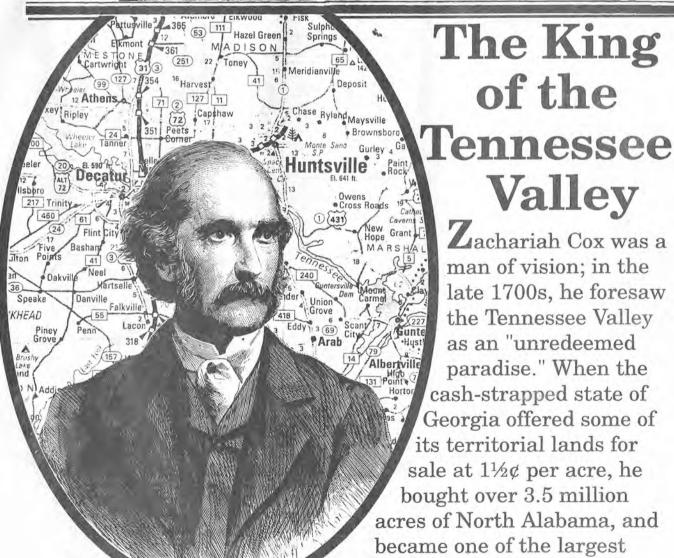


# Old-Huntswille



landowners in America.

# Zachariah Cox: The King of the Tennessee Valley

by Tom Carney

In the 1700s no one was sure who owned the Tennessee Valley, or the "Big Bend" as it was more commonly known. Georgia claimed title by virtue of a British grant which gave it all the land "from sea to sea," while South Carolina claimed it as part of its original territory — and Spain had claimed ownership for almost a hundred years.

The Cherokee Indians, the Valley's only inhabitants, defied everyone's claims and threatened to kill anyone who encroached upon their property.

Although everyone had heard tales of the fertile lands and rich wilderness in the Big Bend country, it seemed as if no one had actually visited the area. Even in a land known for its pioneer spirit, few people were willing to risk their lives to settle a territory where they might never be able to claim title.

In 1783, William Blount, later Governor of Tennessee, along with John Sevier and Colonel John Donelson, led a party of settlers from Knoxville to the area around Muscle Shoals. Their questionable title had been purchased from a minor Cherokee chief, who had no authority to sell it, and who was later killed.

Seeking to obtain the support of Georgia in their enterprise, the settlers promised to organize and settle a county to be named "Houston," and to declare it part of the state of Georgia.

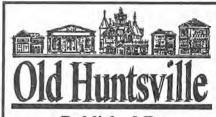
The Georgia legislature was not impressed, however. If they supported the colonists, they would have to send militia to help protect the lands from the Indians. Said one legislator who was quoted, "It's just too expensive."

The colonists, rebuffed by the state of Georgia, next turned toward Spain for an alliance. Before negotiations could be opened, however, Cherokee Indians forced the settlers to abandon the colony.

One of those colonists was a young man by the name of Zachariah Cox, a surveyor from South Carolina. For years, Zachariah had heard stories of the Tennessee Valley, and when Blount organized his expedition he was one of the first people to sign up.

When the expedition was forced from the Valley, Cox stayed behind. He had a naturally inquisitive mind and was fascinated by the rich territory which no one had yet settled. For months, with little but a knapsack and a rifle, he wandered the Tennessee Valley, charting out imaginary townships and roads.

When Zachariah finally returned to Knoxville he was a man possessed. Everywhere he went



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he preached the virtues of a land he called, "the unredeemed paradise."

In 1789, the state of Georgia was in desperate need of money, and offered to sell some of its "western lands," of which the Tennessee Valley was part. Land sales in the past had attracted people who bought a thousand — or at the most 10,000 acres — of land. Zachariah, who by this time had been able to interest a small group of investors, surprised everyone when he immediately offered Georgia the sum of 1½¢ per acre for 3.550.000 acres.

To everyone's surprise, Georgia accepted the offer, thereby selling almost all of North Alabama for less than \$60,000, to be paid in installments.

Though Zachariah was now legally one of the largest land owners in America, the land was valueless unless it could be settled and he could sell part of it to pay the note. In 1790 he led a party of would be settlers back to the Tennessee Valley in an attempt to colonize the area.

Upon hearing news of Cox's expedition, the Spanish governor of Louisiana promptly notified Washington that Spain was going to erect a fort at the Big Bend to protect Spanish interests in the land. President George Washington, upon hearing the news and fearful of a war with Spain, ordered Cox to abandon the settlement.

Washington's orders infuriated Cox, who had already invested everything he owned in the project. "If the Federal Government won't protect us," he reasoned, "we'll find one who will."

Cox immediately set about negotiating a treaty whereby Spain would recognize his rights and the Valley would become a Spanish domain. Unfortunately, he would have done better to negotiate with the Indians, because Chief Alexander McGillivray soon appeared on the scene, accompanied by a large and angry war party, demanding that Cox abandon his settlement.





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Deciding that discretion was the better part of valor, Cox returned once again to Knoxville where he immediately began recruiting a band of 40 armed men. All the recruits were promised grants of 5,000 acres each if they would help defend his title.

Several months later, in January of 1791, Cox once again returned to the Big Bend. His earlier expedition had already sparked much debate in Washington, and upon hearing of this expedition the Secretary of War issued a proclamation forbidding Cox to enter "Indian lands." Of more concern to Cox, however, was the warning that the Secretary of War would allow the Indians to attack any trespassers.

Upon arriving in the Valley, Cox immediately set the party to work building a stronghouse. Once again, however, his plans were thwarted by the Cherokees. This time they were represented by Chief Glass, who warned that all the settlers would be put to death unless they left immediately.

Returning to Knoxville, Cox was arrested by federal authorities on charges of trespassing on Indian lands. The case immediately became front-page news all across the country. Boston newspapers, taking note of the immense amount of land involved, dubbed him "King Zachariah," and compared his holdings with those of European Royalty.

Cox's defense was simple: he owned the land and therefore he could not be charged with trespassing on his own land. The Knoxville Grand Jury refused to indict him and dismissed the federal government's case.

The federal government bringing charges against Cox was

the very best possible thing that could have happened to him. It brought him publicity, and most importantly, the grand jury's refusal to indict him gave recognition of his legal ownership of the Tennessee Valley.

Soon investors from Boston, New York and Rhode Island were beating a path to Zachariah's door, begging to invest in his enterprise. With their backing, land offices were opened and agents were hired to handle the onslaught of people clamoring to buy land. For a while it looked as if Zachariah would not only be one of the largest landowners in America, but also one of the richest.

Unfortunately, there was a dark cloud looming on the horizon. At that time, "specie" (quite literally: IOU's) were a common form of paying debts. The state of Georgia, however, was having trouble getting its creditors to accept their paper. In a sudden move that surprised everyone, Georgia passed legislation that required all debts for land be paid in bullion.

For Cox and his investors, this was impossible. There just was not that much bullion available to finish paying for the land. When time for the next installment arrived and Cox was unable to pay it, Georgia rescinded the sale, once again taking pos-

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page 6

session of the Tennessee Valley.

Cox immediately protested, only to be told, "There's only one law in Georgia ... and that's the majority vote of the state legislature."

For all appearances, this spelled the end for "King Zachariah" and his visions of a private empire. Where he had once been a national figure, he was now a national laughing-stock. His friends deserted him, his creditors hounded him daily, and the only comfort he found was in the solace of a whiskey bottle. Within months he had been reduced to a pathetic and lonely figure.

To say that Cox was bitter, would be a gross understatement. For over ten years he had been obsessed with the Tennessee Valley, and he was determined to own it once again. He began a correspondence with his old investors, who in turn provided him with new names who would help him launch the most diabolical scheme ever perpetu-

ated in America, later to become known as the "Great Yazoo Land Fraud."

In a meeting with his cohorts held in Boston, he spelled out his plan: "There is only one law in Georgia," he explained, "and that is the majority vote of the legislature. And we are going to buy them."

Agents were hired to identify every Georgia politician, and to probe them for their weaknesses. When one legislator was found to be deeply in debt, his bills were paid by Cox's band. Another legislator was given a gift of seven slaves. Cox's agents became a common sight in the Statehouse, doling out money and granting favors.

Finally, in 1795, Cox made his move. A bill was introduced in the Georgia Statehouse authorizing her to once again sell off her western lands. With Cox and his cohorts keeping careful tab on how everyone voted, only one person voted "No."

"King Zachariah" was once

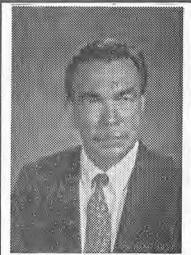
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page 7

again the owner of the Tennessee Valley, though this time with partners, and at the price of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per acre. News of the sale created a great uproar in the Cherokee Indian Nation. Even President Washington took the unprecedented step of sending a warning to Congress, stating that Georgia's sale of the land could lead to war.

Where earlier Cox had been "a champion of the people," he was now despised as a cruel manipulator. As people began to realize to what extent Georgia's politicians had been bribed, effigies of Cox were burned, and his name became synonymous with everything that was evil.

Cox had already become an eccentric recluse and probably cared less about public opinion. Dressed in cast off clothing and often times unshaven, he spent his days and nights poring over old land maps, plotting imaginary townships. The jewel of his imaginary empire was to be a city

named Elk; a city where his enemies would not be welcome and where he would reign supreme.

Less than a year later public indignation forced Georgia to repeal the land sale. In a startling move, the Legislature ordered that all references of the land sale be removed from public record, and all other records dealing with it be burned in front of the Statehouse at a public bonfire. Burning the records probably appealed to most of the legislators as they had each received on the average 50,000 acres as a bribe.

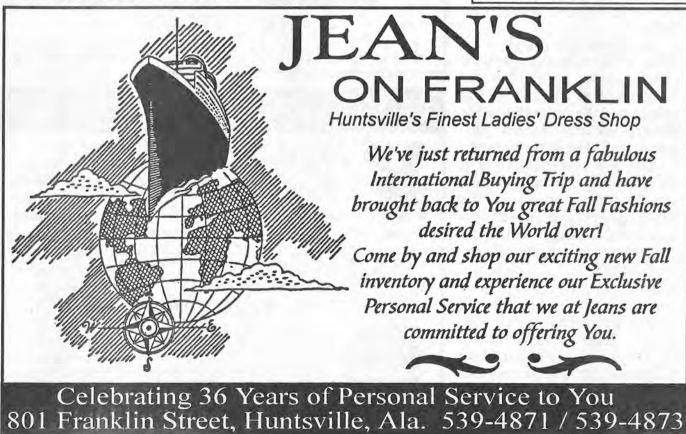
Ironically, though Georgia rescinded the sale, it made no provision to repay Cox for the land he had already paid for.

Cox immediately went to court, declaring that the sale had been made in good faith and Georgia had no right to rescind it. Georgia's courts refused to rule on it, however, probably because some of them had taken bribes as well.

There is no doubt that Cox felt he was justified in bribing the politicians. In his mind, he was simply taking back something they had taken from him. And in his mind, he still owned the Tennessee Valley.

Though Cox advertised extensively and toured the country promoting the land in North Alabama, there were few takers because no one wanted to risk their





money on such dubious title. He even offered a free town lot in the new city of Elk, which existed in his mind only, to everyone who purchased 1,000 acres of land.

Zachariah received another setback in 1798, when Georgia ceded the land to the federal government. Now he was faced with the awesome task of suing the United States of America in order to reclaim his land. He soon became a familiar figure in the halls of Congress, begging people to listen to him. Though he had once bribed almost every politician in the state of Georgia, now he found all doors closed to him. One of the few who would even listen to him was a young Congressman by the name of John Marshall, who would later become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Marshall believed that Georgia was wrong in rescinding the sale, and at the very least, the purchasers should be reimbursed. Though he introduced a bill in Congress supporting the idea, it was soundly defeated.

The lawsuits dragged on for years. In the meantime, settlers began moving into the area. John Hunt settled at the Big Spring, and the city of Huntsville became a mecca for new pioneers — all clamoring for land.

Cox was powerless to stop the migration. Though his lawsuit was still tied up in court, the federal government opened up a land office and began selling the property claimed by Zachariah.

However dubious Zachariah's claims were, there were a few people who were willing to take the chance. In 1808, with Huntsville already becoming a modest town, Martin Beatty purchased 1,000 acres from Cox for the price of \$1,000, the transaction of which was duly re-

corded in the Huntsville Land Office.

Incidentally, that 1,000 acres consisted of the whole town of Huntsville.

Zachariah Cox was, for all practical purposes, finished. All the lower courts had ruled against him, and now his only recourse was the U.S. Supreme Court, which no one expected to rule in his favor. He was deeply in debt, had few friends left, and was in ill health. His whole existence was reduced to staying in cheap boarding houses and writing letters to anyone who might listen to his claim. Worst of all was the fact that the Tennessee Valley, for which he had fought

Continued on page 47







by Chip Knight

I was born in Birmingham, in St. Vincent's Hospital, or so I have been told. I moved to Huntsville when I was one year old, and we lived in an apartment on Williams Avenue, in the block between Madison Street and Fountain Row. The apartment was basically a fairly large house, we lived downstairs, and some people with bad teeth lived upstairs. I don't remember their names. The entrance door to the apartment had leaded sidelights that had been painted over. I had gotten a child's tool set for Christmas and was playing carpenter, tapping on the glass of the sidelight with my little hammer. It broke! I don't remember whether I got a spanking for that or not. Probably I did and have repressed the memory. I do remember getting a real good spanking when I was three and the devil made me turn the garden hose on my Mama. I got warmed really well.

Perhaps that was somewhat of a kinder and gentler time. We thought we were segregated in the South, but Fountain Row, where the "old" library is, was black, and I could have thrown a rock from my house to Ophelia's, who was a lovely and gracious black lady who cooked for my aunt, two blocks up. It was a very paternalistic society. Those who had took care of those who did not have. That definitely has its dark side, but it worked and everybody had food to eat and shelter over their heads.

Our library was a Carnegie Library, as it said over the door, located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Madison Street and Gates Avenue. It was real small, but I had never seen one larger and was quite impressed. The children's section was downstairs in the basement and was presided over by Miss Frances Jones, who also played plano for Sunday School at the Episcopal Church (there was only one then). Miss Frances, as we called her, helped me to gain my lifelong love of reading. Later, she gave me an old guitar which I never really learned to play.

In 1951, we moved to the suburbs, which is to say about a mile from the Courthouse Square. I'm not sure we were

even in the city limits at the time, but I do remember that the street was a dirt road with lovely curves which was paved about a year later. We had electricity and water, but no natural gas. So, we had a big butane tank buried in the backyard, and, in the event that the tank ran out, we had a coal bin with about a ton of coal in it to burn in the fireplace. I only remember one or two coal fires.

Several years later we finally got natural gas, and they dug the trench for the line with this absolutely magnificent machine that had numerous little digging buck-



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ets attached to a big cylinder about ten feet across. The little buckets would dig and dump the dirt onto a little conveyer belt that shunted it to the side of the ditch.

An idle mind is the devil's workshop. Therefore, one day when several of our minds were idle, we decided to pretend that we were going to blow up a light pole that was next door to my house. We had either some firecrackers or some gunpowder, I don't remember which, and placed it around the base of the light pole, and we dutifully went out and stopped traffic, warning everyone that there was going to be a big explosion. Of course, there was not, and we didn't even manage to scorch the light pole.

We finally got street lights out there, and they were just big incandescent bulbs that were sometimes fun to shoot out with a BB gun. I plead the fifth and don't remember whether I had a BB gun or not. I certainly remem-

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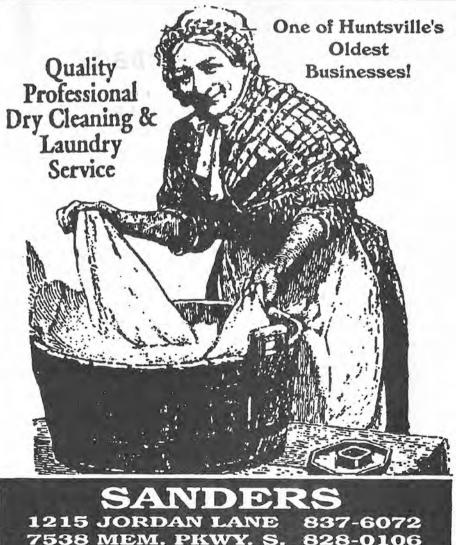
ber that I was not allowed to have one.

Street work was always fun to watch, and wherever they had work in progress they would leave these torches that looked like a round, black bomb with a little wick. They were filled with kerosene, which we generally knew as coal oil, and would burn for days. I liked those torches better than the little strobe lights they use now. The torches also helped keep mosquitoes out of the way.

My family didn't have a television back then, so we would go over to our neighbor's house to watch Pinkie Lee. Obviously, they did have a television. Well, the neighbor children's father was a big golfer, and, (again, idle minds) we were standing outside throwing golf balls up in the air. I suppose to see how high they would bounce on the concrete driveway. I threw one up as high as I could and watched it come down. It hit me in the head and nearly destroyed my idle mind.

I never was much of a Cub Scout, and was not a Boy Scout at all, but there were some good times there. I do remember the efforts that some parents (never my own) went to in making certain that we had something to do at our meetings. I won a little

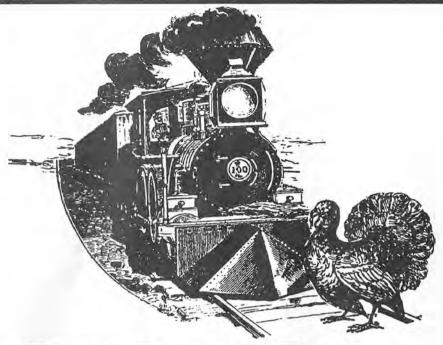
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#### Train Runs A-Fowl, or Why Did The Turkey Cross The (Rail)road?

Court justices have been called on to render some strange decisions, but perhaps few have been as ticklish as the one faced by Judge Charles Almon of the Lauderdale County Circuit Court in 1907.

The situation evidently was unique, and Judge Almon realized he might be setting a nationwide precedent.

It seems that seven turkeys belonging to one M.J. Jackson had been struck and killed by a Louisville & Nashville locomotive several miles north of Florence. Farmer Jackson filed suit against the railroad to the amount of \$10 damages for the loss of the birds.

The plaintiff argued that the railroad engineer had violated a law requiring him to sound the whistle and use every means possible to stop the train whenever he saw an animal or obstruction on the track.

The railroad attorney did his research and found a similar case where three geese had been run over by a locomotive in Tennessee. In that instance, the Tennessee court decided that geese belonged to a special class of animals since they had wings capable of carrying them to safety quickly. The Tennessee court ruled for the railroad.

Judge Almon sidestepped the tricky question of deciding how effective a turkey's wings were in moving the ungainly bird by ruling that Jackson had not proven negligence or recklessness on the part of the defendant.

Thus the railroad kept its money and Farmer Jackson lost his birds.



#### Mary's Ring

Mary had a little ring.
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Mary went,
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# My First Visit to "The Marble Palace"

by Bob Cochran

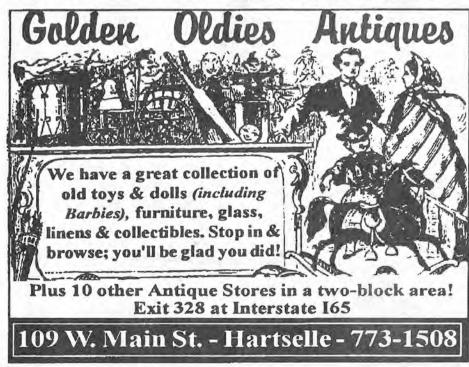
I stopped by my bank's ATM the other day on the way home from work, remembering that I'd need some cash for a business trip the next day. As I waited for the "machine" to process my withdrawal and for the cash to pop out of the little slot, I was reminded of my very first "banking transaction." That took place about 39 years ago this summer, when I made my way to the magnificent old building housing The First National Bank of Huntsville. My family moved to Huntsville in September of 1956, when I was 10 years old. Those were the "boom" years for Huntsville, and we lived nearly the next 4 years in a second floor

apartment on Harrison Avenue. A friend of mine at the (then) new Blossomwood School had a paper route for The Huntsville Times, and in the summer of 1957 he asked me if I would deliver his papers for three weeks while he was on vacation with his family. I like to think he chose me because he knew I would do a good job as his substitute; in retrospect, however, I may have been the LAST person he asked, or it may have been because I was the only other kid he knew with a big basket on my bicycle! I was more than eager to do it, since all I had to do was deliver the papers - he would collect from his customers when he got back. I didn't have any problems, and after my friend had collected his money, he paid me - a crisp, new \$10 bill. I was quite pleased, since

this represented the first money that I had ever earned by myself. My parents figured that I would probably "blow" it quickly on baseball cards or something else of no value, so my father suggested that I take my \$10 to the bank and open a savings account. He told me where The First National Bank of Huntsville was, and the next Saturday morning I set out on my mission.

I walked downtown, clutching my money in my pocket. When I walked into the lobby of The First National Bank (through the largest





doors I had ever seen in my life), I came to a screeching halt. It seemed to me that EVERY-THING in the building was shiny, gleaming MARBLE - the walls, the floors, the ceiling, even the tellers' cages! There were several tall (MARBLE) desks, at least a foot taller than I was, against the right wall; people were standing at them, writing. I obviously looked lost, and a lady sitting at a desk on the left, just inside the big doors, motioned me over to her. She asked how they could help me, and I told her that I wanted to open a savings account. She told me to go to one of the tellers, whose counter (GREEN MARBLE) was along the left side of the lobby. This counter wasn't quite as tall as the writing stands, so the lady teller saw part of my head sticking up over the top as I stood on my tiptoes. I told her that I had \$10 and wanted to open a savings account. She looked at me, and with a big smile said, "Yes, sir,

just a moment." Then she disappeared from my view. A few moments later I saw her coming around the far corner of the long, green counter, pushing a chair toward me. She asked me if I was a new customer, and I eagerly nodded my head. "Well, this will take a few minutes, so let's at least make you comfortable. Stand up on this chair." I did, and she positioned me in front of her spot. She then walked back around behind the counter, and began the process of helping me become a depositor. She was obviously enjoying herself, and several other people behind the counter smiled and waved at me.

She filled out some forms with the information I gave her, had me sign a couple of them, and finally gave me a deposit ticket and my very own "passbook." She firmly reminded me to take good care of my book, since I would need it every time I came into the bank to "conduct

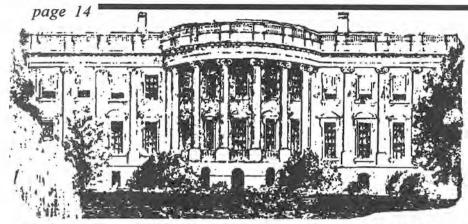
my business." I thanked her, climbed down out of the chair, and left. So went my first visit to "The Marble Palace."

The End

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\$1,200; Watchman, \$900, and a few other minor clerks and telegraph operators.

Sundries: Incidental expenses, \$8,000: White House repairs, carpets and refurnishing, \$12,500; fuel, \$2,500; greenhouse, \$4,000; gas, matches and stable, \$15,000.

These amounts, with others of minor importance, consume the entire appropriations.



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1 T. sugar

1 T. peanuts, chopped fine

Hand slice the cabbage thinly. Slice the carrots and add them to the cabbage. Mix lime juice, fish sauce, and sugar in a small bowl. Toss the cilantro and dressing with cabbage mixture and top with peanuts.

#### Strawberry Velvet Soup

3 c. fresh strawberries, sliced

1 c. sugar

1/2 c. water

2 t. arrowroot mixed with 1

T. water

3/4 c. Rose' wine

1 c. fresh orange juice

1 1/4 c. sour cream

Combine strawberries, sugar and water in a saucepan. Bring to boil and simmer for 5 minutes. stir in the arrowroot/water mixture. Add the wine and juice. Bring to a boil, cook, stirring con-

stantly, until slightly thickened. Cool for 15 minutes. Pour into a blender or food processor and puree. Stir in the sour cream and chill. Serve garnished with sliced strawberries.

#### Apple and Sausage Dinner

1 lb. sausage links

4 apples, peeled and sliced

2 T. brown sugar

1/2 t. cinnamon

1 c. shredded Cheddar or Muenster cheese

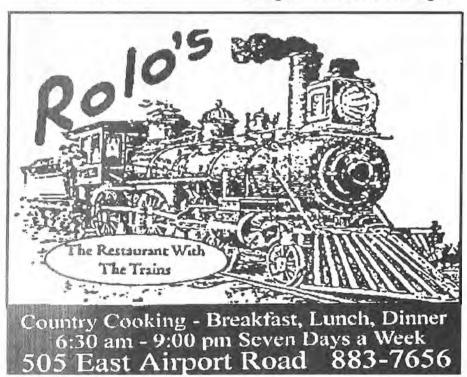
Brown the sausage. Drain fat, reserving a small amount in which you saute apple slices. Place sauteed apples in a baking dish, sprinkle with combined sugar and cinnamon. Top with the sausage and then the cheese. Broil until the cheese melts - serve hot.

#### Curry Cheese Roll

1 lb. Old English Cheese, grated 1 3-oz. package cream cheese Garlic powder - at least a generous shake

curry powder

Blend well, divide into 2 or - 3 rolls, then roll in curry powder. Wrap. Serve on toast or



883-7656

crackers. Celery is good with this

#### Hard Protzels with Ranch Dressing

1 bag of hard pretzels, arranged on a baking sheet

1/2 c. oil

1/4 c. melted butter

1 pkg. dry ranch dressing mix (Hidden Valley)

Mix the last three ingredients and drizzle over the pretzels. Bake at 250 degrees for 10 minutes. Stir. bake 10 more minutes. Or, try the dry pretzels dipped in mixed ranch dressing.

#### leish Soda Bread

1 lb. flour, 1 t. "Breadsoda" (baking soda), 1/2 t. salt, 1 c. sour milk, raisins and/or caraway seeds, optional but good.

Sieve into dry bowl the flour and salt. Put the Breadsoda into

palm of hand and press out all lumps and add to flour and salt. Make a well in the center of the flour and add in the sour milk. Mix to a dough with a wooden spoon. Turn out on a floured board and knead til dough becomes smooth. Turn upside down and flatten out. Mark with a cross on top. Place on a baking sheet and bake in a fairly hot oven (400 degrees) for 1/2 hour. When baked, place on a wire rack to cool.

#### Sweet Moodle Pudding

1/2 lb. egg noodles, 3 eggs, 1 1/2 c. milk, 1 c. sour cream, 1 lb. cottage cheese, 1/2 c. sugar, 1/2 c. raisins, cinnamon and sugar.

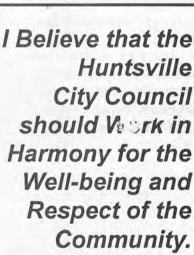
Cook noodles as directed. Add next 6 ingredients. Pour into greased casserole. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-50 minutes.

#### Cabbage Fry

oil, 2 medium onions, chopped, I head cabbage, cut into bite-sized pieces.

Cover the bottom of the frying pan with oil. Saute onions until partially cooked. Add cabbage, stir. Cover and cook until cabbage is tender.

The trouble with eating Italian food is that five or six days later you're hungry again.



## Glenn Watsor For City Council

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The UFO scare in the early 1950s spawned a rash of strange sightings around the country. University of New Mexico scientists were puzzled for weeks by a piece of "alien debris" sent to them by a Georgia schoolteacher, who told them it had landed on her sidewalk in liquid form. Using Geiger counters, laboratory equipment and microscopes, they studied the mass of black, porous material sent to them as the possible remains of one of the mysterious "green fireballs" seen recently in southern skies.

Finally, in a unconventional move of desperation, Dr. Lincoln La Paz showed the strange object to his wife. Mrs. La Paz looked, sniffed, and then confirmed.

You can confound the world's top scientists, but you can't fool a housewife when it comes to burnt toast.

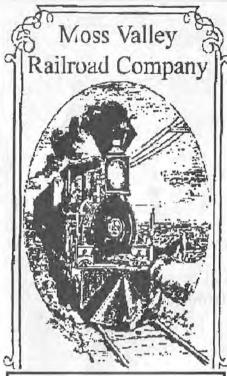
When the minister asked Leta Teneyck if she would promise to "love, honor, and obey," the wedding guests waited anxiously on the front porch. So did the groom. Leta's answer came from a portable microphone as she watched her own wedding from her bedroom window.

Leta's doctor had ordered her to bed with a case of contagious measles just five hours before her long planned betrothal to Jerome Denzer, so Leta stood at the window, beautifully adorned in wedding gown and veil, to marry her flance from a distance.

Frank Havostak was a young American serviceman returning from Europe at the end of World War II. As his ship sailed from London, Frank reacted to a sudden whim and wrote his name and address on a piece of paper, inserted it into a bottle, and dropped it overboard. It was retrieved off the coast of Ireland by a Miss Brenda O'Sullivan near her hometown of Cork, and the two corresponded for the next seve. years. Newspapers picked up on the story of the long distance romance, and a few businessmen from Frank's hometown of Johnstown, Pennsylvania banded together to pick up the tab for him to travel to Ireland to meet her.

As reporters on both coasts waited breathlessly for reports on the courtship, Miss O'Sullivan took one look at poor Frank and decided that they should remain pen pals.

A suit charging a doctor with wrongfully sterilizing a woman came before the Warren County, Virginia circuit court. James E. Williams claims that his wife was sterilized without his consent after she gave birth to the couple's third child. A unique twist in the case was the fact that Mrs. Williams gave birth to her fourth



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child two weeks ago. Williams and his attorney have refused to say what effect his wife's giving birth again will have on the lawsuit. Mrs. Williams is also said to be disappointed with her obstetrician's services.

Mrs. Jo Farmer of Providence, Rhode Island went on vacation and returned to a jungle. She spent a month on Cape Cod, and came home to find that a kudzu vine growing outside her house had found its

way in through a slit near the window and grew into the living room. She discovered long green tentacles entwining picture frames, the piano and other pieces of furniture. Mrs. Farmer is not thrilled with her new "jungle motif" and plans to recolonize her living room.

A Welsh gardener's assistant just couldn't stand flower pots. Day after day, week after week, he had to wash the pesky things instead of looking after the flowers. The final straw came when his friends started calling him the "pot washer" in front of his girlfriend. He just went berserk! He raged through the potting shed and broke the stems of 328 prize chrysanthemums, and left a note calling his boss a "pigheaded slave driver!" The Newport Juvenile Court fined the five-year-old £5 (\$7.78).



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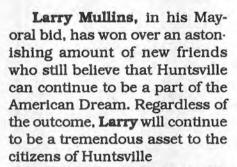
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## Huntsville Heresay

By Billy Joe Cooley and His Unidentified Sources



I attended the old time gospel quartet reunion in Greenville, S.C., and swapped memories with hundreds of names you'll remember from the past, including James Blackwood and Eva Mae LeFever. A hundred or more Huntsvillians were there, including Doug Young, who sings bass on the national level for Hovie Lister's Statesmen Quartet and locally for Bruce Thornhill's Regents. Barbara Reed, a onetime gospel DJ on

WBHP, has attended all 16 of the reunions.

Sandwich master Glenn Watson of Stanlieo's who's running for City council says, "Win or Lose, I'll always remember the polite and courteous way the good citizens of Huntsville have treated me during my travels around our beautiful city." Sources tell us that Glenn has personally knocked on over 8,000 doors during the campaign.

Since our last issue death has claimed entertainer Bill Kendrick, once known as singalong planist Billy Blue of Finnegan's Irish Pub.

BUD CRAMER'S open house at headquarters (South Parkway, across from Ramada) attracted more than a thousand supporters intent on returning him to Congress. A good time was had by all who came to cheer him on in his reelection bid against Republican hopeful, Wayne Parker.

Retired state trooper **Jimmy Lee Hancock** brought a platter of his famous peanut butter candy to the to-do. I helped it to disappear fast.

Tax Assessor hopeful, BILL KLING has earned everyone's praise for being the hardest working campaigner in Madison County. A mayoral hopeful was heard to say that Kling had attended more mayoral forums than some people seeking office in the city elections. One thing's for sure; you won't outwork Bill!

Teen actor Welborn

#### HUNTSVILLE'S OWN IRISH PUB

Visit with the ladies & gentlemen of

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page 21

Ferrene of Hilton Head, a familiar face on TV sitcoms, helped to brighten our crew's spirits on part of the Carolina trip. "Could you make a pet gravestone out of plastic?" he asked a salesman in Athens, Ga. "I carry my dog's ashes around in a fruit jar and need a lightweight monument to. ..." That's when he got tickled at the serious faced clerk and lost the punchline. Oh well.

LAWYER Bob Shipman, who is running for District Judge, will kick his campaign off in a big way any day now. "Yard signs and bumper stickers will be ready this week," says he.

John Crow, running for County commission District 3, has proven to be a formidable candidate. With his common sense approach he is appealing to a lot of "ordinary people" that many candidates seem to forget about. Also, it doesn't hurt him to have such a lovely and intelligent wife (Sue).

Artist Helen "Babe" Sockwell joined a bunch of us at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Muscle Shoals.

LaBoheme Coffee House and gallery (on Pratt at Five Points) is where some of our crowd likes to hang around these nights. Some very enlightening conversations take place.

Miss Eunice's new souvenir menus are available at her Country Kitchen. I wrote a brief life story for the cover.

Catherine Wilson of chowchow fame (Limestone Flea Market) is already making up Christmas baskets for this year.

Robin Morgan and brother Jim played pool the other night in Johnny Tona's smoke-free Family Billiards. Todd Wheaton and galpals were at the next table

George Wells has released a CD and cassette recording of "A John Mark Kind of Love," which tells of Tide football Coach Gene Stallings' son who has downs' syndrome. It's a touching story of endless love and determination.

Three stars for **Herb** "The **Man with the Plan" Dixon**. With little campaign organization and fewer funds, Herb has run a

mayoral campaign that has caused everyone to sit up and take notice. It makes one wonder if "Mr. Smith really can go to Washington."

Political patriarch of Madison County, James Record, has thrown his support behind Dean O'Farrell for mayor. That should be worth a whole pocketful of votes.

Finally, we've heard that Aunt Eunice is keeping a political scorcard on ALL the candidates. We'd love to get a good look at that. Maybe after the smoke clears and all is said and done she'll let us take a peek!

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### Comments from a Union Camp at Huntsville

From the Nashville Union, Saturday, March 12, 1864,

From Huntsville, Alabama (correspondence of the Nashville Union)

Huntsville, March 5, 1864

A few notes from this department of the army may be interesting to your numerous readers.

This town of Huntsville is truly the gem of the Southern Confederacy. It is a most charming and delightful place. It is beautifully situated in the centre of a rich and enterprising population. Notwithstanding the horrors of war, it is still imposing and attractive. The mansions of the wealthy nabobs vie in picturesque splendor, with the lordly residences of European aristocrats. There are four churches, all distinguished by the peculiar architecture of their church edifices. All of them are neat and commodious, though, as a matter of taste, Methodist as I am, I confess a special liking for the Gothic grandeur of the Episcopal Temple. The Methodists have a magnificent Female College, in fact it is the finest structure of the kind I have ever seen. Mr. Plummer is the President, and is said to be a gentleman of fine culture. Mrs. Prof. Wilson presides over the culinary department, and is a lady of great personal beauty and accomplishments.

Jerry Clemens resides here. He is a brilliant lawyer, and voluminous author. The fearless and patriotic Nick Davis stays here. This also was the home of the noble Lane, who kept the grand old flag floating from his house in the darkest days of rebellion. He was the noblest Roman of them all. Peace to his gallant soul.

Standing upon one of these hills, and looking around upon this beautiful and glorious country, the thought of this most wicked rebellion, came over us with a heart-depressing dullness. We scarcely need to "go to India or Ceylon to find the spot pertinently described by Heber-

Where every prospect pleases,

And only man is vile.

I am forcibly reminded of the saying of Cromwell, while viewing the beautiful valley of the Nore from the cupola of St. Canice "That this indeed is a land worth fighting for."

What weather! More lovely days never dawned on the

sunny South than those of the last few weeks. Yesterday the sun rose beautifully and brilliantly, the surrounding hills dazzling as his first beams played upon them. But what a fickle climate! One day bright, another dark; one as wet as a swamp creek, another as dry as powder! One day the air is still as death, not a leaf stirring; another cloudy and wet! If angels laugh, they may smile at our sudden transition from storm to sunshine.

To-day it is very unpleasant, as it rained all night, and continues to rain. Did not a poet write something beginning with the words, "How beautiful is the rain?" If that hardy genius was doing picket duty in a pelting storm, walking his post two hours out of every six, and in vain trying the other four to get some rest under the shelter of cloth through which the water came in a fine drizzle, he would expurgate that piece from the next edition of his works. There are some indescribable elements connected with the Southern climate, which make it sometimes peculiarly attractive to Northerners, and yet

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the greater number prefer not to stay here any length of time.

And now what of our present camp? It is one of the finest, in all respects, which we have ever occupied. The water is excellent and abundant. Two regiments of the brigade are encamped on the slope of a large field, almost clear of timber, and beautiful for situation. In full view is the charming city of Huntsville, back of it is a vast range of hills, their peaked summits glowing in the sun, with the colored brilliancy of a chain of gems. The sanitary condition of the troops is all that we can desire. Thanks to the vigorous efforts of the surgical department for this state of things. Messrs. Buell and Bowenger are indefatigable in their efforts to secure the health of the men. How long we shall occupy this almost Eden we don't know; a day - a week - perhaps a month! Army movements are uncertain. The birth of the Father of his Country was celebrated by appropriate ceremonies in the beautiful rooms of the Huntsville Hotel. Though the design of the celebration was unknown a few days before, still the occasion was full of interest and enthusiasm. Peals of bells ushered in the morning, salvos of cannon resounded at noon! And the bands discoursed patriotic airs. The day was delightfully mild and bright. It seemed as if Providence had ordained that the anniversary of this memorable event, should have no drawbacks on account of the weather!

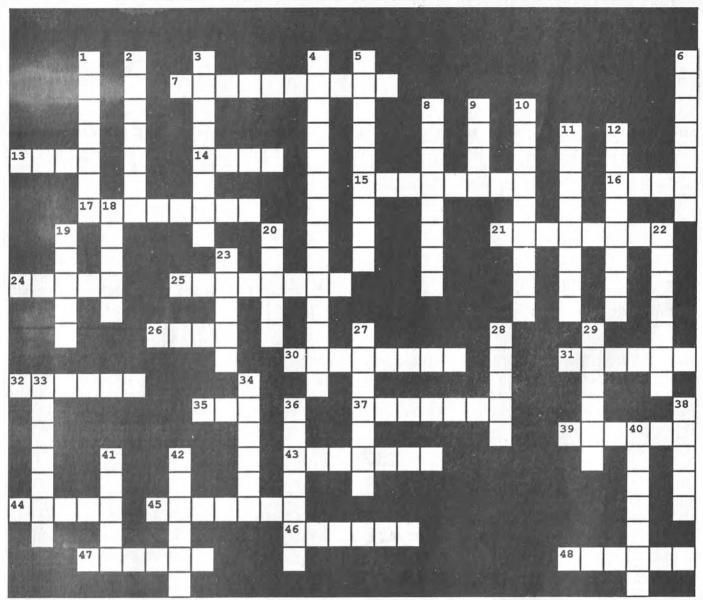
The contrabands are collecting here by the hundreds. Much has been said as to their future. Our land cannot do without them. We have almost a boundless continent of surpassing beauty and fertility to be converted into a garden. It will require myriads of hands to make this wilderness blossom as the rose. The forests are overshadowed with myriad acres because there are no hands to fell the trees! The luxuriant prairie lies idle because there is none to put in the plow. Here thousands

streams rush uselessly down their foaming beds, because no hands can be found to rear the factory and to guide the machinery.

A detachment of the 15th Tennessee Colored Infantry arrived today. They are a splendid set of fellows, and their soldier bearing won the admiration of all.

The Sanitary and Christian commissions have branch offices here, and are doing a noble work for the soldiers of the Union. The useful and inestimable services of these societies for the sick, wounded and dying volunteer, demand the gratitude and blessing of all. The Sanitary organization is not quite two years old, and in this brief period of time it has accomplished a great work in promoting the general health of our vast army. The originators of this God-like scheme of benevolence are well-known philanthropists. Though authorized by the Government, it is not a Government institution. Since its formation.





#### ACROSS

- 7. First capital of Alabama
- 13. Landmark building downtown
- 14. Longtime Co. Commissioner
- 15. John Hunt's 1st home in Huntsville
- Where John Hunt kept his powder
- Good place for local history books
- 21. Old name for local island
- 24. Son of John Hunt
- 25. Famous Huntsville Clay
- 26. Most recent V.P. to visit
  Huntsville
- 30. Church downtown
- 31. 1st Redstone Arsenal Commander
- 32. High Society hill in Huntsville
- 35. Built cabins and roads on Monte Sano
- 37. Confederate Gen. given horse by Huntsville
- 39. Appliance store downtown

- 43. Controversial Dr. who gave home to city
- 44. "Birdman" of Madison Co.
- 45. Nearby town on river
- 46. High Hill on Holmes Ave.
- 47. Congressman
- 48. Tried for murder of Union General

#### DOWN

- 1. Bar and restaurant downtown
- 2. John Hunt's Va. Co. of birth
- 3. Historic Madison Co. tavern
- 4. Showers
- 5. John Hunt's rifle
- 6. Lady with household tips
- 8. Eunice's specialty
- 9. First Alabama Governor
- 10. Potent regional brew
- 11. Former black H.S.
- Famous Civil War Bushwhacker
- Famous composer who taught at A&M

- 19. Mayor for 20 years
- 20. Nearby river with many forks
- 22. So called "Free State"
- Street named for Revolutionary War General
- 27. Early black newspaper editor
- 28. At the Big Spring before Hunt
- 29. Publisher of Huntsville Times
- 33. Community college
- 34. John Hunt's son-in-law
- 36. Locals refer to it as Fort Book
- 38. Huntsville Confederate General
- 40. Street or mill
- 41. First H'ville "Miss" in space
- 42. Old Huntsville copyboy

Answers on page 44



it has disbursed four hundred thousand dollars in money, and distributed seven million dollars' worth of hospital stores. Dr. Teed is superintendent of the Western department. These remarks also apply to the Christian Commission.

I hear a noise in camp, followed by a shout. I listen, the Paymaster has arrived. The countenances of the veterans are radiant with joy. I wish I could describe the sensations produced by the presence of the aforesaid gentleman. The first company paid, and greenbacks flying like leaves. Our regiment (the 80th Ohio), received almost fifty thousand dollars; much of it has been sent home. May every dollar create joy and gladness in the distant homes of our brave, battle-scarred volunteers. These noble fellows had fulfilled their first term of enlistment. and had entered the service for another term. They have been through many terrible battles, passing through incredible hardships; and yet these undaunted

heroes again pledge their honor never to lay down their armor until the last armed foe expires. It was a grand and imposing sight.

Almost thirty months ago, they left Ohio nine hundred strong: now they number three hundred weather embrowned heroes. Their two battle flags once flaunting in their fresh embellishments, are now rent by hostile bullets. Many brave hands have grasped them, and followed them into the scenes of warfare and of death. But where the hundreds whose places are now vacant? The majority of them fill soldiers' sepulchres. Have they died in vain? No, by Heaven! The blood of men fighting for Freedom is never shed in vain. From the ground it cries aloud; the earth will never cover it, and the Avenger knoweth his day and his hour. Indeed those lines of Byron's are profoundly true and noble, "For Freedom's battle once begun, Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son, Though often lost, is ever won."

Gallant defenders of their country's glory; they are buried in no ignoble graves, for their resting place shall be a spot at which valor shall gain fresh life and freedom trim her torch. Yes. illustrious patriots, ve died not in vain. The truest and best natures in the Republic will mourn for you; copious tears will be shed for you; the gallant, the chivalrous, the brave, the beautiful will sorrow for you; keep with their tears the green sod verdant above your heads; the heart of the nation will throb heavily at the portals of your tombs, and the young will see visions of beauty, of hope, of honor, of the bright future ascending out of your sepulchre. It is a glorious consolation that those who sleep where they fell, whose graves are unknown, trampled over, ploughed up, blown and scattered by all the winds of heaven, have better and truer tombstones than those who live and die in inglorious ease.

The End

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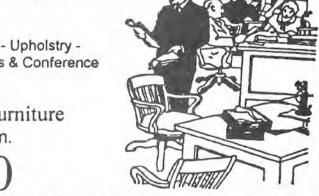
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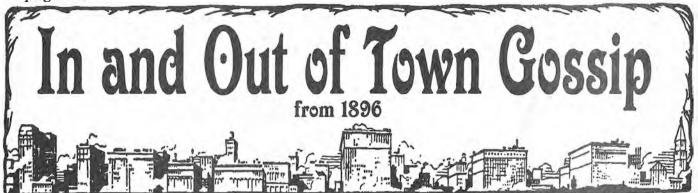
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Huntsville: A handsome young woman from Birmingham recently came on a visit to a young matron whose husband is a prominent businessman in Huntsville. The fair guest was extensively entertained, remained several weeks and departed. A few days afterwards the husband left the city on a business trip. During his absence, his wife, in rummaging through the pockets of his coats, came across a letter written in a decidedly feminine hand. Her suspicions were instantly aroused, and she read the contents.

What was her astonishment and anger to find that the letter was an endearing little note from her recent visitor, fixing a meeting with her husband in Birmingham. When the gentleman returned home from his business trip, he was confronted with the "billet doux." Those who are acquainted with the fact say that the tinder missive will probably be made public as an exhibit in upcoming divorce proceedings.

Decatur: Here is as warm a story as had cropped up in Decatur for many years. For some time past a well known young lady of this city has been puzzled and frightened by the occasional appearance of a skulking figure at night in the yard of her home. These visitations usually occurred on Saturday, and a couple of weeks ago she requested a married friend to send her husband over to lay in wait for the intruder.

The gentleman responded and about the time the young lady was retiring saw three men slip up to her bedroom window. He promptly raised the alarm and gave chase. They ran like scared rabbits, but the amateur detective hung to the trail of one of the trio and finally succeeded in overhauling him.

To his utter surprise, he found that his prisoner was a prominent young lawyer and worst of all, an ardent suitor of the very girl at whose casement he had been detected in the fact! The young attorney was badly rattled and eventually made a clean chest of it. He admitted that he had been in the habit of spying at the window of his sweetheart for weeks past and that his companions were present at his visits. Both are well known about town, and one is a fledgling physician. Possibly he regarded it as a good opportunity to perfect his knowledge of anatomy.

The trio has since made a ghastly effort to pass the affair off as a joke, but this explanation is received with no smiles. The gentleman who solved the mystery has made no secret of the facts and wherever they have been heard, the comments are scathing. The affair is certain to result in the complete social ostracism of all three of the young men concerned.



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# HERB DIXON

(The candidate with the Winning Qualifications)



Experience

7 years in Washington D.C. defending the Redstone Arsenal budget, 5 yrs managing "crisis management", and a Vietnam veteran focused on helping small businesses, 17 yrs in international trade, over 20 yrs in 3,000 employee company, 12 yrs own small business, serves on 5 technical committees

# Education

BBA in Accounting, Master of Science & Doctorate in Public Administration and Management, Graduate of the US Army War College, and US Army Command & General Staff College

# Plan

5 specific programs to "Commercialize" our economy by increasing the size of the technical workforce, opening more international markets, creating more "Home Grown" businesses, developing the Golden Triangle, and getting our fair share from a "Give Away" government

# (The man with "The Plan")

Please vote for HERB DIXON on August 27, 1996

"To know where a man is going, look where he has been"

Campaign Headquarters 3111 Bob Wallace Ave PH: 534-2154/536-0301

Paid for by Dixon for Mayor, P.O. Box 4106, Huntsville, AL. 35815

# Woman in Bathing Suit Rides in Patrol Wagon



## Woman not penitent. Claimed, "she was perfectly respectable!"

Mobile, July 26: Miss Nadine Jones was taken from the bathing beach to the town hall police station clad only in a bathing suit, which the arresting policewoman, Mrs. Anna Loucke, declared to have been cut too low in the neck. The trip was made in patrol wagon. Miss Jones was released and went home in a street car.

"My bathing suit is perfectly respectable; there have been lots of them at the beach cut lower," explained Miss Jones at the station just before she was released. She was instructed to sew on an extra edging about her shoulders before bathing publicly again.

From 1908 newspaper

The big cities of America are becoming Third World countries.

Ross Perot

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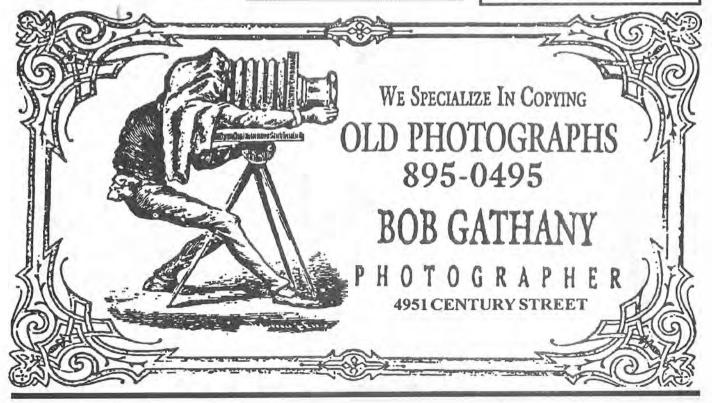
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# Practice What We Preach

from 1896 newspaper

Strange, how death seems at times to cast a veritable shadow before, and how, in the light of a tragedy, we are so often able to look backwards and find a host of incidents instinct, as it were. with presence of the event itself.

A few days before Dr. Nat Harris was stricken down with the terrible malady that ended last Saturday with his death, he was chatting with several friends on the subject of appendicitis. The doctor showed the others exactly where the first pangs were felt. "If I should have a violent pain right here," he said, indicating with his finger, "I would have an operation performed inside of an hour. The great trouble with most cases," he continued, "is that the surgeon is delayed until blood poisoning sets in. If there is no complication of that sort, and the patient is in good general health, his chances of recoverv are ten to one."

"But you don't anticipate an attack, do you?" asked one of the group jestingly. "Not I," replied the doctor lightly. "Still, one can never tell."

This conversation occurred on the steps of the corner drugstore. Forty-eight hours later Dr. Harris was in the throes of a severe attack of appendicitis. Strange to say, he did the very thing which he had warned his listeners against - he delayed the operation until the sac of the appendix had burst and a hopeless case of peritonitis, or blood poisoning, set in.

This, by the way, was the first

thing he inquired about when he emerged from the influence of the ether. When informed that a rupture had been found he knew, as a skilled physician, that he was doomed and no man ever went down into the Valley of the Shadow with a braver countenance or a stouter heart.

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# Old Huntsville

# From The Year 1952

#### Hartselle Welcomes Sparkman

AUGUST 10: Governor Persons has said he will attend "John Sparkman Day" in Hartselle on August 20th. The celebration will feature a visit by the Democratic vice presidential nominee, who was born near here. Senator Sparkman made the first speech in his Congressional crusade at Hartselle, and also his first speech in his bid for the Senate. Both campaigns were successful.

The Senator is expected to arrive at the Morgan County High School at 9:30 a.m., where he will be met by a reception committee. A parade, including marching bands from Decatur and Morgan County High Schools, will escort Senator Sparkman to a platform at the L&N Railroad Station, where he will make a speech.

Afterward he will be guest of honor at a luncheon to be held in the basement of the First Methodist Church. Invited guests include members of his 1917 graduating class of Morgan County High School.

## Shameless Burglars Steal Baby's Bank

Chief of police urges citizens to telephone reports of prowlers

AUGUST 15: Police were called to the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lanier last night on the report of prowlers in the area. Officers responding to the call at the Fifth Avenue residence found that a back window screen had been cut, and signs of entry were evident. Further examination revealed that, in their haste to make an escape, the robbers had only time enough to take a single object, this being the Lanier child's savings bank containing \$1.35.

Chief J.B. Whitmore urges all citizens to report any unnatural noises in their neighborhoods to the police department. "Keep those calls coming in to us and we'll do our best to catch these prowlers," he said.

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#### Senate Subcommittee Targets "Red" Writers

#### Spreading Communist Propaganda!

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 27: The report of a Senate subcommittee released today accused several radio and television script writers of spreading "subtle" propaganda over the nation's airwayes.

"Pro-Communist writers stop short of laying down the party line in their program scripts," reported Miss Ruth Adams Knight to the subcommittee, "but skillfully weave into them a constant derision of the capitalistic system. They aim at the simple people who listen to the radio, and who would turn it off outright if they heard Communist propaganda." One of those denounced by the testimony of Miss Knight is Ira Marion, once a script writer for Voice of America anti-Communist propaganda broadcasts beamed to Israel. She swore that in private life Mr. Marion is a "card-carrying Communist."

In New York, the Radio Writers Guild issued a statement denying any involvement with the Communist Party, and said that all of their members had signed non-Communist affidavits. Other findings by the Senate subcommittee included reports that Communists are infiltrating American youth groups, most notably the Boy Scouts of America. Yet another reported indicated that the subcommittee was studying the "use of sex" in the Communist underground movement. In a related news story, fourteen "Reds" have been

found guilty by a court in California of "plotting to advocate violent overthrow of the government." Each faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000.

Attorneys of those convicted have said they will appeal and are mounting a large effort to raise defence funds.

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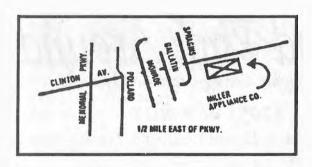
Black patterned glass-ceramic surface. Two 8", one 6" and one dual 6"/9" ribbon heating elements direct heat straight up to the pan instantly. 4 Hot lights stay on until surface cools.

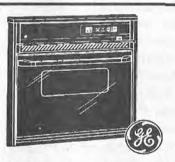


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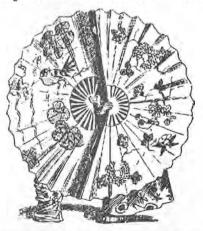
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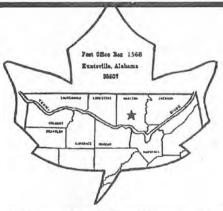


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## Searching For Our Ancestors



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

#### \* CASEY \* TENNISON \*

Seek information on Martin L. CASEY. On 1920 Jackson Co\*, AL Census, Section Precinct, with wife Anna and nine children. Occupation: Physician, Any information appreciated.

Would like to correspond with descendants of John L. TENNISON, b. 29 Jun 1836 TN or MS, d. 29 Mar 1916 Limestone Co., AL Buried Legg Cemetery. My grandfather Thomas Franklin CASEY was his half-brother. Any help appreciated.

Joe M. Casey, P. O. Box 511, Tullahoma, TN 37388

#### \* CARY \* THOMPSON \*

Need information on the following: Ann Eliza CARY, b. 1812, grad. of LaGrange College 1831, m. 9 Apr 1835 Joseph T. TH-OMPSON Livingston, AL. They moved to Shelbyville, Bedford Co., TN where she died. Lavinia M. CARY, b. 1816, b. Newcomb THOMPSON II, lived in Shelbyville, Bedford Co., TN. Professor James L. CARY, b. c1820, m. Amanda. He established several schools and taught in Williamson, Marshall and Bedford Co's, TN. Francis M. CARY, b. 1814 Madison Co., AL, described in Methodist Church

records as one of the leading and active men in the Talladega Circuit 1833-1842, may be the brother of those listed above. Rev. J. W. CARY, b. 1861 entered Methodist ministry in 1889,

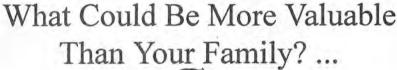
served in Decatur, AL until his death in 1931, was he the son of Prof. James CARY? Would like to have parents, siblings, etc. for the 5 CARY'S listed.

Elizabeth Thompson Schact 49 East 73 Street, 18 C, New York NY 10021

#### \* KING \* ALLEN \* MILLER \* WILLIAMS \*

Seeking info on George Washington KING, b. 25 Jun 1844 VA, bur. Wayland Cemetery, St. Joseph, TN, m. c1866 Mary Margaret Allen. Would also like info on John Pinkleton MILLER, b. 18 Mar 1878, m. 1900 Callie Dona Williams. Will pay postage.

Barbara J. Thompson, Rt 1,





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#### \* AGEE \* AGE \*

Need information on Nancy AGE (AGEE) b. c1825 in TN, d. after 1860, bur. in grave marked with simple stone near Hatton, AL. Who was spouse: Who were parents? Known children: William Absalom Agee, M.D., b. 13 Dec 1842, d. 2 Apr 1923; John, b. c1852; Mary, b. c1849; Jasper, b. Aug 1854, d. 8 Nov 1913; Joseph J., b. Oct 1859; Nancy Frances Clementine Rebecca, b. c1867; and Sarah Scoggin, b. c1845.

Alfred L. Burden Jr., M.D., 202 Sheffield, San Antonio, TX 78213

#### \* BROCK \* MATLOCK \*

Need information on Labron (Lebron) C. BROCK, b. 1824, Limestone Co., AL[] d. 1859 Limestone Co., AL. Married 1844 Limestone, Co., AL, Eliziann E. MATLOCK, I am trying to determine cause of death, location of cemetery, names of mother and

father or any other information. Fran Horn, 1715 Paxton Drive, Carrollton, TX 75007

#### \* GALLAWAY \* NORWOOD \* SANDLER \*

Need information re: Tait GALLAWAY, presumed to be the father of Matthew GALLAWAY, who fought in Revolutionary War and rec'd land in Oglethorpe Co., GA c1806. Matthew's son Anderson GALLAWAY settled in Lawrence Co., AL. His daughter Martha C. GALLAWAY m. Nathaniel S. NORWOOD in Lawrence Co., AL. Their son Dr. Robert Watter NORWOOD m. Lillie Dale SANDLER. They were my grandparents.

Katherine S. Townley, 7846 Russellhurst Drive, Kirtland, OH 44094

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# From The Blackjack Table To The Pulpit

By G. Ralph Jones

Three long, black cars crossed over the Keller Memorial Bridge about noon, shortly after its completion. The occupants included Al Capone and several members of his notorious Chicago Gang. They were traveling down Highway 31 on their way to Florida. Capone was in the middle car; the front and rear cars traveled with him to assure his safety.

In the late evening they spotted a young minister hitchhiking from one church engagement to another near the Florida line, and they stopped to pick him up. The young man was later known to Decatur as Dr. Monroe Parker, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in the mid-1950s. A short time later, Capone spotted a farmhouse along the road that had a large number of chickens in the yard. He ordered the cars to stop, and a gang member with a machine gun stepped from the car and mowed down several of the hapless birds. At the next little town they came to, the gangsters all went into a restaurant and ordered the cook to fry up the chickens and serve them. Dr. Parker, now an evangelist, was preaching in Chicago and mentioned this incident. A big.



brawny man came forward after the service and identified himself as a member of the gang who was along at the time. His name was George Mensick. His life had changed, he told Dr. Parker, and he was now a lay-missionary to convicts and their families.

In the mid-1950s. Pastor Dr. Monroe Parker invited this ex-gangster for a series of meetings at Grace Baptist Church. Mensick had dedicated his life to telling the story of his conversion from a life of crime to a life for Christ. During his stay in Decatur, he took his meals at the home of Ralph and Glenna Dee Jones, and while there related many events of his past life. He had an endless number of stories that illustrated how low a man can sink when he disregards God's direction and allows Satan to take over his life.

Mensick was reared in a poor neighborhood in Chicago, and was a perfect target for the underground operation of the Capone Gang. The gang was involved in liquor, gambling, prostitution, and all the vices of that era. Though frequent visits to the police department were a part of everyday business, Capone was so powerful and had

so many connections that they could never hold him for long, and he was back out on the streets within hours to continue "business as usual." As a teenager, Mensick became a mobster and earned a prominent position with Capone. His income from dealing cards in a casino was very substantial for that time. He drove Cadillacs and Lincolns, wore expensive suits, and lived in the best section of Chicago. He became a heavy drinker, used heroin, and was eventually involved in gambling, rape and murder.

Mensick told many stories of his experiences at the blackjack table. He told of the number of priests, ministers, and prominent people who gambled at his table, drank his booze, and then went upstairs to visit a prostitute. We could see why he had no respect for this thing called "religion."

Things began to change for Mensick when his wife became ill and had to go to the hospital for several days. While there, she listened to a radio broadcast from the Moody Bible Institute. Her life was changed. When she went home she related her decision for Christ to Mensick. His response was, "you'll get over it." But she did not. She was different: she no longer drank with him, took drugs with him, or even fought with him. She attended Market Manor Baptist Church in Chicago while Mensick continued working at the gambling house.

Mensick could not understand the change. One Sunday morning he announced that he was going to church with her. He wanted to see just what went on in that place, and what they were doing to his wife to make her change so much. This was an answer to her prayers, but she wisely said nothing to either encourage or discourage him.

The couple sat in the rear of the church. Mensick had braced himself with a couple of belts of booze before the service, and carried his .45 pistol in a holster under his arm He also had some heroin sewed into the lining of his suit jacket. This was so that any time he was arrested, he could have a little "fix" in fail while waiting for his lawyer to spring him.

As the service got underway, Mensick was certain that his wife had told the minister he was coming, for the man seemed to be speaking directly to him. He spoke of Mensick's own life-style, and knew of his spiritual condition. This bothered Mensick immensely throughout the afternoon. He wanted to go back to the church and see what the minister had to say when he didn't know Mensick was there But the minister spoke to him again, and Mensick was moved in a way he had never been moved in his life. His life of evil was made clear to him, and he became aware of a power that he had not known existed. The Invitation was given, and Mensick accepted Christ as his personal savior. He did not understand the change, but he knew that it was real, and that he was not the same man who had walked into Market Manor Church.

The next day he went to the hall as usual: he dealt cards as usual, but he knew that something was wrong. He told some of the boys what had happened. Their response was, "Take the day off. You'll get over it."

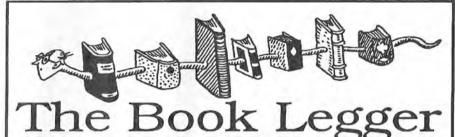
Mensick went home and talked to his wife. "I don't know what to do," he told her. "I don't

know anything but gangstering. How will we live? What will happen to us?" His wife suggested that they buy a new car and take a long trip to have time to think. Six months later all the dirty money had run out, and it was time to come home and face a new life.

There were problems: Mensick was still addicted to liquor, drugs and cigarettes. He knew these would have to go, but

it wasn't going to be easy. He checked himself into the hospital, told the doctor he was going "cold turkey," and asked that his hands and feet be tied to the hospital bed. No mater how loud and long he screamed, he wanted to be left alone until he either recovered or died. Days later a weakened, exhausted, but sober Mensick walked away from the hospital.

He and his wife then moved



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into an \$11 a month cold water flat. Mensick started looking for legitimate employment, but no one wanted an ex-hood. He finally found a job with the city sweeping streets on the night shift. The assignment placed him directly in front of the club where he used to deal cards, and his old buddies took delight in ridiculing him. "That's what religion does for you," they taunted. "You go from riches to rags!" One of them even dropped a \$50 bill just ahead of his trash bucket. Mensick scooped it up with the rest of the garbage and left it there.

In time, Mensick was able to save enough money to buy a street corner hamburger stand. He and his wife put all their time and energy into it. God blessed, after a few years they were able to buy a restaurant, and then several more. All this time

Mensick was ministering to prisoners and their families. He spoke at AA meetings, at church gatherings, and youth meetings. He told the story of an almost wasted life. The young minister who had spoken so directly to Mensick at the Market Manor Church years earlier was now a world renowned evangelist. Dr. Monroe Parker was also named director of the newly formed Baptist World Mission, and he appointed his first missionary, George Mensick, to minister to prisoners across the country. The Baptist World Mission now has over 200 missionaries around the world.

A footnote to this story occurred fifteen years after Mensick's redemption. He received a call from Chicago's Chief of Police, asking him to come down to the station. The Chief told Mensick that they had been watching him this whole time. He pulled Mensick's record from the file drawer: a thick folder that contained evidence of gambling, rape, murder, and numerous other crimes. One by one, he pulled each sheet from the folder, tore it to shreds, and threw it into the wastebasket. "You no longer have a record in Chicago," the chief told him.

Mensick pondered this strange turn of events. He no longer had a record in Chicago, he reasoned, but since that day he walked the aisle in the Market Manor Baptist Church, he no longer had a record in Heaven, either. All his crimes were put under the Cross, and he had been pardoned—not just for a lifetime, but forever. In these days of distress in America, this story needs to be told over and over.

The End



## The Hoax Rebellion

In the late fall of 1899
Huntsville's newspapers carried
banner headlines of possible war
with China. The country was
ejecting all foreigners from its
shores and armed uprisings had
broken out all across the country. Before the rebellion was put
down, thousands of lives would
be lost and the emperor and
empress forced to flee.

Although the Huntsville newspapers called it the Great Boxer Rebellion, it should have been called by its rightful name, The Great Hoax.

Reporters for Denver's major newspapers, the Republican, the Times, the Post and the Rocky Mountain News had long been in the habit of meeting in a local bar to exchange gossip and leads on potential stories. On this particular day there were no leads or gossip to exchange. Denver had grown from the wild western town it once was to a staid, if not somewhat boring metropolis where it was even against the law to jaywalk. The biggest news of the past week had been when a local doctor accused his maid of pilfering small change from his dresser, a charge later proved not to be true.

As the bored reporters consumed an ever increasing amount of liquor, someone came up with the idea of pooling their resources and writing a fictitiously blockbuster story.

Slowly the idea grew. It had to be sensational, hard to prove



wrong, and above all, come from reliable sources.

The first idea was a kidnapping, with the culprits demanding a huge sum of money.

"Too easy to check," someone pointed out. "All they had to do was check with the authorities."

Finally, one reporter, who had recently read a book about the Great Wall of China, suggested doing a story about China selling the Wall to a group of businessmen. "Still too easy to check," they decided. "Someone was bound to ask who the businessmen were."

The idea of using the Great Wall of China for the story was intriguing, however. Within minutes, after a lively discussion, the plan evolved. They would do a story about a group of engineers who had been engaged by China's government to tear down the Wall, as a symbol of China's willingness to give up its isolationist policy. The story would tell of the engineers spending the night at a local hotel, while on their way to the West Coast to board a ship for China. One of the reporters, who would be drawn by straws. would then become inquisitive, and after much effort, drag the

story from the engineers. The other reporters would then share in the story.

After straws were drawn, with the Rocky Mountain News winning, one of the reporters was dispatched to the Windsor Hotel, Denver's finest, where after bribing the desk clerk, the two fictitious engineers were registered as having checked out the day before. The clerk was coaxed to say, in case anyone asked, that the two gentlemen had spent time with a reporter, and were seen reading books

cont. on page44





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### Revolutionary War Soldiers in North Alabama



Benjamin Eddins - William Eddins, his son

by Jacquelyn Procter Gray

Benjamin Eddins was a native of Virginia who moved to the Ninety-Six District in South Carolina long before the Revolutionary War. He had accumulated wealth and property by the time Charleston fell to the British in 1780. Eddins belonged to a small group of patriots who strongly opposed the British and was captured and sent to a prison camp at Ninety-Six.

Benjamin had a son, William Eddins, who was about 16 when he also joined in the Revolution. He was taken prisoner at the same time as his father.

On their way to the prison camp, the guard who had taken young William's horse, had stopped to have a few nips of liquor. While the guard was occupied, William stole the musket which had been placed against the tree by the guard, hopped on his own horse which had been confiscated, and headed back to his home. He hid the musket in a hollow log and William and his brother hid between the bed and the wall when the British came looking for him in the night.

They were discovered when the British spotted their feet under the bed and after much pleading by their mother, they were let go. Possibly they were released due to their youthful appearance.

As the British left, William



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took the musket from the hollow log and fired at them. It is not known what happened next.

The British later returned to their home and stole everything of value. Although Benjamin's wife handed over everything of value, they abused her, wounded her with a sword, and set fire to the home and all other buildings associated with the homestead.

Col. Cruger, the British commander of the prison camp, visited Benjamin Eddins and offered him his freedom and wages in return for his extensive knowledge of the countryside, which would have been advantageous to the foraging parties of the British army.

Col. Cruger then offered him a commission in the British army, along with restitution for his lost property and belongings.

When Eddins again refused, he threatened him, and according to another prisoner who witnessed the event, Eddins replied, "I am, sir, your prisoner, and consequently completely in your power. You may, if you see proper, inflict any cruelty your imagination can invent. If it suits your love of torture, you may hitch a horse to each of my limbs and tear my body into four pieces. Or you can cut out my heart and drain it of its last drop of blood; but, sir, my services belong to my country, and you never can command them."

His unexpected devotion to the cause of the American people caused Col. Cruger, described as an accomplished gentleman and generous soldier, to release Eddins and soon he and his son joined the American army under General Pickens where they served the Americans for the remainder of the war.

Benjamin Eddins patented 159 acres in 1813 in Madison County, later to become part of Limestone County near Toney-Madison Crossroads.

His house was a two-story

dogtrot which was torn down in the 1950s. He died in 1818 and was buried between Center Hill and Limestone Creek.

Unfortunately, his grave is now unmarked.

His son William came to Madison County shortly before his father's death and remained there for the rest of his life. William was a well-loved Baptist minister for some 40 years. In the "Annals of Newberry," the author said of William, "...he had been a soldier of his country - he was now the soldier of Immanuel. ..."

William died in Lincoln County, Tennessee in 1837.

There are many descendants of Benjamin and William Eddins. Their history has been well documented and much has been written about them. Their descendants are very proud of their heritage, proven by the fact that there are hundreds of letters and pieces of communication in the "Eddins Family File" in the Huntsville Public Library.

The End





### Childhood

contin. from page 10

contest at one by putting together a plastic model of the submarine USS Nautilus, the first atomic powered submarine. I put the thing in a shoe box set on its side with some things made out of modeling clay that I thought looked rather like an undersea scene and covered the shoe box with Saran Wrap held in place with a rubber band. I don't think we were showing an awful lot of talent.

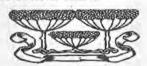
As a Cub Scout I was first exposed to pistol shooting. One of the parents took us out into the country and proceeded to demonstrate shooting a pistol, probably a .22. I was terrified by the noise. Come to think of it, I remember hiding in my nurse's skirt when an airplane came over, but I was younger then. Do you think I might have had a few psychological problems? Well, if so, I'm sure I came by them honestly.

One of the greatest things about childhood was the pretending. We had a great big playroom upstairs that had three closets with sliding doors, one for me and each of my two sisters. On a rainy day, we would go up there and pretend we were whoever, and each closet was our

When buying sheets, try buying a size smaller for your top sheet. It will cover the bed, and not hang so far over, plus you're sure to save money.

house. When the weather was better, we would go out in the back yard where we had a line of Cherry Laurel trees left over from the nursery that had once occupied the land, and we would take a hoe and drag it to make pretend streets and would use strawberry cartons for houses. Again, pretend. The action was all in our not then idle minds.

Sometimes it is just a crying shame that I can't go back to that world where things were as I wanted them to be, where I could be an airplane pilot one minute, a marine the next, and perhaps a fireman after that. I have done many things as an adult, but never with the flavor that I could add to it as a child.



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After peeling a cucumber, take a fork and scrape the sides from top to bottom. Scrape down really hard. Then slice your cucumber. This will leave a little design around each slice - very pretty and easy.

If you want to make evenly round hamburgers, use an ice cream scoop to scoop up the meat. Then put the ball on a plate and press evenly until it's the thickness you prefer.

For different kind of olives, do this. Use ripe or green olives, drain them. Put them in a small clean container and pour just a bit of olive oil in them. Add a couple of dashes of garlic or onion powder. Shake the olives in the mixture and let stand at least 30 minutes before serving to your guests.

For a great smelling kitchen, take some orange peels and lay them on a cookie sheet in your oven. Heat it to 350 degrees. Before long your whole house will smell delicious!

For a change to the same old salad, sprinkle waxed paper with paprika. Roll the cut side of a damp head of lettuce in this and it will make beautiful red lettuce.

If you slice your banana with a pure silver knife the banana will not turn dark.

For another banana treat, cut

the fruit lengthwise. Sprinkle the cut sides with sugar and a little lemon juice. Serve for breakfast - it's good!

To get a really crispy crust on your roasted chicken or turkey, use a pastry brush and lather the bird with plain mayonnaise, getting under the wings

page 43 and in the folds of the fowl. Then sprinkle with garlic salt and pepper and roast as usual.

To keep flies from your outdoor garbage cans, save some of the oil that came from your car when it was last changed. Rub the bottom of the garbage can with the oil. Flies hate used oil and it seems unbelievable, but it works!

Never put a rubber band around your silverware or you'll have a permanent stain.

When you start to get out your sweaters for cold Fall weather and you find they have those little "pills," just use a piece of fine sandpaper and sand away. Sweater will look almost new.



### The Hoax Rebellion continued from page 39

about China.

The other reporters pooled their talents and wrote a masterful piece of fiction about the alleged interview with the two engineers. The stories were filed with their respective papers and that evening all the Denver papers "scooped" the world with front page stories about the Great Wall of China.

Unfortunately, the story also got sent out over the wire, and the next day it was reported all over the world. A New York newspaper went even farther, claiming to have an "exclusive" interview with a Chinese mandarin who was helping make preparations to destroy the wall.

In China, the story hit with the impact of a bomb. The government was already weak, and when the people read of its willingness to destroy their country's greatest landmark in order to appease a foreign government, all hell broke loose.

Crowds took to the streets protesting the "foreigners" involvement. The most rebellious were the athletic clubs, more commonly known as the "boxers." Within days every embassy in China was under siege while ev-

LIGHTEN UP.



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American Heart Association

ery Chinese even suspected of helping foreigners was killed by the mob.

A London paper, "fishing" for a story, reported that missionaries in the outlying provinces were being evicted from the country.

When the people in China's cities heard the report, they too began chasing the missionaries out. Then, proving that fact is stranger than fiction, when the people in the outlying provinces heard what the city dwellers were doing, they immediately did the same, evicting the missionaries.

The London Times then filed another report about how its "fearless" reporters "scooped" the world.

The Boxer rebellion only lasted for a month but almost 8,000 people were killed and millions of dollars of property was destroyed.

The reporter for the Rocky Mountain News won the Denver Press Award.

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13.YMCA

14.Hill

15. Log Cabin

16. Horn

17.Shaver's 21. Chicasaw

24. David

25. Virginia

26. Gore

30. Nativity

31. Hudson

32. Echols 35. CCC

37. Forrest

39. Miller

43. Burritt

44. Quick

45. Trianna

46. Russel

47. Cramer

48. Gurley

DOWN

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2. Augusta

3. Bluckhorn

4. Showers

5. Flintlock

6. Earline

8. Biscuits

9. Bibb

10. Moonshine

12. Johnston

18. Handy

19. Davis

20. Flint

23. Green

27. Binford

28. Ditto

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36. Library

38. Tracy

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42. Carney

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## Spring Love

In 1922, Mrs. Theresa Vaughn of Sheffield, England, just 24 years old, confessed to marrying 62 men over the course of five years, without getting a divorce from any of them.

Her youngest husband was

17 while the oldest was 74, both of which she married in the same week.

Her busiest period was during the month of May, (Spring love?) 1920, when she married 8 men, went on three honeymoons, and became engaged to 4 more.

The important thing in acting is to be able to laugh and cry. If I have to cry, I think of my sex life. If I have to laugh, I think of my sex life.

George Burns



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Doctor not Seriously Hurt in BuggyAccident, but still Faces Bodily Harm

### Misunderstanding Endangers Health of Doctor!

When a prominent Huntsville doctor was thrown from his buggy in a runaway the other day, the garbled reports of the accident that floated back to the city gave his identity as that of another equally eminent physician.

This mistake brought about an amusing little episode.

The Sheriff heard the news and at once set about getting information of the accident to the wife of the doctor who was wrongly supposed to be hurt. The tenderhearted sheriff, not caring to be the bearer of such sad news, determined to delegate the task to a lady who is a close friend to the doctor's wife.

He rang her by telephone. A woman's soft voice at the other end of the line answered him. "Mrs. A, " said the sheriff hurriedly, without stopping to ask whom he was addressing, "I have just learned that Dr. B., while

driving in the park with a young lady, was thrown from his buggy and seriously injured. I wish you would please step over to his home and break the news to his wife.

But as it happened, the lady who listened to that alarming message was the doctor's wife in person, and a very high-spirited woman, it may be said, into the bargain.

"What's that you say?" she shouted into the transmitter. "My husband seriously hurt while driving with another woman? All right. I'll finish him when he comes home."

From 1896 newspaper

The two biggest sellers in any bookstore are the cookbooks and the diet books. The cookbooks tell you how to prepare it and the diet books tell you how not to eat it.



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all of his life, was now filling up with settlers. He realized that once people settled in on "his" land, they would never give it up.

In 1809, in a ruling that shocked the whole country to its very foundation, the Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Marshall, ruled that the sale of land by Georgia to Zachariah Cox was legal, and that the state of Georgia had no right to rescind the sale.

Once again, for the third time, Zachariah "King" Cox owned the city of Huntsville as well as the rest of the Tennessee Valley.

The victory was hollow, however. Though the Court ruled in Cox's favor it gave no means to implement the decision. To evict the people who had already moved into the Valley would have started a civil war. So, federal authorities did nothing. Realizing that at some point in the future the federal government would have to reimburse people who had bought land from Cox, a small group of Huntsville residents (known as the Georgia Gang) began buying up the titles. Often these claims went for pennies on the dollar.

Zachariah Cox, though he had been vindicated by the Supreme Court, had lost the battle. Much of land he owned on paper had been traded for legal expenses and other debts. By 1814, Zachariah Cox, who had once owned 3,500,000 acres of land in North Alabama, had lost title to practically everything he had ever owned. Unbelievable as it may sound, he had given much of the land away to cover his personal expenses: 10,000 acres for a night's room and board, 5,000 for a haircut.

This same year Congress

passed a law to reimburse people who had purchased the Georgia land by issuing script. This script was to be used by its holders to purchase new land from the federal government, which would then have a clear title.

Many members of the "Georgia Gang" who had been quietly buying up Cox's titles for years now became the holders of immense amounts of this script.

These people, who had once condemned Cox as a "master manipulator," then let their plantations (for which they had paid as much as thirty dollars an acre) be foreclosed on by the federal government. They then bought them back with the script.

Zachariah Cox died a pauper.

The End

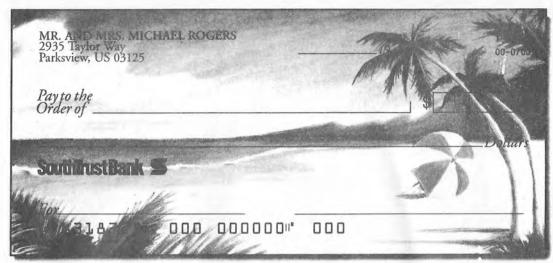
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