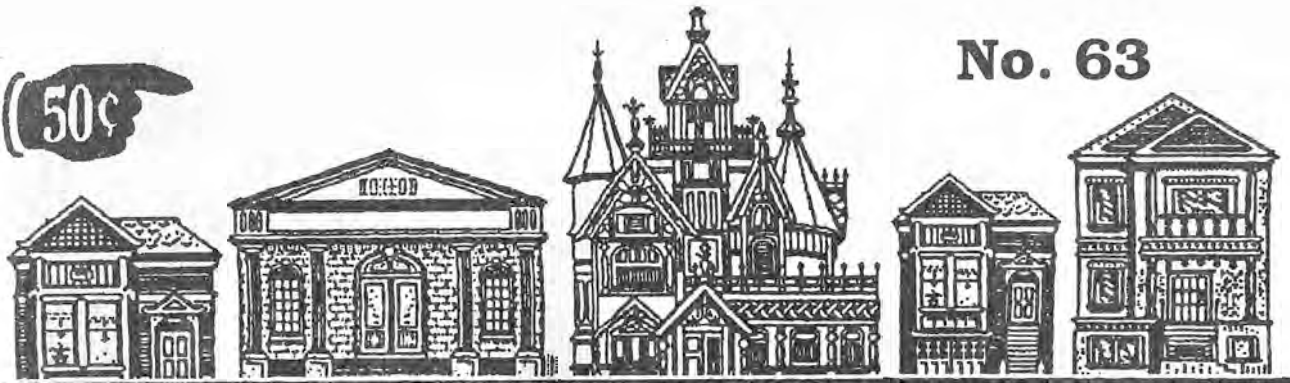


(50¢)

No. 63



# Old Huntsville



## The Salt Seller

*The Story of John Gunter*

"Land is the mother and father of all Indians. It belongs to everyone, but belongs to no one," Chief Bushyhead told his son-in-law.

John Gunter understood the truth of what his wife's father said to him, but he was powerless to turn the tide of his white brothers who swarmed onto the lands that had belonged to the Cherokees since earliest times.

# The Salt Seller

## The Story of John Gunter

Most accounts claim John Gunter was born in Scotland and emigrated to America at an early age. During the Revolutionary war he sided with the British and afterwards was forced to flee because of his Loyalist sentiments.

Instead of heading north, to Canada, as most Loyalists did, Gunter traveled south into what was known at the time as the "Great Indian Nations." Much evidence suggests that he was a salt trader, possibly buying the salt in Knoxville and traveling the length of the Tennessee River trading with the Indians.

Around 1785 Gunter's travels brought him into North Alabama, to a small Indian village named Creek Path, the site of present day Guntersville.

The Chief of the small settlement was Bushyhead, a Cherokee of the Paint Clan. Bushyhead and his group of followers had backed the British in the Revolutionary War, and they too had been forced to flee southward at the end of hostilities.

The Cherokees depended on trade with the whites for essentials such as salt and gunpowder, so John Gunter was probably tolerated, if not exactly welcomed, when he first appeared at their village. Legend has it that Gunter was already fluent in the Cherokee language.

Chief Bushyhead, though at first probably considering

Gunter a necessary evil, soon warmed to the quiet and unassuming young man. The Chief spent days patiently relating Indian lore and teaching Gunter the ways of the Cherokees.

"Land," Bushyhead would tell Gunter, "is the mother and father of all Indians. It belongs to everyone, but belongs to no one."

If the chief seemed to place great emphasis on land, he had good cause. As the white settlers moved into North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee the Cherokees had been pushed farther south until now they resided at the very southern fringes of what had once been vast tribal lands.

Finally the day came when John Gunter was no longer considered a visitor. For all practical purposes, he had become a Cherokee. He wore his hair long like the Indians, spoke their language and had adapted to their customs. The Indians had begun to trust the young man and literally considered him as one of their own.

Bushyhead, while realizing his tribe was dependent on the whites for trade, never the less wanted to keep contact to a minimum. The perfect solution seemed to be to make Gunter their agent in dealing with the whites. After much consultation with the council, the chief signed a treaty with Gunter which said, "As long as the grass grows green



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and the waters flow, the Indians can have salt."

To seal the treaty, Bushyhead gave his fifteen year old (some sources say 13) daughter, Ghe-go-he-li, to the 35 year old Gunter as a wife. Later, Gunter Anglicized his wife's name to Catherine, or Katy.


The next twenty years were to prove an idyllic time for the Gunters. They built a large two-story house near Big Spring Creek where they raised seven children. A nearby warehouse contained the hides and ginseng he received in trade with the Indians. The only contact with whites were periodic trips to Tennessee to trade, or an occasional flatboat that might drift down the Tennessee River.

Within a few years Creek Path, or Gunter's Landing as it was known to the whites, became an important trading post. Indians from throughout North Alabama would travel to the settlement to trade for salt or gunpowder, while the occasional white traveling through the Indian Nation would find it a convenient place to stop and obtain supplies.

Gunter became recognized as a leader in the tribe, often being called upon to settle disputes with neighboring tribes. When Chief Bushyhead died, Gunter became, for all practical purposes, the leader of the Creek Path settlement.

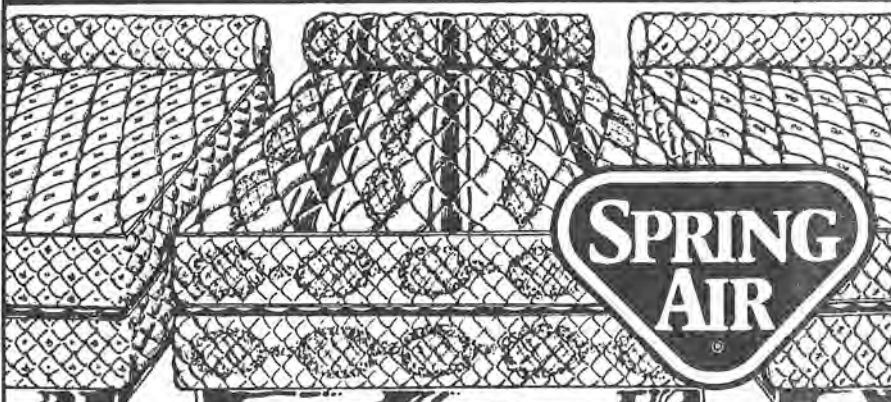
However content the scene may have been, Gunter probably realized it was a false illusion that could not continue forever. He had traveled throughout the "white" world and knew it was simply a matter of time before the whites began moving into the Valley.

His prophecy proved true in the early 1800s when he received word of a white, John Ditto, set-



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ting at Ditto's Landing. A few years later he heard of a settlement at Hunt's Spring, followed soon by whites taking up land at the nearby Muscle Shoals.

When some of the young warriors wanted to take up arms against the settlers, Gunter preached caution, saying there were too many of them and any conflict would end in disaster for the Cherokees. Instead, he urged a peaceful coexistence. "The Federal Government," he said, "has promised that we can keep our lands."

In preparation for the inevi-

table, Gunter had raised his children in both worlds. They were fluent in both the English and Cherokee languages and easily fit into either society. As one contemporary said, "They looked white but thought Indian."

Gunter and his family prospered. Like many other Cherokee families, they were slave holders and had vast amounts of acreage under cultivation. By 1810, Gunter was known as one of the wealthiest men in the Valley. Much of his success was in being able to be both Indian and white without taking sides.

Regardless of Gunter's reluctance to take sides, he was forced to in 1813 when the Creeks waged war on the whites who had settled on their lands. General Andrew Jackson and Davy Crockett had camped nearby, and while waiting for their supplies to catch up, raised a regiment of Cherokees to help fight the Creeks.

Though the Creeks were traditional enemies of the Cherokees, there was still a reluctance on the part of the Creek Path Indians to fight on the side of the white man. Gunter, however,

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probably realizing that Jackson could be a powerful ally for the Cherokees, urged his tribesmen to join the campaign. Over 200 Cherokees, finally enlisted, with Gunter's son, Edward, serving as Major.

If Gunter thought that having an ally such as Andrew Jackson would solve the Cherokees' problems, he was soon mistaken. Under increasing pressure from white settlers, the Cherokees, in 1819, were forced to cede their lands north of the Tennessee River. Edward and John Jr., two of Gunter's sons, were instrumental in the treaty which caused an uproar throughout the Indian Nation.

The Cherokee Nation, at this time, consisted of two factions. One faction, led in part by the Gunters, believed that peaceful coexistence was the Cherokees' only hope, while the other side was adamant against giving up any land.

The Indians' concept of land ownership was something the whites could not understand. Where a white could purchase and sell land at will, the Cherokees believed the land belonged to the Indians and could not be sold. While an Indian might farm or live on some land, it never actually belonged to him, but to the tribe. Unfortunately, if an Indian sold the land to a white man, the white man's law recognized the sale as legal.

Even so, a few individual Indians, having become accustomed to white ways, had begun to sell the land they lived on. The Gunters, led by their father, though not agreeing with the treaty, realized the Nation could not contest the sales successfully in a federal court, so they urged the Indians to accept it.

Reluctantly, the tribe agreed

to do so.

The Indian Nation had always been a sore point with most of the white settlers who resented having a "foreign nation," with its own laws, in their midst. In an effort to break up the tribal lands, the federal government offered the Indians "reserves" of land. By leaving the reservation, an Indian could take ownership of a piece of land to which he had free title. This proved attractive to many Indians who wanted to live like the whites.

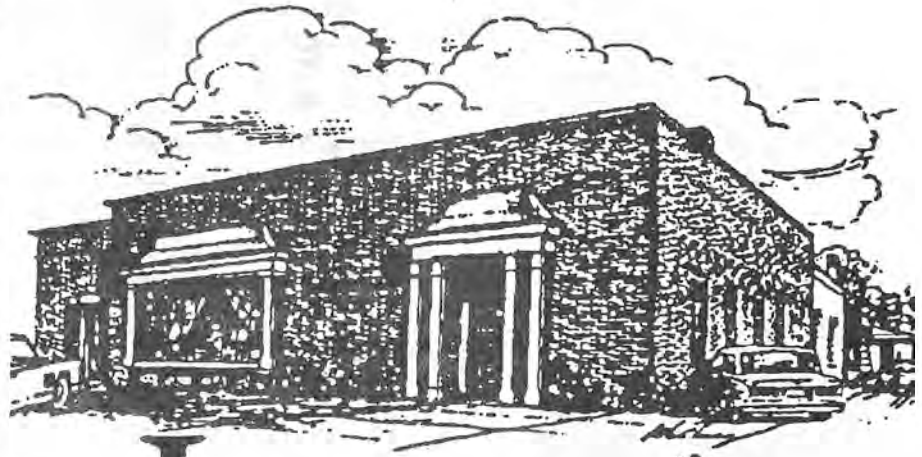
At the same time, the federal government began pressuring the Indians to migrate west to the new Indian territory (present-day Oklahoma).

Land sales by Indians to

whites had reached a point in 1825 where the Cherokee Council was forced to enact special legislation forbidding Indians from selling land.

Regardless of the law, some Indians continued to sell land. In 1828, as a last resort, the Cherokee Council met and passed the "Blood Law," which stated that any Indian that sold land to whites could be put to death. Edward and John Gunter, Jr., were again delegates to the convention.

Numerous Indians, though no one knows how many, were executed under this law. This served to infuriate many Indians who thought the whites should be the ones put to death.



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Time and time again Gunter preached restraint to the young warriors who wanted to make war against the whites for taking their land.

Still fighting for peaceful co-existence, Gunter sent his youngest son, John, to the new Indian territory to observe firsthand the conditions there. Hopefully, he thought, it would be a place where the Indians could live in peace.

John's report to his father was devastating. The Indian territory consisted of barren lands over which intertribal warfare had broken out and the whites were subjecting the Indians to more laws which had the effect of making them second-class citizens.

At about the same time Gunter's daughter, Martha, met and married Hugh Henry. According to custom, Martha received land from the tribe to farm and live on. A short while later her husband sold the land, which was his right under white

law.

This was the crushing blow to John Gunter. He was too much of a white man to take vengeance on his daughter's husband, but too much of an Indian to ignore it. He banned his daughter from ever stepping foot in his house as long as she was still married to Henry. The fact Henry was not killed by the Cherokees was probably due to the respect they had for Gunter.

John Gunter was an old man by now. He had preached peaceful coexistence with the whites and had raised his sons to be leading figures in the Cherokee Nation only to see the white man break all of his promises. Where once he had hoped the Indians could migrate to another land and once again be a powerful tribe, Gunter realized now it was all a pretense on the government's part.

Sensing his days were numbered, John Gunter had his will drawn up, a move highly unusual for an Indian. By using the

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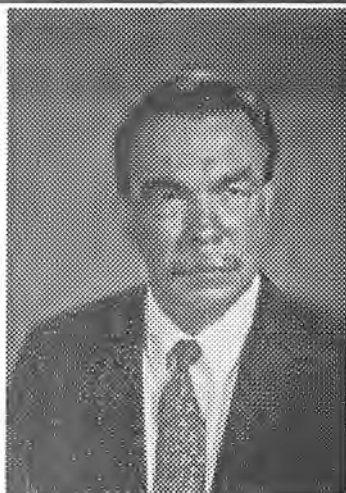
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white man's law, Gunter hoped to insure his family's future. The will stated that the land left by Gunter could not be sold, or used by anyone except his family and though he left much property to his daughter Martha, it was stipulated that she would not receive it as long as she was married to Hugh Henry. To make sure his will would be enforced he named four of the leading Cherokee chiefs as his executors.

Ever since he had arrived at Creek Path (today Guntersville) almost a half century earlier, Gunter and his wife had often walked to a nearby hill where they would sit for hours watching the lazy river wind itself through the valley. They had watched the history of the South travel down the river. First there were Indian canoes, then crude log rafts followed by keelboats and steamboats. They had watched the peaceful little village next to the river grow from nothing into a bustling community of almost 800 Indians, with two stores and a ferry.

Where once boats called at Gunter's Landing with supplies of salt and trading goods, the cargo they carried now was much more tragic.

It was the time of the Indian Removal, and Gunter's Landing had become a major shipping point for the Indians being sent west.

Tales still abound about Gunter, old and crippled with age, walking among the imprisoned Indians offering help, and solace when help was too late. It is said that Gunter once again let his hair grow long and began dressing in the Indian fashion.

Shortly before his death on August 28, 1835, John Gunter suffered a stroke. While lying on his deathbed a group of young Indians visited him, asking for advice.

"I'm too old to give advice," he said.

When pressed about what he would do if he was younger, a fiery look came into the old man's eyes as he remembered his youth and all that he had seen.

"I'd be a warrior," he finally replied, "and fight for my land."

Three months after his death the treaty of New Echota was signed, forcing all the remaining Indians at Guntersville into exile in Oklahoma. John Gunter's will was never executed.

From a population of 800, Gunter's Landing had dwindled to less than 200 people by the end of the Indian Removal.



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## A Colored Woman Turns White

At White Street, lives a woman who is now white, but was formerly black. Her name is Julia Cisco, and she is about fifty-two years old. It was said that she is a negress, and a reporter called on her to get an explanation of the anomaly. Mrs. Cisco said that until recently people had always thought her a negress because she was so dark, but that she was the daughter of a Cherokee Indian and a Black Hawk squaw. In 1850, when she lived on Mulberry Street, she one day noticed a large white spot on her neck. It remained and she wore a cloth around her neck to hide it. She was treated for it by Dr. Morton, on Grand Street. The white spot went away, but soon afterward a number of them came. She was washing for foreign sailors, and she feared she had leprosy, but

Dr. Morton quieted her in this respect. In 1871, she moved to another part of town, where one day she spilled hot fat on the skin of her wrist and it became permanently white, and soon after that she burned her other hand with an acid. It and her arm became white as marble, and white spots appeared on her neck and face. These gradually increased in size until she be-

came absolutely white. Dr. Pyle said he had attended the woman for fifteen years, and that she is suffering from leucoderma or vitiligo, which, he said, meant a loss of coloring matter in the skin. The case of Mrs. Cisco is the first he ever heard of, excepting the white woman in Scotland, whose body became covered with spots whiter than the skin.

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# The Last Will and Testament of John Gunter

*John Gunter's will was discovered in the Indian Office in Washington D.C. The will provides the reader with a fascinating look into the history of the Tennessee Valley as well as how people lived during that era.*

I, John Gunter, Senior, of the Cherokee Nation and residing in the said nation do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament.

1. I design that all my just debts shall be paid as soon as possible after my decease.

2. It is my will that my son Samuel Gunter have my mill and plantation situated & being on and near Brawns Creek being the same which I purchased of James Thompson and also that he have one Negro woman named Peggy now in my possession. I also give to my son Samuel Gunter all the debts which he may be owing me at the time of my decease.

3. It is my will that my daughter Martha Henry have the five following Negroes viz Peter, Winney, Sucky and her children Viney and Lucy and all the increase of said Negroes.

4. Should my Daughter Martha die without children it is my wish the said Negroes above mentioned be considered part of my estate and be divided as follows viz one to each of my children Samuel Edmond, Elizabeth

and Catherine and one to my grand daughter Nancy Gunter a daughter of Edmond Gunter.

5. Should the above Negroes have any more increase after this time then it is my will that my grandson George Gunter, a son of Samuel Gunter have one and any other increase which they may have be divided between my daughters Elizabeth and Catherine.

6. It is my will that my daughter Elizabeth Gunter have the following Negroes viz Olivar, Nero, Isaac, Judah, Amy and old Lucy and all their increases.

7. It is my will that my daughter Catharine Gunter have the following Negroes viz Andrew, Calvin, Polly and Peggy and all their increases.

8. It is my will that my son John Gunter, Junior have the following Negroes viz Tom, Bobb, Mary, Augustis, Daniel and China and all their increases.

9. It is my will that all the warrants which I may have on the Cherokee nation at the time of my decease shall belong to my

son John Gunter, Junr.

10. As I have sold my crop of cotton of the year 1832 to my son John Gunter, Junr., for five hundred dollars it is my will that if I should die before he can return from his contemplated voyage to New Orleans then the said John shall not be called upon to make payment for the said cotton provided that he shall on his return supply the family at my present home with three hundred pounds of coffee and three barrels of sugar but if I should live until his return then this 10th article to be void and of no effect.

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11. It is my will that my reservation of a tract of land lying in Jackson County, Alabama and known by the name of Gunter's Old Place about eight miles from Gunter's Landing shall belong to John Gunter Junr.

12. It is my will that my Grand daughter Lucy McCoy whom I have raised have the four following Negroes viz Aaron, Jaco, Cloe and Mary and all their increase.

13. It is my will that my wife Catharine Gunter have the seven following Negroes viz Will, Sophy, Jack, Abram, Bolivar, Rachel and Bonapart and all their increase.

14. It is my will that on the decease of my wife Catharine Gunter five of the last mentioned negroes viz Will, Sophia, Jack, Abram & Bolivar with all there increase shall belong to and become the property of my youngest Daughter Catharine Gunter.

15. It is my will that on the decease of my wife Catharine Gunter two of the Negroes mentioned article Thirteenth viz Rachel & Bonaparte with all their increase shall belong to and become the property of my son Edmond Gunter.

16. It is my will that my wife Catharine Gunter have the use of all my house hold and Kitchen furniture during her life and at her decease that it be divided equally between my three daughters Martha, Elizabeth and Catharine and my granddaughter Lucy McCoy provided however that if either of my daughters or my granddaughter should

marry before the decease of my wife then my wife is requested to give to such one her part of the furniture.

17. It is my will that my stock of cattle and hogs be equally divided between my wife Catharine and my daughters Martha Elizabeth Catharine and my Granddaughter Lucy McCoy.

18. It is my will that my wife Catharine Gunter have my house and plantation where I now live with all its appurtenances including the plantation on the Island at her own disposal during her life provided that she shall not rent, sell or in any way put it



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out of her own cultivation so long as the land belongs to the Cherokee Nation.

19 It is my will that at the decease of my wife Catharine the house and plantation of land mentioned in the last article shall be by the Executors of this my last will and testament offered for sale to the legatee alone who are mentioned in this will and no one else shall have a right to become a purchaser and the property shall be sold and become the rightful possessions of the individual among my legatees who will give the highest price for it and at the same time enter into such penal Bond as the Executors shall deem prudent that he or she the purchaser will not dispose of the said house and plantation of land to any one except one of my Lineal descendents.

20 And it is furthermore my will that no person except one of my own descendants shall ever become the owner of the property mentioned in 18th article. I

do therefore ordain that if any of my heirs shall dispose of it to such an individual the title to said individual shall be and it is hereby declared to be null and void and the property shall in such case return to and vested in my legatees to be disposed of as directed in Article 19.

21 It is my will that my wife Catharine Gunter have six hundred dollars in ready money. My daughter Martha Henry two hundred and fifty dollars. My Daughter Elizabeth Gunter two hundred and fifty dollars. My Daughter Catharine Gunter two hundred and fifty dollars. My granddaughter Lucy McCoy two hundred and fifty dollars, all which sums are to be paid in ready money by my Executors as soon as they shall enter upon the duties of their office.

22. It is my will that all my ready money after the above sums shall have been paid shall be equally divided between my

Cont. on page 13



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Will, Cont. from page 11

sons Samuel and Edmond.

23. Although I have left several legacies to my daughter Martha Henry yet it is my will that none of them shall be paid to her so long as she shall remain the wife of Hugh Henry. But it is my will that all legacies which I have designated for the said Martha shall be placed in the hands of Samuel and Edmond Gunter in trust for the use and benefit of the said Martha and they shall be required to give bond for good management of said legacies and the faithful application of all the proceeds to the benefit of the said Martha. And if the said Martha shall die without issue then all the legacies which I have designated for her shall be regarded as part of my estate and shall all except the Negroes mentioned in article 3, 4, and 5 be equally divided between my

daughters Elizabeth & Catharine.

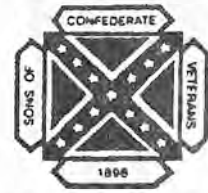
24. It is my will that in any way my daughter Martha shall during her life cease to be the wife of Hugh Henry or should have issue then all legacies which I have designated for her shall pass in to her hands and be at her own disposal.

25. And for the purpose of carrying into execution this my last will and testament I name as my Executors John Ross, George Lowery Senr., The Spirit Boat and Bark as citizens of the Cherokee Nation.

In witness where of I have here unto set my name making my mark and affixed my seal this Sixth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

signed,  
John Gunter, Senr.

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John Turner, a thrifty grocer, asks that Miss Etta Thompson, a pretty young lady in town, be required to pay him \$5,000 for

flirting.

He had been keeping company with the young woman for some months, but she gave him up for another.

Referring to his suit Turner said: "This is not a breach-of-promise case, but a case for damages. I don't like flirting, and I am



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going to show people that this country is a very unhealthy one for that kind of business. I have been fair with the girl. I told her that I detested flirting and when I commenced keeping company with her I told her that I did it with the intention of marrying her. I had every reason to believe that she wanted to marry me, too. Now she has gone to flirting with other people and I intend to punish her for it.

*From 1890 newspaper*



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# Hearty Fall Fare

## Continental Chicken

- Small jar dried beef
- 6 boneless chicken breasts
- 12 slices bacon
- cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 c. flour
- 1/2 c. water

Spray the bottom of your crock pot with spray oil. Cover the bottom with the dried beef. Wrap the chicken breasts in bacon and place on top of the beef. Make a sauce of the soup, flour,

water and sour cream. Pour on the meat and cook until the chicken is tender, 10 hours on Low. Serve hot over noodles with a good salad.

## Brown Sugar Chicken

- 6 chicken breasts, boneless
- 1 c. teriyaki sauce
- 1/2 t. garlic powder
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1 t. parsley flakes
- 2/3 c. brown sugar

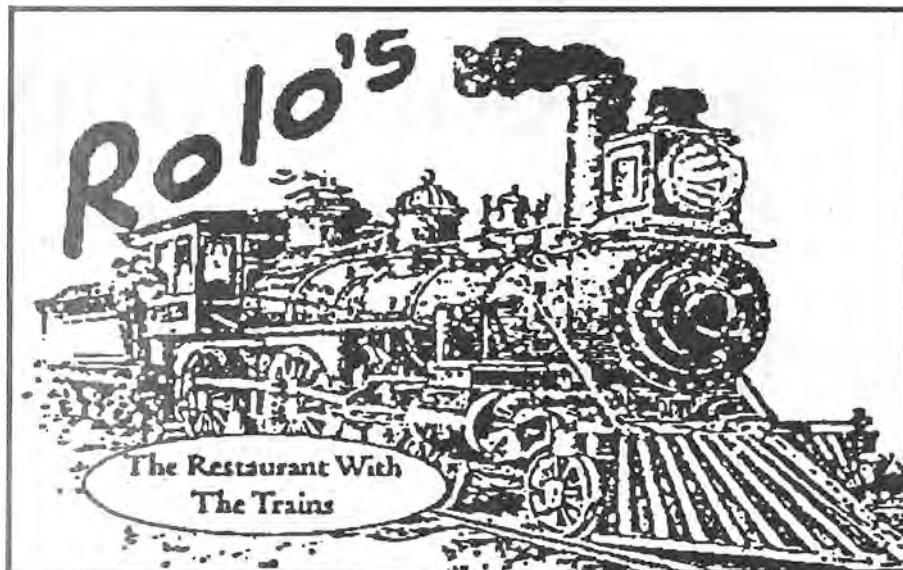
- 1/4 c. butter
- 4 c. rice, cooked

Marinate the chicken in teriyaki sauce for 3 hours. Pre-heat your oven to 375 degrees. Mix the garlic powder, salt and parsley flakes. Remove the chicken from the sauce and sprinkle it with the garlic mixture. Pat brown sugar over each piece of chicken. Dot each piece with butter. Bake at 375 degrees for 1 hour. Serve with rice.

## St. Paul's Rice

- 1 lb. sausage
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- 2 envelopes Lipton Noodle soup
- 1/2 c. regular cooked rice
- 1/2 c. celery, diced

Cook sausage and drain. Sauté the onion, pepper and celery. Add 4 cups water, noodle soup, and rice. Boil for 8 minutes, add the sausage and mix well. Place in casserole and bake at 350 degrees, covered, for 1 hour.



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## Hearty Lasagna

1 c. Ricotta cheese  
 1 egg, slightly beaten  
 1/2 c. grated Parmesan  
 6 to 8 oz. Mozzarella  
 8 oz. lasagna noodles, cooked  
 and drained  
 Meat sauce:  
 1 lb. ground beef, browned  
 1/2 c. chopped onion  
 1/4 c. chopped green onion  
 1 28-oz. can crushed toma  
 toes  
 1 6-oz. can tomato paste  
 1/4 c. chopped parsley  
 1 t. garlic  
 1 t. basil, crushed  
 1 t. oregano, crushed  
 Salt to taste  
 Pepper to taste

Make the meat sauce first. Allow it to simmer for 45 minutes while boiling the pasta. In a bowl, stir together the Ricotta cheese, egg and 1/4 c. of the Parmesan cheese. In an "11 x 7 x 2" baking dish, spread 1/2 cup of the meat sauce. Layer 1/3 of the noodles, 1 1/4 cup sauce, 1/2 of the Ricotta mixture and 1/3 of the Mozzarella cheese. Repeat again. Top with the remaining noodles, sauce and cheeses. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes and bubbly. Cheese should begin to brown. Let stand for 10 to 15 minutes before cutting and

serving.

## Grandpa's Banana Bread

3/4 c. shortening  
 1 c. granulated sugar  
 2 eggs, beaten  
 3 crushed bananas  
 2 c. flour  
 1 t. baking soda  
 1/2 c. chopped pecans  
 Mix in order given and pour into greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes.

## Better Than Sex cake

1 box Duncan Hines yellow cake mix  
 1 bar Baker's German Chocolate, melted  
 1/2 c. oil  
 6 oz. chocolate chips  
 1 c. chopped pecans  
 1 8-oz. carton sour cream  
 1 box instant vanilla pudding  
 3 eggs  
 1/2 c. water  
 Mix the cake mix, German chocolate, oil, pudding, eggs and water. Blend well. Add the chocolate chips, nuts, and sour cream. Bake in greased and floured tube pan at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.

## A Peculiar Incident

A letter from Decatur tells of a peculiar incident in Morgan County. Frank Wilson was at the point of death after a lingering illness. His brother John was offering up a prayer for him. In the course of the prayer John Wilson said, "Oh, Lord, I am willing to give my life, if it be required, to save my brother." A moment later he fell dead. His brother died that night, and the two were buried in the same grave.

*From 1899 newspaper*

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## Decatur Housekeeping Club Disbands

The Decatur Co-Operative Housekeeping Club decided to disband. It has been written up in all the house keeping and woman's papers in the country, and a number of people have come here from a distance to see how the scheme worked.

Ten or twelve families rented a dining-room, hired a house-keeper to take charge of the servants, and paid the expenses of furnishing board to the members of the club. It was a great success for a year and a half, but this fall so many of the members concluded to set up establishments of their own that the few who are left did not care to keep up the club.

*From 1891 newspaper*



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# Huntsville Heresay

By Billy Joe Cooley  
and His Unidentified Sources



Everybody's talking about Neil Simon's comedy "**Jake's Women**," playing VBCC weekends through Nov. 16, staged brilliantly by Huntsville's Little Theater.

City Council President **Richard Showers** is earning everyone's respect for the fair way he's running council meetings these days. Even **Jackie Reed** seems more relaxed now.

**Most popular guy in City Government award** goes to **Ken Newberry**, of City Planning fame. He's everyone's friend and does a fine job, too!

Scribe **Ruth Weems** and daughter **Sharon** were at the Symphony the other night. A day or so later they helped the un-

sinkable **Marjorie Deaton** celebrate birthday number 95.

**Thought for the day:** If politicians tell lies about their opponents, then why don't those opponents file lawsuits for slander?

**Bianca Cox** and pals celebrated her birthday the other night at Seattle South coffee house. Chattanooga violinist **Mark Reneau** and others stayed until way past closing.

**Glen Watson**, newly elected to the city council, is bringing a sense of fresh air to city government. Lately he's been seen in businesses all over Downtown asking what city government can do to help them.

My neighbor, **Evelyn Kilgore**

of VBCC staff got a nice letter from a Pennsylvania lady who credits Evelyn as being the nicest lady in Dixie for helping her to enjoy the Star Trek fest here awhile back.

Word on the street has it that acting Police Chief, **Compton Owen** is doing an excellent job. Sources in City Hall tell us he is the front runner for the full-time position.

A new group called "**Friends of Downtown**," is being formed to help spur action in the revitalization of Downtown. Strange group; no city or federal money, no fancy office and anybody can join!

We keep hearing rumors about a "made for T.V." movie

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to be filmed here in Huntsville. Expect casting calls to go out in January.

**Ex-Police Chief Ric Ottman** has been seen around town looking much more relaxed lately. "Future plans," he tells us, "include thick books and a hammock in the backyard."

If you want to talk to someone from City Hall after hours, try going to **Tavern Under The Square**. It has become a popular hangout for the powers that be. The hot dogs aren't bad either.

Dry cleaning expert **Ken Self** and his pals were among the crowd at Big Spring Jam. So were two of my favorite Nashville authors—**Ernie Couch** and wife **Jill**, who write those trivia books for Rutledge Hill Press and operate the popular gospel quartet **Revival**.

New signs saying "**Do It Now!**" have become popular pieces of office decor in City Hall since **Ms. Mayor** took office.

The next big gospel concert locally will be Friday night, Nov. 22, at Fayetteville Junior High. It'll feature **Palmetto State** quartet, **Singing Ambassadors** and **Renewed**.

**Three Stars for John Cockerham** who organized and sponsored **Rock The Square**. One person really can make a difference!

**Happy Birthday to Chuck Shaffer** of **Old Morgan County Magazine** fame. He's been 39 for 15 years.

And last, but certainly not least, a big Hello and Hug for our favorite lady, **Aunt Eunice**. We love you.

## Attention Everyone!

The Huntsville High School Alumni Association is gathering stories about HHS (from its beginning to present day), & will gladly accept any old photos of the different buildings that have functioned as Huntsville High School.

Please send items to:

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# Interesting Things no one ever Told You



Red cars sell fastest and have the highest resale value. However, white cars are the safest to drive, since they are easily seen at a distance. When it comes to houses, however, yellow is the preferred color. Apparently, most people associate yellow houses with sunshine and happiness. At any rate, they are easier to sell.

What happens to all those unsold clothes when women's fashions suddenly change? Stores on the east and west coasts ship them to places like Nebraska and Iowa. The Midwest farm states always take a few years to catch up with trends on the coasts.

The average bra size sold in 1995 was a 36C. Ten years ago it was a 34B. But don't read too much into this, since brassiere manufacturers estimate about

85% of women aren't wearing the right size anyway. Incidentally, four percent of American women say they never wear any underwear at all!

Two out of five people can't resist peeking into the medicine cabinet when they use the bathroom at a friend's house. Single people are much more likely to nose around than those who are married.

Half of all coffee users drink it black. Surprisingly, almost a third of Americans say they never touch the stuff.

Congress in 1873 gave itself a salary raise of 50 percent and made it retroactive for 2 years.

The life expectancy of Americans in 1876 was about forty years.

The ice-cream soda was invented by accident in 1874, when Robert M. Green ran out of sweet cream and substituted vanilla ice cream in sodas he was selling at the semi-centennial celebration of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

While President, U.S. Grant was arrested for speeding in his horse carriage.

The median age of Americans in 1800 was 16.

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# Howard Weeden

by Claris Bartlett



Who was Howard Weeden? What influenced her choice of subject? How many obstacles did she have to overcome in her life and art before she could achieve recognition; and then not until the last decade of her life? Much was written about Howard Weeden in the earlier part of this century so it is possible to view her life through people who knew her. Also, Howard's dear friend, Elizabeth Fraser Price of Nashville, saved correspondence from Howard so we may also see her life through her own eyes, as it were.

Howard Weeden was a woman whose memorial portraits of ex-slaves and the accompanying verses in dialect were heralded as

being, "...the most beautiful and unique of all memorials to the negro slave of the old South. ..." Miss Weeden had varied artistic talents "but it was the former slaves who were most often her models. She understood them, and the era in which they lived. In the modern world they were people out of place and out of time - but Weeden was of their time."

Who was Howard Weeden, really? The best way to answer that question is in the words of those who loved her best. Ms. Price remembered that, "Miss Weeden came of a long line of aristocratic and cultured for-

bears. She was small and dainty, a person of rare charm, vivid, brilliant, and original, with the most delicious sense of humor. Though she was always frail she was possessed of a courage and high spirit that would have overwhelmed many a stouter person. She was always splendidly gallant in the way she met life."

Another acquaintance of Howard Weeden was Bernice Fearn Young and this is what she remembered of her association with Miss Weeden: "But the best thing was to sit in the back parlor in its half shuttered light and look at Miss Howard as she showed you the original drawings and read aloud to you in her low voice the poems of 'her book'. It came to her, this child of her genius, late in her sweet, shy life, when girlhood and its joys long since fled, womanhood and its hope were gently gone their way, and she was stepping softly into the borderland of age. And yet how young she looked and was in the very face of years!

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She wore her hair with little round, close flat curls, a part in the middle and pressed against her brow on either side, just as had been the 'fashion' when she was a girl. Her hair was a light brown, her eyes were blue. She was a small, slender woman, frail, and as little able to cope with the world as a bunch of white violets would be."

What did Howard have to say about her own life? She was so shy that when asked about her life she would only reply: "Fortunately my life has been so uneventful that there is very little to tell you. The Old Colonial home here in Huntsville where I was born is still my root tree and here I have lived undisturbed by time and change, the happiest life in the world and it is to this circumstance perhaps that I owe much of my loyalty to the dignity and simplicity of Southern life." This reply was an understatement of gross proportions as her entire life was plagued by hardships.

Howard was the youngest of six children and born six months after the death of her father on a trip to New Orleans to sell his cotton crop. The family was well taken care of due to the income from Dr. Weeden's prosperous estate. However, the Civil War changed all that when Huntsville was occupied by Union forces in April, 1862. The Weeden family home was requisitioned for officer's quarters and the family forced to flee to Tuskegee, Alabama for the duration of the war.

When the family returned to Huntsville they found they had lost all "but a name and a home." The family "kept its reverses to itself and by doing without the necessities and brave show of not caring for the luxuries, kept their heads gallantly turned from

regret and faced conditions patiently. Howard used her artistic talents in painting cards and favors for parties and illustrating poems... (which) she sold to supplement the family's meager income." Thus began Miss Weeden's artistic career in earnest.

In a letter to Sal Marcassen, Howard describes her early artistic career leading up to the publication of her first book: "Among my early amateur artistic vagaries (and there are many) there was one that gave me unending pleasure because it had a literary flavor and that was the craft of making little manuscript booklets, copying short poems and illustrating them in water

colors and binding them in decorated covers. In looking about for poems for my purpose, short and pointed, I stumbled one day upon that beautiful, "De Master of De Sheepfol" which I still think the best negro poem that has been written. I transcribed it and illustrated it in water colors with pastures and sheep galore and then in after thought to indicate that it was a negro poem, put on the cover, an old negro head. There happened to be in Huntsville at that time some visitors of much travel and culture, who saw the little booklet and who told me, '...the negro head was good - so good that I ought to throw away all my colors except brown!' So I made another book

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with only one head as an illustration and turning to look for a fresh book and not finding it readily, I concluded that I would have to write one for myself."

These illustrated poems turned into her first book, *Shadows On the Wall*, published in 1898. She published three more books before her death in 1905 at the height of her career.

Howard Weeden's work was made public and promoted by Elizabeth Fraser Price, her lifelong friend. "Her [Miss Price] influence on Miss Weeden and her career would be difficult to overestimate. Today her role in Miss Weeden's life might be that of publicist, promoter, manager, advisor, and agent, but she fulfilled all those roles and others solely on the basis of friendship.

There was a wide disparity in their ages [18 years] and no blood kinship between them, said Miss Adams, [niece of Miss Price] but they had a firm kinship in their mutual love of beauty." Miss Weeden was most famous in Nashville thanks to Miss Price, that vivacious young lady, a moving force in the cultural life of Nashville" [who] exhibited Weeden paintings in Berlin, and "took orders for them everywhere."

It is largely because of Miss Price and her niece, Miss Florence Adams, that Nashville and Huntsville, indeed all of Dixie, are able to treasure Howard Weeden's work today." Miss Price extended Howard's fame to Berlin in 1895 where she achieved "instant success" and even gave a short showing in Paris from which she also received many commissions.

Miss Weeden's whole life was an influence on her choice of subjects. In particular, a trip she took with some friends from

Huntsville to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. While there, she saw the work of two other artists who painted negroes. Edward W. Kemble, creator of "Kemble's Coons," and Arthur B. Frost, illustrator of the "Uncle Remus" stories. Both of these men portrayed their subjects in the comical "minstrel show" manner then generally accepted for depicting negroes. Miss Weeden must have realized that her own sincere, sympathetic studies were superior in every way, for she returned home full of enthusiasm, anxious to get to work on a number of orders she had received in Chicago, and much concerned about copyright privileges."

Howard was also "impressed by a group of Southern writers: Thomas Nelson Page, Harry Stillwell Edwards, John Trotwood Moore, James Lane Allen, and Joel Chandler Harris - all prominent in the late 1800s for their sympathetic stories of plantation days. Their stories, such as "Meh Lady" and "Uncle Edinburg's Drowndin" from *Pages In Ole Virginia*, became the subjects of many of her paintings."

Two hardships that Howard Weeden was forced to endure


throughout her life and career were very poor health and severe nearsightedness. The latter affliction actually helped Miss Weeden's art. "Her delicate health was always a problem. As she grew older, her inability to throw off infection increased until she finally contracted tuberculosis from which she died. She never yielded to her weak health, however, and in her letters she was seldom 'becoming ill' but usually 'feeling better' or 'getting up after several weeks in bed'. Another physical defect, poor eyesight, probably troubled the artist even more than her poor health. The Nashville eye specialist who treated her declared that she had the most extreme case of nearsightedness he had ever encountered. My eyes are troubling me again, she mentioned over and over in her letters. Despite the suffering this condition caused her, there is no doubt that it enriched her painting, enabling her to do the most delicate brush work."

In view of Miss Weeden's physical condition one can see the significance of her minutely detailed portraits. Her nearsightedness allowed her to use tiny brushes with only two or three hairs which helped give her work

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its photographic quality. It is significant that her portraits possess photographic qualities as it is very unusual for the medium Howard used; water colors. (Most water colors are puddled looking and "run" together) She achieved this effect by using minute (2-4 hairs) brushes; dry, on dry paper. Miss Weeden used tiny dots called stipple and spaces between brush strokes to create gradient tones. This can be observed by using a magnifying glass to examine her work."

Howard Weeden's work received rave reviews in the press but her poetry was not as esteemed as were her portraits. Even so her poetry affected at least two composers who set her poems to music.

Here are just a sampling of the reviews her work received: "Artistically, Miss Weeden's verses are not the equal of her pictures. Nevertheless, they are deeply dyed with a true pathos, a keen insight an affectionate spirit, a gentle and kindly humor and an unaffected naturalness which mere art may well envy, even while it criticizes the technique. The diction is not a full

dialect, but is, as it were, the negro soul speaking through borrowed tones and timbre of a cultured envoy who can represent him better than he can represent himself. Never before have the sister arts of poetry and painting been so closely and so evenly wedded in depicting the ideal Southern negro." Miss Weeden's work was heralded as being "...the most beautiful and unique of all memorials to the Negro slave of the Old South. ..." Elizabeth Chapman, a student from Columbia University, most eloquently described Miss Weeden's work: "they express joviality, cheerfulness, tenderness, wistfulness, and a resignation to life's harshness, all characteristic expressions of the old negro. Miss Howard has preserved for posterity the everyday qualities, the everyday clothes of the old negro. Her interpretive brush has gone back of the lowly individual's exterior and shown his soul. Most of the poems complete the life touch by adding speech. The dialect is not always good, nor the meter correct, but the sentiment is as natural as life. The poems give the reminis-

cences of the old, the romance of the young, with equal appreciation. Tears and laughter come with them and marvel at their philosophy. They are examples for the wisest."

Although Miss Weeden's poetry was not appreciated as well as her paintings it still caught the attention of Sidney Homer, a famous song composer who set several of Miss Weeden's dialect poems to music. In a letter to Miss Price in 1912 he tells her "The quality of tenderness and affection... is what attracted me first to Miss Weeden's poems." Ella Smith was the second composer and she set Howard's poem "Mammy's Lullabye" to music. In her letter to Miss Price, also in 1912, she stated that she "was so impressed with the words, that I felt I must try and interpret them in music."

"Almost all of Miss Weeden's portraits have a story and a real person behind them as evidenced by the verses which accompany them. "The Worst of War" is a poem about a servant who went to war with his master only to have to be the one to tell the master's parents their son was dead. This story was told by "...an old negro from one of the big plantations about Huntsville and Miss Weeden knew it to be a true story. It was not an unusual one, for it happened that way in more than one instance."

The portrait of "Mammy" that accompanies the poem "Beaten Biscuit" is one of the most famous of Miss Howard's paintings. Her name was Frances Bell. She was the nurse of the children in the family next door to the Weeden's. Because of the fine qualities of character depicted in her face, Miss Weeden used this model to illustrate several of her



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poems. ..." Miss Weeden painted the portrait of Saint Bartley Harris who was one of Huntsville's most famous Baptist Preachers. He is recorded to have baptized more than three thousand members into the Negro Primitive Baptist Church in the waters of Spring Branch.

Many more of Miss Weeden's works have stories and histories behind them that make her contribution to the world of art, literature and even history that much more enduring. One can only hope that the lifelong undertakings of a remarkable woman are appreciated for what they are; a labor of love.

Miss Weeden strove to preserve the history of her era and her work is full of emotion, reaching out to all time as a testament of the past. "Years that are gone by take on a golden haze for many people, and Weeden painted and sang of a vanished era. The past, as someone has written, may be what the present has escaped from. But it made us, and shaped our lives, and we find ourselves listening to its voices."



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The friendly atmosphere is always great  
No wonder, people don't mind to wait*

*A better breakfast, I have not found  
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*J.C. Harper  
Section, Ala.  
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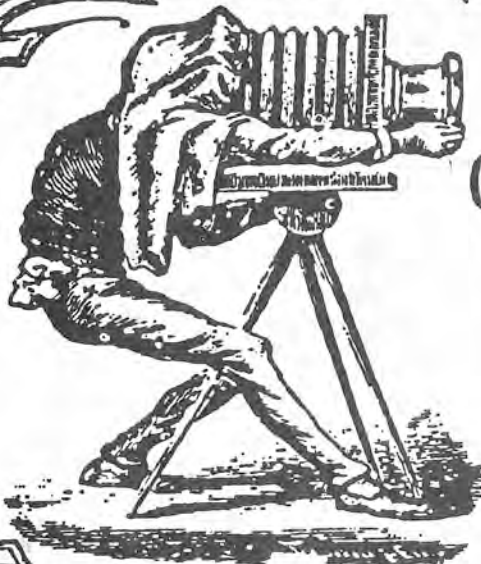
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# News from Gurley, Ala.

## August 24, 1891

Our little city is quiet as usual, moving on "in the even tenor of its way."

Last week the weather was extremely warm, but it has suddenly changed and forced us to put on our overcoats and kindled fire to keep us warm.

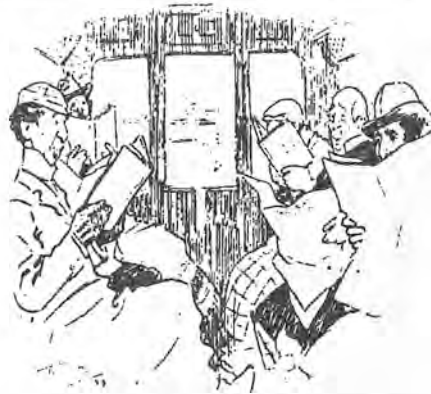
Gurley is still enlarging her borders. The new bucket factory of Vorenburg & Bros. is about completed. The workmen are putting up the machinery, and expect to commence the manufacture of cedar Buckets in a very short time.

It would seem to an ordinary thinker that there is great room in the country for cedar bucket factories, there are only about 4 in the United States.

Mr. Vorenburg is in Boston now in the interest of his business.

The new Baptist church will soon be completed, which will be quite an addition to our town. The work of the new building seems to be first class.

Mr. Picken's new residence will soon be completed and will be very convenient and handsome.



Dr. McLain of Maysville has the frame work of a new residence up on a very commanding position near the Baptist church. We will be very proud to have so genial and elegant a

gentleman to live among us.

The pencil factory is making an additional building. This factory employs 100 hands and pays promptly every two weeks.

There is about \$200 worth of cedar brought to Gurley daily and the cash paid for it. Round cedar logs are bought by weight, square cedar by the cubic foot.

Come on down and visit our little town, and we will give you a cedar bucket and a lead pencil and a few other things.



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# Old Huntsville

From The Year 1959

## Hawaii is 50th State

**Washington, D.C.** The Territory of Hawaii was voted into the Union today as the fiftieth state.

The House of Representatives gave its approval by a vote of 323 to 89. Yesterday the Senate approved the measure, 76 to 15.

President Eisenhower's ap-

proval of the bill is assured. The White House said today he was "delighted" and noted that he had been urging it for some time.

The question arose as to whether the island territory, some 2000 miles from the continental United States, would seek to put its fiftieth star into the flag July 4th of this year when Alaska adds its 49th star to the flag.

Opposition to the proposal came largely from congressional leaders who feared Hawaii would become a Japanese colony supported by the American taxpayers. After assurances that stringent immigration quotas would be applied to Japanese settling in Hawaii, the bill soared through both houses.

## Wallace Running Again

**Montgomery:** Sources close to George Corley Wallace, who ran as the "fighting judge" in the last election, have begun raising funds in anticipation of another run for the Governor's office.

In the 1958 election, Wallace was soundly defeated when his opponent labeled him as a racial liberal who took campaign contributions from Northern interests.

Political observers state that Wallace's career in Alabama politics is virtually finished.

## Meadow Hills to be Model Community

New Subdivision to set standards for Huntsville

**Huntsville:** Plans were announced today in a joint communique from city leaders and commercial developers of a new planned community to be built in Northwest Huntsville.

The planned homes will have a beginning selling price of around \$11,900 and will feature the latest innovations in modern residential living.

With the influx of white collar workers into Huntsville, and the present housing shortage, the Meadow Hills community will become a major asset for the city in years to come.

## Montgomery Ward Leaves Downtown

"Downtown will benefit," says City

**Huntsville:** In a surprise announcement today, Montgomery Ward announced it was moving from its location on the North side of the square to Parkway City. The retail store had been located downtown for 30 years. City leaders welcomed the announcement, saying it would help "promote city-wide growth while freeing up property downtown for continued expansion."

# OLD HUNTSVILLE - YESTERDAY'S NEWS TODAY

## Fidel Castro gets Nod from State Dept.

In documents leaked from the State Department, it was revealed that Congressional leaders have given their seal of approval to Fidel Castro's rebel band in their efforts to overthrow the corrupt Batista regime.

Despite rumors of foreign influence, memos from the State Department assert that Castro will be a bulwark against Communist expansion in the northern hemisphere.

## Miller burns records and condemns Chubby Checker as moral degenerate

**Birmingham:** Reverend O.T. Miller, a popular evangelist, is calling on his followers to shun modern music and return to the values of yesterday.

With a crowd estimated at almost 1200 people, Rev. Miller led his congregation as they consigned over 400 rock & roll records to a fiery pyre. Leading all other records being burned was, "The Twist," a song and dance made popular by recording artist Chubby Checker, whom Miller described as a "moral degenerate who is exposing our youth to Communist values."

Rev. Miller has announced he will continue the revival until 500 souls are saved.



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*Huntsville, Ala. - Brenda Hicox Owner*

# Military School

by Chip Knight



The South has a fine old tradition of military prep schools, although it is an era which, sadly, has almost passed on. I had the opportunity to participate in that tradition during my senior year of high school as a cadet at Castle Heights Military Academy in Lebanon, Tennessee. I had gone off to school elsewhere in the ninth grade, but being a mediocre student and being suspected of participating in several pranks resulted in my not being invited back for my senior year. Castle Heights was one of several schools which would accept me in my senior year.

To ingratiate myself, I decided to go to summer school, which was nonmilitary. That was a lot of work, but great fun. Classes met twice a day, and I

found that I learned quickly that way. More immersion in the subject, I guess. There was still some time to play, however, and there were street dances in Lebanon which we could walk to, and a movie theater, and a drug store.

Back then, it was okay to smoke if your parents approved, and most of us did, I suppose trying to take on the trappings of an adult and leave childhood behind. The buildings, however, dated from 1902, and smoking was considered a fire hazard. So, we had a large outdoor area appropriately called the "butt hole." The butt hole became our impromptu gathering place, and I made friends there with people I had no other contact with.

We played intramural soccer

*Cont. on pg. 34*



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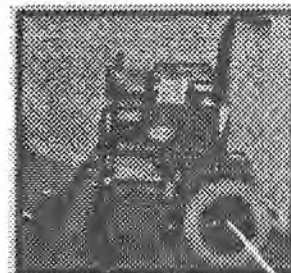
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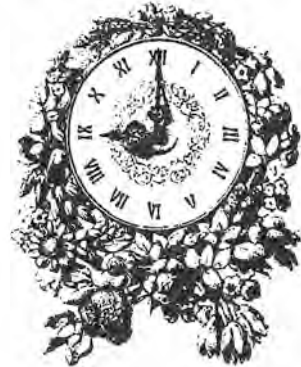
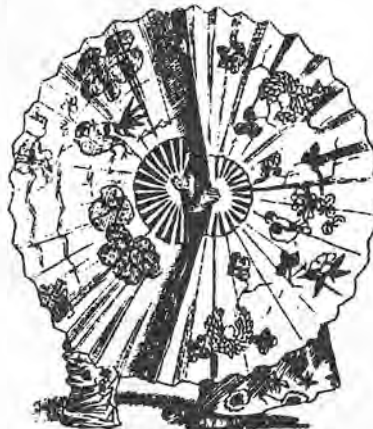
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Cont. from pg. 32

that summer. Soccer had not caught on then as it has now, and there were no games between schools. I was a fairly decent full-back and enjoyed the game. People don't think of soccer as a rough sport, but one day one of the best players on our regular football team was playing and collided with another player. It broke his neck.

We had one incident that summer which was no fun at all. There was a general rivalry between the boys who lived in Lebanon (the Town Boys), and the Castle Heights students. One night a group of Town Boys began to move onto the campus, so, naturally, a group of Heights Boys came out to meet them. Luckily, I lived in a dormitory some distance away and was unaware of the commotion, as I don't know whether I would have had the sense to lay low, or not. Well, anyway, as the groups came together, someone from the Town Boys group threw an iron bar into the Heights group, and it hit a friend of mine, breaking his jaw. That put a quick end to the altercation.

So we studied hard and played hard and then the semester was over and we went home to play until the fall semester began. Well, fall was something else.

The first thing we new cadets did was to draw uniforms. We had two types, gray cotton shirts with gray cotton trousers which were worn with a black tie and an overseas cap, and our dress uniforms. These consisted of a white shirt and blue-gray wool pants that immediately sanded all the hair off your legs and a blue-gray blouse on which we

put all sorts of gaudy insignia. I don't remember what it was for, but I had white belts crossing in front going over my shoulders with a brass buckle where they crossed. Maybe it was because I was in the band.

The regimen was different in the fall, too. We still studied hard and we marched a lot and learned close order drill and the manual of arms. We were issued M1 rifles for the manual of arms. The M1 had an interesting characteristic during the manual of arms. When called to "inspection arms," you brought the piece in front of you with the barrel slanting upward and to the left across your chest, then opened the ac-

tion and looked down to make sure there was no round in the piece. Since the rifle was empty, the bolt remained to the rear. When you received the next command, normally "order arms," you had to push the follower, (the piece that pushed cartridges up for loading) down with your thumb so that the bolt could slam forward. This required a bit of dexterity, because if you didn't get your thumb out of the way, the bolt would smash it, giving you a condition known as M1 thumb. I was lucky, but quite a few others weren't.

We learned how to take our rifles apart and put them back together again. This was called

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field stripping, and when you were just learning how, it could be quite dismaying to have this pile of little parts on the floor and no idea of how they fit together.

We also learned how to handle and strip other weapons of the day; the Browning .30 caliber machine gun, both the air cooled and water cooled versions, the .50 caliber Browning and the BAR, or Browning Automatic Rifle, a big, heavy thing that fired twenty rounds fully automatic. We didn't get to fire any of these weapons as there was no suitable range, and I'm sure the school administration would not have looked kindly at a bunch of high school kids out shooting machine guns and BAR's. Neither would their parents.

We did have rifle practice, however, with .22 rifles, and I was a pretty good shot, getting very acceptable groups which I could then move into the bulls eye by adjusting the sight. Rifle practice was always something I looked forward to.

Discipline was very different from that during the summer. We marched wherever we went and saluted both student and faculty

officers, and if you screwed up, you got demerits based on the offense. When you got demerits, you had to work them off in one of two ways. You could go to an organized study hall in the evening at one hour per demerit, or you could march around the paved circle in front of the administration building with your rifle on your shoulder. I believe this got two demerits per hour, but I'm not certain.

I was lucky. I believe the only demerits I got was when a group of us got caught at the Light House, a little restaurant and sort of a honky tonk, across the street from the school, when we were supposed to be elsewhere. I got either five or ten, I don't remember which, and took them in study hall.

Fall gave into winter and we added a pea coat and gloves to our uniforms and stood out in the butt hole and shivered in the cold. We still studied, marched, and took guns apart and put them back together, although we had moved most activities in-

*cont. on page 37*

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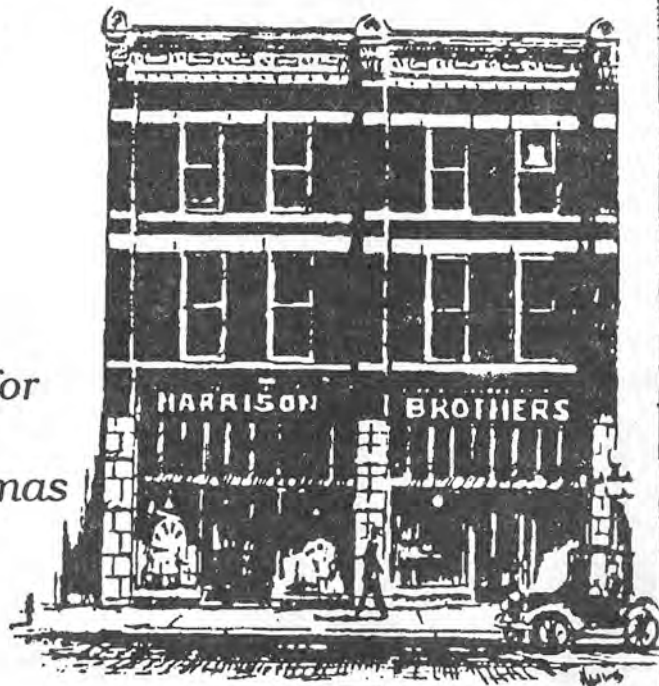
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cont. from page 35

doors.

I was rather morose a lot of the time, and would use almost any excuse to feel sad, and when I felt sad I would write poetry, poem after poem. A few of them were decent, but most, when I read them today, make me shudder and quickly put the volume away.

The football season came and went, and were we ever good (or lucky) for we won all of our games, both at home and away. We played other prep schools in our conference, whatever it was called. Anyway, it was schools like CHMA, or Columbia Military Academy, and McCallie.

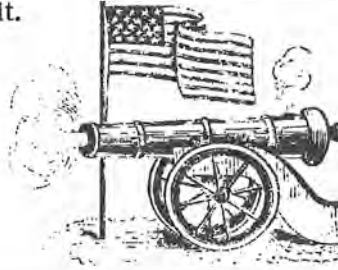
We went home for Christmas like other students, then returned, looking anxiously for the first sign of spring which usually came in the form of a warm spell in late January or early February. We got so tired of the sameness of the cold and of the military and school routines.

Finally, though, spring became a pretty sure thing, close enough to make me remember just how far things would swing the other way during the summer. Then we had our prom, and I brought a girl up from Huntsville. It was, of course, a very formal thing, and we all had to behave, but back then, we pretty well behaved anyway, because it was just unheard of and totally unacceptable to do otherwise.

When we didn't think we could stand it anymore, graduation was finally at hand. We stood in formation and received our diplomas and threw our hats up in the air and—it was over.

Looking back, I believe that I would have benefited greatly from four years of military school, instead of the one I re-

ceived, simply because of the imposed discipline, which turns to self discipline. All the academic excellence is of no use if the student won't take advantage of it.



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# Another Wonder!

## Exploration of Another Cave at Bird's Spring

### Discovery of a Human Skeleton About 15 Feet from the Entrance

On Monday evening last, Mr. G. A. Lippincott, of this city, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Mr. Hicks, started to explore a cave at Bird's Spring on the property of S. W. Harris, Esq., and their exploring tour satisfied them enough to warrant another and a more searching one to take place at a later day. One of the curiosities of the cave trip was the discovery of a skeleton near the main entrance of the cave, the skull and several bones of which are now on view in the of-

fice of Mr. Harris on Eustis St. A Mercury reporter saw the skull last evening which is that of a full grown person, but how the owner of that "Dead Head" came to inhabit the cave is a matter in which the field of conjecture is wide.

During the late unpleasantness, both armies alternately camped on the Harris property and the bones now exposed to view may be those of some stalwart soldier of one of the armies. How he came to be buried in a

cave will probably never be revealed in this world, but the ghastly, grinning skull reveals the fact that the Bird's Spring cave has been trod by mortal feet before Mr. Lippincott and his kinsmen explored it. Mr. Lippincott informs us that there are two apertures leading right and left after entering the cave, and he is determined to find out where they lead to, or at least to satisfy himself as to the probable dimensions of the cave.

*From 1877 newspaper*

### Looking For Relatives

Seeking to locate my wife Mary and children owned by Harold Foster. At end of war she was moved to Huntsville.

Contact Peter Terry,  
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*From 1867 newspaper*

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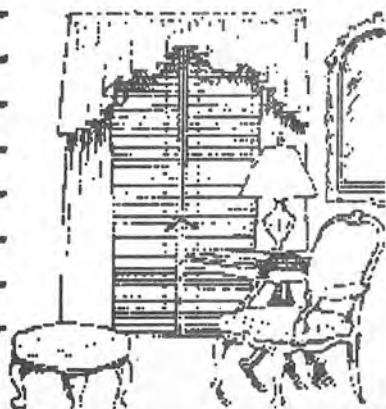
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Cats remaining indoors, devoid of vivacity, forecast wet or windy weather.

Owls hooting and screeching during bad weather foretell fine weather near at hand.

Swallows flying near the ground, robins coming near the house, and sparrows chirping a great deal all mean rain or wind.

Sheep will run to and fro, jump from the ground, and fight in their gambols before a change of weather.

Asses hanging their ears forward or rubbing themselves against walls or trees predict rain.

Frogs croaking more than usual, moles throwing up more



soil then usual, toads in great numbers and oxen licking their forefeet all mean rain is coming.

From 1890 newspaper

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From 1901 newspaper



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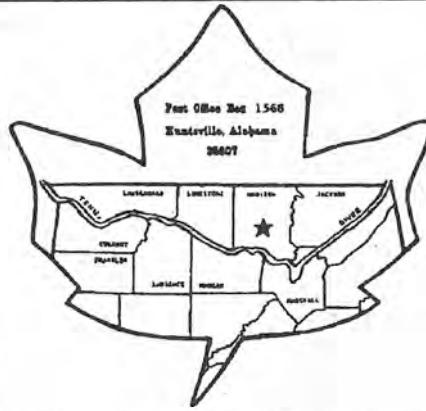
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# Searching For Our Ancestors



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

## **MCKINNEY**

Seeking any information about James H. (b1827), Elgin (b1812); and Tom (b1832) McKinney. They were in Madison Co AL prior to moving to Ripley Co MO in 1850s.

*Thomas J. Mittler, 402 Dellbrook, Longstew, TX 75604, 903-759-1678* □

## **KILLINGSWORTH • KENNEMER**

Need parents of Amy Killingsworth, b c1797 TN m David Kennemer 23 Aug 1816, Madison Co, MS Territory; d 1867 Jackson Co AL. I think she was dau of John Killingsworth who was on 1803 Madison Co MS Terr. Tax Lists, but here were also listed William, Francis, and Arthur. I have been unable to find a marriage bond for John or any of the others. John Killinsworth in Land Register Madison Co MS Terr. on 160 acre on Flint River 1809.

*Helen Rogers Skelton, P. O. Box 340, Burkeville, TX 75932* □

## **WHITEMORE \* RAND**

Seek information on father and mother of James Starling WHITEMORE, 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.*

## **WALL \* JEFFRIES \* HAMILTON**

My grandfather, Joseph Edward WAL; was supposedly born in Madison Co. on 21 Jul 1831. Am hoping to verify this. His father was James Augustus WALL,

b. 10 Dec ca. 1785, Greenville Co. (?) VA, d. 27 Jul ca. 1878, Coosa Co., AL (?) Mother: RebeccaJEFFRIES, b. ca. 1795. They were married 8 Sep 1808, Greenville Co., VA, and had ten sons and four daughters. Some children were: Thomas T., William, Conrad, Alexander S., Joseph Edward, and Mrs. E.J. HAMILTON.

*Owen Wall, Route 2, Box 9 Shamrock, Robeltne, Louisiana 71469*

## **THOMAS**

Seeking to contact persons researching the Isaac Henry THOMAS (b. 1811/15) family that resided in Jackson Co., AL 1836. The 1850 Census shows his family residing in DeKalb Co., AL. Wife Marilda Jane b.1821, TN. Sons: William W., b. 1841; Lemuel Dillard, b. 1843; John David, b. 1851; Felix C., b. 1855. Daughters: Henrietta Artemesia, b. 1839; Mary R., b.

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1846; Ruhama T., b. 1845; Ann Eliza, b. 1853; and Ella, b. 1858.

*Sandra L. Walker, 4705 Shoalwood, Austin, TX 78756*

#### WHITEMORE \* RAND

Seek information on father and mother of James Starling WHITEMORE, b. Reidsville, NC, 1846. He came to Tuscumbia, AL, abt. 1870, married my grandmother, Bettie P. RAND, in 1875.

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

#### HADLEY \* MEREDITH

Would like early AL, TN or NC info on Joseph and Joshua HADLEY and Jessie MEREDITH who were in the Franklin Co., AL census in 1830. Jessie, m. in TN. Chn. Richard b. 1823 AL; and Martha A. b.

1827 AL. In 1820 they liv in TN where?

*Pauline Brahms, 13 El Camino Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925*

#### NASH \* SANDERS

Need info on Ella NASH b. 19 Aug 1877 Paint Rock, AL., m. Walter SANDERS from Lincoln Co, TN. Need his birth & marriage dates. 8 Chn: James Clifton b. 1895 Lincoln Co, TN; Kelley; Oliver Denis b. 14 Feb 1901 Paint Rock; Beatrice d. young; Hollis Clyde b. 22 Sep 1905 Paint Rock; Ambers b. 1910 Paint Rock; Gertrude b. 9 Oct 1917 Paint Rock; unk son b. AR. Family moved to Monticello, Drew Co, AR spring 1918. Walter d. here in 1933. Willing to exc. info.

*Margle Green, 1325 Conkling Avenue, Garden City, KS 67846*

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# Household Tips by EARLENE



Mice abhor camphor, and will not visit drawers or closets in which it is kept.

Sprinkling salt on the top and at the bottom of garden walls is said to keep snails from climbing up or down.

Two parts of crude oil and one part of turpentine will remove white spots from furniture, and make as good a polish as one can desire to have.

A little ammonia and borax in the water when washing blankets keeps them soft and prevents shrinkage.

A little kerosene put on the dust cloth will brighten furniture wonderfully and prevent the dust flying from one to the other.

Equal parts of milk and water applied to a small sponge will make the leaves of the palm or rubber plant look like wax and prevent them from turning brown.

When you give your cellar its spring cleaning, add a little copperas water and salt to the white-wash.

All fruit looks nicer on delicate, light china. A few leaves in the fruit dish add wonderfully to the effect upon the eyes, and the eyes coax the appetite when nothing else will.

A small dish of fine charcoal kept up on a shelf of a dark closet or in the refrigerator, and renewed every week, absorb all odors and help to keep things fresh and sweet.

One of the most useful articles for cleaning cooking pots and pans is a wire-chain dish cloth. It is now made fastened to a long, smooth wooden hammer, which allows one to use it without cutting the hands into the water.

Chemists say that it takes more than twice as much sugar

to sweeten preserves, sauce, etc., if put in when they begin to cook as it does to sweeten after the fruit is cooked.

For hoarseness, beat a fresh egg and thicken it with fine white sugar. Eat of it freely and the hoarseness will soon be relieved. If quilts are folded or rolled tightly after washing, then beaten with a rolling pin or potato masher, it lightens up the cotton and makes them seem soft and new.

Tar may be removed from the hands by rubbing with the outside of fresh orange or lemon peel and drying immediately. The volatile oils dissolve the tar so that it can be rubbed off.

It is believed by many that if a child cries at its birth and lifts up only one hand, it is born to command.

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## Another Person Heard From

by Louise St. John

I was not born in Alabama but in southern California - Monrovia was the name of the town. In April of 1936 a scrawny child of ten years old and her mother came by train to Huntsville, Alabama to stay with the child's grandfather on Walker Street. That child was me, Louise Ray Parker. My mother was Gladys Maures Parker and mother's daddy was Charles A. Maures. He didn't like to be called Grandfather so I called him "Big" Daddy until his death in March of '46. Big Daddy was owner and operator of Antiseptic Barber Shop which was on Randolph Street, across from the old Gothic-looking Post Office.

West of the barber shop was Henderson Bank and the entrance to the Elks Lodge was upstairs. East of the barber shop was Bizness Equipment, Moore's Jewelry store and a little ice cream store, then the First Methodist Church at the corner of Randolph and Green streets. These were all on the north side of Randolph Street the first block off the square. On the south side of Randolph Street were the Post office and I believe the side and back of McClellan's department store.

My mother went to work at the Post Office cafe as a waitress. The cafe was on the north west side of the square. At night if one looked up through a window they could see the Russell Erskine sign on top of the hotel. Once at the Post Office Cafe a gentleman ordered iced coffee

with cream and sugar in it. I thought that was the oddest thing to order so I asked why? His answer was because he liked it.

Before we leave the Post Office cafe let me tell you a little about Big Spring Park. Going down the hill beside the cafe one came upon the waterworks, which furnished Huntsville with water. There was a brass lion in front of the waterworks which I rode every chance I got. When I tired of that I'd try to walk over the little dam and would play in the pool of water at the foot of the dam. I believe some churches held baptisms in that pool, too. There were the biggest goldfish in the stream that arose from caves under the First National Bank and part of which were diverted into a water spray.

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Mother then went to work at the Central Cafe on East Clinton Street next to Tom Dark's Drug Store on the corner of East Clinton and Jefferson streets. On the east side of the cafe were Sander's News Stand and the Hat Place where hats were blocked and cleaned and shoes were shined. Then an alley and the Twickenham Hotel to the corner of Clinton and Washington Streets.

Big Daddy, Mother and I lived in two rooms of his home on Walker Street. He rented the other four rooms to a couple and the lady's mother, who made neckties. I sold some of the ties to make some extra money. We did no cooking, eating at the cafe where Mother worked. My clothes were made by "Aunt" Evie Bennett, who was the widow of Will Bennett, my mother's maternal grandfather. Oh yes, Will Bennett and his first wife, Susan, lived in Gurley in the nineteenth century.

He fought in the Civil War on the Confederate side. Then some time later he married a lady named Evie, moved to California Street and McClung Hill, across from Maple Hill cemetery. He was a caretaker of the cemetery til his death. Susan Bennett was Mother's grandmother. Mother's mother was named Dasie Dean Bennett, who had several children by Big Daddy, but Mother was the only one who lived. She was named Gladys Dean Maures.

One interesting item was that when Big Daddy courted Grandmother, he rode his bicycle to Gurley. He may have been used to such, having come from Indiana.

In going to Aunt Evie's I would roller skate from Walker Street to California Street. Yes, the streets

were paved and there were sidewalks, too, in the major parts of town. The sidewalk in front of the cemetery was in poor shape so I would get on the cemetery wall, skate to the gate, climb down, go to the other side of the gate, climb back up and skate to the end of the wall. The road to the poor house extended past Aunt Evie's and I was not proud of that, I didn't go there.

Big Daddy's shop had a window seat where I would play with my paper dolls, and on Saturdays I'd beg him for a dime to go to the movies at the Lyric Theater on Washington Street. That would be a western or cartoon, usually. I had no fear of child-snatching or anything happening to me, although some people would come to town in droves from the Cotton Mill communities and from out in the country. The blacks would go to the Princess Theater on Jefferson Street, and to the shops on West Holmes Street and on Jefferson Street. Some Italians also had shops on West Holmes Street. A lot of Ital-

ians lived on Walker street, several of which were my friends.

In October of 1937 my mother started working her way back to California to join my Dad. In the meantime Big Daddy would take me to Anderson's



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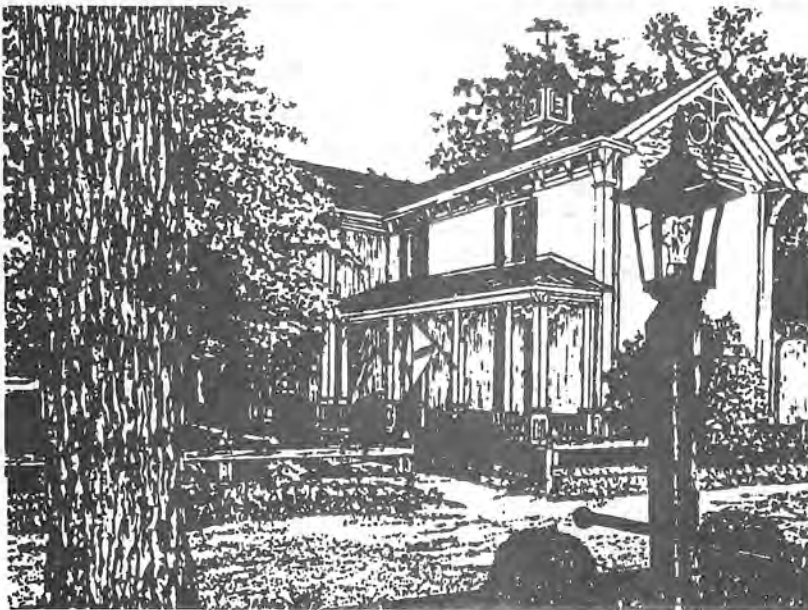
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Drug Store on the corner of North Side Square and Washington Streets for ice cream on Sunday then to Big Spring park to watch the baseball games. Sometimes we walked up Monte Sano Mountain but didn't walk all the way down. On other Sundays we would walk out to the "airport", below the hospital.

The hospital was at the intersection of Fifth Avenue (now Governor's Drive) and Madison Street, running into Whitesburg Drive which ran all the way to Whitesburg bridge. Or we would head north to the train station and watch the trains come in and go out.

We didn't have radio or TV's

at that time so we would walk around a lot. Big Daddy had a car but he never used it, preferring to walk. I went to East Clinton Street School, walking of course except while the school was being built, then I attended West Clinton School. Sometime during this timeframe my mother had me to take "elocution" lessons from Miss Nancy Pierce, who lived on Randolph Street and had her place of business in the Russell Erskine Hotel. I was in her home often, and even went with her and her boyfriend on Sunday walks sometimes. Mother also had me taking singing lessons from Miss Nell who told me I'd learn to play



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**GIANT**

piano before I'd learn to sing. Oh, well.

Big Daddy was a Christian Scientist and he took me to Sunday school faithfully. He taught me how to heal headaches from which I suffered. This is a good time to bring this chapter of my life to a close, for I received bad news along with good news. My blood father died while Mother was in Oklahoma and she had to hurry to California to take care of things. My Dad was Renan Devere Parker who was cremated, to take up less room I guess, his remains were sent back to Huntsville. His mother was cremated as well. My grand-

mother Parker was born Lou V. Bradshaw of Ohio, and was excommunicated from the Catholic Church when she married Grandfather Parker. Grandfather Parker was Sewell A. Parker, a veteran of the Union Forces, so his remains are in Arlington Cemetery. But both my Dad and his mother are buried in Big Daddy's plot.

My mother stopped in Mississippi on her way back to Huntsville to see her first husband, Otey F. Bruce and remarried him in June of 1938. I went to Alcorn County, Mississippi into a new world and culture. Mother had two baby girls while in Missis-

sippi. World War II was beginning and Redstone and Huntsville Arsenals were being built here in Huntsville. Daddy Bruce packed us all up and brought us back to - Big Daddy's.



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# A Detective's Story



There is a story told of a lady and gentleman traveling together on a Tennessee Railroad. They were strangers to each other. Suddenly the gentleman said, "Madam, I will trouble you to look out of the window for a few minutes; I am going to make some changes in my wearing apparel."

"Certainly, Sir," she said with great politeness, rising and turning her back full upon him. In a short time he said, "Now Madam,

my change is complete and you may resume your seat."

When the lady turned she beheld her traveling companion transformed into a young lady with a heavy veil over her face.

Now sir, or madam, whichever you are," said the lady, "I must trouble you to look out of the window, for I also have some changes to make in my apparel."

"Certainly, Madam," said the gentleman in lady's attire and he immediately complied. "Now, sir,

you may resume your seat."

To his great surprise, on resuming his seat, the gentleman in female attire found his lady companion transformed into a man. He laughed and said, "It appears that we are both anxious to escape recognition. What have you done? I have robbed a bank!"

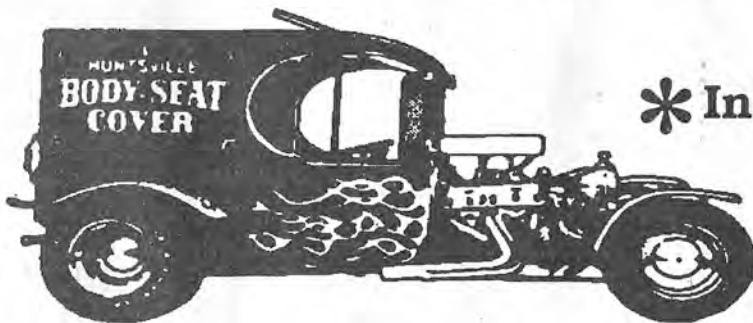
"And I," said the lady, as he dexterously fettered his companion's wrists with a pair of handcuffs, "I am Detective James, of Knoxville, and in female apparel have shadowed you for two days. Now," he said, drawing a revolver, "Keep still."

*From 1899 Newspaper*



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