



Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

The Case Against Frank Frank James No trial in Huntsville's Nhistory has generated as many stories, and myths, as the

No trial in Huntsville's history has generated as many stories, and myths, as the trial of Frank James. Even though he was found innocent, historians still write of him being guilty of the robbery of the Muscle Shoals paymaster.

Was he really guilty or was he a product of the press's zealous efforts to generate headlines?

You read and you decide.

Also in this issue: A Child Grows Up In Dixie

The Case Against Frank James

As the south bound train from Nashville slowly pulled to a stop in front of the Huntsville Depot, an armed sentry carefully surveyed the dark and empty platform. After reassuring himself that it was safe, he motioned to the waiting train car. In a few minutes a middle aged man, in handcuffs, emerged from the train, followed by a heavily armed Federal marshal. Quickly the men boarded a waiting carriage for the short ride to the corner of Clinton and Green, the site of the Madison County jail.

Inside the jail there was a brief heated discussion between one of the Federal marshals and John W. Cooper, the sheriff. The marshal wanted to book the prisoner under an alias but Cooper refused, saying it was against regulations. Another complication arose when it was realized there were no empty cells. The problem was quickly solved by removing two prisoners from an upstairs corner cell and locking them up in a downstairs storage room. Finally, a few minutes after midnight, on February 20, 1884, the booking procedure was finished and the prisoner was allowed to enter his cell where he immediately laid down on the cot, turned his back

to the curious guards and went to sleep.

It was not until the next day that the citizens of Huntsville realized that one of the most infamous outlaws in history, Frank James, was locked up in their county jail.

Excitement in Huntsville had been building every since a small column appeared in a February 12 edition of a Huntsville newspaper. The article related how Frank James had been found innocent of a train robbery in Missouri and was scheduled to be brought back to Huntsville to stand trial for a robbery of a United States paymaster at Muscle Shoals on March 11. 1881.

Originally James had been scheduled to arrive on an afternoon train but as anticipation began building in Huntsville, the authorities began to have second thoughts. James, an ex-Confederate soldier was much admired throughout the Tennessee Valley and had many friends in the region. He had been to Huntsville several times in the past but always declined to give details of his visits.

In the end, the authorities solved the problem by having James disembark at the Nashville train station and catching a later one, a freight train, on to Huntsville.

Almost immediately, after news of Frank James being in Huntsville began to spread, a

Published By Old Huntsville, Inc. 716 East Clinton Ave. Huntsville, Ala. 35801 (256) 534-0502

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crowd started gathering in front of the jail. The building, surrounded by an eight foot wooden fence, had been extensively remodeled since the fall of the previous year when a crowd of enraged citizens stormed the jail and lynched Wes Brown, who had been accused of a brutal murder of a Huntsville policeman. Now the jail boasted of heavy, double-thick doors and shutters that could be closed and locked from the inside. Despite these precautions, however, the sheriff still thought it advisable to post an armed guard at the front door to screen visitors and deter sympathizers.

The first official visitor to see Frank James was LeRoy Pope Walker, one of the area's most respected attorneys and the ex-Confederate Secretary of War. He had been referred to James by General Joseph Wheeler, another highly respected attorney and an ex-Confederate general. Wheeler had been contacted by James's supporters by telegram almost immediately once it became known that he would be standing trial in Huntsville but had to decline due to other commitments.

After a short consultation, Walker and James, accompanied by guards and followed by a large crowd, walked the few bocks to the corner of Eustis and Green, the site of the Calhoun house which was being used as a federal courthouse. At the courthouse there was a few minutes delay while the authorities tried to control the crowd who were scrambling for admittance. Finally, once a semblance of order was established, Judge Bruce read the charges against Frank James and asked how he pled.

LeRoy Walker, speaking for his client, rose quickly and answered "not guilty." Trial was set for April 17.

If the city fathers had wanted to plan an event to boost Huntsville's tourism, they could not have done better than the trial of Frank James. Within days almost every hotel room in Huntsville was booked and restaurants and saloons reported a booming business. Newspapers from as far away as New York and Chicago sent reporters to cover the trial and gather local information. Ironically, even at this early date. northern newspapers were already predicting that Frank James would be found innocent. solely because, "the Tennessee Valley is a hotbed of secessionists who would never convict one of their own."

Secessionist or not, LeRoy Walker knew he would have a hard time defending his client.



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Not only did the government appear to have a strong case, Frank James had already been tried and convicted in the press. For years, whenever an editor wanted to boost readership, he simply printed another hurld story attributing another crime to the accused outlaw. Needless to say, most of the general public believed the stories.

Walker's first move was to enlist a first-class legal team consisting of his nephew, Richard W. Walker, a former member of the Alabama Supreme Court and James W. Newman, a resident of Winchester, Tennessee.

The prosecuting attorney, L.W. Day, quickly realized that with a trial of this magnitude he was going to need help. He sent word to Montgomery requesting another attorney to help in the preparation. The state Attorney General, William H. Smith, a former Republican Alabama governor with aspirations to be appointed to the Supreme Court, promptly held a press conference to announce that he was personally going to be prosecuting the case.

While his attorneys prepared for trial, James settled into life behind bars. He had been locked up continuously since October of 1882 when he surrendered to authorities in Missouri. He already had the convict's habit of sleeping twelve hours a night and spent most of his time either reading or playing checkers with a guard. Though at first he declined to give interviews, after talking with his attorney he began talking with select reporters, probably in an effort to gain favorable publicity. He refused however, to pose for photographs, again on the advice of counsel.

Almost two weeks before the trial was to begin, Huntsville was taken by surprise when Mrs.

Frank James and their six year old son. Robert, checked into the McGee Hotel. With them was Mrs. Zee James, the widow of Jesse James.

Mrs. Jesse James had already

attended a trial in Huntsville once before when the year earlier she had given evidence against Dick Liddil, one of the men accused in the Muscle Shoals payroll robbery. She had resisted giving any



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testimony that might implicate her husband or brother-in-law in the robbery but insisted she had heard Liddil brag about it. No one could understand why she was in Huntsville again, though.

The trial of Frank James versus the United States Government began promptly at 9:00 in the morning of April 17. The courtroom, originally designed as a dining room, was packed with reporters with few seats left for spectators. Frank James was seated at a long wooden table with his wife, son and three attorneys while a few feet away sat the prosecuting attorneys. In front of them, to the left of the judge's desk, set the jury, six ex-Confederate soldiers, three ex-union soldiers and four who had seen no military service. Earlier the judge had replaced one juror when it was discovered there was an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

Missing in the courtroom was Mrs. Zee James, the widow of Jesse James.

After preliminary business, the trial opened with District Attorney Day making opening statements. With a low voice and self assured manner that belied his youthful age, Day paced back and forth before the jury as he told how Frank James, Jesse James,

Bill Ryan and Dick Liddil had conspired to rob the paymaster at Muscle Shoals. The outlaws had to look out for the outlaws' families. The prosecutor then told how he was going to produce witnesses who would place James at the robbery.

The defense took only a few minutes in opening arguments cautioning the jurors to keep an open mind until they had heard all their evidence. Most of the

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been living under assumed names a few miles outside of Nashville where, after reading of the large construction project at Muscle Shoals, it was decided that Frank, Jesse, and Rvan would travel there to rob the paymaster while Liddil remained in Nashville

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spectators were in agreement that it looked bad for Frank James.

The first witness for the prosecution was Thomas Peden, who owned a saloon near Muscle Shoals. Taking his time, Day elicited the information that on the day of the robbery, three men had stopped at his saloon. He minutely described the men as well as the horses they rode. Asked if the accused, Frank James, was one of the men, Peden replied, "I think so."

Cross examination for the defense was short but brutal. LeRoy Walker approached the witness, and after staring at him for what seemed like an eternity, asked what "I think so" means. Without waiting for Peden to reply Walker motioned for James to stand up.

With feigned anger in his voice he asked, "Can you positively identify this man beyond a shadow of a doubt as the man you saw that day?"

Peden, after swallowing hard for a few seconds said, "I think it is him but I can't say for sure."

"I didn't think so," mocked Walker as he threw a sheaf of papers back on the table.

Andrew Smith, the government employee who was robbed was called next. He described how he was met by three men, who, with drawn pistols, compelled him to throw up his hands. The men then took from his person \$5,200.00, forcing him to travel with them for several miles until releasing him. He then went on to tell how he had received a telegram from the Nashville City Marshal several days later asking him to travel to Nashville. They had arrested a man, for shooting up a saloon who fit the description of one of the robbers, Bill Ryan. Upon searching him they found two six shooters, a sack of gold coins and a fistful of 20 and 50

dollar bills.

After Smith identified Ryan as one of the men who had robbed him, the suspect began asking about a possible deal if he could implicate Frank and Jesse James.

Although Smith insisted that he thought Frank James was one of the robbers, when cross examined by Walker he said he "just could not be absolutely sure."

The government next called J.N. Wilcome who testified to meeting three strangers on the Shoals road the same day as the robbery, one of whom he believed to be Frank James.

For once, when LeRoy Walker approached the witness, he seemed unsure of himself, almost

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Decorative Accessories, Invitations and Announcements, Lenox China & Crystal, Fine Linens & Cottons For Bed & Bath. hesitant in his questioning. After leading the witness through his testimony again, he asked him to describe the men again.

"Take your time," Walker said, "just describe everything you can remember."

The witness seemed to almost relish the spotlight as he described the men's clothing, hats, saddles and horses in minute detail. After a few moments it was apparent to everyone that Walker was about to spring a trap.

"Do you realize," the attorney asked the expansive witness, "That none of your descriptions match what the other witnesses have testified to? Maybe you want to think about it more." Walker turned abruptly and returned to his seat leaving the witness still muttering, "... but I still think it is him."

Hugh Riley was called as a witness for the prosecution next. In a short testimony he told how he owned a saloon near Muscle Shoals and how on the day of the robbery three men had stopped at his establishment. After describing the men, he caused the audience to chuckle when he said he noticed them because he thought they were "revenue men."

"Yes," he said, "I believe the man sitting there (pointing to James) is the man I saw that day."

Cross examination was by Robert Walker who was unable to shake Riley's testimony except to note that the horse he described as being ridden by James did not fit the description everyone else had given.

At this point a break was called by the judge. Although the trial had already taken almost three hours few people, except for the judge and attorneys, left their seats for fear they would lose them. There were still crowds of people outside clamoring to be let in.

Just as the bailiff started to call the court to order, excited whispering swept across the room as all eyes were directed toward a small demure woman, clad in black mourning clothes, entering the courtroom. Escorted by LeRoy Walker, she was led to the defense table where she took a seat next to the accused. It was Zee James, the widow of Jesse James.

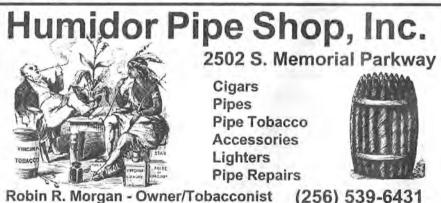
As soon as the court came to order, the prosecution, represented by ex-Governor Smith,

called Dick Liddil to the stand.

Immediately, the defense objected on the grounds that he had been convicted of grand larceny in Missouri, and that his infamous crimes made him an incompetent witness. The government countered by offering a pardon granted to Liddil by the governor of Missouri.

Judge Bruce overruled the objection and let the examination continue.

Asking his questions carefully, Smith had Liddil describe when and how he had first met the James brothers in Missouri and later followed them to Tennessee where Frank was living under the alias of B. J. Woodson. Liddil went on to tell how Frank and Jesse James, along with Bill Ryan planned the robbery in his presence and of how he remained in Nashville to take care of the families. After the robbery he heard of Ryan getting arrested and warned the James brothers. They imme-





diately left Nashville, with the families following several days later, and headed to a hideout in Kentucky.

The careful and concise testimony of Liddil, combined with his knowledge of the inner workings of the James gang appeared devastating for the defense, leaving them no choice but to pull out all stops to discredit him.

LeRoy Walker began the cross examination, barely bothering to hide the disdain he felt for the witness.

"Isn't it true that the only reason you are not in jail is because you agreed to testify against a man you once called a friend?"

"Objection!"

"Sustained."

Taking another approach, Walker began going over every detail of Liddil's testimony. Liddil refused to budge from his original story. Try as he might, Walker could not shake him. Finally, in a voice dripping with sarcasm, he pointed to the widow of Jesse James and literally shouted to Liddil, "Isn't it true that you conspired with Bob Ford to kill that

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woman's husband in cold blooded murder!"

Governor Smith jumped to his feet angrily objecting to Walker's line of questioning.

Suddenly, half rising from her seat, Mrs. Jesse James looked Liddil straight in the eye and mouthed the words "murderer!"

The judge sustained the objection but the damage was already done.

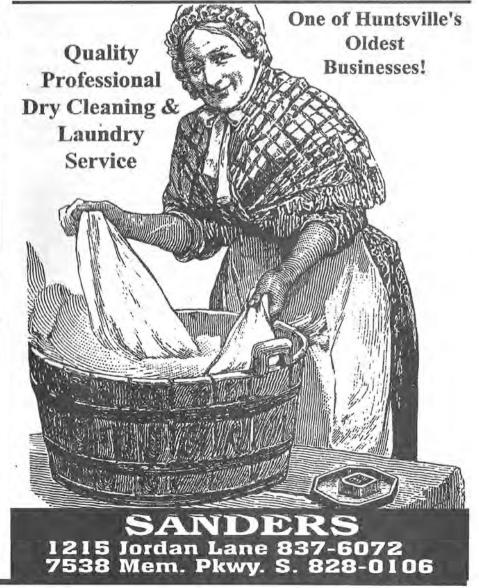
The courtroom was stunned. It was not common knowledge that Liddil had conspired with Ford, and regardless of what Jesse James was, or had done, most people found his murder a distasteful and cowardly act. In all likelihood, Walker wanted to get this information to the jury but

knowing the court would not allow it, he set up the situation knowing how exactly how Jesse's widow would react.

A half hour recess was called. Everyone in the room stood as the widow of Jesse James, leaning slightly on the arm of LeRoy Walker, made her exit.

Now it was time for the defense to present their case. Although they had already managed to win a certain amount of sympathy for their client, the evidence seemed overwhelming to most observers.

S.H. Fields, a city detective in Nashville, took the stand, and after being sworn in, identified Frank James as the man whom he had known as Woodson. Fields



went on to tell about James being employed by the Indiana Lumber Company as a teamster and said he had gotten to know him well. He distinctly remembered seeing James on three different occasions in Nashville on the day of the payroll robbery in Muscle Shoals. When pressed for details, Fields described seeing James in the office of a local magistrate, once at the blacksmith shop of Jonas Taylor and once in front of Fisher's restaurant.

Next, Jonas Taylor, a blacksmith in Nashville was called. He testified that he had known James for several years in Nashville. On the day of the robbery James had brought his horse to the shop to be shod. There was no doubt in his mind that the defendant was the man he saw that day. He then produced ledgers to show that James had paid him for the work on the following day.

The prosecution immediately tried to discredit the ledgers by attempting to show that they had been altered. The defense rebutted this by calling an attorney from Nashville who had discovered the ledgers. After a careful examination he testified that they were in the same condition as

when he had originally found them.

Mr. Brown, a justice of the peace in Nashville, took the stand to swear that he believed the defendant was the same man he had seen in Nashville on the day in question. When pressed for details, he told how James had accompanied another man to a hearing in his court and produced the records of the case to substantiate his memory.

By now the prosecution's case was beginning to look frayed around the edges. Governor Smith, probably seeing the handwriting on the wall, left the courtroom and begin telling the waiting reporters that he had been there "mainly as a spectator."

Meanwhile, the defense attorneys kept pressing their case that James could not have participated in the robbery for the simple fact that he was in Nashville at the time. Walker began calling a parade of witnesses in a rapid manner, keeping each of them on the stand for only a few minutes.

W. H. Spann testified that he had seen James in Nashville and offered a receipt as proof of his memory. Jack Smith, a detective, recalled seeing James and talking to him on the day in question. He said he remembered the day well because he was on his way to serve a warrant. Martin Brewer swore to seeing James that day as well as the following day.

Satisfied that he had made a







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shambles of the prosecution's case, LeRoy Walker concluded his case.

Assistant Attorney Day attempted to salvage part of the government's case by calling two more witnesses who had seen the outlaws the day of the robbery. Both witnesses, however, refused to identify Frank James as one of the men they had seen. Day made no attempt to hide his anger at the witnesses testimony.

At this point the trial was literally over except for the summations. Day made a gallant effort to salvage the case in his closing argument but the tone of his voice showed that he knew it was already over. LeRoy Walker, sensing victory, displayed the same oratorical skills that had once made him such a popular figure in the Confederate government. At one point he actually leaned over to the jurors and confided, in a loud stage whisper, "I am proud to be representing Frank James because he was a Confederate soldier."

Evidently he believed the case was so strong he could ignore the Union veterans sitting on the jury.

After both sides had finished, Judge Bruce instructed the jurors and at 6:00 in the afternoon they began deliberations. They returned within minutes to an-

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nounce their verdict: Not Guilty!

Cheering broke out when the verdict was announced and James rushed to shake LeRoy Walker's hand. A witness said later that Mrs. James looked as if she was about to crv.

The jubilation was short lived though when a stranger made his way through the crowd and presented James with a warrant from Missouri for his arrest. Handcuffs were placed on his wrists and he was once again led back to the cell from which he had hoped to be free from.

Early the next morning Frank James, accompanied by armed marshals, boarded a northbound train for Missouri, never to return to Huntsville.

Although Frank James was found innocent, legends and myths about his time in Huntsville continued to thrive. Within a few years the trial itself was largely forgotten but locals would swear that Frank and his brother, Jesse, had robbed the bank here and jumped off the Big Spring bluff while making their escape.

Another persistent story, actually printed in the newspapers at the time, had Frank James buying drinks for the jurors after the trial.

Historians never realized that reporters, in an attempt to make deadlines, had written the story before the trial was over.

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Timeless Tips and Folk Remedies

- People who eat 2 apples a day have less anxiety, fewer headaches, clearer skin, fewer colds, not as troubled by arthritis, and more mental stability when it comes to stressful situations than people who don't eat any apples at all.

 When your nose is stuffed, rub your ears vigorously til they feel like they're burning. For some odd reason, it seems to clear up stuffiness.

 When you are somewhere and need to be alert but find yourself getting drowsy, do this: Press your elbows against your sides, or press your knees together, hard. Do this for just a few seconds. Your blood circulation will be increased, making you feel more energetic.

- To strengthen your eyesight, many Oriental herbalists believe that chewing a very small piece of ginger after each meal can help improve one's eyesight, as well as helping your digestion.

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 According to legend you can heal a small cut without scarring
 take the skin from inside a raw egg and place it, wet side on the cut. You will heal quickly with no scarring.

- A classic remedy to relieve gout is cherries. Eat four ounces of fresh Bing cherries every day. If it's not in season, a good alternate is cherry juice or concentrate (at health food stores) - have one tablespoon 3 times a day. Frozen, canned or cherries in a jar is OK too. Or try strawberries - these and cherries have a good effect on gout as well as arthritis pain.

- Those who have been through a trauma such as a loss of a loved one often find that writing in a diary can be very helpful. At least once a day, write down your innermost feelings, don't censor yourself, let it all out on paper. This is said to really help in the healing process.

The old believe everything; the middle-aged suspect everything; the young know everything.

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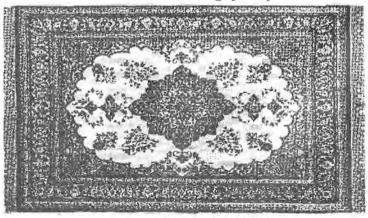
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From Around the World

Ghastly Discovery Found at Bird's Spring During Full Moon

Human Skeleton found just fifteen feet from entrance, Arousing much interest in Late War!

On Monday evening last, Mr. G. A. Lippincott of this city, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Mr. Hicks, started to explore a cave at Bird's Spring on the property of S. W. Harris and their exploring tour satisfied them enough to warrant another, and a more searching one to take place at an early date. The moon was full which afforded plenty of light to the adventurers.

One of the shocking discoveries of the cave trip was the sight of a skeleton near the main entrance of the cave - the skull and several bones of which are now on display at the office of Mr. Harris on Eustis Street.

A Mercury reporter saw the skull last evening which was that of a full grown person, but how the owner of that "dead head" came to inhabit the cave is a matter in which the field of conjecture is wide.

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

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The Little Refinishing Shop ied in a cave will probably never be revealed in this world, but the ghastly, grinning skull reveals the fact that the Bird's Spring cave has been trod by mortal feet long before Mr. Lippincott and his kin explored it.

Mr. Lippincott informs us that there are two apertures leading right and left after entering the cave, and he is determined to find out where they lead to, or at least satisfy himself to the probable dimensions of the cave.

From 1888 Huntsville newspaper

Behind almost every great fortune there is a crime. Honor'e de Balzac



The bushes that have been allowed to grow to the height of four to six feet in our courthouse yard should be grubbed up. The yard presents a very unsightly appearance and needs attention. The probate judge or the sheriff should see that it is kept clear of sprouts or some enterprising Yankee will be wanting to rent it for a rabbit farm.

from 1898 newspaper



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Political Fight In Huntsville

The most disorderly meeting of the present legislative campaign was held tonight at the county courthouse. Two men were knocked in the head, a number knocked down and several articles of furniture destroyed during the progress of the speech of John H. Wallace, one of the legislative candidates.

Wallace made a statement which John Burke, a member of the democratic executive committee, branded as a lie. This appeared to be the signal for a general fight. Quiet was restored by the sheriff and the chief of police, and Wallace mounted a table to finish his speech. He was immediately knocked from the table by an ink stand, which struck him on the temple.

J. B. Cabiness was in the act of striking Wallace when he was hit in the head by a glass tumbler, which inflicted a serious wound. The man who threw the tumbler is unknown, and a reward of \$50 is offered for the disclosure of his identity.

Feelings are very high among the friends of the candidates, and further trouble is feared at subsequent speakings.

from 1900 newspaper

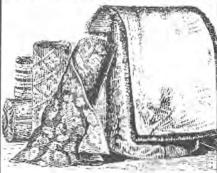
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The Carroll Grocery Store

by Ruby Crabbe

The graveled road on 5th Street, now better known as Andrew Jackson Way, had felt many a bare foot going across it to Carroll's Grocery Store. J. D., and Flossie Carroll were two of the nicest people a person could ever want to meet.

I remember this one day in particular, Mama had sent me to the store, and, as usual, I was barefoot. The weather had gotten cold but a lot of the kids back in those days didn't have shoes to wear no matter how cold the weather got.

So there I stood in Carroll's grocery store with my feet as bare as the day I was born. Mr. Carroll called his wife over to where I stood and told her to put shoes and socks on "this Child's feet and legs."

And what beautiful shoes and socks they were! The knee-high socks were fit for a queen to wear. And those shoes ... I didn't even want to pull them off when Mama put me to bed that night. Mr. Carroll told me to send my sis, Eva, over to his store so he could fit her with shoes and socks also.

Next day in school my Sis and I thought we were in "High Cotton" with those new shoes and socks. Late that evening I saw Mama going across the road to

Housework is something you do that nobody notices until you don't do it.

Carroll's grocery store. I didn't have to ask her why she was going - I already knew. She was going to thank those people for their kindness and generosity in making two little barefoot girls very happy.

Years later Bill and Christine Thigpen took over the Carroll grocery store. Christine was the daughter of J. D., and Flossie Carroll. I would be at a loss for words in trying to describe what kind of people the Thigpens were. Just by their everyday living and the love they shared with their fellow man spoke more than words ever could. They never hid their love of God. And like the Carrolls, made everyone feel special and loved.

Now when I ride down Andrew Jackson Way and see the place where the Carroll grocery store used to be, my mind goes in reverse and again, I feel rewarded and blessed by the kindness the Carrolls and Thigpens showed that little barefoot girl.



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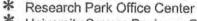
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Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

With pearls of wisdom contributed by the Liar's Table

Hi everybody. Well, Easter is over and I hope everyone enjoyed it lots and went to Church. We had good programs Twickenham Church of Christ for Easter that were just wonder-

Congratulations to Floyd Hardin for guessing the picture of the month. It was Donnie Thigpen from Po Boy Factory restaurant. Many people called to guess, and that's when it gets to be fun.

I still miss Gary and Toni on Waay Too Early, but we can now get them on Comcast channel 15. I'm off work on Tuesday so I really enjoy watching them that day.

Floyd, that was a great party you had for Roger Jones to make his announcement to run for

County Commissioner, District I. Roger is a great guy. Good luck to him!

Thanks Chief Compton Owens for bringing the Attorney General to breakfast; it was good to see you.

My sympathy goes to Mrs. Vera Walker's family in the death of Mom.

There is so much going on now for the senior citizens. Remember the Older American Festival at Sharon Johnson Park, May 23rd. It's a great time for all-- so much food, entertainment, and activities!

My good friends Tom and Cathey Carney have just come back from the kind of vacation that most people would love to take. They headed to Florida in a nice convertible with no plans, no reservations, and no idea where they would end up. Sounds like the beachcomber life to me!

The young folks used to laugh at me when I talked about my grandchildren but now they understand. Sandra Rhodes says there is a Heaven on earth since her two grandchildren came into the world. They are J C and Joe Askin. Sandra says there really are, "Angles among us." Great!

Mr. Billy Harbin brought Mike Hawthorne to breakfast. He is from Montgomery and he brought seven computers up here so they could start scanning all the court documents.

Everyone mark your calendars for the Wal-Mart Senior Expo on June 9th & 10th from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the South Hall of the VBC. The Coasters are going to entertain, Huntsville Hospital will have lots of health

Photo of The Mont

The first person to identify this child 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: This little boy now has a very important job around town.



Last month's photo was Donnie Thigpen

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Well, Congratulations to **Jim** & **Susan Kirkland** ... they went to the Bahamas to see their oldest son, **Mike** get married to **Juli Evarts**, and then everyone went on a cruise. Good luck, Mike and Juli.

I can't believe it- **Tom** and **Jeannie Glynn** are celebrating their one year anniversary this month ... Everyone knows that Tom was my boyfriend, but Jeannie landed him.

Congratulations go out to **Dr. Thorstad** on his upcoming marriage to **Misty**. Dr. T is one of my favorite people.

Well, with warm weather here you can bet all you're going to see and hear is our dear politicians campaigning!

I bet my good friend Sandra Steele is getting all excited as her wedding day draws nearer and nearer. Not only is she pretty, but she's as smart as all get out. That Keith is a lucky man for marrying such a sweet lady.

My sympathy to **W. F. Sanders** who lost his father this past month.

On the political front; Our Senator Jeff Enfinger is in Montgomery doing a great job, the Mayor was on the run getting the Little league ball players started down at Joe Davis Stadium, and I see that Sandra Moon, Glen Watson, Joe Whisante, Pat Jones, and Tommy Ragland are all working hard and doing a great job for Huntsville and Madison County.

I'm going to miss Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Estes who just left Huntsville and moved to Greenwood, S.C., to be near their daughter.

My sympathy goes to **Nita Bath** of the **D.A.'s office** who lost her daddy. We love you Nita.

I wish the best for Holly Burton and Mark as they start this life together. About twenty of us family and friends gathered around Judge Riddick as he performed the beautiful ceremony in his office. I love you both!

Jane Smith was out visiting me this week. She is a wonderful lady. Much luck to her as she goes for Circuit Court judge.

I went to see my dear friend, **Loyd** at the **Outback Restaurant** for Easter and enjoyed a great dinner with my daughter **Doris** & **Wayne** and **Donna** & **Todd**. Loyd, you're the best!

Have you gotten your copy of Fred Simpson's new book? The Sins Of Madison County is a must read for everybody. Wonderful book, Fred.

I hope that **Pat Colson's** daddy is better. **Mr. Smith** has been real sick in the hospital awhile.

You all have a wonderful May and June. Come to see me and remember I love you all.

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Political Offerings

From the "New American Sampler Cookbook"

Cheese Straws

ex-Sen. Howell Heflin/Ala 1 lb. sharp Cheddar cheese, grated

1/2 c. margarine

2 c. sifted flour

1/2 t. salt

1/4 t. red pepper

1/4 t. paprika

Soften the cheese and margarine, mix well. Add dry ingredients and mix. Place mixture in cheese straw press and press onto ungreased cookie sheets. Cut into 4-inch pieces before cooking, bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes and dried but not brown.

Appetizer Pie

Sen. Connie Mack/Fla

8 oz. cream cheese

2 T. milk

2 1/2 oz. dried chipped beef

2 T. instant minced onion

2 T. green pepper, chopped fine

1/2 c. sour cream

½ c. chopped pecans

Combine all ingredients in a casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Remove and serve with your favorite crackers.

Fresh Berry Soup

Rep. Beverly Byron/Md

2 c. orange juice

2 c. vanilla vogurt

1 T. honey

2 T. lemon juice

2 pints fresh blueberries or strawberries

1/4 t. cinnamon

1/4 t. nutmeg

Mix all ingredients in a blender, chill. Place a few berries in bowls, ladle soup over top. Garnish with fresh mint and serve.

Spinach and Jalapeno

Cheese

Vice President Al Gore

20 oz. frozen spinach, chopped, cooked and drained

4 T. butter

2 T. flour

2 T. onion, chopped

1/2 c. reserved spinach juice

1/4 c. evaporated milk

1/2 t. black pepper

1 t. celery salt

1 t. garlic powder

1 t. Worcestershire sauce

Red pepper to taste

6 oz. jalapeno cheese

Melt butter, add flour, stir, blend til smooth. Add onions and cook til soft but not brown. Add vegetable juice and milk, stirring constantly. Add seasonings and cutup cheese. Stir til cheese is melted. Combine with spinach and serve hot.

Arizona Baked Beans

Sen. John McCain/Az

1 medium onion, chopped

1 t. butter

16 oz. red kidney beans

16 oz. B&M baked beans

1 c. ketchup

1 c. brown sugar, packed

1 T. vinegar

1 t. yellow mustard

4 strips fried bacon, cooled and crumbled

In a skillet, saute the chopped onion with a teaspoon of butter.



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In large pot combine all remaining ingredients. Stir well and bake in a covered dish at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

Bieroch

ex-Sen. Robert Dole/Kansas 1 medium onion, finely chopped

1 T. butter

1 lb. ground beef

1 medium cabbage, shredded salt and pepper to taste

1 recipe of your favorite yeast

dough

In a skillet brown onion in butter, add beef and brown. Steam cabbage in another pot til just done, add it to the beef mixture, season with salt and pepper. Roll your dough out to 1/4 inch thickness and cut into 6 inch squares. Place 3 tablespoons beef mixture into each square, pull 4 corners together, pinch edges firmly. Place in greased pan, pinched edges down. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, serve hot. Can be wrapped in foil and frozen.

Lemon chicken

ex-Pres. George Bush 6 boneless chicken breasts 1 lemon, halved salt and pepper flour

2 T. butter

2 T. vermouth

1 c. heavy cream

2 T. lemon juice

grated rind of 1 lemon

Parmesan cheese

Rub the chicken with lemon. salt, pepper and a bit of flour. Saute in butter 7 minutes on each side. Remove from heat and arrange in a baking dish. Add vermouth, cream, lemon juice and grated rind to pan. Heat thoroughly, scraping the pan to deglaze it. Strain the sauce and pour over the chicken breasts. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over top and brown lightly under broiler for just few minutes.

Graham Cracker goodies

Rep. Carlos Moorhead/Ca graham crackers

1/4 c. butter

1/4 lb. margarine

1 c. brown sugar, packed

1 c. pecans, chopped and toasted

Grease a 9x12 jelly roll pan, lay graham crackers on it as close together as possible, covering entire sheet in one layer. In a saucepan, boil butter, margarine and brown sugar for 2 minutes. Pour this over the graham crackers and spread around to cover. Sprinkle with pecans, let cool and break up the pieces.

English Cream Dessert

ex-Sen. Bob Packwood/Or

1 pint heavy sweet cream

1 c. granulated sugar

1 packet unflavored gelatin

1 pint sour cream

1 T. vanilla or almond extract

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In a saucepan, heat the cream but don't boil. Add sugar and mix til dissolved, add gelatin and dissolve. Remove from heat and add mixture to sour cream. Stir in extract, beat til smooth, Pour into serving dish or mold and refrigerate at least 4 hours. Serve with fresh fruit.



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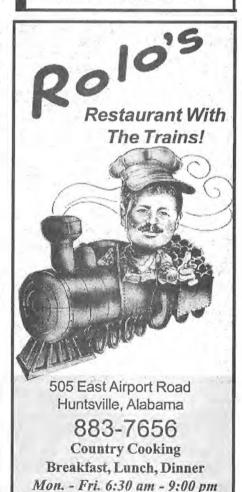
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Dear Brother

The following letter was apparently written in 1898 by James Dooley. A special thanks to Margaret Foster for allowing us to print it.

Dear brother,

I hope these words find you doing well. We finally got our uniforms and we left on the 18th last for Huntsville, Alabama where we are now. We are camped behind a big house and the men say it used to belong to a governor.

So far there ain't much to do in camp cause we don't have no guns yet. All we do now is march, sleep and do nothing. Jim H., is here with me and he got in a spite of trouble for fighting with some Indiana boys. He got extra guard duty but it don't bother him none.

There is a lot of meanness here with the soldiers fighting and drinking all the time. One of the saloons tried not to sell the men drink so the boys tore the place up good. John G., got cut up bad but nothing too bad.

There is a good many negro soldiers here but they are camped

some place else. They are a sight to see when they go strutting around town but the people here can't say nothing. No one wants to fight with them for they are fierce fighters and all carry knifes.

The men say we are not going to be here long and then we will go to Cuba. They can have it as far as I know. If I had known what this army life was I would have stayed home. I am supposed to be on feed detail but have eluded it every day. When they leave I go back to my tent and play checkers with the men.

There are some fair women here but they are sassy with all their fine ways and act like they are too good for common men. Jim H., tried to meet one but she wouldn't have it. The men here are not bad but they charge two times for everything and won't give you the time of day unless you pay for it.

There is a ... house here but they charge too much so a common soldier can't afford them. About the only people who go there are officers and they have plenty of money. There is nothing else going on in Alabama to write about so brother I will close for now.

Your affectionate brother down in Dixie,

James D.

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No Jail Could Hold Her

Alabama history normally dealt with horse thieves, murderers and bushwhackers, but in the late fall of 1822 our courts of law were forced to deal with something totally different. The courts had to render a decision about a woman accused of witchcraft.

History has forgotten the old woman's name. All we know about her is that she lived on the banks of the Flint River. A friendless old crone who had strange ways and was rather aloof, the woman was the talk of the local area. At first, she was spoken of only in whispers, then more boldly until she was publicly accused of being a witch. It culminated in a Warrant for her arrest signed by one of the landed gentry of the community.

The day of the trial was fixed. Excitement ran high and people came from far and near to witness the unusual event. The trial proceeded on time and a great number of witnesses were called to testify, but nothing positive resulted from any of their testimony.

Then a young woman was called to the stand. Her testimony went as follows: One day she was washing down at the creek, and became extremely tired. She sat down at the foot of a beech tree to rest. Soon, the old accused woman came down the tree in the form of a squirrel, with its tail curled over its back, snarled at her hand and put a spell on her. The sickly girl testified that she had been ill ever since and couldn't sleep due to pain in her

stomach that started the day she saw the old woman in the form of the squirrel.

The presiding judge, who seemed to have been in deep study, now seemed quite relieved upon hearing the young lady's testimony. He straightened in his chair and announced that the young woman's testimony was proof positive of the old woman's guilt. His opinion was that she should immediately be locked up in jail.

A controversy arose, however, when one of the spectators inquired in how they intended to confine a witch. If she had the power to transform herself, then surely no jail could hold her.

The judge as well as the whole courtroom seemed perplexed at the unusual turn of events. Finally, unable to reach a decision, the judge adjourned the court while "taking the issue under advice."

As far as is known the issue never came before the court again.

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In God We Trust

At the onslaught of the Civil War, many people questioned the wisdom of their political leaders. The issue of fighting to win freedom for the slaves was controversial and many of the American public, both North and South, believed in the right to secede.

With thousands of young men being called to bear arms, no one was able to articulate to the mothers and fathers why their sons might die on a distant battlefield. In short, much of the American public no longer trusted their leaders.

In 1861, an obscure preacher was attending a revival in New

York when he was asked about his young son who had recently been called up.

The preacher, deeply saddened, replied with the words, "In God we trust."

The slogan caught on with the public. Somehow, the words made the sacrifices seem to have a purpose.

When Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, a religious man himself, heard of the slogan he was immensely moved. He sent a letter to the director of the Philadelphia mint asking that the words be placed on all new currency.

The simple words, "In God We Trust," helped win the war and in the process became part of this country's heritage.

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Know Your Rights

Revisiting Grandparent Visitation

Recently we published an article in *Old Huntsville* addressing grandparent visitation rights in Alabama. The article was called *'Miss your grandchild?'*. That article requires an update.

Until recent years, grandparents in Alabama had no right to obtain visitation with their grandchildren. Our legislature authorized grandparents to seek visitation with their grandchildren only if there has been an adoption by

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a family member, or the parents file for or had obtained a divorce, or where the parent related by blood has died and the other parent refuses to allow visitation

This law was amended effective June 11, 1999 to expand grandparent visitation rights. Now, a grandparent can seek court ordered visitation if either parent has prohibited a relationship between the child and the grandparent. There is a rebuttable presumption in favor of visitation by any grandparent.

Alabama is not the only state that has enacted legislation concerning the rights of grandparent visitation. Recently, the United States Supreme Court heard arguments on whether a similar law enacted by the State of Washington unconstitutionally intrudes on the fundamental right of parents to decide whether other parties should be able to visit with their children. The issue is the extent to which a state legislature can intrude on core family privacy.

Currently, a grandparent in Alabama who asks a court to authorize visitation with a grandchild is presumed to have visitation rights, and visitation will only be denied upon a finding by the court of good cause. But watch the Supreme Court. A decision in the Washington State case, Troxel v. Granville, is likely to be issued sometime this summer, and this decision might narrow the right of

a grandparent in Alabama to visit with a grandchild.

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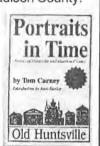
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The Messenger of God

by Antonio Howard

She's one of the most translated American authors of all time. Her writings have been printed in over 140 different languages. She is also cofounder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was instrumental in the establishment of Oakwood College. Her work and teachings influence the lives of thousands of Huntsvillians every day but few even recognize her name.

With over 115 book titles credited to her name, Ellen G. White is known by millions of people throughout the world as a "Messenger of God." Ellen Gould Harmon was born on a farm in Gorham, Maine in the year of 1827. When Ellen was nine years old, she was struck on the nose with a rock thrown by one of her schoolmates. The injury caused serious medical complications and as a result her education came to a end. Over the years her health continued to deteriorate.

White, a Methodist at the time, began going to Bible meetings



given by Preacher William Miller, founder of the Millerite Movement. Also known as "Adventists," the sect believed that Jesus Christ would soon return to earth. Miller's teachings attracted many followers, many of whom sold all of their worldly possessions in preparation for the expected return.

When Miller prophesied a return date for October 22, 1844, and Christ failed to appear, many people began to abandon the Adventist belief. This period was known as "The Great Disappointment."

On a wintry day, in December of 1844, 17-year-old Ellen Harmon (weighing just 70 pounds) and four of her friends gathered for Bible study. It was then that Ellen claimed to have received her first vision from God. Her vision, as she later described it, was about "the Adventist people

going to the City of God." Despite her obvious sincerity, she and her friends were labeled fanatics and the vision received widespread ridicule.

To the Adventists who had left the faith after "The Great Disappointment," Ellen Harmon appeared to be a true prophet. Over the next 70 years she was said to have received more than 2000 visions, many of which she shared by writing books. The topics included such diverse subjects as health and nutrition, marriage, child guidance, voice cultivation, evangelism and education.

In August of 1846, Ellen married a preacher named James White. Not long after their marriage they came into possession of a pamphlet printed by Joseph Bates entitled "Seventh-day Sabbath." The booklet set forth the argument that if Sunday was the first day of the week, then Saturday must be the holy day.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.

After adopting their interpretation of the fourth commandment, the Adventists started celebrating Saturday, the seventh day the week; as the sabbath, hence, the appellation "Seventh-day Adventists."

Within a short time the new religion had attracted numerous followers, with a strong emphasis being placed on missionary work. On March 21, 1891, in Battle Creek, Michigan, Ellen read an appeal to 30 church leaders of the General Conference of Seventh Adventist. The appeal, entitled "Our Duty to the Colored People," urged the church to spread its work into the Southern States. Motivated by the writing of his mother, James Edison White



built a missionary boat called *The Morning Star* and, along with some helpers, traveled to Vicksburg, Mississippi to begin evangelist work.

The conditions White discovered appalled him. Lack of sanitary conditions, poor health care and especially, the lack of suitable education caused him to write many letters to the General Conference asking that something be done.

In the fall of 1895 the General Conference selected three men to locate land for a school. The three men, George Irwin, Ole Olsen and Harmon Lindsey, ventured to Huntsville, Alabama to inspect a 380 acre farm in the northwest part of town. After submitting a report to the General Conference, the men returned to Huntsville in January, 1896 and purchased 358 acres from Michael O'Shaughnessey for \$6,300.00.

The land was a former slave plantation that consisted of four buildings, nine slave cabins and a house known as the "Old Mansion," where it is believed President Andrew Jackson had once visited. Although the purchasers did not know it at the time, the plantation had once been the home of Dred Scott, the slave who

sued for freedom and whose lawsuit helped precipitate the Civil War. Now the same plantation would be used to free the exslaves, and their descendants, from illiteracy.

The new school was named Oakwood because of the huge oak trees lining the drive.

With only four teachers, 16 students, and one copy of reading text to be shared among them, Oakwood opened its doors for the first time on November 16, 1896. Oakwood was a twelve grade school the first 21 years. The following 26 years it served as a junior college, and since 1943, Oakwood has been a four-year senior college.

On June 7, 1904, the old and venerable Ellen G. White visited Huntsville for the first time to see what her visions had wrought. After touring the school and meeting the faculty, she confided to the assembled students as to what visions for Oakwood were, saying "this is the Lord's institution" and "the instruction given me, never part with an acre of this land. It is to be used in educating hundreds."

Ellen White died in 1915, ridiculed by many but praised by others. Oakwood College is today

one of the premier Black educational facilities in the country and stands as a memorial to the woman whom many people called "the Messenger of God."

I knew I was an unwanted baby when I saw my bath toys were a toaster and a radio. - Joan Rivers



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General Joe Wheeler Declines Vice-Presidency

From The Washington Star, April 1900

The notice General Wheeler has taken of the movement to bring him forward as a Vice-presidential candidate is an admirable deliverance, deserving at this time of especial consideration. It reflects the highest credit on both his patriotism and his intelligence. It shows that a level and a very clear head rests upon his shoulders. It makes good in itself his right to his place- earned by years of excellent public service-

as one of the attractive and highly respected figures of our national life. It will increase confidence in both his judgement and the genuineness of his public spirit.

In addition to being a trained soldier, General Wheeler is a trained politician. He can tell a personal compliment when he sees one. He can separate the partiality of his friends from the more general appraisement of the country. He knows as another distinguished Alabaman on a famous occasion did not, just where he is

at. In a word, with full knowledge of political conditions, political possibilities and probabilities, and particularly of how the friends of a public man, from one motive or another, press him unduly and unwisely at times for one office or another, he is able to receive this Vice-presidential suggestion with due appreciation of kindly feelings that prompted it without being misled as to its actual practical value.

That General Wheeler would fill the office of Vice President most worthily is beyond all question. He is entirely familiar with business, and enjoys the respect of the public men of both parties. But the circumstances are such that lie does not fit the requirements of either party. He is a Democrat, but not in touch with his party on the subject of expansion. His very usefulness to the country in the matter of the war with Spain, and in his firm acceptance since the results of the war. make him unavailable as a running mate for Mr. Bryan, who is in favor of tinkering with the whole business. And while standing with Mr. McKinley on the subject of expansion, General Wheeler subscribes to no other policy to which the Republicans are committed. So the sign of "No Thoroughfare" appears in either direction.

But General Wheeler's services to the country are still a part, and will remain so, of the country's pride. His fame is secured, and no political office could now add much to it.

The biggest job Congress has is getting money from taxpayers without upsetting the voters.

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Pink Champagne
w/Pink Elephants
Kiti Kat
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Pack O Penguins
Rabbit w/Carrots
Hearts & Flowers
Alabama Sign w/Elephants
Skunk w/Skunk Family

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Absurd News

In 1935, a New York museum brought the first exhibit of Vincent Van Gogh's work to America. A well-known prankster, Hugh Troy, smuggled in a small shadow box containing a hunk of dried beef mounted on velvet. When no one was looking he hung the box on a blank wall with a sign claiming it was Van Gogh's infamous cutoff ear. The crowds flocked to the "ear," and Troy was able to view the real paintings in peace.

In Epping, England, a farmer had a hen who would come into

Finishing The Job

An Alabamian who had been employed in a cemetery some time since, went to Washington to draw his pay.

After receiving the amount, the paymaster, discovering a sabre cut on his face, remarked; "You were in the army during the war?"

"Yes," said he.

"What command were you in?" "In General Fitzhugh Lee's command," said he.

"Did you have the audacity to apply at a Federal cemetery for the work when you were in the Rebel army?"

"Yes," replied the Alabamian.

"I helped to kill them and I thought I had a right to help bury them."

from 1909 newspaper

the kitchen, chase the dog and cat out of the house, and then go to the parlor arm chair, where she would lay her egg.

Lillian Holweg told the divorce court that her husband Bernard was quite a book-lover. She testified that her husband installed a fine new library in their home while she was in the hospital. He greeted her return with the remark: "I have my books now, so I don't need you anymore."

The first West German to receive an artificial heart was not told the news. It was reasoned by his doctors that if he heard his own heart had been removed and replaced with an artificial device, he might become very agitated and have a heart attack.





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Mayor and Huntsville Times

Editor Fight It Out On

Huntsville's Streets

Huntsville mayor, R.E. Smith, who engaged in a fight with J.E. Pierce, editor of the *Huntsville Times*, sat on his own case in the police court this morning. The case of Pierce was called first, and the defendant was discharged although he entered a plea of guilty. The mayor next called his own case and entered a fine of \$10 against himself because of the fact that he was the aggressor in the affray.

from 1912 Huntsville newspaper

A Scholarly Vagabond

W G. Maloney, a young man arrested today for riding trains contrary to the law, claimed in the police court this morning that he was making a study of the underworld and became a hobo in order to get a closer view. Mayor Smith imposed a 20 day sentence on him and informed him that he would be given every opportunity to make a study of hoboes and other members of the chain gang.

from 1913 Huntsville newspaper

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Venus Warriors Slug It Out

Mary Herben and Mable Brown, daughters of prominent residents of Pleasantville, fought a prizefight in a 16 foot ring pitched in an old barn on the outskirts of that town at three o'clock Sunday morning.

The cause of the fight was rivalry for the attentions of a young man named George Woodward.

Thirty-eight rounds were fought, in which both girls were severely punished, but neither had the advantage, and the contest was declared a draw.

The combatants were stripped to the waist, and every part of their bodies exposed to view bore the traces of punishment. The referee and seconds were all females, friends of the principals.

Lively wagering was done by the many spectators, most of whom were men.

Woodward has since declared that he will have nothing to do with either of the girls. from 1890 newspaper

Doctor In Jail For Threatening Lives of Dallas Residents

Attempts To Elude Officers By Whipping Up His Horse In Lively Chase

Dr. B. J. Duckett, a practicing physician of Dallas Village, was arrested today and lodged in jail on warrants charging him with threatening the lives of two residents of Dallas and resisting arrest. His trial will come up this afternoon.

Complaints against Dr. Duckett were made by John Taylor and Robert Nichols, who charge that he had threatened to kill them. Papers were made out and it was the intention of the court to have the doctor brought in on peace proceedings. The papers were placed in the hands of Deputy Sheriff Robinson. The deputy saw the man he was seek-

ing driving along Washington Street today and when he started toward him, Dr. Duckett whipped up his horse. There was a lively chase up the street and Deputy Miller joined in on the square. The prisoner offered resistance and the scene attracted a large crowd on the street.

From 1907 Newspaper

You always learn something from late night talk shows - usually that you should have gone to bed earlier.

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A Child GrowsUp In Dixie

The author John M. Doyle was born July 22, 1847, the son of John William Doyle. The family lived on Madison Street and also owned a large plantation in the county. John Doyle was thirteen years old at the beginning of the conflict and his memoirs provide a rare glimpse into war time Huntsville as seen by a young boy. The following excerpts have been edited for space and clarity.

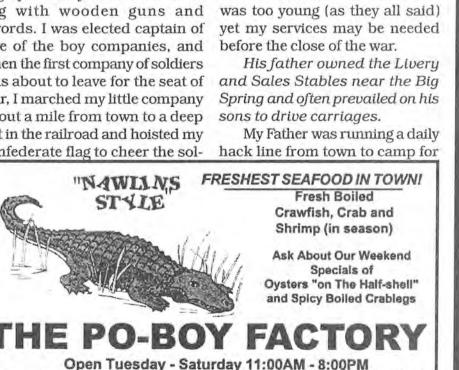
In 1860 war clouds were looming and men began gathering everywhere for the conflict. New companies were formed and being drilled on the muster grounds, and the boys were taking up military tactics and drilling with wooden guns and swords. I was elected captain of one of the boy companies, and when the first company of soldiers was about to leave for the seat of war, I marched my little company about a mile from town to a deep cut in the railroad and hoisted my confederate flag to cheer the sol-

diers as they passed in the cars. In a half an hour the cars came thundering along. I formed my boys (with a flag) on each side on the cut and as the cars passed we waved our flags and raised deafening cheers. The soldiers joined in the chorus and the band struck up the old tune "Home Sweet Home" and played on until the music died away in the distance.

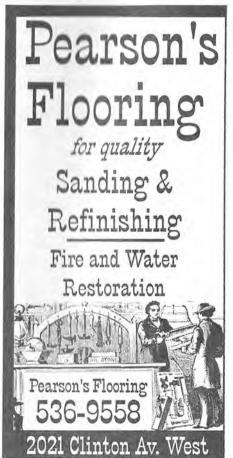
In a few months more the country everywhere were filled with soldiers marching to and fro. A brigade of infantry, composed of men from Marshall Blount, and Jefferson counties were encamped at Blue Spring four miles north of Huntsville, and it was called "Camp Jones" in honor of Col. Egbert Jones, the 4th Alabama Regiment of Infantry, his regiment having previously encamped and drilled on the same grounds, but had now been called into Virginia for active service. I had several cousins in the camp at Blue Springs and would go out and spend several days at a time with them in camp. This gave me a desire to become a soldier, but I

the accommodation of all who wished to pay one dollar for transportation to or from camp. and to keep me from running about, my father put me to driving the said hack. I did very well. until winter. I generally made four trips daily from town to camp and I well remember the last trip I made. It was one night, and I had just returned from camp the fourth time that day and it had been raining very hard all day, the roads were awfully cut up but I had to go again that night. There were five officers who were obliged to go to camp that night. and there were five dollars to make and my Pa said I had to make it, so I drove to the Donegar Hotel where my passengers were awaiting me and after waiting out in the snow and sleet about a half hour, they came out got into the hack and commanded "go ahead."

I wished something would break or happen to prevent me



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landing those gentlemen safely to their quarters. I had their money and did not care. I had not gone more than half way, when going through a mud hole it was so dark I drove off the road against an old stump. I heard something crack. The horses stopped and everything was still for a moment only, when one of the commanding officers again shouted out "go a head."

I got out in the mud and water, which was over knee deep and examined as best I could in the dark, by feeling, for I could not see my hand before me - what the damages were. I found that both whippletree's were broken, and that it was useless to try to proceed any farther with the hack. Thus I reported to the "gentlemen" on the inside. They quarreled, they cursed and yelled and wanted to know how they were to get out of the mud hole.

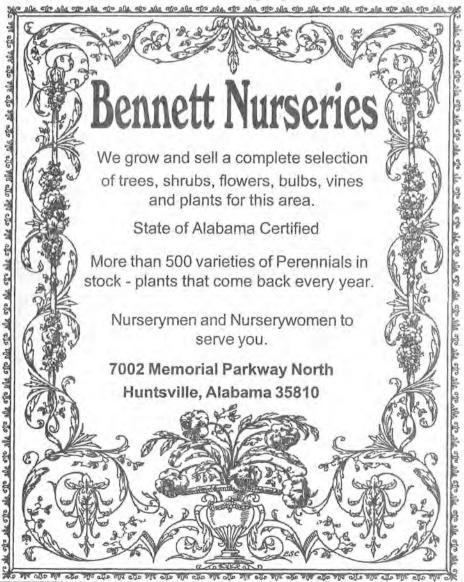
In the meantime I was taking the horses loose from the hack. This done I mounted one and started out, leading the other, leaving the "Gentlemen" to get out the best they could.

October of this year, 1861; came and we began gathering our crops hauling it home. The glorious news of victory from the seat of war, now became the password with everyone, every newspaper was sought with eager hands, to glance at the collum headed with "war news." In every column thus headed; gave victory and success to our confederate armies. The people were delighted and celebrating the laurels thus won everywhere. But alas the sad news came that Nashville had been captured and occupied by the vankees

On the morning of the eleventh day of April, 1862 about daybreak the sleeping citizens of Huntsville were awakened by the pealing

thunder of cannon. The yankees had come. They were everywhere in Huntsville, and was firing cannons at several car loads of sick and wounded confederate soldiers who were trying to escape. They captured all except one carload that was a little ahead of the others, which made good their escape through the gauntlet of shot and shell. The yankees now occupied Huntsville and as soon as the place became a little more calm from the excitement I went out to examine the yankees. I found that they did not have long tails or claws like a lion as was reported - especially to the juveniles and negroes - but found them to be real living creatures like myself or anyone else.

The yankees occupied Huntsville until the last of November 1864. During the latter part of 1863, I became acquainted with a young yankee soldier and soon found that he sympathized with the South and seemed to be anxious to desert his army and join the Rebs. Frank C- (the union soldier) and I were nearly always together. He was two or three years my senior and we were good friends. One day I proposed slipping the pickets with him and going to Dixie to join the Rebel Army. He consented, and a day was set for us to leave. A day or two after I met a friend and associate of mine, Hugh M- and informed him of our project. He was as willing to go as Frank and I were. Our



stable and lot had been taken by the yankees and used for the forage wagon train. They were constantly foraging the country for grain under heavy guard. I soon made myself acquainted with one of the teamsters-Billie W - and got his consent to let Frank, Hugh, and I go with him in his wagon on a forage trip. As luck would have it the wagon train was going down near the Tennessee River on the very day we had set for our departure, I soon informed Frank and Hugh of the fact and we made immediate preparations for leaving.

When we arrived at the picket post, the officer commanding demanded our pass. Billy told him he would be responsible for our safe return and that we were his friends and so we were allowed to pass. We were going through the woods at a very brisk gait, talking of our successful escape from the wagon train, and how we were to cross the river, and of what company we would join, when we were suddenly startled by a loud exclamation "Halt"

We had come upon an unexpected picket post which had been placed there to guard the approaches to the wagon train from molestation. We were so completely surprised that we did not

have time to invent an excuse. I mustered courage enough to tell them that we came out with the forage train and was then looking for another plantation where we expected to find an abundance of corn and oats. They did not believe me and said that "He were trying to go to the Rebs" across the river. We were put under guard and carried back to the wagons. The guard told the Captain that we were arrested by them at the picket post near the river and that he believed we were attempting to cross the river to join the Rebels.

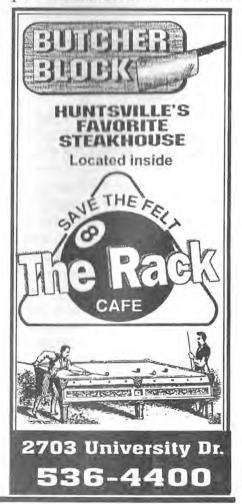
We were then kept under guard until, we got back safe to Huntsville and Hugh and I were discharged, but Frank being a soldier was accused of an attempt to desert and confined in the guard house for several days.

We had two horses and a carriage left us and a lady was in town who lived in Guntersville and wanted to go home. We agreed to take her as far as Deposit on the Tennessee River in the carriage. We arrived at Deposit about sunset and stopped over for the night. Mr. Scott was the owner of the place. The house was located on a high bluff about fifty yards from the river. The yankees had neverbeen there before. Breakfast was announced by the ringing of a bell.

We started to breakfast, and had just reached the yard gate when we saw the vankees coming in a gallop toward the house. I hollowed out "yankees coming!" Mr. Scott and old Mrs. Scott who was very large and fleshy came to the door. One glance convinced them of the fact. They told their sons to leave quickly and take every negro with them. They all ran up into the mountain, the old woman following, but she was too fleshy to run fast and the yankees overtook her and assured her they would not harm her and sent her back to the house. The others made their escape.

Breakfast was on the table smoking and hot and nobody to partake except myself and brother with the yankees. After breakfast one of the yankees pressed one of my horses and had saddled him ready to leave and put his old horse in the stable for





me. As soon as he saw that my horse was better than his he drew his sabre and struck his horse on the leg to have an excuse to take mine. I went to the Captain and with tearful eyes I told him of my loss. He asked me several questions and then ordered the man to restore my horse to me. He was compelled to ride his own lame horse and he was afterwards punished for laming his horse with his sabre.

Brother Joe and I then hitched up and drove home. The yankees destroyed the ferry boat and carried off several horses from old Mr. Scott. Then and there they found out what yankees were!

A few months after this (1863) Huntsville was evacuated by the yankees. The Rebels immediately took possession of the latter place and captured a locomotive and cars from about two hundred negro soldiers who had returned with the cars to carry off some contrabands that had been left behind.

Thomas Jordan took advantage of the evacuation and raised a company of volunteers in Huntsville. The long-wished fortune had come and I had an opportunity to become a soldier and I did so. I went forthwith to Captain Jordan and registered my name on the roll and was sworn in as a soldier. The next day the company was called together to elect officers. We marched to the muster grounds and elected Thomas Jordan captain, William Rison 1st. Lieutenant, Alexander Bently 2nd lieutenant, Jas E. Scat, Sergeant.

We spent the balance of the evening in drilling. The next day at 12 o'clock was appointed for the company to meet and organize and go into regular camp. Accordingly the company met on the square and was formed in a line

for inspection, which occupied about an hour. After the officer finished inspection our captain rode around in front and pronounced the Company ready for action, well armed, and equipped with good horses.

I was summoned by a patrol to appear at quarters and prepare for leaving as the yankees were coming. Having been driven from our homes several times by false rumors I did not hurry but took my time when I bid my parents a long farewell. I proceeded halfway to quarters when I met a crowd of citizens fleeing on the street as if their lives were at stake. They told me the yankees were on the square and my company had left a few moments ago.

I returned home and told my

parents the facts and told them also that I intended to leave on foot as I could not get to my horse. They begged me to stay at home, as there was no hope for our in-



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dependence. Our soldiers were deserting thousands at a time and besides small armies were surrendering every week.

I knew it and felt the truth of it but still I deemed it my duty to linger with our fast fading cause until the last spark of existence had disappeared.

Doyle attempted once again to return to his unit which was bivouacked near the railroad station. A short distance from home he met another soldier of his company who was leading his horse, Before Doyle could make his escape the Union soldiers had blocked all the streets leading out of Huntsville.

We were at our gate and the yankees were coming down the street. I put my horse in a stable belonging to a widow lady who lived next door to my father, requesting her to claim the horse. In the meantime the yankees were riding on every street and we were completely surrounded. There was no possible chance of escape. We returned home and donned our citizen's attire and awaited events. That night the citizens of Huntsville passed a sleepless

night. They were again subjected to yankee despotism and contempt.

A few weeks we moved from our residence on Madison Street to the northeast corner of the square where we were not so much annoyed by the yankees.

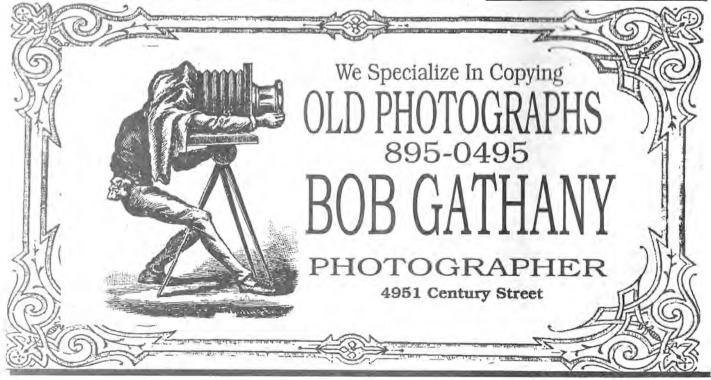
About this time the telegraph lines were flashing the news that Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States had been assassinated. The news spread like wildfire all over the United States. A day of mourning was set for every city, town and village, to observe, "strictly," as the Yankees commanded. On the day appointed, Huntsville wore a sad appearance. All public buildings were trimmed in crepe. Every business house was closed by order of the military authorities. The citizens did not drape their houses, the vankees did it for them. The citizens seemed more cheerful as they thought there was yet a chance to save the Confed-

The next day brought sorrowful news to our downtrodden people, news that General Lee with all his army had surrendered.

God pity the poor widows and orphans who are thus left in a destitute condition to battle their way through this unrelentless world.

The only person who never makes a mistake is the person who never does anything.





Heard On The Streets In 1907

For sale - the Jim Pollard cottage situated on Madison Street. This is a very charming property and will go fast.

Lost - on the street between Walker Street and Huntsville Bank & Trust Co., a star and crescent gold scarf pin with pearls. Reward if returned to the Bank & Trust.

I propose to open a private school for boys at my residence on East Holmes Street on Tuesday, the first day of October, 1907. I will teach whatever is necessary for entrance into the Sophomore class in any college in the state. Baseball and football will be in my curriculum, my fee is \$5 per month, paid in advance. Chas. O. Shepherd.

For Rent - 5 room cottage on East Clinton Street, nicely furnished, garden in rear. Men only need apply. Mrs. E. C. Yarbrough.

There is a move underway to put two pet deer in the county courtyard. The feeling is they will make the yard look more attractive. The unsightly pathways will soon be obliterated as the sheriff has placed a number of signs up bordering the pavement forbidding anyone from walking on the grass. In the future whoever violates this rule will be arrested and fined.

Delsie Long, a young man from Marshall County, was arrested in the Whitesburg precinct yesterday and brought here to jail on a warrant charging bastardy.

A warrant for the young man's arrest was sworn out in Justice Grimmett's court by Miss Daisy Bowers, a young girl of the Whitesburg community, who claims that the man promised to marry her some time ago. Long is not 21, she claims and his parents have refused to give their consent for him to marry her.

For sale - two .5 acre tracts of land situated on West Clinton Street. This property will be sold at a bargain. See Boyd and Wellman.





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A Civil War Letter From Maysville

Maysville, Ala. Dec. 16, 1864 Dear Sir,

Yours by Dr. Clopton is at hand. We are delighted to hear from you as we so seldom get any knowledge of you. The condition of things around us is somewhat changed, but we are in daily dread of a raid. The yankees are at Paint Rock. Twenty odd were captured by General Meade yesterday and passed through last night. Roddy and others are after the balance of them and we will hear from them today or tomorrow.

Well, we are all used up as to fencing, etc., as I wrote you, and

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1833 University Dr.

years will pass before the destruction will be repaired. Many vacant houses were torn down to make tools, etc. Mr. Stewart's store, Bill Hall's old exchange, Masonic hall, all torn to pieces. Some parts remain, but ruined. Mr. Jones' store and Wortham's gutted. Your office remains as it was with the exception of the things - medicines, table, etc., all of which is gone except for a few bottles. I got most of your papers, among which is Mr. O'Neal's note for property which I got from a vankee doctor, for they occupied it as an office. It was then turned into a saddle makers shop, then into a pesthouse (for smallpox).

Since that time it has not been disturbed only the removing of the two front sash which are lost, as also all the Jack O'Neal residence, where not a trace is left to tell where it stood except one load of joist, which I paid a man \$5 to haul home and are now in the smokehouse. All the fencing about the place, except for the orchard and garden are gone, and they are simply patched up.

Nearly all the citizens are gone, negroes and whites, and the present conscript act will leave not more than eight or ten men in the place.

There is scarcely a single negro here that was here when you left. Some few of the Daniel plantation negroes are here in great confusion since the retreat of the army and should any of your darkies come here they will find a change of population and a ruined town.

I will give you an idea of that retreat caused by a flank movement of General Hood. The soldiers amounted to about 8000 and baggage wagons beyond number. Refugees and contraband, astonishing in number slowly moved with the cavalcade. It began to pass here at 8 a.m., and continued until 4 p.m. So hasty was the move among the contraband that they emptied their featherbeds and cotton on the road until, even now, the track of the caravan could be followed by feathers and cotton.

The day they passed led to many astonishing sights but the distressing feature is that women gave birth to children during the flight and quite unnaturally left them to perish. One case occurred near this place. A yankee soldier picked up the infant, wrapped it up and tried to give it away as he passed along.

Several cases of the kind are reported to have taken place on the banks of the Paint Rock. At Stevenson, 'tis said that they are dying by multitudes since the cold weather set in. Other children were left behind, running about looking for their mothers, who had left them to their fate.



At or near Paint Rock many of them (refugees) were cut off by our cavalry and for several days others were passing in small numbers, deploring their lot, returning to their former homes.

As to our own condition, we have lived in constant dread surrounded and subjugated by our foes. A few almost worthless horses, a little stock and a few pigs are still left. Our house was once ransacked from top to basement by a set of the worst men I have ever seen, but were dispersed by two surgeons who providently stepped in while they were depredating, and so we lost but little. I got twenty men to guard the town that night, had two at my house. But for them we would have been ruined, burned out, as was threatened.

As to supplies, we have always had bread and meat and even some of the luxuries. Thomas has sent us coffee, sugar, cheese, bacon and salt. These have kept us together with what I could do with my own scanty money. My cow, or rather yours, died last winter. This put us on short rations. As to milk and butter we have done without until a few weeks ago. Mrs. Howard, who went to live at the college in Huntsville, loaned her (a cow) to us. She has now returned and will take her home again. Mrs. Kelley loaned me her cow and calf but the yankees took the calf before we got them in our possession and we left the cow, not bringing her home.

We raised nothing but what we got from the orchard and garden, which was plundered of its fruit before they were ripe. It would amuse you and distress you to see how they stole from the orchard, and how obsequious we all were, fearing to say a word.

We are now hiding our scanty food, fearing we shall lose what little we have left, for so much depends on the success of the companies now doing battle at Paint Rock. Cannon was heard booming yesterday, but to what result we don't know.

Our home affairs go on very quietly. Mattie is not quite so taciturn as formerly, has become domesticated, can wash a little, iron, cook, milk, make fires, feed chickens, bring in wood and nurse the baby as though she was used to it. Her health monthly is inexpressibly better than formerly, although she fell into her old condition and was alarmingly sick until she heard of a certain herb whose vulgar or classical name I do not know.

I eat two meals a day and sleep about six hours in twentyfour, rather restless, and lay awake many hours these long nights. I chop all my own wood and work hard during the working season, have not preached for many months except for a funeral sermon for Mrs. Debois six or eight months ago.

I keep no horse, so I go nowhere from home; indeed I am afraid to go anywhere - robbers are spread over the country and yankees hitherto on every road.

(unsigned)

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Still think cats are smarter than dogs? Have you ever seen eight cats pull a sled through snow?





The Miracle Worker

In the late fall of 1958, a strange caravan pulled into Huntsville. After erecting a large tent on an empty lot, near Washington and Pratt Avenue, they immediately began passing out handbills throughout town.

"Religious Revival," the handbill read. "Come see the sick healed and miracles performed before your eyes."

Traveling revivals were nothing new to Huntsville. Almost yearly, miracle workers or religious healers would appear in town to stage week-long revivals promising to heal the bodies and save the souls.

Of course, the faithful were always expected to make generous donations.

This revival troupe, however, was different. Just how different soon became apparent when Huntsville got a good look at the newest miracle worker.

A tall man, slim with dark hair, Preacher Ramone was clad in a stylish suit, crafted from light burgundy satin, heavily inlaid with gold brocade.

He was just different enough to stir the curiosity of Huntsville's natives. The first night there were maybe 15 or 20 people scattered throughout the large tent, waiting to be healed, saved, or amused.

The show opened with Preacher Ramone giving a passionate plea to the faithful. After working himself to a feverish pitch, he motioned to his helpers waiting in the wings. Slowly, with a chorus of singers singing softly in the background, the helpers rolled a coffin onto the stage.

Just as the choir finished, and with everyone in the audience waiting to see what would happen next, Preacher Ramone raised the lid of the coffin to reveal a body.

"Folks," he cried out "I promised you a miracle and I am going to show you one. We're gonna pray over this body for 7 days and 7 nights and on the 7th night the body will rise from the dead!"

Needless to say, the next night the tent was almost full of expectant and curious people staring at the body lying on stage.

Of course, Preacher Ramone did not neglect to take contribu-

tions. Every few minutes a plate would be passed, with the preacher exhorting the people to help him continue in his work.

The tent was full on the third

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night, and overflowing by the fifth. On the sixth night, police had to be called to help with traffic control. The plates that had been passed around the first nights were now replaced with dishpans, and even they were not large enough to hold the money donated by the thousands of people who were now showing up each night.

Photographs of the coffin, with the body, were sold for \$2.00 apiece, and for an extra donation, one could actually go up on stage and place their hands on the coffin. For another \$1.00 the people could have their picture taken with Preacher Ramone, in all of his burgundy glory.

Early on the morning of the seventh day, people began flocking to town from points all over North Alabama. Eagerly they gathered in the field around the tent, waiting, and talking of the miracle scheduled to happen that night.

By 5 o'clock in the evening the crowd waiting was estimated to be over 4000 people.

And they kept waiting.

Finally, around 8:00 PM, a small delegation took it upon themselves to enter the tent to see what was holding up the show. The chairs were still in place, the coffin still sitting on the stage, propped in an upright position ... but the body was gone!

So was the choir, Preacher Ramone and thousands of dollars that had once belonged to Huntsville's citizens.

The following week, a creditor from Louisville, Kentucky showed up with a court order to repossess the tent.

If you are not treated the way you deserve, be thankful.

Homemade Vinegar

Take a quantity of Irish potatoes, wash them, and boil until done. Drain off carefully and strain if necessary to remove every particle of potato.

Put the water in large jug or keg, and place near the stove or some place where it will stay warm. Add one pound of sugar to about two and a half pounds of water, some hop yeast, or a small portion of whiskey.

Let it stand for about three or four weeks, you will have excellent vinegar. Indeed, it is the only vinegar that will preserve cucumbers cut fresh from the vines, without the aid of salt.

from 1870 newspaper



Oppurtunity knocks only once, but temptation bangs on the door for years.



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