harrison, Captain Milton Humes and Reverend W. N. Claybrook.

Prior to the ceremonies a huge parade was held with all the patriotic organizations, members of the county commissioners, city officials and many others from many parts of the state. Following the dedication, lunch was served the veterans and members of the UDC, and the evening a reception was held at the Huntsville hotel for all guests.

Among the most appreciated work of the chapter,



other than the erection of the monument, was the many activities for the Egbert J. Jones Camp UCV in the basement of the Court House where their meetings were held attended by some members of the UDC who contributed to the programs and served the refreshments. They also assisted in furnishing the rooms and many handsome pictures were among the contributions, among them being those of Lee, Jackson, and Mrs. Clopton, and assistance in the purchase of a piano. The chapter also honored the Veterans with a Christmas luncheon each year, which is still continued in their honor and memory. At this time an Alabama Day program is featured. The chapter also assisted with the state reunions held here and towards the purchase of some uniforms.

The chapter has been presented three gavels, the first was made of shittim wood from the plantation home of Mrs. Clopton, one was made by a Confederate soldier and was presented by the Egbert J. Jones Camp.

The Camp owned three flags during its existence, one was carried in a parade in Washington, one was a handpainted flag purchased by General Lamkin from the 3rd Alabama Brigade and another handpainted one from the 3rd Alabama Brigade was received by General Alex Steger of Madison County when he was elected Commander of the 3rd Alabama Division.

Virginia Clay Clopton chapter observes Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, the first Sunday in May, with an appropriate program and decoration of the graves of the honored dead, both Confederate and who are interred in Maple Hill Cemetery.

The chapter has had the honor of having one Alabama Division president, Mrs. Joe E. Cooper, immediate past Division president, also past Division treasurer. One of the outstanding features of her tenure of office was the dedication of the Vicksburg Monument, which objective she presented to the Alabama Legislature which endorsed it.

Mrs. Beulah Johnston is immediate past Division Corresponding Secretary. They being the only Division officers the local chapter has had.

In its many years of existence, the chapter with the assistance of its many outstanding members, has rendered a great service to the city, county, state and nation.

The present officers are: Mrs. W. A. Estes, president; Miss Helen Petty, vice-president; Mrs. John H. Wall, third vice-president; Mrs. W. E. Pettus, chaplain; Mrs. Chris Haeur, recording secretary; Mrs. G. Brittan, treasurer; Mrs. Joe E. Cooper, historian;

Mrs. Alice McCravey, registrar; and Miss Martha Lou Houston, recorder of crosses.

Past presidents of Virginia Clay Clopton Chapter are as follows: 1905, Mrs. Virginia Clay Clopton; 1906, Mrs. Virginia Clay Clopton; 1907, Mrs. Bessie C. Newson; 1908, Mrs. Bessie C. Newson; 1909, Mrs. Frank Webster; 1910, Mrs. Frank Webster; 1911, Mrs. Alberta Taylor; 1912, Mrs. Milton Humes; 1913, Mrs. Milton Humes; 1914, Mrs. Annie Robertson; 1915, Miss Edna Rodgers; 1916, Miss Edna Rodgers; 1917, Mrs. Roy O'Neal; 1918, Mrs. A. E. Mastin; 1919, Mrs. A. E. Mastin; 1920, Mrs. Walter Robinson; 1921, Mrs. Alice McCravey; 1922, Mrs. Alice McCravey; 1923, Mrs. Alice McCravey; 1924, Mrs. Alice McCravey; 1925, Mrs. Archie McDonnell; 1926, Mrs. Archie McDonnell; 1927, Mrs. Frank Mastin; 1928, Mrs. J. B. Woodall; 1929, Mrs. J. B. Woodall; 1930, Mrs. J. B. Woodall; 1931, Miss Clara Moore; 1932, Mrs. W. W. Esslinger; 1933, Mrs. W. W. Esslinger (resigned), Mrs. J. P. Moore; 1934, Mrs. J. P. Moore; 1935, Mrs. J. P. Moore; 1936, Mrs. J. P. Moore; 1937, Mrs. Clarendon Davis; 1938, Mrs. Clarendon Davis; 1939, Mrs. J. R. Thompson; 1940, Mrs. J. R. Thompson; 1941, Miss Minnie Jordan; 1942, Miss Minnie Jordan; 1943, Mrs. Kelly Burwell; 1944, Mrs. Kelly Burwell; 1945, Mrs. Frank Williamson; 1947, Miss Helen Petty; 1948, Miss Helen Petty; 1949, Mrs. Joe E. Cooper; 1950, Mrs. Joe E. Cooper; 1951, Mrs. J. E. Walker.

## THE HISTORY OF THE WHITESBURG DRIVE GARDEN CLUB

By Mrs. H. J. Schilds

As we turn back the pages of the Whitesburg Drive Garden Club calendar, we consider our accomplishments and take pride in our history. On March the second, 1932, a group of ladies gathered at the home of our first president, Mrs. J. D. Thornton, and under the sponsorship of Mrs. W. F. Garth the Whitesburg Drive Garden Club was organized. An enrollment of thirty-five members was made on the secretary's book. Persons eligible for membership were those living on Whitesburg Drive and adjacent territory. The object of our Club was to beautify and create interest in flowers and improvement along our drive. We were out of the city limits at that time.

Our first project was a clean-up program, and included repairing road shoulders and planting grass, and keeping weeds cut along Memorial Drive for a distance of two miles. We planted Chinese Elms, painted mail boxes, kept the roadside clean, removed

unsightly signs, and generally improved our public and private property. The improvements were very noticeable and before the year was over we had joined the State Federation of Garden Clubs; and were the oldest federated Club in Huntsville.

Our members have worked untiringly for the benefit of our City, and gave their full support for the Municipal Park in the heart of the City. It was partly through their efforts that Monte Sano State Park was located here. Club members went out one dark, rainy night with a petition and obtained the names of interested Huntsvillians, and turned them in to the Governor. We established a circulating library and have observed Conservation week in our various schools, and by articles and editorials in our local newspapers.

We sponsored the C.C.C. Camp on Monte Sano in making it attractive. We planted twelve flower beds and 1,192 plants, rambling roses, three large cedars, eighteen spreading junipers and English Ivy. In addition a pool was constructed under the supervision of the Club. It was planted and bordered with plants suitable to its shady location. We made many friends with the boys at the camp, and were entertained by them at a tea in our honor.

Our Club had a Garden Pilgrimage each year and gave a prize for the garden showing the most improvement. This was most successful.

As time went on many changes came about. Our beloved sponsor passed away and we missed her very much. The resolutions prepared at that time are still in our Secretary's book.

In 1938 we opened a playground on the drive, and the County cooperated with us in having traffic signs erected as a protection for the children. We opened our new project with a formal program, and served pink lemonade. It was our good fortune to have W.P.A. recreational supervisors to help in training the children in the right method of play.

As the dark days of war came, we planted victory gardens and gave many seed to the poor. We had as our theme, "Planting to Win the War." As attendance prizes at our meetings we gave defense stamps and with money from the treasury we bought many War Bonds.

One of Huntsville's most deplorable looking spots was the Southern Railroad Depot, thus we took on the job of beautifying it. We landscaped and planted the ground, built a rustic bridge over the ditch. We planted Lombardy Poplars as a growing background, and generally made it more attractive.

It has always been the custom of our Club to donate to all worthy causes in the County, and we

always remember the unfortunate ones sick in our hospital wards. We try to have flowers there at all times. At Christmas we have a tray corsage for each adult and a toy for each child. We have planted shrubs at the hospital and it was through our efforts that the old dead trees on the lawn were replaced by flower beds. We planted the gold star on the lawn and placed wreaths in honor of those whose names appear on the memorial posts at the head of Whitesburg Drive.

We have given freely to the Garden of Memory at Auburn which is in honor of our boys killed in World War II. Our Club and the Huntsville Garden Club had a joint Victory Harvest Show for the benefit of the Army and Navy relief fund.

We are a part of the Horticulture Society of our City and join with them in making our flower shows and other undertakings a success. We are most proud to have organized six garden clubs in Huntsville. We have sponsored a Junior Garden Club, and shared in their honor of winning a trophy at the State Convention on their Bird program.

Our Bird Sanctuary with our living Christmas tree is our pride and joy. (Our Christmas tree lighting service is most impressive and we join with the Garden Clubs of Alabama in a prayer that each light is a prayer for peace, throughout the world.) Besides planting the Christmas Tree we have planted thousands of bulbs and flowering and berrying trees to attract birds. The Boy Scouts made our attractive bird houses that are placed there, and are much in use by our feathered friends. The rustic bird bath and benches make a very restful spot. It is dedicated to our first President's husband, Mr. Jimmie Day Thornton, who when our Club was young and our funds very low, would send men from his farm to help us keep our drive the most beautiful in our City.

Another of our projects, a roadside park, which is very enticing to the traveler, is located just beyond the City limits. With the aid of our County Chairman we have done much work there. Mr. Chase, of Chase Nursery, donated many trees and shrubs for the park. We have two picnic tables and a nice circular drive.

We have just turned the page of our calendar, and even though we have had only one meeting we have sent in a hundred per cent of our membership, to a State Scholarship fund for a student to go to college and study agriculture and conservation.

We have Eight Charter Members and a total membership of fifty-four. We enjoy many social activities and are striving to keep Whitesburg Drive the most beautiful strip of highway in this Country.

## THE WRITERS GROUP OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

By Mrs. Luke Matthews

The Writers Group of Huntsville was organized in October, 1951. The purpose of this club is to further the study of all phases of writing, particularly Poetry, Articles, Short Stories or Books.

The membership is composed of eight charter members and one member voted into the club at a later date.

Charter members are: Mrs. Clarence Beasley (Mildred M. Neasley), Miss Doris Burwell (Doris Burwell), Mrs. Harry Coons (Sue Taylor Coons), Mrs. William Davis (Vira B. Davis), Mrs. Earle Ford, Sr. (Ruth Ford), Mrs. M. U. Griffin (Harriet B. Griffin), Mrs. Luke Matthews (Marjorie Matthews), Mrs. W. E. Spragins (Bessie P. Spragins). Mrs. M. U. Griffin is now an associate member.

Mrs. William Halsey, Jr., has been a member of the Writers Group for the past year.

Mildred Beasley is the author of a book, *Garden Flowers and Trees of the Bible*, and she also writes poetry which has appeared in *The Birmingham News*, *Westminster Magazine*, *The Midland Review* and other publications of the Riverside Press. She has published several poetry volumes. She also had an article in *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine*.

Doris Burwell writes poetry which has been published in *The Birmingham News*, *Scimitar and Song*, *Midland Poetry Review* and other Riverside Press publications. Her poem, *Winter Scene*, won first prize in an issue of *Scimitar and Song* for which she received a volume of poetry.

Vira Baldrige is a writer of poetry which has been published in *The Birmingham News*.

Sue Taylor Coons has had poetry published in *The Birmingham News*, *Tic*, *Westminster*, *The Country Poet*, *Progressive Farmer*, *Denver Post* and *Life Time Living*. She also has published two short stories in *Tic*, a *Dental Magazine*.

Ruth Ford writes short stories which have been published in *The Christian Herald*, *The Christian Home Magazine* and *The Villager*. She is currently working on a history of the Methodist Church.

Marjorie Matthews has had articles published in *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine*, *The Victorian*, poetry published in *The Denver Post Empire Magazine*, *Manna*, *The Progressive Farmer*, *The Birmingham News*, *Westminster*, *The Home Life Magazine*, and *The Country Poet*; short stories

in *The Children's Friend* and *The Christian Home Magazine*.

Bessie Spragins had an article published in *The Birmingham News Magazine Section* and received an award for a poem for *Glorietta Magazine*.

Jewel Halsey is a poet and has had them published in *Extension*, *Country Poet* and *Westminster*, and *The Birmingham News*.

Marjorie Matthews is a Vice President of the Birmingham Branch of the National League of Pen Women. Sue Coons is also a member of that organization.

Other Huntsville writers include: Joyce Jones (Mrs. Tom Jones) who is a reporter for the *Chattanooga Times* and *The Birmingham News*. She is the creator of *Sambo*, the famous Huntsville cat who has been photographed and captioned for 42 different publications. *Sambo* received the *Puss in Boots* award for outstanding cat achievement, as a contributor to human happiness. Joyce Jones is a writer and a photographer and has had publications in *Look Magazine*, *Journal of Living*, *Camera*, *Ebony*, *Farm and Ranch*, *Life Magazine*, *Weekly Unity*, *Nashville Tennessean* and *American Mercury*. Her pictures have also appeared in syndicated columns of National Newspapers.

John McCormick is an article writer and a professor at the University Center in Huntsville; his articles have been published in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Ford Times*, *Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine*, *American Legion Magazine*, *Pathfinder* and other magazines.

James Record has had articles published in *The Country Officer*, *Governmental News*, *The Alabama County Officer*, *The Elks Magazine*, wrote *A Report on Madison County, Its History, Operation and Finances*, and published *Rocket City, U.S.A.* Mr. Record is co-chairman for this Sesquicentennial Album.

Louise Semmes is currently working on a book with a factual background covering 1836 to 1841 with its locale Huntsville and Bell Factory. She is studying under Professor Strode at the University of Alabama and makes the trip weekly by bus. She reports that she is working on the closing chapters.

Helen Elliott Sockwell writes poetry and has been published in *The Progressive Farmer* and *The Huntsville Times*.

Mrs. Emil L. Tolonen is a writer of poetry and recently had a letter published in *The Family Times Magazine*.

John Edward Bell has had poems included in *Songwriters and Important American Poets*.

McDill McCown Gassman who now lives in Rome, Georgia, is the author of a book, *Daddy Was an Undertaker* and *Fragments*, a volume of poetry.

Thomas D. McDonald has had publications in Ambassador, Sentinel, Our Army, Pic, The Author and Journalist, The Industrial Index, Birmingham Post Herald, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, and The Fort Benning Bayonet. He wrote an original play, "The Moth and the Star," which was produced by the Asheville Theater Guild. His work has included feature articles, cartoons and short fiction stories. He is Co-Chairman of the Sesquicentennial Album committee.

The Huntsville Writers Group arranges bulletins of writers' work from time to time at the Huntsville Public Library, the most important of which is the bulletin for National Poetry Week.

Other writers known of in Huntsville include Bonna Roberts, Calister D. Haney, Janie Stevens Brown, Miss Ella Ware, Lollie Bowers Collier, Viola Coons Ayers, Pauline Swing, Elizabeth Parks Beamgard, Alvis Howard, Frances Jones and Mrs. Bessie King Russel. Olive Matthews Warden writes poetry, and her *This Village—My Heritage* was recently on the editorial page of The Huntsville Times.

## GARDEN STUDY CLUB

By Mrs. C. W. Knight

The Garden Study Club was organized May 11, 1954, by a group of eleven women. The main objective of this garden club is the intensive study of flower growing. The aim or goal is for each club member to grow her own flowers for use in all flower arrangements made for her home as well as for exhibits and flower shows; to learn enough about land-

scaping, massing of color and types of flowers which thrive best in this area in order to display the flowers in her own yard or garden to the best advantage.

The Club Flower is the Peace Rose, the colors are yellow and green and the motto is, "Working together to create beauty and friendship." The Club is affiliated with The Madison Horticultural Society and the State Federation of Garden Clubs.

The programs for the first year were based on horticultural topics with flower arranging given less emphasis. The purpose of having programs of this nature was to endeavor to create an interest in growing flowers. In the programs for the current year, equal emphasis is placed on horticulture and flower arrangement.

In the Spring Flower Show the Garden Study Club won first place in the arrangement class for Garden Clubs. Six blue ribbons were won for horticultural specimen exhibited.

Projects for the past year included assistance in the landscaping of the new high school, Christmas charities and several smaller projects. Our project for the current year is assistance with the landscaping of the Crippled Children's Clinic.

The Garden Study Club celebrated its first birthday in May, 1955, with a tea to which representatives from all the garden clubs of the city were invited.

Mrs. C. W. Knight is serving as president of the Garden Study Club with Mrs. Tully O. Turner, Jr., as vice-president.

The following is a list of charter members of the Garden Study Club: Mrs. W. A. Estes, Mrs. Bill Harris, Mrs. Eugene Varin, Mrs. Edward E. Traylor, Mrs. R. C. Allison, Mrs. C. W. Knight, Mrs. Patrick Pruitt, Mrs. Tully O. Turner, Jr., Mrs. James M. Freeze, Mrs. Sam Sockwell and Mrs. George Hardwick.

One of Huntsville's Beautiful Garden Scenes



# CHAPTER FOUR

## OUR CHARITIES, HEALTH, EDUCATION, RECREATION

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### MADISON COUNTY CHAPTER AMERICAN RED CROSS HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

By Virginia Miller

The American Red Cross is a unique organization. Its basic authority is a congressional charter by which the government charges the organization with specific responsibilities. These are: to provide services and assistance to members of the armed forces, to conduct a disaster preparedness and relief program, and to provide other government-requested assistance in car-

rying out the terms of the Geneva Conventions. No other organization in the United States has such a charter. The charter is law; the American Red Cross must provide the services described in it.

The charter which defines the basic Red Cross responsibilities does not confine the organization to those specific activities. With the knowledge and consent of the Congress the charter has been broadly interpreted over the years to meet demonstrated needs in related fields of activity.

The American Red Cross is a quasi-governmental organization. While its authority comes from government, its funds and its workers are drawn from the

American Red Cross Building on Greene Street



people. Membership in the American Red Cross is open to all the people of the United States, its Territories, and dependencies, upon payment of the sums specified from time to time by its by-laws.

The chapters of the American Red Cross are the local units of the corporation within the States and Territories of the United States. In 1917 President Wilson appointed a War Council to direct the activities of the American Red Cross in World War I. The 267 chapters in existence increased to some 3,700. It was in May, 1917, that interested citizens of Madison County petitioned the American National Red Cross for authority to establish the Madison County Chapter. The first office was in the Elks Building and the membership numbered around one hundred persons. Both County and City Government contributed funds those first years to be sure Red Cross in this County could meet the needs and fulfill the responsibilities for which the chapter was created. Here as elsewhere Red Cross services were quickly established wherever the need arose. Surgical dressings, bandages, knitting, and canteen work were all a part of the chapter program just as through Home Service and the Field Staff at Military posts and hospitals in this country and overseas a link of communication was formed between the men in service and the families at home.

Red Cross became so much a part of the daily life of this country the children wanted to help. President Wilson issued a proclamation inviting them to form a Junior Red Cross similar to those already in existence in Australia and Canada. Leading educators cooperated in this movement in Madison County as in other parts of the World. Juniors made articles for the sick and wounded and carried on many activities belonging peculiarly to children.

During the period between World War I and World War II our chapter functioned in many ways. One of the biggest tasks was that of helping veterans readjust to civilian life and rendering assistance when natural disasters struck in our County. In 1932 the Government asked Red Cross assistance in distributing commodities to the needy. The Madison County Chapter participated in this tremendous activity. First Aid, Water Safety and Home Nursing were added to the program. The long recognized importance of volunteers in the work of Red Cross in the world was also true in Madison County as the services were performed entirely by volunteers with only one paid staff member to administer and promote all phases of Red Cross service subject to the control of the local Board of Directors. In 1942 the work expanded so rapidly that the paid staff was increased.

Staff Aide training began, the surgical dressing quota per month was 29,700 and was steadily increased. Madison County never failed to make its quota. Knitting quotas consisted of hundreds of sweaters, helmets, gloves, etc. Redstone Arsenal wives organized to help with this. First Aid training was stepped up. British children evacuees thanked our Junior Red Cross members for the Gift Boxes sent them. Nurses Aides began training to relieve the shortage of nurses at the Huntsville Hospital. Dietitian Aides also worked at the Hospital. Sewing for Civilian War Relief was carried on throughout the County. The office moved into the Times Building to have more room. This was the third move as the chapter had moved to the old Jail Building from the Elks Building, then to the old Post Office building.

During 1943 surgical dressings were made in the Y.M.C.A. night and day. Some 490 volunteer workers in all programs gave a total of 7,765 hours in January. In addition 205 office interviews were held that month; 45 home visits, and 124 outgoing telegrams were sent. Contact was made through the Red Cross with three local boys held as Japanese prisoners. Home Demonstration Clubs helped with the production work. Doctors thanked the Nurses Aides for invaluable help in the hospital. The Chapter moved upstairs in the Yarbrough Building. During this time the chapter gave families information concerning shipment of Christmas packages for men held as Japanese prisoners. Huntsville Arsenal ladies made 750 Utility bags for men overseas. Gray Ladies worked in the Huntsville Hospital as well as in the Arsenal Hospital and in 1944 all Red Cross chapters throughout the country were better equipped to render service to men in service and to veterans because of special training programs for both paid and volunteer staff. Canteen workers began receiving "Thank You" notes from various parts of the world for the ham sandwiches served troop trains as they came through Huntsville. Madison County became a part of a Seven County Council to serve Military Hospitals in this section. A Day Room was furnished in Huntsville Arsenal Hospital by this Council. The War Fund Drive raised \$66,066.67.

In 1945 the Chapter noted big increase in requests for personal histories, medical, social and psychiatric histories needed by doctors treating Madison County servicemen who were hospitalized. Junior Red Cross members produced over 2,900 items for hospitalized G.I.'s. 20,000 people in Madison County contributed \$1.00 or more. Total War Fund receipts were \$70,644.71. Total volunteer hours were 45,800.

In 1946 a large quota of sewing was accepted for



One of the Nurses Aide Classes trained by Red Cross during World War II.

foreign relief. The Junior Red Cross gave emphasis on Accident Prevention. 166 J.R.C. Gift Boxes were filled and shipped overseas and the chapter helped form the Community's Veterans Center which was created to help veterans fit into community life. Home service case load was 357 monthly. Two small disasters occurred in the County and \$942.00 used for rehabilitation. The largest Water Safety Program the chapter had ever offered was carried on. Over 250 veterans were assisted in August with Terminal Leave blanks. Nine overseas War brides were honored with a tea so they could get to know each other.

In 1947, 230 garments were made for overseas civilian relief. In March, 1947, the chapter moved to the Episcopal Parish House until permanent quarters could be obtained and in April, 1947, the Board of Directors purchased for \$12,000 the house on Greene Street. The Chapter at last had a permanent home in the heart of town which made it accessible to all. Home Nursing classes as well as First Aid were carried on as soon as the house was opened. The Chapter's newest program was to sponsor the Recreational Program at the VA Hospital in Tuscaloosa along with other chapters in North Alabama. This program is financed by organized groups and individuals in North Alabama but carried on by Red Cross volunteers. The Madison County Medical

Auxiliary was the first to sponsor a party from this chapter. Also in 1947, the Executive Secretary was on the program of the National Convention.

During 1948, letters were received by the Madison County Junior Red Cross from Japanese children thanking them for Gift Boxes. The Chapter by-laws were revised to conform with National Code of Procedure and the fiscal year was changed to begin July 1. The chapter chairman this year served on the Resolutions Committee at the National Convention in San Francisco.

In 1949, Binford Court flooded and 400 were evacuated. The Red Cross took over the homeless after rescue and \$3,257.00 was the cost of rehabilitation expenses. Chapter workers assisted World War II veterans in applying for National Service Life Insurance dividends while Chapter Staff and volunteers worked with the County Emergency Relief Committee in collecting clothing contributed for those suffering from ruined crops due to the boll weevil. 230 calls were made in this connection. The Chapter's Home Service policy was reviewed and revised.

During 1950 Junior Red Cross collected and distributed toys to local Crippled Children's Clinics and Red Cross volunteers served 155 gallons of lemonade and 1500 doughnuts to the National Guard be-

fore they left for Korea. Home Service volunteers were trained to help with increased case load due to mobilization of the National Guard.

The year 1951 saw Volunteer Service Groups reactivated; the Birmingham Blood Center opened in September; Madison County collected blood for defense only; and the first Bloodmobile visit was held September 11 at Redstone with a quota of 165 pints.

In 1952 the Chapter's Fund Campaign quota was \$18,000 and it raised \$19,533.00. A storm hit Gurley and a rehabilitation program followed for victims. The Bloodmobile visits continued on regular schedules to Redstone and to Huntsville.

During 1953 volunteers gave over 3000 hours of service and the chapter began participation in the Blood Program for civilian use at the request of the Madison County Medical Society. The Office Secretary was replaced by volunteers who serve as receptionists and typists. An aquatic School Scholarship was given to the City Pool Director of Water Safety.

In 1954 the Chapter received National recognition with one member serving on the Area Advisory Council and another on Committee for Organization for the National Convention. A flash flood in the County caused the need for rehabilitation from Red Cross. An aquatic School scholarship was given the Y.M.C.A. Director of Water Safety.

During 1955 the chapter has raised \$24,558.00 to meet the needs of the present programs. This is the largest amount raised since 1945 as the Chapter prorated surplus left from war years over a period of years in order not to ask the public for more than was absolutely necessary. Chapter Home Service needs have increased due to the Military stationed here as well as the number of Madison County men in service all over the world. 888 pints of Red Cross blood were used by the Madison County Hospitals from July 1, 1954 to July 1, 1955. Two disasters in the County cost \$8,000.00.

Today the emphasis of Red Cross activity is on peacetime service that can be expanded as needed in national emergency. The Madison County Chapter, American Red Cross is our community in action for solid accomplishment in humanitarian service. The history of this chapter is the story of the people of Madison County and their concern for one another in time of need. This history will continue to be a credit to Madison County and to the American National Red Cross.

## MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY CHEST, INCORPORATED

By Joyce Jones

The Madison County Community Chest, Incorporated, was formed officially on August 20, 1943 when a representative committee met at the Service Club. Mr. Henry McKelvie, president of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce presided, with Karl A. Woltersdorf serving as temporary secretary.

A special committee consisting of Henry B. Chase as chairman, George S. Elliott and Abe Goldstein had previously been asked to make a study of united charity organizations with the possibility of adapting them to this county.

Framework for the new organization soon took form. Mr. Chase was elected president; Judge Thomas W. Jones, vice president, W. L. Howard, treasurer and J. T. Lanier, executive secretary.

The first budget committee was composed of J. F. Chambers, chairman, George S. Elliott, Aaron Fleming, J. E. Humphrey and the Rev. Rudolph Scott.

On the first board of directors the following served: Mrs. Reuben Chapman, H. B. Chase, F. A. Ford, W. T. Galloway, Abe Goldstein, W. L. Howard, Capt. John R. Hill, Judge Thomas W. Jones, Thompson R. Kelley, C. O. Many, Capt. H. W. Bennett, P. W. Peeler, the Rev. Rudolph Scott, Ernest White, Merritt Wikle and Karl A. Woltersdorf.

Since World War II was still being fought when the Chest was organized, an appeal for the Alabama War Fund and for the social services incorporated in the Madison County Community Chest was made in the fall of 1943. The slogan used was "The Golden Rule in Action" and \$64,068.42 was asked for "32 appeals in one".

In addition to eighteen groups served by the Alabama War Chest, the local organizations aided by this first united drive were: Madison County Crippled Children, American Society for the Control of Cancer, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Clothe The Child, The Grace Club for Grace Center, The Huntsville Hospital, United Jewish Relief, Madison County Welfare, Santa Pal, The Huntsville Service Club, Madison County Tuberculosis Association, West Huntsville and West Clinton P.T.A.'s (fund for needy families) and the Central Y.M.C.A.

Although our Madison County Community Chest is a hometown organization—a partnership, so to speak, between interested citizens and their social welfare services—it is affiliated with the country wide Community Chest movement which serves in more





Members of Board of Directors and Budget Committee of Community Chest, seated from left to right: M. L. Weil, Jr., Judge E. H. Parsons, Miss Lucile W. Hereford, W. O. Mason, Mrs. Margaret P. Askins. Standing from left to right: Clarence Cobbs, O. H. Moore, F. H. Martin, Roy M. Blackburn, Harry M. Rheft, Jr., Ira M. Terry, M. H. Lanier.

than 1900 communities. Thus the Symbol of the Chest is the Red Feather—a badge of generosity and courage from the days of chivalry—a symbol that speaks here and elsewhere of those who want to show interest and love for fellowman by giving “the united way”.

The purpose of the Community Chest is to cut down on campaigns, to raise money for worthwhile agencies and to encourage the spirit of comradeship and unity among Madison County’s citizens.

With the exception of an Executive Secretary, all work for the Chest is done on a volunteer basis. J. T. Lanier served in this capacity for a short time in 1943-44. Then Oscar Grosser served ably as a part time Executive Secretary for three years—from 1945 through 1947.

By this time the board of directors decided that for work to be carried on efficiently a full time secretary was needed. After careful consideration Mrs. Margaret P. Askins was employed. She has proven to be a valuable asset to the organization and has facilitated work not only during the campaign, but throughout the year. Mrs. Askins became Executive Secretary in 1948 and still serves.

After Mrs. Askins’ affiliation with the Chest, it was necessary to get a permanent office. So a small office

was furnished by Madison County in the Elks Building for the sole use of Community Chest business.

During the years that the Chest has been in operation in the county the needs of various social welfare agencies has changed. The board of directors seeks to keep collective fingers on the pulse of the times and to regulate the list of affiliated agencies accordingly.

At present there are nine agencies which participate in the Community Chest through its annual campaign. They are: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Grace Center, Church Street Community Center (negro), Tuberculosis Patient Care, Crippled Children, Central Y.M.C.A., United Jewish Appeal and the Virginia McCormick Center. The Salvation Army will become a Red Feather Service in 1956.

Judge E. H. Parsons is the current president. With him serve the following directors: Roy M. Blackburn, John Blue III, Clarence E. Cobbs, Thomas S. Dark, Miss Lucile W. Hereford, M. H. Lanier, W. O. Mason, O. H. Moore, Ira M. Terry, Henry B. Chase (honorary life member), Mrs. Margaret P. Askins, A. H. Butler, Jr., Dr. Pat Hamm, F. H. Martin, F. K. Noojin, J. W. O’Neal, Vance J. Thornton, Brig. Gen. H. N. Toftoy, M. L. Weil, Jr., and Mercer G. Williamson.

The present Budget Committee is: Ira M. Terry, Chairman, Mrs. Dwight M. Beeson, Dr. Thomas S. Gibson, A. W. Hill, Jr., H. M. Rhett, Jr., and Vance J. Thornton.

Throughout the twelve years of Chest activity the list of presidents has come to include many of the civic minded and prominent men in Huntsville. Those who have acted as head are: Henry B. Chase (first three terms), C. B. Ragland, Judge Thomas W. Jones, P. S. Dunnavant, Herbert Johnson, F. H. Thomas, Dr. Thomas S. Gibson, William H. Stevens, F. K. Noojin, Thomas S. Dark and Judge E. H. Parsons.

The success of the fund raising activities has been due to the able efforts of each year's campaign chairman who has spent much time in this very important phase of the Chest work. Those who have served as campaign chairman are as follows: Henry McKelvie, C. B. Ragland, P. S. Dunnavant, James L. Caldwell, Jeff D. Smith, Douglas C. Martinson, Dr. Thomas S. Gibson, William H. Stevens, Thomas S. Dark, Judge Elbert H. Parsons, Vance J. Thornton and Milton H. Lanier, Jr.

Throughout the twelve years of its activity, the Chest has served well the services affiliated under the badge of the Red Feather. Not only has this united effort in the name of Community Chest provided funds whereby many could be served, but it has also given to citizens of Huntsville and Madison County their chance to share in the welfare and the upbuilding of their community.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MADISON COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

By Dale Greene

During the past quarter of a century, Madison County's Public Welfare Department has progressed from a one-person service unit with limited funds and activities to an assistance and social service agency staffed by 19 persons. Funds are provided for people in economic need who meet the State and Federal requirements, and services are offered to troubled persons who seek advice and counsel.

The present Department of Public Welfare actually dates from the 1920's. In 1923 the Alabama State Legislature authorized the State Child Welfare Department to organize County Child Welfare Units. Mrs. Addie Webb Humphrey became the first child welfare superintendent in this county. Early reports of the State-wide child welfare program showed that Madison County was one of the first fourteen counties to have its own child welfare program.

Mrs. Kendall Jones followed Mrs. Humphrey as Child Welfare Superintendent. Miss Erin Davis came to take over the Child Welfare position when Mrs. Jones resigned. She also worked with the different relief programs such as CWA, RFC and PWA, and helped organize the present Department of Public Welfare.

The Madison County Department of Public Welfare as it operates today was started in October, 1935. (The State Department was established in August, 1935.) Its functions incorporated many of the activities previously carried by the child welfare and relief agencies. When Miss Davis left Huntsville to accept another position, Mr. J. B. Hill, now Superintendent of Alabama's Boy's Industrial School in Birmingham, became Director of Public Welfare. Upon Mr. Hill's resignation Mrs. Jet Rawls was made director. Mrs. Rawls acted as executive of the agency until 1942 when Mrs. Walter Humphrey was prevailed upon to return to the agency. She resigned because of ill health and was replaced by Miss Marion Moody, a native of Scottsboro, who had been with the State Department of Public Welfare for several years. She left the agency to be married in 1945. Miss Julia George filled her vacancy and stayed with the agency until 1949. Mrs. Myrtle Culclasure was in charge until Mrs. George S. Butler assumed the duties of Director. Mrs. Butler served in this capacity until 1954 at which time she resigned in order to be with her family.

Mr. Jack Wherry of Birmingham filled the executive's job until December, 1954, when he resigned to take another position.

Mr. Dale Greene came to Huntsville in January, 1955, from the Alabama State Department of Public Welfare in Montgomery. He is presently serving as the County Director.

The Madison County Department of Public Welfare operates as a unit of the State Public Welfare Program. The local department, however, has its own county board appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. Members of the present board are Oscar Mason, Chairman, E. F. DuBose, James Record, Mrs. Walton Johnston, Mrs. Walton Fleming, Rev. James E. Krahennbill and Mercer Williamson.

The public welfare program is financed primarily by State and Federal funds. The State money comes from a portion of ABC profits, sales tax and a general appropriation. The local governing body may make appropriations to the Department for emergencies that cannot otherwise be met. State and Federal funds are provided for financial assistance to the needy aged, the needy blind, the permanently and



Members of the Welfare Department Staff.

Members of the Madison County Welfare Board, front row, left to right: James Record, Mercer Williamson, Oscar Mason. Back row, Mrs. Edith Johnson and Prof. E. F. DuBose. Absent are Rev James Krahenbill and Mrs. Walton Fleming.



totally disabled, and dependent children. To receive aid under any of these categories, a person must meet certain specific State and Federal requirements.

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

By Mrs. Howard Slayden

The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women was organized on April 19, 1949, at the home of Mrs. Addison White, 420 McClung Street.

There were thirty-five charter members including: Miss Harriet Bell, Mrs. Walker Bonifay, Mrs. Edwin Burwell, Mrs. James C. Butler, Mrs. Robert Coates, Miss Elinor Creel, Mrs. Tom Dark, Mrs. H. C. Davies, Mrs. William E. Davis, Miss Mary Virginia Davis, Mrs. L. W. Drake, Mrs. J. F. Galloway, Mrs. T. P. Gates, Miss Ruth Geron, Mrs. Katherine Godfrey, Mrs. Abe Goldstein, Miss Jessie Hopper, Mrs. Josh O. Kelly, Miss Lottie Lamberson, Mrs. Tom McDonald, Miss Elizabeth Monroe, Mrs. Carl Moring, Mrs. J. L. Payne, Mrs. O. G. Pitts, Mrs. F. L. Powell, Mrs. Pat Richardson, Miss Frances Roberts, Miss Virginia Roberts, Miss Dorothy Sandlin, Mrs. Jeff D. Smith, Mrs. W. H. Stevens, Jr., Mrs. C. L. Watts, Mrs. J. D. Wigley, Mrs. Addison White, and Mrs. T. L. Woods.

At this first meeting officers were elected. They were Miss Frances Roberts, president; Mrs. Tom Dark, vice-president; Mrs. Tom McDonald, recording secretary; Miss Mary Virginia Davis, corresponding secretary; Miss Harriet Bell, treasurer; Mrs. Addison White, parliamentarian; and Mrs. Robert Coates, historian.

Since its organization the local A.A.U.W. has striven to unite the alumnae of nationally approved A.A.U.W. colleges and universities who are living in Huntsville. The members concentrate on increasing their influence in the community for the solution of social and civic problems. They also participate in the development and promotion of the policies and programs of the American Association of University Women in order to cooperate in its state and regional work and thereby contribute to its growth and influence.

Since the organization of the local group, three historical pilgrimages have been sponsored in Huntsville. Money collected from this occasion goes into the general fund.

From the last pilgrimage held in the spring of 1955, the \$1500.00 cleared was designated for use in the expansion of the Huntsville Public Library.



Typical view of ante-bellum home interiors seen during the A.A.U.W. Pilgrimage

Annually, contributions are made for the scholarship of students to foreign countries.

Meetings are held during the fall and winter months. Members meet for dinner at 7 P.M. each first Tuesday of the month in the Russel Erskine Hotel.

The contemporary officers are: Mrs. Howard Slayden, president; Mrs. Hugh Wasson, Jr., vice-president; Mrs. Jack Bentley, recording secretary; Mrs. T. L. Woods, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Robert Harroway, treasurer; and Mrs. T. L. Woods, historian.

Sixty-nine members were listed in the last year book.

## ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE NORMAL, ALABAMA

In 1871 Peyton Finley, a Negro member of the State Board of Education, introduced a bill for the establishment of a normal school in Huntsville, Ala-



Aerial view of Normal A. & M. College

bama. This bill was approved on December 20, 1871. A report dated November 18, 1873, signed by the three commissioners, John W. Raines, I. D. Sibley, and H. Echols, reported that the school had operated for 3 months in 1872 with an enrollment of 46 pupils; in 1873, with 57 pupils; and during the months of April, May, and June of the same year with 55 pupils.

On December 9, 1873, the state legislature passed a bill, Number 18, giving official sanction and status to the institution as a normal school "for the education of colored teachers" and with the further statement, "that there be, and is hereby appropriated out of the general school fund appropriated to the colored children, the sum of one thousand dollars annually."

The founder of the school was an ex-slave, William Hooper Council. The school began as the Huntsville Normal on May 1, 1875, on Eustis Street (now West Clinton Street) in the city of Huntsville. Council persuaded his teachers to join him in donating a part of their salaries to the building fund. An early report of the commission announcing these contributions states, "The document which they drew up and signed donating their salaries to the State for the benefit of the race is a part of the record of the

school, and a witness of their devotion and consecration to the education of the Negro."

The commissioners, for the sum of \$3,000, purchased a city lot in Huntsville consisting of two and one-half acres of land and upon which stood a two-story brick building. In addition to academic courses through the assistance of the Slater Fund, an industrial building was erected in 1885 and classes in carpentry, painting, printing, sewing, horticulture, and mattress making were added to the curriculum. The name of the school changed to Huntsville State Colored Normal and Industrial School.

In 1891, Alabama accepted the Second Morrill grant for the extension of agricultural colleges, and designated the Huntsville State Colored Normal and Industrial College as the Negro Land-Grant College. Since that type of institution was obligated to operate its services in the field of agriculture, the Board of the Huntsville school was authorized to sell the property in Huntsville and to purchase a more suitable site in or near the city of Huntsville. The commissioners purchased 182 acres of land on the Meridianville Pike at what was then called the Henry Turner Place, four miles from Huntsville. The site (the present location of the college) is situated on an elevation of about 500 feet above the city of Hunts-

ville. At the time of the purchase, the property contained a stone structure, Green Bottom Inn, which was rich in historic lore. It was reported to be the first hotel ever constructed in the state of Alabama and at one time a famous inn adjoining an equally famous race track. It is reported that General Andrew Jackson and his friends were frequent guests.

The program of the college was extended to the point that the name was changed to the State Agricultural and Mechanical College. As early as 1905-06, the college carried courses listed in its catalogue of the college, normal, and preparatory departments in addition to courses in agriculture and mechanic arts; including work in the machine shop, ironworking, brickmasonry, carpentry, shoemaking, broom-making, chair bottoming, printing office, tailoring, cooking, sewing, millinery, nurse training, and laundering.

The founder of the School, William Hooper Council, served the institution until his death in April, 1909; at which time Walter S. Buchanan was elected president. The third administration of the college was under Theodore Parker, who began in 1920 and continued through 1927. The present administrator began services at the college in the summer of 1927.

The college has been able to continue its development in terms of an enlarged program, increased

facilities, better trained teachers and larger enrollment. The college enrollment which was 27 persons in 1927, has now reached 1,100.

## HISTORY OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY COUNCIL, B.S.A.

By Robert Haskins

The first Boy Scout Troop organized in Huntsville in 1919 was sponsored by Merrimack Mills.

The first Scout Executive was R. J. Seeger, from August 15, 1924, to December 30, 1926. Howard Gaillard was Scout Executive from January, 1927, to January 1, 1928. Mr. E. C. Hunt was Scout Executive from March 1, 1928, to January 30, 1929.

The Tennessee Valley Council originally organized in April, 1924, with Dr. Carl A. Grote, president. The Council covered Huntsville, Decatur, Albany, Athens, Alabama and Fayetteville, Tennessee.

The Huntsville Rotary Club with Dr. E. V. Caldwell as president, was the motivating force behind the organization of the first Tennessee Valley Council. Dr. B. F. Austin, also a member of the Rotary Club, served as a Scoutmaster along with being instrumental in the organization of the Council.

The first Camp was Camp Quick, 40 acres, leased

Members of Troop I, B.S.A., Merrimack, Prof. E. F. Dubose, Scoutmaster. Picture was taken in 1920.



from Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Quick; located at Quick's Mill, 16 miles north-east of Huntsville on Flint River, March 18, 1925. Sixty-three Scouts in attendance first year in June of 1925. This site was abandoned in 1928.

In 1929 the Council was dissolved and a few troops operated under direct service with the National Council until 1934.

In 1925 largely through the efforts of the Florence Rotary Club the Andrew Jackson Council was formed. The territory comprised of Lauderdale County in Alabama and Lawrence County in Tennessee. Mr. Barney Norris of Florence was employed as Scout Executive. Also a Council was organized in Colbert, Franklin and Lawrence Counties of Alabama, named the Muscle Shoals Council.

In 1929 Mr. J. E. F. Westmoreland, Florence, deeded eleven acres of land on Shoals Creek to the Trustees of the Council for a Boy Scout Camp. In later years he added thirty-five acres for a total of forty-seven acres, owned by the Tennessee Valley Council for the Council Camp, now known as Westmoreland Scout Reservation. The assessed valuation of improvements are approximately \$35,000.00. The Camp consisting of seven Troop Camp Sites, Health Lodge, Recreation Hall, Water System, Waterfront Facilities and a completely equipped Dining Hall that will seat 200 campers.

The Tennessee Valley Council has grown from approximately 300 Scouts in April, 1934, to over 4,300 in 1955 with 228 Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops and Explorer Posts in operation.

Five professional Scouters are employed for full-time supervisory operation of the Scouting Program in Jackson, Madison, Limestone, Morgan, Cullman, Lawrence, Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin Counties and Grayson of Winston County in Alabama and Ardmore, Tennessee. These men are Scout Executive Robert L. Haskins, Huntsville; Field Scout Executives Gene Sharpton, Huntsville; David Kelley, Jr., Huntsville; B. R. "Pat" Godwin, Decatur; and Hoyt Hunt, Florence.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF HUNTSVILLE SCHOOLS

By Frances Roberts and Dr. H. D. Nelson

One of Huntsville's earliest and most enduring interests has been a deep concern for the education of its children and youth. According to tradition there was a school established in the community by Wyatt Bishop as early as 1807. Col. and Mrs. J. L. Posey also tutored a number of pupils in the early

period when the town was known as Hunt's Spring. On November 25, 1812, Green Academy was chartered by the Mississippi Territorial Legislature, the second of its kind, in what is now Alabama. Little is known of its early sessions, but by 1822 it was established in its permanent brick quarters on what is now the site of East Clinton Street School. This institution for boys, the most highly recognized of its type in antebellum North Alabama, was reduced to ashes by the Federal Forces during the War Between the States.

Following the pattern of most southern towns of the Old South, Huntsville's Schools were private and segregated according to sex. Among the outstanding of these institutions were: Mrs. Sara McKay's School organized in 1819, the Monte Sano Female Academy opened on February 18, 1830, by the Rev. and Mrs. Rowe, the Huntsville Female Seminary on Randolph Street opened January 5, 1831, and the Huntsville Female College, chartered and opened by the Methodist Church in 1851. Under the guidance of the Presbyterian Church, a boy's school was built on what is now Longwood Drive in South Huntsville about the same time.

In 1851 the state legislature provided the necessary acts for creating the first public school system in Alabama. There is some evidence that public funds were used to support a school under the terms of this general act in the City of Huntsville prior to the War Between the States. This early beginning in the field of public education was interrupted by the war, but during the Reconstruction period a public school was established under the jurisdiction of the County Superintendent of Instruction.

In January of 1873, the City Council made an appropriation of \$1200 to the public schools for whites and Negroes. On January 21, 1873, this body also moved to prepare the necessary memorials to the state legislature, "To have enacted such laws as may be necessary to have public schools of this district transferred to the city authorities and to provide for the support of the schools and to build school houses for the same." By 1875 the City Council achieved this authority, for in that year the principals and teachers were named by this body and appropriations were made, as they had been since 1873, to supplement state funds. Councilmen John T. Patterson, John Reed, and George Warwick were appointed as members of a school committee whose function it was to report on school matters.

From this time forward until 1905 the public schools of Huntsville remained under the direct supervision of the City Council. At first rented build-



Above pictures show eight Huntsville schools



ings were used for school sessions. These included: a house near the Catholic Church on Jefferson Street, the Russell home on Madison Street about the site of the present City Hall, and the Calhoun home located on the corner of Eustis and Green Streets where the A. & P. Supermarket now stands.

Principals and teachers rendering service at this formative period of public education were: Matt McClung Robinson, C. D. Watkins, Daniel B. Young, J. J. Pleasant Mrs. V. A. Wallace, Mrs. Kate Farris, Mrs. Mary Newman, Mrs. Marie Pleasant, and Miss Sallie Ready.

The Freedman's Bureau established a Negro school on Townsend Street at the close of the War Between the States. Later, in 1873, the City Council began its active support of the school which at that time was under state jurisdiction. Thomas Townsend, Daniel Brandon, S. L. Carter, William Council, Charles Hendley, and Henry Binford were among the early teachers in this school. Other locations of the Negro school were in the basement of the Lakeside Methodist Church and the Negro Masonic Temple.

In 1882, while the Rev. J. L. Lovett was principal, the first white public school building was erected on the former site of Green Academy by the City Council. The trustees of this institution, which had not been rebuilt after the war, leased their property to the City officials for twenty years, with the provision that the instrument could be renewed at the end of that time. J. W. Hutchens contracted with the City Council to build the frame structure for \$4,000.

Of the more than 800 white children listed in the school census for the year 1882, only 133 enrolled in the public school thus indicating that private education in Huntsville was still the order of the day.

Following the Rev. J. L. Lovett's administration, A. N. Esham served as principal of the public school until 1894, when Professor Sam R. Butler was elected to that position. So rapidly did the enrollment grow under his guidance, that in 1902 the City Council contracted with A. M. Booth to construct a three-story brick building to house the school. Some of the classroom teachers this period who performed outstanding service and were long remembered by their pupils were Miss Fannis Taliaferro, Miss Florence Hardie, Miss Mamie Mastin, Miss Laura Bassett, and Miss Annie Merts.

In 1905, due to a controversy in the school system, two public schools were conducted, one under the City Council with W. J. Humphrey as principal, and the other under a newly created Superintendent of City Schools headed by James Pride with S. R. Butler

as principal. By 1907 the matter was resolved, and from that date until the present, the public schools have remained under the direct jurisdiction of a five-member board of education appointed by the City Council. Members of this first board appointed in 1907 included J. D. Humphrey, President, W. T. Hutchens, Lawrence Cooper, David Grayson, and Oliver Goldsmith. After Professor Butler declined the appointment as principal offered to him by this group, George Goddard was employed to head the school for the year 1907-08.

Meanwhile many private schools for boys and girls continued to flourish in the City. Some of these institutions of note during the period from 1865-1920 were the Carlos D. Smith School on Adams Avenue, the Charles O. Shepherd School for Boys on Holmes Street, the S. R. Butler School on Eustis Street, and the Williams School on McCullough Avenue. The Huntsville Female Seminary continued until 1874 when it was forced to close due to financial difficulties. Later the Anderson, Bradshaws, and other operated private schools in this building from time to time. The Huntsville Female College continued until 1895 when the main building burned.

As public schools came to be more popular, the private schools were discontinued one by one. Under the administration of R. E. Sessions who became superintendent of the city schools in 1908, a separate four-year high school was organized. In 1911 the Williams building on McCullough Avenue was rented to house the new school and R. C. Johnson became its first principal. When this structure was destroyed by fire in 1914, the high school grades were returned to the East Clinton Building where the elementary grades were still located.

After the resignation of Mr. Sessions in 1913, Mr. Johnson was elevated to the superintendency, a position which he held until 1920. In 1916, a new three-story brick high school was completed on West Clinton Street.

As the Negro enrollment grew, the City Council made provision for the construction of a new frame building in 1896 on a site on Pehlman Street donated by Nicholas Davis. The state of Alabama, through legislative enactment, made provision in 1873 for a Negro normal school to be located in Huntsville. This institution graduated its first class in 1878, and in 1891 its site was changed from West Clinton Street to its present location at Normal, Alabama. In 1895 the Seventh Day Adventists also organized Oakwood Junior College for the training of Negroes. Later this school, located four miles northwest of Huntsville, was converted into a four-year college in 1945.

In 1920 Frank W. Williams was employed by the Board of Education as Superintendent. Under his leadership, the school facilities were expanded to take care of rapid increases in enrollment occasioned by the almost universal acceptance of public education by the community. In 1927 two new brick schools were completed, a white high school on Randolph Street and a Negro school now known as Council High. At this time the West Clinton Street building became an elementary school to serve the needs of that area of the city.

Upon the death of Mr. Williams in 1928, Mr. W. G. Hamm became superintendent of the public schools and remained in this capacity until 1948. The Wills Taylor building on Eustis Street was purchased in 1929 by the Board of Education to house part of the Junior High School grades, and in 1938 the old East Clinton School was replaced by the present structure. In that same year a Negro elementary school was built on Winston Street.

With the coming of the Arsenal to Huntsville, the Fifth Avenue Elementary School was constructed in 1944 to take care of the city's expansions to the south.

Dr. Harvey D. Nelson became Superintendent to the City Schools in July of 1948. Since that time additions have been made to Fifth Avenue and East Clinton Street Schools, a new elementary school has been completed in the Terry Heights area, and at present another building is being constructed in the Blossomwood section. On August 22, 1954, a new Senior High School building located on Billie Watkins Avenue was dedicated. The old high school, with a recent two-story edition, became a three-year Junior High School.

In 1955 the residents of the Rison section voted to enter the corporate limits of the City of Huntsville. As a result of this annexation and an agreement between the City and County Boards of Education, it is expected that the Huntsville City Board of Education will operate the nine grade school at Rison beginning with the 1955-56 term.

In 1951 a modern annex was added to Council High School for Negroes and a second edition is now in the process of being completed. Also in 1951, a lunchroom and new classrooms were added to the Winston Street Elementary School to make it a more complete unit.

Teachers and citizens of Huntsville joined in paying special tribute to Miss Jessie Hopper and Miss Annie Merts upon their retirement from the profession in May of 1952. Miss Hopper, for many years a teacher and principal in the city schools, was serving as principal of the Fifth Avenue School when she

reached the maximum age for retirement. Miss Annie Merts, who had been in continuous service in the public schools of Huntsville for fifty-one years, was assistant principal of the Huntsville High School when she reached the retirement age of seventy.

Thus since the 1870's the public schools of Huntsville have grown as the city has grown. Today, the 5,165 children enrolled in the public schools of Huntsville are being taught by 169 teachers. The total annual budget for the operation of the public schools now exceeds a half million dollars. The Board of Education, in cooperating with the City Council and the citizens of the community, are dedicated to the development of a public school system which will keep pace with a rapidly growing and expanding city.

## HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL

By Mrs. Hammond Carpenter

The Huntsville-Madison County Girl Scout Council received its charter from the National office on August 11, 1943. The purpose of the council is to develop, manage and maintain Girl Scouting throughout the jurisdiction of Huntsville and Madison County.

Mrs. Henry Balch was elected first president of the council and Mrs. Henry Chase served as first treasurer. Other members serving on the first council were Mrs. Hugh Doak, Mrs. Reese Amis, Mrs. Eugene Monroe, Mrs. J. Blunt Clopton, Mrs. Pickens Gates, Mrs. Jack Langhorne, Mrs. Henry M. Kelvie, Mrs. Walter Humphry, Mrs. James Watts, and Mrs. Phil Peeler.

Prior to the organization of a Girl Scout Council, Mrs. J. Blunt Clopton of Huntsville Park organized the first troop at Joe Bradley school under the guidance of the late Joseph Bradley, Sr. According to Mrs. Clopton, the first troop was organized in 1923 and operated as a lone troop for approximately twenty years.

During the history of the local Girl Scout Council, there has been three professional workers: Miss Kaye Marshall, who now serves as Executive Director of the Montgomery Council; Miss Octavia Taylor, who is working in Sarasota, Florida; and Mrs. Hammond Carpenter, who has been the Executive Director since 1952.

The Girl Scout Council has as its objective to help girls realize the ideals of *womanhood* as a preparation for their responsibilities in the home, and serv-



Girl Scout's Living Christmas Tree

ice to their country. The council agrees through its charter to operate in accordance with National policies and standards. The main function of the council's work is to provide a program of high quality; extend membership opportunities to girls seven through seventeen; to provide a well camping program and to build understanding and support for Girl Scouting in the community.

Members who serve on the present council are: Mrs. D. J. Butterbaugh, president; Mrs. Elbert Parsons, vice-president; Mrs. Louis Grabensteder, secretary; Mrs. Thomas Dark, treasurer; Mrs. Patrick Pruitt, Mrs. Donald Karas, Mrs. James Lutz, Mrs. Neal Roberts, Mr. W. B. Whitefield, Rev. Harry Wade, Mr. Billy Laxson, Mrs. Robert Hubbard, Mrs. Howard Hinshaw, Mr. Franklin Bryson, Mrs. Max West, and Mrs. Hal Ritchey.

There are 888 girls registered in the Huntsville-Madison County area and approximately 200 adults who devote their time and effort in promoting the Girl Scout program.

## OAKWOOD COLLEGE

By Ralph Jennings

Oakwood College was founded here in 1896 by Seventh Day Adventists who had ventured into the South down the Mississippi on a tiny craft named "Morning Star" to Vicksburg.

With an original site of 380 acres purchased for \$6,700, Oakwood Training School gradually assumed a leading role in educational work.

There were four buildings on the campus in 1896 with a property valuation of \$10,157.57, and courses of study were grammar school level and special courses. Twenty students came in that year, and the principal was Prof. Solon M. Jacobs.

Following Jacobs were Shaw, 1889-99; and Nicola, 1899-1904.

The Oakwood Industrial School became the Oakwood Manual Training School in 1904, and continued under that name until 1917 when it became

Aerial view of Oakwood College





Butler High School, which houses the University of Alabama Center.

Oakwood Junior College. The school was solidly organized under Principal Nicola.

Oaklawn, first home for the principay, was erected in 1906, as was the print shop, home of the "Gospel Herald." Oakwood did not develop without misfortune, however, for on October 11, 1906, fire destroyed Chapel Hall. Another building was destroyed the same year, but these heavy losses were replaced within two years.

In 1909, a complete two-story sanitarium building was completed, and a new laundry was completed water will gain in value and importance as Huntsville in 1915.

Oakwood was elevated to the status of Junior College in April, 1917, and J. I. Beardsley became principal.

Fire destroyed the dining hall in 1926, and a new building was erected.

The first Negro president, J. L. Morgan, was appointed in 1932, and separate ordinances for whites and Negroes were discontinued in 1933.

Many new buildings have been erected since that time including the mechanical building in 1939 and the administration building in 1940.

Present officials of the institution are: Garland J. Millet, President; Otis B. Edwards, Dean; Mrs. Ro-

berta C. Edwards, Registrar; and Adel Warren, Business Manager.

Student enrollment is now 212 in the College and 89 in the Academy. One of the top colleges in the country for Negroes, Oakwood College is planning even greater expansion.

## HISTORY OF UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, HUNTSVILLE CENTER

By Dr. Philip Mason

The University of Alabama established a Center in Huntsville in January, 1950. The University Center at Huntsville became the fifth Center operated by the University of Alabama. Beginning with an enrollment of 139 students, the University Center has grown steadily to an enrollment of 400 or more students.

The University Center was established in Huntsville at the request of a large representative group of citizens, and was made possible through the cooperation of many segments of Huntsville's population and the County Board of Education whose facilities are used by the University Center at Butler High School. During the time the Center has been established, more than 2500 persons *have taken courses*

in the fields of Commerce and Business Administration, Arts and Sciences and Engineering. The University Center is an integral part of the University of Alabama, and has as its local advisory committee the following persons: Reese T. Amis, Edward Anderson, George D. Brown, Dr. Harvey D. Nelson, Patrick W. Richardson, Dr. Ralph C. Swann, Thomas Thrasher, and Vance Thornton.

From 1951 through 1952 the University in addition to its regular program for undergraduates, offered a graduate program in Huntsville which enrolled each year over 300 graduate students who were largely engaged in the study of advanced engineering.

Persons attend the University Center from Huntsville and the various communities of Madison County including Monrovia, Hazel Green, Gurley, Mayesville, Harvest, Riverton, New Market, Merianville, Brownsboro, Farley, New Hope and others. Also numbers of students attend school from Decatur, Scottsboro, Athens, Guntersville, Arab and a number of other communities in adjoining counties.

## CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S CENTER

By Mrs. William Daudren

The new Crippled Children's Center on West Longwood Drive, which your dollars are building, is designed for expansion—in particular, a wing which

would house an occupational therapy unit.

Because of insufficient funds, the architects for the building, the local office of Turner & Northington, made the wing an alternate when the plans were drawn. However, it is hoped sufficient funds will be raised in the future—perhaps through this special edition—to enable its construction.

Already under construction now, of course, is the main structure—to be technically known as the Rehabilitation Center for the Crippled—which will encompass some 3,000 square feet. Footings and foundations have already been constructed in the first three weeks of work, and fill was put in and around the base this past week. Other than an outline of the foundation, little is visible at the site.

Especially designed for the aid of crippled children and handicapped adults, the modernistic building, when completed, will feature an exterior of brick, glazed tile and glass. The structure will face south on a lot measuring approximately 200 by 240 feet, which is at the intersection of Longwood Drive and Harvard Road. The lot was donated by the City of Huntsville, with the approval of the city Board of Education, which operates the nearby Fifth Avenue School. The center will be only about a block from Huntsville Hospital.

Maximum dimensions of the main structure will

Crippled Children's Center under construction.



be 60 feet by 80 feet. The center will have masonry-bearing walls and a precast concrete roof frame.

E. P. Childs, Decatur Contractor, won the construction job with a bid of \$41,593, which has since been reduced slightly because of an agreed change in the type of handrailings to be used.

The contractor's basebid was \$45,000, but even that low bid out of eight submitted, was out of reach for the Grace Club Auxiliary and the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Handicapped Adults, Inc., joint owners until construction is completed, when title goes entirely to the state society.

The bid was reduced by scratching for the time being several alternates, such as tinted glass, a cork tile floor, off-street parking facilities and ceramic tile wainscoting in the restrooms. It hoped these alternates can be included later. Several donations already have been made toward that goal.

Working with the architects and builders from the time the idea of the center was first conceived has been a steering committee, composed of representatives of the GCA, the county chapter of the State Crippled Children's Society and the State Society itself.

Heading the committee is Mrs. Hugh Doak, Jr. The members include: from the Grace Club Auxiliary, Mrs. Doak, Mrs. Archie Hill, Jr., Mrs. John Lary, Mrs. William Mills, Mrs. Pat Richardson, Mrs. Bill Stevens and Mrs. Alex Wilson, Jr.; from the County Chapter—which will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the center when completed—Mrs. E. E. Camp, Dr. Otis F. Gay, W. E. Popejoy and Dr. Robert Bibb; and from the State Society, Carl Morring, Jr., honorary vice president of the organization.



Hospital used from 1904 to 1926.

## THE HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL

By Ned Wickham

Huntsville's first hospital was a large two-story frame structure with a picket fence enclosing it. It was left to the city of Huntsville by Miss Mollie Teel in 1904 for use as a hospital. The city turned it over to a group of noble-minded women who improved, added to, and successfully operated the Institution for twenty years. This group of women, headed by Mrs. Myra Jones and Mrs. Eliza Copper, gave much of their lives to this work.

In 1924, the citizens of Huntsville had a mass meeting under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce at which time it was unanimously adopted to build a new and modern hospital. The desire was genuine, but money was scarce. However, Mr. C. E.

Present Huntsville upon its completion in 1926.



Baxter, as President of the Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Wheeling, as Secretary persisted. It was they who kept Dr. Grote, as chairman of a faithful committee, at work until \$125,000.00 was raised by public subscription to build the present hospital. Mr. T. T. Terry contributed \$10,000, and Miss Virginia McCormick built the Negro Wing at a cost of \$50,000.00. The hospital was opened for patients on June 8, 1926. At that time it was a model for this part of the state. In 1929, Mr. Robert Chase almost single-handed raised \$30,000.00 by public subscription to build the Nurses home.

The depression came in late 1929, and the hospital barely existed for many years. In 1942, the capacity was increased from 50 to 86 beds with the help of Government funds because of the Huntsville Arsenal. Now, thirty years after the construction, the Huntsville Hospital is to be completely renovated and enlarged at a cost of about a million dollars. It is still operated by the original Board of Trustees or their successors who own, and operate the institution for the people of the community. The new hospital will have a capacity for 150 patients, and will again be a credit to our community.

The Board of Trustees of the institution are: Dr. Carl A. Grote, Dr. E. V. Caldwell, Phil W. Peeler, Mrs. Robert Chase, W. P. Dilworth, Clyde Dublin, Guy R. Lynn, Mrs. M. R. Moorman, J. W. O'Neal, Walter Price, Butler Ragland, Harry M. Rhett, Jr., Dr. J. L. Carpenter, Judge Ashford Todd, Mr. L. W. L. L. White, Vance Thornton, Mrs. Louis Wise, and Karl Woltersdorf.

## HISTORY OF THE MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By Dr. Otis Gay

In common with other areas of the United States, in its early days, Huntsville and adjoining rural sections, enjoyed a period of good and unusual health. Then as the increasing density of population began to occur, small and occasional outbreaks of disease followed. Later epidemics took place which brought much sorrow and economic loss.

Prior to 1877 the local doctors and town and county governments did what they could with the knowledge and means of the times to control disease. A "pest house" was established to which the more serious diseases were carried for isolation and quarantine.

Today we are amused by stories of armed vigilantes stationed on the roads in the eighteen seventies to turn back travelers who might bring yellow fever into the community from Tennessee River ports where

cases were occurring, but we can be sure that the mosquito, the unsuspecting villain, passed these armed stalwarts with ease.

During the 1890's the state Medical Association was reorganized and local boards of health established who elected a practicing physician to serve as quarantine officer or health officer at a salary of \$25.00 per month. His duties were part time and largely confined to efforts of controlling typhoid, malaria, smallpox and other less serious diseases common at the time. This type of primitive health organization prevailed in Alabama, and all the Southeast for that matter until the first fully staffed full time Health Department was established in 1914 in Walker County, Alabama, with Dr. Carl A. Grote, now a practicing physician of Huntsville, as the first full time county Health Officer.

The year 1916 and years immediately preceding brought serious outbreaks of typhoid fever to Huntsville; much worse in the city than in the county side. Dr. Grote at the request of the State Health officer made an emergency visit to Huntsville. He discovered the chief difficulty to be that no one (as many now) could believe that anything as cool, clear, and tasty as the Big Spring could carry evil; but when the chlorinator was repaired and placed in proper operation the outbreak quickly subsided in the city.

Impressed by this demonstration, the people of the area developed an interest in public health and, financed by the Madison County Chapter of the Red Cross, the city and county government, and the United States Public Health Service, the Madison County Health Department opened on a trial basis January, 1918, the fourth in Alabama. Dr. Carl A. Grote came from Walker County to be Health Officer and Mrs. Jack Frashen (deceased) as sanitarian.

Dr. Grote was succeeded by Dr. B. F. Austin, and in 1924 Dr. M. C. Hatchett became Health Officer and held the position till 1945. Dr. M. M. Duncan was officer until January 1, 1946, when Dr. O. M. Shelamer came to Huntsville. In 1950 Dr. Shelamer resigned to go with T.V.A. and was followed by Dr. Otis G. Gay in June, 1950.

The offices of the department were first in the Elks Building, then in the Hunley Building on Jefferson Street. In 1929 they were moved to the fourth floor of the Tennessee Valley Bank Building (now State National Bank Building). A full circle was reached in the late thirties (1937) when the Department returned to the Elks Building to remain until the completion in 1952 of the modern, well equipped Health Center Building on Eustis Street on a lot donated in memory of his father by Dr. W. H. Burritt.



Madison County-City of Huntsville Health Center.

The splendid cooperation of the Medical Society of Madison County is reflected in the accomplishments of the Health Department only a few of which are given here as a rough index.

	Tuberculosis		Typhoid		Dyphtheria		Malaria	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
1917	130	146	120	20	27	8	26	20
1953	48	17	2	0	1	1	0	0

The reduction in cases and deaths as shown 1917-1953 is even more striking if it is recalled that the present population of Madison County is more than twice that of 1917. In 1917 the deaths per 1000 population from all causes were 20.02/1000, in 1953, 9.2/1000. Provisional rate for 1954 is figured as 8 /1000 which is below the national rate.

The department is now staffed by one physician, two clerks, three sanitarians, 8 nurses, one janitor, a State Laboratory and Health Education Officer for the Tennessee Valley counties and one State Dairy inspector. The total health personnel housed in the center is 21; 15 of whom are entirely local in their activities.

## MADISON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

By Anne R. Patton

The Madison County Humane Society in Huntsville, Alabama, had a hard beginning and has traveled a rough and hard road during its two years and two months of existence.

This Society was organized in May, 1953. Some time before the date of organization, Mrs. Charles Russell, a librarian in the Huntsville Public Library, called me. She told me of the horrible conditions and suffering at the so-called City of Huntsville Pound, an open shack in the City Transport Pool enclosure. There was no running water and very little giving of adequate food to the enclosed animals, this due to the fact that the police officer in charge did not have very much time to devote to it.

Mr. J. Lavin Carroll, who was then Chief of Police, came to the aid of the poor creatures by using small funds that had become available to him as Chief of Police, to install running water, and to enclose the sides of the original mule shack with a limited runway attached. Thus, the future Madison County Humane Society had its first shelter.

It is the same shelter which is now in use, with



some additions made possible by limited funds consisting of membership dues and donations. There is a standard Carbon-Monoxide Gas Chamber which was donated by Mrs. Rube Robinson, to mercifully make away with the hurt, sick and unwanted animals, instead of taking them to the City dump and shooting them as was formerly done.

In May, 1953, the Madison County Humane Society was legally organized and incorporated with about twenty members present. Among these was Mr. Tom Dark who greatly assisted in the organization and made the first donation of ten dollars, passing the hat, the results of which gave the Society its initial funds.

I was nominated and elected President, and Mrs. Margaretta Arnold was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

In May, 1954, Mrs. Margaretta Arnold was elected President, Mrs. Rube Robinson, Vice-President, and Mrs. Charles Barker, Secretary-Treasurer. In May, 1955, Mrs. Jay Fryman was elected President and Mrs. Barker was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer.

We hope for better times and more help in the months and years to come for this most worthy effort to help and protect the lesser creatures to whom we all owe a responsibility.

## THE MADISON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

By Dr. Wm. Etheridge

Physicians have played an important role in the development of Huntsville and Madison County since its earliest beginnings. Dr. David Moore, a native of Virginia and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, came to "Hunt's Spring" in 1809. He was one of the buyers in the original land sales of that year. Later he was one of the five "commissioners" who platted the town of Twickenham.

Dr. Thomas Fearn arrived in 1810 followed in 1812 by Dr. Henry H. Chambers and 1817 by Dr. Alexander Erskine. There were probably other practitioners of medicine in the county during that period but the records are very meager and only those who attained eminence in their profession or in civic life have had their records survive.

All of the above were university graduates and several studied abroad as well. All were also prominent in civic and political affairs. Dr. Moore was a member of the Constitutional Convention and the State Legislature. Dr. Chambers was a Legislator and was elected to the United States Senate but died while en route to Washington to assume that office. Dr. Fearn and Dr. Erskine were also prominent political and business leaders.

Dr. Henry Arthur Binford came to Huntsville as a small child and received his early education here. He began to practice here about 1835. In 1851 Dr. Albert Russel Erskine began to practice here. He is the first native of the town to return to practice so far as the records show. He was a son of Dr. Alex Erskine (supra). Dr. John J. De Ment was born in Huntsville in 1830 and began his practice here in 1853.

Exactly when the Madison County Medical Society was organized cannot be determined with accuracy as most of the old records have long since been lost if they ever existed. It is most likely that the men mentioned above had informal meetings for their own social and professional improvement. If there was any formal organization there is no record extant.

In 1870 after the throes of Civil War and Reconstruction the State Medical Association was "re-organized" and Madison County is listed as one of the participation county societies. Therefore the inference that such a society existed prior to that time is very strong. In that year Dr. H. W. Bassett and John J. DeMent of Huntsville were named to the "county Board of Medicine and Surgery" which boards were formed in five counties of Alabama for the purpose of examining and licensing applicants to practice medicine.

In 1875 Dr. John J. DeMent of Huntsville was elected president of the State Medical Association. Dr. J. W. Barclay and Dr. George R. Sullivan were delegates from Madison County to that meeting of the State Association.

In 1877 the society was officially chartered with officers as follows: President, Rich M. Fletcher; vice-president, Christopher A. Robinson; secretary-treasurer, Lewis C. Pynchon; Health Officer, James L. Darwin; Board of Censors, Drs. Milton C. Baldrige, David H. McLain, Alexander Erskine, John J. DeMent, and Samuel H. Lowery.

The society has continued to function without interruption since that time. In its early days its chief functions besides the mutual cooperation and benefit of its members was to safeguard the public health and to examine and license candidates to practice medicine. These functions except the last named it continues to exercise to this date. Its board of censors is also the County Board of Health, and the Health Officer is elected by and responsible to the society through the board of censors.

The Madison County Medical Society has furnished five presidents of the State Association, Dr. John J. Dement (1876), Milton C. Baldrige (1889), Richard M. Fletcher (1895), E. V. Caldwell (1929),

and Carl A. Grote (1947). Dr. E. V. Caldwell is at present chairman of the Board of Censors of the State Association.

In 1912 the society was reorganized and re-chartered in accordance with new laws passed by the State Legislature, chief of which relieved the county society of its function of examining and licensing applicants to practice. The society continues to operate under that charter.

Officers for the year 1955 are: Henry Anderson, president; Norton E. Cowart, vice-president; Otis F. Gay, secretary-treasurer; Board of Censors, Robert C. Bibb, John Coffee, John Evans, John Moorman, W. G. McGown.

The society now meets monthly except July and August. At these meetings scientific papers are read by members or by an outside guest invited for this purpose.

There have been great changes in the practice of medicine in the past century and a half. As late as 1892 more than half the doctors in the county lived and practiced outside of Huntsville, today there is only one outside the city. In 1902 prevailing diseases were listed as typhoid fever, pneumonia, malaria, and smallpox. Today all of these diseases except pneumonia are rarely encountered.

### THE MADISON COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION

At the turn of the century the American public was beginning to become aware of the need for organized health programs. This awareness sprang out of the devastating effects diseases of various kinds were having upon the masses of the people. In 1904 tuberculosis was the chief infectious cause of death in the United States.

In 1917 Madison County was experiencing a terrible typhoid epidemic. There was no organized control of the disease because no health department existed at that time. Dr. Carl A. Grote was sent here in that year by the state primarily to set up a health department to get that disease under control.

After a year working to combat typhoid, he was confronted with another disease running rampant—tuberculosis or the "White Plague." Entire families were ill with this dread disease and, worse still, were spreading it to other innocent victims.

Dr. Grote and his wife, who was a trained nurse, were pioneers in this area in the home treatment of tuberculosis. He used the conventional tuberculosis treatment of the time, rest, fresh air and good food. As many of the people afflicted were poor, Dr. Grote

realized that he must have funds, not only to fight tuberculosis directly, but also to inform the public of the knowledge of the prevention of the disease. The health department and a few leading citizens knew of the work of the National Tuberculosis Association and their sale of Christmas Seals to get funds with which to operate.

In 1919 largely through the efforts of Dr. Grote and his staff there was the beginning of a Madison County Tuberculosis Association. Letters with Christmas Seals were sent by the small staff to several hundred citizens of the county. The response was good and the funds received were used at first for direct patient care.

Milk was given the school children who had someone in the family sick with tuberculosis. The county nurse and doctor visited the patients and used Christmas Seal money to buy nourishing food for some of the charity patients. Sometimes coal was bought to keep the patient warm.

The Madison County Tuberculosis Association in the early 1920's paid for the salary of one public health nurse as a demonstrator to show the value of home visiting and education of the patient and his family. In a few short years the County Board of Commissioners assumed this responsibility.

But even with these efforts tuberculosis was still on the rampage in Madison County during the middle 1920's. The United States Public Health Service and the National Tuberculosis Association began plans to make a study of the Tennessee Valley to determine the cause of the exceedingly high incidence rate. Many long months and much money were spent in studying this area. Some doctors expressed the opinion that there was something in the soil here which was conducive to tuberculosis. Some even said it was the cypress trees which caused so much distress. They finally reached the conclusion that ignorance coupled with inadequate hospital facilities was responsible for much of the destruction wrought by tuberculosis in this section. Up until this time there was no means of isolating the tuberculous from his family and friends. The disease became more and more a problem until the public began seeking ways of attacking tuberculosis more effectively than before. There had been little concerted effort to educate the people that tuberculosis was not inherited but that it was preventable.

The loosely organized Madison County Tuberculosis Association took inventory of its organization, its purpose and its methods of using Christmas Seal sale money. It was decided that a more intensive educational campaign would be the best long range

plan. So in 1931 a group of actively interested citizens formally organized the Madison County Tuberculosis Association. The funds were used for buying sputum cups for all reported cases, buying food, and sometimes medicine for the patients.

During the last war the association held the annual Christmas Seal sales and used the money as the health department suggested, but the association did not carry on a vigorous or active campaign.

In October of 1947 it was again organized. The members included laymen from all walks of life. The members at that time adopted a constitution which set forth its aims and purpose.

Since that time this group has been one of the busiest health organizations in this area. The association has a year around educational program. All schools, as well as some of the local clubs and industries, are covered by this program. A very intensive program is carried on among the Negroes of Madison County. In 1952 the Madison County Tuberculosis Association gave \$900.00 to the Huntsville Health Department to help pay for its X-ray equipment.

The following is pertinent data on tuberculosis in Madison County for the year of 1953: Madison County is ranked as the county with the highest number of cases of tuberculosis per capita of any county in Alabama.

During 1953 there were a total of 104 active cases, 241 inactive cases, 17 deaths, and 43 hospitalized cases.

Of these 345 combined cases were white and 94 were colored. 140 were male and 205 were female. 12 were under 20 years of age. 136 were between the ages of 20 to 40. 104 were between the ages of 40 and 60. 93 were over 60 years of age.

Of these 345 cases 121 were housewives, 36 were farmers, 17 were government workers, 16 were textile workers, 100 were general laborers and 55 were unemployed.

During 1953 the Madison County Health Department made 2,521 tuberculin tests, 3,060 chest X-rays were made, 3,276 field visits were made into tuberculosis case homes by the county health nurses. Each Friday a local doctor gives Pncumo-Thorax treatments to tuberculosis patients. In 1953, 939 such treatments were given.

Due to the modern drugs, surgery, the health department and the work of the Madison County Tuberculosis Association the death rate of tuberculosis in the county has been greatly reduced even though the population has increased heavily.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis in Madison County in 1917 were 146; in 1918, 105; in 1932,

69; in 1937, 73; in 1947, 44; in 1948, 33; in 1950, 24, in 1951, 15; in 1952, 18; in 1953, 17.

### WOMAN'S AUXILIARY TO THE MADISON COUNTY MEDICAL STAFF

On April 11, 1933, the first meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Madison County Medical Society was held at the home of Mrs. James Jordan, who was elected the first president.

Seventeen members set forth their purpose at that meeting as follows:

(1) To promote fellowship among physicians' families;

(2) To actively participate in all phases of health work in the community;

(3) To accomplish supplemental work as suggested by the Madison County Medical Association.

Since that first meeting the group has had programs which would keep them well informed on all health problems.

This year there were thirty-six members—all working toward a common goal—a better and healthier community. Following the example set by those seventeen members at the organizational meeting, they had a very active year. Their work was recognized as outstanding on the state level by the presentation of an award at the last state meeting.

Projects for last year were:

(1) Scholarships to two Madison County girls to schools of nursing;

(2) Members worked with Red Cross Blood Bank, the Crippled Children's Clinic, Spastic Children, and Scouts;

(3) Contributions were made to: a. Veterans Hospital, Tuscaloosa, for Christmas party; b. Colored Council training school for band uniforms; c. Community Chest; d. Madison County Tuberculosis Association; e. Colored spastics; f. American Medical Education Foundation; g. American Cancer Society; h. American Red Cross.

The officers for 1955-56 are: president, Mrs. Frederick W. Smith; vice-president, Mrs. Dallas Reynolds; secretary, Mrs. T. E. Dilworth; and treasurer, Mrs. Bernie Moore.

Charter Members of the group are: Mrs. James Jordan, Mrs. Carl Grote, Mrs. Carey Walker, Mrs. William C. Hatchett, Mrs. J. E. Walker, Mrs. M. M. Duncan, Mrs. J. O. Wikle, Mrs. E. V. Caldwell, Mrs. T. E. Dilworth, Mrs. Frank Jordon, Mrs. W. M. McKissack, Mrs. J. B. Laughlin, Mrs. James Whitaker, Mrs. M. R. Moorman, Mrs. J. E. Miller, Mrs.

Alexander, Mrs. J. H. Sentell, Mrs. H. O. Walker, Mrs. Pride, and Mrs. James Holliman.

Three state presidents have come from Madison County. They are: Mrs. James Jordon, 1935-36; Mrs. E. V. Caldwell, 1944-45; and Mrs. Frank Jordon, 1947-48.

We are proud of our members' active work with other clubs.

## CENTRAL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

By Mrs. Earle R. Ford

It was in 1909 that W. S. Frost came to Huntsville with the object of organizing the Huntsville branch of the Young Men's Christian Association.

With the assistance of Judge Thomas W. Jones, a successful financial campaign was started bringing in many contributions from the public as well as a generous donation from Miss Virginia McCormick.

In 1910, the property at 203 South Greene Street was purchased and on February 1, 1912, the building was ready for occupancy.

The officers of the first board of directors were: president, Mr. R. E. Spragins; vice-president, Mr. A. M. Booth; secretary, Mr. Tom McAllister; and Mr. W. S. Frost, general secretary, and Mr. Herbert Johnson, Physical Director.

The work of the "Y" has grown so much through the years that the staff has been enlarged to include: general secretary, Mr. Russell D. Barber; office secretary, Mrs. A. M. Taylor; Men and Boys' work, Mr. B. J. Allison; Assistant Mens and Boys' Work, Mr. Clyde McDarris; Health Director, Mr. Olen Odell; dormitory clerk, Mr. Thomas Levan and director of the West Huntsville "Y" program, Mr. Venice Terry.

The Young Men's Christian Association is an international organization with branches in 70 countries of the world, all at work with the same program, "The development of the Body—Mind—and Spirit" of young people and adults of all classes with the idea of promoting world peace.

The Huntsville "Y" is a Red Feather organization and as such participates in the Community Chest, but even so, without the assistance of the many citizens both living and deceased who have generously given of their time and means, the "Y" would not be able to extend its privileges and influence to the people of the City.

Some of the records have been lost and for this reason we may not be able to list all of those who have labored to bring the "Y" to its present successful status, but we wish particularly to mention Judge R. W. Walker, Shelby Fletcher, W. L. Hutton, W. A. Stanley, Harry Landman and Frank Ford who are on our roll of memories.

Mr. Herbert Johnson, the first physical director,

Central Y.M.C.A. Building



has been a continuous supporter as have W. P. Dilworth, Sr., Humes Laughlin, Tom Galloway, Earle Ford, Sr., L. O. Erwin, H. B. Chase, Preston Geron, A. L. Hipp, Jeff Smith, Dr. Thomas S. Gibson and Kenneth Noojin. Some of these men have served as presidents and others have been on the Board of Directors as well as assisting in drives and performing other services.

Mr. W. S. Frost was followed by Mr. Hunter as general secretary. Then came Mr. Graham and Mr. Corwin. Mr. J. P. Moore acted as General secretary from 1925 to 1943 and was followed by Mr. L. L. Trent and Mr. John S. Kennedy. Mr. Russel D. Barber, who had been Physical Director since 1945, took over the position of General Secretary in 1948 and holds that office to date.

Mr. Charlie Gray followed Mr. Johnson as physical director and Mr. E. M. Hanna preceded Mr. Barber. The present director is Mr. B. J. Allison.

There are 4,000 individuals taking part in the "Y" program this year. This includes paying as well as non-paying members and both girl and boy club members. The non-paying members are enabled to take advantage of the "Y" facilities through the courtesy of the sustaining and Big Brother memberships.

The adult departments are all self sustaining, but

the Boys and Girls work program costs a little over \$18,000.00.

Over 2,500 boys and girls were enrolled last year in either the club or physical departments. 1,447 took advantage of the swim classes both beginners and advanced and among these 76 passed the life-saving test and 238 the advanced swim test. There were 41 teams of boys and girls basketball teams enrolled in the League with over 600 children participating in this sport. Over 600 boys took part in such sports as the summer baseball league, the free throw tournaments, the olympic program, the badminton tournaments and the Gray-Y football program. The Y.M.C.A. sent six boys and girls to Blue Ridge for instruction, 39 attended the Youth and Government conference and 31 went to the Junior Hi-Y conference. There are 17 gym and swim classes daily the year round for boys and girls and the lobby is used daily as a meeting place for the youth of Huntsville. The "Swim therapy" class for crippled children is featured two days a week. In addition to this, the Y.M.C.A. cooperates with all youth agencies in Huntsville in an effort to serve the community to the greatest advantage.

The membership dues and dormitory rent provide approximately 60 per cent of the total operating budget which amounts to \$32,000.00. The community chest furnishes about 30 per cent and the remaining 10 per cent comes from a miscellaneous account.

The thread of religious emphasis runs through the entire program of the "Y." Christian emphasis programs are a weekly experience in all club; morning and evening devotionals are a daily camp routine and a requirement for membership in the Sunday School League is that the players must attend Church School at least 75 per cent of the time.

The Y.M.C.A. has recently gone through with an extensive re-decorating and modernization program for its building. Completely modern lighting has been put on the second and third floors including halls and stairways. The lobby, game rooms and dormitory have been renovated, repaired and new furniture added; and two giant exhaust fans with over the door louvers for cooling the third floor rooms have been installed. The swimming pool is equipped with a modern filter, heating and chlorination system which is adequate to give four complete filtration cycles every 24 hours. This provides a completely safe, comfortable and attractive pool for the participants which number up to 300 a day during the summer instruction season.

The present board is composed of Gilbert H. Appler, W. E. Bigger, Tom Cornell, Milton Cum-

Members of Tri-Hi-Y and Hi-Y Clubs at Huntsville Conference



mings, Joe Eaton, Dr. Thomas S. Gibson, R. P. Geron, Reverend George F. Hart, Emil A. Hellebrand, Judge Thomas W. Jones, Clem Lloyd, Kenneth Noojin, Joe Payne, W. E. Popejoy, H. W. Ritchey, B. A. Stockton, Vance Thornton, Delbert Williams, and M. L. Weil, Jr., with Oscar Mason as president; Jeff Smith, vice-president; William H. Johnston, treasurer; and Hugh Wasson, recording secretary. These gentlemen, ever mindful of the growing community of Huntsville, are counselling with the National Building Service Bureau concerning the possibilities of enlarging the facilities of the present location. They have also requested the lease on some property near Guntersville with the aim of developing a camp program covering the entire North Alabama district which would include a family style of camping.

The Young Men's Christian Association has been at work in Huntsville for almost half a century, building young bodies both physically and morally. Their program as outlined for the coming year will touch the lives of at least 3,000 of our youth and they will continue to grow and expand as the need develops.

## THE HUNTSVILLE BOYS' CLUB, INCORPORATED

By Donald I. Graham, Jr.

The Huntsville Boys Club, Incorporated, is the newest service club in Huntsville. It is under organization auspices of Boys' Clubs of America through which over 415 Boys' Clubs have been organized in 41 states from coast to coast.

The first concerted interest in the formation of a Boys Club for Huntsville was crystallized in the meeting of a group of citizens in October, 1953. An extensive survey was then conducted to determine the needs and locations for a Boys Club. Among other important findings was the fact that of approximately 2500 boys were not served by any existing agency.

As a result of the findings of the survey the kick-off meeting for the purpose of definitely establishing a non-profit corporation was held November 9, 1954. At this meeting the original officers and Board of Directors were elected as follows: Donald I. Graham, Jr., president; Charles E. Shaver, vice-president; Mrs. Isabelle Mebane, secretary; Dean S. Murphree, treasurer. The Board of Directors include: Reese T. Amis, W. M. Painter, Burton Case, Jimmie Walker, Dr. D. J. Butterbaugh, Archie W. Hill, Jr., W. D. Tucker,

Future home of Huntsville Boys Club



Jr., Henry Homer Chase, W. B. Whitfield. Approximately 40 other citizens of Huntsville became charter members of the corporation.

The purpose of the Huntsville Boys Club, Incorporated, is to provide constructive activities under experienced and trained supervision every day during the boys' leisure time. To attract and hold boys, the Boys Club conducts a diversified program in athletics, classes such as woodworking, leather working, model airplanes, music appreciation, art painting, cooking and health instruction. A library with many other guided activities therein is another important phase of the Boys' Club program. All these activities spell Fun With A Purpose which underlies the principal of the Boys' Club . . . Boy Guidance. Through guidance and instruction on available facilities the boys have the opportunity to develop and use their hands, and uncover and strengthen latent abilities.

Almost six months of struggle and disappointment were involved by the building committee in endeavoring to find a suitable location to rent for a demonstration central Boy's Club. A location was finally

Top Picture, Officers of Huntsville Boys Club, reading left to right: Mrs. Isabelle Mebane, Dean S. Murphree, Charles E. Shaver, Donald I. Graham, Jr. Bottom Picture, left to right: front row, Reese T. Amis, Milton K. Cummings, W. M. Painter, Burton Case. Back row, W. B. Whitfield, Henry Homer Chase, W. D. Tucker, Jr., A. W. Hill, Jr., Dr. D. J. Butterbaugh, M. H. Lanier, Jimmy Walker.



found and occupancy realized on July 1, 1955. The building is located at 300 5th Avenue and is a Quonset type building, having two floors and approximately 5100 square feet.

### HUNTSVILLE CHESS CLUB

By Conrad D. Swanson

This club first met informally in 1951. The president of the club is Donald French, and secretary is Conrad Swanson. Membership is open to all interested in the royal game with age or sex not restricted. There are no dues; this club is probably the only one which has not assessed the membership for the last two years.

In two annual tournaments with the Birmingham Club, Huntsville has been winner. The tournament for 1955 has not been played.

Early members of the Huntsville Chess Club were H. Thompson, D. Thompson, H. Rothe, B. Isbell, J. Wade, W. Brunner, H. McCullough, C. Baker, W. Varnedoe. For the first two years there were no officers.

### MONTE SANO PARK

The Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study by the Alabama State Commission of Forestry and National Park Service indicates our park as follows:

"There exists on this park two parking areas, a picnic area with an 83 car capacity, a lodge with room for 35 cars; water and sanitary facilities (cabins, lodge, superintendent's office); picnic facilities which include a picnic area of 10 acres, a shelter 25 ft. x 60 ft., a rest room and concession, and 14 outdoor fireplaces. In the lodge there are accommodations for

Monte Sano State Park Rental Cottage



dining, dancing, a lounge 19 ft. x 33 ft., rest rooms, kitchen, and concessions. The 11 cabins have a capacity of 4 each. There are two miles of bridle trails, foot trails, 3 trail shelters, 2 outlook points, 1 supt. cottage consisting of 2 bedrooms, 1 living room, dining room, kitchen, bath and office."

This report stated that, "The site of Monte Sano State Park for generations has been used extensively as a summer resort, being located on Monte Sano Mountain on the lower end of the Cumberland Range, extending into Alabama from Tennessee."

An attendance chart on Monte Sano in this report indicated that attendance in 1938 rose from zero the first of May to a little over 4,000 by June 1, to approximately 10,500 to July 1, to 19,000 by August 1, and by official dedication of the park on August 26, 1938, to 40,000.

Attendance in 1937 totalled only about 7,000 people.

According to the first annual report of the Alabama Department of Conservation in 1939 cabins in five parks, including Monte Sano, were first equipped with beds, bedding, dishes, kitchen utensils, lights, stoves, refrigerators, etc.

According to the 1940 annual report, three new cabins were constructed at Monte Sano, bringing the total to 14. Rates for rental of cabins was noted as \$2 per night on weekdays, \$3 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, or \$15 per week.

Attendance records apparently were not kept until the 1941-42 fiscal year when Monte Sano had 10,365 cabin guests, and a total of 52,583 guests.

The parcels of land which make up Monte Sano State Park were acquired from 1935 through 1938, a period when the Alabama State Parks had their

beginning and first growth. This was in the days of extensive Civilian Conservation Corps work. A C.C.C. Camp located at Monte Sano was source of the labor for constructing the rustic stone cabins and other buildings, picnic and parking areas. The old State Commission of Forestry first received title to the Monte Sano Park, administering it and other parks of the State until 1939. Upon formation of the Alabama Department of Conservation with its Divisions of Game, Fish, and Seafoods, Forestry, Lands and State Parks, Monuments and Historical Sites the parks properties were transferred. The old Forestry Commission relinquished control and the State Parks, Monuments and Historical Sites Division took over all state parks.

Parks Manager at Monte Sano since the Department was formed have been: Dr. Wheeler, May, 1939; L. H. Pinkston, February 16, 1940 to January 27, 1941; Homer Chase, 1 year; Vassar L. Allen, February 1, 1942 to July 15, 1943; R. P. Mills, July 16, 1943 to December 15, 1944; James C. Murphy, December 16, 1944, to July 31, 1946; Curtis Tucker, August 1, 1947, to December 15, 1948; and James O. Evans, December 16, 1948, to the present.

The acreage of Monte Sano has changed several times since it became a park. At present, the park contains 2,042 acres atop Monte Sano Mountain.

## PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS DEPARTMENTS

By W. E. McBride

Huntsville, Alabama, sometimes called the "Rocket City," offers many scenic, recreational and historic attractions. Located in the heart of the Tennessee Valley, surrounded by mountains and lakes offers wonderful opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating and swimming. Other recreational facilities are:

Art: Madison County Art Association.

Baseball: Big Spring Park, Canal Street; Optimist Park, on US 72 (North); Huntsville Park, 8th Avenue West.

Basketball: Men, boys and girls, in season; Y.M.C.A.; McCormick Center; National Guard Armory.

Boating: Madison County Boat Harbor, Hobbs Island (approximately 10 miles South of Huntsville).

Bowling: Virginia McCormick Center; Major League, Classic League and City League; New bowling alley to open on 5th Avenue.

Camping: Camp Trico, Girl Scouts; Westmoreland, Boy Scouts; Camp Kiwanis, under Y.M.C.A. supervision for boys and girls.

Scene at Monte Sano Dude Ranch







City Swimming Pool at Big Spring Park

One of Huntsville's 14 community playgrounds.



Carnivals: Lions Club Annual Carnival, Big Spring Park, held in July.

Children's Rides: Miniature train, slides, swings at parks.

Country Club: Huntsville Golf and Country Club offers a nine hole golf course, swimming pool, tennis courts, etc., for members.

Chess & Checkers: Y.M.C.A.

Fishing Rodeo: Fishing rodeo for boys and girls, Lagoon, Big Spring Park.

Festivals: Annual Golden Wedding Festival, Big Spring Park, honors all couples in Madison County who have been married 50 or more years.

Golf: Golf Range, Four Lane Drive; Municipal Golf Course, approximately 4 miles South of town, Miniature Golf Course, Four Lane Drive; Huntsville Golf & Country Club (membership only).

Gym Classes: Y.M.C.A.: Virginia McCormick Center.

Health Club and Steam Baths: Y.M.C.A.

Horseback Riding: Dude Ranch, Monte Sano Mountain.

Horse Shows: Annual Optimist Club Horse Show, Optimist Park, held in June.

Libraries: Huntsville Public Library, corner Gates and Madison Streets; Virginia McCormick Center, West Huntsville.

Picnic Areas: Big Spring Park; Monte Sano State Park; Madison County Boat Harbor.

Playgrounds: Huntsville Parks and Playgrounds Department operates 12 playgrounds and the park; Virginia McCormick Center; Lincoln Park.

Scouts: Boys Explorer and Club; Girls: Brownie, Intermediate, Senior and Mariner Troops.

Shuffle Board: Y.M.C.A.: McCormick Center.

Swimming: Y.M.C.A.: Municipal Swimming pool; Country Club Pool (members).

Tennis Courts: 4 at Big Spring Park; 2 at Mayfair Playground; 2 at California Playground; 1 at Country Club. Annual Madison County Tennis Tournament, Big Spring Park, June.

Roller Skating: Rocket City Roller Rink.

Teen Age Activities: Teen age Activities, East Clinton Annex, dancing each Thursday night.

Stock Car Races: Athens Pike.

Volleyball: Y.M.C.A.

Softball: Big Spring Park; Optimist Park.

Concerts: Community Concert Association, brings 4 concerts each year to Huntsville, presenting named artists.

Plays: Little Theatre Group presents three plays per year.

Golf Tournament: Huntsville Times Golf Tournament, Municipal Golf Course.

Modern Tennis Courts at Big Spring Park



Softball: City and Industrial Leagues, Big Spring Park; Optimist Park.

Three Theaters.; Four Drive-in Theatres.

Parades: Annual Santa Claus Parade; Armed Forces Day Celebration.

Negro Recreation: One theatre; two playgrounds, Council Courts and Binford Park; 1 tennis court; 2 softball diamonds; 1 picnic area; Library—Dulcinea DeBerry in Church Street Center; Church Street Community Center; 1 football stadium; and a swimming pool is now under construction.

### THE ROCKET CITY RACING CLUB

The present officers of the club are: president, E. C. Roberts and vice-presidents, Wayne Howard and Vance Morris.

The Rocket City Racing Club was organized August 25, 1954, by race car owners and drivers in the vicinity of Huntsville, Alabama, for the purpose of providing better racing in this area and provide racing events pleasing to the public by cooperation of club members and track owners.

Club rules were established to enforce safety regulations in racing, the advantages of which are weekly demonstrated in this fast, dangerous sport by protection of drivers in severe accidents, which if occurring to the average car on the highway would cause severe injuries or casualties. The safety measures of proper car bracing and use of safety belts has brought drivers through these severe accidents safely. Such measures pave the way for more safety in everyday driving on highways.

The club has instituted an insurance system for the participants in the events. This insurance policy is underwritten by one of the nationally known in-

surance companies, which, for a nominal fee, insures drivers, mechanics, and track officials against costs of injuries sustained during the races. This insurance is paid each night by the participants themselves.

The Rocket City Racing Club has sponsored a benefit race for the Boys Club of Huntsville. For this race, all proceeds above actual expenses have been turned over to the Boys Club to assist in building recreation facilities for the boys of Huntsville.

The club membership consists of 35 members, with approximately the same number of associate members from the Tri-Cities Racing Club, a similar racing organization located in Florence, Alabama, which works in coordination with the Rocket City Racing Club in exchange of cars for weekly races.

### ROCKET CITY SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

By William C. Sayre

The club was organized in February, 1954, and has since expanded to a membership of approximately 300. The charter provides that the club is open to the sportsmen of North Alabama, of all ages, having a desire to improve hunting and fishing in this area. Its purpose, essentially, is to foster and cultivate sportsmanlike relations among the members; to encourage closer personal and social acquaintance among its members; and to gather and disseminate any information helpful to the members respecting improvement of the game and fish laws of the state.

The group also has future plans for sports events, such as turkey shoots, fishing rodeos, and the like.

New officers were recently elected as follows: president, Mr. Glenn Slayton; vice-president, Mr. Jerre Ducote; and secretary-treasurer, Dr. Bruce Hovis.

Virginia McCormick Memorial Association Building (West Huntsville Y.M.C.A.)



## WEST HUNTSVILLE Y.M.C.A.

### "Virginia McCormick Memorial Branch"

The West Huntsville Y.M.C.A. was organized in 1915. The buildings and grounds were a gift of Miss Mary Virginia McCormick. The present building was constructed in 1915.

The success of this community enterprise during its early years was due greatly to the personal interest shown by Mrs. Emmons Blaine and Miss Grace T. Walker as representatives of Miss McCormick.

The Association organization was perfected by Dr. E. H. T. Foster, representing the Industrial Department of the National Y.M.C.A.

The Association served employees and their families of the textile mills of the community, the Lowe Manufacturing Company, the Huntsville Knitting Company, and the West Huntsville Cotton Mills Company as well as the business element of the community.

The Board of Directors during the early years were composed largely of the executives of the mills mentioned above.

The scope of the Association program is broad, providing activities of a religious, educational, physical, social, and recreational nature to men, women, boys and girls.

The first Board of Directors were: T. W. Pratt, President—Secretary and treasurer, Huntsville Cotton Mills Company; W. M. Wellman, Treasurer—Secretary, Treasurer, and General Manager, Huntsville Knitting Company; and R. E. McDonald, Director—Agent Lowe Mill Manufacturing Company.

The staff during the early years was composed of: W. B. Patterson, General Secretary; C. M. Alexander, Physical Director; Miss Selma Mitchell, Music; Joseph Gunn, Business Secretary; Miss Sallis Shelby Mastin, Ladies work; Mrs. R. E. Spencer, High School Instructor.

While he was never on the staff Mr. William P. Fanning was very helpful in the organization of the "Y" program, securing of funds for building and coordination of the program with the school program, with which he was associated as principal at the time. Mr. Fanning has been Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Directors for a number of years.

Others who were very instrumental in the early years of the Association's progress include: Mr. D. W. Ward, West Huntsville Cotton Mills Company; Mr. M. P. Stacks, Lowe Manufacturing Company; Mr. J. R. Price, Huntsville Warehouse Company; Mr. W. W. Osborne, West Huntsville Fertilizer Plant; Mr. L. O. Erwin, Huntsville Knitting Company.

Mr. L. O. Erwin, who took over the President of the Board of Directors from Mr. Pratt, headed up the organization for a number of years until it was taken over as a U.S.O. Mr. Erwin has been a continuous supporter of the organization to this date and is on the Advisory Board at this time.

Mr. W. H. Hollingsworth, Sr. was also a layman for a number of years.

Mr. "Bill" Sefton chaired the activities of the organization during the U.S.O. years.

Since that time the following have served as Presidents: William Hollingsworth, Manager Huntsville Roofing Company; Charlie Creque, Sales Department Martin Stove Company; Oliver Allred, Foundry Manager John Blue Company; Don Glen (present) Associate Superintendent General Shoe Corporation.

"Many others may have been unintentionally omitted for listing due to our inability to locate their names in the records".

Present officers of the Y.M.C.A. are: Don Glen, President; W. S. Copeland, Vice-President; W. P. Fanning, Recording Secretary and Treasurer; Russel D. Barber, Executive Secretary; Venice Terry, Program Director.

The West Huntsville Y.M.C.A. was taken over by the U.S.O. during World War II and was operated as such until January 1, 1946 when it was returned to its original status as a Y.M.C.A. serving the men, women, boys, and girls of the community.

Since that time the program has expanded in many activities until today it represents a program that is shared by not only the industry and residents of the community but also county-wide participants. However, industry continues to play a most important role in the progress of the Association. The social functions, team competition and league games are centered around the organization and the industries are due much credit for their fine spirit and financial support.

John Blue Company, Martin Stove Company, Alabama Shoe Company, Textile Hardwood Company, Huntsville Roofing Company and Huntsville Manufacturing Company are taking the role once occupied by the industries helpful in organizing the "Y".

## WHITESBURG BOAT AND YACHT CLUB

By James Record

The Whitesburg Boat and Yacht Club was organized in 1952 by a small group of local citizens who had a desire to band together and form a non-profit fraternal organization consisting of individuals



Whitesburg Boat and Yacht Club members on a pleasure cruise.

with a mutual love for boating as a recreational hobby. A primary goal of the Club has been the development of the potential recreational facilities of the TVA lake waters adjacent to Huntsville for the benefit and enjoyment of all citizens of Madison County and neighboring areas.

As a community service, the boating facilities and equipment of the club have been offered to the city and county law enforcement officials, the Red Cross, U. S. Coast Guard and the Commanding General, Redstone Arsenal, for use in the event of a local disaster or emergency.

In cooperation with the Madison County Board of Commissioners, the Club assumed the responsibility for management and operation of the Madison County Boat Harbor in February 1954.

Since assuming responsibility for the management of the harbor, it has been operated with improved facilities for the use of all local citizens. In spite of an organizational and financial set-back of the club caused by a disastrous fire within the harbor in 1954, several improvements in public harbor facilities have been installed; many more are contemplated. The cost of the improvements installed to date and the

operating expenses borne by the club for the past years operation were in excess of \$3,000. This amount exceeded the combined revenue realized from the rental of boat docks, boats, and service-concession stand sales.

Benefits to be realized from club membership include participation in club and harbor management, organized lake cruises and outings, fish fries, parties, monthly club meetings, and recognition and extension or courtesies by other boat and yacht clubs while vacationing or visiting in other localities, monetary savings in the purchasing of boating supplies and equipment, and last, but not least, an opportunity to participate in the development of recreational facilities for the Huntsville area.

Cost of membership in the club is \$1.00 per year with an initiation fee of \$10.00.

Past Commodores of the Club have been Dr. R. C. Bibb, and Jere Evans. The current officers are M. R. Greuel, Commodore; Lawrence Brock, Vice-Commodore; Ed Branch, Fleet Captain, Dr. H. Reynolds; Rear Commodore; Dr. John Coffee, Secretary; and H. O'Neil, Club Treasurer. C. Young serves as Harbor Custodian.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## OUR GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMY

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### HOW OUR CITY GOVERNMENT OPERATES

By James Record

Governing the City of Huntsville is a tremendous job, and fortunately Huntsville has been blessed with many top-grade men volunteering their services as elected officials and employees. Although the elected officials pay is negligible, many have still seen fit to serve, and the City has been the beneficiary.

Progressing from the original form of five trustees governing the town, to the Mayor-Alderman form, thence to the present form—the Mayor-Council form with a City Council President—then to the City Commission form in 1911, and back again to the present form in 1916, the city has made much progress in its governmental affairs. Today, Huntsville is recognized as one of the better governed cities in Alabama, and it is a big business, in which all of its citizens are stockholders proud to be a part of a city that has never defaulted in paying bonded indebtedness interest, and that today is in sound financial position, due to good management. The budget for the fiscal year 1954-1955 was set at approximately \$1,000,000, and the governmental services have reached a new high, yet with fewer taxes than the average city of Huntsville's size.

Briefly, the organizational setup of the City operates under a 1907 State constitutional charter and the City Code of 1954. Overall operation of all city affairs are entrusted to the City Council, including the Mayor and President. Operating under these are the various departments and boards, with their elected and appointed heads.

The Mayor is the Chief Executive, and is elected by the voters of all five city wards for a four year term. He signs all agreements and contracts approved by the City Council, and represents the city at vari-

ous official affairs. Although he has no vote on the City Council, he has the power of veto on ordinances and resolutions, can temporarily suspend any city employee, and has the duty of seeing that peace and order is carried out, accompanied by the power to increase the police department when necessary to preserve the peace and good order of the city. The public looks upon its Mayor as its Good-Will Emissary at non-governmental affairs, also.

The City Council President is the Chairman of the legislative body of the City, presides at all City Council meetings, and appoints City Council committees subject to approval by the Council. He serves as Chairman of the Finance committee, and is elected by the voters of all five city wards for a four year term.

Completing the city council organization are the ten members elected by the voters of all five city wards for a four year term. They are the governing body of the city. Two councilmen in each ward represent that particular ward in which they reside, as well as representing the city as a whole. The Council elects all department heads, and elects all boards, except the Planning Commission and Housing Authority, which are appointed by the Mayor. Each of the councilmen have specific duties as chairman and member of the various committees necessary for proper functioning of city governmental services.

The Council meets every Second and Fourth Thursdays at the City Hall, and are elected at an election held on the third Monday in September every four years. The next election is in 1956, and it appears probable that election methods may be changed at that time, due to increased population of the city.

Administering the affairs of a city as large as Huntsville requires the services of many efficient and civic-minded persons elected and appointed by the Council and Mayor. The City Attorney is selected to render

all legal services required; the City Recorder presides over the Municipal Court; and the City Engineer renders all necessary engineering services. The Clerk-Treasurer is the general accountant of the city, maintains all official City Council minutes, administers City elections, issues licenses, and is the custodian for all city money, including City Board of Education funds. Assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes are delegated by him to the County Tax Assessor and Collector, respectively. He is the principal financial adviser to the Council, also.

Departments of our city government, exclusive of boards, are Recreation; Streets and Sanitation; Cemetery; Fire; Police; Inspection; Finance; Street Lights; Public Relations and Shop Repair. All departments are assisted and supervised by a council committee.

The Recreation department supervises all parks and playgrounds and is in charge of their maintenance. The Streets and Sanitation department maintains all streets and alley ways, and is in charge of all garbage disposals and maintenance of sanitary and storm sewers.

Management and maintenance of City cemeteries is the function of the Cemetery department, while responsibility for prevention of fire hazards and prompt extinguishment of fires is the function of the Fire department. The Police department preserves law and order, investigates complaints, arrests offenders, recovers stolen property, controls traffic in the city and in a three-mile radius outside the city corporate limits, and maintains the City Jail.

Inspection and approval of all phases of the various departments requiring inspection facilities is the responsibility of the inspection department, whose members are assigned to the various departments. Duties of the Shop Repair department include maintenance of all city-owned vehicles, while duties of the Street Light department include inspection and maintenance of the whiteway light system, as well as recommendations for improvement. The Finance Department approves all bills against the City, studies the budget, and considers new ordinances. The Public Relations Committees is the liason for press and radio publicity.

Boards elected by the City Council are the Library; Education; Electric; Gas and Water; and Adjustment. Duties of the Library Board, composed of five members elected for four year staggered terms, consist of formulation of operating policies of the Huntsville Public Library; securement and budgeting of its monies; employment and supervision of the Library director; public relations, and review and approval

of expenditures. This board meets monthly on the first Tuesday after the second Monday.

The Board of Education, composed of five members elected for five year staggered terms, appoints the City Superintendent of Education and has all power of administration and management of city public schools.

Members of the Three man City Electric Board, elected for three year staggered terms, have complete control of the electric distribution system, and work closely with the City Council, particularly where expenditures involve over \$5,000 when such expenditure must be approved by the Council. All operations of the Electric System are subject to T.V.A. regulations, and are supervised closely by the board.

The Gas and Water Board, recently formed with three members elected for three year staggered terms, has the responsibility of formulating and directing operations of the Gas and Water Departments.

The Board of Adjustment, composed of five members elected for a three year term, is charged with the responsibility of hearing any appeal or complaint made by any aggrieved person for any alleged error in any decision or determination made by the planning Commission.

Boards appointed by the Mayor are the Planning Commission and Housing Authority. The Planning Commission, consisting of nine men, six of whom are appointed by the Mayor, and with the remaining consisting of the Mayor, an Alderman and a Department Head. They are appointed for five year staggered terms, and make and adopt general plans for physical development of the city, including any areas outside its boundaries, which, in the commissions judgment, bear relation to the planning of the municipality.

The Housing Authority, consisting of five men appointed for five year staggered terms, has charge of federal low-rent housing in the city and ten mile radius surrounding the city. Since 1941 this commission has participated in five housing projects which have eliminated some slum areas and have furnished low-rent housing for hundreds of persons. Projects being supervised at present by this board are Redstone Park, Butler Terrace, Sparkman Homes, Binford Court and Council Courts, the latter two being for Negroes.

It is necessary, in the operation of city government, to coordinate closely with other governmental agencies, and various other institutions require aid and work from the city government in this category. The Huntsville Hospital, a private non-profit corporation governed by a sixteen Board of Trustees serving five



City Planning Commission reading from left to right. Front Row: Louis Tumminello, Audrey Hinkle, Abe Goldstein, Chairman, Walter Price. Back Row, Tom Jones, Jr., John Blue III Richard Dickson, R. B. Searcy and Ed Mitchell.

year terms, is an example in this category. The City makes direct monthly donations to help cover cost of charity patients, along with the Madison County governing body.

The Madison County Health department, governed by a board of five physicians who are elected by the Madison County Medical Society, is another agency calling on the City for help. It serves both City and County in execution of all health and sanitation laws. Contributions are made for its operation by the city, county, State and Federal governments.

Aiding those persons in the city and county in need of welfare is the Madison County Welfare Department. This organization is operated under State laws, aided by a local seven member board appointed by the County governing body for staggered terms, and is aided financially by the City, County, State, and Federal governments.

Another of the progressive joint government undertakings is the City-County Airport. It is jointly operated by the City and County Government, and is presently under lease to the Huntsville Air Service. It requires, however, monthly contributions from the two governments for maintenance purposes.

The organizations and departments covered in

this chapter have primarily been limited to those receiving financial aid from the city. Of course, many other governmental agencies exist, including the Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Probate Judge, Circuit Court, Sheriff, Inferior Court, Board of Registrars, and Veterans Affairs. These agencies in different degrees assist and cooperate with City Government. They are primarily, however, State and County governmental agencies, and explanations of their duties and operations may be found covered thoroughly in "A Report on Madison County, Its History, Operation and Finances" on file at the Huntsville Public Library.

A government is only as good as the persons composing and administering it, and history will record the progress of Huntsville's present city government, along with those preceding it, as being progressive, efficient, and far-thinking.

The following section lists those persons, where information was available, who are presently participating officially in the rapid growth and expansion of our governmental services and progress towards a goal of even better governments.



## MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

R. B. Searcy, elected Huntsville's Mayor in 1952, resides at 601 Locust Street, and is serving his first term as Mayor. His occupation is that of Wholesale Bakery Goods. He was born January 8, 1901, in Huntsville, and was educated in the Huntsville Public Schools and the University of Alabama. Clubs in which Mayor Searcy has been active are the Salesman, Rotary, Elks and Moose. His family consists of his wife, Annie Mae, and two daughters 17 and 19. His religion is Presbyterian.

John O. Broadway, President of the City Council, is serving his second term. He was born December 13, 1905, at Paris, Tennessee. Mr. Broadway's civic life is a full one. After attending the public schools of Paris, Tennessee, and receiving a B.S. degree at Milligan College, Tennessee, he taught school for nine years at Huntsville Collegiate Institute, Joe Bradley School, and Madison High School. He served as principal at Madison. Following his teaching career, he was Field Representative for the American Red Cross for four years, and since 1938 has held the position of Office Manager for the Double Cola Bottling Company.

Mr. Broadway has been Vice president of the Alabama Bottler's Association; a Director for the Alabama League of Municipalities; a Deacon for the Central Presbyterian Church where he has been a Sunday School Teacher; has served as president and secretary of the Lions' Club, and is past president of the Huntsville Shrine Club. He is married to the former Florence Foster, and they have one son. They reside at 1503 Whitesburg Drive. Mr. Broadway

serves as chairman of the Council Finance, Ordinance and Executive Committee.

William A. Brown born October 24, 1912 in Huntsville is an Alderman from Ward 5. He is married to the former Helena Miller of Athens, Alabama, and they have one daughter, age 12, and two sons, ages 5 and 7. Their residence is 700 LaGrande Street. He is a retail grocery merchant (J. C. Brown & Co.), and is a director of the Henderson National Bank. Mr. Brown was educated in the Madison County Public Schools, and attended the University of Alabama. Clubs in which he has been active are the Rotary, American Legion, V.F.W., Country Club, Elks and Moose. He is a member of the State Democratic Committee. Council committees receiving his attention are Fire and Finance, in addition to Police, which last committee he is chairman of. Mr. Brown was appointed to the Council in 1950, and was elected for a full term in 1952. His military service lasted for four years, three of which was overseas in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters.

Wilburn S. Copeland, Alderman from Ward 4, was born in Lawrence County, Tennessee on September 21, 1902, and came to Huntsville in 1929. He and his wife Beatrice, and children Nancy Margaret, age 9, and Shelby Jame, age 8 reside at 114 Earl Street. Mr. Copeland received his education in Tennessee public schools, and has attended University of Alabama production supervision and production management courses. He has served as president of the West Huntsville Men's Club for two terms, and has been very active in civic circles pertaining to Recreation and Juvenile Delinquency. He served

Present City Council, seated left to right: John Rodenhauer, R. B. Searcy, Vance Thornton, C. D. Howard, Robert Eslick. Standing, left to right: Ed Mitchell, W. S. Copeland, Bill Brown, Gordon Loffin, Houston Goodson, Jimmy Walker. Not present is John Broadway.



as a City policeman for three years, was a member of the State Highway Patrol for two years, and was policeman and Recreation Director for four years with Merrimack Manufacturing Company. He is owner and operator of the Modern Dry Cleaners on West Clinton Street.

Robert L. Eslick, Alderman from Ward 3, resides at 214 South White Street, and is connected with Eslick Brother Furniture Store on Madison Street, and the Kiddie Land on Holmes Street. He was born September 16, 1909 in Fayetteville, Tennessee, and moved to Huntsville in 1913. He attended the Huntsville Public Schools and Bowling Green College of Commerce and Business Administration. He is a member of the Elks Club, and serves as chairman of the Council Street Lighting Committee, along with membership on the Fire and Cemetery Committees. Mrs. Eslick, married to the former Willa Riese Moon, has one daughter 19, and is a member of the Methodist Church. He has served as a member of the Alabama State Legislature in 1950. In 1952 he was elected to the City Council.

William Houston Goodson, Sr., was born in Texas May 3, 1909, moved to Tennessee, where he lived until he was six years old, at which time he moved to Huntsville. He now resides at 1205 East Clinton Street. He attended the City and County public schools, and attended Auburn and Florence State Teachers College. He taught school and coached in the county for five years, was in the grocery business ten years, later entering the automobile business. At present he is owner and manager of Zesto Drive-In at Five Points. He married the former Alma Englebert of Huntsville, and they have three children, Mrs. Herbert Walker, William Houston, Jr., and Patricia. He is a member of the Methodist Church. In 1952 he was elected to represent the Second Ward, and now serves as chairman of the School and Library Council Committee.

C. D. Howard, Sr., is Alderman from Ward 2, and resides at 806 East Clinton Street. He was born in New Market, Alabama in 1891, and is President of the Sparta Monumental Works on California Street. He is also a partner in the Tennessee Valley Concrete Company, along with his son, C. D. Howard, Jr., on Meridian Pike. Mr. Howard attended Madison County Public Schools and Chafin's Business College in Huntsville. He is a member of the Salesman's Club, serves as Chairman of the Council Cemetery Committee, and also serves on the Lights Committee. He was first elected in 1948, and was re-elected in 1952. His wife, the former Ellie Morris, and three

sons make up his family. He is a member of the Baptist Church.

Gordon Loftin, elected Alderman of Ward one in 1952, resides at 1000 Beirne Avenue. He was born in Nicholville, Alabama, on June 16, 1911, attending their public schools for nine years, then he attended Thomasville High School for three years where he graduated. Following graduation, he went to Birmingham Southern College in 1931-1934. He played high school football for three years and college football for four years. Mr. Loftin came to Huntsville in 1935 and married the former Constance Ward. They have two children, Anna Margaret, a student at Howard College, and Bart, now attending Huntsville High. Mr. Loftin owns and operates "Ward Grocery Company" in Dallas on Fifth Street. He is a member and Deacon of the First Baptist Church, and teaches a class of eleven year old boys in Sunday School. Mr. Loftin is a Mason.

John Edgar Mitchell, Alderman from Ward 5, was born in Huntsville in 1918, and resides with his wife, the former Carolyn Jones, and two daughters, at 1423 Billie Watkins Avenue. He is an Independent Insurance Adjuster and is chairman of the Streets Committee, and serves on the Airport and Parks and Playgrounds Committee. Mr. Mitchell attended the Huntsville Public Schools and Marion Military Institute. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Mitchell was elected in 1948 to the Council, served two years at which time he moved out of the city for a few years, and came back to be re-elected in 1952. He served with the U. S. Air Force during World War II for 43 months. Mr. Mitchell is a Presbyterian.

John A. Rodenhauser, Alderman from Ward 3, resides at 509 McClung Street. He has an Insurance and Real Estate business in the Times Building, and is married to the former Louise Varin of Huntsville. They have one daughter six years old. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Rodenhauser was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1914 and moved to Huntsville in 1919. He received his education in the Huntsville Public Schools, and belongs to the Rotary, Shrine, Masons, Elks, American Legion, Country Club, and V.F.W. During World War II he served with the Air Force and Signal Corps for 33 months, one year of which was overseas in the European Theater.

Vance J. Thornton, Alderman from Ward 4, resides at 1315 Brandon Street, and is in the Insurance and Real Estate Business at #15 South Side Square. He was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee in 1916 on

May 20, and moved to Huntsville in 1918. He was educated in the Madison County and Huntsville Public Schools, and serves as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Council, along with membership on the Finance and Executive, and School Committees. He serves as President Pro-Tem of the Council. He was elected in 1948, and re-elected in 1952. Mr. Thornton is married to the former Gene Land, and they have two sons. He served in World War II for three years, ten months of which were in the European Theater. He received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Thornton worked for the First National Bank for about seven years, and was a National Bank Examiner for three years. Upon resigning from the bank to enter private business, Mr. Thornton was Assistant Vice-President. His civic career has been an outstanding one. He is a Mason, Past President of the Shrine Club, Past State Commander of the D.A.V., a member of the Legion, V.F.W., and the Rotary Club. He is a director of the Community Chest, a trustee of the Huntsville Hospital and the Crippled Children's Clinic, is a director for the First Federal Loan and Savings Association, and has served as Chapter Chairman for the Red Cross. He is a Past National Committeeman for the D.A.V.

Jimmy Carter Walker, Alderman from Ward One,

was born February 15, 1909, in Laurel Hill, Florida, and was reared in Andalusia, Alabama. He attended grade schools and three years high school in Andalusia, graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery, and attended Jacksonville State Teachers College. After leaving school, Mr. Walker followed newspaper work for several years, editing a weekly newspaper at Hurtsboro, Alabama in the middle thirties. He worked as Sales Manager for the Ford dealership in Hurtsboro and Union Springs, Alabama, prior to coming to Huntsville in 1941. He was a partner in the Nehi Bottling Company here from 1940 to 1950, at which time he sold his interest and engaged in the Farm Equipment business for three years. He is now Executive Secretary for the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Walker is married to the former Marguerite Anthony of Midway, Alabama, and they have two children, a daughter Anne, age 14, and a son, Jimmy, age 9. They reside at 1107 Ward Avenue. Mr. Walker is a member of the Kiwanis Club, Past President of the Salesman's Club, a past Captain of the Quarterback Club, a member of the Board of Stewards of the First Methodist Church, Past President of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, and Past President of the North Alabama Football Officials Association. He is Chairman of the Parks and Playgrounds Council Committee.

City Hall Annex



**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Operating under the Council and its Boards and Committees are the following department heads:

<i>Huntsville Utilities</i>	Gen. Supt.	Karl Woltersdord
	Supt., Water	Jimmy Wall
	Supt., Gas	Thirlo Smith
	Supt., Elect.	C. J. Martz
	Auditor	J. N. Williams
<i>Fire Department</i>	Fire Chief	Massey Tolen
<i>Police Department</i>	Police Chief	Grover Pylant
<i>Cemetery</i>	Sexton	L. W. Darnell
<i>Shop Repair</i>	Supt.	W. R. Beshears
<i>Clerk-Treasurer</i>	Supt.	Norris M. Payne
<i>Streets &amp; Sanitation</i>		Bob Mann
<i>Inspectors</i>	Fire	W. L. Russell, Jr.
	Buildings	E. N. Hopper
	Elect.	R. H. Hodges
	Plumbing	W. E. Ewing

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Roy L. Stone, Chairman, was born July 20, 1893 in Lincoln County, Tennessee near Fayetteville in the days when he had to walk 2 1/2 miles to school. He has farmed all his life. He attended the public schools of Fayetteville, receiving his high school diploma there. He later attended two years of prep school at Petersburg, Tennessee.

In 1923, following his marriage two years earlier, he and his wife put all their belongings into a One Ton Model "T" truck, and moved to Madison County, where Mr. Stone had secured a job as Overseer on the Dillard farm at Triana.

In 1928, the Stones bought a small twenty acre farm, later moving to Madison, and then in 1939 selling their land to T.V.A. and purchasing a farm near Gurley.

Mr. Stone was elected Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners in 1948, and was re-elected in 1952. He is a member of the First Baptist Church and is Past-President of the Civitan Club. Evidencing his interest and knowledge in County Government, he was elected as a Vice-President of the Alabama Association of County Commissioners.

Mr. and Mrs. Stone live on East Longwood Drive, and have three children, Mrs. Rand Lehman, Mrs. Robert Lewis, and Charles Stone.

Joe Quick, Commissioner from District One, was born on August 31, 1889 in Lincoln County, Tennessee, and moved to New Market in 1893. He has been County Commissioner since 1936. His wife, Gertrude, two sons, Joe, Jr. and Ronald, and one daughter, Norene, complete his family. Mr. and Mrs. Quick live at Quick's Mill (New Market, Route 1).

R. C. Shelton, Commissioner from District Two, was born on November 3, 1892 near Brownsboro, Alabama. He has been County Commissioner since 1943. He and his wife, Ozella, live in Gurley, Alabama.

Dr. James L. Carpenter, Commissioner from District Three, was born August 22, 1909 in New Hope, Alabama. He has served as Commissioner since 1942. He and his wife, Ruth, live in New Hope and they have two daughters, Henrietta, 19, and Jimmie Ruth, 14. Dr. Carpenter also practices medicine at New Hope, and is one of the few General Practitioners still making house calls all over Madison County.

Madison County Board of Commissioners, reading left to right: R. C. Shelton, James H. Turner, T. D. Weathers, Robert K. Bell, Roy L. Stone, Joe Quick, Dr. James L. Carpenter and James Record.



James H. Turner, Commissioner from District Four, was born February 17, 1915 at Toney, Alabama, and has lived there ever since. He was first elected as Commissioner in 1948 and was re-elected in 1952. Address of he and his wife, Thelma, is Toney, Alabama. They have two boys, Joe and James, Jr.

Robert K. (Buster) Bell, County Attorney since 1949, was born on September 8, 1906 in Elrod, Alabama. After a teaching career at the University of Alabama, he moved to Huntsville in January 1938 and has become one of the City's most successful attorney's. Mr. Bell and his wife Carolyne live at 608 Franklin Street.

T. D. Weathers, County Engineer, was born July 9, 1905 in Rogersville, Alabama. Following work with the State Highway Department, he was appointed County Engineer in August 1945. He received his Engineering Degree at Auburn. He and his wife, Mary Lou, live at 1803 Alabama Street.

James Record, County Auditor since 1948, was born December 27, 1918 at New Market, Alabama, and received his education in the Huntsville public schools and the University of Alabama Center, where he received the Accounting Certificate. He and his wife, Lillian, and daughter, Carole Denise, live at 1910 Evergreen. Mr. Record is author of "A Report on Madison County, Its History, Operation and Finances", a book which received nationwide attention.

## THE ELECTRIC UTILITY IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

By Karl Woltersdorf

Huntsville's first plan for electric illumination in 1884 called for three towers, 100 feet high, each to be supplied with an arc light and twelve other lamps

located at various sections of the town. This proposition was laid before a Board of Aldermen on January 1, 1884, by E. J. O'Beirne. His rate for the service over a five year period was \$3,000 per year. In case this did not meet with the approval of the Aldermen, he supplied a second offer by which he was to be paid \$5,500 to furnish all equipment and to put it in working order.

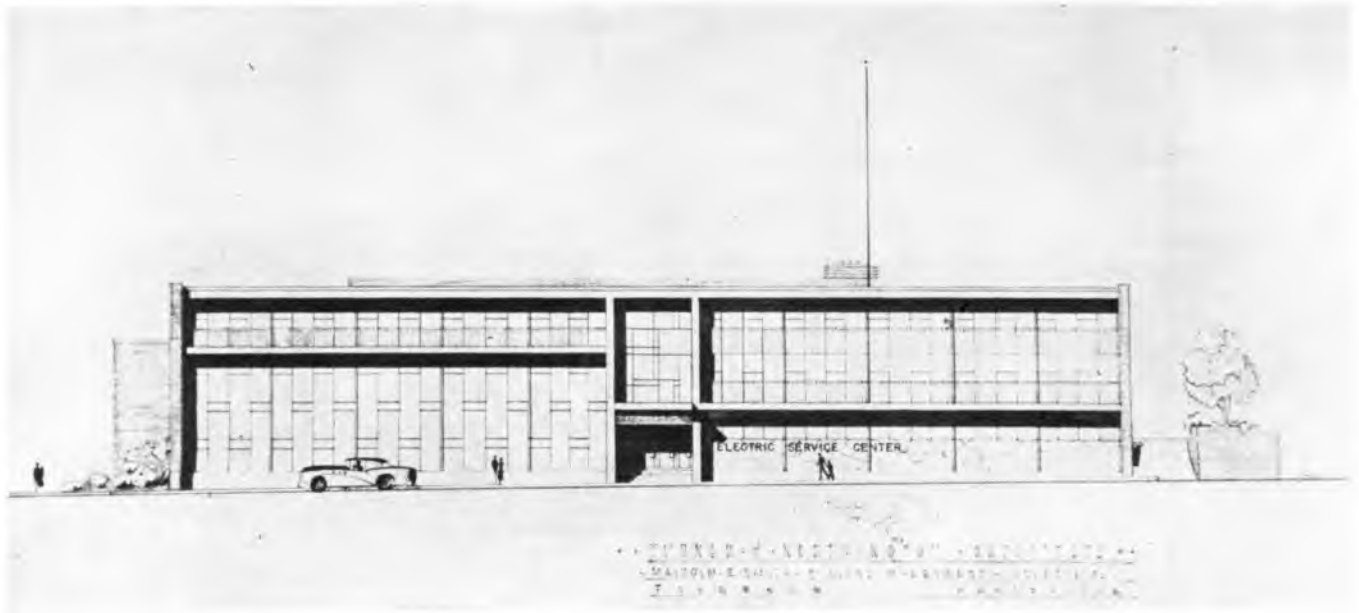
On December 21, 1886, a complaint against the old type gas lamps of Huntsville was made to the Board by Mayor Mastin and a committee was appointed to see what could be done about this condition and in 1887, Mr. Gree, a representative of the Jenny Electric Light System of Indianapolis, came to talk over plans with the proposed company for electricity for the City of Huntsville. On his return to Indianapolis, Mr. Green took with him Mr. C. H. Halsey, Mr. R. E. Spragins, and Mr. G. A. Lippincott to examine the machinery.

On March 1, 1887, a petition of the Huntsville Electric Company was presented to the Board asking the privilege of erecting poles and running wires along the streets of Huntsville and was turned over to a Committee of three, Moore, Jones and Ware, for examination. The contract with the Indianapolis Jenny System was closed on April 5, 1887, but this contract was turned down by the Board on May 10, 1887. It was presented again on May 17, 1887, and was accepted and a new contract was then drawn up similar to the former one calling for thirty-two street lights and three hundred incandescent lights with sufficient power to double the capacity when needed.

The Huntsville Electric Company opened their books of subscription at 7½ P.M. on April 12, 1887, at the law office of William Richardson and was fully organized April 13, 1887, and incorporated April 26,

Present Courthouse.





Electric Service Center planned to house all city utility departments.

1887. The capital stock was \$10,000 and it was divided into shares of \$100 each. The officers of the company were as follows: Charles H. Halsey, president; R. E. Spragins, secretary and treasurer; Charles H. Halsey, R. E. Spragins, Ernest Robinson, Luke Matthews, S. H. Lowery, and G. A. Hawkins, Board of Directors.

The stockholders of the company were as follows: William A. Richardson, 100 shares; Samuel H. Lowery, 80 shares; George H. Haldey, 80 shares, Robert E. Spragins, 80 shares; Lawrence Cooper, 80 shares.

During May, 1887, a building to house the light plant was erected on Miller Street directly behind the residences on Oak Avenue formerly occupied by Mr. Kirby Cartwright and Mrs. Sara M. Pitman, the site presently occupied by the Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company. The operator of this plant was Charlie Thomas.

The machinery for this Company arrived on June 7, and by the end of June, the engine and boilers had been placed in position and holes were being dug for the light poles.

The question of lighting all of the streets of Huntsville was presented on February 17, 1891.

The Huntsville Electric Company was given full authority on November 1, 1892 and the franchise was given to William S. Wells on November 15, 1892. Their flat rate was \$1.00 per month per 16 candle-power lamp.

These early electric lights were none too reliable a convenience. Sometimes they served for a long period without interruption, then the machinery got

out of order and stores and residences turned once more to the old standby—oil lamps. When electricity was first decided on in Huntsville, the citizens were given to understand that the light would be tried for all.

would be removed without any cost to the people at thirty days and if they did not prove satisfactory,

Cyrus F. Sugg was the leading figure in the light business. Gradually, he acquired stock in the Huntsville Electric Company until he was the sole owner. Around 1900, however, he sold the property to the Huntsville Railway Light and Power Company.

The old type machinery of the Huntsville Electric Company was greatly improved by the Huntsville Railway Light and Power Company in 1904.

This new firm established a plant on the lot opposite the N. C. & St. L. passenger station which was maintained until recent years. This plant had 280 horsepower boilers, a 75 KW General Electric, 2300 volt, alternating current, 3 phase, 50 horsepower Ball engine. They used one boiler at a time in this plant and kept the other one in reserve. They had a Fort Wayne Arc Machine, 6 6/10 amperes, 100 light capacity driven by a small Mansfield engine. The street lights were open arc carbon.

In 1900, when the property of the Huntsville Electric Company was sold to the Huntsville Railway Light and Power Company, a franchise was given to T. W. Pratt for a street railway system. The material for this system was bought from the Loraine Steel Company to be installed and made ready to operate. Mr. C. F. Corfield was in charge of the track and

overhead trolleys. Mr. Snickenberger was in charge of the setting of the machinery and the steam plant which was a 200 KW generator directly connected to 200 horsepower Payne engine. There was some six months' delay in getting the generator and there was much talk of the delay. The first street car made the trip at 2 P.M., February 27, 1901. All of the City officials were given a free ride over the system. Mr. Snickenberger operated the car and Mr. Corfield acted as conductor. The track had been completed some six months before and in many places it was covered with dirt and the car had to wait until the laborers could shovel the dirt from the rails before they could continue their ride. Mr. Charles Pulley married on the day and hour that the car started. He became manager of the company in 1910.

Huntsville's first experience with whiteway came around the first of September, 1913. Mayor R. E. Smith turned on the switch that sent current through the system and there were many cheers from the crowd watching and quite a celebration.

The Alabama Power Company bought out the Huntsville Railway Light and Power Company on June 15, 1915.

The small steam electric plant was continued in operation by Alabama Power Company from 1915 until about 1919 when the high tension transmission lines were built into Huntsville from Gadsden and from Wilson Dam, and Huntsville was connected to the transmission network of the Alabama Power Company System.

Local distribution facilities were rebuilt and improved by the Alabama Power Company. Electric rates were reduced at periodic intervals as the market for electricity was developed through a continuing

program of load development by the sale of appliances and electrification of the local industrial plants.

The first rural electric power line built in the State of Alabama was constructed in Madison County in 1924 by Alabama Power Company. This line was located on Whitesburg Pike and extended to Lily Flag. From 1924 until 1940, when the City of Huntsville purchased the system from Alabama Power Company, the rural electric program was continued by building rural power lines to such communities as New Hope, New Market, Hazel Green, Ryland, Maysville, Brownsboro, Monrovia, Jeff, Harvest, Toney, Madison Cross Roads, Athens Pike, Hurricane Valley and Sharps Cove.

In May, 1940, the City of Huntsville entered into a contract with Tennessee Valley Authority for the purchase of power from that agency for distribution and resale in Madison County. The City of Huntsville issued \$1,750,000 in Electric System Revenue Bonds and on July 19, 1940, purchased from Alabama Power Company all the electric distribution system in Huntsville and Madison County which, at that time, was serving a total of 5,810 customers from a total of approximately 250 miles of distribution lines. The average use by residential customers served at the time of acquisition by the City was approximately 1,550 KWH per year.

The City of Huntsville established the Huntsville Electric Utility Board to operate the Electric System in 1940. The first board consisted of Mr. J. F. Chambers, (now deceased), Mr. L. B. Goldsmith and Mr. George S. Elliott. Mr. Chambers was succeeded by Mr. Herbert Johnson in 1948, who in 1955 was succeeded by Mr. Jesse R. Patterson. Mr. Goldsmith was succeeded by Mr. J. E. Humphrey in 1945, and

City Electric Board, reading left to right: William Sefton, J. E. Humphrey and Jesse Patterson.



Mr. Elliott was succeeded by Mr. F. N. Sefton in 1950.

Since 1940 the Electric System has been extended so that today electric service is now available to all who reside in the county, Madison County being one of the first in Alabama or the TVA service area where 100% coverage was obtained. Approximately 1,200 miles of line are now in service in the county and the overall average residential use of electricity has reached approximately 5,160 KWH per year. Total number of customers now served from the system is 23,358, an increase of 17,548 during the fifteen year period of operation by the City of Huntsville.

In 1953 the last of the system's outstanding debt was paid, making the Huntsville Electric System the largest debt free electric operation in the TVA system. Electric rates have been reduced on two occasions under the city's operation. The first time was in 1950 when commercial and industrial rates were reduced by removing a 10% surcharge and again in 1955 when all rates were reduced except those applicable to rural residential customers. Total cost of the electric system facilities at original installed cost is now in excess of \$6,300,000.

## THE HUNTSVILLE GAS SYSTEM

By Ernest Hamilton

On January 1, 1872 the land for the first gas manufacturing operations was deeded to the Huntsville Gas Light Company.

By 1902, the Huntsville Gas Light Company was furnishing gas for the City of Huntsville's gas street

lights and about 200 residential customers. Their equipment consisted of coal-gas retorts, a 50,000 cubic foot holder and a 30,000 cubic foot holder. This plant was capable of producing 50,000 cubic feet of gas per day.

In 1908 the coal-gas retort process was supplemented by water-gas machines, and a small quantity of gas which was pumped into the holders from several shallow gas wells on the outskirts of Huntsville. These wells soon became flooded with water and were no longer productive.

The old water-gas process was the only source of gas supply until 1945 when the originally propane-air plant was constructed. The propane was stored in one 30,000 gallon and two 18,000 gallon tanks and gas was supplied to some 428 customers through the propane-air machine. This propane-air plant was capable of producing 40,000 cubic feet of 760 BTU gas per hour.

During the latter part of 1949 and in the early part of 1950, an agreement was worked out whereby the City of Huntsville purchased the Alabama Gas Corporation Propane-Air Plant and Gas System and arranged to construct its own gas system and purchase natural gas from the Alabama-Tennessee Natural Gas Company.

On March 11, 1952, the City of Huntsville's gas system was completed and began operations with some 1,800 customers.

As of February, 1955, the City of Huntsville Gas System is serving some 5,800 customers.

Board members of the new gas-water board are Jimmy Davis, H. M. Rhett, Jr. and Bill Tucker.

City Water-Gas Board, reading left to right: Jimmy Davis, H. M. Rhett, Bill Tucker.





## THE HUNTSVILLE WATER SYSTEM

By Ernest Hamilton

Huntsville has the oldest public water supply in the State of Alabama. The chief water supply has been a tremendous spring of clear, pure water within a 150 feet of the Courthouse and having a daily output of 26,000,000 gallons.

The Water System was first constructed in 1823 by using cedar logs which were made into conduit by boring a hole in the center of each log. These so-called pipes were tapered and jointed together and bound in place by iron bands. The only reservoir was located on the public square and constructed of thick planks and having a capacity of 1,000 square feet. A wooden turbine propelled by the flow of the spring was also constructed at this time.

In 1836 the log mains were abandoned and a contract was let to install iron pumps at the Big Spring and to install an iron water system. Also, to construct a new reservoir on Echols Hill between the point between Echols Hill and McClung Street.

In 1887 the City obtained permission from the State Legislature to issue bonds for the sum of \$15,000 to improve the water works. The existing stand-pipe on Echols Hill is one of the improvements resulting from this bond issue.

In 1898 the old pump house was torn down and the dam, wheel and all removed. In 1899 the new pump house was completed and new steam driven pump, capable of pumping 3,000,000 gallons per day, was installed. In 1910 an expansion program, involving 35 miles of cast iron main, was completed. In 1917, after the typhoid fever epidemic, a chlorinator system was installed.

In 1929 a bond issue of \$150,000 for water system improvements was approved by the City Council and also approval for replacement of the steam driven pump with a gasoline pump capable of pumping 2,500 gallons of water per minute.

In January, 1949, the Merrimac Water System was acquired along with two 1,000 gallon per minute centrifugal pumps and a 1,250,000 gallon reservoir.

In 1953, a 1,000 gallon per minute pump was installed in the Lowe Mill well and 14,000 feet of 12 inch cast iron main was installed to serve the Southern portion of Huntsville.

In 1954 the Dallas Mill System with a 500 gallon deep well pump was acquired to serve Colonial Hill and the Northern portion of Huntsville.

At present, 1955, our pumping facilities are capable of delivering 15,880 gallons per minute.

A bond issue of \$3,450,000 was approved by the City Council on July 14, 1955 for additional water system improvements.

## CITY LAW ENFORCEMENT

By Jeff D. Smith

The Mayor is the head of the city Police Department, and it is his duty to see that all laws of the City are carried out and that all Officers and agents of the City of Huntsville perform their duties. Under the Mayor is the Chief of Police, operating at present with one Lieutenant, three Captains, thirty five patrolmen and one Desk Sergeant.

Operation of the Police department is on a twenty four hour basis, in three 8 hour shifts. The department is equipped with four patrol cars, four motorcycles, and has full radio equipment.

Police force about 1938.



Also in the law enforcement department of the City is the City Recorder, who is appointed by the City Council and who sits as Judge and tries all offenses against the City of Huntsville. Individuals desiring to prosecute other individuals must obtain their warrants from him. The City Court sits each morning at 8:30 at the City Hall with the exception of Sunday morning and certain holidays. There is a right of appeal from this Court to the Circuit Court of Madison County, Alabama. The person desiring to appeal his case to the Circuit Court has a five day time limit within which to file an appeal bond. If he desires trial by jury he must, in writing, demand such.

When an appeal has been perfected it then becomes the duty of the City Clerk to file a transcript of the proceedings had in the City Police Department and in the Circuit Court of Madison County. City cases are heard at each term of the Circuit Court on a special day which is designated by the Circuit Judge. At these trials the City is represented by its City Attorney and not by the State Solicitor. Among the duties of the City Attorney, it is his duty to appear in the Circuit Court and prosecute these City Cases. It is also the duty of the City Attorney to represent the City in all cases, attend council meetings and give legal advice to City Council members.

### HUNTSVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Huntsville Housing Authority, established August 15, 1941, had as its first members Herbert Johnson, H. E. Monroe, W. L. Hunter and W. O. Mason. In 1948 Milton K. Cummings was appointed to replace Mr. Hunter who was transferred to Nash-

ville by Sterchi Brothers Furniture Company. These men served as Commissioners, and in August 20, 1941 the permanent Authority was organized with Herbert Johnson as Chairman and Walter Mills of Gadsden as Executive Secretary. The Housing Authority has about 30 employees, with C. D. Phillips serving as Executive Director, assisted by Nathan F. S. Porter, Assistant Executive Director and Marvin Green, Manager. Charles E. Shaver is Attorney. This Authority handles housing in which has a construction cost of over 6,000,000, and the payroll requirements to operate the four housing projects exceeds \$87,000.00. The governing members of the Authority receive no pay for their services, however.

### ALABAMA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

By Houston Adams

The first Employment Service was opened in Huntsville on November 10, 1933. The Manager was Mr. W. H. Hollingsworth. At that time the service was known as the National Reemployment Service.

The first local office was opened in Jefferson County on August 22, 1933, and by December 8 of this same year, an office was opened in every county in the state. The National Reemployment Service was a temporary division of the United States Employment Service to take care of those states in which there were no existing agencies. Alabama was one of the states in which this organization was set up. In addition, to the local offices, there were first fifteen district offices situated throughout the state, one being located in Huntsville, Alabama.

Huntsville Housing Authority, reading left to right: front row, Gene Monroe, Milton Cummings, Oscar Mason, Herbert Johnson. Back Row, Claude Phillips, Nathan Porter, Marvin Green and Charles E. Shaver.



Mr. A. J. Speer was the first State Director of the National Reemployment Service. Mr. J. G. Duncan, Jr., was appointed State Director of the newly created service, and on January 1, 1936, the Alabama State Employment Service began operations under his direction. In 1937, the entire state was operating under full control of the Alabama State Employment Service. The State was redistricted into eight districts.

The first office in Huntsville was located in the County Courthouse. This was true of most all other counties throughout the state. In 1935 the County Commissioners rented a building on the West side of the square and moved this agency out of the Courthouse. In December 1938, the state rented the corner building, formerly occupied by a drug store and remained in this building until it was moved to its present site. When the office was located on the west side of the square, three persons handled the work. The furniture consisted chiefly of wood boxes and nail kegs. When the office was moved to the drug-store building, the office staff was increased to ten. C. M. Cox was then manager.

Assisting qualifying persons to find jobs provided by Federal relief was a tremendous task for the office staff. By 1940, the relief and WPA rolls in Madison County reached the staggering figure of 8,000 men and women.

The Social Security Act was passed in 1935, and under its program, unemployment compensation became payable in all states by July 1, 1939. About that time, all the textile mills in Huntsville closed. There were five such industries here then. More than 2,000 persons from these industries were receiving weekly unemployment compensation benefits through the Huntsville office.

Having thus served the community through the emergency days of the depression, the Employment Service was transferred by Executive Order to the War Manpower Commission on September 17, 1942 in order to assure the most effective mobilization and utilization of the nation's manpower for supporting our defense effort of World War II.

There was an interim in this transition from Relief Emergency service to the War Manpower epoch when the Huntsville office began doing a creditable service in selecting, screening, and referring workers to private businesses and industrial establishments. But the service to private establishments became overshadowed and dimmed under the War Manpower Commission, when the service was required to go all out in the war effort for recruiting war plant workers and serving to stabilize labor for defense work. Thousands of persons—men and women—entered defense work through the Huntsville office of the (at that time) U. S. Employment Service.

The State Employment Service had been taken over by the Federal government for the above-mentioned purpose. During the first one year of this period, R. H. Hunt served as Manager of the Huntsville office. He was transferred to the position of Assistant Director of the Decatur Labor Market area in November 1942, and was succeeded by J. E. Worlund as manager.

After the war had ended, the War Manpower Commission was abolished on September 19, 1945. The service continued to operate under Federal administration and was the United States Employment Service until November 16, 1946, at which time it was returned to state control. Since that time, it has been designated as the Alabama State Employment Serv-

Alabama State Employment Service building.



ice, affiliated with the United States Employment Service. The Alabama State Employment Service is a division of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

From the time the Alabama State Employment Service was first established until May 16, 1946, the employment service and the unemployment compensation functions had been handled coordinately by the Alabama State Employment Service.

During the period immediately following World War II, Readjustment Allowance, a form of weekly compensation benefits, was provided for returning veterans until they could find jobs or otherwise enter gainful employment. That program provided for as much as fifty-two weekly payments of \$20.00 per week; or, if the veteran became self-employed, he could during the tenure of that program, draw a monthly allowance of \$100.00 until he had received as much as \$1,040.00. This program was handled through the State Employment Service local office. The Huntsville office served several thousand such claims. An unemployment compensation program to provide weekly benefits to veterans of the Korean War has also been provided, which is administered in the same manner as the state unemployment compensation program.

The Huntsville office is located at the corner of Clay and Miller Streets. J. E. Worlund retired as Manager on November 1, 1953 and was succeeded by C. V. Evans, who had been manager of the local office of the State Employment Service at Athens since 1945.

The local office is now serving the community's industrial and business expansion programs. It comprises an experienced and highly trained personnel staff. Its worker force consists of fourteen persons, including the manager. The local Alabama State Employment Service is dedicated to service in Huntsville—to assist employers and employees in all personnel and labor market areas.

## TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

The partnership between the people of Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama, and TVA—part of the over-all Tennessee Valley development—has been a fruitful one, leading to much improved use of the natural resources of the area and opening new avenues of economic opportunity in use of the Tennessee River for power and navigation and for advances in industry, agriculture, forestry, recreation development, and other fields.

Two decades ago, the Tennessee River, emerging from its sources in the Great Smoky Mountains and

curving down through eastern Tennessee, swinging in a wide arc across northern Alabama, and flowing northward to the Ohio, contributed little to the region in comparison with its tremendous potentialities.

At Muscle Shoals, the great Wilson Dam turned a small proportion of the flow of the river into electric energy, but this was siphoned off into the system of a private power company at dump power rates. The large chemical plants built during World War I lay idle, while the lands of the Valley waned in fertility for lack of the fertilizers that could be developed there.

Today all this has been vastly changed. The construction of three dams—Pickwick Landing, Wheeler, and Guntersville—has transformed the arc of the river in Alabama from an unreliable stream, sometimes raging in flood and sometimes dwindling to a comparative trickle, into a broad series of lakes. The dams in Alabama are part of a unified system of 30 which control the flow of the entire river system and capture one of the major resources of the region, water, for multiple-use—for generation of electricity, for navigation, for commercial transportation, for industrial use, for boating and fishing, for the development of fish and wildlife.

The demand for electric power has multiplied beyond the brightest dreams of 20 years ago, and two great steam-electric stations—Widows Creek and Colbert—have been built in Alabama to help meet the needs of the region and the national defense needs of the nation. They, too, are parts of an integrated system which embraces the entire Tennessee Valley region.

The chemical plants at Muscle Shoals, no longer wasting away in disuse, have become a center for fertilizer and munitions development of vital importance not only to the Valley region but to the nation.

These developments, carried out by the Federal Government through TVA, have helped open the way for the enterprise of the people of the Valley, as for example in the development of the use of electricity.

The success of power development in the Valley was illustrated this last June when the Huntsville municipal system reduced its electric rates, saving its consumers thousands of dollars annually and emphasizing the financial soundness of the enterprise embarked upon in 1940. In the fiscal year 1954, before the last rate reduction, the customers of the system saved more than \$1,100,000 in comparison with what they would have paid under the average rates now prevailing in the nation.

A few figures show the progress which has been made since the municipal system was purchased from a private power company on July 18, 1940, at a cost of \$1.6 million. At the time of the purchase, the system was serving 5,500 electric consumers.

At the end of the 1955 fiscal year, the number of customers had been swelled to 23,500, and the total investment in electric plant was about \$6.5 million.

In the calendar year 1941, the first full year of operation after the system was purchased, Huntsville bought 79 million kwh of electricity from TVA, and in the fiscal year 1955 wholesale power purchases totaled 244 million kwh.

One of the major reasons for this huge expansion has been the growth in residential use of electricity, resulting from the great increase in number of consumers and the increase in average use per customer. In the calendar year 1941, the average householder served used about 1,600 kwh at a cost of 1.87c per kwh. In the fiscal year 1955, average use had reached 5,160 kwh per customer at an average cost of 1.28c per kwh. Total residential sales of the system increased from 8.4 million kwh in 1941 to 106 million kwh in 1955.

Commercial and industrial sales of power over the same period increased from about 67 million kwh to nearly 120 million kwh.

One of the notable accomplishments of the municipal electric system, accounting for a considerable part of the increase in use of electricity, has been the extension of rural service which now blankets Madison County, and reaches about 90 percent of the farms. In 1930, only about three percent of the farms in the county had electric service, and when the system was taken over by Huntsville in 1940 the proportion had reached only about 14 percent. In 1950, the proportion of farms served was about 78 percent. At the present time, about one-third of the customers of the system are in rural areas.

Revenues from the sale of power to residential users has increased from \$158,000 in 1941 to \$1,354,000; commercial and industrial sales have increased from \$493,000 to \$976,000. In the fiscal year 1955, sales of power brought in about \$2,355,000, and the net income of the system approximated three quarters of a million dollars.

The development of a modern navigation channel on the Tennessee has helped open new doors of opportunity in north Alabama. Near Madison County, the ports of Guntersville, Decatur, and Sheffield are major distribution points for river traffic. In these areas are located 7 petroleum terminals, 6 grain terminals, a coal terminal, and a pulpwood terminal which

handles upwards of a million tons of freight annually. Four public use terminals—two in Decatur and one each in Guntersville and Sheffield—in 1954 handled well over 100,000 tons of varied freight. This included aluminum, asphalt, automobiles, ferro-alloys, molasses, iron and steel products, pulpwood and wood chips, and coal tar products.

In Madison County, the National Distillers Products Corporation has a dock at Green Cove, and in 1954 it brought in 30,000 tons of salt via the Tennessee River. The U. S. Army dock at Green Cove handled about 15,000 tons of waterborne coal. The Alabama Brick and Tile Company handled 44,000 tons of clay at its dock at Whitesburg. The Baker Sand and Gravel Company operates a plant at Hobbs Island, where the N.C. and St. L. Railway also has a ferry incline.

The existence of the TVA lakes has provided a great opportunity for recreational development in north Alabama. About one-fourth of the 10,300 miles of shoreline on the lakes of the TVA system are in nine counties of north Alabama, along Guntersville, Wheeler, Wilson, and Pickwick Landing reservoirs. These four reservoirs add nearly 200,000 acres of water surface to the recreation resources of the state.

At the end of 1954, the recreation facilities and equipment on all TVA reservoirs were valued at nearly \$48 million, of which more than one quarter was in Alabama. North Alabama reservoirs attracted nearly six million person-day visits for recreation during 1954, and the gross income of commercial recreation operations amounted to \$800,000.

Madison County Boat Harbor, about 15 miles from Huntsville, is one of many recreational facilities located on the lakes on land made available by TVA.

Two state parks, Little Mountain on Guntersville Lake, and Joe Wheeler located on Wheeler and Guntersville lakes, are among the many recreational facilities. There are also three county parks, seven municipal parks, seven group camps, 10 private clubs, and 48 boat docks located along the lakes in north Alabama. Nearly 1,000 private cottage sites have been leased or sold.

The lakes, compared with the natural river, have provided much improved habitat for fish and wildlife, and both the state and the Federal Government have taken steps to protect game. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of 42,000 acres of land and water, while the Alabama Department of Conservation operates a 6,700-acre waterfowl refuge on Guntersville Lake. Other TVA lakeshore lands have been made available for state shooting areas.

Increasing numbers of migratory wildfowl have been using the Wheeler Refuge, not only as feeding ground during migration but as wintering grounds.

The lakes, and particularly the tailwaters below the dams, attract many thousands of sports fishermen each year, but despite the fact that the state long ago abandoned closed seasons, fish are plentiful and tagging studies show that only a small proportion of the fish are caught. In 1954 on Guntersville Lake, for example, less than 15 percent of the tagged fish were caught. On Wheeler Lake in the same year less than 3 percent of the tags were returned.

In addition to sports fishing, the reservoirs in north Alabama yield a large and steadily growing commercial fish catch. It has grown from about 800,000 pounds in the 1944 fiscal year to more than 2,400,000 pounds in 1954. The value of the commercial fish catch, according to incomplete report (a good deal of the catch is sold locally and so is not reported by fish buyers) was nearly half a million dollars in 1954.

Because the transformation of the river from a flowing stream into a series of slackwater lakes could have increased the hazards from malaria mosquitoes, the TVA has developed a malaria control program that has reduced the incidence of the disease to the point of virtual disappearance. In 1934, a survey showed that in some areas along the river more than a third of the people were infected, and the average for all TVA reservoir areas at that time was over 28 percent. Fluctuation of the reservoir levels during the malaria mosquito breeding season is one of the major methods of control. Other measures include spreading larvicides by aircraft, maintaining clean shorelines, and diking and dewatering and deepening and filling projects which eliminate conditions favorable to breeding mosquitoes.

Along with the development of the river, progress has been made in the improvement and better use of the land, both for agriculture and forestry, as part of a well-rounded development of natural resources embodied in the TVA idea.

One of the factors assisting the farmers of north Alabama, as well as the Valley, in improving their agricultural practices and so increasing production and income has been the development of new and improved fertilizers at the TVA Fertilizer-Munitions Development Center at Muscle Shoals.

As a part of its fertilizer research, TVA has made available large quantities of concentrated phosphate fertilizers for use by farmers in tests and demonstrations and for sale for experimental use in fertilizer practices recommended by the agricultural experts

of the land grant colleges but not as yet widely adopted by farmers.

These materials—concentrated superphosphate, calcium metaphosphate, and fused tricalcium phosphate—have been brought widely to the attention of farmers through the farm test-demonstration program, conducted jointly by the TVA and agricultural extension services of the land grant colleges.

In Madison County, a total of 82 unit test-demonstration farms have been active, and at present there are 21 such farms in the county. More than 300 farmers have participated in area test-demonstrations in the county in past years. These test-demonstrations have helped bring about changes in farm management and soil conservation methods.

Some of the improved practices in Madison County, which parallel those reported for the 15 north Alabama counties, are indicated in county agent estimates and production records.

For example, since 1942 the acres of winter legumes planted has increased from 36,000 acres to more than 43,000 in 1954. The acreage of small grains grown has increased from 8,000 acres to more than 27,000. The number of acres of improved permanent pasture has multiplied more than six times, from 5,500 acres in 1942 to 36,000 in 1954, and the total acreage of perennial legume hay has increased from 2,700 to 13,000 acres.

With these changes has come a shift toward livestock farming and dairying in the country. The number of farmers producing milk for sale has grown from 325 in 1946 to more than 525 in 1954, and of the latter 68 were producers of Grade A milk. Value of milk sold has increased from \$300,000 to \$795,000. There were 400 herds of beef cattle in the country in 1954, with about 10,000 brood cows, compared with 138 herds and 1,750 brood cows eight years earlier. The number of purebred hog producers increased from 15 to 50, and the value of hogs sold from \$995,000 to \$1,400,000. The number of flocks of sheep has nearly doubled, from 40 to 71, and the number of lambs sold rose from 2,200 in 1946 to nearly 5,900 in 1954.

The results in Madison County agriculture follow the general pattern of progress in the 15 north Alabama counties lying within the watershed of the Tennessee River, where the TVA and the Alabama Extension Service in 1935 began cooperating in a regional program of agricultural development and watershed protection.

Landowners in the county have been active in improving the forest resources of the county in the interests of both timber production and watershed

protection. More than 45.6 million trees from TVA forest nurseries have been planted in the 15 counties of north Alabama, and of these more than 6.4 million were planted on nearly 5,000 acres of Madison County land.

Eight woodland management demonstrations have been established in the county through the cooperation of forest land owners, the state division of forestry, and TVA. They provide practical demonstrations of the value of good forest management, including protection against fire, and selective cutting which takes only the mature trees and leaves a tree crop for future harvests.

The woodland management demonstrations cover more than 700 acres. In the 15-county area, there are 89 demonstrations embracing 6,300 acres. There have been half a dozen tree-planting demonstrations in the county in the past three years.

## OUR TRANSPORTATION

### Railways

Huntsville is on the Memphis-Washington east west trunk line of the Southern Railway and on a north-south line of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, connecting with the railroad centers of Nashville and Chattanooga. Frequent passenger and freight service to and from Huntsville permits rapid communication with market centers of the country.

The following table shows that "Huntsville is Centrally Located."

Huntsville—Birmingham (rail)	109 miles
Huntsville—New Orleans	464 miles
Huntsville—Memphis	215 miles
Huntsville—St. Louis	439 miles

Huntsville—Chicago	566 miles
Huntsville—Nashville	126 miles
Huntsville—Louisville	313 miles
Huntsville—Cincinnati	423 miles
Huntsville—New York	935 miles
Huntsville—Knoxville	208 miles

### Airlines

Our city is now served with two airlines and charter service and has established its position as an air center of North Alabama. Frequent through airliner service is available.

The Capital Airlines system connects Huntsville and the East. Eastern Airlines' planes fly south and west. Charter and feeder service is available out of Huntsville by the Southern Airways, Incorporated. Other airlines are expected to include Huntsville in their expanded service.

A developed airport just outside of Huntsville's city limits is city and county owned. Utilized by the present airlines serving Huntsville, it has sufficient capacity to take care of expanded service and could further be used by an aircraft manufacturing industry at Huntsville.

### Highways

Huntsville is at the hub of a modern system of highways. These highways link Huntsville and Madison County with nearby commercial centers. Highways U.S. 431 and 231 running north and south, and Highway U.S. 72, running east and west, intersect at Huntsville and quarter the county. First-class state and county highways radiate from Huntsville to serve outlying communities in Madison County and form one of the finest county highway systems in the state.

Southern Railroad Depot



State Highways 1, 20, 38 (Airline Highway to Birmingham), and 97 serve the region.

Our city is now served with two airlines and char-  
tain scheduled service to and from Huntsville. The  
bus lines provide passenger connections with Gads-  
den, Anniston, Birmingham, Nashville, Florence,  
Sheffield, and Chattanooga, and intermediate points  
on the lines. Motor freight service is available to and  
from practically all nearby points. The segment of  
the National Highway U.S. 431 south of Huntsville  
connects directly with Guntersville and the waterways  
terminal there. State Highway 20 connects Huntsville  
and the waterway terminal at Decatur.

Surfaced roads reach to approximately 85 percent  
of all the home sites in the County. The national  
and major state highways feeding into Huntsville are  
heavily used arteries for tourist and commercial traf-  
fic.

#### Waterways

The Tennessee River, ten miles to the south of  
Huntsville, forms the southern boundary of Madison  
County. The river provides a nine-foot draft naviga-  
tion channel from Knoxville in eastern Tennessee  
to its confluence with the Ohio River in western Ken-  
tucky, where it connects with the great island water-  
ways systems of the nation.

Direct barge service for heavy freight is possible  
between the Huntsville-Madison County area and in-  
land ports on the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and  
Tennessee Rivers. Four common-carrier barge lines  
serve the ports of Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Louisville,  
Evansville, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis,  
Kansas City, Memphis, and New Orleans, Mobile and  
Houston. Other common carrier barge lines offer  
limited service on the Tennessee, and a large number

of contract carriers also serve the Tennessee River  
ports. These barge lines connect with rail and high-  
way carriers at Guntersville and other ports on the  
Tennessee River, and in some cases have joint rates  
with rail and highway carriers.

Public use river terminals are located on the Ten-  
nessee River at Guntersville, approximately thirty  
miles south-east of Huntsville, and at Decatur, ap-  
proximately thirty miles southwest of Huntsville.  
These terminals are owned by the Tennessee Valley  
Authority, the terminal at Guntersville being leased  
to the Commercial Barge Lines, and the terminal at  
Decatur being leased to the Decatur River Terminal  
Corporation. Direct railroad lines and highways con-  
nect Huntsville with Guntersville and Decatur. The  
terminals are open for service to all shippers and re-  
ceivers of freight.

Visitors to Huntsville find a side choice of convey-  
ance for both public and private modes of transpor-  
tation.

## UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

By L. G. Collier

Another great first for Huntsville was its Post  
Office. The old records show that when the town was  
renamed Huntsville the first post office was established  
in the year 1811. A small building was rented and  
first postmaster appointed July 1, 1811. It was then  
served by stage and post road. Mail was infrequent.

As the town continued to grow the mail increased.  
Some came by stage and some by boat on the Tennes-  
see River. Postmasters were appointed in regular  
succession until the Civil War. It is reported that  
during a part of that period we had two postmasters,

Huntsville Bus Depot





but for most part one Murray Robertson maintained service for the southern states postal service. There is no official record of the service in that period.

After the war postmasters were appointed of record and the names are familiar to many of our citizens now living here. Many of those appointed after the war have children and grandchildren that live here now and are prominent in affairs of the city and county.

The post offices were rented or leased for many years. They were located at various points near the Court House Square. In the year 1887 some of our progressive citizens led by Judge William Richardson and others decided it was time for us to have a Government building for the Post Office and United States District Court. General Joe Wheeler was our Congressman and he got the appropriation from Congress and the new building was started in 1888. It was first occupied May 15, 1890 and was located at the corner of Eustis and Green Streets.

Among the items listed as the property of the Government at that time, along with few items of furniture, were one wash pan, bucket and dipper, one lantern, letter press, sealing wax, two spools red tape, etc. Furniture began to arrive for new building in 1890, specified to be made of cherry and white-oak. Much of that same furniture is still in use here.

The building was large enough for a while, but as the town continued to grow it became necessary to build the annex that was added in 1923. The post office had become First Class during the World War I years and not enough space to properly work the mail. Cost of the new annex was \$16,730.

In year 1935 a new Federal Building was erected at it's present location at approximate cost of \$180,000. It was first occupied May 1936.

Among the items of supply and services during that period appear some familiar names, and the beginning of a new era. The Huntsville Gas Light Company furnished the gas for lighting the new building. J. F. Young sprinkled the streets in 1894 for \$50 a year. C. H. Halsey furnished the coal for grates, and ash wood at \$4 per cord. C. F. Suggs furnished the first electric lights, the four standard light at corners of the steps, at \$8 a month. The City of Huntsville furnished the water at \$100 a year. A water tank was placed in top of the building for fire prevention. C. H. and W. L. Halsey furnished some supplies including feather dusters, and pearline. J. H. McAnally furnished some glue and sprinklers, etc. Wise and Company furnished sheeps wool sponges, wax tapers, bluing and lime. R. L. Pulley furnished 12 yards crash cloth at 12½¢ a yard and towels @ \$2.25 a dozen.

The following is a list of Huntsville postmasters from 1811 through 1923 and their periods of service beginning from the time that the Post Office was established on July 1, 1811. The date following each name is the date of appointment. They are: John Perkins, July 1, 1811; Stockley D. Hutchens, August 1, 1816; John P. Neale, October 11, 1820; William Atwood, April 4, 1825; Daniel B. Turner, November 16, 1836; Miles S. Watkins, March 11, 1841; George Cox, July 22, 1841; Daniel B. Turner, February 14, 1845; William A. Nunnally, March 2, 1847; Jos. J. Pitman, March 14, 1849; Cortez D. Kavanaugh, March 16, 1853; William I. Windham, March 17, 1857; Henry Barham, July 21, 1865; Joseph J. Pitman, October 24, 1865; Gilbert M. L. Johnson, April 20, 1869; DeWitt C. Rugg, January 23, 1871; Issac D. Sibley, February 15, 1872; John S. Reed, February 20, 1880; Mary L. Clay, March 26, 1887; Bernard F. Ludwig, June 4, 1889; Joseph T. McGehee, December 21, 1893; W. T. Hutchens, February 13, 1898; Robert L. O'Neal, June 22, 1914; Stephen H. Murphy (acting July 28, 1923, permanent, January 3, 1924, retired June 30, 1935); Louie G. Collier, July 1, 1935 to date.

During Civil War days, the Post Office was reported to have been maintained by Murray Robertson but there is no official record at the Post Office Department.

Mary L. Clay, the only woman listed, was the wife of J. Withers Clay, publisher of the Huntsville Democrat.

Robert L. O'Neal founded and published the Huntsville Daily Mercury, and the Post Office became a first class Post Office during his administration.

## HUNTSVILLE'S INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

By H. M. Rhett, Jr.

Huntsville and Madison County have enjoyed a consistent growth and development from the time of the arrival of the first settlers. This enduring progress was reaffirmed in 1888 when Henry McCalley wrote that "The day of greatest prosperity for Northern Alabama is not very far in the future", and that "huge billows of prosperity, that have just commenced to roll over it will doubtless continue to roll over it until they have made of it one of the most prosperous and wealthiest of countries.

The future possibilities of Northern Alabama are believed to be greater than the conceptions of even the most sanguine." This belief in the future of Huntsville and its environs has shown itself to be well founded. Since the incorporation of Bell's Cotton Factory in Madison County in 1832, which was the

first cotton textile in Alabama, Huntsville has been showing increasing evidence of its commercial and industrial capabilities.

The people, whose early endeavors were primarily of an agricultural nature, have adapted themselves to manufacturing and have shown an ability to transfer their energies from agricultural to industrial pursuits when the opportunity arose. This readily available and apt supply of labor has been a great asset to Huntsville.

The location of Huntsville in the Tennessee River Valley has contributed to its appeal for the development of business and industry. Located nine miles from the Tennessee River strategically in the southeastern section of the United States, Huntsville is within easy reach of markets which now serve millions of people.

The land, which has a rich historical past, has scenic beauty and variations making it a pleasant place in which to live. The temperate climate of the area makes possible an existence of considerable less effort and expense than found in other parts of the United States.

An abundance of natural resources gives Huntsville an advantage from an industrial point of view. The availability of water from springs, and more recently from wells, was probably the principal reason for the founding of Huntsville on the bluff of the well known Big Spring by John Hunt. The excellent supply of ville grows, both in population and industrially.

Within the past quarter of a century the harnessing of the Tennessee River for the production of electricity under the United States Government's Tennessee Valley Authority has proven a boon for the entire area. It has given impetus to the industrial growth of Huntsville to which there appears to be no limit. Other natural resources, such as the large deposits of limestone suitable for making cement, will certainly make themselves felt in the future.

From this very brief review of Huntsville and its immediate surroundings it seems understandable why the industrial history of this area has shown an encouraging growth down through the years, and why it is felt that it will continue in the future. The citizens of Huntsville have great expectations and much to look forward to in the economics and industrial spheres of activity.

## HUNTSVILLE'S FINANCE AND ECONOMY

By Felix Newman

John Hunt in 1805 came to Huntsville from Tennessee because he had heard of the Big Suring and of the abundance of big game in its vicinity. Finding

this true, and carried away with the beauty of the country and the unusual fertility of the soil, he settled here. The word getting back to former friends, large numbers of home seekers began to come from Tennessee and Georgia in 1806 and at the Government Land sales of 1809 were able to buy the tracts upon which they had "squatted" and made their homes. During this same time many wealthy and cultured slave owners came into the county from North Carolina, Georgia and Virginia and bought large tracts at the 1809 sales.

These early pioneers drew on the resources of the resources of the surrounding wilderness for their necessities and comforts, subsisting at first upon the abundant provisions of nature. Then land was cleared and corn planted. The first supplies received from the outside world were transported in by pack mule. Later most supplies were shipped down the Tennessee River to Ditto's landing, and hauled from there by wagons.

In due time, cultivation of cotton was begun and the household cotton spinning wheel came into general use. Cotton cloth gradually superseded buckskin for clothing, though it was a scarce and precious article, so that only a few of the wealthy ladies could disport themselves in calico dresses.

By 1809 cotton was being cultivated extensively, and was floated on flat boats down the rivers to markets, as far away as New Orleans. At the end of the war of 1812 there was a pronounced inflated condition. Land values increased ten fold, and the per capita wealth of the individuals kept pace. Large sums of money were invested in slaves. When the Alabama Territory was created by act of Congress in 1817, with William Bibb as Governor, prosperity ran riot in Huntsville.

In February 1817 books were opened at Huntsville for subscription to the capital stock of the first Banking corporation organized in Alabama (then a Territory): the "Planter's and Merchants Bank of Huntsville".

In January 1835 the branch of the State Bank at Huntsville was authorized by the General Assembly. In 1852 the northern Bank of Alabama was incorporated and operated until the coming of the Federal Troops to Huntsville during the war between the States.

In 1817 the Government Land Office was moved from Nashville to Huntsville. Madison was the most populous county in the State. More pounds of cotton per acre were produced here than most anywhere and was selling in an eager market for 20¢ to 25¢

per pound. The first and only bank in the State, for a time, being located here, and the Government Land office, made Huntsville the political and commercial Hub of the Territory. So general was the recognition of this, that in spite of its geographic location, the necessity and advantage of making Huntsville the Capitol of the State, was boldly contended for, and freely admitted by leaders from all parts of the State. So when the Constitutional Convention was authorized in 1819, Huntsville became Provisional Capitol. A constitution was drafted; Alabama was admitted into the sisterhood of states, and William Bibb was inaugurated First Governor at Huntsville. Later the seat of Government was moved to Cahaba on account of its more central geographic position. (Later to Tuscaloosa, then to Montgomery.)

So great was the commercial activity of the community during this period, that money became very scarce, and promissory notes secured by droves of slaves, were to a great extent substituted therefor as medium of exchange.

In 1832 Bell Factory was opened for manufacture of cotton cloth on Flint River, its 3000 spindles and 100 looms being powered by a water wheel.

Being settled before railroads, Huntsville depended upon waterways for transportation. In 1821 work was begun on a project to make the Big Spring branch navigable for shipping from Huntsville to Triana thus bringing the Tennessee river navigation to our very door. Not completed till 10 years later, interest dropped with the advent of "Decatur-Tuscumbia" railroad in 1834, when a stage line was established from Huntsville to Decatur, followed by a railroad in 1851.

Captured by Federal Troops in 1862, and occupied

under military rule for the remainder of the Civil War, all business was regulated and all activity circumscribed by martial law. The suffering and hardship cannot be described, but despite all this, and the ravages of Reconstruction following the war, Huntsville has continued to grow steadily in wealth, property and population.

Her growth from an Ante-bellum community of refined, wealthy and contented people, caring little for the development of natural resources, into a thriving city and center of Textile and varied industries, began about 1890 and still continues. The original Dallas mill was erected in 1892.

The Merrimack mills located in Huntsville in 1899 with 100,000 spindles and 3000 looms at a cost of over two million dollars. Soon followed Lowe mill, Rowe Knitting, Huntsville cotton mill, West Huntsville cotton mill, Madison Mfg. Co., Abingdon, Lincoln mill. Thus at the turn of the century Huntsville textile industry had over five millions invested, 211,000 spindles.

Cotton of the finest is grown here at her door. All the hardwoods are here in close proximity; iron, coal and limestone surround it. Here is the purest water in abundance. Ample transportation. A genial climate and invigorating atmosphere enabling year-round work. In the midst of a great agricultural section, articles of food are better, fresher and cheaper.

It was inevitable that Huntsville should become a diversified and thriving industrial center. Shortly after the war between the States two banks were organized in Huntsville and have played a valuable part in the financial and economic life of the city.

The National Bank of Huntsville organized in 1865, became The First National Bank of Huntsville

Huntsville Fire Department of many years ago



in 1889 with Mr. James R. Stevens as President. Under its present President, Mr. M. B. Spragins, the interior of the building has been completely remodeled and now houses a magnificent, modern banking room, while the exterior stands practically unchanged since its construction in 1835, one of the architectural masterpieces of the South.

In 1866, Colonel Fordyce and Mr. William Rison organized the Banking house of Fordyce and Rison; this shortly became Wm. R. Rison and Co. Bankers, then W. R. Rison Banking Co. and later Rison Banking Co., for 82 years a continuous and useful instrument of community service until it was bought by First National Bank in 1948.

The Farmer's and Merchant's National Bank was organized in 1892. It was taken over in 1902 by the Huntsville Bank and Trust Co. organized at that time. The Huntsville Bank and Trust Co. continued in business until 1931, when it was taken over by the Henderson National Bank.

The Henderson National Bank organized in 1907 had Mr. Fox Henderson for its first President, with quarters at northeast corner of the square. Under the present President, Mr. J. E. Humphrey, the beautiful new bank home was built, into which it moved in 1948.

In 1917 a group of local business men secured a charter for the Farmer's State Bank which opened with Mr. T. T. Terry as president. In 1925 it was bought by the Tennessee Valley Bank and operated as the Huntsville Branch of that chain, which in 1939 was changed to the State National Bank with Mr. W. L. Howard as manager. The State National

Bank has outgrown its present quarters, and its new Bank Home is now being built at the corner of Clinton and Gallatin Streets. This is the first of our banks that has broken away from the tradition of being located on the "square."

So Huntsville gradually grew and expanded as new and varied industries settled here and found it good. Then in 1942, with the coming of Huntsville Arsenal and Redstone Arsenal, the mighty influx of new people, new ideas, new ways suddenly and permanently lifted Huntsville out of a peaceful, rural town, into a thriving, booming city, building and growing at a tremendous pace, yet with all earnestly striving to maintain, and to permeate the whole with the fine heritage of tradition, culture and refinement that has always marked Huntsville as an outstanding example of the "Old South."

So today we find Huntsville:

Its present population: 50,000.

Three National Banks—Total Deposits: \$32,000,000.00

Huntsville Arsenals: Number Employed: 7500—Pay-roll two million a month.

Around 40 industries: employing 7000 people.

Leading Cotton producing County in State. With annual Farm income of \$30,000,000.00; First in sheep raising in Alabama.

Seven Nurseries.

Two Airlines.

Two Railroads.

Three Bus lines.

Ten Truck Lines.

Three Radio Stations.

Huntsville Museum. This building, former home of Dr. W. H. Burritt, was willed by him to the City on his death. It was built in 1935. The will includes 160 acres of land and \$10,000 yearly income to maintain the museum. Operations will probably begin in 1956.



21000 Automobiles registered and  
4200 Trucks registered.

Ample Water Supply—Electricity from T.V.A. and  
Natural gas for industrial and residential use. A new  
and modern Telephone Exchange Building, with  
15,285 dial phones in use.

Six white schools (one additional school under  
construction).

Two colored schools.

Twenty-six Civic and Fraternal Clubs; many fine  
Churches of nearly all denominations.

Three Hotels and eleven motels.

STATISTICS  
CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

BY HAROLD GILL

Electric Meters:

1940	1942	1944	1945	1949	1955
6,000	8,500	10,250	11,000	15,478	22,328

Population Growth: (Of Greater Huntsville)

1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900
2,863	3,634	4,907	4,957	12,478	18,141
1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1955
				(Est.)	
18,710	20,437	26,462	30,539	49,752	60,500

Postal Receipts:

1933	1935	1940	1941	1943	1945	1954
60,000	74,000	95,000	110,000	170,000	205,000	440,000

Bank Deposits:

1933	1941	1944
\$4,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$22,000,000
1945	1955	
\$24,000,000	\$32,500,000	

Tags Issued 1955:

Passenger Cars—21,200  
Pick Up Trucks (Passenger)—1,560

Our float in Inaugural Parade in Montgomery—1955



# CHAPTER SIX

## OUR CHURCHES AND RELIGIONS

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### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

(From Dale Miller History)

According to "The Huntsville Church Story," published by Dale Miller in 1949, Roman Catholicism had a slow growth in North Alabama. In 1824, Father Abel of Bardstown came to this area, and in 1830 the Bishop sent his vicar-general, Father Loras, and a companion, Father Chalon, on a seven-months tour of North Alabama, and groundwork was laid for a Catholic church in Huntsville, known as St. Mary's Church of the Visitation.

The founding father of St. Mary's was Jeremiah Frederick Treacy, who was born in Ireland. In America he became a secular priest, serving in Pennsylvania and Iowa. His health failed in Iowa, and his bishop advised him to come to Alabama to recuperate. He did so, and began to ride a horseback circuit from Memphis to Chattanooga as a missionary. Inasmuch as the largest settlement of Catholics was in Huntsville and it was central, he asked his bishop for permission to settle here in 1860. His home was located on the back part of the present church lot.

Father Treacy immediately began work on a build-

Roman Catholic Church



ing made of native rock from Monte Sano Mountain. When war came in 1861 the building was up to the cornerstone, but the conflict halted it there for several years. Treacy enlisted in Rosencrans' Army of the Cumberland as Chaplain and spiritual adviser to the general. Historical sources state that he served with Rosencrans in the Battle of Murfreesboro.

As soon as the war ended, Treacy came back to Huntsville to complete the building. The building debt sent him on long trips back to his former parishes out of the state to solicit funds. Except for the frescoring, the building was completed before Father Treacy's death in 1872. It was dedicated by Bishop Quinlan in 1877. In the interim, the church had been pastored by Fathers Baasen, Edward Kirnan, and E. P. Lonigan.

In 1878 Huntsville was assigned to the care of the Benedictine fathers who had arrived at Muscle Shoals in 1870. The first Benedictine pastor was Father Benedict Menges, later abbot of St. Bernard's at Cullman, now a junior college, but then a high school. Father Beyer was another Benedictine priest in Huntsville.

In 1896 the church was restored to the secular diocesan priests, although most of the North Alabama churches remained Benedictine. Since that time, the priests have been, in order, Henry O'Grady, H. P.

Garvey, J. T. Burns, R. J. McQuillen, Thomas P. Cassidy, George A. Callahan, Gilbert J. Gannon, Thomas H. Kennedy, Patrick G. Delahunty, Michael Hourican, M. J. Rafferty, J. A. Keating, A. W. Terminiello, and Theodore L. Flynn, from 1945 to the present.

## B'NAI SHOLOM: SONS OF PEACE

By Mrs. Abe Goldstein

Seventy-nine years ago, on July 30, 1876, eighteen men of the Jewish faith, organized the first Jewish B'Nai Sholom, which means "Sons of Peace."

The first officers were as follows: president, B. W. Temple in Huntsville, Alabama. It was named Wise; vice-president, J. Weil; secretary, D. Wise; and treasurer, Simon Katz.

At that time, the religious services and the Sunday School were held at the old Standard Club, and later on, at the Masonic Temple.

In 1897 this small congregation built the present Temple which has been in continuous use ever since. Also noteworthy is the fact that the Temple, with its first Memorial windows and organ, was bought and paid for before the first shovel of dirt was dug.

The first organ was given to the Temple by Mrs. Emma Weil and was used constantly until about three years ago, when the ladies of the present congregation bought a new one. Mrs. Beulah Ware was the first organist the Temple had in 1898, and she has served faithfully and well in that capacity up to the present time.

Mr. I. Wind became a member of the Temple in 1891, and served as President of the congregation for 18 years. He is now a life-time Honorary President.

Since then, the late Leo Cohen served 5 years as president, followed by M. L. Weil, Jr., for one year. Abe Goldstein is now the President of Temple B'Nai Sholom.

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

It is hard to say when Christian Science first touches a community, but it is known that there were several healings in Huntsville prior to the year 1914, when the first small group of interested students began gathering together on Wednesday evenings, in various homes, to read from the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, and to try to gain more of this glorious Truth.

Later in this same year, after securing a Manual of the Mother Church, an informal Society was formed by several members of the Mother Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mas-

Jewish Synagogue



sachusetts, and for the next four years regular meetings were held in the homes of the members; the Courtroom of the County Court House, the Elks Building and other places. In 1918, a more permanent one was secured for the Church by renting a room in the basement of the Carnegie Library, where services were held for the following ten years.

During the year 1918 sufficient growth had been manifested to justify the establishment of a Sunday-school, a reading room, and the beginning of a building fund. In September, 1921, the Society was officially recognized as a branch of the Mother Church, the card appearing in the *Christian Science Journal* of March, 1922.

The first lecture was given by the Society in the fall of 1922, and an average of one lecture a year has been given since that date.

On November 13th, 1928, this present building was purchased and the first meeting held on December 23rd, 1928. Later, the debt on the Church was liquidated, with a grant from the Trustees under the will of Mary Baker Eddy and a State charter for the Christian Science Church was granted. The title was officially changed to First Church of Christ, Scientist, Huntsville, Alabama, late in 1932.

No Christian Science Church is ever dedicated until it is free of debt, and it is the earnest prayer

of each member of this church, in dedicating this church to the service of God, that it may be in the words of our Leader, "that institution, which affords proof of its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of Divine Science, thereby casting out devils or error and healing the sick." (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Page 583.) Since the date of dedication, September 30th, 1940, services have been held continually in the edifice on the corner of Wells Avenue and White Street.

## JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

By Newton A. Grimwood and W. K. Weaver

This group is noted throughout the world for their zealous missionary activity and Jehovah's Witnesses are quite active at Huntsville, too. In the local congregation are twenty-eight active ministers, who engage in door-to-door ministry and conduct home Bible studies with interested persons.

Their distribution of the "Watchtower Magazine" has made it the most widely circulated religious magazine in the world. Over 4,000,000 copies a month are printed in forty languages. The purpose of this journal is stated in the following paragraphs.

First Church of Christ, Scientist







Bible Auditorium (Seventh Day Adventist)

Literal towers in Bible times were elevated vantage points from which watchmen could observe happenings, warn of danger, or announce good news. The society's "Watchtower Magazine" figuratively occupies such a vantage point, for it is founded on the very pinnacle of wisdom, God's Word. That elevates it above racial, national and political propagandas and prejudices, frees it from selfish bias.

It is not bound by any traditional creed, but its message advances as the light of God's purposes and works increases—Habakkuk 2:1-3. It sees things scripturally. When it observes this generation afflicted with greed, delinquency, hypocrisy, atheism, war, famine, pestilence, perplexity and fear, and persecution of unpopular minorities, it does not parrot the old fable about history repeating itself.

Informed by Bible prophecy, it sees in these things the sign of the world's time of the end. But with bright hope it also sees opening up for us just beyond these woes the portals of a new world. Thus viewed, "The Watchtower" stands as a watchman atop a tower, alert to what is going on, awake to note signs of danger, faithful to point out the way of escape. It announces Jehovah's kingdom established by Christ's enthronement in heaven, feeds his kingdom joint-heirs with spiritual food, cheers men of good will with glorious prospects of eternal life in a paradise

earth, comforts us with the resurrection promise for the dead.

It is not dogmatic, but has a confident ring in its voice, because it is based on God's Word. It does not privately interpret prophecy, but calls attention to physical facts, sets them alongside prophecy, and you see for yourself how well the two match, how accurately Jehovah interprets his own prophecy. In the interest of our salvation, it keeps sharp and faithful focus on Bible truth, and views religious news generally. "Be watchful in these perilous times," God admonishes.

The work of the local congregation, as well as that of the more than 1400 other congregations throughout the world is co-ordinated by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Brooklyn, New York, of which Nathan H. Knorr is the president. Since around the turn of the century, various traveling ministers of Jehovah's Witnesses have visited Huntsville to deliver Bible lectures and to aid in the progress of the local Bible study group. However, it was in 1932 that a congregation was formed here, with Monroe Fountain as the presiding minister.

At present, the meeting place for the congregation is the Kingdom Hall, 118½ Washington Street, Huntsville, and the presiding minister is W. K. Weaver. Meetings are held on Tuesday and Friday evenings

and on Sundays at 4:00 P.M. The Watchtower Magazine is used in the scriptural lesson on Sunday, and persons of goodwill are cordially invited to attend all these meetings.

## THE SALVATION ARMY

By Capt. Ed Bowman

The history of The Salvation Army in Huntsville is limited due to the fact that the organization has only been in operation here for two years.

On March 9th, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Bowman, under the direction of Senior Captain Ed Bowman, set up residence in Huntsville to begin the present tenure. Forty-five years before this, the Army left Huntsville due to extenuating financial circumstances and the lack of suitable personnel.

In the two years that the Army has been re-opened, the people of Huntsville have been most generous in supporting the work of the organization.

Among the activities of the Army in Huntsville during these two years are such undertakings as Family Welfare which consists of giving aid to families temporarily until such time as they might be able to help themselves. This aid is given in many forms. For example: 876 individual families have been given aid through June 30, 1955, and a total of 430 grocery orders were given. Other donations included 114 fuel orders, 2,163 garments distributed, and 491 pairs of shoes given. In addition, 72 were given other aid such as household furnishings, and 40 were given medicine orders.

Due to the housing problem that exists in Huntsville it was difficult for the Salvation Army to accommodate transient people during the first year of this

two-year period. This problem has now been solved and the Army is now meeting the need of the transient in Huntsville. In this category a total of 204 transient applications were made; 199 were given lodgings; 638 meals were given; and 130 garments and shoes were given to these transients.

The Army's religious activities include on each Sunday a company meeting (Sunday School) at 9:45 A.M.; a Holiness meeting at 11:00; a Young People's Legion at 6:30 P.M.; and a Salvation Meeting at 7:45 P.M. On Tuesdays the Junior Legion meets at 3:30 P.M. and on Friday there is another Holiness meeting at 7:30 P.M. Among other activities is a Home League meeting at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesdays.

The officers of the Huntsville Army Group are: Senior Captain, Ed Bowman; Second Lieutenant, Walter N. Miles; and Sergeant Major, G. E. Bowman.

From March 9, 1953, to July 9, 1955, the Army's location was at 812 5th Avenue West in Huntsville. On January 15, 1955, the Army expanded to a warehouse on the West Side Square and then on July 9, 1955, the Army moved to 518 Madison Street, the present location.

The Salvation Army movement, which in 1878 attained its present name, originated in the Christian Mission meetings conducted in London, England, thirteen years previously, by the Reverend William Booth and his wife Catherine. Its primary purpose is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to men and women untouched by ordinary religious efforts.

The position held by women in The Salvation Army is unprecedented in history. Even in Eastern lands, women-salvationists have played a great part, in keeping with the Army's principle of equal opportunity of service for both sexes.

Salvation Army



General Bramwell Booth called Salvationists "servants of all." That high vocation is worked out in all the Army's activities, not least in the goodwill work and the vast and varied social service operations.

The Army's soul-saving and social activities have spread to countries all over the world, and no distinction of class, creed or color is made; every one is a "brother for whom Christ died."

As Ian McLaren once declared: "The Salvation Army makes religion where there was no religion before."

All members of the organization profess to be saved from the guilt and power of sin by the grace of God. They are made to realize that they are "saved to serve"—soldiers striving to win others for Jesus Christ. Hence the Army's aggressive methods which include selling the War Cry and other periodicals from door to door, in public-houses and elsewhere, personal dealing with the unconverted, visiting folk and praying with them in their homes.

Salvation Army soldiers undertake this and similar work in their spare time and without remuneration. Officers who are specially trained and devote their whole lives to the Army's service receive a modest allowance to meet personal needs.

All Salvationists are total abstainers. Indeed, the Salvation Army is the world's greatest temperance organization.

The Army believes that children can begin to love and serve God and it was a wide network of activities for them and for young people.

For future plans, the religious activities are due to be accelerated on the first of January, 1956. A Bible study course will be started, a course to last six years. It consists not only of Bible study but also taking part in meetings, attending open-air meetings, and other activities designed to strengthen character and build their spiritual life. This course is designed for young people from the ages of 12 through 18 and the young will be called Corps Cadets.

A social activity that will be begun will be the Girl Guards and Sunbeams. This group is along the lines of the Girl Scouts and Brownies yet more emphasis is placed on religious work.

These are just two of the new activities that will soon be introduced to Huntsville along with many other varied ones that have for many years been a part of the Salvation Army around the world.

## THE FIFTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday afternoon, November 1, 1908, a number of people met in the school house in Dallas Village to witness the organization of a Baptist

Church. The presbytery was composed of the following: Reverend J. S. Dunlap, moderator; Deacon R. E. Pettus, of the First Baptist Church, clerk; Reverend H. E. Rice; Deacon S. E. Bennett; C. W. Burton, of the West Huntsville Church; and Deacon W. A. Esslinger of Merrimack Church. The following presented themselves as charter members by letter: Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Booker; Mrs. M. L. Edwards; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Lamb; Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Blanton, Brickel Schrimsher; Mrs. J. C. Schrimsher; Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Hoover; Miss Lee Edwards; Miss Annie Edwards; Mrs. Lena Bryant; Mrs. Laura Adcock; Mr. I. H. Neal and Mrs. S. P. Knowles.

The first church officers were: F. M. Yeager, Pastor; D. B. Booker, Clerk; J. S. Holland, Superintendent; Brickel Schrimsher, Treasurer; D. B. Booker and J. A. Lamb, Deacons.

Since the organization of the church, J. S. Holland, H. E. Bell, R. E. Schrimsher, E. H. Heard, L. H. Barnes, L. P. Scott, J. W. Stevens, L. B. Lee, Alfred Finley, Albert Trecece, C. H. Carroll, Perry Chisam, Marion Butler, and our present Superintendent, Robert Alverson, have served as Superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Church has ordained the following ministers: J. S. Holland, H. E. Bell, D. B. Booker, Jack Carroll, A. B. Cannatt, L. A. Williams, J. D. Carroll, Sr., Oscar Hawkins, J. C. Collins, Alfred Finley, J. C. Wilbanks, Eldred Cope, Cecil Anthony, S. F. Certain, Charles Hill, Donald Atkinson, and Donald Stephens.

The church pastors have been: Reverend F. M. Yeager, Reverend R. R. Brasher, Reverend H. E. Rice, Reverend J. A. Steelman, Reverend L. Smallwood, Reverend G. I. Griffin, Reverend A. L. Bates, Dr. E. B. Franklin, Reverend I. W. Myers, Reverend J. A. Davis, and our present pastor, Reverend M. G. Wilson.

The church has had a steady growth in the Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood and W.M.U. Organizations.

A total of 274 were enrolled in Sunday School in 1932. In 1942 an increase to 319 and the present enrollment is now 706.

Forty-two members were enrolled in the Training Union in 1932. In 1942, 111 had enrolled. The present enrollment is now 227.

The W.M.U. had four units in 1932 with an enrollment of 52. In 1942 it had five units with an enrollment of 55. The enrollment today consists of 16 units with 175 enrolled.

A Vacation Bible School has been held regularly for the past ten years with an increased attendance each year.

The Church has grown missionary-minded over a period of years. In 1916, the Church gave \$75.00 to missions. In 1954, it gave \$4,844.63 and this year the total amount given to missions amounted to \$4,744.55.

Each year since the church was organized there has been continual improvements in buildings, new property bought and more space for expansion.

For the past ten years the present pastor, the Reverend Wilson, has been with us. The congregation has remodeled the old church auditorium and built a Sunday School plant of 24 new class rooms. The pastorium was purchased during this time, also additional property and a new Hammond Organ was installed. The church erected the present auditorium with a seating capacity of 600, with a young people's department of six classrooms; a new church office and pastor's study, the new auditorium is equipped with air conditioning. This year an addition to the Nursery has been constructed complete with air conditioning.

There have been 862 additions to the church during the past ten years and a full-time paid secretary has been employed for the church for the past seven years.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

By Bessie Pettus Spragins

The First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama, had its beginning October 2, 1808, in the home of James Deaton. Like primitive organizations in the early days of christianity, it was a church in a private home.

To the Rev. John Nicholson belongs the honor of the organization. In the original hand written records of the "West Fork of Flint River Church" we find the names of John Nicholson, John Canterbury and Zadok Baker having been called as a presbytery.

This was June, 1809. A month later the name was changed to Enon and so remained until the dedication of the present church building in 1895.

In 1811 a church meeting house was built. Regular business meetings were held on the first Saturday of every month. An opportunity for the reception of new members was given.

The early settlers were thinly scattered and serious were the privations, but arms of the original church became established in various sections of the county for the convenience of members.

Recorded in the original minutes of Enon for September 4, 1824, we read that "Enon Church received a petition from sundry persons of the Baptist order in Huntsville praying assistance to look into their members and standing and to constitute them



First Baptist Church

into a church." Agreed to send a committee in compliance with their petition.

Members of the committee were William Pettey, William Echols III (great, great grandfather of William Echols Spragins, 412 Randolph Street), Allen Jefferies, and Zachariah Pettey.

Among other communities to which Enon extended arms were New Market and Meridianville.

Fresh installments of Baptist emigrants contributed to the vigorous growth of Enon and the various arms.

In 1825 a new brick church building was constructed. In 1835 the brick building was repaired.

In 1837 the Baptist State Convention met with Enon Church. Hosea Holcomb, pastor of Enon, was made president.

"A History of the Baptist Movement in Alabama" was written in 1840 by Holcomb. It is now in the rare book collection at the University of Alabama.

The Rev. John Canterbury was the first pastor of Enon Church, serving from 1809-1815. The following pastors served Enon: Rev. John Canterbury (1809-1815), Rev. Richard Shackelford (1815-1825), Rev. Nancy Meeks (1825-1827), Rev. John Smith (1827-1830), Rev. David Jacks (1830-1835), Rev. William Manning (1835-1837), Rev. Hosea Holcomb (1837-1840), Rev. Jesse Selle (February, 1840), Rev. Brad-

ley Kimbrough (February, 1841), Rev. R. H. Taliaferro (1846-1853), Rev. James Humphrey (1853-1854), Rev. P. T. Henderson, blind (1854), Rev. Eugene Strode (1859-1861).

Under date of March 16, 1861, appears this record: "After a sermon by Elder Strode, the church met in conference, there being but few in attendance." The following resolution was adopted: "On account of the scattered condition of our membership, the sparseness of the population of the community, the small attendance on divine service, with little or no hereafter as a church in Huntsville, where most of prospect of future usefulness, we think it best to meet our membership reside and where a wider field of usefulness is open to us and our pastor."

The Enon Church held its first conference meeting in Huntsville April 29, 1861. The pastor was Rev. E. Strode. Since that time the following have served the church as pastors: J. E. Carter, B. W. Bussey, W. F. Kone, W. O. Bailey, A. W. McGaha, W. H. Smith, L. D. Bass, J. L. Thompson, W. T. Johnson, Oscar Haywood, J. L. Sproles, Rutherford Brett, M. H. Murray, R. S. Gavin, W. D. Hubbard, S. J. Baker, J. J. Johnson, W. M. Blackwelder, R. M. Jennings, John J. Milford, C. Z. Byars, J. T. Ford, and presently Alvin H. Hopson.

The Baptist Convention of the State of Alabama

met with the Huntsville Church in 1913 while Rev. S. J. Baker was pastor.

Rev. John J. Milford served as pastor for twenty-three years (1926-1949) and during this time the church built a two-story brick residence on Randolph Street (1927) which still serves as a home for the pastor of the church.

In 1945 the church purchased property adjoining the main church building on West Clinton and Gallatin Streets at a cost of \$28,000. Upon the retirement of Dr. Milford a home on Whitesburg Drive also was purchased to be used by the Pastor Emeritus.

During the ministry of Rev. J. T. Ford (1951) the present church building was remodeled and a two-story brick educational building was constructed on the newly acquired property. The sanctuary and educational building are air conditioned throughout.

On April 8, 1953, the First Baptist Church assumed the responsibility of a mission in Terry Heights section. Remodeling of a small church building was accomplished and Rev. Frank Spencer began his ministry on June 10, 1953. A building for Sunday School space has been added and regular services are held.

In 1954 under the direction of Dr. Hopson a two-story frame residence was bought and is used for Sunday School rooms and other needed facilities. This property adjoins the educational building on Gallatin Street. In 1901 Mrs. Frank Ware became church organist and has served faithfully since that time.

The present church membership is as follows:

Non resident members.....	258
Resident members .....	1,373
	1,631 total

Church budget for 1955 . . . \$98,825.00

The Church Directory follows: Alvin H. Hopson, Th.D., Pastor; John J. Milford, D.D., Pastor Emeritus; Richard R. Sparks, Minister of Education; Frank Spencer, B.D., Chapel Pastor; Elizabeth McMurtrie, Promotional Secretary; Mary Frances Tucker, Office Secretary; Mrs. Frank Ware, Organist; Andy Long, Custodian; A. V. Sneed, Chairman of Deacons; Robert Lee Smith, Jr., S. S. Superintendent; James W. Clark, Training Union Director; Mrs. Carl Woodall, President W.M.U.; C. C. Lee, President, Brotherhood; Mrs. W. D. Haney, Librarian; Louis B. Lee, Chairman of Trustees; W. B. Allen, Church Clerk; L. F. Sullivan, Treasurer.

First Baptist Church in 1887—Inset Pastor



## THE FLINT RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

By Ben W. Lawler

Another of Madison County's notable contributions to history is the fact that the Flint River Primitive Baptist Church was the first established Baptist Church in the state of Alabama. The records, which are legible and are now in her keeping, record that she was organized in a Brother Deaton's home in the Big Cove on the 2nd day of October, 1808. Among those records in the presbytery formed for the organization were Elders John Nicholson, William Callo-way, Isaac Reed, George Brown, Z. W. Baker, Willis Hapwood, J. Lakey and J. Childress.

Meetings were arranged at the several homes, where divine services were held and regular conference engaged in until a brick church house was built on the east bank of Flint River, near Maysville.

A complete record of conference meetings were made and kept from the beginning, and this practice has been followed even to the present time.

The records record the enrollment of slave members such as: Sister Mandy, property of brother Sam Kuykendoll; and brother Jake property of brother John Drake.

During the Civil War a detachment of Union soldiers used the brick church house for their headquarters. The building was considerably damaged by their occupancy.

Shortly after the war, so the record reads, the Negro members petitioned for a church of their own. The petition was granted. The white members gave the old brick building and grounds to the Negroes and this day finds a frame building there housing the Negro Flint River Primitive Baptist Church.

The white members then built a frame church house on the Maysville to Gurley road near Hurrican Creek. This building burned down April 10, 1937. Another frame building was erected adjacent

to the Central School grounds which now houses this old church that has come down through the years still holding fast the doctrine and discipline as was practiced one hundred and fifty years ago.

## THE SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Southside Baptist Church was organized under a tent at Bob Wallace and High School Streets May 22, 1950. There were twenty-seven charter members who helped to form the organization. Reverend A. T. Willis was the Madison-Liberty Associational Missionary and led in the organization of the church. He was called to be pastor by the church and served for two years. Sunday School, Training Union, and the W.M.U. were all organized within a short time after the church was organized.

At present the church is served by Reverend R. E. Hood who has been pastor almost three years.

The Sunday School enrollment is 483, Training Union 220, W.M.U. organizations 80 or more. The Brotherhood has 23 members. The present church membership is 275 or better.

The church is now located at Marscheutz and Franklin Streets and owns property free of debt estimated to be worth \$60,000.00. Plans are under way to build an education building as the first permanent unit of an expanded building program; members and friends predict a great future for this fast growing church.

## CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

By W. K. Novak

The Central congregation of the church of Christ was organized in 1929 with 37 members and they met in a local theater building for eight years, at which time they moved into their present building which was constructed at 406 East Clinton. The first service in this building was held in September, 1937. The continued growth of the congregation required

Southside Baptist Church



additional facilities and in 1946 the adjoining property was purchased and converted into an educational building.

In 1949 this congregation constructed a house of worship on Bob Wallace Avenue and in November, 1949, the first service was conducted at the Mayfair church of Christ with Jack Duncan serving as minister.

In 1950 a spacious nine-room brick minister's home was constructed for Central ministers' families at 1005 Ward Avenue.

Eight men have served this congregation as ministers in the following order: Rufus D. Underwood, Homer P. Reeves, Kurfees Pullias, William Medearis, C. R. Franks, William Hall, Jack Duncan, Rufus D. Underwood (second ministry), and Warder K. Novak. Approximately fifteen of the original members still worship with this congregation.

The congregation has continued to grow until the present membership is approximately 400. Plans have already been made to take care of future growth through the purchase of additional property in the city to be used for the construction of complete new facilities.

Besides carrying on an active local program, the church has also been very interested in the needs away from home. They have carried on an extensive missionary program, besides assisting in the care of orphans and other dependents.

The church of Christ occupies a unique position in regard to its faith and practice, since it strives to follow the admonition of Peter when he said, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11).

They have no man-made creed or statement of faith, but endeavor to "call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways." Their distinctive plea since the days of the restoration about 150 years ago has been "back to the Bible." Their only rule of faith and practice is the Bible, particularly the New Testament, since the Old Covenant (Jewish Law) was in force until Christ died and the "Law was nailed to the cross" (Eph. 2:14; Col. 2:14).

For entrance into the church, the same plan of salvation is to be obeyed as in the New Testament days: namely, faith in Jesus as the Christ, repentance from past sins, confession of faith in Christ and baptism by immersion for the forgiveness of past sins.

Their worship consists of the same features as observed by the Christians in the New Testament. They meet on the Lord's Day (Sunday) to "break bread" or commune; they also sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments of music; they have prayers and study the Word of the Lord; also, they give of their means "as God has prospered" them to carry on the program of church work.

Their form of government conforms to the pattern

Central Church of Christ





Churches of Christ Vacation Bible School

of the New Testament congregations with elders and deacons. The elders are to oversee, govern, and feed the flock and the six men now serving in this capacity are P. A. McKay, J. W. Stutts, Jr., R. O. Vann, Dr. L. B. Lindsey, Charles Shelton and W. E. Albright. The deacons are to serve as special servants in the temporal needs of the congregations and they are Felton Sanders, Reed Hendrixson, Duncan Troupe, Bob Reeves, Dan Cabe, Dr. G. B. Crowley, Billy Pitts, O. A. Ready, Jr., Fred E. Vreuls and J. D. Luna.

They believe in purity and righteousness of life and in striving to walk in the example of Jesus in their dealings with their fellowman. They believe that if they are faithful in this life to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, that they will receive eternal life in the world to come.

An outstanding work was accomplished in the summer of 1955 when the Central, Mayfair, Lincoln and West Huntsville congregations of the church of Christ, sponsored a combined, city-wide Vacation Bible School, with Warder K. Novak as Director.

The daily attendance for the ten days averaged 660 and the highest single day was 730. A worthwhile service was rendered to this community by the daily Bible lessons and the Christian atmosphere and influence of this school. The church hopes that other such schools may be possible in the future.

## THE MAYFAIR CHURCH OF CHRIST

By Nolene Blankenship

The Church of Christ in Mayfair is located on Bob Wallace Avenue. This sub-division of the city is in South Huntsville.

The church began services in November of 1949 following a survey which indicated that this fast growing section of the city had need of a Church of Christ in the area to accommodate the members residing there.

The first minister to serve this congregation was Mr. Jack Duncan and he was succeeded by Mr. O. D. Johns. After Mr. Johns' departure in 1954 Mr. Everett Alexander assumed the evangelistic duties.

The Mayfair congregation has grown from a membership of approximately seventy-five to a present membership of almost 200. This congregation is self-supporting and contributes regularly to work of the Church of Christ in Hogansville, Georgia, and San Juan, Porta Rica.

Services are conducted each Sunday at 10:45 A.M. with evening service at 7:00 in the summer and 6:00

Mayfair Church of Christ





during the winter months. Bible Study precedes the Sunday morning service at 9:45. In addition, there is a regular Bible Study on Wednesday evening at 7:00 o'clock and a Ladies' Class on Thursday at 10:00 A.M.

### THE RANDOLPH STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

(From Dale Miller History)

Apparently there is no known record of the earliest beginnings of the Church of Christ in Huntsville.

As the outgrowth of an 1882 meeting held in the Madison County Courthouse, Mr. J. A. Harding is known to have organized a small church and preached for it in various homes. Early ministers were J. W. Shepherd, R. C. Moody, F. W. Smith, Granvil Lopscomb, Dr. A. C. Henry, J. M. Kidwell, and T. B. Larrimore.

Authoritative sources indicate that land for the church was donated in 1886, and one week after its donation members were digging the foundation. The congregation began holding services in 1887.

The church was known for many years as The First Christian Church, with electric bills continuing in that name until 1948, when another congregation assumed that name.

In 1900, the church split into two groups, with one group remaining as the Randolph Street Church of Christ, and the other group organizing as the Central Church of Christ.

Since that time considerable progress in congregation increase has been manifested by both groups.

### THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY (Episcopal)

By Virginia Gill

The first officially recorded item which indicated any interest in an Episcopal Church in Huntsville is found in the journal of the Convention of the Diocese of Alabama, held in Tuscaloosa on January 3, 1831. The item reads as follows:

"William Acklin and James Penn, Esqs., of Huntsville appeared and produced satisfactory credentials of their appointment to this convention as lay delegates. They took their seats accordingly."

One year later at the Diocesan Convention, held also in Tuscaloosa, these same gentlemen appeared and submitted a communication from the "Vestry and Wardens of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Huntsville" pointing out the fact that "the present is the most auspicious time for the commencement of a church in our town" and "that each day of delay

Randolph Street Church of Christ



Church of The Nativity (Episcopal)



detracts from the number of citizens who might become members of our congregation." The communication was signed by B. S. Pope, Sam Brech, R. Lee Fearn, W. Clarke and John Brahan.

These records indicate that a group of Huntsville citizens considered themselves to be an Episcopal congregation. But one wonders about the credentials of these gentlemen as official delegates. Huntsville was not at that time an officially recognized mission station. There was no church building. As far as can be ascertained, there were no services conducted by a clergyman. Although there was an interested group in Huntsville, and some members of that group were called the Vestry and Wardens of the Church, the congregation had no official status in the Diocese and no legal organization.

However, two years later Huntsville was made an object of missionary endeavor by the Board of Domestic Missions of the National Church. The Rev. John Murray Robertson, a priest from the Diocese of North Carolina, was sent to Huntsville, on March 7, 1834, to begin missionary work in this territory.

For a short time the services were held in the Court House, but legal authorities objected to the use of the Court House for religious purposes. Next, a theatre on East Clinton Street was borrowed. But the congregation was dispossessed by a company of actors. Finally, the Masonic Lodge Room was procured, and services were continued in that building until the end of the year 1835. It was during the Lodge Room period that the first bishop made a visitation in Huntsville. The Rt. Rev. James H. Otey made the trip from the neighboring Diocese of Tennessee and confirmed Miss Henrietta Brown, who was a teacher in the Huntsville Seminary.

Mr. Robertson had a most disheartening experience with his congregation. It is recorded that "the missionary experienced little sympathy; and finding that nothing was done toward erecting a church or providing for a minister, he retired at the close of 1835 to his plantation in Jackson County." For seven years no further effort was made to organize a parish.

Finally two clergymen visited Huntsville in December, 1842, and through their efforts a meeting of the Episcopalians was held and an organization of a parish effected on December 17th. Mr. George P. Beirne presided at the meeting, and in addition to himself, there were elected on the Vestry the following men: Henry M. Robertson, John Ogden, James Jenn, and J. Withers Clay. The Parish was named the "Church of the Nativity" because of the approaching Christmas season.

The official life of the Parish began when a delega-

tion from the newly elected Vestry attended the Diocesan Convention in May, 1843, and asked that the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville be received into the Diocese. The request was acceded to, and shortly thereafter the Vestry elected as the first Rector of the Church, the Rev. F. H. Laird, who arrived to take up his duties in November. This Rector also found difficulty in the matter of securing a place for worship. The Presbyterians lent their church building for the first service. Then the congregation worshipped for a while in the schoolroom of Mrs. Jane L. Childs. And then, the Church seeming to be on some better terms with the Lay, the U. S. District Court Room in the basement of the Court House was secured as a place to worship. During Mr. Laird's rectorship in 1845, the lot on the corner of Eustis and Green Streets was bought from John Y. Bassett and the construction of a church building was begun. But Mr. Laird resigned in 1846.

In 1847, the Rev. Henry C. Lay became Rector of the Parish and was so successful in his ministry here that work on this present Church building was begun in 1858. At that time, Mr. Lay was elected Missionary Bishop of the Southwest and resigned in 1859. This beautiful church edifice was not quite complete, but Bishop Lay returned January 29, 1860, and preached at the consecration of this building.

There followed the years of the Civil War when Huntsville suffered greatly from the battles fought in this section of the state. In October, 1860, the Rev. John Monro Banister of Greensboro, Alabama, became Rector of the Parish and was to serve for the next 45 years. Two stories of interest are told of this period. At the time of the capture of Huntsville by Federal troops, large buildings were commandeered to bivouac men and animals. This church building was the exception because, at the time the troops were about to enter, attention was called to the words found over the Church entrance. They read, "Reverence My Sanctuary."

The other story which is recorded in the Church register was the fact that Dr. Banister was forced to leave Huntsville after the Federal troops had entered the city. He had to cross the battle lines and go to Confederate territory. He was absent for six months and no services were held during that time.

The years of Dr. Banister's ministry in this Parish were very fruitful. In 1877 the original church building was razed and sold by the trustees to the colored Methodist Church in Huntsville. This building still remains in our city. In 1886 the Chapel was added to the Church properties, a gift from Mrs. Wilson Cary Bibb as a memorial to her husband,

Wilson Cary Bibb, and to her daughter, Fannie Marsh Bibb.

Dr. Bawister continued as Rector until 1905. From 1905 through 1909 two clergymen served this Parish, the Rev. Willoughby M. Claybrook and the Rev. Alexander C. McCabe.

On April 19, 1909, the vestry called the Rev. Cary Gamble, of the Diocese of Virginia, to be the sixth Rector of this Parish. He began his work on July 1, 1909, and served for 27 years as Rector. Shortly after he had come to Huntsville, a store building, formerly on the site of our present Parish House, was purchased in the loving memory of Miss Mary Anne Cruse. Mr. Gamble's long Rectorship carried the Parish through World War I and the depression of the 1930's. The present Parish Library was given recently as a gift of thanksgiving of his ministry here.

In September, 1938, the Rev. Randolph R. Claiborne became the seventh Rector of the Church of the Nativity with a Parish of 150 members. He built during his rectorship here one of the strongest parishes in the Diocese of Alabama. His rectorship both in the Parish and community will long be remembered. Many of the gifts which made our present Parish House building possible were scheduled during his Rectorship. He served until June 29, 1949, when he was consecrated the First Suffragan Bishop of Alabama.

In February, 1950, the present Rector, the Rev. John H. Bonner, Jr., came to the Parish. These five years have seen many changes, including the restoration of the Chapel and the building of Ridley Hall, our present Parish House. This building was completed in 1953 at a cost of \$175,000.00. During the

past five years the communicant strength of the Parish has grown from just over 300 communicants to 550. Nearly a thousand men, women and children of this community look to the Nativity as their Church Home.

With the same confidence that breeds throughout this community the Parish of the Nativity looks forward to providing the worship and service for God's children who live around us. At the present time additional property is being sought for the erection of at least two mission churches. In January, 1955, new work was begun at A & M College where there is now an Episcopal College Center with 15 active members. This Center has been established to provide the services of the Episcopal Church for the faculty and student body on that Campus.

On January 29, 1960, the hundredth anniversary of the consecration of our Church building will take place. To mark the commemoration of this event the Church plans to completely renovate the building, making sure that the Cross which stands at the top of a stately steeple will light the way for the thousands of children who will call Huntsville their home in our next one hundred and fifty years.

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By Joyce Jones

The First Christian Church in Huntsville has had a short, but interesting history.

The church was started in 1947 by a group of interested people. The Rev. E. K. Beckett, regional evangelist for the United Christian Missionary Society, came to Huntsville in October of that year to

First Christian Church



direct the organization. Meetings were held on Sundays in the auditorium of the Y.M.C.A.

Charter membership in the church was twenty. By late 1955, this number had increased eight times to a total membership of nearly 160.

After Mr. Beckett left, ministers from nearby towns conducted services for several weeks until more definite plans could be formulated.

Early in 1948, Dale Miller, a student in the Theological Seminary at Vanderbilt University, agreed to accept the pastorate at the Huntsville church on a week-end service basis. He was accompanied in this work by his wife, Betty.

Under Dale Miller's leadership, and with financial help from the Christian Board of Church Extension, members and helpful townspeople, plans were made for building a sanctuary on the corner of Bob Wallace and Alabama Avenues.

The ground breaking ceremony was held on March 18, 1948, and formal dedication of the completed chapel was held on July 11, 1948, with Mr. Miller in charge of the service.

John Mealing, Jr., was the chairman of the building committee and later functioned as chairman of the first church board.

The Dale Millers served this church until August, 1949. The Rev. Kenneth Hughes followed for a short pastorage from August of that year until early January, 1950.

In the same January, Jack Forstman, a graduate of Phillips University at Enid, Oklahoma, began his work as pastor of the church.

On June 3, 1950, he was married to Miss Shirley Cronk of Douglas, Kansas. Mrs. Forstman, an accomplished musician, served as the church pianist while her husband was the minister until September, 1953.

During Mr. Forstman's pastorate, an educational building was constructed to accommodate the needs of the growing congregation. Tom Jones, Jr., was the building chairman. The structure was dedicated on September 9, 1951, with the Rev. J. Wayne Drash of Birmingham preaching the dedicatory sermon.

Following the Forstmans, the Rev. William Howland, Jr., a graduate of the Yale Divinity School, and his wife, Ann, came to Huntsville. They were a part of the Huntsville church from September, 1954, until June, 1955.

In addition to his town and state church work, Mr. Howland served as president of the Madison County Ministerial Association and as Blood Bank Chairman for the local Red Cross chapter.

In September, 1955, the Rev. Worden\* Allen and

his wife, Lucille, both graduates of Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, came to work with this congregation. Louis Brown serves as Chairman of the Board for 1955-56. Roy Rogers, Jr., is Minister of Music.

The church bought a parsonage on Locust Street in 1954; and in 1955 purchased an organ for the sanctuary.

In addition to Sunday School and church services, activity is carried on in the church through the Men's Christian Fellowship, the Women's Christian Fellowship (consisting of four circles), the Christian Youth Fellowship for high school age and Cho Rho for Junior High students. There are also functional committees for carrying on various phases of the organization.

The congregation is a self-governing body and is led by the pastor and by a board comprised of elected elders, deacons and deaconesses.

This local church maintains a liberal attitude toward other denominations and thus adheres to the ecumenical statutes sponsored by the National Council of Churches of which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a part.

The women of the First Christian Church are active in the Huntsville Council of Church Women. The sanctuary of the church has been used temporarily by other denominations seeking to become established in the city.

Cub Pack 72, serving boys of all denominations, is sponsored by the church and is led by Stanley Craver.

Thus the First Christian Church in Huntsville along with other churches humbly seeks to encourage the worship of God through his Son, Jesus Christ, to join in community service and to extend the hand of fellowship to all who choose to meet there.

## FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

By Rev. M. H. Stocks

The First Church of the Nazarene in our city is now located at 505 West Clinton Street. The church was initially organized in West Huntsville in the year 1920. This work was under the direction of the Reverend H. H. Hooker, who was District Superintendent of the Alabama District of the Church of the Nazarene. There were many fine lay people assisting in the organizational ground work. The church bought property and located on Ninth Avenue West.

Several pastors have served the church but only one was a native of Huntsville and a product of this local church, namely the Reverend Elmer E. Michael who is now a full time evangelist.



First Church of the Nazarene

The Noland property, located on West Clinton Street, between the Dr. Walker Estate and the Trailway Bus Station, was purchased and remodeled for the present Church site. This was accomplished during the ten-year pastorate of the Reverend J. D. Reid.

This property is historic, in that it was part of the first home of the A. & M. College.

The Church of the Nazarene is now moving ahead under the leadership of the pastor, the Reverend M. H. Stocks. The membership now stands at 98, with an average in Sunday School of 135 per Sunday, and a per capita giving of \$92.62.

The Huntsville Church is a part of a vast organization of some 4,500 churches, with a new church being organized at the rate of one every fifty hours, with a denominational giving of \$124.33 per member average. This is the highest of any denomination in the world with as many as 100,000 members.

The Church of the Nazarene has had its development during the first half of the twentieth century. The denominational birth is October 13, 1908. The Uniting General Assembly was held at Pilot Point, Texas. It was here that groups of people believing in the theological viewpoint of John Wesley representing the East (New England) the West (California) and the South (Tennessee, Texas, and Oklahoma) were united.

Since that merger beginning in 1908 with only 228 churches and 10,000 members, God has blessed the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene until she has grown to more than 280,000 members and 4,500 organized churches.

The doctrines upon which the Church of the Nazarene rest as essential to Christian experience are brief and are explained by organization authority

as follows: "We believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; We especially emphasize the deity of Jesus Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit. That man is born in sin; that after the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration; that, after the work of regeneration, there is the further work of heart-cleansing, or entire sanctification, which is effected by the Holy Ghost, and to each of these works of grace the Holy Spirit gives witness. We believe in eternal destiny, with its rewards and punishment. We also believe that each born again Christian should be baptized with water, letting the candidate choose their mode, either sprinkling, pouring, or immersion."

### THE EPWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Epworth Methodist Church, first called Epworth Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was organized by the Reverend Robert A. Thompson on December 10, 1893, with forty-one charter members. Its first officials were as follows: J. W. Rozelle and R. J. Schrimsher, stewards; George Weaver, Sunday School Superintendent; John W. Hulsey, church secretary.

The first church building for this congregation was located at the corner of Sixth Street East and Humes Avenue. The following ministers served as pastor while the church was at this location: R. A. Thompson, 1893; F. H. Gardner, 1895; J. O. Hainer, 1896; H. E. Wheeler, 1897; J. A. Webb, 1898; J. B. Culpepper, 1899; W. J. Reid, 1901; H. L. Aldridge, 1903; G. R. Jordan, 1904; Fred B. Faust, 1905; J. B. Culpepper, 1906; J. D. Johnston, 1906; George T. Martin, 1909; R. L. Dill, 1911; Hartford; Hundan; George Reed; Marrabel; Meggs; C. H. Reed; Hannon; M. L. Smith; John B. Rice; and Arthur Bentley.

Epworth Methodist Church



While Reverend Arthur Bentley was Pastor in 1926, the first unit of the present building at the corner of Fifth Street East and O'Shaughnessy Avenue was constructed by Mr. Will Gunn. The ground was broken by Mrs. W. H. Edwards. The old family Bible of the late W. H. Edwards' father was placed in the front right hand corner of the building. Brother Bentley served one year in the new building and was succeeded by the following ministers: R. L. McDaniel, V. A. Smith, Z. Y. Carpenter, Neil Dark, Guy E. Wallace, Opie Gamble, A. E. Doyle, Olen Cornelius, under whose ministry the church building was enlarged. R. L. Baker came next, who was succeeded by D. Y. Register who stayed five years, until 1953. The present pastor, John B. Haskew, Jr., was appointed in October, 1953.

At the present time Epworth Church is a thriving church, growing along with the city of Huntsville. During 1954 a modern brick parsonage was constructed, and plans are under way for enlarging and beautifying the church building. The church now has a membership of about 350. This church looks forward with expectancy and hope to the years that lie ahead.

## THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

By Mrs. Earle R. Ford

Methodism in Huntsville is older than the city itself.

In 1807, just after the treaty was signed giving this section of the land to the government, a small band of immigrants came from South Carolina with John Ford as their leader. John Ford belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church and, while he did not remain here more than a year, he did start "Methodist Classes," so that when the first homesteaders arrived in 1808, the Methodists among them found a welcome from members of their faith.

Joshua Boucher and Thomas Stringfield, then a lad of twelve, came with these first homesteaders and both of these names are well known among the pioneers of Methodism in Madison County. Joshua Boucher immediately took charge of the organized "classes" at Hunt's Spring and became the "class leader" and "exhorter."

At a session of the Western Conference held at Liberty Hill, Tenn., from October 1-7, 1808, Flint Circuit was created on the "great bend" of the Tennessee River. This circuit was a part of the Cumberland District and included Hunt's Spring which that year was chosen as the county seat of the newly organized Madison County. James Gwinn, one of

the great preachers of the Western Conference, was sent to Flint Circuit. From then until 1813, Rev. Gwinn rode up and down Flint Circuit, visiting the established "Societies," and organizing new ones.

In 1813, when the Western Conference was divided, Flint Circuit was included in the Tennessee Conference as part of the Nashville District. Many prominent "Circuit Riders" visited the Huntsville Society from 1813 to 1821 as they climbed the mountains and forded the streams of this Circuit.

By 1821, the Huntsville Society had grown to 127 members and was made a "Station," with Thomas Stringfield, who came to Madison County with his family in 1808, as pastor of this congregation.

Up until this time, the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church had been held in homes but on the 29th day of August, 1820, John Price and Johanna L. Price, his wife, "For and in consideration of the many benefits received by them through the instru-

First Methodist Church



mentality of the Methodist Episcopal Church (of which they have been members for some years) together with an ardent desire that the religion of Jesus Christ may spread and revive everywhere, but more especially in Huntsville and its vicinity," gave to the Methodist Episcopal Church, "One certain parcel of ground." This was part of the property which was bought by them from LeRoy Pope on January 13, 1819, and was located on the corner of Gallatin and W. Holmes St., where the Baptist Church now stands.

When Rev. Stringfield was appointed to the Huntsville Station, he proceeded to build a church on this lot and on November 26, 1823, his church was host to the Tennessee Conference.

For fourteen years, the Methodists worshipped in this church. Then, because they felt that a church in the heart of the city would serve the people better, on March 7, 1832, the stewards bought the lot on the corner of Randolph and Greene Streets, where the present church stands. The building of the new church was begun on July 22, 1832, and on March 3, 1834, Dr. J. H. Harris opened the "almost completed, new, commodious and most beautiful church in Huntsville."

The General Conference which met in 1832, authorized the organization of the Alabama Conference, but Huntsville District remained in the Tennessee Conference until 1870, when the North Alabama Conference came into being.

During the War between the States, the Methodist Church was used by the Federal troops. Horses were stabled in the basement and the sanctuary was used as living quarters and a hospital. For the preparation of food and for warmth, the soldiers built fires on the basement floor and the church was burned during the year of 1864.

Within two years after the burning of their church, the Methodists began building again. On August 7, 1867, the corner stone of the present building was laid and a service was held by the Masons, conducted by Mr. John J. Dement, Worshipful Master, and Mr. L. D. Carter, Secretary. In 1870, the church was completed and the Rev. Dr. Robt. A. Young came from Nashville to dedicate the new church. The church was now known as The Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Mrs. Eliza Jennings, who moved to Huntsville about this time from Ohio, gave liberally to the building fund and in 1871, presented the church with the pipe organ which was used until 1948. This organ was *first* operated by hand, then water power and later by electric power.

On March 21, 1883, the church purchased the prop-

erty at the rear of the church on Greene Street where Monroe Printing Co. now stands. The parsonage was located there for about fifteen years.

On Tuesday, April 2, 1889, twelve women of the church met and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society with Mrs. Jackson Rand as president. In May, 1890, 32 women with the idea of "standing by and aiding the affairs of the church," organized the Ladies' Aid Society and elected Mrs. Lawrence Cooper as their leader. These two organizations were combined in 1900 and, with unification, grew into the present Woman's Society of Christian Service whose purpose it is, "to unite all the women of the church in Christian Service and Love."

During 1891, when Rev. John D. Simpson was the pastor, the Epworth League was organized. The first president was Miss Florence Hardie, a teacher in the Huntsville schools for a number of years. The vice-president was Miss Ella Ware who still continues her membership in this church.—MYF

The parsonage on Greene Street was sold in 1897 and, the Huntsville Female College having burned in 1895, the Methodists bought the beautiful, spacious brick residence which had been the home of the president of the college. This remained the parsonage until 1954. The present parsonage is located on White Circle.

From 1870 until 1924, the basement of the church was used, not only for Sunday School, but for all social events. However, on August 4, 1915, the church received \$6,000 indemnity from the government for the destruction of the original church and the property on Randolph Street adjoining the church was purchased for the purpose of erecting an educational building. A building campaign was launched by Dr. George Davenport, then pastor of the church and by the early part of 1924, the Annex was ready for use.

Except for redecoration and addition of memorials, the interior of the Sanctuary is as it was built in 1867.

The original windows were a dark blue and amber. Most of the beautiful stained-glass windows, which embody many of our Christian symbols, are memorials to the pioneer members and were placed there during the early part of 1900. The small font is a memorial to Mr. John Rison who was a faithful member and trustee for a number of years. Miss Eliza Jane Mastin's Sunday School Class gave the large font in loving memory of the many Christian truths she brought them. The communion table, rescued during the fire of 1864, is the only object left to remind us of the first church.

Although the original church had a belfry with a bell calling Methodists to worship, it did not have a spire. This was added about 1890. A little later, the beautiful brick structure was coated with stucco. The angel heads which adorn the front doors were placed there when the church was built. This is a form of architecture used in Europe and, so far as is known, is the only church in the United States with this type of decoration. The other angel heads were placed there when the stucco was added.

In 1911, Dr. Rudolph Scott came to this church and, realizing the need of modernization and expansion, initiated an "Improvement Fund." Although Dr. Scott did not live to see the results of his efforts, the completely modernized Sanctuary and Educational Building are the result of his ministry.

Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Hipp and Raymond O. Hipp had the Carrollonic Chimes installed in 1948 in memory of their son and brother, Arville. It is good to hear them ringing from the belfry which had been silent since the old bell was given to the scrap-iron drive during the World War.

Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Dumnivant and their daughter Catharine had the Kimball organ installed, replacing the one given by Mrs. Jennings in 1874. The grand piano was the gift of Mr. James H. Terry, Sr., and his sons James, Jr., and Walter as a memorial to their wife and mother Emily Stanfield Terry. The handsome bronze cross and candle sticks were given by the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the matching collection plates were gifts of the McCoy Sunday School Class. Recently, Mrs. P. W. Peeler replaced the old hymnals with new ones in memory of her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Booth, life-long members and workers in the church.

With unification in 1939, three branches of the Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church banded together in one great church serving approximately ten million Methodist members in the United States. This is known as The Methodist Church.

Historic old First Methodist Church is proud to have served Huntsville during its century and a half of progress. As the city grows, the church will continue to make the changes and adjustments which are necessary, as the present pastor, Rev. Wm. W. Scott, says, to "extend its ministry in the heart of the city in the name of Christ."

### HISTORY OF THE JUNIOR WELFARE LEAGUE

The Junior Welfare League was organized in 1935 by Mrs. Lelia Suggs Moss as an associate circle of

younger women to the WSCS of the First Methodist Church. Mrs. Francis Esslinger was elected first president.

At the first meeting a member of the Welfare Department of Madison County met with the group and discussion was held on a suitable project. It was decided the main object would be to furnish layettes to underprivileged babies, and to do any other welfare work with children not already provided for by the Welfare and Health Departments.

Later on the group decided, with the approval of the WSCS, to become a non-sectarian organization in order to increase its membership and accomplish more social welfare work.

In 1939 the Junior Welfare League assisted the WPA in establishing a Recreation Center in West Huntsville. A house and a paid leader was supplied by the WPA, and the League furnished the house throughout. During this time our attention was called to a tubercular child in that vicinity who needed extra milk and eggs. This was gladly given over a period of approximately three years.

During World War II The Junior Welfare League worked as a group for the Red Cross by rolling bandages and knitting sweaters and scarfs, and took a course in first aid. Also during this time the League helped to finance a nursery school for working mothers by helping pay a supervisor and furnishing extra food such as orange juice. One month the expenses ran close to \$300.00.

Besides our main project of furnishing layettes for underprivileged babies, the League has assisted other children in need through the interest and cooperation of the Welfare and Health Departments. There were many of these children, and we became very attached to a little blind girl, and contributed \$10.00 a month for medicine and other essentials. We played Stana Claus and remembered her birthday until her adoption last year.

We have worked with the Crippled Children's Clinic by furnishing sandwiches, cookies and volunteer workers. We also donated \$200.00 to the Grace Club Auxiliary for the New Crippled Children's Center.

The Junior Welfare League contributes regularly to the Red Cross, the Community Chest, Family Life Conference, Heart Drive and Cancer Fund. We were one of the first organizations in the county to go as a group 100 per cent for cancer check-ups in connection with the work of the cancer foundation.

During 1954 the 25 members of the Junior Welfare League raised \$1,481 for its various charitable projects. Funds have been obtained by dues, sponsor-





Junior Welfare League, left to right, bottom, Mrs. Clem Lloyd and Mrs. Ed Branch. Top, Mrs. H. T. Woodall and Mrs. E. C. Wooten

ing the Proctor Puppets, Food sales, sale of Christmas cards, and contributions from interested individuals.

We are proud of our record over the past twenty years, and will continue to lend a hand to children in need.

The present officers of the League are: Mrs. Edward H. Branch, president; Mrs. E. C. Wooten, vice-president; Mrs. H. T. Woodall, secretary; and Mrs. Clem Lloyd, treasurer.

A roster of the members are as follows: Mrs. Ed Branch, Mrs. James Butler, Mr. R. C. Calloway, Jr., Mrs. Clarence Cobbs, Mrs. James Davis, Mrs. Lynn Edwards, Mrs. W. B. England, Miss Mary Garvin, Mrs. Raymond Hipp, Mrs. Carl Jones, Mrs. Clem Lloyd, Mrs. Frank McConnell, Mrs. Harry Miller, Mrs. Raymond Monroe, Mrs. Carl Moring, Sr., Mrs. Carl Moring, Jr., Mrs. Martin Phillips, Mrs. J. B. Pullen, Mrs. W. T. Ryan, Mrs. F. N. Sefton, Mrs. John R. Thomas, Mrs. R. P. Van Valkenburg, Mrs. Jimmy Walker, Mrs. H. T. Woodall, Mrs. E. C. Wooten.

## HOLMES STREET METHODIST CHURCH

By Mrs. Earle R. Ford

Because the Methodists in the eastern part of Huntsville felt the need of a church in that section of the town, approximately 100 persons met at the

East Clinton Street school in September of 1905 and organized the Holmes Street Methodist Church.

The official board composed of H. S. Bradford, J. W. Garner, C. N. Vaught, D. R. London, G. W. Marsh, W. H. Proctor, F. T. Petty and L. C. Sugg was elected and Mrs. O. B. Laxson was elected superintendent of the Sunday School.

Until the beginning of the conference year in November, visiting pastors came each Sunday to the school building and preached to the growing congregation.

The Reverend K. N. Matthews was the first preacher assigned by the North Alabama Conference, to this church and he immediately set to work to acquire a church site and building.

In June, 1906, a small building on McCullough Avenue, which had been used as a mission of the Episcopal Church was purchased and moved to a lot across the street from where the church now stands.

A few years later, the present location was obtained and the little church was moved to the back of this lot with the front door opening onto Patton Street. At this time the plan was to build a larger church on the corner, facing Holmes Street. However, the plans were changed and again the little *Holmes Street Methodist Church*.

The frame church was moved, this time to its present location facing East Holmes Street. The building was covered with brick veneer, making a beautiful little sanctuary. The parsonage was located next to the church on Holmes Street.

The congregation continued to grow and so again in 1953, services were held in the East Clinton Street School while the remodeling of the church took place.

The sanctuary enlarged and redecored, a new parsonage at 1310 Wellman Avenue was bought and the old parsonage was used as an educational building in addition to the Sunday School rooms at the back of the church.

Now in its fiftieth year of service to the Methodists in this section of Huntsville, the church with 750 members under the pastorate of Reverend M. E. Coleman is planning a new expansion in the way of an educational building.

The Holmes Street Methodist Church known as "The Friendliest Church in Town," has her doors always open and a warm welcome waiting for, not only her members, but any stranger who might care to attend her services.



Holmes Street Methodist Church

## THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Frank James, Jr.

### Physical History of the Church

The Central Presbyterian Church is now a U.S.A. or Northern Presbyterian Church. In its beginning it was a Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The first building was erected halfway between Holmes and Walker Streets on Green Street. It was a white frame church under the pastorate of Robert Shook. Little else is known about the Church.

In 1854, a new building, a handsome Doric structure was started on the corner of Lincoln and Randolph Street. For some unknown reason, it stood unfinished for nine years. It was completed in 1854 in time for the dedication by the founder, Robert Donnell. This was one of Donnell's last three appearances as a minister. The building had four immense corinthian pillars supporting a heavy porch top, and a cupola on the roof for the bell. The floor was built of brick two steps off the ground. The church was a one room building with the auditorium almost square. Along three sides of the auditorium there was a gallery for slaves. Just inside the front door there

was a small vestibule in which the stairs to the gallery were located. The pews were common straight pews without any fancy carvings. These pews are now located in a church in West Huntsville. The choir sang directly behind the pulpit. This pulpit is now in the mission on West Clinton Street. Since there was no basement, Sunday School was held in the auditorium with different classes meeting in different sections of the room.

Several members of the Senior Sunday School class who are still alive are Miss Minnie Rodgers, Miss Edna Rodgers, Mrs. Douglass Taylor, Mrs. Alice Nolan McCravey, and Bessie Daniels.

The main entrance faced Lincoln Street. The building was estimated to be forty feet long and thirty feet wide. It was a compactly built brick building and was one of the many ante-bellum buildings in good condition when it was razed.

The third and present building was built in 1889. The plan was to buy the property next to the church on Lincoln Street so it could enlarge considerably. The owners would not sell so the building committee had to design the church on the property it owned. That is one reason the church was built high instead of wide and flat.

The building committee for the present church was T. A. Thurston, C. L. Nolan, Thomas Wade, and R. S. Bradshaw.

During the period of construction the church had no pastor. The Reverend Mr. Joe W. Caldwell, who had been away, came back to see the church through its building program. He laid the cornerstone of the church.

The brick of the old church constitutes the lower wall of the present church. The windows in the lecture room of the present church also came from the old church. The interior of the church tells something of the style of architecture during the period around 1899. The auditorium is octagon in shape and there is a considerable amount of marble work. The original organ was a pipe organ, but several years ago, it began to give trouble. It was replaced with an electric organ. At the same time, the section of the room behind the pulpit where the organ was, was remodeled. The windows are said to have cost several thousand dollars apiece. The windows are dedicated to the church in memory of loved ones.

The window "Behold I Stand at the Door and Knock" is dedicated to Kate Malone Foster, Mary T. Ewing, and Sallie Ewing Long. The window "The Good Shepherd" is dedicated to Mary T. Darwin, Lucy Ann Lammier, and S. S. Darwin. The third window of Christ in the Garden is dedicated to Tate Lowery, Mary H. O. Robinson and J. R. Jenkins.

### EARLY HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

During the period prior to the War Between the States, the church had several different pastors. During the war, the church was without a regular pastor except on occasions when one would visit the church for a Sunday.

In 1890, the Reverend Joseph Caldwell, an exceptionally well trained minister, became pastor. He was born near Danville, Kentucky, in 1860 of Scotch Presbyterian parents. His education included a degree from Center College in 1881 and from the Cumberland University in the state of Tennessee in 1885. He spent one year at the University of Berlin under Dr. Weise, at that time recognized as the world's greatest theologian, and under Dr. Fleidor, who was an outstanding modernist. During his first pastorate at Selma, Alabama, he attended the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance in London, England, as an official delegate. In 1896, he went to West Point, Mississippi, but returned in 1898 to see the church through its building program. In 1903, he again left. This time he went to Texas and then to Denton.

When he left this time, he left a Cumberland Presbyterian Church. On his return in 1917, he found his same congregation now called Central Presbyterian and reporting to the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A.

As early as 1895, many Cumberlands began to urge re-union with the main body of Presbyterianism. The

Central Presbyterian Church





FIRST-CUMBERLAND-PRESBYTERIAN-CHURCH.

The First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

old issues were gone, and an educated ministry prevailed. The mood of the South was to re-unite. Robert Samuel Bradshaw led the movement. The original idea was to unite with the Southern Church, the U. S. Church. Bradshaw and others soon saw that the Cumberland people, who favored union, were more nearly in line with the Northern Church, the U. S. A. Church. A slight revision of the confession of faith was all that was necessary. By 1906, the vote was completed. The local church was unanimous in its acceptance. Bradshaw died the same year. The name was changed to the First Presbyterian Church U. S. A. After several years the name was changed to the Central Presbyterian Church.

#### THE U. S. A. AND U. S. CHURCHES

The First Presbyterian Church, or U. S. Church, and the Central Presbyterian, or U. S. A. Church, though reporting to different General Assemblies, have been good neighbors for many years. As early as 1900, the ministers occasionally exchanged pulpits for a Sunday or preached for each other during vacations.

The separation of these two churches is another story. In 1837, the Presbyterian Church split into two parts, the New School and the Old School. Orthodoxy in doctrine and questions of cooperation with the Congregational Church in missionary work were the causes of disagreement.

The New School group favored cooperation and liberality in doctrine. Huntsville went with that group.

In 1859, the slavery issue split each of the New School and Old School churches into two parts. The Southern branch of the New School, known as the United Synod, united with the Southern branch of the Old School in 1864. In 1865, the group took the name Presbyterian U. S., which it still holds. The Northern branch of the New School united with the Northern branch of the Old School in 1861. In 1865, the group took the name Presbyterian U. S., which it still holds. The Northern branch of the New School united with the Northern branch of the Old School in 1869 to form the Presbyterian Church U. S. A.

There was recently a movement to unite these two churches into one, but the effort failed. Many churchmen hope that some day there will no longer be a divided Presbyterian Church.

The Reverend James E. Krahenbill, is the present pastor of the church. A new manse was recently completed in Thornton Acres in Southeast Huntsville and is now occupied by the minister and his family.

## CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIANS

(From Dale Miller History)

The present Cumberland Presbyterian Church at 5th and Beirne Avenue is the result of a merger that didn't merge. Sometime around the turn of the century a small Cumberland Church was started on East Beirne Avenue. When the trend toward union with the U. S. A. church grew from 1903-1906, the Beirne Avenue church found itself with sympathizers on both sides of the issue. Out of its many years of history, only six years of its minutes remain. Luckily, they cover the period of the union and give us the story in full.

In May, 1906, union was officially complete on a national scale. It took some time for local churches to get used to the idea and change their names. On February 21, 1907, the Beirne Avenue church session adopted a resolution opposing any dissension from the union, "at least, until it shall have been proven by the decisions of the Civil courts, or in some clearly positive way, that union is wrong." The only dissenting vote was cast by S. P. Phillips, an elder who opposed the union.

It was probably Phillips who lead in the organization of a new session which continued the name Cumberland Presbyterian. It was *claimed* that the church property, which had always been Cumberland, should still belong to the session which held to the Cumberland position. The old session which had advocated the change held that it was still in control

of the property. Each of the groups desired use of the church for preaching, Bible School, and mid-week meetings, as well as for revivals and church courts.

Finally a compromise was reached. The majority U. S. A. group was to have first choice as to times, but each group was to have an adequate time each week for all necessary meetings. The only time when the U. S. A. group was to lose its priority of time-choosing was during revivals and church courts. The agreement was published in a Huntsville paper and signed by the elders of the Cumberland congregation.

In 1908, the whole ticklish situation was wiped out in a day when the church caught fire and burned. The U. S. A. group merged with the Central Presbyterian downtown. The Cumberland group disbanded, part of them joining the Bailey's Cove Church four miles South on Whitesburg Pike and East across the mountain. Others visited from church to church, waiting for the day when the Huntsville congregation could be reorganized.

Late in 1919, an interested woman gave the Cumberlands a large lot in what is now a corner of Maple Grove Cemetery. A new session was then organized by the elders, and in 1923 they were given a quitclaim deed to the church lot. They remained in the cemetery church until 1936 when they had dwindled down to the disbanding point again. Meanwhile, some of the pastors had been J. A. Rodgers, T. J. Williams, Glasgow, and J. H. Stroud. In 1936 they sold their property to the city for cemetery expansion.

A former preacher, J. A. Rodgers, returned to Huntsville on September 4, 1937, to organize a Cumberland Sunday School in the old J. E. Pierce house at 801 E. Holmes Street, and the church was organized.

In 1912 the church sold its Holmes Street property and moved to a new location at Pratt and Sixth. The frame church was razed in 1918, and the present church was built at its present location.

## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Helen Petty

The First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville dates back to the early settlement of Madison County, Alabama.

The Government Land Sales of 1809 brought into the County many wealthy Scotch-Irish settlers from Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. A good many of these were Presbyterians, and by the fall



First Presbyterian Church

of 1810 there was a sufficient number in this group to petition the West Tennessee Presbytery to send a minister here to preach from time to time.

This request was granted and early in 1811 the Reverend Andrew K. Davis came to perform this service once a month for a time. Later the Reverend Robert Henderson, the Reverend Andrew S. Morrison and the Reverend Gideon Blackburn supplied at intervals.

On June 15, 1818, the Reverend Gideon Blackburn organized the group into a church and the Reverend John Allan became the first regular pastor in November, 1823, and served until his death in November, 1813.

On October 13, 1822, the first house of worship was dedicated, more than a year before Dr. Allan was called as pastor.

Dr. Allan was followed by four short pastorates under the leadership of the Reverend Conway P. Wing, the Reverend Joseph Martin, the Reverend John H. Zively and the Reverend John W. Hall covering a period from 1843 till the coming of Dr. Frederick A. Ross in 1844, who served as pastor till 1875, when he resigned, after serving for 20 years.

Dr. Jesse Dewitt Burkhead followed with a service of about 3½ years, 1876-79.

## ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

By Rev. George F. Hart



First Presbyterian Church, Oldest picture on record.

Dr. John H. Bryson was pastor from 1880 till his death February 1, 1897.

During the last year or more of Dr. Bryson's life he was assisted by the Reverend Robert M. DuBose, who continued to serve this church for some months after Dr. Bryson's death.

The Reverend Francis Tappay was pastor from 1903 to 1918. He was succeeded by the Reverend Harry M. Moffett who was pastor from 1919 to 1921, about three and one-half years.

The Reverend Neill G. Stevens was pastor from 1922 to 1945, nearly 23 years.

The Reverend Frederic H. Heidelberg was pastor from 1946 to 1947, little more than a year. He resigned due to ill health.

The Reverend Harry B. Wade began his pastorate in November, 1947, and is pastor at the present time.

This present house of worship was dedicated May 18, 1860, and had a tower and spire 170 feet high. The spire was blown down in a storm in the early morning hours of April 17, 1878, and was never replaced.

This church organization is one and half years older than the state of Alabama, and is the oldest Presbyterian Church in the State.

Not until Redstone Arsenal was made the Rocket Development center for the U. S. Army did the mother Church of Protestantism come to the city of Huntsville. For a number of years small groups of Lutherans held services in various locations in the city, however with Redstone and the coming of 125 families of German Scientists to the city from El Paso, Texas, a majority of whom were Lutheran, was there truly a need for the Lutheran Church.

The Georgia-Alabama Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America through its president, Dr. Charles A. Linn, Ph.D., began services in June, 1950, with a Seminary student, Reverend William Hartmen, in charge. On February 1, 1951, the Missions Board called Reverend George F. Hart of Jacksonville, Florida, to come and organize the work. Upon Mr. Hart's arrival a local committee was appointed composed of Edward Tesmer, H. Cole Reasin, Dr. Hans Friederick, Fred Schwartz, Bernd Ostoff, and Donald Conn to work with the pastor in the development of a congregation.

In March, 1951, the present property on the N. W. corner of Franklin and Longwood was purchased with the help of the Church at large. This property being the former home of Chambers Funeral Home. A group of interested men under the direction of Mr. Wilhelm Angele built in garages the present steeple and in two hours on Saturday they erected it on the Church.

On Reformation Sunday, October 31, 1951, St. Mark's was formally organized into a congregation with 119 baptized members and 73 confirmed members. The act of organization was performed by the Reverend Charles E. Fritz, D.D., president of the Georgia-Alabama Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America. The first vestry was elected as follows: Wilhelm Angele, Edward Tesmer, H. Cole Reasin and Robert Axelson for three years; Otto Eisenhardt, J. G. Tschinkel, Martin Schilling and Kenyon Liligreen for two years; Wilbur Epting, Harry Culclasure, Claude McLean and Mrs. H. Cole Reasin. A call was extended to the Reverend George F. Hart to become the official pastor and Mr. Hart accepted the call and is still serving the congregation. The Women of the Church was organized in May, 1951, with Mrs. Harry Culclasure as president; the Sunday School had as its first leader Mr. Donald Conn.

In March, 1952, the lots on the S. E. Corner of Franklin and Longwood were purchased for the permanent Church building. The congregation plans to begin the building of their new Church in January, 1956, at a cost of \$150,000.00.

The present officers and leaders of the congregation are: pastor, Reverend George F. Hart; Vestry chairman, Dr. J. G. Tschinkel; secretary, Mr. Arnold Stein; financial secretary, Mr. Erich Ball; and treasurer, Dr. Martin Schilling. Vestry members are Erich Ball, Herbert Fuhrmann, John Shank, Otto Eisenhardt, John Tschinkel, Martin Schilling, R. C. Burkhardt, Arnold Stein, Phil H. Hugel, Jr., Gerhard Heller, Harlan Harman and Gilbert Appler.

Thus the Lutheran Church born in a University in Germany on October 31, 1517, came to Huntsville on a permanent base on October 31, 1951. Today she is almost four years old and her membership is 307 baptized members and 246 confirmed members. Her sights are set high and she plans to grow and serve the grand old city of Huntsville in the future from her new modern church.

No community has ever opened her doors so wide with interest and love to any church or people than has Huntsville to the Lutheran Church. We are young in your age, Huntsville, but we will serve you loyally and ever strive to administer to our people in the name of Christ that they may, as we, serve you and grow into the destiny that God sets for all of us who call Huntsville home. Thanks, citizens of Huntsville, for taking us in and we pray we may serve you well as we serve our Master.

## HUNTSVILLE'S CEMETERY

The first cemetery in Huntsville was located near the corner of Greene Street and Holmes. All bodies were removed from their old graves to the new site which was named Maple Hill Cemetery. The cemetery was named in the year 1822 when LeRoy Pope sold a two-acre plot at the corner of Wells Avenue and California to the city. The city continued through the years, until 1873, to acquire land adjoining the original two acres at which time 12.45 acres



Old Grave section of Maple Hill Cemetery.

were acquired, bringing the total public cemetery acreage to 65 acres.

Through the efforts of the Women's Club of Huntsville, the stone wall surrounding the cemetery was built around 1918. This stone wall cost about \$5,000 and replaced an old cedar rail fence.

A great deal of the early history of the community is revealed in Maple Hill Cemetery. A check on the oldest tombstones indicates that a great many of the early settlers came here from Virginia and Kentucky. There are 149 Confederate soldiers buried in a plot surrounded by four large magnolia trees on the north side of the cemetery.

Also buried in Maple Hill are five Alabama Governors; as is LeRoy Pope Walker who was Secretary of War for the Confederate States of America, and many other famous people.

With a 1955 budget of \$36,975, the cemetery has 10 full time workers.

A section is reserved for veterans of World War II in the southeast section of the cemetery, and a large marble monument to commemorate the veterans buried there has been erected by local veterans organizations.

St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran



# CHAPTER SEVEN

## OUR GREAT AGRICULTURE

### CLIMATE

By Martin Phillips

To best describe the climate in Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama, its geographical and geological factors must first be defined.

Madison County is located in the extreme northern part of Alabama adjoining the southern boundary of Tennessee and midway between Mississippi on the west and Georgia on the east. It lies in the foothills of the southern tip of the Appalachian Range and the Cumberland Plateau just north of the great bend of the Tennessee River. Its mountains are limestone and its farm lands are eroded limestone, accounting for its deep red color and high productivity. The elevation of Huntsville, the county seat, is 600 feet above sea level and the mountains dotting the landscape eastwardly range upward to 1800 feet above

sea level. The farm land is gently rolling to flat, the mountains and hills are covered with forests and hundreds of limestone water springs cover the county. These factors contribute in part to our rainfall and climate in addition to being picturesque in every aspect.

The normal annual rainfall, based on 45 year records of the United States Weather Bureau, is 52 inches per year. This coupled with favorable geological formations and on impervious formation (Chattanooga Shale), varying in depth from 125 feet in the northern part of the county to 300 feet in the southern part, form a vast reservoir capable of producing almost unlimited quantities of 60 degree water the year round. This water resource is beginning to and will attract more industry as it becomes known to them.

Altitude—Huntsville, Alabama: 600 feet above sea level.

Normal Annual Rainfall: 52 inches.

The Huntsville and Madison County region has a mild climate, with an average growing season of about 200 days a year. The annual mean temperature is about 61 degrees Fahrenheit, with a winter mean of 43 degrees and a summer mean of 80 degrees. With such conditions, the Huntsville region is admirably suited to diversified agricultural pursuits.

#### DEGREE DAY DISTRIBUTION HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA\*

October  
1946

April  
1949

Month	Normal		1916-1947		1917-1948		1918-1949	
	Number Degrees	Percent Total	Number Degrees	Percent Total	Number Degrees	Percent Total	Number Degrees	Percent Total
October	4	126	4.1	128.0	11	34.5	210.0	7.3
November	14	441	8.4	264.5	15.2	479.0	397.5	13.9
December	22	693	18.1	569.5	20.6	649.0	612.5	21.5
January	24	756	19.5	612.5	31.3	991.0	501.0	17.5
February	20	630	26.3	830.5	17.8	562.0	482.5	16.8
March	12	378	21.2	665.5	11.5	364.0	433.5	15.2
April	4	126	2.4	75.0	2.5	78.5	223.5	7.8
	100	3150	100.0	3145.5	100.0	3158.0	2860.5	100.0

Source: U. S. Weather Bureau, U. S. Department of Commerce.



The Huntsville, Madison County, region has a mild climate, with an average growing season of about 200 days a year. The annual mean temperature is 61 degrees Fahrenheit, with a winter mean of 43 degrees and a summer mean of 80 degrees.

The soils of Madison County were widely known for its productivity as far back as 1800, which accounted for its early settlement and speculation of land sales. From that day to now Madison County, due to its annual rainfall, its mild climate and its productive soils have always led the state in the production of cotton and corn and is fast becoming a leader in the field of beef production. This record is maintained today despite the fact that Redstone Arsenal and new industry has taken a fourth of our land out of our crop productions.

## THE HISTORY OF MADISON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

By L. H. Little

Extension work in Madison County began on a full time basis in 1912 when R. S. "Bob" McCrary of Deposit and the late Clarendon Davis of Huntsville were appointed as county agents.

Dr. L. N. Duncan, the Director of the newly formed Extension Department of A. P. I. in Auburn, made the appointments with the approval of the local governing body. This was the beginning on the local level of the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Program, supported by the County Board of Commissioners, the State and U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Before going into the historical details of county agency work in Madison County, a look at the early years of Extension work as it was created in the State and Nation reveals some interesting facts.

Early in the 20th century research in agricultural science had made much progress. In addition, the cotton boll weevil was moving eastward. It threatened to bankrupt the South and to upset the national economy. It was time for intensive research, for the scientific training of more leaders, and for carrying the findings of science direct to the man on the land. Classroom teaching in schools and farmers' institutes were not reaching the masses fast enough.

### *Adult Demonstrations*

By 1902-3 the boll weevil situation in southern Texas had brought that area to a near-panic condition. Dr. Seaman A. Knapp was designated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to attempt a program of "education on-the-farm by the demonstration

method." Businessmen and farmers alike were all ready to try something new.

A group of businessmen in Terrell, Texas, raised \$1,000 to indemnify against loss a farmer who would volunteer to follow Dr. Knapp's plan on a fairly large scale. Walter C. Porter volunteered and did the work on his own farm. Nearly 70 acres of land were used. It was divided about equally between cotton and corn. Demonstrations included varieties, fertilizers, planting, and cultural practices.

Mr. Porter's profits without indemnification were estimated at about \$700 above what would have been produced by the usual methods, or an average of \$10 more per acre. The success of this demonstration opened the way for future work. It sold the idea.

Congress appropriated \$250,000 in the fall of 1903 to combat boll weevil. This money could be used only for demonstrations in the infested areas. The General Education Board signed an agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, on April 20, 1906, to provide money for educational work by the demonstration method in advance of the spread of the weevil. This was the fund from which the first cooperative farm demonstration agents were employed in Alabama. It was the beginning of the Extension Service. Dr. Knapp was in charge of it.

The first Alabama agents were appointed late in 1906, with their appointments becoming effective in 1907. Dr. A. C. True lists the number of agents working in each state by years from 1907 to 1914. Through 1909 only men were employed. Alabama had five agents in 1907, with 17, 32 and 43 from 1908-10, as of June 30 of each year. Before the Smith-Lever Act became effective Alabama had an agent in each county.

### *Boys' Clubs*

By 1909 some of Dr. Knapp's agents, in cooperation with county superintendents of education, had begun to enroll farm boys in corn clubs. In June of 1909, Dr. Knapp's office and the Alabama Polytechnic Institute signed an agreement whereby L. N. Duncan was named Professor of the School of Agriculture and head of the Extension Department of the Institute to devote full time to work with farm boys.

### *State Aid*

In February, 1911, the Legislature appropriated \$5,000 per year for extension work to expand boy's club work and to begin work with girls and farm women. The same act appropriated \$22,000 for local experiments. The \$5,000 was used in part to employ J. B. Hobdy part time in corn club work, a state canning club agent for work with girls, and to make a



Extension Staff. Top picture, left to right: Lloyd Little, R. O. Magnusson, and F. M. Patterson. Bottom picture, reading left to right: Mrs. Owen Hammett, Mrs. Marshall Walker, Mrs. James Beard and Mrs. Oenone Cook.

beginning with women's work. The General Education Board gave some assistance in employing two or three women for a few months in the summer.

In another act the same Legislature appropriated \$25,000 a year for farm demonstration work and established a State Board of Agriculture to administer the law. The purpose of this money was to supplement funds available to Dr. Knapp's office for the employment of "local" demonstration agents. At that time no other southern state was appropriating as much for farm demonstration work as was Alabama.

The state board was composed of the Commissioner of Agriculture, as chairman, the Director of the Alabama Experiment Station, and the Professor of the School of Agriculture—all *ex officio*—and two farmers to be named by the three *ex officio* members for periods of two years. Appointment as "local agent" was subject to approval of this board and of the state agent.

Further financial support for demonstration work was provided in an act of the 1911 Legislature that authorized the counties, at their discretion, to appropriate not over \$1,000 in any one year to supplement salaries of local agents. The \$1,000 limit was removed by the 1915 Legislature.

#### *Women Agents*

Beginning with 1911 women agents were also employed. Alabama had men and women agents totaling 83, 95, 91, and 101 as of June 30 for the consecutive years of 1911 to 1914. Under the stimulus of state and county appropriations the number of demonstration agents in Alabama increased from 43, as of June 30, 1910, to 83 one year later. Though women agents were employed in the Extension Service from 1911, Auburn first offered courses in home economics for women students in the school year of 1920-21.

#### *Smith-Lever*

The federal Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, broadened the base of extension work and formally established it in relation to the states. It channelled the educational work of the U. S. Department in the states through the land-grant colleges, and established the cooperative idea by requiring that all federal funds under this act, except \$10,000 annually, be matched or offset, dollar for dollar, with money from within the state. Alabama's appropriation for this purpose from 1917-18 was \$20,000 and for 1918-19 it was \$40,000. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 also gave legal definition to extension work as follows:

"Sec. 2. That cooperative agricultural extension work shall consist of the giving of instruction and

practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or resident in said colleges in the several communities, and imparting to such persons information on said subjects through field demonstrations, publications, and otherwise, and this work shall be carried on in such manner as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Agriculture and the State Agricultural College or colleges receiving the benefits of this act."

In 1915 the Alabama Legislature passed a corresponding act that accepted the provisions of the Smith-Lever Act; and up to now all federal funds available for extension work in Alabama that required matching have been matched by either the Legislature or the boards of revenue in the counties, making the work truly cooperative.

#### *Negro Participation*

Special mention is made of the fact that Thomas M. Campbell was appointed in 1906 as Negro county agent in Macon County, Alabama, the first in any state. He served continuously in Alabama until 1919. He then became a field agent in extension work, attached to the federal office in Washington and serving eight southern states from South Carolina to Texas and Oklahoma. He is still in service with headquarters at Tuskegee Institute.

More than half of the counties in Alabama now have Negro county and Negro home agents; and there is also a state staff with headquarters at Tuskegee Institute. They are part of the API Extension Service and paid by both state and federal funds.

#### *County Agency Work*

A "traveling job" working three days a week at \$35.00 a month and furnishing your own horse and buggy to "demonstrate" improved methods of farming sounds a bit tough, but that's the way county agents "Bob" McCrary and the late Clarendon Davis started out in Madison County in 1912.

In the beginning, 1912 through August 15, 1915, these two men rode over the countryside, many times spending the night with farmers, carrying out demonstrations with adult farmers to improve production methods of cotton, corn and livestock.

According to "Mr. Bob," when a farmer put 100 to 200 pounds of a 10-2-2 fertilizer under half his cotton each year, he was "going to high rates." Major practices to improve corn production at the time included the use of good seed, stable manure and good cultivation. Nevertheless, J. E. Thompson of Meridianville produced the staggering total of 118 bushels per acre one year! Among others having outstanding corn demonstrations during this period

were Will Bingham of New Market and Holbert Davis of Mountain Fork.

It was during this same period that boys' corn clubs were started as the forerunner of 4-H Clubs. A trip to Auburn's first Camp and Short Course for corn club boys was financed by local bankers. Those making the trip from this county were L. G. Collier, present postmaster of Huntsville, and the Dupree and Bingham boys (first names not known).

These agents started some of the early silage work. Silos at the time were built of two-inch tongue and groove pine with elm strips fastened around as hoops. Corn and sorghum were used to fill the silos.

Most cotton gins were run by water power or by workstock and 4 bales a day were considered a fairly good run. Compare this with one of our modern gins that turned out a bale of cotton every 10 minutes for 24 hours, one day in 1954.

On August 15, 1915, "Mr. Bob" and Mr. Davis went back to full time farming operations of their own and were succeeded by C. F. Striplin who remained in Madison County as county agent until 1924.

It was during County Agent Striplin's term that pioneer work was begun on farmers marketing and exchange work, cotton pooling, and Auburn formula home mixing fertilizer program.

As the years passed, county agents were getting more research results to pass on to farmers including orchard management, truck crops, fertilizers and varieties, insect control, improved breeding and feeding methods, crop rotations and many other things.

This interval was interrupted by World War I and the depression and readjustment years that followed.

In 1929 the Tennessee Valley Sub-Experiment Station was started at Belle Mina. The work of this station, managed by Fred Stewart, former county agent of Limestone County, soon was having a tremendous effect on the agriculture of the Tennessee Valley. Close at hand was a most valuable teaching aid for county agents' use in recommending improved farm practices.

For almost four years during 1924, 25, 26 and 27, Madison County was without a county farm agent.

J. B. Mitchell was appointed county agent January 1st, 1928. Soon he was busily engaged in a county farm program that saw farmers and all citizens of the county mustering their strength and every resource to survive the next few years of one of the nation's most disastrous depressions.

In 1933, with the passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, and related legislation that followed, county agents found themselves undertaking a herculean task when called upon by the U. S. D. A. to assist and direct the local organization of county and community committees that were to operate this vast program and other services that were added later.

The cotton "plow-up" campaign, cotton marketing certificates, soil conservation assistance payments, acreage controls and other regulatory measures tried the patience of farmers and agents alike in those early days of AAA. But, emerging from the depths of such a depression, the feeling that some adjustment was imperative soon quieted tempers and gave way to an orderly farm program that saw the plight of the farmer being slowly but steadily relieved.

Following almost immediately were other legislative acts that created other farm service organiza-

First 4H Club Rally held at Huntsville Spring Park in 1929.



tions including the Farm Security Administration and Soil Conservation Services. County agents again were called upon by the U. S. D. A. to assist in setting up local organizations to make these services available to Madison County farmers. This was followed by the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority, an event along with these others that was to affect greatly the rapid growth and development of Madison County agriculture and the entire Tennessee Valley economy.

It was early in the term of service of J. B. Mitchell that 4-H Club work was organized throughout the county and conducted by the county and home agents with local leader assistance in the schools.

From the beginning Extension workers solicited and enjoyed the cooperative assistance and support of county governing bodies, business and professional people and civic groups. This teamwork has meant much to the progress of agriculture in Madison County. The youth movement, boys' and girls' 4-H Clubs, has had the finest backing from these groups and this support has played a big part in the rapid development that followed. In the middle 30's full time boys' and girls' 4-H Club agents were employed in Madison County. Among the first to fill these jobs were Miss Ann Winn, now Mrs. Joe Van Valkenburg, and the late Gordon Pruitt.

With the establishment of TVA came the problem of re-locating farmers from the reservoir area. C. N. Buchanan, a Master Farmer of Whitesburg, and J. T. Belue handled this work for TVA in Madison County, working out of the county agent's office much of the time.

With the fertilizer research development of TVA came the cooperative TVA-Extension Test Demonstration program, handled at first by Assistant County Agent S. A. Goodwin. The farm unit demonstrations became a valuable teaching aid and the program is still in operation. At first several entire communities were set up as demonstration areas and it was in this program that the "Whitesburg Area" made its famous valley wide reputation. The wholehearted cooperation of its farm families in the establishment of winter legumes, grazing crops, pastures, alfalfa, terracing and other good farming practices soon had attracted attention throughout the county and valley areas.

In early 1931, before these other far reaching programs had started, "The One Variety Cotton Community Idea" for improving the quality and yields of cotton was started in Etowah County at Coates Bend by County Agent L. L. Self. The idea was grasped in Madison County in February, 1931, at a meeting of County Agent Mitchell, Aaron Fleming,

J. V. Mathews, J. E. Hays and C. A. McClendon of the U. S. D. A. The organization of the Lily Flagg One Variety Cotton Community and the complete organization of all communities in the County that followed them in a few years soon saw the dozens of mixed up inferior varieties of cotton give way to a few superior varieties being grown by almost all farmers of the county.

A few of the other many land marks of progress in Madison County agriculture during the term of service of J. B. Mitchell include:

1. The "Scrub Bull Eradication Campaign" at which scrub bulls were publicly auctioned off for beef and replaced by purebred dairy and beef bulls with bankers and business people donating money to the project.

2. The establishment of a Soil Conservation Association Cooperative that terraced some 90,000 acres of land for Madison County farmers, dug hundreds of ponds and drainage ditches, during the period of its operation from 1935 to 1948. J. L. Daniels, killed in action on Guadalcanal early in World War II, was the first assistant county agent to work full time in this program.

3. The development of the livestock production and marketing industry to the point that Madison County became the leader in North Alabama.

4. The record output of farm products established by Madison County farmers through World War II and years immediately following.

After serving the county for 20 years, J. B. Mitchell retired August 1st, 1948, and was succeeded by L. H. Little, county agent at the present time. D. S. Loyd served as county agent from October 1st, 1950, to September 30, 1952, while Mr. Little was recalled to active military duty during the Korean conflict.

Detasseling of corn by Pfister Associated Growers



Highpoints of the development of the county's Agricultural and Extension Service work during this period 1948 to the present day include:

1. The "More Corn Per Acre" program that included adult farmer, 4-H Club and FFA demonstrations using Hybrid corn, high fertilizer rates and thick spacing to increase corn yields. Dozens of demonstrations have topped the hundred bushel mark during these past few years in spite of severe droughts of 1951, 52, 53 and 54. Corn yields climbed rapidly and phenomenal county average yields of 34 and 37 bushels per acre were established.

2. The promotion of the sheep industry through the medium of a growers organization that made possible cooperative purchasing of ewes and bucks, lamb sales and wool sales. Alex Mitchell, president of the group for the first two years and later State Association President, and other farmers working with him, have seen the sheep industry more than double in size and quality in the past few years.

3. The development of a very active Cattlemen's Association that is the key sponsor of the annual 4-H Club, FFA, FHA Fat Stock Shows in addition to many other activities.

4. The rapid growth of the Madison County Farmers' Association to an annual membership of over 2,200 farmers. The organization has an active group of officers and directors throughout the county that meets once a month and are ever on the alert to seek ways and means to improve the county's agriculture.

5. The establishment of the Farm and Home Development Program in 1954, an intensive farm and home unit demonstration that gives detailed assist-

ance to farm and home makers in working out management systems to increase farm income and family living. This program is being handled by R. O. Magnusson, assistant county agent and Mrs. Oenone A. Cook, home demonstration agent.

6. A constantly growing intensive 4-H Club program being handled by F. M. Patterson, assistant county agent and Mrs. Jo Walker, assistant home demonstration agent. At the present time there are 1,293 girls and 1,073 boys enrolled in 4-H Clubs.

7. The almost complete mechanization of agriculture within the county within the past few years, coupled with industrial growth and their impact on our economy.

8. An ever increasing demand for information from farm and urban people in all phases of Extension work as agriculture and home making problems become more complex. The telephone, newspaper and radio have become an invaluable tool as rapid fire questions on farm topics pour in to the County Extension Agents day after day.

9. Our greatest asset in working toward the solution of the many problems facing our farmers lies in the fine cooperative spirit that has characterized the county since its founding.

#### *Home Demonstration Work*

Home demonstration work may be said to have begun in Madison County in 1911 when tomato clubs for girls were organized. Big Cove School didn't have much luck in creating interest among the girls, so Mrs. T. E. Drake, then a homemaker, enrolled as a tomato club girl and by her example and interest did much toward pioneering in home demonstration

A typical sheep scene in Madison County



work. The work grew very slowly, at first, due partly to transportation problems. In 1916 the women's work was really begun and by 1918 they were having leadership schools which lasted 2 or 3 days twice a year. During these leadership schools two demonstrations were given each day. Some of the subjects which were used, then carried back to the local clubs, where one meeting was held each month, were: Mop Making; Making and Trimming Hats; Designing Dresses; Study of Furniture; Modern Methods of Canning; Clothing; Home Improvement; Poultry and Dairying. There are many human interest stories concerning those early days, for example: The home agent was eager to teach the use of a pressure cooker. Women were afraid to use it. Mrs. Will Nance of Hurrigan, the venturesome soul that she is, consented for the agent to use her pressure cooker in the back yard, but not in the house. Preparations were made, food was in the jars and the canner was faithfully at work while the women watched from afar. Finally an explosion frightened them. The women, with the children and even the dogs, rushed into the house to get away from the 'horrible thing.' After anxious moments of waiting one little boy said, "Mother, I shot a firecracker, did you hear it?" Only then did the women return to see the pressure cooker.

The three day leadership school or training meetings for women were similar to those held for the tomato club girls. They met for three days at a time for lectures and demonstrations on canning, preserving, pickle and jelly making, general cooking and poultry. At one time more than 100 girls from the county attended a meeting. They were from 12 to 18 years of age with an average age of 14. When these women or girls came to Huntsville for the three day leadership school, they were entertained in the homes of various interested Huntsvillians. As early as 1919 the boys' pig and corn clubs were holding short courses of 2 to 3 days in Huntsville. They, too, were entertained in the homes of interested parties.

The County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs for Madison County was organized in 1921, 22, or 23. The State Council was not organized until 1926, which showed there was a County Council before a State Council.

As early as 1922, Home Demonstration Clubs were offering interest-free loan scholarships for girls to attend college. In 1925, Mr. S. Fletcher and Mr. H. Chase were giving scholarships to girls. This scholarship plan has been followed up throughout the years. In 1947 the Council was lending a \$100.00 scholarship to a girl each year. In 1954 and 1955 five girls used Home Demonstration scholarships of \$200.00 each.

These will be repaid as soon as the girls finish school and begin working.

In the early days one Home Agent was in Madison County for a very few months. Then Miss Mac I. Cureton, District Agent for many years, was here for a very short time organizing the work and laying foundations. Except for these two, Madison County has had only four agents, Miss Evelyn Peyton who was here in the 1920's, Miss Elizabeth Deloney here from 1929-1936, Mrs. Lillie Maude Alexander 1936-1947, and Mrs. Oenone A. Cook here from 1947 to the present.

In the early days the Curb Market was sponsored by the Home Demonstration Council and later run by the Curb Market Master and Committees. Originally this was sponsored by the City Council and Board of Commissioners, but now only by the latter.

The first annual luncheons—achievement day programs—were held in the form of picnics at Kildare.

The following was taken from a local newspaper dated July 21, 1919:

### CERTIFICATE OF PROMOTION TO BE GIVEN

The following girls and women will receive certificates of promotion in Home Demonstration work on Monday evening at 8:00 o'clock at the Elks' Theatre. Prof. Butler, County Supt. of Education, will deliver the certificates and address the crowd. All are expected to attend. Too much praise cannot be given the splendid young women for their work. Mrs. C. W. Trotman, Mrs. T. W. Spelce, Mrs. T. E. Drake, Mrs. Ethel Walker Brooks, Misses Eunice Cowley, Lillian Bishop, Lora Tribble, Thelma Newman, Lucille Taylor, Annie Lee Drake, Julia Dunn, Maude Talley, Abbie King, Ruth McLemore, Velora Stephens, Mattie Payne, Margie Jacks, Stella Sibley and Irene Garner.

### NEGRO EXTENSION WORK IN MADISON COUNTY

In 1916 George Patterson became the first Negro County Agent in Madison County. For about two years he rode the countryside in an effort to start "demonstrations" in improved farming methods.

In 1918 W. T. Gravitt was appointed county agent by Thomas M. Campbell, the Negro State Extension Director at that time.

Gravitt traveled by horse and buggy the first year, and many times spent the whole week out in the county with the Negro farmers.

Some of the things he assisted Negro farmers with

were: inoculating hogs for cholera, spraying of orchards, health campaign, building of sanitary toilets, and advocating the planting of Japanese Clover, general farming and mixing of fertilizers.

A home demonstration agent, Lovella Hanna, was appointed to assist Gravitt in working with the Negro farm women. They traveled together to various communities where clubs were organized. During the early years, fifteen 4-H Clubs were formed for Negro boys and girls with an enrollment of 650 youths.

Projects carried by these 4-H Club members were: home improvement, sewing, gardening, canning, pigs, corn and poultry projects.

During the time W. T. Gravitt was county agent (from 1918-1946) meetings were held to bring the agents up to date on latest developments. There were district meetings, state and regional meetings. These were called shortcourses. Regional meetings were held in Tennessee and Virginia.

In 1932 and 1933 Gravitt spent one week of each month in Jackson County working with Negro farmers.

There were seven home agents in the county during the time Gravitt was county agent.

E. C. Dobbs was the district Extension agent for six North Alabama counties with headquarters at Normal. The counties were Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Morgan and Jackson.

A typical week spent with farmers started on Monday by going over the mountain to Big Cove, Berkeley, Little Cove, Gurley, Brownsboro and arriving back home on Friday night.

W. Q. Scott became county agent, February 1st, 1947, shortly following the retirement of W. T. Gravitt. Scott has served continuously to the present date. Working with him most of the period has been a home agent. At present this work is being conducted by Agrippa Davis.

Added in 1954 to the Negro work was the Farm and Home Development Program, an intensive unit approach designed to increase farm income and improve family living. Percy L. Ashford is assisting Scott in the overall county program.

Some of the high points in Extension programs during Scott's term of service include:

1. 4-H Club Fat Calf Shows that include an average of 20 excellent feeding projects.
2. An expanding boys' and girls' 4-H Club program with an enrollment of about 900 active children.
3. A rapidly improving family living including better homes and modern conveniences on the farm and in the homes.

4. "More Corn per Acre" program for adult Negro farmers and 4-H Club boys that has been primarily responsible for increased corn yields.

5. A better balanced farm program, including livestock and poultry along with cash crops.

6. Increased demand for information on farm and home problems.

## MADISON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL TRENDS

The long and vigorous struggle of generations of "stout hearted" farm people over these 150 years has placed Madison County on top as the leading agricultural center of Alabama.

Farm families are justly proud of ranking as the leading cotton production and marketing center of Alabama and the leading beef cattle and sheep production and marketing center of North Alabama. It ranks at the top in production of corn and small grain, certified cottonseed, Hybrid Seed Corn and grass and legume seed. The county ranks as the largest producer in the Southeast of Ornamental Shrubbery and perhaps the most nearly completely mechanized county in the State with well over 3,400 farm tractors and related modern machinery.

The all-time record 84,000 bale cotton crop, worth over \$18,000,000, produced in 1948 was almost reached again in 1953 with a whopping 79,000 bales.

John Hunt, a Virginian and Revolutionary War veteran, came to Madison County in 1805 while on a hunting trip. He was so impressed by the scenic beauty and the fertility of the soil that he built a cabin West of the spring. Here on a small plot of ground cleared from the wilderness, he planted corn and other vegetables.

Early settlers came into the county in large numbers in 1806. For some time these pioneers lived in sumptuous complacency upon the abundant provisions of nature. However, after a time they realized the unusual fertility of the soil and clearing of the land was commenced and corn planted.

Between the years 1805 and 1809 wealthy and cultured slave owners came into the county in large numbers from North Carolina, Georgia and Virginia. This class soon outnumbered the pioneers.

Lands in Madison County were the first surveyed and sold in Alabama. Land purchases were made in Nashville where the settlers traveled by horseback from Huntsville to Nashville. At these sales there were many purchasers who bid in with alacrity these rich lands at an average of \$2.00 per acre, very few bids were for more than that. If the amount bid was paid in cash, the Government discounted the pur-



chase price 8 per cent. Only farm lands were offered at the sales in 1809.

At that time Madison County was covered everywhere with a magnificent forest. The trees were generally of the largest of their species; the Poplar or Lime tree was exceptionally numerous and large and were found in perfection on the best soil. To remove this primitive forest or deaden them was a task of no little magnitude. To cut down and remove the trees from the land was impossible and they were girdled, that is, a circle cutting through the sap was girdled around their trunks. The pioneers found that the best time to perform this task was in August or September, as when girdled at this time their vitality was effectively destroyed, the leaves fell off and were not renewed. The land was fenced before Spring and crops planted. The first year it was not expected that they would produce a good crop as the trees stood so thick that they took a great deal of the tillable land and their roots made thorough cultivation impossible. When Spring opened, the undergrowth shot up in the rich soil and the sprouts were removed with the old fashioned grubbing hoe or mattock that differed from it in having a blade for chopping on the upper end of the implement. For the first two or three years the farms had to be grubbed over acre by acre by which time the sprouts and roots near the surface were gotten rid of and the plowing was less difficult. About the second year the smaller branches of the girdled trees began to fall and had to be gathered and burned in the Spring before plowing could be done. This was no problem at first but when, in course of time, the big Hickory and Oak and Poplar trees began to tumble the mat-

ter became serious and involved a month or six weeks of arduous labor. On large plantations where there was an adequate force of stout men and stouter oxen the work was done by the hands on the plantation but in regions of small farms a cooperative system was introduced and what was termed "log tolling" was the order of the day. It usually was 7 or 8 years before the land was cleared generally of timber.

A fever of cotton planting spread through the South. Cotton became the most important single crop. The level fertile land of Madison County, where corn, wheat and cattle had been raised successfully, was found to be excellent cotton country. By 1816 the Valley of the Tennessee River had become one vast patchwork of cotton plantations. The first statement on record regarding the land of the Tennessee Valley is in the "American Gazette" published in 1816, in which a letter from James O. Crump, a well known merchant of Huntsville at that date, stated he considered it the finest agricultural country in the world and speaks of cotton growing eight, ten and even twelve feet high, with trunks like forest trees and forming a magnificent cone of cotton bolls and white and red blossoms. He says that Madison County then produced 10,000 bales of cotton, but we must recollect that cotton bales of that day seldom reached 350 pounds, yet considering the population it was a magnificent harvest for a country seven or eight years old and at 25 cents per pound was a fine paying crop for the farmer and soon raised land to the highest prices ever known in the county.

Cotton grown at this time was the "blackseed" or naked type with small bolls containing a low percentage of lint. During the second decade of the century,

Cotton On the Square brought to market



as market prices continued to rise, cotton was planted as rapidly as new land could be cleared. Slave trade flourished because of cultivation and harvesting of huge fields. Even the smallest farmers were catching the cotton fever. Less corn and other food crops were being planted.

In 1815 it was quoted that Madison County had 25 cotton gins (5 in Huntsville), the average land produced 1,000 pounds of seed cotton per acre and 800 bales would be the year's production.

Wholesale production of cotton naturally brought lower prices for the now plentiful fiber. Where the average price was 25-30 cents per pound in 1816, cotton brought only 9 cents in 1829.

Mexican type cotton was introduced in 1820 and was a decided improvement over the "blackseed" variety. These bolls were large and when ripe, opened wider than those of other varieties. Yields per acre were greater, easier to harvest. A good picker averaged 200 pounds per day.

In 1816-17 the need for corn became so acute that the product sold for \$4.00 per bushel along the road from Huntsville to Tuscaloosa. The Indians were forced to call upon the Government to save them from starvation.

Land sales of 1818 equaled the California "Gold Rush." Bidding was spirited. The average price paid was \$50 to \$54 per acre, and some farm land South of the River went for as much as \$100 per acre. The Land offices had been moved from Nashville to Huntsville in 1817.

In 1850 Madison County was the first in corn and cotton production and it was among the first in cattle, hogs, sheep, swine and wool. The wheat crop was small in comparison of the product of 1880 and a large amount of flour was imported. The agricultural production of Madison County reached its maximum in 1850. Nearly all of the available upland for cotton had been put into cultivation and the bottom lands were new and fresh and their yield enormous. Our best farmers, while they raised large crops of cotton, also raised corn and wheat in quantities and were also raising considerable crops of oats, beans, and peas. A decline in the price of cotton made it to the interest of the farmer to raise cotton crops on his best land and support his plantation on the rest of his farm. About this time planters whose Negroes were multiplying rapidly began to look westward to the Mississippi basin for a new field of labor and to gradually pave the way for a new system of labor and farming. They had the sagacity to foresee that North Alabama, except on the Tennessee River, could not compete in cotton with Louisiana, Missis-

sippi and Arkansas and began to make investments in the cotton producing areas south and west and to turn their attention to Clovers and Small Grains, to the drainage and improvement of their lands and the reform in farming was fairly well inaugurated at the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. Had the war not come Madison County would soon have been the finest agricultural county in the State. When interrupted by the Civil War the farmers of Madison County were earnestly engaged in the following projects: The preservation of their farms by judicious hill-side ditching and scientific drainage wherever practicable; a change from cotton to small grain, clover and peas; the improvement of grain, clover and peas; improvement of their stock and an intensive system of stock farms to which their farms were well adapted; a road system giving the farming community good turnpike roads to the river and railroad.

Madison County upland soils were badly leached in many cases by 1850 and the many small farms gave way to the large land owners. An ad in the "Huntsville Democrat," dated June 23, 1853, tells a typical story:

"Valuable plantation for sale—having determined to move to Texas—1,440 acres—900 acres cleared. W. C. Jones."

The ruinous effects of four years of war left the people bankrupt, their fences and barns and homes destroyed, their farms grown up in sedge and bushes and washed to pieces by the floods. The labor system was destroyed. When the war closed it was a question of subsistence and not of money making. The farmers found that the cheapest and best method of restoring their land was by sowing green crops and plowing them under. One or two bad crops after the war found the farmer staring starvation in the face and the Government was compelled to come to their aid in the prevention of suffering among the masses. Our most enterprising farmers who had used their credit in purchasing lands and Negroes had their property swept away and were overwhelmed by debt.

In a few years they reclaimed their land and managed to support their families, yet it was impossible for them to improve the lands and carry on their farms as they knew how to manage them if they had been able to make the money to invest in them. They had to go in debt to support their families the first year after the Civil War as they had been discharged too late to make a crop and when they commenced farming the next year they were compelled to make cotton to pay their debts and when cotton went down they had a price for provisions that made it impos-

sible to realize any profit on their crops and for years it was a struggle for them to exist.

Displaced small farmers drifted south to the Black Belt area where they discovered that Black Belt cotton grew to great size and fruitfulness. Cotton became less important in Madison County after the beginning of production in the Black Belt area. Tennessee Valley cotton was full of trash and fiber broken and torn by clumsy handling while the Black Belt planters saw that their cotton was picked, ginned and graded and baled with extreme care. This cotton brought higher prices from the English buyers.

Wage scale paid by planters which was put in force in Madison County in 1864 by the "Freedman's Home Colony":

Minimum Wage

No. 1 Hands, Male, 18-40 yrs. of age,	\$25.00 per mo.
No. 2 Hands, Male, 14-18 yrs. of age,	\$20.00 per mo.
No. 3 Hands, Male, 12-14 yrs. of age,	\$15.00 per mo.
No. 1 Hands, Female, 18-40 yrs. of age,	\$18.00 per mo.
No. 2 Hands, Female, 14-18 yrs. of age,	\$14.00 per mo.
No. 3 Hands, Female, 12-14 yrs. of age,	\$10.00 per mo.

In addition to these minimum wages to be paid by the planter, he was required to take care of the young children of the family hired by him, to furnish without charge a separate house for each family with an acre of ground for a garden and without charge medical care for the entire family, schooling for the children, to sell food and clothing to the employee at cost and lastly to pay for full time unless the laborer was sick or refused to work.

*Huntsville Market Prices, June 29, 1871*

Corn	65¢ per bushel
Corn Meal	75¢ per bushel
Butter	25¢ per pound
Eggs	20¢ per dozen
Hams	14¢ per pound
Clear Sides	12½¢ per pound
Shoulders	10 & 11¢ per pound

In 1880 Madison County produced the largest amount of butter in the State—251,281 pounds. Irish and sweet potatoes were shipped in immense quantities northward bringing good prices.

The cultivation of the vine tomato and small fruits generally for the canning trade was receiving no little attention.

In 1883 acres in cotton, corn, oats, wheat, rye, barley, tobacco and sweet potatoes were 213,221 and 29,879 bales of cotton was produced that year.

In 1886 Madison County had the best exhibit of farm products at the State Fair in Montgomery.

In 1888 the average yield of cotton in Madison

County was 20,000 bales bringing an estimated \$1,000,000.00. Thoughts then were to forsake cotton and adopt livestock raising. Madison County was in that year the largest corn growing county and raised 25-30 bushels of wheat per acre. Madison County had the finest horses and jacks and 100 head of registered Jersey Cattle. Horses, cattle and sheep brought \$1,000,000.00 that year; peas and beans \$50,000.00 and potatoes \$100,000.00. Madison County boasted the largest nursery in the United States with three billion fruit trees.

A look at trends as taken from agricultural census records from 1840 through 1955 brings out some fascinating facts.

In 1840 there were 25,706 people on farms in Madison County when the agricultural development era was hitting its stride. The population gradually increased to some 52,000 people on farms in 1920. The trend changed in the late 30's and in 1950 farm population was back down to 24,170 people.

An enormous crop of 20,000 bales of cotton was produced in 1840 with 8,714 head of horses and mules by about the same number of farm people that produced 84,000 bales in 1918 with more than 3,400 tractors and modern methods.

The county is proud of its livestock industry with 35,600 head of cattle, 900 dairy cows, 10,000 head of sheep and 28,000 hogs as of 1954. In 1840 the county had 23,080 head of cattle, 12,308 sheep and 79,970 hogs! Remarkable improvement has been made in the quality of dairy cows, beef cattle, hogs and sheep, but our forefathers were pioneers in this program in a big way. Due to disease and parasite problems and ravages of the Civil War the sheep population declined steadily from 12,308 head in 1840 to a low of less than 500 head in 1935. The development of new drugs for parasite control coupled with an aggressive

Hampshires



promotional program sponsored by Sheep Farmers, the Extension Service and cooperating County Governing Body, business and professional groups started a rapid growth of the sheep industry from about 1,500 head in the late 1940's to 10,000 head in 1954.

Weekly cattle sales in Huntsville totalling \$50,000 to \$75,000 reflect the great importance of the livestock industry to the county's economy. A little less than half the sales are for cattle produced in the county and the remainder from surrounding Valley Counties. Lambs and wool grossed between \$125,000.00 and \$150,000.00 in 1954. Market hog sales amounted to over \$1,353,000.00 in 1954.

The establishment of a thriving artificial breeding program by dairy farmers in 1952 promises to improve the production of herds in future years at a phenomenal rate. Over 2,000 cows have already been bred and dairy farmers can boast of hundreds of replacement heifers sired by the nation's best proved sires.

Corn, the "fuel" of the past that furnished power to till the soil through workstock, has become an important commercial cash and livestock feeding crop in recent years. A look at the record shows a production of about 1,300,000 bushels in 1840 to a maximum of over 1,600,000 bushels in 1935 produced on 70,000 to 88,000 acres. The acreage and production have changed little through this period. However, with the advent of mechanization, the introduction of Hybrids and high fertilizer rates in the late 40's corn almost suddenly became an important cash crop. Yields averaged 11 to 15 bushels per acre for long periods. In 1948 Madison County farmers set an all-time State record with an average yield of 31.2 bushels per acre. An even higher yield of 37.4 bushels was made in 1950, but was surpassed by two neighboring Sand Mountain Counties. Severe droughts in 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954 lowered average yields, but they were still maintained above 20 bushels per acre.

The severe droughts of these past four years have stimulated a renewed interest in irrigation. Over 900



Crop Dusting Airplane

acres of nursery stock, cotton, corn and pastures were irrigated successfully in 1954. This acreage is increasing several fold in 1955 as new and expanded systems are being installed.

The disastrous effects of the depression in 1929 through the early 30's will long be remembered by Madison County farmers. A long struggle followed. Some relief came with the introduction of a vast governmental undertaking in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration which provided acreage controls, crop leans and later, conservation practice assistance.

When late history is recorded, no greater and more fascinating period can probably be found than the scientific era of 1940 through 1955. Fantastic discoveries and developments have been and are being made each year through agricultural research that are revolutionizing agriculture at a far greater pace than we can realize. When we think of the rapid improvement being made in machinery, plant and animal breeding, feeding, fertilizers, disease and insect control and many other developments; the opportunities that lie ahead are magnificent.

Of all the problems that face farmers today, marketing of surplus products is perhaps the greatest. The ingenuity of American people will doubtless solve this problem in the future as have other great problems been overcome in the past.

City-County Curb Market



# CHAPTER EIGHT

## OUR CIVIC AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

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### ACME CLUB HISTORY

By Will Mickle

The Acme Club was organized in Huntsville on May 13, 1920, as a young men's organization designed to promote the development of the moral, social and commercial welfare of the city.

The five young men who founded the group set forth the club's aim in three words: Service, Courtesy and Action.

Acme Club founders were J. L. Hutton, W. P. Dilworth, W. P. Kelly, D. B. Allen and C. M. Grace. First president was Hutton.

The Acme Club has played a prominent role in the city's civic life in the years which have passed since those young men met for the first time.

Among the club's successful projects are: aided in raising funds for the lighting of Goldsmith-Schiffman Field; held Christmas trees and distributed toys for the poor of the city; placed benches in the city parks and swings in the playgrounds on Monte Sano for children; sponsored minstrels with proceeds going to an educational fund for boys and girls in need; placed a marker at the intersection of Lincoln and East Holmes Streets to commemorate Andrew Jackson's hurried visit here in 1813, and placed many white crosses throughout the county to mark locations of fatal traffic accidents, to the end that other motorists might be reminded of the penalties of reckless driving.

The club sponsors a popular Broadway production on stage each year, with profits designated for charity. Trophies are awarded also each year to the outstanding athletes, on the basis of scholastic, athletic and leadership ability and character, at Butler and Huntsville high schools. The presentation of a calf to some young country farm youth in an effort to encourage the dairy and cattle industry here is another annual event.

There are numerous others year in and year out as the Acme Club joins with other organizations to promote any worthy cause in addition to these specific projects.

Among the Acme members, one will find some of the community's outstanding civic and business leaders even though its age limit is 36 years. Many professions and occupations are represented.

Men who are state and local leaders are among the club's alumni. Many still are called by nicknames assigned in the Acme Club.

Members of the Acme Club, inspired by the past record of their predecessors, in this year of 1955 are determined to do finer service for the community so that membership in the organization will be cherished tomorrow as it is today.

### THE ALADDIN CLUB

By Mrs. W. B. England

When six single girls gathered together for a cup of hot chocolate one afternoon in the fall of 1922 was the beginning of the Aladdin Club. They met at the home of Miss Johnnie Kelly (now Mrs. Cheney) on East Holmes Street and decided they wanted a club which would be known for the good things they do. Before going further with the organization it was decided that each of the six girls present would ask one more girl and these twelve would then be the charter members.

At the next meeting of the twelve members a name was selected for the club and the motto, "Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you," was picked from Madelyn Bridges' "Life's Mirror." The girls selected the name Aladdin because they wanted to do good things for others, although literary programs and many sewing meetings were held.

As far as is known the first twelve members were as follows: Johnnie Kelly (now Mrs. Cheney), Miss Doris Crary, Susie Spragins (now Mrs. James Watts),

Florence Shreeves (who is married and resides in California), Louise Darwin (now Mrs. Johnson), Datherine Green, Lucille McClesky (now deceased), Dorothy Speake (now Mrs. Helm), Josephine Penney, Virginia Harris, Virginia Dilworth (now Mrs. Neely Henry), Hazel Phelps (now Mrs. Walter Jones). Miss Louise Darwin is thought to be the first president.

In the early days of the club a young girl who attended the Church Street Mission, was selected to be educated by the Aladdin Club. This girl was sent to the Martha Berry school in Georgia for four years, during which time the Aladdin Club bought all her clothes, books, paid her tuition and any other expenses. Another time the Club purchased and gave to the Huntsville Hospital a microscope. While the cost was only about \$200.00, that was a great deal of money to be raised by a small group, and Doris Crary, one of the charter members, recalls that a part of the money was raised by making little woven mats and selling them. Also the club rented pillows at the Chautauqua performances each year. Another time Doris recalls that a play entitled "Mrs. and Mr. Polly Tick" was staged by the club and it was a huge success and considerable money was raised.

During the years of the club they have contributed to all drives such as Red Cross, Community Chest, Cancer Fund, Heart Fund, Crippled Children, Tuberculosis, etc., as well as making donations toward the entertainment in the veterans hospital in Tuscaloosa, and hardly a year has passed that assistance has not been given to some lunchroom in the city or county to provide lunches for the underprivileged children. Several years ago the club donated new pillows to the Huntsville Library for the children to use during the story hour each week. Also rolled bandages during the World War II.

At the present time the club membership is limited to twenty and they are perhaps best known for their charity doll and bassinet, which is awarded each Christmas. This project began in 1930 and has become a tradition of the club. The meetings of the club are held on Thursday night in the homes of the members. However, the club disbands during the months from May through September, except for a summer dutch dinner.

The present officers of the club, who will serve from April, 1955 to April, 1956 are as follows: Mrs. Clayton Mercer, president; Mrs. Bill Cummings, vice-president, Mrs. W. E. Miner, secretary and Mrs. W. B. England, treasurer. All money raised by the club is used entirely for charity as they contribute, as always, to each drive, and at the same time aid others less fortunate when calls come.

## B'NAI B'RITH EZONA LODGE NUMBER 238

The lodge was organized with 14 charter members on March 1, 1875, with Joseph Klaus as first president of the organization. Its main object is to care for the widows and orphans of the group.

B'nai B'rith supports the home at New Orleans for aged and orphans, also the old age home at Memphis, a hospital at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and a tuberculosis hospital at Denver, Colorado.

The local membership consists now of 30 members. Abe Pizitz is President, Dave Deubo is Vice President, Louis Miller is Secretary-Treasurer, Norman Shapiro is Warden, and Abe Goldstein is Chaplain.

The Tours Infirmary at New Orleans is supported strictly by Jewish contribution and is opened to all.

The lodge also supports the Cleveland Orphan Asylum, Levi Memorial Hospital at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and the old folks home in Memphis, Tennessee.

## THE CIVIC CLUB COUNCIL

During 1949 the Civic Clubs of Huntsville in an endeavor to coordinate the activities and objectives of the various organizations from a community wide viewpoint organized the Civic Club Council.

The president of each club or his representative attends the meetings of this group and represents his organization on the council.

Among the presidents of the Council since its formation have been: Guy Spencer, Carl Moring, Jr., Harry Rhett, W. E. Popejoy, James E. Davis, Lloyd Cummings, Charles Shaver, W. T. Hedden, Dr. Pat Hamm, Oscar Grosser, and Dave Archer.

## THE COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

The Cosmopolitan Club, known then as the Newcomers' Club was organized on October 7, 1947, by a group of seven ladies who were themselves newcomers to Huntsville. Mrs. E. F. Thomasson was the leader of this group and they met at her house. The charter members were Mrs. Thomasson, Mrs. Henry Anderson, Mrs. Gordon Forbes, Mrs. Walter Orgain, Mrs. William Cartwright, Mrs. Francis Marshall, and Mrs. Sam Snead. These charter members felt that there was a need for an organization which would promote friendship among newcomers and would participate in Civic and charitable drives.

In January, 1948, the first officers of the club were elected. They were: Mrs. E. F. Thomasson, president; Mrs. John Evans, vice-president; and Mrs. L. M. Berryhill, secretary. It was *no longer* possible to hold the meetings in the homes of the club members

since the membership was increasing so rapidly. Therefore, it was decided to hold a luncheon meeting on the first Tuesday of each month in the Blue Room of the Russell Erskine Hotel. Later the monthly business meeting was scheduled each Tuesday following the social meeting.

In December, 1949, the Newcomers' Club became a member of the Civic Club Council and at that time undertook our Blind-made-goods Sale. This has become a yearly project, and two years, 1951 and 1954, they topped the sales of any club in the state. They also sponsor the swimming class for victims of polio. Other club projects are the financing of hot lunches for spastic children and the distribution and purchase of cod liver oil for the underprivileged children. The club plays an active part in all charitable drives and contributes much to the civic affairs of the City.

Until 1953 no member of the club could remain active more than two years following her election to the organization, and the membership of the club had no set limit. However, in 1953 the membership was closed and the present constitution and by-laws were adopted, as well as the new name, the Cosmopolitan Club.

The present officers are: president, Mrs. J. L. Py-lant; vice-president, Mrs. Frederick Sayers; secretary, Mrs. Richard Ely; corresponding secretary, Mrs. William Pennington, Jr.; treasurer, Mrs. Howard F. Thames; historian, Mrs. Lloyd K. Holloway; parliamentarian, Mrs. Robert M. Hubbard; and executive board, Mrs. W. C. Rottenberry, Mrs. Charles F. Prevost, and Mrs. E. E. Camp.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ELKDOM IN HUNTSVILLE

By James Record

The present Huntsville Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was instituted November 21, 1941, and received its charter on July 16, 1942. There were 45 charter members.

This lodge succeeded a former lodge, Number 698, which was instituted May 17, 1901, and which had its charter granted on July 25, 1901. There were 35 charter members in this early lodge.

The 698 charter was not continued after January 1, 1918, at which time Elkdom reached its lowest peak in Huntsville. Due to a succession of financial reverses, primarily incurred by the erection of the \$100,000 Elks' building on Eustis Street in 1906, and by the advent of prohibition, the lodge was unable to keep up payments on the building, and it reverted

to the Garth estate. The Elks' Theater, from its gala opening on November 19, 1907, saw a succession of wonderful events within its confines. Bowling, Theater, Opera, Minstrels, famous lecturers, and many other forms of entertainment at the Theater were the "talk of the town" during the first fifteen years of the twentieth century.

In 1937, the Elks' building was purchased from the Garth estate by Madison County for \$20,000, and is presently being used as a courthouse annex. The old box seats, which sold for as much as \$40 on opening night, have been torn down and the theater section consists of offices.

Since the present lodge Number 1648 was formed in 1941, the Exalted Rulers have been George Mahoney, 1941-2 and 1942-3; Fritz Thomas (deceased) in 1943-4; Charles E. Shaver, 1944-5; Jack Langhorne, 1945-6; R. B. Searcy, 1946-7; Joe S. Foster, Jr., 1947-8; Ed Duffey, 1948-9; Joe S. Foster, Jr., again in 1949-50; Abe Pizitz, 1950-1; Arthur L. Cole, 1951-2; W. B. Snipes, 1952-3; Louis Tumminello, 1953-4; Sam K. Tate, 1954-5; and Joe S. Foster, Jr., for his third term in 1955-6.

Lodge 1648 first met on the third floor of the Struve building at the intersection of Washington and Randolph Streets. During 1947 a disastrous fire burned a good part of the third floor, and the lodge moved its meetings and club rooms to the third floor of the old Postoffice building, located at the corner of Greene and Eustis Streets. The lodge continued to meet there until the summer of 1954, at which time the building owner gave notice that the building would be razed. The lodge moved again, this time to meet temporarily in the Mirror Room over the Central Cafe on Clinton Street. It continued to meet there until November 23, 1954, at which time its \$60,000 modern building was completed on Franklin Street. This building, with its modern lodge and club rooms, is one of the more beautiful homes to be found in America, owned by Elks.

During the term of Abe Pizitz, the lodge purchased a lot on Franklin Street, and later sold it during the term of Louis Tumminello for \$30,000 to the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, which has constructed a new telephone exchange there. The lodge realized a profit of around \$18,000 on the real estate transactions, and immediately began laying plans for construction of a new home. These plans were brought to a conclusion during the term of Sam K. Tate, with the \$60,000 building being built by Snipes Construction Company.

Several of 1648's members have held State honors in Elkdom. Charles E. Shaver, Joe S. Foster, Jr., and



Cosmopolitan Club Officers, reading left to right. Front row: Mrs. David Wartzman, Past Pres., Mrs. Henry Anderson, Past Pres., Mrs. Leland Pyland, Pres., Mrs. Gordon Forbes, Past Pres. and Mrs. E. E. Camp, Past Pres. Back row, Mrs. Charles Ely, Secretary, Mrs. Robert Hubbard, Parliamentarian, Mrs. Wm. Pennington, Jr., Corres. Secty., Mrs. Charles Prevost, Ext. Board, Mrs. Wm. Rotenberry, Ex. Board, Mrs. Howard Thomas, Treas., Mrs. Fred Sayers, Vice-President and Mrs. Lloyd Holloway, Executive Board.

Elks Club Building.





Abe Pizitz have all been honored as District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers, Abe Pizitz has been a State Trustee, and R. P. Mills and W. B. Snipes both have held the office of District Vice Presidents.

B.P.O.E. 1648, as its name implies, has contributed heavily from a charitable and civic standpoint. One year alone, \$3,100 was donated. In addition, year after year, each Exalted Ruler and his staff of elected and appointed officers, have conducted Flag Day, and Newspaper Week ceremonies, sponsored the Santa Pal project, and contributed to the crippled children's clinic. A Boy Scout troop has also been sponsored.

The present lodge membership as of April 1, 1955, was 403, and reads like a "who's who of Huntsville. Plans of the present administration call for the lodge this year to attain the top membership in Alabama, and for continued improvement of the lodge and its physical recreational facilities.

A noteworthy project of the lodge was to send one of its Elk's, who met with unfortunate financial reverses in his declining years, to the Elks' National Home at Bedford, Virginia. This Home gives a person practically everything to his heart's desire. Each lodge pays for its member sent there. B.P.O.E. 1648 spent many hundreds of dollars to maintain its member there until his death.

Dues in the lodge are \$13.75 per year, with an initiation fee being \$50. Meetings are held every Tuesday night at 8:00 p.m. Assets of the lodge exceed \$75,000.

Present officers of the Lodge are Exalted Ruler, Joe S. Foster, Jr., Esteemed Leading Knight, Dick Laughmiller; Esteemed Loyal Knight, W. L. Russell, Jr.; Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Jim Sory; Secretary,

John W. Walker; Treasurer, James Record; Inner Guard, Joe Tumminello; Chaplain, Lawrence Nicholson; Tiler, Tony Pearsall; and Trustees, Sam K. Tate, Chairman, and Louis Tumminello, W. B. Snipes, Arthur L. Cole and Abe Pizitz. R. P. Mills has been Custodian of the lodge since 1948.

B.P.O.E. 1648 offers much to its members. Frequent free meals are held, beautiful game and club rooms are provided, weekly Saturday night dances are held, Bingo is conducted once a week, and kitchen facilities of the most modern type are a feature.

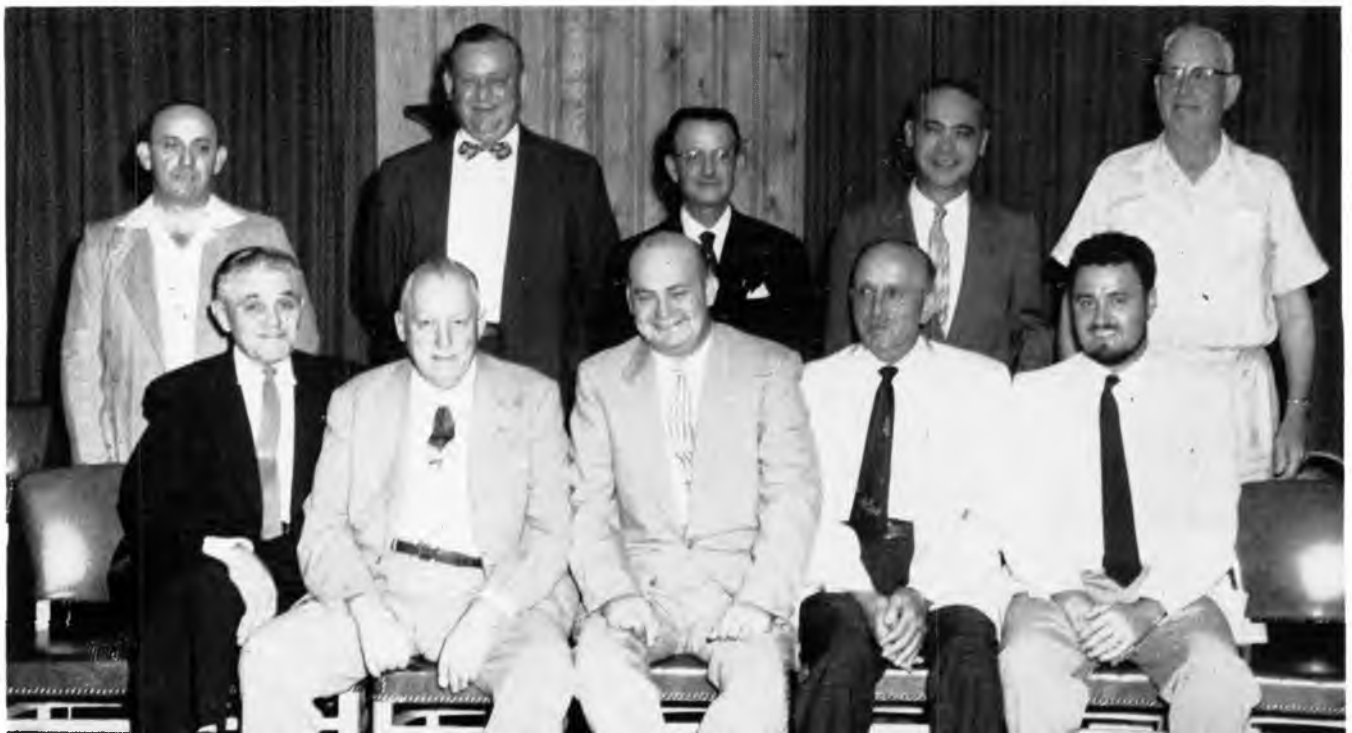
Predictions as to the future of 1648 include the prophecy that it will have over 1,000 members annually within the next ten years; that the building will be expanded considerably within the next ten years, and that some of its officers will receive national offices within the next twenty years. It is believed, too, that in just a few short years, many of the city's civic clubs will be meeting there for luncheons and suppers, due to the club's superior facilities.

## FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE HUNTSVILLE LODGE NO. 6

By Tom Blakemore

The police profession has always been handicapped by low wages, long hours of duty and absence of an adequate pension; other factors, including the lack of a voice through which to express an opinion concerning conditions under which police work, contributed to keeping the profession at a low standard. In addition little, if any, cooperation existed between police of neighboring communities.

Elks Club Officers, reading left to right. Seated, John W. Walker, Jim Sory, Joe S. Foster, Jr., Dick Laughmiller, James Record. Back Row: Joe Tumminello, Sam K. Tate, Louis Tumminello, Abe Pizitz and L. F. Nicholson.



In 1915 a small group of policemen took the first step to correct these conditions, the first step which has today raised the standard of the police profession. They formed an organization through which they hoped to spread their ideas, and named it the Fraternal Order of Police. Their aim was to bond together every police officer of the country in fraternity and friendship, to defend themselves and their interests when attacked, and to maintain all the rights they had coming to them as members of a high profession.

They knew that their aims could be attained only through organization and through the medium of the Fraternal Order of Police they resolved to better conditions and thus attract the best calibre men to their profession.

The foundation having been laid, the idea spread rapidly. Nearby police groups inquired and formed lodges. Although opposition confronted them at all times, the thought expanded into nearby states.

Since the welfare of the police officer is affected by the acts of state legislatures, the need of state-wide organizations was recognized. Local lodges within a state banded together and formed what are now known as State Lodges.

The Order expanded rapidly for a few years, but then came to a standstill. It was realized that in order for further progress to be made a national group must be formed to spread the word and to govern the various groups under rules and regulations agreed to by all. Thus the Grand Lodge came into being.

On October 11, 1949, a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, incorporated in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 14, 1915, and under that charter, Huntsville Lodge No. 6, Fraternal Order of Police, was on October 11, 1949, constituted a subordinate Lodge with full power to work under their jurisdiction at the City of Huntsville, Alabama,

The object and purpose of this Lodge is to instill and cultivate the spirit of Loyalty in its membership and the spirit of Loyal Cooperation with all law enforcing organizations or agencies throughout the state; and by every legitimate means to try to raise the standards of work and service of its members.

Through organization the Lodge has the freedom of mutual interchange of thought and information; and the experience of each become common to all, which always results in a higher development of our intellectual, moral, and social faculties; and which enables us to share in the gains and honors of advancing civilization.

Activities and a set goal are among its objectives. For example: (a) This Lodge is formed for the purpose of promoting personal and efficient cooperation, so that the public may be better served in the consideration of law enforcement. (b) For advancing social, charitable and educational undertaking among law enforcement officers. (c) To more effectively combat crime through unity and concerted action in all matters pertaining to law enforcement. (d) To promote the advancement of crime prevention and detection, through an educational program. (e) To promote a national uniform traffic law. (f) To promote a State wide civil service law and its rigid enforcement. (g) The establishment of a Police pension fund for all cities, counties, boroughs, towns and townships in the state.

The officers of the Lodge are: President, L. D. Wall; Vice-President, James R. Glenn; Secretary, T. L. Blakemore; Treasurer, Wilburn J. Roper; Conductor, Mack Black; Inner Guard, R. H. Latham; Outer Guard, Rufus E. Gattis; Chaplain, Thomas R. Butler; and Trustees, John E. Branum, James E. Pierce, and Floyd L. Emerson.

Among its future plans are to establish a Lodge home, where the Lodge activities can be conducted. The first is to be a Junior Police Club for boys and girls. The boys will be under the guidance of Lodge members, and the girls will be under the guidance of the Ladies' Auxiliary of Fraternal Order of Police, who will use the same Lodge home.

The Lodge meets on the second Tuesday night of each month at 8:00 p.m. At present it meets in the City Court Room of the City Hall Building.

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Huntsville Lodge No. 6, Fraternal Order of Police, was organized in 1949.

One of the highest aims of the organization is the promotion of good feeling among the members and friends in the law-enforcement work.

Sociability is a keynote in the association that they may be useful and beneficial to the aims of the Parent Order. Their aim is to seek to enshrine virtue, and dethrone vice, to suppress selfishness, and lend a helping hand in times of sickness and sorrow.

Nothing in human life can be more enduring than a fraternity like this resting as it does on the device principles of the golden rule.

The present officers are: Anis Anderson, President; Moniz Pylant, Vice-President; Dot McKee, Secretary; May Ola Ray, Treasurer; Clarice Norton, Chaplain; Marjorie Brandon, Guard; and Sue Green and Ann Logel, Trustees.

## THE GRACE CLUB

By Mrs. Wm. Dickson

In the fall of 1914 a group of young ladies from the downtown churches of the city of Huntsville were banded together as an auxiliary to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Y.M.C.A. Meetings were held in the assembly room of the Y.M.C.A. with the wife of the secretary of the Y.M.C.A. as supervisor.

As an initial project the young ladies agreed to help furnish towels and soap for use in the shower rooms and to assist in entertainments open to the public and thus to create further interest in the activities of the Y.M.C.A.

In the spring of 1916 the name Grace Club was adopted and activities of the group broadened to embrace other local and national needs. During World War I members actively assisted in all local celebrations and programs, successfully sponsored the Community sings held on the Court House lawn, worked in the Red Cross bandage rooms on the top floor of the Elks building, were active in Red Cross Canteen work, and invested in War Savings stamps and bonds. The crowning achievement of their war work was the assembling of the names of Madison County's heroic dead on two bronze tablets placed

on monuments of native stones from Monte Sano and unveiled on November 11, 1919, on Whitesburg Drive. "It is hoped that these testimonials of our gratitude to the noble sacrifice of these our boys may ever stand to urge us and those whom come after us on to higher and better things lest we forget the meaning of their sacrifice."

In the summer of 1923 the club became interested in the needs of the Church Street Mission. This work has been successfully continued by the present active Grace Club to the present date.

In the spring of 1947, at the request of Miss Grace Walker, the Grace Club girls we had known in the early days of the activities of the Y.M.C.A. were called together at a luncheon. The purpose of this gathering was to organize the Grace Club Charter group in the hope that they might assist in sponsoring a Junior Welfare League in Huntsville. However, this did not materialize due to the fact that Huntsville was not yet considered a city large enough for such a league.

Since 1948 the group has sponsored a student in Nurses Training and at present is furnishing a scholarship to a student nurse at the University of Alabama.

The Grace Club Charter Group meets quarterly and at a recent meeting the following original poem was dedicated to the group by its author, Mrs. Raphael Semmes:

"God has blessed this group called Grace  
Through long years we can't retrace  
We can see and hear, feel and walk  
Listen and learn, and gosh, we can talk.  
Most of us can answer to the name of grandmother  
We've all been blessed in one way or the other  
So let's stick together and ne'er grow old  
Doing something for somebody—our constant goal."

The present officers are: president, Mrs. Ira M. Ferry; vice-president, Mrs. J. S. Yarbrough; secretary, Mrs. W. G. Dickson; and treasurer, Mrs. Joe Bradley.

### THE GRACE CLUB AUXILIARY

The Grace Club Auxiliary was organized with 35 Charter Members January 14, 1949. The Auxiliary now has an active membership of 50 young ladies and an inactive list of 33 others.

According to their by-laws, every penny taken in is used, not for teas and the like, but to conduct, supervise and aid worthy Civic or charitable enterprises.

They meet the first and third Fridays from September through May at the Country Club, having business meetings entirely, except for two meetings

Grace Club Floats





Grace Club Auxiliary members.

a year at which time they welcome new members into the Club with a luncheon meeting.

A glance at the minutes shows how much this group has accomplished in its comparatively brief history.

In 1949, Mrs. Nathan Porter, President, helped with girls' sewing classes at the Laura Hewlett Center by donating a sewing machine; this same year, the group set up a Campership Fund for Girl Scouts

at the Grace Center, voting to pay the milk bill at the Center, and gave a Christmas party there with clothes as gifts to the needy. At this time, the Auxiliary also adopted a needy family of nine. To raise money for these activities, a Fashion Show was presented and the Horse Show Program was printed.

In 1949 and 1950, President Mrs. Alex Mitchell helped finance a new piano for Huntsville High School, participated in the Family Relations Insti-

Scene from Grace Club Auxiliary Follies, reading from left to right: Guy Spencer, Jack Yarbrough, Alex McAllister, Dr. C. A. Grote, Ira Terry, Bob Lowry, M. D. Anderson and Butler Ragland. Dancing is Ann Pollard.



tute, held a second party at the Grace Center, and started to work on the first of the now famous "Follies." Also, a second Fashion Show was presented.

In 1950 and 1951, Mrs. Pat Richardson, President, by presenting the musical comedy variety show, "Follies of 1951," raised \$18,107.20. Of this sum, \$11,000 was used to expand the Children's Ward at Huntsville Hospital. Another \$4,277.50 was used to pay half the cost of an X-Ray Machine at the Hospital. The Optimist Club paid the remaining half of this bill for the X-Ray Machine. Another Fashion Show was presented this same year and the group continued to pay the Grace Center's milk bill, fill stockings and decorate the Children's Ward at Christmas.

In 1951 and 1952, Mrs. Joe Walker, President, supplied materials for the spastic group in town and financed the weather-stripping of windows and doors at the Spastic School at West Clinton Grammar School. A bingo party was held this same year to help raise funds for the various charitable projects. From the Children's Ward Fund, the Auxiliary bought an incubator and scales for the Children's Ward. During this year, the group voted to start a fund for the Rehabilitation of Handicapped Children in Madison County.

In 1952 and 1953, President Mrs. W. H. Johnston led the Auxiliary in its activities, and it was during this year that the group decided to build a Crippled Children's Center in Huntsville. In March of 1953, the Auxiliary produced the "Follies of 1953" which netted \$9,854.54 to go toward the building of the proposed Center. The Fashion Show held later in the year netted \$899.14 for the Center. This year, the Auxiliary also gave a refrigerator and an oxygen tent to the Children's Ward, and sent volunteers to each Crippled Children's Clinic which was held here by the State Crippled Children's Service. Another step made during the year toward the building of the proposed Center was the selection of architects to draw an adequate clinic.

In 1953 and 1954, the Auxiliary, under the leadership of Mrs. Archie Hill, Jr., obtained a lot for the Crippled Children's Center in January; sold coffee to raise \$531.41 for the Center, air conditioned the Children's Ward at the Hospital, and in December, produced the "Follies of '54," which netted \$7,609.99 for the proposed Center.

In 1954 and 1955, under the leadership of Mrs. John Lary, added \$1,000 of the Club's General Fund to the Center Building Fund, bringing the total raised by the Auxiliary itself for the Center to \$19,422.20. Then, along with the Alabama Society for

Crippled Children and Handicapped Adults, Inc., the Grace Club Auxiliary let the \$41,493 contract for and work began.

In addition to the above-listed activities, the Auxiliary, in 1953, 1954, and 1955, conducted a fundraising campaign for the Center and obtained a \$5,000 grant from Madison County and \$10,000 from the State Society for Crippled Children and Handicapped Adults. Another \$10,653.37 from other Civic Organizations, clubs, business firms and individuals was raised.

The total of \$44,075 was, therefore, raised for the Crippled Children's Center for which the Auxiliary has expressed sincere gratitude to the numerous donors.

In addition to the special projects of its own group, this organization has contributed each year to the following: March of Dimes, American Red Cross, Family Life Conference, and Community Chest.

The officers for the following year are as follows: President, Mrs. Hugh Doak, Jr.; Vice-President, Mrs. Charles A. Crute; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Roscoe Roberts; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Frank Moring; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Bill Callaway; Treasurer, Mrs. Edgar Clift.

## THE HOSPITALITY CLUB

By Mrs. J. J. Murray

In the early part of the year 1953 twenty-nine ladies met at the Russel Erskine Hotel in response to a notice placed in the Huntsville Times asking all newcomers interested in furthering hospitality and friendship to meet together. Among those present was Mrs. E. C. Jackson who was representative of the National Hospitality League. The league was interested in sponsoring a newcomers group and the group that day accepted the offer of the league.

At this first meeting the Reverend George Hart was guest speaker. Mrs. Herman Libbe was elected president, Mrs. Ralph Doner, vice-president, Mrs. Robert E. Gorman, secretary, Mrs. C. Holt Dyess, treasurer, Mrs. Ellery May, Hospitality chairman, Mrs. Robert Goss, publicity. The club was organized with thirty-three charter members with honorary membership extended to Mrs. Ernest Jackson, Mrs. William Fowler, Mrs. R. B. Searcy, Jr., and the wives of the ministers of the city.

Since its activation the club has offered numerous activities to its members; bridge, canasta, sewing, arts club's first project was collecting old toys and useful and crafts as well as taking part in civic work. The Club first project was collecting old toys and useful

items for the children at the Huntsville Hospital. In September of 1953 a benefit bridge luncheon and style show was given. Many projects and drives of the city have had the assistance of the club. The Christmas holiday season of the first year was celebrated with a dinner dance attended by over one hundred members and guests. Since several dances have been given by the club with great success.

The second year continued to show growth under the capable leadership of Mrs. R. H. Erkel, president; Mrs. John Hagerman, vice-president; Mrs. D. C. Rutledge, treasurer; Mrs. Chester Savelle, secretary. Many members have taken advantage of the opportunity to learn bridge through classes taught by Mrs. Tom Weaver, Mrs. A. A. Touchstone and Mrs. J. L. Edmondson, and other instructors.

At present the officers of the club are Mrs. J. B. Bennett, president; Mrs. David H. Newby, vice-president; Mrs. Floyd Stephens, secretary; Mrs. Ullman, treasurer. New residents are still invited to become a part of the club and enjoy the bridge-canasta luncheons the last Wednesday of each month at the Yarbrough Hotel. The membership fee is \$2.00 yearly and upon becoming a member the ladies are eligible to take part in any club activities.

### THE ALTRUSA CLUB

The Huntsville Altrusa Club was organized December 11, 1947. Mrs. Carolyn Smith, Birmingham, Alabama, and at that time Third District Governor, met with a group of twenty women on the night of December 11, 1947, for the purpose of organizing the Huntsville Altrusa Club. The Club was presented its

charter on the night of February 4, 1948, with the following officers in charge:

Mrs. Irene Jones, President; Miss Virginia Wilson, Vice-President; Miss Eunice Darwin, Secretary; Miss Hettie Garvin, Treasurer; Mrs. L. F. Nicholson, Board Member for one year; Mrs. Joel Bradford, Board Member for two years. The new officers were installed by Mrs. Smith.

Representatives from other civic club who attended the dinner were: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thrasher, Acme Club; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Grace, Lions Club; Mr. James Wall, Exchange Club; Mr. and Mrs. Clem Lloyd, Salesman's Club; Mrs. R. C. Burkhardt, Pilot Club; Charles Smith, Civitan Club; Mr. and Mrs. James Record, Y's Mens Club; Mr. and Mrs. Edward McGregor, Optimist Club; Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Gillispie, Kiwanis Club; Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Whitfield, Rotary Club; Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Nicholson, Business and Professional Womens Club. Other guests present were: Dr. P. D. Warren, Mr. James Elkins, Mrs. Tom Gibson, Dick Laughmiller, Mrs. Elizabeth Shadel, Mrs. R. C. Campbell, John O'Neil, Ralph Pearsall, Dr. H. O. Walker, Miss Jessie McKenzie, Mrs. J. E. Pierce, P. C. Noble, D. B. Moose, James Johnston, Alvin Dreger and Mrs. Carolyn Smith.

In the Initiation Ceremony performed by Mrs. Smith, the following were received as Charter Members: Mrs. H. O. Walker, Mrs. Elizabeth Beamguard, Miss Hettie Garvin, Mrs. Davis Steger, Mrs. Dick Laughmiller, Mrs. Ralph Pearsall, Mrs. Percy Noble, Mrs. Dorman Moose, Miss Eunice Darwin, Miss Eugenia Smith, Miss Nancy Pierce, Mrs. James L. Johnston, Mrs. James Wall, Mrs. Joel Bradford, Mrs.

Altrusa Club Officers, reading from left to right: Mrs. Paul Lawler, Mrs. Burns Kelly, Mrs. Davis Steger, Mrs. Irene Jones, Mrs. Hammond Carpenter, and Mrs. Mary Derryberry



Irene Jones, Mrs. A. L. Hipp, Mrs. L. F. Nicholson, Dr. Varina T. Warren, Mrs. J. L. Anderson, Miss Virginia Wilson.

The first Altrusa Club was established April 11, 1917, in Nashville, Tennessee. Pioneer of Service Clubs for executive and professional women. Its purpose is to provide a main channel through which women leaders in business can work together as a powerful force to help solve Community programs. The root word for Altrusa was derived from the Latin word "Alteer," meaning other and the Italian word "Altrui," meaning "of" or "to Others"—Mr. Webster defines the word Altruism—regard for and devotion to the interest of others.

The motto is "Patriotism, Efficiency, Service." Altrusans always place emphasis on the worthwhile things of life. The club is made up one one-of-a-kind. Altrusa Clubs are located in Bermuda, Canada, Great Britain, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States.

Other presidents of the Huntsville Club have been: Mrs. J. L. Anderson, Mrs. Elizabeth Beamguard, Mrs. A. L. Hipp, Dr. Varina Warren, Miss Eugenia Smith. Mrs. Davis Steger is serving as president at the present time.

### THE HUNTSVILLE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

Motto: "Better Business Women for a Better Business World." Colors: Green and Gold. Meetings: Russel Erskine Hotel at Dinner each second and fourth Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs began as a war measure in 1917. The need for coordinated woman power as well as man power became evident, and Secretary of War, Newton Baker, sent out an urgent call to make this woman power available as a war effort. A National Business Woman's Committee was appointed by the Secretary of War. These eleven women were to supervise the work of organization and report to the Secretary's office. However, the war closed before the task was completed and as a post-war project it took on new significance. The National Business Woman's Committee divided the country into five districts and put a qualified organizer in each district. Soon local clubs and state federations were formed.

A convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri, July, 1919, with 212 delegates from the various states attending. Four hundred outstanding business and professional women from all parts of the country were in attendance. President Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury William A. McAdoo, and Secretary of the

Navy Josephus Daniels wired congratulations and encouragement. By the third day the group had a name, a constitution, and a definite program for the future. It also had a president, and an official publication which was later named *The Independent Woman*. It had legislated on several matters which indicated the trend the new group would take. For example, it had urged the opening of all Civil Service examinations to women as well as men, and has asked that official rank be given to all nurses who served in the World War.

The Alabama Federation was effected by Miss Annie V. Lynch of Birmingham. Miss Lynch attended a meeting in New York in 1918 the purpose of which was to discuss the foundation of a national organization of business and professional women. Upon her return she canvassed the state and succeeded in organizing four clubs. Representatives of these four clubs met with Miss Lynch and a National Representative in Birmingham in May, 1919, and a state federation was effected. Five members of the Alabama Federation attended the July, 1919, convention in St. Louis.

Miss Ita Stocks of Gadsden, second president of the Alabama Federation, came to Huntsville in August, 1922, for the purpose of organizing a Huntsville

Katie Sanford Jones, charter member and First President of Business and Professional Women's Club.



Business and Professional Women's Club. She met with the following group who are the founders or charter members of the Huntsville Club: Katie Sanford (Jones), Janie Davison, Nell Butler, Mrs. J. R. Thompson, Cornelia Powell, Mabel Fraker, Alice Lanier (Young), Billie Barrier (Grote), Mamie Mastin, and Katie Hay. These women to whom the local club owes so much are all living in Huntsville at the present time except Cornelia who left Huntsville a few years ago to make her home in Birmingham. Miss Stocks is still an active member of her local club in Gadsden. Katie Sanford was made president of the new club, Janie Davison secretary and Nell Butler treasurer.

The Huntsville group moved slowly and cautiously for some time. The membership was limited to 25 and there was a feeling that in that number should be included only women who would catch the vision and go forward with the ideal proclaimed in the club motto. New members were added gradually and the group began to look about for some service to do in order to justify its existence. That opportunity came when a young woman student in a business college was severely burned. The Huntsville B. & P. W. Club solicited funds to provide nurses for her care, Huntsville people responded so generously to the appeal that the club was not only able to provide nursing but had funds enough to help pay doctors and drug bills as well. This experience gave the new club confidence and recognition as a group willing and able to be of service to the community.

#### CONVENTIONS

The Russel Erskine Hotel opened January, 1930, and in May of the same year the Huntsville B. & P. W. Club had the honor of being hostesses to the first convention held in the new hotel. Evelyn Gates was president of the local club and Janie Davison was general convention chairman. This was the largest convention of the State Federation to date. Social features included a luncheon and banquet at the hotel, a barbecue on the mountain and a breakfast at the Country Club. The State Bulletin had this to say about the Convention. "The twelfth convention of the Alabama Federation was decidedly the best one yet held. The attendance was by far the largest; the representation was more nearly complete; the program was splendid . . . the entertainment—well each club outdoes the last—Huntsville hasn't been beaten yet."

The local club was again hostess to the State Convention in 1939. It was a good convention and the guests were enthusiastic over the accommodations and

the entertainment. The convention was saddened by the death, on the opening day, of Eugie Nance, a valued member and former president of the Huntsville club. She had served as State chairman of the health committee and had won for the state the trophy.

Because of restrictions on travel during the war years a State Federation Board meeting was held in Huntsville in 1945 in lieu of the annual convention.

The twenty-eighth convention of the State Federation was held in Huntsville May, 1947. Lillie Maude Alexander, a former president of the local club, was reelected president of the State Federation after having served the previous year. The history of Alabama Federation of B. & P. W. Clubs has this to say about this convention: "The Huntsville Club proved wonderful hostesses; one enjoyable feature of the entertainment was a guided tour of historic Huntsville."

#### PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Pratt Scholarship Fund is a project of the Alabama State Federation. It was established in 1922 and was named for John J. Pratt, the inventor of the typewriter, who had lived most of his life at Centre, Alabama. All clubs in the state contributed to this fund and any girl may apply for a scholarship loan through a local club. The Huntsville Club has secured loans for a number of girls, some of whom later became valuable members of the club.

The Huntsville B. & P. W. Club was the first woman's organization to accept the challenge issued by the Treasury Department of the United States to sponsor the sale of War Bonds, November, 1912, in a War Bond Drive sponsored by the Huntsville B. & P. W. Club \$106,000 worth of War Bonds were sold. This was more than double the quota of \$50,000 set for the club.

The Huntsville Club has sponsored the Cancer Drive, the March of Dimes and many other community projects. As a member of the Civic Club Council B. & P. W. Club is always represented at the meetings.

The club sponsored a girl scout troop, bought uniforms for underprivileged girls and sent several to camp. It assisted the Madison County Health Department in buying a survey chest X-Ray machine, and has put aside a sum of money to be used for equipment for the new Huntsville Hospital when completed.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The membership limit was removed by the Huntsville Club in 1926 and the club now has a membership of 84, representing many types of business and



professions. The Alabama State Federation includes 42 clubs and a membership of approximately 2,000.

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs can boast of federation in each state and in Hawaii and Alaska with a membership of more than 165,000.

In 1930 the International Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs was organized at a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Lena Madison Phillips, second president of the National Federation of United States, was elected president. The rise of dictatorships halted the activities of the B. & P. W. Clubs in Europe. Dr. Phillips did much to keep the spark of life glowing and in 1946 a meeting of the board of the International Federation was held in Brussels, Belgium, which was attended by twelve national federations. The International Federation again became a "going concern."

At present three members of the Huntsville Club are officers of the State Federation.

The B. & P. W. Club collect, now used by many Women's organizations, was written for the National Federation by Mary Stewart, a charter member and present at the 1919 convention in St. Louis.

Officers for 1955-56 are: president, Miss Eugenia Smith; first vice-president, Miss Lucy Green; second vice-president, Mrs. Daphne Venable; recording secretary, Mrs. Jane Bentley; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Marion Pollard; treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Milam; custodian, Miss Jessie Hopper; parliamentarian, Miss Lottie Lamberson; and auditor, Mrs. Eula Elliott.

## THE HUNTSVILLE KIWANIS CLUB

By W. E. Popejoy

The Huntsville Kiwanis Club was organized on June 25, 1919, and granted a charter July 14, 1919, but due to the inability of the International Officials being present at that time it was officially presented November 20, 1919.

The Huntsville Club was the third club to be chartered in the state of Alabama. It has been host to three Alabama District Conventions and two of its members, Senator John Sparkman and Kenneth Thomas, have been accorded the honor of serving as District Governors. Dwight Weeks and W. E. Popejoy have served as District Secretary-treasurer.

The following are the first officers, directors and the charter members of the club. The officers were: Clarendon Davis, president; W. L. Denham, first vice-president; R. W. Young, second vice-president; T. N. McAllister, treasurer; and J. B. Van Valkenburg, secretary. Directors were: M. W. Hutchens, E. L. Love, C. D. Llye, R. E. Smith, and W. H. Weakley. Charter Members were: L. Aitken, J. S. Andrade, R. T. Raugh, C. E. Baxter, J. C. Beene, R. C. Bigg, D. S. Blackwell, Carl Brown, E. D. Burwell, J. F. Chambers, J. D. Champion, Sam Damson, George Darwin, C. H. Davis, Carey Gamble, J. M. Gill, L. B. Goldsmith, C. L. Hackworth, Banres Howell, H. M. Hughes, W. T. Hutchens, Herbert Johnson, Thomas W. Jones, W. F. Jordan, E. P. Dingsberry, Frank Mastin, Luke Matthews, Jr., A. W. McAllister, S. P. Metcalfe, D. C. Monroe, Edmund Monroe, Paul Monroe, W. P. Nicholson, G. N. Robinson, N. C. Roe, John Scott, S. S. Thompson, S. L. Weil, Dr. I. B. Wyatt, and W. M. Yarbrough.

Kiwanis Club Officers, reading from left to right: front row, W. E. Popejoy, Phil Peeler, Joe Swing, Dick Van Valkenburg, Oscar Grosser. Back row, Cecil Mitchell, Lloyd Little, Hugh Wasson.



The motto of Kiwanis is "We Build."

Its membership is composed of Business and Professional men. Persons eligible for membership are required to be owners or managers in their line of business.

The Huntsville Club since its inception has been active in civic affairs. As early as the Spring of 1920, the first attempt to raise money for the underprivileged was made through the "Humbug Circus," which in a small way was a success.

Realizing the great need for some fire protection in our old hospital, which was a frame building and badly in need of a sprinkler system, the club took this as an objective and put on a minstrel show and was successful in achieving its objective, and has among its records the Certificate of Appreciation issued by the Hospital.

In 1921 the club staged its first Minstrel, "The Jollies of 1921," making a net of \$700.50; 1922—718.08; 1923—\$1,131.84; 1924—\$1,554.34 from "Frolics of 1924." The Kiwanis Minstrel Review, 1926, net proceeds, \$1,166.22; and "Jollies of 1927," proceeds, \$249.09.

The club has during the years sponsored a Negro Football game annually and in 1946 it had an Auction sale of "Hard To Get Items" on the square, which netted more than three thousand dollars. For the last few years the club has sponsored a Circus.

The major projects of the club have been: 1. Work with underprivileged children. 2. Safety patrols in the schools. 3. Agriculture work with 4-H Club boys and girls.

Until the Alabama Society for Crippled Children was organized a number of boys and girls, who were physically handicapped were rehabilitated at the expense of the club, and many crooked limbs and other defects were corrected and these boys and girls were able to take their place in life and compete with other boys and girls. Since the organization of the Alabama Society for Crippled Children the club has continued to make annual appropriation to the organization and through the matching of funds many more children have been reached than could have with only the funds available through the club.

In 1935, a twelve-acre site was purchased by the club on the river near Moore's Mill, buildings were built and equipment purchased for the operation of a camp for underprivileged boys. Since that time a camp has been in operation annually for boys and during the present year a 10-day camp for girls, with an organization set up for making this an annual activity of the club. Several of the boys who are men today have met with the club and expressed their

appreciation for what the camp meant to them in so far as making them realize they had a place in life, and with the proper adjustments have become successful business men.

The camp facilities are not only used for camps sponsored by our club, but has been made available to churches, scouts, YMCA, 4-H Clubs and other organizations for their camp activities, and is in use during the entire camping season and from time to time, including winter months, by Scout Troops and other worthy organizations at no cost other than replacing broken dishes, etc.

Each boy and girl attending the camp sponsored by the club becomes a "Buddy" or a "Little Sister" to a Kiwanian, who counsels and works with his "Buddy" or "Little Sister" in the future or for at least one year.

We have sponsored Safety Patrols in our schools for the last nineteen years and as the result of this work, during the period of construction and operation of Huntsville and Redstone Arsenals we have not had a single death because of an accident within the Safety Patrol Zones. The members of our patrols are under the supervision of the principal of the school and an officer furnished by the city. The work of these patrols is supervised by our Committee along with the officer and at the end of the year the club sponsors a program with the members of our patrols and principals of schools having patrols as guests, at which time the Outstanding Patrol and Outstanding Patrolman are awarded Medals and Trophies for services rendered. The medals go to the individuals and the trophies to the schools. These boys are furnished flags, belts, raincoats, etc., at the expense of the club.

Our work with the 4-H Boys and Girls consist of a corn program to encourage a higher yield per acre and since the year 1936 the club has awarded annually a registered Jersey Heifer to a worthy 4-H Club Boy or Girl.

The recipient of the first heifer increased his herd and operated a grade "A" dairy in the county during his high school days and upon graduation from high school moved to Auburn and carried his dairy herd, which he cared for while attending college and in this way helped him in a financial way. The first heifer calf from each heifer awarded becomes the property of the club and is awarded another worthy 4-H Club boy or girl. Practically every 4-H Club member awarded a calf through this chain has succeeded with his project and today a number of grade "A" dairies are in operation in the county because of the interest created through the Kiwanis Club

Dairy Calf chain, and many of these recipients have made an outstanding record in college and their projects have been carried on by their parents, brothers and sisters while away.

Recipients of Jersey Heifers have been: Eugene Stevenson, Jim McCown, Geneva Nunley, Clayton Spencer, Martha Voekel, Ruby Clay, Barbara Wilke, Ben Moring, Kenneth Garner, Tommy Raby, and Judith Hemphill (awarded this year).

Recently because of the success with the Jersey Chain the club has started a Holstein Chain and a Hereford Chain.

Glenn Buford received the first calf in the Holstein link. His cow did very well in milk production, averaging 48 to 50 pounds of milk per day. Glenn will start to high school this year.

Bill and Bob Taylor was awarded the first calf in the Hereford Chain. The cow has since calved having a heifer calf which is about 5 months old. Both of these boys are in high school.

Another most worthwhile project of the club was to encourage the organization of a band in the Huntsville High School and in the year 1939 along with our other projects we undertook to be responsible for more than \$2,000.00 for this purpose and were successful in turning in approximately \$2,500.00 on this project.

A list of past presidents of the club are as follows: Clarendon Davis, (1919); Bob Pulley, (1920); W. L. Denham, (1921); David Grayson, (1922); C. A. Grote, (1923); T. N. McAllister, (1923); Herbert Johnson, (1924); L. O. Erwin, (1925); Joe Van Valkenburg, (1926); Dr. W. S. Mims, (1927); Ashford Todd, (1928); Ira M. Terry, (1929); John J. Sparkmen, (1930); J. O. Henkel, (1931); J. E. Kelly, (1932); M. U. Griffin, (1933); Mason Brown, (1934); Dr. J. L. Jordan, (1935); J. D. Thorton, (1936); Cecil V. Fain, (1937); J. B. Mitchell, (1938); Dr. J. O. Baits, (1939); Kenneth Thomas, (1940); R. P. Geron, (1941); Reuben Chapman, (1942); Merritt Wikle, (1943); H. E. Monroe, (1944); Walter Price, (1945); James H. Terry, (1946); James Watts, (1947); C. M. Gillespie, (1948); Guy J. Spencer, (1949); Elbert J. Parsons, (1950); W. E. Popejoy, (1951); C. N. Buchanan, (1952); Charles E. Shaver, (1953); R. P. Van Valkenburgh, (1954); and Oscar Grosser, (1955).

The present officers of the club are: Oscar Grosser, president; Dr. D. J. Butterbaugh, first vice-president; Joe Swing, second vice-president; P. W. Peeler, treasurer; and W. E. Popejoy, secretary.

Directors are: Clarence E. Cobbs, Walter Eigenbrod, William H. Johnston, Lloyd H. Little, Tom

G. Thrasher, Hugh Wasson, Cecil C. Mitchell, and R. P. Van Valkenburgh, immediate past-president.

A roster of present club members is as follows: Edward Anderson, Nathaniel Almon, Dr. Milton D. Anerson, J. C. Beene, Reverend John H. Bonner, George D. Brown, C. N. Buchanan, George S. Butler, Dr. D. J. Butterbaugh, M. M. Cantrell, J. L. Chambers, Reuben Chapman, Clarence Cobbs, George P. Cooper, J. Homer Grim, Dr. N. E. Cowart, Hugh K. Doak, Woodrow E. Dunn, Walter Eigenbrod, Dr. W. B. England, Dr. John W. Evans, Cecil V. Fain, R. P. Geron, B. F. Giles, C. M. Gillespie, R. H. Gilliam, Oscar Grosser, Dr. Carl A. Grote, J. B. Hatch, Norman P. Harberger, J. Carroll Hay, A. W. Hill, Sr., Archie W. Hill, Jr., Dr. Alvin H. Hopson, Herbert Johnson, William H. Johnston, Judge Thomas W. Jones, Dr. James L. Jordan, Thompson Kelly, Dr. John D. Lary, J. M. Lewter, Lloyd H. Little, George Martin, James P. Mullins, Philip M. Mason, H. E. Miller, Dr. W. S. Mims, Cecil C. Mitchell, J. B. Mitchell, D. C. Monroe, H. E. Monroe, Dr. John D. Moorman, Carl A. Moring, Dean S. Murphree, Harry Nance, John W. O'Neal, Joe Payne, J. Lowry Orgain, Judge Elbert H. Parsons, Phil W. Peeler, Marcus B. Pender, Claude H. Pipes, W. E. Popejoy, Nathan F. S. Porter, Walter J. Price, C.

Kiwanis 25 year members, reading left to right: James Terry, Herbert Johnson, Jack Yarbrough and R. H. Gilliam.



Butler Ragland, Dr. H. W. Ritchey, G. N. Robinson, Jr., Tom Sanford, John S. Scott, Charles E. Shaver, Lewter Sparks, John J. Sparkman, Guy J. Spencer, B. A. Stockton, Jr., James M. Striplin, L. F. Sullivan, Joe Swing, James Sheetz, Ira M. Terry, James H. Terry, Tom G. Thrasher, Judge Ashford Todd, R. P. Van Valkenburgh, Reverend Harry Wade, Jimmy Walker, Hugh Wasson, James F. Watts, Merritt Wikle, Horace T. Woodall, J. S. Yarbrough, Walter Wiesman, Robert Lowry, Graham Everidge, Dr. Robert A. Sammons, and Emmett W. Newton.

## HUNTSVILLE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

By Mrs. Lee A. Russell

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. This does not limit the activity of the League to its own members, on the contrary, the league constantly reaches out into the community to develop the responsibility of all its citizens.

The cross section membership—representing as it does all social, educational, economic, political and religious groups—is the best assurance that positions taken by the league on governmental issues are in the interest of the community as a whole and not just a set group of people. The Huntsville League of Women Voters has membership representative of every voting precinct in the county with the exception of one.

To carry out the purpose of the League, the mem-

bers work steadily for an understanding of the structure of the government on all levels: local, state, and national. On each level of government the League adopts a program of current issues for their concerted action. After one year of study they may then, and only then, take action either for or against the issue concerned in the study.

The League believes that the privilege of citizenship carries responsibilities with it. The unique purpose of the League is to help the individual citizen meet these responsibilities, to help them understand the issues and to act upon them, and to show him that his opinion really counts.

The Huntsville League of Women Voters is a direct outgrowth of a group of women who call themselves "The Women's Citizen Club." In cooperation with the Home Demonstration Clubs of the county they had as their main interest the clearing up of the voter rolls throughout Madison County. The Women's Citizen Club affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the United States on May 11, 1952, and were recognized as a full local League on April 22, 1953, less than one year later. The Huntsville League of Women Voters was one of the few leagues in the history of the organization to receive recognition so early.

The original officers and directors of the League in Huntsville were: Mrs. Hammond Carpenter, President; Mrs. Lee A. Russell and Mrs. W. O. Grimwood, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Shelby Taylor, Secretary; Mrs. Cecil Fain, Treasurer; and Mrs. A. L. Smith, Mrs. C. D. Boartfield, Mrs. Joe E. Cooper, Sr., and Mrs. Helen Sanders were directors. Mrs. Carpenter resigned as President on October of 1952 and was suc-

First Officers and Board of Directors of Huntsville League of Women Voters: Seated, left to right, Mrs. W. O. Grimwood and Mrs. Hammond Carpenter. Standing, left to right; Mrs. Shelby Taylor, Mrs. Cecil Fain, Mrs. Helen Sanders, Mrs. Joe E. Cooper, Sr., Mrs. A. L. Smith, Mrs. Lee Russell, Mrs. C. D. Boartfield.



ceeded by Mrs. Lee A. Russell who served as President until April, 1955.

The present officers and directors are: Mrs. Donald I. Graham, President; Mrs. Herman Libbe and Mrs. A. L. Smith, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Joe Troupe, Secretary; Mrs. Alvin Lang, Treasurer; Mrs. David Chichester, Mrs. William Gifford, Mrs. James Doane, Mrs. Gertrude Stewart, Mrs. Lee A. Russell, Mrs. Reggie Miree, Miss Marie Moore, Mrs. John Noe and Mrs. Bruce Robinson, Directors.

The Huntsville League has to its credit four of its members who have served as state directors. They are: Mrs. A. L. Smith, Mrs. C. D. Boartfield, Mrs. James Doane, and Mrs. Lee A. Russell.

Some of the League's activities are as follows: (a) In cooperation with the candidates the League has placed watchers in nearly all elections. (b) Members have appeared before two Grand Juries reporting election law violations resulting in fifteen indictments. (c) Gave 4,000 volunteer hours at the Madison County Board of Registrars during the heavy registration of early 1954 following the abolition of the cumulative feature of poll tax. (d) Made a complete survey of the city government which is now used in many schools. (e) Took first public action in supporting legislation permitting city water expansion through the sale of bonds. (f) Received a commendation from the League of Women Voters of the United States for having the outstanding voter service record of the entire organization. (g) Received a commendation and was presented the American Flag from the American Legion Post 37 for "its efforts in voter service work, especially for unceasing efforts toward clean elections in Madison County."

On the State level the League took a leading role in such activities as the abolition of the cumulative features of poll tax.

Under the directorship of Mrs. Lee Russell the League on a state level is at present working on a board program of improving registration procedures and the removal of dead persons and non-residents from the voter rolls of the state.

Some of the topics of study on a national level are: The United Nations, Foreign Trade and its Effect on World Security, The National Budgetary Procedures and Possible Means of Improvement, and a study of Constitutional Liberties.

## THE HUNTSVILLE LIONS CLUB

By George Culps

The Huntsville Lions Club was organized July 1, 1938, and chartered with twenty-one members. These members were: Frank Bryan, Jr., Hall Bryant, L. G.

Collier, Robert H. Crates, W. E. Davis, T. E. Dowell, Herbert E. Farrish, president, Herman Giles, R. A. Lewis, William G. McGaha, F. J. McGahey, C. J. Owens, W. H. Pollard, Dudley Powell, Morgan Pruitt, John Rodenhauer, Richard W. Schiffman, Jack Smith, L. G. Smith, secretary-treasurer, A. E. Swenson, and Hubert Williams.

As of July 1, 1955, there were 89 members on the club roll.

One of the first activities of the Club was to start a movement to pay off the bonded indebtedness on the Huntsville-Madison County Hospital, which was accomplished with the help of other civic clubs and civic minded citizens.

The next year, after organizing, the club asked for the Alabama Lions State Convention to be held in Huntsville and this was accomplished.

Next, the Lions Club purchased and gave the iron-lung to the Huntsville-Madison County Hospital. It also bought and donated a resuscitator to Huntsville and Madison County, which was placed in the custody of the Huntsville Fire Department for emergency use.

Paramount among the Lions Club various activities is its sight conservation work. The club has furnished hundreds of pairs of glasses to the underprivileged, both children and adults. This work is done mainly through the cooperation of the Madison County Welfare Department and the doctors of the community. The club also pays for corrective eye operations and treatments for these underprivileged. The group also contributes to the Alabama Sight Association which is sponsored by the Alabama Lions.

Also noteworthy are its contributions to all worthwhile charities and civic projects, such as the Community Chest, Y.M.C.A., Red Cross, Heart Fund, Cancer Society, Arthritis Fund, March of Dimes, Family Life Conference, Pee Wee Football, Boy's State, School Lunchroom Programs and many other worthwhile civic projects. This past winter the Lions Club, through the cooperation of the General Shoe Company of Huntsville, bought and distributed approximately 200 pairs of shoes to needy children of the county. The Lions Club also sponsors Boy Scout Troop Number 17, in the Butler Terrace area.

The Huntsville Lions Club has the following annual money raising projects: 1. A broom sale each spring; proceeds go into the Sight Conservation Fund. 2. A festival (carnival) at the Big Spring Park each summer—money goes into the Welfare and Activities fund. 3. A light bulb sale each fall—funds go into the Welfare and Activities fund. 4. Lions Club Scales—these pennies go into the Sight Conservation Fund.

5. Lions Club Gum Machines—and these go into the Welfare and Activities Fund.

Public acceptance to these financing projects has been very gratifying and the Lions appreciate the confidence and help from the public in helping carry out their many activities.

During the past eight years the club has published a weekly bulletin called "The Lions Roar" with reports of club activities, humor, philosophy, and write-ups about the members. It is distributed to the entire membership and to Key Lion officials. John Garrison was editor of the bulletin from 1948-1953 and Tom McDonald, the present editor from 1953 to date.

The 1955-56 officers of the club are: G. Walton Hughes, president; A. C. Kimrey, first vice-president; J. T. Uptain, second vice-president; Dr. L. A. Davis, third vice-president; Morton Allen, secretary; C. B. Corlette, treasurer; A. B. Smith, Jr., Lion Tamer; Glenn Slayton, Taitwister; Francis Hinckley, Ed Dennis, E. C. Jackson, Jesse Anderson, C. M. Russell, and Sam C. Broyles, Directors. Past presidents: W. L. Certain, Jr., John P. Garrison, Dr. Henry Anderson, M. L. Weil, Jr., Charles O'Reilly, Jr., T. A. Blackwell, J. D. Wigley and William G. McGaha.

The Huntsville Lions Club is honored in having one of its members elected District Governor of Lion District 34-B in the State organization. He is Lion Mortie L. Weil, Jr. Lion George T. Culps is serving as his Cabinet secretary-treasurer. The Huntsville Club has also had the honor of having another District Governor, Douglass C. Martinson, with Lion John P. Garrison serving as his Cabinet secretary-treasurer, for the year 1951-52.

The roster of members of the Huntsville Lions Club is as follows: Morton Allen, John A. Alford, Eugene Anderson, Dr. Henry Anderson, Jesse Anderson, Dr. William Austin, Dr. L. H. Becraft, T. A. Blackwell, Lawrence W. Brock, Everett S. Brooks, Sam C. Broyles, Franklin Bryson, W. T. Bullard, W. L. Certain, Jr., John L. Clark, Earl Cloud, Otha E. Colvin, C. B. Corlette, George Culps, M. W. Clements, Joe Davis, Dr. L. A. Davis, Edward Dennis, Joe Eaton, James Elixson, Daryl D. Firestone, Kyle Frazier, Jerome Fogg, Albert Fuqua, Thomas Futch, John Garrison, David Goble, Lionel Greenwood, Harvey C. Hagan, Foster Haley, Lloyd Hayes, Dr. L. B. Hewitt, Francis Hinckley, Kenneth Holder, Robert Hollingsworth, Robert Hooker, Albert Hooper, Dr. Bruce Hovis, C. D. Howard, Jr., Ben Hughes, Walton Hughes, Francis Jacks, E. C. Jackson, Fred Kelley, Charles Jennings, Willis Johnson, A. C. Kimrey, Jr., Willis Kimrey, L. L. Laxson, Clem P. Lloyd, Francis W. Marsh, R. O. Magnuson, Tom McDonald, William McGaha, Virgil Mitchell, Charles Mohr, T. E. Morgan, Roger Nance, Charles O'Reilly, Hoyt B. Rainey, Lyndon Robinson, Guy J. Reynolds, C. M. Russell, Chester Savelle, C. E. Sims, Glenn Slayton, Donald Spencer, Claude Sturdivant, A. B. Smith, Jr., Dr. Charles L. Smith, Walter Stone, F. W. Taylor, M. L. Thomas, Robert F. Thrower, Jr., Thomas Truscott, J. T. Uptain, Hoke Wallace, V. V. Wade, Gus Weeks, M. L. Weil, Jr., J. D. Wigley, Jr., Carl A. Williams, William L. Woodis, E. Wooten; Members in Military Service: Gil Kinser, B. B. Semmes. Club Musician: Miss Georgette Graham.

Lions Tom McDonald and Walton Hughes (President) along with Lion Donald Spencer advertising Huntsville's Sesquicentennial during Lions International convention parade at Atlantic City, N. J. in June, 1955.



## THE HUNTSVILLE LIONESSE CLUB

By Daisy Culps

The Lioness Club was organized on September 10, 1951, by Mrs. C. D. Howard, Jr., E. C. Jackson and Mrs. C. B. Corlette.

The first officers were: Mrs. C. D. Howard, Jr., president; Mrs. E. C. Jackson, first vice-president; Mrs. John Garrison, second vice-president; and Mrs. M. L. Thomas, secretary-treasurer.

Directors for two years were: Mrs. G. B. Crowley and Mrs. Donald Spencer, and directors for one year were: Mrs. A. C. Kimrey, and Mrs. L. A. Davis.

The charter members of the club were: Mrs. Henry Anderson, Mrs. Alvin Blackwell, Mrs. C. B. Corlette, Mrs. G. B. Crowley, Mrs. L. A. Davis, Mrs. Jack Dilworth, Mrs. Tant Dowell, Mrs. Joe Eaton, Mrs. James Elixson, Mrs. John Garrison, Mrs. Lloyd Hayes, Mrs. C. D. Howard, Jr., Mrs. Ben Hughes, Mrs. Walton Hughes, Mrs. E. C. Jackson, Mrs. A. C. Kimrey, Mrs. Alice Komorowski, Mrs. Guy Reynolds, Mrs. Donald Spencer, Mrs. M. L. Thomas, Mrs. J. T. Uptain, Mrs. M. L. Weil, Jr., Mrs. Carl Allen Williams.

The object of the club is to promote a closer relationship among wives of Huntsville Lions Club members, and to cooperate and assist the Huntsville Lions Club, in its projects.

Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Monday nights.

The club's main project is to pick up, launder, dry clean and sort used clothes at the Welfare Department to be furnished needy families.

## THE ROTARY CLUB

The Huntsville Rotary Club was organized on November 12, 1917, at a meeting held in the Twickenham Hotel. Those present were Francis Tappey, E. H. Grosser, E. V. Caldwell, H. B. Chase, J. H. Pride, E. R. Gill, W. R. Hutton, W. L. Lyle, W. L. Halsey, W. I. Fletcher, R. C. Johnson, Robert Murphree, Joseph J. Bradley and T. W. Pratt. Officers elected were Dr. Francis Tappey, President; Eugene R. Gill, Vice-President; and Professor R. C. Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer.

In April, 1919, the club charter was granted, being the first U. S. small town to receive the Rotary charter. The original basis of membership—limited to one man from each business and profession in the community—still exists. The first Rotary club in the world was organized in Chicago on February 23, 1905, by Paul Harris and the first meetings rotated

to different members' places of business, hence the name "Rotary." Today there are over 8,715 Rotary Clubs in over 72 countries, with over 411,000 members. General objective of all the clubs are the same—the development of fellowship and understanding among the business and professional men in the community, the promotion of community betterment endeavors and of high standards in business and professional practices, and in the advancement of international understanding, good will and peace.

In the year of 1955, the Sesquicentennial of Huntsville, the Golden Anniversary of Rotary International and the 38th birthday of the Huntsville Club, it is significant that the original group of 19 has been increased to 115.

The Huntsville club now has one honorary member, Brigadier General H. N. Toftoy. Other honorary members have been Rev. Francis Tappey, the first President and organizer, and Cyrus McCormick, the Harvester manufacturer. Past Presidents of the club chronologically are: Francis Tappey, E. R. Gill, W. R. Hutton, Joseph J. Bradley, M. R. Murray, T. W. Pratt, Dr. E. V. Caldwell, Q. B. Love, A. M. Booth, F. H. Ford, W. A. Stanley, L. P. Cohen, C. S. Boswell, Dr. M. R. Moorman, W. L. Humphrey, M. B. Spragins, W. B. Whitfield, Earl R. Ford, A. W. (Gus) White, K. A. Woltersdorf, George Elliott, A. L. Hipp, J. P. Moore, T. P. Gates, George Mahoney, Tom Galloway, Henry McKelvie, H. J. Forbes, Jack Langhorne, Dr. T. S. Gibson, F. H. Thomas, F. K. Noojin, Carl T. Jones, H. M. Rhett, Jr., J. E. Davis, H. B. Chase, W. T. Hedden, and the president during Golden Anniversary celebrations, Dr. W. M. McKissack.

Officers for the current year are: W. L. Halsey, President; John Frey, Vice-President; George Hart, Secretary; John Lawrence, Treasurer; and Directors, Dr. W. M. McKissack, Carl Woodall and Roy Blackburn.

There are two original charter members still active, Dr. E. V. Caldwell and Henry B. Chase. These men did an outstanding job as co-chairmen of the Golden Jubilee Committee.

The Huntsville Rotary Club has met in the following locations: Twickenham Hotel, 1917; Basement Huntsville High School, West Clinton Street, 1918; Rotary Club rooms over Farmers State Bank, South Side Square, 1921; Rotary Club rooms, Elks building, 1923; Methodist Church Annex, 1926; and the Russel Erskine Hotel from 1930 to date.

The records of the club have been preserved intact from the beginning and are bound in twelve volumes to insure their further preservation.



Installation Banquet and Roy Hickman Day for Rotary of Huntsville. Incoming and outgoing officers at the front table are Dr. Wm. McKissack, Helen Acuff, Martin Phillips, Rev. C. M. Hart, Jack Guthrie, Roy Blackburn, Will Halsey, Carl Woodall, John Frey, Jimmy Taylor, Ted Hedden, J. D. Hays, Rev. T. E. Flynn (visitor) Col. John Lawrence, Leon Archer and Roy Hickman, Third V/P of Rotary International.

Activities of the Rotary Club have been numerous in practically every phase of community life. They have sponsored and participated in the following, mentioning only a few: Bond Drives in both World Wars; good roads; public utility improvement; encouragement of new industries; hog and cattle projects and such activities as the Community Chest, Red

Cross and a host of other charitable organization drives.

During the "Golden Year," projects of the club included establishment of a Nursing Scholarship, Rotary Club road signs, Hearing Aid Program, Transportation for the Spastic Clinic, and formation of a Rotary Ann Club. The club, when called on for a

Naturalization Ceremony for 109 new Huntsville citizens, mostly German Scientists and families, sponsored by Huntsville Rotary Club.





ten per cent increase in membership during this year, responded with an increase from 87 to 115. Another interesting note during the Golden Year was notation of cancellation on letters with the Rotary marker of over two million cancellations in less than four months.

Perhaps the outstanding civic accomplishment of this year, however, was sponsorship of "New Citizenship Day." The club was successful in obtaining naturalization ceremonies to be held in Huntsville and over 100 persons were naturalized at Huntsville High School because of these efforts of the Rotary Club. Witnessing the ceremonies were over 1,000 persons, and at a reception and buffet supper held that night, over 450 persons were guests of the club, calling to give their regards to the new citizens and to the Rotarians for undertaking the project.

Further illustrating the international viewpoint taken by members of the club was the sponsorship of a program by "Madison International," featuring foreign students of Jacksonville Teachers College giving descriptions of their home countries, and performing with their songs and dances. During this same program a moving picture was shown which gave the dramatic story of the birth of the Rotary Club and illustrating its progress to date.

### THE HUNTSVILLE ROTARYANN CLUB

The Rotaryann Club of Huntsville was organized April 26, 1955, as one of the Golden Jubilee Projects of the Huntsville Rotary Club. Dr. W. M. McKissack, president of Huntsville Rotary Club, and Reverend George Hart had charge of the organizational meeting. There were 24 ladies present at this meeting

and the following officers were elected: Mrs. W. M. McKissack, president; Mrs. E. V. Caldwell, vice-president; Mrs. O. F. Gay, secretary; Mrs. J. O. Lawrence, treasurer; Mrs. Carl T. Jones, member of board; Mrs. James E. Taylor, member of board.

This is a ladies luncheon club which meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Blue Room of the Russel Erskine Hotel. Only wives of Rotarians are eligible for membership. The present average attendance is 54.

The aims of the Rotaryann Club are to assist the Huntsville Rotary Club and to promote projects of its own.

### HUNTSVILLE SERTOMA CLUB

By James Record

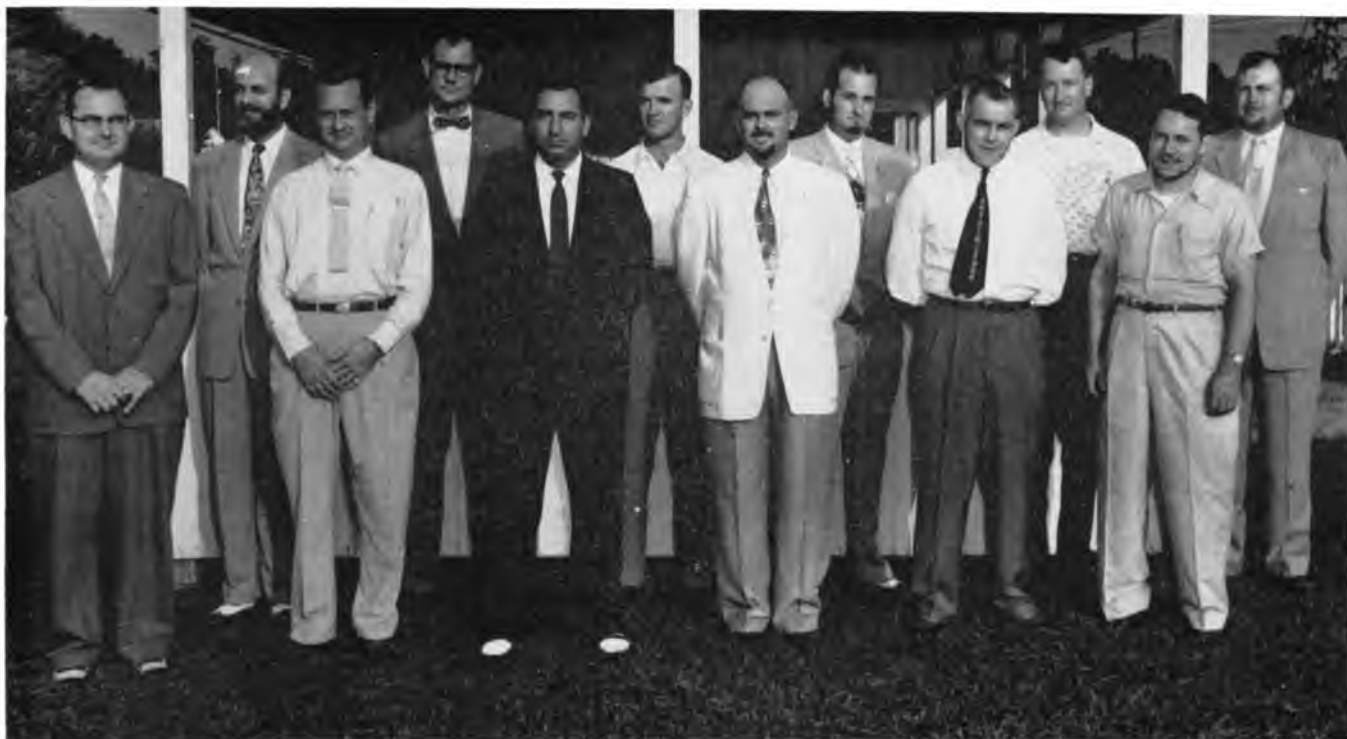
The Huntsville Sertoma Club was chartered on August 7, 1953, with the following officers: president, Dr. Pat Hamm; vice-presidents, David Archer, Jack Ivy, Dr. Grady Huckaby; secretary-treasurer, Charles E. Hopper; sergeant-at-arms, Macon Weaver; Directors, Milton Cummings, Billy J. Jones, William Daroren, Milligan Bullard, Dr. H. L. Cockerham, and Joseph Whitlock.

The name Sertoma is derived from the words "Service to Mankind," which indicates the purpose of Sertoma.

This club has concentrated its work on youth. Its main projects have been: establishment and operation of a "Youth Employment Service." This is an employment office with no fees involved. The Sertoma Club furnishes office space, equipment, telephone, etc., and hired a young girl to run the office, and the office hired teenagers out to various firms.

Sertoma Club train in operation at Big Spring Park.





Sertoma Club officers, reading from left to right: Dr. Wm. Arendale, Dave Archer, Howard Gentle, Macon Weaver, Marty Scott, Dave Butler, Dr. Woody Miller, Ed Allen, Bill Cousins, Owen Hammett, Homer Corum, and Clyde Hale.

Another project is the miniature train. Individual members signed notes and raised money in this way only and purchased the train and built the station. No money was solicited from anyone to pay for the train. The \$1,500 investment will be given to the city after proceeds pay off the notes, and future profits will be earmarked for a kiddieland park surrounding the train.

The club meets every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Fox Restaurant.

There are 32 members in the club. Present officers are: Macon Weaver, President; Dr. William Arendale, Dr. Willard Miller, and Fulton Hamilton, Vice-Presidents; Owen Hammett, Secretary; Homer Corum, Treasurer; Howard Gentle, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Dave Butler, William Cousins, Clyde Hall, Martis Scott, Ed Allen, and Rod Chamberlain, Directors.

Shrine Club fire engine. Shriners, from left to right, are Kenneth Buford, Dorsey Uptain, Vance Thornton, Dr. Wm. McKissack and Doug Ray.





Shrine Initiation Day.

## THE HUNTSVILLE SHRINE CLUB

By Dorsey Uptain

The Huntsville Shrine Club was chartered on August 9, 1918, with the following officers: John O. Broadway, president; James E. Bradley, vice-president; and John W. Walker, secretary-treasurer.

Charter members were: James Apostolos, Robert Baker, R. E. Blai, James E. Bradley, B. L. Bright, John O. Broadway, Herbert Carroll, Leo Cohen, Charlie Cozelos, Hugh Enfield, D. Carson Finney, Joe S. Foster, Jr., W. Thomas Galloway, Thomas S. Gibson, Ben F. Giles, Harry Parker, Henry C. Pollard, C. Butler Ragland, Herbert Ray, Robert C. Shelton, Lester L. Sparks, Fritz H. Thomas, S. Shelby Vaughn, Oscar O. Wall, Abe Goldstein, Emmett G. Gray, Harold E. Haber, Jr., W. Henry Hilson, Andrew L. Hipp, Raymond O. Hipp, William Hooper, Carroll D. Hudson, James E. Hughes, Hollis G. Ingram, Carl J. Jackson, W. V. Jones, Arnold Kay, Jack Langhorn, Clifton O. Mann, Jr., Phil W. Peeler, Walter J. Price, Hugh O. Ramsey, Charles S. Roberts, Thomas M. Snipes, Benton A. Stockton, Vance J. Thornton, John W. Walker, Maurice J. Weinstein, James A. Mann, Robert L. Mann, Wilson G. Mann, George R. Maples, Gordon Maples, Tracy McClure, Minor E. McGaha, Ellis L. Merritt, E. Payne Miller,

Louis Miller, Mace C. Mincher, Horace Moses, Stanley Myerson, Harry Owen, L. Dillard Owen, Abe Pizitz, Joyce B. Pullen, Coyle Ray, James V. Roe, Walter B. Snipes, D. Milton Tate, Dorsey C. Uptain, Jesse G. Wall, James A. Williams, Jr.

The group meets on the fourth Monday night each month at 7:30 at the Russell Erskine Hotel as its usual meeting place.

The club's annual Palm Sunday Paper Sale is one of its finest charitable activities. It actively supports the Crippled Children's Center, the National Crippled Children's Hospitals and the annual Crippled Children's Clinic. In addition the club sends various Crippled Children to Shrine Hospitals for treatment.

## LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE HUNTSVILLE LODGE 1007

By Joe Edwards

The lodge was organized June 26, 1919, in the Dallas Y.M.C.A. Building with 100 charter members.

The first officers were: Dr. A. M. Shalamer, governor; Charles Smith, Past governor; A. Price Aycock, junior governor; H. F. Carter, prelate; John Clark, treasurer; and secretary B. B. Bray. The trustees were: Paul Means, Jere Evans, and H. N. Mullins.

The membership has increased to 350 members



Moose Lodge building.

over the years. A meeting is held each Monday night at 8:00 P.M. at Moose Home.

Since organizing the Moose Lodge has purchased a permanent home on Four Lane Drive (5th Avenue) and its plans are to build larger permanent building to begin this year. The present building is air conditioned.

The present officers are: J. E. Edwards, governor; W. P. Goodwin, Junior governor; H. N. Mullins,

past governor; John Rist, prelate; Roy K. Fletcher, secretary; Rex Moyers, treasurer; W. G. Simpson, Lawrence Vance, and O. H. Pylent, trustees.

The purpose and aims of the lodge are first. It is a family fraternal organization dedicated to helping promote Local Civic Welfare and to build a better community. It also is interested in maintaining and caring for The Child City in Mooseheart, Illinois, between 800-1000 children of departed members,

Charter members of Moose Lodge in 1949.



along with their mothers reside here. A complete education, trade, college education for each child is offered. Each boy and girl leaves Mooseheart with a trade most suited to him or her and bank account or scholarship to some University.

Maintaining Moose Haven, Florida, is also provided for. This is a home for members over 65 years of age and is located on the St. Johns River in Orange Park, 14 miles from Jacksonville, Florida.

Both Moose Haven and Mooseheart have laboratories staffed by the best doctors available. Each has created world wide attention in the field of research. Mooseheart has the healthiest children in the world and Moose Haven has the healthiest people over 65 years of age.

The Women of the Moose, Chapter No. 1255, an Auxiliary to Huntsville Moose Lodge, meets on the second and fourth Thursday nights at the Moose home at 7:30 P.M.

## THE OPTIMIST CLUB

By Ed W. Dickey

The Huntsville Optimist Club was organized in 1947 with 36 charter members.

The club meets each Tuesday night for dinner at 7 P.M. in the Russel Erskine Hotel ballroom.

Their slogan is "Friend of the Boy." An expanding program of activities uses this theme of help to youth as both an impetus and a goal.

Throughout the eight years in Huntsville, the Optimist Club has to its credit many accomplishments.

In 1949 the old Dallas Ball Park was bought for \$3,000. An additional \$13,000 was spent in installing lights and improving the park. The debt was liquidated in 1953. During that year the club turned over operation of the park to the City of Huntsville.

In 1949 also, the Optimist Club sponsored the "North Alabama Air Show" and grossed \$8,000. This was one of the largest air shows ever produced in Alabama for the estimated audience was a crowd of 40,000 persons.

The first "Optimist Horse Show" was given in 1952. A similar show has been given each year since. This exhibition has become one of the nation's outstanding one-night shows and draws topnotch horses and horsemen from a wide area.

Each year "Optimist Week" is observed. During this time Optimists visit high schools in order to make talks about the club's activities and Boys' Work Program.

Another annual event which has been started is

the Bicycle campaign. This was first sponsored in 1954. The purpose was to encourage young bicycle riders to put their vehicles in good shape and to observe the rules of riding in traffic. With the help of city P.T.A.'s 500 bicycles were checked and corrected. Stickers were given to the young riders to show they had passed the necessary requirements for both safety and skill.

As a part of work for boys a \$500.00 scholarship for a local youth was set up several years ago. To date four young men have been educated at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute in Auburn. The last one to receive this scholarship was graduated the spring of 1955.

For several years a Junior Optimist Club has been active in Huntsville. A new one was organized in 1954 through the West Huntsville YMCA with 40 members.

There are now 65 members in the Huntsville Optimist Club. Present officers are: E. W. Dickey, Jr., president; Milton Frank, 1st vice-president; Hugh Chapman, 2nd vice-president; Jack Giles, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Joe Cooper, secretary-treasurer.

## OPTI-MRS. CLUB

By Doris Hardwick

The local Opti-Mrs. club, an auxiliary of Optimist International civic club, had its first meeting in the spring of 1951 at the home of Mrs. Herman Vann, Locust St., in the form of a shower for one of the local Optimist members whose house had burned.

Mrs. Vann and Mrs. W. G. McCown were instrumental in forming the local organization, which was organized at a covered-dish luncheon meeting in October, 1951 at the home of Mrs. McCown, and the following officers were elected: Mrs. W. P. Dilworth, Jr., president; Mrs. Herman Vann, vice-president; Mrs. Charles Bentley, secretary; and Mrs. Edward Rolfe, treasurer.

In keeping with the Optimist's motto of "Friend of the Boy", the Opti-Mrs. is a "Friend of the Girl". Its objective is to intensify the interest of its members in the social, civic and educational affairs of the community, to aid the Optimist club in any of its activities when called upon, and to assist worthy young girls.

From money raised through annual dues and such various fund-raising projects as Bingo parties, food and rummage sales, and auctions, the Opti-Mrs. have filled baskets for needy families at Christmas time, have given clothes showers to needy senior high school girls and paid their graduation fees, have

paid the expenses of senior class trips to New York for seven girls—two from Huntsville High School and five from Butler High school, and helped with the summer tuition of a worthy girl at the University Extension Center here.

The club has sold chances on a Bride Doll, with the total receipts going to the Crippled Childrens' Center which is sponsored by the Grace Club Auxiliary. It has helped with the organization of the Mothers' March of Dimes campaign, contributed money to the Flint TB Sanatorium fund and the Mental Health program, and given the money for a worthy Girl Scout to go to the Scout summer camp.

At the present time, Opti-Mrs. is offering a three-year nurses' training scholarship, to be awarded to a deserving girl interested in becoming a nurse.

Opti-Mrs. has come to the aid of their Optimist husbands in entertaining and registering visiting members of the 11th Optimist District meeting here, promotion of their annual horse shows, and their annual family picnics at the Kelly farm at Jeff, Ala., their Christmas and installation parties.

For the past two years, Opti-Mrs. has entertained the husbands with a colorful St. Patrick's Day buffet supper and dance.

The club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at a luncheon at the Hotel Russel Erskine. For the first two years, the meetings were in the form of covered-dish luncheons at the home of various members.

Its past presidents are Mrs. W. P. Dilworth, Jr., Mrs. Joe Cooper, Jr., and Mrs. E. E. Camp. The present officers are as follows: Mrs. Emmett Rodgers, president; Mrs. Clyde Dublin, vice-president; Mrs. William Hollingsworth, secretary; and Mrs. John D. Acuff, treasurer.

## THE PILOT CLUB

By Ernestine Stone

The Pilot Club is a classified service club for business and professional women and is non-partisan and non-sectarian. Membership is determined by classification and by invitation: two members being permitted for each business or professional classification. Members must be self-supporting women of good moral and business standing.

The name Pilot was chosen because it means "leader and guide." The Pilot Emblem is the Wheel, which has always been an important element in industry and commerce, as well as a vital factor in human progress.

The Pilot Colors are green, representing "life and vigor" and gold, representing "sincerity of purpose."

The objects of a local Pilot Club are to develop a keener sense of service, encourage a more thorough understanding among all business and professional women, and the participation in any movement that improves the moral, civic or industrial welfare of the community in which it is located.

The Pilot Club of Huntsville was organized in 1939. It received its charter December 9, 1939. Mrs. Klee Hix, of the Pilot Club of Birmingham was District Governor, and presented the charter to the Huntsville Club.

Charter members were: Miss Anne Clark, Catherine Dunnivant (Mrs. Raymond Reeves), Mrs. Louise Fleming, Mrs. Buford Gatlin, Miss Will Gaines, Mrs. J. S. Gowan, Thelma Green (Mrs. Jesse Patterson), Sara Erwin (Mrs. W. P. Hix), Miss Susie Mae Hopper, Miss Georgia Holmes, Mrs. William Kelly, Anne Kelly (Mrs. William Hornbuckle), Miss Berniece Lawler, Mrs. Ed Moore, Mrs. George Newman Robinson, Jr., Mrs. L. G. Smith, Miss Virginia Shelton, Ernestine Stone (Mrs. Howard Osborne), and Mrs. Vance Thornton.

Pilot Club officers, reading from left to right: Mrs. Wm. Hix, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth McLain, Mrs. Gladys McNutt, Mrs. George Culps, Mrs. Essie Thomas, Mrs. Agnes Gatlin, Mrs. Edna Mazy, Miss Annie Merts Walker, Miss Ruby Brazelton, Mrs. George Butler, and Miss Helen Lawler.



Mrs. J. S. Gowan was the first president of Pilot Club of Huntsville.

The first thing the Pilots undertook was the sponsoring of a contest to discover Huntsville's most eligible bachelor. With the help of the Civic Clubs the following were contestants: Civitan, Lawrence Nicholson; Business & Professional Women, Gordon S. Pruitt; Kiwanis, Jack Chambers; Acme Thomas W. Jones, Jr.; and Lions Club, Jeff Smith. The campaign ended in the coronation by our Mayor A. W. McAllister, at a very impressive ceremony of Thomas W. Jones, Jr. as the winning bachelor. The net proceeds from this contest were used to help pay for four more beds for Madison County patients in the Morgan County Tuberculosis Sanitorium.

The club contributed to the hospital drive, sponsored by the Lions Club, and to the nursery school, sponsored by the Huntsville Grace Club and sponsored, in cooperation with the W.P.A.'s recreation projects, a Pilot Park playground located on McClung Street, which became the gathering place for the youth of the surrounding neighborhood.

It also cooperated with the local Chamber of Commerce in raising funds for the erection of "Welcome" signs on the highways leading into Huntsville.

At Christmas each member dressed a doll for Santa Pal and assisted in filling baskets to be distributed by Santa Pal.

The club has made a contribution to the Red Cross each year as a club and contributed individually as members.

In April 1941, the convention meeting for District No. 2 (all Alabama Clubs) was held in Huntsville with the local club as the hostess club. The convention was opened with a tea at which a number of Mrs. Clopton's cobweb paintings were shown, proving of great interest to our visitors. A banquet and dance were held, and following the breakfast the next morning our visiting Pilots were taken on a tour of the sites of interest around Huntsville and Monte Sano.

A resolution was adopted by the Pilots urging the completion of the Airline Highway, copies of which were sent to the Governor and the State Highway Director.

Pilots have ever been interested in defense and war work in all the phases of its progress and development. We contributed to the U.S.O. and served as hostesses with other civic clubs to entertain the visiting soldiers who were in our city, at the Service Club.

Following the Pilot International program of live and health, the club has furnished cod liver oil to undernourished children and have paid for the neces-

sary dental work of children who would not have been able to have it done.

The Pilots conducted a campaign in Madison County to collect old silk and rayon hose for the Athens College Hosiery Mille, which was about to close due to the freezing of raw silk. Mayor McAllister declared a silk stocking day, and with the able assistance of the Huntsville Times carrier boys, the club collected and sent more than 5,000 pairs of old silk hose to the mille, enabling five Madison County girls to continue their training at Athens College, through the scholarship plan. These old hose were unravelled and reprocessed, taking about 1,000 pairs to each girl.

The Pilot Club sponsored the sending, collection and packing of a Thanksgiving box to the Huntsville and Madison County boys and Fort Mears, Dutch Harbor. Through the cooperation of the local merchants and citizens, a large box of *all kinds* of candies, cigarettes and chewing gum was sent so that each member of the 151st Engineers were remembered.

In 1941 they sponsored the production "Hooray America" using local talent. Approximately \$300.00 was realized from this production. \$100.00 was donated to the U.S.O. and \$100.00 donated to the local Service Club, the club retaining the remainder for its charity work.

Also sponsored were soft ball games, the proceeds from which were used to finance dental projects for children.

In 1943 the Pilots accepted the responsibility of collecting and shipping old silk and nylon hose, (no rayons this time) for use by the War and Navy Departments. The President at that time, Mrs. William Kelly, acted as chairman of the drive for Madison County. Madison County was the first to send a big shipment to New York, and ranked third in the nation in the salvage of old hose.

In 1943 the Pilots sponsored the Infantile Paralysis campaign. Net proceeds from this drive reached the total of \$3385.35, one-half of which went to the National Foundation and one-half of which remained with the Madison County Chapter.

A contribution was made to the Boy Scouts, prior to the organization of the Community Chest. The club makes an annual appropriation to the Community Chest which includes all projects and organizations of the nature in its budget.

The Pilots sponsored a Camp Fire Girl's Group, with three members of the Club serving as an advisory board.

For two years the club sponsored a girl to Girl's

State, one being selected from Joe Bradley and one from Hazel Green School.

The Huntsville Pilots have made it possible for Dr. Euala Eagin, psychologist from Florence State Teachers College, to come to Huntsville on several occasions and working in close cooperation with the Department of Public Welfare. She has been able to give mental tests to many children, thus aiding in the work to overcome some of the problems of juvenile delinquency.

The group has donated blood to the plasma bank and five members completed their Nurses Aid Training. They also contributed towards the furnishing of a recreation room for veterans at the Huntsville Arsenal.

The club makes money in various ways such as raffling of turkey and hams at Thanksgiving, having White Elephants sales at dinner meetings, having Bingo parties, sponsoring a boat ride on the Tennessee River, and sponsoring picture shows.

Each year a joint meeting with the B.&P.W. and Altrusa Clubs.

A total of \$150.00 was donated to Huntsville High School Band for the purchase of an oboe.

One of their big projects has been adopting little 3 year old Betty. Betty was under the supervision of the Public Welfare Department and lived in a foster boarding home. Her board and clothes were paid by the club. The Pilot Club provided for a visit from Santa Claus and have Easter Bunny to leave her something nice at Easter.

The club presidents have been, Mrs. J. S. Gowan 1939-1940, Carridelle G. Bailey 1940-1941, Georgia Holmes 1941-1942, Mrs. William P. Kelly 1942-1943, Susie Mae Hopper 1943-1944, Dorothy Adair 1944-1945, Mrs. Howard Osborne 1945-1946, Mrs. Guy Lynn 1946-1947, Mrs. Robert Burkhardt 1947-1948, Helen D. McCown 1948-1949, Mrs. George Hayden 1949-1950, Berniece Lawler 1950-1951, Mrs. O. G. Pitts, Jr. 1951-1952, Mrs. Thomas Bowers 1952-1953, Mrs. George Culps 1953-1954, Mrs. W. P. Hix 1954-1955, and Helen Lawler 1955-1956.

### QUI VIVE CLUB

By Mrs. Merritt Wikle and Mrs. Oscar Grosser

Among the many Civic organizations in Huntsville there is one which was organized by a group of school girls, after a "get-to-gether" at the home of Mrs. S. O. Holmes, Sr. in 1920; after much discussion the name "Qui Vive" was chosen.

The actual organization and by-laws were drawn May of 1921.

The following were charter members: Sara Webster, now Mrs. Robert Omrod of St. Louis; Gladys Holmes, now Mrs. Alex Richards of Chicago; Bessie Landers, now Mrs. H. E. Monroe; Iva Louise Ohuir, now Mrs. Cecil Embrey of Louisville; Margaret Hulton, now Mrs. Alex Wilson; Elizabeth Delp, now Mrs. Miton Tate, Sr.; Viola Taylor, now Mrs. Sanford Thorne, Denver; Sue Clare Taylor, now Mrs. Harry Coons; Elizabeth Davis, now Mrs. J. S. McDonnell; Fannie Lacy Davis, now Mrs. Merritt Wikle; and Ruth Hawk, now Mrs. Lawson White.

Sara Webster was the first president of "Qui Vive" and the membership at first being limited to twenty, but at the present time there is a membership of twenty-eight.

The purpose of this club was Civic work which was done in a small way at first; as the club matured, larger projects were undertaken such as operation of a nursery school, furnishing a hospital room, scout work, school lunch-room program, shoes for needy school children in both city and county, and numerous other projects which Civic Clubs undertake. Our most recent was an oxygen tent for the Huntsville Hospital.

At present the Qui Vive members and officers are: president, Mrs. Oscar Grosser, vice-president, Mrs. Elbert Parsons; treasurer, Mrs. Dean Murphree; secretary, Mrs. Elgin Geron; corresponding secretary, Miss Alice Thomas; Mrs. Milton Anderson, Mrs. James Davis, Miss Nellie Frances Daye, Mrs. John Frey, Mrs. James Leetz, Mrs. Guy Spencer, Mrs. Walter Price, Mrs. Hal Richey, Mrs. Robert Searcy, Mrs. Jake Walker, Mrs. Alex Wilson, Mrs. H. T. Woodall, Mrs. J. S. McDonnell, Mrs. Gene Monroc, Mrs. William P. Dilworth, Jr., Mrs. Charles Landman, Mrs. Joe Ed McCaleb, Mrs. Lowry Orgain, Mrs. Butler Ragland, Mrs. Charles Shaver, Mrs. Milton Tate, Sr., Mrs. Merritt Wikle, and Mrs. Karl Woltersdorf.

### THE SALEMAN'S CLUB

By Carlisle Davis

The Huntsville Salesman's Club was organized at the Russel Erskine Hotel in 1943 with 25 charter members. Since that time it has been a club of action and determination, standing for the better things for the community.

Finding the political situation in Huntsville and Madison County in a critical condition, the club set out to do something about it. The opposition was great, but the club set out with iron nerves to place voting machines in the city and county.





Salesman's Club officers. Seated left to right, Jimmy Walker, Hilding Holmberg, Sr., and C. D. Howard. Back Row, left to right, John Garrison and Carlisle Davis.

A vote was taken and it carried by a large majority, resulting in a better city and county in which to live. The campaign which resulted in obtaining voting machines was accomplished by exhibiting a sample voting machine all over the county.

The club also gave a two year scholarship to a Miss Ann Baxter, a worthy young lady, so that she could study music at a college in Kentucky.

The club takes credit for rescuing the Huntsville airport from being abolished.

The necessity for having an iron lung at the Fire Department was seen by the club, and so a respirator was donated which has saved many lives.

Never faltering on any occasion, the club has sponsored many other projects.

The club is proud of its record, and its greatest hope is to be able to render even finer service to the community in the future.

Past presidents are Carlisle Davis, Jim Butler, R. B. "Spec" Searcy, Ed Duffey, Jim Hughes, John Garrison, Edwin Burwell, Price Acock, Marion Chandler, Clem Loyd, Floyd Folkner, Jimmy Walker, Ashford Todd, Howard Gentle, Dewey Smith, Jimmy Horton, Joe Cooper, Vance Thornton, Frances Marshan, Joe Haight, W. E. Deckey, H. Holmberg.

Present officers are H. Holmberg, president; Carlisle Davis, vice-president; Jimmy Walker, secretary; C. D. Howard, treasurer; and John Garrison, drummer.

## WELCOME WAGON CLUB

By Mrs. Earle R. Ford

In order to make newcomers feel more at home in Huntsville, the WELCOME WAGON CLUB was organized on June 16, 1954. This club is designed not only to acquaint the club members with each other, but also with the merchants of the city.

Twenty-three members formed the charter group and they elected as their officers, President, Mrs. Don Ganschow; First vice, Mrs. Frank Pettitt; second vice, Mrs. Arthur Pinkham; secretary, Mrs. Robt. Wylie and treasurer, Mrs. Ullman Reed.

One of the requirements of the club is that the members be residents of Huntsville for less than six months. Officers are elected every six months. The meeting day is the second Thursday in each month when a hostess committee has charge of the decorations and furnishes any prizes.

Among the community services which this club has performed are:—the Mothers' March in the Polio drive; gifts for people in the rest home; the sponsoring of a Brownie Troop and making layettes for underprivileged babies at the Huntsville Clinic.

Besides the other social activities, the club has formed two groups of women who are learning to play bridge under competent instructors.

The present officers who were elected in May 1955 are.—president, Mrs. Robt. Wylie; first vice, Mrs. J. B. McPeters; second vice, Mrs. J. W. Riddle; secretary, Mrs. Charles Cox; treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Torzillo; Historian, Mrs. Chester Savelle.

## THE WEST HUNTSVILLE MEN'S CLUB

By William E. Fanning

The founding date of this fine organization was in the year 1947 and its regular place of meeting is the Virginia McCormick Y.M.C.A. in West Huntsville.

The first officials of the group were: Jimmy Jackson, of General Shoes, president; W. D. Tucker, of John Blue Co., vice president; N. D. Kennamer, of Madison County Live Stock Association, secretary; and Bill Childress, of Virginia McCormick Y.M.C.A., treasurer.

Charter members of the club, many of whom are

still active, are Howard Gentle, W. D. Tucker, W. S. Copeland, S. O. McDonald, George Martin, J. Vernon Rich, Oliver Allred, Homer Whitt, Bill Brown, J. D. Henderson, William Hollingsworth, J. Homer Crim, W. F. Sartain, Shelby Drake, Hugh Johnson, Herman Sharp, Elmer Ehringer, Bunny Irvin, Bill Davoren, Charles Creque, Bill Sefton, and Marion Burgess.

Among the achievements of the club is the playground for Virginia McCormic Y.M.C.A. which is equipped with: a children's swimming pool, slides, swings, merry-go-round, sand boxes, badminton, horseshoe courts, soft ball diamonds, and tennis courts.

The club has also presented the "Y" with a radio, a television set, and electric range and a public address system.

The club's policy is to participate and when possible to take the leadership in community projects that will enrich better living and good citizenship. For example to take the lead in annual membership drives for the Y.M.C.A., help with Boy and Girl Scouts, and to aid in Community Chest and March of Dimes Drives.

One of the annual projects is the giving of Christmas baskets ranging in number from 40 to 97 per Christmas and valuing from \$700 to \$1500 each year. Local merchants and Huntsville businessmen have heartily cooperated with the club, but the group has raised most of the money by such projects as 4th of July barbecues, mock weddings, black face minstrels, ugliest man contest, and a most popular girl contest.

The major project achievement of the club was the underwriting of \$12,000 to purchase the new elementary school site near the Redstone Arsenal en-

trance. This school is now under construction and will be ready for use in the fall of 1955.

The current project is assisting the Butler School Band Parents to purchase \$4000 worth of new equipment.

The present officers are Oscar C. Russell, president; J. B. Anderson, vice president; William P. Fanning, secretary, and V. B. Scott, treasurer.

## WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

By W. D. Shannon

Local members of the Woodmen of the World have made much progress in uniting members in friendship and brotherly love since the Huntsville group was organized on June 22, 1898 with eleven charter members.

Charter members were F. T. Petty, E. F. Rountree, J. M. Riddle, S. E. McGehee, O. F. Thompson, R. H. Taylor, J. W. Riddle, R. L. Armstrong, T. P. Treece, J. L. Hay, and Dr. O. J. Brooks.

In 1955, six other camps had been formed, including three Boys Sportsmen's Clubs for ages eight through 15.

Woodmen of the World Camp No. 1600 was organized on December 28, 1948 and has been very active in civil and fraternal work. This includes a tree planted on the Courthouse lawn and dedicated to Sen. John J. Sparkman, a wheel chair furnished to a polio victim, donating blood, helping the needy, acting as Santa Claus for children, presenting American flags to several schools and churches. This camp won first prize in 1954 for having the best scrapbook in the state in competition at Montgomery.

Regular meetings are held on the first and third

Welcome Wagon officers.





W.O.W. Drill Team and officers, reading left to right: front row, Fred Cash, W. D. Shannon, John Washburn, James Moore, Robert Gurley, J. B. Morrison. Second row, Allan Lynn, Fred Bates, Larry Luna, and Robert Gill. Third row, G. F. Tulking, James Bates, Wm. Moss, Junior Foster, Joe Ward, Robert Lynn and Albert Haggard.

Thursdays of each month at 400 Humes Avenue.

The Woodmen of the World, with home offices in Omaha, Nebraska, was organized on June 6, 1890 by Joseph C. Root. Present District Manager in Huntsville is W. D. Shannon.

W.O.W. Parade in 1915. Seated in what won the prize for being the best decorated "trap" are Vera Baldrige, Elizabeth Daniel, Josephine Daniel and Helen Gilbert.



## THE HUNTSVILLE Y'S MEN'S CLUB

By J. N. Williams and Myra W. Frank

The Y's Men's Club is an outgrowth of the Young Men's Christian Association and its principle object is to "serve, by diligent, active, personal and united effort in carrying forward every phase of the program of the Young Men's Christian Association."

They have as their motto, "To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right."

The Huntsville club was organized on March 12, 1947 with 24 members and Douglas Martinson was elected the first president. The club has maintained an active membership of from 20 to 32 members with five of the charter members are still working. These charter members are J. N. Williams, R. P. Starkey, Harold Carpenter, Andy Lanier and Russel Barber.

Each year the club has sent a representative to the International Convention of "Y's Men." This year the convention is being held in Philadelphia and the club will be represented by its president, M. W. Frank. The local club will be host to the District Convention in 1956 and this is the second time since its organization that they have had this honor.

The club is responsible for sending 36 boys to the

annual summer camp, it sponsors the work of the Mill Street area; gives parties for boys at Christmas and Thanksgiving; provides uniforms for the Y. M. C. A. Gray-Y football league, finances the trips of the boys to state tournaments each spring and assists in the Y.M.C.A. annual membership campaign, besides various other projects to help promote the youth activities of Huntsville and Madison County.

To help finance these projects the Y's men sell Christmas trees each year, sponsor a Labor Day barbeque at the Curb Market, promote the professional basketball games and the annual sale of soap in which the boys participate gives the boys experience as well as enabling them to help pay their way to summer camp.

The Y's Men's Club is taking an active part in connection with the Y.M.C.A. in endeavoring to secure a camp site for the anticipated camping program which will include family type of camping.

The officers for the present year are:—President, M. W. Frank; 1st vice, R. P. Starkey; 2nd vice, Wm. Badgley; Secretary, Henry Rupp, Treasurer, Collier Jones and the board members are Delbert Williams and B. Duncan.

## THE CIVITAN CLUB

By H. Holmberg, Sr.

The Huntsville Civitan Club is one of our city's most active civic groups. Since its inception it has participated in numerous charitable projects and its members have distinguished themselves as leaders in many community projects.

The local club was chartered by Civitan International on June 28, 1921. Subsequent to that date the club has met each week as a dinner club until recently, April of this year, when it changed to a luncheon club. The Club now meets on Friday at noon in the ballroom of the Yarbrough Hotel.

The membership of the Huntsville Civitan Club is composed of successful business and professional men vitally interested in the progress and betterment of the community. The objective of the club is best expressed by a recital of its motto, which is the Civitan Motto of "Builders of Good Citizenship."

Throughout the years the club has engaged in many important projects but perhaps its signal achievement is its fight against the disease of tuberculosis. Also highly noteworthy is the well known Citizenship Essay and Oratorical Contests.

In the Essay contest, which is international in scope, the Huntsville Club has been honored by having one first place winner, Mrs. George C. Hardwick.



Group of Civitan club officers, reading from left to right. Seated, Stan Johnson and Virgil Uptain. Standing, Gorman Yarbrough and Guy Lyrn.

Mrs. Hardwick achieved this goal while she was a student at Riverton High School. It is especially significant that her essay was chosen as superior from thousands of entries from all parts of the United States and Canada.

Also of interest is the fact that the club's first Oratorical winner was a well known local Attorney, James L. Caldwell, who won the award as a youngster in high school.

The Huntsville Club has won five first places and two second places in the district oratorical contests. These awards consisted of a four year University scholarship for those placing first and two year scholarships for the second place winners.

As the Huntsville Civitan Club proudly assists in the celebration of their city's One Hundred Fiftieth Birthday anniversary they are proud to re-affirm their chosen goal which is their collective and individual dedication to the building of better citizenship and to express their profound gratitude that the city of Huntsville is richer, more prosperous and more cultured as the result of the Civitan Club members contributions to their community.

# CHAPTER NINE

## OUR BUSINESSES, TRADES AND PROFESSIONS

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### CONVENTIONS

By Tom McDonald

Huntsville, known as "The Rocket City," is also rapidly becoming known as a "Convention City", for it is one of the most sought after places for the holding of conventions in the state.

There are three hotels here with a combined number of 330 rooms. Fourteen motels furnish 300 rooms, and there are about 630 rooms in private homes for transients.

Seventy-five restaurants offer a variety of food.

Meetings can be held in the auditoriums of the Huntsville High School, West Clinton School, the Huntsville Junior High School, Butler High School, City Electric Company, Elks Building, Fifth Avenue School and the City Hall Annex. Groups also frequently meet in the ballrooms of the Hotels Russel Erskine and Twickenham.

If a very large entertainment is planned during any convention period, the Huntsville Armory can be made available. This armory accomodates comfortably 1,000 couples for dancing.

Huntsville can take care of about 1,500 persons for a convention. And in addition to basic facilities, this city offers the inducement of excellent shopping centers, a warm, friendly attitude of its inhabitants, famous "Big Spring" water and notable scenic attractions to all visitors.

### THE HUNTSVILLE INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE

By George Mahoney

A public spirited group of businessmen realizing the necessity of bringing new industry into our community organized the HUNTSVILLE INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE of the Chamber of Commerce.

On September 7, 1944 the following men, Karl Woltersdorf, Lawrence Goldsmith, M. B. Spragins, Reece T. Amis, F. H. Thomas, and George M. Mahoney, met with Mr. Fitzgerald Hall, president of the N. C. & St. Louis Railroad, Mr. Brownlee Curley, industrialist from Nashville, Tennessee, and Mr.

Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee Officers and Directors



Robert Strickland, president of the Trust Company of Atlanta.

This was a breakfast meeting given by Mr. Hall on his private car near the N. C. & St. L. depot. The committee present heard the many helpful suggestions of the three visiting gentlemen and the outcome of this meeting was the formation of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee.

A meeting was held on September 11th at which time about 100 businessmen were called together to officially organize Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee, nominate officers, and to adopt a constitution and by laws for the new organization.

On September 19th, another meeting was held at which time a goal of \$25,000.00 was set to be raised by public subscriptions. George Mahoney was elected president; M. B. Spragins, vice-president; L. B. Goldsmith, treasurer; and F. H. Thomas, secretary. Other directors were Karl Woltersdorf, F. N. Sefton, C. J. Mock, Percy Noble, J. F. Chambers, H. E. Monroe, C. B. Ragland, K. E. Thomas, Charles E. Shaver, F. H. Ford, Earnest White, W. O. Mason, Dr. E. V. Caldwell, and Edward McGregor.

A number of other meetings were held at which time a Fund Chairman and other Chairmen were appointed. One of the important committees, the Brochure Committee, produced, through their effort, a very attractive booklet pertaining to the many advantages of locating industry in Madison County.

Solicitations of funds began shortly after the meeting of September 19th and the goal of \$25,000.00 was subscribed.

Unique in its composition is the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee, since the funds raised

could only be used for promotion, entertainment, and travel. No funds could be used for the purchase of sites or other physical properties.

Two of the early industries brought into Huntsville were the John Blue Company, manufacturers of farming implements, and the General Shoe Corporation of Nashville, Tennessee, makers of shoes.

Many other organizations and industries have been brought to our community through the efforts of this organization. Much credit must be accorded this organization for its work in bringing to reality a long cherished dream of great industrial progress for Huntsville and Madison County.

Under the leadership of its present president, dynamic Carl T. Jones, the H.I.E.C. has been successful in obtaining the P. R. Mallory and Norton Company plants.

The next ten years will see the largest industrial boom in our history. Much of the credit will go to H.I.E.C. for the part it is playing.

## THE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The organization of the Huntsville Junior Chamber of Commerce is as follows: Officers: James R. Cleary, President; Robert T. Lakebrink, 1st Vice-President; David H. Newby, 2nd Vice-President; Luther Adams, Secretary; Chester Plonka, Treasurer; Raymond A. Bennett, State Director; Houston G. Adams, Chaplain; Earl E. Cloud, Parliamentarian. Board of Directors: James R. Cleary, Robert T. Lakebrink, David H. Newby, Luther Adams, Chester Plonka, Houston G. Adams, Earl E. Cloud, Franklyn

Junior Chamber of Commerce Officers reading from left to right: front row, David H. Newby, Luther Adams, Chester Plonka, Houston G. Adams, James R. Cleary. Second row, Ike Hibbitt (State Officer) Robert Lakebrink, Earl E. Cloud.



Gardiner, Richard Davies, Clarence Besselsen, Charles Northrop, Charles Riley, Jack Hendrix, John Higdon.

State and National Chairmen: Walter Wiesman, National Chairman for Junior Chamber International; James R. Cleary, State Chairman, Voice of Democracy Committee.

Past Presidents: William A. Kates, Earl E. Cloud, Walter Wiesman, Clarence Cobbs, Alvin Blackwell, Paul McClung, and Franklyn Gardiner.

*The Junior Chamber of Commerce*

We believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;

That government should be of laws rather than of men;

That earth's great treasure lies in human personality, and that service to humanity is the best work of life.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is a civic service organization for young men between the ages of 21 and 35, inclusive. It is dedicated to two purposes: (1) Improvement and development of the community. (2) Improvement and development of its individual members to train them for business advancement and civic leadership. It has been defined as "a supplementary educational organization wherein the young men of a community may join together in a friendly spirit to inculcate civic consciousness in its membership by means of active participation in constructive projects which will improve community, state, and nation".

In short, the Junior Chamber of Commerce is an organization of young men learning civic consciousness through constructive action.

The Huntsville Junior Chamber of Commerce was chartered in 1951.

The membership has increased over the years to more than one hundred at the present. The membership is composed of young men in many occupations and professions. A Huntsville Jaycee may be an electronic engineer, a salesman, an accountant, an administrator, a merchant, a farmer, a lawyer, a chemist, a cotton merchant, or a doctor, to name a few of the occupations represented in the membership.

The club is seldom referred to as the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The term "Jaycee" was contrib-

uted by some unknown individual. In the American tradition of abbreviation the title "Jaycee" is probably more commonly known than the longer, more formal name.

The Jaycees are avid safety promoters. The national and state organizations have active safety campaigns. Probably the best known of these is the Teen Age Road—E-O, a safe driving contest for high school students. This is a favorite program with the local club. There are other safety projects such as safety parades, safety luncheons, and safety signs. First place state awards have been given to the Huntsville Jaycees for their safety projects and Teen-Age Road—E-O contestants have won first and second place in the state contest.

An active program in Americanism was initiated in 1953 when the first annual Young Man of The Year Award was given. The program has grown to one of the most honored awards in the community. Of the three past recipients, two have been former presidents of the Jaycees. The selection is made by a panel of twelve leading citizens who are over the age limit for Jaycee membership.

Subsequent Americanism projects have included the Voice of Democracy program which is designed to give high school students an opportunity to speak on behalf of the blessings of a democratic form of government. The President of the Huntsville Jaycees has been named State Chairman of this program for 1955.

Celebration of National Jaycee Week in February, Go To Church campaigns, Veterans' Day memorials and Good Government awards have also been important parts of the Americanism program. Facsimile copies of the Declaration of Independence were framed and presented to the city high schools in 1953.

A Jaycee likes to think of himself as a young man of action. Many times the action may be standing behind a March of Dimes street booth in February or seeking donations for the Red Cross or Community Chest in the spring rain or summer sun. Sometimes he has an idea such as borrowing a stretcher from the hospital for use in the street solicitation of the March of Dimes campaign. This bit of realism was one of the ideas which helped Madison County reach an all time high in 1954 in per capita donations to fight polio.

In the field of Agriculture, the Jaycees have conducted extensive experiments on production of fertilizer and soil conditioner from garbage. The experiments were carried on under the direction of members with professional experience as chemical en-

gineers, assisted by a group of lawyers, accountants, economists, etc., who supplied a considerable amount of labor to dig the trenches and pits necessary for the experiment. The data developed has been reduced to a treatise and will be useful to commercial organizations or the city in future years. The project was recognized by a first prize award from the Alabama Jaycees.

The Jaycees are aware of the great future of Huntsville and Madison County. The young men of the organization feel the inspiration of being a part of a rapidly expanding city. A Huntsville Booster committee has been active for several years. The work of this group has included preparation of floats publicizing the "Rocket City" in state and national conventions. The club was awarded a second place prize for industrial promotion at the 1955 Jaycee National Convention. Work with the Airport Expansion Committee has also been performed.

In 1953 the Jaycees staged an all day rally for the TVA which started a series of similar programs in the several states served by the TVA. U. S. Senator Estes Kefauver headed a group of distinguished speakers and visitors. National attention was focused on Huntsville by press and radio.

The young men of the Jaycees are interested in sports and were active in promoting the Huntsville Municipal Golf Course. The club sold advance tickets to raise a part of the necessary construction funds. The State Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament is an annual event of the Huntsville Jaycees. District tournaments are held by Jaycee clubs in other cities and the state championship games are held in Hunts-

ville. This year the Huntsville Jaycees are also playing host to the Alabama-Georgia Regional Tournament. The Turkey Shoot at Thanksgiving is another sports activity. This project is conducted for the purpose of raising funds for Christmas charity.

A part of the Jaycee creed states "that the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations". Jaycee clubs may be found in 44 countries outside the Iron Curtain. The International Junior Chamber of Commerce has world headquarters in Miami. The Huntsville club is pleased to have been the first club in Alabama to have 100% membership in the International. The 1955 National Chairman for Junior Chamber International is a member of the Huntsville club. He will work with the 3000 local chapters in promoting the programs and interests of the International Jaycee organization.

A past president of the Huntsville club has served as vice-president of the Alabama Jaycees. Other members have served as publicity chairman, Americanism and Junior Chamber International chairmen.

The Jaycees are working toward the erection of a civic center or auditorium which is badly needed for conventions and cultural activities.

The club has sponsored a scout troop in West Huntsville for several years. The Jaycees frequently meet with the boys or take them on camping or hiking trips. The scouts have entertained the club with Court of Honor programs and open house in the club room.

In 1953 Huntsville was host to one of the largest state conventions in Jaycee history. Representatives of the 60 Alabama chapters arrived in the city sport-

The Jaycee Rocket which won second place in the 1955 National Junior Chamber of Commerce parade. The prize was awarded for city promotion.





ing the bright red coats which Alabama members wear to all conventions. High school bands, trick cars, convertibles and pretty girls formed a long parade. Jaycee politics, speeches from Senator Sparkman, General Toftoy and other notables filled the remainder of the time.

Promotion of historical attractions in Huntsville has been a major project of the Jaycees. An attractive historical marker was erected at the city limits. The marker tells of the many tourist attractions in Huntsville. The members have distributed thousands of booklets promoting Huntsville at state and national meetings. Miniature rockets have been engraved and given to the children of prominent people. The club sells these toy rockets at the airport and in hotel concession stands. Tourists buy them for their children and the "Rocket City" gets added publicity.

The club conducts a weekly radio program, "Speak Up, Jaycee" on WHBS. Various Jaycee projects are explained to the radio audience and the program time is frequently shared with other civic groups.

There are eight external committees which promote community projects. They are: Youth Activities, Safety, Americanism, Boy Scouts, Industrial Relations, Huntsville Boosters, Public Health and Agriculture Committees.

A Jaycee believes that helping build the future of his community will pay dividends in later life. Every young man has a responsibility to his community. Whatever he may do to improve his city is an assurance that the eventual return to him will be greater. The Jaycees feel that they owe a debt of gratitude to the city and county which provide them a home and the privileges of citizenship.

Among the future objectives of the Jaycees are the following:

1. To make the community a better place in which to live.
2. To develop leadership among young men.
3. To assist our education, recreation and civic leaders.
4. To offer constructive opinions and action in community problems.
5. To provide worthwhile contributions toward youth welfare.
6. To be ever mindful of our American heritage.

The final chapter of any Jaycee Club's history should be devoted to the Auxiliary, the organization of Jaycee wives. She supplies the inspiration for the Jaycee husband while he works on a project. But that is not the full contribution. They maintain a very active club and add support to projects undertaken by the Jaycees. The Huntsville Jaycees are

grateful for the splendid cooperation of the Auxiliary and look forward to future accomplishment through mutual efforts.

### **HISTORY OF THE HUNTSVILLE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AUXILIARY**

The Huntsville Junior Chamber of Commerce Auxiliary was chartered on September 23, 1954, in Huntsville, Alabama, with a membership of 39 members. The purpose of the organization is to aid and assist the Huntsville Junior Chamber of Commerce in its civic and social activities for the betterment and welfare of Madison County and the City of Huntsville. The organization is to study and foster Commercial, Industrial and educational advantages of the community where it lives. It is pledged to promote intelligent and patriotic citizenship.

The club is non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-sectional.

The club has concerned itself with the aid and assistance of the public affairs conducted by the Huntsville Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The organization helped in various drives for charity and other worthwhile projects.

Charter members are: Catherine Sandlin, Bobbie Collins, Peggy Weitenbeck, Lucille Asams, Hilary Weaver, Marge Newby, Jane Northrop, Kay Hendrix, Ruth Sharp, Katherine Sisco, Erica Wieseman, Christine McClung, Gloria Harrell, Barbara Gardner, Dorothea Fryman, Nancy Lacy, Betty Denson, Barbara Plonka, Marjorie Cloud, Shirley Bennett, Ruby Lakebrink, Bernice Locke, Nancy Besselsen, Elizabeth Wylie, Alice Riley, Jennis Bomar, Virginia Weaver, Gladys Ivy, Dottie Epps, Jeannette Pennington, Ricky Johnston, Gladys Hillenbrand, Jean Mangum, Louise Jessick, Cecile Lochridge, Juanita Hayes, Stella Bunn, Beatrice Glenn, Hildergard Von Braun.

The first officers elected were: Mrs. Harry Pennington, president; Mrs. Earl E. Cloud, Vice-president; Mrs. Robert Lakebrink, secretary; Mrs. William Harrell, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Raymond Bennett, treasurer; Mrs. Robert Lochridge, historian; Mrs. Jack Denson, parliamentarian; Mrs. Frank Gardner, Board of Directors, and Mrs. James Collins, Board of Directors.

### **THE HUNTSVILLE-MADISON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Chamber of Commerce was first organized in 1915, and existing partial records of this period indicate that Mr. Tracy Pratt and Mr. Joseph J. Bradley,



Clean up squad during Chamber of Commerce membership drive in 1922.

Sr., were instrumental in the formation and organization of the association.

Mr. Clarendon Davis was the first president and Mr. Paul Aiken was the first secretary. Miss Mildred Stanley, now Mrs. Rees T. Amis, was assistant to the secretary. Mr. Aiken and Miss Stanley carried on all of the office work.

The headquarters, when the Chamber of Commerce was first organized, were in the Elks Building and 1932 the headquarters were moved from the Elks Building to the Hundley residence on Jefferson Street.

Mr. C. E. Baxter, Mr. C. S. Boswell, Mr. Frank Thompson, Mr. James Gill, and Mr. Ben Hunt, and many others, were very active in its early stages.

One of the early projects of the Chamber of Commerce was the support of the proposal made by Mr. C. E. Monroe that the County Jail be moved from the corner of Green Street and Clinton Street to its present location. This project was accomplished through the assistance of the local paper, which was edited at the time by Mr. J. E. Pierce. We do not have many records of the activities of the Chamber of Commerce in its early days, but old timers tell us that the Chamber of Commerce had its ups-and-downs like many other organizations.

In 1936 the Chamber of Commerce was reorganized, with Senator John J. Sparkman acting as president.

In 1952, when Mr. Harry M. Rhett, Jr., was president of the Chamber of Commerce, the name was officially changed to Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce has, since 1936, been

most active in sponsoring many worth-while projects and as a result of the activities of the Chamber of Commerce and through the work and cooperation of its members many businesses and industries have located in Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama.

The following is a list of the presidents and secretaries of record from the year 1936. They are: John J. Sparkman, president and Dwight Wilhelm, secretary (1936); C. S. Boswell, president and Dwight Wilhelm, secretary (1937); George Mahoney, president and Dwight Wilhelm, secretary (1938); George Mahoney, president and John M. Nelson, secretary (1939); Robert K. Bell, president and John M. Nelson, secretary (1940); Kenneth E. Thomas, president and Claude H. Pipes, secretary, (1941); W. L. Hunter, president and Claude H. Pipes, secretary (1942); Henry M. McKelvie, president and Claude H. Pipes, secretary (1943); F. H. Thomas, president and W. R. Hudspeth, secretary (1944); F. H. Thomas, president and W. R. Hudspeth, secretary (1945); M. B. Spragins, Sr., president and W. R. Hudspeth, secretary thru September, L. H. Pinkston was then employed as secretary (1946); H. E. Monroe, president and L. H. Pinkston, secretary (1947); Ralph H. Ford, president and L. H. Pinkston, secretary (1948); Jimmy Walker, president and L. H. Pinkston, secretary (1949); Dr. T. S. Gibson, president and L. H. Pinkston, secretary through July when he entered the army along with the local National Guards. Mr. T. P. Gates served interim term until Mr. Pinkston notified the Board that he intended to remain in the army (1950); W. T. Galloway, president and T. P. Gates, secretary (1951); Harry M. Rhett, Jr., presi-

dent and T. P. Gates, secretary (1952); W. L. Halsey, president and T. P. Gates, secretary until February 1, when he resigned and Jimmy C. Walker was employed as secretary (1953); Carl Woodall, president and Jimmy C. Walker, secretary (1954); M. H. Lanier, Jr., president and Jimmy C. Walker, secretary (1955).

Many new industries have come into Huntsville through the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce since 1936. During the past 19 years the work and cooperation of businessmen through the Chamber of Commerce has paid rich dividends in exemplifying and really making the objective of any Chamber of Commerce, which is "A group of businessmen banded together working to make the community in which they live a better place to live and make a living", come true in Huntsville.

In spite of its serious role in the development of the community, the Chamber of Commerce is not without its lighter side and realization of humor in taking to its heart one of our city's most distinguished felines as an honorary member. With pride we refer to Sambo, Huntsville's most famous cat, who was made an honorary member of the Chamber of Commerce during the recent, highly successful drive for new members.

Jimmy Walker, executive secretary of the local group, and John Barrow, who came to the city to organize this expansion program, signed up the illustrious Siamese as the first and only honorary member.

Sambo has become extremely well known through publication of his photographs. In various poses he has contributed publicity to a large number of charitable or civic drives including Red Cross, the Madison

County Humane Society, March of Dimes, Civil Defense and the Madison County T. B. Association.

In addition to his local appearances, Sambo's pictures have been printed by Associated Press and in half a dozen Southern magazines and metropolitan newspapers.

He has been insured by Lloyds of London as a photographic model, and once he received a bronze medal and citation from a large manufacturer of cat food because of his "contribution to human happiness."

In conclusion may we add that Huntsville's distinguished, ambitious, hard working and home loving Chamber of Commerce looks forward to many years of service in the development of our town.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF LIFE UNDERWRITERS

This group was organized in 1945 with the following charter members: Fred Orman, president, T. Pickens Gates, secretary-treasurer, Elgin Y. Geron, Hugh K. Doke, Jack E. Countess, J. T. Harrison, Shelby Bragg, A. M. Wikle, Pat Kennamer, A. W. McAllister, J. R. French.

The first officers were Fred Orman, president, and T. Pickens Gates, secretary-treasurer.

The purpose and aim of the organization is to promote sound and ethical practices in profession of life underwriting and to render efficient and qualified services including financial information, if deemed appropriate.

Among the accomplishments of General Interest are increase membership, to promote good fellowship and clean competitive spirit among life underwriters.

Officers and Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, reading from left to right: Front row, F. N. Sefton, Pete Lanier, C. R. McBrayer, William Fowler, Carl Woodall, W. L. Howard. Back row, Roy L. Stone, John Frey, Ben Giles, Herbert Ray and Carl Jones.



The present membership roster is as follows: Fulton Hamilton, Dwight Beeson, John Futch, Charles Baker, Jr., Edward N. Ellett, K. K. Johnston, H. H. Jenkins, Bennie O. Craig, W. D. Foster, Howard Hunter, C. J. Waite, E. E. Adams, R. M. Blackburn, F. W. Campbell, M. W. Clements, C. P. Clutts, J. D. Hopper, S. D. Hyche, J. G. McGee, A. D. Miller, H. L. Moore, W. C. Payne, J. D. Primm, R. C. Stephens, C. R. Stewart, H. M. Webster, Jesse Anderson, R. L. Shotts, Paul Carrol, John K. Chandler, H. M. Summrell, T. P. Gates, B. C. Walters, J. T. Williams, A. L. Hackett, and E. Y. Geron.

The group meets on Friday in the 3rd week in each month at the Fox Restaurant.

### HUNTSVILLE BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS

In the year of 1920 the agents of Huntsville selling Fire and Casualty Insurance founded an association called the Huntsville Board of Fire Underwriters.

The first president was C. H. Davis and Shelby I. Whit was the first secretary-treasurer. In recent years in keeping with the growth of Huntsville and Madison County the name was changed and it is now known as the Madison County Association of Insurance Agents. All members are members of the Alabama Association of Insurance Agents and the National Association of Insurance Agents.

The charter members of the organization were: Davis Insurance Agency, Brown-White Insurance Agency, John T. Jones, Myra E. Jones and Company, Mrs. Cooper (Cooper Insurance Agency), and R. P. Warden.

The present members are: Cooper Insurance Agency, Davis-Cummings, Thornton and Thornton, G. W. Jones and Sons, W. L. Howard, Wikle Insurance Agency, Gates-Morris, Boswell-Cooper, Lane Insurance Agency, John Scott, John Rodenhauer, Smith Insurance Agency, Patterson Insurance Agency, Jere Evans Realtor, G. N. Robinson, Huntsville Realty and Insurance Agency, and Sylvester Mazza.

Present officers are: Sylvester Mazza, president, and Vance Thornton, secretary-treasurer.

### THE HISTORY OF HUNTSVILLE RADIO

By Grady Reeves

Radio, even in Huntsville, was not so much a dream as many people thought at the turn of the century. But Ben Jarvin Franklin had dreamed of a way of communicating to a community by some medium except the press, many years before. However, he never had any ideas as to what means.

Radio first came to Huntsville when young Wilton Pollard built the first receiver out of a match box, a hair from a horse's tail and a thumb tack. Then experimented with the first crystal set on which he first picked up KDKA Pittsburgh. Dreaming of transmitting messages came true with the first amateur station, being built by the boy Pollard.

May 23rd, 1937, saw his dreams come true for a commercial station for Huntsville. It was quite a novelty for this area of the Tennessee Valley. Only 14 stations were on in Alabama at that time. WBHP was heard in Greenland, Iceland, if the weather con-

Scene from 1955 Chamber of Commerce membership drive; the most successful in history. Promotion included signing of Joyce Jones' famous trained cat "Sambo."



ditions were right, to show some idea of coverage.

WFUN was then launched as Huntsville's second station in 1946 with WHBS a few months later becoming the third. Then began friendly competition for the listeners of this area.

By this time, many stations had sprung up in the valley and coverage was restricted to mostly Madison County and Huntsville. All three have taken their place in community affairs and taking the lead in many projects for the betterment of our community.

Radio broadcasting provides a splendid medium for service in the public interest at the municipal level. There is no reason why radio broadcasting stations should not be performing service similar to that which has been so long given by the press. Indeed, in many municipalities, at the present time, there are more radio stations than there are newspapers. It is not necessary to tell you that in many campaigns, such as those of the Community Chest, the Red Cross, and others of similar character, radio broadcasting is already playing a dominant role.

Radio broadcasting is only 35 years old, but it has become, already, a great American institution. It permeates every phase of our daily lives. It affects the closest relationships of our national life. It will become, increasingly, an agency to be conjured with in International Affairs. Those who control this great institution and those who are affected by it must be dispassionately objective concerning its operation. It must be tolerant of many points of view, of other people and of other nations. So many different people, with different opinions, to deal with. All the prejudices, the passions, the errors of opinions, the local interests and the selfish views, which are inevitably assembled, when men come together to have the advantage of their joint wisdom. All these are increased and amplified when we deal with the tremendous potentialities of radio broadcasting. It astonishes me, to find it approaching so near to perfection as it does. May it be always a blessing to our people; a means of preserving that which our forefathers wrought for us. May it please God, that the American system of broadcasting shall help to prevent the despotism which comes when people become so corrupted as to need despotic government.

## HUNTSVILLE BOARD OF REALTORS

By George N. Robinson

Some of the work done by the Huntsville Board of Realtors since its organization includes appraisal of various valuable pieces of Huntsville property such as the Russel Erskine Hotel, the Times Building,

Elks Building, old Post Office Building, Huntsville Parkway, and others; beautification of the city and playgrounds; establishment of an OPA rent control office in 1943; and organizing and sponsoring the Highway Holiday begun in 1951.

The Huntsville Real Estate Board was organized in 1909 in the office of R. P. Weeden with the following four members: W. H. Bickley, John T. Jones, A. W. Newson, and R. P. Weeden, secretary. Two members joining the group later were Ed Jones and S. O. Holmes.

There were very few real estate sales during the early period. Bradley and Conner brought families South from time to time, and these families invested in farmlands.

Not until World War I did Huntsville begin to show marked improvement in real estate transactions and development. During the Hoover administration, four cotton mills closed, with resultant strained economies which affected the city and outlying areas.

At the meeting of January 15, 1929, the Board voted to make application for membership in the State and National Real Estate Association and that each member be assessed for his firm's pro-rata share of the expense.

After hearing a report by Forrest Fleming in February, the Board appointed a committee to revise their constitution and by-laws to conform to those of the National Association.

Development was accelerated when the Government selected Huntsville as the site for the multi-million dollar arsenal which has made the city grow with the influx of newcomers and new payrolls. In the latter growth and development, Huntsville realtors deserve much credit for their work and far-sighted approach to the increasing problems.

The Board was incorporated on December 2, 1948.

## HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION

By Mrs. Donald Jones

The Huntsville Chapter of the National Secretaries Association (International) was chartered on March 26, 1955, with the following Charter members: Mrs. Lois Jones, president; Mrs. Ollie Johnston, vice-president; Mrs. Martha Reynolds, corresponding secretary; Miss Margaret Francis, recording secretary; Miss Helin Hughes, treasurer; Miss Helen Acuff; Mrs. Winifrede Lackey; Mrs. Billie Grosser; Mrs. Eulene Taylor; Mrs. Betty Messer; Mrs. Eunice Danner; Miss Mary Johnson; Mrs. Salie Fohrell; Mrs. Edna En-

field; Mrs. Charlotte Forrester; Mrs. Nell Gordy; Miss Ann Wicker; Mrs. Kathleen Wysong (resigned); Mrs. Louise Reed; Mrs. Barbara Plonka; Mrs. Daisy Harris; Mrs. Mary Howell; Mrs. Mamie Fisher; Miss Gilda Mitchell; and Mrs. Laura Carriger.

The qualifications for becoming a member are that the applicant must be 21 years of age and have had at least two years secretarial experience.

Mrs. Martha Reynolds, one of the Charter members, passed the Certified Professional Secretary Examination in 1954. This is a rigid, 12-hour exam. With the following subjects: personal adjustment and human relations, business law, economics and business administration, secretarial accounting, stenography, and general secretarial and office procedure.

The National Secretaries Association is an International Organization whose objectives are to elevate the standards of the secretarial performance by uniting, for their mutual benefit, women who are engaged in the secretarial profession.

The emblem devotes; better learning—better letters—better living.

National projects include: 1. the NSA Resort home—to provide a vacation site for members and friends at a reasonable cost to them. To provide a place of retirement for those members who may wish to avail themselves of the facilities offered. 2. National Secretaries Week—established as the last full week in April—a week in which business and the secretary alike honor all secretaries for their services to the community and the nation. 3. The CPS program (Certified Professional Secretary).

## THE HUNTSVILLE CREDIT ASSOCIATION

By Howard Swinford

The Huntsville Credit Association was organized by Howard Swinford and C. M. Gillespie. Mr. Swinford and Mr. Gillespie and other businessmen felt the need for closer cooperation among the credit stores and firms, and on January 26, 1955 some 35 credit managers met at the City Electric System Auditorium and organized the Huntsville Credit Association.

Officers elected were: Mr. Howard Swinford, president—Rhett Woody Furniture Company; Mr. John A. Frey, vice-president—Dunnavant's; C. M. Gillespie, secretary—Credit Bureau of Huntsville.

Committees were: Mr. David Goble, Chairman of House Committee; Mrs. Merl Honey, Chairman of Membership Committee.

Since the organization meeting the group has met

weekly each Monday at noon for a hour meeting. The attendance has held up well running from 35 to 50 at each meeting.

Members have furnished the Credit Bureau with lists of Address Wanted, P & L Accts, Repossessions and Over 90 day Accts, these have been listed and each person at a meeting furnished with a copy to use in a general discussion.

Numerous guests have been asked to the meetings, personnel heads at various industries and the Arsenal have met with the group and discussed the problems effecting employee's delinquent accounts and what each can do to help the other.

Committees have worked on handling bankrupts and have worked to get a moving ordinance passed by the city.

The organization now has 52 member firms. It is non-profit and no dues are charged.

## NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER ALABAMA SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

By John Reid and Harvey Self

The North Alabama Chapter was chartered on May 1, 1954 with the following charter members: O. C. Whitmon, Florence; Henry J. Jones, Florence; Frank E. Donilon, Jr., Tuscumbia; John F. Smithers, Jr., Decatur; Richard M. Compton, Florence; William K. Martin, Decatur; W. T. Mars, Decatur; Marshall Dugger, Tuscumbia; Frank C. Holle, Decatur; and L. M. Huff, Florence.

The first officers of the group were: Marshall Dugger, Chairman; John F. Smithers, Jr., Vice-Chairman; and Richard M. Compton, Secretary-treasurer.

The present officers are: Richard M. Compton, chairman; John F. Smithers, Jr., Vice-chairman; and O. C. Whitmon, secretary-treasurer.

Regular members of the organization are: R. M. Compton, Florence; Maurice F. Cox, Florence; Frank Donilon, Tuscumbia; Marshall Dugger, Tuscumbia; Frank C. Holle, Decatur; Henry J. Jones, Florence; W. T. Mars, Decatur; William K. Martin, Decatur; John E. Reid, Huntsville; John F. Smithers, Jr., Decatur; O. C. Whitmon, Florence; L. M. Huff, Florence; B. R. Smith, Decatur; W. Harvey Self, Huntsville; Lennie E. Taylor, Huntsville.

Associate members all of Florence are: Arnold Briglia, Thomas Oscar Butler, Roy M. Crabtree, J. F. Estes, Joseph Morley, Charles Peery, and Martin Prouty.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each

month and place of meeting is announced at the preceding meeting.

The purpose and aim of the chapter and its objects are to unite the profession of accountancy in the Northern Area of Alabama, to promote and maintain high professional and moral standards, to safeguard the interests of the Certified Public Accountants of North Alabama, to advance the science of accountancy, and to develop and improve accountancy education.

## THE NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COST ACCOUNTANTS

By Peyton Drake

The north Alabama chapter of the National Association of Cost Accountants was officially launched at ceremonies in September 1952, when J. Brooks Heckert of Columbus, Ohio, national president, presented the charter to Colin J. Andrews of Decatur, chapter president.

Meeting first informally, the group formed the Tennessee Valley Accountants Association in the fall of 1950, which became the North Alabama chapter on June 19, 1952, when the National Board of directors approved the change.

Officers the first year included Mr. Andrews, then with Wolverine Tube Division, Decatur, president; L. S. Doster of Reynolds Alloys, Sheffield and Frank C. Holle, CPA, Decatur, vice presidents; Jack W. Mueller of Chemstrand Corporation, Decatur, secretary; Carter Dobbs, Decatur, public accountant, treasurer.

Officers of the North Alabama Association of Cost Accountants.



The following year Mr. Doster became president, with E. H. Atkinson of Rohm and Haas, Huntsville, and S. D. Nettles of Wolverine Tube, Decatur, vice presidents; Mr. Mueller as secretary and Peyton W. Drake, Huntsville Manufacturing Company, treasurer. For 1954-55, Mr. Atkinson was elected president. In September he was transferred out of chapter territory and Mr. Mueller served as president for the remainder of the year. Mr. Drake and Frank E. Donilon, Jr., of Tuscumbia served as vice presidents, with M. D. Prouty of Alabama-Tennessee Natural Gas Co., Muscle Shoals, secretary, and Frank W. Hayes, Rohm and Haas, Huntsville, treasurer.

Starting the new chapter year July 1, Mr. Donilon is president, with Mr. Hayes and J. Grady Shaw, of Chemstrand Corporation, Decatur, vice presidents, Mr. Prouty, secretary, and Warren Saxon, Wolverine Tube division, Decatur, treasurer.

The chapter serves members in eight counties of North Alabama, Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Morgan and Winston. Starting with 80 members in 1952 the chapter now includes 112 industrial and public accountants, who meet to further their knowledge of accounting problems.

Primarily an educational association, the chapter holds nine meetings, one a month, September to May, at which nationally known accountants and industrialists discuss various phases of industrial activity of interest to accountants and those whose work is related to accounting. In addition, the chapter sponsors a series of discussion forums on accounting subjects, with members of the chapter serving as leaders.

In order to stimulate the chapters of the N.A.C.A. to perform their functions better, the National Association sponsors competition among its 124 chapters. In 1953-54, the North Alabama chapter finished 22; in 1954-55 it finished in 11th place. President Mueller was presented with a banner emblematic of this achievement at the International Cost Conference in New York last June.

The chapter also takes an interest in the communities it serves. It has helped Athens College with books and materials on accounting for its business library; the chapter has assisted charitable organizations in accounting for funds collected, notably the Community Chest in Huntsville, where the chapter audited collections by canvassers.

Regular chapter meetings are rotated between Huntsville, the Decatur, Athens area, and the Tri-Cities.

### NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COST ACCOUNTANTS

Officers and directors, 1955-56: (left to right): Frank W. Hayes, Huntsville, vice president; Frank E. Donilon, Jr., Tusculumbia, president; J. Grady Shaw, Decatur, vice president; Morton D. Prouty, Jr., Florence, secretary; Warren H. Saxon, Decatur, treasurer; R. D. Meredith, Jr., Sheffield, publicity director; Frank J. McLaughlin, Jr., Decatur, newsletter director; Hugh P. Henderson, Sheffield, employment director; Stanley A. Veatch, Huntsville, attendance director; R. C. Stribling, Sheffield, meetings director. Absent from the picture are Marlin Long, Decatur, education director; Claude H. McBride, Jr., Decatur, membership attendance; Peyton W. Drake, Huntsville, publications director; John R. Severin, Jr., Florence, program director.

### AMERICAN ROCKET SOCIETY

#### Alabama Chapter

The Alabama Section of the American Rocket Society was organized in February, 1952. Its president for that year was Dr. Martin Schilling. The following year Mr. George Henderson became president. Mr. Joseph Wiggins, of the Redstone Division of Thiokol Corporation, was elected president in 1954; his term of office continues until December 1955. Other officers at present are: Vice-president, Conrad Swanson; secretary-treasurer, James Stamy. Board of Directors include the above officers and the following: Dr. Wernher von Braun, George Henderson, Hans Heuter, Dr. Martin Schilling, Dr. Harold Ritchey, and Helmut Zoike.

The American Rocket Society is a national association of engineers and scientists devoted to "the development and application of the principle of jet propulsion as applied to rockets, aircraft, guided missiles, and water and underwater craft; and to all other appropriate and practical devices" and to "the development of the sciences and engineering techniques pertaining thereto" such as instrumentation, guidance and control, high temperature materials, upper atmospheric research, aerodynamics, structures, combustion, fuels and propellants, heat transfer, etc. American Rocket Society has always maintained a deep interest in responsible scientific study of space flight and in fostering sound professional and public interest in this subject.

Membership is open to engineers and scientists ac-

tively engaged in rocket and guided missile research and related fields. Other types of membership are open to those interested, and students over 17 years of age.

### HUNTSVILLE SUBSECTION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

By Edward J. Drost

The growth of Redstone Arsenal as a center for the Army guided missile program attracted a large number of electrical engineers—a number of them members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. There was a growing interest among these members of organizing a local group and in October, 1952 Robert L. Smith, Jr., George C. Dannals, Howard Burns, Hugh Taylor, and James Rorex contacted the East Tennessee Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to which this area is assigned, and asked their permission and help in forming a subsection.

An organizational meeting was held on January 22, 1953, at the Huntsville Electric Auditorium with Mr. Meade Warren, Chairman, Mr. Warren Roberts, vice-chairman, Mr. Leonard Munson, associate secretary-treasurer of the East Tennessee Section and Mr. C. P. Almon, Jr., secretary of the Southern District of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in attendance. The group was organized into a subsection and the East Tennessee Section was petitioned for recognition. Temporary officers were elected as follows: George C. Dannals, chairman; Joseph H. Pass, vice-chairman; Robert L. Smith, Jr., secretary-treasurer.

At meetings in Knoxville on February 10 and in Chattanooga on February 24, the members of the East Tennessee Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers unanimously approved the formation of the Huntsville Subsection of the East Tennessee Section of the American Institute of the Electrical Engineers and designated the area to be covered by the subsection as Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan counties.

On March 2, 1953 the first meeting of the newly formed subsection was held, the proposed by-laws for the group were reviewed and approved and the following committees were formed: Technical Programs, Fellowship and Meetings, Membership, Papers and Technical Discussion, Publicity, Planning, Student guidance, and Historical.

Charter members were: Harold A. Black, B. S. Blake, Jr., Coy O. Brock (affiliate), David E. Buck,



Howard D. Burns, Kyle Y. Chalker, Frank L. Chenault, Jr., George C. Dannals, Jr., Lt. Richard H. Delp, Edward J. Drost, Charles K. Ethridge, Russell T. Gambill, Jr., Edward F. Dennis, Albert S. Graham, Jr., Dr. Hans F. Gruene, John H. Kastanakis, Dr. Erich W. Manteuffel, C. J. Martz, Robert Milner, Jr., George P. O'Brien, Joseph H. Pass, Homer C. Powers, James E. Rorex, William G. Shields, Jr., Richard G. Smith, Robert L. Smith, Jr., Hugh M. Taylor, James R. White.

The objectives of the Huntsville Subsection of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers are those of the national organization, as follows: to advance the theory and practice of electrical engineering and of the allied arts and sciences; to maintain a high professional standing among its members; to encourage research in science and engineering; to develop technical standards in cooperation with manufacturers, industries and associations; to render public service and foster a spirit for the common good; to provide an opportunity for personal growth and progress; to provide educational opportunities through its publications and meetings; and to promote association among engineers and leaders of industry.

Officers of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, locally, reading left to right: Front row, Michael A. Kalange, Russell T. Gambil, Jr., Edward J. Drost. Back row, Robert L. Smith, Jr., and John H. Kastanakis.



Some of the activities of this subsection are as follows: dinner meetings, generally the second Monday of every month at the Huntsville Cafe at which subsection business is taken care of and men outstanding in electrical or related fields speak on some subject of common interest, or a technical film is shown; a yearly picnic for members, their families and guests, sponsoring such science shows as the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's 'Energy in Action', and the General Electric Company's 'House of Magic'; and tours of industrial plants and electrical facilities.

The future objectives of the subsection include increasing the membership, obtaining section status, taking a greater part in civic projects and activities designed to promote the engineering profession, to provide increased fellowship, to continue to acquaint members and stimulate their interest in new developments in electrical engineering and allied arts and sciences through the obtaining of equally outstanding speakers as have been obtained in the past, and greater participation in sectional and national American Institute of Electrical Engineers affairs and in presentation and publication of technical papers.

## THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS

In 1950 Huntsville and its military partner, Redstone Arsenal, began to welcome an influx of highly trained electronic and electrical engineers, who soon made the City and the Valley their homes. By 1952 a group of Huntsvillians and Redstone engineers began the drive to enter Huntsville's name on the rolls of the professional society, the Institute of Radio engineers. The IRE, an international association of electronic and electrical engineers, was organized in 1912, with the dual aim of furthering advances in the scientific fields, and advancing the education of its membership professionally.

Organizational efforts, beginning in May, 1952 under the leadership of Mr. Stephen Johnston, 207 Edgewood Drive, culminated on July 10th, 1952, when the National Board of Directors approved the formation of the Huntsville Subsection, Institute of Radio Engineers. This newest of the professional groups covered the area in a radius of 60 miles, with Huntsville as its hub. The original enrollment was 40 members.

The roster of speakers brought to Huntsville during the first few months of operation included some of the best-known names in the electronic field. Among them were Mr. W. R. Hewlett, then National President of the IRE, the late Professor W. R.

Jones of Cornell, Dr. William Rust, Director of Geophysical Research of Humble Oil, Dr. A. W. Straiton, Director of Electrical Engineering Research Laboratory, University of Texas, and Mr. John H. DeWitt, president of WSM-Inc.

As Huntsville continued to grow in importance in the electronic field, the IRE grew with it. Finally, in November, 1953, the Huntsville sub-section outgrew its parent organization in Atlanta, and was advanced to the status of an independent Section. Around this new professional center was satellited the entire northern half of Alabama, North Mississippi, and the western half of Tennessee, including such cities as Birmingham, Memphis, and Nashville. By 1955 the Section listed 215 active members, and had become one of the oldest continually operating professional societies in the Valley.

Since education is one of the prime aims of the IRE, much attention is given by the Huntsville section to the three major universities included in this area. A large and active student chapter is already functioning at Mississippi State College, and preliminary work is being carried out toward organizing at Vanderbilt University and the University of Alabama.

## NORTH ALABAMA SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

By W. F. Arendale

When the Wilson Dam Section of the American Chemical Society was organized in 1937, Madison and Morgan counties were considered for inclusion in the territory of that Section, but were rejected because there was no member of the Society in either Huntsville or Decatur at that time.

When Redstone Arsenal was reactivated as center of ordnance research and development in the summer of 1949, it began to bring to Huntsville a rapidly increasing number of chemists, together with scientists and engineers from other fields, for the development of rockets and guided missiles. Some of these were employed directly by Redstone Arsenal, others by two civilian contractors—Rohm and Haas Company and Thiokol Corporation—all as a part of the Army's long-term development program.

Until then, there had been only a handful of chemists in the area, employed principally by four companies that were operating in leased facilities on the Arsenal. The largest of these operations was the Chlor-alkali plant, which was leased by Solvay Process Company, later by Algonquin Chemical Company, and currently by U. S. Industrial Chemical

Corporation. Other facilities were operated by Calabama Chemical Company, General Aniline and Film Corporation, and John Powell Chemical Company; and Harper-Neely Chemical Company were operating at their plant in Huntsville.

By the fall of 1949, some of the newly arrived chemists were already looking forward to the formation of a local Section. The moving spirit among the group was B. G. Nelson, of Thiokol Corporation, who enlisted the aid of W. T. Harper (Harper-Neely Chemical Co.), Frank W. James (Redstone Arsenal), Henry N. Nocke (Thiokol Corporation), Henry M. Shuey (Rohm & Haas Co.), and R. C. Skinner (Solvay Process Co.). That group, meeting first in December 1949, and again the next month, arranged a "get-acquainted" meeting, which was held February 16, 1950.

Although Mr. Nelson was prevented from attending the meeting by serious illness, from which he died several days later, the work of the starting committee had been well done and the momentum that had been generated was sufficient to assure a permanent organization. The meeting was attended by forty-five people, including representatives of the Wilson Dam Section and the Alabama Section.

With the help and encouragement of Dr. E. E. Hardy and Dr. David E. Chadwick, of the Alabama Section, the local group was organized as their Tennessee Valley Sub-Section. The organization was completed at the next meeting, March 17, 1950, when the first sub-section officers were elected: H. M. Shuey, Chairman, R. C. Skinner, Vice-Chairman, and W. T. Harper, Secretary-Treasurer. Arrangements were made for allotment of funds to finance sub-section meetings, and for representation of the sub-section on the executive committee of the Section.

During the next two years, under the chairmanships of Dr. H. M. Shuey and Mr. H. H. Nocke, the group continued to operate as a sub-section; but by the spring of 1952, it was apparent that it would soon outgrow that form of organization. The influx of chemists to Redstone Arsenal had been more rapid than anticipated; and the recent announcement of the plans of Chemstrand Corporation to build an acrilan fiber plant and research laboratories at Decatur promised further additions to the chemical community. Chairman Nocke, therefore, appointed a committee to re-assess the situation and recommend whatever action appeared most suitable in the light of their findings.

The committee recommended the formation of a new local section and was instructed to proceed im-

mediately with steps toward securing a charter for a section comprising Madison and Morgan counties, and having headquarters in Huntsville. With the assistance of the parent section, and under the able guidance of Mr. Alden Emery, a petition and supporting documents were prepared in time for action by the Council later in the same year. The fortuitous precision of the timing was not fully appreciated until Mr. Emery's office reported that of the sixty-six members who signed the petition, only fifty-two had established their eligibility by addresses recorded on the official membership list—just two more than the required number. (It is assumed that the other fourteen, whose address changes were too recent, will eventually be recognized as charter members of the Section.)

There are approximately 200 members at the present time. Although the Decatur group is still slightly in the minority, accounting for approximately forty-five per cent of the present membership, the group has contributed substantially to the success of the Section; not only through the work of individual members in the organization of the Section, but by bringing more diversified interests to the Section. Despite the distance of more than thirty miles separating the two centers of activity within the Section, attendance at meetings has averaged from sixty to sixty-five during the current season. With the improvement of the highway between Huntsville and Decatur, the Section looks forward to a highly successful future.

The slate of officers for 1955-1956 is as follows:

Chairman, Madison L. Marshall; Chairman-elect, William F. Arendale; Secretary, Harry Anschutz, Jr.; and Treasurer, Patrick Hobson.

### HISTORY OF NORTH ALABAMA SUBSECTION, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

By Allen R. Deschere

The North Alabama Subsection of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers was started in November, 1953 at a meeting of a group of mechanical engineers from the Huntsville and Decatur areas. A "Provisional Group" was organized to provide technical programs and professional intercourse among the many mechanical engineers in this region. The first regular meeting was held at Cambron's in February, 1954, under the sponsorship of the Provisional Group and with the assistance of the Birmingham Section, American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

During the following year, bimonthly meetings were held, all in the Huntsville area, while membership was being built up of regular ASME members in the area to the point where a petition could be prepared for Subsection status in the Birmingham Section of the Society. A charter was granted at the Executive Council meeting in New York City in April, 1955 and was presented at a local meeting in May by the Vice-President of the southeastern region.

C. Gentry Miles, Jr., is president of the organization for the 1955-56 year, Wiley Karrh is vice-president and A. Terrell Jones, Jr., is secretary-treasurer, all of Huntsville. Included in the official area of the Subsection are the nine northern Alabama counties, west of Jackson and DeKalb counties. Current paid membership is about 70.

### THE HUNTSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

By Thomas D. McDonald

The Huntsville Bar Association is a professional group composed of local attorneys who are actively engaged in the practice of law or serving in judicial capacities.

The group holds a regular luncheon meeting on the first Monday of each month at the Russell Eskine Hotel.

In addition to the business of the bar occasional programs are held featuring speakers who are exceptionally qualified in some legal field of interest to the Association.

The local bar also takes an active part in the investigation of, study, and promotion of many phases of legislation of importance to the legal profession.

The Association functions through its standing committees on membership, legal education, unauthorized practice of law, professional ethics and grievances, judiciary and legal reforms, public services and public relations, memorial, library, entertainment and legal aid committees.

All members of the local bar association are members of the State Bar Association, an integrated bar with professional standards as high as any such state group in the United States.

In addition a number of members belong to the American Bar Association, the Commercial Law League of America, and the Judge Advocates Association. A majority of the members are graduates of the University of Alabama Law School and others are graduates of such institutions as University of Virginia, Cumberland Law School, Jones School of Law and Vanderbilt University.

For many years Huntsville has had a number of practicing attorneys but prior to World War II membership in the Association was much smaller than it is today, relatively speaking.

Prior to this time the President of the Bar Association, usually the senior member, was elected to this office and served until his death.

During the last ten years the Bar Association has increased in size and adopted the custom of regular monthly meetings. The officers of the association are now elected annually by vote of the membership.

The present officers of the Association are James L. Caldwell, president; John R. Thomas, vice-president; and William G. Hamm, Jr., secretary.

Members of the Huntsville Bar Association are David R. Archer, James W. Baker (Judge of the In-

ferior Court), Robert K. Bell, W. H. Blanton, James H. Butler, James L. Caldwell, J. D. Carroll, Jr., Earl Cloud, Joseph Conwell, Charles Crute, Walter E. Eigenbrod, Earle R. Ford, Ralph H. Ford, Horace E. Garth, Jack Giles, John W. Greene, Jr., (register in chancery), M. U. Griffin II, William G. Hamm, Jr., William H. Johnston, M. H. Lanier, Thomas D. McDonald, Glenn Manning (solicitor), Douglas C. Martinson, Carl A. Moring, Jr., Elbert H. Parsons (Judge of the Circuit Court), Joe L. Payne, Harry Pennington, Claude H. Pipes (United States Commissioner), Walter J. Price, Patrick W. Richardson, Roscoe Roberts, Jr., Louis Salmon, Ramsey O. Scott, Charles E. Shaver, Jeff D. Smith, John R. Thomas, Jr., C. L. Watts, and Macon L. Weaver.

**CERTAIN MOTOR CO.**

“Be Certain With Certain” is the slogan of Certain Motor Company Your Nash Dealer in Huntsville. The firm, which is located on Clay Street has a complete parts department and handles body repairing and service for all makes of automobiles. Mr. W. L. Certain, Jr., owner, heads a large staff of competent personnel.

Huntsville Lions Club Officers displaying Lions Club Festival Prizes. (Left to right) Mr. W. L. Certain, Jr., (owner of Certain Motor Company), immediate past president of the Lions Club, Mr. Walton Hughes, president of the club, and Dr. L. A. Davis, Third Vice-President. (This picture courtesy of Certain Motor Company.)



**RODENHAUSER INSURANCE AGENCY**

The Rodenhauser Insurance Agency is located in the Times Building. Mr. John Rodenhauser is Agent. The firm handles both Real Estate and Insurance. Mr. Rodenhauser is a member of the City Council and is affiliated with a number of civic organizations.

Inspection of troops during the Spanish American War



## RAY AUTO COMPANY



Herbert Ray

When Huntsville and Madison County citizens "watch the Fords go by" they immediately think of but one thing, the Ray Auto Company.

For since the company was started on Meridian Street in 1926 by William Herbert Ray, the names of "Ford" and "Ray" have practically been synonymous.

Herbert Ray was born on May 26, 1900, near New Market, Alabama. His interest in the sale and servicing of automobiles led him, with the aid of his brothers, Coyle and the late Morgan Ray, to acquire the Ford dealership and to open a servicing department and showroom in the city.

The family of Herbert Ray consists of his wife, Elizabeth, and four children, Elizabeth Ann, Mavis Gwendolyn, Johnnie LaVerne and William Herbert Ray, Jr.

Mr. Ray takes an active interest in community life. He is a Shriner, a member of the Salesman's Club, Past President of the Civitan Club; is a Trustee of Howard College in Birmingham, a Director of the State National Bank and serves on the board of directors of the Madison County T. B. Association.

He is a deacon in the First Baptist Church and has long been an active member of that religious denomination.

For recreation, Mr. Ray goes to his farm or watches baseball and football games.

As a high point in his busy career, he received a certificate from Harry Truman, then President of the United States, for his work on the price control and rationing program during World War II.

Coyle Ray is vice-president and general sales manager of the Ray Auto Company.

He was born on March 19, 1908 and was educated in Madison County.

His wife is named Bertha. They have one son, Glenn, 9.

His hobbies are fishing and the sports of baseball and football.

Coyle Ray is a member Helion Lodge No. 1, Elks, and the Huntsville Country Club. He is a Shriner and a member of the Fifth Street Baptist Church.

Howard O. Henshaw serves as business manager of Ray Auto Company. He was born in Jackson County in 1908. He and his wife, Gertrude, have four children, Carolyn, Alice, Bill and Dorothy.

Mr. Henshaw is an elder in the 1st Presbyterian Church. He has long been active as a leader in Boy Scout work and frequently joins the Scouts on camping expeditions. Mr. Henshaw holds the Silver Beaver Award and the Wood Badge Beads, both extremely high honors in scouting.

The Ray Auto Company, comprised of 53 employees, specializes in courteous service and takes pride in many satisfied customers.

The success of Huntsville's sesquicentennial can be attributed in large part to the activities of Herbert Ray, president of this company, as he headed one of the most important committees, that of Finance, History will record the magnificent work done by that committee.

Coyle Ray



## LINCOLN MILLS OF ALABAMA



Lincoln Mills of Alabama

Lincoln Mills of Alabama was founded by William L. Barrell of Lawrence, Massachusetts. The company was incorporated on December 21, 1918. For a period of almost forty years Lincoln Mills of Alabama has contributed to the growth of Huntsville and Madison County.

The business policies of the company have been, and will continue to be, that they are dedicated to the production of the highest quality of the Cotton Fabrics for Industrial and other uses. This firm principle was laid down by Mr. William L. Barrell, the founder, and has been their guiding light during the years Lincoln Mills of Alabama has been in operation.

Lincoln Mills of Alabama specialize in Army

Single, and Double Filled Duck cotton fabrics up to 120" wide.

The present officers are: Rolliston W. Linscott, Jr., President; William A. Barrell, Jr., Treasurer; and J. William O'Neal, Secretary.

Mr. Linscott and Mr. Barrell are grandsons of the founder, William L. Barrell.

Present Directors are: John M. Barrell, William A. Barrell, Jr., Marie Barrell Linscott, Rolliston W. Linscott, Jr., Charles D. McDuffie, Phillips W. Peeler, and M. Bierre Spragins.

Lincoln Mills extend their felicitations to Huntsville's 150 years, with the thought that they have been honored, and indeed proud, to have played their part in the prosperity of Huntsville.

Lincoln Ball Park



## J. E. SANDLIN HARDWARE COMPANY

Industrial, Electrical, and Plumbing Supplies  
Lucas Paints, Household Goods, Window Glass

Huntsville, Alabama

J. E. Sandlin Hardware Company was established January 1943 by James Earnest Sandlin. The business is located at Number 5 South Side Square and the warehouse is located on Blount Street.

Mr. Sandlin was born in Carmarge, Lincoln County, Tennessee, December 15, 1893, and came to Huntsville in 1906.

He is married to the former Leona J. Wilson, a native of Huntsville. They have one daughter, Dorothy, (Mrs. Roy E. Blair, Sr.) and two grandchildren: Roy E. Blair, Jr. and Susan Wilson Blair.

Mr. Sandlin was educated in the public schools of Fayetteville, Tennessee and Huntsville, Alabama.

He is a member of the First Baptist Church, being one of its most active members.

The Sandlin Hardware Company employs ten people.

From 1912 through 1926 Mr. Sandlin was employed as salesman by the Yarbrough Brothers Hardware Company. Mr. R. O. Noojin bought this company in 1926 at which time Mr. Sandlin became assistant manager. In 1938 Mr. Sandlin resigned to organize Yarbrough Hardware, Incorporated. He owned one-third of stock and was elected President and General Manager. In 1942, Mr. Sandlin resigned to enter business for himself. Since 1943, he has owned and operated Sandlin Hardware Company from the same location.

Time has changed much, but Sandlin Hardware's service to the people of this area has not changed. He can look back with pride, forward with confidence, believing in the future of Huntsville, North Alabama, and its people.

Our Business Motto:

"Your good will is the goal toward which we continually strive."

Sandlin Hardware Company



## STERCHI BROTHERS STORE

The Sterchi Bros. Store was opened in Huntsville in 1928. It has occupied a number of different locations but is now situated at 101 Jefferson Street.

Four floors are utilized with a total floor space of approximately 42,000 square feet. This is the largest furniture store in north Alabama.

Also of interest is the fact that the Sterchi chain with 40 stores in various cities is now the South's largest home furnishers.

The company was started in 1888 by J. G. Sterchi of Knoxville, Tennessee. He was also the first president.

Mr. Sterchi formulated a policy of rendering friendly service to every customer and at the same time striving to furnish homes with the best merchandise at the lowest possible cost to the consumer.

Throughout the years, the management in each store of the widely flung Sterchi chain attempts to adhere to the policies first set up by the founder.

The store was moved to its present location in 1936. W. L. Hunter was manager at that time. In 1944, Mr. Hunter was promoted to Supervisor of the Alabama Division and is now Supervisor of the Alabama-Georgia Division with headquarters in Nashville.

George Goodwyne succeeded Mr. Hunter as manager. Mr. Goodwyn died in 1947 and was succeeded by Carl Woodall who is the present manager.

Mr. Woodall was born February 8, 1895, at Woodville, Alabama. He has been with Sterchi's for twenty-one years.

Mrs. Woodall's name is Dorothy. There are two daughters, Dorothy Marie and Lillian Ann.

Mr. Woodall has taken an active part in civic

affairs since coming to Huntsville. He is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce and is now a director. He also serves as a member of the Industrial Expansion Committee and is a director of the Retail Furniture Dealers of Alabama. He belongs to the Rotary and Elks Clubs and is a Shriner. He is a member of the V.F.W. and the American Legion. Both he and Mrs. Woodall are active in the First Baptist Church where he serves as deacon.

W. E. (Ed) Allen is the local office manager. He was born August 19, 1924, at Smithville, Tennessee. He has been with Sterchi's for four years. His wife is named Elizabeth.

Mr. Allen is a member of the Sertoma Club, in which organization he is a director, Masonic Lodge, Woodmen of the World and the V.F.W.

The store in Huntsville is proud of the complete line of furnishings, floor coverings, and major electrical appliances offered.

Among the nationally known furniture and home furnishings carried are such brand names as Pullman, Kroehler, International, Broyhill, Kent-Coffey, American, Simmons, Baumritter, Berkline, Johnson-Carper, Drexel, Lane, Mersman, Shwayder, Bigelow-Sanford, Armstrong and Carthage Mills.

Major electrical appliances sold include Norge, Kelvinator and Westinghouse.

The store also operates a jewelry department which features Elgin, Waltham, Bulova, Benrus, Stuart, and Hamilton watches as well as Ring O Romance diamonds and the latest in costume jewelry.

The Huntsville store operated a branch in Fayetteville, Tennessee, with five employees.

At the local store are 32 employees with a total of 270 years in service for Sterchi's!

Sterchi Brothers Store





## THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HUNTSVILLE

The tablet on the east wall of the banking room reads as follows:

“Erected 1835

This building has been continuously occupied by First National Bank of Huntsville and its predecessors.”

So only thirty years after the coming of the first settler—John Hunt, for whom the city is named—this building was the home of the present First National Bank’s great grandfather. This ancestor was the Huntsville Branch of the State Bank. Mr. Bartlet M. Lowe was the first president, and Mr. James Penn the cashier.

The parent bank, at Tuscaloosa, had been established some years earlier, and it, along with its four branches, Mobile, Montgomery, Decatur and Huntsville, functioned until 1836. The five banks gradually restricted their activities, until the late fifties, when they were entirely withdrawn from the banking field.

On February 10, 1852, the Northern Bank of Alabama was incorporated with a capital “Not to exceed \$834,000.00, of which the state reserved the right to subscribe to two-fifths.” The records indicate that it operated until the coming of the Federal troops to Huntsville, during the War Between the States.

It is told that when the approach of the invading troops was reported, the cashier, Mr. Theophilus Lacy, concealed all the liquid assets of the bank in the lower portion of one of the chimneys, and despite arrest, imprisonment and the threat of death by hanging refused to disclose the hiding place. He was

ultimately released without bodily harm, and lived to become the second cashier of the National Bank of Huntsville, authorized to begin business on September 15, 1865.

The doors were opened for business on Thursday, October 5, 1865, the new bank having rented quarters in this building, and *it has been open every legal business day since that time*. It purchased the building from the Northern Bank of Alabama, in liquidation, on January 1, 1867.

For 23 years and nine months the bank operated under the name of the National Bank of Huntsville, first under the guiding hand of its president, Mr. James Hervey Mastin, who served until January 17, 1882, and then by Mr. James R. Stevens, who succeeded Mr. Mastin.

On June 22, 1889, the First National Bank of Huntsville, having been organized for the purpose of taking over the business of the National Bank of Huntsville and to effect a change in the name, was authorized to continue the business and on Friday, July 5, 1889, the name was changed and Mr. James R. Stevens, along with the other officials of the National Bank of Huntsville, assumed their duties as officers of The First National Bank of Huntsville, the business continuing without interruption. Mr. Stevens resigned in 1899.

Since that time the bank has been most capably managed by Major William H. Echols, from 1899 until 1909, Mr. Robert E. Spragins from 1909 until 1935 and the incumbent, Mr. M. Beirne Spragins, who became president upon the death of his father.

First National Bank in 1955



Up to the time Mr. Robert E. Spragins became president, the bank grew slowly. It was a good, substantial, country bank adequate for the needs of the community and over the years showed a slow, but steady growth.

After Mr. Robert E. Spragins became president, the growth of the bank was accelerated and it has kept step with Huntsville's progress and, under his son, Mr. M. Beirne Spragins, it has become one of the largest and strongest banks in Alabama.

The building itself seems to bear out the financial soundness of the bank. For 120 years this beautiful and impressive building has stood as an architectural landmark on a high, limestone bluff overlooking the Big Spring. In its early days, because of its gleaming white limestone front, it was called "The Marble Palace" and in more recent times has been nicknamed "The Rock," a name both meaningful and expressive. The building was erected under the supervision of Mr. George Stevens who, as both architect and builder, also erected the Old Court House and many of the beautiful homes in this section of Alabama.

In the main building living quarters were provided for the cashier, who for many years was required by law to reside on the bank premises. The large, semi-detached structure at the rear of the main building provided living quarters for the servants, and in the basement of this structure there were detention cells for slaves impounded for their master's debts.

The building is a Greek revival structure with a six-column Ionic portico and high entablature. The foundation was built of stone slabs from nearby quarries. The columns, capitals and shafts were brought

from Baltimore, Maryland, as far as the Tennessee River by ox cart, and by barge down the river to Triana, and thence to Huntsville, at the head of the Big Spring, via canal.

With recent renovations this old building has been found to be in a remarkable state of preservation. The heavy timbers were of poplar. The door and window jambs were of red cedar, as were the lintels and columns and floors of the verandas in the rear. These were found to be as sound as when installed and wherever possible have been retained, for they are far superior to anything available today.

That the laborers built even better than they knew is evidenced by the complete soundness of the timbers removed when the floors and second story were torn away, and by the ingenuity with which these heavy timbers were mortised, keyed and locked into the structure.

In recent years the following general remodeling policy was adopted: Outwardly to retain all the old; inwardly to make the building as convenient, as comfortable and as modern as present day methods would permit. This, from all appearances, has been done. The present lobby is a study in modern banking facilities, with well-appointed furnishings, fluorescent lighting, electric-eye-operated doors, air conditioning, a small-loan department.

The building, no longer old save in years, has seen three-fourths of American history in the making and now it faces the years ahead, during which more history is to be made in, what is the Bank's fervent hope, expectation and conviction, the best American tradition.

First National Bank of yesteryear



## STATE NATIONAL BANK

The State National Bank was first chartered in June of 1892, and for 63 years the bank has offered commercial banking services to Huntsville and Madison County.

In the past 10 years, the State National Bank's business has increased almost 20 times in volume.

With this phenomenal increase in business, the bank is erecting a new two story building on the corner of West Clinton and Gallatin Street. The bank hopes to move from its present location at 100 North Jefferson Street by January of 1956.

The entire space of the new building will be occupied by the bank. Plans include for the new building, besides the most modern banking facilities possible, three drive-in teller windows and parking space for 20 cars.

The bank, at present, employs 19 persons with the following people serving as officers: T. J. Cotting-

ham, President; W. L. Howard, Vice President; J. S. Edwards, Cashier; Hettie Garvin, Assistant Cashier; C. H. Tribble, Assistant Cashier. The advisory committee for the bank is made up of the following: T. R. Kelly, W. H. Ray, and F. N. Sefton.

Mr. W. L. Howard, the vice president of the bank, was born Sept. 30, 1899 at Stevenson, Ala. He and his wife Lucille came to Huntsville in 1934. He is a Methodist and belongs to the Rotary, Elks, and Masons and has served as past treasurer of Rotary Club, Madison County Chapter of Infantile Paralysis, and was Director of Madison County Community Chest. Mr. Howard is now serving as Member Board of Directors of Chamber of Commerce.

The slogan of this bank is significant of its progressive attitude. It advertises "One of the many good banks serving North Alabama."



Herbert Ray



C. H. Tribble



W. L. Howard



F. N. Sefton



New State National Bank building under construction

T. R. Kelly

Hettie Garvin



## THE HENDERSON NATIONAL BANK



Henderson National Bank, 1955

The Henderson National Bank was first chartered in 1907 by a group of local stock holders, and began operation the same year at the corner of Washington and Randolph Street.

James Murphree, one of the first officers of the bank served as cashier until his death in 1914. He was succeeded by Robert Murphree. Other officers in 1914 were Fox Henderson, President; M. R. Murray, Vice President; and R. L. Adair, assistant cashier.

From its inception in 1907 the Henderson National Bank year by year has grown and prospered offering sound commercial Banking to customers in North Alabama and Tennessee.

In 1948 the Bank moved from the corner of Randolph and Washington Street into its present quarters at the corner of Jefferson and Spring Street. The new bank building is one of the most modern and beautiful bank buildings in the State. One of the most notable features of the building is the Westminster chiming clock which extends out from the south-east corner of the bank. The clock adds charm and character to the modernistic design of the building, and rapidly has become one of Huntsville's landmarks.

Continuing to grow, the bank recently purchased property on Gallatin Street for use as a parking space and for other banking purposes.

The most graphic illustration of the bank's progress is shown in the following financial statements, the first showing the finances in 1914, as contrasted with the financial statement of 1955.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 13, 1914

#### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts	\$642,600.51
Bonds and Premiums	101,875.00
Furniture and Fixtures	9,900.00
Cash and Exchange	149,575.68
	<hr/>
Total	\$903,951.19

#### LIABILITIES

Capital	\$100,000.00
Surplus and Undivided Profit	36,697.00
Circulation	100,000.00
Deposits	667,254.19
	<hr/>
Total	\$903,951.19

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 30, 1955

#### RESOURCES

Cash and Due from Banks	\$2,495,769.00
U. S. Gov't Securities	6,284,596.00
State, County and other Securities	1,345,123.22
Loans and Discounts	2,736,069.00
C.C.C. and other Cotton Loans	676,732.60
Bank Premises	132,500.00
Other Real Estate	1.00
Furniture and Fixtures	1.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$13,670,792.00



Scene of the 1900's. The building on the corner is the old Huntsville Hotel, occupying the location of the present Henderson National Bank.

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$100,000.00
Surplus	800,000.00
Undivided Profits	410,728.92
Reserve Contingencies	19,173.18
Deposits	12,340,890.05
	-----
Total	\$13,670,792.15

At present the Henderson Bank employs 23 trained banking personnel, to serve its increasing number of customers. The Bank's officers and officials are: President, J. E. Humphery; Vice-President, Dean S. Murprhee; Vice-President, R. H. Gilliam; Cashier, J. L. Kenny; and Assistant Cashier, G. W. Thomas. The Bank Directors are: Robert H. Baker, W. A. Brown, M. M. Cantrell, J. E. Humphery, Dr. James L. Jordan, A. J. Moore, Dean S. Murphree, Jeff. H. Terry.

Traditionally, this bank become known all over Alabama as having one of the soundest financial managements in the state.



Life of Georgia Building

## LIFE OF GEORGIA

Life Insurance Company of Georgia has been providing insurance service to people of Huntsville since the turn of the century and has taken an increasingly important part in the business growth of the area.

The Life of Georgia district office building, a trim, modern, air-conditioned structure at 514 Madison Street, is headquarters for a bustle of business which requires the full time of 20 agency representatives and three clerical and accounting specialists. They serve a four-county territory covering Morgan, Jackson, Limestone, and Madison counties. The company has more than \$9,000,000 worth of life insurance now in force in this section with over 20,000 policies, small and large. This is part of the more than a billion dollars of insurance on the lives of more than three million people which the company provides in eleven southern states. Home office of Life of Georgia is in Atlanta.

John D. Futch, who came to Huntsville from Fort Smith, Ark., and immediately became active in Huntsville civic affairs is in charge of the Huntsville district.

The company started selling insurance in Alabama in 1892, the year after it was founded. Its first office was at Anniston. Within a short time, agents were calling on prospective policyholders in Huntsville and other northern Alabama cities and later full-scale agency operations were begun in Huntsville. One of the company's early agents in the area was the well-remembered James N. Lary who became associated with the company in pre-World War I days. Mr. Lary was the father of Huntsville's eminent Dr. John H. Lary. Mr. Lary handled the company's business in Madison and Scottsboro as well as in Huntsville. In 1920 he was appointed head of the Huntsville office in the Holden Building. His daughter Elizabeth (now Mrs. F. M. Grace) assisted him on Saturdays with a multitude of clerical chores.

Mr. Lary retired in 1939, but he lived to see the company well on its way to greatness before he died in 1947. Life of Georgia is now listed among the top rank old line, legal reserve life insurance institutions of the United States and Canada. It provides a wide variety of insurance coverages for people in all walks of life, from the daily wage earner to the bank president.

## JOHN BLUE COMPANY

The John Blue Company was organized by John Blue of Lauvinbury, North Carolina. It has been headed by John Blue, Jr., since the death of John Blue in 1935.

The firm here in Huntsville is an outgrowth of a North Carolina organization established in 1886. The Huntsville plant started production in January, 1946. At that time the plant was confined to an approximate 43,000 square feet of floor space. Presently the plant has 160,000 square feet of floor space area on a forty acre plot.

The products manufactured by the John Blue Company are as follows: Fertilizer distributors for applying solid fertilizers, Fertilizer Distributors for applying Anhydrous Ammonia, Fertilizer Distributors for applying Nitrogen Solutions, Tractor Mounted Row-Crop Sprayers, Tractor Mounted Row-Crop Dusters, Cotton and Corn Planters, Disc Harrows, Stalk Cutters, Corn Shellers and Corn Mills.

This line of implements, known as the BLUE LINE, is very popular throughout the entire farming section of the United States. In fact, active sales are now carried on in all of the forty-eight states and several foreign countries.

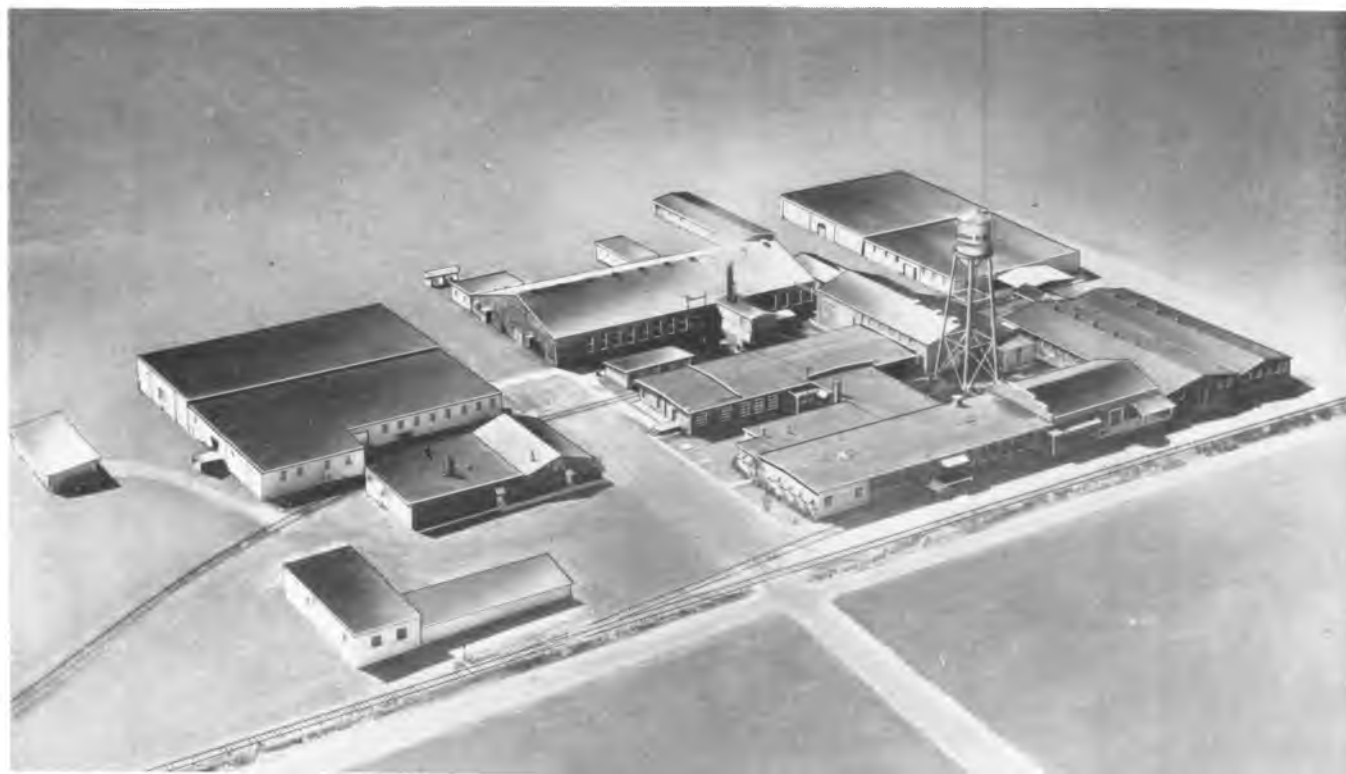
To avoid excessive cost, it has been necessary for the John Blue Company to handle, as far as prac-

tical, the majority of the necessary manufacturing operations on these implements in its own plant. The plant in Huntsville is divided into the following departments: Die Shop and Pattern Shop for producing both metal and wood patterns, Foundry (both gray iron and aluminum), Steel Storage and Forge Shop, Machine Shop, Press Shop, Welding Shop, Assembly, and Paint Depts., Woodworking Shop, Warehouse, Office, Engineering and Experimental Division.

The John Blue Company is the largest independent farm implement manufacturer located in the South. Their rapid growth is attributed to pioneering such items as Anhydrous Ammonia Application Equipment, Tractor Mounted Spraying Equipment, Tractor Mounted Side-Dressing Equipment, Crop Duster Equipment and other less important ones. On any of these items, based on Department of Commerce figures, they manufacture more in dollar volume than any other manufacturer on a National level.

Prior to World War II, the John Blue Company was known for the quality of their horse-drawn implements. Now that the horse-drawn implement business has dropped to a small percent of their volume, they have replaced this business with such power implements as have been mentioned previously.

John Blue Factory







C. I. Bradford



W. D. (Doug) Ray

## RAY-BRADFORD LINCOLN-MERCURY, INC.

Ray-Bradford Lincoln-Mercury, Incorporated, was established June 1, 1955. Prior to that the dealership was known as the Big Spring Motors.

Ray-Bradford operates its new car sales and service department from 417 Meridian Street and its used car sales and service department from 212 Meridian Street.

For ten years Mr. Ray was a partner in the tractor and equipment business with Mr. M. E. McGaha. Mr. Bradford has been known in local automobile circles for twenty-five years.

Ray-Bradford are endeavoring to expand their services with the growth of the community. At present there are twenty people employed by this concern.

Mr. W. D. (Doug) Ray was born December 17, 1921, in Madison County. He is married to the former Patty Bailey. They have three children: Larry

9, Linds 7, and Jack 2. Mr. Ray is a graduate of Riverton High School. The Ray family attends the Baptist Church.

Mr. Ray is Vice-President of the Shrine Club, a Mason, a member of the Elks Club and of the Rotary Club. Also, he is serving as a director of the Salvation Army.

Mr. Bradford was born in Limestone County September 27, 1905. He married Alyne Spence. Their children are Ivan and Roger. Mr. Bradford graduated from Athens Agricultural School.

In addition to the automobile business, Mr. Bradford farms extensively in Madison and Limestone Counties. He is particularly interested in raising beef cattle.

Mr. Bradford is a Mason, a member of the Shrine Club, and a member of the Baptist Church.

## WHITESBURG DRIVE-IN THEATER

The Whitesburg Drive-In Theatre, Huntsville's first Drive-In, was opened June 16, 1949. This theatre is located one-half mile South of Huntsville on Whitesburg Drive and is owned and operated by Acme Investments, Incorporated, whose stockholders are Walton Fleming, president; Martha Fleming, vice-president; and Charles A. Crute, secretary-treasurer.

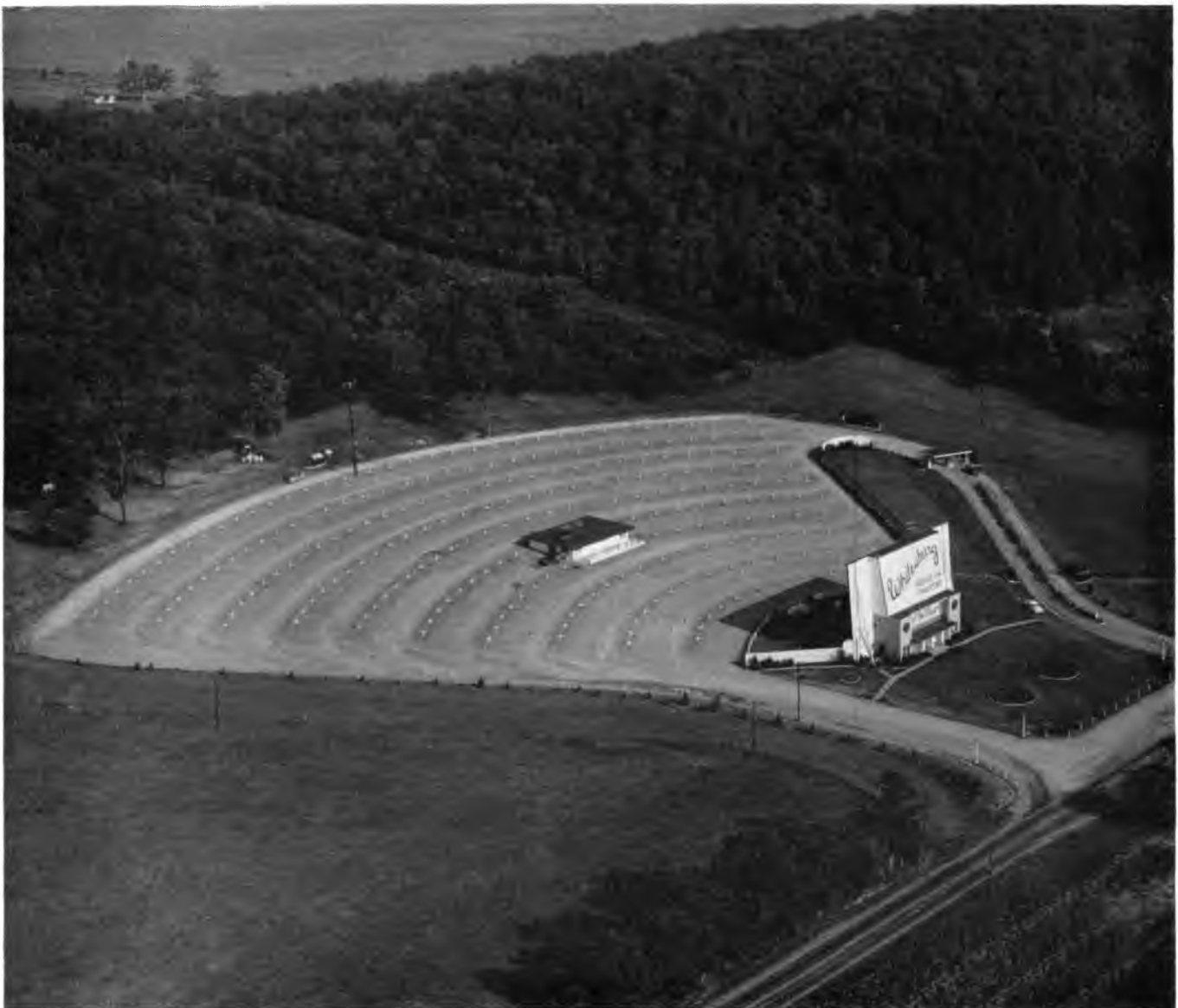
In keeping with company policy, the latest type of equipment is maintained. The screen size was increased in 1954 to 100 x 40 feet to accommodate both widescreen and Cinemascope attractions. Just prior

to that time, playground equipment was installed in front of the screen and is available free of charge to patrons.

The Whitesburg Drive-In Theatre has a modern, fully-equipped Snack Bar. Mr. Robert Ross, who manages the Theatre, is also manager of the Snack Bar.

This theatre, as can be seen by the picture below, is one of the most beautiful open-air theatres to be found in America.

Whitesburg Drive-In Theatre





Bryson Studio building

## BRYSON STUDIO

The Bryson Studio is located in Huntsville at 217 West Clinton Street. This Studio was formerly located at 111 East Clinton Street, and was founded on July 26, 1946, by Mr. Franklin Bryson.

Mr. Bryson was born on February 2, 1921, in Huntsville, Alabama. His wife is Mrs. Martha Dunn Bryson. They have one child, a daughter, Melissa. The Brysons are members of a Protestant Church. Mr. Bryson is a member of the Lions Club, Photographers Association of America, and Southeast Photographers Association. He was educated at Huntsville High School and New York Institute of Photography, receiving his Masters Certificate.

He was in war service from 1941-1945 and from 1950-1952.

The Bryson Studio specializes in Commercial Photography, Motion pictures, portraits, pictures of

weddings, schools, industrial and aerial photography, fashion, copies and photostats. There are five persons employed at the Studio.

Business increased rapidly from the beginning until Mr. Bryson was recalled into service for seventeen months during the Korean War. After his return from service the business expanded and now instead of doing 60 sheets of film a month, as it did at the end of the first year, it now does in excess of 2,000 sheets a month.

Mr. Bryson plans to increase the business from one to three camera rooms.

All lighting will be electronic. This increase will enable an expansion of children's portraits, bridal portraiture, and an addition of illustrative photography.

### THE MADISON COUNTY LIVESTOCK MARKET

The Madison County Livestock Market was established in 1935 at its present location, 410 Oakwood Avenue, by J. O. Fisk and M. L. Stinnett. Mr. Fisk bought out Mr. Stinnett in 1941. In 1948 Curtis Allison, Mr. Fisk's son-in-law, came into the business with him.

Mr. Fisk was born March 25, 1897, at Hazel Green, Alabama. He is married to the former Jimmie Leona Robertson, from Elora, Tenn. The Fisks have one daughter, Mrs. Wilma Jean Fisk Allison.

The Madison County Livestock Market sells all kinds of livestock. There is an auction sale every Wednesday and private sales every day. It is the only livestock market in Madison County, and is the largest one north of Montgomery. This market is one of three in Alabama that protects its buyers up to \$50,000 from bad checks.

The first year this market was in business they had one small barn, approximately twenty by forty feet, two regular employees, and were grossing \$150,000 per year. Today the barns cover over an acre of land, there are nine regular employees, and the gross intake is between five and six million per year.

Mr. Fisk plans to expand in the future to meet the needs of North Alabama, as the cattle industry continues to grow.

Following are some of the larger companies that buy from Mr. Fisk regularly: Swift and Company, Atlanta, Georgia; Neuhoff Company, Nashville, Tennessee; Armour and Company, Birmingham, Alabama; Zeigler's Company, Tuscaloosa, Alabama;



J. O. Fisk, Standing, Seated, Mrs. J. O. Fisk and Curtis Allison

Thompson and Gross, Fayetteville, Tennessee; and Valley Packing Company, Huntsville, Alabama.

The regular employees of Madison County Livestock Company include the following: Bookkeeper, N. D. Kennamer; Truck Drivers, Herman Hobbs, Clifford Hobbs, and Kenneth Wallace; Helpers, Oliver Cantrell, Paul Clinton, and Ottis Jordan (colored); Owners, J. O. Fisk and Curtis Allison.

## THE MADISON COUNTY LIVESTOCK MARKET

Feeder Lambs (Courtesy Picture)



## HISTORY OF HUNTSVILLE MANUFACTURING CO.

- 1896 Merrimack Manufacturing Company of Lowell, Mass., purchased 1,390 acres of land in Madison County to build a cotton mill.
- 1899 Work started on the No. 1 Mill (3 stories).
- 1900 First piece of cloth made at Merrimack Manufacturing Company.
- 1902 Work began on the No. 2 Mill (5 stories). Part of village built.
- 1904 The No. 2 Mill completed (5 stories).
- 1920 New improvements and replacements made. Stores and recreational building erected. Sidewalks paved. Curbs and gutters installed. Present sanitary sewage system started. Principal part of Joe Bradley School completed.
- 1922-1925 Village houses completed.
- 1946 M. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc., purchased Merrimack Manufacturing Company. January 14, 1946, and changed name from Merrimack Manufacturing Company to Huntsville Manufacturing Company. At that time, there were 109,696 spindles; 2,562 looms, 700 employees and produced 77,000,000 yards of cloth annually.
- 1947 First Leon Lowenstein Foundation Scholarship given (\$500 per year for 4 years).
- 1948 November—Leon Lowenstein War Memorial Park dedicated.
- 1949 October—Village houses sold to employees. November—Huntsville Manufacturing Company donated Braham Springs, Reservoir on Russell Hill (Athens Pike), and entire water system to the City of Huntsville.
- 1951 Huntsville Manufacturing Company donated the Joseph J. Bradley school to the Madison County School System.
- 1953 New addition joining the No. 1 and No. 2 Mills erected.
- 1955 At present time, Huntsville Manufacturing Company uses 43,000 bales of cotton per year and produces 95,000,000 yards of cloth annually. Huntsville Manufacturing Company now has 145,896 spindles, 3,437 looms and employs approximately 1600 people.
- 1899 M. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc., founded with capital of \$2,000. The tiny store expanded rapidly through the years into one of the great textile firms of modern times operating 8 large mills and the largest printing and finishing company, employing over 10,000 people. M. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc., has representatives all over the United States, in 42 countries and colonies the world over.

M. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc.  
1430 Broadway  
New York, New York

Leon Lowenstein, President (New York)  
A. D. Elliott, Vice President & General Manager  
Burton Case, Assistant Secretary  
Peyton W. Drake, Assistant Comptroller  
W. E. Dunn, Gen. Supt.

Huntsville Manufacturing Company



Mr. T. H. Peacock is the founder, owner, and manager of Peacock's Apothecary. He was born June 6, 1903, in Dothan, Alabama. He came to Huntsville April 11, 1952. Mr. and Mrs. Peacock (Kathleen) have two children, Thomas Hansel and Kathleen. The religion of the family is Protestant. Mr. Peacock is a graduate of Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama.

This firm was founded in Huntsville, Alabama, April 11, 1952. The present location, at 114 West Clinton Street, was also the original location.

Peacock's Apothecary handles sickroom supplies, wheel chairs, and hospital beds for sale or rent in addition to the most important department, prescriptions.

The store employs eight persons. Among the key personnel are: Mr. Carl M. Bailey, Mrs. Laura D. Turner, and Mrs. Frances C. Calhoun. This store serves the entire city of Huntsville and suburban areas.



Peacock's Apothecary

## PEACOCK'S APOTHECARY

Huntsville Street Scene (Courtesy Picture)



## G. W. JONES AND SONS



George Walter Jones  
(1866-1946)  
Grandparents came to  
Madison County in 1808

Elvalena Moore Jones  
(1868-1948)  
Granddaughter of Isaac  
Criner, reputedly first  
settler in Madison County

The firm of G. W. Jones & Sons, Consulting Engineers, was founded by G. W. Jones in 1886 and is located at 307 Franklin Street. It has been in this same general location for the past sixty-nine years.

The founder, G. W. Jones, was born, 1866, Huntsville, Alabama. Married Elvalena Moore, granddaughter of Isaac Criner, the first white settler in Madison County. Mr. and Mrs. Jones had six children, Howard, Raymond, Walter, Edwin, Carl and Mrs. Pauline Gandrud. They were members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Jones graduated from college in Winchester, Tennessee, in 1886. He was a Mason, Knights Templar, and was very active in church and civic work. He served as Senator in the Alabama Legislature. Mr. Jones died at the age of eighty in 1946.

The present members of the firm are Edwin W. Jones and Carl T. Jones; former members were Raymond W. Jones, a partner in the firm from 1915 until his death in 1931, and Howard C. Jones was with the firm from 1916 until he retired in 1950.

Edwin W. Jones, born in Huntsville, Ala. Married Katherine Simmerman. Their daughters are Mrs. John W. Walker and Mrs. David Schmieder. Edwin is an engineer graduate, University of Alabama, 1918. Military record—Brig. Gen. in the Army Res. with 35 years of commissioned service. He was Commg. Gen. at Nome and Cold Bay, Alaska, W. W. II. Member of the Rotary Club, Past Pres. of Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee.

Carl T. Jones born in Huntsville, Ala. Married Elizabeth Bryant. They have three children: Ray, Betsy and Carolyn. Carl is an Engineer graduate, Univ. of Ala., 1929. Military record: Colonel Engr.

Res. 25 years commissioned service. Spent 3 years in Aleutian Islands and one year in Europe, W. W. II. Past president of Rotary Club, and President of Huntsville Industrial Expansion committee.

The firm offers many services. Following are the more important of these—Consulting, Industrial, Civil Engineering, Real Estate, Insurance, Farm and Home Loans, Abstracts, Industrial Appraisals. There are approximately 34 employees of this firm.

The key employees are, Engineering: William A. Blevins, Thomas M. Phillips, Elmo T. Wheat, Jan Payne, Emily Kirsch, Dr. Waler B. Jones, Harvie P. Jones, Alton E. Berryhill, Inge Raithel, H. L. Carter.

Insurance and Office: J. Oliver Johnson, Evelyn Talley, Phoebe White. Real Estate and Mortgage Loans: T. Alvin Blackwell and W. T. Ryan. Abstracts, Mary T. Hill, Farm, U. G. Roberts, Jr.

The growth of G. W. Jones & Sons, Consulting Engineers, has been synonymous with the growth of Huntsville and Madison County. Indeed it has played an important part in this growth. During the next sixty-nine years, perhaps G. W. Jones & Sons will help Huntsville to grow even more.

G. W. Jones & Sons Building



## DOUBLE COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

The Double Cola Bottling Company was founded in 1919 by Joe S. Foster, Sr., and C. D. Little in Huntsville.

Since that time, Double Cola has grown into a nationwide organization, with Huntsville being one of the key plants.

First location for Double Cola was at 206 West Holmes Street, when it operated under the name of Chero-Cola Bottling Company. The name was changed in 1928, at which time it became known as the Seminole Bottling Company, bottling Brandywine and Double Orange beverages.

In 1935 the name of the company was changed to its present name, and the firm entered into present large operations.

The C. D. Little interest was purchased in 1939 by Joe S. Foster, Sr., and interest in the Huntsville plant was transferred by him to his children, Joe S. Foster, Jr., and Florence Foster Broadway.

In the fall of 1939, the plant was moved to its present location at 119 Jefferson Street, three years after Joe S. Foster, Jr., had assumed managership of the company.

The year 1945 was a dark one for Double Cola, marked by the decease of Joe S. Foster, Sr. He had lived, however, to see the culmination of one of his fondest dreams, that of Double Cola becoming one of the major bottlers in America.

Other products of the company, besides Double Cola, include Double Orange, Double Lemon, and Double Dry Ginger Ale.

Expansion plans of the local Double Cola plant, now having progressed from a three truck outfit in 1919 to 16 trucks now serving 5½ North Alabama

counties, call for completion in 1956 of one of Alabama's most modern bottling plants, to be located on ground recently purchased on the Huntsville Memorial Parkway.

Joe S. Foster, Jr., was born in Macon, Georgia, on July 11, 1917, and moved to Huntsville in 1919, when his father and Mr. Little founded the bottling plant. He was married in September, 1940, to Louise Gentle of Limerock, Alabama, and they have a handsome ten year old son, Joe S. Foster, III. They reside at 1503 Whitesburg Drive. Mr. Foster is part owner of the Chattanooga Double Cola Bottling Company, and serves on its Board of Directors.

After attending Baylor Military Academy from 1928 to 1935 at Chattanooga, Tennessee, Mr. Foster returned to Huntsville and assumed active management of the Huntsville plant. Since that time, with time out for military service during World War II in the Coast Guard, he has assumed one of the most active civic roles in Huntsville. He has served as State Senator, and is presently a member of the State Board of Agriculture and Industry. He has also served on the legislative committee of the Alabama Bottlers Association.

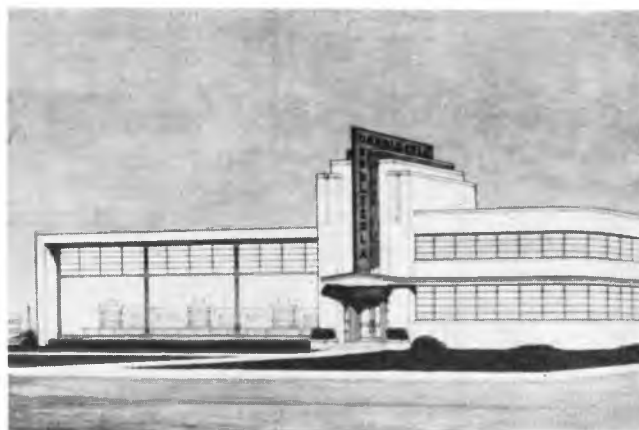
Many honors have been bestowed on Mr. Foster. He has been honored thrice to head the local Elks lodge as Exalted Ruler, and thrice the American Legion as Commander. Other civic affiliations include the Masons, Moose, 40 & 8, and Fraternal Order of Police. He has also served as President of the Shrine Club.

Double Cola evidences, through its many contributions to civic causes, and through its expansion plans, their interest in the future of Huntsville.

Double Cola Bottling Company building of several years ago



Proposed new Double Cola Bottling Company building







Huntsville Aerial View (Courtesy Picture)

## JONES LUMBER COMPANY

The Jones Lumber Company was established June 18, 1946, at the present location, 310 North Washington Street.

They specialize in retail building, materials, millwork, and general contracting.

The present owners are J. C. Jones, Henry V. Bragg, and Billy J. Jones.

Mr. J. C. Jones entered the general contracting business in 1937. For nine years, he built many of the fine homes that have been built in Huntsville. During this time, he also built several commercial buildings and remodeled many more. In 1946 Mr. Jones' son-in-law, Mr. Henry V. Bragg, returned from the service, and his son Billy had just gotten out of school so they decided to go into the Building Material Company under the name of Jones Lumber Company.

The Jones Lumber Company now carries a complete line of building materials. A few of their name brands are Ruberoid-Asphalt and Asbestos Roofing and Siding materials; Gold Bond-Wall Boards, Insulation and Plastering materials; Armstrong-Insulation Boards and Ceiling Tiles; Arnesto-

Paints, Enamels, and Varnishes; Bilt-Well-Millwork; Yale-Schlage and Chester Builders Hardware.

Another part of the Jones Lumber Company that is playing an important part in the community today is the General Contracting Department. They have built churches, stores, schools, and approximately 250 homes in the past nine years.

The company has a fleet of 8 vehicles and employs about 30 men and 2 women.

Huntsville Street Scene, 1955 (Courtesy Picture)





Clark Steadman



Interior view Clark Steadman's

## CLARK STEADMAN'S BAR-B-Q & RESTAURANT

Clark Steadman's Bar B Q and Restaurant was established in Huntsville April 1, 1934, at the corner of Meridian and Washington Streets. They were at this location for 6 years. In 1941, the restaurant was moved to the intersection at the 431 Highway and Whitesburg Drive. They were there through 1944. On August 1, 1947, they moved into their present location, corner of Athens Pike and Jordon Lane.

The business policies of Mr. Steadman are: Service, Courtesy, and Good Food.

They are expanding at the present. Eighteen people are employed permanently.

Mr. Steadman was born in Lincoln County in Tennessee, December 7, 1911. He married Martha Kirkpatrick. They have two children, Kay and Stan, 10 and 9 years old.

Mr. Steadman is a member of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce. From February 17, 1942, to January 1, 1946, Mr. Steadman served in the United States Army.

Clark Steadman's Bar-B-Q





Belk Hudson Company

## BELK HUDSON

The Belk-Hudson Company is one of Huntsville's largest and most complete department stores (at 123 N. Washington Street).

The store is an affiliate of the chain that was started by the late William Henry Belk, known as the Belk System.

Mr. Belk was born in 1862 in Lancaster County, S. C. At 14 he went to work in a dry goods store at a salary of \$5.00 a month. At the end of 12 years, after a series of promotions that culminated in his being the store's buyer, he decided to establish his own business.

With a small capital and the slogan, "Belk Sells it for Less," the ambitious young man launched his new business in Monroe, N. C., on May 29, 1888.

Later his brother, Dr. John Belk, joined him in the operation of business. Their policy from the beginning was to mark merchandise clearly and sell at that price.

As the years went on, new Belk stores began to fan through the southeast until the number has reached 350.

The Belk-Hudson store was opened in Huntsville in 1941. Since that time it has more than doubled its floor space and has tripled its volume of sales.

An interesting fact about the Belk-Hudson stores is that each is a separate corporation owned by members of the Belk and Hudson families and by the local managers.

Belk-Hudson makes every effort to provide a modern shopping center for people of the community; and a pleasant, profitable place for its employees to work. There are from 50 to 60 who work there depending on the season.

Some of the advantages that Belk-Hudson employees enjoy are company-paid life, hospital and surgical insurance, profit sharing benefits; paid vacations and discounts on purchases.

As for the customers, when they come to Belk-Hudson's they are assured of finding a large choice of apparel for men, women and children; household furnishings including bedspreads, attractive piece goods and cooking utensils. The store also features a line of children's books, Hallmark cards and a wide selection in costume jewelry and accessory items—all at down-to-earth prices.

A. C. Kimrey, Jr., is the manager of the Huntsville Belk-Hudson Store. He is from Raleigh, N. C., and has been associated with the Belk system since 1937. For the past five years he has been in charge of the local department store.

His wife is named "Tish." He has one son, A. C. Kimrey, III, age 10.

His brother, Willis Kimrey, is the merchandise manager and has been for the past two years. Willis also has been with the Belk system since 1941.

His wife is Phoebe; and their children are Billy, 4½, and twins, David Ennis and Phoebe Josephine, 1.



Philip Bentley

Charles Bentley

Mrs. Charles Bentley

"From Octane to Oldsmobiles" could be the title given the business careers of Charles R. and Philip W. Bentley who now own the Bentley Bros.-Oldsmobile Agency located at 103 N. Green Street.

Charles Bentley opened his first service station in Huntsville about twenty-two years ago with the idea of giving good service combined with friendly interest to each customer.

A few years later, Philip Bentley joined his brother in the service station business. Together they owned and operated two stations at different locations—both with the title of Bentley Bros.

A call from Uncle Sam changed the business of the Bentley brothers from service stations to military service. Charles served three years in the U. S. Navy and Philip 3½ years in the U. S. Army.

After their return to Huntsville, the brothers became associated in another station at the corner of Green and Clinton Streets.

Then on July 12, 1950, the Bentleys bought the Oldsmobile Agency and have operated it since under the name Bentley Bros.—Oldsmobile.

Charles is the Sales Manager and Philip is Service Manager. Geneva Bentley, Charles' wife, is Office Manager.

In addition to the sale and servicing of Oldsmobiles, the organization also sells and services Westinghouse appliances.

The slogan of the company is "The House of Courtesy," for the brothers—in fact the entire personnel of twenty-five—tries to give to the customers the same service, and the same friendly courtesy that was the policy of the owners when they operated service stations in the past.

Charles was born on February 15, 1915, at Meridianville, Alabama. He finished high school and then started his work in service stations.

He is married to Geneva E. M. Bentley and has one child, Deborah C., 4½.

Charles belongs to the Huntsville New Car Dealers Association in which organization he is now treasurer and was formerly president; Optimist Club, American Legion, V.F.W., Elks and Huntsville Golf and Country Club. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Official Board of the First Methodist Church. His hobbies are golf and boating.

Philip Bentley was born October 23, 1917, also in Meridianville, Alabama. His wife is Doris L. Bentley and their children are Philip W. Bentley, Jr., 12, and Charlotte L., 9.

After high school he, too, went into service station work.

Philip is a member of the Y's Mens Club, Elks, American Legion, V.F.W., Huntsville New Car Dealers Association. He is affiliated with the First Baptist Church as a member.

The Bentley brothers have plans for the future of their business. They purchased on July 29, 1955, the corner of Green and Clinton Streets from the Automotive Parts Co. and will remodel it into sales and show room.

It is the opinion of the Bentleys that more people are turning to Oldsmobile than ever before for luxurious transportation—smooth running motors combined with smart appearance. And they feel that more people are turning to Westinghouse appliances for the style and service that the name Westinghouse implies.

## BENTLEY BROTHERS OLDSMOBILE

Bentley Brothers Oldsmobile



## LIBERTY NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

The Huntsville district office of the Liberty National Life Insurance Company is located at 404 Madison Street.

The Liberty National is Alabama's largest life insurance company, with total resources exceeding \$175,000,000.

It is an interesting but little known fact that this company was founded in Huntsville. The original date of incorporation was August 31, 1900, when a fraternal benefit society by the name of the Heralds of Liberty was formed.

In its early history, the home office was moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but was returned to Birmingham in 1927.

On July 1, 1929, the company was converted to a regular, old line, legal reserve life insurance company. With total resources of less than \$2,000,000 at the end of 1930, its remarkable growth is demonstrated by the fact that its resources now are rapidly climbing toward \$200,000,000.

In 1943 the company bought out the Brown Service, and thus extended its operation into the burial policy field.

Liberty National-Brown Service collects premiums from all states of the union and several foreign countries. It has made mortgages on real estate in every county of Alabama and in 13 other states. So it has truly become a "National Institution."

Mr. Frank P. Samford, Sr., Birmingham, is the president of the company.

Dwight Beeson is the manager of the Tennessee

Valley Division. His office is in the Times Building.

Mr. Beeson and his wife, Lucille, have been living in Huntsville since 1945.

They have both taken an active part in Huntsville life.

Mr. Beeson is a former member of the Salesmen's Club. He is a member of the Rotary Club and a past director of that organization. He now serves on the official board of the First Methodist Church. He has participated in many civic drives.

Mr. Beeson's hobby is movie photography and he has shown movies of his travels and interesting scenes before a number of Huntsville clubs.

Roy Blackburn is the district manager of the Liberty National. He worked with Citizens' Life Insurance Co. from 1928 to 1930. Then this company was incorporated into Liberty National, so Mr. Blackburn was "incorporated" too!

He has worked for the company in Huntsville intermittently since 1939.

Mr. Blackburn's wife is Monetious. They have three children, Roy, Jr. 25, Brady 16, and Myadell 14.

He is a member of the First Baptist Church. He now serves as chairman of the Advisory Board for the Salvation Army in Huntsville; is on the Community Chest Board; is a member of the Rotary and Salesmen's Club and is a Shriner. He is also an adjutant in the Civil Air Patrol.

The local office of Liberty National-Brown Service employs a personnel of 28 including 19 agents.

Liberty National Life Insurance Company



## RITZ CAFE

The Ritz Cafe, located at 108 N. Washington St., opened on December 23, 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Bennett were partners in the enterprise.

In March of 1947, the Bennett interest was bought by the Taylors. During this year Herman Taylor, Jr., entered the business and was made manager.

In the seven years since Herman, Jr., assumed charge there have been nine major remodeling jobs done in the restaurant. In addition to this, labor saving and modern equipment has been added continually until now, the Ritz is one of the most up-to-date restaurants of its size in the Tennessee Valley.

The Ritz features a complete variety of foods—sandwiches, soups, steaks—complete breakfasts, lunches and dinners. This air-conditioned restaurant offers both counter and table service, and is open from 4:30 A.M. until 10 P.M. seven days a week. It is closed only on major holidays with the exception of Thanksgiving.

Herman Taylor was born on July 15, 1906, in Merrimack Village, Huntsville. His father, Thomas R. Taylor, was an overseer in the mill. His mother was Mattie (Lemley) Taylor.

In 1918, Thomas Taylor moved to a farm near the state line of Alabama and Tennessee, but the son decided that he wanted to stay in Huntsville. So at the age of twelve he began work at the old Post Office Cafe. This job began a varied series of experiences in the restaurant business that culminated in his helping to start the Ritz Cafe.

He has worked in a number of restaurants as dishwasher, cook, waiter and finally as night manager.

In 1933 he opened the old White Front Cafe on Washington Street, in partnership with W. O. Fox. In 1940 he sold his interest. He had an interest in four other restaurants for short periods of time.

Leaving the restaurant business, Mr. Taylor worked as a mechanic at Huntsville Arsenal. He then served as a salesman for the American Bakery Co. just prior to opening the Ritz Cafe.

Mr. Taylor and his wife, Bessie Virginia Webb Taylor, were married on January 20, 1926. They have had four children; two of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Taylor has played an important part in helping her husband run his restaurants.

Herman Taylor, Jr., who now manages the Ritz Cafe, was born on October 25, 1926. He was educated in the Huntsville Public Schools, Amherst College, Amherst, Mass., and the North Alabama College of Commerce in Huntsville.

He served in the Alabama State Guards at the age of sixteen. He was in the U. S. Army for one year, and the U. S. Navy for eleven years—two of which were on active duty.

Herman, Jr., is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Mason, Elks, Shrine, Moose clubs, the Alabama State Restaurant Association and the National Restaurant Association. He also serves as a committeeman on the Boy Scouts of The American Tennessee Valley Council.

Ritz Cafe



## AMERICAN DISCOUNT COMPANY

The American Discount Company began operations in Huntsville on June 1, 1954, with offices in the Times Building.

Though the local branch of this automobile financing service was set up rather recently, the American Discount Company was started thirty-six years ago by the late Glen Ryman of Atlanta, Georgia.

The purpose of the organization then, as now, is to help meet the mass production of automobiles by helping to foster mass distribution. This can be done by financing the buying of automobiles either through dealers or by direct loans at low, stabilized interest rates.

Thus the American Discount Company, working through its many branches, finances automobiles only, and thus renders an invaluable service in aiding more the 47,000 motorists in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida to pay for their automobiles while they use them by participating in installment financing.

When Mr. Ryman began his company in 1919 he had but \$50,000 capital—a meager beginning for a vast venture. But through sound and conservative basic policies this small capital has grown to capital

funds of \$12,000,000 with assets approaching \$50,000,000.

In charge of the Huntsville office of the American Discount Company is F. S. Johnson who serves as manager.

Mr. Johnson is originally from Spartanburg, S. C., and has served the American Discount Company for five and a half years in twelve different branches.

He moved to Huntsville when the local office was opened.

Mr. Johnson is unmarried. He maintains an apartment complete with housekeeping chores. But as to cooking, that's where he draws the lines. He prefers to patronize Huntsville restaurants!

The local manager of the American Discount Company is thoroughly familiar with the needs and problems of new car owners. He maintains a complete staff to take care of motorists' financial problems.

Thus he and his office personnel are carrying out the policies of the entire company by helping to make the necessity of owning an automobile payable out of future income—and to provide stable, reliable installment credit in keeping with the tenor of life known as The American Way.

Stan Johnson



Big Spring Park Picnic Area (Courtesy Picture)



## PATE SUPPLY COMPANY

The Pate Supply Company is an Alabama business specializing in the wholesale distribution of plumbing, heating and industrial supplies.

The main office is in Birmingham, and two branch offices are in Anniston and Huntsville.

The Huntsville office of the Pate Supply Co. is located at 201 Wheeler Avenue. There are five members of the personnel.

This local organization was started in September, 1953, by Martis Scott, 32, who is still the manager.

Mr. Scott is married. His wife's name is Vaudie. They have two children, Brenda Ann, 5½, and Martis Randall, 2.

He is originally from Birmingham, but since coming to Huntsville, Mr. Scott has taken an active part in both business and community life. He is a member of the Sertoma Club and had a part in helping to bring to Huntsville the small train at the Big Spring Park. He is an Elk and is also a member of the West Huntsville Men's Club. He participated when this organization made a drive for the new West Huntsville Elementary School.

His hobbies are sports, golf and hunting.

E. Joe Pate is the founder of the Pate Supply Co.

He was born in Birmingham on September 14, 1911, and he received his B.S. in mechanical engineering at Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn in 1932.

Mr. Pate is a member of the Rotary Club and the Birmingham Country Club. And is also a part of the Downtown Shriner organization in that city.

His hobbies are hunting and fishing.

Mrs. Pate's name is Eva Hanna. There are three children: E. Joe Pate, Jr., Peggy and Bill.

The Pate Supply Co. has adopted the policy of service and fair dealing throughout all its branches. Mr. Pate, working with his managers, makes every effort to progress with the times and to keep abreast of the latest developments in the plumbing, heating and industrial supply field.

The Pate Supply Co. in Huntsville wholesales pipes, valves, and other parts needed for the installation of fixtures. It is the pride of the company that they can offer two name brands in the plumbing field: Kohler of Kohler and Briggs Beauty Ware.

Fixtures made by these companies are designed to assure home owners of service, dependability and beauty with a high-gloss, porcelain finish!

Martis Scott



Big Spring scene of years ago (Courtesy Picture)





## MASON FURNITURE COMPANY

For 47 years, Mason Furniture Company has served Huntsville and Madison County as one of its leading home furnishers.

Mason's began business in 1908, under the name of Manning and Mason, after the name of the founders, John Manning and James R. Mason, who were cousins.

In 1908, the first year of business, John Manning died and his interest was purchased by James R. Mason. The following year, 1909, the firm's name was permanently changed to the Mason Furniture Company.

The company first began business in the McConnell-Edwards Parts Building on E. Holmes Street, then moved after one year to Jefferson Street where the Post Office Cafe now stands. The company operated and thrived on Jefferson Street for six years and in 1915 moved to the building now occupied by Johnson and Mahoney Men's Wear. In 1926, the company moved again to the building now occupied by Sterchi Brothers.

The Mason Furniture Company has been at its present location, 114 E. Clinton Street, since 1931, when the building was built for the company. The building, which is owned by Masons, has floor space equal to a store building 33 feet wide, 100 feet long and 10 stories high.

Each year of business has seen a steady increase growth at Masons. The company has kept abreast of the rapid growth of Huntsville increasing services and personnel over the year. In 1955, the store was completely air-conditioned.

The company employs 14 trained personnel to serve its ever increasing business.

The manager of the company is Mr. Wm. Oscar Mason who has been with the firm since February of 1919. He took over the business in 1948, after the death of James R. Mason, one of the founders of the company.

Born in Huntsville, Mr. Wm. Oscar Mason has not only reached the top in this profession but throughout the years, he has held many civic positions. Mr. Mason is a former member of the City Council, member of Huntsville Housing Authority, treasurer and director of the Community Chest, chairman of the Madison County Board of Welfare, member Board of Directors Huntsville Expansion Committee and is Past President of the Alabama Retail Furniture Association.

Mr. Mason and wife, Mabel Vaughn Mason, have three daughters, Mrs. Dewey Vann, Jr., Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. Wm. C. Miller, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Miss Ann Mason, Huntsville, Ala.; and one granddaughter, Annette Vann.

Mason Furniture Company



Oscar Mason



## THE HUTCHENS COMPANY, INC.

In 1886 Mr. W. T. Hutchens started a business known then as Hutchens Hardware.

Later, he was joined in the store by his sons, Morton, Vernon and the late Willard Hutchens.

After Mr. W. T. Hutchens death the sons ran the business as a partnership until 1945 when the sole interest was bought by Vernon.

In 1946 a change was made when the organization was incorporated and came to be known by its present name, The Hutchens Company, Inc.

The store has been at several locations—on West Clinton Street, on West Holmes St. and at the present place of 100 S. Jefferson St. since 1916.

In 1938 the size of the store was doubled when an adjoining building to the original one on the corner was obtained.

Up to the World War II period the Hutchens Hardware store lived up to its name and sold materials in that line.

But as the war progressed hardware became "hard ware" literally because it was unobtainable. It was then that Willard Hutchens introduced a line of gifts to supplement the former merchandise. A line of gifts has been continued to the present day.

Vernon Hutchens, the present owner and president of the corporation was born on August 3, 1899. He is married to Elizabeth Russell and they have two chil-

dren, Elizabeth H. (Betty) and Vernon F. Hutchens, Jr.

The late Willard Hutchens was married to Margaret Newman. And his brother, Morton, married Margaret's sister, Susie Newman.

The Morton Hutchen's children are Sue, Eleanor, William and Margaret.

When the above two brothers left the hardware business they established the local Walgreen H and H Drugstore.

Mrs. Vernon Hutchens serves as vice-president of the Hutchens, Co. Inc. and John McCaleb, a son-in-law is the secretary-treasurer.

John is married to Betty Hutchens. They have two children, John III and Robert. He is a former member of the Acme Club.

In 1955 the Hutchens Co. finished a remodeling job of the store.

In addition to gifts, a complete line of toys is handled. There are also complete lines of kitchen utensils, electrical appliances, plumbing fixtures, roofing, hardware and sheet metal supplies.

Service is also given from the Hutchens Co. in the installation of plumbing, heating, and electrical equipment as well as jobs for sheet metal and roofing.

Hutchens Company





Martin Stamping and Stove Company

## MARTIN STAMPING AND STOVE COMPANY

Martin Stamping & Stove Company of Huntsville and the affiliate companies, King Stove & Range Company of Sheffield, Alabama, and Martin Stove and Range Company of Florence, Alabama have been manufacturing heating appliances, as well as cooking appliances for fifty years.

The companies were founded by W. H. Martin, Sr. who has been in retirement from active management for the past several years.

Upon retirement W. H. Martin, Sr. was succeeded as president by his eldest son, W. H. Martin, Jr. under whose guidance the Martin Stamping & Stove Company has become one of the foremost manufacturers of gas space heaters in the United States.

The Martin Stamping & Stove Company, located at 901 Fifth Avenue, West, Huntsville was purchased in 1939 by the Martin organization and shortly thereafter became engaged in the manufacturing of a small line of unvented space heaters. This line has been gradually increased until now this

company has the most complete line of vented and unvented gas space heaters on the American market, having outlets in all sections of the United States as well as Canada, and Mexico.

The plant is currently operated by Frederick H. Martin, who handles design and development and is executive vice president, George A. Martin, who is treasurer and plant manager, and F. N. Sefton, who is Vice President and sales manager.

During World War No. 2, the plant was engaged in war production manufacturing bomb crates, bomb clusters, grenade fuse cans, and reclaiming drums for the Ordnance Department. This entire operation was under the management of F. N. Sefton due to the absence of George and Frederick Martin serving as commanders in the United States Navy.

Since the war, floor space has been tripled and a modern machine shop is in process to replace the smaller shop which has already exceeded its capacity. Plans are now in process for further expansions.

1945 Parade honoring Medal of Honor Winners (Courtesy Picture)





Personnel Olin Mathieson Company

## CALABAMA OLIN MATHIESON CHEMICAL CORP.

In 1947, the Calabama Chemical Corporation was organized with a plant at Huntsville Arsenal (now Redstone Arsenal).

The purpose of the organization was to manufacture technical DDT for sale to processors of finished pesticides.

In the next seven years, Calabama's operations were increased. To aid the program, a plant was built at McIntosh near Mobile for the production of mono-chlorobenzene and related products to be used in the manufacture of DDT at the plant near Huntsville.

The Calabama plant here was first managed by Benton H. Wilcoxon who came originally from California.

In 1954, the plants were acquired by the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. And as a subsidiary of this international company, Calabama continued to manufacture the same product.

The Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation has its main office in Baltimore, Maryland. Its plants employ over 38,000 people in various parts of the United States and abroad.

This company makes Winchester Arms, paper, tools, plastics, Lenthic cosmetics, pharmaceutical chemicals for the Squibb Co. as well as basic chemicals, fertilizers and of prime importance (from an Alabama standpoint!) DDT.

The manufacturing part of the Calabama plant is still located at Redstone Arsenal. The main office and plant for the grinding, shipping and storing of DDT is located at 250 N. Jefferson St. in the city.

There are approximately 92 employees in the entire Huntsville branch.

Mr. Wilcoxon is still the manager of the Huntsville and McIntosh Calabama plants.

He is a chemical engineer by profession. He received his B.S. from Stanford University; and his M.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

Mr. Wilcoxon's wife is Margo. They have three children, Benton, 5, Linda 4, and Margaret, 2.

His pastimes include swimming and collecting hi-fidelity records.

Richard M. Davies is the assistant to the manager. He too is from California and is a graduate of the University of California. He married a Huntsville girl, Sara Jean Warden. They have two children, Richard, Jr., 2, and Anna Cecille, 3 weeks.

He is a member of the Jaycees and the North Alabama Traffic Club. He likes sports, particularly archery, golf and swimming.

At present he is very interested in Monte Sano—largely because he and his family plan to move up there soon!

Manager of the plant located at Redstone is Donald H. Roth. He has been with Calabama since 1947. He is a member of the Optimist Club. Mr. Roth's wife is named Mary Magdalen. They have one son, John Ronald who is in service. Mr. Roth's hobbies are photography and flower gardening. And he and Mrs. Roth have a joint hobby-square dancing!

Harold Davies now serves as management consultant for the Calabama operation.

Guy Faulk is maintenance foreman; Owen Hunter foreman of operations; Donald Morgan, chief process engineer, Tom Trapane, process engineer, and Kenneth Chandler is the grinding foreman of the Jefferson Street plant.



Big Spring Scene (Courtesy Picture)

## THE CITY PRODUCE MARKET

The City Produce Company was founded in 1945 by George R. Green. It was formerly located on Meridian Street and later moved to 721 Blake Street.

The present owners are Harold L. Green and James L. Green. They are sons of the founder.

Harold L. Green was born September 21, 1919 in Jackson County, Alabama. He was educated in the Jackson County Schools. He and Mrs. Green (the former Mildred Juell McBride) have three children; Harold, Jr., Bonnie Jane, and George Robert. Mr. Green is a member of the Shrine and Civitan Clubs. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II.

The other owner, James L. Green, was also born and educated in Jackson County. His birthday is on February 1. His wife was Miss Sue Davis Ray. Their children are; Patricia Jean and Shirley Lois. He also served in the U. S. Army during World War II.

The City Produce Company has concentrated all its efforts to making its sole product, dressed poultry, the best available.

When this business began, the equipment was hand operated and only 100 birds were dressed an hour. Now, all equipment is automatic and 3,000 birds are dressed an hour. Still another evidence of the growth of this concern is the enlargement of its personnel. In the beginning there were only five employed here as compared to 110 today. In 1945 this was a 50 thousand dollar a year business. Today it is a 5 million dollar a year business.

In addition to serving this locality, City Produce Company ships to points in the midwest including Detroit, Grand Rapids, Chicago, Toledo, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Terry Haute, and St. Louis.

Aerial View of Urban Scene





Monte Sano State Park Picnic Area (Courtesy Picture)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO HUNTSVILLE**

*from*

**J. D. PITTMAN TRACTOR  
COMPANY, INC.**

DECATUR — BIRMINGHAM — TUSCALOOSA  
500 North 28th Street

On this, your One Hundred Fiftieth Birthday we wish you the best of success as you embark on another 150 years of progress.

Cities like Huntsville make Alabama great. It is our privilege to serve your tractor needs now and always.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



1955 Street scene (Courtesy picture)

Big Spring (Courtesy picture)





James E. Taylor



Hotel Russel Erskine

## RUSSEL ERSKINE HOTEL

The Russel Erskine Hotel was incorporated as the Huntsville Hotel Company by a group of local citizens on January 3, 1930. The present location is at the corner of Clinton and Gallatin Streets.

The hotel offers a variety of services. In addition to rooms, the hotel has a dining room, banquet rooms for private parties, civic clubs, wedding receptions, and convention facilities. One main feature is a storage garage in direct connection.

The Russel Erskine Hotel regularly employs ninety people in addition to a large number of extra waiters for special functions. The hotel has a perpetual maintenance plan with its crew of full-time engineers, painters, and repairmen.

In 1954 the hotel was completely air conditioned. In 1947 the hotel employed 68 people as compared to 90 in 1955. This comparison shows how much the hotel has grown.

Since the re-activation of Redstone Arsenal, this hotel has served guests from each of the 48 states and at least 25 foreign countries.

Roland Meyer was the first manager, serving from 1930 to 1935. In 1936, Buddy Quinn became manager. Robert Goss became manager in 1945 and served in that position for two years. Then in 1947 Mr. James E. Taylor became manager. He is with the hotel at the present time.

Mr. Taylor is not a native but has endeared himself to the people of Huntsville and Madison County. He was born in Cooper, Texas, on April 26, 1921. In 1927, he moved to Huntsville, Alabama. He began working at the Russel Erskine Hotel in 1936 as an elevator operator. Mr. Taylor is familiar with every department, having worked in each one.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor (Katherine) have one daughter, Debbie, age 6.

Mr. Taylor is active in the Rotary Club, the V.F.W., the American Legion, and the Forty and Eight. He is past president of the Alabama Hotel Association.

At the present time Mr. Taylor is chairman of the Madison County Chapter of the Red Cross.

Mr. Taylor is interested in local government. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and for the past three years has served on the Board of Directors.

During World War II, Mr. Taylor served with the 17th and 82nd Airborne Divisions.

History will record, however, that the crowning accomplishment of Mr. Taylor's career will be his splendid work done as General Chairman of Huntsville's Sesquicentennial Celebration. He accomplished a herculean task always with a smile on his face.

# GROW!

## HUNTSVILLE

# GROW

### Your Telephone System

### Is Growing with You



Above is telephone building which houses Southern Bell offices and equipment needed to operate Huntsville's new dial system installed in 1954 at a cost of \$2 million.

Seventy-two years ago on Saturday, November 7, 1883, Southern Bell Telephone Company established its sixth commercial telephone exchange in Alabama in Huntsville.

It wasn't exactly a propitious time for the new business venture because local citizens were still trying to rebuild an economy that had been devastated by the Civil War. People couldn't see much economic value in the telephone. Only 34 individuals and business firms subscribed for the new service.

During the next seven years only 13 telephones were added to the local system, and it looked as if the new fangled invention was not here to stay. But by the turn of the century, the telephone had caught on. Businessmen had discovered the value of Mr. Bell's invention. On November 7, 1900, there were 251 telephones in Huntsville.

But talking over the telephone, especially long distance, was still quite an event for most people. As a result many businessmen had a difficult time conducting their affairs by telephone. It seems that employes and the folks at home tied up the line for hours exchanging the latest gossip.

Times were changing though and the local citizens were becoming accustomed to the telephone, the new horseless car-

riage and the slow but sure economic readjustment of the area. The demand for the telephones grew. At the end of the first ten years of the century, Huntsville could boast 822 telephones. There were 32,350 in the state. When the twenties roared in, the total number of telephones here had jumped to 1,262.

The prosperity of the decade created, along with the demand for Florida real estate, a greater desire for telephones. By 1930 the number of telephones serving people here rose to 2,263 nearly doubling in ten years. The number in Alabama had reached 104,693.

The telephone had come of age. Business was booming and the repercussions of the crashing stock market had not been felt. Suddenly the depression was in Huntsville. By November, 1932, the number of telephones here had tumbled to 1925.

People had a hard time paying their telephone bills but the company extended credit a long time before making disconnections.

By the mid-thirties there was a glimmer of economic hope. Huntsville had regained the telephones lost during the "hard times." In November, 1940, the Southern Bell served a record number of subscribers with 2,496 telephones.

The debacle at Pearl Harbor heralded

the end of all but essential telephone construction. But Huntsville, an important defense center, was allocated materials to increase the number of telephones served through the local system to some 4,000 by the time the Japanese surrendered.

Despite the unprecedented growth during the war years, Huntsville still needed telephones. By 1950 the number of telephones here more than doubled the total of five years before.

In December 1954 when Southern Bell converted the manual telephone system to dial operation at a cost of some \$2 million the number of telephones in Huntsville had soared to 15,000, nearly four times the number in service a decade before.

We have taken a brief glimpse of three-quarters of a century. It is only on such occasions as this 150th anniversary of Huntsville that the people of the telephone industry can pause and reminisce for we must devote our energies to the events of the present and to planning for the future. We take great pride in the part we have played in the past years of our country and community. We look forward with confidence to the great challenge of the future.

## SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY



## RECORD SERVICE OFFICE SUPPLIES

Record Service Office Supplies was organized March 20, 1954 by James Record.

The business was first located at 1210 Franklin Street but quickly outgrew the physical limitations of the building and in April of 1955, moved to No. 12 South Side Square in the location that Southern Bell had occupied for about 50 years. The building has two stories and a full basement. The main floor of the building is devoted to office supplies, machinery and office space, while the second floor is devoted to display of office furniture and stockrooms. The basement is utilized for an office machinery repair shop.

Business policies of the firm include its unique "Record Service", free delivery and employment of courteous and friendly employees.

In 1954, during the store's first year of operation, it was honored by receiving national recognition as a "Brand Name Retailer of the Year". To insure that the store customers receive up to date information as to the best advice about office requirements, Record Service belongs to the trade organizations which keep them up to date.

Personnel of the store include Mrs. James Record, a very competent Store Manager; Morton Allen as Sales Manager; Hugh Barkley as Office Machine Repair Shop Manager; E. R. Schrimsher as Office Machine Repairs, Sales and Deliveries; Mrs. Doug Cornelius as Saleslady and Bookkeeper, and Tom Brazelton as Janitor and Deliveryman.

James Record is President of the concern, and Mrs. Record is Secretary-Treasurer.

Record Service is proud of its long list of brand name quality merchandise offered at lowest reasonable values. Included in this list are: National Cash Register, Clary, Remington Rand, Underwood, Smith Corona, Steelcase, Globe Warnicke, Harter, Southworth and Parker.

One of the concern's busiest departments is its machine rental department. Rentals of typewriters have quintupled within the last six months period.

Expansion plans of Record Service include remodeling and re-decorating of the store.

James Record, who has served as County Auditor for the past seven years, was born at New Market, Alabama, on December 17, 1918, but has lived in the City of Huntsville most of his life. He was married June 15, 1946 to the former Lillian Aho of Brimson, Minnesota, and they have one daughter, Carole

Denise, born October 16, 1948. They reside at 1910 Evergreen Street. Mr. Record received his education in the Huntsville Public Schools, the University of Alabama Center, LaSalle University and is Treasurer of the Elks Lodge, past Secretary-Treasurer of the Sertoma and Lions Clubs, past Vice-President of the Y's Men's Club, past director of the American Red Cross, active in Y.M.C.A. work, a former Scoutmaster, member of the First Baptist Church, the V.F.W., a member of the County Welfare Board, past member of the County Rent Control Board, past Commander, Adjutant and Historian of American Legion Post 37, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Advertising Committee and Vice President of the Alabama Association of County Accountants and Clerks. Mrs. Record, who was born February 22, 1922, graduated from a Duluth High School, and resided in Seattle, Washington for about ten years before coming to Huntsville. She is a past member of the Emblem Club, and is very active in the March of Dimes and other charitable organizations drives. Her keen sense of knowledge about human nature is one of the major factors in the success of Record Service.

Morton Allen, Sales Manager for the concern, was born March 15, 1910 in Huntsville, attended local schools and the Tennessee Valley business college. He worked at I. Schiffman and Company from 1937 to 1946, and later formed a partnership with George Culp in the tire and battery business. He operated Allen Tire and Battery Company until 1954 at which time he became associated with Record Service as part owner. He married the former Sara Taylor in 1938 and they have two children, Anita and Carol. They reside at 507 East Holmes Street.

Mr. Allen is Secretary of the Huntsville Lions Club, having six years perfect attendance. He served two years as Lion Tamer and is a Key Member. He also served as Captain for the Quarterback Club, is a member of the Rocket City Sportsman's Club, and belongs to the Holmes Street Methodist Church.

Record Service Office Supplies was formed due to the owners faith and belief in the growth of Huntsville. That faith and confidence has been justified as Huntsville is entering its greatest expansion period, and Record Service expects to do its part in making Huntsville a better city.

Record Service Office Supplies



## GENERAL SHOE CORPORATION

General Shoe Corporation is celebrating its tenth anniversary in Huntsville, Alabama, this year.

The plant occupied presently by General Shoe was formerly the location of the Lowe Manufacturing Company. It is situated at the corner of Seminole

Drive and Ninth Avenue.

General Shoe manufactures Cedar Crest and Economy dress shoes. The plant employs seven hundred people. Their products are shipped to all of the forty-eight states and a number of foreign countries.

Recreation time at General Shoe



Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



1955 Street Scene (Courtesy picture)



## HOWARD GENTLE FURNITURE AND FINANCE CO.

The Howard Gentle Furniture Company and office of the Howard Gentle Finance Company is located at No. 8, Northside Square.

Howard Gentle, the founder and owner of the furniture store first started business in 1935 with a small grocery store on the old Jordan Lane which is now Patton Road on Redstone Arsenal. In 1937 he opened a grist mill in West Huntsville where the present Butler Grill now stands. In 1938 this was converted into a grocery store. A new building was built in 1939 in West Huntsville and the grocery line was moved into this building. In 1943, Mr. Gentle made further advancement by opening a modern grocery at No. 8 North Side Square. He abandoned the grocery business in 1950 and converted this store into the present modern furniture store.

On March 3, 1955, Howard Gentle chartered Huntsville's only Alabama owned and operated finance company with the original issue of authorized capital being \$200,000.00. On June 20 a stockholders meeting was held and a resolution was passed to increase the authorized capital from \$200,000.00 to \$500,000.-

00. This meeting was held to offset the tremendous demand for stock in this fast growing North Alabama owned corporation.

The personnel of the Howard Gentle Furniture Company are: Howard Gentle, owner; William A. West, manager; George D. (Bill) Aldrich, salesman; Howard Golden, delivery; William Massey (colored), delivery.

The Finance Company personnel consists of Howard Gentle, manager and major stockholder; Mrs. Jessie Lee Smith, bookkeeper; and Mrs. Sarah Klempa, bookkeeper.

Howard Gentle was born April 7, 1915, at Shelbyville, Tennessee. He came to Huntsville in 1917. Rose Floyd Gentle is his wife and they have one son, Howard Gentle, Jr. (15). They belong to the Church of Christ. Mr. Gentle belongs to the Sertoma, Huntsville Salesman, West Huntsville Men's Clubs and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Gentle states, "Any success we have had in business is due to the people of Madison County."

Howard Gentle Furniture Co. and Finance Co.



Howard Gentle



## H. RYAN APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE CO.

H. Ryan Appliances began business ten years ago in Decatur, Alabama, as a used furniture and appliance business. The first store in Huntsville was started May of 1950 with a crew of four. Robert Harper, who was manager was transferred to the Decatur store in 1955.

The Huntsville store is located at 201 Washington Street.

Mr. Hulond Ryan founded the business September 1, 1945.

H. Ryan's sell household furnishings, washing machines, floor coverings, refrigerators, television, antiques, ranges, kitchen furnishings, air conditioners, water heaters, freezers, dryers, radios, and pianos.

They service and install all appliances sold.

Forty-one people are employed by the company; fifteen of them work in Huntsville.

The motto of H. Ryan Appliances is "We offer quality merchandise at a reasonable price."

Ryan Appliances has more than doubled what it was just three years ago. This is attributed to efficient service to customers.

H. Ryan Appliances plan to open stores in other growing cities as time progresses.

Key personnel are H. Ryan, owner, and Jeff Riddle, manager.

Mr. Hulond Ryan was born May 27, 1922, at Decatur, Alabama, where he now lives and operates a store. He is married to the former Ruth Riddle. There is one son, Huland Robert Ryan, Jr.

The Ryans belong to the Methodist Church.

Mr. Ryan is a member of the Decatur Country Club, the Lions Club, Shriners, and the Decatur Chamber of Commerce.

In the Spring of 1955, Mr. Ryan was Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Horseshow sponsored by the Lions Club.

Jeff Riddle, manager of the local store, was born November 25, 1921, at Ashland, Alabama. He came to Huntsville January 1, 1955. His wife is the former Christine Wesley. Their two children are Rebecca and Robert. They attend the First Baptist Church and reside on Marsheutz Avenue.

Mr. Riddle is a veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1948.

Jeff Riddle

H. Ryan



H. Ryan Building



## MADISON COUNTY EXCHANGE

The Madison County Exchange, Incorporated, located at 404 North Jefferson Street is a business OF, BY AND FOR the farmers. This is an organization running a business for agriculture. It is aimed at providing materials and services for farmers, so that its patrons can adopt soil-building practices and at the same time make a better living from the land.

In carrying out these purposes, 2600 farmers have built a \$211,000 cooperative that last year sold a half-million dollars worth of feeds, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and other farm supplies; did some \$7,500 worth of business in seed cleaning; distributed more basic slag than was used in any other Alabama County; provided a market for locally grown products; handled T.V.A. test-demonstration fertilizers for educational work to improve the county's agriculture; and expanded many services. In doing these things, it saved its members a total of more than \$23,000.

This is an unusual record for a business organized as recently as 1933. The first location was at 500 Washington Street. In 1947 they moved into their present quarters.

Convinced of the benefits of working together to obtain services one farmer or a small group could not obtain alone, members of the Madison County Exchange authorized their co-operative to join other North Alabama Co-operatives in organizing the Tennessee Valley Cooperatives at Decatur in 1937, investing substantially in its initial operations.

Madison County Exchange is also a member of the Farmers Marketing Exchange at Montgomery and the North Alabama Poultry Cooperative.

Ten people are employed by the Exchange.

Key personnel are: Mr. E. D. Burwell, manager; Mrs. Rufus Crowson, office manager; and Mrs. J. M. Bradford, bookkeeper.

The Madison County Exchange Board of Directors are: C. T. Butler, president; J. O. Kelley, vice president; J. D. Acuff, secretary-treasurer; W. M. Davis, E. R. Howard, T. Herman Vann, and Warren Sockwell.

Alum Spring on Monte Sano (Courtesy Picture)



## STANDARD OIL COMPANY

The B. F. Giles Agency of the Standard Oil Company, located at Church Street and Wheeler Avenue was founded at the present location. This agency serves Huntsville and Madison County. Mr. Giles has served as agent since 1940 and Mr. William H. Stevens has been associated with the company since 1946, serving as manager.

The Standard Oil Company was one of the first oil companies to establish a distributorship in Huntsville. In the beginning the principal product for sale was kerosene. This was delivered throughout the County by mule drawn tank wagons.

At present the agency distributes Crown and Crown Extra gasoline, kerosene, tractor fuel, diesel fuel, mineral spirits, aviation gasoline, and the well known brands of motor oil, Esso and Mobiloil.

Persons holding the agency before Mr. Giles were Mr. Dell Kennamer, Mr. J. E. Macon, Mr. Tom Dark, and others.

The present personnel of the agency are: James Campbell, plant clerk; Mrs. George Sturdivant, bookkeeper, Leo Self, Robert Perry, Jack Towry, Milton Stephens, Louis Jennings, and Comon Daniel, tank wagon salesman.

## GILES COAL COMPANY

The Giles Coal Company is owned by Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Giles. This company has been operated by them since 1934. At this time, the Giles purchased the company from Mr. Henry J. Certain who had operated it since the year 1901.

The Giles Coal Company is located at 417 North Jefferson Street in Huntsville.

Ben F. Giles

William H. Stevens

Standard Oil Company



## HUNTSVILLE WHOLESALE NURSERY

Huntsville Wholesale Nursery Company is possibly the oldest business in Huntsville.

An original grant from the United States Government for the first 720 acres was given on March 2, 1813.

The business was incorporated in 1873 with John Fraser, W. F. Heikes, and Jessie S. Moss as owners. Mr. Fraser was nursery man; Mr. Heikes was sales man; and Mr. Moss was landowner.

The founder John Fraser came from Edinburgh, Scotland to this country. He married a Scotch girl. He was known as one of the foremost horticulturists of his time.

This was the first nursery in the State of Alabama. The company was well known for the application of scientific methods in the development of new plants, flowers, and trees. They conducted experiments with various types of fertilizers to get maximum results. The first 10 to 15 years were rough for the corporation.

Success came with the development of the Japanese Pear Trees. Since that time the business has been growing steadily.

The present officers are: John Fraser, Jr., President; John Fraser, III, Vice-president; and Margaret Fraser Sparkman, secretary.

Mr. John Fraser, Jr. was National president of the American Association of Nurserymen for 1930-31.

The company operates on very solid business principles. The present operations covers 1200 acres with the most modern equipment and facilities in irrigation, cold storage and warehousing.

A complete line of nursery stock which enables buyers to cover all their requirements from one company.

Our products are shipped to all points including The United States, parts of Canada, Mexico, and Cuba. Shipments have gone as far as Australia.

Court Square (North Side) 1888 (Courtesy Picture)



## J. B. HILL JEWELRY STORE

The Hill's have been in Huntsville since 1819. Ebenezer Hill, born October 14, 1791, one of 5 brothers and great-grandfather of J. B. Hill, Sr., came to Huntsville in 1819.

J. B. Hill, Sr. was born April 15, 1895 at Princeton, Alabama and moved to Huntsville in early 1900. He served two years in World War I. On February 28, 1921, he married the former Louise Nell Burgess from Pulaski, Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Hill entered Bradley University April, 1921. Mr. Hill completed a course in watchmaking, jewelry repairing and engraving.

While in Peoria, Frances Louise Hill was born on August 17, 1922., the first child born to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hill, Sr.

After finishing school Mr. Hill worked in Columbia, Tennessee for a short time. While in Columbia, James B. Hill, Jr., was born on January 16, 1924. The second child born to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hill, Sr. James and Frances attended public schools in Huntsville and James Jr. attended Morgan School, Petersburg, Tennessee. James Jr. was in service during World War II serving for 3 years as an air-force Pilot in the European Theater. After returning home he entered Bradley University and graduated in 1949, receiving a B.S. degree in Jewelry store management. After this he entered into business with his father, J. B. Hill, Sr. in Athens, Alabama and is now in charge of that store. Jimmy has completed studies with the Gemological Institute of America and holds the title of Registered Jeweler, American Gem Society. When the store was opened in Athens, it consisted of a partnership of 4 of the immediate family, J. B. Hill, Sr., Louise B. Hill, J. B. Hill, Jr. and Frances H. Zandler.

The present J. B. Hill Jewelry Store in Huntsville is a branch of the store in Athens and is located at 102 South Washington Street. Mr. Hill has been in business in Huntsville on Washington Street from the beginning but in 3 different locations.

Mr. Hill belongs to the American Legion, the 40 and 8, Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge and Shrine Club.

Mr. Hill, Jr., is a member of the American Legion and is a past president of the Athens Lions Club.

The entire family belongs to the Methodist Church.

## RADIO STATION W.F.U.N.

Radio Station WFUN was one of the first radio stations in the nation to use the "Music, News and Sports" format of programming, a system that since, has been successfully adopted by hundreds of stations throughout the country.

Under the slogan of home owned, home operated, for home folks, WFUN has enjoyed a phenomenal growth since its inauguration on November 26, 1946.

WFUN subscribes to the full leased wire news service of United Press. WFUN also has one of the largest and most complete record music libraries in the south. These features ascribe to its mission of making WFUN radio station the "Voice of the Tennessee Valley".

The station was organized by a partnership consisting of John Garrison, Joe S. Foster and F. L. Mickle. On May 8, 1948, the interest of Foster and Mickle was acquired by J. B. Falt, Jr. The business was incorporated as the Huntsville Broadcasting Company, Inc. with Falt as President and Garrison as Secretary-Treasurer.

J. B. Falt, Jr., President and General Manager at WFUN, was born in Springfield, Mass. He graduated from Northeastern University and did graduate work at New York University. Mr. Falt came to Huntsville in 1939 and was associated with Chase Nursery Company. He served in United States Navy in World War II from July 1941 to December 1945, and has been member of U. S. Naval Reserve for 21 years, holding the rank of Lt. Commander. He married the former Anne Louise Stewart of Huntsville, Ala. and they have four children, Leila Stewart, Martha Stebbins, Joe B., III, and Evelyn Chase Falt. He is a former member and past president of the Optimist Club.

John Garrison is Station Manager, Chief Engineer and program director of WFUN. He was born in 1918 in DeLand, Florida and is a graduate of Port Arthur College, Port Arthur, Texas. He has been employed by Radio Station KPAC, Port Arthur, Texas for 3 years before coming to Huntsville in November, 1939 to become associated with WBHP. He has also served as consultant for WMSL, Decatur, Ala. and WJIG Tullahoma, Tenn. He planned and organized Radio Station WFUN in 1946. Garrison is an amateur radio operator and is interested in sports of all kinds. He is married to the former Elizabeth Coyle and has two children, Jean Patricia, age 9 and John Parker, Jr., age 7. He is an active member and past president of the Lions Club, Salesman's Club and Moose Lodge and is also a member of the Elks and Chamber of Commerce.

## ALABAMA GROCERY CO.

In 1905, M. L. Weil and his brother, S. L. Weil, who were originally from Kentucky, started a wholesale business in Huntsville which they named the Alabama Grocery Company.

The warehouses and adjacent offices were first at 101 S. Washington Street, but are now located at 210-212 North Jefferson Street.

During the years of continual operation here in Huntsville, the Alabama Grocery Co. has strived to keep both the quality of the foods and the service with which it was delivered to customers at the high level which was the original aim of the founders.

In June 1918, M. L. Weil, Jr. (Mortie) and his sister, Jane, were born to M. L. Weil and his wife, Bernice.

A few months earlier, Feb. 1918, Sam L. Weil, Jr. had made his appearance.

When the boys were grown they were taken into the Alabama Grocery Co. as partners.

Later, Mr. S. L. Weil died. About seven years ago his son, Sam L., moved to Columbus, Georgia where he entered the insurance business. However, he still maintains a partnership in the Alabama Grocery Co., inherited from his father.

Sam married Jean Angel. They have two children, Carolyn and Kathy.

M. L. Weil, Jr. (Mortie) remained in Huntsville in the business with his father. He married Margaret Ann Poss. Their three children are named Ann, Joan and Marian.

Mortie Weil is a member of the Lions Club. He has served as president and has held all other offices in this club. At present he is the District Governor of the NE Alabama Lions Clubs for 1955-56. He has also taken an active part in the work of Community Chest, Red Cross and the YMCA.

Twenty-one people comprise the personnel of Alabama Grocery Co. These employees cooperate with the Weils in order to make it an efficient and smooth-running organization.

Alabama Grocery Company



## ROE VENDING CO.

Roe Vending Company was organized in 1940 by the owners Vernon and Jettie Sue Roe.

Their place was established at 112 East Oakwood Avenue. Their headquarters are now at 405 Davidson Street.

Beginnings of the business, which is an automatic merchandising operation, were small. They began business with 5 candy machines, and at the present time have expanded to about 250 machines. These machines sell candy, cigarets and gum. Plans now call for purchase and operation of coffee dispensers in the near future, and also for soup and cracker dispenser machines.

Vernon Roe passed away in 1952, and Jettie Sue took over full operation and management of the business. It now has three employees, and Mrs. Roe is sole owner.

Indicating the quality service offered by Roe Vending Company is the fact that it has had an exclusive contract with Redstone Arsenal for 14 years.

Mrs. Roe, born in Huntsville in 1914, belongs to the Eastern Star, and has been Vice-President and Treasurer of the Emblem Club.

Whenever the Red Feather and other campaigns roll around, Roe Vending Company certainly do their part. Their machines distribute free Red Feather matches, and contribute generously of their time to further the campaign.

Roe Vending Company Personnel



## HUNTSVILLE BUTANE GAS CO.

The Huntsville Butane Gas Co. was established April, 1951 at 1314 W. Clinton St. Jack Cope was the founder.

Later James Cope joined the firm to form a partnership and the location was moved to 203 Fifth St. East at Five Points. The company has been here for the past three years.

There are twelve men in the store's personnel.

The organization specializes in the sale and installation of natural and butane gas stoves and refrigerators; the sale and service of Coleman Heating Appliances and of Philco television sets and Philco air conditioners.

So for cooking or refrigerating with gas; for home and entertainment; for all year "weathering" the Copes feel that they have the best in appliances to offer and the best of personnel to install.





## THE JEWEL SHOP



Jewel Shop Personnel

The Jewel Shop is located in the Lyric Theater Building on Washington Street. It was first opened on July 24, 1945 by Maurice J. Weinstein (known to his friends and customers as "Doody", and is still in his possession.

The Jewel Shop is a small but compact establishment with no wasted space. It offers an extensive line of silverware, watches, gift items and jewelry.

The store is also equipped to handle repairs for both watches and jewelry.

Mr. Weinstein and his wife Elsie are from Nashville originally. They have two children, Pamela, 8, and David 2½.

He belongs to the Elks Club, Masonic Lodge, American Legion, V.F.W. and is also a Shriner.

As for hobbies, Mr. Weinstein loves all sports, particularly bowling and golf.

The Jewel Shop maintains a complete bookkeeping system and so is ready to accommodate customers who like either to pay cash or to charge.

Friendly service given by the three members of the personnel, combined with the fine quality of the merchandise gives the name of the shop, The Jewel Shop, a special and meaningful significance.

The Jewel Shop



## THE KRYSTAL CO.

The Krystal Co., located at No. 11 North Side of the Square offers both table and counter service twenty-four hours a day with the exception of Sunday.

The fourteen members of the personnel give to customers the best in short orders—delicious hamburgers, tasty sandwiches, aromatic coffee and melt-in-the-mouth waffles dripping with butter and syrup.

The Krystal Company was founded in October 1932 by J. Glenn Sherrill, a native of Gurley, Alabama and R. B. Davenport, Jr., of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The first unit was opened in Chattanooga and in twenty-three years has spread to nineteen cities in eight states of the Southeastern area.

There are at present fifty units in operation throughout this section.

In January 1947, the Krystal Company bought a restaurant, in Huntsville, the Nu-Way Lunch, from S. N. Sherrill, the co-owner's father.

The restaurant was completely remodeled with the white porcelain exterior and interior of the modern type Krystal units.

At the present time the Huntsville Krystal is under the management of William Clifton Cousins 38, formerly of Nashville.

Mr. Cousins now considers himself a real Huntsvillian. He is a member of the Sertoma Club and is the miniature train committee chairman.

Mr. J. Glenn Sherrill is the president of the whole Krystal chain.



## FOWLER'S

In Huntsville, the name Fowler immediately suggests the idea of good service and reliable wearing apparel for men, and women of various ages. For William Fowler has been in the merchandise business since 1916.

In this year he and P. S. Dunnivant formed a partnership called *Dunnivant and Fowler*. This they kept for two years. Then they were joined by T. T. Terry and for two more years the store was known as *Dunnivant, Fowler, and Terry*.

In 1920, Mr. Fowler sold his part of the organization out to his two partners. Then he and his brother, C. W. Fowler opened a store of their own called, *Fowler Bros.*

These two brothers were together until 1932. C. W. Fowler moved to another town and his brother, William, was left in control of the Huntsville establishment.

The store has been located in a number of sections of the business district and at present is at the corner of Jefferson and Washington Streets.

Mr. William Fowler's wife is named Grace. They have two children, Bill and Frances.

He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a former member of both the Rotary and the Kiwanis Clubs.

Recently, Mr. Fowler and his son, Bill, opened another store at 200 N. Washington St. The name of this one is *Bill's*. It is a modern store specializing in the latest styles for men—suits, shirts, shoes and accessories.

*Bills'* is noted for attractive window displays where clothes are shown with the proper background to denote the theme of the season.

Bill Fowler lives at home with his parents. He is a member of the Acme Club and the Jaycees.

The personnel at *Fowler's* consists of 15 people; at *Bill's*—5.

Between the two stores customers are able to find correct outfits for all members of the family.

Fowler's Department Store



## ALABAMA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The Alabama State Employment Service is an agency financed by the Federal Government and administered by the State of Alabama.

The employment service is of great benefit to the community because its purpose is to find job openings for workers and workers for specific jobs.

In addition to the above mentioned services the employment agency works with farm labor placement, collects labor market information for economic planning and industrial expansion; offers aptitude testing and vocational counseling of youth; advocated the selective placement of the handicapped and provides a nationwide means for recruiting skilled workers when they are not available locally. It also handles U. S. claims and special services to veterans.

The Huntsville branch of the Alabama State Employment Service was started November 10, 1933.

It was first located at the Courthouse; then the West Side of the Square; the Northwest Corner of the Square and at present is situated at the corner of Clay and Miller Streets.

The manager in Huntsville is Claud V. Evans, a native of Gurley, Alabama, born August 25, 1891.

Mr. Evans is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Expansion Committee.

He is interested in community development and works with groups and agencies fostering this cause.

Mr. Evans wife is named Rosa H. They have three children, Claud Hudson Evans, Mrs. J. D. Henderson and Mrs. W. B. Russell.

As for hobbies he likes fishing for the outdoors and cabinet making inside.

Old Covered Bridge (none now existing here) (Courtesy Picture)



## THE J. C. PENNEY CO.

The J. C. Penney Company, founded in 1902 by James Cash Penney, has grown from the one store to 1,678 at the last count, making it the largest department store chain in the world.

The Huntsville Penney store was opened in 1925 at 104 Jefferson Street. In 1934, needing more room, the store was moved to 3 East Side of the Square where it is located at present. In 1925 the store employed 12 people while today there are over 40 associates, selling complete lines of men's, women's, children's, boy's, and girl's wearing apparel and accessories as well as piece goods, draperies, and home furnishings.

Newly remodeled, the Huntsville Penney Store plans to grow with Huntsville adhering to the Golden Rule and selling for cash only, as founded by Mr. Penney.

Mr. C. R. McBrayer, Manager of the Huntsville Penney Store is typical of the 1,678 Penney Managers. Born in Shelby, North Carolina in December, 1911, he started with the Penney Company in September, 1930 as a salesman in the Shelby Penney Store. In 1937 he was promoted to Assistant Manager of the Harrisonburg, Virginia store. In 1939 he and Miss Virginia Lee of Mineral, Virginia were married and later in the same year he was made Manager of the Greenville, North Carolina Penney Store.

Mr. McBrayer came to the Huntsville Penney Store as Manager in July of 1950. Since arriving in Huntsville he has been active in many civic affairs. At present he is a member of the Rotary Club, director in the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, President of the Merchants Division Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of Business and Industry Day for the Sesquicentennial. He is also an active member of the First Baptist Church.

The father of one teenage girl, Lee, and three boys, Reuben, Charles and Larry (twins), Mr. McBrayer lives on a 180 acre farm at Ryland. The members of his family are ardent horsemen and each has his own horse.



## RADIO STATION WBHP



W. H. Pollard

Radio Station W.B.H.P. began broadcasting activities in May of 1937 in The Huntsville Times building. They also operated from 318 West Clinton Street for some time. In June of 1953 the station moved to the present location on Fifth Avenue.

Mr. W. H. Pollard founded the station in May of 1937. He is still owner and general manager. Services of W.B.H.P. include radio broadcasting and advertising. Key personnel are: W. H. Pollard, owner and general manager; Margaret Kennedy, program director; James Potter, chief engineer; Grady Reeves, production and sports; J. C. Hargrove, announcer; and William L. Malone, announcer.

Radio station W.B.H.P. has a new, completely air-conditioned home. The transmitting and antenna systems are new and modern. The station covers an area including Madison, Limestone, Morgan, Marshall, and Jackson Counties in Alabama, and Lincoln and Giles Counties in Tennessee.

Mr. Pollard was born in Huntsville, Alabama, May 23, 1909. His wife is the former Pleas Alexander of Atlanta, Georgia. They have two children, Eleanor Anne Pollard and Wilton H. Pollard, Jr.

The Pollards are members of the Episcopalian Church.

Mr. Pollard attended Auburn and the University of Alabama.

He is a member of the Optimist and Salesman's Clubs.

Radio Station WBHP



## THE STAR MARKET

The Star Market is a home-owned, self-service, supermarket that offers to its customers a wide variety of select food items—quality meats, fresh vegetables and a complete line of herbs and spices in addition to choice canned items.

Frozen meats and frozen foods of all kinds are also available at this conveniently located market, at Five Points, East.

As a matter of fact, the Star Market was the first store in Huntsville to set up self-service counters for these frozen meats and assorted items. This advance in merchandising is just one example of the policy maintained at all times by owners J. D. Williams and C. M. (Chick) Russell, as it is the aim of both men to keep the market always as an ultra modern, home-owned food center.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Russell formerly worked together at one of the large chain stores. Then they decided to go into business for themselves and so started the Star Market. It was opened on February 2, 1944 at 420 Meridian St.

Two years later, a store was begun at Five Points East so that for two years there were Star Market I and Star Market II.

But in 1950 the two stores were consolidated at the latter location. And in 1955 additional room was acquired; a complete remodeling job was done resulting in the present, de-luxe super market equipped with all up-to-date conveniences.

“Chick” Russell as he is known to his friends and customers, was born in Stevenson, Alabama in Nov. 22, 1913 and came to work in Huntsville in 1932.

Delbert Williams was born Jan. 18, 1909 in Madison County and has spent his working years in Huntsville.

Both men take part in civic drives including Red Cross, Community Chest, Heart Fund—and both belong to civic clubs. Mr. Williams has joined the Rotary and Y's Men, and Mr. Russell serves as a director of Lion's International.

Both Star Market owners have the same hobbies—hunting and fishing. And each has the same sized family—one wife and two children!

Phoebe, Mr. Russell's wife and two children, Carmen, 12, and Wade, 7, complete the Russell family. Mr. William's wife Gertrude, and two children, Marjorie, 22, and Delbert, Jr., 19, make up the rest of the Williamses.

There are seventeen employees at the Star Market—and all of these as well as the owners—greet customers with smiles as bright as the name of the store suggests!

## AUTO ELECTRIC SERVICE CO.

The Auto Electric Service Company was established in Huntsville, Alabama as Jacobs Battery Company in April, 1934.

The present location of the Auto Electric Service Company is 110 Meridian Street, but was formerly located on Washington Street. This Company was founded by Mr. E. Kaufman. Mr. Kaufman was born in Germany on April 10, 1899.

The Auto Electric Service Company specializes in replacement parts for all cars, motor tune-ups, Automotive Electric Carburetors, Magneto, Speedometers, services on Briggs and Stratton and Clinton engines, and windshield wipers.

The company employs twelve persons. Mr. Kaufman, the founder, is also the present manager.

Big Spring View (Courtesy Picture)



Huntsville Aerial View 1955 (Courtesy Picture)



## GRADY'S BEAUTY SHOP

Grady's Beauty Shop was founded by Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Grady April 6, 1946. It is located at 509 Seminole Drive in Huntsville, Alabama.

This beauty shop offers the following products: Zotos and Realistic Permanent Waves; Theo Bender, Monique, Revelon, and Mary Lowell Cosmetics. At this shop, the public is offered the very latest in hair styling. They have served the area for nine years, with the hope for this to continue into the future.

There are five people employed at this shop. The manager is Mary Grady. Workers are Lockie Hegwood, Louetta Black, Louise Aston, and Ruth Vaughn.

When Mrs. Grady opened her shop in 1946, she was the only person working. The business has increased enough to employ four others.

The Gradys' plan to expand their business in the spring to include two more booths and two more workers.

Mrs. Grady was born in Woodbury, Tennessee. She came to Huntsville in 1924. She is a member of the Central Church of Christ. She is affiliated with the North Alabama Hairdressers Association, and the National Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association.

Grady's Beauty Shop Personnel



Early Huntsville Street Scene (Courtesy Picture)



## HUNTSVILLE BRICK & TILE CO.

The Huntsville Brick and Tile Company was organized in 1947 under the name of Phillips Brick & Tile Company Incorporated.

In 1947, 126 acres of clay land were purchased from the Tennessee Valley Authority along the Tennessee River and plant site of 6 acres south of Redstone Station at Farley, Alabama.

The site selection was made after detailed study and analysis of the clay deposits within Arsenal Area. The alluvial clay deposits purchased proved to be the best for brick making of any in the Tennessee Valley Area.

The plant was a modern production unit using the new continuous tunnel kiln and dryer system designed by Allied Engineering Company of Cleveland, Ohio and the choice of brick plants throughout the United States.

Considerable difficulty was encountered in purchase of all items manufactured of steel. The main machinery pug mill crushers were hard to get, as foreign teams of purchasing agents were buying all kinds of machinery on lend lease and had priority over local citizens. For this reason substitute and used machinery had to be bought in order to get into production.

A wood frame building 300 feet x 120 feet was built to house the plant and operation was under way in August, 1947.

Employment at the time of operation was 38 men with one eight hour shift; 5½ days for the production of green and dry brick with 24 hour burning operation 7 days per week with the kiln crews.

The plant remained in continuous operation until November, 1948 when the plant machinery and equipment were completely destroyed. The kiln and dryer could easily be repaired.

The plant rebuilt, using fire-proof building materials, in 1949.

The officers of the original corporation were: president, Martin Phillips; vice-president, R. L. Spragins; and secretary, Archie Hill, Jr.

The officers of the present corporation are: president, J. D. Henry; vice-president, Frank Miklouchich; secretary, Archie Hill, Jr.; sales manager, Wallace Collins; and bookkeeper, Mrs. Pauline Argo.

There are approximately 40 employees.

The production is 3500 per day. The type of brick made are face brick and common brick.

Their sales go to three states, Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

## N. ALA. COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

The North Alabama College of Commerce was established on January 19, 1948. This school, at that time, occupied a portion of the third floor of the Struve building at the northeast corner of the Square. It was founded by Mrs. Frances Montgomery Chesnutt, who had just resigned from the administrative staff of Senator John Sparkman.

Mrs. Chesnutt, a native of Moulton, Alabama, was academically trained at Florence State Teachers College, Florence, Alabama, Gregg College, Chicago, Illinois, and Bowling Green College of Commerce, Bowling Green, Kentucky, where she specialized in Secretarial and Business Administration. Upon finishing college, she was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture as a Secretary and was soon promoted to the position of administrative supervisor. In 1945, she resigned her position with the Government to become Executive Secretary to the Vice-President of one of Alabama's largest corporations. She left this position to join the administrative staff of Senator John Sparkman upon his election to the United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

This wide background of experience has made it possible for Mrs. Chesnutt to successfully operate this college. Mrs. Chesnutt is a member of the Huntsville Altrusa club, and has been very active in Civic work since coming to Huntsville in 1918.

Under her leadership, the North Alabama College of Commerce has grown to become one of the largest Business Colleges in Alabama. It now occupies all of the third floor and a suite of three offices on the second floor of the Struve building. Under Mrs. Chesnutt's guidance, this school has become a member of the American Association of Commercial Colleges, the National Association of Business Colleges, the Alabama Association of Business Colleges, and the South Eastern Association of Business Colleges.

This school has been very successful in preparing young women for secretarial positions with the Government and with private industry. Many young men, veterans of World War II, and of the Korean War, have been trained at this school for positions as accountants, bookkeepers and office managers. The school operates day time classes, Monday through Friday, and night classes three nights a week. Standard diploma courses approved by the National Association of Business Colleges are offered in Secretarial Science, and in Higher Accounting and Business Administration.

## COATES-NORRELL MOTOR EXPRESS

Coates-Norrell Motor Express, Incorporated, the only common carrier motor transportation company with its home office in Huntsville, Alabama, came into existence on April 1, 1948 as a partnership entitled Coates-Norrell Motor Express. The two partners were Robert F. Coates and Edmund V. Norrell. This new organization had purchased the Martin Motor Express.

On August 1, 1949 Coates-Norrell Motor Express was incorporated under the laws of the State of Alabama in Madison County, and added the third owner, Glenn Halcomb.

The officers of the corporation are: Robert F. Coates, President; Edmund V. Norrell, Vice-President, and Glenn Halcomb, Secretary and Treasurer. Two of the incorporators, Robert F. Coates and Glenn Halcomb make their homes in Huntsville, Alabama, while Mr. Norrell resides in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

As all three members of the organization were veterans with foreign service, but without money, they realized from the beginning of our firm that in order to be successful in obtaining their objective, that of continued progress, they would have to be a closely knit fighting team. This spirit has characterized and permeated the entire organization.

On April 1, 1948, the company began operations with four usable tractors, eight road worthy trailers, and three pickup and delivery trucks. They now operate fifteen tractors, twenty-six trailers, and seven pickup and delivery and three company cars. The monthly revenue has now more than tripled that of the first month's operation.

Coates Norrell is still looking forward to further growth and progress as they serve the fast growing city of Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley area.

1955 Huntsville Street Scene (Courtesy Picture)



## SOUTHERN FURNITURE STORE

The Southern Furniture Store was founded by John O. Fowler, Jr. and Viola Fowler in June, 1945. It has been located in the same building at 1/2 West Side Square since it was founded.

This store handles a complete line of home furnishings in addition to Frigidaire Appliances and Speed Queen Washers. Southern Furniture has two main objectives; first, to sell Quality; and, second, to guarantee satisfactory customer-store relations.

The present General Manager of Southern Furniture is Mr. Sam K. Tate. He was born at Maxwell, Alabama on November 14, 1911. He attended high school and Auburn. Mr. and Mrs. Tate (Sarah H.) have four children: Betty Jane, age 8; Helen Carole, age 6; Rhonda Lynn, age 4; and Sammie Lee, age 2. Mr. Tate counts among his favorite pastimes hunting and fishing.

Mr. Tate is Past Ruler of the Elk's Club, and is a member of the Lions Club, Masons, V.F.W., American Legion, and D.A.V. He is active in other civic work including the Red Cross and the Community Chest.

Southern Furniture is a growing concern and intends to keep up the good work. Immediate plans include remodeling and air conditioning the store.

Southern Furniture Store



## LOWE HEREFORD FARMS



Old Street Scene, Adams Avenue

LOWE HEREFORD FARMS  
BREEDERS OF POLLED HEREFORDS  
FOUNDER R. J. LOWE  
OWNER MRS. JANE LOWE

SALES OFFICE  
1 1/2 miles south of Madison, Alabama  
on Highway 20  
Phone Madison 21-J

MAIN OFFICE  
7 1/2 East Side Square  
Huntsville, Alabama  
Phone JE 6-1742

1955 Huntsville Street Scene (Courtesy Picture)



### ROSE JEWELRY CO.

The Rose Jewelry Company, located No. 7 East Side Square, was purchased by the Frank Brothers in April of 1946. It was founded in 1944. They began their business operation at the same location they now occupy.

Rose Jewelry Company's services cover all of North Alabama. They carry a wide assortment of jewelry, diamonds, watches, silver, crystal, china, gifts, and athletic equipment. Another service of the company is watch and jewelry repair.

There are eight people employed locally. Rose Jewelry has branches in Decatur, Alabama, and Pulaski, Tennessee, as well as the Huntsville store.

There are three brothers associated with the Rose Jewelry Company, Milton, M. W., and Richard.

Milton Frank came to Huntsville in 1934 as coach and athletic director at the Huntsville High School; a position he held until 1946.

The Franks are natives of Tennessee. Mr. Frank is from Nashville and Mrs. Frank is from Knoxville. She is the former Zimmie Wise. They have two sons; Butch, 17, a senior at Huntsville High School, and Buster, 14, a ninth grader at Huntsville Jr. High School.

"Coach" and Mrs. Frank are quite active in local life. Mrs. Frank is a member of the Aladdin Club, Altrusa, and the Music Club. She is a past president of the Aladdin Club. Mrs. Frank is also a member of the Pulaski Pike Home Demonstration Club.

Mr. Frank served as president of the Huntsville High School P.T.A. for the past two years. He is a former member and president of the Acme Club. Mr. Frank is a very optimistic Optimist member; serving as Vice President, chairman of the Boy's work and co-chairman of Optimist Park.

"Coach" Frank holds a B.S. degree from the University of Tennessee, and a Master's Degree from George Peabody College in Physical Education and School Administration. He has done some work towards a Ph.D. degree.

During World War II, Mr. Frank was Superintendent of Production at Redstone Arsenal for four years. Also, during the Korean Conflict he was connected with Redstone in the field of ammunition manufacturing.

M. W. Frank is associated with Milton locally. He came to Huntsville, from Nashville, in 1946.

He is a member and president of the Y's men's club.

Mrs. M. W. Frank is the former Claire Marks of New Orleans, Louisiana. Their daughter, Leanne, is six years old.

### HUNTSVILLE WAREHOUSE CO.

The Huntsville Warehouse Company was incorporated in the year 1895.

It was founded by Tracy W. Pratt in West Huntsville at 809 9th Avenue, West.

You can only imagine the number of bales of cotton that have passed through this warehouse since its founding in 1895, there have been so many.

The present owners of the warehouse are Mrs. Tracy W. Pratt and Bess Pratt.

The original manager of the warehouse was Mr. W. A. Stanley whose term of duty extended for a period of fifty years. At the present time Mr. Thomas S. Bruce, 800 9th Avenue, West, carries out the able duties as manager of the Huntsville Warehouse Company.

Tracy W. Pratt

W. A. Stanley



East Side Square (Courtesy Picture)





## KROGER'S

The growth from one small store on Cincinnati's busy riverfront in 1883 to more than 1,650 modern super markets in 20 middle western and southern states is the story of the development of Kroger.

Founded by the late B. H. Kroger in 1883, Kroger stores now are accepted members in over 1100 communities throughout the midwest and south. Under the direction of a general office in Cincinnati, the territory is divided into 26 branches, each with its own group of retail operations. These branch offices are located in important trading centers from Atlanta, Georgia to Madison, Wisconsin, and from Wichita, Kansas, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Huntsville store is in the Nashville, Tennessee, branch.

Manufacturing, too, plays an important role in the Kroger Company. The company operates a general factory at Cincinnati, as well as 13 bread and cake bakeries and two cracker and cookie bakeries throughout the Kroger area. Four dairies, a milk operating plant, two coffee roasting plants, a peanut processing plant, and a general factory complete the list.

More than 31,000 men and women work full time for Kroger and nearly a third as many more work part time. The Huntsville store, located at the Northwest Corner of Clinton and Lincoln Streets, has 35 employees.

Kroger employees are encouraged to take an active part in community life with annual "good Citizenship" awards going to store managers who do outstanding work in activities denoting good citizenship.

Mr. Bedford Creacy is store manager and Mr. Ray Maxidon is the head meat cutter of the Huntsville Kroger Store. These men, both of whom are residents of Huntsville, have a total of 23 years of Kroger experience in retail food merchandising.

Bedford Creacy

R. W. Maxidon

Kroger's



## MAPLES SHEET METAL WORKS

Maples Sheet Metal Works was established May 1, 1919 at 221 East Holmes Street. At the present, they are located at 108 Meridian Street.

The company specializes in general industrial sheet metal work, roofing, heating, and air conditioning.

Mr. G. R. Maples founded the company. The present owners are Gordon L. Maples and O. B. Brasseale.

There are sixteen people employed by this company; their services cover all of North Alabama.

The owners have plans for expanding. These plans consist of a new building and location.

Mr. Gordon L. Maples was born in Huntsville in 1915. His wife's name is Margaret. They have one son, Michael. Mr. Maples is a graduate of Huntsville High School and the Bowling Green College of Commerce. He is a member of the V.F.W.

Mr. Brasseale was born in Blount County in 1900. He is a Master Mason and a Shriner. Mr. and Mrs. Brasseale (Rosa) have two sons; Waymond and Bruce.

Tally-Ho used in trips to Monte Sano in 1890's (Courtesy Picture)



1955 Huntsville Street Scene (Courtesy Picture)



## LOCKE CONSTRUCTION CO.

The J. F. Locke Construction Company located at 106 Marion Street, Huntsville, was established in 1935 by Mr. J. F. Locke.

Mr. Locke was born in the year of 1901 in Madison County, Alabama. His wife is Mrs. Mattie Sisco Locke. They have three children, two daughters, Miss Mary E. Locke, and Miss Rebecca Joyce Locke, and one son, Thomas A. (Bill) Locke. The Lockes are members of the Primitive Baptist Church. Mr. Locke is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. He was educated at Monrovia and Hurricane Schools and his hobby is hunting.

The J. F. Locke Construction Company tries to serve customers in a satisfactory manner, always trying to make Huntsville and Madison County a better place in which to live.

This company deals in plumbing and heating fixtures, appliances, and everything in the building line. It is now building commercial and residential buildings. Mr. Locke started soliciting his business by walking from place to place with his tool box on his shoulder. He plans to expand his business even more in the future as business demands.



J. F. Locke

Big Spring Lagoon (Courtesy Picture)



## AUTO SALVAGE AND SUPPLY

Auto Salvage and Supply Company was established at the present location, 859 West Holmes Street by M. A. Pennington, Sr.

This Company offers new and used automobile parts and accessories.

Mr. Pennington was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee June 12, 1909. He came to Huntsville in 1923. He married Lafollett Wells. They have three children, M. S. Pennington, Jr.; Virginia and Margaret Ann Pennington. Mr. Pennington is a member of the Methodist Mens Club and the Civitan. He is also counselor for Boy Scouts of America.



First Methodist church years ago. (Courtesy picture)



Eustis Street scene years ago. (Courtesy picture)

## W. L. HALSEY GROCERY CO.

The W. L. Halsey Grocery Co., now on Jefferson St., was established as a wholesale and retail grocery business in 1879 by Messrs. C. H. and W. L. Hasley.

Some years later, Mr. W. L. Halsey bought the interest of the other partner and confined the business to members of his immediate family.

Thus in 1908, the W. L. Halsey Grocery Co., Inc. was formed with Mr. W. L. Halsey as president. His sons, W. L. Halsey, Jr. and Robert S. Halsey were manager and vice-president respectively. And his daughter, Miss Kate Halsey was secretary.

Later on, the younger members bought out their father's interest and W. L. Halsey, Jr. became president. Mr. Robert S. Halsey died in 1922 and his interest was taken over by the other stockholders from his widow.

The business has continued over the years with the slogan "Reliable Merchandise Since Establishment in 1879."

The wholesale company employs 22 individuals and serves a radius of 75 miles from Huntsville in all directions. It specialized in the sale of institutional merchandise to hotel, hospitals and other institutions.

Mr. W. L. Halsey, Jr., the present president, is married to the former Elizabeth Lowry. They have two children, Will and Laura.

Throughout the years, Mr. Halsey has been active in many civic and community affairs. His wife, Jewel, and two daughters, Laura, 9, and Elizabeth, 5, comprise his family.

Will is one of Huntsville's most active young men. He has served as president of the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Huntsville Country Club, and as vice-chairman of the Civic Club Council. He is a director of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee, has been active in Community Chest and Red Cross and is a member of the City Board of Education. He is a former member of the Acme Club.

In addition to their capability as wholesale merchants, both Will and his father are noted for their kindness to churches and civic clubs in need of groceries in bulk quantity for various worthwhile projects.

W. L. Halsey

W. L. Halsey, Jr.



## LANE AND COMPANY

Lane and Company was founded in 1946 by James A. Lane. It was formerly located at 309 Franklin Street; but is now at 219-21 Uptown Building.

Included in the services offered by this company are Real Estate, Mortgage Loans, and General Insurance. Real Estate services are community residential development sales, Property management, Sub-divisions developments, and research.

Types of Mortgage Loans offered include F.H.A., G.I. and Conventional loans. All types of General Insurance are also available.

There are seven persons employed at Lane and Company. Among their key personnel are: Miss Louise Mathias Reynolds, Real Estate; Mrs. Marjorie Crumminc, Mortgage loans; Mrs. Elizabeth Archer, General Insurance; Mr. Harold Gill, Maintenance and research and Mr. J. L. Fisher, salesman.

Lane and Company have many evidences of their projects scattered around Huntsville. Among these are: Lane Park, Avon and Oak Homes, (Hillandale), Warren Park, Jordan Park, Montdale, Twickenham Shopping Center, and Rental Units for Government employees.

The Founder and owner, Mr. James A. Lane was born February 25, 1919 in Jackson, Alabama. He came to Huntsville, Alabama in 1944. Mr. and Mrs. Lane (Frances B.) have one child, Jamie.

Mr. Lane is active in the American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Huntsville Golf and Country Club, Alabama Safety Conference, and the Quarterback Club. He has held the following offices in the American Legion: Post Adjutant, Post Commander, District Commander, State Vice-Commander, State Commander, National Vice-Commander.

Mr. Lane has served on the Board of Directors of The Alabama Safety Conference for seven years. He also served as Captain of the Quarterback Club in 1955. He is a member of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee.

Mr. Lane attended Evergreen Grammar and High Schools. He also attended Marion Institute and Stanford University. He is a World War II veteran and has served on the Veterans Advisory Committee of the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Lane was the first World War II Veteran to be elected post commander in the state. He was one of only two to be elected vice-commander of state. He served as General Chairman of the Congressional Medal of Honor presentation in Madison County. He is a former member of the National Housing Committee.

## THE IDEAL BAKING CO.

The Ideal Baking Company of Huntsville, Alabama, started production of bread, buns and rolls on September 15, 1950. It is a locally owned and operated business and has no other plants, nor has it ever operated in any other location. The principal stockholders live in northern Alabama.

Hugh Wasson, Jr. established the business and is the president of the Company. Interested in community activities, he is president of the North Alabama Tuberculosis Association, immediate past president of the Madison County Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Kiwanis Club, of the local chapter of the American Red Cross, and of the Young Men's Christian Association. He is a member of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee. He and his wife, Joberta, have one son, two years old. They all belong to the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville.

The Ideal Baking Company is the only wholesale bakery in Madison County. This has been its biggest advantage in competing with all other breads available in grocery stores. Since all other bread is shipped into the county from some distance away, Ideal Bread reaches the grocers' shelves and the housewives fresher and in better condition than its competitors. Another advantage is that this company is strictly locally owned and operated. With one exception, all of its competitors are chain bakeries with headquarters in New York, Chicago, or other metropolitan areas. Many local people prefer to buy from a company which spends its money back with the community rather than in some distant area.

Since its foundation, the company has made considerable progress in the bread and roll business. Its products now are preferred by Madison County homemakers over any single competing brand. The margin of preference over other brands is increasing each year, as reflected by its increasing sales each year. A very considerable loss the first year has been made back in intervening years and replaced by a profit the past year.

Old City Hall (Courtesy picture)



## ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY

Rohm & Haas Company, established in 1909, is one of the leading chemical companies in the United States, with plants and laboratories in Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee, and offices throughout the world. The activities of the company may be characterized, in brief, by two phrases: "Chemicals for Industry" and "Chemicals for Agriculture." Of the almost five hundred products falling in these domains, only a few retain their identity at the consumer level. These many products serve as the chemical raw materials and intermediates for a variety of industries such as leather, textile, paint and varnish, plastics, agricultural, sanitary, paper, plywood, and petroleum. Although most of these lose their identity in various finished products, the effects they impart do not, and it is a rare person indeed in the United States who daily is not influenced by one or more of these Rohm and Haas products.

Due to the company's reputation for research and the presence on its staff of several men experienced in the field of rockets and propellants, Rohm & Haas Company was asked by the Ordnance Corps to inaugurate a research program in the field of rocket science. This work was begun in June, 1949, when the Redstone Arsenal Research Division was established. The Division's operations are carried out in government-owned facilities at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. The contract is on a national service basis, with the government reimbursing actual costs of the research program plus a fee of \$1.00 for the life of the contract.

Although the work of the Redstone Arsenal Research Division is somewhat outside the company's normal field of interest, the Division is an integral part of the Company; its policies are consistent with those in effect at all other company locations.

The Division's efforts are directed toward the discovery and development of superior rocket propellants, propulsion units and free-flight rocket weapons systems. Its product is an ever increasing fund of knowledge in the field of rocket science.

Rohm & Haas Company is pleased that it can make this contribution to the nation's defense, and is confident that its program will continue to bear fruit.

## LEE MOTOR COMPANY

The Lee Motor Company was established June 1, 1955, by Louis B. Lee, Jr. It is located at 206 Meridian Street.

Mr. Lee was born April 22, 1925, in Huntsville, Alabama. His wife is Emily Langhorne Lee. He is active in the Acme Club and the Elks Club, and is a graduate of the Huntsville High School.

The company handles DeSoto and Plymouth new cars, fine used cars, and offers expert general automobile service.

Louis B. Lee, Sr. is the General Manager of the company.

Business policies of the company are to render their customers and friends the very best in Automotive Sales and Service.

Lee Motor has twelve employees and plans to grow and prosper with the citizens of Huntsville.

This company is the newest new car franchised dealer now in Huntsville, although its owner and employees have had a great deal of experience.

Burnams Swimming Pool (replaced by Big Spring Lagoon)  
(Courtesy picture)



South Side Square in early days (Courtesy picture)



## CENTRAL CAFE

The Central Cafe, founded by Pete Ballis in 1913, began operations on Jefferson Street. In 1915 the location was moved to 103 Clinton Street, where the cafe has continuously served the people of Huntsville and adjoining communities.

The objective of the Central Cafe is to provide the finest in food and service.

Mr. Louis Tumminello has owned the Central Cafe since 1928. He bought it from Charles, Gus, and Milton Savage for \$8,000.00. For one and one-half years Jimmy James operated the cafe but in 1930 Mr. Tumminello assumed the managership. Many improvements have been made since 1930.

In 1931, the cafe was offered for sale. No buyer was found. Mr. Tumminello then began remodeling. The Mirror Room was added at a cost of \$12,000.00. Again in 1955 major improvements were made at a cost of \$10,000.00.

The Central Cafe has operated for forty-one years twenty-four hours daily. One unique feature is that no locks or keys were used at the Cafe.

Twenty-three people are employed at the cafe.

Mr. Tumminello was born January 2, 1898, at Colfax, Louisiana, and moved to Huntsville in 1920. He married the former Mary Cicero. Their daughter Leatrice is married to Marion Cole.

Mr. Tumminello belongs to the American Legion, the V.F.W., the F.O.P. (40 and 8 Chef De Guerre), and is a past Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge.

The Tumminellos are active in Civic Work including the March of Dimes, the Crippled Children's Clinic, and the Community Chest.

Louis Tumminello



## DENNIS WATERCRESS CO.

The Dennis Water Cress Co. was founded in 1874 at Long Branch, New Jersey by Frank Dennis.

His son, C. E. Dennis inherited the business and later extended operations to Huntsville, Alabama in 1910.

At present, the business is owned and operated at 308 Monroe St. by the third generation of the Dennis family. E. Frost Dennis is the President and manager of the West Virginia operation where cress is grown during the summer months; and W. J. Byrne is the vice president and manager of the Alabama operation where cress is grown during the winter.

The cress ponds that furnish the Huntsville plants are situated near Jeff, Alabama and are considered to be the largest of their kind in the world.

Water cress is the most ancient of all known green vegetables and has been eaten since the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The commercial market for this green probably began when Frank Dennis first shipped a small quantity to several hotels in New York City. The two principal areas of the Dennis Co. are Martinsburg, West Virginia and Huntsville, Alabama, both areas being endowed with limestone spring water for cress growing. During the winter months the Huntsville plant supplies well over half of the water cress in the American Market.

This cultivated cress is shipped direct to better hotels, clubs, hospitals and other institutions where it is used both as a garnish and as a valuable item of the menus.

Employment at the local plant varies. There are about 15 workers needed in the summer and 30 during the winter season.

Mr. Byrne is married to Nancy Byrne (nee Dennis). They have two children, Barbara, 18, and Judy, 8.

His principal interests in the recreation line are golf and fishing.

Water cress salad being served at the Russel Erskine Hotel. W. J. Byrne, Vice President of the company and manager of the Huntsville office, and Mrs. Jimmie Taylor. Water cress has been served at the Russel Erskine continually since its opening 25 years ago.



## HUNTSVILLE IMPLEMENT CO.

The Huntsville Implement Company Incorporated is located at 1400 Whitesburg Drive. It was established in 1932 as a partnership of John C. Lowe, Jr. and Mr. Coleman. Successors to this partnership were J. C. Lowe, Sr. and John C. Lowe, Jr. The firm was first located on Washington Street, later moving to Holmes Street, then to Whitesburg Drive where it is presently located.

The partnership of J. C. Lowe, Sr. and John C. Lowe, Jr. was incorporated July 1, 1947 with the following officers: John C. Lowe, Sr., president; Jeanne Townes Lowe, vice president; John C. Lowe, Jr., secretary-treasurer.

The present officers are: John C. Lowe, Jr., president; Jeanne Townes Lowe, vice president; and Warren C. Moore, secretary-treasurer.

John C. Lowe, Jr., was born December 7, 1904 at Huntsville where he attended the public schools. He attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, Alabama and Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tennessee. He is a member of the Optimist and Elks Clubs and the Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Jeanne Townes Lowe, have two children, Jeanne Halsey and Linda Darwin Lowe. Mr. Lowe's hobby is golf.

## THRONEBERRY GENERAL CONTRACTOR

The firm of Throneberry General Contractors was founded in 1947 by M. E. and J. R. Throneberry. The present location is 1104-1108 West Clinton St.

Throneberry General Contractors offer all type of road construction, excavations and land cleaning. In addition to Madison County, the company does work in Cullman, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan Counties as well as sections of Tennessee.

There are 7 members of the personnel.

M. E. Throneberry was born July 28, 1916 in Limestone County, and was graduated from the high school in Athens. He came to Huntsville in 1939. He and his wife, Pauline Sattlefield, Throneberry, are members of the Methodist Church. During World War II he served in the U. S. Army.

J. R. Throneberry was born November 23, 1912 in Limestone County and is also a graduate of Athens High School. He came to Huntsville in 1947. His wife is Amy Sanderson Throneberry. They have two daughters, Faye and Joyce. Their church affiliation is Baptist.

## UPTAIN FOOTWEAR

Uptains Footwear, founded on February 1, 1942 by Dorsey C. and John T. Uptain, is located at 117 North Washington Street. Dorsey C. Uptain is manager. The personnel numbers 4.

Products of Uptain's Footwear consists of quality shoes and accessories for the family.

In 1950, the store was completely remodeled, doubling the floor space and air-conditioning.

Shopping area covered by Uptains Footwear includes a large area in North Alabama and Tennessee.

Mr. Uptain has always lived in Huntsville. Mr. Uptain and his wife, Pattie, have a son, Dorsey, Jr. They are Presbyterians.

Mr. Uptain is a member of the Huntsville Shrine and Rotary Club. His civic work includes helping the Salvation Army, Community Chest, and Chamber of Commerce. Offices he has held are: past president of the Shrine Club (1953-1954); past president of the Retail Merchants, and Divisional chairman of the Community Chest.

Uptains Footwear features a very appropriate slogan, "The Most Walked About Shoes in Town."

## SNO-WHITE SANDWICH SHOP

The Sno-Wite Sandwich Shop was established in Huntsville in 1954. It was founded by Paul W. Means and Russell Bennett.

Mr. Means was born in Edgar County, Illinois and came to Huntsville in 1945. His wife is Naomi Means. They have three children. Mr. Means is a member of the Elks and Rotary clubs. He was manager of Montgomery Ward for ten years here, and he and his wife both belong to the Methodist Church.

Mr. Bennett was born in Franklin County, Tennessee in 1914 and came to Huntsville in 1938. His wife is Daisy Mac Bennett, and they have one son, James. The Bennetts belong to the Central Church of Christ.

The Sno-Wite has a personnel of eight. Their specialties are hamburgers and breakfast. They stay open until eleven o'clock.

Interior Sno-Wite (Russell Bennett at opening)



### BUTLER FROZEN FOODS CO., INC.

Butler Frozen Foods Company was established at 805 Madison Street in 1946. This firm was founded by James C. and George S. Butler. Presently the firm is owned by James C., George S., Charles T., and A. H. Butler.

The Butler family has been in business in Madison County for the past seventy-five years. The owners of this firm are all natives of Madison County.

This firm plans to expand in the near future to include Commercial Storage.

The personnel includes the following: Frank Gasaway, Aluc McMurtric, Dorothy Yell, Philip Sloan, Bill Harbin, Alvic Berry, Robert Allen, Malcolm Hilliard, A. D. Sanderson, Jr., Douglas Sloan, Fred Roberson, (colored).

Butler Frozen Food Co.



### JONES HOSPITAL PHARMACY

The Jones Hospital Pharmacy was established on November 19, 1954. It is owned by Dwight Jones and his wife, Betty Lou, and is located at 815 Madison Street across from the Huntsville Hospital.

This pharmacy offers 24 hour prescription service in Huntsville, Madison and surrounding counties with free delivery. After hours the pharmacist can be contacted through the Doctors' Exchange.

Dwight was born in Montgomery, Alabama on Nov. 15, 1925. He received his B.S. degree from Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn and is a registered pharmacist. He is a member of the Methodist Church and belongs to the Acme and Sertoma Clubs.

Betty Lou was born on July 1, 1931 in Brewton, Alabama. She holds a B.S. in Education from the University of Alabama and formerly served in government employ as a mathematician.

The personnel of the Jones Hospital Pharmacy consists of Bill Talley, Robert Dickey, Ronald Milam and Mrs. L. O. Hall.

Dwight Jones Hospital Pharmacy



### DIXIE WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE CO.

The Dixie Warehouse and Storage Company was established February, 1926 at the same location on West Clinton they now occupy. Their services include cotton storage and warehousing. The company was founded by Mr. Luke Matthews.

The business motto of the company is "Security with Service".

The present officers are: President, Luke Matthews, Jr.; Vice-President, Ben Matthews; and Secretary and Treasurer, M. S. Matthews.

Since their opening in 1926, Dixie Warehouse and Storage have added to the original building to meet growing demands and have also added a new, complete sprinkler system.

Employees Nathaniel Fletcher, Mike Jamar, and Samuel Hambrick have 28 years, 22 years, and 9 years service, respectively.

The present manager and Vice-President, Ben Matthews, is the son of the original company officer and incorporator.

Luke Matthews, Jr. is a graduate of Vanderbilt University. He is married to Barbara Lowe. They have 3 children; Margaret Lowell, age 6; Ben Matthews, IV, age 2; and Lucy Girard, age 2 months.

### ASHBY SERVICE STATION

The Ashby Service Station is located at 228 Green Street. The Station handles all products of the Standard Oil Company.

Mr. Roy Ashby, the present owner, was born January 17, 1904 in Lincoln County, Tennessee. He attended the local High School.

Since coming to Huntsville, Mr. Ashby has been active in the Masons, Moose, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashby (Stella) have two children: Barbara, age 24 and Billy, age 21.

Mr. Ashby has the interesting hobby of wood craft.

The Ashby Service Station employs five persons and plans to remain and grow in Huntsville.

Ashby Service Station





## VALLEY PRIDE PACKING CO.

The Valley Pride Packing Co., Inc. is located at 712 Bell Avenue.

This organization which specializes in the slaughtering of hogs and cattle, processing of smoked meats and the manufacturing of sausage was established in Huntsville on Sept. 1, 1950.

William Kling is the president. He was born in New Orleans, La. on Sept. 17, 1917. He was graduated from the University of Alabama in 1939.

His wife is Margaret R. They have three children, Emily, 5, Nancy, 3, and William, Jr., 1.

He is a member of the Huntsville Country Club and the Rotary Club and is a member of the board of directors of the American Meat Institute located in Chicago.

The Valley Pride Packing Co., with its 25 employees, takes pride in distributing a high quality of meats noted for tenderness and taste.

## THE KRESS STORE

The first Kress store opened in Memphis, Tennessee in 1896. The Huntsville store opened in November 1905, with J. J. Campbell as manager.

Kress has used the same location on Washington Street these fifty years. Due to the fire, the store was expanded and remodeled in 1930. Before the fire, Kress occupied about one-fourth of the present space, and only one floor. They now occupy two floors.

Some of the key personnel at the Kress store are as follows: Mr. A. G. Williams, Manager; Miss Constance Mitchell, Cashier, who has been with Kress 17 years; Mrs. Frances McCollum, Assistant Cashier; Mrs. Dorothy Jones, Mrs. Louise Knighten, Mrs. Katherine LeVan, and Mrs. Mildred Lanford.

Their policy of offering the finest quality merchandise at the lowest possible prices brought an ever increasing loyal patronage from the people of the South. Since that time 261 Kress stores have been opened in the United States and Hawaii.

You can shop with confidence at any Kress store and can be sure of being the first to get the newest and best at lowest prices. Their Merchandise is sold with a guarantee of satisfaction or your money will be cheerfully refunded.



## JOHNSON AND MAHONEY

The firm of Johnson and Mahoney at 105 Clinton Street offers a complete selection of men's clothing and furnishings.

The company was originally Johnson and Calloway, and was named thus in 1916 by the two founders, Herbert Johnson and R. C. Calloway.

In 1917, George Mahoney came into the firm and it became Johnson, Calloway and Mahoney. Then in 1938, Mr. Calloway left and since that time the store has been known by the names of the two remaining owners. There are eight people employed at this place of business.

Mr. Johnson was born in Mississippi and came to Huntsville in 1911. His wife is Cassandra Neece Johnson and his one son, Thomas Herbert, Jr. He is a past president of the Kiwanis Club and is Chairman of the Housing Authority and a member of the Chamber of Commerce. His Religious affiliation is Baptist.

Mr. Mahoney's birthplace was Cincinnati. He came to Huntsville in 1905. His wife, Bell Fuller Mahoney, and he have two children, George, Jr. and Margaret Belle. His church is Catholic. He is a past president of the Rotary Club and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

## HUNTSVILLE STEAM LAUNDRY

The Huntsville Steam Laundry was established around 1893. It is located at 303 West Clinton Street where for about sixty-two years they have gone about their business of keeping the wardrobes of Huntsville's citizens clean.

The laundry was established by Edward T. Bailes who was born and reared right here in Huntsville. He was born January 20, 1873, and he married Evie Harris. Their union was blessed with three children, Edward T. Bailes, Jr., Katherine Bailes, and Ruth Chase.

The owners of the laundry at the present time are Edward Bailes, Katherine Bailes, and Homer Chase.

The management is taken care of by Edward T. Bailes, Jr. Under his direction a staff of 45 personnel go about the business of laundering and dry cleaning the articles brought in to the plant for the whole Huntsville Area.

Edward T. Bailes



## TOM JONES JR. REALTOR

Tom Jones, Jr. whose office is at 306 Franklin Street, takes pride in the term "Realtor" which denotes his profession. For this work means not only that Mr. Jones sells real estate, but that he is a member of the local, state and national Boards of Realtors. He has also taken several short courses in real estate technique at the University of Alabama; in Birmingham and Chattanooga.

Mr. Jones, a native of Huntsville, has been in business here since 1938. During his four years of army service, Mrs. Leon McCaleb, his sister, managed the office for him.

He is a graduate of the University of Alabama and has done post-graduate work at Northwestern and the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Jones is a director in the Optimist Club; is past president of the Huntsville Board of Realtors, is a member of the Planning Commission of the City of Huntsville and is the treasurer for the First Christian Church.

Prior to coming back to Huntsville to work, Mr. Jones was with the Irving Trust Company in New York and the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank in New Orleans.

## GOODYEAR SERVICE STORES

The Huntsville branch of the Goodyear Service Stores was established November 1948. They are located at 108 East Clinton Street.

Goodyear Service Stores foremost products are their famous brand Goodyear tires. Also, they have a wide assortment of merchandise for home and car. They feature alignment, wheel balancing, and recapping. Their appliances are the famous General Electric brand.

The present manager is Lewis Hubbard, who is a graduate of the University of Alabama.

Goodyear Service Stores employ twenty-five people at the Huntsville branch.

1955 Street Scene (Courtesy picture)



## F. W. WOOLWORTH

The F. W. Woolworth Company was established in 1874. Their first store in Huntsville was set up in the early 20's on the East Side of the Square where Hill's Grocery store is presently located. In 1934 the store moved to 105 South Washington Street.

F. W. Woolworth stores offer a variety of merchandise, including some 6,000 items. There are items for every member of the family, items for the home, for yards, and for cars.

In 1949 the store space was increased and it was made modern in every respect, with proper lighting and air conditioning.

Between 35 and 100 persons are employed depending upon the season of the year. Key personnel are: L. D. Bounds, Manager and Mary Agnes Stewart, Store Supervision; Mary Stewart has been in this particular store since 1935.

Mr. Bounds was born in Mississippi. He has been with the F. W. Woolworth Company since 1934; however, it was 1941 when he came to Huntsville as manager of the store.

## BUSANN'S SHOES, INC.

Busann's Shoes, Incorporated was established October, 1952 at 100 South Washington Street and the corner of the Twickenham Hotel Building. The founders were John T. Uptain and Dorsey C. Uptain.

Their merchandise consists of women's, children's and men's shoes. They specialize in correct fitting of shoes.

The present owners are John T. Uptain and Dorsey C. Uptain.

John T. Uptain is president and general manager of Busann's. He was born October 29, 1914 at New Market, Alabama.

Mr. Uptain is a member of the Shrine, Lions, American Legion, and V.F.W.

He and his wife, Margaret, have two children, Ann, 15, and Amy, 2.

His hobbies are golf and fishing.

Busann's employs 4 people.

Their slogan is "Most modern Family Shoe Store in North Alabama."

## IRVIN PRINTING CO.

For all types of job printing—standard and special business forms—brochures, booklets, letter press printing and lithography—the Irvin Printing Company at 705 8th Avenue West is a good place to go!

This company was founded in 1945 by V. M. "Bunny" Irvin. And since the beginning at this date, the business has increased from two hand-fed presses and hand composition, to two automatic letter presses and two automatic offset presses and intertype machines for type setting.

There are four people who work with the Irvin Printing Company which serves the surrounding area in a one hundred mile radius.

Mr. Irvin was born in Columbus, Georgia on July 7, 1915 and came to Huntsville in 1927.

He and his wife, Catherine Brady Irvin, have one child, Bunny Ann Irvin.

He is a member of the Elks and the West Huntsville Men's Clubs, and is a graduate of Joe Bradley High School.

## BRAGG FURNITURE CO.

Bragg Furniture Company was established in 1942 by L. E. Bragg, Sr. The present location is 204-06 Washington Street, but the company has operated from 203 Washington Street. They offer Willett Pennsylvania solid cherry and maple.

Bragg's 'Famous for Famous Brands' has always endeavored to bring to the people of Huntsville the very finest solid wood furniture. Through the years, their customers response and acceptance has been most gratifying. From their beginning at 203 Washington Street, they have moved once. They purchased the building they now occupy and have enlarged and remodeled four times. They offer the finest lines and the best selections of those lines to be found anywhere and it is their hope that the store will be able to continue to earn your business as Huntsville and its people move onward and forward.

Mr. L. E. Bragg, Sr. was born in Madison County January 16, 1904. He is married to Selma Marie Powell. They have two children, L. E. Bragg, Jr. and Joe Ed Bragg. Mr. Bragg, Sr. attended the public schools in Madison County. His hobby is fishing. He is a member of the Civitan Club and Baptist Church.

## MONROE PRINTING CO.

Huntsville's first office supply store was opened by D. C. Monroe in 1911 on Washington Street. He obtained the first dealership for the Royal Typewriter in the South. Some two hundred machines were sold within the first five years.

Two years later, Mr. Monroe deciding that Job Printing was a good companion business for office supplies. He purchased two of the town's three printing establishments—the Hay Printing Company, and the Ware Printing Company. In 1913 the Office Supply Store, together with the acquired printing equipment, was moved to the present quarters of the Business Equipment Company on Randolph Street.

A big factor in the growth of this enterprise was the development of a specially designed artistic letterhead.

In 1924, the Monroe Company was divided into three separate firms. Business Equipment Company headed by Gene Monroe remained in the present quarters; Monroe Art Letterheads headed by Edmund Monroe; and Monroe Printing Company with Raymond "Booley" Monroe in charge, all moved into their present quarters on Green Street.

## SOUTHERN SHOE STORES, INC.

Southern Shoe Stores, Incorporated, located at 113 North Washington Street, is a branch of the oldest shoe jobber firm in the United States.

James H. Childs, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania founded the Company in 1812.

The main offices are located at 1813 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1937, the Huntsville branch of Southern Shoe Stores, Incorporated opened for business. Business has increased 500% since that first year's operation.

Five people are employed at the Huntsville Store.

Key personnel include Mr. Stanley Bell who is manager, and Mr. Ira M. Harris, Jr., assistant manager.

Mr. Bell was born in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. He came to Huntsville in May of 1940.

Mr. Bell married a native Huntsvillian, the former Miss Mary Elma Stogner. They have one daughter, Betty Lou, 13 years of age.

The Bells are active in the Methodist Church.

Mr. Bell is a Civitan member and also belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. He attended the University of Florida.

## WESTERN AUTO STORES

Western Auto Store is owned and operated by R. C. Darden, Limited.

Mr. R. C. Darden was born January 12, 1899 in Meridian, Mississippi. He attended the high school in Meridian. He and his wife, Anne, have three children, Anne Elizabeth, Annette, and R. C., Jr. Mr. Darden is fond of hunting and fishing.

The Western Auto Store specializes in general automotive parts, accessories, tires, batteries, and radios.

Aerial view of A & M Institute (Courtesy picture)



## STORY OF SEARS

The Redskins were still whooping it up over the war trails of the Northwest and Arizona and New Mexico, but the American frontier undoubtedly was rousing to its death rattle back in 1886 when Richard Warren Sears, the impassioned station agent, woke up one morning and found himself in the mail order business.

The story of Dick Sears and the box of watches has, by now, become almost a part of American folklore and there is no need to rehearse it here with incidental music and offstage sounds.

In 1925 our first Retail Store was opened in connection with the mail order plant in Chicago. This began a new field for the Company.

The youngest branches of Sears, Roebuck and Company are our catalog sales offices. The one in Huntsville was opened April 29, 1941 with two employees, Misses Elinor Certain and Lillian Lawler. Mrs. Wilma King, our present manager, joined Sears in 1945.

Today there are ten employees offering our customers telephone shopping, an outside salesman, a credit department and the same old, old slogan: "Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back".

## CURT'S STANDARD STATION

This service station was founded, and is still located at 825 Madison Street. This is across from the Huntsville Hospital.

The founder and present owner is Curtis Gannaway. He was born July 15, 1902 in Anniston, Alabama. Mr. and Mrs. Gannaway (Bessie) have one child, Bill, age 23.

Mr. Gannaway attended college for two years. He is a member of the Sertoma Club.

Curt's Standard Station handles all Standard Oil products, Atlas Tires, Batteries, and accessories.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## ERSKINE BAKERS

The Erskine Bakery is located in Huntsville at 214 North Jefferson Street, its only location since being established on August 1, 1953. It was established by Henry P. Erskine, owner and founder.

The Erskine Bakery is a retail bakery, serving the people of Huntsville and surrounding communities.

Mr. Erskine, the founder and present owner, was born on August 19, 1920, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was educated at the University of Chattanooga. He is married to the former Nancy Stinson and they have one child, Peggy Ann, age 8. Mr. Erskine is a member of the First Christian Church, and the Huntsville Optimist Club.

There are fourteen persons employed by the Erskine Bakery.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## UNIVERSAL PHOTO SHOP

The Universal Photo Shop was established June, 1949, at 104 West Clinton Street, but later moved to 115 East Clinton where it is presently located. The founder, E. D. Burwell, Jr., handles such merchandise as cameras, photographic supplies, tape recorders and operated a photo finishing plant. He has 8 personnel.

Mr. Burwell was born November 9, 1916, at Huntsville. He attended the Public Schools and The University of Alabama where he received a B.S. in Mining Engineering. He is a member of the Optimist Club. Mr. Burwell and his wife, Helen, have two children, Dudley, 11, and Jack, 7.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## READY'S BAKERY

Ready's Bakery, which is at the present located at 108 South Washington Street, is a Father-Son association. Mr. O. A. Ready, Sr., is the inactive member while Mr. O. A. Ready, Jr., assumes active responsibility for operations of the bakery.

They formerly occupied the building at 114 South Washington Street.

In February of 1948 Ready's Bakery was established in Huntsville. Prior to that time, the Readys had owned and operated a bakery in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

They handle a general line of baked goods, specializing in wedding and birthday cakes. Other products include bread, rolls, pastries, doughnuts, and pies.

Ready's Bakery employs nine people. Since their first year in business, production has more than doubled. Their customers come from several counties

## BON AIR MOTEL

The Bon Air Motel and Restaurant was established May 26, 1951, at 508 Meridian Street, by Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hicks who are the present owners.

Mr. and Mrs. Olan Hicks operate the restaurant while Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hicks operate the motel.

Mr. Hicks was born September 20, 1900, at Hazel Green, Alabama. He is a member of The National Motor Courts Association and the Chamber of Commerce. His hobby is fishing.

His future plan is to build a 50-unit motel on the Parkway.

Mr. Hicks' personnel number 18.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



in North Alabama, but they only truck their products in Huntsville.

Mr. O. A. Ready, Sr., still resides in Fayetteville, Tennessee. He was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, in 1888. For thirty-two years, he operated a bakery there.

Mr. O. A. Ready, Jr., was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee, in 1918. He graduated from the Fayetteville High School and attended business college in Chillicothe, Missouri.

He is carried to the former Miss Frances McQuiddy. They have four children. Judy and Leslie, their daughters, are 13 and 10, respectively; and Jimmie and Micheal, the sons, are 4 and 2, respectively.

The Readys are active members of the Central Church of Christ. Mr. Ready is serving as Vice-President of the Huntsville Junior High School P. T. A. He is a veteran of World War II, having served with the Signal Corps for almost four years.

## CAMBRON'S AERO CLUB

Cambron's was established February, 1940, by Joe E. Cambron. He opened a restaurant known as "Cambron's" on the corner of Whitesburg Drive and Longwood Drive in February of 1940. He moved to the present location, Whitesburg Drive, in 1946. The present name of the club is Cambron's Aero Club.

Mr. Cambron was born August 31, 1906, at Maysville, Alabama. He is a member of the Elks and Moose Clubs.

He and his wife, Ruby, have no children.

Cambron's is considered one of the better "Nite" spots in the area.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## MARTHA GAYLE SHOP

The Martha Gayle Shop located at 115 Jefferson Street has a charming selection of women's dresses, lingerie and accessories to show to the discriminating customer who is anxious to build up an attractive wardrobe.

This shop was started August 6, 1946, by Mrs. H. F. Tyson. She still maintains ownership. Mrs. Tyson is a member of the Holmes St. Methodist Church.

Although the shop is small, well arranged window displays attract women inside to see the merchandise created by manufacturers whose names mean quality and reliability.

Spring, summer, winter and fall, the Martha Gayle Shop offers the latest dresses and accessories to add to those interested in feminine fashion.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## EDD'S RADIO AND T.V. SERVICE

Edd's Radio & T.V. Service was established March 16, 1953, at 106 Seminole Drive by Edward R. Hargrove.

His lines of merchandise are radio and T.V. service and antenna installation. He has 7 employees.

Mr. Hargrove was born August 16, 1921, at Athens, Alabama. He is a member of the V.F.W.

He and his wife, Inez, have three children, Edward, Jr., 11; Sherman, 7; and Carolyn, 5.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## STELLA'S BEAUTY SHOP

Since 1936 when Mrs. Stella Warner established Stella's Beauty Shop, many, many customers have patronized it for every service in beauty work.

All types of permanent waves are given by the three experienced operators—cold wave, machine or machineless depending on the quality of the hair to be curled.

To accommodate customers who like to buy their cosmetics while being beautified, Stella's Beauty Shop handles both Revelon and Dermetic's products.

And to add that extra touch of beauty, costume jewelry is sold at the beauty shop as well!

Mrs. Warner was born on June 1, 1891, in Tusculumbia, Alabama. She has three children, Albert, Lewis and Dorothy. She is a member of the V.F.W. Auxiliary and the Chamber of Commerce.

Stella's Beauty Shop is located at 315 Franklin Street.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## TERRY TATE REALTY CO.

Established 1947

Henderson National Bank Building  
Complete Real Estate Service  
Owners: Jeff H. Terry and Milton Tate

1955 Street Scene (Courtesy picture)



## JONES BAUGH BONDED WAREHOUSE

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA  
Phone Jefferson 4-0341  
E. B. Pentecost, Manager

Gallatin Street in earlier days (Courtesy picture)



## ROGER WILLIAMS REALTY CO.

Roger Williams was born April 27, 1899, at Bell Factory, Madison County. After finishing high school he went in business with the late James L. Hatcher who founded a general merchandise business in 1910.

The two men later formed a partnership and in 1921 built a new store on Meridian St. The name of the store was J. L. Hatch and Company.

Mr. Hatch died in 1937 and Roger Williams continued in the general merchandise business until 1948 when he started dealing in real estate.

His office is at 612 Meridian St. He owns a newsstand next door.

He states that his business policy can be expressed in "The Golden Rule," and that his plans for the future are to continue in the real estate business.

His wife is Anne Hatcher Williams. There are two children, Bebe Ann (Mrs. Joe) Fleming and Robert Eugene Williams.

Mr. Williams belongs to the American Legion—was Adjutant in 1924-25 and Commander for 1937-38. He is the present president of the Huntsville Board of Realtors.

When he can find time to leave his work, Mr. Williams indulges in the pastime of fishing.

## GILES SEED CO.

M. E. Giles, founder and present owner of the Giles Seed Co., says that his hobby is *work!*

Thus this store owner has really made his "hobby" pay off by the continued success of his business, the Giles Seed Co. located at 222 N. Jefferson St.

Milton Giles, who was born on February 18, 1917, here in Huntsville, was educated at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute in Auburn.

Although an engineer by profession, Milton Giles has always been interested in agriculture. So on November 1, 1950, he started the Giles Seed Company.

He handles supplies, seed and fertilizer for farms, veterinary supplies, and seed and supplies for lawns and gardens as well as livestock.

His wife, Ruth C. Giles, is employed at the Madison County Welfare Department. They have one son, Milton Collier Giles, age 3.

Milton is a member of the Optimist Club, "Friend of the Boy."

He lists his business policies "to render service and sell quality." Since he has always wanted a farm—and started a seed company as the next thing to it—his ambition is to someday own a farm and get all his supplies from the Giles Seed Company!

## L. P. PAT MILLER INSURANCE AGENCY

L. P. "Pat" Miller was born on December 21, 1907, in Big Cove, Alabama. He was graduated from high school in Madison County and attended Huntsville College for one year.

On March 1, 1946, Mr. Miller set up his own company, the L. P. "Pat" Miller Insurance Agency at the State National Bank Building.

He specializes in fire, life and automobile insurance. Although he states that his business has been good from the start, he has the natural ambition to enlarge his personnel and of course to sell more insurance!

At present Miss Ann Miller and Mrs. Lillian Bynum are his well trained office force, and have been with him five years. Later, Pat Miller, Jr., 20, may join in the business.

Mr. Miller is a member of the Salesman Club and the 1000 Producer Club. He has been the leading producer of auto insurance for his company two years in succession and was a Top Hatter in 1953 and 1954.

Grace Miller is his wife and besides Pat, Jr., they have another son, Douglas, 17.

Mr. Miller's hobbies are sports—particularly fishing when he can catch a big one!

## HOLLAND BONDED WAREHOUSE

For storing cotton, farmers of Madison County have learned that a good place to go is the Holland Bonded Warehouse at 921 Dixie Street.

R. H. Holland, the owner and founder of this organization, has had ample experience in the cotton business to assure customers of the best in service.

For many years he was connected with the Garth Cotton Company in Athens, Alabama. In 1942 Mr. Holland moved to Huntsville and worked for the Jones-Baugh Warehouse.

In October, 1948, he organized his own company with the name of the Holland Bonded Warehouse.

Ann Nixon Holland, R. H. Holland's wife, works with him in the cotton business and takes on some of the responsibilities of the office.

Mr. Holland was born September 30, 1902, in Pulaski, Tennessee. But he has lived in this state long enough to feel that he is an Alabamian. He belongs to the Optimist Club and takes part in its activities.

There are from 15 to 20 people employed at the Holland Bonded Warehouse depending on the season.

## ZESTO DRIVE-IN

The Zesto Drive-In is located at 719 Pratt Avenue.

Here ice-cream, sandwiches, cold drinks and other snacks are served to patrons. As a special feature, picnic tables and benches beneath tall trees are available to accommodate customers.

This Drive-In was started in 1948 by Roy Jones, but was later bought by Houston Goodson who still owns it.

There are four members of the personnel ready to prepare tasty tidbits from ten in the morning until the after-the-movies-hour of twelve at night—and for seven days a week.

Mr. Goodson's birthdate is May 3, 1909; and his birth place is Texas. However, he has lived here for a long time. He, his wife, Alma, and children, Bill, Pat and Mary Lou Goodson Walker, consider Huntsville as their real home.

As a member of the City Council and Chairman of the school commission Mr. Goodson has contributed valuably to civic life.

And like most men, he has a hobby, but his has an unusual angle, "the developing and selling of lake property!"

## LAUGHLIN-SERVICE FUNERAL HOME

James Striplin

John Purdy

"Serving since 1868"  
24 Hour Ambulance Service  
401 Madison Street  
Telephone—Jefferson 2-2471

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)





## W. E. DICKEY REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE

Since 1947, W. E. Dickey has had his own real estate and insurance firm in the State National Bank Building.

Before this time, Mr. Dickey worked for five years with Brown-Service-Liberty National, and for seventeen years with the Life and Casualty Insurance Company of Nashville, Tennessee.

He was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee, on March 8, 1893, but for a number of years he and his wife, Jennie, have resided in Huntsville.

Mr. Dickey belongs to the Salesmen's Club. He is also a Shriner and contributes to civic activity through these organizations.

Although the firm handles real estate, the writing of insurance—all kinds—is the chief occupation.

As a matter of fact the Dickey Real Estate and Insurance Company caters principally to automobile insurance. And the owner states that it personally gives him a real thrill to be able to reimburse through an insurance check a person who has unhappily suffered loss by collision.

Fire, burial, life, hospital, liability—just any kind being written—the Dickey office will be able to take care of all insurance needs.

## RAGLAND BROTHERS

Established July 1, 1935

Wholesale Distributors for Nationally Advertised Foods

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## PEARSALL FLORIST

Pearsall Florist, located at 111 Fifth Street East at Five Points, is Huntsville's oldest florist business. For 56 years a florist business has been in operation at this address. The business was founded in 1899 by a Mr. Fisher. Prior to that, it is rumored there was a lumber yard in operation at this address. Mr. Fisher sold his "hot-bed" business to Mr. John Scott in the early 1900's. Later, Mr. John Frazier purchased the business. In August of 1927, the Pearsall brothers of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, purchased the business and have operated it from the same address.

There have been changes of course, but some of the original greenhouse still stands. A new office has been added and the plant modernized.

Pearsall's Florist consists of 32,000 square feet of glass and 4 miles of steam pipe. They cover a radius of 100 miles.

They offer floral arrangements for funerals and weddings, vases, potted plants, and nursery stock. Pearsalls produce 100,000 living plants each year. It is the largest florist from Birmingham to Nashville and a charter member of F. T. D.

There are eleven people regularly employed. Additional help is required for special days or occasions.

Key personnel are: Ralph J. Pearsall, general manager; Chester J. Pearsall, assistant manager; Toney Pearsall, designer-grower; N. J. Pearsall, designer-grower; B. J. Pearsall, Credit Manager; Dorothy Pearsall, Wedding consultant; Ronald Pearsall, nursery-clerk; Chester A. Pearsall, grower.

All of the family belong to some civic club. They are active in the Catholic Church.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## THE MADISON PIANO CO.

On September 21, 1945, Ray McCorkle and Tom Draughan opened the Madison Piano Co. at 117-119 S. Jefferson Street.

Mr. Draughan is the present owner.

The Madison Piano Company has on display furniture, name-brand pianos and electrical appliances including Baldwin and Hotpoint, respectively.

Through his company Mr. Draughan makes every effort to bring to his customers the finest quality merchandise at fair prices. His slogan is, "Pleasing you keeps us in business."

Mr. Draughan's wife is named Ethel. He is a member of the First Methodist Church. Also, he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and has participated in numerous civic drives including Red Cross and Community Chest.

This store owner has had 25 years experience in the home appliance business. He has worked at factory sales level, the wholesale level and now in the retail business.

Not only does the Madison Piano Company make every effort to please the customers, but it is well known for its kindness and consideration to churches and civic clubs that are trying to equip their buildings with musical instruments or electrical appliances.

## ROBINSON BONDED WAREHOUSE

Since 1933 when the late G. N. Robinson, Sr., established a bonded cotton warehouse at 605 Meridian Street, cotton growers have come back year after year to store their cotton bales in its brick-walled safety.

An addition to the warehouse was built in 1954 so that the entire structure is capable of a 14,000 bale capacity. There are from 10 to 15 men employed depending on the season.

Since G. N. Robinson, Sr.'s death in 1952, his son, G. N. Robinson, Jr., has been in charge of the warehouse.

George Newman was born in 1913 here in Huntsville. He was graduated from the University of Alabama. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Chamber of Commerce, and has participated in many civic drives.

Mrs. Robinson was Virginia Gordon. They have three children, Nancy, 10, and twins, Tom and "Gig," 8.

George Newman helped his father with the cotton business after college years. He also represents several insurance companies as their agent and in recent years has become a realtor.

His hobbies are golf and swimming.

## BECKER'S DEPARTMENT STORE

The Becker's department store was organized on October 2, 1932, at 102 Jefferson Street, and have since moved to their present location at 104-106 Jefferson Street.

Founders of the business were Joe and Abe Goldstein, with Abe assuming the managership, which position he still holds.

The store offers a complete line of wearing apparel for the entire family.

Assisting in operation of the store are Mrs. Abe Goldstein and their son, Sandy.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## GERON LUMBER COMPANY

The Geron Lumber Company at 601 Meridian Street has been known since 1928 as a dependable source of all sorts of lumber and building material.

The company was started by R. P. Geron, a native Huntsvillian. He is still the present owner, and employs five people as his personnel.

Throughout the years Mr. Geron has maintained a high standard of quality in his material and has endeavored to live up to the slogan, "Dependable Service."

Mrs. Geron's name is Alice. She and Mr. Geron have two children, Mrs. William Shea III (Ruth) of Memphis, Tennessee, and 1st Lieut. R. P. Geron, Jr., USAF.

In addition to his work this lumber dealer has taken an active part in civic life. He is the past president of the Kiwanis Club, past president of the YMCA, was chairman of the Board of Stewards at the First Methodist Church, and is a member of the Zamora Shrine Temple.

1955 Street scene (Courtesy picture)



## BIG BROTHERS SUPER MARKET

Congratulations to 150 years of continued progress. We, too, are celebrating our third successful year in this wonderful city. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to you, our customers, for making our store the success that it is. Our only means of repaying you is by continued

low, low prices and top, top quality.

**BIG BROTHERS  
SUPER MARKET**

Owned and operated by E. O. Craft

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## PLANTER'S WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE CO., INC., BONDED

The Planters Warehouse and Storage Company, Incorporated and Bonded, was established in Huntsville, Alabama, in the year 1916. The Warehouse has been in continuous operation since that time, serving the people of Huntsville, Madison County, and adjoining counties. For almost forty years this company has been a part of a rapidly developing community. Planters Warehouse and Storage Company specialize in cotton and general storage.

The present location of the Planters Warehouse is 500 West Clinton Street. Under the able management of Mr. J. M. White, the company has expanded and played an important role in the history of Huntsville and Madison County.

Aerial view Huntsville-Madison County Airport



## GRAND THEATER - CENTER THEATER

Contributing to the Cultural and Enlightening field of good, wholesome entertainment in the Huntsville area since 1927—through the medium of motion pictures. STILL—"Your Best Entertainment Value."

"Progressing with Greater Huntsville"

The Crescent Amusement Company

Grand Theatre—Uptown Office Bldg. and Properties—Center Theatre.

1955 Street scene (Courtesy picture)



## STINNETT AWNING & SUPPLY CO.

The Stinnett Awning and Supply Company was founded in 1949. The firm is located at 414 Meridian Street and offers a varied line of merchandise. This includes paints, awnings, screens, sheet metal wares, and supplies.

The Company was founded by Mr. C. H. Stinnett, who, with the help of 9 able assistants, still operates this business. The following people have been with Mr. Stinnett since the firm's establishment: Edward L. Newton, W. L. Bartlett, Robert Lasater, and Josephine Edwards.

The business policy of the firm is "Service Plus Satisfaction."

Their plans for the future include a new awning plant to be located at 616 Meridian Pike.

Mr. C. H. Stinnett was born in 1901 in Williamson County in Tennessee. He is married and lives with his wife, Ethel, and two daughters, Charline, 24, and Corene, 28, on Meridian Pike.

1955 Street scene (Courtesy picture)



**PURE OIL CO., HUNTSVILLE, ALA.****LANZA FOOD MARKET**

Charles V. Lanza started business peddling groceries from the square. In 1937 he started a grocery store and open air market at 310 East Clinton Street. And a few years ago as a climax to an American success story he built a deluxe supermarket at 709 Pratt Avenue near Five Points.

The Lanza Food Market handles groceries, produce, meats and a number of hard-to-get items such as imported Italian Cheeses.

The store is open seven days a week from eight in the morning until eight at night.

Mr. Lanza was born October 18, 1906, in Meridian, Mississippi, but moved to Huntsville a number of years ago.

He is married to Lucile S. Lanza and has two children, Beverly, 15, and Charles, Jr., 18.

He is a member of the Civitan and Elks Clubs; his hobby is fishing and he has helped in the Red Cross, Community Chest and the Elks Club when needed.

There are five members in his store personnel.

**HUMPHREY'S TWICKENHAM PHARMACY**

HUNTSVILLE'S OLDEST-NEWEST-LARGEST  
DRUG STORE

IS

HUMPHREY'S  
TWICKENHAM PHARMACY  
On Washington Street since 1888  
THE MANAGER IS HARRY DANIEL

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)

**ROPER'S FLOWERS**

In 1938, Nolan L. Roper started a florist business in Huntsville with a small shop on Whitesburg Drive.

In the ensuing 17 years the fine quality of floral work for weddings, funerals, home decoration and parties plus prompt and courteous service has caused the business to grow tremendously. Several acres of ground and seven greenhouses are used to grow plants to supply the customers of Roper's Flowers still located on Whitesburg Drive.

Mrs. Roper, Frances, is a co-owner in the business and has worked with her husband to help furnish all of Madison County and parts of Morgan and Limestone with fine flowers.

Mr. Roper was born July 27, 1912, in Madison County. Before starting his own business he worked for a number of years for the Tennessee Valley Greenhouse with shops in Decatur and Athens.

He is a member of the Rotary and the Elks Clubs.

There are seven persons employed at Roper's who are trained to arrange flowers for all occasions.

## L. MILLER AND SON

L. Miller and Son, formerly known as Tennessee Poultry and Hide Company, is located at 201-221 Eighth Street North West.

The company was established by Louis Miller in 1918, and the business consisted of buying and selling of poultry, eggs, hides, furs, wool, scrap iron, and metal. In 1948 they discontinued the handling of these commodities and are at present chiefly interested in scrap iron and metal, oxygen and welding equipment, structural steel, sterilized wiping rags, medical and anaesthetic gases, and chain link fence. They buy all types of unprepared scrap.

The two major segments of the L. Miller and Son business, scrap metal and welding material, are important because they contribute to the conservation of the nation's natural resources, and appearance of the community.

This scrap material is then sold to the factory which manufactures new products from it. Every ton of scrap steel shipped to the steel mill saves four tons of raw material, namely: two tons of iron ore, one ton of limestone, and one ton of coal.

The use of welding conserves our natural resources because machines and implements that are broken can be repaired by welding and thereby returned to more years of useful productivity.

L. Miller and Son plan to grow with the community and to improve their productive facilities when new and better methods are introduced.

The business is a Father-Son partnership with thirty-five employees.

Mr. Louis Miller was born in Minsk, Russia, December 11, 1895. He came to America early in 1900. Mrs. Miller's name is Elsie. The Millers have one son, I. B. "Bud" Miller.

The Millers are actively engaged in civic work, namely: the Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross, the Community Chest, the March of Dimes, and the United Jewish Appeal.

Mr. Louis Miller is a member of and treasurer of Helion Lodge F. and A. M., secretary-treasurer, B'nai B'rith, Eunomia No. 5, Monte Sano Council, Huntsville Shrine Club, and Alabama Consistory of Scottish Rite.

I. B. and Louis Miller, left to right.



## UNCLE SAM'S LOAN OFFICE

Uncle Sam's Loan Office, located at 114 Washington Street, is Huntsville's only pawnshop. The store offers jewelry, musical instruments and cutlery. There are two people employed here.

Mr. Alex Wilensky established the business in April of 1935. He is a native of Lithuania, Europe. He and Mrs. Wilensky (Dorothy) have three children: Jay, Diane and Raymon.

Uncle Sam Loan Office Interior



## CUMMINGS COTTON CO.

The Cummings Cotton Company was established in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1935 at its present location, 1/2 West Side of Square. It was established by Milton K. Cummings, the present owner.

Mr. Cummings was born in Gadsden, Alabama, on August 12, 1911. His family moved to Huntsville when he was an infant. He has lived in Huntsville since that time and has been engaged in the Cotton business for a number of years.

His wife was the former Miss Vastus Ivy. They have three daughters. The Cummings family are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Cummings is very active in all civic work in Huntsville and Madison County, and in fact, has the reputation of being one of Huntsville's kindest philanthropists.

A Famous Landmark on Adams Avenue believed to be the oldest tree in Alabama (Courtesy picture)



## JOHNSTON CONCRETE PRODUCTS CO.

The Johnston Concrete Products Company was established in Huntsville, Alabama, in the year of 1945.

The firm was formerly located on North Washington Street but moved to Pegram Street in 1950.

Mr. J. W. Johnston is the founder and present owner.

Mr. Johnston was born in Cookeville, Tennessee, on May 7, 1912. His wife's name is Lucille. They have four children: Barry, Sharon, Steve and Betty.

Mr. Johnston was formerly Chairman of the City Planning Commission, and he belongs to the Rotary Club in Huntsville. He received his B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee. His hobbies are fishing and music. He is also a Registered Engineer in the State of Alabama.

There are 55 persons employed at Johnston Concrete Products Company.

The Company has dealership for Concrete blocks, ready mixed concrete, and cast stone.



An optical illusion landmark in Huntsville. (Courtesy picture)

South road to Monte Sano Mountain prior to 1940 (Courtesy picture)



## DECATUR TRUCK LINES, INC.

W. J. Williams from Decatur, Alabama, was the founder of Decatur Transit Truck Line, Inc. It was established in 1930. The present location of Decatur Transit is at 615 West Holmes Street. It was formerly located at 109 Virginia Street.

The present owner of this company is M. E. McCain of Birmingham, Alabama. He was born in 1909 in Birmingham, Alabama, and is a member of the Mason, Shrine, City Salesmen's and Birmingham Aero Clubs.

The president of Decatur Transit is Claude N. Knox of Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Knox was born September 1, 1914, in Spokane, Washington. His wife is the former Mary Eleanor O'Brien of Selma, Alabama. The Knox's have two sons: Claude N. Knox, Jr., U. S. Navy, and Mark Knox, Woodland High School. Mr. Knox is a member of the following clubs: Delta Nu Alpha Transportation Fraternity, Birmingham Motor Truck Club, Birmingham Traffic and Transportation Club, President of Alabama Trucking Association. He is a Mason and a member of the Methodist Church.

The manager of the Huntsville Terminal of Decatur Transit Truck Lines is Margaret G. Buyse.

The local terminal employs approximately 10 people. This firm offers motor common carrier of general commodities.

Margaret G. Buyse



Decatur Transit Company



## RHETT WOODY FURNITURE CO., INCORPORATED

The Rhett Woody Furniture Company was founded by Rhett Woody in 1946. It is now located at 112 Washington Street. Lines of merchandise are Philco appliances, Simmons bedding and Bassit bedroom suites.

Mr. Woody, the present owner, was born December 28, 1903, at New Hope, Alabama. He belongs to the Civitan Club, Huntsville Retail Furniture Association of which he is now secretary and treasurer. His wife is Inez Durham Woody and their children are: Laurene Woody (18), Jane Ann Woody (16), Rhett Woody, Jr. (15), and Millie Sue Woody (14).

Mr. Woody's hobby is golf. The firm has eight employees.

Howard Swinford, manager, was born May 29, 1921, in Huntsville. He is a member of the Madison County Democratic Executive Committee, is President of the Huntsville Credit Association, and past Adjutant of American Legion Post 176.

He is active in civic work. He is co-chairman of Madison County Cancer Fund and co-chairman of the Huntsville Madison County Expansion Committee.

His wife is Aline Jaco Swinford and their children are: Peggy Faye (12), Patricia Inez (2), and Ronald David (8).

Mr. Swinford is a graduate of West Huntsville High School and has a degree in accounting and office management from I. C. S. and a course in salesmanship and retail store management from the United States Armed Forces Institute, as well as course in retail salesmanship from the University of Alabama. He has been Civil Service Personnel Clerk and Warehouse Foreman, and also served as First Sergeant in the United States Army and spent 3 years in Africa and Italy.

Aerial view of Huntsville (Courtesy picture)



## WHITE SWAN LAUNDRY AND CLEANERS

The White Swan Laundry and Cleaners is located at 720 Madison Street in Huntsville. The business was established at its present location on August 15, 1927. It was established and is presently owned by Mr. Ike D. Dillard and Mr. W. DeWitt Dillard.

Mr. R. Gordon Carter, present manager, has been with the laundry for twenty-two years. He has had unlimited experience in the laundry and cleaning business in Huntsville and at a large plant in Birmingham.

Mr. DeWitt Dillard, co-owner, was born in Huntsville, Alabama. He is a member of the Country Club, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Elks Club. He is a member of the Baptist Church. He and his brother, Ike, attended Auburn and served two years overseas during World War I.

The White Swan Laundry was established in 1927 with only two trucks and twenty employees. Due to growth since World War II the business has grown so as to require a personnel of 65 and the addition of 6 trucks. The company has recently installed the following new equipment: two cleaning machines, all metal and stainless steel washers, and two flat work ironers, one of which is designed chiefly for home laundry work, such as face towels, sheets, and pillow cases. It is considered the finest ironer available today. Recently, also, two new shirt finishing machines have been installed.

The White Swan boiler room is one of the best in the state. It is equipped with a one hundred twenty-five horsepower boiler with a heat reclaimer. The hot water heater has a five thousand gallon

capacity, which gives them all of the hot water they need at any time.

This laundry and dry cleaning service covers all of Huntsville, Madison County, and Limestone County. It is planned to operate two call offices in different locations in Huntsville as soon as possible.

During the past few years and in the next year or so one hundred thousand dollars will have been spent improving and enlarging our plant with the finest dry cleaning and laundry machinery money can buy.

Entrance to Dr. Burritt home (Now City Museum) (Courtesy picture)



Scenic view from Monte Sano (Courtesy picture)





## MONTGOMERY-WARD & CO.

It was back in 1872 that Mr. A. Montgomery and Mr. George R. Thorne first conceived the idea of selling goods by mail. They started their business in a small fourth floor room just a few blocks from the present Chicago offices.

Montgomery Ward and Company have come a long way since the first catalogs were put out. Today they have millions of customers scattered throughout the entire world. Montgomery Ward and Company employs more than 65,000 people.

Montgomery Ward and Company still guarantees

satisfaction or the customer's money will be refunded.

The local store was established in 1929. Mrs. Lillie Belle Taylor has been with the local store since it opened.

Seventy-two people are employed locally. The store covers all the Huntsville trading area.

Montgomery Ward and Company offers over 105,000 items of all nature from baby beds to automobile motors.

The manager of the Huntsville store is C. F. Castleman.

The company still operates on the "Golden Rule" policy started by Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Thorne.

Montgomery Ward Personnel in 1929



## BRUCE FURNITURE CO.

The Bruce Furniture Company was established in Huntsville, Alabama, at 116 North Washington Street on January 1, 1947. The Company later moved to 118 North Washington Street, the present location.

The firm was established by Mr. Bruce Patton, present owner.

Mr. Patton was born in Tennessee in 1914 and came to Huntsville in 1929. He was educated at Huntsville High School and holds a diploma in Accounting from the University of Alabama Extension Center. Mr. Patton belongs to the Moose Club, and is past president of The Fraternal Order of Eagles. His wife is Mrs. Sarah L. Patton. They have four daughters, Barbara Ann, age 20, Martha Jo, age 18, Linda Fay, age 15, and Catherine Bruce, age 3.

The Bruce Furniture Company are dealers in furniture and appliances. They specialize in time-payments for complete household furnishing. There are three persons besides Mr. Patton who are employed at the Company: Mrs. Sarah Patton, Mr. Charles McAllister and Mr. J. C. Turner.

## LACY CLEANERS

Laundry and cleaning services were first offered to the public by Lacy's Cleaners on September 11, 1950. Their volume of business has more than doubled since the opening date.

Founded by Virgil R. Lacy, it will celebrate its 5th anniversary the same week that Huntsville celebrates its 150th anniversary. Special events will mark the week of September 11-17 including a Grand Prize to be given away the 17th.

This firm, located at 508 Meridian Street, offers laundry and cleaning services with city-wide pick-up and delivery. There are eight people employed by Lacy's. Mrs. Ernest Moore is the receptionist.

Mr. Virgil R. Lacy, founder and present owner of this firm, was born May 13, 1922, in Huntsville, Alabama. He and his wife, the former Mildred Patterson, have one daughter, Donna Faye, age 12. The Lacy family are members of the Randolph Street Church of Christ.

Mr. Lacy graduated from Huntsville High School. He spent two and one-half years with the Signal Corps during World War II and is a member of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce.

## MEADOW GOLD DAIRIES

The Meadow Gold Dairies is located at 601 West Clinton Street. J. C. Beene is the founder of the firm. He was born in Corinth, Mississippi, in 1889 and came to Huntsville in 1919. His wife is Lena Bingham Beene. They are members of the First Christian Church in Huntsville. Mr. Beene is a Charter Member of the Kiwanis Club. He is now an Honorary Member of this club. He is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1919 Mr. Beene bought the Huntsville Ice Cream and Creamery Company from John Hay. Monte Sano Ice Cream was a product of this Company. In 1944 he became associated with Beatrice Foods Company which has as its product brand name

Meadow Gold. When Mr. Beene started his business he had only two trucks and five workers. Since that time there has been a general increase each year.

This firm renders the very best in dairy products to Huntsville and surrounding Madison County. It is the only dairy in Huntsville and for that reason they offer the freshest in dairy products.

There are seventy people employed by Meadow Gold Dairy. The firm covers nine counties across North Alabama. The key personnel are as follows: General Manager, J. C. Beene; Plant Superintendent, H. C. Hagan; Sales Manager, Bernice Killian; Office Manager, Mrs. J. M. Green; Route Supervisors, Edward Spamm, Steve Cooley, and Emmett Johnson.

Meadow Gold



## THE FOX RESTAURANT

The Fox Restaurant was established January 15, 1952, by B. B. Fox. It was and still is located at 212 5th Avenue.

Mr. Fox was born July 31, 1903, in Rutherford County, Tennessee. He received his education in the local schools.

Mr. Fox has lived in Huntsville since September, 1908. He first entered the restaurant business March 18, 1924, at the F. and F. Cafe, 111 Clinton Street. In February, 1926, he started the Little Fox Cafe on Washington Street where Belk-Hudson is now located. After that he operated seven other cafes: Terminal Lunch Room, Gold Star Cafe, Wolverine Cafe, Crystal Chili Parlor, B. B. Fox Cafe, and the Liberty Cafe. From 1952 to the present time, he has operated the Fox Restaurant on 5th Avenue. He began this one with only 12 stools. He now has 135 seats, and an air-conditioned building. He is planning to build another dining room in the near future. He employs 15 persons at The Fox Restaurant and his policy is "Serving the Best for Less."

Mr. Fox is married to the former Macie Spray. They have three children: Mary Ella, Bobby B. and Kathye.

Mr. Fox is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Fox assists her husband in operating the restaurant.

B. B. Fox

Mrs. B. B. Fox



Monte Sano Spring (Courtesy picture)



## HUNTSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Organized in the 1850's, the records of the men who were the members of the Volunteer Brigades that manned the fire-fighting apparatus of the city have gone into the dim past. Their deeds have been recorded, however, as the records of the Huntsville Fire Department are a very bright one indeed. Although several major fires have broken out in different parts of the city, they have always been met by men of determination and courage. Today, Huntsville bears few marks or scars of fires, due to the prompt action of its fire department.

The first apparatus used in Huntsville was of the old hand pump type and drawn by the men that manned the pump and handled the nozzle. On the top of the old Market building was placed the tocsin for the sounding of the alarm. At the ringing of the bell the men dropped their duties and rushed to the old house where the engine was stored, from there to carry on the fight in their own way against the demon that was seeking to destroy their homes. This system is a far cry from today when Huntsville has some of the most modern equipment to be found.

The fire department is located on Madison Street, but before this was in the building located where the Twickenham Hotel now stands.

The present Fire Chief is Massey Tolen, who succeeded R. C. Coble. Other fire chiefs have been Abe Wise, J. R. Stegall, O. K. Stegall, Francis Guscio, M. H. Elliott, and Russell M. Milan.

Opera House fire (Courtesy picture)



## HUNTSVILLE MIRROR

The Huntsville Mirror, a weekly news review, was established in Huntsville April, 1943, by Laban Croskey Jamar, the present owner and editor. The business was founded at its present location, 203 Church Street. This newspaper was formerly known as "The Huntsville Weekly Mirror," but the name was later changed to "The Huntsville Mirror."

Laban Croskey Jamar was born in Huntsville, Alabama, on November 16, 1899. His wife is Bessie L. Jamar. The Jamars have four sons, James Edward, Laban C., Jr., Victor Elias, and Elihu Ishmaels Jamar. They are members of the St. Johns A.M.E. Church. Editor Jamar was educated at Alabama A. and M. College, receiving his B.S. Degree from that school. He belongs to the Citizens Club and is a Trustee of the Church Street Community Center. Editor Jamar ran for City Councilman in 1952, the first Negro to run for this office here in 50 years. He polled a good size vote, and plans to run again in 1956. He began teaching school in 1921, and is now principal of Conyers Jr. High at Gurley.

There are four persons employed by the Huntsville Mirror.

## CLIFT-HOLMBERG MEN'S STORE

Clift-Holmberg Men and Boys' Store was established September 1, 1945. They have operated from the same location, 124-126 North Washington Street, since the beginning.

The founders, Hilding Holmberg, Jr., and W. E. Clift, Jr., are the present owners.

Clift and Holmberg Men and Boys' Store feature men and boys clothing, furnishings, and shoes. They handle nationally advertised brands.

They plan to expand as the community grows.

Their business policy is to offer to the people of Huntsville and surrounding areas nationally advertised merchandise. They employ 6 people.

Mr. W. E. Clift, Jr., was born April 13, 1926, in Huntsville. Mr. and Mrs. Clift (Shannon) have two children, William and Robert.

Mr. Clift attended Sewanee University.

Mr. Hilding Holmberg was born in Nashville, Tennessee, November 2, 1917. He and Mrs. Holmberg (Mickey) have one daughter, Eleanor Anne.

Mr. Holmberg is active in local music circles. He also attended Auburn, graduating in 1938.

Both Mr. Clift and Mr. Holmberg belong to the Acme Club, the V.F.W., and the American Legion.

## STOCKTON MOTOR COMPANY

The Stockton Motor Company was established in 1928 by B. A. Stockton, Sr., and was located on Gallatin Street. Later the firm was relocated at 207 South Greene Street. Presently it is located at 109 South Greene Street.

B. A. Stockton, Sr., was born in 1900 in Jackson County, Alabama. He came to Huntsville in 1928. He was an active member of the Mason, Shrine, Elks, and Kiwanis Clubs. He married the former Marie Fournoy. They had 2 children, Nannette, and B. A. Stockton, Jr. Mr. Stockton, Sr., died March 9, 1952.

B. A. Stockton, Jr., is the present owner of Stockton Motor Company. He was born in Huntsville, Alabama, January 19, 1929, and attended the University of Alabama and General Motors Institute. He is married to the former Flo Underwood.

Stockton Motor Company sells and services Buicks and G.M.C. Trucks. They also offer used car service.

Mr. Stockton plans to move into the new building now occupied by Lee Motor Company on Meridian Street.



B. A. Stockton, Sr.

B. A. Stockton, Jr.



Stockton Motor Co. (With Chevrolet franchise)

Stockton Motor Co. today



## PIGGLY-WIGGLY

The name of the firm is Piggly Wiggly Super Market. It is located on the corner of Seminole Drive and 5th Avenue West, and the owner of the firm is Homer Whitt. He was formerly in the grocery business at 701 Pike Street under the name of Homer Whitt Grocery and Market. This firm (Piggly Wiggly) had its opening day May 20, 1954.

Mr. Whitt carries a complete line of staple groceries and a 100 per cent self-service meat market. He also has a complete variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, plus a 200 car parking lot. It is a custom of the store to cash payroll checks.

When asked about the business the store was doing Mr. Whitt said, "The first year we opened we did three times the amount of business we expected to do." In March of 1955 a robbery occurred to the store. There was \$6852.00 stolen, but \$5000.00 of this was covered by insurance. Mr. Whitt anticipates expansion in the near future.

Mr. Whitt, owner of the store, is a native of Madison County, being born at Toney, Alabama. He attended Hazel Green High School and Athens College. Later he served with the Army as an infantryman from 1943-1946. Approximately 32 months of this time was spent in the Pacific Theatre of War.

Mr. Whitt married Mary Elizabeth Hargrove. They have one daughter, Alunda Maryke Whitt. He is a member of the West Huntsville Baptist Church and is also a member of the West Huntsville Men's Club and a member of the Board of Directors for the West Huntsville Y.M.C.A.

Piggly Wiggly Super Market



## H. C. BLAKE CO.

The H. C. Blake Plumbing and Heating Company was established in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1887. They are still at the same location, No. 3 South Side Square; however, they have changed and expanded with the times.

Two brothers, H. C. and J. W., founded the Blake Plumbing and Heating Company.

Mr. Hall Bryant, the present owner, is a nephew of the founders.

H. C. Blake Company offers the best in plumbing, wiring, heating, and air-conditioning and provides these services for all of North Alabama.

Sixteen people are regularly employed; however, as many as 500 have been employed. During World War II Mr. Bryant was a sub-contractor, responsible for all the plumbing and heating at Redstone Arsenal. This company was known as the Oprey Bryant Company and employed as many as 500 people during parts of the installation.

Key personnel of the H. C. Blake Company are: Hall Bryant, owner; Ben W. Bryant, foreman; and Mrs. Ed Sandlin, secretary-bookkeeper.

Mr. Bryant was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1909. He came to Huntsville in 1917. He is a graduate of Huntsville High School and Rankin Grade School in St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Bryant married Miss Martha Moore. They have six children all at home: Olivia, Sara, Ann, Hall, Jr., Nancy, and Jacqueline.

The Bryants attend the Central Presbyterian Church.

For thirteen years Mr. Bryant was alderman from the fourth ward.

He is a member of the Optimist Club.

H. C. Blake



## A AND B AUTO BODY SHOP

The A and B Auto Body Shop was established March, 1947, by Nick Annerton and Harry Berry. It is located at 809 Madison Street and services auto body repairing; specializing in wreck repair and complete refinishing.

Nick Annerton was born July 7, 1909, in Limestone County. He married Otto Katherine Starkey and they have four children: David, age 26, Rebecca, age 24, Charles, age 16, and Katherine, age 8.

Harry Berry was born June 28, 1918, in Madison County. He married Annie P. Bailey and they have one son, Ronald E. Berry, age 7.

The former building was enlarged in 1955 by adding a connecting building.

The future plans of the A and B Auto Body Shop are to serve the people of Huntsville with the best of automobile repairing.

Interior Dining Room Old Monte Sano Hotel (Courtesy picture)



## A. L. HIPPI

A. L. Hipp jewelry store was established in 1902 by A. L. Hipp and has been located at 102 North Washington Street for 25 years.

The line of merchandise consists of jewelry, silver, and china. There is a gift shop on the second floor.

The owner, A. L. Hipp, was born July 21, 1877, at Sweetwater, Tennessee.

He is a past president of the Shrine Club, a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Rotary Club.

Mr. Hipp and his wife, Margaret, belong to the Methodist Church. Mr. Hipp was educated at Ellijay Seminary and Philadelphia Optical College.

His hobby and pastime is growing roses.

A. L. Hipp



## OLAN MILLS STUDIO

The Olan Mills Studio is located at 1081½ Washington Street in Huntsville. The business was established in Huntsville at its present location.

Mr. Bill Barnard is manager of the Studio. Other personnel are the Misses Nettie England and Norma England.

The products or services offered by this company are the making of portraits.

Business has increased as much as fifty per cent since the Studio was established in Huntsville.

The Huntsville Studio has no expansion plans, but the entire company of Olan Mills Studios cover 35 states.

Mr. Olan Mills is founder of the company.

The Main Regional Office and Finishing Plant is located at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Early South Side Square (Courtesy Picture)



## PROVIDENT LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO.

The Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company is located in the State National Bank Building and Jesse C. Anderson is the general agent. The Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company is a major insurance company, handling life, accident, health and group insurance and was organized in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1887. It is well known in Huntsville, having been represented here for many years.

Mr. Anderson has represented the company since November, 1953, serving individual and group policy holders, and the people of Huntsville.

Jesse Anderson was born in Birmingham, June 15, 1909. He graduated from Birmingham Southern College, and was married to Mildred McClusky in 1935. They have three daughters: Jane, Judy, and Carol.

Mr. Anderson came to Huntsville in 1951 and, following service as personnel director of Thiokol Chemical Corporation, entered the insurance business in 1952. He belongs to the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, and is an officer on the board at the First Methodist Church.

## MADISON LIMESTONE COMPANY

The Madison Limestone Company, Incorporated, came into being in 1946. Their first location was on leased property from Madison County at the east end of Hermitage Street.

In 1955 the company, founded by F. M. Jarrell, moved to a location to the South of the City-County Airport, and have increased their operations almost unbelievably fast. Their policy of "service at an economical cost to the consumer" has certainly paid dividends.

The company's operations are carried on in the

business of getting limestone out of the mountain and reducing it to a form that can be of commercial use to the citizens of Huntsville and surrounding territory. Whenever one sees crushed rock on the drive-ways locally, it is a safe bet that it came from Madison Limestone Company.

At the rate this company is expanding, they need not worry about their plans for the future. However, their motto is, "to expand as required to give proper service." The future is indeed bright for this thriving organization.

Madison Limestone Company



Fire on North Side Square (Courtesy picture)





## The Times Plows Back \$500,000 Into Huntsville Future With Modern Plant On The New Parkway

The Huntsville Times' strong faith in the future of Huntsville, Madison County and the Tennessee Valley is evidenced by the construction of the paper's new, modern plant, to cost over a half-million dollars, on the New Memorial Parkway. The structure reflects the growth and progress made by the newspaper during the past 24 years of operation.

It was on Monday morning, 9 o'clock, November 2, 1931, that Federal Judge W. I. Grubb confirmed the sale of the old Huntsville Daily Times to Henry P. Johnston, of Birmingham, president of The Huntsville Times Company, Inc., present publishers of the paper.

The Times was sold to Mr. Johnston at public outcry, from the steps of the Courthouse on October 10, 1931, by the late Senator Shelby Fletcher, who was appointed by Judge Grubb on June 6 of that same year. T. G. Melson, associated with Mr. Fletcher, operated the paper during this interim period.

The name of the paper was immediately changed to The Huntsville Times.

The price paid for The Times and all of its equipment, machinery, press franchises, by Mr. Johnston, was \$44,350.00. In addition, Mr. Johnston assumed approximately \$15,000 of chattel mortgages on the physical properties of the paper.

Reese T. Amis, present editor, came to The Times on June 6, 1931. A veteran newspaperman, Mr. Amis had seen service with the old Nashville Tennessean, The Atlanta Constitution, The Miami Daily News and the old Memphis Evening Appeal. He received his collegiate training from Vanderbilt and Yale Universities.

One of Mr. Johnston's first

moves was to retain the services of Mr. Amis and employ the services of the late W. P. Nicholson, who served as secretary-treasurer of the Company until his death; Mrs. Burns Kelly, as his private secretary; and Jack Langhorne, as advertising manager.

Mr. Nicholson served the paper faithfully for a span of more than 20 years and was a potent factor in helping Mr. Johnston shape the financial policies of the business. Mrs. Kelly became National Advertising Manager of the paper in 1934 and still holds that position.

Mr. Langhorne, the present general manager, joined the staff on November 26, 1931, coming to Huntsville from the Birmingham News, where he was employed in the display advertising department. A graduate of the University of Alabama in 1925, he had seen service in the News' sports department as assistant sports editor. He was sports editor of the Montgomery Advertiser in 1927 and 1928, returning to Birmingham in the fall of 1928.

Among others who are still active since November 2, 1931, are T. A. Winston, foreman of the Composing Room; Leo B. Brown, assistant foreman; and Cliff Wilkinson, foreman of the Press and Stereotype departments.

Roy M. Buchanan, present advertising manager, joined the staff in December, 1931, with the entire personnel of the department then numbering three people. Today, there are 10 in this department.

A. L. Smith joined the organization as circulation manager early in 1932, at which time there were less than 25 carriers and distributors. Today the number is 227 in the distribution setup.

It was in October, 1934, that Mr. Johnston returned to Birmingham to take charge of the radio operations of the Birmingham News Company. On that date the operation of the paper was turned over to Mr. Amis, editor, and Mr. Langhorne, who became general manager.

Down through the years The Times has operated with little 'turn-over' in personnel. Most of the employes today have held their 'only jobs' on the newspaper. Most all of them own their homes and are full-fledged citizens of the community.

Of striking interest and comparison is the fact that the first payroll of the less than 25 active employes in 1931 totalled \$378.00 for one full week. The payroll for the more than 65 employes July 29, 1935, amounted to over \$6,000.00.

Rent paid for space in the building now occupied was \$125 per month in 1931 as compared with \$1,000.00 a month today.

\* \* \*

Perhaps the most amazing feature of The Times' growth has been in circulation. On November 2, 1931, there were only 2,862 paid subscribers. Today the circulation lists over 20,000 papers being distributed throughout Madison and adjoining counties with excellent coverage in Athens, Arab, Guntersville, Scottsboro, Fayetteville and other towns in Tennessee.

Advertising volume has increased steadily down through the years, though not as spectacularly as circulation. Less than 20,000 inches a month was the case during 1931, '32 and '33. Today the paper consistently carries over 50,000 inches per month, ranking, in this respect, among the topmost dailies published in towns the size of Huntsville throughout the South.

Operating expenses have increased accordingly and proportionately. In 1931, '32 and '33 the paper was able to buy newsprint at the ridiculous price of \$42.50 per ton. Today the cost is over \$135.00 per ton.

\* \* \*

Expanding its field of news and

advertising coverage in this rapid-growing section of the Valley, The Times entered the radio picture back in November, 1946, with Station WHBS taking the air with 250 watts power on a frequency of 1490 kilocycles.

The station began operations as an affiliate of the American Broadcasting Company (ABC Network) and has continued bringing these fine programs to the Huntsville area since.

To broaden its coverage the Station soon began Frequency Modulation operations with the most powerful transmitter in North Alabama, located atop Monte Sano. However this type of broadcasting did not 'catch-on' as radio experts had predicted and the station was discontinued with the influx of Television.

Still, the 250 watt AM station did not afford sufficient power to reach the entire confines of the Huntsville market, so, the station put in its application for an increase to 5000 watts, day, and 500 watts, night, which was granted by the Federal Communications Commission on a frequency of 1550 kilocycles.

The station now covers the entire Huntsville market which includes over 300,000 listeners in the Huntsville trading area. Popular local artists, such as Adrian 'Slim' Lay, hillbilly expert; and Hudley Crockett, popular music artist; along with the ABC network give the station a vast listening audience.

With its 5000 watts power, it is today the most powerful AM station in North Alabama.

The station is managed by Jack F. Neal, veteran radioman, who has seen service with stations in Cincinnati, Mobile and New York, prior to coming to Huntsville. His wife, "Lucia Lull," plays a leading role in the Station's success with her daily program, of the same name, designed to appeal especially to housewives in Huntsville and the surrounding area.

The fundamental policy of both the newspaper and the radio station has always been, and will always be, very, very simple . . . "Tell the Truth."

# Important Nerve Centers In The Heart of the Valley



New Times Building under construction

Photos on this page show the imposing new home of **The Huntsville Times** and the strategic location of its affiliate, **Radio Station WHBS**.

The Times' new plant is located on the new Memorial Parkway and is now under construction with completion expected sometime around the first of the year. The building and the new equipment, which includes a 48 page Goss Universal Press, represents and investment of more than 500,000.00.

Designed by Warren, Knight & Davis of Birmingham, it calls for the most modern newspaper plant in this section of the South, a completely air-conditioned structure of brick and concrete block, providing approximately 16,000 square feet of floor space. It is being built by the Brice Building Company, also of Birmingham, on a 3.2 acre site adjacent to the N. C. & St. L. Railway, just south of Fifth Avenue which is the approximate center of population of the Huntsville area.

Station **WHBS** is ideally located on North Church Street in a low, swampy area which is ideal for amplitude modulation broadcasting. The all steel-concrete building houses the powerful 5,000 watt transmitter which feeds the three lofty towers, emitting a signal heard all over the South.

The station is managed by Jack F. Neal, a veteran in the broad-

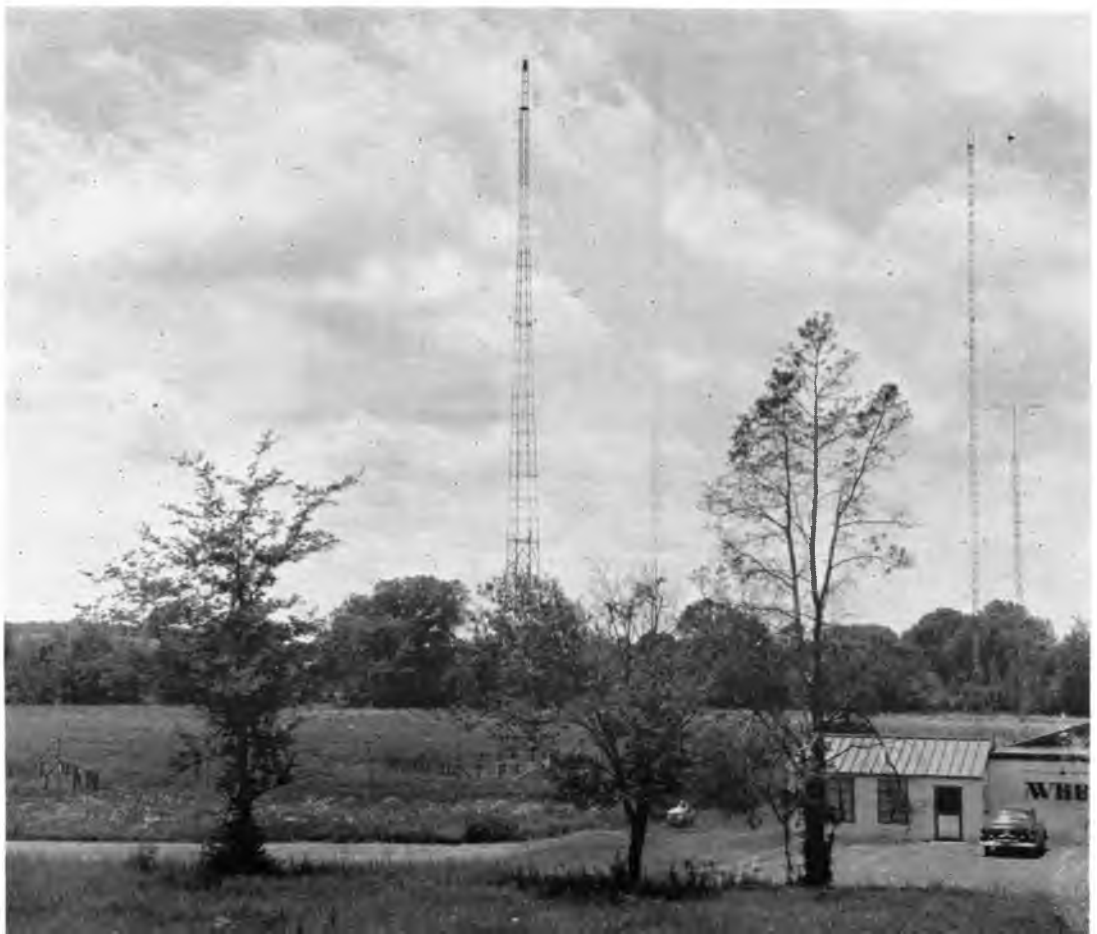
casting field, and carries the programs of three outstanding local artists, 'Slim' Lay, hillbilly music; Hudley Crockett, popular music and sports; and 'Lucia Lull,' wife

of the manager, who conducts two outstanding shows daily devoted to housewives in this area.

The station is affiliated with the American Broadcasting Company's

network and, according to Mr. Neal, serves over 300,000 people in the Huntsville trading area. It is the most powerful AM station in North Alabama.

Radio Station WHBS



## HUNTSVILLE BUILDING MATERIALS COMPANY

Huntsville Building Materials Company is 40 years old. It is located at 316 Wheeler Avenue, near the fairgrounds. Its first location was on Clinton Street. It was then moved to the corner of West Holmes and Church Street. The company was moved to the present location in 1924.

There were two founders: Mr. Joe B. Van Valkenburgh and Mr. Tom N. McAllister. When it was founded in 1915, it was known as "The Huntsville Transfer and Building Materials Company."

From 1915 to 1930 the company was manufacturer, wholesaler, and retailer, operating the Huntsville Brick Company, Hobbs Island Sand and Gravel Company, Huntsville Lumber Company, and a storage warehouse and transfer business. It was during this time that another partner was added, Mr. R. H. Canterbury. He became a partner in 1924. In 1931, Mr. Canterbury and Mr. McAllister died within the same 6 months period.

The company was then operated for a short time by Mr. Joe B. Van Valkenburgh. He then bought out the Retail Building Materials Company.

In 1930, the company began the manufacture of Redi-Mixt concrete. This was the first plant of this kind in North Alabama. The concrete was originally delivered in a dump truck; now the plant operates a fleet of 35 to 40 mixer-trucks, each radio dispatched.

The company has suffered only one major setback. In 1935, the adjoining fairgrounds burned completely and 75 per cent of the plant burned.

In 1940, the name was changed to "Huntsville Building Materials Company" and Mr. Van Valkenburgh brought his 3 sons into the business. At his death in 1942, his sons became full partners.

There are 40 persons employed at the present time. Mr. R. F. Neal is office manager; Mrs. Doris Pentacost is bookkeeper; Darryl Firestone, estimator and purchasing agent; and Kenneth LaPier as shipping director. Pearly Pope, warehouse man and Esau Slaughter, mixer operator, have been with the company for 40 years.

Some of the products offered by this company are:

redi-mixt concrete, Truscan Steel Products, Curtiss Woodwork, Celetex products, Sand, gravel, mortar mix, and cement.

Expansion plans include a concrete block manufacturing plant and complete remodeling of present facilities.

Mr. Wilfred R. Van Valkenburgh III is a native Huntsvillian. He was born August 8, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Van Valkenburgh, the former Miss Avalyn Grayson, have three children, Telette, Nancy, and Emily. They are active in the Methodist Church.

Mr. Van Valkenburgh is secretary of the Salesman Club, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee.

He was graduated from the Huntsville High School, attended the Huntsville College (a private Junior College), and received a degree from the Auburn Architectural Engineering School.

During World War II he was engaged in work at the Redstone Arsenal.

Mr. Joe B. Van Valkenburgh, also a native, claims September 4, 1911, as his birthday.

He is married to the former Miss Ann Wynn. Their children are Joe B. III, and Julia.

Mr. Joe B. is on the Board of Directors of the Optimist Club. He is a graduate of the Huntsville High School.

From 1941-46 he served as Staff Sergeant in the United States Army, serving in England and Germany.

Mr. Richard P. Van Valkenburgh, born in Huntsville March 20, 1916, married Miss Rosa Berryhill. Their three children are Charlotte, Richard, Jr., and Bobby.

Mrs. Rosa Van Valkenburgh is quite active in local music circles.

He is a member and past president of the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Van Valkenburgh attended St. Mary's School and the Huntsville High School. During World War II he served in the United States Army.

All the Van Valkenburghs are Methodists.

Huntsville Building Materials Company



Huntsville Transfer and Building Material Company



## MONROE BUSINESS EQUIPMENT COMPANY

The Business Equipment Company has recently moved to 116 South Jefferson Street—next to the Henderson Bank.

The store has been completely remodeled to accommodate on four floors—20,000 square feet of floor space—an increased line of business equipment and sporting goods. A new feature of the business is that a system of self-selection has been inaugurated for customer convenience.

In 1923, H. E. Monroe and L. T. Garner bought out the Monroe Office Supply Co. owned by D. C. Monroe. These partners started the Business Equipment Company.

A year later H. E. Monroe bought out the interest of Mr. Garner and became the sole owner of the company. Fred Monroe has been with Business Equipment since 1927. He is assistant manager.

In 1928, Mr. Monroe bought out the stock of the M. R. Murray Book and Stationery Store—a firm that had been in existence since before the Civil War.

The Business Equipment Co. is the sole Huntsville agent for Royal Typewriters—an agency held by the Monroes since 1909.

At the new location, the basement is used as a showroom for Evinrude motors; Alumacraft, Dunpy, Lone Star and Arkansas Traveler boats. On the balcony there is a display of the latest and most efficient types of office furniture.

In addition to business materials and sporting goods, this company also serves the public with the framing of pictures.

Mr. Monroe is a native of Huntsville. He was born June 5, 1901. His wife is the former Bessie Landers. They have one son, H. E. Monroe, Jr., who is now serving in the U. S. Army.

Mr. Monroe received his education in Huntsville and at Auburn. He takes an active part in civic and community life.

He has also served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee.

He has been a commissioner of the Huntsville Housing Authority since 1941, and was chairman of the Planning Commission of the City of Huntsville when it was first organized.

Mr. Monroe is also a director of the First National Bank.

His interest in sports extends beyond the merchandise he carries in his store, for his pastimes are fishing and hunting.

## CLAUDE GATES GARAGE

The Claude Gates Garage was established in 1939 by its present owner, Claude Gates. Since that time employees added and their experience in the garage and automotive business are as follows: R. L. Gates, 15 years; Gene Adcock, 14 years; Leighton Gates, 13 years; Phil Holloway, 12 years; Ernest Hudson, 7 years.

This garage features general automotive repairs. It is also a dealer for the Gates Tire.

Huntsville Jaycees with Alabama Jaycee President telling Minnesota Governor about Huntsville, the Rocket City. (Courtesy picture)



## KILGORE McREE CO., INC.

The world's oldest Whirlwind Rotary Mower dealer is Kilgore-McRee Company, Incorporated, of Birmingham, Alabama. It was established in the year 1934.

The first Toro-Whirlwind Mower sold in Alabama was sold by this firm to Lincoln Mills of Huntsville, Alabama. All of Huntsville is served by Kilgore-McRee Company. Their president is W. G. Kilgore.

4612 AVENUE V  
CENTRAL PARK  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Huntsville's first football team, 1905. First row, left to right, John Allison, Arthur Skelton and Frank Fulks. Second row, Mr. Worcester, Wilson Graham, Gordon McDuff, J. Ozro Price and Professor Conder (School Principal) Third row, John Thompson, Gus Bennett, Albert Ryan, Will Adams, Morton M. Hutchens, and Jordan Madkins. Fourth row, James Drake and William Keelan (Courtesy picture)



## CHASE NURSERY COMPANY, INC.

Chase Nursery Company, Incorporated, at Chase, Alabama, started life as the Alabama Nursery Company of Huntsville, Alabama, in 1889, organized by Lewis Chase and Ethan Allen Chase of Rochester, New York, who sent to Huntsville, three of their cousins, natives of Livermore, Maine, namely, Herbert S. Chase, Charles F. Chase and Henry B. Chase. Not long after, they were joined by their younger brother, Robert C. Chase. The original location of the Alabama Nursery Company was just north of the Country Club off the Pulaski Pike. In 1907, the present firm of the Chase Nursery Company was incorporated and its location moved to Chase, Alabama, due to accessibility to two railroads, the Southern and the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis, to facilitate the shipping of their nursery products. The business has been located at Chase, Alabama, ever since and now aggregates close to 1000 acres.

The crop grown by this firm consists of ornamental nursery stock, largely devoted to shrubs, trees, vines, evergreens, roses, hedge plants and broadleaved evergreens. The distribution is purely at wholesale and encompasses the entire United States as a trade area, approximately 80 per cent of their output being concentrated north of the Ohio River.

Of the organizers, Henry B. Chase, Chairman of the Board of the corporation, is the sole survivor in the firm. He has been extremely active in civic and civil affairs of Huntsville, having served in turn as President of the City Council, Mayor of the City

and has been a member of the City Board of Education. He has also served the State of Alabama as a member of the Board of Agriculture and Industries. In the line of community affairs, Mr. Chase has been active in the organization of the Community Chest. He is a member of the Alabama and the Huntsville Historical Associations, the Alabama branch of the Newcomen Society of England and is a charter member and Past President of the Huntsville Rotary Club. In professional associations, he has served as President of the American Association of Nurserymen, the Alabama Nurserymen's Association and is an honorary life President of the Southern Nurserymen's Association. Mr. Charles O. Rolfe, a native of Madison County, who has devoted a life time to the services of this corporation, has served his community as Alderman of the City of Huntsville and has been active in Masonic affairs.

Of the second generation, Henry H. Chase and Edward C. Rolfe are active in the management of the affairs of the nursery, as President and Production Manager respectively. Both are natives of Madison County.

Trying to overcome the adversity of frequent droughts, the firm has recently developed a bored well producing about 400 gallons of water per minute and is now engaged in an extensive irrigation program. Permanent personnel employed totals about 85 on a year round basis.

To the Chase Nursery Field in 1912.



Chase's Union Station about 1910.



Murray and Pettus Book Store



## ACE VENETIAN BLIND

The Ace Venetian Blind Company opened in March, 1948. It was the first venetian blind manufacturing company in Huntsville, Alabama. This business was begun as a hobby by Mr. Willie "Red" Certain. He was regularly employed at the Lincoln Mill at that time and had been there for 25 years. Now he devotes all of his time to the venetian blind trade.

Mr. Certain and his wife, Alvesta, have two children, Dorothy, age 20, and Phillip, age 12. Mr. Certain was born April 23, 1912, in Limestone County, Alabama. He enjoys hunting, fishing, sports, and movies.

This firm features, in addition to venetian blinds, awnings, traverse rods, cornice boards and service on blinds. Ace Venetian Blind Company makes the famous Levolor Blind, recommended by Good Housekeeping and all home journals. This company is located at 1400 O'Shaughnessy Avenue.

Mr. Certain began his business using The Golden Rule as his policy and will continue to abide by it in all of his business dealings. This company plans bigger and better service to the people of Huntsville and Madison County in the future.

## WILSON'S LAUNDRY AND CLEANING CO.

Wilson's Laundry and Cleaning Company was established in 1929 by A. E. Wilson, Sr., at 206 Washington Street. Later they moved to their present location at 107 North Green Street. The firm is now jointly managed by A. E. Wilson, Sr., and A. E. Wilson, Jr.

Mr. Wilson, Sr., is married to the former Margaret Hutton. Mr. Wilson, Jr., is married to the former Virginia Ripply.

This firm has a personnel of twenty.

Family unit quarters of military personnel adjacent to Post Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal (Courtesy Wilson's Laundry and Cleaners)



## BAKER MARBLE SHOP

In 1850, Albert A. Baker of Owego, New York, opened the "Baker Marble Shop" on the west side of Washington Street, near the north corner of the public square. According to Williams' "Huntsville Directory, 1859-60," his shop was well supplied with different varieties of American, Italian, Grecian, and Egyptian marble and granite, and also displayed fancy iron railings.

In 1874, Mr. Baker's nephew, John G. Baker, also of Owego, purchased half-interest in the business, which then became known as the "Baker and Baker Marble Works."

Many of the monuments and marble statues in the Old Soldiers' Cemetery, the New Cemetery, and the Catholic Church were sculptured by the Bakers. Both Albert and John were "stone artists" and did their carving and engraving by hand. The stone work at the Big Spring stands as one of the most enduring examples of their skill and competence. John built the Burritt mausoleum at the cemetery and also the first story of the O'Shaughnessy Home (later, Virginia McCormick home).

The Baker and Baker business continued until John's death in 1892, when it became "Baker and Conway." Albert died in 1901.

John G. Baker was an alderman at the time of his death and a member of the Fire Department for many years.

## SENTELL SERVICE STATION

Sentell Service Station was established in 1940 by G. W. Sentell, the present owner.

Four persons are employed by the firm. Mr. Earnest Hogan is manager.

The Sentell Service Station are wholesalers and retailers of Conoco products including: gasoline, lubricating oils, kerosene, tractor fuels, and fuel oils.

View of Monte Sano Park Children's playground (Courtesy picture)



## DUNNAVANTS INCORPORATED

Customers from all parts of north Alabama and southern Tennessee join with inhabitants of Huntsville in shopping at Dunnivant's Department Store located at the corner of Washington and Clinton Streets.

The store draws its customers not only because of its fine merchandise but also because of the cordial and courteous service offered by its 102 employees.

This company was started by P. S. Dunnivant. Mr. Dunnivant is a native of Elkton, Tennessee, and he came to Huntsville in 1908.

For a number of years after coming to this Alabama town, Mr. Dunnivant was associated with members of the Terry family in the clothing business.

In 1914, Mr. Dunnivant and William Fowler formed a partnership known as Dunnivant and Fowler. Two years later they were joined by Ira Terry and the firm became Dunnivant, Fowler and Terry.

After a period of time the partnership with Mr. Fowler and Mr. Terry was dissolved and Mr. Dunnivant started a store of his own called by his own name.

In 1940 there was a serious fire that destroyed much of the merchandise and the building. As a result, the store was rebuilt along modern lines and was equipped with completely new and late style fixtures.

In the late 1940's the store was incorporated. There were nine principal stockholders. Mr. Dunnivant was elected president of the corporation, an office that he still holds.

The first floor of Dunnivant's is equipped with wearing apparel for men, shoes for women, all types of piece goods, hosiery and notions.

There is a beauty shop with experienced operators on the balcony. And on the second floor can be found clothes for women—lingerie, fine furs, dresses, suits, coats and sports wear.

The third floor is the location for a complete line of toys and clothing for infants. Also on this floor there is drapery and upholstery material; Magnavox television sets, small electrical appliances, and luggage.

In the third floor workshop, drapes are made and furniture is covered for customers by well trained seamstresses.

Mr. Dunnivant's wife is the former Dama Mitchell. They have one daughter, Catherine (Mrs. Raymond Reeves).

Mr. Dunnivant is noted for his friendliness to customers as well as for his interest in the community and his participation in civic organizations.

He has served as chairman for the Red Cross and the Community Chest. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and helped promote the Cattlemen's Association. He has served twice as chairman of the Board of Stewards for the Methodist Church and has been active in other church activities. He was one of the organizers of the Golden Wedding celebration held in Huntsville annually. And he works as a member of the Redstone Arsenal Civilian Relations Committee. He is also a member of the Rotary Club.

In his spare time, Mr. Dunnivant devotes his interest to farming.

In the near future, he says that the store will be repainted and equipped with new lighting fixtures.

Dunnavants, Inc.



## HILL CHEVROLET COMPANY

In 1924 A. W. Hill, Sr., founded the first Chevrolet Agency in Summerville, Georgia. After a meager beginning, the concern grew and in 1928 bought a larger Chevrolet Agency in Decatur, Alabama. After nine years of successful operation in Decatur the firm bought the Chevrolet Agency in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Cadillac Agency was acquired in 1938 and in 1949 the firm expanded and moved from the corner of Washington and Meridian Streets to their new building on North Green Street. This building has every facility for modern merchandising and servicing automobiles. The further expansion of this company will be geared to meet the needs of Huntsville and Madison County.

A. W. Hill, Sr., is a native of Georgia. He received his education at Mercer University, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. He has served in the following civic enterprises: past president of Decatur Kiwanis Club, Elks Club, Masons, and Shriners. Mr. Hill is a member of The First Presbyterian Church.

His wife is the former Martha Bitting of Summerville, Georgia. She attended Agnes Scott College and is active in church work and all civic activities of Huntsville. The Hills have one son, A. W. Hill, Jr.

Archie Hill, Jr., received his education at Decatur High School, Tennessee Military Institute, and Washington and Lee University. He graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1941 with a degree

in business administration. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

In June of 1941, Archie Hill, Jr., became a partner in Hill Chevrolet Co. At this time he volunteered for service in the Air Force and was a fighter pilot overseas. Upon his return to civilian life in December, 1945, he became active in the management of Hill Chevrolet Company, and is in that capacity at the present.

Mr. Hill, Jr., has also been active in civic affairs. He is past president of the Acme Club, Chairman of the Red Cross Drive, Director of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Community Chest.

Presently he is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force Reserve and is Commander of North Alabama Air Force Reserve Unit.

Mr. Hill, Jr., is married to the former Susie Echols Spragins of Huntsville. She is past president of the Grace Club Auxiliary, and active in all civic and social activities of Huntsville. The Hills are members of the Country Club.

Mrs. A. W. Hill, Jr., attended Huntsville High School and graduated at Holton Arms in Washington. Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hill, Jr. have two daughters: Marian Bierne, and Roberta Spragins Hill.

The policy of Hill Chevrolet Company has always been to give full measure for every dollar spent with them for service or merchandise. The Company adheres to its policy of striving to satisfy every customer.

Hill Chevrolet Company building





## London's Incorporated

London's, Incorporated, has served the people of Huntsville faithfully and well for 56 years.

It was back in 1898 that Mr. and Mrs. D. R. London, newly married, came to Huntsville to found the D. R. London Plumbing Company. Their first location was where the Russel Erskine Hotel is located now. They have moved several times. The first move was to the location now occupied by Mangel's Youth Center. From this location they moved to the present Belk Hudson location. In the late 1930's they suffered a major business reverse in the form of a fire, which wiped them out completely. This, in addition to the depression, was enough to disillusion anyone. Not so for the Londons. The family, then living in the home at 203 Green Street, moved into the garage and started all over again. These were called the "down" days. This time the store was in the back of their home. Business increased gradually and in the late 1930's and early 1940's London's expanded to such an extent that the entire house was given over to the business. Later, the store was completely remodeled.

London's first began business operations as a contractor. At the present, they are wholesalers. There are two locations in addition to a warehouse. The one at 203 Green Street is retail while the location at 204 Wheeler Avenue is wholesale.

London's did all the major wiring, plumbing and heating for the "old" Elks Building, the Central Y.M.C.A., in Huntsville and Lyons Hotel in Decatur.

London's serve all of North Alabama and parts of Tennessee.

Recently London's, Incorporated, received recog-

nition by "The Wholesaler," a monthly magazine published in Tarrytown, New York, of which they are very proud. In a non-solicited article, given solely on the basis of recognition, "The Wholesaler" gave London's, Incorporated, the Frontispiece and a double-spread, including several photographs, recognizing them as one of the country's outstanding wholesalers. They are justly proud of this.

London's, Incorporated, employs 12 people. Key personnel include: David C. London, president and general manager; Jack C. London, vice-president; Mrs. Evelyn London Branum, secretary; Mrs. D. R. London, treasurer; Harry London, manager of the sales division; and Mr. Robert Kelley, chief book-keeper and credit manager.

Mr. Ira Johnson started working for London's back in 1899. He left them for a short period of time. He is still an employee, their oldest in length of service.

Mr. D. R. London, founder, was a native of Dalton, Georgia. He married the former Miss Ada C. Crawford of Atlanta, Georgia. They came to Huntsville in 1898.

There were five children, four still living.

Jack, living in Chattanooga, Tennessee; Harry, Evelyn, and David who make their home in Huntsville. David, the present president and general manager, is a graduate of the University of Alabama.

Mr. D. R. London, founder, attended the North Georgia Agriculture College. He was a charter member of the Holmes Street Methodist Church.

David is active in all civic work. He is a member of the Southeastern Electrical Wholesalers.

London's Inc. old store



Big Spring in Winter (Courtesy Sentell Service Station)



## THRASHER OIL CO.

The Thrasher Oil Company was established on May 1, 1946, on Canal and Parkview Streets in Huntsville, its present location.

The company was founded by Mr. Tom G. Thrasher, the present owner and manager.

Mr. Thrasher was born on August 4, 1916, at Wetumpka, Alabama. His wife is Mrs. Dorothy W. Thrasher. They have four daughters: Sharon, age 12, Carol, age 7, Amanda, age 6, and Anne, age 2.

Mr. Thrasher attended the University of Alabama. He is a past president of the Acme Club and is a member of the Kiwanis Club, and the City School Board.

The Thrasher Oil Company is distributor of Shell Oil for Huntsville and Madison County.

City-County Airport (Courtesy Thrasher Oil Co.)



## BOB WARD'S WHAT CHEER LAUNDRY & CLEANERS

Bob Ward's What Cheer Laundry and Cleaners is located at 1010 Whitesburg Drive. It was founded by Bob Ward, and had its opening date October 13, 1947.

This firm started with a personnel of only eight, and now has a personnel of fifty.

Bob Ward was born June 18, 1908, in Mobile, Alabama. He came to Madison County the same year. He was reared in the Hurricane Community.

Mr. Ward attended Huntsville High School and Huntsville College. He is a graduate of Ohio Mechanics Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a course in power laundry.

Mr. Ward married the former Ermine Cheshire. The Wards are members of the First Methodist Church in Huntsville. He is also a member of the American Legion, Elks Club, Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Expansion Committee.

Mr. Ward's firm offers the following services: all finished buvole, washerteria service, three-hour cleaning and shirt service, and Du Pont's odorless cleaning fluid.

The key personnel at this firm include Bob Ward, owner; W. P. Goodwin, office manager; and Ed Moore, superintendent.

## ANDERSON MOTOR CO.

The Anderson Motor Company, located on East Clinton Street, is owned by Mr. "Woody" Anderson. This agency was founded in 1950.

Anderson Motor Company sells and services Chrysler, Plymouth, and Imperial automobiles.

Since the founding in 1950, business has increased more than 600 per cent.

The company is in the process of expanding at the present. They are building a new plant on West Clinton Street. It is the purpose of the company to be equipped to give the best service available to its customers in Madison and Jackson counties. When the new plant is completed nothing will be left to be desired by the public, in this respect.

Anderson Motor Company employs sixteen people.

Key personnel include: Mr. C. W. "Woody" Anderson, owner; Mr. Donald Jones, service manager; Mr. Milton Cagle, parts manager; and Miss Nell Mullins, bookkeeper.

Mr. Anderson, a native of Athens, Alabama, was born October 17, 1921. He came to Huntsville in 1950.

The Andersons (Mary Frances Christopher) have three children. They are Charles Kenneth, Linda Carol, and Joseph Michael.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Methodist Church.

Mr. Anderson is a member of The Acme Club and he has served as president. He also belongs to the Sertoma Club.

The Andersons are very active in civic work, including the March of Dimes, the Red Cross and Community Chest.

Mr. Anderson is a graduate of Limestone County High School in Athens, Alabama.

Woody Anderson owner of  
Anderson Motor Co.



## T. T. TERRY'S

Since the year 1897 the slogan, "Great Is the Power of Cash," has been very much in evidence high above the show windows on the south side of Huntsville's courthouse square.

The founder of Terry's Store, Thomas Tyler Terry, was well known for many years as a business man whom his customers—white or black, townspeople or country folk—could trust. And, in spite of his slogan, he was known as a man who freely would give credit to an old customer who was down on his luck and needed someone's confidence in him.

The store was founded in 1897 when Tom Terry and his brother, S. L. Terry, decided to dissolve partnership at their old location on the east side of the square, having been in business together since 1892. That the dissolution was made in good spirits is evidenced by the manner in which the division of stock and personnel was made. Mr. Tom said, "Sid, you take the other. You take Doc (E. T. Terry, another brother, for many years Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners in Huntsville), and I'll take Jeff" (Jeff Terry, the fourth brother, now prominent in Huntsville's real estate business).

The deal was consummated and Tom Terry opened his business in its present location, having at different times from one to four departments, in later years three: men's wear, ladies' ready-to-wear and piece goods, and grocery.

In 1936 Jim Terry, a nephew of Mr. Tom, bought out the ladies' ready-to-wear department and rented space in the building. When Mr. Tom died in 1941 his son, Ira M. Terry, became proprietor of the grocery, piece-goods and men's wear departments. Later the stock of the grocery department was sold and is now under the management of Mr. Claude Sturdivant.

Even now Mr. Ira and Mr. Jim Terry seem to try to conduct their business in the tradition set forth by Thomas Tyler Terry, who not only knew the value of a dollar but who, apparently, knew the worth of a man, too.

T. T. Terry Store, South Side Square



## HOPPER HARDWARE & MILL SUPPLY

Mr. B. B. "Butch" Hopper, owner of Hopper Hardware, was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, May 27, 1886. He graduated from the R. K. Morgan Preparatory School in 1907. Mr. Hopper came to Huntsville, Alabama, in January, 1908, and began working for the Collins Hardware, located in the Huntsville Hotel block. Mr. Collins sold his store and moved to Kentucky in 1910. Mr. Hopper then began working for Thompson Brothers Hardware Company. He remained there eight years. He then was employed at the McAnelly Hardware Company for ten years.

In 1928, he went to the Hutchens Company, and stayed there until 1936, the year he went into business for himself as a Stock Company. In the year 1941, he acquired the hardware stock of the Stock Company and began the Hopper Hardware, his present business. It was then located on the West Side of the Square.

In 1942 Mr. Hopper was forced to move from this location due to another company acquiring the building. He was temporarily unable to set up business until Mr. M. A. Campbell arranged a place for him in his present location.

All four of Mr. Hopper's sons were in service during World War II. Each of the four served overseas, three of them simultaneously. Buford, the third son, has made the Army his career, and served overseas in the Korean conflict, as well as in World War II. All of Mr. Hopper's sons came back from the war and two of them, Robert and Billy, joined their father in the hardware business. Mr. Charlie Root is also associated with Mr. Hopper in this business. Ennis, the youngest son, was with his father's firm for a time; but he has moved to Atlanta, where he is with the Davison-Paxton Company.

This year the Hopper Hardware has added the Mill Supply Division to the firm and to its name. They are distributors for the following first-line companies: The Standard Tool Company, Miller Falls Company (power, hand and precision tools), Wickwire-Spencer (Wire rope), Dupont Company (Paints), Coffing Hoist Company (Mechanical Hoists), Quaker Rubber Corporation, Lamson-Sessions Company (Bolts-Nuts-etc.), American Sisalkraft Corporation (Building Papers), Mine Safety Appliances (Safety Equipment), Dockson Corporation (Welding Equipment), Star Expansion Bolt Company, Parker-Kalon Company, National Lead Company.

## FAYETTEVILLE TRANSFER COMPANY

The Fayetteville Transfer Company was organized November 28, 1930, at Fayetteville, Tennessee, by two brothers, J. H. and M. S. Goggin.

Original operations of the company were from Fayetteville to Nashville, but in 1932 its operations were extended to Huntsville. At that time they had only two road trucks and one city pickup delivery truck. At that time there were ten persons employed.

Today Fayetteville Transfer, evidencing its rapid growth, is operating three pickup delivery trucks, four road tractors and eleven trailers out of Huntsville, and 32 persons are employed. The company, presently under Interstate Commerce Commission franchise from Nashville to Gadsden and from Huntsville to Birmingham, handles general merchandise of any type, giving third and fourth morning delivery to any points in the east. Through its excellent connections, merchandise can be delivered to any point in the nation. General offices of the company are located in Nashville, having moved there from Huntsville in 1946. The Nashville operation utilizes even more heavy equipment.

Fayetteville Transfer, the oldest motor freight operator in Huntsville, in 1954 received one of its greatest honors. According to the American Trucking Association, the Company had the best record in the nation on cargo claims.

Expediting services of the concern, it operates a teletype service from Huntsville to Nashville, enabling speedy checks in shipping and tracer operations.

Present owners of the business are Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McClendon of Nashville and Joe Swing of Huntsville. Mrs. J. H. Goggin, widow of one of the original owners, serves as company Office Manager in Huntsville, and during her 12 odd years of service, she has become known in motor freight circles extensively as one of the most efficient in the business.

Joe Swing, Secretary-Treasurer of the concern,

and General Manager of Huntsville operations, is well known to Huntsvillians, having moved here 23 years ago. Mr. Swing, born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, January 17, 1903, married the former Pauline Cromwell of Shelbyville, Tennessee, on June 20, 1928, and they have two sons, Rodney and Ridge. They reside at 608 Locust Street. Mr. Swing received his education in the Tennessee public schools, and has taken a very active part in the civic affairs of Huntsville. He is an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, is second Vice-President of the Kiwanis Club and has served in various community drives such as the Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross and Underprivileged Children campaigns.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McClendon, President and Vice-President of the company, respectively, reside in Nashville where both are well known and active in community work. Mr. McClendon is a graduate of Columbia University.

The residents of South Huntsville are well accustomed to seeing the large trailers pull in to the company location at 1520 Whitesburg Drive. However, prior to moving to this location, Fayetteville Transfer had first been located on Jefferson Street and then North Washington Street.

As Mr. Swing says of their plans for the future, "We will grow with Huntsville and do our best to give our valued customers the best in motor freight service."

Joe Swing Co-owner Fayetteville Transfer Co.



Indian Burial Grounds (Courtesy Fayetteville Transfer Co.)



## THE LYRIC THEATER

Motion pictures were introduced in Huntsville about 1905 and were shown in the ensuing years in the Edisonia, Theatorium, Picto and Nickelodeon Theatres. In 1912 Charles A. Crute, Sr., and Acklin Ragland purchased from Walter Humphrey the Nickelodeon, located 112 Washington Street, which was renamed the Lyric. Later Mr. Crute acquired Mr. Ragland's interest in this theatre and operated as Lyric Amusement Company. In 1928, Lyric Amusement Company became affiliated with Crescent Amusement Company of Nashville. About a year later, the first talking picture shown in Huntsville, Fanny Brice in *MY MAN*, was shown in the Lyric Theatre.

In 1930, the Lyric was destroyed by fire but was immediately rebuilt, and remained under the management of Mr. Crute until his death in 1939. Fritz

H. Thomas of Maryville, Tennessee, was employed as manager and supervised the complete remodeling of the Lyric in 1940. In 1950, Lyric Amusement Company purchased Crescent Amusement Company's interest in the Lyric which remained under the management of Mr. Thomas until his death in 1955.

In keeping company policy the Lyric maintains the latest in theatre equipment, having in the main auditorium push-back type seats and black lighting. Upon the innovation of Cinemascope and widescreen in the motion picture industry, the Lyric screen was enlarged to accommodate both of these types of projection. More recently, stereophonic sound has been installed. The Lyric is under the management of Charles A. Crute, Jr., who has maintained the policy of first run pictures in Huntsville.

Lyric Theatre, Washington Street



## NYLE CLOTHING COMPANY

Nyle Clothing was established in West Huntsville in 1946. It moved to 11 South Side Square February 10, 1955, where it is now located.

In 1952, the store suffered a total loss by fire.

Nyle Clothing features ladies' ready-to-wear and uses the slogan: "Style With Nyle."

Miss Sarah Stephenson, manager, has three employees.

Miss Stephenson, a member of the Church of Christ, was born in Petersburg, Tennessee. She came to Huntsville in 1910.

Huntsville Transportation in the Good ol' Days (Courtesy Nyle Clothing Co.)



## I. SCHIFFMAN & CO., INC.

Old S. Schiffman & Co. Store, Huntsville, Alabama (about 1893). Person identifiable are: Solomon Schiffman (1), Israel Schiffman (2), Leon Lehman (3), Ike Schiffman (4), Bob-Lee Schiffman (5), small boy, Sam Weil (6), boy, Will Falk (8), Albert Jacoby (9), Sam L. Garner (10), Jessie C. Vann (11), and John F. Smith (12).



Le Vert Place. Used by Federal Army as Headquarters during Civil War Occupancy of Huntsville (Courtesy Hopper Hardware and Mill Supply)



## TEXTLE HARDWOOD CO.

The Textile Hardwood Manufacturing Company was founded with the name of Huntsville Hardwood Manufacturing Company in the year 1912. Its former location was 1008 Pike Street in West Huntsville, but moved to the present location, 13th Avenue and 5th Street West, Huntsville.

The business was organized by L. O. Erwin, Sr., Walter Wellman, and W. H. Hollingsworth, Sr., under the name of Huntsville Hardwood Manufacturing Company. In 1932 the business went into a state of bankruptcy and at that time L. O. Erwin, Sr., and Robert Murphree took over the assets and liabilities of the company and incorporated under the name of the present firm, Textile Hardwood Manufacturing Company, Incorporated. Gross sales in 1933 were \$12,507.43. Gross sales for 1953 were \$405,503.38. The business hopes to exceed one half million dollars in sales this year.

Last year the company purchased 30 acres of land and has built new manufacturing plants and offices at present site and have been operating there since November, 1954. Additional projects now under way are the building of a new modern dry kiln for seasoning necessary material and erecting a drying shed.

The present officers of the company are L. O. Erwin, Sr., president-treasurer, and Marjorie Erwin, secretary.

Personnel are: Mrs. Floy Pike, office assistant; W. P. Hix, plant superintendent; Plant foremen are: Jessie Steele, Archie Steele, Tom Williams, Sr., Luther Mills, and Amos Gossett.

The business manufactures broom, mop, brush, garage and deck handles, both hardwood and softwoods; window poles, dowels, and turning all sizes and lengths, hickory ladder rungs, picker sticks and other wooden parts for Textile Mills with distribution throughout the United States.

All sales are handled through the Huntsville office, through mail, and personal contact.

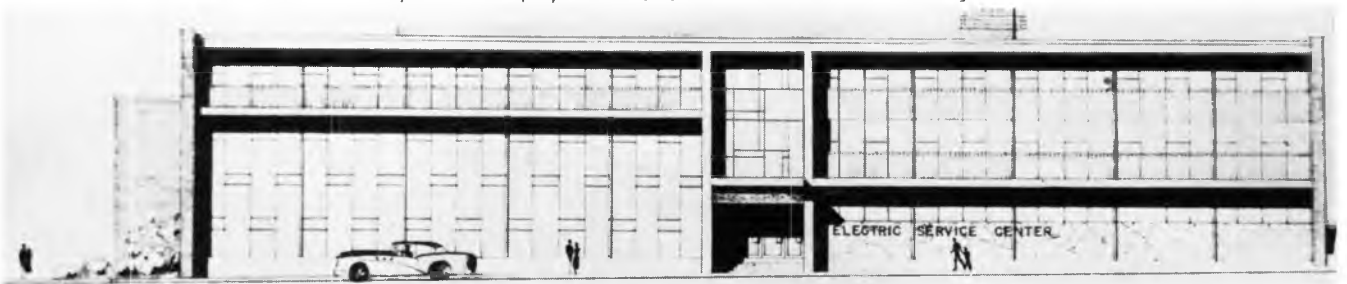
Men Loading a rocket launcher at Redstone Arsenal (Courtesy Textile Hardwood Manufacturing Co.)



# CITY OF HUNTSVILLE ELECTRIC CO.

Providing dependable low cost electric service to the people of Huntsville and Madison County.

City Electric Company's new Electric Service Center-Architect's Drawing



City Electric Company facilities



City Electric Company office personnel



City Electric Company Office Personnel



City Electric Company linemen



City Electric Company vehicles and employees



City Electric Company suburban line



City Electric Company Drivers and service trucks



City Electric Company Other employees and vehicles



## BILL PENNEY MOTOR CO.

Both new and used cars are sold at the Bill Penney Motor Company on Meridian Street. On this lot, well stocked with all makes and models of automobiles, the customer can find just what he needs. And he will be aided in his selection by members of the Bill Penney Motor Company personnel who, while a person is there, makes his business their business in order to give the customer the best possible service—and the best car to fit his requirements. Trained mechanics check every used car that comes on the lot; and all cars sold, new or old, go out with a guarantee.

Bill Penney began his business in Huntsville in 1946. He is a native of Jackson County where he was born August 1, 1926. He was graduated from the Paint Rock Valley High School. After graduation he spent two years in the United States Navy.

Mr. Penney is married to the former Miss Geraldine Bennett of Gurley. They have three children: Bill Penney, Jr., age 8; Judith Annette, age 7; and Jerry Franklin, age 4. Mr. Penney is a member of the American Legion, the V. F. W. and the Elks Club.

Mr. Penney states that his hobby is "hard work"—a fact that is borne out by the size of his growing business in the new and used car field. He is also interested in livestock and in the past has owned a race horse. The Penney family lives on Athens Pike. The

children have a pony; and the family owns a milk cow.

About cars, Mr. Penney says, "Show the customer the type of automobile he wants to see, tell him the facts about it, and then let him make up his own mind." This policy has been and will continue to be the guiding principle behind the Bill Penney Motor Company.

Bill Penney (owner)



Bill Penney Motor Company on Meridian Street.





## HUNTSVILLE COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

Coca-Cola was bottled for the first time in Huntsville, Alabama, in the year of 1902 by the Pratt Bottling Company, then located in the building now occupied by the Valley Pride Packing Company on Bell Avenue. The Pratt Bottling Company was sold in 1908 to Mrs. L. O. (Mamie) Mays and Mr. W. F. Struve.

It was in the spring of 1916 that Mr. J. F. Chambers and associates purchased the Coca-Cola bottling business, then known as The Coca-Cola Bottling Works, from Mrs. L. O. (Mamie) Mays. Mr. W. F. Struve had previously sold to Mrs. Mays his interest in The Coca-Cola Bottling Works. The Coca-Cola Bottling Works was located in those days on the corner of West Holmes and Gallatin Streets and remained in this location until 1929. In July of 1929 this business moved into its new home located at 414 West Clinton Street and has remained at this address for the past twenty-six years.

Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company was incorporated in 1928 and J. F. Chambers was its first President and remained President until his death on March 25, 1948, at the age of seventy-one. Mr. Chambers was survived by his widow, Mrs. J. F. (Lydia B.) Chambers, and two sons, John L. (Jack) and William F. Chambers. Mr. Chambers lived to see a phenomenal growth of this business of bottling Coca-Cola. It was largely because of his astute business ability that such growth was possible. He saw the business grow from the use of foot power machinery to the most modern automatic bottling machinery; he also saw the transportation used to distribute Coca-Cola in bottles change from horses and wagons to a modern fleet of more than eighteen motor trucks. Mr. Chambers lived to see the personnel attached to the Coca-Cola business increase from a mere few to more than fifty.

Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company serves a territory consisting of Madison County, Limestone County and one-half of Jackson County. It also maintains a warehouse in Athens, Alabama.

Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company (West Clinton Street).



Mr. Chambers loved his community and during his life was most active in community affairs. He was a life member of the Board of Trustees of the Huntsville Hospital, Incorporated. He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club, a charter member of the Community Chest, and a most active member of the Chamber of Commerce. He was the first chairman of the City Electric System, a member of the First Methodist Church, and a Shriner.

John L. (Jack) Chambers has been associated in this Coca-Cola business since 1928 and became its President in 1948. Mrs. J. F. (Lydia B.) Chambers is its Vice-President and Mr. Oscar Grosser is Secretary-Treasurer. John L. (Jack) Chambers was born in Okolona, Mississippi, October 10, 1904. In 1947 he married Miss Elizabeth Shepler from Evanston, Illinois. Mr. Chambers is most active in the present community life of Huntsville. He is a former president of the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee and a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Huntsville Hospital, Incorporated. He recently received a certificate for twenty-five years membership in the Kiwanis Club. He is a member of the First Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, and is a Shriner. He is chairman of the Sesquicentennial Underwriting Committee and in the fall of 1954 served as chairman of the Special Gifts Committee of the Community Chest.

Mr. J. F. Chambers, First President of Company



### HALE BROS. FURNITURE CO.

The Hale Brothers Furniture Company, located at 112 West Clinton Street, was first opened in Huntsville in 1952. The owners are C. B. Hale, and J. C. Hale who operate the Huntsville store. Two other brothers operate a furniture store in Madisonville, Kentucky, and have a small interest in the Huntsville store.

The Hale Brothers have had varied experience in the business of selling. C. B. Hale was with Sears, Roebuck and Company in Atlanta for 5 years, Wormser Hat Stores in Atlanta, Ft. Worth, and Tulsa for 9 years, and the American Thread Mills in San Antonio. J. C. Hale handled the selling of Heinz Products in Atlanta and Gerber Baby Foods for the entire state of Alabama.

Since the opening of Hale Brothers in 1952, the volume of sales has increased 50 per cent. This increase has necessitated the hiring of three additional employees. In addition to the Hale Brothers, the store also employs: Cloyd Steelman, Cleatus Nance, Charlie Jones, Jr., Howard Hutton, Marvin Davis, Clyde Duren, and Mrs. June Lowery.

The Hale Brothers Furniture Company handles the following brands of merchandise: Crosley major appliances, Kroehler furniture, International furniture, Sandford bedroom furniture, McGee carpets, Armstrong rugs, Cavalier furniture, Broyhill furniture, Douglas dinettes, Kuhne dinettes, Dinette parts, Berkline loungers and chairs, Spring Air and Serta mattresses.

Mr. C. B. Hale was born October 10, 1910, in Phil Campbell, Alabama. He graduated from the high school there. He moved to Huntsville in 1952. His wife is the former Mae Turner of Marietta, Georgia. They have one child, Clyde Duren, 18, who graduated from the Huntsville High School in 1955. Mr. C. B. Hale is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Sertoma Club, where he is a director. His family are members of the First Baptist Church.

J. C. Hale was also born and educated in Phil Campbell, Alabama, his birthdate being April 15, 1918. He moved to Huntsville in 1951. He and Mrs. Hale (Hazel Baker) have one child, Sandra, age 12. Mr. J. C. Hale is a member of the Sportsman Club and the Chamber of Commerce. His family are members of the Southside Baptist Church.

### WITTICHEN CHEMICAL CO.

Congratulations To The Finest People Anywhere  
 Industrial Chemicals                      Refrigeration Supplies  
 Birmingham, Alabama



The "Suffragettes" Sisters of the Swiss group named in honor of Huntsville women who were leaders in State for women suffrage. (Left to right) Mrs. James A. Doane, Chapter President; Mrs. A. L. Smith, Mrs. Lee A. Noe. (This photo courtesy WITTICHEN CHEMICAL COMPANY.)

### RAMUC

Ramuc is America's No. 1 swimming pool enamel. Ramuc Enamel has been used on more than 16,000 pools throughout the world. It is tile-smooth . . . retains its color . . . and is easy to maintain. It comes in 12 exciting colors (order our Color Chart No. 707-H). Ramuc Enamel is manufactured by INERTOL CO., INC., Pool Paint Specialists, Newark, New Jersey. Your Inertol Representative is Mr. C. A. Letz, Jr., 1103 First National Bank Building, Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Another product of the Inertol Company is Exalgae the effective algacide, for crystal-clear water in the pool. (Your Pool Questions Welcome . . . No Obligation).

Municipal Swimming Pool—constructed with Ramuc R Enamel.



## THE RUSSEL ERSKINE HOTEL

The Russel Erskine Hotel was opened January 3, 1930, and was built by a number of civic-minded citizens of Huntsville. The hotel was named for Albert Russel Erskine who was a native of Huntsville and who was president of the Studebaker Corporation at the time the hotel was built. The entire staff in cooperation with many progressive citizens of Huntsville are constantly striving to make our city a delightful and interesting place for the many travelers and tourists stopping here.

Bellboys of 1932. (Left to right): Standing; Jack Smith, Curtis Cambron, Marvin Pogue, Roland Fanning, Lee Smith, Lacy Strong, Arthur McLaughlin, (Kneeling): Durwood Coble, Coyle Keeton, and James Blakemore.



The Russell Ershine's Board of Directors. (Left to right) Herbert Johnson, W. W. Davis, Judge Thomas W. Jones, M. M. Hutchens, L. B. Goldsmith, W. M. Stanley, M. L. Weil, James E. Taylor, and Charles Shaver.



Russel Erskine Hotel Lobby.



## ASHBURN AND GRAY CONTRACTORS

At Ashburn and Gray Contractors on Memorial Parkway there is a continuous stir of activity. The company which is engaged in roadbuilding, primarily is the largest of its kind in North Alabama. It was formerly located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Canal Street.

When Cecil Ashburn and "Pat" Gray started this Company in January of 1946, they were the only employees and had one piece of equipment. Today they have working for them approximately three hundred and fifty employees, and equipment valued at well over six hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

In 1952 this company opened its own asphalt plant, which is located south of the Huntsville Airport.

Among the recent jobs completed by Ashburn and Gray are the Highway through the Bankhead Forest, Highways in Etowah and Winston Counties, Street improvements in Huntsville, Athens, Decatur, Guntersville, Paint Rock, Woodville, and Scottsboro. They have also done construction work on Redstone Arsenal for the last five or six years. Recently, they have completed the resurfacing of the Huntsville-Athens Highway, and are now completing the Decatur-Huntsville Highway. At present they are doing

the base and paving on the Memorial Parkway which will be completed by the first of November.

Mr. Ashburn is a native of Madison County. He was born near Gurley, in 1920. His wife is the former Margaret Goodson. The Ashburns have two daughters, Julia and Jennifer. Mr. Ashburn belongs to the V. F. W., Masons, Shrine, American Legion, and the Chamber of Commerce. He served five years in the army as a Captain during World War II in the European and Pacific Theatre.

Mr. Gray, like Mr. Ashburn, is a native of Madison County. He was born near Gurley in 1910. Mr. Gray has two children, Pat Gray, Jr., and Edna Gray. Mr. Gray is a member of the following clubs: Elks, Mason, Shrine, V. F. W., American Legion, and Chamber of Commerce. During World War II Mr. Gray spent one year with the Sec Bees at Okinawah in the Pacific Theatre of Operations.

The key personnel of this company include the following: Bobby Huffman, Office Manager; Price Carter, Superintendent of Equipment Division; Walter Miller, Superintendent of Local Area; Bill Moody, Superintendent of Arsenal Area; Jack Powers, Superintendent of Asphalt Plant; Kenneth Biggs, Estimator and Engineer.

Mountain Scene near Huntsville. (Courtesy Ashburn and Gray Contractors.)



Wooden pipe line of great historical interest near Big Spring (Courtesy Ashburn and Gray).



Intersection of Memorial Parkway and U. S. Highway 38 near Lily Flagg Community during early period of Parkway construction.



## THE BOOK SHOP

The Book Shop located at 115 West Clinton Street is proud to introduce to the reader the members of the City Board of Education. The five gentlemen composing the Board have devoted and will continue to devote themselves to solving the many diverse problems which our school system is encountering brought on by the rapid increase of population in our community and by social, political and economic factors. The Book Shop has been proud to render service to our schools and community by providing the merchandise necessary for the improvement of education and culture.

The City Board of Education: Will Halsey, Jr., Dr. L. A. Davis, Tom Thrasher, Dr. H. D. Nelson, and A. V. Snead.



## THE IRENE JONES STUDIO OF DANCE

Mrs. Irene Jones established her Studio of Dance at its present location, 705 Randolph St. in 1930. Presently she offers all types of dancing; acrobatic, toe, ballet, tap, ballroom, and baton groups.

Mrs. Jones has been very active in club work. She served for five years as the vice-president of Dance Masters of America Inc., and is now a director for that organization. She is Past Matron of the Eastern Star. She served as the first president of the Altrusa Club. She is past-president of the following: American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 37, Huntsville Music Study Club, and Aladin Club. She is past vice-president of the B&PW. Mrs. Jones is a member of the Church of the Nativity.

Mrs. Jones was married in 1923 to the late Raymond W. Jones. Mr. Jones served in World War One and organized the first National Guard Unit in Alabama. They have one daughter, Margaret Louise, who is married to Dr. Robert M. Miller of Atlanta, Georgia.

## GULF REFINING CO.

The Gulf Refining Company has been established in Huntsville for approximately forty years. It is located on Cleveland Street. The present owner is Mr. D. C. (Dan) Boone.

Mr. Boone was born at Grady, Alabama, on January 9, 1924. His wife is Mrs. Una Mae Boone. They have two children, a son, Dan, Jr., age 8, and a daughter, Sandra, age 6. His favorite hobbies are golf and football.

The Gulf Refining Company deals in wholesale gas, motor oil, tires and batteries.

Gulf Refining Company of Huntsville.)



D. C. "Dan" Boone, owner



## ROBERT H. BAKER COMPANY

One of the most modern gins in Madison County was recently completed by the Robert H. Baker Company of Owens Cross Roads. This gin was built to replace a gin destroyed by fire in October of 1954.

The new gin is operated as Farmers Gin Company. It has a production capacity of about ten bales per hour, or one every six minutes. This is about twice the capacity of the gin which was destroyed.

The new gin is a 4-90 Murray gin with two inclined cleaners, a 14-foot burr machine, a 24-shelf tower dryer, the latest type lint cleaners and auto-

matic scales.

It also has a pure seed system, which keeps cotton seed of one variety separated from other types. This is believed to be the only one now in Madison County.

It is housed in an all-steel building which has concrete floors and measures 128 by 30 feet. The roof has transparent panels to admit sunlight.

The gin is situated immediately north, and to the rear of Baker's Store at Owens Cross Roads. (See aerial photograph).



# CHAPTER TEN

## SESQUICENTENNIAL ORGANIZATION AND CREDITS

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By Tom McDonald

The Huntsville Sesquicentennial Corporation proudly takes this opportunity to thank the numerous and devoted citizens of Huntsville and Madison County who so generously devoted their time, their talents, their money and even their most cherished possessions to this grand celebration of the One Hundred Fiftieth anniversary of our birth.

Huntsville is a great city and this greatness can only be attributed to the character of its citizens and their predecessors, who throughout the years of our growth have been so wonderful and so gallant in promoting and bringing to reality the program which we have achieved.

During this sesquicentennial celebration, it has become most certain and apparent that all of us truly love our great community and that we love each other. If this realization is our only reward for staging this great event, then that reward alone makes all we've done worthwhile.

But truly too, our efforts have also brought great material benefits to us, both of a financial nature and in social, historical, governmental, and business ways. With all humility we can proudly boast that we have gained "a place in the sun" and brought further renown to our community and our state.

A project of this scope required a large organiza-

tion and careful planning. In this chapter we will endeavor to mention the people who worked through the various committees so that they may be properly credited with their part in this great Sesquicentennial celebration. If through error or inadvertance we have omitted anyone, we offer our humblest apologies. The entire staff and Mr. Jim Kling of the Rogers Production Company have checked these lists and we sincerely hope that they are complete.

To begin with we are delighted to introduce to the reader that distinguished gentleman and citizen who served as the General Chairman for this Sesquicentennial Celebration . . . Mr. James E. Taylor.

Within his capable hands was placed the great problem of organization and leadership. We do not have to say to "Jimmie" that his was a job well done! The results and success of the Sesquicentennial and the fruits of his great work are apparent to all. Huntsville was indeed fortunate to have a man so able, of such integrity, so energetic and of such an engaging personality in this great position of trust.

"Jimmie" Taylor as we love to call him, is Managing Director of the Russel Erskine Hotel, and has been affiliated with the Russel Erskine for many years. Through his position and his broad participation in civic activities he has gained personal ac-

Executive Committee for Sesquicentennial. Front row (left to right) Miss Eugenia Smith, Miss Alice Thomas, William Stevens, Jimmie Taylor, Mrs. Daisy Culps, Mrs. Rosa Harned. (Back row) Mayor R. B. Searcy, Lennie Taylor, Jimmy Walker, and Charles Shaver. Not shown is Walter Weisman, Reverend George Hart and Carl Moring, Jr.



quaintance with the great majority of our citizens and business firms, a knowledge which helped the corporation immensely in this celebration project.

Jimmie was Texas' loss and Huntsville's gain, having been born in Cooper, Texas on April 26, 1921. He moved to Huntsville in 1926 when his father accepted employment with the Huntsville Ice Cream and Creamery Company. (Now Meadow Gold Dairies).

He attended all of the grades of public school in Huntsville. From Grammar through Junior High and through High School.

Sports fans of the 30's remember him as the very able captain of the 1938 football squad at Huntsville High School under Coach Milton Frank. Jimmie was an outstanding guard on the team during the 1936-37 and 38 seasons.

It is particularly significant that Jimmie's interest in his chosen career began early. In 1937 he entered hotel work at the Russel Erskine as an elevator operator, working after school.

When World War II arrived he volunteered for service as a paratrooper and served with the 17th and 82nd Airborne Divisions in the European Theatre of operations.

In 1946 he returned to the Russel Erskine as catering Manager and was promoted to Manager in 1947, then to his present position as Managing Director in 1952.

Among his numerous civic honors and distinctions is the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award in 1953. He has also served as a director of the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

In the hotel field he has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Alabama Hotel Association for two years and was President of the Association in 1953 and 1954.

He belongs to the Rotary Club, Elks, V.F.W., American Legion Post 37, The Forty and Eight and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Taylor is a member of the First Baptist Church of Huntsville. His wife is Katherine Bulman Taylor and they have one child, a daughter, Deborah Sue, age six.

Other members of this very important Sesquicentennial Executive Committee of which Mr. Taylor is general chairman are: William Stevens, Jimmy Walker, Mrs. Daisy Culps, Mayor R. B. Searcy, Miss Eugenia Smith, Walter Wiesman, Charles E. Shaver, George Hart, Carl Moring, Jr., Mrs. Rosa Harned, Alice Thomas, and Lennie E. Taylor.

**FINANCE DIVISION**



Front Row: Roger Williams, Jack Chambers, Herbert Ray, H. Holmberg, Sr. Back Row: Carlisle Davis, Joe S. Foster, Jr., and James Record.

- Herbert Ray, Chairman.
- Underwriting Committee:
  - Jack Chambers, Chairman; Ben Giles, Herbert Ray.
- Historical Program Committee:
  - James Record and Tom McDonald, Co-Chairmen.
- Novelties Committee:
  - Roger Williams, Chairman; George Peace, Mrs. Jack Tyson, J. B. Hill.
- Concessions Committee:
  - Joe Foster, Chairman; Jack Chambers, Hugh Wasson
- Celebration Ball Committee:
  - Carlisle Davis, Chairman; Mrs. W. T. Hedden, Mrs. Joe Cameron, Mrs. Wesley Thomas, Mrs. John DeArmond, Mrs. William Mills.
- Fashion Show Committee:
  - Miss Nanette Stockton, Chairman; Mrs. Clark Hereford, Mrs. E. E. Camp.
- Decorations Committee:
  - H. Holmberg, Sr., Chairman.

**PROMOTIONAL DIVISION**



Front Row: Sam C. Broyles, Mrs. Ethel DeArmond, and Glenn Slayton. Back Row: Mrs. P. J. Vinson, Mrs. H. E. Miller, and Jimmy Horton.



**PROMOTIONAL DIVISION—Continued**

Sam Broyles and "Doody" Weinstein, co-chairmen; Mrs. H. E.; Miller, Vice-chairman.

Brothers of the Brush Committee:

Glenn Slayton, Chairman; L. A. Davis, Bruce Hovis, C. B. Corlette, Morton Allen, and Dr. Henry Anderson.

Sisters of the Swish Committee:

Mrs. John DeArmond, Chairman; Mrs. Clark Hereford, Co-Chairman; Mrs. Joe Cameron, Mrs. E. E. Camp, Miss Nanette Stockton, Mrs. Wesley Thomas, Mrs. W. T. Hedden, Mrs. A. L. Smith, and Mrs. Patrick Pruitt.

Men's Hats Committee:

Charles Smith, Chairman; Ed Clift, Jr., Stan Johnson, Harold Green, and Bill Penney.

Promenade and Caravan Committee:

Jimmy Horton, Chairman; Glenn Slayton, Bill Lane, Jr., Slim Lay, Clayton Hillis, Carlisle Davis, and Charles Gillespie.

Ladies Bonnets Committee:

Mrs. P. J. Vinson, Chairman; Mrs. Lester Anderson, Co-Chairman; Mrs. Richard Gilliam, Miss Virginia Harless, Mrs. William Mills, Mrs. L. Thomas, and Mrs. Bobbie Yarborough.

**SPECTACLE TICKET DIVISION**

Milton Frank, Chairman; Vance Thornton, Vice-Chairman.

Queen Contest Committee:

Eugenia Smith, Chairman; Mrs. Irene Jones, Mrs. Walton Rodgers, and Mrs. Milton Giles.

Cashier, Gate, and Ushers Committee:

Oliver Johnson, Chairman; James E. Davis, Cashier; Horace I. Woodall, Frank Brockett, Ed Dickey, M. W. Anderson, Lucy Green, Llovd B. Martin, Evelyn Talley, Alvin Dreger; Lt. Col. Jackson M. Balch, Ushers and parking; Major Troy D. Dendy, Major William L. Certain, III, Capt. J. E. Gibb, Members of the National Guard 279th Anti-Aircraft Battalion and the 1169th Combat Group will work with the Ushers and Parking chairman.

Patron's Ticket Committee:

Mrs. Ira Terry, Chairman; Mrs. Anna W. Rosborough, Co-Chairman; Mrs. Reese Amis, Mrs. Bess Bradley, Mrs. William Dickson, Mrs. Minnie A. Dillard, Mrs. Hugh Doak, Sr., Mrs. Jack Griffin, Mrs. M. U. Griffin, Mrs. William L. Halsey, Sr., Miss Jean Humphrey, Mrs. John Rison Jones, Mrs. Quincey B. Love, Mrs. Edward McGregor, Mrs. P. W. Peeler, Mrs. Rube Robinson, Miss Mary Rodgers, Mrs. Raphael Sims, Mrs. Biene Spragins, Miss Gretchen Strong and Mrs. J. S. Yarborough.

Front Row: Miss Eugenia Smith, Mrs. Ira Terry, and Mrs. Anna Rosborough. Back Row: Milton Frank, Arthur Cole, and Vance Thornton.



Ticket Book Committee:

Arthur Cole, Chairman; Lee Dunmyer, Ben Hughes, Jr., and Sandy Goldstein.

**SPECTACLE DIVISION**

Clarence Cobbs, Chairman; John Higdon, Co-Chairman.

Historical Research Group (Scenario and Title):

Frances Roberts, Chairman; Mrs. M. U. Griffin, Mrs. Jack Harbarger, Mrs. Anna Watts Rosborough, Miss Alice Thomas, Judge Thomas Jones, Mrs. Tom Jones, Jr., Judge Ashford Todd, Miss Dorothy Adair, Miss Mildred Canterbury, Miss Mary Irby Mastin, Miss Marguerite Steger, Mr. Carlton Henson, Mrs. Edith Johnson, Mr. Warren Sockwell, Mrs. Pat Richardson, Mrs. A. L. Smith, Mrs. Gene Gill Miss Doris Garvin, and Mr. James Record.

Cast Committee:

Mrs. Burton Stroupe, Chairman; Mrs. Charles Crute, Mrs. William Davoren, Mrs. Bill Stevens, Mrs. Robert Hopper, Mrs. William Johnston, Mrs. Roscoe Roberts, Mrs. William Biting, Mrs. Taylor Hamilton, Mrs. L. D. Lehman, Mrs. Edgar Mitchell, Mrs. Wendell Payne, Mrs. Louis Salmon, Mrs. Warren Sockwell, Mrs. Ernest Thiemonge, Mrs. John Blue, III, Mrs. Lloyd Little, and Mrs. Tom Thrasher.

Pageant Properties Committee:

Billy J. Jones, Chairman; *Roundup Crew*—Captain, Dyke McCullough; Tom Smith, Frank Moring, L. D. Lehman, Billy Connor; *Handout Crew*—Captain, Jimmy Cantrell; Marshall Walker, Jim Latham, Edgar Clift, A. E. Wilson, Jr., Dick Hay, Billy Isbell, Louis Lee, Woody Anderson, Billy Conner, David Culver, George Ferrell, Thompson Kelly, Tom Knight, L. D. Lehman, Regie Miree, Tully Turner, Louis Salmon, Jimmy Thornton, and Malvern Griffin; *Construction Properties Crew*—Captain, Ernest Thiemonge; Tom Yarborough, Billy Dilworth, George Ferrell, Louis Salmon, David Culver, Roscoe Roberts; *Vehicle Crew*—Captain, C. W. Anderson; Tully Turner, Louis Lee, Jr., Bill Fowler, Jimmy Thornton, Tommy Whitworth, Bill Callaway; *Livestock Crew*—Captain, Richard Gilliam; Ray Vandiver, Thompson Kelly, Donald Lewter, Sam Sockwell; *Transportation Crew*—Captain, Marvin Martin; Brandon Jones, Regie Miree, Tom Knight, Bernard Burkett, and Tom Sanford.

Construction Committee:

John Higdon, Chairman, W. E. McBride, Chairman of Grounds; Jim Cleary, Houston Adams, Horace Kyzer, Clyde Holman, Charley Motley, Trip Payne, Bill Giardini, Ned Wickham, and all members of Huntsville Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Spectacle Music Committee:

Hilding Holmberg, Jr., Chairman, Kenneth Turvey, Co-Chairman and Accompanist, Mrs. Pat Hamm, Chorus Director; Members of Chorus (Huntsville Community Chorus): Mrs. Buell Davis, Mrs. Jack Friedstein, Miss Helen Hamm, Mrs. Jack Hendrix, Mrs. Howard Hinshaw, Miss Magnolia Johnson, Miss Violet Minnith, Miss Margaret Mattheis, Mrs. Stephen Johnston, Mrs. T. W. Willis, Mrs. James C. Paschal, Miss Joan Bryant, Miss Alice Dill, Mrs. H. E. Miller, Mrs. Muriel Owens, Mrs. J. T. Powell, Mrs. Ona P. Plumadore, Mrs. William Schwarz, Mrs. Fred Steele, Mrs. Victor A. Tyler, Miss Elizabeth Weatherly, Mrs. Ryndol Weatherington, Miss Nellie Davis, Miss Magda DeBeck, Miss Elizabeth McMurtrie, Mrs. Robert Service, Miss Gisela Stein, Mrs. Conrad Swanson, Miss Audrey Crew, Mrs. G. A. Goodwin, Mrs. Gentry Miles, Mrs. Lloyd Walter, Mrs. Thomas Wilson, Mrs. Niles Prestage, Norman Harberger, Eugene A. Mechtly, Pat Hamm, M.D., Richard Nelson, Frank Cameron, Albert McDonald, William Etheridge, M.D., Carl Reiger, Sam Broyles, Jack Godsey, Cy Bryant, Bud Poole, Howard Shenk, Phil Findling, and Joe Cox. Victor Lyle, Joe Morrow, Fred Steele, Jr., Lloyd Walter, and Carl Winkler.

Costume and Make-up Committees:

Mrs. Frank Bunn, Chairman; Team #1 Team Captain,

**SPECTACLE DIVISION**



Left to Right: Mrs. Burton Stroupe, Mrs. Frank Bunn, Hilding Holmberg, Jr., Clarence Cobbs, W. E. McBride and Billy J. Jones.

Peggy Weitenbeck; Mary Carver, Kathleen Sisco, Betty Denson, Dottie Epps, Gloria Harrell; Team #2 Team Captain, Jane Northrup; Nell Holmes, Sue Kyser, Marion Thompson, Mary Nell Linney, Adelaide Steinberg; Team #3 Team Captain, Stella Bunn; Lucille Adams, Ruth Sharp, Etta Graves, Irene Adams, Barbara Plunker; Team #4 Team Captain, Hilary Weaver; Lucille Alsop, Batrice Glen, Stella Bunn, Ricky Johnstone, Cecile Lockridge; Team #5 Team Captain, Barbara Gardiner; Bobbie Collins, Ovelle Wood, Louise Jessick, Dorothea Fryman; Team #6 Team Captain, Nancy Besselsen; Stella Bunn, Marjorie Cloud, Nancy Lacy, Ruby Lakebrink, Louise Ware; Team #7 Team Captain, Jo Collins; Christine McClung, Marjorie Newby, Erica Weisemann, Stella Bunn; Team #8 Team Captain, Elizabeth Wiley; Jean Morgan, Gladys Hillenbrand, and Alice Riley.

**Grounds Committee:**

W. E. McBride, Chairman; Chief of Police, Grover C. Pylant, Fire Chief, Massey Tolen, Joe Payne, David Culver, and John Hooper.

**PUBLICITY DIVISION**

Front Row: A. C. Kimrey, and Reese Amis. Back Row, John Garrison, John Chandler, and Earl Cloud.



**PUBLICITY DIVISION—Continued**

A. C. Kimrey, Jr., Chairman, John Garrison, Vice Chairman  
Press Release Committee:

Reese T. Amis, Chairman; Martha W. Smith, Sarah Baker, Mac Harris, Alex Thomas, Chris Ekle, and John Thompson.

Radio and T. V. Committee:

John Garrison, Chairman; Jack Neal, and W. H. Pollard

Distributive Committee:

John Chandler, Chairman; John Rodenhouser; Duane Libev.

Speakers Committee:

Earl Cloud, Chairman; Mary Butler, Mrs. Charles Cason, Mrs. Charles Crute, Rick Davies, Joe Davis, Frank Gardiner, Mrs. Abe Goldstein, Thomas W. Jones, Jr., Helen Lawler, Mary Elizabeth Mills, Charles Northrop, Howard Sandlin, Mrs. Fred Smith, R. P. Stanley, Mrs. James Turner, Jimmy Walker, Dorothy Webb, Walter Weisemann, and Mrs. Carl Woodall.

**HOSPITALITY DIVISION**

Alvin Blackwell, Chairman.

Dignitaries and Guest Committee:

Robert K. Bell, Chairman; J. R. Smith, Clarence Cobbs, Mrs. Joe Cooper.

Traffic Safety Committee:

Chief Grover Pylant, Chairman; Harry Pennington, James Taylor, John Futch, Lauin Carroll, Jerry Breedlove.

Housing Committee:

William G. Hamm, Jr., Chairman.

Left to Right: Robert K. Bell, Alvin Blackwell, Mrs. Joe Cooper, and Grover Pylant.



**Transportation Committee:**

B. A. Stockton, Jr., Chairman; Members, Huntsville New Car Dealers Association.

**Homecoming Committee:**

Mrs. Joe Cooper, Chairman; Mrs. Sarah Dillard, Mrs. W. H. Pollard, Mrs. Henry Balch, Mrs. Ruby Chapman, Mrs. Katie Wyatt, Mrs. Helen McCaleb, Mrs. Clarence Grace, Mrs. Sadie Monroe, Mrs. Claude Davis, Mrs. W. E. Pettus, Mrs. Walter Eigenbrod, Mrs. Jack Chambers, Mrs. Anna Watts Rosborough, Mrs. Jennie Rodgers, Mrs. Clara Martin, Mrs. Jack Hines, Mrs. Beulah Johnston, Mrs. Carlisle Davis, Mrs. Lottie Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. Mildred Nance, Mrs. Virginia Cooper, Mrs. Floyd Spinelli, Miss Ora Wilson, Miss Essie Esslinger.

**Coffee Committee:**

Mrs. Jimmy Davis, Mrs. Virginia Cooper, Mrs. Jimmy Hayes, Mrs. Carl Jones, Mrs. Ruth Doak, Mrs. Louise Keith, Mrs. W. T. Galloway, Miss Elizabeth Black, Mrs. Virginia Hines, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Mills, Mrs. Herman Shields, Miss Martha Atkins.

**SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION**

Left to Right: Massey Tolen, Jr., Dr. Lloyd Cummings, Will Halsey, Jr., W. L. Russell, Jr., Charles A. Crute, Pete Taylor, John Futch, and Roy M. Blackburn.

Roy Blackburn, Chairman; Dr. Lloyd Cummings, Vice Chairman

**Historical Window Committee:**

Charles Crute, Jr., Chairman.

**Parades Committee:**

John Futch, Chairman; Mr. William Myers, Mr. V. A. Bria.

**Music Committee:**

Hilding Holmberg, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Pat Hammi, Kenneth Turvey, Norman Harberger.

**Fire Works Committee:**

Pete Taylor, Chairman; W. L. Russell, Jr., Vice Chairman; Massey Tolen.

**SPECIAL DAYS DIVISION**

Dorsey Uptain, Chairman; C. R. McBrayer, Vice Chairman.

**Merchants' Promotion Committee:**

Howard Gentle, Chairman; Howard Swinford, Richard Spencer, Frank Church, Ferrell Mason, Willis Kimrey, Steve Marx, Stanley Bell, Willis Johnson, Clyde Castleman, Bill Fowler, John Weaver, Sandy Goldstein.

**Freedom of Religion Day Committee:**

(Sunday) Rev. George Hart, Chairman; Rev. John Bonner, Co-Chairman; Rev. T. L. Flynn, Mortie Weil, Rev. E. D. White.

**Governor's and Homecoming Day Committees:**

(Monday) Abe Goldstein, Chairman; Harry Pennington, Co-



Left to Right, Front Row: C. R. McBrayer, Dorsey Uptain, and Abe Goldstein. Back Row: Woody Anderson, Doug Ray and Foster Haley.

Chairman; Jimmy Walker, James Record, A. I. Smith.

**Business and Industry Day Committee:**

(Tuesday) C. R. McBrayer, Chairman; Kenneth Holder, Vice Chairman; John T. Uptain, Joe Eaton, Pickens Gates.

**Redstone Arsenal Day Committee:**

(Wednesday) Foster Haley, Chairman; Captain Joe Hosemann, Vice Chairman; E. C. Wooten, Lt. Archie Hamlet, Capt. H. P. Schoenman, Jr., Gus Brown, Maj. H. R. Jones, Don Worrell, John Womble, George Potts.

**Brothers of the Brush and Sisters of the Swish Day Committee:**

(Thursday) "Woody" Anderson, Chairman; Louis Salmon, Vice Chairman; Jim Latham, Louis Lee, Jr., Will Mickle.

**Youth and Civic Club Day Committee:**

(Friday) Douglas Ray, Chairman; Stanley Johnson, Vice Chairman; Tom Floyd, Rev. M. H. Stocks, W. E. McBride, Dr. J. S. Burbage, B. J. Allison, Martin Philips.

**Agriculture and Congressional Day Committee:**

(Saturday) Lloyd Little, Agricultural Chairman; Milton K. Cummings, Congressional Chairman; Ted Hedden, Mrs. Joe Walker, R. O. Magnusson, Dick Orr, F. M. Patterson, Bob Lowery, Tom Thrasher, Tony Wilmer, G. N. Robinson, Jr., Alex Mitchell, Bo Howard, W. W. Sanderson, John Blue, III, R. L. Stone.

**NEGRO DIVISION**

Dr. J. F. Drake, Chairman; R. E. Nelms, Vice Chairman.

**Freedom of Religion Day Committee:**

Reverend E. D. White, Chairman.

Negro Division Sesquicentennial; Front row left to right: C. L. Ray, Mrs. Grace Cliff, Mrs. Elois Sampson, and Reverend E. W. White. Back row left to right: Isaac Rooks, William Turner, R. E. Nelms, L. G. Fields, and L. D. Lacy.



**Brothers of the Brush Committee:**

Charles L. Rav, Chairman; Maco Lanier, James Smothers, James Harris Pickens, Professor J. H. Richards, Sam Patton.

**Cast Committee:**

Isaac Rooks, Chairman.

**Men's Hats Committee:**

J. D. Lacy, Chairman; Sam Patton, Elijah Joiner, W. L. Vann.

**Bonnets Committee:**

Grace Clift, Chairman; Irene Fletcher.

**Dance Committee:**

William Turner, Chairman; Jeffrey Johnson, Lee Lacey, James Smothers.

**Sisters of the Swish Committee:**

Elois S. Sampson, Chairman; Eunice J. Clay, Elizabeth White, Juanita Lane.

**Parade Committee:**

Isaac Rooks, Chairman; Perry Ward, Vice Chairman; W. Q. Scott, Robert Adams, Addison Fields, J. H. Richards, James Mayfield.

**UNDERWRITERS**

The Huntsville Sesquicentennial Association expresses its thanks to the following who by their financial aid assured us of this celebration and at the same time expressed their confidence in the future of this great city.

John L. (Jack) Chambers, Chairman; Herbert Ray and Ben Giles. The following are the firms and individuals who underwrote the celebration: Alabama Grocery Company, Dr. Milton Anderson, Bentley Brothers, Oldsmobile, Bell, Moring and Richardson, John Blue Company, Belk Hudson Company, Business Equipment Company, Bragg Furniture Company, Chase Nursery Company, Cole Motor Company, City Drug Company, Davis-Cummings Insurance Agency, Dunnavant's, Incorporated, Dilworth Lumber Company, Jere Evans, First National Bank, Walton Fleming, Fowler's Department Store, Dr. Carl A. Grote, George Gesman & Company, Geron Lumber Company, General Shoe Corporation, Dr. T. S. Gibson, Abe Goldstein, Howard Gentle Finance Company, Hill Chevrolet Company, H. & H. Walgreen Agency, Henderson National Bank, Humphrey's Twickenham Pharmacy, Huntsville Building Material Company, Huntsville Hotel Company, Incorporated, Huntsville Times, Huntsville Manufacturing Company, Huntsville Implement Company, Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company, W. L. Halsey Grocery Company, Johnson & Mahoney, Jones-Baugh Bonded Warehouse, Incorporated, G. W. Jones & Sons, Johnston Concrete Products Company, Arnold Kay Insurance Company, Liberty National Life Insurance Company, Lincoln Mills of Alabama, Lanier, Price, Shaver & Lanier, Lowry-Morgan & Company, Ltd., Larkin-Davis, Lewter Hardware Company, Martin Stove Company, Mason Furniture Company, Meadow Gold Dairies of Alabama, T. W. McClure, Monte Plaza Motel, F. Kenneth Noojin, J. C. Penny Company, Incorporated, Planters Warehouse & Storage Company, Rose Jewelry Company, C. B. Ragland, Ray Auto Company, Harry M. Rhett, Jr., Sterchi Brothers (Carl Woodall), I. Schiffman Company, John Scott Insurance Agency, State National Bank, Stockton Motor Car Company, Standard Oil Company, Star Market, Sandlin Hardware Company, Smith, Johnston & Butler, Ira Terry, Thornton & Thornton, Uptains Footwear, U. S. I. Chemical Corporation, Valley View Farms (Ben Giles), Wallace & Company (John Wallace III), White Swan Laundry.

The Magnolia Buds (Courtesy of Sesquicentennial Underwriters).



Left to right: Doodie Weinstein (co-chairman of Promotional Division); Walter Weisman, (director of Sesquicorporation); Charles R. Smith (chairman of Mens' Hat Committee); Carl Moring, Jr. (sesqui-headquarters chairman); and Howard Gentle (chairman of the merchants Promotion Committee).

**PROGRAM OF EVENTS FOR HUNTSVILLE SESQUICENTENNIAL**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1955**

**"Sesqui Day"**

8:00 P.M. Big Spring Park, "All night sing"—conducted by and featuring Wally Fowler—Three of the nations top quartets will be presented: The Oak Ridge Quartet, The Spear Family of Nashville, Tennessee, Jimmy Davis, Ex-Gov. of La., and of course, Wally Fowler.

Brothers of the Brush Board of Governors, Chairman of the Day John Weaver

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1955**

**"Religious Freedom Day"**

11:00 A.M. Services in each Church with special emphasis on the beginning of the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

2:30 to Tours of the Historic Churches of Huntsville.

5:00 P.M.

8:00 P.M. Big Spring Park, Pageant Ground—Religious Pageant telling the story of the coming of the Major Religious Groups to Huntsville. "Our Churches Speak Their History." Authors, Mrs. Raphael Semmes, and Mrs. Robert Hubbard; organist, Joe Morrow.

8:45 P.M. Big Spring Park, Pageant Ground—Principal address by Dr. B. Harvie Branscomb, Chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

Big Spring Park, Pageant Ground—Concert by Huntsville Community Chorus of more than two hundred.  
Rev. George Hart, Chairman  
Rev. John Bonner, Vice-Chairman

Freedom of Religion Day Committee: Rev. John Bonner, Mort Weil, Jr., and Reverend T. L. Flynn.





Brothers of the Brush Board of Governors. Front row left to right: J. C. Sanders, R. D. Chamberlain, Bill Adcock, Howard Sandlin, Joe Edwards, A. V. Robinson, Melvin Miller, Glenn Slayton. Second Row left to right: J. B. Fields, John Alford, John Edwards, L. L. Whitworth, J. N. Slayton, A. G. Williams, John Weaver, Don Jessick, James E. Reed, Cecil Mitchell, Elmore Johnson, and Doody Weinstein. Third Row left to right: John Tumminello, M. S. Andres, Charlie Burdette, Buck Spelce, Juan Pizarro II, Henry Turner, Jr., Louis A. Dossett, Oscar Moon, F. D. Mason, and Homer Corum.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1955**  
**"Governors and Homecoming Day"**

All day, every day, downtown, viewing of merchants' historical window displays.

- 9:00 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Registration of all visitors to
- 5:00 P.M. at the Hospitality Center.
- 9:00 A.M. Official Sesqui-Centennial opening—Aerial fireworks, ringing of bells and sirens.
- 10:00 A.M. Gigantic Sesqui-Centennial Parade—Led by Governor "Big Jim" Folsom and other distinguished visitors . . . Bands, Floats, Marching units . . . Highlighted with the Civil Air Patrol.
- 11:00 A.M. Courthouse Square—Music and entertainment by various Hill-Billy bands.
- 11:30 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Address by Governor James E. Folsom from the reviewing stands.
- 12:30 P.M. Russel Erskine Hotel—Luncheon for the Governor and dignitaries.
- 2:00 P.M. County Courthouse, Hospitality Center—Tea served by members of Hospitality Committee.
- 4:00 P.M. Madison County Courthouse, Hospitality Center—Registration and transportation provided for tour of Ante-Bellum homes.
- 5:00 P.M. Maple Hill Cemetery—Laying wreaths on ex-governors graves buried here by Gov. James E. Folsom.
- 5:00 P.M. Big Spring Park—Reunions and Picnics, Swimming, Tennis, to
- 6:30 P.M. etc.

Homecoming and Governors Day Committee: Front row: Abe Goldstein, and Jimmy Walker. Back Row: Harry Pennington, A. L. Smith and James Record.



- 8:00 P.M. Big Spring Park—First performance of the Historical Stage Show, "Into This Valley", with over 1178 in the cast on a 300 foot stage. First presentation of the Queen of the Sesqui-Centennial and princesses of her Court. Announcement and crowning of the Queen by Governor James E. Folsom. Spectacular fire works display each night following the show at Big Spring Park.
- Abe Goldstein, Chairman of Day
- Harry Pennington, Vice Chairman
- Mrs. Joe Cooper, Chairman of Homecoming

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1955**  
**"Business and Industry Day"**

"All day, every day, downtown, viewing of merchants' historical window displays.

- 9:00 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Registration of all visitors to
- 5:30 P.M. at the Hospitality Center.
- 9:00 A.M. "Old fashion bargain days" at all stores returning to you with all the unbelievable prices of 1805. See your newspaper for complete information. Be sure to see the special old time fashion show with prizes for the winners and the Audience.
- 9:00 A.M. Court House Square—Largest displays of modern machinery in action that has ever been presented in this vicinity. Gifts and novelties for all.
- 8:00 P.M. Lyric Theatre—Style Show of Sesquicentennial costumes. Entries from chapters of Sisters of the Swish.
- 9:30 A.M. Parade downtown Huntsville of Bands, floats and Industrial entries.
- 10:30 A.M. Russel Erskine Hotel Ball Room—Luncheon followed by speech by Mr. Tom Russell, Industrial Leader and President of State Chamber of Commerce. National and Local industrial leaders as guests.
- 12:00 Noon
- 2:00 P.M. Madison County Courthouse, Hospitality Center—Registration for transportation and guided tours through various

Business and Industry Day Committee: Front Row: Kenneth Holder, C. R. McBrayer, Dorsey Uptain, and J. T. Uptain. Back Row: Joe Eaton and Howard Gentle.



- 3:00 P.M. Madison County Court House—Flower Show sponsored by the Garden Clubs of the City.
  - 4:00 P.M. plants of Huntsville. See newspaper for list of firms holding open house or check at the Hospitality Center.
  - 5:30 P.M. (Area to be announced)—Time Capsule Ceremony.
  - 8:00 P.M. Big Spring Park—Second performance of the Mammoth Stage show, "Into This Valley", presented on a 300 foot stage with a cast of 1178 people.
- Spectacular fire works display each night following the show at Big Spring Park.

C. R. McBrayer, Chairman  
Kenneth Holder, Vice-Chairman

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1955**  
**"Redstone Arsenal Day"**



Redstone Arsenal Day Committee: Left to right, seated: Mai, Arthur Hogan, Provost Marshal; Dorsey Uptain, special days chairman; Foster Haley, Redstone Arsenal Day Committee Chairman; Jimmie Taylor, Sesqui general chairman; and E. C. Wooten, Guided Missile Development Division representative.

Left to right, standing: Lt. Archie Hamlet, assistant provost marshal; Captain Harry P. Schoenman, Jr., troop commander; Gus Brown, post engineer representative; Major Hubert R. Jones, Ordnance Guided Missile School Representative; Don Worrell, publicity chairman; Jim Kling, Rogers Production C. representative; John Womble, Rocket Development Division representative; and George Potts, transportation representative.

"All day, every day, downtown, viewing of merchants' historical window displays.

- 9:00 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Registration of all visitors at to
- 5:30 P.M. the Hospitality Center.
- 9:00 A.M. Guided Missile and Rocket display at the Courthouse to
- 4:00 P.M. Square.
- 12:00 Noon Principal address by Redstone Arsenal Day speaker at Russel Erskine Hotel Ballroom.
- 2:00 P.M. Military parade in downtown Huntsville.
- 7:00 P.M. Big Spring Park, Pageant Grounds—Concert by 3rd Army Band.
- 8:00 P.M. Short address by Redstone Arsenal Day speaker preceding the pageant. Third performance of the Historical Stage Show, "Into This Valley", with a cast of 1178 on a 300 foot stage. Spectacular fire works display each night following the show at Big Spring Park.
- 9:00 P.M. Cambron's Aero Club and V.F.W. Club—Dance—"Lily till
- Flagg Frolic," featuring music of nationally known Charlie Spivak and his 14 piece band. Grand March led by Her Majesty, The Queen and her Court.

Foster Haley, Chairman  
Captain Joe Hosemann, Vice-Chairman

Sisters of the Swish Board of Governors Committee: Carolyn Blocker, Derrie Slayton, Hazel Mitchell, Mayola Ray, Dot Brown, Stella Warner, Ruby Cambron, Mary L. Veatch, Louise H. Loeb, Essie Thomas, Opal Hooper, Lucille Greenwood, Mary England, Mona McKissack, Shirley Milan, Betty Corter. Fourth Row: Frankie Clark, Edna Mazy, Billie Grosser. Fifth Row: Marge Newby, Jackie Burt, Barbara Gardiner, Jean Baker.



Sisters of the Swish Board of Governors Committee: Ethel DeArmond, Lois Coates, Lorane Payne, Nancy Owen, Hazel Troupe, Peggy Farrow, Mabel Gibson, Shirley Chaney, Letha Strickland, Avis Anderson, Essie Esslinger, Mrs. P. J. Vinson, Stella Laughmiller, Ora Wilson, Opal Morrison, Inge Holderer, Mary Scott, Vera Futch, Doris Garvin, Jane Willis, Anne Luna, Betty Buckner, Lynda Tate, Betty Lynn Brown, Rebecca Martin, Mary Nevels, Bertha Ray, Beulah Milam, Enith Wilbourn, Sue Curtis, Mary Taylor, Mary Sanders, Thelma Sandlin, Joyce Church.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1955**

**"Brother of the Brush and Sister of the Swish"**

"All day, every day, downtown, viewing of merchants' historical window displays.

- 9:00 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Registration of all visitors at to
- 5:00 P.M. the Hospitality Center.
- 9:00 A.M. Russel Erskine Hotel, Lobby—Registration of all visiting to
- 12:00 A.M. Mayors and Editors and their wives.
- 1:00 P.M. Tour of Ante Bellum Homes. to
- 3:00 P.M.
- 2:00 P.M. Big Spring Park, picnic area—Fashion Promenade of the to
- 4:00 P.M. Sisters of the Swish (prizes for the outstanding costumes—judging for best husband and wife costumes, mother and children in costume, oldest costume, most authentic, etc., some 15 different divisions will be judged.), and antics of the brothers of the brush.
- 4:00 P.M. Russel Erskine Hotel, Ball Room—Dinner served in grand to
- 5:00 P.M. style with the ladies of the Welcome Wagon Chapter acting as Hostess for editors, mayors and wives.
- 6:30 P.M. Parade of Horse drawn carriages and buggies, antique motor cars, Chapters of Brothers of Brush, Sisters of Swish, Funsters Galore, beautiful floats, both commercial and home made.
- 8:00 P.M. Big Spring Park. Pageant Grounds—Fourth performance of the Historical Stage Show, "Into This Valley", with a cast of 1178 on a 300 foot stage. Spectacular fire works display each night following the show at Big Spring Park.
- 9:00 P.M. Downtown Huntsville—Street Dance—White, Round and Square Dancing.

Woody Anderson, Chairman of the Day  
Louis Salmon, Vice Chairman

Brothers of the Brush and Sisters of The Swish Committee: Ed Cliff, Woody Anderson, Jim Latham, and Louis Lee, Jr.





Youth and Civic Club Day Committee: Front Row: Dr. Jesse Burbage, W. E. McBride, and Martin Phillips. Back Row: Reverend M. H. Stokes, Stanley Johnson, and Doug Ray.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1955

#### "Youth and Civic Club Day"

All day, every day, downtown, viewing of merchants' historical window displays.

- 9:00 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Registration of all visitors at to  
5:00 P.M. the Hospitality Center.  
City Schools will be dismissed at 12:00 noon.
- 10:00 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Band concert and Majorette contest.
- 10:45 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Selection of Junior Sesqui-Centennial Queen. Age 3-6 years.
- 1:30 P.M. Downtown Huntsville Youth Parade—Prize for Costumed Youngsters, Decorated Bicycles, Junior Floats, Most Novel Pets, etc. Free prizes for all contestants.
- 2:30 P.M. Big Spring Park—Refreshments for children. Contests of all kinds such as Bicycle Rodeo, greased pole climbing, sack race, three legged race, guinea catching, greased pig catching, with plenty of prizes and an outstanding Boy Scout display.
- 6:30 P.M. Big Spring Park—Pageant Site—Judging for the outstanding beards of the celebration—prizes—and a shaving contest with a laugh a minute.
- 8:00 P.M. Big Spring Park, Pageant Grounds—Fifth performance of the Historical Stage Show, "Into This Valley", with a cast of 1178 on a 300 foot stage. Spectacular fire works display each night following the show at Big Spring Park.
- 9:00 P.M. Downtown Huntsville—Negro Street Dance, Judging for till  
? Negro Brothers of the Brush and Sisters of the Swish.

Douglas Ray, Chairman  
Stanley Johnson, Vice-Chairman

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1955

#### "Agriculture and Congressional Day"

All day, every day, downtown, viewing of merchants' historical window displays.

- 9:00 A.M. Madison County Courthouse—Registration of all visitors at to  
5:00 P.M. the Hospitality Center.
- 10:00 A.M. Parade led by Hon. Lister Hill, U. S. Senator. Bands, floats, motorized units, array of agriculture implements, entries from FFA Chapters.
- 12:00 to 1:00 P.M. Russel Erskine Hotel Ballroom—Luncheon for Sen. Lister Hill.
- 12:00 A.M. Big Spring Park, Pageant Grounds—Large display of Farm to

Agricultural and Congressional Day Committee: Front Row: Lloyd Little, Milton Cummings, and W. T. Hedden. Back row: Bo Howard, Dick Orr, and G. N. Robinson, Jr.



- 8:00 P.M. Equipment.
- 2:00 P.M. Big Spring Park, Pageant Grounds—Music by various quartets and choral groups, featuring favorites in both religious and folk songs.
- 2:30 P.M. Big Spring Park Pageant Grounds—Address by U. S. Senator Lister Hill.
- 3:00 P.M. Fiddlers contest, Hog Calling, Woodchopping, and fun for to  
5:00 P.M. all.
- 8:00 P.M. Big Spring Park, Pageant Grounds—Sixth and Last presentation of the Historical stage show, "Into This Valley" with a cast of 1178 on a 300 foot stage. Spectacular fire works display each night following the show at the Big Spring Park.

Lloyd Little, Chairman of the Day

Milton K. Cummings, Congressional Chairman

- 9:00 P.M. Huntsville High School teen age dance music furnished by to 12:00 a local band.

## SISTERS OF THE SWISH CHAPTERS

### HOOPS, MY DEAR

#### CHAPTER NO. 1

President, Mrs. W. T. Hedden

Secretary, Mrs. E. E. Camp

Treasurer, Mrs. Howard Thames

Board of Governors Representative, Mrs. T. L. Greenwood

#### Members:

Mrs. Robert Hubbard, Mrs. Frederick Sayers, Mrs. Gordon Forbes, Mrs. R. C. Darden, Mrs. W. R. Austin, Mrs. Charles Prevost, Mrs. Max West, Mrs. Walter Crumpton, Mrs. Lloyd Fowler, Mrs. W. T. Hedden, Mrs. Charles W. Anderson, Mrs. J. M. Russell, Mrs. Perry Giles, Mrs. Cliff Fitton, Mrs. T. L. Greenwood, Mrs. Lloyd Holloway, Mrs. E. E. Camp, Mrs. John Chandler, Mrs. E. M. Vaughn, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Howard Thames, Mrs. G. B. Huckaby, Mrs. Ralph Swann, Mrs. W. F. Haite, Mrs. J. P. Riggs, Mrs. Leo Brookshire, Mrs. William Harrell, Mrs. Richard E. Ely, C. E. Richardson, Mrs. A. J. Zazzi, Mrs. Hugh Wasson, Mrs. Franklin Broyles, Mrs. Hugh Taylor, Mrs. Walter Mills, Mrs. Edward Dennis, Mrs. Sam Moore, Mrs. Wm. Crump, Mrs. Loyd Kranert, Mrs. Robert Haraway, Mrs. Wm. Rotenberry, rs. Frederick Smith, Mrs. John Womble, Mrs. J. L. Hillenbrand, Mrs. Harry Pennington, Mrs. H. L. Anderson, Mrs. Wm. Etheridge.

Rickey Johnstone, Mrs. Clarence Cobbs, Mrs. J. Thomas Knight, Mrs. J. F. Neely, Mrs. Robert Lochridge, Mrs. Walter Orgain, Mrs. James R. Turner, Mrs. J. L. Pylant, Mrs. John W. Womble, Mrs. William Pennington, Mrs. David Waitzman, Mrs. Witt Compton, Mrs. David Scott, Mrs. Neal Roberts, Mrs. Joseph Rush, Mrs. Jo

### WAGGIN' TONGUES

#### CHAPTER NO. 2

President, Mrs. J. Frank Pettitt

Secretary, Mrs. Donald E. Morgan

Treasurer, Mrs. Donald E. Morgan

Board of Governors Representative, Mrs. James L. Strickland

#### Members:

Mrs. Wm. C. Rottenberry, Mrs. Robert A. Ragland, Mrs. Chas. Kinsley, Mrs. K. T. Donahue, Mrs. Frederick Fisher, Mrs. J. M. Riddle, Mrs. J. Frank Pettitt, Mrs. James E. Gibbs, Mrs. Robert A. Wylie, Mrs. Donald E. Morgan, Mrs. Fred Williamson, Mrs. Chester Savelle, Mrs. Richard Lewis, Mrs. Brooks Moore, Mrs. Everette S. Brooks, Mrs. H. C. Hogan.

### OPTI-MISS CLUB

#### CHAPTER NO. 3

President,

Secretary,

Treasurer, Mrs. J. D. Acuff

Board of Governors Representative,

#### Members:

Mrs. Emmitt Rodgers, Mrs. Gloria Butler, Mrs. Edwin Burwell, Mrs. Willie Belle Acuff, Mrs. Catherine Byers, Mrs. Hilda Dickey, Mrs. Polly Roth, Mrs. Nancy Erskine, Mrs. Virginia Cooper, Mrs. Martha Bryant, Mrs. Doris Hardwick, Mrs. Clarence Beasley, Mrs. Donald Roth, Mrs. Geneva Bentley, Mrs. Kate Esslinger, Mrs. Marshall Keith.

### THE PROGRESSIVE GRACES

#### CHAPTER NO. 4

President,

Secretary,

Treasurer,

Board of Governors Representative,

#### Members:

Mrs. E. V. Caldwell, Mrs. George Cooper, Jr., Mrs. Walter Eigerbrod, Mrs. Tom Dilworth, Mrs. Tom Dark, Mrs. Dwight Beeson, Mrs. Holland Gilliam, Mrs. Jim Terry, Mrs. Nell Young, Mrs.

Vivian Donovan, Mrs. A. D. Elliott, Mrs. Milton Cummings, Mrs. Robert Bibb, Mrs. Vera Hall, Mrs. Clarence Beasley, Mrs. Ashford Todd, Mrs. Preston Geron, Mrs. Josh Kelly, Mrs. Walter England, Mrs. L. F. Sullivan, Mrs. Luke Matthews, Mrs. Robert Lowe, Mrs. Otis Gay.

**PRUDENT PETUNIAS OF PULCHRITUDE**

**CHAPTER NO. 5**

President, Mrs. John Wall  
 Secretary,  
 Treasurer, Mrs. Stanley Veatch  
 Board of Governors Representative

**Members:**

Mrs. W. L. Brandon, Mrs. Roy Buchanan, Mrs. Joe Burgess, Mrs. Joe Cambron, Mrs. John De Armond, Mrs. E. L. Fanning, Mrs. Robert Ford, Mrs. E. D. Kinnibrough, Mrs. Addie S. Johnson, Mrs. Harry Miller, Mrs. Carl Jones, Mrs. J. E. Macon, Mrs. O. H. McAnally, Mrs. Howard Moore, Mrs. Harvey Nelson, Mrs. Joe J. Poggione, Mrs. Verne Rickmeyer, Mrs. W. O. Sisco, Jr., Mrs. Roy Stone, Mrs. McLeod Timmons, Mrs. Shelby Vaughn, Mrs. Stanley Veatch, Mrs. John Wall, Mrs. Thomas Witt, Mrs. Wesley Thomas, Mrs. Wm. M. Fowler, Mrs. D. E. Foxworthy, Mrs. Henry Noake, Mrs. R. I. Strickland, Mrs. R. H. Shelton, Mrs. Carl Woodall.

**Associate Members:**

Mrs. Clarence Beasley, Mrs. J. D. Acuff, Mrs. E. Witt Compton, Mrs. Lloyd Hays, Mrs. Joe Cooper, Sr., Mrs. Wilma West, Mrs. E. M. Bright, Mrs. Frank James, Mrs. David Birdsong, Mrs. W. J. Malone, Mrs. J. D. Hays, Mrs. Marion L. Russell, Mrs. Clarence J. Waite.

**THE SWISHING ALTRUSANS (ALTRUSA CLUB)**

**CHAPTER NO. 6**

President, Mrs. Mamie Steger  
 Secretary, Mrs. Mary Derryberry,  
 Treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Kelly,  
 Board of Governors Representative, Miss Eugenia Smith

**Members:**

Mrs. Frances Chesnutt, Miss Eugenia Smith, Mrs. Ruth Kelly, Miss Alta Trotman, Mrs. Irene Jones, Dr. Varina Warren, Mrs. Mamie Steger, Mrs. Louise Rodgers, Mrs. Capitola Carpenter, Mrs. Stella Laughmiller, Mrs. Leila Vandiver, Mrs. Nina Chandler, Mrs. Elizabeth Ray, Mrs. Myrtle Wall, Mrs. Etta Mary Vinson.

**BUSTLE RUSTLERS (BETA SIGMA PHI)**

**CHAPTER NO. 7**

President, Doris Garvin  
 Secretary, Rebecca Locke  
 Treasurer, Betty Soule (Mrs. Levin)  
 Board of Governors Representative, Mary Johnson (Mrs. Raymond)

**Members:**

Sadie Anzek (Mrs. Michael), Alda Ball, (Mrs. Tom), Dorothy (Dot) Couch, Dorothy (Dot), Davis (Mrs. Joe), Era Ann Forbis (Mrs. Max), Doris Garvin, Mary Johnson (Mrs. Raymond), Lena Grace Hinesley (Mrs. Joe), Juanita Martin (Mrs. Marvin), Margaret Pelham (Mrs. Joe), Janie Penick (Mrs. Harold), Frances Teal (Mrs. Paul), Doris White (Mrs. Niles), Virginia Roberts, Mrs. J. I. McKee, Ann Hampton, Jo Davis, Peggy Bour, Lula Hollingsworth, Mildred A. Busbin, Ellene Cleveland, Melba Hall, Bobbye Collins, Myrtle Kilbourn, Ellene Cleveland, Wauhilla Wall, Jennie Ellett.

**ALADDIN'S BELLES (ALLADIN CLUB)**

**CHAPTER NO. 8**

President, Mrs. Clayton Mercer  
 Secretary, Mrs. Frances Minor  
 Treasurer, Mrs. W. B. England  
 Board of Governors Representative,

**Members:**

Mrs. C. B. O'Reilly, Jr., Mrs. W. H. Alexander, Mrs. Wm. McKisack, Mrs. W. B. England, Mrs. Howard Slayden, Mrs. Charles

Cason, Mrs. Felix Newman, Mrs. Milton Frank, Mrs. Clayton Mercer, Mrs. A. R. Carlton, Mrs. Irene Jones, Mrs. Jas. L. Murphy, Mrs. Vivian Donovan, Mrs. Katherine Godfree, Mrs. Hugh Wasson, Mrs. Dwight Beeson, Mrs. Bill Cummings.

**THE SILVER DOLLIES (BANKS OF HUNTSVILLE)**

**CHAPTER NO. 9**

President,  
 Secretary, Barbara Hoover  
 Treasurer,  
 Board of Governors Representative:

**Members:**

Kay James, Virginia Stoner, Jo Ann Oswald, Agnes O'Neal, Letha Mitchell, Lillian True, Jervy Perry, Barbara Wright, Jo Price, Katherine Massey, Margene Hudson, Billie Crick, Jacquelyn Brewer, Gloria Bowen, Merle Tumminello, Edith Wells, Verna Hendrick, Effie Taylor, Maxie Wilbourn, Ruth Hough, Anne Fanning, Virginia Parker, Frances Hovis, Wauhilla Wall, Mildred Lasater, Frances Haynes, Joyce Gardiner, Monty Ellis, Mary Frances Clardy, Dot Prescott, Betty Carter, Barbara Hoover, Jewell Smith, Janie Blair, Rita Patterson, Avalyn Locke, Grace Drake, Kathryn Brock, Rebecca Wall, Hettie Garvin, Bertha N. Woodard, Mae Corlette, Ernestine Osborne, Patsy B. Davis, Vivian H. Prince, Inez Flack, Bessie Bradford.

**COBBLERETTES (GENERAL SHOE)**

**CHAPTER NO. 10**

President, Margaret Brazelton  
 Vice-President, Florence Keele  
 Secretary, Sarah Pickett  
 Treasurer, Mabel Gipton  
 Board of Governors Representatives, Opal Morrison and Ruth Taylor

**Members:**

Nadine Bryom, Emma Davis, Lois Jackson, Carolyn Layne, Florence Keele, Sue Hayle, Arva Lee Smith, Mabel Gipson, Sarah Parvin, Evelyn Payne, Sarah Pickett, Glera Brown, Bernice Eubanks, Irene Helton, Margaret Brazelton, Ruth Taylor, Mildred Lincoln, Opal Morrison, Jean Mason, Dorothy Wilson, June Childress, Thelma Bell, Madge McNeal, Margie Woody, Dolly Bolston, Georgie Mae Rousseau, Virgie Maples, Evelyn Lacy, Mollie Suns, LaBertha M. Whitaker, Joyce Prince, Catherine Giles, Anne Eaton, Kate Johnson, Iva Mitchell, Florence Hall, Wynell Owen, Claudia Pannell, Geneva Crutcher, Christine Brown, Lorene Conanly, Dot Miller.

**JUNIOR WELFARE LEAGUE**

**CHAPTER NO. 11**

President, Mrs. Edward Branch  
 Secretary, Mrs. H. T. Woodall  
 Treasurer, Mrs. C. P. Lloyd  
 Board of Governors Representatives, Mrs. W. B. England and Mrs. Carl T. Jones.

**Members:**

Mrs. James E. Davis, Mrs. Jimmie Walker, Mrs. Clem Lloyd, Mrs. Martin Phillips, Mrs. R. C. Calloway, Jr., Mrs. Carl A. Moring, Sr., Mrs. Ed. Branch, Mrs. Truman Ryan, Mrs. Richard Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. Frank Connell, Mrs. H. T. Woodall, Mrs. E. C. Wooten, Mrs. W. B. England, Mrs. Carl T. Jones, Mrs. H. E. Miller, Mrs. Carl Moring, Jr., Mrs. James C. Butler, Mrs. J. B. Pullen, Mrs. J. R. Thomas, Mrs. Raymond Monroe, Mrs. Clarence Cobbs, Mrs. Lynn Edwards, Miss Mary Garvin, Mrs. Raymond Hipp, Mrs. F. N. Sefton.

**LACY LADIES (JAY-CEE-ETTES)**

**CHAPTER NO. 12**

President, Mrs. Wm. B. Harrell  
 Secretary, Mrs. Horace Kyzer  
 Treasurer, Mrs. Robt. Lochridge  
 Board of Governors Representatives, Mr. Frank Gardiner

Sisters of the Swish





## Members:

Mrs. Roy Bennett, Mrs. James E. Collins, Mrs. Geo. Epps, Mrs. Frank Gardiner, Mrs. Robt. Lochridge, Mrs. Earl Cloud, Mrs. Jack Denson, Mrs. Clarence Besselsen, Mrs. Chester Planka, Mrs. Frank Bunn, Mrs. Chas. Northrop, Mrs. Dave Newby, Mrs. Horace Kyzer, Mrs. Carl Moring, Jr., Mrs. Robt. Wylie, Miss Lula Ann Moon, Mrs. Luther Adams, Mrs. Wm. B. Harrell, Mrs. Harry Johnstone, Mrs. Robt. Lochridge, Mrs. Walter Weisman, Mrs. Mitchell J. Linsey, Mrs. Houston Adams, Mrs. Chester Brown, Mrs. Donald J. Jessick, Mrs. Sig. Loeb, Mrs. Lawrence Lacy, Mrs. Ralph Weitenbeck.

**MOUNTAINEERS (MONTE SANO GARDEN CLUB)**

## CHAPTER NO. 13

President, Mrs. Holland Porter  
Secretary, Mrs. K. W. Yeager  
Treasurer, Mrs. C. D. Howard, Sr.  
Board of Governors Representative, Jean Baker, Chmn.

## Members:

Mrs. Holland Porter, Mrs. Arthur Davies, Mrs. Harless Baker, Mrs. H. L. Sparkman, Mrs. J. L. Swaim, Mrs. M. W. King, Mrs. C. D. Howard, Mrs. K. W. Yeager, Mrs. C. E. Bice, Mrs. Clyde Hale, Mrs. T. E. Morgan, Mrs. Frank Bentley, Mrs. L. A. Bledsoe, Mrs. R. C. Keeton, Mrs. E. B. Adams, Mrs. A. T. Blocker, Miss Jean Baker, Miss Sarah Yeager, Miss Janie Yeager, Miss Joyce Ann Morgan, Miss Barbara Jean Davies, Mrs. E. W. Baker, Mrs. Mary Patterson.

**V: DUTA**

## CHAPTER NO. 14

President, Mrs. T. R. Scales  
Secretary,  
Treasurer,  
Board of Governors Representative,

## Members:

Mrs. T. R. Scales, Mrs. Leonard Brewer, Mrs. A. S. Graham, Mrs. W. K. Mayfield, Mrs. James L. Scott, Mrs. L. W. Kranert, Mrs. Henry Hilson.

**JUNIOR GRACE CLUB**

## CHAPTER NO. 15

President,  
Secretary,  
Treasurer,  
Board of Governors Representative, Linda Elliott

## Members:

Miss Bitsey Thomas, Miss Loretta Purdy, Miss Abbie Sullivan, Miss Shelby Taylor, Miss Beth Geron, Miss Joyce Stribling, Miss Anne Fraser, Miss Carlina Stephens, Miss Patsy Hamm, Miss Betsy Jones, Miss Carole Butler, Miss Jean Cummings, Miss Lida Elliott, Miss Jane Donovan, Miss Mary Walker.

**CENTRAL CAFE CUTIES**

## CHAPTER NO. 16

President, Marie Thompson  
Secretary, Kattie Motley  
Treasurer, Elnora Swaim  
Board of Governors Representative, Marie Thompson

## Members:

Jean Kocn, Marie Thompson, Ollie Maddox, Edna Ford, Mary Tuminnello, Evelyn Free, Mrs. Sue Joyner, Elnora Swaim, Kattie Motley, Dot Mayers.

**QUIVER CHAPTER**

## CHAPTER NO. 17

President, Mrs. Oscar Grosser  
Secretary, Mrs. Elbert  
Treasurer, Mrs. Dean Murphree  
Board of Governors Representative, Mrs. Karl Woltersdorf

## Members:

Mrs. Milton Anderson, Mrs. James E. Davis, Miss Nelle Frances Daye, Mrs. W. P. Dilworth, Jr., Mrs. Johnnie Frey, Mrs. Oscar Grosser, Mrs. Charles Landman, Mrs. James Lutz, Mrs. Joe Ed. McMaleb, Mrs. H. E. Monroe, Mrs. Dean Murphree, Mrs. Walter Price, Mrs. Butler Ragland, Mrs. H. W. Ritchey, Mrs. R. B. Searcy, Jr., Mrs. Charles Shaver, Mrs. Milton Tate, Miss Alice Thomas, Mrs. J. L. Walker, Mrs. A. E. Wilson, Mrs. Karl Woltersdorf, Mrs. Elbert Parsons, Mrs. Moody Walker, Alice Thomas.

**BUSY PETTICOAT CHAPTER (B & P W Club)**

## CHAPTER NO. 18

President, Ora Wilson  
Secretary, Lois Robertson  
Treasurer, Jane Bentley  
Board of Governors Representative, Essis Esslinger

## Members:

Eugenia Smith, Mary Cornell, Jane Bentley, Smok Pollard, Margaret McCullough, Billie Hamilton, Euva Alexander, Lois Robert-

son, Mary McGaha, Frances Register, Ora Wilson, Essie Esslinger, Mrs. Gilbert Appler, Sara Ann Smith, Lena Connally, Katie Sanford Jones, Lillis Taylor, Lucy Green, Ermine Ward, Ann Wilkerson, Louise Gregory, Mrs. J. D. Wigley, Laura Pitts, Frances T. Bradford, Nancy L. Chamblee, Louise Grayson, Mabel McKinney.

**"MADISON DOLLIES" (ROTARYANN CLUB)**

## CHAPTER NO. 19

President, Mrs. W. M. McKissack  
Vice-President, Mrs. E. V. Caldwell  
Secretary, Mrs. Otis Gay  
Treasurer, Mrs. John Lawrence  
Board of Governors Representatives, Mrs. James Taylor and Mrs. Carl Jones

## Members:

Mrs. Basil Adams, Mrs. Russell Barber, Mrs. Dwight M. Beeson, Mrs. Guy Bishop, Mrs. Roy M. Blackburn, Mrs. Ed Branch, Mrs. E. C. Brown, Mrs. W. A. Brown, Mrs. Jesse Burbage, Mrs. E. V. Caldwell, Mrs. A. R. Carlton, Mrs. Tom Chaney, Mrs. H. B. Chase, Mrs. Henry Homer Chase, Mrs. Leo P. Cohen, Mrs. Jack Cope, Mrs. Charles Crute, Mrs. Harry Daniel, Mrs. James E. Davis, Mrs. Geo. Elliott, Mrs. Jere Evans, Mrs. Earle R. Ford, Mrs. Ralph H. Ford, Mrs. Joe Foster, Jr., Mrs. James M. Freeze, Mrs. John Frey, Mrs. W. T. Galloway, Mrs. T. P. Gates, Mrs. Otis F. Gay, Mrs. Thomas Gibson, Mrs. Louis Grabenstedler, Mrs. W. L. Halsey, Jr., Mrs. George F. Hart, Mrs. Robert L. Haskins, Mrs. James D. Hays, Mrs. W. T. Hedden, Mrs. John Higdon, Mrs. J. B. Hill, Mrs. W. H. Hilson, Mrs. John Rodenhouse, Mrs. A. L. Hipp, Mrs. W. L. Howard, Mrs. James E. Hughes, Mrs. T. D. Johnson, Mrs. J. W. Johnston, Mrs. Carl T. Jones, Mrs. Edwin W. Jones, Mrs. Stuart Jones, Mrs. Arnold Kay, Mrs. E. A. Kelly, Mrs. William Kling, Mrs. Jack Langhorne, Mrs. M. H. Lanier, Mrs. John Lawrence, Mrs. W. Clyde Lewis, C. R. McBrayer, Mrs. W. E. McBride, Mrs. W. M. McKissack, Mrs. Geo. M. Mahoney, Mrs. Fred Martin, Mrs. Paul Means, Mrs. W. M. Mebane, Mrs. R. D. Millar, Mrs. I. B. Miller, Mrs. Harvey D. Nelson, Mrs. Kenneth Noojin, Mrs. Thomas Martin Phillips, Mrs. Dudley Powell, Mrs. John L. Purdy, Mrs. Wilhelm Raitchel, Mrs. W. D. Ray, Mrs. John Reid, Mrs. Harry Rhett, Jr., Mrs. Kenneth Rhoades, Mrs. Nolan Roper, Mrs. J. C. Sanders, Jr., Mrs. Bailey Santa Cruz, Mrs. Leo Schiffman, Mrs. R. B. Searcy, Mrs. F. N. Sefton, Mrs. Edward S. Smith, Mrs. James R. Smith, Mrs. M. B. Spragins, Mrs. M. B. Spragins, Mrs. William H. Stevens, Mrs. James E. Taylor, Mrs. Vance Thornton, Mrs. H. N. Toftoy, Mrs. W. D. Tucker, Jr., Mrs. Dorsey Uptain, Mrs. John S. Walker, Dr. Varina D. Warren, Mrs. John Wattendorf, Mrs. A. W. White, Jr., Mrs. James M. White, Mrs. L. W. L. White, Mrs. W. B. Whitfield, Mrs. Ralph E. White, Mrs. Ned Wickham, Mrs. Harold Wilde, Mrs. Delbert Williams, Mrs. J. T. Williams, Jr., Mrs. E. C. Wing, Mrs. K. A. Walterdorf, Mrs. Carl Woodall.

**SWISHERS OF THE LIONS**

## CHAPTER NO. 20

President—Tish Kimrey  
Secretary—Dixie Thrower  
Treasurer—Nona Elixson  
Board of Representatives of Governor—Helen Hooker

## Members:

Gladys Holder, Sue McGaha, Mildred Anderson, Edna Broyles, Bell Howard, Tish Kimrey, Margaret Ann Weil, Barbara Becraft, Nona Elixson, Carolyn Harris, Willie Hayes, Mary Calvin, Litha Strickland, Lula Hollingsworth, Vera Futch, Edna Stone, Ruby Weeks, Ruth Jackson, Helen Hooker, Lee Sims, Marietta Austin, Susie Hughes, Nellie Dowell, Ann Eaton, Dixie Thrower, Louise Thomas, Gertrude Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrison, Phoebe Russell, Daisy Culp, Ethel McDonald, Marilyn Alford, Mildred Mahr, Myriam Kelley, Marion Anderson, Sarah Hughes, Sarah Allen, Lucille Greenwood, Johnnie Hughes Wilson.

**CALICO CUTIES (HOSPITALITY CLUB)**

## CHAPTER NO. 21

President—Mrs. Joseph Bennett  
Secretary—Mrs. Rush Byerline  
Treasurer—Mrs. Uleman Reed  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Dave Newby

## Members:

Mrs. Joseph Bennett, Mrs. Rush Byerline, Mrs. Uleman Reed, Mrs. O. H. Newby, Mrs. Luke Reynolds, Mrs. Frank Bunn, Mrs. James Collins, Mrs. Osmond Gardner, Mrs. Gregory Meshkoff, Mrs. Samuel Stevens, Mrs. Sam Bust, Mrs. Edward Saby, Mrs. Floyd Stephens, Mrs. Earnest Jackson, Mrs. Armand Touchstone, Mrs. Walter Wiesman, Mrs. Samuel R. Avery.

**ROSES OF THE SWISH**

## CHAPTER NO. 22

President—Mrs. J. W. Cloud  
Secretary—Mrs. H. S. Epperly  
Treasurer—Mrs. R. P. Watts  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. J. W. Cloud

VARIOUS SISTERS OF THE SWISH  
IN PRE-CELEBRATION POSES



## Members:

Mrs. W. M. Bonner, Mrs. M. W. Clements, Mrs. J. W. Cloud, Mrs. H. S. Epperly, Mrs. Richard Hower, Mrs. J. S. Hillenbrand, Mrs. Clyde Holmes, Mrs. D. R. McClung, Mrs. J. E. Roberts, Mrs. B. M. Thompson, Mrs. R. W. Turner, Mrs. Robert Warden, Mrs. R. Preston Watys, Mrs. Max West, Mrs. John Wamble, Mrs. G. S. Butler, Mrs. R. C. Darden, Mrs. H. W. Penick, Mrs. John Purdy.

**THE PIONEER GRACES****THE PIONEER GRACES (Charter Group of the Grace Club)**

## CHAPTER NO. 23

President—Mrs. Ira M. Terry  
Secretary—Mrs. W. G. Dickson  
Treasurer—Mrs. Bess Bradley  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. T. W. Rosborough

## Members:

Mrs. Reese T. Amis, Mrs. Bess H. Bradley, Mrs. W. G. Dickson, Mrs. Minnie R. Dillard, Mrs. Hugh K. Doak, Mrs. J. L. Griffin, Mrs. M. U. Griffin, Mrs. W. L. Halsey, Miss Jean Humphrey, Mrs. John Rison Jones, Mrs. Quincy B. Love, Mrs. Edward McGreagor, Mrs. P. W. Peeler, Mrs. W. R. Robinson, Miss Mary Rodgers, Mrs. M. B. Spragins, Mrs. Raphael Semmes, Mrs. T. W. Rosborough, Miss Gretchen Strong, Mrs. Ira Terry, Mrs. J. S. Yarbrough.

**THE HOWARD WEEDEN (CULTURE CLUB)**

## CHAPTER NO. 24

President—Mrs. J. B. Woodall  
Secretary—Mrs. Burk H. Fisk  
Treasurer—Mrs. Harvey D. Nelson  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Claude H. Davis

## Members:

Mrs. J. S. Andrade, Mrs. Geo. T. Bennett, Mrs. Kelly W. Burwell, Mrs. Elizabeth P. Beamguard, Mrs. Walter J. Byrne, Mrs. J. B. Clopton, Mrs. Claude H. Davis, Mrs. LeRoy W. Drake, Mrs. Earl R. Ford, Sr., Mrs. Burk H. Fisk, Mrs. T. P. Gates, Miss Jessie Hooper, Mrs. Beulah Johnston, Mrs. John S. Kernahan, Miss Lottie Lamberson, Miss Margaret Neil, Mrs. Harvey D. Nelson, Mrs. J. E. Roberts, Mrs. C. S. Roberts, Miss Dorothy Webb, Mrs. I. B. Wyatt, Mrs. J. B. Woodall.

**BLOSSOMS OF THE WOOD (BLOSSOMWOOD GROUP)**

## CHAPTER NO. 25

President—Mrs. Sam L. Burt  
Secretary—Mrs. S. Hyche  
Treasurer—Mrs. James F. Pichett  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Joe Monroe

## Members:

Mrs. Sam L. Burt, Mrs. J. F. Pichett, Mrs. Joe Monroe, Mrs. Jack Lucas, Mrs. Roy Watts, Mrs. Steven Hyche, Mrs. Wm. I. Dale, Jr., Mrs. H. K. Holder, Mrs. E. M. Vaughn, Jr., Mrs. Harvey Johnstone, Mrs. Dick Hay, Mrs. J. R. Denson, Mrs. J. F. Harbarger, Mrs. M. N. March, Mrs. F. R. Stephen, Mrs. H. H. Wade, Mrs. Jack Moss, Mrs. E. W. King, Mrs. J. J. McGiugan, Mrs. W. E. Courtney, Mrs. C. R. Byerline, Mrs. W. C. White, Mrs. Bill Walte, Mrs. R. E. Currie, Mrs. William Hay, Mrs. Ullman Reed, Mrs. G. S. Mosckhoff, Mrs. Howard McGee, Mrs. Martin Phillips, Mrs. J. Huff, Mrs. J. D. Stroud, Mrs. R. C. Allison, Mrs. W. A. Estes, Mrs. C. W. Knight, Mrs. E. B. Vavin, Mrs. Sam Sockwell, Mrs. Tully Turner, Mrs. B. R. Harris.

**PETTICOAT CLUB (CHEVY CHASE GARDEN CLUB)**

## CHAPTER NO. 26

President—Mrs. E. A. Kelly  
Secretary—Miss Lynn McDonald  
Treasurer—Mrs. Coyle Ray  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Jodie Lemond

## Members:

Mrs. R. G. Moore, Mrs. Shelby Hastings, Mrs. E. A. Kelly, Miss Lynn McDonald, Mrs. Coyle Ray, Mrs. W. R. Gill, Mrs. Jodie Lemond, Mrs. G. G. McMurry, Mrs. W. M. Strong, Mrs. W. J. Coyle, Mrs. George Bennett, Mrs. W. P. Curtis, Evelyn Thomas, Ruth Thomas, Marjorie Williams, Jeanette Patter.

**FASHION OF THE PAST (F.O.P. AUXILIARY)**

## CHAPTER NO. 27

Chairman—Mrs. R. M. Ray

## Members:

Mrs. R. M. Ray, Mrs. J. H. Anderson, Mrs. Grover Pylant, Mrs. Bob Henshaw, Mrs. Ernest Norton, Mrs. Herman Swaim, Mrs. Tom Blakemore, Mrs. Benton Fusch, Mrs. James Green, Mrs. Lillian Johnson, Mrs. James C. Walker, Mrs. Loyas Brannum, Mrs. Maggie Darwin, Mrs. H. N. Mullins, Mrs. Odell Whitt, Mrs. Zillah Newsome.

**LILLIES OF THE VALLEY (GRACE CLUB AUXILIARY)**

## CHAPTER NO. 28

President—Ruth Doak  
Secretary—Marelyn Morring  
Treasurer—Shan Clift  
Board of Governors Representative—Mary E. Mills

## Members:

Caroline Fuller, Teensie Stroupe, Alice Hamilton, Margaret Yarbrough, Sara Baker, Bubs Callaway, Mary Eva Johnston, Nancy Kelly, Sally Ann Culver, Shan Clift, Marilyn Morring, Mary E. Mills, Brownie Ann Davoren, Catherine K. Gilliam, Calvert Sammons, Sarah Landman Whitworth, Sue Hill, Imogene Martin, Wini O'Neal, Anne Hay, Jane Roberts, Martha Richardson, Marion Certain, Gene Payne.

**PILOT CLUB**

## CHAPTER NO. 29

President—Helen Lawler  
Secretary—Ruby Brazelton  
Treasurer—Agnes Gatlin  
Board of Governors Representative—Essie Thomas

## Members:

Anna Walker, Helen Lawler, Mary McLain, Ruby Brazelton, Doris Whiteside, Sarah Hix, Edna Mazy, Susie Mae Hopper, Daisy Culp, Gladys McNutt, Bernice Lawler, Evelyn Hayden, Alex Kates, Velma Lynn, Virginia Bowers, Ruth Taylor, Anna Lou Brazelton, Dorothy Hodges, Lucille Alsup, Eva Taylor, Dorothy Adair, Lucille Ready, Essie Thomas, Agnes Galtin, Opal Dilworth, Helen McCowan, Ernestine Osborn, Ruth Giles, Lois Taylor.

**LADIES IN CRINOLINE (STUDY CIRCLE)**

## CHAPTER NO. 30

President—Mrs. E. V. Caldwell  
Secretary—Mrs. George Elliott  
Treasurer—Mrs. Robert Bell

## Members:

Mrs. Vassar Allan, Mrs. Anna Rosborough, Mrs. Robert Bell, Mrs. Robert Bibb, Mrs. Robert Bibb, Jr., E. V. Caldwell, Robert Coles, Mrs. Sara Dillard, Mrs. George Elliott, Mrs. Preston Geron, Mrs. Eugene Gill, Mrs. M. U. Griffin, Mrs. W. G. Mamm, Mrs. Ed. Johnston, Mrs. Tom Jones, Jr., Mrs. Robert Lowe, Mrs. Quincy Love, Mrs. John Mastin, Mrs. John Moorman, Mrs. M. R. Moorman, Mrs. Sim O'Neal, Mrs. Frank Powell, Mrs. Harry Rhett, Mrs. Paul Speake, Mrs. John Wallace.

**ROCKET BELLES**

## CHAPTER NO. 31

President—Martha L. Metcalf  
Secretary—Virginia Raynes  
Treasurer—Billy Hill  
Vice-President—Opal Travis  
Board of Governors Representative—Martha Metcalf

## Members:

Elizabeth Jackson, Betty Rainey, Wanda Stephens, Martha Thrower, JoAnn Ortner, Mary C. Parr, Jeanette Williams, Doris Gregory, Opal L. Travis, Rebecca Locke, Nancy M. Couch, LaVeta Pack, Elizabeth Biggs, Maggie Kimbrough, Nancy Seward, Martha Metcalf, Carolyn J. Shelton, Virginia Raynes, Carmen L. Harrell, Laura Jordan, Ola Sailes, Eileen Gambrell, Eulene Taylor, Fran O'Rear, Billie Hill, Sarah Sheetz, Ophelia Ealy, Patsy Patterson, Naomi Whitaker, Edith Raby, Miriam Evans, Rowena Boutwell, Mary Wilkinson, Marie Ashcraft, Millinea McLemore, Bonnie Dickey, Helen Blanton, Juanita Hodgins, Betrice Glen, Ruth Tetrault.

**SISTERS OF THE MONTE VALLEY**

## CHAPTER NO. 32

President—Theo Capezzo  
Secretary—Shirley Chaney  
Treasurer—Inez Taylor  
Board of Representatives—Shirley Chaney

## Members:

Mrs. Ida McAllister, Mrs. Jeannette Norris, Mrs. Shirley Chaney, Mrs. Ruth Hughes, Mrs. Mazie Cramers, Miss Gladys Howard, Mrs. James Irvine, Mrs. Inez Sishans, Mrs. Inez Taylor, Mrs. Mary Cagle, Mrs. Anna Mary Tomes, Mrs. Frank Smith, Mrs. Theo Capezzo, Mrs. John Grehoa, Miss Lucille Shelton, Miss Stella Ruth Busey, Miss Eva McCrary, Miss Martha Dalton, Mrs. Marcella Styles, Mrs. Frank Griffith, Mrs. Jesse Tate, Mrs. Cleveland Iuna, Mrs. Homer Thomas, Mrs. James Farmer, Mrs. Jimmie Hinsen.

**VARIETY VIOLETS**

## CHAPTER NO. 33

President—Miss Louise Knighten  
Secretary—Dorothy Jones  
Treasurer—Ora Curnutt  
Board of Governors Representative—Emma Harbin

**Members:**

Constance Mitchell, Dorothy Jones, Louise Kighten, Ear Curnutt, Katherine LaVan, Mildred Lanford, Emma Harbin, Martha Campbell, Geraldine Smith, Shirley Marshall, Carla Spinella, Helen Harrison, Billie Faye Wilbanks, Jean Kimbrough, Mamie Frames, Elsie Foster, Doris Howell, Jimmie Pitts, Lear Carder, Faye Waters, Sue Sullivan, Peggy Worley, Jessie Dupree, Fay Young, Betty Hunter, Imogene Bishop.

**LADY LELLAS OF MCLELLAN'S (MCLELLANS STORE)**

**CHAPTER NO. 34**

President—Betty Hodge  
 Secretary—Imogene Gault  
 Treasurer—Margaret Campbell  
 Board of Governors Representative—Martha Dukemineer

**Members:**

Betty Hodge, Mae Nayman, Gwynneth Phillips, Dairilla Thorson, Hazel Bailey, Joyce Honey, Evelyn Wells, Gail Floyd, Martha Dukemineer, Ann Moring, Hazel Newby, Wilda Toon, Shirley Wilburn, Lucille Cash, Joann Clark, Alice Bates, Betty Holt, Pauline Billions, Magdalene Reynolds, Margaret Campbell, Frances Stewart, Myrna Montgomery, Imogene Gault, Jaunita Wilbourn, Betty Ivey, Louise Bradley, Barbara Womack, Shirley Gulley, Joyce Byrne.

**COTTON BLOSSOMS (NATIONAL SECRETARIES ASSN.)**

**CHAPTER NO. 35**

President—Lois Jones  
 Secretary—Martha Reynolds  
 Treasurer—Helen Hughes  
 Board of Governors Representative—Billie Grosser

**Members:**

Lois Jones, Martha Reynolds, Helen Hughes, Billie Grosser, Helen Acuff, Winifred Lackey, Ann Wicker, Barbara Plonka, Ollie Johnston, Edna Enfield, Eulene Taylor, Mamie Fisher, Betty Messer.

**NIGHTINGALE SWISHERS (NURSES ORGANIZATION)**

**CHAPTER NO. 36**

President—Gretchen Strong  
 Secretary—Pansy Mae Glenn  
 Treasurer—Pansy Mae Glenn  
 Board of Governors Representative—Lillian Grant

**Members:**

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Duffey, Miss Gretchen Strong, Mrs. Grace G. Giles, Mrs. Leota G. Ferreira, Miss Lillian Grant, Mrs. Estelle C. Sharp, Mrs. Eleanor Holmberg, Mrs. Emma Kate Busbin, Mrs. Pansy Mae Glenn, Mrs. Leona K. Laxon, Mrs. Bess P. Frazier, Mrs. Imogene M. Douma, Mrs. Lillian S. McGee, Mrs. Jessie Nell Howard, Mrs. Louise Wilson.

**HUNTRESS (MARY'S SHOPPE PERSONNEL)**

**CHAPTER NO. 37**

President—Louise Loeb  
 Secretary—Mary Burgess  
 Treasurer—Elizabeth Denbo  
 Board of Governors Representative—Louise Loeb

**Members:**

Mrs. Jean Gray, Mrs. Louise Loeb, Mrs. Virginia Hines, Mrs. Oma Lupo, Mrs. Mary Burgess, Mrs. Rufus Boggs, Mrs. Myrtle Hutner, Mrs. Elizabeth Denbo, Mrs. Lillie Taylor, Mrs. Florence Miliner, Mrs. Tony Pearsall, Mrs. Alice Wilkes, Miss Ruth Pike.

**JOHN HUNT'S DOLLS (EMBLEM CLUB)**

**CHAPTER NO. 38**

President—Mrs. W. B. Snipes  
 Secretary—Mrs. John K. Clarke  
 Treasurer—Mrs. Vernon Roe  
 Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. W. E. Blades

**Members:**

Mrs. W. B. Snipes, Mrs. W. E. Blades, Mrs. Daris Chesebro, Mrs. Catherine Stump, Mrs. E. C. Snipes, Mrs. Ollie Brasseale, Mrs. R. P. Mills, Mrs. Vernon Roe, Mrs. Harold W. Darness, Mrs. Robert H. Baker, Mrs. Yancey Vaughn, Mrs. Raymond K. Peck, Mrs. Hugh Manley, Mrs. Jack Hellelman, Mrs. Beulah Smith, Mrs. Walter Mills, Mrs. John K. Clarke, Mrs. L. Harrison.

**MAGNOLIA DAMES**

**CHAPTER NO. 39**

President—Mrs. C. T. Garvin  
 Secretary—Mrs. Oscar Russel  
 Treasurer—Mrs. A. E. Foster  
 Board of Governors Representative—

**Members:**

Mrs. C. T. Garvin, Mrs. Oscar Russel, Mrs. A. E. Foster, Virginia Mims, Mrs. Lawrence Brown, Mrs. Cecil Mitchell, Mrs. Oscar C. Russell, Mrs. A. E. Foster, Mrs. A. V. Sneed, Mrs. T. A. Rankin,

Mrs. R. R. Barfield, Mrs. Robert Lay, Mrs. Leonard Walker, Mrs. Walter Cobb, Mrs. James C. Ashburn, Mrs. William Hollingsworth, Mrs. Joe Allen, Mrs. R. W. Tuck, Mrs. W. B. Allen.

**BUSY BEE'S**

**CHAPTER NO. 40**

President—Jessie Lee Smith  
 Secretary—Sarah Klempa  
 Treasurer—Katherine Walker  
 Board of Governors Representative—Bulah Milam

**Members:**

Jessie Lee Smith, Sarah Klempa, Cassie Schade, Bertha Ray, Betty Lacy, Bulah Milam, Delores Rice, Rose Gentle, Ruth Jones, Katherine Walker, Joyce Cowley, Barbara Mullins, Marge Fyfe, Barbara Means, Betty Jo Wikle, Ivella Gentle, Mrs. Willard Miller.

**GOLD DIGGERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 41**

President—Charlotte Bell  
 Secretary—Ray Sibley  
 Treasurer—Violet Butler  
 Board of Governors Representative—Enith Wilbourn

**Members:**

Ray Sibley, Sally Lyon, Betty Swafford, Edna Sharp, Wilma Edwards, Dot Arban, Twilla Howell, Merlene Taylor, Charlotte Bell, Enith Wilbourn, Violet Butler, Jerry Lee, Peggy Farrell, Reba Powers, Marie Tucket, Bobby Ashby.

**THE SHAPELY SHAPERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 42**

President—Mrs. Sarah Waddings  
 Secretary—Mrs. Stella Warner  
 Treasurer—Mrs. Stella Warner  
 Board of Governors Representatives—Miss Dot Brown, Mrs. Lockie Hegwood, Mrs. Evelyn Quick

**Members:**

Mrs. Louise Aston, Miss Dot Brown, Miss Geneva Boyd, Miss Billie Blackwood, Mrs. Louetta Black, Miss Peggy Clardy, Mrs. Mary Grady, Mrs. Lockie Hegwood, Mrs. Mable Myers, Miss Sharlene Lehman, Mrs. Mildred Lyle, Mrs. Zelta Pettie, Mrs. Ruth Potts, Mrs. Evelyn Quick, Mrs. Sue Smith, Mrs. Lillian Stephens, Mrs. Mildred Summerford, Mrs. Stella Warner, Mrs. Sarah Waddings.

**UP-SY DAISY**

**CHAPTER NO. 43**

President—Mrs. D. T. Burns  
 Secretary—Mrs. V. G. Roberts  
 Treasurer—Mrs. T. A. Blackwell  
 Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. G. W. Nevels, Jr.

**Members:**

Mrs. George M. Wells, Mrs. M. L. Sanderson, Mrs. W. L. Russel, Jr., Mrs. R. D. Clark, Mrs. Bing F. Harbin, Jr., Mrs. J. G. Reynolds, Mrs. William L. Bryant, Mrs. Charles M. Patterson, Mrs. Leon Towery, Mrs. W. L. Latham, Mrs. C. O. Mullins, Jr., Mrs. L. T. Reynolds, Mrs. Virginia Morton, Mrs. Macon Weaver, Mrs. Jack Calder, Mrs. T. A. Locke, Mrs. Margaret Vance, Mrs. F. M. Bynum, Mrs. Jack Ivy, Mrs. Roger Nance, Mrs. James Baker, Mrs. Billy Tipton, Mrs. Thomas Faulk, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. James Potter, Mrs. Aubrey Drummond, Mrs. Billy Poff, Mrs. Hazel Savage, Mrs. Amanda Gray, Mrs. C. M. Holms, Mrs. Ray Bennett, Mrs. Chester P. Plonka, Mrs. Stella Warner, Mrs. R. S. Hauer, Mrs. Louise Loeb, Mrs. Florine Keel, Mrs. Joe Davis.

**PILL PEDDLERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 44**

President—Marjorie Whitworth  
 Secretary—Geneva Stewart  
 Treasurer—Earline Burgess  
 Board of Governors Representative—Betty Bucher

**Members:**

Earline Burgess, Marjorie Whitworth, Geneva Stewart, Violet Bankowski, Jo Everett, Jean Lee, Ozell Dempsey, Betty Bucher, Nancy Owen, Peggy Farrow, Shirley Miller, Betty Miller, Janeane East.

**DAUGHTERS OF KING COTTON**

**CHAPTER NO. 45**

President—Mrs. Arthur Humphrey  
 Secretary—Mrs. R. E. True  
 Treasurer—Mrs. Howard Dublin  
 Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. V. R. Martin

**Members:**

Mrs. W. C. Gillespie, Mrs. Howard Dublin, Mrs. J. A. Stewart, Mrs. James T. Sawyer, Mrs. Percy B. Keel, Mrs. V. R. Martin, Mrs. R. E. True, Mrs. Arthur Humphrey, Mrs. Fred A. Moore, Mrs. Nolan Drake, Mrs. Billy Drake, Mrs. Guy Wallace, Mrs. George Wilkes, Mrs. Gordon Hughes, Mrs. Donald Hughes, Mrs. Donald Spencer, Mrs. Jerry Burnett, Miss Mabel Hughes, Miss Fay Finley, Mrs. Chan Barnes, Mrs. Carter Whitworth, Mrs. C. H.

Dublin, Mrs. Lollie Collier, Mrs. Carl Allen Williams, Mrs. Howard Hughes, Mrs. Wesley Thomas, Miss Anna Lou Brazelton, Miss Ruby Brazelton, Mrs. Thomas Bowers, Mrs. Walton Hughes, Mrs. Gene Anderson, Mrs. Mabel Sides, Mrs. Mildred Whitworth.

### THE CADUCEUS SWEETHEARTS

#### CHAPTER NO. 46

President—Mrs. E. V. Caldwell  
Secretary—Mrs. Dallas Reynolds  
Treasurer—Mrs. William Etheridge  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Frederick Smith

##### Members:

Mrs. Frederick Smith, Mrs. William Etheridge, Mrs. Pat Hamm, Mrs. E. V. Caldwell, Mrs. E. E. Camp, Mrs. Otis Gay, Mrs. G. B. Huckaby, Mrs. William McKissack, Mrs. Dallas Reynolds, Mrs. Vivian Donovan, Mrs. Grady Baker, Mrs. M. M. Duncan, Mrs. J. B. Laughlin, Mrs. A. L. Watson, Mrs. Robert Bibb, Mrs. Lawrence Hewitt, Mrs. Robert Sammons, Mrs. J. D. Moorman, Mrs. John Evans, Mrs. M. R. Moorman, Mrs. John Y. Coffee, Jr., Mrs. William Kates, Mrs. T. E. Dilworth, Mrs. W. G. McCown, Mrs. Carl Grote, Mrs. H. L. Anderson, Mrs. Norton Cowart, Mrs. Alma Miller, Mrs. Alpha Brown, Mrs. Frank Jordan, Mrs. Moody Walker, Mrs. Alfred P. Owens, Mrs. Frank Jordan.

### BUSTLING PIONEERS

#### CHAPTER NO. 47

President—Lillian Simpson  
Secretary—Connie Vance  
Treasurer—Ora Moyers  
Board of Governors Representative—Derrie Slayton

##### Members:

Derrie Slayton, Ora Moyers, Martha Edwards, Geneva Poore, Velma Kilgore, Lillian Simpson, Connie Vance, Mary Goodwin, Lois Kilfore, Elizabeth Mullins, Odell Whitt, Virginia Hines, Myrtle Bridges, Belle Bridges, Ruth Jenkins, Josephine Poe, Mrs. H. T. Brittain.

### NOSEE-GAYE

#### CHAPTER NO. 48

President—Mrs. F. G. Sanders, Jr.  
Secretary—Mrs. Howard Sandlin  
Treasurer—  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. F. G. Sanders, Jr.

##### Members:

Mrs. F. G. Sanders, Jr., Mrs. Howard Sandlin, Mrs. Lewis Hubbard, Mrs. Alton Belcher, Mrs. Glenn Sanders, Mrs. James Medlock, Mrs. William Kling, Mrs. Harry Wilmer, Mrs. George Rodgers, Mrs. William R. Dunlap, Mrs. Douglas Bates, Mrs. Harvey Meier, Mrs. Barney Pearsall, Mrs. James Stripling, Mrs. Peyton Drake, Mrs. Clark Hereford, Mrs. Fred Smith, Mrs. Woody Anderson, Mrs. J. C. Sanders, Mrs. M. W. Frank, Mrs. Lloyd Kranert.

### BELKETTES

#### CHAPTER NO. 49

President—Mrs. John Hooper  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. John Hooper

##### Members:

Mrs. Earleen Stoner, Mrs. John Hooper, Gussie Holt, Mrs. Hugh McWhirter, Mrs. Elizabeth Sturgil, Miss Mary McFarlen, Mrs. Martin Haynes, Mrs. Irl Hunt, Mrs. Agnus Lowe, Mrs. Annie Mae Sutton, Miss Martha Ann Hooper, Mrs. R. M. Fanning, Miss Virgie Tuck, Mrs. Howard McPeters, Mrs. Gretchen Payne.

### CURTSY-ETTES

#### CHAPTER NO. 50

President—Mrs. Chat Miller  
Secretary—Mrs. C. M. McClure  
Treasurer—Mrs. Buddy Wilson  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Pete Taylor

##### Members:

Mrs. Martin Haynes, Mrs. Marvin Berry, Mrs. Chat Miller, Mrs. Ernest Bailey, Mrs. Pete Taylor, Mrs. O. J. Taylor, Mrs. J. D. Bennight, Mrs. Jack Wilson, Jr., Mrs. C. M. McClure, Mrs. Buddy Wilson, Mrs. Harold Taylor, Mrs. Thomas Cooper, Miss Lois Taylor, Mrs. Joe Miller, Mrs. Lloyd Prince.

### DIGGIN' DAMSELS

#### CHAPTER NO. 51

President—Mrs. Janice McGill  
Secretary—Mrs. Alice DeBauw  
Treasurer—Mrs. Alice DeBauw  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Carolyn Blocker

##### Members:

Mrs. Alice DeBauw, Mrs. Gilda May, Mrs. Janice McGill, Mrs. Erica Wieseman, Mrs. Virginia Williamson, Mrs. Ruby Woodward, Mrs. Helen Fulton, Mrs. Caroline Blocker, Mrs. Jean Blocker, Mrs. Mary Ann Tatum, Mrs. Alice Roberts, Mrs. Salie Fohrell, Miss Faye Spech, Mrs. Connie Zier.

### CLASSIE LASSIES

#### CLASSIE LASSIES (SIGNAL DIV. REDSTONE)

#### CHAPTER NO. 52

President—Mrs. Elizabeth L. Esslinger  
Secretary—Mrs. Burmah R. Lee  
Treasurer—Mrs. Anne F. Turner  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Joyce Church

##### Members:

Mrs. Mamie B. George, Mrs. Marlene Cantrell, Mrs. Marjorie Siddon, Mrs. Dot S. Hamm, Mrs. Helen S. Gipson, Mrs. Mildred Kay, Mrs. Doris Parvin, Mrs. Grace Kennamer, Mrs. Eleanor Thomas, Mrs. Velma Kilgore, Mrs. Joyce Church, Mrs. Anne F. Turner, Mrs. Elizabeth Esslinger, Mrs. Burmah R. Lee, Mrs. Arthur G. Pinkham.

### TWICKENHAM SISTERS

#### CHAPTER NO. 53

President—Mrs. J. B. Fields  
Vice-President—Mrs. J. G. Enochs  
Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. J. A. Waldrop  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. O. C. Holderer

##### Members:

Mrs. J. B. Fields, Mrs. J. G. Enochs, Mrs. J. A. Waldrop, Mrs. O. C. Holderer, Mrs. Archie M. Ellett, Mrs. J. Luna, Mrs. Elizabeth Cannon, Mrs. Davis Newby, Mrs. J. F. Pickett, Mrs. T. G. Reed, Mrs. Kenneth Reed, Mrs. W. P. Edwards, Mrs. John B. Wakefield.

### "LONG GONE PANTALOONS" (HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS)

#### CHAPTER NO. 54

President—Betty Joyce Tipton  
Secretary—Jerry Ann Bailes  
Treasurer—Anita Touchstone  
Board of Governors Representatives—Linda Tate and Betty Lynn Brown

##### Members:

Carolyn Powers, Marie Sexton, Ann Dew Cole, Gayle Martin, Betty Joyce Tipton, Ann Hensley, Betty Lynn Brown, Anita Touchstone, Jerry Ann Bailes, Glenda Brakefield, Barbara Hurley, Lynda Tate, Beverly Sewell, Gloria Owens, Mary E. Gooch, Mary Ann Hill, Judy Newby.

### DIXIE DOLLS

#### CHAPTER NO. 55

President—Mrs. Claude Sanders, Jr.  
Secretary—Mrs. Charles Motley  
Treasurer—Mrs. D. C. Chichester  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Everett Brooks

##### Members:

Mrs. Claude Sanders, Jr., Mrs. Charles Motley, Mrs. D. C. Chichester, Mrs. Everett Brooks, Mrs. John Goodloe, Mrs. Charles Mitchell, Mrs. Del Spears, Mrs. Louis Wood, Mrs. Clyde Baker, Mrs. Richard Eilerman, Mrs. R. C. Harraway, Mrs. Robert Orr.

### "MELODY MAIDENS" (MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP)

#### CHAPTER NO. 56

President—Mrs. W. E. Spragins  
Secretary—Mrs. Corbert Cornelison  
Treasurer—Mrs. Eckford T. Perry  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. T. W. Willis

##### Members:

Mrs. Corbert Cornelison, Mrs. W. E. Spragins, Mrs. Howard Hinshaw, Mrs. T. W. Willis, Mrs. Thomas Hale, Mrs. Daycie Prince, Miss Magda de Beck, Miss Magnolia Johnson, Mrs. P. M. Mason, Mrs. Eckford T. Perry, Mrs. Muriel Owens, Mrs. W. M. Mebane, Mrs. Cammack Ricks, Mrs. Harless Baker, Miss Jean Baker, Mrs. Pat Hamm, Mrs. Stanley Veatch, Mrs. Marion Chandler, Mrs. Robert Hollingsworth, Mrs. H. D. Nelson, Mrs. McLeod Timmons, Mrs. H. E. Miller, Mrs. Milton Frank, Mrs. E. H. Fohrell, Mrs. McLeod Timmons, Mrs. H. E. Miller, Mrs. E. H. Fohrell, Mrs. W. L. Brandon.

### BELLES OF THE BOLL WEEVILS

#### CHAPTER NO. 57

President—Arlene Sharp  
Secretary—Dollie Sute Dilworth  
Treasurer—Nellie Jo Smith  
Board of Governors Representative—Shirley Milam

##### Members:

Arlene Sharp, Dollie Sue Dilworth, Nellie Jo Smith, Shirley Milam, Mable A. Maples, Betty Jo McCutcheon, Mary Ann Bentley, Ann Lasater, Gertrude (Gertie) Spencer, Mrs. James Beard, Mrs. Owen Hammett.

### "PIONEER GARDENERS IN THE DELL" (HUNTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB)

#### CHAPTER NO. 58

President—Mrs. Tom Dark  
Secretary—Mrs. Ira Terry  
Treasurer—Mrs. R. T. McKissack  
Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. Tom Dark

Members:

Mrs. J. S. Andrade, Mrs. Dwight Beeson, Mrs. E. W. Caldwell, Mrs. Curtis Carter, Miss Bettie Certain, Mrs. Milton Cummings, Mrs. Tom Dark, Mrs. T. E. Dilworth, Miss Sally Polk Farley, Mrs. Tom Freeman, Mrs. R. P. Geron, Mrs. Thos. S. Gibson, Mrs. E. R. Gill, Mrs. C. M. Grace, Mrs. M. U. Griffin, Mrs. Ada V. Hendrick, Mrs. W. H. Hilson, Mrs. A. L. Hipp, Mrs. C. J. Jackson, Mrs. J. W. Johnston, Mrs. Frank Jordan, Mrs. Malcolm Lewter, Mrs. R. J. Lowe, Mrs. Charles Martin, Mrs. J. R. Mason, Mrs. R. T. McKissack, Mrs. M. R. Moorman, Mrs. Carl Moring, Mrs. John Noe, Mrs. M. H. Patton, Miss Shelby Patton, Miss Arvie Pierce, Mrs. Claude Pipes, Mrs. Wilton Pollard, Mrs. J. V. Pollard, Mrs. Frank Powell, Mrs. Chas. Rolfe, Mrs. J. W. Rosborough, Mrs. B. A. Stockton, Mrs. Ira Terry, Mrs. Solon Tidwell, Mrs. Ashford Todd, Mrs. Richard Walker, Mrs. John Wallace, Mrs. Jas. Watts, Mrs. I. Wind.

**"YE COURTHOUSE BELLE'S"**

CHAPTER NO. 59

President—Marie Moore  
 Secretary—Exie Hughey  
 Treasurer—Nelle Frances Daye  
 Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. George Darwin

Members:

Mrs. Robert McCollum, Exie Hughey, Dot Moore, Gertrude R. Bowers, Mrs. J. E. Spencer, Mrs. Nellie Key, Mrs. J. A. Webb, Mrs. Gordon Menefee, Myrtle Green, Mrs. Kyle Elliott, Mrs. Sarah J. Daye, Nelle Frances Daye, Mrs. Alvis Howard, Mrs. Marvin Nance, Maggie M. Darwin (Mrs. George Darwin), Jimmie Branum, Ella Ree Craig, Frances Taylor, Marie Moore, Mrs. H. A. Trippe, Mrs. George Culp, Mrs. Elizabeth De Young.

**ELECTRIC SWISHES**

CHAPTER NO. 60

President—Lena Lemond  
 Secretary—Bobbie N. Myrick  
 Treasurer—Mary Frances Jones  
 Board of Governors Representative—Frankie Clark

Members:

Lena Lemond, Billie Grosser, Martha Reynolds, Elizabeth M. Mayes, Bennie S. Layne, Nellie Atnip, Trixie Kennamer, Ann E. Moon, Bobbie N. Myrick, Frankie Clark, Virginia Atkinson, Anita Hudson, Mary Frances Jones, Mary Belle Bowers.

**MATILDA BELLES**

CHAPTER NO. 61

President—Mrs. W. B. Fann  
 Secretary—Mrs. Russell Dorning  
 Treasurer—Mrs. Terry Cagle  
 Board of Governors Representative—Mrs. L. H. Douglas

Members:

Mrs. W. B. Fann, Mrs. Russell Dorning, Mrs. Terry Cagle, Mrs. L. H. Douglas, Mrs. Florine Smith.

**"YMCA LADIES OF THE LAKE"**

CHAPTER NO. 62

President—Jan Horne  
 Secretary—Moncie Lawrence  
 Treasurer—Irene Scott  
 Board of Governors Representative—

Members:

Jo Ann Butler, Inez Franklin, Moncie Lawrence, Mary L. DeYoung, Irene Scott, Sue Bass, Chris Ducate, Jan Horne, Helen Moon, Jane McMurtrie, Sue Ann Barnett, Agnes Goodman.

**"SUFFRAGETTES"**

CHAPTER NO. 63

President—Mrs. James Doane  
 Secretary—  
 Treasurer—Mrs. John Noe  
 Board of Governors Representative—

Members:

Miss Helen Acklin, Mrs. Franklin Bryson, Mrs. James Daoane, Mrs. E. B. Floyd, Mrs. Jack Edminson, Mrs. Oenone Cook, Mrs. John Noe, Mrs. Helen Sanders, Mrs. Lee A. Russell, Mrs. Martha Witt Smith, Mrs. Hazel Troupe, Mrs. Mae Myers, Mrs. Charles D. Lyle, Mrs. Louise Thompson, Mrs. Unav Swaim, Mrs. Nola Wilson, Mrs. Ruby Neumley.

**BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH CHAPTERS**

**SQUIRREL HILL**

CHAPTER NO. 1

High Sheriff—Melvin Crisco  
 High Constable—Gus Weeks  
 Judge—Thomas J. Ketchum  
 Board of Governors Representative—Louis A. Dossett

Members:

Thomas J. Ketchum, Louis A. Dossett, James G. Smith, John R. Sealy, William W. Anderson, Melvin Crisco, Tyre H. Wilkinson, Eugene Foster, Dixie McMullin, Gus Weeks, Paul Garner, Charles Garner, John P. Hill, Jr., Andrew Crutcher, Herman H. Clark, Charles Chambers, E. C. Jackson, Felix O. Dillard, Dallas B. Baldwin, Norman F. Seymour, C. L. Broyles, I. T. Morgan, G. H. Leinbaugh, T. T. Starkey, William J. Hall, Lowell G. Snoddy, Sanford G. Ball, Charles O. Brooks, O. M. Omley, James D. Gregory.

**JOHN HUNT**

CHAPTER NO. 2

High Sheriff—Robert (Bob) Adcock  
 High Constable—Joe Evett  
 Judge—Ronald (Sunshine) Moon  
 Board of Governors Representative—W. T. (Bill) Adcock

Members:

W. E. Kerr, Doyle J. Hyatt, Junior Bankston, Leonard Johnson, James Summers, Billy Hale, Sammie Wilbourn, W. T. Adcock, Floyd Adcock, Robert Adcock, Tom Adcock, E. F. Atkins, W. W. Kerr, Alva Lee Kerr, Glen Crane, James Mincher, Thomas Bartlett, F. Uptagraft, Jack Wilbanks, T. C. Warden, Joe Evett, Howard Towery, Brooks Church, Roland Moon, Charles F. Lofty, Charles E. Jackson, W. E. Dickey, Robert Holder, E. H. Patterson, Bobby Maurice Patterson, Albert Mathias, Charles S. Musick, Charles Higginbotham, Coy O. Harvel, Marvin Payne, J. W. Carroll, Earle Ferguson.

**SHRINE**

CHAPTER NO. 3

High Sheriff—Dorsey Uptain  
 High Constable—Taylor Myers  
 Judge—John Uptain  
 Board of Governors Representative—Doody Weinstein

Members:

A. K. Buford, J. E. Hughes, Taylor Myers, Doody Weinstein, Charlie Grubbs, Robert L. Sublett, J. B. Hill, Sr., I. B. Miller, E. N. Larkin, R. C. Darden, J. F. Emert, Vance Thornton, Frank McKeizie, E. Witt Compton, Dorsey Uptain, L. D. Wall, John T. Uptain, Randy Mears, Walter B. Snipes.

**RIDGERUNNERS**

CHAPTER NO. 4

High Sheriff—Jimmy Potts  
 High Constable—Ed Bailes  
 Judge—Ralph Terry  
 Board of Governors Representative—Homer Corum

Members:

J. E. Kimbrough, Homer Harding, Carlos Patterson, Bill West, Virgil Lacy, Dr. Woody Miller, Alex Wilson, William Fowler, Ralph Terry, James Potts, Windell Barnes, Charles Cozolos, Dwight Jones, Aaron King, Winston Bailey, Ed Bailes, Ted Bailes, Boots Shelton, H. L. Corum, David Jones, Wesley Jones, Hoyt Rainey, Willis Cole.

**RAILSPLITTERS**

CHAPTER NO. 5

High Sheriff—Victor Winston  
 High Constable—  
 Judge—Milligan Bullard  
 Board of Governors Representative—Homer L. Corum

Members:

Dr. Charles L. Smith, Thornton Garvin, Hugh Manley, C. J. Kelly, William Kling, Victor Winston, Milligan Bullard, Jerome Hughey, Curtis Gannaway, F. D. Mason, George Aldrick, Lester Fanning, William M. Grimes, William E. Cary, James L. Kendall, Jr., Glenn Chaney, T. Nelson Baker, J. E. Roberts.

**UPTOWN BROTHERS**

CHAPTER NO. 6

High Sheriff—W. R. Dickson  
 High Constable—E. B. Miles  
 Judge—Tom McDonald  
 Board of Governors Representative—Lloyd H. Kranert

Members:

W. R. Dickson, Charles E. Long, L. W. Kranert, Doody Weinstein, Lennie E. Taylor, Joseph E. Snyder, Dorsey Uptain, Ed Storey, E. B. Miles, Wallace Collins, Tom McDonald, Henry V. Bragg, Harold E. Gill.



Brothers of the Brush

**DUNNAVANT'S BUSHY-LEAGUE****CHAPTER NO. 7**

High Sheriff—John C. Weaver  
 High Constable—Thomas R. Futch  
 Judge—Otis H. Glover  
 Board of Governors Representative—John A. Frey

**Members:**

John C. Weaver, V. V. Wade, John Frey, Thomas Futch, George Hayden, Otis H. Glover, T. B. Woodall, Sam S. Hall, W. O. Sisco, C. H. McCullough, C. M. McClure, Gordon Pruitt, J. R. Howard, P. S. Dunnavant, Lee D. Harless, A. M. Alexander, Lum Duke, Robert McCay.

**HAIR-EM SCARE-EMS****CHAPTER NO. 8**

High Sheriff—James Winston  
 High Constable—Charles O'Reilly  
 Judge—Ralph White  
 Board of Governors Representative—Henry P. Turner, Jr.

**Members:**

William Owens, Ralph White, John Thompson, Mac Harris, William E. Rice, Fred Johnston, Harold Hardwick, Frank E. Preston, James Winston, A. L. Smith, Luther Landers, John V. Citrano, Billy Michael, Charles O'Reilly, Eddie George, Kyle G. Frazier, William F. Hardwick, Michael Anzek, Roland Thorneberry, Tillman Hill, Clifford Wilkinson, Will Mickle, Wendell McKinny, Jack Hucks, Henry P. Turner, Jr., J. M. Langhorne, Jerry Keel, E. W. Logan, Paul Phillips, Kenneth Faulk, Philip Garner, Nelson Allen, James Vann, T. A. Winston, Gene Faulkenberry, Raymond Johnson, Golden Smith.

**GAS HOUSE GANG****CHAPTER NO. 9**

High Sheriff—Ray Stinnett  
 High Constable—Forrest Suns  
 Judge—Lynt White  
 Board of Governors Representative—Oscar Moon

**Members:**

Oscar F. Moon, Lynt White, Forrest Suns, Billy Stoltz, Ray Stinnett, Ralph Dickson, Charles G. Hulsey, Eugene McBride, Robert B. Parvin, David Chichester, Rufus T. Sisk, George Lynn, F. N. Sefton, Clyde Lewis, William H. Graves, Oma Goodman, Joe G. Bennett, R. L. Hollingsworth, Walter Smith, John Edge, Aubrey Jennings, E. H. Passeur, O. C. Mitchell, B. L. Smith, Emmett Willett, Grover Allen, Johnnie Turner, Buford Price, Ray Lawrence, Toni Harris, Edward Hall, James Esslinger, Bob Batts, Jr., Leonard Harbin, William Mann, James Maples, Sonny Goodman, Earl Luna, William Moss, Richard Wampler, James A. McBride, Donald Tipton, Benny Russell, Orham Hailley, Joe Dupree, W. C. Bates, Howard Echols, Arvil Burgess, H. C. Vann, Jr., James Sanderson, B. R. Sanderson, Archie Damron, William R. Lively, John Ikar, Harry Gibbs, Macon Bruce, Ezell Smith, John McCullom, Ray Hulsey, Calvin Congo, L. B. Seymour, A. U. Seymour, J. E. Drake, J. P. Drake, Fred Martin, Charlie Cheque, Lawrence Athey, Harold Baker, Odis Sharkey, Marion Buck, Bunny Irwin, Eugene Bunn, Carl Smith, Orville Dupree, Grady Everett, Newman Wilkerson, Bobby Wilkerson, J. B. West, Jimmie Brannon, Clarence Smith, Earney Gregory, John Webster, Edward O. Worley, Edd Shockley, John M. Creque, Martin R. White, Howard Thompson, James Kennemer, Okley Lewis, Worney Brewer, Robert Smith, Alon Adcock, H. D. Martin, Freddie Packrus, Joe Robertson, Sanford Worsham, Johnnie Knox, James Stillwell, Paul Harbin.

**FAB LAB FUZZIES****CHAPTER NO. 10**

High Sheriff—Alfred T. Leigh  
 High Constable—Thomas D. Strange  
 Judge—Doyle E. Eastep  
 Board of Governors Representative—Merle E. Andres

**Members:**

Merle S. Andres, A. D. Hargrove, E. C. McKenzie, W. H. Birmingham, T. D. Strange, Alfred T. Leigh, Aubrey S. Drummond, S. P. McLendon, John A. Rist, Doyle E. Eastep, Adger H. Selwartz, Amos R. Christner, Charles B. Winn, John E. Phillips, Lloyd K. Holloway, Vincent T. Parr, Robert S. Elrod, H. B. Sanders, Charles R. Major, H. F. Wilbanks, Frank E. Griffith, Roy L. Fanning, Sr., Robert N. Cox, Jerry Crabtree, Harding T. Brittain, Lee Hale, William J. Rooks, J. B. Turner, W. H. Nolte, John D. Brown, Russell Clay, A. J. Verble, Donald L. Peabody, Alfred P. Warren, Hugh S. McCullough, Jewell M. Hall, John O. Aberg, George R. Thrower, J. Franklin Edwards, Billy J. Harper, Warren J. Smith, Ollie B. George, W. G. Simpson, Maximilian Siebigteroth, W. M. Burdine, Curtis A. Raynes, Charles H. Cooper, Wyatt L. Segers, Carlos V. Marshall, J. D. Smith, Jr., H. S. Blaise, J. E. Ray, A. S. Duke, James E. Finley, Joseph R. Suns, C. W. Pederson, J. V. Brown, S. T. Little, Jr., O. M. White, R. L. Richardson, C. W. Moffett, James G. Allen, Sidney L. Hamilton, Jerry G. Lawhead, B. T. Brasfield, J. D. Bennight, John W. Ray, Herman T. Braise, Richard A. Lynn, Jessie B. Adair, Thomas W. Fines.

**LIONS CLUB****CHAPTER NO. 11**

High Sheriff—Dr. L. A. Davis  
 High Constable—Walton Hughes  
 Judge—Buddy Jackson  
 Board of Governors Representative—John Alfred

**Members:**

Joe Davis, J. D. Wigley, Willis Kimrey, George Sturdivent, Gene Anderson, Donald Spencer, C. E. Sims, Lloyd Hayes, Willis Johnson, Robt. L. Hollingsworth, George Culp, C. D. Howard, Jr., James L. Strickland, John A. Alford, Mort L. Weil, Jr., Robert Thrower, Jr., Francis Jacks, Dr. L. A. Davis, Ben Hughes, Walton Hughes, Henry Anderson, John Garrison, Dr. H. B. Hovis, Sam C. Broyles, Glen Slayton, Tom McDonald, Kenneth Holder, T. E. Morgan, T. R. Futch, A. B. Smith, A. C. Kimrey, James Elixson, Alvin Blackwell, Dr. T. H. Becraft, Robert Hooker.

**ROCKETTERS****CHAPTER NO. 12**

High Sheriff—Slim Lay  
 High Constable—C. T. Garvin  
 Judge—Bill Cousins  
 Board of Governors Representative—Homer L. Corum

**Members:**

Bill Cousins, Ed Rankhorn, C. T. Garvin, Billy Gray, Hilliard Morrow, W. E. McDonald, C. B. Hale, J. E. Hale, C. A. Cooper, M. S. Pennington, Slim Lay, Pierce Walker, Hershell Bell, Bill Fowler.

**COBBLERS****CHAPTER NO. 13**

High Sheriff—Gordon Simms  
 High Constable—Gene Fanning  
 Judge—Cecil Rousseau  
 Board of Governors Representative—Homer Giles

**Members:**

Homer Giles, Cecil Rousseau, Mac Robison, Alvie Childress, Paul Elkins, William Hayle, William Bridges, Wade Lincoln, W. M. Miskell, B. B. Keele, Milton Davis, Gene Fanning, Billy Jacks, B. H. Lacy, Jr., Donald Bell, Ollie Jones, Clarence Cobbs, Roger Sharpe, A. B. Anderson, Burn Wilburn, Gordon Simms, James Owen, Billy Eubanks, Donald Sharp, Elder Hardiman, D. V. Finnegan, Robert Arnold, Joe Eaton, Gilbert Newell, Edger Thomas, Robert Tate, Don Glen, J. D. Kennedy, Robert Milam, Floyd Horton, Zeke Spelce, Malcom Miller, Robert Beckman, A. J. Key, Jessie Ortner, Claude Ellett, J. C. King, Marvin Maynard, C. T. Wilburn, Lewis Bramlett, Granville Anderson, Floyd Drake, Lawrence Gibson, Aaron norrel, Ben Harbin, David Scott, Doc Worsham, Charlie Boswell, Ralph Johnson, J. D. Luna, Charles Johnson, Harold Free, James Hinshaw, David Gaines, William Mitchell, James Bratley, Clarence Boyett, J. W. Phillips, Lewis Gibson, Gene McDonald, Anthony Bechman, Joe B. Woody, Ray Whorton, J. H. McIlhenny, Ira Baker, Alton Roberson, Rivers Johnson, Darrel Walling, Ed Wallace, Charles Pannell, William Tipton, Oliver Manley, Readas Towery, Al Lang, Charlie Fann, Jerry Wilbanks, J. W. Bell, Roger Pittman, James Curnitt, Roy Brittain, James Hughes.

**BEATS ME**

**CHAPTER NO. 14**

High Sheriff—J. N. Slayton  
High Constable—J. W. Manley  
Judge—J. M. Jenkins  
Board of Governors Representative—John Edwards

**Members:**

J. N. Slayton, J. W. Manley, J. M. Jenkins, O. G. Hunter, J. C. Morrison, James M. Farmer, Billy Higginbotham, Elbert McElroy, Vernie Craig, Hiram Lanford, Ben Lawler, Whit Walker, Guy Haislip, John Edwards.

**THIOKOL WOOLEY BOOGERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 15**

High Sheriff—Richard Drake  
High Constable—Charles W. Smith  
Judge—Henry Suns  
Board of Governors Representative—W. R. Spelce  
Alternate—Leonard Brewer

**Members:**

C. R. Culverhouse, Jr., Richard C. Drake, Robert L. Jordan, Darril G. Burks, George Capuzzo, Walter Terry, Raymond Swaim, William T. Tribble, T. G. Wier, W. R. Spelce, Henry Suns, Ray Garrison, W. F. Haite, Herbert J. Yell, Lawrence C. Lacy, Bill Dale, Franklyn A. Gardiner, Albert E. Bersford, Jack Nunley, Biligene Ramsey, James B. Graham, A. J. Guntherbery, Whit Walker, M. K. Kirk, Charles W. Smith, Jack Dean, Bill Aycock, Basil B. Bogg, Donald Compton, Clarence Hartley, Gordon Garrison, Harold Carlisle, Herb McQueen, Thomas Fitchgerald, Edward M. Savage, John Noe, Jr., H. Nocke, Thomas F. Kuzara, Jack C. Godsay, Robert P. Ware, Leonard Brewer, Winston F. Davies, Billy Tidwell, J. E. Garnett, J. W. Hampton, Jr., Homer H. Sellers, Alfred H. Glover, Ralph A. Davis, Barton Monroe, III, Floyd C. French, O. J. Byrne, Lee A. Russell, M. L. Ashworth, S. B. Thompson, Alvis Howard, Jr., John Gaught, Jr., Thomas Guerin, Carl "Jack" Roberts, Buel Case, Robert E. Medlin, John D. Brown, Thomas Sanford, Charles Tucker, Leon N. Burton, Thomas W. Newby, Herbert C. Roden, William Childress, Raymond S. James, Richard Coffman, W. E. Ellis, Thomas B. Cornelison, Thomas E. Spelce, Jack Luna, Ben P. Parker, Ben M. Parker, Charles W. Sharpe, Herman H. Floyd, Billy Parker, Artice League, William C. Reed, Rex W. Bright, Odell F. Ricketts, Harold O. Ortner, William Buford, Joe L. McKay, Lester W. Howard, Kenneth N. Letson, James A. Pippin, Charlie T. Henderson, Matthew Weber, Jr., Leslie M. Gray, George J. Fello, Gattis Milam, Frank D. Smith, N. E. Barnard, Gene Largen, Frank H. Bentley, Richard H. Elierman, James S. Berry, Jr., Kenneth Hunter.

**TWICKENHAM SETTLERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 16**

High Sheriff—James E. Miller  
High Constable—James F. Pickett  
Judge—Thomas G. Reed  
Board of Governors Representative—James B. Fields

**Members:**

James F. Pickett, James B. Fields, Robert K. Cannon, Jack G. Enochs, Oscar W. Holderer, Thomas G. Reed, William A. Luna, James A. Waldrop, John B. Wakefield, Charles S. Gillespie, James F. Miller, Malvin L. Miller.

**WASHINGTON ALLEY BOYS**

**CHAPTER NO. 17**

High Sheriff—Richard B. Glenn  
High Constable—James K. Taylor  
Judge—Herman G. Taylor, Jr.  
Board of Governors Representative—A. T. Grayson

**Members:**

Earl C. Clayton, Ralph Duckett, Porter Bibb, Bruce Patton, Charles McAllestor, Alex Wilensky, Steve Marx, Robert Haskins, Richard B. Glenn, Herman G. Taylor, Jr., James K. Taylor, A. T. Grayson, Gene C. Sharpton, Stanley Bell, Jack Harris, Bob Barnlow, Harry Lee Hunt, James D. Hatchett, J. Moss, Trigger Howard.

**V.F.W. DOGFACES**

**CHAPTER NO. 18**

High Sheriff—Virgil Mitchell  
High Constable—G. W. Nevels  
Judge—Clyde Thompson  
Board of Governors Representative—Malvin Miller

**Members:**

G. W. Nevels, Virgil Mitchell, Malvin Miller, Ben Harbin, Sr., Lawrence Grizzard, Gene Dunham, B. F. Ward, Frank C. Bunn, Charles W. Smith, Charles Burdette, Clyde Thompson, Julius Lewis, Alvin Blackwell, Joe Davis, Ted Burns, U. G. Roberts, Jack Ivy, William F. Bass, Luther Emery, Nolen V. Marbrey, George J. Fello, Jack Calder, Stanley Stephens, Roger Nance, C. O. Mullins, Jr., P. S. Tuck, Lee Harless, Houston Adams, James F. Richard, Ben Harbin, Jr., Jimmy Horton, Macon Weaver, Charles Snyder, James Baker, Joe Williams, Glenn W. Jennings, Robert L. Spletter, Doody Weinstein, Wallace Collins, John A. Edwards, W. L. Latham, Howard Tipton.

**MOONSHINERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 19**

High Sheriff—C. W. (Woody) Anderson  
High Constable—Tully Turner  
Judge—Billy Jones  
Board of Governors Representative—Jim Latham

**Members:**

B. A. Stockton, Jr., Bill Lane, Jr., Ed Clift, Jr., Louis B. Lee, Jr., Tully O. Turner, Jr., Bob Ragland, Bill Conner, Jim Latham, L. D. Lehman, C. W. Anderson, Jimmy Cantrell, Louis Salmon, Tom Yarbrough, Dick Hay, Billy J. Jones, Billy Callaway, Marvin Martin.

**FIVE POINTS APPLE KNOCKERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 20**

High Sheriff—Charlie Burdette  
High Constable—Billy Holder  
Judge—W. P. Curtis  
Board of Governors Representative—Charlie Burdette

**Members:**

Charlie Burdette, Billie Holder, C. M. Russell, E. P. Taylor, Paul B. Kendrick, Melvin H. Neal, Billy R. Schrimsher, Erskine Neal, Otto Neal, Larry Gray, Bill Beckman, Billy Roden, W. P. Curtis, W. E. Brown, Delbert Williams, Marion Chandler, Marcus Harwell, Lester Byrd, R. N. Norman, James Moore, Paul Newby, Charles Roden, Harry Woodward, Duncan Woodward, Cecil Taylor, J. L. Congo.

**MONTE SANO MOUNTAINEERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 21**

High Sheriff—Dudley Powell  
High Constable—Jim Hughes  
Judge—C. C. Armstrong  
Board of Governors Representative—J. C. Sanders

**Members:**

W. D. Turner, Carl Woodall, E. E. Camp, C. H. Carroll, W. L. Halsey, W. D. Ray, Russell Barber, John Rodenhauer, C. R. McBrayer, Ned Wickham, Dr. W. M. McKissack, Dudley Powell, Arnold Kay, J. C. Danders, Jr., E. C. Kelley, John Frey, Dr. E. V. Caldwell, Vance J. Thornton, H. D. Nelson, C. C. Armstrong, Robert Haskins, John Reid, P. W. Means, James Hughes, Martin Phillips, James E. Taylor, Ralph Ford, G. M. Mahoney, Roy Blackburn, J. B. Hill, Dr. Otis Gay, Dr. Paul Warren, Ed. Branch, J. D. Hays.

**JESSIE JAMES PENCIL CHAPTER**

**CHAPTER NO. 22**

High Sheriff—Hillard, H. E.  
High Constable—R. A. Garrard  
Judge—R. H. Cohron  
Board of Governors Representative—David Goble

**Members:**

Gene Garvin, Rudolph V. Strelow, L. J. Benson, H. E. Hilliard, Earl Swaim, T. O. Hooper, Harold Bragg, C. B. Corlett, L. L. Whitworth, Charles Prince, Rush Garrard, Odell Brice, David Goble, C. N. Ellis, R. H. Cohron, J. W. Graves, R. N. Sisson, J. A. Douglas, Earl Wilson, T. R. Crutcher, Jr.

**BIG SPRING**

**CHAPTER NO. 23**

High Sheriff—Earl Frazier  
High Constable—I. W. Graves  
Judge—A. P. Harper  
Board of Governors Representative—David Baucom



**Members:**

Phillip Brocato, Louis Poole, David Baucom, B. L. Moore, A. P. Harper, J. H. Graves, James I. McKee, Glenn House, W. M. Hendley, Tony Wilmer, Bill Smith, Earl Frazier, L. D. Askew, B. Ward, Stan Johnson, Leonard Baites, Horace V. Mitchell, Jack Smith, E. E. Atkins, W. E. Kew, George S. Wilkes, Frank Rice, Tom McDonald.

**SHAGGY SATELLITES****CHAPTER NO. 24**

High Sheriff—Tom Wooten  
High Constable—Osmond Gardner  
Judge—Raymond A. Deep  
Board of Governors Representative—Juan Pizarro

**Members:**

Don Worrell, James L. Sanders, James Higgins, Osmond Gardner, Dick Nelson, Tom Wooten, Raymond A. Deep, Joseph C. Craft, Bob DeYoung, Paul J. Kane, Joel H. Bradford, John K. Clarke, Ellis L. Merritt, Creighton C. Lee, Juan Pizarro, R. C. Callaway, Jr., Wm. W. Howard, Lloyd B. Marks, Wilburn J. Roper, R. E. Albersson, A. L. Groves, J. P. Elmore, Willard Shelton.

**ROCKET CITY SAGE HOGS****CHAPTER NO. 25**

High Sheriff—G. H. Gross  
High Constable—Bill Beach  
Judge—B. A. Thomas  
Board of Governors Representative—J. H. McLain

**Members:**

William Beach, William Dewees, W. T. Dillard, William Giardini, G. H. Gross, John Hart, R. McKnight, J. H. McLain, J. Morrison, W. Owens, B. Powell, Tant, B. A. Thomas, H. Wilson, Franklin Thomas, Country Bailey, Leo Ferguson.

**FUZZY DOORKNOCKERS****CHAPTER NO. 26**

High Sheriff—Richard A. Klempa  
High Constable—Bill E. White  
Judge—Ralph S. Musick  
Board of Governors Representative—Alton Miller

**Members:**

Alton D. Miller, Marshall W. Clements, John D. Hoppen, Frank W. Campbell, Billie L. Stone, R. C. Stephens, Harold L. Moore, Kenneth R. Forhand, Stephen D. Hyche, William E. Hill, Clarence E. Bice, Paul E. Carroll, Wendall C. Payne, Charles E. Quick, Kleber M. O'Neal, C. Paul Clutts, Hugh M. Webster, Cecil R. Stewart, Everett E. Adams, J. D. Primm, Richard A. Klempa, William F. Goens, Bill E. White, Elliott Milton, Boyd C. Walters, W. H. Robinson, Odis Pokarny, Ray Wooten, Bobby Byrom, J. O. Wooten, Coy O. Harvel, Otis Simmons, Richard Buchanan, Ralph S. Musick.

**PELOSO CLUB****CHAPTER NO. 27**

High Sheriff—W. S. Copeland  
High Constable—Basil Banks  
Judge—Roy Butler  
Board of Governors Representative—Howard Gentle

**Members:**

Maurice Smith, Howard Gentle, Martis S. Scott, Harrison Campbell, Basil Banks, W. P. Fanning, Dave Archer, Roy Butler, Oscar Russell, W. S. Copeland, Robert W. Gentle, T. A. Parsley, Norman Pizitz, Howard Golden, Harold Pizitz, Richard Klempa, J. E. Spencer, Max Webster.

**CHAIN GANG****CHAPTER NO. 28**

High Sheriff—J. B. Elixson  
High Constable—W. H. Kimrey  
Judge—Dan McDonald

**Members:**

Kenneth Holder, Ray Byrne, A. G. Williams, L. D. Bounds, J. B. Elixson, C. R. McBrayer, Herman Lyons, E. N. Glasser, Sidney L. Hughes, Robert Caneer, Daniel A. McDonald, Bill Gilbreath, Herman C. Daniel, James M. Smith, Floyd Tersheshee, Grady Waters, W. Waters, R. W. Stewart, Clinton Waters, A. C. Kimrey, W. H. Kimrey, J. L. Hancock, H. M. Lanford, Ed. Lanford, James Hargrove, John Carter, David Birdsong, Lewis Gipson, Hollis B. Kirk, C. F. Cartleman, Howard W. Price.

**PONY EXPRESS****CHAPTER NO. 29**

High Sheriff—Charles Snyder  
High Constable—Ed. R. Williams  
Judge—LeRoy Drake

**Members:**

Virgil J. Uptain, W. T. Faulk, Lloyd Prince, Duncan Troupe, Ed. R. Williams, William R. Johnson, Paul Clutts, Charles Snyder, R. B. Hardiman, LeRoy Drake, J. W. Busbin, Charles Smith, R. C. Keeyon, William L. Gilley, Clarence T. Nevels, Ronald Sisk.

**STERCHI FLEAS****CHAPTER NO. 30**

High Sheriff—John Gingrich  
High Constable—Don Mansfield  
Judge—Bill Woodall

Thomas McKay, W. L. Putman, George Fields, J. C. Lawrence, Billy Haga, Charles Harbin, E. E. Brown, W. T. Young, Marvin Stewart, T. W. Warden, Carl Woodall, H. H. Parks, Ed. Allen, Don Mansfield, Pierce Walker, Bill Woodall, Joe Allen, John Gingrich, J. E. Quick, J. S. Van Hooser, J. E. Reed, J. J. Sullivan, J. C. Shepard.

**FIND & CHASE 'EM****CHAPTER NO. 31**

High Sheriff—Howard Swinford  
High Constable—Dick Spencer  
Judge—R. N. Sissom  
Board of Governors Representative—E. D. Mason

**Members:**

Doody Weinstein, Dick Spencer, Howard Gentle, T. C. Hale, R. N. Sissom, F. D. Mason, J. C. Frey, Ralph Duckett, George Gobel, Howard Swinford, Jeff Riddle, Harvey Eslick, C. M. Gillespie.

**HOTEL RAZOR BACKS****CHAPTER NO. 32**

High Sheriff—George L. Roach, Jr.  
High Constable—Raybon Nash  
Judge—R. L. Adkins, Jr.  
Board of Governors Representative—Alvin Robinson

**Members:**

Andrew Luna, Raybon Nash, George Roach, Wilburn Laster, Charlie Taylor, Posey Luna, James E. Taylor, Robert L. Adkins, Junior Bankston, Doyal J. Hyatt, G. W. Smith, Jim Kling, Alvin V. Robinson, Cecil Bulman.

**DAVE CROCKETT CHAPTER****CHAPTER NO. 33**

Members:  
Carlisle Davis, Jimmy Walker, H. Holmberg, Herbert Ray, Marion Chandler, Dewey Smith, W. E. Dickey, John Garrison, Howard Gentle, Ashford Todd, Jimmy Horton, Roy Stone, Wilford Van Valkenberg, C. D. Howard, Sr.

**JAYCEE BUSHWACKERS****CHAPTER NO. 34**

High Sheriff—Earl Cloud  
Constable—Lawrence Lacy  
Judge—John Higdon  
Board of Governors Representative—Don Jessick

**Members:**

Alvin Blackwell, Jimmy Horton, Lawrence C. Lacy, Harold O'Neal, Houston G. Adams, Charles Northrop, Sandy Goldstein, Charles E. Motley, Harry M. Johnstone, Jack W. Hendrix, Rick Davies, Walter Wiesman, John Higdon, Lloyd Kranert, Frank Bunn, Don Jessick, Sam R. Moore, Harry L. Pennington, Sig Loeb, Earl E. Cloud, Robert A. Wylie.

**SINAWIK WIGWAM****CHAPTER NO. 35**

High Sheriff—Jim Sheetz  
Constable—Charles Shaver  
Judge—Ashford Todd  
Board of Governors Representative—Cecil Mitchell

**Members:**

Joe Swing, Herbert Johnson, Jr., Jack Yarbrough, Nathan F. S. Porter, Cecil C. Mitchell, Chas. F. Shaver, Oscar Grosser, Ashford Todd, Clarence Cobbs, Carroll Hay, George S. Butler, Billy Johnston, Walter Wiesman, Judge Thos. W. Jones, Geo. N. Robinson, Jimmy Walker, Walter Eigenbrod, Dr. Bob Sammons, B. A. Stockton, Jr., John S. Scott.

**LEGAL EAGLES****CHAPTER NO. 36**

High Sheriff—Macon L. Weaver  
Constable—William G. Hamm  
Judge—Tom McDonald  
Board of Governors Representative—J. W. Green

**Members:**

Harry L. Pennington, J. D. Carroll, Wm. H. Johnston, Jeff D. Smith, Wm. G. Hamm, Louis Salmon, Claude H. Pipes, M. H. Lanier, M. L. Weaver, Thos. D. McDonald, Ashford Todd, Joe Payne, Earl E. Cloud, J. W. Green, David R. Archer, James W. Baker, M. U. Griffin II, Horace E. Garth, Jack Giles, James Butler, Charles Shaver, Carl Moring, David Culver, Elbert Parsons, Ralph Ford.

**SAM CATHEM**

**CHAPTER NO. 37**

High Sheriff—Joe Herman Swaim  
 Constable—James Hobart Anderson  
 Judge—Grover Pylant  
 Board of Governors Representative—Tom McCrary

**Members:**

Marcus Daniel, Harry S. Carroll, James Hudson, John W. Travis, Shelley Miller, Julius M. Taylor, Bob Henshaw, Grover A. Pylant, Floyd L. Emerson, Joe Herman Swaim, Tom R. Butler, Noble McCain, Jess Seaton, W. L. Weaver, John E. Helton, Jack Guthrie, Howard Loveday, Edgar V. Lyle, Ira T. Lewis, Tom McCrary, C. M. Cornelison, Earl C. Baker, Luther C. Allen, Henry Landers, Mack Black, W. T. Slayton, Eldridge Stanley, James H. Anderson.

**ELKS**

**CHAPTER NO. 38**

High Sheriff—Jimmie Brocato  
 Constable—Sam Tate  
 Judge—John Tuminello, Sr.  
 Board of Governors Representative—

**Members:**

Joe S. Foster, C. J. Waite, Joe Lanza, Billy Russell, Pulley Miles, John Tuminello, Jr., Sandy Goldstein, Sam Tate, Dick Laughmiller, Bill Martin, Tom Reagh, Joe Tuminello, John Tuminello, Sr., Jimmy Brocato, Paul Kane.

**LEAVIN'S**

**CHAPTER NO. 39**

High Sheriff—Roger Nance  
 Constable—Charles H. Cummings  
 Judge—Charles E. Shaver  
 Board of Governors Representative—Theodore Savas

**Members:**

Roger Nance, Charles H. Cummings, Jr., William A. Rogers, Charles E. Shaver, Butch Thompson, Ted Senhall, Luke Reynolds, Billy M. Jackson, Floyd Markham, Leonard Askins, Gene Primm, Sam C. Broyles, Theodore C. Savas.

**NUTTY KNUCKLE BUSTERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 40**

High Sheriff—A. W. Pickett  
 Constable—Bud Mullins  
 Judge—Harry Berry  
 Board of Governors Representative—Joe Edwards

**Members:**

Joe Edwards, Nelson Parrish, Frank McConnell, Joe Wilson, J. E. Webb, A. W. Pickett, Clarence Vann, Duncan Gay, Bud Mullins, Red Letson, Harry Berry, Woody Simms, Robert Gurley, George Sanders, Bill Powers, Joe Thrower, James Sharpe, Rufus Sharpe, David Sharpe, W. G. Simpson, K. T. Smith, R. W. Patterson, Jessie Duncan, Arrie Eliff, Bill Smith, Joe Poore, A. E. Kilgore, Bob Bennett, Joe Patterson, Raymond Johnson.

**RED ROCK DUSTERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 41**

High Sheriff—Harold Phillips  
 Constable—Virgil Cagle  
 Judge—Leo Deason  
 Board of Governors Representative—Rodney D. Chamberlain

**Members:**

Wayne Peterson, Virgil Cagle, James H. Buchanan, Harold Phillips, Howard Childers, William Bridges, Cecil Boyd, Leo Deason, Henry A. Emerson, Rodney D. Chamberlain, Grover M. Harbin, W. B. Russell, E. P. Sexton, M. G. Veitch.

**OWENS CROSS ROADS SCRUBBS**

**CHAPTER NO. 42**

High Sheriff—Weston Hornbuckle  
 High Constable—Dan Drake, Jr.  
 Judge—Bruce Maples  
 Board of Governors Representative—Moody Ellett

**Members:**

Weston Hornbuckle, Dan C. Drake, W. W. Maples, Robert Sims, Dillard Limley, Ray Clark, Bruce Maples, Moody Ellett, Harvey Limley, James Burleson, Dan Smith, Ernest Burnette.

**RUBBER RAZORS**

**CHAPTER NO. 43**

High Sheriff—Ed Bevil  
 High Constable—Harmon Chisholm  
 Judge—I. C. Hubbal  
 Board of Governors Representative—Elmo Johnson

**Members:**

Morris B. Locke, Nolen J. Locke, K. C. Cowley, Jess Hugg, Jr., Richard Mitchell, Billy Stewart, Joe VanValkenburg, Jack Wilson, Jack Hines, J. W. Reese, O. C. Berill, L. C. Hubbard, Ray Cobb, Q. T. Caleb, W. D. Hamsby, T. A. Richardson, F. W. Carter, James C. Myers, Dr. J. B. Pullen.

**KILOWATT**

**CHAPTER NO. 44**

High Sheriff—C. R. Terrell  
 High Constable—D. J. Parker  
 Judge—L. A. Bledsoe  
 Board of Governors Representative—Howard Sandlin

**Members:**

C. R. Terrell, Clayton E. Smith, J. N. Williams, R. P. Starkey, Howard Sandlin, Floyd Pierce, H. R. Depew, Bobby Christian, Douglas Parker, Melvin Graham, James E. Troup, Bill Blansett, R. C. Betsch, Earl Sharpe, Harold Estell, Woodrow Adams, William E. Sorrow, W. W. McBride, R. B. Reid, L. A. Bledsoe, R. L. McBride, Brown E. Echols, T. B. Summerford, Elbert Keel, B. J. Ellett, O. W. Reynolds, Bill Gibbs, O. E. York, J. D. Henderson, E. B. Fisher, P. L. Countess, O. T. Cox.

**BLUE BEARDS**

**CHAPTER NO. 45**

High Sheriff—Eugene Cagle  
 High Constable—W. A. Bishop  
 Judge—J. R. Hudson  
 Board of Governors Representative—Billy F. Tipton

**Members:**

Don Fulton, J. R. Hudson, W. D. Tucker, Billy F. Tipton, James Blue, James W. Lang, W. A. Bishop, Jack Clark, Howard Chunn, Dillard McBride, Homer Thomas, Roy Harbin, Elmer Ehringer, Oliver Allred, Orville Fowler, Wannie Hughes, Eugene Cagle, Don Horton, C. L. Broyles, John Blue III, James Sanders, Charles Harbin.

**WHISKER'S SCORCHERS**

**CHAPTER NO. 46**

High Sheriff—Jeffie Clevenger  
 High Constable—A. S. Potter, Jr.  
 Judge—Massey Tolen  
 Board of Governors Representative—A. M. Johnson or H. H. Hunt

**Members:**

A. S. Potter, Jr., N. W. Mahaffey, W. L. Russell, Jr., Jeffie Clevenger, A. M. Johnson, H. H. Hunt, R. L. Canterbury, Clint Renfroe, L. R. Clanton, C. W. Ivey, J. O. Moore, Massey Tolen, J. W. Hooper, R. B. Searcy, Billy Renfroe, E. R. Faulkinberry.

**RAY'S SAGE HOGS**

**CHAPTER NO. 47**

High Sheriff—Coyle Ray  
 High Constable—Bill Mitchell  
 Judge—"Flop" Morris  
 Board of Governors Representative—Ben Ray

**Members:**

Dewy Craft, Bill Mitchell, Ray Pearman, Bob Hogwood, George Morris, Ford Hall, Frank Ellett, Dick Laughmiller, Barton Harris, Ben Ray, "Flop" Morris, Carlisle Davis, Stan Johnson, Knox Wilbanks, A. V. Sneed, Bud Honey, Coyle Ray, C. I. Bradford, Ed Worley, Rev. John Milford, Howard Hinshaw, Herbert Ray, T. C. Fitch, Woodrow Sims.

**LOON HEADS**

**CHAPTER NO. 48**

High Sheriff—Peyton Drake  
 High Constable—Dan Ellett  
 Judge—William Franklin  
 Board of Governors Representative—Owen Hammett

**Members:**

Robert Walker, Dan Ellett, Elton Poore, O. D. Medlin, Louis B. Owens, Peyton Drake, William Franklin, Owen Hammett, Chester Hamby, Charles R. Coffee, Burton Case, Robert W. Toon, Marshall Walker, Homer Sandler, James L. Brewer.

SESQUICENTENNIAL QUEEN CANDIDATES



To these young ladies and their sponsors the Huntsville Sesqui-Centennial Corporation expresses thanks for all their aid in advance ticket sales for "Into This Valley."

Sesqui-Centennial Queen Candidates, First Row, left to right: Miss Delores Mills, Mrs. Brooks Moore, Miss Jean Troupe, Mrs. Doris Kilpatrick, Mrs. Beverly Miles, Miss Joyce Hollingsworth, and Miss Peggy Parks.  
 Second row: Shirley Roberson, Phyllis Christian, Mrs. Helen Wendell, Jane Warden, Freida Rice, Mrs. Ola Saile, and Mrs. Martha Throver.  
 Third row: Martha Huckaby, Miss Barbara Porter, Miss Anita Touchstone, Miss Margaret Marsh, Miss Jerry Ann Bailes, Miss Ann Dickey, Miss Pat Bolin, Miss Barbara Patton, Miss Dottie Timmons.  
 Fourth row: Miss Lee Searcy, Miss Sandra Stribling, Miss Betty Moore, Miss Juanita Tuck, Miss Shirley Jean Sanders, Miss Faye Speck, Miss Doris Speegle, Miss Carolyn Bjork.  
 Fifth row: Miss Betsey Jones, Miss Ann Carter, Miss Kay Rolfe, Miss Bertie Faye O'Neal, Miss Ellen McElyea, Miss Sonja Jones, Miss Julia Snow, and Mrs. Joyce Prince.  
 Sixth row: Miss Ann Hampton, Miss Louise Mathias, Miss Marilee Johnson, Betty Jane Sanderson, Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter, Miss Stella Ruth Busey, Mrs. Jackie Brewer, Miss Lucy Ray, Mrs. Doris Blackstone, Miss Eleanor Ann Troupe.

THE HUNTSVILLE SESQUICENTENNIAL, INC., AND THE CITIZENS OF HUNTSVILLE AND MADISON COUNTY

PRESENT

"INTO THIS VALLEY"

A JOHN B. ROGERS PRODUCTION

BIG SPRING PARK

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

September 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 1955

8:00 P.M.

*John B. Rogers Staff*

*Script and Motivation by*

Harry Graff . . . . . Electrical Technician  
 James Kling . . . . . Managing Director  
 Loyd Spangler . . . . . Producer  
 Mary Spangler . . . . . Associate

LOYD SPANGLER

For the Rogers Company from material supplied by the Pageant Historical Committee, Frances Roberts, Historian.

"INTO THIS VALLEY"

To Their Majesties

"MISS HUNTSVILLE AND MISS MADISON COUNTY"

Through an avenue of flags come many gracious bearers of good will to honor their HIGHNESSES AND THEIR COURTS. All bow in attendance as Miss Huntsville and Miss Madison County are crowned queens of the Huntsville Sesquicentennial Celebration of 1955.

*This is the story of a valley and of those who came into it to push back the wilderness and build the great city of Huntsville.*

EPISODE ONE—THE RED MAN

The Shell Mound People . . . Their civilization grows . . . progresses . . . develops . . . and gives us an historic people, the American Indian . . . The Red Man. They pitch their tepees around the Great Spring . . . Here they pay homage to their Sun-god . . . to the moon and stars. In this land of their fathers, they hunt, feast and follow pursuits of free children of nature . . . warring when intruded upon . . . closing the conflict with Peace pipe.

We glimpse an Indian village and see a ceremonial dance of an Indian Princess and her maidens to their Sun-god.

EPISODE TWO—THE WHITE MAN COMES

Here the Red Man lived, multiplied, worshipped his gods . . . But his way of life was soon to change . . . for Hernando De Soto, Spanish Explorer! Discoverer of the great River . . . the Mississippi . . . arrives in quest of fabled gold! De Soto! . . . First white man to encounter the Indian.

Beyond the hills are to come other invaders, the tide of which will in time reach the valley, for the English have landed a little ship on an eastern rockbound coast to plant a colony from which will stem our democracy. Meanwhile the French missionaries traverse the country to Christianize the Indian.

France and England come to blows over the lands in the New World. The French and Indian Wars! The bloody conflict comes to an end and England is ceded the lands that include our valley.

EPISODE THREE—A DEMOCRACY IS BORN

1775! . . . England tightens her grip on the Colonies!! Taxes become unbearable! The Declaration of Independents is drawn up. The Revolutionary War rages bitterly! The American spirit leaps forward! The spirit of '76 which brings the British to surrender . . . a surrender that gave this valley to the United States.

The desire for expansion takes root! Adventurous souls bid good-bye to friends and relatives in the settled east and north! The frontier moves toward the valley which is still the property of the Cherokee and Chickasaw Indians.

**EPISODE FOUR—INTO THIS VALLEY**

United States Commissioners journey to the Chickasaw country and assemble the Indians to arrange a Treaty of Purchase of the area containing Old Madison County. And the Indians move to their reservations or westward toward the setting sun.

On their trail follow groups of industrious and courageous settlers to build the Great County of Madison and the City of Huntsville!

**EPISODE FIVE—THE FIRST SETTLEMENT**

December 1808! Madison County is created in the Mississippi Territory. 1811! . . . The Hunt Settlement at the Big Spring is now established and is known as Twickenham. It is the County seat of Old Madison County. Leroy Pope has purchased the land on which the town stands and it has been named after the country home of Alexander Pope, the English poet, whom he admires.

The first settlers, John Hunt's friends, resent this because trouble is brewing with England, and they petition the legislature to change the name of the town to Huntsville. The act is passed and the town is named Huntsville after its first settler.

Wealth pours into the town . . . up goes homes of brick and stone . . . stores and shops rise around the square. Huntsville is the center of territorial affairs when the Alabama Territory is created in 1817.

**EPISODE SIX—1819—A MEMORABLE YEAR FOR HUNTSVILLE**

Social and civic life moves forward . . . Churches! . . . Schools! . . . Green Academy! . . . The richest and most populated county in the Territory surges ahead. Gone is the buckskin and calico . . . The days of struggle are far behind . . . Fine homes have replaced the cabin . . . WE ENTER A NEW ERA!

These were the lush years . . . By this time there were within the limits of the Alabama Territory, sufficient numbers to warrant the admission of Alabama to the Union. An act was passed authorizing the people of the Territory to hold a convention at Huntsville for the purpose of drafting a State Constitution. **PRESIDENT MONROE VISITS HUNTSVILLE!**

**THE TERRITORIAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLES AT HUNTSVILLE** on the first Monday in July, 1819! . . . The business of the Convention is transacted and **ALABAMA BECOMES A STATE!** . . . **HUNTSVILLE IS ITS TEMPORARY CAPITOL! THE FIRST GOVERNOR, WILLIAM WYATT BIBB IS INAUGURATED IN HUNTSVILLE!**

**EPISODE SEVEN—ANOTHER HUNTSVILLE FIRST FOR ALABAMA**

Where there is courage and fearlessness there is usually found high religious ideals. Deeply religious, the early residents of Huntsville began at an early date to form churches of various denominations. The teachings and beliefs of the early inhabitants were reflected in the establishment of the **OLDEST NEGRO BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE STATE** . . . The Huntsville African Baptist Church . . . now known as the St. Bartley's Primitive Baptist Church.

**EPISODE EIGHT—TRANSPORTATION TO HUNTSVILLE**

Stage lines and turn-pikes had been established between various points and Huntsville is a station on all lines . . . The town turns out to meet **THE STAGE.**

The citizens were by now concerned with providing the community with navigation at its very door, thereby fixing an enduring commercial supremacy. **THE FIRST CANAL BOAT** arrives on the Huntsville Canal!

Huntsville, founded as she was at the threshold of the 19th Century, lived in the last years of the inland waterways and canals and in the dawn of the steam railroads. It was a great day when **THE FIRST TRAIN STEAMED INTO THE CITY ON A GLEAMING NEW TRACK.**

*Ten Minute Intermission*

**EPISODE NINE—THE WAR YEARS**

Money comes easily . . . life is gay . . . reckless . . . carefree. Then the issue of States Rights arises. Abraham Lincoln becomes president! Dissention in the Union! . . . **WAR BETWEEN THE STATES!!**

There were many in Huntsville who opposed secession, but loyal to their state, the city patriotically responded. **THE BOYS IN GRAY** march away to battle under **THE STARS AND BARS!**

The women of Huntsville quickly organized the Ladies' Humane Society and send uniforms, bandages and quantities of food to the front. Religious organizations contribute both spiritually and substantially to the cause. Church spires are stripped of their bells to be smelted and cast into cannon for the Bell Battery of Huntsville.

The conflict rages . . . public buildings . . . fine homes . . . and the Huntsville Female College are thrown open as hospitals for the sick and wounded who pour into Huntsville. Then . . . just before daylight on a spring morning in 1862, the tread of marching men and the clatter of wagons break the morning stillness. The Federal Troops under General Mitchell enter Huntsville. The Railroad Station is destroyed! The Telegraph and Post Office seized! The town is full of the enemy!

The end came on April 9, 1865, confirmed in Huntsville on the 14th. The Boys come home; not all who proudly marched away, for many sleep on southern hillside . . . a sacrifice to a way of life and a cause in which they believed.

**EPISODE TEN—THE ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE IS FORMED**

Many years ago, a little colored boy with a big hoe, toiled under the southern sun in a cotton patch on the outskirts of Huntsville. As he worked he dreamed. Dreamed of reading . . . writing . . . learning. Dreamed of working with tools . . . machinery . . . learning and teaching an easier way to bring forth richer fruits from the earth. Many years ago was born the idea with which he, Prof. William Hooper Council, founded the present day Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College, and put into motion a plan that routed ignorance from the minds of his people and enabled them to render constructive service to themselves . . . their community . . . and their country.

**EPISODE ELEVEN—HUNTSVILLE HITS "THE FRONT PAGE"**

An incident in 1884 put Huntsville, on the front page of every newspaper in the country. Frank James, the celebrated outlaw, was on trial here for the robbery of a government payroll near Florence, Alabama, defended by the famed southerner, Leroy Pope Walker.

Frank wins over the local press and public alike by his charm and diplomacy. The jury finds him not guilty as charged! Wild cheers go up from the packed courtroom. Mr. James made a lot of friends in Huntsville!

The City basked in the national spotlight a few years later in 1892, when her leading citizens responded to the invitation of a cow to trip the "Light Fantastic" in her honor . . . **LILLY FLAGG**, the prized Jersey cow of Samuel H. Moore. Lilly has just been acclaimed the world's greatest butter producer.

**EPISODE TWELVE—THE GAY, GAY NINETIES!!**

Huntsville basks in a gay and amusing decade; that of the Bicycle Built for Two . . . The Surrey With the Fringe on Top . . . The Horseless Carriage . . . The poor pedestrian hasn't a chance in this new-fangled age. But, the life of the city goes merrily on. Sunday Picnics . . . Band Concerts . . . Bathing Beauty Contests . . . The Can Can . . . All Girl Minstrels . . . What's the country coming to? **THOSE WERE THE DAYS!**

**EPISODE THIRTEEN—INDUSTRY TO THE VALLEY**

Now, firmly planted among us was a giant among giants. **INDUSTRY!** Life Blood of the South. "Though I work with water, metal and cotton . . . oil . . . chemicals . . . and fire . . . I am more than these things. I am the people's work; I am the people's dream. **I AM THE PEOPLE!**" Hearing the opening strains of the song of the mills . . . the people flock in, to bring forth a mighty symphony of the looms.

**EPISODE FOURTEEN—TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM**

Peace and prosperity reigns in the valley . . . Then a great war cloud sweeps over Europe! Bursts into raging conflict, engulfing the world! Hands across the sea plead for help. The United States takes up the torch for Democracy! . . . Enters a Great World War.

**EPISODE FIFTEEN—THE ROARING TWENTIES**

With the war came the machine and with the machine came speed and the Roaring Twenties . . . Sky-scrapers . . . The Real Estate Boom . . . The Model T . . . Jazz . . . Flappers . . . Prohibition . . . and the Charleston!

The panic and depression of 1929! The mills shut down! The song of the looms is stilled . . . The country rocks in economic chaos! Want stalks the Valley . . . Soup Kitchens . . . Breadlines. **EMERGENCY MEASURES! . . . RECOVERY!**

**EPISODE SIXTEEN—WORLD WAR TWO**

Huntsville moves forward. A Radio Broadcasting Station. Monte Sano State Park Opens. Prosperity Reigns. Then the clouds of war again descend upon the world.

Our National Guard mobilizes. Up goes the arsenal! People flock in to man it. Emergency housing . . . Shortages . . . But, Huntsville rallies to the cause . . . freely and willingly, as she has done throughout the years. This is the spirit that is America! The spirit that planted the flag on Iwo Jima. The spirit that carried the banner forward in another cause for Freedom!

**EPISODE SEVENTEEN—INTO THE FUTURE**

We have taken to the air! We have entered the Atomic Age! Guided Missiles! Rockets! Space Satellites! The next Frontier . . . Journeys into space. New Worlds to Colonize. The Moon? Perhaps?

From: The College of Science  
To: The Governor of the Colony of Alabama, First Colony of the United Colonies of the Moon.

We request your presence to witness a demonstration of our latest accomplishment. We now, in a measure. **CONTROL TIME!**

**EPISODE EIGHTEEN—SALUTE!**

We turn our hearts to all those gallant people, whose combined and mighty efforts, bore, nursed through the years and built our City of today . . . True to the Great American Ideals of Freedom, Peace, and Progress for all the world.

THE GREAT WHEELS OF PROGRESS  
TURN INTO THE NEXT CENTURY!

*"No hand can stay the force of these great wheels  
That unrelenting, turn to wipe out greet and hate,  
To strike down fear . . . all selfishness refute;  
WE LIFT OUR HEARTS IN PROUD SALUTE.*

DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS

PLEASE FOR YOUR SAFETY, remain in the stands UNTIL THE FIELD LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON.

Special Note: Costumes, scenery and lighting equipment are furnished by The John B. Rogers Producing Co., Fostoria, Ohio.

MEMBERS OF THE CAST OF  
"INTO THIS VALLEY"

THE CAST OF "INTO THIS VALLEY" IS SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANIGATIONS

Whitesburg Drive Garden Club, Qui Vive Club, The Aladin Club, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Huntsville High School P. T. A., The Butler P. T. A., The Butler High School, The Huntsville High School, The Boy Scouts of America, The Girl Scouts of America, Community Greeting Service, Riverton Chapter of the Future Homemakers of America, Jr. Grace Club, Altrusa Club, New Hope P. T. A., Curley P. T. A., Huntsville Little Theater, Postal Clerks Auxiliary, Riverton Chapters of the Future Farmers of America, Op-Ti-Mrs. Club, Jr. Welfare League, Optimist Club, West Huntsville Men's Club, B. P. O. E. 1648, Junior Chamber of Commerce Auxiliary, Cosmopolitan Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, Post Office Clerks, Post Office Carriers, Lions Club, Women of the Presbyterian Church, Rotary Ann Club, Jessie Hopper P. T. A., Grace Club Auxiliary, Huntsville Rotary Club, Temple Sisterhood, East Huntsville Home Demonstration Club, Hospitality Club, Welcome Wagon Club, Pilot Club, Mayfair Garden Club, Thornton Acres Garden Club, Mack Harris Post #307, American Legion Auxiliary #37, Gentry-Isom Post #2702, V. F. W. Auxiliary, V. F. W. Post 2702, American Legion Post #176, American Legion Auxiliary Post #176, The National Guard, U. S. Naval Reserve Training Center and U. S. Naval Reserve Surface Division 6-59.

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### HOWDY DOWDY DAFFODILLS

#### CHAPTER NO. 1

President, Mrs. Ada Harris  
 Secretary, Mrs. Marie Sullivan  
 Board of Governors Representative, Mrs. Ada Harris

Members:  
 Mrs. Ada Harris, Mrs. Marie Sullivan, Mrs. Charles E. Chatman, Mrs. Zenobia Morrow, Mrs. Elizabeth White, Mrs. Stella Bradfield, Mrs. Agnes Cooper, Mrs. Gertrude Hollyfield, Mrs. Ruby Boone, Mrs. Louise Watts, Mrs. Clara Lowe, Miss Scelena Griffin, Mrs. Posey G. McCalloway, Mrs. Mary Germaine, Mrs. Ruby McDonald, Mrs. Flora Talliver, Mrs. Ethel Lacey, Mrs. Gladys Johnson, Mrs. Irene Freeman, Mrs. Odell Ford, Mrs. Blanch Little, Mrs. Virginia Vaup, Mrs. Margaret Lacey, Mrs. Jones Toney, Mrs. Dessa Ross, Mrs. Mabel Goodloe, Mrs. Lula Pulley, Mrs. Griffie Doyle, Russell, Mrs. Katie Pleasant, Mrs. Pearl H. Richardson, Mrs. Lula Moses, Mrs. Jamie Parks, Mrs. Nettie L. Brandon, Mrs. Margaret Gabinsco, Mrs. Doris Rice, Mrs. Catherine Chunn, Mrs. Willie Fletcher, Mrs. Charlotte Battle, Mrs. Mary Pickett, Mrs. Josephine Jones, Mrs. Sarah Turner, Mrs. Erenstine Pearson, Mrs. Clara Cowan, Miss Delores Powers, Mrs. Estell Williams, Mrs. Brookie Acklin, Mrs. Ethel Richards, Mrs. Gwendolyn Taylor, Mrs. Lola Joiner, Mrs. Louise Mastin, Mrs. Gussie Jackson, Mrs. Tempee Horton, Mrs. Lola Dill, Mrs. Lucy Powell, Mrs. Lucille Hines, Mrs. Delores Ragland, Mrs. Mary Darwin, Mrs. Katherine Harris, Miss Bernice Smith, Mrs. Libby Powers, Mrs. Catherine Stennick, Miss Helen Lacey, Mrs. Harriett Rice, Mrs. Louise Tallert, Mrs. Samella Burks.

#### FRIPPERY

#### CHAPTER NO. 2

President, Mrs. Rosetta Ross  
 Secretary, Mrs. Mary E. Townsend

Treasurer, Mrs. Bessie Roper

Board of Governors Representative, Mrs. Rosetta Ross

Members:  
 Mrs. Rosetta Ross, Mrs. Mary E. Townsend, Mrs. Bessie Roper, Mrs. Lucille Smith, Mrs. Mozelle Roper, Mrs. Alberta Cooper, Mrs. Cora Kibble, Mrs. Gwendolyn Smith, Mrs. Alvin Pillar, Mrs. Carolyn Davis, Mrs. Viola McCary, Mrs. Odell Pearson, Mrs. Mabel Walker, Mrs. Arthurine Sanders, Miss Florence Hewlett, Mrs. Sarah Outlaw, Miss Evelyn G. L. Davis, Mrs. Francis Cornelius, Mrs. Mary Miller, Mrs. Mary Barkley, Mrs. Sarah Ward, Miss Zenobia Parker, Mrs. Alice Mac Davidson, Miss Francis Collier, Mrs. Maggie Bonner, Mrs. Stella Patton, Mrs. Mamie B. Clark, Mrs. Johnie M. Anderson, Mrs. Ella, Glover, Mrs. Ella B. Gilbreath, Mrs. Katherine Hinds, Mrs. Sue B. Capeland, Mrs. Mary E. Hughes, Mrs. Coleman Emerson, Mrs. Mildred Pulley, Mrs. Gladys Lane, Mrs. Ollie Harris, Mrs. Elizabeth Boyd, Mrs. Charlotte Love, Mrs. Dorothy King, Mrs. Marie Briggs, Mrs. Cora B. Parker, Mrs. Mammie L. Rodgers, Mrs. Irene, Mrs. Grace Clift, Mrs. Eliza Hughes, Miss Clara Toney, Miss Ruth E. Elliott, Mrs. Adell Carter, Mrs. Josephine Stewart, Miss Alice Jones, Miss Martha A. Jones, Miss Ada M. Lacey, Miss Sussie M. Jones, Mrs. Harriett J. Jones, Mrs. Susie Miller, Mrs. Josie Felton, Mrs. Pearl P. Robinson, Miss Fannie P. Strong, Mrs. Augusta Johnson, Miss Lizzie M. Jomar, Mrs. Marguerite Coleman, Mrs. Vidian Watkins, Mrs. Madgie Jamar, Mrs. Bettie Ford.

### BUTTONS AND BOWS

#### CHAPTER NO. 3

President, Miss Jaunita Land  
 Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Rooks  
 Treasurer, Mrs. Helen Fearn  
 Board of Governors Representative, Miss Lillian Jackson

Members:  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Reddick, Mrs. Mollie Hurt, Mrs. Erma Conley, Mrs. Clara Gurley, Mrs. Alice Vaughn, Mrs. Mary Baldwin, Mrs. Lillian Jone, Mrs. Mattie Humphrey, Mrs. Nannie Brandon, Mrs. Gussie

Darwin, Mrs. Mattie Hines, Mrs. Carrie Townsend, Mrs. Mollie Hurt,  
Mrs. Charlie M. Brown, Mrs. Lillian Commer.

### HOOPS-AWAY

#### CHAPTER NO. 4

President, Mrs. Betty Fibbs  
Secretary, Mrs. Mattie M. Hayes  
Treasurer, Mrs. Peggy Strong  
Board of Governors Representative, Miss Izora Jefferfen  
Members:  
Miss Peggy King, Miss Catherine McCouley, Miss Odessa Jones, Miss  
Gladys Toney, Miss Billy A. Cooper, Miss Inez Davis, Mrs. Eunice J.  
Clay, Mrs. Edna R. Martin, Miss Hattie Parks, Miss Threasa Black-  
burn, Miss Mildred Spargin, Miss June Rice, Miss Julia McConley,  
Miss Ernestine Smith, Miss Verdell Joiner.

### COLONIAL DAMES

#### CHAPTER NO. 5

President, Mrs. Mary Berta Parker  
Secretary, Mrs. Ardell Robinson  
Treasurer, Mrs. Annie Griskell  
Board of Governors Representative, Mrs. Valiena C. Battle  
Members:  
Mrs. Julia G. Toney, Mrs. Jannie Turner, Mrs. Willie M. Ross,  
Mrs. Annie Griskell, Mrs. Lillian Battle, Mrs. V. C. Battle, Mrs.  
Marie Marell, Mrs. Lucy D. Jones, Mrs. Louise McCouley, Mrs.  
Fannie Hayden, Mrs. Gladys McCrary, Mrs. Violetter Moore, Mrs.  
Eloise Daniels, Mrs. Lorine F. Wade, Mrs. Ruth M. Slaughter, Mrs.  
Louise Evans, Mrs. Mary Romine, Miss Mildred Romine, Mrs.  
Arnetta Heathington, Miss Yvonne Heathington, Miss Laura M.  
Heathington, Mrs. Mary J. Turner, Mrs. Bertha Ford, Mrs. Minnie  
B. Otey, Miss Mamie F. Jones, Mrs. Annie L. King, Miss Laura  
Lou Parker, Mrs. Marie Hereford, Mrs. Mary L. Jones, Mrs. Rosie  
L. Battle, Mrs. Sarah McCrary, Mrs. Rhodia Barley, Mrs. Margie  
Brown, Mrs. Amanda Derrick, Mrs. Geneva Joiner, Mrs. Ruth Barley,  
Mrs. Willie L. Crutches, Mrs. Doris Anderson, Mrs. Earline Light-  
foot, Mrs. Bessie Turner, Mrs. Patience Dickerson, Mrs. Elmer  
Childress, Mrs. Maggie L. Sullivan.

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#### CHAPTER NO. 6

President, Deborah Ross  
Secretary, Edith Turner  
Treasurer, Julia A. White  
Board of Governors Representative, Mrs. Ella B. Kendrick  
Members:  
Callie Mae Hurt, Wilma Jones, Oliva McDonald, Lirea Nell Brown,  
Doris Ann Pickett, Mattie Lanier, Shelbie J. Lanier, Lucille Mathews,  
Rosa Rice, Roslyn Pleasant, Janice Ray, Carolyn Ray, Dian McElroy,  
Gloria Y. Burns, Anita F. Burns, Deneice McCrow, Danna McCrow,  
Geneice Rhodes, Peggy L. Rhodes, Geraldine Joiner, Patricia Jackson,  
Patsy Powell, Ceila Comer, Bobby Jean Anderson, Carolyn Mc-  
Cullough, Carolyn Ray.

### SPOILED BRATS

#### CHAPTER NO. 7

James H. Spillman, President  
Henry C. Lacey, Secretary  
Roosevelt Hurt, Treasurer  
Board of Governors Representative, Mrs. Elizabeth White  
Members:  
Ronnie Conley, Sidney Gurley, Edmond White, Jr., Bruce Taylor,  
Taylor Burns, Jr., Carl Thompson, Charles A. Crutcher, Frank  
McCrary, Earl J. McDonald.

### BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH

#### DELUXE CHAPTER

#### CHAPTER NO. 1

High Sheriff, Sam Patton  
High Constable, Carnell Daniel  
Judge, L. G. Fields  
Board of Governors Representative, James Mayfield  
Members:  
James Mayfield, John Lacey, Archie Hamlet, George Clift, L. G.  
Fields, Rev. C. B. Foxx, Isaac Rooks, Johnnie Jones, William Turner,  
Sam Pope, Elijah Joiner, Robert Adams, R. E. Nelms, Berry Lee  
Binford, Sam Patton, Theodore Wilson, Wilson Lewis, John Ewing,  
Charles L. Ray, Howard Barley, Carnell Daneils, Jones Pleasant, J. H.  
Richards, Clint Steyer, Robert Wilson, Leonard Wade, O. D. Pantor,  
W. T. Ross, George Boone, Robert Leslie, Jr.

### KINGS MEN

#### CHAPTER NO. 2

High Sheriff, Perry O. Ward  
High Constable, Murray Joiner  
Judge, James Jamar  
Board of Governors Representative, Monroe Powers  
Members:  
Maceo M. Lanier, Isaac Rook, Jr., Perry O. Ward, Willie L. Vann,  
Lewis Lowe, Murray Joiner, Theodore Bearden, Monroe Powers,  
James Jamar, Richard Taylor, Chestina Moore, Robert Harris,  
Roosevelt Love, Theodore R. Clay, Jr.

### PULASKI PIKE CHAPTER

#### CHAPTER NO. 3

High Sheriff, Taylor Burns  
High Constable, Homer McCrow  
Judge, Lee Lacey  
Board of Governors Representative, James Smothers  
Members:  
Sidney Gurley, Jr., Carey Hommonds, Robert Vaughn, Robert Mastin,  
Willie Jackson, Henry Torrence, H. G. Fields, Jonus Conley.

