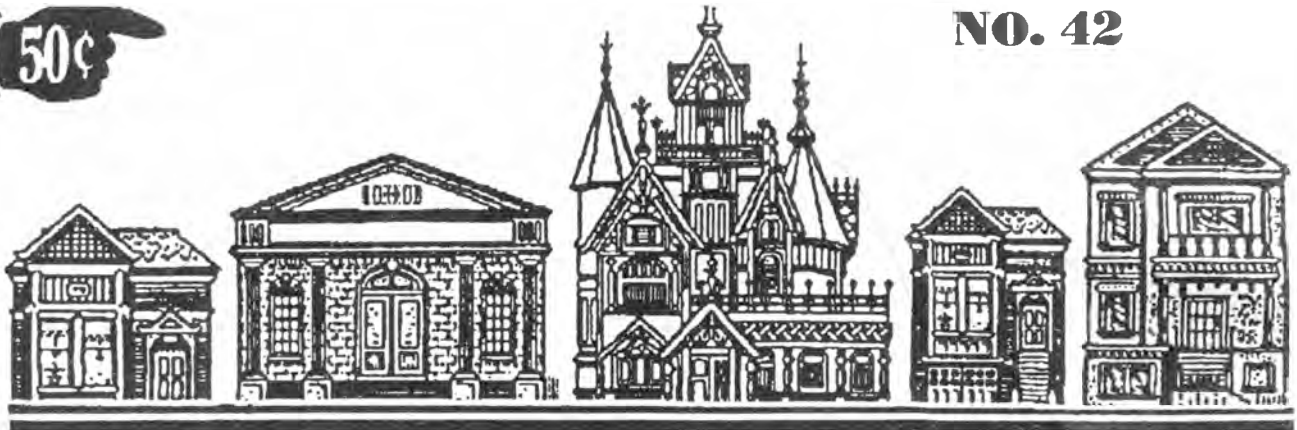


50¢

NO. 42



Old Huntsville



Dahling

Her name was Tallula Bankhead.

Born in an upstairs apartment on the courthouse square, she achieved more fame than any woman who ever lived in Huntsville.

Her hard drinking, fast living and shocking behavior earned her the title of "Dahling" to millions of fans the world over.

Also: The Sad Saga of Samuel Van Wyck



Tallulah

Actress Tallulah Bankhead was an enigma to many people. But to others there was no mystery at all about her. She was scandalous, sexually provocative, and the epitome of everything about which the preachers raved from their pulpits.

Yet, for better or worse, Tallulah achieved more fame and notoriety than any woman who had ever lived in Huntsville.

Tallulah's family was of the Old South. Her grandfather, John Bankhead, after serving as a Confederate captain during the Civil War, was elected to Congress in 1887. When Congress refused to authorize money for a statue of Robert E. Lee, Bankhead earned the undying gratitude of the South by appearing in Congress, every day, wearing a Confederate uniform until the money was appropriated.

Tallulah was born on February 12, 1902, in an apartment above the Schiffman building in downtown Huntsville. Her mother, Ada, never a strong woman, died only 12 days after giving birth.

In a macabre, yet touching, ceremony, Tallulah was christened beside her mother's casket and given the name of her grandmother. Years later, when Tallulah became interested in spiritualism, she claimed to have memories of being held over the casket while being sprinkled with water.

Immediately after the christening, Tallulah and her sister were bundled up and carried to their grandparent's home. Her father, Will, remained in Huntsville where he continued to practice law. Unfortunately, he was not very successful, having acquired the habit of drinking staggering amounts of moonshine whiskey. Many contemporary accounts of that day describe William Bankhead as "a town drunk," and an "alcoholic barrister."

Tallulah remained with her grandparents and eventually moved to Washington, D.C., where her grandfather was still a member of Congress. In 1917, her father joined her after being elected to the U.S. Senate, an office he had sought previously but had been soundly defeated. His opponent at that time had charged that Will Bankhead "was not only a drunk, but an unrepentant drunk who chose to educate his daughters outside the glorious South!"

Of course, it was widely accepted that the success of Will's election was largely through the efforts of his father, who had given up on his son making a go of it in private business.

That summer in 1917, Tallulah, as a lark, entered a contest which *Picture-Play Magazine* was sponsoring. Entrants were invited to fill out short questionnaires and submit recent photographs of



Old Huntsville

Published By

Old Huntsville, Inc.
716 East Clinton Ave.
Huntsville Ala. 35801
(205) 534-0502

Publisher

Cathey Callaway Carney

Senior Editor

Billy Joe Cooley

General Manager

Clarence Scott

Madison

County Historian

James Record

Historical Research

Tom Kenny

Special Assignment

Stefanie Callaway

Sales

Clarence Scott
Ben David

Paper Boy

Tony Mason

Copy Boy

Tom Carney

All material contained within is copyright 1994 (c) and may not be copied or reproduced in any form without written permission from Old Huntsville, Inc.

All opinions and views expressed in this publication are probably our own.



Home

One of life's happiest investments

Expect The Best

**COLDWELL
BANKER** 

LEO AGENCY, REALTORS



3315 Memorial Parkway S.W.

• 881-6226 •



For Relocation Information Call 1-800-443-2781

Extension A-98

**PEARSONS
FLOORING**
tile
carpet
vinyl
hardwood

**Specializing
in insurance
claims**

**536-9558
810 Wellman Ave.**

themselves. The winner was to receive a part as an extra in a motion picture being produced by Frank Powell, a well-known producer of the day.

Several months later, Tallulah, while visiting the neighborhood candy store, picked up a copy of the magazine. Idly flipping through the issue she was shocked to see her photograph. She was one of the winners.

Unfortunately, after hastily reading the article, she discovered that she had forgotten to include her name and address on the entry form. The magazine was now referring to her as the beautiful "Mystery Woman." Also upsetting was the fact that numerous other women had stepped forth claiming to be the mystery woman whose picture was in the magazine.

A letter from Senator Bankhead, on senatorial stationery, quickly cleared up the misunder-

standing, but now the family was faced with another problem. As Tallulah was only fifteen years old, should she be allowed to go to New York to perform in the play?

Despite protests from Tallulah's grandmother, the family finally decided to let her go, on the condition that her aunt serve as a chaperone, a stipulation to which Tallulah gladly agreed.

Sad to say, upon their arrival in New York, it was learned the magazine had no intentions of living up to the terms of the contest. Again, a few letters from Senator Bankhead and the threat of a government investigation helped smooth matters. Tallulah was hired for three weeks as a bit actor at the "exorbitant" sum of twenty-five dollars a week. Although the film was never released, the magazine was off the hook.

Tallulah, after having a taste of the stage, was determined to re-

The Pants Barn, Inc.

Top Name Brand Clothing For Less!

- Levi's
- LEE
- Wrangler
- Chaps
- Arrow
- Jordache
- Chic
- Lawman
- Guess
- Haggar
- Dexter
- Dockers
- Hubbard

Large Selection Of Big & Tall

The Pants Barn, Inc.

Locations - 2 miles North of Huntsville city limits on the Pkwy in Meridianville.
808 North Parkway in Arab
Arab Store 586-7876 Meridianville 828-3784

main in New York and become an actress. For the next three years it was an endless routine of calling on producers, accepting bit parts in third-rate plays, and all the time assuring her family back in Washington that everything was fine.

In 1921, Tallulah was given a part in "Nice People," a play that not only gave her a chance to work, but allowed her to play a role she wanted: a hard-drinking, loud-talking and sexually liberated woman, which seemed to reflect the newly emerging film and stage industry.

Tallulah embraced the character so well that soon it was almost impossible to tell when she was acting and when she was being her real self. With her eccentric and liberated personality, she soon became the toast of New York.

Party hosts vied for her attention as she was always a good topic of conversation, especially after she had left the gathering. At one such party, Tallulah, who always demanded center stage, was abruptly ignored when a more prestigious guest showed up. Rather than accept the snub, she excused herself and retired to a bathroom where she completely disrobed. Returning to the party, clad only in a martini glass held casually in her right hand, Tallulah mingled with the shocked guests as if her natural state were completely normal.

Walter Winchell, who was a famous columnist long before he narrated the Elliot Ness "Untouchables" series on TV, wrote that "her outfit was the most alluring of the evening!"

With antics such as these, Tallulah quickly became a much sought-after and controversial actress, and in the same year was in-

vited to appear in a play in London. The play, "The Dancers," was a mediocre affair that nevertheless propelled Tallulah towards becoming a cult figure.

By capitalizing on the personality she had created while in New York, Tallulah managed to keep her name in the headlines. No one, no matter how famous or wealthy, escaped her wit. When asked if she was going to spend the weekend at the estate of a famous Marchioness, Tallulah replied, "Dahling, not this weekend. I'm so bloody tired of three in a bed!"

Rumors of Tallulah's bisexuality had become rampant and finally

one reporter built up the courage to confront her on the subject. When asked about her sexual preferences, Tallulah, after taking another puff of her ever present cigarette, replied, "LOTS of it!"

Regardless of her antics and sexual mores, Tallulah had developed into a talented actress and when she returned to New York in 1930, she was a star much in demand. The next several years saw her established as a fixture in the Hollywood movie industry.

One of the more intriguing anecdotes about Tallulah during this period concerns her mother's grave in Huntsville's Maple Hill Cemetery.

PURPLE PEANUT

FASHIONABLE CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN

*Summer Sale on
Dresses and
Playwear*



614 MADISON STREET • 534-5767

Several years earlier she had purchased a tall memorial to replace the small marker that had originally been placed on her mother's grave. Although her mother had died when Tallulah was only days old, Tallulah was fascinated by the memories she claimed to have of her.

Several of her friends had told her of a well-known spiritualist in Hollywood who could, supposedly, put her in contact with her dead mother. During a seance, the seer conjured up an image purporting to be Tallulah's mother. The ghostly figure, after thanking Tallulah for the monument on her grave, then declared it was too heavy and she should move it over a few inches.

Tallulah, shaken by the experience, called an old friend in Huntsville to relate the incident. The friend, scoffing at the idea, and probably in an attempt to pacify Tallulah, nevertheless went to Maple Hill and checked on the monument.

Several hours later, Tallulah received a phone call from her incredulous friend who told her that the top part of the monument had

been moved several inches and was now off center from its base! No explanation was ever given about how the monument moved and though Tallulah remained a firm believer in spiritualism until she died, she never again attended a seance.

In 1936, David Selznick bought the movie rights to "Gone With The Wind" and immediately announced a nationwide search for an actress to portray Scarlett O'Hara. Whoever received the role was guaranteed to become Hollywood's top actress. Tallulah desperately wanted the part. For a while it seemed as if Tallulah might get the part. Her supporters in Alabama carefully orchestrated a "Tallulah for Scarlett" campaign that had all the trappings of a major political campaign. The Alabama Public Service Commission, along with the Daughters of the Confederacy, joined the campaign by writing and sending Selznick literally thousands of telegrams. Even the governor of Alabama jumped into the campaign by sending Selznick a telegram asking, "Why don't you give Tallulah the part and be done with it?"

Unfortunately, the part was not to be hers. Hollywood gossip claimed that Tallulah, though at one time seriously considered for the role, was too scandalous for the part.

Tallulah was crushed.

"They don't know what scandalous is," she confided to her friends. "If they want scandal, then that's what they will get!"

Tallulah had always been good copy for the gossip columns, but now she seemed determined to en-



OLD TOWN LTD.
HUNTSVILLE'S MOST
UNIQUE GIFT SHOP
ANTIQUES
JEWELRY, GIFT BASKETS
& COLLECTABLES
820 Wellman NE 533-7002



Unique Jewelry
for that special
someone

Janner's
Jewelry

880-7026

7540-D So. Pkwy.

large her image as much as possible. Her numerous affairs became legendary in a Hollywood not known for its prudishness. Any party she attended was guaranteed to become a success, with half the party-goers hoping she would keep her clothes on and the other half hoping she would not.

She was heavily into alcohol, marijuana and cocaine. When one of her friends chided her about using cocaine, saying it was addictive, she replied, "Don't be ridiculous, I've been using it for years!"

Regardless of her absurd behavior, Tallulah was still one of the reigning queens of film and stage. She was also the darling of Alabama. Her father, Will, had become Majority Leader in the Senate, and not having time to wage an effective reelection campaign, beseeched Tallulah to help.

In probably one of the strangest elections in Alabama history,

Tallulah hit the campaign trail. Appearing at rural cross roads stores, Tallulah, with a martini glass in her hand, would announce to the star-struck crowds, "Dahling, I want you to vote for Will Bankhead, 'cause he's my Daddy."

While stopping in Hazel Green one day, a lady who took great pride in being known as a pillar of righteousness, took Tallulah to task about her moral turpitude. Raising her glass in the air in an imaginary toast, Tallulah replied, "Lady, I ain't done nothing you haven't done. I've just done more of it!"

Tallulah Bankhead, in the years between 1930 and 1960 became one of the legendary greats of show business. Her face, and her films, had become familiar to every man, woman, and child in America.

A fiercely loyal democrat, Tallulah made her last visit to Huntsville in 1960 when John F. Kennedy was campaigning here for president.

In 1967, she traveled once again to Hollywood where she appeared in the role as the Dragon Lady for the television series "Batman." Though not a prestigious role, Tallulah had asked for it simply because she thought it was "camp." This was her last film role.

The following year, on December 12, 1968, Tallulah Bankhead died. She was buried in one of her favorite silk robes, cigarette burns and all.

After the funeral, a small group of her friends gathered to tell "Tallulah" stories and to have a drink in her memory.

"A fitting epitaph," one of her friends remarked.

Most of us grow up and get married. The problem is, we don't always do it in that order.



Huntsville's Oldest Ladies Apparel Shop - Since 1962



A General Named Blackie

In 1898, Huntsville was a major army encampment with many soldiers transferred here following the successful campaign in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Now the soldiers were reaping the laurels of conquering heroes.

For the officers, there were a succession of parties, dances and fancy dinners, with each host trying to outdo the other. Even the common foot-soldiers had it made, their duties consisting mainly of lolling about the campsites, enjoying the company of the bevy of young Huntsville lasses who visited the camps every day.

It was a good time for all.
Well, almost all.

For one young officer, a lieutenant named Jack, there were no invitations to the parties, or young ladies competing for his attention. And there were no men seeking his companionship.

Jack was an outcast to the mili-

tary and civilians alike.

The U.S. Army had a long-standing policy of promoting its officers through a system of friendships and favors. While the system worked fine for career men, it did little to inspire young officers fresh out of West Point.

When Jack had the audacity to question the inadequacies of such promotions, the War Department was outraged and decided to teach him a lesson, giving him assignments no one else wanted. His first posting was in Arizona during the Apache wars, where he was placed in charge of the scouts. Any such assignment normally spelled the end to one's military career, as he could expect no promotion or recognition.

The scouts were a mixture of illiterate blacks, half-breed Indians and a few whites who were generally considered to be the dregs of the military. Other officers who had tried to turn this bunch of scalawags

into soldiers had quickly given up and resigned their commissions in disgust.

Although the position was a dead end, Jack had other ideas. He rewrote the unit's training manuals and began a policy of constant training. The men began to admire the spunky officer who refused to give up. Regardless of how dirty or dangerous the job was, Jack was always out front, leading his men by example, something unheard of in the army of that day.

Within a year this group of military miscreants had become one of the most efficient units in the

Continued on page 10

R.G. NAYMAN CO. INC.

RG N

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

**General Contractors
Residential & Commercial
Specializing In
Fire Damage Repairs**

'A contractor you can trust!'

533-9016

The Way It Was

The Other Side Of Huntsville's History

Discover Huntsville's rich and often bizarre past in a book destined to become a collector's item. *The Way It Was* is guaranteed to make you laugh and cry as you trace the history of our fair city.

Read about the people who built Huntsville, and share their loves and agonies. From the poor dirt farmer who struggled to buy his wife a new dress, to the tenant farmer who was elected to the office of sheriff as a joke.

Truly a masterpiece! No other book captures the heart and soul of Huntsville in the manner of *The Way It Was*.

Now Available

Shaver's Bookstore

(205) 536-1604

2362 Whitesburg Dr.
Whitesburg at Bob Wallace
Huntsville, Ala. 35801

Old Huntsville Magazine

716 E. Clinton Ave.
Huntsville, Ala. 35801
534-0502



Cont. from page 8

army.

Several years later, Jack was assigned to the 10th Colored Cavalry stationed here in Huntsville, a job that did not exactly endear him to the locals. He became an object of derision and, as a sign of contempt, was given the nickname "Blackie," a reference to the black troops he commanded.

Rather than submit to the taunts and insults hurled his way, Jack immersed himself in the training of his soldiers. He even became proud of the insulting nickname, choosing now to be called "Black Jack."

Day after day he drilled his troops, ignoring the people who would have nothing to do with him. The 10th Colored Cavalry became one of the army's best regiments, becoming known as the "Buffalo Soldiers," and helped to set a new standard for military training.

In 1903, no less a personage than President Theodore Roosevelt paid tribute to "Black Jack," praising his efforts to "pursue excellency over the mediocrity that has infested the United States Military Corps for so long."

One final note: The young lieutenant was eventually promoted to general and in 1917 was selected to command the Allied Expeditionary Force during World War I.

The man whom Huntsvillians gave the nickname Blackie, entered the history books as General Black Jack Pershing, one of this country's greatest generals.



Grandma's Kitchen Tips



For easier grater cleanup, rub a little vegetable oil on it before using.

Check the freshness of your eggs like this - fill a pan with at least 4" of cold water, place the egg in it. If it is very fresh it will lie on its side on the bottom; if it stands on one end but still at the bottom, still usable; if it floats - throw it away!

If you have company coming over but don't want to cook - add a few teaspoons of sugar and cinnamon to an empty pie tin, slowly burn over the stove. Your home will smell like you've been cooking all day.

This has happened to everyone - two glasses are stuck together and you cannot separate them. Fill the top one with cold water, and dip the lower one in hot water. They will come apart without breaking.

Before he gets away...

Wedding Invitations

Napkins, Programs
Thank You Notes
Matchbooks, Guestbooks
Scrolls and Much More

Linda's

Printing Services

3308 7th Ave. S.W., Huntsville, Ala. 35805
205-534-4452





Big Guns for Dixie

by Charles Rice

“The MADISON WORKS, this place, Messrs. J. R. Young & Co., are now engaged in casting cannon, 6 pounders. They will make good shooting irons, we predict.”

So reported the *Southern Advocate* of Huntsville to its readers on June 3, 1861.

The outbreak of war caught the South woefully unprepared to do battle with the much more industrialized North. Indeed, the Confederacy seemed lacking almost everything needed to fight for its independence, even such obvious necessities as guns and gunpowder. To help fill the shortage, iron and brass foundries across the South shifted their production to war items, and the Madison Iron Works of Huntsville was no exception.

The Madison Iron Works was a thriving business on the west side of Mill Street only a block away from the Memphis and Charleston Railroad depot. The large multistory brick buildings normally produced items of a more peaceable nature. Their prewar advertisements offered mill machinery castings and gin

gears for plantation owners, plus stoves, coal grates, fire dogs, ovens, bakers, skillets, stew pots, sink pans, and wash tubs for the housewife. Some of the iron fences and balconies that still exist in Huntsville’s historic districts might well have been produced by the Madison Iron Works.

The Madison Iron Works were owned by the firm of J. R. and Company, which was composed of John

R. Young, Andrew D. Lighton, Joseph Armbruster, and John Z. Hamel. John Young was a Connecticut Yankee who had moved his family to Huntsville in the early 1850s. He had brought expertise needed with the arrival the Memphis & Charleston Railroad and the accompanying growth of Huntsville. John Hamel was a 32 year-old Canadian who had evidently come about the same time as Young. Both Hamel and Lighton had married Huntsville girls in 1855, Hamel’s bride being 16 and Lighton’s only 15. Joseph Armbruster, a 29 year-old native of Wuerttemberg, Germany, was a machinist.

Possibly using the city’s old brass howitzer as a pattern, John Young set to work manufacturing big guns for the South. On July 17, 1861, the *Huntsville Democrat* noted the company’s success. “A few days ago,” wrote editor John Withers Clay, “we were shown by Mr. James Crawford at the Huntsville Machine Shop of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad three beautiful iron 6 pounders which were



Instant Credit! Free Delivery!

**Accessories,
TVs,
Stereos,
Appliances,
Carpet,
Jewelry
Gift Items**

**Free
Parking!**

DOWNTOWN!

100 Jefferson Street 534-5681

cast in our city in the foundry of our enterprising fellow citizen J. R. Young & Company and bored out and finished at the machine shop under Mr. Crawford's directions." Like Young, Crawford was an adopted Southerner. Employed as master machinist at the Memphis & Charleston's Huntsville shop, "Uncle Jimmy" was a good natured Irishman. Crawford also had begun making gun carriages at his railroad

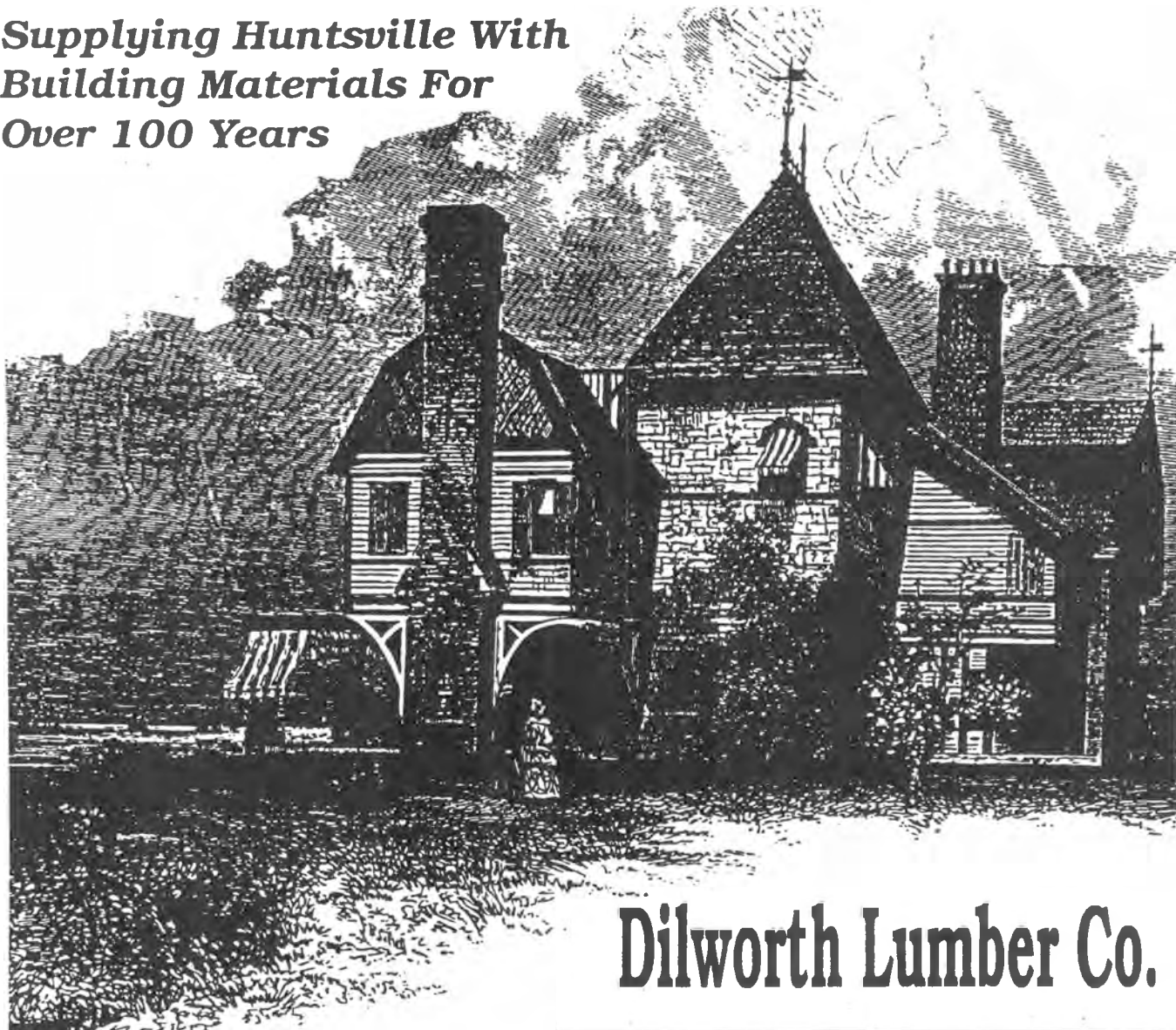
shop just north of the depot. Before long a thriving little ordnance operation was underway in Huntsville.

By the middle of August, no less than seven cannon had been cast, bored, and mounted through the combined efforts of John Young and James Crawford. This was no small achievement for a company that had only recently been making mostly household goods. John Young became even more ambi-

tious, trying to produce rifling equipment to turn out even longer range guns for his adopted South. Evidently impressed by their products, Colonel Josiah Gorgas of the Confederate Ordnance Department ordered several of the cannon sent to him at Richmond, Virginia.

Production continued without let up and in November Samuel Tate, an aide to General Albert Sidney Johnston, reported, "I can

Supplying Huntsville With Building Materials For Over 100 Years



Dilworth Lumber Co.

415 Church Street 539-4123
Complete line of building materials and fast delivery

get six guns a week cut and bored at Huntsville, from 6 pounder to 24 pounder howitzer."

Tragically, John Young died on December 13, 1861, at the early age of only 42. However, cannon construction continued under the supervision of James Crawford. On February 8, 1862, A. J. Hopper, a Memphis & Charleston official, wrote to General Johnston that the Huntsville machine shop had a 6 pounder Parrot gun rifled and mounted on a carriage, though still needing the wheels. Another gun had been bored and rifled, but lacked its carriage.

With this last mention, all record of cannon production in Huntsville ends. Perhaps the casting ceased with the death of John Young, and Jimmy Crawford simply finished those he already had. On the other hand, production might have continued until the city was occupied and the machine shops taken over by the Union forces. Whatever the answer, at least one thing is certain.

Some of those big guns that belched fire and roared in anger on battlefields across the South bore a familiar label. It said simply, "Made in Huntsville."

The End

It's amazing how unimportant your job is when you're asking for a raise, but how important it is when you want to take a vacation.

Jenny Myers, receptionist



Some Unusual Classifieds

No matter what your topcoat is made of, this miracle spray will make it really repellent.

For sale - eight puppies from a German Shepherd and an Alaskan Husky.

This is the model home for your future. It was panned by Better Homes and Gardens.

For rent: 6-room hated apartment.

Wanted: part time married girls for soda fountain in sandwich shop.

Great Dames for sale.

Modular sofas. Only \$299. For rest or fore play.

Wanted: Man to take care of a cow that does not smoke or drink.

Semiannual after Christmas sale.

Now is your chance to get your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home, too.

For sale: a quilted high chair that can be made into a table, pottie chair, rocking horse, refrigerator, spring coat, size 8 and fur collar.

Moody Monday's

Mon-Tue-Wed

Free Lunch Buffet

Thursday

Karaoki, Free Spaghetti
& Sauce

Friday

Free Dinner Buffet

718 Church St.

539-9945



Monkee Childress Mgr.

Dallas Mill residents have hard time in keeping man from murdering wife!

from 1909 newspaper

Jim Burks, a citizen of Dallas Mills, was arrested and lodged in jail today on a charge of attempting to murder his wife. The assault on the woman was committed yesterday and complaint was made by neighbors this morning. They had a hard time keeping him from murdering her. The arrest was made by Deputy Ernie Miller, who had a difficult time getting the prisoner to jail. Burks resisted fiercely and had to be carried bodily.

The prisoner is supposed to be demented. His friends, and his unnatural actions, appear to bear out the claim. He was injured in a saw mill accident some time ago and his relatives say he has never been right since then. The people of the community in which he lives consider him as dangerous, but they have been unwilling to place him in an asylum.

Since his arrest, however, application will be made to have the prisoner placed in the Bryce asylum at Tuscaloosa and he will be kept in jail until taken to that place.



Personal Injury

No Fee Is Charged
If No Recovery

Divorce & Custody

Criminal Cases

DUI Etc.

32 Yrs. Trial Experience

DAVID L. (Dea) THOMAS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

301 FRANKLIN ST.

536-0732

Alabama state bar regulations require the following in all attorney's ads: "No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

Shaver's Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

1. The Way It Was - The Other Side of Huntsville's History. Rich and bizarre stories of Huntsville's past by native Huntsvillian Tom Carney (\$15.95).

2. Mid-South Garden Guide - The Best Handbook for Zone 7 (That's us) Gardening (\$14.95).

3. Wernher Von Braun: Crusader For Space - A Biographical Memoir by Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger (\$40.00).

4. Wernher Von Braun: Crusader For Space - An Illustrated Memoir by Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger (\$29.50).

5. Antique Athens & Limestone County - A Photographic Journey 1809-1949 (\$19.95).

6. More Than Conquerors - Local author Kay Cornelius' inspirational historical romance set in Huntsville during the Civil War (\$4.95).

7. True Tales of Old Madison County - Reprinted by the Historic Huntsville Foundation (\$5.00).

8. Spurs, Sabers & Steam Engines - The Union Capture of Huntsville April 11, 1862 by Bob Dunnivant (\$5.00).

9. The Sword of Bushwhacker Johnston - The Civil War in Madison & Jackson Counties (\$19.95).

10. Historic Limestone County - Stories and History by Robert Dunnivant, Jr. (\$9.95).

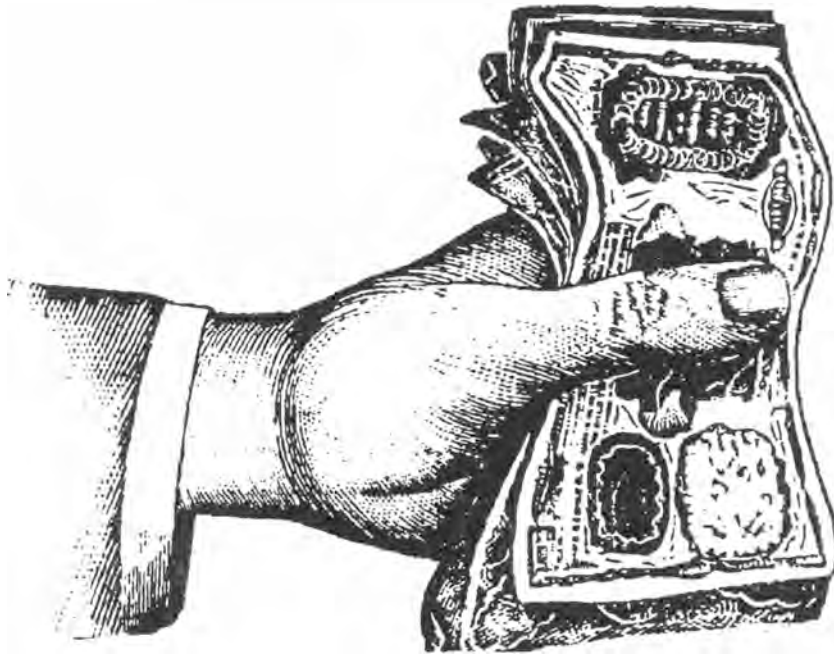
Shaver's Bookstore

(205) 536-1604

2362 Whitesburg Dr.

Whitesburg at Bob Wallace
Huntsville, Ala. 35801

There's a lot backing up the SouthTrust service guarantees.



At SouthTrust, our service guarantees are backed by people like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. If you should get less than our best we'll pay you for the inconvenience.

- * **Guaranteed Accuracy:** \$10.00 for a statement error
- * **Guaranteed Response:** \$ 5.00 for less than prompt response
- * **Guaranteed Promptness:** \$ 1.00 for 5 minute or longer wait in line
- * **Guaranteed Reliability:** \$ 2.00 for out-of-service Anytime Teller machine
- * **Guaranteed Courtesy:** \$ 5.00 for less than courteous treatment

With all the service guarantees that only SouthTrust offers, it just might be worth a short trip to open an account. Stop by your nearest branch today!

**SouthTrust
Bank** 

MEMBER FDIC

Aunt Sealy

by Ruby Crabbe



The first time I saw Aunt Sealy, I had no way of knowing the joy and happiness that short plump woman would bring into my life.

Aunt Sealy was a black woman who earned her living by washing and ironing for people in Dallas Vil-

lage. She also did work for a few families in Lincoln Village. No matter how hot the sun, or how cold the day, Aunt Sealy toiled long and hard, bent over a washboard in someone's back yard. Every time you saw her you would see the little

cloth sack and walking stick she carried everywhere she went. At the end of a hard day she was never too tired to stop and say a few kind words to everyone she met. To say Aunt Sealy was a permanent fixture in Dallas Village would be putting it mildly, she was a permanent fixture in the hearts of all those folks who were fortunate enough to know her.

I remember the early mornings when the kids would gather together to see who would be the first one to see Aunt Sealy coming down the street. We would all run to meet her and by the time she got to where she was going half the kids in Dallas Village would be behind her. All the children loved Aunt Sealy and she dearly loved all the children.

Mama had to be on her job at the Dallas Textile mill every morning by 6 o'clock. Bless Aunt Sealy, she got to where she would come



WE SPECIALIZE IN COPYING
OLD PHOTOGRAPHS
895-0495
BOB GATHANY
PHOTOGRAPHER
4951 CENTURY STREET

to our house every morning to "help" Mama get us kids up and ready for school. Mama didn't ask her for her help because she knew she couldn't pay her on the meager salary she made. Aunt Sealy cooked our breakfast every morning and the only pay she asked was the food she ate from our table.

Then came the night my family and I will never forget. It was the last time we ever saw our beloved friend, Aunt Sealy. That night will stay etched in my memory as long as God grants me the privilege of life.

On this cold, wintry night the ground lay hidden under a blanket of snow, and the still falling snow promised another foot or two before morning. And everywhere the air was filled with our enemy - the North wind. At around 11 o'clock that night someone knocked frantically at our back door, and with every knock could be heard someone crying loudly. When Mama opened the door there stood Aunt Sealy, almost frozen to death. She was shaking and crying so hard her words were hard to understand. When she was finally able to speak

she told us that some boys had torn her house completely down. You see, Aunt Sealy lived in a tent beside the railroad tracks. Her tent was located between Beirne Avenue and the Dallas Mill. That little place had been her home for many years. She told us she had no place to go, on that night so many years ago.

Mama assured her she did have a place to stay, and that place was with us. She told us to just fix her a pallet in a warm place, behind our cook stove. We fired that old cook stove up for all it was worth, and it wasn't long until Aunt Sealy had a nice warm place to sleep.

Next morning Aunt Sealy was gone. When our household woke up we found the pallet quilts neatly folded but no Aunt Sealy. We hunted for days and days for her but no one seemed to know where she was. She had just simply vanished. After all these many years I still wonder what happened to her. I know it is impossible to do, but I wish I could reach back to the morning she left us just to tell her how much we all loved her.

She was our beloved Aunt Sealy

The End



Hugging

Hugging is healthy; it helps our body's immune system, it keeps you healthier, it cures depression, it reduces stress, it induces sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects, and hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.

Hugging is all natural; it is organic, naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients and 100% wholesome.

Hugging is practically perfect. There are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic check ups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation proof, nonfattening, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, theft-proof, nontaxable, nonpolluting and, of course, fully returnable.

There's nothing wrong with marriage. It's the living together afterwards that causes all the problems.
Millie Tanner, homemaker



Stylers
Hair Design

Relaxed Professional Atmosphere
Total hair care & services
Massages, Facials, Manicures,
Pedicures

539-4914

2212 Whitesburg Drive
Suite B



Love, Murder and a Snake

by Steve Maze

One of the most dastardly crimes ever committed in North Alabama, and still a topic of conversation today, was that of Gus Edmonson.

On November 17th, 1887, the courtroom at Somerville in Morgan County was densely thronged with people, to listen to the trial of Edmonson, charged with the murder of his wife, Mollie Winton Edmonson, on Friday, 13th day of May, 1887.

The murder, deliberately planned by Edmonson and his lover, Nancy Clemons had not only captured the public's imagination because of its heinous nature, but for the fact that he had also enlisted his twelve year old daughter in its execution.

Gus Edmonson tells the story best in his confession to a newspaper reporter, in the presence of Morgan County sheriff M. T. Swift, and the jailer, a Mr. Harlan.

"I was born in Georgia. When quite a child my father moved to Alabama, the family living in Blount County fifteen years, and about same length of time in Morgan County. I am now thirty five years old. In 1873, I married Mollie Winton, and by her had two children, Mattie Frances, aged twelve

years, and Monroe, ten years. My father and mother now live seven miles east of Somerville. My father is sixty five years old, and my mother sixty. My wife and myself lived happily together (leaving out the seven years she was confined in the asylum at Tuscaloosa) up to the time that I, unfortunately, met Nancy Clemons and to this woman do I attribute my downfall and death, in part, and the remainder I take to myself.

"Nancy Clemons first came to my house in July, 1886, and that was the beginning of my sexual relationship with her, continuing up to the time of my wife's death. Nancy often said and swore that she would see me and my wife dead before we should live together. Through the persuasion of this woman, I determined to get rid of Mollie, my wife, and on Friday of May, 1887, I proposed the three of us, my wife, little Frances, and myself should go fishing.

"But, before I tell anymore, I will state that on the night before I killed my wife, Nancy and myself had talked the killing matter over, and the next morning, while my wife was preparing breakfast, I told Nancy I could not kill Mollie.

"She wanted to know the reason why, but I don't remember what answer I made her. On leaving the house Friday morning with her and Frances, I resolved to commit the fatal deed that deprived my wife of her life and left my two little children orphans.

"All three of us went to the spring (myself, wife and daughter) and after I took a drink of water, I asked the wife if she too didn't want a drink of water. She said she did, and knelt down, with her head in

**Moss Valley
Railroad Company**

Model Trains & Accessories
NSCALE · HO SCALE · O SCALE
Phone & Mail Orders
Mon. - Sat. 9am - 6pm 320 Church St.
(Located at the Huntsville Depot)
205 536-3303

the spring when I quickly caught her by the back of the head, and succeeded in drowning her, after repeated efforts on the part of my wife to free herself of my grasp. As soon as I found that she was dead, I picked up her body and placed it on the side of the path. My daughter Frances did not assist me, only what I told her to do and that was to hold one of her mother's hands while I held her head under the water which was about five minutes.

"Before removing the body of my wife the second time, I told Frances to go to the house and get dry clothes, to put on her mother, which I substituted for the wet garments. What became of my wife's wet clothes, I don't know.

"After dressing the dead body of my wife, I started to a log rolling by the house to get a pair of dry pants. I told Frances, after committing the crime and before leaving the spring, to come to the log rolling and start the report that her mother had been snake-bit, and was then dead from the effects of the bite. I killed a moccasin snake the evening before, cut the snake's head off, and prying the jaws open, inserted its fangs into the fleshy part of my wife's neck.

"To this day I believe that if I had never met Nancy Clemons, my wife would have been alive, and I a free man. I have been led astray by greed for lust and the wiles of a woman."

On the day set for the trial the courtroom was crowded, and when the little daughter was placed on the stand, the crowd pressed in, despite the orders from the sheriff to give room, until scarcely enough space

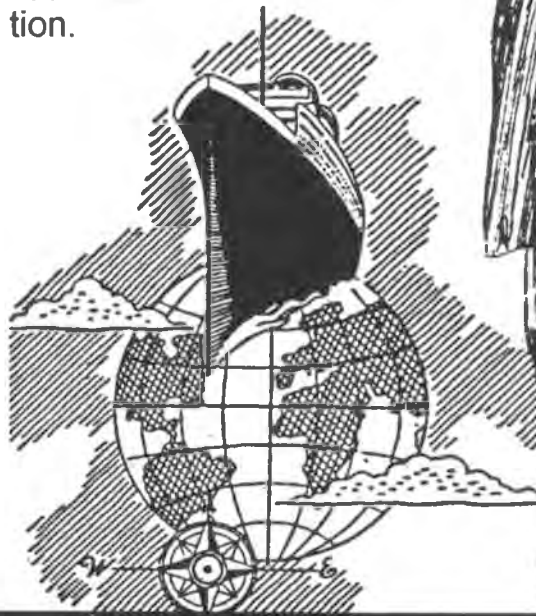
Continued on page 30

Travel Agent Training Academy Classes Now Forming!

Learn to be a travel agent in our comprehensive classes taught by travel professionals with 59 years experience in the travel industry.

The travel industry is the nation's 2nd largest employer! Be a part of it today and enjoy free and reduced travel worldwide!

Call for registration application and information.



Travel Agent Training Academy
(205) 882-0233



PURE DIXIE

Collards

- 1 1/2 quarts water
- 1 t. crushed red pepper
- 1 1/2 pounds pork neck bones
or 2 ham hocks
- 8 pounds collards
- 2 t. sugar
- 1/2 c. cider or white vinegar
- salt and pepper to taste

In a large pot, bring the water to a boil. Add the red pepper and meat, and cook for about an hour. Prepare your greens: discard damaged or yellow parts of leaves. Cut away tough stems, and wash thoroughly until rinse water is clear of dirt. Fold over large leaves and cut in pieces with scissors. Add remaining ingredients to meat in the boiling water, then the greens. Cover and cook rapidly for about 1/2 hour. Serve with diced raw onions and vinegar or pepper sauce.

Pot Likker

The liquid in which the greens have been cooked is called pot likker. It has great nutritional value and can be used as a good stock, or

- l. = teaspoon
- T. = Tablespoon
- c. = cup

to sop cornbread in. Add a little bite to the liquid by tying several mustard greens in a bunch and cooking them with the greens. Discard the stems with the greens are done.

French fried

Sweet Potatoes

- Several sweet potatoes
- salt or sugar to taste
- hot fat

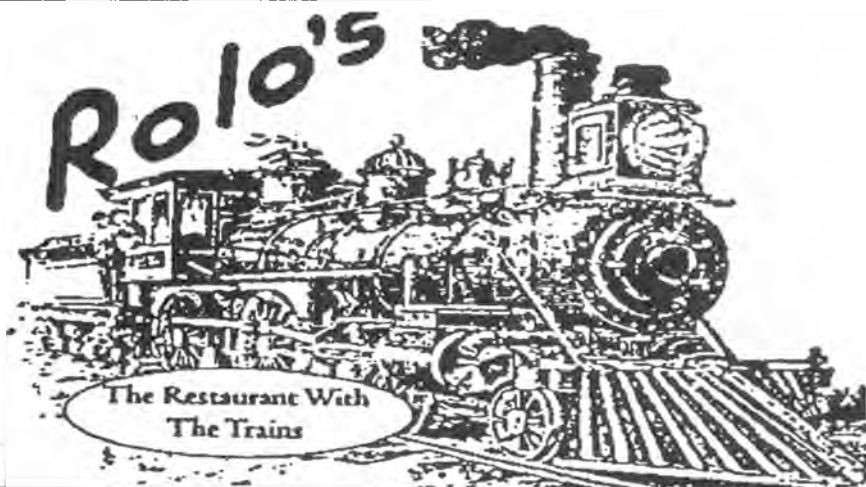
Peel and cut the potatoes into thin strips. Fry in hot fat til crisp, brown and tender on the inside.

Remove and drain on paper towels. Serve hot, sprinkled with either sugar or salt. This is particularly good with breakfast as a substitute for grits or hash browns.

Molasses Taffy

Invite your friends over for a few drinks and an old-fashioned taffy pull!

- 2 c. brown sugar
- 1 T. white vinegar
- 1 c. molasses
- 3/4 c. water



Country Cooking - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
6:30 am - 9:00 pm Seven Days a Week
505 East Airport Road 883-7656

- 1 T. butter
- 1/2 t. baking soda

Boil first 4 ingredients together until a drop placed in a cup of wold water forms a hard ball (260 degrees on a candy thermometer). Stir in the butter and baking soda. When mixture stops foaming pour into a buttered cake pan to set until cool enough to handle. Don't let it get too cool or your won't be able to pull it.

Old Southern Wet Hash

- 2 c. cubed meat
- 1 c. chopped onion
- 1/4 c. chopped celery
- 3 medium white potatoes, diced fine
- 2 T. margarine
- 2 T. flour
- 2 c. stock, or 2 bouillon cubes dissolved in 1 cup water
- salt and pepper
- Dash of soy sauce

Prepare the meat, saute the onion, celery and potatoes in margarine til tender but not brown. Add the flour to thicken, when the flour browns add the stock and meat. Cook til sauce is thick and potatoes are tender. Season to taste. This is great for using up that leftover meat.

Baked Macaroni and Cheese

- 1 T. salt
- 2 c. uncooked elbow macaroni
- 1/2 stick butter, melted
- 12 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/2 c. evaporated milk
- Paprika

Fill a 3 quart saucepan with water and bring to a boil. Add the salt and macaroni, cook for about 8 minutes. Pour into a colander to drain, pour cold water over the macaroni for a minute. Pour macaroni in a 2 quart casserole and add the butter and 8 oz of the cheese. Add the eggs and milk. Stir lightly, then sprinkle the remaining cheese over the top. Dust with paprika or a dash of garlic powder. Bake in a 375 oven for 30 minutes.

Sweet Dixie Cake

- 4 eggs
- 1/2 pint heavy cream
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 self-rising flour
- 1 t. vanilla extract (or almond, if your prefer)

Break the eggs in a bowl and beat til light and foamy - at least five minutes. Add the cream, beat another 5 minutes. Pour in the sugar, beat well. Blend in the flour and extract. Pour in a greased tubular pan and bake at 350 for 50 minutes, or in 2 8-inch cake pans for 30 minutes. Dust with confectioners' sugar or frost.

Burnt Sugar Cake

- 1/2 c. butter
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/4 c. sifted flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1 t. salt
- 2/3 c. cold water
- 4 T. burnt sugar syrup

Burn your sugar like this: Place one cup of white sugar in a skillet and heat over the fire. Stir til melted and brown - be very careful, though, because the sugar can burn very quickly. Remove from the fire and add 2/3 cup of boiling water. Stir and place it back on the heat. Boil for awhile til the liquid begins to thicken - about 10 minutes or so. Keep in a jar in a cool place (make sure the jar can stand high heat, as the sugar liquid is extremely hot at this point.)

To make the batter, cream the butter and sugar together. Add the eggs one at a time, beating the whole time. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt, and add alternately with the cold water. Add the burnt sugar syrup at the last minute and beat all well. Bake in a greased pan at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

Find Romance at

BUBBA'S
for Fine Food
and Drink

534-3133
109 Washington

Next to Gorin's on Washington, DOWNTOWN.



Tracing Your Roots:



The Milam Family by Richard Smallwood

One the oldest families in North Alabama is that of Milam. The earliest recorded incident of the name occurred in Mileham, England. Later the name appears about 1724 in Christ Church Parish, Virginia.

The earliest record of someone of this name in North Alabama is January 3, 1814 when a Bartlett Milam is issued Government Patents Certificate #720 for 159.58 acres in Section 32, Township, 1 Range 1. In 1818, he sold 80 of those acres to a Thomas Atkins. In the years

1828-1829, he appears on a old store ledger in Hazel Green, Alabama.

Bartlett Milam was born in 1792 in Laurens District, South Carolina. He married Lucinda F. Atkins in the same county. In 1819, he bought his father, John, and John's second wife, Polly, from Laurens County to live with him.

John Milam was a Revolutionary War veteran and in October 1832, at 79 years of age, he applied for a pension. He was born in 1753 in Brunswick County, Virginia. He

stated on his application that in the spring of 1776 he joined Captain Cook's Company of the 7th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line in Halifax County, Virginia. His service record consisted of a series of skirmishes at Little York, Virginia; Philadelphia and Morristown, Pennsylvania. He was promoted to an Orderly Sergeant and served at Valley Forge. Later he was drafted into the Virginia Militia and served at the Siege of 96 (the 96th District of South Carolina) in 1781. He used as references a Rev. George A. Kelley of Madison County, Alabama, Thomas Estes of Lawrence County, Tennessee and a Sarah Carghill of Lawrence County, Alabama. Thomas Estes had served with John Milam in the same regiment. Despite the distances involved, each of the named references made sworn statements verifying the information. His father, also named John, was a Lieutenant in the same regiment. He died in York County, South Carolina in 1789.

In 1838, John Milam, Jr. died in Madison County and left a Will. In this Will he named his wife, Polly, and his children as: John, Bartlett, Wiley, Mary (Atkins), Jane (Leek), Dicey (Conant), Cinderella (Murphy), Nancy (first Arnold then Sutherland), Lucinda (Garey). Bartlett Milam and William Murphy were named executors. In addition to these heirs, there appears to have been two other daughters (whose names are not known) and a son, Ferrall, all of whom appear to have died before their father. The location of John's grave is not known.

After John's death, various family members move from the area. His widow, Polly, moved with sev-

VOTE FOR
Bart Ethridge
Dynamic Leadership for the 21st District
State Representative
District 21
Democratic Primary June 7
Paid for by friends of Bart Ethridge

eral of her children and Atkins relatives to Monroe County, Mississippi. She makes a claim for a widow's pension in 1858 while in Mississippi. In 1835, Bartlett moved with his family to Civil District #2 in Lincoln County, Tennessee, buying land from James Childress.

In 1846, Bartlett died in Lincoln County without a Will. Probate records show his heirs to be his wife, Lucinda, children Elizabeth, William Bluford, Nancy C. (Leatherwood), John B., Willis R., Lucinda (Randolph), Wiley Glover, Malinda G. (Leatherwood) and Thomas A. When Lucinda died in 1867, W.J. Bland is appointed the administrator with Wiley G. buying all her possessions. Bartlett's and his wife's graves are not known.

Of Bartlett's sons only Willis R. and Wiley G. remained in Lincoln County, Tennessee. John B. moved to Randolph County, Arkansas where he was murdered over a land dispute. William B. moved to Monroe County, Mississippi and later Upshur County, Texas. Willis R. died in Lincoln County, Tennes-

see in 1853. His estates lists his wife Margaret Beard Milam and his children Elizabeth (Pinkerton), Mary L., James W., and Madison. In the 1880 census, Margaret is listed in the household of her son, Madison in Milam County, Texas.

Wiley G. Milam spent most of his life in Lincoln County, Tennessee. However, at the age of 36, on August 31, 1861, Wiley Glover Milam enlisted for one year, in the Confederate Army, as a private in Company E of the 8th Tennessee Infantry. He later reenlisted for an additional 3 years in August of 1862.

Wiley Glover Milam survived the war and died without a Will in Lincoln County, Tennessee in 1895. The Probate records lists a widow and four children. The widow is Martha Bland, the children are: Wiley Adkins, William Josephus, and James Wesley. He also had a daughter, Mary Ann, who died as a young child. Wiley G. Milam and his wife are buried at the Milam Family Cemetery near Taft in Lincoln County, Tennessee.

After their father's death, Wiley Adkins and William Josephus sell their interest in their father's farm to their brother, James, and move to Huntsville. There, Wiley Adkins Milam operates a livery stable and William Josephus Milam is first a cattle trader and later a livestock trader. William Josephus Milam married Alice Thrasher of Lincoln County, Tennessee and had two sons. The oldest son, George C. Milam initially works in a cotton mill, but later buys a farm and moves near Hazel Green. The other son, Russell, became the fire chief of Huntsville. William J. Milam and Wiley A. Milam and their wives are buried at the Charity Baptist Church Cemetery on Charity Lane in Madison County, Alabama.

One of George C. Milam's two children, is Helen who married Homer Hall. Helen is a retired school teacher from the Madison County school system. Her late husband, Homer, was at one time a teacher, but for many years was superintendent of the school system's motor vehicles. Among Helen Hall's descendants are: George, who is the assistant district engineer for Madison County with the Alabama Department of Transportation and active in The Sons of the American Revolution; Linda Romero who is retired, and Melissa Vandiver, a member of the Huntsville Community Ballet.

Other members of the Milam family presently living in the Huntsville area are Bob Milam, who works for U.S. Postal Service; Pat Milam, a well known local bartender; Randy Milam, a general contractor; and David Milam of Toney, a board member of the Huntsville Genealogical Society, and an active member of the Sons of the Ameri-

VAPORS CLUB



The Best in
Live Rock and
Roll Music
Nitely

2407 S. Plavy.
533-7446

can Revolution and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The owners of Peggy's Log Cabin Flowers also are descendants of this family and they moved and incorporated parts of the family's original Lincoln County, Tennessee log cabin into their store on Keats Drive.

The Milam family has a very active national organization with a newsletter published by Robert M. Wilbanks, IV in Scottsdale, Arizona. One of the activities of the Milam family association is a celebration of the re-interment of the body of Col. Benjamin Rush Milam who was killed in the Battle of Bexar (San Antonio, Texas) in 1835. He is considered the first hero of the War for Texas Independence and is the person for whom Milam County, Texas is named.



New Theater Opens

from 1914 newspaper

Walter L. Humphrey has taken a lease on the store room in the Struve Building on Washington Street formerly occupied by S.O.

Holmes furniture store, and will establish there a first class amusement to be known as the "Theatre." The interior of the room will be put in thorough repair and the latest and most improved outfit for amusements of this class will be provided. A stage will be erected to be used by vaudeville performers who will be brought here for regular dates and opera chairs will be raised, so that a clear view of the stage can be had, will be provided. The seating capacity of the auditorium will be 100. A picture machine will show the latest in the moving picture line. Picture slot machines will be installed as well as other devices for the amusement of the public. Many novelties will be provided that have never been seen in Huntsville before.

The interior of the Theatre will be fixed up in grotto style and brilliant lights on the front and interior will make it a pleasant place to spend an hour. The establishment will be ready for opening by the first day of February.



A Hardware Store....The way you remember them

222 Washington Street 539-5777



billy joe cooley

AN EDUCATED MAN

THE FUN season is underway. We joined **George Jones**, **Alabama**, **Patty Loveless**, **George "Goober" Lindsey** and others in launching Opryland's new "On Stage" series Friday night. Thirty top-name stars will do 750 full-blown concerts in the park this summer. **WAAY-TV** (Comcast 7) newsies **Paul Lindsley** and **Paige Rucker** were at the giant whoop-de-do. I lost a billiard game to **Steve Sanders**, whom I mistook for **Wally Fowler**, while his fellow Oak Ridge Boys watched in disbelief.

Next day we attended a surprise birthday party for **Evan Powell** at The Hilton. His wife **Connie** made sure he welcomed his 40th in fine style.

Clifford and **Maggie Hodges** of pest control fame, are taking their kin, especially grandkids **Adam** and **Caitlin**, to Disney World right away.

CONGRATS to **Gus Denavides** and **Leah Skarupa**, who tied the matrimonial knot on April 30. That's the same day perky **Mary Katherine Bishop** and her yankee friend **John Woudsma** said their "I do's."

Excellent acts are booked into Lanny's this summer, including pianist **Jason D. Williams** on June 4 and bluesgal **Celinda Pink** on June 9.

Jimmie Lawler, **Brian Schuler**, **Mike McElvy** and **Christy Rogers** made up a fine party the other night as **Tony** and **Tommy** performed in **Bubba's**.

ADDING AN air of festivity at Ryan's the other day were **Alan** and **Susan Smith**, **Julie** and **Janey Theobald**. Alan was home from U. of A. for the weekend.

Lots of faces from the past have been returning to **Johnny Tona's** fine family billiard parlor (next to Gold's Gym) recently, mostly collegians who are back from faraway campuses. Grissom grad **Scott Hopkin** and his dad were part of the scene the other night, as were **John Vice** and friends.

TV'S 'MR. FOOD' breakfasted the other morning at Eunice's Country Kitchen. She didn't divulge her secret recipe for biscuits, however. He lives in New York and Florida. Shucks, I thought he was local. Also there was **Roddy Roy** of Material Aspects Inc, Atlanta, and his pals from that city's *Let The Music Play* music outlet.

Poet/artist type **Marque Stokes**, who moved a month ago to live forever among the Atlantans, has returned to the Rocket City.

NASA's Randy Humphries, about whom we wrote many years ago, brought his pal **James Tcherneshoff** to Finnegan's Irish Pub the other night. Meanwhile, bartender **Ed Killingsworth** was making plans to escort pretty **UAH**
continued on next page



HUNTSVILLE'S OWN IRISH PUB

Visit with the ladies & gentlemen of
FINNEGAN'S IRISH PUB

And Enjoy Your Heritage
South Parkway
(Next to Joe Davis Stadium)



student **Melody McNutt**, a Texan, around the town. Another Finnegan's barkeep, **Robert Schumann**, took a night off to be with wife **Karen** on their first anniversary May 6.

Plan to join our gang and half a million others for the *Summer Lights Festival* in Nashville on June 2-5. They block off a mile downtown for this giant party and keep famous music groups on all six stages. Costs \$2 a day.

WHERE ARE THEY?

Johnny Mack, who wrote that "If You've Got the Time I've Got the Beer" Miller commercial, called this week. He now has Domani's piano lounge in Houston . . . Soprano **Pamela Dale Behr** has returned to her duties with San Francisco Opera Co. for the eight-month season . . . **Jim Locke** sells electronics at Ward's these days . . . **David Ninote** is selling furniture for Royal on University . . . Dobro whiz **Tom Swatzell** has returned to *Austin City Limits* after two weeks here on **Doyle Brady's** TV Show (Comcast 11 at 1 a.m. Sundays).

That was a fine Alterezza concert **Bianca Cox** staged the other night at Trinity Church. Bassoonist **Hunter Thomas** and clarinetist **Newell Hutchinson** starred for awhile, then gave way to A&M choir. The next, and final, such hoity-toity will be May 27, 7:30, when the entire evening will consist of the spooey works of PDQ Bach, as discovered by **Peter Schickele**. Tickets available at the door.

That handsome water ski pro

on ESPN (Comcast 4) with the touring team is Guntersville native **Michael Champion**, son of Huntsville flutist **Rosemary Champion**. Since graduating from University of Alabama two years ago he's resided in West Palm Beach, teaching things aquatic.

VAPORS CLUB boss **Sanford McLain** is bringing the popular rockers **Slick Lily** to his club on May 26, followed by **Velcro Pygmies** on June 18-19.

Huntsvillian **Claudia Cummings** is backup singer (with **Nicolette Larson**) on **Jimmy Buffet's** new album, *Fruitcakes*, It'll be out May 26. She'll be part of the Buffet summer tour, which is rehearsing in Callifornia.

CLUB V was invaded the other night by a sea of fancy young women who screamed and cheered as the male strippers did their show. Maybe I should join the Chippendales.

H.C. BLAKE INC.
Plumbing, Electrical, Heating, Air Conditioning




SERVICE IS OUR BUSINESS SINCE 1884

HALL B. BRYANT JR. PROPRIETOR

534-0781

6th Annual North Alabama Scottish Festival
Saturday - June 25, 1994

<p>Scottish Country Dancing Highland Dancing Scottish Food American Food Highland Athletics Highland Clan Tents All Day Entertainment</p>		<p>Celtic Folk Musicians Parade of Tartans Border Collies Sheepherding Bagpipe Bands Celtic Jewelry Vendors of Scottish Goods, Clothing & Music</p>
---	--	---

Sharon Johnston Park
 -Near Huntsville, Alabama

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
 Chip Pharr
 P. O. Box 1983
 Huntsville AL 35807
 (205) 863-1274

Do We Need To Say More?

Bahamas	\$269
Cancun	\$299
Jamaica	\$349
Cozumel	\$329
Aruba	\$699
Disneyworld	\$339

Also, Vacations to Paris, London, New York,
Rome, Moscow, Tokyo, Mexico City

Certain restrictions may apply. Call for details.



**"Where Your Travel Wish Comes True."
205-882-0233**

FAX 882 3667 • 1900 Golf Rd SW Huntsville, AL 35802

All Of God's Creatures

by Cathey Carney

He was struggling for life when she found him - a very small bird in a very large pond. He was just a baby, a little brown bird with a yellow beak, completely submerged except for one eye and part of his beak. After she scooped him out of the water he was very still in her hand, though one eye was half opened.

She cradled the limp being in her hands, trying to support the tiny head. The warmth of her hands gradually revived him somewhat. Occasionally, he would open his eyes and look at the giant who was now patting his feathers with her blouse. "Come on, little bird," she thought to him, "You can do it."

As he tried to right himself, all he could manage was to flex his feet slowly, one at a time. Soon the warmth of the sun began drying his feathers, and he lifted his head. Wrapping each foot securely around her finger, he began to rock back and forth, slowly, weakly at first then a little stronger.

He was able to open both eyes now, and was getting a bit stronger. It was a warm breezy day, as she sat quietly in the sun with the little animal. The back courtyard was a haven for birds of all kinds, feasting on seeds, nuts and fruit. That's how



the bird had run into trouble in the first place, balancing on the fountain and trying to get a drink of water.

By now the baby, fully dried and no longer shivering, had traveled from his place on the her chest to her neck - he seemed to like her hair and nestled there, listening intently to the chirping of the other birds.

She kissed the tip of his little yellow beak and he seemed surprised but allowed it. "I'm happy you are doing better," she thought. "You were almost gone."

She lifted him from underneath her hair and he looked up at her from his perch on her finger, tried out his wings, then was gone. She watched him fly from branch to branch of a small tree in the courtyard. "Watch out for cats, little bird," she said. "And ponds."

Maybe it was her imagination, but as she turned to go into the house, it seemed as if the birds were singing much louder than normal.

**HOME MORTGAGES
MADE SIMPLE**

CONVENTIONAL

FHA

VA

**Two convenient locations to
serve you.**

Benchmark
Mortgage Corp.

917 A. Merchants Walk
Huntsville, Alabama
(205) 536-9370 - 1-800-239-9370

190 Limestone Quarry Road
Madison, Alabama
(205) 461-6336 - 1-800-239-6336

Doctors say that whiskey
can't cure the common cold,
but neither can doctors.
Charlie Murphy, retired



The Doctor Sez

by Dr. Annelie M. Owens

History tells us that for over 5000 years people have been bedeviled by headaches, and today the experts are still trying to find out the exact cause. To have a headache is probably the most common of all medical conditions and causes a loss to industry of about \$50 billion annually, due to absenteeism and medical expenses. If you are one who is plagued with headaches you are a part of the 7 out of 10 people so afflicted in this country. Normally pain is indicative of some kind of illness or condition, but for the most part, the discomfort of a headache, even when the pain is severe, there is no underlying disease.

Types of headaches can be broken down into three main groups. They are: muscle contraction, vascular, and traction and inflammatory. The contraction or tension headaches, make up about 90% of all headaches. It is usually a dull ache and a feeling of tightness around the neck and head, brought about by emotional stress, fatigue or depression. Vascular headaches comprise about 10% of headaches.

The most infamous of these is the migraine which is a periodic headache, generally accompanied

by other symptoms such as nausea and disturbed vision, that just about incapacitates the victim for as long as it lasts. Initially, there is usually some sort of visual disturbance, which is sometimes worse in one-eye, such as a misting over or a zig-zag flashing. The headache then follows. Migraines usually are confined to one side of the head and are inclined to affect three times as many women as men. A cluster headache is a variant of migraine and is characterized by attacks of extreme pain on one side of the head. It is much more common in men than in women and such an attack usually starts during the night. This type headache requires the same approach to drug treatment as migraine.

The third type of headache, traction and inflammatory, is rare and makes up about 1% of the total headaches. This type differs from the others in that it is a symptom of disease or injury, and it is essential that it receive prompt medical attention. It can be caused by infection or some organic problem, such

as high blood pressure, an aneurysm, brain tumor or stroke. Although the medical profession still does not understand all the causes and origins of headaches, it is quite certain that today, most headaches can be prevented, usually by the victim alone, and almost all headaches that do occur can be treated effectively by a physician. Simple tension headaches, which most of us are concerned with, can usually be relieved by taking a pain killer such as aspirin, or ibuprofen. It is also possible to consider such measures as relaxation, stretching and massaging of the muscles of the neck and shoulders, application of a hot or cold cloth over the affected area and a good nights sleep.

Recurrent tension or vascular headaches usually indicate stress in your life-style. A headache that occurs alone and disappears overnight is probably no cause for alarm. But a headache that lasts for more than 24 hours, or that happens as often as two or three times a week should be reason to consult with your physician.

Death is forever.

Heart disease
doesn't have to be.

THE AMERICAN HEART
ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL PROGRAM



1-800-AHA-USA1

American Heart
Association 

This space provided as a public service.
© 1992, American Heart Association



REALTY

3609A MEMORIAL PARKWAY, S.
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801



PAT CASSITY

REALTOR GRI, CRS, LTG

OFFICE

(205) 882-2114

1-800-239-5476

RES. 534-9683

Beeper 720-1320

Huntsville's
Old Town &
Twickenham
Specialist!

Love, Murder and a Snake

Cont. from page 19

was left to proceed with the case. The daughter took the stand at four o'clock and at once proceeded to respond to the questions from Solicitor Jones. She appeared to understand the situation that the strong arm of her father had slain her mother and now she, an eye witness to the tragedy, was called upon to give in testimony that would convict her father. She could only answer a few questions before she would break down with grief and weep bitterly. The sympathy of the house went out for her and many eyes were wet with tears. She related all the facts in connection with the case, in clearness, so that all could see that she was giving the facts just as they were stamped upon her tender mind in consequence of being compelled to be an eye witness.

She told how the father had concocted the plans. The mother was asked to spend the day fishing, and after they reached the creek in the far off woodland where no voice could summon assistance, the father drank from the spring and insisted that the mother should drink also. She obeyed the request, and while the father caught and forced her head into the water. She struggled for life and was overpowered by the strong arm of the father and her head twisted until her neck was broken. After the heinous work was done, the father took her up in his arms with the head and neck resting on one arm while her feet were

permitted to hang down over the other arm and swing back and forth as he carried her away to a cleft of rock. She painted the dying scene in vivid colors, telling how her mother, unable to speak had tried to beckon to her for assistance. The father left the scene to join a crowd of men who were rolling logs in a distant field, telling the child to follow shortly after, and tell the news that her mother was snake bit.

The intense interest manifested by the populace generally marked the atrocious act as one of the blackest and foulest deeds recorded in the annals of crime.

Near the end of Edmonson's confession he stated, "In conclusion I will say that I am guilty of murder, that of taking my wife's life; but sincerely believe that I have made peace with my God, and that I will die happy.

"In leaving this world I entertain none but good feelings for the judge and jury who tried me."

Judge Speaks passed the sentence of death on the guilty Edmonson in his usual cool and deliberate style, "Friday, December the 30th, 1887, between the hours of twelve and one o'clock he will be hanged by the neck from the gallows at Somerville, until his dark life is ended. He must thus pay the penalty for taking a life with that of his own, the greatest punishment known to mortal man. What punishment will be put upon him in another world rests with a just as well as merciful God."

The hardness of the butter is
always in direct proportion to
the softness of the bread.

Ken McDaniel, chef



The Sad Saga of Samuel Van Wyck

by Charles Rice

Samuel Maverick Van Wyck was a young man of promise. Full of hope, the 29 year-old physician had moved his family to Huntsville from his native South Carolina just a year or so before the war. He was a fine fellow, thought his next door neighbor on Randolph Street, Rev. W. D. Chadick. The popular doctor even taught Sunday school at First Methodist Church, just a few blocks away. If anyone seemed to have a bright future before him, it was Samuel Van Wyck. Unfortunately, fate had other plans in store for this devoted father and family man.

Van Wyck came from a proud line. His father, William Van Wyck, belonged to an old Knickerbocker family from New York State. The elder Van Wyck had moved to South Carolina in the 1830s, marrying Lydia A. Maverick, daughter of wealthy plantation owner Samuel Maverick. William Van Wyck spent some time in Alabama in the 1840s

and then went back to New York for a few years. However, he had come to consider South Carolina his home and returned there in the early 1850s. Like his father-in-law, William Van Wyck had become wealthy. His personal estate in 1860 totaled

an impressive \$125,000. Lydia's brother, Samuel Maverick, would also achieve some prominence after moving to Texas. Maverick County is named for him; so are unbranded cattle, thanks to his practice of claiming them all as his own.

When the grim specter of war first strode across the nation in the spring of 1861, Samuel Van Wyck stayed home with his wife, Margaret, and their four small sons. He did join a local defense unit, the Huntsville Blues, as surgeon. Shortly afterward, however, Rev. David C. Kelly of Huntsville's First Methodist Church accepted command of a new cavalry company raised at Maysville, Alabama. Calling themselves the Kelly Rangers, the novice horse soldiers soon came to Huntsville and commenced drilling. "Everything being new and without camp equipage, the men was divided out at night and sent to the citizens' houses to be fed," recalled Frank B. Gurley, a former private in the Kelly Rangers. Apparently at Rev. Kelly's sugges-

BANDITO BURRITO CO.

Mexican
Cuisine at its
finest served
with ice-cold
beer!

3017 Governors Dr.
534-0866



COURTEOUS SERVICE!

tion, Dr. Van Wyck volunteered to go with them on active duty.

In late August 1861, the Kelly Rangers journeyed to Memphis and became part of Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry Battalion. The horsemen from Madison County thus began their war service under the man who would later be called the greatest cavalry leader America ever produced. Having originally enlisted as a private, Bedford Forrest would finish the war as a lieutenant general.

From Memphis, Forrest's Battalion was sent by train to Nashville. They were next ordered to Fort Henry, on the Cumberland River. Here Rev. Kelly was elected major

and the men from Madison County had their first excitement hunting a female spy. Frank Gurley and two others were dispatched to catch her. "We had a long tedious hunt and the nearest we could come to the spy was a part of her underclothes with some important papers secreted in them," recalled Gurley. "After getting these clothes we went back to report and [saw] the spy in the Fort talking to the commanders." Apparently the woman was released with only a warning.

The Kelly Rangers next joined Forrest on a night march to Canton, Kentucky. "It was a long ruff road and we had many fall downs," said Gurley. "We arrived at the river the next morning with many bleeding faces and skinned noses." Dr. Van Wyck's skills no doubt came in handy this time.

After eating breakfast and resting for several hours, Forrest's Battalion rode on all day and night to Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Here the Kelly Rangers supposedly earned all Alabamians the nickname they carry to this day. Postwar accounts vary (there is no contemporary record), but the Kelly Rangers allegedly were wearing uniforms with bright yellow trim. (Or maybe only the officers were. Or perhaps the horsemen were covered with yellow dust. Pick the version you like.) A soldier from another regiment saw them and began calling out, "Yellerhammer, yellerhammer, flicker, flicker!" At any rate, Alabama thereafter became known as the Yellowhammer State and Alabamians as Yellowhammers. It's a good story anyway.

The battalion remained in camp several days and then went out on a scout. "It commenced raining

the day we left camp and rained or snowed every day for 10 days," wrote Frank Gurley. "We found no Yanks but plenty of pretty girls and a fine lot of good grub. We had 700 men and it was a great show to everyone."

Forrest captured a small quantity of Federal equipment at Greenville, as well as one prisoner. He also "visited Providence and Claysville and Morganfield, at all of which places the people met us with smiles and cheers, and fed and greeted us kindly," he reported. Forrest then led his men to the Ohio River at Caseyville, opposite the Illinois shore. The men from North Alabama thus had the satisfaction of gazing upon Abe Lincoln's home state. From Caseyville they rode up the Tradewater River, all without mishap.

Near the town of Marion, in Crittenden County, however, "a lady came from her door and begged in the name of her children for help," said Forrest. It seems that several local Union men had been responsible for her husband's arrest as a Southern sympathizer. Always moved by a woman's tears, Forrest determined to arrest the Unionists and hold them hostage for the prisoner's release. The date was November 30, 1861.

Anticipating little trouble, Forrest himself went to arrest one of the men, a 40 year-old Tennessee born farmer named Jonathan Belt. Forrest was accompanied only by J. P. Strange, later a major on his staff, and Dr. Samuel Van Wyck. Probably the best account of what happened is found in the *Huntsville Democrat* of December 11, 1861.

Approaching the farm house, Forrest engaged Belt in conver-

Moody's

Grocery & Beverage
*A Pretty Good
Store*



Coldest Beer
in Town
300 Oakwood Ave.
534-6272

sation at the front door, "while Van Wyck and Strange stood at the rear of the house. Belt went into the house under pretense of getting his hat, but got his gun, and putting it through a crack in the house, shot Van Wyck dead in his tracks, jumped out the back window, and escaped into a thicket not far off. Strange shot at him twice, but, it is supposed missed him." The gentle doctor from Huntsville was no more.

"It was an inexcusable rashness for three men to go on such a mission, when Col. F. had 600 men in his command," commented John Withers Clay in the *Democrat*. "The needlessness of the sacrifice renders Dr. Van Wyck's death much more deplorable." Ironically, Forrest's first casualty of the war was the one man in the battalion who was sworn to save lives, not take them.

"A noble and brave man was Dr. Van Wyck," wrote Forrest in his report, "and his loss was deeply felt by the whole regiment."

A somewhat chastened Bedford Forrest brought the doctor's body into town, "and there I saw the first dead soldier," remembered Frank Gurley. Forrest paid tribute to the Huntsville doctor as best he could under the circumstances. The battalion was ordered out on dress parade and Forrest spoke from the heart. "The speech was not very eloquent," recalled Gurley, "but very strong and substantial."

Forrest sent Major Kelley back to Hopkinsville with the body, escorted by an honor guard of 100 men. Van Wick's remains were then returned to Huntsville, to be met by his grieving widow and many friends. "During a residence of eighteen months in our city," said the *Democrat*, "he made many friends

by his genial temper, frank, affable manners, high-toned honor and Christian deportment." After services at First Methodist, Van Wyck's body was sent to Anderson, South Carolina, for burial in the family cemetery.

Van Wyck's killer, Jonathan Belt, made his way to Union lines and later served for a time as a captain in the 15th Kentucky Union Cavalry. Nathan Bedford Forrest, of course, went on to become one the greatest heroes of the South. As the casualties climbed into the tens of thousands, however, Samuel Maverick Van Wyck was virtually forgotten—simply a footnote in a few of the war's better histories.

But a fascinating "maybe" just could have taken place that long ago day in Marion, Kentucky. Dr. John Allan Wyeth, a Confederate veteran and Forrest's first biographer, wrote that Belt, "mistaking the doctor, who was dressed in full uniform, for

the officer in command of the squadron, selected him as his victim, and with deadly aim sent a bullet through his heart." Suppose Belt had instead shot the commander, Nathan Bedford Forrest! Without Forrest's brilliant leadership, would the war have ended sooner in the west? "There will never be peace in Tennessee till Forrest is dead," was the way Union General William Tecumseh Sherman had put it in 1864.

Did Jonathan Belt miss his one chance to win the war for the Union?

It is something to think about.

You should never argue at the dinner table, because the person who is least hungry always gets the best of the argument.

Bobby Preston, mechanic



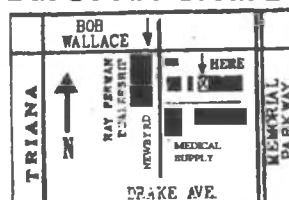
2809 Newby Road - Suite 108 (205) 536-7043 (205) 536-7045

Specializing in Repair & Installation

Free Cellular Phone with Activation
Pagers 99.95 + Activation of 20.00
Statewide Coverage for only 9.95

Sunroofs Installed \$229.95

**We Are Hard To Find,
 But So Are Great Deals!**



Authorized Viper Dealer
Authorized Infinity Dealer
We also have "KDF" Stuff



HOUSEHOLD TIPS BY
EARLENE

Don't overcook your fresh corn. Cover with cold salted water, mix in a little bit of milk. When water boils, corn is done.

Sprinkle edible flowers over your salads - nasturtium, marigolds, and the blue flowers of borage are all spectacular.

To keep ants from your sugar and flour canisters, place a couple of bay leaves inside.

Mice hate mint. To discourage them, hang sprigs of mint in your kitchen cabinets, or place them on the shelves. Rub them occasionally to release their scent.

A large wicker basket or ceramic crock will make a good umbrella stand. Put a plant saucer in the bottom to catch any drips.

For toy boxes that are easy to move around, use colored plastic stacking boxes.

To prevent your bacon from curling, dip the strips in cold water before frying.

A rib of celery in your bread bag will keep the bread fresh for a longer time.

To get odors out of your fridge, put a small bowl of charcoal (the kind you get for potted plants) on a shelf - it will absorb odors very rapidly.

Want to marinate some meat? Try this - get a Ziplock bag large enough for the meat, then pour in your marinade. Put it flat in your fridge and turn it every once in a while. Also, to freeze meat for use later, go ahead and marinate it first, seal and freeze. When you remove it later to thaw, it will be marinating the whole time it thaws. Saves washing plates!

A little vanilla poured on a cotton ball and placed in your car will eliminate most odors.

Club soda is good for shining up stainless steel in a jiffy.

Extension cords can be easily stored without tangling, by simply winding the cord loosely and slipping it into a cardboard tube (from paper towels or toilet paper).

When you antique furniture, try using a small piece of carpet to work in the glaze - it gives a beautifully grained effect.

If your stamps got wet and are sticking together, put them in the freezer. They will usually come apart, and the glue will still be left

For Pecan Lovers!
For a different kind of pecan dessert, take some Kraft caramels, unwrap them, put them in a microwave bowl and heat til melted, about a minute or so. Take some large pecan halves and dip them in the caramel, covering only half the pecan. Place on waxed paper that has been sprayed with Pam, cool and try to save some for later. You'll find yourself eating most of them right off the waxed paper.

Hi Fi Service
For expert repair of audio/video equipment
Factory authorized service center for 22 manufacturers
1318 Putnam Dr. 722-9889



Dear Sir:

I am delighted with my first issue of "Old Huntsville." First, however, I would like to make a correction in the name of Dr. Tate in the article "The Governors of Huntsville." His name was Waddy Tate not Daddy Tate. He was the brother of my great-great grandmother, Mary Tate Scruggs.

I was most interested in the article on Bell Factory. James F. Donegan was the cousin of and partner of John Waddy Scruggs, my great grandfather, in the firm of Scruggs & Donegan, Commission Merchants. John Waddy Scruggs was a representative of the city of Charleston in the Memphis and Charleston railroad. The Donegan home was on the site of the Annie Merts Center, on Randolph Street. Drake Avenue was formerly Donegan Lane.

Sincerely,
Elliott R. Matthews

Dear Old Huntsville:

Like many of your other readers, I too thoroughly enjoy reading your magazine. I have

learned several interesting things about Huntsville that I did not know before.

I was reading issue #41 in the section titled - "Letters to the Editor." While reading the various letters, I read the letter from Dave Anderson in Renton, Wa., asking about information concerning a church formerly known as Meadow Hills Baptist Church. I have the answer concerning the church. It has both moved and changed its name. Here is the current information on the church:

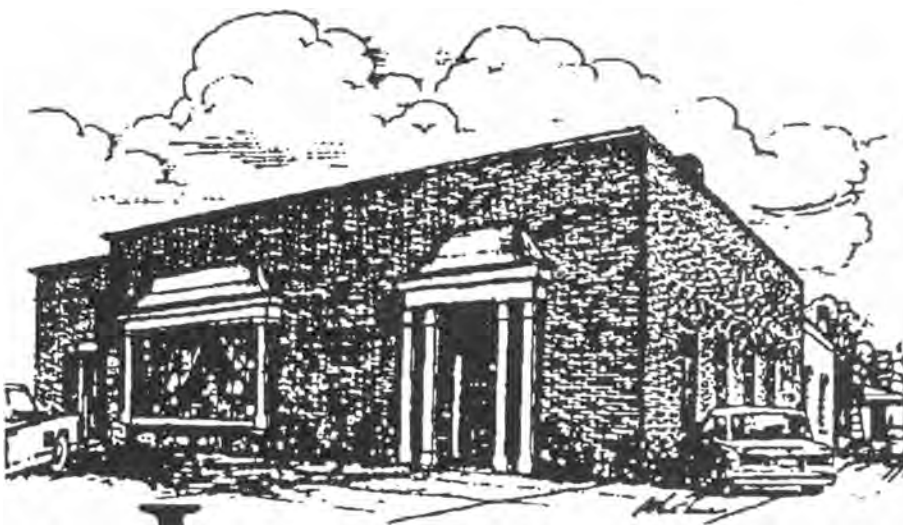
Calvary Baptist Church

1800 Sparkman Dr. NW
Huntsville, Al 35816
Phone 9205) 837-6873
Dr. Greg McLaughlin,
Pastor

Hope this helps. Again, thanks for such an enjoyable magazine.

G. Fisher, Huntsville, Ala.

To cool down a painful sunburn, rub yourself with apple cider vinegar.



LAWREN'S
809 MADISON STREET
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

BRIDAL REGISTRY

China, Crystal, Silver, Pewter, Table
Linen, Cookware.

Decorative Accessories, Invitations and
Announcements, Lenox China & Crystal,
Fine Linens & Cottons For Bed & Bath.

A Solution to the Garbage Problem

by Ray A. McCrary



Back years ago in our little cotton mill community in Huntsville, life was simple and seemed to have less problems than today's complex society. Our father worked at a regular job, we went to school through the week and did our chores around the house as expected, whether we wanted to or not. Our mothers, grandmothers

and grandfathers were at home working in the garden, which consisted back then of almost the whole yard except for a small portion in front of the house which was left to use for playing marbles, mumbly peg, stretch and various other games we played as children.

Canning food, gathering eggs, and milking cows were just a nor-

mal every day part of life. I remember our canned food was put up in Mason jars that were cleaned and saved for later use. I guess that eliminated a lot of tin cans. Our milk was also put in washable glass and can containers. That probably eliminated a lot of milk cartons. Eggs came directly from the chickens so I imagine that did away with egg cartons. The chickens also loved to eat bugs in the yard so I think that's why we didn't need any pesticides. Our table scraps were taken up to the hog pens and they took care of that. Diapers back then were cloth so they were washed and reused over and over.

So there weren't any diapers to be put in the garbage. There weren't any cola cans and containers back then, either, because they were all in reusable glass bottles. The milk we had to buy was also in reusable containers. The glass containers which mayonnaise and other condiments came in were saved and used for drinking glasses. I mean, back then a good cold glass of tea was still tea no matter what it was in. The prettiest glasses I remember were the glasses that my grandmother and great grandfather saved from their purchases of Sweet

The Trading Post

*Comics, Cards, Antiques,
Collectables and More!*



**Drive A Little
And Save A Lot!**

**Big Bargains In A
Small Town!**

**2998 Old Highway 431 S.
725-2424**

Located In Beautiful Downtown Owens Cross Roads

Garrett Snuff.

Back then we just didn't have much garbage. There was one thing we had though that took care of the garbage we did have and that was "Ole Billy." Yes, some of us were fortunate enough to have a billy goat. There was nothing he wouldn't eat. Paper, cans, and anything in the yard left unattended he'd eat or chew into nonexistence. We didn't have to cut the yard either. I think each residence should be allowed one billy goat per family. A family with six or more members should be allowed an extra billy goat, as needed to correct the garbage problem. We could then look forward to a once-a-month garbage pickup at a considerable less rate than now.

It took me and my wife a week to decide what to do with our Christmas trees. We heard that the steam plant wouldn't accept them. One was completely dead by the time Christmas was over but we noticed the other one was still green so we elected to plant it and hope it grows roots. As the last shovelful was scooped around it my wife said, "What if it dies and turns yellow?" Well, then, we'll just spray-paint it green. As of now it's still alive and growing so maybe next year we can recut it and use it again.



Rubbing alcohol makes a good substitute cleaner for mirrors and chrome in your bathroom, when you don't have your regular cleaning supplies on hand.

A Loose Woman

from 1911 newspaper



Harvey Gibson was arrested last night by the police on a charge of appearing in public with a woman of bad character. He was fined in Mayor Smith's court this morning. Willie Burkley, a boy from Tullahoma, Tenn. claims he came to the city with Gibson and was deserted by him. He had no money and no place to go and applied to the police for aid. His people in Tullahoma were notified and they asked the police to keep the boy until they could send for him.

MOUNTAIN BIKES. DIRT CHEAP.

You don't have to break the bank to get a quality **TREK** Mountain Bike. Come in and see for yourself.



Bicycles Etc. Inc.

8100 S. Mem. Pkwy.
881-6947 Open 7 days a week

TREK USA
American Bicycle Technology



The Encampment

by Tom Kenny

At the beginning of the Spanish-American War, the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce sent Captain Milton Humes and Tracy Pratt to Washington to secure the placement of an encampment in Huntsville.

After delays, uncertainty and red tape, Huntsville was finally selected and designated Camp Wheeler.

Shortly thereafter, the streets and yards of Huntsville were swarming with soldiers, starved and weary, from a delayed trip from Florida, on short rations. They asked for food, water and permission to lie on the grass and rest.

The regiments were scattered all about the city. The 5th Ohio and the 5th cavalry were at Brahan Spring; the 69th New York was near them the 10th Cavalry and 2nd Cavalry in West Huntsville; the 2nd

Georgia on the William Moore Farm; the 5th Maryland, Company D, Engineering Corps, and the 1st Florida on the Steele place; the 8th Cavalry, the 3rd Pennsylvania, the 7th Cavalry and the 16th Infantry, on the Chapman places.

Water was piped to each of these sites, and wooden floors built for the tents.

The Provost Guard post consisted of 28 tents pitched on the Calhoun property near the square. General Snyder's headquarters were in the Calhoun grove. General Coppinger and staff occupied the Steele house.

A reading room was established for the enlisted men in the Schandle building on Jefferson Street.

Coaching parties went to the Tennessee River and the Flint River for moonlight suppers. The Monte Sano Hotel gave balls and barbecues. The regimental bands performed for musicals, concerts and dances.

The soldiers adopted many mascots to their organizations.

The 1st Florida selected young

WEDNESDAYS

Quarter Beer 25¢
Miller Genuine Draft
7-9
Plus... Contests &
Lots of FREE Stuff

THURSDAYS

Ladies Night...Gins Nite Out
1.00 Beer 1.50 Cocktails
7-9
MALE REVIEWS
EACH WEEK

CLVUB

115 CLINTON AVE.
HUNTSVILLE, AL

ALABAMA'S SUPER CLUB

539-9979
INFORMATION
HOTLINE

FRIDAYS

8-9 1.00 Beer 1.50 Cocktails
FREE Money FREE T-Shirts
FREE Stuff
A TON OF FUN!

SUNDAYS

Budweiser Night
Quarter 25¢ Bud & Bud Light
Plus... CONTESTS FOR
THE GIRLS EACH WEEK

SATURDAYS

8-9 1.00 Beer 1.50 Cocktails
Join over 1,000 People
In A Celebration of Life -

Louis Goodman Mastin. He had his own pony. The regiment supplied him with a sword, a tailored uniform with gold bars and golden spurs. He rode in the place of honor on parade, and dined with the officers.

The 69th New York selected an old white-haired black man called Uncle Matt. Matt drove a home-made rickety cart, wore ragged clothes and sported a chewed-up hat on his head. Both he and his cart were adopted by the soldiers. When the 69th left at the end of January 1899, they took Uncle Matt and his cart to parade with them down Fifth Avenue.

Sometimes the soldiers caused

irreparable damage when drunk. Once occasion occurred when a group of soldiers were arrested for being drunk and disorderly. They were placed in a basement room in the courthouse. Not being very secure they easily pushed in a door leading to one of the file rooms, where important papers were stored.

They set fire to the papers and before the flames could be extinguished, many valuable and irreplaceable documents had been destroyed.

When General Joe Wheeler visited the camp, the citizens of Huntsville presented with a fine black saddle horse.

Troop G of the 2nd Cavalry escorted General Wheeler to the Courthouse. These were the troops who had been with the General at Santiago. The 10th, 2nd, 6th and 7th Cavalry passed in review on 8th December 1899. The line of march was over two miles long. It was the final event of the encampment. By March 8, 1899, all of the soldiers had left but many pleasant memories remained with the citizens of Huntsville.



SANDERS

1215 JORDAN LANE 837-6072
7538 MEM. PKWY. S. 828-0106

The best way to keep from having a hangover is don't drink the night before.

Joe Sloan, suffering

Just Cichlids

In sheer numbers, no other animal tops the fish in U.S. popularity polls, from family living rooms to executive offices, from classrooms to hospitals, more and more hobbyists are discovering the joys and benefits of keeping fish.

No group of ornamental fishes arouse such strong emotions among aquarists as do Cichlids. Their many partisans praise their intelligence, brilliant colorations, ease of maintenance and highly evolved parental behavior.

Just Cichlids is the largest retailer of African Rift Lake Cichlids in the Southeast.



2006 Triana Blvd.
536-0185



JAY'S LOUNGE

FEATURING
"THE CRAWLERS"
BEST BLUES BAND IN TOWN

619 MERIDIAN N.
NEXT TO SHERWIN WILLIAMS

Modern Day Tips

Be kind to yourself! In your bathroom, install a dimmer switch. That way, when you get up in the morning and stumble your way to the bathroom, you won't be blinded by the first light you turn on. Use the dimmer for low light til your eyes become accustomed to it.

All of us have moods - both good and bad. When you're feeling especially good, make a list of what made you feel good. Make another list of things to do to cheer you up when you feel low. Then when a bad day comes along, read your list and see if anything on there can make you feel better.

Before you spend a ton of money on bathroom and kitchen cleaning supplies, test out a few all-

purpose cleaners. Most of them work very effectively on grease, grime and mildew, at a fraction of the cost of those specialized cleansers.

If you are traveling and want to try out the hotel's hot tub, remember these few words of advice. Don't stay in more than 15 minutes at a time; make sure the water is treated, because bacteria can grow in warm water. Don't ever submerge in the tub - your hair can get caught in the drain, and several people have drowned that way.

When lifting anything heavy, remember to keep your head up and lift with your legs - keeping your arms as close to your body as possible.

Stay away from breaded fish products in your grocer's freezer. Many of them are mostly bread and cost about 4 times as much as fresh fish you could easily bread yourself.

Nuts! When using nuts, always store them in the freezer to keep them from going rancid. Use Ziploc freezer bags for best results.

You may think it's a good idea to line your oven and refrigerator shelves with aluminum foil to keep them clean, but you'll prevent air from circulating and properly cooking or cooling your food.

Advice to men - if you are getting backaches and don't know why, try moving your wallet to a different pocket. Many men get backaches from sitting on wallets all day. Also, loosen up that collar - a tight one can reduce your circulation and restrict breathing. Worn, untied shoes can cause knee, ankle and lower back problems.

The Mall **The Gold Rush Lounge** 584-2777
Glenn Bracken, proprietor

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Free Pool Rock The Juke Box	Jim Cavender Mark Smith Acoustic Live	Rocket City Blues Jam	Michell Douglas Steve Robinson and Friends	Danny Hall Anthony Sharpe Keith Peterson	Classic Rock Nite Lite Band	Classic Rock Nite Lite Band

Music - Pool - Darts - Fun - Friends



It Happened In Huntsville

by Nell Rutledge Porter

I remember April 14, 1945 as if it were yesterday. My husband and I were resting a bit, and two men came up the walk to our home. One was our pastor and the other was our district superintendent. Soon we were entertaining them as best we could. We soon found out their business.

The superintendent said, "I hear that you are leaving the Alabama district," and my husband said that yes, we were. "I have been called to preach, and we've bought some acreage from my grandfather's place up in Tennessee. We hope to start a church up there." The superintendent said, "Well, you will find it tough, with your family, and you have a limited education, and it's not at all easy to begin a new work."

With tears in his eyes my husband said, "Yes, all you say is true. But God has called me and I'm going." The guests prepared to leave, and the superintendent said, "I will never discourage you again, but we will be praying for you."

About supper time, I began having labor pains. My husband ran to the phone, but it was silent. We had forgotten that the service had been cut off in order to honor President Roosevelt, whose body was being taken from Warm Springs, Georgia to the capital in Washington, DC.

I said, "You'll have to walk, but please hurry." As he stepped out the door, a crowd of people were running up the street. He yelled at them to find out what was the matter, and they told him that the cot-

ton warehouse was burning down.

I knew it would take him a long time to get to the doctor's office trying to avoid the crowd and the fire. I began to walk and walked for what seemed like forever.

We lived on Miller Street, down by Dunnivant's corner. My first cousin, Mildred Hickson, assisted in the birth of our little daughter whom we named Margaret.

It seemed like so many eventful things happened in just one day. I wonder how many folks remember the time in '45, when the cotton warehouse burned down here in Huntsville?

I can't remember the name of that superintendent - but I sure wish he had been more of an encouragement that day.

The end



*Is there anything more
important. . .
than your family's
security?*

MULLINS & Co.

For all your
insurance
needs

1580 Sparkman Dr.

830-5584

The Madison County Fair

by Betty Miller Lewis

My sister Shirley and I were reared by our grandmother, Nin Hucks and our aunt, Nannie Hucks in the Big Cove area. The house that we lived in was located where the Huntsville Racquet Club is now located on Wimbledon Road, just off Dug Hill Road.

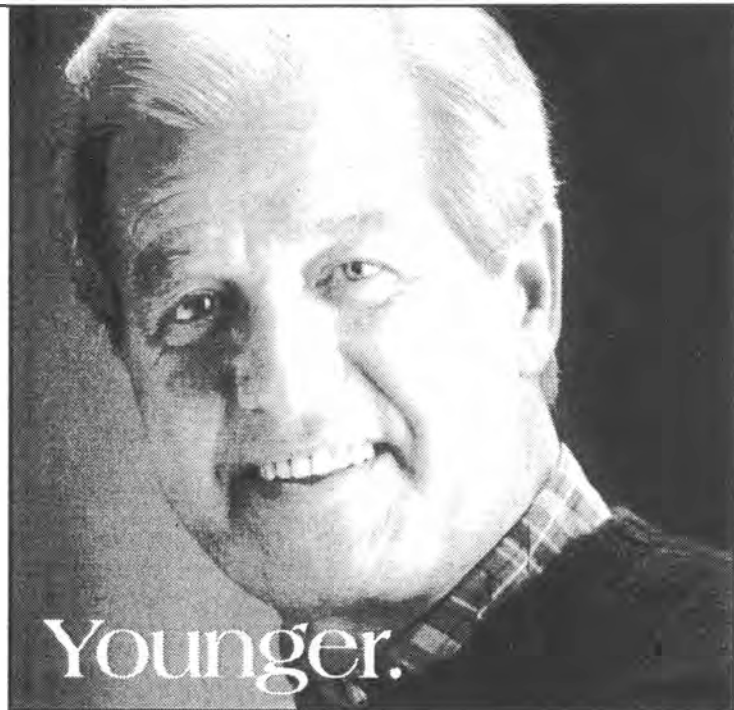
The biggest thrill of the year for us was going to the Madison County fair. The fairground was then located on Church Street directly across the street from what is now Moody Mondays and was then the Fairground Cafe.

Each September we eagerly awaited the arrival of the fair. Since there was not a lot of money available, we always had to pick cotton to get enough to go to the fair. We picked cotton for our grandmother's tenants or our Uncle John and Uncle Herman. We had to hurry and "get a bale out" and the days previous to the fair while we were picking the cotton, we would discuss what rides that we liked, the fireworks, what friends that we might see, and anything connected to the fair. Sometimes, our younger sister Lucy would come for a visit and go with us. It would begin on Monday and end on Saturday night. We always went on Fridays. Our bedroom was located on the north

side of the house and every night when we would be in bed, we could see the spotlight from the fair shining across Monte Sano Mountain. I remember being so excited that I could not sleep. The closer to Friday the more excited we would get.

Finally, the big day would arrive and we would be up early. My grandmother and aunt would prepare fried chicken and biscuits to take for our lunch. By 10 o'clock Friday morning we were on our way in our aunt's '32 Plymouth automo-

bile. When we arrived at the fairgrounds, we always went and looked over the *livestock first*, which consisted of horses, cows, chickens, goats, pigs, geese, and other animals. Then we would go the next building and look at the Madison County Home Demonstration Club displays; quilts, canned goods, and other crafts. By this time, it was lunch time and we would head to the car which was parked in the field located on the fairgrounds. We would eat our meal



As we age, all of us would like to be able to turn back the clock. A **Facelift** can improve your appearance and possibly your outlook on life. We offer complimentary computer imaging and complete salon services. Call us and we can put you in touch with a plastic surgeon who specializes in rhytidectomy (facelift). Call 517-6888 or 1-800-227-2645.

That's the beauty of having aesthetic surgery at Huntsville Hospital.

THE CENTER FOR
Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery

 HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL

of fried chicken and biscuits and could hardly wait until the midway opened.

Around one o'clock the midway would open and we would ride all of the rides that we were not too scared to ride. My favorite was the merry-go-round when I was smaller but I was always too scared of the ferris wheel. I remember only riding it one time. We would walk the midway and watch the gaudy women shuffling on the platforms outside of the girlie shows and see some of the freak shows. About two o'clock it was time to go to the grandstand acts which consisted of harness racing, clowns, magicians, and singers. After the afternoon grandstand acts were ended, we headed back to the midway. By this time, dusk would be appearing and we would get on the rides again and just walk the midway. We would always see a lot of people that we knew. About nine o'clock the fireworks would be displayed and oh what a beautiful sight. After the fireworks, we would pile into the '32 Plymouth and head back across Monte Sano (it was then only a two-lane highway) to home, tired, and a little sad that we would have to wait another whole year to go again.

I will have to say that the fair was the highlight of my childhood years, even as a teenager.

My grandmother and aunt were stockholders in the fairground and received a share of the sale when it was sold in later years.

I met, I saw, and she
conquered.
Ron Eystone, engineer

Thievery In New Hope



John W. Buford, a planter from the New Hope neighborhood, reported to the police late yesterday afternoon that two of his tenants, Jackson Jones and Henry Brooks, stole from his place two fine mules and when last heard of were coming in the direction of the city.

According to the description furnished by Buford the thieves are notoriously shifty and not known for their mental prowess. When last seen they were both under the influence of whiskey.

The police have been on the lookout for the thieves, but no trace of them has yet been found. The officers are under the impression they have skipped to some other state with the animals.



RE/MAX
Huntsville
Independently owned and operated

Kathleen J. Gardner
Associate Broker, CRS, GRI
Multi-Million Dollar Producer



901 Bob Wallace Avenue
Office (205) 533-3313
Fax (205) 533-1555



by Jack Harwell

The history of Huntsville is reflected in the names of its streets. While the city itself is named for its earliest settler, many people who came here about the same time as John Hunt are remembered on signposts all over town. Some of them, including a Virginia planter named Drake, made their homes in the area we call Jones Valley nearly two centuries ago.

James Drake was born in Botetourt County, Virginia in 1780. On September 18, 1809, he staked claim to a quarter-section (160 acres) in Madison County at the land office in Nashville. He arrived in Huntsville, according to census records, with a wife, a son, and a daughter. The land he had purchased was located in a narrow valley a few miles southeast of town. Drake was not a pioneer in the Daniel Boone mold; he simply

wanted some land on which to start a farm. His brother, William, bought an adjacent parcel at about the same time. Over time, the Drakes increased their landholdings, eventually owning nearly all the land in the valley.

If James Drake was looking for privacy, he chose his land well. The valley that he bought lay from 100 to 800 feet lower than the surrounding mountains, yet the head of the valley was only three miles from Huntsville.

During the 1820s—nobody knows exactly when—James Drake built a house in his valley. It was a two level structure with the bedrooms upstairs and the dining area on the lower level, which was 30 inches below ground level. Curiously, the house initially had no interior stairway, although one was added later.

James Drake died and was buried in a small family cemetery on his land, in a section known as Drake Cove. His family held onto the valley until 1881, when it was sold to Winston Garth.

Garth was a wealthy landowner in his own right. He was the son of William Willis Garth, a former Congressman who had a fine home on Franklin Street. The younger Garth was quite active in community affairs, and served on the boards of many civic organizations. His home, Piedmont, was located across the mountain from the Drake house, on the east side of Whitesburg Pike. Garth and his Vassar educated wife were well known around Huntsville in the 1890s for their social activities, and Piedmont was the scene of many a Saturday night gathering a century ago.

Winston Garth was also a man



It's Time to Plant!

Great Selection of bedding plants and herbs
 Foliage and flowering baskets
 Bird baths, Fountains and Pots
 Flowering vines and roses

6112 University Dr. 837-1668

The Plant Shoppe

Across from Home Depot on University Dr.

who was used to having his way. In her book, *Changing Huntsville 1890-1899*, Elizabeth Humes Chapman described a humorous incident involving two young men who arrived at the Garth home one evening to double-date the Garth daughters. Hoping for some privacy, the would-be suitors arrived in separate carriages. When he saw these arrangements, Garth informed the gentlemen that they could ride in one carriage, and the girls in the other. This was definitely not what the young men had in mind, but they consented—at least until they had left the premises. Once out of Mr. Garth's stern gaze, one of the fellows nudged his companion, telling him that now was their chance to switch carriages with their respective dates. The other young man, who knew Mr. Garth rather better than his friend, told him to do whatever he wanted, but Mr. Garth had told him to ride that carriage, and that was what he was going to do!

In 1940, the Drake-Garth land was sold to Carl T. Jones. Jones was himself a prominent citizen. He was the grandson of G. W. Jones, who founded the local engineering firm which still bears his name. Jones has since passed on, but his descendants live in the valley, now called Jones Valley, to this day.

In nearly 190 years, this land has changed hands only three times, and is still being used for its original intended purpose—farming. The current owners grow Kentucky fescue and graze cattle there. Nowadays, all of Jones Valley lies within the Huntsville city limits. It is still a beautiful place.

When a road was first put through the valley, it was called Drake-Garth Road, for the land's first owners. The north end of the

road connected to the east end of Donegan Lane. Donegan was eventually extended westward toward Brahan Spring, and became Drake Avenue. Drake-Garth Road then was renamed simply Garth Road

In the mid 1980s, the city decided to build an east-west road across the valley. No one was sure what to call the road, since it connected the end of one existing street (Airport Road) to another (Bailey Cove Road). The street was finally named for the man whose land it traversed—Carl T. Jones.

So it is that all three of the families who have lived in the val-

ley are remembered by the names of the three major thoroughfares there. The house that James Drake built over 160 years ago is still there, and can be seen from Garth Road. The best view, however, is from the scenic overpass on Governors Drive. From there, you can see not only the house, but the entire valley. It isn't difficult to picture the valley as James Drake saw it such a long time ago.

A person may have more money than brains, but not for long.

EL MEXICANO

RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Margaritas

Small \$2.50

Grande \$3.75

Small Pitcher \$5.50

Large Pitcher \$9.50

\$1.00 more for Fruit Margaritas

Draft Beer

Mug 75¢

Small pitcher \$3.00

Large pitcher \$4.50



Lunch Specials (All You Can Eat)
11 am - 3 pm

Dinner Buffet (All You Can Eat)
Fri-Sat 5-9 pm

OPEN DAILY 11:00 AM

534-2371

2713 Patton Rd. Huntsville, Ala.

Serving the best Mexican food in Huntsville since 1973

Bonny and Clyde

by Robert W. Teel

The year was 1934, school was out and we were going on a trip. My mother, sister, brother, and I were going to Muleshoe, Texas. This was a long day's trip. The roads were primitive, and passed through ranch lands. At Muleshoe, my grandmother and great grandfather continued with us to Carlsbad, New Mexico. There we visited my uncle Melvin and his wife, Nell.

Melvin lived a few miles from Carlsbad at the end of a dirt road. The next day "the panic button" was pushed. A car drove up to the house. Two people, a man and a woman, alighted from the car. My mother rushed out to the barn, took my brother and rushed with my sister and I into the house. We were told to get behind the front room furniture. The two strangers were Bonny Parker and Clyde Barrow. Bonny was a niece of my aunt Nell.

Clyde assured my uncle that no one would be hurt as long as the police did not attempt to capture them. Melvin worked as a butcher in Carlsbad and finished work at 5 o'clock. Melvin was cautioned "not to inform the police," and that he would be watching for his return home and he did not want to see the dust of a second car. There would be a gun battle and someone would be hurt.

Every evening before 5

o'clock, Clyde would check his guns and walk to a bridge over an irrigation ditch and wait for Melvin to come home.

I do not remember of having any thought of fear, but being only 13 years of age, I was impressed at having first-hand knowledge of a desperado. After a few days, Melvin came home with extra groceries and Bonny and Clyde left.

Many years afterwards at a family reunion in Canton, Texas, I told this story. A relative that lived in Carlsbad told "the rest of the story." Bonny and Clyde took the

sheriff as a hostage when they left. The sheriff was released unharmed a few miles outside of Carlsbad.

Bonny and Clyde headed East. A posse of lawmen was waiting in an ambush in Louisiana. They had knowledge of the car and route. As the car approached the posse, they opened fire and riddled the car and occupants with bullets. They were never given a chance to surrender. On May 22, 1934 the careers of Bonny and Clyde came to an end.

We were among the last to see Bonny and Clyde alive.

Blinded By Love?

Come in and discover
an adventure in
Romance.

Adult Toys
Novelties
Games
Books
Cards

**To beat bedroom
boredom**

Leather & Lace Lingerie or ...
Give a Gift Certificate for a Sensual
Body Massage

Pleasures

Romantic Photography Session - Includes total
makeover & hair design

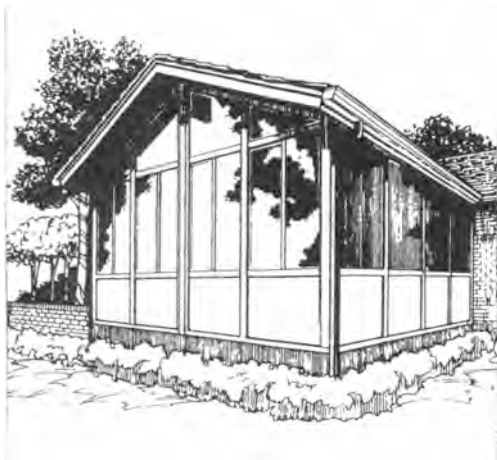
One Mile West of Madison Square Mall - Across from Holderfields

830-0069





Great on Curves...



Straight-a-ways too...



A real luxury ride...

Test Drive A Sunroom!

CALL OR VISIT OUR LOCAL SHOWROOM TODAY

- *Display Models*
- *Easy Financing*
- *Free Estimates*
- *Full Color Catalog And Prices*

New Technology Glass Saves You Thousands!

Our new Azurlite[®] Glass from PPG Industries, Inc. saves you about 20% off our best selling high performance glass. For example, a typical 8' X 16' Series 100 Sunroom normally costs \$10,203.00, but with our new "special" Azurlite[®] Glass, it is only \$8,200.00 – A savings of \$2,003.00 or 19.6%!

Best of all, our new Azurlite[®] Glass keeps your sunroom cool and comfortable.



INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



SOLAR GREENHOUSES • SUNROOMS • PATIO ROOMS
SOLARIUMS • WINDOWS • DOORS • SKYLIGHTS

Outdoor Living...Indoors™

FOUR SEASONS DESIGN
408 GOVERNORS DR.
539-3687

FARMERS TRACTOR COMPANY

633 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
830-4020



**AMERICA'S
BEST JUST
GOT BETTER**

**LOW AS
\$695.00**

TROY-BILT

7

WARRANTY
Our Commitment to Quality

Ask your dealer for complete details and a free copy of the TROY-BILT 7-Year Warranty



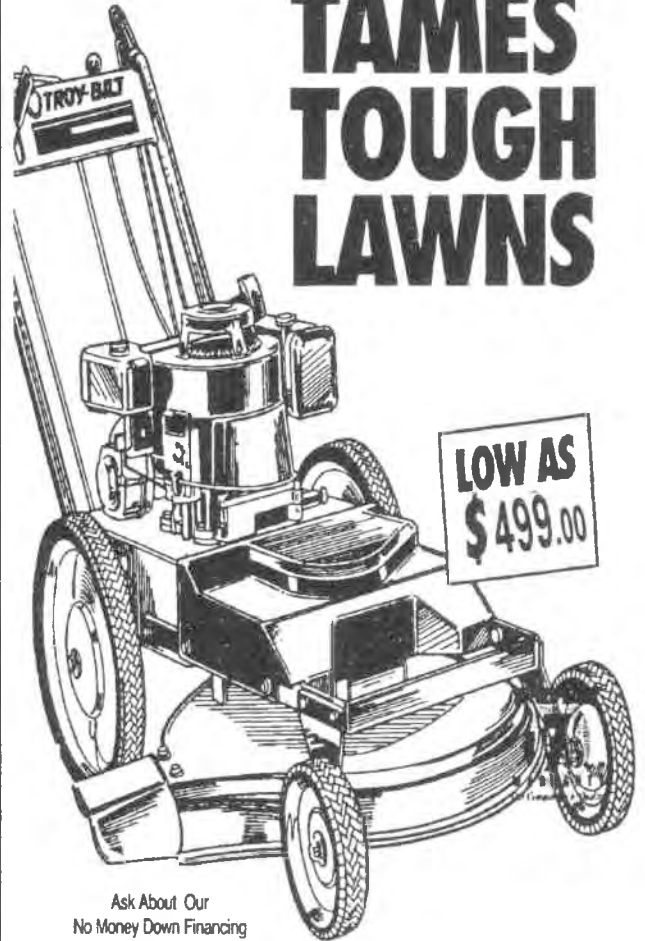
TROY-BILT® MULCHING MOWER

The NEW, IMPROVED ORIGINAL mulching mower now has...

- Lightweight Cast Aluminum Deck
 - Single-lever height adjustment for all four wheels
 - Multiple speed transmission
 - Blade Brake Clutch (5.5HP Model)
 - Easy-to-reach and use controls
 - Grass Bagger option
 - 5 Models to choose from, 4 - 5.5HP
 - Covered by exclusive 7-Year Warranty
- No-Money-Down
Financing Available

**TAMES
TOUGH
LAWNS**

**LOW AS
\$499.00**



Ask About Our
No Money Down Financing

TROY-BILT® HIGH WHEEL MOWER

- Heavy-duty design made for the toughest mowing conditions—rough terrain, tall, thick grass
- High wheels ride over ditches and over obstacles
- 5 and 8HP models available
- Multiple speeds & reverse

Ask your dealer for complete details and a free copy of the TROY-BILT 7-Year Warranty

TROY-BILT
7
WARRANTY
Our Commitment to Quality

CENTRAL LAWN AND GARDEN
2407 MEMORIAL PARKWAY SOUTH
534-2262