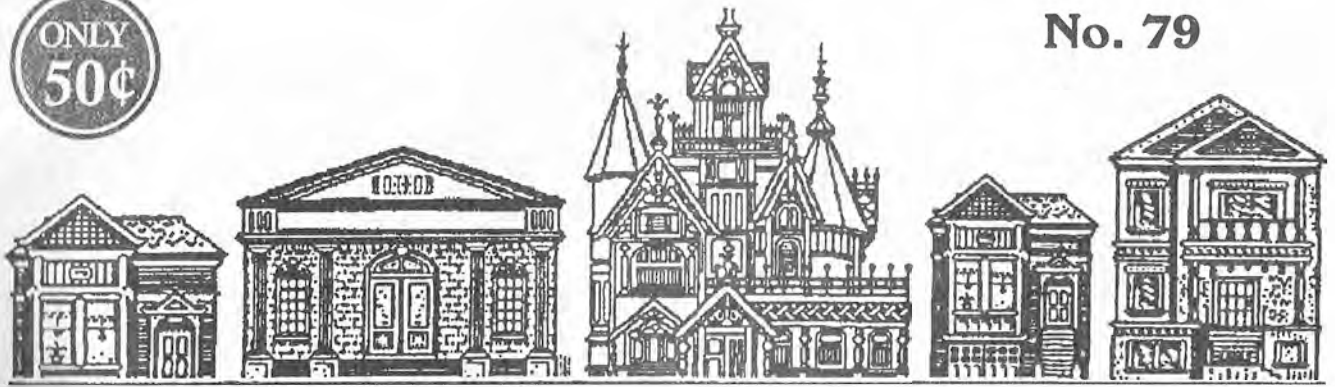


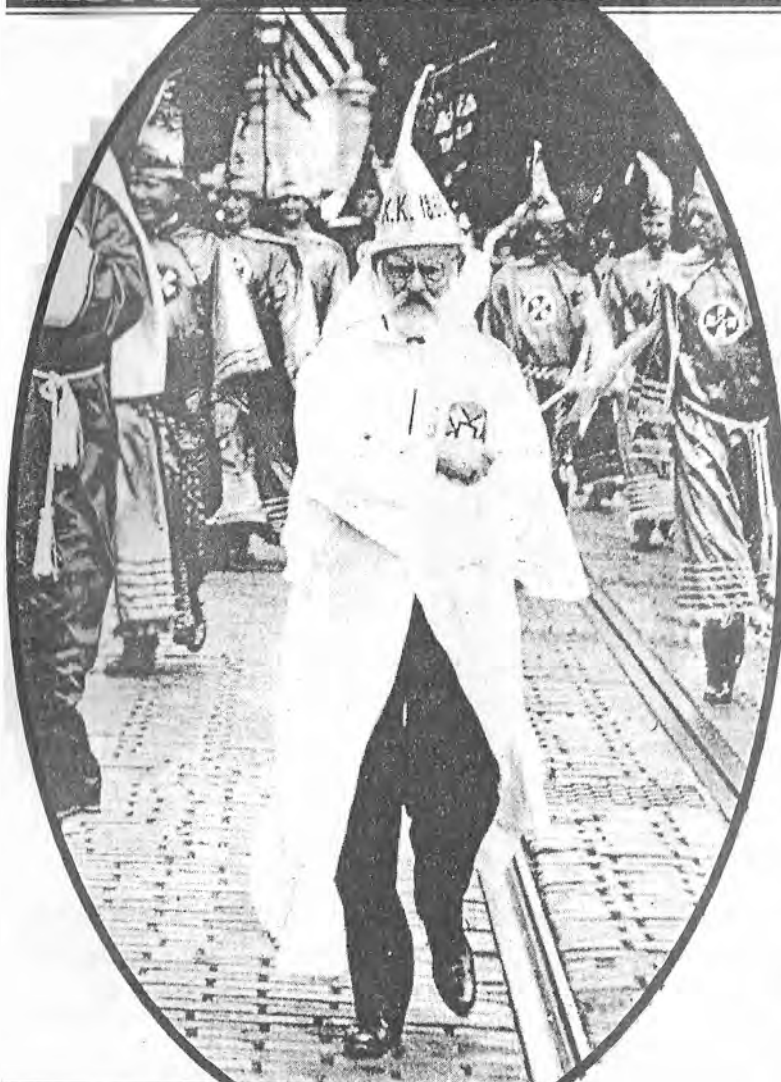
ONLY  
50¢

No. 79



# Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



## INSIDE THE HUNTSVILLE KU KLUX KLAN

For well over a hundred years the Ku Klux Klan was synonymous with terror and secrecy.

New members placed their hands on the sacred altar and pledged to never reveal the secrets of the hooded order.

Many of the individual chapters took names such as "The Den of The Cross," or "Saints of the Night."

In Huntsville, however, a more appropriate name would have been "The gang who couldn't shoot straight."

**Featuring Our Special Swimsuit Edition**

# Inside the Ku Klux Klan

On May 26, 1979, over one hundred members of the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan, dressed in white robes and armed with clubs, ax handles and guns, congregated at the foot of the bridge leading into Decatur. Most of the Klaverns (clubs) in North Alabama, including Huntsville, were represented. A few of the members were even accompanied by their wives and girlfriends.

But for the white robes and weapons, it might have passed for just another "good ol boy" gathering with men laughing, telling jokes and gathering around beer coolers in the back of pickup trucks.

Just over a mile away another crowd was gathering. The group, mostly black, were preparing to march in protest of the conviction of Tommy Lee Hinds, a young black who had been found guilty of rape. Many people felt the authorities, in their rush to solve the crime, had convicted the wrong man.

A few minutes before noon Ray Steele, the Titan (regional leader) of the Klan, called the robed men together under a shade tree and issued last minute instructions about the route. Well aware that there could possibly be a violent confrontation, Steele ordered the men to place their rifles and shotguns in the trunks of their cars.

Minutes later Steele gave the order to move out and a caravan of twenty to thirty cars and



trucks began slowly making its way to the corner of Bank and Lee streets. The spot had been scouted out several days earlier and selected as the most obvious spot to stop the black marchers.

As the two groups converged, scuffles broke out between the Klansmen and the police who were trying to keep the groups apart. Badly outnumbered, the officers struggled to restore order as fights began breaking out all around them. Suddenly gunfire broke out from somewhere in the middle of the crowd.

Seconds later as the sounds of gunfire died away, four people, two marchers and two Klansmen, lay seriously injured on the pavement. ...

At the end of the Civil War, the South laid prostrate under a harsh and dictatorial military rule. Its affairs were governed by a mixture of scalawags, carpet-baggers and greedy Northerners who had rushed south to partake of the spoils.

Many Southerners, unable to participate lawfully in the affairs of their communities, looked to the secret order of the Ku Klux Klan as a way of regaining control. Within several years of its founding, with the Confederate



## Old Huntsville

**Published By**

Old Huntsville, Inc.  
716 East Clinton Ave.  
Huntsville, Ala. 35801  
(256) 534-0502  
Fax 539-3712

**E-Mail**

Oldhville@mindspring.com

**Internet Home Page**

www.cntnet.com/oldhville

**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 1998 (c) 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.

D5-0 LONG DISTANCE VOICE MAIL CONSOLIDATED CUSTOM BILLING 911 SERVICE DC-48 DS-3 CALL FORWARDING CALL WAITING VIRTUAL SERVICES

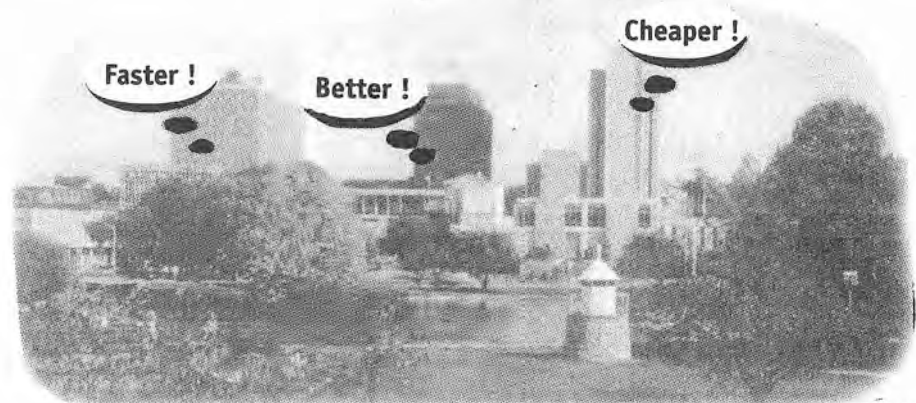


Photo by "Hometown" photographer DANNY FAFARD.

**WHATEVER YOU DEMAND IN A TELEPHONE COMPANY, KMC TELECOM/HUNTSVILLE CAN DELIVER TODAY.**

**"Not maybe, someday soon, or down-the-road. KMC Telecom is here. NOW!**

"Unlike companies that come to town dropping a little cable here and there, KMC Telecom has invested millions in a digitally-switched central office and state-of-the-art SONET ring — a robust flexible network designed to keep pace with customers' needs well into the 21st Century. What's more, our Huntsville office is prepared to meet every organization's unique telecommunications needs with FlexAble™ Solutions incorporating KMC's ClearTouch™ and ClearFiber™ Services.

**"KMC is a powerful economic force committed to the development of Huntsville.**

"We didn't just stick our toe in the water like some modern day carpetbagger. KMC came to serve all customers' needs, not just a select few. Our fiber optic network forms a 72-mile circle throughout the metropolitan area. And that represents a lot of opportunity for nearly every business, professional, educational, government, financial and health care organization in town to improve their efficiency.

**"Of course, customers save money, too. Often 15% to 20% or more.**

"Savings that are real and lasting. To most, however, the fact that voice and data transmissions can be made at lightning speed, without static interference or security concerns, is of greater importance. Our network has so many built-in safeguards against service outages that, short of a major disaster, nothing interferes with transmissions getting through. For our customers, that's an extremely important feature.

**"Today, no one has to wait for telecommunications solutions that are faster, better, and cheaper.**

"Our Huntsville office can make it happen right now — especially if your need is as simple as lowering the costs of your local dial tone, toll and long-distance telephone services. And once a customer experiences our 'Hometown Touch', they'll never look back."

— ROSCOE C. YOUNG II, Chief Operating Officer, KMC Telecom

*To learn about the full range of KMC FlexAble™ advanced telecommunications solutions and KMC ClearFiber™ service options in your area contact:*

**KMC TELECOM/HUNTSVILLE**  
**GREG ODEN**  
 KMC City Director  
**256.704.1000**

**KMC Telecom.**  
 Creative Solutions with a Hometown Touch™  
 1.888.KMC THE 1  
 www.kmctelecom.com

© 1997 KMC Telecom Inc., Bedminster, New Jersey. All rights reserved. KMC Telecom is a registered trademark and FlexAble, ClearFiber, ClearTouch and Creative Solutions with a Hometown Touch are trademarks of KMC Telecom Inc.

REMOTE ACCESS & BACKUP ACCESS TO SATELLITE NETWORKING ISDN DISASTER RECOVERY DS-1 ANALOG INTERFACE FDDI LOCAL DIAL TONE DDS

CALLER ID. CALLING CARDS. CONFERENCE CALLING. FRAME RELAY. CUSTOM CALLING. TOLL FREE SERVICE. DIRECTOR'S & OPERATOR SERVICES. INTERNATIONAL CALLING. EXTRALATA TOLL FREEING. NUMBER PORTABILITY.

SPEED DIALING. LEASE SERVICE. SWITCHED ACCESS ORIGINATOR & DATA-GATE TERMINATION. SLS-1. AHS. LAN/WAN INTERCONNECTION. PBX TRUNKS. SONET. LABEL BONDING. ESI. FRACTIONAL DS-1.



General Nathan Bedford Forrest as its leader, the Klan had become the most powerful influence in the South. Many historians of the day called the Klan, "the invisible government."

Through methods generally not approved of today, the Klan helped sweep the scalawags and carpetbaggers from office and returned rule to the native Southerners.

In the early 1870s, in a secret ceremony held at a hotel in downtown Huntsville, the Madi-

son County Klaverns of the Ku Klux Klan were officially disbanded.

Sentiments were already turning against the Klan by this time. Though viewed as a "necessary evil," most people wanted nothing to do with its lawless methods once the South began to emerge from the dark days of Reconstruction.

Occasionally, in the hundred years following the war, splinter groups of the Klan tried to organize Klaverns in Huntsville but

inevitably they all failed.

Perhaps the most successful effort was in the mid-1950s when the Supreme Court issued its historic ruling on school integration. Many people, feeling powerless against the Federal government, turned to the Klan in an expression of their outrage. Two Klaverns were formed in Huntsville and, at first, membership soared.

Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed when it was pointed out that Huntsville's economy de-

# 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 (256) 534-0502

pende a great deal on its image. If Huntsville became known as a Klan haven, many people in the Government might have second thoughts about awarding contracts in the area.

City leaders quietly spread the word that the Klan was not welcome in Huntsville. As people began realizing that Klan membership could affect their paychecks, membership dwindled away to a mere handful of diehards.

The next attempt was in the mid-1960s when the United Klans of America tried to organize a Klavern in West Huntsville. This failed when the Kligrapp (treasurer) left town with the treasury as well as the membership list. (It was later sold to another Klan.)

By the late seventies enough time had passed where many people began to think of the Klan as a nostalgic symbol of the Old South. When the Tommy Lee Hinds controversy erupted in Decatur it provided a natural recruiting platform for Bob Wilkerson, the Imperial Wizard of the Invisible Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Klan rallies held throughout North Alabama attracted thousands of people drawn by natural curiosity as well as the pag-

eantry of robed Klansmen marching around a fiery cross. Undoubtedly, many people felt as if they were witnessing a relic from the past.

Wilkerson was well aware that most people were drawn out of simple curiosity but he also knew the press would portray the crowds as being sympathetic to the Klan. While these images of giant Klan rallies were being flashed nightly into everyone's living room, Wilkerson began organizing Klaverns in North Alabama. Within a matter of months branches were operating in Huntsville, Birmingham, Cullman, Muscle Shoals and Decatur.

Unlike the old Klan, a constant emphasis was put on recruiting new members into Wilkerson's group. Much of the reason, undoubtedly, was financial. Out of the fifteen dollar initiation fee, the local Klavern kept five dollars, the Grand Dragon (State leader) kept another five and Wilkerson got the remaining. All in all, with the initiation fees, membership dues and sale of various Klan paraphernalia, it was big business for anyone who wanted to declare himself an Imperial Wizard.

Huntsville's Klavern was typical of most. With between twenty-

five and thirty-five members in their late twenties and early thirties, there was a constant turnover as people joined, attending a few meetings before becoming bored and drifting away. In a radical break with the past, many of the new Klansmen sported long hair and beards, while one boasted large swastika tattoos on his forearms.

At one memorable meeting several Klansmen became so "mellow" that the leadership was forced to issue an edict declaring that no marijuana would be smoked during meetings!

Faced with this edict, some members chose to remain outside "in the fresh air" during the meetings, "guarding the perimeters" against any spy who might dare to infiltrate the secret meetings.

Fear of infiltration was a big concern of Huntsville's Klavern as almost every previous Klan had been destroyed by spys within their midst. Supposedly, each new member was investigated before being approved, but in reality, anyone who had the cash for the initiation could join. By late 1978 the Klan's security had become so bizarre that when one member accidentally sat on his pistol in a local Waffle House, severely wounding his pride as



**Are Your Tomato Plants Wilting?**

**Are You Plagued By Brush Fires?**

***Vote For The Rainman***

***John Cockerham***

**More Accurate Than Dan Satterfield!**

Paid for by Friends of John Cockerham

well as private parts, he was met at the hospital emergency room by a government investigator wanting to know what happened!

Apparently even the leadership was not overly concerned about security as they extended an invitation to a local television station to attend their meetings. When the reporter declined he was offered a free membership!

To no one's surprise, the Huntsville Klavern soon became saturated with spies and informers.

For some odd reason Shoney's restaurant, on North Parkway, had always been a favorite place for law enforcement personal to meet their informers. In one instance a Klansman by the name of Bobby Tomlinson walked in to meet his "handler," only to see another member sitting at another table talking to another investigator! After exchanging a few words both Klansmen and both men retired to opposite corners of the restaurant to continue their debriefing.

Tomlinson's initiation into the ranks of being a "spy" was typical of most government informers.

An acquaintance told Tomlinson about the Huntsville Klavern and encouraged him to attend a meeting. Though at first reluctant, Tomlinson gave into curiosity and accompanied his friend to a gathering the following week.

The meeting was held at a home near downtown Huntsville. Most of the furniture in the den had been shoved aside to make way for four chairs, set up in the "position of the cross" where the leaders sat. In the middle of the room was a small table draped with an American flag and a bible, sword and vial of "holy

water" sitting on it. The other members sat scattered about the room.

The meeting began with the ritual reading from the Kloran (Klan rule book) with each officer reading their prescribed parts and the membership joining in reciting the pledge.

Though Tomlinson later admitted being impressed with the pomp and pageantry, deep within him was a sinking feeling that the group was a dangerous bunch of misguided fanatics. Several days later, during his lunch hour, he went to a pay phone and after quickly scanning the phone book for the right number, made a call.

"I don't want to give my name but I thought you ought to know there's a bunch of Ku Kluxers here in town that could be dangerous."

A calm, professional voice on the other end listened patiently as Tomlinson told about the meeting. When he had completed his narration, the voice asked if he would be willing to meet with an investigator.

"No way!" Tomlinson replied. "Those people are crazy!"

If Tomlinson thought at the time that his experience with the Ku Klux Klan was over, he was sadly mistaken. The following evening after getting off from work, he was walking to his car when a man, dressed in a dark suit, approached him.

"Bobby Tomlinson?" It was more a statement of fact than a question. "I need to talk to you for a few minutes," the man said as he flashed a badge.

Minutes later, after following the investigator to nearby Brahan Spring Park, Tomlinson listened as the investigator explained what he wanted.

"We want to thank you for giv-

## Shaver's Top 10 Cookbooks of Regional Interest

1. Huntsville Heritage Cookbook - Always #1 best-seller from The Junior League of Huntsville (\$14.95).
2. Twickenham Tables - Recipes and menus from The Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association (\$10.95).
3. Southern Scrumptious: How To Cater Your Own Party by Decatur's Betty Brandon Sims (\$18.95).
4. First Presbyterian Cookbook - A Huntsville classic since 1981 (\$14.95).
5. Candlelight Celebrations - Recipes, Prayers and Blessings from St. Thomas Episcopal Church (\$17.50).
6. Southern Settings - Tabasco Community Cookbook, award winner from Decatur General Hospital Foundation (\$24.95).
7. Cotton Country Cooking - More award winning recipes from The Junior League of Morgan County (\$16.95).
8. Welcome Back - A centennial celebration cookbook from The Huntsville Hospital Foundation (\$12.50).
9. Village Traditions - A culinary collection from Alabama Constitution Village (\$12.00).
10. Sweet Home Alabama - Food from family and friends from The Junior League of Huntsville (\$21.95).

MAIL ORDERS ADD  
\$2.00 PER/BOOK

Shaver's Bookstore  
(256) 536-1604

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



ing us a call yesterday. We know you're not like the rest of them but we need your help. You don't really have to do anything but attend a few meetings and let us know what you see and hear."

Tomlinson began to protest but the investigator cut him off by picking up a file and began reading from it. Included in the file was Tomlinson's whole history, where he had worked, when he got married and what church he went to. Even more disturbing was the next statement. "You need to be careful about buying marijuana. You don't ever know when someone might be watching!"

Without waiting for a reply, the investigator reached into a folder and pulled out a thick stack of photographs. "Which of these people were at the meeting?"

Startled at the investigator's knowledge, Tomlinson reluctantly began to identify the people he recognized.

The meeting ended a few minutes later with the investigator shaking his hand and saying, "Hey, we're the good guys. All we want is a little help sometimes." Almost as an afterthought the investigator handed Tomlinson an envelope with five, twenty dollar bills. "Just to show our appreciation. Oh, I almost forgot! I need you to sign this receipt, just for our records, you know!"

Though Bobby Tomlinson did not realize it at the time, he had just joined the ranks of government informers in the Invisible Empire of the Ku Klux Klan. It would be months before he realized that someone had informed on him, too!

Within a few months Tomlinson had become an accepted member of the Huntsville Klavern, even sitting in for the

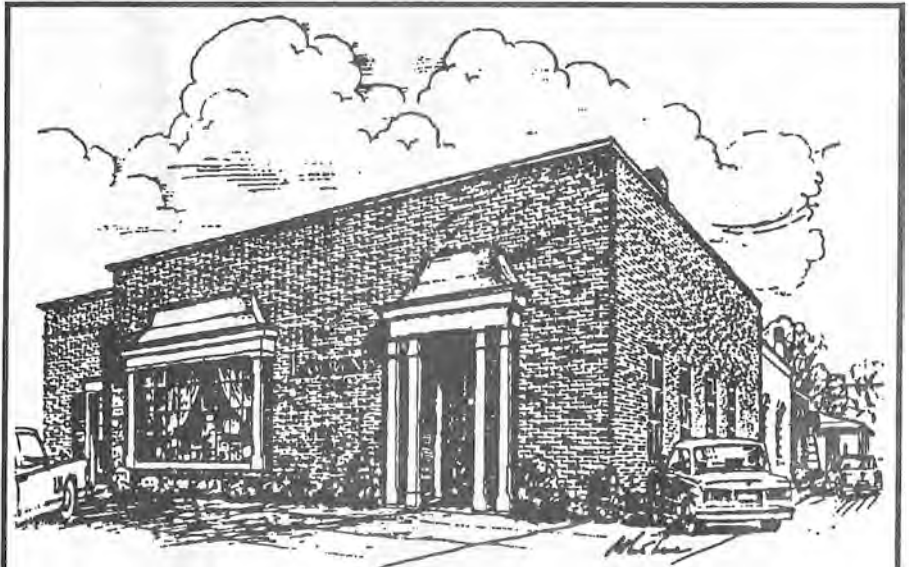
Klokard on several occasions when the official had to miss meetings. After a while it became almost routine; attend the meetings, meet with a handler afterwards and be debriefed. On one occasion he was even supplied with a camera to take pictures of the members for the Klavern "scrap book."

Needless to say, copies of the pictures ended up in the government files!

If anything, Bobby Tomlinson was typical of many of the members. By 1979 almost every government law enforcement agency

in Alabama had infiltrated the Huntsville Klavern. According to one source, the United States Army even recruited an informer after it learned that several soldiers from Redstone Arsenal had been seen attending meetings.

For the most part, local Klan activities consisted of gathering around a beer cooler in the back of a pickup truck telling stories and trying to decide what to do. About the most exciting thing the members did were to leave calling cards at various businesses saying, "You Have Been Visited By The Ku Klux Klan."



# 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.

The regular weekly meeting on May 24, 1979, promised to be different however. Word had quietly spread among the members that important guests were expected.

After the meeting was called to order, Ray Steele (Titan) and Roger Handley (Alabama Grand Dragon) were introduced to the gathering. Both men were armed, Steele with a .45 pistol in a shoulder holster and Handley with .30 calibre rifle, commonly known as an "enforcer."

The men quickly got to the purpose of their visit. The anniversary of Tommy Lee Hinds' arrest in Decatur was two days later and the black community was expected to stage a march in protest of his conviction.

"We ain't gonna let them march!" Declared Steele. Both men indicated they expected a large turnout of Klansmen to stop the march.

Out of the 35 to 40 members in attendance, support for the idea was almost unanimous.

An hour later, as Tomlinson related the evening's events to his handler, he was visibly shaken. "Man, someone's gonna get killed!"

"Don't worry about it," he was told, "we have everything under control."

As the morning of the march approached and after the less earnest Klansmen had time to think about it, many of them began to have second thoughts. Suddenly there was a rash of phone calls by Huntsville Klansmen explaining their prior commitments to taking their children fishing, going shopping with the wife or unexpected bouts of the flu.

For many men it was simply, "don't wait for me; I'll meet you

there... if I don't have car trouble. By the time the Klansmen met in Decatur, Huntsville was represented by a mere 8 members.

A Klansman at the time, known here as "Bubba," described the confrontation that followed.

"Some boys from Cullman were fighting with the police when all of a sudden someone started firing shots. I didn't stick around to see what happened; I just got the hell out of there. Call me chicken if you want to, but two more cars with Klan people passed me on the way to Huntsville and I was doing eighty,

maybe eighty-five miles an hour!"

The shoot-out made national news with the Tennessee Valley being portrayed as a hotbed of Klan activity. Though all the networks played and replayed the images of the robed Ku Kluxers, none pointed out the fact that out of millions of people in North Alabama, the Klan could only draw less than a hundred supporters.

Though there was a national call for the outrage to be investigated, law enforcement authorities claimed not to have any information about the Klan. Instead, a black man who had defended himself against the robed Klansmen was arrested!

# Re-elect Councilman Mark Hall



## Proven Common Sense Leadership

CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 2

Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as your city council representative for the past four years. It has been a great experience. You allowed me to serve and to see that the police, firefighters, coaches, teachers and other public servants have the tools they need to do their jobs.

I believe in basic values...  
Great schools for our children.  
A safe city, anywhere - anytime.  
A clean city.

Election to public office is a great responsibility, a trust given by the people. As long as you are willing to give me your trust I will honestly serve to represent you on the city council to the best of my abilities.

### Please Re-elect Councilman Mark Hall

Paid for by Friends of Mark Hall Committee



Misguided as it was, the government was merely continuing a long tradition of not revealing its sources. In reality, many of the Klansmen who had participated in the march, and who were also providing information, were granted an unofficial immunity.

When almost a year had passed with no action being taken against the Klan by the authorities many people assumed the Klan had won again. The Decatur shoot-out had, however, a sobering effect on many members. The Huntsville Klavern, never exactly a hotbed of activity, became even more subdued than ever.

One member, disgusted at the inactivity of the Klavern, described it as "the Ku Klux Kiddie Kare."

On November 3, 1980, the Southern Poverty Law Center, under the auspices of the Peoples' Association of Decatur filed a lawsuit in Federal Court against the Klan for one million dollars for conspiracy to violate civil rights. Over seventy Klansmen were implicated in the suit.

The news hit the Huntsville Klavern like a bombshell, especially when the members, past and present, learned they could individually be held liable for damages. The first impulse was to simply deny being members of the Klan. This proved to be impractical when the Law Center began interviewing members and offering them limited immunity in exchange for their cooperation.

For Bobby Tomlinson, the situation proved to be highly awkward. Though he was feeding information to the government, he was also a Klan member and had been involved in some questionable activities.

Meeting with his handler, Tomlinson asked for advice. "Just keep your mouth shut," he was told, "we'll take care of everything."

The advice proved shortsighted, however. Spurred by fear of the lawsuit, many Klansmen began calling the Law Center offering information and trying to make a deal. Ironically, the thrust of the government investigators' questions seemed to change at this point. Now, perhaps worried about their opera-

tion being exposed, the investigators began seeking information about the Law Center.

"At one point," Tomlinson recalled, "they even showed me pictures of people who were supposed to work for the Law Center and wanted to know if I had seen them talking to Klansmen."

If the members had expected help from their Imperial Wizard, Bob Wilkerson, their hopes were dashed when he placed the Klan in bankruptcy. Adding insult to injury were news reports of

**Quality  
Professional  
Dry Cleaning &  
Laundry  
Service**

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



**SANDERS**

**1215 Jordan Lane 837-6072**

**7538 Mem. Pkwy. S. 828-0106**

Wilkerson possibly being an informer for the F.B.I.!

The remnants of the Klan in Huntsville collapsed like a deck of cards as more and more members sought to give their depositions in exchange for immunity against the lawsuit. One woman, fearful of losing her home, actually called and volunteered a deposition against her own husband.

Most of the Klansmen were let off by the Law Center after agreeing to sign a sworn statement that they would no longer participate in any hate group organizations. When Tomlinson asked his handler for advice, he was told, "Sign the statement and forget about it. That part of your life is over with now."

A few of the more radical had to agree to attend seminars on race relations or pay monetary damages. As one of the former members emerged from the seminar he was besieged by reporters who wanted to know if he had learned anything.

"Yeah," he said grimly while trying to shield his face from the

flashing cameras. "Carry a newspaper to cover your face with!"

Faced with and embarrassed by the information the Southern Poverty Law Center had uncovered during its civil suit, the Federal Government was finally forced to take action against the Klansmen who had instigated the Decatur riot. A total of eight people were found guilty for conspiring to violate the civil rights law. No government informer testified.

By the spring of 1984 the Ku Klux Klan in Huntsville consisted of a mere six people, five of whom were reputed to be informers for various law enforcement agencies.

According to one story that made the rounds among law enforcement officials, the Klan never really disbanded in Huntsville; the government just stopped paying them to attend.

*Editor's note: Certain names have been changed to protect the families of the guilty.*

"We need Bill to keep fighting for us!"

# BILL KLING

**#4 CITY COUNCIL  
VOTE TUESDAY, AUG. 25**

**BILL WILL FIGHT FOR:**

- \*More School Support
- \*Residential Street Sweeping
- \*Police Precincts
- \*More Road Resurfacing
- \*Drake Ave. at Triana Blvd. Sportsplex
- \*Maintaining Twice a Week Garbage Collection
- \*University Park (Riggs Field) Renovation

FOR A YARD SIGN OR TO HELP IN THE CAMPAIGN, CALL BILL AT 534-7704

Pd. Pol. Adv. Kling Camp. Jim Lane Chmn. 1405 Governor's Place Hsv. AL 35801

**EVERY  
MONDAY  
IS  
FAMILY  
NIGHT!**

**Gibson's**  
**BAR-B-Q**  
SINCE 1956



**Gibson's**  
**BAR-B-Q**

**Kids Eat  
Free**

**EVERY MONDAY NIGHT  
KIDS EAT FREE**

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

**YOUR HOSTS: THE SANFORDS & HAMPTONS**

pressing a business that is demoralizing to every one who engages in it, including the producer, the bootlegger and the consumer.



# Whiskey Industry Flourishing

from a 1920 newspaper

in this particular line of work that sugar will turn out three or four times as much liquor as the same weight in corn—though, it is alleged, that the sugar product is not quite so “tasty” as the genuine corn juice.

The allegation is made that the high price of spirits is a great temptation to the lawless to go into the business of producing the contraband; and a further allegation is that there are believed to be in the county right at this time a number of booze factories in full blast. It therefore remains to be seen whether or not the strong hand of the federal government is going to be effective in sup-

Mr. W.A. Romine, local agent for the United States government for the suppression of liquor making and liquor selling, is having some interesting experiences in his work, in which he is now actively engaged. A case in point was that in the Blackburn beat, when he found a still near an alleged distiller's residence, and in the man's house one thousand pounds of sugar, which he understood was to be converted into the ardent. In this connection it is said by people informed

*It may be true that life begins at 40, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out.*

## H.C. BLAKE INC.

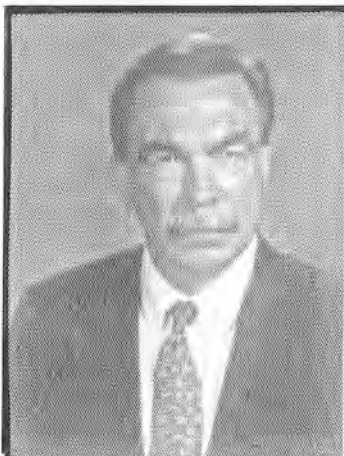
Plumbing, Electrical  
Heating,  
Air Conditioning



SERVICE  
IS OUR  
BUSINESS  
SINCE  
1884

Hall B.  
Bryant, Jr.  
Proprietor

**534-0781**



### 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"





## Absurd News

In a strange case of turn about is fair play, Clarence Gerkin of Martin, Tenn., was seriously wounded after stalking a large buck for several hours. He brought the animal down with a single shot and advanced to claim his trophy. Laying his rifle down on the ground next to him, he took out his knife and prepared to dress the deer. A sudden reflex action caused the deer to kick out, discharging the unattended rifle. Mr. Gerkin was hit in the arm in this bit of posthumous revenge.

As a member of the British Women's Land Army, hardened veteran Christine Woodward of Daventry, England had been trained to face bullets and bombs without flinching. Her skill as a truck driver for the Allied forces had earned her numerous citations for bravery, however, one particular incident left her commanders shaking their heads in disbelief. It seems a small, gray mouse had crawled into the parked truck. Christine climbed

into the truck cab at 2200 hours, and began a routine trip to Coventry. The mouse, being disturbed by the commotion, scampered across her toes. Witnesses said she screamed loud enough to wake the dead just before she fainted, and the truck ran into an adjacent ditch. Christine went to the hospital, and the mouse went home.

John Baugher of Aberdeen, Miss., took a last drag on his cigarette and carelessly tossed the butt into the street. The fire fighter was awakened hours later by the smell of smoke, and he and his colleagues searched for the source. After about an hour, they found it. A sparrow who had built her home in the eaves of the fire station had picked up the still smoldering cigarette and carried it into her newly completed nest.

And just to prove that smoking in bed isn't restricted to sparrows, a pigeon in Washington started a fire in an apartment building the same way, confirming the fact that smoking is truly hazardous to one's health.

Far less intrepid was the suicidal quail that found itself looking down the wrong end of a shotgun held by Gene Hatfield in Joplin, Missouri. Realizing the jig was up, the quail decided to end it all quickly. It flew straight against the barrel of the gun and dropped dead at Hatfield's feet with a broken neck.

Lawyer W.S. Doppler of Dyersburg, Tenn., was arrested for public drunkenness in the courthouse this morning at 11 o'clock as he was getting ready to plead a case before the court. His client is reported to be the largest manufacturer of illicit whiskey in the county. Squire Doppler is being held in the city drunk tank. His case has been rescheduled.



*The world is composed of takers and givers; the takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better.*



Earth Moving  
Site Preparation  
Ponds and Lakes  
Land Clearing  
Consulting  
536-5601

*Specializing in Mountain Side Excavating  
with Over 20 years Experience*



## Tips from Earlene

Common salt provides a complete barrier to the hated red ant. Just make a barrier of it to the place the ants want to go, and they will never crawl over it. In the home, try a few bay leaves crumbled here and there to keep the ants from visiting your kitchen cupboard.

To keep a mahogany table beautiful, do the following: Take a little cold drawn linseed oil and put it in the middle of the table. Rub well with a piece of linen (never use wool). Take another piece of linen, rub for ten minutes, then take a dry cloth and rub it quite dry. Do this every day for a month, and your table will acquire a permanent and beautiful luster, unattainable by any other means, and equal to the finest French polish.

If your windshield wipers smear on your car windows, wipe the windshield and the blades down with rubbing alcohol.

Even if you never go near the water, you can get "swimmer's

ear" if you wear a hearing aid—they tend to trap moisture in the ear canal. To avoid this, remove your hearing aid as often as possible to give ears a chance to dry out.

Use spirits of ammonia with water (a teaspoonful to a quart) for cleaning windows, dusting, cleaning mirrors, and removing spots from every fabric. It also cleans and brightens silver when mixed with a bucket of suds.

Use vinegar as a polish for your chrome fixtures. Simply moisten a cloth with vinegar and use to polish—no rinsing necessary.

To remove grease from your wallpaper, dip a flannel in spirits of wine and go carefully over the soiled places once or twice.

Before using vinegar to remove rust stains from your bathtub, make sure that both the bathtub and the room temperature are as warm as possible.

When cooking onions, set a tin cup of vinegar on the stove and let it boil, and it is said you will smell no disagreeable odor.



## REWARD

*from 1820 newspaper*

STOLEN from the subscriber, living on the Briar Fork of Flint River, on the night of the 16th instant a lively grey GELDING, between six and seven years old, about fifteen and a half hands high, trots and racks well, has a long mane and switch tail; and is a fine spirited horse. He was taken out of the subscriber's stable some time in the night by a person who is supposed to have rode another horse to the place, as the tracks of another horse were seen accompanying his for some distance from the plantation. The above reward will be given for the apprehension of the THIEF and HORSE, or twenty five dollars for the horse alone.

John Milam



## LEWTER'S — HARDWARE STORE.

*For All Your Hardware Needs*

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



# Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

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



Since I wrote you last time, I've had surgery but am doing well now. A special thanks to all my friends who remembered me.

We had great fun with the last Photo of the Month. Lots of people called but it took almost three weeks before **Mrs. Bobby** at the Five Points Beauty Salon finally guessed it as being **Mark Thornhill**. Neat picture, Mark!

Those two guys running for Madison County Superintendent of Education against **Sandra Rhodes** thinks it's just the two of them. Watch Out! Sandra is really working so don't sell her short. Go for it, Sandra!

According to *Old Huntsville's* scientific poll of yard signs, it's going to be a tight race in district 2 between **Mark Hall**, **John Cockerham** and **For Sale**, with For Sale slightly ahead in most neighborhoods.

My sympathy goes to **Janice Fowler** on the death of her dear

mother. We love you, Janice.

Hope ya'll come on out August 11th to see eight of us Senior Citizens make our handprints in cement for the Path of Honor at the Senior Center. The fund raiser will be at the von Braun Center and will be lots of fun!

Speaking of Senior Citizens, **Ms. Mayor** spoke to about 40 handsome gents of the **Golden K Kiwanis Club** the other day. Among the topics she discussed were the ups and downs of her job, how she and other mayors in the area promote Huntsville and North Alabama and the healthy relationship between our fair city and Redstone Arsenal.

It's really a pleasure to watch **Sheriff Joe Whisante** campaign. He's as sincere a person as I know who really loves meeting people. I think we need to keep him around for a while longer!

This is my column so if I want

to talk about my granddaughter, **Donna** getting married to **Todd Wetstone** this summer, I can! Just because she is a beautiful, intelligent and caring person has nothing to do with it! We love you, Donna.

**Mr. & Mrs. Jim Cox**, who own the *Lauderdale News* stopped by recently for breakfast. They are fine folks and I'm proud to be their friend! Love you!

**Ms. Mayor** has been so busy lately we haven't seen much of her at the breakfast table. Maybe you're working too hard, Lady!

Congratulations to **Ernie Young** on retiring after 40 long years with the government. Now you can help me cook!

My heartfelt sympathy to my friend **Jim Shackley** on the death of his father. He was a good man.

**Loyd and Marcie Tomlinson** from the **Outback Steak House** brought Marcie's family in for

## Photo of The Month

The first person to identify the little boy 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: Heart of gold



Last month's photo was **Mark Thornhill**

# DAVTRONIX

Computers, Inc.

*Huntsville's Oldest Computer Store!*

534-2900 or 1-888-DAVTRON

225 Spragins Street - Downtown Huntsville



breakfast last week. They were visiting from Florida and boy, did they put away the ham and biscuits!

**Eddie Levick**, minister of the **Twickenham Church of Christ**, and several friends will be leaving for **Scotland** next week. Just don't come back wearing a Kilt!

Boy, are the candidates for **City Council** moving around! There are **six people** running for **District 2** and last Saturday three of them were pouring coffee for the breakfast crowd here.

Nicest coffee pourer of the month has to be **Jeff Enfinger**. He celebrated his 47th birthday by playing golf with **Mark**, his nine year old son.

**Bill Kling** may have a fight on his hands this time to retain his City Council job. Sources tell us that **Jackie Reed** is going after it hard this time. Go for it, Jackie!

I don't know what other business owners did but I sure made a lot of new friends when the **Gold Wings** came to town. They were all such nice folks! Good job Huntsville for bringing them to us!

Our friend **Tim Morgan** was recently named "**Alabama's District Attorney of the year.**" I don't know what all the fuss was about though, we've always known he was the best!

We have all kinds of folks celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month.

**Mr. & Mrs. Dalton Roger** of Bobo Section Road just celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to our dear friend **Mrs. Clarence Carroll** who celebrated his 93rd birthday on July 4th.

**Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Bagett** celebrated their fiftieth on June 28th.

**Williams Alton Blair** and

**Clara Guim** were married 50 years ago in June and are still madly in love.

**Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Troup** will celebrate their 50 years next week.

My great friend **Mr. Virgil Uptain** will be 95 on August 24th. He and his lovely wife had breakfast with me last week. Congratulations to all of you!

I sure did enjoy going on Channel 31's **WAAY TOO EARLY** with my good friends **Toni Lowery** and **Gary Dobbs**. Then they invited me to come on down and do their radio show with them. I had a real good time!

I want to wish **Miss Nell Lackey** and **Mrs. Babs Roper** a fun and safe trip. They're jetting off to California. Hope they stay out of trouble; you never know with those two.

It's so good to know that our Congressman, **Bud Cramer** is fighting to get a severe weather service office here. Thanks Bud!

That's all for this month but just remember that I love you!

*Don't Guim*

## 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.

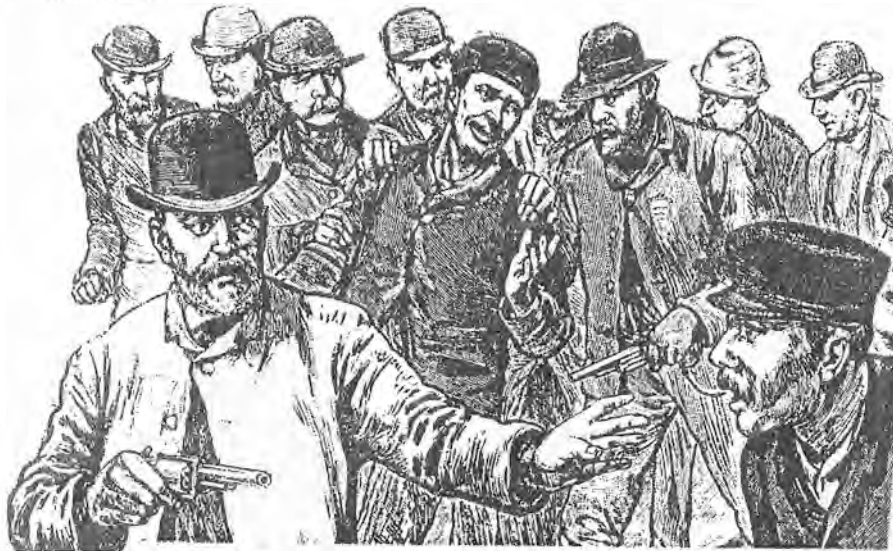
One Meal,  
 One Customer  
 at a time.



A Franchisee

NO RULES.  
 JUST RIGHT.™

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



# Shooting Affray

*Mayor Shot Dead Instantly!*

So screamed the headlines all across Alabama on July 18, 1890. Unbelievable as it seemed, the Mayor of Tuscumbia had indeed been shot down in a gunfight. Readers were even more shocked to learn that Mayor John Steele Jr., son of Colbert County's probate judge, had evidently begun the Wild West style shoot-out himself. North Alabama residents with long memories might have recalled that Mayor Steele's grandmother was a Winston, one of the two families that figured in the city of Tuscumbia's biggest melee some 60 years earlier. It appeared the frontier spirit was not quite dead in the Tennessee Valley after all.

John Steele Jr., Tuscumbia's 31 year old mayor, was the second son of Judge

John Anthony Steele, a prominent political figure and distinguished Confederate veteran. Judge Steele's mother was Mary D. Winston, daughter of Anthony Winston, who settled in Tuscumbia in 1818. Old timers still talk about the day in the late 1820s when Anthony Winston and his brothers fought John Washington and other members of his family, distant cousins of the first president.

The apparent cause of the encounter was certain criticism of President Andrew Jackson, which appeared in Henry Foote's newspaper, *The Tuscumbia Patriot*. The Winston brothers served under Jackson in the Creek Indian War and took offense at the comments about their old commander. As Foote was related to the Washingtons by

marriage, they quickly rallied to his defense. The Washington men came to town that day intending to settle matters with the Winstons. The Winstons were equally courageous and met the Washingtons near the corner of 6th and Main streets. Both sides used flintlock pistols and knives, and the fighting was desperate. Blood flowed freely, though miraculously no one was killed.

The 1890 shooting was sparked by 18 year old Andrew Metcalf Steele, who encountered the wife of Tuscumbia's undertaker on the street and for some reason "grossly insulted her," according to newspapers. The next morning, July 18th, the undertaker, William Challen, and

R.G. NAYMAN CO. INC.

# RGN

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

General Contractors  
Residential & Commercial  
Specializing In  
Fire Damage Repairs

"A Contractor You Can  
Trust"

# 533-9016

## Charles Hooper

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

106 South Square  
Huntsville, Al.

(205) 539-8914  
Fax (205) 539-4570

Alabama state bar regulations require 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."



his brother-in-law, John Goodwin, went to Judge Steele's house to demand an apology. None was given, and heated words were exchanged. After the men left, "Met" Steele's brothers, John and Thomas, armed themselves and went looking for Challen and Goodwin. The Steeles found them inside Curry & Abernathy's Drug Store, engaged in conversation with Judge Steele. Without further ado, young John, the mayor, reached over his father's shoulder and fired a shot at John Goodwin. The bullet missed, however, and struck druggist Tracy Abernathy in the wrist as he attempted to separate the men and prevent bloodshed.

The startled Goodwin quickly drew his own pistol and shot Mayor Steele through the head, killing him instantly. Tom Steele then joined in and fired a load of buckshot into Goodwin's right shoulder. As Goodwin fell

to the floor, Tom Steele emptied the shotgun's other barrel at him. The buckshot missed, but the exploding gunpowder badly burned Goodwin's face. Challen ended the fight by wounding Tom Steele in the arm.

"Both factions are among the most prominent people in the community," wrote the *Huntsville Mercury's* correspondent, "and the trouble is deeply regretted by all. Moreover, with the popular young mayor dead and three others wounded, no one really considers the feud to be over. The affair is not quiet by any means and our people may look for more trouble at any moment, as the two factions, backed by numerous relatives, swear eternal vengeance."

Surprisingly, all was quiet in the weeks that followed. Though Goodwin had been badly wounded, the 47 year old merchant seemed certain to recover.

*continued on page 22*

"We need Bill to keep fighting for us!"

# THE BUCKLING

**#4 CITY COUNCIL  
VOTE TUESDAY, AUG. 25**

**BILL WILL FIGHT FOR:**

- \*More School Support
- \*Residential Street Sweeping
- \*Police Precincts
- \*More Road Resurfacing
- \*Drake Ave. at Triana Blvd. Sportsplex
- \*Maintaining Twice a Week Garbage Collection
- \*University Park (Riggs Field) Renovation

FOR A YARD SIGN OR TO HELP IN  
THE CAMPAIGN,  
CALL BILL AT 534-7704

Pd. Pol. Adv. Kling Camp. Jim Lane Chmn.  
1405 Governor's Place Hwy. AL 35801

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



## Today There's MIRACLE-EAR<sup>®</sup>

*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<sup>™</sup>  
Hearing  
Aid**

**Two locations 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.





## Favorites from the "Old Huntsville" Book of Recipes

### Fast & Spicy Appetizer

- 2 lb. smoked sausage (light OK)
- 1 bottle prepared barbecue sauce
- 2 t. garlic powder
- 2 green peppers, chopped coarsely

Cut the sausage into 1" pieces, place them in a frying pan that you have sprayed heavily with garlic oil. Fry til the pieces begin to have browned areas, remove to bowl. Add the peppers to the pan, fry just til hot. Add the peppers to the sausage and pour the sauce (to which you've added and mixed the garlic powder) over all. Mix well and serve with toothpicks. You won't have any left over!

### Stuffed Mushrooms

- 1 8-oz. package cream cheese, softened
- 1 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 lb. fresh mushrooms

Remove the stems from the mushrooms. Combine the cream cheese and bacon and stuff the mushroom caps with the mixture with caps down. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes and mushrooms are tender.

### Savory Green Bean Casserole

- 2 cans green beans,
- 1 can water chestnuts, sliced

- 1 can sliced mushrooms
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup (light OK)
- 1 t. garlic powder
- dash cayenne pepper
- 1/2 c. shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 c. chopped Vidalia onions
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 small can fried Durkee onions

Drain all vegetables, pour into large casserole dish. Add soup, mix well. Add the spices, cheese, onions and salt/pepper. Mix well with large spoon. Bake at 350 degrees, covered, for about 25-35 minutes - remove and top with the fried onions, then back into the oven for 5 minutes to just toast the onions.

### Hot Sausage with Grilled Onions and Peppers

- 1 package hot Italian Sausage
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- 2 t. fennel seed
- 2 large green peppers, sliced
- 2 large Vidalia onions, sliced
- 1 t. seasoning salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

In a large skillet heat the olive oil, add the sausage (split lengthwise) and fennel. Cook til the sausage is done, on medium



## 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.

heat, remove to another plate and leave the oil in the pan. Add the onion and peppers to the hot drippings, cook over medium-high heat til some of the vegetables are browned - about 30 minutes.

Add the meat back into the onion mixture, stir and allow to reheat. Sprinkle with the seasoning salt and black pepper, stir and serve over hot fresh bread for a delicious open-faced dinner.

## Soy and Pineapple Chicken

3 lbs. skinless, boneless chicken breasts

1 c. canned pineapple chunks, unsweetened and drained

1 c. pineapple juice, not sweetened

4 T. soy sauce

1/2 t. garlic powder

1 1/2 t. ground ginger

Place the chicken in a casserole dish, add the pineapple chunks. In a small bowl, combine the rest of the ingredients and pour over the chicken. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

## Light as Air

3 egg whites

1/2 c. sugar

Pinch cream of tartar

1/2 t. cinnamon, ground

1/2 t. nutmeg, ground

1 c. pecans, chopped fine

In a clean glass bowl beat the egg whites til almost stiff. Add your sugar and a pinch of cream of tartar. Continue beating til stiff peaks form. Add the spices and pecans, stir well.

On a cookie sheet that you have sprayed with plain Pam, place small dobs of the mixture with a teaspoon. Bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes, checking so that they get browned but not burnt, cool and remove from pan. These store well in any airtight container.

## Dark Chocolate Fudge

3 c. chocolate chips, semi-sweet

1 can Eagle Brand Condensed Milk, 14 oz.

Dash salt

1 c. pecans or walnuts, chopped

1 1/2 t. vanilla extract

1 t. instant coffee granules

In a heavy saucepan, over low heat, melt the chips with the condensed milk and salt. Remove from heat when melted, stir in the nuts, vanilla and coffee. Spread evenly onto a wax-paper-lined 8" or 9" square pan. Chill for 2 hours or til firm.

Turn the fudge onto a cutting board, peel off the wax pa-

per and cut into small squares. Store loosely covered at room temperature. This can be frozen.

## Southern Pralines

1 1/2 c. sugar

1/2 c. sweet cream

1 c. maple syrup

2 c. chopped pecans

Boil the first 3 ingredients together til a soft ball forms when dropped in cold water. Remove from fire and beat til creamy, then add 2 cups of chopped pecans. Drop on buttered pan from teaspoon and wait til it gets firm before you serve.

**Rolo's**  
Restaurant With  
The Trains!



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**

# Bathing Beauties

Although officially called a "swimming suit," the beachwear your great-grandmother wore in 1905 might be more accurately described as a "sinking suit" since it was made up of more than 10 yards of heavy material. The flouncy outside ruffles disguised a tight fitting corset worn underneath. Fashionable as it may have been, it was not conducive to actual swimming.

It took a female athlete-- an Australian swimmer named Annette Kellerman-- to set a precedent for change. In 1910, Miss Kellerman ripped off the ruffles and cast off the corset to swim



u n -  
a b a s h -  
e d l y i n a  
f o r m f i t -  
t i n g o n e  
p i e c e  
s u i t .

B u t  
c h a n g e s  
i n t h e  
a v e r a g e  
A m e r i -  
c a n  
w o m a n ' s  
b e a c h w e a r  
w e r e a  
l i t t l e  
s l o w t o  
c o m e . A

ladies' fashion magazine in 1918 advertised one particular model as being able to "defy wind, wave and the scrutiny of man." Shoes and stockings were customarily worn with the suit even into the water, and were discarded only by the most daring and uncon-



ventional.

Gertrude Ederle caused quite a sensation in 1926. Oh, yes, she was the first woman to swim the



English Channel. But she accomplished this dramatic feat in what was basically, "a brassiere and shorts"! Her shocking costume, worn for function rather than style, set the pattern for swimwear from Atlantic City to the coast of California as young flappers everywhere copied the "athletic look."

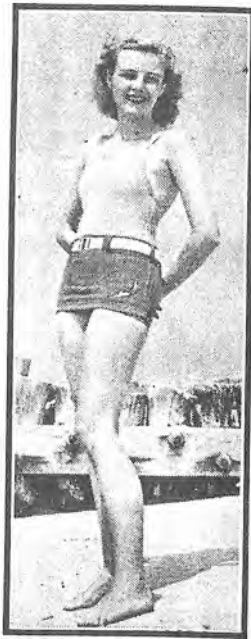
The cult of sunbathing was born, perpetuated by physicians who prescribed large doses of sunshine as healthful and therapeutic to many young women prone to fainting spells (*tight corsets and girdles wouldn't take the blame until many years later*). And the recommendations seemed a good tonic; for those females who spent long hours in the sun unfettered by the constricting shirtwaists and layered skirts of the day, actually showed fewer health problems than those who stayed cooped up—and fully dressed—indoors.

The Depression Era of the 1930s saw a surprising boom in swimsuit sales. In hard times, a trip to the beach or lake front was the only entertainment many





families could comfortably afford. It was in 1933 that the first really scandalous suit, an import from France, made its appearance in U.S. department stores. Called a *maillot*,

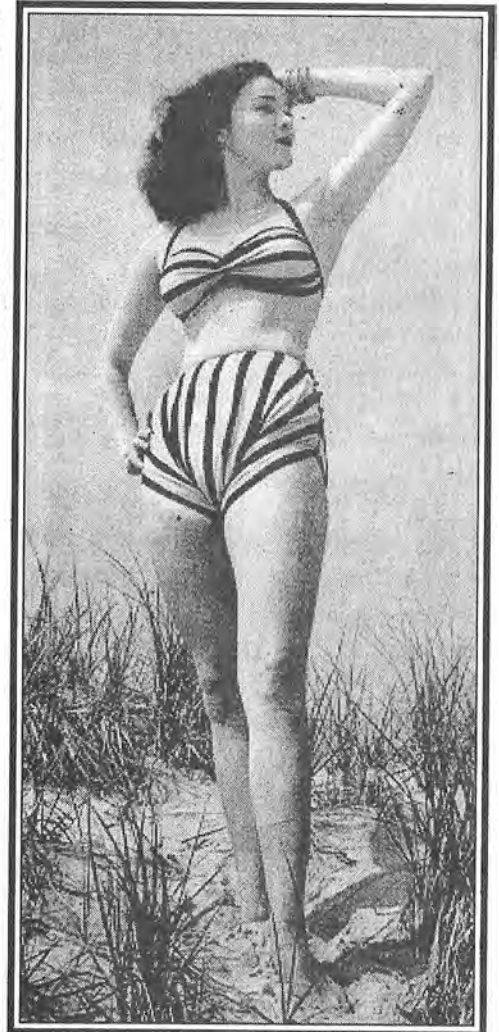


the skintight suit was cut very low in the back, and caused a near riot when it was first displayed on a mannequin in a New York City store window. Police had to be called in to control the crowds who sardined in to have a peek. It wasn't until about the mid 1930s that two-piece suits, showing a few scant inches of bare midriff, really came into vogue. Except in Rye, New York and Dover, New Jersey, where the "shameful costumes" were banned from public beaches. Swimsuit makers like Jantzen

also experimented with a variety of materials, with form fitting latex becoming very popular. But the suits made of rubber— clammy feeling and easily torn by anything, that came within "snagging distance"— didn't last long.

By the 1940s you could spend a day at the beach in a swimsuit that would have put you in jail just twenty years earlier. From ten yards of material down to just one, the bathing suit was a reflection of the changing attitudes in feminine

fashion. But as a popular magazine said of the swimsuits shown here, "They have come a long way but cannot go any further!"



# INTIMATE LINGERIE

*Area's largest selection of elegant lingerie for that special person in your life*

Novelties and gag gifts for special parties.  
Exciting line of humorous greeting cards.  
Swimwear.

**Celebrating Our 10th Year Anniversary as  
Huntsville's Oldest Intimate Apparel Salon**

## 539-9106

504 F Jordan Lane (Preston Plaza - Corner of Holmes & Jordan)

# Shooting Affray

*continued from page 17*

Mayor Steele was buried and the matter appeared to be at an end. Yet Tom Steele was not about to forget the death of his older brother. He brooded quietly and planned his revenge. Nearly two years later, when Goodwin hardly expected it, Tom Steele was ready to act. On the morning of May 13, 1892, John Goodwin was seen standing in the doorway of the Parshall House Hotel at 5th and Water Street. Tom Steele was seated in front of a saloon a few doors away. As Goodwin walked past, Steele reached through the saloon doorway and brought out a double barrel shotgun. He leveled it at Goodwin and fired. The first shot missed, but the second struck him in the side. With Goodwin helpless on the ground, Tom Steele walked up, drew his pistol and shot him in the head.

Numerous witnesses saw Steele shoot Goodwin, and he was promptly taken into custody. However, the Steele family influence made it highly unlikely the killer would be punished. In fact, the prosecuting attorney stated openly that it would be a waste of time to arrest Tom Steele, "for it will be impossible to get him convicted."

Within days of Goodwin's shooting, concerned citizens held a "law and order mass meeting" to try to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. "There has been something wrong in the raising of young men down about Courtland and Tuscumbia," commented the *Mercury* in Huntsville. "For the

predominating influence over them has been whiskey, cards, horse racing, cock pits and concealed weapons. We are glad to see the law and order element come to the front, and trust that they can grind and stamp out the abominable influences that for years have controlled that vicinity."

Law and order did seem to return to the area thereafter. However, the prosecutor's prediction would come true. Ably defended by two prominent kinsmen— former Confederate General Edmund Winston Pettus, soon to be elected to the U.S. Senate, and Pettus' son Frank, then Speaker of the Alabama Legislature— Tom Steele would indeed go free. The first trial resulted in a hung jury, with six for conviction on a lesser

charge of manslaughter, and six against. No one was willing to find Steele guilty of murder. The second trial ended in outright acquittal. The family feud had finally come to an end.

*Another of our highly  
prized virtues is fidelity.  
We are immensely pleased  
with ourselves when we  
are faithful.*  
--Ida Ross Wylie

**Advertise in  
Old Huntsville  
534-0502**

*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**



# Dallas Mill Residents Have Hard Time in Keeping Man from Murdering Wife



from a 1904 newspaper

Jim Burks, a citizen of Dallas Mills, was arrested and lodged in jail today on a charge of attempting to murder his wife. The assault on the woman was committed yesterday and complaint was made by neighbors this morning. They had a hard time keeping him from murdering her. The arrest was made by Deputy Ernie Miller, who had a difficult time getting the prisoner to jail. Burks resisted fiercely and had to be carried bodily.

The prisoner is supposed to

be demented. His friends, and his unnatural actions, appear to bear out the claim. He was injured in a saw mill accident some time ago and his relatives say he has never been right since then. The people of the community in which he lives consider him dangerous, but they have been unwilling to place him in an asylum.

Since his arrest, however, application will be made to have the prisoner placed in the Bryce asylum at Tuscaloosa and he will be kept in jail until taken to that place.

## Brooks & Collier

A Complete Selection  
Of Unusual Trees, Shrubs,  
Flowers, and Unique  
Garden Statuaries &  
Accessories.



813 Meridian N.  
Downtown

**536-0734**

*You want to entertain  
some people? Just  
listen to them.*

**DISCOVER THE FLAVOR OF OLD MEXICO!**

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



**EL MEJICANO**  
**RESTAURANT & LOUNGE**

**"SERVING HUNTSVILLE SINCE 1973"**



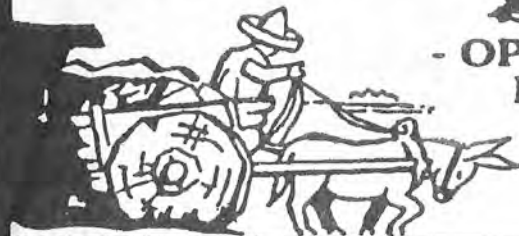
Delicious Mexican Food In A Friendly Atmosphere  
All Menu Items Prepared Fresh Daily  
Banquet Room Facilities

**- 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

## Historic Huntsville Bank Building

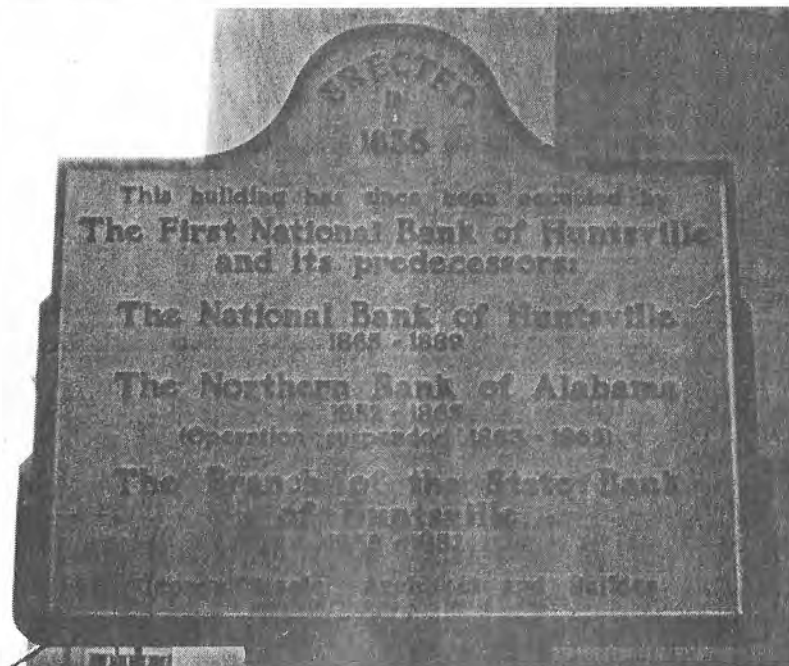
by Ranee Pruitt

One of Huntsville's best known landmarks is the 160 year old bank building on the west side of the court house square. This lovely structure on Fountain Row is the handiwork of the noted antebellum architect George Steele, who designed many of the beautiful homes in our city's historic districts. One of only two antebellum structures still remaining on the square, the striking Greek Revival-style bank building today looks much as it did when originally constructed way back in the late 1830s. (The other antebellum, the Shiffman Building, has an 1890s facade.)

The large marble faced structure was already distinguished in its early days, when it was often referred to as the Acropolis. To a later generation of Huntsvillians, it was the "Marble Palace," while more recent residents have somewhat irreverently nicknamed it "The Rock."

The origins of this downtown edifice go back to January 10, 1835 when the Huntsville Branch of the State Bank was authorized by the Alabama legislature. It would thus become a

partner in the State Bank along with the famous old bank in Decatur, and other branches in Montgomery, Mobile and Tuscaloosa. Even though the marker placed by the Huntsville Historical Society proclaims that the



bank was erected in 1835, construction actually did not begin until late 1837 at the earliest. It is known, however, that the building was completed by 1840, for in that year the bank left its temporary quarters and moved in.

Building the bank must have provided employment for many Huntsvillians during the years 1838 to 1840, since everyone seems to have had a hand in it. George Steele, of course, designed it. Steele and his sons

also seem to have supervised the construction, and a record survives showing that they received \$34,141.33 for their efforts. Hugh N. Moore provided the carpenters, while Edward Parker and his brother did the iron railings. Thomas and William Brandon won the bid for the stone and brick work, which they subcontracted to Justin Dyer. Frederick Elgin handled the stuccoing and plastering, while James M. Venable covered the roof with copper. Subtracting the price of the land (\$12,400) from the total amount paid shows that \$60,441.50 was spent on the bank building, a fabulous sum for that day.

Unfortunately, the State Bank of Alabama ran into difficulties just a few years later and was soon dissolved. In July 1854, the landmark building was sold for the bargain basement price of just \$15,000. The new purchasers were the Northern Bank of Alabama, which had been formed by a group

of Huntsville businessmen in 1852.

Bad luck continued to hound the building's owners, however, this time in the form of the tragic Civil War. Huntsville's strategic position on the Memphis and Charleston Railway guaranteed the city would be an early target of the invading Union Army. And indeed Huntsville was captured by Federal troops on April 11, 1862, just one year after the fighting at Fort Sumter.

Even though the first Union

occupation lasted only four months, the Northern Bank of Alabama never recovered. The countryside had been devastated, and to make matters worse the Yankees returned a year later and held the city for the rest of the war. The bank building was seized by the invaders to house their quartermasters headquarters, and a photo exists showing Union troops lounging in front of the city's famed Acropolis.

Little is known about what happened to the bank during those frightening days of enemy occupation. However, a few stories have survived through the years. According to one of them, the small son of cashier Theophilus Lacy reacted to the Yankees' arrival by rushing out in front of the bank and defiantly waving a Confederate flag at the hated invaders. Realizing what was likely to happen, an African-American servant rushed out

and grabbed young Lacy, dragging him back inside. "Does you want to get us all killed by them Yankees?" The servant demanded. Another story claims that cashier Lacy managed to conceal the currency and bonds of the bank in the lower portion of one of the chimneys. Even though he was arrested and threatened with hanging if he didn't reveal where the money was, Lacy held his tongue. He was eventually released and survived the war.

The fighting ended around Huntsville in May of 1865, and four months later a new bank was formed to succeed the defunct Northern Bank. Called the National Bank of Huntsville, it functioned under that name until 1889. The title was then changed to the First National Bank of Huntsville, by which it was known for more than a century. After a number of changes in recent years, it is now known

as Regions Bank.

While the bank building has always been a landmark, a visit inside may prove disappointing. The interior was completely remodeled around 1950, and almost all of the beautiful Greek Revival features of antebellum days were removed and destroyed. The bank interior now looks just like any other financial institution of the 1950s. Nevertheless, we should be grateful that we have as much as we do of this building, since the city fathers have destroyed so much of downtown. This one remaining building gives us a glimpse of the past that was lost. Even if (fiction to the contrary) Jesse James NEVER really did rob the Huntsville bank!





## On the Trap and Trot Line in Northern Alabama

*E.N. Woodcock, a native of Pennsylvania was one of the last professional trappers. During his career he roamed the country, coast to coast, hunting wild game. The following account, written 1912, of his experiences in Alabama are remarkable in the sense it gives an outsider's view of North Alabama around the turn of the century*

Well, comrades of the trap line, as I am getting well up to the seventy notch, and as the chills of zero weather chases one after the other up and down my spinal column, like a dog after a rabbit in a briar patch, and as I am unable to shake off that desire for the trap line, I concluded to go south again to trap. I began an inquiry in several different sections, in states of the South, and finally decided upon Alabama, where a gentleman and a brother trapper by the name of Ford had invited me to come. On the last days of October, 1911, I arrived in Alabama where I met Mr. Ford, whom I found to be a gentleman in all respects, and a member of the M.E. Church.

My first day's outing after

reaching Mr. Ford's place was on the Tennessee River, raising fish nets, and putting out a few mink traps to ascertain what the complexion of the inner side of a mink's coat was. I got a mink the first night, which I found to be of fairly light color, but not quite light enough to my liking. The setting of more traps was delayed for a few days and we spent the time in tending the fish nets.

I have whipped the streams and drowned earthworms for brook trout and other fish, from my childhood days to the present time. I had never done any fishing in large rivers with nets, so you can imagine my feelings when one net after another was raised which contained many fish of different kinds,

such as yellow cat, channel cat, buffalo, pickerel, pike, carp, suckers, black bass (called trout in the South) and many other kinds. These fish ran in weight all the way from one-fourth pound up to twenty pounds each, and occasionally a buffalo or yellow catfish much larger. Mr. Ford informed me that often on trot lines they got sturgeon, weighing more than one hundred pounds.

We intended to put out a trot line and catch a sturgeon that I might get some oil. It is said that the oil from a sturgeon is a sure cure for rheumatism in the joints, but it rained so much, keeping us busy adjusting our traps, that we did not get any time to get the bait and put out the trot line. So I did not get to see one of those large fellows.

Mr. Ford pointed out corn and cotton fields where the corn and cotton was still ungathered and told me that he had trot lines set out all through these fields last spring and caught hundreds of pounds of fish—it hardly seemed possible as the water was then fifteen or of twenty feet below the banks of these fields. But in December when it began raining nearly every day, and the water rose so suddenly that I was obliged to leave many of my traps where I had set them around ponds and banks of streams and

*Lee's  
Errands,  
Etc.*

- ✓ I can take that big bedspread to the laundry. (*You've been thinking about it for months.*)
- ✓ I can pick up your prescriptions or groceries.
- ✓ Company coming? I can polish the silver.
- ✓ Need advice about the garden? I can do that, too. (*even help you plant it!*)
- ✓ Need extra help in the kitchen? (*I'm a great cook.*)
- ✓ Do you need a specific gift right now, wrapped and delivered to you?
- ✓ Is your filing backed up and you need someone for just an hour or two? Call me.

Remember, *Lee's Errands, Etc.* We'll be the extra help you need.  
Call Lee May, Beeper 707-0002, or home machine 533-0333



in the swamps, I could then readily see that it was perfectly possible for the fish to get out into the corn and cotton fields to feed.

The rainy season set in nearly a month earlier this season than usual, causing the rivers and streams to rise so as to flood the whole bottoms (it is called the tide by the people in Alabama).

I will not give my views of the country and conditions in northern Alabama—it would not look well; it is sufficient to say that the greater part of the land is owned in large tracts by a few men and leased out at from \$3.00 to \$1.00 per acre. Corn and cotton are the main crops. Any land lying above the overflowing sections requires heavy fertilizing in order to make a crop. The fertilizer is the commercial sort, and all the crop will sell for is put onto the land in the way of fertilizers. These lands are mostly leased to colored people—in fact, I was told that the landlords did not care to lease to white men.

The poor white man in northern Alabama is worse off than the colored man, for he is looked upon as neither white nor black. In this section the population is largely of the colored class. All of the landlords have a store, so as to furnish

their tenants with goods of an inferior quality at exorbitant prices.

There is no good water to be found in that part of Alabama. The water that the people use is something fearful—of course the wealthy class have cisterns. The soil is mostly red clay, and terrible to get about in when the least damp. The roads are only names for roads.

South of the Tennessee River is what is called the Sand Mountains; the soil is of a sandy nature, freestone water, and the people are all white—in fact, it is said that they will not allow a colored man to live there. I heard it stated that they would not even allow a negro to stop over night in that section.

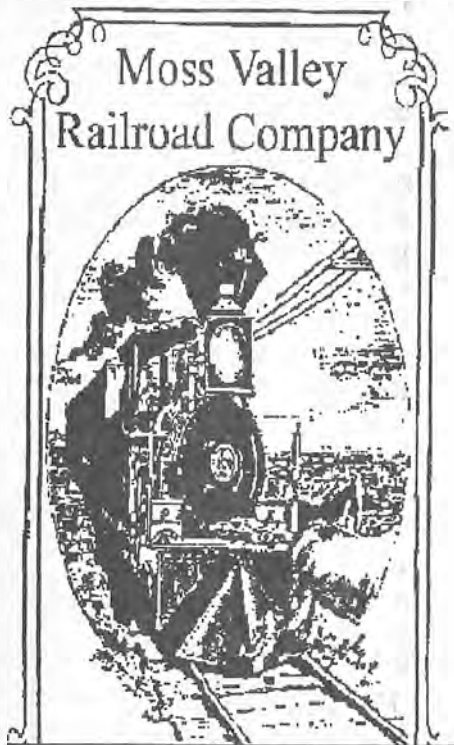
The Sand Mountain region is a piney country with a sandy soil. The land is not as fertile as the bottom lands along the Tennessee River, but they produce a finer grade of cotton, which brings a cent or two a pound more than that of the bottom lands.

As to game in north Alabama, there is but little large game to be found. In the extreme northern part of Madison county, well up to the Tennessee line, there are a few deer and wild hogs; it was said that there were some bear, also plenty of wild turkeys. There were plenty

of ducks, and a good many quail.

There is still some lumbering being done, mostly in oak of different kinds, though a good part is white oak. The logs are cut and hauled to the Tennessee River and taken by steamboat to Decatur in Limestone county, and worked up into lumber and manufactured articles. There is still quite large bodies of cugalo gum left in the swamps, though this timber is not yet used to any great extent.

I wish to say that if the trapper expects to ship his camp outfit by freight to any part of the South, he should start it from four to six weeks in advance of the time



*Huntsville's 'Historic'*

*Train Shop*

MTH - WEAVER  
WILLIAMS - LIONEL  
RIVAROSS - LGB

**536-3303**

*Mon. Thru Friday*

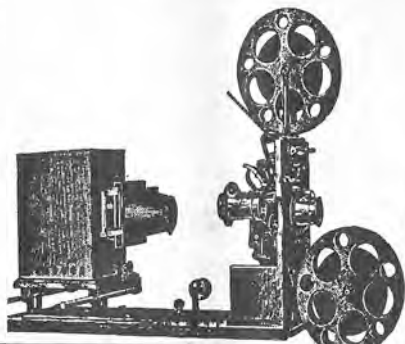
*10:00 til-6:30*

*Saturday 10 - 6*  
*320 Church St. Huntsville, Ala.*

**Hi Fi  
Service**

For expert repair of  
audio/video equipment

Factory authorized service  
center for 22 manufactures



**1318 Putnam Dr. 722-9889**



**BARBER SHOP**

Full Service  
Master Barber  
\* Call anytime \*  
leave message  
**533-5714**

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

**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

that he will arrive at the place where he will use it. The trapper, as a usual thing, is too shallow in the region of the pocket book to afford to ship an outfit of camp stove, cooking utensils, tent and a hundred traps or more of various sizes, by express. Of course, he can take his bed blanket and extra clothing as baggage in his trunk.

Now to make this matter plainer, I will give my experience of the last two seasons. In 1910 I trapped here in Pennsylvania the first two weeks of November before going south. So shipped my camp chest by express to Cameron, N. C., started it four days before I started so as to be sure that it would be there by the time I arrived. But when I got to Cameron there was no express matter for Woodcock.

Five days later while I was standing on the depot platform at Cameron waiting for the eleven o'clock express train, along came a freight train, stopped and put off my camp chest. Now, the express charges on this chest was something over ten dollars on 180 pounds.

The next season I concluded that I would not give the express company another rake-off, so started my camp outfit by freight for Madison, Alabama, four weeks before I started, so as to again be sure that it would be there when I arrived. Mr. Ford met me at the station nine miles from his place with a conveyance to take baggage and camp outfit to his place. And boys, imagine my feelings when I was again told by the station agent that there was nothing there for Woodcock. About a week later, I got the goods. So boys, take the hint and start the outfit well ahead if you wish to get it on time: I have had other similar experiences. On our way back to Mr. Ford's place the day he met me at the station, he called my attention to several different places along the road to mink tracks in the ditches and in the road. I thought that it would be no trick at all to take three or four mink each night, but I was not reckoning on the disadvantages I had to contend with.

This section of the country is very thickly settled with colored



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

people, and each family keeps from one to three dogs, which are out searching for food all the time. These people never think of feeding their dogs. Nearly every night these colored people are out hunting in droves of five or six, and with six or eight dogs, they think it no more of a crime to steal a trap, and anything found in the trap, than they would consider it a crime to eat a baked 'possum. A trapper must keep a good lookout when setting his traps to see that there is no one anywhere in sight. If there is, you may expect that that particular trap will be missing the next time you come that way.

In setting a trap, the first thing to do is to select a place where the trap is to be set, then go into the bush and get the trap, stake and everything that you will use in making the set. Then you will again look carefully to see that no one is around, and will proceed to make the set, provided that yourself is the only human being in sight, stopping your work often to look about you. Do not think that this caution is not necessary, for it sure is. The writer had nine traps taken at one time within an hour after he had been over the line.

We went into our first camp, I think, on the 5th of November, at a place called Blackwell's Pond or Blackwell's bottom (Blake bottom?), I am not sure which. The first day after we got to camp, Mr. Ford went out and put out a few traps, while I stayed in camp and fixed up things.

The next morning we went out to look over the ground a little, while Mr. Ford went to the opposite side of the pond to set a few more traps, and see parties who owned land along the pond, for we found that the land had been posted "No Trespassing." When

## A PET OWNER'S BEST FRIEND. THE 8-POUND ORECK XL.



There are somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 million cats, dogs, hamsters, rabbits and gerbils living in American homes. And the best way to keep your home free of hair, fur, dander and odors is also the easiest to use — the American-made, 8-pound Oreck XL hotel vacuum.



Take the Oreck Challenge and try one free for 15 days. If you don't love it, you don't keep it. And that's no shaggy dog story.



# ORECK

Home Depot Shopping Center

964-8440 fax 964-8442

# 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 701 Pratt Ave. NE Suite 103  
(205) 533-1777 - 1-800-266-1777



Mr. Ford came in that evening I think he brought in five rats. We set nine traps that day and went south along the pond to look over the grounds.

The next morning we had one mink and one coon in the nine traps. I think Mr. Ford brought in four rats and had one coon foot. That evening Mr. Ford went home to raise his nets, and when he came back he brought in two mink; I got two coon. Mr. Ford went home again and made arrangements for a team to come in and move us out to "pastures new." He also brought another mink, and I believe that we got two or three coons that night. I think we got nine rats, four mink and eight coons in the three nights with about twenty traps.

Our next camp was on Little Indian creek, at the edge of a large cugalo swamp— not the pleasantest place that one could wish for a camp.

The next day after we went into Camp No. 2. I set a few traps near camp. Mr. Ford went down the creek toward his place and set a few traps, and went home to look after his fish nets, returning to camp that evening. Mr. Ford had warned me that the mink in that section would foot themselves equally as bad as muskrats, but as I had never been bothered with mink footing themselves, I paid no attention to his warning.

The next morning Mr. Ford stepped outside of the tent—it was about five o'clock and called to me, asking where I had set my first trap on the creek, and being told, he replied, "Well, you have caught a mink." When asked how he knew, he said, "Come out and hear him squall." I ate breakfast and hastened down to release the mink, but my haste was unnecessary for the

mink did not propose to wait for me, I found only the mink's foot—the mink had gone.

I had never had a mink foot itself in this way before and did not think that the mink did, although here in Alabama, we had two mink to foot themselves in one night. Had I heeded Mr. Ford's warning, I would have been several mink pelts ahead.

While there was considerable fur to be found in the vicinity of Camp No. 2, it was a hard place to camp, owing to the scarcity of camp wood and the inconvenience of getting water, so we moved on to Beaver Dam creek in Limestone county, where we were in hopes of finding a few beaver and quite a plenty of mink and coon. But we were sadly disappointed; we found but little to trap, but found trappers and trap-lifters in abundance, so made haste to get out of that country while we had our boats left. Our catch was only two mink, twelve rats, five coon and one or two 'possum.

We moved from this place back into Madison county and pitched our camp at a point known as the Sinks, where we did a better business. But the rainy season soon set in, so we were compelled to break camp and get out, leaving a good part of our traps where we had set them, now under several feet of water. We shall never see them again.

Well boys, you will excuse me from bragging about just how many coon we got. I can only state that during the five weeks that Mr. Ford and the writer were in camp in Madison county that we got twenty-six mink, and I don't remember the number of coons, opossums and (musk)rats caught.

The End

## Know Your Rights



### DEBT PROBLEMS? WHICH DEBTS COME FIRST?

Generally, the following debts should be given priority in a financial crisis:

- Mortgage and rent payments come first.
- Payments necessary to insure essential utility service. The utility company may not require payment in full.
- A car loan should be paid after critical items (food, rent, clothing), but before most other debts.
- Generally, loans with only household goods as collateral should be paid after more pressing debts.
- Debts without collateral, (credit cards, doctor and hospital bills, and accounts with merchants), should have low priority.
- The threat of a lawsuit should not raise the priority of a debt above that of mortgage, rent, utility payments, and a car loan.
- Do not pay those debts that you have a good legal reason not to pay. Instead, seek legal advice.
- When a creditor wins a lawsuit, the consumer's home and other assets might be at risk, depending on the amount of equity in the property. If the property is truly at risk, it is a high priority debt.
- Tax liabilities and student loans should be paid ahead of low priority but after top priority debts.

*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



## Feeding The Kids

The Great Depression was devastating for Huntsville and Madison County. Times were hard and jobs were scarce. Many people, with no other way to support their families, began manufacturing illicit whiskey.

Sheriff Frank Riddick had received several tips of a moonshiner by the name of Tyler Moore making whiskey on Hurricane Creek. When he went to check it out, sure enough, there was Moore fixing to run off another batch.

Mr. Riddick knew that Moore

had a large family and would be in dire financial straits without the money from that whiskey, but he had no choice but to make the arrest.

Tyler appeared in court and was sentenced to six months. Sheriff Riddick, feeling sorry for Moore's children began stopping by their home every week or so to carry their groceries and to loan them money.

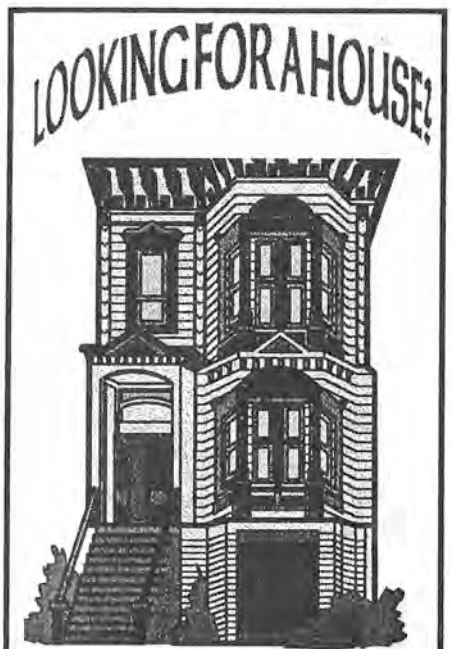
Six months went by and Tyler was released. Unfortunately, he went back to his old livelihood and was promptly arrested and

sentenced again, this time for another six months.

Again, Sheriff Riddick provided food and clothing for the children while their father was in jail.

Another six months went by and Moore was released. Less than a month later, the sheriff received another tip and found Tyler back at his still working on another batch.

The following week, Moore appeared in court and was again found guilty. The judge was about to announce the sentence when Sheriff Riddick spoke up and said, "Your Honor, could you make it thirty days this time? I don't think I can afford all those kids for another six months."



Are you looking for a dream house?  
Is yours too small?  
*Let Me Help!*

Call Kimberly Haupt  
**Rise Real Estate**  
880-5900 ext.196

## Meridian Street Chevron



**Full & Self Service Gas Pumps**

*New & Used Tires - Wrecker Service - Brakes  
Air Conditioning Service - Tune ups - Road Service  
Wheel Balancing - Computerized Engine Analysis*

**Jim Wolchik, Manager**

1315 Meridian Street - Huntsville, Al 35801

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

# Heard On The Streets, 1908



### Two Men Arrested at Southern Depot

Will Pylant was charged with drunk and disorderly conduct, and Jim Bowman, charged with trespassing. Both men were arrested at the Southern passenger depot last night by the watchman, Will Short. Bowman is a hackman and he was arrested after the officer had warned him to stay in line at the depot. Both men have been lodged in jail.

### One-Legged Man Makes Trouble at Depot

A one-legged white man attempted to take charge of the Southern depot today and was

arrested by the police.

He was drunk and anxious to get a fight out of anybody. He refused to give his name.

### Thief Gets Nice Prize

Mr. J.J. Crittenden, who resides at Adams Avenue, has reported to the police the loss of a pocket book containing \$9. He claims that the wallet was left on a table in the front room and while the family was at supper a thief entered the home and escaped with the loot.

### Detective agency will locate here from Nashville

A Banner reporter was informed Monday that a detective agency will permanently locate in the city within the next few days. Messrs., Corbett and Ladd of Nashville, who have been in the city for the past month, are very much pleased with the location for a good detective agency.

Mr. Sawyer of West Huntsville will be a member of the firm and only first class men will be employed.

### For Sale

Nice rubber-tired buggy, har-

ness and driving mare, perfectly gentle. For information, address 512, city.

### Lost

A lady's bracelet, lost on the public square, finder return for large reward at the First National Bank.

The bracelet has sentimental value as it was a gift from a departed grandfather.



Billiards,  
Entertainment,  
& Fine Foods

### Schedule of Events

- Sat. Aug. 1 The Blue Flames
- Sat. Aug. 8 Moodswing
- Fri. Aug. 14 Kosmic Mama
- Sat. Aug. 15 Gryphon
- Fri. Aug. 21 Ms. Johnnies Blues Band
- Fri. Aug. 28 Wet Willie
- Sat. Sept. 5 The Blue Flames
- Sat. Sept. 12 Moodswing
- Sat. Sept. 19 Mike Roberts Show
- Sat. Sept. 26 Gryphon



2703 University Dr.  
**536-4400**



# TLS, Inc.

“We Light the Stars”

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER  
*CMAA*  
COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

DEALER MEMBER  
**ESTA**  
ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

## Theatrical Lighting Systems, Inc.

**SHIPPING/SHOWROOM:**  
909 Meridian Street  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

**MAILING:**  
P.O. Box 2646  
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

**PHONES:**  
256-533-7025 Voice  
800-229-7320 Fax



One of the  
**STRONGEST**  
banks in America  
is right here  
in Huntsville.

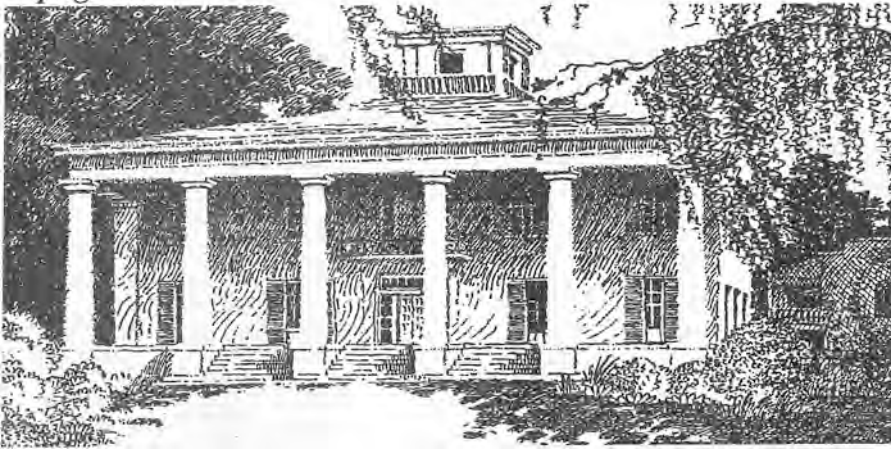


Let Us Lend You Our Strength

**Regions** Bank



MEMBER FDIC



## THE SILVER SPOON

by Jacquelyn Procter Gray

I first saw this silver spoon at least a decade ago, another remnant in the collection of Southern artifacts saved from an era of formality and gentility. Although the spoon is paper thin, bent, and pockmarked, it was a relic passed down in my family, and it represented nearly two centuries of life, death, heartache, and war. These stories have been preserved in letters, documented in books, and verified by experts. The triumphs and tears of this family are the same as

those shared by countless other Americans.

The spoon was hammered out of a silver coin by a slave who was trained as a silversmith nearly 200 years ago, and it bears the monogram "RAD," the initials of my ancestor, Robert Donnell.

Robert Donnell came from North Carolina down to Alabama with his widowed mother around 1800. The family lost what few possessions they had during an Indian attack, with the exception

of Robert's Bible, which he read often. Robert received God's calling and became a Cumberland Presbyterian minister in the frontier territory now known as Alabama.

Robert Donnell rode horseback to small communities and established churches that still exist to this day. He was so well loved that parents named their sons after him, and the practice continued for over 100 years after his death. Robert married the daughter of a wealthy Tennessee politician, and possibly his marriage to Ann Eliza Smith was the occasion for which the silver spoon was created.

Frontier life for the Donnells was harsh, even for the wealthy. While Robert traveled endlessly to spread the word of God, Ann was home having babies. They lost four children in infancy, and perhaps Ann used this silver spoon to stir her tea as she spent many hours alone worrying over her sick children and missing her husband. Robert and Ann had only one child, James, who



We Specialize In Copying  
**OLD PHOTOGRAPHS**

895-0495

**BOB GATHANY**

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

4951 Century Street

lived to maturity, and he was only 8 years old when his mother Ann died.

After Robert Donnell's death in 1855, his son James Webb Smith Donnell, his wife Maria, and their many children moved into the plantation home built by Robert in Athens, Alabama. I can imagine Maria using the silver spoon to stir cornbread batter while the family anxiously waited for news of their son Robert II, who wore the gray uniform in the Civil War.

During the occupation of Athens, the Union soldiers camped on the grounds of the Donnell home. A 16 year old daughter, Nannie, was sick with scarlet fever, and when her mother Maria asked the soldiers to keep their loud music down during her daughter's recuperation, she received a curt reply that she could go to heaven listening to Yankee music. Young Nannie died. Her mother was pregnant at the time, and when she had a baby girl a few months later, she was also named Nannie, in memory of the young sister whose final resting place remains a mystery. At this time, the silver spoon may have been carelessly dropped behind the wood cook stove, or perhaps hidden away by one of the children, because the Union soldiers removed all of the silver from the Donnell home and the rest of the set vanished forever.

The war ended in 1865 and young Robert II came home after fighting in such bloody battles as Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Franklin. Though he fought to keep the family and possessions together, his father James lost the home to high taxes, and he died brokenhearted. Several of the grown children moved to Texas in search of a better life. The younger children struggled to make a living in the home built by their maternal grandparents in the village named Greenbrier, about 15 miles from Athens.

The silver spoon went to Greenbrier too, and I imagine that it was used to scoop dirt in the garden by a little boy named William Hundley, son of Nannie Donnell Hundley who built her house on a piece of the family property. The money used to build the house came from her mother-in-law, who was widowed at the age of 29 by the Civil War.

On June 14, young William wrote to his mother Nannie while he was on his way to fight in World War I. He said, "I will keep straight and sober and when I return, I will be a better man in all respects." A flag with one star was displayed in the window of the Hundley house, proudly announcing that they had a son who represented America. The long sleepless nights spent worrying about William turned into months and years, and Nannie

# Pleasures

Imported Chocolates  
Toys & Lotions  
Delicious Coffees  
Informative Videos and  
Literature  
Cards & Magazines



A Store For  
The Romantic

**830-0069**

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

## Gill Diamond and Jewelry, Inc.

*Diamonds and Jewelry at Wholesale Plus Brokerage Fee*

Don Gill, Graduate Gemologist (GIA), 25 years experience

Harold Gill, GIA Diamond Grading Certificate

Appraisals (While you wait)

Repair Service

Wedding Bands

Pearls

Colored Stones

Citizen Watches

Artcarved™ Wedding Bands

*"Where Quality Is Not Expensive"*

(256) 534-3334

2006 Franklin St. Suite 205

Franklin Professional Center - Huntsville, Ala. 35801

Diamonds  
Gold  
Chains  
Bracelets  
Earrings



may have used the silver spoon to dish up turnip greens to celebrate William's homecoming. William Hundley married a few years after the war and stayed in the family home after his parents' deaths. He and his wife Ellen had a son named William Donnell, a reckless, fast living youth. His mother worried about his late nights, and she may have used the silver spoon to stir her coffee on those nights when she sat up waiting for him.

One night in 1947, he didn't come home, and her worst fears were realized. Billy Don, as he was called, had missed a turn in Madison, and was in the Huntsville hospital in a coma. Ellen and William stayed at the hospital for the three days that it took for him to die. Ellen sat in the car and cried because she couldn't stand the sight of her son, hurt and unconscious. They say that the funeral procession went as far as the eye could see, and the high school senior was laid to rest in the middle of the cotton field in Greenbrier where his father's ancestors were also buried. His mother was too distraught to attend the funeral, and she quietly packed up his pictures and belongings, and in her grief, she never spoke about him.

Thirteen years later on a hot August day in 1960, William was sweeping the floor and fell dead of a heart attack. His daughter Peggy, her husband and children had just driven off to go to their home out west, and he was silently grieving when his heart just stopped. He was buried next to his son Billy Don, and Ellen was alone in the big house once filled with several generations of family and laughing children.

Twenty-three years later, Ellen was found lying on the floor

with a broken hip, by the meter reader. She was taken to the hospital, and then sent to a convalescent hospital. The house was locked up, still furnished, waiting for the day that she could move back to her beloved home, but she never did. She lingered in the hospital for five years before her death, until the day she was also laid to rest in the cotton field.

A few years later, I first saw the silver spoon when I opened a tattered old shoe box. It had been carelessly tossed in with an assortment of old silverware, and I carried them back with me to my home in California. After carefully polishing the spoon, I placed it safely in the back of a cupboard.

In October 1989, the ground shook violently as the San Francisco earthquake roared like the wrath of the gods. The skies were dark with smoke, sirens wailed for days, helicopters flew overhead and we, along with our friends and neighbors, fought off the darkness with candles; waiting for the next aftershock. It would be days before we knew the extent of the destruction.

The silver spoon is now back home to Alabama, 40 miles from where it was first engraved almost 200 years ago. As for the man who once held the coin in

his hands and skillfully turned it into this spoon that has withstood the ages, I wonder if he had any idea that one day his descendants would be free of the shackles that bound him to another human being, and that his own handiwork would be appreciated by so many generations long after his name was forgotten.

**Advertise  
in  
Old Huntsville**

**534-0502**

**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!**

## Pratt Avenue Antique Mall

708 Pratt Ave.

(1 blk. E. of Andrew Jackson)

536-3117

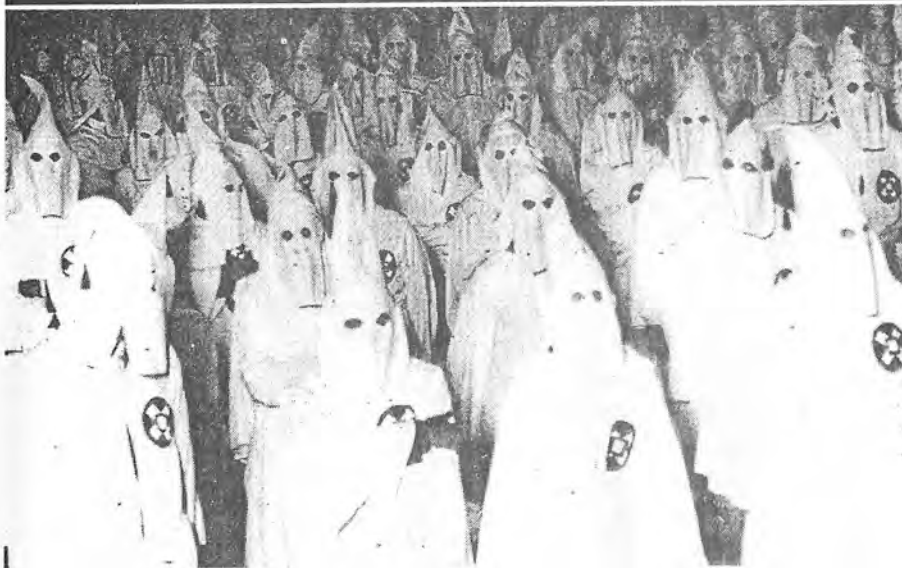
Mon - Sat 10 - 5, Sun 1 - 5

Antiques, Fine Furniture, Accessories,  
Books, Artwork, Custom Framing and a  
large selection of

Collectibles. 9000 sq. ft.



**Mullins & Co. - For all your insurance needs**



# SECRETS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Huntsville, like much of the rest of the nation in the 1920s, was caught up in the fervor of the Ku Klux Klan resurgence.

Like any other secret organization, the Klan had its rituals, and most important of all, an official handbook. This handbook was considered to be one of the best kept secrets of the Klan.

In Huntsville, a Klan member

was actually forced to pay a large fine and sentenced to six months banishment for allowing his wife to glance at the handbook.

In an effort to keep "infidels" from learning the contents of the book, Joseph Simmons, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, issued the following "Imperial Decree" from his, "Aulic in the Imperial Palace in the Imperial City of Atlanta."

*The Kloran is the book of the Invisible Empire and is therefore a sacred book with our citizens and its contents must be rigidly safeguarded. The book or any part of it must not be kept or carried where any person of the alien world may chance to become acquainted with its sacred contents as such.*

*Warning: A penalty sufficient will speedily be enforced for disregarding the decree in the profanation of the Kloran.*

Six months later Simmons decided that a book as important as the Kloran should be officially recognized, so he applied to Washington for a copyright. Like any author, he forwarded one dollar and two copies of the book to the Register of Copyrights.

And from that time forth, *The Book of the Invisible Empire* was available to anyone who asked for it at the Library of Congress.

Ironically, even today, the book is still considered one of the most sacred secrets of the Ku Klux Klan.



## Vote

### Sharon Brakefield

City Council Place 2

Pd. political advertisement by friends of Sharon Brakefield



## Hartlex Antique Mall

1030 Old Monrovia Rd  
830-4278

### 100 plus Dealers!

Across from Madison Square Mall, next to Saturn



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

# Examples of a Disturbed Body from a Disturbed Mind

*From 1890 publication*

1. Shame fills the cheeks with blood.
2. Fear drives it away.
3. Excitement quickens the heartbeat.
4. Grief brings tears from the tear glands.
5. Great shock to the mind will draw the blood from the head and thereby cause fainting.
6. Worry will stop the digestion process.
7. Emotion will stop the work of the stomach and the intestines.
8. Emotion can increase the sugar in the blood and urine - like diabetes.

9. Fright or excitement can cause cold perspiration to come from the sweat glands all over the body.

10. Anger sends blood to the head and makes the face red.

11. Medical students sometimes "get" the diseases about which they study.

12. A lady developed attacks of hay fever when merely a rose was brought into her room. One day her physician brought in an artificial rose, and the usual symptoms followed. He then showed her that the rose was made of paper, and the symptoms promptly disappeared.

## Walls Tree Service

Tree Service	Licensed
Tree Trimming	Insured
Stump Removal	Lot Cleaning
Shade Trees	10 Years
Firewood	Experience

## Landscaping

# 837-3902

# Mountain Bikes Dirt Cheap!

You don't have to break the bank to get a quality Mountain Bike!

at

## Bicycles Etc.

With Models

Starting at

### \$189.95



## Bicycles Etc.

8100 S. Mem. Pkwy.

# 881-6947

open 7 days a week



# TREK USA

American Bicycle Technology

## What's Playing Round the Corner

Where the Accent is on Entertainment

### THREE DAYS ONLY!

August 28 thru 30

The World Premier of a spell-binding biographical drama by Huntsville playwright Rusty Bynum



Bring this ad and you can buy one ticket at regular price and the second one at half price!

## 539-PLAY

1-800-811-7202

All major credit cards accepted

**THEATRE  
ROUND  
THE CORNER**  
INCORPORATED

214 Holmes Ave. between Greene & Washington in Huntsville, AL • FREE PARKING



# ReElect KEN ARNOLD



## City Council District #3

### Education: The Record

- ◆ Increased school funding by nearly one million dollars.
- ◆ Obtained property for Farley Elementary School expansion.
- ◆ Originated youth Job-Fair to provide summer employment opportunities for students
- ◆ Renovated two Elementary School classrooms.

### Education: The Future

- ◆ Support the construction of a new Grissom High School gym
- ◆ Increase the Campus Security
- ◆ Promote a new South Huntsville High School

## Notes from your leaders in local education

"Wow! What service from a city councilman!... We truly appreciate the support that you continue to give us." Carolyn Burgoyne (Principal at Mountain Gap Elementary.)



"Thank you Councilman Arnold, for your involved and well-informed support for the tough issues we have faced together. Farley is moving ahead because of your efforts."Debbie Beaupre (Principal at Farley Elementary)

# "Building on a Solid Foundation"

Paid for by the Ken Arnold Campaign Committee 13303 Hyde Park, Huntsville, Alabama 35803  
Have any questions? Call our headquarters at 883-7688 or visit our website at [www.ken98.ro.com](http://www.ken98.ro.com)

**A conservative leader and businessman,  
Jeff Enfinger believes our families deserve better.**



Jeff Enfinger (right) and his children, (from left) David, Katherine and Mark.

***He will lead the fight to:***

- ***Improve education***
- ***Create jobs***
- ***Prevent crime***
- ***Preserve our environment.***

***Endorsements:***

Business Council of Alabama • Ala. Assoc. of General Contractors  
Ala. Automotive Dealers Assoc. • Ala. Automotive Wholesalers Assoc.  
Ala. Banker's Assoc. • Ala. Cattleman's Assoc. • Ala. Forestry Assoc.  
Ala. Homebuilder's Assoc. • Ala. Independent Insurance Agents • Ala. Oilman's Assoc.  
Alabama Power employees • Ala. Realtor's Assoc. • Ala. Retail Assoc. • Ala. Textile Assoc.  
AmSouth Bank • Associated Builders and Contractors • BellSouth employees  
Colonial Properties employees • Compass Bank • First Commercial Bank  
Regions Bank • SouthTrust Bank and *The Huntsville Times*

Jeff  
**Enfinger**

**STATE SENATE • DISTRICT 7 • REPUBLICAN**  
**[www.enfinger98.org](http://www.enfinger98.org)**

Paid for by the Jeff Enfinger for Senate Committee • P. O. Box 2045, Huntsville, Alabama 35804  
(256) 533-5554 • Sage Lyons, Jr., Treasurer