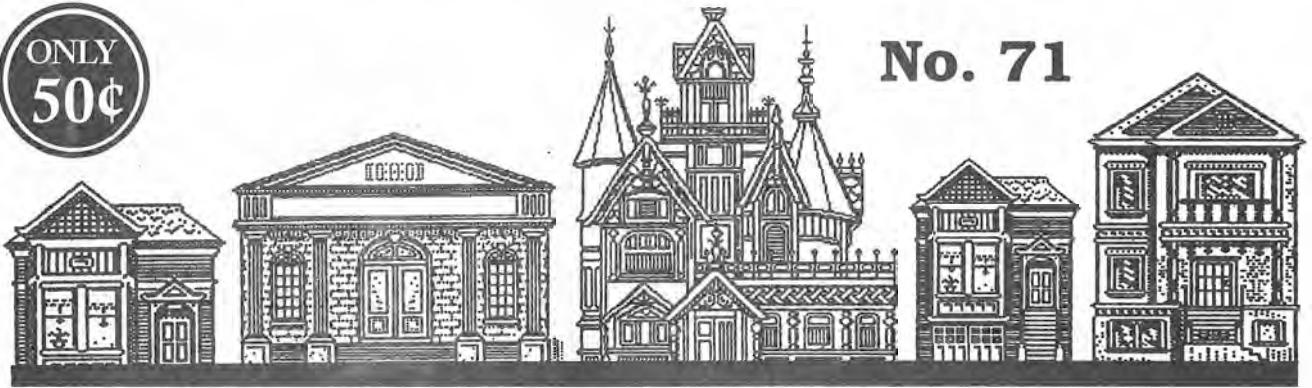


ONLY
50¢

No. 71



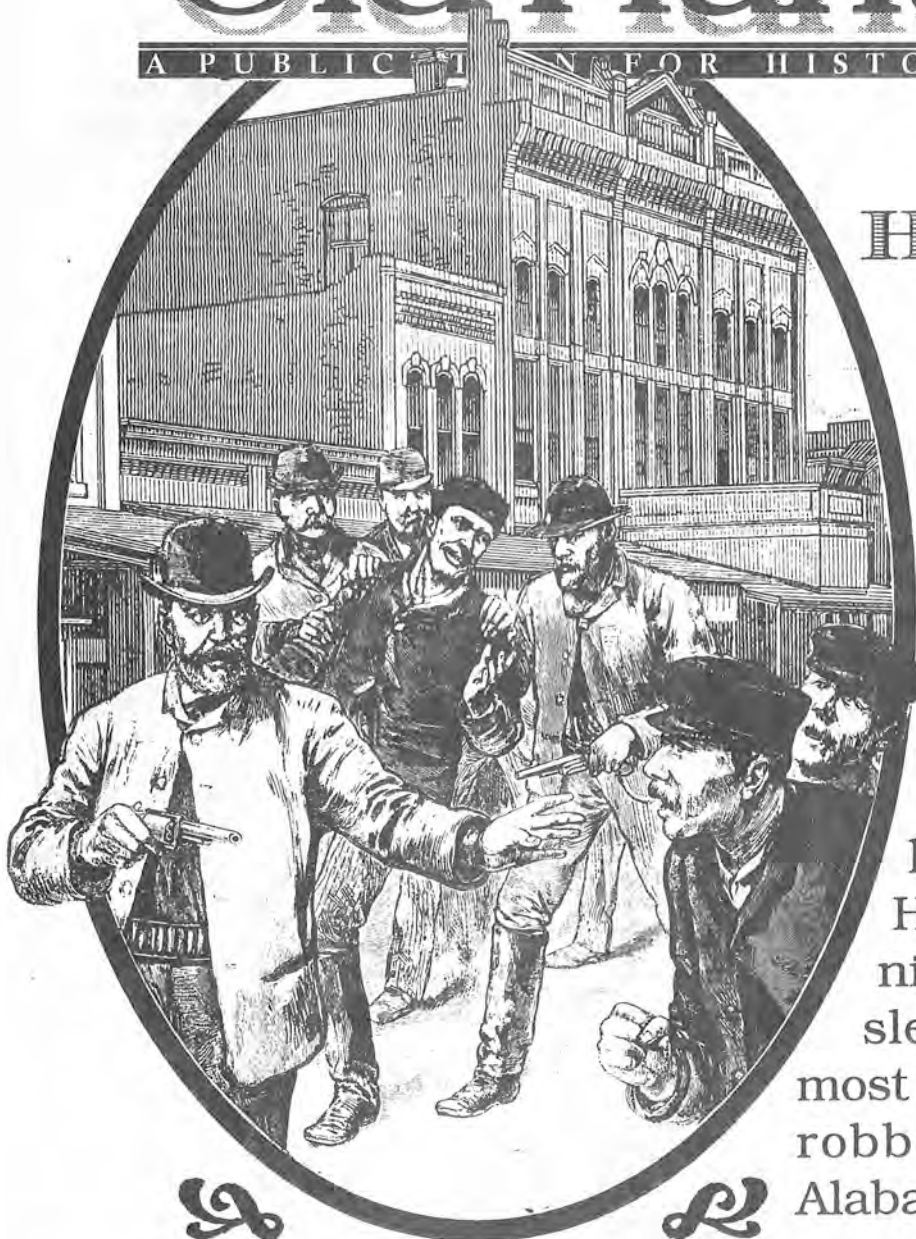
Old Huntsville

A PUBLIC TRUST FOR HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE

THE GREAT HARTSELLE BANK

ROBBERY

by Dr. Bill Stewart, Jr.



In the early morning hours of March 15, 1926, fifteen dastardly criminals looted the Bank of Hartselle. Eight blasts of nitroglycerine rocked the sleeping city. It was the most bizarre and daring bank robbery in the history of Alabama!

The Great Hartselle Bank Robbery

The most sensational robbery ever to occur in Alabama took place in Hartselle early on the morning of March 15, 1926, when the Bank of Hartselle was looted by a gang of robbers who held the town captive for almost four hours while they stripped the bank of all of its cash and gold and some silver coins. *The Birmingham News* called the Hartselle robbery, "the boldest invasion of robbers in Alabama's history."

The *News'* writer also said the brazenness of whomever plotted the crime made people think that "the resurrected spirit of a Jesse James" had made its appearance in Hartselle. The robbers had "descended upon this town in true Wild West fashion."

An exact accounting of the number of thieves who staged a daring raid on Hartselle in mid-March, 1926, has never been possible but there were probably about fifteen. Less Williams, the Hartselle police officer mentioned below, said that the man who was the leader of the gang had a northern accent. They were dressed in corduroy clothing with leggings and broad brimmed hats. They did not wear masks. With the only lights being flashlights (as we will shortly see), they had little to fear regarding being recognized in mugshots later.

The robbers probably arrived in Hartselle about 1:00 a.m. The bandits first went to the telephone exchange (over the Speak Hardware building), climbed up the steps, and used a handsaw to cut the three cables linking Hartselle with the outside world. Every phone in town was now useless either for making local or long-distance calls. Mrs. J.A. Schnell was the operator on duty at the time.

Other members of the gang began patrolling the streets to round up the few Hartsellians out and about past midnight who could interfere with their successful implementation of what they contemplated on this cold morning. Seven men would be bound and gagged and placed for safekeeping in the rear of the bank being robbed. Less Williams was the most visible presence in Hartselle at this hour and he was captured first. Less Williams was the night policeman and he was pinched as he was making his regular nightly rounds near the bank. At that point he saw a man with a five gallon gasoline can. The man told Officer Williams he needed to know if there was a place where he could buy some gas at that late hour. Officer Williams said there wasn't, but he offered to walk with the stranger to the home of the service station operator.

When the first stranger and Officer Williams reached an alley, another stranger came on the scene and he and the man with the gas can pulled their guns on Less Williams who was told to "stick 'em up." They relieved Officer Williams of both his gun and his flashlight, (they left his knife). The next person they spotted, ironically, was Ernest Mittwede, vice-president of a rival bank,



Old Huntsville

Published By

Old Huntsville, Inc.
716 East Clinton Ave.
Huntsville, Ala. 35801
(205) 534-0502
Fax 539-3712

E-Mail

Oldhivill@mindspring.com

Internet Home Page

www.cntnet.com/oldhivill

Publisher

Cathey Callaway Carney

Senior Editor

Thomas Frazier

General Manager

Clarence Scott

Special Assignment

Stefanie Callaway

Distribution

Golden K Kiwanis Club

Copy Boy

Tom Carney



Member

Association of
Southern Publishers

All material contained within is copyright 1997 (©) and may not be copied or reproduced in any form without written permission from
Old Huntsville, Inc.

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

You are invited to join



The National Association of Senior Friends, with more than 330,000 members nationwide, offers an outstanding array of healthy living programs, healthcare discounts, and exciting travel opportunities - all designed for adults age 50 and over.

With more than 220 chapters located throughout the United States, Senior Friends offers a strong national network which provides exceptional benefits and services to all its members.

Your local chapter of Senior Friends, located at Columbia Medical Center of Huntsville, would like to invite you to become a member. With your membership you will realize many of these benefits:

When you are hospitalized...

Private room, when available, at semi-private rates
One complimentary meal for spouse/significant person every day of hospitalization
Comfortable sleeping arrangements for overnight stay of spouse

For your Health...

Complimentary cholesterol screening
Complimentary triglyceride screening
Complimentary hearing test at the Hearing & Balance Center
Health and education seminars
Organized mall walks, aerobic exercise and line dancing classes

For the Fun of It...

Day trips and tours on chartered buses
Monthly Senior Friends meetings featuring guest speakers, entertainment and refreshments
Lunch clubs, bingo, movies, bridge, birthday parties and much, much more...

To Save You Money...

25% hospital cafeteria discount for breakfast and dinner, Monday - Friday. Includes lunch on weekends.
Mail order pharmacy - saves you up to 50% on drugs
Optical and Hearing discounts, books, travel and flower discounts

Your membership with all of these wonderful and exciting benefits is available for only \$15.00 per year. Couples may join for an additional discount of \$25.00.

Don't miss all the FUN...
CALL AND JOIN TODAY!!! 880-4131



COLUMBIA
Medical Center of Huntsville

Farmers and Merchants, who had stopped briefly at his own bank and was now walking home after a late Sunday evening date. It is ironic that the only bank employee taken hostage worked for another bank.

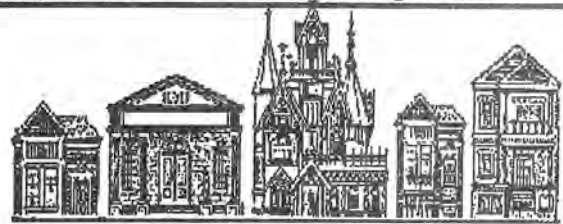
Now several of the robbers marched Less Williams and Ernest Mittwede toward the station where they had more work to do. J.B. (Brad) Huie, the L&N night agent, was seized when he came outside the station to get the mail and baggage which had

been thrown off No. 8, the north-bound train. The Huie family lived on Sloss Street, on the east side of Hartselle, not far from the depot. All of the time he was working at the local depot, he worked the 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. shift. "His routine," his son Jack Huie recalls, "usually got him home by 4:30 and he was up to have breakfast with the family about 8:00." March 15, 1926, was to be most un-routine, however. Jack Huie recalls that when his father "brought in the

mail from No. 8 that morning he laughed when someone yelled 'Hands up!' "He thought," the younger Mr. Huie continued, "it was one of the boys playing a prank." However, "when he felt the gun muzzle in his stomach he reacted immediately for he was half scared to death." Brad Huie was told by his captor that he would not be harmed if he obeyed orders.

This firm but somewhat humane counsel was frequently repeated as the group of hostages

Subscribe to North Alabama's most popular magazine!



OLD HUNTSVILLE

If you have enjoyed reading *Old Huntsville Magazine*, we would be glad to send you an issue every month. With *Old Huntsville Magazine* you'll get stories about Old Huntsville that you won't see anywhere else, great down home recipes, North Alabama trivia, humorous and true accounts of the history of the Tennessee Valley and much more.

So don't delay. Subscribe today and be in the know with *Old Huntsville Magazine!*

Yes, I would like *Old Huntsville Magazine* delivered to me each month.
I've enclosed \$15.00 for a full year's subscription (12 issues).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If Subscription is a Gift please fill in below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make check payable to:

Old Huntsville Magazine 716 East Clinton Ave. Huntsville, Alabama 35801 (205) 534-0502

grew larger.

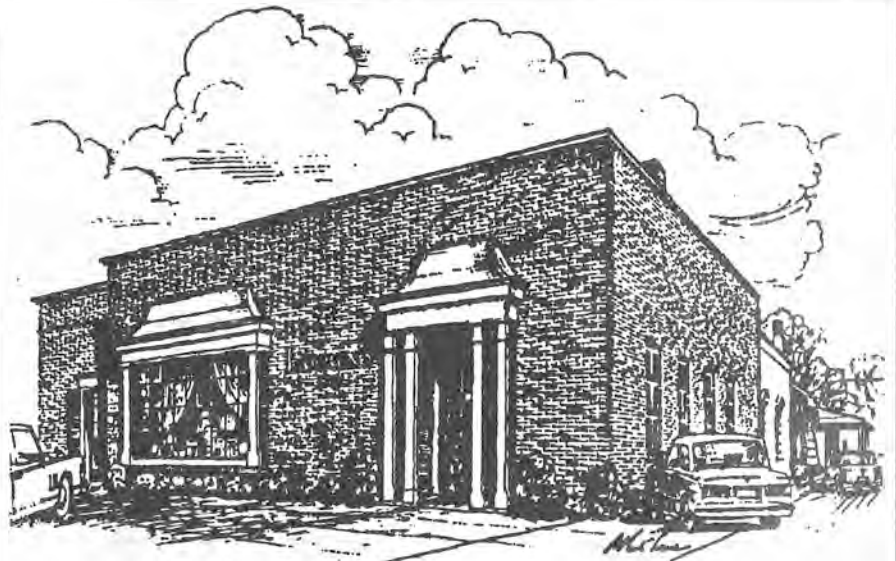
Another member of the gang then went inside and got Oscar Williams who, at the time he was apprehended, was trying to catch a little shut-eye as he waited for No. 7 to take him back to Birmingham so he could go to his job the next morning. However, he became fully awake as a gun was placed in his face, and two masked men forced him and Mr. Huie to join Less Williams and Ernest Mittwede and head down the street to the bank. Like the others, Oscar Williams was told that he "would not be hurt" if he "obeyed orders."

Meanwhile, other members of the gang continued to patrol the mostly deserted streets of Hartselle to apprehend any additional people who might put a successful bank robbery in jeopardy. Newspaper accounts of the robbery say that Chester Young (otherwise unidentified) was spotted on the streets and placed for safekeeping in the coal storage area in the rear of the bank which had now been broken into and where Less Williams, Mittwede, Huie, and Oscar Williams now were. Black rural residents Mack MacGinnis (sometimes spelled McGinnis) and Bob Grigsby were captured next. According to most accounts of the robbery, Messrs. McGinnis and Grigsby had come to town to see about getting a coffin in which to bury a deceased uncle. With the streets virtually cleared, the robbers now did the first thing that aroused any attention from the mostly sleeping townspeople. They shot out the lights in the park area near the depot. (The Bank of Hartselle was located where City Market would operate in post-Depression days,

and where Golden Oldies Antiques is now.) Mrs. Schnell didn't know exactly when her wires were cut. She discovered it, however, when she heard the shots being fired outside her window and, going to her switchboard, she found the lines dead. This was after midnight. Based on the usual custom of firing shots to signal a fire in progress, she thought a fire was blazing somewhere in town.

The only casualty (not fatal) during the robbery occurred during the time the gang's marksmen

were shooting out the lights. Dr. J.D. Johnston, a dentist, had rooms upstairs and just across the street from the bank. When gunfire brought an abrupt end to his night of rest, he thought that, as was customary, the firing of shots was being used as a fire alarm. So convinced was he that there was a fire in progress that, after he was roused from sleep he got his own gun, went to the window, and, to help alert his fellow townsmen, simultaneously fired it and shouted "Fire! Fire!" He then hastily



LAWREN'S*

809 MADISON STREET
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

BRIDAL REGISTRY

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

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

clothed himself and went down to the street, still carrying his gun which was now empty.

At the Puckett and Orr drug-store location, which was just up from his rooms, Dr. Johnston was wounded in the fleshy part of the leg between the knee and hip by a marksman stationed at the Poole and Sherrill corner across the street. This member of the gang naturally expected trouble from a man with a gun presumed to be loaded. Dr. Johnston limped to the Central Hotel and was taken to Benevolent Hospital in Decatur by Dr. John Kimbrough who was driving through town at this time. Once at the hospital, Dr. Kimbrough himself operated on Dr. Johnston and then returned to Hartselle to see what else he could do to help in the situation. Dr. Kimbrough, of course, told people in Decatur what was going on when he reached Benevolent Hospital with Dr. Johnston.

A system of clicks was used for communication between the robbers. For example, three

clicks were heard from some sort of clicking instrument (it sounded like telegraph clicks) after Dr. Johnston was shot. This meant that all was well from the robbers' perspective and they could continue their work undisturbed. Each time one robber approached another he gave three clicks. The clicking may have been done by tapping on the butts of the pistols the men carried. The sentries had orders to kill anyone who got in the way of the gangs' proposed getaway route to be described below.

Probably, the robbers had not wanted to shoot anyone. Those held hostage inside the bank were not harmed. They were told by the gang leader that they would be OK if they kept quiet. One was quoted as saying, "We are gentlemen and we have no desire to hurt anyone." Also, "We are simply out for money and we want cash, and cash only." One robber said the men were "hard up" for money. Further, when one of the hostages told a robber he was cold. The robber put a

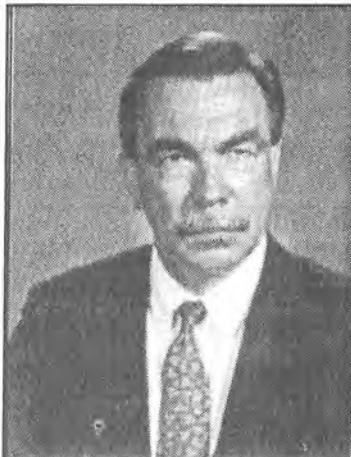
Shaver's Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

1. Crapemyrtle - A grower's thoughts by David Byers (\$27.95).
2. Mid-South Garden Guide - The best book for Zone 7 (that's us) Gardening (\$16.95).
3. Maple Hill Cemetery - Phase One. A Genealogist's / Historian's must (\$22.95).
4. True Tales of Old Madison County - Historic Huntsville Foundation (\$6.95).
5. Found Among The Fragments - Courageous women in Yankee occupied Huntsville by Sarah Huff Fisk (\$15.95).
6. Long Ago in Madison County - written and illustrated in 1964 for young children by Kenny and Fisk (8.95).
7. Billy Joe Cooley is Full Of It! Clean Southern humor? By Billy Joe Cooley (\$15.00 cheap).
8. Hard Times - The Civil War in Huntsville and North Alabama by Charles Rice (\$16.95).
9. Southern Railway: From Stevenson to Memphis, edited by Jack Daniel (\$24.95).
10. Glimpses into Antebellum Homes of Huntsville and Madison County, 8th edition (\$12.95).

MAIL ORDERS ADD
\$2.00 PER/BOOK

Shaver's Bookstore
(205) 536-1604

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



Personal Injury

No fee is charged
if no recovery

Divorce & Custody
Criminal Cases

DUI, Etc.

34 Years Trial Experience

David L. (Dea) Thomas

Attorney At Law

301 Franklin St.

536-0732

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

couple of overcoats over his lap for warmth. However, when one of the hostages became overly upset, it was necessary for him to receive a blow to the head as a calming antidote.

This prisoner, who most unnerved the robbers, was Mack McGinnis who was the most demonstrative of the hostages. He prayed repeatedly for divine intervention. One of his prayers went something like this: "Oh, Lord, I ain't done nothing — Just trying to buy a coffin. Please help me, God. These men aim to kill me. And Dear God, please don't send your Son, Jesus Christ; this is man's work. Come down, come down yourself." Another account of McGinnis' faith had him praying: "Lord, as you opened the gates of the Garden of Eden, open now this bank door. I don't trouble you often and it ain't my fault that I am now. Come down, and loosen these bonds as thou did with the jaws of the lions in Daniel's den." One of the gangsters was so provoked by McGinnis' praying that he told

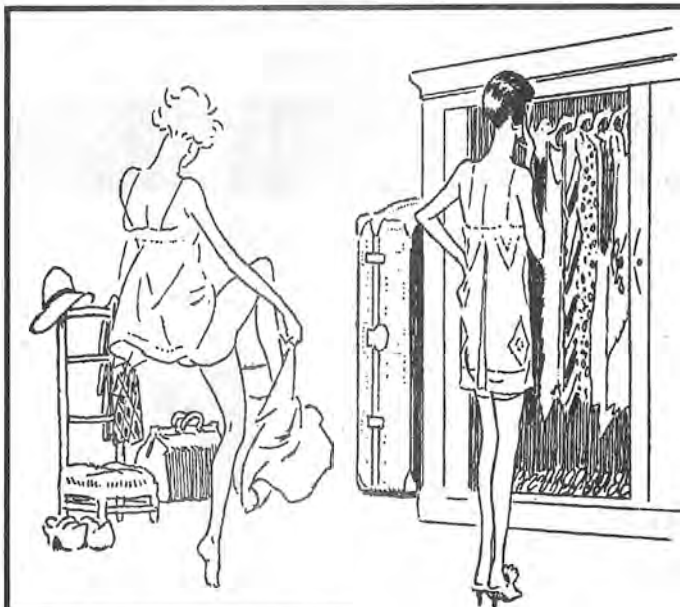
one of his comrades, "If he don't shut up, I'm going to have to kill him." It is reported that "Uncle Mack," as Mr. McGinnis was affectionately known, still kept praying, but more softly.

As the nitroglycerine blasts were going off the bandits made sure that the hostages were at a sufficiently safe distance that they would not be harmed. However, the captives believed that they might be entombed when the bank building caved in on account of the force of explosives, or at a minimum, pummeled by collapsing steel and concrete. Also, the sufferers' anxiety undoubtedly grew even more intense when, at one point, one of the gangsters himself confessed, after a particularly frightening explosion, "I'm afraid that's all this old building will take." Nevertheless, he was ordered by the gang leader to "Pour more in."

Later hostage Mittwede said, "Now that it is over, I can see a glimmering of humor in it. But there wasn't anything funny

about it while it was happening. You can imagine how I felt. Here I was, living quietly and peacefully in a small town with no idea of there being any possibility of harm in the town." He continued, "And then to be seized on the streets, a gun poked in my face, bound and carried to the back room of a bank while the men worked outside! I can tell you it made my hair stand up, I tell you." What the hostages were most concerned about was, as we have seen, the nitroglycerine the robbers were using to gain access to the Bank of Hartselle's funds.

Use of nitroglycerine in a robbery is difficult and its successful use in the Hartselle case showed how experienced the bandits were. It was not easy to get into the vault but with such an effective organization the robbers were able to work very deliberately. Jack Huie recalls that what struck his father most about the robbers, "was the workmanlike attitude of the group as they shuttled back and



JEAN'S ON FRANKLIN

Huntsville's Finest Ladies' Dress Shop

Shop early for the best selection on our

Great Fall Fashions!

Career, Casual &
Special Occasion Clothes.

Accessories for all your Fashion needs

For that Just Right Look - Jean's on Franklin, providing Women with Fine Classic Clothing & Personalized Service for over 33 Years!

539-4871/539-4873

forth in the bank."

He continues: "They talked quietly, never seemed to rush, showed no panic even though the time, particularly as far as the hostages were concerned, seemed to go on forever." The bank had a double brick wall and then a steel lining safeguarding the safe which stored its money. The *Hartselle Enterprise* writer almost sighed as he wrote: "It does not seem possible that human ingenuity could be equal to the task of getting funds protected by so much brick, concrete, and steel and guarded by time locks as well. Yet, it was done. It must be, as had been said, that 'nothing is impossible.'"

The first two blasts of nitro still left the cash untouchable. Successive blasts of nitroglycerine (eight in all, according to *The News*) nearly wrecked the inside of the bank. Octagon soap was placed near the door of the safe. The soap was used to contain the explosive in cracks of the door and concentrate its force. After this step was completed a hole was bored in the layer being attacked and nitroglycerine then being inserted in the hole. With the final blast the vault lock was blown 50 feet, being implanted into the ceiling of the bank. The door itself was blown 10 feet off its hinges. With regard to the force of the last nitroglycerine blast the *Enterprise* noted that "the final shot was so successful it all but wrecked the front of the building, blowing out the windows, sending the locks and hinges a distance of 50 feet and imbedding a heavy piece of lock 18 inches in length in the ceiling." The blasts were heard as far away as two miles.

The shooting out of the lights

in the town square quickly aroused many Hartselle citizens, especially in the immediate vicinity of the bank. Apparently, the shooting of Dr. Johnston was to be a visible warning to other Hartselle citizens not to attempt to interfere with the robbery in progress. Anytime someone was brave enough to approach within sight of the robbers he was commanded, "keep off, or have your brains blown out." People who

had come out after hearing the initial shots taking out the lights did not bring their firearms since, like Dr. Johnston, they believed the shots constituted a fire alarm. Pierce Pattillo, the vice-president of the bank being robbed, is reported to have advanced toward the bank but, at the tracks, he was forced back by one of the gang of armed men.

In the dark it was impossible for the townspeople to organize

**FOR VALUES, SAVINGS AND A GREAT SELECTION!
INSTANT CREDIT! FREE DELIVERY!**



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



**Downtown With Free Parking!
100 Jefferson St. 534-5681**

44 YEARS OF THE BEST!



Est. 1953

Cakes From Scratch
Our Specialty



Peggy Ann Bakery

Decorated Cakes For All Occasions

**Halloween
Cakes, Cupcakes
Cookies,
Ghost Petit Fours**

Tuesday - Friday 7am - 6pm
& Saturday 7am - 4pm

831 Regal Drive, Huntsville, Ala.

536-8541



**Tuesdays
&
Fridays are
Donut Days!**

*The
Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Inc.
is proud to announce*

First Families of the Tennessee Valley

*Composed of the ancestors of people living in the
Tennessee Valley before 14 December, 1819*



Applicants must submit proof of being a direct lineal descendant of a person, or persons who lived in the area now known as the Tennessee Valley before December 14, 1819. This area includes certain lands ceded by Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee as well as the Cherokee Nation and the Chickasaw Lands.

Upon approval, applicants shall be enrolled and receive a signed Certificate, suitable for framing, recognizing the applicant as a member of the "First Families of the Tennessee Valley."

For information or to request an application write:

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 1568

Huntsville, Alabama 35807 - 0567

to take any potentially effective action. Some observers told reporters that they had watched the robbery in progress for a couple of agonizing hours. Crime was unusual in Hartselle. Research has shown that sometimes a whole month would go by without a single arrest. Mittwede later expressed surprise that Hartselle had been selected for a robbery. "Why, we haven't had a robbery here in why I can't even remember when one happened." Some unthinking journalists expressed surprise that possibly no more than two sentry gunmen could hold a hundred curious citizens at bay while their comrades went about the business of robbing the Bank of Hartselle, particularly when every one of them surely had one or more guns back at home which they could have easily retrieved. However, there are good explanations both for what did and what did not happen.

J.M. Lindsay was aroused from his bed by the shots and walked toward the downtown area to see what was the matter. When he got close to the robbery area, however, a shot buzzed by his head as a warning to keep away. Lindsay was understandably upset. However, he later told an acquaintance that he "didn't mind being shot at so much, but the gunman"—possibly not as gentlemanly as some of his colleagues—called me an SOB, and I don't take that from anybody!" When someone turned on the lights of the Puckett and Orr drugstore across the street from the bank a marksman inside the bank shot through two plate glass windows to return the drugstore to a darkened condition.

I.V. Griffin, cashier of the Bank of Hartselle, was reached

and informed that a robbery was in progress. He then sent word to Arthur Stephenson, the bank president, who was sick in bed at his home on Hickory Street.

Stephenson asked that word be given out to the townspeople not to risk their lives to try to stop the robbery. The deposits were insured. More importantly, the welfare of the hostages would be severely jeopardized. A more humorous account has it that Mr. Lindsay went by Griffin's house and, as he did so, Griffin called

out: "What's going on out there?" Lindsay replied that a robbery was in progress. At this Griffin is supposed to have said, "Well, it's insured," and closed the window.

Men of Hartselle wanted to do something and, at one point, two men went to the national guard armory and got a machine gun. One of these men was Hubert Steed, a member of the Guard. He wanted to spray lead into the besieged Bank of Hartselle.

Apparently, Griffin was not as

**Quality
Professional
Dry Cleaning &
Laundry
Service**

**One of Huntsville's
Oldest
Businesses!**



SANDERS
1215 Jordan Lane 837-6072
7538 Mem. Pkwy. S. 828-0106

nonchalant about the robbery as he is portrayed in some accounts. After being told the robbery was in progress, he did come downtown. Upon doing so he found out about some of the desperate measures Hartsellians had in mind for dealing with the robbers.

However, Mr. Griffin refused to allow them, believing that indiscriminate firepower would kill the hostages being held against their will in the coal storage room.

The bank robbers definitely did not believe Hartselle citizens were cowards. They were concerned about the crowd outside the bank.

Toward the later part of the robbery, Mittwede said that the guard who was watching over the hostages was told that there were too many people out front and he was needed to handle the crowd.

The hostages were left largely unattended at this point.

While the robbery was in progress, L&N Train No. 7 arrived at the station. This was about 2:00 a.m. and the robbery was well underway. The train only stopped

in Hartselle when a signal was set.

In these days the signal was a red board. It was set Sunday night because Oscar Williams of Birmingham had been courting here and was returning home. If the robbers had been even smarter than they obviously were, they would have removed the board which was the signal for the train to make a stop.

When the train did stop, of course, no passenger was waiting to board since Williams was now inside the bank bound and gagged with the other local hostages, including Mr. Huie, the station night agent.

Baffled at seeing neither agent nor passenger, conductor J.A. Taylor began an investigation. The assembled townspeople told him that a robbery was in progress and that hostages (including the missing agent) had been taken. Taylor also discovered that the station

continued on page 50

Real Estate Appraisals



Mark Hallman SRA

Member of Appraisal Institute

776-9050

Certified by the state of Alabama

Active Worker for Heritage Preservation

EVERY MONDAY IS FAMILY NIGHT!

Gibson's BAR-B-Q

SINCE 1956



KIDS EAT FREE

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT!
One child, 10 and under, eats free from our new kid's menu with each paid adult entree. Offer good for Dine-in only.

3319 MEMORIAL PKWY., SW 881-4851
Dine in or carry out & our famous breakfast

8412 WHITESBURG DR. SOUTH 882-0841
Dine in or drive thru & our famous breakfast

Gibson's BAR-B-Q

YOUR HOSTS: THE SANFORDS & HAMPTONS

History They Never Taught You In School



In the 1890s an American doctor published a treatise warning that chewing gum would "exhaust the salivary glands and cause the intestines to stick together."

In December 1891 a physical education instructor at the YMCA training school in Springfield, Mass., invented a new game. He asked the school janitor to find two boxes and nail them at opposite ends of the gymnasium balcony. The janitor couldn't find any boxes so he put up two peach baskets. If the janitor had been able to find some boxes, the game probably would have become known as "boxball." Instead it was named "basketball."

The flag of Italy was designed by Napoleon Bonaparte.

The yo-yo was originally a

deadly Filipino weapon until it was adapted and introduced as a toy in 1929.

One of Charles Goodyear's earliest successes came when the government ordered him to make 150 experimental rubber mailbags. The project was a complete success until there was a sudden heat wave and the mailbags quickly melted into 150 rubbery lumps.

Wild West hero Kit Carson worked as a saddler's apprentice as a youth. Apparently he was not a very good worker. When he ran away from his job to seek his fortune out west, his employer offered a 1¢ reward for his return.

Actor Sean Connery once worked as a coffin polisher.

The first fast-food restaurant chain was started in Kansas by Frederick Henry Harvey. Harvey was an English immigrant who began his restaurant career as a dishwasher. By 1859 he was co-owner of a St. Louis restaurant. With the onset of the Civil War he went to work for the railroad. This job exposed Harvey to the many eating places along the western rail lines. In 1876 he opened the first "Harvey House" restaurant on the Santa Fe line.

Staffed with Harvey Girls, Harvey House provided a predictable and pleasant dining experience. By his death in 1901, forty-five Harvey House restaurants operated in twelve states.

In the early years when pins first came into use, they were so expensive that only the rich could afford them. Generous husbands would make an allowance especially for their purchase, hence arose the term still so much in use today: "pin money."

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



SERVICE
IS OUR
BUSINESS
SINCE
1884

Hall B.
Bryant, Jr.
Proprietor

534-0781



**CELEBRATE YOUR
HERITAGE!**



Col. Egbert J. Jones Camp, #357
Sons of Confederate Veterans
PO Box 2811 Huntsville, AL 35804
Meets every 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m.
the Depot, Downtown Huntsville
VISITORS WELCOME!

A Dog Story



Almost anyone in the construction business has a thousand stories to tell and Phil Radzinski is no exception.

About a year ago Phil went to a lady's house to give an estimate on remodeling her kitchen. It was an expensive home with manicured lawns and shrubbery. It also had a dog. It was a small dog, the kind that's too small to kick and too big to ignore. As Phil begins ringing the doorbell the dog begins chewing on his new Gucci shoes (\$149.47 on sale). The lady answers the door, Phil goes in and the dog follows. He does his measuring and figuring, and all the time the dog is still chewing away.

The one cardinal rule about giving estimates is that the customer is always right. If it takes putting up with a dog that eats Gucci shoes for lunch, well, you do whatever you have to do to get on the good side of a customer. After the preliminary figuring, Phil and the lady sit down to discuss the price. By this time the dog had finished one and a half shoes and had started on a pants leg. The lady looks at Phil with a weird expression on her face and says, "You really like dogs, don't you?"

About that time the miniature monster looks up at Phil,

spits out two square inches of polyester, takes a leap, lands in his lap, and begins chewing on Phil's new tie (Christmas present).

"Oh, yes Ma'am, I sure do," Phil replies as the dog began hungrily eyeing his monogrammed shirt pocket. "Why, I think everybody should have one."

Needless to say, Phil rushed through the estimate and left while he still had a few clothes intact. He's walking down the drive, back to his truck, when the woman comes to the door and hollers, "Mr. Radzinski, don't forget your dog. And please don't mention bringing your dog with you to my husband, he doesn't allow pets in the house."

Sex has become one of the most discussed subjects of modern times. The Victorians pretended it did not exist; the moderns pretend that nothing else exists.

-Fulton J. Sheen

Cousins CAR & VAN WASH

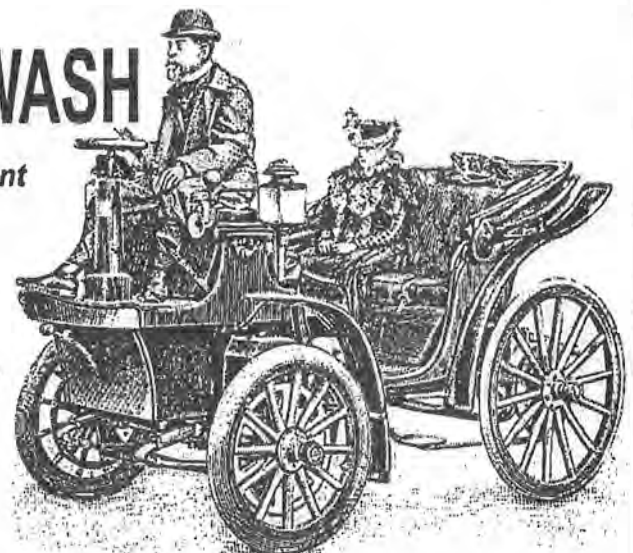
Featuring the Latest in High Tech Modern Equipment

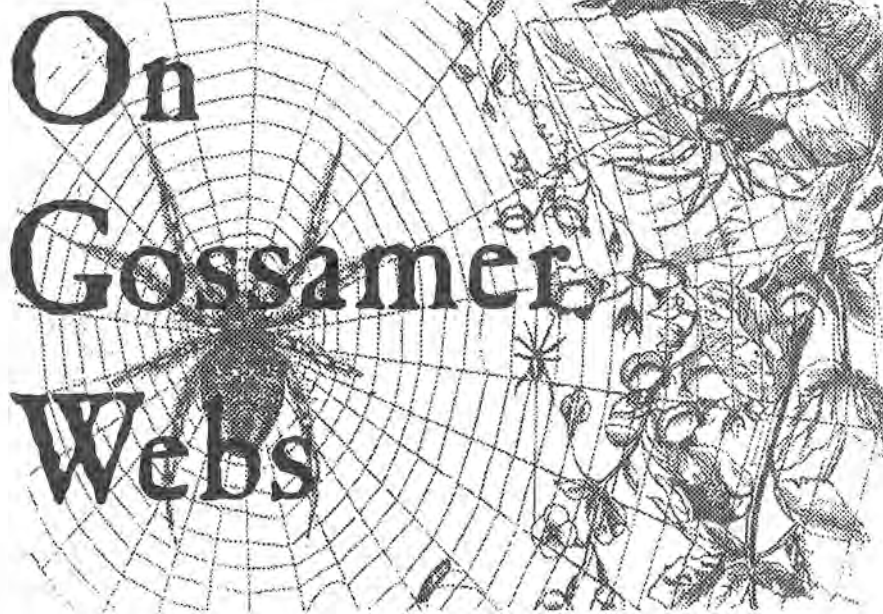
ALL CLOTH
FULL SERVICE CAR WASH
Complete Detail Center

"We Treat Your Car Like Family"

11399 S. MEMORIAL PKWY
HUNTSVILLE, ALA. 35803

880-9899





The Story of the lady who painted on Spider webs

by Butch Crabtree

In 1900, Madison County Probate Judge Stewart lived on a farm southwest of Huntsville, south of where the Merrimack mill was being built. Since only a few farms occupied the area, there were no schools in the region. Farmers wishing to school their children had either to send them away to boarding schools, or hire a private teacher to instruct them at home. Judge Stewart hired a young teacher named Annie Bradshaw to come to his home each day and teach his children as well as children from surrounding farms.

The City of Huntsville, anticipating the building of the new mill, had extended the streetcar line to Spring Street, just north of the mill site. Miss Bradshaw rode the streetcar to Spring

Street each morning and was picked up by one of the Stewart boys in a buggy to cover the additional distance to the farm. The school had fourteen pupils, and operated for about seven months, which was probably considered a term.

When the Joseph J. Bradley school opened in 1919, Mrs. J. B. Clopton was among the early teachers. Mrs. Clopton was the former Miss Annie Bradshaw of Judge Stewart's home school.

Though a fine teacher, Mrs. Clopton became best known for a unique hobby she conceived as a child. Mrs. Clopton's hobby was painting. What made her hobby unique was the fact that she disdained canvas or wood or other conventional materials and painted instead on cobwebs. The incredibly beautiful works brought Mrs. Clopton interna-

tional fame.

The paintings varied widely in size as well as subject. There were portraits of family members, landscapes, and nature studies. Some of the paintings were small enough to be enclosed in a watch case.

The work of Mrs. J. B. Clopton was shown at the New York World's Fair and the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Two of her paintings are on display at the Smithsonian Institute. Examples of Mrs. Clopton's gossamer-thin creations can be seen locally at the Burritt Museum in Huntsville.



**Allied
Photocopy**



**High
Speed
Quality
Copies**

"While You Wait"

Did You Know...

The Huntsville Public Library is the most visited public building in the state of Alabama?

Support Your Library

**1821 University Dr.
539-2973
Huntsville, Ala.**

to pull himself erect. Holding onto the back of the seat to give himself support, he raised his other hand to his forehead in salute, and held it there, trembling, as he turned to face the American flag.

John A Steger was born on December 7, 1845, the son of Kennon H. Steger. The elder Steger had moved from Virginia and settled in Ryland, a few miles north of Huntsville, where he became a prosperous farmer. When Alabama seceded from the Union in 1861, John, like all young men everywhere, was anxious to enlist. He was attending school in Ryland at the time and his father reminded him that 15 was too young to go off and be a soldier. The war became a reality early the next year when General Mitchel and his hated yankee troops invaded Madison County, burning, looting and terrorizing at will. These were dan-

cont. on page 19



THE LAST SOLDIER

"Hell, That's a great idea. Dress the old man up in his uniform and we can make him a grand marshal or something. We can play up the "Old South," make the parade a success and get all kinds of free publicity."

They picked him up in one of those fancy convertible cars. They told him all he had to do was sit back and wave at people. He wasn't much to look at. The old gray uniform was threadbare and soiled from years of neglect. The shoulders it rested on were hunched with age. Watching the old man, you had to wonder what was going through his mind. The once proud soldier of a hundred battles, long ago, now sat perfectly still, silently watching the crowds.

The biggest crowd was around the reviewing stand. When the band saw the convertible approaching, they paused, and then began a loud stirring rendition of *Dixie*. The old man removed the tattered campaign hat from his head and held it against his breast, while the crowd hooped and hollered. The car started moving again as the last strains of the Confederate

battle song died away. After a brief pause to catch their breath, the band broke into a slow, sad rendition of the old Union standard, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. "Stop," spoke the old man to the driver of the convertible. People grew silent, every eye was on the old man as he struggled



A Hardware Store ... The Way You Remember Them!
222 Washington St. 539-5777



Timeless and Southern

French Fried Sweet Potatoes

Peel and cut 3 sweet potatoes into thin strips. Fry in hot fat til crisp, brown on the outside and tender on the inside. Drain on paper towels, sprinkle with salt or sugar, whatever you prefer. Serve hot. This is great for a different breakfast treat, or as a substitute for hashbrowns or grits.

Blackberry Cobbler

- 3 c. fresh blackberries
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 t. lemon juice
- 2 T. flour
- 1/4 c. butter to dot with
- 1 egg, beaten
- 4 T. butter, melted

- 4 T. sugar
- 1 c. sifted flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. salt

Mix the berries in lemon juice, then mix flour and sugar separately. Add this to the berries. Spread over the bottom of a well-greased deep dish pie glass and dot with pieces of butter. Combine the beaten egg, melted butter and sugar. Sift the cup of flour with the baking powder and salt and add it a little at a time into the egg mixture. Mix til well blended. Spread this over the berries. Bake for 30 minutes at 375 degrees and serve warm with homemade almond or vanilla ice cream.

Eggnog Pie

9-inch graham cracker pie shell

- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/3 c. sugar
- 1 1/3 c. milk
- 3 egg yolks, lightly beaten
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 c. sugar
- 2 T. dark rum
- 1/2 c. heavy cream

Combine gelatin, sugar, milk and egg yolks in a saucepan. Over medium heat, cook til the mixture comes to a boil and remove from heat. Chill for 20 minutes, stirring a couple of times. Beat egg whites into soft peaks and gradually add 1/4 c. sugar.

Beat til thick, add rum to the chilled egg yolk mixture. Whip the cream and fold it along with the egg whites into the egg mixture. Pour into the graham cracker pie shell and don't serve til you've chilled it for at least 3 hours.

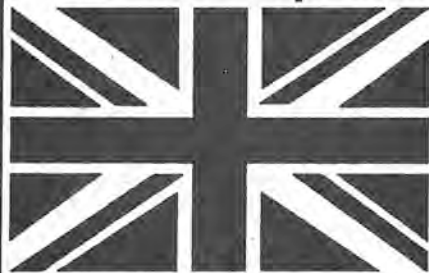
Southern Fried Chicken

In a brown paper bag mix:

- 1 c. flour
- 1 t. paprika
- 1 t. dry mustard
- 3/4 t. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 t. garlic powder

THE BEST OF BRITISH

British imported grocery products.



Specializing in:

Teas
Chocolates
Biscuits

...and the things you miss about Britain!

8408-D Whitesburg Drive
881-4300

Cut a chicken up into serving pieces and wash well. Drop each piece into the bag and thoroughly coat with the flour. Sprinkle each piece with salt and pepper. In a large skillet, melt a 3-pound can of vegetable fat and heat it up. When a drop of water sizzles in the skillet, it's ready. Drop in your chicken pieces and fry til golden brown, drain on paper towels. You can use the grease over again.

Fried Chicken Gravy

Put 2 tablespoons of the fat you used to fry chicken into a skillet. Add 2 tablespoons flour and 1 teaspoon onion powder. Stir over medium heat til brown - add salt and pepper to taste and 3/4 cup milk. Pour over the chicken, rice or potatoes.

Sweet Potato Puffs

4 sweet potatoes
1 c. brown sugar
1/3 c. butter
1 c. pecans, ground fine

Boil your potatoes til tender, peel and mash. Add brown sugar and butter and form into balls, about the size of large marbles. Roll each ball in the nuts til completely covered. Place in a 250 degree oven for 30 minutes. Serve with ham or poultry.

Savory Black-Eyed Peas

1 med. bag black-eyed peas
2 beef bouillon cubes
1 t. garlic powder
2 large ham slices, 1/2" thick (already cooked), chopped

In a large pot bring about 6 cups water to a boil. Add the peas, with the bouillon and garlic powder. Add 4 tablespoons olive oil. Bring to boil, turn heat down and simmer uncovered til peas are tender. (Taste occasionally to see, but should be about 1-2 hours.)

Add the ham and salt to taste, add black pepper if desired. Add a bit of cayenne pepper if you're feeling adventurous.

Orange Pie

Line a 9" pie plate with pastry, flute the edges. Partially bake the pie shell in a 400 degree oven for 5 minutes.

Beat 3 egg yolks
Add 1/4 c. cream
Blend 1 c. sugar
2 t. flour
1 T. butter

Add egg yolk mixture and beat well

Mix in 1 T. grated range rind and 1/3 c. fresh orange juice

Pour into partially baked pie shell. Bake in 325 degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes, or until

custard doesn't wiggle in the middle. Cool.

Cover pie with meringue made with whites of the 3 eggs. Bake in 300 degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes or until brown. Cool and serve.

Cider Soup

1 qt. cider
2 eggs
sugar to taste
1 T. flour
cinnamon stick
piece of lemon

Stir eggs, sugar & flour - add a bit of water. Boil with cider a short time. Pour into a dish and serve with sponge cake.



505 East Airport Road
Huntsville, Alabama

883-7656

Country Cooking
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am - 9:00 pm
Closed Sundays

Linda's
Printing Service

Commercial - Social - Continuous - Ad Specialties
3308 7th Ave. S.W.

534-4452



Absurd News

The old folks in Linden, Alabama still marvel at the city's most famous resident, Charles Rentz. It was reported in a 1937 newspaper that Mr. Rentz played the piano, drove a car, used a typewriter and an adding machine, and rolled his own cigarettes. Although several others in this sleepy hamlet could claim the same skills, Charles did it having been born without arms below his elbows and legs below his knees.

It was 1949 when the Welfare Supervisor in Council Bluffs, Iowa declared that any indigent client who called at the Relief Headquarters in a taxi cab would be denied government benefits after December 1st of that year. "I walk to work every morning," he was quoted as saying. "If I can't afford a taxi, I'm not paying welfare to someone who can!"

Cleve Durham, 21, of Reidsville, North Carolina decided to fight the charge of "pub-

lic drunkenness" that had been levied against him. "Your Honor," he said, "I wasn't drunk in public; I was hidin' in a ditch." The judge agreed that a ditch could be considered a "place of concealment" and dismissed the case.

After drinking a quantity of vodka, a workman named Stobb tried to blow out a match with which he was lighting a cigarette, with fatal result. Flames shot out from his mouth. An explosion followed, with Stobb falling to the floor unconscious and dying shortly afterward.

Bobby Leach, who went over Niagara Falls in a barrel in 1911, died from injuries received when he stepped on a banana peel while walking quietly along a street in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1927.

Frank Damek, of Chicago, compiled a complete deck of cards by picking them up from time to time in the street. After 10 years he was 15 cards short. It took another 20 years before he finally completed his collection in 1890 — though friends and relatives continued to doubt that he had ever "played with a full deck."

R.G. NAYMAN CO. INC.

RGN

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

General Contractors
Residential & Commercial
Specializing In
Fire Damage Repairs

*"A Contractor You Can
Trust"*

533-9016

Hi-Fi Service

*For expert repair
of audio/video
equipment*

*Factory authorized service
for 22 manufacturers*

**1318 Putnam Drive
Phone (205) 722-9889**



The Last Soldier

cont. from page 15

gerous times. The yankees automatically suspected any young man as being a Rebel, while the Confederates assumed any young Southern man not in uniform was a deserter, or even worse, a traitor.

On May 24, 1863, John Steger was sworn in as a private in the Confederate States of America Army. He had heard of Confederate forces camped at Brownsboro, and after receiving permission from his father quickly made his way to join them. The group he joined was Company G of Colonel William A. Johnson's 4th Cavalry Regiment, which was then passing through Madison County after a raid into Tennessee. Johnson's

regiment served in the brigade of General Philip Dale Roddey, the famous "Defender of North Alabama."

Steger's army life was filled with adventure, and the teenage soldier quickly rose through the ranks to sergeant. He served mainly in North Alabama and Mississippi, though he also saw combat in Tennessee and Georgia.

His closest call came on June 10, 1864, at the battle of Brice's Crossroads, Miss. Roddey's men had ridden all day in the hot sun to reach the battlefield, but General Forrest ordered them into action almost immediately. When the cavalry dismounted, the soldiers counted off and every fourth man was assigned as a horse holder. Steger was fortunate enough to be so designated. However, he traded places with another and charged with his comrades. As the Alabamians

were driving back the yankees, a bullet struck Steger's cartridge box and cut the strap holding it to his side. A fraction of an inch closer and it would have seriously injured him.

Another of Steger's encounters took place quite close to home. In the fall of 1863, Roddey's horsemen had been sent to North Georgia. When they returned to Alabama, they found the yankees in force at New Market. Steger and several others were sent to scout. Unfortunately, they were cut off by the enemy for several days.

Steger suggested the men head for his father's house near Ryland. They reached the house late in the afternoon. Steger was about to approach the house when he was stopped by one of the family servants. The old black woman warned him that

cont. on page 24

Hard of Hearing? 100 Years Ago, This Was State-of-the-Art Technology



Today There's MIRACLE-EARSM

Hearing loss can occur at any age. Don't miss out on hearing your child's school play. Don't miss out on hearing your favorite symphony. After all, it's the little things that count the most.*

FREE Hearing tests**
Call or come in today.



The Mirage™
Hearing
Aid

Two Location in Huntsville to Serve You:
Miracle-Ear Center 900 Bob Wallace Ave. 539-4009
Sears Hearing Aid Center (Madison Square Mall) 830-8529

*Hearing aids won't restore natural hearing. Individual experiences may vary depending on proper fit, severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation and ability to adapt to amplification.

Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

*With pearls of wisdom
contributed by the Liar's Table*



A big "Thanks" to all the people who made my recent birthday so special. I truly believe that friends and family are the most precious thing on this earth, and I have been blessed with both.

It was so sweet of my **Twickenham family** to have their breakfast club come wish me well on this day as did the group of twenty-six from the **First Baptist Church in Ardmore, Tennessee.**

And now, what are we going to do for my fortieth birthday?

Mally and Ronald Smith, newcomers to Huntsville, stopped in with their parents, **Madeline and Sam Burr** - former mayor of Mountain Brook, to sample some *Southern Breakfast Cuisine*. Sam's only comment was, "pass the biscuits!"

Congressman **Bud Cramer**

was seen in Florida recently playing "Proud Grandpa" with **Dylan**, his 5 year old grandson. Rumor has it that Dylan asked Mickey Mouse if he was a Democrat or Republican!

Congratulations to **Pat Morris** and his band for winning **The Battle of the Bands**. They will be playing at the Big Spring Jam. Hats off to **Betty Hubbard** who is coordinating the many volunteers it takes to make the Jam a success.

Get well to **Reba Neaves** who had eye surgery. We're all so glad everything went well and we all missed you.

Bill & Barbara Kennedy of Oxford Properties sure put on a great "Fun Day" for all the residents of Valley Garden Apartments. Tons of food, great music, games and T-shirts for everyone!

Speaking of parties, I hear

that my friend **Nell Lackey** had a swinging birthday party at **Miss Bab Ropers!**

Our buddy, **Howard Grizzard** has celebrated his 85th birthday. We hear that he was going to enjoy it by going dancing but medical reasons prevented it - his girl friend had a cold.

The cowboy's getting married! Yep, we hear that **Glen Sisk** and his fiance, **Jody**, are planning a quiet, private ceremony next month with just a few friends. Hint: it's the same day as the Alabama - Tennessee game, so y'all come!

3 stars for **Bill Kling!** Rumor has it that he's going to push for a moratorium on any more construction in the Big Spring Park. "Downtown does not have much greenspace left," he says, "and we need to preserve what we have!"

By the way, have you heard about the **new art museum** being an optical illusion? It must be... our city leaders assured us it would be no bigger than the old Senior Citizens Center.

Is it possible they didn't know what they were talking about?

Informed sources tell us that **Don Siegelman** is going to be running against **Fob James** in the next Governor's election.

For months we have been hearing that **Jim Folsom** and

HUNTSVILLE'S OWN IRISH PUB

Visit with the ladies & gentlemen of

FINNEGAN'S IRISH PUB

And Enjoy Your Heritage
South Parkway

(Next to Joe Davis Stadium)



Dwaine Freeman were going to fight it out for Lt. Governor but now we hear that a deal was made last week. According to our sources, Little Jim will go for Lt. Governor, and Dwaine will be fighting **Jeff Enfinger** for the State Senate.

Sources in city government tell us that **Glen Watson** is going to become the next city council president.

Surely the rumors I hear about rezoning the city of Huntsville for our schools are all wrong, but someone whispered to ask the "**Committee of 100**," whoever they are.

Coffee pourer of the month was celebrity **Carl Hurley** who was in town to entertain the *Senior Friends*.

I sure hope everyone gets their season tickets for next year's "**Huntsville Fire**" soccer team. I recently attended a game with friends **Susan Kirkland** and **Cynthia Parsons** and though I

don't understand soccer too well... I do know the guys sure were good looking!

Friends of **Tim Morgan**, our District Attorney, are supposed to have put together \$150,000 for his next campaign. Let's hope it doesn't cost that much.

The **Twickenham Church of Christ** will host the 2nd annual Tennessee Valley Church Internet Conference on Sat., Oct. 18. More than 2 dozen instructors from different churches will be sharing their experience about how churches can utilize the internet.

Call 881-7373 for more info.

Well, that's all for now, but remember I love y'all!

Aunt Eunice

**One Meal,
One Customer
at a time.**



A Franchisee

**NO RULES.
JUST RIGHT.™**

4777 Whitesburg Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802
Phone: 205-882-6283

Photo of The Month

The first person to identify the girl in the picture below wins a breakfast at Eunice's Country Kitchen. So stop by and tell Aunt Eunice who you think it is!

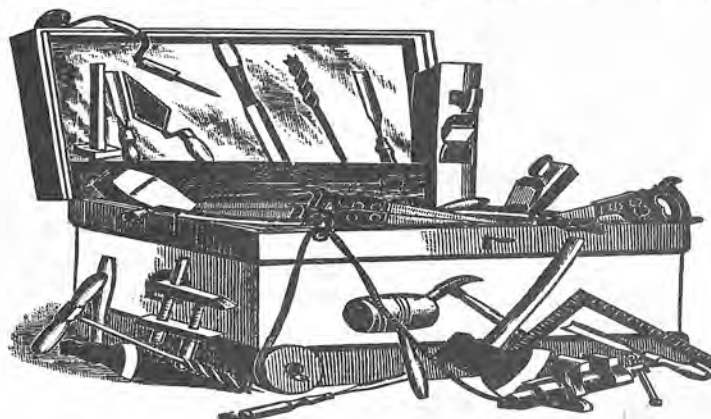
Hint: Huntsville artist.



Last month's picture was **Toni Lowery of WAAY TV.**

Reid Hardware

Home of Pocket Knives, Red Wagons & Cast Iron Skillets



Come by and let us assist you for all your Hardware & Plumbing needs

Serving Huntsville Since 1962

536-2616

2402 Mem. Pkwy. NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Mooreville: Village of Presidents

by Butch Crabtree

In the early 1800s, the Tennessee Valley was beginning to see the establishment of villages and towns, complete with merchants and tradesmen to cater to the needs of the populace. Limestone County, Alabama was no exception. In November of 1818 two towns were incorporated in Limestone County. One of these towns was Athens, the present county seat. The other, incorporated three days before Athens was the village of Mooreville.



Andrew Johnson

Mooreville was home to an excellent tailor by the name of Sloss. Mr. Sloss was extremely adept at cutting the "Prince Albert" style frock suit for gentlemen. One day in the early 1830s, a young tailor's apprentice named Andrew called at the shop for Mr. Sloss. Andrew had come with the purpose of learning the art of cutting this stylish garment. He was a good student and even

managed to sell some of the suits he made in the village. In a few weeks he had mastered the desired skill and was gone. This incident would not be worth mention except for some notoriety this young man received before arriving in Mooreville, and some he would receive later in his life.

Andrew, originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, ran away from his home for fear of being arrested after throwing rocks at a neighbor's house. He fled through South Carolina, and in 1826, came to Greenville, Tennessee, a town he would call home for the remainder of his life. In Greenville he worked in a tailor shop, eventually opening a shop of his own. Shortly thereafter, he sought Mr. Sloss in Mooreville.

A few days after Andrew left North Carolina, the following article against harboring or employing said apprentices, on pain of being prosecuted, was published by James J. Selby.

"TEN DOLLAR REWARD. Ran away from the subscriber, on the night of the 15th instant, 2 apprentice boys, legally bound named William and Andrew Johnson. The former is of a dark complexion, black hair, eyes and habits. They are much of a height, about 5 feet, 4 or 5 inches. The latter is very fleshy, freckled faced, light hair and fair complexion. They went with two other apprentices, addressed by Messrs. Wm., and Charles Fowler. When they went away, they were well-clad blue pants

light colored homespun coats, and new hats, the makers name in the crown of the hats is Theodore Clark. I will pay the above reward (\$10) to any person who will give the above reward to Andrew Jonhson alone. All persons are cautioned against harboring or employing said apprentices, on pain of being prosecuted. James J. Selby."



James A. Garfield

Perhaps Mr. Selby would have upped the ante had he known that one of those rock throwing, black-habited escapees for whom he was advertising was to become the seventeenth president of the United States.

For a village the size of Mooreville to be able to boast a future President as a resident, even for a short period of time, is a source of pride. But Andrew Johnson's leave taking did not mark the end of this extraordinary burg's flirtation with future Presidents.

Approximately thirty years after Andrew Johnson received the tutelage of Mr. Sloss, Abraham Lincoln was President, Andrew Johnson, Vice President, and the nation was embroiled in civil war. Following the fall of Nashville,

North Alabama was occupied by Union forces. In the summer of 1863, the 42nd Ohio Volunteers were camped at Bibb's Spring, a short distance behind the Bibb residence at Mooresville. One of the officers of the regiment was James A. Garfield.

Garfield, a native of frontier Ohio, was reared by his mother and older brother after the death of his father. Though young James had to work to help the family, his mother and brother provided for him a good education. He attended Geauga Seminary in Ohio, and worked his way through Williams College, graduating with honors. After graduation, Garfield returned to his home in Hiram, Ohio where he obtained a post as a school teacher. In addition to his duties as teacher, he sometimes preached at the local church and made political speeches. When war came, he received a commission in the U.S. Army and served his country with distinction. Some of the villagers at Mooresville learned of Garfield's presence and invited him to preach at the Christian Church. General Garfield, in writing to his wife, mentioned the

invitation. "There is a church in the village of Mooresville near by and they have sent up inviting me to speak to them on Sunday. If I am not too unwell I have a notion to speak to them." Apparently the General was not "too unwell" because he delivered several sermons in the Mooresville Church.

General Garfield left Mooresville with his unit to fight at Chicamauga. Following the battle, the General resigned his commission to enter Congress. In 1880, Mr. Garfield was elected the twentieth President of the United States.

The building in which Mr. Garfield delivered his sermons is still used for worship every Sunday morning. It is now known as the Mooresville Church of Christ. When General Garfield left Mooresville, he left his Bible in the church building. The Bible remained on display in the building for many years.

It has been a century and a quarter since Johnson and Garfield walked the streets of Mooresville, The face of the Ten-

nessee Valley has changed from an agrarian society to a modern metropolitan area. Through all the changes which have come to the area, Mooresville has remained remarkably the same.

BLACKWELL LAND & TITLE RESEARCH



**Over 34 Years Combined
Experience**

N. Alabama & S. Tennessee
Specializing in All Types
of Real Estate Research
(24 Hr. Service in Most Cases)

Member Dixie Land Title Association

**Office Fax 533-2439
Digital Beepers
720-3110 - 707-1536**



ST

REALTY

3322 S. Memorial Parkway
Suite 32 E
Huntsville, Alabama 35801



PAT CASSITY

Realtor GRI, GRS, LTG

Office (205) 882-2114
1-800-239-5476

Beeper - 720-1310

**Huntsville's Old Town
& Twickenham Specialist**

The Last Soldier

cont. from page 19

four yankees were already there. Steger and his companions waited until early morning, then they surprised the sleeping yankees and captured them, without firing a shot.

After General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, word was slow to reach the scattered remnants of the Confederate Army still struggling in North Alabama. It was more than a month later, May 17, 1865 when General Roddey finally surrendered at Pond Springs (now Wheeler, Alabama). For John Steger, like hundreds of thousands of other men, there was nothing else left to do except begin the long walk back home.

Returning to Huntsville he found a land that was completely devastated, with people starving and no way to earn a living. Luckily, parts of his father's farm was still intact and he was able to return to farming. On January 19, 1870, he married Mary Simpson and with both of them working the fields, was able to rebuild the rest of the farm. When the United States went to war with Spain in

1898 there were reservations in parts of the South about putting on a yankee uniform and fighting a yankee war. Most people were content to sit back and see what would happen, but when General Joe Wheeler and General Fitzhugh Lee (late of the Confederate army) joined the hostilities, the mood changed in a hurry. Young men everywhere joined in droves. When John tried to enlist, he was told that he was too old; there were no openings for 53 year old soldiers. Disappointed, he returned home and sent his two sons in his place.

Around the turn of the century, Steger became active in veteran's affairs. He served several times as commander of the Egbert J. Jones Camp, United Confederate Veterans, in Hunts-



MEN - WOMEN - CHILDREN

Billy's

BARBER SHOP

Full Service
Master Barber
* Call anytime *
leave message

533-5714

805 Regal Dr., #7
Huntsville, Ala. 35801

When you married her, she was the most precious thing in the world.

Shouldn't you worry about her future now?

Whether it be Life, Home, Automobile or Health insurance, Mullins Insurance can take care of all your needs.

- * Discounts for safe drivers
- * Small business specialists



Mullins and Company
For All Your Insurance Needs
121 Lily Flagg Rd. 880-3303



**DISTRIBUTION OF
OLD HUNTSVILLE
PROVIDED BY THE
GOLDEN K KIWANIS**

ville. Later he was elected Commander of the Third Alabama Brigade, and was often called by his honorary title of General, which went with the position.

Too old to serve in another war, John was forced to fight the war sitting on a bench outside the old courthouse, swapping wartime stories with his comrades.

Time began to pass by quickly.

The first war came and went with its bloody trench warfare and deadly machine gun nests.

Every year would see fewer of John's comrades returning to share the bench and swap stories with him. Prohibition was voted in, and then out. Our country was in the midst of the Depression when a group of men went to visit John and gave him the news. A friend of John's had died and now he was the only surviving Confederate in Madison County.

It became harder for people to get him to talk about his service in the Confederacy. When war with Japan was declared in 1941, John Steger raised an

American flag in his front yard. Every day, morning and night, it was raised and lowered for the duration of the war.

At the age of 99, no longer able to take care of himself, he was forced to move in with his daughter in Birmingham. Shortly before his 100th birthday, he returned to Huntsville one last time, by airplane. Years before he had walked much of the same route, as a defeated soldier.

On Saturday morning, February 28, 1948, John Alexander Steger died. While the rest of the world worried about the Iron Curtain and Atomic bombs, a few people gathered at Shiloh Church in Ryland to pay their respects. Among the people gathered that day were veterans from the Second World War, the First World War and the Spanish American War.

There were none from the Civil War... John Steger was the last soldier.



War Is Over!

Americans have never stopped paying wartime taxes since the birth of the Republic.

There is some consolation, however, in the announcement that the war is over at last — that is the War of 1812.

The United States Government finally closed its books on that almost forgotten war when the last pensioner died in 1944. That pensioner was a woman 96 years of age, the daughter of a veteran of the campaigns of 1812.

If it took more than 132 years to finally settle accounts on such a small war, how long will we be paying off the two World Wars?

DISCOVER THE FLAVOR OF OLD MEXICO!

OUR MOTTO *"The Best Mexican Food In Town"*



EL MEJICANO
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

"SERVING HUNTSVILLE SINCE 1973"



Delicious Mexican Food In A Friendly Atmosphere
All Menu Items Prepared Fresh Daily
Banquet Room Facilities

- OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER -
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

Closed Mondays

CALL...534-2371

2713 PATTON RD. S.W.

BETWEEN BOB WALLACE & DRAKE AVENUES



Markers in Time

The Green Bottom Inn:

Historic Madison County Landmark

by Ranece Fruit

Hidden away among the attractive buildings of Alabama A & M University's campus stands the historic Green Bottom Inn, once the haunt of Presidents of the United States.

Almost forgotten today, the Green Bottom Inn was a famous gathering spot for Southern gentlemen over a century and a half ago.

Built in 1815, just months after the end of the War of 1812, the Green Bottom Inn was owned by a man named John Connelly. Oddly enough, Connelly was an ancestor of the late Texas Governor John Connelly, who was wounded by gunfire while riding with President John F. Kennedy when he was assassinated in Dallas in November

1963.

The old Green Bottom Inn stood in a quiet setting at the foot



of the wooded hills some four miles from the little city of Huntsville. Guests arrived by coach or on horseback, and its comfortable rooms welcomed

many a weary traveler in those long ago days.

The inn was also known for its fine meals, with huge fireplaces capable of roasting an entire oxen at one time. But most famous of all was the nearby racetrack.

General Andrew Jackson had become acquainted with Huntsville during the Creek Indian War of 1813-14, and "Old Hickory" often paid visits to our town. Usually, Jackson would stay at the Green Bottom Inn, where he could watch or bet on the races.

Judge Thomas J. Taylor, writing in the 1870s, recalled that "John Connelly's racetrack four miles east of Huntsville was a great resort of sporting characters, and there Connelly raced and trained 'Grey Gander,' the champion of the South that is said to have been victorious in every encounter against the finest racers from New Orleans to Louisville." Grey Gander was a thoroughbred stallion that sired a generation of much sought after riding horses.

President James K. Polk and an assortment of lesser political

THE BOOK SHELF

Gift Certificates Available!

**Huntsville #1
Whitesburg Shopping Center
881-5040**

**Huntsville #2
Madison Plaza
(across from Madison Sq. Mall)
830-4424**



New & Used Paperbacks

Largest Selection of Romance Novels!

lights also frequented the Green Bottom Inn, as did Huntsville residents on short outings from the city. Connelly died in 1844 and in later years the inn lost most of its prominence to the growing city of Huntsville.

By the early 1900s, the inn was already a memory and its site had been included in the campus of Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical College for Negroes, known today as Alabama A & M University.

In February 1930, the Huntsville Garden Club placed a bronze marker at the old Green Bottom Inn. The marker honors the historic past of the inn and

recalls the part it once played in drawing visitors to Huntsville.

Ironically, the inn burned just one year later in 1931. In 1940, however, a portion of the inn was rebuilt using as much of the original limestone walls as they could. Appropriately enough, the building was then used as a sandwich shop for the students of A & M University. Today the historic inn serves as office space for the university administration.

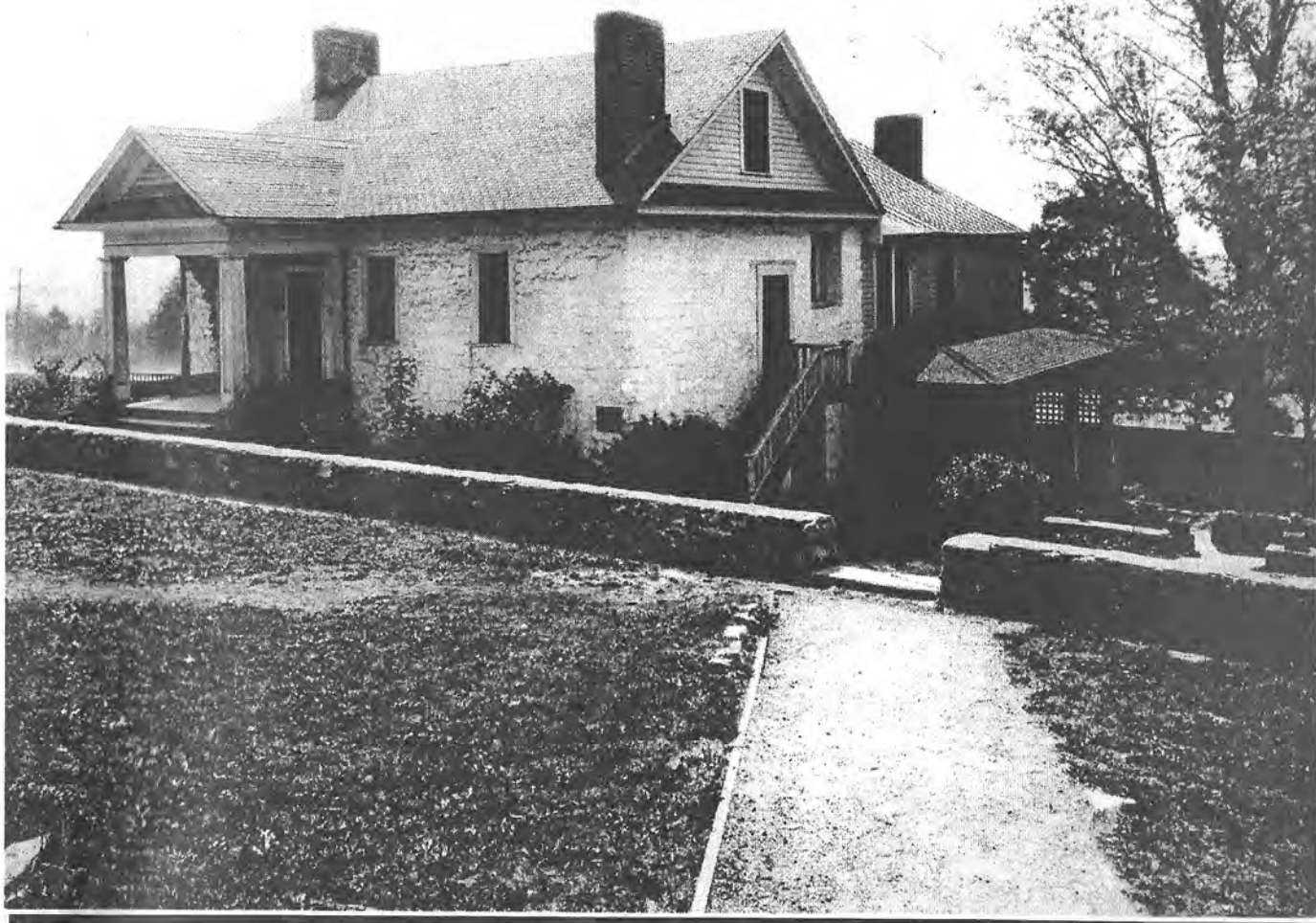
*Study the past if you would
divine the future.
--Confucius*

Man Bit by Snake

John B. Carruthers was bit by a vicious snake Tuesday last while gathering corn. After experiencing painful swelling of the extremities he was made well again when his wife applied a poultice made of Kerosene and chimney soot. The snake also survived and is again lurking in the cornfield awaiting its next victim.

From 1899 Newspaper

The Green Bottom Inn, ca. 1925





Selected Shorts

A middle-aged husband and his wife decided one day to go downtown and attend Trade Day that was being held that day.

After milling around with the crowd for hours, and seeing several couples they knew, the husband was overheard to say to his wife, "You know, it's really strange, but the biggest idiots seem to marry the prettiest women."

His wife, with no hesitation, said, "Now, darling, you are just trying to flatter me!"



A rude customer was giving one of the waitresses at Bubba's Restaurant a hard time.

After spending two hours being obnoxious, the customer called for his bill. As he was paying he inquired "What would you do if I left and forgot my change?"

Replied the waitress, very sincerely, "Why, that's easy. I would tap sharply on the table with a dollar bill!"

Always forgive your enemies - it really annoys them.

Name Recognition

During the first week of school at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language, the teacher was leading the students in a historical quiz. The object, she explained, was for one student to give the last name of a historical person and have the students guess the first and middle name.

The first student goes to the front of the class and after thinking carefully, submits the name "Edison." "Thomas Alva," the class quickly decided.

Second student: "Nixon."

"Richard Milhouse," one student yelled.

Third student: "Ford."

Without a moment's hesitation the whole class yelled "Woody Anderson."





TRAVIS BOATING CENTER TRI-LAKES MARINE, INC

PONTOON BOAT SALE

All New '97 Models



Beachcomber

- 21' Classic
- 25 H.P. Johnson
- Trailer
- Fiberglass Seat Bases & Helm
- Table • Top
- Fishing Seats • Livewell
- XL50 Lifetime Deck Warranty
- FRT. & PREP. Included
- ATTRACTIVE FINANCING

\$8,495



205-881-6818
2006 Fisher St. Hsv., AL 35803

CT08853

THE GOAT MAN OF DIXIE

For over 50 years he was a familiar sight, traveling back and forth through Huntsville, on his way to nowhere; a happy-go-lucky vagabond who enthralled natives and tourists alike with his rustic ways and nomadic life style. His name was Charles "Chess" McCartney, but to people of our town, he was known simply as the Goat Man.

Dressed in his familiar overalls, boots and scruffy cap, the bewhiskered old man would pull into town, unhitch his goats, set up camp and begin talking a mile a minute, telling tales of his travels and his life. And all the time he would be holding a few old postcards, with his picture on them, trying to talk you into buying one.

Depending on the mood he was in, you may have heard tales claiming that he was the son of a famous Confederate General, (or Yankee) or you may have heard that he was a self-made millionaire, and had given up the life of luxury in order to roam the beautiful highways of Alabama with his goat wagon.

But whatever the story, you were sure to be entertained -- at

a distance of about 50 feet. His goats smelled pretty bad.

Charles McCartney was born in Iowa, to a family that, believe it or not raised goats. Having

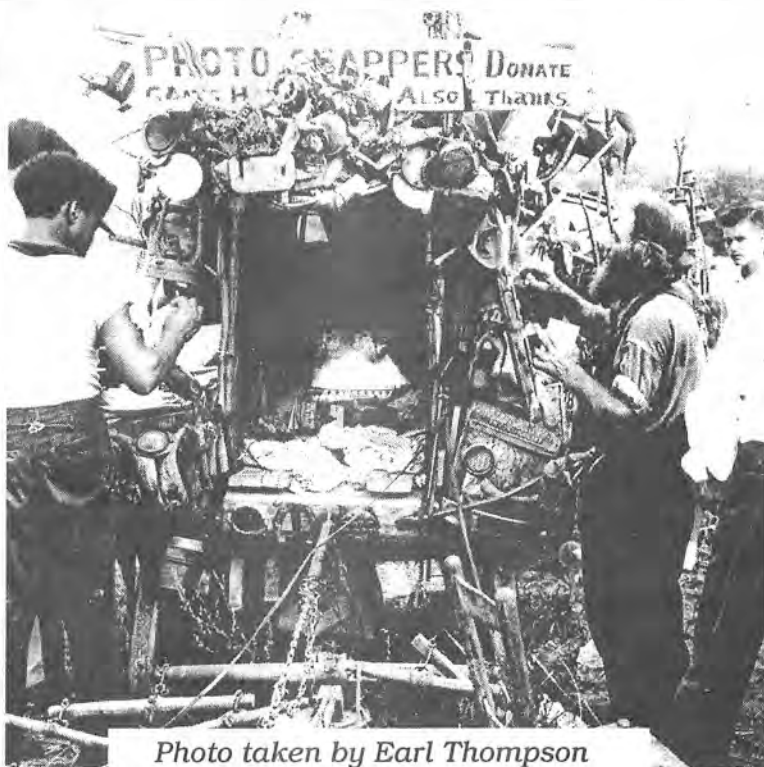


Photo taken by Earl Thompson

spent his childhood on the family farm, wanderlust struck him, and after hitching his inheritance to an old cart, he headed south.

The few pennies he earned, he got by selling postcards of himself and picking up bottles on the side of the road. Fortunately, goats would eat anything. He claimed to be no stranger to poverty, as he had been raised "dirt poor." If you can believe a story that he told to a storekeeper in Hazel Green, his fam-

ily was so poor "they could not afford to buy clothes for me, but when I got to be 14 they bought me an old hat and let me stand in the window."

He met his first wife during the Depression, but when she gave him a choice between her and the goats, out she went. Married three more times, he claims not to remember their names. "They weren't around long enough for me to worry about trying to get their names straight." He had a son by his first marriage that was raised by his ex-in-laws.

In later years, when the son became a old man himself, he also became a vagabond with a goat wagon.

Looking back at his traveling days McCartney described himself as a "self employed business man." Some of the businesses he was involved in were peddling medicine (snake oil?), repairing pots and pans, sharpening knives and axes.

Unfortunately his business as a medicine man ended on a sour note when the goats took a liking to his wares.

The goats also suffered some terrible hangovers.

In his heyday, McCartney also claimed to have preached the gospel as an ordained minister and was compared to another itinerant wanderer Johnny Appleseed. The cheerful vagabond enjoyed the comparison,

Continued on page 44

Old Huntsville

From The Year 1922

HAMMONIA LOST IN A TERRIFIC STORM

GIBRALTAR, SEPT. 12: More than 30 women and children lost their lives when one of the lifeboats from the lost German liner *Hammonia* capsized off the Spanish coast in a gale Saturday, according to information brought to port today by the steamship *Soldier Prince*.

It is alleged that terror-stricken men fought with women for places in lifeboats and that many men left the vessel in small boats while the women and children remained behind.

Captain Hoager, of the *Hammonia*, said it was the worst scene he had seen in all his 50 years at sea. The *Hammonia* was caught in a terrific gale Friday night.

The seas were so high and the wind so strong that the *Hammonia* was forced over on her beam end. The wireless operators then began sending out calls for help.

Captain Day, of the *Kinsfauns Castle*, said that when he reached the scene, he

saw victims sinking all around his ship.

Many of the lifeboats which put off from the *Hammonia* were overturned shortly after reaching the water. Most of the passengers were said to be Spanish, but the list was lost, so that it is improbable that the names will ever be published.

Captain Hoager and his crew did not leave the ship until ten minutes before she sank.

Annie Oakley Performs for Charity

Annie Oakley is back in New York. The onetime intrepid shooter with the Wild West shows has retired now from public life and is taking out her trusty rifle only to help along a charity show down on Long Island. She still carries the gun that Buffalo Bill gave her many years ago, and her husband still travels along to be shot at. For forty years, she has been shooting at him within the ring and never has he been hurt. Her hair is silver now, and the other day she was wearing a black dress with an old-fashioned lace "choker" collar. But to the rest of the world, Annie Oakley will always be a dashing girl in a buckskin suit and sombrero.

Mrs. P.T. Landers may be Heir to part of Fortune of Deceased Uncle

Mrs. P. T. Landers, of 1021 E. Shemman Street, Albany, may be one of the twelve heirs to a large estate of her uncle, Joe T. Price, who died two years ago in Sulphur Springs, Texas, it became known here today.

Alvie Landers, of *The Daily*, a son of Mrs. P. T. Landers, was in Huntsville yesterday conferring with an attorney, having been called there to consult with the lawyer regarding phases of the case.

The Landers family was sought by an attorney in Texas

through the member of the Huntsville bar, and was easily located here. The exact amount of the estate left by Mr. Price today was not definitely known here. It is declared he possessed several hundred thousand dollars in cash and bonds, together with a large amount of real estate, but the exact value of the latter holdings have not been determined.

It is understood that under the terms of the will, the estate is to be divided between the twelve heirs.

OLD HUNTSVILLE - YESTERDAY'S NEWS TODAY

President Cancels All Engagements; Mrs. Harding near Death's Door

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPT. 9: Mrs. Warren G. Harding is hovering between life and death. Shortly after 9 o'clock today it was announced officially at the White House that Mrs. Harding "had a fairly good night," and that "her condition was as favorable as could be expected."

President Harding cancelled all engagements today and remained with Mrs. Harding at the White House.

The rapid development of Mrs. Harding's illness which dates back to a week ago, was described by attending physicians today as "hydronephrosis" in acute form. For 10 years Mrs. Harding has been a chronic sufferer from kidney troubles. This trouble was aggravated a few days ago by a severe cold.

At 10:45 o'clock Secretary Christian informed newspaper correspondents that "Mrs. Harding's condition was still critical, and that her temperature was rising."

COCKLEBURR FATAL TO MAGIC CITY BOY

Orlando Banks Stinson, aged 15 years, who died at a Birmingham infirmary Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Waverly Stinson who now reside in the Birmingham district. Mr. Waverly Stinson was born and reared at Falkville, his father being postmaster there for more than 30 years, and is a brother of Mrs. J. B. Dinsmore of Falkville.

It is said that more than a year ago the young man told his parents he had swallowed a cocklebur while out hunting. Efforts were made to locate it by X-ray and failed. A short time ago it was coughed up, it is stated, but too late to save him for infection had set up in the lung. The body arrived at Falkville this morning, and interment will be in the city cemetery there.

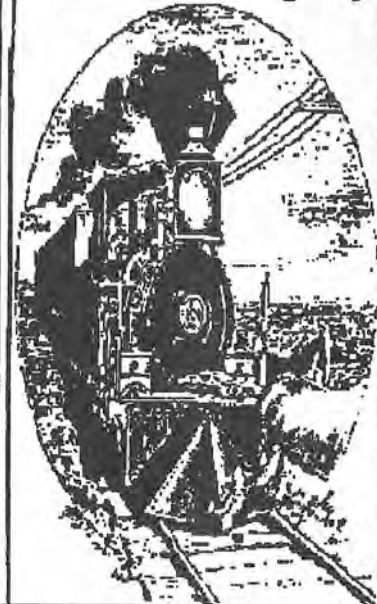
The deceased is a close relative of Messrs. Prewitt and Wooster Stinson of this city.

Babe Ruth Suspended

CHICAGO, SEPT. 1

Babe Ruth again was suspended for three days today for foul language toward Umpire Connelly Wednesday. Ruth reportedly gave the commissioner his word that he would not use any more "damn" foul language.

Moss Valley
Railroad Company



Huntsville's 'Historic'
Train Shop

MTH - WEAVER
WILLIAMS - LIONEL
RIVAROSS - LGB

536-3303

Mon. 12:30-6:30

Tue.-Fri. 9-11 / 12:30-6:30

Saturday 9-6

320 Church St. Huntsville, Ala.



The Book Legger

"The Reader's Bookstore"
Paperbacks - Hardbacks

Good Selection of used & out of print Paperbacks. Used & remaindered Hardbacks. We sell or trade Paperbacks at half price.

895-0082

Mon - Sat 10am - 6pm

Sun 1pm - 5pm

4001 - C Holmes Avenue Huntsville, Ala.



The Stone Warrior

by Ken Owens

Most of us are familiar with the statue of the Confederate soldier on the courthouse lawn, but some don't realize there's some interesting history behind him, too.

The idea of a memorial originated with the United Daughters of the Confederacy shortly after the turn of the century. They felt that the spirit of Southern fighting men during the Civil War should be preserved for the future, and what better way than a statue?

They sponsored many socials, rummage sales, teas and parties in the Huntsville area to

raise money for the project. Finally, they accumulated \$2500 and began to put the plan together.

Today, \$2500 doesn't sound like a lot, but in 1905, it was enough to buy an exquisite piece of Vermont granite and hire a sculptor to perform the work.

Huntsville had a pretty decent sculpting artist in 1905 by the name of Oscar Hummel, to whom the UDC wanted to give the job. However, since he was a local artist, some felt he wouldn't be able to do as good a job as other sculptors somewhere else. As a sort of test, he was assigned to

sculpt an Indian head. If the Indian head was satisfactory, he would get the job. It was, and he did.

Hummel set up shop on the site that is today a parking lot next to the Church of the Visitation in downtown Huntsville. As soon as the granite arrived, Hummel began his work. His model was Jim Mott Robinson, of Hazel Green.

In those days, a blacksmith shop was at the corner of Washington Street close to Hummel's shop. People would watch the progress of the statue while they waited their turn to have their

Taking Fall & Winter Consignment Now



*Featuring
selective elegant
Fall and Winter fashions,*

*from
casual to formal &
bridal attire*

Ladies sizes 2 - 26



*Second Time Around is an elegant Ladies consignment boutique.
We're located in Main Street South Shopping Village.*

(205) 880-6027

Mon. - Fri. 10-5 pm -- Sat. 10-4 pm -- after hours by app't.
Main Street South Shopping Village, 7500 Mem. Pkwy., Suite 121
Huntsville, Ala. - Brenda Hicox, owner

buggies and surreys repaired by the blacksmith. Most were amazed and pleased with the progress as Hummel tirelessly continued. At last, the statue was complete and dedication plans were being finalized.

November 21, 1905, was a wonderfully festive day. Wagons, carts, horses and people jammed the courthouse square for the dedication. Dignitaries were on hand with windy speeches and well-wishes, including the mayor of Huntsville, the county commissioner, and the governor of Alabama.

Thirteen pretty young ladies (one for each state of the former Confederacy) laid a large wreath at the pedestal base of the statue while Monroe's band played heart-stirring music. There wasn't a dry eye on the square that day.

The years passed... and the old soldier silently stood his ceaseless vigil as sentry, facing south in honor of those who fought for the Confederacy.

In 1966, plans were underway to tear down the old courthouse and replace it with a modern new one. Obviously, the statue had to be moved out of the way before the work started. A crane was called in to perform the task, which went well and without incident. The crane merely lifted the statue from the courthouse lawn, swung it across the street, and carefully set it down on the front lawn of the First National Bank.

This was to be the soldier's temporary home until the new courthouse was completed.

Before the completion of the courthouse, demolition of Cotton Row began in order to make way for the construction of the new State National Bank Building. The fateful day was June

29, 1966. During the destruction of Cotton Row, one of the walls fell on the warrior, knocking him down and breaking off his head, both hands, and his feet.

Since the UDC actually owned the statue, the Huntsville chapter president, Mrs. R.G. Moore, was notified. She came to the scene via a police car that picked her up at home. She was both horrified and sickened by the sight of the old soldier, in pieces, before her. Absently, she tried to pick up the head for safe-keeping before she realized it was too heavy.

Then began the long process of replacement, including insurance claims and legal actions.

At first, it appeared that molds could be made of the damaged parts for replacement, since the body of the statue was undamaged. However, that wasn't possible, and it was determined that a new sculpture had to be made... so the insurance appraisal was done that way.

The legal process took an unbelievable two-year period, but eventually, the courts found in favor of the UDC in March, 1968. The re-sculpting process

could at last begin.

The work was awarded to the Georgia Marble Works, one of only five granite sculptors in the country. The granite used was Georgia granite... good, but not as visually appealing as Vermont granite.

The original undamaged pedestal was used, but the difference in the granites necessitated some re-sanding for a color match.

The new warrior's hands and face are exactly as the old one's were; the body is pretty close to the original except for some minor differences in the folds and creases of the uniform.

The original statue was surrounded by an iron picket fence, which has been officially (are you ready for this?), "misplaced."

In case you're wondering what happened to the original statue, last word was that it is in the good care of Mrs. George C. Crome in Memphis, Tennessee.

The next time you have business at the courthouse, you might pause a moment to reflect on the stone warrior who, like countless thousands on both sides during the Civil War, moved up to replace a fallen comrade.

SHAW

INVESTIGATION

AGENCY, INC.

Accident Reconstruction
Fraud
Drugs
Rape
Civil Rights
Accidents
Missing Persons
Domestic Relations
Workman's Comp

Internal Theft
Security
Medical Malpractice
Arson Defense
Background Checks
Product Liability
Sexual Abuse
Executive Protection
Confidential

Huntsville Office 107 Holmes Ave. N.E.

(205) 533-1777 - 1-800-266-1777

The Prosperous Years: 1925 to 1929

From "A Dream Come True"

by James Record

In 1925 the National Heralds of Liberty, founded in Huntsville during 1900, met again in Huntsville and changed the name of the company to the Liberty Life Assurance Society. Frank P. Samford was President. The company later became Liberty National Life Insurance Company, one of the giants in the industry today.

J. C. Penney Company, organized nationally in 1902, announced a store opening in Huntsville in April 1926 just north of the McKee Hotel site on Jefferson Street.

The Aycock Hosiery Knitting Mills, too, began operation over Monroe Printing Company in the old J. W. Skinner building on Greene Street. C. R. Cook was the first Superintendent.

Across town, in 1925, Erwin Manufacturing Knitting Mills started business on what is now the site of the John Blue plant. J. F. Chambers was President with L. O. Erwin as Secretary Treasurer and Manager. The future seemed so rosy that industrialists, civic leaders and business executives saw the need for another Board of Trade in 1925. Raphael Semmes, Jr., served as board President with Leonard Aiken as First Vice President, and W. A. Conner as Second Vice President. T. L. Patton was Secretary Treasurer. The Board, however, later consolidated with the Chamber of Commerce in two years. The Board of Trade in the

meantime made two suggestions that would come to pass. They suggested an electric sign at the Big Spring entrance and encouraged the Alabama Power Company to erect an electric flag on top of the West Clinton Street High School in 1925.

And near Lincoln Mills, a new industrial complex provided work for 1,400 employees. North of the Mill, 200 wood and stucco cottages were completed by May 1925.

It was 1925, too, that Huntsville got its first traffic light. The lights went up on the four corners of the square and at the intersection of Jefferson and Clinton; Jefferson and Holmes; Washington and Clinton; Holmes

and Washington; and on Randolph, Greene and Holmes. Another light of interest that year saw Joe Quick attempt the first flight at night in Huntsville. He took a lighted cross up with him, but he crashed.

Colonel W. F. Garth that year remodelled the Elks Theatre, replacing old scenery used for almost 20 years. He leased the theatre to the American Artists Association of Washington.

With construction under way in almost every sector of the city, Huntsville adopted its first building code in 1925, creating the office of Building Inspector at the same time. P. E. Brumley was named to the post. And Cedarcrest subdivision off Whitesburg Drive, was begun.

If all else seemed well, however, an audit of the city in 1925 indicated it was in bad financial plight and that additional revenue to keep it out of the federal courts seemed desirable.

In county government, too, there seemed to be some ill tempers flaring in 1925. Sheriff

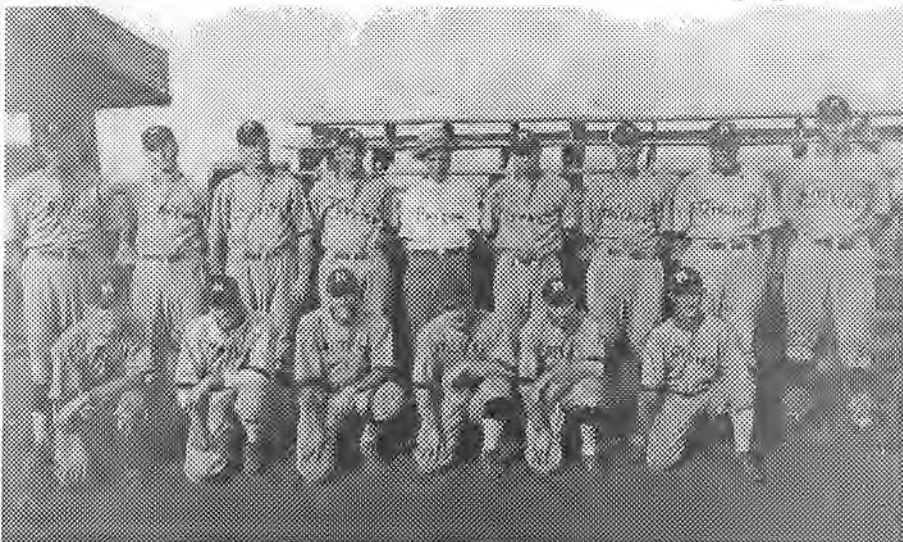
**Corner of Washington Street and Clinton Street.
Photograph taken approximately 1927.**



Charles D. Lane resigned after drawing a pistol and threatening to kill attorney E. D. Johnston. Folks for a long time believed there was a great deal that didn't meet the eye in the matter.

The same year, a trial at Dayton, Tennessee was to be forever etched on the nation's judicial system. The "Monkey Trial" would never be forgotten. John Scopes, biology instructor, was arrested for teaching the theory of evolution, and his trial caught the attention of the world. He was convicted and fined \$100. The famous Clarence Darrow was his attorney. The even more famous William Jennings Bryan was the prosecuting attorney.

In 1925, too, an event finally came to pass that would mean a great deal to the Tennessee Valley. Wilson Dam, begun in 1918, was finally opened, at a cost of 97 million dollars. The first attempt to circumvent the dangerous Muscle Shoals had been started in 1837, with new construction completed in 1890. In fact, in Congress, every session from 1895 to 1933 had some leg-



Sports played a big part in Huntsville's life during the Roaring Twenties. Shown here is the Merrimack baseball team in 1929.

islation or debate about the advisability of the Tennessee River dam, or lock area.

In Huntsville, meanwhile, the Ladies Aid Society of the Central Presbyterian Church held Easter Egg Hunts on the courthouse lawn, selling tickets at the four iron gates.

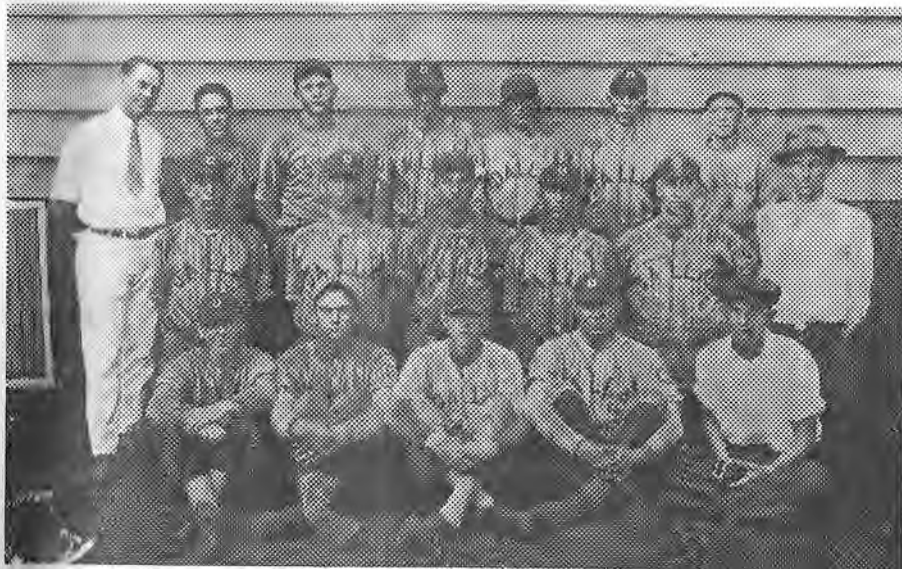
The plight of men such as Scopes seemed so far away from home. And the ladies and gentlemen, decked out in the current

ostrich feathers, beaded bags and raccoon coats, simply enjoyed life in Huntsville, with a bad look towards that 112 degree temperature registered at Centerville, Alabama. They didn't enjoy themselves quite as much on Sunday however, because the W.C.T.U., convinced the city fathers to pass an ordinance prohibiting the sale of gasoline on Sunday, during 1925. The same people were enjoying boxing matches, but there must have been Negroes fighting whites, because the Ku Klux Klan protested to the city about having boxing matches in the city.

The Huntsville Boy Scouts, got a camp on the Flint River, their first. W. L. Quick, the plane inventor, let the Scouts use land for the camp. Their haven was abandoned three years later, however, because of flooding.

The word "Rosenwald" became a popular name in 1925 locally. Council Training School was built with aid from the Rosenwald Fund, a fund created in 1917 that would eventually aid 5,000 Negro schools. The Council School building was

Dallas Mill baseball team in 1924. Standing: Potts, Gray, Pinnion, O'Neil, Pope, Carter. Kneeling: Fitch, Fisher, H. Allen, Webb, Benson, Koonce. Sitting: L. Bowers, Prentiss, N. Allen, Cantrell, E. Bowers.



later replaced in 1947 and the school closed in 1970, being taken over by Alabama A. and M. University in 1971.

By 1925, a woman would make history again in Madison County. If women had invaded every other facet of county life, there was one profession still waiting. Clementine Price (Mrs. E. J. Wilbourn) was appointed as the first lady Deputy Sheriff ever to hold office in Madison County. In the meantime, in Huntsville, the city fathers declared the old Stegall Hotel at the corner of Washington and Clinton Streets, and the Reed Building, at the corner of Greene and Clinton, as unsafe for occupancy in 1926.

A new high school idea also caught fire in 1926. The city voted to acquire the Miss Nettie Campbell property on Randolph Street for \$22,500. For the new school site, Architect R. H. Hunt drew up plans and Earl Cline and the Hutchens Company won bids for construction. Hunt was also appointed the same year to draw plans for a new colored school. The school, Council High



The Big Spring, a popular place for young couples courting.

- was completed in 1927. The same year, the Gurley Tennessee Valley Oil and Gas Company was organized with F. S. Bennett as President.

The New Hope Methodist Church was built in 1926 as well; the Tennessee Valley Bank building was completed, with James S. Sloan picked as the first

Building Superintendent; the Epworth Methodist Church was constructed; a new bank building went up in New Market; Huntsville created the new office of Revenue Collector, appointing Marcus Pender.

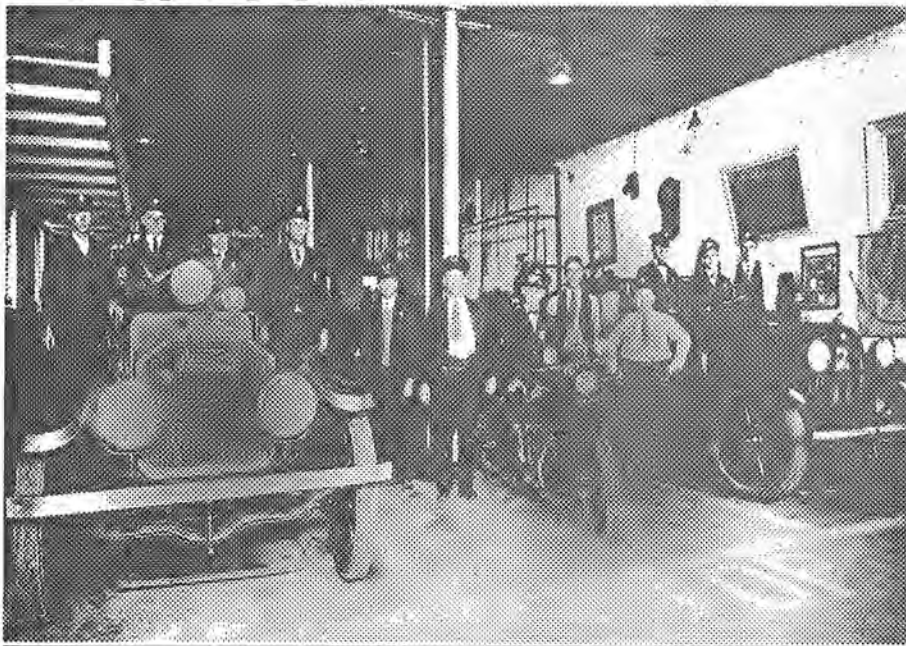
Another point of interest disclosed that 138 Huntsvillians had electric ranges and were paying \$7.08 monthly, on an average, for cooking and lighting.

At New Market, the family of Amos Franklin Cantrell received posthumously the Carnegie Medal for heroism for Cantrell's attempt in rescuing a farmer out of a gas filled well on May 14, 1925.

The new Huntsville High School was officially dedicated in 1927, with W. B. Bankhead delivering the principal address, praising the \$200,000 facility as one of the best in the State. The former high school on West Clinton Street was now named the West Clinton Grammar School.

The same year brought on a

Early photograph of the Huntsville Fire Department.



fight between the D.A.R. and Charles Lane, editor, who insisted on calling Greene Street, Metropolitan Street. The D.A.R., needless to say, won the fight.

Competition of a different sort was under way at the Huntsville Fairgrounds. An ostrich-auto race was held as a fund raising drive for the hospital. No one ever decided who won, but many said the car never had a chance.

Monte Sano reached a new peak of popularity in 1927 as a new road from Big Cove Road to the brow of Monte Sano was completed and opened on July 4, 1927. The county had promised the private company developing the mountain that they



As the city of Huntsville prospered so did the surrounding communities. These homes were in Chase, site of some of the country's largest nurseries.

Madison County Courthouse in photograph taken in the mid-twenties.



would pay one half of the road construction, provided the company would build a new hotel on the mountain within two years. A Pavilion was completed in 1927.

There were, too, the little known, often overlooked successes Hayes Thompson, a Huntsville native and recruiter for the Navy, established the best recruiting record in the nation during 1927. There was, however, another record established locally. Gasoline went to the unheard of price of 28 1/2c per gallon, being raised from 26¢.

The old city hospital property, formerly deeded to the city by well-known madam, Mollie Teel, was sold to T.T. Terry for \$4,800. The Rotary Club and

Board of Trade, which latter consolidated with the Chamber of Commerce during 1927, successfully pushed for a curb market. The city by an ordinance of March 17, 1927, established a curb market committee, setting up a curb market to be on the East side of Gallatin Street and Oak Avenue, from West Clinton to the Spring Branch on Gallatin, and on Oak from the Spring Branch to Eustis Street or Spring Street. This year, too, a concrete pad was placed on the northeast end of the courthouse lawn and one of the World War I cannon was placed there as a reminder of the conflict.

Meanwhile, the Public Service Commission of Alabama had directed Southern Railway

to build a new depot in Huntsville although the railroad would contest the decision and successfully win their case. The 1860 depot was adequate, they maintained. 197 preservationists would later applaud the decision.

On November 1, 1927, work began on the new Russell Erskine Hotel, with R. E. Hunt as architect. Huntsville Charities, the United Givers Fund of the day, was incorporated and the State was given authority to build toll bridges, laying the ground work for the first bridge across the Tennessee River, within the confines of Madison County.

During the year as well, the county passed its last resolution requiring road duty by citizens. This time, the resolution stated

Compare the busy sidewalks of downtown in 1926 with those of today!



that citizens were to work on the public roads each year to the tune of five days, but in lieu of road-work could pay \$2.50 for each day into the county coffers. The city residents were to do the same.

During 1927, too, a strange episode took place. The First National Bank and the City of Huntsville swapped deeds. It seemed that there was some doubt but that the bank might own part of the Big Spring, so officials hurriedly got together on a swap, satisfying everybody.

Progressive Huntsville, alive with sports lovers, got an envious eye in 1928 from some of the baseball greats. Gentlemen like Casey Stengel and Gabby Street, among baseball's elite in 1928, came to the North Alabama town. Back to 1928, the Albany Senators baseball team picked Huntsville as their spring training site, and because of it, Madison Countians saw some of the greatest spring games ever played.

Gabby Street came back to Huntsville, this time as manager of the Knoxville team, for practice games, and Casey Stengel, then Manager of the Toledo Mud Hens, followed suit. The YMCA basket-



Mauree's Barber Shop was a popular place for Huntsville's Gents to hang out, swap gossip and get their hair cut.

ball team, not to be behind, won the state championship.

The first one hour parking on downtown streets in Huntsville went into effect during 1928, and the same year Huntsville adopted its first airplane ordinance, requiring that no plane could fly under 1,500 feet above the city, and that no one could drop anything from the plane,

without prior permission of the mayor.

Also in 1928, Montgomery Ward officials said they were going to locate in Huntsville in the Fletcher building on the north side of the square. They lived up to their promise, opening in 1929, remaining at that location until August, 1959. A local controversy erupted when whites routed Negroes from the Grand Theatre balcony, determined to maintain segregation.

The county was getting a reputation during 1928 as a convention center. The American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Bankers, Jewelers, Postal Clerks, Confederate Veterans and the P.T.A.'s all held their state conventions in Huntsville.

New churches came to Madison County, too, in 1928. The Antioch Church of Christ built a new structure, and the Christian Scientists acquired their building on White Street. The churches and civic clubs all co-

Proud employees of Montgomery Ward shortly after its grand opening in 1929.



operated in having what was referred to as "Santa Pal" that year, giving items to the underprivileged. Mount Zion church at Monrovia, with H. E. Rice as Pastor, built a new structure to replace their old building, constructed in 1855.

Prices in 1928, were, to say the least, interesting. Sausage was 25¢ a pound; coffee 48¢; cigarettes were \$1.45 per carton; bacon was 25¢ per pound; pork chops were 25¢ per pound; to mention a few. A standard Six Dodge Sedan was \$915. Haircuts were 40¢, tonics were 25¢, shaves were 25¢, and shampoos went for the huge sum of 40¢. Stockton Motor advertised a 1928 Chevrolet Coach for \$595, and a Sport Chevrolet, F.O.B. Flint, Michigan, was \$695. An excursion offered by Southern Railway, round trip to Nashville, was \$22. Attorney Erle Ford, who had an electric range, electric water heater, electric washing machine, electric lights and mis-



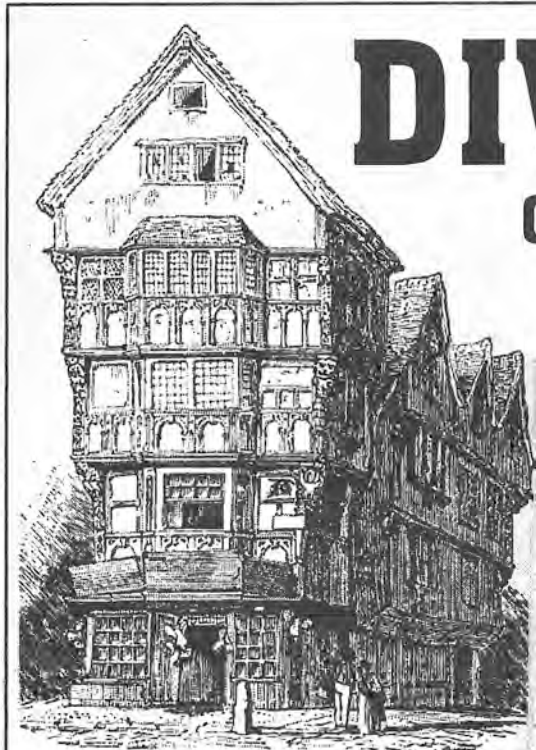
Employees of Merrimack mills preparing to embark on a company picnic.

cellaneous electric appliances—according to a newspaper story—paid the huge sum of \$9.75 per month electricity bill.

Madison County, and the nation as a whole, had never had it so good, or so the business speculators told everyone who

would listen in early 1929. Madison Countians were not listening too much, being more interested in the Conservation Department of Alabama's release that 42 counties had deer, while 65 counties had wild turkey.

Madison County got a new



DIVERSIFIED

Construction & Services

"No Job Too Small"

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Carpentry | Retaining Walls |
| Painting | Driveways |
| Sheetrock Repair | Flooring |
| Masonry | Fire damage |
| Roofing | Water damage |
| Room Additions | Weatherproofing |
| Garages | Ceramic tile |

885-0432 852-5296

A subsidiary of Family Tree Service

Specializing in Historic Preservation

jail in 1929 on Washington Street, following a former purchase of property for a jail on Clay Street, which area proved most unpopular as a jail site to the local adjoining citizenry, resulting in the property being sold to Huntsville Wholesale Nursery.

Douglas and James Wall opened Huntsville's first miniature golf course at Moore's Field on Walker Street in 1929, and, if that didn't satisfy the leisure seekers, there was that talking picture at the Lyric, *My Man*, starring Fannie Brice. The Boy Scouts, however, were more interested in the donation by Dr. J. E. Westmoreland of land, that year, for a camp, near Florence.

At Big Spring Branch, more than 10,000 gathered that year to see the Sergeant Sammy Baker--Tommy Jordan fight in the arena called the "Punch Bowl," sponsored by the American Legion, then meeting in quarters at the corner of Franklin and Eustis Streets.

If all seemed on the move upward, it stopped on October 24, 1929, when the Wall Street Stock Exchange collapsed. Hysteria swept through the financial district like a fire. The market had been moving downward for days, but optimism still prevailed. But then came the crash

Years would pass before a stunned nation would begin to recoup. The year 1929 would never be forgotten. And even many commonplace sights and sounds practically vanished—such as the clop of a horse's hoof, the clang of the trolley bell; the whistle of a steam locomotive; the iceman; and the wood burning range.



D.C. Monroe and others, preparing for 1927 opening of new road on Monte Sano.

Huntsville's young ladies prided themselves on keeping up with the latest fashions.



Searching For Our Ancestors



Athens, AL 35611.

BRADLEY

In the 1860 Cherokee Co., AL census, William Hughes BRADLEY and Emily Elizabeth Benson Bradley had children: Elizabeth, Elizra, Sarah, Jo, Coleman, and Amanda. In 1870, this family lived in Jackson Co., AL with additional children: Mary, Francis, and Ellen. Who did they marry? Are there cemetery records for this family? Billie Bracken, 5425 Cliff Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72903. Phone 5014528760.

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

SLOAN * CAPPIO

Researching SLOAN families of Lauderdale County, AL. Looking for parents, brothers, and sisters of Martha Ruth SLOAN, b. 7 Aug 1927, Florence, AL, married CAPPIO, ca. 1943 and moved to Olympia, WA, in 1946. Jean L. Cappio Rice, 18780 Central Pt., RD #9, Oregon City, Oregon 97045.

record, wife's maiden name, and parents of the following: John CHAPMAN (b. 1787 in VA) m. Mariah SUTTON in Culpepper, VA, in 1814. Was this a second marriage for John? Benjamin CHAPMAN (b.1795 in VA) m. Frances (b. 1795 in NC) ca. 1818. William CHAPMAN (b. ca 1788 in VA) m. Dolly MOORE (b. VA) ca. 1803. These brothers were in Giles Co., TN. William came in 1813; John was there in 1815. All moved to Limestone Co., AL early 1850s. Bettye Harrison, 1219 W. Market St.,

DUSKINS * WEBSTER * REED

Need info on Dave DUSKINS, who m. Sarah WEBSTER, and whose daughter, Mary Elizabeth DUSKINS, m. James William REED. They lived in the Killingsworth Cove and Sharpes Cove areas of Madison Co., AL, during the 1880s. to 1920s. All information on any of these is appreciated. Robert M. Wooldridge IV, Barkley Shores,

CHAPMAN * SUTTON *MOORE

Need birthplace, marriage

We Specialize In Copying
OLD PHOTOGRAPHS
895-0495
BOB GATHANY
PHOTOGRAPHER
4951 Century Street

#8 Barkley Circle, Cadiz, KY 42211.

*** LIGHT * WILLIAMS * EDWARDS * HAMILTON * WARD * ODEN * MANSEL***

Need proof of parentage of Daniel LIGHT, b. c1800/10. He married Margaret WILLIAMS c1829, pro. Montgomery Co. I NC. Family came to Marshall Co. AL. It is thought Daniel's father may have been Christopher LIGHT, b. c1760/70. In 1820 census of Cabbarus Co. NC; 1830 census of Montgomery Co. NC. Any help appreciated.

Need parents of Ganer J. EDWARDS, b. c1818 Madison Co. AL, he married 1841 Mary THOMPSON in Morgan Co. AL.

Their ch: Sarah b. c1845 m. Isaac W. HAMILTON; Elizabeth F., b. c1847 m. J.W. HAMILTON; Elmira (Emily) b. c1848 m. James H. WARD; Almita J., b. c1850, m. Vinson M. ODEN; Lumsford B., b. 26 Jul 1853, m. Matilda J. LIGHT; and Mary M. (Mollie), b. c1857 m. Vincent M. HAMILTON. Was Garner Edward's the son of Jesse Edwards, who was in Morgan county in 1830/1840? Any help appreciated.

Mrs. J. D. Richardson, 809 Juliet Ave., Memphis, TN 38127.

*** RUSSELL * HOLDER *STARKEY ***

Seek information concerning the family of Caroline Matilda RUSSELL b. 1832 TN. She m. 1st David STARKEY and after his death she m. in 1860 Elias HOLDER. Elias and Matilda both d. in Limestone Co., TX. In 1870 her mother Susan Russell 85, b. TN is living with Matilda. Would appreciate any help.

Mrs. E. E. Moore, 2013 N. 40th A. St., Waco, TX 76707.

*** CASEY * TENNISON ***

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

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

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

*** CARY * THOMPSON ***

Need information on the following: Ann Eliza CARY, b. 1812, grad. of LaGrange College 1831, m. 9 Apr 1835 Joseph T. THOMPSON Livingston, AL. They moved to Shelbyville, Bedford Co., TN where she died. Lavinia M. CARY, b. 1816, b. Newcomb

THOMPSON II, lived in Shelbyville, Bedford Co., TN. Professor James L. CARY, b. c1820, m. Amanda. He established several schools and taught in Williamson, Marshall and Bedford Co's, TN.

Francis M. CARY, b. 1814 Madison Co., AL, described in Methodist Church records as one of the leading and active men in the Talladega Circuit 1833/1842, may be the brother of those listed above. Rev. J. W. CARY, b. 1861 entered Methodist ministry in 1889, served in Decatur, AL until his death in 1931, was he the son of Prof. James CARY?

Elizabeth Thompson Schack, 49 East 73 Street 10 C, New York, NY 10021.

Everyone has something ancestral, even if it is nothing more than a disease.

-Ed Howe

DEBT CONSOLIDATION/BANKRUPTCY

• Chapter 13 Bankruptcy

LIQUIDATION/STRAIGHT BANKRUPTCY

• Chapter 7

Stop Creditor Problems !!

Stop Garnishments !!

Stop Collections !!

DIVORCE -

- Uncontested Divorces \$200.⁰⁰
- + Costs
- \$250.⁰⁰ + Costs with children
- Child Support/Custody Modifications

PERSONAL INJURY -

- Accident & Injuries

Edward E. Blair

Attorney at Law

(205) 534-9995

200 West Court Square • Terrace Level, Suite 103 • Huntsville, AL 35801

No Representation is Made That The Quality of Legal Services To Be Performed Is Greater Than The Quality of Legal Services Performed By Other Lawyers

Goat Man

Continued from page 29

often remarking that he and the legendary Appleaseed would have made a good pair, "He a'doin' the planting and me a'doin' the talkin."

McCartney estimated that he and his team of goats trekked over 200,000 miles and in all that time claimed that he had never slept in a bed or a house. Always camping out, the Goat Man insisted that he had eaten more pork and beans than any other living person - mostly out of a can - and had burned over 75,000 tires to keep warm on cold nights.

Charles McCartney spent his last years in a converted school bus along Highway 80 near Jefferson, Georgia. His food and supplies came from a local welfare office and a church in town that occasionally sent him a sack of groceries. He got his water from a nearby well, and cooked over a campfire in front of the bus.

Few people are left in Huntsville who remember the bewhiskered old man. The only memories left are a few grubby postcards.

When he died some years ago newspapers throughout the South immortalized him as the, "Goat Man of Dixie."



An ideal wife is one who remains faithful to you but tries to be just as charming as if she weren't.
--Sacha Guitry

Get Cozy on these Cold Nights

- Leather & Lace Lingerie
- Cards & Magazines
- Body Massage
- Toys & Lotions
- Photography
- Cakes & Gift Baskets

Pleasures

830-0069

On University Dr. - 1/2 mile West of Rideout Rd.



FAMILY TREE SERVICE

- Tree Trimming
- Tree Pruning
- Stump Removal
- Dead Wooding
- Fertilization
- Injection
- Lot Clearing

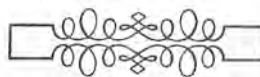


- Insured
- Insurance Jobs Welcomed
- Firewood
- 10 Years Experience
- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- FREE ESTIMATES

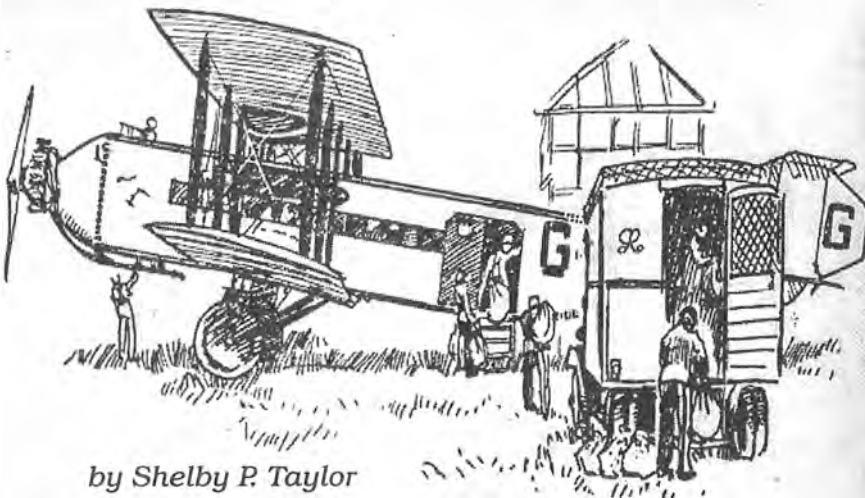
852-5296

Financing Available

Senior Citizen Discount



David Merritt, Owner



by Shelby P. Taylor

Early Huntsville Aviation

At the end of World War II there were indications that the Huntsville Airport would soon become a beehive of activity. Pennsylvania Central Airlines had begun service into Huntsville during the war, Eastern began service January 1, 1946 and they were soon joined by Waterman Airlines, an intrastate operation.

There was only one thing that dimmed this rosy picture, there were few facilities to accommodate these flights. The runways were minimum length, there were no lights or landing aids, no control tower and Penn Central had the only radio available.

The "terminal building" was a wood shack that had been hauled in from another location and placed at the end of one of the runways. It turned out that it was not unusual, especially in the winter, for flights to pass over Huntsville on account of bad weather.

Waterman Airlines was established by Waterman Steam Ship Co., to serve Mobile, Dothan, Montgomery, Birmingham, Huntsville and Muscle Shoals with one round trip a day. They started service with a 14 passenger Lockheed but soon obtained

a refurbished DC3 that carried 24 passengers instead of the usual 21 for this type of aircraft.

Because they were an intrastate airline they were not certified by any federal agency and thus were not eligible for membership in the Airline Transport Association; and so far as Eastern was concerned, Waterman did not exist.

After about a year of flying with few passengers and no air-mail or air express, Waterman announced they were quitting

and gave the date for their last flight. On this sad day for Waterman Airlines the Eastern north bound flight landed and after boarding the passengers they were prepared to leave with a full load, when lo and behold, one of the engines refused to start. What were they to do with 21 unhappy passengers? A call to Atlanta produced no help as they did not have a backup plane available.

After much hand wringing, the station manager reluctantly suggested the passengers could be put on Waterman's flight and sent back to Birmingham where they could catch connecting flights. After much discussion the Atlanta supervisors agreed this was their only solution. So with 21 Eastern passengers and 3 of their own, Waterman Airlines took off for the first time in their short life with a full load... and someone from Eastern Airlines had to explain to Captain Rickenbacker why they gave up 21 passengers to another airline that didn't even exist.



Make it a perfect
Wedding

beginning with your
Invitations

**Invitations, Announcements, Napkins,
Thank You Notes,
Reception Favors, Ribbons, Guest Books,
Toasting Glasses, and More.
For Any Social Occasion**

Linda's
Printing Services

Visa
Master Card
American Express

3308 7th Ave., Huntsville, Al. 35801 - (205) 534-4452, Fax (205) 534-4456

Mullins & Co. - For all your insurance needs

Early Madison County Newspapers

The first newspaper published in Madison County was *The Madison Gazette*, founded October 19, 1813. Only one copy, dated Oct. 19, 1813 is known to be in existence.

The Gazette was a small, four-column paper, 11 1/2 inches by 18 1/2 inches. The motto of the paper was "The Press is the Cradle of Science, the Nurse of Genius and the Shield of Liberty."

The longest lived of all papers in Huntsville's history was the *Huntsville Democrat*, founded in 1822. During the Civil War its name was changed, temporarily, to the *Daily Huntsville Confederate*. When Northern troops occupied Huntsville, the paper was forced to flee the city. As the press struggled to stay ahead of the invading Northern troops, the paper was printed in various locations throughout Alabama and Georgia.

Toward the end of the war, the Confederacy was collapsing so fast that often times the publishers were forced to actually print the paper with the press still loaded on a wagon, while fleeing from city to city. The paper would then be smuggled into Huntsville where it sold for 10 cents a copy.

The only known copy of the "wagon paper" is in a private collection in Huntsville.



'97 Model Closeout!

Bicycles Etc. has Great Deals on remaining '97 Bikes



Don't Wait, Quantities are Limited!

Bicycles Etc.

8100 S. Mem. Pkwy.
881-6947

open 7 days a week



Hartlex Antique Mall

1030 Old Monrovia Rd.
830-4278 Mon - Sat 10-7

100 plus Dealers!

Across from Madison Square
Mall, next to Saturn



Pratt Avenue Antique Mall

708 Pratt Ave.
(1 blk. E. of Andrew Jackson)
536-3117

Mon - Sat 10 - 5, Sun 1 - 5

Antiques, Fine Furniture, Accessories,
Books, Artwork, Custom Framing and a
large selection of
Collectibles. 9000 sq. ft.



Know Your Rights



"Set aside justice, and what are kingdoms but enterprises of robbery."

A recent Alabama law makes restraining orders available without the assistance of an attorney in cases where the person requesting protection can show a history of family violence. Such violence includes physical or sexual abuse between parents and children, brothers and sisters, spouses, people who have a child together, and people who have lived in the same household.

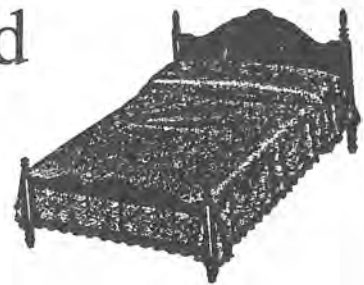
In addition to restraining an abuser from further violence, a court that is considering a case for protection may also resolve temporary custody of children, temporary possession of the home, and child support. However, none of the above will be available unless the abuser is first served with notice of the action and is given an opportunity to be heard.

This column is provided as a public service by Legal Services of North-Central Alabama, Inc., a nonprofit corporation providing free legal help to low income persons in a 5 county area.

To make a donation or receive information on how you can help, contact:

**Legal Services of North
Central AL., Inc.**
2000-C Vernon Drive,
P.O. Box 2465
Huntsville, Alabama 35804
(205) 536-9645

Old Fashioned Household Remedies



Stop a runny nose by adding three drops of Tabasco sauce to a glass of water and drinking it down.

If you're out of hand lotion, take a piece of cucumber and rub it on your chapped hands for soothing relief.

If you have bad cramps during the night occasionally, sleep with a piece of pure silverware. Silver spoons are the best - put one on your night table. As soon as you are awakened by a cramp, place the spoon right on the spot - the cramp should disappear immediately!

A spicy apple scent, like that of a just-baked apple pie, has a calming effect on your nerves. It may even help with panic attacks. Yale University experts have found that by simply imagining the look and smell of a freshly baked apple pie, people can immediately relax.

An old remedy for swollen glands - scrub and peel seven limes. Bring the rinds to a boil and simmer for 5 minutes in 2 cups of water. Cool, then gargle with half of the mixture. An hour later, gargle with the other half.



**FINE
ANTIQUES**

**Are Just a Matter
of Time . . .**



LD TOWN LTD.

**Huntsville's Most
Unique Gift Shop**

*Antiques, Jewelry, Gift Baskets,
Collectibles, and Much More*

Take a Little Time — Stop in and Browse!

820 Wellman N.E. -

Huntsville ~ 533-7002

Chicken Thief Caught On McClung!

(from 1901 Huntsville publication)



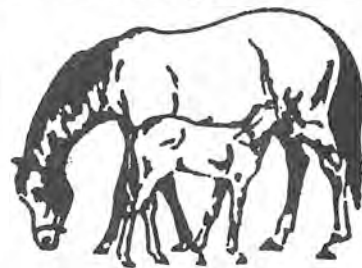
The thievery of chickens that has so long plagued Huntsville has finally been stopped.

Last week an alert delivery man for a local druggist pursued the thief down McClung Avenue until finally stopping him by hitting him in the head with a bottle of Castor Oil. Jake Newsome, the delivery man, said he knew the man was a chicken thief because he looked shifty and was carrying a bag of chickens.

At the trial the next day, S.K. Malone, the chicken thief, claimed the chickens were his and he was training them to sell to the circus when it came to town. That was the reason he had them in the bag.

The judge asked Malone to make the chickens perform and when they couldn't, sentenced him to six months at the county farm.

Nordic Thoroughbreds



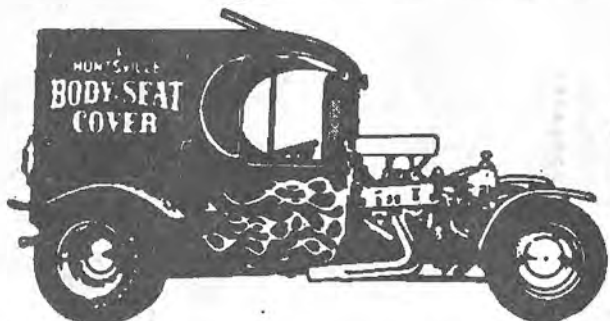
"Top Quality Racing Prospects For Sale"

**Karen Dekko,
Proprietor**

**575 Nebo Road
New Hope, Ala.
(205) 723-7780**

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- * Expert Upholstery Work
- * Complete Auto & Truck Accessories
- * Auto Painting & Body Work



* Insurance Work Welcome

**WE GUARANTEE
COLOR MATCH!**

HUNTSVILLE BODY & SEAT COVER CO.

118 HOWE ST. N.E. = HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801 = 534-8341

Check out the new
"Old Huntsville" homepage at:
www.cntnet.com/oldhsvill

Specializing in genealogical and historical information

Cemetery Records - Almost 40,000 listings of people buried in Madison County, giving their age, date of death, place of burial and cause of death.

Betts History of Huntsville - Now for the first time you can read the complete text on the Internet!

Confederate Units from Madison County - A complete listing telling where they were formed, and their history.

Recipients of the Southern Cross - A listing of Madison County residents who were awarded the Southern Cross for their service in the Confederate Army.

1859-1860 Huntsville city directory - Discover your ancestors and learn what they did for a living.

1809 Madison County census - For the first time on the Internet, the complete census, listing number in household and how many slaves they owned.

War of 1812 Veterans - Listing of all the North Alabamians who served in the war.

*Plus much more with new additions
added every week!*



Old Huntsville

Hartselle Bank Robbery

cont. from page 11

wires had been severed. However, there was an emergency wire which had escaped detection by the bandits and Taylor used this wire, located a half-mile up the tracks to alert Cullman and Birmingham concerning what was going on in Hartselle. At this point Taylor told the Hartselle people: "Well, I've got to get back. I've got \$125,000 on that train." Once this was done, No. 7 left Hartselle as instructed since rail officers feared that the bandits might next attempt to rob the cargo of the train and its passengers.

When at last access to the cash of the Bank of Hartselle was gained, the robbers hoisted the money on their shoulders and as they bade good-bye to their hostages, they commanded them to lie still. According to one report,

the command was put none too congenially. "You sit still or that man outside will kill you," the hostages were admonished.

The robbers had worked for about three hours before being able now to effect their successful escape from town. When the money was obtained members of the gang outside the bank were called inside. *The Birmingham Post* account said that all of the robbers then left the bank by the back door. They waded for the distance of a block northward through the branch behind the bank ("Nasty Branch"), got out, and got into their parked car.

The water route departure meant they left no immediately detectable tracks. The escape by water also prevented bloodhounds from picking up a scent. One hunch is that the robbers had parked their car in the vicinity of the Hartselle cemetery. Another account placed the parked car used by the robbers nearer the Crittenden Lumber Yard.

Once in their car it was believed that they then headed south, toward Birmingham.

According to another account, the robbers split upon

leaving Hartselle. Seven or eight went to Birmingham but the rest went to Nashville. One man was reported to have bought a car in Tennessee and paid for it with gold, which was unusual.

The loot was in the form of gold, paper currency, and silver. Most of the silver remained in the bank after it was robbed. Following the robbery it was scattered all over the floor. Initial estimates reported a loss of between \$10,000 to \$20,000. One account said that \$11,000 of the money taken was in bills, \$4,000 in gold, and \$1,000 in silver. The bills were in packages of \$500 each. They were in small denominations, making it virtually impossible to trace them.

Since the robbers took some silver, presumably they were interested in it. However, the force of the blasts had strewn it all over and the robbers apparently felt they didn't have the luxury of time needed to pick up any more than the amount they took with them as they left the bank. One account of the robbery said that the largest amount of the gold stolen had been deposited by Bill Hartselle. As the bank checked its books with more de-

Yes, I am interested in a career with New York Life Insurance Company. Please send me more information about your sales and management career opportunities.

I'd like to recommend someone I know who is looking for new opportunities in sales and/or sales management.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____



NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
A Mutual Company founded in 1845
HOME OFFICE: 51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010

The Company You Keep® AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/D/V 13499 (497)



Joyce B. Russell, LUTCF
Sales Manager

The Company You Keep®

New York Life Insurance Company
200 Clinton Avenue, Suite 600
Huntsville, AL 35801
Bus. 205 533-8770
Fax 205 539-1842

Member for Financial Products & Services

liberation, they were able to surmise that close to \$15,000 had been stolen during the three hour robbery. To be very precise, the bank's assistant cashier, James E. Peck, counted \$14,302.78 as missing. The hostages did remain as they were for a few minutes but then they began untying each other. Less Williams freed himself first by getting access to the knife he still had on his person. He then cut the bonds of the other hostages.

Amazingly, the Bank of Hartselle was open for business Monday morning, March 15, 1926. Prior to the bank's regular opening, the broken windows were boarded up. Townspeople pitched in to help with the massive cleanup job. Farrell Rollins, a noted Hartselle historian and at the time a freshman student and star athlete at Morgan County High School, recalls being "one of the eager and amazed people who were looking over the damaged bank," as he made his way to the campus for the start of classes at 8:00 a.m.

At 9:00 a.m., the bank opened for business as usual with money temporarily made available by other banks. Indeed, Arthur Stephenson, bank president, and I.V. Griffin, vice-president and cashier of the looted Bank of Hartselle, swung wide the banks doors five minutes earlier than usual on this business day which was very different from any other in the history of the bank. It was reported that "their confidence and smiles dis-

couraged any tendency by their customers to make any run on the bank."

Many depositors did at first withdraw their funds but just as quickly, they put it right back where it had been in the first place. Also the money temporarily lent by the other banks was publicly displayed. As noted previously, deposits were secured by insurance. Until the bank's vault was repaired, the Farmers & Merchants Bank vault was used.

Right after the robbery there was much optimism that the thieves would be captured rather quickly.

One Birmingham newspaper account read confidently: "The Hartselle bank bandits are in Birmingham and will be rounded up within a few days." The upbeat attitude was attributed to private detectives investigating the robbery. Another writer began his story with a flat predic-

tion: "At least half of the bandits who looted the Bank of Hartselle are hiding in Birmingham and will be behind bars within 24 hours." This statement was made in a Thursday morning paper. Again the source was not official investigators, but private detectives, these being associated with the W.J. Burns detective agency.

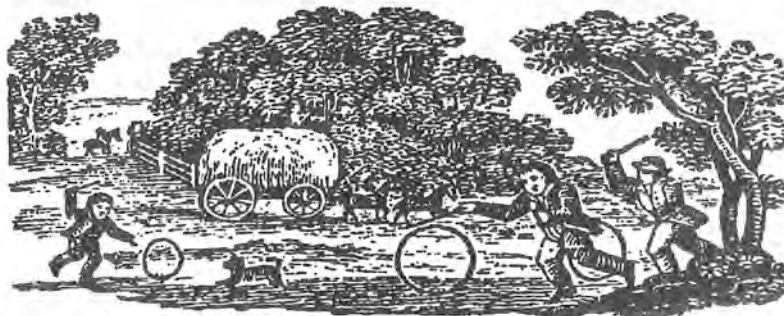
This same news story said that the hideout of the robbers was known and that, unless the men came out rather quickly, a raid would be made by police on the gang's lair. The regular law enforcement authorities were more realistic in their assessment of prospects for solving the Hartselle Bank robbery. The local police were reported to be "without clues" as they wrestled with the problem of trying to identify the robbers.

The *Hartselle Enterprise* reported in its first edition after the

It's Fall Planting Time!

Lawn & Garden Supplies

SINCE 1934



C.T. GARVIN FEED & SEED

We carry a complete line of pet supplies & foods
 PRO PLAN - SCIENCE DIET - MAX - IAMS - EUKANUBA
 2215 Holmes Ave. 534-5637

Visit
OLD HUNTSVILLE
 at
cntnet.com/oldhvill

robbery that "numerous leads are being pursued but to date no tangible results have been obtained. So thoroughly did the robbers cover tracks, no reliable hint of their whereabouts has come to light."

This is still true 71 years after the robbery occurred. Officer Williams was questioned for details of the robbery by approximately 35 detectives. The Morgan County Sheriff investigated the robbery but he said his investigation "found nothing to give the slightest indication as to the identity of the robbers." The Cullman Sheriff and Chief of Police had sped to Hartselle early on the morning of the holdup, but by the time they arrived the bandits had been gone for well over an hour.

Several tools apparently used in the robbery could have yielded fingerprints but they were

handled by so many people that they were useless as a means of trying to solve the crime. Federal investigators believed that the same men who had perpetrated less spectacular robberies elsewhere were also guilty of the Hartselle crime, but they were never able to apprehend any of them.

The Hartselle robbers may have tricked the investigators supposedly on the trail of bank robbers. Apparently, they got the word circulated that they were planning a robbery in Anniston. Instead, Hartselle was chosen as the robbery site.

Guy West, in the crowd the night of the robbery, said he recognized one of the bandits as a man who had been in town a few days previously working as a street vendor selling a small bottling device. The lead seemed to have some merit since Mayor

S.E. Gibson told investigators that no one had been licensed in that period as a street vendor. Some speculated that he was the man who worked out the details of the robbery. He canvassed the Hartselle streets for several days. Apparently, this robber's preliminary work had revealed that Hartselle, except for the depot, was pretty well shut down after 9 o'clock.

Birmingham police shared the belief that the Hartselle outlaws ended up there after the robbery and used the Magic City as the place to divide up their ill gotten gains. On Tuesday, Birmingham police thought they spotted the men whom they believed had perpetrated the Hartselle robbery on First Avenue, where the Huffman and Springville roads fork. However, the car they pursued eluded the police when the cops' car devel-

BARRY'S BLIND FACTORY

Call or come
visit our factory!

SAVE ON 2" WOOD BLINDS

We're located in
the ♥ of 5 Points

(PURE WHITE)

Bring this AD in and save another 10%

Offer good until further notice.

533-0000

517-3422

(digital beeper)

712 Andrew Jackson Way
Huntsville, Ala. 35801

We Serve

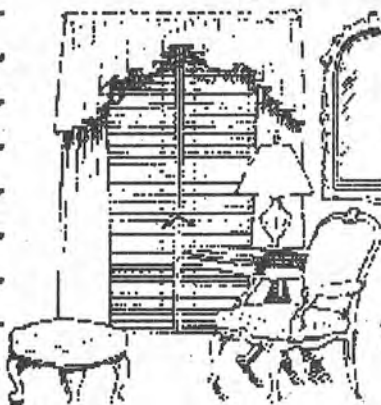
North Alabama

&

Southern Tennessee.

There is a \$42 trip charge
outside of Madison Co.

Fee includes
Measurements
&
Installation.



oped tire trouble and the chase was lost. Another incident occurred in Birmingham when two men clad in overalls and carrying a lot of money were spotted in the L&N yards.

One was heard to say to his companion: "Don't talk so loud, you fool. You don't know who might be in here." However, despite another police chase these men also were able to escape.

To prevent further robberies the city's banks installed poisonous gas pockets in their vaults. If unauthorized entry was attempted, the gas would be released and the would be robbers immobilized. On the positive side, the robbery may have resulted in as much or more additional money circulating in Hartselle as was taken by the thieves.

In the days following the robbery it is reported that, "thousands of persons from all parts of Alabama" came to the city. According to James Peck, "People came from all parts of the coun-

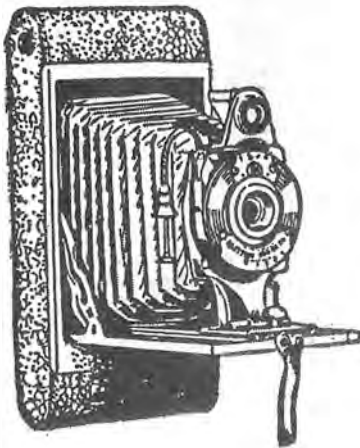
try ... to see and find out what they could." Mr. Peck also told his mother that four days after the robbery the Bank of Hartselle's deposits were \$10,000 more than before it. A week after the robbery, however, "the excitement had about died down," according to Mr. Peck, and he and his coworkers at the bank were, "able to give more time to our work." They "didn't have to be stopping to wait on folks or to show them how the burglars tore things up." Visitors in town were far fewer now.

None of the thieves were ever apprehended.



The woman who tells her age is either too young to have anything to lose or too old to have anything to gain.

--Chinese Proverb



S&S
Photography

**We Restore
Old Photographs**

**2365 Whitesburg Drive
533-0088**



Brooks & Collier

815 Meridian Street
Huntsville, Ala. 35801
205-534-0734 / 534-2781

gifts, garden,
patio, nursery

shop our big selection
of Fall Plants

we carry a
complete
line of
casual furniture

homecrest lyon-shaw
weathercraft veneman
meadowcraft winston





Tips from Earlene

For the best facial moisturizer, wet your face with a bit of water and put a small amount of petroleum jelly on your fingers. Rub this into your face lightly, add a bit of water til the jelly is spread evenly and doesn't feel greasy on your face.

For large houseplants, it really helps to buy a large plastic round tray. Fill this with a layer of pebbles and place your pot on top of it. Fill with water and the

humidity from the pebbles and water will do wonders for your plant.

If your hanging houseplant looks sickly, try hanging it in the shower! If you have window in your shower, install a ceiling hook away from the shower head and hang your plant. The moisture from daily showers and baths will restore its vigor.

Keep baking soda close by when you are cooking on the stove - it will put out fires that start from hot grease as well as from electricity.

Don't use wooden cutting boards for your raw chicken, use the plastic or marble.

If you can't unscrew a bolt, pour some cola over it and try again.

A witty old woman says, if you want to find out a man's true disposition, take him when he is wet and hungry. If he's amiable then, dry him and fill him up with good food, and you will have an angel.

If you have a favorite vase that leaks, take some warm paraffin and allow it to harden. The wax will last indefinitely and the vase

won't leak anymore.

When you buy a dozen eggs, leave them in the egg container in the refrigerator. Eggs stay fresher much longer when they remain in the original carton.

If you have frequent back pain, never sit in the same position for more than 20 minutes.

If you have a smart mouse who understands what a baited mousetrap is and won't be caught, outsmart him. Leave food in the mousetrap for several days, but don't set it. Let the mouse feast for a couple of days then set your trap.

MERIDIAN STREET CHEVRON



1315 Meridian St.
Huntsville, Al.

Jim Wolchik
Manager

- * Wrecker Service
- * Brakes
- * Tune-ups
- * Road Service
- * Wheel Balancing
- * Air conditioning service
- * Wheel alignments
- * New & used tires
- * Full & self service gas

534-9478

ABC PEDIATRICS, P.C.

M. JEAN QUIRANTE, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Pediatrics / Neonatology

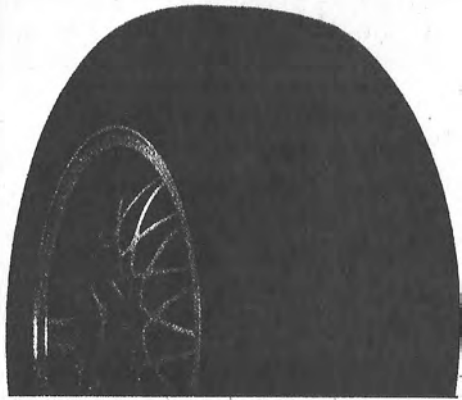
401 Sivley Road - Suite 1
Huntsville, AL 35801

Office: (205) 533-1740

Four Seasons Sunrooms - Enjoy Outdoor Living Indoors - 539-3687

TOP LINE

TIRES



AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE

- COMPUTER BALANCING
- COMPUTER ALIGNMENT
- FULL BRAKE SERVICE
- C.V. JOINT REPAIR

• NEW TIRES



DUNLOP

ONE OF THE BEST PRICES IN TOWN

LARGE SELECTION

COMPUTER BALANCING

FREE ROTATION, REBALANCING & FLAT REPAIR ON ALL NEW TIRES PURCHASED



CARS - PICK-UPS - VANS - DOMESTIC & IMPORTS

LOOK FOR THE BRIGHT
ORANGE BUILDINGS



2 LOCATIONS - LOCALLY OWNED



534-7102

MON - FRI 8 AM - 5:30 PM
SATURDAY 8 AM - 3 PM

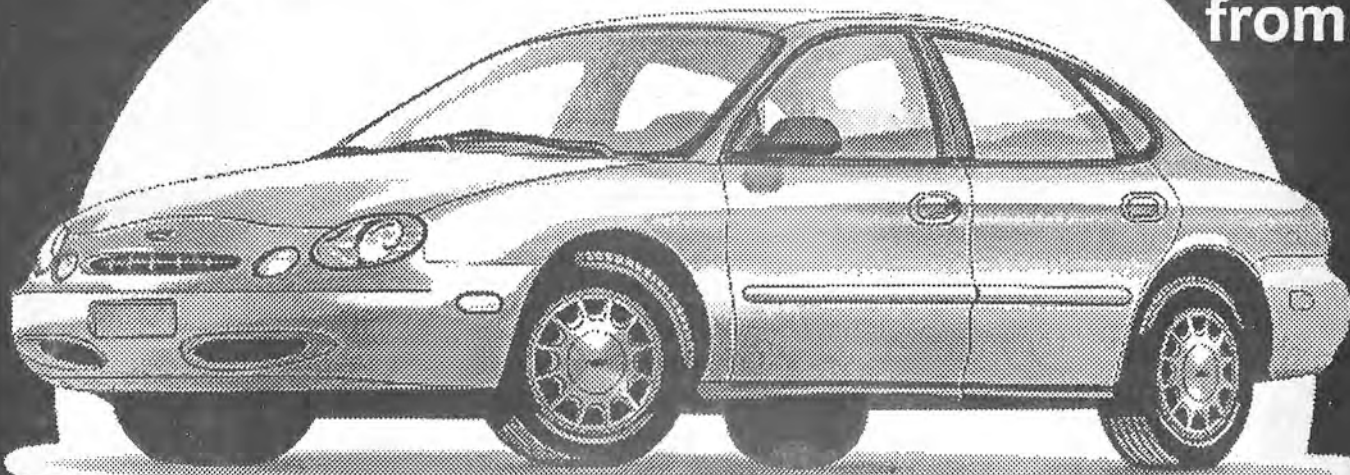
539-1221

2121 MEMORIAL PARKWAY SW
(ACROSS FROM SERVICE MERCHANDISE)

2525 OAKWOOD AV N.W.
(CORNER OF OAKWOOD & PULASKI PIKE)

1997 Taurus G

Own A New Ford
Taurus with many
options to
choose
from.



\$14,997 OR 4.8%***

*Special Financing Rate in lieu of Rebate, 48 months, W.A.C. **Price includes Rebate of \$1,500.00 + tax, title & fees

WOODY
A
ANDERSON



Open Late For Evening & Out-Of-Town Shoppers!

Mon-Fri
8:30 am-8pm
Sat.
8:30 am-7 pm

Corner of Sparkman & Jordan
539-9441
6561 University Drive West
721-6000