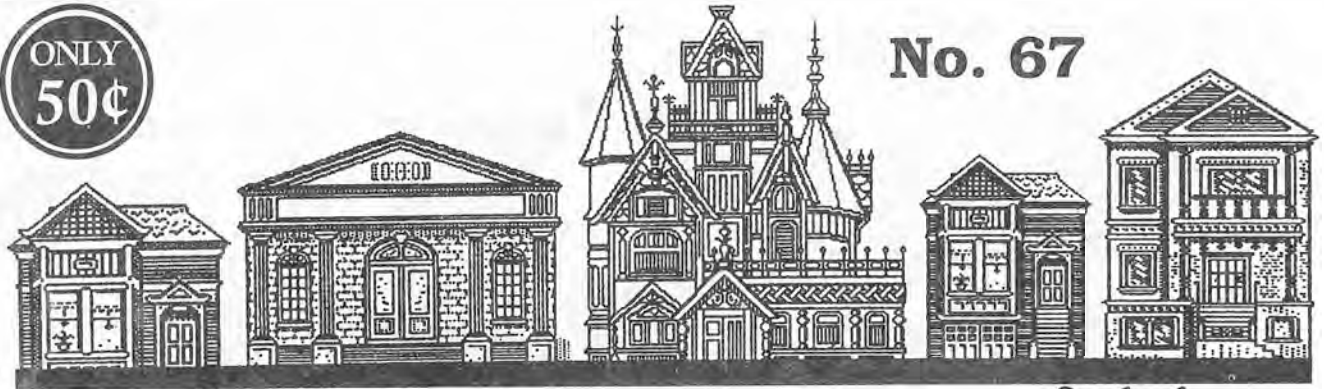


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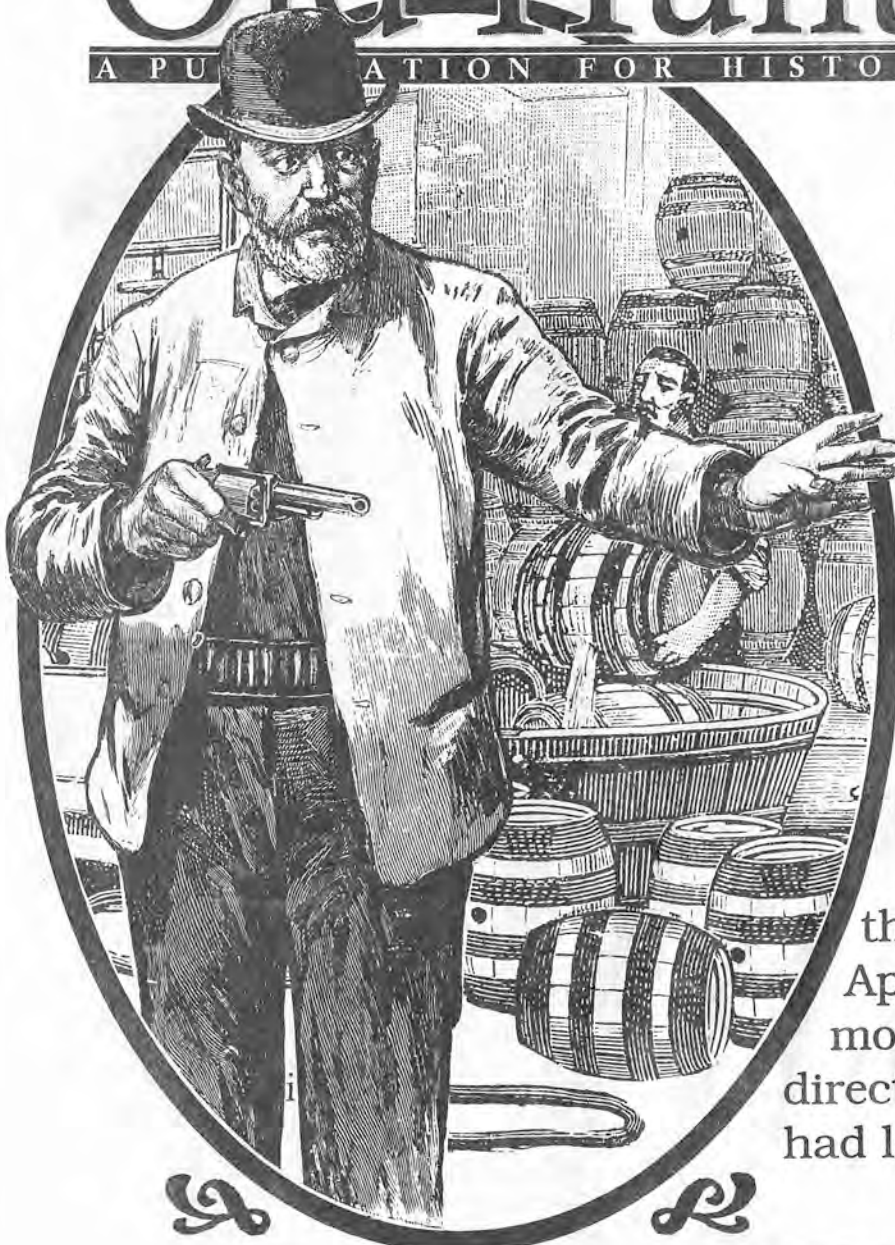


# Old Huntsville

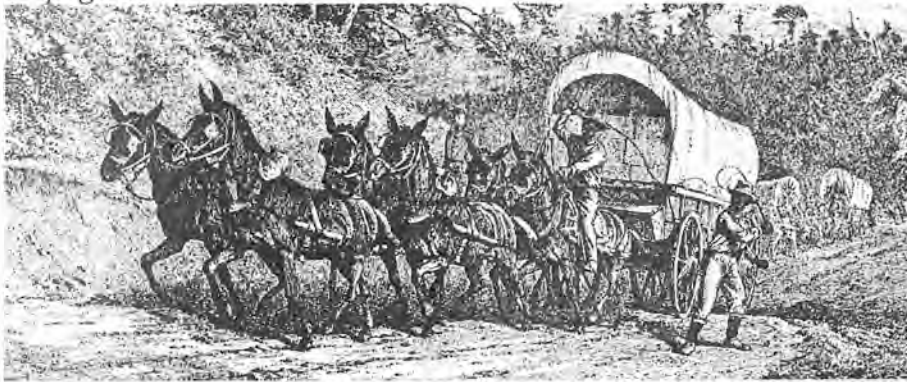
A P U B L I C A T I O N F O R H I S T O R I C H U N T S V I L L E

## Jim Davis and the Moonshine Wars

After cautiously surveying the scene from the cracks between the log walls, Davis and his deputies realized they were surrounded. Approximately 140 moonshiners, under the direction of Col. Morgan, had laid siege to the cabin.



*Also in this issue:* The Soldier Was A Lady



# Jim Davis and The Moonshine Wars

Subsequent to the Civil War the Government used soldiers in raiding illicit moonshine distilleries but as Reconstruction began in the South, the military authorities decided this was no longer practical. In many areas, simply keeping the peace was all the soldiers could manage. The result was that the whiskey laws were largely ignored.

With hundreds of thousands of ex-Confederates returning home to a land in the midst of an economic depression, the opportunity to rebuild their farms and lives with the proceeds from making moonshine proved to be an irresistible attraction for many. Local authorities, if not already sympathetic to their ex-comrades, discovered that turning a blind eye could often earn them extra cash.

By the 1870s the whiskey trade had become a well organized business in north Madison County. Distilleries operated openly, and often-times wagon trains consisting of 7 or 8 wagons, escorted by armed guards, could be seen leaving Hazel Green carrying their cargos of whiskey to the Nashville market. It was widely assumed that Madison County officials actually condoned the business as long as the

cargos were destined for out of state.

The business soon became so blatant and widespread that it attracted the attention of the Internal Revenue Department in Washington. Revenue department authorities, having already given up on the local law enforcement authorities, decided the only way to put an end to the business was to hire a full time agent for the Lincoln County area.

Everyone realized the job would be extremely hazardous, but still, they were confident the position would attract many qualified applicants. Though the job was widely advertised, in the end no one applied.

With no one else wanting the job, the authority's attention settled on Jim Davis, a young deputy sheriff in Lincoln County.

Davis first attracted attention by running down a gang of horse thieves that operated in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama. The gang had visited his father's home and stolen some stock. Though only 17 years old, Davis went after them, following the trail through several states, ultimately running them to earth and bringing three of the thieves back to face justice. Two others



## Old Huntsville

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were left behind in an Arkansas cemetery after having made the mistake of facing the young Davis in a gun fight.

His success in this pursuit won him the reputation of a cool, persistent man and at the age of 18, he was appointed a deputy sheriff. A few short months after his appointment he again gained notoriety when he single handed went after a local desperado that had been terrorizing inhabitants

all along the Alabama - Tennessee line. The outlaw had holed up in a natural cave and refused to come out. Not wanting to risk a gun fight in such cramped quarters Davis went to his saddle bag and returned with a half dozen sticks of dynamite. Puffing on a cigar, he calmly lit a stick of dynamite and tossed it into the opening. Minutes later the much bruised and battered outlaw crawled out of the cave

after having wisely thrown his weapons out first.

Jim Davis, the authorities agreed was the perfect man for the job. After meeting with him, and offering the outrageous wages of \$150 an month, the Internal Revenue had their agent.

The new agent quickly lived up to his reputation. Hardly a week passed without Davis making arrests or raiding distilleries. Though young Davis had been

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generally well thought of in the neighborhood, his name was now the object of scorn and hatred. Three months after accepting the job, the moonshiners placed a \$200 bounty on the agent, "dead or alive."

Rather than disrupting the moonshiners' business, Davis's vigilance caused them to become better organized. The moonshiners knew Davis was reluctant to cross the Alabama line in pursuit of them so they used it to their advantage. Not only was Davis's authority doubtful outside his jurisdiction, the sheriff of Madison County was openly sympathetic to the whiskey makers.

Whole caravans of whiskey laden wagons would congregate at the state line, waiting for word that Davis was occupied elsewhere, before continuing toward Nashville. If Davis happened up on them by chance, the moonshiners would often fight a running battle until they were safely back across the Alabama line, where they would stand and jeer the helpless agent.

On one memorable occasion Davis received information about a load of whiskey from Hazel Green. Lying in wait a few feet across the state line, he watched as the wagon driven by Robert Hinshaw and escorted by his two armed sons, approached. When Davis stepped out in the road and ordered the men to stop, Hinshaw jumped from the wagon, climbed on the horse ridden by his eldest son and within seconds was headed safely back across the Alabama line.

Davis was infuriated. The same thing had happened numerous times before and now he was determined to put a stop to it. Mounting his horse he set

off in pursuit of the moonshiners.

No sooner had the Hinshaw's reached Hazel Green before they recognized James H. Brown, the sheriff of Madison County, standing on the street talking to an acquaintance. Breathlessly they told of Davis pursuing them across the state line.

Though Brown was probably not sure of the legalities, he knew who had voted him into office. He also knew he had to do something quickly or risk losing the support of the moonshiners and their sympathizers who were now si-

lently watching him, to see what action he would take.

Hurriedly he deputized a posse and set out to intercept Davis. No sooner had the posse left than the moonshiners, under the lead of Hinshaw's two sons, organized their own posse. This posse, however, had no intention of taking Davis alive.

Bitter at having lost a wagon load of whiskey, and having done enough hard riding for one day, the elder Hinshaw returned to his home a few miles west of town. As soon as he entered the



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front door he was met by the cold steel of a gun barrel pressed firmly against his neck.

"You're under arrest!" Jim Davis, instead of continuing to Hazel Green as everyone expected, had gone straight to Hinshaw's home where he had laid in wait.

Hinshaw was not unduly worried. It was pitch dark outside and there would be ample opportunities to slip away on the way back to Fayetteville. Besides, he reasoned, either the posse or the moonshiners would intercept them long before they got to the state line.

Davis, however, had no intention of losing his prisoner. After securely tying Hinshaw's hands behind his back, Davis placed a noose around the prisoner's neck, and while firmly holding the other end of the rope in one hand and a pistol in the other, ordered Hinshaw to start walking toward Huntsville.

Arriving in Huntsville hours later, Davis purchased two tick-

ets on the next north bound train. One account has it that when the train passed the moonshiners, who were still searching for the agent, Davis stood in the open doorway of the train and held a lantern up to his face so everyone could see him.

Davis' first visitor after locking up his prisoner in the Lincoln County jail was Col. Hiram Morgan, Hinshaw's brother-in-law, who was also an ex-Confederate officer, sometime politician and recognized head of the moonshiners. Without pausing for any preliminary conversation, Morgan ordered Davis to free his brother-in-law or face "the dire consequences." Davis responded by locking up Morgan, too.

Though Morgan and Hinshaw were freed in a matter of hours on bond it did nothing to lessen the hatred both men now felt for the revenue agent. It was an open secret that Davis would pay dearly for the insult to Hinshaw and Col. Morgan.

### Shaver's Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

1. Found Among The Fragments by Sarah Huff Fisk (\$15.95).
2. History of The Southern Railway: From Stevenson to Memphis by Jack Daniel (\$24.95).
3. Law's Alabama Brigade by Morris Penny (\$35.50).
4. Mid-South Garden Guide - The best book for Zone 7 (that's us) Gardening (\$16.95).
5. Long Ago in Madison County by Kenny and Fisk (8.95).
6. True Tales of Old Madison County - (\$6.95).
7. Hard Times - The Civil War in Huntsville and North Alabama by Charles Rice (\$16.95).
8. Glimpses into Antebellum Homes of Huntsville (\$12.95).
9. Wildflowers of North Alabama- Full Color Guide (\$19.95).
10. Mr. Anderson's Monument by Tillman Hill (\$19.95).

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The next several months were so quiet that many people thought the moonshiners had actually forgotten about their feud with the revenue agent.

When Davis received word of a wagon load of whiskey due to cross the line at a certain point, he deputized 8 men and went after it. Strangely, though they found the wagon and the whiskey at the appointed place, there was no one with it. Shrugging off the strange event, Davis merely confiscated the wagon and started back toward town. By now it was already late in the evening so Davis proposed they stop at the old Peak house to spend the night. The house, a sturdy log cabin, had long been deserted and was a place where many travelers stopped to rest or to sleep.

Unbeknownst to Davis, the moonshiners had laid their plans carefully. Weeks before, messages had been sent out to moonshiners all across North Alabama informing them that Davis would confiscate a whisky wagon on a

certain day, at a certain time and on returning to Fayetteville would probably spend the night at the Peak house.

The next morning, as the sun began to appear over the distant horizon, one of the cabin's occupants emerged to take care of the horses. Instantly he was met by a hail of gunfire before hastily retreating to the safety of the thick log walls.

After cautiously surveying the scene from the cracks between the log walls, Davis and his deputies realized they were surrounded. Approximately 140 moonshiners, under the direction of Col. Morgan, had laid siege to the cabin.

A white flag appeared in front of the cabin. Its bearer, one of the moonshiners, informed the occupants that if they would give Davis up, they could leave. Suffice it to say, though surrounded and vastly outnumbered, there was no talk of surrendering Davis to the moonshiner lynch mob.

For three days, with no wa-

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ter and no food, the brave deputies maintained a constant watch, returning fire with fire, until finally even the bravest knew it was just a matter of time before they succumbed. One of the deputies, whose name has been lost to history, volunteered to make a break for it; to try and go for help.

With no way of knowing if their compatriot made it through the moonshiners' lines, Davis and the deputies prepared for the final battle. What little ammunition there was, was carefully parcelled out and the men, with a grim look on their faces, resumed their battle stations.

The deputy who had managed to escape, made his way to Fayetteville where, following Davis's instructions, he telegraphed Washington D.C., of the siege. The Internal Revenue Department then wired the Governor of Tennessee asking that help be sent to the trapped deputies. Over 100 men were deputized and armed with Springfield repeating rifles from the state armory. Within a matter of hours the men had boarded the train and were on their way to rescue Davis and his party.

Meanwhile, back at the Peak house, matters had become so confused that one no longer knew who was fighting who. People living in the neighborhood, upon hearing of the gun battle, quickly grabbed their squirrel rifles and after stationing themselves in the surrounding hills, began shooting at anything that moved.

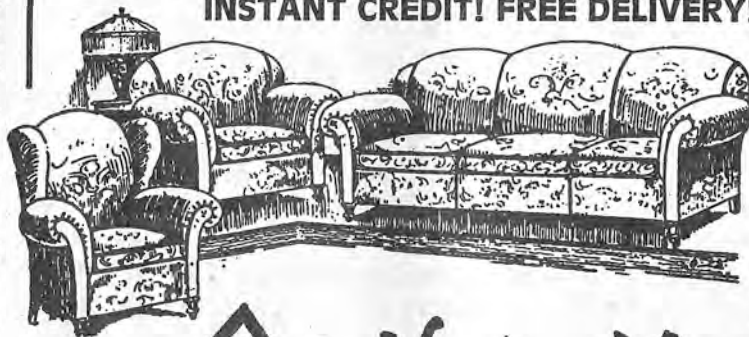
The end of the three day battle was almost an anticlimax. When the moonshiners heard of the approaching relief column they quietly faded back into the mountains taking their wounded

with them. The fight at the Peak house, as it was, was not a bloodless one. Several were hit on the side of the besieged. Among the number was a young man who had volunteered to go for help after the relief column had already started. He was finally allowed, and rushed off in a white vest and a standing collar, without stopping to change his attire in his anxiety to be in the raiding party. A ball from a

squirrel rifle tore through his cheek and carried off the tip of his nose. A ball plowed through the scalp and hair of another man, showing how close the wildcatters were shooting. Later reports stated the moonshiners suffered heavier casualties with the number of wounded estimated to be between 15 and 20.

The fight also marked the end of open resistance to the whiskey laws along the Alabama - Tennes-

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see border. Whiskey making would continue for another hundred years but from then on it would be confined to the hidden coves of New Market, Gurley and Clouds Cove.

Though Davis escaped from the ambush, everyone knew he was a marked man. Even his friends shied away from him, not wanting to be in the line of fire when the time finally came.

Less than a year later, in the fall of 1887, while returning home late one night, he met his end in an ambush. His body, according to legend, was shattered by over forty bullets, and to make sure of his death his assailants then bashed his skull in with a heavy club.

Who assassinated Jim Davis has never been learned. Speculation in the murder was again aroused in 1890 when a notorious moonshiner, John Watson was tried for murder and sentenced to be hanged in Lincoln County. It was generally assumed that Watson had participated in Davis' assassination. Though Watson is supposed to have confessed, he later recanted his story when visited by Col. Morgan.

Robert Hinshaw, whom Davis had arrested in Hazel Green, managed to have his case dismissed, citing "improper arrest." He later moved to Arkansas where he became a farmer. His two sons moved to Texas where one became a Constable. James Brown, the Sheriff of Madison County, decided not to run for office again and "retired" on his savings.

Colonel Morgan, the acknowledged head of the moonshiners, became a Deputy Marshal.

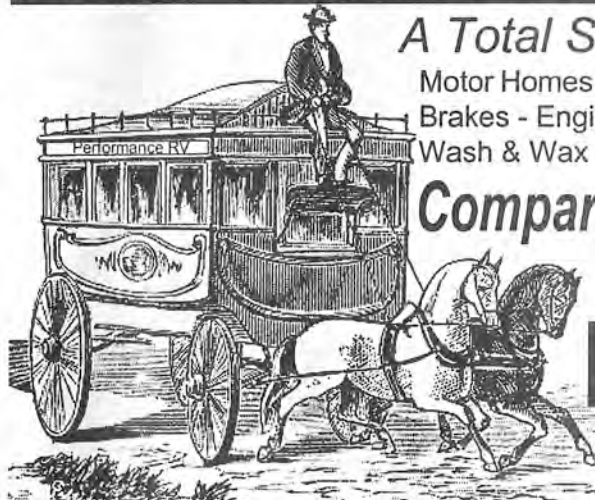


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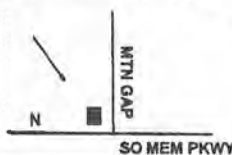
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5. Stir flour in bold water to smooth, then thin down with boiling water.
6. Rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, then boil, rub colored but don't boil, just rinse and starch.
7. Take white things out of kettle with broomstick handle, then rinse, blue and starch.
8. Spread towels on grass.
9. Hang old rags on fence.
10. Pour rinse water in flower bed.
11. Go put on clean dress - smooth hair with side combs, brew cup of tea - set and rest and rock a spell and count your blessings.



## Sleeping Woman Starves to Death

### Lacey's Springs Woman Attracts National Attention

*from 1904 Huntsville newspaper*

Mrs. Sallie Rutherford, of Lacey's Spring, was stricken with what was labeled "inflammation." She fell into a coma and her jaws were so tightly locked that no food, liquid, or solid could be administered to her. Known as "The Sleeping Woman," her case attracted national attention and physicians from all over visited her. After 57 days without food or water, Mrs. Rutherford awoke and quietly asked for something to eat. Alas, she was unable to digest any food that she ate, and after lingering a few more days, she died of starvation.

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## The June Bugs

by Helen Miller

Whenever I became bored at home I headed for Aunt Addie's. I could watch her sew and ask questions at the same time, listen to Studie play the piano or let Herbert chase me with his June bugs. Once I asked Aunt Addie what "medicinal purposes only" meant and she asked me why I asked such a question.

Then I told her about the brown paper bag that Mama

kept out of reach on the pantry shelf. I'll never forget how she stopped sewing, threw her head back and nearly laughed herself to death. That was one question she never answered.

Studie kept her piano bench filled with all kinds of sheet music and she would let me go through and pick out the ones I wanted to hear. She would play and together we would sing until Mrs. Price, who lived next door, couldn't take it any longer and pulled her windows

down. Herbert was different - compared to a chatterbox like me - his words came haltingly but precisely.

Aunt Addie had fig trees in her backyard and they seemed to attract June bugs. Herbert would pick them off, carefully tie a string around their shell, give them three or four feet in the air and then run like he was flying a handful of kites.

I was deathly afraid of these bugs, so he knew exactly how to get rid of me without saying a word. All day he would amuse himself with his bugs, being very careful not to hard them, then about sunset slowly untie the strings and with a gentle hand place them back on the fig tree so they could be free to rest or swarm at will. I know someday somewhere the Almighty Hand will deal as gently with him.

*People who have no faults are terrible; there is no way of taking advantage of them.*



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## The Soldier Was A Lady

by Don McDaniels

Jennie Rodgers, a slim, somewhat plain looking Irish lass, had been born in Belfast on December 25, 1844 and to escape that country's famine, arrived in the United States as a shipboard stowaway. At the beginning of the War Between the States, she was living in Belvidere, Illinois. Dressed as a man and calling herself Albert D.J. Cashier, she enlisted as a private in Company G, 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Her Federal service began when the 95th was assigned to the Union Army of the Tennessee. Cashier's regiment participated in the Vicksburg Campaign (her name is listed on the bronze plaque in the Illinois monument), the Red River, Franklin and Nashville Campaigns.

Cashier's unit ended military service in 1865, taking part in the investment of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely in front of Mobile, Alabama

In August Cashier returned with the 95th to Camp Butler,

where the regiment was discharged after nearly three years of hard service. With her comrades, she received a hero's welcome in Belvidere. She lived in several towns in Illinois through 1869, finally settling in Saunemin to support herself by work as a farmhand and handyman. She kept her gender a secret until 1911, when her leg was fractured in a minor automobile accident and doctor called in to treat her discovered she was a woman. Realizing that 66 year old Cashier was too crippled by the infirmities of age to live alone longer, the doctor arranged to have her admitted to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Quincy.

For several years authorities there kept Cashier's secret until her failing memory and increasingly erratic behavior induced them to transfer her to the insane asylum at Watertown in March 1913.

During her later years Cashier collected an invalid soldier's pension - \$70 each

month. Through the Grand Army of the Republic, she stayed in touch with her old army comrades, who never suspected her disguise until authorities at the asylum forced her to discard it. They recalled the slight, five foot-three-inch tall veteran as an amiable loner and a good soldier who despite her small size kept up on the hardest marches, handled a rifle with skill equal to any infantryman, and never shirked duty.

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That she was the same person who had served with the 95th under the name Albert Cashier was challenged when her secret identity became public late in 1913, but a special examining board at the Bureau of Pensions in Washington, D.C., upheld her veteran's claim.

When Cashier died at Watertown in 1915 members of the local GAR chapter saw that she was buried in uniform with full military honors at the cemetery in Saunemin. Instances of women serving as soldiers in the ranks appear in both Union and Confederate literature. Those who were discovered or who confessed their genders were discharged and sent home, usually with their motives questioned and with their reputations or sanity in doubt. Since women disguised themselves to enlist and carefully concealed their identities to avoid censure, evidence of their military service is sketchy at best. Cashier's is the only documented case of a woman fulfilling an army enlistment.



## REWARD

*from 1863 newspaper*

For capture and return of Jake, lately a slave of Harold Gilliam, of Madison County. Last seen when carried off by Federal troops, April last, from eastern Tennessee, where he was attending business with his master. He stands about 5 and 1/2 feet and can be identified by a long scar on left cheek. Contact George Diamond in Decatur, Ala.

# Soldier Home on Leave to have Three Legs

*from 1918 newspaper*

Private John Kellogg, of Madison County, received a telegram last week informing him that he had been wounded, degree undetermined, while serving with the Army in France last month.

When he contacted the authorities to tell them he was home on leave and was perfectly well, he was ordered to report to the military hospital in Augusta, Georgia to be fitted for an artificial leg.

If the authorities have their way, Mr. Kellogg will be the only man in Alabama with three legs.

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# The Saga of Daniel J. Miller

## Gold Heals The Pain of Unrequited Love

*From "Out of the Sands," by T.J. Carnes*

One of the sons of Micajah Miller, and brother to James Cicero, was Daniel Jackson Miller. When D.J., reached young manhood and natural forces began stirring inside him, he began to take note of the young women of the area. Since there were not very many, he looked all the way to a little settlement which people in the area called Garrett, known today as Gunterville. There he found a young lady to his liking by the name of Mary Henry.

Mary was the daughter of Albert Gallatin Henry, Sr. Mr. Henry was a very interesting person, but this author can only pause to say that he was reputed to have been the first man in Marshall County to have accumulated a net worth of one million dollars. It is not likely that he had that much wealth in the early 1860s, but he was "a man of means." D.J. Miller pursued his relationship with Mary to the point of approaching Mr. Henry for his daughter's hand. Mr. Henry asked him if he thought he was able to support his daughter in the manner in which she had become accustomed, knowing full well what an honest answer from a pioneer from the "wilds of Sand Mountain" would be. All agreed that a wedding would be premature. So

D.J., told his beloved to wait and that he would go forth into the world and in good time return to her with a fortune worthy of her charms.

He went to California and roamed the mountains and the valleys, the ditches and the creeks, and eventually had to admit that he had arrived too late. The gold was all gone, or whatever was left was already staked.

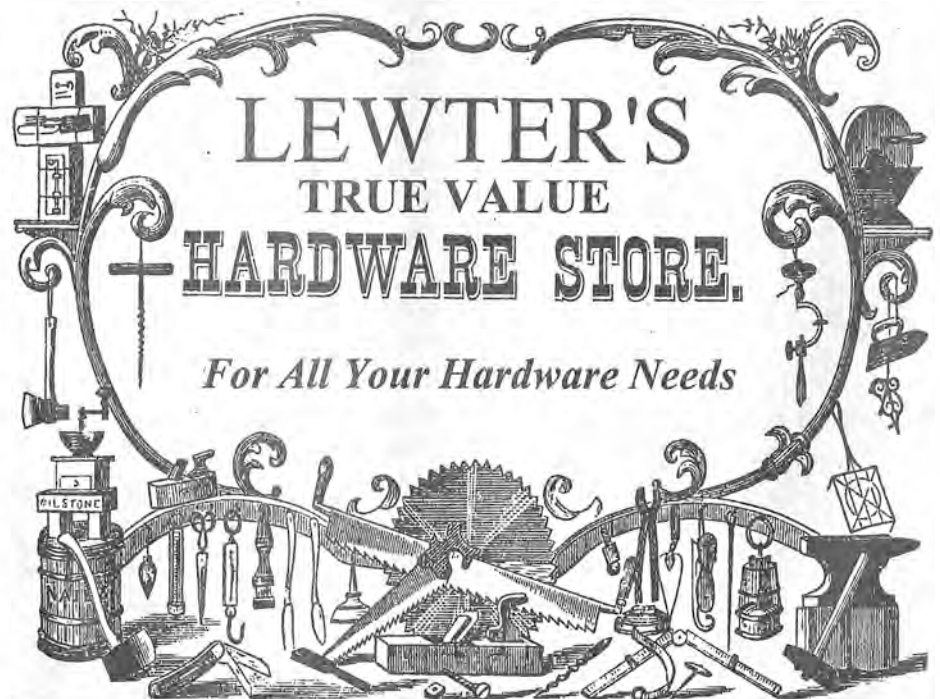
There were stories among

gold seekers - there were always stories among gold seekers - that up in an area known as Montana gold had been discovered. D.J., and three companions started out on the long arduous journey. They arrived in the spring of 1864 when the snow had melted from the valleys and the lower slopes, the valleys had turned green, and the streams rushed with the cool clear water from the mountains.

Now the stories were that in the Kootenai Country nuggets were being found "as big as hen eggs," so it was to that area they set their compass. On the way they met a group of French trappers who told them that the reports were all false, that a little color had been found, but it had quickly played out and all of the prospectors had left.

Miller's partners were two

*cont. on page 18*



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## Million Dollar Desserts

### Million Dollar Pie

- 1 can Eagle Brand milk
- 4 T. lemon juice
- 1 c. crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 c. pecans, chopped
- 1/2 c. chopped cherries
- 1 large Cool Whip
- 2 graham cracker pie shells

Combine ingredients and pour into the shells. Sprinkle nuts on top, refrigerate at least 4 hours before serving.

### Buttermilk Candy

- 2 c. sugar
- 1 c. buttermilk
- 1 stick margarine
- 1 t. vanilla extract

Cook the sugar and buttermilk together til it forms a soft ball in water. Add a stick of margarine and extract til it hardens. Pour in a greased pan and place in refrigerator until it completely hardens. Cut into squares.

### Chess Pie

- 2 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 T. corn meal
- 1 T. flour
- 1/4 c. milk
- 1 c. margarine, melted
- 1 t. vinegar
- 1 t. vanilla

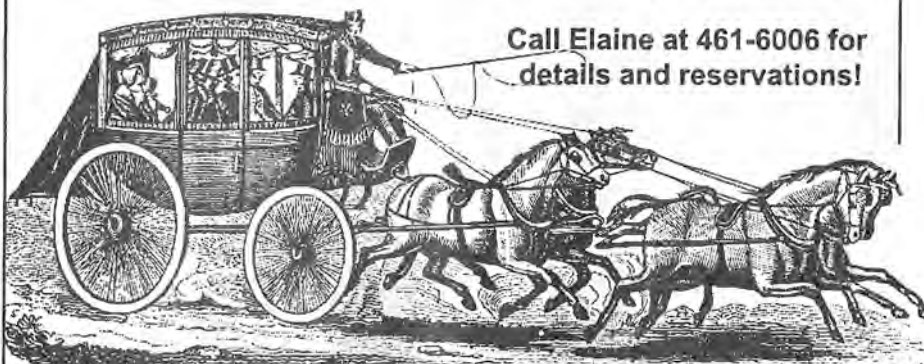
Beat the eggs, add the sugar, stir in the corn meal and flour. Add the milk and butter, beat in the vinegar and vanilla. Pour into a 9-inch unbaked pastry shell and bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes.

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### Heath Bar Dessert

Line a dish with crushed vanilla wafers and 1/4 cup butter. Slice 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream and put in the dish. Crush about 10 Heath bars and sprinkle this over the ice cream. Make the following sauce and pour over the top.

- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 c. evaporated milk
- 1/4 c. butter
- 1/4 c. corn syrup pinch salt 5 Heath bars, crushed

Bring this to a boil in a double boiler and use immediately.



## Peaches N Cream

Large can sliced peaches  
 1 c. sugar  
 1 8-oz. cream cheese,  
 softened  
 1 large instant vanilla  
 pudding  
 5 T. flour  
 1 egg  
 3/4 c. milk  
 2 T. butter

Drain the peaches, save the juice. Melt your butter in a baking dish. Add the peaches. Mix the pudding, milk, egg, peach juice, flour and 1/2 cup of the sugar. Pour this over the peaches. Cream 1/2 cup sugar and the cream cheese. Drop by spoonfuls over the mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

## Delicious Fruit Pie

1 c. sugar  
 1 c. flour, self-rising  
 1 t. soda  
 1 c. buttermilk  
 1 t. vanilla  
 3/4 stick margarine  
 2 c. peaches

Melt the butter in deep baking dish. Mix the sugar, flour, soda, buttermilk and vanilla and pour the mixture into the baking dish. Pour the peaches in and spread evenly. Do not mix! Bake

for about an hour, no more. This is very quick and good.

## Martha White Candy

2 boxes confectioners sugar  
 1 stick butter  
 large can Eagle brand milk  
 1 t. vanilla extract  
 4 c. chopped pecans  
 2 c. coconut, shredded

Cream together the first 4 ingredients. Add the nuts and coconut. Form into balls and put in your freezer til chilled. Melt together 1 12-oz. package chocolate chips and 4 oz. paraffin. Dip the candy with toothpicks into the chocolate mixture and allow it to cool.

## Buttermilk Pie

1/2 c. butter (One stick)  
 1 1/2 c. sugar  
 2 T. flour, plain  
 3 eggs  
 1/2 c. buttermilk  
 1 t. vanilla extract  
 1 9-inch pie crust, brushed with egg white

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and place your rack in the lower third of the oven. Melt the butter and blend the sugar and flour in a bowl. Add the melted butter to the dry mixture, mix with a wooden spoon. Add

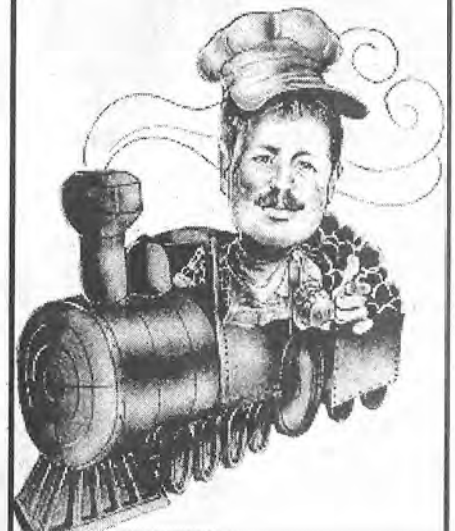
the eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after adding each one. Stir in the vanilla and buttermilk. Pour the filling in the crust and bake til set, about 45 minutes. Cool for about 20 minutes and serve warm or chilled.

## Bourbon Balls

1 box vanilla wafers  
 1 c. powdered sugar  
 5 T. bourbon  
 1/2 c. chopped pecans  
 2 T. white Karo syrup

Mix all together and shape small balls. Roll in powdered sugar and refrigerate.

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## Daniel Miller

*cont. from page 14*

men from Georgia and one from England. They conferred and decided to check out the Little Black Foot River. They went there and worked their way north for some six weeks making no finds other than rattlesnakes or grizzlies. They were about to run out of provisions, so they decided to return to their original camp at Alder Gulch. On their way back, many times one of them would say that when they got back to "the Prickly Pear Valley, there is that little gulch we need to check out." The others would reply, "Yeah, that's our last chance."

On July 4, 1864, they arrived at the little gulch and started digging. They immediately found gold. The gulch became known as "Last Chance Gulch," and the strike was big. On the site of that strike was founded the city of Helena, Montana, now that state's capital.

Miller worked his claim until 1868. From Montana he went to Philadelphia where he had some of his gold minted into coins.

Only then did he return to Marshall County. He went straight to the Henry home, set a chest down in front of Mr. Henry, and opened it, revealing the gleaming gold coins. D.J., asked Mr. Henry, "Do you think that's enough to take care of your daughter?"

While it has not been absolutely established as an historical fact, there are some who believe that Mr. Henry's response was to exclaim, "Mary! Come here and marry this man." D.J. Miller and Mary Henry were married on December 22, 1868.

The couple lived in

Guntersville for a while and then moved to Texas. Mary died and was buried in Texas. D.J., was not happy there without Mary, so he returned to Marshall County and lived on Georgia Mountain with his daughter Margaret and her husband Albert Ayers, II.

Without his beloved Mary, D.J., was not contented in Alabama either. He returned to the northwest, rejoined some of his old companions, and again endured the hardships of the wilds, roamed the hills and searched the gullies. He sought to woo again the most elusive and haunting mistress of all—gold. (Or was it something else he sought?)

He found more gold, but he never made another big strike. Suffering from arthritis, he returned to the home of his daughter and son-in-law. He died in 1914 and is buried in an unkept grave in the Ayers family cemetery on Georgia Mountain.

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Dr. Turner also offered to cure the following diseases; Cancer, \$10 to \$20; Consumption, \$100; Syphilis, \$20 and Rheumatism for \$50.

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# Huntsville Heresay

By Billy Joe Cooley  
and His Unidentified Sources



**PRETTY MODELS** were all over the place at that Easter's Eve party hosted by New Yorkers **Graham Chambers** and **Todd Goode** at their Clinton Avenue home-away-from-home. Pretty **Susan Swanson** (Lynne's daughter) and **Trysha Kell** were there with PAMA boss lady **Marie Hewett**. UAB med school students **Keith Wright** and **Michael Pinkerton** were the smiling escorts. Some 100 guests attended, including furniture tycoon **Lee Roy Cunningham**.

Are there going any more **Rock Around The Square** parties downtown? All the downtown merchants are asking the same question and looking toward **John Cockerham** for an answer.

Before **Chad Landman** went to Opryland to compete in his church-related speech-making competition the other day he stopped in for tonsorial services at **Floyd Hardin's** newly remodeled Jackson Way Barber Shop.

Rumor has it that **Mo Brooks**, County Commissioner is definitely making plans to unseat **Tim Morgan**, District Attorney.

Hottest gossip around town is about **Mark McDaniel** who seems the have the edge on being appointed the next District Judge.

My book of clean tales and funny stories is in **Books-A-Mil-**

**lion** and I'm happy to report that sales are brisk. It's also available at Alabama Balloon Co., on Logan Drive. The stories are about characters in Huntsville, my hometown of South Pittsburg and beyond.

Coffee table talk has it that **Dwayne Freeman** has passed up local advertising companies and is talking to one in Washington D.C., to manage his next campaign. That's saying a lot for someone who expects Alabama voters to elect him!

Another name we keep hearing tossed about for political office is **Jeff Enfinger** who is expected to run for state senate. He is already building a powerful

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base among the Heritage Club crowd.

Congratulations to **Bill Easterling** of the *Huntsville Times* who won the Georgia lottery on ... April Fools day.

**DON'T FORGET**, all roads will lead to my hometown of South Pittsburg, Tenn., (just above Scottsboro) on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27. That's when the first **National Cornbread Festival** and competition will be sponsored by Martha White and the Lodge Cast-Iron Skillet Co. Festivities, including Three-On-A-String, are downtown from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

Our engineering pal **Jim Morgan** has left Motorola and joined the team at Sparta Industries. He was part of the birthday scene the other day for **Marilyn Greene, Patty Trigg** and German exchange student **Simon Sonderfeld** in Lynchburg.

All's not well at the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce. Gossip has it that **Larry Wallace** stepped down as head honcho as a result of infighting and petty intrigue.

Thanks to the **Sunshiners** of Southside Baptist for hosting my after-dinner talk last month. They enjoyed a record turnout, as did Latham Methodist the previous week.

**Biggest question being asked today:** Wonder if Panoply and Big Spring Jam would be happy in Madison too?

Meanwhile, the Irish remain

fighting' mad that our St. Patrick's Day parade has been aborted by the mayor. The parade, of course, was welcomed with open arms by Madison's mayor **Chuck Yancura**, leaving our own mayor and silly council kelly-green with envy.

We hear the Irish in Huntsville are going to ask the City Council for an appropriation for an **Irish Chamber of Commerce**. Something about they want equal representation.

**David Marks** has moved his Flyers and Forms Printery to South Parkway, south of Meadowbrook Drive.

Huntsville's political pundits are saying that **Ms. Mayor** is spending too much time listening to department heads and not enough to the people who elected her.

**Eunice's Country Kitchen** has become a favorite with all the bowlers visiting Huntsville. One man, a yankee from Iowa, boasted that the food was *almost* as good as the food up north.

Aunt Eunice gave him a liars license.



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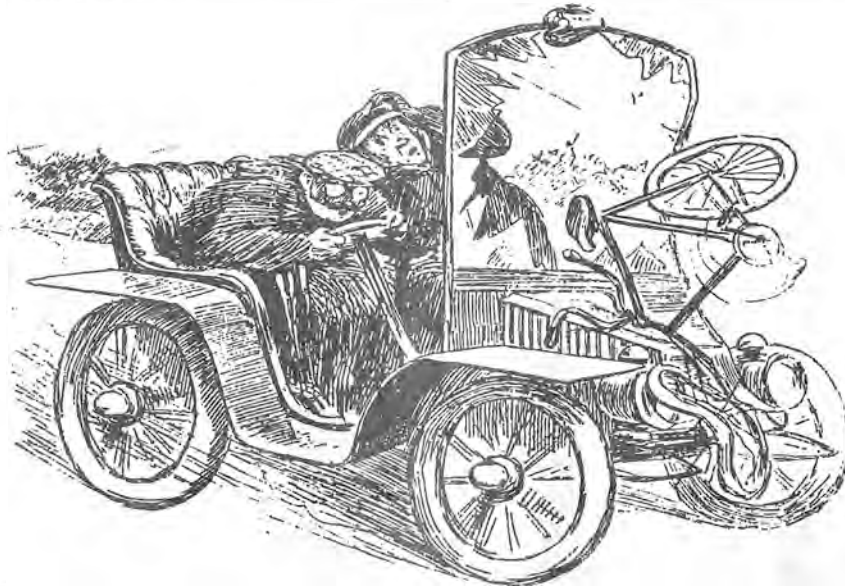
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# THE MURFREESBORO STORY

by Gene Primm

In 1955 I worked for Monroe Calculating Machine Company. I was sent to St. Louis, Missouri to a service school. I left Huntsville from the old bus station on Clinton Street.

After leaving Huntsville we stopped at what seemed to be every cross roads and country

store we came to. It took me eighteen and a half hours to get to St. Louis.

While in school I met another employee who was from Nashville, Tenn. He had come to St. Louis by automobile. I told him about my trip by bus and suggested to him that I would pay his gas expenses if he would

let me ride back to Nashville with him then I could get a bus on in to Huntsville, saving me many hours of travel time. He agreed to this and after the school was over we left on our trip to Nashville.

We arrived in Nashville some time after 12:00 midnight. I asked him to take me to the bus station so I could catch a bus to Huntsville. When we got to the bus station I found out the next bus to Huntsville did not leave until 7:00 that morning. I decided that was too long to wait so I asked my friend if he would take me to the Huntsville highway so I could hitchhike on in to Huntsville. Hopefully, I thought, I would be in Huntsville long before the bus ever left from Nashville.

The first car that came by stopped and said he was going as far as Murfreesboro. He was a bus driver just getting off from work. I really appreciated him stopping and thought this hitchhiking was going to be easy, it was a piece of cake.

After he let me out in Murfreesboro I stood there for hours without getting another ride. As it started to get daylight I began to get worried. Then finally



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as the traffic started to pick up a man stopped and ask me where I was headed. After I told him I was going to Huntsville, Ala., he told me to hop in and that he would take me as far as Tullahoma, Tenn. I thought for a minute and asked him how far Huntsville was from Tullahoma and he told me about seventy miles. I asked him how far it was from Murfreesboro to Huntsville and he said about seventy miles, but he said it was a beautiful drive to Tullahoma. After spending the night standing on the side of the road I really was not interested in the countryside between Murfreesboro and Tullahoma. Despairing of any more hitchhiking I asked him if there was a bus station in Murfreesboro, and after he replied "yes," I got in the car for the seventy mile drive to Murfreesboro.

The stranger dropped me off at the bus station a few hours later. Hurriedly, I approached the ticket agent and asked if there was a bus leaving for Huntsville, Ala., anytime soon. He told me I was in luck that there was a bus just getting ready to leave that was going to Huntsville. Without even a pause I said: "give me a ticket."

The agent gave me my ticket and pointed the bus out to me and I was on my merry way.

As I approached the bus I saw on the front that it was going to Nashville, Tenn. Puzzled, I ran back in inside the bus station and told the ticket agent that the bus he had pointed out was going to Nashville not Huntsville.

He then informed me you could not get to Huntsville from Murfreesboro without going to Nashville first!

I took the bus back to Nashville and caught the same bus to Huntsville that I would have caught anyway if I had not spent the night hitchhiking through the back roads of Tennessee.

## The Injunction

A North Alabama wife, in 1912, accusing her husband of trading off everything they owned for liquor, asked a divorce court for an injunction to halt the practice. Among the items she asked to be saved were: 5 cows, a team of mules, a team of oxen, 20 ducks, 100 chickens, 2 bulls, 11 hogs and a farm of 34 acres. She forgot to mention the windmill, though, and it disappeared the next week.

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# Times Were Different



The city of Huntsville was shocked to wake up one fall morning in 1826 with the news there had been a mass escape from the jail.

Six prisoners, some of which were listed as being "dangerous to the peace of the community," had broken out of the jail the night before.

Within days, after a hearty pursuit by John P. Neal, Sheriff of Madison County, the prisoners were captured and lodged once again in the jail.

Huntsville's citizens, out-

raged at the escape, demanded the District Attorney, James G. Birney, appoint a committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the escape.

After months of hearings and investigations, the committee finally made its recommendations.

Among other things, they recommended that "doors be placed on the jail, the upper floor be enclosed and some type of covering be placed over the windows."



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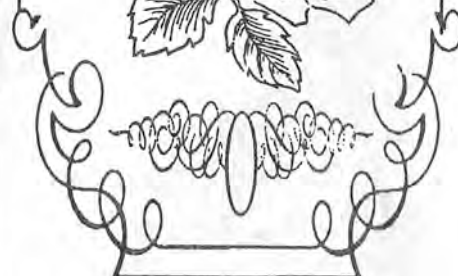
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# Dear Editor,

I have lived in Huntsville for all my life, and there are many things that have happened that I'll never forget. All of the stores and businesses that encircled the courthouse, and stayed there for so many years, we old-timers will never forget.

This brings to mind the article written recently in *Old Huntsville* by Chip Knight. I enjoyed reading it so much. However there are memories I have that were different than his. For instance, he said that T. T. Terry's was on North side square - it was always on the South side square for as long as I can remember.

I remember that the Army Surplus store was on the south side next to Terry's. Harper Hardware was on the West side

at the intersection of Clinton and Jefferson Street. Hill's grocery store was next door to James Steak house. Next was Wimpy's Grill, next was Hill's Grocery Store. H. C. Blake was located on the South Side toward the west end of the block.

I heard preaching going on at the courthouse steps. That way if anyone got tired of standing they could sit down on the steps. Some even ate at benches while they were listening to the preaching. And you could always see a bunch of blankets spread out on the steps to act as cushions and cover the sleeping babies.

*June Allen New Market, Ala.*



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# GROWING UP

by Brooks Fulmer

A boy that I knew very well played in the woods, field and gullies. He went fishing, hunting and swam in the creek near his home. He picked blackberries, plums, grapes and swung on vines just like Tarzan. He rode in buggies, wagons and T-models. He plowed with mules and rode horseback.

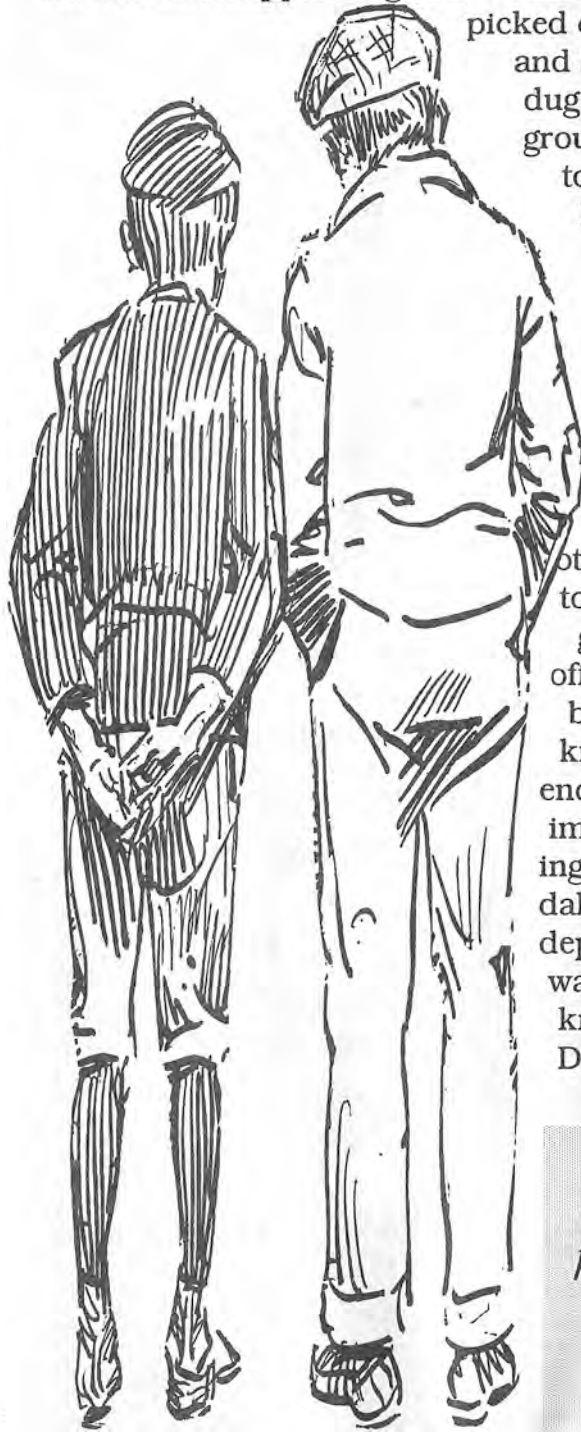
He milked, slopped hogs and watched hog killings. He

picked cotton, pulled corn and shook peanuts. He dug potatoes out of the ground and picked tomatoes fresh off the vine.

He ate biscuits and molasses for breakfast and corn pone and "pot licker" for supper. But he never went hungry.

He went to candy-pullings, corn shuckings, and other neighborhood get-togethers. He played games like "post office" and "spin the bottle." Such were the kind of hardships he endured as a poor, impoverished boy growing up in rural Lauderdale County during the depression. That boy was me, and I don't know how I survived. Do you?

*My mother loved children--she would have given anything if I had been one.  
--Groucho Marx*



*It is dangerous to confuse children with angels.  
--David Fyfe*

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# The Big Spring

It was the spring that attracted John Hunt to the area and became the nucleus of what would later become known as the city of Huntsville.

Probably no part of Huntsville is as readily identified with the city, or its history, as the spring.

The city's first beautification project took place in 1838, when the city fathers hired a contractor to build cedar steps leading from the Square down to the spring. One suspects though it had more to do with Huntsville's inhabitants, who had to climb the bluff to fetch water, than it did with making the spring attractive.

As Huntsville grew, so did the spring's importance. It provided the city with its water supply and was a natural gathering place for

farmers coming to town to sell their crops.

Soldiers in many of this country's wars camped near the spring and those who were sent to distant camps often said their good-byes to their wives and sweethearts while strolling along its banks.

Although Huntsvillians had always thought of the spring and the surrounding land as public property, it was not until 1887, when M.J. O'Shaughnessy gave \$1500.00 to the city to purchase the land, that it became a park.

Known simply as Hunt's Spring, or Huntsville Spring, the park never had a name until 1910 when Miss Grace Walker petitioned the city authorities to name it the Big Spring Park.

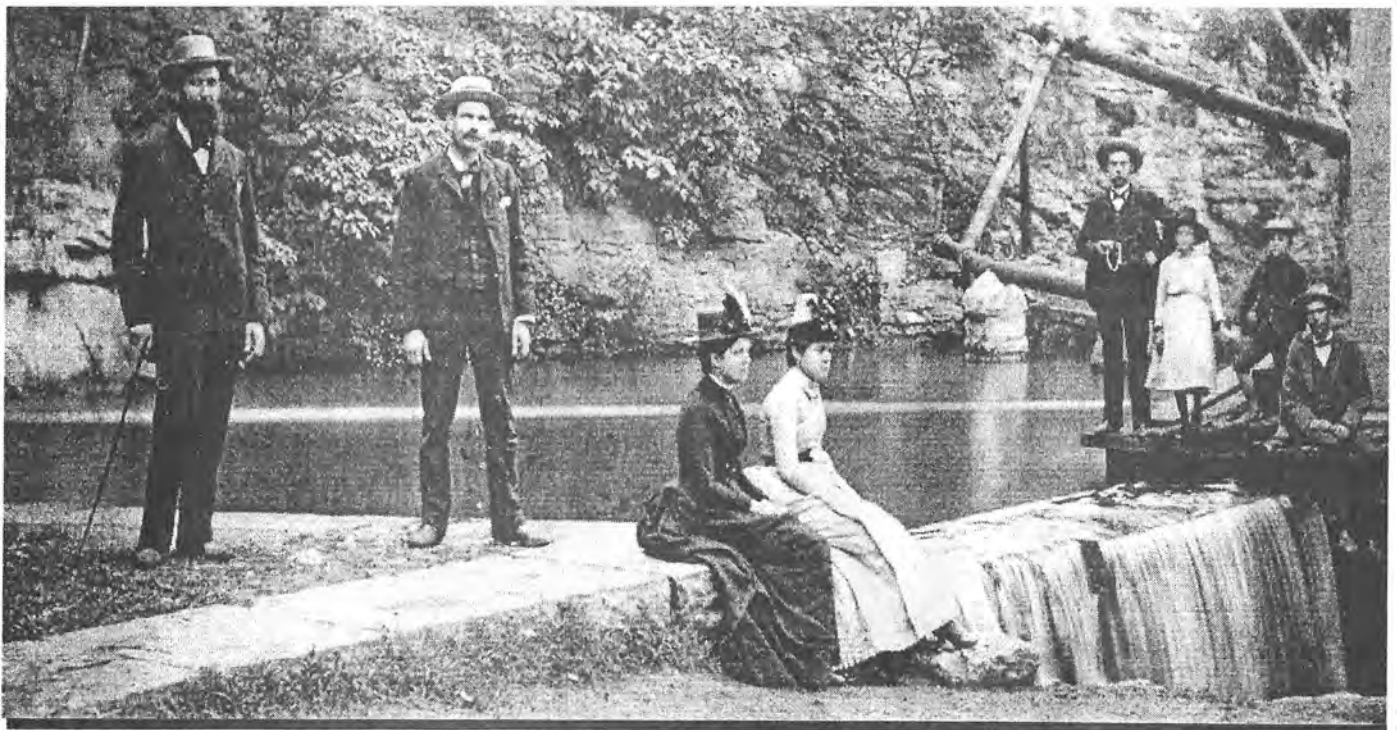
The Big Spring park quickly became a focal point for Hunts-

ville events. In 1922 the Evangelist Bob Jones held a series of revivals in the park attracting, by some estimates, as many as 8,000 people. Six years later, in 1929, more than 10,000 people gathered to watch a boxing match, sponsored by the American Legion, between Sammy Baker and Tommy Jordan.

Huntsville watched as the park became a "hobo" camp site during the Great Depression and undoubtedly, there were a few laughs, when in 1941, the city fathers ordered the spring fenced in to "prevent the Japanese from poisoning our water supply."

For the people who grew up in Huntsville the Big Spring was part of their lives. Whether it was swimming in Burnham's swimming pool, riding the miniature train that ran along the canal banks, or simply picnicking under one of the great old trees that once to fill the park, everyone has fond memories of what it used to be.

**Below:** *The Big Spring has always been a place for romancing and socializing as showed by these couples in an 1870s photo.*





**Left:** The Big Spring and the pump house in an 1895 photograph.

Huntsville had one of the earliest waterworks in Alabama. At first the water was pumped from the Big Spring to town in a series of hollowed out cedar logs.

After the Civil War the logs were replaced by iron pipes.

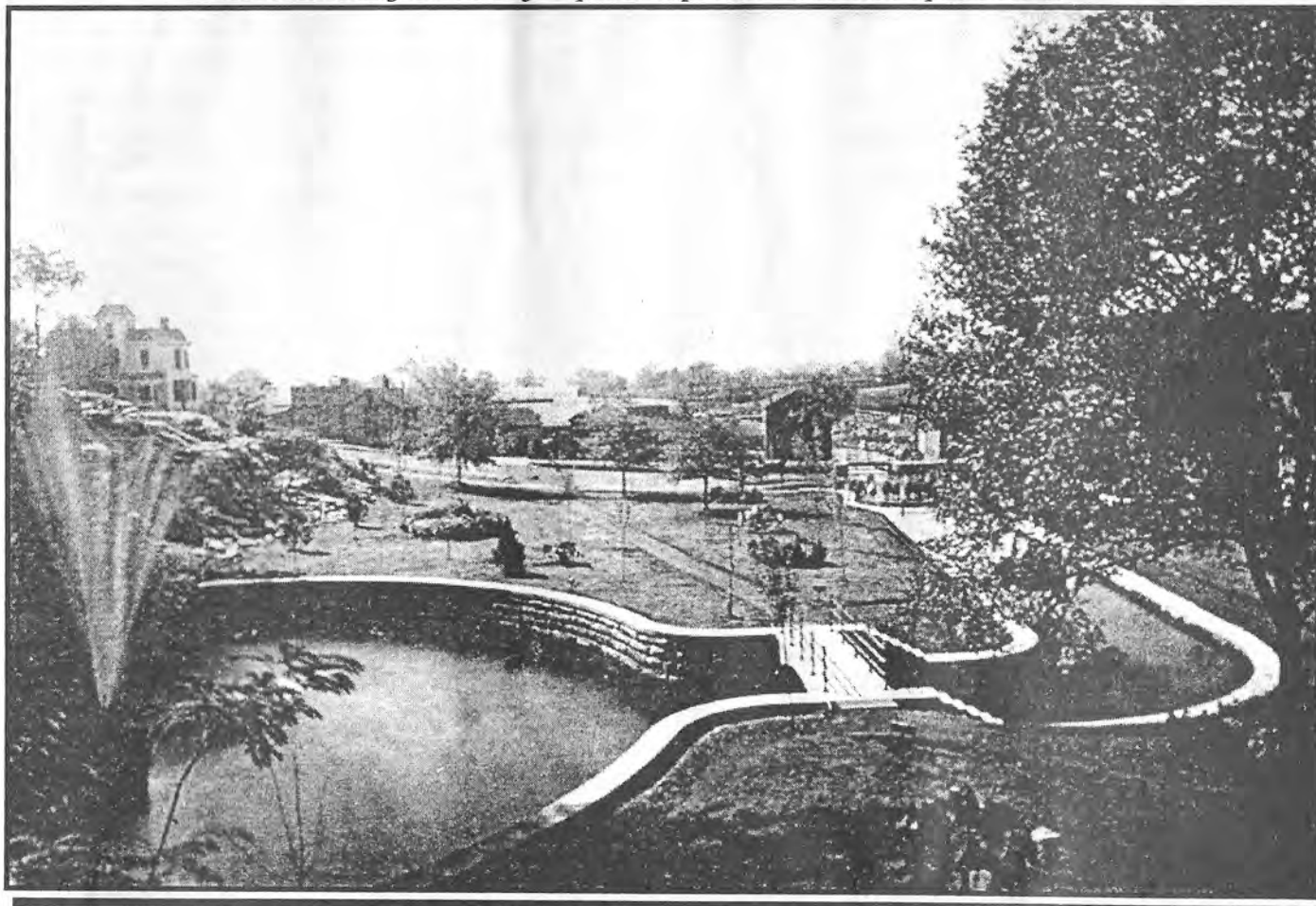
**Below:** The Winter of 1899 was one of the coldest on record, creating a veritable winter wonderland at the Big Spring. Notice the buildings in the background, known as "Cotton Row," where many of the cotton buyers had offices. Today the buildings are gone and have been replaced with steps leading from the Square down to the spring.





**Above:** Around the turn of the century the spring was a popular place for visitors to Huntsville who wanted to give their horses a refreshing break from the hot weather.

**Below:** The Big Spring in 1904. Most people would agree the Spring looked good even before the millions of dollars of capital improvements was spent on it!



# Old Huntsville

From The Year 1934

## Senator Heflin Announces As Candidate For Congress

Senator Heflin has announced that he will be a candidate for Congress in the next election. His record of accomplishment in the Senate body to date would fill 35 pages. His full platform is to be published in a pamphlet late this week, but he gave our reporter a list of several planks that it would include. Heflin says that he is in favor of federal aid for state-run schools. He also advocates old-age pensions for our elderly citizens in need.

The Senator would urge opening the Coosa River to navigation from Rome, Ga., to Mobile. He will see to it that commercial fertilizer can be made soon at Muscle Shoals for half the price that farmer are paying today. Senator Heflin favors a strong navy, opposes plans to increase foreign immigration, and says he will fight to correct every injustice done to ex-service men. Regarding the economy of the country, Heflin states that millions of dollars in federal money could be raised by taxing marginal trans-

actions on the stock exchange, and has a plan to prevent panics. He would limit big fortunes by a tax to be agreed upon by President Roosevelt. Favors increasing salaries of postal employees to where they can obtain the necessities of life.

The Senator further stated that he is in favor of a survey of soil in ever county in the 5th District to find out whether there are oil, metals, and other minerals in the area. He has a plan to destroy the million and a half bales of unspinnable cotton kept and counted in the cotton supply every year.

### EXTRA

Early wire reports state that Will Rodgers was killed this morning in an airplane crash. Though the news has not been confirmed yet, President Roosevelt has issued a statement calling Rodgers one of this century's great Americans. Roosevelt and Rodgers were close friends.

## Dillinger Slain as he Leaves Movie Theater

**Chicago:** A nationwide man-hunt for one of the most infamous criminals of our era ended today with a shoot-out on the sidewalks of Chicago.

John Dillinger, who has made a career out of robbing and terrorizing peaceful citizens was gunned down by G Men as he exited the Biograph Theater. When ordered to surrender Dillinger reached in his pocket as if for a gun and made an effort to bolt the scene. FBI agents immediately opened fire.

FBI director Edgar Hoover stated minutes later that the end to the crazed criminal's career came about as a result of intense investigation work, using the most modern crime detection methods.

Another source who refused to be identified said Dillinger was fingered by an ex-girl friend who was paid \$200. The woman was at the theater along with Dillinger and was seen wearing a red dress as she entered an FBI car minutes after the shooting.

# OLD HUNTSVILLE - YESTERDAY'S NEWS TODAY

## NAZI GERMANY IN REVOLT

### Country Under Virtual Martial Law

**Berlin:** On the eve of a self proclaimed month of peace Germany passed today through the throes of a violent purging that must profoundly affect her future.

Chancellor Hitler in Munich, backed by General Goering, has struck at the rebel elements in his own NAZI party. When the end of the day arrived many Storm Troopers had lost their lives and hundreds more were being held at undisclosed locations throughout Germany.

Among those slain were General Kurt von Schleicher who was shot and killed when resisting efforts by loyal NAZI troops to arrest him. Captain Ernst Roehm, chief of staff for the Storm Troopers was reportedly slain upon direct orders from Hitler who flew to Munich from Berlin in a freezing rain to see it carried out. Roehm was confronted by Hitler in his bedroom in a palatial estate on the outskirts of Munich. Hitler is reported to have personally arrested Roehm, after tearing the

numerous party decorations from his uniform.

The official NAZI version of the events has it that Roehm, along with other reactionary groups in the government, had been plotting an overthrow of Hitler's government. Hitler's office denies anyone was executed, saying most committed suicide and others were shot while resisting arrest.

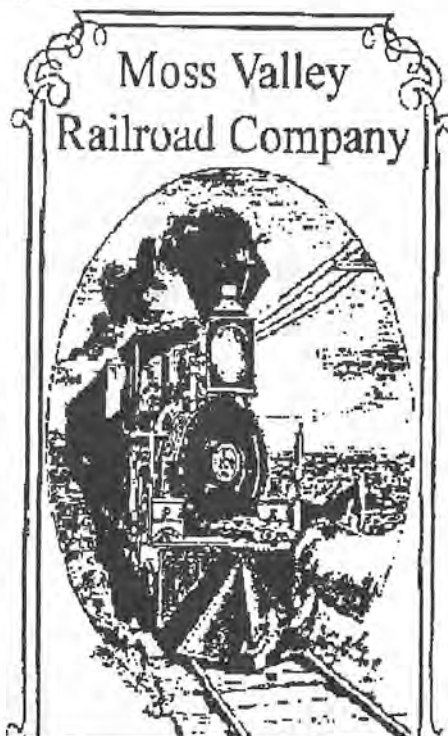
The unofficial report, gathered by correspondents in Berlin, says Roehm was arrested then transported to Berlin by aeroplane where he was summarily executed in his cell.

Other reports state that Vice Chancellor Von Papen is being held under house arrest in Berlin and prohibited from seeing anyone.

Germany is under a virtual siege at the moment with all entrances to government buildings guarded by machine guns and crowds have been prohibited from gathering without official permission. Other measures are expected tomorrow.

## Plymouth Rock Hen Lays Big Egg

A lunch stand in Albertville has on prominent display a hen's egg there that defies explanation. It measures six inches in circumference the small way and eight inches around the long way. Mr. Driver avers that it was laid by his Plymouth Rock hen. It weighs slightly under one fourth of a pound.



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## Lincoln's Loves

*from 1889 newspaper*

President Lincoln's first love was a golden-haired blonde, who had cherry lips, clear blue eyes, a neat figure and more than ordinary intellectual ability. Her name was Anne Rutledge.

She was the daughter of a tavern-keeper in Salem, Ill. Mr. Lincoln met her when he was about 23, and after a romantic courtship, became engaged to

her. She died before they could be married, and Mr. Lincoln was so much affected by her death that his friends pronounced him crazy for a time. He was watched carefully, and became especially violent during storms, fogs and damp and gloomy weather. At such times he would rave, declaring, among other wild expressions, "I can never be reconciled to have the snow, rain and storms beat upon her grave."

Years afterwards, when he had become famous, he was asked by an old friend as to the story of this love for Anne Rutledge, and he said: "I loved her dearly. She was a handsome girl, and would have made a good and loving wife."

Lincoln's next love was a tall, fine-looking woman, named Mary Owens, with whom he became acquainted about a year after Anne Rutledge died. Upon her rejection of him, he wrote a letter to his friend Mrs. O. H. Browning, saying the he had

been inveigled into paying his addresses to Miss Owens, but on being refused he found he cared more for her than he thought, and proposed again. In this letter, he said: "I most emphatically in this instance have made a fool of myself. I have come to the conclusion never more to think of marrying, and for this reason - that I can never be satisfied with anyone who would be fool enough to have me."

Still, it was not long after this that he was engaged to Miss Mary Todd, a well-educated rosy brunette, of Lexington, Ky, who was visiting at Springfield, where Lincoln was a member of the Illinois Legislature. Lincoln feared that the match would not be a happy one, and he failed to be present at the time set for the ceremony, though the guests were assembled and the wedding feast prepared.

He became suddenly ill, and it was more than a year before the marriage was consummated.

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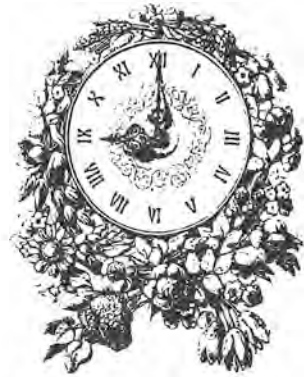
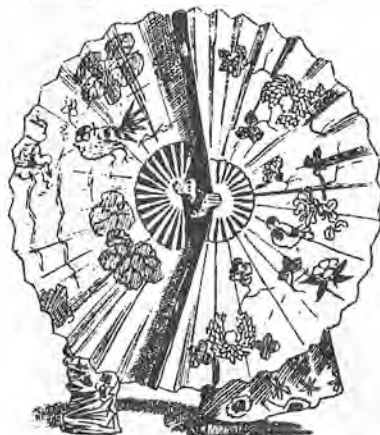
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## Old Town Antique Mall

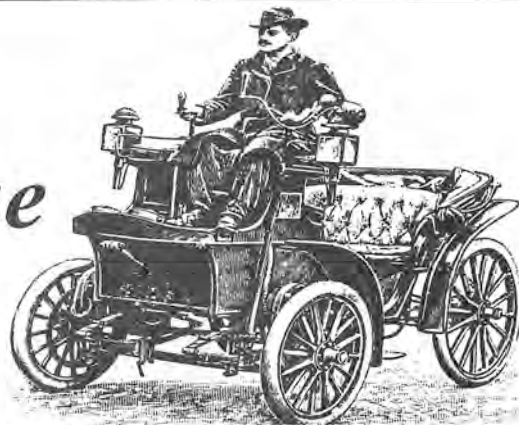
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# A Dream Come True

## The Years 1911 to 1914

by James Record



Prohibition, horseless carriages and gol-darned flying contraptions likely had Madison Countians wondering what possibly could come next as the year 1911 rolled around.

Emmett O'Neal, the new governor had ridden into the governor's chair on the prohibition issue as a champion of the "wets." It was never clearer than in August 1911 when Huntsvilians went to the polls and voted overwhelmingly in favor of reopening a liquor store after a few years of the "dries."

The new liquor store, this time operated by the City of Huntsville, opened on September 19, 1911. James L. Overton was Dispenser and W. Shep Allen was Purchasing Agent. The store

would last until June 30, 1915.

Prices on Old Wakeman liquor in 1914 was \$1.00 a quart, and 25 cents for a half pint. Meanwhile, another 1911 Huntsville election saw voters approving a \$100,000 bond issue by a vote of 284 to 113 to build a new city hall. Following approval of the voters for a new city hall bond issue, the city gave up the old Market House, renting it to the firm of M. H. May and J. P. Cooney, who remodelled it for their dry goods operation.

By then, too, cars were becoming even more and more commonplace in Huntsville; a little more so than some considered safe.

Madison Countians in 1911 got their first state car license

tags, and Sheriff Hereford was having a heyday doling out fines. In the county, however, he had a hard time deciding if someone was speeding, as the law established the state speed limit as "reasonable."

Like the highway daredevils of today, there were always those out for a hazardous race, "dragging," if you will, at fantastic speeds up to 25 to 30 miles per hour. One such race involved A. C. Elder, John V. Matthews and Dr. C. W. Kranz.

One year later, 1912, 60 cars left Nashville, with 58 arriving in Huntsville after a "fast" trip of seven hours and forty-four minutes. They were entertained by the Huntsville Auto and Good Roads Association, headed by Clarendon Davis.

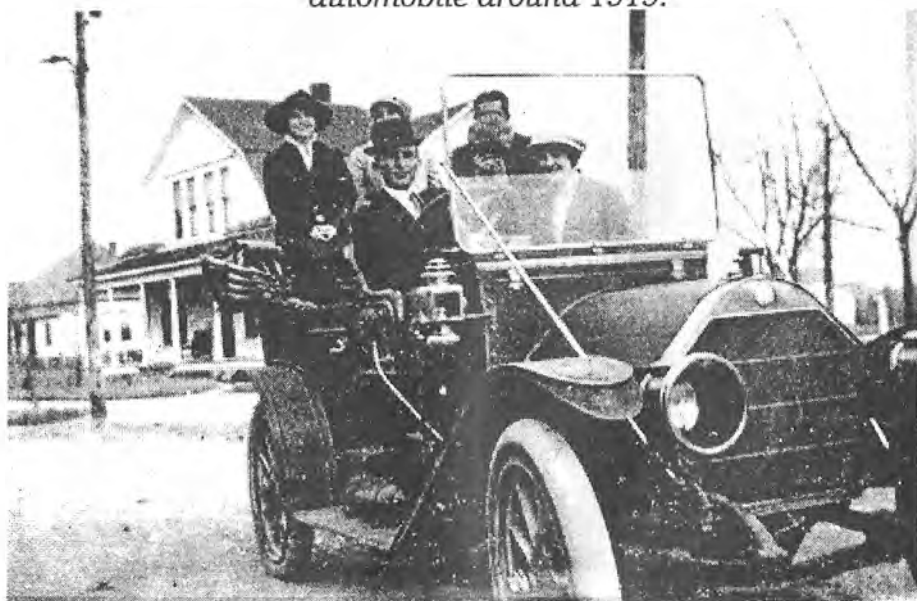
One of the more unusual events in Huntsville's earlier history was sponsorship of the first "Flying Machine Show," in 1911 by the local Elks Lodge. The Gates biplane was featured. The Elks, ever active, in 1912, also sponsored what was billed as the greatest musical ever held in Huntsville. At the Elks theatre, managed by Walter L. Humphrey since 1905, appeared the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra conducted by Emil Oberhoffer, using 55 musicians.

While new ideas were beginning to flourish in Huntsville, however, there were old problems in Huntsville apparently going unattended.

The Madison County Jail, for instance, was condemned by the state prison inspector and the 25 inmates ordered transferred to the Marshall County Jail until the local "disgrace" could be made livable.

Hazel Green and New Hope public high schools were opened during 1911 as well. To the

*J. Emory Pierce and friends showing off his new automobile around 1919.*



South, the Lily Flagg Gin was going strong with R. L. "Cap" Adkins doing a bit of bragging about his electrified business. The gin was the first rural gin in Alabama operated by electricity. Adkins later sold it to Ed Warden, followed by other owners Aaron Bill and Joe Fleming.

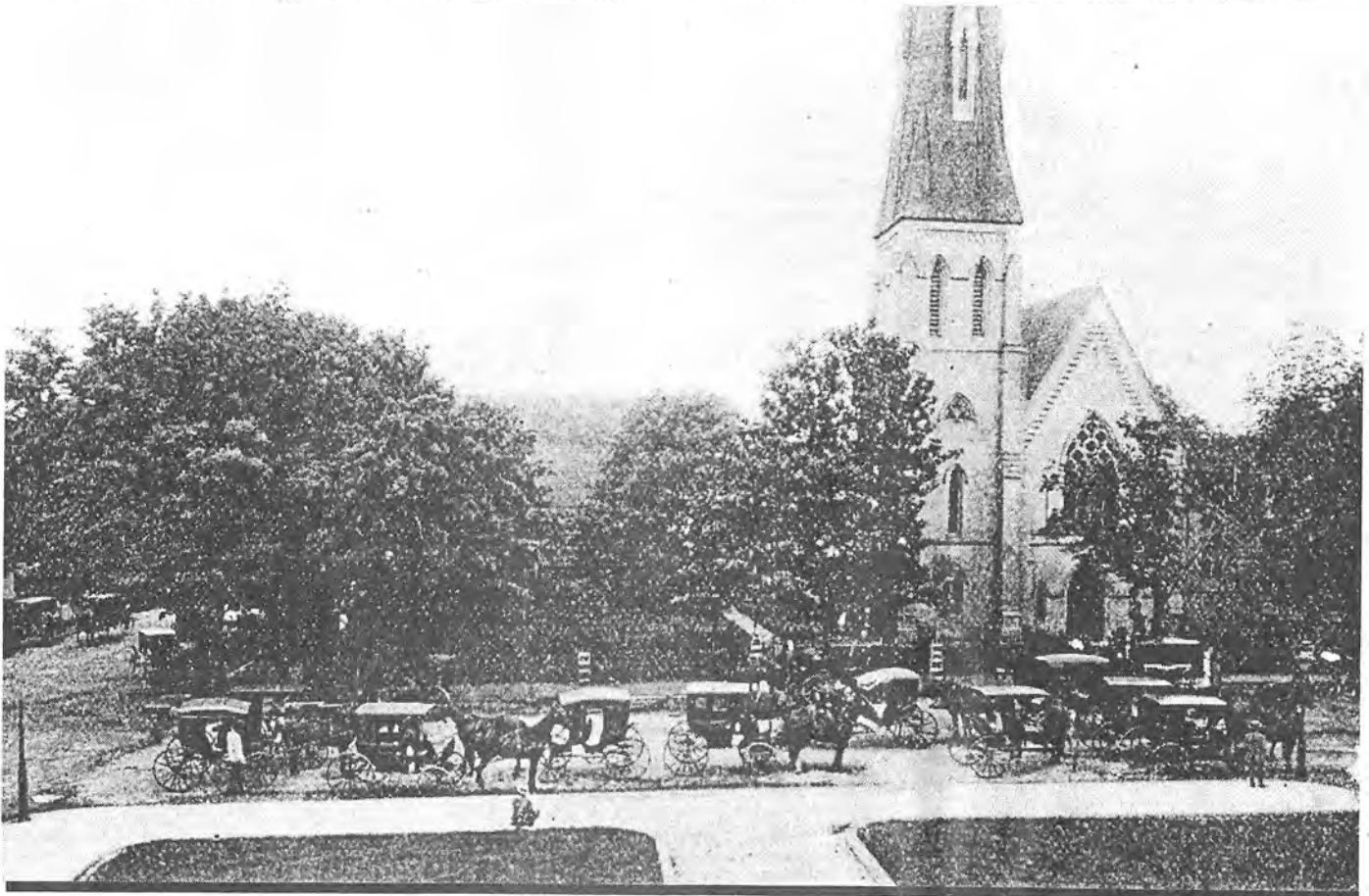
Carlyle Davis, who had learned hypnotism from the famed Galvani at the Elks' Theatre, wanted to show off his new talent. It almost ended in the well-meaning Davis getting lynched. There was a gala affair at the local baseball field with the curious thronging in to see the mystic at work. More than 2,000 were at the field.

For his performance, Davis selected Ivan Benson as his subject. Before Huntsville and the world, Davis put Benson into a trance and told him a girl was drowning and to save her. Benson immediately dived nose



*Above: The Huntsville Opera House, built in the early 1950s, was located on the SW corner of Jefferson and Clinton streets. It was destroyed by fire on November 12, 1911.*

*Below: Photo of the Church of Nativity, downtown Huntsville, taken December, 15, 1904.*



first into a puddle of mud on the field. Folks considered the episode hilarious until they discovered no one could get Benson to stop "swimming" nose-down in the puddle. Davis discovered he knew how to get Benson into the trance, but couldn't get him out of it. The hypnotist headed for the hills, fearing he might find himself a victim of burning at the stake. A cool headed Dr. Westmoreland finally cornered Davis in a hiding place, marched him back to the baseball field and told him to undo what he had done no matter how long it took. A rather muddy Benson finally snapped out of the trance under Davis' coaxing, but it was Davis' last performance.

On the business front, Huntsville in 1911 gained its first oil company bulk operation, although the company had been in business for years in Huntsville. Standard Oil Company purchased land at the corner of Wheeler and Church Streets. Their 1912 manager was Lawrence R. Guinn. Too, the West Huntsville Cotton Mill resumed operations after two years of idleness, stated to have been "because of the high price of cotton."

D. C. Monroe, previously operator of a "tonorial parlor" (barber shop), opened Huntsville's first office supply store that year, too, and Alabama Power Company began looking into the possibility of coming into Huntsville. In July 1912 officials met with city officials and took a 90 day option on the plant and franchise of the Huntsville Railway Light and Power Company.

The first office of Farm Agent was set up in Madison County with Robert S. McCrary and



Completed in 1892, the City Hall also housed the Fire Department. It was located on the corner of Clinton and Washington streets where an earlier City Hall had been built in 1874.

Clarendon Davis appointed to the post, jointly, to aid farmers, a year later. The Madison County Inferior Court was also created in 1911, with Archibald McDonnell becoming Judge and J. L. Ferguson the first County Court Clerk.

The Huntsville Public Library, destined to come into its own within four years, was located during 1911 on the third floor of the Elks building.

Virginia McCormick again showed her humanitarianism in 1911 by presenting a hospital to A & M College, costing \$10,000. An operating room was later christened in February 1912 by Doctors H. D. Westmoreland and F. E. Baldrige. The William Hooper Council Domestic Sciences Building was also donated by Miss McCormick at a cost of \$19,000.

William L. Quick, father of the



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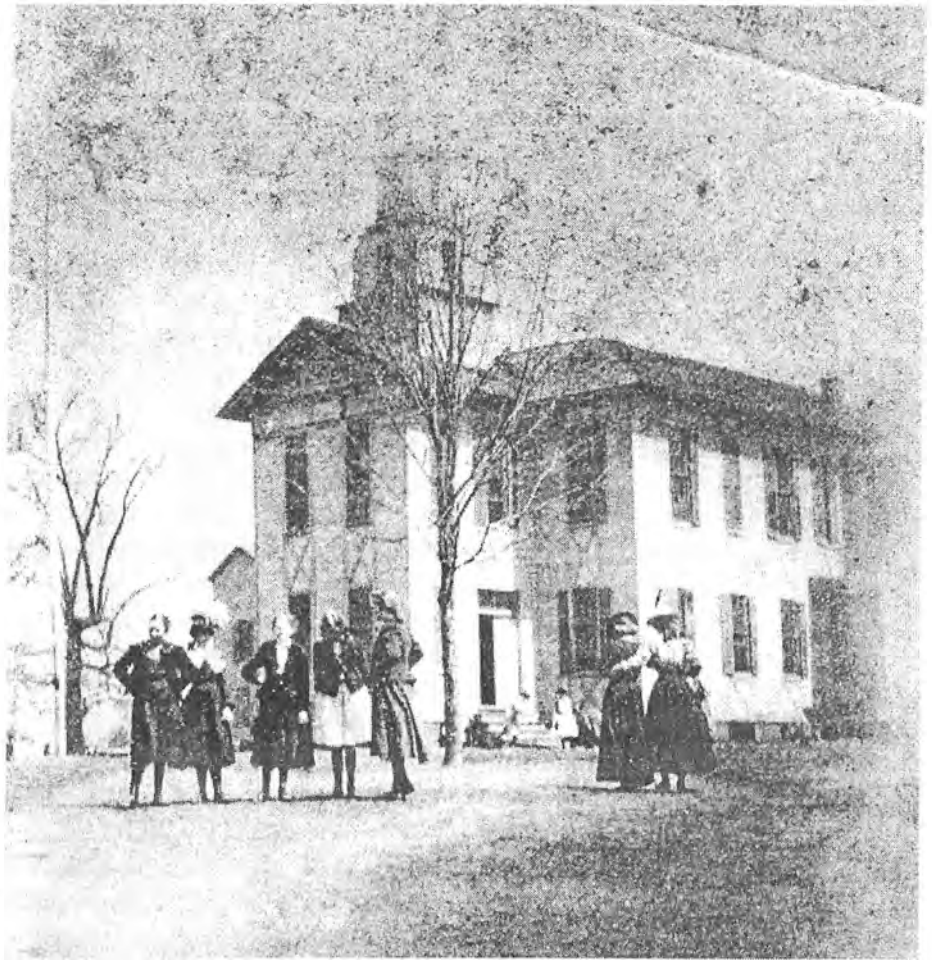
Quick Monoplane, meanwhile was trying to establish a flying company in Huntsville with headquarters at the Skinner garage on Clinton Street. A local 1912 editor got into the act, glamorizing Quick's plane. He described the plane as a "new" type monoplane, patterned after the Hawk, having wings and a tail, with propelling arrangements patterned after the insect, consisting of a vibratory propeller that made no revolution, but beat the air like the wings of a humming bird or fly. Quick has worked on it for nine years. Quick soon placed the plane back in storage again, however.

Competition came the same year, with a Curtis biplane put on exhibit in Huntsville as a benefit to raise funds for "The Mountaineers," a Huntsville baseball team. Joe Wiley reportedly was the pitcher.

In essence, the year 1912 was a relatively quiet year, with the new liquor store operating by the city fathers without controversy; electric cars roaming the area; and the county voting \$12,062 to the Van Dorn Iron Works of Cleveland to repair the jail, according to plans of architect Fred Ausfield; and exploration of the Huntsville Cave under the courthouse by T. W. Pratt and G. W. Jones.

During the year, eggs were 14¢, hens 8¢ and butter 13¢. Construction was slow, but it is known that at least 80 houses were built in Huntsville during the year.

The Silk Stocking Club organized with 12 members. Mrs. F. L. Adams was the first hostess. The Huntsville Suffrage Association was also organized with Mrs. Virginia Clay Clopton as President; Ellelee C. Humes, First Vice-President; and Molly Shelby Pleasants, Second Vice-Presi-



*Built in 1882, this school building stood at the present site of East Clinton School. Pictured in the photo are from left to right: Nelda Humphrey, Birdie Lambert, Jennie V. Yeatman, Helen Petty and Lena House. Photo was taken on April 10, 1900 by Miriam Wellman.*

# SHAW

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dent. The Ceramics Club was active with Mrs. W. S. Frost, president, as was the Study Circle, headed by Mrs. Alberta Taylor. Girls of the county could belong to "Tomato Clubs," being able to win a \$100 reward appropriated by the county governing body, for the best tomatoes.

The 1912 Grand Jury took its usual trips to county properties and found them in reasonably good condition, including the Pesthouse on Athens Pike, now under the supervision of George Mann having six small-pox cases. They also journeyed to the county Poorhouse near New Market, consisting of six double log cabins, a mess hall, and keepers quarters. At the time there were 23 inmates.

Near the Poor house, New Market citizens took a step forward before the year was out, with the formation of the New

Market Telephone Exchange under L. P. Esslinger, Dr. J. E. Walker, M. M. Cochran, and J. H. Walls. Residents of New Market, unfortunately were not ready and the idea didn't get very far off the ground.

It might have been a dull year except for a confrontation between Mayor R. E. Smith and Editor J. Emory Pierce.

The two tangled in fisticuffs in a street fight. Mayor Smith, somewhat disgusted at losing his temper, fined himself \$10 the next day for fighting in the streets.

One of the earlier auto accidents was reported in 1912. Walter Wellman, in his flivver, and Joe Bradley, in his touring car, discovered that there was room for only one car to travel the narrow road, particularly when both were travelling down the middle in opposite direc-

tions.

The county was destined to have a new courthouse. The old building was found to be in such a ramshackled condition that a new building was planned, rather than additions to the old, which was found to be unsafe for additions, with exception of many 50 foot, 12 inch by 18 inch yellow poplar beams that were still preserved in excellent condition. Consequently, Architect C. K. Colley and contractor Little-Cleckler Construction Company began work then in earnest during 1913.

There were great dreams of revelations into the past when demolition began and workmen tore into the cornerstone, expecting to find historical documents. They found nothing.

In the meantime, while construction was underway, county offices moved to the Elks build-

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ing, which had been taken over by Lena Garth the same year for nonpayment of mortgage by the local Elks Lodge.

Something new came to Huntsville in 1913, giving the Barnum and Bailey Circus the same year some real competition. Folks called the new thing the "Talkies." The movies with sound tracks were first presented at the Elks Theatre, only six months after the Edison breakthrough in the East in Talkies.

Beautification buffs were on the rampage in 1913. The unsightly ruins of the Huntsville Hotel, burned earlier, almost prompted a vigilante committee as the site was still left abandoned, charred just as the fire had left it.

Townpeople eventually forced owner J. E. Penney to be fined by the city for failing to clean up the ruins.

At least another whipping post for the City Beautiful Club, organized in 1912 with Mrs. J. R. Jones as president, was the insistent demand that the citi-

zens stop hitching animals to the courthouse fence. That same age old cry again! And they wanted a city auditorium, and they wanted—the list was endless, well-meaning, but hardly enough to bring prompt action from officials that some accused of spending their time trying to hide from the improvement groups.

During 1913, Huntsville got its first "whiteway" electric system, with Mayor Smith and E. C. Betts from the Chamber of Commerce signalling the switch-on.

While electricity was now common, it wasn't until 1913 that the post office got its first electric lights, replacing the gas lamps. The change may have been prompted by natural gas being shut off in Huntsville when the deep well flooded during the year.

At Gurley, too, changes were in store, compliments of W. J. Austiss of Scottsboro, who rented the old Gurley City Hall to install Gurley's first moving picture theatre. The same year, 1913, a post office was built at New Market.

The Huntsville liquor store.

*cont. on page 42*

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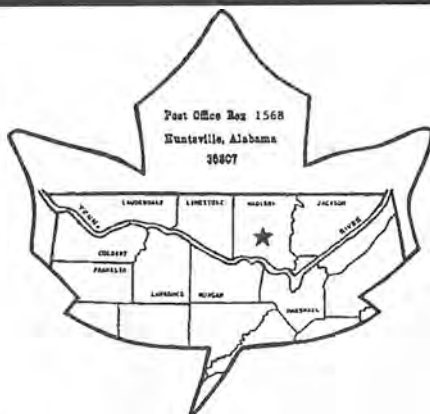
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# Searching For Our Ancestors



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

## STERLING

I am interested in North Alabama STER UNGS. Especially the location of William Sterlings grave. He died in 1877 near O'Neal just northwest of Athens, Limestone Co., AL

Bob Sterling, 251 Woodside Drive, Owen Cross Roads, AL 35763

**MORGAN \* SMITHEY \*  
HEATHCOCK \* TURNER \*  
HAMBRICK \* CAMPBELL**

Most of my grandparents,

great grandparents and great great grandparents lived in Madison Co., AL for most of their lives, between 1800 -1900. Can anyone help with information on the surnames above? Thanks for considering my needs.

James E. Morgan, 9760 Flying Mane Lane, Alta Loma, CA 91737

**DUNBAR \* GILES \* BROWN  
\* PATTON \* JORDAN**

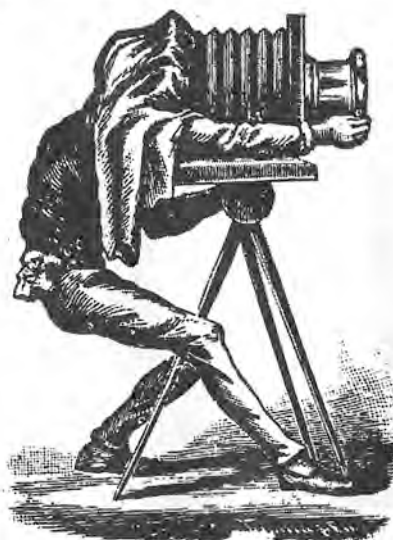
Interested in corresponding with anyone descended from Louisa (Dunbar) GILES, wife of

John GILES. They lived in Madison Co., AL 1840-1860. I am researching DUNBARS of Pittsylvania, Loudon Co., VA, Elisha DUNBAR (Louisa's bro ?)and his dau. Rebecca came to AL with the GILES and mar. 1840 Preston BROWN of Jackson Co. Need Information on David PATTON, b. 1801 GA, m. Nancy (Jordan?), lived DeKalb Co., AL 1850. Ch: Nancy b. 1836 GA; James b. 1838 GA; Lucinda, b. 1840 GA; David b. 1843 AL; George b. 1846 AL; Family in AR. Some connection with William PATTON (c1772-1848) of Mud Creek, Jackson Co., AL is suggested.

Fay Hoodock, 2182 Dairy Farm RD Gambrills MD 21054

## POWELL

Searching for the parents of Reason POWELL b. 1802 in Edgefield Co. SC. He was in Montgomery Co. AL by 1832 and Sumter Co. AL in 1835. Does anybody know for whom Powell's Crossroads on Sand Mountain in Dekalb Co., AL was



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*Frances Spencer Powell, 8913 Willow Hills Dr., Huntsville, AL 35802*

### JONES \* HIDE

John William JONES was born 5 December 1838 in Madison County, near Huntsville. Found a William JONES with children which closely matches the information in the family Bible, but not sure this is the one. J. W. moved to Tennessee after marrying his first wife, Sarah JONES, 28 December 1861. They lived in Lincoln County, Tennessee and also in Boonville, Tennessee.

J. W. JONES joined the Methodist Episcopal church, South, in Fayetteville Circuit, Tennessee Conference 2 November 1884. M. Katie HIDE 30 November 1886, from whom I'm descended. Assuming they married in Tennessee. J. W. was possibly 1/4 Cherokee Indian.

Any information, particularly that of parentage of John William JONES, will be greatly appreciated.

*Mary Magdalene Jones Marchant, 2901 Springfield Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308-3274*

### COUNTS \* GUINN

Seek parents of John COUNTS, b. c1803, d. c1852 Franklin Co., TN. He m. 1st. c1827 Ann GUINN, d/o Jesse GUINN (GINN) she d. c1846 Franklin Co., TN Their Children all b. TN: Emeline, b. c1828; Jesse Strauther, b. c1833; Rosannah, b. c1835; Frances J., b. c1837; John P., b. c1839; Martha Ann, b. c1842; and Mary Jane, b. c1844. John rn2nd 12 Jan 1847 Franklin Co., TN Mary

Ann M. BELL, d/o David BELL. Their children all b. Franklin Co., TN: Sarah Susan, b. c1847 and twins David Bell (1849-1918) and Aaron Alexander (1849-)

*Jerry T. Limbaugh, 4623 Lynchburg Rd, Winchester, TN 37398*

### RICHARDS

Interested in corresponding with anyone who is researching RICHARDS surname in Madison Co., AL. My ancestor is Evans RICHARDS, b. in Wales, who first settled in Northampton, NC abt 1800. He was in Madison Co., AL by 1815. Children are: Stephen

M. (b. abt 1802, NC); Mary Ann (b NC abt 1805); Evan Goodson (b NC abt 1807); John M. (b. NC? abt 1812); Nancy Julia (b AL, 1813); Malcipiah (b AL 1819); and Susan (b AL 1822). Willing to share notes. Thanks in advance.

*Julia M. Emanuel, 140 East Drive, Mobile, AL 36608-3406, Prodigy I.D. VBSF62A.*

*It usually takes more energy to put something off than it does to just do it.*



*Don Gill, Graduate Gemologist G.I.A.*

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## Dream Come True

cont. from page 39

Apparently was doing a booming business, even advertising Pabst Blue Ribbon, despite the probable efforts of the newly organized Madison County Women's Christian Temperance Union against the advertising. The Union was organized in 1913 with Mrs. P. Y. Geron as President. Their organization also brought to the forefront much talk and action about "houses of ill repute" and of "bottle clubs."

South of Huntsville, the beginnings of what would become Madison County's most exclusive Rod and Gun Club took shape. Pratt Harris, on behalf of others, acquired 200 acres around Byrd Spring for a Country Club. The area developed into what is today known as the Byrd Spring Rod and Gun Club and was not used for a Country Club, as such.

Also before the year was out, a formal cornerstone ceremony was held at the Courthouse, and the building was formally opened. H. C. Pollard, Worshipful Master of the Masons, presided at the cornerstone ceremony. The new Courthouse, 119 feet long, a brick and stone building two stories high, had a basement, four entrances and stone columns on each side. The building would remain practically intact for 50 years. But, for the Courthouse, there was that perpetual problem. There was still the hue and cry about hitching animals around the courthouse to the fence. But now the Market House operation had moved to the square. Even the pet deer on the old courthouse lawn would go. The small herd was given to Miss Virginia

McCormick who transferred them to her Kildare estate.

Huntsville's claim to fame in the music world went unnoticed. In 1914. A little known former band director at A & M College had an idea for a new touch for the music world.

The Negro gentleman was W. C. Handy. The song? None other than the Saint Louis Blues, "credited with beginning the Blues craze in the U. S."

Auto hill races became popular. Jeff Terry won a 1914 race with Mr. Beckner of the Huntsville Taxicab Company coming in second. At least, though, the city had now decided that 10 miles per hour wasn't too much for a safe speed.

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## Tips from Earlene

Use brown shoe polish mixed with floor wax to fill in faded spots.

Apply a coat of wax to your dustpan and watch the dirt slide easily into the garbage.

If you store your mops and brooms off the floor, they last longer.

Don't put perfume on your neck before putting on real pearls. It will mar the finish on the pearls. That goes for hairspray, also.

If you wash a faded pair of jeans with a new pair, the color will come back to the faded pair.

To tell if your toilet tank leaks, add a few drops of green or blue food coloring to the tank. Don't flush for an hour - if color seeps into the toilet bowl, you might have to replace the ball.

Dab your favorite perfume or scented oil onto the light bulbs, then turn on. The room will be full of the scent.

Remove rust from your tub with a mixture of borax and lemon juice.

Use real wine for cooking and marinating - try to avoid the commercial cooking wines because they have too much salt and too little flavor.

Your pie crust will not brown properly in a shiny pan - use glass or a pan with a dull finish.

If you don't have a rolling pin, fill an old wine bottle with cold water and re-cork it.

Dab lemon juice on your face

and watch blemishes disappear in a few days.

If your postage stamps get wet and are stuck together, put them in the freezer for a day - the stamps will come apart and their glue will still be usable.

If you have a queen size bed and need sheets, buy full size for the flat sheet and queen size for the fitted. You need the fitted sheet to fit exactly, but the top sheet will be plenty large without hanging down to the floor. And it's cheaper.

*Some things are better than sex, and some are worse, but there's nothing exactly like it.*

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# Swords of The Confederacy

by Jo Shaffer

When the news came that Benjamin had been killed fighting the Yankees, Ervin Swords vowed he would make those loathsome curs pay for the death of his older brother. His heart ached as watched his old father try in vain to comfort his grieving mother. Catching the eye of his twin brother, he motioned for Shelton to meet him outside. Once out of earshot of the cabin's inhabitants, he laid out his plans. "Shel, I'm going to go join up. I just can't stand it anymore, sitting here doing nothing when all our brothers. ..." his voice trailed off as he realized that there was now one less Swords fighting for the Confederacy. "You can't do that to Ma!" Shelton protested. "She done seen five of us go off to fight now, and there's already one that won't be comin' back. It'll kill her if any of the rest of us die. Be-




*Ervin Swords, in later years, with his wife Emeline*

sides, if you're going then I am, too."

And so by the end of the summer of 1862, the Swords twins had enlisted in the Confederate States Army. Ervin was mustered in, and became a member of Company H of the 4th Alabama Regiment, serving under Nathan Bedford Forrest. In the spring of 1863, Union strategy had devised a plan for

General Ulysses Grant to encircle and take Vicksburg. To divert Confederate attention away from the scheme, Colonel Benjamin Grierson would conduct raids into northern Mississippi, while Colonel Abel D. Streight would start from northeastern Mississippi and ride across northern Alabama, wreaking as much havoc as possible across the state as he made his way to Rome, Georgia. According to noted Civil War historian Charles Rice, "It was a crazy idea, but it might have worked had it not been for the amazing Nathan Bedford Forrest."

Streight made it as far as Sand Mountain before Forrest caught up with him. Though he had the advantage in numbers and the rough terrain of the mountain giving him good defensive position, Streight was hopelessly outmaneuvered by his adversary. The skirmish that ensued continued sporadically for five hours before Streight moved his men east. Forrest followed. It was pitch-dark by the time Streight and his men reached



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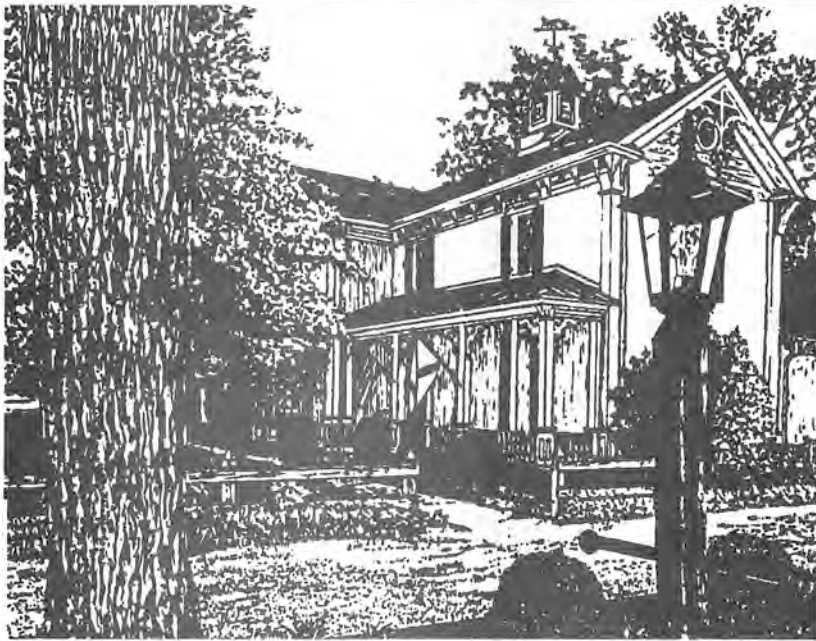
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Hog Mountain and dug in to defend their new position. And though they had ridden over fifty miles in twenty-four hours, Forrest's men did not falter, but stayed right on their heels. "Shoot at everything blue and keep up the skeer," Forrest told his tired men. Streight continued his eastward march, setting up ambushes along the way to slow down Forrest's relentless pursuit. By about 10 o'clock the next morning he had reached Blountsville, and finally gave his men leave to take a two-hour rest. But no sooner were his men getting back to their feet when the 4th Alabama came charging in. The Federals doggedly

pushed on toward Georgia, their forward progress slowed as they paused to lay ambush to the enemy. Forrest's men were just about spent at this point with some of them actually falling asleep in the saddle. He called a halt and inspected the condition of his troops. Their bone-deep exhaustion had left a good number of them unfit for travel, much less for fighting. These men were slowing him down, and Forrest was not about to let Streight slip out of his reach. He picked out the 600 of them that looked to be the strongest. Private Ervin Swords was among that number.

When Col. Streight reached



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**GIANT**

Gadsden, he crossed Black Creek and burned the bridge behind him. For the first time in days, he felt a sense of relief. There could be no other place to cross the stream for miles in either direction.

Streight might have made good his escape were it not for 16-year-old Emma Sansom. She showed Forrest and his men a place they could safely ford the creek just above the place where the bridge had been. And the chase continued.

Just twenty miles outside of Rome, Georgia, Forrest finally faced his adversary for the last time. The 4th Alabama Regiment accepted Streight's surrender. This was probably one of the most exciting campaigns that Ervin Swords participated in.

The remainder of his service to the Confederacy reads like most other accounts in the history books. Hunger and disease proved to be as strong enemies as the Union Army. Years later he would tell his daughter, Belle Anner, of being so hungry that he and the other men ate the corn that fell from the Yankee's horses after they finished eating.

Private Swords was mustered out of the Confederate Army in May of 1865 at Oakville, Mississippi. Though Ervin Swords survived the war, his twin brother Shelton did not. Nor did brothers Andrew or James. Seven Swords were sent out against the Yankees; only four of them came home. Ervin returned to Marshall County and his life gradually returned to normal. He mar-

ried twice and fathered fourteen children. A dentist by trade, he also kept the "county house", a nursing home, where sick and needy people could come to get a hot meal and a bit of shelter.

But Ervin Swords never forgot the pride of fighting for his country and was an active participant in the reunions of Civil War veterans. One such gathering was written up in The Gunterville Democrat on August 16, 1901. Under the heading of "EX-CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS OF MARSHALL COUNTY ENJOY TWO DAYS OF PLEASURE AT ALBERTVILLE," the article described how 272 veterans assembled to honor their fallen comrades. There were nearly 4,000 visitors to the two-day event, which featured many speakers giving tribute to the veterans, and barbecues and picnics on the site. Ervin Swords was one of five representatives of the 4th Alabama to attend. Ervin Swords passed away on September 23, 1923 at the age of 82. But his memories did not die with him. His daughter, Belle Anner Swords McWhorter, passed along his stories and legacy to the next generation. In 1990, at the age of 98, she was formally recognized as a True Daughter of the Confederacy.



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# A Wedding Announcement

Taken from 1896  
Huntsville newspaper

"Steve" Ryan has been regarded as such a typical bachelor, viveur and man about town that the news of his wedding was nothing short of a thunder clap to most of his friends. Mr. Ryan's reputation as an incorrigible practical joker had something to do with this prevalent skepticism, and the announcement was generally received with a vague smile and the certainty that there was "a catch about it somewhere."

The bride of the occasion, nee Miss Edith Askam, is a comely, though quite unfortunate, brunette who has already

at her young age outlived two husbands. She is the daughter of Henry F. Askam, a well known specialist who has been located for the last three or four years at No. 208 Washington. Askam came here from Cleveland, Ohio, and is reputed to have built up a large and lucrative practice.

He makes a specialty, I believe, of electric therapeutics. Some time ago, Dr. Askam purchased a pretty piece of property out on Washington Street near Love (propitious name), and it was there he made the acquaintance of Ryan.

A short introduction, a shorter romance, and Askam is once again a father-in-law. There were a number of handsome

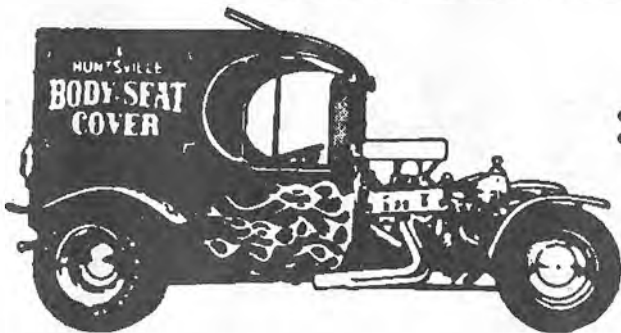
wedding presents sent in quietly by friends and not displayed, and I am informed on what I would ordinarily regard as very good authority that a check for \$25,000 was among them.

Young Ryan is said to be well satisfied at the present state of affairs.



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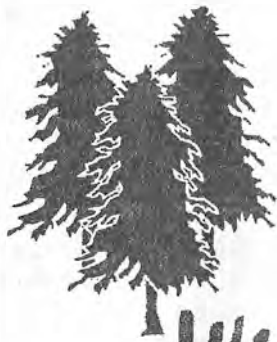


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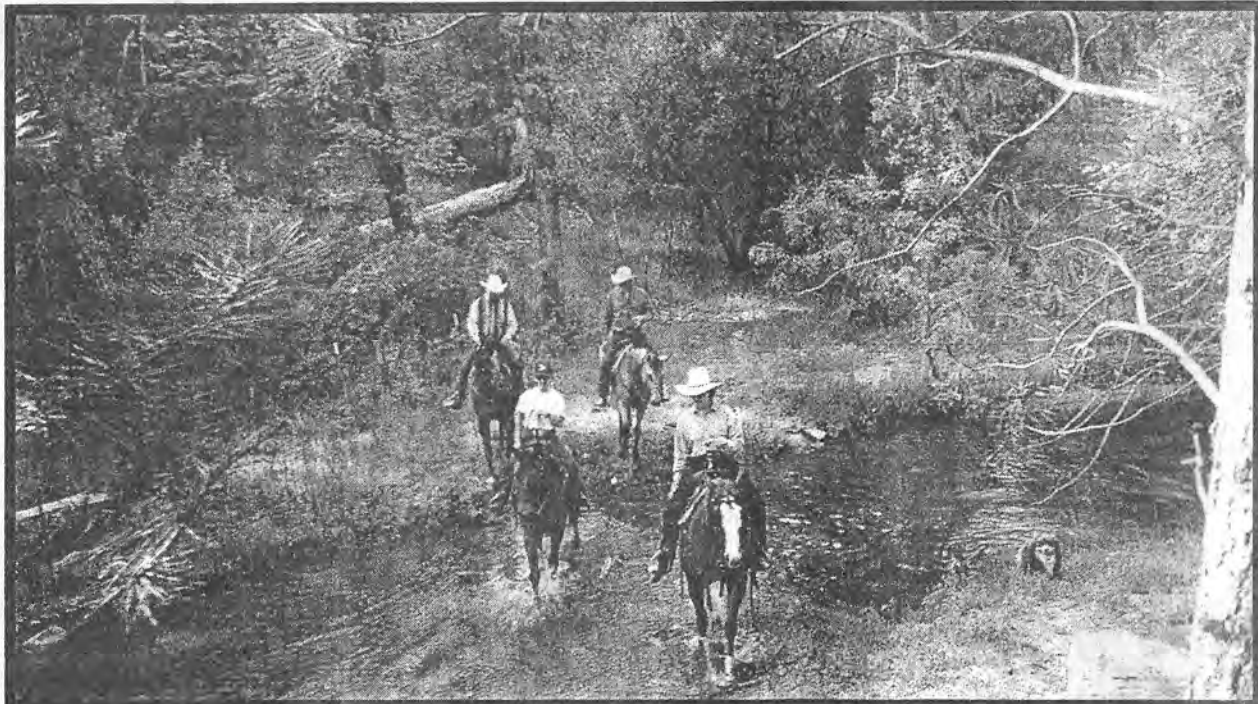
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