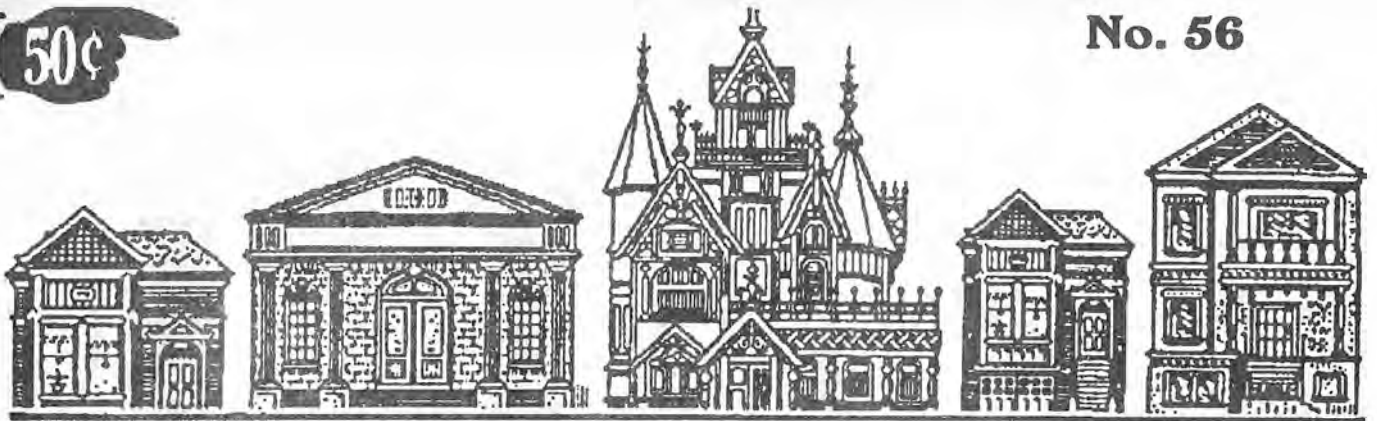


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No. 56



Old Huntsville



MURDER In Cloud's Cove

by Ralph Cross

From earliest childhood a code of silence had been instilled in the families.

Trust no one except blood kin and above all, have no dealings with the law.

The people of Cloud's Cove took care of their own.

Also In This Issue: Growing Up With The State Guard

Murder in Cloud's Cove

by *Ralph Cross Jr.*

For as long as anyone could remember, Cloud's Cove had been a center of whiskey making in the Tennessee Valley.

With only one road leading into the Cove, it was impossible for anyone to enter without being seen. When a car turned off onto the gravel road leading into the valley, people living at the entrance would hang a white bedspread on a fence, warning the lookouts posted in the nearby mountains that a stranger had entered their domain. At nighttime a series of signals with a flashlight served the same purpose.

Adding to the Cove's security were the families who made it their home. The Kennarmer's, Paine's, Cross's, Cloud's, Paseur's and Meek's had lived in the Cove for years and were almost all involved in whiskey making.

From earliest childhood a code of silence had been instilled in the families. Trust no one except blood-kin and above all, have no dealings with the law.

Though feuds, killings and mayhem were common in Cloud's Cove, the law never interfered. If someone shot a relative, the other relatives merely waited for the right time and then took revenge. Since the turn of the century, it had been an un-

spoken rule that the law stayed out of the cove.

There was one exception to this, however. Deputy Sheriff Will McMinn was a native of the Cove and was related to many of the families living there. Two of his cousins were reputed to be working for the Kennermer's, who operated several stills in the area. Most importantly, people trusted McMinn not to talk.

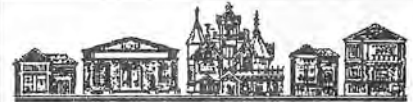
It was also widely assumed that Deputy McMinn was the "bag man" for the various county officials who took a cut from the illicit activities conducted in the Cove.

The late '30s, with war clouds on the horizon, saw an increased demand for illicit whiskey. Workers in the defense industry were making good money and were flocking to bootleggers in search of a good time.

Traditionally, the whiskey manufactured in Cloud's Cove had been sold in Madison and Marshall counties, but with the increased demand, the families began to spread out. Within a short while the leaders of the two main families had established outlets all across Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

This also proved to have other financial benefits for the families. Historically, the families were "taxed" by the local county officials depending on how much whiskey they manufactured. Until then it had been fairly easy for the officials to keep track of production as all they had to do was check with the bootleggers. Now, with the whiskey being sold out of state, the officials had no way of knowing how much was sold and therefore how much to "tax."

According to one witness of the events, Deputy McMinn was placed in an awkward position.



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Though he had a good idea of the amount of production, and was ordered to collect the "taxes" on it, he was helpless to do anything without informing on his neighbors.

McMinn wisely chose to do nothing, hoping that matters would somehow straighten themselves out.

Unfortunately, many of the moonshiners began losing large

shipments of whiskey. Whole truckloads were hijacked and the drivers left tied to a tree on the side of the road. In Gunter'sville, a carload of whiskey was seized in broad daylight by an armed group of men.

At first the moonshiners tried taking different roads and traveling at different times. Regardless of which route they chose, the armed hijackers

seemed to be waiting.

Most people assumed the hijackings were part of a continuing feud between the Kennamer's, Cloud's and Paine's. Though their children went to school together, and they attended church together, the families were deadly enemies. Members of both families had been the victims of midnight ambushes, and many bore the scars of past bullet wounds.

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Both families were extremely tight-lipped. When a gunshot victim was carried to the hospital, relatives would tell the doctors it was a hunting accident. Sheriff Blakemore, after noticing the high number of gunshot "accidents," was later quoted as saying sarcastically, "That Cloud's Cove bunch must be the clumsiest people in the world."

Business makes strange bed-fellows though. In July of 1939, 1500 gallons of whiskey was ordered by a distributor in Nashville. This was a larger order than one family could handle in

a short time.

Rather than lose the business, elders of several of the families got together and decided to make it a group venture. Needless to say, with all the hijackings, security was a major concern. It was decided to gather the whiskey at a clearing near Turkey Spring, and then transport it to a spot on the Tennessee River where it would be picked up by boat and carried to Muscle Shoals. There it would be loaded onto trucks and driven to Nashville.

All the families had assumed at this time that one of the other families were responsible for the hijackings. Undoubtedly, they probably guessed that by making this load a group enterprise, it would not be hijacked. "No one," they figured, "would rob their own whiskey!"

After the whiskey was loaded on the boat, three guards, one man from each of the leading families, were chosen to accompany the boat downstream. The plan was to leave after dark so as not to draw attention from any other boats that happened to be on the river.

It was still several hours before dark, so the men idled away the time by sampling their own wares and playing cards. Sud-

denly one of the men noticed a movement in the nearby woods.

Before he could react, four armed men appeared, all pointing their guns at the hapless moonshiners. Quickly boarding the boat, the bandits tied the men's hands behind their backs and cast off.

Somewhere near Triana, the hijackers steered the boat to a spot near the shore, and after untying the moonshiners, ordered them to swim. By the time they reached shore, the boat had disappeared around a bend in the river.

Though the boat was found several days later at a landing in Decatur, no one had any idea who the hijackers were.

The young lads, after making their way back to the Cove, faced a gruelling examination from the rest of the families. If the men were telling the truth, the only way the hijackers could have known about the shipment was through an informer. Almost everyone in the Cove knew about the load, or had kin working for the whiskey makers. Patiently, the men started going through a list of people in the Cove.

At first suspicion centered on a middle-aged woman whose husband had been sent to prison for shooting a Huntsville man. She was quickly ruled out however, when it was pointed out that her oldest son was involved with the "business."

Within minutes Deputy Will McMinn became the prime suspect. Though he lived in the Cove, he was still the "law" and undoubtedly had knowledge of the shipments. Also working against him was the fact that he had been rebuffed while trying to collect additional "taxes." Most people knew he had been under pressure from the county offi-

The Way It Was

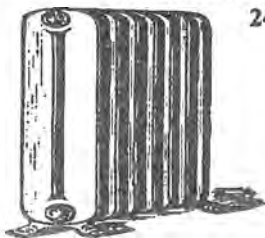
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cials, and possibly thought he had made a deal with hijackers in order to raise the extra money.

That alone was enough to pass a death sentence on the deputy.

One of the local men, Alden Adams, had earlier been involved in an altercation with McMinn's son. Though the deputy tried to talk him out of it, the younger McMinn had a warrant sworn out for Adam's arrest.

The warrant itself was not unusual. Many men in the cove had had warrants sworn out for them and simply ignored them. Court officials, in many cases, dismissed the charges rather than get involved.

The warrant for Adams was given to Deputy McMinn to serve. McMinn put it in his pocket and forgot about it. He had no intention of arresting his neighbor for such a trivial offense.

There the matters rested until late October, when the Harvest

Ball was held at the school house near Sugar Fork. Traditionally, every fall after the crops were in, the people would gather to celebrate. This was one of the biggest annual events held at the school and people would come from miles around.

Part of the tradition was the selection of the Harvest Queen who would be crowned at the dance held afterwards. Votes were purchased for a penny apiece, with the proceeds going to the school, and whoever received the most votes became the Queen.

Will McMinn's daughter wanted to be the Queen but as the pennies were counted, it was apparent she was lagging behind in votes. Suddenly, McMinn pushed his way through the crowd to the judges table and laid two five dollar bills on the table.

"This, I reckon, is enough for her to win!" he said.

There was shocked silence

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from the crowd. McMinn, already under suspicion of being an informer, now appeared to be flaunting the age old traditions of fair play.

Suddenly the silence was broken by Alden Adams, who angrily proclaimed that under the circumstances, there would be no dance held afterwards. Adams was a school board trustee and normally had control over such matters.

Unfortunately, Deputy McMinn was also a school board trustee, and after following Adams out into the school yard, demanded that the dance be held.

When Adams ignored the deputy's insistent demands and continued walking toward his car, McMinn grabbed him by the arm. Probably believing he was being assaulted, Adams lashed out at McMinn with his fist, hit-

ting him in the mouth.

The blow brought a small trickle of blood from McMinn's mouth, who seeing the sight of his own blood, became infuriated. A crowd of onlookers had gathered around the combatants, and as they watched, McMinn pulled the old wrinkled warrant from his pocket, informing Adams he was under arrest.

There was a hushed silence, broken suddenly by a gunshot. Seconds later, Deputy Will McMinn fell to the ground dead.

Alden Adams, startled as everyone else was, quickly looked around to see where the shot came from. His inquiring eyes were met by blank faces showing absolutely no expressions. He knew instantly it would do no good to ask who fired the shot.

Will McMinn had been executed in accordance with the same code of silence that had

protected Cloud's Cove for well over a century.

Though Adams was arrested for first degree murder, and bound over for trial, no one seriously expected him to serve any time. Everyone knew he was innocent.

On November 21, 1939, the trial began. The state produced witnesses proving that an altercation had taken place between Adams and McMinn. Another witness swore the deputy was trying to serve a warrant when he was shot.

Though most of the witnesses were friendly to Adams, they were simply telling the truth without realizing they were hurting his case. It soon became apparent that the state had a strong circumstantial case, and Adam's only hope was for someone to produce the real killer.

This posed a dilemma for the

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families in Cloud's Cove. Though they knew Adams was innocent, the only way to prove it was by giving up one of their own.

The best course, everyone agreed, was to let the trial take its course and hope Adams would be found innocent. Also agreed, was that no one else would give evidence for the state.

Over the next several days the trial was delayed numerous times while Sheriff's deputies

searched frantically for missing witnesses. The few who did appear in court were so intimidated that their answers were reduced to "I don't know," and "I don't remember."

The fact that they were faced by almost two hundred spectators, many of whom were from Cloud's Cove, made the situation extremely delicate for anyone brave enough to take the stand.

Regardless of the witnesses reluctance to testify, Alden Adams was found guilty of first degree murder. The judge, evidently having an idea of what had happened, overruled the verdict and found him guilty of second degree murder, sentencing him to 15 years.

Ironically, the hijackings, which had plagued the moonshiners and caused McMinn's death, continued for months afterwards. It was apparent to everyone that the wrong man had been killed.

For the first several years of his sentence, Adams wrote people in Cloud's Cove almost daily, pleading that they turn the killer in. For awhile many people wrote back to him, tactfully ig-

noring his pleas, writing instead of the weather and family matters. This only served to infuriate Adams more, and his letters became more insistent.

Many of his friends and relatives, not knowing what else to do, simply stopped writing.

In 1949, Alden Adams was released from the state penitentiary at Kilby, Alabama. He moved back to the Cove and began gathering evidence to clear his name.

Times had changed in the Cove by then. People no longer bought the whiskey the way they once did and jobs were scarce. Many people were having a hard time making ends meet.

Realizing this, Adams spread the word he would pay a reward of \$1,000.00 to anyone who would provide him with evidence of McMinn's murderer.

The money was tempting.

Too tempting.

A short while later Alden Adams heard a car pull up in front of his house. When he went to see who it was, he was met by a hail of gunfire. He died instantly.

Once again, Cloud's Cove had taken care of its own.

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The South was at War. Communities were being ravaged by arsonists and murderers operating under the protection of the Yankee army.

Local authorities were powerless to enforce the law.

In one of the most remarkable documents to come out of the Civil War era, Captain Frank Gurley tells, in his own words, of wartime justice in North Alabama!

Before he died, Captain Gurley himself wrote an account of this incident which follows:

"A friend told me that there was a widow woman living in the river hills up to the night before and that a man went to her home, assaulted her and her grown daughter, and then killed all the family, including the mother, daughter and four

other children. Among the lot was a little fat boy about four years old. The man took this child by one leg and beat his brains out against the fireplace.

"The citizens caught the man and carried him to the jail in old Bellfonte, but he was under the Yank's protection. The Yanks told them that if they did not turn him loose, they would turn him out and put them in the jail.

"When I got there that night, I

found the Yanks camped all over the town with a patrol on the street in front of the jail. Two of my men were with me and I was familiar with the town and we took in the situation. We hid our horses in a dense woods close by and crawled up near the jail, where we could see the guard walking his beat. The night was dark and cloudy. I had dropped men along behind us to protect our rear, and with one man, got close to the guard. When



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the guard passed us, I left my man and slicked across the pike to the jail and was soon concealed in the shade.

"I knew where the jailor slept, and I got to his window and gave a Masonic tap. He asked me who I was and I told him. He wanted to know what I wanted. I told him I wanted the prisoner. He said the Yanks would kill him. I told the jailor, who was also the sheriff, that I intended to take the prisoner, or him, back with me.

"This was said to impress the other prisoners and to save the jailor from the Yankees when they found the prisoner missing.

"The jailor then got up and asked me if I had a rope. I told him no. His wife told us where there was one. He got the rope and he and I went down to the dungeon and tied the prisoner. When we were ready to go out, I rubbed my pistol against his face and asked him if he knew what it was, he said he did, and I told him if he made any fuss, I would shoot him and then take care of

myself.

"The man I had left then joined me. I made the prisoner get down on his knees, and when the guard got in the right place, we all crossed the picket line and were soon getting out of danger.

"In a short time we were on our horses with that big 200 pound prisoner up behind our smallest man. But the load was too heavy for the horse, so I had the man ride up under a nearby tree. I took a part of the rope the

jail woman gave me and put it around the prisoner's neck and over a limb. Then I rode out.

"The prisoner was so heavy, the limb let his feet hit the ground, so I took another part of the rope and tied his feet up so they could not touch the ground. I remained close to him until he quit struggling and then we all rode off."



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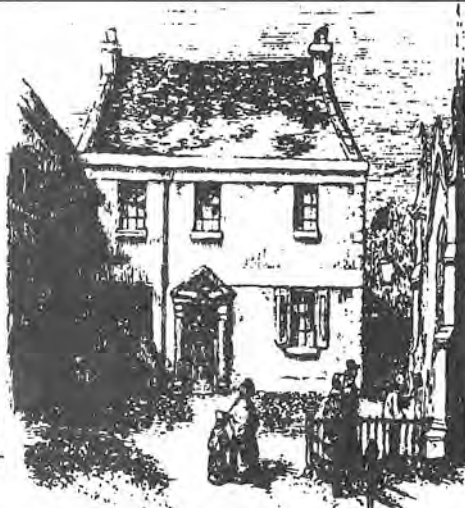
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The Huntsville Pilgrimage Association




The Huntsville Pilgrimage Association, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last year was the inspiration of Jayne Lowry and Leslie Crowson. These ladies were partners in Huntsville Heritage Tours and had found on their trips to famous pilgrimage cities like Natchez and Savannah that Huntsville has as much or more to offer.

Their conviction was that Huntsville, which offers world renowned exhibits in space exploration and rocket develop-

ment, also offerers beautiful historic areas rich with Southern history. They found others in the community who shared their love of Huntsville and its historic past and organized the Board of the Pilgrimage Association.

The first Pilgrimage, which coincides with the blooming of dogwoods in April, was April 13 & 14, 1985. The objective of the organization was: "To advance the appreciation and preservation of the historic heritage of Huntsville and Madison County.

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Everyone associated with this endeavor also realized the potential for bringing in tourists to complement the attractions already having an economic impact on Huntsville and Madison County.

Since that first Pilgrimage ten years ago over one hundred homes in the two historic areas and Madison County have been open for tours. This has not only drawn tourists to our area but also offered an opportunity for those who live here to experience Huntsville's history as it occurs through the architecture and ambiance of these beautiful old homes.

Proceeds from the Pilgrimage have been used to replant trees lost in both historic districts and are now used for the restoration and preservation of the historic area of Maple Hill Cemetery. When the Pilgrimage Association became aware of the need in the community to protect this part of Huntsville's history, which is victim to vandalism, they began working with cemetery officials.

The Pilgrimage Association now provides funds for craftsmen and supplies to restore the historic markers and the iron fences that surround the plots. Each year the Pilgrimage sponsors a stroll through the historic part of the cemetery and has been instrumental in much needed restoration.

This April, when the dogwoods bloom, the doors to more beautiful Huntsville historic homes will be opened for tours.

For more information about tours and tickets please contact the Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau at (205) 533-5723 or 1-800-772-2348. Pilgrimage date: April 13-14, 1996.



Love From An 1890 Newspaper

Henry Matthews, a local widower, aged eighty-two years, was introduced to a sixty-five year old widow named Sarah Smith last Friday. He resolved to marry her, and wished twenty-four hours of courtship to be ended with a visit to the preacher Saturday night.

On Sunday, they were a great attraction in church. When he went home he gave his bride \$1,000 in addition to the jewels already bestowed.

On Monday after a hearty breakfast, she packed her bags and left Matthews a note saying she was going West, and would send for him later when she wanted him.

Matthews is still waiting.

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Henry Ford Was Right!

by Charles Rice

Some 60 or so years ago, auto maker Henry Ford shocked the nation by declaring, "History is bunk." Historians and educators immediately attacked Ford as being (1) an ignoramus, (2) anti-education, (3) a damn fool, or (4) all of the above. He was in fact none of them, but Ford succeeded in making his point. Much of the what we learn in schools today really is just plain bunk!

It's an unfortunate fact that education is partisan. Governments, political parties, and even churches have all had a hand in deciding what goes into our

school books. The resulting "history" has often been anything but truthful. For example, look almost any American school "history of the world" and you will find about 90 percent is on Western Europe and North America. Obviously, the rest of the world must be mostly uninhabited.

In the United States, of course, American history since the Civil War has been defined by Northern writers. This is not only confined to the War Between the States. American history books have largely ignored the real story of the founding of our nation, which began right here in the South.

How many people know that the first English speaking colony in America was founded way back in 1595 on Roanoke Island, North Carolina? This first colony was abandoned the same year, but the Roanoke settlers returned in 1597 to try again. This second colony mysteriously disappeared, becoming the fabled Lost Colony of American history. The third English attempt—and the first successful one—was made at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, thirteen years before the Pilgrims ever set foot aboard the Mayflower. In fact, the Pilgrims were actually bound for Virginia when the Mayflower landed at Massachusetts. The captain simply dumped the Pilgrims ashore, not wishing to sail the rest of the way to Virginia!

A few years ago, Walt Disney Enterprises were planning to build an American history theme park. It would begin by telling the story of the Pilgrims. Someone asked why they were omitting Jamestown. A Disney spokesman replied that Virginia just wasn't significant. I guess not. It's in the South.

For Disney's information, the House of Burgesses, the first democratic legislature in America, was established in Virginia one year before the Pilgrims landed. The first African-Americans also arrived in English speaking America in 1619. Think about that. Black Americans were here before the Pilgrims, and they weren't slaves either. These first African-Americans were indentured servants, who became free after a few year's labor and were granted land and the right to vote. It seems Southerners aren't really important, no matter what color

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they are. Incidentally, the first Thanksgiving was held at Jamestown, long before the Pilgrims held their's.

Some politically correct history books may claim that the Pilgrims came for religious freedom, while the Jamestown settlers (if mentioned at all) came to seek their fortune. What these books neglect to tell us is that the Pilgrims believed in religious freedom for themselves and nobody else! Catholics, Jews, and even many Protestant denominations were banned from Puritan New England. Significantly, poor young Pocahontas married an Englishman in Virginia. Note the difference: Virginians married Native Americans. New England Puritans killed them off or sold them into slavery.

Since the beginnings of Southern history seem to have been, "banned in Boston," it's not surprising the Confederacy gets a short shrift. Why, the Confed-

eracy supported slavery, didn't it?

But what about those 89 years that slavery was legal under the Federal Constitution? Slaves were actually sold within sight of the White House and the United States Supreme Court in its Dredd Scott decision that African-Americans were not and could not be U. S. citizens. Even Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was a slave owner, but that is seldom mentioned.

So maybe Henry Ford was right. Much of the so-called history we learn really is baloney. Just take a look at your children's school books and see.



It seldom occurs to teenagers that they will grow up and know as little as their parents one day.

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News of the Absurd

A family in New Jersey was rudely awakened one night by the sounds of a 50-pound ice chunk crashing through their roof, leaving a gaping hole more than a foot in diameter - and landing in and through the pantry. After a thorough investigation the Federal Aviation Administration identified the flying object as an ice bomb, formed completely by waste matter from a plane. It seems there had been a leak in the toilet pipes of an overflying plane.

Josh Evans, a candidate for district judge, found out how the voters really felt about him - when they elected a dead man in his place. Evans, 74, had petitioned to remove his popular opponent, Frank Ogden, as a candidate for judge because Ogden was suffering from cancer. But the election board declined to do so as there were no laws that deemed a candidate unworthy just because of ill health.


Shortly afterwards Ogden died, but remained on the ballot. Even though the electorate was aware of the fact that he had died, they deemed him more desirable than the (living) Josh Evans, and defeated Evans by more than 8,000 votes by voting for the dead man.

For the cat who has everything, a graduate student at Oklahoma State University has developed the ultimate answer - the Kitty Video. It features a full 30 minutes of chirping birds. According to the college newspaper, the student got the idea for making a video tape while she was watching a documentary on birds, and noticed that her cat, Kitty, was paying strict attention. "He started meowing and clawing at the screen. He even looked behind the television to see where the birds were." Good news for cat owners who bought the tape - a sequel is on the way.

Twenty-one people were killed in the Great Molasses Flood of January 15, 1919 when a 90-foot tall storage tank burst, sending a wave of molasses through the streets in the north end of Boston. Several buildings


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were knocked from their foundations, and dozens of horses were so badly mired in the goop that they had to be destroyed. The smell of molasses hung over Boston for many weeks after that.



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Postal employee Earl Miller spent his life working hard for the Postal Service. When he died at 94, he was cremated and the remains were mailed to his niece in Pennsylvania. Somehow, however, Earl got lost in the mail. A postal worker in Lancaster, Pa., who was working on a nationwide search for Uncle Earl's urn, failed to alleviate everyone's worries when he commented, "If it was mailed, it's got to be somewhere!"

The first West German to receive an artificial heart was not told the news. It was reasoned by his doctors that if he heard his own heart had been removed and replaced with an artificial device, he might become very agitated and have a heart attack.

An Oklahoma man who was irate because his wife had hired a collection agency to go after her \$17,500 divorce settlement, hired a security company to pick up the money at his bank - all in quarters, dimes and nickels. He arranged to have the money - all in 30 bags of coins and weighing over a ton - delivered to the lawyer's office on a Friday afternoon, after the banks had closed.



I knew I was an unwanted baby when I saw that my bath toys were a toaster and a radio.

Joan Rivers

History of Podiatry

The advent of foot care can be traced back to 2500 BC in ancient Egypt.

Podiatry as a medical discipline began in 18th century France and England. It was then termed Chiropody.

Podiatry as we know it today has evolved into a specialized medical discipline that addresses surgical and nonsurgical treatment of the foot. This may include corns, calluses, bunions, heel pain and many more problems.

Dr. Richard Lee Freeman of Alabama Medical & Surgical announces the association of **Dr. Angela Murphy** to offer the best podiatric medical care encompassing 20 years of experience and cutting-edge medical knowledge and technology.



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Snacking - Southern Style

Marinated Vegetables

- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Squash
- White mushrooms
- Carrots
- Red and Yellow Peppers
- 1 large bottle Kraft Zesty Italian dressing

In a large bowl, break up the washed vegetables into bite-sized pieces. Pour the whole bottle of dressing over the vegetables and mix well. Seal and let set overnight in fridge, turning at least once. Drain and serve with toothpicks.

Savory Ranch Mixture

- Pretzels
- Pecans
- Cheerios
- Rice Chex
- Corn Chex
- Cheesits
- 1 envelope Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix (dry)
- 1/2 bottle Orville R.'s popcorn buttery oil

In a large bowl, mix about two cups each of the cereals, pretzels, Cheesits and nuts. Pour the 1/2 bottle of oil over the mixture and stir well. Sprinkle

half the dressing mix (dry) over the mixture and stir well. Add the remaining mix and toss well. Serve immediately or store in Ziploc freezer bags.

Baked Cheese Bites

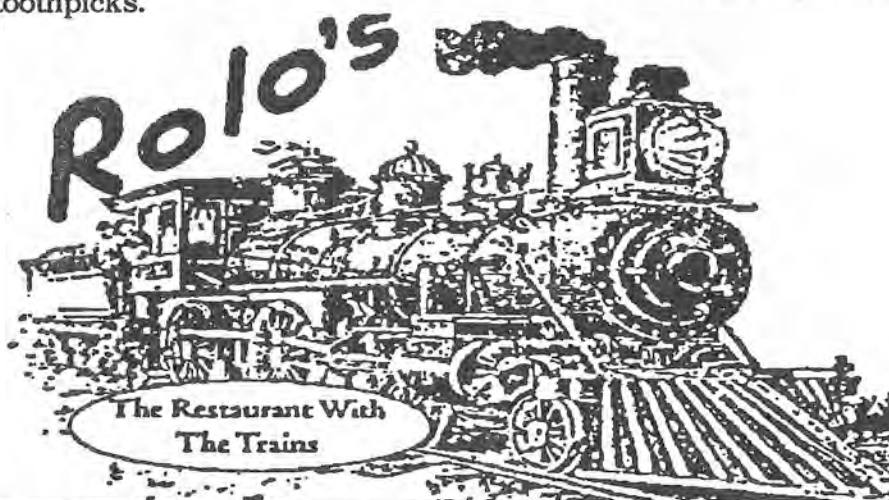
- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 c. self-rising flour
- 2 c. grated sharp Cheddar cheese
- 2 c. Rice Krispies
- 1 t. cayenne pepper
- 1/2 t. garlic powder

Mix all ingredients together well, will be very stiff. Roll the mixture into small balls - about the size of a large pecan - and flatten gently. Bake on greased cookie sheets at 300 degrees for 30 minutes or so. These are good warm but also freeze very well.

Deviled Mushrooms

- 2 lb. mushroom caps (no stem)
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 6 1/2 oz. can deviled ham
- 2 t. garlic powder

Mix the cream cheese, ham and garlic powder. Grease a cas-



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serole dish with butter and place mushroom caps in. Spoon the cheese mixture into the caps and bake at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes.

Rolled Tortilla Bites

8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
 4 oz. can chopped green chilies, drained
 4 oz jar chopped pimento, drained
 1/2 c. chopped ripe olives
 10 6-inch flour tortillas
 Salsa

In a small bowl combine the first four ingredients and mix well. Spread a heaping tablespoon on each tortilla and roll it up. Place, seam side down, on a plate. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Cut each roll into 6 1-inch pieces and serve with salsa and toothpicks.

Mini Cheesecakes

3 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
 5 eggs
 1 c. sugar
 2 t. vanilla

Mix the above ingredients til smooth and pour into foil cupcake liners that have been placed in the cupcake tins. Fill the liners 3/4 full and bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes.

1 8-oz. carton sour cream
 1/4 c. sugar
 1 t. vanilla

Mix together and put 1 teaspoon of the mixture on each cupcake while hot and back in oven for 3-5 minutes. Top with maraschino cherries.

Barb's Hot Shrimp Dip

1 large onion, chopped
 3 cloves garlic, crushed
 3 mild banana peppers, chopped
 3 jalapeno peppers, chopped
 2 medium tomatoes, chopped
 2 lbs. cream cheese, cubed
 1/2 lb. cooked shrimp, chopped small
 salt and pepper to taste

In a large crock or stew pot, put the vegetables. Add the cheese and slowly heat til the cheese is melted, mix well. Let simmer for a few minutes, then add the shrimp at the last minute. Stir well and serve with hot crispy tortilla chips. Delicious!

Artichoke Dip

1 c. mayonnaise
 1 can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
 12 oz. skim milk mozzarella cheese, grated

1 c. Parmesan cheese, grated
 Triscuits

Mix all except crackers and pour in a baking/serving dish. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Serve hot with Triscuits.

Still think dogs are smarter than cats? Have you ever seen eight cats pulling a sled through the snow?

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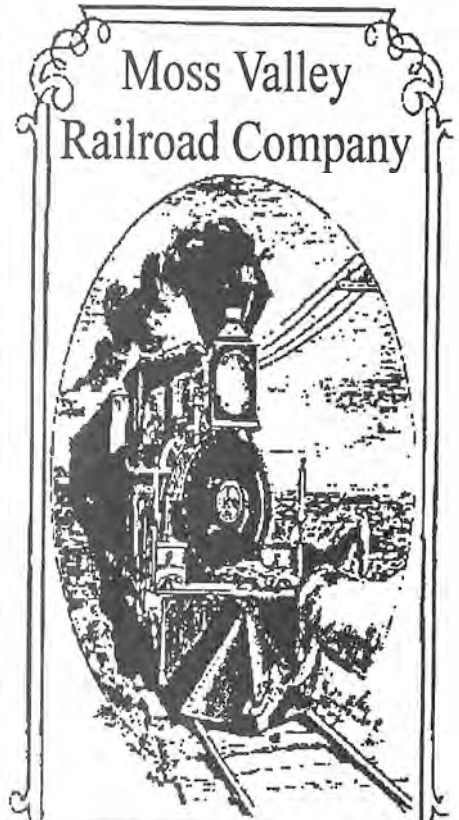
Civil War News from Jackson County

*Huntsville Daily Confederate,
Feb. 13, 1864*

From Jackson County, Alabama. Recent advises from Jackson County, Ala., represent the terrible devastation throughout the county, except where there are mountain defiles and fastnesses favorable for guerrilla operations. We are told that Maj. Lemuel G. Mead is operating in that county with five companies, and with good effect -- that he, recently, captured and brought out 20 prisoners. He remains, with his men, in the county and subsists them there, at points, where it would be dangerous for the Yankees to travel and they are discreet enough not to attempt it. There are three Tory companies there -- one raised in Jackson County, the Captain of which is [Ephraim] Latham, who deserted from the 50th Ala., (in which he held the rank of Lieutenant,) about a year ago. The other two companies are from DeKalb County, Alabama. The Yankees feel contempt for them and stigmatize them as the 1st Alabama Tory Battalion. We are told that one of the miscreants -- Sample by name, not long

since, went to the house of Elias Barbour, a true Southerner, and beat Mrs. Barbour with a hickory withe, and only desisted when her daughter, heroically, seized an axe and drove him off. We are, also, told that an old "Rebel" woman, living near Bellefonte, was struck by a Yankee, with a stick, on the back of her neck, breaking it. The Courthouse and all of the block on the West side of the Square, in Bellefonte, have been burnt by the Yankees. One of the parties from whom we get our information, represents that he was under arrest at Stevenson and had an opportunity of learning the sentiments of Sherman's Corps on the question of reenlistment, and they, generally, declared that they would not reenlist. Another said, he did not believe over ten men to a company had reenlisted.

*Why is it that none of
the men in those beer
commercials have
beer bellies?*



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Vengeance Has A Price



From 1879 newspaper

On December 12, of the year last, my son was murdered by Leon Culpepper, late of this county.

I will trade my real property consisting of one house, 24 acres with fresh water and 32 head of stock for the dead body of Culpepper. An additional \$1,000 per carcass will be paid for the bodies of other parties involved, if accompanied by proof.

Culpepper's body must be delivered to my home and be recognizable.

Inquiries should be sent to Frank Sharp of Colbert County.



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Huntsville Heresay

By Billy Joe Cooley
and His Unidentified Sources



Thanks to one and all for the prayers during my recent heart bypass surgery at Huntsville Hospital. **Drs. Michael Ridner, Stancil Riley** and the other skilled professionals have me on the road to recovery.

Hot gossip: Newt Gingrich's staff is making lots of phone calls to Huntsville. Seems that a visit might be in the works.

One rumor is that **Dwayne Freeman** is looking at the Public Service Commissioner's job. If so, lots of prospects will line up for his Senate job.

Our waitress pal **Sally Buck** (University Quincy's) has turned 76. "Politicians are the biggest tippers," says she, "as long as somebody else is paying." I left her a jar of Catherine Wilson's

chow-chow. She sells it at her booth in Limestone Flea Market. It also helped **Bianca Cox** get over the flu.

Table talk: **Earnest Kauffman** and **Dean O'Ferrell** are two people losing interest in the mayor's race. Money and name recognition are the rumored reasons.

Preacher **Byron Laird** and his Tilly were part of the crowd the other night at **Carlton Brady's** annual gospel quartet concert in Fayetteville. Carlton's current **Singing Ambassadors** group is his finest yet. They've started singing more old-time "radio" songs. A good sign. He owns WBXR radio (1140-AM in Fayetteville).

Expect a referendum on the

next ballot. **Chuck Shaffer**, local mover and shaker, has reportedly formed a Citizens' Coalition outfit to remove downtown parking meters. Says Shaffer: "It only takes 4,000 names to get it on the ballot. We can get that many walking in our sleep." **Glen Watson**, running for City Council against **Jim Putnam**, says he will be the first to sign the petition. Other sources say Putnam is testing the waters for his own possible run for mayor.

Vivacious **Jeune Blackmon** and daughter **Tracey** at Alabama Balloon Co., have ignored the political pundits and spent their time decorating homes and halls all over town during the holidays. Tracey married **Donald Farley** since our last visit. Jeune and **Cliff Critelli** were invaluable during my recovery.

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So, what's **Bill Kling's** political intents? Don't look for an answer anytime soon. Bill's playing his cards close to the chest.

Best sure bet in the next City Council election is **Richard Showers** by a landslide.

Brad Burns of Redstone Federal got a fine haircut the other day from **P'nut Wilson** at Jackson Way Barbershop while listening to all the political gossip. He and **Wendy Barkley** recently married. Meanwhile, in the next chair sat Maysville General Store's **Johnny Frazier**. He's the mayor of Maysville

Latest word on the mayor's race is that a County Commissioner and an owner of a computer store will both throw their names in at the last moment. Could this mean that **John Cockerham** wants to move to City Hall?

Cindi Lovejoy and **Erik Moller** keep business flowing at Burch & Hatfield formal shop, Parkway City. Business will be booming soon as politicians begin reserving tuxedos for victory parties. Meanwhile, the staff will be celebrating around **Nancy Marie Luce's** singalong piano at Finnegan's Irish place.

Insiders tell us that ex-Sheriff **Joe Patterson** and School Board member **Jim Patterson** are both looking at the County Commissioner's job now held by **Tillman Hill**. But, expect barber **Floyd Hardin** to call the shots in this race.

Another county commission contest to watch will be incumbent **Glen Nunley** and **Dale**

Strong. An upset brewing?

Gossip: David Driscoll of Durham Advertising is handling **Ken Arnold's** race for mayor. After looking at David's track record, we predict Ken will fast be a major player for the job. Question is whether he'll snag votes from **Lorretta Spencer** or **Larry Mullins**.

Barbara Reed and I spent a day at Bell Buckle Cafe, then journeyed off to Murfreesboro, where Huntsville's **Harold Klusendorf** and Franklin's **Doug Lindgren** are staffers.

Opera singer **Pam Dale** and I lunched with **ex-gov Jim Folsom** the other day. As for Jim in future politics: he just grinned.

And finally: Have a good day, **Aunt Eunice**, we love you.

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Poor White Trash

The following letter was submitted by B.I. Landrith. It was discovered among his mother's belongings.

Mary Edwards Brown was a tiny, frail, straight-backed, old lady living in a one-room apartment in Springfield, Ill., not far from the Lincoln house. I visited her twice in 1956. She was 90 years old then. Her mother was Mary Todd Lincoln's sister.

Her mother said they (Lincoln and Mary) married rather hurriedly because Mary's father said Lincoln was, "poor white trash," and wouldn't have his daughter marry him and threatened to cause trouble.

Though it was the grandfather who made the trouble and forced Mary to write a letter breaking off the engagement.

But they met secretly and decided to get married that evening so the mother and the two married sisters worked all day. She baked one of her famous cakes. It was still warm at the wedding--well, good enough for plebeians.

It was in that same house 24 years later that Mary Edwards Brown was born. Grandmother

Edwards was the flower of the Todd family. She always had her nose in a dictionary.

In Feb., 1861 President elect (Lincoln) left Springfield for the last time. It was raining when he made his farewell address and people cried.

When the funeral train returned to Springfield the tracks were so slippery with crushed flowers the train was delayed 3 hours because it had to plow through flowers.



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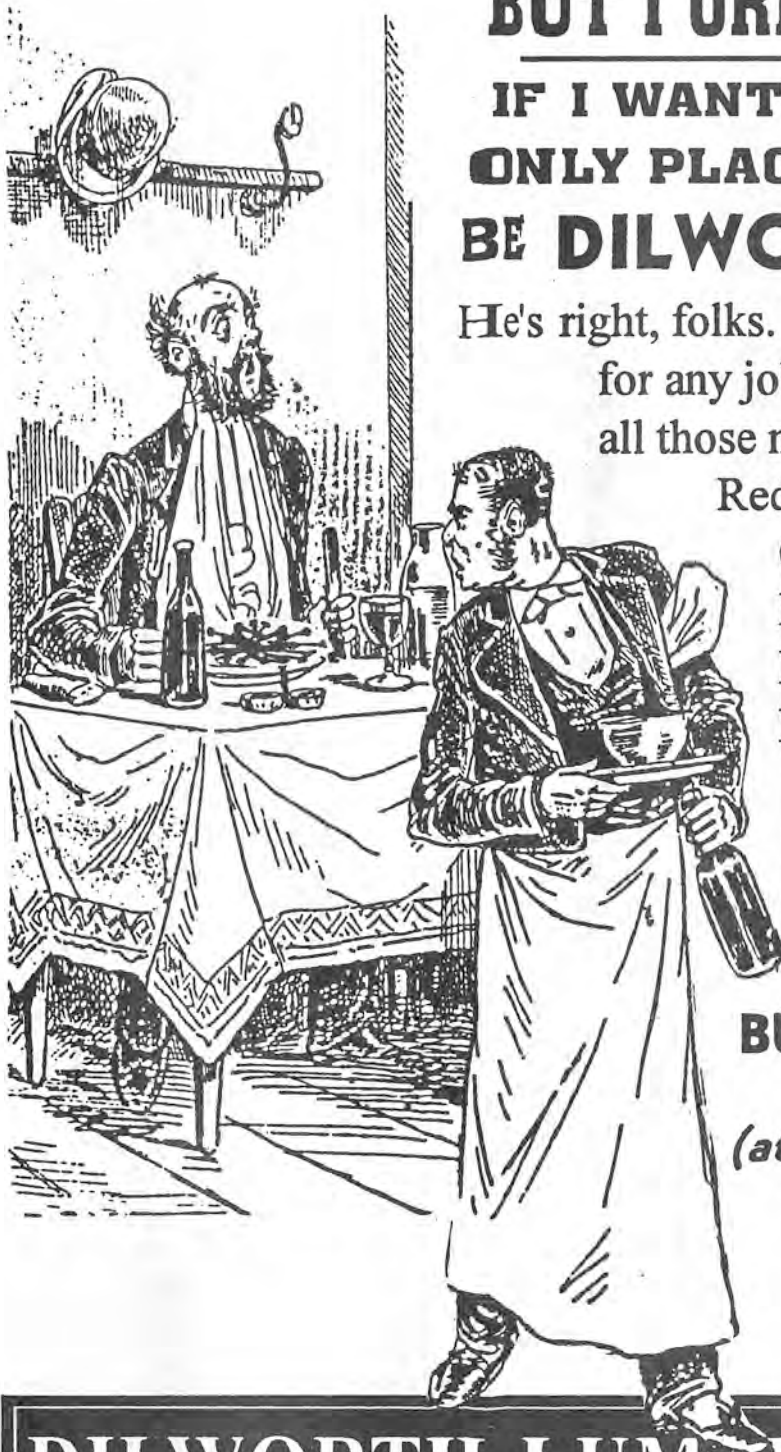
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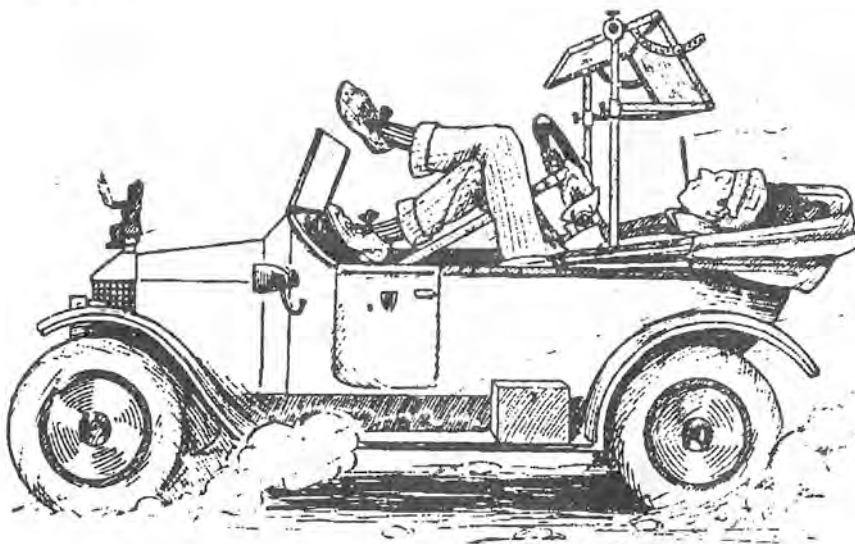
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**BUT WE DON'T HAVE
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(at least, we don't think so!)

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The Social Delay

Everybody around South Pittsburgh knew that Clinton Knight drove from his Fiery Gizzard farm into town every day at about sundown, a distance of some six miles.

He would join some of his pals for a few beers and games of billiards at Reynold's Pool Hall and would bring a bottle of fine moonshine whiskey along, just in case one or two of the boys thirsted for something stronger. As for Clinton's own drinking habits, he never touched a drop until he was in the second or third billiard game.

One Friday afternoon he set out on his usual journey, but as he drove down the Fiery Gizzard Road and neared the intersection of U.S. 72, which was the main highway between Chattanooga and Huntsville, he misjudged and his foot crambled down hard on the gas pedal instead of the brake pedal.

His 20-year-old Ford pickup lurched and zipped out into the highway, directly into the path of a fancy red convertible that was traveling at breakneck speed and

carrying a half dozen college kids home to Alabama for the weekend.

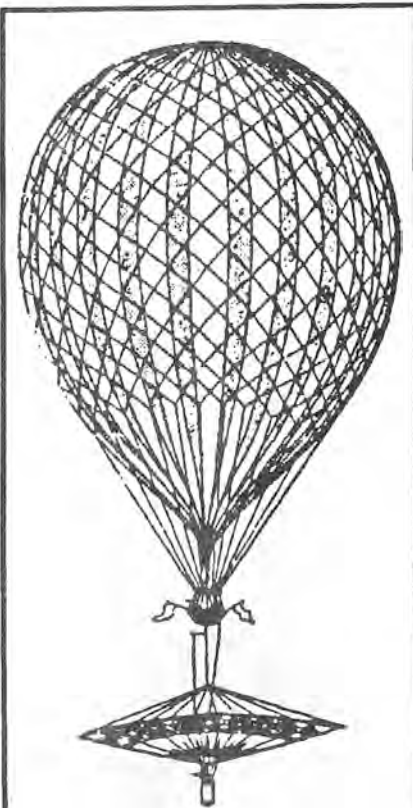
Fortunately, there was no damage to Clinton's well-built old truck, except for a bent bumper, but the pretty red convertible sustained an awful lot of front-end damage and had careened into a roadside ditch.

The collegians, none of whom was injured, came piling out of the car in an angry rage and spewing nasty insults at Mr. Clinton Knight. It was obvious that they all were majoring in smart-aleckness at the great Chattanooga university.

They even challenged the legitimacy of Mr. Knight's birth.

"Now, now, gents," said Clinton, rubbing his chin and trying to calm the situation. "The accident is probably my fault and my insurance company will settle right handsomely with y'all. As a matter of fact, I won't dispute it if you guys want to even claim a few neck and back injuries, if you get my drift."

They got his drift, okay, and suddenly smiles were every-



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where.

"To show y'all my good intentions," said Clinton, "let me share a little cheer with you." With that, he produced a gallon of fine moonshine which he had bought the day before from Wheeler Troxell, a kindly gent who helped to service our community with spirits when the need arose, which was often.

Clinton passed the jug around and each of the now-friendly and well-lubricated college boys took a few generous swigs. After the jug had been passed among the students several times, he put the lid back on the container and set it down beside the wreckage.

"Aren't you gonna have a drink with us?" one of the boys asked.

"Oh yes, of course I am," said Clinton, "just as soon as the police get here and leave."

Excerpted from a book of Billy Joe Cooley's classic stories which will be published in the summer.

Eggnog Party in Paint Rock Valley



An early landmark in upper Paint Rock Valley was Cox's Still House, on Clear Creek. Oddly enough, some innocent jollification turned sour for a group of Union soldiers at the Still House one day in 1864. About 40 of the boys in blue had retired to the secluded spot, meaning to take time out from the brutal War Between the States. The yankees quickly confiscated all the whisky they could find, intending to make some egg nog with the milk and eggs they had stolen from local farmers.

Unfortunately, they made so much racket that some of "Bushwhacker" Johnston's Confederates heard them. The Johnny Rebs sent several of their men to slip around behind the yankees. Meanwhile, the rest of the Confederates set an ambush along the road. Without warning, the Confeds in advance opened

fire into the carousing yankees. Panic stricken, the blue coats dropped their booze and fled straight into the ambush.

When the yankees sobered up, they were faced with the double humiliation of having a hangover and being taken prisoners.

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The Rock Crusher

by Barbara Corazzi

Growing up in Huntsville was great fun. I have been away from my hometown for far too many years, but circumstances and fate have taken me to live in many different parts of the country. As a rule I have enjoyed my life and the different people and customs, but Huntsville will always be home, and I get back as often as I can.

My parents were plain, hard working people who took good care of me and my brothers and sisters. My mother raised six children of her own as well as her brothers and sisters, as my grandmother died at an early age.

Spring and summer were my favorite times of the year and that meant only one thing to me--get outside and explore the countryside! My brother Pete, Uncle David Harbin and I would leave early in the morning, with something to eat that was easy to carry as we would be gone all day long, and head for the hills. We lived in the foothills of Monte Sano and not very far from the "Rock Crusher" which was a little south of where Wells Avenue and the Old Toll Gate or Mountain Road met.

Since we were 9 to 14 years old, everything was an adventure to us; we could not pass up that big hole in the ground. We spent

a lot of time and energy there. We climbed up and down looking for the most dangerous spots. Luckily, we never got hurt, but looking back, we got into some situations that could have had bad results. I guess we had someone looking over us.

One of our favorite games was sliding down the dirt wall of the rock crusher. We would get a cardboard box or something similar, hop on and take the ride of our lives. Great Fun!!!

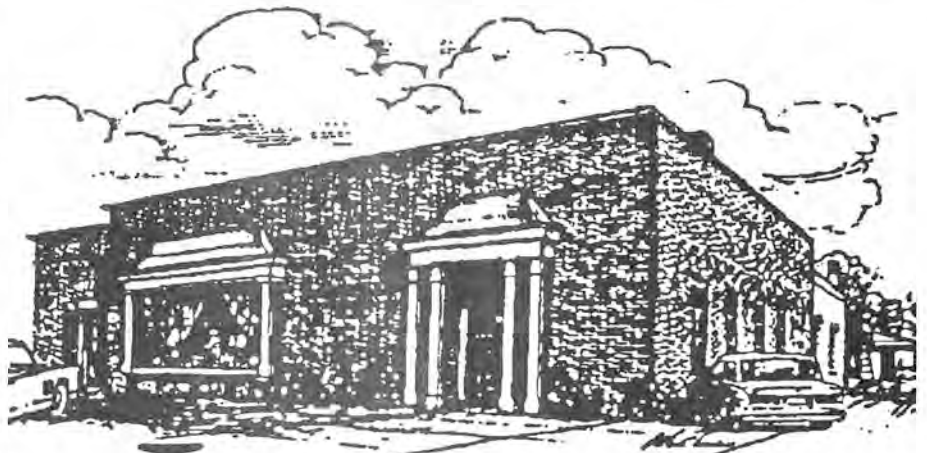
I remember a huge boulder at the bottom. There was a fairly good sized cave like opening at one end, and we would make up stories about buried treasure. We would crawl inside and pretend we were treasure hunters. Of

course we never found anything. Lucky for us we didn't find any snakes or spiders or anything like that either.

Visits to Huntsville often take me back to that place of my childhood. Although I am in favor of progress, I am sad to see how it has all changed over the years.

I don't know whether the rock crusher is still there or how one would get to it, but I would sure like to try sliding down it once more.

*No one
is ever old enough
to know better.*



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The No Show Wedding

By Helen Miller, from her book
"To Live and Die in Dixie"



Of all the family gatherings we had, none was ever larger or caused as much excitement, hysteria and embarrassment as the wedding of my cousin Lucile Whaley, Aunt Mary's daughter.

I remember it well - it was a beautiful day out at the house where I was born near Grandpa and Grandma's farm. Cars were parked alongside horses and buggies under the trees in the shade. Menfolks were grouped about discussing politics, how hot it was, and wondering all about this fellow Lucile was about to marry.

We children were instructed to stay out of the house because there was too much going on inside. We chose the porch and joggled on the joggling board that Mama and Daddy had left out there when they moved into town. After what seemed like a half-day, curiosity finally got the best of me and I slipped into the house to get firsthand info on what was going on. Clara Mae and Sudie wouldn't dare disobey Mama's instructions to stay outside. There were women and more women all dolled up and everyone busy as a bee. At the end of the living room there was a small table with white lace and candles. They called it an "improvised altar" with beautiful flowers placed around the

mantle in the background.

Lucile's father was a Baptist minister who would perform the ceremony and this was the spot they would say, "I do." In the dining room there were more tables with white cloths and one with a big wedding cake in the center. On the other tables there was food of all kinds - turkey and dressing with all the trimmings, salads, and breads because folks coming to a big country wedding expected more than just a piece of cake.

I remember the women whispering to each other and looking at their watches saying something about, "over an hour late now." I was sent back out on the porch and it was easy to see that the menfolks were getting impatient too. The whole problem was the groom was late - very late! In fact, some folks had begun to leave.

I slipped back inside and heard a lot of commotion coming from one of the bedrooms and just got a quick peek inside long enough to see Lucile sitting on the side of a bed in her white dress crying hysterically with a bunch of womenfolk trying desperately to console her.

Daddy's brother, Uncle John, must have figured it all out, however, and saved face for the disastrous situation. He left the house for a while, then drove up in the yard, got out of his car, hurried up the steps, came into the living room and called everyone together. He then pulled a yellow Wester Union telegram from his inside pocket, put on his glasses and began to read. I don't remember all the words but it said something about being "unavoidably delayed" and they would have to be married at a later date. By then it was almost dark and everyone left, disappointed and feeling very sorry for Lucile. It was the topic of conversation for weeks afterwards.

They did marry later, but I never saw her again.



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Two Birthdays

by Tommie J. Miller



Wouldn't it be great to have two birthdays every year? Well my mother Velma Miller does, only she didn't know it for over 50 years.

Born on a farm on December 23, 1910 in McNary County, Tennessee, it was the responsibility of her parents to send in her record of birth to the County Seat. Apparently her mother got around to doing that on January 23, 1911 and by mistake put that date as the date of birth. And so it was recorded.

In the early part of this century birth records weren't all that important and it was never corrected. She married my father in 1928 and raised six children without ever needing her birth certificate. They moved to Madison County in 1954.

At some point in her fifties she decided she needed her birth certificate and sent to Nashville for a copy and when she received it found out her birth date was recorded as January 23, 1911. For over half a century she celebrated her birthday in December and now she had two birthdays.

It might have been just an error in completing forms but I like to think that she just deserves two birthdays because she always worked twice as hard at being a good mother and she is.

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Shocking Incident!

From 1820 Alabama Republican newspaper

A letter from Mr. George S. Boardman, a missionary in Indiana, received here by Rev. Mr. Jones, informs us of the death of Mr. Palmer Warren, late of this town, in the 23rd year of his age, who was deliberately shot, at Lawrenceburg, Ind. on the 10th of January. The following portions are extractions from the letter.

Palmer Warren, the son of Elijah and Abigail Warren of your village has been shot by a ruffian. Warren, it appears, was engaged to be married to a respectable and amiable young lady, to whom Ariasas Fuller was attached. Fuller was determined to prevent the match; and after finding that every attempt with the lady proved unsuccessful, resorted to this last desperate act.

On Monday last, the day previous to the one fixed for the wedding, Fuller followed Warren to his office and closed the door. Immediately the report of a pistol was heard, and when people assembled, Warren was found

shot through the heart, devoid of any spark of life.

On the counter was found a pair of pistols, one of which was discharged and a piece of paper containing the following words: "I do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that I will relinquish all claims to Catherine Farrer, and I acknowledge myself to be a base liar."

Fuller states, he asked Warren to sign it, and upon his refusal, he presented him with a pistol, and told him to defend himself, and upon his rejecting it, he shot him.

But the probability is, that

when Warren refused to sign the paper, Fuller instantly shot him.

Fuller is now in prison, and justifies himself. He is an avowed disciple of Paine, and has determined to destroy himself by refusing sustenance. This shocking event has spread a gloom over the whole village, and awakened the sympathies of our nature.

Men are brave enough to go to war, but not brave enough to get a bikini wax.



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Old Huntsville

From The Year 1943

Allies Land In Italy

8th Army Leads, With Naval - Air Cover

Allied Headquarters in North Africa - The Allies have breached the fortress of Europe. On the fourth anniversary of France and England's declaration of war against Germany, Allied troops are striving to establish a bridgehead on the Italian side of the Strait of Messina.

Under the thunderous support of Allied air and sea power, British and Canadian forces of the British 8th Army crossed the narrow strip of water to bring the war at long last to the Continent that Germany has enslaved.

Preceded by a thunderous artillery barrage across the strait and by a number of reconnaissance landings, the main party set foot on the mainland at 10:30 P.M. Eastern War Time.

No details were available on either this morning's historic assault or the previous reconnaissance missions. The latter were plainly those referred to in German broadcasts as landing attempts beginning on Aug. 29, which the Germans said had been repulsed with heavy losses.

A Mutual Broadcasting Sys-

tems commentator, speaking from Algiers, quoted an official Allied spokesman today as saying that the Allies were apparently involved in heavy fighting.

A special dispatch issued from London said merely, "Allied forces under General Eisenhower continued their advance. British and Canadian troops of the 8th Army, supported by Allied sea and air power, attacked across the Strait of Messina early today and landed on the mainland of Italy."

Nazi's Coming To Huntsville

Huntsville - Chambers Construction Co. has been awarded a \$24,000 contract to build a facility for German POW's at Redstone Arsenal. Most of the prisoners are from Rommel's Afrika Corps and are expected to be employed in agricultural work. Civilian workers at the Arsenal are cautioned against having anything to do with the prisoners.

In other Arsenal news, it is reported that large quantities of chemical munitions, captured from the Nazis, are to be stowed at specially built facilities.

Hard Times

The Civil War in Huntsville and North Alabama

by Charles Rice

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War News Summarized

In London, Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged that after Hitler's defeat "every man, every ship and airplane in the King's service that can be spared will be moved to the Pacific front to help in crushing the Imperial Army."

Reports of an Allied landing in France next year have been greatly exaggerated according to the Allied Commander. "Our plans now are the same they have always been - To secure a base of operations in Italy and work our way up the boot."

Heavy devastation is reported in Berlin as the latest wave of Flying Fortresses delivered a belated birthday greeting to Germany's Fuhrer. The bombing set off numerous fires causing smoke clouds visible from over a hundred miles distant.

A landing at Nassau Bay ten miles south of Salamaus in New Guinea has been reported to have been successfully completed with minimum casualties sustained. Heavy aerial bombardment preceded the landing.

Officials in Washington say that the war for 1943 will cost 71 billion dollars. Public debt is up to 140 billion, while the deficit stands at 55 billion.

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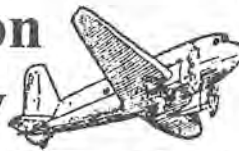
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Madison County Purchases B-24



Huntsville - Residents of Madison County have set a state record in purchasing war bonds. The \$446,000 raised will be used to purchase a Liberator B-24 bomber that will be named, "The Madison County, Alabama."

In other county news, a new housing project located on Seminole Drive, had its grand opening last week. The project is named Binford Court in honor of the late Henry C. Binford.

The project is one of the most modern facilities in the state.

Area Whiskey Runners Beware

Huntsville - Police Chief Herman Giles recently announced the purchase of two-way radios for the city's police cars. It is expected the radios will help to put a stop to the county's whiskey runners who have been operating with impunity so far. The radios have been tried successfully so far in Birmingham and Mobile. Giles is quoted as saying, "The benefits will justify the cost."

Confederate Reunion

Huntsville - A piece of history has faded into the background as Confederate Veterans unfurled their flags for the last time. The last official reunion of the comrades in gray was marked by John Steger placing a wreath of flowers at the base of the Confederate statue. A volunteer honor guard was provided by soldiers stationed at the Arsenal.

With few people attending, it was unanimously decided to make this the last official reunion.

Big Spring Safe From Enemies

Huntsville - In a joint statement issued by Mayor McAllister and Huntsville Police Chief Herman Giles, assurances were given that adequate measures have been put in place to protect Huntsville's water supply from possible enemy sabotage. Mayor McAllister says at this time there are no plans to erect a fence around the headwaters of the Big Spring.

Madison County Deputies and Huntsville City Police are jointly patrolling the spring and have been issued orders to arrest any strangers loitering without cause.

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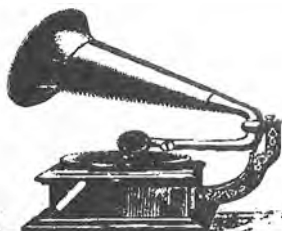
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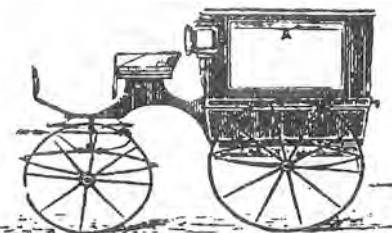
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More On Maple Hill Cemetery



Old Huntsville recently featured a story on the 300 or so Union Army war dead who were "misplaced" in Maple Hill Cemetery.

Supposedly, the Federal Government moved these remains to the National Cemetery at Chattanooga after the war. However, Old Huntsville discovered that many of the bodies were never moved and must still rest in our city's historic cemetery.

Since then several older Huntsville residents have told us they had always heard as youngsters about the, "Yankee soldiers" who were buried in the city cemetery. They say that is the why that particular section of Maple Hill has never been used

for burials. It was already occupied!

Even more surprising were the letters and phone calls from out of state in response to the story.

Mr. Mark Gideon of Columbus, Ohio, wrote about one of his ancestors, Private George L. Gideon of the 3d Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The unfortunate George Gideon had died of disease at Huntsville in early 1865, leaving a widow and young children. Sure enough, a check of the names of the Union dead removed to Chattanooga showed that Private Gideon does not rest there. He is another of the "lost Yankees" of Maple Hill.

Mr. Gideon informs us that

he has written a two-page letter to his Congressman, "requesting assistance in locating the grave of George Gideon, if possible, and in erecting an appropriate memorial in Maple Hill Cemetery to the Union soldiers buried there.

Another letter we received was from John T. Bowman of Sterling, Illinois in regard to his great-great uncle, Emanuel Renner. We quote from his letter:

"He served during the American Civil War with the Illinois 93rd Infantry Regiment. He enlisted with three of his brothers

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in August 15, 1862 in Wyand, Illinois. He served with this regiment until his death of typhoid fever in June 19, 1864 in Huntsville, Alabama and was buried in the City cemetery (Maple Hill).

"While after the war many union soldiers' graves were moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Emanuel Renner remained behind in Huntsville. My great-great uncle had no spouse and no one from his family was ever able to visit his grave. I have been trying very hard to locate his resting site to pay my respects. I understand there were many union soldiers left behind in Maple Hill Cemetery after the end of the war in unmarked graves.

"I would respectfully ask that the mayor and city council of the City of Huntsville honor these men and raise a monument with the names of those left behind so far from home. I would be proud to be able to attend a dedication of such a memorial honoring those remaining. I would like to thank the City of Huntsville and the people of Huntsville for caring about these Union dead.

"If there is anything I can do to help this cause I will be honored to help."

In yet another letter, Ms. Lillian Geoffy, of Hammond, Indiana, blames the oversight as part of a continuing neglect of the South to recognize the fact it lost the war.

"It is no surprise to me," she writes, "to discover that a city in Alabama managed to lose the final resting places of so many Northern soldiers.

"This is what we have come to expect from a region whose only interest in history is rewriting it in a way to erase the shame

of losing the Civil War.

"I have never been to Huntsville but I am sure the graves of the Confederate soldiers are decorated each year with flowers.

"Cannot the citizens of Huntsville spare a few flowers for the boys in blue. They also fought for what they believed in."

The Confederate section of Maple Hill Cemetery has now been enclosed by an attractive iron fence. It is only proper that the Union dead should also receive recognition for having given their lives for their beliefs. Our tragic war is long over and it is time to put sectional animosity behind us.



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Growing up With The State Guard

by Tillman Hill



When World War II started the Alabama National Guard were the first group to be called into the Army.

Everybody was excited the day they left. Every street had somebody that was going off with them. I don't remember the date, but I guess it was early 1942.

I was about 10 years old, and all the boys in the Village were going over to the Armory on Dallas Avenue and see them off. I told my Daddy I was going. I should have asked him if I could go instead of telling him because he said no, I could not go.

I started crying and he made me go back into the house. After everybody left, he came into the house and said that I could go. I told him I was not going over there now. That was the first and last time I sassed my Daddy!

He went into the kitchen. The sink was by the window and as Daddy always shaved by the window for the sunlight, he kept his leather razor strap hanging next to the sink. He got that razor strap, and boy, you ain't been beat until you've had a good beating with a razor strap! After the whipping he told me to go over to the Armory and see the boys off. So with red eyes and a burning butt I was there waving bye to the boys going to war.

I had no way of knowing that day how important a part the Armory would play in my life for the next five years.

Soon after the National Guard left they started the Alabama State Guard. Everybody

wanted to do something for the war effort. The State Guard was made up mostly of men either too old or too young to join the Army. There were a lot of World War I veterans and boys too young to join the army so they enlisted in the State Guard until they were old enough to go into service.

One man who joined the State Guard and later went into

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the Army was one of the two men from Madison County to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. His name was Bushy Bolden and he was a professional boxer. He was my hero even before he went into the Army.

A lot of businessmen joined the Guard. My Daddy was one of the first men to join and I went everywhere he went. Before long I became the official "mascot" for the Company. My Daddy carried me out to A&M College, where there was a tailor shop, and had an Army uniform made for me. I attended all the meetings and helped out in the supply room. Mostly I did whatever I was told to do.

When Chauncey Sparks was elected Governor, the company was sent to Montgomery to

march in the inaugural parade. Of course, being the mascot, I got to tag along. We went down in an Army truck and stayed at the warehouses behind Kilby Prison. They had prisoners to help around the place and I will never forget one prisoner who had a pet crow who sat on his shoulder all the time.

Its funny what stands out in a kid's mind about a trip.

I also got to go to Dauphin Island for a two week training camp with the company.

The evening before we left was spent loading the trucks and getting ready to leave. After spending the night at the Armory we were awakened early the next morning and driven downtown to a place on Washington Street where we ate breakfast. We were

on our way about daylight and best I can remember, we got to Mobile about 1:00 AM and then continued on to Cedar Point. As there were no bridges from the mainland to Dauphin Island at the time, we finished our journey by boat.

The island at that time had a small fishing village on one end and a county training camp, complete with barracks, on the other end which was where we stayed.

Also on the island was Fort Gaines, an old Spanish fort which used to guard Mobile Bay. The fort was in ruins at the time, with old rusty cannons and cannon balls lying about. Having an old fort to run around in gave me a strong sense of being Tom Sawyer. The place was all mine!

The fort was later turned into



A photograph of local members of the Alabama State Guard, taken in 1942 at the Central Cafe. Among the members shown are William Cantrell, Hobart Hill, Fred Turner, Tom Sharpe, Jimmy Lane, Ed Rofhe, Richard Worley, Frank McKinley, Buford Bagwell, Frank Riced, C. Bowling, Richard Drake, Frank Church, H. Mullins

a state park and is a big tourist attraction today.

Being on the island for two weeks was an experience that a kid like me could only dream about. The men trained all day while I stayed in the barracks and straightened up. The men did most of the work but I shined shoes and washed clothes after they left. The men paid me for doing chores and after two weeks I had made \$13.00, which was a lot of money in those days.

The State Guard met once a week to train and drill. Part of their training was learning to handle large, unruly crowds. They were called out a couple of times to work strikes and one time for a storm.

By this time I was about 12 years old and I had other fish to fry. I was working other jobs but I continued to work at the Armory. About 1946 they started to rent the Armory out for dances every week, and Frank McKinley hired me to clean up afterwards.

I had a key to the place and I would get there very early to clean up the place so I could go to school or work, depending on what time of the year it was.

In the wintertime the first thing I did was to go upstairs to Frank's office and build a fire. At this time they were selling beer at the dances and beer

bottles were everywhere, and of course there was a little bit left in many of the bottles.

One morning, after I had built the fire, I started back downstairs and noticed Mac, a buddy of mine, sorting through the bottles looking for something to drink.

Mac often hung around the Armory, telling me stories and helping with the chores. He was much older than I, and was also my idol. Though I supposed I knew he was an alcoholic, the meaning never really sunk in until that morning.

After watching Mac for a few minutes, I went back upstairs and stayed for a long time. It hurt very much. He was still my friend, I told myself, no matter what.

When I finally came back down he had passed out.



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Making New Memories

by Cathey Carney

Have you ever been somewhere and all of a sudden smelled something that brought you back to you childhood? Maybe cookies baking in the oven, or the smell of a coal stove, or a certain perfume? It's amazing what happens then. You are immediately transported to that place, that time, and you can remember every detail. This past Christmas, when you first smelled your tree's spicy scent, what did it remind you of? Has

this ever happened to you?

Well, you can use scent to help make new memories. Let me give you an example. When my daughter was younger, she and I decided to take an aerobics class. We both needed to get in shape and thought it would be fun. So we both wore the same kind of perfume - I think it was White Shoulders - every time we went to the class. It turned out to be a lot of fun, and we laughed a lot. Plus we got in pretty good shape. All good memories. If today I pass someone who has White Shoulders on, I remember the fun and good times we had. I even feel the soreness I felt back then. And it was over fifteen years ago.

When a friend of mine recently married, she wore a special perfume for the first time, during her wedding and wedding night. It was a time of great hap-

piness for her, and now when she puts on the perfume it brings all the feelings back that she had on that day and night.

You can do it, too. What you do is pick a scent or perfume that you really like, and maybe don't wear a lot. When you are going on a trip, and going to be with people that you really like, or any special event is happening, wear that perfume. When you are going to see those people again, wear that same scent. Pretty soon every time you smell that perfume, it will remind you of those people and those good times. Then wear a different kind of perfume to work.

It really is amazing, when you haven't smelled that perfume for a while; then you do - all the thoughts and memories come back. Try it. You'll be purposely making new, and special, memories.

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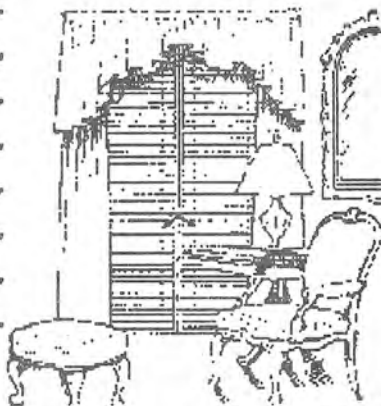
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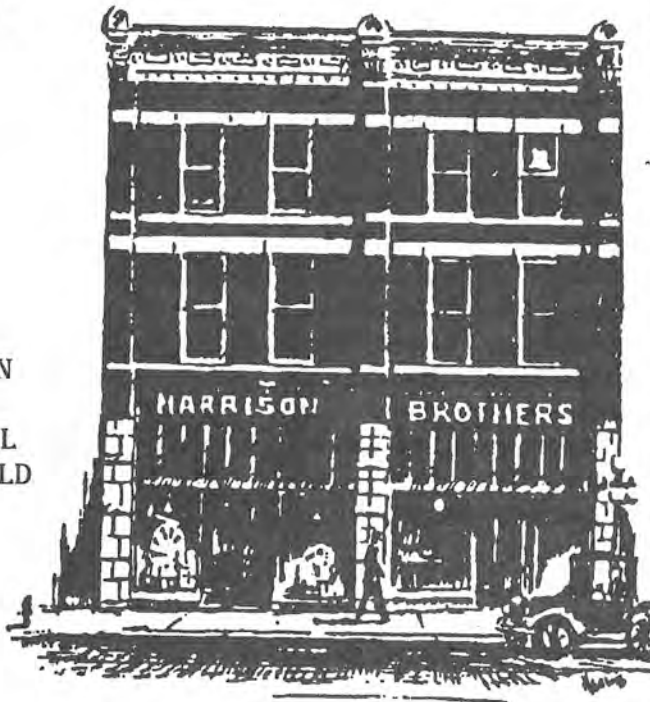
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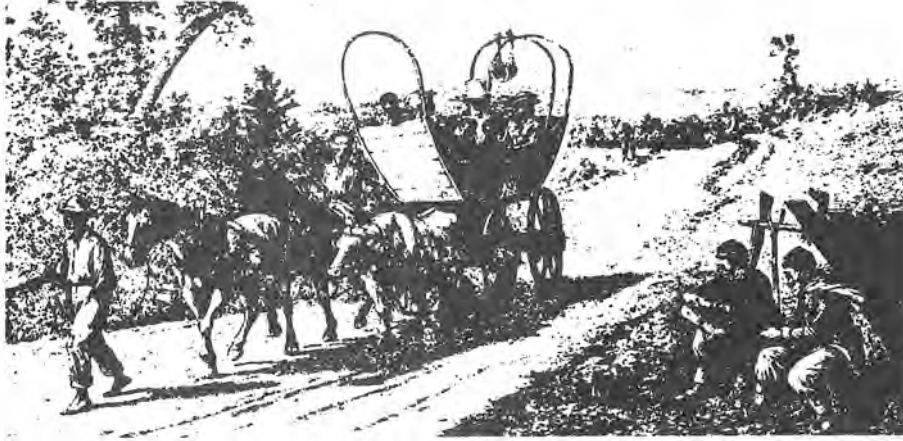
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MAYSVILLE: OFF THE BEATEN PATH

by Jack Harwell

In the early days of the Republic, Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance, an act which established an orderly partition of the western lands. When Alabama became a state in 1819, the terms of the ordinance were applied there too. One of these stated that the sixteenth section of each township

(each township was six miles square, with each square mile comprising a section) was to be reserved for schools.

In 1828, Congress amended the law to allow the state of Alabama to sell the land in section 16 to private individuals, provided the proceeds from those sales were spent on education.

About nine miles east of the Big Spring, there was a crossroads that formed one corner of the 16th section of a township. Homes and businesses began to appear there in the 1830s. The inhabitants took note of the location of their community and gave it the wonderfully descriptive name, Section. The town was incorporated in 1852 (and reincorporated in 1858) as Maysville. The source of the name, unfortunately, is lost to history. The town extended for one quarter mile in all directions from the crossroads, which pretty much describes Maysville today.

Most of the town of Maysville was laid out on lands that had been purchased by two men, William Stewart and Dr. Bright Berry Nunnally. Stewart had been in business in Maysville as early as 1840. Dr. Nunnally and his partner, Joel H. Chambless, began dividing their property into lots in 1852. One of them was bought by a local physician, F. E. H. Steger.

Francis Epps Harris Steger was arguably early Maysville's leading citizen. Born in Mississippi Territory in 1810, he was educated in Kentucky and at La Grange College near Florence, Alabama. Having established himself in Maysville, he built a home on his land there in 1854. By the time he received full title to his land in 1859, he was a wealthy man.

When civil war came in 1861, Maysville was affected as much as any Southern town. Dr. Steger went to Georgia and offered his services to the Confederate Army, leaving his home in the care of his father-in-law, Thomas Maddin, a Methodist minister. Other Maysvillian sons of the South also answered the call. Among them was First Lieuten-

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ant Thomas J. Alexander, who rode with General Joseph E. Johnston; Private James Beaty, a Confederate scout in Texas; Private W. M. Jordan, of the Fourth Alabama Cavalry; and Private James Hammett, who saw action at Stone's River.

But while the men were away fighting the war, the war came to Maysville in their absence. Several skirmishes were fought in and around the town in 1863 and 1864. On November 17, 1864, units of the 12th and 11th Indiana Cavalry and the Fourth Michigan Infantry marched from their encampment at Brownsboro headed to New Market. As the blue-clad soldiers neared Maysville, they heard the CRACK of rifle fire directed at them. Rebel pickets! The Federals quickly scrambled for cover. Without artillery support, they were pinned down. But the Federals' superior numbers soon

carried the day, and the Southerners were forced to withdraw.

The occupying Northern troops were never far from the minds of Maysville's residents. In addition to the garrisons that occupied Huntsville from time to time, there was actually a U.S. Army unit encamped at Maysville, the Fifth Iowa Cavalry. Major J. Morris Young commanding. In a letter to his division commander, dated November 18, 1863 (as Abraham Lincoln was enroute to Gettysburg), Major Young described a recent expedition to Whitesburg and Decatur during which his Iowans captured many boats which the Confederates were using to ferry troops and supplies back and forth across the Tennessee.

But not all of those affected by the war were combatants. Thomas Maddin, like most Southern civilians, was feeling the effects of wartime shortages,

which tend to be more severe on the losing side. A week before Christmas 1864, Maddin wrote a long letter to Dr. Steger in Georgia. The letter was discovered in Dr. Steger's home in 1903, and contains a vivid account of the fears of an ordinary man caught up in historical events which he is powerless to change. Paper was in short supply, so much of the letter was written between other lines in pencil. So moving is the letter that it was published in its entirety in the Chattanooga Times in 1933.

Maddin tries to be upbeat, talking of domestic events, but the overall tone of the letter is that of a man who has despaired of nearly everything except his own faith. Of the war, he writes, "We are in daily dread of a raid. The Yankees are at Paint Rock ... much depends upon the success of the companies now doing battle at Paint Rock. Cannon

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was heard booming yesterday — but to what result, we do not know.”

Conditions around the home were no less grim. Maddin tells of the town’s buildings being torn down for salvage. Dr. Steger’s own office was spared; it was turned into a harness maker’s shop. “As to milk and butter we have done without until a few weeks ago ... Mrs. Kelly loaned me her cow and calf, but the Yankees took the calf ... We raised nothing but what we got from the orchard and garden, which was plundered of its fruit before they were ripe. It would amuse and distress you to see how they stole apples from the orchard and how obsequious we all were, fearing to say a word.”

On Friday, April 7, 1865, soldiers of the 18th Michigan Infantry crossed the Flint River at Bell Factory. Detachments were sent to several towns in eastern Madison County, including Maysville. The commanding officer reported to his superiors that his men “drove out small parties of rebel thieves.” Two days later, Robert E. Lee rode into Appomattox to meet with General Grant.

Dr. Steger, like his home, survived the war. Union troops had repeatedly threatened to burn the house, but never carried out their threats. He sold the house to his father-in-law, Thomas Maddin, in 1866. Maddin later moved to Nashville, where he died in 1874. Steger sold the house again in 1889 and also moved to Nashville. He died of a stroke in 1907. The house he built in Maysville has changed hands at least seven times since then.

As for Maysville, it was reincorporated in 1881 (the vote was 35-1 in favor), but only one per-

son ever again served as mayor. Eventually the charter expired and was never renewed. From time to time there was talk of reincorporating, but it never came about. When the post office closed in 1955, Maysville officially became just a crossroads — although the people who live there may not think of it as such.

The (non)town of Maysville still sits at the same crossroads as it did in 1852. Burns Spring, which attracted some of the early settlers, is still there, just east of the intersection. In many ways it is an unremarkable place. But if we could hear the voices of those who passed this way before, they could tell more stories than could be digested in a lifetime.



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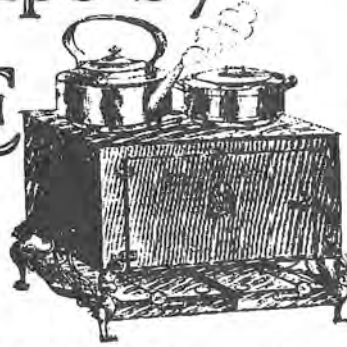
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Household Tips by EARLENE



Raw Chicken breasts are easier to cut up if you freeze them, start to thaw them out and use sharp scissors instead of a knife.

For a different taste in your hot tea this winter, try using a spoonful of strawberry jelly instead of the sugar, or add a slice of lemon that has been studded with a couple of whole cloves.

If your kid's shoelaces always come undone, try dampening them before tying.

If you are going to be out and have no way to brush your teeth after eating, carry some mint tea bags with you to nibble on - they will make your breath smell sweet.

For a deep-cleaning mask, try stroking on some Milk of Magnesia, leave it on for 10 minutes, but avoid the eye area. Rinse with warm water.

Remove paper that is glued onto wood surfaces by rubbing on some olive oil.

When you wake up in the middle of the night with a bad leg cramp, immediately flex foot or feet upward towards your head.

If your windshield wipers smear, clean the windshield and the wiper blades with rubbing alcohol.

Avoid storing different cakes, cookies or bread in the same container - they affect each other and will get stale much faster.

Be sure and store your nuts in the fridge or freezer - often times they will get rancid if stored at room temperature.

If you love to steam veg-

etables, like I do, pour the left-over liquid in the bottom of your pan into containers and freeze. That way, when you are making soup or need vegetable broth, you will have it ready.

If the electricity in your office makes your skirts or dresses cling, just go the bathroom and wet your hands at the sink - rub your legs lightly with the water and you will see no more cling.

If your belts are all in a mess in your closet, simply buy some of the common cup hooks, screw them into the bottom of a wooden pants or coat hanger, and put your belts on the hooks.



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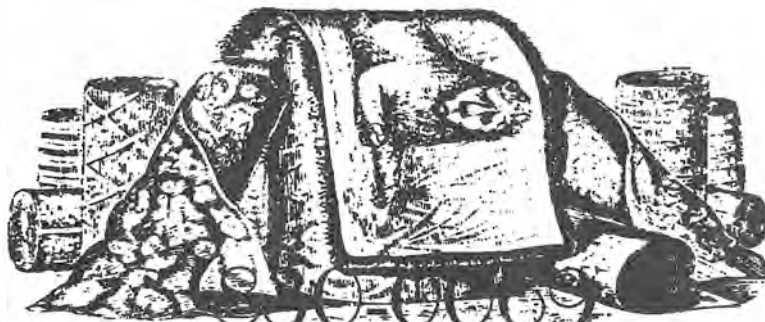
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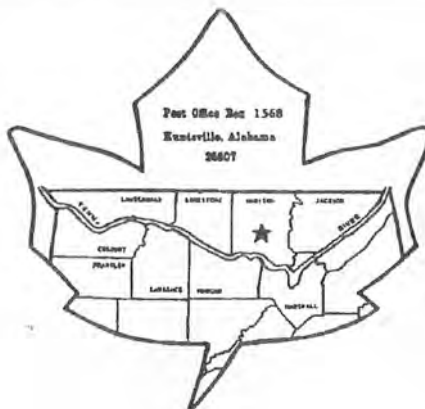
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Searching For Our Ancestors



A monthly column provided by the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society to aid people in their genealogical research.

ICE * CREWBEL/CRUEBEL

I am researching the ICE family. They came to Franklin Co., IL, around 1829. Children of John ICE and Nancy CREWBEL - CRUEBEL ICE (b. 1792 NC James (b. 1810, AL), Elizabeth (b. 1817, AL), Andrew Jackson (b. 1819, AL), Sarah Ann (b 1823, AL), and Mary Jane (b.1825, AL). John ICE died before the 1840 Franklin Co. Census. Nancy is listed as head of household with 3 daughters: one under 10; one under 1 one under 30. The other children are marrying off with families of their own.

Also anyone researching Ice. Is there any trace of the Ice's there? Lois Short, 52 Oaklawn, W.F., IL 62896.

COWEN * BYRAM

Looking for information on the family of Talitha COWEN (b. 1 Oct 1801, in KY, d. 12 April 1863, Izard Co., AR) m. Alden BYRAM (b. 21 Mar 1804, Knox Co., TN, d. 12 April 1878, Izard Co., AR) 7 Aug 1823, Madison Co., AL.

Roger A. Crane, 14003 Briardale Lane, Tampa, FL 33618.

BOLLING

Have proved my Robert BOLLING/Jane (Rolf) BOLLING line to Bolling and Heachem Halls Eng. Would someone please give me the female lines? Laramore, Blair, Kennon, Carrie, Clerk, Thorton, Thornore Popley, de Thornton Rolf, Poythress, Maso and Jener.

Wes Skaggs, 1752 Chesapeake Place, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.

MESSENGER

I would greatly appreciate hearing from someone who is knowledgeable about Mountain Mills, south of Tuscumbia, AL. In 1860's, the Asa MESSENGER family had a home and steam mill at Mountain Mills, per family letters, will, and 1860 census. Virginia Pearson, 1310 Oakhill, Keller, TX 76248.

SPEER * MARTIN

Seek info on Moses SPEER, m. Elizabe MARTIN in Madison Co., ALca.1810. Lived in Madison Co. and Edgefield, SC, around 1810-1825. Children were: Moses Martin SPEER and Robert Andrew SPEER and least three others.

Shirley Lundin, 311 Caliente, Bakersfield, CA 93306.

LEWALLEN * JONES

Daniel LEWALLEN, father of William Preston LEWALLEN, b. 1832 Jackson Co AL, m. Elizabeth (possibly Lee) d. ca. 1849 Where and when was he born? Need wife of William Preston LEWALLEN: Mary Frances. Their first child was Mary, b. c 1852. Nancy Jane LEWALLEN m. Howe JONES ca. 1870, Fackler Co., [sic] AL. Who were Howell's parents? Where was he born?

Noma J. Wolfe, 1201 Circle Drive, Sapula, OK 74066.

BOWLIN/BOLLING * HERRIN * WYATT * GARRETT * JONES

Seeking information on Nancy BOWLIN, stepdaughter of Curtis HERRIN, half-sister to Lemuel Anderson HERRIN, John HERRIN, Elizabeth Herrin WYATT and Lovey Herrin



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GARREIT. Was Bowlin her maiden or married name? One Nancy JONES married Andrew BOLLING 31 Aug 1831, in St. Clair Co., AL. Was she the step daughter of Curtis HERRIN? Who was James HERRIN, who bought the Love estate, sale Sept 1829, St. Clair Co., AL? Will refund postage.

Verla H. Hand, 127 E Villanova Dr., Claremont, CA 91711

WHITTEMORE * RAND

Seek information on father and mother of James Starling WHITTEMORE, b. Reidsville, NC, 1846. He came to Tuscumbia, AL, abt. 1870, married my grandmother, Bettie P

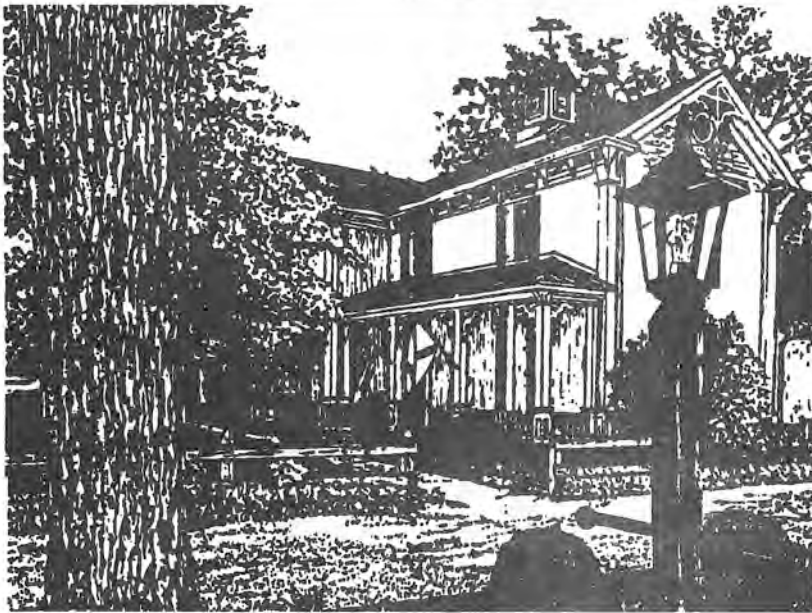
RAND, in 1875. Seek info about Whittemore family members.

Elizabeth W. Sloan, 4007 Hannett, N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87110.

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Consignment Shops Offer Treasures Galore!

by Judy A. Chassay

Some people spend a fortune on clothes - others just look like they do! If you have expensive taste and smart money, consignment shops should be of interest to you! You'll find designer and better label garments at a fraction of the original price, unique fashion jewelry and accessories, one-of-a-kind fashions and some vintage pieces!

Consignment shops offer elegant fashions at affordable prices. (If price is not an object, why not spend less?!) Many consignment shops feature better label merchandise in excellent, like-new condition at prices considerably lower than original retail - usually 1/3 to 1/2 of the

original price. You'll find a great variety of merchandise in consignment shops, such as preowned apparel, sample clothing, new and pre-owned fashion jewelry, hand bags, belts, scarfs, hats and shoes. Some shops carry a full line of ladies' apparel (casual to bridal) in all sizes, children's and maternity fashions and boys' and men's wear.

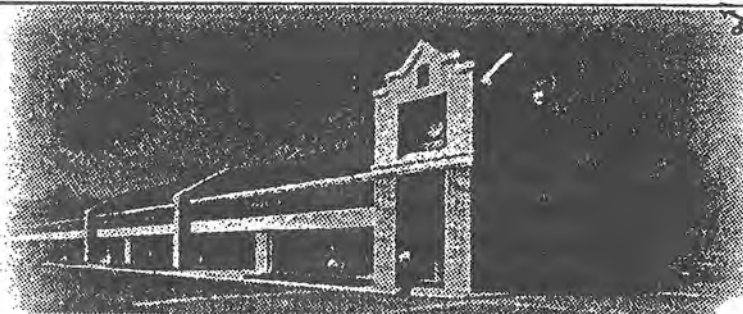
Unlike thrift shops that accept donations, consignment shops select merchandise that is considered marketable for resale and pay the "consignor" after the merchandise sells.

If you have clothes in your closet that are just "taking up space" but are still in very current style (not older than 2 years)

and "too good to just give away" perhaps this is the time to clean out your closets for cash! Consignment shops are interested in better label apparel in very current style and excellent, like-new condition that has been freshly cleaned and brought in on hangers. The shop will select, inventory, price, display and advertise your merchandise. Once the merchandise sells you will receive a percentage (usually 40%) of the selling price. Consignment shops accept articles "in season" so this is the time to get your spring merchandise ready!

For a refreshing shopping experience - enjoy the thrill of the hunt (everybody's doing it) and visit your local consignment shops where treasures abound!

Judy Chassay owns and operates a thriving consignment business in Huntsville.



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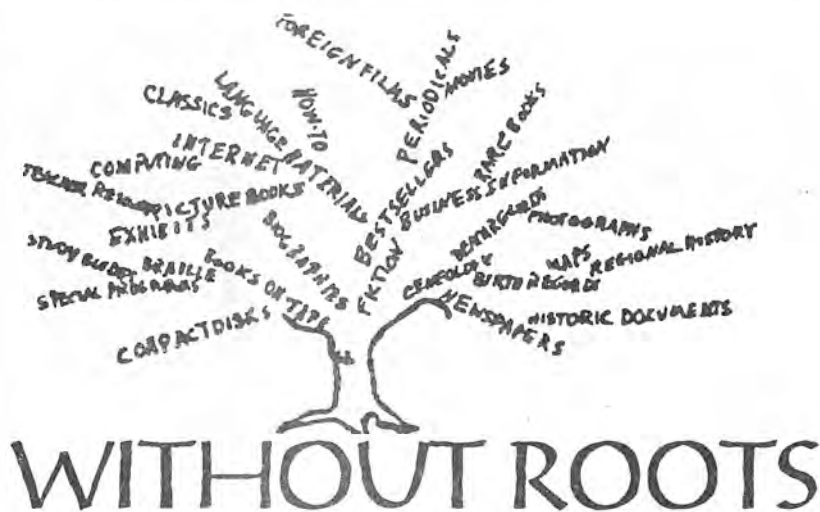
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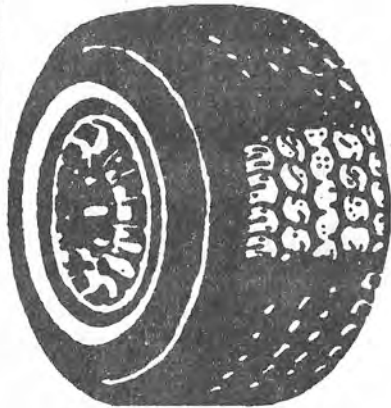


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