



# Old Huntsville

A P U B L I C A T I O N F O R H I S T O R I C H U N T S V I L L E



## 424 Randolph Avenue... A Part Of Old Huntsville's Heritage

The home at 424 Randolph was originally part of the Bradford homestead- a huge antebellum structure which stood about half-way between Randolph and Eustis. Mr. Bradford sold the lot at 424 Randolph to Sallie E. Long for \$1250.00, and she had a home built on the site in 1889. Mrs. Long's sister, Alice Davis, bought the lot next to it and had a home built at the same time.

The Bradford home burned in 1891 after a series of financial reverses for the family, and a piece of Huntsville's history was destroyed. This home had heard the gunshots

of battle, watched young Southern boys march off to war, and suffered the shame of defeat when Yankee troops occupied Huntsville.

Little is known about Sallie Long. It would appear that she was an ardent supporter of the Confederate cause. She was the daughter of Alex Ewing, a prosperous farmer here in Madison County. Records indicate that she was born in 1846. In April of 1869 she married a Confederate veteran by the name of J. T. Long. Mr. Long was from Meridian, Mississippi. Nothing is known of why he decided to move to Huntsville.

Sallie Long died in 1899, leaving two children as her only heirs. On September 22, 1899, Alice Ewing Long paid \$2100.00 for her brother's interest in the home that their mother had built. Alice Long married Walter Hastings. It appears that she moved to his home, and rented out the Randolph home to William Russell, as he was living there at the time the home suffered extensive damage when a fire broke out.

Frank Thompson bought the home in 1905 for \$3100.00 He lived there for about five years before selling it to Nannie Esslinger for a \$650.00 profit.

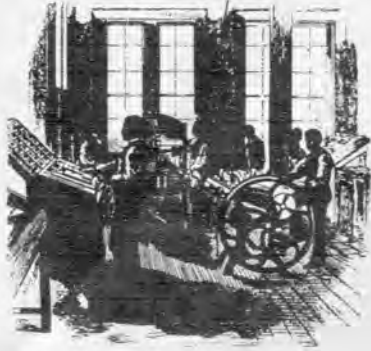
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Nannie was a very determined woman and bought the house to ensure that her children would attend Butler school, at that time one of the best schools in Northern Alabama.

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## Why we are publishing "Old Huntsville"

For the homeowners, both present and prospective, in the older areas of Huntsville, there has never been a publication with this format. Our reason to begin this publication are the following:

1. There is a definite need for this type of information.
2. This special group of homeowners have unique problems and questions that regular "magazines" and "newspapers" don't solve.
3. It's going to make for some interesting reading.
4. We want every reader to come away knowing one new method of doing something, that will make his or her life a little easier.

The "Old Huntsville" homeowners of Huntsville are a unique group of people who work, own businesses, stay at home, raise children, have dreams and try to make their dreams a reality. One thing that sets them apart is their homes. They are full of history and legend, better made for the most part than many newer homes, and always needing improvement and maintenance. These individuals take much pride in their homes and their homes show it.

So, what we would like to offer is a little bit of information, a little bit of history, a smattering of trivia - with one difference. It will all be geared toward you, living in old Huntsville in your wonderful old homes.

# OLD RIVER

BOOKSTORE



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CLASSICS FOR THE AVID READER

## Pick A Power Seat

If you want prompt action from committee meetings, try sitting across from the person in power.

Robert Letwin, editor of "Successful Meetings" magazine notes: "Dialogue tends to be fullest between those who sit opposite each other." Letwin advises against sitting across from those people likely to disagree with your ideas. Arm yourself with as many facts as possible, but use them only when necessary. Usually the person with the most facts prevails at a meeting.

## 424 Randolph

Continued From Page 1

The Esslingers were a hardworking family, and Nannie took in boarders to add to the family income. Her husband was involved in several businesses around town. It was said that Mr. Esslinger really enjoyed fresh air as he slept on the porch year round regardless of the weather.

There is at least one wedding that took place at the Randolph home during this time. Nannie's boarders were fortunate enough to also take meals with the family. One gentleman heard of the wonderful food and came to the home to have lunch one day. It was here that he met one of the lady boarders who became his future wife, their wedding taking place in the home's beautiful parlor.

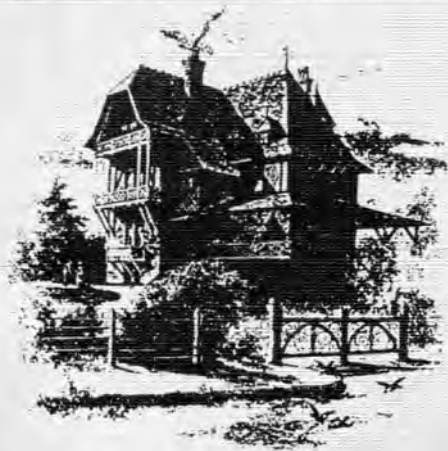
By the time that Charles and Pam Eye purchased the home in 1986, the home had fallen into disrepair. Since then, they have done extensive remodeling on the inside. Recently while working on the home a contractor discovered charred wood from the fire that took place in 1904.

Charles and Pam have become well-known in Historic Huntsville for their tradition of putting up six large Christmas trees every year. It has become a special Christmas treat to be invited to their lovely home and see the variety of decorations.

# DILWORTH LUMBER



SERVING HUNTSVILLE SINCE 1907



## Your Property May Be More Valuable Than You Thought

The real estate market in Old Huntsville - Twickenham, Old Town, and Five Points - appears to be continuing to gain in popularity and demand. With the newly visible presence of the I-565 linking our neighborhood to major employment centers speculation abounds about the increasing property value in this area.

Turnover of homes coming on the market is limited and good houses usually sell quickly. The price range of homes runs the gamut and affords a broad opportunity for all buyers. Exclusive historic homes or bungalows that need remodeling bring a diverse group of home buyers. The unique and historic nature of our neighborhoods cannot be duplicated by new construction or new developments.

The extensive renovation apparent on almost every block is increasing property values and enhancing the area. The convenience to downtown and the new access to I-565, the charm and historic character of Old Huntsville, and its availability to the many different home buyers are the ingredients maintaining an appreciating market, even as other areas of the city remain slow.

*Submitted by David Hawkins, President Home Lenders, Inc.*

# THE MARKET PLACE



## Saving Your Environment



The environmental issues of this day were joined in the period when power was transitioned from L.B.J to Richard Nixon. At this time the EPA was born and William Ruckelshaus (now employed by the BFT) headed the embryonic EPA. The Nixon Administration also had had arguably the best Council on Environmental quality the nation had known. End of history comments.

Pollution results from the residual products of processes - natural or man-made. (However, all observations are from the viewpoint of man).

Many of us enjoy grilling and routinely use petroleum-based fire starters (hydrocarbons). In doing so we increase the level of hydrocarbon products into the environment. Hydrocarbons, when acted upon by sunlight, generate smog. Huntsville has the potential for severe smog - due to long stagnation periods, bountiful sun and inversions of long durations.

Even though still polluting, the character of the pollutants is desirably altered if everyone will begin to use a paper-based fire starter system when grilling. Fire starters using paper are available from Harrison Brothers hardware store on South Side Square and most likely other stores in our city. With these starters you may use newspaper or kraft paper (grocery bags). Over a sufficient period of time this will pay off dollar-wise in reduced or eliminated purchase of petro-based fire starters.

If you really care about the quality of your environment, I urge you to purchase a paper-based fire starters.

I care... I hope you do, too!

*Lyle Tayler, Clinton Avenue*

# Who's The Big Spender On Business Trips?

The majority of business travelers don't fit the stereotype of expense account spenders, according to a recent MasterCard International study conducted across the U.S. Those who occupy the higher rungs of the corporate ladder are often penny-pinchers who want "a good, clean, quiet, comfortable room at a fair price."

This group represents 36% of those questioned in the study, which aimed to produce a picture of the typical business traveler who makes 10 or more business trips per year. The next largest group, accounting for 34%, is made up mostly of sales and middle management personnel, who are cost-conscious and consider themselves bargain hunters.

The remaining 30% are the big spenders - usually young and highly paid - who like fashionable hotels, expect impeccable service and don't worry about cutting travel costs. They tend to take long trips and like to participate in sports and group activities while away.

**AVENUE GRAPHICS**



GRAPHIC DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION  
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## How Do People Acquire Power And Influence?

Power shapes everything and everybody. Unfortunately, it is too often true that power corrupts. So when you acquire power, use it benevolently, not selfishly. Use power for good ends, not evil. You'll come out a winner and everyone else will, too.

So much for the sermon. Now, here's how to acquire power:

1. Be intense. Perform every task you have as if it were the only thing that mattered in the world.
2. Don't tell anybody everything about yourself. It's not a matter of secrecy - it's a matter of mystery. The powerful person listens. The only time he talks (or she) about himself is when he wants to change the subject.
3. Don't waste time. Do two hours worth of work in 45 minutes. Powerful people spend as much time on a project as they need to and no more. Events don't control powerful people; powerful people control events.
4. Don't beat yourself over the head for mistakes you make. Take risks and don't waste your time or energy justifying your failures.
5. Instead of making waves, arrange for things to happen the way you think they should.

Taken from "Sparks of the Anvil", Jan 89



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# A History Of Garden Flowers In Old Huntsville

The early period of Huntsville's history was an exciting time to be a gardener. The first settlers brought food and medicinal plants but only a few flowers. But soon the flowers multiplied and a wide diversity of plants became available. All the flowers in this early collection were favorites of European tradition that had been brought over the Atlantic. English ivy, lavender, jonquils, tulips, peonies, and geranium were represented along with the all-time favorite rose.

When these settlers arrived they found themselves in a very rich, botanical area. At the turn of the 19th century, Michaux, a botanist of the first rank explored the Southeast and in particular the Tennessee and North Alabama regions. His discoveries were shipped back to an enraptured Europe, who discovered that some local plants were very useful in the gardens such as azaleas, rhododendron, strawberry, dogwood, honey locust, red cedar, sugar maple and magnolia.

Once these pioneers found time for leisure they found a vast palette to design their gardens with. At this period in Europe the gardening trends had gone to unstructured grounds near the home, with a "folly" hidden somewhere in the park. This style was lovely in Europe but was very impractical for anyone living in the new country, without a staff of twenty gardener and helpers. In the South trees and large shrubs were planted in vistas and rectangles to give a structured look to the landscape. Short bushes and herbaceous flowers were planted in

edged beds that were all symmetrical to other raised beds, in a formal style. However, due to the very short blooming period annuals had over one hundred and fifty years ago, the gardens for the most part were stunning during the warm season and dreary at others.

In the aftermath of the Revolutionary war, America found that many



of its former trading ports were closed. To compensate for this, new areas were developed in particular, the Far East trade. With this change a vast number of new flowering species arrived on American shores among these being gardenias, camellias, purple and pink magnolias honeysuckle, crepe myrtle, wisteria, bamboo and more azaleas. Each of these, of course, created a sensation with the settlers when they got to America and they were shared with friends and family, traded and sold.

With the improvement in transportation came the boom in gardening. The variety of plants began to really spread, and more and more species were developed.



## Chicken Thief Caught On McClung!

The thievery of chickens that has plagued Huntsville for so long has finally been stopped.

Last week an alert delivery man for a local druggist pursued the thief down McClung Avenue until finally stopping him by hitting him with a bottle of Castor oil. Jake Newsome, the delivery man, said that he knew the man was a chicken thief because he looked shifty and was carrying a bag of chickens.

At the trial the next day, J. K. Malone, the chicken thief, claimed the chickens were his and he was training them so he could sell them to a circus when it came to town. That was the reason he had them in a bag.

The judge asked Malone to make the chickens perform and when they couldn't, sentenced him to six months at the county farm.

The sheriff kept the chickens for evidence.

*(Excerpt from Huntsville publication 1901)*





## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

My wife and I moved to Old Town about one year ago. Since then we have spent most of our time (and money) on our home. Our problem is that sometimes we feel that we live in a community where a large percentage of homes are owned by absentee landlords who don't care about the condition of their properties as long as they can rent them. Is there anything we as homeowners can do about this?

Frustrated

Dear Frustrated:

Yes, there is something you can do. There are laws concerning the condition that property is maintained. You can call Community Development at 532-7453. They will send an inspector out, and if the property owner is found to be in violation he will be given a certain length of time to bring the property up to standards - normally 90 days. Your name will not be asked, and if it is, you don't have to give it.

If you are interested, next time you're in the courthouse get a copy of the Huntsville Housing Ordinance. It is wide-ranging - covering everything from painting to yard maintenance standards.

Dear Editor:

My family and I are interested in joining an organization that would preserve the heritage of Old Huntsville - is there any such group at this time?

Interested

Dear Interested;

There are currently two organizations in Huntsville that you can join depending upon where you live. Old Town has one and Twickenham has the other. We will elaborate more on these organizations in subsequent articles.

Dear Editor:

With so many large old trees in Old Town - in many places the sidewalks are buckling and there are severe cracks - making it difficult to walk safely, especially at night. Is anything being done to correct this?

Concerned

Dear Concerned:

Yes. Recently at an Old Town Historic District meeting Bill Kling, City Councilmen, told the homeowners present that there are plans under way to fix the sidewalks in all parts of Huntsville, with much work to be done in Old Town, Twickenham and surrounding area. Watch your newspaper for more news on this.

Dear Editor:

The home in Twickenham I recently purchased has a fairly large, wooded back yard, and my wife and I would love to attract birds to it and set up nests there. What type of birdseed should we get - what kinds of birds are native to this area, etc.?

Bird Lovers

Dear Bird Lovers:

Call Wild Birds Unlimited - they are a really good retail store specializing in wild birds, and would be able to recommend the type of seed and birdhouses for you.

Dear Editor:

Occasionally I use a metal detector and recently on Beirne Avenue I found a bunch of old, burned artifacts like belt buckles and old metal buttons. Where could these have come from?



Around Town Or Around The World

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Hunter

Dear Hunter:

It is hard to tell without seeing them but I have two guesses:

1. There were at one time numerous military encampments around Huntsville during the Civil War.

2. A large Calvary remount station located in the area now known as 5 Points were here in the late 1900's.

*Send your questions and/or suggestions to Old Huntsville Editor, 716 East Clinton Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801*



## Finding Good Help These Days

It's 5:45 p.m. and you have been in meetings all day. You walk out of your office to see traffic backed up for miles as your chauffeur opens the car door for you. You settle back in the seat, sipping on your first drink of the evening as you slowly start to unwind. In about 30 minutes the car delivers you to your home. As the front door opens your butler is there to take your briefcase and to inquire if you would care for your usual drink before dinner. After glancing through the day's mail and changing into something more comfortable, your children's nanny brings them in to share a few moments with you before the cook announces that dinner is served. After dinner it is back to the butler who brings you up-to-date on the work that the gardener has completed and reminds you of your personal appointments for the following day.

Sounds like Donald Trump? Not at all. With the fast-paced life that the average successful career person lives today, we are finding ourselves depending more and more upon domestic help for our everyday needs. Where a few years ago only the rich and famous had household help now in some streets in our neighborhood the only traffic you'll see at 8 a.m. are maids, housekeepers and garden-

ers going to work. As most households now have both husbands and wives working, it has become nearly an impossibility to do the things that we used to take for granted and pursue our dreams at the same time.

Granted, few of us may ever have butlers and chauffeurs, probably most have had experience with some type of domestic help.

Recently in writing this article I became curious about the prices that one would pay for these kinds of luxuries. After a bit of research into this project, I came up with an average wage that you should expect to pay.

Today most chauffeurs do double duty either as a body guard or yard man. Depending upon the expertise that you require, you should expect to pay anywhere from \$12,000.00 per year up to \$60,000 per year. Of course, there are the additional expenses such as a car (\$60,000), uniforms (\$750.00) insurance (\$2,000.00), and car maintenance (an additional \$2200.00 per year). And of course, there are the meals that every chauffeur expects, and hotel rooms when you are both away from home. But the hidden money saver in all this is that the chauffeur keeps your car waxed and shined at all times, for an additional cost of \$37.60 per year.

Traditionally, through the years the butler has been known as the gentleman's right hand. He is expected to know everything from how to tie a Windsor knot to the proper wine to serve with venison, and even how to keep a running account of the household expenses. The butler is normally responsible for all the other domestic help in the household, the family being his primary responsibility.

Dunfrey's Ltd. of London recommends that all their butlers have at least 4 years of specialized education before they are placed in a household. All butlers require their own apartments, food, uniforms and a starting salary of

between \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year. It is considered common practice for households to provide an annuity for their butlers in their old age.

The ultimate luxury that most of us are used to is our housekeeper. Earline, our housekeeper, can make your worst day seem like heaven when you come home in the evening and find your house spic and span, smelling like Pine Sol and fresh wax. One should expect to pay from \$35.00 for a half day once a week up to \$300.00 a week for a full-time house-keeper.

For your full-time nanny the price starts at about \$13,000 per year while a full-time cook may begin at \$18,000 and reach as high as \$53,000, depending upon the requirements. Add another \$19,000 a year for your full-time gardener and don't forget room and board and uniforms. That would average out to be about another \$13,000.

So, are you tired of fighting traffic every day, going home to last night's dirty dishes and getting up on a Saturday morning to do yard-work when you would rather be doing something else? Now your worries are over. For a measly \$259,987.50 per year you can live in the style that you and your family deserve. Of course, that does not include the mortgage or groceries.

*Tom Carney*

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## Love Kills Love!

The Huntsville cotton mill was created by the efforts of D.L. Love, a businessman from Mississippi. Traveling throughout the Southeast, Love aroused interest in Huntsville, found subscribers for common stock, and persuaded the city to pass a ten year exemption on taxes.

As the cotton mill began to prosper, such was not the case for its organizing genius. Apparently in his gallivanting around the country, Love fell in love with the young and beautiful Ada Johnson of Huntsville. But following the demands of a busy travel schedule, Love did not press his suit in time. The newspaper on September 21, 1881 announced the marriage of Ada Johnson to Mr. John F. Lanier of Madison County." The paper further commented: The Huntsville public was greatly surprised that Miss Ada, whose hand had been sought by so many suitors, had at last succumbed to Mr. Lanier's offer of marriage".

None was more surprised than Mr. Love, who, when learning of the betrothal, lost his temper and sought to avenge his loss by besmirching her character.

So foul were his accusations that the young husband did what honorable young men of breeding were expected to do in such cases. He went to Greenville, Mississippi and killed Mr. Love.

Defended by Huntsville attorney Capt. Milton Humes, young Lanier was completely exonerated. The judge announced from the bench, "It is my opinion that he did just what I or any other man of honor would do, and I therefore discharge the prisoner, and bid him go hence without delay."

A HUNTSVILLE TRADITION



## From The Wine Cellar.

To build or not to build, that is the question. I'm often asked, "How do I build a wine cellar"? Generally I take the professional escape of answering a question with a question, like "Why do you want one?" In my opinion there is only one correct answer, which is "I want a wine cellar so that I can enjoy wine more." Stated another way, here are a few reasons why you should not go to the trouble and expense of building a wine cellar.

- a. Impress your friends (not likely)
- b. Investment (not sure to happen)
- c. Chic thing to do (it's not)

Here are a few reasons you should build a cellar:

- a. You like wine and know something about it
- b. You're stable (it's hard to move wine)
- c. You need and can afford a hobby (it takes time and effort)
- d. You understand that some wine can improve with additional bottle age and are willing to wait (that's some times tough)
- e. You need to do something with the wine you've got stored already (this is the best reason)

Here are a few tips on storing wine:

Think about a cork. Its job is to keep air out of the wine. The cork can be sensitive to changes in temperature and may expand or contract slightly letting air in and letting wine out. It's very important to keep wine at a consistent temperature. High humidity may cause the wine and cork to sweet as well. In fact, low humidity may aid in drying the cork.

As a result of all these factors it's extremely important to keep the cork wet by storing the bottle in the "lay down" position. The enemies of wine are heat, cold, bright fluorescent light, vibration, high humidity, low humidity and ignorance.

In future issues we will discuss the actual techniques of choosing a location and building your wine cellar. Of course the most important thing about building a wine cellar is choosing the wines to go into it. Fortunately, it's also the most fun.

*Submitted by Tom Good, owner of Great Spirits*





## Barber Poles

The barber pole with spiral stripes is a relic of the days when barbers were also surgeons.

As early as the fifth century, the barbers in Rome extracted teeth and treated wounds as part of their professional work. When the London barbers were incorporated in 1461, they were the only persons practicing surgery in the city.

The white area in the barber pole represented the bandage used in bloodletting, and the red stripe represented blood. American barbers added a blue stripe, perhaps to make the colors conform with those of the national flag.

## BOUNTIFUL BASKETS

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## How To Find A Good Contractor?

The care and maintenance of your home is one of the largest items on your household budget, so you want to be sure that your money is well spent. Almost everyone has stories of contractors who did shoddy work and charged too much. Some people can even tell you stories about contractors who got paid up front and never finished the job. Or about the job that was supposed to cost \$900 and in the end cost \$7,000.

After being in the contracting business most of my life it still amazes me that the public can be so trusting about something that costs them so much money. I have read countless articles about how to select a good contractor and I have always had the feeling that a good many of these articles were written by some editor in New York who probably lives in an apartment.

So, let's suppose that I am a homeowner and I need work done on my home. What can I do to ensure that I am hiring a good contractor?

### Get Bids

Be sure that you explain exactly what you want done but be reasonable. Most contractors have seen jobs that they were scared of because they felt the people were expecting so much that they would be hard to please. In cases like these all contractors will up their price to cover the unexpected.

### Licenses

If he does not have a business license it is safe to assume that he is not a professional doing this for a full-time living. And you will more than likely end up getting someone else to finish the job if and when the City Inspection Department checks them for a license. Huntsville has inspectors working full time looking for painting and remodeling jobs in order to check the contractors license.

Payment for the license, is, after all, revenue for the city.

### Insurance

All contractors working on your home should be fully insured in order to protect you from damage and lawsuits. Most people don't realize it but if an employee hurts himself/herself while working on your home the contractor and his employees may be able to sue you.

### Signs

Look for signs. Almost every reputable contractor is proud of his work and will ask to put a sign in your yard. Often when you do not see a sign, and work is being done, it means that the contractor is not licensed and he does not want to draw attention to himself. It can also mean that they are not doing the quality of work that they should so they do not want people to know who did the job.

### Neighbors

Ask your neighbors. Our homes here in Old Huntsville are different from South Huntsville or Madison and require a different kind of expertise in order to do the job and remain competitive. So ask you neighbors or start watching the neighborhood for a contractor who is used to working in your area.

### Advance Payments

No reputable contractor will ask for money up front unless he has to order special materials that cannot be sent back if the customer changes his/her mind. It is common practice for the contractor to make draws as he does the work (assuming that the job is going to run for several weeks) but in no case should the contractor make a draw for more money than the cost of the actual work that has been done to date.

In future articles we will try to go into detail about some of the specialized type of work that our homes require and the proper way to get it done.

*Tom Carney*



# That's Progress

When I was a young boy I listened to my grandfather by the hours talking about what life was like when he was younger. I was raised on stories of bringing crops to town by mule and wagon to sell, of stories about families having grand reunions by the Big Spring. I learned how to whittle with a pocket knife, sitting on the benches around the courthouse and listening to "Daddy" and his friends talk about the war in 1918. Since he raised me, I called my grandfather "Daddy".

I remember when Daddy first heard they were going to tear down the old courthouse. The city government told everyone that they had to have modern air conditioning and more space.

By building a new one they could modernize it and have all the room that they would ever need. They told Daddy that they had spent a lot of time and money deciding what Huntsville was going to need in the future, and a modern building was exactly what was needed for their ideas of downtown. They said there was no way Huntsville could ever amount to anything with a bunch of old buildings as a town center.

We were sitting on Daddy's favorite bench that day when we heard the news. A tear came to his eye as he looked at the old building. I asked him why they didn't just build an annex or something and keep the old courthouse.

"That's not the way things are done", Daddy explained. "They say that they can't build a new one if you don't tear the old one down and if you don't tear the old one down, you are standing in the way of progress."

As Daddy slowly got up from the bench and started to make his way down the street, I heard him say, almost in a whisper, "And I reckon those politicians are just plum full of progress."

*Tom Carney*

# Huntsville Health Shorts



Cartons - not glass or plastic bottles - are the best containers in which to buy milk, according to a lowa State University study reported at a recent meeting of the American Chemical Society. A clear glass bottle of milk loses about half its vitamins after two days, plastic containers lose it in two and a half days. Milk in a carton is impervious to light and retains virtually all its vitamin A during the same period of time.

Artificial sweeteners may not be the dieter's boom that we thought they were! In fact, a recent bulletin from the Center for Science in the public interest says sugar substitutes may actually make it more difficult to lose weight. According to Mark Friedman of the Monel Chemical Sense Center in Philadelphia, "Sweet taste, whatever its source, seems to signal cells to store carbohydrates and fats causing the body to crave more food."

Don't go hungry all day to save up for one big meal. Fasting causes blood sugar to drop, bringing on ravenous hunger. You're likely to eat twice as much and have a ferocious craving for sugar. Eat lightly, but do eat.

The most effective diet must contain adequate amounts of scrupulously lean protein. Plenty of fiber is also a basic requirement. Starchy carbohydrates - bread, pasta, rice - must be eaten sparingly. Avoid caffeine, which raises insulin levels and inspires a sugar craving. Fill up on soup, tomato juice, and fruit juice before dinner to help curb appetites. Choose steamed vegetables more often than salads because steaming ruptures the starch molecule and makes for more satisfying food than just the fiber of salad.

**JAY'S LOUNGE & BILLIARDS**

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## Old Huntsville Trivia

1810 - First Courts of Law established in Huntsville

1813 - Andrew Jackson and Davy Crockett camped at the intersection of Lincoln and Holmes on the way to fight the battle of Horse Bend

1862 - Huntsville occupied by Yankee troops

1865 - Remaining Confederate Troops surrender at Cold Springs atop Monte Sano. This marks the end of the Civil War for Huntsville

1868 - A judge from Athens is hung when 1500 members of the Ku Klux Klan break up a meeting of freed slaves and radical Republicans

1883 - Frank James, the brother of Jesse James, is acquitted of robbing a federal payroll (no, the James brothers did not commit any robberies in Huntsville)

1892 - First long-distance phone call made from Huntsville. The telephone directory had 32 names listed and was written by hand

1893 - A circus elephant dies while performing here. Its remains were hitched to a double team of mules and dragged to an empty lot in the 500 block of East Clinton where it was buried

1906 - Horace Maples is lynched by a mob after being broken out of jail. A national Guard detachment stood by to keep order while the mob conducted the hanging

1904 - Allen Hutchens dies in the first automobile accident to take place in Huntsville

## Legends Of Old Huntsville

Dr. Thomas Fraser, an eminent 19th century nerve specialist living on Adams Street fell asleep in his chair one dreary winter evening after an exhausting day treating patients.

Awakened by the ringing of his doorbell, he found a thin, shivering woman on his doorstep, pulling a threadbare shawl around her shoulders. She begged him to come and treat her husband whom, she explained, was desperately ill.

The doctor followed her through the snowy streets to an old shack located at what is now 716 East Clinton Avenue, and she opened the door to let him in. Inside Dr. Fraser found a very sick man, whom he recognized as a well known soldier of the late War between the States. He diagnosed the man's condition as acute pneumonia, and sent for the medication he needed. Dr. Fraser then made the man as comfortable as possible, and congratulated him on his good fortune, as his wife's prompt action in fetching the doctor had probably saved his life.

At this the man looked up and said, My wife died two years ago. I was off fighting in the war when she became ill, and I didn't hear about it until after Gettysburg. I feel so bad because if I had been here, maybe I could have saved her. She's buried up there on the hill, on the plot with all the rose bushes around it. Her shawl is still over there in that closet - It's about all I have left of her."

Amazed, the doctor looked around and finding the woman was really gone, opened the closet door. There he found the same shawl he had seen draped over the shoulders of the woman who rang his doorbell. It was folded and dry to the touch, and could not possibly have been outside that night. But lying next to it was a single red rose, and as Dr. Fraser reached out to touch it he found its pedals cold and dampened by the melting snow.

The soldier recovered and went on to live a long and prosperous life, serving on the Board of Directors of many civic groups in Madison County. The doctor retired shortly afterwards and moved up north, where he spent his remaining years as a guest lecturer at medical colleges.

And the woman - well, no one really knows. It has been said over the years that if you walk down East Clinton Street on some cold winter nights you see a ghostly figure off in the distance, and if you look hard enough you just might see a shawl draped around her shoulders.

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# Old Huntsville

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## Your Pet's Health

With warm weather here, fleas on your cats become more of a problem than ever, especially if your cats go outdoors. Let me pass on some advice that just might save your cat's life.

Frequently veterinarians will hire temporary help during the summer months, oftentimes young people needing summer jobs when they're not in school. They mean well but some don't understand just how dangerous a flea dip is to your cat, especially if the dip is not washed off and the cat tries to clean itself.

In addition, the dip vets use for dogs is much too strong for cats, and there have been instances where the cat was dipped in the stronger dip. If either dip is not thoroughly washed off your pet, it could very well prove fatal to your animal - and this happens much more frequently than most people realize.

The shampoos that are on the market today for pets are much milder, but are still just as effective for flea control. In most every instance - unless your pet is just covered with fleas - the shampoos will do as good a job as the dip - and leave the coat clean and safe for the cats.

Please don't make the mistake I did by realizing too late what had happened to my gentle little cat, after watching her die a sad and painful death. Shampoos will do just as well as dips, and you will have your pets with you for a much longer time.



If You Would Like To See More Bike Paths In Huntsville write to:  
**Bicycles In Huntsville**  
716 Clinton Avenue • Huntsville, AL 35801

## I'd Pick More Daisies

If I had my life to live over again, I'd dare to make more mistakes next time. I'd relax, I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip. I would take fewer things seriously. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer imaginary ones.

You see, I'm one of those people who live sensibly and sanely day after day. Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had it to do over again, I'd try to have nothing else. Just moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead of each day. I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a raincoat and a parachute. If I had to do it again, I would travel lighter the next time around.

If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would go to more dances. I would ride more merry-go-rounds. I would pick more daisies.

*Nadine Star, 85 Years Old Louisville, KY*



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